

THE SEIGNEURIAL SYSTEM IN OLD MONTRÉAL

Summer Program Launch

Montréal, June 17, 2024 – This summer, the **Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal**, salutes the seigneurial system with an exhibition marking the 400th anniversary of its implementation. Discover how this system affected the history and heritage of Quebec with three temporary exhibitions: *In the Footsteps of the Seigneurial System*, accessible free of charge outside the Château Gardens; *Seigneurs of Montréal: The Sepulcian Priests*; and *Traces and Memories of the Sepulcian Priests in Quebec*. The Museum is open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In the Footsteps of the Seigneurial System

The seigneurial system was a method of land distribution and occupation put in place to encourage settlement and to structure the colony. Although it was abolished in 1854, the province still bears its traces. Learn more from our outdoor exhibition, *In the Footsteps of the Seigneurial System*, a collection of aerial photographs by renowned historian and photographer, Pierre Lahoud, winner of the Prix Gérard-Morisset 2023. This exhibition is accessible free of charge outside the Governor's Garden, on Le Royer and St. Claude Streets. It runs until November 3, 2024, in collaboration with the Manoir Mauvide-Génest of St-Jean-de l'Île d'Orléans.



St-Lawrence River at Saint-Louis de Lotbinière
2014
© Pierre Lahoud

Seigneurs of Montréal: The Sulpician Priests

Immerse yourself in the fascinating history of the Sulpicians and find out how they influenced the development of Montréal over the centuries.

Seigneurs of Montréal: the Sulpician Priests presents archival documents and historic artifacts from the The Priests of Saint-Sulpice of Montréal Collection, a collection rarely seen by the public, to highlight the Sulpicians' key role and their impact on Montréal's history. The exhibition provides an enriching exploration of the lives of the Seigneurs of Montréal, from their arrival in the 17th century to their enduring influence on modern Montréal. This exhibition runs until September 8, 2024.



The Old Seminary
First half of the 20th century
Edgar Contant
© The Priests of Saint-Sulpice of Montréal Collection

Traces and Memories of the Seigneurial System in Quebec

Discover the history of the seigneurial system in Quebec, thanks to a fascinating exhibition on a regime first established in New France in 1624 which continued until its official abolishment in 1854. The seigneurial system continues to influence present-day Quebec despite the fact it ceased to exist over 150 years ago. This exhibition focuses on extracts from testimonials collected by Prof. Benoit Grenier, well-known historian of this period, and related documents and artifacts.

Traces and Memories of the Seigneurial System in Quebec was produced by the Musée de la mémoire vivante of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, Quebec. This exhibition runs until September 8, 2024.

Guided Tours

The Château's volunteer guides provide tours every day from July 1 until September 30. These tours are included in the Museum entrance fee. Follow our guides to learn more about the history of Montréal as well as the Château itself. French tours take place at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. English tours are at noon and at 2 p.m.

Anciennes troupes militaires de Montréal

In Claude de Ramezay's time, Montreal was a military town. To help you get a feel for the period, the *Anciennes troupes militaires de Montréal* recreate the *Compagnies franches de la Marine* and the 78th Fraser Highlanders every summer. They'll be on duty Wednesdays to Sundays, from 10 am to 4:45 p.m. with different parades and programs.

See them at the Château Ramezay and snap some photos while you're at it!



Military demonstration by the *Anciennes troupes militaires de Montréal* 2019

Daniel Boismenu

© Château Ramezay – Musée et site historique

Friends of the Governor's Garden

Meet the Friends of the Governor's Garden from noon to 4 p.m every summer afternoon until Labour Day. They'll be happy to introduce you to our typical 18th-century Garden. Would you recognize the medicinal herbs growing there? What about the pear trees? And the artichoke plants? They'll answer your questions and even share a few garden-related historical anecdotes, if you've got a moment! There are games and challenges for young and old!

About us

*The **Château Ramezay – Historic Site and Museum of Montréal** is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve, highlight and make accessible a collection focused mainly on the history of Montréal and of Québec. It was the first building classified an historical monument in Quebec and is the oldest private history museum in the province. Visit us at chateauramezay.qc.ca and check out our social medias on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).*

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Information

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