

## Heritage Canada To Co-host Anniversary of Papineau Chapel's 150 Years

Nestled in the woods of Montebello, Quebec, is a historic fieldstone memorial chapel. It is not far from the manor house of Louis-Joseph Papineau and was built by Papineau following the death of his son Gustave in 1851.

On August 7 the Société historique Louis-Joseph Papineau and the Heritage Canada Foundation will celebrate the 150th anniversary of this chapel's consecration by unveiling a commemorative parchment that will be mounted in the chapel's interior. A special photographic exhibit of the chapel will be on display for the occasion.



Although an agnostic, Papineau did not forget his role as seigneur and wanted the religious dimension of this chapel to be acknowledged. It was on August 7 in 1855 that Monseigneur Joseph-Eugène Guigues, first bishop of the diocese of Bytown (now Ottawa) blessed and consecrated the funeral chapel.

Louis-Joseph Papineau, lawyer, seigneur and a liberal member of the Assembly of Lower Canada for more than 25 years, is an important political figure in the history of French Canada.

The building in which the great leader is buried is modest in size, measuring only 10 metres by 7 metres, and 10 metres high. Its interior is large enough to accommodate an altar and a small number of chairs. Eleven other members of the Papineau family are also buried here.

A bust of the elder Papineau by Napoléon Bourassa made from the funeral mask of the deceased is one of the interesting objects found in the chapel.

When the seigneurie was sold in 1929, the funereal chapel was severed from the domain and remained in the Papineau family until 1974, when it was donated to the Heritage Canada Foundation.

Heritage Canada has protected the serenity of the site by ensuring that parking is kept at a distance and access to the chapel is by foot.

The chapel is operated by the Société historique Louis-Joseph Papineau and is open for summer visitors.