150 YEARS OF ACTION: Montréal's evolving heritage

Montréal, June 21, 2012 – As part of the celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of its founding Society, Château Ramezay - Historic Site and Museum of Montréal, in partnership with the Heritage Montreal Foundation, presents the exhibition 150 years of action: Montréal's evolving heritage. This retrospective in images focuses on the theme of urban heritage and the actions taken to protect and enhance it.

The walls of Château Ramezay can still tell their story thanks to the citizens who saved the building from demolition in their quest to preserve and give voice to this testament of the past. This is a wonderful example of the many actions that have been taken in Montréal to protect our heritage. Without this spirit of commitment, a raised highway would have cut through the historic quarter of Old Montréal, Louis-Joseph Papineau's house would still be a snack bar and Guaranteed Pure Milk Co.'s pint of milk would no longer punctuate the urban horizon.

Through a series of photographic reproductions backlit at night, the exhibition 150 years of action: Montréal's evolving heritage presents all the wealth and diversity of Montréal's built heritage. From the "Faubourg à m'lasse" to the Louis Cyr monument, silo no. 5, Habitat 67 and Place Ville Marie, this exhibition recounts what was, what still is and what could have been...

The examples selected for the exhibition tell the story of how dedicated citizens and their associations are to protecting and revitalizing our city's very diverse heritage. It also captures a society's evolving view of its heritage as well as the visionary and generous efforts of individuals to whom Montréal owes much of what it is today. In 2012, the goal is not so much to look back at the past as it is to draw lessons and inspiration in order to better imagine and create the Montréal that we wish to leave for future generations.

Dinu Bumbaru, Policy Director with the Heritage Montreal Foundation

The free exhibition 150 years of action: Montréal's evolving heritage, located at Place De La Dauversière, between Château Ramezay and Place Jacques-Cartier, is presented from June 18 to October 8, 2012.

The Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and ensure access to a collection devoted to the history of Montréal and Québec. The Château is the first building to have been classified a historic monument and the oldest private history museum in Québec. Visit our website at www.chateauramezay.qc.ca.

Source: Marie-Hélène Vendette Education and Communications Coordinator 514 861-3708, extension 225 mhvendette@chateauramezay.gc.ca

> Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal 280, Notre-Dame Street East Old Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1C5 chateauramezay.gc.ca

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