

MEMORIALS AND THINGS OF FAME

Researched and compiled by Catherine Mills Rouleau

1862

The Morning Chronicle

The steamship *United Kingdom* from Glasgow arrived in port shortly before eight o'clock last night, being the first trans-Atlantic steamer of the season at this port. A large number of vessels may be expected to follow within a very few days. The weather is rainy and disagreeable, leaving the streets in a wretched condition. Some snow fell at a late hour on Monday night, but not sufficient to leave any trace on the ground.

1887

The Morning Chronicle

To Rent During The Summer Months – The large house at St. Patrick's near Rivière du Loup (en bas), lately occupied by Sir John Macdonald. The House is beautifully situated on high ground, commanding an extensive view of the St. Lawrence River and of the Laurentian Hills. It stands in five acres of ground. Furnished with the exception of Bed and Table linen and Plate, it contains four large, four small Bedrooms and three Sitting Rooms. A Post and Telegraph Office are within a few hundred yards and the Village containing Catholic and English Churches are within two miles. Terms \$150 for the Season.

Note from Cathy: \$150 in 1887 would be approximately \$3600.00 in 2012. The following was culled from the bed and breakfast website: "Les Rochers," which was the name that Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, gave to this house. He and his family spent their summers in St-Patrice from about 1872 to 1890.



1912

The Quebec Chronicle

A new gasoline-electric car, the first of its kind in Canada, has been acquired by the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway to serve on its line between Quebec, Indian Lorette and Lake St. Joseph, and given its first trial run over the line. If necessary the car can attain a speed of 65 miles per hour. Some two hundred painters went out on strike yesterday morning for higher wages. The men demand an increase of five cents an hour, the rate at Quebec now ruling at 22½ cents an hour. (Approximately \$5.00 in 2012.) The painters point out that men in the smaller cities of Ontario are now being paid at the rate of 30 to 35 cents an hour. (35 cents an hour would be about \$8.00 in 2012.) In an exciting game of baseball on the Esplanade yesterday the First Class team defeated an All-Star team picked from the remaining classes of St. Patrick's School by a score of 10 to 6. First Class team: R. Buckley, H. Walsh, P. Fuller, W. Cullen, J. Thompson, J. Kirkwood, G. Cassidy, H. Kelly, C. Malone. All-Stars: J. Malone, J. Lonergan, G. Alexander, W. Byrne, W. Fleming, J. Dempsey, J. Bryson, B. Hayden, W. Dugal.

1962

Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph

Workmen from the city's road department were busy this week chipping away loose stone from Cape Diamond on Champlain street to prevent landslides like those which have taken almost 100 lives since 1836. A check in the city's archives revealed that more than two dozen snow and landslides from the towering heights on which the Citadel stands have resulted in an awful toll of death and injury. The first snowslide since records have been kept occurred on February 9, 1836, directly under the Citadel. Two men walking along Champlain street at the time were completely buried, one, however, was rescued alive. The second snowslide of serious nature took place in February, 1875 opposite the Mariner's Chapel, when several houses were wrecked and two families named Haberlin and Gibson were buried alive. On May 17, 1841, twenty-nine persons were consigned to an awful doom when masses of rock and earth rolled down and crushed 5 buildings and damaged two others. Nineteen other persons were injured and two were reported missing. On a June Sunday in 1842 another rockslide destroyed a number of houses, but no lives were lost due to the fact that it was a Sunday and all the inmates of the buildings were either attending mass or were on the streets. In June 1852 members of the Webb and Elliot family and a servant girl were killed and later on the same day Mr. Twedell's foundry was destroyed. On October 11, 1864, Mr. and Mrs. John Hayden and two of their children were killed without warning and five others were injured. Residents of the city were again shocked in the evening of Thursday, September 19, 1889, when the biggest landslide to occur on Champlain street cost the lives of at least 45 men, women and children and injured some thirty others. Many well-known residents of Champlain street were killed on that black Thursday. Among those killed were R. Leahy, P. Fitzgerald, W. Power, T. Berrigan, Denis Berrigan, Richard Maybury and his wife and son, Mr. Deahy, Mrs. Bradley and four children, Miss Walsh, Mrs. Kemp, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Bracken, Mrs. S. Burke and two children, Charles Allen, his wife and daughter, Thos. Farrell and several children, Mrs. Martin Ready, John Herne and wife, and John Miller. Henry Black and his two sons were crushed to death, but Mrs. Black and her daughter escaped with serious injuries. Because of this imposing death toll, municipal authorities have been keeping a close watch on Cape Diamond. The last avalanche to occur was on March 28, 1954. Although no lives were lost many citizens of the district were worried. Rumors around city hall circles has it that the municipal authorities are planning a project which will forever put an end to the fear which Cape Diamond still inspires in citizens living at its foot.

Irish traditional music conference hosted by IHQ

SUBMITTED BY JOE LONERGAN

Irish Heritage Quebec recently hosted a conference given by Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin on the influence of Irish traditional music in Quebec and the rest of Canada. Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin, an expert on Irish traditional music, sketched the history behind the waves of Irish immigration to the Maritime provinces, Quebec and points west through the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. He spoke of the establishment of Gaelic speaking pockets in Canada and of the enduring Irish traditional dance and music these communities brought with them. With audio extracts and playing his own concertina, he demonstrated how these rhythmic patterns persevere in the traditional music of Quebec, the Metis and among Canadians of Irish ethnicity today. About sixty people were in attendance at McMahon Hall. Professor Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin lectured at the University of San Francisco and currently holds the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University in Montreal.



Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin, shown holding his concertina, gave a conference on the influence of Irish Traditional Music to Irish Heritage Quebec.

Quebec City Reading Council honoured for services supporting local adult learners

BY BETHANN G. MERKLE

On March 29, 2012, the Central Quebec School Board and Eastern Quebec Learning Centre hosted an afternoon tea in honour of a key community partner, the Quebec City Reading Council. Held during Quebec's annual Adult Learner's Week, the event highlighted the fundamental role the Quebec City Reading Council plays in helping local adult learners reach their personal and academic goals.

Stephen Burke (Chairman) and Marielle Stewart (Director General) of the Central Quebec School Board, and EQLC Director Susie Faguy all emphasized their appreciation for QCRC's 35 years spent providing English-language adult and family literacy services in Quebec City.

In her speech, the CQSB Director General said, "I would like to thank the Quebec City Reading Council for the pivotal role that they play in supporting our Adult Learners. The Quebec City Reading Council is instrumental in improving student success in our Adult and Vocational Education programs. CQSB and EQLC are very fortunate to have such a devoted and caring partner in the Quebec City Reading Council."

Cathy Nolan, Executive Director of QCRC, later explained to the QCT the significance of this honour. She said, "I think this might be the first time, ever, that a community literacy group has been honored like this



Cathy Nolan (QCRC Executive Director) accepts recognition certificate from Susie Faguy (EQLC Director), Marielle Stewart (CQSB Director General), and Stephen Burke (CQSB Chairman).

by a school board, anywhere in the province. We are delighted to share such a strategic, effective partnership in the joint effort to support local adult learners."

The point of the award ceremony was to clearly state the impact of QCRC's work in the community. QCRC's emphasis on enhancing essential life skills such as reading, writing, mathematics and computer skills is a critical aspect of student success at EQLC. Stewart pointed out, "their actions and expertise enable the Central Quebec School Board to meet the student success goals set out in our Partnership Agreement with the Ministry of Education – to reach a target of 87% (by the year 2020) of our students who will have the necessary knowledge and skills to graduate."

Ms. Nolan added, "Most of us, an average cross-section of this community, don't know that 49% of our community has some level of reading

difficulty. This means one in four people have trouble understanding instructions, doing basic math and filling out forms. These statistics are not confined to Quebec; they are a reflection of the picture across the country. And, if it helps put the entire literacy situation into perspective, those figures are pretty much the same in many other countries. Quebec City Reading Council exists to help English-speaking adults in our community to overcome these challenges."

QCRC is a volunteer-based not-for-profit organization fully funded by the Ministry of Education in Quebec (MELS). Their programs "promote and support lifelong learning through a variety of free, confidential services to adults and families in the Quebec City area." If you know someone who might benefit from these services, or might like to volunteer, call 418-618-1258 or visit www.qcrc.org.