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Of Chronicling Our Community

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Until the big day-  
First published  
June 21, 1764!

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# Chronicle-Telegraph

Québec

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## Ville de Québec and Commission de la Capitale nationale honour the QCT with historical plaque



Shirley Nadeau (QCT journalist and copy editor) and Deputy Mayor Michelle Morin-Doyle are all smiles standing in front of the historical plaque unveiled this morning outside the QCT's palais de la presse.



QCT journalists gathered at the palais de la presse. From left to right: Cassandra Kerwin, Bethann Merkle, Shirley Nadeau, Ruby Pratka, Marie White, Danielle Burns with baby Stella, and (in front) Juanita Craig with baby Étienne. Missing from the photo are Bill Cox and Sophie Rivett-Carnac.

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The scene – a convivial sun-soaked ceremony at the corner of Buade and rue du Trésor, albeit a particularly noisy corner.

Those gathered – Deputy Mayor Michelle Morin-Doyle, Françoise Mercure (president and director general of the Commission de la Capitale nationale du Québec), Françoise

Paradis (conseillère à la diffusion du patrimoine), Anne Corriveau (president of the City's Comité de commémoration), Normand Guoin (owner of the building about which all the fuss was being made), and a full contingent of *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph* journalists and other media.

The reason – a historical plaque being placed on the QCT's veritable “palace

of the press.” In 1907, the owners of the QCT's predecessor *The Daily Telegraph* commissioned architect Georges-Émile Tanguay to design a true *palais de la presse*. To this day, like City Hall and many other heritage buildings he designed in Québec City, the *palais* stands as a testament to the importance of what took place within its walls. From 1925 to

1949, it was the home of the *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*. Today, the building's owners are seeking a new vocation for it, and have visions of the structure blending into rue du Trésor as an artists' complex.

During the ceremony, historian Charles André Nadeau reminded the audience that, until the QCT's predecessor *The Quebec Gazette* was founded in 1764, Québec City

had no newspaper. Indeed, the bilingual *Quebec Gazette* was the first newspaper in New France. Thus, the plaque on 1, rue du Trésor also pays homage to the living heritage the QCT stewards – our newspaper's beginnings as the founding news medium of our city and our province.

As Deputy Mayor Morin-Doyle said in her address, “The *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*

is intricately woven into the social fabric of the Anglophone community.” Equally significant, Morin-Doyle emphasized that the QCT “has served and will continue to serve as the link that keeps us [the Ville de Québec] connected with the community.” It is, she said, the common thread that keeps the English-speaking community alive.

## Making history together: 250 years of chronicling our community

BETHANN MERKLE AND SHIRLEY NADEAU

In this so-called digital age, publishing 250 years of English-language news in a predominantly French-speaking city is a significant collective achievement.

• Since 1925, the *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph* has been

the only English-language newspaper published in the predominantly French-speaking Québec City region.

• The QCT is a vital source of information for the area's small-yet-vibrant English-speaking community.

• The QCT maintains a living heritage dating back

to Québec City's first newspaper.

**So our newspaper is 250 years old. Who reads newspapers anymore, anyway?**

While the overall newspaper scene is challenging, studies show that community newspapers are still Canada's most trustworthy sources for

news and advertising, and that three out of five English-speakers in Québec City read their local newspaper.

**From Harvard Business School professor to legendary investor Warren Buffett, modern international perspectives are in sync with those of William**

**Brown.**

In 1764, Brown founded the paper that would become the QCT. On June 21, 1764, he wrote:

“As every kind of knowledge is not only entertaining and instructive to individuals, but a benefit to the community, there is great reason to hope that a NEWS-PAPER [sic], properly conducted and written with accuracy, freedom, and impartiality, cannot fail of meeting with universal encouragement

...”

**Local news is thriving, and the QCT does “local” well.**

Following in Brown's tradition, we enjoy strong support from our community, and regularly win awards from the Québec Community Newspaper Association.

In 2013, the QCT won awards in five categories, and one of our journalists was named Outstanding Photojournalist of the Year. Again in 2014, we won in five categories, and one of our journalists was the provincial winner in the national Canadian Tire Jumpstart

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