



St. George's News

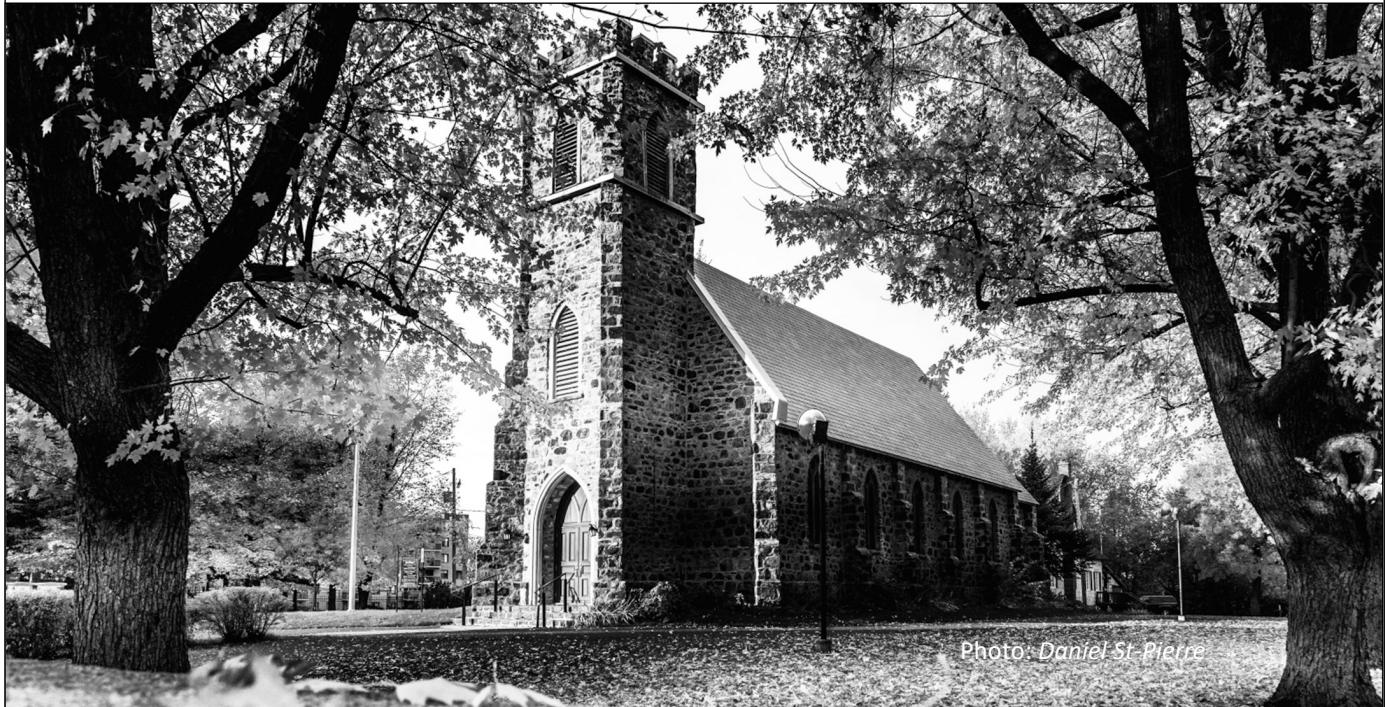


Photo: Daniel St-Pierre

Another Challenging Year!

The Foundation has not been spared by these two consecutive years during which the population of Quebec has suffered the effects of a historic pandemic. Fewer events, fewer church and community hall reservations and no annual Méchoui are examples of the direct consequences of this exceptional situation. Fortunately, thanks to the agreement we signed with the City of Drummondville (2021-2025) and a grant from the two MNAs Sébastien Schneeberger and André Lamontagne from our region, we have made up for this shortfall and met our obligations as managers of a non-profit organization (composed entirely of volunteers, we must remember). We are very grateful to them!

The Board of Directors has not been idle during this break and has drafted a five-year Strategic Plan in order to establish the Foundation's priorities. A big thank you to the Board members for this effort.

When public health permitted, we held two noteworthy events last fall: the first, as part of the Religious Heritage Days, a concert with some members of the group Bella Voce. The second was a historical presentation on the evolution of hats pre-

sent by Ms. Georgette Langelier followed by a tea with scones and desserts. These activities were very well received and our events manager, Julie Miller of CASE MCQ and Cathy Millar are preparing other activities that will enliven the gloomy atmosphere of the past few months. Moreover, 2023 will be the 30th anniversary of the Foundation. We are planning to celebrate this in a very special way.

There is some excellent news from the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec (CPRQ) for the restoration of the church. The CPRQ will subsidize 75% of the work while we will have to raise the missing 25% to complete the entire project. This 25% represents between \$75,000 and \$100,000 that must come from the community. A fundraising campaign, under the direction of Mr. Brian Illick, is currently underway to raise the necessary funds for this large-scale project. The work will be under the supervision of Mr. Robert Pelletier, architect with the firm Un à Un.

More than ever, we will need your generosity!

Nicole Guilbault-Peacock, President

Financial Help of 175,500 \$

At the end of June 2021, the Foundation received a favourable response to its request for financial assistance from the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec (CPRQ) related to “Restoration of immovable property of the 2021-2022 Program for the protection, transmission and enhancement of cultural heritage of a religious nature”. What good news this was after several rejections and a 20-year wait. It shows that tenacity can be rewarded.

Following this announcement, the President of the Foundation, Ms. Nicole Guilbault-Peacock, sent a letter of thanks to the various partners who had supported this project, namely Mr. Alain Carrier, mayor of Drummondville, Ms. Geneviève Béliveau, director general of the Société d'histoire Drummond, Mr. Martin Champoux, Member of Parliament for Drummond, Mr. Sébastien Schneeberger, Member of Parliament for Drummond-Bois-Francs and Mr. André Lamontagne, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Member of Parliament for Johnson in the Quebec National Assembly. Their support was essential to our efforts.

This grant represents 70% of the estimated cost of the \$251,100 restoration of the church. Let's take a closer look in order of priority. First, the exterior windows in the nave and choir need to be redone. In addition, the stained-glass windows are warped and some are broken; they will need to be restored. The masonry of the sacristy needs to be repointed due to water infiltration. Next, the roof and woodwork of the cloister are damaged and will need to be refurbished. The exterior access staircase leading to the basement will have to be rebuilt. Finally, the wooden structure of the floor of the nave will have to be solidified. Architect Robert Pelletier of the firm Un à Un Architectes of Drummondville and former president of the St. George Church Foundation will oversee this restoration project.

This exceptional heritage is listed in the Inventory of the places of worship of Quebec. Rest assured that we will make every effort to ensure the professional restoration of this exceptional Anglican heritage church, cited as such by the municipality of Drummondville in 1998. A fundraising cam-



paign is underway in the community to help us finance our share of the work which is estimated to be \$75,000. By making a tax-deductible donation, you will help the Foundation fulfill its mission to restore and preserve this exceptional heritage for future generations.

How to make a donation:

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

By e-transfer to:

treasurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca.

By donation of shares: Contact Nicole Biron at treasurer.

stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca

or (819) 472-6011.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Johanne Jutras, Secretary

Hats and fashion!

On Saturday, November 6, the Foundation partnered with the community organization CASEMCQ to present a unique event, the "From Heads to Hats" conference and tea. Georgette Langelier, a collector of hats and fashion accessories with a collection of over 1050 historical pieces, gave a short lecture in the church on the history of men's and women's hats. After the lecture, guests moved to the community hall for a formal tea. Volunteers had worked hard to prepare the tea and a wide variety of delicious homemade squares and cookies were served with a choice of coffee or a fragrant blend of high-quality tea. The star of the menu was the dozens of freshly-baked buttered scones served with Devonshire cream and local jam, prepared by Esther Healy from her grandmother's recipe. While drinking their tea, participants were able to observe and admire the many special and unusual items from Ms. Langelier's collection on display. Each hat, purse and pair of gloves had a story, sometimes compelling. Ms. Langelier, dressed in a 1940s-era attire commented on many items. Visitors were generous in



their comments of appreciation for the event, and many wanted to be kept informed of future events. There was a lot of talk about the type of events we could hold in the future. Thank you to all the volunteers, who generously gave of their time, talent and effort to make the tea a resounding success!

Julie Miller

450 years of song



This year, for its Religious Heritage Day event, the Foundation decided to do things a little differently by complementing the weekend open house with a special event on Saturday,

September 11. In partnership with our friends at the community organization CASEMCQ, the Foundation presented a concert and story entitled "450 Years of Song". As Foundation President Nicole Guilbault-Peacock commented afterward, "Amazing what we can accomplish when we work together!" Aided in part by a report by Susan Campbell on CBC Radio, the public response far exceeded our expectations and we unfortunately had to turn people away as the church was filled to the maximum allowed by public health. Many people attending the concert were entering the church for the first time. We even had to set up chairs outside and the doors re-

mained open for the entire concert. The choral ensemble, composed of 8 local singers brought together by Julie Miller, performed a repertoire of music from the protestant church, from the time of Martin Luther and the beginning of the Reformation in the 1500s, to the 1860s, the time of the building of the present-day church. The music was interspersed with stories and anecdotes about how the Protestant singing tradition developed and evolved. The audience was invited to sing along with several of the more well-known hymns. One audience member said, "It brought tears to my eyes (and) made me feel at home." Another person summarized her experience as follows: "The historical anecdotes and explanations, the choice of musical repertoire, the atmosphere of the chapel... simply a treat for the ears and the heart." As always, this event was only possible thanks to the help of many volunteers who contributed to its success and to whom the Foundation expresses its sincere thanks.

"The historical details and anecdotes, the choice of musical pieces, the atmosphere of this chapel... delights for the heart and the ears. Thank you!" - Louise

Julie Miller

In the Eyes of Charlotte Sheppard

On the banks of the St. Francis River, across from Watts Island, we can imagine Charlotte Sheppard setting up her easel to paint St. George's Church. This historical painting illustrates St. George's Anglican Church in the 1870s. It also reminds us of the river crossing at St. George Street, possibly after the break-up of the river that carried away the covered bridge in 1862.



St. George's Anglican Church collection

How did this watercolour end up at St. George's Church?

Hugh Bieber tells us that his father donated it to St. George's Anglican parish but does not know the exact circumstances. It is possible that this watercolor was inherited from his uncle, Arthur Bieber, a great art collector. It is also listed by the Société d'Histoire de Drummondville in their 1980 booklet published in 1980 "Drummondville D'Antan en photos".

Charlotte painted many canvases representing landscapes of Drummondville and especially the Grantham Hall manor where she lived from 1846 to 1882. Her works are now in the possession of some of her descendants scattered throughout the Canadian provinces. Recently, two of them, the

Newton brothers from British Columbia and Alberta, have been generous enough to offer two paintings of Grantham Hall by their ascendant Charlotte Sheppard to the Historical Society of Drummondville. How fortunate we were!



What do we know about this 19th century Drummondville artist?

Charlotte, daughter of Harriet Campbell and William Sheppard, a wealthy Quebec City lumber merchant and Canadian politician, was born in 1816. In 1839, she married Robert Nugent Watts, a Scottish who emigrated to Quebec in 1827 and who was at that time the Assistant Civil Secretary of Lower Canada.

Around 1840, our founder Frederick George Heriot invited the couple to settle in Drummondville in his house, Comfort Hall. Robert, with the support of his cousin Heriot, was first elected member of Parliament for the riding of Drummond, in Canada East, and represented the riding from 1841-1851. He then devoted himself to agriculture and became the largest breeder of thoroughbred horses in Canada. Finally, he became mayor of Drummondville in 1858. In the 1870s, Charlotte may have had more time to devote to her passion, painting, since her last child, Margaret Ann Nugent Watts, was already thirteen years old. She raised seven children: five girls and one boy in addition to her orphaned niece, Sarah.

Chantal Proulx

Researcher and member
of the St. George's Church Foundation

Treasurer's Report - 2021

The 2021 financial results will show that revenues exceeded expenses by \$18,345, compared to a loss of \$2,377 reported last year. Donations totaled \$14,722, compared to \$20,822 last year. Major contributors were David Jones, Lenora D. Needham, Roger Dubois, Alan N. Rhodes, Ralph Burt - In Memory of Harold, Dorothy and Virginia Lockwood- Catherine Millar and Diana Hibbert Bailey.

Rental income increased significantly to \$9,115 compared to \$4,808 in 2020. Once again, the méchoui was cancelled due to Covid-19 but the Foundation held a fundraising event in the fall where we raised \$555. Bank interest income was \$23 compared to \$59 in 2020. The Foundation received grants from the City of Drummondville totaling \$32,683, in part being additional financial support for operating costs and to offset municipal taxes. For a second year, the Foundation received financial support of \$5,000 from a volunteer support program. In summary, total operating income was \$62,098, compared to \$49,034 in 2020. In addition, an investment gain of \$1,598 was realized on shares donated to the Foundation in December 2020.

The cost of repairs to Church properties was \$13,329 in 2021, compared to \$11,683 the year before. Utility costs, hydro and gas decreased to \$7,628, compared to \$9,211 the previous year. The cost of our fundraising activities was \$1,385, down from \$1,529 in 2020. Rental costs were \$856, down slightly from \$1,141 in 2020. Property and director's insurance premium through the Diocese of Quebec was \$6,658, down from \$6,100 spent in 2020. The security system, website, and installation of WIFI capabilities cost \$1,040 compared to \$2,977 last year. Finally, the Foundation was assessed a city tax of \$12,705, which was offset by a grant from the City. Sundry expenses and bank charges totalled \$162 compared to \$425 in 2020. In all, expenses

totalled \$43,753, down from \$51,411 in 2020.

In summary, net income in 2021 was \$19,943, compared to a loss of \$2,377 in 2020. To conclude, the surplus at December 31, 2021 was \$63,402, up from \$43,459 at the beginning of the year.

Hugh E. Bieber, Treasurer

St. George's Church Foundation Inc.			
Balance Sheet			
as of December 31, 2021			
	2021	2020	
	\$	\$	
Assets:			
Cash on Hand	35 950	17 654	
Guaranteed Income Certificates	19 885	19 706	
Investment Account	6 828	5 230	
GST/QST Refund Receivable	739	869	
Total Assets:	63 402	43 459	
Liabilities and Surplus:			
Accounts Payable	0	0	
Surplus	63 402	43 459	
St. George's Church Foundation Inc.			
Statement of Income and Expenses			
for the Year Ending December 31, 2021			
	2021	2020	
	\$	\$	
Income:			
Donations and Memberships	14 722	20 822	
Rental Income	9 115	4 808	
Income from Activities	555	0	
Interest Income	23	59	
Grant from City	32 683	18 345	
Prov. Covid-19 Grant	5 000	5 000	
Total Income:	62 098	49 034	
Expenses:			
Maintenance of Church Property	13 329	11 683	
Utility Costs	7 628	9 211	
Fundraising Activities	1 385	1 529	
Rental Costs	856	1 141	
Property Insurance	6 648	6 100	
Security System, WIFI, Website	1 040	2 977	
Municipal taxes	12 705	18 345	
Miscellaneous	150	411	
Bank Charges	12	14	
Total Expenses:	43 753	51 411	
Income or (Loss) for the Period before Investment:	18 345	-2 377	
Gain or (Loss) on Stock Investments:	1 598	0	
Net Income or (Loss) for the Period:	19 943	-2 377	
Surplus at beginning of Period:	43 459	45 836	
Surplus at End of Period:	63 402	43 459	



M. Hugh Bieber

THANK YOU HUGH!

For over 30 years, Mr. Hugh Bieber was Treasurer to the Foundation. He has decided to pass the torch to a new treasurer, Ms. Nicole Biron, who took office last January 2022.

We thank Mr. Bieber from the bottom of our hearts for his continued commitment over the past decades and look forward to his continued service as a director on the Board of Directors for years to come.

Annual General Meeting of the 2022 Foundation

Members in good standing of the Foundation are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Hall, 278 Heriot Street, Drummondville, health measures permitting or by ZOOM. Please confirm your attendance to the secretary at the following email address:

secretary.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca

Agreement with the City

As a result of the and in collaboration with Mr. Lemieux, Arborist for the municipal services, an inventory of the site's forest heritage has been completed and work will be required. Calls for tenders will be made in the spring to evaluate the amount of money that will have to be invested to protect these precious green spaces in downtown Drummondville. To be continued.

Church Services

Services for The Anglican Church are held every **2nd Saturday of the month at 3:00 pm.**

Services for The United Church are held every **4th Saturday of the month at 3:00 pm.**

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Facebook:	St. George Church Foundation
Mail:	St. George Church Foundation, 274 Heriot St., Drummondville (QC) J2C 1K1

Board of Directors of the 2021 Foundation

Nicole Guilbault-Peacock, Président
 Hugh Bieber, treasurer
 Barbara Grant
 Julie Miller
 Cathy Millar
 Nicole Biron

Len Desfosses, Vice-président
 Johanne Jutras, Secretary
 Katherine Archer
 Barry Husk
 Johanne Dupuis
 Kim Peacock

