



THE LEAFLET

Newsletter of the Morgan Arboretum Association

"All is leaf"
- Goethe

With spring comes membership renewal

Dean Brittain and the Chalet	2
Our Donors	4
The Elusive Capsule	5
The Canada Birch Trail	6
On the Origin of our Logo	7

The Arboretum fiscal year starts on June 1, and so does the membership term. You will find enclosed a membership form that is practically identical to last year's. There is no raise in the membership fees this year. As you probably know, the membership portion of your contribution is not eligible as a tax deductible amount but donations are. We will gratefully provide an official receipt should you decide to contribute to the Arbo 50 Endowment Fund or to the special Road and Trail Improvement Funds. Thank you for supporting the conservation and sustainability of the Arboretum. We hope to count you in again this coming year.

Spring 2007

THE ANNUAL PLANT SALE

We offer a selection of trees and shrubs from the Arboretum nursery as well as from reputed nurseries.

Monday to Friday
from 9:00 to 16:00
until Friday May 4

Our nursery is located at the corner of Chemin Sainte-Marie.

The Plant Auction

will take place on Sunday
May 6 at noon.

The sale will continue afterwards until 16:00.

Back to the source

My colleague, Leslie Ann, our Financial Administrator, has undertaken, during the winter, the grand enterprise of sorting through a slew of papers left behind in semi-disorder by successive administration teams. From this reshuffling of documents, historical data has resurfaced that caught our Curator's attention, and she was inspired to propose I report on them in the newsletter. The search through the zillions of documents and photos for interesting shots, stories and facts has been exciting, yet was a little overwhelming at first. How in heaven was I going to approach this complex and patchy mass of information? After some digging in every direction, I selected key themes from the founding years that have contributed in shaping the Arboretum as we know it today. The focus of this issue is therefore on some of the pioneers and their accomplishments, in particular, an outstanding figure by the name of W.H. Brittain, as well as a familiar landmark, the Chalet Pruche. I hope you will enjoy this leap into the past. Don't hesitate to send us your comments, and let us know if you are ready for more, as there are plenty of interesting people and events in the history of the Arboretum to inspire several columns in the following issues.

Anne Godbout

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO DOG OWNERS
Please renew your dog registration before August 31st 2007.
This cut-off date will allow us to consider new dog registrations.

BioBags at the Arboretum

The Arboretum now offers free BioBags in their doggie-bag dispensers. Made primarily of GMO-free corn, BioBags are 100% biodegradable and compostable. Not only are they more environmentally friendly to dispose of than plastic bags, but their production also uses less energy and emits less greenhouse gases than the production of plastic bags.

To help the environment and to support this project, you may purchase Doggie BioBags at the Arboretum Gatehouse for use at home. Look for Yard Biobags to be sold this Fall.

Thank you to Arboretum member, Peter Desmier for initiating this venture and for his generous donation that will keep dispensers stocked this year.

COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

Dedicate one of our trees to a loved one or plant a new tree to commemorate a birth, death or other important event.

For more information, call Anne Godbout (514) 398-8697



Dean Brittain and the Chalet Pruche

The Chalet Pruche was built two years after the acquisition of the property by the University in 1945, and was first used as a retreat for Dr. William Harold Brittain, the Arboretum founder. Entomologist by training, Brittain became the Dean of Agriculture and Vice-Principal of the College in 1934. He thoroughly enjoyed setting off into the woods on weekends to escape from the pressure of his work. The Chalet, with its small kitchen and equally small bedroom, hall with a fireplace, and loft workspace, became headquarters. Even though he had a family, weekends at the Chalet were solitary adventures as the bedroom was only furnished with a single cot for one person to spend the night. The bathroom was non-existent and electricity and telephone were three kilometers away. When the roads were blocked in winter, he would put on snowshoes to travel the last two kilometre stretch.

Although he strived for solitary moments in nature, Brittain was also very social and knew how to relate to people of all backgrounds and ages. He excelled at entertaining guests with witty remarks and an endless fund of lively stories. His great passion was to collect and plant trees from across the country and other parts of the world, and to this end, he traveled much and networked profusely.

With the aid of leading citizens, distinguished scientists and benevolent members of the forest industry, Dean Brittain founded the Morgan Arboretum and Woodland Development Association (MAWDA) in 1952. Together, they succeeded in raising contributions from interested individuals and a dozen pulp and paper companies in support of the Arboretum's extensive planting programs. Another of Dean Brittain's projects, that was intimately related to the Arboretum and funded through the same channels, was the creation, that same year, of the Woodlot Management Course. The Course eventually evolved into the present Department of Natural Resource Sciences.

Enticed by its rustic charm, the MAWDA pioneers often met at the Chalet, away from the hustle and bustle, in the peaceful woods.

Good quality hardwood

is available to members only @ \$100/cord, local delivery included. Cord dimensions are 4' x 8' x 15"-18".

To participate in the lottery, please fill in the form below and deliver or e-mail the complete information before **Friday July 6**. We will phone the winners of the draw before Friday July 13 to let them know that they can count on Arboretum wood.

FIREWOOD LOTTERY

Send this coupon along with your membership renewal form
NAME _____

MEMBERSHIP # (6 digits) _____ # OF CORDS WANTED (maximum 3) _____

PHONE # DAYTIME _____ PHONE # EVENING _____

DELIVERY ADDRESS & MUNICIPALITY _____

Member's Spring Spruce Up Day

Saturday May 5 from 10:00 to 15:00 at the CC

The MAA Directors invite you to join them for a few hours to help with spring clean-up and light maintenance jobs.

Please also take this opportunity to share ideas with the Directors and your fellow members.

Refreshments will be served. Rain date: Sunday May 6

RSVP (514) 398-7811 morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca



Christian Hemming

services de traduction et de formation linguistique
language training and translation services

sl-fleur-de-lys.com • info@sl-fleur-de-lys.com
☎ 514.939.6362 • ☎ 514.939.9685



Opposite page, top left: *Dr. William Harold Brittain (1889-1971) photographed in May 1969. Dr. Brittain was Dean of Agriculture and Vice-Principal at McGill in 1934-55. Upon retirement in 1955, he became Curator of the Arboretum until he passed away.* Opposite page, top right: *The original armorial bearings of the Morgan Arboretum and Woodland Development Association (MAWDA), founded in 1952, used as a letterhead throughout the 50's. Top: The Chalet was built in 1947 by Macdonald College carpenters led by Layton Bumett. Hemlock logs from the forest were used to erect the building on top of the foundation of a former sugar house.*



The Chalet was once flanked by a tall and handsome American elm. Our contemporary landscapes are now only rarely indulged by the graceful and stately parasol shape of the mature elm since most trees have succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease. From the first recorded North American outbreak in Ohio in 1930, the scourge reached Quebec in 1944.

Anecdotes

Excerpt from the McGill News - Autumn 1953

Brittain's episodes of absent-mindedness had become classic in the folklore of the College and University.

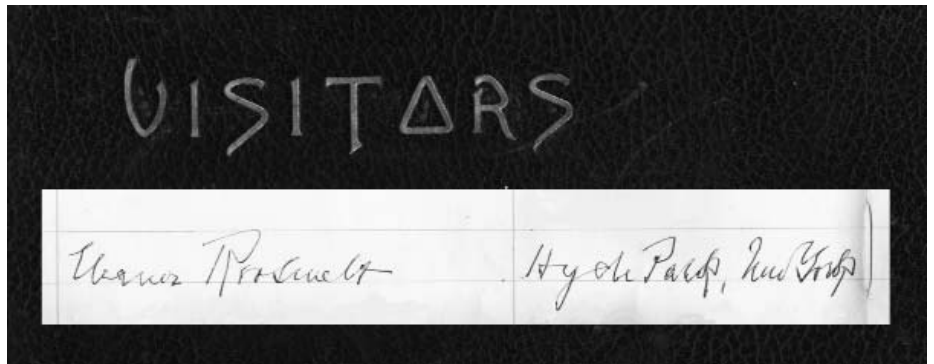
One Monday morning, after a quiet weekend at the Chalet, he rose in haste to be ready for the taxi that was to take him to an important meeting of Faculty. The faithful Bob Watson* was present to get instructions for the week and watched Dr. Brittain emerge from the bedroom, button his collar and knot his tie. A short discussion followed. Then Dr. Brittain returned to the bedroom, emerging presently with a second shirt which he proceeded to put on. The buttons were absent-mindedly fastened, another tie was selected and it was only when he tried to tie the second knot that he realized he was doubly clad to meet the high temperatures of an early spring day.

To balance this, there is a story that one summer morning Dr. Brittain was half-way to a Faculty meeting before he realized that he still had on his pyjamas.

** Bob Watson is the late father of our present Manager of Forest Operations, John Watson.*



This white spruce was planted next to the Chalet to commemorate the foundation of the MAWDA in 1952. The photograph was taken 12 years later, following the 1964 annual general meeting. The gentlemen are, from left to right, honorary director Garnet M. Strong, a merchant by profession; honorary president Vernon E. Johnson, who was instrumental in sparking support from the forest industry; re-elected president for a fourth term F.A. Harrison, also vice-president of Canadian International Paper Company; and chairman of the Woodlot Management Course at Macdonald College, Professor A.R.C. Jones. It is interesting to note that one of our endowment funds, which annually supplies approximately \$1500 to our budget, was created as a memoriam to the late Garnet Strong, who was president of the MAWDA from 1954 until 1956. In its own way, the now mature 15 m high spruce is also a flourishing tribute to the past. Find it next to the Chalet's eastern entrance.



A distinguished visitor from the US, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt spent a night in the Chalet during the summer of 1954 and left her stamp in the log book. Some of the trees planted in the Arboretum originated from the collection of the late Franklin Roosevelt.





Alain Brunet, propriétaire
Nancy Gauvin, gérante

T (514) 457-5681

88, rue Ste-Anne, Ste-Anne de Bellevue
(Québec) H9X 1L8

Livraison gratuite/Comptoir photo/Comptoir postal



**HÔPITAL
VÉTÉRINAIRE**


**ANIMAL
911**

Sur rendez-vous / By appointment

Dr E. Gallagher, Dr W. Wybranowski

www.animal911vet.petplace.com

11400 Boul. Gouin O.
Roxboro H8Y 1X8
514-685-8387 (VETS)



566 Jacques Bizard
Île Bizard H9C 2H2
514-696-2004

3

Donors

The MAA gratefully acknowledges these individuals and organizations who supported its mission in 2006-2007 through their generous contributions of money, plants, equipment and services.

Benefactor

MR. PIERRE-LAURENT DESMIER

Sustaining

MS. AINO ARIK

MR. DONALD BIERNASKI &
MRS. LONE FREDENSBORG

M. JOSEPH BLAIN &
MME HELENE DES PAROIX

MR. WILLIAM BYRNE &
MRS. DONNA BRYNE

MRS. BONNIE CAMPBELL &
MR. GILLES DURUFLÉ

MR. WALLACE DENVER

MR. CHARLES DILLINGHAM &
MRS. MARY DILLINGHAM

MR. KEVIN M. DOHERTY &
MRS. CAROL J. DOHERTY

DORVAL MUNICIPAL GOLF

ESTATE H.B. NORRIS

M. BERNARD FLYNN &
MME DIANA FLYNN

MME SYLVIE FOREST &
M. MICHEL BARRÉ

MME CLAUDETTE FOURNIER

MR. PETER GLOUTNEY &
MRS. DOROTHY GLOUTNEY

MR. DAVID HOLLAND &
MRS. JUDY HOLLAND

M. BERNARD LACASSE &
MME GINETTE QUEVILLON

MR. IAN LADD &
MRS. ELAINE LADD

MR. GRANT LONG &
MRS. HEATHER COOK

MRS. MAUREEN MACEY &
MR. MIKE MACEY

MS. NANCY E. MARTIN

MR. NEIL WATT McDERMID

MR. DONALD MCGERRIGLE &
MRS. CHRISTINA BROUILLETTE

MR. JOHN ROWEN &
MRS. ALINE ROWEN

MR. MIKE SCHOFIELD &
MRS. SHARON SCHOFIELD

MS. ROBIN THORNTON &
MS. LISA THORNTON

MS. CYNTHIA WESTON &
MR. HARVEY HOROWITZ

MR. J. H. WHALEN &
MRS. MARY WHALEN

Commemoration Programs

MME PAULINE CHAMPAGNE

MR. JOSEPH A. FRIEDMAN

GARDEN CLUB OF MONTREAL

MRS. CAROL-SUSAN LAPLANTE

MR. ANTHONY WATSON

Henry Johnson Fund

MR. ROBERT JOHNSON &
MRS. ALICIA JOHNSON

Arbo 50 Fund Gold

MR. TALBOT G. JOHNSON

Arbo 50 Fund Silver

MS. BARBARA FOWLER

MS. LORI HERREL

MR. COLIN ROSS

MR. ARNOLD ZWAIG

Arbo 50 Fund Bronze

MS. BLANCHE BANERD OLEJNIK

MR. HANS BERGER &
MS. HELEN SHANTZ

M. JOSEPH BLAIN &
MME HELENE DES PAROIX

MRS. CONSTANCE CATALFAMO &
MR. ARTHUR CATALFAMO

MR. FRANCIS CHUBB &
MRS. JEAN CHUBB

MR. RUDI DALLENBACH &
MRS. HEIDI DALLENBACH

MRS. INGEBORG EIDNES &
MR. JOHANNES EIDNES

MR. RALPH ESTEY &
MRS. DOREAN ESTEY

MRS. KATHY GEHLSSEN

MRS. JOAN HANNA

MR. MEREDITH H. HAYES &
MRS. JUDITH HAYES

DR. IAN HUTCHISON

MR. WERNER KELLER &
MRS. LOUISE KELLER

MR. DON MACDUFF &
MRS. BARBARA MACDUFF

MR. DONALD P. MACKINNON

M. JEAN-PIERRE MAYER &
MME LEONA MAYER

MRS. MARTHA MCKENNA

MRS. JOAN MCKIM

PROF. GERARD MILLETTE &
MME JAQUELINE DUMOULIN

DR. MICHAEL NEWMAN &
MRS. WINIFRED NEWMAN

MRS. ROXANA ROBLES &
MR. PAUL LE BRUN

MR. WILLIAM SHISHAKLY &
MS. ANNE-MARIE GOYETTE

MRS. JEANNINE SIMON YOUNG &
MR. RICHARD YOUNG

MR. REGINAL STEERS &
MRS. ANDREE STEERS

MR. ALLAN STEPHENS &
MRS. LINDA STEPHENS

MR. ARILD STOCKINGER &
MRS. EVA STOCKINGER

MR. CHARLES W. TAYLOR &
MRS. CAROLE TAYLOR

MR. KURT H. TEUTSCH

MR. LAURENCE L. TURNER &
MRS. EDNA TURNER

D^r JEAN-RENE VAN BECELAERE &
MME BRIGITTE AUZERO

MRS. KATY VAN WALSUM

MS. ELIZABETH WALCOT &
MR. PHILIP THOM

MR. KEITH WOOLNOUGH &
MRS. MAUREEN WOOLNOUGH

MR. HENRY B. YATES &
MRS. MELODIE YATES

Arbo 50 Fund Green

MR. WILLIAM ABBA

MME FRANCOISE ADAM &
M. ROBERT DARCHE

MS. AINO ARIK

MRS. ROSALYN BEAUDOIN &
M. PIERRE DUHAMEL

MR. ERIC BENDER &
MRS. PATRICIA BENDER

DR. BARBARA A. BLACK

MS. RAYMONDE BOWEN

MS. MURIELLE BUSH

MR. TREVOR CARON &
MRS. MARGARET CARON

MME MARIE-PIERRE CARPENTIER &
MR. SHAWN VISSER

M. PHILIPPE CASTONGUAY &
MME ELIZABETH PERREAULT

MR. RALPH B. CAYFORD &
MRS. ELIZABETH CAYFORD

MR. DANIEL CHARTERS

MRS. L. A. CHAUVIN-KIMOFF &
MR. R. JOHN KIMOFF

MR. PHILIP B. CUMYIN

MR. JOHN DURNFORD

MR. CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT &
MRS. ADRIENNE ELLIOTT

MS. JOYCE FLOOD

MR. PETER GLOUTNEY &
MRS. DOROTHY GLOUTNEY

MR. JOHN GRANT

MS. BARBARA GRAVES

MR. GEORGE GUILLON &
MRS. BARBARA GUILLON

MRS. MARY HOWSON

MRS. SANDRA HUTCHINSON &
MR. PHILLIP MARCOVITCH

MR. EDMUND IDZIAK &
MRS. IRENE IDZIAK

MR. JOHN T. JENKINS &
MS. LAURA DIANE KINSMAN

MRS. SARA LAWSON &
MR. NORMAN LAWSON

MR. MILTON L. LILLO

MR. DOUGLAS M. LINDSAY

MRS. ANNE LOGAN

MR. IAN MACDONALD &
MRS. MARNEY MACDONALD

MRS. LOIS MAEDER-ALVES

MRS. EMILY MAGEE

MR. WAYNE MCCARTNEY &
MRS. JANET MCCARTNEY

DR. ANN M. O'HALLORAN &
MR. MICHAEL BUSSIERE

MR. JOHN RIOUX

MR. JIM ROWLANDSON &
MRS. KATHERINE ROWLANDSON

M. PIERRE SAUVE &
MME CELINE SAUVE

MS. ELEANORE SCHONFELD

MRS. JOAN R. SMITH

MR. ROGER SNELLING

MS. SALLY SOCKETT

MR. ROD STUART &
MRS. CLAIRE STUART

MS. ILSEMARIE TARTE

DR. DAVID TURNER &
MRS. PATRICIA TURNER

MME MARTHE VERRON &
M. ALAIN VERRON

MRS. ANNE MARIE VIGLAS &
MR. GEORGE VIGLAS

MR. MARK WEATHERLEY &
MME HUGUETTE TREMBLAY

MRS. ANDREA WINLO &
MR. J. MICHAEL E. WINLO

Road & Trails Gold

MR. STEPHEN WALBRIDGE

Road & Trails Silver

MR. ROBERT S. BROUGHTON

MRS. JANET CUSHMAN

MR. PIERRE-LAURENT DESMIER

ESTATE H.B. NORRIS

PROF. WILLIAM GRANT &
MRS. PHYLLIS GRANT

MS. ELISABETH A. LAETT

MR. JIM MARCOLIN &
MRS. BARBARA MARCOLIN

Road & Trails Bronze

MR. CHARLES ANDERSON &
MRS. JENNIFER ANDERSON

MR. IAN ASTON &
MRS. VERA ASTON

MR. GEORGE BOURKE &
MRS. CLAUDIA SERRES

MR. GEORGE J. BUNZE &
MRS. KATHLEEN BUNZE

DR. MICHAEL DAVIDMAN &
MRS. KIM DAVIDMAN

MR. ARTHUR G. DAWE

MR. WILLIAM H. FORD

MS. SHIRLEY GAVLAS &
MR. PIERRE MARTIN

MME FRANCINE GELINAS

MRS. EDITH HAMMELBECK &
MR. HEINRICH HAMMELBECK

DR. IAN HUTCHISON

MR. MAURICE JAQUES &
MRS. JUDITH JAQUES

MR. WAYNE KILBOURNE &
MRS. NANCY FEELEY

MRS. SUSAN KIRBY-JONES &
MR. HUGH JONES

M. CLAUDE LALONDE

MR. BILL LYNAM &
MRS. CATHY LYNAM

MRS. MAUREEN MACEY &
MR. MIKE MACEY

MR. H. GORDON MEYER &
MRS. HELENE BOYER-MEYER

MS. CONNIE ROBERTS &
MR. DOUGLAS LION

MR. DENIS RYAN

MR. IAN BARRY SCOTT

MR. ROBERT SCULLY

MR. PETER VAN WAGNER &
MRS. JEAN VAN WAGNER

MR. ERNEST WALFORD &
MRS. MONA JEAN WALFORD

MR. MARK WEATHERLEY &
MS. HUGUETTE TREMBLAY

Road & Trails Green

MR. PETER ABONYI &
MRS. DENISE VERMETTE

MRS. DAPHNE ARDELL &
MR. WILFRED HAMSON

MS. AINO ARIK

DR. BARBARA A. BLACK

M. ROBERT BRUN &
MME HUGUETTE GAUTHIER

MR. BRUCE W. CASE &
MS. PATRICIA RILEY

MR. DANIEL CHARTERS

M. DANIEL COTE &
MME LINE CARDINAL

MR. HARRIS E. CRAIG

MR. HENRY CURTIS &
MRS. ALISON CURTIS

MS. DOROTHEA DEPPING

MR. MICHAEL DIXON &
MRS. KATHERINE CREWE

MS. CAROL EDWARD &
MR. ANDREW MORROW

MR. PAUL GAGNÉ &
MRS. SHARI GAGNÉ

MS. SYLVIE HALLE

MRS. MARY HOWSON

MR. EDMUND IDZIAK &
MRS. IRENE IDZIAK

MRS. MARTHA JOHNSTON

The Elusive Capsule from 1957

MR. ARCHIE R.C. JONES &
MRS. HELEN JONES

MR. JOHN KAMICHAITIS &
MRS. PENELOPE KAMICHAITIS

MRS. DAPHNE L'ANGLAIS &
MR. MARC L'ANGLAIS

MRS. LOIS MAEDER-ALVES

MR. ELAINE MCGUIRE

MR. GEORGE L. MONCUR

MR. MICHAEL PAYETTE &
MRS. ROBERTA OSLER

MRS. HELENE QUAID &
MR. GEOFFREY QUAID

MR. ROBERT ROBINSON &
MRS. DIANNE ROBINSON

MRS. ADA SCHINDLER

MRS. ANN SCHOLEFIELD

MR. LORENZ SCHUSTER &
MRS. IRMGARD K. KERPF

MR. STANLEY SILVERSTONE &
MRS. S. O. SILVERSTONE-WOLFE

MRS. JOANA SONEA &
MR. CHRIS BROWN

MRS. MARLENE TICKTIN &
MR. SAUL TICKTIN

MR. ANTHONY TRIASSI

MRS. ANNE MARIE VIGLAS &
MR. GEORGE VIGLAS

MME NICOLE VINET

MME KIM - LOAN VO - DOAN &
M. SIMON PERRAULT

MR. WILLIAM G. WEBSTER &
MRS. PHYLLIS WEBSTER

MR. BRIAN WELCH

MS. SUZANNE YACOVITCH

Corporation Gold

UNILEVER CANADA INC.

Corporation Green

CRAMER NURSERY INC.

DOMINION & GRIMM INC.

ICAM TECHNOLOGIES CORP.

STIHL LTD.

We would like to express our appreciation to the additional 137 people who generously contributed donations of less than \$50 to the Arbo 50 Fund and the Road & Trails Funds for a total of \$3390. As you know, every dollar invested has an impact on the perpetuity of the Arboretum.

**Thank you
for your support .**



Top: Arch Jones loading the time capsule.
Right: MAWDA Vice-President, Colonel Hugh M. Wallis, burying the capsule in front of the stone monument commemorating the Arboretum foundation.



On May 18th 1957, MAWDA members gathered on the occasion of a field day featuring a tour of the woods, a plant auction sale and the ceremonial burial of a time capsule. The capsule, to be disclosed fifty years later, is said to contain "descriptive material about the Arboretum and photographs of its early stages".

Seven months old Karen Richardson was present at the ceremony. Her dad Alan, who was a photographer for The Montreal Herald, took a picture of Dr. Brittain holding her in his arms. It was published shortly after in The Gazette and the accompanying article mentioned that she may be the only one from the audience to be alive in 2007. Although she is not quite the only survivor, she is indeed alive and well, as witnessed by her recent call inquiring about the disinterment of the capsule.

Well, the truth is that Christina Idziak, the Arboretum Curator, went through great expense last fall prospecting the island of grass around the monument for the metallic cylinder, but without success. Apparently the capsule had been relocated to dissuade potential profaners but no one seems to remember where! Needless to say, we will let you, and Karen, know if we find the cache.

**The birds
overwintering
at the Arboretum
are fed by:**



www.birdprotectionquebec.org



*Un arbre c'est
pour la vie...*

ILE PERROT

1101 Don Quichotte Blvd.

Ile Perrot, QC, J7V 5V6

Tel.: (514) 453-6323 Fax: (514) 453-3589

LES CÈDRES

1002 chemin St-Dominique

Les Cèdres, QC, J7T 3A1

Tel.: (450) 452-2121 Fax: (450) 452-4053

DOLLARS-DES-ORMEAUX

3000 Du Marché St.

Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC, H9B 2Y3

Tel.: (514) 421-6665 Fax: (514) 421-6630



Top: Dr. Brittain in the white birch nursery. Middle: The flags of the ten provinces flying beside their respective birch tree along the newly launched Canada Birch Trail. Bottom left: Mrs. Daniel Johnson seemingly amusing the students in the crowd. Bottom right: In the front row, with shades, the young Pierre-Marc with, on his right, probably Daniel Johnson's father.



The Birch Trail

A Quest for Canada's Natural Heritage

Originally from the Maritimes, Dr. Brittain must have been a fervent Canadian nationalist because some of his most important tree planting endeavors were focused on the theme of the nation. For instance, his primary objective with the tree collections was to amass representatives of all the native trees of Canada hardy enough to live in our climate. Some 150 such species were planted in the Arboretum during the 50's. One exceptionally successful example of this is a group of Douglas firs (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), a species native to BC and known as one of the coastal giants, that very rarely establishes in Quebec, where it must withstand the dry winds of our winters. Our 50 years-old specimens are stout stocky representatives that have done well due to their moist sheltered location near the quarry, thousands of kilometers away from their homeland.

However, the former Curator's most ambitious enterprise was, without a doubt, the white birch collection. This project was initiated in 1958, in preparation for the celebration of the centennial of Canadian Confederation in 1967, and it proposed, no less, a new emblem for Canada. White birch (*Betula papyrifera*) is one of the few species of trees to grow across the continent with balsam poplar, trembling aspen, white spruce, black spruce and tamarack. Of them, it has the widest distribution in the country,

growing in all forested regions of Canada, north to the treeline, therefore rendering it fit of the motto on the coat of arms, "A mari usque ad mare". In addition to occupying a wide range of habitat conditions - lining roadways, rivers and lakes, and breaking into openings in the forest - this birch displays diverse growth forms as well as genetic variations. To Brittain, this variability was not only a reflection of Canada's geophysical diversity but also, in a more symbolic way, it described the country's ethnic complexity. Moreover, the tree had provided the raw material for the native birch bark canoe. Light enough to portage around rapids and strong enough to carry cargo, the vehicle made possible the exploration of an extensive system of inland waters, and opened communications in a vast territory, which led to the first east-west trade route. Consequently, the white birch also played a significant role in shaping the nation.


With this rationale in mind, it was decided to establish within the Arboretum, an avenue of white birches composed of specimens originating from across its range. The display is, to this day, a convincing demonstration of the diversity

Continued on page 8

PARKWAY
PONTIAC
BUICK
GMC

9595 Route Trans-Canadienne
 St-Laurent, Qc H4S 1T6
 Tel.: 514.333.7070
 Fax: 514.333.8208
 www.parkway.ca

Tony Herrero
 Conseiller en ventes et locations
 Sales and Leasing Consultant
 Tél.: 514.333.7070
 Ext.: 247
 tony@parkway.ca


HÔPITAL VÉTÉRINAIRE
PIERREFONDS
 ANIMAL HOSPITAL

L'excellence en pratique depuis 1973
 Excellence in Practice Since 1973

16628, Boul. Pierrefonds
 Ste-Genesivie (Qc) H9H 1H1
 Tél: (514) 626-9090
 Fax: (514) 626-0241

Dr P. Charbonneau, m.v.
 Dr G. Derminasyan, m.v.
 Dr V. de Montigny, m.v.
 Dr L. Dunbar, m.v.
 Dr F. Erdmann, m.v.
 Dr D. Laplante, m.v.
 Dr N. Lawlor, m.v.
 Dr P-G. Major, m.v.
 Dr A-M. Masse, m.v.
 Dr C. Pelletier, m.v.
 Dr M-C. Poulin, m.v.
 Dr L. Prévost, m.v.
 Dr L. Stiles, m.v.
 Dr R. Thislerge, m.v.

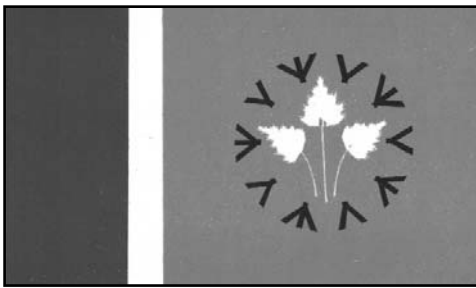
On the Origin of our Logo



Rustic Garden Furniture Building

The MAWDA flag was inaugurated on July 9, 1964, following the 13th Annual General Meeting. The herald was designed by James Watling, then lecturer at McGill's Institute of Education in art methods, and realized by Mrs. Stuart Forbes. The blue section to the left depicts the "sea to sea" situation of Canada; the vertical white stripe symbolizes growth and expansion; and on the red square to the right is superimposed three white birch leaves, surrounded by ten black clusters of male catkins in twos and threes, representing the ten provinces. It is interesting to note that there was a bitter debate raging in Canada at the time about the adoption of the maple leaf emblem. The controversial Canadian flag was unfurled for the first time in February 1965. The MAWDA herald might well have been the Arboretum folks' contribution to the ongoing national discussion.

Our present logo is obviously derived from the original herald. The literature mentions that its resemblance to the Expo '67 logo is coincidental but I must say that a doubt persists in my mind in light of the ground shaking impact the exhibit had on our society at that point in time. We are planning to rejuvenate our logo to give it more a contemporary look. Be assured that we will consult you on its evolution in due time.



Top left: *The Association flag designed by James Watling.* Bottom left: *The emblem of Montreal Expo 67, also a centennial event.* Right: *Children assisting in raising the flag on the Chalet's mast.*

Living Chair

One weekend: May 5-6
Cost: \$325

Garden Arch

One day: Friday May 11
Cost: \$95

Living Fence

One day: Sat. May 12
Cost: \$95

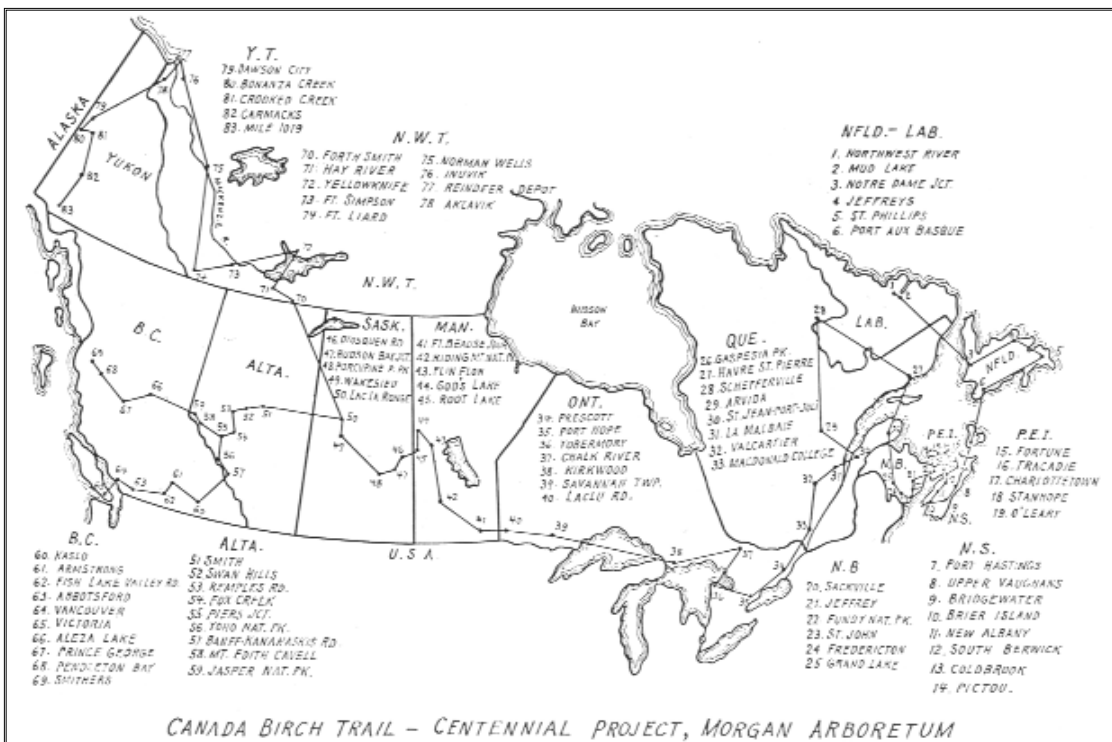
Bird Bath or Side Table

Th. & Fr. June 7-8
Cost: \$300

Traditional Chair

4 Days: Tu, W, Th & Fr
July 17-18-19-20
Cost: \$400

Instructor: Kim Vergil
okvergil@videotron.ca
www.kimcreations.net



Map showing the origins of the white birch seeds collected by Dr. Brittain.

33, rue St-Pierre
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue (Québec)
H9X 1Y7
Tel.: (514) 457-5731
Fax : (514) 457-5731

**MARCHÉ J. RAYMOND RICHARD
ET FILS INC.**

MARCHÉ RICHELIEU

Brittain spent four summers traveling the country to collect seeds from trees that were characteristic of each of the visited locales. Back at the Arboretum, he would plant the seeds, and the resulting seedlings would be either destined for planting along the Canada Birch Trail or used in the scientific part of the project, for Brittain was also interested in distinguishing varieties and hybrids within the species. To this end, he had received a grant from the National Research Council that allowed him to hire students to assist with the field and laboratory work. One aspect of the work was cytological studies whereby tissues of root tips of young seedlings are examined under the microscope in order to count the number of chromosomes and determine broad genetic affiliations. The studies resulted in the identification of three distinct varieties as well as many hybrids, each group with a specific distribution zone on the continent.

The dedication of the trail took place on the downtown McGill Campus, following Fall convocation, in November of 1967. The Premiers of every province were invited to receive an honorary grade and to participate in the ceremonial planting of a birch from their respective province. All but two of the provincial premiers

were present. Premiers Smallwood, Campbell, Standfield, Robichaud, Robarts, Roblin, Manning and Bennett all planted birches, and Governor General Roland Michenor planted a red maple symbolizing Canadian unity. Dean George Dion, a Saskatchewan native, filled in for Premier Thatcher who was engaged in a provincial election, and Mrs. Daniel Johnson represented her husband who was recovering from an illness in Hawaii. Both MAWDA Honorary President Vernon Johnson and Dr. Brittain made statements during the ceremony.

This explains the presence of the row of white birches lining the field north of the Chalet as well as the alley leading towards the Bobolink Field, together forming the Canada Birch Trail. The trees dedicated by government representatives can be found along the alleyway that is parallel to the latter and slightly to the west of the sugar shack. The dedicated trees are on the left hand side as you walk towards the Bobolink Field. And if, during your wanders through the Arboretum, you come across white birch plantations in the most remote and unexpected locations, think of the zealous Brittain and his crew planting trees from all across the continent, working their way through a grandiose quest for knowledge and social cohesion.

Morgan Arboretum Association

Established in 1952



Dedicated to forest conservation and environmental education.

The MAA is a registered charity.
Registration #: 0131904-52
All donations are tax deductible.

Morgan Arboretum
Macdonald Campus
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC, H9X 3V9

Tel.: (514) 398-7811

FAX: (514) 398-7959

Email: morgan.arboretum@mcgill.ca

Web Site: www.morganarboretum.org

THE LEAFLET

is published in English and French,
twice a year: in April and September.

We welcome submissions
and ideas for articles.

Calendar of Events

Until Friday May 4

Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 16:00

Tree and Shrub Sale

at the Arboretum Nursery

Sunday May 13

in French at 13:00, in English at 14:30

Mother's Day Tour

Members: free; others: regular entrance fees
RSVP

Saturday May 5

at 8:00

Bird Banding

with the McGill Bird Observatory

Cost: members \$10, others \$15

RSVP

from 10:00 to 15:00

Spruce Up Day

see ad on page 2

RSVP

The Royal Astronomical Society
Lecture and Stargazing Events

Saturday May 19 & June 16

at 20:00

Seasonal Night Skies

Saturday Aug. 11 & Sunday Aug. 12

at 20:00

Shooting Stars

Perseids Meteor Shower Viewing

At the Conservation Centre

Free Entrance

à la hauteur de vos attentes

- Conception graphique
- Impression numérique
- Affiches grand format
- Imprimerie commerciale

Infografilm
De la conception à l'impression

Patrick Farand, président
205, De Lotbinière, Vaudreuil-Dorion • 450.510.0330
www.infografilm.com • imagerie@infografilm.com