



PRESS RELEASE
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Second Award for Sutton's Heritage Tours

Sutton, April 1, 2019 – Last Thursday, the Glen Sutton audio-guided heritage tour, “If these roads could speak,” won the **Jury's Choice Award** in the heritage category from **Culture Montérégie**. The winning project was presented jointly by the Town of Sutton and Heritage Sutton; the presenters outlined the unique concept of the tour, which takes the form of a radio drama based on accounts by seniors in the Glen Sutton community. The jury noted that *“you have reinvented the audio-guide by turning incidents from Glen Sutton's history into a very original radio drama with high production values, all of which brings its history alive. Plus, you did so with an impressive number of contributors and participants. Congratulations!”*



On March 29, 2019, Claudine Filion-Dufresne (Town of Sutton), Jeanne Morazain (Heritage Sutton) and Étienne Legast (Audiotope) attended the Culture Montérégie awards ceremony in Boucherville to receive the Jury's Choice Award.

“Montréal ranks third in Quebec for the number of its heritage buildings, heritage sites, museums and interpretation centres. Since 2008, Culture Montréal has used its heritage awards as a vehicle for educating the public and elected officials about the varied and fascinating history of the region. Above all, the awards seek to pay tribute to initiatives that put people more in touch with the past while helping to enrich the history and heritage of Montréal.”ⁱ

A brief description of the project

“**If these roads could speak,**” they would tell you all about the colourful lives of those who lived along the border in the early 1900s, when Prohibition reigned in the United States and tourism was a growing industry. Come and enjoy this heritage radio play, which is brought to life by some 20 actors, enhanced by music and sound effects. “Who knows what's waiting for you at the bend in the road, in Glen Sutton, Pearl?” The story begins when an orphaned girl comes to this hamlet in the Eastern Townships. Yes, Pearl Porter (1895 - 1982) is buried in Glen Sutton Cemetery, but her spirit will accompany you on this journey into the past, whether you're on foot, on a bike or in a car. The audio-guide heritage tour is available free-of-charge on the GuidiGo app for tablets and smart phones, via the Town of Sutton website.

For more information, please see the Sutton Heritage Tours Facebook page (look for [circuits patrimoniaux](#) on Facebook) and www.sutton.ca/tours The internet page includes a short guide to the use of the app and a summary of the route between the different stops.

- **Partners**

The Glen Sutton audio-guided heritage tour was written by **Andrée Pelletier**, known for her work as co-writer of the TV series “Blanche,” the sequel to the popular TV series “Les Filles de Caleb.” Pelletier also coached the some 20 actors who performed the colourful characters from Glen Sutton's past.

Heritage Sutton was in charge of the historical research, retrieving images from archives and checking the content. We specially thank Jeanne Morazain and Dominique Parent.

The **Maison des arts de la parole** and 11 storytellers from the **Cercle des conteurs des Cantons-de-l'Est** created and performed the unique tales and stories that make up the audio-guide: another way to bring our history alive.

Audiotopie, a dynamic coop that specializes in the development of interactive sound projects, added a lyrical element to the actors' words. Their expertise also helped shape the design of the tour.

It fell to **Claudine Filion-Dufresne**, Cultural Development Officer for the Town of Sutton, to organize and coordinate the many different components of this major project, which she initiated.

This project was made possible through the financial contribution of the **Town of Sutton** and the **Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec**.

- **Glen Sutton and the Missisquoi River: a well-kept secret**

Glen Sutton is one of the oldest hamlets in the Sutton Township. It is nestled in the magnificent Missisquoi River valley and surrounded by mountains. The tour follows the picturesque route called the Chemin des Cantons, a road that takes you deep into the Anglo-American heritage of the Eastern Townships.

The Missisquoi valley is also a symbol of the daily cross-border life experienced by Glen Sutton inhabitants for over a century: families living on both sides of the border, buildings being built right on top of the boundary line, people smuggling alcohol during Prohibition in the United States, “international” businesses, not to mention architecture that drew its inspiration from Vermont and New England. It was definitely a “border culture,” an identity forged since settlement began in 1799.

First award in June 2018

In 2016, the Town of Sutton and its partners introduced the first two audio-guided heritage tours, using a storytelling format to introduce people to the rich history of about 10 cemeteries and six of the nine hamlets in the Sutton area, all small communities built at a crossroads in keeping with the Anglo-Saxon tradition. On **June 7, 2018**, these tours, which are part of a bigger project to develop interest in local history and individual cemeteries, won the **Réseau les Arts et la Ville Culture et développement award**. The evaluation committee praised the *“innovative approach of this heritage development project, as well the leveraging of local acting talent and the involvement of multiple partners. Part of a coherent development vision, the initiative successfully meets the needs of the community and has earned the support of an impressive number of participants and organizations.”*

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For more information
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ⁱ <https://www.culturemonteregie.qc.ca/prix/prix-patrimoine/>