

VOLUME 61 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2023

# QFHSA NEWS

THE NEWSMAGAZINE FOR HOME AND SCHOOL MEMBERS

## Ending the School Year on a High Note

**At the 79th Annual General Meeting:**  
*Reviewing the year, discussing resolutions to  
address issues and concerns, p. 6*

**Finally! An In-Person Awards Ceremony**  
*Photos and stories from the big event, p. 8*

**Creativity at Local Home & Schools**  
*Making happy memories, p. 20*



The Quebec  
Federation of  
Home and School  
Associations



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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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QFHSA NEWS

*The Voice of the Parent in Education*

**Continuously published since 1949**

Volume 61, Issue 2

**Official Publication of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations**

3285 Cavendish Blvd., Suite 560

Montreal, Quebec H4B 2L9

Phone: 514-481-5619

Fax: 514-481-5610

Email: [info@qfhsa.org](mailto:info@qfhsa.org)

**Editor:** Karen Henchey

**Layout & Graphic Design:** Karen Henchey

**Printing:** The Business Box, Kirkland

**Circulation:** 4000 copies

**Advertising Manager:** Karen Henchey

**Editorial Board:** Carol Meindl,  
Marlyn Brownrigg, Mimi-Anna Tabaczuk

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

**ISSN: 1924-9284 (Print),**

**ISSN: 1925-797X (Digital)**

**Annual Subscription: \$15.00**

**Individual Copies: \$4.00**

**QFHSA on the Web:** [www.qfhsa.org](http://www.qfhsa.org)

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All submissions may be edited for length,  
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**All QFHSA Banquet photos (p. 5, 7-14)**  
**by Howard Kay**

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

*We welcome your letters!*

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



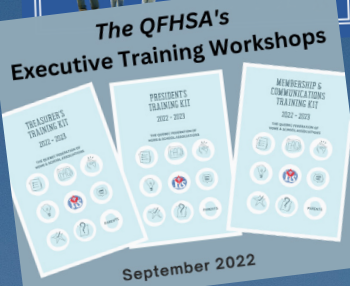
## Looking Back on a Year in the Life of the Federation

Time has a way of speeding up when you are busy. It seems not all that long ago that we were welcoming Home and School volunteers to a new year. Now suddenly it is summer.

How will we remember the 2022/23 year? Local Home and School Associations were certainly navigating through uncharted waters. They needed to figure out how to make their associations thrive in this *mostly* post-COVID world. For many, it has not been a quick and easy return to life as it was before the pandemic. Indeed, this new post-COVID world has brought its challenges. Throughout the year, the QFHSA staff and board of directors have travelled alongside local Home and Schools on their journeys. We shared advice and stayed in touch through phone calls, e-mails, meetings, e-bulletins, social media, newsletters, and events. (On this page, you will find some of the year's social media posts.)

QFHSA events in this mostly post-COVID world were mostly on Zoom. There were September executive training workshops; a December workshop on fostering good working relationships within school communities; January and May Regional Councils; fun Family Workshops on February and March weekends; a special workshop for new Home and School Associations in April; and the June Annual General Meeting. We tried to hold a couple of in-person events during the year with no success. That made the success of the final event we attempted—the May Awards Banquet—even sweeter! How we enjoyed getting back together in person with local Home and Schoolers!

If the 2022/23 school year has taught us anything, it is the value of working together, of supporting one another through the challenges that arise. In this federation, no one travels alone.



**LAST CALL!**

**2022 Fall Conference Workshop**

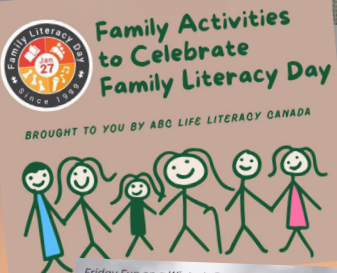


**Fostering Relationships with Governing Boards and Administrations**  
with Cindy Lockhart and Rosemary Murphy

Thursday, December 1st at 7 p.m.  
A Free Event on ZOOM



Enjoy the last week of school before the holidays!  
(And best of luck if you have exams this week!)



Background image from Adobe Stock





## A Pretty Good Year

### *A Message from the QFHSA's President*

OVERALL, THIS HAS BEEN a pretty good year! Parents have been invited back into schools to host events and activities for students, staff, and parents. Local Home and School Associations and Governing Boards are meeting in schools again and the QFHSA hosted an Awards Banquet at the Novotel Hotel on May 26th with over 100 guests. It was nice seeing everyone outside of that ZOOM box.

We were also very happy to welcome five new Home and School Associations to the family this year with a sixth on the verge of joining us, too!

Unfortunately, not all is good news. We were saddened to learn of the loss of a former director, Ms. Rhonda Boucher. Rhonda worked tirelessly for children and parents and she will be sorely missed.

We were also introduced to another Quebec government bill; this time it is Bill 23. This proposed legislation will hurt not only our nine English school boards, but the French school service centres across the province as well. The bill will give the education minister the power to appoint and/or dismiss directors-general and also the power to veto any decision made by the boards or service centres. Though school is out for the summer, the QFHSA's board of directors will continue to monitor this and the various court actions surrounding Bill 96. We will keep you informed through our various avenues of communication.

I wish you all a very restful and fun-filled summer. Please take care and stay safe.

*Rosemary Murphy*

### ***Dates to Remember***

<b>Saturday, July 15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>President's and Treasurer's Reports Due</li></ul>
<b>Saturday, August 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Board of Directors Meeting</li></ul>
<b>Week of August 28</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It's Back to School Week! <i>(Check your school's calendar for the first day at your school.)</i></li></ul>
<b>September 30 (or sooner if possible)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>New Executive List Due</li></ul>
<b>September/October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Executive Training Workshops</li></ul>

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Image from Canva



# Grassroots Community Participation Is Vital

## *A Message from the Executive Director*



I WAS RECENTLY LISTENING to "The New World Disorder," a five-part series on CBC Radio's "Ideas" program with Nahlah Ayed. The first episode primarily looked at the deterioration of democracy in the United States. At one point, Ayed asks author Omar El Akkad what a Utopian society would look like compared to the usual Dystopian ones that are so often explored in fiction. The author said he was starting a new project that explored just that, a Utopian society.

El Akkad's Utopian society starts at the grassroots, where the citizens' primary motivating factor is the welfare of the children. Everything is geared toward the assurance that all children would have a happy childhood, despite any financial or climate change difficulties. In this society, citizens look out for their immediate neighbours and local communities instead of looking to big government to solve all their problems.



He felt that the only way to bring such a society into being was to not save our participation in the electoral system for provincial or federal elections only, as that is not where real satisfying, tangible, and immediate change can happen. Instead, we need to be more actively involved in local politics and vote at the town council and school board levels (and in our cases, at the Home and School and the Governing Board levels). It is at the grassroots level where we can actually make tangible change.

Waiting every 4 years to change a premier or a prime minister is not going to do it for us. I found this a fascinating idea, and it's one that we at Home and School already understand. We do believe in local leadership, in our Home and School executives, in our Governing Board parents, in our teachers and principals, and we support our elected school commissioners.

That is part of the reason why we are fighting so hard to keep our school boards. We feel that those who lead our school boards actually have the success of our students at the heart of every decision they make. We may not feel confident that the provincial government is as serious about supporting student success and child welfare. Given recent legislation, it seems that our provincial government is far more focussed on defending the French language.

The QFHSA has always supported the institution of the school board even if we may not have always 100% agreed with decisions school boards have made over the years. But as an institution, as the last democratically elected representatives to an Anglophone institution, we trust our school boards and we really must fight to hold onto them.

In 2023, we are not facing school board elections. They will not come around again until November 2024. In the meantime, there is much we can do to get as many parents involved in local decision making as possible and to encourage participation in local elections.



The mission of Home and School is to enhance the educational experience of all students. Home and School is geared toward helping the school provide the healthy and happy environment that is necessary for students to grow and learn. When a Home and School is active and successful, it can create a small, local Utopia where everyone benefits.

Let us keep our eyes and ears open and when the Fall of 2024 comes around, let us encourage our parents to vote in the school board elections. Let's continue to build from the bottom upwards and make tangible change.

*Carol Meindl*

Article photos from Adobe Stock



### **Summer at the QFHSA**

Please note that the QFHSA Office will be closed starting on Friday, June 30th and will reopen on Monday, August 15th. However, if you need to reach us some time this summer, do not hesitate to email [info@qfhsa.org](mailto:info@qfhsa.org). Have a wonderful summer!

*The QFHSA Team at your service! Pictured at left are Membership Services Coordinator Marlyn Brownrigg, Administrative Assistant Mimi-Anna Tabaczuk, Executive Director Carol Meindl, and Communications Officer Karen Henchey.*



# News from the 79th Annual General Meeting

## AGM 2023 *The Time Is Now!*

AFTER SUCH A JOYFUL AWARDS BANQUET on May 26th where everyone enjoyed being together in person, it was a bit disappointing to hold a virtual annual general meeting yet again, but it must be acknowledged that it is an excellent way to get the most participation.



Photos from Adobe Stock

This year we had 26 member associations represented at the June 1st event, which is a number not seen in many years. We had representation from Western Quebec, Central Quebec, and the Eastern Shores along with the delegates from the Greater Montreal Area.

Treasurer Leah Trineer reported on the draft financial review to the delegates. The fiscal year 2022 saw our membership fees slowly increasing as Home and Schools became more active, attracting their membership back to their activities. Federal and provincial funding was available as well, so the year ended with a \$16,916 deficit, which was less than what had been feared.

Members of the Resolutions Committee presented eight resolutions

for consideration:

- **Resolution 2023-01: [Revoke Bill C-13](#)** presented by Rosemary Murphy
- **Resolution 2023-02: [Regulate Use of the Notwithstanding Clause](#)** presented by Brian Rock
- **Resolution 2023-03: [Better Develop the New Culture and Citizenship in Québec Program](#)** presented by Natasha Drysdale
- **Resolution 2023-04: [Maintain Sexuality Education as a Separate Program](#)** presented by Bobbi Brown
- **Resolution 2023-05: [Address the Impact of COVID on Student Learning](#)** presented by Samantha Patel
- **Resolution 2023-06: [Support School Employees](#)** presented by Marlyn Brownrigg
- **Resolution 2023-07: [Ensure the Availability of Bilingual Services by Student Ombudsmen](#)** presented by Cindy Lockhart
- **Resolution 2023-08: [Accommodate Immigrant and Refugee Children](#)** presented by Sharad Bhargava

Please see the links above for the text of each resolution. The resolutions can be found on our website, [qfhsa.org](http://qfhsa.org). From the Home page, select "About" on the left menu, then "Resolutions," then "2023 Resolutions."

Of all of the above resolutions, the resolution to maintain sexuality education as a separate program received the most attention. The discussion was lively and it was clear

many delegates had strong opinions on the topic. However, these opinions may not have represented the local association's view on the matter. The fact is that resolutions do not always get discussed at local Home and School meetings prior to the Annual General Meeting.

When the QFHSA's Annual General Meeting was held in person, time was usually allotted for small-group caucusing of each resolution. It was certainly more time consuming, but the delegates had this opportunity to have a say in the final wording.

Knowing that the 2023 annual meeting would be virtual once again, the QFHSA's Resolutions Committee organized a virtual caucusing session on May 15th. Unfortunately, the meeting did not generate a lot of interest among local Home and School Associations. We hope that next year, there will be more participation in pre-annual general meeting discussions about the proposed resolutions—both at the local level and with the QFHSA. Look for invitations to join the Resolutions Committee's caucusing session prior to AGM 2024.

After the resolutions were adopted, it was time to elect a new board of directors and the executive officers. See the following page for a recap of the election.

With a new team in place and a stable financial situation, the QFHSA is ready to face the challenges of the new year. The time is now!

Carol Meindl, *Executive Director*



# News from the 79th Annual General Meeting

## At the Annual General Meeting: *Welcoming a Newcomer, Welcoming Back Some Veterans, and a Fond Farewell*

At the QFHSA's 79th Annual General Meeting, we welcomed two newly-elected members to the board of directors: Ahmed Hassan and Brian Rock. Ahmed is a member of the QFHSA's Resolutions Committee and is joining our board for the first time. Brian has been a dedicated volunteer with the QFHSA since 2001. His most recent tenure on our board ended in June 2022.

At the meeting, Elizabeth "Bobbi" Brown, Nick Giannakoulis, Samantha Patel, Ginette Sauvé-Frankel, and Wanda Leah Trineer were elected to serve additional 2-year terms.

Rosemary Murphy continued as president (her term will end in 2024). Samantha Patel, relatively new to the board, was elected as a vice-president. The QFHSA congratulates Samantha on her willingness to step up to serve at the next level.

The meeting also marked the end of Maxime Côté's tenure on the QFHSA's board of directors. Board President Rosemary Murphy thanked him for the countless hours he has dedicated to the QFHSA in his 6 years on the board. An Eastern Quebecer, Max has been an important voice for his community.

### The 2023-2024 QFHSA Board of Directors:

Rosemary Murphy, *President*  
Ginette Sauvé-Frankel, *Executive Vice-President*  
Natasha Drysdale, *Vice-President*  
Samantha Patel, *Vice-President*  
Wanda Leah Trineer, *Treasurer*  
Debi Brown, *Secretary*  
Linton Garner, *Immediate Past President (ex officio)*

#### *Directors:*

Elizabeth "Bobbi" Brown  
Nick Giannakoulis  
Ahmed Hassan  
Cindy Lockhart  
Brian Rock  
Chris Schaler



Members of the Board of Directors  
at the Awards Banquet

## Spotlight on the QFHSA Board of Directors:



### *Samantha Patel*

Samantha Patel was elected to the QFHSA Board of Directors on June 3rd, 2021. A Home and School volunteer for close to 20 years, Samantha is known to many parents and students as the longtime president of Merton's Home and School Association.

Since joining our board, Samantha has become an active participant in QFHSA life. A regular attendee of our Regional Council meetings, Samantha always brings thoughtful comments and suggestions to the discussions.

Samantha is also the chair of the QFHSA's Education Subcommittee, where she leads discussions on everything from course curricula to supporting our teachers.

A strong supporter of the QFHSA's events, Samantha has been a member of the Fall Conference planning committee for several years. This past fall, she worked extensively with the QFHSA and school volunteers, staff, and administration to coordinate holding the event at Merton. Her efforts were remarkable.

A dedicated and busy mother of four, Samantha knows how to be efficient with her time. This same dedication and efficiency will make her an excellent board vice-president, too!

*A belated but warm welcome to Samantha Patel, another one of our pandemic-elected board members!*



# 2023 Awards Banquet: A Night to Remember

## *Time for a Party... at Long Last!*

COULD WE DO IT? Could we bring back a venerable tradition that was interrupted by the pandemic? We most certainly could!

On the evening of Friday, May 26th, an enthusiastic crowd of over 100 gathered for the 2023 edition of the QFHSA Awards Banquet. The event, which was held at the Novotel in Ville St-Laurent, united Home and School volunteers from the Eastern Townships, Laval, the Island of Montreal, and points farther west including St. Lazare and Gatineau. The event was also an opportunity for members of the QFHSA's board of directors to see each other in person (some for the first time) rather than on Zoom.



Welcoming our guests

The QFHSA was pleased to welcome some very special guests to the event. Noel Burke and Kate Le Maistre, the 2022 Gordon Paterson award winners, were present to finally receive their awards in person. Last year's awards ceremony was a Zoom affair, of course.



Noel Burke, Rosemary Murphy, and Kate Le Maistre

It was great to welcome such a large contingent from the Lester B. Pearson School Board. Joining us were Commissioners Frank di Bello and Allison Saunders; Student Commissioner Kayleigh Paré; Parent Commissioners Alaina Charszan and Marium Hasanie; as well as Chair Judith Kelley. Also in attendance were a couple of alumni from the QFHSA board of directors, Liette Chamberland and Renate Sutherland. Renate is the current president of the Quebec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators. Other special guests included Cameron Gray of the Quebec Association of Geography

Teachers and Global Educators and Katherine Korakakis, president of the English Parents' Committee Association.

On the evening's busy agenda were cocktails, dinner, an awards ceremony, and dancing! Our emcee was Board Member Leah Trineer, who took a break from her treasurer duties to welcome our guests and guide us through the evening's activities.

The awards ceremony began with the presentation of this year's major awards. Attendees heard about the impressive accomplishments of prize winners Rosemary Murphy, Jennifer Baltuonis, Macdonald High's amazing Bee Team, Nicole Fischer Gasser, and Cedarcrest's newsletter editor, Nadia Piluso.



Cheering on our award winners

And then it was time to cheer the efforts of the Golden Torch leaders and Unsung Heroes from our local Home and School Associations. It was wonderful to once again have a group photograph of all the local heroes in attendance. *See pages 11 to 14 of this newsletter for more information on this year's award winners.*

Several days after the event, the QFHSA got back in touch with our guests for their feedback. We learned that for most, a highlight of the evening was getting together in person with volunteers from their own Home and School and beyond. One attendee summed up the experience as follows: "Night out with amazing volunteers." The other major highlight was the awards ceremony. Our guests enjoyed watching everyone receive their awards.

It was indeed a night to remember. Thank you to all who came out to celebrate with the QFHSA. It was absolutely fantastic to see you! We hope you are able to join us next year for the 2024 edition of the event.

Karen Henchey, *Communications Officer*



# 2023 Awards Banquet: A Night to Remember

## *Scenes from the Banquet*



A Full House!



Crestview Elementary



Kate Le Maistre, Leah Trineer,  
Liette Chamberland, Renate Sutherland,  
Noel Burke, Lynn Collins



St. Charles Elementary



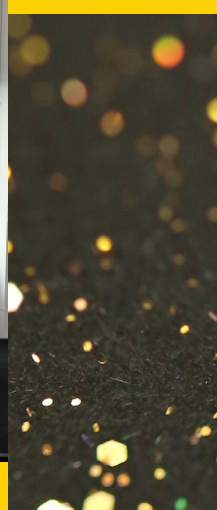
Butler Elementary



Macdonald High School  
(Featuring the Bee Team)



St. Patrick Elementary



From Western Quebec: Lord Aylmer Elementary,  
South Hull Elementary, St. Michael's High School

Background image from Adobe Stock



# 2023 Awards Banquet: A Night to Remember

## *Scenes from the Banquet*



Macdonald High School



Cedarcrest Elementary



Bottom Row: Renate Sutherland, Judith Kelley, Ginette Sauv -Frankel  
Top Row: Frank di Bello, Cameron Gray, Carol Meindl, Liette Chamberland



Forest Hill Elementary Junior and Senior



Lester B. Pearson School Board



Merton Elementary



Gardenview Elementary



*And we danced!*



## 2023 Awards Banquet: *Volunteers of Distinction*

### Leslie N. Buzzell Award

"We are lucky to have individuals like Rose because they make the world a better place."

*Cindy Lockhart, QFHSA Board of Directors*

When it came to choosing this year's recipient of the Leslie N. Buzzell Award, an award that recognizes an individual for their outstanding service at the provincial level and for furthering the aims of Home and School in general, the choice was obvious.

**Rosemary Murphy** has been deeply involved in the Home and School movement for many years and that commitment remains incredibly strong. An enthusiastic "alumni" volunteer at St. Charles Elementary, the current president of the QFHSA's board of directors, and a former vice-president of the Canadian Home and School Federation, her wonderfully positive "Rosemary Effect" has been felt at the local, provincial and national levels of the Home and School movement.



What makes Rosemary an outstanding volunteer? When presenting the award, Board Member Cindy Lockhart described Rosemary as follows: "She is a person who so freely gives of her time and always, always is there to lend a helping hand."

That generous, giving nature combined with an encyclopedic knowledge of Quebec education rules and laws, boundless compassion, and remarkable dedication makes Rosemary a tremendous volunteer. It is no surprise, then, that Rosemary has been called to serve on the Baldwin Cartier and Lester B. Pearson School Boards and the Quebec English School Boards Association and on countless committees through the years. This past year, Rosemary has attended over 100 meetings on behalf of the QFHSA alone.

Indeed, it is the QFHSA's great good fortune to have Rosemary Murphy on our team—a team made strong through her tireless work in support of our schools, our parents, our students, and our community.

### Gordon Paterson Award

"A teacher who is effective inside the classroom and inspirational outside of it is worthy of this award, along with our heartfelt appreciation."

*Mary Kate Jackson, Parent*

For the past 19 years, **Jennifer Baltuonis**, or Miss Jen as she is known to her devoted students, has made a huge impact at St. Patrick Elementary School. Though she was the school's sole music teacher for most of those years, that did not stop Miss Jen from accomplishing many things. These accomplishments make her the very deserving recipient of the 2023 Gordon Paterson award, which recognizes an outstanding educator who has given long service to Quebec education and has encouraged the participation of parents.



of music. Her welcoming teaching environment enables students to feel safe and at ease so they may develop their individual musical abilities. Mrs. Baltuonis excels at engaging her students and never misses an opportunity to encourage, mentor and support them when needed, all while fostering student collaboration."

Remarkable as her teaching skills are, Miss Jen deserves enormous credit for the ways she goes above and beyond for her students and her school. Thanks to Miss Jen, students can sign up for a junior or senior choir and sing for their parents and friends at the school's annual concerts. She also puts on a high-school quality play each year, something fellow teachers Nissa Grant and Robert Pigas describe as "the highlight of every year."

According to one of her students, any letter of recommendation for Miss Jen needs only four words: "She is the best." Congratulations to Jennifer Baltuonis, who has enriched the St. Patrick school community by providing a great music education to the students and wonderful opportunities for families to unite in joy and delight.



## 2023 Awards Banquet: *Volunteers of Distinction*

### Volunteer of the Year Award

"Mrs. Nicole... What would Butler Elementary do without her?!!"

*Anne-Lise Kyling, Parent*

If you want to find an ideal Home and School volunteer, head out to Bedford in the Eastern Townships to meet Butler Elementary's **Nicole Fischer Gasser**. When describing Nicole's contribution to Butler school life, Home and School Member Anne-Lise Kyling often used the word, "unbelievable." It is the perfect word to describe Nicole's incredible dedication to the Butler community. Reliable, optimistic, and kind, Nicole possesses all the qualities that make a person a Volunteer of the Year and an indispensable part of a school community.

For over 15 years, Nicole has worked tirelessly to enhance Butler school life. She has been a member of the Home and School's executive and served on the school's governing board. Her lovely speeches to parents are a memorable part



of school events. And if there is a job to be done, you can be sure Nicole will be on hand to help. She runs the school's Breakfast Club, she prepares treats and sweets for staff and students, she hauls Christmas trees for the Home and School fundraiser, and so much more.

Her commitment to Butler's school community has become legendary. Students sometimes ask Mrs. Nicole where she sleeps, and she replies with a smile, "On the couch in the staff room." She has been known to spend part of her Sundays preparing food for the next day's Breakfast Club and to check in with her fellow volunteers even when on a well-deserved vacation abroad.

To the students, Nicole is a fixture of their daily lives, offering high fives and encouraging words whenever needed. And though she does not actually sleep on the staff room couch, Nicole is a superhero to the Butler community. Now that her children have graduated out of the school, Nicole "is trying to pass the *'flambeau'* to other parents," according to Anne-Lise. There is no doubt that Butler will always have a special place in Nicole's very generous heart.

### Pat Lewis Environmental Award

"The students involved in this project were nothing but amazing..."

*Melissa Ralph, Teacher*

At Macdonald High School in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue, eight dedicated students, also known as the school's **Bee Team**, made a commendable effort to help protect and preserve our environment.

Teacher Melissa Ralph explains that the Bee Team's goal was to create a garden that would be "a sanctuary for our bees in their hive, and a safe shady space for birds and other pollinators to relax and enjoy comfortably during very warm summer days." For their efforts, the Bee Team (Tiffany, James, Austin, Sidney, Jessica, Shevaun, Millie, and Samantha) received this year's Pat Lewis Environmental Award.



How was the pollinator-friendly garden created? It began with a construction project that happened over lunch hours and even on PED Days. Sidney, James, and Austin helped to build planters, benches, and a shed to store the garden equipment. In the process, the students learned to use power tools, with adult guidance, of course. The three also created a garden pathway by laying down a barrier and carefully shoveling two tons of pea gravel.

Once the planters were made, other Bee Team members filled them with earth and planted flowers. The team learned such gardening skills as how to mix soil types and plant seeds/flowers at a proper depth. The team also took on the responsibility of watering the garden twice weekly—not a simple task as no exterior water hose was available.

The QFHSA salutes the inspiring Bee Team for their wonderful efforts to nurture our environment.



# 2023 Awards Banquet: Volunteers of Distinction

## *The QFHSA Golden Torch Award Recipients 2022-2023*

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

### **Children's World Academy**

Laura D'adamio, Kim Jones, Mariana Vetro

### **Edgewater Elementary**

Maria Ligon

### **Edinburgh Elementary**

Laura Abbatiello

### **Forest Hill Junior Elementary**

Val Jensen

### **Forest Hill Senior Elementary**

Jennifer Goldfinch, Rosemary King,  
Jennifer Pearcey

### **Gardenview Elementary**

Mary-Ann Di Iorio, Elena Giatras,  
Esther Kay, Maria Marinis, Laura Piro,  
Anna Spetsieris

### **Genesis Elementary**

Tina Rosato

### **Lord Aylmer Elementary**

Marie-Lou Desharnais,  
Johnny Fortin-Caron,  
Kelly Hodge, Nicole Smith,  
Ashley Tluaertet

### **Macdonald High School**

Lara Zwetkow

### **Maple Grove Elementary**

Aaron Totton

### **Merton Elementary**

Samantha Patel,  
Shoshana Weinberger

### **South Hull Elementary**

Melissa Rose Hidic

### **St. Charles Elementary**

Anna Tataris

### **St. Patrick Elementary**

Andrea Cappelli, Mary Kate Jackson Yule,  
Melanie Moore, Mimi-Anna Tabaczuk



Golden Torch Award winners at the Awards Banquet  
in the company of Board President Rosemary Murphy

## *The QFHSA Newsletter Award*

A newsletter is a great way to keep a school community informed about the many things Home and School does for that community—from raising funds to organizing events that can become some of a student's fondest memories of school life.

At **Cedarcrest Elementary**, Nadia Piluso is creating wonderful newsletters. With eye-catching photos and graphics and a bright, clear layout, Cedarcrest's newsletter is brimming with news and fun memories for all to enjoy. Congratulations to Nadia and Cedarcrest, our 2023 Newsletter Award winners.



Celebrating Cedarcrest's win!  
From Left: Karen Henchey,  
Nadia Piluso, Rosemary Murphy



# 2023 Awards Banquet: Volunteers of Distinction

## *The QFHSA Unsung Heroes of 2022-2023*

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

### **Beacon Hill Elementary**

Grade 6 Kindness Committee, Bessie Michael,  
Erica Ranjitsingh

### **Children's World Academy**

Erica Caruso, Tania D'Alessandro, Tamara Dellolio,  
Vanessa Gervasi, Nicky Giulietti, Nadisha Hosein,  
Grace Petrucci, Stephanie Rizzo, Teresa Verelli

### **Edgewater Elementary**

Shauna Plourde

### **Edinburgh Elementary**

Karen Allen, Jody Mason, Stephanie Rich,  
Michael Rodger

### **Forest Hill Junior Elementary**

Asia Clarke, Lisa Davignon, Paula MacNeil,  
Stacey Ricciardi, Amy Spinelli

### **Forest Hill Senior Elementary**

Alexandra Duquette-Fuller,  
Josée-Ann Moisan, Amy Spinelli

### **Gardenview Elementary**

Lysanne Abelardo, Will Allooh,  
Tanya Santos, Jui Ho Wong

### **Genesis Elementary**

Kristina Apostolatos, Diana D'Addario,  
Mariella Di Lorenzo,  
Franca Evangelista, Elspeth Garland,  
Marianna Gatto, Sandra Iaconetti,  
Lisa Tafuri, Jennifer Vitullo

### **Lord Aylmer Elementary**

Ciaran Dooley, Carissa Piercey,  
Christina Villeneuve

### **Macdonald High School**

Jaime Guy, Kim Headland

### **Maple Grove Elementary**

Aaron Totton

### **Merton Elementary**

Evi Altman, Jessie Blatt, Lynne Brash, Edite Cohen,  
Lauren Cracower, Cari Friedman, Melisa Hakim,  
Jackie Herman, Lisa Kunitzky, Ada Nazarri,  
Sarah Rosenhek, Debbi Safir, Marie Savage,  
Nathalie Sofer

### **South Hull Elementary**

Nathalie Morgan

### **St. Charles Elementary**

Giovanna Panetta

### **St. Patrick Elementary**

Jen Colantonio, Jodi Esterson, Gina Giambalvo,  
Nissa Grant, Tracy Witzke



Our Unsung Heroes at the Awards Banquet



### The May Regional Councils: *Catching Up, Sharing Ideas, Tackling Challenges*

WHEN A GROUP of Home and School executives get together with QFHSA staff and board members, you can be sure there will be a ton of information shared and a few laughs, too! This was the case at the spring Regional Council meetings, which were held on the evenings of May 1st and 4th.

A total of 13 Home and Schools participated in the Zoom meetings; both small rural and large suburban schools were represented. And although most of the Home and Schools were from the Greater Montreal area, a couple joined us from Western Quebec (an advantage of holding the meetings on Zoom).

Membership Services Coordinator Marlyn Brownrigg began by sharing the QFHSA's latest news, including the upcoming awards banquet and the annual general meeting. She then gave a short presentation on how to run a successful election for local Home and School executives. As most Home and School Associations hold their elections in the spring, the timing was perfect. Then the open discussion got underway. It was a lively, warm, and fun exchange. We discussed fundraising, events, and the challenges of the 2022/23 school year.

#### **Fundraising: *Something Old, Something New***

What fundraising activities have local Home and School Associations been doing this year? The three most popular answers were: **chocolate bars, pizza/sandwich lunches, and book fairs**. There have been some twists on these old favourites, though. A couple of Home and Schools have simplified their lunchtime fundrais-

ers, offering pizza only (and sometimes strictly cheese pizza).

When it comes to book fairs, they are offered in a number of different ways. At one school, for example, classes go to the fair with their teachers during the day and parents visit the fair during Portfolio Night. Another school combined the book fair with a weekend holiday fair that brought the parents to the school. Still another Home and School moved its book fair to the local community centre, a change that doubled the revenue.



Next in popularity is a **raffle/auction fundraiser**. A raffle can be hugely successful, especially when parents donate a treasure trove of items for it. A couple of Home and Schools are doing their raffles online.

Other fundraisers local Home and Schools are doing include Félix and Norton cookie dough, Big Box Cards, Recipes in a Jar, bottle drives, bake sales, catalogue sales, photos with Santa/the Grinch, meat fundraisers, and a spring flower sale.

One Home and School had the neat idea of combining all the online vendors it uses into a one-day blockbuster Holiday Fair. Parents made their orders for ice cream, cookies, cheese, etc., in advance and went to the school on Holiday Fair Day to pick up their purchases. Once there, they could enter the holiday-wreath raffle and visit the book fair.

#### **Events and More Events!**

Home and Schools are very good at bringing the fun into fundraising by organizing events that the school community looks forward to and enjoys. As mentioned above, a bunch of online fundraisers can be turned into a holiday fair. Or a school gymnasium can be transformed into a stunning art gallery featuring the students' artwork. *(You can find out more about Beacon Hill's art gala on page 20 of this newsletter.)* Families get to attend comedy nights, movie nights, dances, and more!

Home and Schools also get involved in initiatives to support a worthy cause. Home and Schools organize sandwich-making sessions for the homeless or help at community walks that raise funds for local non-profit organizations. One high-school Home and School is making student mental health its focus. Last year, the group gave students "A Cookie for Mental Health." This year, students are receiving "Be Kind to Your Mind" pins. Home and Schools are promoting meatless meals, supporting Black History Month events, and creating committees to promote internet safety.

One of the most anticipated events of every school year is, of course, the year-end celebration! At the Regional Councils, Home and Schools shared their plans for the momentous occasion. There will be bubble parties, splash days, park days, and big year-end parties featuring food trucks, games, magicians, entertainment, door prizes, barbecues, picnics, inflatable toys, music, and DJs. There is no shortage of creativity when it comes to making the final days of the school year memorable for all.

*Continued on the next page*



# News for You

## Regional Council Meetings

*Continued from the previous page*

### *Some Event Planning Tips*

1. When planning a large event, see if your school board/city/borough/neighborhood organization can lend you items and equipment. One Home and School was able to borrow barbecues and pop-up tents.
2. Approach local businesses for donations. Free cups of coffee go a long way!
3. Bouncy inflatables: Though they are not covered by the QFHSA's insurance policy, see if you can partner with your school and benefit from the school's insurance policy.

### **Tackling the Year's Biggest Challenge: Recruiting Volunteers**

Quite a few Home and School Associations are dealing with a volunteer shortage, making this by far the year's biggest challenge. The pandemic interruption has made it necessary for Home and Schools to double their efforts to reconnect with parents and encourage their participation.

Photos from Adobe Stock



This lack of volunteers has forced Home and Schools to adapt their activities. It is why, for example, some have changed their year-end

events from barbecues to picnics. It is very hard to run a big event when you cannot get volunteers to lead the necessary committees. In some Home and Schools, the problem was compounded by delays/low registration for the police check process.

Most Home and Schools are still holding some or all of their meetings online. While they are a lot easier for parents to attend, online meetings do not build parent connection/engagement the way in-person meetings do. During the discussion, Marlyn talked about the advantage of making the first meeting of the year in person. It really helps Kindergarten/Secondary I parents get to know Home and School.



Although Home and Schools may hold their in-person meetings whenever they wish, meetings held at school are often more convenient. It saves time/is easier for the principal—and parents do appreciate having the principal or another member of the administration present at Home and School meetings.

It is amazing how much can be discussed (and accomplished) in a couple of 1½-hour meetings. Thank you to all who joined us. It is always inspiring to hear of your exceptional efforts to raise funds and organize activities and events to the benefit of all.

Enjoy your very well-deserved summer break.

Karen Henchey,  
*Communications Officer*

### ***Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers for Executive/ Committee Positions: A Few Tips***

1. **Spread the word that all are welcome!**  
"A good leader grooms a successor." Let parents know what positions are open. Reach out to potential volunteers and invite them to try out a position or shadow the person currently in the role. Double up a job if necessary (i.e., have co-presidents).
2. **Document your activities and keep good records.**
  - Create a handbook/procedure manual that explains how to do your fundraisers.
  - Have checklists/organized guidelines. One Home & School keeps an events template with instructions on a Google Drive. It's a great starting point for new volunteers.
  - Have a wrap-up meeting after an event (at the next Home & School meeting, for example) to discuss what worked and what needs to be improved.
  - Make full use of those annual president's and treasurer's reports. They're helpful for future volunteers and when shared with parents, a good way to let your community know what you do.
3. **Make sure there is a good hand-off to your successor.**
  - Pass on your acquired knowledge.
  - Mentor the newcomer. Be available to answer questions in the early days.
  - Connect a newcomer with a seasoned mentor from another Home & School.





### A Guided Tour of Some of the Highlights of Language Legislation in Quebec: 1961-2023

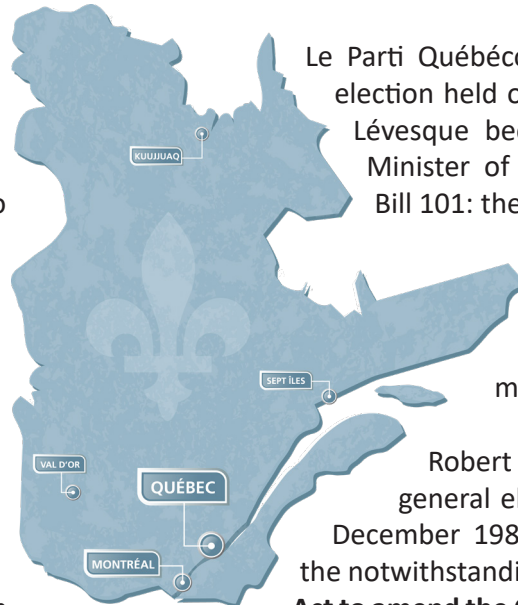
A Commentary By Brian Rock

OUR JOURNEY BEGINS on March 24th, 1961, when the Québec Liberal Party government led by Premier Jean Lesage established *l'Office québécois de la langue française*. The Minister of Youth was Paul Gérin-Lajoie, and in 1964, he became the first person since 1875 to be appointed Minister of Education, serving in that position until 1966. As Minister of Education, he was the driving force behind major changes in Québec's education system. He did not run for re-election in 1970.

On December 9th, 1968, the Union Nationale government of Premier Jean-Jacques Bertrand created a **Commission of Inquiry on the Position of the French Language and on Language Rights in Québec**, also known as the Gendron Commission. Its mandate was as follows: to make an inquiry into and report on the position of French as the working language in Québec; to recommend actions to support the language rights of the majority and protect that of the minority; and to ensure the full development and spread of the French language in Québec in all lines of business, be they educational, cultural, social or economic in nature. The commission was chaired by Jean-Denis Gendron, a linguist and assistant dean at the Faculty of Arts of l'Université Laval. In 1969, Union Nationale Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Jean-Guy Cardinal introduced Bill 63, the **Act to Promote the French Language in Québec**. Bill 63 required children receiving their education in English to acquire a working knowledge of French, and also required everything to be done so that immigrants acquired the knowledge of French upon their arrival in Québec.

The Québec Liberal Party government of Premier Robert Bourassa, elected in the general election of April 1970, amended the Gendron Commission's mandate, making it responsible "first and foremost for the issues of French language at the workplace, the integration of new

Quebecers in the province's Francophone community, and the language rights of our citizens." Bill 63 was repealed as the result of unprecedented opposition by Québec's francophone population, which believed the bill was too weak a measure. Education Minister François Cloutier introduced Bill 22, the **Official Language Act**, which made French the sole official language of Québec in July of 1974. On June 27th, 1976, the **Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms**, also known as "the Québec Charter" came into effect.



Le Parti Québécois won a majority in the general election held on November 15th, 1976, and René Lévesque became premier. Claude Laurin, the Minister of Cultural Development, introduced Bill 101: the **Charter of the French Language**, which received royal assent on August 26th, 1977. The bill made French the normal and everyday language of work, instruction, communication, commerce, and business.

Robert Bourassa returned to power in the general election of December 2nd, 1985. In December 1988, his Liberal government invoked the notwithstanding clause in introducing Bill 178, **An Act to amend the Charter of the French Language (Bill 101)**. This followed the Supreme Court of Canada ruling earlier that year that declared void Bill 101's provisions for unilingual public commercial signs and advertising, and for acceptance of trade names in French only. On June 17th, 1993, Bill 86 again modified the Charter of the French Language to allow the use of languages other than French on outdoor public signs in Québec, as long as French was most prominent.

Welcome to the 21st Century! Lucien Bouchard resigns as premier and party leader of le Parti Québécois and is replaced by Bernard Landry on March 8th, 2001. Diane Lemieux, the Minister of State for Culture and Communications, sponsors Bill 104, **An Act to amend the Charter of the French Language (Bill 101)**. Its mission

*Continued on the next page*



# News for You

## A Guided Tour...

*Continued from the previous page*

was to define and conduct Québec policy in the areas of linguistic officialization, terminology, and the francization of the civil administration and enterprises.

Let us jump ahead to 2018 and the election of the first Coalition Avenir Québec government under Premier François Legault. Minister of Immigration, Diversity, and Inclusiveness Simon Jolin-Barrette invokes the notwithstanding clause sponsoring Bill 21, **An Act respecting the Laicity of the State**, which comes into force on June 16th, 2019.

Jean-François Roberge, Minister of Education and Higher Education, sponsors Bill 40, **An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance**. Bill 40 receives royal assent on February 8th, 2020, turning *les commissions scolaires* into *les centres de services scolaires*. The nine English school boards do not become school service centres.

And no doubt, the most controversial move of all, Simon Jolin-Barrette, Minister Responsible for the French Language, invokes the notwithstanding clause preemptively, sponsoring Bill 96, **An Act respecting French, the official and common language of Québec**, which receives royal assent on June 1st, 2022, with some exceptions. Bill 96 attempts to unilaterally amend the Constitution Act of

1867 in the following manner:

CONSTITUTION ACT, 1867

166. *The Constitution Act, 1867 (30 & 31 Victoria, c. 3 (U.K.); 1982, c. 11 (U.K.)) is amended by inserting the following after section 90:*

*"FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF QUEBEC*

*"90Q.1. Quebecers form a nation.*

*"90Q.2. French shall be the only official language of Quebec.*

*It is also the common language of the Quebec nation."*

Court challenges abound as Bills 21, 40, and 96 slowly make their way through the judicial steeplechase of the Courts of Québec. It is the prediction of many legal experts that referrals to the Supreme Court of Canada will be inevitable during 2023.

*Brian ROCK, B.A., M.Ed., a past president of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations (QFHSA), is a retired school principal and a former secondary History of Québec and English language arts teacher. Brian chairs the COalition For the Future of English Education in Québec (COFFEE-QC) as well as the Committee for the Enhancement of the Curriculum of the History of Québec (ComeECH-QC). He was elected to the QFHSA Board of Directors on June 1, 2023.*

*Note: The opinions expressed in this commentary are those of the author and not necessarily those of the QFHSA. Any inaccuracies in the historical research are also the sole responsibility of the author.*



## Remembering Rhonda Boucher

*The board and staff of the Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations were very saddened to learn of the passing of Rhonda Boucher at the young age of 53.*

**Rhonda Boucher** was a remarkable advocate for parents and students. She started the Home and School Association at Poltimore Elementary in 2013 and served on the QFHSA's board of directors from 2014 to 2018. Rhonda also spent many years with other education-related organizations. She is a former president of the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) and served as vice-chair of the Council of Commissioners for the Western Québec School Board.

Wayne Daly, the chairman of the Western Québec School Board, writes that Rhonda was "an advocate

for students and staff, and was committed to doing whatever necessary to promote and support teaching and learning in our schools and centres." One of Rhonda's friends writes, "Her kindness and dedication to our neighborhood are qualities that will not be quickly forgotten by anyone who knows her."

***The QFHSA salutes Rhonda Boucher for her many years of dedicated service to her own community and far beyond. Our thoughts are with her family in this difficult time.***





## A Few Words From Membership Services: *Thank You for Another Great Year*

It is hard to believe that another school year has come and gone. I would like to thank the executive members whose terms are ending and all the volunteers who have dedicated countless hours to give all students enriching experiences and all the other "extras." If you are moving on to high school, please give the Home and School your support and be reassured that the "volunteer opportunities" do not involve the same time commitment!



A cake for Genesis volunteers!

This past spring, three new associations joined the QFHSA: Queen Elizabeth Elementary (WQSB), Terry Fox Elementary (Pierrefonds – LBPSB) and Terry Fox Elementary (Laval – SWLSB), and more inquiries are coming in. Please note that training workshops for all new executive members will be held in late September/early October.

The QFHSA forms for the 2023-2024 school year are on the QFHSA website ([qfhsa.org](http://qfhsa.org)) under the "Forms" tab. Please send in the Executive List as soon as possible to [marlynbrownrigg@qfhsa.org](mailto:marlynbrownrigg@qfhsa.org).

The President's Activity Report and the Treasurer's Report are due by mid-July. Treasurers, please ensure that funds set aside for long-term projects are listed on the report. Executives and event coordinators should hand over all documents to their successors.

It was so nice to meet some of you in person at the QFHSA Awards Banquet and see so many Golden Torch and Unsung Heroes being honoured. Hopefully, more in-person events will take place next year.

The QFHSA Office is closed from June 30th to August 15th, but the staff will be monitoring emails. Have a great summer!

Marlyn Brownrigg,  
*Membership Services Coordinator*



## Update from the QFHSA Literacy Committee

### High School Literacy Grants

The purpose of this program is to support high school students reading below their grade level. Although fewer applications were received this year, the QFHSA Literacy Committee was pleased to distribute \$1600 in total to La Tuque High School (CQSB) and Westwood High School (LBPSB). Lauren Hill Academy (EMSB) also received funds that were carried over from 2022.



### Born to Read

A presentation is being developed to promote this important program. Giving a baby or a toddler a "Born to Read" book bag is a great way to promote literacy and to welcome new families into your school community. The QFHSA will provide your Home and School with 10 free bags to get your program up and running. For more information, please contact Carol or Marlyn at the QFHSA Office.





## Focus on the Locals

In the ***Focus on the Locals*** section, we share news and information from our local associations. **Thank you to all of the Home and Schools that contributed to this issue.** We would love to hear from our other Home and Schools too! Before sending photos, please make sure you have the permission of those appearing in the photos. We invite Home and School Associations to send their news to [news@qfhisa.org](mailto:news@qfhisa.org).

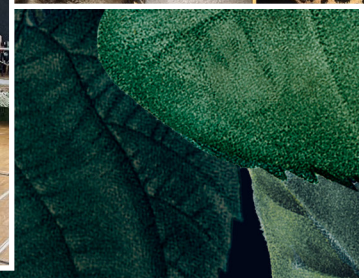
### Beacon Hill's Art Gala Makes a Triumphant Return!

The 2023 Beacon Hill ART GALA was a huge hit! After a 3-year pause due to the pandemic, our Home and School hosted a jungle themed Art Gala to raise funds for our music department. Our staff members worked with the students to come up with unique pieces of art to display, and they even created 40 beautiful treasure boxes to raffle off.

At the gala, families were treated to cheese, crackers, bubbly, and juice as they browsed the amazing art collection. Students took photos in the "safari-themed" photo booth, then headed to our library to purchase books at the Scholastic Book Fair.

Our Home and School volunteers spent hours transforming the gymnasium into the art gallery that it was, and it was truly a magical and memorable evening. Thanks to the generous contributions of Beacon Hill families and our sponsors, we raised approximately \$5000. The funds were used to make upgrades to our music department: 24 repairs (flutes, clarinets, trumpets, snare drum), 18 new instruments, 3 music books, 1 guitar, 4 trombones, and 1 storage cart for 12 music sheet stands!

*Submitted by Catherine Fini,  
Beacon Hill Elementary Home and School Association*





## Focus on the Locals

### At Baie Comeau High School: *A Fun Gathering and Plenty of Adventure!*

Just over 100 people of all ages turned up for the umpteenth Annual Bean Supper put on by Baie Comeau High Home and School Association. The festivities started with the traditional serving of home-made beans, wieners, ham, meat pies, salads, and fresh veggies along with an array of delectable desserts.



A vibrant visual arts display by secondary students was on view for all to see. The evening concluded with an electrifying set of hip-hop dances from the pre-school and elementary students led by Teacher Christine Charlemagne. It was a spectacular show filled with cool dance moves, music, and a chance for everyone to get up and dance!



Top image from Adobe Stock



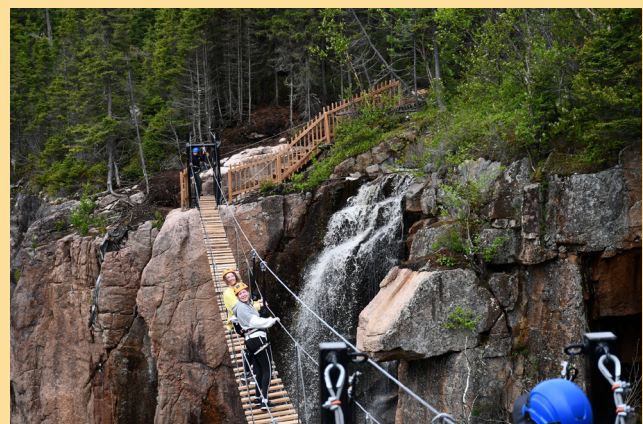
A very big thank you to our Bean Supper sponsors who helped us raise \$1657.69 for student activities and future student bursaries.

When June rolled around, there was a special treat in store for our students. On Friday June 9th, all the students of Baie Comeau High School went on a spectacular outing at Baie St-Pancrace.

Attitude Nordique had a great day planned for us, pizza-making, land art, a zipline, and a suspended bridge! What a great trip!



*Submitted by Richard Gaudet,  
Community Development Agent, Baie Comeau High School  
Community Learning Centre with photos from Stephen Kohner*





# Focus on the Locals

## At Genesis Elementary: Two Very Special Events to End a Great Year



**THERE'S FUN ALL  
AROUND  
WHEN THE RODEO COMES  
TO TOWN...**

Howdy! It's always more fun at the Rodeo! The Fun Day Committee at Genesis Elementary organized a fun-filled Western-themed event for all the staff and students on Friday, June 16.

We had a wonderful day! Volunteers dressed as cowboys and cowgirls. The students had all sorts of fun. At the hugely popular Dunk Show, we dunked Mr. Mike, Madame Vicki, Ms. Kristina and our school commissioner, Mrs. Anick Brunet. The students enjoyed petting alpacas, sheep and goats, jumping on inflatables, sliding down water slides, getting western tattoos, playing mini-golf, and taking photos at the saloon. Students were also treated to pizza and freezies. In short, a day at the Rodeo is a day to remember!



**HERE'S TO OUR  
VOLUNTEERS!  
CELEBRATING  
TINA ROSATO AND  
THE REST OF THE TEAM**

On Friday, June 9th, we organized an end of the year party to celebrate our accomplishments throughout the year and new friendships made. We also said goodbye to six amazing volunteers who have been members of Genesis Home and School for over a decade. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to them for everything they have done for our school.

In addition, we honoured Tina Rosato, who has been on the Genesis Home and School executive for 10 years and has been the driving force behind our accomplishments. Words alone cannot express the gratitude we feel for Tina. She has truly made an impact on our association and community. Tina's infectious enthusiasm and radiant personality have left an indelible mark on all of us. We wish her much success in the future.

*Submitted by Tina Rosato, Lisa Tafuri, and Jennifer Vitullo  
Genesis Elementary Home and School Association*





## Focus on the Locals



### Looking Back on Another Successful Home & School Year at St. Charles



As we wrap up another successful school year, we reflect on all that we have accomplished. It would be remiss of us if we did not say a big thank you to all the very dedicated volunteers who make all the Home and School events possible. Whether they work quietly behind the scenes, are at school a few times a month helping with lunches, plan and organize events and fundraisers, or are just a call away for whatever needs to be done, they are the reason our events take place and we would be lost without them. We also want to thank the staff of St. Charles who are always willing to help out with Home and School initiatives.



It has been a busy and fun year with the return of many favourite St. Charles activities: Dagwoods and pizza lunches, the Welcome Back event, the Big Bang event, Photo Day, Breakfast with Santa, Carnival, Staff Appreciation Week, and to top it all off, the end-of-the-year Footloose celebration. All of these events would not be possible without the fundraising efforts in which the community participates. A big thank-you to our community for their support!



Home and School is not only about planning fun activities; we also help raise funds for the school. This year, we were able to help staff purchase resources for their classrooms as well as Chromebooks for the students.

The grads also thought outside the box and organized Principal for a Day, pasta lunch and Dairy Queen fundraisers, not to mention some yummy bake sales. These funds helped make their grad year a memorable one. They had a Halloween dance, a pool party, a special breakfast, and a wonderful grad party with a yearbook to help remind them of all the fun they had at St. Charles.



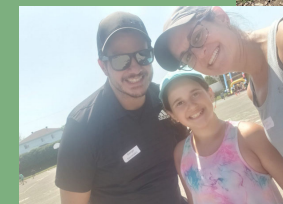
A fun and safe summer to all!

*Submitted by Donna Coelho, Talia D'Costa, and Julianne Read  
St. Charles Elementary Home and School Association*

### Fabulous Footloose!



The sun shone brightly and laughter filled the St. Charles school yard on June 20th during the "best day of the year" Footloose activities. Whether the children were playing games in the park, jumping on inflatables, watching the staff and volunteers getting dunked with a bucket of water, or enjoying such treats as ice cream, hot dogs, and freezies, there were smiles all around. A special thank you to Mayor Jim Beis for stopping by. We can't wait to start preparing for next year :)





## SHARE YOUR NEWS!



Photo by Anissa Thompson from FreemImages

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

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