



QUEBEC
ANGLOPHONE
HERITAGE
NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

June 2006

STEWART MUSEUM
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 3, 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network will take place Saturday June 3, 2006, between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the Stewart Museum in the Old Fort on Ile Ste-Hélène, in Montreal.

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of 4 June 2005
4. Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2006
5. Appointment of an auditor
6. Project Reports
 - a. Outaouais Heritage Webmagazine – Quebec Heritage Web
 - b. Prospecting for Heritage Study
 - c. Heritage Awareness and Stewardship Training Initiative (HASTI)
7. President's Report
8. Resolutions
 - a. Motion to create a seat on board of directors for the Laurentians region
 - b. Motion to ratify the 2005-06 Operations Review and its recommendations
9. Other Business
10. Election of Directors
11. Report of Election of Officers as chosen by the Board
12. Adjournment

Notice in writing

Please note that any proposals for resolutions or business to be brought before the general meeting must be presented in writing in advance and not later than 9:30 a.m. on the day of the meeting. This would include items for discussion, amendments to the by-laws, resolutions and nominations for election. Within the meeting, only amendments of clarification to wording of previously submitted written proposals will be considered.

Voting rights

Voting delegates are described in the Charter and By-Laws. Formal voting will be restricted to delegates of Core member groups in good standing for 2006/07 as of the opening of the meeting.

Nominations

The following seats are up for election for a two-year term beginning June 2006:

Seat 1	West and Northwest Quebec
Seat 2	Montérégie
Seat 4	Montreal
Seat 6	Gulf of St. Lawrence
Seat 7	Laurentians (N.B. <i>This is a proposed new regional seat</i>)
Seat 8	Cultural Sector
Seat 10	At-large
Seat 11	At-large

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 4, 2005

Canadian Railway Museum
Saint-Constant, QC

Director's present: Rod MacLeod, Michael Cooper, Heather Darch, Richard Evans, Philip McMaster, William Campbell, Doreen Lindsay, Georges Howson

Regrets: Monique Nadeau, Richard Smith

Staff present: Dwane Wilkin, Kathy Teasdale

1. Meeting Convened

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network's president Rod MacLeod called the room to order at 10:20 a.m., welcoming QAHN members to the 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and thanking those present for helping to make quorum. Copies of the Annual Report covering the fiscal year 2004-05, including and a proposed agenda for the AGM were distributed, and Rod introduced interim director Dwane Wilkin and QAHN's executive secretary, Kathy Teasdale.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Dick Evans of *Heritage Huntingville* requested that he be allotted a few minutes to address the assembly under the agenda item, "Other Business." There being no objection to this request, Ruth Evans of the *Lennoxville and Ascot Historical and Museum Society* moved to accept the proposed agenda.

The motion was seconded by Beverly Prud'homme of the Rawdon Historical Society. All present voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

3. Acceptance of the AGM Minutes of June 19, 2004

Dick Evans of *Heritage Huntingville* moved to accept the minutes from last year's AGM, held at the McCord Museum on June 19, 2004. Michael Cooper seconded the motion, and all present voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

4. Rod MacLeod presented audited financial statements for fiscal year 2004-05 as prepared for QAHN by Sylvain Bouchard, chartered accountant. Rod noted that QAHN is in good financial shape, while emphasizing that the Department of Canadian Heritage has yet to reveal the amount of the operating grant QAHN will receive in the current fiscal year, 2005-06. This grant constitutes the organization's single most important source of operating funds.

Rod reported that the Department of Canadian Heritage has recently announced that it will spend 19 per cent more on minority English-speaking community groups in Quebec, but cautioned that such an increase would not necessarily translate into a larger operating budget for QAHN in 2005-06. The Quebec Community Groups Network, a province-wide affiliation of non-profit, non-governmental organizations to which QAHN belongs, was to have met with officials from Canadian Heritage to determine exactly how this increase in spending on the anglophone community would affect QAHN in the

coming year. The president noted that QAHN has applied to the Department for a much larger operating grant.

Rod also explained that QAHN received a \$15,000 operating grant from Quebec's provincial Ministry of Culture and Communications (MCCQ) in 2004-2005.

5. **Appointment of an Auditor**

President Rod MacLeod noted that Sylvain Bouchard continues to provide good service to QAHN as the organization's accountant and he invited a motion from the floor to re-appoint M. Bouchard as QAHN's auditor in 2005-06. Georges Howson of the *Châteauguay Valley Historical Society* moved to re-appoint Sylvain Bouchard as QAHN's auditor for another year. Kevin O'Donnell of the *Hudson Historical Society* seconded the motion. All present voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

6. **Reports**

a) *Heritage at Risk*

Rod explained the board of directors' interest in developing a policy of handling issues of at-risk heritage in Quebec. Interim director Dwane Wilkin underlined how important it is for local heritage groups to be prepared and willing to intervene on behalf of their own communities to protect sites and cultural properties that are historically significant. Dwane referred to discussion papers he prepared for the board of directors over the winter that culminated in a proposed set of procedures that QAHN might follow when dealing with enquiries and appeals for help to save endangered heritage. A copy of the proposed motion was circulated.

Doreen Lindsay of the *Westmount Historical Association* observed that apathy and inertia are the main risk factors when it comes to defending our common heritage. "Not enough people take action," Doreen said. "As I see it," she continued, "one of the stumbling blocks is that there are not a lot of ideas out there as to what to do with these old buildings."

Kevin O'Donnell commended QAHN for taking the heritage-at-risk initiative, then related a story from the Hudson area that illustrated how weak municipal bylaws can often lead to the destruction of local heritage. Implying that QAHN might eventually serve Quebecers as sort of support and information service for heritage defenders, Kevin said, "I think it's really great to have a resource to consult."

Sandra Stock of the *Morin Heights Historical Association*, which has recently acquired some experience dealing with local authorities to gain protection for heritage sites in the Laurentians region, added this caution: "You're likely to run into more problems if the site belongs to a private person." And she noted that any change in the use of a heritage building can threaten its historic significance.

Rod MacLeod said that he hoped QAHN can use its communications centre to publicize issues of endangered heritage and make coherent, sound arguments based on information. Philip McMaster opined that the purpose of the proposed Motion to Adopt Procedures to deal with heritage at risk is to bring QAHN into public view as a protector and as an action-oriented organization involved in preserving irreplaceable heritage properties. "We need to get QAHN's name into the news."

At this point, Dick Evans recalled the important powers that reside with municipal zoning and advisory committees, noting that the Quebec government has encouraged municipalities to take the lead role identifying and protecting historic sites. "Some municipalities have been active, but most councils are scared because they don't understand their responsibilities," Dick said. "If you want to get into this," he added, "you have to know the zoning laws." It may seem that it's a bureaucratic maze, Dick said, but you just have to understand the process. He added that, although the process of working with local local zoning advisory committees is fairly simple, the whole process is easily reversed.

With respect to QAHN's role serving its member historical societies, Dick said, "I hope that what we would be able to do is help get the information to you, because it's a minefield out there."

Eunice De Gruchy of the Quebec Association for Adult Learning suggested that QAHN use the newsletter of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network to publicize its heritage-at-risk policy.

b) *Quebec Heritage News*

Dwane Wilkin gave a brief overview of recent changes to the look of QAHN's flagship publication and the reason why they were introduced: to make the magazine eligible for financial support through the Canada Magazine Fund. He also appealed to QAHN members for stories and ideas for future editorial content to ensure that the Quebec Heritage News appeals to readers in all regions.

Kevin O'Donnell commented that QAHN should consider publishing some sort of anthology of past articles from the Quebec Heritage News. Eunice de Gruchy said that she and her husband both enjoy reading the News and she suggested that we get an ISBN number.

c) *Quebec Heritage Webmagazine*

Rod McLeod and Dwane Wilkin reviewed the latest developments with the Quebec Heritage Web Portal project, which has been stalled thanks to a decision by Economic Development Canada to withdraw financial support. As reported in the May issue of Quebec Heritage News, however, QAHN's application to the Community Development Fund at the Department of Canadian Heritage for a third regional heritage website has been received favourably. That means work could get underway as soon as the fall of 2005 on a heritage webmagazine for the Outaouais region.

d) *Oral History Project*

Rod thanked Oral History project coordinator Ron Ratcliffe for his ongoing efforts to promote interest in heritage among school-age children. The Oral History project has been without a financial sponsor for several months.

7. **President's Report**

Rod reviewed the main points of his report, contained in the Annual Report, and underlined his gratitude toward fellow board members and QAHN's many friends and advisors across the province.

8. Resolutions

Rod introduced and read out a motion to establish procedures concerning enquiries and appeals to support people seeking to protect endangered heritage properties. Philip McMaster clarified that QAHN does not seek to become an Applicant responsible for citation requests; but instead wishes to position itself to become an authority who brings these issues to the forefront of public debate. Doreen Lindsay said QAHN needs to designate a person or persons within QAHN to carry out the responsibility of putting these procedures into practice.

At this point, Sandra Stock moved to adopt the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded by Adelaide Lanktree of the *United Empire Loyalists – Sir John Johnson Branch*. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

Dick Evans noted that QAHN members can always act to protect and promote local heritage by becoming involved in the process of naming municipal streets and landmarks. “This is an excellent way for QAHN members to get involved at the local level,” he said. “I strongly urge your organizations to form a local toponymy committee, build a bank of names and go to your municipality with the offer.”

Helen Meredith, an advisor with the Department of Canadian Heritage, commended QAHN for taking the initiative to adopt the heritage-at-risk policy and encouraged QAHN to keep her apprised of issues as they arise, since she can help route our enquiries to appropriate sources.

At this point, Philip and Doreen moved to adopt a resolution creating a permanent standing heritage committee whose first order of business will be to:

1. Establish of a list of municipal and provincial contacts and relevant legislation; and
2. Establish a list of best municipal practices with respect to the protection of local heritage.

The motion was seconded by Kevin O’Donnell. All present voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

9. Other Business

Bill Campbell of the *78th Fraser Highlanders*, Sandra Stock and Doreen Lindsay each spent a few moments promoting upcoming heritage events in their respective communities, as did Sharon Laberee (Moore) of the *Compton County Historical Society*.

Dick Evans spent a few minutes reviewing the origin of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network’s name, and reminded the assembly that QAHN’s founders had sought to create a network of organizations and not a province-wide history society that would compete with local groups. Dick expressed that the original goal was to stimulate networking amongst member societies, allowing them to share skills and resources; the slowness with which people recognize and act on this potential for networking is disappointing. The network has proven very useful, Dick said. The challenge now is to get people to network.

10. **Election of Directors**

Heather Darch of the *Missisquoi Historical Society* served as elections officer, presenting the nominations to QAHN's board of directors for 2005-06. Heather reported the nominations as follows:

Seat 1: Gatineau Valley Historical Society nominated Michael Cooper

Seat 3: The Missisquoi Historical Society nominated Heather Darch.

Seat 5: The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec agreed to nominate someone (as-of-yet unnamed) to fill this vacancy.

Seat 7: The Quebec Protestant Education Research Project nominated Rod McLeod.

Seat 9: Philip McMaster was nominated by QAHN president Rod McLeod.

The directors stepped outside the room briefly to appoint officers of the board for 2005-06.

11. **Report of the Election of Officers**

Rod McLeod reported that he will serve as president of QAHN in 2005-06. Michael Cooper was elected vice-president for 2005-06. Heather Darch was elected to serve as secretary and Dick Evans was elected to serve as QAHN's treasurer. The assembly congratulated the new slate of officers with a round of applause.

12. **Presentation of the Marion Phelps Award**

Rod made light of the fact that he forgot to bring the plaque that was to be presented to the 2005 recipient of the Marion Phelps Award, Norma Geggie of Wakefield. Everyone had a good chuckle, then Michael Cooper introduced Mrs Geggie to the assembly, describing her as the person in whom his community has entrusted the memory of the Gatineau Valley. Michael thanked Mrs Geggie for all she has done through her research and writing to preserve the Gatineau's heritage.

Mrs Geggie graciously accepted the award and said that she considered it an honour to be in the same company as Miss Marion Phelps and Marianna O'Gallagher, past recipients of the annual award.

"I think you'll all agree that to delve into our history is rewarding and most enjoyable," Mrs Geggie said.

13. **Adjournment**

Sharon Laberee (Moore) moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Michael Cooper. All present voted in favour.

MEETING ADJOURNED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am proud to be on hand to celebrate QAHN's sixth birthday. As we symbolically blow out the candles we can feel proud of an organization that is on its feet financially, fulfilling its mandate, and continuing to make a name for itself in the best sense of the term. It has been a year of considerable achievement, as well as the smoothest, administratively speaking, of the three during which I have been President.

The confidence that was placed in Dwane Wilkin at the beginning of 2005 and on which I reported last June has been amply rewarded. Dwane has proven more than capable of handling the administrative office duties as well as adept at launching new projects and promoting innovative schemes. When Valérie Bridger announced in October 2005 that she had decided to leave QAHN (fully entitled to turn a page after five years of dedicated service!) the board had no hesitation in offering the position of executive director to Dwane. While we were very sorry to say goodbye to Valérie, it is always good for organizations such as ours to have new faces and new styles guiding them.

The same is true for presidents, of course. I had intended to make 2005/06 my last year in this position, but it does not look as though I have succeeded in finding anyone willing to unseat me. If this proves to be the case after our elections (and I encourage anyone reading this to join the board and claim the top job) it will certainly be on my personal agenda this coming year to line up a successor.

Finances

QAHN was fortunate in 2005/06 to have received an additional \$15,000 over previous years from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) for its operational expenses. For the second year running it also received \$15,000 from the Quebec *Ministère de la culture et communications* (MCCQ) for operational expenses. These welcome additions to our revenue have allowed our executive director effectively to work in the office four days instead of only three, the additional day justified by the need to administer several projects. QAHN has also been spared much of the hand-to-mouth existence that has been all too typical in the past owing to the ever-complex funding installment schedule. A slightly more comfortable bank balance is only part of the reason for this, however; credit must go to the hard work and vigilance of our treasurer, assistant treasurer, and executive director. Once again, QAHN has submitted an ambitious program funding application to PCH for 2006/07, one that should enable us to meet our office needs and undertake our core programs.

QAHN was able to fund the creation of a third regional heritage WebMagazine, this time for the Outaouais; be sure to check it out at www.quebecheritageweb.com. This project was made possible thanks to PCH's development fund, as was a second project, the Heritage Awareness Stewardship Training Initiative (HASTI), which enabled us to train a consultant in the legal issues surrounding heritage preservation and give workshops on the subject in various communities across the province. QAHN needs to find ways to allow both of these undertakings to continue. The federal Museums Assistance Program funded our Prospecting for Heritage project which saw a coordinator and several local experts team up to provide (or, more properly, given the potential scope of this project, begin to provide) an inventory of heritage sites and artifacts in remote parts of the province.

Recognition

QAHN continues to be an active member of the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) which is in the process of reinventing itself as a more representative body for Quebec's English-speaking community. In November, Dwane and I attended the founding meeting of the English Language Arts Network (ELAN), the newest addition to the QCGN family and one with which QAHN has established good relations: there is a natural affiliation between culture and heritage. Also in November I attended an important fundraiser held by the Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC), another QCGN group, which I hope will provide a window onto the heritage of this important community. I also took part in the launch of the Royal Commonwealth Society's commissioned history, an entertaining review of the Montreal branch's past seventy-five years. QAHN's goal this coming year is to make serious inroads in Montreal, an area which remains seriously underrepresented within the network. Before the next AGM, we hope to hold a major heritage event in the city.

QAHN has maintained its respected profile within the federal government, even into the new administration – though it is too soon for me to comment on relations with the PCH under Conservative political direction. I was not able to attend the ministerial consultations this year but I was at a recent launch of a government-sponsored study of Canada's official language minority (OLM) communities presided over by Diane Adam, outgoing OLM commissioner. There was talk at this event of promoting a research institute on English-speaking Quebec, something that was first raised at the QCGN-sponsored research conference in February 2005 (see last year's President's Report) but which seems to have fallen off the QCGN's agenda. I am frustrated by the tendency of government agencies (and, increasingly, the QCGN) to view "research" mainly in terms of the generation of statistics, but QAHN does its best to emphasize the human factor.

QAHN's HASTI workshops have brought it recognition across the province and at the local level across the so-called linguistic division; I have heard nothing but praise for these workshops from all possible corners. In January 2006 board members Dick Evans and Patrick Donovan presented a brief to the National Assembly's committee assessing the state of Quebec's religious heritage. QAHN's brief drew attention to the prevailing tendency to emphasize aesthetics as a criterion for preservation, and the need to consider local heritage much more carefully; the province's religious diversity should be reflected in government conservation policy. In March 2006, Dick Evans and I met with the Montreal Gazette's editorial board to discuss QAHN, an encounter that will surely prove beneficial in future.

Events

The QAHN annual general meeting was held on June 4th, 2005 at the Canadian Railway Museum in St-Constant. A key feature of the meeting was the lengthy discussion of the need for better awareness of legal issues surrounding heritage preservation, prompted by QAHN's Heritage at Risk policy. This discussion eventually led to the HASTI project. The Marion Phelps award was presented to Norma Geggie for her work in promoting the history of the Gatineau Valley. Following lunch we were treated to a guided tour of the museum; for many of us, this was the first time we had visited the stunning new facilities. The tour ended with a ride on the outdoor trolley, plus (for a brave few of us) a spin on the mini-train, which involves greater contact between one's thighs and the top of the train than one is used to in usual rail travel.

On April 29, 2005 QAHN launched its Outaouais WebMagazine at a ceremony held in *Les Trois Erables*, a Bed&Breakfast located in the former home and surgery of Wakefield's resident doctor. Matthew Farfan gave a presentation of the WebMagazine to a gathering of local history enthusiasts, many of whom were also elected officials.

Organizational Development

The QAHN board participated in a strategic development review with an eye to ensuring that our activities meet with the requirements of our mandate and conform to the terms of our Strategic Plan. This plan continues to prove a useful template for pursuing our goals.

The board gazed even further inwards on another occasion in order to develop a board succession plan. As well as agreeing on the need for greater regional and sectoral involvement, especially in the recruitment of new QAHN members, we confirmed the oft-quoted but never officially acknowledged policy that the board's Vice-President should be recruited with the expectation of eventually succeeding to the presidency. You will appreciate my own interest in this matter!

Acknowledgements

On the proceeding note, I must extend special appreciation to Michael Cooper, longtime supporter of QAHN (long before I ever heard of it) and vice-president for the past three years, who is unfortunately unable to continue on the board. I must also acknowledge the dedication to QAHN of Georges Howson, who joined the board with me at the beginning, but who has decided not to return for a fourth term. Philip McMaster, as at-large board member for the past three years, has left the board for what can only be brighter prospects in China – in which pursuit we wish him well. To the rest of the QAHN board I can say that your company continues to delight (and does so, I am pleased to say, on a more regular basis than in the past) and that your participation at meetings is fruitful and productive: my best to Heather Darch, Doreen Lindsay, Monique Nadeau, Bill Campbell, Rick Smith, and Dick Evans. Finally, I extend a belated welcome to Patrick Donovan, QAHN's newest board member, who was still being recruited as we met last year. Patrick has more than pulled his weight since then, notably in his hard work preparing the brief to the provincial religious heritage committee.

For much of this past year there have been six people working for QAHN (ie, for money) in various capacities – seven if you include Valérie Bridger, whose devotion to QAHN was understandably redirected to her sons Nathan and Colin. What QAHN owes to Valérie is incalculable – her last formal act as much as all the others, namely the training of her successor Dwane Wilkin, whose achievements I have already praised. Kathy Teasdale continues to be the voice of QAHN and the capable mistress of membership. Charlie Bury continues as editor of the Quebec Heritage News, a publication I am always hearing good things about. Matthew Farfan fulfills the crucial role of Webmaster and WebMag editor. Lorraine O'Donnell coordinated the Prospecting for Heritage project, pulling together a team of local researchers as well as writing the final report. Josiane Caillet performed a similar role in the HASTI project, honing her own expertise in heritage conservation and training a small army of workshop leaders across the province. To all these people and those unnamed who formed part of the wider QAHN family, I give my heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation.

Rod MacLeod, Montreal West, June 2006

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Western Quebec

Our QAHN year started well for Western Quebec when Norma Geggie, Wakefield historian and author, received the Marion Phelps Award at the QAHN AGM in June 2005. All history buffs in the Gatineau Valley considered this a most appropriate recognition of Norma's continuing dedication to her adopted valley.

At the end of August, an 1860 frame house made its stately way — with just inches to spare on the bridge — across the Gatineau River to a new home beside the Covered Bridge. Built by Scottish stonemason William Fairbairn, the empty but quite intact house was saved from demolition by the LaPeche Municipality, who will be working with the Gatineau Valley Historical Society to preserve the house to turn it into a regional museum. Our thanks to other small museums in rural Quebec who have offered constructive advice to our planners.

In October, Matthew Farfan, editor and designer of QAHN's series of regional heritage websites, met with all the Outaouais-region historical groups to plan the content of a new site, funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Working through the winter, Matthew received both content and support from these groups, and the new site, located at www.QuebecHeritageWeb.com, was launched at Wakefield's *Les Trois Erables* historic home on April 29, 2006, with the QAHN board of directors present. I encourage everyone to visit this excellent addition to the Heritage Web series, which cover both historical data, images and links, and provide current tourism reference information. Congratulations again, Matthew.

As I will be leaving the QAHN Board this June, I wish to thank my good friend Kevin O'Donnell, president of the Hudson Historical Society, who has offered to take up the reins. I have excellent memories of my six-year involvement with QAHN and look forward to watching this still-young organization develop and grow.

Michael Cooper, Wakefield

Laurentians

The Laurentian Region has been made a specific area for a QAHN directorship as of January 2006. The North River valley to the south, the Rouge River valley to the west, Mont Tremblant to the North and Rawdon to the east border this very large geographic expanse. Of course these perimeters must be flexible in reality. As most major roads run north-south it is often difficult to “get here from there” in some cases. Also, winter comes early and stays long, a benefit for skiers, but also a challenge for travelers.

The HASTI series of bilingual workshops in March and April was an excellent opportunity for contacting and meeting with many different Laurentian communities. We held workshops in St. Andrews East (St. André-d'Argenteuil), Prévost-Shawbridge, Arundel, and Montfort in Wentworth-Nord.

These events raised the profile of QAHN throughout the region. The QAHN booklet, *Bright Futures Begin in the Past*, was well received and seen as an excellent document for anyone interested in the preservation of local heritage. It was concluded that these workshops were very successful and there most likely would be interest in holding similar events in other locations in the future.

The response and participation from various anglophone groups in the Laurentian area was, however, quite uneven. We shall continue to try to involve everyone, including historical groups based in more remote communities (at least remote from where I live, in Morin Heights!) such as Ste. Agathe, Rawdon and Harrington, once things become more settled.

Some very good spin-offs of the HASTI workshops stand out: the St. Columban Irish Cemetery issue; the participation of English speaking and bilingual organizations such as the Viking Ski Club and the Morin Heights Historical Association together with the mainly francophone *Comité Régional pour la Protection des Falaises* in a rally on May 7th in Prévost to support the creation of a protected natural heritage area; and the many opportunities that these workshops presented for like-minded individuals to meet and voice their common concerns.

There was good coverage of the HASTI workshops in two monthly English-language regional newspapers, *Main Street* from Lachute and the *Laurentian Sun* from Ste. Adèle. There was also very good coverage in several of the French-language weekly papers as well – a very pleasant surprise.

There is a generally serious attitude towards heritage preservation among English-speaking Laurentian residents. This is especially evident lately as many people show concern about inappropriate development. More than anything else, they fear the erasing of the “historic face” of their communities and destruction of the natural environment. There is also deep concern about the fate of the many rural churches, cemeteries and religious buildings. The issue of maintaining an anglophone presence is also important, especially the names of roads and other features.

However, there is increasing contact between the two linguistic communities in the Laurentians as both share the same concerns about threats to our built and natural heritage. Also, most middle-aged, and certainly most younger anglophones are either fluent or at least competent in French and nearly all Laurentian French speakers also speak some English. I would say that there is much more contact between French- and English-speaking heritage organizations in the Laurentians area than one finds in Montreal. We have made good contacts with French-speaking environmental and historical groups throughout the area.

The anglophone population of the Laurentians is extremely diverse ethnically, educationally and economically. However, there does appear to be one important distinction between these two groups: permanent residents, who can often trace their family ties to the region back several generations; and second-home residents who view the Laurentians as a recreational escape from the city. Many who belong to the latter group are very interested in the history and natural heritage of the Laurentians, but not, as a rule, with the depth of commitment of those who grew up in the region.

As in most rural areas, the whole population is aging but most of even the really elderly are fit and healthy much longer than previously. Perhaps this is an optimistic trend for historical societies.

The major challenge in the Laurentian Region for QAHN is to create a consistent level of communication with the various groups and individuals. It is also important that we be visibly active and present in the communities and serve as a vehicle to promote positive support.

Sandra Stock, Morin Heights, June 2006

Eastern Townships

Under the network of *La Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec* (FSHQ) the Eastern Townships historical societies met three times in the year and connected through the resources of both the FSHQ and the *Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network* (QAHN).

All of the historical societies were occupied throughout 2005 with their own projects, regular meeting schedules and fundraising activities. The *Missisquoi Historical Society* interviewed and recorded the stories of veterans from the Second World War. Thanks in large part to the advice and guidance of the *Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society*, which has been conducting oral history effectively for a number of years, this oral history project was very successful. Similarly, the *Compton County Historical and Museum Society* recorded the oral histories of elderly residents in Compton County throughout the year. The impetus for the oral history projects in a number of historical societies was encouraged and supported by the Oral History Project initiatives of QAHN under the guidance of project co-ordinator Ronald Radcliffe.

The *Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society* achieved a milestone in the completion of their collection management project which catalogued all of their artefacts with Réseau-Infomuse/CHIN-RCIP. This computerization of the collection was initiated in 2000. The historical societies and museums, including Stanstead, Missisquoi and Richmond, are effectively cataloguing and computerizing their collections on a regular basis or as funding permits.

Thanks to the generosity of Stanstead Historical Society membership, the "Stanstead Journal" (1845-1976) is available for researchers in a digital format. The Journal can be viewed, printed and transferred to a CD-ROM.

Again this year, the issue of protecting place names was a concern among the historical groups of the Townships. The removal of the name Gilbert Hyatt from a section of Route 143 known as the Gilbert Hyatt Highway continued to be a focus for the *Little Forks Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada*. This ongoing negotiation reminded the historical societies to be attentive to the obvious changes being made to our past but also to the subtle alterations in our communities which can modify the way we remember and present our heritage.

In September, the majority of the historical societies came together to celebrate Townshippers' Day in Bedford QC. Societies were able to sell their books and memberships and meet with the community.

In 2005 each of the Eastern Townships' historical societies faced similar concerns including the challenges of maintaining old buildings, a declining volunteer base, sustaining effective communications with membership and government, funding difficulties and rising expenses.

Heather Darch, Pike River, June 2006

OUTAOUAIS HERITAGE WEBMAGAZINE REPORT

www.QuebecHeritageWeb.com

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network's third regional webmagazine, achieved with the financial support of the Department of Canadian Heritage, was officially launched at the *Les Trois Erables* inn in historic Wakefield, Quebec, on April 29, 2006. The event attracted regional heritage activists, members of local historical societies, people from the tourism industry, and the media. Speakers included QAHN president Rod MacLeod, QAHN executive director Dwane Wilkin and Matthew Farfan, editor of the Quebec Heritage Web, who demonstrated the various features of the site. The event was a success, and the response to *Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine* has been very positive ever since.

Project development – Community Participation

As only six months were available to develop the content and visual concept for the new webmagazine, I began by immediately visiting the Outaouais region. This occurred over a five-day period in October. During that time, I met with numerous heritage people and visited museums, historical societies, and other heritage sites in the region. Organizations visited included the Gatineau Valley Historical Society, the Aylmer Heritage Association, the Symmes Inn Museum, the Pontiac Archives, the Shawville Museum, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Canadian Postal Museum, the Chutes Coulonge Park, the Regional Association of West Quebecers, Tourisme Outaouais, and others.

A number of organizations have been helpful, in particular the Gatineau Valley Historical Society and the Aylmer Heritage Association, both of which have provided QAHN with photographic and textual material (and written authorization) for use on the webmagazine.

While in the region, I gathered background information and photography for feature articles on a wide range of stories pertaining to regional heritage attractions. Examples included Chutes Coulonge Park; Plaisance Falls and Heritage Centre; the Hull-Wakefield Steam Train; the MacLaren Grist Mill; and others.

Project development – Editorial content and website design

Over the course of the next few months, much time was devoted to producing original material for the webmagazine. In addition to writing many feature articles, I edited and formatted previously published material submitted by heritage groups in the region. Most of this material has been (or will be) included in the "Attractions & Tours" and "Articles" sections of the webmagazine.

Another major component of the webmagazine, developed over this period and quite time-consuming to produce, was the "Organizations" section. This section serves as an on-line directory of historical societies, museums, archives, and other sites across the region. It contains distinct web pages for eighteen organizations in the region, complete with detailed information about each group's mission, collections, activities, contact information, and so on. This section, which is lavishly illustrated, will be very useful, as it has proven on the other two webmagazines.

Other features that I worked on at this time were the Photo Galleries, which contain archival and contemporary photography, the Calendar of Events, the Maps section, and the Links section.

In terms of visual design, the *Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine* features colour and sepia archival photographs depicting the Outaouais region. The desired effect was to create a distinctive impression for this region. Images of logging, pioneer life, and water dominate the montage. Images were provided by the Gatineau Valley Historical Society and the Aylmer Heritage Association, and the layout was directed by Matthew and finalized by website technicians at Kezber, our Internet consulting firm. The general style is, of course, in keeping with that of *Townships Heritage* and *Laurentian Heritage*.

I still have a number of feature articles and photographs in reserve for use on the new webmagazine. These will be uploaded over the coming weeks and months. I will also continue to update and modify the existing heritage sites, and answer and redirect the many queries that I receive from website visitors.

Townships Heritage and Laurentians Heritage webmagazines

Throughout development of the Outaouais Heritage Webmagazine, I was also responsible for keeping two existing regional heritage webmagazines up to date, as well as maintaining the Quebec Heritage Web portal page. I have endeavoured to keep these sites fresh, but given the priority of developing the new Outaouais site, the amount of original material added to these sites was minimal.

Monthly usage of Quebec Heritage Websites (As of March 2006)

- 1) Quebec Heritage Web portal: 2,500 visitors per month / 50,000 hits.
- 2) Townships Heritage WebMagazine: 18,500 visitors / 1,217,449 hits.
- 3) Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine: 1,500 visitors / 33,000 hits.
- 4) Outaouais Heritage WebMagazine: No data yet.

In conclusion, QAHN's goal of developing regional webmagazines for the different regions of Quebec is well and truly under way. The feedback relating to *Townships Heritage*, *Laurentian Heritage*, and now, *Outaouais Heritage*, has to date been overwhelmingly positive. And I believe that this latest addition to QAHN's Quebec Heritage Web portal is something in which the organization can take real pride. It is a major and very tangible step in furthering the organization's mission of promoting our province-wide heritage. QAHN and all of those who contributed to this project deserve a great deal of credit.

Matthew Farfan, Stanstead, June, 2006

HERITAGE AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP TRAINING INITIATIVE (HASTI)

At its June 2005 annual general meeting, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) ratified a formal policy for addressing the issue of endangered heritage, based on a reading of relevant provincial legislation, notably the Cultural Properties Act, the Municipal Code of Quebec and the Towns and Cities Act.

Although municipalities have the legal power to cite historic monuments and to constitute historic sites since 1986, this power is rarely known or used, with the exception of large metropolitan centres. In fact, research has shown that many town councils are still reluctant to adopt conservation policies.

Working with heritage groups, QAHN responded to this need by putting forth a proposal to offer a series of conservation workshops that would be designed to show how town councilors can collaborate with local conservationists to save important landmarks and historic sites for future generations. It was felt that such an initiative, subsequently called heritage awareness and stewardship training (HASTI) would also help to dispel the myth that heritage conservation must be a drain on municipal budgets. On the contrary, QAHN shares the view of many conservation advocates that sound management and promotion of heritage resources can stimulate local community development.

In February 2006 QAHN received word from the Department of Canadian Heritage that its HASTI project would receive financial support from the Department's Official-Languages Support program.

This project's timing couldn't have been better. Last fall, the National Assembly's standing committee on culture conducted broad public consultations on the future of Quebec's religious heritage. The hearings revealed many concerns about heritage preservation that were not strictly limited to religious architecture. Here is a sampling of some of the recommendations put forward during these hearings:

- Establish internet links with access to heritage databases;
- Offer practical advice concerning priorities when restoring heritage properties (and especially what sorts of "restorations" to avoid);
- Establish a heritage classification system;
- Provide a comprehensive list of government funding programs available for local conservation;
- Give examples of local heritage conservation strategies;
- Provide a list of heritage professionals by region;
- Offer bilingual documentation on heritage preservation in Quebec;
- Sponsor public information sessions and seminars on local heritage conservation.

The workshops were staged in the Laurentians, Montérégie, Outaouais and Estrie regions of the province and took place between March 31 and May 4. Preliminary work (hiring project leader, recruiting presentation coordinators, developing a list of contacts, promoting the workshops & sending out invitations, preparing the bilingual workshop guidebook) was accomplished within a very short timeframe: from February 1 to March 30.

The workshops took place in English and/or French, with each lasting a minimum of three hours, and some lasting for as long as five hours. There was no entry fee.

As workshop attendance records and coverage in local media suggests, the HASTI series was very well received, particularly by those people who are affiliated with local conservation and heritage/historical groups, as well as by local municipal leaders and regional government officials (MRCs).

In each region, QAHN members were instrumental in helping the project leader and individual workshop presentation coordinators to plan and organise the events by directly contacting key persons in their community and encouraging them to attend. Approximately 250 people attended 13 workshops.

The bilingual workshop guide entitled Bright Futures Begin in the Past (*Parlons de notre patrimoine*) that was developed for this project is now available for consultation on QAHN's web site. It is rightly considered an invaluable reference for anyone interested in preserving heritage landmarks at the community level.

Given the success of this first series of HASTI workshops, it would seem appropriate for QAHN to consider expanding the project to other municipalities and regions.

In short, the HASTI project was a complete success.

Josiane Caillet, Stanstead, June 2006

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A significant increase in the level of operations funding for the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) in 2005/06 enabled this office to pursue a much more ambitious programme of activities throughout the year, the main result being a perceptible rise in public recognition of and interest in the province's English-speaking heritage sector.

Signing up new members and handing out Heritage Trails pamphlets at popular cultural events around the province makes for gratifying work, as does helping people understand how to make the most of local bylaws and provincial legislation aimed at protecting heritage at risk. In the case of Quebec's provincial Ministry of Culture and Communications (MCC), which for the first time ever contributed financially to QAHN's operations last year, such formal recognition would seem to bode extremely well for local stewards of Quebec's anglo-american heritage. Not only was QAHN consulted by a special committee of the National Assembly on the future of religious heritage in Quebec, our advice, expertise and collaboration is now being sought by sponsors of a major heritage-tourism initiative in the Eastern Townships that will celebrate and promote the region's cultural ties to New England and Great Britain. Clearly these developments indicate the emergence of a new spirit of openness towards Quebec's anglophone heritage.

Greater financial support from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage also contributed to the expansion of QAHN's activities throughout 2005-06. Increased operational funding permitted a lengthening of the executive director's work week to an average of 32 hours, effectively turning this position into a full-time job. Moving to a four-day work week was an inevitable practical administrative adjustment, necessitated by the challenge of managing day-to-day operations, including membership communications and development, while overseeing the design and implementation of three separate heritage projects. In meeting this challenge, I have been ably supported throughout the year by a tremendously resourceful and devoted executive secretary, Kathy Teasdale, and by several outstanding directors who gave freely of their time to offer guidance and assistance when it was most needed.

Community Outreach Program

Our 2005-2006 membership renewal and recruitment campaign got off to a great start in the first quarter of the fiscal year, beginning with modest expenditures on new publicity material and personal appearances by staff and board members at select community venues.

In April 2005 QAHN attended a gala performance of Quebec playwright Sunil Mahtani's play *Louisa* at Theatre Lac Brome in Knowlton, where we distributed copies of *Quebec Heritage News* magazine and Heritage Trails brochures, as well as QAHN membership registration forms. Based on historical accounts of early colonial life in Quebec, the performance drew a full house of community theatregoers and seemed a logical venue for QAHN to introduce itself to potential new members.

In May 2005 QAHN staff and board members were on hand to showcase the heritage network during the International Celtic and Acadian Festival in Verdun. It was the first time QAHN ever participated in a cultural event of this magnitude on the Island of Montreal, and despite garnering only one Individual membership during the event, board members agreed that QAHN should extend such efforts to raise its profile in the province's largest city. Altogether we distributed 15 membership forms, 20 copies of *Quebec Heritage News* magazine and 385 Heritage Trails brochures.

In June 2005 QAHN staff exhibited at Friendship Day in Lennoxville, picking up one new member. During the same month we recruited four new Individual members by promoting the Network at a social gathering of retired English-speaking teachers in Cowansville.

In September 2005 QAHN president Rod Macleod and his family joined me at Townshippers Day in Bedford, where we displayed and sold memberships, brochures and copies of *Quebec Heritage News*.

In December 2005 I applied to the Department of Canadian Heritage's Community Development Fund for a grant to develop QAHN's profile in Montreal. The Montreal Heritage Outreach project is designed to stimulate ongoing consultations with various English-speaking cultural communities of Montreal. It would comprise a research component and a major multicultural heritage celebration and conference sponsored by QAHN.

As a result of an opinion article of mine that was published in the Montreal Gazette in early February 2006, QAHN president Rod MacLeod and treasurer Dick Evans were invited to meet in person with the Gazette's editorial board.

In January 2006, a standing sub-committee of QAHN's board of directors was struck, and I attended their first meeting in Montreal in late March, to discuss ideas for developing QAHN's presence in the city.

Quebec Heritage News

Through the pages of *Quebec Heritage News*, QAHN's bimonthly print magazine for members, QAHN is striving to build a community of readers and contributors who are interested in and knowledgeable about the heritage of Quebec's minority English-language communities. The magazine's new front cover, unveiled with the March-April 2005 edition, garnered considerable praise from the board of directors, but this was somewhat overshadowed throughout the year by persistent difficulties in meeting deadlines for editorial contributions and printing.

Although efforts continued throughout the year to improve the overall quality of the publication, a shortage of financial resources coupled with a lack of editorial content planning resulted in frustrating production delays: for the second year in a row, QAHN managed to produce only five issues, instead of six. Nevertheless, transforming *Quebec Heritage News* into a paid-circulation specialty magazine able to generate advertising revenue remains one of my long-term goals as executive director.

A chronic challenge for this office has been to solicit regular editorial contributions from all members, and in particular, to ensure that QAHN member groups make a habit of using *Quebec Heritage News* to publicize their events.

Following the suggestion of QAHN director Patrick Donovan, I applied to the federal government's Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages (YCWOL) program in early 2006 with hopes of gaining a subsidy to hire an editorial production assistant who can help the current editor raise production standards. I am pleased to report that the application was accepted, and that a 10-week project to improve the visual appearance of the magazine, and to increase QAHN's in-house capacity to produce high-quality future editions is set to begin in June 2006.

Following analysis of our content, production and circulation figures, the Department of Canadian Heritage concluded in August 2005 that QAHN is eligible to receive financial assistance for its publication through the Canada Magazine Fund's small-magazine publishers' business development program. Before QAHN can apply for project funding to support *Quebec Heritage News*, however, a five-year business plan for the magazine must be developed and this

task has yet to be accomplished. This has not yet been accomplished, but remains a goal of mine for 2006-07.

Heritage Advocacy

A Heritage-at-Risk policy for QAHN was developed in response to demand from community groups and concerned individuals seeking support and guidance for local preservation initiatives. Procedures for handling such inquiries were adopted unanimously by members gathered at QAHN's annual general meeting on June 4 2005.

I endeavoured throughout 2005-06 to respond as needed to specific heritage-at-risk cases as they arose. Here is a brief summary of cases brought to QAHN's attention.

1. This office wrote to the City of Sherbrooke on behalf of QAHN member Jim Belknap in support of his quest to memorialize a 19th-century railway hero named William Best, who was born and raised in Lennoxville. An article that appeared in *Quebec Heritage News* magazine in July-August outlines the merits of this initiative.

William Best was subsequently placed in the Sherbrooke Toponymy Committee's bank of names for streets in the Lennoxville borough; and in January 2006 the Borough Council paid tribute to Best's accomplishments at a ceremony to honour outstanding local residents. A commemorative plaque was hung in Lennoxville's community centre.

2. This office provided background information and advice to the Milles Isles Historical Society based in the Laurentians, and to the local municipal office regarding the preservation and official citation of a local heritage building known as the Maple Grove School House. Last year the municipal council designated the old school as an historic monument, but also expressed interest in seeking a higher level of protection. It was at this point that QAHN was contacted by the municipal office and a Heritage Alert file opened.

The Milles Isles file contains all pertinent vital information needed to lodge a formal citation request with Quebec's Minister of Culture and Communications, which QAHN offered to do in conjunction with the municipality.

3. QAHN was approached by the Centre d'Histoire du Saint-Armand (CHSA) for support in its three-year-old struggle with a group of property owners, local officials and provincial politicians to save a 170-year-old stone-built meeting house believed to have served a community of black settlers in the early 1800s.

The CHSA had formally requested that the site be classified by the provincial government and on behalf of QAHN, this office drafted of a letter to Quebec's cultural affairs minister, Lyne Beachamp in support of this request. The letter has not been sent, however, pending further consultation with the CHSA and the QAHN board of directors.

4. This office intervened to oppose a decision by the Municipality of Waterville in the Eastern Townships to remove the name Gilbert Hyatt from signs along a stretch of highway that had previously paid modest tribute to this English-speaking pioneer. My own views were published in both *The Record* and *The Gazette* newspapers and contributed to the subsequent resolution of the Eastern Townships branch of the FSHQ to request that Quebec's Toponymy Commission officially rescind an earlier ruling that had granted Waterville permission to abolish this part of English heritage from local highway signs. The municipality has recently accepted to erect a monument to Hyatt, in place of the road signs.

Membership Development

In 2005/06 QAHN added a total of five (5) new Core members and six (6) new Affiliate members, as well as 39 new Individual members. This was achieved primarily by attending specific community events throughout the summer festival season. It should be noted that I was greatly assisted in this task by president Rod Macleod, at-large member Richard Smith and executive secretary Kathy Teasdale.

Following a suggestion from Michael Cooper and Richard Smith in October 2005, Kathy Teasdale and I staff developed and introduced a comprehensive information package for directors to support their efforts to develop the network by recruiting new members in their respective jurisdictions. The presentation kits contain membership-registration forms, business cards, Heritage Trails brochures, extensive background information on QAHN, a guide to our HeritageWeb internet pages as well as lists of people and organizations whose names currently appear on the QAHN mailing list, arranged by membership category and status.

As of March 31, 2006, QAHN's paid-up Core members numbered 28, representing a decline of five (5) memberships over the previous year; paid-up Affiliate memberships rose by four to stand at nine (9); and paid-up Individual members numbered 87, up from 66 in 2004/05. Annual receipts from membership sales attained their highest level ever in 2005/06, amounting to \$2,850 as of March 31.

Youth and Heritage

Students from primary and secondary English-language schools across Quebec were invited by QAHN to participate in heritage essay-writing and video-making contests last year, with mixed results. A second edition of QAHN's Heritage Minute Video Contest was launched in September 2005 after the number of entries submitted during the previous 2004/05 edition of this contest fell somewhat below QAHN's expectations.

The board had anticipated a much greater response in 2005/06 because contestants were given much more time to prepare their entries, and the launch date was geared to coincide with the beginning of the fall academic calendar. The September 2005 launch even attracted the attention of CBC Radio's Quebec City-based afternoon show, with QAHN president Rod MacLeod being interviewed on-air about QAHN's involvement, generally, in the promotion of history education among Quebec youth. However, any initial enthusiasm for the contest seems to have been curbed by a labour dispute between school teachers and the Quebec government that lingered throughout the fall academic term. It would appear that QAHN's Heritage Minute Video contest was the victim of a strict work-to-rule policy that didn't end until January 2006. Only one group of high school students submitted entries.

QAHN's Hometown History essay-writing contest, geared towards elementary schoolchildren, fared better, garnering a total of 33 entries from six (6) schools in four (4) regions.

At the January 2006 directors' meeting, it was formally resolved to add a special category for a student representative to serve on the QAHN board.

Strategic Planning – Operations Review

Thanks to the input of four board members who agreed to serve on the Operations Review Committee, I was able to conduct a thorough assessment of the Network's progress towards meeting the objectives of QAHN's 2004-2009 Strategic Plan. Each member of the committee was asked to respond to a questionnaire designed to gauge their opinion of the Network's performance in meeting these objectives in the two years since the release of QAHN's 2004 Needs Assessment Survey. It was the general opinion of the Committee that QAHN has progressed successfully towards achieving all of the organization's strategic objectives. The report contains eight (8) basic recommendations for ensuring that QAHN remains on track to achieve these goals over the next three years.

Strategic Planning – Board Renewal and Succession

Resolutions by the QAHN board of directors to create a new regional seat for the Laurentians and a new sectoral seat for a student representative are indications that the Network is capable of and willing to address a fundamental issue for any community-based organization: how to renew its governance structure while maximizing representation and maintaining continuity. Directors agreed to set aside time in early January 2006 to determine precisely how to proceed with the development of a Board Succession Plan, a discussion which resulted in the drafting of a formal executive-nominations procedure and guidelines for constituency and board-member development. These board succession planning procedures were formally ratified by the board in April 2006 (*See appendix*).

Special Projects

Prospecting for Heritage

After receiving a \$10,624 grant from the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) for our *Prospecting for Heritage* research project, QAHN engaged the services of a qualified archivist and historian in September 2005. With the assistance of QAHN's president and executive director Dr. Lorraine O'Donnell designed a formal study and contracted the services of four research associates who subsequently helped to gather data on heritage in four target regions: Mauricie, Gaspé, North Shore and the Lower Saint-Lawrence. Dr O'Donnell's compilation and analysis of English-speaking heritage resources in these regions is a groundbreaking contribution to knowledge about Quebec's English-speaking communities and her research approach may well be a model for further generation of local historical knowledge in other Quebec regions. I would hope that QAHN can build on this initiative and extend this research project further afield. An electronic copy of the *Prospecting* report can be found on the main QAHN website at www.qahn.org.

Heritage Portal Program

Thanks to a \$27,450 contribution from the Department of Canadian Heritage's Community development Fund, QAHN was able to engage Quebec Heritage Web editor Matthew Farfan to develop a third regional heritage webmagazine in 2005-/06, as part of our highly successful and ongoing Heritage Portal Program. The *Outaouais Heritage Webmagazine* was officially launched on April 29 in Wakefield. It is my hope that QAHN can attract partners among our affiliate members in other Quebec regions to help us continue to expand this very worthwhile program of heritage promotion and education.

*Heritage Awareness and Stewardship and Training Initiative
(HASTI)*

QAHN's ability to expand and maintain the Network is necessarily limited by members' and potential members' perceptions of QAHN's utility. There can be no substitute for taking concrete actions on matters deemed important by leaders of Quebec's volunteer-led non-profit heritage sector. I have maintained that a spirited implementation of QAHN's policy for responding to instances of endangered heritage is required in order to vividly demonstrate the Network's practical value.

In September 2005 QAHN I submitted a grant application to the Department of Canadian Heritage for a pilot project entitled, Heritage Awareness and Stewardship Training Initiative. (HASTI) The project sought to develop and stage a series of heritage workshops in four Quebec regions, aimed especially at municipal officials and members of local heritage groups who have expressed concern about threats to aspects of heritage in their communities. I am pleased to report that funding in the amount of \$24, 705 for this initiative was released in February 2006, and that under the expert guidance of Dr. Josiane Caillet and workshop presenters from the Laurentians, Eastern Townships and Outaouais regions succeeded in organizing and delivering 13 well-attended meetings on local heritage preservation and promotion.

Separate Charitable Foundation

After a number of discussions throughout the year on the subject of establishing a separate charitable found, I am pleased to report that in January 2006, the board formally resolved to pursue the idea, authorizing QAHN representatives to launch the process of founding a separate charitable organization, tentatively called the Quebec Community Heritage Corporation. The corporation would be mandated to accept donations in support of projects that contribute to the advancement of knowledge of Quebec's Anglophone heritage, and would be entitled to issue tax receipts.

Dwane Wilkin, Sherbrooke, June 2006