

Our Lady, Help of Christians – A Few Key Historical Dates

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A few key dates for the statue "Our Lady, Help of Christians":

Between 1885 and 1893: unprecedented renovations to the chapel completely transformed the architecture and interior decoration of the historic building erected between 1771 and 1773.



November 30, 1886: politician Raoul de Beaujeu, who lived in the Bon-Secours neighbourhood, met sculptor Louis-Philippe Hébert to commission a statue of Our Lady, Help of Christians to be installed in the chapel's new portico the following year.

Hébert and his two partners, Olindo Gratton and Philippe Laperle, carved a magnificent 2.4 metre tall statue out of pine. They then overlaid the wood with soldered lead sheets, gilding them with gold leaf. To our knowledge, it is a very rare if not unique example in Montreal of a lead-covered wooden statue made as an exterior ornament. Produced by a renowned artist's workshop, it has undeniable heritage value.

June 5, 2013: The statue was removed from its current location, to be restored by the *Centre de Conservation du Québec*.

The Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel received funding from the *Conseil du Patrimoine religieux* and support from a number of private donors for the restoration.