

Fondation de l'Héritage / Heritage Trust Fund

Synode Montréal & Ottawa Conference

CC - 66 M
C.G. - PATRIMOINE
RELIGIEUX

September 13, 2005

Committee on Culture,
Quebec National Assembly,
Edifice Pamphile-Le May,
1035 rue des Parlementaires,
3ième étage, Québec, Que. G1A 1A3

To the Committee Members,

My answers to the questionnaire, plus the brochures for the Heritage Trust Fund, both of which are enclosed, constitute my brief to the committee. The Heritage Trust Fund was set up in 1988 to address the problems of caring for religious sites, cemeteries and archives. Assistance has been given to many churches, cemeteries and archival holdings over the years - but the need is far greater than this small, volunteer-run organisation can handle.

Susan M. Stanley,
co-ordinator,
Heritage Trust Fund

Questionnaire pour la consultation en ligne patrimoine religieux du Québec

Opinion de : Susan Stanley

[REDACTED]
Lachine, Que.
[REDACTED]
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United Church of Canada

65-74

-->L'ensemble des éléments constituant le patrimoine religieux du Québec ne pourra, à l'évidence, être conservé. Dans ce contexte, quels devraient être les critères à utiliser pour déterminer les biens à caractère religieux devant faire l'objet d'une protection et d'une mise en valeur?

You should begin by stating that if at all possible, ALL religious heritage should be preserved - not by stating from the start that it is impossible to do so. There is not much evidence remaining of our religious heritage when it is compared to evidence of commercial, industrial and residential architectural and archival heritage. And, it is diminishing yearly as religion rapidly declines as a force in Quebec. Given that the churches and synagogues played such an important role in the social history of Quebec, and the surviving buildings and cemeteries reflect this history - it should be of utmost importance to protect these properties - both the grand and the modest, the neglected and the well-kept. With this as a starting point, each building/cemetery/archival holding should be considered as evidence of its importance in the history of its own denomination rather than within the religious history of Quebec. This way, the smaller denominations receive the same treatment as the largest Roman Catholic denomination. Similarly, the rural small churches and large urban churches would receive equal standards of evaluation.

-->Quel devrait être le rôle respectif des différents intervenants concernés par la protection du patrimoine religieux du Québec (état, autorités religieuses, municipalités, citoyens, etc.)?

The state should prevent the sale of properties to developers who wish to demolish to build revenue properties. The state should offer financial help and information to churches who are trying to preserve their buildings. The state should develop a comprehensive system of classifying buildings according to historical and architectural significance all over the province. Religious authorities should accept the responsibility to find buyers for their properties who will protect them, and they should not be allowed to sell to developers. (After all, they have enjoyed tax free status, and therefore owe it to the community to not sell out to the highest bidder.) Municipalities should also enact laws that prevent the selling to developers, and heavy fines for unlawful demolition. They should be working closely with the provincial authorities in the classification process. Citizens should be consulted by public hearings, and given ample time to come up with alternative uses for a building. It takes time for government and other funding to be approved for community projects.

-->A votre avis, les lois et les règlements qui encadrent actuellement la protection et la gestion du patrimoine religieux (Loi sur les biens culturels, Loi sur les fabriques, réglementation municipale, etc.) sont-ils adéquats? Quelles modifications y apporteriez-vous?

No - the laws are not adequate because too many buildings are threatened, and too many buildings are allowed to be sold and destroyed each year. For example, Grace United in Lachine was demolished last year even though there was a strong protest by citizens in the community. A developer from Toronto was allowed to buy the church and tear it down for condos. The city of Lachine should have had stronger laws to protect its waterfront and the area known as "Vieux Lachine". Unfortunately, the architectural importance of the church was denied by Luc Noppen in a written report, and other arguments in its favour were ignored. One person's opinion should not prevail in such matters - esp. when other informed opinion, such as Heritage Montreal, and the Heritage Fund of the United Church had strong arguments to preserve the church.

-->Selon vous, quels types de projets de reconversion paraissent les plus prometteurs pour donner une nouvelle vocation aux églises, presbytères, couvents et autres bâtiments de culte excédentaires? Vous pouvez illustrer vos propos par des exemples tirés d'initiatives concrètes de reconversion.

Libraries (Park Ave, Montreal - former Anglican Church), archives, museums, art galleries, concert halls, community centres. Cemeteries can be kept as green spaces, with the gravestones repaired where necessary. Other uses, such as residences, markets and restaurants, are, in my opinion, less desirable - but better than tearing down!

-->A votre avis, de quelle façon devraient être mis en valeur les biens mobiliers (oeuvres d'art, archives, etc.) ainsi que le patrimoine immatériel (coutumes, savoir et savoir-faire, etc.) de l'église, des communautés religieuses ou de toute autre tradition religieuse?

Courses at educational institutions; financial aid for conservation of this property by individual congregations; provincial and municipal archives should accept for storage archives of religious institutions which are finding it difficult not only to care for archives in deteriorating buildings, but also to make these archives accessible for research.

-->Le Québec devrait-il s'inspirer d'expériences et d'initiatives étrangères dans sa recherche de solutions pour la protection et la mise en valeur de son patrimoine religieux? Si oui, lesquelles?

Yes - especially Europe and United States. (Although many problems regarding heritage preservation exist in these countries too. Britain's system of classification should be examined, for example)

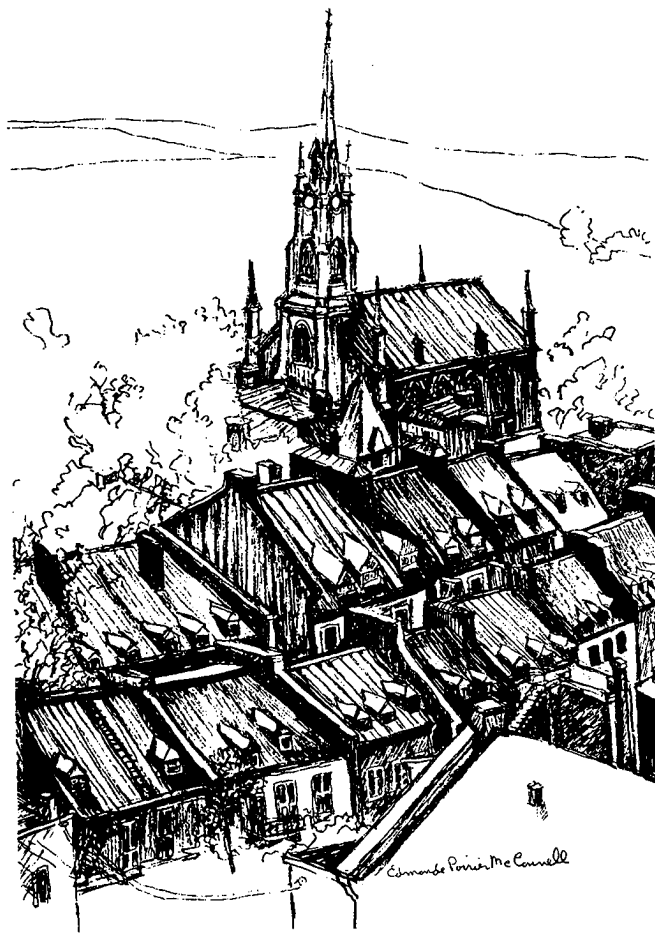
-->Autres commentaires

Because of time constraints, I am unable to prepare a brief. Therefore, it is useful to have this means of communicating. I am sending Heritage Trust Fund brochures to illustrate what has been operating in the United Church since 1988. Unfortunately, there is little funding from the church, and the work is done on a volunteer basis.

La Commission de la culture vous remercie de participer à sa consultation générale sur le patrimoine religieux.

Soyez assuré que votre opinion sera prise en considération.

Sonia Grenon
Secrétaire de la Commission de la culture ,
Assemblée nationale du Québec
Tél: (418) 643-2722
Télec: (418) 643-0248



Église Unie Chalmers-Wesley, Québec, dessin, Edmonde Poirier McConnell

FONDATION DE L'HÉRITAGE

SYNODE MONTRÉAL-OTTAWA



ÉGLISE-UNIE DU CANADA

QUI SOMMES NOUS?

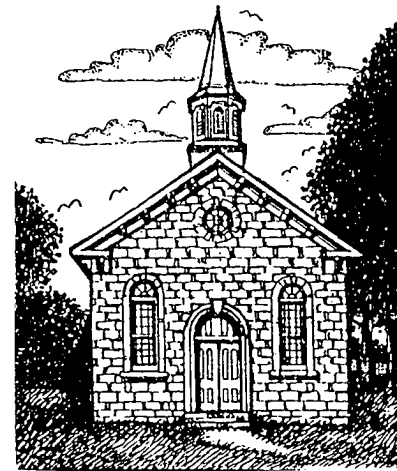
Créée en 1988, la Fondation l'Héritage est un sous-comité du comité des Archives du Synode Montréal-Ottawa de l'Église-Unie du Canada. Ces comités conjuguent leurs efforts dans le but de sauvegarder les archives et les sites historiques de la région administrative desservie par le Synode, notamment, l'est de l'Ontario et le Québec.

REGROUPEMENT ET CONSERVATION DE DOCUMENTS

Les archives du Synode Montréal-Ottawa sont déposées à Lennoxville et à Montréal au Québec, et à Ottawa en Ontario. Nous nous devons de conserver ces archives selon des normes professionnelles. De plus, nous devons continuer à rassembler les documents provenant d'églises locales ou d'individus afin de les rendre accessibles à la recherche.



Église Unie St. Mungo's, Cushing, Québec, dessin, C.R. Tyler



Église de Belle-Rivière, 1860

LES SITES HISTORIQUES

De nombreuses églises et cimetières historiques sont présentement entrain de se détériorer ou même de disparaître. Il est donc grand temps de reconnaître la contribution de nos ancêtres à l'histoire de notre région en identifiant et en préservant les sites d'intérêt historique.

L'ASSISTANCE À LA RECHERCHE ET À LA PUBLICATION

Nous nous devons de promouvoir et d'assister la recherche dans le domaine de l'histoire religieuse, sociale et architecturale.

NOTRE BUT

Établir un fonds de \$500,000 dont les intérêts serviront à financer les activités incluses dans le programme de la fondation: pourvoir les archives en personnel, regrouper et cataloguer les documents, assister les chercheurs; produire des microfilms, des publications et des plaques de sites historiques; et contribuer à l'entretien des églises et cimetières ayant une valeur historique.

Nous avons besoin de votre soutien généreux.
Nous vous invitons à participer dans ce programme de l'Héritage.
Veuillez considérer la Fondation de l'Héritage quand vous ferez votre testament. Les contributions sont déductibles d'impôt.

Veuillez détacher et poster à **FONDATION DE L'HÉRITAGE**
225-50e Avenue, Lachine, Québec H8T 2T7

Nom _____

Adresse _____

Oui - je veux contribuer à l'oeuvre de la Fondation de l'Héritage.

☐ \$200 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$

Faire les chèques à l'ordre de la **FONDATION DE L'HÉRITAGE** Synode Montréal-Ottawa Signature du donateur: _____

No. dons de charité 0756874-44-08

Date: _____

Je comprends que mes dons seront conservés dans un fonds spécial pour une période minimale de 10 (dix) ans. L'intérêt produit servira à atteindre les objectifs du fonds.



St Andrews Williamstown

HERITAGE TRUST FUND

MONTREAL-OTTAWA CONFERENCE



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

WHAT ARE WE?

The Heritage Trust Fund Committee, formed in 1988, is a sub-committee of the Archives' Committee of Montreal-Ottawa Conference, United Church of Canada. These committees work together to preserve the archives and historic sites within the Conference area of Quebec and eastern Ontario.

OUR NEED

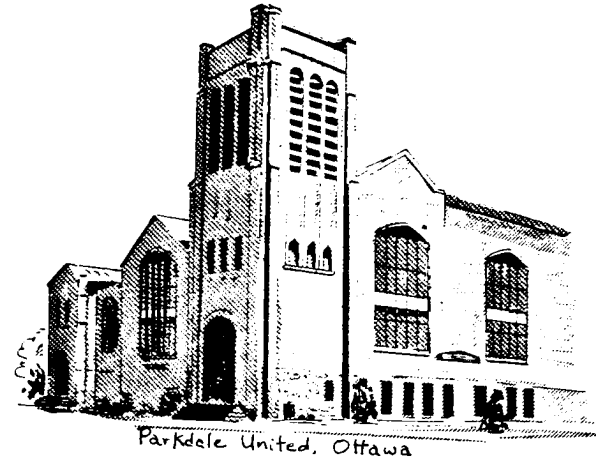
RECORD COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION

The archives of Montreal-Ottawa Conference are housed in three locations — Lennoxville and Montreal in Quebec, and Ottawa in Ontario.



Archives collection & maintenance

We need to maintain these archives to professional standards. As well, we must continue to collect records from the local churches and individuals and make them available for research.



Parkdale United, Ottawa

HISTORIC SITES AND CEMETERIES

Many historic churches and cemeteries are deteriorating and disappearing through neglect. It is important to recognize the contribution of our ancestors to the history of our region by identifying and encouraging the preservation of appropriate sites of historical interest.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ASSISTANCE

We need to promote and assist research and publishing in the fields of religious, social, family and architectural history.

OUR AIM

To establish a Heritage Trust Fund of \$500,000 the interest of which to go to the support of the Heritage program. This program includes staffing the archives, collecting and cataloguing records, serving the public, conservation, microfilming, publications, plaques on historic sites and assistance with upkeep of church properties of historic significance.

We need your generous support.
We invite you to participate in this Heritage program.
Consider the Heritage Trust Fund when drawing up your will.
Contributions are tax deductible.

Detach and mail to **HERITAGE TRUST FUND, Montreal/Ottawa Conference**
Summerlea United, 225-50th Avenue, Lachine, Quebec H8T 2T7

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Yes - I want to support the work of the Heritage Trust Fund. My cheque is enclosed.

☐ \$200 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$ _____

I understand that my donation will be held for a minimum 10 year period, and the interest used annually to achieve the goals of the fund.

Make cheques payable to **HERITAGE TRUST FUND Montreal/Ottawa Conference**

Donor's signature: _____

Charitable tax no. is 0756874-44-08

Date: _____