

Society PAGES

FALL 2021 | No. 70 | \$5.00



morrin

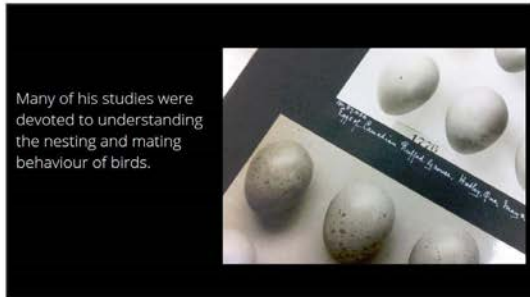
The Morrin Centre is managed by
the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec.
Its mission is to share and foster
English-language culture in the Quebec City region.



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



Support heritage programming in Quebec. In English.



Wesley's skis, a pair, Montreal Desjardins Collection, Musée Culturel and Interpretatif Centre. The development of transport, more particularly with the arrival of the railroad, broke the isolation of Gaspeians. People had the advantage of access to consumer goods, usable especially in the winter's months, which allowed its products to travel. However, the New Carlisle would promote goods destined to leisure activities. (Photo: Heritage New Carlisle)



Join QAHN!
qahn.org/join-qahn



Notre engagement :
faire découvrir notre patrimoine

Québecor a à cœur de contribuer activement à la protection et au rayonnement de notre patrimoine culturel. Nous sommes fiers d'appuyer le Morrin Centre dans sa mission.

Committed to showcasing our heritage

Quebecor is actively engaged in helping to preserve and promote our cultural heritage. We are proud to support the Morrin Centre in its mission.

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

James Hughes

Grant Regalbuto

Cheryl Rimmer

Julie Rochon

MORRIN CENTRE

Barry McCullough

Executive Director

Hoffman Wolff

Assistant Executive Director

Gail Cameron

Accounting & Financial Clerk

Manon Fortin

Rentals Coordinator

Géraldine Franchomme

Museum and Exhibits Coordinator

Kathleen Hulley

Head of Library & Collections

Stefanie Johnston

Guided Tours Coordinator

Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron

Events Coordinator

Caroline Prévost-Levac

Education Coordinator

Melissa Wan

Administrative Assistant

GENERAL INQUIRIES

info@morrin.org

418-694-9147

CURRENT LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	closed
Tuesday	closed
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

| No. 70

Fall 2021 Contents

2 Letter from the President
From the Executive Director

3 **Transactions**

The Evolution of the Anglophone Community's Presence on the
Toponymy of Quebec City | by Alex Tremblay Lamarche | 3-8

9 **Library Pages**

On the Shelf: It's Time for Autumn Feasts | by Britta Gundersen-
Bryden | 9-11

Pages & Pixels: The Morrin Centre's Online Book Club | 11

New Acquisitions | 12-13

Review: *The Madness of Crowds* | by Gail Cameron | 14

Review: *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* |
by Melissa Wan | 14

Review: *The Pirate Next Door* | by Estelle Nicholas | 15

Review: *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs* |
by Caroline Prévost-Levac | 15-16

17 **Events & Activities**

Arts Alive! Quebec Recap | by Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron | 17

Upcoming Events | 18-19

Book Quest Recap | by Estelle Nicolas | 20

21 **Miscellanea**

An Interview with ELAN's Guy Rex Rodgers |
by Barry McCullough | 21-25

Meet Our Museum and Exhibits Coordinator | by Géraldine
Franchomme | 26

Meet a Council Member | by James Hughes | 27

FRONT COVER

The Arts Alive! Quebec Festival, September 17, 2021

Photo Credit: Arthur Jegouzo

Letter from the President

Gina Farnell



We live in a beautiful country. It is not perfect; there are inequities. However, we are all free to safely go where we want. We enjoy freedom of expression, religious freedom, and access to education for all. Your Literary and Historical Society of Quebec is a learned society. We promote literacy, scientific knowledge, and cultural development. Our building hosted a college of higher education associated with McGill University that welcomed young men and, starting in 1880, women. This is our heritage, and we are proud of it. We strive to respond to our members' desires to learn and discover, whether it be in the arts, history, sciences, or literature.

It is a delight to again provide library access to all our members. It is so good to see the team busily getting back to work to ensure that readers may access the library's ever-growing collection. This expanded access to services is a sure sign that bright days are ahead of us.

Something to look forward to: our annual Members' Day. This year's celebration of our members will feature both in-person and virtual components. As always, it promises to exceed expectations. The Morrin staff always delivers a memorable experience to those who participate.

Another memorable event is the Literary Feast. More information will come about the 2021 event, which will be held in November. Also this fall, we are anticipating the return of select in-person activities.

As you can read, the Morrin is partially back in action, and we are excited to share with you all that we have to offer. You are invited to follow us on social media or to sign up for our newsletter.

Cordially,
Gina Farnell



From the Executive Director

Barry McCullough

After 18 months, it was a wonderful experience to once again host a live, in-person event. Our annual Arts Alive! Quebec festival took place on September 17 and 18 outside on the Chaussée des Écossais. Seeing so many enthusiastic artists, partners, and members was cathartic after an incredibly difficult year-and-a-half for everyone. The weather could not have been better and the excitement was palpable. Our team of staff and volunteers really came together to create a truly memorable weekend for everyone involved. Hopefully, this is a sign of better times ahead.

The Morrin Centre team has grown in recent weeks with the addition of Géraldine Franchomme, our museum and exhibits coordinator. We are delighted to welcome her to the Morrin Centre, and we know that she will make a great addition to the group. You can read more about her in this issue of *Society Pages*.

We have a ton of great programming, both virtual and in-person, planned for this fall. From Members' Day to the Literary Feast to our *So the Story Goes* series, there will be a little something for everyone. Stay tuned to our newsletter and follow our social media accounts for all of the latest news and updates on Morrin Centre programming and services.

Wishing you all the best,

Barry McCullough

The Evolution of the Anglophone Community's Presence on the Toponymy of Quebec City

By Alex Tremblay Lamarche

Strolling through the streets of Old Quebec today, one is struck by the beauty of the city's architecture, which includes a number of buildings designed by British, American, or English Canadian architects. One need look no further than the Château Frontenac, the anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, or the Price Building as proof. If the anglophone community of Quebec City was able to make its mark on the landscape in this way, it was also able to make its way into the toponymy of the city. The Chaussée des Écossais, Dufferin Terrace, Crown Street, and chemin des Quatre-Bourgeois all recall different eras in the history of the city's anglophone community. In order to better understand the roots of these toponyms, as well as the disappearance of some of them, we must take a step back into the past.

The Establishment of British Power in the Region

In the early days following the Conquest, the British began to make their mark on the toponymy of Quebec City by renaming or translating the names of certain places. "Faubourg Saint-Jean" and "Faubourg Saint-Roch" became the "suburb of St. John" and the "suburb of St. Roch," while the "Quai du roi" became "the King's Yard."¹ At the same time, the authorities opened new

streets whose names were intended to represent the change in regime. In 1766, the road that begins on the rue de Buade and that meets up with the Clergy Battery (*batterie du clergé*) was thus named "Prince Street" in honour of the Prince of Wales (it was later renamed rue Port-Dauphin in the middle of the 19th century).² Indeed, this name is hardly insignificant given that the first century following the Conquest saw the consolidation of British power throughout the territory. During this era, streets or gates were named in honour of seven of the nine governors in power between 1760 and 1830: Guy

Carleton, Frederick Haldimand, Robert Prescott, James Henry Craig, George Prevost, Charles Lennox, and George Ramsay. It was rare, however, that these governors presided over this naming directly. With the exception of James Henry Craig and Robert Prescott, who respectively had a street and a gate named in their honour during their terms as governor, the names of the other governors became part of the city's toponymy somewhere between ten and thirty years after the end of their terms. With the expansion of the suburb of Saint-Roch in the early 19th century, the colonial authorities took the opportunity to inscribe imperial power there too, opening up King Street (in honour of George III), Queen Street (in honour of Sophie Charlotte de Mecklenburg-Strelitz, wife of



1897 was a time for celebration across the British Empire: it was the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign and a whole series of festivities were organized. In addition to these festivities, many places were named in honour of the Queen. Whereas Westmount built a public library in her honour, Quebec City gave her name to a new park that was developed in the Saint-Sauveur neighbourhood at the initiative of the mayor, Simon-Napoléon Parent.

Victoria Park, 1905 or 1906. Collection iconographique de la Ville de Québec, Archives de la Ville de Québec, CI-N000862.

George III), Prince Edward Street, and Crown Street.

The recourse to English rather than French for the naming of different streets that opened up during this era and that were given a descriptive noun (such as Brewery Lane, Jail Road, and Provision Store Lane) reveals the role that the authorities, merchants, and cartographers accorded to the language of Shakespeare in the public space. Even if the creation of these toponyms within the city was not explicitly done to show that Quebec was henceforth part of the British Empire (as was the motivation behind the previously mentioned imperial toponyms), these descriptive names still showed that Quebec City was now a British city. Public administration took place in English, the majority of judicial decisions were rendered in English, and a large part of the signage throughout the city was also in the language.³ Thus, given the predominance of English in the public space, it is quite natural that the lane laid out in the middle of the 19th century next to McCallum's brewery took the name "Brewery Lane" (today known as ruelle Légaré), and that during the same era the road leading to the prison on the Plains of Abraham was "Jail Road" (today, avenue Briand).

The Roots of the Anglophone Community in the Toponymy of the City

During the same era, Quebec City residents also saw the names of anglophone property owners appear within the area. Grant and Richardson streets (today rue Monseigneur-Gauvreau and rue de la Salle), along with Scott and Bell streets, appeared on the city maps during the first two thirds of the 19th century. The first took the name of businessman William Grant, who purchased practically all of the land in the suburb of Saint-Roch in 1764 with the intention of dividing it up into lots. The second adopted the name of the owner (businessman John Richardson) of the land on which it was drawn. The third borrowed its name from the notary William Fischer Scott, who was an important landowner in the Saint-Jean-Baptiste neighbourhood. Scott intended to subdivide the land he owned in the neighbourhood (through which the street bearing his name ran) into lots for building. The fourth,

Bell Street, was named in memory of businessman Matthew Bell, whose warehouses and offices were located at the corner of rue de la Barricade. The street still bears his name today.

Toward the middle of the 19th century, other names related to the anglophone community began to appear in the toponymy as the city expanded. Some of these names honoured notable members of the community, while others commemorated famous figures. In this sense, the names that were given to new streets in the areas of Saint-Sauveur, Saint-Roch, Saint-Jean-Baptiste, and in the fortified part of the city reflected Quebec City's economic activity, its values, and its changing demographics. Lumber merchants John Gilmour and Charles Henry Ross each saw a hill named in their honour, while the name of shipbuilder Thomas Conrad Lee appeared in the toponymy of Pointe-aux-Lièvres in 1858. In addition, several British heroes (explorer John Franklin, Admiral Horatio Nelson, General James Wolfe, and astronomer William Herschel, to only name a few) entered into the city's toponymy in the second half of the 19th century. Beginning in the 1870s, it was the Irish community's turn to make its appearance in the toponymy of Quebec City, first through the honouring of their patron saint as well as Priest Patrick McMahan, the first chaplain of Saint Patrick's Church. This was followed by the naming of several streets in honour of leaders from the Irish community, such as Robert Baldwin Sullivan, Charles Joseph Alleyn, and Charles-Eustache Maguire.

The "Quiet Re-Conquest" and its Impact on English Toponymy

Beginning in the 1840s, the power dynamic in Quebec City between anglophones and francophones began to reverse. With the decline of the shipyard and other commercial activities in the city, many anglophones left for Montreal or Ontario in the hopes of finding work. By contrast, many French Canadians from the surrounding rural regions who were unable to find work locally migrated to Quebec City during this same era. As a result, the percentage of anglophones in the local population dropped from 40% to only 16%



Boulevard Pierre-Bertrand was named route Sainte-Claire until 1943. Despite its French sounding name, Sainte-Claire was actually a vestige of the anglophone presence in the district. The toponym came from a Scottish-born landowner named Sinclair, whose name was transformed into Sainte-Claire by francophones.

Route Sainte-Claire, 1962. Fonds Ville de Québec, Archives de la Ville de Québec, Q-D4-08-N012091. Droits réservés Ville de Québec.

between 1861 and 1901. In addition, French Canadians increasingly took control of the city administration during the last quarter of the 19th century. Whereas francophone and anglophone mayors had alternated as head of the capital city since 1833, no anglophones would serve as mayor after 1880. Moreover, the number of anglophone municipal counsellors decreased beginning with the mandate of mayor François Langelier (1882–1890).

As a result, several places in Quebec City whose names had referred to the anglophone community were renamed. In some cases, these name changes were the result of an attempt at uniformization or a simple translation from English to French. The stretch of rue Saint-Paul that was opened in the 1830s under the name Arthur Street was fully incorporated under the name of the

apostle in 1890. Or again, the section of rue Crémazie that runs between De Salaberry and Cartier avenues, which opened under the name Lee Street in 1895, was renamed in honour of French Canadian poet Octave Crémazie in 1917. Similarly, the small street that was traced out at the foot of Cap aux Diamants under the French regime became rue du Petit Champlain after having been Little Champlain Street, while Provision Store Lane was renamed ruelle du Magasin-du-Roi in the 20th century. In other cases, certain individuals were erased from the city's toponymy in order to emphasize French Canadian heroes, notable community members, or religious figures. The names of many streets in Saint-Sauveur were transformed



Although many notable French Canadians participated in the erasure of the anglophone community's presence from the city's toponymy between 1890 and the 1960s, some of the same individuals participated in the expansion of English into the public milieu. The industrialist George-Élie Amyot (1856–1930) turned to English in 1889 when naming his corset manufacturing business, which established itself as one of the best-known manufacturers in the city: the Dominion Corset Manufacturing Company.

Dominion Corset Manufacturing Company, between 1960 and 1969. Fonds Compagnie limitée Dominion Corset, Archives de la Ville de Québec, P051-8-N026769. Droits réservés Ville de Québec.

| Transactions

into French in the 1890s: Herschel Street (today rue Lavergne) became rue de Lévis, Wolfe Street became rue de Vaudreuil, and Albert Street became rue Durocher.

This is not to say, however, that new toponyms celebrating the history of the anglophone community did not continue to appear at the beginning of the 20th century. The desire in Ville-Montcalm to commemorate the officers of the Seven Years' War led those in charge of the district to inaugurate streets in honour of the Fraser Highlanders, Robert Moncton, James Murray, and Charles Saunders, while also honouring the Chevalier de Lévis and Louis-Antoine de Bougainville. Moreover, Avenue Wolfe-Montcalm, which appeared with the creation of Des Braves Park and Battlefields Park, clearly illustrates this desire to commemorate both French and British heroes.

A "Between-the-Wars" Marked by the Expansion of Sillery

After having developed slowly during the second half of the 19th century, following the opening of Saint-Colomb Church (today, Saint-Michel) as a place of worship in 1854, Sillery experienced an expansion during the interwar period that accorded a significant place to the anglophone community in terms of its toponymy—and this expansion took place despite the economic crisis. The arrival of the tramway in Sillery in 1911, the increasing popularity of the automobile among the more affluent classes in the first half of

the 20th century, and the opening of two new schools (Collège Jésus-Marie in 1870 and Collège des Jésuites in 1934) all contributed to attracting wealthy families to the area. New streets—in large part taking the names of prominent anglophones, such as Oak, Dickson, Alleyn, McInenly, Treggett, Saint-Georges,

and Edward VIII—were thus drawn out in the area around Maguire Avenue and chemin Saint-Louis in order to welcome these new families. These streets were added on to those that had been laid out by businessman William Sheppard in the middle of the 19th century on the north side of chemin Saint-Louis and that were intended for workers in the sector. These streets, which took the names of members



In 1933, three developers, including Joseph R. Dickson, for whom a street is named, started a residential construction project in Sillery. This photo shows many homes that were part of this original project. They are located between Maguire and des Gouverneurs avenues on the one side, and between rue Sheppard and boulevard René-Levesque (then known as boulevard Saint-Cyrille at the time) on the other.

Aerial view of Sillery, 1947. Fonds W. B. Edwards inc., Archives de la Ville de Québec, P012-N023645.

of the Sheppard family (William, Harriet, Charlotte, Sarah, Charles, Maxfield, Thomas, Sheppard, and Laight), were also lengthened in this era.

Several of the roads traced out in Sillery during this era pay homage to notable members of the community. Timmony and McInenly streets (today these are rues des Maires-Timmony and du Marie-McInenly) celebrate the memory of earlier mayors of Sillery, whereas Lemoine Avenue (today avenue James-LeMoine) recalls the memory of the literary figure of the same name. This tendency was seen elsewhere in the region during the era, as evidenced by Ville-Montcalm naming a street in honour of its mayor William Henry Brown, and Quebec City naming both a street in Saint-Jean-Baptiste and a hill in the old part of the city in honour of aldermen Joseph Camélien Lockwell and Francis J. Dinan,

respectively. The interwar period was also marked by the appearance of the names of several heroes from the World War I in the city's toponymy. Once again, the authorities demonstrated a desire to celebrate both French and British contributions by naming a boulevard in honour of the Triple Entente and streets in honour of marshals Herbert Kitchener and Joseph Joffre. Two sons of the anglophone community, Okill Massey Learmouth and Garnet Wolseley LeMesurier, who died at the Front, were also honoured.

The Post-War Boom

During World War II, the same scenario repeated itself. In 1942, houses intended for the families of workers participating in the war effort were quickly constructed north of rue Saint-Vallier.⁴ These houses were built on streets named Churchill, Général-McNaughton, Général-Vanier, de la Victoire, and Roosevelt. In 1943, the road between Quebec City and Charlesbourg (boulevard Henri-Bourassa today) was named boulevard Roosevelt-Churchill in honour of the two heads of state who participated in the Quebec Conference. It kept this name until July 1953.

After the expansion of Quebec City and Sillery through the first half of the 20th century, it was now time for the surrounding communities (Sainte-Foy, Charlesbourg, Beauport, etc.) to undergo an unprecedented period of development. Sainte-Foy increased from 5,000 to 63,000 residents between 1951 and 1971.⁵ In this

context, hundreds of new roads were laid out in the region, and a good number were given a name connected to the anglophone community. To put this in perspective, between 1950 and 1980, 96 places across present-day Quebec City were given a name connected to the history of the anglophone community, which is as many as there had been between 1850 and 1950. There was a veritable “boom” during this period, primarily in Sillery, and later in Sainte-Foy. This is in part due to the Department of Veterans Affairs that, wanting to offer housing to World War II veterans, developed a new residential neighbourhood on military land between boulevard Laurier and chemin Saint-Louis. This new neighbourhood, which resulted in the parishes of Saint-Yves and Saint-Louis, gave an important place to the names of British, American, and English Canadian soldiers. Between 1951 and

1965, 17 new streets were named for officers who had distinguished themselves during the two world wars.⁶ Soldiers, however, were not the only ones to be honoured in the course of these thirty glorious years. Elsewhere, new streets appeared whose names recalled notable local community members, heroes, or property owners of the land upon which these streets were drawn. Take, for example, streets named Frazer, James-Carmichael, and Sherwood in Charlesbourg, and

boulevard Hawey or streets named Prince-George and Gore in Beauport.

This period, unlike the previous one, was not marked by the erasure of many anglophone names from the



Around the 1950s, the land that would become the Saint-Louis-de-France parish a few years later was occupied by many farms, several villas, and Borden's Dairy, an industrial dairy. The company, situated where rue Jean-Royer and rue Vigneault are currently found, was first opened in 1910 by James Corrigan. The business operated in the area until the building was demolished to build houses around 1978. Meanwhile, part of Corrigan's land was sold in 1929 to the Transcontinental airline company to open an airfield in the region. The road seen in this photo—which would become rue Corrigan—was laid out in the 1930s, as a path to three hangars built by the airline.

Aerial view of the Bois-Gomin Airport, 1937. Fonds W. B. Edwards inc., Archives de la Ville de Québec, P012-N019086.

city's toponymy. Whereas the English names of 33 places in present-day Quebec City were supplanted by French names between 1890 and 1950, only seven were modified during the 1950s and only five between 1960 and 1990. By contrast, only a very small portion of the numerous streets opened during the last two decades of the 20th century were given a name connected with the anglophone community's history. The prevailing Quebecois nationalism led to forefronting names that recall French Canadian history.

Conclusion

The evolution of the toponymy associated with the anglophone community of Quebec is closely tied to the community's history. It followed its establishment in the days after the Conquest, and grew during the 19th century by highlighting the British Crown, various heroes, and a number of notable local community members. Many of the English toponyms found themselves effaced to the benefit of the French Canadian community at a time when the anglophone presence in the capital was in decline. Yet, English place names experienced a resurgence with the expansion of the suburbs.

Since the beginning of the 2000s, the anglophone community has again taken on an important role within the city's toponymy. The harmonization of street names, necessitated by the merger of various municipalities, has allowed the anglophone community to catch up on some of the delay that had accumulated due to the rise of Quebec nationalism. Almost overnight, hundreds of streets needed a new name—an occasion to put forward figures from Quebec City's anglophone community who had not yet been honoured, such as businessmen Henry Howison and Frank Carrel, Dr. James Douglas, politician James Bowen, and author James Huston. Overall, some fifty new toponyms connected to the history of anglophones in Quebec City appeared between 2000 and 2010. The expansion of the city since the start of the 2000s has also provided the opportunity for new roads celebrating the memory of the city's anglophone community. One need only think of streets such as "John-Simons" in Des Châtel, "Samuel-King" in

Sainte-Foy, or "William-Wood" in Cap-Rouge. And yet, even if this catching up continues today, much work remains to be done to (re)inscribe Quebec City's anglophones within its toponymy—and above all when it comes to the women of this community. Although the names of a few anglophone women, such as Anny Power, Léa Roback, and Sophia Melvin, have recently appeared in the city's toponymy, the majority still wait to be brought out of oblivion.

– Translated by Donald A. Landes

Endnotes

1. William Faden, *Plan of the City and Environs of Quebec with its Siege and Blockade by the Americans from the 8th of December 1775 to the 13th of May 1776*, September 12, 1776, BANQ-Québec, P600,S4,SS2,D458.
2. Mgr Henri Têtu, "La rue Port Dauphin à Québec," *Bulletin des recherches historiques* 2, no. 5 (May 1896): 78.
3. John A. Dickinson, "L'anglicisation," in *Le français au Québec: 400 ans d'histoire et de vie*, ed. Michel Plourde, 2nd ed. (Montréal: Fides/Publications du Québec, 2008), 86–87.
4. Ville de Québec, *Découvrir Québec: Arrondissement de La Cité-Limoilou* (Québec: Ville de Québec, 2016), 76–81.
5. Marc Vallières, *Histoire de Québec et de sa région* (Québec: Presses de l'Université Laval, 2008), 1818.
6. Jean-François Caron, *Curiosités de Québec*, vol. 3 (Québec: Les Éditions GID, 2021), 106–7. ■

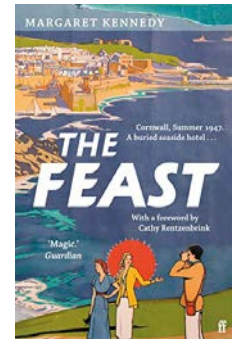
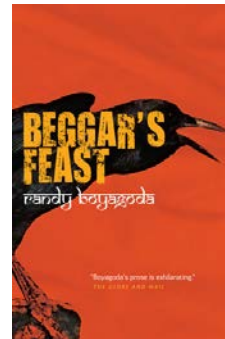
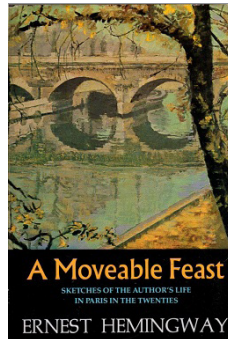
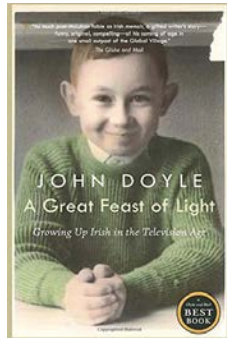
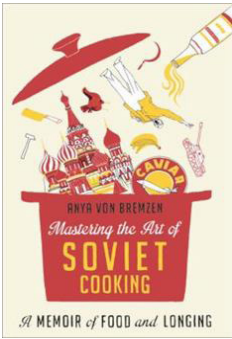


ENTENTE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT CULTUREL

VILLE DE
QUÉBEC  **Québec** 

On the Shelf: It's Time for Autumn Feasts

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden



“On the Shelf”—a recurring thematic review of some interesting, important, or just entertaining books in the Library of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec.

When there is a chill in the air, when the leaves begin to change colour, and when apples and pumpkins appear at the roadside markets, Lit & Hist members' thoughts turn to fall feasts, from Thanksgiving to the Literary Feast. So, it should come as no surprise that feasts figure large in the Library's collection.

A quick check of the Library's “on the shelf” and e-book catalogues for the word “feast” unearthed many titles, some directly related to food that nourishes the body, and still more related to food for the mind and food for the soul.

Les hors d'œuvres: Memoirs Make Perfect Appetizers

Who could resist tasting a book entitled *Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Love & Longing* (2013)? Culinary writer Anya Von Bremzen takes readers places where few Lit & Hist members have ever been.

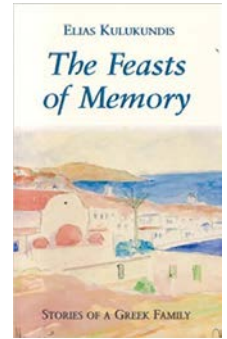
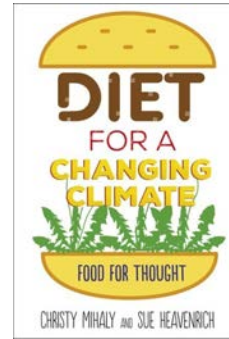
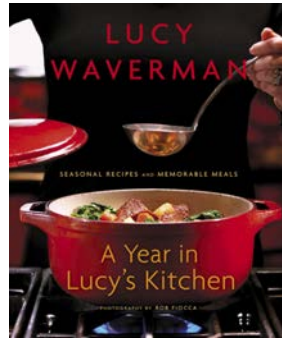
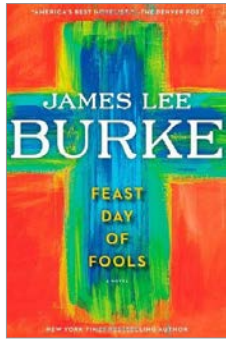
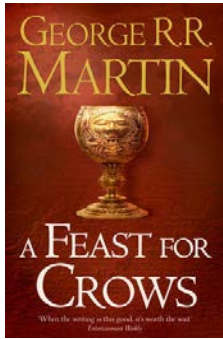
Another enticing title is *A Great Feast of Light: Growing Up Irish in the Television Age* (2005) by John Doyle. In the 1960s, television brought new, exciting (and very foreign, even risqué) ideas into the homes of the Emerald Isle.

Paris in the 1920s was where many writers cut their teeth or honed their craft. Ernest Hemingway's memoir, *A Movable Feast* (1964), takes readers into the city's salons, streets, and cafés to meet the likes of F. Scott Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, and a very young Hemingway himself.

Le plat principal: Fiction to Feed On

Fiction is the Library's main course, and there are many choices on the menu, indeed.

Beggar's Feast (2011), a novel by Randy Boyagoda, takes readers to Ceylon, Singapore, and Australia and takes the main character from poverty to plenty. *The Feast* by Margaret Kennedy (1949) is a tale of disaster in a seaside Cornwall community, and although it was penned more than seventy years ago, it still garners reviews and commentary. Maybe that is because it deals with the seven deadly sins—isn't one of them gluttony? *A Feast of True Fandangles* (1979) is a collection of amusing articles by Patrick Campbell.



Fantasy fiction may be to the taste of some readers. Try *A Feast for Crows* (2005), book four of the *Song of Ice and Fire* series by George R.R. Martin. For dessert, there is the companion novel, *A Dance with Dragons* (2011).

As always, James Lee Burke fills his pages with characters good, bad, and complex. Set in a small Texas border town, *Feast Day of Fools* (2011) is another main course from this master storyteller. *Skeleton at the Feast* by Patricia Hall (2002) serves up missing people, an unsolved crime, and police procedure, while *The Feast of St. Dionysus* by Robert Silverberg (1973) puts five short science fiction stories on the plate.

Le plateau de fromage: Three Choices are Always Appreciated

The word feast brings to mind more than single recipes or even a special meal; it is entwined with culture, tradition, and sensual memories of sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. Readers have a choice of titles to savour.

A Year in Lucy's Kitchen (2009) by Lucy Waverman is more than a cookbook. With recipes that follow the calendar, Waverman brings an array of Canada's culinary delights to the table. About her book *Poor Man's Feast: A Love Story of Comfort, Desire, and the Art of Simple Cooking* (2013), author Elissa Altman writes that it is about, among other things, "simplicity in the face of the tarted-up" and "kindness in the face of the rude." In *Scheherazade's Feasts: Foods of the Medieval Arab World* (2013), cookbook author

Habeeb Salloum and his two historian daughters, Muna Salloum and Leila Salloum Elinas, bring recipes and culinary traditions dating back as far as the thirteenth century to the dining tables of today.

Un festin supplémentaire: Going Back a Second Helping

It is also possible to "feast" on the Library's virtual collection. Readers may try tasting (or sipping) books beyond those that feature recipes.

The Art of Eating (2020) by M.F.K. Fisher offers a taste of what one reviewer called "wit and fulsome opinions," while *Diet for a Changing Climate: Food for Thought* (2018), by Christy Mihaly and Sue Heavenrich, cuts to the marrow of current issues. Naben Ruthnum's 2017 book has three items on its menu: *Curry: Eating, Reading, and Race*. A feast often includes something served in a glass. Victoria James' memoir, *Wine Girl: The Trials and Triumphs of America's Youngest Sommelier* (2020), may suit readers who prefer red, white, or rosé.

Les desserts: Always Something Special

The Library's Special Collections contains volumes about times past and places far away. In *The Land of Feast and Famine* (1933), Norwegian Helge Ingstad wrote about the four years he spent hunting and trapping in Canada's Far North. With *The Feast of Memory: Stories of a Greek Family* (1967), author Elias Kulukundis takes readers with him as he sets out to learn about his ancestors' lives and culture.

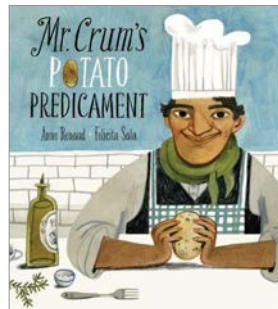
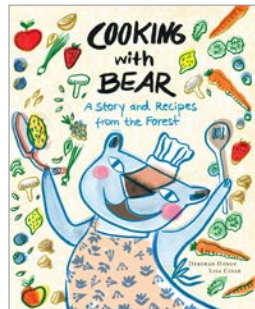
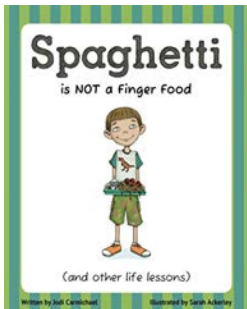
Le menu pour enfants: For Younger Readers

The Library can satisfy the literary appetite of younger readers, too.

Spaghetti is NOT a Finger Food (and other life lessons) (2013) by Jodi Carmichael, and illustrated by Sarah Ackerley, will appeal to eight-year-olds (and even adults) who identify with Connor, the main character.

In *Cooking with Bear: A Story and Recipes for the Forest* (2019), by author Deborah Hodge and illustrator Lisa Cinar, Bear and his friend Fox cook up a feast.

Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament (2017), written by Anne Renaud and illustrated by Felicita Sala, is the true story of the chef George Crum, who is credited with creating the potato chip, way back in the 1850s. ■



The Library is now open for in-person services for members. Our book pick-up services are also continuing. Please visit morrin.org for more details.

Head of Library and Collections, Kathleen Hulley, is available to provide advice on how to access the e-book and audiobook collections. She may be contacted at kathleenhulley@morrin.org.

Pixels & Pages: The Morrin Centre's Online Book Club



Interested in discussing literature with other book lovers?
Missing connecting over books in the Library?

Come join the Morrin Centre's new online book club,

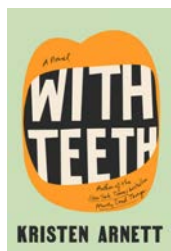
Pixels & Pages!

We're launching the book club this fall.

Please email library@morrin.org to learn more or to sign up!

New Aquisitions

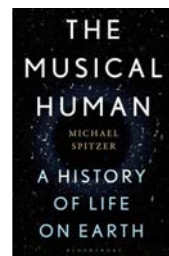
Here are some of the new titles in the Library's collection. Reserve your Library visit at morrin.org now to come borrow some of these books in person!



With Teeth
Kristen Arnett
Fiction
A748 2021



How Much of these Hills is Gold
C. Pam Zhang
Fiction
Z63 2020



The Musical Human
Michael Spitzer
Non-Fiction
780.9 S761



The Italian Teacher
Tom Rachman
Fiction
R119 2018



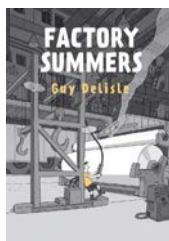
Parwana
Durkhanai Ayubi
Non-Fiction (Cookbook)
641.59 A989



Maya's Big Scene
Isabelle Arsenault
Junior Picture
JP ARS 2021



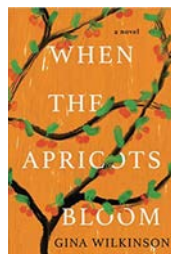
A Theater for Dreamers
Polly Samson
Fiction
S193 2020



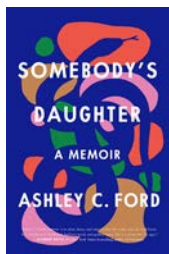
Factory Summers
Guy Delisle
Graphic Novel/Bio
GN D354 2021



When We Are Kind
Monique Gray Smith
Junior Picture
JP GRA 2020



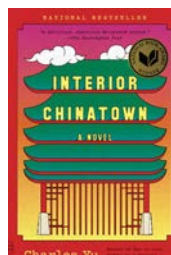
When the Apricots Bloom
Gina Wilkinson
Fiction
W686 2021



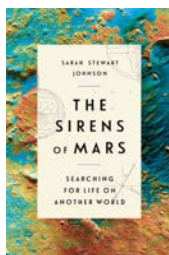
Somebody's Daughter
Ashley C. Ford
Biography
BIO F699 2021



After the Fall
Dan Santat
Junior Picture
JP SAN 2017



Interior Chinatown
Charles Yu
Fiction
Y94 2020



The Sirens of Mars
Sarah Stewart Johnson
Non-Fiction
576.839 J69

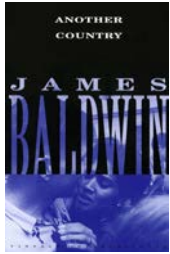


Burt the Beetle Doesn't Bite
Ashley Spire
Junior Non-Fiction
JP SPI 2021

What's New on OverDrive

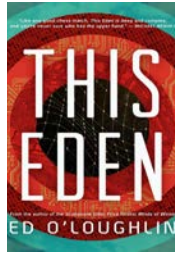
Here are some of the new e-book and audiobook titles now available. Log in to the Morrin Centre's OverDrive system at morrin.overdrive.com with your membership card to check out our latest acquisitions.

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



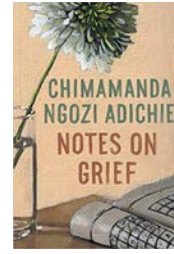
Another Country

James Baldwin
Fiction



This Eden

Ed O'Loughlin
Fiction



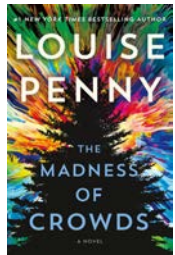
Notes on Grief

Chimamanda Ngozi
Adichie
Non-Fiction



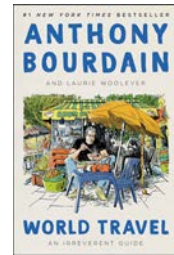
Tilly and the Crazy Eights *

Monique Gray Smith
Fiction



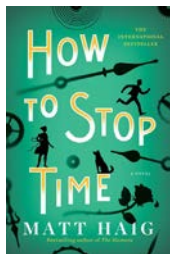
The Madness of Crowds *

Louise Penny
Fiction



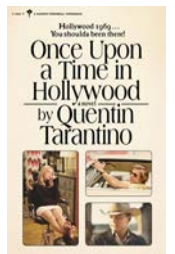
World Travel *

Anthony Bourdain
Non-Fiction



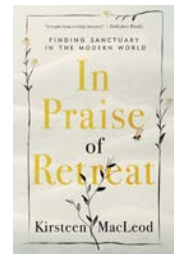
How to Stop Time

Matt Haig
Fiction



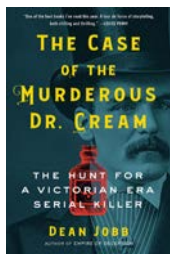
Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Quentin Tarantino
Fiction



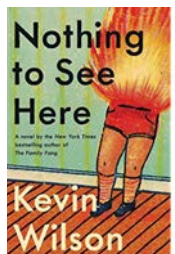
In Praise of Retreat

Kirsteen MacLeod
Non-Fiction



The Case of the Murderous Dr. Cream

Dean Jobb
Fiction



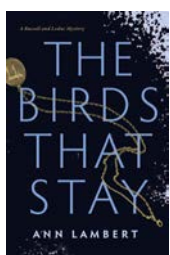
Nothing to See Here

Kevin Wilson
Fiction



Unravelling Canada: A Knitting Odyssey *

Sylvia Olsen
Non-Fiction



The Birds that Stay *

Ann Lambert
Fiction



The Consequences of Fear *

Jacqueline Winspear
Fiction



Glenn Gould: A Life Off Tempo

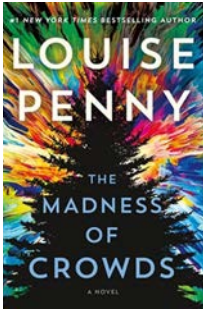
Sandrine Revel
Graphic Novel/Bio

Book Reviews

The Madness of Crowds

by Louise Penny

Book review by Gail Cameron



This is Louise Penny's 17th novel featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. I will be straightforward: I am a fan and have read every one of her novels! That said, I can still be objective. I felt that there was more here than a murder mystery and that the author added another layer into the mix.

In *The Madness of Crowds*, we find ourselves in Three Pines just before the New Year's Eve celebrations. Inspector Gamache is asked to provide security for a controversial lecturer at a local university. Abigail Robinson promotes eugenics and euthanasia to solve the increasing problems in health care. As a speaker, she is very provocative because of her views on selective treatments. The Inspector tries to get the event cancelled, but to no avail. Her stances divide and cause people to take sides. Chaos and madness ensue. An attempt is made on her life. But by whom? The New Year's celebrations lead to murder. Who was the intended victim? Was it a case of mistaken identity? Multiple suspects are questioned. Who had motive and opportunity? Gamache's team puts their heads together to get to the bottom of it. Old secrets and wounds are revealed.

We can count on our usual characters—Reine-Marie, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, Isabelle Lacoste, Clara, Myrna, Ruth, and Gabri—to add perspective and humanity to the situation. *The Madness of Crowds* is also quite timely. Penny said that she had started writing the novel before the pandemic but needed to acknowledge it in some way. Obviously, she couldn't have foreseen our actual situation now! Penny addresses the problem of selective health care for the elderly, people with disabilities, and newborns with significant health issues. She also raises issues about cost and efficiency in the health care system. This will certainly resonate

with her readers on many levels. These are serious questions for today's society: Whom do we prioritize? Whom do we treat? Whom do we set aside? What choices are we comfortable with? Who should we allow to make those choices? I'm glad to see that we are confronted with the famous "what ifs?" In the end, we must find a way to collectively believe that, "All will be well...*ça va bien aller*."

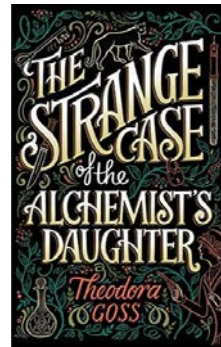
Enjoy and reflect!

The Madness of Crowds (Minotaur Books, 2021).

The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter

by Theodora Goss

Book review by Melissa Wan



What legacy did Dr. Jekyll leave behind? Is Mr. Hyde still alive? What really transpired between the half-finished Puma woman and Dr. Moreau on his beastly island? How poisonous was Rappaccini's daughter's breath, and did Dr. Frankenstein really kill his female creation?

In *The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter* by Theodora Goss, Mary Jekyll, Dr. Jekyll's daughter, is struggling to make ends meet some years after the death of her mother. A generous reward for finding Mr. Hyde sends her off on a journey to uncover the location of her late father's strange business partner. Soon, she is picking up crumbs of information about a secret society, the scientists who were part of it, and the experiments they performed. With the help of a detective from 221B Baker Street, she meanders along the paths of mystery-solving that lead her to extraordinary women whom she cannot turn her back on.

If you have ever imagined different endings or

continuations of the classic Gothic stories you have read (or just wanted more female representations in those stories), this book is a delight to read. While I am not a fan of the practice of interrupting a narrative to let the characters chime in throughout a story, the ways the characters and their personal stories are portrayed make up for this. I particularly enjoyed Justine Frankenstein's story and the juxtaposition of her gentle nature with her "monstrosity." This is by no means a literary piece of work, but rather, a dynamic read about women with particularly uncommon traits solving crimes, having each other's backs, and forming a sisterhood.

A fun book with vibrant characters—best devoured as the days get shorter and the leaves turn.

The Strange Case of the Alchemist's Daughter (Simon & Schuster, 2017).



The Pirates Next Door

by Jonny Duddle

Book review by Estelle Nicholas



The Pirates Next Door, written by Jonny Duddle, is a children's book that touches on interesting subjects and is filled with wonderful and eccentric characters.

It tells the story of

Matilda, a young girl who lives in the peaceful town of Dull-on-Sea. The town is filled with tourists in summer, but is almost completely empty in winter, with Matilda's only neighbors being a few older town residents.

Nothing exciting ever happens in Dull-on-Sea; everything is predictable and boring. Things change, however, the day a family of pirates takes over the house next door to Matilda's, with their ship, cannons, and treasure chests! The oldest boy of the family is Matilda's age, and she is so delighted to finally have a friend to play with. Even though he's a pirate and his activities may seem a bit unconventional, she still loves

the breath of fresh salty air that he brings to the town.

The rest of the town, including Matilda's parents, are sadly unimpressed with the pirate family. Everyone has something critical to say about them. For some, it is that their ship spoils the view; for others, they are not taking care of their garden properly and are only digging holes to bury treasure chests. Some even say that they're too dirty and that their clothing is strange. Matilda can't understand why everyone judges the pirate family so harshly when no one has taken the time to talk to them.

Will the pirates ever manage to get the townspeople to accept them the way they are? Will they adapt their eccentric lifestyle to something more suitable in the eyes of the land dwellers? Follow Matilda and her pirate friend in this beautifully illustrated story as they make their way through judgments and prejudices—and try to open people's minds to accepting change.

This is a wonderful story to teach children about how changes and differences might sometimes seem scary, but that welcoming it all with an open mind and acceptance is the best thing to do. The illustrations are lovely and the book's pacing is good, making the reader want to learn more about the endearing characters. Don't hesitate to pick up *The Pirates Next Door* and go on an adventure with them—you won't regret it!

The Pirates Next Door (Templar Books, 2012).



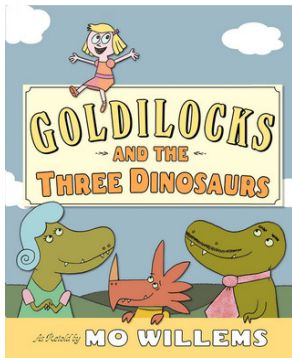
Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs

by Mo Willems

Book review by Caoline Prévost-Levac

Parents and children who attend our weekly Storytime activities know that I'll often start a reading with a statement inherently contradictory due to its excessive repetition: "Today, we are reading one of my favourite books!"

I suppose my summers as a camp counselor for 13-year-olds may well have etched in my mind the



need to always oversell the fun in any activity. (Stop that eye roll right now! Stop it!)

It may thus come as no surprise that today's book is one of my absolute favourites. The real shocker? It's actually true this time!

Let's take a look at this oh-so-special book that catapulted Mo Willems to the status of "favourite children's author," dethroning even literary giants such as Robert Munsch and Jory John in my heart.

With most books I read out loud, I have to rehearse beforehand. I think of the voices, practice the rhythm, and prepare how to deliver the jokes effectively. *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*, however, is one of those books you can open for the first time and expect a hit.

Hilarity is guaranteed with all children, *and* with adults. Every time I read it to my niece, I can expect her mom's unexpected laughter erupting from the next

room as she attempts to fold her laundry in peace. The offbeat humour *will* get you, no matter what.

With the very first page, this ridiculous retelling of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* kicks off with transparent irony: "Once upon a time, there were three dinosaurs: Papa Dinosaur, Mama Dinosaur, and some other dinosaur who happened to be visiting from Norway."

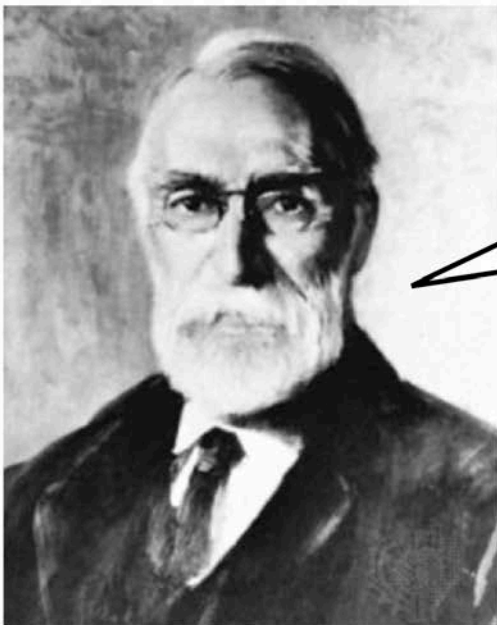
One day, after making their beds, placing their chairs just so, and preparing three bowls of delicious chocolate pudding at different temperatures, they leave the house to go... umm... SOMEPLACE ELSE! Certainly not in the hopes of attracting an unsupervised little girl passing by.

You may already be familiar with Mo Willem's better-known Pigeon character and his Elephant & Piggie series, but the more obscure *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs* may well be this author's best-kept secret. Worth a read with the entire family.

Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs (Balzer + Bray, 2012).



In the Library Report of 1873, James Douglas, Jr. warned...



"Two thousand one hundred and eight volumes have been borrowed by members from the Library, but unfortunately a like number has not been returned. It will be necessary for the Council to enforce such penalties as the bylaws prescribe against members who persistently neglect, not only the Library rules, but the appeals made in writing by the Librarian to return borrowed books."

Although we've come a long way from needing such stern warnings, there are still occasionally long-overdue books missing from the library! Please be sure to return your books on time, or renew them online or via email.

| Events & Activities

Arts Alive! Quebec 2021

A Recap

By Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron

Hosting a festival always comes, unsurprisingly, with a huge amount of work before, during, and even after the festival itself. But, I'm not going to lie, it's part of the pleasure of putting together such an event. For months, the Morrin Centre staff was hard at work booking artists, reserving materials, arranging surprises, and securing partnerships. During the week leading up to the festival, so many of us were back in the building to help prepare that we were a little confused! Still, we managed to get everything ready in time for our sixth Arts Alive! Quebec festival.

On Friday, September 17, we launched the festival with the delightful tunes of Rob Lutes, accompanied by Rob MacDonald, followed by Cécile Doo-Kingué, accompanied by Anthony Pageot and Jo Lorgis. Throughout the evening, as the public and passersby were rocked by the masterful playing of our musicians, painter Maud Besson stood next to the stage and created a painting inspired by the live music.

The atmosphere on the Chaussée des Écossais was just perfect. The warm glow of dozens of little lights that hung over the musicians, paired with the array of people sitting on the ground, benches, steps, and anywhere they could find, was comforting, like laying in a field mid-summer to watch the stars—peaceful, warm, and making you feel like part of a whole.

Despite fears of rain, the second day of the festival started under an auspiciously cloudless sky. The morning's Storytime event had the Chaussée dotted

with colorful cushions for participants, while artisans and artists took over the Chaussée in the afternoon, filling it with beautiful wares and delicious smells.

With two jewellers (Sastá



Maud Besson with her Arts Alive! Quebec painting
Arts Alive! Quebec 2021

Creations and Carolyn Kiley), a soapmaker (La Danse des Savons), two painters (AJ Artworks and Maud Besson), the owner of Coeur de Mailles, and a Morrin Centre table with Morrin bags and cowls, everyone could find something to their taste in our artisan fair.

Alongside the fair, a family activity ran throughout the whole afternoon: an artistic treasure hunt. Many participants, young and less young, embarked upon an adventure, going through a series of puzzles and challenges to find out just which artist had been leaving paintings around!

Additional activities were peppered throughout the day: Rob Lutes presented a musical guided tour of North American musical history; the Duo ABCD (Amélie Brière and Célian Davy) captivated us with amusing circus acts; the cast of the Quebec Art Company's production of *Hair* performed a surprise medley from their upcoming show; and Randall Spear concluded the festival with a fantastic, hour-long concert.

All in all, the sixth Arts Alive! Quebec festival was quite a success! ■



Canada 

QUEBECOR



Upcoming Events: General Public



So the Story Goes is a series of activities showcasing different forms of storytelling, from picture books to music and Indigenous storytelling. The project explores different forms of storytelling important to Quebec's Anglophone community and the events will allow participants to experiment with many ways to tell stories.

Each event includes a short demonstration of the presented storytelling form, followed by a workshop during which the guest(s) guide(s) the participants in applying their new knowledge in a practical way.

June 23	Traditional Quebec Storyteller
September 14	Youth Event - Book Illustrations
September 15	Picture Book Illustrations
September 22	Graphic Novel
October 6	Song
October 13	Indigenous Storyteller



Are you a member? Are you available on Saturday, October 23? Then this event is for you! Come enjoy a variety of activities as we celebrate our Morrin Centre members.

With a Halloween-themed Storytime for children (ages 3 to 7), special tours with the Promenades Fantômes, spooky stories for adults, costume contests, and our annual beer tasting workshop, the day promises to be full of exciting activities! All events are FREE, though some of them have a limited number of tickets available, so reserve your spot today.

To learn more about the day's schedule, the various activities, and the registration process, please visit our website at morrin.org/membersday2021.

If you would like to participate in this event but are not a yet member, what are you waiting for? Visit morrin.org/members right away!



The Morrin Centre's Online Book Club: *Pixels & Pages*

Interested in discussing literature with other book lovers? Missing connecting over books in the Library? Come join *Pixels & Pages*, the Morrin Centre's new online book club that we're launching this fall.

Please email library@morrin.org to learn more or to sign up!

Upcoming Events: Youth Events



Storytime Online is a literacy program for children ages 3 to 7. Each activity begins with the reading of a story followed by a craft inspired by the week's theme. Our objective is to foster children's love of reading by providing fun, interactive activities that will encourage them to continue reading after each session.

All these sessions are free and take place on Zoom, every Saturday from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

October 2	<i>Dragons Love Tacos</i>
October 9	<i>Georgia's Terrific, Colorific Experiment</i>
October 16	<i>You Matter</i>
October 23	<i>Frank Was a Monster Who Wanted to Dance</i>
October 30	<i>Scaredy Cat, Splat!</i>
November 6	<i>Mouse's First Snow</i>
November 13	<i>Miss Hazeltine's House for Shy and Fearful Cats</i>
November 20	<i>The Sad Little Fact</i>
November 27	<i>Think Big!</i>
December 4	<i>There Are No Bears in this Bakery</i>
December 11	<i>Tanna's Owl</i>
December 18	<i>Sneezy the Snowman</i>



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. Each week, we will explore different scientific or artistic themes. This program aims to promote creativity, critical thinking, and perseverance, all the while encouraging children to continue reading science-related books after each session.

All these sessions are free and take place on Zoom, every Tuesday evening from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

October 5	Science: Plastic and Pollution + Guest
October 12	Art: Hole Punch Art
October 19	Engineering: Lava Lamp
October 26	Science: Synthetic Biology + Guest
November 2	Science: Static Electricity
November 9	Art: Scratch Art
November 16	Engineering Challenge
November 23	Science & Engineering Workshop + Guest
November 30	Art: Bracelets
December 7	Science: Artificial Snow
December 14	Art: Paper Weaving

Broaden Your Horizons: 2021 Book Quest Wrap Up

By Estelle Nicholas

Book Quest was back this summer for a 17th year, with weekly activities for both children ages 3 to 7 and ages 8 to 12. Book Quest is a literacy program, in partnership with the TD Summer Reading Club, that fosters children's love for reading by providing fun, interactive activities throughout the summer season.

This summer's theme was *Broaden Your Horizons*, which allowed us to touch upon many diverse subjects. Children could explore space, discover music, learn about diversity and tolerance as well as the joys of creativity. More than 60 children participated in our fun-filled activities!

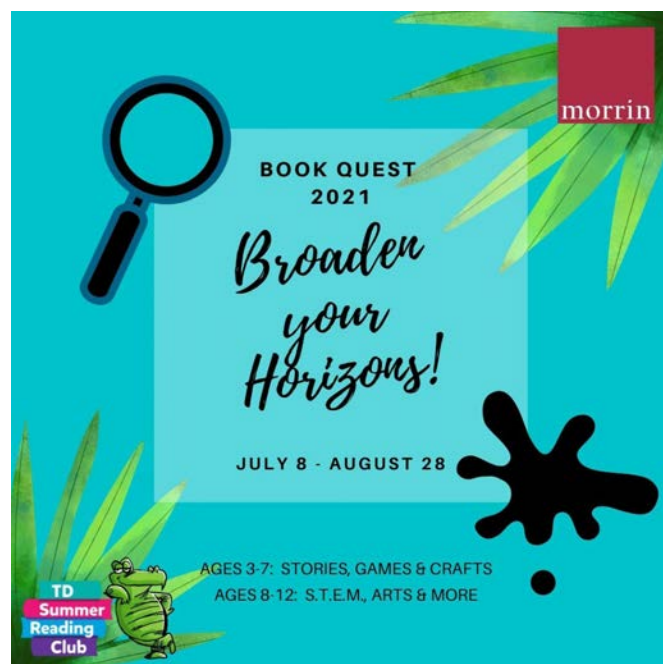
Although all sessions took place online, our youngest readers were not deterred from enjoying a good book during Storytime on Saturday mornings, while our older explorers carried out many scientific and artistic experiments with the S.T.E.A.M Club on Thursday evenings. We offered a total of 16 activities over eight weeks, from July 8 to August 28, including a closing party during which gifts from our generous sponsors were given to participants.

With the activity bags provided to participating families, everyone could follow along and participate, despite the challenge of an online environment. A few creative approaches were also taken. For instance, when our S.T.E.A.M Club participants built an obstacle course inside of their homes, children improvised with what they could find around them. After much laughter and many genius ideas, everyone proudly showed off their obstacle course and how fast they could get through it, sharing tips and tricks amongst themselves.

Our younger participants also had a lot of fun with the stories, games, and crafts during Storytime. One of the highlights of this season was when we read *Spork*, a beautiful book written by Kyo Maclear and

illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault. This story about a little utensil—half-spoon, half-fork—trying to find its place in the cutlery world was appreciated by all of our young readers, who then proceeded to proudly show off the weirdest piece of cutlery that they had at home. However, it was probably the craft that followed that was the most enjoyable for everyone, since it involved making an adorable little sheep out of a styrofoam ball, toothpicks, and marshmallows. Let's just say that the workshop was spent both creating AND savoring said creation!

For the closing party, gifts were won by some lucky participants thanks to our generous sponsors. These included Canyon Sainte-Anne, the Aquarium de Québec, and La Maison Anglaise. We would like to thank both our sponsors for their support and our participating families for making this season a memorable one. We hope to see you all again next summer! ■



An Interview with ELAN'S Guy Rex Rodgers

Interview by Barry McCullough

Back in the spring, the Morrin Centre's executive director, Barry McCullough, sat down virtually over a beer with Guy Rex Rodgers, the outgoing executive director of the English Language Arts Network (ELAN), to talk about his work with ELAN, how he made it to Montreal from Australia, and what his future holds. Here is an edited version of that conversation.

Barry McCullough: *I know you were born in Canada and then went to Australia. Tell us a little bit about your path from Canada to Australia and back again.*

Guy Rex Rodgers: I was a very shy child and as I was getting to the end of elementary school, I decided that I was not going to be shy anymore, that I wanted to be outgoing and gregarious. But the pecking order had been established. And people didn't want me to be anything more than I was. I realized, in a naive way—I hadn't yet studied pecking order psychology—that, I'm going to have a hard time redeveloping my personality with the same gang of people that I'm going to go off to high school with. So, I started asking my parents, "Can we move somewhere?" Then a series of remarkable things happened that summer. When I was an infant, my parents had bought a large piece of land in Burnaby, which had become quite valuable for sub-dividers. Somebody made them a tempting offer on the piece of land and they accepted. My father had always wanted to go to Australia for

some weird reason. So out of the blue, my parents sold the piece of land and the house, and they bought tickets to Australia. And I thought, "My prayers have been answered. There is a God!"

I got to go to Australia and completely reinvent myself. It was extraordinary.



Guy Rex Rodgers with his family. Burnaby, B.C., 1959

BM: *That's an incredible opportunity that most kids don't get. Where in Australia did you settle?*

GR: We started off in Sydney, but my parents wanted something more exotic. They got a chance to move out into rural New South Wales. Not quite the outback, but out on the dry western tablelands. I spent my last three years of high school there. My parents loved it. My brothers loved it. I hated it.

BM: *And so from there you went off to university? Where and what did you study?*

GR: Sydney was the capital city, so that's where I went. I was always interested in larger-than-life questions. I wanted to study science, because I thought that

science could explain a lot of things, like the origins of the universe, the origins of consciousness. So I went off to study science, and in first-year science all they want to do is teach formulas about mathematics. Nobody

wanted to talk philosophy. The subject choices did not even touch on questions that interested me. So, I found some friends at university who were interested in metaphysical and religious issues, and then I had a crisis of faith with science in that I had a feeling that it couldn't answer the questions I was most interested in. The answers lay elsewhere.

After my first year of university, I went home to the country. And I was on a different planet than everybody else since everyone there was still interested in drinking beer and hanging out. And I was really asking these questions about the meaning of life. One night I couldn't sleep. I had a car because I used to drive back and forth from Sydney to the country, and I decided to go for a drive just to clear my head. I got in the car, drove for a few miles, and saw these two hitchhikers in the shade of a gum tree. They both had really long hair and dreadlocks. I stopped and said, "Where are you going?" And they said, "Perth." That was on the other side of the country. I said, "I've got about five bucks in my pocket, enough to take you to the next town, buy some gas, and go back."

But we got to talking and I took them all the way to Perth. We arrived there just before Christmas. And all of their family was there. And they were puzzled, as if a taxi driver invited himself to stay for the holidays. They asked, "What's with this guy?" I had no money to buy any gifts. I didn't know anybody. I felt completely out of place, but I didn't want to go back to New South Wales. So, I drove south along the Indian Ocean coast until I found a totally isolated beach. I decided I was going to sit on the beach until I discovered if there is or isn't a meaning to life. The family in Perth had given me some provisions to make the trip back to New South Wales: canned food, dried biscuits, etc. I had enough food for about a week, and some tobacco and a few beers. I figured I could survive on this remote beach for about a week.

I had a burlap sack for a makeshift tent. I didn't have a sleeping bag, but it was summer, so it was plenty warm. I just sat on the beach, watching the tide come in, watching the sun go up, watching the tide go out, watching the moon go up for days. And at the end of the six days, I had a phenomenal religious experience. Now whether

it was induced by the environment, the situation, I don't know, but I had this profound religious experience that there actually is a God, that there actually is a meaning to life, that there actually is a purpose. And this life is a great opportunity, if you know what to do with it. And so that was the beginning of sending my life in a whole different direction, one that ultimately ended up bringing me back to Canada, that ultimately led to me working in community development, inspired by questions about how communities work together to create something that brings out the best in human beings.

BM: *How did you make your way back to Canada and to working in the arts?*

GR: By way of Germany. Berlin at the time seemed like a really cool place. It was counterculture. It was all the things that I was interested in. Since I was born in Canada, I planned travel to Germany via a visit to Canada. I flew into Vancouver. My mother has eight siblings, so I had a lot of relatives to visit. On the very first day that I was in Vancouver, there was an ad in the *Vancouver Sun* for a brand new playwriting course at the National Theatre School of Canada, which was situated in Montreal. Because I had done music and poetry, the idea of writing using music, poetry, and musical theater seemed like an interesting transition towards some sort of a literary adventure. As I was visiting my relatives in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, etc., I worked on a portable typewriter and wrote a play. This was pre-laptop days, of course. I zipped across to Montreal for the deadline, and I came up to the office of the theatre school on Saint-Denis Street. I presented my play, and they said, "You never thought of just putting a stamp on it? Nobody hand delivers their script!"

There were hundreds of people applying. The school was only going to only see a shortlist of a few people and they wanted to know where they could reach me should I be among the chosen few. I didn't have an address. I didn't have a phone. I didn't have anything stable. So, I looked through their schedule. They were going to be in Manitoba three or four weeks later. I had skipped over Manitoba in my rush to meet the deadline and I had a lot of relatives there. I gave the school five phone numbers in Manitoba and said, "If you call me during

this period, we should be able to connect."

I went back to Manitoba to visit my grandmother and some of my aunts and uncles, and lo and behold, I got a phone call from the National Theatre School wanting to interview me. I met them in Winnipeg. We had a very good conversation and they liked the play. Although, oddly enough, they were fascinated by the "voice" I had adopted for the characters. The attention-grabbing voice was simply the way they talk in Australia. It was nothing particularly fresh, but it was enough to get their attention. And they told me that my writing reminded them of Chekhov, which I thought was pretty interesting considering I was writing about a hardscrabble outback environment, not the genteel café society of Moscow.

This was April 1980, and, since they had other people to meet still, they asked where they could reach me over the summer. I had no idea where I would be, so they asked me to call them at the end of June. I continued on my trip, spent my summer in Europe, and phoned them from Dublin on the appointed date. Remember, in those days you had to put money into the public phones. I had about five pounds worth of coins. The person on the other end said, "We don't know the answer to that question. We'll go find someone who does." So, I was sitting there, feeding money into the machine until they finally found someone who said, "Yes, Mr. Rodgers, you've been accepted to the National Theatre School." I was down to my last two shilling coin.

And that's how I ended up in Montreal.



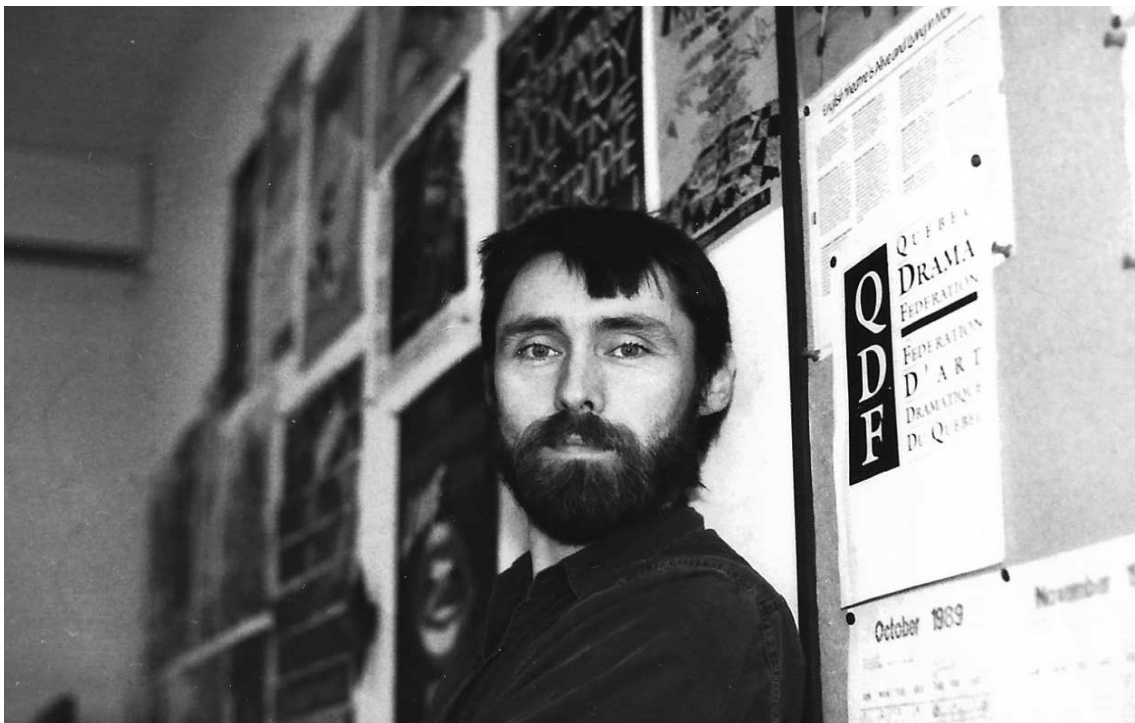
Guy Rex Rodgers, Montreal, 1980

BM: *You have been involved with so many arts and culture groups over the past 40 years, including being at the helm of ELAN for nearly 17 years. What would you say is the thing you're proudest of during that time?*

GR: The thing that I'm proudest of is creating a community. And more than just the artistic community, ELAN went to great lengths to build regional connections with organizations like the Morrin Centre. I made great personal efforts to connect with all of the regional associations that are part of the English-speaking community. Building those links doesn't happen naturally, but by creating an environment where information can flow and people can trust one another, positive things happen. That's significant. And that goes right back to my initial vision of why I wanted to do this work. It was not about the arts, *per se*.

The arts is something that is personally important to me, but had I been interested in social work, the focus could have just as easily have been that. I have worked at building this community and also knocking down some of the walls between the old anglophone and francophone solitudes, undoing some of the myths.

The *Waves of Change* project that I'm currently working on now is all about identity and belonging. ELAN is a very large, demanding organization, and I really didn't have the time during my last year as executive director to personally direct the project, but it was important to me to do it because of the stories people had to tell. We hit upon the idea of analyzing waves of immigration, because clearly, if your family has been here for generations or centuries, you have a different sense of belonging than if you've been here a decade or two, or a shorter period



Guy Rex Rodgers, Executive Director, Quebec Drama Federation, 1989

of time. We stratified the English-speaking community by waves of immigration, and then broke it down into where those waves came from: Asia, South America, Europe, Africa. It gets down to a level of granularity that no one's ever done before. It's not just statistics; it's *real* people telling *real* stories about their lives. This is turning into my post-ELAN project, and it's becoming almost a full-time job. We're finishing off the six videos, but then there's a feature-length documentary to create. There are many places where we can screen episodes in order to engage a public discussion about them. There will also be versions with French subtitles so we can stimulate a dialogue between the two communities.

What I'm proudest of, though, is engaging in a meaningful dialogue between people, a dialogue that has actually changed the environment over the years. Not so much because of specific projects, although I could point to specific activities as building blocks, but it's more of an energy.

BM: *Like an overall philosophy?*

GR: Yes. And that all ties back to the mystical experience that I had on the Indian Ocean in Western Australia: "Yes, there is a meaning to life. Life is valuable, it is

important, and good things can come of it." And there have been times in my life when things have happened that were so extraordinary that I thought, "If there was a God, an intervening God, who is going to do good things in people's lives, that's exactly what he would do." Now, there are other possible explanations, but it is fact that good things can happen, and that the world can be a better place by people trusting one another and by working together and collaborating. If you look at my library back here, there's a whole shelf on human behavior: the old theories about conflict, survival of the fittest, a bunch of recent research on why cooperation actually is much more a part of successful evolution than competition and why we are a successful species because of our capacity to cooperate. And wherever we cooperate, that is where we are the most successful. So that's really what I have tried to do in my life—to put these ideas into practice and experiment with them.

BM: *Even though you're stepping down as executive director, you'll continue working on projects for ELAN on projects such as Waves of Change. How many episodes will there be in the project?*

GR: We made five episodes based on waves of



Waves of Change Group



Interview over Zoom with Guy Rex Rodgers

immigration, but if there's one thing I've learned over the years, it is that the Quebec's English-speaking community is not just Montreal. So, the sixth episode is about people living in the regions. It's really about: What does it mean to be an anglo living outside Montreal? We have people in it from West Quebec, the Eastern Townships, the Gaspé, the Magdalen Islands, Baie-Comeau, and the Lower North Shore. It's a really diverse and interesting group. Since we were doing this in a time of Covid, very few older people were willing to come into the studio, so we ended up getting mostly young people. Most of them left home because they had to for studies, but would go back if they could, although economically it's difficult. So, the sixth episode is entirely about the regional identity of being an anglo Quebecker. I think it is going to be an eye opener for a lot of people.

BM: *We often hear in Quebec City, "Oh, je savais pas qu'il y avait des anglos à Québec!"*

GR: Exactly! One of the people interviewed said that whenever she goes for a job interview in Montreal, people ask: "Well, if you're from that region, why are you English?" As if there couldn't be any anglos living out there.

BM: *The Waves of Change episodes I watched were really captivating and the cinematography is very nice. It's simple, but effective. The music sets the stage and I look forward to watching the others.*

GR: They're a testimony to the power of authentic storytelling. We're not glitizing it up. I didn't layer on an editorial voice. The only editorial content is that

I chose the questions and the answers we used. We started with about two hours of interviews per group and then distilled it down to 15–20 minutes. So, there's a matter of, "What do you choose?" The storyline could have gone in many different directions. But essentially filmmaking is about finding the right people, asking them stimulating questions, and then weaving together the most interesting responses. ■

The [Waves of Change](#) videos were purchased by MATV and were broadcast on the network starting on September 21.

A French subtitled version will also be aired this winter.

The *Waves of Change* videos can be seen online at:

<https://wavesofchangequebec.ca/>



elan

english language
arts network



Meet our Museum and Exhibits Coordinator: Géraldine Franchomme



One of my oldest and fondest memories is having the whole family gathered in my grandparents' basement, looking at pictures while my grandfather narrated the trip he and my grandmother had just returned from. He would tell us about the history of the country, tell us stories about sleeping in the mountains, with rats walking over their heads, or about eating snake without knowing it. Every time they would come back from abroad, I remember impatiently waiting for an invitation to discover new photos, new stories, and new landscapes that made me dream. All his research and writings were kept in a big binder that, even 15 years after his death, my cousins and I preciousely keep in hope of digitizing it and being able to keep his memory and his work alive. At a very young age, I also inherited my father's interest

in ancient Egypt. At the age of eight, it was decided that I would be an archaeologist! Just like Howard Carter discovering Tutankhamun's tomb eighty years prior to my birth, I too would make great discoveries.

Being raised in that environment and dreaming of foreign countries, it was only natural that, when in Secondary 5, a trip to Egypt was organized by my school, I jumped at the opportunity to visit this country that had fascinated me for so many years. And a few years later, I started my bachelor's degree in archaeology at Université Laval.

Curious by nature, eager for knowledge, and an eternal student, I pursued my studies, completing a master's degree in museology, a DESS in management of cultural organizations, and, during the pandemic, a certificate in immigration and interethnic relations. My studies have led me to move around a lot, going back and forth between Gatineau, Quebec City, Montreal, and even Paris for my master's internship. My curiosity is also why I try to travel whenever possible. I still have so many countries to discover. One of my goals is to have set foot on all the inhabited continents by the time my passport expires in 2025. Only Oceania left!

When I'm not out seeing friends in other cities or at work, I can be found on climbing walls, watching Netflix series or Marvel films, in nature, or at the stove making pastries. One of my greatest pleasures? Sharing these pastries with my friends and colleagues.

It is with great pleasure, finally, that I join the Morrin Centre team as its new museum and exhibits coordinator. With my background as well as my interest in "difficult knowledge" and old buildings, I could not have found a better place to start my career. I look forward to seeing you at our institution! ■

Introduction to a Council Member: James Hughes



I was born and raised in the Saguenay to a British mother and a father of Irish descent. My maternal grandfather left his wife and his two children, which included my mother, in England while he settled north of Chicoutimi to work for the Price Company. At the Price Company, he became superintendent of their power plant at Chutes-

aux-Galets, which was under construction at the time. While he was in the bush, my maternal grandmother died of the Spanish flu in England and my mother and her brother were raised by her sister.

When the construction was complete the children were brought over by their aunt, who ended up marrying my grandfather and thus becoming the only grandmother I ever knew. Marriage was not originally in their plans but, even though they were Protestant, the local

Catholic priest insisted they could not live in the same house together if they were not married. The marriage was celebrated in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, right next to the Morrin Center.

I left Kenogami after graduating from university in 1970 and moved to Montreal, which has become my hometown. I retired from a very rewarding career in insurance after 49 years. I owned my own company, which had an interest in companies throughout the province, including Quebec City as well as the Saguenay. I even have a key to the Kenogami cemetery, where my parents and two brothers are buried.

I was attracted to the Morrin Center because of my love of history. My wife, Lyse, and I became members after our first visit, even though we knew our use of the facility would be limited by distance. Since joining, we have attended Morrin Centre functions, staying at a nearby hotel and visiting friends at the same time. I was even able to arrange a visit to the Centre with a friend from France who was favourably impressed!

With the COVID lockdown, I see the potential of online platforms for increasing our membership across the province. ■



Come experience our
GO TO JAIL
tours this fall!

Offered from Wednesday to Sunday.
Reservations are recommended and places are
limited.

Please visit morrin.org for more information.



The Quebec Family History Society

*They say you don't know where you're going
until you know where you've been.
Isn't it about time you knew?*

Access to Ancestry
Access to FamilySearch
Access Drouin Institute
Numerous Magazines
Lectures and Seminars
Experienced Researchers
Extensive Book Collection
Historical Society Periodicals
Receive our magazine Connections
Receive our eNewsletter Connected

Helping people find their
ancestors since 1977, The Quebec
Family History Society is ready to
help you on your journey to the
past. Come explore our website to
see all the benefits membership
has in store for you. www.qfhs.ca



153 rue Sainte Anne, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec, H9X 1M5
Phone: (514) 695-1502 E-Mail: qfhs@bellnet.ca

**Join or renew now to participate
in our 2021 Members' Day!**



Be at the CENTRE of it all

**Culture •
Creativity
• Community**

morrin

Become a member for only \$20

stay informed

Read a magazine



keep visiting

UN COIN DU MONDE
magazines ■ cadeaux

1150 ave. Cartier
418-648-1562
@uncoindumonde

we have it
all for you!

stay healthy

Have a
Urbanithé matcha

keep intouch

Send a card to
a loved one

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



→ DISCOVER OUR NEW TEMPORARY
THEATRE AT FLEUR DE LYS!

TOUT EST POSSIBLE

SAISON 21.22



DISCOUNTED PRICE FOR MORRIN CENTRE MEMBERS!
LESGROSBECS.QC.CA 418 522-7880



morrin

cultural centre • centre culturel

MEMBERS' DAY 2021

JOIN US FOR OUR
EXCLUSIVE
ANNUAL MEMBERS'
APPRECIATION EVENT

**SPECIAL
STORYTIME**
FOR 3- TO 7-YEAR-OLDS
9:30 A.M.

**PROMENADES
FANTÔMES TOURS**
1:00 AND 2:00 P.M.

**SPOOKY
STORYTELLING**
3:30 P.M.

COSTUME CONTEST
4:15 P.M.

**BEER TASTING
WORKSHOP**
4:30 P.M.

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 23
HYBRID EVENT**

RESERVE YOUR SPOT AT
MORRIN.ORG/MEMBERSDAY2021