

SOCIETY PAGES

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morrin

- PÈRE MARQUETTE AND THE LHSQ
- INTERVIEW WITH CHERYL ANNE MOORE
- BOOK QUEST 2019: NATURAL WORLD

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QUÉBECOR

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AUGUST 2 & 3 AT THE MORRIN CENTRE

Mark your calendars and stay
tuned for more details!

EDITOR
Kathleen Hulley

LAYOUT
Patrick Donovan

PROOFREADING
Hoffman Wolff

PUBLISHER
Literary & Historical Society of Quebec
44 chaussée des Écossais
Quebec, Quebec G1R 4H3

PHONE
418-694-9147
GENERAL INQUIRIES
info@morrin.org
WEBSITE
www.morrin.org

LHSQ COUNCIL
lhsqcouncil@morrin.org
Barry Holleman, President
Ladd Johnson, Vice-President
Gina Farnell, Treasurer
Éric Thibault, Secretary
Donald Fyson, Honorary Librarian
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Jacob Stone, Member at Large
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Anne-Marie Newman
Grant Regalbuto
Cheryl Rimmer
Julie Rochon

Sovita Chander, Ex-Officio
David F. Blair, Ex-Officio
Tomas Feininger, Ex-Officio

DIRECTOR
Barry McCullough
Executive Director
barrymccullough@morrin.org

FULL-TIME STAFF
Claude Blaney
Building Caretaker
Gail Cameron

Accounting & Financial Clerk
gailcameron@morrin.org

Vivianne Carrier
Events Coordinator
viviannecarrier@morrin.org

Rosemarie Fischer
Management Assistant
info@morrin.org

Manon Fortin
Rentals Coordinator
manonfortin@morrin.org

Kathleen Hulley
Library Manager
kathleenhulley@morrin.org

Stefanie Johnston
Guided Tours Coordinator
stefaniejohnston@morrin.org

Elizabeth Perreault
Development & Communications Director
elizabethperreault@morrin.org

Azanie Roy
Education Coordinator
azanieroy@morrin.org

The mission of the **Morrin Centre** is to share and foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region. The Morrin Centre is administered by the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec. ISSN 1913-0732

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Members, Partners, and Friends,

Spring and winter at the Morrin Centre were busier than ever. The team did a fantastic job putting together two great series of events as well as the tenth Imagination Writers' Festival, which was our most successful to date.

On top of all our regular programming, we were hard at work on our new guided tour, *The Hanging of William Pouden: Capital Punishment at the Quebec Common Gaol*, and the accompanying permanent exhibit, *The Hanged: Two Centuries of Executions in Quebec*. This was our biggest project since the restoration of the building. I would like to recognize the significant contributions to this project by LHSQ Honorary Librarian and Executive Committee member Donald Fyson, without whom we could have not put this project together. I would also like to thank the production company Halo Création with whom we collaborated closely.

At the end of April, the Council of the LHSQ

participated in its annual strategic planning activity, which gives the board the opportunity to discuss governance priorities for the coming year. One very important point that came out of the meeting was to recognize the important partnerships that we have developed with a number of community and arts organizations in the region. These common projects allow us to better reach new audiences and to vary the types of events and activities we can bring to our members. Over the next year, we will focus on strengthening current partnerships as well as building new ones.

Book Quest, our annual summer reading program, will celebrate its 15th year. While our educational programming has expanded over the past year, Book Quest remains an integral part of our annual programming and I am always encouraged by the growing number of children who take part in it each year.

I hope you all enjoy your summer,

Barry Holleman
President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members, Friends, and Partners,

Last fall, the team and I worked on putting together an application to the Ministère de la culture et des communications to become an officially accredited museum. It was a great deal of work, but I am delighted to announce that

our application was approved on May 2nd. The Morrin Centre has accomplished great things within its heritage pillar, all geared toward sharing the story of our building and institutions with a broader audience. It is rewarding to have these efforts officially recognized by the province's cultural ministry. The accreditation will let visitors know of the high standards with which our organization operates and will certainly help attract even more people to the Centre. I would like to thank the Morrin team, including Council members Gina

Farnell and Donald Fyson, for their input and guidance while putting together the application.

Since January, we have been running Mobile Morrin with our friends at the Voice of English-speaking Quebec. We had often been approached by our members for a book delivery service, and we were thrilled when VEQ approached us with the idea of using their offices as a pick-up and drop-off point. Members can return books borrowed from the Morrin Centre library to VEQ's office. They can also order books that will be delivered to VEQ every Wednesday. We are encouraged by the response so far!

The Arts Alive! Festival will mark its 5th anniversary in 2019 and will take place on August 2nd and 3rd. We have another fantastic two days of programming and I look forward to seeing you there.

I wish you a warm (but not too hot!) summer,

Barry McCullough
Executive Director

PÈRE MARQUETTE AND THE LHSQ

By Charles André Nadeau

The Special Collection of the Morrin Centre library contains volumes that have a fascinating historical flavour. While doing some updating of its catalogue last December, I came across one such treasure: *Facsimile of Père Marquette's Illinois Prayer Book* (1908). Four elements make this minor literary work special: the personage of Marquette, the artefacts mentioned in its pages, their acquisition by the Neilson family, and the people and circumstances surrounding the publication of the book by the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec.

Father Jacques Marquette (1637–1675), a French Jesuit missionary, owes his fame to his 1673 expedition down the Mississippi River with French-Canadian fur trader Louis Jolliet (1645–1700). The explorers were not the first to discover that “ol” man river that just keeps rolling along,” to quote the popular song from *Showboat*. Europeans also gazed at it before them. The Spaniard Hernando de Soto (1496/97–1542) and his fellow conquistadors earned that distinction.

Marquette and Jolliet departed on their voyage in the middle of May. With five Métis companions, they paddled down the Fox and Wisconsin rivers and entered the Mississippi Valley a month later. They ventured as far as the present-day frontier between Arkansas and Louisiana, where they turned around. Friendly natives had warned them that tribal fighting farther south might spell danger. However, they had navigated far enough to determine that the Mississippi River led to the Gulf of Mexico and not to the Pacific Ocean. They had thus met the objective set by Governor Frontenac. On the return trip, they took a shortcut and followed the Illinois, Des Plaines, and

Chicago rivers all the way to Lake Michigan. They then moved up to Green Bay, where Marquette remained, and Jolliet departed for Quebec City. Father Marquette has become an icon in the Midwest United States, and we find his name associated with many towns, a university, and even a railroad. Furthermore, his statue stands in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

FACSIMILE
OF
PÈRE MARQUETTE'S
ILLINOIS PRAYER BOOK.

It's History

BY THE OWNER

COLONEL J. L. HUBERT NEILSON, M. D.



PUBLISHED BY THE

Quebec Literary and Historical Society

In Commemoration of the 300th Anniversary
of the Founding of Quebec, July, 1608

QUEBEC, 1908

Title page of *Facsimile of Père Marquette's Illinois Prayer Book*.

The trip on the Mississippi proved damaging to Marquette's health, however, and he died less than two years later, on May 18th, 1675, at the young age of 38. At the time, he was travelling from Green Bay to the Saint-Ignatius mission on Michilimackinac (now Mackinac) Island in what is now Michigan. He had undertaken the 500-kilometre journey with two voyageurs. They buried him near the mouth of the river that bears his name.

Facsimile of Père Marquette's Illinois Prayer Book reproduces a manuscript in the Illinois language. The small volume includes a photograph of two objects: a pewter plate and a spoon. The introduction cites a note written by Samuel Neilson (1800–1837)¹ in 1828, which affirms that the manuscript, the plate, and the spoon originally belonged to Father Marquette. Neilson was then the editor in chief of the *Quebec Gazette*, the predecessor of the current *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph*. The opening pages also indicate that Father Claude Allouez (1622–1689) had produced the prayer book. He had preceded Marquette among the Illinois. He had composed the little volume for his successor, who lacked fluency in the indigenous language. We can speculate whether the priest brought it with him on his odyssey down the Mississippi. However, he needed a plate and a spoon during the expedition. Those seen in the book look well worn. The probability seems high

¹ Not to be confused with his uncle Samuel Neilson (1771–1793), who was also a printer in Quebec City.

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that they were part of the explorer's equipment. If so, both artefacts are of extraordinary historical value. But how did they find their way to Quebec City? How were they eventually photographed to appear in an LHSQ publication? And how could Samuel Neilson state that they belonged to Marquette?

When the good father passed away, his travelling companions carefully carried his possessions to Saint-Ignatius. Two years later, the Illinois transferred his remains there and reburied them beneath the church. Marquette had founded this mission for the Illinois tribe a few years earlier. The hamlet was also the starting point of his expedition to the Mississippi with Jolliet. This site on Michilimackinac Island, at the juncture of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, still remains as his final resting place.

The Illinois highly regarded the missionary and they revered him almost like a saint. The villagers therefore preserved his effects with great care, viewing them as relics that they venerated for many years after his death. Eventually, someone brought the objects to the Jesuit College in Quebec City. History has forgotten the circumstances. More than likely, when the church that sheltered Marquette's remains burnt down, the resident priest arranged for the transfer.

The Jesuits in Quebec were in a precarious position under the British Regime. In 1773, a papal brief suppressed the community. At the death of the last Canadian member, the government would inherit all the Jesuit properties in the country. Destiny chose Father Jean-Joseph Casot (1728–1800) as the last survivor of the order. He passed away on March 16, 1800. Prior to his death, however, Father Casot had distributed many of the congregation's belongings among various institutions in the city. According to the Prayer Book's introduction, in 1798 he gave the manuscript, pewter plate, and spoon to John Neilson (1776–1848), then owner and editor of the *Quebec Gazette*. The gesture

recognized Neilson's benevolence towards the community. Every week he sent a free copy of the newspaper to the Jesuit Home. Neilson ardently collected Canadiana and had already purchased many volumes, several hand-written texts, and some oil paintings from the Jesuit College. He was serving in the Parliament of Lower Canada in 1828 when his son Samuel penned the note indicating that Father Marquette had possessed the artefacts mentioned in the Prayer Book facsimile.



The pewter plate and the spoon of Father Marquette as shown in *Facsimile of Père Marquette's Illinois Prayer Book*.

Colonel John Louis Hubert Neilson (1845–1925), John Neilson's grandson and Samuel Neilson's nephew, wrote the introduction to the Prayer Book. He had inherited the manuscript and the objects as well as an entire collection of antiques acquired by his grandfather. Hubert Neilson had received his education at Saint Mary's College, in Montreal, Université Laval, and the Royal Victoria Army Medical School. As a

military surgeon, he lived an adventurous career. Throughout the Red River Rebellion led by Louis Riel, he accompanied the Second Quebec Riflemen Battalion and earned the Canada General Service Medal. He worked for the Red Cross in the Balkans during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877/1878. During the Mahdī's revolt in Sudan and the expedition of the Gordon Relief force, in 1884–1885, he served in Egypt. He then looked after the health of the 386 Canadian voyageurs contingent, who was helping the British troops to ascend the Nile and attack the Muslim legions laying siege to Khartoum.

From 1898 to 1903, Hubert Neilson assumed the position of Director General of Medical Services in the army. Subsequently, he retired and lived in Quebec City. He joined the LHSQ and acted as curator of its museum. Because of his interest in history, he wrote two books. The first, *The Royal Canadian Volunteers, 1794–1802*, was published in 1895. The second, entitled *Slavery in Old Canada Before and After the Conquest*, appeared in 1906. The launch of *Facsimile of Père*

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Marquette's *Illinois Prayer Book* occurred in the city's tricentennial year, 1908. Dr. James Douglas Jr. (1837–1918) provided the necessary funding. The LHSQ considered the book a contribution to the commemoration of the founding of Quebec City. For this reason, the editors chose a hardcover format: it is red with lettering in gold and has decorated endpapers. The society rarely used solid binding for its publications, and only 300 numbered copies were printed. The one held at the Morrin Centre bears the number 46.

Where are the manuscript, the spoon, and the plate today? I have searched unsuccessfully for the two pewter objects through the collections of the Musée de la Civilisation in Quebec City, the History Museum in Gatineau, and the McCord Museum in Montreal. A message to one of John Neilson's direct descendants who lives in Stoneham, Quebec led to a response from another relative from Nelson, B.C. She reported having read in the 2004 edition of Fodor's Montreal travel guide that they were in the Stewart Museum on Île Sainte-Hélène in Montreal. I contacted the museum's curator, who confirmed the information. David M. Stewart purchased the artefacts in 1983. He served as president of Macdonald Tobacco, the makers of the Export A cigarettes, and had founded the museum in 1955.

I had thought that objects belonging to Father Marquette during his famous expedition down the Mississippi would be priceless. I could not figure out why the Neilsons would part with such precious artefacts. The family was very conscious of history—and indeed some members of the family opposed the sale. So how did it happen?

Hubert Neilson married late in life and had no offspring. After his death in 1925, his memorabilia went to his nephew, Anthony Gordon Neilson, the son of his next older brother, Norman John de Rieuford. In 1942,

Anthony Gordon passed away and his sister Sylvia Marguerite received the collection. She had married Lawrence Lancaster Satow, a British doctor of German descent. The couple lived in England and the inherited items were placed in a warehouse in Quebec. Their youngest son, Ian, assumed ownership in 1983. He also lived in the United Kingdom and found himself with a large set of objects that would have been costly to bring across the Atlantic Ocean. Furthermore, most of these pieces probably held little significance to him. He therefore sold the contents to an antique dealer named John Russell in Kingston, Ontario. Stewart acquired the Marquette spoon and plate from this merchant.



Excerpt from the facsimile.

My inquiries about the manuscript led me in a totally different direction. After a fruitless search in the archived Neilsons Fonds in Quebec and Ottawa, I discovered the existence of the Jesuit Archives in Montreal. Although the institution did not possess the original document, it had received a copy of the facsimile from the LHSQ. On the back of the accompanying letter someone had added that a priest named Dubois from the Montreal École Normale held the original. An internet search led me to an article by Johanne Biron concerning the Jesuit Library. I then learned that in 1911, Hubert Neilson had returned about 100 books of the original library to Father Nazaire Dubois. Ten years later, Dubois presented them to Father Samuel Bellavance, director of the neighbouring Immaculate Conception College. In 1968, this library's collection was transferred to the College Jean-de-Brébeuf, also in Montreal. I have contacted the school archivist. I have yet to receive a confirmation, but I am fairly certain that the manuscript resides there.

It is unfortunate that invaluable artefacts related to Père Marquette and which used to belong to a Quebec City family now find themselves in Montreal. But at least they remain nearby. ■

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LAUGH LAB

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE HUMOUR IN QUEBEC

By Patrick Donovan

This spring, the *Laugh Lab* exhibit at the Morrin Centre examined the history of English-language humour in Quebec, with a focus on Quebec City. It included different forms of humour, from mindless slapstick to highbrow poetry, and from innocent jokes to potential sedition. It also revealed the changing nature of humour: yesterday's jokes don't always translate well to current values, while some forms of humour seem timeless. Here's a quick overview of some major milestones between 1759 and today.

1759: Conquest and Caricature

George Townshend served on the 1759 British expedition to conquer Quebec. In his spare time, he drew caricatures. Relations broke down with General Wolfe, whom Townshend considered "a fiery-headed fellow fit only for fighting." In some of Townshend's cartoons, Wolfe makes thinly-veiled references to raping the conquered women in Quebec. In others, Wolfe inspects latrines. These were ways of discrediting his leadership.

Wolfe's death in battle made him a hero, and the caricatures were tucked away for centuries. Until the 1970s, many considered them too vulgar, or potentially seditious. Since then, Townshend has been rehabilitated and even called "the first great English caricaturist."

1863: Canada's National Minstrel

Minstrel shows were musical comedy performances in which white people dressed up as blacks. Songs were

interspersed with comic skits and dances that often caricatured blacks as buffoonish and dim-witted. Needless to say, this humour has not aged well.

Years before writing the music to "O Canada," Calixa Lavallée blackened his face with Duprez's Minstrels, playing the piano, violin, and cornet. Quebec City's Music Hall was the most successful stop on their 1863 tour.



George Townshend, *No mercy to captives before Quebec*, 1759.
(McCord Museum, M1792)

Quebec, Tanguay performed in English, singing suggestive songs, spinning like a cyclone in outrageous outfits, and peppering her routine with jokes. When the Lincoln penny was launched in 1909, Tanguay appeared in a dress made of pennies, tearing them off one by one and throwing them into the audience. She performed in Montreal on several occasions, but never in Quebec City.

1910s-1920s: Slapstick on the Silver Screen

Mack Sennett, born into an Irish Catholic family in Richmond, Quebec, was a pioneer of slapstick comedy in silent movies. He was known in Hollywood as "the King of Comedy." Sennett started out in New York as a

1910: The Queen of Vaudeville

Vaudeville ruled the Canadian stage from the 1880s to the 1920s. A typical show included skits, music, acrobatics, animals, juggling, and a headline act, often a rebellious woman.

In 1910, the top headliner in North America was Eva Tanguay, known as "the Queen of Vaudeville." Born in Marbleton,

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chorus boy, then actor, then director. He eventually received financial backing to found Keystone Studios, his own company, which had the first enclosed studio film stage in history. Sennett introduced the world to Charlie Chaplin and the Keystone Kops. He helped create the vocabulary of slapstick humor in the silent cinema of the 1910s and 1920s, including pie-throwing, car chases, and exaggerated stunt falls.

1912: Nasty Women, and other Stereotypes

Arthur Racey is probably the best-known Anglophone cartoonist from Quebec City. He was the son of John Racey, first physician and co-founder of Jeffery Hale's Hospital. Racey was featured in the pages of the *Montreal Star* from 1899 to 1941. Some of his humour has not aged well. For instance, he depicts women fighting for the right to vote as hideous British foreign agents seeking to corrupt Canadian mothers (1912). Racey also wrote the first Canadian graphic novel, *The Englishman in Canada* (1902).

1967: Vitriolic Verse and Poetic Trouvailles

Born in Quebec City in 1899, F.R. Scott's career straddled poetry, politics, socialism, and law. His *Trouvailles* (1967) are bits of unintentionally funny writing "found" in newspapers or restaurant menus, and reshaped into poetry. The poem "Bonne Entente" laughs at odd juxtapositions of the sacred and the mundane, such as a sign that reads: "This elevator will not run on Ascension Day." Or another: "Tomorrow being the feast of the Immaculate Conception / There will be no collection of garbage."

1950s-2000: Richler's Canada, Warts and All

Mordecai Richler managed to offend nearly everyone. He called Canada "not so much a country as a holding tank filled with the disgruntled progeny of defeated peoples," and was unapologetic about adding to the disgruntlement of these peoples. He was criticized by Jews for his unflattering portrayal of the Montreal Jewish community he grew up in, which some felt was a little *too* honest. He regularly threw pot shots at

bigoted WASPs. He mocked Quebec's language laws and Francophone nationalists, and his reputation has only begun to recover from this last affront. However, for those who like sarcasm and biting satire, Richler is a master of the genre.

1990s-now: The Anti-Humourist

Saturday Night Live gave many Canadian comedians their big break. Most of them were from Ontario but one—Norm MacDonald—was born in Quebec City. He attended Quebec High School, where he studied Latin instead of French; he says this "didn't make much sense" because the city "was virtually 99% French and 0% ancient Roman." He began his American career as a screenwriter on *Roseanne*. In 1993, he joined *Saturday Night Live*, hosting the news segment in a deadpan style. His style often veered into what is known as Anti-Humour, which involves subverting punchlines and traditional forms of humour. He recently published *Based on a True Story* (2016), a semi-fictional autobiography, and also hosts a talk show on Netflix.



Norm MacDonald on *Weekend Update*, 1990s.
(NBC)

2010s: Crossing the Line

In recent years, many stand-up comics have crossed the language line. Mike Ward, a local Quebec High School graduate, performs in both French and English. But he has also crossed other lines. Known for dark humour, including a routine called "Pedophile Jokes and Death Threats," Ward was sued for making jokes about a boy affected with a genetic disorder. The judge argued that Ward had violated the boy's right to dignity, honour, and reputation, and ordered him to pay a fine. The decision is under appeal, and many comics feel they have a right to be offensive and distasteful in a free society. What is the line that can't be crossed? ■

To read more about the history of humour in Quebec, see our online exhibit at:
morrin.org/en/laugh-lab/

LIBRARY PAGES

THE DOYENNE OF THE LIBRARY

AN INTERVIEW WITH CHERYL ANNE MOORE

By Kathleen Hulley

Many of you know Cheryl Anne Moore from her time at the library desk. With her friendly personality and her boundless knowledge of the Morrin Centre, Quebec City, and the library collection, she has helped numerous library visitors and members over the years.

Cheryl Anne has also been the longest-serving staff member of the Morrin Centre, and at the end of 2018, she retired from the position of Library Clerk. To honour her contributions to the Morrin Centre, we held a retirement party for her on April 12th, 2019. In addition, I sat down for coffee with her last March. We talked about the library, the changes that she's seen at the Morrin Centre over the years, as well as her favourite books. She generously shared her memories of working at the Morrin Centre both before and after the restoration, and the following interview is the result of our wonderful conversation.



When did you start working at the LHSQ Library?

I first began at the library as a volunteer in 2002. Shortly after that, around 2004, I began working at the library under Christine Veilleux, a historian and researcher who taught me so much about the LHSQ and the library collection. She was a pleasure to work with! I used to work on Thursdays and on the weekends, and then only weekends. And I've been there ever since.

Can you tell us your favourite aspect about working in the library?

It's the people. It always has been the people. Meeting

people from all over the world, and everybody just loves the place so much that it's so rewarding. When they come in the door, it's just like when I first came in the door: the jaw drops.

Yes, that is one of the aspects that I love about being at the library desk—seeing people's reactions when they come in for the first time.

It's my favourite thing. Their breath is taken away. And I love that. Plus, just talking to visitors and finding out where they are from. And I have met many, many librarians from around the world.

There are a lot of librarians who visit!

I don't know how many, but it has been in the dozens, with librarians from so many faraway places, even Japan. And they fall in love with our library too. They're always so pleased to visit it—even those who brag about magnificent libraries someplace else in the world, they still think that ours is the most charming.

The Morrin Centre has obviously changed a lot in the past few years. For the new members who are reading this, what are some of the noteworthy changes you've noticed in the library?

The tours, the computer, and well, naturally, the children's section too. The addition of the children's section has been a huge change that has taken a little time, but has finally caught on and grown with all the wonderful children's events.

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When I first came to the Morrin Centre, prior to the restoration, the ballroom was closed and there were buckets on the floor and the ceilings were leaking into the buckets. It was obviously never used except for society events, like the Annual General Meeting. And even then, the AGM was usually held in the library because we were so small. We had so few board members, so few staff members. There were no tours, there were no events. But even the first time I walked into the ballroom, with the buckets on the floor and everything, I could almost hear a Strauss waltz playing.

In terms of the rest of the building, when you came up the stairs toward the library, where the new stairs are, that used to be a little office, with a window. Those back stairs did not exist whatsoever. The kitchen and the whole tour guide area and storage, now that was all an apartment for the caretaker. It was enormous. It had several rooms, but they were all little cubicles that were elevated. Those used to be little bedrooms.

Everything in the rest of the building was closed though. I visited the jail—that was before they fixed the floor—and I visited the “dungeon” down below, where Louise Penny sets her novel *Bury Your Dead*. It was a little scary!

But the library is mostly the same—except for the card catalogue. There was no computer, and there was some initial resistance to changing the card catalogue to a computer system. But now the online catalogue is one of the most important tools to connect books to people. The library also had no chandelier, no drapes, and no rugs. The chandelier was copied from drawings of what it used to look like, and it was made specifically

for the space. When I first walked in after the renovation, I wasn't sure about the chandelier. But the more I looked at it, the more I thought how really fitting it is, perfect. We also had a glassed-in cabinet with museum pieces.

Oh yes, that was Hilda Stephens' My Quebec Collection, selections of which are now on display in the children's section of the library.

Yes. But otherwise, when I walked back into the library after the renovation, I said, “what did they do?,” because they hadn't changed too much. Except the children's area—that had been an office too with walls and a door. So those are really all the changes in the library.

To return to the technological changes, so it used to just be an old card catalogue?

Oh, yes! We have to talk about that—that's one of the big changes, to the computer from the old catalogue, which was never completely up-to-date. [Laughter] No, it wasn't! That used to be one of my jobs as a volunteer, to try to get that together. Then, of course, that was all for nothing because it was all taken away.

What is your favourite detail or object in the library?

That would have to be the ballot box.

Yes, I remember that you showed it to me the first day that I met you at the Morrin Centre.

But I also love our bust of Dr. James Douglas. He's just such a memorable character, you know what I mean. And his son's contributions to the LHSQ and the library with the money that he left for books is still having a positive influence today.



Barry McCullough, Cheryl Anne Moore, and Kathleen Hulley at the retirement party. (Photo courtesy of Shirley Nadeau)

LIBRARY PAGES

👉 CHERYL ANNE MOORE (continued from previous page)

Yes, the fund still helps the library buy our books!

And I did meet James Douglas' granddaughter. She came to drop off the annual contribution and gave it to me. That was quite an honour. What a great life! We ought to have a biography on him.

Perhaps that is a retirement project?

[Laughter] Well, he certainly would be a great subject!

What has been your most memorable event or activity at the Morrin Centre over the years?

There have been so many great ones! I think that it is the *Bury Your Dead* live radio broadcast in the library that took place in 2010. The event really kicked off much that happened later. I still have very vivid memories of meeting Louise Penny and the excitement of it all!

What do you think of the rumour that there is a Morrin Centre ghost?

Well, I don't like the word ghost. I prefer to think of it as maybe spirits who come to visit still from time to time. I have had occasions in the past, before the restoration, when I would go to open a door and there would be pushing on the other side. That happened on more than one occasion. And strange noises, such as the scraping of a chair when there's nobody in the room. That's what got me started on writing a story in 2004, when I was in a writing club. I've also been told stories by other members. So yes, I think that there have perhaps been spirits.

What do you plan to do now that you're retired?

Well, I hope to travel more and return to some of my pleasures, like drawing and piano-playing. And continue singing. And just relaxing! I like to putter—that's my favourite word in the whole of human language. Putter, just do nothing, or do something, if I feel like it!

And finally, what are some of your favourite books?

That is important actually. I know that the very first one, always at the top of my list, is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. And Steinbeck, *Of Mice and Men*. Love Steinbeck. And Margaret Laurence: *The Diviners*, *The Stone Angel*. There

are also two other books that made strong impressions on my life. One I remember well is *My Mother, Myself*. That was an important book about the psychology between mothers and daughters, and it really opened my eyes to a lot of things. And another book is called *The Arrangement* by Elia Kazan. Now this is one of the strange things about books. I don't remember anything about that story because it's been forty years or more since I've read it. The only real passage I remember is one where a woman gets up every morning and makes sure to wash the night sweat off her face before her husband can see her. And that impression lasted. That is the beauty of certain books—they create these images that stay with you, even though the story is gone...

But that image stuck with you?

Yes, and books that can do that are why people read. But I also want to make sure to include a book that we need to get in the library: *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry, which is a Western, not usually my genre. But it is a powerful saga that really drops you into the setting and into the lives of these different people. There are so many more books that I would like to recommend. I've always liked Agatha

Christie—some escapist reading, of course. And I think my other favourites are Bill Bryson, *Everything that You Always Wanted to Know About Everything*—I've got to read that again too.

I always feel that I am torn between reading something again or discovering a new book!

I agree! If I were to really get into an adventure again, it would have to be *Lonesome Dove*. That would be the first book I would pick to read over again. But it's a huge book that you don't want to end! I forgot to mention authors like Jane Austen, Anthony Trollope. I like old-fashioned language—I like Dickens. I love that shift in language.

Do you have anything else you would like to add?

Working at the library has been one of the most rewarding experiences. The Morrin Centre and its community has enriched my life, and it has been marvelous to see the growth of the organisation over the years. ■



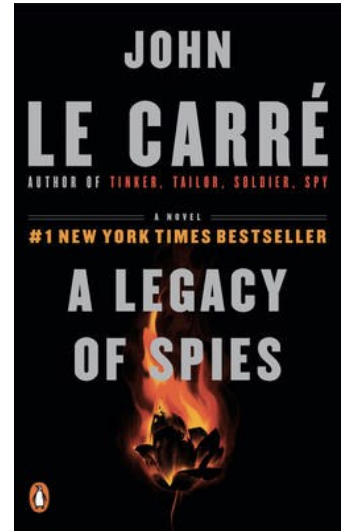
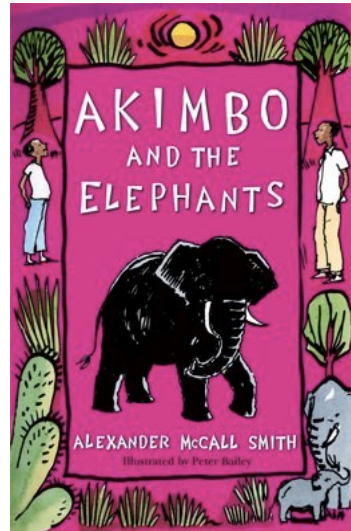
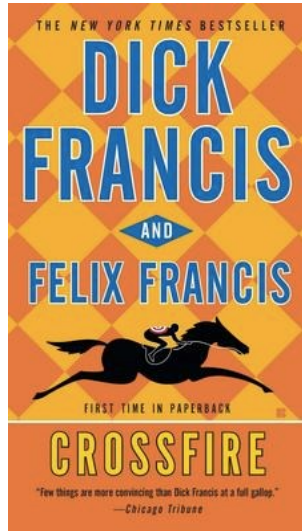
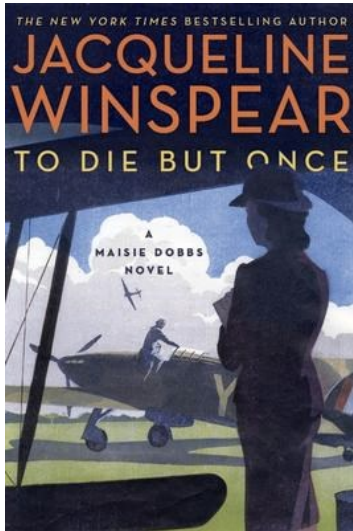
The retirement party on April 12th.

LIBRARY PAGES

ON THE SHELF

SUMMER'S HERE! TIME TO READ!

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden



As summer swings into full gear, Lit & His members head to the library to stock up on books to take to the chalet, on a road trip, or to have on hand for a staycation. Some folks call these summer volumes “beach books”; this writer likes to call them “popcorn books”—books that are oh-so-easy to devour and hard to put down.

The only thing better than a popcorn book is a popcorn series, and the library’s shelves are packed with mystery, spy, and suspense series—perfect for summer reading.

In her series featuring British “psychologist and investigator” Maisie Dobbs, author Jacqueline Winspear combines mystery with history. The Dobbs series spans the period from World War I to World War II and is full of intrigue, emotion, and details of daily life. The library has two Dobbs novels on the shelf: *Pardonable Lies* (2005) and *Elegy for Eddie* (2012) and two in its ebook collection: *In This Grave Hour* (2017) and *To Die But Once* (2018).

John Le Carré is the master of spy fiction, and his oft-central character George Smiley is one of the most iconic spies of all time. The library has twenty-two Le Carré titles, including most of the Smiley series,

beginning with *Call for the Dead* (1961) and ending with a retired Smiley in *A Legacy of Spies* (2017). Add *The Looking Glass War* (1965), *The Honourable Schoolboy* (1977), *Smiley’s People* (1979), and *The Secret Pilgrim* (1990) to the summer series reading list—and smile!

This summer, James Lee Burke fans may want to give one of his daughter’s series a go. Lawyer-cum-author Alafair Burke has eighteen books to her credit (including five written with Mary Higgins Clark). The library has the three novels in Burke’s Samantha Kincaid series: *Judgment Calls* (2003), *Missing Justice* (2004), and *Close Case* (2005).

Former jockey Dick Francis brought together horses and crime thrillers. After a break of six years, Francis penned *Under Orders* (2006). This book features detective Sid Halley and is a good place to pick up the series, as it is the last book Francis wrote “solo.” Then readers can add two more Sid Halley cases to their summer list: *Whip Hand* (1979) and *Come to Grief* (1995). From 2007 until he died in 2010, Dick Francis collaborated with his son, Felix. The library has one of these joint efforts: *Crossfire* (2010).

LIBRARY PAGES

👉 **ON THE SHELF** (continued from previous page)

Younger Readers Enjoy Popcorn Books Too!

If *like father, like daughter* applies to James Lee and Alafair Burke and *like father, like son* fits Dick and Felix Francis, then *like mother, like son* applies to Kathy Reiches and her son Brendan. The mother-son duo has written the **Virals** series, sure to be a summer hit with tweens and younger teens. Four young super-sleuths, all of whom have supernatural powers, team up to solve crimes and right wrongs. **Virals** (2011), **Code** (2013), and **Seizure** (2016) are all on the young adult fiction shelf.

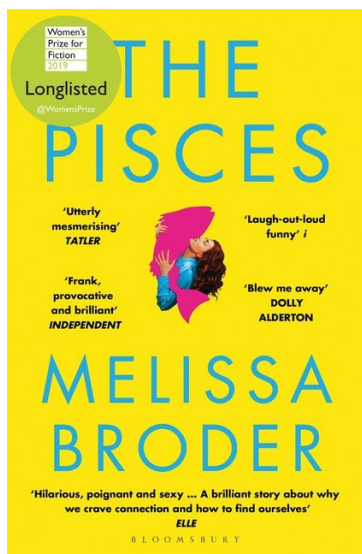
The ultimate summer popcorn series is still J.K. Rowling's **Harry Potter**, with each novel full of suspense, intrigue, and, of course, magic. Avid young readers can make their way through the whole series in a single summer—just like eating popcorn.

Alexander McCall Smith is well-known for his myriad of detective series, including the **No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency** series—several of which are in the library's collection and definitely qualify as popcorn books). But Smith's fans may not realize that he has a children's series to his credit. The library has three of these books: **Akimbo and the Elephants**, **Akimbo and the Lions**, and **Akimbo and the Crocodile Man**. Young independent readers will enjoy this series about a boy who lives on an African game reserve, where his father is the head ranger and where there are plenty of mysteries for a ten-year-old to solve.

Very young readers may enjoy the **Scaredy Squirrel** series by Mélanie Watt. The library has several of Watt's books: **Scaredy Squirrel**, **Scaredy Squirrel at Night**, **Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend**, and **Scaredy Squirrel at the Beach**. Maybe **Scaredy Squirrel Prepares for Halloween** should be saved for October ... ■

THE PISCES BY MELISSA BRODER

Review by Gail Cameron



The Pisces is a critically acclaimed debut novel by essayist and poet Melissa Broder. It was long-listed for the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2019 and it should be a good summer read. I enjoyed being able to read this novel as an e-book. Literature on the go is fabulous, especially on vacation in the summer. You can't go wrong with a book available wherever and whenever you want it!

some distance, and her sister offers her the opportunity to dog-sit for the summer in Venice Beach while she is away. She reluctantly accepts. This is a portrait of a woman obsessed with searching for human connection, pleasure, desire, fantasy, and meaning. She is addicted to love and searches for love and fulfillment through various romantic endeavours. This leads her to a mysterious encounter on the beach that makes her life much more complicated.

If you liked *The Shape of Water*, you should like this. It is a light romantic comedy about a merman and touches on fairy tales, love, and obsession. I like that the author has taken the chance to try a new avenue for her writing. She is a talented writer, and I'm sure that we will be seeing much more from her in the near future.

The Pisces was not necessarily my cup of tea, but I still enjoyed it. It is always good to challenge ourselves by reading something out of our usual comfort zones. ■

In the novel, our protagonist, Lucy, has been working on her dissertation for nine years when she suddenly breaks up with her boyfriend. She decides to take

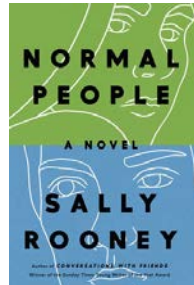
LIBRARY PAGES

NEW ACQUISITIONS

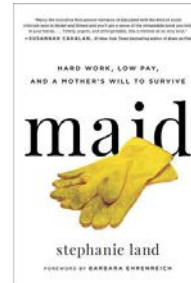
Some of the new titles in the library collection are listed below. To reserve a book, please contact the library at **418-694-9147** or visit our online catalogue: **morrin.org**. Also check out our ebooks: **morrin.overdrive.com!**



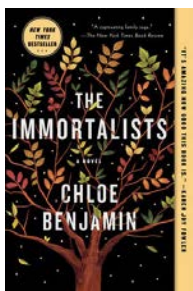
The Handmaid's Tale
Margaret Atwood
& Renée Nault
GN A877 2019
Graphic Novel



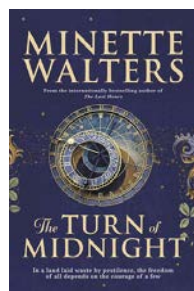
Normal People
Sally Rooney
R777 2018
Fiction



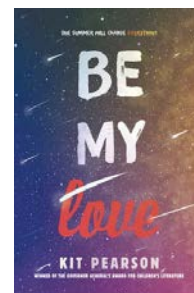
Maid
Stephanie Land
331.48 L253
Non-Fiction



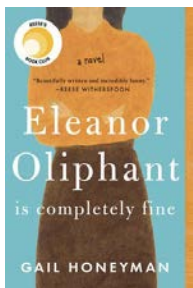
The Immortalists
Chloe Benjamin
B468 2018
Fiction



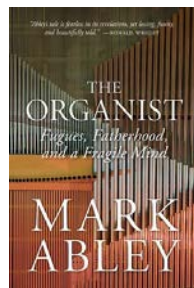
The Turn of Midnight
Minette Walters
W235 2019
Fiction



Be My Love
Kit Pearson
JF PEA 2019
Junior Fiction



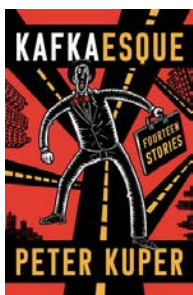
Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine
Gail Honeyman
H772 2017
Fiction



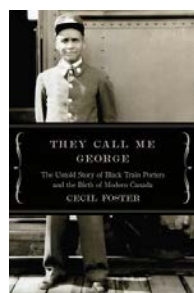
The Organist
Mark Abley
786.509 A152
Non-Fiction



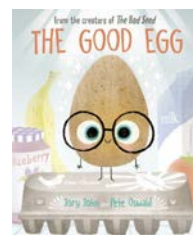
We Are the Gardeners
Joanna Gaines
JP GAI 2019
Junior Picture



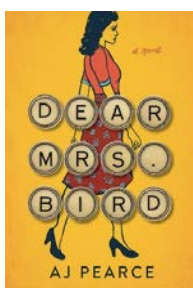
Kafkaesque
Peter Kuper
GN K95 2018
Graphic Novel



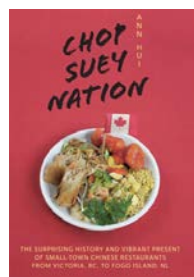
They Call Me George
Cecil Foster
331.76 F754
Non-Fiction



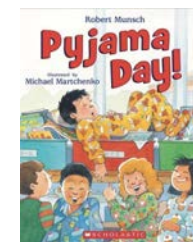
The Good Egg
Jory John & Pete Oswald
JP JOH 2019
Junior Picture



Dear Mrs. Bird
A.J. Pearce
P359 2018
Fiction



Chop Suey Nation
Ann Hui
647.957 H899
Non-Fiction



Pyjama Day
Robert Munsch
JP MUN 2014
Junior Picture

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

IMAGINATION 2019

A SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION OF TEN YEARS OF STORIES, IDEAS, AND IMAGINATION!

By Elizabeth Perreault



A pop-up café was inaugurated on the occasion of our tenth annual festival. The Imagination Café allowed festival-goers to grab a bite before and in-between events. (Photo: Dylan Page)



The audience travelled to Newfoundland through Lisa Moore's layered, humorous, sometimes dark, gritty, passionate, and powerful stories. (Photo: Dylan Page)

From April 2nd to April 7th, the Morrin Centre welcomed 30 authors and artists for its tenth annual writers' festival. Imagination 2019 was a record-breaking festival by all measures, starting with attendance. Thank you to the 2,366 people who took part in events at the Centre and in schools. While 18 activities were held at the Morrin Centre and at the Maison de la littérature in the evenings and on the weekend, 24 presentations and workshops took place during weekdays in schools across Quebec City as well as in Valcartier, Lévis, and Portneuf.

More than ever, Imagination brought together artists from different disciplines for delightful pairings. The festival's staple event, Books & Wine, was back for a fourth consecutive year. Hosted by the event's returning champion, sommelier Yann Barrette-Bouchard, participants were treated to four wines and an array of finger food to be sampled with books written by Lisa Moore, Éric Dupont, David Homel, and Claire Holden Rothman. To mark the festival's tenth anniversary, the Centre partnered with the Quebec Writers' Federation and the Orchestre symphonique de Québec to present the first Literary Notes concert. For the occasion, the OSQ's trombone quartet selected music to accompany readings by three QWF Gala award-winning writers: Eliza Robertson, Paige Cooper, and Sina Queyras. The quartet's performances not only captured the atmosphere and themes of each

book showcased that evening, but amazed and touched the authors on stage. Another memorable event was Emma Hooper's bilingual reading and concert with local musician Patrick Ouellet on Sunday afternoon. Hooper's prose, humour, and one-woman-band act quickly charmed the audience.

This year's festival was also unique in that it was bookended by two writing workshops. The opening event was led by Claire Holden Rothman and allowed festival-goers to explore "Trouble and Strife: The Lifeblood of Good Fiction." The festival ended on a high note with a graphic novel workshop led by Lorina Mapa, who provided participants with the tools to describe their stories using words and illustrations.

The Morrin Centre is already working on next year's programme with the support of the festival's organizing committee, which includes:

- Neil Bissoondath
- Terri Connolly
- Guy Dubois
- Jeanette Kelly
- Rachelle Solomon
- Elspeth Tulloch

Thank you to our partners who contributed to the success of Imagination 2019! ■

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



Trevor Ferguson, Barbara Fradkin, and Maureen Jennings discussing the art of writing crime fiction. (Photo: Dylan Page)



Two-time Giller-prize winning author Esi Edugyan in conversation with CBC's Nantali Indongo. (Photo: Dylan Page)



Emma Hooper singing and performing Newfoundland folk songs on viola, accordion, and loop station.

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PARTNERS / PARTENAIRES



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

BOOK QUEST 2019
NATURAL WORLD

By Émilie Breault

The Morrin Centre's Summer Reading Program for Children is back for a 15th consecutive year! Organized in partnership with the TD Summer Reading Club, Book Quest allows children ages 3 to 12 to appreciate literature through games, crafts, and interactive activities. This summer, readings and activities will allow participants to explore our "Natural World" and all the wonders nature has to offer. Literature, science, and art will be brought together to create a wide variety of activities.

The Book Quest activities will take place every Saturday, from July 6th until August 24th. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., children ages 3 to 7 are invited to take part in interactive storytimes. Games and activities will follow a fun reading to help develop a love of reading and books. In the afternoon, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., children ages 8 to 12 will get to take part in interactive scientific and artistic activities inspired by books. Each Saturday, a new theme, such as gardening, insects,

birds, and forest animals, will allow participants to better understand nature and reflect on our surrounding environment!

To mark the start of Book Quest 2019, join us for our **Launch Party on Saturday, July 6th, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Games, snacks, face painting, and many more fun activities will take place to celebrate the beginning of our Summer Reading Program. Family members are welcome.

All Book Quest activities are free. Participants must register ahead of time to reserve their spot at the Launch Party or other activities at morrin.org/bookquest2019.

For further information, please contact Émilie Breault, our Book Quest Coordinator, at either bookquest@morrin.org or 418-694-9147, ext. 233. ■

MEET THE 2019 BOOK QUEST COORDINATOR: ÉMILIE BREAUT



I am thrilled to be back at the Morrin Centre as the new Book Quest Coordinator! I first was an intern here during the fall semester for my Children's Literature course at Université Laval, and I fell in love with the Children's Reading Program and the library. I am an art and literature enthusiastic with a passion for children's literature. Theatre, improvisation, music, cinema, crafts... anything that sparks my imagination is more than welcome in my life!

I studied History and Civilization at Cégep de Sainte-Foy, where I develop my passion for historical events, arts, and literature. At Université Laval, my degree in teaching English as a Second Language has allowed me to deepen my knowledge and curiosity about the science of language, literature, and pedagogy. It has given me the tools to create educational activities that are both interactive and creative for children. My background in theatre, applied arts, and improvisation has also helped me develop unique projects that touch upon a variety of skills. ■

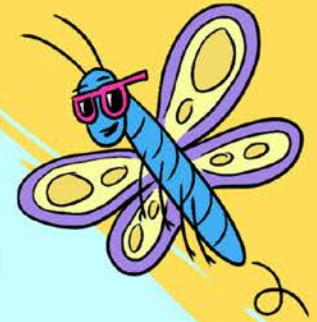


TD
Summer
Reading
Club
2019

BOOK QUEST 2019

Natural World

JULY 6 - AUGUST 24



LAUGH PARTY SAT - JULY 6

11:30 - 13:00
For the whole family

IN YOUR GARDEN SAT - JULY 13

10:30 - 11:30 ages 3-7
13:30 - 14:30 ages 8-12

FLOWERS AND LITERATURE SAT - JULY 20

10:30 - 11:30 ages 3-7
13:30 - 14:30 ages 8-12

WOODLAND CREATURES SAT - JULY 27

10:30 - 11:30 ages 3-7
13:30 - 14:30 ages 8-12

SNUG AS A BUG SAT - AUGUST 3

10:30 - 11:30 ages 3-7
13:30 - 14:30 ages 8-12

BUZZY AS A BEE SAT - AUGUST 10

10:30 - 11:30 ages 3-7
13:30 - 14:30 ages 8-12

COLOURFUL BIRDS SAT - AUGUST 17

10:30 - 11:30 ages 3-7
13:30 - 14:30 ages 8-12

CLOSING PARTY SAT - AUGUST 24

10:30 - 12:00
For the whole family

Book Quest Partner



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In partnership with



Title sponsor

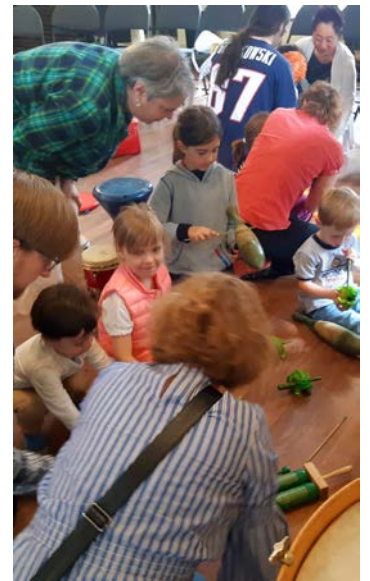


THE
READY
COMMITMENT

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

IT'S INSTRUMENTAL!

By Azanie Roy



College Hall was again filled with the sound of children making music during the third *It's Instrumental!* workshop, "Let's Explore Percussion," presented by musician Leo Brooks on May 25th. The workshop began with a demonstration and an explanation of how to play the djembe, an African drum traditionally played during various celebrations. Brooks taught the children a dance he learned while living in Africa so that they could accompany him with his instrument. After the dance, Brooks presented various instruments from four different percussion groups: guiros, bells, drums, and shakers. The event finished with children and their parents moving from one percussion station to the next, with Brooks accompanying the children on the djembe.

Since March, the Morrin Centre has been holding workshops on music-making for children as part of *It's Instrumental!*, a workshop series designed to introduce young children to music. Symon Henry kicked off the series on March 23rd with a musical composition workshop in which he taught children how to create their own melodies with a variety of instruments. Henry also presented his workshop to four classes at Holland Elementary School through the Morrin Centre's Children's Reading Program.

The next workshop on April 20th featured two jazz musicians: Sébastien Pellerin on the upright bass and

Christian Tauchner on the keyboard. On June 8th, dancer Barbara Diabo held a First Nations storytelling and dance workshop. The last workshop of the series, "Once Upon a Time...the Opera," will be with singer Andréanne Guay on July 6th.

After July 6th, children and their families will be able to borrow instruments featured in the previous workshops, such as djembes, guiros, ukuleles, and xylophones. There will also be two toddler percussion boxes created specifically for younger children. The instruments will be available in the library on weekends, and patrons will be able to borrow an instrument or percussion box by leaving a deposit with the Education Coordinator. The deposit will be given back upon the return of the borrowed items.

All in all, these workshops have been a great success. Don't forget to visit the children's section of the library to discover new books about music-making and musicians that have been added to the collection recently. ■



The series was made possible thanks to our financial partners at the Instance régionale de concertation de la Capitale-Nationale.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MEET OUR MORRIN CENTRE TOUR GUIDES

**Jeanne Savard-Déry**

Since childhood, Jeanne has been fascinated by ancient times and the stories of the past. Growing up in Baie-Saint-Paul, she quickly became an avid reader of fantasy and historical fiction. Her parents often brought Jeanne and her siblings around the world on their travels.

Jeanne was later drawn to Ancient Greek and Medieval literature during her B.A. in Classical and Medieval Studies at McGill University. The intersection between these two areas of literature will be the focus of her M.A. thesis, which she will begin in the fall of 2019.

For the past few years, summer has been a moment for Jeanne to explore her roots—and what better place to deepen her knowledge than a museum. Working as a guide immerses one not only in the vestiges of the past, but, by conveying information to others who are interested in the past, brings our heritage to life. She has worked at the Ursulines de Quebec, the Citadelle, and Maison Saint-Gabriel. Now, at the Morrin Centre, Jeanne is beginning her fifth year as a guide—thus adding another layer of history to the life of this young medievalist.

When she is not playing piano or buried in a captivating novel by Émile Zola, Jeanne likes to enjoy life's small pleasures in good company.

The Morrin Centre also welcomes back Anthony Arata, Sarah Bellemare, and Maximillian Pienitz, who were here last summer, and Philippe Martin, who has worked as a guide at the Morrin Centre for the past six years.

**Anthony Arata****Sarah Bellemare****Maximillian Pienitz****Philippe Martin****Mikaël Aubin-Jobin**

I have known since I was 12 years old that, without a doubt, my career path would involve history. Now at 21 years old, I enjoy joking that I am married to the discipline, for better or worse.

As a history student at Université Laval, I am slowly learning the ins and outs of coffee addiction and the life of an historian, which suits me just fine. I'm interested in 19th- and 20th-century European social history, which is what drew me to becoming a guide at the Morrin Centre.

In my free time, I am interested in art, photography, the outdoors, coffee, and the *fripéries* of downtown Quebec City. I also love French and German literature—Albert Camus and Herman Hesse are among my favourite authors. But above all, I am a globetrotter and a citizen of the world. At 17, my curiosity led me to Brazil, where I spent almost a year abroad. I also backpacked around Europe, discovering its music, art, and history.

Thanks to these travels, I realized how proud I am to be from Quebec City, a place that I find so beautiful and charming.

Come meet our new guides or say hello to a familiar face, and take one of four fascinating tours this summer! ■

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

EXPERIENCE LIVING HISTORY

The Morrin Centre has four different tours that we are offering this summer, including a new, immersive tour: ***The Hanging of William Pouden: Capital Punishment at the Quebec Common Gaol.***



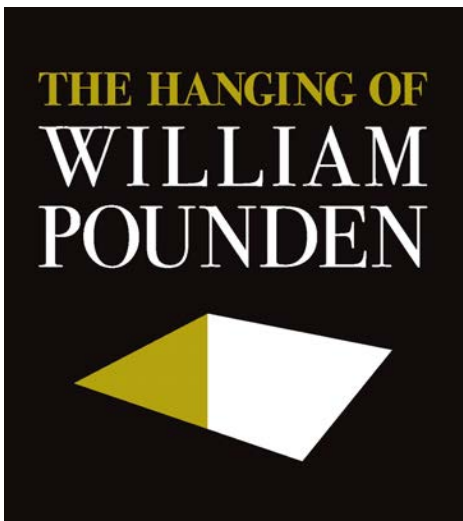
DISCOVERY TOUR: Come visit one of the oldest prisons in Quebec, and discover a hidden, dark, and almost unknown part of the city's history. Along with learning about Morrin College, the city's first English-language institute of higher education, explore the chemistry lab and tour the charming Victorian Library. Tours are offered daily throughout the summer in English and French. For more information visit: morrin.org/en/tours/discovery-tour/



OUR WRITINGS: Whether they lived here or merely visited, Quebec City has been the setting for works by a number of great English-language writers, including Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, and Margaret Atwood. Come join us on the *Our Writings* walking tour, which examines these writers and the places in the city that inspired them. The outdoor tour lasts one hour. Please dress accordingly. For more information and for the schedule, visit: morrin.org/en/tours/our-writings/



TEATIME: Come sample traditional teas, a variety of sandwiches, and delicious teatime treats, while learning about Victorian etiquette and teatime customs in our historic library. *Teatime* is offered every second Sunday at 4:15 p.m., from June 30th until September 1st, 2019: morrin.org/en/tours/teatime/



THE HANGING OF WILLIAM POUNDEN: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AT THE QUEBEC COMMON GAOL: Travel back in time to 1823, when William Pouden was hanged for murder. Thanks to the exceptional atmosphere of the old gaol as well as captivating audio-visual animations, this new, immersive guided tour plunges you into the past. Visit the spaces used to imprison and hang the condemned, and follow the series of tragic events that led to Pouden's execution. Let the animations guide you through the Quebec common gaol as it stood in the nineteenth century, and witness the events that would lead the condemned to the most severe punishment of that time: hanging.

The tour ends with a new permanent exhibition titled ***The Hanged: Two Centuries of Executions in Quebec.*** This exhibition, curated by Donald Fyson (Professor of History at Université Laval and LHSQ Honorary Librarian), examines the history of capital punishment in the province, from the first execution of a civilian under the British regime to the abolition of the death penalty in Canada in 1976. Reserve your tickets today! morrin.org/en/tours/william-pouden/ ■

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Député fédéral de Québec

Ministre de la Famille, des Enfants
et du Développement social

Bureau de circonscription

600, boul. Charest Est
Bureau 201, C.P. 30014
Québec (Québec) G1K 3J4
T. 418 523-6666
F. 418 523-6672

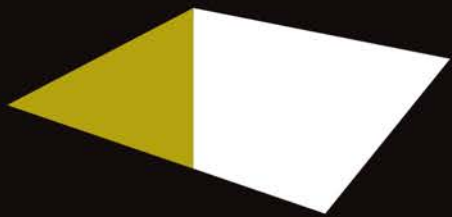
jean-yves.duclos@parl.gc.ca
www.jeanyvesduclos.ca



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Morrin Centre
44 Chaussée des Écossais
Quebec City, Quebec G1R 4H3
418-694-9147 info@morrin.org

morrin.org

