



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

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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 15, 2023

Remembering Drummondville's First Families **A very special Heritage Tea and Talk**

Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 2:00 -5:00 pm

Drummondville Golf Club

400 Chemin du Golf

For information and reservations: casemcq.project.agent@gmail.com

The Centre for Access to Services in English (CASE-MCQ) is joining forces with the **Société d'histoire de Drummond** and the **St. George's Church Foundation** to invite you to a **sumptuous English tea** of scones and other classic baked delights, with more than the usual trimmings! The tea is just one part of this **unique commemorative event**, prepared with the support of the **City of Drummondville**, to introduce, get to know, and highlight some of the fascinating characters, sites, and anecdotes from Drummondville's early history. Through photos, videos, old letters, and family heirlooms, the Watts-Sheppard family and episodes from the second half of the 1800's will be magically brought to life.

The event will start with a **formal commemoration ceremony** of the Robert Nugent Watts bridge, presided over by **Mayor Stéphanie Lacoste** and other officials. Afterwards, the English tea will revive a tradition long held and appreciated by the women of Drummondville, who for decades would put on a tea once a week after a round of golf. Guests will sit down to classic, **buttery scones, Devonshire cream, an array of fancy cookies and baked goods, coffee, and specially blended teas, both hot and iced.** During the tea, there will be an **exclusive sneak-peak** of an upcoming bilingual virtual exhibition about Drummondville's lost Grantham Hall, once the residence of Robert Nugent Watts, his wife Charlotte, and their children. Robert was the cousin and heir of Drummondville's founder, Frederick George Heriot, and both Robert and Charlotte contributed much to the town (among other things, Robert was the first breeder of pure-bred horses in Canada; Charlotte was a painter). Chantal Proulx, a local historian working on a book about Grantham Hall and the Watts-Sheppard family, will present some **fascinating artefacts** including jewelry and old letters from the family archives. The day will be capped off by a **visit**

to St. George's Church, to learn about the history of the site following the devastating fire of 1863, and how the Watts-Sheppard family were instrumental in its rebuilding.

Besides the Mayor and other elected officials, some other **very special guests** will be in attendance, including descendants of the Watts family visiting Drummondville especially for the event, and David More, historian and prize-winning author of a number of historical novels who has also penned the family history.

The organizers would also like to thank the **Club de Golf Drummondville** for their generous support.

All are invited to attend this bilingual event which helps us **make a meaningful connection with the fascinating and nuanced history of Drummondville**, through photos, artefacts, interviews, special guests...and the classic teatime treat of mouth-watering scones.

The cost is: Adults - \$20; Seniors - \$15; Students - \$10. Space is limited so please make a reservation by email: casemcq.project.agent@gmail.com

About the Centre for Access to Services in English

The Centre for Access to Services in English provides support and resources to facilitate and promote the well-being of the English-speaking population of the Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec regions of Québec, Canada. We also help to build bridges with the wider community. Our health, education, and wellness programs aim to build community through engaging workshops and family activities for all ages. For more information, please visit our website at www.casemcq.com or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/casemcq>.

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