



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



**For more information:**

Julie Miller  
Special Projects Agent  
CASE-MCQ  
casemcq.project.agent@gmail.com  
www.casemcq.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 24, 2022**

**Stories of a Small “Shtetl”: Jewish History in Drummondville**

CASE-MCQ is once again partnering with the St. George Church Foundation to present a unique cultural event that blends music with fascinating and little-known stories from local history. As part of the official “Religious Heritage Days/Journées du patrimoine religieux” weekend, they are planning a talk and concert entitled: “Stories of a Small “Shtetl”: Jewish History in Drummondville” on Sunday, September 11. The musical talk will be given twice: at 1:00 and 3:00 pm.

The Jewish history of Drummondville has almost been forgotten and is rarely explored. Very few people know that about 60 Jewish families made Drummondville their home at different times between 1915 and 1960’s. Who were some of these families? Why did they choose Drummondville? What contributions did they make to the town’s development? And how did Jewish and Anglican women’s associations collaborate to help with the war effort in WWII? The answers are fascinating, revealing as they do a different side of local history. CASE-MCQ’s Culture and Heritage Coordinator and St. George Foundation Board Member, Julie Miller, will share stories about some past events and historical personalities, based on research by St. George Foundation Member and Drummondville Historical Society president, Barry Husk.

Special guest Rabbi Avi Finegold from Montreal has been invited to give a short talk on the history of Jewish people in Québec. Avi Finegold is the founder of the Jewish Learning Lab and also the cohost of a popular podcast called, Bonjour, Chai!, a weekly current affairs program that discusses topics relevant to the Canadian Jewish community. His talk will be given in French, but an English transcript will be available, and questions are welcome in either official language.

This event will also be a rare opportunity to hear live Klezmer music, with a selection of traditional Klezmer melodies woven throughout the stories and talks. The concert features local violinists Augustin Deruelle and Bruce Murchison, accompanied by Francine Beaubien on keyboards.

Last year’s Religious Heritage Days talk and concert at St. George’s, “450 Years of Song”, was so popular that people had to be turned away at the door. By offering this year’s talk at two different times, the organizers hope to ensure that there is room for everyone. It promises to be a unique event, with some stories and anecdotes being shared at St. George’s for the very first time.

*(cont)*

As part of the Religious Heritage Days weekend, the church will be open to visitors on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Members of the St. George Foundation will be there to answer visitors' questions.

Reservations for the special talk and concert on Sunday are suggested but not required: [casemcq.project.agent@gmail.com](mailto:casemcq.project.agent@gmail.com)

Address: St. George's Anglican Church 274 Heriot, Drummondville

Programme presented twice: 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*About Religious Heritage Days:*

Religious Heritage Days is an annual event coordinated by the "Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec," a not-for-profit, province-wide organization with the mission to support and promote the conservation and appreciation of the religious heritage of Québec.

*About the St. George Foundation:*

The St. George Foundation's mission is to preserve the historic St. George Anglican Church site and cemetery and the history of the community associated with the site. The Foundation is run by a board of dedicated volunteers and will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. They will be undertaking major renovations of the church building starting in 2022, supported in part by a grant from the *Conseil du Patrimoine religieux du Québec* (CPRQ).

*About CASE-MCQ:*

CASE is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to serve and promote the health, well-being and vitality of the English-speaking community of the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec region by strengthening the English-speaking community's cultural identity and offering relevant and engaging programming and services.

-30-

*Thank you to our partners:*



Canadian  
Heritage

Patrimoine  
canadien



LES JOURNÉES  
DU PATRIMOINE  
RELIGIEUX

