

150TH ANNIVERSARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Montreal, April 17, 2013 – Today, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society of Montréal (ANSM), the Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal, in a special collaboration with Heritage Montreal Foundation, is honouring 10 Montrealers who have contributed to protecting, conserving, developing and promoting Montréal's heritage.

The Museum chose the eve of the *International Day for Monuments and Sites* to pay tribute to Monique Barriault, Jean Bélisle, Georges Coulombe, Maurice Desnoyers, Sylvie Dufresne, Julia Gersovitz, Phyllis Lambert, Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, Bruce McNiven and Father Claude Turmel, all key players in the world of heritage.

Each award was given to a person who has worked in the community and contributed to the protection, conservation, study, enhancement and dissemination of Montréal's heritage. Each of the recipients has demonstrated an outstanding and long-standing commitment to the cause.

In collaboration with Heritage Montreal the Museum formed a Selection Committee to identify the recipients of the 10 awards attributed. The seven members of the committee were Arlette Blanchet, Dinu Bumbaru, André Delisle, Clément Demers, David Hanna, Marie Lessard and Marie Sénécal-Tremblay.

Did you know that a non-profit organization, the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society of Montréal (ANSM), founded the Château Ramezay and continues to administrate it today? Aware of the building's heritage value and under the threat of losing it to axes of demolition workers, the Society mobilized public opinion and put pressure on authorities. The ANSM managed to save the Château and develop it into a history museum, a national portrait gallery and a public library in 1895.

Established in 1862 by a group of influential English and French-speaking Montrealers, the Society is one of the oldest Canadian institutions. Born of the desire to conserve and enhance the traces of our history, the ANSM has carried out many concrete actions in order to honour its mission. Some of the most important contributions include the exhibition on Montréal's history, organized in 1892 to mark the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the city, and the installation of the first plaques to identify historic buildings and significant places in Montréal.

Today, the ANSM continues to ensure the conservation, interpretation and dissemination of our heritage through numerous exhibitions and educational programs offered at the Château Ramezay. On the occasion of the Society's 150th anniversary, the Château Ramezay wishes to highlight the involvement of volunteers who have participated in the development and preservation of Montréal's heritage over the past 150 years.

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 Internet site at www.chateauramezay.qc.ca.

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