

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22

**Stanstead Historical Society  
Colby-Curtis Museum**



Photo: TCE



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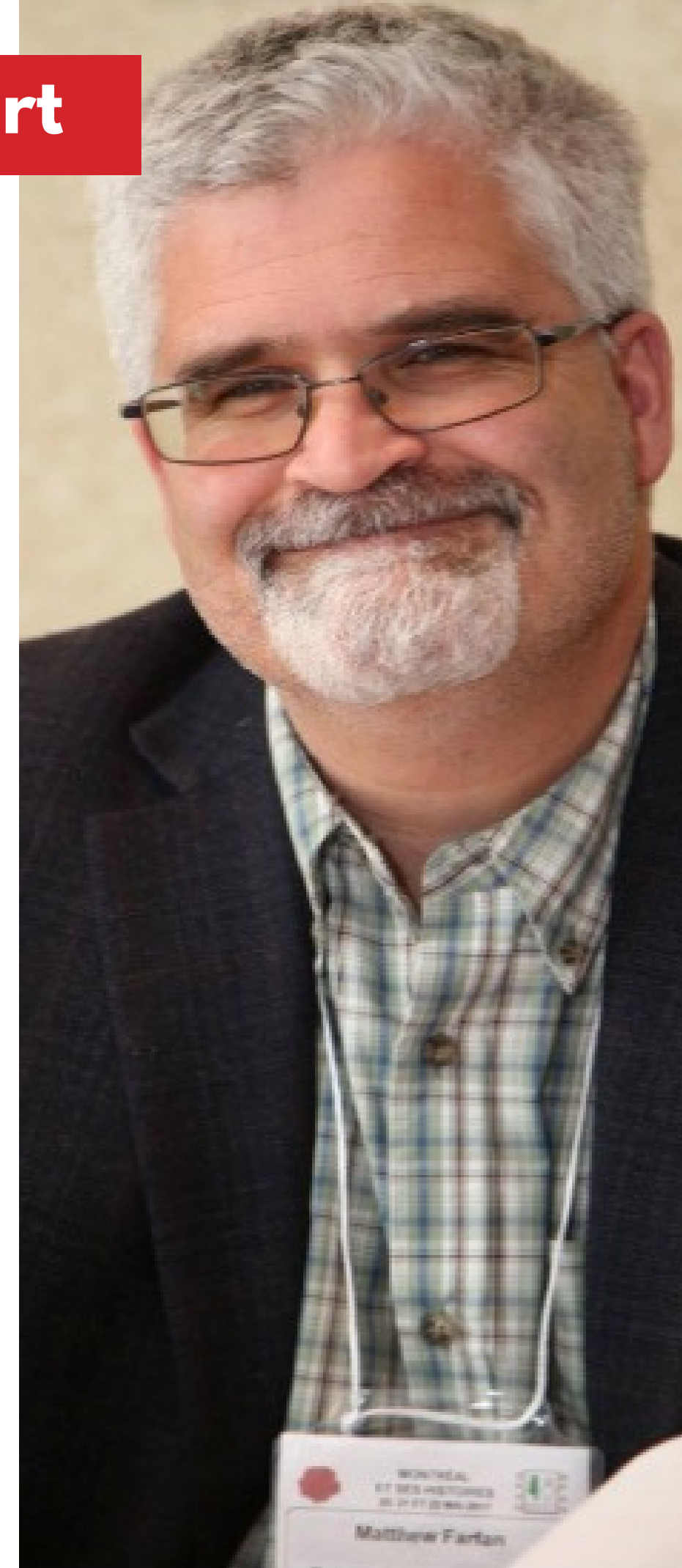
## President's Report

After two long years of Covid and all the curtailments to in-person programming at the Colby-Curtis Museum, let's hope the worst is behind us!

As I mentioned in my last annual report, the pandemic fortunately had a silver lining. It not only alleviated some of the pressures (and costs) associated with public programming, but it also enabled us to concentrate on refining our internal operations. Among other things, these have included planning, policies, communications, social media, educational programming, fundraising, grant writing and staffing.

In addition to, and in some cases predating the pandemic, certain major challenges have dogged us. For example, Quebec's Régie du bâtiment telling us our beautiful, and (since 1992) Quebec government-funded, museum was, lo and behold, not up to code! What a hassle! But at long last, and with the help of architect David Leslie, we are hopeful that a solution is on the horizon. Of course, significant funding will have to be secured before we can undertake what is required to bring ourselves up to code. And a great deal of physical changes will have to be made at the museum, including reorganizing internal office and storage space, and inserting fire escapes and a sprinkler system, before we can put this irksome file behind us. So lots of work ahead.

In 2019, the Colby-Curtis, like dozens of other museum institutions across Quebec, lost its accreditation. For any museum that aspires to professionalism, accreditation is vital; it makes recurring government operational funding a possibility. The good news is that following a great deal of work by our director-curator Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande, with help and encouragement from the board, we learned from Quebec in November 2021 that our reapplication had been accepted and that in fact it had been highly rated - a veritable "coup de coeur," they said. That translates roughly as "they loved it," not as "they had a heart attack." So congratulations to all who worked on this file!



## President's Report (continued)

I want to thank the members of the museum's board for their commitment to this institution. Serving on a board is not always glory and fun. But it's essential work. It can also be highly rewarding. I'll repeat what I've said in the past: This museum belongs to all of us, to our community, and to the future. The work of preserving, protecting and interpreting regional history and heritage is incredibly important. We are all a part of that work.

Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank the museum staff. Samuel has done a great job, under extremely challenging circumstances. Losing our accreditation, a major part of our funding, and being told we're not up to code and have tons of things to fix which will all cost a fortune, are each one of them existential threats. But he hasn't given up, and he has my full support.

We are equally fortunate to have such a talented team at the museum. Alison Hannan is our executive assistant. She skillfully handles everything from bookkeeping to managing the tearoom, and lots in between. Thank you, Alison! Kathy Curtis, who is almost an institution unto herself, is our archivist. She also looks after some very special missions, including our cultural trips. Stéphanie Robert is in charge of our new education program, which we are all very excited about. In addition to the staff, we have some excellent people who help us look after our gardens, our communications and our exhibitions.

Thank you all, and keep up the great work!

Matthew Farfan  
President

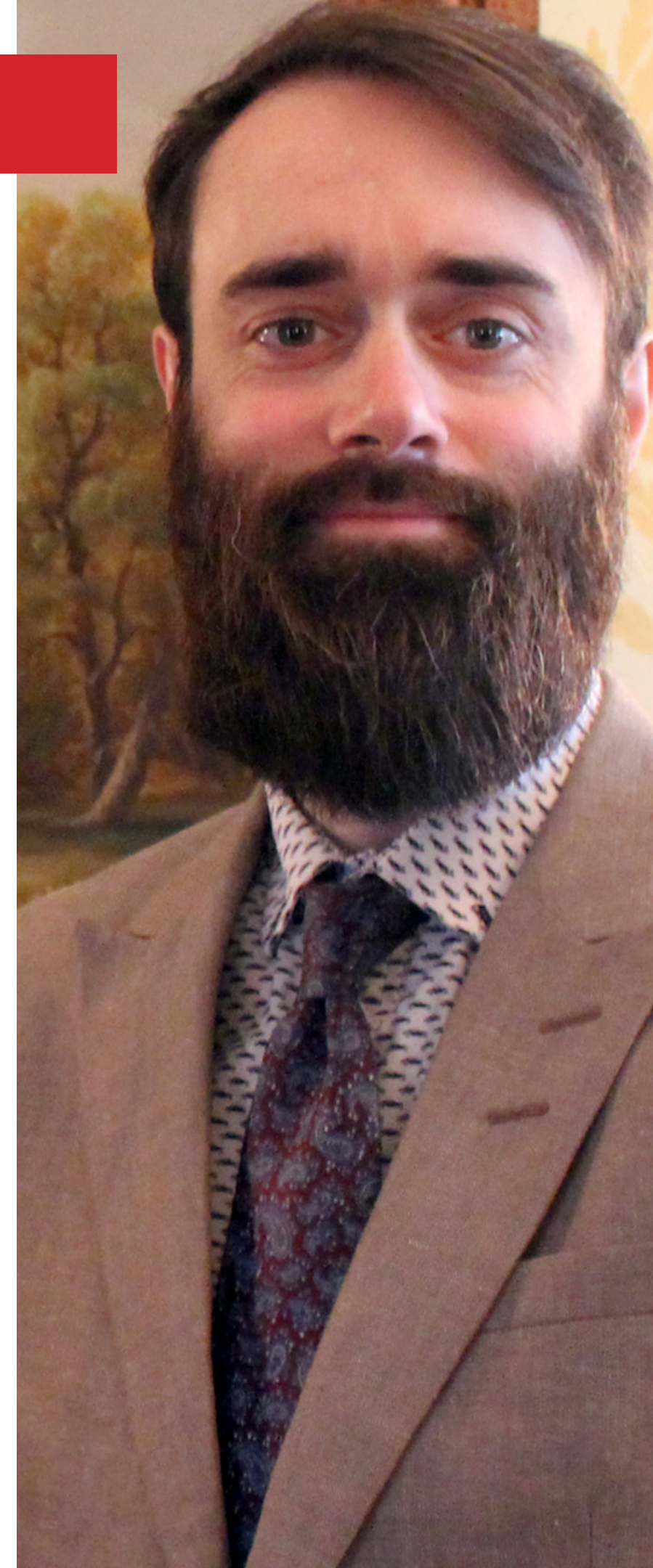


## Director's Word

This has been a year of transition for the Colby-Curtis Museum, a transition from the end of a recovery phase to the beginning of a development phase.

A few years ago, the Museum needed a complete update of its financial and administrative management. Financially, the Museum has now achieved stability, thanks to the commitment of public, private and individual financial partners who support its mission. On the administrative front, the improvement of numerous tools and procedures has led to significant productivity gains. These tools ensure institutional memory and facilitate teamwork, which contributes to the long-term administrative strength of the Museum. The financial and administrative recovery, a major theme of the action plans of the past few years, has been completed.

This does not, however, mean that the Museum does not need additional resources! In 2021-2022, the Museum has begun the development of new cultural projects, and this is where the creative energy of the team will now be directed. Major, multi-year projects are the direction the Museum is heading in. The first such project is the "Stanstead Graduates!" educational program, the start-up of which was funded entirely by private funds. The program is designed to provide an exceptional educational experience for preschool and elementary school children in Stanstead, with the long-term goal of contributing to the development of the community in which the Museum is located.





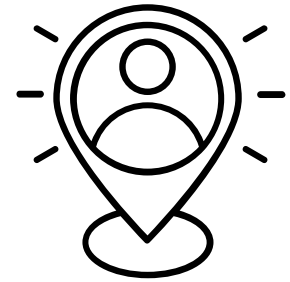
As in the past, the Museum offered quality cultural programming. In total, six different exhibitions were presented: the re-edition of the *Bêtes et Bestiaire* exhibition with a new hanging, editions 3 and 4 of the *Adopt an Artefact* exhibition, a Christmas postcard exhibition, the summer exhibition *Out on the Land* and the fall exhibition *Forgotten Cemeteries*. In terms of cultural events, 2021-2022 saw the return of the English Tea. In addition, the Museum offered the public 16 cultural events, including openings, lectures, screenings, galas, a car rally and a haunted barn activity. Six of these events, a sign of changing times, were online.

Since 2019, the Colby-Curtis Museum had been in administrative and financial recovery; 2021-2022 marks the achievement of that recovery process. The Museum now has a solid foundation, which will allow for the expansion of its cultural programming in the years to come.

Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande  
Director-Curator

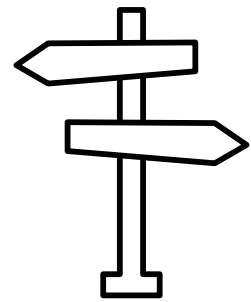


# The Year in Numbers



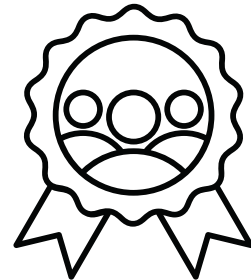
## Visitors

2 438 visitors



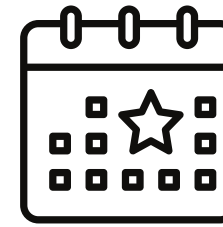
## Guided Tours

223 guided tours



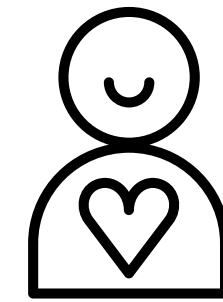
## Members

206 members



## Events

16 events



## Donors

128 donors



## Donations

110 664 \$



# History of the Museum

1929

The Stanstead Historical Society is founded as a volunteer organization dedicated to the history of the Eastern Townships border region east of Lake Memphremagog.

1973

The Colby-Curtis Museum is created to showcase the Society's collections. It occupies various locations including a former school and the former Stanstead RCMP office.

1992

The museum moves into the beautiful heritage house called Carrollcroft.





# Carrollcroft



## 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

To become a leader in preservation of heritage in the Eastern Townships, and to be acknowledged for financial sustainability, quality of programming, and strength of ties with the border community.

## Valeurs

Respect, creativity, persistence

## Objectives

» PRESERVING heritage

INTERPRETING history

PRESENTING cultural activities to all kinds of publics





# Collections

The Museum's collections include a vast selection of artefacts, documents, photographs and books related to the Eastern Townships' border communities.



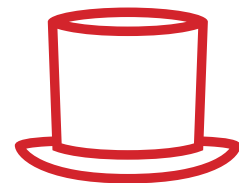
## By the numbers:



**3 buildings**



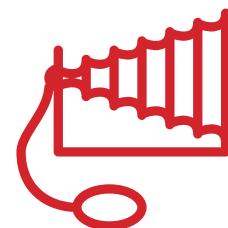
**1 garden**



**14,000 artefacts**



**40,000 documents**



**7,000 photographs**



**6,000 antique books**



## Temporary Exhibitions

### **Adopt an Artefact, 3rd Edition**

**An Evening at the Opera, September 15, 2020 - August 31, 2021**

Fundraising exhibition on the theme of elegance and social life at the turn of the 20th century, presenting 80 objects from the collection disseminated throughout the permanent and temporary exhibition rooms. *Exhibition sponsored by the Caisse Desjardins du Lac-Memphrémagog.*

### **Bêtes et bestiaire 2.0**

**April 1, 2021 - December 19, 2021**

A new take on the 2020 exhibition, revised and improved, now including 534 objects; a three-room exhibition highlighting the considerable importance of animals in the material culture of the industrial era (1850-1950).

### **Out on the Land**

**June 4, 2021 - September 18, 2021**

A two-part exhibition by artists Louise Abbott and Niels Jensen; Part 1: portraits of local farmers in a series of short films; Part 2: a series of photographs and texts showing the ruptures and continuities in the history of regional agriculture. *Exhibition sponsored by the Fédération de l'UPA-Estrie.*



Marco Bergeron



### **Adopt an Artefact, 4th Edition**

**The Doctor's Office, September 11, 2021 - August 31, 2022**

Fundraising exhibition on the theme of medicine in the early 20th century, presenting 120 objects from the collection disseminated throughout the permanent and temporary exhibition rooms. *Exhibition sponsored by the Caisse Desjardins du Lac-Memphrémagog.*

### **Forgotten Cemeteries**

**September 25, 2021 - December 19, 2021**

Exhibition by contemporary artist Jean-François Lachance exploring forgotten cemeteries in the old Stanstead county; photographs and videos pay tribute to 19th century funerary culture and highlight the fragility of this heritage; the exhibition is accompanied by a website that lists and maps forgotten cemeteries in the region.

### **Christmas Postcards**

**November 16, 2021 - December 19, 2021**

Exhibition of postcards from the Museum's collections with a Christmas theme.



Marco Bergeron





## Permanent Exhibition

### The Colbys of Stanstead

The Colbys of Stanstead exhibition spans eight period rooms (1880-1920) and presents the lifestyle of the Colby family, a prominent local family who donated to the Stanstead Historical Society the heritage villa that houses the Museum.

### Toys Through Time

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

### Trades of Stanstead County

This three rooms exhibition, located in the barn adjacent to the main museum building, focuses on the tools and machines associated with rural trades in Stanstead County.



Educational activities are at the heart of the museum's mission. They are aimed as much at adults, through conferences and events on heritage, as at children, through specially designed activities and animations. Cultural mediation is an integral part of the museum's offer and all visitors receive a complete or partial guided tour, depending on the number of visitors and the availability of guides. The museum's educational and cultural activities are sponsored by Hydro-Québec.

## New Educational Program

A new educational program called "Stanstead Graduates!" has been launched in 2021. Supported by fifteen foundations and corporations, this program aims to provide a unique educational experience for Stanstead elementary school children. The concept of the program is to provide children with creative projects to be completed over several visits to the Museum, in order to foster the development of their love of learning through history and the arts. The "Stanstead Graduates!" educational program is sponsored by the Caisse Desjardins du Lac-Memphrémagog.







# Tea Room, Boutique and Rentals

## Tea Room

After a hiatus due to the pandemic, the tea service returned in 2021. The tea room, open during the summer and for special events, continues the English tea tradition and allows visitors to experience it firsthand.

## Boutique

The museum boutique showcases the talent of local artisans by offering a wide variety of products. There's nothing like stopping by after a visit to admire the creations of local artisans, and books on regional history.

## Rentals

The museum's solarium, which offers a breathtaking view of the beautiful Victorian garden, is available for rental to the community. Many events can be held there: seminars, meetings, parties, weddings, graduation ceremonies, etc.



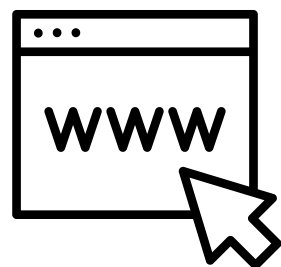
# Communications

The pandemic exposed the need for the museum to significantly expand its online presence. This has notably included social media communications, which have been the focus of much attention in 2021-2022. New segments of content exclusive to social media were created to bring the richness of the Museum's collections to a wider audience.

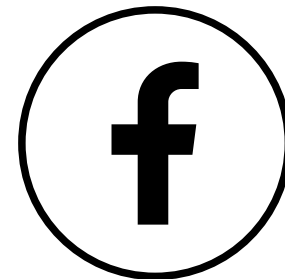
## Summary:



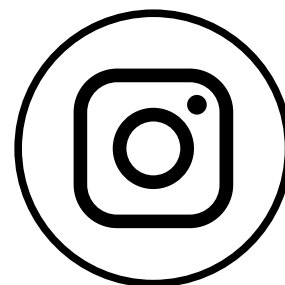
**14** newsletters sent  
**322** subscribers  
**55%** average open rate



**4,470** visitors to the website



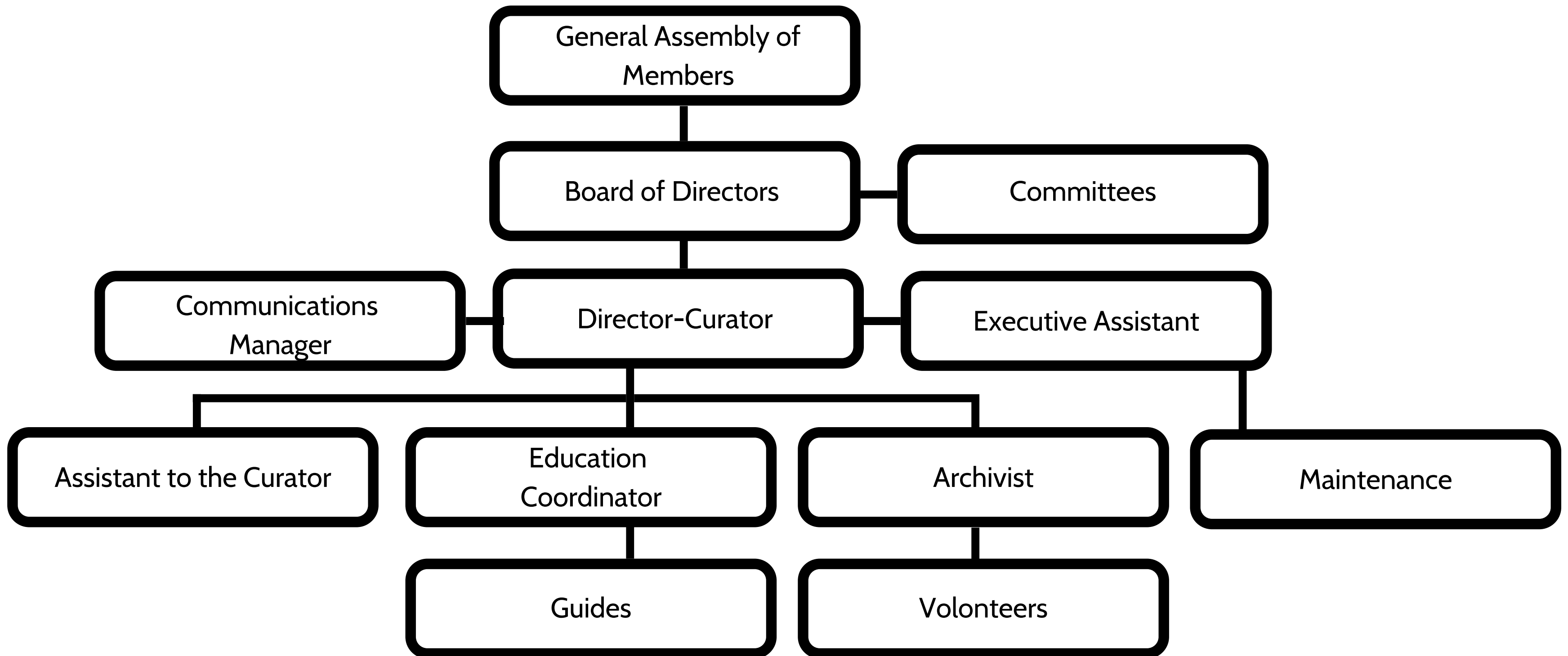
**162** posts  
**175** new subscribers (+19%)  
**1 029** likes



**15** posts  
**395** subscribers (stable)



# Organization Chart





# Team

## Board of Directors

- Matthew Farfan, President
- Gabriel Safdie, Vice-president
- John Logan, Treasurer
- Debbie Bishop, Secretary
- Robert Colby, Director
- Ann Montgomery, Director
- Penny Farfan, Director
- Edward Makin, Director
- Heather McKeown, Director
- Caroline Rossier Lang, Director

## Team

- Samuel Gaudreau Lalande, Director-Curator
- Kathy Curtis, Archivist
- Marie-Anne Durocher, Assistant to the Curator
- Alison Hannan, Executive Assistant
- Stéphanie Robert, Education Coordinator
- Mireille Chapleau, Communications Manager
- Wayne Harrison, Maintenance
- Calista Fauteux, Guide
- Marissa Fauteux, Guide
- Charles Massicotte, Guide

**Thanks to our volunteers who have made possible,  
by their precious help, all the activities of the Museum  
during this year.**





# Financial Partners and Donors

The Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of its many partners and donors in carrying out its cultural, historical and educational mission.

In 2021-2022, the money raised was used to fund collections, exhibitions, education, outreach and building maintenance.

The recurring support of more than 120 individual donors, eight foundations, four corporations, three municipalities, and three government departments, as well as the success of the fourth *Adopt an Artefact* fundraising campaign, are a powerful testament to the importance of the Museum to its community.

The Museum would like to extend a special thank you to the late Gertrude Ketcham for her significant bequest, which will be used for archives projects.



Finally, the Museum wishes to acknowledge the invaluable collaboration of its sponsors, the Caisse Desjardins du Lac-Memphrémagog, Hydro-Québec and the Fédération de l'UPA-Estrie.



# Individual Partners

Louise Abbot  
Robert Alger  
Nancy Amos  
Adele Beasse  
Roland Beasse  
J.R.Benny Beattie  
Valerie Behan  
Gilles Bélanger  
Erik Bjornestad  
Nadine Bjornestad  
Michelle Bourque  
Helena Brodie  
Michelle Bureau  
Pierre Cabana  
James Anthony Cassils  
Linda Cass-Jones  
John G. Chamberland  
Sophie Charbonneau  
Gabriel Chénard  
Tim Clark  
Yvonne Clark  
Jill Cobbett  
Charles W.Colby  
Gretchen Colby  
Robert Colby

Robert Gould Colby  
Tom Conyers  
Susan Copeland  
Janet Cowan  
Carman Curtis  
Brian Curtis  
Kathy Curtis  
Hélène Daneau  
Janet DeLange  
A.J. DeLange  
Éric Demers  
Merle DesRuisseaux  
David Drouin-Lê  
Brian Drummond  
Peter Dunlop  
Marguerite Dunlop  
Marie-Anne Durocher  
Beverly Dyer  
Leon Dyer  
Gael Eakin  
Penny Eakin  
Matthew Farfan  
Penelope Farfan  
Leslie Farfan  
James Farfan

Susan Fitzpatrick  
Gabriel Fleury  
Betsy Galindo  
Dario Galindo  
Jean-Pierre Gaudreau  
Samuel Gaudreau-Lalande  
Della Goodsell  
Lawrence Goodsell  
Mario Gosselin  
A. Derek Guthrie  
Janice Hamilton  
Jean Harris  
Michael Hayes  
Louise Hébert  
Judith Jacobi  
Walter Jacobi  
Clément Jacques  
Niels Jensen  
Marilyn Jones  
Nancy Kellett  
Estate of Gertrude Ketcham  
Jean-François Lachance  
André Ladouceur  
Danièle Lalande  
Maryse Laplante  
James Laroche  
Josephine LeBaron  
Charles Léonard  
Melodie Levitt  
Anne Leydet

John Logan  
Juliana Lynch-Staunton  
Norma MacKinnon  
Anne MacLaren  
Josepthe Makin  
Ed Makin  
Suzanne Marcil  
William May  
Catherine Milne  
Ethel Tysie Mitchell  
Frances Molony  
Eric H. Molson  
Geneviève Monette  
Mary Ann Mongeau  
Ann Montgomery  
Ross Murray  
Grant Myers  
Monique Nadeau-Saumier  
Jeremy Pacaud  
Penny Packard  
Buffy Packard  
Denis Parent  
Isabel Ida Price  
Donald Renwick  
Sheila Robertson  
Judy Rochester  
Toby Rochester  
Sue Rowe  
Gordon Rowe  
S. Dyanne Saanum

Anne Sagnières  
Hubert Sagnières  
Janet Scott  
Karen E. Smith  
Katherine Snow  
Peter Southam  
Jody Stone  
Michael Sudlow  
David Taylor  
Eithne Taylor  
Hans Walser  
Eleanor Ward  
Norman Webster  
Patterson Webster  
Keith Wilcox  
Frances Williams  
Melody Yates  
Henry Yates

# Thank you !



## Funders, Foundations and Sponsors

Bannerman Foundation

Eric T. Webster Foundation

Fondation Pierre Desmarais Belvédère

Golden Rule Lodge #5 AF & AM

Hay Foundation

Hydro-Québec

Manulife

The Molson Foundation

Philip & Judith Webster Foundation

Power Corporation Canada

Réparation Béton Duraseal

Sibylla Hesse Foundation

The Wilson Foundation

Zellers Family Foundation

## Municipalities

Stanstead

Canton de Stanstead

Stanstead-Est

Ogden

# Thank you !





# Summary of Financial Statements

## Highlights

	2022	2021
<b>Revenue</b>		
Donations	97 872	21 722
Sponsorships and fundraisers	12 792	17 486
Government/ Municipal grants	222 151	240 899
Operations	14 585	6 702
Other revenue	1 987	545
	349 387	287 354
<b>Expenses</b>		
Human Ressources	198 015	166 370
Fundraising	939	3 907
Building and grounds	39 568	27 805
Collections, exhibitions and culture	22 727	4 033
Operations and administration	54 795	37 721
	316 044	239 836



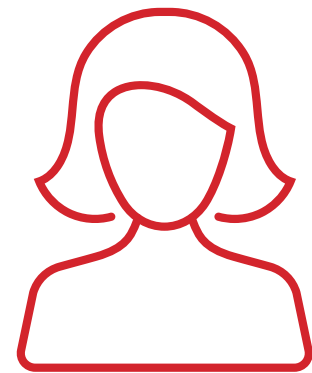
# Summary of Financial Statements (continued)

## Results

	2022	2021
Income before amortization and investment income	33 343	47 518
Net amortization	-12 414	-12 922
Net investment income (loss)	2 827	35 163
Income (loss) for the year	23 756	69 759
Endowment fund	195 334	192 521



# Testimonials



"Le salon de thé est incroyable!  
Service exceptionnel, cadre magnifique, les scones succulents!  
Le thé et les pâtisseries....tout est parfait!"

Monica Cadeau

"So everything feels homely and you can see how that family lived".  
Terry H."



"Exquisite place to visit!"  
George Goodwin

"Magnifiquement entretenu.  
Pour les amoureux des belles Victoriennnes, un "must."  
Marianne de Montréal

