



ST. GEORGE'S NEWSLETTER



From left to right: Andréanne Brouillette, Katherine Archer, Lorraine Boucher, Marie-Jeanne Couture, Gabriel Allard-Lauzière, and François Nichols. Absent from this photo are Anne Hébert, Johanne Jutras, Marie-France Pelletier, and Kim Peacock. Photo: Ariane Fortier.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First, a joyful announcement! On September 13th, we celebrated the completion of the church restoration project. Among the fifty guests were many people who contributed to this success. After the speeches in the church, the assembly moved outside. The good weather, wine and hors d'oeuvres allowed us to conclude the event in good spirits.

Now, here are some updates on the projects announced in last year's bulletin:

- The Foundation renewed a five-year agreement with the City of Drummondville, ensuring the latter's material and financial support.

- The long-term rental project of the St. George Hall to the Centre of access to Services in English de la Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec was abandoned. Instead, it was decided that it would be renovated and made accessible to people with limited mobility.
- The revision of governance rules has allowed us to adopt a Code of Deontology in place of the Code of Ethics.

In closing, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors, as well as everyone who participated in the Foundation's activities in 2025.

François Nichols.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SYLVIE SAVOIE!

The Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec awarded a special mention of the Prix d'Excellence - Professionnel to the stained-glass artist Sylvie Savoie, who was present at the Morrin Centre in Quebec City on October 2, 2025. Savoie's work consisted of restoring the 39 stained-glass windows of the Anglican Church St. George in Drummondville, which were produced over a period of 92 years. These include the Reverend G.M.L. Ross Memorial of 1855, the Menzies Memorial of 1857, eight window panels in the nave from 1865-1866, the 1866 stained-glass window, and the War Memorial of 1947. The goal of these restoration efforts was to restore the authenticity and original splendor of these works of art.

Thanks to the rigorous and respectful practices of heritage applied by Sylvie Savoie, the stained-glass windows of St. George's Church will continue to illuminate the building and transmit its history to future generations. The expertise and passion that guided this restoration for over two years required hundreds of hours of patient labor. You can watch Sylvie Savoie's process for completing this monumental work at the following address:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6jHjdbZa4w>

Johanne Jutras, Secretary.



From left to right: Sylvie Savoie, stained-glass artist, and Marie-Pierre Levesque, Representative of Desjardins.

Photo: Marion Desjardins.

MINOR WORKS ON THE CHURCH IN 2026

Although the priority restoration work on St. George's Church has been completed thanks to grants from the Quebec government and the City of Drummondville, there are still some minor repairs to be made.

Some minor work remains to be done. Outside, the frame of the bell tower will need to be repaired and repainted; the top of the frame of the main window will need to be repaired; some slate roof tiles will need to be replaced; and a ramp for people with limited mobility needs to be created at the main entrance. Inside the church, the floor covering in the vestibule will be replaced, and the red woolen rugs in the choir will be deep cleaned. Additionally, any graffiti or marks discovered on the wooden benches will be repaired.

Johanne Jutras, Secretary.

Québec 


DRUMMONDville
Capitale du développement

A MAGNIFICENT CONCERT

On April 30th, we had the pleasure of attending a concert performed by the Cégep de Drummondville string ensemble, conducted by Philippe Brochu. They performed Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, accompanied by Douglas Nemish, the Allegri Choir, and soloists Emily Bouthillier and Louis-Charles Gagnon. The church was packed, to the point that some people had to watch the concert from the steps of the entrance! This concert was presented in collaboration with CASE-MCQ.

Katherine Archer, Vice-President.



Concert of students from Cégep de Drummondville, April 30, 2025.
Photo: Katherine Archer.

TWO TEA PARTIES IN 2025

We organized a Valentine's Day Tea on February 15th. The tea party was decorated with many hearts. In addition to our famous *St. George's Blend* tea, we served our delicious scones with *Devonshire* cream and strawberry jam, as well as tea-shaped and heart-shaped biscuits, chocolate tartlets, and brownies.

For the Royal Tea on June 6, we served a refined afternoon tea that was very much appreciated by our guests. In addition to scones smothered by *Devonshire* cream and strawberry jam, there were lemon and poppy seed biscuits, *Earl Grey* shortbread, lemon tartlets, and brownies. The sandwiches served were traditionally composed of egg salad, salmon, cucumber, cream cheese, and pickle rolls. The scones were so popular that our resident pastry chef, Emma Haggerty, will have to increase her production.

The Foundation expresses its sincerest gratitude to the Events Committee, composed of Katherine Archer, Marie-Jeanne Couture, and Andréanne Brouillette,

as well as to our resident pastry chef, Emma Haggerty, who benefited from the invaluable help of a dozen volunteers to make these two English teas a success.

Katherine Archer, Vice-President.



CELEBRATION OF THE END OF THE RESTORATION WORK

On September 13, the Foundation was proud to welcome its guests to a cocktail reception celebrating the completion of its church restoration project. Among the guests were members of the first Board of Directors in 1993, current and former members, and MPs Martin Champoux and Sébastien Schneeberger, as well as several donors who contributed to this achievement. Guests were greeted with a glass of *St. George's Blend* iced tea before the bells rang to mark the start of the ceremony. Our president, Mr. François Nichols, warmly greeted and thanked everyone for their support before introducing Ms. Katherine Archer, who spoke about the history of the church and St. George's parish. Ms. Cathy Millar then spoke about the history of the Foundation. Then, architect Robert Pelletier informed us of the scope and duration of the restoration project. Finally, Sylvie Savoie explained the meticulous work that was necessary to restore the stained-glass, including a trip to France to learn a new technique! A new plaque dedicated to our generous donors was unveiled. Guests then enjoyed a Velluto Jazz concert while savoring hors d'oeuvres from L'Odika on the lawn in front of the church.

Katherine Archer, Vice-President.



Guests at the September 13, 2025 event in front of St. George's Church.
Photo: Ariane Fortier.

AN INCREASE IN SUMMER ATTENDANCE



Gabriel Cormier, the director of project dissemination at the Société d'histoire de Drummond (SHD), informed us that 210 people visited St. George's Church as part of the Découvertes route in the summer of 2025. This represents a 38 % increase in attendance, as there were 152 people in 2024.

Johanne Jutras, Secretary.



Front view: Alexis Plante-Proulx, SHD guide.
Back: Three participants during a visit in the summer of 2025.
Photo by Gabriel Cormier.

A QUEST FOR MEANING FOR 30% OF FRANCO-QUÉBÉCOIS

This is what the results of a survey conducted by Léger in March 2025 for the magazine Le Verbe reveals. These are new data on the quest for meaning. "Despite the secularization of Quebec society, despite the fact that the fastest-growing group in Quebec society is nonreligious, despite the negative view that Quebecers have of religion in general, despite the growing distance between the population and religious and spiritual issues, we learn that 30 % remain in search of meaning. It's a significant number" according to Martin Meunier, a professor at the School of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Ottawa and holder of the Quebec, Francophone Canada and Cultural Change. Furthermore, the Catholic tradition has become less central in the province.

The St. George's Church Foundation has noticed this phenomenon in Drummondville since it rents its buildings to various Christian communities. On Saturday morning at St. George's Church, about 20 people attend the Seventh-day Adventist Church service. Then, on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, about 30 members of the Alpha and Omega Church gather. The Reformed Baptist Church receives a group of 20 members on Sunday afternoons. Additionally,

20 to 30 United Church members gather there nine times a year, while the Anglican Church meets four times a year. At the St. George Hall, a group of 20 faithful from the Ministry of the Good Fight meet once a week. About 40 people from the Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar meet once a month.

Source:

<https://presence-info.ca/article/actualite/religion/on-peut-affirmer-que-la-population-quebecoise-a-une-quete-de-sens/>

Johanne Jutras, Secretary.



From left to right: Danie, Benjamin, and his daughter Mareshca, members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
Photo : Marie-France Pelletier.

TREASURER'S REPORT– 2025

At the beginning of 2025, a new treasurer joined the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Her name is Lorraine Boucher. Additionally, Nancy Bessette is now responsible for bookkeeping. Following Yvonne Blanchette's departure as external auditor, Lydie Tremblay will assume this task. Below are the financial findings of the church restoration and the Foundation's operations. In addition, the contract for the rental of the church and St. George's Hall was revised to reflect market prices.

The church restoration

The restoration work on the church was completed in September 2025, at a total cost of \$397,659. Thanks to the vigilant supervision of our architect, the restoration project was completed on time and within budget. Congratulations to Robert Pelletier of Un à Un Architectes, Construction Benoît Moreau Inc., Construction Atco Inc., and the glassed-artist Sylvie Savoie for their professionalism!



Construction Benoît Moreau Inc. restored the main window.
Photo: Johanne Jutras.

The operation:

Revenus

Due to the aging or death of our long-standing supporters, we have experienced a steady decline in membership and donations since 2025. However, the rental income from the church and St. George Hall have increased, even though there was a construction site on the premises. Finally, as in 2024, the high level of donations and grants received for the church restoration project allowed us to generate proportional revenues to the investments made by the Foundation.

Expenditures

Thanks to rigorous management, the \$84,414 budget was respected, allowing us to close the 2025 financial year with a surplus of \$29,384.

Future expenses

In addition to operating expenses, the Foundation plans to develop a financial strategy to carry out minor work on the church, renovate the hall and landscape the site.

Johanne Jutras, Secretary.

HOW TO PAY YOUR DUES AND MAKE A DONATION

The St. George's Church Foundation Inc. is a non-profit secular organization founded in 1993 to preserve the St. George Church heritage site in Drummondville. Annual membership fees are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for businesses. A tax receipt is provided for any donation made to the Foundation.

You can pay

By check : by filling out the coupon included in the St. George's Newsletter and sending it to 274, rue Heriot, Drummondville (Québec), Canada, J2C 1K1.

By Interac e-transfer: You can pay your membership fee or donate by *Interac* transfer by following the procedure below:

Send to treasurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgcable.ca

To pay the annual membership fee:

In the message, please specify your name, address, and the purpose of the payment (donation or membership fee). These details are necessary for issuing the tax receipt.

Thank you for your membership and generosity!

NOTICE OF CONVOCATION TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Members in good standing of the St. George's Foundation are invited to attend the annual general meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the St. George Hall, located at 278, rue Heriot in Drummondville. Please renew your membership and confirm your attendance at

secretary.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca



MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

François Nichols, président
Katherine Archer, vice-présidente
Lorraine Boucher, trésorière
Johanne Jutras, secrétaire
Gabriel Allard-Lauzière
Andréanne Brouillette
Marie-Jeanne Couture
Anne Hébert
Dr. Sean Otto
Marie-France Pelletier
Kim Peacock

SERVICES AT THE CHURCH

In 2026, we will have three Anglican services. Our services are held at 3 p.m. and are followed by a gathering over coffee. Here are the dates: April 4, October 3, and December 19.

For more information, please contact Katherine Archer at

quebeckat76@gmail.com



The choir of St. George's Church. Photo: Ariane Fortier.

2026 NEWSLETTER

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