

## Visit your local museums

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### Cumberland Heritage Village Museum

2940 Old Montréal Road, Cumberland

July 16 - Firefighter's Day



### Billings Estate National Historic Site

2100 Cabot Street, Ottawa

June 18 - Father's Day  
Antique Car Show

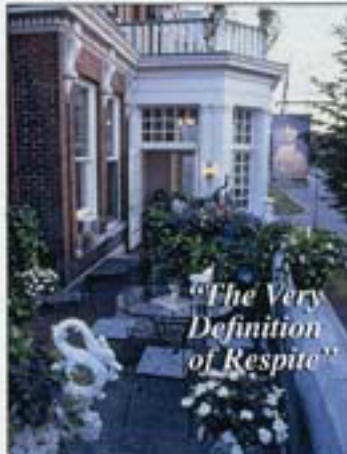


### Pinhey's Point Historic Site

270 Pinhey's Point Road, Dunrobin

Stargazing - The second Saturday of every month starting June 10

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The Canadian Museum of Civilization by André St-Georges: "After 10 years, I am starting to harvest the fruits of my labour."

"But you need more perseverance than talent," adds Quesnel. "After 10 years, I am finally starting to harvest the fruits of my labour. I'm increasingly able to live on comics."

Most local comic-book writers still have day jobs. St-Georges, for example, teaches French as a second language. But there's a feeling that the domain has potential to grow. Every year 1,500 comic-book albums are published in French, plus 500 books on cartooning and 150 complete works or translations, according to Roux. There is a large and growing international market.

"I have calculated that between 1970 and 2000, only three or four Quebec authors were published in Europe," says Sylvain Lemay, director of the comics program at the UQO. Since 2000, he says, that number has increased to 20.

The Conseil régional de la culture de l'Outaouais (CROC) is a regional arts council that supports Gatineau's fledgling comic-book industry. Agnès Tremblay, of the CROC, says that, for example, the CROC, working with the Office franco-québécois de la jeunesse, helped fund a trip to France in January for a number of local cartoonists who wanted to participate in the world's biggest comic-book event, the international comics festival in Angoulême.

"What we've seen up to now is a start," says St-Georges, one of the cartoonists who travelled to Angoulême in January. Just as the town of Saint-Jean-Port-Joli in the lower St. Lawrence is known for its wood sculptures, so could Gatineau, says St-Georges, one day become known for its comics. It's a dream many share.

"It's not a pretentious goal," says Tremblay. "The potential is there." **END**