

# Doncaster Ballyhoo

FOR LAURENTIAN WATERFRONT AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY

Number 24 Summer 2000

**O**n June 17<sup>th</sup> of this year the municipal council, members of the Heritage Committee and other residents of Ste-Agathe-des-Monts will be making a second official visit to Saranac Lake, New York. The first was in 1908 at the behest of D. Lorne McGibbon and Dr. J. Roddick Byers (see more details inside this issue). The council in Saranac Lake will receive our delegation in style and the visit and discussions will be preparatory to an official twinning of the two towns. Saranac Lake was the premier treatment centre for tuberculosis in the United States as was Ste. Agathe for Canada. The visit was organised, appropriately enough, by Claudia Couture, the past director of the Fondation médicale des Laurentides.

*Speaking of the Fondation médicale des Laurentides, the fundraising drive for the new scanner is going well. Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson and Mr. Art Bruneau have had some serious success so far in their fund-raising campaign and deserve our thanks and support. You can reach Reverend Irwin-Gibson at (819) 326-2146 for more information or mail your donation to the Fondation médicale des Laurentides, 234 St. Vincent St., Ste-Agathe-des-Monts, QC J8C 2B8.*

Jeff Carter feels we have all had it easy enough until now and intends to introduce a greater element of skill into this year's Canada Day canoe rally. If you think you can win, bring your own canoe, otherwise the organisers might just size you up and handicap you with a clunker. Gisèle Plouffe plans to have us dance the evening away while we wait for the Royal fireworks to be launched from the middle of the lake. Of course Jean-Luc Valiquette will be there to paint up the kids while Claudine Chénier puts them through their paces. The restaurant is closed this year and as a result a large barbeque will be offered with proceeds to go to a local charity. Special thanks again to the Municipality of Ste-Agathe-des-Monts and Heritage Canada.

*If all that isn't activity enough, check out what is listed in our insert. Sheila has once again collected news on events between St. Sauveur and Mont Tremblant and has listed them on one schedule. You will find not only the events listed but also the contact numbers that she was given. More copies of the schedule are available at the Information and Tourism Office at the Ste. Agathe station, as well as on our web site.*

Of particular interest this year, Relay 2000 will be passing through our area along the Linear Park on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Relay 2000 will inaugurate the Trans-Canada Trail and participants will be carrying water from the three different oceans over the trail to the destination point in Hull. Carriers from our area include Steve and Winona Sewell of Lac Brûlé. This project was organised with the help of the Millennium Partnership Program of Heritage Canada. For more information on the Trans-Canada Trail, contact Cheryl Hays at 514-485-1222.

*We have had a lot of visitors to our web page at [www.E-Doncaster.com](http://www.E-Doncaster.com). It is almost completely up, but we have learned that a web site will never be complete. It is bilingual and has special sections reserved for lake associations and links to pertinent local sites, the list of summer events and our rental registry. (You can register any time for winter rentals.) Do not hesitate to send us an e-mail if you have any questions or suggestions.*

## (819) 326-4963



# D. Lorne McGibbon

**T**he story of Douglas Lorne McGibbon is the story of the forgotten benefactor of Ste-Agathe and of tuberculosis treatment in Canada. D. Lorne McGibbon may well have given all he had to Ste. Agathe in his fight against the disease.

The McGibbons were Scottish immigrants who settled onto a farm in the Cote de la Visitation area of Montreal (now the Botanical Gardens) in the 1820's. Lorne's father, Alexander, left the farm and set up a grocery store called the Italian Warehouse but he was subsequently called to arms during the Northwest Rebellion. He served as quartermaster to General Middleton before becoming Inspector of Indian Affairs. Lorne was born in Montreal on November 24, 1870, the eleventh of thirteen children. His mother was Harriet Davidson.

Lorne McGibbon graduated from Montreal High School four years after Mortimer Davis. He began his business career in insurance and coal in St. Paul, Minnesota but his first notable success came in Medicine Hat in western Canada in the early 1890's. According to an article by Augustus Bridle in the *Canadian Courier*, July 1912, McGibbon began work there for a man named Tweed. Thanks to McGibbon's industry, the trading company grew rapidly but Mr. Tweed was unwilling to share in his new profits. As a result, McGibbon helped organise a competing firm, the Medicine Hat Trading Company.

While working in Medicine Hat he married Ethylwin Waldock of Woodstock, Ontario.

This marriage may have made it easier for his brother to lure the newlyweds back to Québec. In 1897 he became purchaser for Laurentide Paper in Grand'mère, Quebec. McGibbon's brother was legal counsel for the firm then run by Sir William Van Horne. In 1898 Lorne became General Manager. Van Horne was a mentor as much as an employer as McGibbon began his mercurial rise to head the Canada Rubber Company from which he formed Consolidated Rubber. He then began a series of acquisitions which included Ames Holden and McCreedy, A.E. Rea and Co., Consolidated Felts and Larose Consolidated Mining. He was considered one of the great 'consolidationists' in the early years of the century. The movement was a forerunner of the mergers and acquisitions period that occurred in the 1970's.

McGibbon was a tall, imposing man who drove himself beyond his limits. As a result, ill-health dogged his working life and dictated the kind of work he could do. In 1908 he was diagnosed with tuberculosis and on February 19<sup>th</sup> was hospitalised in Saranac Lake, New York. There he came under the care of Dr. Hugh Kinghorn. During his stay at Saranac Lake he asked Dr. Kinghorn why he could not take the 'cure' in Canada: "Near Montreal. Ste-Agathe, for instance." Kinghorn responded by telling him that there was no sanitarium. J. Roddick Byers, a doctor from Sherbrooke who was also a patient in Saranac Lake, reported that McGibbon turned to him and said "Let's start one, Rod. You go up there and get some land. Get lots so that we can expand." Byers was being discharged the



next day. "With his cheque in my pocket I took the train to Ste. Agathe the very next day," Dr. Byers recalled. He purchased 200 acres of land north of Ste. Agathe. The three men subsequently created the Laurentian Society and, with help from Dr. Trudeau of Saranac Lake, opened at the corner of Albert and Préfontaine Streets in 1908. In order to obtain the zoning changes they needed, they had to overcome reticence on the part of the town council of Ste. Agathe. TB was very contagious and many people had been arriving unannounced in Ste. Agathe to 'take the cure' causing a lot of concern on the part of the residents. McGibbon offered the whole council a week-long trip to Saranac Lake to see for themselves how beneficial the San would become, and, according to Dr. Grignon's *Album historique de la Paroisse*, the council consented upon its return. Subsequently, McGibbon and his associates engaged Scopes and Feustman, Architects, to build the San on the large parcel of land they had secured. The best view of the original building is from des Ardoisés off Godon at the top of Albert Street. It currently houses the administrative centre for the hospital.

According to the records of the founding of the society, McGibbon contributed \$50,000 of the initial \$72,800. In a letter written to Dr. Learn Phelps, medical director of the Laurentian San in the 1950's, Dr. Byers wrote that McGibbon contributed \$150,000 capital in the construction of the first hospital and that he (McGibbon) and Dr. Kinghorn picked up the annual deficit for some years thereafter.

In May 1909, a few months after his release from Saranac Lake, McGibbon acquired a farm on the shore of Lac des Sables from a past mayor of Montreal, R. Wilson Smith. He built Stonehaven and it became one of the best known of the greathouses of Ste.

Agathe. It sat practically side by side with the stone mansion of Mortimer Davis with only the property of Lord Shaughnessy in between.

McGibbon is quoted in an article written about him in the *Canadian Courier*, July 1912, as saying that earning money was hardly the point of his working life. It was the game. Sadly, it was a game he was doomed to lose. In the 1920's his health failed again and he is said to have lost his mental health as well. The records show that in 1921 McGibbon put Stonehaven up as collateral to protect a bond issue that was due. According to local legend, he tried to sell the country property and when it became evident that his sale would not make him solvent, he responded in a dramatic and colourful way. Sometime in the mid-twenties Mr. McGibbon hosted the largest party ever held in Ste. Agathe. He was perhaps the only person who could get everyone to come to his party. He was loved and respected by all. According to Georges Lortie who attended the party as a child, everyone went: the municipal councillors, the second-home owners, the town families. There were fireworks on his lakefront peninsula and revelry and rejoicing. Who could refuse to attend the party of such a great benefactor? Only McGibbon knew that the coffers were empty.

When he died on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1927 his wife renounced his estate. The debts were greater than the assets. Even so, perhaps his spirit governed the title to Stonehaven as it found its way into the hands of the Oblate order: they used it as a cure centre for tuberculosis.

Thanks to Barbara McGibbon, Georges Lortie, Historic Saranac Lake, *Album historique de la Paroisse de Ste-Agathe*, Centre hospitalier Laurentien and Marion Constantine at the Montreal Chest Institute.



# *Ste. Agathe Region*

## *Summer & Fall Activities 2000*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Information</b>
June 24 to Sept. 4	<b>Galerie Hutchinson</b>	Art & Artist - 2000	<i>2620 Cedar Val David</i>	12:00-6:00 Daily except Wednesdays	322-3816 or 322-7982
June 24	<b>Fête St-Jean- Baptiste</b>	Family activities & live entertainment Bonfire	<i>Lagny Park &amp; Sailing School</i>		326-3330 x 2 326-0457 888-326-0457
June 25	<b>Boating Safety Rally</b>	Learn about water safety + Sand Castle contest	<i>Major Beach</i>		326-2282
Fridays June 30 to Aug. 19	<b>Family Fridays</b>	Line dancing followed by open air movies	<i>Lagny Park</i>	6:00 to 8:30 & 9:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 1	<b>CANADA DAY</b>	Kids' games & make-up, canoe rally, live entertainment, fireworks	<i>Lagny Park</i>	5:00 PM to 10:15 PM	326-4963
July 7 & 8	<b>Molson Dry Rock Concerts</b>	Various rock musicians	<i>Mont Tremblant</i>		888-tremblant
July 8	<b>Carlos Placeres</b>	Cuban live entertainment	<i>Lagny Park</i>	7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 9	<b>Fishing in town</b>	Tournament	<i>Lac des Sables</i>		326-3330 x 2
July 9	<b>Gary Fisher Circuit</b>	Amateur mountain bike competition	<i>Val David</i>		322-1118
July 9	<b>Quebec Games</b>	Mountain bike regional finals	<i>Val David</i>		322-2900 x 235
July 14 to 16	<b>Medieval Days</b>	Bivouac of the Franks and the Scots	<i>Lagny Park</i>	10:00 AM to 10:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 14 to 16	<b>International Blues Festival</b>	Various blues musicians	<i>Mont Tremblant</i>		888-tremblant
July 20 to 23	<b>La Jovi-Foire</b>	Country fair	<i>St. Jovite town center</i>		819-425-3300
July 22	<b>Family Festival</b>	Family activities followed by a Dixie band	<i>Lagny Park</i>	12:00 noon to 9:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 22 & 23	<b>Mercedez Benz Classic</b>	Sailing races followed by a mechoui	<i>Lac des Sables</i>		326-2282
July 28 to Aug. 6	<b>Festival des Arts des Laurentides</b>	World-class dance & music performances	<i>St. Sauveur</i>	See schedule available from organisers	450-227-0427
July 29	<b>Almagama</b>	Live world music concert	<i>Lagny Park</i>	7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
July 29 to Aug. 20	<b>1001 Pots</b>	Pottery show hosted by Kinya Ishikawa featuring work of 120 ceramicists	<i>2435 de l'Église, Val David</i>	Daily	322-2900 x 235
July 29 & 30	<b>Sand Sculpture Contest</b>		<i>Major Beach</i>	9:00 AM to 7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457

This schedule is brought to you courtesy of

## **Doncaster Realties Inc.**



# Summer & Fall Activities 2000

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Information</b>
July 29 & 30	<b>Quebec Games</b>	Sailing regional finals	<i>Sailing School</i>		326-2282
Aug. 5	<b>Monica Feire</b>	Brazilian music	<i>Lagny Park</i>	7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
Aug. 5 & 6	<b>Triathlon</b>	Running, bicycle and swimming race	<i>Major Beach</i>		326-0457 888-326-0457
Aug. 12 & 13	<b>Volleyball</b>	Provincial championships		8:00 AM to 8:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
Aug. 12	<b>The Blues Guys</b>	Live blues music	<i>Lagny Park</i>	7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
Aug. 19	<b>Jazz Trio</b>	Live jazz concert	<i>Lagny Park</i>	7:00 PM	326-0457 888-326-0457
Aug. 21	<b>Relay 2000</b>	Inaugurating the Trans-Canada Trail	<i>Linear Park</i>		326-0457 888-326-0457
Aug. 26	<b>Grand "Groyser" Concert</b>	Concert of Klezmer music and Yiddish culture	<i>Camp B'nai Brith</i>	8:30 PM	514-345-2610 Tickets also available at Doncaster
Aug. 27	<b>Walk-a-Thon</b>	Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital Foundation	<i>Tour du Lac</i>	9:00 AM	Elana 514-340-8222 x 5836
Sept. 1 to 4	<b>Music in the Mountains</b>	Classical & chamber music	<i>Mont Tremblant</i>		888-tremblant
Sept. 2 to 4	<b>Sail Past</b>	Sailboat parade & treasure hunt	<i>Lac des Sables</i>		326-2282
Sept. 9	<b>Ste. Agathe Challenge</b>	Regional car rally			Pauline 324-0333
Sept. 9	<b>Fescalade</b>	Rock climbing demonstration and competition	<i>Val David</i>		322-2900 x 235
Sept. 16	<b>Laurentian Stations by Bike</b>	103 km from Nominingue to Val David	<i>Linear Park</i>		322-1751
Sept. 17	<b>Gary Fisher Circuit</b>	Amateur mountain bike competition	<i>Val David</i>		322-1118
Sept. 29 & 30 & Oct. 1	<b>Culture Days</b>	Province-wide promotion of creative & performing arts	<i>Throughout the area</i>		326-0457 888-326-0457

All events take place in Ste. Agathe except where otherwise noted. Some require advance ticket purchase. Please check ahead.

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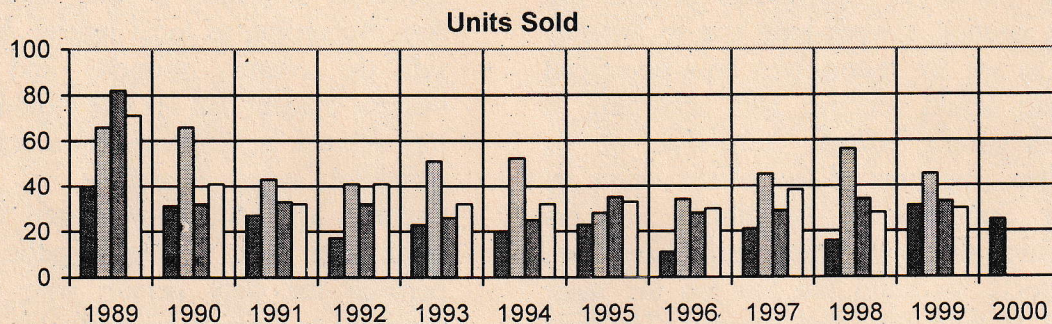
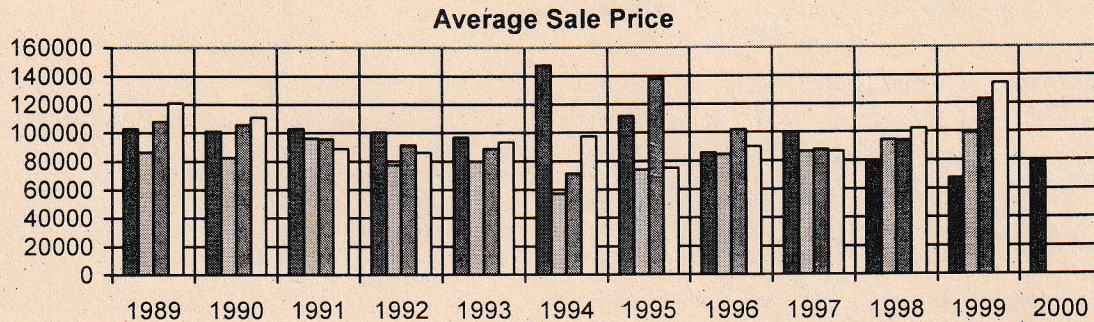
**819-326-4963**

[www.E-Doncaster.com/Summer2000](http://www.E-Doncaster.com/Summer2000)

We cannot take responsibility for any errors or omissions.



# MARKET TRENDS



The graph above shows increased volume with the same average price as the first quarter last year. This information runs contrary to the hype reported in the papers and the general news of an improved economy, however the information coming in for the current quarter may confirm the good news. Even so there is a tendency for the papers to overstate things and one must remain mindful that they overstated the bad times as well. Remember that the graphs represent a very limited segment of the market in the Laurentians.

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.

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