



# St. George's News



## St. George's Foundation Facing Many Challenges

### *Undertaking its 27th Year of Work*

As the St. George's Church Foundation undertakes its 27th year of operations, it is facing many serious challenges in its work to maintain and improve this historic property for future generations.

First and foremost is the issue of finances. After undertaking the 30-year emphyteutic lease for this property, we must now concentrate not only on regular maintenance costs, such as heating, electricity and insurance, but also look at the longer-term situation and the major repairs that will be required.

Recent changes to our arrangements with the City of Drummondville have resulted in a loss of revenue for the parking site, combined with additional costs for snow clearance. We are maintaining an on-going conversation with the City concerning these issues.

Another of our major challenges involves the question of renewal of our administrative and committee membership. We struggle to find and interest new (and hopefully younger) community members in these activities. This is a major concern and a threat to the future of the Foundation. So with this newsletter we appeal to all of our supporters, obviously for your usual financial support, but also for participation in our work by any of you who might be interested in this important work to preserve our architectural and cultural heritage.

As for the photograph above, we hope you enjoy this new and original photograph depicting the St. George Church property from an unusual angle, graciously supplied to us by *Photo drone centre du Québec*, and which illustrates this architecturally unique and historically important property of Drummondville, QC.

# The Oldest Living Thing in Drummondville?

One of the advantages of having a cemetery in the centre of a city is that it can be one of the least disturbed areas from a development perspective – no buildings, no roads, etc. If trees are present in the cemetery, such a space allows them to develop more or less undisturbed, often allowing them to become some of the oldest living things in an area.



*The American Beech tree believed to be the oldest tree in St. George's Church cemetery.*

In the case of St. George's Church cemetery, we decided to examine this a bit more closely and try to estimate the approximate age of some of the oldest trees in this cemetery.

We obviously wanted to do this without damaging or having to cut the trees to, for example, measure growth rings. Instead we used a non-invasive measurement developed and used by the International Society of Arboriculture. This method relies on measurement of the tree trunk. Trees have different growth rates, depending on the species, the

region, as well as other factors, so this method is only meant as a rough estimate of a tree's age.

Having selected some of the largest trees, we first determined the species and then took a diameter measurement of the trunk at 1.4 metres (4.5 ft) above the stump level. This measurement was then multiplied by a growth factor specific to each species to determine the approximate age of the tree. Based on these results, the three oldest trees in St. George's Church cemetery, as well as their life expectancy, would be:

Tree Species		Estimated Age (years)	Life Expectancy (years)
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	207	200
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	167	200
Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus L.</i>	145	200

Photos of the oldest tree, the American Beech, are shown here. If this measurement method is accurate, this tree would have been starting its life at about the same time as Drummondville was being founded. It would have been well established by the time of the burial under its branches of Frederick George Heriot, Drummondville's City founder, making it probably one of the oldest living things in this urban area.

A cemetery can be a valuable site for urban tree conservation, but it is also ironic that some of the oldest living things can be found in a cemetery!



*Trunk of the American Beech tree.*

## Major Repairs Required on Church Windows

In previous issues of our newsletter we have discussed the necessity and even the urgency of repairs required to most of the church windows. These repairs relate to either the window frames which need replacing, or in some cases to the stained glass panels which require restoration work.



*Ongoing deterioration of church windows is becoming an urgent problem.*

Work has begun to examine the costs for the work required on individual windows, finding appropriate artisans capable and qualified to undertake such work, as well as the all-important aspect of gathering the necessary financing required to undertake such a project.

The Foundation has been setting aside funds for a couple of years now in preparation for this work. We anticipate, with your financial assistance, that we will be able to begin this work within the next year.

## Details of the Bust of Frederick George Heriot



These photos provide some details of the bust of Major-General Frederick George Heriot standing in the square which bears his name within the St. George's Church property. This bust was placed here on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Drummondville. It was created by Johanne Lafond.



# Now There Are Five

## *Definition of a Time Capsule*

*“A historic cache of goods or information, usually intended as a deliberate method of communication with future people, and to help future archaeologists, anthropologists, or historians. Time capsules are sometimes created and buried during celebrations such as a cornerstone laying for a building, or at other ceremonies.”*

*-Wikipedia*

Good idea these time capsules, especially when you remember where you put them. Sometimes the intention is to open them fifty years or so later. Most of the time, the folks attending the “ceremony” are no longer around 50 or so years later. Unless the capsule included a very loud alarm clock, it is soon forgotten.

Such was the case with the Drummondville High School time capsule which regular readers of the St. George's News may recall from “The Cornerstone” in last year's edition. That capsule was sealed away in 1948. Within a few years it was forgotten and was only discovered a couple of years ago BY ACCIDENT! We'll call it capsule number 1.

Capsule number 2 was placed in the fountain built at the corner of St. Pierre Street and St. Joseph Boulevard as a part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Drummondville celebrations. Fifty years later it was time to open it but no one remembered exactly where it was in the fountain structure. Fortunately, one aging gentleman remembered that it was he who did the masonry task of sealing it in. Capsule number 3 lies also probably forgotten in the cornerstone of Drummondville's Ste. Croix hospital.

Capsule number 4 was buried in Place Frederick George Heriot, during Drummondville's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2015. A handsome box made of stainless steel, rather than the traditional copper such as capsule number 1, it is supposed to be opened in 2065. Today's adolescents will be nearing their pension age by then so it might be a good idea to tell them to contact the local historical society when the

time comes if they want to know precisely where it is hidden. (It's a secret for now...)

That brings us to capsule number 5, the most unusual of all. With complete disregard for tradition, it was crafted from glass. Much cheaper than copper but more fragile. Where this one is hidden that is not a problem. It contains some photos and a brief text. And it rests safely inside of Heriot's tomb, unknown but to a few.



*Leonard Desfosses placing the time capsule in Heriot's tomb during the replacement of the capstone.*

As part of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, your Foundation replaced the Heriot monument, which was badly deteriorated and pretty much of an eyesore, with a granite replica of the original. Someday if, for some reason, the roof piece of the monument is removed, inside will be found the glass time capsule, a medium size Mason jar, containing photos of the original monument and an explanatory note about its replacement. In the meantime, curious would-be archaeologists can see a copy of capsule number 5 at the *Société d'histoire Drummond*.



*The Mason jar time capsule.*

# Financial Report for 2019

The 2019 financial results will show that revenues exceeded expenditures by \$7,511 compared to a gain of \$15,612 reported last year. Donations were \$8,757 compared to \$9,013 last year. Major contributors were David Jones, Lenora P. Needham, Alan N. Rhodes, Virginia and Ralph Burt – In memory of Harold and Dorothy Lockwood and Fradet, Jean, Langevin, P. Normand, S.E.N.C.R.L. Income from rentals was \$20,900 compared to \$26,652 in 2018. Once again, the major contributor to this income is the 12-month rental agreement with the Adventists for the use of the Church on Saturday mornings. 2019 is the last year of this 3-year agreement. Income from activities was \$5,529 compared to \$4,804 last year, interest income from term deposits and bank interest was \$156 compared to \$123 in 2018. Lastly, the Foundation received a grant from the City of Drummondville of \$19,690 which offset the transfer tax resulting from the signing of the emphyteutic lease with the Parish Corporation. On the expense side, note that recurring expenditures varied and are in-line with 2018. In addition, there were non-recurring expenditures for professional fees of \$3,381 and the transfer tax assessment of \$19,690 resulting from the signing of the emphyteutic lease with the Parish. As mentioned, this tax was offset by a grant from the City. In summary, total income in 2019 was \$55,032 compared to \$40,592 in 2018, while expenditures totalled \$47,521 up from \$24,980 in 2018. To conclude, the surplus as of December 31, 2019 stands at \$45,836, up from \$38,325 at the beginning of the year.

*Hugh E. Bieber, Treasurer*

## 2019 Foundation Board of Directors

Robert Pelletier, <i>President</i>	Stéphane Guertin
Katherine Archer, <i>Vice Pres.</i>	Robert Haggerty
Hugh Bieber, <i>Treasurer</i>	Barry Husk
Barbara Grant, <i>Secretary</i>	Cathy Millar
Katheryne Desfosses	Kim Peacock
Leonard Desfosses	Robert Taylor
Guy Drouin	

## 2019 Foundation Annual General Meeting

For members of the Foundation in 2019 the annual general meeting will be held on April 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
St. George's Church Hall, Drummondville, QC

### St. George's Church Foundation Inc. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash on Hand	\$ 28,768	\$ 30,426
Guaranteed Income Investments	\$ 15,658	\$ 15,503
GST/QST Refund Receivable	\$ 1,410	\$ 416
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$ 45,836</b>	<b>\$ 46,345</b>
<b>Liabilities and Surplus:</b>		
Accounts Payable		
Insurance Premiums due Parish		\$ 8,020
<b>Surplus:</b>	<b>\$ 45,836</b>	<b>\$ 38,325</b>

### St. George's Church Foundation Inc. Statement of Income and Expenses for the Year Ending December 31, 2019

	2019	2018
<b>Income:</b>		
Donations and Memberships	\$ 8,757	\$ 9,013
Rental Income	\$ 20,900	\$ 26,652
Income from Activities	\$ 5,529	\$ 4,804
Interest Income	\$ 156	\$ 123
Grant from City	\$ 19,690	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$ 55,032</b>	<b>\$ 40,592</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Repairs to Church Property	\$ 3,159	\$ 1,491
Utility Costs	\$ 10,453	\$ 12,609
Fundraising Activities	\$ 2,564	\$ 2,794
Rental Costs	\$ 1,436	\$ 1,463
Property Insurance	\$ 5,856	\$ 5,447
Directors' Insurance		\$ 977
Professional Fees	\$ 3,381	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 952	\$ 176
Bank Charges	\$ 30	\$ 23
Transfer Tax	\$ 19,690	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 47,521</b>	<b>\$ 24,980</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss) for the Period</b>	<b>\$ 7,511</b>	<b>\$ 15,612</b>
<b>Surplus at Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$ 38,325</b>	<b>\$ 22,713</b>
<b>Surplus at End of Period</b>	<b>\$ 45,836</b>	<b>\$ 38,325</b>

## Saving the Original Heriot Tomb Capstone

The burial site of the founder of Drummondville, Major-General Frederick George Heriot, is situated on the property of St. George's Church. Heriot was buried here in 1843. His tomb is located in a new square bearing his name, established in 2015 for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Drummondville. While making the preparations for this square, it was decided to remove the existing capstone on Heriot's tomb as it had become illegible over time due to wear. It is not known whether this is the original capstone and in what year it was installed. However, according to available photos, it would have been in place at



*Heriot's tomb original capstone as removed from its site and first placed in the churchyard.*

least since the late 1800's. Once replaced with a replica, the worn capstone was placed temporarily elsewhere on the church property, until it was moved again this year to more protected storage space in the basement of the church. This capstone has historical



*Robert Pelletier helping move the capstone into the church basement for temporary storage.*

value in that it represents a marker of the tomb of the City's founder. The Foundation is now in discussions with interested partners in Drummondville to determine where best to display this important relic for the long term.

## Annual Feast of St. George Méchoui

Plan on attending this year's Feast of St. George Méchoui to be held on Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. at the St. George's Church Hall.

This annual fundraiser is one of the key activities of our Foundation and essential to our fundraising activities. We will be serving roast beef, pork, lamb and all the fixings. Prices are \$35 for adults and \$10 for children and tickets are available at the door.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## How To Reach Us

You can reach us at the Foundation through any of the following means:

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