

## Public Communications Award for *In the Shadow of Notre-Dame*

**Montréal, June 5, 2007** – The Canadian Archaeological Association recently announced that the winner of its 2007 Public Communications Award in the Professional/Institutional category is the documentary video *In the Shadow of Notre-Dame*, produced by Productions Train d'enfer in close collaboration with the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine (Québec Culture Ministry) as well as the City of Montréal.

### Digging for clues

Montréal's original Notre-Dame Church was located on what is now Notre-Dame Street. It faced westward at the corner of Saint-Sulpice Street. Over the past few years, urban development work in the area has been accompanied by archaeological digs that have uncovered, among other things, the foundations of that original church, its steeple and its crypt, as well as pinpointed the boundaries of the first parish cemetery of the settlement of Ville-Marie, south of the church.

In 2006 the City and Ministry assigned archaeologists the task of examining graves uncovered below Saint-Sulpice Street and the parvis of Notre-Dame Church, and overseeing their reburial in Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery. The dig eventually turned up the remains of 100 or so men, women and children buried starting in 1683. The data collected have provided a better idea of how neighbourhood space was organized. Meanwhile, studies conducted on the remains have led to a better understanding of the lifestyles of our ancestors, diseases that affected the first Montrealers, and funeral ceremonies of the time.

At the request of the Ministry and the City and with their financial support, pursuant to the *Entente sur le développement culturel de Montréal*, Productions Train d'enfer documented this rare archaeological dig and the subsequent research in the documentary video *In the Shadow of Notre-Dame*. Anyone interested in finding out more about this extraordinary scientific study, discovering the hidden riches lying beneath Montrealers' feet, or learning about archaeology can stream the video online at:

[http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/eng/comm\\_14/comm\\_14a.htm](http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/eng/comm_14/comm_14a.htm).

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