

Sherbrooke or Hyatt's Mills?

By Carmen Groleau

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On July 19th 1818 in Hyatt's Mills, Gilbert Hyatt wondered why again he had to fight with his sworn enemy John Coape Sherbrooke. Each year on July 19th the same people in Hyatt's Mills were asked to vote for someone to become mayor. The person with the most votes became mayor. Gilbert was always the winner. John Coape Sherbrooke had never stopped believing that one day he would be mayor of Hyatt's Mills.

Gilbert and John were both at the town hall in Hyatt's Mills waiting for people to call out their choices for the competition. "Stay under water for 2 minutes," said a man's voice. "Stand on their hands for as long as they can," yelled a woman's voice. "Bike to the lake and come back to the city hall," said a kid's voice. "It has been written," said a judge, "anymore suggestions?" They waited for a couple minutes. "Doesn't seem so," said the judge. "Sirs go get your bikes and meet us back here in 10 minutes.'

Gilbert and John were at the starting line. "One, two, three, GO!" said the judge. Gilbert started off really fast, but John was a little slower. "I'm going to win for sure," said Gilbert. When Gilbert came close to the river he started to get really tired but Gilbert continued anyway. When there was about 1 km left, he saw that John was moving in closer to him. So he started to go faster but it was too hard because he was so tired from having gone too fast at the beginning. He tried as hard as he could, but John passed him anyway. John won the bike race.

Gilbert was really mad because usually he was the best biker, but it seemed as though John had gotten better. "Don't worry," he said to himself. "There are still two events left." Gilbert started walking to the next event. While he was stretching John started talking to Gilbert. "Good race, said John." Gilbert didn't answer. What John had just said got Gilbert even more determined to beat John. So they started to stand on there hands. It was harder then Gilbert had thought it would be. After about 10 minutes, Gilbert's arms were shaking like crazy, but John seemed to be just fine. Gilbert let go after 13 minutes (well he didn't let go, but rather fell).

Gilbert was extremely disappointed with his performance. He had been beaten by John twice. Gilbert was also scared because if he lost he would probably not become the mayor. "Could both of you come here, the race is starting," said the judge. They went into the water "One, two three, GO!" said the judge. Gilbert and John put their heads in the water. The first 30 seconds were easy, but after that everything started to get harder for both of them. Suddenly Gilbert started to feel dizzy. He heard John come out of the water. When he woke up many people were standing beside him. "What happened?," Gilbert asked. "You fainted" said a voice, "and John came to save you."

The next day the results from the vote were read, and as you can probably guess; John won! John was mayor of Hyatt's Mills for 40 years. After John died, Gilbert renamed Hyatt's Mills - Sherbrooke in honor of John Coape Sherbrooke who had done a great job as mayor and who had once saved his life.

This story is a fictional tale of how Sherbrooke got its name, written by Carmen Groleau.