



St. George's News



Annual Publication of St. George's Church Foundation Inc.

Message from the President

2017, another busy year and another time to wrap up the events of these past twelve months. This was a year for solidifying our financial base and a decision as to the vocation (if any) of the Presbytery. Fortunately, after a long drawn-out period of negotiation, we were able to sign a long-term lease of the Presbytery. This agreement permitted us to repair the Presbytery roof that had fallen into a serious state of disrepair and to cover on-going operating and maintenance expenses. All this could not have happened without the tenacity and hard work of two of our administrators, Hugh Bieber and Robert Pelletier.

This good news plus the rental revenue from the Hall, the Church and the parking lot has allowed us, for the first time, to cover all our overhead expenses and to direct your generous donations exclusively to the restoration of the Church.

As you can see, the Foundation has not been sitting still. Our volunteers are actively working to preserve the site and assure its restoration. Much has been done but much still needs to be done. **But we need more people! Time marches on and the Foundation members are not getting any younger. If we do not prepare for the future, all our good work may have been in vain. If you know any people in the 20 to 55-age range who are looking for a fun challenge, please let us know. We need a newer generation to make sure that this marvellous heritage is well taken care of.**

As in the past, the Foundation's administrators and other volunteers have worked hard to keep the site in tiptop shape while keeping the happy balance between repair, restoration, and promotion of the site throughout the community. One important event was our successful Feast of St. George with familiar and new faces in the mix.

There will be a major change in 2018 that will affect our efforts. Over many years, Commerce Drummond, a major partner, has been taking care of renting our various buildings. However, due to restructuring at City Hall, it will no longer be able to carry out this important service.

We are now examining all our options.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Commerce Drummond for all its help and to thank our donors for their continued support. This support is essential in our efforts to preserve this historic site. I would also wish to thank each and every member of the Foundation Board. They are all busy people but they still come to our monthly meetings and help out in our many activities. We could not do everything we do without their help.



A day with the chefs by L. Winston

Recent editions of the Newsletter featured articles on the annual Feast of St. George, (the méchoui) your foundation's most important annual fund-raiser. You read about the preparations, the guests and even the Bishop washing dishes. Not much about the chefs who toil from sunrise to sunset to prepare the very best spit-roasted pork, beef and lamb for the 100-odd guests. So... here's a look at how Chefs Robert Pelletier and Guy Drouin spend their day.

Chef Robert shows up early and checks the equipment delivered the night before and starts to set up a perimeter safety barrier. Chef Guy arrives shortly thereafter and the firewood (maple, if you please...) is split and the fires are started. All the spices, red wine and other ingredients required to prepare the secret sauce for basting the meat are made ready. Have you ever tried securing about 100 pounds of meat to a rotating spit using chicken wire? It takes practice but these two are experts. Because beef, pork and lamb all require slightly different temperatures, a primitive temperature control called PMWB

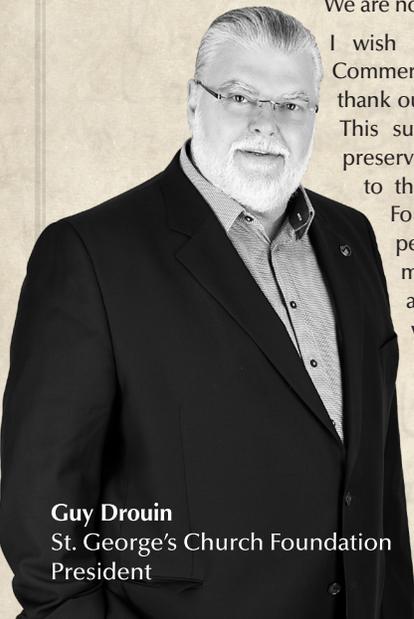


Chefs Robert Pelletier and Guy Drouin.

(put more wood under the beef) is skillfully utilized by the chefs. Now it's check the temperature, apply more secret sauce and a little red wine on the beef, following which the chefs ask each other..."Which glass is mine?"

A few hours later, the routine settles in, check the PMWB, baste the meat with secret ingredients, and apply the wine. It's about 12:30 and the chefs recover some of the small scraps of meat to make themselves a tasty snack for lunch, also known as the quality control interval.

A couple of hours and several cycles of PMWB, a few early birds show-up to chat with the busy chefs and exchange views on the relative merits of maple wood versus cherry, Burgundy vs. Bordeaux



Guy Drouin
St. George's Church Foundation
President

It happened in 1965

St. George's Anglican Church celebrated its 100th anniversary at the same time as Drummondville's 150th anniversary celebrations.

or Celsius vs. Fahrenheit. The kitchen staff drops by to see how things are coming along and to tell the chefs that the baked potatoes are about ready.

Another basting, a little more red wine and NMWR (no more wood required) Chef Drouin sharpens his butcher's knife and then he and Chef Pelletier start to take the big pieces of perfectly cooked meat off the spit for slicing on a slicing machine under the supervision of Côme Joyal who has been doing this for years. Big trays of sliced meat are soon finding their way to the serving line with a message to go easy on the lamb because we ran out last year.

The spectators gradually disappear into the hall and join the line-up to be served. In no time, everyone is seated and enjoying the feast. Everyone except the cooks, kitchen staff and dishwashers.

Outside the chefs carefully package the remainder of the meat for distribution to guests eager to take some home, clean the méchoui equipment for return to its owners, tidy up the site and, in the most obvious fashion, dispose of the last of the wine used for seasoning. Both chefs agree that it was a long but rewarding day and vow, once again, that perhaps next year they will somehow find a way to join the guests for a few minutes and finally get a chance to enjoy a quick sit-down supper themselves.

It happened in 1965

The local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted the Legion's National Curling Championship on the ice of the Civic Center, now the Centre Marcel Dionne.

GOOD NEWS: An unloved building? Not really

by Robert Pelletier

Over the past few years, the forlorn look of St. George's Presbytery has mirrored the inability of the Foundation to fix everything all at once. While the Foundation had been trying to find another use for the building, the ravages of time continued on.

The roof in particular was in quite bad shape, looking a bit like a ruin. In some instances, a ruin can be perceived as a historical wonder (see Rome) but when the roof's purpose is the protection of the wooden structure underneath, catastrophe is not too far off.

This building is not unloved; it's just that those who love it do not have the wherewithal to do much about it. But let's stay positive. After all, the title of this article is GOOD NEWS!



BEFORE

AFTER

Let's go back a bit. In June 2016, Jean-Pierre Boisvert, a journalist at L'Express, wrote an article called "The St. George's Church Presbytery Might Have To Be Demolished" that described the piteous state of the building. This title could have (or should have) created a call to action from the community. However, it was met with the greatest of indifference. This indifference is somewhat surprising considering that, the year before, there was so much indignation in social media regarding the creation of Espace Frederick-George-Heriot in front of the Church. Lots of noise but not one offer of help.

But every cloud...

The Foundation received a call from a Mr. Alain Poirier asking for a meeting with the Foundation regarding a possible new use for the building. A few months later, an agreement was signed whereby the Presbytery would henceforth be used by the Adventist Church for its growing needs. This good news allowed the Foundation to fund the repair of the roof in December before the first snowfall. Thankfully, the structure below was not much damaged over all this time due to the use of 2-inch thick wood throughout (ah, the good old days!)

The Adventists now have a place to hold their activities even if the building still needs further work. At least further damage is held at bay while we find the funds to continue the renovation of the building.

To be continued...

It happened in 1965

The Thespians presented Ayn Rand's three act play "Night of January 16th" in the city hall, playing to a sold-out audience on two consecutive nights.



Church Windows

by Barry Husk

In past issues of our newsletter, we have written about the stained-glass windows in the church, their history, and their beauty. However, one thing we have not discussed recently is the woodwork which holds these windows in place. We now, unfortunately, have to report that this woodwork is in very poor condition.

The last maintenance work on these window frames dates back to 1997, when some minor repairs were made and the frames were repainted. However, the intervening 21 years and weathering have caused the wood to deteriorate to a point where several windows are now at risk of no longer properly supporting and protecting the glass panes.

The Foundation has identified this repair and restoration work as a priority for the next year. Although estimates have not yet been obtained for the cost of undertaking all of the required work, at least some of the repairs will have to be done in 2018 to avoid the most serious damage. As always, contributions from our members and donors will go a long way to ensuring this important work gets done.



It happened in 1965

Miss Universe, Corinna Tsopai, took part in the city's 150th anniversary activities



It happened in 1965

Mike Blair was awarded the best all-round graduating student bronze medal at the Hamilton Institute of Technology.

A Walk Through the Past

by Leonard W. Desfosses

Back in Drummondville for the first time in twenty years, you are standing in the shade of the huge beech tree beside General Heriot's tomb when a young woman with a clip board under her arm approaches and invites you to join the 45 minute guided tour of the cemetery. You accept and follow your guide into the cemetery along with the five or six folks waiting by the gate. Your guide says that the cemetery was fenced in 1822 and consecrated in 1846 but that Elizabeth Durgin, the wife of a British soldier was actually the first to be buried here in 1816. This cemetery was also the site of the first church, a modest wooden structure demolished around 1856. She stops beside John Gagnon's grave and comments on the multi-cultural aspect of the cemetery where names like Gagnon, Girouard, Moisan and Proulx mingle with the Lackeys, Clevelands, Wrights, Wadleighs, etc.

You follow your guide to the Menzies-Duncan enclosure surrounded by an ornate wrought iron fence donated by Grace Menzies in 1863 and restored in 2010. You examine the various inscriptions on the obelisk in the center of the enclosure and note with interest that Andrew Duncan was born in County Tyron, Ireland in 1769 and that Rebecca Duncan drowned accidentally in 1821



Margret Wright Watkins.

Nearby are several monuments belonging to the Watkins and Wright families. Your guide shows you a copy of an old photo of Margret Wright who was married to William Watkins. The names of four children on one Watkins monument along with several small gravestones surmounted by a little lamb bear witness to the high infant mortality rate of earlier times.

Moving on towards the impressive Millar and Watts monuments, your guide

stops to point out a large oak tree of a species not common to this area. There are five of these spread around the cemetery and it is suspected that they might be the trees that the city agreed to plant to replace the ones cut down in 1936-7 to allow the widening of Heriot Street. Your guide mentions that it was Heriot's cousin, Robert Nugent Watts, that donated the property on which the new church was to be built. You ask if that included the cemetery and the guide replies that it was Heriot who gave that land for a cemetery and the construction of the first church that she had mentioned earlier. She adds that you are less than 50 feet from where it is believed to have stood. Your attention is also drawn to the two modest monuments nearby, those of George McLeod Ross, the first Rector of St. George's, and his wife Edith Hallowell.

You are intrigued by the long list of names on the Millar monument

and you suddenly realize that the rest of the group has moved away toward the north-west corner of the cemetery where there is a group of Watkins and Moisan monuments including that of James Watkins with the inscription "Captain H.M. 7th Battalion Townships Militia". You re-join the group and you ask your guide about a modest gravestone so close to the stone wall that it is difficult to read the inscription which is on the side facing the street. You are told that it is the grave of the War of 1812 veteran William Mitchell of the 21st Regiment of Foot who died in 1873 at the age of 77.

From here, you follow the stone wall going by several impressive obelisks, Riff, Mitchell and Folster, before coming to Anselm Proulx's well preserved stone which is particularly interesting for two reasons. Firstly, Anselm isn't buried here, but his wife Emily Simmons is and secondly, the inscriptions are lettered in lead making them easily legible even after 100 years. The only other example of lead lettering to be found in the cemetery is the Elbridge Dalton stone back not far from the Moisan and Watkins ones. Your guide explains that Anselm, presumably catholic, is buried in Nicolet for some reason.

A glance at your watch explains why your guide is moving along quickly pointing out different examples of restorations until you reach three stones that look remarkably plain, one of slate, one like soapstone and one of well weathered marble bearing the name Esther Cross. The first two seem to have no inscription until your guide scans the surface obliquely with her pocket flashlight revealing the finely engraved texts and decorations. Nearby you notice a Celtic cross, the only one of its type in the cemetery. Your guide tells you that the last burial here coincided with the opening of the new cemetery on the Golf Road in 1929 but smiles and points to one of several Ployart monuments in the corner which dates to 1941.

To finish, she points to the graves of Peter Plunkett and his wife Anna and recounts a humorous anecdote about Peter, a devout catholic who converted to Anglicanism to protest the Bishop's decision to close his beloved church in Wickham. It seems fitting that this old soldier be buried right beside the tomb of General Heriot.

The visit now completed, you thank your guide and offer her a well deserved tip which she refuses to accept. She suggests that you might consider putting something in the donations box inside the church. You follow her advice and then head across the street to have a coffee and reminisce about the good old days.

It happened in 1965

The congregation of St. George's lowered the Red Ensign for the last time, replacing it with the new red Maple Leaf.

Treasurer's Report - 2017

by Hugh Bieber, Treasurer

The 2017 financial results will show that expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1,557 compared to the surplus of \$1,653 reported last year. Donations reached \$11,198 compared to \$10,928 last year. Major contributors were Alan N. Rhodes, Lenora P. Needham, David Jones, John Imlah and Virginia and Ralph Burt – In memory of Harold and Dorothy Lockwood.

Income from rentals was up significantly to \$28,205 from \$13,907 in 2016. The major contributor to this increase was a 12-month rental agreement with the Adventists for the rental of the Church on Saturday mornings, which was paid in advance. This amount allowed the Foundation to undertake the much needed replacement of the Rectory roof. Income from activities was \$3,334 compared to \$2,954 last year, interest income from term deposits and bank interest was \$85 compared to \$86 in 2016.

Cost of repairs to Church property reached \$20,010 in 2017 compared to \$951 last year. As mentioned in last year's newsletter, the furnace in the Hall urgently needed replacing, the new furnace was installed in early January 2017 at a cost of \$5,481.87. The Rectory roof replacement, which was undertaken in late fall, cost \$13,382.20. The remaining expenditures of \$1,146 are miscellaneous items which include the replacement of the water heater in the Church and the security system costs. The cost of our fundraising activities was \$2,505 which was down from \$3,516 disbursed in 2016. Rentals costs were \$2,201, up from \$1,316 last year. Utilities costs, hydro and gas, increased to \$13,381 compared to \$11,804 in 2016. This higher cost is due solely to the usage of the Rectory by the Adventists who, in turn, reimburse the Foundation for these costs. The Foundation transferred \$5,181 to the Parish of St. George's Church for the 2017 property insurance premium owed to the Diocese of Quebec compared to \$6,083 in 2016. Directors' insurance, bank fees and miscellaneous charges totaled \$1,101 compared to \$1,053 in 2016.

In summary, total income in 2017 was \$42,822 compared to \$27,875 in 2016, while expenditures reached \$44,379 up from \$26,222. The Foundation's liability due the Parish for property insurance remains at \$8,020. To conclude, the surplus as of December 31, 2017 stands at \$22,713 versus \$24,270 at the beginning of the year.

Balance Sheet - 2017			
		2017-12-31	2016-12-31
		(\$)	(\$)
ASSETS	Cash on Hand	13 833	15 800
	Guaranteed Income Investments	15 380	15 254
	Accrued Interests	-	40
	GST/QST Refund Receivable	1 520	1 196
	TOTAL ASSETS	30 733	32 290

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	Accounts Payable	-	-
	Insurance Premiums due Parish	8 020	8 020
SURPLUS		22 713	24 270

Statement of Income and Expenses - 2017			
		2017	2016
		(\$)	(\$)
INCOME	Donations and Memberships	11 198	10 928
	Rental Income	28 205	13 907
	Income from Activities	3 334	2 954
	Interest Income	85	86
TOTAL INCOME		42 822	27 875

EXPENSES	Repairs to Church Property	20 010	951
	Utility Costs	13 381	11 804
	Fundraising Activities	2 505	3 516
	Rental Costs	2 201	1 316
	Property Insurance	5 181	6 083
	Directors' Insurance	906	880
	Bank Charges	29	25
	Miscellaneous	166	148
	Professional Fees	-	1 499
TOTAL EXPENSES		44 379	26 222

Net Income or (Loss) for the Period	-1 557	1 653
Surplus at Beginning of Period	24 270	22 617
Surplus at End of Period	22 713	24 270

Rentals

The Hall and the Church can be rented for private events.
For details : st-george-foundation.org

Membership

The Foundation continues to need your support.
Become a member today!

Church services

Anglican Church Services on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 3 PM.

United Church Services on the 4th Saturday of each month at 3 PM.

The francophone parish "l'église unie Drummondville/Mauricie" services are held the 2nd Sunday of the month, from February to June and from September to December, at 1 PM.

Donations

Send us your tax deductible donation and you will help the Foundation achieve its mission to restore and preserve our heritage for future generations.

Foundation Board of Directors

Executive :
Guy Drouin
President

Katherine Archer
Vice President

Barbara Grant
Secretary

Hugh Bieber
Treasurer

Directors :
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Leonard Desfosses
Robert Haggerty
Barry Husk
Cathy Millar
Kim Peacock
Robert Pelletier
Robert Taylor

How to reach us

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The Drummond Historical Society is searching for information on Drummondville's English schools. Readers who have any old photos or documents that they would like to contribute, or would like more information, are requested to contact Leonard Desfosses at desfosl@sympatico.ca or 819-472-1213.



Website

Our website is now online. Take a look at st-george-foundation.org.

Don't forget

ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. GEORGE
Saturday, June 2nd 2018.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday, April 27th 2018 at 7 PM in
the Church Hall.



ST-GEORGE-FOUNDATION.ORG