



St. George's News



A Year to Remember!

While COVID-19 slowed most activities to a halt, your Foundation decided to seize the opportunity to carry out a number of tasks that were long overdue.

As the unplanned downtime and closures meant that all church services, rentals, and events were cancelled, we were able to use the situation to give some much-needed love to our historic site. Through the hard work of directors and volunteers, some major improvements to the Hall were completed including a complete remake of the main entrance, sanding and refinishing the floor, and installing new doors and repairing exterior siding. Shutters and a welcoming sign added the finishing touch.

Lesser maintenance tasks included a fresh coat of paint in many places and landscaping work around the Church and the cemetery.

Working in partnership with the City's Arts & Culture Division, the so-called Marble Plaque project was finally completed to the satisfaction of all concerned.

September saw our participation in the province-wide *Religious Heritage Days*, an event organized by the Quebec Religious Heritage Council whereby churches across Quebec offer guided visits during a specific weekend.

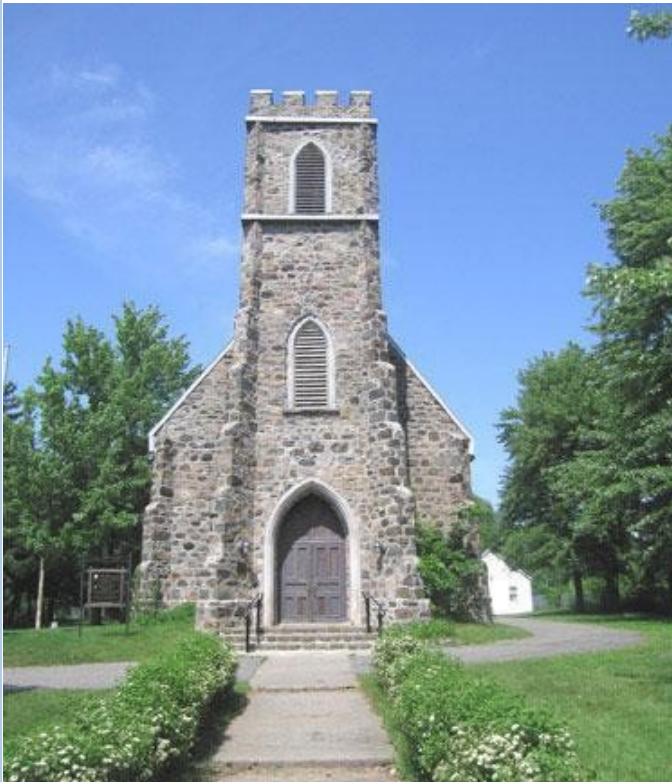
In February 2021, the Foundation applied for financial support from the Quebec Religious Heritage Council for major renovation projects to the Church, the most important being the restoration of the Church's beautiful stained-glass windows. A fundraising campaign will be launched in the coming months and it is hoped that, with your continued support, this campaign will help make this project a reality.

We look forward to the future with excitement and the hope of seeing you once again as soon as we are able.

The Board of Directors

Application for Financial Assistance Submitted to the Quebec Religious Heritage Council (QRHC)

In early February, the Foundation submitted a request to the QRHC for financial assistance for urgent restoration work at St. George's Church estimated to be more than \$250,000. Let's take a closer look at this work in order of priority.



St. George's Church in Drummondville.

First, the exterior windows and frames of the nave and choir need to be redone. In addition, the stained glass windows are deformed and some broken, so they will have to be restored. In addition, it will be necessary to carry out work to repoint the masonry of the sacristy because of water infiltration. Moreover, the roof and the woodwork of the bell tower are damaged and will have to be repaired. The exterior access staircase leading to the basement will have to be rebuilt. Finally, the wood structure of the nave floor will have to be solidified according to the evaluation carried out by architect Caroline Boies of the firm Un à Un Architectes de Drummondville.

The Foundation has outlined several arguments for the obtention of 70% of the cost of the work from the QRHC. First of all, St. George's Church has an exceptional heritage value according to the *Inventory of Places of Worship in Quebec* carried out by the QRHC, which must be preserved and which it may increase following the completion of the work. In addition, St. George's Church is part of the *Place-Saint-Frédéric Heritage Site*, located in downtown Drummondville. We believe that the restoration work will maintain, if not increase, the heritage value of the site, which was built in 1909.

Secondly, this restoration project is in keeping with one of the 16 principles of the *Sustainable Development Act (chapter D-8.1.1)*, being the protection of cultural heritage. In fact, the work carried out will contribute to the enhancement of the buildings located on Brock and Heriot Streets in downtown Drummondville as planned by the *Commission permanente de développement du centre-ville*. The completed restoration of the building will also enhance the beauty and safety of our site, which is used by thousands of cyclists and walkers on the route linking downtown to Woodyatt Park below. Our project will add value to Drummondville's *2020-2040 Sustainable Mobility Plan*.

Finally, the cemetery on the St. George's Church site is an important natural heritage site because it contains Drummondville's oldest living creature, a 207-year-old American beech that is believed to have been planted around 1813-1815 when the City was founded by Frederick George Heriot. This project is also part of the City's *Natural Environment Conservation Plan* as the site is a small wooded island that will obviously be well protected during the restoration work on the Church.

As we are hoping for a positive response from the QRHC, we have begun a fundraising campaign with the community to help us finance our share of the work estimated to be \$75,000. Donations can be sent by cheque to St. George's Church Foundation to the attention of Mr. Hugh Bieber, Treasurer, 142 Aberdeen Street, Richmond, Quebec, Canada, J2B 2H0.

We are counting on your generosity!

By: Johanne Jutras

Hall Facelift



Sign of the Times

In 1926, the Southern Canada Power Company donated a surplus building to St. George's Parish to be used for various social and cultural activities such as the St. George's Men's Club, the Ladies' Guild, the Willing Workers Organization, concerts, lectures and dances, to name a few.

The nearby Riverview School also used the hall for events such as its annual kick-off exercises.

St. George's Hall, as it was called, quickly became too small to accommodate all these activities. In 1928, a campaign was launched to solve this problem. According to an article in the July 10, 1928 edition of the local newspaper, *The Spokesman*, the existing building would be expanded by some twenty feet with a basement to accommodate a kitchen, furnace room, checkroom and washrooms. On the first floor, the construction of a stage would require 15 feet, with the remaining 5 feet providing additional seating space. The cost of all this was estimated at about \$2,000, a goal that was thought to be achievable quickly. This estimate was perhaps a bit optimistic, as in 1929, the St. George's Club asked the city for a grant to help it complete the interior finishing of its clubhouse.

The result was a long period of time during which the hall continued to serve its purpose. The writer recalls Saturday afternoon movies, Wolf Cub and Brownie meetings, and a place to play badminton. But the following years were marked by demographic changes that led to a gradual reduction in the parishes of St. George's and the United Church, as well as a decrease in demand for use of the hall. The opening of Drummondville's new high school with its large auditorium also had an impact.

It wasn't until the 1980s that a small group of people interested in the restoration of the church's assets formed the St. George Church Foundation, which also took an interest in the preservation of the hall. Essential repairs and maintenance were provided by the Foundation and the hall has been rented out as a source of income since then (except for COVID-2020).

In the summer of 2020, a major renovation project of the Hall was undertaken, including a complete reconstruction of the entrance to meet current standards, much of the materials of which were donated by L'Entrepôt du Cèdre Inc., rebuilding of the Hall's floor and a myriad of tasks to improve the overall appearance and safety of the site. As a final touch, a welcome sign was designed and installed along with shutters next to the three windows in the lobby, courtesy of LAFERTÉ.

Sign of the Times (continued)

The Hall, once an important gathering place for the community, is now a major source of revenue for the Foundation to support its preservation work. Times have changed. The new sign is indeed a "sign of the times".

In the summer of 2020, a major renovation project of the Hall was undertaken, under the leadership of Barry Husk and a handful of volunteers such as Robert Haggerty and Stephan Guertin ...

By: Len Desfosses



St. George's Church Hall, prior to putting in vinyl siding.
Sign per Federal Government Grant.



The Rest of the Story

Many of our senior readers may recall Paul Harvey, a radio newscaster who started his broadcasts with a story about a little-known event but not its outcome, leaving the listener in suspense. Then came a 30 second commercial break followed by the missing ending of the story. Then he signed off by adding "Now you know the rest of the story."

Readers may also recall the article in last year's Newsletter entitled "Saving the Original Heriot Tomb Capstone". It recounts how the capstone was saved when, in 2015 the original monument on General Heriot's tomb was replaced with an exact replica as the original was suffering badly from the ravages of time. Inlaid on the capstone was a marble plaque bearing the nearly illegible inscription "*Beneath are the remains of Major General Frederick George Heriot, Companion of the most honorable Military Order of the Bath, founder of this settlement. Born in the island of Jersey. Died at Drummondville on the 30th December 1843 Aged 57 years.*"

It was this plaque that became of great interest to the City authorities who agreed with your Foundation members that it was of historic importance and should be conserved. But how? Lengthy discussions between the City's Arts & Culture committee sought to find an exterior location to somehow display the plaque in an appropriate showcase. But where...?

(Now it's time for the commercial break... For over 30 years the St. George's Church Foundation has labored to maintain the historic church site but the work is not over. Your continued support will help to make the restoration work possible.) Back to the story: Where? In the lower town near where Heriot's barracks were originally located? In the Place Frederick George Heriot near his grave? Or how about in the cemetery? No, no and no!

Behind City Hall, near the visitor's entrance and the entrance to the municipal court house is a nicely landscaped rest area with park benches that seemed like the perfect spot. Working together, the Foundation and the city's Arts and Culture Division agreed on that location and the showcase design. On December 10th 2020, the finished project was revealed to the public. Finally, the spirit of the General has found a new home.

So now, in the words of Paul Harvey, "You know the rest of the story."

By: Len Desfosses



Financial Report for 2020

The 2020 financial results will show that expenditures exceeded revenues by \$2,377 compared to a gain of \$7,511 reported last year. Donations were \$20,822 compared to \$8,757 last year. Major contributors were David Jones, Lenora D. Needham, Alan N. Rhodes, Virginia and Ralph Burt – *In memory of Harold and Dorothy Lockwood*, Catherine Millar, Barbara Grant, Carol Dunn, Entrepôt du Cèdre inc and Rosemary H. Giles.

Income from rentals were down significantly to \$4,808 compared to \$20,900 in 2019. It is to be noted that 2019 was the last year of the 3-year rental agreement with the Adventists which generated \$12,000 in annual income. As the Feast of St. George was cancelled due to Covid-19, there was no income from this activity which generated \$5,529 last year. Interest income from term deposits and bank interest was \$59 compared to \$156 in 2019. The Foundation received a grant from the City of Drummondville of \$18,345 which offset the municipal taxes charged resulting from the signing of the emphyteutic lease with the Parish Corporation. Lastly, the Foundation received \$2,500 in financial support from each of the provincial MNAs Sébastien Schneeberger (Drummond-Bois-Francs) and André Lamontagne (Johnson) as a Provincial Covid-19 program donation. Cost of repairs to Church property was \$11,683 in 2020 compared to \$3,159 last year. Utilities costs, hydro and gas, decreased slightly to \$9,211 compared to \$10,453 the previous year. The cost of our fundraising activities was \$1,529 which was down from \$2,564 spent in 2019. Rentals costs were \$1,141 down slightly from \$1,463 from 2019. The property & directors insurance premium, through the Diocese of Quebec, was \$6,100 compared to \$5,856 in 2019. The Foundation upgraded the security system at a cost of \$2,977, while miscellaneous expenses and bank charges totalled \$411 compared to \$982 in 2019. Finally, the Foundation was assessed a municipal tax of \$19,690 resulting from the signing of the emphyteutic lease with the Parish. Again, this tax was offset by a grant from the City.

In summary, total income in 2020 was \$49,034 compared to \$55,032 in 2019, while expenditures totalled \$51,411 up from \$47,521 in 2019. To conclude, the surplus as of December 31, 2020 stands at \$43,459 down from \$45,836 at the beginning of the year.

Hugh E. Bieber, Treasurer

2020 Foundation Board of Directors

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

2021 Foundation Annual General Meeting

For members of the Foundation in 2021, the Annual General Meeting will be held on April 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at St. George's Church Hall in Drummondville, QC.

St. George's Church Foundation Inc.

Balance Sheet

as of December 31, 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Assets: | | |
| Cash on Hand | 17,654 | 28,768 |
| Guaranteed Income Certificates | 19,706 | 15,658 |
| Investment Account | 5,230 | |
| GST/QST Refund Receivable | 869 | 1,410 |
| Total Assets: | 43,459 | 45,836 |
| Liabilities and Surplus: | | |
| Accounts Payable | 0 | 0 |
| Surplus | 43,459 | 45,836 |

St. George's Church Foundation Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

for the Year Ending December 31, 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Income: | | |
| Donations and Memberships | 20,822 | 8,757 |
| Rental Income | 4,808 | 20,900 |
| Income from Activities | 0 | 5,529 |
| Interest Income | 59 | 156 |
| Grant from City | 18,345 | 19,690 |
| Prov. Covid-19 Grant | 5,000 | |
| Total Income: | 49,034 | 55,032 |
| Expenses: | | |
| Maintenance of Church Property | 11,683 | 3,159 |
| Utility Costs | 9,211 | 10,453 |
| Fundraising Activities | 1,529 | 2,564 |
| Rental Costs | 1,141 | 1,436 |
| Property Insurance | 6,100 | 5,856 |
| Security System | 2,977 | |
| Municipal taxes | 18,345 | 3,381 |
| Miscellaneous | 411 | 952 |
| Bank Charges | 14 | 30 |
| Transfer Tax | 0 | 19,690 |
| Total Expenses: | 51,411 | 47,521 |
| Net Income or (Loss) for the Period | -2,377 | 7,511 |
| Surplus at Beginning of Period | 45,836 | 38,325 |
| Surplus at End of Period | 43,459 | 45,836 |

CASE-MCQ and St. George's Foundation: Collaborating to Support

The Centre for Access to Services in English (CASE) is a relatively new organization with a mandate to support the vitality of the English-speaking population in the Mauricie and the Centre-du-Québec. We offer a wide range of programs from health and wellness to literacy, and we network with local community groups and schools to help to meet the different needs of English-speakers.

In August, we began exploring ways to collaborate with St. George's Foundation to support and highlight local culture and heritage. Then, in November, I met with Len Desfosses and Nicole Guilbault-Peacock, and we recorded a series of informal video capsules in the cemetery beside the church. Len identified stones and monuments of special interest, and related anecdotes about people who make up Drummondville's past. These videos are being edited and will be posted to CASE's Youtube channel in the coming months when they will be launched as a series on the history of the region. Some capsules were recorded in English; others are in French to reach out to the wider community.

Another project underway at CASE is the creation of a podcast for English-speakers across the Maurice-Centre-du-Québec region where we will discuss the history of Drummondville from its earliest days to more modern times. The podcast will be launched later this Spring.



For more information about CASE and our activities, programs, and events, please visit our website: www.casemcq.com.

CASE By: Julie Miller

Religious Heritage Days 2020

As part of Religious Heritage Days 2020, St. George's Church opened its doors on Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13, 2020. Hugh Bieber, Barbara Grant, Guy Drouin, Kim Peacock, Nicole Guilbault-Peacock and Len Desfosses welcomed 15 visitors from the region and beyond. They were enchanted by the simplicity of the site and the story of its origins. All the sanitary measures issued by public health had been put in place for the safety of all. We will participate in the 2021 edition which will take place on **Saturday, September 11th and Sunday, September 12th**. Pass on the information and come see us. It will be a pleasure to welcome you.

By: Nicole Guilbault-Peacock



COVID-19: Another Effect on the Foundation

As this pandemic continues and no one knows when it will be safe for all to gather around a table and enjoy a good meal prepared by our volunteers, we are sad to say that this year, AGAIN, there will be **NO MÉCHOUL**.

This will, again, impact on our annual revenues for a second year in a row. Hopefully, 2022 will see this very popular event take place again. We enjoy this moment of reminiscing and the joy of seeing you all.

Let's cross our fingers for 2022.

How To Reach Us

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

Website: st-george-foundation.org
Phone: 819-826-2209
Email: hugh.bieber@outlook.com
Facebook: Fondation de l'Église St. George
Mail: St. George's Church Foundation
 274 Heriot Street
 Drummondville, Quebec J2C 1K1