

An invitation to participate at **the public consultation on 23 January** regarding the City of Pointe-Claire **heritage site project**

Pointe-Claire, Dec 11th 2012

Good news for heritage preservation! On Monday, December 3 at a Council Meeting, the City of Pointe-Claire adopted a notice of motion for the city to create a heritage site on *La pointe claire*.

This notice follows a request made by our Société during a September 2005 City Council meeting where more than 150 members and citizens who care for heritage had shown up to support us: we asked the City of Pointe-Claire to protect the Pointe with a regulation, since the Cultural Property Act enables municipalities to protect their heritage by creating a heritage site.

A unique and exceptional place, the genesis of Pointe-Claire more than 300 years ago, *La pointe claire* includes key elements of our heritage such as, the windmill (1709-1710), St. Joachim Church (1881 -85), the presbytery (1848 and its 1913 enhancement), the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame convent (1867), cemetery land surrounding the church and the missionaries' cross. The City adds the Marguerite-Bourgeoys school to this site. There is no doubt that this is a collection that merits the classification of heritage site.

The next step, as required by law, is public consultation with all Pointe-Claire citizens, so that they can share their points of view on the project with the City.

Our Société has committed to producing a brief on the importance of preserving and showcasing *La pointe claire*. This brief will be presented at public consultation to be held at Pointe-Claire City Hall on January 23, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

It is crucial that citizens who care about heritage be present in large numbers during the public consultation so that they can express themselves and demonstrate their interest in their history and heritage. We need to be numerous in conveying to the City that this project is very important and close to our hearts. We need to encourage the City to make this a priority. In order to do this, we will propose in our brief and during

the public consultation, concrete and planned actions that will foster the promotion and showcasing of this new heritage site. Those who are interested in contributing to this brief are most welcome.

This project is critical to the future of the *Pointe*. We intend to ask the City of Pointe-Claire to specify the actions it intends to take concerning the different aspects of understanding and showcasing the site. *La pointe claire* has the potential to become an important engine for recreation and tourism in Pointe-Claire Village and must be in harmony with the environment. We want to assure ourselves that the creation of a heritage site is only the first step in a sustained showcasing of history.

In anticipation of the public consultation, the Société is organizing an information session in early January (date and location TBA) to discuss the issues involved and to gather ideas and comments. **We want our brief to reflect the vision of all of our members and of all citizens who are sensitive to safeguarding Pointe-Claire's heritage.**

Let us know if you intend to be present, at our briefing or at the public consultation on January 23, 2013. The more numerous we are at this public consultation, the more our ideas will have weight. Talk about it amongst each other! It's important to inform your family and friends.

The issue at hand concerns the preservation of exceptional sites, rich in history with lessons for future generations. **It is our responsibility to ensure that the protection and showcasing of the *Pointe* is an integral part of our city's the future plans!**

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