

Year 2010

HONOURS...

by Patricia Drew

... TO RICHARD M. BÉGIN

On May 4, Mayor Marc Bureau presented the **Order of Gatineau** to three residents, including the President of Symmes Inn Museum, Richard M. Bégin.

Richard is well-known in Gatineau and throughout Quebec for his volunteer work as President of the Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec for more



Richard M. Bégin delivering his speech at Maison du citoyen, when he received the Order of Gatineau, May 4, 2010. [Photo: Thierry Bégin]



Patricia Drew and Michelle Mondoux in period costumes, at Yesteryear's Fest. [Photo: Gilles Laroche]

than five years, as President of Conseil régional de la culture de l'Outaouais, and President of APICA (Aylmer's business association: *Association des professionnels, industriels et commerçants d'Aylmer*). He has also been a member of Aylmer's and Gatineau's Urban Planning Consultative Committee for 10 years and regional Governor for the Richelieu Movement, President of Tel-Aide Outaouais (Ottawa Area French Distress Centre) and of APPEL du Québec (the Quebec Association of distress centres). He has just been elected to the Board of the Heritage Canada Foundation. He has laboured long and hard for the protection of heritage buildings and is active in forging links between the business and commercial community and the cultural milieu.

Richard also served as president of Aylmer Heritage Association and has been president of Symmes Inn Museum for the past ten years. We value his presence and congratulate him on this public acknowledgement of decades of volunteer work.

AND TO MICHELLE MONDOUX

We are proud to announce that the Museum's former President, Michelle Mondoux, was presented with the

City of Gatineau's Certificate of Recognition for her work in the cultural and heritage fields. Michelle also served as President of Aylmer Heritage Association and was named Aylmer Citizen of the Year by the Civitan Club in 1993.

She continues to work with our Museum as well as volunteering at the Heritage Association, the Société de généalogie de l'Outaouais and the Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais. Michelle is the

author of *The Mayors of Aylmer* and some of her writings have appeared in recent editions of *Hier Encore*, a periodical devoted to regional history.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Richard M. Bégin

One has to admit that the survival of many voluntary organizations in our society is endangered these days: current volunteers are getting older and exhausted, newcomers are rare, there is a lack of support from public administration, filling forms has become more and more complicated, there are excessive controls, etc. Already a number of organizations have disappeared and nothing can make us believe that things will improve in the short term.

However, our museum – which had to surmount more than one obstacle over the years – holds on. We are now approaching our 25th anniversary, an anniversary we hope and plan to underline. It takes a fair amount of courage and determination to maintain such an organization and even make it progress. But, as the reader will notice, the Symmes Inn Museum remains active and has become more and more a key player in Aylmer and Gatineau – carrying out its mission and mandate to preserve and make known our regional history through artifacts and events.



The Caisse populaire gave some \$5,000 to Yesteryear's Fest and Supper. From l. to r.: Marie Louise Paradis, S tphane Miljours (d.g., Caisse pop), Richard M. B gin and Pierre Dionne (director, assets management, Caisse pop), at Yeateryear's Supper, September 11, 2010. [Photo: Thierry B gin]

We owe our success to our volunteers and to the public, too, who realize more and more that we exist and who encourage us through donations (financial and artifacts), through visits and through participation in our activities. Throughout this issue, you will see the names of several volunteers connected to one activity or another. It is really thanks to them that our museum can not only survive but can make progress and expand, and I wish to acknowledge that and to thank them. I will add, too, how pleased I am to see all that has been accomplished since I became President of the Museum more than 10 years ago. It is good to see the enthusiasm, the commitment, the co-operation, spirit and professionalism which characterizes all our volunteers.

Our survival and our success we also owe to the sponsors who support our efforts. In this respect I want to thank particularly the Caisse populaire Desjardins d'Aylmer, which has supported the Yesteryear's Fest firmly and strongly for the last three years. This is greatly appreciated, as are the contributions of all our sponsors for 2010.

Thanks to all our sponsors (by alphabetical order) :

Aylmer Bulletin / Bulletin d'Aylmer
Aylmer BBQ
Bistro L'Autre Œil
Brasseur du temps
Caisse populaire Desjardins d'Aylmer
Centre L'Imagier
Château Cartier
Cinéma Aylmer
Dépanneur Rapido
Galeries Aylmer
Golf Tecumseh
Hôtel British
IGA Grande-Rivière
Lacasse, André
Loblaws

Malibu Spa
Métro Plus
Nectar des dieux
Pharmacie Uniprix
Pharmacie Jean Coutu
Pharmaprix
Pizza la différence
Productions Claude Naubert
Proulx, Marcel, M.P., Hull-Aylmer
Psenak, Stefan, municipal councillor, Aylmer
Revue de Gatineau
Sol
Tigre géant
Tim Horton

without forgetting, of course:

the City of Gatineau: Service des arts, des lettres et de la culture and its section Fêtes et festivals; and the revitalization project for Rue Principale, managed by APICA;
the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine (theatre play at the British);

Cultural organizations such as ours play a major and decisive role in the development of a community, in the definition of its identity and its sense of belonging. They contribute largely through their activities and events; they also contribute to the commercial and economic development of the whole city by encouraging citizens to consume in their own locality, and by becoming points of attraction which bring visitors and tourists. Supporting cultural organizations – financially, politically or otherwise – and supporting the volunteers is much more than philanthropy: it is an investment in our future.

LIFE GOES ON...

by Patricia Drew

Over the winter months, when Symmes Inn Museum is closed to the public (except for groups and on reservation), another life goes on behind the scenes.

Marie Louise Paradis and Paule Laroche continued their work of registering and cataloguing the artifact collection which is a year-round task and an interesting one. Alain David and Pascale Prévost prepared signage for the artifacts on exhibit in the Museum.

Ernest Blais is a hands-on type of individual who does a plethora of odd jobs at the Museum. His latest project was building a tepee in the Children's Corner on the second floor of the Museum.



Symmes Inn Museum's kiosk at Galeries Aylmer, for the annual exhibit of Outaouais heritage/historical organizations, February 20, 2010. [Photo: Thierry Bégin]



Teepee for children, created by Ernest Blais. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

On February 20 and 21, Symmes Inn Museum took part in the **Annual Exhibit by Outaouais heritage/historical organizations**. This event is organized by the Conseil régional de la Culture de l'Outaouais (CRCO) and by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec; last February, it took place at the Aylmer Galleries. This involved participation by many local organizations, including: Aylmer Heritage Association, the Société de généalogie de l'Outaouais, the Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais, and the Musée des pionniers from Saint-André-Avellin.

Earlier in the month, on February 10, the team of Alain David, Patricia Drew, Ronald Loyer, Marie Louise Paradis and Anne Quenneville visited the **Monastery** with a "show-and-tell" of artifacts once used in daily life as well as albums of photographs of Old Aylmer. The following day, Alain David, Marie Louise Paradis and Anne Quenneville produced the show-and-tell at the **Centre d'accueil Renaissance**.

From April 9 to 11, we had as usual our kiosk at **Expo-Arts, in the Aydelu Centre**; that artistic exhibit is organized annually by the Aylmer Arts Council.

In May, Patricia Drew, Michelle Mondoux and Francine Parker brought the show-and-tell to the **Accès Volunteer Action Centre**. Activities co-ordinators Nathalie d'Amour and Lucie Germain were willing helpers; Claude Paquette photographed the group.

The Museum present in its community



At the Monastery... [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]



At Centre Renaissance... [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]



At Aydelu Centre... Paule Laroche and Georgie Bracken at the Museum's kiosk. [Photo: Richard M. Bégin]



At Accès Volunteer Action Centre [Photo: Claude Paquette]

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

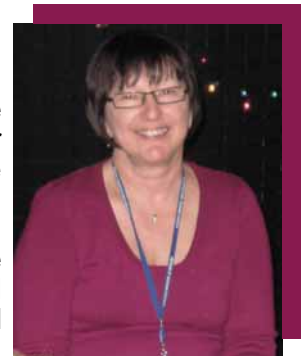
At our Annual General Meeting, on March 16, the following members were elected to the Board Board of Directors: Richard M. Bégin (President); Alain David (Vice-President), Jean-François Nadeau (Secretary-Treasurer) and Directors Patricia Drew , Ronald Loyer and Lisa Mibach. Kevin Bosch represents the Aylmer Heritage Association on the Board and the Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais is represented by Jacques Decarie. After a few years of remarkable efforts as Secretary-Treasurer, Francine Parker left the Board.



During presentation of his report, President Richard Bégin told the meeting that the temporary exhibit on the Religious Heritage of the Outaouais, which has proved so popular with visitors, will be retained in part for another year and enriched by a new exhibit for the summer: the architects' drawings for reconstruction of St. Paul's Church.

PERSONNEL

In February, Hélène Parent joined the Museum as Administrator. Hélène served with the federal government for 28 years, as an Administrative Officer and, later, Policy Advisor with the Department of Public Security. The Directors are confident that our affairs are in good hands.



And, during the summer and fall of 2010, we could count, as usual, on the assistance of summer students to greet and guide visitors: Nadia Renaud-Belharkat for the first 5 or 6 weeks and Catherine Boisvenu for the rest of the season.

EXHIBITS

Apart from some items retained from the 2009 temporary exhibit, the main temporary exhibit for 2010 consisted of



St. Paul's Church architectural projects presented at the Museum last summer. [Photo: Thierry Bégin]

various architectural projects submitted by architects from across Quebec and the National Capital Region, as well as from students from the Cité collégiale, in Ottawa. Those sketches and plans were about the reconstruction of St. Paul's Church, in Aylmer, that heritage building and major landmark which, we hope, we will see again in our landscape. The two exhibits (the one in 2009 and the one in 2010) were put up by Marie Louise Paradis, who also managed to mount a smaller exhibit, this one about Canadian postage stamps on Olympics, in order to underline the Quebec Games in Gatineau, last summer.



Exhibit of Canadian postage stamps about the Olympics. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]



Mini-exhibit on a stamp created and issued by Canada Post about the Charron family, from Hull, in 1974.. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

YESTERYEAR'S FEST



Richard M. Bégin and Stefan Psenak in a buggy (kindly offered by Michel Allen, horse breeder in Aylmer), in front of Bistro L'Autre Œil, Principale St., where was hold the press conference announcing the 2010 Yesteryear's Fest. [Photo: Jocelyne Lauzon]

The Yesteryear's Fest is growing in popularity. Each year, merchants and organizations are joining in this celebration of times past. New this year (over and above the main stage near Symmes Inn and animation all over Old Aylmer) were the British Hotel (theatre play by Théâtre Dériveres urbaines), the Municipal Library (story-telling), the Cultural Centre of Old Aylmer (actor) and The Monastery (silent movie).

At the Museum, Hélène Parent and Catherine Boisvenu welcomed visitors while Maggie Charlebois, Patricia Drew and Yvonne Ladouceur dealt with the children's colouring table and donations. On the second floor, Ernest Blais and his daughter supervised activities in the children's corner. In his elegant formal attire, Kevin Bosch kept a friendly eye on visitors upstairs and Ronald Loyer fitted in wherever help was needed. Outside the Museum, Francine Parker and Tanya Parent

demonstrated candle-making, while Paule Laroche and Tsukimi Sakamoto dealt with painting marbles.

Richard Bégin presided over the event... and the Organizing Committee. Benoit Brière worked at setting up before the festival and at the 'taking down' at the end of the day. Thierry Bégin wielded his camera with his usual expertise and David Gilbert was a willing helper. Alain David and Sonia Bisson were guides for the buggy rides around Old Aylmer while Michelle Mondoux and Lise Robitaille staffed the Information Tent. A dashing Léo Routh brought a spark to the festivities in his 19th century fireman's red shirt with brass buttons. With all our volunteers in period costume, this was an attractive and colourful occasion. In the midst of all the festivities, Marie Louise Paradis took time off from the Mycologues amateurs de l'Outaouais's kiosk to visit her colleagues at Symmes Inn. For an important part of the day, students from Grande-Rivière Secondary School

were on hand to help wherever help was needed. Many thanks to Anne Ethier, who loaned period costumes to some of our volunteers, and also to Marie Louise Paradis who sew and lent a couple as well.

For our staff and volunteers, such an event does not involve just one day. Preparations included cleaning, setting up tables, purchasing supplies for the children's activities, scouting for costumes and a great deal of telephoning and e-mails. Those duties were carried out with enthusiasm by Maggie, Alain, Bernie Ladouceur, Yvonne, Ronald and Tanya, all under the watchful eye of our Administrator, H el ene Parent. The aftermath is an hour or two cleaning up, returning furniture and supplies to their proper places, returning costumes, sorting invoices and paying expenses, with the same people doing the work. We salute them for a job well done! Bravo!

OTHER EVENTS

by Patricia Drew and Richard M. B egin



The Museum's heritage bicycle tour of August 21, 2010. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

The popular bicycle tours were repeated this year on June 12, August 21 and September 4. These tours are guided by Richard M. B egin and Jean-Claude Carisse, who talk about the regional history, heritage buildings, architecture and urban planning.



Patrick Brennan, Ronald Loyer and Alain David... at the August 2010 Auto Show. [Photos: Marie Louise Paradis]

Yesteryear's Fest – September 11, 2010





Thanks to the Organizing Committee and all sponsors for the 2010 YESTERYEAR 'S FEST

MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE:

Richard M. Bégin, president, Symmes Inn Museum; president, Organizing Committee

Alain David, vice-president, Symmes Inn Museum

Hélène Parent, coordinator, Symmes Inn Museum

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS:

Danielle Potvin, president, Guilde du tapis traditionnel

Suzanne Réel-Lemieux, Guilde du tapis traditionnel

Anne-Marie Trudel, Guilde du tapis traditionnel

ARTS :

Andrée Sincennes, president, Aylmer Arts Council

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT:

Jean-Pierre Sylvestre

BUSINESS, TOURISM AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS:

Richard M. Bégin, president, APICA

Jocelyne Lauzon, coordinator, APICA

Richard Côté, project manager, Rue Principale

NATURAL SCIENCES:

Marie Louise Paradis, Mycologues amateurs de l'Outaouais

EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES:

Michel Allen et Jean-Pierre Sylvestre

COORDINATION, MUSIC AND SHOWS:

Claude Naubert, executive secretary, APICA

CITY OF GATINEAU :

Éric Boily and Benoît Brière, Fêtes et festivals

Photos by Thierry Bégin, Ronald Loyer, Marie Louise Paradis and Richard Bégin

Once again the Museum was invited to mount an exhibit at the **Aylmer Auto Show**, which took place August 6-7-8 at the Parc des cèdres. The Museum's exhibit on Saturday, August 7, was the work of Patrick Brennan, who set up four separate model trains to catch the eye and the imagination of young and old visitors. Volunteers assisting at the exhibit included Marguerite Charlebois, Alain David, Patricia Drew, Yvonne Ladouceur, Ronald Loyer, H  l  ne Parent, and Tanya Parent. Thanks to the Auto Show organizers (Jean-Pierre Sylvestre and Gilles Laroche) and to our volunteers who helped to make this a very successful event.



Harvest Festival at the Museum, October 17, 2010. [Photo: Alain David]

Another successful **Harvest Festival** was held in October when children were invited to the Museum to decorate pumpkins with vegetable slices. Younger tots had crayons to colour pictures and they all enjoyed the day.

While Alain David and his wife, Mayumi Sakamoto, washed all the pumpkins, Gloria and Robert Allston decorated the ground floor for the event. Girl Guides Tsukimi Sakamoto-David and Heather and Janice Swan were on hand to help the children with their pumpkins.

The Harvest Festival has been an annual event since 1988, when it was held at our former location, 10 Principale Street. In 2009, road construction in front of Symmes Inn

kept us away. The event has always proven popular, especially since the children are encouraged to take their decorated pumpkins home for Hallowe'en.

And finally, on November 26, we had our **Annual Volunteers Supper**, for those volunteers who make it possible for the Museum to survive and to be more and more present and active in the community, those volunteers who offer so generously their time, energy, equipment and other supplies. Because of an agreement made with APICA a few years back, the Museum's Volunteers Supper always coincides with the Gatineau's **Christmas Parade**, which starts right in front of the Symmes Inn; the Symmes Inn is all illuminated for the occasion. The parade, this year, attracted some 40,000 people and our volunteers had the opportunity of meeting with the Bonhomme Carnaval, who came inside the Museum with the Ice Hogs from Winterlude; later on, we could watch Santa Claus, on his float, passing in front of the Museum. A great and enjoyable evening to end up a pretty busy and successful year!



The Bonhomme Carnaval meets our volunteers at the Museum, on November 26, 2010. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTIONS

by Marie Louise Paradis

This year, the Symmes Inn Museum gathered a lot of objects, photos and old post cards. More than 500 artifacts were added to our collection.

1. Mr. Alain David, found a 1960 color calendar from the Mondoux Hardware store.



Darning egg, given by Patricia Drew. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]



1960 Calendar from Mondoux Hardware, Principale St., Aylmer, which burned down in 1975. Given by Alain David. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

2. Mrs. Patricia Drew, as usual, gave us a lot of everyday life objects that belonged to some members of her family among which a darning egg, a wooden tree shoe for women shoes and a man's dressing gown.
3. Mr. Dan Lafrance gave us a door used in the house located at 19 Albert street (now du Patrimoine), where lived Mr. Séverin Gravelle, former Aylmer's alderman. That house was apparently built by Philemon Wright for his son Philemon in the 1820s; it burned down and was demolished a couple of years ago. We could also scan more than 60 Gravelle family photos.
4. From Mrs. Ethel Guertin we received photos and old books.
5. Mrs. Louise Quirk-Richard provided us with an important number of photos and old post cards related to her family, to be scanned (more than 300).
6. Mr. Howard Powles gave us a coffee grinder marked «The Chas. Parker Co.» with a booklet of blank invoices from the Wyman Pritchard General Store, as well as a sewing machine inserted in a wooden cabinet marked "New Lilliams" which belonged to the Pritchard family.
7. Mrs. Huguette Parent gave us 37 photos and old post cards, a Souvenir album of the 1911 Quebec Fête Nationale, a fur stole and a ceramic spittoon.



Coffee grinder from the Wyman's Pritchard General Store, given by Howard Powles. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]



1904 post card, given by Louise Quirk-Richard.
[Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]



Land survey transit telescope for forest engineers.
Given by Claude Turmel. [Photo: M. L. Paradis]

8. Mr. and Mrs. Charron gave us stamps issued in 1974 for the Olympic Games. The stamps show the Charron family bicycling; with them came several newspapers clippings about the interesting story of these stamps. It provided us the opportunity to add more information to our temporary exhibit about the Canadian Olympic Games stamps.
9. The museum acquired from Mr. Claude Turmel, a former forest engineer, an important collection of timber markers from different companies. It came with *The Lumberman's Timber Mark Guides* issued by the Canadian Government until 1870 and the 833-pages book *Registered Timber Mark of Eastern Canada 1870-1984*, prepared by Diane Aldred for the Government of Canada. Mr. Turmel also offered a great number of tools used by lumbermen and forest workers, including a very nice land survey transit telescope.



Christmas Parade in front of Symmes Inn Museum,
November 26, 2010. [Photo: Thierry Bégin]

Happy New Year 2011