



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends of the St. Boniface Historical Society (SHSB),

I would like to begin by thanking the SHSB members who participated in our annual meeting held virtually by Zoom on October 29th. It was great to get together to discuss the year's accomplishments and challenges!

We ended the 2019–20 fiscal year faced with the challenge of building a new robust and user-friendly website. The pandemic has made us acutely aware of the increasingly important role the Centre du patrimoine's website plays in making its services accessible. In the spring, the Development and Marketing Committee made a commitment to raise the necessary funds to undertake this colossal project.

A MOST GENEROUS NETWORK

Our Board of Directors is amazed by the strong support of nearly 100 donors—**friends of the SHSB who understood the urgency of this project and generously supported it**, despite the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. Among others, we thank the **Tier I Canada Research Chair in Migrations, Circulations and Francophone Communities** at Université de Saint-Boniface (USB) for its assistance in recognition of the services rendered by the Centre du patrimoine. These include the Centre's involvement in the research project titled "Three Centuries of Francophone Migrations in North America (1640–1940)." We are also deeply grateful to **Francofonds** for its contribution, as we are to its donors who continue to grow the community foundation's capital, thereby increasing its ability to support organizations like ours.

Thanks to all this generosity, the SHSB now has access to the \$50,000 needed for the construction and launch of a new permanent website, a project that will be completed over

several months. The Centre du patrimoine is currently using a basic temporary website that provides access to its databases and a limited number of other elements. In addition, it is creating an advisory committee to assist with the redevelopment of the "Educational Resources" component of the website and to make it as user-friendly as possible.

Since last February, I have been working with the seven other heritage organizations recognized by the provincial government to organize the **Manitoba Heritage Summit 2020**, which was held on October 1st by Zoom and attended by 238 people. The organizing committee has prepared a questionnaire to receive feedback from participants and intends to publish a white paper on the current state of Manitoba's heritage sector.

I wish to thank **Minister Cox** for announcing at the Summit that the **Manitoba Heritage Trust Program** will be extended beyond March 31, 2021. This wonderful news will enable the SHSB's loyal donors to further increase its endowment funds.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers, members, donors, partners, and staff of the SHSB who contribute in various ways to ensure a promising future for our Centre du patrimoine.

Michel Lagacé



Louis Paquin

Louis Paquin, Member of the Order of Canada

On December 28, 2019, Louis Paquin, a member of our Board of Directors, was invested into the Order of Canada. We were waiting for him to receive his insignia in person to congratulate him and publish a photo of the ceremony, but the pandemic would have it otherwise! Congratulations, Louis, for this honour—and above all thank you for the tenacity with which you have promoted the Manitoban and Canadian *francophonie* in minority communities since your youth, through numerous accomplishments in the fields of artistic, cultural, and documentary production..

A Prestigious Prize

Congratulations to Nicole St-Onge, a University of Ottawa professor and past member of the SHSB's Board, who received the *Prix de la Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française 2020* for an article published in 2019 on the Franco-Anishinaabe trading post situated on Madeline Island. To learn more about this article and Professor St-Onge's valuable contributions to the SHSB, please read the related post in the "News" section of our website (in French).





REMARKABLE BENEFACTORS

Since the SHSB's founding in 1902, several individuals have diligently contributed to its significant advancement. Some, such as Louis Bernardin and Maria Chaput, clearly stand out. Most notably, Louis chaired the Centre du patrimoine's Construction Committee—an ambitious project that took shape over several years. Persistence was the order of the day! In addition, he also chaired the SHSB Board of Directors from 1999 to 2002.

While serving concurrently on Radio Saint-Boniface Foundation's Board of Directors, which was established in 1973, and on Francofonds's Board, Louis played a key role in the merger of the two entities in 1989. Louis and Maria recognized early on that an endowment fund would allow the Centre du patrimoine to offer services above what is supported by its activities and government funding.

And so, the generous couple kicked off the Centre du patrimoine Fund by transferring nearly \$30,000 from their donor-led endowment funds at Francofonds. The late Alfred Fortier, Executive Director of the SHSB at the time, was moved to tears! Louis and Maria hoped that their gesture would inspire others to invest in the Centre du patrimoine's future. Given that the



Louis Bernardin and Maria Chaput in 1999.

Centre du patrimoine's endowed funds now amount to approximately \$1.1 million, they clearly succeeded. We thank them wholeheartedly!



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED LEAVING A BEQUEST OR MAKING A PLANNED GIFT TO THE SHSB IN ANOTHER FORM?

According to Christine Beaumont, Certified Financial Planner (CFP®) with the special designation of Master Financial Advisor in Philanthropy (MFA-P): "Planned giving has the advantage of meeting our needs and those of our loved ones while maximizing the support we provide to causes that are dear to us and minimizing the income tax we pay. A winning approach!"

Christine Beaumont



A TRULY APPRECIATED HELPING HAND!

Thanks to Canadian Heritage's Canada 2020 Summer Jobs and Young Canada Works programs, the Centre du patrimoine was once again able to employ three students.

Yanko Kalem joined the Centre du patrimoine's team for a second summer. As part of the USB's Tier 1 Canada Research Chair project "Three Centuries of Francophone Migrations in North America," Yanko conducted research on the communities of Saint-Norbert and Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes. He then entered the results of his work into the "Voyageur" research portal. The documents digitized by Yanko will soon be available in the Centre's database.

Bernadette Balagtas continued processing the archives of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) undertaken in 2019. In just eight weeks, she entered 2,788 photos in the database! A real marathon!

Last but not least, **Brianne Therrien Vielfaure** wrote 18 researched articles to be posted in the new website's growing catalogue of educational and historical resources. Topics include Provencher Bridge, the *ceinture fléchée*, the *Voyageur's* journey, the Red River cart, the St. Boniface College fire, Sara Riel, Léo Robert and Georges Forest. In preparation for the new website's launch, Brianne has also converted content published in the old site to a new format.

Janet La France and volunteer Lynne Champagne teamed up to review Brianne's texts. Janet examines the accuracy and the relevance of the texts while Lynne, a historian and translator by training, revises them.



Yanko Kalem



Bernadette Balagtas



Brianne Therrien Vielfaure



"I've been a member of the SHSB for so long that my membership card number is 0004!! Having worked in the field of history for 25 years before pursuing a career as a translator, I have repeatedly benefited from the Centre du patrimoine's resources and the staff's deep knowledge. After I retired in 2017, I was able to return to my first passion, which is history, by volunteering. The work is always interesting, and, so to speak, it allows me to pay off a debt to an organization that is close to my heart."

Lynne Champagne, Volunteer

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A MAJOR ACQUISITION



Signing of the donation agreement of the Notre-Dame-des-Prairies archives. From left to right: Dom André Barbeau, Dom Emmanuel Cottineau, Michel Lagacé and Janet La France.

The Cistercians of Notre-Dame-des-Prairies or the Trappists, as we know them, donated their archives to the SHSB following the sale of their monastery in Holland, Manitoba, to monks of the Coptic Orthodox Church. This acquisition is significant as the monastery, first located in Saint-Norbert, was established in 1892 thanks to considerable efforts exerted by Father Joseph-Noël Ritchot, parish priest of Saint-Norbert. The monks who remain in Manitoba are now part of Abbaye Val-Notre-Dame in Quebec.

According to Dom André Barbeau, Superior of Abbaye Val Notre-Dame, and Dom Emmanuel Cottineau, Superior of the Notre-Dame-des-Prairies community, the archives of the monks of Notre-Dame-des-Prairies had to stay in the province.

IN A NUTSHELL

- Want to visit the Centre du patrimoine? It's a cinch thanks to an English-language video tour produced in preparation for the Manitoba Heritage Summit by Lorne Coulson with the participation of Janet La France, Julie Reid, Halley Ducharme, Michel Lagacé and volunteers. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzwn8vZB4LE&feature=youtu.be>
A similar video tour was produced in French a few years ago: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7a-VI73UF5k&feature=youtu.be>
- The exhibition **1870 | Manitoba**, which traces the history of the creation of the province of Manitoba, is now mounted in the Salon Empire. Don't forget to wear a mask and to follow all public health guidelines if you choose to visit!
- Volunteer Monique Gravel completed the data entry of 3,537 photographs from the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Hyacinthe (SJSJ) fonds. In addition to this, she completed the data entry of another 6.75 m of textual documents and 245 photographs from the Sacred Heart Parish fonds of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.
- Volunteer Gilles Lesage and archivist Julie Reid sorted about 190 untreated boxes from the Oblates of Mary-Immaculate (omi) fonds. They also created a finding aid and completed the preliminary processing of about 14 m of documents. Two hundred and forty-eight (248) oral history recordings from the Oblates collection are now available online thanks to a cassette digitization project completed by digital archivist Sarah Story.

For more information on what is happening at the Centre du patrimoine and the SHSB, check out our website at www.shsb.mb.ca, including our recent news.

Don't forget to visit us on Facebook and to follow us on Instagram!



To donate to the SHSB, visit our website or call us!

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