

Serving the community

Across from Lac Mercier, near the railway station, post office, old presbytery, businesses and hotels, the Félix-Calvé building is located at the geographic centre of the village sector of Mont-Tremblant. Since the middle of the last century, this spot has also been central to the community life and memories of the people of Mont-Tremblant.

The Dominique-Savio School



Home ice advantage”: the Mont-Tremblant hockey team, photographed in 1958 on the municipal ice rink.

Source: René Ouellette collection.



Pupils from the Dominique-Savio School, in front of a 4H club exhibit.

Source: photo Clermont, Marcelle Labelle collection.

Looking back at the first public use of these premises, just think of skates gliding over ice and the crack of a hockey puck shot against the boards of an outdoor rink. In the winter of 1952-1953, the land at the intersection of the main street and the “rue de l’Ecole” was occupied by a public rink complete with lighting, an initiative of the municipality of Mont-Tremblant, which owned the land.

In winter 1955, a new public building beside the rink opened its doors: it was the “boys’ school”, which the school board had just built in accordance with an agreement with the Municipality. From then on there

were two primary schools in Mont-Tremblant, three minutes from each other, because the girls continued to attend school in the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, which was founded in 1948 (building located at 142 rue du Couvent). The new institution later took the name “Dominique-Savio School” in homage to a young Italian saint who was the patron saint of young people. In 1964,

the girls joined the boys in the building across from Lac Mercier, while the convent became a place for students having an “exceptional childhood”, in other words, children with handicaps.

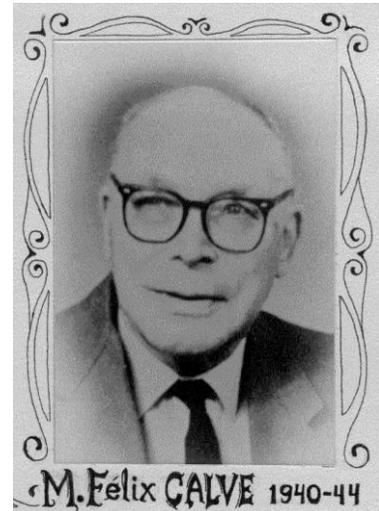
The municipal and educational roles were intermingled for close to 15 years. The council meetings and elections were held in the school's big hall, and the adjacent land was used for recreation. Then in 1968 the Municipality invested in facilities for tennis, badminton and croquet, not to mention the indispensable rink.

Mont-Tremblant city hall

The distribution of awards in June 1969 was the last such event held at Dominique-Savio School. Following a fresh look at the educational building inventory, the municipality of Mont-Tremblant acquired the school building and, over the summer, installed its offices there. For the first time since its creation in 1940, the administration finally had appropriate premises in which to manage public business. The issues changed over the years, as most aspects of community life were gradually added to road maintenance and fire protection; the new interests included town planning, environmental protection, parks, water treatment and sanitation, culture, toponymy, tourism, regional concerns and more.

In 2000, the municipalities of the Ville de Saint-Jovite, Paroisse de Saint-Jovite, Mont-Tremblant and Lac-Tremblant-Nord* merged to create the municipality of the Ville de Mont-Tremblant. Renamed the Félix-Calvé Building in honour of the first mayor of the former municipality, the former city hall housed, until 2012, the Urban Planning department, and still welcomes members and visitors to the du Couvent Library

*The municipality was reconstituted following a referendum in 2004.



Félix Calvé, first mayor of the municipality of Mont-Tremblant, created in 1940. Subsequent mayors included Adélarde Richer, J. R. Lavigne, Léon Dubois, William Légaré, François Sigouin and André F. Sigouin.

Source: Ville de Mont-Tremblant.



Inauguration of the new Mont-Tremblant fire station in November 1999. In addition to the uniformed firefighters, from left to right, in civilian clothes: Réjean Villeneuve and Jacques Saint-Louis, city councillors; Gaétan Piché, director of the Fire Department and Edgar Meilleur, city councillor. At the extreme right of the first row: André F. Sigouin, mayor of Mont-Tremblant, and behind him, to the right, Yves Bienvenue, city councillor.

A tourist-oriented municipality

The municipality of Mont-Tremblant was initially created thanks to the initiative of Charles-Hector Deslauriers, founding priest of the Sacré-Cœur-de-Jésus parish. A leading citizen of the area, the priest was aware that the future of the territory depended on tourism. It had started with the summer visitors to Lacs Mercier, Tremblant, Desmarais and others, and now there were also the clients of Gray Rocks Inn, a famous hotel located on Lac Ouimet, and the rich clients of Mont-Tremblant Lodge, the latest word in ski resorts, founded in 1939 by American Joseph Bondurant Ryan.

Convinced that an independent municipality could respond better to the needs of tourism entrepreneurs and of its own people, the parish priest presented the government, in 1940, with a request signed by most of the parish's property owners: they wanted separation from the municipality of the united townships of de Salaberry and de Grandison (later called the Municipality of the Paroisse de Saint-Jovite). In April of the same year, a private member's bill was passed which created the municipality of Mont-Tremblant. Lac-Mercier was no longer a simple railway station on the Montreal-Mont-Laurier line, nor was Mont-Tremblant only the name of a luxury hotel. The community was taking its destiny into its own hands.

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