

QUEBEC DIOCESAN GAZETTE

VOL 109 Number 10 Reporting on our diocese since 1894 JUNE 2003

Cod and Crab fishery closure devastates Bonne Esperance

By the Rev. Douglas Painter

I write this to inform you of the *current* situation in the small municipality of Bonne Esperance (Old Fort Bay, St. Paul's River and Middle Bay). Many of you are aware that after the complete closure of both the cod and crab fisheries well over 40% of our fishers and plant workers are now without income, and have been so for over three weeks. This number will increase by around 10% each week until around 80% of our village of St. Paul's is completely out of income.

We are overwhelmed with feelings of complete isolation, as it seems all our pleas are falling on deaf ears. Proud and law abiding fishers and plant workers are without employment insurance and have run out of governmental aide. We can not even get off the coast to find work: we are trapped in severe poverty.

If we had a bulging river sweep homes away, a complete power outage for weeks due to an ice storm, or a tornado hit with devastating and life taking power we might be heard and possible be able to declare a state of emergency; but we have simply been forced out of work: an entire community of 425. I pray that the government does not wait in finding an immediate aide package until someone in a fit of desperation commits suicide or loses their family due to conjugal violence caused by intolerable stress.



The Fishers and Plant-Workers effected by the 100% closure take over the offices of "Emploi Quebec" and "MAPAQ" (Ministere de l'Agriculture des Pecheries et de l'Alimentation Quebec), including the "Slip" on the wharf and their vehicles in Blanc Sablon and the "CLD" (Centre Local de Developpement de la Basse-Cote-Nord) office in St. Paul's River where 30 plant workers are camping out.

I will go on to describe a full picture of what the issues are, but please spread the word about this area of the *world* that is being neglected and has been so for as long as people have lived on "The Coast." All we ask is for dignity and a life in our ancestral homeland. A place where car doors are not locked and children can ride their bikes in the day and evening without fear. A community where you know everyone in the village and all seem friendly and easy going. Does the governments wish to illuminate a rural, mostly, Anglophone maritime Quebec? Do they wish us to move where our children live in fear of bullies and hundreds of dollars are spent on security devices? Please help protect this way of life! Help us as we can not afford to help ourselves.

The main **new** light shed on this dark situation is that the \$14 million set aside for the fishery closures was only for cod. If less than 15% of plant workers income, and 25% of fishers, was derived from cod then they will not qualify for the "projects." Our community is almost exclusively a crab fishing village and the processing in the local plant reflects this fact. Only a handful will qualify from our community. We have hoped that projects would save our village... for this summer. Long term problems will still arise in any case as a long term plan will need to be found or this 300km stretch of coast will become vacant and a whole way of life and culture will become forcibly extinct.

You may not be aware that we live in a federally designated isolated

area. Though we have a road that connects us to a ferry to the Northern peninsula of Newfoundland and Labrador, it is closed for 4 months of the year as a result of "freeze-up." A major problem is that the government refuses to spend the \$800 million to build us a road to connect us on a direct path along the coast to Sept-Iles. If built you could affordably visit us an our spectacular scenery and thousand year old native sites, 18th Century French outpost, and the Island of Boney where the cod trap was invented. Many people don't even know that Jacques Cartier planted his cross not too far from here in what he called "the land God gave to Cain".

Currently ice conditions are the worst people have seen in the region in well over 30 years (some of my elderly parishioners tell me it has never been so bad). We have had one delivery by the supply ship this year but on it's return it became stuck (despite having an ice breaker with her) and took two weeks to return on what ordinarily is a three day trip. The result is that our store shelves are bare except from what is flown in at great cost to both storeowners and consumers. The price of eggs is \$3.59, 2 litres of homo milk is \$4.39, Kraft Dinner \$1.70, Romaine lettuce \$2.69 (on it's way out more often than not), cucumber \$2.69, and 1 litre of Apple Juice is \$1.30; and many stores are completely out of beer, so people can't even drown their sorrows; and water must be boiled first as there is coliforme in our reservoir.

These terrible prices are nothing in comparison to airfare. To fly to Sept-Iles is around \$900 per person, one way. After that it is a 12-hour bus ride to Quebec City. For a return trip to Quebec City by air it's between \$1400-1600. Most of the population are unilingual Anglophones and would have to travel to Ontario or farther to get work: another \$400-500. So in order to get to a place to try and find a job, and hoping to return "home" would cost between \$2000-3000; again this does not guarantee work and does not add in the cost of rent or living for two weeks before they would even see a pay check. Spouses and children would have to be left behind, as the cost would be insurmountable. I recall a field trip I made to an outlying state near Mexico City where there were no men in many villages as they all had left for illegal work in the United States; will this be close to what will occur here in the Eastern Lower North Shore?

There is desperation and great fear as each day brings more uncertainty and depression. The stress of not knowing where to go or who to turn to has brought out the best of people and the worst; but I must state again that there has been NO violence as seen around the Eastern provinces. Over a month ago 50 fishers traveled



On March 30th, 2003, members of the diocesan family gathered in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity for the installation of the Venerable Dennis Drainville as Archdeacon of Gaspé and the Reverend Rodney Clark as a Canon of the Cathedral. They are pictured above with co-celebrating with Bishop Bruce during the service. Photo by Kevin Brown [More pictures on page 4.](#)

850 km (400 miles) by skidoo, and at their own cost, to make peaceful protests for two weeks in front of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) office in Sept-Iles. Since then no governmental office or individual has been harmed or threatened to my knowledge; as one fisher said to me "What's the point? Will it put food on my table any faster?"

One of my own grade school boys asked me if one of their friends were now "poor"? How does one answer such a question in a community where everyone has always been fairly equal in status and income? Children of teachers and those will employment have received spring bikes, but not those of fishers or plant workers. Now they go home crying because they are now the victims of fiscal discrimination. We now have a have-not population and it effects the children the most. How proud will they be of the coastal life when they are 18 if now they are marked as poor because their family lived off the sea?

The current crisis *is* of epic proportion; it is not an exaggeration, as people will talk of this crisis and what is to come for generations. Fishers and plant workers will be heralded as heroes for

their consistent hope and determination to remain peaceful and work through the agencies and individuals they have entrusted with leadership. I remain proud of this community in standing up and remaining on the moral high ground of an abusive and unjust situation that has come to light due to the diligence of a handful of "coasters".

PWRDF and the national church support fishers

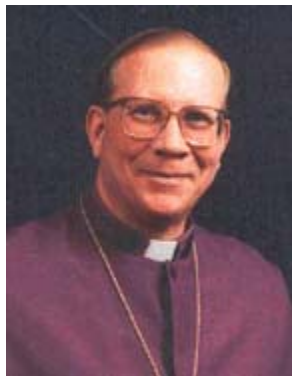
In response to a request from the Rev. Douglas Painter, Andrew Ignatieff, Executive Director, PWRDF, stated on May 15th "Although a grant for the fishery crisis is beyond our typical response given that PWRDF would not normally respond to needs arising out of economic decisions that force individuals or communities to seek outside support, PWRDF has, after consulting with The Rt. Rev. Bruce Stavert, decided to provide a \$ 1,000 grant from its emergency budget as a sign of solidarity with communities impacted by the fishery crisis."

The national church's Council of General Synod meeting in Calgary on May 9th passed a resolution calling on the government of Canada to review its decisions regarding closure of the east coast fishery.

If you then wish to make a financial contribution to help out, the easiest way is to do it by credit card on line through the St Paul's web site: <http://pages.globetrotter.net/pastor/stpauls.html> Just click on the Canada Helps icon, enter you credit card data and a tax receipt is issued by return e-mail. According to Rev. Painter this is the easiest method as it goes directly into their account.

To send a cheque: make it out to the "St. Paul's Discretionary Fund" and mail it to The Rev. Douglas Painter, CP 8, The Rectory, St. Paul's River, Quebec, G0G-2P0

From the Bishop's desk:



Dear Friends;

Matters have gone from bad to worse for many people on the Lower North Shore since I wrote about problems on the Coast in May.

I am writing this letter at the very latest possible date (May 15) with the hope that I could have announced some important turn around in the plight of fishers on the coast.

Alas, there is not very much to report except to say that two provincial government ministries and two federal government departments claim to be hard at work at short term and medium term solutions to the crisis. There have been some announcements of short-term financial help and possible new fishing possibilities made in the last few days but so far nothing in writing and no cheques in the mail.

You will read some details in another article this month – but here in brief is the real crisis.

With the announcements of the total moratorium on the cod fishery in Atlantic Canada and severe reductions in quotas in the crab fishery came disaster for the fishers of one zone affecting the villages of St. Paul's River and Old Fort Bay in particular. Their zone was completely closed for crab and there is no more cod fishery. The announcement came without any plans in place for financial relief or alternative work for fishers or plant workers whose winter Employment Insurance ended a week or so before the announcement.

What has hurt hardest and is so unjust is that the announcement was sudden with no plans for income stabilization in place and for days all the publicity in the media was about crab quota reduction in Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Gaspé. The people at the eastern end of the Coast were left with nothing. Employment Insurance extension was refused.

A few facts: issues about fish stocks are complex – a few government departments are beginning to move with yet unclarified relief action – the Québec Community Network of CBC has been a wonderful support - Fr Douglas Painter in St. Paul's River has been carrying on a phenomenal ministry of advocacy for his parishioners and all the people from Old Fort to Blanc Sablon – this crisis further undermines the tremendous need for long term infrastructure for the whole Lower North Shore beginning with a road from Natashquan to Blanc Sablon – many people have lost their livelihood and their way of life and were entitled to more consultation and respect before hand.

My hope and prayer is that the early summer will bring some short term solutions. I ask you to hope and pray with me.

I take this opportunity to wish one and all a happy, safe and enriching summer.

+Bruce

Passages

This periodic column is to advise the whole of the diocese of happenings in our collective life.

The Rev. Bryce Sangster, Incumbent of Kawawachikamach has been appointed to the Parish of St. Lawrence, Lasalle, in the Diocese of Montreal - effective September 1.

The Ven. Howard Hawes, Incumbent of St. Anne's, Richmond, and the Greater Parish of St. Francis of Assisi and Archdeacon of St. Francis, is retiring at July 1st and moving to Ontario. Congratulations on his engagement to be married October 11.

Four theological students will be working in the Diocese for the summer:

Mr. Wil Stonehill, graduate of Trinity College, Toronto, in the St. Clement's Parish, Lower North Shore;

Miss Eileen Steele, of Montreal

Diocesan Theological College in the Greater Parish of Gaspé;

Mrs. Karen Burgenstein of St. Paul University in the Chaleur Bay Parish; and

Mr. Sam Laldin, graduate of Trinity College, Toronto, in the Parish of St. James' the Greater (Thetford Mines).

Congratulation to **the Rev. Douglas Painter and Sherry Painter** on the birth of Philippa (Pippa) Lydia Eliza Painter, on April 10th. Philippa is sister to Andrew, Cameron and Liam.

Mr. Bruce Myers, of Montreal Diocesan Theological College received two prizes at the College Convocation on May 5 - the Canadian Bible Society Prize for the public reading of Scripture and the Russel F. Brown Prize for the greatest contribution to college life. Bruce is serving a theological student internship in South Africa this summer. His Bachelor's in Theology will be granted by Mc Gill University at the Convocation which he will

miss while in South Africa. He enters the In Ministry Programme at MDTC in September.

The Bishop reports that on May 9th at St. Andrew's Church, York, in the Greater Parish of Gaspé he confirmed the 1000th candidate since becoming Bishop in March of 1991.

The Ven. Dennis Drainville, Archdeacon of Gaspé, has been appointed by the Bishop as Warden of Deacons for the Diocese.

Members of the diocese will be saddened to learn of the death of the **Rev. William Robert Presnail** on April 23rd in his sleep in Montreal at age 49. He was ordained at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity a deacon in 1985 and priest the next year. As a student he served in both Three Rivers and St. Clement's East and then from November of 1985 until July of 1994 as the deacon then priest-in-chargé at St. Clement's East. He moved out the diocese and last served in the diocese of Moosenee. **RIP**

ACW Meditations

By Cecily Hinton

ACW Meditation 9

Scripture: Lamentations 3:17-26

Here is a truly unfortunate person who has lost everything that makes life worth living. Their moral and physical suffering is a constant presence, and even hope is gone. However, a tiny crack appears in the darkness of this person's life when, watching a sunrise, they remember the faithfulness of the Creator's gift of a fresh morning. With the promise of a new day comes a reminder of God's love and mercy, and hope in God returns.

ACW Meditation 10

Scripture: Mark 10:17-22

Here is a young man who seems to have everything, in contrast with the person in the last meditation. He goes to Jesus for the formula for the formula for eternal life and comes away disappointed and sad when he does not like the answer Jesus gives him.

Heavenly Father, we look in all the wrong places for peace and happiness. We are like the young man in the story who trusted in his riches, and his righteous lifestyle. Yet You look straight at us too, with love. You challenge each of us to put aside those things that stand in the way of trust in You. You call us to care about those in need, and to become Your followers.

Do we have the courage to listen to the truth about ourselves and what stands in the way of our being true followers?

Give us grace to put away those things that keep us from that full Life You came to give us. Amen

ACW provides financial aid for students

Each year the ACW gives bursaries to assist post-secondary students from the deaneries of the North Shore and Gaspé to continue their education. The ACW Bursary Application forms are available from the Diocesan Education Chair:

Mrs. Joan Gibb
 2223 rue Brulart
 Sillery, QC
 G1T 1G2
 418-688-9847
 email jgibb@oricom.ca

BISHOP'S CALENDAR JUNE-JULY 2003

June 7	Bishop's University Convocation	Lennoxville
June 8	Visitation	Bishopton
June 9	Matrimonial Commission	Québec
June 15	Confirmation	Sillery
June 21	Confirmation – Parish of Chaleur Bay	Shigawake
June 22	Confirmation	New Carlisle
June 23	Episcopal Ordination	Fredericton
June 24	Provincial House of Bishops	Fredericton
June 28	Summer staff commissioning	Quebec Lodge
July 13	Visitation	Ditchfield
August 2-10	Aboriginal Sacred Circle	Brandon

Quebec Diocesan Gazette

A Ministry of the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec

Founded in 1894 by the Rt. Reverend A. H. Dunn. Published by the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec ten times a year. Subscription rate is \$20.00 per year.

According to the Diocesan Canons the mandate of the **Gazette** shall be to serve as a means of encouragement, communication and community building among the regions of the Diocese, with special emphasis on regional activities and matters of concern for both laity and clergy. It shall provide an opportunity for the Bishop to address the people of the Diocese directly and seek to cover items from outside the Diocese that bear on its corporate life.

The Gazette is a member of Canadian Church Press. It is printed and mailed by Signal Star Publishing, a division of Bowers publishers Limited, Goderich, Ontario, N7A 4B6

The Editorial and Business office for the **Gazette** is located at Church House, 31 rue des Jardins, Quebec, Quebec, G1R 4L6. phone: 418-692-3858 fax: 418-692-3876 e-mail: synodoffice@quebec.anglican.ca

On-line versions of the paper from November 2002 onward, can be found at: <http://www.quebec.anglican.org/gazette/gazette.html>

James Sweeny, interim Editor, phone and fax 819-837-2835 We welcome diocesan news, deadline the 1st of the month prior to publication. Please e-mail submissions to diocesangazette@quebec.anglican.ca

Please send undeliverable copies, address changes and subscriptions to: Quebec Diocesan Gazette, Anglican Journal Circulation Dept., 600 Jarvis Street, Toronto ON M4Y 2J6

Christian "Boundaries" Programme

Submitted by Anne L. Milot

On April 3rd to the 5th St. Barnabas Church North Hatley presented the "Boundaries" Programme. The leadership of the Isaiah 40 Counselling Team helped facilitate the event of thirty participants. Mrs. Kathy Stafford and Rev. Alain Milot organized the event and the members of the parish kept care of hospitality, snacks, and a fantastic lunch on Saturday.

The Boundaries Programme is a programme that helps one create and set clear boundaries to maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle. A boundary affects one's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual area of life. It sets one's limits and limitations, and defines who we are and who we are not. It gives one freedom to walk as the loving, giving, fulfilled individuals' God created us to be.

The Boundaries course was presented on video in eight segments by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. Their programme uses Christian biblical foundations in creating one's personal boundaries. The usual format of the programme is an eight-week study series. One video segment, discussion time, and a week to work and revisit the chapter the text book. In the special weekend "crash course" event all was consolidated into two full nights and a full day study time. After each video segment there would be time for discussion on any issues or questions raised or relate to understanding one's personal boundaries. Their was good and animated sharing time in all three groups. All were blessed and discovered tools for a more meaningful quality of life.

The Boundaries Programme was a great success. After the three-day programme many people said "We need more discussion time." There has been talk among the people and the prayerful hope that we will offer the programme again but with less time constraint. Rev. Alain A. Milot has taught and teaches Christian boundaries in his various healing programmes. He has assured us that he will be creating a follow-up team to this boundaries programme and will be preparing to present this Boundaries Programme in the near future.

Parish of North Hatley - Maundy Thursday

By the Rev. Alain Milot

On Maundy Thursday April 17th, 2003 the Parish of North Hatley held an Agape Supper at St. Barnabas North Hatley. Attending this years quiet love feast were thirty-seven members of the Parish from every age group you can think of. It was truly a family worship event. The supper was organized by Maureen Bean, Lynne Milot, and Mary Hill.

The supper the setting was austere and simple. An uncomplicated table setting. The food purposely basic and simple. There was simply sliced cold meet, salads, pickles, cheese, and a bit wine and juice as the beverage. There was no dessert or casseroles. An important aspect of the supper is that the people serve others and their families and others serve them and their family. No serving yourself permitted. Everyone as much as possible was involved in helping, sharing, and serving others. It is a time of humility

and service in fellowship and peace. It was a time of remembering the same humility and love that Christ reflected. During the supper there was three brief reflections presented on Christ and our living in faith. They were presented by Kathy Stafford, Deacon Ruth Charleau, and Rev. Alain Milot. The reflections were well received and people applauded. People were encouraged to talk about their Christian faith life with each other during the supper.

After the main meal the supper time continued upstairs for the Commemoration of the Lord's Supper. There were a couple of Hymns, two Gospel readings, and a brief reflection on the humility of Christ washing the disciples feet and the Institution of the Lord's Supper echoing "Do this in Remembrance of Me." Following the consecration and Holy Communion time the Service came to a close with the traditional stripping of the Altar and Sanctuary of any ornaments and cloths and ending in darkness.

Upcoming Diocese Events in New Hampshire, Ireland and Quebec.

Submitted by Brisán Wharry

June 7 Diocesan Synod - Ireland

June 7 Election of New Bishop - New Hampshire

September 18 to 21 Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Synod in Quebec

September 21 200th Anniversary of the Cathedral - Quebec

September 26 to October 10 Irish Visit Quebec and New Hampshire

October 13 to 15 Clergy Conference -Ireland

October 16 to 19 Quebec Diocesan Synod

October 20 to 22 Bishops Conference - Quebec

November 2 Consecration of coadjutor Bishop - New Hampshire

Fall 2003 Visit of the Jeanie Johnston to the port of Quebec

The Companion Diocese Committee will start working on the proposed Spring 2004 trip to Ireland in the fall, look for more details in the **Diocesan Gazette** then.



Photo credit: Joan Imhoff

Submitted by Joan Sawyer Imhoff

Pictured above is the Rev. Paul Lampman blessing the new basement Easter morning as the congregation waits to enjoy Easter breakfast.

The breakfast, which has become an Easter tradition, was the first event to be held in the new basement at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, New Carlisle.

Under the direction of Church Warden, Curtis Anez, with the help of a few very dedicated men and the donations of many, the basement has been completed and is beautiful as you can see in the photo to the right.



Photo credit: Chris Fraser

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LENTEN SEASON AT TRINITY CHURCH - STE FOY

By Rev. Raymond Jensen

This year, thanks to the support of our Honorary Assistant, the Reverend Don Hinton and the Reverend Solange Vouvé, our Deacon, it was possible to offer a series of mid-week Lenten Services as well as our traditional Maundy Thursday Celebration and a three hour Good Friday Service. The mid-week services were held at 11:30 a.m., and consisted of a brief but varied liturgy with address. These were followed by consistently delicious home-made soup and crusty bread in Colley Hall.

One exception was the mid-Lent Service which was held at 4:30 p.m., and took the form of a "Mi-Carême" celebration. The service was Evensong, so much appreciated by many because it provided what is now a rather rare opportunity attend Evensong. Also, as Quebecers, some of us remembered fondly the days when "La Mi-Carême" was a much anticipated pause for fun and hilarity in an otherwise sombre Church Season. Rather than a sermon or meditation, we had the pleasure of a fascinating address by Dr. Meb

Reisner on the subject of Malta - yesterday and today. She and her husband, Tom, had just returned from yet another holiday on Malta and Meb's obvious knowledge of its history and an appreciation of its culture and beauty made for a very interesting, enlightening and even inspiring address. I say inspiring because in addition to a historical and cultural overview, Meb took us back to the Book of Acts and Paul's stay in Malta and traced the influence of that missionary event in the spread of the Christian Gospel to Malta and beyond. This culminated in a description of the very real influence and presence of the Anglican Church in that part of the world today. Thank you very much, Meb, for introducing us to an intriguing part of the world, which most of us know in name only, while reminding us of an important part of our spiritual heritage. This service was followed by a "meatless pot-luck supper" which was thoroughly enjoyed by all as witnessed by the fact that it lasted well into the evening.

On Maundy Thursday, Trinity held what has now also become a tradition - an ecumenical pot-luck (no dessert) combined with a celebration

of the Eucharist. We were privileged this year to have as our celebrant, the Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Reverend Wally Raymond. Once Again, the tables were spread for both physical and spiritual sustenance. The event was attended by over forty participants representing a number of the mainline city churches and contributed significantly, according to comments received, to the many activities of this year's observance of Holy Week.

At Trinity, the final Lenten Devotion was the very traditional Three Hours' Service on Good Friday, based on the seven words from the cross. In spite of the length of the service it was very well attended throughout and many expressed appreciation and the hope that such a service would become a permanent part of future Lenten observances.

The attendance at all of the services was, of course, most gratifying to all involved in their preparation. Judging from the numbers participating, the services responded to the type of preparation which helped us all to appreciate more profoundly the significance and the true joy of the Resurrection.

St. Andrew's Anglican Church holds Easter breakfast in new basement



Bishop Bruce congratulates the Venerable Dennis Drainville on his official installation as Archdeacon of the Gaspé. The Ven. Robert Bryan, Archdeacon of the North Shore looks on. Photo by Kevin Brown



Official installation of newest Canon and Archdeacon held in Cathedral

Bishop Bruce congratulates and welcomes the Reverend Canon Rodney Clark as one of the five Cathedral Canons. Photo by Kevin Brown

Kerry cooks up a fundraiser for the Anglican parish of the Magdalen Islands

Kerry and Friends Volume II compiled by Kerry Dickson
Review by Jim Sweeny

Kerry Dickson has done it again. He has produced, with a little help from his friends, volume two in his cookbook series. Volume one came out in 1990 and since then Kerry has been hard at work cooking up a storm, and testing new recipes. The result is 136 pages of delicious ideas. I must admit it is heavily slanted towards seafood, but that is to be expected from a Magdalen Islander! It does have a good selection of breads and desserts and even a vegetarian like myself will find recipes that will make you want to pull out those pots and pans.

Is it perfect: no, but that is part of its charm. I do strongly suggest you read through the recipe before heading out to the store as not all the ingredients are listed at the beginning of the recipe. For example the "Scallops in Gin" does not list the scallops, nor the lobster pate or the whipping cream needed to complete the dish – but it sure sounds some good.

The best part is that the money raised by this and the earlier volume is going into an endowment fund to support Holy Trinity Church. A bargain at twice the price and for a good cause too, you can't lose.

If you would like to order a copy of this book you can send a cheque or money order made out to Kerry Dickson for the amount of \$10.00 per book plus \$4.00 shipping and handling per order. Send to Kerry and Friends c/o Kerry Dickson, 235 rue Principale, Box 120, Magdalen Islands QC. G0B 1M0 be sure to include your full mailing address.

Please Note: Quebec Lodge Camp has a new address!

No, the camp is not moving but Canada Post has changed their address to: 8105 ch du Lac, Hatley, J0B 4B0

Nuggets from the past

Compiled from past issues of the *Diocesan Gazette* by Dr. M.E. Reisner, Diocesan Historian

1903 was a Synod year in the Diocese of Quebec. As was usual then it took place mid-week, opening with Evensong at the Cathedral on Tuesday, June 9th. The session proper commenced on Wednesday morning, continuing to the evening of Friday the 12th. Bishop Andrew Hunter Dunn's Charge to Synod was printed complete in the July and August issues of the Diocesan Gazette. It opened as follows:

"My dear Reverend Brethren of the Clergy and my dear Brethren of the Laity

To you, the members of the Synod of this old Diocese of Quebec, at this, its twenty-fifth session, we offer our most earnest and affectionate greetings.

For now, after a space of two years, we are once more permitted to unite for mutual counsel, advice and legislation; and we have done well to pray, alike at our public services and also here at the opening of our proceedings that we may be pardoned all our sins and also specially directed by the Holy Spirit of Grace in order that our united efforts may result in better work and better lives, to the strengthening of souls, and consequently to the promoting of the honor and glory of God."

In this, the 10th year of Dunn's episcopate, he reminisced briefly about "all the hopes and fears that filled my breast when I first received the call of God the Holy Ghost, through the voice of this Synod, to the 'onus apostolicum,' the burden of responsibility, that rests upon a Bishop of the Church of God."

Although he came to Quebec with no previous administrative experience beyond that of a parish priest, he had tackled his task with vigour and that sense of purpose so typical of the Victorians. "To all my predecessors I am deeply indebted, and I trust that I am also inspired by the bright example of their lives, and by the legacy of the high standard of duty which they have left behind them."

Looking to the future, Dunn announced that in two years time General Synod would be meeting in Quebec, a first for this city, and also expressed wholehearted approval of the plans for celebrating the centenary of the Cathedral in 1904. "You must all feel that under the wise management of the present Dean and Rector, with the earnest co-operation of his congregation, we have now in a very real sense a Cathedral which we can all look up to as our Diocesan Mother Church and Home. ... Surely we should all take a practical interest in so great an event as the Centenary — the celebration of the hundredth year of our Cathedral's consecration. I would express an earnest hope, therefore, ... that every parish will be led to do something for our Cathedral on this auspicious occasion when it comes."

Word from Michaelgarth

By Mia Anderson



Heritage Enhancement / Fierté Patrimoniales this Summer

St Michael's in Sillery and St-Michel de Sillery are two different churches : different cultures and denominations conducted in different languages. But they are neighbours, with Mount Hermon Cemetery lying in between. This June they will become closer – not geographically, but culturally and in partnership. The three, the two dedicated to Michael plus the cemetery, have joined together in a joint summer project to make better known our histories and our spaces, and to invite and enable the use of them whether for artistic and historical exploration or for peace and quiet. Much of the exercise depends on volunteers from the three partners, but the venture has been supported by a private foundation, so that from June 8, the churches will have their doors open and their welcome at their doors, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. from Thursdays to Sundays until Labour Day.

Inside will be the commentators, who will not at all be taking guided tours at set hours, but will be receptive to the comments and questions of those who have come in. They will be trained and versed in the three histories, but will not give a 'spiel' unless asked to; they will respond to the interests of the visitors, in the visitors' own time. The visitor may simply want to pray, or think, or stare. The commentators will also offer the possibility – and this is the high point of the partnership – of a tiny 'pilgrimage' from one church to the other via the cemetery. Archangel Michael's two churches both celebrate their 150th anniversary next year, 2004 (the cemetery is even older), and we hope in that year to have the doors open seven days a week all summer, to enhance our Enhancement. This summer we have our trial run at it, getting ready for the big year.

For more information please call the Incumbent of St Michael & St Matthew's, Mia Anderson, at 418-682-6601.