

# Potton prepares to celebrate its volunteers



## THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

National Volunteer week 2017 will take place from April 23-29. The National Volunteer Week gives all the opportunity to take the time to celebrate and recognize the valuable contribution made to community life by those who give of their time and talents. Every April, Volunteer Canada leads in the celebration of this amazing resource found in communities all over the world.

The Municipality of Potton in collaboration with the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB) will hold a special event on Thursday, April 27 from 5:00 to 7:00pm upstairs in the Mansonville

Town Hall (2, rue Vale Perkins) to recognize, celebrate and thank the volunteers of Potton and surrounding areas. A light lunch and beverages will be served.

Bagpiper, Michael Darney will welcome guests with music, speeches will salute the volunteers in attendance and the event will give all the opportunity to visit with neighbours, share refreshments and celebrate the power of what people can do with a simple act of kindness in serving their community.

For more information or to confirm your presence contact Trish Wood at 450-292-3313 # 228 or Jennifer McGeean at 450-292-3114 # 102.

It would be hard to imagine our communities without those who provide services for no financial gain merely in the hopes of helping another person, group or organization. Volunteering promotes goodness and improves the quality of life. For many organizations, those who volunteer and give back to their community provide the manpower that makes community groups work and survive.

This April as Potton salutes and pays tribute to its volunteers, we are proud to join all other communities in recognizing



Potton volunteers to be celebrated Thursday April 27.

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ing this treasured resource. To those who so kindly volunteer, THANK YOU. Please be assured that without you, our community would not be the same.

## One of the Largest Parks in Sherbrooke Named for Dr. Edward Dagge Worthington, First Anaesthetist Surgeon in Canada (1820-1895)

By Gérard Coté (LAHMS) and Jean-Marie Dubois (Université de Sherbrooke), both members of the City of Sherbrooke's Toponymy Committee

In 2011, Sherbrooke gave the name of Edward-Worthington to a park between Fleurimont hospital and autoroute 610. In 2016, its surface was doubled to make it a nature park of 10.6 hectares, provided only with beaten earth pathways. The park is named to remember one of the most prominent doctors in the Townships, among the first trained in Quebec.

Edward Dagge Worthington was born 1820 in Ballinakill, Ireland. He is the son of Mary Dagge and of cobbler John Worthington. The family immigrated to Quebec City in 1822. After grade school, Edward was an apprentice with surgeon James Douglas in Quebec. He assisted his master in his medical operations, participated in the dissection of corpses and followed conferences at the Marine and Emigrant Hospital. Upon joining the army in 1837, he was the assistant in 1840 of the 56th Foot Regiment's surgeon and after, of the 68th Light Infantry Regiment's surgeon. In 1841, he started going to conferences at the Medical School and Eye Dispensary in Edin-

burgh. He thus received in 1843 a medical degree from St. Andrews College in Scotland, followed by a degree from the Royal College of Surgeons and from the Glasgow Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.

Having returned to Canada, Edward Worthington was issued a license to practise by the Montreal Medical Board. He came to settle in Sherbrooke in 1843. In 1845, in Ascot Township, he married Frances Louisa Smith (1828-1887). Between 1847 et 1870, they had 8 children: Ada Mary, Fanny, Bertha, Edward Bruen, Arthur Norreys, Amy Mabel, Evelyn Isabel and Hugh Standish. Dr Worthington is known to be the first Canadian surgeon to have operated a patient, March 14, 1847, by anaesthesia with ether. It was during the leg amputation of an Eston Corner man. In January 1848, he is also the pioneer in the use of chloroform while performing 3 operations. He always had his office in his home on Montreal Street, which is still standing at number 224. His son, Edward Bruen (1860-1945) - the future 23rd mayor of Sherbrooke in 1901 - lived with him and would keep on there to untill his own death.

Dr Edward Worthington formed with doctors James B. Johnston et Samuel

Towle Brooks Sherbrooke Board of Health, a public hygiene committee set up in 1854 when cholera became a pre-occupation in Quebec. Bishop's College awarded him an honorary master's degree in 1854. At the beginning of the 1860s, he was performing almost all the operations in the Townships. From 1861 to 1886, he was also the surgeon for the Sherbrooke Regiment, being discharged with the rank of major. He published many scientific articles on his medical practise in the Montreal Medical Journal and in other periodicals, as well as on his midical life experience in the The Medical Age.

Dr Worthington was the first chairman of the District of St. Francis Medical Association. In 1860, he was on the board of directors of the Lower Canada College of Doctors and Surgeons. In 1867, he took part the founding of the Canadian Medical Association. In 1868, McGill College awarded him a medical degree on the basis of his former diplomas. He retired in 1892 for health reasons and used the time to write his memoirs. They were published after his death as a book, Reminiscences of student life and practice (1897). His other son Arthur Norreys (1862-1912), became a doctor and surgeon like his father and had his office on

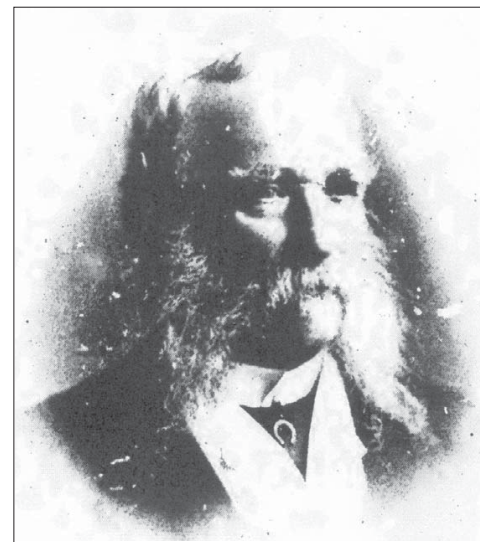


PHOTO FROM WORTHINGTON, E. D. (1897) Reminiscences of student life and practice. Printed for Sherbrooke Protestant Hospital by Walton & Co., Sherbrooke

Dufferin Street from about 1887 until his death. Edward Worthington died in à Sherbrooke in 1895. He is buried with his wife in St. Peter's cemetery. It was one year before the opening of the Sherbrooke Protestant Hospital, a project that he had cherished. He is found in the Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec.