



On Wednesday, June 22nd, 2005, Sherbrooke, Cité des Rivières and the City of Sherbrooke underlined, on the corner of Queen Boulevard South and Esplanade Street, the completion of the reconstruction of the old balustrade which was entirely remodelled to bring new life to this structure of historic character.

The repair works on the balustrade started in April 2006 and were completed in June of the same year. The dismantling of the old balustrade and the installation of the new structure allowed Sherbrooke, Cité des Rivières and the City of Sherbrooke to promote even more the Promenade du Lac-des-Nations as the best destination for Sherbrooke residents and tourists. The repairs' objective was to keep the antique feel of the balustrade and to exploit the promenade by securing the multifunctional path of the lake's north shore.

Sherbrooke keeps its rich heritage

It was in 1934 that the project of building a balustrade along the lake was first considered and from 1967, called the Nations Lake. This project is a part of the works undertaken by the City of Sherbrooke during the economic crisis. The promenade of the Esplanade Street was once occupied by Sherbrooke Ice, a company who sold ice blocks cut from the frozen waters of the Magog River.

The project consisted of levelling the North bank of the Magog River from the first houses on Esplanade Street up to the Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge since several people had drowned previously. This terrace will be half a mile long.

The balustrade that runs along Esplanade Street was designed by the office of the senior architect of the federal or provincial government. These offices have a single model for this type of construction, regardless of the municipality where it will be built. In Sherbrooke, the model chosen was the contoured pillar balustrade.

In an attempt to keep the richness of our cultural and historic heritage, Mrs Lucie Larkin and Guylaine Dubé, both Sherbrooke residents, actively participated in public consultations in order to allow the restoration of the balustrade. Their dynamic implication ensured the longevity of the balustrade representing a part of Sherbrooke's history; an authentic image of Sherbrooke's vitality.

During the economic crisis of the 1930's, a tripartite agreement exists between the federal, provincial and municipal governments who share the costs of the work destined to hire unemployed workers. Each level of government pays a third of the cost. The workers are hired daily for various jobs. This is how Sherbrooke's workers built masonry walls (on Wellington Street South and Portland Street, among others). In 1934-1935, the balustrade becomes one of the most popular outing spot in town.