



Press release

For immediate release

Vocation: Teaching
The Sisters of Saint Anne, 150 years of education in Lachine

Lachine, May 29, 2011- Starting May 29, 2011, the Sisters of Saint Anne Historic Centre will present a new temporary exhibition. *Vocation: Teaching* gives a picture of the dedicated Sisters who, over the course of 150 years, taught in no fewer than 14 schools in Lachine.

By telling the story of daily life for the boarding school students and their teachers, the exhibition approaches Lachine's educational heritage from a variety of perspectives. It features personal accounts, photos, books, documents, artefacts and teaching materials once used by the Sisters.

Visitors will relive the opening of Villa Anna in 1861, the only girls' school at the time in Lachine, which in 1960 would become Collège Sainte-Anne. They will learn that the Sisters had to cope with very difficult conditions: after teaching six to eight hours a day, they then had to help out with maintenance work in order to keep expenses down. When they weren't in the classroom, the Sisters were painting ceilings and laying carpet. After their hard day's work, the Sisters slept on corn husk mattresses.

Vocation: Teaching is an invitation to meet a group of women who helped give a large proportion of the population of Lachine a well-rounded education. This project has received financial support from the Québec Ministère de la Culture et des Communications and the Ville de Montréal as part of the Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal 2008-2011.

The Sisters of Saint Anne Historic Centre is located in a beautiful setting on the edge of the Lachine Canal, inside a historic 19th century building. Its various exhibitions tell the story of the Sisters of Saint Anne since their foundation, through the places and personalities associated with them.

The exhibitions recreate the authentic atmosphere of a convent and describe the unique destiny of Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin, a woman ahead of her time, and the religious order she founded 160 years ago.

Starting June 1, the museum is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Advance reservations are required only for groups of eight or more. Admission to the museum, located at 1280 Saint-Joseph Boulevard in Lachine, is **free** for everyone.

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