



THE VOICE OF  
THE PARENT IN  
EDUCATION

# QFHS NEWS

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2018

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# New QFHSA President



## QFHSA has a new President!

will inevitably follow as a result, good and bad.

Linton Garner has stepped up to the challenge and has accepted the position of president of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations in these "interesting times." Linton has the honour and challenge of navigating QFHSA through the next provincial election and the legislation fallout that

The Board of Directors and Staff of the QFHSA will give him all the support he needs and we know that our member associations will as well. Welcome to life in the fast lane, Linton! May the force be with you.

### QFHSA Mission Statement

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

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



### QFHSA NEWS

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Anna Samoylova

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QFHSA NEWS 





# Executive Director's Message



## Capitalize Opportunities

First of all, I would like to thank (and congratulate) all the Home and School Associations who responded to the offer to send students to the McGill Chamber Orchestra's youth concert Annabelle Cantos in May. Despite the last minute notice of the opportunity, collectively, Home and Schools were able to

send 400 kids to get their first experience of opera, in a fun and exciting way. Some schools even enhanced the experience of "going to the opera" by encouraging their kids to dress up for the occasion. We will let you know as soon as we can about next year's 'operatic offering' and encourage as many of you as possible to pass this opportunity on to the kids in your school.

Likewise, this year's Youth Exploring Science (YES) was a special opportunity for kids to learn about bird adaptations and injuries they suffer navigating a world more and more of human design. Le Nichoir, a bird sanctuary in Hudson, does wonderful work caring for injured birds and brought their expertise to YES to educate the kids about birds in the wild and how they can do their part to help protect them, when possible.

Looking forward, QFHSA is working on developing a partnership with Let's Talk Science, to help bring additional science activities to English schools in the Gaspé region of Quebec, as the next phase of our Youth Exploring Science project series in 2019.

QFHSA continues to be involved with NEXTschool's Design Strategy Group, now the Systems Integration Group, as it strives to reimagine high school education for English public schools in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are certain that any school who wishes to explore this new structure, and already has an established Home and School Association, will find that the parents are ready, willing and able to support the teachers and administration through the implementation stage.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you to fill out the QFHSA NEWS questionnaire when it arrives in your inbox and/or mail slot as we endeavor to improve our content. We need to know what it is you want to read in the NEWS, and what is of most interest to you.

The school year of 2017-18 is drawing to a close and many of us will be off for the summer but the Fall will see Home and Schools back again ready to bring new activities and develop new partnerships of their own, as collectively, we navigate the science, culture and education landscape of Quebec, bringing exciting opportunities to our students.

Until then, summer beckons, so everyone relax and enjoy it. See you in the Fall!

Carol Meindl



# Membership services

## Hooray! It's summer!



### News from the 2018 AGM:

- Updating constitutions and by-laws: Using the QFHSA templates, membership services will begin updating the constitution and by-laws of locals associations where C&Bs are over **10 years old**. This is a long term project and current executive lists and reports will be referenced to determine current practices at the local association.
- **2019-2020** family membership increase: Notice was given that a membership fee increase to \$20.00 per family will be implemented in **September 2019**. The last increase was in 2010. Delegates at the 2019 QFHSA Annual General Meeting will vote on this proposal.
- Insurance committee: The membership committee is looking for parents who work in the insurance industry to join an insurance committee. Help is needed to decipher the “legalese” of the QFHSA’s current policy as well as determine what the local associations need in terms of coverage. Please contact Marlyn (marlynbrownrigg@qfhsa.org) if you are interested in joining this committee.

### End-of- Year Housekeeping:

- President’s Activity Report: This report is the responsibility of the current president(s) and should give an overview of the activities Home and School supported/organized over the school year.
- 2017-2018 Financial Report: Submitted by the treasurer, this report should include the major 2017 -2018 revenues, expenses and any allocations for the coming school year.
- 2018-2019 Executive lists: Please send the 2018-2019 Executive list as soon as possible so that E-Bulletins etc. will be sent to the new executive members.
- 2018-2019 membership documents will be on the QFHSA website by June 30<sup>th</sup>.



## Have a great summer!



let's talk science | parlons sciences

# Living Space

Register today at [letstalkscience.ca/livingspace](http://letstalkscience.ca/livingspace)

With this classroom action project your students will learn to code sensors to collect environmental data and compare their findings to those taken by Canadian astronaut David Saint-Jacques aboard the International Space Station and examine the optimal environmental conditions for life in space and on earth!

Visit [letstalkscience.ca/livingspace](http://letstalkscience.ca/livingspace) to learn more!



Thank you to all executives and volunteers graduating along with their children. Your dedication and time is greatly appreciated.

Moving on from elementary? Please join your **HIGH SCHOOL** Home and School Association. The commitments are fewer, the information you receive is invaluable and your input is important.

Visionary Donors:



## SAVE THE DATES

October 2nd, 2018  
Executive Workshops  
QFHSA Office

November 3rd, 2018  
QFHSA Fall Conference  
St. Thomas High School

# Committee Recruitment

## COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT

Do Any of the Following Issues Interest You?

QFHSA committees are open to QFHSA board members, members of local associations, school staff and members of the general public; anyone with an interest in parental involvement in education. Members may attend meetings at the QFHSA office in person or call in if they wish.



**Education:** Public school fees  
Rollout of the sex education curriculum in Fall 2018

**Literacy:** Future of school libraries

**Membership:** Insurance requirements for local associations/review of current QFHSA insurance policy

**Communications:** What are the best ways for Home and Schools and the QFHSA to “get the word out”?

Call the office for information on time and date of next committee meetings or consult the website calendar of events

Thank you to QFHSA board members Rhonda Boucher and Tanima Ghosh who are moving on. We hate to see you go!

The QFHSA would like to welcome our newest board member, Mr. Michael Nalecz, who has been an active member of various QFHSA committees over the past few years.



Rhonda Boucher



Tanima Ghosh



Michael Nalecz



## Literacy Committee

### Literacy Committee

Over the past few months, the literacy committee shipped seven (7) boxes of books to the Heritage Lower St. Lawrence Library in Métis Beach, Quebec. One (1) large box was shipped to Queen Elizabeth High School in Sept Isles. Literacy committee members continue to source books to meet the needs of schools and libraries outside of the Montreal area. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Literacy committee plans - investigating the current status and future of school libraries. School libraries are changing in many ways and The QFHSA literacy committee will be asking for feedback from your local association on the state of your school library. Keep an eye out for an online survey or better yet join this committee and either participate in person or by phone. The QFHSA's goal is to recommend an update to a 2004 library resolution at the 2019 AGM. Please contact Marlyn or Carol if you have a some time to spare.



#### Dear Parents of the Home and School,

I just wanted to take a moment now to thank you all for your hard work and dedication towards the students and staff at St. Charles. It is with very mixed emotions that I will retire on June 30th.

Over the twelve years I have been at St. Charles, many parents have supported me so that I have been able to build a Literature based classroom and a balanced Literacy program. Through your fundraising and allocation funds, I have been able to buy and equip my classroom with many good books and language games.

Over the past twelve years, parents from the committee have helped me level my books, organize my math manipulatives, put tennis balls on all of my chairs and volunteer in my classroom. How lucky the students and I have been!

Over my thirty- two years I have worked in eight schools, however it is at St. Charles that I have stayed the longest. It is with much pride that I end my career at this school with so many wonderful parents and students past and present.

Wishing you and your children a wonderful summer.  
Sincerely,  
Jean Conti Miller

### 15 ways to Keep Your Kids Active This Summer

The end of the school year can cause a panic in parents. It doesn't matter if you're working full time or at home with the kids, the fears are the same: you don't want your children to spend their summer in front of the TV all day or texting as their only means of communication with the rest of the world.

Kids need to stay active and occupied during the summer months to make sure they get the most out of their summer before heading back to school. Check out the website for ideas to keep your family active all summer long.

[www.activekids.com](http://www.activekids.com)

# Thank you Brian Rock

Brian Rock stepped down as QFHSA President this year and Linton Garner has stepped into his shoes being duly elected at the Annual General Meeting on April 28, 2018. Brian served as President from 2015-2018 having taken over from previous President Lawrence Depoe. Brian will continue serving on the Board as a Director and Chair of the Rights Committee. We say good-bye to Brian but not farewell.

## Congratulations to the new Board of Directors and the New Executive!



Left to right (back row): Leah Trineer, Treasurer; Maxime Côté, Vice President; Linton Garner, President; Brian Rock, Immediate Past President; Michael Nalecz, Director.  
(Front Row) Ginette Sauv -Frankel, Vice President; Debi Brown, Secretary; Rosemary Murphy, Executive Vice President



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# Executive Appreciation

## Dinner in Gatineau: Executive Appreciation goes west

By Debi Brown, QFHSA Director

The inaugural Executive Appreciation Dinner for West Quebec was held on April 4th in the Aylmer sector of Gatineau. There were 11 Executive members in attendance from four (4) local Home and Schools, out of a possible 11 schools. Attendance included veteran Home and School Associations, Lord Aylmer and South Hull, freshman member Wakefield School Elementary and one in between, Onslow Elementary.

West Quebec is a geographically large school board with urban and rural schools. Many of the schools are true village schools, small, isolated, with limited access to resources. This reality, along with the range of experience represented by the schools in attendance, was a great

background for an open and informative discussion of many issues, the sharing of solutions and exchange of ideas. The discussion was facilitated by the presence of three (3) QFHSA Board members who live in West Quebec.

The decision to host an Executive Appreciation Dinner was made early in 2018 and QFHSA was pleased with the response to attend on such short notice. While there was lively discussion, the facility was not optimal for full round table discussion and future dinners will need to address the need to have everyone interact with everyone. The QFHSA Board looks forward to hosting Executive Appreciation Dinners in the future.



Executive Appreciation Dinner in Gatineau, Quebec



Christopher Grady is the creator of Lunarbaboon, a webcomic designed for humans. In his spare time he is a family man and an elementary school teacher in Toronto.

# Tribute to Volunteers

As the emcee of the 2018 awards dinner, retiring QFHSA Board Member Tanima Ghosh gave this tribute to volunteers and in particular her fellow Home and School volunteers and their children. QFHSA has received numerous requests to share her message with the wider membership.

“The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few”. Our Home and School family was shaken this week after the death of our Co-President’s mom.

This mother and grandmother embodied all the reasons why we volunteer; selfless, strong sense of community and tireless. We need people like her to remind us why we volunteer: to set an example for our kids.

My own mom was an artist and she would hand paint posters that were works of art at each school event. My dad was a rocket scientist who would run from his work to volunteer as my soccer coach. As I grew up I watched them volunteer and teach other people’s kids and parents about tolerance and kindness and community.

*“The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few”*

Why do we do it? When my children were in kindergarten, I was recruited by a dynamic Home and School parent who pitched how I could make a difference. She said “We are not just another parent - we set the energy, the tone and spirit of the school community”.

Our kids watched us as the men and women in our crew constructed stages, set up chairs, edited videos in the basement, stuffed bags, sold cupcakes and were kind to other people’s kids.

Many students have been junior volunteers throughout their parents’ Home and School years working at every event to bring high energy, morale and team spirit to our community.

I would like to acknowledge these kids as the future of our Home and Schools given their love of community, unpaid work and motivation to do what is right. Just like their grandparents’ spirit.

We understand that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few. I salute all of you for your unpaid time and love of community. Don’t let anyone ever tell you that you are just another parent because you make this a priority in your busy life. Our own parents and grandparents would have been very proud of us.”



*Thank you Volunteers!*



# Awards

## GORDON PATERSON AWARD 2018

### Steven Dubinsky, Westwood High School

The QFHSA Gordon Paterson award was presented to Steven Dubinsky for his contributions to the field of education and his encouragement of the involvement of parents at the high school level.

Steven Dubinsky connects with parents of the students at open houses, concerts and curriculum nights to encourage them to be as involved as possible. Forever encouraging to his students, Mr. Dubinsky has been the fearless leader of the Westwood Senior High School Band since 1996 and this year the Westwood Junior students as well.

Steven has already received awards for his outstanding contribution to band, his strong musical leadership and his consistent promotion of access to musical experience through band.

Steven encourages parents and grandparents to accompany the young musicians on their performance trips to Ottawa, the LBPSB school board and anywhere else they may play such as at local elementary schools. Several concerts are held at school each year, with plenty of parents helping to bake, selling concession items, and collecting non-perishables for the local food bank. A favorite time at concerts for parents is when Steven invites them up to stand beside their mortified teen playing in the band during a number! And, of course, pictures are always strongly encouraged, especially close-ups.

As a fundraising activity for the yearly band trips (sometimes to Ottawa, sometimes to Washington and others), Steven coordinates weekends of bagging groceries at a Walmart with the students. He has given up a few weekends of his own personal time to get students and parents out in the community. In the past, Steven has been a Co-Director of a student musical camp in Asbestos for 4 years during the summer. He is a graduate of Concordia and McGill Universities in the field of Music and Fine Arts, and completed his Masters of Education in June 2017. The parents of Westwood are immensely appreciative of the efforts that Steven gives to the Senior and Junior Music departments and thankful to him for the volunteer opportunities provided to parents and grandparents.

QFHSA would like to offer its own congratulations and appreciation by presenting the 2018 Gordon Paterson Award to Steven Dubinsky.



Steven Dubinsky, Westwood Music Teacher and  
Lisa Fougere, Westwood H&S President

# Awards continued...

## PAT LEWIS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD Willingdon Elementary School

From the ground to the roof tops, Willingdon Elementary School uses it all to educate both its students and their families on the role the earth plays in our survival and, most importantly, how to protect and ensure its sustainability.

Willingdon School is a prime example of successful environmental policy integration and implementation. The support and guidance of the administration and faculty has been instrumental in helping the Willingdon Home and School Association implement environmental guidelines for all its activities. With the support of the administration, the Association has become paperless by moving all forms, payments and communications online, thus paper waste at households in the community has decreased. Under the faculty's direction, only biodegradable plates and napkins are now used for the Home and School monthly pizza lunch for students. In addition, all family and community based activities such as the Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Soup Bowl and caroling evening now have families bringing their own reusable plates, bowls and utensils in order to eliminate the use of paper and plastic. The Student Green Committee has been pivotal in assisting the Home and School in incorporating refillable water stations at our largest family-based activities such as the annual Fun Fair and the Welcome Back to School Corn Roast, thus eradicating the sale of bottled water. The school has also partnered with *Eco Quartier* to ensure that recycling and composting is available at all family-based activities.

The environmental leadership shown by Willingdon School has touched the family of every Willingdon student and the community at large.

Both the Willingdon community and the community at large have benefited from the school's work with the school gardens. Students are taught about cultivation and environmental sustainability while parents and neighbors enjoy the beauty of the garden and volunteer their time to take care of it over the summer months when school is not open.



**Linton Garner, Kathleen Usher, Steve Spetsieris, and students Chloe and Isabella**

The school's most recent initiative of the *Alvéole* honey bee hive on the roof of the school has been a remarkable example of how to involve and educate not just all Willingdon students and their families, but the surrounding neighborhood. From the planning and planting of the new honey bee garden at the front of the school, to the harvesting of the honey in the fall, to the design of the labels and sale of the honey by the graduating class, this project has beautifully meshed classroom teaching with the spirit of this community in a multi-faceted and exciting way. The enthusiastic community support in purchasing all of the honey harvested in this first year has allowed Willingdon to reinvest in and expand the project.

Ultimately, Willingdon School has been a pivotal influence on the growing environmental stewardship of the school community and the community at large. QFHSA is pleased to present the 2018 Pat Lewis Environmental Award to Willingdon School.



## PAT LEWIS HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Rhiannon Sparkes and the Grade 5 Class  
Dorset Elementary School

Ms. Sparkes, Grade 5 teacher at Dorset Elementary, has been raising awareness in her students to the world at large. In her role as Educator, she brings passion to the classroom and creates life lessons in very hands-on ways. Last year she led her Grade 5 students in a water awareness lesson plan which came to life when she engaged students to fundraise for improved access to clean water in Manac, Haiti.

Together, the students raised \$3000, donating the funds to the WE organization. Through a matching program, a total of \$6000 was raised. Not only did students raise a substantial amount of money, but this lesson was brought outside of the classroom walls when the students walked to the lake with empty jugs, and once filled, walked back to the school, making the connection to many less fortunate countries where this is a way of life.

Above and beyond this specific lesson, Ms. Sparkes engages students to learn about kindness through class readings and group discussions. QFHSA is pleased to present the Pat Lewis Humanitarian Award to Rhiannon Sparkes and the



Linton Garner, Rhiannon Sparkes, Sylvianne Martinis,  
Heidi Ektvedt

QFHSA has always been committed to promoting literacy, whether it be in elementary or high school, adult education or preschool. One of the QFHSA's current projects provides grants to high schools to promote literacy. The allocation of \$300.00 is sent from the QFHSA to the teacher leading the project and books are chosen based on the interests of the students.

This year, three (3) teachers took advantage of this important QFHSA initiative allowing 157 students, ranging in age from 12-17, to benefit from this program. The themes of the books were as diverse as the students' interests: Science fiction, mythology, Indigenous literature and the list goes on. Graphic novels are always on the wish lists.

In addition, with the help of literacy committee volunteers, new and secondhand books were sent to these schools (and others) to augment their classroom libraries. Teachers were asked to specify themes, favourite authors and specific titles.

The Literacy Committee would like to encourage other high schools in the QFHSA network to get involved with this program next year. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who helped source, transport and process books for shipping. Enjoy the summer....with a good book of course!





# Auberge Internationale de Quebec

Thinking about planning a grad trip in 2019 on a modest budget? Have you considered the *Auberge Internationale de Quebec* as a possible venue? If not, think about it!

## The Auberge Internationale de Québec

- Fabulous location right inside the old city walls, walking distance to many of the region's attractions.
- Winner of the 2018 TripAdvisor award of excellence, only given to the top 10% of hotels in the region.
- The largest Youth hostel in the Quebec City region with a visitor capacity over 260 people
- Member of the Green Key Eco-Rating Program and has been Certified with a 3-Key rating
- Special group rates starting at 25\$/person | Continental breakfast available at 6\$/person.

## Groups stay in dormitories, teachers/assistants can stay in private rooms.

- We are a non-profit organization, with a social mission.

## Services offered

- Open 24 hours
- Fully equipped communal kitchen (you can bring your own food and snacks!)
- Café Bistro (Breakfast )
- Free Wi-Fi
- Library / Theatre space
- Games (Board games, cards, table-football, darts)
- Laundry room
- Discounts with our partners for activities (travel, food, cultural activities etc.)
- Daily Activities (walking tours, games nights etc.)
- Cultural events on a regular basis
- We can help you plan your visit to the city!
- For more information: <http://aubergeinternationaledequebec.com/en/>





# Saturdays in St. Pierre

By: Ozlem Erten

Over a course of two years, I have had the pleasure of working with a lovely group of children aged 0-12 and their families living in a small neighbourhood called Saint-Pierre, Quebec.

Saint-Pierre is part of Lachine, on the Island of Montreal. It is situated between the train tracks and a major highway that connect the West Island to Centreville and East of the city. There are no English speaking schools, no grocery shops where families can buy fresh produce and very few parks. This has been a neglected borough with high incidents of crime that affect youth.

Over the past five years, there has been a shift of families with young children coming to live in Saint-Pierre. Construction of new town houses and condos seems to have had an impact on daily life in Saint-Pierre. The city of Lachine has also become aware of the income gap between the West of Lachine and Saint-Pierre as well as Lachine East. At community building events, there has been an increased effort to bring resources and services to this neglected neighbourhood that is in such close proximity to both Lachine and Downtown Montreal.

The city has brought in urbanization and sustainable living initiatives which included a new marketplace, new bike paths, as well as environmental projects

supported by the students of the only elementary school in the neighbourhood.

With more community-building efforts, came an interest in educational activities for the children and families in Saint-Pierre. About two years ago, we started implementing an early intervention program to at-risk families with 0-5 year old children. As an educational consultant and a reading specialist, I had the chance to partner with other not-for-profit organizations including Quebec Federation of Home and School Association, J.A.M.E (J'apprend avec mon enfants), Revitalisation Saint-Pierre and Saint-Pierre Library to create this early intervention program.

Every Saturday we met with families living in the neighbourhood and ran our Art and Alphabet Workshops. Sometimes we shared a healthy meal with fresh fruits provided by Marché Saint-Pierre. Our program grew into a family literacy Saturday Program with not only 0-5 year old children but also their older siblings who came to learn and enjoy the company of other mixed age children living in the same neighbourhood.

Our Art and Alphabet workshops came to an end on April 7th, 2018. Budget cuts and lack of funding is an inescapable reality of community programs. It was sad to say goodbye to all the families and children I got to work with.



Book donations help build a community of readers!

# QAHN AGM

## Truth in History- Resolutions from the 2018 QAHN AGM

by Carol Meindl

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN), of which the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations is a core member, held its Annual General Meeting in Sillery, Quebec on June 9, 2018 at the beautiful Domaine Cataraqui. (please see photo on the right) In addition to their regular AGM business session, they adopted two interesting resolutions. QAHN is a strong proponent of truth in the teaching of history and has supported QFHSA's statement on Quebec Secondary III & IV History Curriculum: in need of change and History of Residential Schools in 2017.

As a core member of QAHN we are expected to pay close attention to these resolutions and incorporate them into our own guiding principles, when possible. As their primary interest is in preserving and promoting the English history of Quebec, we have similar goals in that QFHSA considers itself an English institution and also wishes to support its English speaking community. As sister organizations QAHN and QFHSA support one another.

QAHN's first resolution spoke similarly to our resolution: History of Residential Schools, in that it speaks to a desire for truth in history education, however uncomfortable that truth may be.

### **Resolution 2018/01 Quebec's Anglophone Heritage in the Time of Reconciliation**

*Whereas this statement has been conceived as a way to begin a reflection on the role QAHN can play in the process of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians that truthfully acknowledges the legacies of loss of territory, language, culture for Indigenous communities in Quebec and Canada during the last four centuries. It has been informed by reading several key documents in the national conversation on reconciliation, notably those based on the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Though concerned primarily with redressing the specific legacy of residential schools in Canada, the TRC report contains numerous recommendations*

*that deal with the broader legacies and traumas of colonial and state policy in Canada and are proposed as a starting point for understanding and sharing this history.*



*Whereas defining the limits of Quebec's "Anglophone" heritage is complicated by the ethnic diversity of people who use English in their daily lives throughout the province, debates about who is truly an English-speaking Quebecer play out in the development and implementation of language policy in numerous spheres of public life in Quebec. For First Nations people who mostly or even exclusively use English in their daily lives, the question of linguistic identity is even more fraught: current language use and knowledge has been indelibly shaped by centuries of policy that explicitly sought to erase traditional Aboriginal languages and cultures through assimilation into dominant English or French-speaking societies. The residential school system is just one important example. At the same time, Indigenous communities in Quebec may be counted among just a handful of places in the province where the English-speaking demographic is growing. With these multiple contexts in mind, the moment has arrived for QAHN to critically reflect on what it means to study and advocate for Anglophone heritage in Quebec and how we can do so in the spirit of reconciliation at local, provincial, and national scales.*





*Be it resolved that QAHS hereby affirms its commitment to the reconciliation process by encouraging its board and membership (including both individual and institutional members) to undertake the following actions as defined in the TRC's Calls to Action (2015) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007):*

*1) Read and become knowledgeable of the recommendations put forth in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action (2015).*

*2) Read and become knowledgeable of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which the TRC has identified as a core framework for reconciliation as an ongoing practice.*

*3) Establish a committee to discuss the core themes of these documents and the implications for our organization. As a result of the deliberations of this committee, a second official QAHS statement on the topic of reconciliation, should be drafted for approval by the board.*

*a) If possible, in the spirit of dialogue and truth advocated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we should invite input and feedback from one or more Indigenous experts in Quebec either during this meeting (AGM) and/or in response to any subsequent statements and action plans proposed by our organization.*

*4) Encourage active reflection, research, participation and, if necessary, truthful acknowledgement and awareness of the direct involvement of the institutions of English-speaking Quebec in the residential school system.*

Although it may be practical for some local H&S member associations to call on representation from indigenous groups to participate in their committees and H&S meetings, where the student body includes a percentage of indigenous students, this may not be practical for all. However, reading up on the TRC's recommendations and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people is certainly something our general H&S members could do in response to this resolution.

The QFHSA, as the provincial body, could

also endeavor to draw on the perspective and input of Indigenous peoples when considering certain resolutions and policies in the future. It is something that will be discussed by the Board of Directors in upcoming meetings.

The second resolution adopted by the QAHS membership on June 9 has to do with toponomy, the official naming of places.

**Place names and monuments that reflect the history and heritage of English-speaking Quebec**

*Whereas the history and heritage of Quebec's English-speaking communities is reflected in the province's landscape and built heritage;*

*Whereas the place names and monuments that reflect the English-speaking history and heritage of Quebec speak to the important contribution that English-speaking communities have made, and continue to make, to the social, political, cultural and economic history of the province;*

*Whereas the preservation of place names and monuments that reflect the history and heritage of Quebec's English-speaking communities are important for English-speaking citizens to maintain a sense of place and belonging in the province, now and in the future;*

*(continued on page 18)*



**The QAHS Board of Directors**

# QAHN AGM Continued

*(QAHN AGM continued from page 17)*

*Whereas the history and heritage of English-speaking communities is a legacy that belongs to all Quebecers;*

*Be it resolved that the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network strongly urges the Commission de toponymie du Quebec to at all times respect the historic contributions of Quebec's English speaking community builders.*

We can all notice that some streets and towns in Quebec have English sounding names and others French sounding names, but very few of us know where those names actually come from and the role those individuals who are being honoured played in the history of the surrounding community. The changing of names of streets and parks can be a volatile exercise and should only be considered with due consultation with historical societies who have knowledge of the

community, in all its past lives. When our students have an opportunity to explore the origins of the street and road names in their own community, the whole history of their area can come alive for them and they have a sense of the significance of their place (If you don't know the historical significance of the name of your own street, road or town, perhaps it is time to make a visit to your local city hall or library to make some inquiries. Take your kids...)

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network does wonderful work in preserving and promoting English history through its workshops and seminars. As members of QAHN, QFHSA members receive a discount on the registration fees so we will continue to keep you posted on any of their upcoming activities.

## All About Food

All About Food: Exploring Canada's Food System is an educational resource geared towards grades 9-12. The All About Food book presents factual information on 'hot topics' in agriculture such as food waste, biotechnology and career opportunities.

Hard copies of the French and English resources can be ordered by visiting the website of your respective provincial Agriculture in the Classroom.

A companion website, [allaboutfood.aitc.ca](http://allaboutfood.aitc.ca), extends learning with links to videos, interactive games, and industry websites. Student learning is framed through inquiry questions which promote critical thinking about the variety of topics.





# Annabelle Canto

## Annabelle Canto

On May 17, 2018 the McGill Chamber Orchestra presented a French matinée performance of Annabelle Canto at Théâtre Maisonneuve for children ages 5 to 12. Audrey Rochon from the MCO reached out to the QFHSA to share this wonderful opportunity with our members. Even with short notice, we were so pleased to find out that as a result of sharing this invitation at least five member association schools were able to attend the performance, bringing with them approximately 400 students. It was a great opportunity for the children to be “introduced to or expand upon their knowledge of some of the greatest hits of classical music performed by one of Montreal’s prominent professional orchestras.”

“To summarize the performance, Annabelle Canto, a young opera singer, loses her voice and memory the morning of an important recital. To help her retrieve her skills, her pianist Henri will try anything including hypnosis, magic potions, and more.” There was comedy and humour scattered throughout the hour performance much to the delight of the students.

One of the visions of the QFHSA is that every student should have the opportunity to enjoy an enriched school experience. By sharing information with our members about these wonderful cultural opportunities the QFHSA continues to support this vision.



## Culture in the Schools Program

Did you know that the Ministry of Education and Higher Education along with the Ministry of Culture and Communications in Quebec have a program called Culture in the Schools?

The program as described on their website is “The Culture in the Schools program is designed to produce citizens who are actively involved in cultural life. The program achieves this by increasing the number of cultural experiences offered to students through the resources listed in a unique online directory entitled *Répertoire de ressources culture-éducation* directory.”

“The Culture in the Schools program has four components:

### Cultural Workshops at School

This component helps bring artists, writers and cultural organizations into the schools to share their creative processes with students in a workshop setting.

### Science Culture

This component enables people from science organizations to come into the classroom and share their scientific and technological processes with students in a workshop setting. It also enables students to go on field trips to organizations that contribute to science culture.

### Schools Host an Artist or Writer

This component allows students to participate, for a period of 4 to 12 weeks, in an ongoing project involving artistic exploration.

It also offers professional artists and writers the opportunity to spend time in a school environment and to find inspiration there for their own creative pursuits.

### Partnerships

This component works with two organizations, *Culture pour tous* and *Vision Diversité*, to get students to participate in artistic and cultural workshops that promote exploration and creativity.”

Schools can apply for financial aid for cultural activities and this program could possibly reimburse up to 75% of the expenses.

With the collaboration between the school administrator and the Home and School, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary in Vaudreuil-Dorion was able to participate in two different cultural activities free of charge. The students were treated to a week of a planetarium in the gym from Aster Education and a trip to Place des Arts to see Annabelle Canto, a French Opera which is part of the Youth concert series of the McGill Chamber Orchestra.

It is a great way for Home & Schools to maximize their funds and expose the children to as many cultural opportunities as possible. It was a fairly simple procedure to apply for funding.

Visit the [website](#) to find out if the company you have in mind is on the approved list of artists / organizations. From there bring the information to the principal, explain your ideas, work together and see what wonderful cultural programming the Home and School can offer to enhance the curriculum.



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# Focus on



## *The locals*

### Christmas Park

This year, our Home and School community built along with providing funds to purchase new on the success of the previous school year and equipment for the kids to use during recess and tried a few new initiatives to help the school. As lunch.

As a Home and School Association, our primary goal is to foster opportunities to bring our school community closer together and ultimately support our children and staff at Christmas Park. We were thrilled to continue to have the invaluable support of long-standing members and welcome new parents to our Association this year. Our fundraising efforts this year were dedicated to some different initiatives including supporting transportation to winter carnival activities, the purchase of some new items for the staff kitchen as part of Teachers/Staff Appreciation Week,

We were able to once again work collaboratively with the teachers for the S'Parks of Creativity event with half the proceeds going to the teachers for their discretionary use. This gala event celebrated the creative works of our children's projects not only in their classrooms but their wonderful works of art were on display.



## Together we can achieve

St. Charles Home & School (H & S) has had a busy spring – helping the staff with Carnival, organizing and preparing Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week, hosting a second Movie Night and organizing a second Sharks Clothing Drive. For Carnival, students enjoyed skating at the Pierrefonds Sports-plexe. Carnival Kings and Queens were chosen from each grade. Students played games including intercom bingo with prizes for the winners. H & S spoiled our teachers and staff for Staff and Teacher Appreciation Week. The theme this year is Canada 150 and H & S volunteers outdid themselves with decorating the staff room and luncheon room and collecting items for making swag bags and mug gifts. The bulletin board looks amazing with all the mittens from each student expressing how he/she appreciates their teacher. Every day of the week teachers were treated to various goodies - cheese platters and nanaimo bars, bagels, cream cheese and salmon, fruit platters and Mr. Puffs and popcorn and Perrier, a hot luncheon served on the last day as well as daily gift certificate prizes. Students enjoyed cheering for their teachers in the gym for the competitive games. The winning team of teachers won gift certificates to the SAQ.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> H & S hosted a second Movie Night in this school year featuring Ferdinand and a fun time was had by all.

St. Charles H & S has a few more events lined up – Daycare Appreciation, Footloose Day and of course Graduation.

As the end of the school year nears, St. Charles H & S can reflect on an amazing and successful year. All fundraising efforts were donated back to the school – bus transportation for Carnival, new books and supplies for each class, a visit from an author, a mural created by the students that will be installed on the front wall of the school and school yard improvements such as a new mesh. Plans are being developed for a freshly painted school yard and all the events that our students enjoyed throughout the year, namely, Welcome Back BBQ, Breakfast with Santa, Footloose Day, and Graduation activities.

Congratulations to Julianne Read who received the QFHSA Golden Torch award and Nola Mak who received the QFHSA Unsung Hero award. The QFHSA awards ceremony was held on April 28<sup>th</sup>. We are extremely thankful and grateful to our dedicated parents of H & S members, a crew of 69, included with volunteers, a crew of 119, and school staff and teachers who make our St Charles school community so special.



# Baie Comeau High School

Baie-Comeau High School's Home & School Association successfully organized its annual Bean Supper on April 13. This decades-old fund-raising and community-based event brought out about 130 people. We had a ton of help and that made the supper a great success! People feasted on meat pies, brown beans, wieners, pulled pork, home-made buns and a smorgasbord of home-made desserts. The event raised close to \$2000. The H&SA uses these funds to sponsor a wide-variety of extra-curricular activities throughout the school year and provide bursaries and prizes to students. The H&SA, along with other funding initiatives helps ensure that BCHS students are not charged for regular extra-curricular events or activities.

Our entertainment for that evening was magician Benjamin Salgado. His performance was fully-sponsored by our Community Learning

Centre. He kept us enthralled with a variety of magic tricks - it was a load of fun! The youngsters were all too happy to volunteer to help him out with a few of his tricks.

Special thanks to the H&SA for their tremendous planning, coordination and time they put into this event! Thank you to the secondary students, staff, parents, and other volunteers who helped out! From setting up tables to decorating the gym, cooking food, chopping up veggies, selling tickets, serving food, serving drinks, donating door prizes to cleaning up... so many people pitched in! BRAVO!

Stephen Kohner, Principal





## WHERE IS MY SCHOOL?

Disappointed that your school is not in the Focus on the Locals section? Please talk to your Home and School members and submit the

wonderful things your association is doing to [news@qfhsa.org](mailto:news@qfhsa.org) for our next issue in August 2018.



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