



St. George's News



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



A word from the President

The Foundation works hand-in-hand with the Parish to find the best solutions for the conservation of St. George's Church and the exceptional site on which it stands.

Several years ago, the Foundation and the Parish studied various options related to the future of the site. The Foundation's objectives continue to be, as always, the preservation, restoration, and development of this exceptional site. All of Drummondville supports us in our quest and these goals were behind our actions in 2016.

This year (2016) saw the beginning of negotiations aimed at renting the Presbytery. This project was seen as the best way to underwrite our fixed costs as well as the future redoing of the roof, windows, ornamentation and outside facing.

Over the past few months, we have been negotiating to lease the Presbytery to the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Drummondville. We have reached a verbal agreement on a 30-year lease. Our notary is drawing up the lease and everything should be signed in the coming weeks.

This agreement will have a major impact on lowering our fixed costs (electricity, heating and insurance) while allowing us to keep possession of the building. The agreement will allow the restoration of good part of the Presbytery, something that has become more and more difficult with the passage of time. This lease will allow us to concentrate our efforts on the Church and the Hall, both of which are important sources of revenue.

On another subject, this past summer the City of Drummondville installed a public piano in the Espace Frederick-George-Heriot. This attracted many new visitors to the Church and its site.

The annual Feast of St. George was another resounding success with visitors enjoying a marvellous meal and creating great new memories.

Behind the scenes at the Feast of St. George

by Leonard W. Desfosses

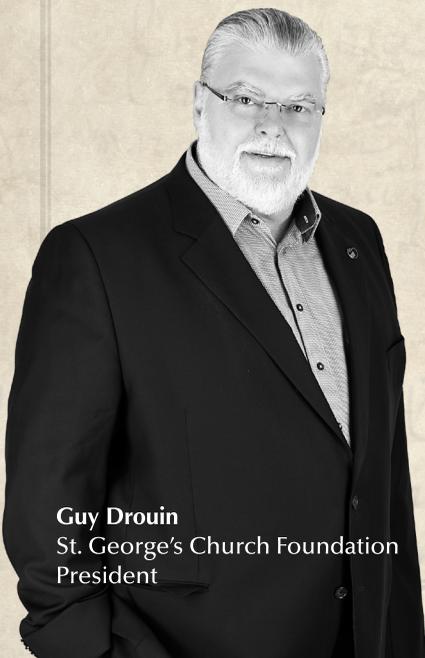
There have been articles on the annual Feast of St. George in earlier editions of your Foundation's newsletter. An important fundraising event, it is usually described in terms of attendance and the good time that was had by all...never anything about what goes on behind the scenes. I would like to be able to say that the delicious lamb served was rustled under the cover of darkness by Hugh Bieber but no, it was legally acquired and prepared slowly over a wood fire by Chefs Guy Drouin and Robert Pelletier. The beef and pork also prepared by the same two chefs came from a local butcher shop owned by a former Drummondville High School student. And what about the desserts and pastries, all homemade by Cathy, Katherine, Doris and Barb? Let me see...about 110 people, say 2 pieces each that's only about 18 dozen...better make a few extra. Doris says we need to start the potatoes early 'cause they all have to be scrubbed before wrapping them in aluminium foil for



Bishop Bruce Myers helping out in the kitchen.

baking. Go easy on the coleslaw order..there was some left over last year. Who's taking care of the drinks? Raymond will take care of the 50-50 drawing. Everyone remember to be here early Friday evening to help set up.

Friday night arrives and chaos is transformed into a well-organized dining room. Hugh says the short tables go near the fireplace. Wash the dishes and set the tables. No Styrofoam plates here. Put the cups and saucers to the right.... Oh, sorry, I'm left handed. Lots of action in the kitchen. I think we're out of hot water. Flowers for the tables? Cathy is bringing them tomorrow. All done? Looks good. Don't forget to turn out the lights in the basement before locking up. Everyone pray for sunshine.



Guy Drouin
St. George's Church Foundation
President

Folks start showing up around two-thirty. It's like old home week. "Haven't seen you for a while, how've you been?" "Don't have a ticket? No problem. Just see Len inside the hall."

Gradually the hall fills up and the Feast of St. George swings into high gear. Folks line up at the serving counter. "Can I have a little more lamb, please? Sure. No problem." "Kim will you go around with the tea and coffee?" "Hey Len, leave some of those date squares for the guests..." "Get enough to eat George? Anyone for seconds?"

A couple of hours later the diners gradually start to leave with a lot of "Thanks, that was good.." and "See you next year." Time to clean up. Ever wash dishes for 110 people? Ask Bishop Bruce Myers if he thinks Palmolive really prevents dishpan hands. 2016 was the first time we had ecclesiastical assistance cleaning up after the guests had gone home. «Are there any more dry dish towels? The silverware goes in that big wooden box. Be careful stacking the boxes of dishes in the cupboard. What do I do with these dirty tablecloths? Just pile them over there and we'll wash them later... Finally everything is cleaned up and put away. Time to go home. Thanks everyone! Great job. See you next year.»



A Public Piano at Espace Frederick-George-Heriot

by Guy Drouin

Public pianos are found in many of the world's great cities to bring people together around their common love of music. This past summer, Drummondville also joined the trend by offering several public pianos located in various parts of the city.

On May 14 th, public pianos first became available to Drummondville's citizens and visitors. One was placed at Espace Frederick-George-Heriot on the St. George's Church site. The generosity of the citizens of Drummond made it possible for everyone to use the piano for their own pleasure and that of their audience.

The first player to take up the challenge started his medley with the song "My Heart Will Go On" from the film "Titanic". His audience grew as he advanced through his repertoire. He then turned the piano over to Sylvain Marcotte and Frédéric Mousseuu, well-known participants in the competition "Fais-moi ta toune" in 2015.

"To have a piano outside, it's amazing, it goes to my soul. People get together and share their joy of music", according to singer-songwriter Andy St. Louis.

This initiative attracted many people to Espace Frederick-George-Heriot who were then able to discover the site and visit St. George's Church.

The piano was available until the end of September. We hope that this marvellous initiative will return in 2017!

Remember when

A 2 ½ pound chicken cost \$1.00 with no extra charge for cleaning (A&P Feb. 1952)

In memory of Mrs. Thirza Smith



The parishioners and friends of St. George's were saddened by the passing of Thirza Grainger Smith on January 22, 2017 at the age of 98. Thirza Grainger and Herbert Smith were married on June 20, 1938 at St. George's where Thirza was an active and dedicated member of the Church for nearly 80 years.

Her work at the Church included the ACW, Alter Guild and Synod Delegate, as well as many other roles. She will be missed. May her ever smiling face shine down on us.

Remember when

A RCAF F-86 Sabre jet crashed in a wooded area near St. Guillaume, a village not far from Drummondville (Feb. 1957)

Remember when

Drummondville High School's Joan Killoran was elected to McCall's Patterns Teen Fashion Board for the 1956-57 school year.



The mystery of the crucifix

by Leonard W. Desfosses

A visitor to St. George's Church might ask if Drummondville's founder, Major General Heriot, was catholic and the answer would be that he was not. Why then, might the visitor ask, is there a crucifix in the showcase with the replica of one of Major General Heriot's uniforms. To answer that question, it is necessary to roll back the calendar to May 29th 2015, the day that the deteriorating monument over Heriot's tomb was dismantled in preparation for the installation of a new exact replica of the original. (ref 2015 Newsletter) Very close to the north-west corner of the monument's base, the little crucifix was discovered buried in the sand. The crucifix was readily identified by the Historical Society as late 19th century and typical of that worn by members of the clergy. Encrusted in sand when it was found, it had obviously lain there for a very long time. Who placed it there and for what reason? Who knows? Something to think about.....an unsolved mystery.

R.I.P. Miss Brock (Reduced in Parts)

by Robert Pelletier

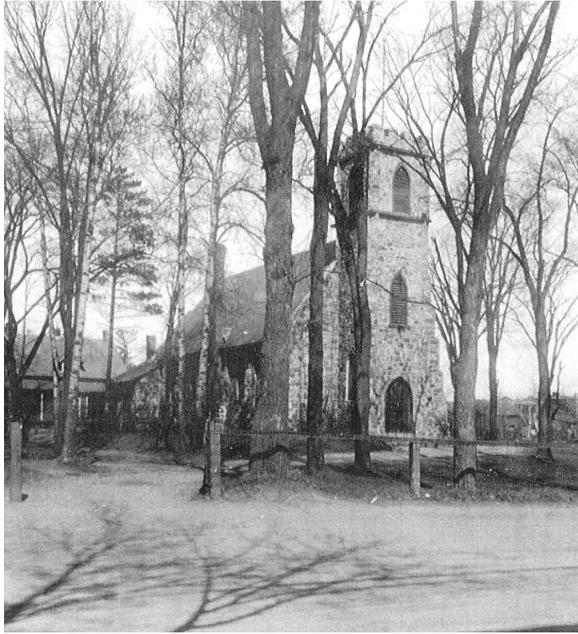
It is with great sadness that we must announce that our long-time associate, Miss Brock, has passed away after more than 30 years of unrelenting hard work. On January 16, 2017, in the basement of the Parish Hall, Miss Brock gave up the ghost at the tender age of 30. Such an early death represents an important milestone to our community. Miss Brock and her warmth succumbed to chronic incontinence. We had to call upon the services of a specialist in mechanical passing who accompanied her on her final voyage. She leaves behind her eternal companion, Mr. Thermostat, and several fans and ductwork. It was a long drawn-out passing but she is now interred at the St. Nicephore graveyard. Donations to the St. George's Church Foundation would be greatly appreciated.



Nomination

Following the sudden death of Miss Brock, we would like to introduce Miss Lennox who has taken over Miss Brock's work. Although young and without much experience, Miss Lennox has already shown a warmth of spirit that is quite refreshing. Her warm smile has already made her an integral part of the community. She is quite a bit more efficient than her predecessor so we expect that she will carry out her technical duties at a much lower cost. Most of all, Miss Lennox has allowed us to reduce our carbon footprint considerably.





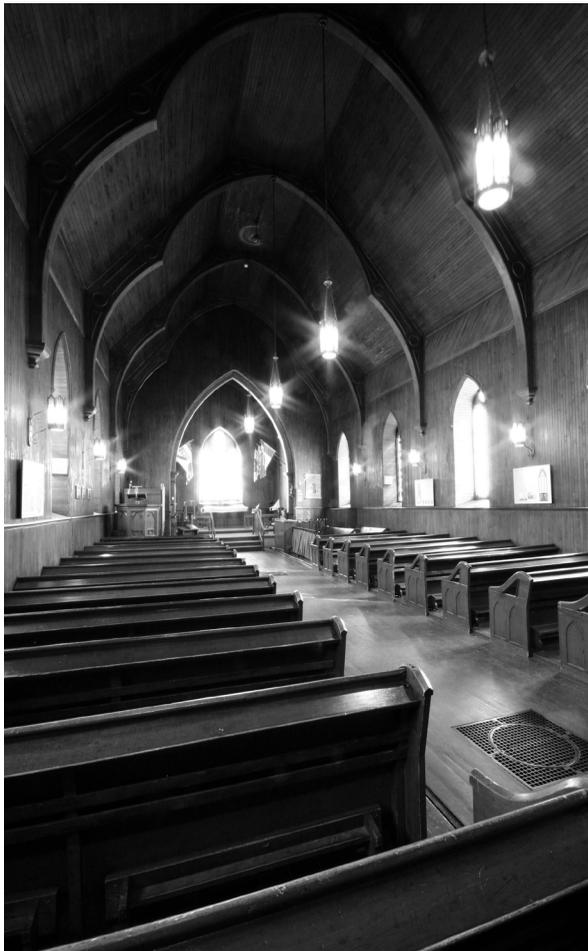
St. George's Church guided visits

For the last 2 years we have had the very good fortune of having Amelie Jomphe as our guide for the summer Church visits program. The following is Amelie's account of her experience.

"I have had the immense privilege over the past two summers of working as a guide at St. George's Church. My role was to present the history of the various architectural features of this monument to the visitors from Drummondville and beyond. Every day I was witness to the astonishment and wonder in the eyes of those visitors who came to visit the Church. About 70% were from Drummondville and told me that they had always wanted to come visit the Church but hadn't had the occasion to do so. The majority of the other 30% were visitors from Quebec and elsewhere in Canada but many came from foreign countries such as France, Columbia, United States, Japan, New Zealand, etc. Many visitors came back to show the site to their friends and relatives or simply to enjoy the peace and harmony that they found here.

As for me, I found my experience enriching in many ways. I had the chance of being a guide and having the support of members of the Foundation. Thanks to their passion, I was able to supply more and more detailed information to my visitors as the summer progressed.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I will be returning in 2017 to share my love for the Church with all its visitors."



Remember when

Skinny men and women could gain 5, 10 or even 15 pounds and find new pep, vim and vigor simply by taking famous Ostrex Tonic Tablets.

Treasurer's Report - 2016

by Hugh Bieber, Treasurer

The 2016 financial results will show that revenues exceeded expenditures by \$1,653 compared to the surplus of \$12,770 reported last year. Donations reached \$10,928 compared to last year's record of \$27,182, which was the effect of the City's 200th anniversary projects. Major contributors were Virginia Burt – In memory of Harold and Dorothy Lockwood, Alan N. Rhodes, Lenora P. Needham, Betty Chavous, David Jones, and H. Gordon Meyer.

Income from rentals was \$13,907 down from \$15,458 in 2015. Income from activities was \$2,954 compared to \$2,897 last year, interest income from term deposits and bank interest was \$86 compared to \$101 in 2015.

Cost of repairs to Church property was \$951 in 2016 compared to \$909 last year. The cost of our fundraising activities was \$3,516 which was down from \$3,784 disbursed in 2015. Rentals costs were \$1,316, down from \$2,259 last year. Utilities costs, hydro and gas, were down to \$11,804 compared to \$13,833 in 2015. Actions taken to reduce energy costs continue to show positive results. The Foundation transferred \$6,083 to the Parish of St. George's Church for the 2016 property insurance premium owed to the Diocese of Quebec compared to \$5,667 in 2015. Directors' insurance, bank fees and miscellaneous charges totaled \$1,053 compared to \$1,104 in 2015. And finally, the Foundation was required to update its website after several years of operation at a cost of \$1,499.

In summary, total income in 2016 was \$27,875 compared to \$45,638 in our 200th anniversary year of 2015, while expenditures reached \$26,222, down from \$32,868. The Foundation's liability due the Parish for property insurance remains at \$8,020. To conclude, the surplus as of December 31, 2016 stands at \$24,270 versus \$22,617 at the beginning of the year.

Balance Sheet - 2016

		2016-12-31	2015-12-31
ASSETS			(\$)
	Cash on Hand	15 800	14 153
	Guaranteed Income Investments	15 254	15 156
	Accrued Interests	40	51
	GST/QST Refund Receivable	1 196	1 277
TOTAL ASSETS		32 290	30 637

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS	Accounts Payable	-	-
	Insurance Premiums due Parish	8 020	8 020
SURPLUS		24 270	22 617

Statement of Income and Expenses - 2016

		2016	2015
INCOME			(\$)
	Donations and Memberships	10 928	27 182
	Rental Income	13 907	15 458
	Income from Activities	2 954	2 897
	Interest Income	86	101
TOTAL INCOME		27 875	45 638

EXPENSES	Repairs to Church Property	951	909
	Utility Costs	11 804	13 833
	Fundraising Activities	3 516	3 784
	Cemetery & 200 th Project Costs	0	15 579
	Rental Costs	1 316	2 259
	Property Insurance	6 083	5 667
	Credit for Property Insurance Due	-	(10 267)
	Directors' Insurance	880	863
	Bank Charges	25	22
	Miscellaneous	148	219
	Professional Fees	1 499	-
TOTAL EXPENSES		26 222	32 868

Net Income or (Loss) for the Period	1 653	12 770
Surplus at Beginning or Period	22 617	9 847
Surplus at End of Period	24 270	22 617

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

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

Anglican Church Services on the 4th Saturday of each month at 3 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

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Vice-president

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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.



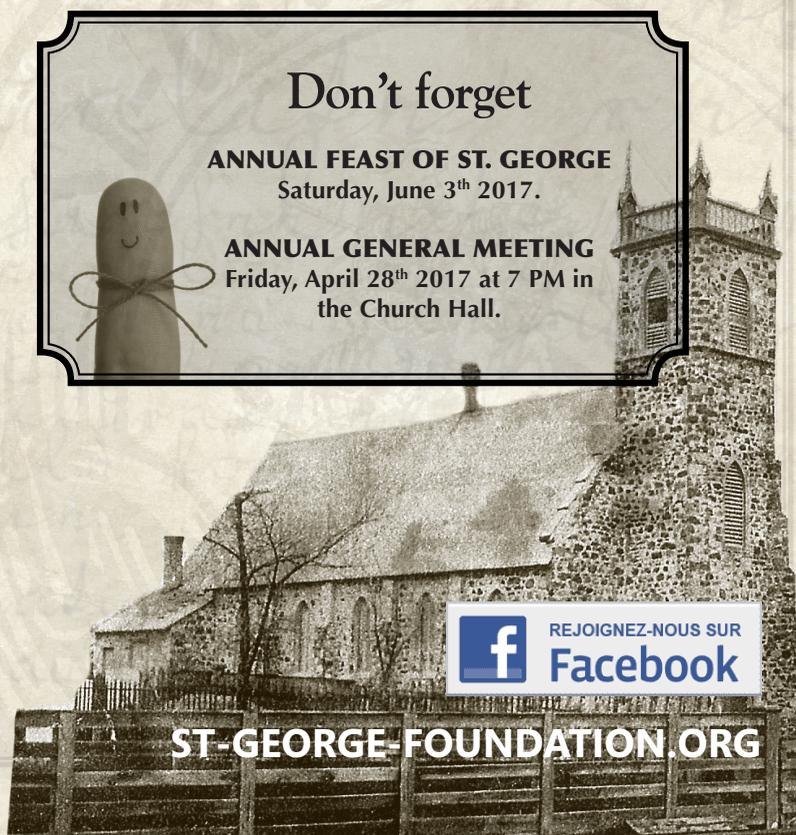
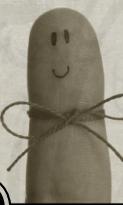
New Website

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

Don't forget

ANNUAL FEAST OF ST. GEORGE
Saturday, June 3th 2017.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday, April 28th 2017 at 7 PM in the Church Hall.



ST-GEORGE-FOUNDATION.ORG