

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 38 ■ Summer 2013 ■ \$2.00



morrin

- SEASONAL TOURS OF OUR HERITAGE BUILDING
- THE LIFE OF HENRY ROBERT DE BURY
- SUMMER BOOK QUEST EXPLORATIONS

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NUMBER 38 ■ SUMMER 2013

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LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	12:00PM-8:00PM
Wednesday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Thursday	12:00PM-8:00PM
Friday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM-4:00PM

Front cover: Group tour in the prison cellblock exhibition (LHSQ Collection)

CONTENT

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The mission of the **Morrin Centre** is to share and foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region. The Morrin Centre is administered by the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec.
ISSN 1913-0732

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members and Friends,

As we arrive at the midpoint of the year, let us look back at the Morrin Centre's growing achievements, from the outstanding ImagiNation Writers' Festival to the success of our evening lecture series. Thank you, members and friends, for supporting our events and programming. You are an essential part of our collective success. There will be more great accomplishments in the second half of 2013, but there also remains much work to be done and many challenges to overcome.

Securing sustainable long-term funding remains our greatest challenge since it is vital to the Centre's future. In 2013, the Centre is embarking on a major fundraising campaign to raise \$1.2 million. The purpose of the campaign is to put us on a strong financial footing so that we can continue to thrive and meet the needs of our members and our communities.

Building upon our current historical tours, educational workshops, and artistic events, we have a plan to turn our activities into a coherent program in the areas of heritage conservation, education, and the arts, our three pillars. These pillars represent the core of what the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec has embodied over its history, and the Morrin Centre will be building on this core over the next year through our activities and also the funding we seek.

The future is bright. We are opening a new chapter, developing a unique set of programs in the three vocations that have been a part of our history for nearly 200 years.

I am confident that the Morrin Centre will continue to grow as one of the shining jewels of Quebec and Canada, as it becomes an institution for all to cherish. I invite you to join us in making this vision for the future come true.

I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Sovita Chander
President

morrin centre

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear members, partners and friends,

Welcome to summer.

Even though this is the time of the year when lots of things slow down, there will be no shortage of action both in terms of activities and behind-the-scenes work. We are extremely pleased to be hosting the kick-off of the *Mois de l'archéologie* on July 9, as well as a conference by André Bergeron about the restoration of archaeological artefacts on August 21. On August 15, we will host our first ImagiNation off-festival event, where Kathleen Saint-Onge will launch her book *Bilingual Being: My Life as a Hyphen*.

Speaking of the ImagiNation Writers' Festival, we celebrated our most successful festival to date in 2013. Attendance was up 25% over 2012 and we presented our most dynamic group of authors in the festival's history. Even though it has barely been two months since the 2013 festival ended, we are already hard at work on 2014!

Guided tours are offered daily until Labour Day. If you have friends or relatives in town, I encourage you to take them to the Morrin Centre and let them experience one of region's most intriguing historic sites. We have hired a fresh set of new tour guides for the summer. You will have a chance to get to know them later on in this issue.

Fundraising is key as we continue to develop our three pillars: heritage conservation, education, and the arts. Staff and Council are working very hard on the 2013-2016 fundraising plan, which is aimed at putting the Centre on solid financial footing so that it will remain an important part of Quebec City's cultural landscape.

Finally, speaking of fundraising, remember to mark Thursday, November 21 in your calendar as it is the date of our 5th annual Literary Feast fundraising dinner. This event is truly one of the most special and important evenings of the year. This year we are pleased to welcome celebrated architect and philanthropist Phyllis Lambert, who has graciously accepted to be the evening's keynote speaker. We are also fortunate to have as Honorary President, Monique F. Leroux, Chair of the Board, President, and CEO of Desjardins Group. David Mendel, well-known local author and President of Mendel Tours will act as Master of Ceremonies. With such an impressive lineup of speakers, I am confident that tickets will sell very quickly. I look forward to seeing you there.

I hope you all have a terrific summer,

Barry McCullough
Executive Director



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Check out pictures of our events and more!

TRANSACTIONS

ONCE UPON A PRESIDENT

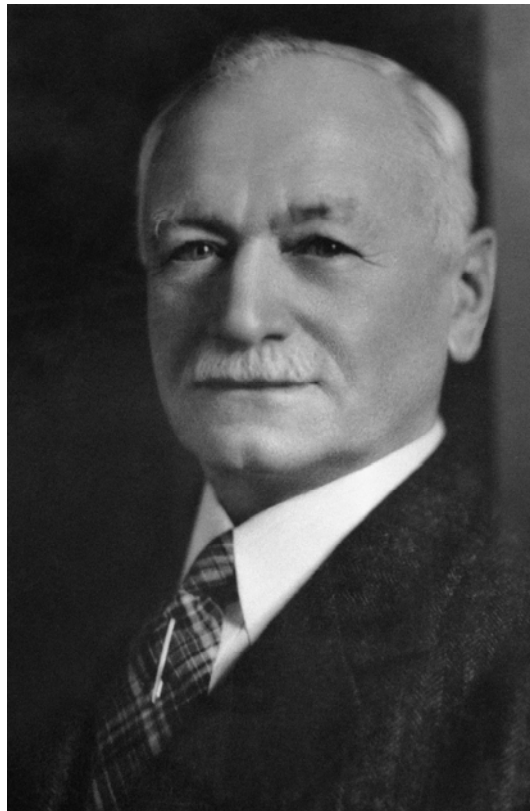
COLONEL COUNT HENRY ROBERT VISART DE BURY ET DE BOCARMÉ

By Maxime Chouinard

Our past presidents made their way through life by diverse means, whether by joining the army or taking up careers as scientists, teachers or lawmen. Much rarer were men who had long and colorful pedigrees going back to the aristocratic dynasties of Europe. One of these was Henry Robert de Bury, a soldier, mathematician and aristocrat who took up an impressive number of occupations during his life.

The Bury line goes back to the crusades; through a distant ancestor they inherited the lordship of Nazareth. Originally from England, the family migrated to the Low Countries in the 16th century. In 1753, Empress Maria Theresa of Austria granted Colonel Francis Visart de Soleilleval the lordships of Bury and Bocarmé in Belgium as a reward for military service. One of his sons, the Marquis Johann Gabriel Chasteler de Courcelles, defeated the Ottoman Turks at the battle of Focsani and later served during the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. He died as governor of Venice in 1832.

One dark spot in the prestigious family line was Henry's grandfather, Hippolyte Visart de Bocarmé, who was severely indebted. He devised a plan to murder his brother-in-law, who had recently inherited his father's fortune. He and his wife Lydia Fognies forced him to swallow nicotine and hoped the act would go unnoticed. Unfortunately for the couple, a famous Belgian chemist was able to identify the alkaloid poison by developing a method still used today in forensic medicine. Fognies was acquitted but Bocarmé was guillotined on July 1851 in Mons.



Henry's father Robert married a Miss Simonds from Saint John (New Brunswick) while living in Stuttgart. They moved to the Canadian province in 1873, where he acted as Belgian consul and consular agent for France.

His son Henry, who was born in Constance, Germany, joined the British and Canadian armies and studied at Stonyhurst College, England before moving to the Royal Military College of Kingston, where he graduated in 1892. He taught mathematics at Kingston from 1905 to 1910 and was named Captain of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. After the death of his father in 1910 he was granted a Royal License to use the title of Count.

Henry had little time to enjoy his title. Serving shortly as an aide de camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, he was called to serve in the Great War as Lieutenant Colonel of a Canadian Field Artillery Brigade and later become director of the Canadian

ordnance service in France. On his return to Canada, he was named director of the Dominion Arsenal in what is now Quebec City's Artillery Park, a position he occupied from 1920 to 1936. His former apartments can still be visited at the Parks Canada national historic site in the Redoute Dauphine. It is also during this time that he joined the Literary and Historical Society, becoming its president in 1934 and 1935.

At the onset of the Second World War, he joined the army once again and served as district ordnance officer. For his service he was named Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. After a life well lived, he died at a Montreal hospital in July 1958, leaving behind his wife Agnes Mary Robertson and their two children Valérie and Joan. ■

LIBRARY PAGES

ON THE SHELF

A THEMATIC REVIEW OF SOME INTERESTING, IMPORTANT OR JUST ENTERTAINING BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

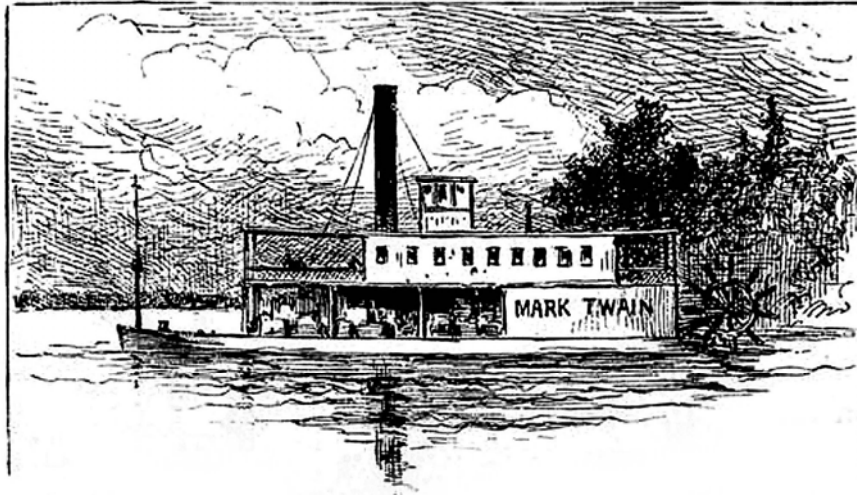
By Britta Gundersen-Bryden

The Amazon, the Mekong, the Nile, the St. Lawrence, the Yangtze, the Congo, the Rhine, the Mississippi... The very names of the world's mighty rivers evoke thoughts of adventure, beauty, travel, timelessness.

River Journeys, published by the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1984, follows six writers on their journeys down six different rivers on five different continents (only North America is missing, but there is no shortage of books about North American rivers in the Library). Two generations later, some of the travel conditions these writers faced may have changed somewhat but their impressions of river places, river people and the book's photos still have the power to stir readers' imaginations.

Here in Quebec, the St. Lawrence is a part of everyday life and the "central character" (or at least geographical feature) in many volumes in the Library's collection. Henry Beston wrote **The St. Lawrence** in 1942. The book covers historical events that were shaped by the river as well as the geography of the land through which the river flows. Charming (and that is the right word) features of the book are the many pen and ink sketches by Group of Seven artist A. Y. Jackson. Beston writes in his preface, "...the book largely concerns itself with the French regions of the St. Lawrence, for there is the river at its greatest and there is human life most shaped by its presence and influences."

A more contemporary approach to the history and geography of the St. Lawrence will be found in **River Song: Sailing the History of the St. Lawrence**, written by Phil Jenkins in 2001. Clearly, the trip influenced the author personally.



THE STEAMER "MARK TWAIN."

The influence of the St. Lawrence is felt far beyond the river's mouth (if indeed an actual mouth can be identified), out into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. **A Sea Within: the Gulf of St. Lawrence** by Bruce Littlejohn and Wayland Drew is full of striking photographs that inspire those who turn from page to page and vista to

vista to travel the gulf's waters to Sept Iles, Chaleur Bay, Cape Breton, the Labrador Coast, Belle Isle and further.

It is difficult for any reader to think of the Mississippi River without thinking of Mark Twain. From **Tom Sawyer** and **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** to **Life on the Mississippi**, Twain's stories have become part of the literary fabric of North America. All three books can be enjoyed by younger readers, who can identify with the characters' sense of adventure. All the better if an adult is available to discuss the historical references and social issues, especially racism in the nineteenth century. And now, Literary and Historical Society members have the opportunity to dig as far into Twain's life as possible. The first volume of Twain's three-volume autobiography, **Autobiography of Mark Twain (Vol. I)**, edited by Harriet Elinor Smith and released late in 2010, is among the library's new

LIBRARY PAGES

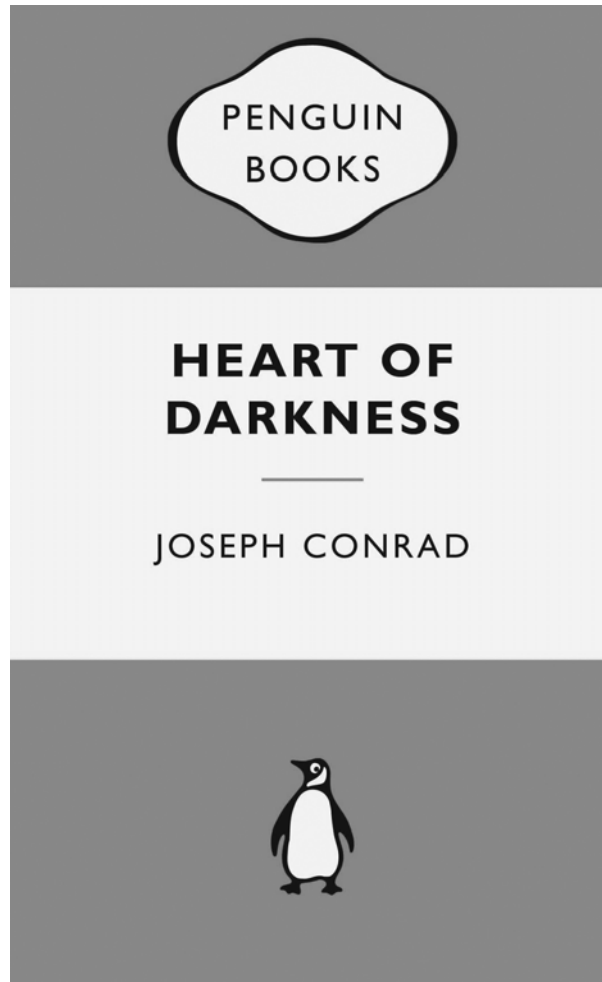
additions. Twain mandated that his autobiography not be released until 100 years after his death. He died in 1910; readers now have the opportunity to begin reading about Twain and his works, exactly as he intended.

The Mississippi is not only a source of inspiration for a large body of American literature, it is also the source of much American history. After reflecting on the impact of many flooding rivers across Quebec and Canada in 2010, and the devastating floods in Europe this year, readers may choose to learn about the impact of one flood on the Mississippi River and beyond. John M. Barr's account, *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 and How It Changed America*, illustrates how the forces of nature can influence not only the present but also the future.

One of the Library's recent acquisitions is *The Lighthouse*, (2012), by Alison Moore. With fewer than 200 pages, this seemingly pedestrian work follows the main character, Futh, as he takes a week's vacation to walk along the Rhine and as he reflects on his sad childhood, his failed marriage and his rather bizarre occupation. The novel's other characters, with their own stories of melancholy, failure or loss, plus the cross currents that bring the characters together and the surprising (yet not) ending that account for the fact that Moore's book was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2012.

History, culture and travel are all combined in *The River at the Center of the World – A Journey Up the Yangtze and Back in Chinese Time* by Simon Winchester. Published in 1996, Winchester's work is

able to bring Western eyes to the Middle Kingdom. Readers contemplating taking a real—or virtual—journey on China's mighty Yangtze will appreciate Winchester's observations and the book's photos.



“...a classic, a masterpiece, an allegory, a psychological study - all true. But it is also, simply put, a good story.”

Very young readers can learn about cooperation and dealing with bullies through the rhyming lines in *Crunch, the Crocodile*, by Josephine Croser, illustrated by Carol McLean-Carr. Crunch lives in an African river and makes the lives of his animal neighbours miserable—until they band together to take on Crunch.

If only taking on tyrants were as easy as it is in children's books. The great tragedy of the colonization (plunder, tyranny, inhumanity are all better words) of the Congo River basin is the subject of Adam Hochschild's *King Leopold's Ghost*. At the end of the nineteenth century, King Leopold II of Belgium used the Congo River basin as his personal fiefdom and its people as his serfs at best, his slaves at worst. This is a “tough read” but it is also a compelling historical account that touches the reader's heart as well as the head.

Still on the Congo but going back to literature, readers may wish to read or revisit Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. As the main character, Marlow, makes his way ever deeper into the centre of the African continent, he must confront the ideas and ideals he holds closest to his own heart. Conrad's novel has inspired other authors and filmmakers. *Heart of Darkness* is often referred to as a classic, a masterpiece, an allegory, a psychological study - all true. But it is also, simply put, a good story. ■

LIBRARY PAGES

GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEWS
LITERARY CLASSICS

By Mary Linklater

I first experienced graphic novels as a child when we received comics of the famous classics in care parcels from England. We eagerly devoured the famous stories by Dickens, the Brontës, Robert Louis Stevenson, and others. The pictures helped us skip the long descriptive texts in the original version but the meticulous attention to detail such as costumes or home decorations helped bring the stories vividly to life.

The Library has a number of classic graphic novels, although (word of warning) some may not be appropriate for younger readers.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow is one of these traditional classics. The colourful illustrations and dramatic action shots recreate the thrill and suspense of Washington Irving's gripping tale. At the end of the book, notes on the authors and illustrator as well as a glossary of terms help younger readers understand the creation and setting of the story. Discussion questions and writing prompts make this book an ideal starting point for exploring other writers of this time period. Hopefully the Library will be able to expand its classics collection with other famous titles from this series.

The Book of Genesis, illustrated by Robert Crumb (of *Fritz the Cat* and *Keep On Truckin'* fame) is an extremely detailed verse-by-verse depiction of the first book of the Bible. Crumb carefully researched each verse and consulted scholars and other texts to faithfully capture the meaning and to accurately represent the key figures and their response to ancient events. He vividly brings to life the famous stories of Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Leah and Rachel, Joseph, *et al* and also includes the reactions of people surrounding the main action. With explanatory notes at the end, Crumb brings perspective and clarity to many of the difficult or confusing parts of Genesis; the drawings of the "begats" sections clearly

illustrate the intricate ancient lineage lines. While a few of the illustrations might make some people uncomfortable, Crumb makes no attempt to whitewash any of the more challenging verses. His book comes with a few warnings on the cover that are best heeded:

"Adult supervision recommended for minors" and "The first book of the Bible graphically depicted! NOTHING LEFT OUT!" We would expect nothing less from Robert Crumb.



"The first book of the Bible graphically depicted! NOTHING LEFT OUT!"

Seymour Chwast tackles the classics with his delightful adaptations of two famous Medieval texts, **The Canterbury Tales** by Geoffrey Chaucer and **Dante's Divine Comedy: Inferno, Purgatory, and Paradise**. Incredibly, the *Divine Comedy* was Chwast's first graphic novel, written at the age of 80!

The Canterbury Tales is a simplified and hilarious rendering of these famous English tales. The pilgrims, in Chwast's version, travel to Canterbury by motorcycle and tell their stories with comic interjections from Chaucer himself, as he observes his characters from panels drawn down the side of the page. "You'll love it whether you've enjoyed the *Canterbury Tales* for years, or this is your first delectable introduction."

In the *Divine Comedy*, Dante is a mystery writer intent on uncovering the meaning of Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. He is accompanied by a very dapper Virgil sporting a bowler hat and cane, and by Beatrice, Dante's dead lover. The River Acheron is easily crossed in a motor boat, but the path ahead is difficult and treacherous. Not only do serpents and demons await Dante, but also gangsters and dancing girls. Can Dante (and Chwast) inspire his readers to turn away from their corrupt ways and thus avoid the deadly traps of Purgatory and the Inferno? Only one way to find out...

Check out these Graphic Novels and more at the Library. ■



PRESENTS
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English language summer reading club - Club de lecture d'été en anglais

JULY 6 - AUGUST 24

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RSVP before June 28th

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de notre lancement au Morrin Centre, **le samedi 6 juillet** à 10 h.

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Inscrivez-vous aujourd'hui !

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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

2013 BOOK QUEST: EXPLORE!

By Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume

The Morrin Centre recently launched its ninth annual Book Quest. This year, the theme is “Explore!” Children aged 5 to 12 will be encouraged to discover the world around them through reading and special activities during the summer. The program will run from July 6 to August 24. It’s a great way to keep children excited about reading during their holidays.

It’s not too late to register for the Book Quest, and you don’t need to be a member to do so. Just come to the Morrin Centre in person and get instructions about the reading club games and activities happening during the summer. The Morrin Centre offers a free summer membership to participating families. Each child will receive a Book Quest – Explore! passport to keep track of their reading progress. Their passport will be stamped when they present it at the library’s circulation desk. Keeping track of how many books they have read will allow them to play an ongoing Book Quest game during the summer.

There will be two different games for participants to play depending on their age. The 5-8 year olds will receive a puzzle piece for each book read during the summer until they reach 10 books, at which point they

will be able to complete their puzzle. The 9-12 year olds will have to answer questions related to children’s literature to complete their adventure. They must also read 10 books to finish their game.

This year, we are pleased to introduce our new Book Quest Coordinator, Camille Morin, who will help organize some exciting new events for participants. She organized the Book Quest – Explore! launch party on Saturday, July 6. During the launch, children participated in a scavenger hunt and contributed to a collective mural that will decorate the children’s section during the summer. They raced to different stations where they partook in a dig at the beach, a game of “I Spy” and more. Children also collected their reading passport and the instructions for their game. More special activities will take place this summer, including a safari storytime and a nature craft. Dates and details will be posted on our online calendar at www.morrin.org.

There are still a few spots available for the summer Book Quest. To participate, please contact us at 418-694-9147, at library@morrin.org, or come visit us at the Library! ■

MEET THE NEW BOOK QUEST COORDINATOR

Sitting in her kitchen one morning, drinking a cup of tea, is where Camille Morin first saw the announcement for the Book Quest Coordinator position at the Morrin Centre. Having completed her undergraduate degree in Education, she is now pursuing a Masters in Educational Psychology at Université Laval and was looking for a new challenge for this summer. She sees working with children and literature as the ideal way to bring together work and pleasure. In fact, children’s literature has become a real passion for her: choosing quality books for children, storytelling and promoting reading in the classroom are



all tasks she enjoyed exploring during the internships she completed in elementary schools over the past four years. She also created a reading program for her preschool class this year.

Born and raised in Quebec City, she is looking forward to getting to know the Anglophone community better and is very enthusiastic about planning activities for families participating in Book Quest – Explore!

Please come to welcome her during regular library hours. ■

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MEET OUR MORRIN CENTRE TOUR GUIDES



Name: Benjamin de Sève-Simard
Hometown: Lennoxville (AKA Sherbrooke)
Field of Studies: BA History, currently doing MA in Education

The story of the statue of General Wolfe is one of a kind. It is amazing how such a small object has seen so much throughout the years: it was stolen by two drunken soldiers, it travelled across the world, there were repeated attempts to vandalize it, and there's much more...



Name: Philippe Martin
Hometown: Sainte-Foy
Field of studies: History

I love putting visitors in the solitary confinement cell (fun for them and even more fun for me).



Name: Claire Dumoulin
Hometown: Montreal
Field of studies: Ethnology

I like the fact that in 1916 Emmeline Pankhurst, a British suffragette, came to give a talk at the Morrin College. She worked to raise awareness about women's right to vote and gender equality.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MEET OUR MORRIN CENTRE TOUR GUIDES



Name: Benoit Proulx
Hometown: Matane
Field of studies: Archaeology

The library. It is such a beautiful place, THE perfect place in Quebec to read a book. With the old books surrounding the new, I truly enjoy showing it to our visitors and telling them the stories of the numerous artifacts that it houses. One of them is the impressive model of the Cosmo, one of the last wooden sail ships built in Quebec—I love boats!



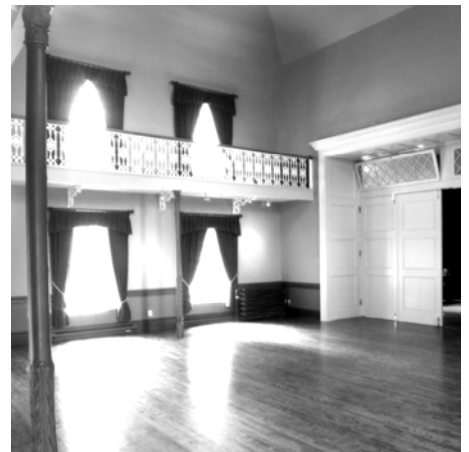
Name: Ariane Doucette
Hometown: Moncton, NB
Field of studies: Physiotherapy

The chemistry lab is full of fascinating information related to sciences at that time. My favorite item is the Table of Metalloids and Metals, an ancestor of the Periodic Table of Elements, that is displayed in the chemistry lab. This table is from the 1850s-1860s. It amazes me that it has been preserved since then, and I find it really interesting to see how many elements had already been discovered at that time.



Name: Sarah Lyle Skinner
Hometown: Roblin, Manitoba
Field of studies: International Studies and Modern Languages

College Hall is the most interesting room in the whole building. It is such a beautiful space, and I like to think that it was used for important meetings in the past as much as it is today; it transcends time!



FUNDRAISING

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT MAJOR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

By Frédéric Blouin

We have all heard someone at one point or another call the Morrin Centre a “hidden gem”. Where else in the world do you find a beautiful Victorian library, a 200-year-old prison, a fascinating exhibit, and a historical science laboratory in the same building? It is time for Quebec City’s best-kept secret to be unearthed and revealed to the rest of Quebec and Canada.

This year we begin a new chapter, evolving our activities into a unique set of programs in the areas of heritage conservation, education, and the arts. These three pillars of excellence will enable us to pursue our mission in a more significant way. For instance, we now have a flourishing ImagiNation Writers’ Festival, which draws prominent authors and emerging talent from across Canada and beyond. We are also sharing our building and history more widely than ever; over 12,000 people have gone through our doors in the past year.

But we must do more. This new program structure will enable us to develop our activities in a more coherent manner to better serve our current members and attract new ones as well.

In order to accomplish this goal, the Centre has embarked on a major fundraising campaign to raise \$1,200,000 from government programs, private foundations, and corporations.

We hope you will seize this opportunity to participate in this exciting new project, one that will make the Morrin Centre a bright expression of culture and community within Quebec and Canada.

For more information on our campaign, contact Frederic Blouin, director of fundraising, at fblouin@morrin.org or 418-694-9147, extension 257. ■

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PHOTO: Mme Brigitte Lessard

MORRIN CENTRE WINS PRIX DU PATRIMOINE

On June 15, all 49 winners of a Prix du Patrimoine from the Capitale-Nationale and Chaudière-Appalaches regions were celebrated at an evening in Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce.

The Morrin Centre was awarded a prize for its heritage conservation efforts and complete restoration of its 200 year-old building.



LE MILLE QUARANTE
CABINETS DE JURISTES

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 - Requests for Saint Brigid's Home



**Jeffery Hale
Saint Brigid's**
Une communauté de soins
A Community of Care

Jeffery Hale Hospital
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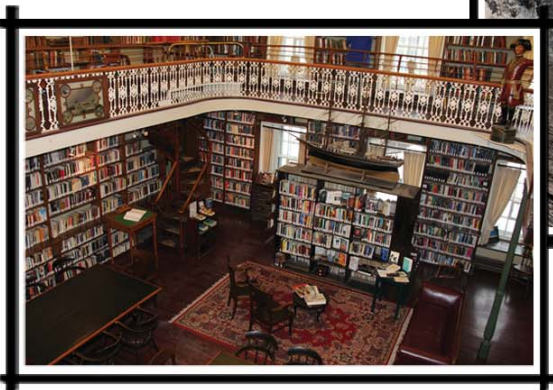
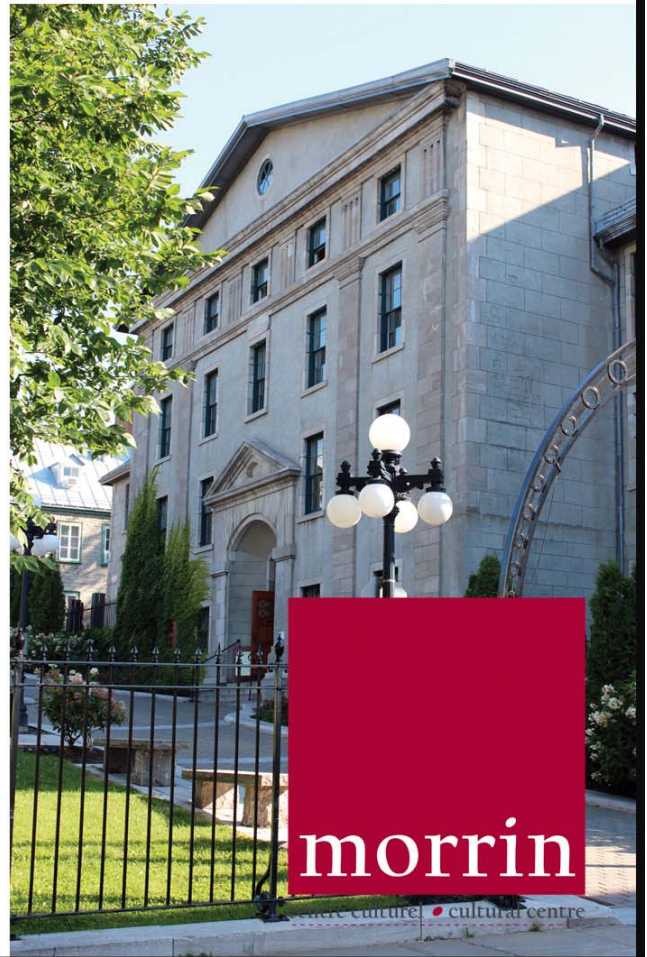
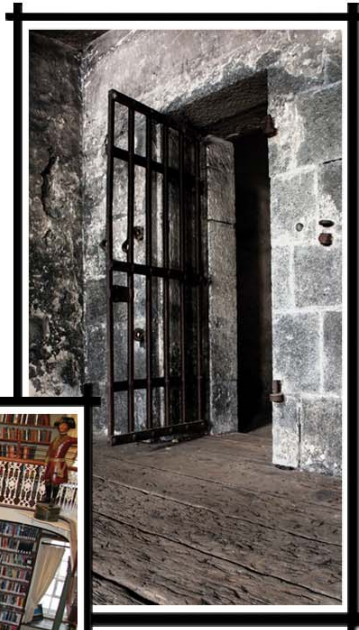
Admission

General: \$8.75 + tx Student: \$6.50 + tx

Children under 8: Free

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