

A selection of exhibitions that chronicle our history

Townships museums

By CAROLE TREISER and PAT TRACY

Bombardier

The J. Armand Bombardier Museum, located in Valcourt, features a collection of tools, toys and machines made by the famous inventor, including the first snowmobile ever made.

The museum also houses archives and illustrations of the various machines displayed on the walls.

A few of the passageways between exhibits in the museum are narrow, but most areas of the museum are accessible to people confined to wheelchairs.

The museum is open everyday from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. year round. Groups, by special request, may view the exhibits during the mornings. Telephone (514) 532-2258 for more information.

Thetford Mines

The Musée Mineralogique et minier, in Thetford Mines, features all that is known about the production and use of asbestos.

Samples of asbestos in various stages of production to the finished product are displayed, along with tools used in production and maps and information pertinent to the industry.

Groups are welcome, but arrangements for them should be made a week in advance, by calling (418) 335-2123. Groups of school children can see the museum free of charge, but they must be properly supervised.

Admission is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for those under 18. The museum is open 10 to 5 on weekdays and from 1 to 5 on weekends. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Richmond

The Richmond County Historical Society Museum, located in Melbourne, is an old house furnished and set up as a typical middle-class home circa 1860.

The museum also contains assorted artifacts including many old war medals.

From August 20-24, the museum will feature an exhibit of rugs and rug-making. On August 31, a collection of antique cars will be exhibited.

The museum welcomes groups both during and after hours. Arrangements can be made by calling Patricia Keenan at (819) 826-2178. The museum is open Wednesday through Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. From September on however, the museum will be open only on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is 50 cents and children under 12 are admitted free if accompanied by an adult. No facilities for the handicapped are available, but persons in a wheelchair will be able to see exhibits on the main floor.

To get to the museum, go to Richmond and take the Mackenzie Bridge to Melbourne. Turn left at the flashing lights and follow that road to the museum.

Laurier Museum

The Laurier Museum in Arthabaska was once the home of the late Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier. Laurier built it while he was a lawyer in this town from 1877 until 1896. After his death, his niece sold it on the condition that it be turned into a museum to preserve his memory.

The government of Quebec declared the Victorian house a historical site in 1934, five years after it became a museum. The interior of the house is furnished with Laurier's belongings, including furniture, documents, photos and books.

This summer, local artists will exhibit their wares at the museum. They include oil paintings, water colors, furniture, pottery and tiffany-style lamps.

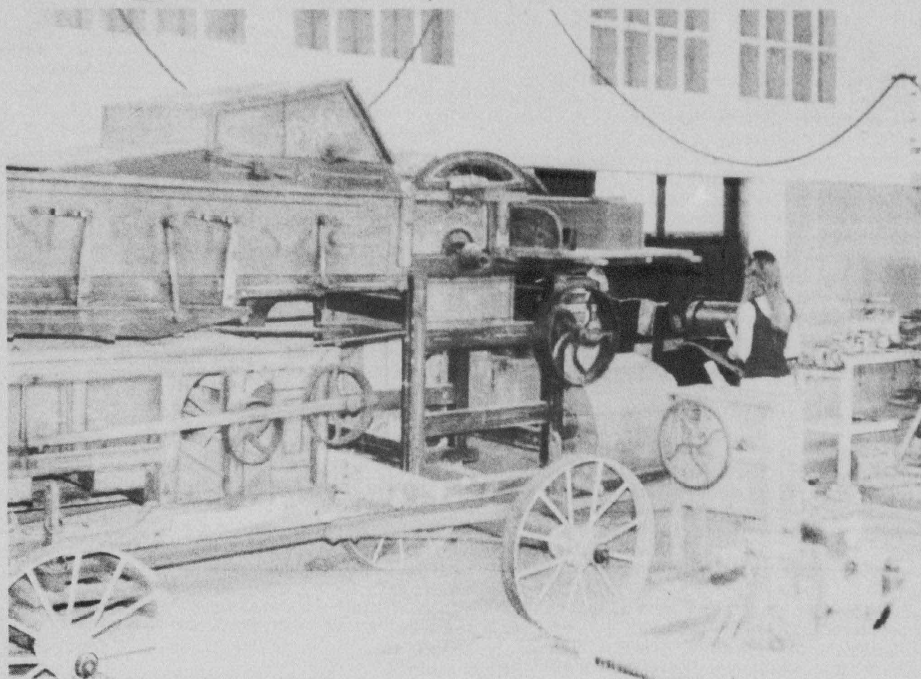
Visitors can lunch either at the museum's snack bar or picnic on the grounds.

Groups are welcome. Reservations must be made ahead of time at 357-8655. Children visiting the museum must be properly supervised.

Although there are no facilities for the handicapped, museum employees are willing to do their utmost to accommodate all visitors.

Admission is free for all.

To get to the Laurier Museum from Sherbrooke, take Highway 116 toward Victoriaville. In Arthabaska, turn right on the Boisfranc Blvd. continue to Laurier Street and turn right.



Cornell Mill Museum: An antique thresher is one of several agricultural exhibits.

Rock Island

The Stanstead Historical Society operates two museums in the area — one at Beebe and one at Rock Island.

The Barn Museum, located at the Lee Farm in Rock Island, offers a variety of old machinery, cars and farm equipment. The visitor to this converted barn will also find a selection of reconstructed rooms with furniture from old houses and an old church.

The historical society's more delicate holdings are housed in the Colby-Curtis Museum at Beebe. In addition to its collection of old clothing, dishes and silver, Colby-Curtis features a military museum with military artifacts dating back to before World War I.

Each year, the historical society presents a special exhibition. This year a photo-display and a collection of heirlooms belonging to the Ball family are featured. The heirlooms include a few select pieces belonging to the late Lady Banting, nee Ball. Also on exhibit is a collection of antique German valentines and a photo-display of Stanstead College from inception to the present.

Visitors are invited to bring their lunches and picnic on the museum grounds. A small shop run by the society sells postcards and souvenirs of the two museums.

The museums give group tours, but arrangements should be made a week in advance by writing to the Secretary of the Stanstead Historical Society, Stanstead, Quebec, J0B 3E0. Museum officials ask that one adult accompany every five children visiting.

Both museums are open every day all summer between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. No admission is charged to visit the museums, but donations are accepted.

Keep in mind — the Barn Museum will hold a handicraft exposition of local talent and offer buggy rides for kids during its open house on August 16.

The Barn Museum is located on the Lee Farm in Rock Island and the Colby-Curtis Museum is located at 110 Main Street in Beebe.

Stanbridge

The Missisquoi Museum could be dubbed "Lower Canada Village". In the three buildings that make up the museum, a visitor will find everything from a model village to artifacts from the Fenian Raid.

The museum houses an impressive file of old school and town records which are catalogued by the research service. A number of students and historians consult these records every year. Work has started on a fire-proof

climate controlled building to preserve the documents.

One of the buildings, the Cornell Mill, houses the furniture of a typical house circa 1830. Visitors will also find farm machinery, early carriages and a large china and glass collection in the mill.

Down the street from the mill is a country store, complete with original stock, although nothing is for sale there. The third building, Bill's Barn, which was formerly a creamery, houses old machines.

This year, a special display of life on main street in Missisquoi is featured in the mill.

The Missisquoi Museum is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays and holidays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$1. for adults, 50 cents for students and 25 cents for children under six.

Groups wishing a tour of the museum must reserve a week ahead and groups bringing children should have at least one adult to supervise every 10 toddlers.

Picnic grounds are provided and coffee and doughnuts are served in the museum. Although there are no facilities for the handicapped, a person in a wheelchair will be able to see a number of exhibits on the basement and first floors of the buildings.

The museum is located on River Street, off Route 202 in Stanbridge. For more information phone 514-248-3153.

Brome County

A Fokker D-VII German WW I air-craft and a pioneer schoolhouse are among the many attractions the Brome County Historical Museum offers its visitors. The museum also houses Pioneer and Indian artifacts, Victorian rooms and a country-store replica.

From August 8 to 16, the museum will hold a special handicraft exhibit and a sale its archives building.

The museum was founded in 1903 and has grown ever since. It is made up of three buildings in Knowlton and another, the Tibbits Hill Stone School Museum, located one mile outside Knowlton on the Brome Centre Road.

Groups are welcome, but museum officials suggest children be properly supervised. Admission is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children and senior citizens. For groups of school children, special rates apply.

Refreshments are offered in the Patchwork Tea Room, with tea and home-baked cookies the house specialty.

Although there are no special facilities for the handicapped, people in wheelchairs will be able to see exhibits on the ground floors of all buildings.

See next page