

Murray Bay Protestant Church

November 2023 Newsletter

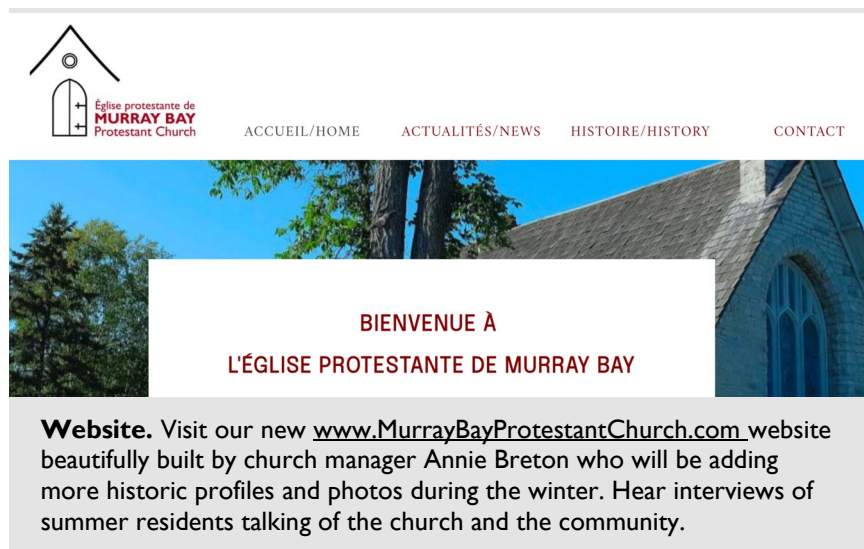
Dear Members and Friends of
the Murray Bay Protestant Church,

When the red doors of our 156-year-old church opened in June, a summer filled with memorable sermons and vibrant events including lectures, tours and music for the entire community highlighted our mission as a house of God and true community center. Our guest book filled with tributes attests that visitors come daily whether for a moment of prayer and reflection or to learn more about our history and marvel at our stained glass windows and architecture.

We are grateful to our **clergy members** from Canada and the United States: the Reverend William Sachs, the Reverend William Terry Blizzard, and the Reverend Maylanne Maybee — all of whom will return to preach next August and to Trustee Andrew Culver who led the discussion at our congregation run service over Labor Day weekend.

Leaders in their fields such as Honorary Trustee Harvey Sloane, MD, who spoke on his just-published autobiography, historian and guide David Mendel who expanded on Québec City history, and Marie-Christine Dufour, who led a tour of *Cité Mémoire*, the outdoor exhibition she helped create, attracted enthusiastic audiences including many people who hadn't visited the church before. The terrifically popular "La Malband, featuring the Pointe-aux-Pickers, with special guests the St. Fiddlers", performing all original songs, saw the audience rise to their feet cheering for an encore. Andrew Culver and the band then played his tribute to our town, "A Sweet Day in Murray Bay." The Sundowner followed for the almost 100 guests. A fundraising tour took visitors to a fascinating farmhouse in St-Irénée with a sculpture garden, tree house, collection of Québec furniture and more. The summer ended with church tours and concerts by our organist

Gina Savard presented as part of the Journées du Patrimoine Religieux. In addition, the Domaine Forget offered two popular concerts at our church, opera singer Sandra Caissy performed a few times as well and families held a funerals and a wedding at the church. Weddings are also scheduled already in the church next year.



The screenshot shows the website header with a logo on the left that reads "Église protestante de MURRAY BAY Protestant Church". To the right of the logo are navigation links: "ACCUEIL/HOME", "ACTUALITÉS/NEWS", "HISTOIRE/HISTORY", and "CONTACT". Below the header is a banner image of the church building with a white text box in the center that says "BIENVENUE À L'ÉGLISE PROTESTANTE DE MURRAY BAY". Below the banner is a text block that reads: "Website. Visit our new www.MurrayBayProtestantChurch.com website beautifully built by church manager Annie Breton who will be adding more historic profiles and photos during the winter. Hear interviews of summer residents talking of the church and the community."



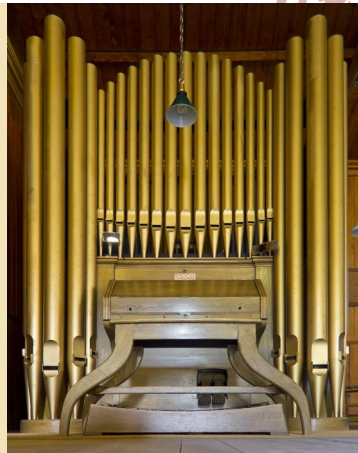
We honor the memory of the Most Reverend Bruce Stavert, retired Archbishop of Québec, who played a significant role in planning our church's 150th anniversary and presided at the occasion. Bishop Stavert died September 11th and at his funeral at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Quebec City included music in the Nascapi language in tribute to his extensive work with First Nation peoples. We extend our thanks to his wife Diana who was such a part of his ministry in La Malbaie. At the funeral his daughter Kathleen said that he anticipated his many summer visits to our church with enthusiasm.



We are most grateful to Tommy Hoopes for the gift of a painting done of the church in the 1970s by Réal Tremblay.

Next summer. Some August programs are already in the works for next year!
 David Mendel will return to tell us more about Québec City, focusing on both French and English influences on its architecture which make the city truly unique.
 Summer resident and Concordia Professor Richard Foltz will speak on the Silk Road. He is regarded as an international authority and has written seven books on adjacent topics.
 Ian Henderson is working on a presentation on “Three Yale Lieutenants During Three Wars.”
 And the summer wouldn't be the same without a rousing return of La Malband and an enticing house tour.
 Concerts by local artists and other weekly programs will be announced in the Spring.

Organ. To honor the 100th anniversary of the installation of our beloved Casavant & Frères organ, in 2025, Trustee Michael Hooton announced at the Annual Meeting in August that Casaant has been retained to do significant necessary restoration in time for a summer of musical celebration in 2025. Our organist Gina Savard is to be congratulated for always providing the most beautiful music in hymns and postludes.



If you consider making a much appreciated donation to the church, you can send a check or use Interac (with our email, question Murray Bay, answer Church) or even [chouennes!](#) Donations are tax deductible; Americans will get a tax donation if drawn on a U.S. bank account and made out to “Friends of the Murray Bay Protestant Church”.



At the Annual Meeting the Trustees and congregation thanked Annie Breton for her multi-faceted leadership, our Sexton Fred Gagné and his family for maintaining our church so beautifully, and Gina Simard for her *sans pareil* organ music.

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