
SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 55 ■ WINTER 2017 ■ \$2.00



- LOUISE PENNY SHINES AT THE LITERARY FEAST
- MAPPING QUEBEC'S LITERARY HERITAGE
- A FIRSTHAND ACCOUNT OF THE 1775 SIEGE OF QUEBEC

morrin

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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.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Members, friends and partners,

As 2017 comes to a close, I am delighted to see our members continue to be at the centre of our success story. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, for your participation in our events

and activities, as well as your contributions to shaping our cultural programming. We received several excellent applications over the course of the year for our member-led, Society-sponsored programming. The My Morrin series allowed members to present six events at our cultural hub during the year. Another call for ideas will be sent out at the end of November, and we hope you will continue to contribute to the excellence of our programs.

Since the launch of our membership drive in October 2016, nearly 300 new members have signed up. Our initial objective was to have 150 new members by Canada 150. Having already surpassed that number well before July 1, 2017, we decided to set ourselves a new

goal and reach 150 more members by the end of the year. We are well on our way to hitting our mark, but we need your help to spread the word.

I am happy to report that 2017 was another record-setting year for total attendance in all activities. This year was also a banner year for our annual fundraising evening with record attendance and revenue generated from the event.

Another way you can support the Centre is by contributing to our annual fundraising campaign. Donations to this year's campaign will help us refurbish our library furniture. As the number of visitors increases year to year, the tables, armchairs and desks that contribute to the magical setting of one of Canada's favourite libraries are subject to increased wear and tear. We ask that you please give to our campaign before the end of 2017, so that we may keep the magic and preserve this historic furniture.

I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season,

Barry Holleman
President

FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Members, Friends, and Partners,

As the year is coming to an end, so is my interim position as Executive Director. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Barry McCullough back just before the holidays, as we have several exciting projects coming up.

Over the past six months, I have gained a deeper appreciation of all the hard work our team puts in all year round. Eight full-time staff members, ten part-time and seasonal employees, and over fifty volunteers ensure that our cultural centre develops and expands rich, engaging programming in the areas of heritage interpretation, education and the arts. We couldn't have offered 343 days of activities in 2017 without the

support and participation of our members and patrons. Thank you all!

I hope you will join us in 2018 for a smorgasbord of activities, including our ninth annual ImagiNation Writers' Festival, a new series of My Morrin events, our Acting Out! theatre workshops, and to view our multimedia Our Writings exhibit on Quebec City's English-language literary landmarks. We will also continue to build our Children's Reading Program and related kids' activities.

I very much look forward to seeing you in the coming months. I wish you Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year.

Elizabeth Perreault
Interim Executive Director

TRANSACTIONS

EXCERPT FROM JOURNAL OF THOMAS AINSLIE, 1775

Originally printed by the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec
in the Seventh Series of Historical Documents, 1905

Introductory comments by Deborah van der Linde

"A threat is put into his mouth—it is reported that he swore—he wou'd dine in Quebec or in Hell on Christmas."

Once I read the above quote, I could not help but include a reprint of this old journal in the latest edition of the Society Pages - Christmas is right around the corner, after all. Both quote and excerpt are from "Journal of the Most Remarkable Occurrences in the Province of Quebec from the Appearance of the Rebels in September 1775 until their Retreat on the Sixth of May." It was written by Thomas Ainslie, the Collector of Customs at the Port of Quebec, during the American blockade on the city. There is a rather interesting preface to the publication by Fred C. Wurtele, the honorary Librarian of the LHSQ at the time.



The Death of General Montgomery
engraving based on the painting by John Trumbull

"16th - A fine mild day—wind S W. no shells thrown last night—in the afternoon they fired on the town from three guns & threw some small shells. We have undoubtedly dismounted some of their guns. The riflemen firing from garret windows in St. Roc wounded three men on the ramparts. In the night we threw some shells into St. Roc. At four o'clock in the morning the sentry behind the Artillery barracks left his post & alarm'd Palace Gate guard with a report that 600 men were marching up to the walls. The drums beat to arms, the great Bell of the Cathedral rang the alarm—every man ran arm'd to his post, & there the Garrison remained waiting the attack, but no enemy appear 'd. It blew excessively hard, with a heavy fall of snow.

17th - Wind at E. snowy stormy dark cold weather — nothing extraordinary.

18th - Snowy mild day wind at S. Some shells thrown into town today—we sent some into St. Roc. We do not see many people this morning—they have carried away their Guns, or have drawn them behind the shatter 'd embrasures. We had a man shot thro the head by a ball from a Garret in St. Roc. Wou'd to God that the suburbs were reduced to ashes, it only serves as a cover from which our enemies tease us continually.

19th - Mild snowy weather, wind at S. Some firing on our sentries last night by people concealed in St* Johns suburbs. We threw shells & carcasses into St Roc, & burnt four houses there. Cold afternoon.

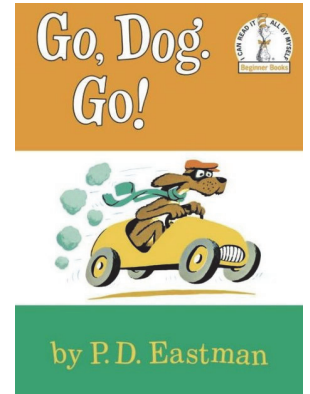
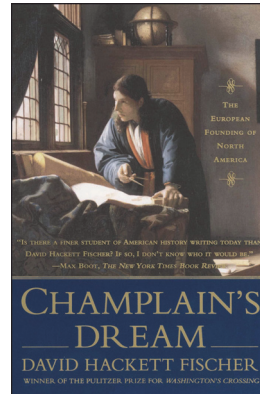
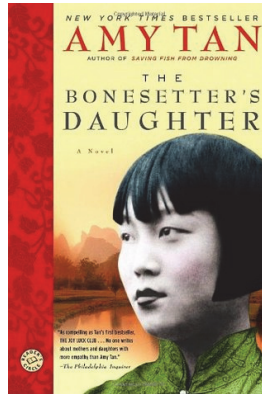
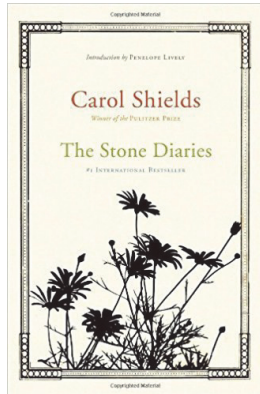
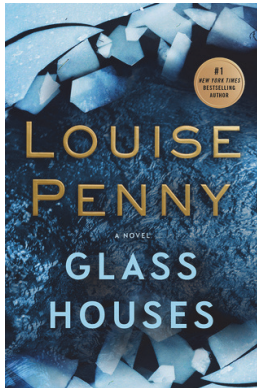
20th - Very cold, wind at W. nothing in the night remarkable. If this weather shall continue, Mr. Montgomery would find it difficult to eat his Christmas dinner in Quebec. A threat is put into his mouth—it is reported that he swore—"he wou'd dine in Quebec or in Hell on Christmas." We are determined he shall not dine in town & be his own master. From his General character we are apt to think that these words are not his. The weather is very severe indeed, no man after having been exposed to the air but ten minutes, cou'd handle his arms to do execution. Ones senses are benumb'd. If ever they attack us it will be in mild weather. The quantity of ice & snow now heap'd up in the places we have reckoned the weakest, are (thanks to the Climate) exceeding strong." ■

LIBRARY PAGES

ON THE SHELF

RELIVING LITERARY MOMENTS AT THE LIBRARY

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden



In preparation for Literary Feast 2017, members and visitors were given postcards featuring a smiling Louise Penny. They were asked to comment on their “first literary moment in Quebec City”. Simply walking into the Library may have been my first “Quebec literary moment,” as it was for many people. But the post card request and a stroll along the Library shelves brought back many other personal literary memories.

The most recent moment was spending an evening with Louise Penny (and more than a hundred other folks, too). As I sipped something lovely at the opening cocktail hour, I noted that all of the Inspector Gamache novels are on the Library’s shelves and I recalled that I enjoyed each one. And they just keep getting better. Certainly *Glass Houses* (2017) can’t be the final one.

Thinking of one Quebec literary moment leads to another. Anyone who attended the evening readings of the Quebec Crime Writers’ Festival at St. Andrew’s Church in 2011 will remember not only Louise Penny and Ian Rankin but also what can politely be called a “colourful” reading offered up by an emerging Irish writer. Mysteries, crime and detective stories are among Library members’ favourites and can be found on almost every shelf in the Library’s fiction section.

Reflecting on several years of the Morrin Centre’s **ImagiNation** festival brings back other literary memories, including being charmed by the late Paul Almond, who turned stories of his ancestors into an eight-book series of action-packed tales; and being awed

by Annabel Lyon, who wrote *The Golden Mean* (2009), a novel destined to become a classic.

The Library has countless works by the best Canadian authors. A personal favourite is Carol Shields. Carol gave a reading from her first novel, *The Stone Diaries* (1993) at a small event that was a run-up to the literary festival that accompanied the 1994 Commonwealth Games, held in Victoria, BC. As members of the literary festival organizing committee, my husband and I were asked to take Carol out for something to drink after the evening event. We opted for a cup of tea at the Empress Hotel. We talked about rocks, the prairies, the challenges of picking up and moving to the West Coast. It wasn’t until the week after that I actually read the book. I was hooked. *Larry’s Party* (1997) made me smile many times; *Unless* (2002) made my heart ache and co-authored *Dropped Threads* (2003) introduced me to many more Canadian women authors. Seeing Shields’ works on the Library shelves reminds me of a very special literary moment.

Some literary moments remind readers of their own lives. Many books on the Library’s shelves take me back to places I’ve lived: James A. Michener’s *Hawaii* (1988), Bill Bryson’s *In a Sunburnt Country* (2000), Lawrence Anthony’s *The Elephant Whisperer* (2012) and Doris Lessing’s *African Laughter* (1992). Then there are the books that have let me experience places, cultures and people without leaving home. Vikram Seth’s *A Suitable Boy* (1993) and Amy Tan’s *The Bonesetter’s Daughter* (2001) both fit into this category.

LIBRARY PAGES

Literary moments involve time as well as place. It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching the ten-year mark since Quebec's big 400th bash. Just seeing David Hackett Fischer's masterpiece, *Champlain's Dream* (2008) on the shelf is a true literary moment (after all, the best historical writing is also great literature). For this writer, reading from a collection of manuscripts related to New France, published in 1884, was a rare privilege and special Quebec City literary moment. Each time I visit the Library, I am reminded that it is treasure trove of North American historical gems.

The children's corner of the Library invokes many personal early literary memories. There are books I enjoyed as a child (such as Astrid Lindgren's *Pippi Longstocking* [1950]) and books I enjoyed reading to next generations (such as one nephew's favourite, *Go, Dog, Go!* by P.D. Eastman [1961]). As a youngster, I enjoyed reading series, including Marguerite Henry's books about horses. Just thinking about *King of the Wind* (1948), in the Library's collection, brings back many memories (yes, I wanted a horse and no, I never got one).

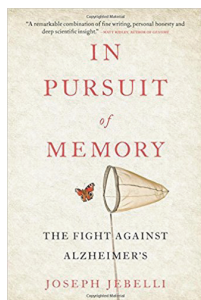
In secondary school, I began reading science fiction, the genre in which authors such as Frank Herbert have created whole new worlds, as he did in *Dune* (1965) and its sequels. The Library's collection holds a vast array of classic as well as contemporary sci-fi and fantasy works.

Running a finger across the spines of books on the Library shelves is a bit like turning the pages of a family photo album, full of moments past: settings perfectly described, scenery captured by an old "chemical" camera; bigger-than-life characters, a portrait of Aunt Emily and Uncle Frank, a slim volume of Victorian poetry, a photo of a Gaspé sunset.

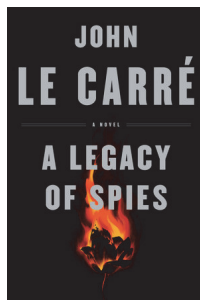
A visit to the Library brings back not only a reader's first Quebec literary moment but countless other literary memories as well. Moreover, good memories (and good books) are meant to be shared. This winter, introduce a friend to the Library, exchange memories of best-loved books, discover some new stories – and create some new literary moments. ■

NEW ACQUISITIONS

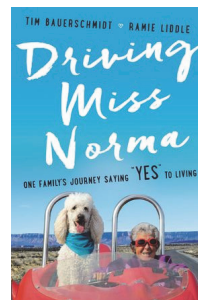
Here are a few of the recent additions to the Library collection. To reserve a title, please contact the Morrin Centre Library at **418-694-9147** or visit our online catalogue at **www.morrin.org**.



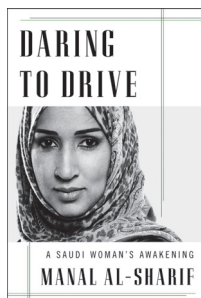
In Pursuit of Memory: The Fight Against Alzheimer's
Joseph Jebelli



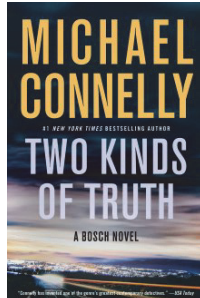
A Legacy of Spies
John Le Carré



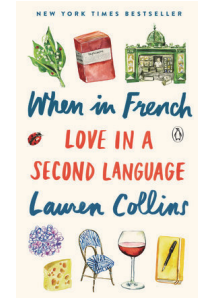
Driving Miss Norma
Tim Bauerschmidt & Ramie Liddle



Daring to Drive: A Saudi Woman's Awakening
Manal Al-Sharif



Two Kinds of Truth
Michael Connelly



When in French: Love in a Second Language
Lauren Collins

LIBRARY PAGES

BOOK REVIEW

CHRISTMAS AT THE VINYL CAFE, BY STUART MCLEAN

By Deborah van der Linde

“But we are all foolish in our own little ways. And never luckier than when we can admit it to ourselves, and to the others around us. Never more loved, nor more loving, than when we come together in foolishness and say to one another, I love you all the same. There are many good times, but those are the best. And there isn’t a better time for foolish love than during these dark days of winter.” – Stuart McLean

Stuart McLean is one of my favourite authors, and he was an unbelievably gifted storyteller. Reading his stories still have me laughing out loud, and hearing him tell them on the radio usually had me doubled over. My favourite time to listen to his show was when I was working in the kitchen, cooking or cleaning up, and I have many memories of washing or chopping something and laughing away, first in my grandmother’s kitchen, then later in my own.

McLean’s stories are tales of the familiar – his characters, Dave and Morley, could be us or our neighbours, the events could easily be events from our own lives. Yet McLean had a special magic for spinning that everyday story into something golden – remarkable stories of everyday life, full of fun and silliness, warmth, humour and understanding.

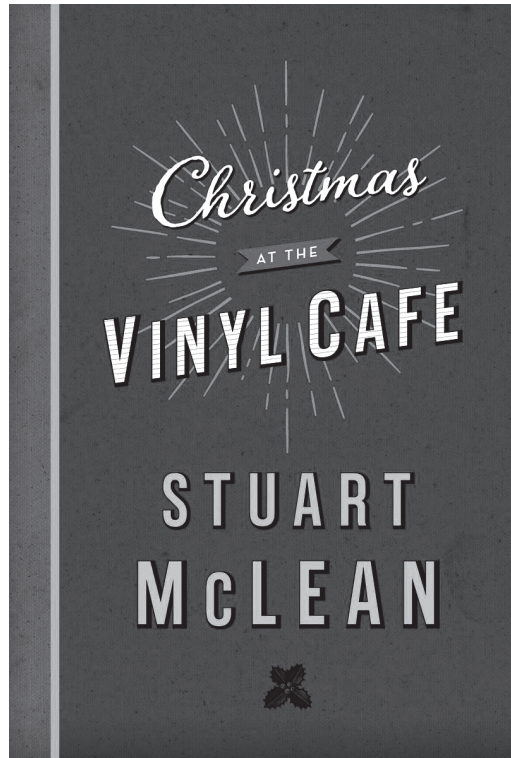
The back of the book states that Christmas has always been a special time at the *Vinyl Café*, and that it was in December that Stuart McLean would always do a book tour – to lighten the darkest days of the year.

Unfortunately, he won’t be touring anymore, but his joy in Christmas will live on in this wonderful compilation of Dave and Morley’s Christmas adventures. Some are old favourites, such as Dave attempting to cook the Christmas Turkey (just read it!), to a selection of new ones, first time in print.

It also includes one of my favourite stories by Stuart McLean – *Morley’s Christmas Pageant*. This is a story I have read many times, and every time I read it I laugh so hard that I cry. I think I find it especially funny because I have worked with many children, and so much of what McLean says rings true. Again, read it!

So this Christmas – or anytime you need a laugh, be sure to check out some of Dave and Morley’s family adventures. We have a number of titles from the *Vinyl Café* series at the library, all of which will have you nodding, smiling, or outright laughing.

Happy Holidays! ■

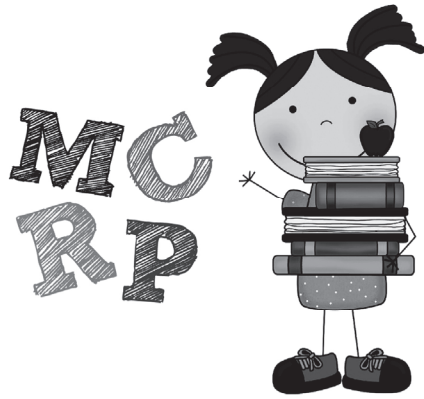


OUR eBOOK COLLECTION

The holidays are here, and hopefully there will be a little time to relax. And what better way to relax than reading a book! If you haven’t already, be sure to check out our wonderful e-book collection. There are the classics, mysteries, historical fiction, sci/fi and fantasy, and more – something for everyone. You can read them on your computer, e-book, tablet, or smart phone. You can download our e-books from the comfort of your home – so avoid the nasty weather and slippery roads, and get an eBook from the Morrin Library! If you don’t know how, just give us a call.

THE MORRIN CHILDREN'S READING PROGRAM

By Léonie Gagnon



Morrin Children's Reading Program

Did you know that the Morrin Centre has been developing some new literacy programs? Since Book Quest 2017 was one of our most successful editions thus far, we decided to add more child-related programs and activities to our schedule. In the Fall of 2017 we introduced a weekly story time session. It follows a simple but effective formula – an interactive story time followed by a crafting activity. This formula enhances children's interest in reading and creates a light and playful atmosphere.

Why have reading programs for children?

Education experts agree on the cognitive skill-building effects of reading. These skills help children perform well in school, of course, but also in everyday life. In fact, being exposed to literature at an early age can help develop children's knowledge about their own world. Through books, children can discover unlimited universes. It is a priceless learning opportunity, and a way to introduce your children to libraries, how to borrow books, and what a treasure they have in the Literary and Historical Society library.

Since the Morrin Centre also has one of the very few English-language libraries in Quebec City, we think it is part of our duty to support Anglophone families and families wishing to practice their English. By providing educational activities for families we want to help strengthen their sense of belonging to our beautiful city, as well as their ties to the English-language community.

The first season

With our new programming, this Fall has been a very

busy period for the library. Since September 24th, the Morrin Centre has been hosting or running activities for children nearly every week, including a total of 14 children's reading activities on the weekends.

For our first story time session, we chose the theme of art, which would introduce creativity as a main part of the program. Accordingly, every week we presented the work of a famous artist, either through a story about the artists' life, or through books featuring their art. The craft the children did afterwards would be related to the techniques and images specific to that artist.

Thus far, we have learned about Wassily Kandinsky's *Color Study: Squares with Concentric Circles* (1913), and created our own abstract collages using circular shapes. Using that same technique, we also decorated a giant tree with abstract flowers and leaves, all of which was displayed in the children's section of the library. We also had an encounter with Pablo Picasso, who showed us how to see the world differently. Inspired by his out-of-the-box paintings and sculptures, we created portraits using very out-of-place facial features. Finally, we got to see Henri Matisse and Ted Harrison's works, from which we learned to paint with ... paper! Either using scissors or tearing it with our hands, we created amazing landscapes and scenes by gluing them in layers. With all the delightful moments we have had so far in exploring new stories and creative universes, we are looking forward to planning more family events for next year. Be sure to keep an eye on our website or our Facebook page for upcoming events. ■



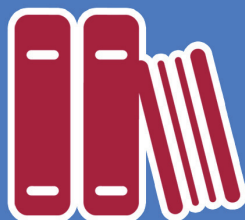
874
members



65
dedicated
volunteers

3,805

books
taken
out

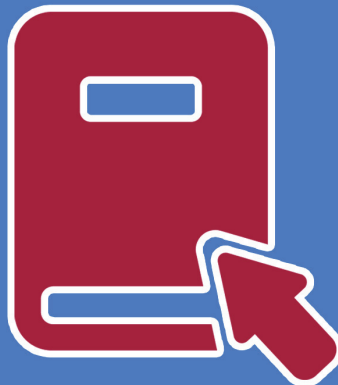


from the Centre's library



visitors from
42 countries

251
e-books



343
days of
activities



48,000
total visitors



in **2017**

220

attendees at
**Children's
Reading
Program**
activities



2,234
Facebook
followers





Help the Morrin Centre keep the *Magic*

**Your support helps us maintain
the charm of one of Canada's
favourite libraries.**

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2017 annual campaign contributions will be used to
refurbish furniture in the Morrin Centre library.

**You can give to the 2017 annual campaign at
www.morrin.org/contribute.**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

PAST EVENTS by Hoffman Wolff & Deborah van der Linde



LITERARY FEAST

November 2, 2017



“These books are love letters. They are love letters to Quebec. They are love letters to the community I live in.”

Keynote Speaker **Louise Penny**'s affection for the province was on full display, highlighting a memorable 2017 Literary Feast in which the Morrin Centre raised a record \$48,000.

The fundraising event with the author of *Bury Your Dead* was an extremely popular one, with additional seats added to College Hall, tickets sold out months in advance, and visitors coming for the evening from as far away as Mississippi.

Prior to the event, Penny gave a VIP tour of the Morrin Centre, in which she shared her inspirations and thoughts for the murder mystery novel *Bury Your Dead*, which was set at the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, as well as the Inspector Gamache character, who occupies a principal role in all of her books.

Following a cocktail in the Morrin Centre's library, attendees moved to College Hall for dinner, where they were welcomed by Groupe Germain co-president

Christiane Germain, the evening's honorary president. Additionally, LHSQ President Barry Holleman received a cheque from the Royal Bank of Canada for a donation of \$25,000 over two years to boost the Centre's arts pillar programming.

The evening's dinner, roasted duck breast with parsnip purée, was catered by Chez Muffy restaurant.

Penny then shared her career trajectory with a crowd of over 120 avid listeners, beginning with her time as a host at CBC Quebec City and her move to the Eastern Townships once she decided to focus on writing. She also discussed the similarities between her late husband, Michael, and Inspector Gamache, as well as the influence of the province of Quebec on her books. Finally, Penny took questions from the audience, where she touched on her friendship with Hillary Clinton, forged during the 2016 U.S. elections.

The traditional silent auction was also held, with prizes including a round-trip sleeper class ticket to Halifax on VIA Rail, jewelry from Zimmermann Quebec and tickets for many Quebec City theatres. ■

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

PAST EVENTS by Hoffman Wolff & Deborah van der Linde



SHARE THE SONG IN YOUR HEART

October 25, 2017

The **My Morrin Series** continued on October 25, with **Cheryl Moore** presenting “**Share the Song in Your Heart**,” a karaoke workshop. Topics such as choosing the perfect song, memorizing lyrics, overcoming shyness in order to shine and essential breathing exercises were covered throughout the presentation, allowing dozens of attendees to get familiar and comfortable with the karaoke experience. ■



HALLOWEEN WITH ZOMBIES

October 20 - November 4, 2017

The **Interactive Halloween Experience** returned for the fifth consecutive year, taking place over six nights from October 20 to November 4. Staged by the Hérôle production company, the Morrin Centre hosted “Quebec City’s most frightening event,” with participants attempting to escape the zombies overtaking the halls and corridors of the building! ■



OFF THE SHELF

November 8, 2017

Organized in partnership with the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network (QUESCREN) and the Eastern Townships Resource Centre (ETRC), the Morrin Centre hosted the first of the “**Off the Shelf**” **lecture series** on November 8. During the bilingual event, **Jean Provencher** began the evening by reflecting on the ways in which the daily collaboration between Quebec City’s English-speaking and French-speaking populations has enriched the life of the city. Provencher was followed by **Louisa Blair**, who examined a tale of fratricide in the Saguenay involving her ancestors, and spoke more generally about Anglophone families in the Saguenay, including her own. ■



OUR WRITINGS

November 18, 2017

On Saturday, November 18, we held two panel discussions celebrating the impact Quebec City has had on literature. Speakers included authors **George Elliott Clarke**, **Neil Bissoondath**, **Raquel Fletcher**, **Bernadette Griffin**, **H. Nigel Thomas** and historian **Patrick Donovan**.

Patrick Donovan kickstarted the event with an overview of literature that has a connection with Quebec City, sharing interesting anecdotes about some of the many famous authors who have visited here.

The authors brought a variety of interesting perspectives on the impact Quebec City has had on literature. They discussed a variety of topics, from the struggles of learning French; the impact of cold Quebec winters on their writings; growing up as an Irish Catholic Anglophone in Quebec City; as well as what it was like to move here and then eventually realize that this is your home, that you love it here.

At the end of panel one, George Elliott Clarke read one a poem he wrote after the mosque shooting in Quebec City entitled *Ain’t You Scared of the Sacred? A Spiritual*. This poem has been chosen by U2 to scroll across screens at their Joshua Tree at Thirty tour.

The event also saw the launch of an audiovisual display in College Hall featuring six-word stories written by students from local schools and CEGEPs, passages from books connected to Quebec, and photos of locations featured in some of those books. It will be up until December 31, 2017, and again from March 19 until April 8, 2018. Viewing hours for the display are the same as the library’s hours.

At the event, we handed out pamphlets about the **Our Writings** project, which include a map for a self-guided tour of literary landmarks around the old city. The map can also be found on our website. In a special one-time event in March we will be offering this special guided tour. Keep an eye on our website or Facebook page for more information. ■

MISCELLANEA

THE LITERARY & HISTORICAL KITCHEN CORNER

LITERARY RECIPES THAT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY

GINGER SPICE COOKIES

by Alicia Lamontagne

Ingredients

- 3/4 C butter-flavoured Crisco (butter is okay too)
- 1 C sugar, plus more for rolling
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 C molasses
- 2 C flour
- 2 t baking soda
- 1 t ground cinnamon
- 1 t ground ginger
- 1/2 t ground cloves
- 1/2 t salt

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- Line cookie sheets with parchment paper.
- With an electric mixer, combine shortening and sugar and cream until light and fluffy (about 2 minutes). Add the egg and the molasses and beat until completely blended.
- Sift or whisk together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, cloves and salt, and then add to the mixture. Stir until combined. Roll the dough into 1 inch balls and roll in sugar.
- Place on cookie sheets.
- Bake for 8-10 minutes or until just set around the edges and you start to see the dough cracking on the top.
- Don't overbake! You want to keep them nice and chewy-soft in the middle. ■



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Morrin Centre will be closed the following dates:
December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1,2

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Seasons Greetings

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