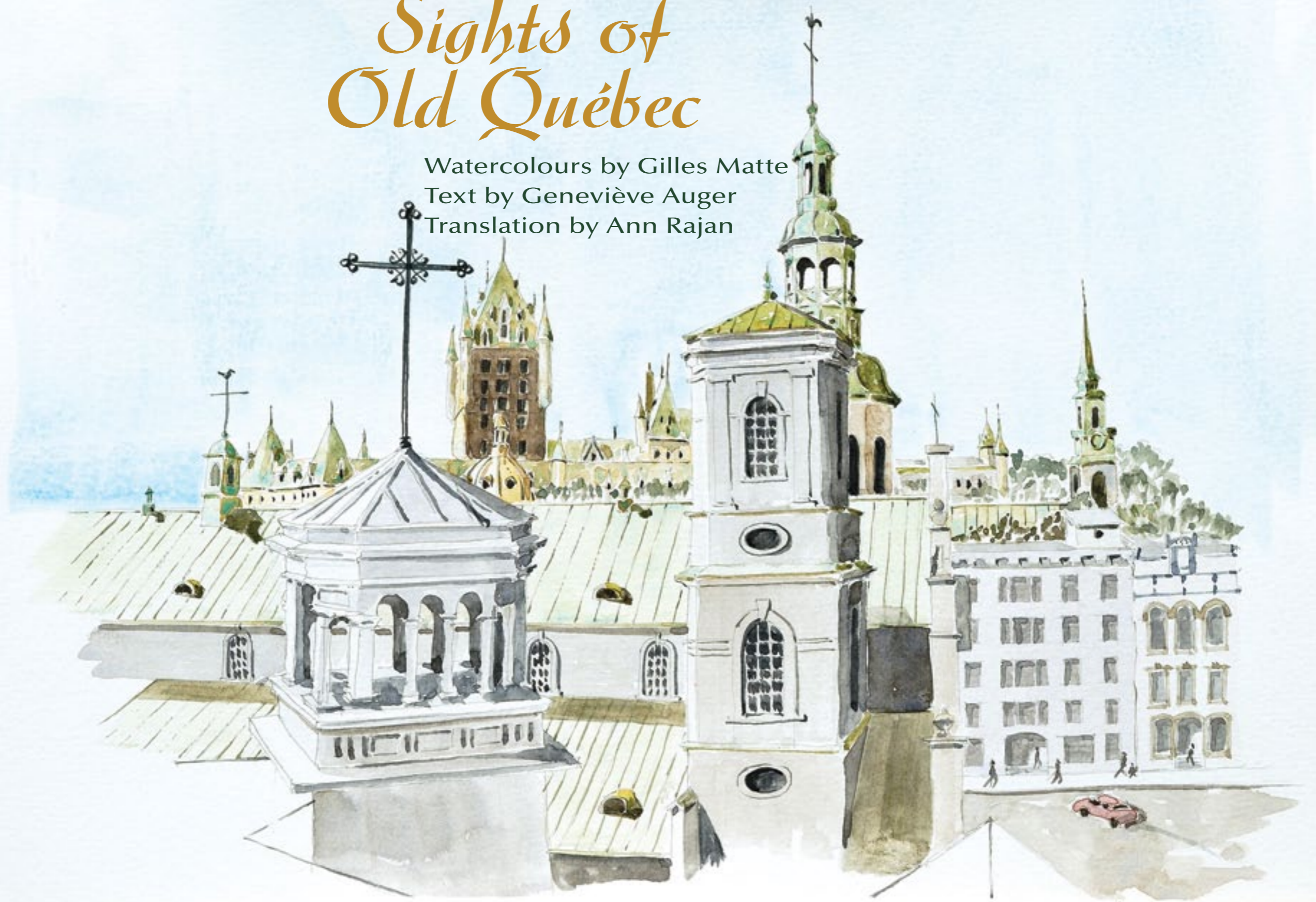


Sights of Old Québec

Watercolours by Gilles Matte
Text by Geneviève Auger
Translation by Ann Rajan



*Sights of
Old Québec*




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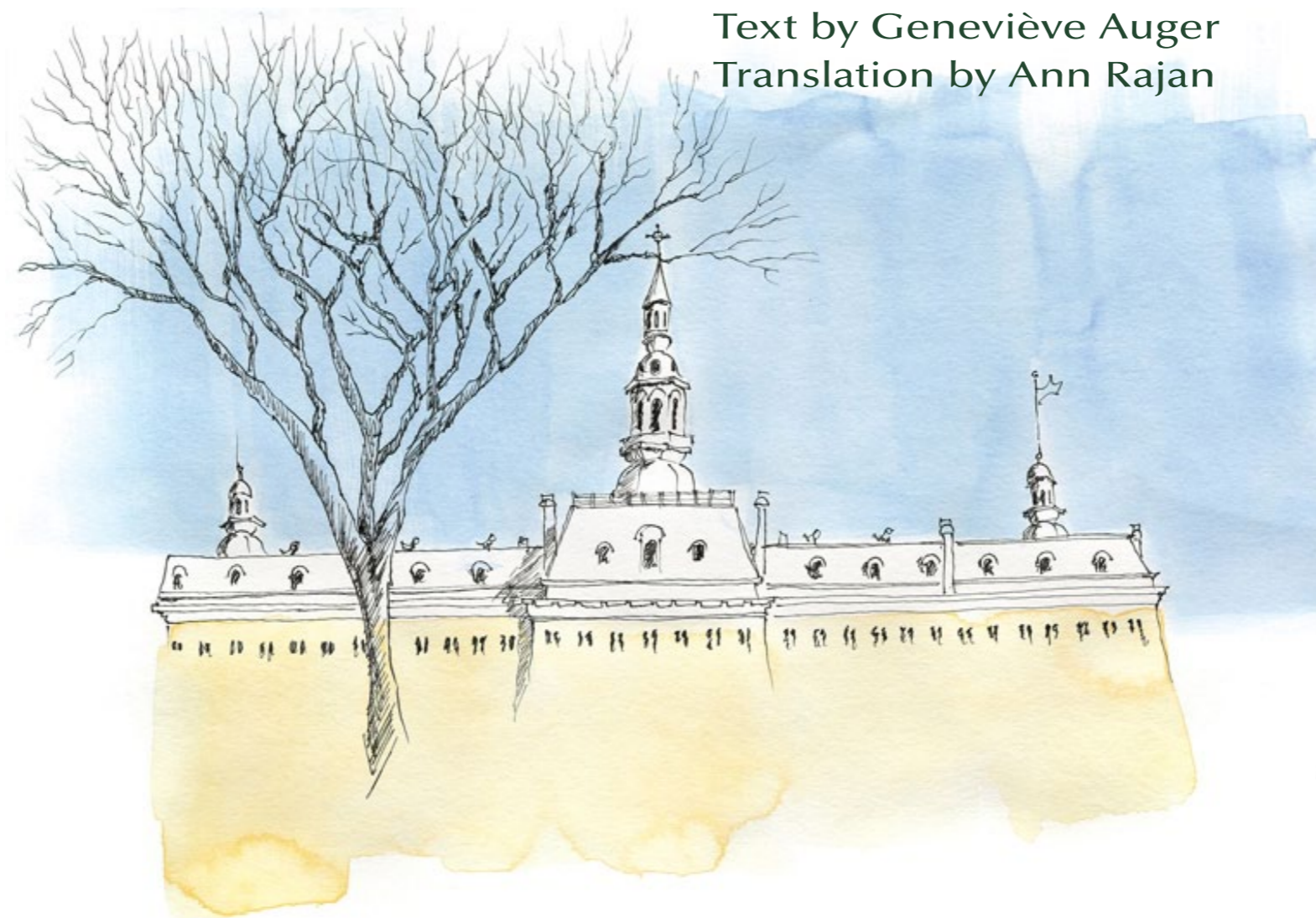
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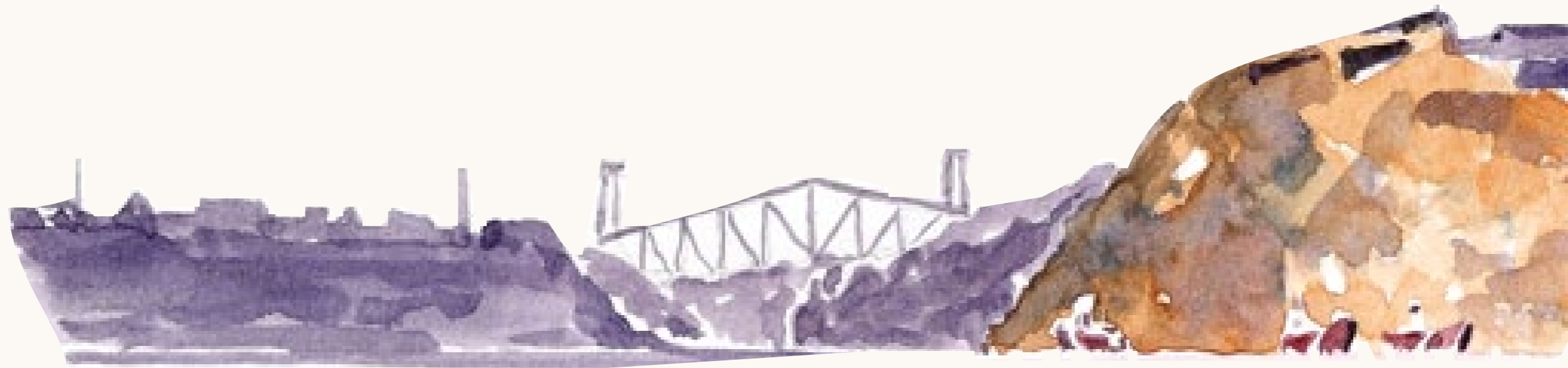
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Les heures
bleues

SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



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These sketches of Québec are dedicated to Frederick Temple Blackwood, Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, better known as Lord Dufferin. Through his judicious efforts, the fortified town escaped the menacing rush of demolition at the end of the 19th century. Without his vision and foresight, Old Québec would not exist as we know it today.



*M*y first contact with Old Québec dates back to my childhood. As a pupil at the École Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague, located just outside the fortifications, I could see from the playgrounds the somewhat fearsome sight of the ramparts dotted with gloomy posterns (gateways). A twinge of fear would grip me as I ran to fetch a wayward ball, lost in the huge ditch along the wall. And the pungent scent of malt from the nearby Boswell breweries lent added risk to the expedition.

During my classical studies at the Académie de Québec, in the heart of Old Québec, I would escape at lunch hour to explore the surrounding area. With a couple of bold companions, we would venture to the top of the Price Building, explore the nooks and crannies of the Château Frontenac,



or even the Citadel's medieval maze. Sometimes our curiosity took us as far as rue Sous-le-Cap and rue Petit-Champlain, which were considerably less hospitable back then!

*I*n 1963, I had the privilege to study at Université Laval's École d'architecture during its final year located on Mont-Carmel street, just steps from the Music Conservatory. I still have vivid memories of time spent drawing the architecture of the old city, hunched over my drawing board well into the night, the 99-

cent lunches at Café de la Paix, the 5 o'clock beer at the Clarendon Hotel's Chapelle tavern. For me these memories and impressions slowly merged with the city's history.

I cannot help but be moved by the enduring traces and revelations of a particular building or landscape.



Every street corner calls to mind a notable figure of history along with the lesser known, interwoven in the soft passage of time. And of course the St. Lawrence river, ever present, so intimately linked to the city and its memories!

And so, through sketches and watercolours, I humbly join hundreds of fellow artists to celebrate the beauties of Québec City since its founding. In touching some of the most poignant qualities of its personality, I too have become part of this “great lady”. These notebooks are my personal sights of Old

Québec. Venturing a little beyond the historic district, they offer you “snapshots” among many that are dear to my heart. I hope you too may feel similarly inspired to render your own itinerary of sights and discoveries.

GILLES MATTE

- a-1: Porte Durnford
- a-2: Porte Dalhousie
- a-3: Redoute du Cap-Diamant
- a-4: l'Observatoire
- a-5: le Bastion du Roy
- a-6: le Bastion Prince-de-Galles
- b-1: Porte St-Louis
- b-2: Porte Dauphine
- b-3: Porte St-Jean
- c: Parlement du Québec
- d: Fontaine de Tourny
- e: église Chalmers-Wesley
- f: Place d'Youville
- g: Redoute Dauphine
- h: Cavalier-du-Moulin
- i: Château Frontenac
- j: Château et Fort St-Louis
- k: Cathédrale Holy Trinity
- l: Monastère des Ursulines
- m: édifice Price
- n: Hôtel-de-Ville
- o: Basilique de Québec

- p: Séminaire de Québec
- q: Chaussée des Écossais
- r: Côte de la Montagne
- s: Place-Royale
- t: Place de la F.A.O.
- u: rue de la Barricade



tour Martello no:1

0 250 mètres
Plan du Vieux-Québec

*I*t all started here..." These words welcome the many tourists who visit Place-Royale. A mark in the pavement in front of the Église Notre-Dame-des-Victoires entrance denotes the northwest turret of Samuel de Champlain's second residence built here in 1624, on the same site as his first "abitation", built in 1608, a small wooden fort comprising living quarters and a storehouse. Québec was initially a trading post for the French and native people who swapped trinkets for furs, a very lucrative market in Europe.

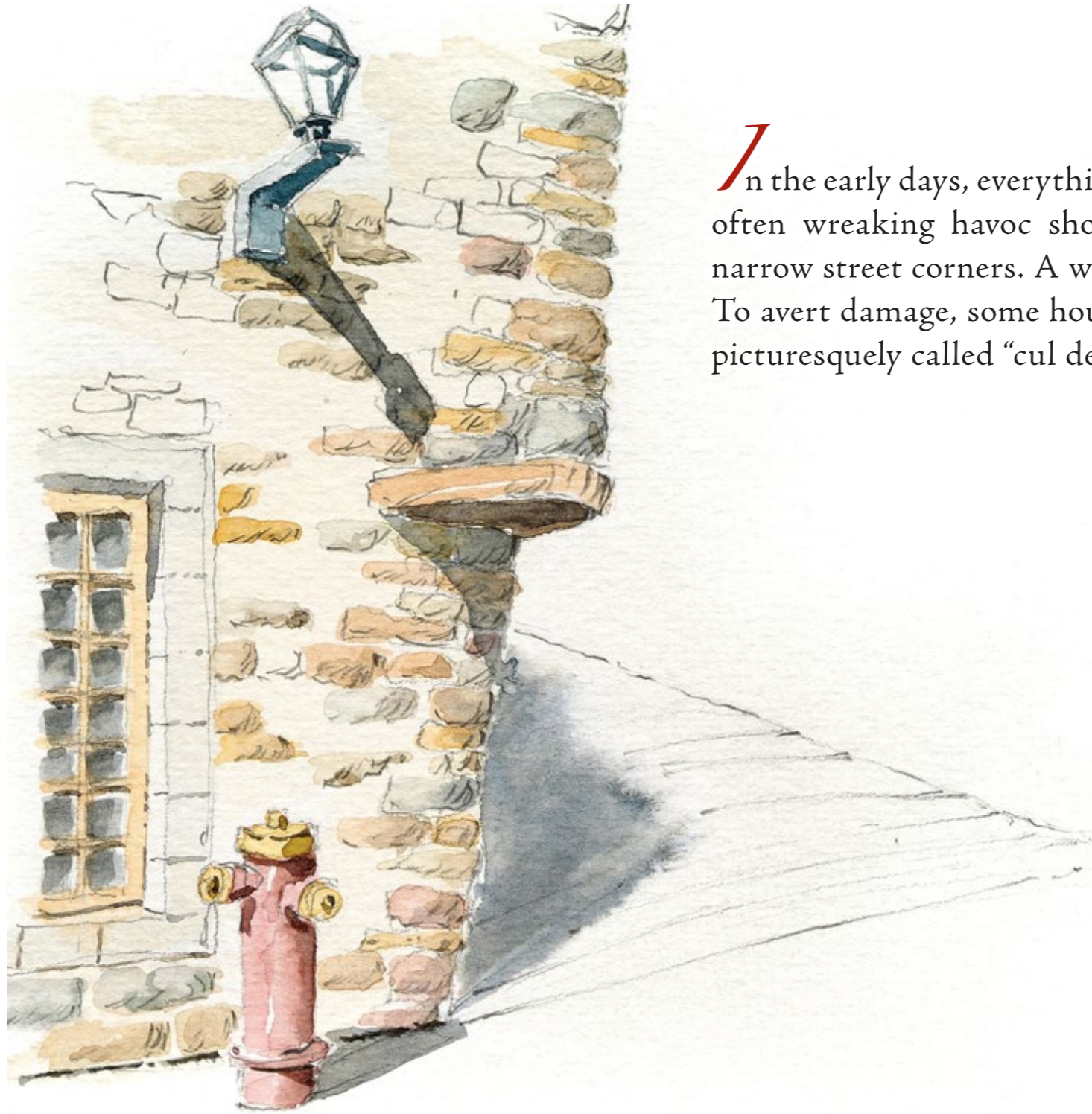




*U*nder the French Regime, most houses in Lower Town were inhabited by merchants who used the ground floor as their store, supplying all the New Colony's needs: dishes, glassware, food, clothing, blankets, nails, window panes, fishing tackle, pipes, furniture, gunflint, etc. The basements stored perishable foodstuffs such as cheese, oil, wine, molasses and ham. To deter would-be-thieves, the basement windows were fitted with ominous-looking bars, in French called "étripe-chats" ("cat disembowlers").



*H*ere at the place Royale, the focus is on the Sun King, just as at the turn of the 18th century.



In the early days, everything was transported in carts, or “charettes”, often wreaking havoc should two of them meet unexpectedly at narrow street corners. A wall or a wheel might well suffer the brunt. To avert damage, some houses were built with rounded corner walls picturesquely called “cul de poule” (“hen’s rear”).



*T*he battery in question is the Batterie Royale built in 1691 by Governor Frontenac in response to the worrisome siege waged by William Phips the previous year.

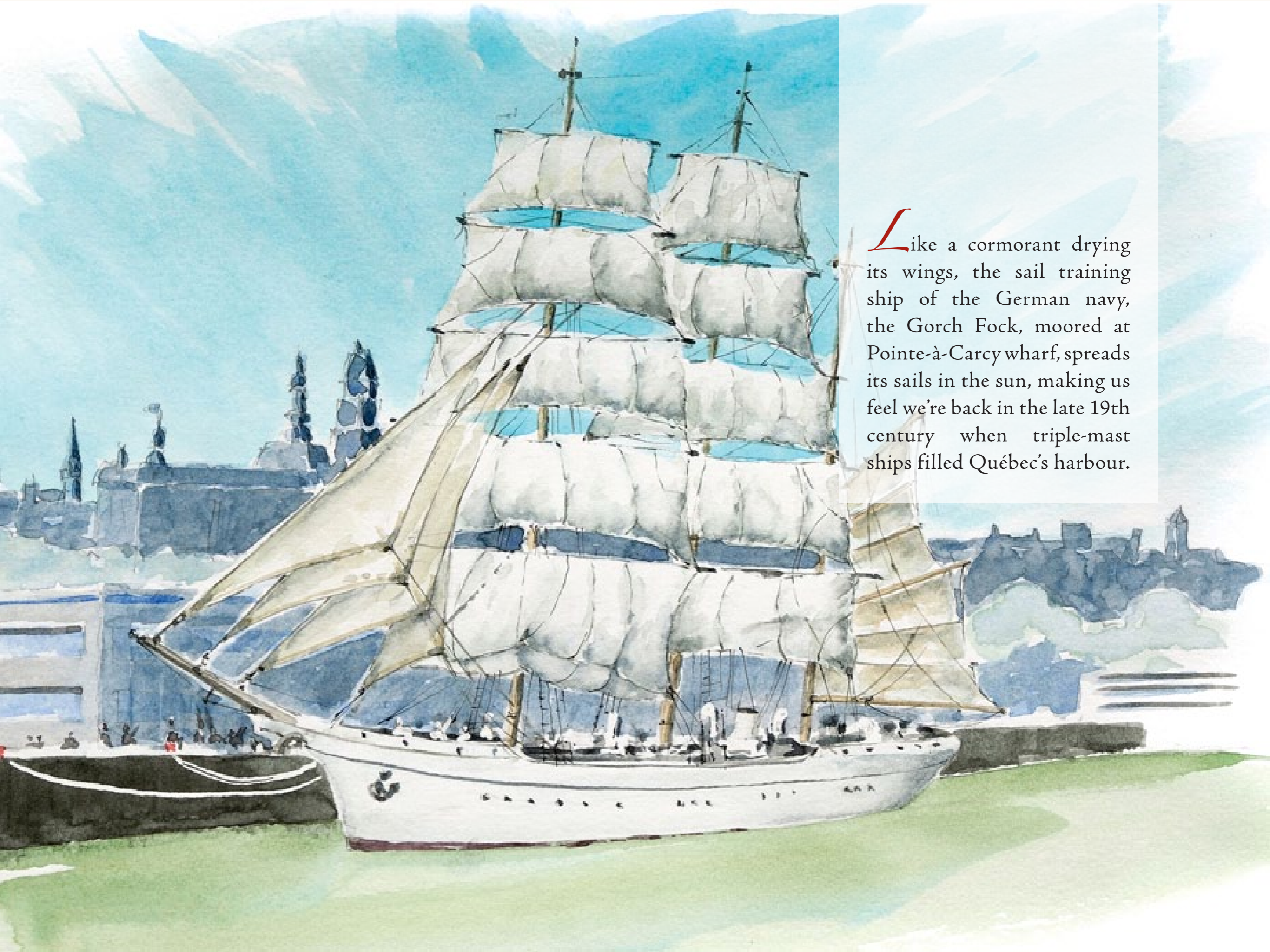





Linking rue Petit-Champlain, above, with Boulevard Champlain, below, the Cul-de-Sac staircase recalls the name of the very first port of Québec, with the bay forming a natural harbour, and the shoreline lying where the boulevard's sidewalks are today.

Artisans are tiling this roof Canadian style, a technique instigated around 1744 by Canada's chief engineer, Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry. Tin tiles were recovered and reworked. Later on, tin plate was imported from England. This form of roofing was very much in vogue for over a century, spurring Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau to write in 1853: "Many roofs are covered in tin tiles that shine like silver, recalling images straight out of *The Arabian Nights*".

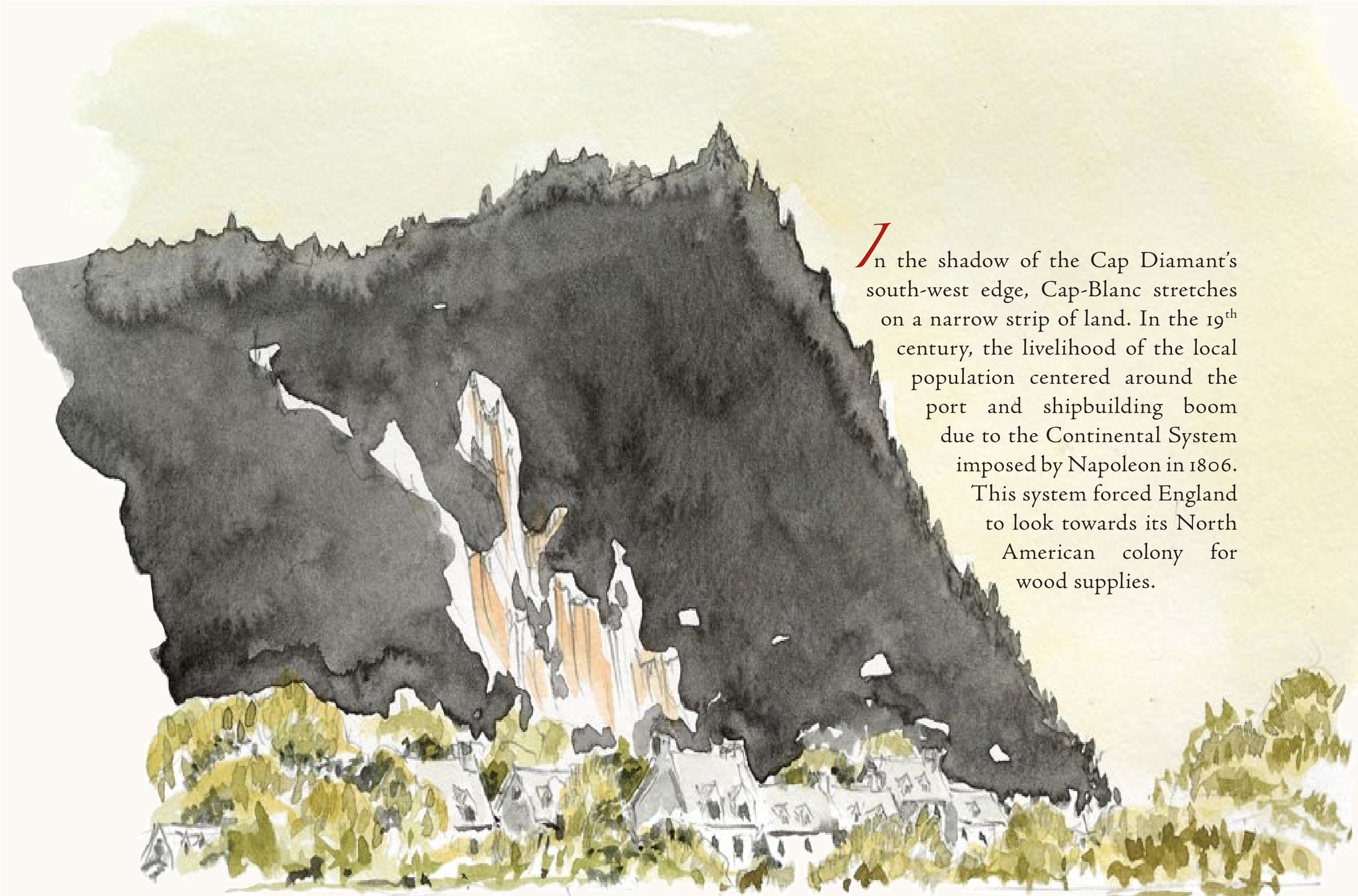




*L*ike a cormorant drying its wings, the sail training ship of the German navy, the Gorch Fock, moored at Pointe-à-Carcy wharf, spreads its sails in the sun, making us feel we're back in the late 19th century when triple-mast ships filled Québec's harbour.

A watercolor illustration of a harbor scene. In the foreground, a large white cruise ship with a dark hull is docked at a pier. A small sailboat with a white sail and a blue hull is in the water. The background features a row of buildings, including a prominent one with a green dome and another with a tall spire. Lush green trees are scattered throughout the scene. The sky is a light blue-green color.

*T*oday Québec City is a popular port of call for major cruise lines. The classic elegance of the Queen Elizabeth II enhances the vista.



*I*n the shadow of the Cap Diamant's south-west edge, Cap-Blanc stretches on a narrow strip of land. In the 19th century, the livelihood of the local population centered around the port and shipbuilding boom due to the Continental System imposed by Napoleon in 1806. This system forced England to look towards its North American colony for wood supplies.



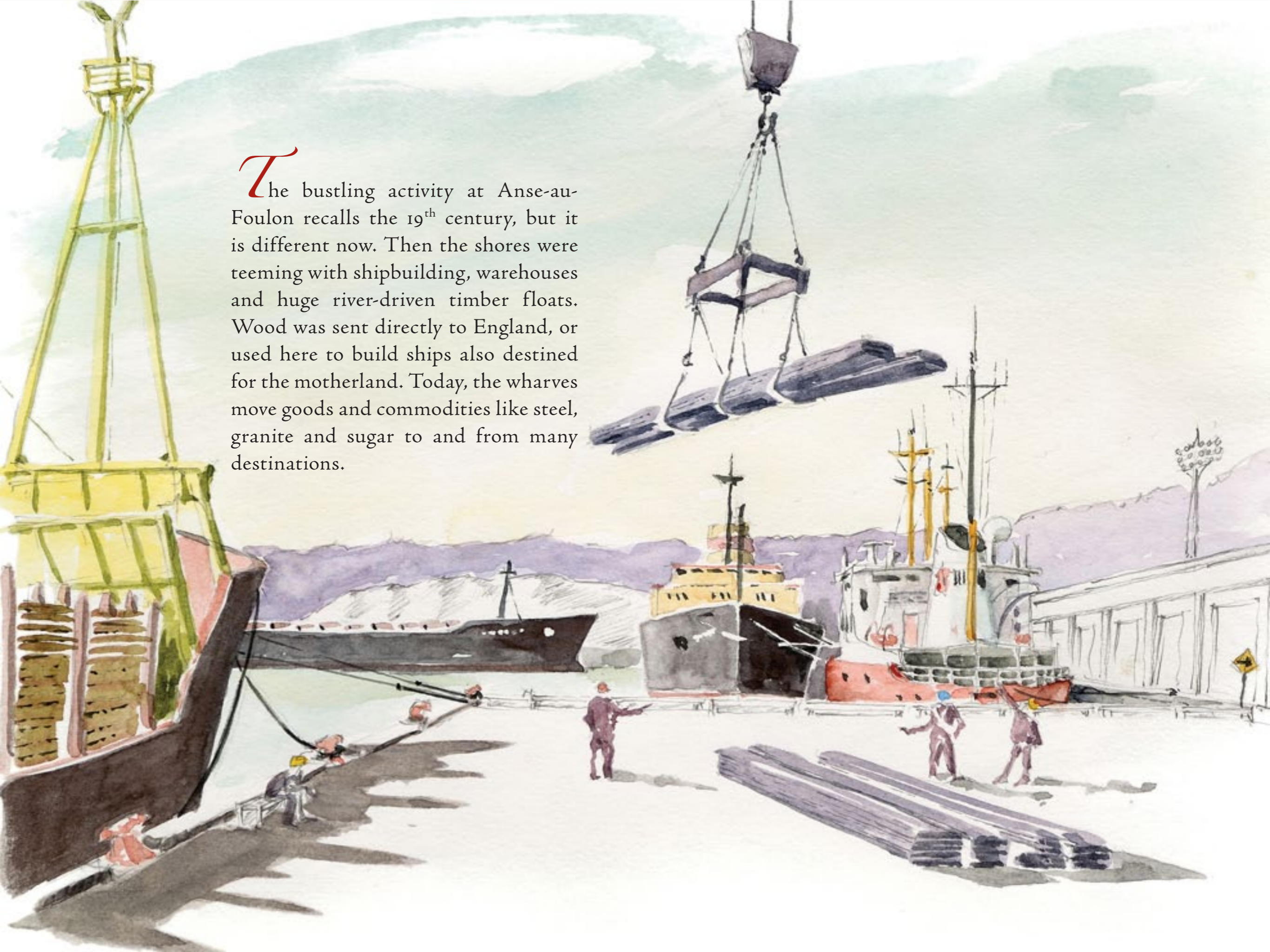
*T*his house was built in 1832 for James Hayden, a native of Wexford in Ireland. A wood merchant, trader and navigator, Hayden provided lodging for many a passing sailor. This house has now regained its original status as an inn.



*A*t Cap-Blanc, French Canadians and new Irish immigrants lived congenially side by side despite the occasional flare-up. In 1849, the Christian Brothers opened the Diamond Harbour School for sons of workers and stevedores from these two Catholic communities. This institution eventually merged with the Upper Town Irish school, founded six years earlier, to become Saint Patrick's School.



*T*he bustling activity at Anse-au-Foulon recalls the 19th century, but it is different now. Then the shores were teeming with shipbuilding, warehouses and huge river-driven timber floats. Wood was sent directly to England, or used here to build ships also destined for the motherland. Today, the wharves move goods and commodities like steel, granite and sugar to and from many destinations.





le grut du G&Hec est très recherché



SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



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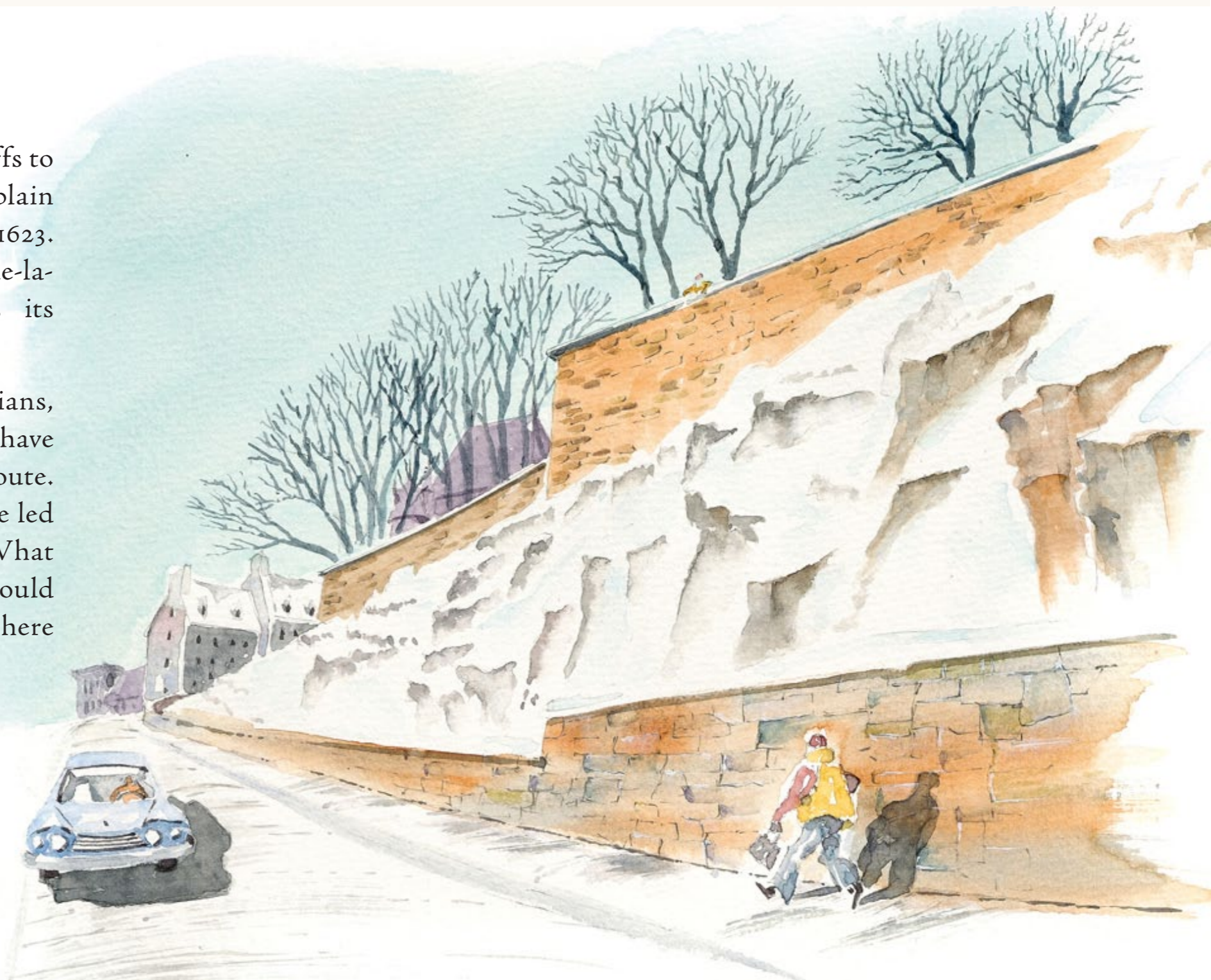


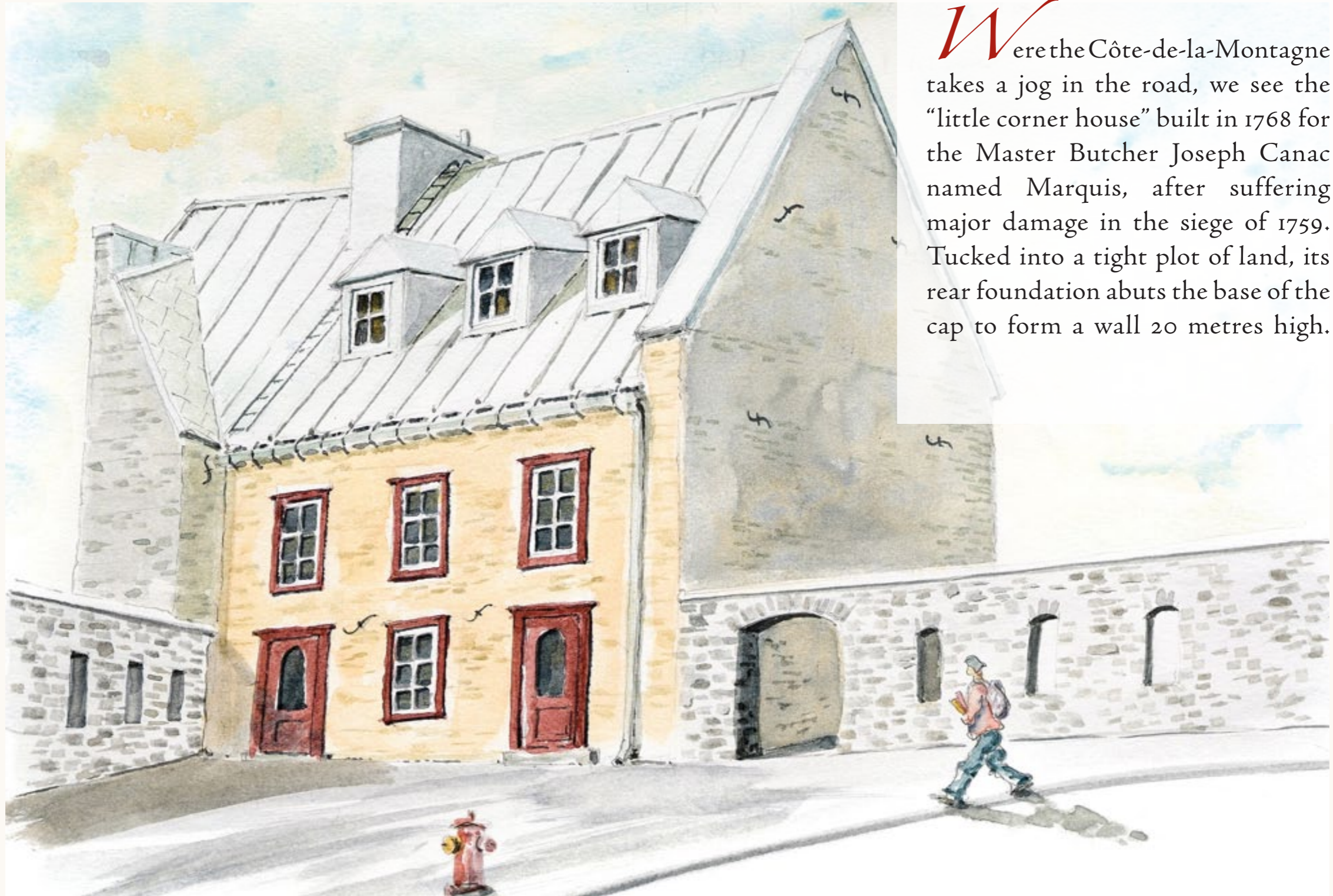
Summer buoys are lined up on the Coast Guard docks, awaiting repair, or ready to replace the next broken ones.



*T*he onerous climb up the cliffs to Fort Saint-Louis incited Champlain to create a driveable trail in 1623. Hence the origins of Côte-de-la-Montagne which still traces its founder's layout.

Through the centuries, pedestrians, horses, cyclists and cars have negotiated this steep, winding route. In winter, the ice and snow have led to many a precipitous slip. What would Champlain think if he could see the madcap skating races here today!

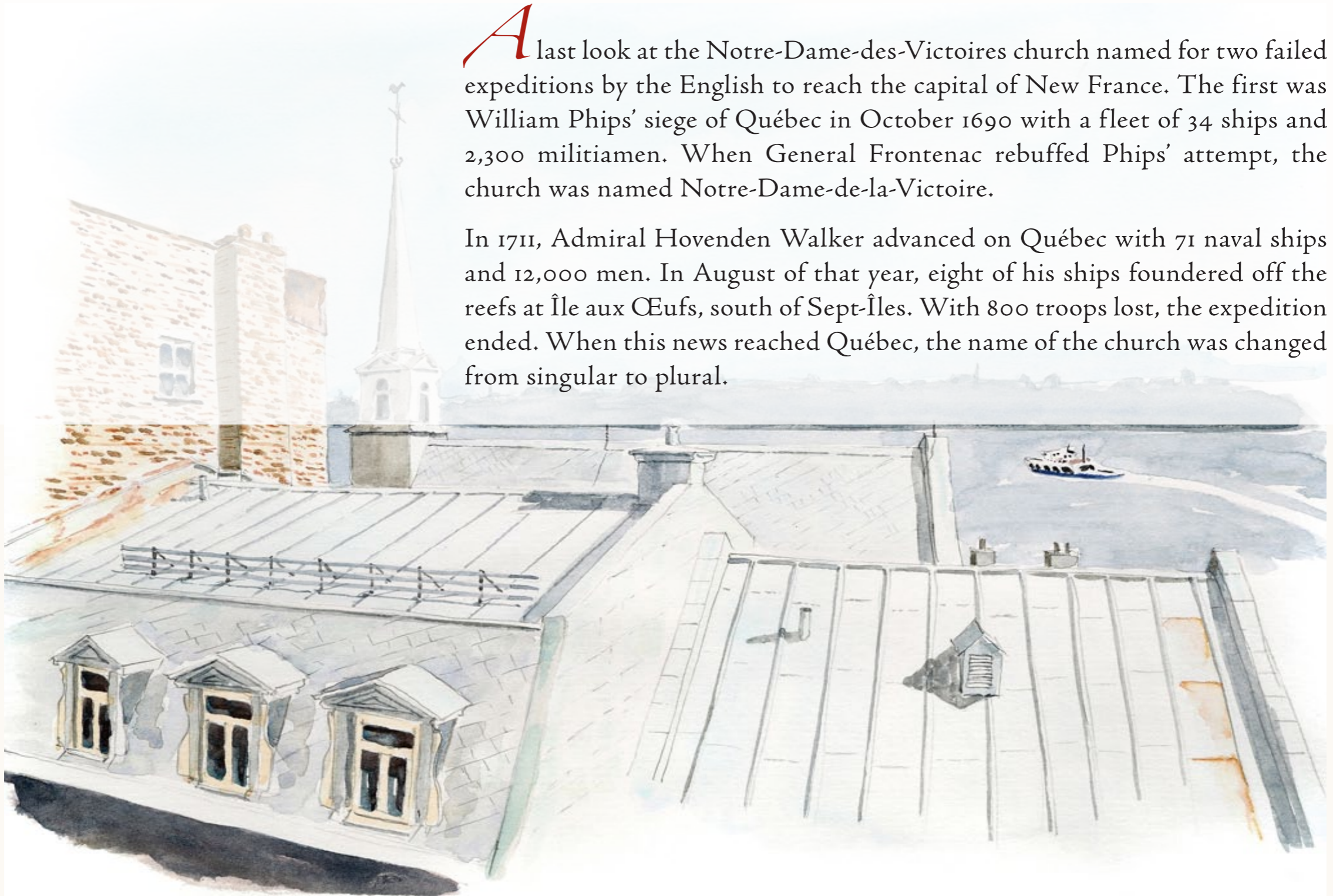




*W*ere the Côte-de-la-Montagne takes a jog in the road, we see the “little corner house” built in 1768 for the Master Butcher Joseph Canac named Marquis, after suffering major damage in the siege of 1759. Tucked into a tight plot of land, its rear foundation abuts the base of the cap to form a wall 20 metres high.

A last look at the Notre-Dame-des-Victoires church named for two failed expeditions by the English to reach the capital of New France. The first was William Phips' siege of Québec in October 1690 with a fleet of 34 ships and 2,300 militiamen. When General Frontenac rebuffed Phips' attempt, the church was named Notre-Dame-de-la-Victoire.

In 1711, Admiral Hovenden Walker advanced on Québec with 71 naval ships and 12,000 men. In August of that year, eight of his ships foundered off the reefs at Île aux Œufs, south of Sept-Îles. With 800 troops lost, the expedition ended. When this news reached Québec, the name of the church was changed from singular to plural.



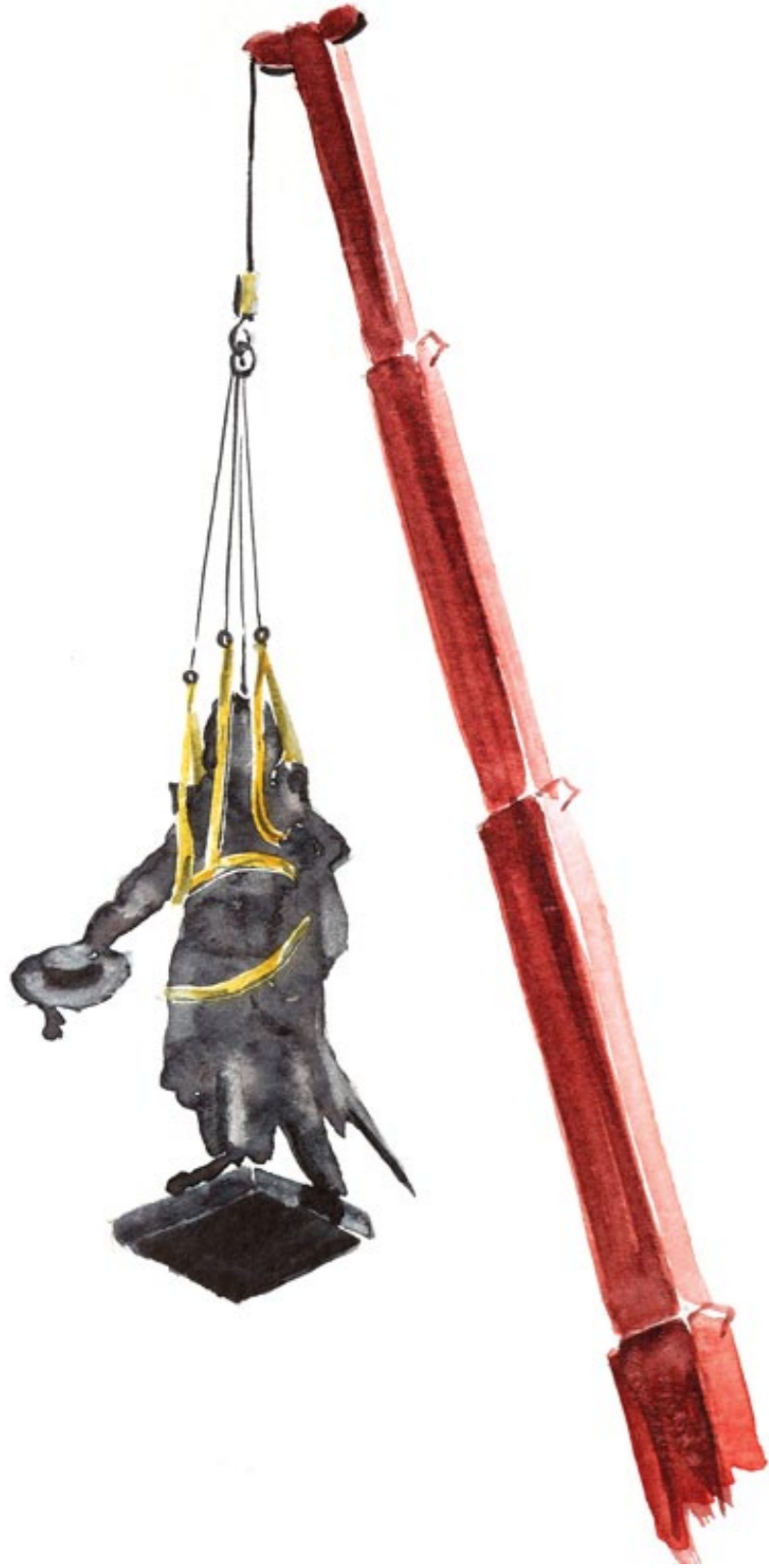
*I*n the ninth century, Pope Nicholas I ordained that a figure of a cock should decorate the top of all Christian steeples to remind us of Jesus' words to St. Peter that "Before the cock crows, you will betray me three times..."



*A*t the bottom of Côte-de-la-Montagne we see the Financial Building dating back to 1929. This was the last bank building constructed in Lower Town before the Great Depression. The district subsequently lost its longstanding status as banking and finance centre.

A small passageway links the top of the building to Montmorency Park. For decades it was used daily by some 800 to 1,000 people who'd gone up in the building's then public elevator.





*B*uilt in 1898 near Fort Saint-Louis, the statue of Champlain was removed from its pedestal in April 2007 to be restored in time for the 400th anniversary of Québec City. The city's founder would have winced to see himself thus harnessed, not to mention

the face which is not his but that of Michel Particelli d'Émery, France's comptroller of finance in the mid-1700s. It's a mystery why this obscure civil servant served as the model for all the Champlain portraits circulated since the mid-19th century.



In the summer of 2005, archeologists from Parks Canada began a series of archeological digs under Dufferin Terrace, the site where Champlain built Fort Saint-Louis in 1620. The archeologists' interest in this site was further whetted by Château Saint-Louis built in 1648 by Huault de Montmagny. It was demolished and rebuilt in the 1690s by Frontenac, enlarged in 1723-1724 by the engineer Chaussegros de Léry, and an extra floor added by Governor James Craig in 1808. Some 40 governors held sway at these sites until 1834, the year everything was destroyed by fire.

On this sketch from the fall of 2006 we see the south wall of Château Saint-Louis including a wall of Fort Saint-Louis. The following summer's digs revealed the ruins of the outbuildings in the courtyard: covered passageway, separate kitchen and laundry room. Also visible is the underground drain for the Château Haldimand built nearby in 1784 by the governor of the same name, where the Château Frontenac now stands.

SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC





*I*n this room the Chateau Saint-Louis meals were prepared then conveyed to the dining room one floor above.

Plate decorated with the coat of arms of Charles de la Boische, Marquis of Beauharnois, Governor of New France from 1726 to 1747.





*F*or archeologists the latrine pits provide valuable information about the diet of an era since they also served as receptacles for waste and broken dishes. Fragments of broken glass and ceramic, animal bones and plant remains found in this pit at the Château Saint-Louis reveal the refinement of the Governor's table in the early 19th century.



*W*ater sieving to reveal very small objects.

*T*hese vegetable cellars with brick walls extending to the bottom of the vault were used from 1816 to 1834. Carrots, cabbage, turnips and potatoes were stored here during the winter.





Nearby, the art of dining continues to this day. Nestled amid the turrets of the Château Frontenac, facing south, the herb and edible flowers garden of Head Chef Jean Soulard thrive in the open air.





*D*eliciously stuffed daylilies...

Gather flowers grown in a pesticide-free fertilizer-free environment.

Remove pistil and stamens, scald petals for a few seconds, cool and drain on a cloth. Choose from various fillings, such as fish, shellfish, vegetables, mushrooms, etc. Mince the ingredients, and add your choice of onions, shallots, fresh herbs such as cumin, turmeric, curry, and possibly thick cream. For certain minced fish or crustaceans, add an egg white or two to hold everything together during cooking. Salt and pepper to taste.

Fill and close the flowers, place on an ovenware dish, cook for 30 minutes at 350 °F. Serve as entree or accompaniment, preferably hot.

JEAN SOULARD,
Executive Chef, Château Frontenac



la terrasse Dufferin

A familiar spectacle for Dufferin Terrace regulars is the choreographic ballet of ferries gliding between Québec City and Lévis.

The Québec Seminary was founded in 1663 by Monseigneur François de Laval to train priests and assure the religious education of young boys. Since 1868, the wrought iron entrance has admitted countless students, not all of them destined for the “vocation”. In 1989, girls began studying there too.

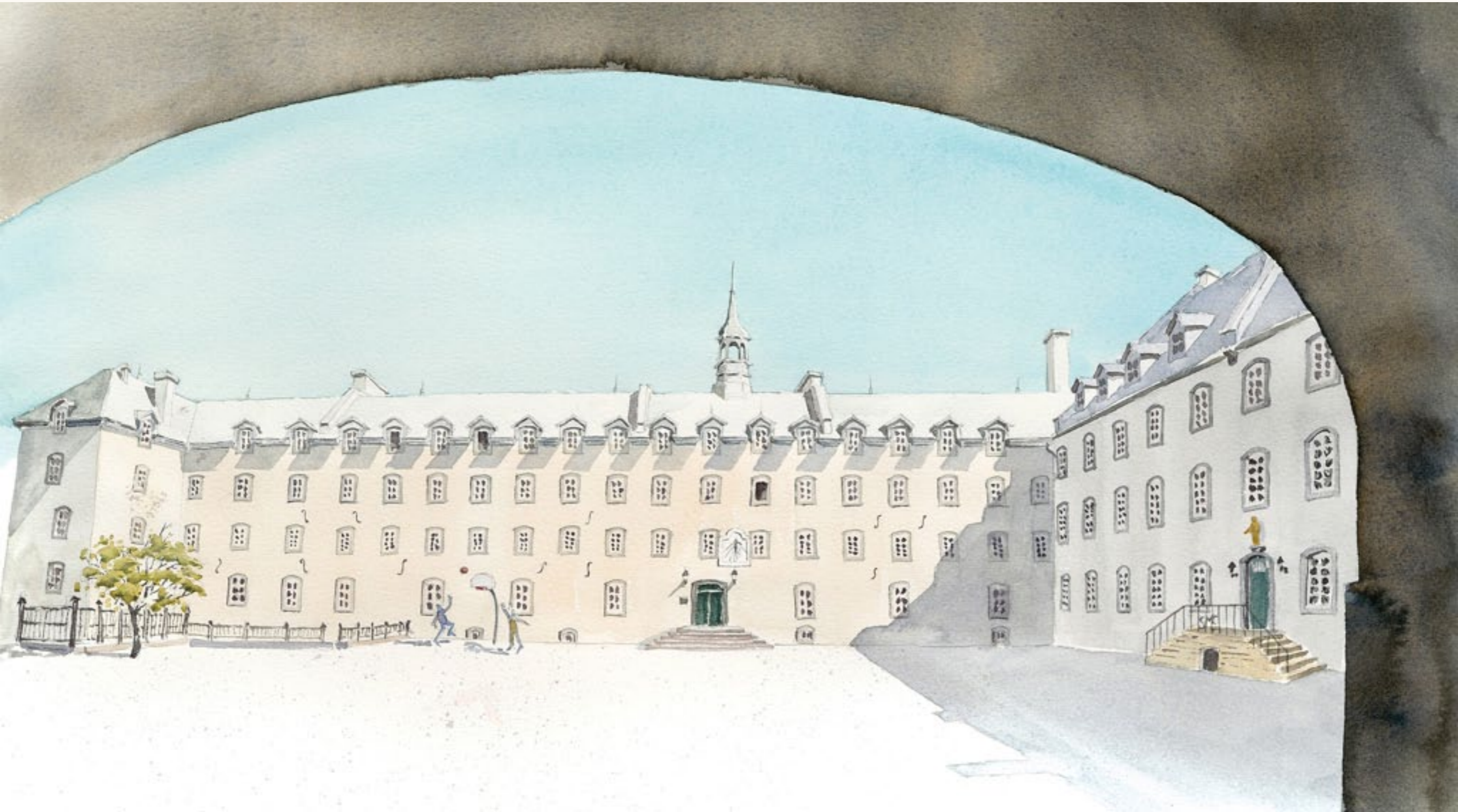


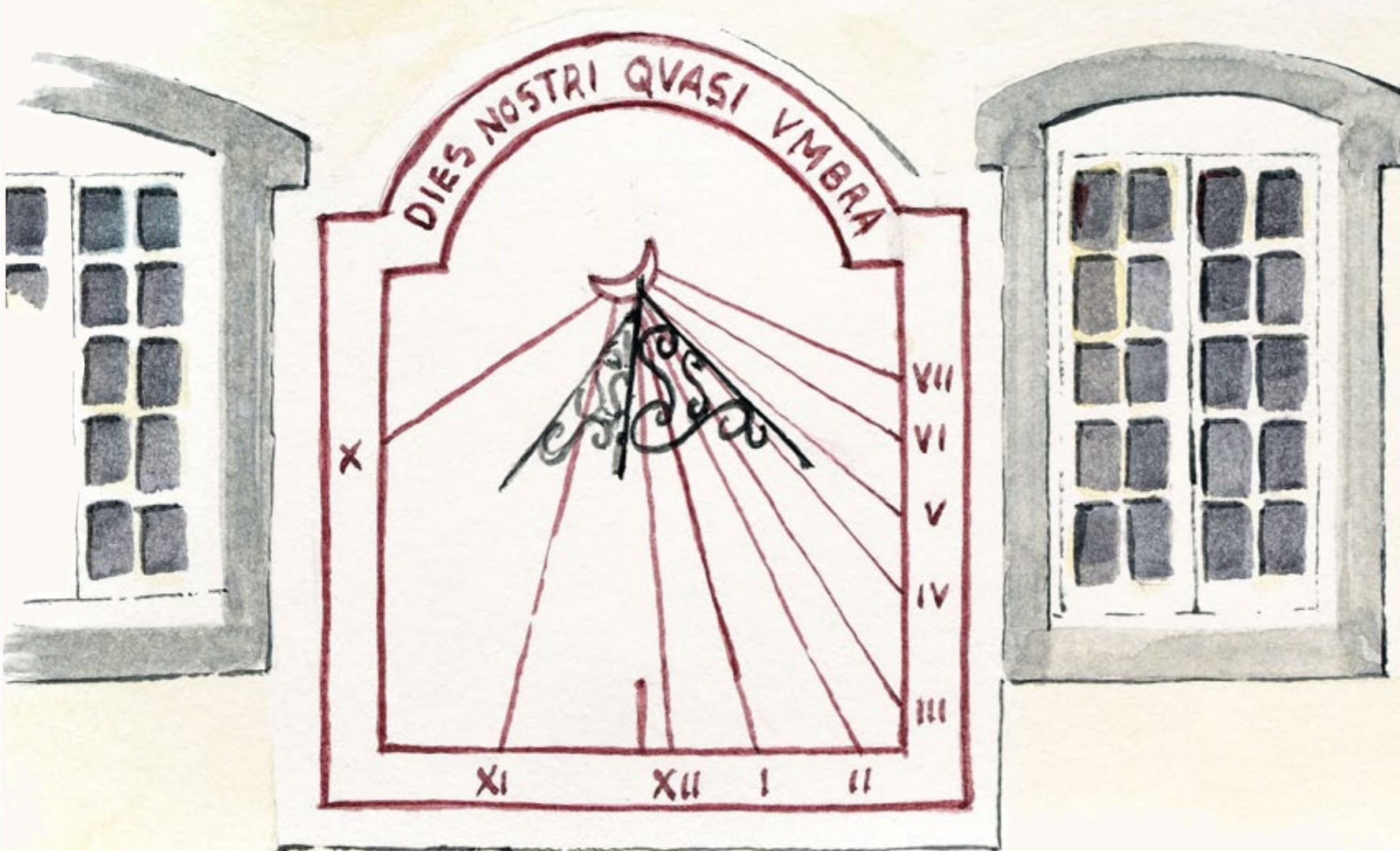


To enter the Seminary is to enter a different era, or even continent. Majesty and serenity characterize the three wings that form this enclosure, one of the oldest architectural complexes in North America. Long referred to as “la cour des petits” (“the children’s yard”), the courtyard still resonates today with youngster’s recreational games. The Procure wing facing the porchway was built between 1678 and 1681 and was acknowledged as “the most beautiful and largest residence in the country”. Appropriately enough, today it is home to Université Laval’s École d’architecture et d’aménagement.



SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC





In the European tradition which decrees that sundials display a motto, four words from the Old Testament adorn this one on the Procure wing, reminding us that “les jours (fui)ent) comme l’ombre” (“Days [flee] like a passing shadow”).



*T*he square tower at right housed the Grand Seminary priests' unheated latrines. Adjoining the north pavilion, it has been called the "tower of the norths" since time immemorial. Seemingly to avoid saying "the latrines", it was discreetly referred to as "the norths". Seminary residents still use this expression today when they say: "je m'en vais aux nord" ("I'm going to the norths").



In 1852, trumping Montréal, the Séminaire de Québec founded the Université Laval, the first French university in America. The architect Charles Baillairgé drew up the plans for the majestic six-storey central pavilion.

Baillairgé, an avant-gardist, gave it a much criticized flat roof. When rain began leaking through, Joseph-Ferdinand Peachy, a former student and associate of Baillairgé, was commissioned to more effectively complete the prestigious building.

In 1875, the famous mansard roof was built and topped with a main central lantern and two smaller ones, now a familiar silhouette on Québec City's skyline.



Vue de la lanterne centrale



coq du
clocher
principal de
la Basilique



coq du clocher
de la Basilique

The top of the rear pinnacle of the Seminary Chapel affords a magnificent view of city landmarks.





Ordinary pedestrians scarcely suspect that the Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica bell tower offers such a breathtaking view.



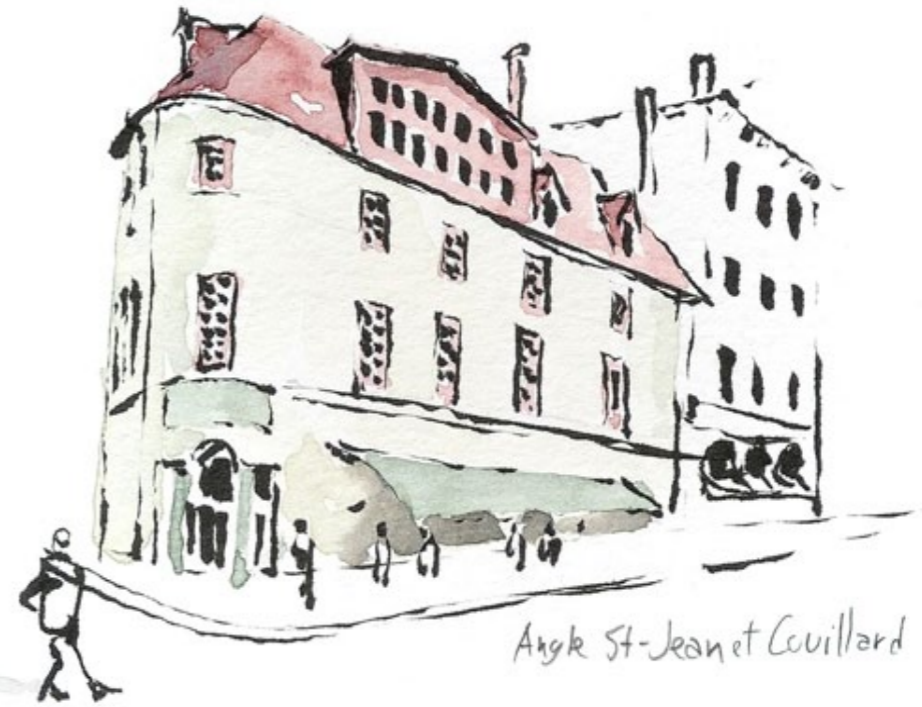


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In 1666, Monseigneur de Laval purchased the Sault-au-Matelot fief which included the north part of Upper Town to establish his seminary. Various surrounding areas were then conceded to habitation. Later, as Université Laval expanded, this sector became the heart of the Latin Quarter. At its east and west extremities are intersections characterized by four sharp-angled houses.



Angle de la Fabrique
et Garneau



Angle St-Jean et Couillard



Angle Hébert et
Monseigneur-de-Laval



Angle des Remparts
et Hébert



From the 18th century until the mid 19th century, many building tradesmen lived in the area around the Seminary. As the cutting-edge designers of that era, they left disappearing legacies such as this shoe-scraper inset in the façade of a house on rue Sainte-Famille. It was plugged over with stone two weeks after this drawing was done.

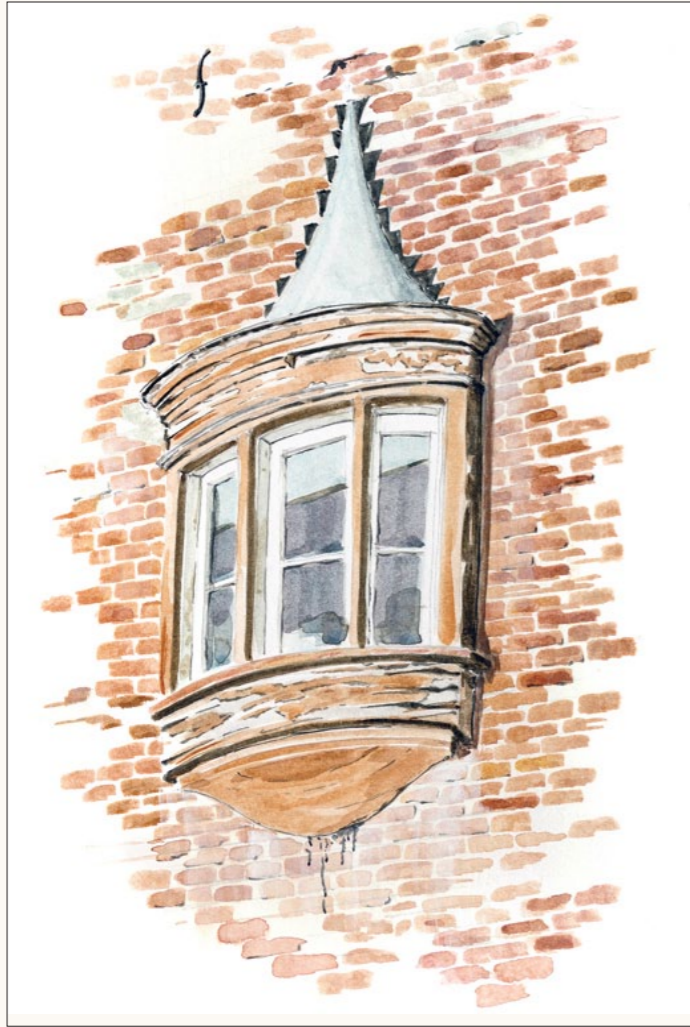




Once the height of the city ramparts was reduced in the 1870s to open up the harbour view, the neighborhood lured francophone artists and intellectuals. Over the

years, it was home to the novelist Philippe-Aubert de Gaspé, the historian François-Xavier Garneau, the organist and folklorist Ernest Gagnon, the musician and composer

Calixa Lavallée, the painter Edmond Lemoine, and the ethnographer Luc Lacourcière, to mention but a few of the most famous.

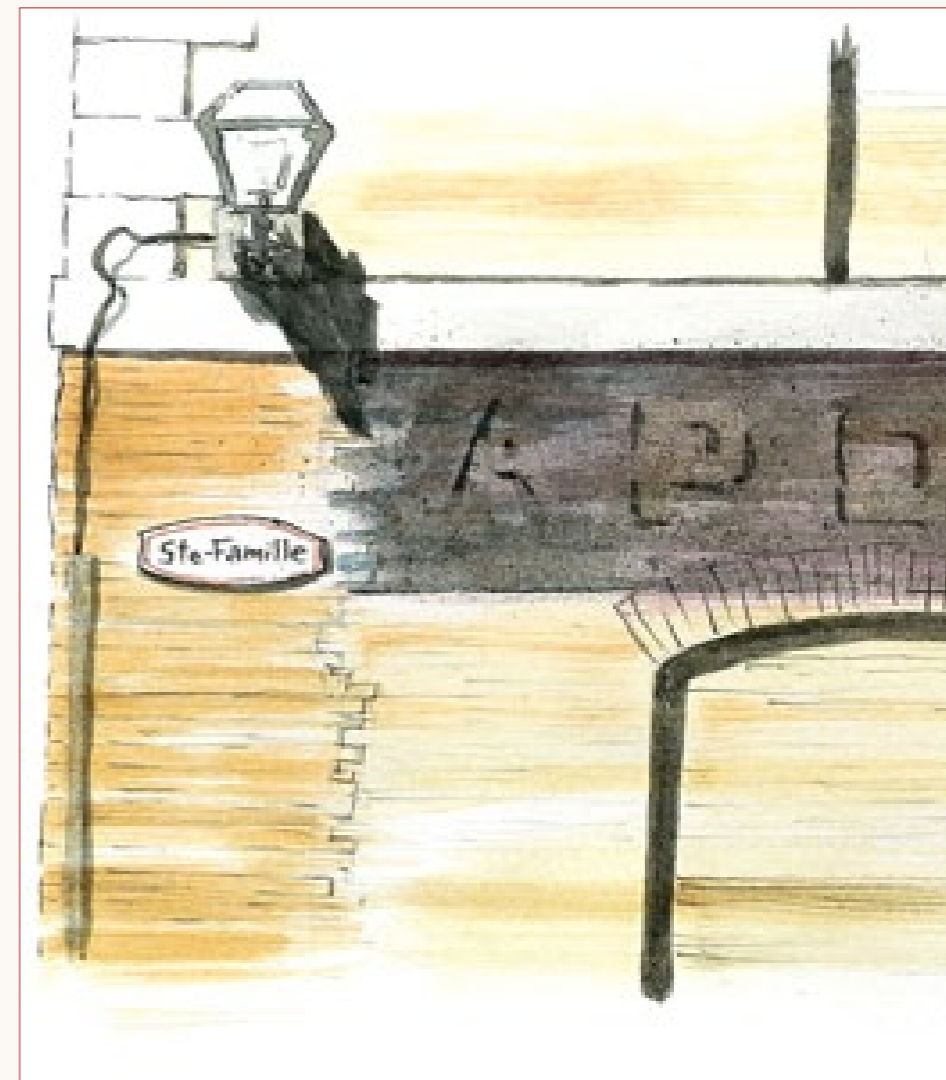


Among the lesser-knowns are Antoine-Adrien-Édouard Delpit, a writer and journalist who worked in France. He died in Québec City in 1900 on rue Hamel, in the shadow of the Augustines' garden.





*I*n 1850, the Seminary built a commercial structure at the corner of rue Sainte-Famille and rue de la Fabrique. Up until the end of the

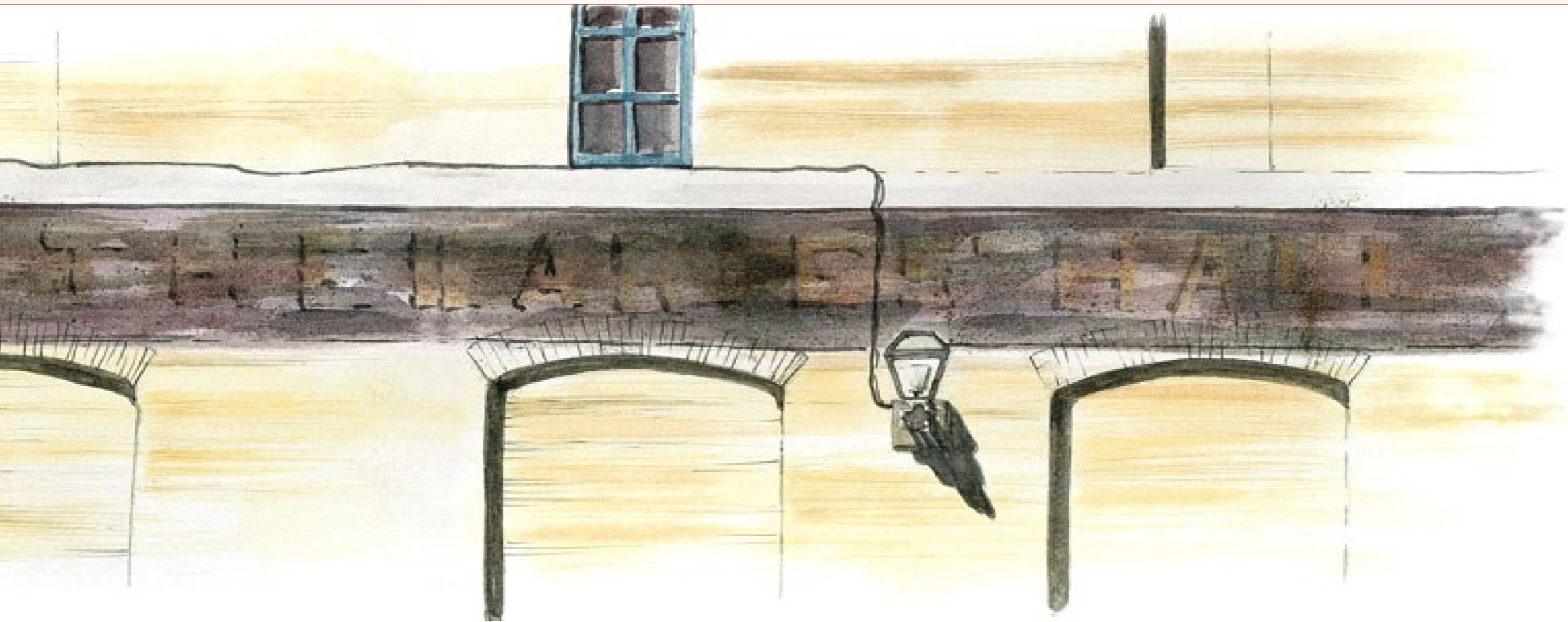


SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC

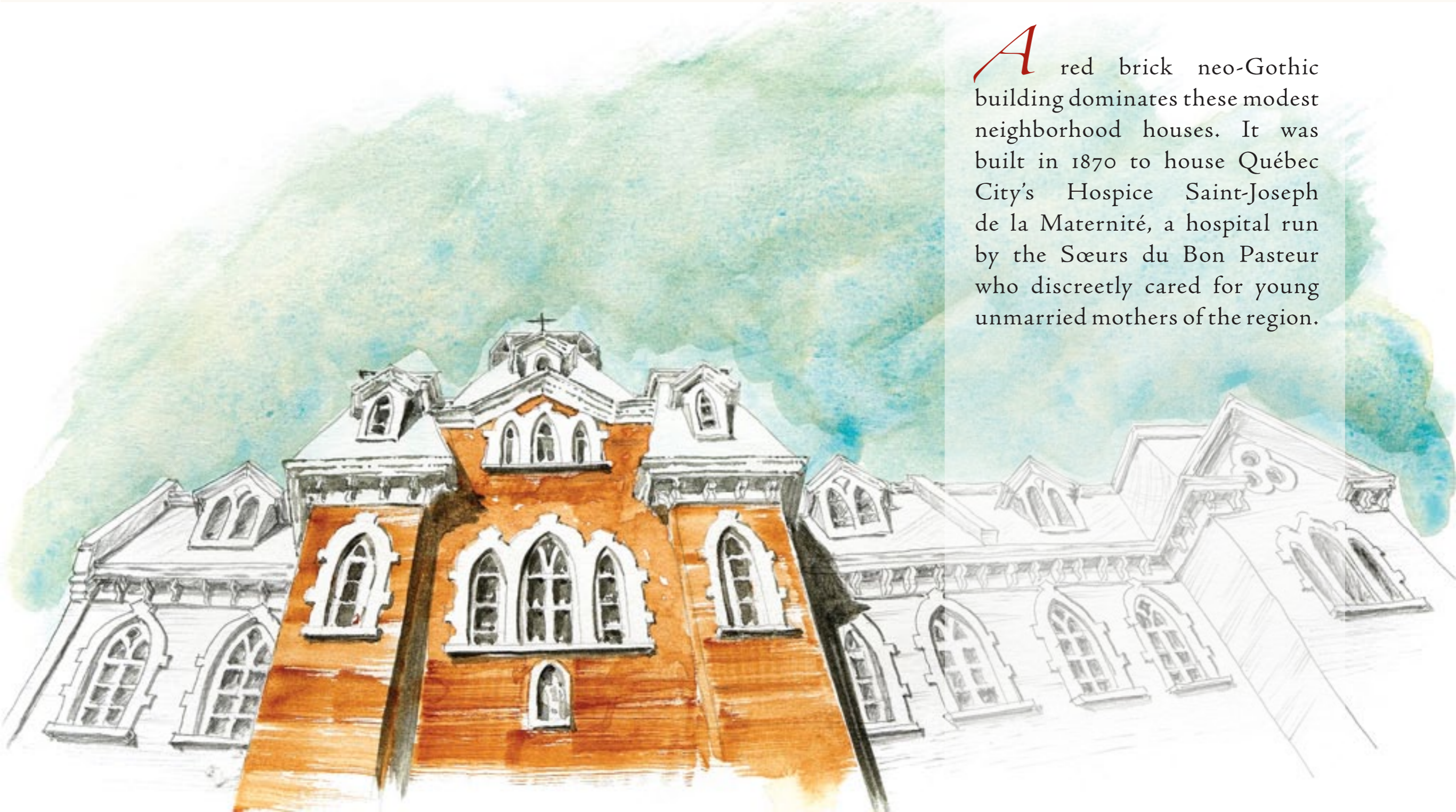
19th century, it was rented out to a series of merchants: Dry Goods William Laird & Co., Dry Goods Brehan Brothers, Fife, Wright & Leitch and finally the Druggist

William H. LaRoche. The Seminary then set up its own dispensary in the building. The Apothecaries' Hall sign was painted directly on the rue Sainte-Famille wall. Now fading

fast, the sign will soon no longer be visible to recall that era of so many influential English merchants.



A red brick neo-Gothic building dominates these modest neighborhood houses. It was built in 1870 to house Québec City's Hospice Saint-Joseph de la Maternité, a hospital run by the Sœurs du Bon Pasteur who discreetly cared for young unmarried mothers of the region.



SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



rue des Remparts



Du haut de la
rue des Remparts



The Anglican Saint-Trinity Cathedral was built in the early 1900s and modeled after London's St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church. The bell tower boasts a set of eight manually-operated bells. Forged in 1830 at the Whitechapel Foundry in London, it is the oldest carillon in Canada. A cross atop the bell tower is 47 metres from ground level, one metre higher than the one at the Québec Cathedral, two blocks away. Archbishop Jacob Mountain thus wished to affirm the predominance of the Anglican faith.

The arcade at the main entrance with centre gas lamp was designed by the military engineer Elias Walker Durnfold who supervised the construction of the Citadel. Note the archbishop's mitre above the lamp-post, perhaps another of Archbishop Mountain's whims?

In spring 2006, the eight bells of the carillon were taken down and sent to the London foundry to be completely restored. The bells were tuned and the wooden workings and metallic supports completely refurbished. In March 2007, the bells returned home. Here three of them wait to be hoisted to the top of the tower. At 842 kilos, the tenor bell is the heaviest.

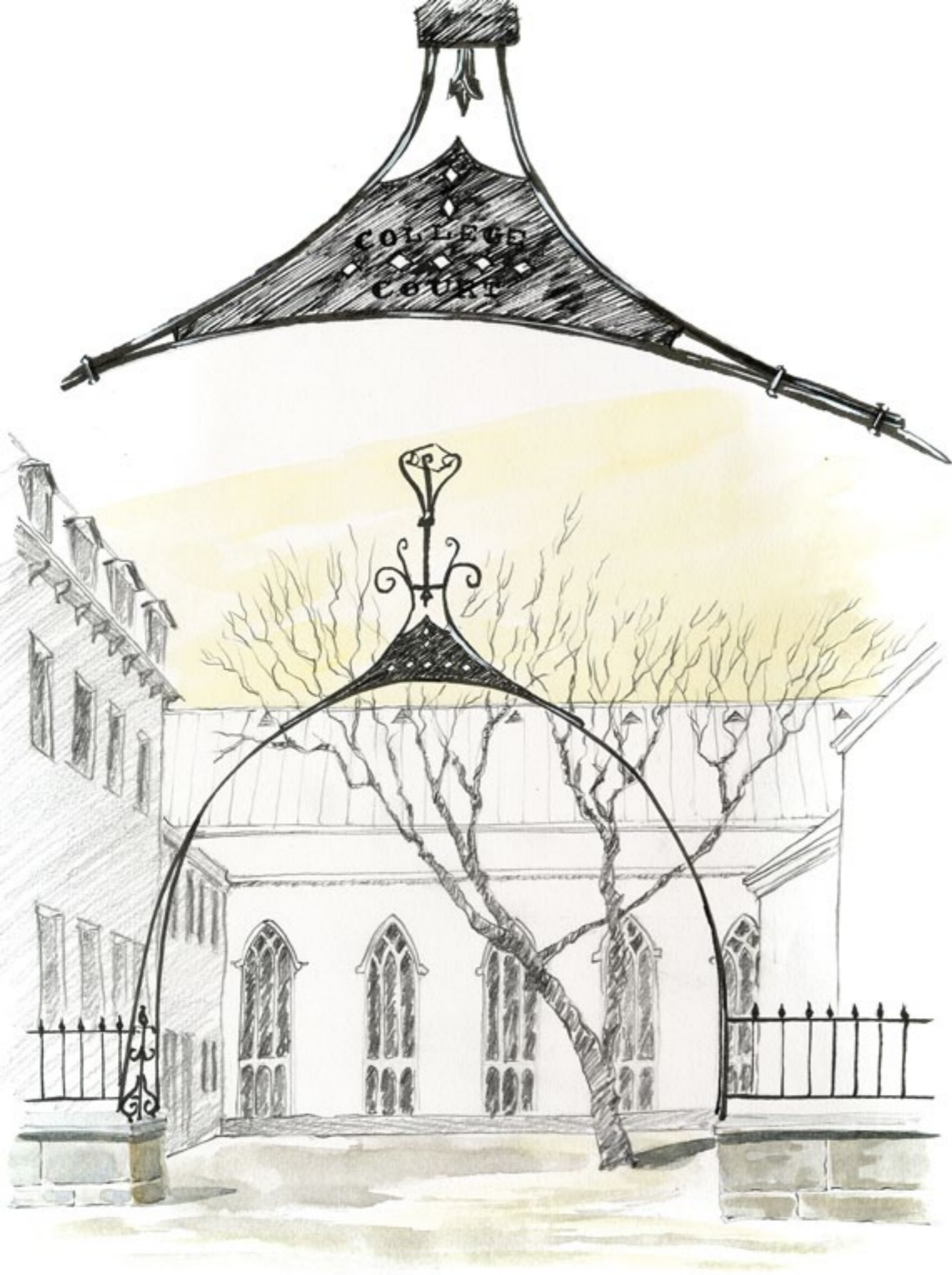




Neil Thomas is one of two technicians at Whitechapel Bell Foundry who accompanied the bells on their return journey from London and carefully oversaw their reinstallation.

Québec City's first real prison was built here between 1808 and 1814 on the site of the former Royale Redoubt, which served for a period as a prison after 1760. Transformed in 1866 into a college of higher learning for English youth of the city, thanks to a donation from Dr. Joseph Morrin, originally from Scotland, today the building houses the Literary and Historical Society of Québec, a Canadian literary society founded in 1824.

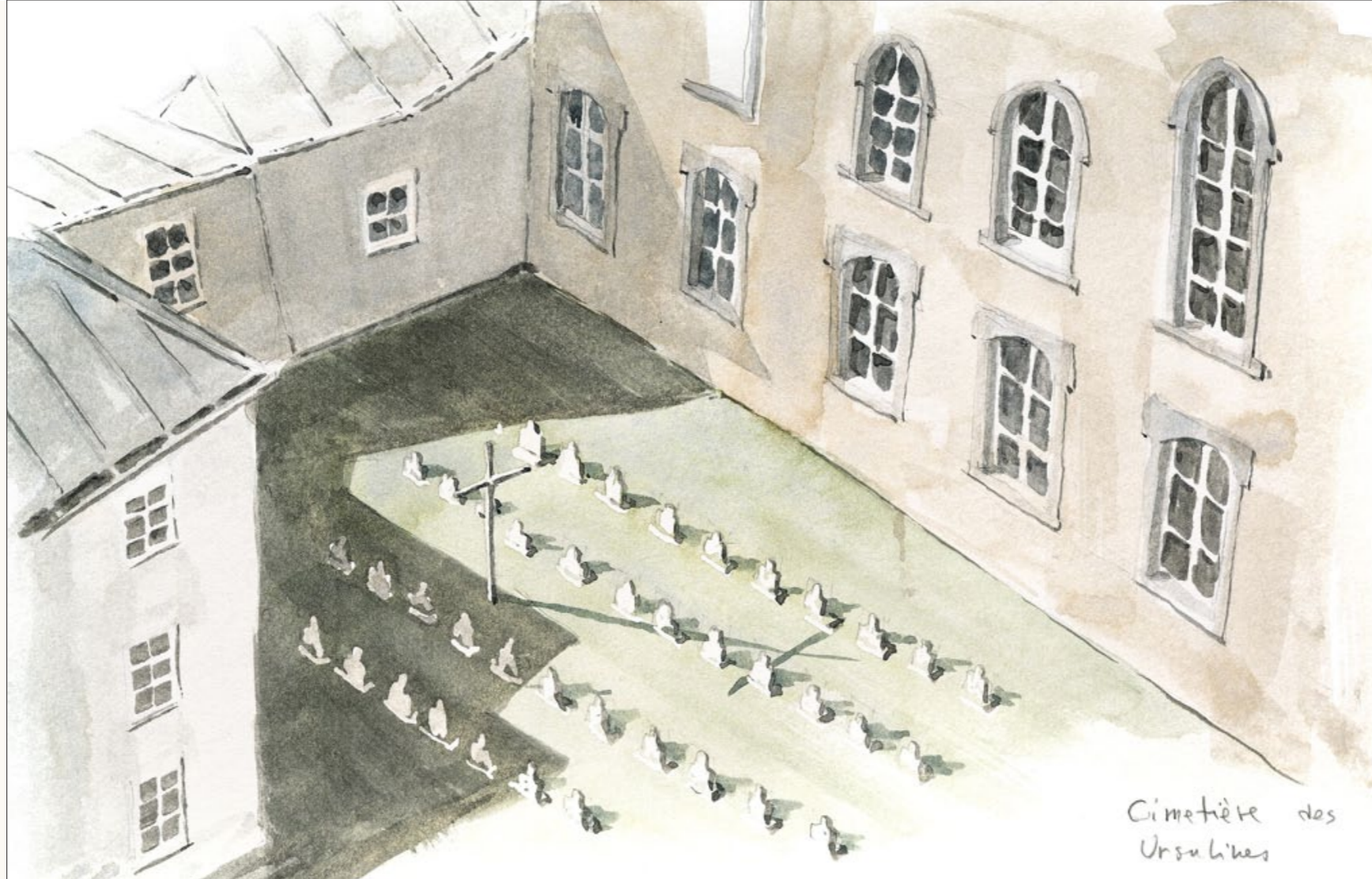




*F*rom the former Morrin College courtyard, we can see the south wall of Québec City's first neo-Gothic Church. Once a Wesley Methodist church, it now houses the Canadian Institute, a French-Canadian literary society founded in 1848.



*F*rom the Place des Tourangelles, behind the narrowest façade of the old city, we see its tallest building silhouetted against the skyline. This is the Price Building, the first and last skyscraper to be built inside the fortifications. In 1929-1930 this 16-storey head office was built by Price Brothers paper mills. Growing protest against the disproportionate size of the structure compared to neighboring buildings led the municipal administration in 1937 to impose a limit of 20 metres on the height of buildings in this sector.

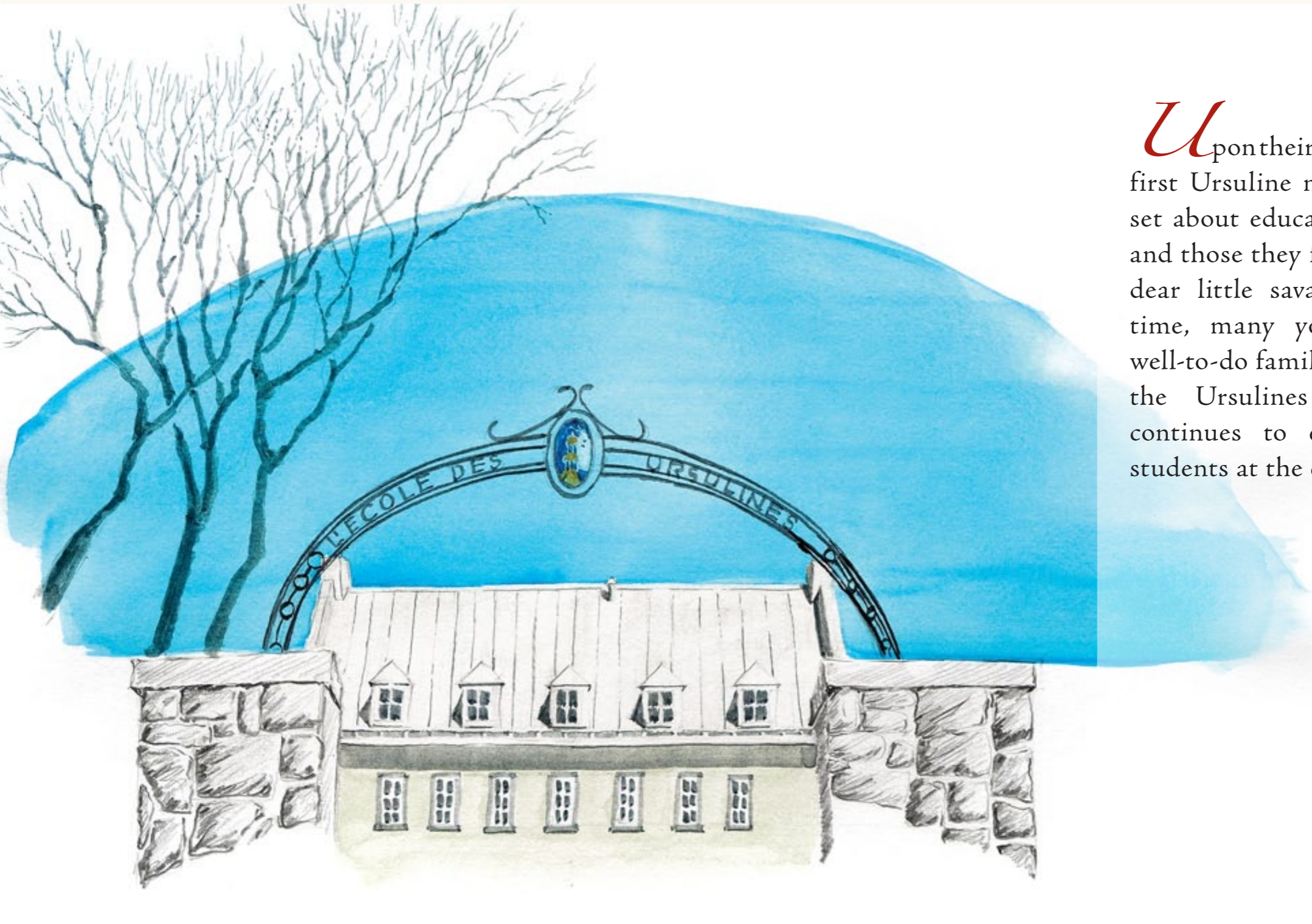


The top of the Price Building affords a full view of the Ursulines monastery, built on a square plan typical of conventional 17th century architecture. In 1642, the nuns took possession of a first building in Upper Town. Over the centuries, several wings were added. In 1650 and in 1686, two major fires slowed the pace of further construction.

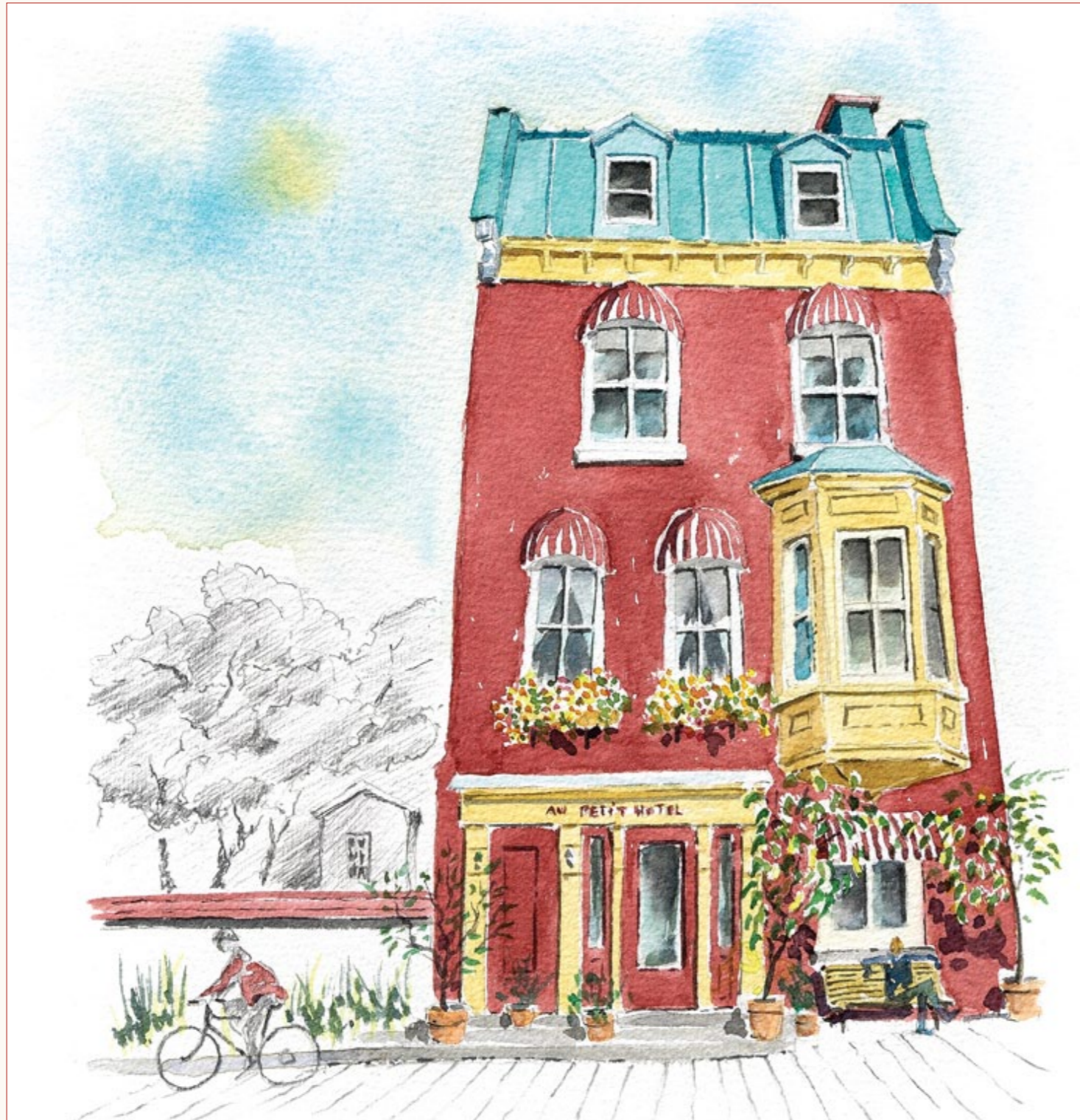
In 1759, the monastery suffered the humiliation of defeat within its walls. Montcalm's funeral took place here after the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. He was buried near the chapel grid in a grave hollowed by a British bomb. The next day, General James Murray requisitioned a section of the convent to care for wounded soldiers and the chapel to

celebrate protestant services. The British officially celebrated their victory in this same chapel a few weeks later.





*U*pon their arrival in 1639, the first Ursuline nuns immediately set about educating French girls and those they fondly called “our dear little savages”. Since that time, many young girls from well-to-do families have attended the Ursulines school, which continues to enroll over 400 students at the elementary level.



*W*hen he retired in 1898, the architect Charles Baillaigé had this Second Empire style house built for himself at the back of his father's property looking out on the Ursulines laneway. Today it is a small hotel frequented by regulars who return year after year for its special charm.

SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC

At the dawn of the 19th century, the professional elite, business bourgeoisie, lumber merchants and upper echelon military lived in an upscale neighborhood near

the Saint-Louis and Haldimand châteaux. The citizens of Québec named the district “Le Cap” or “The Cape” because the majority of families living there were English-

speaking. Today, it is known by the name of Îlot Saint-Denis. Here we see the south section alongside the glacis (sloping embankment) of the venerable Citadel.



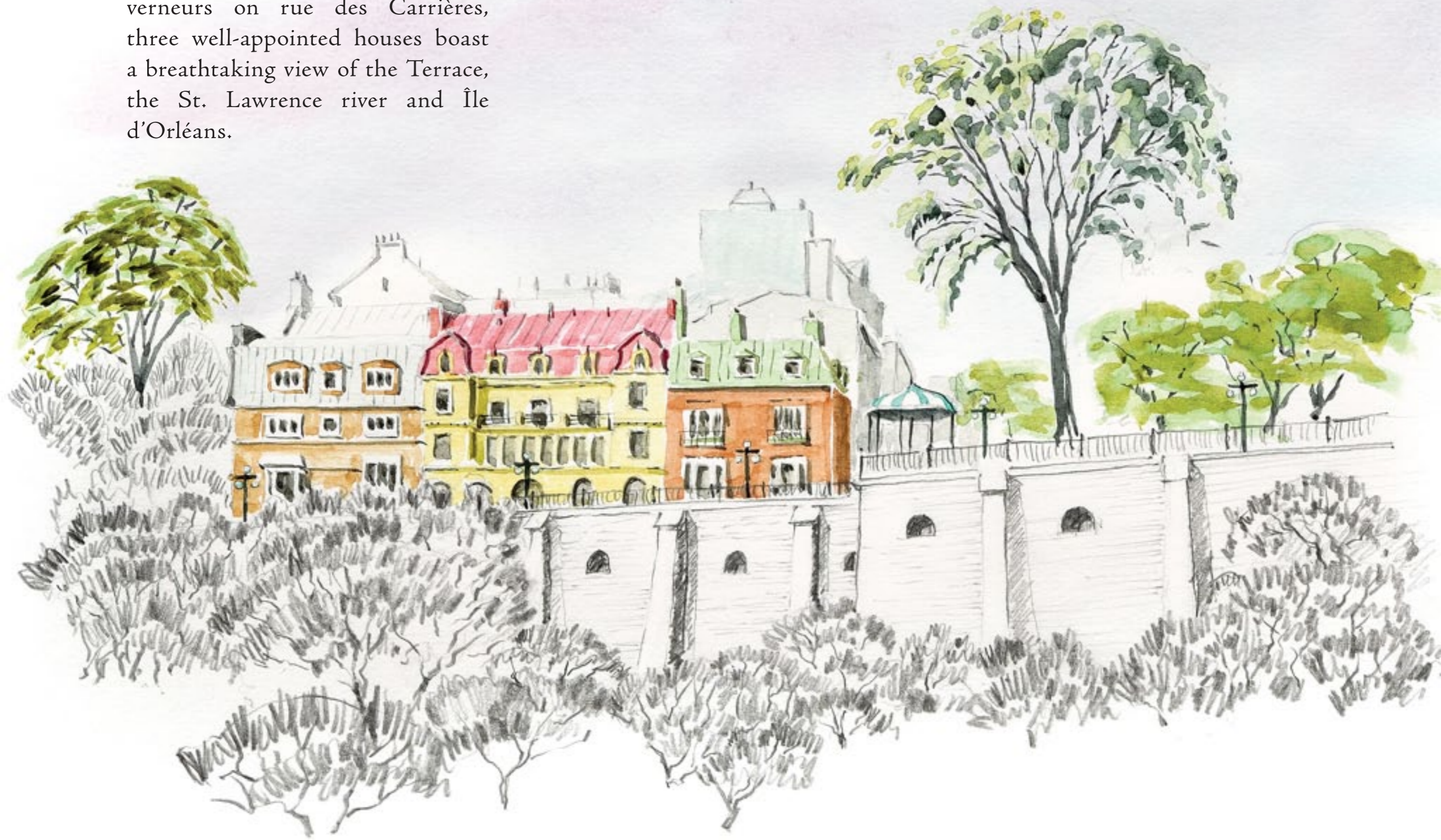


*I*n this traditional stable, ground level was for the horses and carriages while the upper floor was used as a hayloft and living quarters for the groom and coachman.

*M*any houses were inhabited by the same families up until the second half of the 20th century, which explains why they are excellently preserved, along with many secondary buildings such as sheds and stables.



Next to the Jardin des Gouverneurs on rue des Carrières, three well-appointed houses boast a breathtaking view of the Terrace, the St. Lawrence river and Île d'Orléans.





The cannonball at the corner of rue Saint-Louis and rue Corps-de-Garde has inspired many an urban legend. The most plausible one contends that a military man living

in the guardroom or barracks nearby pushed the cannon-ball to the foot of the tree, where time and nature did the rest.



On this embedded marker in the stone wall in front of Kent House on rue Saint-Louis we see the “broad arrow” at the top that designates all buildings, tools or arms that were British government property in the first half of the 19th century. The initials B O refer to the government department responsible for these properties, the “Board of Ordnance”.



*T*he morning after a storm at the corner of rue Sainte-Ursule and rue Sainte-Geneviève. A common sight in Old Québec, men clear the

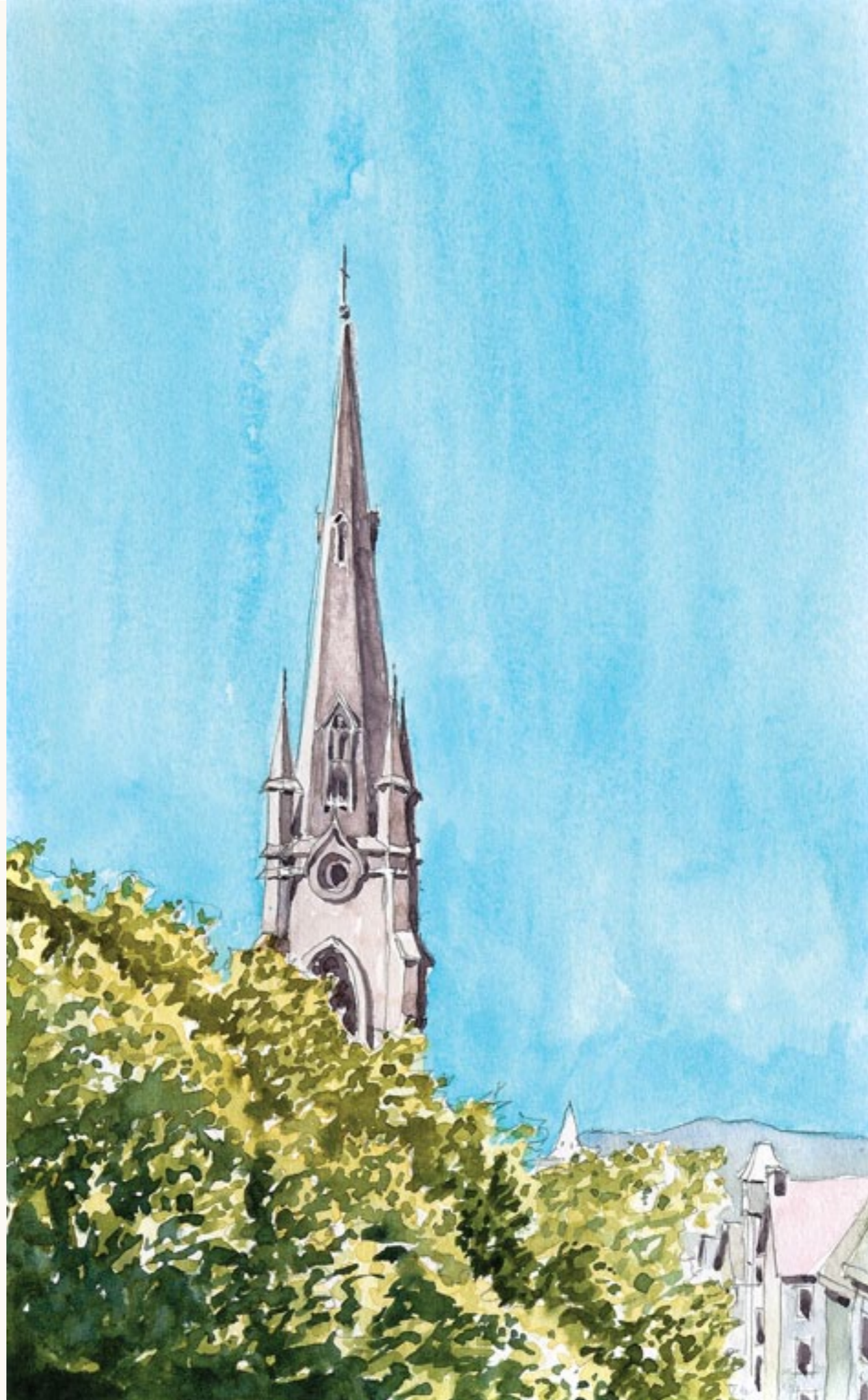
snow from the rooftops, working to prevent a nasty surprise of icy-snow falling on unwitting pedestrians below.

*F*rom 1977 to 1985, Québec premier René Lévesque lived in this house built in 1832 for a British General. Said to be a haven of peace and respite for the premier, it was only a few minutes walk from the National Assembly buildings.



René Lévesque
a habité ici

*B*ehind René Lévesque's residence we see the bell tower of a church that in a sense reflects the diminishing English protestant community in Québec City. This is St. Pierre-Chalmers-Wesley United Church. Whence the hybrid name? In 1931, the Wesley Methodist Church left its original site to join the Chalmers Presbyterian Church under the United Church of Canada banner, taking the dual name Chalmers-Wesley. As for the parish of Église Unie Saint-Pierre, it is known as being francophone and protestant since its founding in 1990.

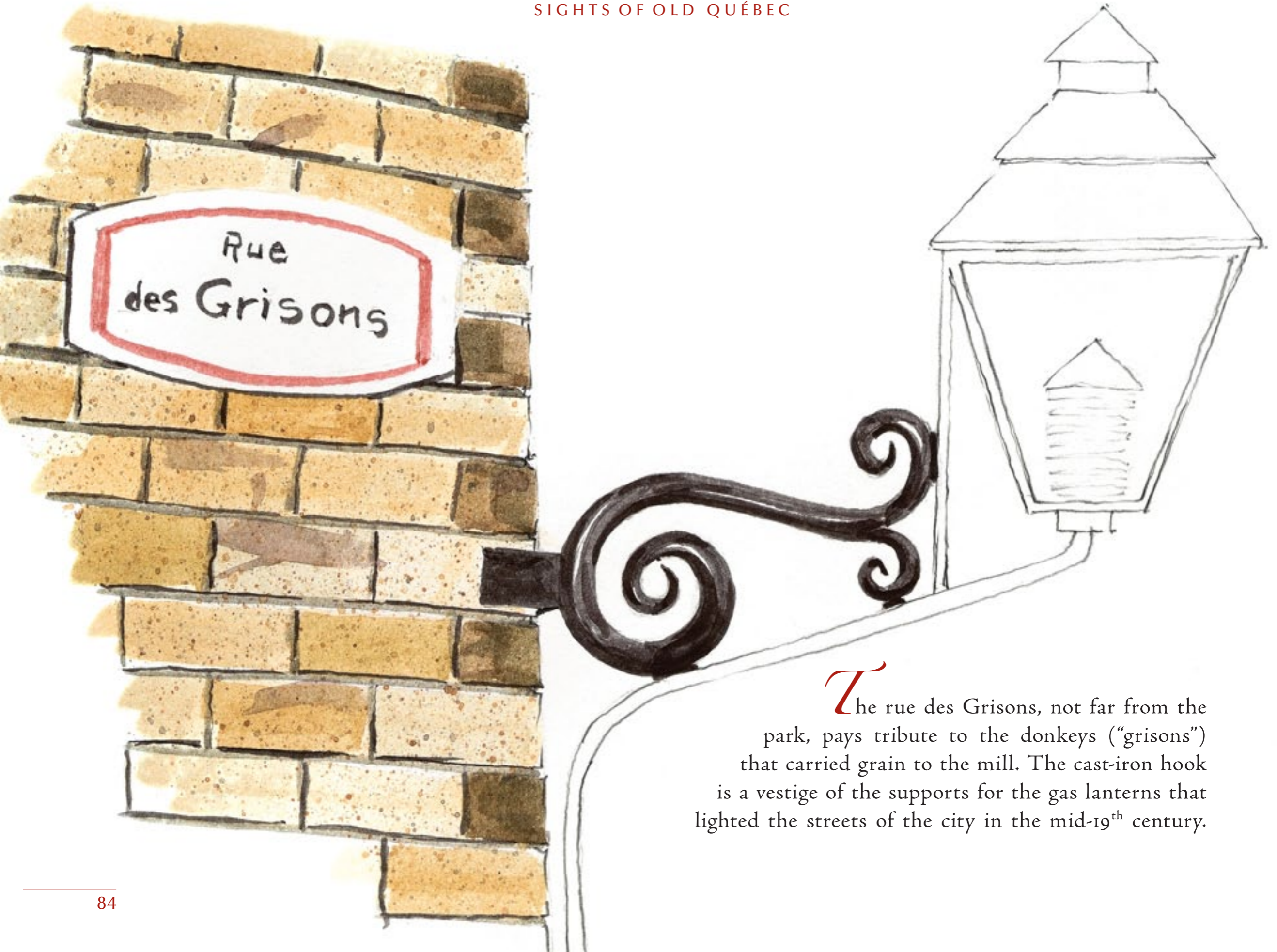




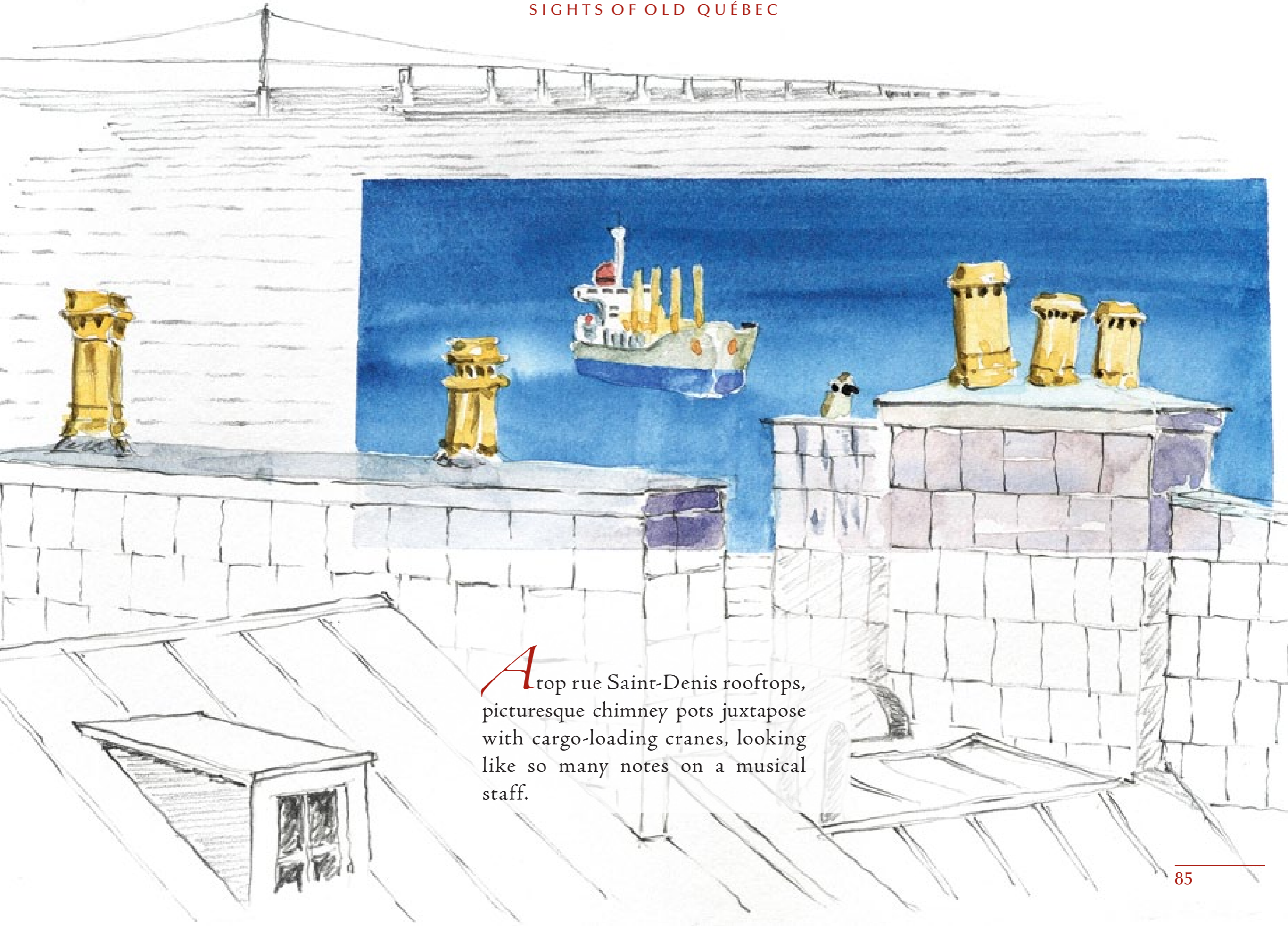
Situated at the top of a hill named Mont Carmel, and ensconced in the heart of Îlot Saint-Denis, the parc du Cavalier-du-Moulin harks back to an earlier time of New France.

An early wooden windmill was built here in 1663, and replaced ten years later by a stone mill. In 1690, during the siege of Québec by William Phips, General Frontenac set up a battery of three cannons.

Three years later, a stone wall was built forming a “cavalier”, a military term denoting a raised defence structure to enhance fire power.



*T*he rue des Grisons, not far from the park, pays tribute to the donkeys (“grisons”) that carried grain to the mill. The cast-iron hook is a vestige of the supports for the gas lanterns that lighted the streets of the city in the mid-19th century.



*A*top rue Saint-Denis rooftops, picturesque chimney pots juxtapose with cargo-loading cranes, looking like so many notes on a musical staff.

*P*erched on a promontory, protected by an escarpment amid partially built fortifications, here's a would-be bird's eye view of New France's capital at the beginning of June 1759. A few days later, a huge British fleet of 166 vessels arrived with over 30,000 men commanded by James Wolfe. On September 13, the French colony's fate was decided.

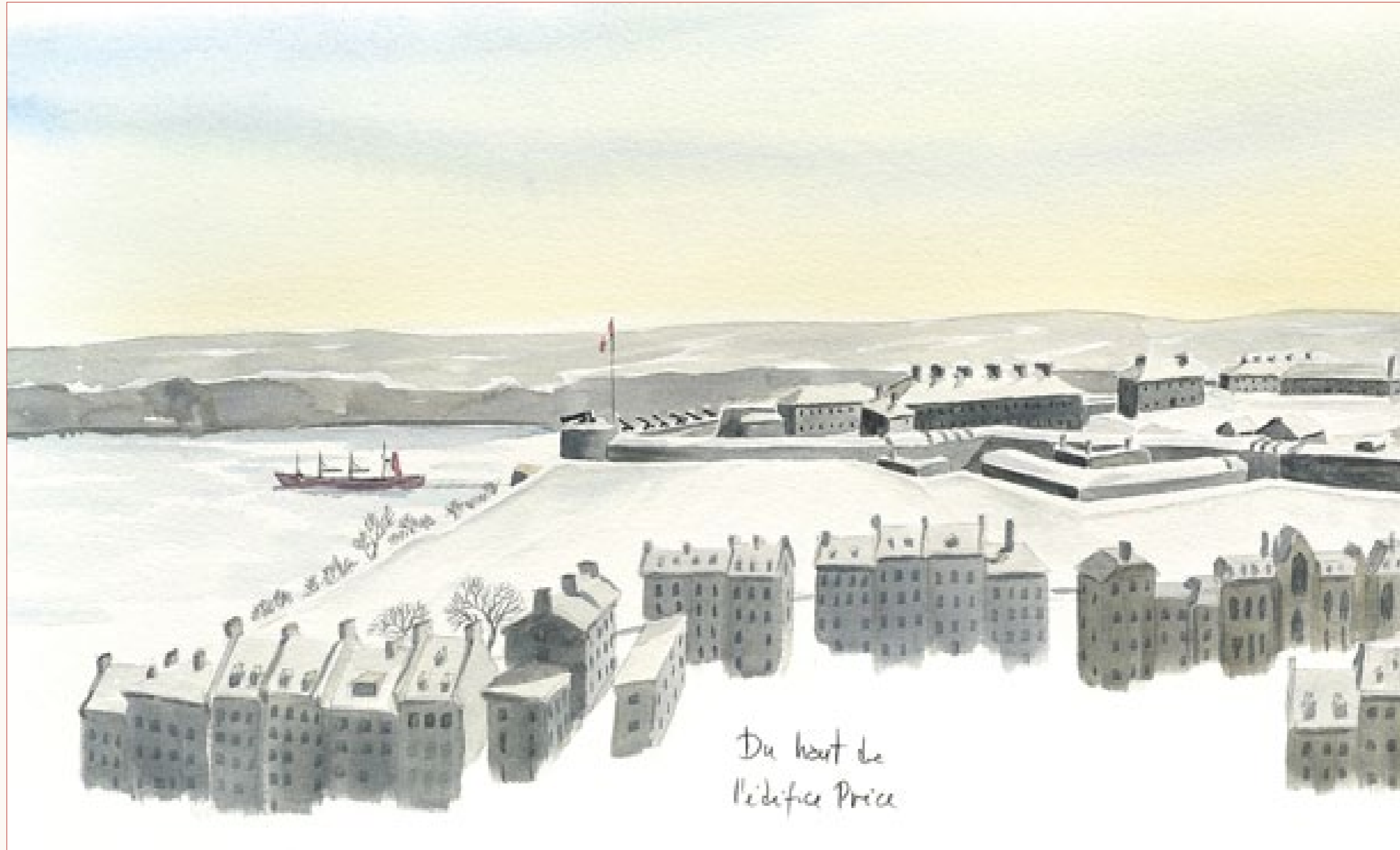


SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



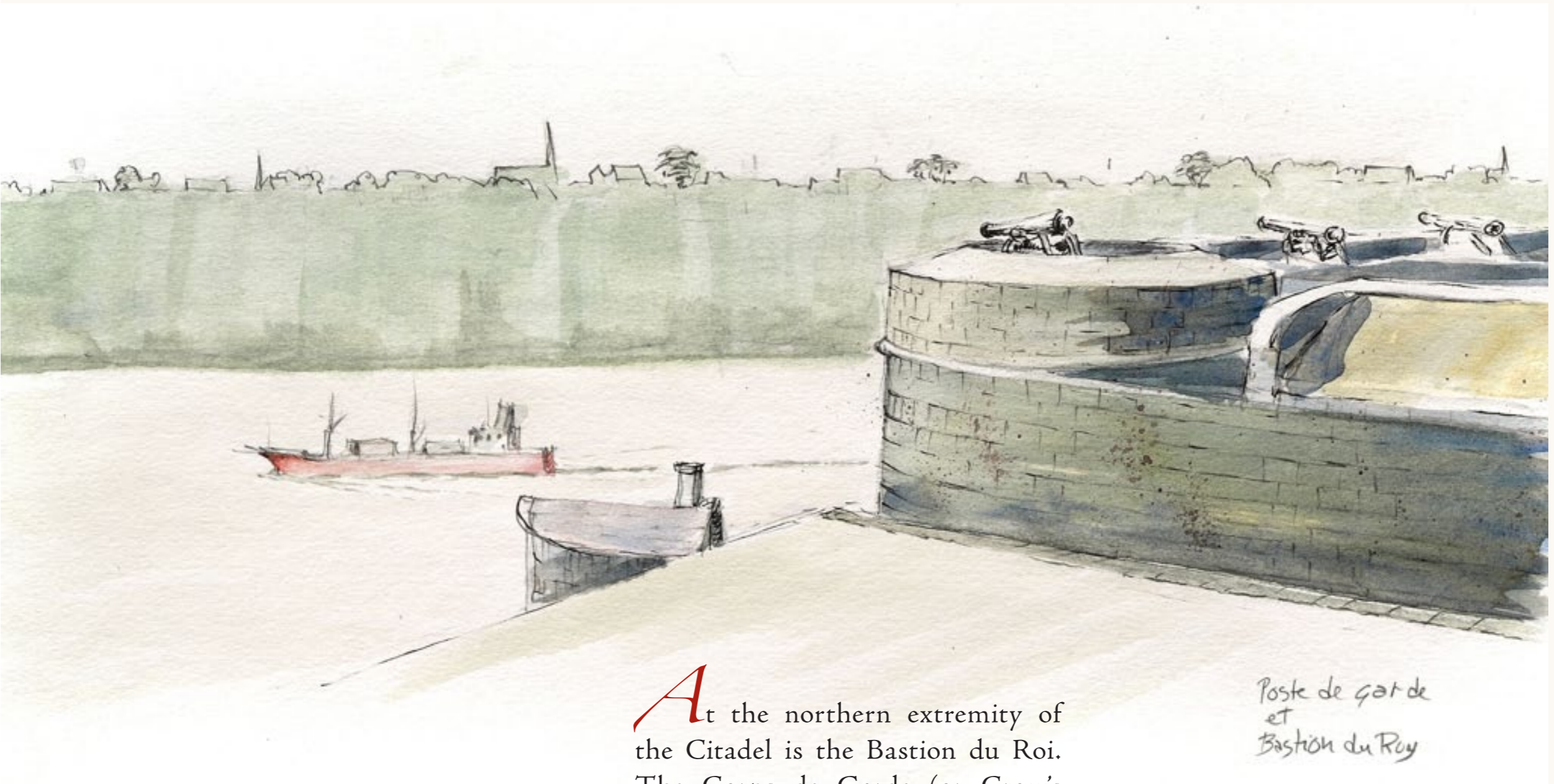
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SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC





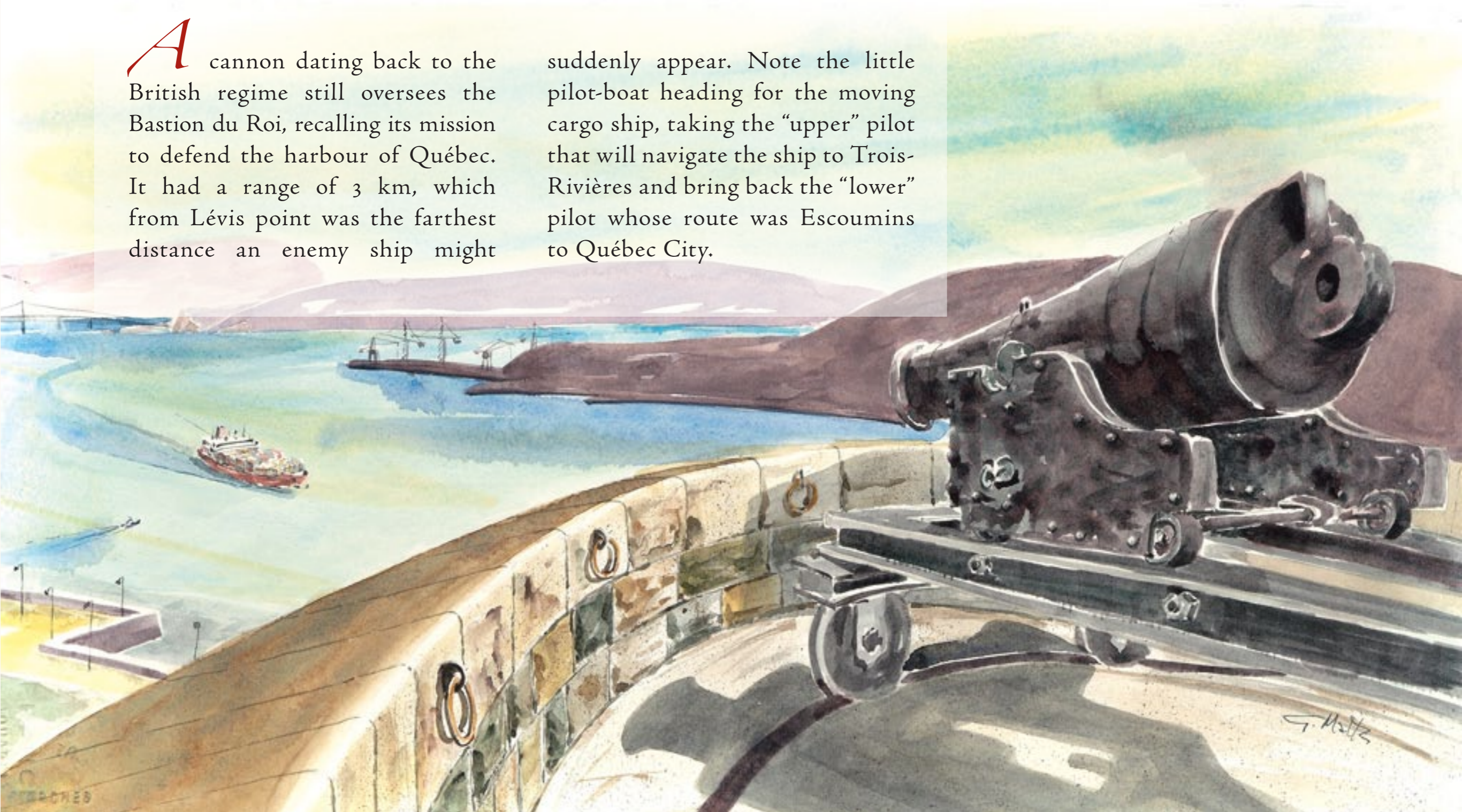
*T*he fear of a civil uprising and the American invasion of 1775-1776 spurred British authorities to build a temporary citadel at the highest point of upper town. After the War of 1812, with ever-growing fear of attack from the United States, it was replaced by the permanent “Citadel” which still exists today. Its plans followed the theories of Vauban, an illustrious military engineer in the court of Louis XIV. Begun in 1820 and completed in 1831, building costs soared to four times initial estimates. Apparently such exploding costs for major construction projects are no recent trend!



*A*t the northern extremity of the Citadel is the Bastion du Roi. The Corps de Garde (or Crow's Nest) at its base housed soldiers who relayed the orders from the bastion to a former battery down at Terrace level.

A cannon dating back to the British regime still oversees the Bastion du Roi, recalling its mission to defend the harbour of Québec. It had a range of 3 km, which from Lévis point was the farthest distance an enemy ship might

suddenly appear. Note the little pilot-boat heading for the moving cargo ship, taking the “upper” pilot that will navigate the ship to Trois-Rivières and bring back the “lower” pilot whose route was Escoumins to Québec City.



SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC

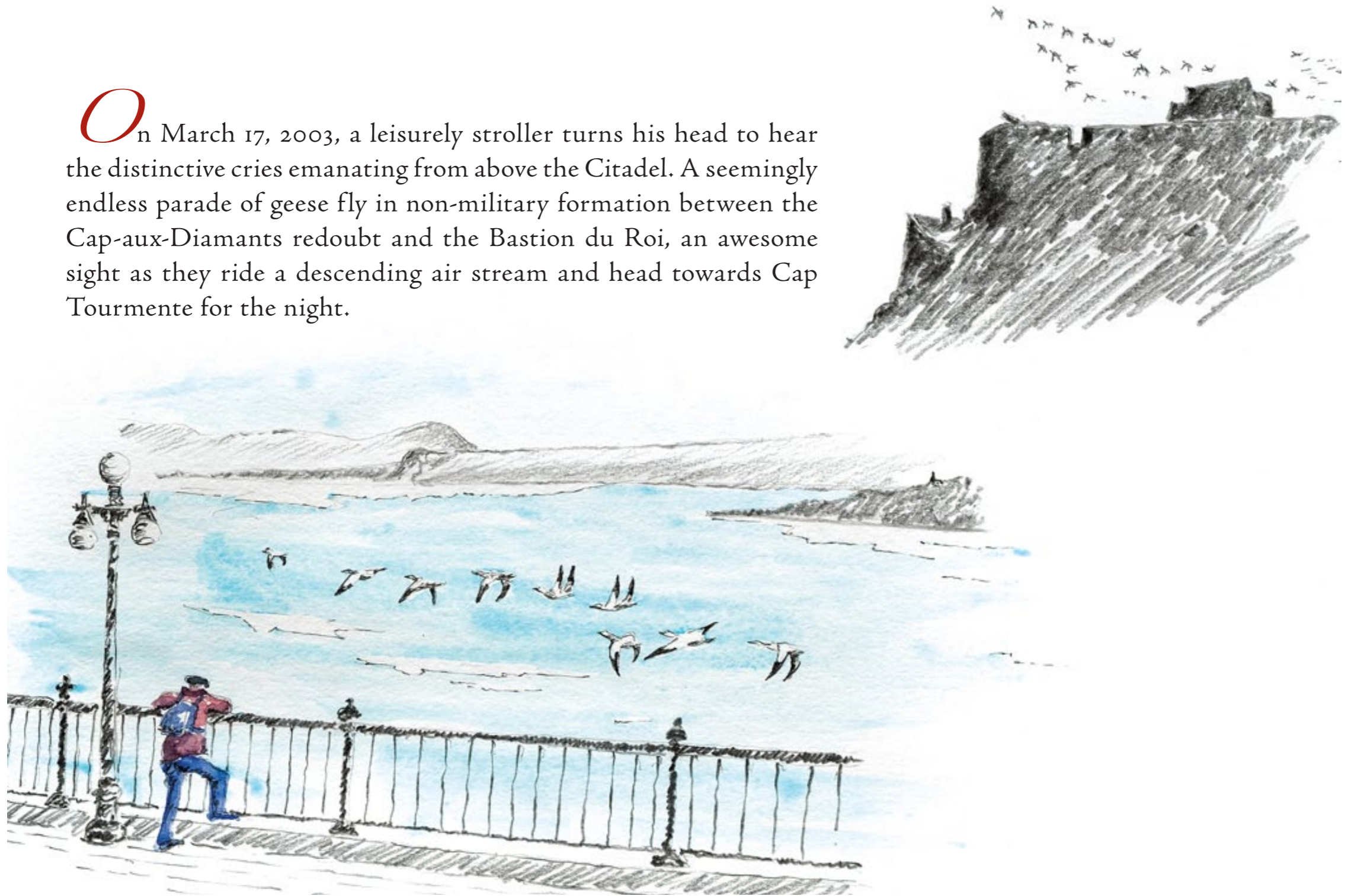
*I*nside the Bastion du Roi are the vestiges of the Cap-aux-Diamants redoubt built under Frontenac's orders in 1693. This is the oldest military structure still in existence in Québec City.





*F*rom the top of the Cap-aux-Diamants redoubt, with the huge cannon now gone from its old fixed carriage, the vista has been opened up magnificently onto a breathtaking panorama. From west to east, we see a part of the glacis, rue Saint-Denis, the Price Building, Château Frontenac, the Bunge silos, the Beaupré shoreline, the harbour of Québec, Mont-Sainte-Anne, Île d'Orléans, Cap Tourmente, the Pointe-de-Lévis, and the Bastion du Roi battery.

On March 17, 2003, a leisurely stroller turns his head to hear the distinctive cries emanating from above the Citadel. A seemingly endless parade of geese fly in non-military formation between the Cap-aux-Diamants redoubt and the Bastion du Roi, an awesome sight as they ride a descending air stream and head towards Cap Tourmente for the night.





*T*he Citadel was designed to resist a prolonged offensive. Inside are barracks, warehouses, kitchens, forge, stables, water tanks, wells, etc. Here we see, from right to left, the supplies store, the hospital, the

long armory building, the powder house (with its five buttresses) dating from the French Regime, and a small cooperage. The Citadel has never been put to the test, apart from the assaults by tourists.

SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



*A*t the edge of the cliff, can be seen the old quartermaster with narrow loopholes in its wall and Mann's demi-bastion, named for the Royal Canada Engineers commander who redesigned Québec's entire defence system right after America's War of Independence. Behind is the Observatory, the Citadel's sole non-military building.

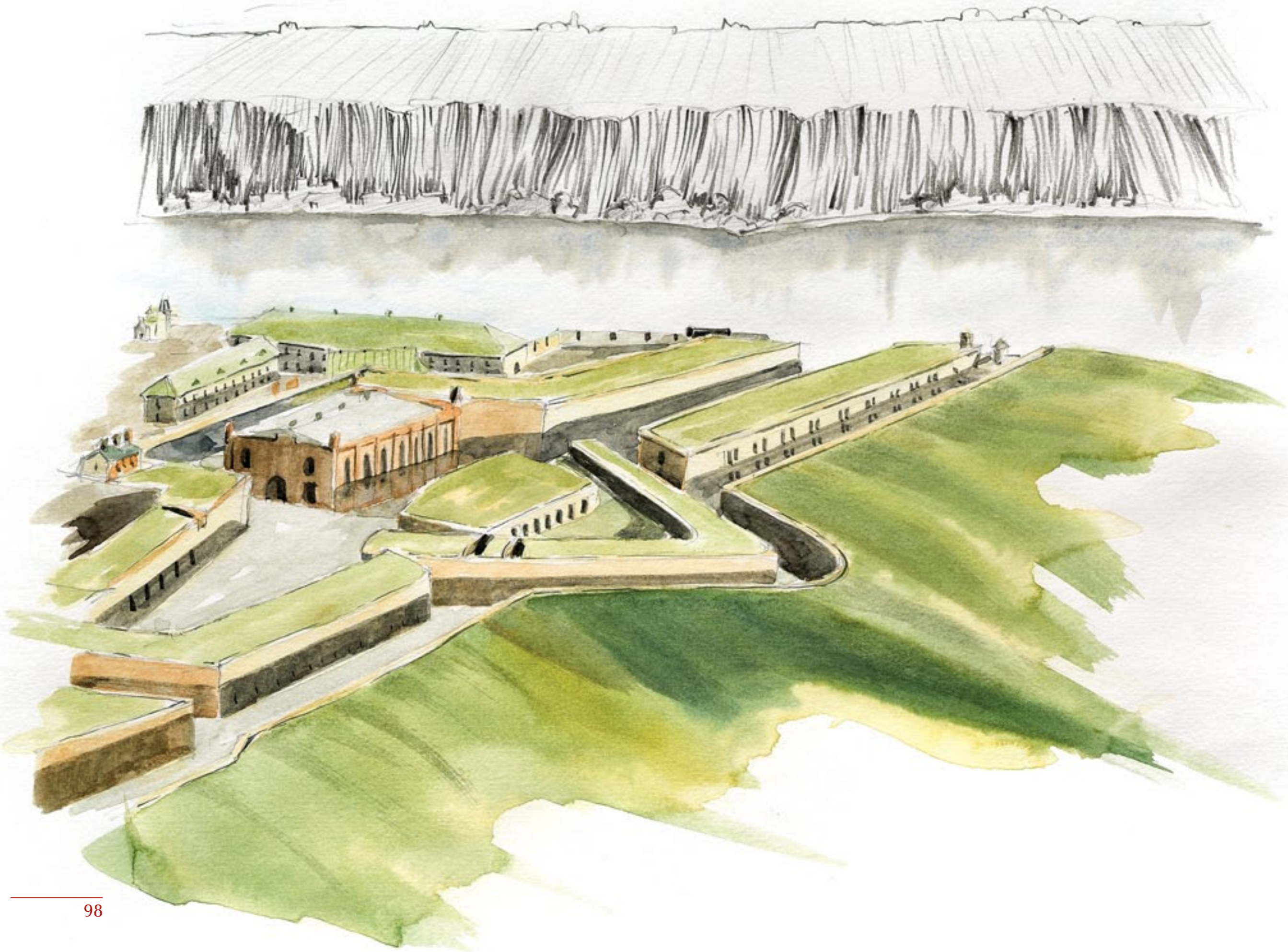


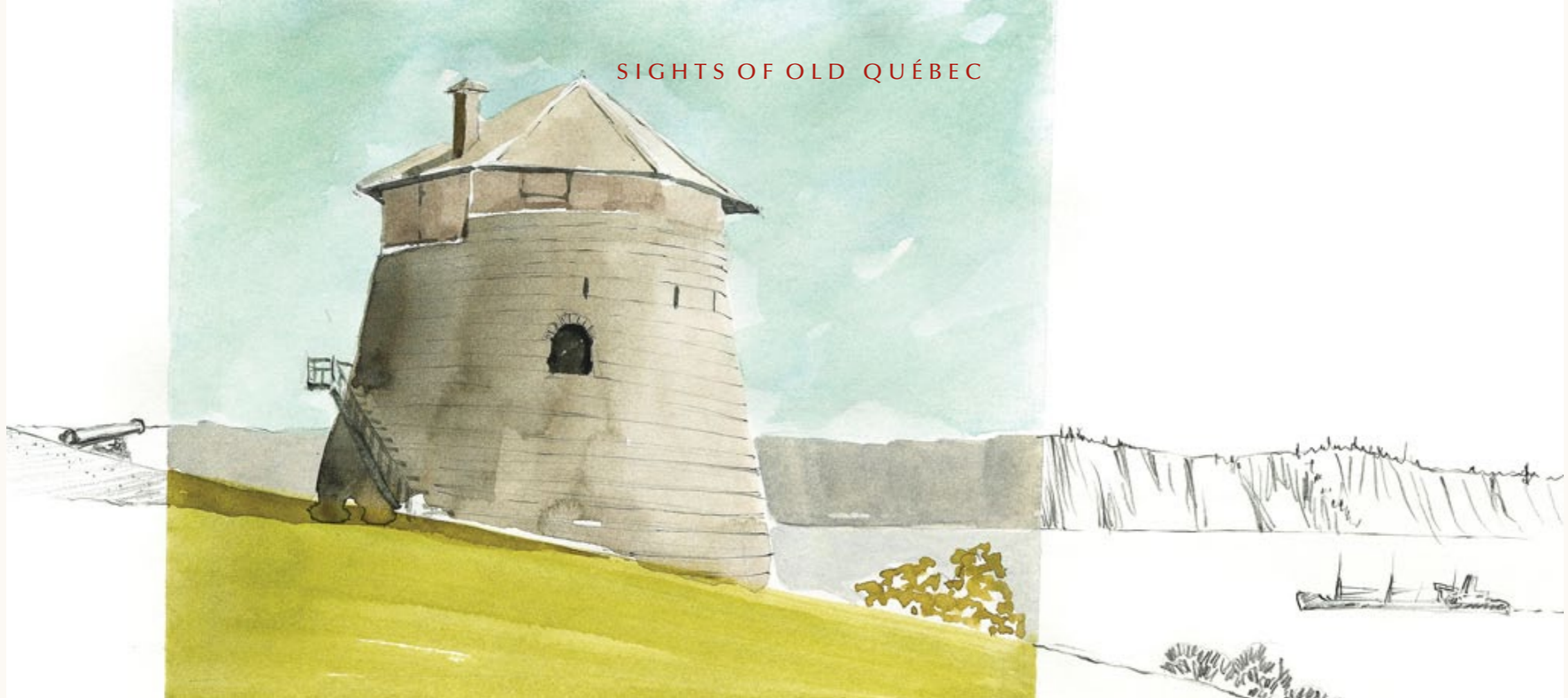


*B*uilt in 1850 at the instigation of Colonel Edward David Ashe, this was North America's first astronomical observatory. It featured a Meridian lens and sextant (donated by England's Greenwich Observatory) and two astronomical clocks. Its

primary function: to calculate and tell sailors the precise local time, vital data to keep them on course. It was commonly called the "Observatoire de la boule" because of the black ball placed in the upper part of the arch surmounting

the tower. At precisely 1 PM daily (except Sundays), the ball was lowered to the bottom of the arch, signaling the exact time. Recently reinstalled, the ball is immobile but clearly visible from boulevard Champlain.





*B*ritish troops occupied the Citadel up to 1871 when the Treaty of Washington cancelled the danger of confrontation between Canada and the United States. Since then it has been the general headquarters of the Royal 22nd Regiment. Until 1994, the cannon was fired at noon and at 9:30 PM to advise soldiers to return home since the Citadel doors closed at 11 PM. In the summer of

2008, the cannon will sound again to mark the city's 400th anniversary.

*T*o the west of the Citadel stands one of four Martello towers to be built in Québec in the early 19th century. The word Martello comes from the name of Corsica's Point Mortella where a similar tower had been built.

So impressed by the effectiveness of the structure which stymied the Royal Navy in 1794, the British subsequently erected more than 200 such towers around the world, including 15 or 16 in Canada. Its salient features are the thick wall of solid masonry facing the enemy with the opposite wall intentionally weak so it could be quickly destroyed should the tower fall into the hands of attackers.



After the British troops withdrew from Québec in 1871, the fortifications began to be demolished to open up the way for traffic and allow expansion of the city, as well as to avoid their high

maintenance costs. The following year Lord Dufferin, the new Governor General, arrived. Smitten by the city's beauty and old-world charm, he acted immediately to preserve the enclosure.

He planned to replace the old narrow doors with wide passageways inspired by the architecture of French strong-holds. The Saint-Louis gate was the first one to be constructed in this manner.

*T*his postern crosses the Ursulines' bastion situated between the Saint-Louis and Dauphine gates. In earlier times a draw-bridge crossed the ditch running the length of the stronghold.

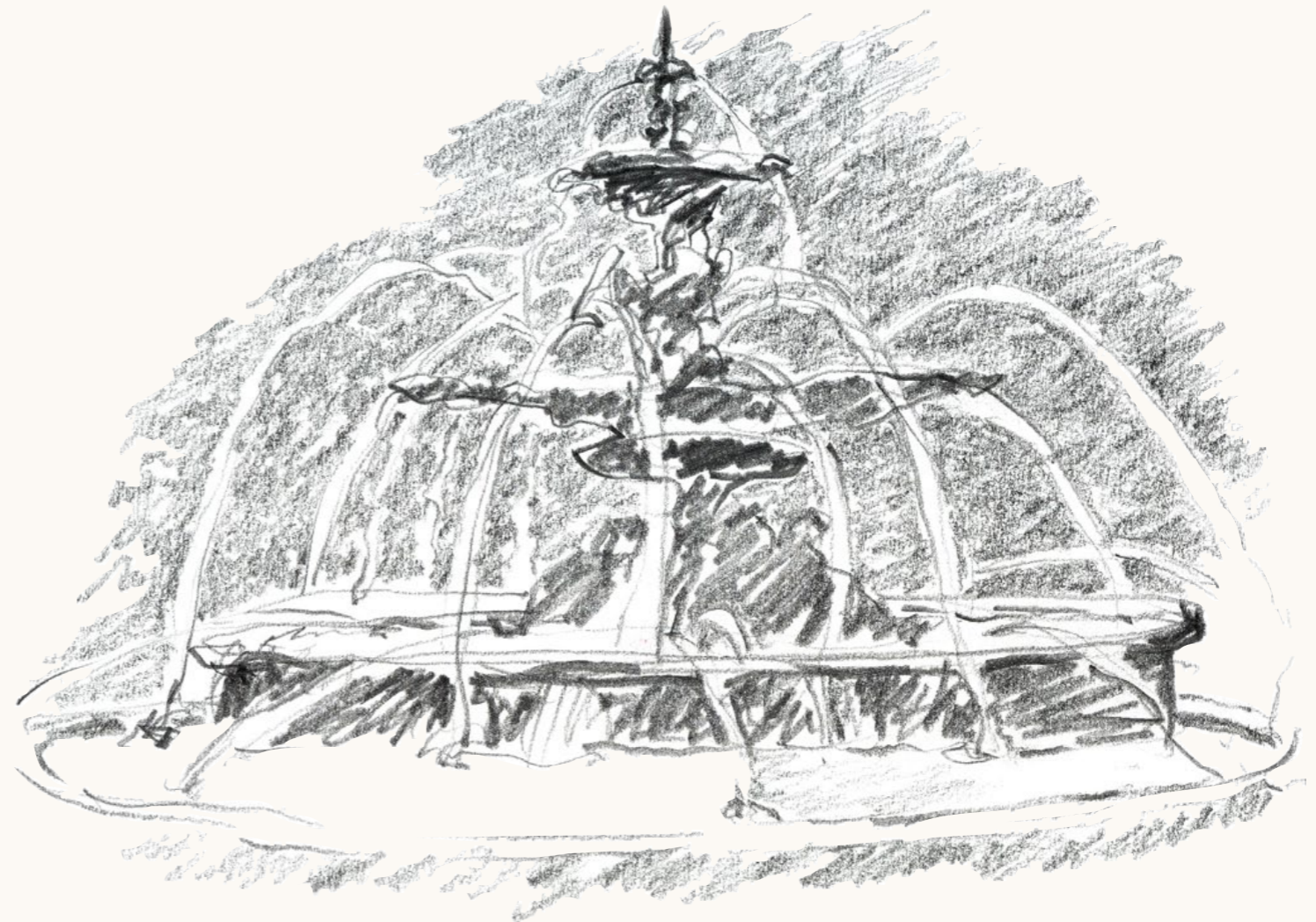




Fontaine de Tourny

A legacy of the Simons family to Québec City on the occasion of its 400th anniversary, the magnificent Tourny Fountain transformed an ordinary intersection into a beautiful place for

strollers with the stellar vista of the Laurentians, rooftops of the old city, the fortifications, the Croix du Sacrifice and the majestic façade of the National Assembly building.





*T*his roof features a small so-called “cat” dormer window and a “sitting dog” dormer window, both living happily together despite the old adage.



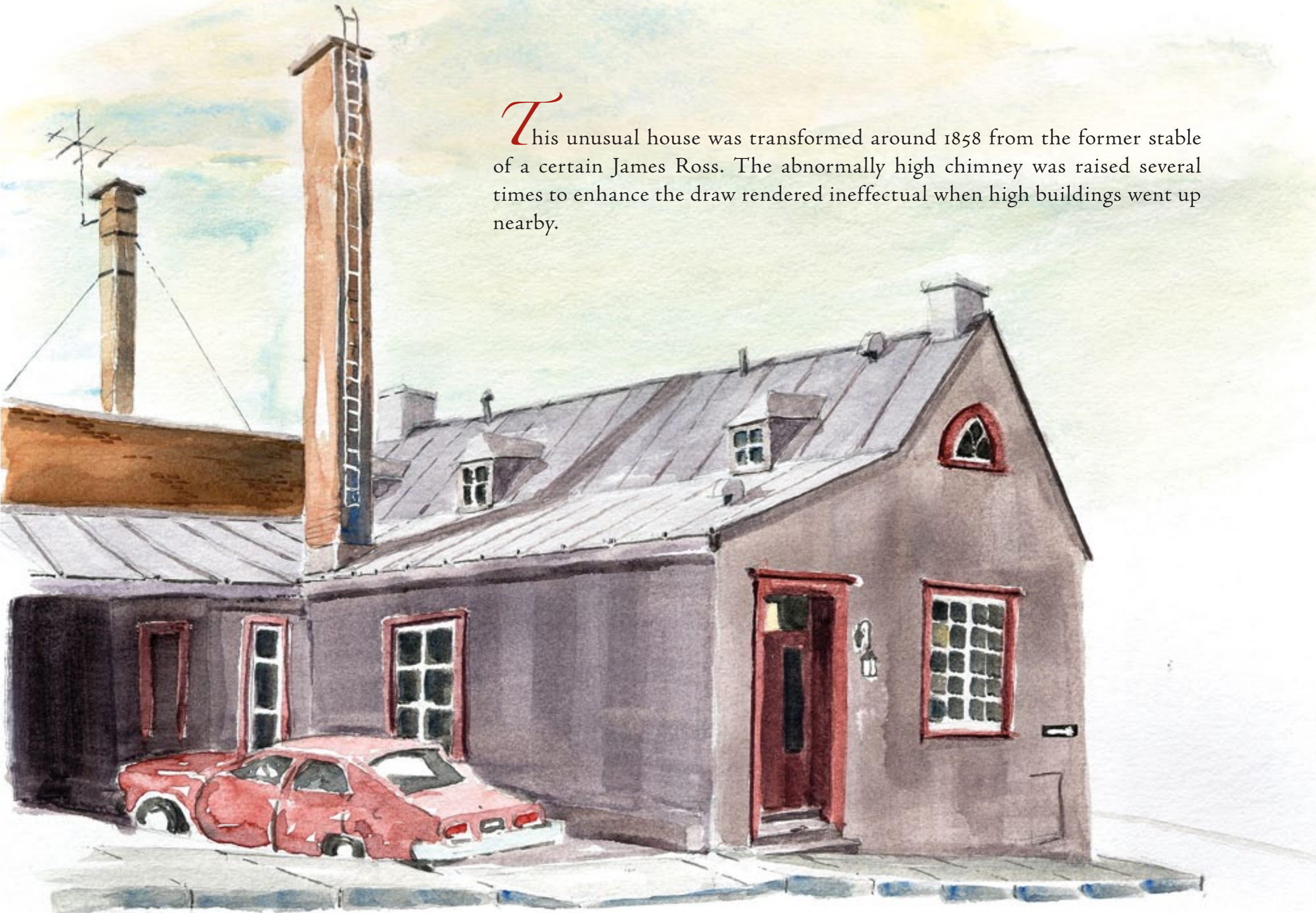


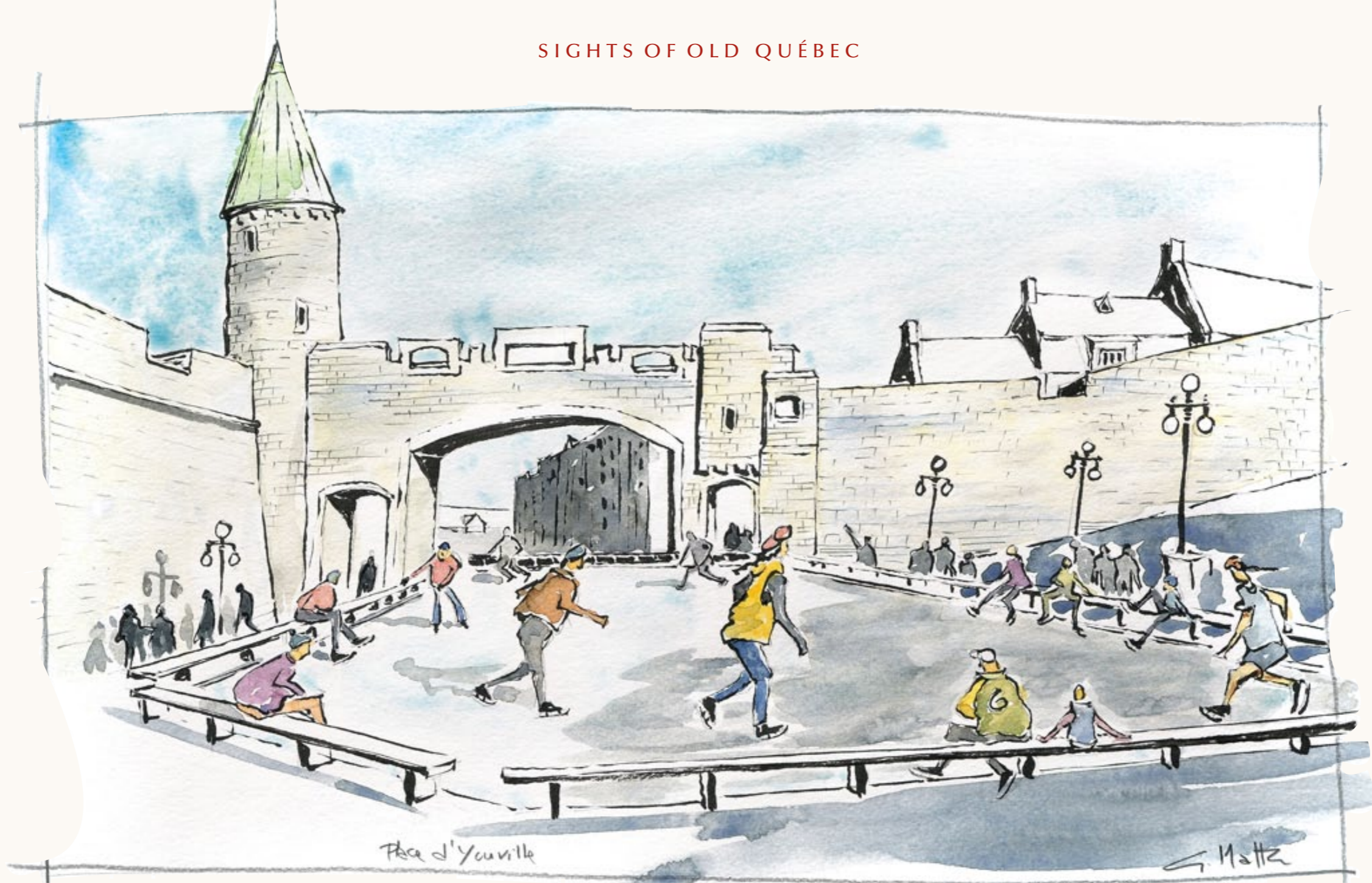
*T*his house was built in the 19th century by the British Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge to house a school for poor children of all religions. Ironically, today

this house is treated like a poor relation. Situated but a few steps from the Saint-Jean gate and Place d'Youville, near the Chapelle des Jésuites on rue d'Auteuil, it has

fallen into disrepair even though classified as an historic monument.

*T*his unusual house was transformed around 1858 from the former stable of a certain James Ross. The abnormally high chimney was raised several times to enhance the draw rendered ineffectual when high buildings went up nearby.



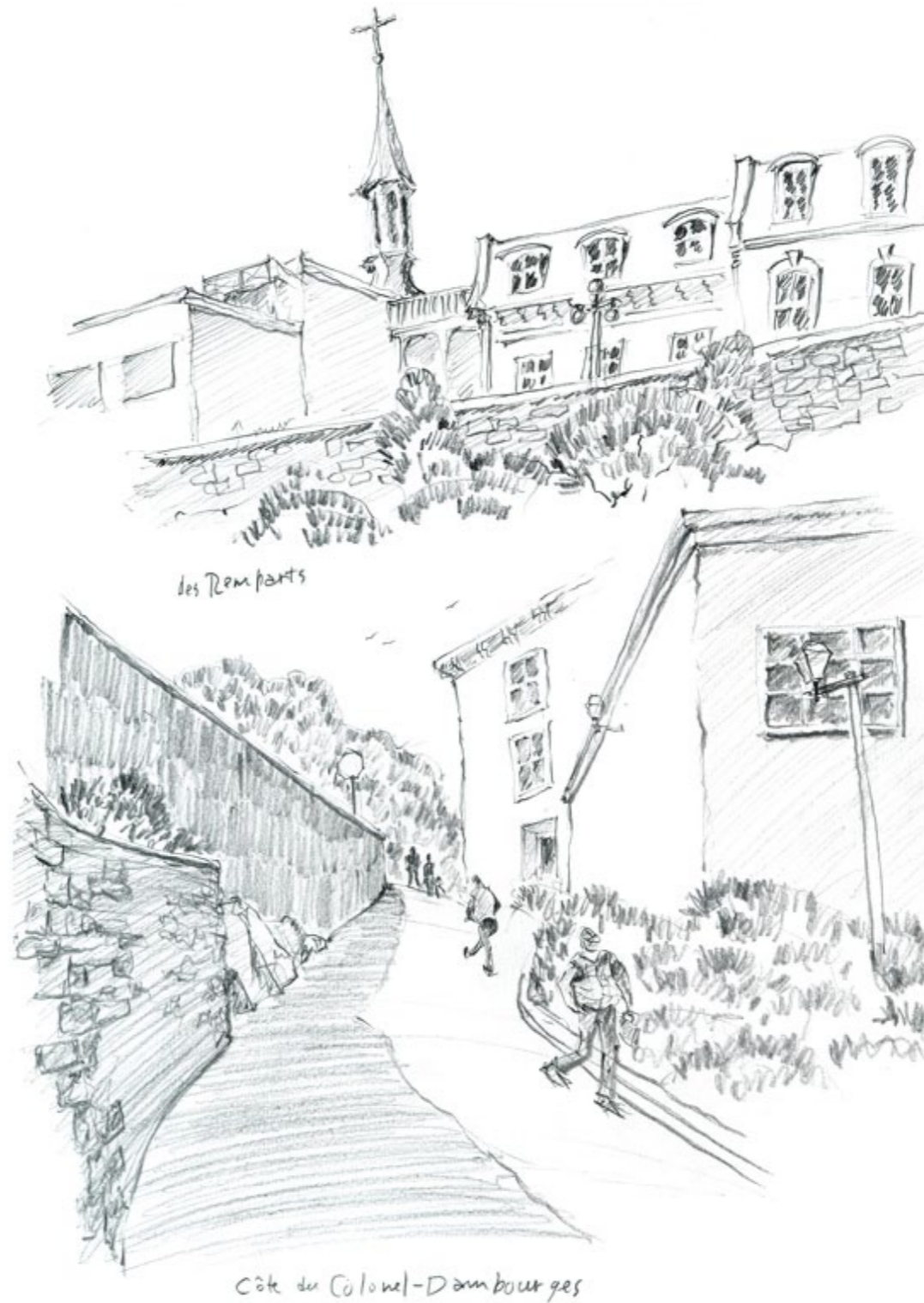


*W*ith its skating rink Place d'Youville, generally called “d'Youville Square”, looks a little like New York's Rockefeller Center. As a backdrop, the Saint-Jean gate, rebuilt in 1939-1940 with Lord Dufferin's impetus, lends a romantic touch.



*T*he impressive stone Dauphine redoubt is one of many efforts by French authorities to fortify the city after Phips's siege in 1690 and the threat of attack by Walker in 1711. Begun in 1712, it was only completed after the Louisbourg fortress was taken by the English in 1745. Deemed impenetrable, Louisbourg should have resisted all invasions from New England. News of its capitulation sparked panic in the capital.

To reach lower town north of Cap-aux-Diamants, you can take the Côte-de-la-Canoterie, so-named because the priests at the Seminary had a boathouse with rowboats to cross the nearby Saint-Charles River. Midway is a bifurcation leading to the small Côte-du-Colonel-Dambourgès, named after a military figure who distinguished himself during the 1775-1776 American invasions.





Vue sous le Cap

*R*ue Sous-le-Cap, which runs along the cliff from the base of Côte-du-Colonel-Dambourgès to the Cap-aux-Diamants point, was once a simple trail. Around 1740 it was known as the ruelle des Chiens (“dog’s alleyway”) with about 30 houses, some with foot-bridges leading to sheds set against the cliff.





*I*n 1945, at the end of World War II, dignitaries from 44 countries met in Québec City to found the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This public place in the Old Port commemorates the 50th anniversary of this event.

A harmonious blending of the FAO's humanitarian vocation and the presence of the St. Lawrence river, this project earned the Canadian Association of Landscape Architects' National Design Honour award in 1998.





*A*t the end of the 18th century, the British colonies in America increasingly striving for their independence from the motherland sought to annex the new Canadian

colony. During the night of September 30-31, 1775, in a raging snowstorm, the American rebels tried to lay hold of Québec. The troops of General Benedict Arnold hit a barricade erected at the corner of rue Sault-au-Matelot and the

small street now called rue de la Barricade. Université Laval's main pavilion on the cliff didn't yet exist, but one of Governor Carleton's militia companies defending the city was made up of Seminary students.



*T*he Bassin Louise was constructed in 1877 to boost Québec's commercial and port functions that were losing ground to Montréal. This body of water is

now used by sailboats and cruise boats. Every four years, large composite fibre "dragonflies" are docked here, awaiting the Québec-Saint-Malo race (heading for Jacques Cartier's point of departure in 1534).

SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



*I*n winter the *Soulanges* tugboat takes a well-deserved respite after valiantly pulling so many vessels laden with merchandise. The *Soulanges* celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2005. Not many boats are still in service at this ripe old age.

*N*orth of the Bassin Louise, with a storage capacity of over 225,000 metric tons and loading capacity of 5,000 tons/hour, the multinational Bunge grain terminal is an international maritime crossroads. At Wharf 18, the *Montréalais* laker unloads 25,000 tons of wheat from Thunder Bay at the tip of Lake Superior while at Wharf 28 the *Kujawy* is loaded with 30,000 tons of wheat for Algeria.



SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



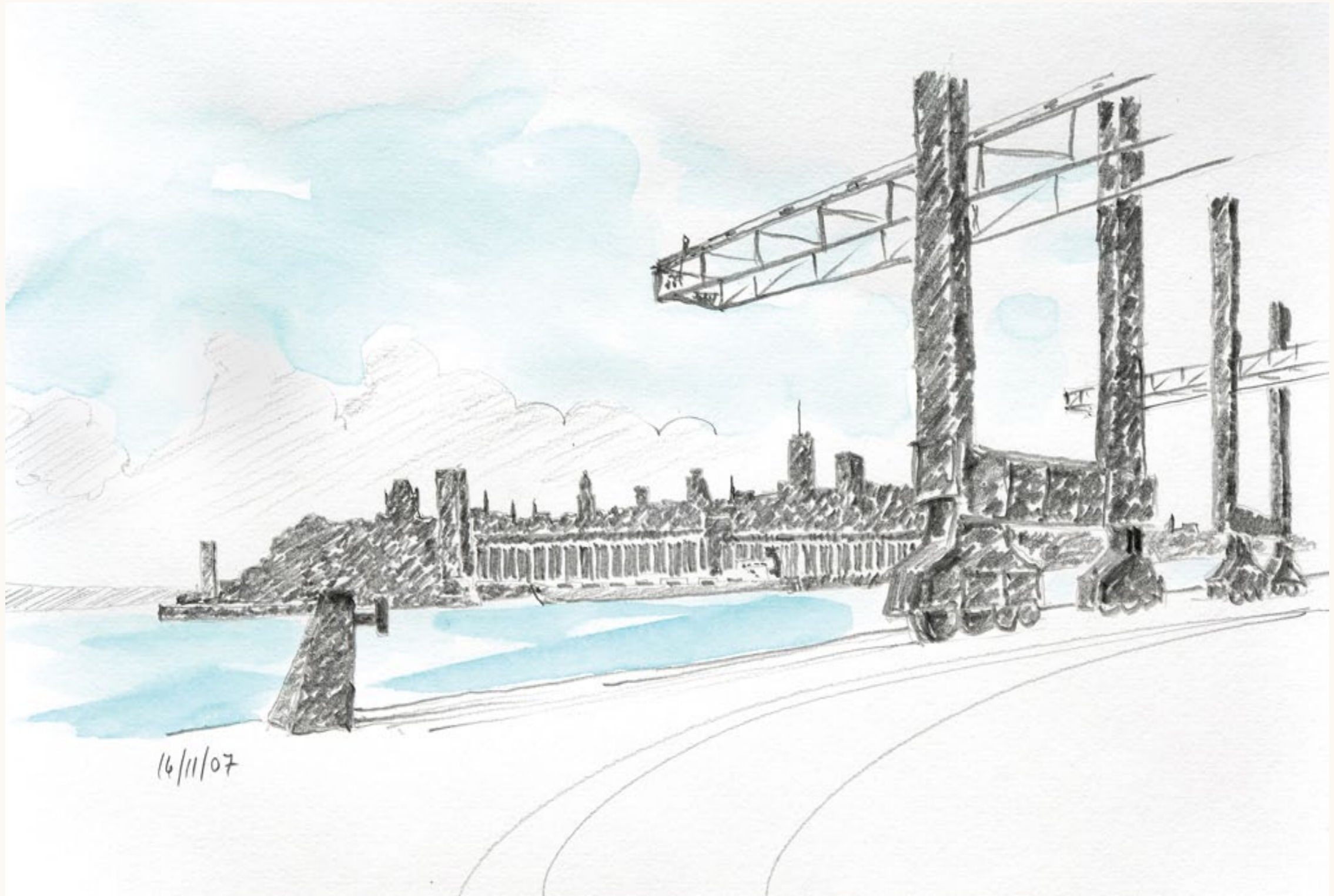
Further to the north is the Beauport port sector with its arsenal of port cranes. Built in the 1960s, it is one of the main points of bulk shipment transfer on the St. Lawrence river.



SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



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SIGHTS OF OLD QUÉBEC



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Sights of Old Québec,
de Gilles Matte et Geneviève Auger,
composé en Jenson corps 18,
a été mis en ligne
en décembre deux mil douze.