

Canada-Greece relations cemented by visit of President Karamanlis



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (right) greets Greek President Constantin Karamanlis at a dinner given in his honour in Montreal. Speaker of the House of Commons Jeanne Sauv  (left) looks on.

Greek President Constantin Karamanlis was in Canada, October 14-18, at the invitation of Governor General Edward Schreyer, who visited Greece last May.

Mr. Karamanlis was accompanied by Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Yannis Haralambopoulos and a delegation of other dignitaries.

Mr. Schreyer welcomed Mr. Karamanlis on his arrival in Ottawa and he later met with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau to discuss items of mutual interest to both countries. Mr. Karamanlis and his party

travelled to Montreal where they met with Quebec Prime Minister Ren  L vesque, other provincial officials and members of the Greek community in the city.

The official visit ended in Toronto where the visitors were greeted by Ontario dignitaries including Lieutenant-Governor John B. Aird and Premier William Davis. In Toronto Mr. Karamanlis attended a number of functions and dinners in his honour. This was the second visit to Canada by Mr. Karamanlis who came in 1963 when he was Prime Minister of Greece.

Canada's first woman saint

Mother Marguerite Bourgeoys, who founded a religious order and the first school in Montreal, has become the first Canadian woman to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church.

The canonization ceremonies held in St. Peter's Square in Rome on October 31, were led by Pope Jean Paul II and attended by some 10 000 people. National Revenue Minister Pierre Bussi res headed the Canadian delegation.

Mother Bourgeoys was born in France in 1620. In 1653 she settled in the French colony of Ville-Marie, which later became Montreal, where she taught and did charitable work until her death in 1700.

The first school classes started in the

colony in 1658. They were held in a stable with the loft used as a dwelling place for the women Mother Bourgeoys recruited as teaching companions. These companions eventually became part of the new religious order established by Marguerite Bourgeoys, the Sisters of Notre-Dame teaching congregation.

Within a short time after classes had started in Ville-Marie, Mother Bourgeoys founded a boarding school for the daughters of upper- and middle-class families and the first school of housewifery in the country. Small schools were also opened in the environs of Ville-Marie and in 1678 a mission at the Indian village of la Montagne was established for the education of Indian girls.

In 1685, a school for girls from poor

families and a general hospital for the elderly were opened in Quebec City.

The religious order established by Mother Bourgeoys "The Institute of the Secular Daughters of the Congregation of Notre Dame", was granted civil authority by Louis XIV in 1671 and by Bishop Laval in New France in 1676. Today the Congregation of Notre-Dame numbers some 2 600 women working in Canada and the United States with missionary outposts in Japan, Cameroun, Honduras and Guatemala.

From the time of her arrival in Ville-Marie, Mother Bourgeoys also helped the colony receive "les filles du roi", the wards of the king sent out from French poor houses and prisons to marry the soldiers who became colonists.

Monument

The chapel of Notre-Dame de Bon Secours in Montreal is a monument to Marguerite Bourgeoys as she initiated its construction. The original was destroyed by fire, but later rebuilt. Two stone towers still on the grounds of the seminary in Montreal were missionary outposts of Marguerite's sisters. The present Mus e St. Gabriel at Point St. Charles was originally a farmhouse remodelled by Marguerite to teach household arts. Pointe aux Trembles, Lachine, Quebec City and Ile d'Orl ans all have monuments to her missionary efforts.

Marguerite Bourgeoys was beatified in 1950 and in 1975 a commemorative Canadian postal stamp was issued in Montreal to honour her as a pioneer educator and community builder.



Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys.

Ren  de la Mauvini re

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