



Press Release

For immediate distribution

Of glass and light Spotlight on the stained glass windows of Bon Secours

20 January 2010 - In 2010, Montrealers will have a wide choice of activities showing the many qualities and history of stained glass. At Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel and the Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum, we will sing the praises of the beauty of this art by focussing on the chapel windows and the 19th-century artisans who embellished the chapel.

The history of stained glass and the techniques of its fabrication are fascinating and complex. The first recorded attestations of coloured glass-making date back to the 4th century. Widely used in the Middle Ages to embellish religious buildings, stained glass went out of style in the 17th and 18th centuries. Only in the 19th century did this form of art make a comeback in Europe and in America. And it was in fact at that time that Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel received its first stained glass windows more than 150 years ago.

Is there anyone who hasn't experienced a sense of joy standing before the stained glass windows in a church on a sunny day? As Stéphan Martel, historian of the museum, remarks in an article in *Magazine Musées Montréal*, "when compared to other art forms, stained glass windows have this particularity, that they need natural light to shine out in all their glory and that the different tones and colours of which they are composed change continuously with the intensity of light from outside the building."

Visitors as well as amateurs of history are thus invited to come and admire these glassworks whose beauty changes from day to day and from one moment to the next.

The following is the special programming devised by the chapel and the museum for the 2010 celebration of glass: *Montréal ville de verre*.

Permanent exhibits:

- Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel: 13 windows representing the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, completed in 1906-1907 by the design studio of Delphis-Adolphe Beaulieu.
- Tower chapel: Windows of this chapel constructed in 1892-1893, located in the tower of the museum, are made of stained glass.
- A number of glass objects in the display cases of the crypt: artefacts found when the archaeological site was uncovered.

Temporary exhibit:

Ultreia, onward pilgrim! In the second part of this exhibit, presenting the tradition of pilgrimage at Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours, visitors can view a restored fragment of a stained glass window discovered on the archaeological site.

Cultural and educational activities:

- **Museums Day, May 30, 2010:** Historical vignettes presented in the chapel in the afternoon. Excerpts from the 2010 Discovery Tour focussing on the stained glass windows of Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours.
- **Informal discussion: “The mystery of the lost stained glass”:** participants Jeff Scheckman, Nathalie Simard and Stéphan Martel will hold a 90-minute exchange on the restoration of stained glass found on the archaeological site – June 13, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in French and at 3:30 p.m. in English.
- **Guided visits – Discovery Tour: “The stained glass windows of Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours**
The 2010 discovery tours, our summer guided visits, will make a connection between the content of our exhibitions and the theme of glass. They will be presented Tuesday to Sunday afternoons between June 1st and September 5, 2010.

Information:

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