

Film on Escarpment raises contentious issues

A 16 mm film featuring an aerial tour of the Niagara Escarpment is available for free showing from the Georgetown head office of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Many familiar birds' eye shots of the Escarpment in this area can be picked out in the film which takes the viewer from Flower Pot Island at the Tobermory tip of the Niagara Escarpment to Niagara where Brock's Monument stands guarding the frontier at the high point where American invasion was repelled.

The film appropriately is called "Giant's Rib" which gives some indication of how the Escarpment looks from the air when taken into perspective with the province of Ontario. It raises contentious issues which face the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Few people see the Escarpment as an entity, perhaps because it is so large it is invisible but it has an influence on

the geography of this province which the film traces, with opposing views from just about every side of the contentious issues cropping up every day on development.

How should the escarpment be used? Why bother conserving such a contentious issue which has generated more headaches than solutions?

The film includes the controversial aspects of Escarpment development from peach land in the Niagara district to quarrying from Queenston to Tobermory. Open pits scar the giant's rib but recognized also are the rehabilitation efforts of the aggregate companies which are guided by provincial legislation. It is pointed out that easy access to the large cities is essential for production of aggregates and this accounts for the huge open pits in this area.

Aggregate producers point out many of the buildings in the cities exist because of

Toronto-Queenston limestone. Conservationists suggest the aggregate companies are mining indiscriminately.

The escarpment as a tourist attraction, especially in the Collingwood area is also dealt with, especially with its skiing facilities and apple growing farms. Included in the film's footage is a suggestion that perhaps the Escarpment should be preserved for multiple uses.

The film is designed to help

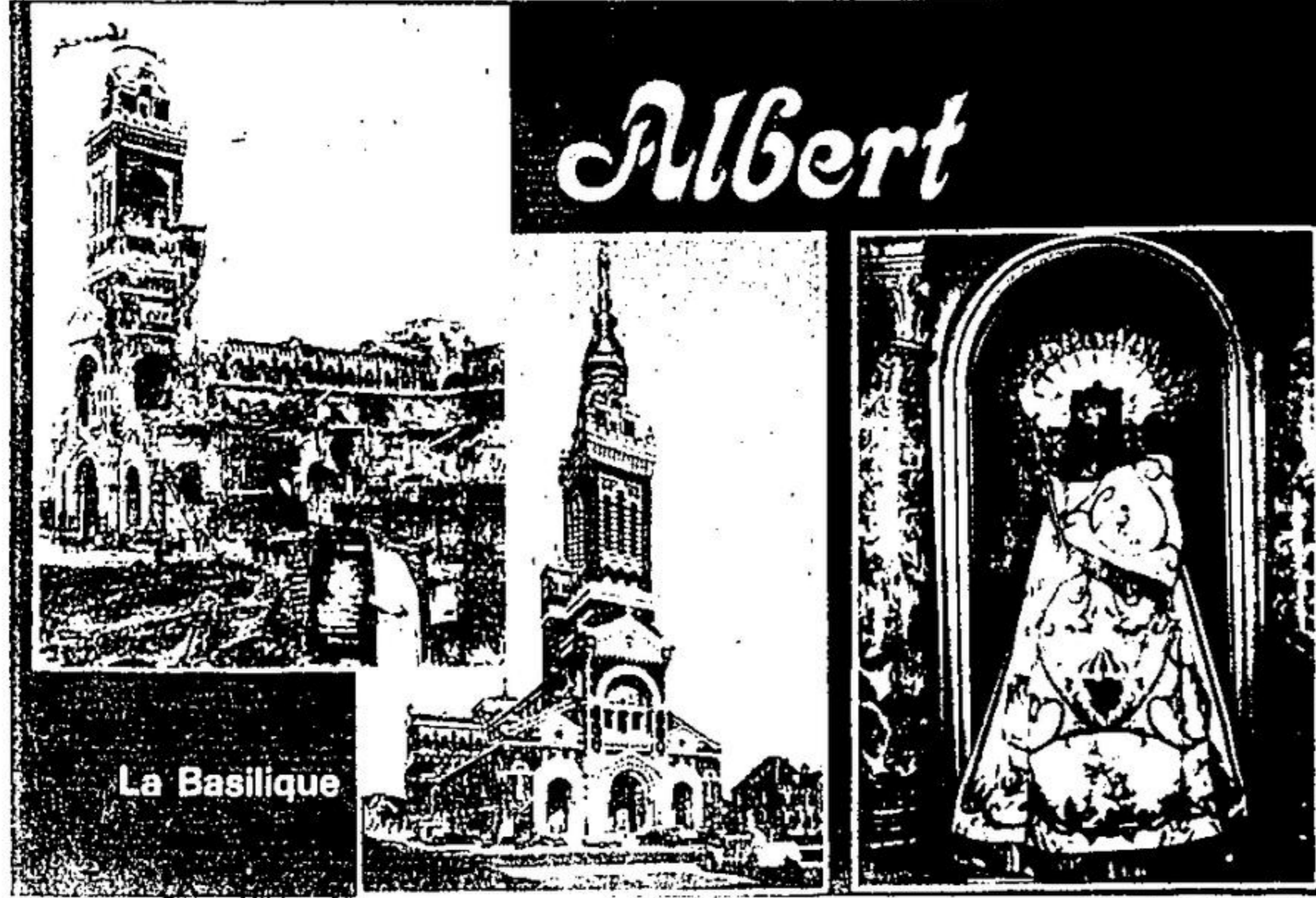
people decide on what they feel should be done with this giant's rib which has such a large influence on Ontario. It asks the public to consider the Escarpment as one influence which must be considered in its overall impact on the province.

Commission chairman Ivor McMullin says the purpose of the film is to stimulate thinking and discussion on how to maintain the escarpment as a natural environment, while

allowing compatible development.

Public hearings will follow the draft plan which will be ready to submit to the 55 municipalities within the escarpment area and to the general public for their comments.

The film is also available from: the Film Library, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, University of Guelph, Guelph.



Albert

La Basilique

POSTCARD PURCHASED in Albert, France, by Dr. Allan J. Buchanan shows the basilica he visited this summer. At the left is a picture of the church as it appeared, partially ruined, before

he saw it in even worse condition in 1918. In the centre is the church today, as it has been faithfully restored. He returned a scroll found in wartime debris.

Dr. Buchanan's pilgrimage

Scroll found in church ruins in 1918 returned

Fifty-eight years after it was found in bomb-blasted ruins, a small scroll was returned this summer to the rebuilt basilica at Albert, France.

During the fearful battles of World War I, Pte Allan Buchanan and a friend walked back from the front lines to the devastated town of Albert. There, in the shattered rubble of the village church, he picked up the scrap of paper which he has kept all these years.

This summer Dr. Allan Buchanan who left the army in 1915 with the rank of Major took a pilgrimage back to Albert and Amiens, the scene of the first big battle he was engaged in. The fiercest battles in history were fought in this area.

He had more trouble than he expected, because of the language barrier, but was finally able to deliver his precious packet. He and a priest smiled but couldn't understand each other.

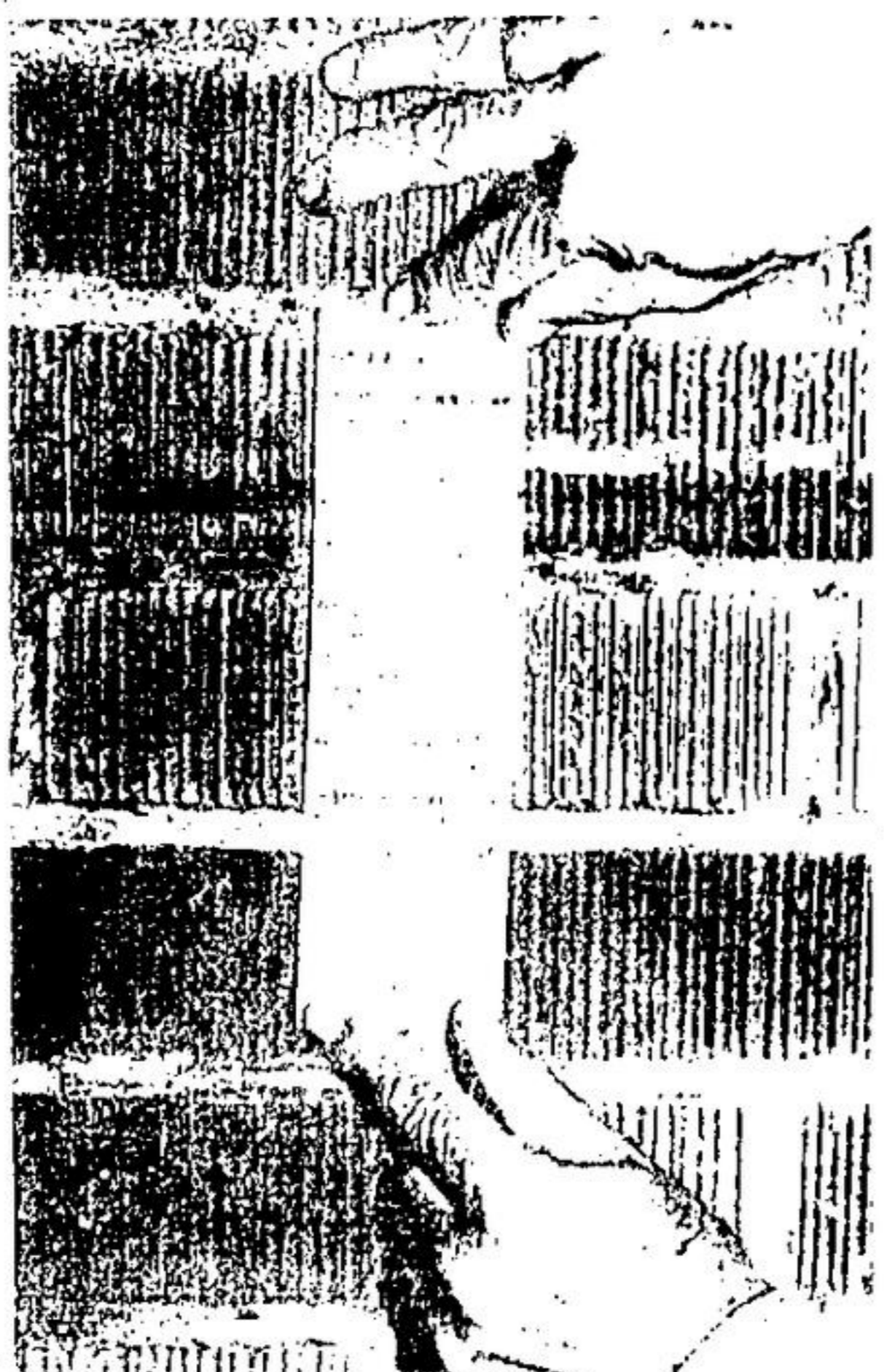
Dr. Buchanan explains he went first to Amiens, and after being unable to make himself understood there he finally went back into the railway station and took a train out to Arras. He had reservations at Amiens and had hoped to see something of the city.

In Arras he was able to get a room, and in a tour office received help from a woman whose son spoke English. The son came over and listened to Dr. Buchanan's story.

Pass on story

The son then located a woman taxi driver and told the story to her. When they arrived in Albert, the taxi driver told the tale to a woman in a souvenir stand, who told them where to go. In the church, they contacted a priest who accepted the small historic scroll with a smile and a handshake but no words the donor could understand.

So Dr. Buchanan looked



LATIN INSCRIPTION on scroll found in the ruins of the basilica Notre Dame in Albert, France, commemorates the consecration of the altar in 1901. Dr. Buchanan returned the scroll to the church this summer, 58 years after he picked it up in the debris.

He had left his home town of Grand Valley to join the 16th Battalion and Dufferin Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Its members were split up in Europe.

He was engaged in trench warfare from December 1916 until late April of 1918 and then trained for open warfare. This was the last time cavalry with horses was used. Moving back into the lines, he was wounded on the Arras-Chambrai road, hit by shellfire September 4. He was shot in the shoulder and treated at an American field hospital before being sent back to England.

And with him went the piece of parchment he had picked up in the ruins of the cathedral at Albert.

Destroyed

The town of Albert had a population of nearly 10,000 in 1914 but was totally destroyed in the 1914 to 1918 war. The town is dominated by the basilica, whose high tower is decorated by a statue of the Virgin and Infant Christ. On January 15, 1915, a bomb exploded at the base of the

dome. The statue fell off its base and remained hanging from the masonry until April 16, 1918. As predicted, the war ended after the statue fell.

The town now has 13,000 inhabitants.

Wording

What was written on the small scroll that Dr. Buchanan took back?

Here is the Latin wording, followed by the translation, made by the Rev. V. J. Morgan.

MCMi die XVIII mensis junii, Alexander Le Roy, episcopus Alinden sis, consecravit altare hoc, in honorem sancti Ignatii et reliquias sanctorum Martyrum Laurentii et Firmiani in eo inclusit et singulis Christi fidelibus, hodie unum annunt, et in die anniversario consecrationis hujusmodi ipsum visitantibus quadraginta Dies de vera indulgentia, in forma Exaltatae custodia concessit. Certum facimus et testamur.

Leo bp Ambia

"On the 18th day of the month of June 1901 Alexander LeRoy, Bishop of Arras, has consecrated this altar in honor of Saint Ignatius and

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