



Pauley



October - December, 2021



GERALD & MARGUERITE  
QUÉBEC

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**We know you will be surprised by our news!**

*You can't be as surprised as we are!* The events of these last months have almost overwhelmed us.

When we started this adventure for the Lord, to begin a ministry in Lacolle, Covid-19 was a mere shadow on our horizon. We were packing and finding storage for our household goods and doing most of all that strenuous and heavy work ourselves, and at the same time actively searching for property in Lacolle, Quebec. As you know, we found a great property, a building housing a "hunting and fishing" store, in a perfect location. We made an offer which was accepted with the understanding that we had to sell our house to have the money. We went through all the procedures for the purchase online and the property was ours on paper. In the meantime, Covid-19 spread throughout the Province, bringing on curfews and restrictions

We put our house on the market, with 2 months to sell it. We found a buyer within that time. Everything, and I mean everything, had to be done "sans contact" —without contact. All went along, not well, but successfully. The money from the sale of the Boucherville house was in the bank and it came down to the last few days before transferring the money and to our shock, the owner wanted to back out!!! His business had been failing because of the pandemic, but had started to prosper. It was tourist season and the tourists were coming in spite of everything. A provision had been made to protect "essential" businesses for the next year. The government had relaxed the limits on the number of clients. Even though in normal times, he had no legal right to make those demands, he was protected. We could not force him out. However, we said to ourselves that there was still a big room where we could start a Bible study, and there were the apartments. We could set up our living quarters, at least.

Then, the renters in the 3 apartments refused to leave. The government had made a provision for renters, protecting them from being put out. We had a fantastic location and an adequate building for a church, but we would not be able to use it for a minimum of a year! As for the renters, they are protected for two or three years. We were faced with leaving our possessions in storage and finding lodging for the next 3 years! Our agent tried to console us, saying "You will be receiving income from that property—\$4,000 a month at least!" We didn't want income! We wanted a ministry—a church. We are old. We cannot afford to wait a year or two collecting income!

Finally, heartsick, we went through all the rigamarole of documents and signing, etc., by the internet and turned the property back to the original owner. We asked for indemnity—for example, we paid over \$1,000 for a required inspection, and the owner paid half.

The next day, our agent started showing us other properties—some of them quite tempting, a swimming pool and a sauna ... Marguerite started looking on the internet. Suddenly, I heard an exclamation. "Look at this!" It was A CHURCH! I said: "We could never afford that, ha! ha!" We scheduled a visit, however, and decided to negotiate and make an offer. We bought it! It has taken everything we have in the way of finances but we are not hurting, not at all. Our supporting churches and friends have backed us. We have had Christmas gifts and special large gifts from individuals. Even though we hired a company to move the biggest part of our goods and furniture, we needed the help of men (and women) from the Boucherville church. They have given hours of their time, moving us and cleaning up the overgrown bushes, thorn trees, crab apple trees and weeds. (Marguerite trimmed a height of 4 feet off the hedge all along the front of the property to make the building visible.) One of the young men, a carpenter, made a ramp at the front door and increased the size of the deck at the back of the addition. To prepare us for winter, several friends put up a temporary shelter over the ramp and the front door and on the deck.

This location is not as good as the other one, but we are still on the same highway and 6 miles from the "interstate" 15. We are 4 miles from "Parc Safari". Safari Park received 70,000 visitors this year and they were down 60%. Many, many of those tourists passed by our Church-house—hundreds of motor-cyclists, 2,000 vehicles in one week-end.

**Keep praying for this endeavor. Ask the Lord to send us missionaries to take over. Pray for our health and strength (and longevity).**



Sadness!  
We had no idea that the new owner would strip the house to the studs and dig out the basement!



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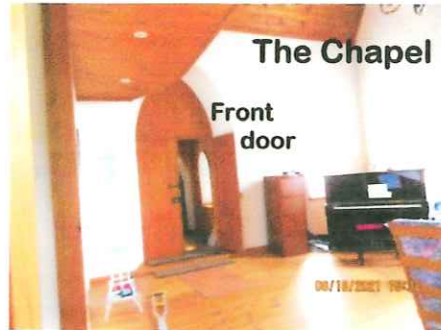




Lot area: 37, 000 square feet



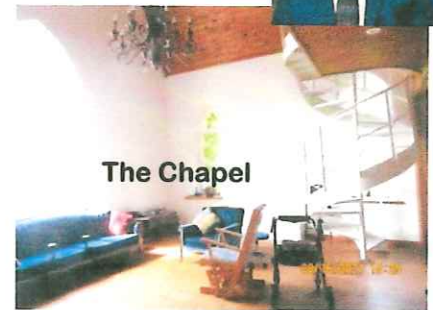
Built in 1840



The Chapel

Front door

(We have 15 comfortable folding chairs)



The Chapel



Dining area



built-in bed

New addition (office, family room) 1 bath



2 bedrooms 1 bath, up a winding stair



Christmas decorations



A 2-car garage



A shed (8 X 14)



front window taken from balcony