

GOLDEN TORCH AWARDS



Baie Comeau High School	Isabelle Harvey Cluney Hurley Donna Hurley Mark Kerr Maria-Teresa Mastrocola
Beacon Hill Elementary	Kathy Ellement
Dorset Elementary School	Suzanne Black
Dorval Elementary	Magda Arciszewska-McDowell
Dunrae Gardens Elementary	Arzine Abbas-Brochu Vivian Borello Lucie Campeau Cristina DeGaetano
Edgewater Elementary School	Joanne Jackson
Edinburgh Elementary School	Keith Blizzard Lise Tessier
Evergreen Elementary School	Sue Lecavalier Norma Turpin
Gardenvue Elementary School	Betty Skagos
Jubilee Elementary School	Mark Walford
Lindsay Place High School	Lynne Lesiak Louise Mattiucci
Lord-Aylmer Elementary School	Twila Letain Janet Sauve
Merton Elementary School	Joanne Whitty
Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary	Denise Boyer Crystal Ouellette Schiess
Riverview Elementary School	Nancy Roach Christine Wise
Royal West Academy	Reggie Robbins
Souvenir Elementary School	Christina Cavaliere
St Patrick Elementary	Amanda Tweedie-Smith
Westwood High School	Tracey Clayton Roth
Willingdon Elementary School	Imogen Brian Margaret Jackson Sue Nemeth Joanne Therien Marc Trudel Trish Van der Walde

Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. 65th Annual General Meeting & Conference



April 25, 2009

at

Hotel Montreal Airport
12505 Côte de Liesse
Dorval, Quebec



2008/09 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

ON ISLAND SCHOOLS

Elementary

Beacon Hill	Beverly Leith
Dunrae Gardens	Connie de Giorgio / Patricia Willis
Edinburgh	Odette Michelin
Forest Hill Jr. & Sr.	Tina Le Moine
Merton	Debbie Mah
Pierre E. Trudeau (P.E.T.E.S.)	Kasia Zmuda
Royal Vale	Helga Vander Sluys
Souvenir	Marie Georgiou
Thorndale	Karin O'Donohue
Westpark	Nathalie Cohen-Singer
Willingdon	Linda Babins

Secondary

Royal Vale High School	Joy Kalinowicz
Royal West Academy	Jean Lalonde

OFF ISLAND SCHOOLS

Lord-Aylmer Elementary	Cyrena Pollitt
Shigawake/Port-Daniel	Maureen Dow

MOST IMPROVED

Beaconsfield High School	Joanie Beaubien Rossy
Gardenview Elementary	Maria Carneiro
Roslyn Elementary	Thomas LaPierre

WELCOME TO NEW HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

Namur (Western Quebec)	Carole Leggett, President
	Guylaine Blais, Membership
St. Charles (Pierrefonds)	Kathryn Hornby, President
	Patricia Sabapathy, Membership

SPECIAL DRAW FOR STAFF/TEACHERS

Libby McCullough, Jubilee	Barbara Schnider, Membership Chair
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2008/09 NEWSLETTER AWARDS

		Editor
Mary Skagos, Editor	<i>Garden Views</i>	Gardenview Home & School
Christine Clarke, Editor	<i>Mac Link</i>	Macdonald High Home & School
Shelley Gardiner, Editor	<i>Evergreen Link</i>	Evergreen Home & School
Mary Ann Collins Orlando	<i>Willingdon Sun</i>	Willingdon Home & School
Jennifer Bogart Jaquith	<i>News from the Edge</i>	Edgewater Home & School

UNSUNG HERO AWARDS



Baie Comeau High School	Michelle Petit
Beacon Hill Elementary	Beverly Leith
Dorset Elementary School	Joan Patafie
Dorval Elementary School	Antonella Baratta
Dunrae Gardens Elementary	Debbie Baluch, Connie DeGiorgio, Brenda Michetti, Patricia Willis
Edgewater Elementary School . . .	Tricia Lax
Edinburgh Elementary School . . .	Natalie Gasparini, Terry Wagner
Evergreen Elementary School . . .	Isabelle Ayotte
Gardenview Elementary School . .	Sophie Bisson, Connie Di Iorio
Jubilee Elementary School	Jo-Ann Darroch
Lindsay Place High School	Glenna Kantel, Renée Marak
Lord-Aylmer Elementary School. .	Kevan Durrell, Darlene Turriff
Macdonald High School	Ted Duckworth, Cathy Hart-Noble
Merton Elementary School	Franco Sauro
Pierre E. Trudeau Elementary . . .	Lynn Makovsky
Riverview Elementary School . . .	Barbara Kane
Royal West Academy	Fred Freiburg, Maureen Freiburg Anna Rita Rocca, Lesley van Roertz
Sherwood Forest Elementary . . .	Kim Bilet, Valerie Douglas Rhonda Katz, Diane Martello Irene Stabile, Lynn Turner
Souvenir Elementary School . . .	Diane Blanchette, Sylvia Christou Jennifer Hutchison, Voula Krassakopoulos
St Patrick Elementary	Barb Bruman, Cathy Nitka
Westwood High School	Mary Ficocelli, Patricia Godin Marion Legault
Thorndale Elementary School . . .	Angeline Earnestine, Heidi Hirsimaki Glenna Kantel, Donna Lewis-Perkins, Aviva Luxenburg
Willingdon Elementary School . . .	Amelia Black, Michelle Boelen Coleen Daley, Sherry Ferguson Gail Issenman, Valerie Keszey Erin Rocheleau, Maria Vincelli

LEWIS PEACE PRIZE
for contributing to a safe and peaceful community environment
SOUVENIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Our school believes that peace begins within oneself and radiates to all those around us. Our new logo is *Peace by Peace, We Succeed*. The children holding hands represent peace and camaraderie. The green and blue colours represent our dedication to being an environmentally friendly school.

The following are just some of the things our students do to make our school peaceful:

- Christmas Baskets for families in our community and for AGAPE, a local charitable organization.
- Playground Leadership Program for senior students, who are led by an instructor and receive training to act as leaders and animators for junior students.
- Peace Circles – class sessions for senior grades led by a behaviour technician to promote unity and peace.
- Changes in Lunch procedures – eating in the classroom has led to a more peaceful and healthy environment.
- School Skills Group – also led by our behaviour technician to help junior students deal with social difficulties and teach them to be leaders for other children.
- Family Fun Festival – an evening in May dedicated to promoting family and unity amongst community members.
- École en Santé – Souvenir is an active member of this organization which promotes health and well-being in our school.
- Respect Medals – each month a theme is selected and teachers choose one student from their class to receive this award.
- Gotcha and Hi-Five Tickets – a reward system which recognizes good behaviour and doing good deeds.
- Leader's Corps – led by grade 5 students – to organize activities during open gym time at lunch.

It isn't enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it, one must work at it. Eleanor Roosevelt

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Debi Brown

It has been extremely difficult for me to write this message. At times the past two years have seemed like two weeks and at other times it has felt like two decades. As I look back on my two years as President of the Quebec Federation of Home & School Associations, I realize how much I have learned and how much you have all taught me. And for that I thank you all – for your patience and for your valuable input. You have all helped to keep me on track. All of you who are present today help keep me informed. This knowledge base is increased every time one of our H&Ss phones for assistance, asks a question, attends a conference, or fills out a survey. The members of the QFHSA are my educators and teachers. YOU make the difference in this organization. *You are vital to my success as President and you are vital to the success of our organization.*

Every one of us has a part to play in making our schools the best place possible. What skills, or talents, do you have that would benefit the students in your school? No matter how little time you have to give it, will make a difference. Younger children are thrilled to see their parents in their school – and quickly learn that their school is very important to their mothers or fathers. You are instilling a life-long love of learning for the rewards that it brings. And, secretly, your teenagers are happy to see you involved at the high school level – just don't expect to be acknowledged openly!

Your organization is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year. We have come a long way and achieved some significant milestones along the way. We initiated the Student Accident Insurance program in the 1950s that provides 24 hour a day coverage at very reasonable rates. We did a terrific Stop/Arrêt (for school buses) campaign in 1980 with the Quebec Safety League – which led to installing “arms” on school buses to stop motorists from passing buses that were taking on, or letting off, students. Through the Canadian Home & School Federation, of which each of you are a member, we began Teacher Appreciation Week, across Canada, in 1988. More recently we produced our *Children's Literacy Resource Guide* (now available on a CD) with hundreds of ideas on getting children, and students, hooked on reading.

It is my hope that all of you will learn something today that will help you be a better parent. And remember, we welcome suggestions and ideas from each and every one of you. Please do fill in your evaluation sheet – it is a great help to us in future planning. And I thank you all, personally, for your support during the past two years.

2009 AGM COMMITTEES

Coordinator	Carol Meindl
Book of Reports	Anne MacWhirter, Carol Ohlin
Nominations	Marlyn Brownrigg, Leah Trineer, Carol Meindl, Barbara Schnider
Publicity.	Beverlee Bishundayal
Registration	Office
Resolutions	Rickhey Margolese, Liette Chamberland
Awards & Prizes	Sylvia Adams, Chair,
Leslie N Buzzell Award	Wendy Buchanan
Gordon Paterson Award	Allan & Joan Locke
Lewis Peace Prize	Helen Koeppe
Pat Lewis Humanitarian Award	Barbara Milne-Smith
Membership Awards	Marlyn Brownrigg and Barbara Schnider
Newsletter Awards	Diane Radu

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Conference Kits

Canadian Council on Learning	<i>Reading the Future</i>
<i>Children’s Literacy Resource Guide</i>	Two new topics:
	Teens, Science and Social Networks
	<i>Tweeting for Science</i>
	Teens and Science – <i>More Resources</i>
	Home-Grown Writers
	<i>Let’s Support Them!</i>
	Quebec English Children’s Writers
	<i>Resource List</i>

Health Canada – <i>Is Your Child Safe?</i>
LOLA Series – <i>Lectures on Language Acquisition</i> – for parents

Thank you to:

Gumma Flores, Illustrator	2009 AGM logo
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LESLIE N. BUZZELL AWARD

for unique, longstanding and meritorious
service to the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations
at the provincial level

HAROLD SPANIER

For the past twenty years Harold has been an enthusiastic and very positive advocate for QFHSA. There are very few among us who can ‘sell’ the benefits of being a member of Home and School better than Harold. He not only ‘talks the talk’ but has shown a strong commitment to the mission of QFHSA through his actions and volunteerism.

Throughout the 1990s Harold gave countless hours of volunteer time to help us organize and carry out literacy programs and activities. Marion Daigle and Harold took their “travelling circus for literacy” to communities large and small throughout Quebec. These travels included the many villages of the Lower North Shore, along the Gaspé coast, the Eastern Townships and the Chateauguay Valley.

Harold’s expertise as a science educator is incredible. He has a way of engaging the curiosity and imagination of children. Children as young as three are captivated by his imaginary *Great Cosmic Adventure* and *Travels to the Rainforest*. His science walks with teens exploring environmental science in village neighbourhoods, kitchen chemistry sessions with elementary-aged children, his art & science and pen pal programs, have expanded the appreciation of science for children, their teachers and families.

Since 2000 Harold has committed his volunteer time and talents to serving for a year on the Board of Directors, contributing to the Science Section of the *Children’s Literacy Resource Guide*, literacy workshops and activities related especially to *Born to Read* at Fall Conferences and to community groups.

QFHSA is especially fortunate to have Harold’s enthusiasm and organizational skills related to the new Community Learning Centres (CLC). As our liaison to LEARN (MELS) he has encouraged CLCs to join QFHSA as Group Affiliate members. He has shown the benefits of membership by organizing literacy workshops, especially through video conferencing networks. This has raised the profile of QFHSA immeasurably on and off the island of Montreal.

Harold is also a devoted father to young son Eric. He is an active member of Riverview H&S Association where he helped to organize the 2008 QFHSA Fall Conference.



GORDON PATERSON AWARD

for long service to the education of children
and the encouragement of the involvement of parents

ANN TELLIER



Dorset Elementary and volunteering are virtually synonymous and our parents are fortunate enough to be involved in more ways than you can imagine. One of the catalysts for this great inclusion program is Ann Tellier, our veteran Kindergarten teacher. Even as parents are nervously bringing their children in for the introductory morning, Ann is recommending to parents that they join Home & School and become part of the school community.

She opens the doors to her classroom and invites us to help out in so many ways. We all benefit from the cherished reading with the children, to covering books, to helping out on her numerous special activity days, to helping on outings. Parents are encouraged to be part of it all and also made to feel that our participation really makes a difference.

It is touching to know when you volunteer in the library that a special effort will be made to have one's child deliver the books, so they can see their parent involved in their school. As parents, we benefit from the additional time with our children and their peers, getting a glimpse into what their school life is like. It is a pleasure to volunteer in such a respectful and appreciative environment.

Beyond the aspect of volunteering, parents at Dorset are very grateful for Ann's continuous efforts to help the children bring their educational experience home. We are privileged to have books of their creative works come home so we see a cross section of what the children are doing at school. We thank Ann for setting the tone in terms of volunteering and helping us to understand the importance of being a part of our child's education. Her efforts at our school have enriched the educational experience for both children and parents.

PAT LEWIS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

for an individual or group, at the elementary school level,
who has shown outstanding efforts toward a humanitarian cause.

BEACON HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Working Together to Make a Difference



For many years now, staff, students and parents have been making a difference in the world by working to improve the lives of people in their community and abroad. The following is an overview of some of the projects.

Free the Children – rather than accepting gifts from their students during the holiday season, the teachers requested that parents make a donation to the *Free the Children Society*. In 2007 the \$5000 in donations was used

to build a well in an African community. Last year enough funds were raised to equip a classroom.

Plan Canada – for more than eight years the Home & School has supported, through funds raised by the students, a foster child. Today we support Elie, a boy living in Burkina Faso. We have initiated a *Stomp to Africa* campaign to raise money for Elie with students buying colouring pages of African animals for \$2 each. The pictures are then displayed around the school. The pictures and student messages will be sent to Elie – the funds to Plan Canada.

Dans la rue – for the past six years staff and students have made food donations to this organization. Each month we provide them with four or five large boxes of food.

Grade Six Mentor Program – to assist kindergarten students with the transition to elementary school, each Grade 6 student is a mentor for one Kindergarten student. They also act as “reading buddies” to cycle one students to assist in development of their reading skills.

Fundraising Events:

Dress Down Days (cost \$1) supports the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Terry Fox Run – entire school raises money for cancer research.

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) – Day Care Staff held a school bingo.

65th Annual General Meeting & Conference

Saturday, April 25, 2009 – 12:30 - 5:30

Hotel Montreal Airport (a Hilton affiliate)

Petit Salon – 2nd floor

Parking in the hotel lot is included.

- 12:30 REGISTRATION**
- 1:00 WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**
Membership & Newsletter Awards
- 1:30 AGM BUSINESS SESSION**
- 2:30 CAUCUS SESSION (Resolutions)**
- 3:15 BREAK**
- 3:45 AGM BUSINESS SESSION resumes**
- 5:00 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS**

EVALUATION FORM – draw
Win a prize for your school's library!

*Do fill out your evaluation form.
It will help us plan next year's program.*

65th Awards Banquet

Welcome to our AGM 2009

Our theme this year is:

65 Years of Partnership

Hotel Montreal Airport (a Hilton affiliate), Grand Salon – 2nd floor

5:30 p.m. HOSPITALITY HOUR – Cash Bar – relax and mingle

6:30 p.m. AWARDS BANQUET

Dinner will be served in the Grand Salon. (on 2nd floor)

Menu: Salad, chicken, seasonal vegetables & strawberry mousse

Wine can be purchased if so desired.

Awards

Leslie N. Buzzell Award recognizes the achievements of a Home & School member at the provincial level.

Gordon Paterson Award recognizes an outstanding educator who believes in involving parents.

Lewis Peace Prize recognizes an individual or group making a significant contribution towards peace.

Pat Lewis Humanitarian Award recognizes an individual, or group, at the elementary school level, making outstanding efforts toward a humanitarian cause.

Unsung Hero Award recognizes outstanding volunteers within the local school.

Golden Torch Award recognizes the volunteer achievements of Home & School members at the school level.