

VOLUME 60 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2022

QFHSA NEWS

THE NEWSMAGAZINE FOR HOME AND SCHOOL MEMBERS

It's Finally Here!

Welcome to the Summer of '22!

News from our 2022 AGM:
Addressing the Issues of the Day, p. 7 & 8

Celebrating Our Heroes
The 2022 Awards Ceremony, p. 9

A Fabulous Return to Fun:
Home and Schools Celebrate, p. 24



The Quebec
Federation of
Home and School
Associations

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. is an independent, incorporated, not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well-being of children and youth.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. promotes the involvement of parents, students, educators, and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acts as a voice for parents.

With support
from

Éducation
et Enseignement
supérieur

Québec 

Funded by the
Government of Canada

Canada 



QFHSA NEWS

The Voice of the Parent in Education

Continuously published since 1949

Volume 60, Issue 2

Official Publication of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations

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Printing: The Business Box, Kirkland

Circulation: 5000 copies

Advertising Manager: Karen Henchey

Editorial Board: Carol Meindl,

Marlyn Brownrigg, Mimi Tabaczuk

Deposited with: Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec; National Library of Canada

ISSN: 1924-9284 (Print),

ISSN: 1925-797X (Digital)

Annual Subscription: \$15.00

Individual Copies: \$4.00

QFHSA on the Web: www.qfhsa.org

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ADVERTISERS OR CONTRIBUTORS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE QFHSA.

All submissions may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy, grammar, and spelling.

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A huge thank you to the local Home and School Associations that shared their photos for this issue.

We welcome your letters!

You are invited to send us your comments/suggestions on this edition of the QFHSA News by email to news@qfhsa.org.

Not Goodbye but Au Revoir to Brian Rock

AFTER MANY, MANY YEARS of serving on the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations' Board of Directors, Brian Rock has decided to hang up his director's shoes, but will continue to pull up his "Rights" socks and roll up his "Education" sleeves, while reading his ComECH and sipping his COFFEE.*

Brian Rock first joined the QFHSA Board of Directors in 2001 while still a principal at Baie Comeau High School. At the time, Brian was already an active volunteer with the QFHSA, participating in the Rights Committee when it was co-chaired by Marion Daigle and Calvin Potter. Board minutes from those days often record Brian as "participating by telephone."



Brian's Baie Comeau Days: Presenting an award to Home and School Volunteer Isabelle Harvey

At a special Board of Directors meeting in 2002 with then Commissioner of Official Languages, Dr. Dyane Adam, Brian was already presenting the perspective of small, isolated rural schools in Quebec, expressing the need for fibre-optic cables and pointing out the lack of English CEGEPs in the regions.

**A bit of an explanation: "Rights" and "Education" are two QFHSA committees Brian Rock has been involved in for years, while ComECH and COFFEE are two external committees Brian created while a member of the QFHSA board.*

By 2002, Brian was co-chairing the Rights Committee with Nick Zaferis, a collaboration that continued through the 2002/2003 year. Then in 2010, Brian began an impressive 10-year tenure as chair of the Rights Committee, a role he filled until Natasha Drysdale took over the helm in 2020. Brian has always been the political junkie with an ear to the ground. He often has "access to information" that can provide insight into what is going on behind the scenes.



The QFHSA Board of Directors in 2015

In March 2016, Brian invited various education stakeholders to join him in opposing Bill 86, *An Act to modify the organization and governance of school boards to give schools a greater say in decision-making and ensure parents' presence within each school board's decision-making body*, and Bill 105, *An Act to amend the Education Act*, by launching the Coalition for the Future of English Education in Quebec (COFFEE Quebec). COFFEE met regularly for two years and was instrumental in helping to produce the Elections System Study Panel Report, more familiarly referred to as the "Jennings

Report." On March 22, 2016, Brian Rock and Richard Bourhis, both representing COFFEE Quebec, presented a brief to the Committee on Culture and Education.



At the 2015 Annual General Meeting with MNA Kathleen Weil, Former QFHSA President Lawrence DePoe, and Executive Director Carol Meindl

An offshoot of COFFEE, the Committee for the Enhancement of the Curriculum of the History of Quebec (ComECH-Quebec) was formed in 2016. Of primary concern for ComECH was the omission of minority community contributions in the new history curriculum for Secondary III and IV. It is a committee that Brian was instrumental in creating and in which he continues to be deeply involved.



Presenting the 2016 Humanitarian Award to Céline Brault (centre), a teacher at Chelsea Elementary, with Executive Director Carol Meindl

Continued on the next page

Not Goodbye but Au Revoir to Brian Rock

Continued from the previous page

Brian served on the QFHSA's Executive Committee in 2003 as a Vice-President and again in 2014-15. Even during times when he had to deal with personal health issues, Brian kept his eyes on the political scene and participated in QFHSA activities whenever he could.

In 2015, Brian stepped into the President's shoes, replacing Lawrence DePoe. Brian served as President from 2015 until 2018. Since 2018, Brian has continued to support the QFHSA board, initially filling the role as Immediate Past President until Linton Garner assumed the role in June 2021. To our benefit, Brian con-

tinued on the board for another full year.



Celebrating the QFHSA's 75th anniversary in 2019

Brian will take a well-deserved break from the board but promises to stay involved in the QFHSA's Rights and Education Committees.

Our committee members will look forward to working with Brian for many more years to come. With his deep knowledge of Quebec's education system, his wisdom, and his keen interest in the political issues of the day, Brian will continue to have an important impact at the QFHSA to the benefit of our students and our parents.

The Board of Directors wishes to thank Brian Rock for his tremendous service to our organization. Thank you, Brian, for your amazing past, present, and future with the QFHSA!

Carol Meindl, *Executive Director*

Congratulations!

Two Home and School Associations were the lucky winners of our "virtual door prizes" at our 78th Annual General Meeting:

Forest Hill Elementary – Junior Campus

St. Patrick's Elementary

Each Home and School received a \$250 gift certificate for Bureau en gros/Staples.

Thank you for attending our AGM!



Dates to Remember



| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| July 15 | New Executive List and President's and Treasurer's Reports due (<i>Sent to the QFHSA Office</i>) |
| Thursday, August 18 | Board of Directors Meeting |
| September | Executive Training Workshops |
| Saturday, November 12 | QFHSA Fall Leadership Conference for Parents |
| Late November/ Early December | Regional Council Meetings |

Images from Adobe Stock

School's Out!

Take a Nice Long Break this Summer, You Deserve It!

A Message from the QFHSA's President



WAS IT ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO that I was welcoming you back from Spring Break? Well now I'm going to wish you all a happy summer.

This has been a very stressful school year as your children went back to school with COVID still rearing its ugly head. Then school board elections were back on in September and don't forget the federal election, which basically changed nothing. We had vaccines on top of vaccines, but parent volunteers were still not allowed in many schools. Masks were no longer required, but you could still wear them if you wanted. And many students wore them. Graduations were open again as were grad dances and balls. Now, as Alice Cooper said, "School's out for summer!"

Through it all, you endured. You attended our executive training workshops, our fall conference, our regional council meetings, and our annual general meeting. You

also attended the rallies to protest Bill 96. Thank you.

I tried to find some inspirational words to get you through the summer and ready for the next school year. I found many words: rest, relax, refresh, recharge, revive, and rewind. In the end, I thought it best to repeat the wise words of Mark Black: "Sometimes the most productive thing you can do is relax."

So, parents, directors, staff, and friends, relax. Enjoy the summer, but be ready to come back strong in August.

Please take care and stay safe.

Rosemary Murphy



Photo from Adobe Stock

Congratulations to All Our 2022 Graduates!



One Big Family

A Message from the Executive Director



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN the QFHSA and its member associations is an unusual one. Not a shepherd with a flock. Not a teacher with students, and not a parent with children.

More like big sisters.

Every one of the QFHSA's directors and staff members has been involved in or has led a Home and School Association in their time. Depending on their age, it may have been in the 1980s, 1990s, or 2020s. Some are still active in their Home and School Associations; some are even currently leading an association. It all adds up to a great deal of experience and acquired wisdom.

We have seen member associations come and go and we have seen all kinds of situations arise. We have learned from experience what the best course of action may be to deal with a particular situation. Our first advice to any new association is to draft by-laws to help guide the business of the association. We provide a template to help associations get started and we encourage associations to amend their by-laws as situations arise. By-laws are there to help support the decisions of leadership when challenges come up. It is a great comfort to be able to refer back to rules that everyone has agreed to in advance.

When consulting the by-laws does not work, perhaps because they were not updated recently or are non-existent, member associations

can then turn to the QFHSA office for advice. It is important for Home and Schools to have some sort of body overseeing the network. After all, Home and Schools are dealing with public money and the safety of children and parents in their activities, which are not small responsibilities. Local Home and Schools need to be able to turn to someone when they run into difficulties they cannot seem to solve on their own.

mission statement describes Home and School as ***“an independent... not for profit volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing the education and general well-being of children and youth. Home and School promotes the involvement of parents, students, educators, and the community at large in the advancement of learning and acts as a voice for parents.”***



Image by Adobe Stock

QFHSA directors and staff have been asked to help run Home and School elections, to update by-laws, and, most importantly, to provide sympathetic ears for frustrations, fears, confusion, and uncertainty in new and even seasoned leadership. The truth is everyone needs a shoulder to cry on and everyone needs a big sister to turn to for advice and guidance.

When by-laws and compromises cannot seem to be made at the ground level, it is helpful to have an unbiased body intervene and guide the discussions. The QFHSA wants to see the Home and Schools succeed without any ulterior motives. It does not really matter to us who the leadership of a local Home and School is, so long as the team is working together respectfully towards a common goal. And that goal should always be to provide fun and nurturing extracurricular activities for the students and foster community among the parents. It should always be about what is best for the kids. That is why our

The QFHSA's directors and office staff are there to help you, not dictate to you. Take advantage of our experience and ask our advice on any situation you might find yourself in. That is why we are here. Not in some ivory tower, passing judgement, but just a phone call, email, or Zoom session away to hear what is going on. Nothing you can tell us will come as a big surprise. We are here to listen.

We'll put the kettle on.

Carol Meindl



Photo by Aline Ponce from Pixabay

The QFHSA Annual General Meeting

AGM 2022: Rediscover, Rekindle, and Reconnect

THE 78TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA) combined a celebration of outstanding individuals/initiatives with a review of another year of advocacy and action at the QFHSA.

Held online on the evening of Thursday, June 2nd, the event was attended by delegates from local Home and School Associations across the province of Quebec. Also joining the meeting were representatives from various organizations, including the Canadian Home and School Federation; the Quebec Advisory Board on English Education; the Quebec English School Boards Association; and the Quebec Community Groups Network. We were also pleased that a representative from the Department of Canadian Heritage, one of our major funders, was also in attendance.

The evening began with a celebration of those who have made significant contributions to education in Quebec. Our award winners were innovative educators and exceptional volunteers and initiatives from local Home and School Associations.

The Gordon Paterson Award, which recognizes outstanding educators who have given long service to Quebec education, went to two very deserving recipients: **Noel Burke**, the former chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board and founder of the NEXTschool initiative; and **Cathrine Le Maistre**, a retired Associate Professor at McGill University's Faculty of Education and the former chair of the Advisory Board on English

Education. Hats off to both Noel and Cathrine!

Tayba Huot of Clearpoint Elementary and **Julie Mergl from École Primaire Beaconsfield** were the first-ever recipients of the QFHSA's new Volunteer of the Year Award. The **Children's World Academy** community received the Pat Lewis Environmental Award for their outstanding efforts toward an environmental cause. Finally, the QFHSA Newsletter Award was presented to **Forest Hill Elementary School-Junior Campus** and **Laval Junior Academy**. More information about this year's award winners can be found on pages 9 to 13 of this issue.

Also in this issue, you will find the names of our Unsung Hero and Golden Torch Award recipients, the wonderful volunteers who are the life blood of our associations! These local heroes are listed on pages 14 and 15. Next year, we look forward to hosting our awards banquet in person once again and raising a glass of appreciation to all our recipients!

It is hard to believe that we have been dealing with a global pandemic since March of 2020. Through this long ordeal, local Home and School Associations have shown amazing resilience. Volunteers persevered through lockdowns, changing pandemic measures and restrictions, and hardest of all—limited or no access to their schools. Every Home and School volunteer is a hero in our minds.

The business portion of the Annual General Meeting immediately fol-

lowed the awards ceremony. After the adoption of the agenda, the approval of the minutes of the June 3rd, 2021 AGM, and the report from the treasurer, the draft financial review was accepted in principle with the understanding that the final version of the financial statements would be distributed once it became available. Next, the QFHSA's Resolutions Subcommittee presented eight resolutions, all of which were adopted at the meeting. Most of the resolutions were responses to either Law 21, 40, or 96.

The 2022 QFHSA Resolutions

- Objection to the Definition of "Historic" Anglophones and the Consequent Restrictions to Eligibility for Services in English [See this resolution.](#)
- Request to Maintain Race, Religion, and Culture as Central Themes in the Proposed Citizenship Course [See this resolution.](#)
- A Call to Suspend and Amend Law 21 [See this resolution.](#)
- Request to Be Included in Future Consultations as a Partner in Education [See this resolution.](#)
- The Offering of Bilingual Services by Student Ombudsmen [See this resolution.](#)
- Immigrating Ukrainian Children [See this resolution.](#)

Continued on the next page

The QFHSA Annual General Meeting

AGM 2022

Continued from the previous page

- Quebec English CEGEP Curricula
[See this resolution.](#)
- Quebec English CEGEP Admissions Policy
[See this resolution.](#)

The complete text of each resolution can be found on our website, qfhsa.org. On our Home page, select "About" on the left menu, then "Resolutions," then "2022 Resolutions."

This year's Annual General Meeting election saw the re-election of four board members and the election of

new board member Cindy Lockhart. With the addition of board members in the midst of their mandates, the QFHSA Board of Directors for the 2022-2023 year is as follows:

Rosemary Murphy, President
Ginette Sauvé-Frankel, Executive Vice-President
Maxime Côté, Vice-President
Natasha Drysdale, Vice-President
Wanda Leah Trineer, Treasurer
Debi Brown, Secretary
Elizabeth "Bobbi" Brown, Director
Nick Giannakoulis, Director
Cindy Lockhart, Director
Samantha Patel, Director

Chris Schaler, Director and
Linton Garner, Immediate Past President

Outgoing director Brian Rock was thanked for his long and dedicated service on the QFHSA Board of Directors and Rights Committee.

As we look to the 2022-2023 school year, we have great hopes that Home and School life will resemble pre-pandemic times more than ever—with joyous opportunities for local Home and School communities to rediscover, rekindle, and reconnect.

Carol Meindl, *Executive Director*

Resolutions 2022: The QFHSA Advocating for Students

THE QFHSA HAS ALWAYS advocated for increased access to English education and the expansion of individual rights, *not their erosion*. In the past 4 years with the CAQ government, we have seen troubling legislation proposed, adopted, and enacted—legislation that chips away at individual rights in Quebec and access to English education. Law 96: *An act respecting French, the official and common language of Quebec*, restricts access and rights even further than Law 101 did. When you combine Law 96 with Laws 21 and 40, there is much to be concerned about. In response, the QFHSA Rights Committee and Education Committee addressed several aspects of these laws, developing eight resolutions for presentation to the membership at the 78th Annual General Meeting on June 2nd.

In the Spring issue of the *QFHSA News*, we presented the first five draft resolutions and their general aim. This article describes the final three resolutions.

In Resolution 2022-06, Immigrating Ukrainian Children, the QFHSA demands that the Minister of Immigration, Francisation and Integration of Quebec immediately streamline provincial bureaucracy for immigrating Ukrainian children. The QFHSA also demands that the Minister of Education immediately provide school boards, school service centres, and schools with additional resources to welcome immigrating Ukrainian children into the schools of Quebec. And finally, the QFHSA requests that the Minister of Education continue to apply Section 85.1 of the Charter of the French Language, declaring those speaking English eligible for instruction in English based on humanitarian grounds.

Resolution 2022-07 Quebec English CEGEP Curricula demands that the Government of Quebec immediately retract any and all legislation that requires additional academic courses be taken in French, unduly burdening students of Quebec's English-language CEGEPs, as with the addition of Section 88.0.2 to the Charter of the French Language.

Resolution 2022-08 Quebec English CEGEP Admissions Policy demands that the Government of Quebec immediately repeal the legislation freezing enrollment in Quebec English-language CEGEPs and demands that the Government of Quebec retract all legislation that seeks to cap and/or freeze enrollment in Quebec's English-language CEGEPs.

Now that all eight resolutions have been adopted, they have been translated into French and sent to a broad range of destinations for information purposes and for feedback, including the Quebec Minister of Education, the Quebec MNAs, and various educational organizations across the province. As was stated in the Spring *QFHSA News*, decisions made in Quebec City by members of the National Assembly seriously affect the quality of our children's education. It is important that our parents are aware and that their voices are heard.

Carol Meindl, *Executive Director*

Celebrating the QFHSA's Heroes in Education

The QFHSA was very happy to open the 78th Annual General Meeting with an awards ceremony celebrating outstanding advocates for Quebec education at both the local and provincial levels. It was wonderful to reinstate this important tradition, which had been disrupted by the pandemic. At the event, four individuals along with three Home and School communities were recognized.

The Gordon Paterson Award

The Gordon Paterson award, which was introduced in 1973 thanks to the initiative and generosity of QFHSA past-president Doreen Richter, recognizes an outstanding educator who has given long service to Quebec education and has encouraged the participation of parents. At the ceremony, the award was presented to both Noel Burke and Cathrine Le Maistre who, as it happens, have been colleagues for the past 37 years.



Noel Burke, Gordon Paterson Award

During his outstanding career in Quebec education, Noel Burke, M.Ed., has taken on many roles with remarkable skill and dedication. His creative and innovative mind seeks out new and better approaches to think, learn, teach, and support education in Quebec.

Noel's career in education began in the early '70s, when he taught secondary school at James Lyng High. His teaching career continues to this day, only now his pupils are graduate students at McGill's Faculty of Education. Noel's administrative career spans decades as well. Many know and remember him for his recent role as the chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, but this is just one of the roles he has taken on to support Quebec's English school boards through the years. His career has included positions at the Jérôme-LeRoy School Commission, the New Frontiers School Board, The Châteauguay Valley School Board, as well as the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. Noel is also a former Assistant-Deputy Minister of Education to Quebec's Ministry of Education,

Leisure and Sport. He also has the distinction of being the founding dean of Concordia University's School of Extended Learning.

Always an innovator, Noel was instrumental in the conception and development of the Community Learning Centres initiative. He is also the co-founder of the NEXTschool initiative with Michael Canuel, the director of LEARN. NEXTschool envisions a new interdisciplinary and holistic approach to high-school learning. Although still in its infant stage, the initiative promises to be yet another important development in the future of Quebec education.

Even with all of these administrative, teaching, and curriculum development projects, Noel still finds the time to provide career and leadership coaching to young adults starting out on their careers as well as those looking to make a career change. This work is done through his company nEDworks. Also through nEDworks, Noel works as a consultant in education and leadership. It has been and continues to be an incredible career, and there is no indication that Noel will be slowing down any time soon.

Noel has a deep appreciation of parents and the important role they play in the education system. When he accepted his award on June 2nd, Noel remarked: "It is a privilege and an honour to receive this award, especially from the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, who are representative of parents. An award coming from parents is more deeply meaningful to me as a parent myself." Noel believes that parents are the consumers of education. He explains that the parent is "the primary client of the education system even though the

Continued on the next page

The 2022 QFHSA Awards

children and adolescents themselves and adult education students are the recipients. Parents have the biggest investments in education, both socially and financially.” Recalling his own days on governing boards, he recognized the tremendous support that the QFHSA and its associations have given to schools by providing resources to teachers.

Noel Burke is an exceptional advocate for Quebec education, a person who understands all the actors on this important stage: the student, the teacher, the parent, the administrator, and the innovator. The QFHSA is very pleased to recognize the exceptional Noel Burke with the 2022 Gordon Paterson award.



Cathrine Le Maistre, Gordon Paterson Award

In her wonderful introduction of Cathrine (Kate) Le Maistre at the awards ceremony, QFHSA Board Member Leah Trineer described Kate’s deep commitment to education throughout her entire adult life.

In her early career, Kate taught high school science and mathematics in Manitoba. She moved to Montreal, where her teaching career continued. With young children at home, Kate returned to student life herself, completing first a Master’s of Education degree and then a PhD. This was the beginning of her long and productive career at McGill University where, as Leah describes, she “began to shape and nurture the lives of future educators.” At McGill’s Faculty of Education, Kate was promoted to the position of tenured Associate Professor and served as Associate Dean (Academic Programmes). Kate also served as the Director of Undergraduate Studies, revising and implementing programmes to train elementary and secondary teachers. In all of her roles at McGill,

Kate made a lasting impact on the lives of Quebec teachers and educators.

From 2007 until her retirement in 2021, Kate was the chair of the Advisory Board on English Education (ABEE), a job she describes as being, “the biggest thing in my life for the last 14 years—academically speaking.” Established in 1993 at the recommendation of the Task Force on English Education, ABEE is responsible for advising the Minister of Education on issues affecting the educational services rendered in English elementary and secondary schools. During her tenure, Kate insisted that every part of the province must be represented at ABEE, communities to the north, south, east, and west. She also ensured that parents and Indigenous peoples were represented.

In addition to being a life-long supporter of education, Kate has been a life-long supporter of the Home and School movement. In her acceptance speech, she shared her own story of becoming a Home and School volunteer:

There was a group of young moms who joined Edgewater Home and School about the same time—partly to see what was going on in our children’s classrooms (I’ll be very honest), and then we got roped in and then we started doing things and we started being active—not just in the school, not just raising money... but being active within the school and provincially, fighting the good fight.

From those early days at Edgewater, Kate has been an important advocate for parents. Kate explains: “Parents are the children’s first teachers... we as parents and grandparents are their longest-serving teachers and it’s so important to hear the parent’s voice.”

The QFHSA has very much appreciated Kate’s stalwart support of our organization and its activities through the years. She has faithfully attended many QFHSA annual general meetings and fall conferences, where she has connected with parents and shared her experiences (and expertise).

For her passion and support of Quebec education and parental involvement in it, the QFHSA is pleased to also present Cathrine Le Maistre with the 2022 Gordon Paterson award.

Karen Henchey, *Communications Officer*

The 2022 QFHSA Awards

The Volunteer of the Year Award

The QFHSA Volunteer of the Year award is given to a long-time Home and School volunteer who encourages parents to get involved in their children's education, promotes harmonious relations among parents, staff, administration, and volunteers, is reliable and "indispensable," and is professional and adds value to Home and School life.

Though launched in 2019 to commemorate the QFHSA's 75th anniversary, the pandemic disruption meant that this was the first time the award was presented. Making up for lost time, the QFHSA awards committee selected two recipients this year: Tayba Huot and Julie Mergl.



Tayba Huot,
Clearpoint Elementary Home and School Association

Tayba Huot has spent seven very active years as a volunteer at Clearpoint Elementary Home and School, and currently holds the position of Home and School President. When nominating her for this award, Clearpoint Home and School Vice-President Angela Dandy wrote:

Tayba uses her social, organization and compassion skills to the fullest. She has been the head of the Scholastic Book Fairs, Tru Earth Campaigns, in charge of Home and School social media and the list goes on. Tayba is always available to answer any questions and to help see an event or fundraiser to the very end. She provides wisdom from her experiences and welcomes new ideas with open arms. During her years as president, she has introduced several environmentally friendly projects like composting and promoted eco-friendly fundraisers. Her leadership has been appreciated and she will bend over backwards for the school.



Julie Mergl,
Association Foyer-école, École Primaire Beaconsfield (EPB)

Julie Mergl has been an active member at Foyer-école EPB for 13 years. She joined the executive team when her eldest son started school. When describing Julie and her accomplishments, Foyer-école President Janice O'Dette wrote:

In addition to her executive team roles and the coordinator for Pumpkin Day, Volunteers, Pizza Days, TCBY, Graduation Committee and library volunteer, Julie has taken on significant initiatives behind the scenes to strengthen our Home & School. This includes countless hours leading our website and online payment processing development (launched in 2020), which has been a game changer for how we communicate and what we can offer our families... Julie is approachable, encouraging, caring and always seeks to find common ground. She believes everyone has great ideas and takes every opportunity to encourage new volunteers and members to join our Home & School.

Through their hard work, dedication, and wonderful positivity and enthusiasm, our Volunteers of the Year, Tayba Huot and Julie Mergl, have enabled the Home and School associations at Clearpoint Elementary and École Primaire Beaconsfield achieve remarkable things. It is an honour for the QFHSA to celebrate Tayba and Julie, our exceptional volunteers of 2022.

The 2022 QFHSA Awards

The Pat Lewis Environmental Award

Created in 2014, the Pat Lewis Environmental Award honours the outstanding efforts made by elementary or high-school students towards an environmental cause. The QFHSA was very proud to honour the incredible work of the Children's World Academy community in the areas of environmental protection and preservation.



Children's World Academy (CWA), Pat Lewis Environmental Award

When nominating his school community for the award, Walter Chi-Yan Tom described the amazing collaboration of parents, teachers, staff, and students at CWA to develop sustainable and eco-friendly practices. We learned about the many things the CWA's Green Committee and Green Team do to support our planet.

The CWA community organizes eco-friendly fundraising campaigns, which include selling organic vegetables grown and delivered by a local Quebec farm and collecting used clothing in partnership with the Super-Recycleurs company, but that is not all...

The CWA community makes lunch hours as eco-friendly as possible with initiatives to eliminate/reduce the use of wasteful plastic utensils and promote litter-less lunches where students are encouraged to bring home leftover lunch items. CWA conducts follow-up research to see what is being composted and thrown out, but that is not all...

The CWA community collects COVID masks at school for recycling and composts paper towels from school washrooms, but that is not all...

The CWA community shares tips to reduce, reuse, and recycle via its electronic newsletters, but that is not all...

The CWA community organizes clean-ups in the school yard and local neighbourhood...

In short, the Children's World community's efforts to promote sustainable practices and support the environment are truly exceptional. CWA is an inspiring example of how school communities can spark positive change. Congratulations to the wonderful Children's World Academy!



The 2022 QFHSA Awards

The QFHSA Newsletter Award

How do local Home and School Associations keep their school communities informed about their activities and initiatives? One important tool they can use is a newsletter. In addition to keeping parents informed, newsletters can entertain and build school spirit too! The QFHSA Newsletter Award recognizes the exceptional newsletters produced by volunteers in our local Home and School Associations.

It was a bit of a theme with this year's awards ceremony: Why present just one award when there are two very deserving candidates? In 2022, two Home and School newsletters very much deserved the 2022 Newsletter Award.



Forest Hill Elementary – Junior Campus, QFHSA Newsletter Award

At the elementary level, volunteers **Cris Baluch**, **Lisa Davignon**, and **Wendy Entwistle** at Forest Hill Elementary – Junior Campus Home and School Association deserve praise for their delightful newsletter, *The H&S Scoop*, which keeps parents informed on everything from fundraisers to staff appreciation celebrations.

The colourful newsletter features photos and lovely quotes from the most observant people we know—elementary-school students!



Laval Junior Academy, QFHSA Newsletter Award

At the high-school level, volunteers **Patty Marinelli**, **Costa Tsirbas**, and **Laura Wittebol** at Laval Junior Academy have the important task of sharing news and information with parents, who may not get all the latest news directly from their teens.

Laval Junior's newsletter gets to the point, sharing news, information, stories, and creating some great school spirit along the way.

Congratulations to both Forest Hill Junior Home and School Association and Laval Junior Home and School Association, the 2022 recipients of the QFHSA Newsletter Award. Well done!

Celebrating Our Volunteers

The QFHSA Unsung Heroes of 2021-2022

This award recognizes Home & School and/or school volunteers who have proven to be helpful, reliable, available, and courteous, who honour their commitments throughout the school year, are willing to take on additional responsibilities when the need arises, and are involved in everyday school life. Their dedication merits recognition locally and provincially.

Beacon Hill Elementary: The Student Supervisors and Daycare Educators,
Lynn Rosemond Milburn

Children's World Academy: Christina Arvanitakis, Julietta Asencio, Laura D'adamo,
Anne Moorhouse, Mme Patricia

École Primaire Beaconsfield: Diana Baki

Edgewater Elementary: Kathryn Potvin

Edinburgh: Mr. Marco De Crescentis, M. Abdelghafour El Hama, Caroline Phaneuf,
Christine Rivard

Evergreen Elementary: Christian Doiron, Bobbi Hamilton, Elizabeth Philipps

Forest Hill Junior: Stacey Riccardi

Gardenview Elementary: Lisa Fong, Sally Mendis

Lord Aylmer: Karen Church, Alicia Duperron, Eldon Keon

Merton: Jessica Aflalo, Cheryl Blum, Tracy Cartwright,
Hernan Ciecha, Melissa Felsky, Chiara Fish, Jackie Herman,
Lisa Hochberg, Samantha Kravitz, Mitch Kujavsky, Carly Levine,
Audra Libman, Ada Nazzari, Samantha Patel, Sarah Rosenhek,
Lauren Schwartz, Shoshana Weinberger, Mindy Zunenshine

Saint Patrick: St Pat's Lunch Staff,
Andrea Cappelli, Jen Colantonio, Tracy Element,
Jodi Esterson, Gina Giambalvo,
Mary-Kate Jackson Yule, Melanie Moore,
Jennifer Murphy, Marie-Josée Paquette,
Mimi-Anna Tabaczuk, Tracy Witzke

South Hull Elementary:
Tania Lambert, Nathalie Morgan,
Lisa Sattler



Celebrating Our Volunteers

The QFHSA Golden Torch Award Recipients 2021-2022

This award recognizes Home & School Association or committee members who have demonstrated active leadership, organizational skills, encouragement of the participation of all volunteers, and whose dedication merits recognition locally and provincially.

Children's World Academy: Laura D'adamo, Nicky Giuliatti, Linda Kong, Anne Moorhouse, Mariana Vetro

École Primaire Beaconsfield: Christina Chough

Edgewater Elementary: Tara Cheevers-Lavoie

Edinburgh: Joanna Duy, Dany Holland, Abiola Simeon

Evergreen Elementary: Jennifer Gilligan, Susan Nowak

Forest Hill Junior: Cris Baluch, Annik Morisseau

Gardenview Elementary: Tina Galluccio

Lord Aylmer: Terri Cameron, Marie Lou Desharnais, Stephanie L'ecuyer, Lianne Pickhard, Ashley Tetreault, Christina Villeneuve-Seguin

Merton: Anna Fiori, Dalia Giorgi, Merrill Matthews



The Life of a Home and School Volunteer *Winter/Spring '22 Edition*



Photo from Adobe Stock

HOW HAVE LOCAL HOME AND SCHOOL Associations been managing through the winter and spring of 2022? This was one of the topics discussed in the latest round of QFHSA regional council meetings. Held on the evenings of May 12th and 16th on Zoom, the meetings were attended by QFHSA staff, board members, and executives from 11 local Home and School Associations. As always, the regional councils are an important forum for local executives to share ideas and information (and challenges), and for the QFHSA to share information and advice, too. It was very interesting to hear what Home and School life has been like since mid-January, when the last round of regional councils took place. During the May meetings, Home and Schools also discussed what was on the horizon for the remaining weeks of school.

See You in School?

Have parents been able to volunteer in their schools? For most of the Home and Schools who attended the regional councils, the answer was “No” or “Very little.” Of the 11 Home and Schools present at the meetings, only one, Lord Aylmer in Western Quebec, has been able to bring back in-school parent volunteers on a regular basis. Some schools, however, did allow one or two parents to help at special events like Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

Nonetheless, there have been encouraging signs that better days are ahead. Parents are starting to re-

ceive more invitations to help out at school, particularly at outdoor events. At Maple Grove, for example, parents helped at the Halo Race.

Though it is more challenging when volunteers cannot be in the schools, Home and Schools are still able to make things happen.

Where Can We Meet?

In the early days of the pandemic, Home and Schools made the necessary transition from in-person to virtual meetings. As attendance numbers show, parents are finding it easier to attend virtual meetings. At the same time, Home and Schools see one great advantage of in-person meetings: they help build connections among parents. As of May, most Home and Schools were still having their meetings online, but several were planning an in-person meeting within the coming weeks, often outside on the school grounds or at a local coffee shop.

Looking to next year, quite a few Home and Schools are considering working with a hybrid model. They will schedule in-person meetings at the start of the year and shift online when the weather gets more challenging. Home and Schools are looking to find a happy balance between the two types of meetings, capitalizing on the advantages of each option.

It is a reality that the COVID pandemic has dramatically reduced the opportunities for interpersonal connections among Home and School

volunteers. It is hoped that as schools open up more for parents and more in-person meetings happen, the connections among parents will grow and the important work of Home and School associations will be taken up by many more hands.

Pandemic Fundraising

When it comes to fundraising, some Home and Schools have been able to organize frequent Subway/Dagwoods/pizza/souvlaki lunches, often thanks to the support of lunchtime or administrative staff. It has been an important collaboration that enables Home and Schools to raise a good deal of funds.

Other successful fundraisers Home and Schools have organized this year are:

- Spirit wear
- Bundles of “pre-loved” school clothing
- Chocolate
- Chapmans ice cream/TCBY
- Spring flowers (A Home and School teamed with a local florist to sell mini-plants)
- Clara Clark bed sheets and cooling pillows
- Felix & Norton frozen cookie dough
- Scrap Metal collection
- Tea and coffee
- Pizza kits and doughnuts
- Super Recycleurs
- Hybrid Scholastic book fairs (Available online and in person)

Continued on the next page

Life of a H&S Volunteer

Continued from the previous page

Home and Schools discussed the value of defining a specific purpose for fundraising and sharing that information with the school community. At Beaconsfield High, when parents were invited to make donations for Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, the response was fantastic. It is allowing the Home and School to plan a second event to celebrate their teachers and other staff members before the year is out. At Westwood High, Home and School is fundraising for a new scoreboard. Lord Aylmer Home and School has set its sights on a playground for its senior campus and is also looking to buy additional Chrome Books to add to the supply provided by Quebec's Ministry of Education. The supplemental Chrome Books will be purchased through the school board as the board will be responsible for their upkeep.

Happier Days Are on the Way!

Looking ahead to the final weeks of school, local associations saw a lot of reasons to be optimistic. In some schools, Home and School volunteers have been invited to help welcome new kindergarten families when they visit the school in person on an upcoming PED Day.

In addition, for the first time since 2019, local associations are expecting the return of large year-end celebrations. Merton Home and School is planning an in-person comedy gala in early June as well as a Field Day featuring games and bouncy fun. Meanwhile, Lord Aylmer will have a Year-End Barbecue with games, a mini zip line, and lots of food. At South Hull, the event will be called Summer Fest; at St. Paul, it will be a Fun Day with a

carnival-like atmosphere. Whatever its name, the goal of each event is the same: to unite the school community for a long-awaited party. What could be better than that?

Another positive development: it looks like graduations will be celebrated a lot more like they used to be. In May, graduation committees were busy planning ceremonies and events at both elementary and high schools. Westwood High, for example, is planning an outside convocation where students can have up to nine guests, and prom is back too. Home and Schools typically get involved by providing a gift for the graduates, awards, and sometimes help with the purchase of decorations/supplies for the events. Graduates will also be treated with parties, barbecues, and special activities like Dynamix.

Looking to Next Year

Home and Schools shared their hopes for the 2022/2023 year. They include the wish for a further opening up of the schools for in-person volunteering. It is encouraging that a lot of school administrations are working with Home and Schools to start the police background check process for volunteers. Some Home and Schools are already planning welcome back events to unite the school community in the fall. St. Charles Home and School, for example, is planning the return of their very popular Welcome Back Barbecue. Beacon Hill Elementary is planning a Welcome Back event that will have a photo booth.

Home and Schools are hoping to bring back some of their larger events and fundraisers next year as well. There is some trepidation, though.

Will COVID change things again next year? Will those popular tried and true events like art shows and bazaars that Home and Schools have been known for come back as strong as ever? Will Home and Schools have the volunteers they need to pull off these big events?

It has certainly been another not-so-normal school year. Home and Schools have continued to deal with unexpected challenges, but that has not stopped them from getting things done. From an incredibly successful holiday basket collection at Lord Aylmer in December to Freezie Fridays at St. Patrick's in June, life goes on, whatever the circumstances!

Karen Henchey,
Communications Officer

You Might Want to Talk to Your Bank...

The pandemic prompted many Home and Schools to do a lot more fundraising online. How much are e-transfer deposits costing Home and Schools? This question came up at the May regional council meetings.

Some Home and School bank accounts only allow for 30 e-transactions per month. After that, there is a fee per transaction (often \$1.50). This is a problem when you are accepting online payments. Other Home and Schools do not have that 30 e-transaction limit. It is worth speaking with your bank (or a different bank) to discuss other account options to better serve your needs.

News for You



Science Is Cool!

Youth Exploring Science a Success in 2021-2022

THE 2021-22 EDITION OF the Youth Exploring Science (YES) project was officially launched on November 6th, 2021, the day when the QFH-SA mailed out information packages about YES to all our member school principals as well as to schools that participated in YES in the past. The total budget for YES in 2021-2022 was set at \$4000. The application process was set up on Google forms and posted on the website. Local Home and School executives also received an e-bulletin with information about YES. Between November 18th, 2021, and February 20th, 2022, five proposals were submitted. All were granted funding.

STEM-Based Activities at Souvenir



Souvenir Elementary's YES project, led by Jill Davey, consisted of three STEM-based activities for 19 Grade 3 students. The first activity explored transportation systems. Students packed candy canes wrapped in

various materials in paper bags and dropped them from a certain height. They then examined the contents and determined which system had the best result (the fewest broken candy canes). Afterwards, they could eat their "cargo."

In the second activity, students dissected owl pellets to determine what sorts of things owls eat by classifying the bones they found.

In the final activity, students designed, built, and tested obstacle courses from recycled materials. They then gave their class gerbils a chance to navigate their way through the courses. Even the gerbils benefited from the science activity!

for gardening without soil. Students learned about the technology behind the basic process of hydroponic gardening using nutrient-rich water. Since this type of gardening could be done indoors, students were able to grow quality vegetables any time of the year, without the use of pesticides. The project ran in early March. Within 3 to 6 weeks, vegetables were ready for harvesting. Ten students from Secondary 1 to 3 used the vegetables in dishes they prepared and served to other students and teachers at the school. The Nutritower will be available for future classes to use to learn about this technique for growing vegetables indoors.

Earth Science at Maple Grove



Maple Grove Elementary School's YES project focused on earth science. The project was led by Catheryne Porsenna, who wanted to give her students an opportunity to

Hydroponics at Baie Comeau High



Photo from Nutritower Inc.

Baie Comeau High School's YES project was led by Crystal Clarke. At the school, which is located in the Lower North Shore of Quebec, Ms. Clarke wanted to teach her students about hydroponics as an alternative and sustainable way to grow produce in an area surrounded by rocks and poor soil. A Nutritower was purchased

Continued on the next page

Science Is Cool!

Continued from the previous page

study plate tectonics and volcanoes. Using chocolate frosting as the lava bed and graham crackers as the continental plates, the students were able to demonstrate for themselves the upheaval that happens when plates are pushed together. And, again, students were able to “eat their work” afterwards. With the help of National Geographic Volcano Kits, students learned about the various structures on the surface of the planet, specifically volcanoes. All totalled, 19 Grade 5 students learned all about volcanoes: the natural phenomena that take place in and around them and their impact on life on Earth. The students also had fun putting their own mini-volcanoes through their paces.

Understanding Living Environments at Beurling



Led by Tracey Rigby, Beurling Academy's YES project had students scientifically examine their own learning environment. Using microbits, students identified, measured, and recorded the environmental variables

that affect physical and mental health in their classroom. They measured temperature, humidity, light, noise, and carbon dioxide levels using such tools as thermometers, humidity sensors, and detectors. Robotics students built and coded their own sensors and compared this data. The students then compared classroom data across Canada. They explored solutions to improve the classroom environment, and will communicate and present their findings and results.

A second component of Beurling's YES project saw students design and construct a model of a closed-system living environment to house a plant grown from seed (tomato, herbs or others). Students measured temperature, humidity, and carbon dioxide levels inside the environment. The 100 Grade 7 and 8 students involved in the project compared their handmade devices against commercial brands and designed an optimum growing environment for the plants.

Applied Science at Westwood Senior High



Led by Sharon Buffitt, Westwood Senior High School's YES project delved

into applied and general sciences. The project challenged students to design prototypes for an assistive device for a 15-year-old boy who suffered a spinal-cord injury in a snowboarding accident, leaving him a paraplegic with some loss of grip strength in his hands. The purpose of designing these prototypes was so that their fellow student could continue to function independently while at school. Over 100 Secondary 4 students participated in this applied science project.

In 2021/22, more than 260 students benefited from YES-funded enhanced science activities. The QFHSA was impressed by the ingenuity of the students and very happy to supply the funds to help them experience science in fun and innovative ways. Today's science enthusiast may be tomorrow's scientist!



The QFHSA's Youth Exploring Science project will be soliciting new proposals over the summer for consideration for micro-grants for the 2022-23 school year. Invitations to apply will go out to school principals and Home and School presidents. The 2022-23 YES application is also available on our website, qfhsa.org. From the menu on our Home page, select "Projects," then "Youth Exploring Science." You can also use this link: <https://bit.ly/3123ylo>. We look forward to assisting new science projects!

Carol Meindl,
Executive Director

Are We Really Headed to Another Tyranny of the Majority That Will Last for the Next Four Years or More?

A Commentary By Brian Rock

The tyranny of the majority is an inherent weakness to majority rule in which the majority of an electorate pursues exclusively its own objectives at the expense of those of the minority factions. This results in oppression of minority groups comparable to that of a tyrant or despot.

—Argued by John Stuart Mill in *On Liberty* (Published in 1859)

RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS scare the heck out of me! The polls are showing that in the next provincial election, *la Coalition Avenir Québec* (CAQ) will garner around 46% of the votes province wide and over 50% of the francophone vote.

In a National Assembly of Quebec with five political parties all holding seats and intending to run candidates in all 125 of the province's ridings, if one third of all eligible voters exercise their right to vote in the upcoming provincial general election, this will probably result in a majority of 63 seats or more for the CAQ.

What will 46% of the votes garner for the CAQ? Political analysts are suggesting the CAQ will end up with between 100 and 110 seats. These are astounding numbers!

Let us take a stroll down the avenue of political history. In the provincial general election of 1948, Maurice Duplessis' *Union nationale* party won 82 out of the 92 seats with 51.24% of the votes; the Quebec Liberal Party (QLP) won only eight seats; and two independent candidates were also elected. It took 12 years for the

QLP under Jean Lesage to return to power, which happened in the 1960 election.

In the provincial general election of 1973, Robert Bourassa's QLP captured 102 of the 110 seats with 54.65% of the votes; *le Parti Québécois* won six seats; and *le Ralliement créditiste*, two. It took only three years for *le Parti Québécois* to capture power for the first time under René Lévesque in 1976.

In the last general election, the following parties received a substantial number of votes: *la Coalition Avenir Québec*; the Quebec Liberal Party; *Québec solidaire*; *le Parti Québécois*; the Conservative Party of Quebec; the New Democratic Party of Quebec; and the Green Party of Quebec. This time around, we are also expecting candidates from *le Bloc Montréal*; the Canadian Party of Quebec; and perhaps also the Quebecers United for Equality Party. We will also have a number of independent candidates and those of political fringe parties as well. We will need a road map in some ridings where on a regular basis 10 or more candidates are on the ballot paper. The October 3rd, 2022, general provincial election promises to have overloaded ballots in many ridings.

What is increasingly troubling is the CAQ's obsession with collective rights. Human rights and freedoms are protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which is enshrined in the Canadian Constitution, and the Quebec Charter

of Human Rights and Freedoms. The CAQ government repeatedly uses *le bâillon* (closure) to limit and terminate debate in the National Assembly. It has imposed the Notwithstanding Clause on too many occasions to override both the Canadian and Quebec Charters.

As Laws 21 and 40 proceed through the Quebec court system towards the Supreme Court of Canada, they have been joined by Law 96, which was recently enacted by the National Assembly of Quebec—making it a trio. It will be very interesting to witness the promised intervention of the federal government through the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada in these court challenges.

It is extremely important for voters to follow the Quebec political landscape as closely as they can as we count down to voting day on Monday, October 3rd, 2022!

Brian ROCK, B.A., M.Ed., a past president of the QFHSA, is a retired school principal who previously taught secondary English Language Arts and the History of Quebec. He presently serves as the Secretary-Treasurer and a director on the Task Force on Linguistic Policy. He also writes a monthly column on education, history, and politics for the Gatineau Bulletin, the Aylmer Bulletin, the Pontiac Journal, and the West Quebec Post.

Note: The opinions expressed above are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the QFHSA.



What It Was Like Being a CEGEP & University Student During the Pandemic

MY NAME IS SIMON HOGUE and I am the archivist intern for the QFHSA. In September I will be beginning my third year as an undergraduate at Concordia University in Montreal where I study history. I was both a CEGEP and university student during the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, I was in my final semester of CEGEP. My CEGEP announced that we would take two weeks off before we would shift to online learning. During those two weeks off, I was quite excited and nervous to begin online learning and I kept thinking about the potential benefits it would have for me as a disabled student.

For the month and a half I had left of classes, I really enjoyed online learning due to the flexible schedule it provided me. I was able to complete my courses while also having more leisure time than when I attended CEGEP in person. Being a wheelchair user, it was also very enjoyable to no longer need to make the daily commute to school. I continued to do well in all my courses during online learning and graduated with my Diploma of Collegial Studies in General Social Science in May 2020.

Summer 2020 was used to recharge and prepare myself for university in the fall. In September 2020, I began university with online classes. I used many of the strategies I had employed to finish CEGEP online, and this helped me to succeed. By this point, however, the novelty of online classes had faded, and it was more challenging to keep going. Despite these minor setbacks, I easily adjusted to university life and did well in my first semester. I like to think that this success was partly because I had professors who were able to adapt their classes to the online learning environment and were accommodating to students.

Additionally, I joined Concordia University's Homeroom program. Launched in Fall 2020, the program helps first-year university students adapt to university life

and make friends, matching newcomers with a senior student mentor. Homeroom provided me with the social interaction I was lacking from the combination of Zoom and pre-recorded lectures. It also gave me a support network that I could rely on when feeling overwhelmed and helped motivate me to prioritize my mental health. I passed all of my courses in my first semester with good grades.



Simon Hogue at the QFHSA office

Classes continued online for the Winter 2021 semester. By this point, despite doing well academically, making friends, and being organized, I was feeling quite overwhelmed. I addressed the problem by better structuring my day: I started to dedicate specific times for attending class, studying, and taking breaks. This helped me to feel less overwhelmed and gave me the structure that I missed from in-person learning.

I am happy to note that the Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 semesters were hybrid semesters, with a mix of in-person and online courses. The hybrid semesters were the best for me as a visual learner since I got to see PowerPoints with maps and various images both in the classroom and at home. Additionally, it allowed me to get out of the house and interact with other people, which benefited my mental health and in turn allowed me to continue to do well academically.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that while we rely heavily on technology in our day-to-day lives, we still need opportunities for in-person learning as well as socializing. I believe that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the benefits of online learning for certain circumstances and individuals while also showing us the importance of in-person learning for other individuals who do better in the classroom. Moving on from the pandemic, I think we will be seeing a hybrid style of learning with aspects of both online and in-person schooling co-existing.

Simon Hogue,
QFHSA Intern, Spring 2022

News for You

THE YEAR OF OUR DISCONTENT

By Carol Meindl

ON SATURDAY, MAY 14th, 2022, thousands of Quebecers marched in the streets of Montreal to protest Bill 96, *An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Quebec*. Despite reassurances from our premier that there was nothing to worry about, Quebecers took the time to read the text and could see with their own eyes what was plainly written. If we felt we could trust our premier to have everyone's best interests in mind, we could err on the side of optimism and say to ourselves, "Yes, but it would never go that far! No one would really enforce the use of French to such an extent as is allowed in these laws..."



Now that Law 96 has been adopted, we need to keep our eyes and ears open and catalogue all the times that things indeed "went too far." We certainly cannot count on the government to track the negative impact this legislation will have on Quebec citizens. If the *Office québécois de la langue française* threatens to investigate the language immigrants are speaking in the privacy of their own homes, not just in the workplace, will inspectors be calling up at dinnertime and initiating conversations in English just to entrap them? Can we honestly say that we could not imagine such a scenario in Quebec?

There is some small comfort in knowing that some elements of the francophone press are beginning to cotton on and ask similar questions as is the federal government.

On another Saturday, June 11th, 2022, a couple dozen people turned up at a small rally in Park Extension to mark the third anniversary of the adoption of Law 21: *An Act respecting the laicity of the State*. They were determined to keep the protest against this law alive and not let it fade into obscurity only because it affects such a small

minority of people. The very fact that a very small minority of people are impacted by this law indicates how unnecessary the law was in the first place. It is very unfortunate that those who are affected by Law 21 have had their future plans upended. They have had to think about leaving the province to pursue their careers. The appeal of moving to Quebec will not become more and more cheery as time goes on.



Bill 40: *An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance* has not been completely resolved yet. We had expected a ruling from Justice Lussier by the month of June, but now that a provincial election has been called, a ruling will not be forthcoming until November 2022. The uncertainty of whether we will still have English school boards going into 2023 is another cause for concern.

Lingering strains of COVID along with escalating costs for groceries, gas, and housing are adding to our discontent. How can all this negative legislation be healthy for a society that is already struggling with so much? How can basing restrictive legislation on false claims and weak data while promoting fear be a good idea at this time? Who is being served?

The National Assembly has recessed for the summer and will be back in the fall. When it returns, it will be preoccupied by a provincial election campaign, and it will be making more promises of legislation to protect the "fragile majority of Quebec." We can look forward to trudging through February snows with all of that on our minds.

Despite all of that, there is reason to be optimistic. Generally, people want to get along with one another and there is a very good case to think that, down in the trenches, in the grocery check-out line, on public transit, and on the street, people will be courteous and helpful to one another, speaking whichever "common language" seems to be called for in the circumstances. **Just people being people, not politicians.**

Membership Services – The Latest News

Finishing Up One Year, Getting Ready for the Next...

Tidying Up 2021-2022

Another unusual, hybrid year has ended (hopefully with a bang) and I am sure that all of you are looking forward to an activity-packed 2022-2023. Before you put your feet up, there are a few items due into the QFHSA office. If you need sample reports to follow, please contact Marlyn.

- **President’s Activity Report:** Please send in a summary of what your Home and School was able to accomplish in 2021-2022. I would particularly like to hear of new initiatives that I can include on an activity sheet distributed in the Executive Training Kits this fall.
- **Treasurer’s Financial Report:** The QFHSA requires an income statement (revenues and expenses) for the past year, and please send in a copy of the June bank statement for our records. All the big-ticket items and significant future allocations should be included in the report.
- **Membership Lists and Fees:** Have you sent in the most up-to-date membership list and does the list you submitted balance with the payments sent to the QFHSA office? If not, please advise Marlyn of any changes.



- **2022-2023 Forms:** The forms are on the QFHSA website at qfhsa.org under the “Forms” tab. At this point, the most important document to submit before you break for the summer is the **2022-2023 Executive List**. Please fill it out and email it to Marlyn.

Passing the Torch

Does the new executive team know what they are required to submit to the QFHSA office? Do they know that the QFHSA offers training workshops and support? Please take a few hours to give the incoming executive members all the information they need to get started in September 2022. For those executives moving on, **thank you** for the countless hours you have dedicated to your local associations.



Coming in Fall 2022:

- **QFHSA Executive Training Workshops:** Tentative dates – third and fourth week of September
- **Regional Council/President’s Meetings:** Late November, early December
- **QFHSA Fall Conference:** The QFHSA team is hoping to hold an in-person event this coming fall on Saturday, November 12th. Stay tuned!

Marlyn Brownrigg, *Membership Services Coordinator*
marlynbrownrigg@qfhsa.org; 514-481-5619

Literacy News

Helping High Schoolers

The QFHSA’s Literacy Committee was pleased to support five high school literacy programs this year. Teachers were allocated funds to purchase books for students reading below grade level.

The following schools received grants, which together totalled \$2200: Gaspé Polyvalent (ESSB); Lauren Hill Academy (EMSB); Laval Junior Academy (SWLSB); La Tuque High School (CQSB); and Westwood High School (LBPSB).



Boxes of Books

Two boxes of books were sent to Grades 3 and 4 students at New Carlisle High School (ESSB), and a box of secondary level books was sent to teacher John Sams at Gaspé Polyvalent. The QFHSA would like to thank our partner First Book Canada for its continued support.

We hope that all our Home and School volunteers get a chance to curl up with a good book this summer!
Happy Reading!

The QFHSA Literacy Committee

Focus on the Locals

In the *Focus on the Locals* section, we share news and information from our local associations. **Thank you to all of the Home and Schools that contributed to this issue.** We would love to hear from your Home and School too! Before sending photos, please make sure you have the permission of those appearing in the photos. We invite H&S members to send in your news to news@gfhsa.org.

An Amazing Year at Maple Grove

At Maple Grove, it has indeed been an amazing year! We have organized fundraisers and fun events. Our wonderful staff members supported us all the way and even participated in our events as much as our families! To show how much they mean to us, we organized a big staff appreciation celebration with a catered lunch, gift cards for each staff member, goodies for the teacher's lounge, and we even decorated outside the school! (We could not decorate inside this year as volunteers were not permitted in the school.)



This year's fundraisers included a very successful Felix and Norton cookie dough fundraiser along with lots of other little fundraisers—Bo Sapin, Oliver's Labels, school swag, and School Start. In June, we ran a silent auction fundraiser as well.

Back by popular demand was our Earth Week Scrap Metal fundraiser. We like this fundraiser because it allows us to both raise funds and help the environment. Here's how it worked: We got in touch with our Borough Mayor, who arranged for us to borrow bins from the city. We placed the bins outside the school for four days. During that time, families dropped off scrap metal. Each night, a volunteer emptied the bins and brought the contents to a family's backyard. On the weekend, the larger items were picked up. The donations went to



Century Scrap, a company that gave Home and School a preferred rate for the items.

Here are some of the ways we used our fundraising revenue: Home and School purchased equipment for the classes to enjoy indoor recess. We also paid for the busing to the GMAA Halo Race and the LBPSB Track and Field Meet for Grades 5 and 6.



In addition, for the first time ever, we sponsored a student to attend Camp Amy Molson this summer. The initiative was spearheaded by the Special Ed and Family & School Support Treatment Team techs. The techs know the children well. They understand their social-emotional needs and are also mindful of the socio-economic situations of some of our families. This enabled the techs to identify a child who they believed would most benefit from the Camp Amy Molson experience. Home and School was very happy to support our school community in this new way.

Although pandemic restrictions kept Home and School volunteers outside the school building this year, we are proud of all that we were still able to accomplish!

*Submitted by Gabriela Coutard,
Maple Grove Elementary Home and School*

Fantastic Year-End Fun!

At Forest Hill Junior..

Grilling Up Some Fun & Memories!

To mark the end of the school year, Forest Hill Junior's Home & School Association planned an epic BBQ celebration that had all the students smiling from ear to ear! Students were treated to a tasty hot dog lunch and a wide variety of fun outdoor activities. Classes were rotated through stations that included inflatable bouncy games, an obstacle course, giant board games, temporary tattoos, a bubble machine, popcorn, an ice-pop break, a firetruck demonstration and tour, a police car, the CBSA mascot, and a magic show. The biggest hit of all was the dunk tank, where students had the chance to dunk their favourite teachers, daycare supervisors, and support staff members! Rocking music and a small army of enthusiastic volunteers helped to make the event, as many of our students could be heard saying, **the best day ever!**



The Forest Hill Junior Home & School Association would like to give special thanks to BBQ committee chairperson Paula MacNeil for her amazing organizational skills and her passion for making this event the most memorable and exciting day of the year!

*Submitted by Kim Beardsell,
Forest Hill Junior Elementary Home and School*

At Clearpoint Elementary...

Reconnecting After 2 Long Years!



Clearpoint Elementary had an amazing end-of-the-year celebration. There were bouncy castles, hot dogs from la Belle Province, and ice cream from Pickerell's food truck. We reached out to local high schools and community animators to put on a selection of performances. Cabaret Kids, H4L Dance Studio, and BHS's Glee and Improv clubs showed up to set the stage on fire.

It was our biggest turnout ever for an event. Everyone was so happy to reconnect after 2 long years.

*Submitted by Angela Dandy,
Clearpoint Elementary Home and School*

Focus on the Locals

More Fantastic Year-End Fun!

At Souvenir Elementary...

A Fun Day for All!

We had a wonderful Fun Day on June 20. The sun was shining and students had a great time! There were games, bouncy castles, Mr. Freezes, and a hot dog lunch. Thank you to staff and volunteers who made this day happen. The year started with restrictions and masks. Fortunately, it ended with an amazing Fun Day and a visit from an ice-cream truck!

*Submitted by Costa Tsirbas,
Souvenir Home and School
Association*



At St. Charles...

Time to Get Footloose!



The much anticipated Footloose, our end-of-the-year celebration was back this year! Students, staff, and volunteers alike had a special and fun-filled day to mark the end of another successful school year. The children spent the day jumping on inflatables, playing games in the park, and eating pizza, freezies, and ice cream. There was also a little surprise this year... Students were able to dump a pail of water on a staff member's head with the "Beat the Bucket" game. All the Footloose fun was made possible thanks to the fundraising dollars that were raised throughout the year. Thank you to all the volunteers who put the day together and those who helped out that day.

*Submitted by Julianne Read and Donne Coelho,
St. Charles Home and School Association*

St. Charles Meets the Year's Challenges and Makes Great Memories Along the Way!

Another school year has come to an end, and Oh, what a year it has been! This year, we saw how important it was to be flexible and how to work together to accomplish a goal. We saw the amazing staff at St. Charles adapt to many changes, all the while trying to keep a routine. We also saw how resilient our children can be. Home and School also had some challenges trying to implement activities and fundraisers with certain restrictions, but together, with the help of staff, we were able to give the children almost everything we normally would do. Thank you to all those who went above and beyond to help make this year another success.

This year we had many fundraisers, including our fall chocolate fundraiser, pizza and Dagwood's lunches, Sharks' clothing sale, Recipes in a Jar, our Big Bang event, and more. Our fundraising initiatives allowed us to plan such fun activities for the students as Breakfast with Santa, Bingo with Indigo gift cards during Literacy Month, grad celebrations, and the much anticipated end-of-the-year Footloose event. We were also able to provide funds for our teachers to buy educational materials for their classrooms.

We would like to wish the Graduating Class of 2022 all the best. It seems like just yesterday we were saying goodbye to them as they entered into kindergarten. The COVID pandemic created challenging moments for them in the last 2 years, but they pulled through it smiling and enjoying every moment. We planned so much for them in the last month of school: a grad ceremony and dance; a pool party; and a grad breakfast! We also put together a yearbook filled with memories from their 7 years at the school.



We would like to thank our community for their ongoing support. Thanks to this support, we are able to continue with the fundraising efforts and activities that the children love!

*Submitted by Julianne Read and Donne Coelho,
St. Charles Home and School Association*

Focus on the Locals



Pumpkin picking



Staff Appreciation Week



Halloween Bingo

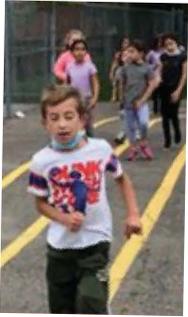
Looking Back on a Very Full Year at Margaret Manson Elementary

We say goodbye to 2021-22 with gratitude for another wonderful school year! While this pandemic brought many challenges, it also reaffirmed the importance of our Home & School Association and its relationship with the community and the school to enhance student life.

With the support and generosity of our incredible community, we successfully ran many fundraising events and supported many school activities. We were also able to fulfill this year's initiative: new Margaret Manson Elementary School T-shirts for the students! Way to go, MMES!!

A huge thank you to all of the Home & School members and volunteers for the many wonderful events and activities they helped to make happen. We very much hope that we can resume in-person activities in the fall so that we can see the smiles on the children's faces and hear the laughter in the halls once again. On behalf of Margaret Manson Home & School Association, have a relaxing and fun-filled summer!

*Submitted by Cynthia Casullo,
Margaret Manson Elementary Home and School*



Running for Terry Fox



Collecting food for On Rock



At the Terry Fox Run



Winter Holiday Smiles



Enjoying Carnival Day!



Carnival Day Fun!



Jenga—Carnival Size!

SHARE YOUR NEWS!



Photo by Anissa Thompson from FreemImages

What is happening in your Home and School community? Fun fundraisers? Special events? Please let us know and we will be happy to share your news in our *Focus on the Locals* section in an upcoming issue of the *QFHSA News*. Send your submissions to news@qfhsa.org

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