



Canada-China Friendship Society®

Ottawa Chapter

Founded 1976

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Invitation To A Presentation On

Montrealizing Bethune: The genesis of the exhibition 'The Adventures of the Unpredictable Doctor Bethune' at the Centre d'Histoire de Montréal

by Jean François Leclerc
Director of the Centre d'Histoire de Montréal

Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Library and Archives Canada, Room 156, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

All are welcome*

Beginning Fall 2009, the Centre d'Histoire de Montréal will present an exhibition on the life of Dr. Norman Bethune. Originally almost unknown to Canadians, Norman Bethune became in the seventies a recognized figure and a quasi posthumous ambassador of Canada in China. However, he has yet to find his place in the historical consciousness of Quebecers, particularly among francophones. Within the framework of the commemorative year coordinated by the City of Montreal, the exhibition aims to reveal to the public Bethune's active participation in Montreal society at a key moment of his life, while also throwing light on a period that is as tumultuous as it is misunderstood. The presentation will deal with the early conception of exhibitions on Dr. Bethune and of the issues inherent to their realization, both in terms of the permanent exhibition destined for the Chinese public at the Montreal Pavilion in Shanghai, and of the exhibition at the Centre d'Histoire de Montréal.

Following early training in the sciences, Mr. Leclerc obtained a B.A. and an M.A. in history from the University of Montreal. After working as a freelance historical researcher and obtaining a diploma in museum science at UQAM, he specialized in projects aimed at the dissemination of heritage and history. In 1996, he became director of the Centre d'Histoire de Montréal, a museum institution of the City of Montreal with the mission to raise understanding of the city as it exists today by emphasizing its history and its heritage, especially through a number of activities inspired by social museum science. Mr. Leclerc played a key role in drafting the segment on the City of Montreal's policy concerning intangible heritage. He is president of the Museum of Man, a virtual museum focussed on the gathering and valorizing of living histories. Until recently, he chaired the Montreal Group of history museums and was a member of the executive committee of the Society of Montreal Museum Directors.

As is our custom tea and refreshments will be served. There will be a charge of \$5 for non-CCFS members. The CCFS-Ottawa annual membership is \$20 for individuals, \$25 for a family and \$12 for students.

For further information about the Society or this event, call L. Merklinger at 819-777-8434 or go to www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa. Membership forms are available at this website.