

SOCIETY PAGES

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LITERARY FEAST
FESTIN LITTÉRAIRE



- LITERARY FEAST
- MORRIN CENTRE WINS AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURAL MERIT

morrin

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Happy Holidays!



SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 33 ■ WINTER 2012

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LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	12:00PM-9:00PM
Wednesday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Thursday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Friday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM-4:00PM

LIBRARY HOURS – HOLIDAYS

December 24 and 25	CLOSED
December 27, 28, 29, 30	12:00PM – 4:00PM
December 31 to January 2	CLOSED

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The mission of the **Morrin Centre** is to share and foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region. The Morrin Centre is administered by the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec.
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

As the year of 2011 draws to a close, it is a good time to take stock and reflect upon our accomplishments of the past year in the context of our long-term goals and objectives.

First and foremost, it is a time for celebration. We have reached the milestone of having completely finished the extraordinary restoration and «*mise en valeur*» of the entire Morrin Centre building.

It has been a long road, fraught with all manner of difficulties, financial, logistical, legal, architectural and political, and we have now finally arrived at our goal. We went from being a precarious unfunded tenant of one-quarter of a forgotten and unloved heritage building 10 years ago to being the owners, builders and occupiers of the entire restored and now cherished building.

The vocation of the Society and that of the building have now finally and completely come together and the result is the Morrin Centre, a cultural jewel of the city for which we all may be proud. The Morrin Centre has come of age, the building is a buzz of activity, the cultural programs are substantial and sustained and we are a true contributor to the enrichment of the cultural life of the city.



But as I have previously stated, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. We must turn our attention to the library, which has been soldiering faithfully on while we devoted much effort elsewhere. We must concentrate on improving our programs, assuring good and responsible governance and securing sources of long-term operating funds for the Centre. We must maintain a clear view of who we are and we must always act in respect for our past and our true identity as the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, a unique institution in the Canadian cultural landscape, founded in 1824 and thriving and bursting with energy today, 187 years later.

To all our devoted staff, volunteers and members I extend my warmest greetings of the season and thank you all for your continued loyalty to our remarkable institution.

Yours sincerely,

David F. Blair
President

P.S. I have just returned from the Gala Mérites d'architecture de la Ville de Québec and I am extremely proud to announce that we were awarded the jury's special prize for the restoration and «*mise en valeur*» of the Morrin Centre.

MORRIN CENTRE WINS AWARD FOR ARCHITECTURAL MERIT

We are proud to announce that the Morrin Centre was presented with the Special Jury Award at the 8th edition of the Mérites d'architecture de la Ville de Québec earlier this year in November. Mérites d'architecture celebrates innovation and quality in architecture. The annual event awards architectural projects that have distinguished themselves in several categories.

Below is the transcribed speech given on the occasion by Martin Pineault, President of the Jury and head of the direction de la Capitale-Nationale at the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine (MCCCF).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as President of the Jury, I am honoured to present the Special Jury Award.

The selected project caught the jury's attention for the restoration works undertaken since 2005 to refurbish a building that is recognized as a heritage site for Canada and a historical monument for Québec.

The jury noted the commitment and efforts of those concerned in preserving and showcasing the various functions of the building throughout the centuries as prison, college, library and cultural centre, all while keeping the edifice abreast of security and accessibility norms in a subtle architectural blend of past and present.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

Moving onwards and upwards

The Holiday Season is well upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a healthy and happy New Year.

I am very proud to announce that all of the hard work that has gone into restoring the beautiful Morrin Centre is starting to pay off. It has just been announced that the Morrin Centre has won the Special Jury Prize in the Les Mérites d'architecture competition held by the City of Québec. Many thanks go out to all the staff, volunteers and the Council, past and present, for being involved in this process since 2005. It has been a tremendous undertaking and it is nice to see this project bearing fruit, not only for visitors, and for us who inhabit this beautiful building, but also in the recognition from our city. We have also entered the Fidéides competition which recognises cultural organisations and hope that this will bear fruit as well. As you can see things are moving forward now that we have left the restoration dust behind us.

New staff member

I would like to introduce the newest Morrin Staff member, Rajiv Juggernaut, who will now be taking care of Marketing and Communications. He hails from Mauritius Island and studied his masters in Marketing and Communications in Nancy, France, before moving to Quebec four years ago. I wish him a warm welcome.

The jury wanted to put this exceptional building in the spotlight and underline the exemplary restoration works that have brought it back to life. The Morrin Centre is indeed a heritage site of tremendous importance to Québec City.

I am therefore greatly pleased to present the Morrin Centre with the Special Jury Award! ■



Events, past and future

The most recent literary program that we have added to the roster of events that take place at the Morrin Centre is the QuebeCrime festival. This festival, which we hope will become an annual event, was held in late October in collaboration with La Maison Anglaise and The House of Crime and Mystery website and was a great success. Fourteen national and international crime writing authors appeared at the Morrin Centre to read and discuss their books. It was thrilling to be able to meet authors such as Ian Rankin, Lawrence Block and Louise Penny with whose books I am already familiar, as well as to discover authors such as Denise Mina, Andrew Pyper and Simon Toyne.

We are currently working on the 2012 edition of the ImagiNation writer's festival and will be sending out more information in the New Year.

Projects

Other projects that we are working on are:

- Seniors at the Centre, providing cultural activities that take place during the day and are aimed at the over-50s crowd;
- Improved accessibility to the newly restored chemistry lab by the purchase of a mechanised wheelchair stair climber.
- Creation of a virtual 3D tour of the prison cells, which will give access to people with reduced mobility who cannot reach the exhibition because of the narrow passageways.
- Both the Seniors and Mobility project are thanks to grants from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Winter is here again

You will notice we have laid down a new carpet in the foyer to protect the floors from the ravages of winter. We have also purchased a boot cleaning machine which we encourage you to use when you visit the centre with snow on your boots. Please continue to bring in your shoes when you visit since this helps us keep the centre clean and requires less maintenance.

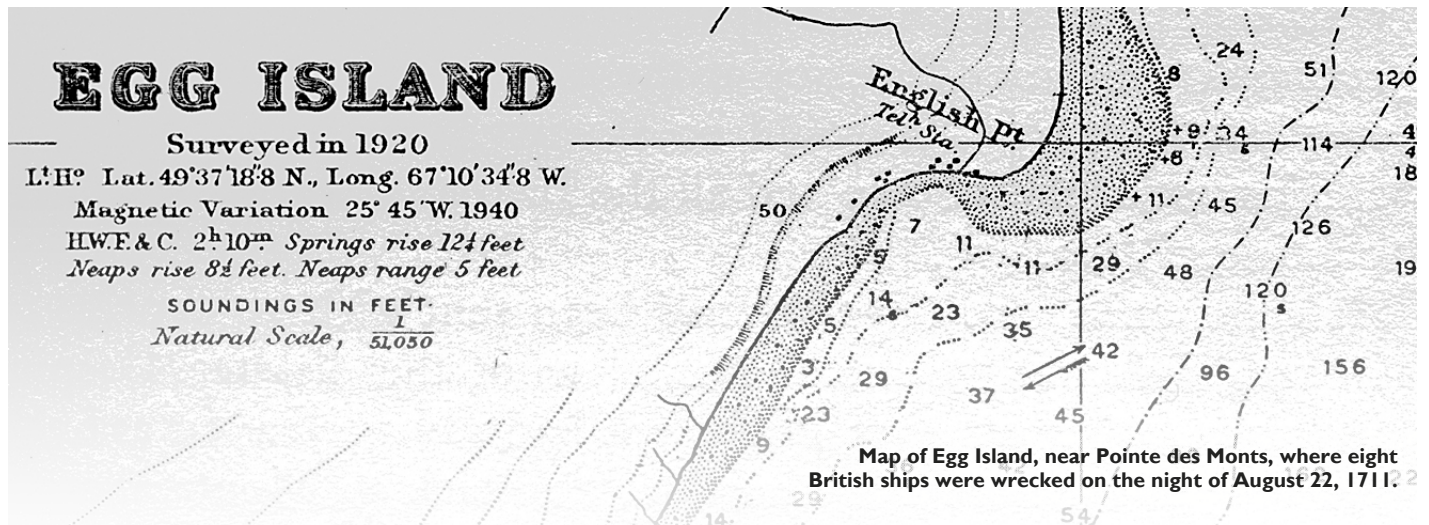
Wishing you all the best of the Holiday Season,

Sincerely,
Simon Jacobs

TRANSACTIONS

A NAVAL DISASTER 300 YEARS AGO

By Charles André Nadeau



The little church of Notre-Dame-des-Victoires, at Place Royale, owes its name to two events in the history of New France. One of those occurred just over 300 years ago and proved to be among the worst shipwrecks in Canadian history, second only to the loss of the *Empress of Ireland*.

In the spring of 1711, an English fleet departed Portsmouth and Plymouth en route towards North America. At the time, it was the largest armada ever to cross the Atlantic under the British flag. Its objectives were the capture of Quebec and of the French colony of *Plaisance* in Newfoundland. The commanders were Rear Admiral Sir Hovenden Walker of the White Squadron and Brigadier General John Hill. The number of sailors and soldiers participating in the expedition was almost equal to the entire population of New France. Victory looked as though it would be easy. But the undertaking turned out to be one of the greatest disasters of the Royal Navy in the 18th century.

The warships and transports leaving Great Britain sailed first for Boston to meet with the frigates and sloops patrolling in North American waters and to embark colonial troops. But the main purpose of the stopover in the Massachusetts port was to stock up on victuals. To ensure the secrecy of the operation, the ships had been provisioned in England for only a three-month deployment. Spies would thus have concluded that the expedition was destined for the Mediterranean. The acquisition of supplies in New England, however, met with difficulties, and the fleet left Boston only half-

stocked after making arrangements for follow-up provision vessels.

In North America, the biggest problem for Admiral Walker was not logistics but navigation. No reliable chart of the Saint Lawrence River was available. The captured French maps differed from one another and the makeshift chart produced by American navigators did not inspire confidence. The lack of competent pilots also proved a serious handicap. The few New Englanders who had sailed up the Canadian river had done so many years before and in small ships. Phips' journal following his 1690 trip to Quebec was available, but Phips was more lucky than skilful and after his repulse by Frontenac's legendary cannons had lost four vessels on his return. A French captain named Paradis had been captured in the Gulf area and enticed or compelled to act as pilot. But Paradis admitted himself that he'd already lost two ships in the river during his career.

The Anglo-American amphibious force departed Boston on July 30, 1711. Three weeks later, it anchored in the Bay of Gaspé, having encountered heavy fog. A Basque fishing boat moored in the area was burned along with outbuildings ashore — the only damage inflicted by the squadron. On August 21, Walker resumed the voyage, but in the afternoon visibility dropped again drastically and remained almost nil all the following day. Estimating his position well cleared of Anticosti Island and of the estuary of the river, he nevertheless decided to be prudent and stop. He ordered the ships to heave to

TRANSACTIONS- CONTINUED

with their bows pointing south. Around ten o'clock on the night of August 22, his flag captain reported the sighting of land, which he estimated was the south shore of the river. Walker then directed all vessels to head north. Shortly afterwards, breakers were spotted near the flagship. *Paradis* was summoned on deck and, to everyone's consternation, declared that they were perilously close to the north shore. The warship succeeded in extricating itself from the danger, but eight of the transports foundered on the shoals. Seven of them were full of soldiers and nearly 900 men and women perished.

After a council of war, Admiral Walker ordered the fleet to turn around and assemble in Sydney harbour. There, news arrived that problems had arisen in the dispatch of provision vessels to supplement the troops. Fearing the worst, a second council of war voted in favour of proceeding back to England immediately without attacking Placentia. The decision was fortuitous, since the frigate *Feversham* and the three victualing vessels sent from the American colonies later sank in a storm off Cape Breton. ■

Be safe or be bold?

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TRICKING THEM UP: ADVERTISING AND VALUES

By Louisa Blair

These are the ads that appear on my Facebook page: clothes for oversize women, that neat old trick to make my belly smaller, a gizmo for removing facial hair, a diet that made Donna Garman from Saskatoon lose over 100 lbs., a “luscious lemon meringue pie,” and a casino. How the hell did they know that I am middle-aged, fat, hairy and greedy?

One of the things I love about the library is that it is a refuge from advertising. The internet is full of it, TV is full of it, the buses are full of it, newspapers and magazines depend on it. But the library is one place where you can be sure your brains don't get sucked out through your eyes, to quote my favourite iconoclast George Monbiot, a reporter with the Guardian Weekly (read it at the library!).

Advertising is poetry, asserted a speaker at the Morrin Centre recently. Or is it witchcraft? Is it a motor of necessary economic growth, or is it promoting what is by now the outdated and impossible goal of infinite growth on a finite planet? Does it promote choice, or undermine our freedom? Does it reflect human values, or destroy them?

In an interview with PBS, a marketing guru described how the SUV evolved:

“They tricked them up, they painted them, they put leather seats in them, and ... out of the personal use of trucks grew the concept of a sport utility vehicle, higher off the ground ... you felt you were in charge of the world. If anybody smaller than you got in front of you, you could kind of run them over—even though you didn't want to do that—but you had this feeling of personal power.”

“Women who were going to work”, he added, “could feel that they weren't just stay-home women ... there was still some tease with danger, and tease with how you looked to the marketplace when you were in an SUV.”

The human values that the SUV ads promoted were thus: big is good, feeling higher than others is good, increasing your personal power is good, feeling you could run someone over if you wanted to is good, caring about “how you look to the marketplace” is good. Staying at home with children, or appearing to do so, is bad. Looking as though you are prepared to take risks is good, safety or the appearance of safety is bad. Implicitly, too, using up more fossil fuel for personal transport is good.

Cultural anthropologists have identified two types of values: intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic values relate to friendship, self-acceptance, community activism, benevolence, tolerance and the protection of nature. Extrinsic values are about fitting in with other people, looking attractive, being wealthy compared to others, personal achievement and power, social status. People have both kinds of values, but there is evidence that appealing to the second kind saps a person's regard for the first kind.

What do we know about advertising? We know that tobacco companies progressively target new populations as they are banned from advertising in rich countries. We live in a city where alcohol advertising pretty well sustains Quebecois festival culture. We see around us the creeping commercialization of childhood. And while I'm proud to live in the only jurisdiction in North America that bans advertising to children, offenders are rarely prosecuted, and the legislation hasn't been updated to deal with children's ‘advergames’ on the internet. One Canadian researcher reported that 90% of websites visited by children are consumer websites.

A 2005 advertising textbook estimates that the average American is exposed to some 500 to 1000 ads every day. This may be an underestimate—advertising students in one school are taught always to remember that their prospective audience will be seeing 3000 messages a day. Many of these are subliminal. Peter Langmaid wrote in 1986 that “there is irrefutable proof of the presence in the consumer's mind of advertising messages ... that are inaccessible to conscious recall.”

We depend to a pathetic extent, however, on advertisers themselves to give us hard information on the impacts of advertising—there is little independent research, and the media are not likely to report on it, as they depend on it.

But some of the evidence shows that advertising increases consumer debt, and goads people into working longer hours to increase their income. Is it coincidence that we are becoming slaves to 1) the acceleration of technological time, and 2) personal debt? I advise you to work shorter hours, and take your saved time to go to the library, where the advertising can't reach you.

And for those of us with our faces glued to computer screens for much of the day, it's worth remembering that everything we do is being tracked by advertisers. Information stored by search engines, social networking

TRANSACTIONS - CONTINUED

sites and webmail services are opening up vast markets for advertisers trying to tailor their ads specifically to you and me – did someone intercept that email I sent about dying for a luscious lemon meringue pie? How poetic of them.

Further reading

Advertising Standards Canada
www.adstandards.com/en/Standards/theCode.aspx

La publicité destinée aux enfants : Identifier la meilleure protection possible. Options consommateurs, 2008.

www.option-consommateurs.org/documents/principal/fr/File/rapports/pratiques_commerciales/oc_ic_publicite_enfant_200804.pdf

Think of Me as Evil? Opening the Ethical Debates in Advertising. Public Interest Research Centre and WWF, UK, 2011. <http://www.pirc.info/projects/advertising/>

Monbiot, George. The subtle poison that we are all hooked on. The Guardian Weekly, Nov. 4, 2011. ■



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In Memoriam

Dr. Allen Alexander Petryk, Ph.D. (1938-2008)
 Member of the Literary and Historical Society of
 Quebec

Dr. Allen Alexander Petryk, Ph.D., passed away in 2008, at the age of 70, leaving behind an enduring footprint in his field of work and in the cultural life of Québec City. Dr. Petryk, a dedicated geologist and a versatile artist, will be dearly remembered as a fervent supporter of the arts. ■

Once Upon a Time

FREE STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

So, what's your story?

Come discover your inner storyteller over our 2-day storytelling workshop, *Once Upon a Time*. You'll brainstorm story ideas with professional storyteller Taylor Tower. You'll learn how to mold and shape your story, pulling out the rich details and emotional triggers that make a good story great. Participants will rehearse and perform their stories, partaking in one of the oldest and most rewarding of human traditions. This is a great opportunity to learn and have fun, for free!

All stories will be collected in a book to be launched at the 14th Blue Metropolis Literary Festival in Montreal, which takes place from April 18 - 23, 2012. At this time, interested participants will have an opportunity to perform their stories for this very special event. *Once Upon a Time* is a Blue Metropolis project in collaboration with the Quebec Writers' Federation, and aims to showcase the heritage and contributions of Quebec's English-speaking community.

Workshops are limited to 10 participants and the deadline for registration (January 15, 2012) is coming up quickly. Register now!

To register or for more details, feel free to contact Stefanie Johnston at the Morrin Centre by telephone at 418 694-9147 or by email at stefaniejohnston@morrin.org. ■

LIBRARY PAGES

ON THE SHELF

A THEMATIC REVIEW OF SOME INTERESTING, IMPORTANT OR JUST ENTERTAINING BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden, LHSQ Member

This issue's theme:

Pole to Pole and Some Cold Places In Between

As December approaches and winter really takes hold, consider reading about icy places and the people who have been to them. Accounts of polar adventures and the quest to find the North-West Passage have engaged generations of readers.

Sir Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic explorations are the subject of books, films and even leadership courses. A riveting account of the famous 1914 – 1916 expedition is *Shackleton's Boat Journey* by F. A. Worsley, captain of the *Endurance*. This first-person account provides plenty of "I was there, too" insights.

George Malcolm Thompson's *The North-West Passage*, published in 1975, is a solid chronicle of various attempts to find a direct route from Europe to Asia, especially those that took place in the 19th century. He writes of "Seas cold enough to kill a man in minutes. Floating mountains of ice able to crush a ship like a biscuit. Snow that blinded the helmsman and frost that formed on the deck thick enough and fast enough to overturn a vessel." From early Vikings to Frobisher and Franklin and finally to Amundsen, the author writes about courage, folly and eventual success.

One of the library's new acquisitions, *Polar Imperative: A History of Arctic Sovereignty in North America*, covers periods prior to those touched by Thompson and extends well into the 20th and 21st centuries. Canadian historian Shelagh D. Grant looks at Arctic exploration and settlement, aboriginal/non-aboriginal relationships, international law, foreign relations, the Cold War, climate change and prospects for the future.

High Latitude was the result of two trips Farley Mowat took across the far north in 1966. This work deals with the people of the north and how contact with southern society, culture, technology and government policies has influenced their way of life. As always, Mowat tells a good story and never forgets the power of using humour to make a point.

Mt. Everest, the Top of the World, reaches nearly 10,000 meters into the clouds and into the human imagination. *Everest Canada: the Ultimate Challenge*, by Al Burgess and Jim Palmer, documents the first ascent of Everest by a Canadian team. The strength of this account lies in the details of the preparations and relationships as well as the descriptions of the culture and sacrifices of the many Sherpa guides and their families who helped Canadians reach the summit in October 1982.

Maurice "The Rocket" Richard climbed to the top of the hockey world, was master of the ice and still is one of Quebec's best-loved athletes. Roch Carrier's "The Hockey Sweater" is still one of Canada's best-loved short stories. So what could make a better Saturday night read than Carrier's *Our Life with The Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story?* Told in the same engaging style as "The Hockey Sweater," Carrier writes not only about the life of the famous Canadian, but of the times that shaped him—the Depression, World War II, political and social changes in Quebec and the evolution of the NHL. Even readers who do not identify with The Rocket will appreciate the exploits of the legions of little boys who wanted to play like their hero. It is Carrier's descriptions of these youngsters, including himself, that engage readers between periods.

Bernd Heinrich takes readers to frozen ponds, the forest floor and beyond in *Winter World: The Ingenuity of Animal Survival*. Heinrich, a biologist, explores the mysteries of how animals, from tiny to huge, survive sub-zero temperatures and virtual famine for months on end. Heinrich lives in near-by Maine; many of the animals he mentions, including squirrels, mice, bears and bats, can also be observed here in Quebec.

A frozen lake... a frozen river... a frozen sidewalk in December. Two women authors, two psychological studies and two (or is it three?) murders...

Anne Hebert's *Kamouraska*, published in 1970, is a Quebec classic. Moving between Quebec City, the town of Sorel and along the St. Lawrence River to a frozen

LIBRARY PAGES- CONTINUED

cove on the south shore, this novel explores what leads Elisabeth d'Aulnières to orchestrate the murder of her first husband, Antoine Tassy, the seigneur of Kamouraska, and what she thinks as her second husband, Jerome Rolland, lies dying in their Quebec City home. This penetrating novel deserves a fresh read, through a 21st century lens.

It is easy to understand why Literary and Historical Society members and friends enjoy Louise Penny's novels. There are enough "who done it?" elements in her Chief Detective Armand Gamache series to engage mystery buffs but also enough development of setting (often Quebec's Eastern Townships) and characters to keep general fiction readers happy. Her second novel, *Dead Cold*, is no exception. How did a homeless woman end up dead on a Montreal sidewalk in winter? How did another woman end up dead on a frozen lake during the town's annual curling competition?

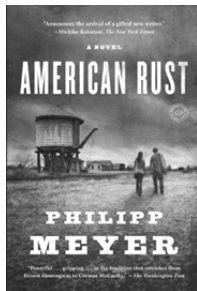
Literary critics may protest against a comparison between Hebert and Penny but readers will agree that these two authors demonstrate that the coldest place

on earth is not the Arctic or the Antarctic, an ice rink or a mountain peak. It is the human heart.

The very young may enjoy Eric Carle's trade mark illustrations in *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do You Hear?*, written by Bill Martin, Jr. The repetition of sounds and words foster language development and an interest in reading. Adults will also enjoy introducing this oversized book to children or grandchildren.

Two choices for older youngsters are *Jane Franklin's Obsession* and *Parry of the Arctic*. Canadian author Pierre Berton combines his dry wit, his love of the North and his understanding of Canadian history in a series designed for younger readers.

Discovering The Iceman by Shelley Tanaka, with illustrations by Laurie McGrand, is a well-crafted book written for curious kids (and even adults who may not have heard of the archeological find). It blends just the right amount of science and just the right amount of mystery with just the right amount of historical fiction. ■

**BOOK REVIEW****Death of the Midwest**

By Barry McCullough

Administrative Director

Philipp Meyer, *American Rust*

I was drawn to this book due to my fascination with the American Midwest's decaying towns and cities.

These places, in this case the fictional Pennsylvania mill town of Buell, figure prominently in Philipp Meyer's first novel. However, the story's true value lies in the struggles and hopes of the characters, particularly Isaac English, the brainy, stick-thin, recent high school graduate who is stuck in Buell, and his unlikely friend and former star football player Billy Poe, or simply "Poe" as he's known to most. The book revolves around six characters and how one tragic event threatens to completely alter their lives.

Somewhat of a genius, Isaac is left to look after his paraplegic father following his mother's apparent suicide and his sister going off to Harvard. After much lamenting about being stuck in Buell, he decides to leave town, convincing a reluctant Poe to join him. Barely a day into their journey, they end up in an abandoned

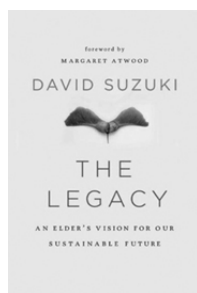
building and the events that transpire shape the rest of the novel.

After Isaac's departure, his sister, the newly-married Lee, comes back to town to assist their father and attempt to convince him to move into a long-term care residence. She and Poe, who is back in town, rediscover past feelings, a romantic subplot that doesn't feel too gratuitous and that adds a layer of complexity to the main story. Isaac, who has also returned but is still determined to make it to the west coast, soon leaves again, and Poe is left behind to face the consequences of what happened during their aborted trip. Lee is caught between the two of them. Poe's mother and the town Sheriff, formerly lovers, are also enveloped by the drama.

At times, I found myself lacking empathy for some of the characters. Many of them seemed helpless and irredeemable, as are many of the Rust Belt's dying cities and towns. Like these places, however, one must look deeper to see the potential that lies within. Like Meyer's characters, these towns have themselves to blame to some extent for their misfortunes, but at the same time they have been dealt a difficult hand. In the end, you can't help but root for those who actually have the desire to make a positive change. ■

LIBRARY PAGES- CONTINUED

BOOK REVIEWS

**Overfishing the World**

By Michael Poulin, LHSQ Member

David Suzuki, *The Legacy: An Elder's Vision for a Sustainable Future*

This is an inspiring book by an established scientist and environmentalist. It is short and accessible to all and I recommend it

to anyone interested in nature and its protection. Suzuki recalls his life as a young boy when nature was bountiful and when there was seemed to be no apparent limit to harvesting the earth's resources. However, within his own lifetime, world population growth and relentless exploitation of natural resources has led us to the point where we no longer live in balance with what nature can provide. One part I particularly appreciated is his explanation of exponential growth and how depletion of resources can occur suddenly. He ties this to concrete examples, such as commercial fishing. This helps us understand why we should be harvesting from nature in much more sustainable way. He also reminds us that we ourselves are also part of nature. We are the water we drink, the air we breathe and the food we eat, and by harming nature we are harming ourselves. The book presents this cold truth but it is presented from the perspective of his life experiences and the moments he has shared with others, including the last weeks he spent with his father. So although the book is effective in alarming the reader, it also inspires hope and a desire to move in the right direction toward a sustainable future.■

**Death by Spite**

by Simon Jacobs, Executive Director

Denise Mina, *The End of the Wasp Season*

If you enjoy reading murder mysteries, then you'll love this one by an author who came to the QuebeCrime festival, Scottish novelist Denise Mina.

The main character is Alex Morrow, a five-months-pregnant Glaswegian police detective who finds herself heading up the murder investigation of a young woman with no apparent motive. Alex is second in command in a department rife with discord and labour woes and finds herself caught between her ineffective self-promoting boss and the detectives working under her. We learn from the beginning who the main protagonists are but Mina expertly unravels the true nature of their crime and their motives for committing it. Throughout the book the shadow of the overbearing banker, Lars Anderson, hangs menacingly over the plot and fittingly he is later found hanging from a tree on the family property. As the book evolves we discover just how dysfunctional his family is.

At the QuebeCrime festival, the author said she was fascinated by the idea that someone would appear to commit suicide just to spite someone, and decided to write a story around this idea. Hence the suicide letter left by Lars Anderson.

With a plot line that tightens in on itself while the story of the crime is unravelled, a believable array of characters and great descriptive powers, Denise Mina's book is one I highly recommend. ■

IN MEMORIAM

FRANCIS H. CABOT (1925-2011)



Francis H. Cabot, financier and renowned horticulturalist passed away on November 19 at his home in La Malbaie, Quebec, at the age of 86. Mr. Cabot was the honorary chairman of the capital campaign of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec from 2006 to 2009. The campaign aimed to raise funds for restoration works at the Morrin Centre.

Francis Cabot successfully led the campaign to garner 5 million dollars. An implicated member of the LHSQ, Francis Cabot made substantial personal donations in addition to his fundraising achievement.

A patron of the arts and a Harvard graduate, Francis Cabot will also be remembered for having created two of the most celebrated gardens in North America, and for having founded the Garden Conservancy, a non-profit organization involved in the preservation of the most deserving and astonishing private gardens. His book "The Greater Perfection: The Story of the Gardens at Les Quatre Vents," was published in 2001.■

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

“MARK YOUR CALENDAR, GRAB YOUR HAT, AND HEAD TO THE MORRIN CENTRE!”

Bethann Merkle

Please contact us today to sign up for any upcoming events mentioned in this article. We welcome early RSVPs.

As you are likely aware, our events calendar has been full this autumn! We hosted 261 visitors during Journées de la cultures, enjoyed a chamber music concert by Trio Beau Soir and continued our partnership with Festival International de Conte Jos Violon during an evening with Nova Scotia storyteller Clara Dugas. The English Discussion Group resumed, and currently 30 participants are registered. As many of you know, the first annual QuébecCrime Festival (held the last weekend of October) was a big hit.

Meanwhile the Seniors at the Center initiative has really taken off! Thanks to the dedicated effort and substantial contributions of our 11-member committee, we have developed a list of programming possibilities, as well as some viable ideas for addressing accessibility concerns. Specifically, the committee suggested and wholeheartedly developed the concept of an afternoon lecture and discussion series featuring topics of literary and historical interest. At least once per month (excluding the holiday season), the series will offer a presentation in a combination of French and English. This initiative is specifically designed to engage community members (50 years of age and over) in a comfortable setting where they can enjoy bilingual exchange, practice language skills in their target language and learn about a range of literary and historical topics. If you have suggestions for topics, or would like to participate, please feel free to contact us!

On that note, the inaugural lecture in this series was delivered by local historian Jean-François Desmeules in late November and explored the nuances of Francophone and Anglophone efforts to celebrate Quebec City's anniversaries in 1908 and 2008. Also in November, Dr. Donald Fyson delivered a stimulating talk on “the Morrin Centre's Criminal Past”, and shared results of his ongoing research into this fascinating era of our building's history. The next lecture in the afternoon series will take place on January 23, 2012. Presented by LHSQ member Charles André Nadeau, “The Second Victory of Notre Dame” features the tragic Walker expedition of 1711 and the influence of this event on Quebec City.

Following this lecture on Canada's second largest maritime disaster, author Anne Renaud will join us February 6, 2012 (1:00-2:30 PM) to discuss her book about another

significant maritime event. Ms. Renaud's lecture on the Empress of Ireland's tragic shipwreck will emphasize the process of historical research and writer's craft involved with writing “Into the Mist: The Story of the Empress of Ireland”.

We are also excited to announce a unique performance arts opportunity in February. In collaboration with the “Once Upon a Time” project (sponsored by Blue Metropolis Project and the Quebec Writer's Federation), we will be hosting a 2-day “How to craft and perform a story” workshop. The workshop will be led by Taylor Tower, known for her regular contributions to the *Confabulation* storytelling series (confabulationmontreal.com), some of which have been selected as the *Best of Confabulation's First Year*, featured as part of the 2011 *Montreal Fringe Festival*, and told on CBC Radio One's *WireTap*. The workshop is scheduled for February 18 and 19, 2012, and is limited to 10 participants. Open to brand new and amateur storytellers, the workshop will take participants through the steps of writing and performing a story. All stories developed during the workshop will be compiled with those developed in 4 other Quebec communities, and published in an anthology to be released during the 14th annual *Blue Metropolis Literary Festival* (April 18-23, 2012) in Montreal. Participants may also have the opportunity to perform their story during this festival.

Clearly, our staff and volunteers, LHSQ members and our community partners have been deeply involved with the successful events this autumn. Best wishes for the holidays, and we anticipate continuing this momentum with you in 2012. ■



Take a break, go to Prison!
And bring the kids!

December Guided Tour Dates:
9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 27, 28, 29, 30

English Tours: 12 pm and 3 pm
French Tours: 1:30 pm and 4 pm

Free for children aged 8 years and younger
\$8 per adult, \$6 per student

www.morrin.org 418 694-9147

FUNDRAISING

THE LITERARY FEAST 2011

By Marie Rubsteck

THE GUESTS ARE MET, THE FEAST IS SET. MAY'ST HEAR THE MERRY DIN.

— Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The third edition of the *Literary Feast* provided the community and partners with a variety of opportunities to support and celebrate the Morrin Centre. Our now completely restored historic building was the setting of a delightful event that took place on November 3rd. Guests were welcomed with a drink in the library and musical accompaniment by Martin Verret, violinist.

Just before Honorary President Graham Fraser started off the evening, Mr. Serge Tourangeau presented a cheque for \$5,000 to David F. Blair, president of the LHSQ, on behalf of Valeurs mobilières Desjardins. Mr. Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages, saw this as proof that the French-speaking community regards our institution with pride, observing that “Desjardins contributes to strong communities, communities that are full of vitality.” Mr. Fraser frequented the Lit & Hist as a child, and when he launched his biography of René Levesque in the library in 1984, the entire PQ cabinet showed up. Mr. Fraser has been at the Morrin Centre since becoming Commissioner, but this was the first time since the restoration was completed. “The real success, I think, is that a visitor would not realize that there had been a restoration,” he said. “The place glows the way it always did.”

After dinner, our keynote speaker Martin Goldfarb shared with us his thought-provoking perspective on cultural anthropology as it relates to marketing.

Never had the silent auction tables been so full and the goods offered so varied and unique. This was reflected in the \$5,600 raised, almost twice as much as last year. Overall, the Morrin Centre raised over \$23,000 that night. The success of this year’s Literary Feast was thanks to what we have become, a unique and dynamic English-language cultural centre, as much as to our efforts to draw a crowd. We were able to accomplish all with your help and the support of our volunteers, sponsors and partners, to whom we extend our hearty thanks. ■

The evening was made possible thanks to the help and expertise of our organizing committee:

Sovita Chander, President

Steve Cameron

Taylor Ireland

Nathaniel Findlay

Diane Kameen

Marie Rubsteck, LHSQ Staff



SILENT AUCTION SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our sponsors and partners for their wonderful support!

• GOLD LEVEL SPONSOR •



• SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS •



SILENT AUCTION SPONSORS

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Canyon Sainte-Anne
Carrefour international de théâtre
CBC Radio
Coleman-Robertson, Joanne A
Ex Machina
Fairmont Le Château Frontenac
Findlay, Nathaniel
Gros Becs (Les)
Hembroff, Don
Lavoie, Jack

Louis Garneau
Meredith, Clive and Diana
Merkel, Bethann G.
National Arts Centre
Opéra de Québec
Orchestre symphonique de Québec
Palais Montcalm
Pelley, Robert
Restaurant Saint-Amour, Traiteur
Robertson, Mary Roscoe Murphy
RTO Youth Ensemble
Saint-Amour Traiteur
Saint-Laurent Coiffure
Salle Albert Rousseau
Théâtre de la Bordée
Théâtre le Trident

We would also like to thank the caterer Saint-Amour, Location Gervais and Planète multi-services for their support.

SPECIAL THANKS

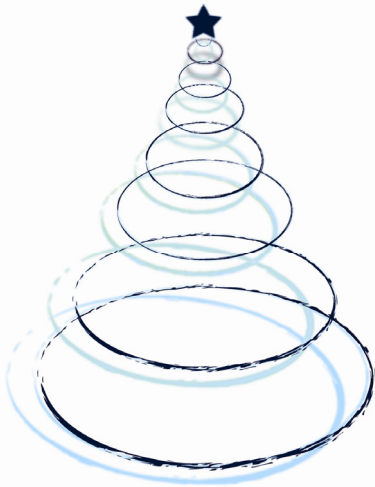
DEAR VOLUNTEERS,

The key to our success rests in people like you, whose precious contribution makes the Morrin Centre a better place. With gratitude in our hearts, we thank you for helping us grow and build a strong sense of community. We are grateful for all your help throughout 2011 and look forward to your continued involvement in 2012.

Here are the names of those who have made a difference in the life and operations of the Morrin Centre.

We are thankful to the members of Council for their implication in the governance of the LHSQ.

2011/2012 Council Members



David F. Blair, *President*
Louisa Blair, *Interim Secretary*
Sovita Chander, *Vice-President*
James Haberlin, *Treasurer*
Barbara Salomon de Friedberg, *Honorary Librarian*
Peter Black
William GK Boden
Gina Farnell
Nathanial B. Findlay
Shauneen Furlong
Taylor Ireland
Ladd Johnson
Hélène Thibault
Elspeth Tulloch



Thank you to those who gave so generously of their time so that we were able to offer a variety of interesting and innovative events. With the help of our library volunteers we were also able to offer great services and opening hours to the library users.



Morrin Center 2011 Volunteers

Diane Bird
Neil Bissoondath
Miriam Blair
Ronny Blair
Lucie Bouchard
Johanne Brochu
Britta Bryden
Jack Bryden
Katherine Burgess
Keith Burgess
Steve Cameron
Céline Carbonneau
Gonzalo Castro
Anne-Frédérique Champoux
Isaac Corey
Eileen Côté
Elizabeth Davies
Joanna de Haan

Michel de Seve
Jeanne Delany-Chambers
Jean Dionne
Marie-Eve Drouin
Guy Dubois
Louise Falardeau
Sharon Frenette
Donald Fyson
Lorna Gailis
Kyle Giffin
Jean Girard
Maxime Girard
Lori Godon
Suzy Hart
Maurice Hébert
Sophia Hobohm
Colin Hutcheson
Angelique Jenkins

Jacques Jobin
Diane Kameen
Siobhan Kiely
Cinthia Lacroix
Louiselle St-Laurent
Renée Lebeuf
Crisi Leonard
Pierre Masson
Lynne McGowan
Emilie Michaud
Jake McMitchell
Cédric Ménard
Pierre Mercier
Bethann G. Merkle
Eloisa Monserate
Shirley Nadeau
Julie Ruel
Nina Schroder



Gregory Schroeder
Dan Shier
Maureen Shier
Randall Spear
Maxime Tellier
Danielle Theriault
Sandra Thériault
Michèle Thibeau
Marie-Claude Tremblay
Bernard Vallée
Jessilyn Wong
Donna Yavorska
Mariya Zarkova
Hua Zhu

We look forward to working with you again. Thank You!

Simon Jacobs, Executive Director