

Doncaster Ballyhoo

FOR LAURENTIAN WATERFRONT AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY No. 21 Summer 1999

Yes, there will be a Canada Day again this year. We look forward to seeing you there. We hope to have the canoe rally, thanks to *Pause Plein Air* and Jeff Carter's enthusiasm. Jeff feels that you have had the time to develop the necessary proficiency, so this year the contestants will be measured on their canoeing skills as well as their luck. All associations are invited to take on the challenge. Jeff not only organises the rally but also supplies us with the canoes each year taking them off the North and other rivers where he rents them for tours. *Pause Plein Air* will drop you at a starting point on the North or the Rouge river with a canoe, paddles and life preservers and pick you and the canoe up a few miles downstream. He also does guided canoe trips. It is a beautiful way of seeing a part of the Laurentians that few of us know about. You can reach him at 819-324-0798 or by e-mail at ppa@polyinter.com.

By the time you receive this newsletter the amalgamated town of Ste. Agathe will have elected a new municipal council. The Chamber of Commerce has been very active in trying to sensitise the future council to a set of priorities that the Chamber feels is a necessary step to a healthy and prosperous future. The programme of sensitisation goes under the acronym CAMO, which stands for Comité d'Action de Mobilisation et d'Organisation. Its basic message is that Ste. Agathers have to define their shared vision of our town and work towards accomplishing it. If you wish to comment on your perception of our town and its future, you are encouraged to contact the Chamber of Commerce and talk with Gilles Daoust. The telephone number is 819-326-3731. Their office is in the railroad station at 24 St. Paul St. East.

Speaking of visions, the Chamber of Commerce missed out on the efforts of the Hiawatha Arts Festival organisers who moved to St. Sauveur a few years ago where they were received by an enthusiastic commercial community. Together they have organised *Le Festival des Arts des Laurentides*. This year they will be operating for 2 full weeks and three weekends and will be featuring world-class performances of dance and music. If you want more information call Jacques Desjardins at 450-227-0427.

Along with your copy of the Ballyhoo, you will find the French version of the Heritage Walking Tour. The municipality has offered to cover dollar for dollar the contributions that the Heritage Committee receives towards the English version. So far, we have collected almost a third of the money necessary, but we need your help. If you can make a donation of any size, please send it to us payable to the Corporation des Gares des Laurentides marked for the English Heritage Tour Fund. A charitable receipt will be issued. If you want a draft of the English text, please let us know and we'll send it on. Many thanks to those who have already contributed.

Look inside for a list of the activities in the area this summer. There is more going on every year to keep you amused and enlightened. Come on into town and see.

(819) 326-4963

The Sugar King of Canada

In 1895 Alfred Baumgarten acquired the St. Aubin farm on the Tour du Lac. This was the property from which the small village received its first public water supply through wooden pipes, 17 years earlier, the property that Dr. Lallier, Curé Thibodeau and Edouard St. Aubin exploited through *La Compagnie de l'aqueduc de Ste. Agathe des Monts*.

According to Donald MacKay in "The Square Mile", Alfred Baumgarten was born in Germany in 1842, the son of the King of Saxony's personal physician. He studied chemistry and graduated with a PhD in Göttingen. From there he made his way first to the United States and then to Canada, manufacturing sugar from sugar beets. He became president of the St. Lawrence Sugar Refinery and was known as the Sugar King of Canada.

He adapted well to the British-influenced life of the wealthy of Montreal through his love of the hunt and he built the magnificent building that served as their clubhouse in the 1890's. It seems much of his life was oriented around the hunt, and, while it is difficult to imagine a British-style fox-hunt over the fields of Ste. Agathe today, it is likely that his large stables above the road were built to serve that purpose.

He was famous for his parties, and, again according to Mr. MacKay, we learn that he had three marriageable daughters and spared no expense in getting the job done: "...*An immense ballroom, dripping with chandeliers, was equipped with a floor built on springs to give an extra lift to the waltzing couples. There was a Gothic gallery built on top of the ballroom and extending two storeys to a sky-light set with panes whose colours ranged from deepest gold to palest yellow. With its dark carved wood, white walls and fireplace, the Gothic Gallery resembled a Hollywood dream of a royal hunting lodge in the Black Forest.*" One wonders if it worked.

By contrast, his home in Ste. Agathe was a log cabin. He built a large, round-log house that shows some of the influences of the Maxwell brothers. It eventually had stables and galleries and dominated the hillside overlooking the lake. The house stands today, ringed by condos at 154 chemin Tour du Lac, while his city house has become the McGill University Faculty Club. His large stables still exist today, having evolved through being a recreational centre with an indoor skating rink to being further converted into apartments. The balance of the land north of the road became the Manor House, now La Calèche, and the fields became a ski-hill. Today, the hill is built up with houses.

Alfred Baumgarten retired in 1912 at the age of seventy, but his last years were not easy. During the war that began in 1914, he was shunned by a lot of his old friends because of his German origins, and aspersions were cast that he was a sympathiser. Even in Ste. Agathe, there are stories that his house was used by the spy Joachim Von Ribbentrop. He died in 1919.

In the deed confirming payment of his succession duties, his property is described as "...*(running) from the King's Highway to the said Lac des Sables, to about eighteen feet from the line of division between lot number fifteen of the fourth range of the township of Beresford ... and lot number 14 ... to a certain wild cherry tree standing on the shore of the Lac des Sables, which serves as a boundary between the land presently described...*" The King's Highway is what is now Tour du Lac but was then a road that wound its way around the lake and up along the shore of Lake Manitou, past the original holdings of the Vicomte d'Ivry and eventually up past St. Faustin to the valleys of the Red and Devil's Rivers.

What's it Worth?

or

"I Can't Find a Decent Worker"

“It's so hard to find good people to do a simple job around here!” This is a complaint I often hear, but I much more often hear stories about so-and-so who is worth his weight in gold and has been looking after the country home for years. It takes more than a capable handyman to develop that kind of loyalty. It takes developing a relationship and respect for his skills on the part of the country homeowner.

The local tradesman works in a seasonal economy. The winter is normally a very quiet time where little can be done either at home or for a client and everything seems to go along in a holding pattern. As winter winds down, opportunities for work begin and those long, quiet days fill up with chores and plans. By the time the grass is starting to grow, tradesmen and caretakers begin to see that they had better set their priorities or they will take on too much work. Every morning begins earlier. Helpers from the previous year often couldn't wait through the winter and have gone off elsewhere or into something new so recruiting and training have to begin again. In the meantime, work begins to pile up. If they have committed to five tasks, and have time for only three, something has to be neglected.

Some workers try to keep everybody happy and end up functioning at a 60% rate across the board. Chances are, next year they will be looking for new clients as well as everything else. Most workers in our seasonal economy have a much simpler and more logical way of dealing with the overload. They look over their records and memory to see who pays fast and is appreciative. These clients get full priority. The others will get looked after if there is any extra time. Many of these workers develop a serious relationship with a small number of country homeowners and learn to tell anyone else that they simply don't have the time to take on any more work.

If you have a relationship like this, it is a credit to you as well as to your caretaker. If you want such a relationship, make sure you ask your caretaker what you owe him, pay it on the spot and show your appreciation with a little praise. Most people working locally live pretty frugally and what may be a small sum of money for you could be an important sum for them, and everyone wants to be appreciated.

This simple rule will work for every supplier who services your country property, be it oil, plumbing repairs or housecleaning. Most suppliers are completely honest and will value your patronage because a huge amount of their time, at some point in their careers, has been spent or is being spent collecting unpaid bills. Workers get so much flak in the course of our busy season that no-one wants to alienate a client who pays promptly and includes with payment a few words of gratitude.

On the other hand, when someone doesn't pay, or is unfair, he might learn that it is a small community and word gets around fast.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES 1999

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Information</i>
May 22 to Oct. 31	Galerie Hutchinson	Series of 12 art exhibitions	2620 Cedar Val David	Daily except Wednesdays 12:00-6:00	322-3816 or 322-7982
June 13	Fitness Tour	Bike, walk, run or skate for the Fondation médicale des Laurentides	Centre hospitalier Laurentien	9:00 AM	Lou Jalbert 324-4006
June 16 to 20	Midway Carnival	Rides & games	Parc Lagny	11:00 AM to 11:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
June 23 & 24	Fête St-Jean- Baptiste	Family activities & live entertainment	Parc Lagny	June 23 evening; June 24 daytime	326-0457 888-326-0457
June 26	Youth Takes Over	Talented young artists and musicians	Town centre	10:30 AM to 7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
June 27	Boating Safety Rally	Learn about water safety	Major Beach		326-2282
July 1	CANADA DAY	Kids' games & make-up, canoe rally, live entertainment, fireworks	Parc Lagny	6:00 PM to 10:15 PM	326-4963
July 3	It Rocks	Live entertainment	Town centre	11:00 AM to 9:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 3	Sand Castle Contest	Build a sand castle	Major Beach		326-2282
July 10	100% Local	Local artists & musicians display their talents	St. Vincent Street & rue Principale	10:00 AM to 7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 16 to 18	Medieval Days	Bivouac of the Franks and the Scots	Town centre	10:00 AM to 10:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 23 to Aug. 15	1001 Pots	Pottery show hosted by Kinya Ishikawa	2435 de l'Église, Val David	Daily	322-6868
July 24	Expo-Chaud	Custom sports cars, miniature trains, Dixieland Band & more	St. Vincent Street & rue Principale	10:00 AM to 5:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 24 & 25	Sailing Classic	Sailing races	Major Beach		326-2282
July 30 to Aug. 15	Festival des Arts des Laurentides	World-class dance & music performances	St. Sauveur	See schedule available from organisers	450-227-0427
July 31	International Day	World music	Town centre	10:00 AM to 7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
Aug. 7 & 8	Half-Ironman Triathlon	Running, bicycle and swimming race	Major Beach		Jocelyn 326-3727
Aug. 21	Grand "Groyser" Concert	Concert of Klezmer music and Yiddish culture	Camp B'nai Brith	8:30 PM	514-345-2610 Tickets also available at Doncaster
Aug. 21	Les Festimuses	Classical music with I Musici de Montreal	Ste. Agathe Catholic Church	8:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
Aug. 29	Walk-a-Thon	Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital Foundation	Tour du Lac	9:00 AM	Elana 514-340-8222 local 5836
Sept. 26	Fall Colours Festival	Bicycle tour to admire the leaves	To be announced		326-0457 888-326-0457

Some of the above events require advance ticket purchase. Please check ahead. More information for most events is available from the Information Office at 326-0457 or 888-326-0457. This schedule is brought to you courtesy of Doncaster Realities Inc. (819) 326-4963, but we cannot take responsibility for any errors or omissions.

LA FÊTE DU CANADA 1999 *CANADA DAY*

Ste-Agathe-des-Monts

Rallye en canot / *Canoe rally*
Ouvert à toute association ou organisme
Open to all organisations and groups

(nom de l'association ou organisme / *name of organisation or group*)

représenté par / *represented by*
(age minimum 14 ans / *minimum age 14*)

(nom, adresse, tél / *name, address, phone*)

(nom, adresse, tél / *name, address, phone*)

canot, rames, gilets de sauvetage requis ? ☐ oui ☐ non
canoe, paddles, life jackets required? ☐ yes ☐ no

Date limite pour inscription / *Final date to register*
Le 27 juin 1999 / *June 27, 1999*

Comité pour la Fête du Canada
Canada Day Committee

a/s / c/o :

Immeubles DONCASTER Realities Inc.

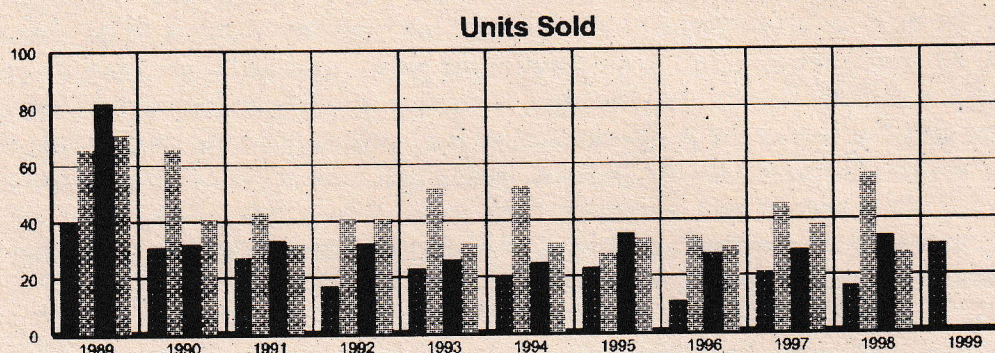
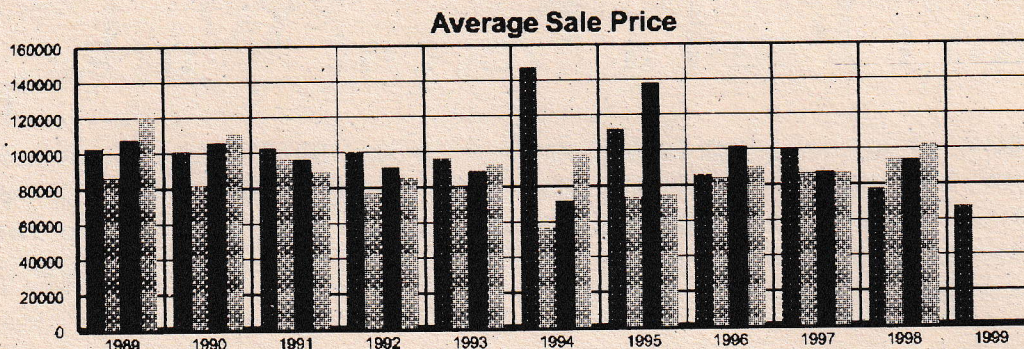
150, rue Principale

Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, QC J8C 1K3

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e-mail: doncaster@ste-agathe.com

MARKET TRENDS



First quarter activity is back up to 1990 levels in terms of numbers of transactions, but the recreational market, which generally boosts the average sale price, has not kicked in yet at this point. Next quarter activity should show a significant increase in both the numbers and the averages. The availability of waterfront properties is starting to drop and by next year, provided politics stays out of it, the waterfront prices may begin showing an increase.

If you would like back issues of the Doncaster Ballyhoo, give us a call or drop by. We will happily add the names of your friends or neighbours to our list if they would like to receive their own copy. Please let us know if you change your address. Having an accurate mailing list helps us keep our costs (and waste) down.

IMMEUBLES
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Our office is open six days a week, closed Tuesdays.
 (Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale)

