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MUNICIPALITY OF FRANKLIN REACHES RESOLUTION WITH OWNERS OF DORÉA SITE

Popular with curious youngsters and ghost hunters alike, the Doréa site is to be either sold or demolished by September 2017.



STÉPHANIE MCBRIDE
info@stephmcbride.com

HISTORY. On September 19th, the Municipality of Franklin passed a resolution concerning the Doréa site, giving current owners Les Immeubles Dandurand Inc. one year to either sell the property or demolish it, at the cost of the company.

According to Director General François Gagnon, the owners of the buildings that make up the area formerly known as Doréa Institute are cooperating, providing the municipality with updates every two months. According to councillor Douglas Brooks, the reasons for this decision are largely motivated by public security. At least 20 arrests have been made on site, to date.

Closed in 1995, The Doréa Institute has become a hub for youngsters and ghost hunters alike. It is made up of approximately ten visible buildings, as well as a number of smaller buildings in the woods, including a sizeable barn. According to Gagnon, the family is trying to sell the smaller buildings located on the north of Covey Hill Road, but have encountered some difficulties due to the location of the site's water source, which is attached to the main building. On first glance, the site is in ruin, but there is a certain beauty to its starkness. Purchased by Les Immeubles Dandurand Inc in the nineties, the building has fallen prey to vandals, who have inflicted considerable damage to the site.

There is a cloud of mystery that surrounds the site known to locals as Doréa. A quick Google search will bear few facts—instead, research inquiries are flooded with a series of



Doréa as it stands today. Stéphanie McBride

haunting photographs taken by trespassers. This is unfortunate, as the building was originally established around 1954 as a site of positive endeavor by priests Roger Roy and Albini Girouard (La Presse, August 2015), serving as a sanctuary for a number of children who have since been dubbed "Duplessis Orphans". In the 80s, the home operated as a group home for the intellectually challenged. One source familiar with the site when it was in operation claimed that the patients seemed well taken care of (at

this point, the site was managed by the Les Services de Réadaptation du Sud-Ouest et du Renfort (SRSOR)).

Of course, the better known part of this story may be the site's correlation to the afore mentioned Duplessis Orphans, a group of approximately 20,000 orphaned children who were falsely deemed "mentally ill" by the former Premier of Quebec, Maurice Duplessis. The former Premier, a strict Catholic, confined these children to psychiatric institutions run by the Catholic Church in

the 40s and 50s for fiscal reasons (many of these children were perfectly healthy—they had simply born out of wedlock, orphaned or abandoned). The government of Quebec has since offered the 1500 qualifying survivors a settlement, accepted in 2001. «[The Duplessis Orphans] accepted the offer unanimously but with a very clear message, that even if this offer is insufficient, they are accepting it because they are reaching the ends of their lives," wrote writer Bruno Roy (Toronto Star, July 2001).

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STÉPHANIE MCBRIDE
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HISTORY. If I'm being honest, I only discovered Instagram last year. As an avid fan of Pinterest, I was taken with the imagery—but I wondered why everybody's houses were so neat. I'm a tidy person (ask anyone) but how is there nothing on the counters in these photos? Do they hide everything and then tell their children to look immersed in said activity?

I look at my own kids, and I'm like, what is all over your face? Just red marker, mom, some dog hair, and dried up milk, for good measure. Just ignore us and go back to writing your novel about mermaids and try not to be concerned that everything is out of control. All of my impromptu photos would simply make it look like our family has random Papier-Maché parties all the time. Unsuccessful ones.

So I gave up trying to take nice pictures of the kids (being super private, I don't love posting photos of the kids online anyway), and have decided to focus on the farm that we're building, ever so slowly. I'm going to try and take photos of the farm and see how that goes. Of course, quite a bit of poop will make its way into these photos, but since it's not human poop, I really don't think anyone will notice.

Photo One: Later today, I'm going to run outside and help my sister-in-law stuff about ten laying hens into empty diaper boxes so that she can add to her flock (she has somehow, without meaning to, initiated a sort of retirement home for elderly laying hens). I still have four roosters, so the unloading of some of my hens while they adjust to being cooped up inside for the winter might be a bit of a problem. And on that note, does anybody want a Silkie Rooster? I have two and they are very friendly—they don't even fight with each other. Please help!!



THIS AND THAT IN TOWN

THE HUNTINGDON FAIR AGM

The Huntingdon Fair will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:30 P.M. at the Brasserie du Village in Huntingdon. Everyone is welcome.

EXPO ORMSTOWN AGM

The Annual Meetings for both Expo Ormstown and the Livestock Breeders Association will be held on Wednesday, December 14th at the Ormstown Curling Club at 7:00 P.M. All members, volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors and fair pass holders welcome.

FUNDRAISING CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

At 10:00 A.M. on December 17th, volunteers of Huntingdon's Little Green Library (4 Lorne St.) will be holding a bake sale to raise funds to cover the library's operating costs. You can show support by bringing homemade goodies to sell.

CHRISTMASTIDE CELEBRATION

St. Mark's Anglican Church on Gault St. Valleyfield will be celebrating Christmastide with a Carols & Lessons service with

Eucharist on Sunday, December 18th at 11 A.M. Everyone is welcome.

IN MEMORY

On behalf of the Vandor family, they would like to thank everyone who offered condolences to them for the passing of their mother, grandmother and great grandmother Agnes Vandor. Many thanks for all the cards, food and phone calls.

Tom, Shirley and family.

CORRECTION

Please note that the photo credit for Avalon Singers Prepare for Winter Concert goes to Peter Dahms and the photo was taken at Grove Hall.

NOTE:

If you or someone you know has an event that they would like to see promoted in the paper or in the This and That section, please send an email to info@stephmcbride.com. Please note that all advertising inquiries must be directed to The Gleaner's head office. Due to space constrictions, not all requests can be featured in the This and That.



Ormstown dresses up for the holidays. Stephanie McBride

Ormstown Hosts 7th annual Enchanted Christmas

A holiday tradition brings families out into the community for a day of Christmas fun—Santa included.

STEPHANIE MCBRIDE

info@stephmcbride.com

COMMUNITY. On Saturday, December 10th, the municipality of Ormstown got locals in the mood for the holidays with an enchanted Christmas.

The afternoon celebration included live music, grillades, a bouncy castle, face painting and horse-drawn carriage rides. Santa himself was on hand to listen to Christmas wishes,

alongside the Grinch. Ormstown merchants were in fine holiday spirits, handing out hot coffee, candy canes and Christmas cheer, while the youth started up a game of ball hockey. The sounds of bells could be heard throughout the town as two workhorses pulling a wagonload of locals made their way to the Chateauguay River and back.

In addition to the holiday cheer, a mailbox was set up outside eatery Express 57 to accept letters to Santa, while the Lion's Club held a door-to-door food drive.

A couple from Saint-Anicet achieve Canada-wide recognition

AGRICULTURE. Saint-Anicet agricultural producers France Brunet and Sylvain Gascon received Canada-wide recognition at a ceremony held in Niagara Falls on December 2nd.

Well known in the Haut-Saint-Laurent region, they were presented with the W.R. Motherwell award which is given to an individual or a couple for their outstanding leadership in promoting the values of excellence and progress in Canadian agriculture.

They were honoured with this award as part of the Canadian final for the Outstanding Young Farmer's competition.

France Brunet and Sylvain Gascon were accompanied by their five children, their children's partners and their granddaughters to accept this award. «It's important to highlight how proud we are to be farmers and to explain the positive aspects of our work. Throughout our career, we have often said: farmers are part of the solution, not the problem,» they said before an audience that included a number of former winners of the Outstanding Young Farmers of Canada National Recognition Awards competition.

«The Outstanding Young Farmers of Canada Program has changed our lives. This is a group of farmers in all types of production and from all over Canada who form an invaluable network of contacts that are both professional and personal,» added Sylvain Gascon.

Gascon and Brunet have won this distinction for their ability to bring public awareness, whenever there is opportunity, to the reality of farming in Québec. Sylvain Gascon, who was President of the OYF Awards competition between 2007 and 2009, has also brought his considerable expertise to promoting agro-environmental practices.

The first francophone to head the Canadian component of the OYF, his mandate was notable for the expansion of bilingualism within the organization. The couple from Saint-Anicet have also been recognized for their visit to some 70 agricultural businesses during a three month trip to Western Canada to learn about and share innovative practices in agriculture.

They are the second family from the Haut-Saint-Laurent to win the prestigious W.R. Motherwell prize since it was established 11 years ago. William and Lynn Bryson from Ormstown also won this award in 2006. (M.P.-C.J.)



France Brunet and Sylvain Gascon are involved in the Outstanding Young Farmers competition.

Photo TC Média Gracieuseté

Avalon Singers
Pamela Selkirk, Director
Mozart Vespers
Pergolesi Magnificat
with chamber orchestra
Saturday, December 17,
2016, 8:00 p.m.
Grove Hall
165 rue Châteauguay, Huntingdon
\$15.00

BEST WISHES

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you happy holidays as well as happiness and prosperity for 2017

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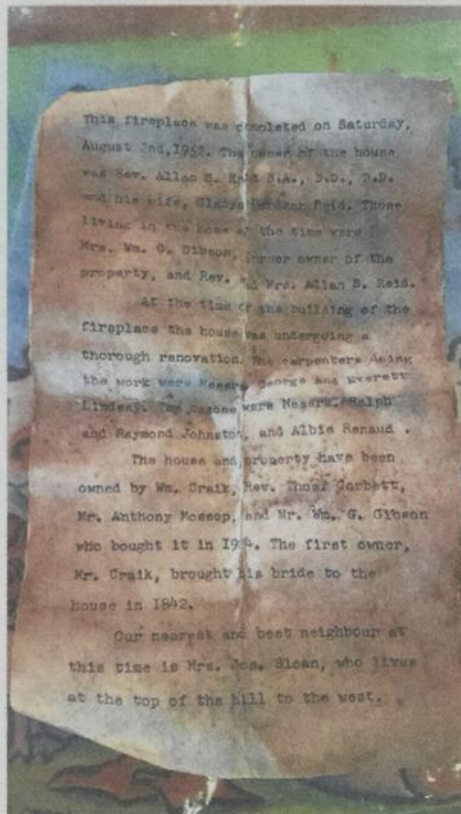
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The County of Rockburn Rich in History

The local church is the only remnant of a bustling town.



Letter found in chimney of Rockburn residence composed in 1952. Marie Shewchuk



STÉPHANIE MCBRIDE
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CULTURE. Driving through Rockburn on any given day, one's first impression of the tiny county usually has much to do with its considerable beauty and picturesque landmarks.

The Rockburn Presbyterian Church still stands in the center of Rockburn, while, with the exception of the Rockburn Pub, the rest of the territory is made up of well-maintained residences. Unless one was familiar with the history of the area, one would never guess that it was once a burgeoning center of commerce for the residents that occupied the area in the 1800s.

Stumbling upon a document penned by William G. Gibson in 1939 reflecting on Rockburn as it existed in 1860, it was shocking to read that the Mitchell Brook, which still runs through the county, was actually a larger body of water back then, powering five mills (six are on record, but no evidence can be found of the last). Included amongst these was the Stuart Grist Mill, Craig Carding Mill and the Macintosh Saw Mill. Also in business were two local blacksmiths, one of which set up shop next to the well-known bridge that straddles the brook today.

South of the church lay a tin shop, owned by W.A. Farquhar and James Olivier—a business that relocated to New York's Fort Covington, while a foundry was operated by the Steels and the Hendersons. A butter and cheese factory was also in operation, as well as two wheelwright shops, the first owned by James Meikle and the second by Alexander Rennie. The latter was later purchased by harness maker W.S. Jamieson.

There was, of course, a country store that operated using the bartering system and a talented stonemason (John Pollock) available to the residents, along with a tailor and a shoe shop. Rockburn, in all its tiny glory, had the components needed to make up a bustling town scene. These days, motor vehicles and the Internet have spread residents out a little further from one another, but this history gives you something to imagine as you drive through Rockburn's little gully. It might even make you wish that the world was a little smaller after all.

COMMUNITY



Donation for the Barrie Memorial Hospital Foundation

Again this year, the Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group has presented to the Barrie Memorial Hospital Foundation a very generous donation of \$2,000. The Foundation and his president Madeleine Greig are grateful for their continued support. Thank you! (M.P.) (Photo TC Media Gracieuseté)

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GREER Leslie
February 20, 1930
December 7, 2016

Suddenly on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016, husband of Mary (Reid) Greer; beloved father of Elizabeth (Thomas Mullins), Patricia, William (Paola) and David (Charmaine) and grandfather of five. Survived by his sister Lyla Ouimet and predeceased by his brothers Fred and Marvin. He will be missed by his nieces, nephews, family and friends. A memorial service was held on Dec. 12, 2016 at St. Paul's United Church, Ormstown. Donations in Leslie's memory may be made to the charity of your choice.

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McDonagh, Donald "Donnie"

The family of the late Donald "Donnie" McDonagh appreciate the outpouring of love and remembrance shared on his passing. Thank you to all our relatives, friends, and neighbours, who visited, attended the funeral at St. Joseph's Church, sent cards, mass-cards, on-line condolences, and other condolences by phone and in person, and who performed other special acts of kindness and support. Thank you to the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Huntingdon Legion for providing the lunch, and thanks to those who provided flowers and/or made charitable donations. We would like to especially thank Father Gabriel Clément for being a constant source of comfort, support, and wisdom; and for providing a most moving and inspiring Funeral Service, and prayers at the graveside. Thank you also to others who, by participating in their own special way, made the Celebration of Donnie's life so beautiful and meaningful. Our word of thanks could not be complete without mentioning the very kind guidance and professionalism of Mr. Jacques Montpetit and staff at Rodrigue Montpetit et Fils Funeral Home. In the medical field, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Raymond Lemieux and staff at the Huntingdon Medical Clinic, and the doctors and staff of both the Barrie Memorial Hospital and the Jewish General Hospital. Our gratefulness to all of you goes far beyond words.

With sincere appreciation and thanksgiving,
Janice, Marion and Ken

Rodrigue Montpetit et Fils inc.