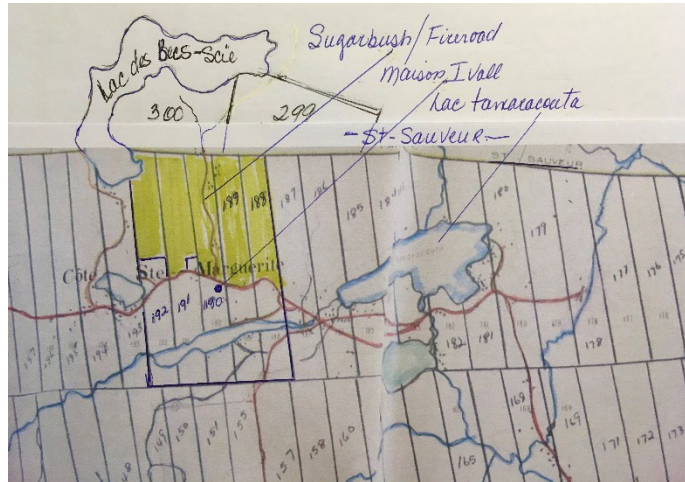


## THE STORY OF VOLPI-WALKER'S GIFT

By Ginette Mayer

What wonderful news to hear about the De Volpi-Walker ecological gift! Located to the west of the Scouts Tamaracouta reserve, it's a wonderful continuation of the preservation of the northern part of the ancestral lands between the Tamaracouta road and the territory of Saint-Sauveur, whose lands crossed Lac Ivan up to the territorial limits of Saint-Sauveur.

The story begins on the ancestral land of the Alexander Ivall and Jane Kerr family, whose original room-on-room house still stands south of chemin Tamaracouta (under former lot 190). On September 27, 1962, Réginald K. Groome took possession of the northern part of the road, up to former lot 300 in Saint-Sauveur, which also belonged to the Ivall family.



Pansy Ivall Kelly, a pioneer of Lac des Becs-Scie in Saint-Sauveur and great-granddaughter of Alexander Ivall and Jane Kerr, first came to the lake in 1939 and tells us that the only way to get to Lac des Becs-Scie was by Sugarbush (Fireroad) Road from Tamaracouta Road. The latter had to pass through two gates and be careful not to let the sheep and cows escape. On the De Volpi-Walker Ecological Gift property, there are several relics, including old rock fences, an intact icehouse foundation and the "Fireroad". Once a sugar shack with a beautiful tin roof, it was vandalized in the early '50s. Later, the rest of the remains were stolen.

Then, on January 11, 1963, there was a deed of sale from Réginald K. Groome to Devgro Inc, a company formed with Charles De Volpi. Between 1975 and 1979, Devgro Inc. became the owner of the two lots on either side of lot 190, making a total of five lots. The land was purchased to prevent development. On December 9, 2003, Devgro Inc. was sold to De Volpi-Walker S.E.N.C., better known as De Volpi-Groome, (owned by Christina Walker Groome, wife of the late Reginald K. Groome, and David De Volpi, son of Charles and Margaret De Volpi).



Mrs Christina Walker & mr Reginald Groome

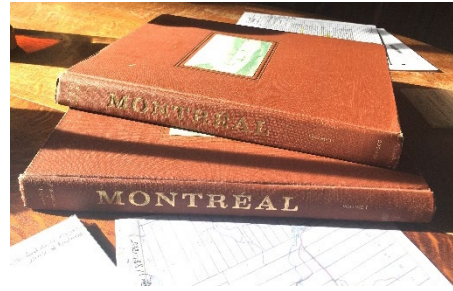
Mr. Reginald K. Groome was born on December 18, 1927, and died in Montreal at the age of 71 on September 20, 1999, buried at St-Francis of the Birds Cemetery in Saint-Sauveur. He was the husband of Mrs. Christina Walker. He is also recognized for his contribution to the hotel industry Starting as personnel manager in 1956, a succession of

led Mr. Groome to become general manager of Hilton Canada Inc. and vice-president-development for Hilton International, and finally president of the Hotel Association of Canada, a position he held until 1990. Among his many accomplishments in community service, Mr. Groome was also a well-known broadcaster for 51 years (1946 to 1997), with radio stations CJAD and CFCF Montréal, and served on numerous boards of directors. Mr. Groome was also Chairman of the Board of Governors of Concordia University, Governor and Director of the Montreal General Hospital and its Foundation, and Chairman of the Centraide fundraising campaign.

Mr. Groome has received numerous awards for his many services to business and the community, notably in the search for common services in business, and to the Scouting movement. Director of the World Scout Foundation, Chairman of the World Scout Foundation in Canada, Chairman of Trust Scouts Canada and President of Scouts Canada. He has received several Scouting awards, including the Silver Acorn in 1964, the Silver Wolf in 1978, the Silver World Award in 1984 (awarded by Boy Scouts of America) and the Bronze Wolf in 1996 (awarded by the World Organization of Scouting).

Did you know that on the mounds of small stones (the knights' cairn) located on the Scout grounds near the chapel, between 1933 and 1992, each knight placed their initials on a small rock then cemented to the mound? Some of the rocks represent the three generations of knights in the Groome family.

Mr. Charles P. De Volpi (July 16, 1911 - November 24, 1981) was a member of the Order of Canada (1977) and received an honorary distinction for his historical contribution, his books of historical engravings and his sharing of the country's postal history. His books have become collector's items, used by mayors of various cities as special gifts to visitors. He was a self-taught man with little education, but great



aspirations and achievements. He was honored Colonel of the Royal Canadian Hussars. De Volpi began collecting stamps as a child, developing a keen interest in Canadian postal history (before stamps). At the British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS), De Volpi was one of the founders and continued to serve the society in a number of its offices. He sponsored a number of philatelic conventions, and made a point of attending all of them until his health could no longer permit it. He was named to the America Philatelic Society Hall of Fame in 1982. He became President of Perkins Paper Products for several years. Mr. De Volpi and his wife moved permanently to their home at Lac des Becs-Scie in 1964, where they lived until their deaths. They are both buried in the Saint-Sauveur cemetery.

Mr. Reginald K. Groome and Mr. Charles P. De Volpi met and became partners. Mr. Groome was very active in scouting in Tamaracouta, and another scoutmaster, Cyril Dendy, invited him to his cottage at Lac des Becs-Scie. Mr. Groome loved the place and eventually bought the house right next door from Charles P. De Volpi in 1958 or 1959 (the house still exists). They struck up a friendship and eventually formed a company, Devgro Inc. to buy other lots as they became available, with the aim of preventing real estate development on the land. These included five lots in Mille-Isles, north of Tamaracouta, and lots 299 and 300 in Saint-Sauveur. Following the deaths of Charles P. De Volpi and Réginald K. Groome, David De Volpi Jr. and Christina Walker, wife of Mr. Groome, inherited the land. Devgro inc. was dissolved in 2003, and all the land was transferred to a company called De Volpi-Walker S.E.N.C., which is the donor of the 300 acres of land in Mille-Isles and Saint-Sauveur.



Mrs Margaret & mr Charles P. De Volpi



Mrs Christina Walker accompanied by her two sons,  
mr Richard T. & mr Reginald A. Groome

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to the families David and Kathy De Volpi and Reginald A. Groome, for their warm welcome during my visit. A memorable and historic moment.

THANK YOU!

For all nature lovers.

Ginette Mayer