



"People's History of English-Speaking Quebec": Planning for a Community-Based Project for Community Vitality

QUESCREN Lunch & Learn
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Presentation plan

Introduction

Some people's history

Situation

Our project

- Summary
- Activities
- What it will produce (“outputs”)
- Goals (“outcomes”)

Status

Tying it all together



Introduction

People's History of English-Speaking Quebec

Planners/leads:

- Lorraine O'Donnell PhD
 - History, community development, archives
- Patrick Donovan, PhD
 - History, heritage preservation, cultural centre management

Funder: Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise, Government of Quebec



Some people's history

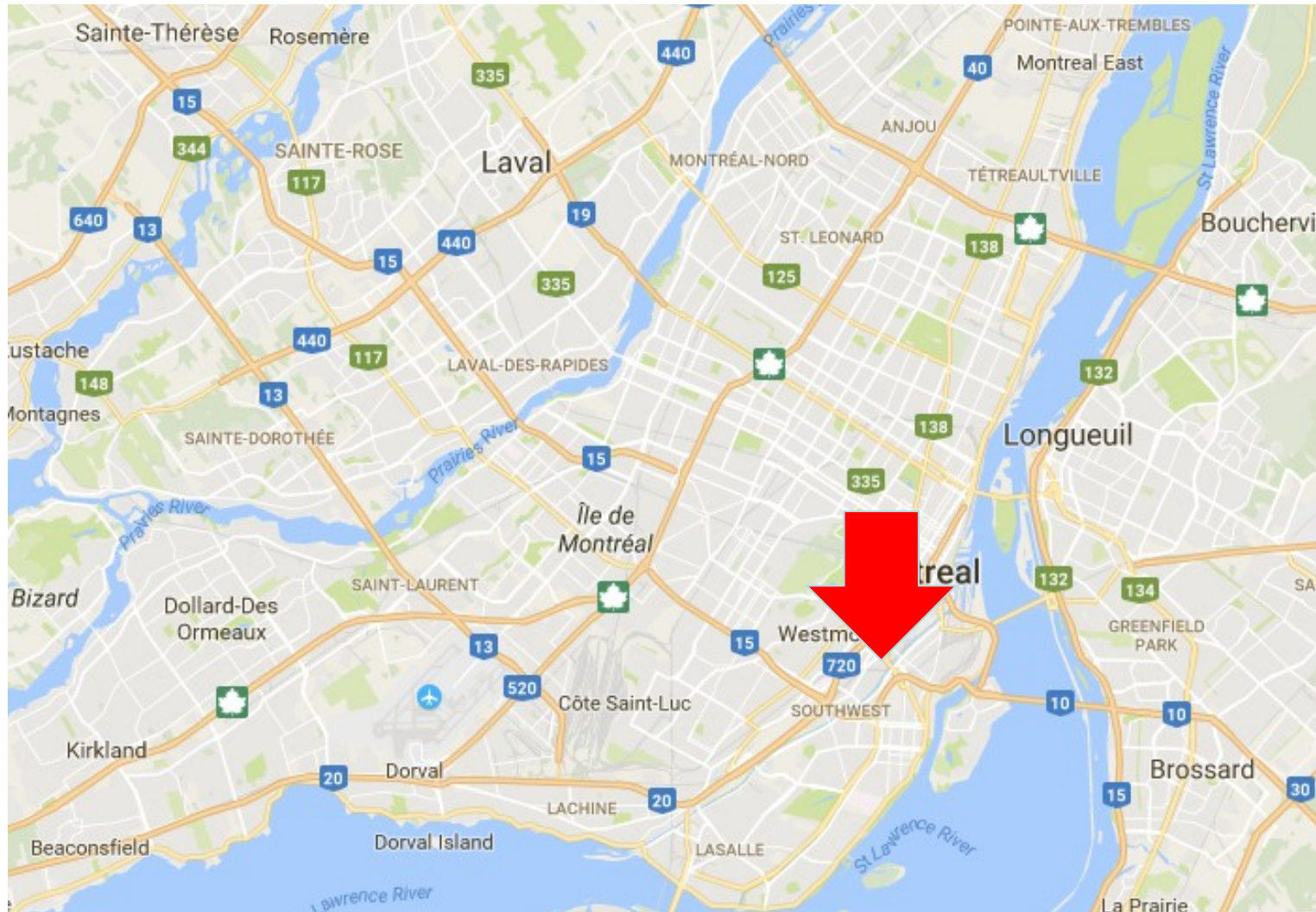
Black Rock group

Black Rock Group, est. 1981



The commemorative black rock, Point St. Charles

Black Rock group: where they were



Verdun and Point St. Charles, Montreal

Rock group: who they were

“What has emerged is not easy to classify; the group acts as **a focus for working class, Verdun cultural and political activities** [....] This group is based upon a singular community of interest which includes many, many varying points of view and attitudes.”

McGill Daily, July 28, 1982

Rock group: who they were

The group: poets, painters, writers, photographers, supporters (partial list??)

- Adams, Danny
- Arkinson, Linda
- Beriault, Georges
- Bowman, Martin
- Bradley, John
- Calder, Nelson
- Callahan, Kevin
- Fennario, David
- Filip, Raymond
- German, Kevin
- Salmela, John
- Salmela, Sheila
- Sorley, Jimmy
- Wilcox, Keith

David
Fennario
born 1947



Image date 1978-1980, BAnQ

Club + cultural centre



1982- opened at 5365 Lasalle Blvd., Verdun

Black Rock group: what they did

BLACK ROCK MANIFESTO

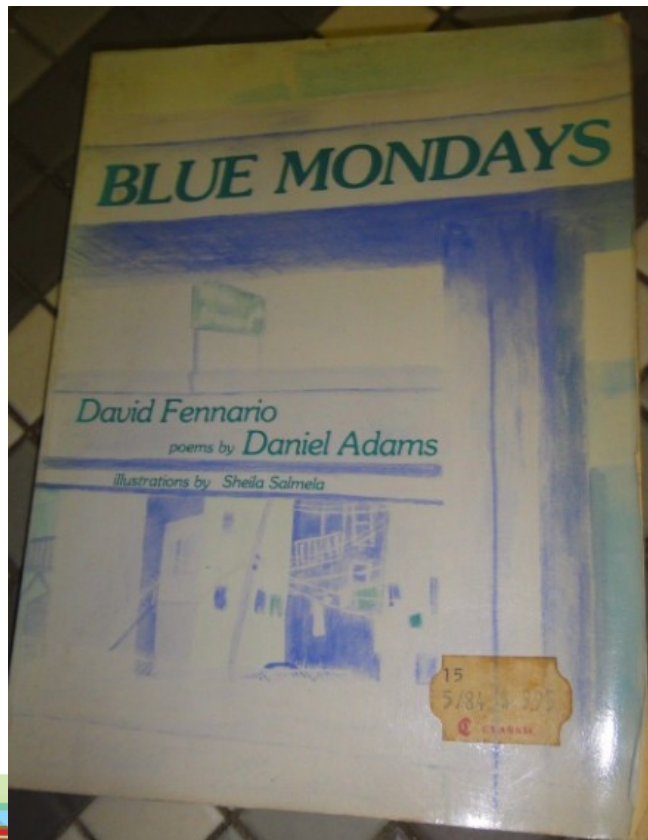
The Black Rock memorial stone in the traditionally Anglo working class district of Pointe Saint-Charles in Montréal, honoring the 6,000 immigrants that died of typhoid fever in 1847.

Not a Bleeding Heart of Christ or the head of holy fool John the Baptist but a huge black rock like a bad tooth pulled out of the river and placed on the common grave by the working men that built the Victoria Bridge.

Publishing

Blue Mondays

David Fennario &
Daniel Adams, 1984.



Developing political positions

“It’s not like Alliance Québec’s sort of thing where guys are pissed off, ‘Gee, we’re not going to get a job here, if we don’t get a job we’re going to go to Toronto [....] These people here can’t go to Toronto, they never wanted to go to Toronto [...] **We want to stay here.**”

John Salmela, 1982

Demonstrating



May Day, 1982

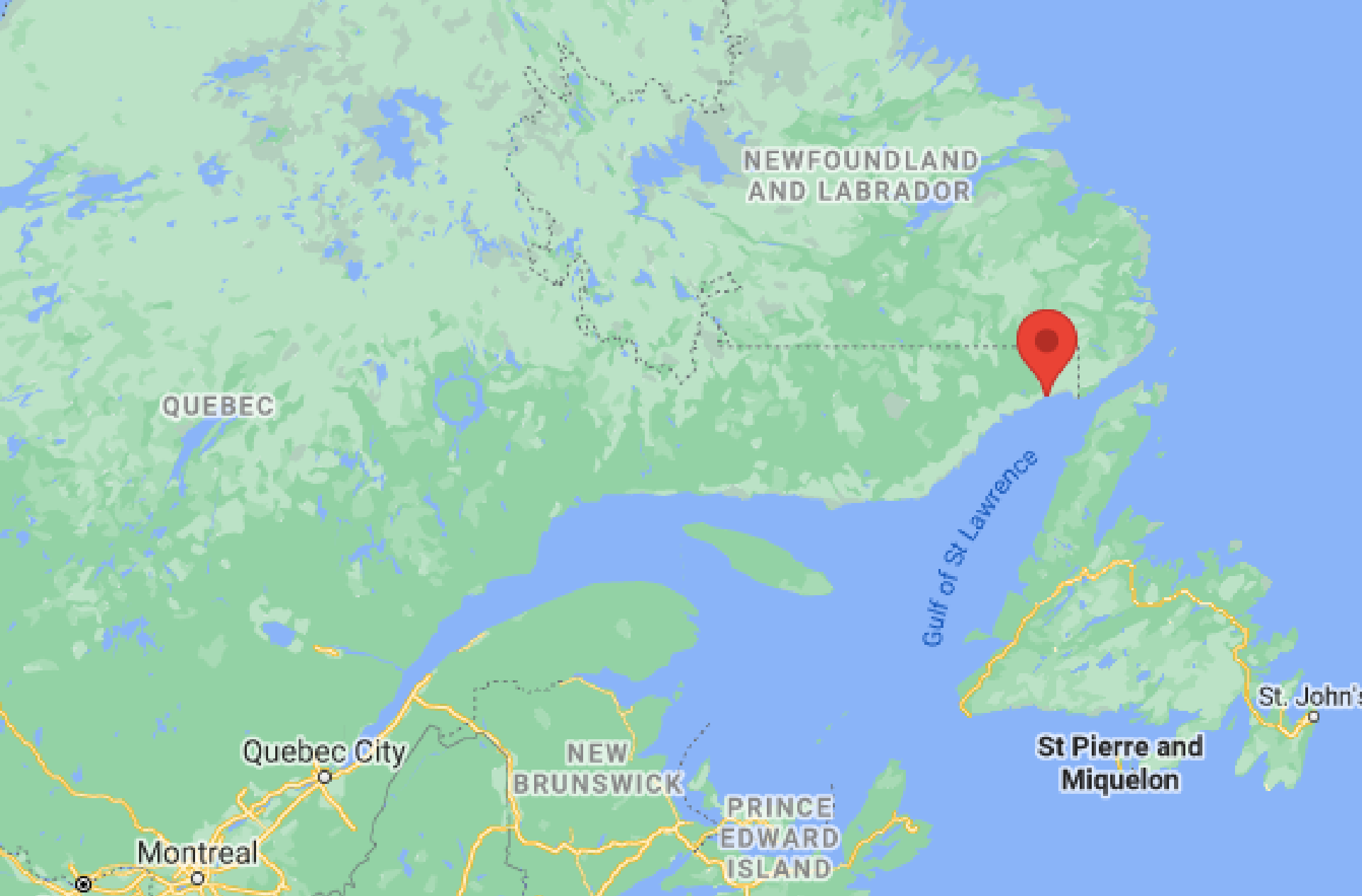


Some people's history

Coasters Association

Coasters Association, est. 1989





St. Paul's River, Lower North Shore, Quebec



View from Granny's Hill trail at the end of the road in Old Fort Bay, Quebec. Credit: Patrick Donovan

Coasters Association: who they are

“The mission of the Coasters Association is to develop **knowledge of the needs and expectations** of the sixteen communities on the Lower North Shore **and act in partnership** with community leaders, organizations and stakeholders to design and deliver community **strategies, programs and services** which respond to the region’s development challenges and which profile the unique cultural and natural resources of the region.”



People at Coasters c. 1989: Wilson Evans, Rita Collier, Charles Hart, Nicole Driscoll, Cornella Maurice, Tony Roberts

Coasters Association: what they do

Culture, Heritage, and Health, 2006

Cookbook by Jocelyne Jones & Priscilla Fequet Griffin

Baked Duck



Recipe by: Mable Wellman (87 years old) of Mutton Bay

Number of servings: 8 servings of about 100 g of duck meat with the stuffing

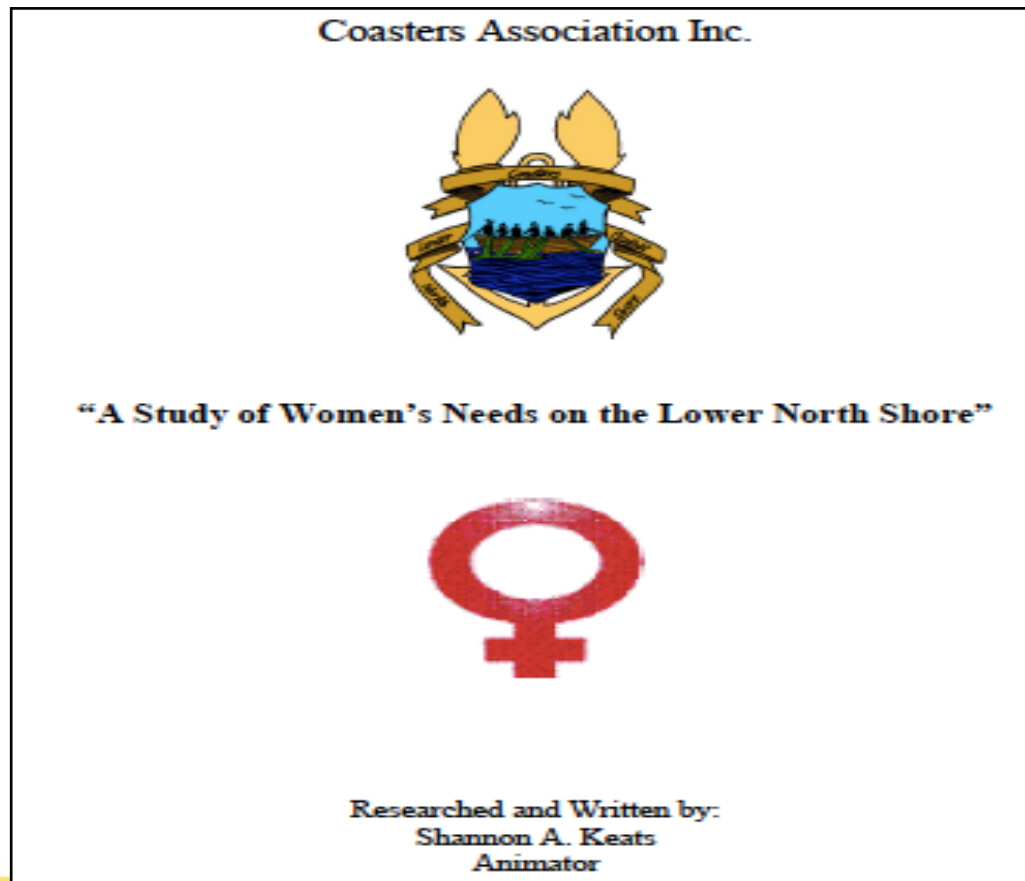
Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cooking time: 2 hours

Coasters Association: what they do

Assessment of Women's Needs

Report by Shannon A. Keats



Coasters Association: what they do

Early Childhood Development
Report by Kimberly Organ

Building Better Futures For Our Children

Coasters Association Inc.

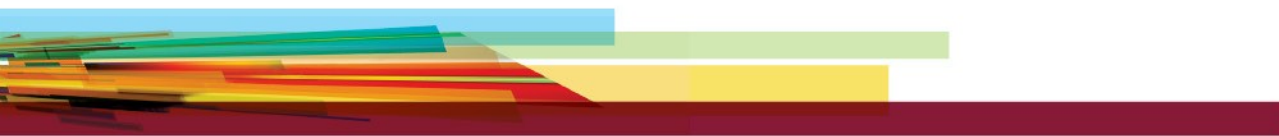
Early Childhood Development

Prepared by Kimberly Organ, ECD Coordinator

Ordinary people?

Black Rock group and Coasters Association people

- Formed and contributed to ESQ groups
- Naming/meeting community priorities: economic, social, cultural/heritage
- Relationships: other groups + external



The People's History of English-Speaking Quebec project



Situation

Problems the project addresses

Demographic, institutional decline (Bourhis 2019)

Low ESQ history knowledge as a vitality issue (Zanazanian 2017)

- ESQ historiography gaps (B. O'Donnell 2013)
 - Regional focus = Montreal, Townships
 - Ethnocultural focus = Irish, Jews, Italians

Low recognition of ESQ history by majority pop.?

- High school textbook issues (K.S. Skoufaras 2004; History Experts Committee 2018)

Low “level of vitality of memory”? (Roy 2021)



Our project

Summary

Drawing on primary and secondary sources, the People's History of English-Speaking Quebec project will **capture voices** of ordinary English-speaking Quebecers working **in community groups**. The project will do so in order to **preserve and share** Quebec English speakers' history and **promote their vitality** and to **amend the dominant narrative**.

What we hope to change: “outcomes”

More ESQ history and heritage are preserved and available

Scholarly literature is enriched

ESQ gains in self-knowledge, vitality, and wellbeing

How we aim to do it: activities

Reviewing literature

Conducting field work

- Visiting archives
- Conducting interviews and activities

Developing the Community Knowledge Open Library (CKOL)

Giving presentations

Writing

Convening advisory committee

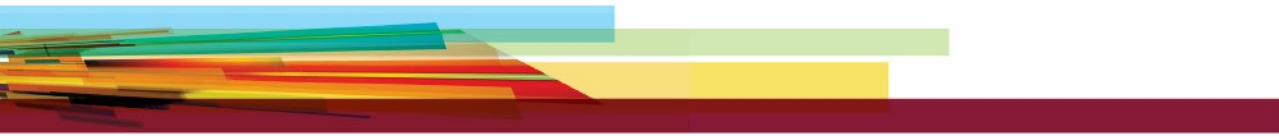
What will be produced – “outputs”

Online CKOL database

Powerpoints, publications

Partnerships and networks

- Advisory committee
- Community groups in CKOL and book



Status

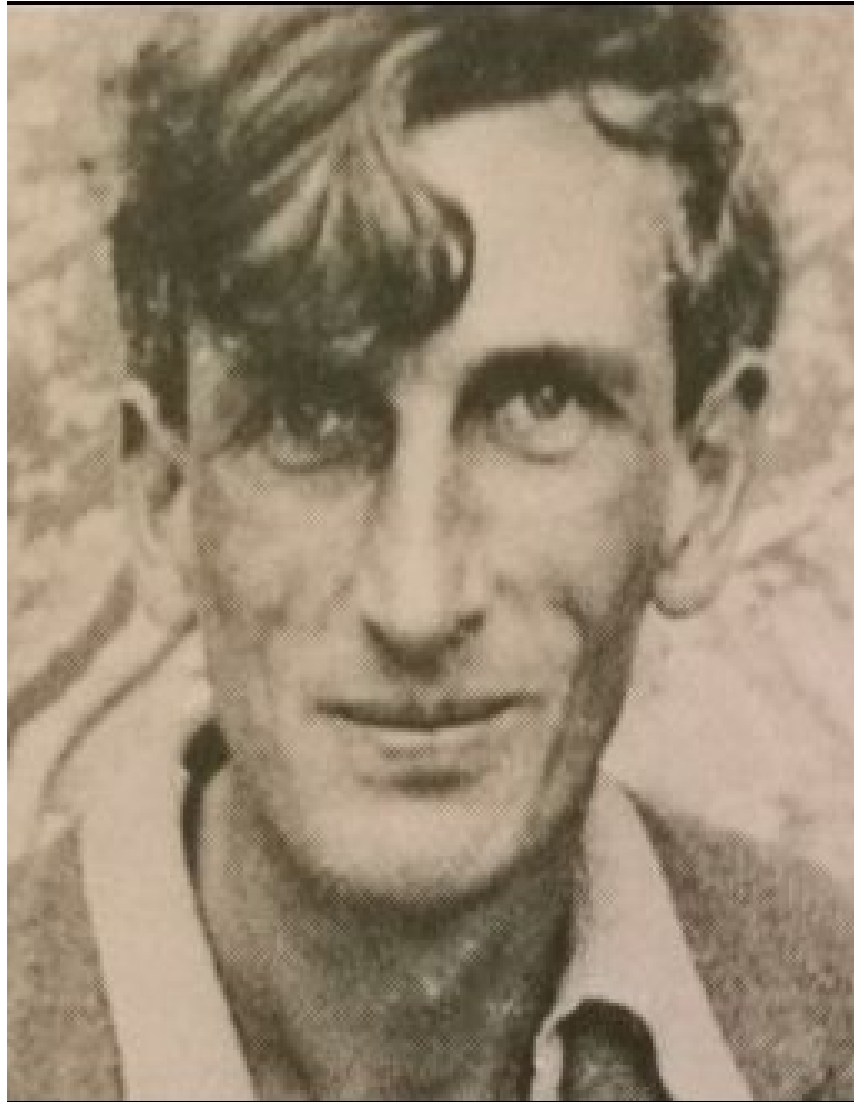
Secondary sources: the scholarly literature



Status: reviewing literature

People's history literature

Arthur Leslie Morton, 1903-1987



People's history literature: A.L. Morton

A. L. Morton, *A people's history of England*, 1938 + new editions, reprints

- History from the point of view of ordinary people
- Easy to read

Howard Zinn, 1922-2010



Howard Zinn speaking against the Vietnam War, 1970

People's history literature: Howard Zinn

Howard Zinn, *A people's history of the United States*,
1980 + new editions, reprints

Comparable in scope, tone, and orientation to Morton,
but focus on collective action

People's history literature: Howard Zinn

“I wanted, in writing this book, to awaken a greater consciousness of class conflict, racial injustice, sexual inequality, and national arrogance”

Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States*, 2010 ed.

Legacy: Morton

History Workshop (UK)

- Voices of experience eg., labourers
- History as a 'tool'



[Archives](#) > [Collections](#)

RAPHAEL SAMUEL AND HISTORY WORKSHOP ARCHIVES

Legacy: Zinn

Zinn Education Project

“Taking a more engaging and more honest look at the past, we can help equip students — and all of us — with the analytical tools to make sense of and improve the world today”



TEACHING PEOPLE'S HISTORY

People's history as history from below

Old vs New history from below (M. Lyons)

Old

- Morton, Zinn
- Groups/ collective mentalities + actions = anonymous?

New

- Morton's + Zinn's legacy + other research/projects
- Grassroots, personal voices
- Ordinary readers and writers as active agents

People's history literature & our project

Focus

- Ordinary people as active agents
- Collective action in face of challenges

Purpose

- Positive social change at the community level



Status: reviewing literature

Other literature

Literature review, continued

We will also draw on scholarly literature on:

- History + culture of Quebec community groups
 - (Gosselin, Ravensbergen, Bonin, Zanazanian, Rochat, Kruzynski, Anctil, Williams)
- History/heritage and community vitality, wellbeing, health
 - (Roy, Smale, Pennington)
- Minor history, minority narrative
 - (Brazzoduro, Doving & Schwaller)
- History of decolonization, subaltern groups
 - (Giroux)
- ESQ history
 - (Rudin, many others)
- Community-based action research
 - (Beaulieu, Rochat)

Literature on community groups: C. Gosselin on ESQ groups



Cote des Neiges
Black Community
Association, 2013-
2014 *Annual
Report*

Literature on community groups:

A. Kruzynski on women



Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) 2019 Annual Report

Literature on community groups: D. Rochat on politics

QUEBEC HOME & SCHOOL NEWS

Published by the Quebec Federation of Protestant Home & School Associations

Volume 4, No. 4

Montreal, P.Q.

March, 1967

BILL 25 BRINGS SPEEDY H&S REACTION

Federation Gave Lead In Presenting Views To Public, Legislators

Quebec Federation's executive lost no time in expressing the views of Protestant Home & Schoolers when the contents of contentious Bill 25 became public knowledge on Saturday, February 11.

Form "Big Six" Council of Parents Federations Unite in Effort For Joint Political Action

Efforts of Quebec Federation during the past year to organize a Provincial Parent Council of the various Quebec federations of home-school groups reached fruition late in

8 to 9 a.m. tomorrow by bus and private car and will meet in front of the parliament buildings at 12 noon.

"Premier Johnson has been advised and asked for a hearing."

After the passing of Bill 25 but before it had been signed by the

Quebec Home & School News, March 1967

History/heritage & community vitality, wellbeing, health

“Vitality of memory, rather neglected thus far, adds a temporal dimension [to official language minority community vitality] that strengthens the social bond and identity—prerequisites for sustainable development.”

Alain Roy, “From Vitality to Vitality of Memory,” 2021.

History/heritage & community vitality, wellbeing, health



A. Pennington et. al., "The impact of historic places and assets on community wellbeing: A scoping review," 2019



Status: primary sources

Community Knowledge Open Library – CKOL

Refine by

Subject

- ☐ Accident Prevention and Safety (3)
- ☐ Age Groups (11)
- ☐ Arts, Culture, and Media (2)
- ☐ Community (24)
- ☐ Economics (2)
- ☐ Education (11)
- ☐ Ethno-Cultural Groups (1)
- ☐ Family (1)
- ☐ Government and Law (2)
- ☐ Health (27)
- ☐ History and Heritage (3)
- ☐ Immigration and Migration (2)
- ☐ Language and Language Use (18)

Your search

[Help](#) [Reset search](#)

Everywhere ☒ Coasters

Search within results for

Everywhere

=

Q

Results

45 resources

Sort by: Relevance ▼

1

2


3

>

Coasters Association. *A Portrait of the Territory Driving Innovation for a Stronger Future: A Depiction of the Coasters Association on the Lower North Shore, an Overview of the Region, a Breakdown of Each Community Profile and the Way Forward from Here, 2020.*

[View resource](#)

CKOL interface by Whisky Echo Bravo <https://whiskyechobravo.com>

 UNIVERSITÉ
Concordia
UNIVERSITY

Status of CKOL

So far: 25+ partners; 1000+ resources

Includes Coasters, but not Black Rock Group (yet!)

Funder: Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois
d'expression anglaise

***Save the date: online CKOL Launch, March 10/22 noon**



**Status: making knowledge
accessible**

Presentations in community and scholarly networks



**NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON PUBLIC HISTORY**



Book: Preliminary Table of Contents

Chapter 1: The Enduring Myth of the Rich Anglos (1700s to 1970s)

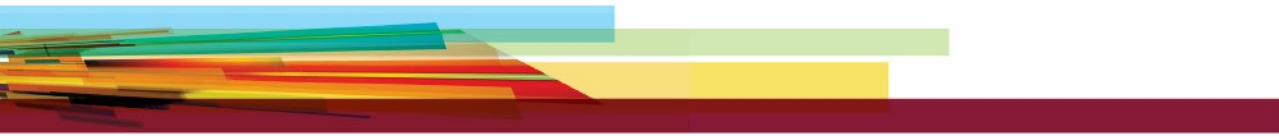
Chapter 2: Building an English-speaking Community (1960s-1970s)

Chapter 3: Activism in Montreal and Quebec City

Chapter 4: Coastal Quebec

Chapter 5: Non-coastal Quebec (Townships, Pontiac, Abitibi-Temiscamingue, etc.)

Photo Essay



Tying it all together

Summary

Drawing on primary and secondary sources, the People's History of English-Speaking Quebec project will **capture voices** of ordinary English-speaking Quebecers working **in community groups**. The project will do so in order to **preserve and share** Quebec English speakers' history and **promote their vitality** and to **amend the dominant narrative**.

Preliminary hypothesis

Focussing on community group history, the project will capture a wide range of ESQ knowledge. This includes knowledge of a wide range of ordinary people, including women and ethnocultural and regional communities, and knowledge about a wide range of topics including culture, identity, politics, and relations among groups and with the majority and the state.

The project will reveal ESQ groups as sites of inclusion, diversity and debate, and for building and asserting ESQ ways to belong in Quebec.

Questions we're mulling over

Defining

- “Ordinary people”
- Community group
- ESQ

Keeping it manageable – what to leave out

Actions you can take

***Save the date: online CKOL Launch March 10/22 noon**

Project feedback? Write Patrick and Lorraine

Lorraine.odonnell@concordia.ca

Patrick.Donovan1@concordia.ca

Contact Patrick to be a CKOL partner

Subscribe to QUESCREN newsletter for updates

<https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/scpa/quescren/resources/newsletter.html>

The Secrétariat aux relations avec les Québécois d'expression anglaise is the sponsor of:

- The People's History of English-Speaking Quebec project
- CKOL
- This QUESCREN Lunch & Learn

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

*Secrétariat aux relations
avec les Québécois
d'expression anglaise*

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