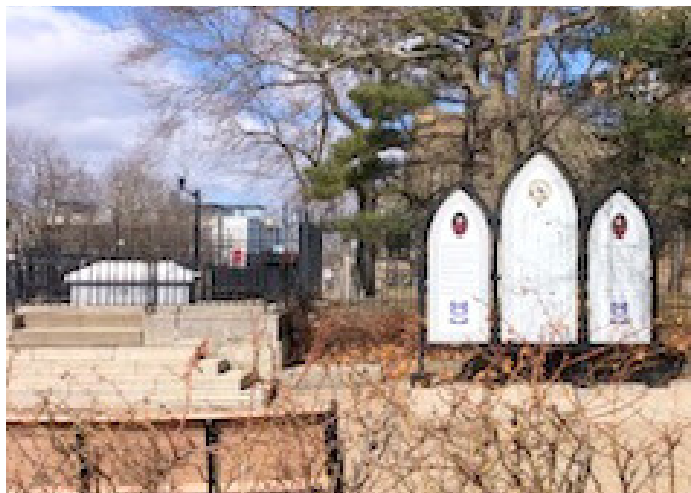




St. George's Newsletter



Left: the cemetery. Middle: Church doors (photos by François Nichols). Right: François Nichols (photo by Ghyslaine Bergeron, L'Express de Drummondville).

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Following the Annual General Assembly on April 24, 2024, I had the honour of being appointed president of the Foundation's Board of Directors by my fellow directors. First, I want to thank Mr. Leonard Desfosses, who assumed the presidency after Ms. Nicole Guilbault-Peacock resigned in the fall of 2023 because of ill health. My nomination was a surprise, as I had only been serving on the Board since September 2023. I had to quickly get up to speed and learn about the Foundation's main files and many activities, which are rather well covered in this newsletter. A huge thanks to my colleagues and partners for all their volunteer work.

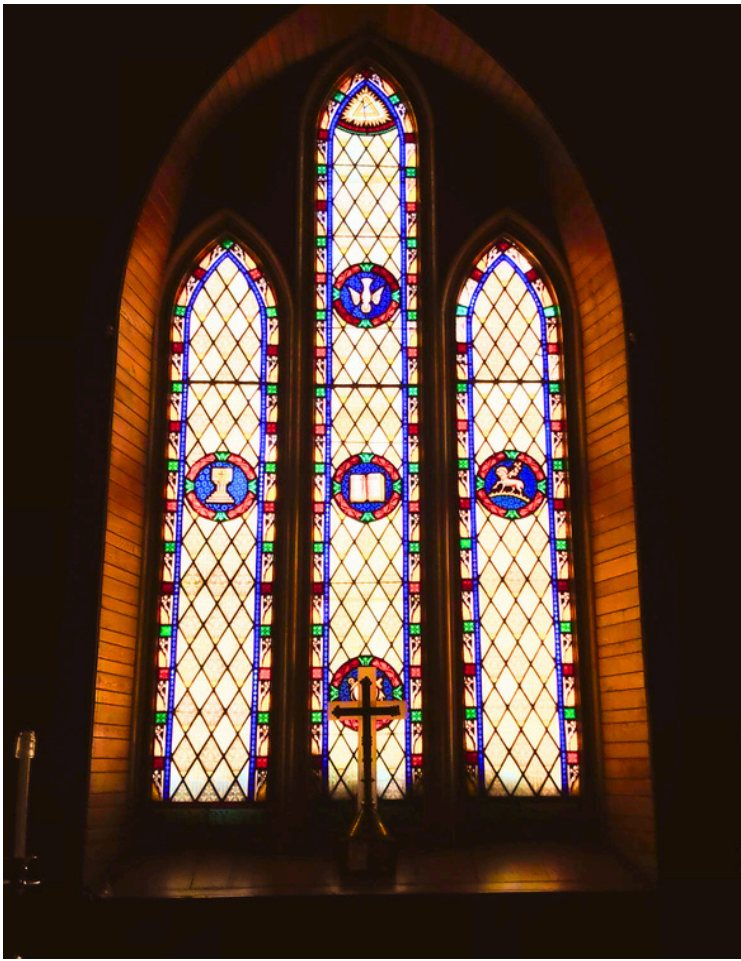
On a less pleasant note, I wish to emphasize that the cemetery has twice been the scene of acts of vandalism in 2024 (see the news articles that were published thanks to the kind collaboration of the L'Express Drummondville newspaper: *Le cimetière de l'église St. George est la cible de vandales* of May 31, 2024, and *Nouvelle vague de vandalisme* of November 7, 2024). Some repairs still need to be done, which will cost the Foundation more time and money. Moreover, the presence of homeless people on the St. George heritage site, including Place Frederick-George-Heriot, has been the source of repeated trouble.

With that said, here are a few especially important matters for 2025:

- Negotiations with the City of Drummondville for a new quinquennial agreement, as the current agreement expires at the end of the year. Let's not forget how vital the City's much-appreciated material and financial support is to the Foundation;
- Advancement of a long-term lease project to lease St. George's Hall to the Centre for Access to Services in English for the Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec region (CASE-MCQ), a non-profit organization and longstanding partner of the Foundation;
- Completion of phase two of the Church's restoration work, to be properly celebrated in the fall;
- Review of the Foundation's governance rules, which date back to 1993 and were adopted in a context that differs greatly from today's reality.

Yours sincerely,

François Nichols, président



RESTORATION OF THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS COMPLETED

Restoration of the St. George's Church's stained-glass windows began in 2022 and was completed in the fall of 2024. Construction Benoît Moreau Inc. and stained-glass artist Sylvie Savoie have finished installing the 13 windows adorned with stained glass, some of which date back to 1856. The result is stunning!

Upcoming work

While the stained-glass windows have been restored, further work is needed to conclude the restoration of St. George's Church. For the building's structure, stonework will be necessary to repair the sacristy; the steeple's roof and woodwork need to be replaced; and the nave's floor needs to be reinforced. Then, the exterior access stairway to the basement needs renovation. Lastly, an access ramp for people with reduced mobility will be installed at the front of the church portal. These works should all be completed by fall 2025.

This project is made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of Quebec, the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec, the City of Drummondville, and many other generous donors.



Québec 


DRUMMONDville
Capitale du développement

Conseil du
patrimoine
religieux
du Québec

Top photo : St. George's Church main window.
Photographer: Luc LeClerc, September 2024

Bottom photo: Sylvie Savoie

A YEAR OF SONGS AND MUSIC AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH



CENTRE FOR ACCESS TO
SERVICES IN ENGLISH
CENTRE D'ACCÈS AUX
SERVICES EN ANGLAIS

In 2024, a series of three exceptional concerts was organized at St. George's Church through the partnership between CASE-MCQ and the Events Committee of the St. George's Church Foundation Inc. These events were made possible by the invaluable collaboration of Philippe Brochu, director of the Cégep de Drummondville's music program, and the incredibly talented student musicians who delivered outstanding performances.

For our first concert in May, *Retour sur le Jazz: des années 1950 à aujourd'hui*, Estelle Ory, Chad Therrien, and Léonard Mayrand transported the audience through the history of jazz. In October, percussionists Pier-Luc Huard, Dali Brillon and Rémi Rondeau gave a banging performance in *Rythmes en Résonance*. They filled the Church with the rich sounds of marimba and vibraphone. In December, Émile Bureau, Claudia Hayes, Yoric Farley, Estelle Ory, Xavier Beaudry, and Eugénie Côté Gaudet performed in *Les Sons de Noël: Jazz et Classiques*, a festive concert combining jazz with classical holiday music.

These concerts connect members of the region's French-speaking and English-speaking communities and showcase the talents of emerging musicians while bringing us all together in an inspiring heritage setting. A huge thanks to all the people who have contributed to making this season a success! We hope you will continue to enthusiastically support us in 2025.

CASE MCQ



Student artists in the middle of a jazz performance.
Photo : Katherine Archer, May 2024.



AFTERNOON TEA TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

On June 1, 2024, around fifty guests gathered in St. George's Hall for a fundraising event organized by the St. George's Church Foundation Inc. The committee, composed of Katherine Archer, Marie-Jeanne Couture and Andréanne Brouillette, benefited from the precious help of a dozen volunteers to carry out the event.

In a warm and sunny atmosphere, the guests enjoyed an authentic English-style tea and a selection of homemade pastries prepared by devoted volunteers: tarts, cookies, brownies, and scones, as well as small sandwiches. These treats were served with a hot or cold cup of the traditional St. George tea blend, in pure accordance with the British tradition. Tables were elegantly adorned with fine china and refined tablecloths, adding a touch of elegance to this gathering imbued with conviviality.



The volunteers who organized the Afternoon Tea. First row: Chantal Proulx, Emma Haggerty, Katherine Archer and Gabriel Allard-Lauzière. Second row: Kim Peacock, Andréanne Brouillette, Abby Masters, Emma Goyette-Boily and Hayley Goyette-Boily.

Apart from bringing the community together for a moment of sharing and delights, this event raised funds for the preservation and maintenance of St. George's Church heritage site thanks to the generosity of participants and volunteers. The St. George's Church Foundation Inc. wishes to extend its most heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers and participants who contributed to this event's success.

Andréanne Brouillette, Member of the Board of Directors.

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2024

VISITS TO THE ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH SITE



We hope 2025 has been a happy year so far! Thank you for your continued support throughout the year 2024. I am pleased to announce that it was a busy year for the Foundation. Here are the main results of the Foundation's operations and stained-glass windows restoration.

Stained-glass restoration

Restoration work on the stained-glass windows was completed in November 2024 for a total cost of \$298,902. Thanks to his watchful supervision, our architect, Mr. Robert Pelletier, carried out the restoration project within our budget's limit. Congratulations to Construction Benoît Moreau Inc. and stained-glass artist Sylvie Savoir for their professionalism!

Operations

Income

Firstly, the death or aging of our longstanding supporters have led to a constant decline in membership and donations over the past few years. Unfortunately, 2024 was no exception. Secondly, rental revenues from the St. George's Church and Hall have soared, despite the fact that fewer activities were organized due to the Cégep de Drummondville faculty strike. Fortunately, attendance has increased. Lastly, just like in 2023, the great quantity of donations and grants received for the stained-glass restoration project generated an income proportional to the investments held by the Foundation.

Expenses

Through rigorous management, the Foundation has been able to respect its expenditure budget, which allowed it to close the 2024 fiscal year with a surplus of income over expenditures. That surplus will be used to complete the last restoration work planned by the Church in 2025.

Last year, on December 31, I completed my term as Treasurer of the St. George's Church Foundation Inc. I want to express my gratitude to each and every member of the Board for the trust and support they gave me over the past three years. It has been a real pleasure for me to volunteer alongside such a passionate group of people! And to all our supporters, I extend a heartfelt thank you for your interest in the Foundation and your ongoing support. May 2025 bring you the best!

Nicole Biron, Treasurer.

For several years now, the St. George's Church site has been featured on the "Discovery" circuit of guided tours offered by the Société d'histoire de Drummond. According to the collected data, 152 people visited our site during the summer of 2024, which represents a reduction of 25 people compared to the summer of 2023. We are pleased to see that the work to restore the Church's stained-glass windows did not have a greater negative impact on visits. Furthermore, the Church remains a place of worship where many religious groups gather: the 7th Day Adventists (every Saturday morning), the members of the United Church (nine times a year), and the members of the Anglican Church (four times a year). Lastly, during the year of 2024, St. George's Church has been the scene of civil and religious wedding celebrations, the renewal of nuptial vows following 50 years of marriage, and funeral ceremonies. A proof that this heritage treasure is still very much alive!

Johanne Jutras, Secretary.

CONGRATULATIONS, CATHY MILLAR!

The Foundation is proud to announce that Ms. Catherine Millar was bestowed the Excellence Award for Volunteering 2024, for all the time, talents, and efforts she generously invested over 33 years to protect and revitalize the St. George's Anglican Church site in Drummondville. Presented by the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec at its Annual Forum in Rivière-du-Loup in September 2024, this award honours the matriarch of our Foundation established in September 1993. Congratulations, Cathy!



Catherine Millar is the second person from the right on this photo.
Photo : Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec, September 2024.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members in good standing of the Foundation are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, starting at 6:30 p.m. at St. George's Hall, 278 Heriot Street, Drummondville. Please confirm your attendance at the following address:

secretary.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca

CHURCH SERVICES AT ST. GEORGE'S

In 2025, we will offer four Anglican services. Our celebrations start at 3 p.m., followed by a get-together over coffee. The celebrations will be held on: March 15, April 19, October 18, and December 20.

For more information, please contact Katherine Archer at:

quebeckat76@gmail.com

The **ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH FOUNDATION INC.** is a non-profit secular organization founded in 1993 to safeguard the heritage site of St. George's Church in Drummondville. Annual membership fees are \$25 for individuals and \$50 for companies. A tax receipt is issued for all donations to the Foundation.

HOW TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE AND MAKE A DONATION

By PayPal or credit card, accessible via paypal.me/fondationeglisesstgeo.

By cheque to 274 Heriot Street, Drummondville, Quebec J2C 1K1.

By e-transfer to treasurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca.

By Interac transfer:
You can pay for your membership or donate by Interac transfer by following the procedure below:
Send to treasurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca.

By donation in shares:
Contact Gabriel Allard-Lauzière at treasurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca.

To pay the annual membership fee:
You must include your first and last name, your street address, and the purpose of payment in the transmission message.

Thank you for your support and generosity!



A SPECIAL ENGLISH TEA

In order to fund the second phase of its restoration project, the Foundation invites you to an English-Style Afternoon Tea featuring our famous St. George Blend.

This event will take place on
Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 2 p.m.
at St. George's Hall, 278 Heriot Street,
Drummondville, for the price of \$30.

As seats are limited, we strongly recommend that you make a reservation at:

treasurer.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 31, 2024

François Nichols, President
Kim Peacock, Vice-President
Nicole Biron, Treasurer
Johanne Jutras, Secretary
Gabriel Allard-Lauzière
Katherine Archer
Andréanne Brouillette
Marie-Jeanne Couture
Marie-France Pelletier

A HUGE THANKS TO LEONARD DESFOSSES!

As a member of the Board since 2000, Leonard Desfosses spearheaded the restoration project of the St. George's Church cemetery, which was completed in 2015 with the inauguration of Place Frederick-George-Heriot (FGH), owned by the City of Drummondville. He takes a lot of pride in the replacement of Major Heriot's tombstone and the design of the Place FGH triptych, which both highlight Drummondville's early history. We congratulate him for the 24 years he has devoted to the Foundation as director, vice-president, and president of the Board, during which he prioritized the historical approach in his projects and writing for the Foundation's benefit.



Leonard Desfosses.
Photo : Danielle Veilleux
Desfosses, 2025.

A HUGE THANKS TO NICOLE BIRON!

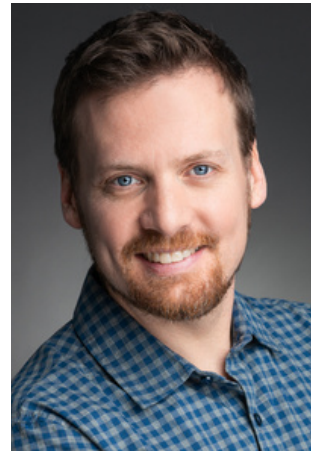
In December 2024, Nicole Biron concluded the three years of volunteer work she committed to invest as treasurer of the Foundation, a role she had been assuming since January 2022. She has been an invaluable asset to the Foundation, as she helped not only with bookkeeping for our organization's operations, but also with the administration of income and expenses for the Church's restoration work. We applaud the rigour and honesty she displayed in the performance of her duties, which have been instrumental for the Foundation.



Nicole Biron.
Photo : Jacques Munger, 2025.

A HUGE THANKS TO ANDREW RYAN !

Andrew, Project Agent for Culture and Heritage at CASE-MCQ, joined the Board of Directors in January 2024. He also helped the Events Committee members organize the May 23 concert with the Cégep de Drummondville. Andrew is the mastermind behind the relocation project of CASE-MCQ's offices to St. George's Hall. Since his resignation in summer 2024, Andrew is no longer a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. We wish to thank him for his enthusiasm and invaluable collaboration.



Andrew Ryan.
Photo : Andréanne Brouillette,
2024

THE 2025 ST. GEORGE'S NEWLETTER

Editor: Johanne Jutras

Articles written by: Katherine Archer, Andréanne Brouillette, Nicole Biron, Eléonore Guité, Johanne Jutras, and François Nichols

English translation and layout: CASE-MCQ.

French linguistic revision: Nicole Guibault-Peacock

Photographs: Katherine Archer, Johanne Jutras, Danielle Veilleux Desfosses, Ghyslaine Bergeron, Andréanne Brouillette, Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec, Luc LeClerc, and Jacques Munger

Website:

<https://fondation-st-george.org/>

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Fondation-de-L'Eglise-StGeorge/100064983120165/>

You can receive the St. George's Newsletter electronically by sending your request to: secretary.stgeorgefoundation@cgocable.ca.