Between June 28th and August 13th, 2006, about fifty visitors per day walked the parvis in front of St. George’s Church. For most, it was the first visit to this mysterious church tucked away in this refreshing and pleasant environment.

Besides the pleasure of discovering the interior architecture of the Church and its numerous treasures, or to stroll in the cemetery punctuated with century-old monuments, the visitors were invited to partake in organ recitals, singing and bagpipe performances.

2000 visitors during the Summer of 2006

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Letter from the President

A another year has gone by and it is now the time to review 2006. Upon reading the various articles you will see that the Foundation was very active throughout the past year. I would like to express, on behalf of the Foundation Directors, our best wishes for the New Year. The end of one year also signifies the arrival of a new bearer of projects and the future.

It has now been fifteen year that the Foundation’s volunteers have worked to preserve the site, to assure its restoration and discover its history. Much work has been done in this regard and today we must, without denying our past, look to the future. It is clear that the religious vocation will remain a priority in the short term but only a new vocation will allow us to insure the long term survival of the site. The thought processes that were started last year should be continued and elaborated upon in 2007.

Last Spring, thanks to Yolande Allard’s support, we came in contact with Madame Ginette Laroche, art historian. Madame Laroche produced an exhaustive study of

(Continued on page 4)
Five reassembled pieces of stone in St. George’s Cemetery bear witness to the presence of two pioneer families: the Jones’ (Irish Protestants) and the Menuts (French Protestants).

Sarah Jane Jones was born in Drummondville on August 28, 1835, from the marriage of William Jones, blacksmith, and Jane Atkinson, originating from the Township of Durham.

The Jones family in Drummondville is traced back to its founding, in 1815, when their ancestor, Samuel Jones, joined the demobilized troops headed by Lieutenant-colonel Frederick George Heriot. For nearly a century, in their blacksmith shop located on Brock St, between Cockburn et Loring Streets, from father to son the Joneses shaped articles of iron that were indispensable for the survival of the colonists: nails, hooks, axes, scythes...

On August 8, 1853, Sarah Jane Jones, 18 years of age, marries in St. George’s Church, John Alexander Menut, 33 years of age, also a descendant of a pioneer family.

In fact, since 1803, the Menut family operates an inn on the eastern shore of the St. Francis River, at the falls which were later harnessed and named Hemming Falls Dam.

Ancestor, Alexandre Menut was born in France. Probably because of his religion (Protestant), he emigrated to England where he became a cook. When General Murray was appointed Governor of New France, he requested the services of Menut to attend to his saucepans. In 1768, Menut decided to go out on his own and opens a hotel in upper town Quebec where his patrons will be served “exactly, and in the best English and French style and fine palate [...] at a reasonable price”.

Considered to be ineligible for the first legislative elections in Quebec, held in 1792, Menut became a naturalized British subject. In the following election, he was elected member for the county of Cornwallis (Kamouraska). It was during this period that he makes a claim for a land concession in Drummond as compensation for losses incurred during the American invasion when his hotel was requisitioned by General Benedict Arnold.

Alexandre Menut and his wife Marie Deeland were buried on the family estate,

(Continued on page 3)
beneath the first lilacs of the Eastern Townships that they, themselves planted. Menut lilac cuttings are the origin of numerous groves that emit their perfume in the Spring for many kilometres around and along the St. Francis.

The three Menut sons make a significant contribution to Drummondville’s development. Elected member for Drummond to the Legislative Assembly from 1836 to 1838, the youngest son, Henry, is also a merchant and postmaster. From his marriage to Mabel Root nine children are born. As we saw earlier, in 1853, the eldest son, John Alexander, marries Sarah Jane Jones, who dies at the age of 37 years.


Sources:
8. Registres des baptêmes, mariages et sépultures de l’église anglicane St. George (Drummondville).

Joseph Guillemette, November 2006

by the members of the Foundation, I undertook the steps required to obtain authorization to remove thirteen trees. Many are sick, certain trees provide too much shade, while others are simply pathetic! The rendez-vous is at 9:00 AM. It is a cold but sunny day. I arrive well ahead of time but Doris Mace, her son and all his family are already at work. Shortly after, our head lumberjack, Joseph Guillemette, shows up equipped with two chainsaws and various other accessories. Little by little, fifteen or so friends join us armed with a big smile and high spirits. After the usual greetings, the work begins. The decorative fence that parallels the Church is removed and we immediately attack the unwanted trees. Soon, they are crashing to the ground.

We then get busy removing the branches and chopping the trees into logs. Everyone is at work: the branches are placed into a large pile and the logs are stacked with great exertion. While at the same time, Doris’ family is working at the back of the Cemetery. When lunchtime arrives, a good part of the job has been accomplished. Everyone meets in the Church Hall and enjoys the chicken and greasy fries we had ordered. Everyone, except Cathy Miller, as she is enjoying a vegetable salad at the other end of the table. She even resists the delicious dessert that she brought.

The afternoon continues at the same pace in spite of the heavy meal. At about 4:00PM, everything has nearly been completed. The

(Continued on page 5)
the architecture, furnishings and works of art. In it she describes and documents the Church’s history including its architecture, furnishings and accessories. So as to demonstrate that this study has taught us many things I will cite this excerpt:

At St. George’s, not the cross at the alter (1893), nor the gold metal candelabra (1922), nor the “Marler” trays (1922) have the markings by which they could be identified. However, the “Hamilton” chalice and paten, which were given at the re-opening of the Church following the fire of 1863, are inscribed with the markings of Robert Hendery & Co., Manufacturing Silversmiths & Jewellers of Montréal. Robert Hendery (1814-1897), immigrated to Montréal in 1837 established his business as a goldsmith around 1840-1842. It was around this period that he started to produce sacred vessels, initially borrowing designs reproduced from the works of William Butterfield (1814-1900), a British architect involved in the ecclesiastical movement who also designed liturgical furnishings and religious objects. By 1858, Hendery could nevertheless use original designs conceived by his own designer, Félix Louis Paris. A second was hired in 1863, Louis Fréret. One of his designers was certainly the creator of the design for the “Hamilton” chalice and paten since, at Hendery’s, the production of a gold article was shared between various specialized artisans. Around 1865, the firm manufactured the communion service for Christ Church Cathedral of Montréal, proof that the quality of its religious vessels was judged capable of competing with London-based goldsmiths. The “Hamilton” chalice and paten are stamped “R. Hendery” and have the hallmarks of a lion rampant in an oval and the head of a sovereign in an irregular square. These hallmarks to identify his work were adopted by Hendery between 1850/56 and 1887, the year the firm of Hendery & Leslie was created. In 1899, Henry Birks (1840-1928) acquired the company.

1 William Notman photographed the collection. A reproduction of mediocre quality was published in Montréal, la ville aux cents clochers (under the direction of Colette Godin), Montréal, Fides, 2002, p. 79.

2 On the hallmarks see: Ross Fox Allan C., Pièces honorifiques de la collection Henry Birks d’orfèvrerie canadienne, Ottawa, Musée des beaux-arts du Canada, 1985, Annexe II, p. 100-105.

(Note: translated from the original text).
Adopt a ghost

Ghosts need love too. Many of the ghosts in the cemetery are orphans, abandoned and unable to fix up the monuments that mark their resting places. Why not adopt a ghost today? For only $87, that’s less than 25 cents a day, you too can adopt a ghost. Send your contribution to the St. George’s Foundation marked “Ghosts” and you will receive by mail the name of your ghost and a full color photograph of his or her gravestone that you will have helped to restore or preserve. Don’t wait, the spring monument repairing season is about to start. Send in your contribution today. Get the most for your ghost

Len Desfosses

Electrifying...

As we had announced to you last year, we have proceeded to install a fire alarm system and exterior lighting. The projects, which were recently completed, increase the security of the site. The lighting enhances the visibility of the building at night, this allows passers-by to admire the premises as well as keeping undesirables at bay. A building such as St. George’s Church is very vulnerable in the case of a fire and in the event of such a disaster reaction time is crucial. It is for this reason that the installation of a detection system was a main concern. Other electrical upgrades will be undertaken soon.

A ‘Bee’ in the Cemetery... (cont’d)

amateur lumberjacks depart, even though a little tired they are happy with the results of their efforts.

The following week, specialized crews returned to shred the branches and stumps.

In the Spring, we are certain to return to the Cemetery embellished with more hearty trees that will be less liable to drop their branches on our freshly restored monuments.

Yves Toutant

Park, Reverse, Neutral, Drive, Low? OK for driving an automatic but not for restoring and conserving a cemetery. Plan, Research, Negotiate, Do and Learn might be more appropriate since that’s pretty much the sequence that your foundation has followed in its cemetery work. Plan? Yes, there was a plan that included fencing the site, fixing damaged monuments and researching the records to find out more about who is missing. The new fence has helped a lot in securing the site and very little vandalism has occurred since its installation. Researching the records has turned up a lot of interesting things. (see Yolande Allard’s article in this issue.) There’s a whole lot of history buried at St. George’s, much more in fact than the grave stones actually standing suggest. It’s just a question of digging it up……

Your Foundation has also Negotiated recognition of the historical importance of the St. George’s Church and its adjacent cemetery resulting in the City of Drummondville’s listing them under the terms of Quebec’s Loi sur les biens culturels. The Do part is, of course, the heart of the matter because some one has to Do the work. The local members of your foundation have been more than generous, not only through physical effort in the cemetery itself but also by participation in fund raising activities which are an important part of financing the work that must be done by hired professionals. A percentage of the contributions from members far and wide is also directed towards the cemetery project. As a result, a neglected eyesore of a churchyard cemetery in the middle of town has been transformed into historical site well worth visiting.

Finally, the Learning part. It’s surprising what you can learn by visiting an old cemetery. Family histories, species of trees that are uncommon elsewhere in the area, the effects of time and the environment on an undisturbed site….it goes on and on. It is your foundation’s intention to share this learning experience with the community that has so generously contributed to making this project possible by opening the cemetery to the public. The plan includes the marking of walking paths and the installation of information panels, possibly under a tasteful Victorian-style open structure where the original chapel once stood. The various species of trees and plants will also be identified and a visitor’s pamphlet may be prepared. In this way, the cemetery will become a community resource rather than a liability; something to be proud of.

Len Desfosses
The main focus of the Foundation's efforts in 2006 was the installation of a much-needed monitored fire alarm system, important repairs to the masonry on the Church and St. George's participation, this past Summer, in a very successful project highlighting Drummondville's religious heritage and the history of St. George's Church and Église Saint-Frédéric. The financial result was that income exceeded expenditures by $1,646.34. Again this year, the major source of income was from donations, which reached $10,512.45, down from $11,591.01 in 2005. The major contributors were John Imlah, Alan N. Rhodes, The Kaatza Foundation and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Income from activities was $2,346.57 compared to $2,246.13 last year, and interest income from term deposits reached $114.24 compared to $187.51 in 2005. Bank interest was $41.62 in 2006 compared to $64.94 in 2005.

Expenditures for the installation of the fire alarm system, masonry work and other minor repairs to Church Property totalled $5,420.78. Work in the cemetery cost $375.78 during the year. The cost of our fundraising activities increased to $2,915.66, up from $2,626.66 in 2005. While directors' insurance, bank charges and miscellaneous charges totalled $1,656.32 compared to $1,321.54 in 2005. And finally, the Foundation's contribution to last Summer's historical activities was $1,000.00.

In summary, total income was $13,014.88 in 2006 down from $16,443.70 in 2005, while expenditures reached $11,368.54 in 2006 up from $6,973.94 the previous year. Finally, after including accrued interest and a loan to the St. George's Church Building Fund (providing relief to the Church to meet its financial obligations), the surplus as of December 31, 2006 stands at $26,318.72 versus $24,235.73 at the beginning of the year.

Hugh E. Bieber, Treasurer

The Foundation continues to need your support. Become a member today or by sending us your tax deductible donation, you will help the Foundation achieve its mission to restore and preserve our heritage for future generations.