

Francine Lelièvre, Montreal, Quebec

Preparing for the future by protecting and promoting our heritage and archeological history is the motto that motivates **Francine Lelièvre**. Founder of the renowned Pointe-à-Callière museum, Mme. Lelièvre is a passionate historian and teacher who has been devoted to preserving history through cultural, heritage and tourism institutions for over thirty years. She began her career with Parks Canada in 1973, where she took charge of the conservation, promotion and interpretation of several national historic sites including Louis-S. St-Laurent in Compton and Grande-Grave in the Gaspésie, the first site to be developed as a “cultural landscape”. She was named Chief of Interpretation Services and Promotion for Québec in 1982, where she was responsible for 3 national parks, 26 historic sites and 4 historic canals. Her career then took her to the Musée de la civilisation du Québec before she set up her own heritage consulting firm, Processus inc, for 5 years prior to 1992.

Francine Lelièvre with the Hon. Pierre Duchesne at the awards ceremony



Mme. Lelièvre had the vision and determination that saw the establishment of the Pointe-à-Callière museum of history and archeology in Montreal, set on the site of extensive archeological discoveries from the 1970s that revealed over 1,000 years of human activity including the ruins of the earliest French fortifications. She was determined for the site to not only become a nationally recognized destination for Canadians, but one that is celebrated internationally. Mme. Lelièvre has overseen the museum’s expansion that has resulted in the preservation of surrounding heritage buildings: the Old Custom House, the Youville Pumping Station, the first electrically operated wastewater pumping facility in Montreal, the Old Mariners’ House—now used as educational and exhibits spaces. She also established the first school for archaeological digs in an urban centre on the site of the Fort Ville-Marie—where Montreal was founded—and integrated it into the complex.

Panoramic view of Pointe-à-Callière, museum of archaeology and history of Montreal © Normand Rajotte, Pointe-à-Callière



Mme. Lelièvre leads a staff of more than 100 people and prides herself on giving them opportunities to be involved in every aspect of the planning process and providing an engaging and stimulating work environment that respects the importance of work/life balance and personal strengths. The museum continues to attract rising numbers of tourists and local visitors (close to 350,000 people in 2011) and is seen as a premier destination in the

province of Quebec.

A rigorous administrator and outstanding project manager, she has brought her expertise and wide breadth of knowledge to help shape such cultural institutions as the Biosphere Environment Museum, the Musée de la civilisation and the Réseau muséal de la Gaspésie.

Her career in education began with the teaching history at the Cégep of Gaspésie and the University of Quebec at Rimouski from 1968 until 1973, and she has also lectured at the University of Montréal in museum studies, the University of Quebec on heritage and the University of Laval in anthropology and ethnology.

Announcing the expansion project at Pointe-à-Callière, May 2010

© Alain Vandal, Pointe-à-Callière

Mme Lelièvre has been member of numerous boards of historical and archaeological institutions and organizations; she writes for publications and participates in countless meetings, roundtables and summits about history, heritage and archaeology. Over 50 projects she oversaw garnered municipal and provincial awards, and she has been awarded over 10 personal awards about everything from graphic design and multimedia to museology and tourism. She is currently in the process of writing *La Cité de l'archéologie et de l'histoire de Montréal*.



Francine Lelièvre was nominated by Cyril Simard, président du Conseil d'administration, Société du réseau des écomusées.

For information about Francine Lelièvre's role at the Pointe-à-Callière Museum, contact **Claude-Sylvie Lemery**, Director of Communications and Marketing at T. 514 872-9124, C. 514 433-3405, or at cs.lemery@pacmusee.qc.ca.