Histoire de raconter

City of Saint-Sauveur
At the time of the merger of the Parish and Village, which both had their own coat of arms, Saint-Sauveur resorted to a logo evoking its built heritage.

Designed by Nolin, Larosée, Design, it was adopted in 1998 under the municipal administration of Mayor Georges Filion.
The collection “Itinéraires histoire et patrimoine”

The publications of the collection “Itinéraires histoire et patrimoine” propose the discovery of the history and rich heritage characterizing a territory or one of its distinctive elements. This collection is an original idea of the réseau Villes et villages d’art et de patrimoine (Art and Heritage Cities and Villages Network), whose mission is to promote and highlight the arts, culture and heritage for purposes of developing cultural tourism in all the regions of Québec.

This brochure on the City of Saint-Sauveur responds to the objectives of raising citizen awareness towards the heritage wealth of their environment, of reinforcing the sense of belonging and providing information intended for visitors.

This project was carried out in 2012, in the context of an agreement between the City of Saint-Sauveur and the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec (Department of Culture, Communications and the Feminine Condition).

Réseau Villes et villages d’art et de patrimoine
info@artetpatrimoine.org
### HERITAGE FEATURES TO DISCOVER

1. **Première chapelle (First Chapel)**
2. **Maison (Log House), Saint-Elmire**
3. **Maison Brosseau (Brosseau House), 240, Principale**
4. **Maison rose (The Pink House), 186, Principale**
5. **Maison des bedeaux (Bedeaux House), 17, de l’Église**
6. **Maison du 300 (House at 300), Principale**
7. **La «toute mignonne» (The “cute one”), 210, Principale**
8. **Maison mansardée (House with a modern mansard roof), 423, du Lac-Millette**
9. **Maison Chevalier (Chevalier House), 197, Principale**
10. **Grande maison au toit plat (Large House with a flat roof), 405, Principale**
11. **Maison Beauchamp (Beauchamp House) 206, Principale**
12. **Maison au toit en pavillon (House with a tent roof), 129, Principale**
13. **Hôtel Nadeau (Nadeau Hotel), 230, Principale**
14. **Hôtel Beaulieu-Plouffe (Beaulieu-Plouffe Hotel), 200, Principale**
15. **Magasin Brown-Sloane (Former Brown-Sloane store), 189, Principale**
16. **Maison avec galerie (House with a veranda), 10, Lafleur Nord**
17. **Maison au toit bleu (House with blue roof), 269, Principale**
18. **Maison Sloane (Sloane House), 185, Principale**
19. **Maison Clouthier (Clouthier House), 231, Principale**
20. **Maison à lucarnes (Dormer House), 10, Hébert**
21. **Maison mansardée (House with a modern mansard roof), 101, de l’Église**
22. **Maison du 7 (House at 7), Hochar**
23. **Maison du 89 (House at 89), de l’Église**
24. **La gare (The Railway Station)**
25. **Maison Chartier (Chartier House), 27, de l’Église**
26. **Première école Marie-Rose (First Marie-Rose School)**
27. **Église Saint-Sauveur (Saint-Sauveur Church)**
28. **Presbytère de 1890 (1890 Rectory)**
29. **Chapelle du lac des Becs-scie (Becs-scie Lake Chapel)**
30. **Église St. Francis of the Birds (St. Francis of the Birds Church), 86, Saint-Denis**
31. **Nymark Lodge au pied des pentes (The Nymark Lodge at the foot of the slopes)**

### LEGENDS

Element whose location is identified, sometimes transformed

Uncharted or missing element
The visitor targeted by this heritage pamphlet which has been developed from the archives of La société d’histoire et de généalogie des Pays-d’en-Haut (Pays-d’en-Haut Historical and Genealogical Society), will be able to discover Saint-Sauveur: a place whose past of long-term survival is met by a dynamic present.

Whether one originates from French, English or Latin America, or elsewhere around the world, being here means immediately enjoying the charms of its valley with mountains levelled by glacierization, enjoying the changing climate of the Laurentians and discovering the patchwork quilt of a courageous past and welcoming present.

Characterized by village pride that is unique, Saint-Sauveur ensures that its streets and buildings enjoy a visibility that is respectful of its history. As any visitor can attest, its activities throughout the four seasons are matched with due regard for authenticity and hospitality.

At the heart of the Pays-d’en-Haut*, Saint-Sauveur offers its citizens and excursionists a wilderness tamed by a few decades of perseverance, passion and peace.

Visited by Native Americans for centuries, the Laurentian region was first accessible by means of its rivers, which flow into the Outaouais. It is by navigating up there that the first settlers, abetted by Father Labelle, settled in the valley of what was then called the Cantons du Nord (Northern Townships). In 1854, they built a chapel with local materials, which was only replaced by the current church in 1904.

In 1850, approximately 300 of the settlers had already become farmers, among them William Henry Scott, who became the first mayor of the parish.

Billions of daily activities thinned out the forest, built houses and worked a few arpents* of land, of which only one quarter was conducive to agriculture. They survived on account of the wood they cut: squared-off pieces sent to England, firewood for regional usage and potash* drawn from the ashes of lesser-quality firewood, which they went down to sell in Montreal at the price of three or four piastres* a quintal*. However, the mountains which hindered their travel have gradually taken over in importance as touristic development warrants nowadays and these characterize our city as a place of leisure, in a protected environment.

* The asterisk refers to the glossary, page 23.
Colonization House

The first settlers’ houses, of which roughly thirty examples remain in Saint-Sauveur, were modestly sized log buildings. Without basement, that first type of construction was square or rectangular. Openings were limited because of the poor wall insulation, and the upper floor, initially uninhabited, was covered by a roof with two straight or corrugated average-sloped inclines.

It should be noted that on some old buildings, a lateral sheathing often covered the dovetailed wooden pieces and that the cedar shingle of the past has been replaced by sheet metal.

House with a two-incline roof

The house with a two-incline roof was made of horizontal planks, under a roof generally covered with sheet metal installed Canadian-style (the Church roof provides one example) or, vertical planks, beaded boards (House 7) or with clamped joints (House 4). Rather high, it is rectangular in shape and topped with a medium-sloped roof.

This one, with a projection-drip roof, adorned with dormers, has remained practically unchanged since its construction by Edmond Brosseau around 1880. He then opened in the village the second of his nine butter factories, at 240 Principale. The father shared the work with his sons Mathias and Joseph, the latter of whom added a barber shop. Then, the building served as a pastry shop and later as a store.

Among the oldest of this type, the pink house, built in 1850, a log house with a projection-drip, is still distinguished due to its amazing colour, chosen by the painter André Bieler. Abandoned and then revalued in the 80s, it has had a new roof applied.
Initially modest, the house with two straight inclines dominates in the 19th century. This one, for instance, was inhabited by several bedeaux* for nearly 72 years, before the Parish council auctioned it in 1957. At that time, the baker Bernard Pagé paid $4525 for it. In 1885, its construction had cost $200.

The façade of that house on Principale Street (Main Street) includes a veranda covered by a low-sloped roof destined to collect raindrops and which can sometimes be attached to an eaves wall. In our community, around twenty examples can still be found, such as this one, built around 1930, in which lived, among others, bakers Langevin, Chartier and Boyer.

**Mansard House**

In order to increase the living area, a few St-Sauveur residents have tried out the mansard roof*, to which the dormers bring light. Built in 1862 with that type of roof, the “cute one,” as it was called, had had roughly ten owners before Rosaire Léonard rented it in 1944 to exercise his profession as a taxi driver. On this picture from 1994, the sheet metal roof with rods which disappeared in a fire in 2000 can still be seen.

Note that this type of mansard roof includes a deck (low slope) leaning on a break (steep slope). It was named after the French architect François Mansard, who would put it into more general use in the 17th century.
House with a flat roof

In 1930, there were a few businesses and 37 houses in the village, including that of Notary and Mayor Joseph Chevalier. He was the first to have electricity installed in his house, which also served as post office and is currently occupied by the Brûlerie des Monts (Coffee-roasting house).

Preferred at the beginning of the last century, the house with a flat roof equipped with a ledge is generally square. The windows are aligned on each level. Usually, a veranda is featured over the entire length of the main façade, such as this one, built in 1938.

“Boomtown-style” house

This “Boomtown-style” house was built around 1900 by Jules Beauchamp. Besides being a blacksmith*, he was also attendant at the organ “pump” for the Sunday High Mass. Repainted and slightly transformed, it now has a commercial use.

House with a tent roof

This two-story square house, built in 1924, is topped with a roof distinguishing it from the “Boomtown-style” house. With four inclines, this type is generally found in holiday resort constructions.
**House with a façade gable wall**

Besides the former school (House 26), numerous other buildings from the beginning of the last century adopted the façade gable wall, including some inns and several hotels. Generally rectangular, this type of house is one story and a half for single-family buildings; and sometimes two stories when it includes several lodging units. On the first floor, a veranda sometimes runs along one of the lateral façades, especially in the case of multiple-dwelling buildings. It was frequent for the first floor to have a commercial use, while the upper level served as a residence.

**Nadeau Hotel, 230 Principale (around 1950)**

Initially a boarding house, this building became in 1953 one of the buildings in which men from the village and rather noisy visitors gathered. Later called The Casino, a bar where shows were performed, its purpose then changed until it became the current commercial complex Le Faubourg, which kept the large roof, the fenestration and the corbels supporting the balcony on the façade.

**Beaulieu-Plouffe Hotel, 200 Principale (around 1900)**

Built in 1888 and used as an establishment with rooms, especially frequented for its alcohol service of which some citizens were critical, the former Plouffe Hotel was later transformed into a school from 1914 to 1920; then, to a boarding house by the Marquis of Albizzi and the Duke of Leuchtenberg until 1972. It finally housed Le Duché Restaurant until 1981, the year when the building was ravaged by a fire.
It is in 1885, on the first floor of his residence with a façade gable wall, that Dan Brown opened his store. The building, undoubtedly the only brick construction at that time, also housed the first post office. Then, the store was bought back by William Sloane, first mayor of the village of Saint-Sauveur.

Expanded, raised and renovated several times, the former general store has housed several other businesses. If you enter it, you will be able to see that the old fireplace has been kept.

Composite-inspired buildings account for roughly 20% of residential houses in Saint-Sauveur, but the house model featuring a roof with two straight inclines is one of the most frequent kinds to be identified.

The house above, built in 1900, features a gallery on the façade and on one side. The one below with a Canadian-style tin roof, does not have any veranda, but a lateral overhang has been added facing the street.
Victorian-style house

On Principale Street, initially called chemin du Grand Ruisseau, were gathered businesses, services and distinguished citizens’ houses. Among the latter, the two merchants William Sloane and François-Xavier Clouthier stood out and had impressive residences built.

This Victorian-style house was built in 1875 by William Sloane, general merchant and mayor of the village of Saint-Sauveur. In April 1921, a boarding house known by the names David and Val des Arbres was established there and it later became the service counter for the Canadian National Bank. It was the time of the first winter snow trains and visitors flocked into the village. Then, the house became the Le Bonaparte bistro-bar in 1980 and later the Vieilles Portes.

This magnificent house, also Victorian-style, was initially François-Xavier Clouthier’s residence. Mayor for 36 years and general merchant, he had it built in 1908 according to the plans of a house seen during a trip to the Western provinces. Wishing, most likely, to keep up with his former employer William Sloane, he meant to give his residence the appearance of a castle, hence the “Queen Ann”-inspired tower (on the right) and the octagonal block extending the gallery (on the left). The highly adorned building, which was rejuvenated in 1982-83, is a beautiful example of heritage preservation.
House of traditional renewal

The landscape was made more interesting with the coming of the 20th century by the development of tourism, which instantly offered sought-after viewpoints. In 1962, new developments in Saint-Sauveur were brought on by Highway 15, which initiated a year-round economic influx facilitating the construction of more modern houses. The buildings then replicated elements from the traditional Quebec style typical of Lalonde House, as seen below.

They will mainly be constructions with dormers featuring a rectangular shape, with a drip mould, to which were added (above) an oriel window, and topped with a rather steep or mansard sloped two-incline roof (below).

On this 1930s building, note the asymmetrical construction of the addition to the building replicating the structure of the main building, the drip moulds and the upper-floor dormer.

This next house, dating from 1910, features two dormers with wide-pane wooden windows and a wide rock chimney at one end of the roof ridge. Like a few others of the same sector, it may have been built by Aldéric Forget.
Public Buildings

Saint-Sauveur’s modern development intensified to meet the touristic affluence supported by the arrival of the Canadian National Railway through Saint-Sauveur in 1893.

The Railway Station

In spite of its disappearance in the 1960s, with the abandoning of the railway service, the railway station has nonetheless contributed to the expansion of the village. The railway station was located on the street that still bears its name, at the northwestern corner of the current chemin Jean-Adam.

The schools

This house, built in 1840 and belonging to Edmond Chartier, has served to provide education to roughly forty children in the village. In 1914, the school moved to the former Plouffe Hotel (House 14), transformed by the Daughters of Wisdom. The construction has since had windows added on the upper floor.

Around 1927, it would become the first Marie-Rose School, a building with a façade gable wall. Named to honour Mother Marie-Rose (Eulalie Durocher), founder of their community, the school was managed by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. They taught there until 1959, the opening year of the current school.
The Church

Imposing and still just as visible from anywhere around, the church has a baroque-inspired pediment, with a hemicycle window. Its bell tower and the two pinnacles flanking it are of roman-byzantine appearance. Philibert Saint-Pierre, priest at the time, and the architect Casimir Saint-Jean wanted it to be made of stone. Started in 1903, it was finished and blessed in 1905. Note that the three bells* come from Normandy and that the 27-register Casavant organ, installed in 1921 at the cost of $4000, has been replaced since then. On location, one can notice the Canadian-style roofing with metal sheets installed at an angle.

The current rectory was preceded by buildings, such as this one, built in 1890, which were set ablaze (in 1887 and 1957).

 Constituted in 1854, the parish covered in the 19th century an area later divided up by neighbouring parishes: the current Piedmont and part of Shawbridge and Sainte-Anne-des-Lacs. It also took over religious services at lac Marois (Marois Lake), as well as at Sainte-Thérèse Chapel, at lac des Becs-scie (Becs-scie Lake), erected at the request of Montreal artists.
Rustic buildings

Among Anglophones, it is thanks to Reverend Horace Grenville Baugh, supported by important persons such as John Henry Molson, that the construction in 1951 of the St. Francis of the Birds Church is owed. It is made of trunks embedded one in the other, according to a Scandinavian concept proposed by Victor Nymark, one of the skiing pioneers in the region. The temple is placed under the protection of Saint Francis of Assisi. As the subject of a stained-glass window, he is accompanied by numerous birds representative of those in the region.

Another rustic-style building, the hotel built by Victor Nymark at the foot of the slopes welcomed skiers in the mid-20th century, prior to disappearing in the 1970s. After arriving in Saint-Sauveur in 1928, Victor Nymark was also the architect of château Montebello (Montebello Castle) and the Mont Gabriel, Alpine Inn and Mont-Tremblant Lodge hotels.

Glossary and notes

Arpent: Length measurement (around 60 m) of ten rods.

Bell: The church bells have been baptized François-Xavier, Edmond and Adélard, as a tribute to the three advisors Clouthier, Brosseau and Chartier, who had supported the church-construction project, when strong citizen opposition thought that the expected $25,000 for a stone church exceeded their ability to pay.

Bedeau: The word originally designated an officer of justice; it comes from the same root as the word “Buddha.” In 1850, François Gauvreau, the first “bedeau” (parish clerk), received an annual salary of roughly $40. Thirty years later, his salary was $100, as much as an elementary school teacher would earn.

Blacksmith: The word “forgeron” (blacksmith) replaced “fève,” the former term designating one working with metals or jewels, which remained in the word “orfèvre” (silversmith) or in the common surname “Lefebvre”.

Mansard: French shape of wide roof, an invention which is attributed to the architect François Mansard, in the 17th century.

Pays-d’en-Haut: Used to designate the regions in which the first travellers went up the rivers. It is in the writings of Claude-Henri Grignon that this term first described the area embedding the rivière du Nord (Northern River).

Piastre: In the 18th century, currency divided in 120 cents, from which originate the four thirty-cent coins from the expression to change four thirty-cent coins for a piastre.

Potash: White part of ash, with which soap is made, among other things.

Quintal: Is equivalent to roughly 100 kilograms (220 pounds).
Sources used in the production of this heritage guide

BERNARD, Annie and Marie-France BISSON. “Caractérisation du cadre bâti de la MRC des Pays-d’en-Haut,” MRC des Pays-d’en-Haut, April 2009

BOUFFARD, Louis-Charles. Saint-Sauveur d’autrefois, en photos, depuis 1890, La société d’histoire des Pays-d’en-Haut, 1985

CHABOT, Denis. “Le parcours du circuit patrimonial,” La Mémoire, numéro 100, La société d’histoire et de généalogie des Pays-d’en-Haut, 2006

CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DE LA VALLÉE DE SAINT-SAUVEUR. “Guide historique de la Vallée de Saint-Sauveur (Saint-Sauveur/Piedmont),” undated pamphlet

CONFÉRENCE RÉGIONALE DES ÉLUS DES LAURENTIDES. “Caractérisation du cadre bâti,” Florian Créac’hcadec, computer specialist, site visited in June 2011

FILON, Mario. Une histoire des Pays-d’en-Haut, La société d’histoire et de généalogie des Pays-d’en-Haut, Circa Enr., 1981

GRAHAM, Joseph. Nommer les Laurentides, la petite histoire des cantons du Nord, translated from the English by Michelle Tisseyre, Main Street, 2008


LAJEUNESSE, Gérard. Une Église se raconte, Carte blanche, Saint-Jérôme (1951-2001)


LA SOCIÉTÉ D’HISTOIRE ET DE GÉNÉALOGIE DES PAYS-D’EN-HAUT. La mémoire, journals from 1979 to 2010

REY, Alain. Le Robert, dictionnaire historique de la langue française, Le Robert Dictionaries, 1992
The collection “Itinéraires histoire et patrimoine”

The publications of the collection “Itinéraires histoire et patrimoine” propose the discovery of the history and rich heritage characterizing a territory or one of its distinctive elements. This collection is an original idea of the réseau Villes et villages d’art et de patrimoine (Art and Heritage Cities and Villages Network), whose mission is to promote and highlight the arts, culture and heritage for purposes of developing cultural tourism in all the regions of Québec.

This brochure on the City of Saint-Sauveur responds to the objectives of raising citizen awareness towards the heritage wealth of their environment, of reinforcing the sense of belonging and providing information intended for visitors.

This project was carried out in 2012, in the context of an agreement between the City of Saint-Sauveur and the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec (Department of Culture, Communications and the Feminine Condition).

Réseau Villes et villages d’art et de patrimoine
info@artetpatrimoine.org
At the time of the merger of the Parish and Village, which both had their own coat of arms, Saint-Sauveur resorted to a logo evoking its built heritage.

Designed by Nolin, Larosée, Design, it was adopted in 1998 under the municipal administration of Mayor Georges Filion.