

St. Patrick's Day Concert at St. Dominique Church

By SHIRLEY NADEAU

There was a lovely concert at Église Saint-Dominique on St. Patrick's Day. "A Tip of the Hat to Ireland" or a "Coup de chapeau à l'Irlande," as it was advertised in French. Fifty-two young musicians of the Grand Orchestre des Jeunes de Québec under the direction of Gilles Auger were joined by a total of 52 singers, members of the Chorale and L'Ensemble Vocal du Conservatoire de Musique de Québec and the Chorale of St. Dominique's Church. Béatrice Cadrin, Musical Director of the Sinfonia de Québec and the Choir Director of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, orchestrated and directed two of the choral pieces. Louise DeLisle-Bouchard is the director of the conservatory choirs and Richard Dugay is the director of the St. Dominique choir.

The first two pieces of the program, for the orchestra only, were Franz Schubert's 7th "Unfinished Symphony"



The Grand Orchestre des Jeunes de Québec and members of the Chorale and L'Ensemble Vocal du Conservatoire de Musique de Québec and the Chorale of St. Dominique's Church at the St. Patrick's Day concert

(“unfinished” because there are only two movements and a symphony normally has four) and a Concerto for Flute by

Carl Reinecke. These were technically very challenging pieces but the young musicians performed admirably,

as did flute soloist, Myriam Beaulieu who performed in the Reinecke concerto.

After a brief inter-

mission, the choirs and orchestra presented the premier performance of *La Saint-Dominique*, a Fantai-

sie composed by the organist titulaire of the church, Robert Patrick Girard. Thereafter followed many traditional Irish songs; *Irish Rhapsody* by Charles Villiers Stanford, *The Pulse of an Irishman*, *Oh who my dear Dermott*, *Danny Boy*, *The Last Rose of Summer*, with three lovely baritone soloists, and *God Save Ireland*. At the end of the concert, choir director Louise DeLisle-Bouchard led the audience in singing *When Irish eyes are smiling*, and every eye was indeed smiling by the end of the concert!

St. Dominique Church, located on Grande Allée near avenue Cartier, is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. A book on the history and architecture of the church is available for sale at the church following worship services or from the Presbytery office during the week. Many other special events are planned throughout the year to celebrate their anniversary.

The Toys & More Sale gains momentum

By AMANDA HALM

The Moms' Nite Out Volunteers of the Jeffery Hale Community Services have worked hard to create a lasting and growing fundraiser. For the past five years, they have been organizing the Toys & More Sale, which is a sale of second-hand children's toys and clothing.

"Anyone can rent a table and sell their items, keeping all the profits. The Moms' group only keeps the table rental fees," said Jill Gagnon, the founder and organizer of the event.

The Toys & More Sale was started by Gagnon shortly after her move to Quebec City and she became involved in activities hosted by Jeffery Hale Community Services. She noticed that sometimes not all of the other mothers were able to participate in activities due to budget restraints and decided to create a fundraiser. The first sale was small, with only seven or eight tables rented, but nonetheless, enough money was raised for all of the moms to enjoy a night at the movie theatre free of charge. The following year they organized a private party at a nail salon, pampering themselves with free manicures and pedicures.

With repeat business



Photo by Amanda Halm

on their side last year, the toy sale reached their goal of renting 30 tables. The payoff was a weekend trip for 16 women to Tilton, New Hampshire, costing each of them only \$25. The next trip will take 24 women back to Tilton for the same small price. "I definitely created the toy sale with the goal of supporting my community, but when it comes to deciding where the weekend trips will be, the capitalist in me comes out," explained Gagnon, who is originally from the United States.

Hot tub lounging, American cinema, and outlet shopping are some of the things the ladies are looking forward to on their weekend away coming up in May. "It can be as simple as being able to read a book without interruption or being able to watch English movies," says

Gagnon. "We're all really looking forward to it."

Nearly 30 tables are already rented for this year's sale. "It has serious momentum. Last year, 300 people came," she relayed. The project is becoming so popular that Gagnon enlisted the help of the English Scouts Group. They help set up tables the night before, and then sell home-baked goodies as their own fundraiser.

The annual Toys & More Sale will take place at the Eastern Quebec Learning Centre, 3005, rue William-Stuart, Quebec, G1W 1V4 (near the corner of chemin St. Louis and ave. Lavergerie) on Saturday, April 16, from 9 until noon. Tables can still be rented for \$20 by contacting Jill Gagnon at jillgagnon@hotmail.com.

Exploring Quebec requires joie de vivre

By CHRIS LEPAN

Quebec City - "I have never heard anyone speak French like that," says the taxi driver, looking at me like I had two heads. We circle past the Chateau Frontenac in search of L'Auberge de la Place d'Armes. As I try to drag up le français from dusty memory, my first visit to Quebec City feels long overdue.

I have always had a soft spot for la belle province, but to embrace the unfamiliar sounds and rhythms, tell the taxi drivers where I want to go, order meals, ask for and understand directions, all in our nation's other official language, requires joie de vivre.

Feel the beating heart of Canada. Retrace the birth of our nation. Quebec is for all Canadians, if you make an effort.

Each time an anglophone takes an extra step into Québécois culture, especially in its capital, an understanding of our collective history grows.

Walk the Plains of Abraham, where the French, led by the Marquis de Montcalm, met defeat at the hand of the British, under Major General James Wolfe, during the savage Battle of Quebec.

Both leaders died as a result of wounds they sustained on September 13, 1759. However, Montcalm, the French general, appears to be better remembered in popular culture. His figure stands proudly over the front of the national assembly, as if watching over his interests.

The experience of living as a minority and having to

adapt to the dominant culture proves invaluable, if only to gain a sense of the historical experience of the Québécois in Canada. By living in Quebec, getting to know its people and institutions in their own cultural context, we may discover a part of ourselves that was always there.

We do not lose our original culture when we gain from another. Rather, we are enriched, living and working with both. One is no less English by living with French, just as one is no less French by living with English.

This English language newspaper, published weekly in this French-speaking city speaks to that notion. Words, sentiments and cultural idiosyncrasy occasionally do get lost in translation. For those of us with less than perfect French and for those with a desire to improve their English, the Chronicle-Telegraph serves an important function.

Scratch the surface of a rich and storied place through tours of the National Battlefields Park, the Canada Odyssey multimedia exhibition, the CBC Radio-Canada building, and the National Assembly. Our interest and the quality of our experiences grow in direct proportion to the knowledge we acquire.

The oath not taken: Let me tell you about "Explore," a French immersion language course at L'université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. If you speak too much English, you may not survive the program. If you speak English in your dormitory, an animateur (counsellor) listening at your door may present you with a dreaded carte jaune (yellow

card). Even if you speak English in a taxi, the driver, in concert with program coordinators, may present you with a yellow card. Three yellow cards = one carte rouge (red card) and potential expulsion.

On day one of each session, every one of some 400 students from across the country places their right hand over their heart to swear an oath to speak only French during the six-week program. I arrived late, on day two, speaking English. With the oath fresh in their minds, teachers, animateurs, and classmates looked at me with incredulity. That is when I learned of the oath I had not taken. So began six weeks of chasing the elusive state of joie de vivre.

Vignettes from the classroom: When I tried to say: "What are the decorations on the wall?" it came out: "What are the decorations in death?" When I tried to say "Who paid for dinner?" I invented: "Who bought the lunch nutremet?"

Mistakes were often corrected amidst peals of laughter. You have to cultivate a sense of humour to cultivate a new language. If you want to sound like you know what you're talking about, you must occasionally risk sounding like you don't. Therein lays the principal obstacle to language acquisition and achieving joie de vivre - fear.

"I think we should all work towards strengthening French-English relations," said fellow Explorer Patricia Mantovani. "Both have rich cultures, and if we don't share, we lose great opportunities to enhance learning."