

Chalmers - Wesley United Church

Objective: \$1,000,000

Major
Fundraising
Campaign
2010



The artistry of the stained-glass windows

All but one of the eight large stained-glass windows were designed by Wallace J. Fischer and built at the Bernard Leonard workshop in Old Quebec between 1897 and 1906. They all bear the hallmarks of the fine craftsmanship that was characteristic of the era. Six of the windows came from the former Methodist Church.

The windows were donated by prominent members of Chalmers-Wesley in memory of loved ones. The Webster family is remembered in one of the windows while the Holt and Renfrew families, founders of the company that bears their names, each donated a window.

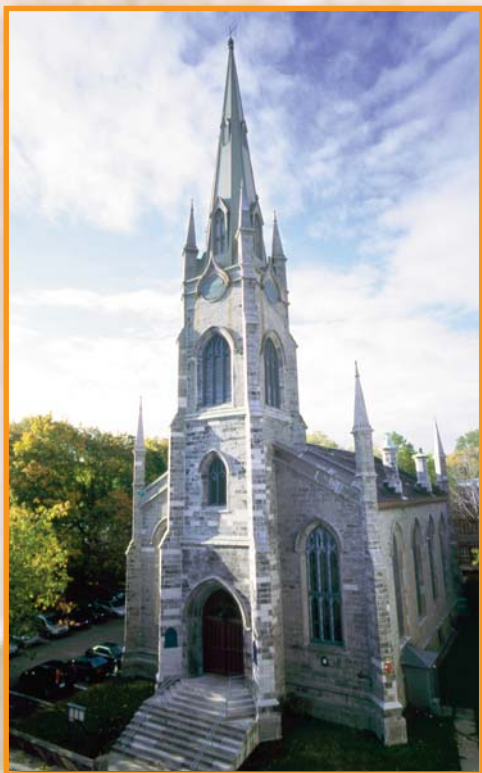


he musical legacy of Chalmers-Wesley

At Chalmers-Wesley, music is not only important for the congregations who worship there, it is meant to be shared with the wider community.

As you enter the sanctuary, the sight of the impressive pipe organ is striking. Its position behind the choir and facing the congregation is typical of many Protestant churches. Built in 1890 by Warren and later enlarged by Casavant, the organ is part of an ongoing long-term restoration plan initiated in 1982.

The church sanctuary is praised by audiences and professional musicians for its excellent acoustics. The organ and the grand piano are central to many concerts given by choral and instrumental groups as well as the Conservatory of Music of Quebec. The summer Organ Concert Series attracts internationally known organists from Europe and North America to delight the public.





The building restoration project

Due to its location in historic Old Quebec, and with its graceful spire dominating the skyline near the Château Frontenac and the Citadel, Chalmers-Wesley United Church must be preserved for future generations. The financial support from the provincial government has been a mainstay of the restoration program, but it does not cover the total cost of the work that urgently needs to be done. To complete this project, we need private donations from friends, foundations and members of the church.

The restoration of this 157-year-old grande dame has been quite a challenge for the congregation, one that has been met in a series of steps over the past 15 years. The following work has already been completed: replacing the copper roof and roof supports, repairing the stone walls and buttresses, installing a new lightning protection system and new stone steps at the main entrance, painting the sanctuary, updating the electrical system, and restoring the historic stained-glass windows.

The latest round of work began in 2009. The spire was repaired inside and out and covered with gleaming new stainless steel and a new ornament was positioned on top. One of the four stone pinnacles on the tower which had toppled to the ground during a harsh winter storm - causing substantial damage to the recently recovered roof - was replaced and the roof repaired.

Today, the stone tower that supports the spire requires urgent repairs due to water infiltration, and the costs are beyond the congregation's means. A great deal of the work has already been completed, and we still have a way to go. But with your help, we will succeed!

We cannot overstate the urgency of completing this restoration project, which includes the following:

- Repairing and replacing stones in the tower supporting the spire
- Repairs to the windows and louver openings in the tower
- Repairing and replacing stones on the other three tower pinnacles
- Installation of metal protection on ledges and buttresses.

The restoration program has cost about \$2 million over the past 15 years, but we need a further \$1 million to complete the major repairs to the tower to make sure present and future generations can worship, seek comfort and enjoy the sound of music at Chalmers-Wesley. While this is indeed a large sum, we are confident that with your valuable support, this program will be completed sometime in 2011.



Saving our religious heritage

Religious buildings play a fundamental role in our communities. Apart from their primary role as places of worship, they define our local history, form part of our architectural and musical heritage, and provide vital space for many local social activities.

Until the 1960s, the people of Quebec expended enormous amounts of creative energy on building churches, thus providing work for hundreds of architects, painters, sculptors and craftsmen, often with breathtaking results. Since then, as church attendance started to decline, some houses of worship that were once the pride of the faithful have been turned into concert halls and condos or have simply been demolished. Allowing these cultural and historic monuments to disappear is a great loss to the entire community.

Fortunately, the tide has now turned in favour of restoration.

The Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Quebec government that promotes the preservation and restoration of Quebec's religious buildings, has been extremely supportive in taking serious steps to protect this rich heritage, which belongs to all people. With your support, these magnificent structures can be preserved as gathering places for the community.

One of these glorious buildings well worth preserving is Chalmers-Wesley United Church in Quebec City.





brief history of Chalmers-Wesley United Church

Completed in 1853, Chalmers-Wesley was built within the fortified walls of historic Quebec City, the birthplace of the province of Quebec and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Chalmers-Wesley is a fine example of Neo-Gothic architecture. Its soaring steeple towers above the walls of the Old City, an iconic landmark in a city filled with history, a place from where millions of people throughout North America can trace their roots.



The Chalmers-Wesley congregation of today began with members of Reformed (Protestant) churches who came to Quebec City as soldiers with the British Army in 1759. Their new building on Ste-Ursule Street was named after The Rev. Dr. Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847), founder of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

In 1925, both Chalmers Free Presbyterian and the nearby Wesleyan Methodist Church, named after The Rev. John Wesley (1703-1791), the principle founder of Methodism in England, became part of the newly-formed United Church of Canada. In 1931 these two congregations merged to become Chalmers-Wesley

United Church. The former Methodist church building is now owned by the Ville de Québec and is occupied by the Institut canadien de Québec.

Recognized by the Conseil du patrimoine religieux as a “Class A” heritage building, not only is Chalmers-Wesley an impressive structure, it is also home to one of the few English-language congregations that continues to worship in Quebec City. Since 1987, the congregation has welcomed a French-language congregation, Église unie Saint-Pierre, within its walls.



ur goal

Our goal is to raise the \$1 million required to complete the building restoration program.

The congregation is able to cover the cost of day-to-day operations using the income generated by investments, contributions from members and by renting our facilities to outside organizations, but we cannot cover the extraordinary costs of the final restoration work required to preserve this jewel on the St. Lawrence.

To reach this goal, we need your help. If you would like to make a contribution, your support would be most welcome. If you would prefer to pledge your support over a period of time, this can easily be arranged. Please note that contributions to the Chalmers-Wesley Restoration Campaign are tax-deductible. Contributors' names will be acknowledged on a plaque located inside the building. This is an ideal opportunity to do your share to make sure this glorious historical building continues to serve, sustain and uplift the community.

Please contact us if you need more information. We encourage you to visit the church to experience the beauty of the sanctuary with its stained-glass windows and the marvellous organ so appreciated by the church members, Quebec City's music community, and the many residents and tourists who visit each year.

Please accept our humble and heartfelt thanks for your support in preserving this building and its rich cultural heritage.

**Peter W. Webster,
Chairman, Honorary Committee**

**Grant McConnell and David Baker,
Campaign Co-Chairmen**

Chalmers-Wesley Restoration Campaign



Chalmers-Wesley United Church

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