

**Town of Sutton Collection**  
**Cultural Property Show Program<sup>1</sup>**

**Reception**

**Sutton Village Coat of Arms**

Date unknown



1. Green leaves represent the forest that has helped Sutton grow and develop.
2. In the blue, the wheat sheaves and tilling implement represent Sutton's rural nature
3. The red rose and fleur de lys represent Sutton's English- and French-speaking communities
4. The two hands illustrate the motto "*Diversitas non dissensio*," which means "harmony in diversity."

**Society for the Detection of Horse Thieves, Township of Sutton**

**1907**

100 copies of a 14" x 20" poster printed by Guertin Printing Co., 26 Notre-Dame West in Montreal, for \$12

Following the example of the Township of Dunham, in 1876 the citizens of Sutton founded a Society for the Detection of Horse Thieves. Horses, naturally, were vital to both transportation and farming. Throughout the Society's long history, which ended in 1949, the names of many notable local families were to be found among its member and directors, including Dyer, Curley, Godue, Boright, French, Lebeau, Wilson, Hawley and Strong. Even Charles Ulric Tartre, secretary-treasurer of the Town of Sutton from 1896 - 1919 and mayor from 1929 - 1937 held an important position in the Society during those years. Indeed, he was far from being the only influential member to also become mayor. In 1907, the Society for the Detection of Horse Thieves had 72 members. However, in its 73 years of existence, it only held 12 meetings. The minutes do not mention any horse thefts and even indicate that at times the practical utility of the Society was questioned.

**Honour Roll**

Designed by Birks & Son

The Honour Roll was prepared by the Federal Government with the assistance of Sutton's Grace Anglican Church. It pays tribute to the Anglican members of Sutton's community who fell in the Second World War.

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<sup>1</sup> We wish to thank Winston Bresee and Jean-Paul Deslières for their invaluable assistance in helping us prepare this illustrated history for you today. Also, much of the information in this program comes from the History Sketchbooks published by Heritage Sutton Historical Society. The sketchbooks can be purchased locally at Le Cafetier and Farfelu, and on the Heritage Sutton website at [heritagesutton.ca](http://heritagesutton.ca)

In 1949, the corner tower facing Main Street acquired a clock in memory of the Sutton soldiers who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914-1918. The clock was donated by the Junior Girls Institute. The Society for the Detection of Horse Thieves made a financial contribution toward its purchase. In 1949 the Town also installed a commemorative plaque listing the names of Suttonites who died in the two world wars. Look for it by the main entrance (outside).

### **Ground Floor (Urban Planning and Treasury area)**

#### **Mont Sutton**

Louis-Michel Major

Photograph taken circa 1978 - 1980

The municipality encouraged the creation of the ski resort by selling land it owned on the mountain to the Boulanger family and authorizing them to develop the sector, in exchange for payment of \$2,500 a year for 10 years. This led to the birth not only of a new business venture, but also of a new industrial sector that would have a profound impact on the local economy.

#### **Trains for Skiers**

Two reproductions of old laminated photos showing skiers getting off the train and walking on Pine Street.

In the late 1930s and during the Second World War, skiers were greeted at the train station by farmers who drove them in horse-drawn buggies to the foot of the trails on Schweitzer Street. From there, a little rope cable pulled them up to Lake Mahonk (now called Mohawk Lake). In one of the photos you can see some buildings that are still there today; their current addresses are 6 Pine Street and 6 Principale Sud.

Skiing in Sutton started well before the 1930s. Heritage Sutton received an original letter dated 1840 in which the wife of the owner of the Mountain View Hotel writes that the hotel will be hosting a number of skiers during the weekend.

#### **Main Street**

Ray Bourke

Painting from the Town's archives

2002

The 2002 merger of Township of Sutton and the Town of Sutton was hotly contested. Ray Bourke, a long-time Suttonite who took part in the consultations, was opposed to the merger. At the end of the process, he gave the Town two paintings. This one shows the urban side of the Town. The other showed cows with a mountain in the background, referring to the country side of the Town. Mr. Bourke wanted elected officials and citizens to remember that our community is shaped by both identities. This illustration of Main Street takes us back in time, since it depicts the street in downtown Sutton with electrical wires and hydro poles. The wires were buried in 2006.

## Sketch of Town Hall

S. Z. Reznicek, MRAIC, Architect

In 1970, Sutton's Town Hall was given a facelift. The once grand windows were partly covered with paneling. The door to the south corner-tower was closed off, the pinnacle was removed from the corner-tower, and an awning was added. The architect chosen to 'modernize' the building was Mr. Reznicek, who lived in Sutton.

## Fire Station de feu, Sutton, Québec

S. Z. Reznicek, MRAIC, Architect

Sketch of the fire station

In the late 1960s, the town was in need of a fire house better suited to the township's growing demands. The town and the township became partners in the project. A building site was chosen between Town Hall and the river, already the site the home of George A. Morrison and his family. Morrison was the Fire Superintendent from 1919 and was named Fire Chief of the new brigade in 1930. In 1967, George died; two years later his wife also died. It was then decided that the Morrison house could be moved to make room for the new fire station. In 1971, Mr. Reznicek was commissioned to prepare the architectural plans to build a triple garage.

## Sous-bois, Ombre et lumière

May Kelly

Circa 1996

Acrylic on wood (meranti)

May Kelly is a multidisciplinary artist who does drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, ceramic and printmaking. Kelly says her decisions about which material to work with are greatly influenced by chance. In her practice she explores her interest in the relationship between humans and nature. She works with four main themes: the human form, birds, fish and, as shown here, vegetation. Through movement she seeks to redefine nature as a space between the real and the imagined. *"The play of overlapping lines, which sometimes intersect in areas of transparency (...) give my compositions a living, breathing, rhythm,"* she says. The artist also uses texture and colour to evoke emotion: *"I approach the work as a language that reveals my community, my environment, my life. The joy of seeing! The joy of assembling! The joy of touching! The joy of creating!"* This painting is one of a series of works that also includes *"Vaste et intime à la fois..."* which is on the second floor.

## Aerial View of Downtown Sutton

Louis-Michel Major

Photograph taken in 1980

This photograph was taken when the water and sewer systems were being redone in the heart of the village. Our town has changed quite a bit over the past three decades. Here's an overview of places that have been torn down or altered since then.

1. **Fire station:** Here you see it as it was before it was expanded in 2005, when its architectural style was modelled after that of the Town Hall.



2. **Filtex:** This thread manufacturer was the last occupant of this industrial site. The building was enlarged six times between the late 1950s and 1986, with the Town's support. At its peak, Filtex had about 160 employees. The huge complex closed down in 2003.

**3. The Deslières food warehouses**

4. **Darrah Brothers Plant:** Within a few years of its establishment in 1922, this business became an important manufacturer and exporter of wooden items: handles for agricultural and gardening tools, bowling balls, tennis rackets and other sports equipment. The tennis rackets were sold to buyers as far away as Australia. The plant closed in the 1980s. The site was just north of the lot that is now occupied by the Villas des Monts.

5. **Frère-André School:** Look for the school buses parked by the school, which remained open until 1986. The elementary school was built by the Frères de Sainte-Croix in 1949 to teach boys. Today this building is the Centre Harmonie, and houses the Coop Gym Santé Sutton. The school at this site prior to 1949 was moved to 70-72 Western (#6) and became an apartment building.

**7. Larose Sawmill:** Hervé and Félicien Larose

opened this sawmill in 1945, producing lumber and hardwoods. The Lines Bros. (which late became Canada Art), on Maple Street, used the Larose lumber to make toys. The lumber was also used to build dividers in pig farms and to make tool handles. The sawmill was sold in 1986 and closed in 1989.

8. **Restaurant:** This building, which housed a movie theatre and then a bowling alley, burned down in 1960. It was rebuilt and had a restaurant and, for another 15 years, the bowling alley. It was owned by a number of different people over a 40-year period. In the 1970s, Mayor Bernard Benoit and the town counsellors used to gather there on the days Council meetings were held. In 2003 it became a performance venue, the Salle Alec et Gérard Pelletier, which is managed by the Cœur du village.

**Construction of the Old Water Treatment Plant beside the Town Garage**

Louis-Michel Major  
 Photograph taken in 1980

The water treatment plant, which was used until 2001, was an important environmental step forward for Sutton, as it replaced individual cesspits and the release of untreated sewage into the rivers. It took two years to build the plant and sewage system, which was supervised by engineer Réal Deschênes. To bridge the gap, and as required by government regulation, a temporary plant had to be built to treat wastewater from the Foyer Sutton, which had the capacity to take care of up to 75 seniors, for it to remain in operation.

## **Glen Sutton circa 1910.**

Reproduction of an old laminated photo donated to the Town by Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Larocque. April 2006.

In 1873, the railway came to the Glen, and with it an economic boom that brought prosperity to the little hamlet and supported its economy until the Great Depression of 1929. During this golden age most of the activity was focused on the two sides of the bridge that crossed the Missisquoi River. In the foreground you can see the train, station and Cushion and Burnett roads; the floating logs in the river point to logging operations in the surrounding mountains. In the middle of the photo, the bridge opens on to Bridge Street, which is bordered by houses, businesses and buildings. All around are fields. Bridge Street ends at Main Street (now called Missisquoi Valley Road) where you can see the Good Shepherd Church; the steeple on its clock tower had not yet been destroyed by lightning. In the background, the mountains that separate the hamlet from the rest of Township of Sutton have been clear-cut, to open land for the farms that supported about a hundred families.

## **Sutton Council Room**

### **Se voir contempler / Paysage-intérieur**

Éric Lamontagne

2016

Acrylic and oil painting, Russian birch, mirror, digital photography

In this 3D artwork by Éric Lamontagne, paintings on wood are displayed on both sides of the entrance to the Council room and inside the room itself. The paintings illustrate Sutton's symbolic landscapes and were produced using photographs, Victorian motifs and mirrors. When looking at the artwork, we see three elements: the landscape painting, the Victorian motif and the reflection of the room in the mirrors (or the visitors gazing at the art). This artwork was produced under the *Policy on the integration of the arts, architecture and the environment of buildings and public and Government sites*. See the specific notice about this artwork.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**



### **Clock (Mayor's office), *Standard* brand**

This photo shows the clock by the door to the mayor's office. As you can see, today the elongated handle is gone, along with the mechanism it was attached to. Originally, this clock was used to adjust the time on the external tower clock. Fred W. Day, better known by his nickname Hap Day, made both clocks and appears on the right in this photo, with former mayor Charles-Ulric Tartre on the left. The tower clock mechanism was changed in the 2000s and it is now controlled electronically.

## **Vaste et intime à la fois...**

May Kelly

2000

Acrylic on wood (meranti)

This painting was donated to the Town in September 2006 when May Kelly left Sutton, "to leave behind a souvenir of her 46 years in Sutton." The painting was originally hung in the office of Mayor Kenneth Hill. It represents the Sutton mountains, which were a source of inspiration to the artist from the time she started skiing at Sutton in 1960. This painting is part of a series of works that also includes "*Sous- Bois, Ombre et Lumière*" on the ground floor. See the notice for that work for more information about Kelly's artistic process.

## **Sculpture: Untitled**

**Ulysse Comtois** (Granby, March 2, 1931 -- Saint-Hyacinthe, July 10, 1999)

1995

Mahogany and steel assembly, screws

*Artwork being temporarily exhibited at Town Hall*

This work is composed of pieces of wood which are assembled and jointed and can be moved to shape an entirely different sculpture. This interactive piece, owned by Sutton's elementary school, was produced under the *Policy on the integration of the arts, architecture and the environment of buildings and public and Government sites* when the Municipal and School Library and gymnasium were added to the school on Highland Street.

Painter-sculptor Ulysse Comtois's professional career spanned over forty years. He exhibited with the Automatistes, an important artistic movement which radically changed the world of Canadian art, and was also one of the first sculptors to experiment with the technique of welded metal in Canada. Comtois was awarded the prestigious Paul-Emile Borduas prize in 1978 for his contribution to the Quebec and international art scene.

In 1948, Comtois left Granby to attend the École des beaux-arts in Montreal but soon dropped out, realizing that his interests were more in line with the ideals of the Borduas-led Automatistes than those of the formal institution. In 1954, the artist participated in the famed automatist exhibition *La matière chante* at the Galerie Antoine. In Montreal, Comtois also came into contact with the Plasticiens and their rigorous geometric abstractions. (The more-or-less curved bars in his series of abstract paintings done between 1954 and 1956 would find later echoes in the modular form of the strips found in his playful sculptures of the 1960s.)

From 1960 onward, he primarily created modular sculptures, inspired by a visit to a New York exhibition of sculptor Julio Gonzales' work. In 1960-61, he produced small sculptures of welded steel using scrap materials which were shown at the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal the same year. Comtois gained much acclaim for his three-dimensional pieces such as *Column* (1967-1968), even receiving a Canada Council for the Arts Grant in 1962, which allowed the artist to travel in Europe and Israel for a year. His work *From East to West*, created in 1962, was acquired by New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMa).

In 1967, Comtois was commissioned to create a mural for the Administration and News Building of Montreal's Expo 67, and received a second Canada Council for the Arts Grant later that year. The following summer, he represented Canada at the Venice Biennale. Comtois was a member of the Canada Council Visual Arts Jury in 1969, and taught for many

years at the Université du Québec à Montreal and Concordia University. The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal organized a comprehensive retrospective of his work in 1983.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> This description is from two websites: the National Gallery of Canada: <https://www.gallery.ca/en/see/collections/artist.php?iartistid=1096> and the Canadian Encyclopedia: <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/ulyse-comtois/>