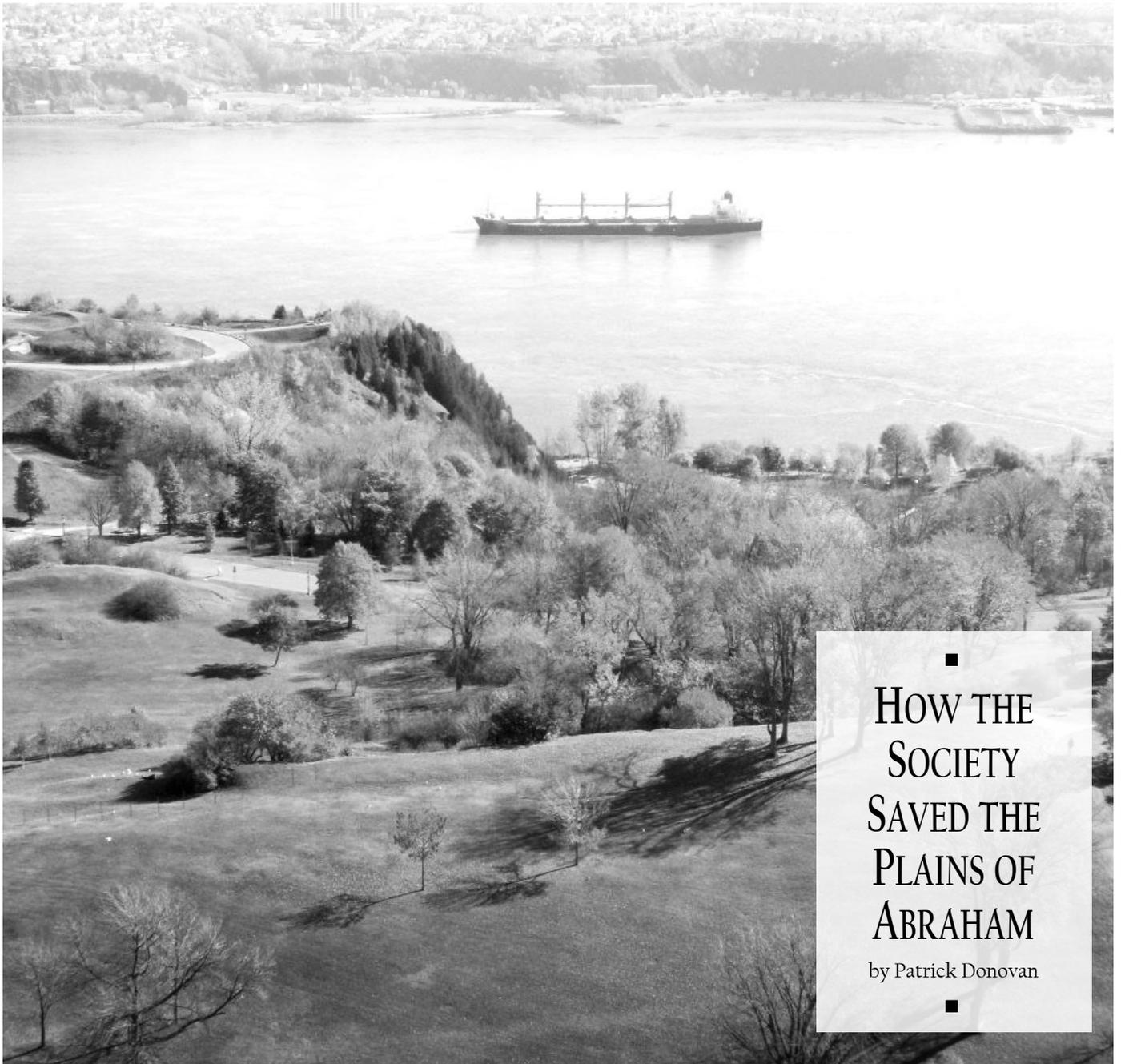




# SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 19 ■ SPRING 2008 ■ \$2,00



■  
HOW THE  
SOCIETY  
SAVED THE  
PLAINS OF  
ABRAHAM

by Patrick Donovan  
■



# SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 19 ■ SPRING 2008

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See back cover if your answer is YES

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Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	12:00PM-9:00PM
Wednesday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Thursday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Friday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM-4:00PM



LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON MARCH 23 AND MARCH 27



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The *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec* is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region and share its diverse heritage. The LHSQ manages the Morrin Centre.

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends :

As I write, we are just passing the 400<sup>th</sup> centimetre mark of snowfall accumulation for the Winter, an eloquent nod from mother nature as Quebec City celebrates her 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The respective programs of celebratory activities yet to come for the City and the Society are being refined and finalized.

As I mentioned previously, the Society has played an important role in establishing the "Voices from the Crossroads" initiative, a program of activities developed in partnership with other organizations within the English Community to celebrate this extraordinary anniversary.

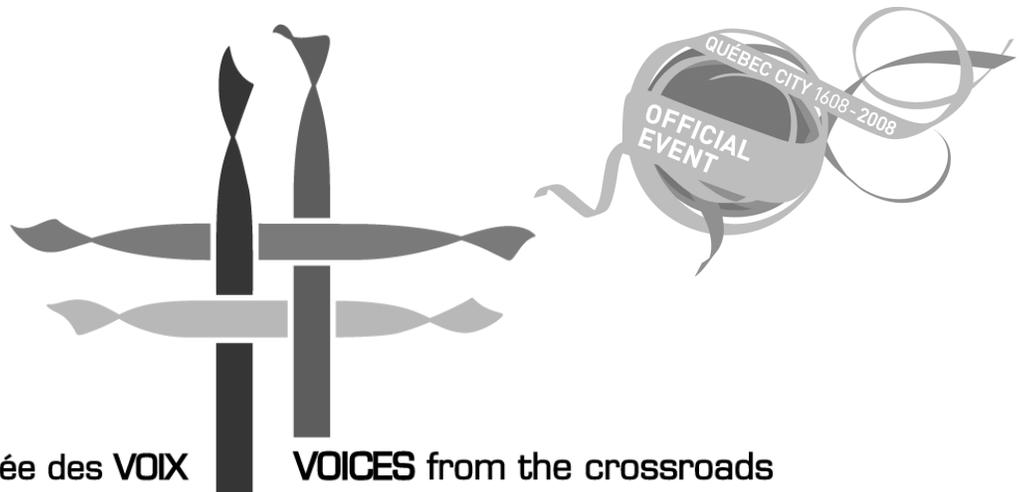
I would also draw your particular attention to the Centennial Tea Event to be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> which celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battlefields Park, full details appear in this issue and on our website.

Another important event on the Society's calendar is our 184<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Members which will be held on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> in the Library at the Morrin Centre. I encourage you all to attend and to enjoy the magazine auction and the wine and cheese reception afterwards.

Happy Easter and enjoy the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Sincerely

David F. Blair  
President



À la croisée des VOIX

VOICES from the crossroads

Official events showcasing the contribution of English-speakers  
within Quebec's 400th anniversary celebrations.

See: <http://400VOICES.MORRIN.ORG>



# Annual General Meeting

March 18 ■ 7:00 PM ■ All members welcome (bring a friend)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## SPRING 2008 UPDATE

by France Cliche, executive director

Winter has been an exciting season full of renewed hopes for the Morrin Centre. Our 2008 programming started off with a bang, and dozens of exciting projects are currently on the go. This will ensure that Quebec's English-speaking communities have a place in the 400th anniversary celebrations.

## SOME NEWS

**Staff, Interns, Volunteers:** *Virginie Benjamin*, who recently completed a degree in museology and has several years experience as a high school teacher, was hired in early February to develop a collection management and development policy for our artifacts. She will also be working on other initiatives linked to site interpretation. Several part-time staff, namely *Barry McCullough* and *Hong Liu*, have been proofreading the 8,000 scanned pages of material published by the LHSQ in the 19th century. These will be made available in our upcoming virtual exhibit, to be launched this spring. They were helped by full-time Katimavik volunteers *Falan McDiarmid* (from British Columbia) and *Sarah Cusson* (from Terrebonne, Quebec).

Big thanks to library clerk (and former library manager) *Anne-Frédérique Champoux*, and communications officer *Andrée-Anne Pelletier*, who left the Society in January to pursue other projects.

**Restoration project:** The next few months will see major changes at the centre, with important investments as part of Phase II restoration.

**Project Grants:** More project funding continues to come in through the winter. Confirmations were received from the department of Canadian Heritage to finance approximately a third of our 400th anniversary activities. Canadian Heritage is also financing the development of activities and library collections for young adults (Community Life Program) and a variety of initiatives to explore, facilitate and promote linguistic duality (Linguistic Duality program). We are also happy to announce that the Canada Council for the Arts will

finance our 2008 Writers Series, including 7 great writers from across the country (see page 9).

**LHSQ Library:** You may have noticed that over 90% of the books in the current collection now have labels on their spine. We will be able to start the implementation of the computerized catalogue and loan services this spring.

We recently received a donation of the *Complete Works of Northrop Frye*. Thank you to *Germaine Warkentin*, *Alvin A. Lee*, and *Jean O'Grady* for this invaluable addition from English Canada's greatest literary scholar.

**Rentals:** Our rentals calendar is already filling up nicely for 2008. In addition to a recent two week rental by *Robert Lepage* (see page 7), the last few months have seen rentals for a baptism reception, a wine tasting, and a CEGEP history class.

**Events:** The Morrin Centre was sold out for most performances of *Frances Moore Brooke's Rosina* in January, a resounding success that confirmed our College Hall as an excellent space for musical performances.

The next few months promise to be even more exciting due to the numerous events planned as part of the *Voices from the Crossroads* 400th anniversary initiative. For more details see: <http://400voices.morrin.org>. Stay posted! ■



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## TRANSACTIONS

## HOW THE SOCIETY SAVED THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM

by Patrick Donovan

In 1899, a pamphlet printed by the Society began with an ominous prediction: “In little more than two years’ time . . . the Plains of Abraham will disappear from view and become transformed into an outlying suburb of the city of Quebec.” This wasn’t as far-fetched as it now seems. The Ursuline nuns owned the Plains, and the government’s 99-year lease with the order was coming to an end. Developers had already divided the land into building lots along nine projected streets. Concern gave way to outrage and mobilization, with the LHSQ at the helm.

This mobilization followed three decades of uncertainty that had begun after the British garrison left town in 1871. The site had become obsolete from a defence standpoint, but soldiers still used the Plains as a parade ground. “Decay, ruin and disorder” settled in after they left. Meanwhile, buildings were sprouting up all around the Plains – new houses on Grande-Allée, and the parliament on the old cricket ground.

A group of concerned citizens banded together in 1876, including LHSQ board member James MacPherson LeMoine. Their goal was to stop the encroachment, landscape the Plains, and turn it into a historic driving park. LeMoine dreamed of “a beautiful park with shady avenues and limpid pools, where both the working class and wealthy citizens could . . . refresh themselves under the green umbrella of pines and maples.” Aside from these benefits to the spirit, LeMoine also considered it “a principle of hygiene, a source of health for the working class.”

These arguments echoed British Romantic and American Transcendentalist visions of nature. Urban parks grew out of these notions. They were seen as

providing both the spiritual and bodily strength necessary to counteract the industrial city, which Dickens described as “miles of cinder paths and blazing furnaces and roaring steam engines, and such a mass of dirt, gloom and misery as I never before witnessed.” Birkenhead Park, created in 1847, claims to be the world’s first public park. Hyde Park in London and the Bois de Boulogne in Paris soon followed. The idea took off in North America with New York’s Central Park in the 1850s. Montreal established Mount Royal Park in 1876, right when LeMoine was agitating in Quebec City.

The initial scheme for establishing a public park on the Plains of Abraham fell through at this time. Little else was done until the Society stepped in at the turn of the century.

By the 1890s, anxiety about the fate of the Plains still lingered, but

the Society was the first to begin rallying troops. A formal motion was passed at a LHSQ meeting in 1898, and council members went to work. Earnest appeals were made to historical societies and the media for their support. Letters came in from associations in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Niagara Falls, and even the English National Trust. Articles denounced the government’s inaction in newspapers across Canada, the United States and Great Britain. The LHSQ gathered all these testimonials and printed a pamphlet in 1899. This publication was prefaced by a poetic plea from leading Canadian author William McLennan:

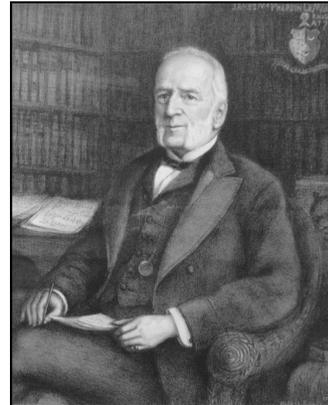
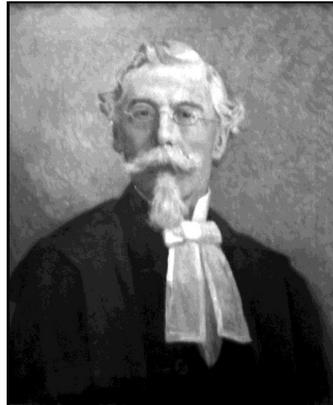
*Their shades cry to us from its sod  
To guard inviolate their dust:-  
They died for Country, King, and God!  
Shall we prove faithless to our trust?*



Martello Tower on the Plains of Abraham (Patrick Donovan)

Armed with this pamphlet, delegates from the LHSQ met the mayor of Quebec and, later, Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier. Their efforts paid off. The federal government stepped in to save the Plains, buying the land in 1901 and leasing it to the city. The Society rejoiced at its Annual General Meeting in 1902, praising the “hearty cooperation of many prominent men outside of our own ranks” without forgetting that “the honors of the initiative remain with our Society.”

The main movers behind this project were LHSQ presidents Philippe Baby-Casgrain and James MacPherson LeMoine. Both dabbled in history and were well connected with the ruling elite. Furthermore, both were bicultural, equally at ease in French and English, which probably shaped the Society’s



Philippe Baby Casgrain and James MacPherson LeMoine  
(LHSQ Collections)

discourse. In an age of bombastic imperialism where “Britannia ruled the waves” and troops were engaged in South Africa, the focus could have been on emphasizing Britain’s victory and might. Instead, the Society’s pamphlet focused on commemorating fallen soldiers on both sides - “*la valeur commune aux deux races.*” This was hardly a novel idea, hearkening back to the Wolfe-Montcalm monument erected in 1827 and being a central theme of Confederation in 1867. However, the fact that the ambassadors for preservation were simultaneously Francophone and Anglophone likely helped the Society rally all sides.

Though the Plains were safe from speculators in 1902, some Society members were not fully satisfied. The city of Quebec had shown little enthusiasm for landscaping the park. Furthermore, it was now felt that the Plains needed to be more than a mere urban

park, but a commemorative battlefield. Such battlefields had begun appearing as symbols of reconciliation in the United States after the Civil War. Colonel William Wood, a former president of the Society and one of its leading champions, served on a three-person committee to prepare the city’s 300th anniversary. Their report was emphatic that a commemorative park should be created that would stretch beyond the Plains to include the *Parc des*

*Braves*, site of a French victory in 1760. The anniversary of Quebec City and the creation of a national historic park soon became linked.

The creation of Battlefields Park became the pet project of Governor General Lord Grey and Quebec mayor George Garneau. Lord Grey even dreamed of erecting an “angel of

peace” on the Plains, a colossal statue taller than the Statue of Liberty. Mayor Garneau met with federal authorities on several occasions to ensure that all would be ready for the city’s 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Aside from a respectable financial contribution by New Zealand, the British Empire provided little to Lord Grey’s plan. Nevertheless, the money amassed (\$550,000 out of a \$2 Million objective) was enough to enlarge the Plains to their current size. This laid the groundwork for the National Battlefields Commission, which has managed the site ever since. ■

*Patrick Donovan is Conservation and Interpretation advisor at the LHSQ. To learn more about the history of the Plains, don't miss the Centennial Tea, held at the Society on March 16, 2008.*

## PLAINS OF ABRAHAM CELEBRATIONS 2008-2009

A Popular Celebration - March 15 and 16, 2008, from 10 AM to 4 PM  
Lots of activities at the Discovery Pavilion of the Plains of Abraham and Metro Marquee. Free.

Centennial Tea - March 16, 2008, at 5 PM

Discover the winning recipe of the 400th anniversary tea contest at the Morrin Centre with two delicious lectures and a traditional scones and sandwiches catered by le Château Frontenac. \$55/person. Reservations at (418) 694-9147 or reservations@morrin.org

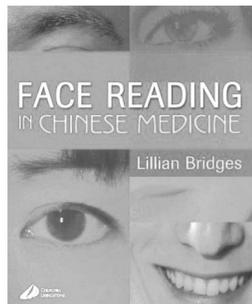
250th anniversary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham - July 30 to August 2, 2009  
Take part in this momentous event (see attached leaflet)

## LIBRARY PAGES

## BOOK REVIEW:

*FACE READING IN CHINESE MEDICINE*

by Douglas Matheson



Shakespeare observed “God has given you one face and you make yourself another.” In China, people of all levels of society have been reading faces for millennia. When Richard Nixon opened up trade relations with China, the delegation included face readers

who informed their leaders of his character. *Face Reading in Chinese Medicine*, a book intended for general reader, grows out of that tradition.

Lillian Bridges is a professor of traditional Chinese medicine who has practiced face reading for over 20 years. As with many eastern arts, apprenticeship is passed down from generation to generation. Lillian’s great-grandfather was a prosperous Shanghai banker who successfully used face reading to evaluate customers for loans! Because Lillian’s grandmother was his favourite child, she was apprenticed in this skill normally reserved for males. She, in turn, introduced her granddaughter to it as a girl.

For centuries, practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine have relied on face reading for insight into a patient’s physical and psychological state. Based on Taoist principles, it regards the face as a map of a person’s life experiences, from childhood to old age. Prominent features, shapes, and wrinkles are regarded as an imprint that can be studied and “read” to understand the person’s character and current health.

Lillian’s presentation is not only thorough, but also personal and compassionate, offering western readers a different way to develop an understanding and appreciation of others. As one reviewer remarked : “Many books of this type come across as very parlour game oriented, but Lillian’s book is insightful and lavishly illustrated.” So if you are curious about your own or someone else’s physiognomy, this book is a great place to begin. Happy reading! ■

*Douglas Matheson is a retired librarian who regularly volunteers at the LHSQ Library. He lives in Lévis.*

## Wish List NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

Thanks to the anonymous donor who gave us a copy of Pasternak’s *Dr. Zhivago*, from our last wish list. We continue to target Nobel Prize Winners with this month’s wish list. Please consider donating the following books to the LHSQ.

Isaac Bashevis Singer, *The Family Moskat Heart*  
 Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Satan in Goray*  
 Isaac Bashevis Singer, *Shosha*  
 Samuel Beckett, *Molloy*  
 Ivan Bunin, *The Village*  
 Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*  
 William Golding, *The Inheritors*  
 William Golding, *Free Fall*  
 William Golding, *The Scorpion God*  
 Gunther Grass, *The Tin Drum*  
 Gunther Grass, *Cat and Mouse*  
 Gunther Grass, *Dog Years*  
 Knut Hamsun, *Growth of the Soil*  
 Yasunari Kawabata, *Snow Country*  
 Pär Lagerkvist, *The Dwarf*  
 Selma Lagerlöf, *The Wonderful Adventures of Nils*  
 Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook*  
 Doris Lessing, *Memoirs of a Survivor*  
 Thomas Mann, *Tomio Kröger*  
 Thomas Mann, *The Magic Mountain*  
 José Saramago, *The Double*  
 José Saramago, *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ*  
 Michael Sholokov, *And Quiet Flows the Don*  
 Michael Sholokov, *They Fought for their Country*  
 Franz Eemil Sillanpää, *The Maid Silja/Fallen Asleep While Young*

## KIDS' ACTIVITIES

By Simon Auclair

Kids’ Readings are back again this spring! Starting on Saturday March 22nd, readings will take place every first and third Saturday of the month at 11:00.

Furthermore, we have received many new books for children: *Hug Time* (age 4-8) by Patrick McDonnell, which narrates the story of a young kitten so filled with love that he wants to hug the whole world! Also, come take a look at *Stones, Bones and Stitches* (8-12), a beautiful book about inuit art, exploring the landscapes and myths that forged their fascinating characters. ■

# VOICES From the Crossroads—À la croisée des VOIX

## ECHO[E]S: ENGLISH-SPEAKING QUEBEC ON THE SILVER SCREEN

By Gisèle Bouchard

Thanks to a grant from Canadian Heritage, the LHSQ began an oral history project last fall. I was happy to take on the Echo[e]s project and managed to interview over 30 English-speaking residents of Quebec City so far. I will be co-producing this 90 minute film with Philippe Jolicoeur, a young filmmaker from Quebec City. We are now beginning to write the narrative and storyboard for the film, that difficult process of identifying themes and choosing the best excerpts to ensure flow and coherence. We've also been fortunate to be given access to interviews conducted by VEQ in 1984—this allows us to delve into a century of reminiscences about life in Quebec City, adding a whole new dimension to this production. We have over 100 hours of footage to condense to an hour and a half—a phenomenal undertaking.

I met some captivating people through this project – nurses, teachers, businessmen, retired office workers, photographers, writers, architects. They opened their homes or offices to me and told me a little – sometimes a lot – about their lives and their city. Some are long-time residents of Quebec City, some have come back after a long absence, others have chosen Quebec as their home. Their stories gave me insight on the complexities and realities of local English-speaking communities. My search for people to interview led me to the wonderful and soft spoken Gertrude Grogan or Sue-Ellen Cairns, to the boisterous and the self-assured Ted Gunn or Patricia Burns, to intellectual activists like Malcolm Reid or Marc Boutin, and to born volunteers like Shirley Nadeau or Diane Kameen. Each story is unique, taking us down different paths, but what links all these people is their appreciation for the city where they live, their strong feelings for the place they call home.

Many have entertained unconventional love stories, but none so touching and unique as Esther Greaves' particular relationship with a green and white *maison canadienne* on Grande Allée that was once rented by painter Cornelius Krieghoff. For the love a house, she sold her home in Toronto and took on the project of a lifetime, bringing a unique period property back to its former glory. Mrs. Greaves' touching story is one of many collected from the English-speakers who call this city home.



Stills of Shirley Nadeau, Pat Stone, and Marianna O'Gallagher from the upcoming documentary *Echo[e]s* (LHSQ Collections)

The Echoes documentary film will be available on DVD (including a subtitled French version). Advance copies of the film can be reserved for \$15 until June 7<sup>th</sup>. After this date, the film will be available at the Morrin Centre for \$20. The Morrin Centre is planning a special viewing and launch party on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. ■

Order your copy now!

**ECHO[E]S**  
LIVES OF ENGLISH-SPEAKERS IN QUEBEC CITY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

I will be picking up my copy at the LHSQ (\$15/copy)

Please send a copy by mail (\$15/copy + \$4/shipping fee)

Please contact me in March to confirm date of launch

Please include payment with this coupon and send to  
Echoes Documentary, 44, chaussée des Écossais, Québec, Qc, G1R 4H3

## TESTIMONIALS

### ROBERT LEPAGE AT THE MORRIN CENTRE

By Julie Lamontagne

For a period of 2 weeks in February, the Morrin Centre had the pleasure to welcome the talented Robert Lepage, from theatrical company ExMachina. Based at the Caserne Dalhousie in Quebec City, Ex Machina is preparing a new project called *Eonnagata*. This work in progress is a mix of dance and theatre. It features dancer Sylvie Guillem and choreographer Russell Maliphant.



Robert Lepage and ExMachina rehearsing for *Eonnagata* in the Morrin College Hall (LHSQ)

*Eonnagata* is related to the historical figure of the Chevalier d'Eon and uses Onnagata codes, the Japanese term for men who traditionally played women's roles. A French company is also here to film this work in progress for a documentary on Sylvie Guillem.

Robert Lepage is a director, actor, and playwright. He has created and produced films such as *Le Confessionnal* and *La Face Cachée de la Lune* (2000), Lepage also designed and directed *KÀ*, a permanent Cirque du Soleil show in Las Vegas since February 2005.

Robert Lepage and his team have been full of praise for our rehearsal spaces and kitchen area, and we expect to see them back again. Our spaces can accommodate a variety of needs and projects. Do not hesitate to inform

people about these rental services.

For more information see:

<http://www.morrin.org/pages/spaces.php> ■

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2008 WRITERS' SERIES WELCOMES SEVEN NEW WONDERS

The second annual Writers' Series promises to be as exciting as last year's. Here's the shortlist:

**March 28, 2008**

**Gail Anderson-Dargatz's** fictional style has been coined as "Pacific Northwest Gothic." Her novels *A Recipe for Bees* and *The Cure for Death by Lighting* were international bestsellers and finalists for the prestigious Giller Prize. Her latest novel is *Turtle Valley*. She lives in British Columbia.

**April 4, 2008**

**Charles Hugh Mountford** divides his time between Stratford, Ontario and Quebec City. He has written award-winning poems, opera librettos, and translations of poetry from French and Persian. His latest book is *The Thing on the Comb*.

**April 11, 2008**

**Steven Heighton** is the author of nine books, including novels, poetry, and short story collections. *The Shadow Boxer*, which was a bestseller in Canada, has appeared in six countries and was a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice. He has been nominated for the Governor General's Award, the Journey Prize, and the Pushcart Prize. He lives with his family in Kingston, Ontario.

**April 25, 2008**

**Lynn Coady** is a novelist, playwright and short story writer who currently lives in Toronto. Coady is author of the novels *Strange Heaven*, *Saints of Big Harbour* and, most recently, *Mean Boy*. Her first novel was nominated for a Governor General's Award for fiction, and she recently won the 2005 Canada

Council for the Arts' Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award for artist in mid-career.

**May 9, 2008**

**Nino Ricci's** first novel, the best-selling *Lives of the Saints*, garnered international acclaim and won the Governor General's Award for Fiction in Canada. It was recently adapted for a miniseries starring Sophia Loren. His latest book, *Testament*, is a modern retelling of the life of Christ that was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize.



Lynn Coady, one of the seven writers at the Morrin Centre this year

**June 6, 2008**

**Dorothy Williams** has written two award-winning books on Black history in Quebec, *The Road to Now* and *Blacks in Montreal, 1628-1986*. She is a dynamic speaker who chronicles slavery in New France, the impact of the railway, and Black community institutions.

*And for our fall "Encore!" in partnership with the QWF*  
**September 19, 2008**

**Taras Grescoe** is a Montreal-based travel writer and critic. He is the author of *Sacré Blues*, *The End of Elsewhere* and *The Devil's Picnic*. He is a frequent contributor to the *New York Times* and the *Guardian*. His latest book, *Bottomfeeder*, is the story of a round-the-world quest for a truly decent meal in a world where pollution, unregulated fishing practises, and climate change are affecting the fish that end up on our plates.

The Writers' Series is made possible thanks to contributions from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage (IPOLC), Auberge Saint Antoine, Hôtel Jardin Ste-Anne, and the Quebec Writers' Federation. ■

### CBC'S GO! TAKES THE MORRIN CENTRE

GO! CBC Radio One's weekend chemical reaction is coming to Quebec City on March 15th and host Brent Bambury wants YOU as part of our live studio audience!

GO! is broadcast live Saturday mornings from different corners of Canada. The Quebec City program will be coming from the Morrin Centre on Saturday, March 15th. The show will include a live

performance by an in-house musical guest and the typical GO! game-show-style wink at the world. Best of all, IT'S FREE!

If you would like to reserve tickets to CBC's GO! for **Saturday, March 15th**, email [gotickets@cbc.ca](mailto:gotickets@cbc.ca). But hurry - tickets are going fast! Stay tuned to CBC Radio 104.7 as more details of this special visit are revealed.



A SECTION DEVOTED TO  
THE WRITERS' CIRCLE

**My Gift – The Rock**  
By Peggy MacTaggart

Thank you, precious rock for showing yourself to me  
and giving me permission to use you to gather  
strength in all ways.

Drained physically with the unnecessary burdens I  
have been carrying for so long;

Drained mentally because of having such a short-  
time memory;

Drained emotionally because of fears of not being  
able to finish what I know I must do;

Drained spiritually as I fought sharing the teachings  
I had been given.

As I picked you up and looked at you, I felt re-  
energized when I saw how you have been treated  
and you are still here.

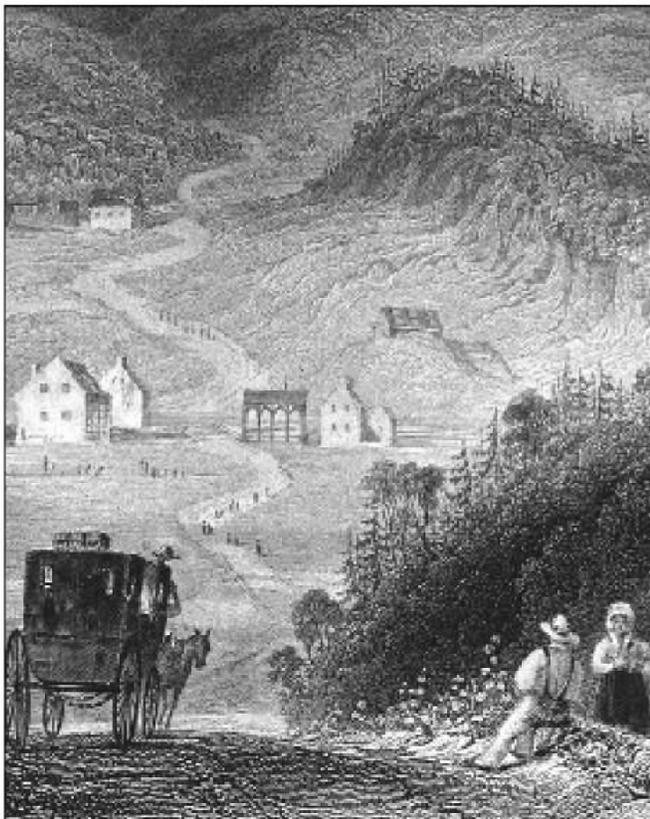
The scars that you have developed because of being  
kicked around and disrespected, not unlike us  
humans, jumped out at me.

As I held you close to my heart and looked at you  
once again, I saw how you turned those scars around  
With vivid clarity I witnessed a gleeful smile  
appeared on your face;

I turned you over and saw the smoothness  
interrupted by the imprint of an Eagle soaring high,  
taking our prayers to the Creator

I know now that you will live in my Reclaiming  
bundle to remind me to nurture myself in the right  
way to keep my strength balanced and I will call you  
“Migisi”. ■

*Peggy MacTaggart is originally from northwestern Ontario  
but now lives in Quebec. She is a 66 year old Métis woman  
who follows Traditional Native ways.*



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