

EXPOSITION 2018

La **Société d'histoire du Canton d'Orford** organisait ses premières activités publiques du 28 au 30 septembre 2018, dans le cadre des *Journées de la culture*. Un vernissage a eu lieu le 28 septembre, inaugurant une exposition de onze photomontages, illustrant l'histoire du canton au 19e et 20e siècle. Le vernissage et l'exposition se sont tenus au café Gratitude (aujourd'hui Bélania d'Amour). De courts textes rédigés en français et en anglais accompagnaient les tableaux permettant une mise en contexte.

Voyez quelques-uns de ces photomontages et leurs textes ici.



*The **Société d'histoire du Canton d'Orford** organised its first public activities the 28th to the 30th September 2018 as part of the *Journées de la culture*. The evening of the 28th was a gala opening of the exhibition of 11 photomontages representing the history of the township in the 19th and 20th century. Both the opening and the exhibition took place in the Café Gratitude (now Belania d'Amour). These photomontages were accompanied by short texts in both French and English, providing a context for them.*

See some of these photomontages and their texts here.

Le camp Jouvence

Situé à la pointe nord du lac Bonnallie (aujourd'hui nommé lac Stukely), le *Club House* du *Granby Fish and Game Club* est acheté par l'Archidiocèse de Sherbrooke en 1944. On y développera un « village étudiant » utilisé par plusieurs organismes dédiés à la jeunesse catholique. D'autres terres et bâtiments sont ajoutés au fil des ans. En 1960, plus de 750 filles et garçons du diocèse fréquentent ce camp pendant l'été, tout comme les Jeunes naturalistes de cette photo de 1967.

En 1970, une entreprise à but non-lucratif en prend la relève, et en 1976 la Base de plein air Jouvence naît. Actuellement, ce centre de villégiature, géré comme une entreprise d'économie sociale, est un établissement quatre saisons intégré au Parc national du Mont-Orford.



Photo : Fonds Marc Richard, Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke.

Jouvence Camp

In 1944, the Archdiocese of Sherbrooke purchased the lodge of the Granby Fish and Game Club, located at the northern end of Bonnallie Lake (now called lac Stukely). It created a "student village," used by several Catholic youth organizations. Additional land purchases and construction over the years generated a large summer camp. By 1960, over 750 girls and boys from the diocese attended Camp Jouvence in the summer, including the Young Naturalists shown here in 1967.

A non-profit corporation took over from the diocese in 1970 and the Base de plein air Jouvence was formed in 1976. The resort, operated as a social economy enterprise, has become a four-season establishment located within the Parc national du Mont-Orford.



Sherbrooke Daily Record
One quarry of the Orford Marble Company
 21 Mars 1964, p. 20

LABERGE, Jocelyn
 Carrière de marbre, *Quarry Marble*
 Chemin des Osmondes, Orford, 2018

JACOB, Henri-Louis
 Les gîtes de marbre du Québec, 1990

L'industrie minière au canton d'Orford

Plusieurs mines ont été exploitées dans le canton d'Orford. En 1905, l'une d'elles se situe sur les rangs F et A, à l'est du lac Bowker et près du lac de la Mine. Des dalles provenant de ses variétés de marbre vert et rouge ont été utilisées au Parlement d'Ottawa, au bureau de poste et au magasin Mozart de Sherbrooke, et au théâtre *Her Majesty's* à Montréal.

Sur cette photo de 1964, nous pouvons voir la carrière de la *Orford Marble Company*, appartenant à monsieur J-Léonce Simard, qui a exploité plusieurs des sites affichés sur cette carte. L'exploitation minière a cessé peu après, et la MRC de Memphrémagog l'a récemment limitée sur son territoire.

The mining industry in Orford Township

The Township has had several mines. Beginning in 1905 one was on the F and A ranges, just to the east of Bowker Lake and near the Lac de la Mine. Slabs of its varieties of green and red marble were used in the Parliament in Ottawa, the Post Office and Mozart Store in Sherbrooke, and Her Majesty's Theatre in Montreal.

This 1964 photograph shows one quarry of the Orford Marble Company, owned by J-Léonce Simard, which exploited several of the sites shown on the map. Mining ceased soon after, and the MRC Memphrémagog recently restricted mining on its territory.

Tourisme précoce au Canton d'Orford – le lac Bowker

Peu après la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, le lac Bowker devient une destination de vacances. C'est en 1947 qu'Omer-Chéri Bolduc y ouvre le casse-croûte et la salle de danse Bowker Star, ainsi que huit chalets de location. Un an plus tard, Émile Plante, qui possédait une ferme et une érablière au sud du lac, y construit l'Auberge des Érables. Au cours des années 1950, cet hôtel atteint une grande popularité. En 1963, dans l'érablière située en amont du lac, s'est lancé le centre de ski le Mont d'Érables.

Après que l'hôtel ait été complètement ravagé par les flammes en août 1971, les visiteurs se sont faits plus rares en raison du manque d'installations touristiques pour les recevoir. Aujourd'hui, la vie de chalet est devenue la norme autour d'un des plus beaux et des plus purs lacs du Québec.

Early tourism in the Township of Orford – Bowker Lake

After World War Two, Bowker Lake became a destination for holidays. In 1947, Omer-Chéri Bolduc opened the Bowker Star snack bar and dance hall plus eight rental cabins. A year later Émile Plante, who owned a farm and maple grove at the lake's southern end, established the Auberge des Érables. The hotel's popularity grew through the 1950s. In 1963, the Mont d'Érables ski centre was launched in the maple grove above the lake.

When the hotel burned to the ground in August 1971, however, Bowker Lake was left with no tourist facilities. Cottage living became the norm all around one of Quebec's most pristine and beautiful lakes.



Photographe inconnu
Unknown photographer
Auberge des Érables, lac Bowker.
CA 1955

LÉGARÉ, J. Albert (2 photos)
Lac Bowker, Qué. CA 1955

Vue du lac Bowker de l'Auberge des Érables
View of Lac Bowker from Augerge des Érables. CA 1955



Photo : LARIVÉE, Bertrand
L'île du Lac-à-la-Truite ceinturée de pneus / *The island of the Lac-à-la-Truite circled by tires*
CA 1987

Les traces d'un passé moins écologique

Durant les années 1960 jusqu'au début des années 1990, les embarcations à essence étaient chose courante au Lac-à-la-Truite. Ces embarcations causaient énormément d'érosion aux berges de l'île, d'autant plus que s'y tenaient des régates illégales. Comme vous pouvez le remarquer sur la photo prise vers 1987, le pourtour de cette île était complètement ceinturé de vieux pneus afin d'en préserver le plus possible les rives.

Depuis le début des années 1990, seules les embarcations à moteur électrique sont acceptées sur ce lac. Des corvées de reboisement ont été entreprises afin de redonner à l'île son aspect naturel. Par contre, les vieux pneus sont toujours présents sous le couvert végétal.

Reminders of a less ecological time

From the 1960s until the early 1990s, gasoline-powered motorboats were all the rage on Lac-à-la-Truite, causing substantial erosion of the shores of its island. Illegal regattas organized on the lake only magnified the problem. This photo from about 1987 shows the island's shores completely covered by used tires to protect them from the boats' wakes.

Beginning in the early 1990s, only boats with electric motors were allowed on the lake. Planting by several work parties restored the natural appearance of the island. Nonetheless, beneath the new vegetation the old tires are still there.

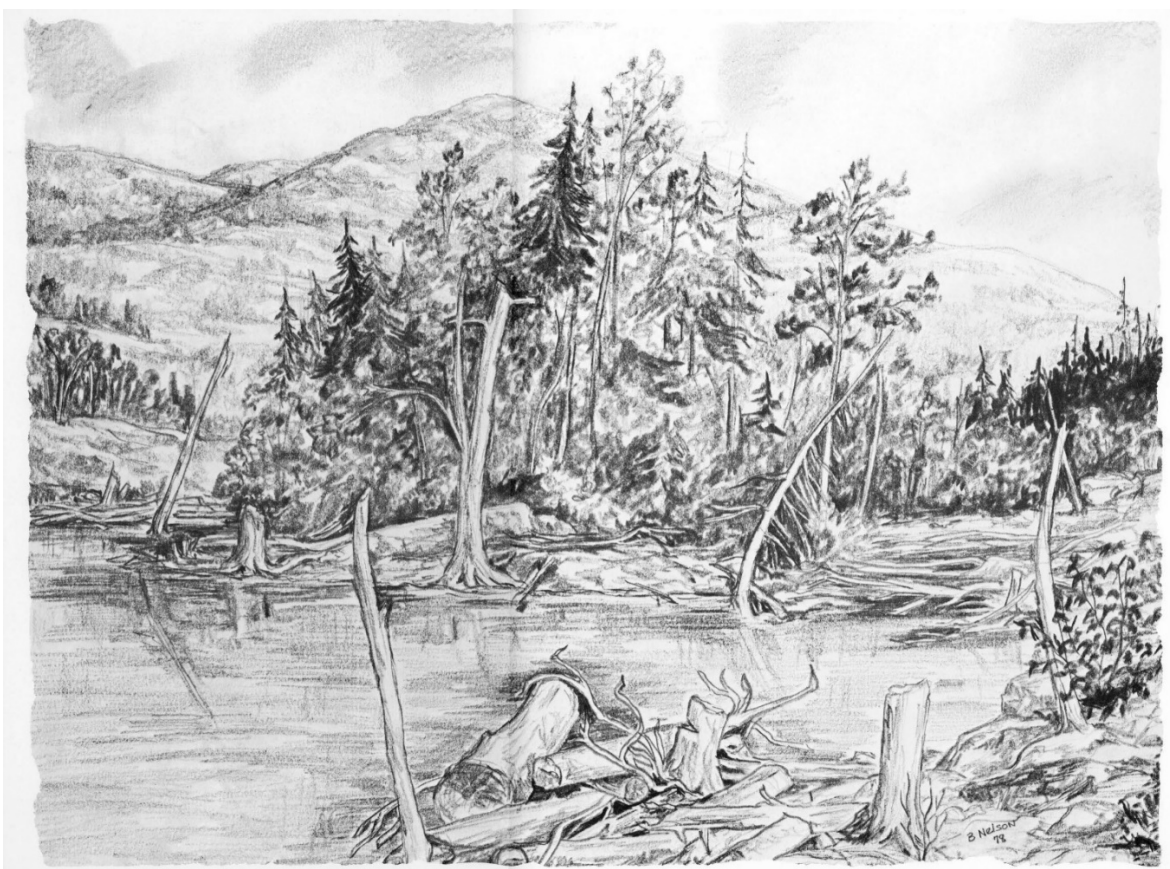


Illustration :

B. Nelson, *Eastern Townships. View of the Mont Orford*, Centre de ressources pour l'étude des Cantons-de-l'Est (CRCE) P998

Mont Orford, art et littérature

Depuis le 19^{ième} siècle, de nombreux artistes ont admiré les paysages estriens, et surtout le mont Orford. Cette gravure de Nelson (1878) est un exemple parmi plusieurs. Les créateurs littéraires ont aussi célébré les liens entre le monde naturel et les activités humaines. Dans son recueil le plus connu, *À l'ombre de l'Orford*, Alfred DesRochers nous démontre son attachement à la nature et son admiration envers les bâtisseurs de sa région. Fils de cultivateur, né en 1901 à Saint-Élie-d'Orford, il est journaliste à *La Tribune* de Sherbrooke (1925-42; 1946-52). Il décède en 1978. En reconnaissance des liens entre les arts et les paysages, un des sommets du mont Orford porte son nom.

Orford Mountain in Art and Literature

*Since the 19th century many artists have admired the landscapes of the Eastern Townships, above all Orford Mountain. Nelson's etching from 1878 is but one example. Writers also celebrated the interconnections between nature and human activity in the Townships. In his best-known volume of poetry, *À l'ombre de l'Orford*, Alfred DesRochers reveals his attachment to nature and his admiration for those who built his region. Born the son of a farmer in 1901 in Saint-Élie-d'Orford, he was a journalist for *La Tribune* of Sherbrooke (1925-42; 1946-52). He died in 1978. In recognition of the ties between the arts and the landscape, one of the peaks of Mont Orford carries his name.*

CHERRY RIVER

Vers 1920 *About 1920*



Photographe inconnu / *Unknown photographer*
Collection privée de Mme Juanita McKelvey.

British American Land Company (BALCo)

Fondée à Londres en 1832, par des hommes d'affaires londoniens et montréalais, la BALCo obtient pour presque rien des terres de la Couronne comprises entre la rivière Saint-François, le lac Mégantic, la rivière Chaudière et la frontière canado-américaine. Son siège social est situé à Sherbrooke. Elle doit coloniser les cantons de l'Est en recrutant des Écossais, des Irlandais et des Anglais. Le parti Patriote et l'Assemblée du Bas-Canada dénonceront une politique d'assimilation. Rapidement, des spéculateurs s'emparent des plus belles terres ; la BALCo ne respecte pas ses engagements de construire des routes, des églises et d'enregistrer les transactions. La colonisation ralentit avec la Rébellion de 1837. La BALCo croule sous les dettes. Elle ouvre alors la colonisation des cantons de l'Est aux Canadiens-français. L'industrialisation dans la dernière partie du XIXe siècle voit la mise en valeur de l'énergie hydraulique et l'arrivée du chemin de fer. La BALCo redevient prospère, si bien qu'au tournant du XXe siècle, la population des cantons passera de majoritairement anglophone à majoritairement francophone. La British American Land Company poursuivra ses activités jusqu'en 1948.

British American Land Company (BALC)

Founded in London in 1832 by London and Montreal businessmen and with its head-office in Sherbrooke, the BALC acquired crown lands between the Saint-François river, Lac Mégantic, the Chaudière river and the US border practically for nothing. Its business was to colonize the Eastern Townships by recruiting Scottish, Irish and English settlers. The parti Patriote and the Lower Canada Legislative Assembly denounced this as an assimilationist strategy. Speculators rapidly grabbed the best land and the BALC reneged on its commitment to build roads and churches and to register all land transfers. The Rebellion of 1837 slowed down colonization. Crippled by debt, the BALC then opened the Townships to French Canadians. Towards the end of the 19th century, industrialization brought hydro-electricity, railroads, and the return of the BALC's prosperity, such that by the start of the 20th century the majority of the population of the Townships had shifted from Anglophone to Francophone. The BALC closed down in 1948.

L'affiche sur la page suivante remplace celle qui fut présentée, cette dernière n'étant plus disponible.

This poster on the next page replaces the one originally displayed and no longer available.

Source :

[To emigrants and natives in search of lands for settlement](#) : Digital Archive : Toronto Public Library

TO
EMIGRANTS AND NATIVES
IN SEARCH OF
LANDS
FOR SETTLEMENT.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY, incorporated by Royal Charter, and Act of Parliament, offer for sale, a number of FARMS, partly cleared and cultivated, and ready for immediate occupation. TOWN LOTS, and MILL SITES, and seven hundred thousand acres of WILD LAND, in portions of any extent from fifty acres, upwards. These properties are situated in the District of Saint Francis, in the Eastern Townships on the SOUTH SIDE OF CANADA, one of the most beautiful, fertile, healthy portions of British America. They are held under the Soccage Tenure, direct from the Crown, and free of all Feudal burden whatsoever.

These Townships are centrally situated at a distance of from Fifty to Eighty miles, from Quebec and Montreal. They are well watered every where, possessed of excellent roads, and diversified with pretty lakes and fishy streams and rivers. The soil is equal in fertility to that of any part of the Continent, the appearance of the Country is highly picturesque, and the climate is eminently salubrious. There are Saw and Grist Mills, Mechanic's Shops, Smiths, Foundry, Woollen Manufactory, Academies, Schools, Churches of all denominations, and a College is being built. Every description of Grain and Root Crops cultivated in Great Britain is found to succeed well in this district, and Corn, Cattle, Horses, Sheep and Pigs, are raised with great advantage, as articles of export to the neighbouring sea port Towns.

The Company sell their lands at very reasonable prices, and on an indulgent credit, six years being allowed to pay up the annual instalments. To such persons as can prepay thirty dollars, the first instalment of a lot or farm of 100 acres, they grant A FREE TRANSPORT for their FAMILIES and LUGGAGE not (exceeding 8 cwt.) from MONTREAL, QUEBEC, or the ST. LAWRENCE to SHERBROOKE; and, if on arrival there, they think they can do better than purchase from the Company, they will return them the money, retaining only the proportion of it actually expended on themselves. To such persons of respectable character as have come out under the present depression and have no money, they grant permission on credit to settle on new land, and to form at once an independent family home, in which case NO MONEY IS REQUIRED DOWN; they sell most excellent settling land at about ten shillings per acre, and when the price is paid, they give at the Company's expense, a warranted freehold Title, which, when enregistered, becomes the most free and sure holding under the Crown.

There is, generally, a fair demand for hired labour in these Townships, at good wages both for men and women, the Gosford road affords present employment for destitute emigrants; and parents blessed with large families, can generally subsist themselves and half their children by the hire of the other half, during the first winter, while they are clearing and preparing for crop, the lot which they may have selected, from the Company on Credit, as their future family home.

The Company's property is accessible by the roads from Quebec, Montreal and Sorel, but the route most easily travelled at present is that from Port Saint Francis through Drummondville to Melbourne and Sherbrooke, &c. The stage fare is about 3d. per mile, and the cartage of furniture is 3s. 9d. per cwt. to Sherbrooke or nearly a half-penny per mile for each cwt. The Company have Agents in the several sections of the District itself, as well as at the ports of landing, for the convenient local sale of land, and for the advice, protection, and encouragement of their settlers. Further particulars may be learned on application at the Company's head office in Sherbrooke, or to the Company's Agents, Mr. C. M. Hyndman, Quebec; Mr. James Court, Commissioner Street, Montreal; Mr. Hayden, Sorel; Mr. Smith Leith, Port St. Francis; Mr. G. L. Marler, Nicolet and Drummondville; Mr. Tait, Melbourne; Mr. Wood, Shefford; Mr. Lyman, Granby; Mr. Foss, Eaton; and Mr. Hubbard, Stanstead.

Quebec Emigrant Agency Office of
The British American Land Company, }
20th June, 1842.