

# Doncaster Ballyhoo

FOR LAURENTIAN WATERFRONT AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY    Number 26    Spring 2001

On June 1<sup>st</sup> many members of the Laurentian community met at Le Patriote in Ste. Agathe to celebrate the successful fundraising for the Fondation médicale des Laurentides. A list of the donors was prepared and all contributors and volunteers were publicly thanked in both official languages. Jean-Guy Moreau, an impersonator, MC'd the event and presented many of the major players, including the Foundation's current president, Michel Rochon of Rôtisserie St. Hubert, and Dr. Marc Desjardins, one of the founders. We also had the opportunity to hear Arthur Bruneau and Fred Reid speak representing respectively the Regional Committee and the Lac Brulé Committee. It was great to see a lake association take such an active part in the needs of our local community.

*The Heritage Committee now has 9 panels strategically located around the village and the lake commemorating different aspects of our history. The panels are in French only, one of the requirements of the Quebec Ministry of Culture, but Sheila has done translations of the contents and they are available at the information office (the old train station). Two of the panels interpret the English and Jewish past and a tenth panel will soon be installed at the library. Erik Wang of the committee has suggested that it might be nice to publish a booklet with reproductions of the panels in English rather than the simple translations of the text we are now using. We will be governed by the demand shown, so please let us know what you think.*

The local school commission is building a new trade school near the Polyvalent in Ste. Agathe. It is unfortunate that we do not have a development commission that would oversee planning for the whole region and thereby try to eliminate duplication. It appears that no study was done to see if any existing building would have been suitable, such as the Mount Sinai Hospital building. Work to save it is slow-going. There is a core of people who are pulling together to recycle it for community use. Meetings have been held and a committee is formed. If you would like to help with Mount Sinai, please let us know. A call to the town manager, Denis Savard, at 819-326-4595 ext. 226, encouraging the responsible levels of government to find a new vocation for it would help as well.

*The Saranac Lake and Ste. Agathe Twinning Committee had its first local meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April at our office and the minutes are available on our website. We received a detailed report from Christiane Lajeunesse about the twinning with Lagny-sur-Marne in France, complete with pictures and anecdotes. France Gareau will be headed down to Saranac Lake in late June with Daniel Desjardins of the Chamber of Commerce. France discovered that the folks there organise a 5 to 7 on the third Thursday of each month to visit the local art galleries and she was so impressed that she decided that it needed further investigation.*

KlezKanada will be celebrating in our region again this year. It will run this year from August 21 to 26 and you can learn more by calling (514) 345-2610 extension 3249 or by visiting their website at [www.kleskanada.com](http://www.kleskanada.com). Tickets will also be available from our office for the Saturday night Grand Groyser Concert on August 25.

*Laurentian landscapes painted by Nathan Letovsky will be the theme for an exposition at our office this summer. The vernissage will run from 1:30 to 5:00 pm Saturday and Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and the show will be open during office hours until August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember that our office is closed Tuesdays, but you are welcome to drop by and see what is on display during office hours all year round. This summer we have works by Emily Mussels and Patrick Landsley as well. Don't forget the 1001 Pots or a visit to the Hutchinson Gallery in Val David. These and many more events are listed on the enclosed brochure prepared painstakingly by Sheila. All of these events are up on our web site as well. Just go there and click through to the Summer 2001 events calendar.*

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# Viscount Raoul Ogier d'Ivry

The Ogier family of Chêne-de-Cœur, Sarthe, France, are the descendants of Philippe Ogier, secretary to King Charles V (1338-1380) of France. Ogier's role was one of influence and there are many official notations in the Paris Parliament and the administrative records of the realm that confirm the noble status of the family. In respect of their long tenure of office, during his reign, Louis XVI awarded the title of Count to the head of the family. In this way the Ogier family, which had holdings in Ivry, not far from Paris, obtained the title *Comte Ogier d'Ivry*. The title Viscount was held by the next oldest male member of the family who would become the Count should there be no male heir to the title in his brother's family. The title of Count did eventually devolve to Raoul Ogier d'Ivry in 1940.

In 1891 Émile Ogier d'Ivry passed away leaving behind his wife Angèle and their three children, Raoul, Marie-Hélène and Jean. Angèle's biggest challenge as the dowager of an important family was to make sure the children established themselves appropriately. Raoul, her eldest, had suffered from cerebral meningitis as a teenager and his intellectual ability had remained that of a 14-year-old. He was in his twenties, and with his handicap he was not the ideal head of the family. Thankfully, he was an adorable, charming, active young man and he already had a devoted spouse, Mme Elizabeth (Elza) Herreboudt de Laet. Angèle undertook to relocate this fine young couple to Canada and so travelled across the Atlantic, up the St. Lawrence and to the frontier of French Canada of the time, a town just beyond the reach of the railroad called Ste-Agathe. One imagines that from Ste-Adèle north, she must have travelled with a retinue and made quite an impression upon the small village when she arrived. There she met the writer and journalist B.A.T. de Montigny who had recently, and perhaps reluctantly, acquired his uncle Pierre Casimir Bohémier's farm. This was 600 acres on the shore of Lake Manitou and was one of the best farms in the area. Angèle purchased it for her son and returned to France, where sadly she discovered that her nineteen-year-old son Jean was terminally ill with tuberculosis.

Raoul began his ambitious project of establishing a new Ogier dynasty in this pioneer French outpost in Canada. His initial project was to build a large country house and barns on the lake and he never missed an opportunity to display his family's illustrious emblem and title. He was generally well-received and liked and over time he always managed to pay his bills upon receipt of remittances from his mother in France. With the security of this money he tried his hand at farming, but soon tired of it and sold the property to a group from Montreal who began a cross-country ski lodge, the Manitou Club. Pictures of this house can be seen in Neil McKenty's recent book *Skiing Legends of the Laurentian Lodge Club*. Unfortunately the main house fell victim to a fire and the club sold it on to CP Rail

which planned to rebuild what they would call the Seignury Club on this same site, but ultimately they chose a location in Montebello and the Manitou peninsula that had once been the location of the Viscount's house was subdivided and sold as waterfront lots. The only evidence left today is the name *Old Club Road (chemin du Vieux Club)*. The Viscount also built a beautiful two-storey boathouse on the far shore of Lake Manitou and a small auberge on the side of the lake closest to the train station. Both of these structures still stand today. During the prewar period, Ogier ran a tour boat on Lake Manitou and had one of the nicest boats on the lake, although not everyone could appreciate it. Steam-driven, it relied on wood for its fuel and sparks flew from its stack, at one point igniting and burning Oliver's Point (today the Manitou Valley Road). In the years after the arrival of the train, the lake had become a recreational destination and many large Montreal families had established homes on the shores. Motorboats were just coming into fashion and were elaborate, ornate structures that were used as much for show as for pleasure.

The Viscount also attempted to mine titanium and iron in the northern section of the township, but it never produced any viable ore and today is a water-filled cave entry in the woods.

Shortly before the First World War, Ste. Agathe experienced a tax revolt that degraded into a bitter power struggle between the priorities of the local town and those of some of the recreational homeowners. The town's power base consisted of its local member of the legislature in Québec and whatever influence he could muster, while the second residence owners, generally influential businessmen in Montreal, could resort to various and generally more influential members from their urban ridings. On top of that, the rural riding in question was in the process of being divided, a much-needed redistribution but poorly timed for Ste. Agathe. The issue was settled in 1912 when the provincial legislature passed a bill creating the municipality of Ivry-sur le-Lac. At the time, Viscount Raoul Ogier d'Ivry was the region's best-known and most colourful citizen. In the 1912 *Album historique de la paroisse de Ste-Agathe* a page is set aside to announce the creation of Ivry, with a picture of the Manitou Club, the "*ancien château du Vicomte*". To one side is a picture of a surprised looking M. A. L'Allier, postmaster for Ivry and disenfranchised councillor, and on the other side, a dashing looking man in a fur hat described as *Vicomte R.O. d'Ivry*. In the list of new councillors is the new mayor, Robert Starke and at the end of the list, the new secretary, the ubiquitous Dr. Grignon, author of the very same *Album historique de la paroisse de Ste-Agathe*.

When the Great War began, Gaétan, the Viscount's only son, enlisted and went overseas to fight for the liberation of France. The Viscount put his boat up in dry-dock and declared he would not float it again until his son returned,



# What's It Worth?

or

## The Hilltops Offered More Than a View

Why are some of the nicest old country homes built so far above the lake? Think of two of the better-known ones from the beginning of the last century, the Château Belvoir and the Frères Oblats, on the south side of Lac des Sables. Both of these large stone buildings were originally built as country properties and both owners, Mortimer Davis and Lorne McGibbon, acquired large expanses of land that included, in each case, dry, buildable peninsulas that jutted out into the lake, ideal waterfront locations. Why would they have invested so much to build so high above the water? Wasn't it the lake that drew them here in the first place?

Back then the Laurentians was still agricultural, the hillsides around the lakes were fields and the views from the hilltops would have been marvellous. Certainly the views would have been a consideration, maybe even the most important reason. There was also the added privacy that the distance from the lake would lend, although that privacy would be limited to the area around the house. The lakefront became a destination away from the home, like the golf course is. It would be a place that the family would go to and spend an extended portion of the day at. Getting to the lake (or back up from it) was a project that would not be undertaken on a whim.

There could also have been a certain level of prestige in being higher up. These were important people who would have been accustomed to seeing the greater society as a totality, something that they would relate to from an administrative perspective, having the habit of overseeing rather than being in the middle.

Another possible reason was the mindset of people in the nineteenth century regarding disease. These people's formative years were lived before the important discoveries of Pasteur and Koch. They would have learned from earliest childhood to stay away from dampness and fog, especially from open waters such as swamps and lakes, since it was felt that disease rose from these humid environments, that a miasma of noxious exhalations resided in the mist, especially during the night. They would have been conditioned to believe that it was healthier to maintain a safe distance from such risk.

In the publicity promoting Dr. Camille Laviolette's project to create a sanitarium on the upper slopes of Mont Tremblant in the 1890's, he writes: 'On the top of Mont Blanc, there is scarcely one microbe in a cubic yard of air; on the summit of the Eiger, at the height of 12,000 feet, there is not a single one; while in the valleys below, they swarm in millions.'

We must contemplate the way our ancestors lived in order to realise how the incremental changes that have taken place over the past century have profoundly changed our way of seeing the world. We no longer live in fear of the miasma, in fact, we barely use the word, but for them it was a real and threatening presence. What preconceptions do we live with that will seem as foreign to our children's grandchildren?

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### *Viscount Raoul Ogier d'Ivry (continued)*

declared he would not float it again until his son returned, but after the war, Gaétan discovered his many cousins in Chêne-de-Cœur and ultimately re-established himself in France. Today Raoul's grandson Philippe, Comte d'Ivry resides in Chêne-de-Cœur.

In 1930, Raoul's mother passed away and his circumstances deteriorated dramatically. He and Elza moved into lesser accommodations and even began to depend upon a small garden with the stoic perspective of the impoverished noble. His daughters married and moved

away. Elza died in 1950; the Viscount followed shortly after, in 1952. Today, Comte Ogier d'Ivry's son and grandson are the last of the Ogiers to maintain the name.

*The story of the Ogier family is much greater than can be related in this short space and we hope to have a more detailed version up on our website soon. Special thanks to Comte Philippe Ogier d'Ivry for help in preparing the foregoing.*



# *Ste. Agathe Region*

## *Summer & Fall Activities 2001*

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Information</b>
Daily 12:00-6:00 exc. Wednesdays	<b>Galerie Hutchinson</b>	Arts & Artists 2001	2620 Cedar Val David	819-322-3816 or 819-322-7982
June 16	<b>Val David Choir</b>	Choir concert, classical repertory	Val David Church	Jean-Morin 819-322-2403
June 16 & 17	<b>Mountain Bike Cup</b>	Canada Cup cross-country & downhill biking	Mont Tremblant	1-88-tremblant www.tremblant.com
June 23, 24 & 25	<b>Open House</b>	Learn about sailing	Sailing School	819-326-2282
June 23 8:00 pm June 24 10:00 am	<b>Fête St-Jean-Baptiste</b>	Family activities & live entertainment	Lagny Park	819-326-3330 x 2 326-0457/1-888-326-0457
June 24	<b>Val David Choir</b>	Choir concert, classical repertory	Val David Church	Jean-Morin 819-322-2403
June 24 10:00 am	<b>Boating Safety Rally</b>	Learn about water safety Followed by BBQ	Municipal wharf	819-326-2282
June 29 & 30 & July 1	<b>Canada Day</b>	3-day Canada Day bash	Mont Tremblant	1-88-tremblant www.tremblant.com
June 30	<b>Sand Castle Contest</b>	Build castles in the sand	Sailing School	819-326-2282
June 30	<b>Molson Dry Rock Concert</b>	Rock music in the mountains	Mont Tremblant	1-88-tremblant www.tremblant.com
July 7 4:30 pm	<b>Guitar Festival</b>	Concert directed by Isabelle Héroux	Val David Rock Gardens	819-322-6193 1-888-322-6193
July 7 & 8	<b>Quebec Cup</b>	Mountain Bike race for 10 – 18 year-olds	Val David	Sébastien Haché 819-322-5948
July 8 8:00 am	<b>Fishing in town</b>	Tournament for under 14's	Lac des Sables	819-326-3330 x 2
July 14 7:30 pm 9:00 pm	<b>Music Tent</b>	Catherine Durand Yelo Molo	Lagny Park	819-326-3330 x 2 326-0457/1-888-326-0457
July 14 4:30 pm	<b>Guitar Festival</b>	French musician Michel Haumont	Val David Rock Gardens	819-322-6193 1-888-322-6193
July 14 to Aug. 12	<b>1001 Pots hosted by Kinya Ishikawa</b>	Pottery show featuring work of 120 ceramicists	2435 de l'Église, Val David	819-322-6868
July 14 to Aug. 12	<b>Hands at Work</b>	Art exhibitions, artists on site on weekends	La Verdure, 1310 Dion, Val David	819-322-7813 819-322-2919
July 15 7:30pm 9:00pm	<b>Music Tent</b>	The Blues Guys Les Batinses	Lagny Park	819-326-3330 x 2 326-0457/1-888-326-0457
July 13, 14 & 15	<b>International Blues Festival</b>	Various blues musicians	Mont Tremblant	1-88-tremblant www.tremblant.com
July 20 9:00 pm	<b>Full Moon Trip</b>	Canoe ride down the North River	Pause Plein Air, Val David	819-322-6880
July 21 4:30 pm	<b>Guitar Festival</b>	Concert-conference by Michel Beauchamp	Val David Rock Gardens	819-322-6193 1-888-322-6193
July 21 11:00 am	<b>Family Festival</b>	Family activities inc. music, clowns, make-up, magician	Lagny Park	819-326-0457 1-888-326-0457
July 21 to Aug. 3 Except Tuesdays	<b>Laurentian Landscapes</b>	Art exhibition of works by Nathan Letovsky	Doncaster Inc. 150 Principale	819-326-4963
July 21 & 22	<b>Mercedes Benz Classic</b>	Sailing races	Sailing School	819-326-2282
July 26 to Aug. 5	<b>Festival des Arts des Laurentides</b>	World-class dance & music performances	St. Sauveur	450-227-0427 www.artssaintsauveur.com
July 28 9:00 am	<b>Sand Sculpture Contest</b>	Build castles in the sand	Major Beach	819-326-3330 x 2

This schedule is brought to you courtesy of

## **Doncaster Realties Inc.**



# Summer & Fall Activities 2001

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Information</b>
July 28 4:30 pm	Guitar Festival	Duo performing semi-classical & classical music	Val David Rock Gardens	819-322-6193 1-888-322-6193
Aug. 4 4:30 pm	Guitar Festival	Alain Leblanc – Nature as inspiration	Val David Rock Gardens	819-322-6193 1-888-322-6193
Aug. 5	Triathlon	Running, bicycle and swimming race	Major Beach	450-227-3578 sporttriple@canada.com
Aug. 6 & 7	Mountain Bike Race	Regional final for 10 – 18 year-olds	Val David	Sébastien Haché 819-322-5948
Aug. 10 & 11	Beneath the Stars		Mont Tremblant	1-88-tremblant www.tremblant.com
Aug. 11 7:00 pm 9:00 pm	Music Tent	LAOBE Rythmes et couleurs Vesse du Loup	Lagny Park	819-326-0457 1-888-326-0457
Aug. 11 4:30 pm	Guitar Festival	Alba Duo, music from around the world	Val David Rock Gardens	819-322-6193 1-888-322-6193
Aug. 11 & 12	Artistic Tents	Artists of Praxis Art Actuel & l'Atelier de l'Ile in 13 tents	Petite Gare Val David	Huguette Rivest 450-434-7648
Aug. 12 8:00 pm	Music Tent	L'Air du Rock'n Roll	Lagny Park	819-326-0457 1-888-326-0457
Aug. 11 & 12 9:00 am	Beach Vollyball Tournament	Quebec Provincial Championship	Major Beach	819-326-0457 1-888-326-0457
Aug. 18 4:30 pm	Guitar Festival	Isabelle Héroux, informal gathering & music	Val David Rock Gardens	819-322-6193 1-888-322-6193
Aug. 18 8:00 pm	Full Moon Trip	Canoe ride down the North River	Pause Plein Air, Val David	819-322-6880
Aug. 25 8:30 pm	Grand "Groyser" Concert	Concert of Klezmer music and Yiddish culture	Camp B'nai Brith, Lantier	514-345-2610 www.klezkanada.com
Aug. 26 9:00 am	Walk-a-Thon	Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital Foundation	Tour du Lac Ste-Agathe	Debra Hendler 514-340-8222 x 5836
Aug. 31 to Sept. 3	Music in the Mountains	Classical & chamber music	Mont Tremblant	1-88-tremblant www.tremblant.com
Sept. 7 & 8	Ste. Agathe Challenge	Regional car rally		Pauline 819-324-0333
Weekends Sept. & October	Symphony of Colours	A range of activities every weekend through the autumn	Mont Tremblant	1-88-tremblant www.tremblant.com
Sept. 8 (in case of rain Sept. 9)	Fescalade	Rock climbing demonstrations and competition	Val David	819-322-2900 x 235
Sept. 16	Gary Fisher Cup	Amateur mountain bike competition	Val David	Sébastien Haché 819-322-5948
Sept. 22	Laurentian Stations by Bike	103 km from Nominique to Val David	Linear Park	819-322-1751
Sept. 22 to 30	Symposium	Contemporary art at Derouin Foundation	1303 Gagnon Val David	819-322-7167
Sept. 23	Festival of Colours	Bicycle tour to see autumn leaves		819-326-3731
Sept. 28, 29 & 30	Culture Days	Province-wide promotion of creative & performing arts	Throughout the area	819-326-0457 1-888-326-0457

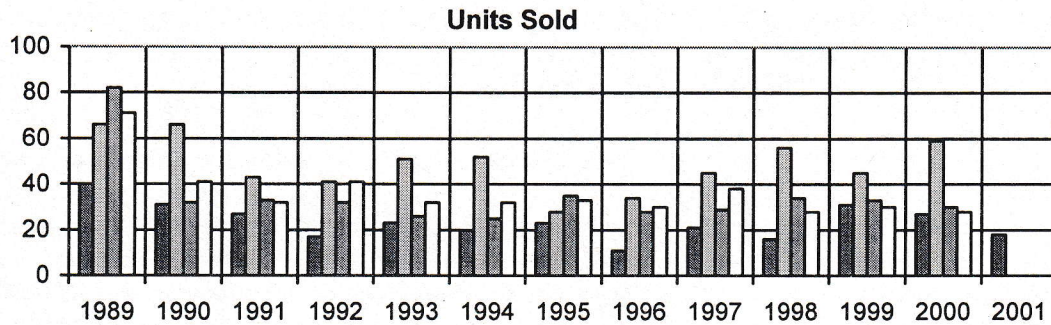
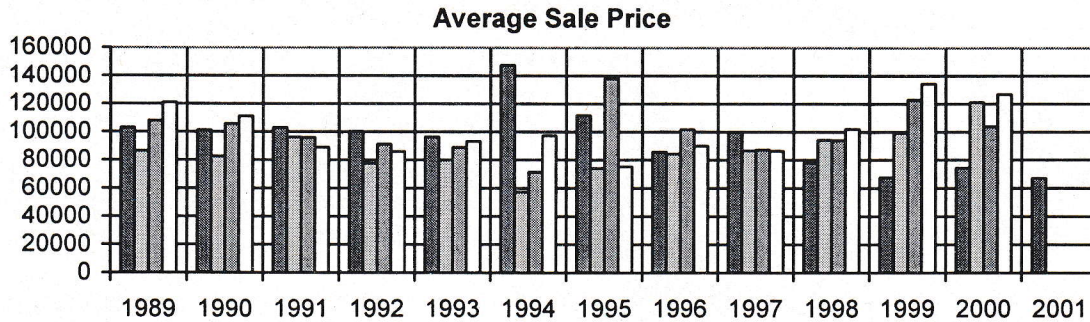
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We are unable to take responsibility for any errors or omissions in the above information.



# MARKET TRENDS



The first quarter started off much more slowly than last year as reflected in the graph above. This reflects a general nervousness in the market that began with the slide in the high-tech sector. This period is usually slow and the market appears to be making up for the softer performance during this quarter. Nervousness that was central to all discussions earlier seems to have completely disappeared.

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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(Not intended to solicit properties currently listed for sale)