

Society PAGES

SPRING 2023 | No. 76 | \$5.00



morrin

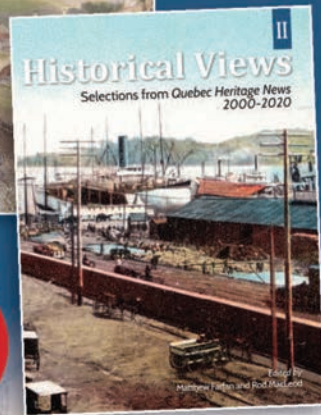
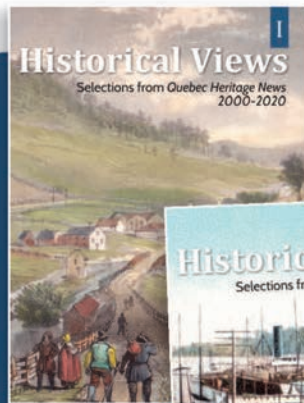
The Morrin Centre is managed by
the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec.
Its mission is to share and foster
English-language culture in the Quebec City region.



Society Pages is published quarterly
with the assistance of Canada Post.

20 years in the making!

*Historical Views, Selections from Quebec Heritage News
2000-2020*



Only
\$45*
+ \$20 shipping

- 2 volumes, with illustrated slipcase
 - Over 120 articles
 - 150 colour & b/w images
 - Printing is limited to 250
- So order now!**

*Subtract 10% for QAHN members
Please send cheque to: QAHN
3355 College, Sherbrooke, Quebec J1M 0B8
For payment by Paypal or e-transfer,
or to arrange pick-up: home@qahn.org.

QUEBEC ANGLOPHONE
HERITAGE NETWORK
QAHN



RÉSEAU DU PATRIMOINE
ANGLOPHONE DU QUÉBEC
RPAQ

Faire rayonner et rendre accessible toute
la richesse de notre culture, c'est possible.

Préservons notre patrimoine et mettons en valeur
notre culture et notre histoire.

The promotion of our rich culture and
its accessibility to all is possible.

Let's preserve our heritage and showcase our culture and history.

LA **culture**
DU **p**ossible
QUÉBECOR

SOCIETY PAGES EDITOR

Kathleen Hulley
kathleenhulley@morrin.org

LAYOUT

Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron

COPYEDITING

Hoffman Wolff

PUBLISHER

Literary & Historical Society of Quebec
44 Chaussée des Écossais
Quebec City, Quebec G1R 4H3
ISSN 1913-0732

LHSQ COUNCIL

Gina Farnell, President
Ladd Johnson, Vice President
Neil Williams, Treasurer
Susan Saul, Secretary
Donald Fyson, Honorary Librarian
Jean-David Banville, Member at large
Jacob Stone, Member at large
Peter Black
Sarah Blair
Jennifer Hobbs-Robert
Lilian Nguema-Emane
Grant Regalbuto
Cheryl Rimmer
Mike Ross

MORRIN CENTRE

Barry McCullough
Executive Director

Olivier Bilodeau
Assistant Executive Director

Kathleen Hulley
Head of Library & Collections

Anthony Arata
Heritage Coordinator

Katherine Carberry
Library Assistant

Julie Colanero
Management Assistant

Antoine Dumont
Education Coordinator

Géraldine Franchomme
Museum & Exhibits Coordinator

Stefanie Johnston
Guided Tours Coordinator

Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron
Events Coordinator

Zahra Simard-Trépanier
Rentals Coordinator

GENERAL INQUIRIES

info@morrin.org
418-694-9147

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	closed
Tuesday	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Thursday	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

morrin.org

Spring 2023 Contents

- 2 Letter from the President
From the Executive Director
- 3 Transactions
Canada's Women Writers Got It Right | by Britta Gundersen | 3-11
- 12 Imagination 2023
Imagination Program | 12-16
Imagination in Schools | 17
- 18 Library Pages
New Acquisitions | 18-19
Review: *Fayne* | by Aiden Roberts | 20
Review: *The Foulest Things* | by Susan Saul | 21
Review: *Hotline* | by Myriam Bowles-Carrier | 21-22
Review: *Is There Bacon in Heaven* | by Gail Cameron | 22
Review: *We Have Never Lived on Earth* | by Roxanne Bédard-Saucier | 22-23
Review: *We Spread* | by Renée-Loup Caron | 23
Review: *When We Lost Our Heads* | by Katherine Carberry | 24
- 26 Events & Activities
Upcoming Events | 26-27
- 28 Miscellanea
Meet our New Rentals Coordinator | by Zahra Simard-Trépanier | 28

Letter from the President

Gina Farnell



In this province, the young and the young at heart always rejoice when the first signs of spring appear. The days are longer and we now feel the sun’s warmth when we enjoy the outdoors. The clear cut between seasons we experience in Quebec is to be appreciated. After having spent a year in Scotland, where I wore the same coat in October, February, or April, I have learned to truly value the change in seasons we experience here. (The Scots’ *joie de vivre* made up for the somewhat dull weather.)

As you come out of hibernation, come to the Morrin Centre for a boost of energy. The Imagination Writers’ Festival is just around the corner. It is as promising as ever. I for one already have my tickets. The staff and volunteers are excited to welcome you again in our beautiful Library. Come and check out the new titles, in paper or electronic formats. More than ever, a variety of events will be held within our historic walls to which you are wholeheartedly invited.

The 199th annual general meeting was held in March. Council members and the Executive were elected for 2023. Keeping in mind that all these people are volunteers, I am always impressed by their commitment to the LHSQ. It is with such dedicated members that our society has withstood the test of time and now navigates its way to two centuries of learned and cultural activities within and outside the walls of the Old City.

And you, the members, are the *raison d’être*, the driving force behind this institution. For this we are grateful.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Morrin Centre.



From the Executive Director

Barry McCullough

The 14th annual Imagination Writers’ Festival is upon us, taking place from April 11 through 16. Again this year, we are thrilled to be able to present over 20 authors from across Canada and beyond. This will be the first full festival since 2019 and will see the return of highly anticipated events, such as *Books & Wine* and *Books & Brunch*. The Imagination Café will also return this year, which will give festivalgoers the chance to grab a quick bite to eat between events. The complete lineup is featured later in this issue. You can also consult the schedule and purchase tickets by visiting morrin.org/imagination. This is our biggest cultural event of the year, and we hope to see you there in large numbers!

We have more great programming in store this spring, including a new series of acting improv workshops, *Yes, And...*, as well as the continuation of our *Pixels & Pages* book club. This is just a sample of what the Morrin Centre has in store over the coming months. Visit morrin.org or join our newsletter to stay up-to-date on the Morrin Centre’s goings-on.

Did you know that the Morrin Centre has a rotating schedule of temporary exhibits on display every month? In April, we will feature *Blossoms, Beetles, and Birds*, an interactive “book” curated by Louisa Blair about the pioneers in the study of natural history in 19th-century Quebec City. These exhibits are free to visit for members and access is included for those who purchase a guided tour or day pass.

Members receive reduced prices or free admission to the vast majority of Morrin Centre events and activities, in addition to access to our library collections. So, if you know someone who would be interested in being a part of the Morrin Centre community, please spread the word.

Wishing you a warm and sunny spring.

Canada's Women Writers Got It Right: The Augustine Hospitallers as Historians

By Britta Gundersen

Who were the earliest Canadian women writers? Catharine Parr Traill and Susanna Moodie come to the minds of many Canadians, though the sisters were born in England and didn't begin writing in and about Canada until the late 1830s. Others may think of works written by women in late 18th-century Canada. For instance, in *The Anglos*, Louisa Blair notes that Frances Brooke wrote the first novel in Canada (*The History of Emily Montague*), which was published in England in 1769 and was inspired by Brooke's experiences living in Quebec. Brooke was the wife of a clergyman who came to Quebec City at the beginning of the British regime. She stayed in Quebec for four years, long enough to appreciate winter and the wilderness.

There is also Friederike Charlotte Louise von Massow, Baroness von Riedesel, who remained in Quebec for only two years, from 1781 to 1783, when her husband was in command of all German troops in Canada (such troops served with the British during the American Revolution, and some were stationed in Quebec).

The Baroness's journal and letters were published in German in 1800, translated into Dutch and English shortly after, and went into several subsequent editions.

As observant as they may have been, Brooke and von Riedesel were nonetheless visitors to Canada, not Canadians. Moreover, in many of the books, articles, and lists published by academics and others, the majority of works by women mentioned were written in English.¹ There is, however, an important historical contribution by French Canadian women writers that is overlooked: the daily patient registers kept by Augustine hospitallers at Quebec City's Hôtel-Dieu.²

Women Writers in Religious Orders

When researching the topic of early Canadian women writers, one occasionally finds reference to the writings of the women who came to New France to establish schools and hospitals. Their writings are often dismissed as "spiritual," but these women covered many topics. One thoughtful publication,

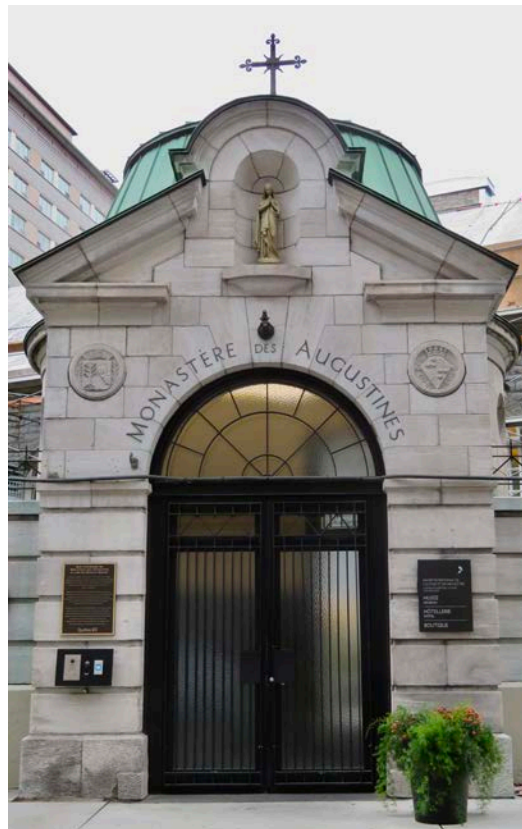


Figure 1: Le Monastère des Augustines,
32 rue Charlevoix, Quebec City.
Source: Photo by author, 2017.

¹ For example, an online project of the Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory called "Canada's Early Women Writers" only includes "notable Canadian English-language women writers who published before 1950." See <https://cwrc.ca/project/canadas-early-women-writers>.

² The daily registers of patients at Quebec's Hôtel-Dieu are identified in the Augustine's archives as: HDQ-F5-G1,2/1:1 (1693-1698); 1:2 (1698-1709); 1:3 (1709-1722); 1:4 (1723-1739); 1:5 (1740-1751); 1:6 (1752-1804). There is also a supplemental 20-page register, HG-A-24.25.1 of "Soldats Anglais-Pauvres- Pensionnaires du Pensionnat et Perpétuelles," with entries from 1760 to 1834. The easiest way to find the registers is through the website: <https://archives.monastere.ca>. Search for "registres."

Early Voices: Portraits of Canada by Women Writers, 1639–1914, draws together a collection of work showing the breadth of the earliest Canadian works by women.³ The editors note that Marie Guyart (Marie de l’Incarnation), founder of Quebec City’s Ursuline order and school in 1639, wrote “two spiritual autobiographies, many devotional works, and between 13,000 and 20,000 letters.”⁴ A letter to her son dated August 20, 1663 describes a mighty earthquake that shook the region in that same year.

Marguerite Bourgeoys established the Congrégation de Notre-Dame in Montreal in 1658, as well as many of the Congrégation’s early mission schools. She wrote letters, devotional essays, and autobiographical works. She also penned some of Canada’s first writings on educational philosophy and methods.

These 17th-century Canadian women writers were immigrants, or what today many call “settlers.” They came from France, made their homes in Quebec, and practiced their vocations here. It took another generation before Canadian-born women added to the growing body of works written in Canada.

Marie Morin has been recognized as the first Canadian, male or female, to write a work of history.⁵ Morin was born near Quebec City in 1649. At the age of thirteen she entered the order of the Religious Hospitallers of Ville-Marie as a novice at Montreal’s Hôtel-Dieu. In 1725, she completed her *Annales*, a history of the hospital and, by extension, of many of the events and people of Montreal.

The title of “first Canadian historian” could also go to Jeanne-Françoise Juchereau de La Ferté, dite de Saint-Ignace (Figure 2), an Augustine hospitaller who was born in Quebec City in 1650 and who became the first Canadian-born superior of Hôtel-Dieu. Near the end of her life, Juchereau dictated her *Histoire*



Figure 2: Juchereau de La Ferté, dite de Saint-Ignace, arguably the first Canadian historian.

Source: Jeanne-Françoise Juchereau de La Ferté, dite de Saint-Ignace, circa 1708. Photo by J. E. Livernois. Bibliothèque et Archives nationales de Québec, P560,S2,D1,P1178, Fonds J. E. Livernois Ltée.

de l’Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, which covered the period from 1636 to 1716, to Mother Marie-Andrée Regnard Duplessis, dite de Sainte-Hélène. Juchereau died in 1723. Her work was first published in France in the 1750s.

³ This collection is organized by region. There are five entries for Quebec, all non-fiction narratives. Two selections were written by early French nuns, one by a Quebec-born nun, one by a European visitor, and one by a Chinese immigrant. Mary Alice Downie, Barbara Robertson, and Elizabeth Jane Errington, eds., *Early Voices: Portraits of Canada by Women Writers, 1639–1914* (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2013).

⁴ *Ibid.*, 75.

⁵ See Esther Lefebvre, *Marie Morin: Premier historien canadien de Villemarie* (Montreal: Fides, 1959). Only portions of Morin’s history of Montreal have been translated into English.

The Augustine Hospitallers' Patient Registers

The Hôtel-Dieu patient registers kept by the Augustine hospitallers in Quebec should be viewed as important written contributions to history by Canadian women in the 18th century. These registers, now preserved in the state-of-the-art archives of the Monastère des Augustines, are among the very few original historical records from the French Regime not lost to fire and, as such, they provide many insights into the daily lives of Indigenous peoples, French settlers, colonial officials, soldiers (both French and English), prisoners of war, hostages, and travellers. The registers also shed light on the chaotic years from 1759 to the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763, as the colony transitioned from French rule to British control, and reveal the longer-term impact on civil society after the end of the Seven Years' War.

The first register (register 1:1) established the format for all that followed. Records were kept for each month, starting with the names of patients who were in the hospital on the first day of the month; names were added as more patients were admitted. Usually a patient's name, age, and place of residence were noted. Occasionally, a personal detail was added, such as "wife of" or "soldier." Infrequently, the type of illness (e.g., *petite virole* [smallpox]) was included. A narrow column on the left side of the register was for the notation of "mort/e" or simply "M" next to a name to indicate if the patient had died in hospital. A column on the right side of each page was for the number of days in the month that the patient was hospitalized. At times, the scribe noted that a patient had been discharged

by adding "sorty" (exited) to the entry. At the end of each month, the number of "patient days" was tallied. The names of patients who were still in the hospital at the end of the month were carried forward to the next month. More than three centuries ago, accurate medical record keeping was the order of the day.

In the Augustine registers, there was no stratification by class, gender, place of origin, residence, occupation, or religious affiliation. This is remarkable in a settler society where French clergy and civil officials controlled the colony, where parents could—and did—disinherit children who married "beneath them," where Indigenous peoples were often referred to with racist or pejorative terms, where slavery was legal, and where British prisoners of war and hostages from New England often arrived in Quebec City in need of medical care.

Taken individually, the lines in the registers only constitute elements of a well-kept record. It is the registers, in their entirety, that comprise a remarkable work of history, and each page is a chapter in that history.



Figure 3: Cover, patient register 1:2, 1698–1709. Although a devastating fire destroyed most of the hospital and convent in 1755, the patient registers survived.

Source: *Registre des patients (1698–1709)*, Le Monastère des Augustines, HDQ-F5-G1,2/1:2. Photo by author, 2017.

Patient Stories in New France

It is appropriate that one of the most famous health care stories of New France is linked to the registers. Marie Barbier de l'Assomption (Figure 4), a *Congrégation de Notre-Dame* nun and former superior of the order, suffered from "a cancer of the breast" (probably not breast cancer, but more likely a large, painful, long-festering wound caused by repeated self-mortification for which this particular

nun was known but which was not the norm for her own or other religious orders in New France). Barbier had two long stays at Quebec City's Hôtel-Dieu, the first in 1699. During the second stay, in 1700, surgeon Michel Sarrazin performed the first mastectomy in Canada. The Augustine hospitallers provided the pre- and post-operative care that would have been as critical to Barbier's survival as the operation itself. She lived to the age of 76, nearly forty years after her surgery.⁶

The colonial elites clearly had confidence in the Augustine hospitallers. Family, staff, and guests of the households of governors and intendants were patients, as were ranking members of the clergy. Sarrazin, the colony's chief surgeon, died at Hôtel-Dieu on September 8, 1734. Register 1:4 shows that he was in the hospital for only two days.

One of the most prominent patients was Claude de Ramezay, governor of Montreal, who entered Hôtel-Dieu on July 27, 1724 (register 1:4), after he had come to Quebec City from Montreal on official business. He died five days later. Ramezay's stay at the hospital is important because it is one of many instances when the colony's elite used the public hospital—this was quite different from Europe, where the elite were treated at home by private physicians.⁷ It must have also been a poignant passing; one of the governor's

daughters, Marie-Charlotte, was an Augustine hospitaller when her father was a patient.

The registers also provide glimpses of the complex relationships between the French settlers and the various Indigenous peoples in Quebec. For example,

the entry from 1690 (Figure 5) refers to “*un sauvage de Monsieur Tonty*” who is from the Illinois Nation (to the west of lands controlled by the Iroquois), who is not baptized and who is a “*panis*,” a term referring to a slave. Here it is not clear if the man was Tonty's slave or if he had been a slave of another First Nation. If “*Tonty*” is Henri de Tonti, the Italian-born French military officer who explored huge swaths of North America (including the lands of the Illinois) with René-Robert Cavalier de La Salle, the man may very well

have been Tonti's servant or slave. Or “*Tonty*” could be Henri's younger brother Alphonse, who also ventured into the fur-trading areas, though not specifically to those of the Illinois Nation. Use of “*de*” before Tonty may not have implied “ownership.” This phrasing was used for domestic servants *de* (of) a particular household, students *de* the seminary, and members *de* religious orders.

It is interesting that the Augustine writer noted the man's Nation, as was frequently the case in the registers; men, women and children from Abenaki,



Figure 4: Marie Barbier de l'Assomption

Source: Tableau historique 1653–1893 (detail). Archives Congrégation de Notre-Dame, Montréal, 581.330.476.

⁶ Information about Marie Barbier's surgery, performed by Michel Sarrazin, is found in numerous second-hand resources, including the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* entries for both individuals. Such sources state that the surgery was performed in 1700 at Quebec City's Hôtel-Dieu. In her history of the hospital, Juchereau de La Ferté provided a detailed entry about the Congrégation de Notre-Dame nun Barbier, her illness, and her recovery (page 295). Juchereau recounts that Barbier spent several months at Hôtel-Dieu in the winter and spring of 1699. Register 1:2 entries match this account. Juchereau continues that a gravely ill Barbier returned in 1700, that the surgery was performed successfully on May 29, and that Barbier stayed at the hospital until she returned to Montreal in the autumn of 1700. However, there are no register entries related to Barbier's hospital stay in 1700. One explanation for this discrepancy may relate to other statements Juchereau makes in the *Annales*. The Augustines derived significant support from the colonial purse based on the number of patients/patient days they reported. Juchereau's description of the care Barbier received after the surgery (and the strong bond formed between Barbier and the Augustine nursing sisters during the protracted stay) may indicate that pious Barbier was treated as someone for whom the Augustines expected no compensation and was thus “off the books.”

⁷ Mark Harrison, *Disease and the Modern World*, 61. Public hospitals in Europe were created for the “deserving poor.”

Huron, and Iroquois communities are often on the lists of patients. “Christian” names were given if the patient had been baptized. Otherwise, the patient may be characterized as “un Abenaki.”

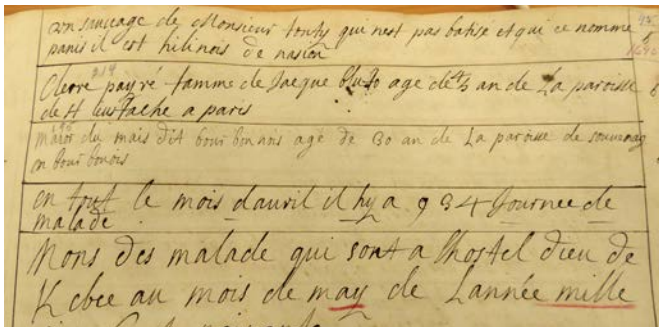


Figure 5: There is much to unpack in the entry referring to a male patient of the Illinois Nation who was a patient in 1690 (first line).

Source: Registre des patients (1689–1698), Le Monastère des Augustines, HDQ-F5-G1,2/1:1. Photo by author, 2017.

The registers also tell stories of war—not those taken from journals of generals or letters of governors, but stories of ordinary soldiers who survived battles long enough to be admitted to hospital. Many of these soldiers lived to be released; for a few, “Mort” can be found next to their names. For example, the patients in hospital in October 1711 included twelve soldiers, one sergeant, and one captain (register 1:3). The entries seem to have been made hurriedly. Were these French soldiers who had encountered English forces after Hovenden Walker’s ill-fated naval attack on Quebec City in August 1711? Were the inhabitants of the city still wary, waiting for the St. Lawrence to freeze and thus delay any further incursions? Or were the hospitallers still reeling from the loss of three of their own during the epidemic that had raged during the spring?

A page from January 1710 (Figure 7, register 1:3) tells a different story of war. Many English prisoners captured at “St Jean” are listed, two to a line. These would have been British soldiers captured at the Battle of St. John’s (the French attacked St. John’s, Newfoundland and held it until April 1709). None of the soldiers died in January 1710. But the particular page tells many other stories as well. Eleven-year-old

Chaterine did die, as well as Jacques of “lille d’orleans.” It is noteworthy that patients from the island often came in groups, an indicator that they may have travelled together by boat across the river or by sled across the ice road.

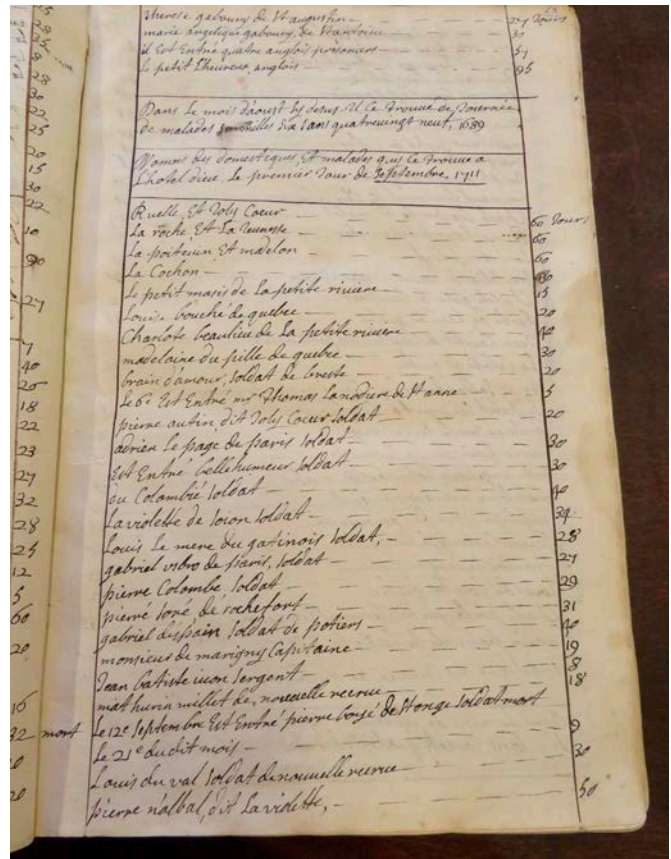


Figure 6: Note the number of French soldiers. What were their stories?

Source: Registre des patients (1709–1722), September 1711. Le Monastère des Augustines, HDQ-F5-G1,2/1:3, page 63. Photo by author, 2017.

Other than the English prisoners, most patients were from Quebec City, though there was a 15-year-old girl from Montreal in hospital as well as a “bon homme” from Normandy. The *segretaire* (secretary) to the Intendant was a patient; so was the governor’s coachman. A valet and a domestic servant were also patients.

There were strong ties among members of the various religious orders in New France. A member of one order may have had siblings, aunts, uncles, or cousins in another order. But once admitted to the Hôtel-Dieu,

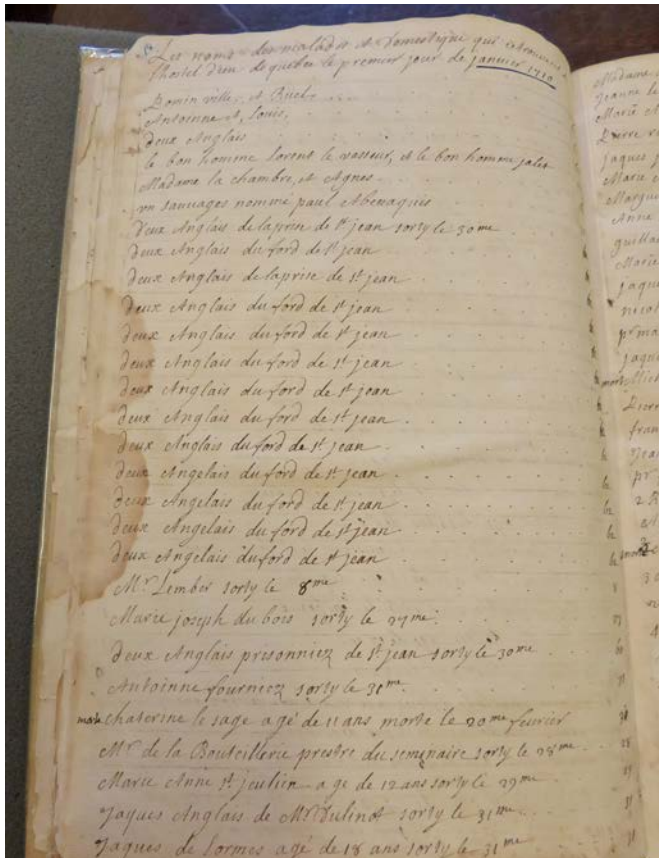


Figure 7: Register 1:3, January 1710. The Battle of St. John's took place on January 1, 1709. The French captured the British fort and held it until April. Nearly 500 soldiers and civilians were taken captive. Several of those prisoners ended up at Quebec City's Hôtel-Dieu; some had been there since August 1709. They may have been there earlier; there is a gap in the registers between the end of 1708 (Register 1:2) and the summer of 1709 (when Register 1:3 begins).

Source: Registre des patients, Le Monastère des Augustines. HDQ-F5-G1,2/1:3 (1709-1722), page 18. Photo by author.

priests and nuns were patients, like everyone else. On one page, a priest from the seminary is a patient; there are other patients from the seminary who may have been lay staff or students. Then there is “*La sœur Marguerite Congréganiste*” who was discharged on the 29 of the month. There were three women’s religious orders in Quebec City in the French period. The Ursulines were a cloistered order that had an infirmary in their convent. Though Ursuline students were admitted to Hôtel-Dieu on occasion, the Ursuline nuns were not. The Augustines were also cloistered (among other things, this meant they did not leave the hospital to treat patients), but they were admitted to their own hospital from time to time. There was a small Congrégation de Notre-Dame mission in

Quebec’s Lower Town and even smaller missions on Île d’Orléans and in Château Richer. Congrégation de Notre-Dame sisters worked in the community and were not cloistered. Though they had an infirmary at their mother house in Montreal, they did not have one in the small Quebec City mission. As a result, entries for Congréganistes often may be found in the Hôtel-Dieu registers.

Another intriguing entry is “*Marie Elisabet Anglaise de Mlle Pino.*” The stories of New England hostages “captivated and carried to Canada” have been documented many times, but reference to the Hôtel-Dieu registers has seldom, if ever, been made. Yet, there are many entries between 1698 and 1759 of *anglais* and *anglaise* of all ages from *Baston* and *Nouvelle Angleterre*. Some stayed in Quebec as students or servants, and one patient seemed to be a farmer. An infant of presumed captives was baptized at Hôtel-Dieu; the baptismal record takes up half of a page in the register. This is not unique; there are several baptismal records as well as property transactions. Possibly the register was the only paper available at the moment—the heavy books certainly carried the weight of official records.

Epidemics were frequent: smallpox, typhus, typhoid fever, measles. The Augustine nuns rendered care; they also were victims in need of care. Three of the hospitallers died in the winter-spring epidemic of 1711, and there are more than a few listed among patients and the deceased over the years.

The keeper of the register in 1731–1732 (Figure 8) not only had a neat and legible hand, she also maximized the amount of information about each patient. Yet, there was still a focus on the number of patient days (e.g., 1489 for December 1731), and even though information about the social status is given for some patients, they are still recorded by date of entry.

Fire and the Years Surrounding the Conquest

The Hôtel-Dieu suffered a catastrophic fire in June 1755. Most of the buildings and hospital furnishings were destroyed. Fortunately, the registers were

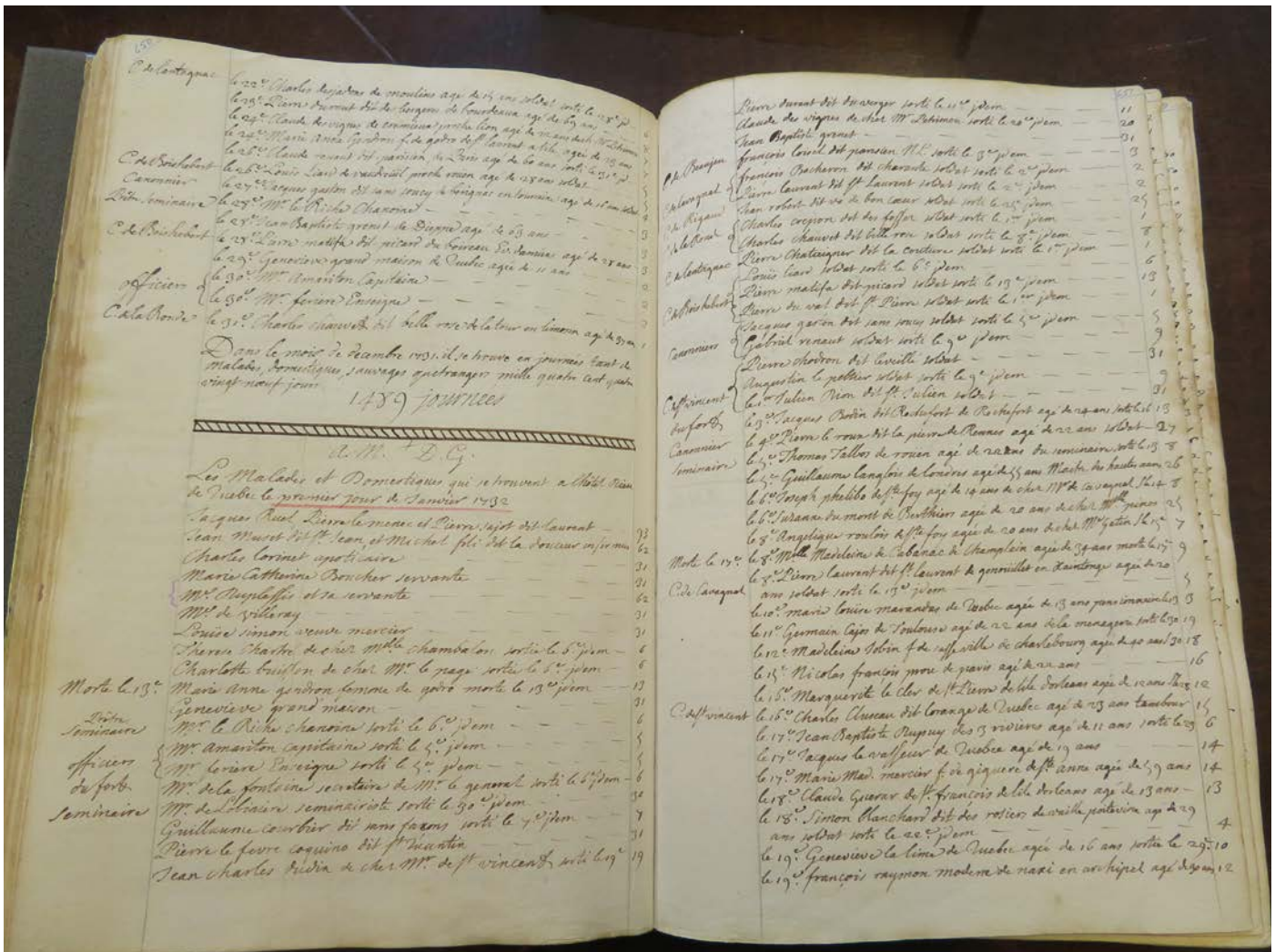


Figure 8: Register 1:4, pages for end of December 1731 and beginning of January 1732.

Source: Registre des patients, Le Monastère des Augustines, HDQ-F5-G1.2/1:4 (1723-1739), pages 650-51. Photo by author, 2017.

saved. Register 1:6, covering 1752–1804, includes a description of the fire in the entries for June and July. After the fire, the Augustines and patients (many of them soldiers) were moved to the Hôpital-Général de Québec in the Lower Town. The Hôpital-Général was founded in 1692. It was the colonial government’s solution to the need for a long-term care home for the chronically ill, the elderly with no family (often priests and single men), people without shelter, and the poor. A small group of Augustines staffed the Hôpital-Général, but they were not able to deal with the many acute care patients who usually went to Hôtel-Dieu.

The Hôtel-Dieu was quickly re-built. The nuns, patients, and the registers moved back to their Upper

Town site in 1757. Entries from that time forward show the changing nature of patients and life in the colony (for instance, register 1:6). For the next three years, there were still scattered admissions of civilians, but the Hôtel-Dieu mainly served as a military hospital, most of its patients being *soldats*, *recrues*, *miliciens*, *matelots*, *canonniers*, and *prisonniers anglais* (soldiers, new recruits, militia, those who manned the batteries, and English prisoners of war). Soldiers were listed by regiment (e.g. R. de La Reine, R. de Béarne, and R. de Roussillon), and sailors by ship (e.g. *Lactif*, *L’aigle*, *Valeur*, *Fortune*, *Cameleon*, *Dragon*, and *Rinoceros*). The registers do not indicate whether the military personnel were injured in battle or, more likely, suffered maladies caused by living in cramped

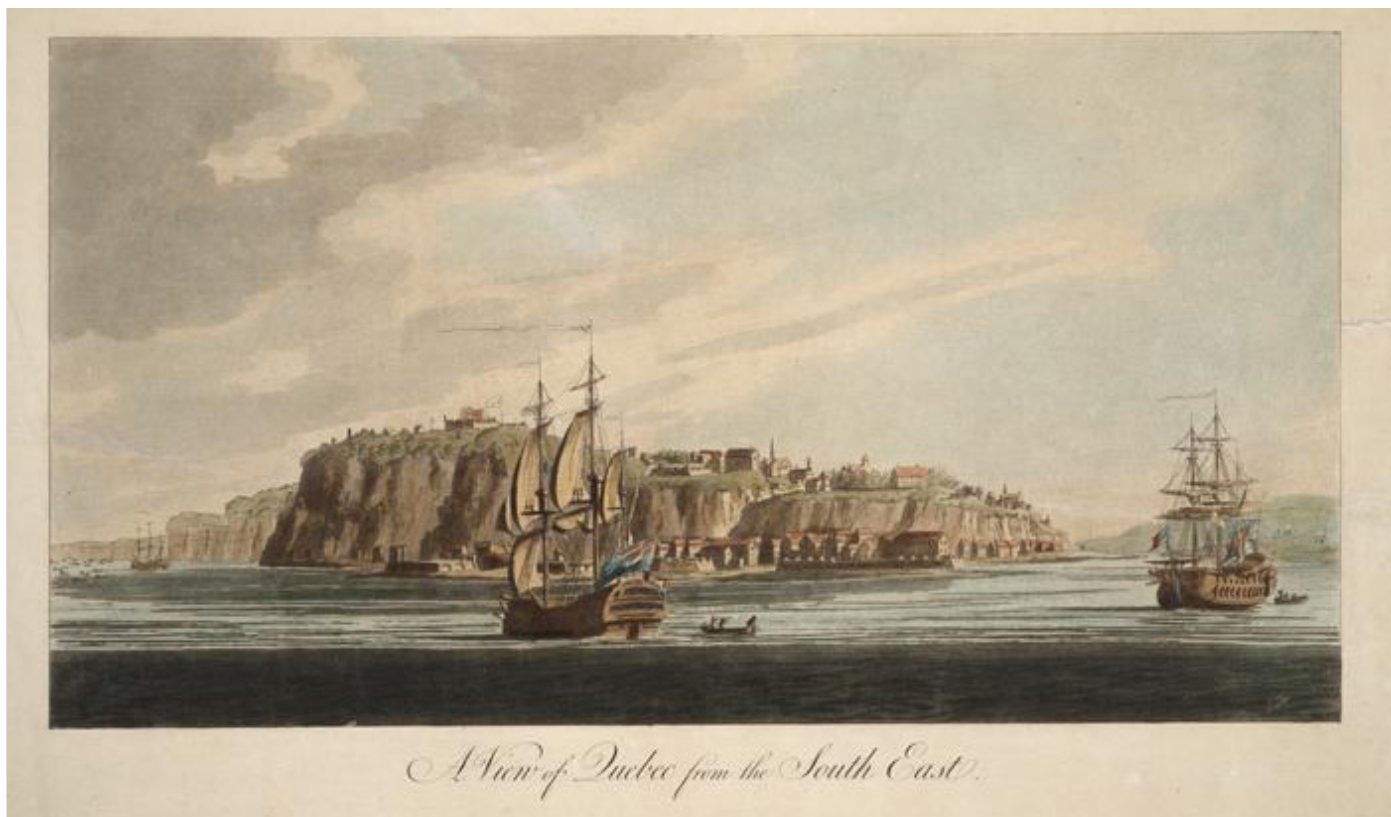


Figure 9: A View of Quebec from the South-East (1781). Engraving by Joseph Frederick Wallet Desbarres.
 Source: Toronto Reference Library, Baldwin Collection of Canadiana, OHQ2-PICTURES-S-R-41.

quarters and unhygienic conditions, such as the contagion known to have swept through Quebec City in early 1759. The ship the *Leopard* had to be burnt to the waterline. Sick soldiers and sailors crowded the wards; 87 patients were admitted in a single day, 97 died in three months, and 22 nuns were infected. Five died. The fever burnt itself out in March.⁸

According to a note in the register at the end of July 1759, the Hôtel-Dieu's nuns and patients had decamped to the Hôpital-Général's compound near the St. Charles River again, due to the bombs falling on the city during the Siege of Quebec. It is interesting to speculate on the fate of General Montcalm: what if he had been promptly taken to the Hôtel-Dieu on September 13, 1759, rather than to the house on St. Louis Street, where he languished for many hours before his death?

A supplement to the Hôtel-Dieu's registers is also in the archives: the register from the Hôpital-Général (*Registre-Soldats Anglais-Pauvres-Pensionnaires du Pensionnat et Perpétuelles*), with entries from 1760 to 1834. The early entries are for many British soldiers, listed by regiment and then name. The war between France and Great Britain didn't end officially until 1763. Nonetheless, the Augustine nurses cared for the sick and wounded—English and French.

After the fall of Quebec, the Augustines kept separate registers for both the British soldiers who were treated at the Hôpital-Général (and for which, it appears, the Augustines were compensated by the British) and the civilian population treated at the Hôtel-Dieu. Initially, only a handful of civilians were admitted, but by 1785, hundreds of "patient days" were being recorded. The war may have ended but it took a generation for these institutions of civil society to recover.

⁸ Silvio LaBlond's article "History of the Hôtel-Dieu de Quebec" lays out the impact of the contagion carried from the ship the *Leopard* into the wards of the Hôtel-Dieu.

In the registers at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, record-keeping came first and the stories of patients second. Nonetheless, through patient details, the broader sweep of North American history is woven throughout. In the patient registers, a continuum of literate and articulate women has written an early and significant work of Canadian history.

Bibliography

Ballstadt, Carl P.A. "Strickland, Susanna." In *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 11, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/strickland_susanna_11E.html

Blair, Louisa. *The Anglos: The Hidden Face of Quebec City*. Vol. I. Quebec City: Éditions Sylvain Harvey, 2005.

Bourgeois, Marguerite. *The Writings of Marguerite Bourgeois: Autobiography and Spiritual Testament*. Montreal: Musée Marguerite-Bourgeois, 1999.

Downie, Mary Alice, Barbara Robertson, and Elizabeth Jane Errington, eds. *Early Voices: Portraits of Canada by Women Writers, 1639–1914*. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2013.

Fournier, Marcel and Gisèle Monarque. *Registre journalier des malades de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec*. Montreal: Archiv-Histo, 2005.

Harrison, Mark. *Disease and the Modern World*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2004.

Juchereau de St-Ignace, Jeanne-Françoise, and Marie Andrée Duplessis de Ste Hélène. *Les annales de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, 1636–1716*. Edited by Albert Jamet. Quebec City: Hôtel-Dieu, 1939.

LaBlond, Silvio. "History of the Hôtel-Dieu de Quebec." *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 60, no. 1 (January 1949): 75–80.

Lefebvre, Esther. *Marie Morin: Premier historien canadien de Villemarie*. Montreal: Fides, 1959.

McMullen, Lorraine. "Massow, Friederike Charlotte Louise von." In *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/massow_friederike_charlotte_louise_von_5E.html

McMullen, Lorraine. "Moore, Frances." In *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 4, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/moore_frances_4E.html

Peterman, Michael A. "Strickland, Catharine Parr." In *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 12, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/strickland_catharine_parr_12E.html

Rousseau, Jacques. "Sarrazin, Michel." In *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 2, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/sarrazin_michel_2E.html

Scott, M. Eileen. "Barbier, Marie, de l'Assomption." In *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 2, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003. http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/barbier_marie_2E.html

Simpson, Patricia. *Marguerite Bourgeois and Montreal, 1640–1665*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1997.

Simpson, Patricia. *Marguerite Bourgeois and the Congregation of Notre-Dame, 1665–1700*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005.



In 2005, Marcel Fournier and Gisèle Monarque published *Registre journalier des malades de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec*. Their focus on dates and surnames is helpful for those taking a genealogical approach to the records. The context, however, can only be gleaned through looking at the pages of the registers themselves. The *Registre journalier des Malades de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec* is available online:

https://www.archiv-histo.com/assets/publications/OutilsRecherche/1689-1760_Registre_journalier_des_malades_de_l'Hotel-Dieu_de_Qubec.pdf

In October 2017, the author spent several days at Le Monastère des Augustines archives, going through the registers page by page. The patient registers (and many other holdings in the archives) have been digitized and now form a treasure trove for historians and other researchers. Those who wish to see the pages in this article in greater detail, as well as entire registers, may search for "registres":

<https://archives.monastere.ca>

Juchereau's *Les annales de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, 1636–1716* is found here:

https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/Detail/2R3BF1FB9UK_U

| Imagination 2022



This year, the Imagination Writers' Festival is back in full! We can't wait to see you at the Morrin Centre.

	General Public	Students
Festival Pass	\$35	\$20
Individual Event Ticket	\$15	\$7

Visit morrin.org/imagination to buy your ticket(s)!

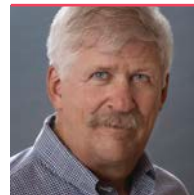
Morrin Centre members receive 25% off all general public ticket prices, including the festival pass.

Morrin Centre members, students and Festival pass holders receive 25% off the price of *Books & Wine* and *Books & Brunch* tickets.



MEET THE AUTHOR
Youth Event (7 to 12 YO) with
Katherine Battersby
Tuesday, April 11, 6:00 p.m.

Katherine Battersby (she/her/they) is the critically acclaimed author and illustrator of thirteen children's books, including the popular Cranky Chicken series, *Perfect Pigeons*, and *Trouble*. Her books have received glowing reviews in *The New York Times*, starred Kirkus reviews, and been named CBC Children's Choice books. She is regularly booked to speak in schools, libraries, and at festivals and she is a passionate advocate for literacy and the arts.



BREWING BETTER BEER
Peter McAuslan
Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.

Peter McAuslan is a native of Lachine, Quebec, graduating from Sir George Williams University in 1972. Peter has served as a director of many industry and community boards and has received many awards and distinctions. He is the founder and president of the McAuslan Malting and Distilling Company, developing and marketing "Peter McAuslan's Spirits" in Quebec.

Presented by **Beneva**.



Fouad Hassanpour

IS THERE BACON IN HEAVEN?

Ali Hassan

Tuesday, April 11, 8:30 p.m.

Ali Hassan is a stand-up comedian, actor, and professional chef. He is the host of CBC's *Canada Reads* as well as *Laugh Out Loud*. He is a Canadian Comedy Awards nominee, and his solo show, *Muslim, Interrupted*, was performed at the world's largest comedy festival, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He has appeared in three award-winning films, *Breakaway*, *French Immersion*, and *Goon*, in addition to other film and TV roles.



Chloe Groth

BOY IN THE BLUE HAMMOCK

Darren Groth

Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

Darren Groth (he/him) is the author of eight novels. He is a winner of the Adelaide Festival Award for Young Adult Literature and has been nominated for numerous other prestigious prizes. Groth is a passionate advocate for the representation of intellectual disability in literature and is the proud father of a son with lifelong cognitive and communication challenges. He lives in Vancouver.



Lora MacDonald-Palmer

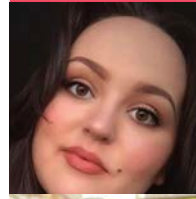
FAYNE

Ann-Marie MacDonald

Wednesday, April 12, 8:30 p.m.

Ann-Marie MacDonald (she/her) is a novelist, playwright, actor, and broadcast host. Her work has been honoured with numerous awards. Her writing for the stage notably includes the plays *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning, Juliet)*, *Belle Moral: A Natural History*, and *Hamlet-911*. Her novels are *Fall on Your Knees*, *The Way the Crow Flies*, *Adult Onset*, and *Fayne*.

In partnership with **CBC Québec**.



Chloe Groth

BOOKS & WINE

Gathering

Thursday, April 13, 6:00 p.m.



Cedric Sam

Melissa Blair

A Broken Blade

Darren Groth

Boy in the Blue Hammock

Cheuk Kwan

Have You Eaten Yet?

Books & Wine returns to the Imagination Writers' Festival! Sommelier **Bianca Thériault** will present wines that she has selected to perfectly complement three books featured at this year's festival. The authors will discover which wines pair with their books and learn how their stories inspired the sommelier. Participants will get to taste each wine alongside a delicious appetizer. This is the perfect opportunity to become more familiar with books from the festival and to meet their authors.

In partnership with **Équilibre** and **La Maison Anglaise**.



Danila Razykov

LITERARY TRANSLATION

Panel

Thursday, April 13, 8:00 p.m.



Flavio Assis

Sylvain Neuvel

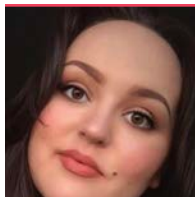
Author

Michel Teixeira

Portuguese Translator

Are you curious about the world of literary translation? Wonder no more, this panel will answer your questions! Join author Sylvain Neuvel and translator Michel Teixeira as they discuss literature, translation, language peculiarities, and the ins and outs of their respective jobs.

In partnership with **Québec, ville de littérature UNESCO**.



A BROKEN BLADE

Melissa Blair

Friday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.

Melissa Blair (she/her/kwe) is an Anishinaabe-kwe of mixed ancestry living in Turtle Island and the author of *A Broken Blade*, the first book in *The Halfling Saga*. She splits her time between Treaty 9 in Northern Ontario and the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg in Ottawa, Canada. She has a graduate degree in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies, loves movies, and hates spoons.



Cedric Sam

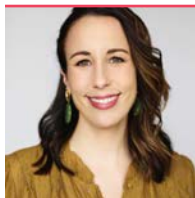
HAVE YOU EATEN YET?

STORIES FROM CHINESE RESTAURANTS AROUND THE WORLD

Cheuk Kwan

Friday, April 14, 8:00 p.m.

Cheuk Kwan was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Singapore and Japan. Immigrating to Canada in 1976 Kwan embarked upon a successful globe-trotting career in information technology. Kwan's five films from the Chinese Restaurants series—*Song of the Exile*, *On the Islands*, *Three Continents*, *Latin Passions*, and *Beyond Frontiers*—bring together his personal experiences, love of food and travel, and appreciation of the Chinese diaspora culture worldwide.



**STORYTIME
WHAT'S UP, MALOO?**

Youth Event (3 to 5 YO) with
Geneviève Godbout

Saturday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.

Geneviève Godbout is a freelance illustrator who specializes in children's literature. She now lives in Montreal after many years spent in London as a Winnie the Pooh character artist for the Walt Disney Company. Her distinctive style in soft pastels and coloured pencils convey nostalgia from another era.

Presented by **Beneva**.



Marina Vulfcevic

**YOUTH WRITING
WORKSHOP**

Youth Event (12+ YO) with
David Homel

Saturday, April 15, 11:00 a.m.

David Homel is the author of 15 novels, including five youth novels written with Marie-Louise Gay. He was born in Chicago and left the USA in 1970. After years of wandering, he briefly settled in Toronto before moving to Montreal, where he published his first novel. In addition to being a writer with books available in many languages, David also works as a documentary filmmaker, journalist, literary translator, and teacher.

Presented by **Beneva**.



L. D'Alessandro

**LESSER KNOWN MONSTERS
OF THE 21ST CENTURY**

Kim Fu

Saturday, April 15, 12:30 p.m.

Kim Fu (she/her) is the author of two novels and a collection of poetry. Her first novel, *For Today I Am a Boy*, won the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award, as well as a New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice. Her second novel, *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*, was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award and the OLA Evergreen Award.



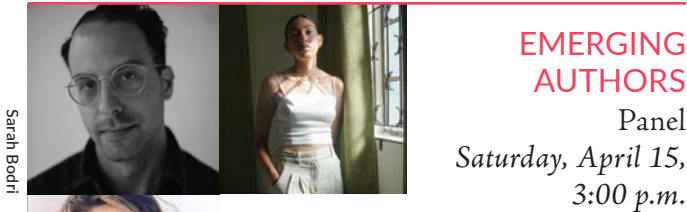
Cynthia L. Breden

CAMBIUM BLUE

Maureen Brownlee

Saturday, April 15, 1:30 p.m.

Maureen Brownlee (she/her) was raised on the western slope of the northern Rockies, near the headwaters of the Fraser River. She has worked as a trail guide, an outfitter's cook, a bookkeeper, and an employment counselor. For ten years in her thirties she was variously publisher, editor, reporter, photographer, designer, and janitor for a weekly newspaper. Her novels are *Loggers' Daughters* and *Cambium Blue*.



EMERGING AUTHORS

Panel
Saturday, April 15,
3:00 p.m.



Danielle Riome

David Bradford
Dream of No One but Myself
Trynne Delaney
the half drowned
Kasia Van Schaik
We Have Never Lived on Earth

Join us and discover the writings of the winners of the 2021 Quebec Writers' Federation (QWF) Concordia University First Book Prize! Dive into the writings of David Bradford (he/they), Trynne Delaney (they/them), and Kasia Van Schaik in this discussion about hybrid poetry, speculative futures, and female experience in a world threatened by ecological crisis.

In partnership with the **Quebec Writers' Federation**.



Stuart Issett

**THE IMPERILLED OCEAN:
HUMAN STORIES FROM
A CHANGING SEA**

Laura Trethewey
Saturday, April 15, 4:30 p.m.

Laura Trethewey is an ocean journalist and the author of *The Imperilled Ocean: Human Stories from a Changing Sea* (2020) and *The Deepest Map* (forthcoming 2023). Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Courrier international*, *The Walrus*, *Hakai Magazine*, and *Canadian Geographic*. She's the former writer and editor for the Vancouver Aquarium in Canada. She received a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. In 2020, she won Canada's Writers' Trust Rising Star Award.



Chip Cooper

THIS TIME, THAT PLACE

Clark Blaise
Saturday, April 15, 5:30 p.m.

Clark Blaise, Canadian and American, is the author of 20 books of fiction and nonfiction. A longtime advocate for the literary arts in North America, Blaise has taught writing and literature at Emory, Skidmore, Columbia, NYU, Sir George Williams, UC-Berkeley, SUNY-Stony Brook, and the David Thompson University Centre. Internationally recognized for his contributions to the field, Blaise has received an Arts and Letters Award for Literature from the American Academy (2003), and in 2010 was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

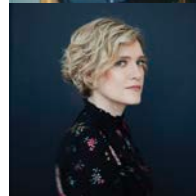


Kristin Ellis

Eva Maude TC

STORYTELLING

Panel
Saturday, April 15,
7:00 p.m.



Julie Artacho

Patrick deWitt
French Exit
Éric Dupont
Rosa's Very Own Personal Revolution
Heather O'Neil
When We Lost Our Heads

Storytelling may seem like a mysterious and impossible art to master, but authors Patrick deWitt, Éric Dupont, and Heather O'Neill will roll up their sleeves and dive into the subject in this Storytelling panel. Drawing from their respective wealth of experience telling stories through novels, these three acclaimed authors will discuss the intricacies of storytelling and captivate you with their craft.

In partnership with **CBC Québec** and with support from **Éditions Alto**.

Want to borrow the Imagination books?

morrin.overdrive.com

Want to buy the Imagination books?

lamaisonanglaise.com



Bruno Destombes

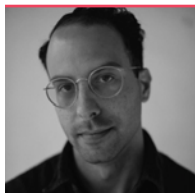
BOOKS & BRUNCH

Gathering with
Dimitri Nasrallah
Sunday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.

Good food and good literature, what's not to love? Join us at Books & Brunch for a delicious bookish brunch!

Dimitri Nasrallah is the author of four novels. His most recent work, *Hotline*, was selected for CBC's Canada Reads 2023 and was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. He was born in Lebanon in 1977, and moved to Canada in 1988. His previous books include *The Bleeds*, *Niko*, and *Blackbodying*. He lives in Montreal, where he serves as fiction editor for Véhicule Press's Esplanade Fiction imprint and teaches creative writing at Concordia University.

In partnership with **Équilibre**.



Sarah Bodri

LITERARY TRANSLATION

Workshop with
David Bradford
Sunday, April 16, 12:30 p.m.

David Bradford (he/they) is a poet and translator based in Tio'tia:ke (Montreal). Bradford's acclaimed debut collection, *Dream of No One but Myself*, won the A.M. Klein QWF Prize for Poetry, was a Jury Selection for the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal, and was a finalist for the Griffin Poetry Prize, the Governor General's Literary Award, and the Gerard Lampert Memorial Award. *Bottom Rail on Top*, Bradford's second book of poetry, and *House Within a House*, his translation from the French of *Désormais, ma demeure* by Nicholas Dawson, are both forthcoming from Brick Books in 2023.

In partnership with **Québec, ville de littérature UNESCO**.



Meghan Hall

SPEAK FOR THE DEAD

Amy Tector
Sunday, April 16, 2:00 p.m.

Amy Tector is the author of *The Honeybee Emeralds* and the Dominion Archives Mystery series. She has spent more than 20 years plumbing the secrets squirrelled away in archives—whether it's uncovering a whale's ear in a box of old photographs (true story) or working in The Hague for the United Nations' International Criminal Tribunal for War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia, she has been privy to hidden records and extraordinary secrets.



Megan Naito



Hannah Marie

LITERARY NOTES

Poetry and Music
Saturday, April 9,
4:30 p.m.



Tawahum Bige
Cut to Fortress
Shane Neilson
You May Not Take the Sad and Angry Consolations
Daniel Scott Tysdal
The End Is in the Middle

The Morrin Centre once again joins forces with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec to present a *noteworthy* concert. Tune in to listen to readings by poets Tawahum Bige (he/they), Shane Neilson (he/him), and Daniel Scott Tysdal (he/him), accompanied by music chosen and performed by the Orchestre symphonique de Québec musicians which captures the spirit of their poetry books.

In partnership with the **Orchestre symphonique de Québec**.

To register, visit morrin.org/imagination

Imagination in Schools

April 11–April 14

Presented by Beneva

Imagination in Schools authors

Katherine Battersby

Melissa Blair

Geneviève Godbout

David Homel

Sylvain Neuvel



Daniila Razykov

Sylvain Neuvel

Sylvain Neuvel (he/him) has been a journalist, worked in soil decontamination, and sold ice cream in California and furniture across Canada. He taught linguistics in India and worked as a software engineer in Montreal. He is also a certified translator, though he wishes he were an astronaut. He absolutely loves toys; his girlfriend would have him believe that he has too many, so he writes about aliens and giant robots as a blatant excuse to build action figures (for his son, of course).

We would like to thank the **schools, authors,** and **students** participating in the 2023 Imagination in Schools program. Creating opportunities for dialogue and connections between writers and youth is an important part of Imagination’s mission!

MAJOR PARTNERS | PARTENAIRES MAJEURS



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada



Conseil
des arts
et des lettres
du Québec



PARTNERS | PARTENAIRES



CIBC PRIVATE WEALTH
DELISLE SIMARD TEAM

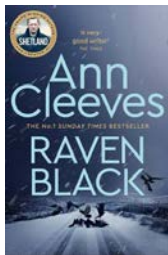


| Library Pages

New Aquisitions

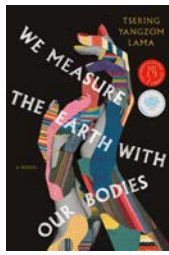
Here are some of the new titles in our library collection.

Books with an * are also available on OverDrive.



Raven Black

Ann Cleeves
Fiction
C624 2006



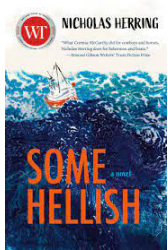
*We Measure the Earth with Our Bodies**

Tsering Yangzom Lama
Fiction
L213 2022



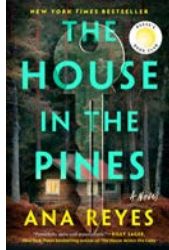
The Madman's Library

Edward
Brooke-Hitching
Non-Fiction
090.75 B872



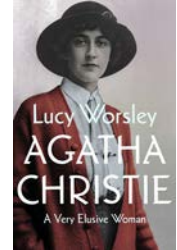
Some Hellish

Nicholas Herring
Fiction
H567 2022



The House in the Pines

Ana Reyes
Fiction
R457 2023



Agatha Christie: A Very Elusive Woman

Lucy Worsley
Biography
BIO C555 2022



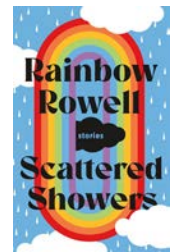
The Twist of a Knife

Anthony Horowitz
Fiction
H816 2022



Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

Gabrielle Zevin
Fiction
Z63 2022



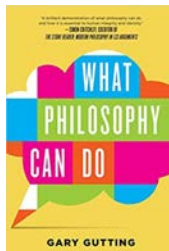
Scattered Showers: Stories

Rainbow Rowell
Young Adult
YA ROW 2022



*Cold Snap**

Maureen Jennings
Fiction
J54 2002



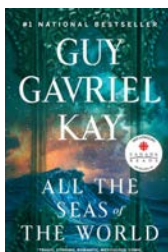
What Philosophy Can Do

Gary Gutting
Non-Fiction
100 G985



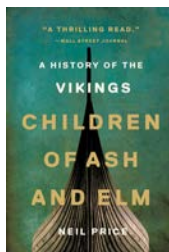
Maggie's Treasure

Jon-Erik Lappano
(text) & Kellen
Hatanaka (ill.)
Junior Picture
JP LAP 2020



All the Seas of the World

Guy Gavriel Kay
Fiction
K23 2022



Children of Ash and Elm: A History of the Vikings

Neil Price
Non-Fiction
948.022 P946



Two Dogs on a Trike

Gabi Snyder (text) &
Robin Rosenthal (ill.)
Baby Book
BABY SNY 2022

What's New on OverDrive

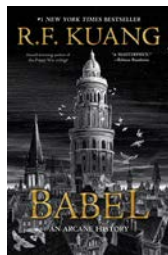
Here are some of the new e-book and audiobook titles now available. Log in to the Morrin Centre's OverDrive system at morrin.overdrive.com with your membership card to check out our latest acquisitions.

Books with an * are also available as a physical copy in the Library.



What's Left Behind

Gail Bowen
Fiction



Babel: An Arcane History

R.F. Kuang
Fiction



The School of Mirrors

Eva Stachniak
Fiction



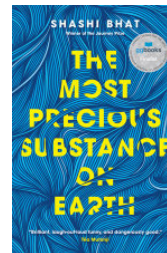
Getting Lost

Annie Ernaux
Fiction



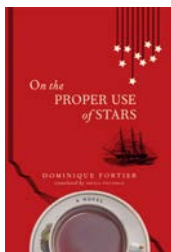
*The Test**

Sylvain Neuvel
Fiction



The Most Precious Substance on Earth

Shashi Bhat
Non-Fiction



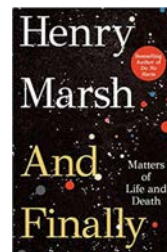
On the Proper Use of Stars

Dominique Fortier
Fiction



Dearest Cousin Jane

Jill Pitkeathley
Fiction



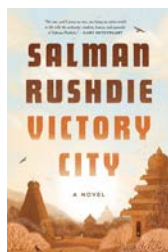
And Finally: Matters of Life and Death

Henry Marsh
Memoir



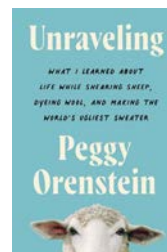
The Winter Guest

Pam Jenoff
Fiction



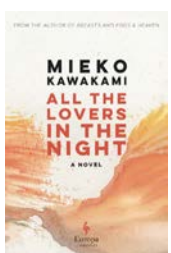
*Victory City**

Salmon Rushdie
Fiction



Unraveling

Peggy Orenstein
Memoir



All the Lovers in the Night

Mieko Kawakami
Fiction



*No Crystal Stair**

Mairuth Sarsfield
Fiction



*Ordinary Wonder Tales**

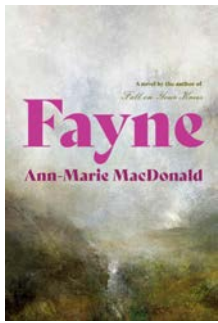
Emily Urquhart
Memoir

Book Reviews

Fayne

by Ann-Marie MacDonald

Book review by Aiden Roberts



Dear Reader,

I would like to invite you to visit Fayne, which is not far from Edinburgh. It is a place worth preserving in its present state.

At the very beginning of my book of the same name, I have included a short, revised guide to the estate and Fayne House. However, to prepare for your trip and help you appreciate your tour to the utmost, I would encourage you to read the entire book. The story is not relayed in chronological order, but the time of the action is clearly indicated. Like my life itself, it is long but rarely dull. It is full of twists and turns. I have divided my work into sections of reasonable length.

The book recounts the history of Fayne along with my own story and that of my parents and Aunt Clarissa and their efforts to insure that Fayne would have an heir. You will meet some wonderful non-family members as well. You will learn about my true love and a host of others including my childhood caretaker, Mrs. Knox. One of the most unforgettable characters is Bryn, who taught me so much about healing and the old ways including the old language when I was growing up in Fayne. Many of the fantastical elements in the story are related to him. You are free to believe or disbelieve them. However, I never lie.

I have used first- and third-person narration and used materials from different sources. I was lucky enough to discover letters my mother had received from her best friend, in Boston, starting when she first came to Europe from Boston. Much later I came into possession of the letters she had sent that friend. Some of these letters I have integrated into the text. I have also included other letters, birth and death announcements and a marriage announcement.

The story I tell will arouse all sorts of emotions. Certain parts are difficult to tell and may therefore be difficult to read. For example, my mother's struggles to give birth to a healthy child, my aunt's later cruelty towards my mother and myself, and my mother's inability to accept certain realities about my condition. Yet, overall I feel that this book is a plea for love and acceptance in situations of adversity and the ability of many people to overcome great trials and to go on to live worthwhile lives.

After reading the book you may decide to come to Fayne. I may no longer be here but my spirit and that of those who went before me as well as the spirit of the land will be. I hope your visit will be a transformational experience as it has been for many before you.

I remain your respectful narrator and future host,
—The Disputed Baron-cum-Baroness
of the DC of Fayne

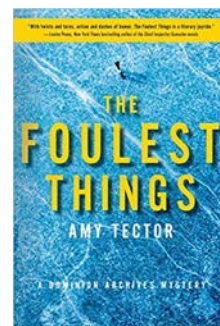
Fayne (Knopf Canada, 2022). * Also on OverDrive.



The Foulest Things

by Amy Tector

Book review by Susan Saul



Amy Tector's mystery *The Foulest Things* provides not only intrigue but also insight into the life of an archivist. Junior archivist Jess Novak is striving for a permanent position with the Dominion Archives, in what the author portrays as a toxic work environment with an exacting, dissatisfied boss and emulous co-workers, all while trying to learn the realities of what the job entails. The book is set in the Ottawa-Gatineau area, with side trips to Montreal. A series of letters also allow for a historical perspective while the story remains contemporary.

After a mistake at Novak's first auction for the Jarvis estate, she is thrilled to be allowed to catalog some farm logs from the estate, where she discovers romantic correspondences carefully concealed in the ledger covers. She is then sent to the art vault to retrieve a document for an upcoming meeting where she discovers the body of a commissioner. She quickly goes from witness, to suspect, to fully immersed in elucidating the murder. As an added layer, a member of a dangerous bike gang begins stalking her after the discovery of the body.

Concurrently with the murder, the hidden letters from the Jarvis estate reveal a mysterious romance and a search for a lost hidden masterpiece. Slowly a love story is unraveled, as Novak not only gets involved in the hunt for the painting but also gets emotionally invested in the fate of the couple. She guards the existence of the letters and their contents, believing that a paper from the archives will be her ticket to a permanent position. She walks a thin line between compromising her integrity as an archivist and keeping them hidden to ensure her exclusive access to the contents for her own professional development.

In her personal life, Novak and her BFF, Adele, traverse the Ottawa area, visiting dive bars in an attempt to discover the identity of her stalker and why she being is targeted. She also starts a relationship with an older co-worker. She takes the lead when he fumbles in the courtship department, and quickly finds herself falling in love. Throughout the novel, she explores her professional identity and interactions with colleagues.

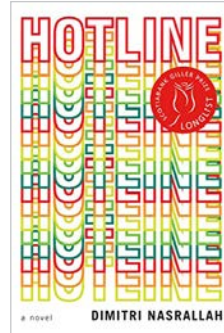
Like any good mystery, the plot lines convene with a spectacular terminus. Who killed the commissioner, and why? Did the lovers unite and live happily ever after? Where is the location of the masterpiece? And who is the mastermind behind the present-day crimes? These threads all merge together for the big reveal.

The Foulest Things (Keylight Books, 2022).

Hotline

by Dimitri Nasrallah

Book review by Myriam Bowles-Carrier



Hotline by Dimitri Nasrallah is the first-person account of Muna Heddad, a young, ambitious Lebanese woman who, much to her dismay, becomes a Canadian immigrant in 1986. She is forced to face her past alongside a new tumultuous, alienating present to become whole again.

Following the unexpected loss of her husband, Halim, to the civil war, Muna loses herself to trauma and grief; there is nothing left of her, and nothing left for her in Lebanon. Despite her bereavement and the difficulty of caring for herself and her son even years later, Muna is urged by loved ones to follow through with the plans that she and Halim had devised prior to his disappearance: she and Omar, their young son, set off to chase a new beginning in Montreal.

Muna's mastery of the French language is enough to accelerate the Heddads' escape from their war-torn past, but even with her education and experience, it is impossible for her to find work as a teacher in Quebecois society. Muna struggles with feeling invisible as she is Othered and as she juggles motherhood, doubt, alienation, and self-alienation. She faces ghosts—those of her own past and those that inhabit the city—and resolves not to become one herself, regardless of her exhaustion and of the respite that detachment would offer. Her story, told by Nasrallah in simple-yet-striking and at times breathtakingly eloquent prose, is a heart-wrenching journey of longing, questioning, and self-discovery that hammers home the courage needed to begin anew.

Muna's arduous quest for belonging is told in English interspersed with French, Arabic, and occasional interjections in other languages; this astutely replicates on the page Montreal's too-often-ignored nature as a mosaic of tongues and peoples. The city comes to life through Muna's eyes. She observes the punishing

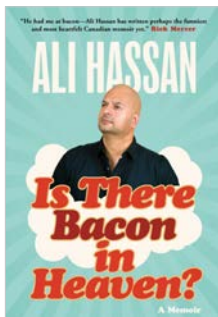
storms, the consumerism, and the loneliness that haunt the city and threaten to turn its inhabitants hollow. But as she comes to know Montreal and learns to understand the vast personal microcosms that she is privy to as a faceless confidant, she discovers the hidden, kinder face of Quebec. She glimpses compassion, community, and the possibility of reinvention when she least expects it, and she strives to kindle hope within herself to keep the ghost-world at bay. Although over three decades have passed since the onset of Muna's fictional journey, the novel is sure to resonate with Quebec audiences today, be they newcomers or long-timers, as they yearn to be seen and to find themselves and their place in a society ripe with potential and phantoms alike.

Hotline (Esplanade Books, 2022). * Also on OverDrive.

Is There Bacon in Heaven? A Memoir

by Ali Hassan

Book review by Gail Cameron



Ali Hassan is a Canadian actor, professional chef, comedian, and now published author. He is the well-known CBC radio host of *Laugh out Loud* as well as Canada Reads. This debut book is a memoir illustrating his journey to who he is today through personal stories.

Hassan was raised in a Muslim Pakistani family in the 1980s. He grew up in multicultural Montreal, surrounded by friends from diverse backgrounds. Being from Montreal myself, I could identify with this environment. He admits that he was not a practising Muslim and struggled for a long time with his own cultural identity and what it really meant to him. He is a self-proclaimed pork lover, despite being Muslim, and has been a celebrity judge for Toronto Ribfest.

In this memoir, Hassan shares many of his life experiences (good, bad, and hilarious) with honesty and purpose. He makes you smile through his childhood antics, sympathize with his struggle to learn Arabic, and commend his embracing of his identity as a “cultural Muslim.” His path through multiple ill-fitting jobs finally got him to where he was meant to be.

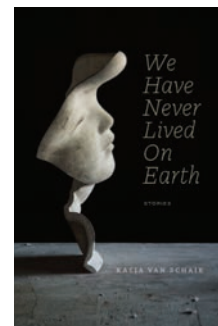
The author and family man also shares explaining his culture to his children. He has written this book for them, in hopes that they will have a better understanding of where they came from. We accompany Hassan through these experiences and often imagine what our own reactions would be under similar circumstances. This heartfelt narrative illustrates how we should always be true to ourselves and work towards finding what really makes us happy. I can easily recommend this book.

I have listened to several of Hassan's radio broadcasts and enjoyed his witty humour. I am very much looking forward to Hassan's presence at this year's Imagination Festival!

Is There Bacon in Heaven? A Memoir (Simon & Schuster, 2022).

We Have Never Lived On Earth by Kasia Van Schaik

Book review by Roxanne Bédard-Saucier



The world is made of stories. A teenager works as a housekeeper in a rich house. Two friends perpetuate toxic beauty standards by pointing out everything that is wrong with their bodies. A girl's arm is grabbed by a man who insists that she is arousing him. A woman is taken in by a male friend who lets her live with him

while she figures out her life. A woman reflects on whether she is ready for motherhood. What do these stories all have in common? They are all snippets of Charlotte Ferrier's past.

We Have Never Lived On Earth follows the growth of Charlotte from adolescence to womanhood. Throughout the novel, she faces hardships such as the search for happiness in our capitalist society, unforgiving beauty standards, ecological disasters, family issues, heartbreaks, loneliness, and multicultural confusion. Immigrating to Canada from South Africa after temporarily living in Germany, Mexico, Amsterdam, Crete, and Italy, Charlotte attempts to find herself across the world, only to end up more lost than ever.

At its core, this book is about memories. Charlotte goes through her past to make sense of it, to move on from it, but also to preserve it. Or so it seems, for the book does not offer clear explanations, adopting instead a fragmentary style that requires us to fill in the blanks with our own imagination. In this sense, the book invites us to begin the same journey as the protagonist, namely, to explore our own memories and to reflect on our past. This makes for a wonderful dynamic reading in which writer and reader are shaping the story together.

Mixing symbols and events, Van Schaik's book is as challenging as is profound. Upon first reading it, the stories might seem incongruous and difficult to grasp their meaning. Yet this book must be slowly digested and reflected upon to accentuate all its flavours. This slow pace is duly rewarded; by suggesting a degrading romantic relationship through the imagery of a house being slowly emptied of its furniture, and by juxtaposing labyrinth imagery with a relationship that is going nowhere, *We Have Never Lived on Earth* is as aesthetically stunning as it is emotionally impactful.

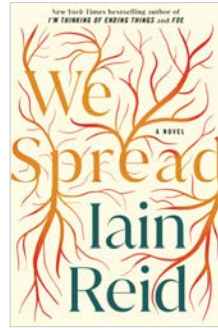
We Have Never Lived on Earth (University of Alberta Press, 2022). * Also on OverDrive.



We Spread

by Ian Reid

Book review by Renée-Loup Caron



Iain Reid's *We Spread* is an evocative novel with a surrealist approach to the literary form. Reid takes us on a journey that is all but too familiar today: an elderly person who no longer has a support system and who must leave their home for an assisted living facility.

After a great fall, Penny, the protagonist, is sent away to an assisted living facility; however, this facility is unlike any other as it houses only four residents and two caretakers. As Penny begins to adjust to her new living arrangements, things take an odd turn.

Reid approaches the novel form in a refreshing manner, using short spaced-out paragraphs. This stylistic approach contributes to the disruption of time that Penny faces, suggesting a loss of memory as well as providing an uncanny feeling. As an artist, Penny is drawn to surrealism; this permeates her work and the story *We Spread* itself. For instance, there are various instances of dreamlike and uncanny passages in the novel, giving it an eerie feel.

We Spread also addresses our society's obsession with aging, productivity, and conformity. It is a narrative that helps one come to terms with one's own mortality while illustrating the necessity of fighting against the idea that we exist solely to produce and conform to the society more broadly. Reid's novel reminds us that, like art, life is "beautiful only because there's an end" (265). As such, we must enjoy the little moments in life as they are often overlooked but hold the most beauty.

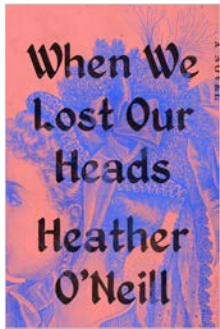
We Spread (Simon & Schuster, 2022). * Also on OverDrive.



When We Lost Our Heads

by Heather O'Neill

Book review by Katherine Carburry



"Every decent friendship comes with a drop of hatred. But that hatred is like honey in the tea. It makes it addictive." (40)

In 1873, two young girls in Montreal's Golden Mile commit an act of violence. In doing so, the girls set in motion events that will tear them and the city they know apart. Heather O'Neill's *When We Lost Our Heads* follows the childhood and early adulthood of best friends and rivals Marie Antoine and Sadie Arnett. The two protagonists come of age in a version of 19th-century Montreal in which the "Golden Mile" and "Squalid Mile" neighbourhoods enforce stark class divisions. In this tale of female desire, sweetness and power take centre stage.

The spoiled Marie, whose likeness adorns the bags of sugar produced in her father's factory, holds court over the children of the Golden Mile. By contrast, the dark and dour Sadie composes poetry and presides over the funeral services of neighbourhood pets. The two girls soon become inseparable, recognizing the value and peculiarity of the other, each suffering from parental and societal neglect. Just as their friendship would signal a financial and political

union between their families, Marie and Sadie's ambition and instinct for self-preservation wrench them apart. Years later, when Sadie, a budding author, returns to Montreal wearing a Napoleon hat, she makes her home in the city's underbelly and initiates a revolution through writing.

O'Neill deftly creates an immersive reading experience by bringing this story and characters to life with precise and sugary prose. She conjures a vivid atmosphere and memorable scenes by approaching the violent and the grotesque with an unnerving touch of whimsy. *When We Lost Our Heads* offers a tale of female liberation seen through the eyes of deeply flawed and twisted characters who are at once victims and perpetrators of patriarchal abuses. Making frequent nods to *écriture féminine*, the novel's plot and characters invite literal and metaphorical challenges to a culture and language dominated by men.

Replete with references to the French Revolution and the works of the Marquis de Sade and Christina Rossetti, readers will no doubt take delight in how this novel imagines an alternative history of class and gender. These broad themes, however, never overpower the narrative, as the strength of O'Neill's story resides in the relationship between its two female leads. Like the Golden and Squalid Miles, neither Marie nor Sadie can exist without the other.

When We Lost Our Heads (HarperCollins, 2022). * Also on OverDrive.





Pixels & Pages
The Morrin Centre's Online Book Club

April 18 *Hamnet*
by Maggie O'Farrell

May 16 *The Sleeping Car Porter*
by Suzette Mayr

Email library@morrin.org for more information.

LIBRARY *April*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	CLOSED IMAGINATION FESTIVAL	12	13	14	CLOSED IMAGINATION FESTIVAL
CLOSED IMAGINATION FESTIVAL	17	CLOSED REDOING FLOOR	CLOSED REDOING FLOOR	CLOSED REDOING FLOOR	CLOSED REDOING FLOOR	CLOSED REDOING FLOOR
CLOSED REDOING FLOOR	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

| Events & Activities

Upcoming Events: General Public



Join us for a series of exciting workshops to improve your improv skills in the *Yes, And...* project! The workshops will be led by **Michael Bourguignon**, a stage actor and director, and the current vice-president of the Quebec Art Company, Quebec City's foremost English-language theatre group.

- April 26 Performance 101:
The Bugs Bunny Method
- May 3 Characterization:
Inhabiting a Role
- May 10 Speed Improv:
Thinking on Your Feet
- May 17 Active Listening:
Acting is Reacting
- May 24 We're in this Together:
Improv as a Team-Building Tool



April is National Poetry month, and the Morrin Centre is holding its fourth annual *Society Pages* Poetry Contest again this year.

The contest is open to all topics and all genres of poems (haikus, lyric poems, etc.), whatever strikes your fancy.

The winning poem and the runners-up will be published in the Summer issue of *Society Pages*.

The contest will run until **Friday, May 5, 2023**.

Please send your submissions to library@morrin.org.



Picture This Exhibit

A temporary exhibit for the *Picture This* project will be on view in College Hall throughout April.

Poetry Month!

Stop by the Library to see a display of poems written by members of the *Strong Threads* poetry group. Selections of poetry from the Library collection will also be on display.

Upcoming Events: Youth Events



Storytime is a literacy program for children ages 3 to 7 that takes place on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Each activity begins with the reading of a story followed by a craft inspired by the week's theme.



The S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Club welcomes children ages 8 to 12 who love to experiment, create, and learn more about the world around them. The Club meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Stay tuned for our Spring Children's Programming!



Book Quest 2023

Stay tuned for another exciting summer of reading and activities during *Book Quest*, our summer reading program for children.

Meet our New Rentals Coordinator: Zahra Simard-Trépanier



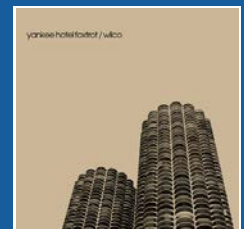
I'm very excited to be a part of the Morrin Centre team as the new rentals coordinator! I'm from a little town up north called Chibougamau, but I've lived in Quebec City for over six years in total now. I've moved a lot over the years. I lived in British Columbia, Ottawa, Montreal, and even moved to Australia for a couple of months. You could say that traveling is in my DNA.

The first time I heard about the Morrin Centre was in 2013, while I was studying in tourism and event planning at College Mérici. I remembered being really impressed with the history of the building and was glad to learn that there was an English community here in Quebec City. So, I'm happy that now I get to work in this beautiful place while working in the field that I started studying for ten years ago.

More about me: I consider myself a music lover. I have always been fascinated with 70s music in particular. From Fleetwood Mac to Simon & Garfunkel to ABBA, there's something about this era of music that captivates me. Other than that, I enjoy cooking and trying new restaurants, reading biographies and non-fiction, renovating and decorating my apartment, watching TV series, and spending time with friends and family.



Some of Zahra's favourite albums



April Poetry Month

Let us discover the poet in you

bring
a poem



receive
an ARC *

*advanced reading copy

more info at laisonanglaise.com



La **MAISON ANGLAISE**
LIBRAIRIE ANGLAISE ET ESPAGNOLE • ENGLISH AND SPANISH BOOKSTORE

QUÉBEC

UNE COMMUNAUTÉ DE SOINS Services de santé bilingues

418 684-5333



Jeffery Hale
Saint Brigid's

Hôpital Jeffery Hale Hospital
1250, ch. Sainte-Foy G1S 2M6



Pavillon Jeffery Hale Pavilion
1270, ch. Sainte-Foy G1S 2M4

wejh.ca



jhsb.ca



A COMMUNITY OF CARE
Services & Activities in English

IMAGINE YOUR AD HERE

CONTACT US AT
INFO@MORRIN.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Québec



Imagination

Writers' Festival

morrin.org/imagination

APRIL 11
— 16 AVRIL
20
23

morrin

cultural centre • centre culturel

Morrin Centre
44 Chaussée des Écossais
Quebec City, Quebec G1R 4H3
418-694-9147
info@morrin.org

Canada

 Canada Council / Conseil des arts
for the Arts / du Canada

 CALQ
Conseil
des arts
et des lettres
du Québec

ENTENTE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT CULTUREL
 VILLE DE
QUÉBEC Québec

beneva

QUÉBECOR

ACCESS ©
COPYRIGHT
FOUNDATION

MAISON
ANGLAISE

CIBC CIBC PRIVATE WEALTH
DELSISE SIMARD TEAM

Chronicle-Telegraph

FOUNDATEUR
Jeffery Hale
FOUNDATION

QUÉBEC
WRITERS'
FOUNDATION

equilibre