

Le CyberJournal

of the LOMA Society of Montreal

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LOMA SOCIETY OF MONTRÉAL

EDITOR'S NOTE

We break from our usual format to accommodate a special Christmas edition, less formal and inspired by this grand festive season celebrated around the globe. May the sky spread itself generously upon you.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

WORD FROM THE EDITOR

It's Christmas! Before starting rejoicing, reveling, watching your children collapse under an avalanche of presents, let us take a few moments to meditate on this grandiose landscape.

Let us bring our thoughts to those caught within the grips of war and atrocities, to the deprived, to the aged forgotten in a home, to the homeless who shiver under a bridge, to children who have nothing to pass between their teeth.

For them Christmas brings naught besides the hope, so slim, that one day they, too, can participate in these big merriments. Let us make a small place for them, if not at our table, in the very least, in our heart.

Let us all approach belittled before these majestic pines and hope that elsewhere, in some part of the world, war comes to a final ending.

Merry Christmas 2005!

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CHRISTMAS IS LOVE



Christmas comes to us once again this year. But, if our thoughts were properly placed, everyday would be Christmas, since Christmas is love.

When is Christmas?

Christmas is when I lend my hands, my feet and my heart to the Lord. Christmas is every day in which I offer a smile, joy, truth, peace, justice, hope, forgiveness.

It's Christmas when I dry away a tear, when I share, when I love. My daily Christmas takes shape in this way.

Our hope is that the Christmas bell announces the Lord's venue in our lives, for Jesus told us : I am with you everyday until the end of time.

Christmas is love.

GLADYS & GÉRALD

(Inspired by a text from Jean Langlois, p.p. 2005)

Text generously shared by:

Mireille Beauchemin, Acting president



WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of the LOMA Society of Montreal,

Another year comes to an end and it is time to recap. Among the most significant events of the year 2005, let us highlight the Annual Meeting. It took place at the Château Dufresne, a place which we have deemed favourable for networking between members within a user-friendly atmosphere. The members, who came numerous, were plunged in discovery during the guided tour of places normally inaccessible to the public.

The year 2005 saw the revamping and rejuvenation of the Society's web site. An in-depth reshuffling from which all the members can benefit. The Annual Meeting and the improvements to the web site could not have been achieved without our sponsors whom we wish to thank. Their names appear on the web site and in the Cyberjournal.

Many luncheon conferences were organized where distinguished guests touched on news items. The frequency and quality of these events cannot be ensured without your participation. Apart from the information acquired from these events, you will benefit from excellent opportunities to renew the ties with industry colleagues.

LOMA held its annual conference in Orlando on the beautiful site of Walt Disney. In keeping with previous years, your Society actively represented you and participated in the committees of LOMA.

In full bloom for 2006, the Société LOMA de Montréal will celebrate its 30th anniversary. We wish to stage this event at its full worth, since very few societies have been as long in existence. Your suggestions and your participation are welcome.

To conclude, I wish to sincerely thank all the Board members, members of the various committees and our professors without whose efforts the Society would not exist. I also wish to highlight the arrival of Mrs. Sharon Kelly who has recently joined our Board of Directors. Her experience and enthusiasm will contribute to the dynamism of your Board of Directors.

On the part of all assistants, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Good and Happy New Year.

Jean Moreau, president

SANTA'S RETIREMENT

After distributing his gifts to children the world over, Santa Claus returns home, to the North Pole.

- I'm exhausted ! he sighs, as he lets himself sink into his sofa. Undoubtedly, I think I am too old for this craft. The long sleigh rides in the dark of the night, the landings on the snow covered rooftops, dives down poorly swept chimneys, all this isn't befitting my age anymore. Since I first started this profession, I have well earned the right to get some rest. It may very well be time to consider retirement.

It was thus that one day in December, newspapers the world over publish this small advertisement :

Superb opportunity! World class toy factory for sale. Reliable and dynamic staff. Vast clientèle. Worldwide travel opportunities.

Terms negotiable. Write to : Mr. Christmas, North Pole, Canada HoH OH0

Two days before Christmas, an Air Inuit airplane lands in the North Pole. A businessman gets down from the small apparatus. Santa Claus gives him a warm reception and invites him to a cup of tea.

- I haven't come here for tea, grumbles the new arrival. For me, time is money. So I don't have a minute to lose! Direct me right away to the factory!

Quickly, Santa Clause guides his visitor into the woodworking workshop. The room is embalmed in the smell of freshly cut wood. Among sawdust and wood shavings, the elves do their game of plane and brush.

- The carpenter elves have no better equal to manufacture skis and sleds! exclaims Santa Claus.

The businessman frowns :

- I will replace them with robots. They work faster and are better looking.

Santa Claus has trouble hiding his discontent.

In the stable, the industrialist pouts :

- This sled, is a big zero and these animals are only good for the zoo. I will do the round in a flying snowmobile. It moves faster and flies higher !

Despite these unpleasant remarks, Santa Claus forces himself to keep his calm. He takes a deep breath and guides his guest into the house. There, he proudly holds out his red costume and fur lined boots :

- This vest and these pants were cut from the best wool and will keep you quite warm !

The chap protests just as soon :

- Never will I put this contraption on my back. It is outmoded and will make me look fat.

Whatever Santa Claus shows him, the businessman rejects with disdain. In front of the thousands of letters that came from the four corners of the world, the industrialist gives out with :

- As soon as the contract is signed, I will close this post office. Gone with time wasted on all this rap and to answering all this mail. Finished with this personalized service. No matter if they wish for a bicycle, a cub, an electric train or a doll, from now on children will have to content themselves with what I will offer them.

Santa Claus feels a prickle creeping up his nose.

- In fact, I think I will demolish everything, ads the businessman, gesturing toward the house, the stable and the toyshop. I will move to Montreal or Toronto.

Upon hearing this, Santa Claus shudders. Around him, his elves cry out loud. Sure of himself, the industrialist pulls a document out of his napkin.

- Sign this !

Santa Claus firmly pushes away the contract and the pen and frowns.

- And the children, he asks, will you at least carry them on your knees ?

- Have you lost your mind ! the man grayed out with indignation. I don't have time for this... And then... I must admit, I hate children. To these words, Santa Claus reddens deeper than his tuque. He grabs the sultry sire by the bottom of his pants and throws him out without care.

- Well done ! Bravo ! applaud the elves.

- Ouf ! I feel much better, declares Santa. I can even say I am feeling great. Slip my boots on ! Hitch my reigns ! At last, I think it won't be this year that I will be taking my retirement.

Text courtesy of Marie-Andrée and Daniel Mativat

You will find other Christmas Stories at :

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/matawinie/contespr.htm>



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
2006**

The LOMA Society of Montreal is grateful to the following sponsors for contributing to the maintenance and improvement of its Website.



TO ALL OUR READERS

We keep hoping you will be writing one day.

Meanwhile, we are looking for individuals who enjoy taking on new challenging activities.

Happy Holidays to all. We will be back in March 2006.

THE EDITOR

