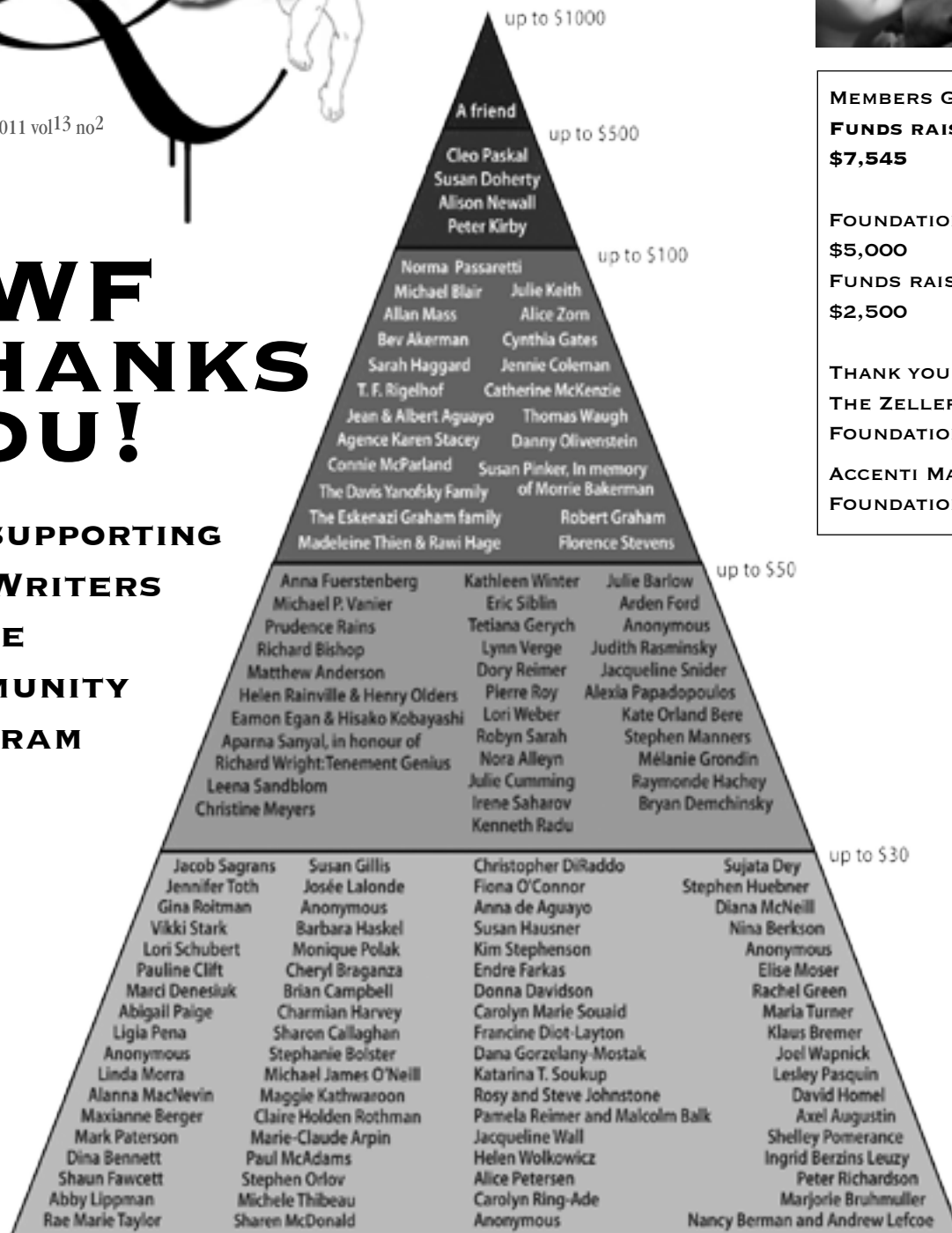


**QWF
THANKS
YOU!**

FOR SUPPORTING THE WRITERS IN THE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

A black and white photograph showing a woman with long, dark hair smiling and looking down at a young child. The child is looking up at the woman. The woman is wearing a dark, possibly velvet, dress with a large, ornate necklace. The background is dark and out of focus.

ACCENTI MAGAZINE
FOUNDATION (\$500)



“We have an idea that writing can and should enrich the lives of individuals and of the society as a whole.” - page 2

QWF PRESIDENT

Elise Moser

You, the QWF community, are amazing! You have created this big mountain of donations depicted on the cover: you have saved this year's Writers in the Community program.

Last fall, the Canada Council regretfully informed us that they could not continue to fund some of the workshops in our Writers in the Community (WIC) program, although they are excellent, because they take place in schools during school hours. We suddenly faced the prospect of losing a major component of this program, which we have worked hard to build with our community partners, including the Centre for Literacy and a number of schools or institutions serving kids with family, legal or learning problems. The workshops we offer are designed for the needs of each group of students, and according to the skills of the workshop leader. Poet Larissa Andrusyshyn, for example, teaches poetry. Novelist Ian McGillis teaches prose writing. These sessions allow kids to develop some writing skills, experience the joy of self-expression, and feel the thrill of pride when they see their words in print. By all accounts, these are powerful and even transformative events.

Unwilling to let this valuable program disappear, we decided to ask the membership of QWF if you would help support it with your personal donations. We hoped to raise enough to run at least some of the workshops planned for WIC in 2011. We have never done this kind of fundraising at QWF before, so we didn't really know what to expect.

We are stunned. We are thrilled. You are amazing.

Over 130 individuals—most members of QWF, some members of the larger community around us—and two local foundations stepped forward to offer almost \$10,000. With the \$11,000 Canada Council grant we got for our non-school activities, that gives us \$21,000 to work with—not quite enough to do everything we we'd like to do in a year's WIC program, but a very good portion of it. We are still working on raising the rest, but thanks to you, our spring school workshops are going ahead. We received

We see our creative work as part of our involvement with the world around us



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donations large and small, from people with a great deal to give and people with much less. We got donations from best-selling novelists and from filmmakers, from poets and professors, from singers and people who sell books, from retirees and young writers just starting their careers.

Being able to run WIC is fantastic. That was our goal. But what happened here goes far beyond the immediate need to offer writing workshops, however worthwhile. What you demonstrated is that the QWF and its friends constitute a cohesive community. We share a vision of the value of art and of service to others. We see our creative work as part of our involvement with the world around us. We have an idea that writing can and should enrich the lives of individuals and of the society as a whole. We believe together that writing is a way to include people who have been excluded from the mainstream, to give them the tools to include themselves—and to allow us all to touch each other with our imaginations and our empathy.

In your generosity, you have expanded the possibilities of what we, as a community, can accomplish together.

Thank you. ¶

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La Quebec Writers' Federation remercie le Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, et le Conseil des arts de Montréal, de leur appui financier. The QWF also thanks the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage for their financial support, as well as QWF members for their generosity.





Vive le Québec Livre!

A QUEBEC BOOK WORTH A SECOND LOOK

The best stories I have ever read about Montreal

are the Linnet Muir stories that appeared in *The New Yorker* in 1978 and 1979. Set mostly in wartime Montreal, the stories dip back into the more distant past of Linnet Muir's—and Mavis Gallant's own—childhood memories of Montreal in the 1920s.

They were first published in book form in *Home Truths* (Macmillan, 1981), a collection of Canadian stories that won the 1982 Governor General's Award, when Gallant was 60 years old. This collection is unusual in its Canadian, and especially its Quebec, focus; most of Gallant's fiction is set in Europe, where she has lived since 1950. *Home Truths* may therefore provide the best introduction to her work for readers interested in Quebec. The Linnet Muir stories are not the only ones in the collection that are set in the city in which Gallant was born and in other Quebec towns and villages she knew as a child and a young woman.

What I love most about these stories is the vivid evocation of a bygone Montreal—its characters, its posh restaurants, its haunting beauty, and its snows. Linnet is 18 and penniless as she returns to Montreal from New York (where she has been living) in 1940 to begin her working life. It is wartime, and most of the young men are serving overseas. Linnet observes older men resentful of women in the office, men whose wives spend their time out in the suburbs, kind men who want to help a young woman find her feet, and people who remember Linnet as a child, before her father died and her mother remarried and whisked Linnet away from Montreal.

The stories set in the 1920s when Linnet is a small child are the most moving and poignant, as even the title of the story, “Voices Lost in Snow” suggests; they also reveal her as a highly unusual child. The world of Linnet's parents was uncommon for the time in being a world in which French and English mingled, and she herself was boarding (from the age of four) at a French and Catholic convent school she calls Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague. She was among a vanishingly small number of English-speaking children of her generation to grow up not only bilingual but bicultural.

It took many years for Quebec to accept Mavis Gallant as a Quebec writer. The Quebec Government's literary prize—the Prix Athanase-David, awarded annually since 1969—had always gone to writers working in French. In 2006, it was awarded to Mavis Gallant.

I had been involved in nominating Gallant on behalf of Blue Metropolis twice before that. It was thanks especially to fiction writer Julie Keith, then President of the Quebec Writers' Federation, and to Executive Director Lori Schubert, that QWF nominated Gallant in 2006, and it was fortuitous that the jury that year included writer Ann Charney, who is a strong supporter of Gallant's work.

Gallant's win was historic. Up until that time, Quebec literature had

THIS ISSUE:
LINDA LEITH REVISITS

HOME TRUTHS

BY MAVIS GALLANT



been defined as a literature written in French. Gallant's win was also a key moment in the Anglo Literary Revival, which was stimulated by the creation of Blue Metropolis and of QWF, and came to fruition with fictions by Yann Martel, Ann Charney and Julie Keith as well as Edeet Ravel, Heather O'Neill, David Homel, Louise Penny, Rawi Hage, and Claire Holden Rothman, to name only these. With the recognition Anglo writers are now getting locally, nationally and internationally, this just might be a good time to nominate another English-language writer for the Prix Athanase-David. ¶

Montreal novelist Linda Leith founded Blue Metropolis Foundation in 1997 and became founding Vice-President of QWF in 1998. She is President of Quebec Community Groups Network. Her most recent book is Writing in the Time of Nationalism: From Two Solitudes to Blue Metropolis (Signature Editions, 2010), which chronicles the history and reception of Montreal's English-language fiction from 1945 onwards, culminating in today's Anglo Literary Revival.



Photos, top to bottom:
Host **Andy Nulman**, right, is hugged by **Karl-André St-Victor**; **Madeleine Thien** and **Rawi Hage** in attendance; Executive Director **Lori Schubert** is presented with a bouquet of thanks from QWF and President **Elise Moser**; **Gina Roitman** congratulates **Sean Mills**, winner of the QWF First Book Prize.



The 2010 QWF Award Winners

**PARAGRAPHE HUGH MACLENNAN PRIZE
FOR FICTION**

MIGUEL SYJUCO, FOR *ILLUSTRADO* (PENGUIN)
PRIZE SPONSORED BY PARAGRAPHE BOOKSTORE

MAVIS GALLANT PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION
CLEO PASKAL, FOR *GLOBAL WARRING*
(KEY PORTER)

PRIZE SPONSORED BY CHAMPLAIN, DAWSON, HERITAGE,
JOHN ABBOTT, AND VANIER COLLEGES

QWF FIRST BOOK PRIZE
SEAN MILLS, FOR *THE EMPIRE WITHIN*
(MCGILL-QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY PRESS)

A. M. KLEIN PRIZE FOR POETRY
KATE HALL, FOR *THE CERTAINTY DREAM*
(COACH HOUSE)
PRIZE SPONSORED BY JACQUES NOLIN

COLE FOUNDATION PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION
PAULE CHAMPOUX, FOR
QUÉBEC, VILLE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL
(ÉDITIONS SYLVAIN HARVEY)
PRIZE SPONSORED BY THE COLE FOUNDATION

**QWF PRIZE FOR CHILDREN'S AND
YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE**
CARYL CUDE MULLIN, FOR *ROUGH MAGIC*
(SECOND STORY PRESS)
PRIZE SPONSORED BY BABAR BOOKS

OTHER AWARDS

QUEBEC WRITING COMPETITION PRIZE
TAQRALIK PARTRIDGE - FIRST PRIZE
MICHELE ANN JENKINS - SECOND PRIZE
JOSHUA LEVY - SECOND PRIZE

3MACS CARTE BLANCHE PRIZE
MARK PATERSON, FOR "SOMETHING IMPORTANT
AND DELICATE"
PRIZE SPONSORED BY MARK GALLOP OF MACDOUGALL,
MACDOUGALL, & MACTIER

COMMUNITY AWARD
ILONA MARTONFI, "FOR HER TIRELESS PROMOTION
OF QUEBEC ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WRITERS."

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2010 QWF AWARDS Gala

On November 23, 2010, QWF held its annual Awards Gala at the Lion d'Or in Montreal. The event was hosted by Andy Nulman of Just For Laughs.

Six literary prizes, a Community Award, and the 3Macs carte blanche Prize were presented. For the second year, the winners and runners-up of the Quebec Writing Competition, sponsored by QWF with partners CBC Radio One, Véhicule Press, and Maisonneuve Magazine, were also presented at the Gala.

Photos, from top left:

A bustling and vibrant crowd at the Gala; **Barry Cole** presents the Cole Foundation Prize for Translation to **Paule Champoux**; jurors **Josip Novakovich** and **Mark Heffernan**; Left to right, **Monique Polak**, **Caryl Cude Mullin** and **Catherine Austen**, all nominees for the Children's and Young Adult Literature Prize; Westmount Mayor **Peter Trent**; and **Mark Paterson** at the mike, winner of the 3Macs *carte blanche* Prize



Member News

Send your news to info@qwf.org (please keep to a 60-word limit) with "Member News" in the subject line—and you'll be entered in a draw to win a beautiful book!

THIS ISSUE:

River of Words
Portraits of Hudson Valley Writers

By Nina Shengold, photos by Jennifer May
SUNY Press

This issue's winner is:
Beverly Akerman

Members of the Qwrite Editorial Board and staff are not eligible for the quarterly prizes.

Vivianne M. Silver has been named to the Board of Montreal Council of Women, in the capacity of convener of education. She has also been re-appointed as the chairperson of the Book Lovers' Forum of Temple Emanu-El Beth Sholom. As one of her pre-retirement projects, she has re-instated her educational consulting services – The Silver Lining.

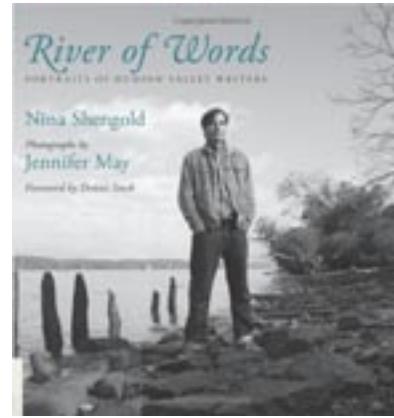
Beverly Akerman is right chuffed to announce that her CNF piece, "Six Pixels of Separation," recently published in *Grain Magazine*, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and a National Magazine Award. Her short story "Sea of Tranquility," an Editor's Choice Award in *Best New Writing* 2011 and for the Hoffer Prize, was also just nominated for a Pushcart.

Helen Wolkowicz has published her article on transgenderism, "Mind-body Disconnect," in the *Toronto Star*: www.thestar.com/news/insight/article/894121--transgendered-individuals-turning-to-surgery-at-younger-ages.

Kelly Norah Drukker's poem "The Drummer" was published in the October issue of the *Literary Review of Canada*. Another poem, "The Winter Garden," is forthcoming in their December issue. "Searching for Conor," a piece of creative non-fiction set in Ireland, was recently published in *Room Magazine's* "Past And Present" issue, #33.3.

Ilona Martonfi, founder, producer and host of The Yellow Door Poetry and Prose Reading Series, won the 2010 QWF Community award, and had her poem "Grandmother's Mortuary Dress" published in issue 12 of *carte blanche*.

Phyllis Rudin's short story "Candlepower" won *This Magazine's* 2010 Great Canadian Literary Hunt. Her novel manuscript "The CEO of Oz," which follows a group of immigrant women working the line in a Montreal lingerie factory, placed second in the 2010 Yeovil Literary Competition.



Throughout 2011, all proceeds from **Ingrid Berzins Leuzy's** book *Silent Women*, available at B&N.com and Amazon.com, will be donated to Women Aware/Femmes Averties, a local organization dedicated to helping women who have stepped away from domestic violence.

Cheryl Braganza was given a surprise award by the Montreal Council of Women in December. Among the comments made by ceremony host Tarah Schwartz of CTV were the following words: "Every time I see this woman she reminds me to embrace life... She is made up of pure heart and pure spirit. She gives of herself in every way..."

Ann Diamond blog about the sub-currents of Montreal fiction can be read at <http://readingmontreal.blogspot.com>. Her essay "Stranger Song," reprinted in *GEIST* magazine's 20th anniversary double issue, can be found at <http://www.geist.com/essays/how-i-finally-met-leonard-cohen>.

Alice Petersen's book of stories, *All the Voices Cry*, has been shortlisted for the 2010 Metcalf-Rooke Award.

Barbara Florio Graham is the 2010 winner of the Shojai Mentoring Award, presented at the international conference of the Cat Writers' Association. The award consists of a plaque and \$500. Also, her article, "How to Train Your Cat Like a Dog," is in the current issue of Phil Zeltman's newsletter: www.DrPhilZeltman.com. The article won the \$1000 Sticky Paws Award at the CWA conference in 2002.

H. Nigel Thomas read from his latest book *Lives: Whole and Otherwise* (short stories) at the Ottawa International Festival of Writers on October 21 and launched it in Toronto on November 24. He'll read from it at the Roxboro Public Library on February 23, and at the Morrin Centre in Quebec City on April 16.

Montreal expatriate writer **John Gilmore**, currently living in Berlin, has a new novel out. *Head of a Man* is written in prose fragments, evoking the fractured consciousness of a recently traumatized man in Asia. Gilmore has previously published two books on Montreal jazz history, *Swinging in Paradise: The Story of Jazz in Montreal*, and *Who's Who of Jazz in Montreal: Ragtime to 1970*, both published by Vehicule Press.

Matthew Anderson (QWF Membership Committee) had his short story "A Street Called Generous" chosen as the honourary mention in the

Prairie-Fire/McNally Robinson 2010 fiction contest. The story, which is based on a Plateau *ruelle* just behind Avenue Mont Royal (look for it!), will be published in the summer 2011 edition of *Prairie Fire*.

Benoît Lelièvre is a finalist in the 4th annual First Paragraph Challenge on Nathan Bransford's blog (blog.nathanbransford.com). There were six finalists chosen from among 1,500 entries. You can read Ben's blog at www.deadendfollies.com.

Pauline Clift and **Denise Crawford**, both QWF members, shared third prize in Radio Communautaire Missisquoi's 2010 Radio Drama Writing Awards.

Put a little Spring in your writing

2011 QWF Spring Workshops

Art, Craft, Drama, Attraction, Scenes, Untruths, Dynamics,
Desire, Flash, Secrets and a Weekend Out of Town

What other writers' organization
can promise you all that in one season?

See all the details at
www.qwf.org/workshops

CARTE BLANCHE:

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO TELL A STORY

Call for Submissions

carte blanche is now accepting poetry, fiction, nonfiction, translation, graphic fiction, and photography for its Spring Issue (#13). If you've got a narrative, we want to see it.

New to this issue, *carte blanche* is seeking submissions for a themed feature on crisis. From burning the cookies to global disasters, we want to hear about the moments or events that changed everything.

All submissions received by the deadline will be considered for the Spring Issue. Please indicate in your cover letter if you would also like to have your work considered for the feature on crisis.

The submission deadline for the Spring Issue of *carte blanche* is March 15th, 2011. Contributors receive a \$45 honorarium per published piece. Check out our submission guidelines for more information: <http://carte-blanche.org/submissions/>

www.carte-blanche.org



OUR SOCIAL NETWORK

Add our electronic icon to your own web site to show that you're a QWF member, are super-connected in the community, and have impeccable taste. To get a copy of the image in white or green, and for instructions for linking to our site, please write to julia@qwf.org.



NOTICE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the
Quebec Writers' Federation will be held

DATE/TIME: Monday, March 28, 2011
7:00 p.m. Refreshments
7:30 p.m. Business meeting
PLACE: Auditorium - Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater

At the meeting, the President will review the year's activities and the Treasurer will present the financial report. An election will be held for the Board of Directors for 2011. If you wish to put your name forward, or to nominate someone else for a position on the Board, please send in a completed nomination form (request a form from the QWF office) by Monday, March 14.

Please note that you must be a paid member to be eligible to run for the board, nominate someone for the board or vote at the AGM.

Join your board at the Annual Meeting and bring your ideas!
Find out about volunteer opportunities!
Enjoy the refreshments!

RSVP: (514) 933-0878, or admin@qwf.org



Author Portraits



Monique Dykstra
award-winning photographer

514.208.4747

THE Q MUNITY COLUMN

BY FIONA O'CONNOR

The Atwater Library's home delivery service bridges the gap between generations of Montrealers, one book at a time.

For many of us, winter can be the perfect excuse to stay home, grab a book off the shelf, and save our love of the outdoors for the first thaw. For many others though, our longest season poses not only the usual array of day-to-day inconveniences, but also the risk of deepening social isolation.

Part mobile-library, part community outreach, the Atwater Library's Downtown Home Delivery Service is a meals-on-wheels-style book delivery program geared towards downtown residents living with a loss of autonomy. Using books as the central point of contact, the program serves the dual purpose of building bridges between different generations of Montrealers, while responding to both the social and intellectual needs of those it serves.

"The focus is not just on book delivery, but also on the connections that are made," says library assistant Alanna MacNevin, who currently coordinates the service. "It's not just about getting in there, delivering the books, and getting out," she adds, emphasizing the importance of the intergenerational friendships that are created through the mutual love of reading and conversation.

With the help of start-up funds from Canadian Heritage, the Home Delivery Service was established in March 2010 under the direction of Beth Symansky, the Atwater Library's Intergenerational Programs Coordinator and Acting Manager of Administration and Development.

"It was started because patrons were requesting deliveries, and so volunteers and staff were taking it upon themselves to do the deliveries," explains MacNevin, who graduated with a Master's degree in Library Information Studies from McGill last year. MacNevin says that it was through these actions that the idea of a structured program came about and organizers embarked on applying for a grant.

Almost a year later, the service engages a total of fifteen participants and seven volunteers. While principally aimed at seniors—a highly represented but often underserved segment of the urban population—the home delivery service is available to any Atwater Library member who requests a need for it. "If people want to use the service they can call up and inquire about it," says MacNevin.

In line with the program's emphasis on creating personal connections and a strong sense of community, MacNevin and the volunteer team work hard to meet the individual wishes of each program participant. Literary tastes and specifications regarding preferred book formats (hard cover, soft cover, audio book, etc.) are first established through a confidential questionnaire, and from there, volunteers keep an open dialogue with participants through weekly phone calls and bi-weekly book deliveries (the program has the same two-week loan period as the library).



PHOTO: FIONA O'CONNOR

BETH SYMANSKY (LEFT), ALANNA MACNEVIN: MAKING CONNECTIONS THROUGH THE LOVE OF READING

Twenty-six-year-old MacNevin, who originally hails from Prince Edward Island, says that what she enjoys most about her job is the opportunity it provides to interact equally with both the providers and recipients of the service. "I think it appeals more to my sense of community work, more so than being strictly related to my academic credentials," she says. While volunteers range in age, background and occupation, MacNevin adds that "delivering books and meeting the participants is also really good because they're just very interesting people that have interesting stories. Once you get to know the clients who you're delivering to, you get attached to them..."

In addition to enjoying her post as program coordinator, MacNevin quips that it's likely the role she's best suited to, admitting that her own love of books can occasionally wind up hindering the execution of time-sensitive tasks. "I'm glad that I have book selectors, because they're very quick. They choose the book and then that's the book that they've chosen, whereas I enjoy it too much and think about it for far too long!"

While the Home Delivery Service attributes much of its early success to word-of-mouth, organizers are now working to develop new marketing approaches that will increase the program's visibility and help it to grow. In addition to using trademark book bags on delivery routes, the library is tapping into publicity opportunities through its partnerships with like-minded community organizations, including Santropol Roulant, which has distributed flyers for the service along with its meals, and the Yellow Door, which has run ads for the service in its publication. The library has also worked with Westmount's Connectivity Centre and the CLSC to promote awareness of the delivery service among its clientele.

The Atwater Library Home Delivery Service is an ever-growing community initiative that welcomes new participants at any time. If you or anybody you know may be interested in this service or in volunteering, please contact Beth Symansky at (514) 935-7344. For more information you can also visit the Atwater Library website at <http://www.atwaterlibrary.ca/library/New-Home-Delivery-Service>.

Fiona O'Connor is a freelance writer from Montreal and member of the Qwrite editorial board.