

**"Because Québec City greets visitors from all across the world each year, there is no language barrier."**

*Pauline Marion, President, Québec French Connection Chapter 43*

Le Château Frontenac overlooking the St. Lawrence river.



QUÉBEC CITY 1608 - 2008

## Celebrations of Québec City's 400th Anniversary

Québec City celebrates its 400th anniversary this year, and spectacular events will be presented all over the city, including exhibitions, a variety of shows, activities and parades. Its historical locations and the St. Lawrence, Québec City will shine at its brightest for 10 months, making the celebration a great encounter for everyone. All activities will provide opportunities for rich encounters and sensations in celebration of a dazzling fourth centennial!

Because Québec City greets visitors from all across the world each year, there is no language barrier. Come celebrate the French culture, but also the Irish, English and North American native cultures. For a complete calendar of events, visit [www.MyQuebec2008.com](http://www.MyQuebec2008.com)

*Pauline Marion, President  
Québec French Connection Chapter 43*

**Editorial note:** For more information on Canadian chapters and their upcoming rallies, see pages 73 and 77.

### Destination—Québec City

Here are a few things to look for and try in Québec City and why it is one of my favorite places to visit. Could it be the same for you, too?

**The signs**—Thank goodness for the symbols on Québec's French language highway signs! French is the official language of the province of Québec and, though sometimes frustrating, it adds fascination and unique charm.

**The countryside**—As I traveled the secondary roads, the countryside resembled a classic picture of the narrow farms that run back and along both sides of the road. Clusters of houses, outbuildings and towering silos line up one after another between lush fields of ripe corn. The towns and villages reflect the extensive and unique histories of the area. Take the ferry right into the harbour of the old city, and you don't have to worry about traffic, getting lost or parking.

**The Le Château Frontena**—High on a bluff overlooking the mighty St. Lawrence River stands Le Château Frontenac, the heart of Old Québec.

**The murals:** Narrow streets converge on a bustling square where more shops encircle a monument to a past prime minister. Above the crowd is a five-story, three-dimensional wall mural that displays a successful trompel'oeil (to trick the eye) effect and features several historic notables. At the end of another popular lane, sits a second mural honoring the daily lives of the Québec people.

Peggy McKee #86291 and Elaine Brandt #22193 serve children at the Foundation of His Ministry orphanage in Vicente Guerrero, Baja. Photo by Ed Brandt #22193.

**The food**—The food in Québec reflects the French culture, and the best food is found by wandering around the backstreets and sampling the small but excellent restaurants.

Poutine is one very distinct Québec dish. It resembles fries and gravy, but not really. The fries are hand-cut fresh potatoes, and the gravy is dark and thick, like molasses. The cheese, the most important part of good poutine, is fresh white cheddar cheese curds. When the curds are placed on the fries and the hot gravy is poured on top, the three flavors combine to produce what can only be described as the best junk food taste sensation on earth!

*Lynne Benjamin #86190*

### In Search of Bill Haley

While wintering in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas we went off to Harlingen to find the Bill Haley Museum. Bill Haley spent the last years of his life in South Texas and died in 1981.

Haley was one of the founding fathers of rock n' roll with his 1955 record of "Rock A round the Clock." He and his group, The Comets, had numerous other hits in the late 1950s. The pamphlet said First and Jackson Street, but the only thing there was a furniture store with a large mural of Bill Haley on the outside wall. We asked around and were told there was no museum, just the mural.

But we did find a time capsule in the form of a diner called the Main Street Grill and Sweet Delights Bakery. It is decorated with all sorts of collections of old things such as radios, doll houses, typewriters, cameras, drills, telephones, mixers, boat motors and a whole case of Bill Haley memorabilia on loan from a private owner.

The old-fashioned soda fountain and restaurant feature platters named after Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and others whose pictures decorate the walls. The food was reasonably priced and tasty, and the atmosphere was unique. A flathead Ford V-8 and a gas pump sit in the front window. The Main Street Grill and Sweet Delights Bakery is at 105 E. Jackson Street in Harlingen. There are a number of other interesting shops in the area.

*DeWayne and June Johnston #73734*

This story first appeared in *Camping Today*.



Thank you to the desert luncheon gang for the toys you donated for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots. Thanks to Denny and Susie Orr #58118 for hosting happy hour at Quartzsite; what an opportunity for hugs! Be sure to put the many Quartzsite rallies and RV show on your calendar for next January. We traveled to Baja Norte with others from our church, including Paul and Carolyn Schmid #30671 and Peggy McKee #86291. The group carried food and homemade quilts to the Foundation for His Ministry in Vicente Guerrero, Baja, an orphanage and caregiver for the community of migrant workers. We provided maintenance and assisted in many areas. If you are traveling into Baja, stop by. You can read more information at [www.ffhm.org](http://www.ffhm.org). For all of you with talent, get your act together, including chapter skits, for the Ham-o-rama at Gillette.

*Ed and Elaine Brandt #22193, VCR*

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