In June 1832, two events stirred up political conflict in Lower Canada: the Place d'Armes by-election, which turned into a tragedy costing several lives, and the cholera epidemic.

At the beginning of June, the Carrick, a ship that had come over from Ireland, reached Quebec with a few feverish immigrants on board.

Three days later, cholera took its first victim.

The illness spread like wildfire all the way to Montreal and then to Upper Canada. It quickly became an epidemic that moved through the shanty neighbourhoods of the urban poor, which were breeding grounds for contagion. The lack of sewers and garbage collection contributed to water contamination. Soon the epidemic was out of control and hundreds died each day, mostly in the large towns.

On June 14, 1832, La Minerve newspaper verified the spread of cholera.

"14, June 1832: Since Monday morning Montreal is in turmoil and the alarm is growing every minute. There is no longer doubt that cholera is present. We recommend that the public observe strictly the Regulations of the Board of Health."

La Minerve tried to prevent panic from spreading, advising that:

"There is no use in becoming alarmed. When the illness appears, one must see a doctor and follow his instructions. The apothecaries have the necessary remedies in stock and their prices are affordable to all pocketbooks."

In reality, doctors were overwhelmed and powerless. They thought cholera was transmitted by fumes carried through the atmosphere. To purify the air, English officers tried firing off cannons and the Sanitary Office burned tar.

Alexander Hart, a Jewish merchant from Montreal, saw death all around him:

"None of us go into town anymore. Many are moving into the country. Yesterday 34 corpses passed our house. Today, 23... not counting those in the old burial Ground and in the Catholic
ground. 12 carts are employed by the Board of Health to carry away the dead who are interred without prayers."

By the end of 1832, the epidemic had claimed 9,000 lives, more than half of them in Lower Canada. Some Canadians held England responsible for this misfortune, citing its emigration policy for negligence, if not malevolence.

This climate of death, fear and loathing helped kindle a political firestorm in Lower Canada.

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Quebec City 1832

The cholera epidemic in the city of Québec in 1832

Author: Pierre-Georges Roy, founder of the Archives nationales du Québec and its first archivist.

On June 8th. 1832 in the city of Québec, rumors were spreading that a passenger aboard the sailing ship, Carrick had died from the cholera. On same day a representative of the health department within same above city rejected the rumour as being untrue. The following day, in same city, on June 9th 6 persons died as a result of the Asiatic Cholera, on June 10th 7 deaths, on June 11th 29 deaths, on June 12th 77 deaths, on June 13th 70 deaths, on June 14th 92 deaths, on June 15th 143 deaths, on June 16th 120 deaths, on June 17th 97 deaths, on June 18th 108 deaths, on June 20th 117 death, on June 21st 122 deaths, on June 22nd 70 deaths, on June 23rd 78 deaths, on June 24th 34 deaths, on June 25th 33 deaths, on June 26th 49 deaths, on June 27th 40 deaths, on June 28th 31 deaths, on June 29th 38 deaths, on June 30th 33 deaths, on July 1st 31 deaths, on July 2nd 21 deaths – From June 1st 1832 to the beginning of the winter season, the Asiatic Cholera in the city of Québec resulted with 3,451 victims.

Dr. William Marsden, in his report to the population of the city of Québec, declared: Since the days of Wolfe and Montcalm, the capital city of Québec has not seen such terror, distress and sufferings (General James Wolfe, British Commander and General Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, French Commander at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham at Quebec City on September 12th 1759)

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Immigrants at Grosse Île Quarantine Station, 1832-1937

Those who served among the dying immigrants at Grosse Île

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475, boulevard de Maisonneuve Est
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http://www.banq.qc.ca/a_propos_bang/informations_pratiques/grande_bibliothegue/

**Bibliothèque nationale**
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**BAnQ Vieux-Montréal**
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Montréal (Québec) H2L 2P3
Metro Berri-UQAM or Champ-de-Mars
Telephone: 514 873-1100 or 1 800 363-9028, option 4 then option 1
email: archives.montreal@banq.qc.ca
www.banq.qc.ca/archives/entrez_archives/centres_archives/ca_montreal.html?language_id=1

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1-800-363-9028 + 6573
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On October 26th, 1888, the Châteauguay Literary and Historical Society was formed to study Canadian history and Canadian literature.

The Châteauguay Valley Historical Society provides resources for researchers and genealogists.

The Châteauguay Valley Historical Journal offers articles and research on the history of the region.

Cièq.ca is an online resource for genealogical research.

Collections Canada provides access to digitized historical documents and maps.

Concordia University Publications offer a wide range of academic publications.

Concordia University School of Irish Studies explores the cultural and historical aspects of Irish culture in Quebec.

Concordia Quescren is a research institute focused on Quebec's cultural history.

Drouin Institute explores history through parish registers, with a focus on the cholera epidemic of 1832-1834.

The Eastern Townships Genealogical Society offers resources for genealogical research.

The Eastern Townships Resource Centre provides access to historical newspapers and other materials.

Eastern Townships Resource Centre
Archives Department
www.etrc.ca/archival-services/

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Université de Montréal
Les presses de l’Université de Montréal
https://www.pum.umontreal.ca/
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Ouvert en 2005 et sur une base quotidienne, 8 000 visiteurs par jour ou 46 000 visiteurs par semaine visitent cette remarquable collection de livres, documents, CD.

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Plus de deux millions de livres peuvent être lus sur place ou prêtés à l'aide du BAnQ.

Le BAnQ subscriber’s card: votre passeport pour la Grande Bibliothèque de Montréal et la Collection nationale du Québec. La dernière dans le même répertoire (bâtiment, bibliothèque et collection de dossiers et livres).
The subscriber’s card of Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ) is free for all Québec residents. It allows patrons to use all services, collections and equipment offered on-site at the Grande Bibliothèque, at BAnQ Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie and at the ten (10) BAnQ Archives (Archives nationales du Québec) across the Province of Québec (see a few pages up under the heading of Repositories).

To obtain your subscriber’s card, see: How can I access my Account? – A few paragraphs below.

The card provides access to numerous services relating to borrowing materials, and to other on-site and online services.

The front of the card is in colour and the back is in black and white. There is a number on each side that is useful for various services.

The client number on the front of the card can be used online:

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- to check out materials at the ground floor service desk or at self-checkout stations
- to renew materials at the ground floor service desk, at self-checkout stations or by phone
- to place holds on materials by phone

How can I access my account?

www.banq.qc.ca/aide/mon_dossier/index.html?language_id=1
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2020-11-20