

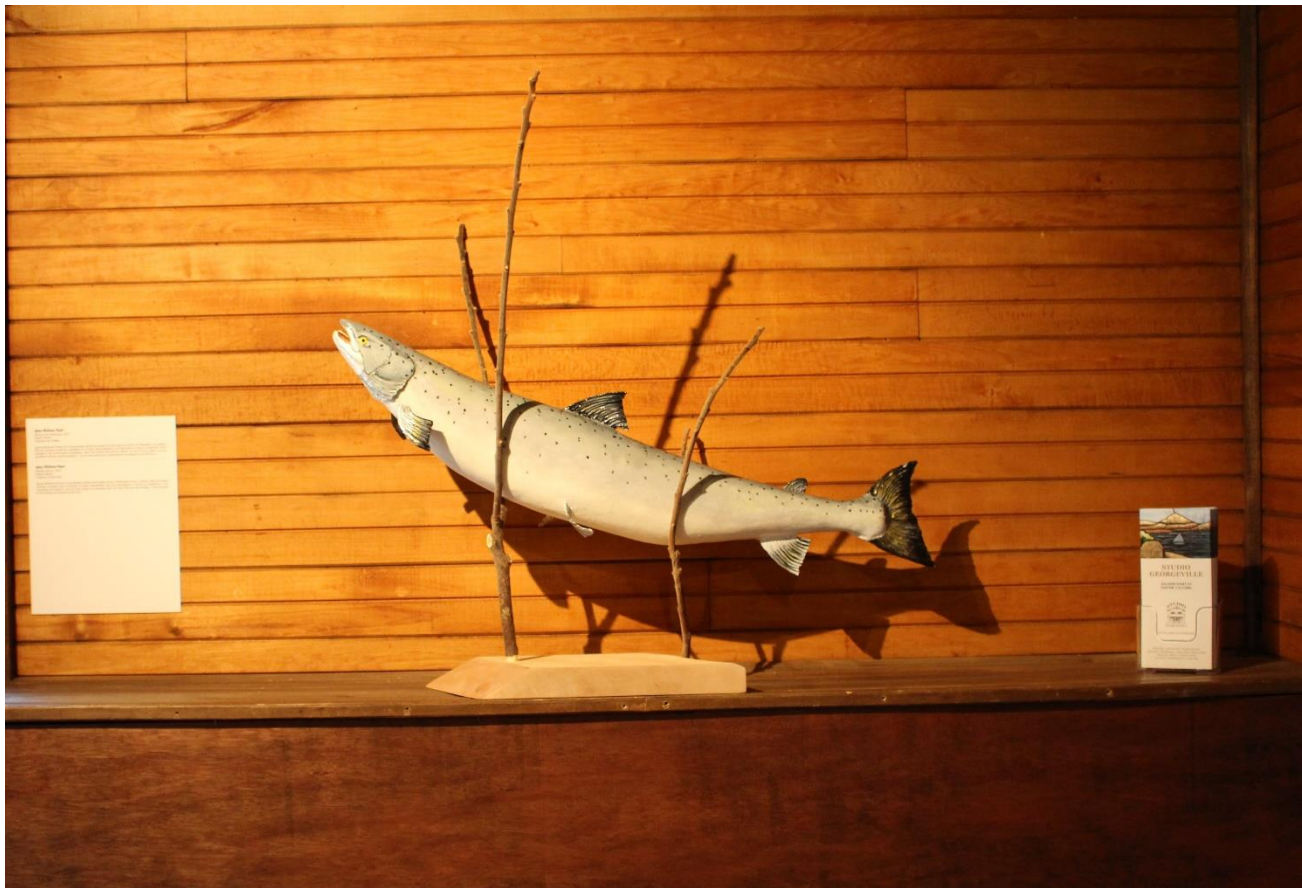
STANSTEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLBY-CURTIS MUSEUM



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



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President's Report



Matthew Farfan, President

My second year as president of the Stanstead Historical Society and the Colby-Curtis Museum proved just as fraught with challenges as my first. The big ones that stand out: the loss of our Quebec accreditation (and the absolute primacy of getting it back!); the shocking declaration by Quebec's Régie du bâtiment that the museum (after nearly 30 years of successful government-funded operation) was somehow not up to code ~ and on multiple counts; the need to significantly increase our revenues through fundraising and other means; and the creeping awareness at the end of March 2020 that the global Covid pandemic would likely have serious repercussions for the museum in the year to come.



Despite the immensity of these challenges, however, all of which we are working tirelessly to overcome, and all of which I am confident we will overcome, there are some really positive things that strike me as I look back on the year. The first is that we

are fortunate to have a dynamic and fully committed board of directors with a broad range of skills. Gabriel, Gael, John, Ann, Debbie, Eithne, Toby, Ed, and Robbie, I thank each of you for your contributions. The second is that we are blessed with a dedicated and professional staff. Samuel, our director-curator, inherited some colossal problems when he took up his position in January 2019; not all of these were known to us at the time. Thank you, Samuel, for your excellent work over the past year; I know it has not been easy. Thank you also to the other members of the team: Alison (Administration), Kathy (Archives) and Marie-Anne (Collections). You are all doing stellar work, and you make me proud. No president's report, of course, would be complete without mentioning the many volunteers who help out with activities. There are too many of you to mention, but please remember, your contributions are much appreciated.

And finally, despite the challenges, we were able to accomplish some great things this year. Programming, which attracted close to 4,000 visitors, included activities for families and children: a gigantic Easter Egg Hunt (I never saw so many kids on the museum lawn before!); family tea parties; a visit by the local day camp; storytelling; and more. There were events for the general public, as well: Journées de la culture; artisan fairs; conferences; temporary exhibitions; and more. If I were to mention two things that I was most proud of, I would probably say our Adopt an Artefact program (this, our second edition, raised over \$23,000 and culminated in a fun event); and our heritage fair, organized by QAHN and held at the museum (a day of conferences, live music, heritage displays, woodworking, blacksmithing on the lawn, and a packed house: who could ask for better!).

Thank you and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Farfan'.

Matthew Farfan, President



Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande,
Director-Curator

The year 2019-2020 has been one of major projects. The Museum has been very active in its cultural action, substantially increasing the number of its activities. Three temporary exhibitions showcased the watershed of the St-Francis River, the region's bridges and the Museum's collection. Thirty-seven cultural activities were organized to give all audiences the opportunity to enjoy the Museum: conferences, *tricot-thés*, Easter egg hunt, heritage fair, etc. Cultural trips, in particular, have made a comeback in the programming. The development of a first educational activity in collaboration with elementary schools and the day camp in Stanstead allowed many children to discover the Museum and its collections. Finally, the magnificent Victorian garden also attracted its share of visitors. In total, the Museum recorded 3,698 visits in the year 2019-2020.



The Museum has carried out a first phase of renovations to bring itself up to fire safety standards, following a visit by the Régie du Bâtiment the previous year. Discussions are underway with the Régie about the second phase, to determine how to meet the standards while preserving the building's heritage integrity.

In terms of finances, the expenditure review generated significant recurring savings. In total, \$ 58,000 is saved annually in salaries, IT support, events, telecommunications, office costs and fundraising costs. Revenue also increased through expansion of solarium rentals, the success of the Adopt an Artefact program and cultural trips. A sustainable balanced budget is within reach.

In April 2019, the Museum received a hard blow: the failure to obtain its accreditation by the Ministry of Culture, filed in 2018. The accreditation of the Museum is essential because it is a prerequisite for obtaining an operating grant. Museum staff and volunteer committees therefore worked very hard for three months with the help of a consultant to produce the necessary documents for accreditation. As the Museum was preparing to submit its request in March 2020, the Ministry of Culture announced the postponement, then the cancellation of the 2020 accreditation process. The reason: because of the pandemic, the Colby-Curtis Museum was the only one, out of a few dozen institutions across the province, to be ready to submit a complete file. We are ready to submit in 2021!

The failure to obtain accreditation presented the opportunity to start a major reflection on institutional management. Tools have been created to systematize data collection and management of operations: a detailed statistics register, an event management tool, a rental management tool, as well as a monthly report for regular employees. The drafting of the accreditation documents also led us to rethink the operations of the Museum, which are now guided by policies covering all areas of activity. In particular, a first action plan has been adopted. It proposes many measures intended to make productivity gains and thus freeing up resources for cultural programming.

Armed with its healthier finances, its institutional policies and its new management tools, the Museum is ready for a new chapter in its history.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SG' or similar initials.

Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande, Director-Curator



The Stanstead Historical Society was founded in 1929 as a voluntary organization dedicated to the history of the Eastern Townships border region east of Lake Memphremagog. In 1973, the Colby-Curtis Museum was created to showcase the Society's collections. It occupied various locations, including a former school and the former RCMP office in Stanstead, before settling in 1992 in the magnificent heritage house called Carrollcroft which currently houses it. Today, the Museum's collections include more than 14,000 objects, 45 linear meters of archives and 7,000 photographs. Each year, the Museum receives nearly 4,000 visitors, organizes some 30 events and offers at least three temporary exhibitions in addition to its permanent exhibitions.



Mission, Vision, Objectives and Values



Mission

The Colby-Curtis Museum is dedicated to preserving, interpreting and presenting the history, heritage and culture of the border regions of the Eastern Townships.

Vision

Through exhibitions, educational programming, publications and cultural activities, the Colby-Curtis Museum seeks to promote regional history to a variety of publics.

Objectives

PRESERVING heritage by collecting artefacts and archives, and by ensuring their optimal storage conditions.

INTERPRETING history by conducting and encouraging research, and by sharing it through exhibitions, publications and adult educational programming.

PRESENTING culture to varied publics by organizing wide-ranging cultural activities and by increasing youth educational programming.

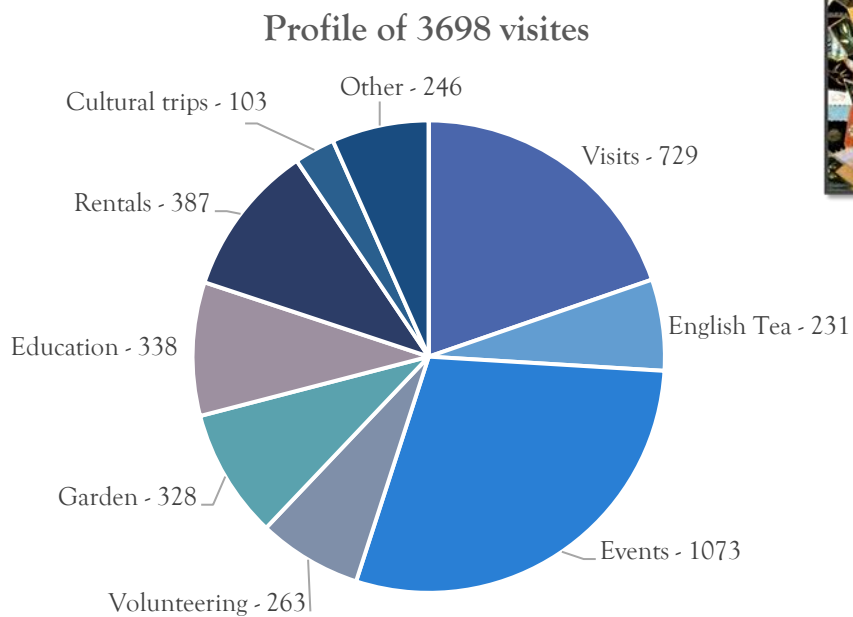
Values

Respect, Creativity, Persistence

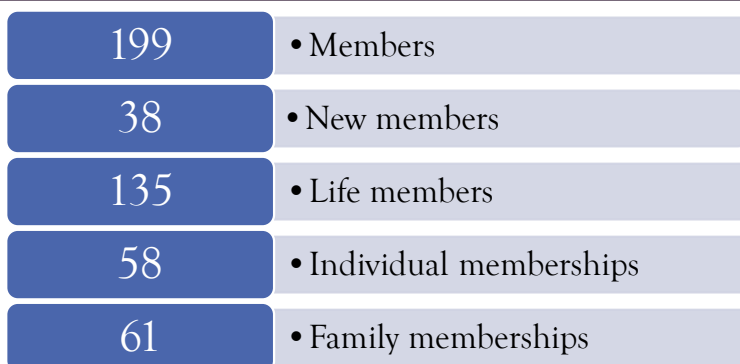


Statistics

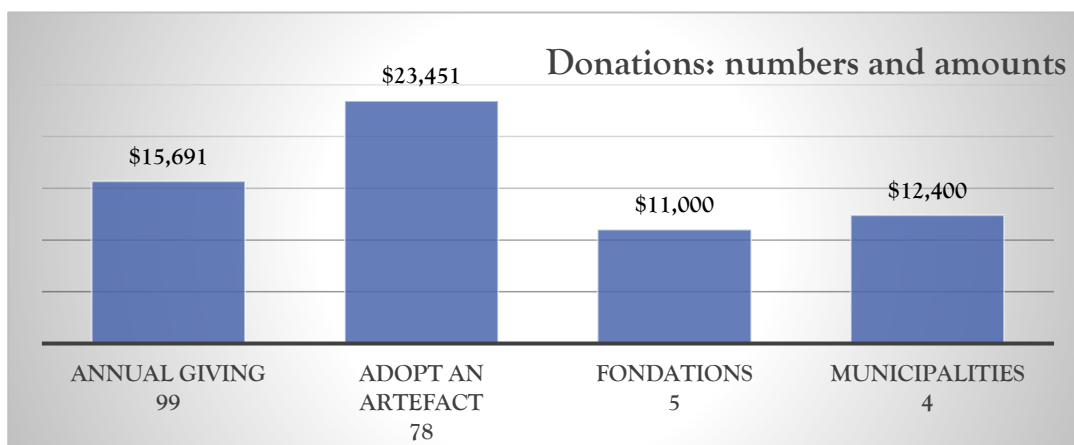
Visitors



Members



Donations



Exhibitions

Temporary Exhibitions

Waterways of the St. Francis, June 15 - December 21, 2019

The summer exhibition focused on the watershed of the St. Francis River and highlighted its decisive role in shaping the industrial and touristic culture of the region. Curators: Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande, Elise Roberge.



River Crossings, October 4 - December 21, 2019

As part of the biennial Objectif Photo | Cantons-de-L'Est, uniting a dozen cultural institutions from the region, the Museum presented an exhibition showing the history of the representation of bridges through the collections of the Historical Society and the private collector Matthew Farfan. Curators: Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande, Julie-Ann Latulippe.



Diversity and Achievement in Anglophone Quebec, October 5, 2019

During the Eastern Townships heritage fair organized by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN), an exhibition of 24 panels scattered throughout the Museum presented to the public the great diversity of the English-speaking community in Quebec. Curator: Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network

Adopt an Artefact 2019, September 7, 2019 - August 18, 2020

The second edition of the Adopt an Artefact fundraising exhibition showcased 60 unique objects from the Museum's collections. Curator: Elise Roberge

Permanant exhibitions

Toys through time

The exhibition *Toys Through Time* offers a social, technical and aesthetic history of toys from hand-made dolls of the 19th century to plastic and metal cars of the 1950s.

The Colbys of Stanstead

The exhibition *The Colbys of Stanstead* spans eight period rooms (1880-1920) and presents the way of life of the Colby family, an important family in the region and the one who gave the Stanstead Historical Society the heritage home that today houses the Museum.



Trades in Stanstead County

This exhibition spanning three rooms and a mezzanine is located in the barn adjoining the main museum building and focuses on tools and machinery related to rural trades in Stanstead County..



Education is at the heart of the Museum's mission. It is aimed both at adults, through conferences and heritage events, and at children, through specially designed activities.

Mediation is an integral part of the Museum's cultural offer and all visitors benefit from a full or partial guided tour, depending on the number of visitors and the availability of guides.



Cultural Activities



This year, 37 activities were organized throughout the year and allowed all audiences to enjoy the Museum. History buffs appreciated the conferences and the Eastern Townships Heritage Fair, organized by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network; young chocolate lovers flocked to the Easter egg hunt; cultural discovery enthusiasts have taken part in cultural trips; knitters enjoyed their hobby during the *tricot-thés*, organized in collaboration with the Cercle des Fermières de Stanstead; many families came to the Journées de la Culture; and all were able to admire the creations of artisans from the region during the Artisan Fairs.



Boutique, Tea Room and Rentals



The Museum's boutique showcases the talent of the region's artisans by offering a wide variety of creations.



The tea room, open during summer months and for special events, carries on the tradition of English tea and allows visitors to experience it.



The Museum's solarium, which offers a stunning view of the beautiful Victorian garden, is available for rent to people in the community. Many events take place there: study days, get-togethers, parties, weddings, graduation ceremonies, and more.

SHS Société historique de Stanstead
Stanstead Historical Society

Musée Colby-Curtis Museum
Bulletin - Newsletter



Automne
Autumn
2019

Conseil d'administration
Board of Directors
2019-2020

Président / President
Matthew Farfan
Vice-président / Vice-President
Gabriel Saddle
Secrétaire / Secretary
Gael Ekin
Treasorier / Treasurer
John Logan
Administrateurs / Directors
Debbie Bishop
Robert L. Colby
Ethna Coyne Taylor
Hélène Dineau
Brenda Goodell
Richard Gosselin
Edward Hukin
Ann Montgomery
Toby Rochester

Directeur - Conservateur
Director - Curator
Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande

Mot du Directeur-conservateur

Un grand nombre d'événements publics ont lieu au Musée chaque année (plus d'une vingtaine) et nous voulons mieux les publiciser auprès de nos membres et du public en général. C'est pourquoi, au cours des prochains mois, le Musée procédera à une refonte de sa politique et de ses méthodes de communication. L'aspect le plus visible de ce changement sera la transformation du format du bulletin, qui passera d'une publication imprimée trimestrielle à une infolettre plus fréquente envoyée par courriel. Cela nous permettra de disséminer plus efficacement l'annonce de nos nombreux événements. Nous espérons que vous apprécierez ce nouveau format!

Par ailleurs, je veux remercier Trise Robarge pour ses trois années de bons services comme technicienne en maintenance puis adjointe à la conservation au Musée. Elle nous a permis de relever de nouveaux défis et nous lui souhaitons bonne chance dans son nouveau emploi. Son travail rigoureux et méthodique a grandement contribué à la qualité des expositions des dernières années et a permis le succès de notre exposition bénéfice Adolphe un artefact. Merci Trise!

Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande

Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande
Directeur-Conservateur

Message from the Director-curator

A lot of public events are happening at the Museum (more than twenty a year) and we want to better publicize them to our members and the general public. Therefore, in the coming months, the Museum will revise its communication policy and methods. The most visible aspect of this process will be a change in the format of the bulletin, from a quarterly publication to a more frequent email newsletter. This will allow us to disseminate more effectively the news about our numerous events. We hope that you will find this new format to your liking!

I also want to thank Trise Robarge for three years of loyal service as museum technician and assistant curator at the Museum. She leaves us to face new challenges and we wish her the best of luck in her new position. Her rigorous and methodical work has greatly contributed to the quality of the exhibitions in the past few years, and it has especially helped to make our Adopt an Artifact program as successful as it is. Thank you Trise!

Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande

Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande
Director-Curator

HEURES D'OUVERTURE : septembre à juin - OPENING HOURS : September to June

MUSÉE - MUSEUM	ARCHIVES	ADMINISTRATION / COLLECTION
Mercredi au samedi 10h 00 à 16h00 Wednesday to Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m.	Mardi au jeudi Sur rendez-vous Tuesday to Thursday By appointment	Mardi au vendredi 9h00 à 16h00 Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am. to 4:00 P.M.

Eight mentions in print media

Three newsletters



ENJOY THE TOWNSHIP BY DISCOVERING SOME OF ITS HISTORY!

STANSTEAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On the impressive Dufferin street in Stanstead sits the Colby-Curtis museum, located in a sumptuous 19th century villa. Admirably preserved and filled with artefacts testifying to the influence of the Anglo-Canadian elite, this house and its colourful garden invite you to travel back in time.

- Permanent exhibition on the life of the Colby family at the turn of the 20th century
- Temporary exhibition Beasts and Beggars
- Temporary exhibition Adopt an Artefact
- Barn exhibition on historical trades
- Victorian garden
- Reservation required

visit colbycurtis.ca or call 819-876-7322

BROME COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE BROME COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC ON JUNE 22 WITH "A SEASON OF CULTURAL WELL-BEING"

The BCHS has developed innovative cultural programming that bring Brome County's history to life while respecting all directives and guidelines from public health authorities.

Dates for summer season:
22 June – 12 October 2020

Schedule: Monday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Other information: Visitors may pre-purchase their tickets online; tickets may also be bought on-site. All galleries are open to the public with the exception of the Children's Museum which is closed until further notice.

MISSISQUOI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Le billet d'admission comprend deux sites, le Moulin Corneli à Stanbridge East et la Grange Walbridge, une grange dodéca-gonale unique au Canada qui est située à Mystic, le pittoresque hameau de Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge.

Our exhibits are located in two different buildings, the Corneli Mill in Stanbridge East and the Walbridge Barn in Mystic, a hamlet of Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge.

Museum Schedule: 10 June to 11 October from 10:00 to 11:00 AM
Museum Hours: 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Grange Walbridge: 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM
From 11:30 AM to 4:00 PM

2 River, Stanbridge East, QC J0 2H0 | info@missisquoihistorical.ca
#1 Musée Missisquoi Museum
450-248-3153 | www.missisquoihistorical.ca



Followers:	683
Posts:	21
Views:	16,436
Likes:	639
Comments:	58
Shares:	129

Collection

The collection of the Colby-Curtis Museum includes the artefacts collection, the antique book collection, as well as the archives and historic buildings. The Museum's entire collection includes a garden, three heritage buildings and over 14,000 artefacts, 7,000 photographs, 1,500 old books and 40,000 historical documents.

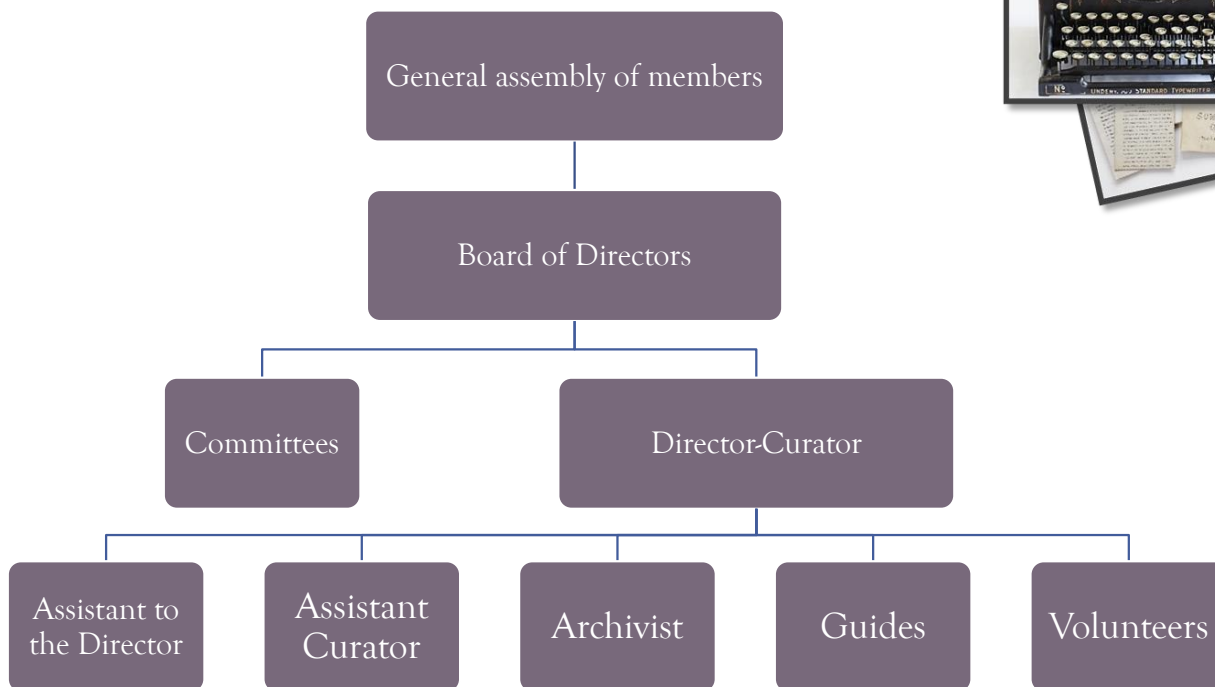


Several major projects benefited the collection during the year 2019-2020.

- Filing of a heritage classification request for the Domaine de Carrollcroft with the Ministry of Culture and Communications in order to register the main residence, the garden, the barn and the lawn in the Directory of Cultural Heritage of Quebec;
- Update and expansion of the emergency and intervention plan;
- Revision of the acquisition policy;
- Establishment of an independent acquisitions committee;
- Writing of a descriptive guide facilitating access to the archives;
- Reorganization of archive storage;
- Digitization and processing of photographs, in particular the J. J. Parker collection.

The Museum would like to acknowledge the exceptional commitment of volunteer Barbara Heath, who gave 477.5 hours of her time to the archives.





Samuel Gaudreau Lalande,
Director-Curator



Alison Hannan,
Assistant to the Director



Élise Roberge,
Assistant Curator
until September 2019



Marie-Anne Durocher,
Assistant Curator
from January 2020



Kathy Curtis,
Archivist



Diana Callaway,
Guide



Makayla Chamberlain,
Guide



Wayne Harrison,
Maintenance

Board of Directors and Volunteers



Volunteers

In addition to the Board of Directors, many volunteers support the Museum by generously volunteering their time and knowledge for fundraising, development and membership, management of archives, acquisitions and exhibitions, and boutique management. The entire Museum community benefits from your action!

To each and everyone of our volunteers, we say thank you.

The Museum acknowledges its many partners and donors, thanks to whom it is able to carry out its cultural, historical and educational mission. In 2019-2020, these funds were used to finance exhibitions, education, building maintenance and to pay the salaries of employees assigned to these responsibilities. The recurring support of a hundred individual donors, seven corporations, five foundations, four municipalities, one cultural organization and one member of parliament, as well as the great success of the second edition of the Adopt an Artefact fundraising campaign, constitute a very strong testimony to the importance the Museum for its community.



Our esteemed individual donors

Louise Abbott	A.J. DeLange	Joan Ivory	Ann Montgomery
Paul & Nancy Amos	Marc Delorme	Walter & Judith Jacobi	Ross Murray
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Our government, business and foundation supporters



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Terence Hawes
Financial Services



Summary of financial statements



FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDED
March 31, 2020

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

REVENUE:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Donations	26,691	19,488
Events	23,451	28,870
Cultural activities	44,434	4,617
Government/Municipal grants	169,301	200,012
Operations	19,144	16,991
	<u>283,021</u>	<u>269,978</u>

EXPENSES:

Human resources	167,664	177,014
Events	2,592	16,024
Cultural activities	48,309	12,764
Building & grounds	26,552	24,707
Operations	42,138	54,197
	<u>287,255</u>	<u>284,706</u>

LOSS BEFORE AMORTIZATION & INVESTMENT INCOME

4,234 14,728

NET AMORTIZATION

14,746 15,118

NET INVESTMENT LOSS (INCOME)

7,475 (6,516)

LOSS FOR THE YEAR

26,455 23,330

ENDOWMENT FUND

157,365 172,938



From Google Review



"Beautifully maintained.
For lovers of beautiful
Victorians, a "must"."

- M.

"Very interesting. Impressive to
see the richness of the time.

Thank you to the people who
donated this beautiful house."

- L. A.

"Little jewel of a museum detailing
some little known historical figures of
Canada's past. Tea room and service
were a bonus. Must visit if visiting
Stanstead or Magog area."

- F. D.

"Wonderful house to
visit with a lot of
artefacts. A guide who
lives her passion,
knows her facts and
objects..."

- S.