

Editor's Note

The beauty of the Eastern Townships region is particularly striking in the fall when trees display their splash of colourful foliage. Earthy smells permeate the air. Shivery autumnal leaves laced with the touch of frost foreshadow the sting of wintry days to come. Edged in beautiful purple, Bishop's University's signature colour, our cover photograph and its underline communicate both the nearness of winter and the thematics of this special issue.

In 2009, four research clusters were selected to implement Bishop's University's Strategic Research Plan. These interdepartmental research units are named the STellar Astrophysics and Relativity (STAR) cluster, the Multi-Scale Climate and Environmental Change (MUSCLE) cluster, the Crossing Borders cluster, and the Psychological Health and Well-being (PHWB) cluster. With a view to conveying the vibrancy of the research culture practised within the University's premises, we have produced a special issue on this theme. As such, we have invited four leading Bishop's University researchers, each linked to one of the clusters, to introduce their cluster's objectives, broad goals, important areas of research and specialized axes, while articulating its relevance to the community at large. Two of these, Cristian Berco and Fuschia Sirois, hold a Tier II Canada Research Chair and coordinate the Crossing Borders and PHWB clusters respectively. This issue of *JETS* also includes two scientific articles authored by Bishop's researchers Elisabeth Levac and Estelle Chamoux. They illustrate the kind of research carried out within the MUSCLE and PHWB clusters.

Also featured within the covers of *JETS 37* are two non-thematic articles. Jacques Gagnon's article traces the family lineage among Members of Parliament of the Eastern Townships region for the 1829–2008 period and draws the socioeconomic and political profiles of the deputies under study. Silvie Bernier's interesting paper discusses the heritage value of two residential buildings located in Sherbrooke's Old North while highlighting the influence of Anglo-Saxon and American architectural trends on the architecture of the Eastern Townships. The publication also includes an archival section, made up of two articles. Readers with an interest in toponymy will enjoy reading Jean-Marie Dubois and Gérard Coté's article identifying those elected officials (mayors, secretary-treasurers, officers, councillors) linked to the Township of Ascot and municipalities of the Townships of Ascot and Westbury within the 1841–2001 period, whose names have been

retained in the Sherbrooke toponymy. Chl e Southam's article offers an opportunity to learn about the important role played over the past century by three Eastern Townships-based women's groups that have contributed to the well-being of their communities. Finally, Jean-Pierre Kesteman's lively book review of Guy Laperri re's *Les Cantons-de-l'Est* will undoubtedly incite all Townships history buffs to dash up the stairs of the nearest bookstore in search of this insightful and informative work on regional history.

On behalf of the Editorial Committee, it is my pleasure to offer you this splendid issue impregnated with the dye of Bishop's University's vibrant research tradition. Enjoy the read if not the hint of frosty wintertime!

—*Claude Charpentier*