



St. George's News

WE DID IT!



As planned, we began a fundraising campaign for the restoration of the Church's stained-glass windows in 2022. After many approaches to businesses, to politicians, to the City of Drummondville and to generous donors, we were able to reach our target of \$125,000, which represents 30% of the costs the Foundation had to assume. This goes with the \$175,000 (70%) granted by the Conseil du Patrimoine religieux du Québec (CPRQ). The article on page 3 describes this large-scale operation very well. A big thank you to all the people, companies and organizations who contributed!

A new request to the CPRQ was sent last February to finalize the other needed work that could not be included this year due to the substantial increase in material and labor costs.

In parallel with the campaign, we organized concerts which attracted newcomers to the Church and gave emerging talent the opportunity to perform in this simple venue with its praise-worthy, high-quality acoustics. The Foundation received a Special Men-

tion from the Conseil de la Culture du Centre-du-Québec for these cultural presentations

The Board of Directors continues to take great care of this heritage site and, the affection for this site continues.

Nicole Guilbault-Peacock,
President

30 Years of Care

Nicole Guilbault-Peacock, President

The year 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the St. George's Church Foundation.

A handful of volunteers, people of heart who are particularly fond of this site and its buildings, have invested thousands of hours to preserve, promote and restore it.

There have been high points, great challenges, successes, and major work that successive boards of directors have faced with determination, resilience and commitment.

These moments have been captured (digitally and otherwise) in order to freeze in time these important steps in the preservation of this heritage site, unique to Drummondville and the region.

During this period, the cemetery received special attention, the church roof was re-slatted, St. George's Hall had its wood floors sanded and stained, the kitchen was repainted and its floor was re-covered, the sanitary block was also refreshed and new toilets were recently installed. The main door and stairs of the Hall were replaced. In 2015, during the events marking the 200th anniversary of the founding of the City of Drummondville, a parcel of land was donated for the new Place Frederick George Heriot located just outside the cemetery near the bike path.

The recent work on the stained-glass windows and the work that will be done in the near future will make this an example of our respect for local heritage.

Thank you to all those who have devoted their energy, time and dedication to this project. Their involvement has made a huge difference to the sustainability of this iconic place.

THE 2021-2022 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN IS A SUCCESS!



Johanne Jutras, Secretary

Following the announcement of \$175,500 of financial assistance from the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec (CPRQ) in June 2021, the Foundation conducted a fundraising campaign in order to obtain 30% of the cost that needed to be covered by the community. Initially set at \$75,000, the campaign goal was raised to \$125,000 when bids from general contractors were received. The estimated costs of the work did not take into account the increase in the price of materials and labour that had occurred since our application to the CPRQ was filed. Nevertheless, the members of the Foundation redoubled their efforts to reach many people and companies during this campaign. President Nicole Guilbault-Peacock solicited several political leaders in the region as well as members of the Drummondville City Council.

The Foundation is proud to announce that it has raised \$130,000, including a substantial donation of \$100,000 from the City of Drummondville which will be used for the restoration of the church's stained-glass windows by the artist Sylvie Savoie. "The conservation of our common heritage is an important issue that has too often been neglected in Quebec. With St. George's Church, a historic site of great value, we are fortunate to have a heritage site of the Anglican community in Centre-du-Québec region. Frederick George Heriot, the founder of Drummondville, is buried in the cemetery of this church. The St. George Church Foundation can count on our

support," said Stéphanie Lacoste, mayor of the City of Drummondville.

The Foundation would like to thank all the people, companies and political leaders, in particular Sébastien Schneeberger, MNA for Drummond-Bois-Francs and Alain Lamontagne, MNA for Johnson and Minister of MAPAQ, for their generous contributions. As all of the restoration work on the Church is not yet complete, another fundraising campaign will be held in 2023 to restore the masonry of the sacristy, the roof and woodwork of the bell tower, the exterior access staircase leading to the basement and the floor of the nave.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

How to make a donation:

By cheque with the slip included in the bulletin sent to 274 Heriot Street, Drummondville, Quebec, J2C 1K1.

By e-transfer to
treasurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca

By donation in shares :
Contact Nicole Biron at
Treasurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca

THE RESTORATION OF THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

Nicole Guilbault-Peacock, President

In order to carry out the restoration of the majority of the stained-glass windows, we launched a public call for tenders in 2022. Under the supervision of our architect, Robert Pelletier of the firm Un à Un, we proceeded to an analysis of the bids submitted and we awarded the contract to Construction Benoit Moreau Inc. of Drummondville. This contractor called upon Sylvie Savoie, glass artist from Saint-Lucien, for the delicate operation.

Before the cold weather hit, three stained-glass windows were carefully removed from their frames and transported to the artist's workshop. Two windows have been already restored. The others will be removed in spring as the cold weather makes the removal process riskier. The work will take several months and will be completed in 2024.

Other work has already been identified to complete the restoration of the Church. We fervently hope that our request to the CPRQ will be accepted in order that these works of art and the original brilliance of their multicolored light will shine for another hundred years.



A Very Busy Year for Culture

Julie Miller, Event Director

2022 was a very busy year for the St. George's Church Foundation in terms of cultural events! In February and March, we hosted two concerts in partnership with the community organization, the Centre for Access to Services in English (CASE-MCQ), and the music department of the Cegep de Drummondville. Each concert in the series brought together live performances with a short talk on different historical topics related to the church. In February, local historian Chantal Proulx spoke about artist Charlotte Sheppard, which was followed by a dynamic jazz and blues concert featuring young up-and-coming musicians, Kelowna Chauvin (vocals) and Antoine St-Onge (bass). The proceeds of \$1200 in ticket sales were donated to La Rose des Vents, an organization that fights against domestic abuse. Then on March 26th, architect and friend of the Foundation Robert Pelletier opened the



evening by presenting a short timeline of the history of the church building, since we were then embarking on our current renovation project. For the rest of the evening, the public was treated to a sublime concert of classical music



featuring Zoik Dubois (bassoon), Emile Dufour (piano) and Luka Bordeleau (cello), all graduating students from the Cegep's "Virtuoso" program. The success of these concerts led to the Foundation being awarded a grant of \$2500 from the Fonds Culturel of the MRC of Drummond to allow us to pursue the concert series for another year! The Foundation was also honoured at the annual gala of

Conseil de la Culture du Centre du Québec with a "Special Mention" for our dynamic contribution to local culture. We rounded off the year with a festive and bilingual Christmas concert coordinated by CASE-MCQ and featuring the Choeur Allegri from the Cegep, members of the Bella Voce choir, and a small local vocal ensemble named in our honour, l'Ensemble Vocal St. George. The concert was sold out, and we achieved our goal of bringing in new people from the community to appreciate the beauty of St. George's Church through our cultural events. We have many new cultural activities coming up in 2023, including more concerts, teas, and talks. Stay tuned!



INCREDIBLE BUT TRUE...

Len Desfosses, Vice President

An 1860 *Montreal Witness* newspaper article reported that grave robbers had been at work in Durham and Drummondville. Bodies unearthed, sometimes by medical students, were taken to university medical faculties which had a shortage of cadavers needed for the future doctors' studies. The exact number of graves robbed is not mentioned but a subscriber wrote saying that he believed 10 or 12 bodies had been stolen from graveyards in his neighborhood. Whether St. George's Anglican cemetery on Heriot Street fell victim to these villainous practices is not known for certain but the comfortable distance of Cemetery Hill from the heart of the young town could possibly have been to the advantage of the grave-robbing scoundrels. "Can men whose hearts are rendered callous by such unhallowed work", the writer asks, "be entrusted safely with the care of the sick or dying?"

Treasurer's Report – 2022

Nicole Biron, Treasurer

As new Treasurer of the Foundation, I would first like to express my thanks to the Board for their support throughout the year.

In 2022, the Commission Municipale du Québec rendered judgment on our application for recognition for the purposes of exemption from property taxes. Our request being refused. The Foundation had to pay the school taxes for the years 2018 to 2022 inclusively plus interest, the whole representing the sum of \$6,651.88.

The Foundation has been blessed by the generosity of its donors for one more year, and it is with a grateful heart that we thank you.

In 2022, the Foundation embarked on a program to restore the stained-glass windows. \$30,770.47 was raised for this project, and is presented on the balance sheet as deferred revenue. While expenses related to the restoration will be received in 2023, these monies will be used to pay the expenses.

The Foundation has been blessed by the generosity of its donors for one more year, and it is with a grateful heart that we thank you.

St. George's Church Foundation Inc.		
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022		
	2022	2021
Assets:		
Cash on Hand	\$ 43 628,83	\$ 35 950,00
Guaranteed Income Certificates	\$ 46 668,49	\$ 19 885,00
Investment	\$ 18 734,17	\$ 6 828,00
PPD Expenses	\$ 3 614,74	\$ -
Receivable Trade	\$ (300,00)	\$ -
GST/QST Refund Receivable	\$ 2 368,77	\$ 739,00
Total Assets:	\$ 114 715,00	\$ 63 402,00
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 3 375,33	\$ -
Deferred Revenue	\$ 30 770,47	\$ -
Total Liabilities :	\$ 34 145,80	\$ -
Surplus:		
Cumulated Surplus	\$ 63 403,29	\$ 43 459,00
Surplus for the Period	\$ 17 165,91	\$ 19 943,00
Total Surplus:	\$ 80 569,20	\$ 63 402,00
Total Liabilities & Surplus:	\$ 114 715,00	\$ 63 402,00

St. George's Church Foundation Inc.		
Statement of Revenue & Expenses, Year Ending December 31, 2022		
	2022	2021
Revenue:		
Donations & Memberships	\$ 32 448,00	\$ 14 722,00
Rental Income	\$ 14 640,00	\$ 9 115,00
Income from Activities	\$ 4 416,20	\$ 555,00
Interest Income (investments & misc.)	\$ 409,32	\$ 23,00
Subsidies	\$ 29 676,96	\$ 37 683,00
Gain on Stock Investments	\$ -	\$ 1 598,00
Total Revenue:	\$ 81 590,48	\$ 63 696,00
Expenses:		
Charitable Support	\$ 1 152,00	\$ -
Maintenance of Church Property	\$ 11 417,54	\$ 13 329,00
Utility Costs	\$ 12 806,32	\$ 7 628,00
Property Insurance	\$ 7 550,00	\$ 6 648,00
WIFI, Website	\$ 1 947,71	\$ 1 040,00
Activities & Rental related expenses	\$ 463,74	\$ 2 241,00
Expenses related to stain-glass restorat	\$ 1 158,01	
Municipal Taxes	\$ 12 342,43	\$ 12 705,00
School Taxes	\$ 7 277,38	\$ -
Printing & Special Mailing	\$ 1 228,14	\$ -
Office Supplies	\$ 972,47	\$ -
Bank Charges	\$ 45,40	\$ 12,00
Miscellaneous	\$ 62,85	\$ 150,00
Change In Fair Market Value of Investme	\$ 6 000,58	\$ -
Total Expenses :	\$ 64 424,57	\$ 43 753,00

2022 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicole Guilbault-Peacock, President

Leonard W. Desfosses, Vice-President

Nicole Biron, Treasurer

Johanne Jutras, Secretary

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Andréanne Brouillette

Hugh E. Bieber

Barbara Grant

Eléonore Guité

Cathy R. M. Millar

Julie Miller

I REMEMBER BOB

Robert Taylor (1933-2022)

Len Desfosses, Vice President



When I was in grade 2 at the old Riverview School, I remember my older sister saying nice things about Bob who was one of her classmates. Later, I got to know him better in the Boy Scout movement where Bob was a dedicated member and leader. Years later I caught up with him again at the St. George's Church Foundation of which he was one of the founding members. His devotion to the Foundation's mission was outstanding and he was the first recipient of the Foundations Honorary Life Membership Award. Unfortunately, Bob passed away a short time afterwards and the Foundation grieved the loss of "Our good old Bob." He will always be remembered as the kind of friend that everyone would like to have.

THE MÉCHOUÏ IS BACK

The Board of Directors of St. George's Church Foundation Inc. announces the return of the annual méchouï after a three-year hiatus.

The méchouï will be held on **Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** at St. George's Hall, 278 Heriot Street, Drummondville.

Please visit our website (st-george-foundation.org) for pricing and other pertinent information.

Everyone is welcome!

How to reach us

Web site: st-george-foundation.org
Email: tresurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca
Facebook: Fondation de l'Église St. George
Mail: Fondation de l'Église St. George
274, rue Heriot
Drummondville (Québec) J2C 1K1

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION 2023

The members in good standing of the St. George's Church Foundation Inc. are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. George's Hall, 278 Heriot Street, Drummondville.

Please confirm your presence to the secretary at the following email address:

secretary.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca

Invitation to join the Circle of Friends of the Foundation

Nicole Guilbault-Peacock, President

When we organize events such as concerts, conferences, English teas and the annual méchouï, we are always in need of volunteers to lend a hand, whether it be to set up chairs in the aisles of the church or in the community hall, sweep up the weeds around the church during our annual clean-up, set up the tables for the annual méchouï, serve tea, etc.

If you are interested in helping to preserve this exceptional heritage site and have an hour or more to spare, please leave your contact information on our website: <https://fondation-st-george.org/contact/> or write to us at tresurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca to the attention of Nicole Biron.

You'll see that we are friendly, welcoming people and laughter is part of our DNA. Moreover, it would be an opportunity for you to meet new people and to participate in historical discoveries.

We are waiting for you and who knows, maybe you have the talent we are looking for to continue our mission!

CHURCH SERVICES

The celebrations for "The Anglican Church" are held every **second Saturday of the month at 3PM.**

The celebrations for "The United Church" are held every **fourth Saturday of the month at 3PM.**

Editor

Members of the Board
Proofreading and Translation
Kim and Nicole G. Peacock,
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