



THE VOICE OF
THE PARENT IN
EDUCATION

QFHS NEWS

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2019



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Message from the President



As we step into the warm bright sunshine of impending summer we have much to look forward to and much for which we are grateful. Many of you have children graduating this year and moving on to high school or college. Each brings its own worries for parents as we wonder if they're big enough or disciplined enough to take on the challenges before them.

However, you can take comfort in the knowledge that you have done your best to prepare them for these next steps in their lives and you'll still be there for them if and when they need your help. Parenting is not easy and sometimes despite our best efforts things go awry. But, children grow and change, they develop new interests, new friends and acquire new skills. That's the beauty of watching our children grow from infants to toddlers, from children to teens and from young adults to men and women.

The journey is long and for some longer than was hoped, but they do make it and

we welcome them with great joy into adulthood. We sigh with both longing and relief, longing for when they were little and looked to us to solve all their problems and relief that they can now handle it all by themselves. You see the wonderful people they have grown to be and you know you've had a hand in them becoming the fine adults we see before us.

That's what I'm thinking as a parent of two wonderful young men, one about to be married in the fall and the other returning for the second year of his Masters' at university. Although yours may not be at the same stages in their lives, believe me they will be before you know it. So hold on dearly and appreciate these years of public school life your children are going through because it passes all too quickly.

Finally, thank you for all you have contributed to your local Home and School Association this year. Have a wonderful summer and see you in the fall for another year of wonderful experiences for the students lucky enough to have you and Home & School in their lives.

- Linton Garner

#No2Bill21
“One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws”
-Martin Luther King -



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QFHSA NEWS.



Executive Director's Message



NO TIME TO RELAX

July is around the corner and plans are being made to not only wind up the Home and School for the year, but to lay down some plans for September when school starts again. We all have a few

long and probably very hot summer months ahead of us. We like to think of summer vacation as a time to “get away from it all” and “just relax” and “forget about the world for a while.” Unfortunately, this summer, we may have a very different world to come back to in the fall. Quebec’s Bill 21 has been getting a lot of criticism from many different areas including from the United Nations. Despite all the excellent arguments against going down this path, and only vague reasoning being offered as to why this piece of legislation was so imperative, the CAQists were determined to bulldoze Bill 21 through and to walk away from it with a “Well, that can now be put to rest”.

It will be all of us who will have to face the consequences of this action. Can and will cooler heads prevail? Will Ottawa intervene, so close to a Federal election? Now adopted in its present form, how will it realistically be implemented? How well can it be enforced? What will be the real consequences for non-compliance? Who will bear the brunt of this unpleasant work? The answers to those questions will reveal themselves over the following months.

In addition, in the fall, we may see legislation that attempts to abolish school boards in Quebec. Although the Minister of Education and Higher Education has the authority to abolish French school boards in Quebec, whenever he likes, the English minority language school boards have constitutional protection under Section 23 of the Canadian Constitution, the same article that protects French language school boards in other Canadian provinces, and the notwithstanding clause cannot be applied in this case.

Home and Schools may shut down over the summer, but the QFHSA Education, Rights and Resolutions Committee members will have their work cut out for them, as they will have only the summer months to prepare for what challenges lay ahead. This will be another moment in history when the voice of Home and School must be heard. To arms! The fight is not over!

-Carol Meindl

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.

Fo Niemi and Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed, Keynote Speakers

An Uncomfortable Truth

This year, the QFHSA is celebrating 75 years of parental involvement in education. Our parents have seen a great deal of change in education over those years. In some ways school is very different than it was fifty years ago. In other ways, it is very much the same.

At the QFHSA Annual General Meeting on May 4, 2019, our delegates and guests were privileged to hear testimony from two extraordinary individuals: Fo Niemi and Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed. Both had eloquent and passionate presentations to offer to help our delegates orient themselves before the time came, later in the afternoon, to draft a statement on *Bill 21 An Act respecting the laicity of the State*.

Fo Niemi, Executive Director of the Centre for Research -Action on Race Relations (CRARR) took us on an evolutionary journey of religious accommodation/conflict in Quebec since 1807 when Ezekiel Hart, the first Jew elected to public office, tried to take his seat in the National Assembly. Although elected from Trois Rivieres, he was prevented from taking his seat, because of controversy over which book would be permitted to be used when swearing an oath to serve. Hart had sworn in on the Torah, his chosen holy book, as was the custom in the Quebec courts at the time. Even when he was willing to compromise and swear in on a Christian bible he was again voted out, this time because it was deemed not “binding enough” for him, as a Jew. The “will of the people” had decided that Jews had no place in the National Assembly of Quebec. Yet, by 1832, Quebec had passed the Emancipation Act, which granted full rights to people practicing the Jewish faith.

After the Second World War, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948, as a vision on human rights and in 1965 the Quebec National Assembly adopted Bill 194 that permitted the establishment of the Islamic Centre of Quebec to serve the already 70,000 member Muslim population in the province at that time. In 1975 the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms was adopted and was followed, in 1986, by the Federal Employment Equity Act, introducing the term “visible minority” and forcing companies under federal jurisdiction to adopt an equity plan for some target groups, including women, visible minorities, and Aboriginal peoples.



However, in 1995, after the second failed referendum, many can remember the infamous words of Jacques Parizeau, blaming the loss on the sovereigntist side on “money and the ethnic vote.” By 1998, when considering the Secession Question, the Supreme Court of Canada made a ruling that protected minority rights. Then came 9/11, the attack on the World Trade Center, an increased concern for security and we are now living in the consequences of that event. Two steps forward, one step back.

Fo demonstrated that Quebec has made steady progress over the years, adopting and integrating more and more rights into its charter and into the fabric of its society, but Bill 21, he felt, is definitely a step backwards. Coupled with the immigration reform of Bill 9, the taxi industry reform of Bill 17 and the proposed public school board reform, there is beginning to emerge a worrisome trend toward attacks on minority communities in Quebec, especially on Muslim immigrants.

Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed, Founder and editor of the blog CanadianMomEh.com, spoke from her own personal experience as a Muslim girl growing up in the West Island. She suffered from bullying at the hands of her classmates who took issue with the colour of her skin. Despite these setbacks, Fariha’s mother taught her to “aim high” and to follow her dreams. Fariha has since made history as the first woman to wear the hijab on Quebec television in her role as a video journalist for CityNews Montreal. She is also only the second television journalist to wear the hijab in Canadian history. Fariha goes behind the scenes to share stories from Montreal’s diverse communities in a segment entitled *Diverse City*. It is the only segment of its kind in Canada.

Fariha and her mother both had Home and School experience volunteering in their school and, although they found that their assistance was welcomed, not all their ideas were embraced. Fariha shared the uncomfortable truth that when she suggested events that would showcase diversity at her Home and School or Governing Board meetings, such as a multi-ethnic potluck luncheon for the kids, she experienced push back and a definitive reticence to introduce such an event. This may have surprised many people listening to her share her experience, but it may also have rung all too familiar with others, who may have experienced something similar at their own school. It is all well and good for QFHSA to adopt a resolution on Diversity and Inclusion, said Fariha, as we did in 2015, but unless it is reflected at the association level, it will not effect the necessary change.

It has been fairly clear that Premier Francois Legault has enjoyed support for Bill 21 mostly from outside of Montreal,

where there is less opportunity for citizens to “rub shoulders” with members of ethnic and religious minorities and therefore have had less an opportunity to have their preconceived notions challenged. Yet it is on the Island of Montreal where the effects of Bill 21, Bill 9 and Bill 17 will be most keenly felt.

The words from Fo and Fariha may seem like uncomfortable truths, but as uncomfortable as it may be for us to hear it, it is so much more uncomfortable for those who must live with it as part of their day-to-day experience. In a multi-ethnic, bilingual country like Canada, despite living in a sometimes less than tolerant province of Quebec, there is no excuse for our Home and Schools to not embrace the diversity around them, profit from it, enjoy it and celebrate it with our students. That is the most natural next step toward neutrality of the state, religious accommodation and race relations in Quebec, not the step backwards that is Bill 21. Thank you, Fo and Fariha, for reminding us of that!

Lester B Pearson School Board—LIFE Catering



Written by Catherine Burrell, Special Education Technician, LIFE Program

The LIFE program at Lester B Pearson School Board, as one of the many specialized programs being

run under the leadership of Horizon High School, supports students aged 18 – 21 in learning life, work and other skills which will enable them to lead as independent a life as possible as they move into adulthood.

The LIFE Catering service, which had its roots as the Riverdale High School Catering service prior to the opening of the LIFE program, provides the opportunity for students to learn and practice kitchen skills, including safety, hygiene, and how to read and follow a recipe. It was the perfect way to combine functional literacy and numeracy with these other crucial skills in a way that was interesting, and provided a service to the Board. As we know, practice makes perfect, and the fact that many recipes have been ordered repeatedly over the years, creates the opportunity to master these skills. Of course, the LIFE program is remunerated for their work, and the profits go towards supporting various activities at LIFE, whether it is an end of year party, new games or other equipment for the classroom, or to subsidize the annual holiday dinner.

Students particularly enjoy having a say in where their hard-earned dollars are spent!

Students usually work in teams of two, with an educator to guide them. Certain prerequisites are necessary before they can join the team (hygiene and safety being the most important) but once that is in place, they are paired with another student. It is important that each student is allowed the opportunity to use and build on their unique strengths; therefore, we might pair a non-reader who has good kitchen-sense with a student who can navigate the recipe but may not be accustomed to working in a kitchen. This has worked well, and students learn to respect the abilities of their peers, while gaining confidence in their own unique skills!

In the last few years, we have added fruit, veggie, and cheese platters to our repertoire. This provides the opportunity for students to add to their skill set, and has been very popular with clients at the Board.

Thanks to the support of the Pearson Education Foundation, the LIFE Catering Service acquired a large freezer, allowing them to accommodate orders that need to be prepared over several school days. Without the support of this group, and those who encourage the LIFE Catering through their orders, this excellent learning opportunity would not be possible.

To contact LIFE catering, please email Catherine at

cburrell@lbpsb.qc.ca.

APPELE-Quebec Update



In November 2018, in response to the threat to English school boards, the QFHSA decided to join forces with the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), and the English Parents' Committees Association (EPCA), to lend support to APPELE-Quebec, the Alliance for the Promotion of Public English Language Education.

APPELE-Quebec is a response to a real threat to English school boards by the CAQ government. Minister of Education and Higher Education Jean-Francois Roberge had been repeating Francois Legault's desire to abolish school boards, abolish elected board commissioners and replace them with administrative school service centers with no reference to a timeline other than sometime before 2020. The community had every reason to believe and acknowledge the government's resolve to do this.

Russell Copeman, Executive Director and Dan Lamoureux, President, of QESBA, had reached out to other minority organizations in other provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Yu-

kon. In all these cases the governments had decided to be constitution compliant and maintain the French minority language school boards. Russell and Dan had also met with the Federation Commission Scolaire de Quebec, who understood that the issues for the two different bodies were similar but more acute in our community. APPELE-Quebec wanted it to be clear as to why we were fighting to hold onto English school boards:

- Our student success is linked to our community's participation.

- We were fighting to protect our culture which is not something that the French community was doing.

- We have charter rights to maintain and manage our education institutions.

By April, APPELE-Quebec had a Chair, Geoffrey Kelley, and two Vice Chairs, Former Senator Joan Fraser and Kevin Shaar, a parent from Western Quebec and was ready to launch. A press conference was called for April 25th at the Novel Hotel in Montreal and QFHSA's Brian Rock represented QFHSA at the conference table along with representatives from the other supporting and observing organizations.

The Alliance made it clear that the minority English language community in Quebec had constitutional protection, as did minority French language communities in other provinces, by virtue of article 23 of the Canadian Constitution, which could not be over-ridden by implementation of the notwithstanding clause.

On May 4th, QFHSA invited Russell Copeman, as Executive Director of QESBA, to be the

Luncheon speaker at the 75th Annual General Meeting. Mr. Copeman provided much food for thought.

The CAQ government had announced its intention to abolish school boards, school board elections and replace them



with school service centers. Premier Legault had made it clear that he did not like school boards and saw them as “agents of paralysis”. He seemed to believe that if schools could just be liberated from the mini governments of

school boards, innovation would flourish. However, there has been no evidence, based on policy research, that could indicate any tangible benefit to students. These school service centers seem more like regional offices of the Minister of Education, where accountability would be to the Ministry and not to the community. Mr. Copeman made it clear that although we must hope for a political solution, APPELE is prepared to take legal action, if necessary.

Since the AGM, APPELE-Quebec has released the findings of a Leger poll they had commissioned earlier in the year. It showed clearly that 67% of English-speaking Quebecers surveyed valued their school boards and believed that they contributed to the efficient functioning of elementary and secondary public schools. Over 85% of respondents said that English school boards were important to them and although only 31% of respondents had indicated they had previously voted in a school board election, 82% indicated that they would be more likely to vote, in the future, if they could do so over the internet.

As Bill 21 is an attack on fundamental human rights, as guaranteed under the Quebec Charter

of Human Rights and Freedoms, the threat to abolish school boards is an attack on minority language rights, as protected under the Canadian Constitution. Despite the fact Quebec has not yet signed the Canadian Constitution, it is still considered binding on this province, nonetheless.

The recent problems between the English Montreal School Board and the Commission Scolaire de Pointe-de-l’Île over the overcrowding situation on the French side and the under-capacity on the English side, may just be solved by the cooler heads of the parents in the schools most affected. For a Minister of Education who believes, and has publicly stated, that decision-making should be in the hands of the community, the voice of the EMSB parents from General Vanier, Gerald McShane and John Paul I Secondary, should hold sway. Coupled with the results of the Leger survey, the government cannot so confidently state that the majority of the English-speaking community is on side with school board closures.

All these policy moves by the government reflect the so-called “will of the majority” over the needs of the minority. Yet it is exactly to protect minority communities from the will of the majority that makes charters and constitutions necessary and worth standing up and defending. The community is taking action!

**“NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF
THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN
CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT’S THE ONLY
THING THAT EVER HAS.**

—MARGARET MEAD—

Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations' Statement on Bill 21

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. (QFHSA), an integral member of Quebec society for 75 years, is confident that both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms already safeguard and protect the principles of freedom of religion and the secular nature of the Federal and Provincial governments as presently constituted.



Therefore, QFHSA is opposed to Bill 21, Loi sur la laïcité de l'État / an Act respecting the laicity of the State, in its entirety.

Whenever a charter of rights and freedoms is amended, it should strive to improve on rights, not lessen them. Diminishing rights takes away the inalienability of all rights and weakens a charter. Reducing the right of freedom of expression by restricting the personal choice of wearing religious symbols for some public sector positions does not reflect the inherent values of Quebec.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. cannot be party to a proposed piece of legislation that runs contrary to what we teach our children insofar as tolerance, respect of

individual rights and religious freedoms. Bill 21 undermines the Moral and Religious Education curriculum first implemented in 1997 by the Minister of Education at the time, and later modified in 2008 to become the Ethics and Religious Culture program.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. therefore, calls for the withdrawal of Bill 21.

This statement was researched by the QFHSA Rights and Resolutions Committee, drafted by delegates at the QFHSA Annual General Meeting and adopted by resolution at the meeting of the QFHSA Board of Directors on May 4, 2019.

IMPORTANT!

At the 2019 AGM, delegates approved the increase in the Family Membership fee to \$20.00 per family starting in September 2019.

www.qfhsa.org

Disposition of Statement on Bill 21

At this year's QFHSA AGM, something different was tried. Instead of the Rights Committee bringing a resolution to the delegates to caucus, we decided to present a draft statement on Bill 21 and invite our delegates to help edit and amend it, tweaking it into something everyone could stand behind. At times, the process was a bit chaotic and frustrating with people talking over each other and speaking out of turn, but everyone had a chance to have their voice heard. By the end of the 2 ½ hours, a statement was ready and presented to the Board of Directors at their Post-AGM board meeting for adoption.

Usually at an AGM, we have resolutions brought to the delegates, we break into small groups and caucus them for an hour. Then we all come back together, report on any amendments that were made, incorporate them into the draft document and vote on the final versions. Usually the resolutions come with a suggested set of destinations and at the caucus session a few more destinations may be suggested and added. Once the AGM is all over, it is the task of the QFHSA office staff to prepare the resolutions and mail them out to the destinations and receive and record responses/acknowledgements as they come in. These responses are reported to the Board of Directors and are included in the Resolutions Report at the next Annual General Meeting.

As the usual protocol was broken this year, the list of destinations for our Statement on Bill 21 was not provided at the AGM. In response to requests received from members to share the final destinations, they are listed below:

On May 8, 2019, the QFHSA Statement on Bill 21 (final version) was emailed to the QFHSA Board of Directors, the Presidents of the QFHSA member associations and then posted to QFHSA Facebook page.

It was then sent by email to:

- Diane Rollert, Chair of the Coalition Inclusion Quebec (CIQ)
- The Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA)
- The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN)
- Angela Mancini, Chair of the English Montreal School Board (EMSB)
- Noel Burke, Chair of the Lester B. Pearson School Board
- The Executive Committee of the English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA)
- Michael Canuel, CEO of LEARN
- Richard Bourhis, Professor Emeritus, Université de Québec à Montreal
- Fo Niemi and Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed, Guest speakers at AGM 2019
- Allison Hanes, journalist, The Montreal Gazette
- The Executive Committee of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN)

On May 13, 2019, the QFHSA Statement on Bill 21 was presented by QFHSA Director Michael Nalecz at the Peoples' Hearings in Montreal, organized by Coalition Inclusion Quebec and then carried with them to the National Assembly where they were deposited when they presented their own brief to the Committee on Institutions.

On May 14, 2019, the QFHSA Statement on Bill 21 was shared with Carolyne Paquette, clerk for the Committee on Institutions and with every MNA in the Quebec National Assembly. (Of the 127 MNAs who received the Statement, 56 responded with an acknowledgement of receipt, albeit automated. Interestingly, Simon Jolin-Barrette, Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion, did not respond. The office of Premier Francois Legault did, however, respond by June 4th, 2019.

Volunteer Award Recipients 2019

Unsung Hero Award

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	Jennifer Ankcorn, Catherine Fini, Julia Genoni, Neil Linsdell, Darcy Moncada, Gillian Skinner, Melissa Lim
Beechwood	Tara Morin, Jen Robinson, Viki Zerdok
Children's World	Ivy Kwan, Nicky Giulietti
Dorset	Angela Mancuso, Valerie Desmarais
Dorval	Natalie Earby, Christina Del Zingaro
Edgewater	Teresa Borelli
Edinburgh	Karen Laham
Evergreen	Sarah Simunic, Sacha Michailides, Jo-anna Bevan, Lynn MacDowell, Tracy Gottardo, Monique Szabo, Athena Soupliotis, Chris Doiron, June Herron, Chelsea Dunford, Nellie Dionne, Rachel Mattsson, Jennifer Gilligan, Georgia Kollias, Melissa Bindon Leseay, Dawn Gilleen
Forest Hill Jr.	Maeghan Blaise Andrew, Sophie Plante
Gardenvue	Esther Kay, Alicia Tandubwana, Will Allooh, Kimberlee Collette, Maria Dym, Lisa Fong
Genesis	Lydia Tawil, Sabrina Livornetti, Cynthia DiFruscia, Nadia Christafaro, Rosanna Anobile, Josie Cammisano, Robert Fillipin
John Rennie	Mandy Paquet
Lindsay Place	Oksana Yakimiw, Barbara Schnider
Lord Aylmer	Amanda Matthews, Jennifer Ouellette, Julie Laverdure, Lianne Pickard, Melissa Downer, Natalie Filiou
Macdonald	Jaime Guy
Merton	Lisa Kunitzky, Lisa Hochberg, Nathalie Sofer, Miri Bowen, Anna Fiori, Debbie Santini, Sarit Brener, Jessica Tobman, Mindy Zunenshine
Pierre Elliott Trudeau –LBPSB	Sylvie Domergue, Melissa Alary, Vanessa Samatas-Church, Jacqueline Barbieri
South Hull	Liliane Hajjar
St Charles	Julie Savoie
Westwood	Julie Potvin, Gisela Kramell
Willingdon	Catherine Lavoie, Genevieve Trudeau, Luisa Carpio-Mak, Isabelle Gaul

Golden Torch Award

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

Beacon Hill	Christine Barnes, Mike Kudzia, Marie Masserey
Beechwood	Wendy Kaufman Afalo
Children's World	Grace Petrucci, Kimberly Jones, Laura D'Adamo
Dorval	Cal Morin
Edgewater	Tara Cheevers, Kimberly Eccleston
Edinburgh	Marcia Thorpe, Natasha Savoie, Emmanuelle Chassé
Evergreen	Jennifer Buraglia, Susan Nowak, Melinda Paradis
Forest Hill Jr	Leah Barrington
Gardenvue	Elena Giatras
Genesis	Tina Rosato, Patty Marinelli, Anita Catalani, Sandra Pisegna
John Rennie	Kim Fraser
LaurenHill Academy	Roula Sitaras, Clara Esposito, Nia Vellopoulos
Lindsay Place	Kim Soule
Lord Aylmer	Angele Duval Belanger, Melanie Beaudoin, Melissa Downer, Natalie Filiou, Pamela Birkett
Merton	Jacqueline Stein-Elman, Dalia Giorgi, Samantha Patel
Pierre Elliott Trudeau – LBPSB	Amy Patrick, Douglas Phillip, Sheila Desormeaux, Susana Melo
South Hull	Allana Hayes-Stevenson, Crystal Chabassol
St Charles	Maureen Koggel
St Patrick	Sarah Williams, Stephanie Davidson, Jael Symes
St Thomas	Bobbi Brown, Marilynne Boyer
Westwood	Sylvia Graham, Julie Gibeault Goyer
Willingdon	Luisa Carpio-Mak

Carolyn Larocque-Pat Lewis Humanitarian Award Recipient



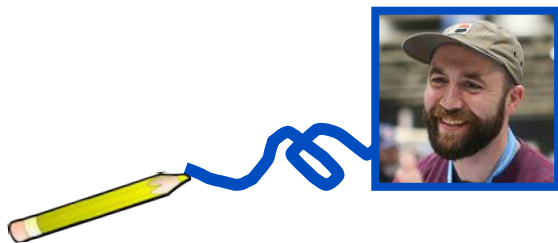
Carolyn has been an elementary school teacher for 34 years. Her formative years as a teacher were in Quebec City, where she taught at Holland School for 4 years. A native Montrealer, she returned to teach at numerous schools in the West Island, and spent one year teaching at an international school in Accra, Ghana. Now at St. John Fisher Sr. School since 2010, she is one year away from a fulfilling career, which she has thoroughly enjoyed.

Passionate about helping others, she helped create the Social Action Team at St. John Fisher Sr. School in 2011. The team's mission is to improve the lives of people in our community and around the world through concrete actions. The students from the Team learn about local and international organizations working on social justice issues. Based on this, they create posters and raise awareness among all students of the issues they are helping to address.

The students in the Team organized events to sell baked goods, rainbow loom bracelets, Rice Krispies treats, and have sold greeting cards they have designed. They painted "Kindness Rocks" for The West Island Palliative Care Compassion Run. They have raised awareness on anti-bullying in the school through "Pink Shirt Day" and organized an annual raffle of goods donated by parents and local businesses. They have encouraged students from the school to donate non-perishables for "Scare Away Hunger", socks, hats, mitts, snowsuits and books to benefit those less fortunate. To date, the Social Action Team has raised over \$20 000.

The organizations we have supported these past 8 years are: Smile Train, Free the Children, Montreal Children's Hospital, Right to Play, Canadian Red Cross, The Old Mission Brewery, Suitcases for Africa, Communitywings, VOBOC, Dans La Rue, St. Michael's Mission, UNHCR, OnRock and The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal and West Island Palliative Care.

The Team continues to make the world a little brighter!



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.



www.lunarbaboon.com

Dion Joseph—Gordon Paterson Award Recipient



Mr. Dion Joseph exemplifies the definition of the Gordon Paterson Award. Dion has been an educator for over 22 years. In 1997, as a newly-graduated teacher at Beaconsfield High, the first committee he joined was Home and School. There Dion quickly realized the impact of parental involvement within the school community and has continued encouraging and supporting Home and School Associations ever since.

As an educator, Mr. Joseph organized school trips, planned graduation activities and ceremonies. He was part of staff council and the SAC. Dion was the PTU delegate and he

was Head of the Physical Education Department of Macdonald High School. The Dion Joseph Award is handed out yearly to a graduating student at Macdonald High School who is involved in athletics and is also heavily involved in the school.

As an administrator, Mr. Joseph has spent many years on several LBPSB committees: Intercultural Committee, the in-school admin PD planning committee, he is the GMAA administrative representative and to top it all off, he is a mentor to new Vice Principals.

Even as busy and involved as Mr. Joseph is, he always has time to encourage parents to be involved in the school. Dion attends every meeting at PETES and is always there to welcome and thank parent volunteers at every school event. There has never been an event at PETES where Mr. Joseph is not happily changing garbage bags, selling concessions or barbecuing a burger right alongside the parents.

Dion treats the school as his home, and everyone is welcome. His door is ALWAYS open whether it is for a chat or to answer concerns from a worried parent.

All of these qualities and so many more make Mr. Joseph a wonderful addition to the long list of Educators that have been honored with the QFHSA Gordon Paterson Award.

CALENDAR OF UP-COMING EVENTS

EXECUTIVE WORKSHOPS

October 1, 2019 7:00pm QFHSA OFFICE (no cost)

QFHSA PARENTING WORKSHOP SERIES:

1st session: "Who are you and what have you done with my child?"

Facilitated by Karen Delage:

October 23, 2019 7:00pm QFHSA OFFICE (no cost)

ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE: 75 years of Home and School: A History of Achievement

November 9, 2019 8:00am-4:00pm Macdonald High School, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue

75 th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BANQUET: Chateau Vaudreuil

75 years of Home and School: A History of Achievement

November 9, 2019 5:00pm-6:00pm- Cocktails
6:00pm-8:00pm- Dinner (with Live Entertainment)

AGM 2019



Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed, Founder and Editor of CanadianMomEH.com



Fo Niemi, Executive Director Center for Research-Action on Race Relations



QFHSA Board of Directors 2019



Wilfred Lalchan, Lorna Joseph, Dion Joseph, Shirley McLeod



QFHSA AGM guests(R to L) Dan Lamoureux, Charles Taker, Russell Copeman,



Unsung Hero Award Recipients



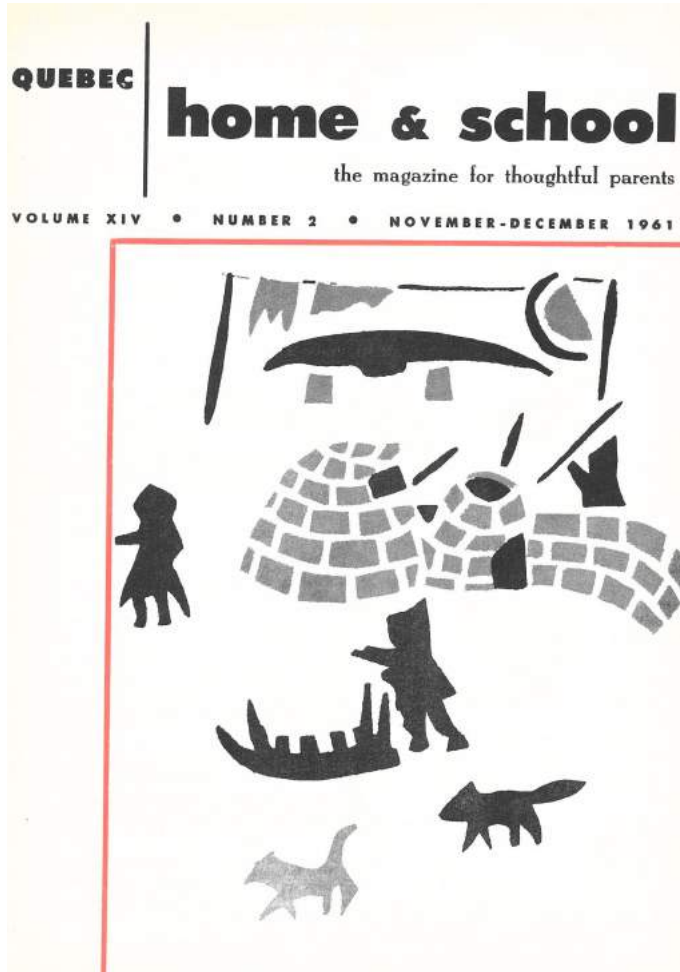
Golden Torch Recipients



QFHSA Staff (L to R) Marlyn Brownrigg, Carol Meindl, Mimi Tabaczuk, Sheila Desormeaux (emeritis)

From the Archives

The following is an excerpt from the Quebec Home and School magazine, Volume 16, Number 2 1961



FEDERATION NOTES

November-December 1961

Attention of all local Associations is drawn to the importance of Bill Number 85- "An Act to grant parents the right to vote at school elections"- passed by the Quebec Legislature this year.

Section 125 of the Bill reads as follows:

To have the right to vote at any election of school commissioner or trustees, it shall be necessary:

(1) to be of the age of majority and a Canadian Citizen

(2) to be entered on the electoral list *and*

(3) to be the owner of real estate or of a building, be entered as such on the valuation roll or to be the spouse of such an owner and have been domiciled in the municipality for the last twelve months

OR

(4) *to be the father, mother or tutor of a child who was less than eighteen years old on the preceding thirtieth of June and have been domiciled in the municipality for the last six months.*

Under Clause 4, all parents or guardians of children under 18 have the right to vote in school board elections, a right which formerly belonged only to property owners. This is an important extension of the franchise in school affairs, and it is the duty of Home and School or parent-Teacher Associations to encourage parents to exercise their new right, and to help them exercise it intelligently.

Note: School board elections take place at 10:00 a.m. on the second Monday of June each year. Cf. Section 3, Div. 4 of the Education Act.)

Every new privilege brings with it a corresponding responsibility. To play their part adequately, the new electors must undertake, with the help of professional educators, a study of the school and its operations. To the extent that they now have a voice in the selection of the personnel of the corporations which manage school affairs, parents will have themselves to blame if their children are not properly educated.

*The right of parents to vote in school board elections was a hard won and celebrated victory, now to see, almost 60 years later, evaporate. **Rights should be continuously improved upon, not diminished.***

Report on QFHSA Survey

FAMILIARITY DOES NOT BREED CONTEMPT

Carol Meindl

On February 7th, the QFHSA sent out a survey to its membership to gauge their opinion on the subjects of school board abolition and the proposed ban on teachers wearing religious symbols. Over the next few months, results were collected and some interesting trends seemed evident.

Of the 84 H&S associations asked to participate, only 16 were heard from and all of them were from the Greater Montreal Area. The voices from the regions were not heard, by their choice. Some indicated a discomfort with answering the questions:

Do you agree with the Quebec Government's proposal to abolish democratically elected School Boards and replace them with school service centers?

Do you think it is necessary to ban teachers from wearing religious symbols when they are in class?

Of the 16 associations we did hear from, the results were fairly uniform across the board. Of the 217 respondents to the question regarding school boards, 199 were against school boards being abolished with only 8 respondents thinking it was a good idea.

Similarly, with the question of the ban of wearing religious symbols by teachers, of the 216 respondents, 210 were against the ban and 6 respondents were in favour.

The vast majority of H&S members who felt comfortable with responding to the question

were those living in the Greater Montreal area, ie: H&S members who have some opportunity to meet and interact with Quebecers of different ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Interestingly, on June 11, at a meeting of the Coalition Inclusion Quebec, Jack Jedwab presented the results of a Leger poll that he had commissioned to gauge Quebec opinion on Bill 21 vs that of the rest of the country and he found similar results. The greatest support for Bill 21 and a ban on the wearing of religious symbols comes from the segment of society that has little to no real contact with members of other groups. The greatest resistance to Bill 21 is from people who have daily experience with "others". They stand in line together at the bank, the grocery store and the bus stop. They drink coffee on the same terrasses and attend the same festivals, laughing and joking with their friends or engaged in serious political discussions.

Familiarity does not breed contempt, it breeds tolerance, acceptance and inclusion. This is why education is so important. If students in the regions are not going to have the opportunity to meet and greet immigrants and individuals of different faiths in their daily lives, how are they ever going to know what is really out there in the big, wide world? They will be forever uncomfortable straying too far from home to consider the wider world anything but too scary to enter. That is why the education they receive while still in school has to reflect the reality of today's society. That is also why the Ethic and Religious Culture program and an inclusive History Curriculum is so essential.

QFHSA Statement on School Closures

Linton Garner, President

Where is the community consultation?

May 13, 2019- The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, Inc. (QFHSA) defends the right of access to English education in Quebec, be it in small isolated rural schools in the regions, or small urban schools on the Island of Montreal.

The QFHSA is, therefore, alarmed at the speed and heavy handedness which the current Minister of Education and Higher Education has used to forgo community consultation in favour of expediency.

Only last year, the Ministry was proud to announce its education reform as a plan to give the community more direct say:

“More than ever, we believe that schools must belong to their neighbourhoods. The members of a community are the people best equipped to determine the needs of their schools and defend the interests of the students in those schools.” - School Governance plan, CAQ website 2018, p. 4

Now, the process is more one of “informing parents”, not consulting with them, as was indicated in the recent letter sent by Jean-Francois Roberge, Minister of Education and Higher Education, to EMSB Chair Angela Mancini, regarding the unilateral transfer of three EMSB schools: Gerald McShane Elementary School, General Vanier Elementary School and John Paul I High School in the east end of Montreal to Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l’Île in Riviere-des-Prairies so soon after the transfer of Riverdale High School to Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys.

What happened to the promise of community consultation?

This does not bode well for the proposed school service centers as institutions mandated to respect and respond to the needs of the English community. These school closures are not a solution the school board itself nor the parents would have chosen. The Minister is forcing the EMSB to bypass its own parent consultation timeline to satisfy the problem of overcrowding in the French sector, in time for the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. The elimination of three schools and the relocation of those students in such a short period of time are reckless actions and do not honour the government’s commitment to allow communities to defend the interests of students in their communities.

The government has been listening to the needs of the French school boards to the detriment of the English school boards.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations and other English education organizations must be invited to sit down with the government and be closely involved in the process going forward if we are to have any faith that the government will respect our community’s right to control and manage our education institutions.

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations, promoting the involvement of parents in education for 75 years, offers the benefit of its experience and historical perspective to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education to advise the Minister on how to truly involve parents in the process.

A History of Achievement- Our Two-year Special Project

The objective of the History of Achievement project, made possible by a grant from the **Secrétariat Responsable for Relations with English Speaking Quebecers**, was to give to the English-speaking community an opportunity to explore the 75 years of parental involvement in education in Quebec's English school system through Home and School activity. This 2-year project began in December of 2018 and the first year has been completed with the help of Jing Zhang and Bing Bai, our Archive students.

Year One

Searchable Database: In year one, a searchable database of historical activities of Home and School Associations in Quebec, past and present, was created, using material collected from QFHSA NEWS articles.

- Issues of the QFHSA NEWS from 1967-1997 were scanned and download into the searchable database. The earlier years and some later years were also scanned and added to the database. Now, all the issues of the NEWS, from 1944-2019, have been scanned and archived.
- Articles were identified reflecting H&S association activity, cut and pasted into documents and will be used to populate individual association digital files, in addition to the physical documents that are already available in the office files.
- Home and School members were updated with information on the project through articles printed in the QFHSA NEWS and in reports at the 2019 AGM.

Travelling Exhibition: A travelling exhibition has been created to highlight the achievements of the Quebec Federation of Home and School

Associations. This consists primarily of a series of exhibition banners, in French and English, designed and produced to provide historical information and images of QFHSA activities in the areas of: *Education, Rights, Health and Welfare, Citizenship, Leadership, Literacy Projects, Safety/ Transportation, Membership, and Award Recipients.* This was accomplished by reviewing the historical material available in the archives, choosing and translating text into French and choosing appropriate photos to accompany the text. Two (2) series of eight (8) banners were designed, printed and will be promoted in local and social media. In the end, seventeen (17) beautiful banners were produced, 9 of which were available for viewing on May 4th at the QFHSA Annual General Meeting. The banners are in both official languages with an introductory banner being bilingual.

(These banners will be available on loan to member associations to enhance their membership campaigns and



can be reserved ahead of time. Call the office in August to book your days)

Year Two

Interactive Map

In year two, an interactive map will be created providing information on the 370 Home and School Associations, past and present.

- The archives will be consulted to determine the historical locations of the Home and School associations and to enter into an interactive map.
- Historical information, documents and photos will be accessible by means of a link to the QFHSA website.

- The map will be promoted to Home and School Associations through the QFHSA NEWS, social media and other publications such as Quebec Heritage News, QUESCREN, QFHSA website, Facebook page and other media publications.

This interactive map will provide a snapshot on the history of Home and School in Quebec.

Fall Conference 2019

75 years of QFHSA and 100 years of Home and School activity in Quebec will be showcased through hosting a Special Fall Conference at Macdonald High, the location of the first Home and School Association in Quebec. Special guests and Home and School alumni will be invited to share their experience and impressions of Home and School over the years. This event will be video-taped for posterity and posted to the website/YouTube. All the exhibition banners will be on display to give context.

A series of exhibitions and presentations of The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations: A History of Achievement, will be scheduled in the community, starting

with the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network Annual General Meeting on June 1-2 and the Quebec Community Groups Network Annual General meeting, June 14-15, 2019.

75th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

What's a celebration without a party? QFHSA will host an Anniversary Celebration Banquet, complete with Home and School sponsored entertainment, to celebrate 75 years of QFHSA and 100 years of Home and School activity in Quebec.

A special issue of QFHSA NEWS, dedicated to Fall Conference 2019 and the 75th Anniversary Celebration, will be designed and published in 2020.

- The archives will be consulted to determine the historical locations of the Home and School associations and to enter into an interactive map.

75 years as part of Quebec's English education community is something to celebrate and we are grateful to be able to add to our lasting legacy with this project.

A Word from Membership Services....

HOUSEKEEPING

- The forms for the 2019-2020 school year will be on the QFHSA website by June 30th. Please send in the Executive list as soon as possible.
- The President's Activity report and the Treasurer's financial report should be sent in by July 31st along with any other outstanding documents and fees. **NEW!** Please include a copy of the September 2018 and the July 2019 bank statements with the report for all Home and School accounts.

"HOMEWORK"

- QFHSA History Project: Please let Marlyn know how far back your Home and School records, minutes and reports go. Email Marlyn at marlyn-brownrigg@qfhsa.org.

OTHER NEWS

- In the fall, we will be looking at the process for Home and Schools to consider incorporation and becoming not-for-profit organizations.
- QFHSA will be able to partner with member associations for beautifying school grounds/school garden projects. Contact the office for more information.
- In September, Home and School associations will be asked to provide one insurance certificate outlining the "food fundraisers" for the year (no dates needed).

Thank you to all the Executive members and volunteers who contributed their time, energy and creative ideas this past school year.

If you are moving on, please support your High School Home and School Association.

Parenting Series Coming to QFHSA

The Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations will be hosting a series of parenting workshops this fall and winter presented by Karen Delage, a family life educator with ParenTeenFocus. These workshops will be open to our members and will be free of charge. Karen will be attending the QFHSA Executive Workshops on Oct 1, 2019 and will have an opportunity to introduce herself and share with you her topics and approach.

First Workshop: “Who Are You and What Have You Done to My Child?”

Date: October 23, 2019

Participants will:

- Explore teen development, focusing on the “individualization” stage (ages 12-14)
- Translate their child's challenging behaviors into changing developmental needs
- Distinguish between “normal” teen behaviors and when there is cause for concern
- Be introduced to the parent role of “consultant” to support healthy adaptation
- Identify concrete strategies on how to approach issues and keep communication open

Karen Delage Family Life Educator

The teenage “transition” phase (elementary to high school, grades 5-8) is generally recognized as a turbulent, destabilizing time for both parent and teen. Calling for a renegotiation of the relationship roles and rules, this important developmental phase is often met with tension, communication breakdowns and augmented conflicts as both sides try to adapt.

Karen Delage, Family Life Educator, has worked with the Youth Protection mandate for over a decade, witnessing first-hand the devastation this life stage can bring. In September 2017, seeking to offer prevention-based education to parents, Karen began giving workshops in the community. Her content is built on experience, theory and research, and her educator background assures that participants leave with concrete tools, know-how and strategies in hand. Parental education, guidance and skill acquisition are offered on topics such as teen developmental needs, role adaptations, emotional regulation and effective communication. Karen's workshops have been offered to over 200 parents and she is proud to boast an overall 9.2/10 recommendation rating with a high rate of participant return.

Karen's work has been supported by various schools

and school boards in the Montérégie (RSB, NFSB), extraordinary CLC community development agents and by ARC (Assistance and Referral Center). Additional partnerships have recently been generated for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year, including with the MWCN (Montérégie West Community Network) and with the MEPEC (Montérégie East Partnership for the English Speaking Community).

Karen is passionate and committed to offering support, education and prevention workshops to parents across the English communities of Quebec. She seeks to continue creating strong partnerships with like-minded collaborators who can help make it happen.

Please contact her for more information: Karen Delage 514-575-5591

Karedelage@hotmail.com



Boris Brott, directeur artistique Tamas Kulish, directeur général

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Thank You, Jing Zhang

In the summer of 2018, the QFHSa took a chance on a young woman looking for her first job in Canada, doing her Masters in Information Technology from McGill University. Although not eligible to be hired under the Canada Student Jobs Program, QFHSa dipped into its Archive budget and offered Jing an opportunity to assist Marissa Stimpson, our part time archivist, in the work underway, bringing order to the QFHSa historical material, originally started by Marion Daigle in 2012. Jing settled in and, together with Marissa, made steady progress.

When QFHSa applied for, and was granted, financial support for our 75th Anniversary Project- *A History of Achievement* from the Secretariat Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers, assistance was required to research the locations of the 370 Home and School Associations. Jing was given the opportunity to develop the project. Jing sifted through 75 years of QFHSa NEWS issues looking for material that reflected the activities of local associa-

tions. Also using the NEWS, she has created and populated the interactive map as well as the data files for every currently active association. Jing accompanied Carol Meindl to the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network AGM in Knowlton as well as to the Quebec Community Groups Network's AGM in Montreal, both in June, to offer interpretation for the exhibition banners that were produced as part of the special anniversary project. Jing took it upon herself (with assistance from Bing Bai) to create a records management policy, to help QFHSa organize the 30 years of electronic files filling our computer space. Jing was inspired by the work we do and wanted to help advance it.

For the past year Jing has been part of the QFHSa family, and we have been blessed with her contributions. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her new position with the Northern Lights Library Network in Alberta.

Summary of Literacy Activities from June 2018-June 2019

Summer 2018 – Sort, Donate, Purge: When the QFHSA office boardroom underwent a summer facelift, boxes of books were sorted, donated or discarded. The QFHSA office now has a manageable number of books to pass along and staff and volunteers will attend a few sales to fulfill book requests i.e. high school level texts, certain themes, etc.

Book Donations: St. Michael's High School and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary (new Home and Schools), West Island Black Community Association (WIBCA), *The Learning Exchange*, Heritage Lower St. Lawrence Library, Gaspé Polyvalent, Beaconsfield High School, West Island Women's Centre, West Island Mission's backpack program, Place Cartier Adult Centre, Waapihtiwewan School, Grosse Ile School, New Carlisle High School and New Richmond High School, all received boxes of books.

New Partnerships: The QFHSA Literacy committee networked with some new organizations/projects this year: *The Literacy Exchange's (TLE)* 1000 Books before Kindergarten project, the Waapihtiwewan School in Ouje-Bougoumou, Québec and books were purchased from *First Book Canada* at discounted prices. Books from *First Book Canada* are destined for economically disadvantaged communities or areas where access to books is limited.

“Reluctant Reader” Project: Unfortunately, only three (3) high school teachers took advantage of this financial subsidy which enables teachers and students to purchase interesting reading materials for students reading below grade level.

Born-to-Read: The QFHSA donated a total of 10 Born-to-Read bags to Grosse Ile School and The Heritage Lower St. Lawrence Library for their 0 to age 2 programs.

QFHSA Well-Represented in The Struggle for The Survival of The English School Boards

A Commentary by Brian Rock

As we await the bill (projet de loi) to be tabled in the National Assembly of Québec to put into place the electoral promises of la Coalition Avenir Québec majority government to abolish school boards in the province, the various English-speaking groups have been as busy as beavers working behind the scenes. The educational prognosticators are betting on the abolition of **An Act respecting school elections** E-2.3, a plethora of amendments to the **Education Act** I-13.3, and the establishment of new structures – regional service centers for

schools.

Are we worried? Of course, we are ! *Anxiety* is the code word. As the insurance company advertises: “You are in good hands with _____.” We are, in fact, in excellent hands, as our QFHSA representatives have been delivering the goods in the provincial arena.

Linton Garner, our QFHSA President, is a member of the ALLIANCE PROMOTING PUBLIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN QUEBEC (APPELE-QUEBEC). The Executive Director of the REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

OF WEST QUEBECERS (RAWQ), Linton is also a Director of the QUEBEC COMMUNITY GROUPS NETWORK (QCGN).

Carol Meindl, our QFHSA Executive Director, is a member of the Steering Committee of APPELE-QUEBEC, and represents QFHSA at the COALITION INCLUSION QUEBEC. Carol is also the Secretary of the QUEBEC ANGLOPHONE HERITAGE NETWORK (QAHN), and a member of the COMMITTEE FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF THE CURRICULUM OF THE HISTORY OF QUEBEC (COMECH-QUEBEC)

Debi Brown, a QFHSA Past President, is now QFHSA Secretary, and chairs the QFHSA EDUCATION COMMITTEE, whose mandate also includes the literacy projects of QFHSA.

And, finally, yours truly, **Brian Rock**, Immediate Past President of QFHSA, is the Chairman of the QFHSA RIGHTS AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE. A former Secondary Teacher of the History of Quebec and Canada, he is also a member of COMECH. He also chairs the COMMITTEE ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS EMBELLISHMENT PROJECT of the SOUTH HULL ELEMENTARY HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION in Western Quebec.

QFHSA will be extremely busy over the next eighteen months. Considering that numerous government bills including No. 21 and No. 5 among others, have not been as well received as Premier **François Legault** and his cabinet ministers had prayed for, educated guesses are that **Jean-François Roberge**, the Minister of Education and Higher Education of Québec, may not introduce his awaited projet de loi until the National Assembly of Québec resumes sit-

ting after the summer break!

What is important is for the members of our QFHSA local associations to become more involved than ever before. Keep yourselves more informed through the print, television, and radio media outlets. If you are interested in knowing more about the educational and literacy issues, call QFHSA and ask to join the QFHSA Education Committee. If you are interested in knowing more about constitutional guarantees, issues regarding rights and freedoms, and helping write resolutions, ask to join the QFHSA Rights and Resolutions Committee.

Premier **François Legault** and **Jean-François Roberge**, the Minister of Education and Higher Education of Québec, have announced time and again, that they want to increase the involvement of the parents. Let's make sure that the voice of parents is heard loud and clear! Become more involved in your local Home and School Associations! Find out more about QFHSA!

WHAT'S UP WITH THE QFHSA WEBSITE?

The QFHSA is developing a new website and it is an on-going process. Not all material has been uploaded yet. We hope to have the website completed by September.

Seen Through an Archivist's Eyes

By Jing Zhang

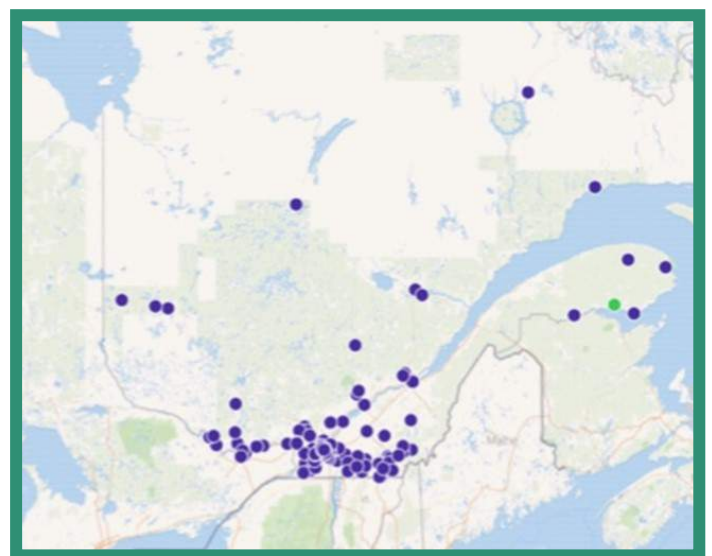
In summer 2018, I finished my internship at QFHSA. I really enjoyed my time at the association and was thinking about contributing more ever since. At the end of 2018, I got a surprise email from Carol Meindl—I was offered a job as an archivist. Up to this day, I still consider it was the best present I was offered in the year 2018 because I was given another opportunity to combine the theories I learned at McGill with real-life projects.

The project began with the digitization of the newsletters. Then, I was responsible for creating an interactive map, which is part of the 75-year anniversary of QFHSA. This project will allow online users to explore the evolution of the QFHSA members over the past 75 years. To create the online map, I had to retrieve and verify roughly 400 schools' addresses online. At first, I thought this would be an easy process. However, when I retrieved the information from the membership forms from the 1950s, and then verified the information one by one on Google maps, I saw that some schools were closed and the building was used by commercial companies. Some became libraries or government agencies. Some became different schools. A few disappeared—we can't even see any trace of their existence. I felt sad and a little depressed. I thought about the students at that time, when their schools had to be closed. I thought about where they had to go and where the teachers ended up eventually. I remember that my primary school in Beijing had to be closed due to the decrease in student number. 20 years later, no one knows my primary school was there. The building only exists in the memory of my generation. As I kept retrieving the Quebec schools' information and reading the newsletters, I grew at-

tached to the job and the association.

This year, more information will be added to the interactive map. In QFHSA's archives, we have photographs and articles of schools and students' activities. We are hoping that these materials can remind people the times they spent at school, even if their schools may not exist anymore. As I am completing the first part of the project, I feel that I have witnessed a small part of the history in Quebec. I feel honored that I participated in a Canadian cultural heritage project as a visible minority newcomer woman.

Working with QFHSA has always been a meaningful and fruitful time. Seeing my colleagues at QFHSA contributing to the English-speaking communities in Quebec motivates me to work harder. I was also able to initiate other projects and everyone in the office is very open to new ideas. As the interactive map project approaching the second stage in this year, I would like to thank QFHSA for offering me this opportunity again. I am always willing to contribute more to help the association to thrive.



H&S distribution 1960s

Focus on



The locals

Genesis Elementary School

The year started with a bang at Genesis Elementary School with two tremendously successful fundraisers, the Family Carnival and Chocolate Bar Drive. These funds were used throughout the year to celebrate Halloween with a dance extravaganza, a memorable Breakfast with Santa, a Valentine's day pizza party, an epic Fun Day and an end of the year show for the entire school. We are also very proud to have contributed towards the purchase of an outdoor climbing ap-

paratus for the school yard and offset the cost of fields trips for every child.

This year marks the end of term for the executive team comprised of Anita Catalani, Patty Marinelli, Sandra Pisegna and Tina Rosato. These women showed great dedication to the association and shared a common vision of creating memorable experiences for the children. Together with an incredible team of enthusiastic and hard-working volunteers, the H&S Association had an unforgettable year!

Lord Aylmer Elementary School

A HUGE congratulations to one of our very own-Pamela Birkett who last night received the Western Québec School Board Volunteer of the Year Award!! A long-standing member of our Home & School, this award is in recognition of her dedication and exceptional leadership as Treasurer of our Home & School and Coordinator of the Christmas Bazaar, as well as for her outstanding contribution as a volunteer at both the Lord Aylmer School and our Home & School. We thank you Pam for your passion, perseverance and commitment to our students, teachers and staff, and school community. Congratulations!!!



(L to R) Angele Duval-Belanger, President of Lord Aylmer Home & School, Melanie Beaudoin, past President of Lord Aylmer H&S, Pamela Birkett, past Treasurer of the Lord Aylmer H&S and Eldon Keon, Principal of Lord Aylmer School.

St. Charles Elementary School

“Together We Can Achieve”

Into the second half of the school year and St. Charles Home & School (H & S) has been busy helping, preparing and organizing the usual spring events – Carnival, Grad movie night, Staff Appreciation Week, Movie Night and the Sharks Clothing Drive.

For Carnival, the children enjoyed daily events the week of February 25th, thanks to the teachers, staff and Grade 6 student volunteers. On Friday, the last day, H & S hosted the bingo event with prizes from Babar Books and treats of cookies and juice. The Kings and Queens were randomly chosen from each grade.

After school on Friday April 12th the grads enjoyed watching the movie Crazy Rich Asians.

For Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week H & S decided to combine the Daycare Staff with the Teachers and it was a huge success. The theme this year is Super Heroes and with the generous donations from the St. Charles community H & S treated the staff to various goodies, daily raffles of prizes throughout the week and a delicious lunch-

eon. The bulletin board looks amazing with messages from each student expressing how he/she appreciates his/her teacher or daycare staff. Students enjoyed cheering for their teachers in the gym for the minute to win it games. The winning team of teachers and staff won gift certificates to Dagwoods.

On April 26th H & S hosted a second Movie Night featuring Small Foot and a fun time was had by all.

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

The stunning mural that St. Charles students helped to create with Mr. Marcio Melo and organized by Mrs. Clark has been installed on the front wall of the school.

Congratulations to Julie Savoie who received the QFHSA Unsung Hero award and Maureen Koggel who received the QFHSA Golden Torch award. The QFHSA awards ceremony was held on May 4th.

We are extremely thankful and grateful to our dedicated H & S members and volunteers and school staff and teachers who make our St. Charles school community so special.





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 for our next issue in August, 2019.



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