

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 47 ■ Winter 2015 ■ \$2.00



- 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB MUSICAL DE QUEBEC
- WHY IS LAWRENCE HILL HAUNTED BY IMMIGRATION?
- SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

morrin

The Morrin Centre is managed by the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec.
Society Pages are published with the assistance of Canada Post.





Quebec Heritage News

Subscribe Now!

Quebec's English-language heritage magazine.

Popular history – Profiles of remarkable people and events –
Contemporary issues in heritage conservation – Book reviews –
Insightful commentary – and much more.

Individual: \$30 for 1 year; \$75 for 3 years; \$120 for 5 years
Institutional: \$40 for 1 year; \$100 for 3 years; \$160 for 5 years

To pay by cheque, please mail payment to:
QAHN, 400-257 rue Queen, Sherbrooke QC J1M 1K7.
or pay by Paypal to: home@qahn.org.

For more information, call (819) 564-9595
Toll free: 1-877-964-0409.



Have you thought about
switching to an electronic
version of *Society Pages*?

**Make the change! Email us
at info@morrin.org**

WE ARE THERE FOR YOU!



Bilingual health and social services

- Emergency: 7 days / week, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Diagnostic Services
- Senior Care
- Community Services
 - CLSC-type health and social services
 - Requests for Saint Brigid's Home



**Jeffery Hale
Saint Brigid's**
Une communauté de soins
A Community of Care

Jeffery Hale Hospital
1250, chemin Sainte-Foy
Québec Qc G1S 2M6
418 684-5333

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 47 ■ WINTER 2015

CONTENTS

Letter from the President	1	Sovita Chander
From the Executive Director	1	Barry McCullough
Transactions		
<i>Club musical de Québec:</i> 125th anniversary	2	Rosemarie Fischer
Library Pages		
New Acquisitions	5	
Christmas Wish List	5	
Miscellanea		
Membership Survey	6	Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume
Wilco's New Album <i>Star Wars</i>	6	Barry McCullough
Lawrence Hill: Haunted by Immigration	7	Elizabeth Perreault

LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	12:00PM-8:00PM
Wednesday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Thursday	12:00PM-8:00PM
Friday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM-4:00PM

Front cover: Concert in the library by Fara Almond (playing the harp) on December 11, 2015.
(Photo: Morrin Centre.)

CONTENT
Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume

LAYOUT
Patrick Donovan

PROOFREADING
Louisa Blair

PUBLISHER
Literary & Historical Society of Quebec
44 chaussée des Écossais
Quebec, Quebec G1R 4H3

PHONE
418-694-9147

FAX
418-694-0754

GENERAL INQUIRIES
info@morrin.org

WEBSITE
www.morrin.org

LHSQ COUNCIL
lhsqcouncil@morrin.org
Sovita Chander, President
Ladd Johnson, Vice-President
Gina Farnell, Treasurer
Shauneen Furlong, Secretary
Donald Fyson, Honorary Librarian
Barry Holleman, Member at Large
Bruce Laurie, Member at Large

Peter Black
William GK Boden
Jack Bryden
Katherine Burgess
Diana Cline
Jacob Stone
Hélène Thibault

David F. Blair, Ex-Officio

DIRECTOR
Barry McCullough
Executive Director
barrymccullough@morrin.org

FULL-TIME STAFF
Gail Cameron

Accounting & Financial Clerk
gailcameron@morrin.org

Rosemarie Fischer
Administrative Assistant

info@morrin.org
Stefanie Johnston

Guided Tours Coordinator
stefaniejohnston@morrin.org

Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume
Library Manager

lhsqlibrary@morrin.org
Caroline Labrie

Rentals and Events Coordinator
carolinelabrie@morrin.org

Elizabeth Perreault
Development and Communications Director

elizabethperreault@morrin.org
Hoffman Wolff

Communications and Events Coordinator
hoffmanwolff@morrin.org

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.
ISSN 1913-0732

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and friends,

Another year has flown by, and it has been a busy and exciting one at the Morrin Centre.

On November 5th, we at the Centre and the Society held our seventh annual Literary Feast fundraising dinner. With the

participation of renowned Canadian author Lawrence Hill (author of *The Book of Negroes*, among other novels) as keynote speaker, and Vice-Rector of Laval University Edwin Bourget as Honorary Chair, the event was a tremendous success. With the support of the organizing committee, the event brought together over a hundred supporters of cultural institutions from both the anglophone and francophone communities. I was moved by both speakers as well as by the generous support of our members, friends and partners.

Non-profit cultural organizations must take many different approaches to making ends meet. To this end, we have just kicked off our year-end annual fundraising campaign. Your generous donations will enable us to continue offering our heritage, educational, and arts activities - which served 40,000 people this year alone. We are counting on your participation in the end-of-year fundraising campaign to help us reach our ambitious 2016 goals. Take a look at the infographic in this issue of *Society Pages*, and I think you'll be proud to see what we accomplished together in 2015. I know that with the support of all of you we can make the coming year an even greater success.

I would like to wish you all a joyous Holiday season and happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Sovita Chander

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Members, friends, partners,

As you will notice on our infographic in the centrefold of this issue of *Society Pages*, it has been an incredibly busy and productive year for the Morrin Centre. We again hit high-water marks for number of people coming

through the doors. By December 31, we will have cracked the 40,000-person plateau, more than double the number from 2012. These people are coming for a number of different reasons; guided tours, to visit the library, rentals and events.

Speaking of attendees and events, we broke our previous records for both the ImagiNation Writers' Festival and our third Halloween event, *Parcours de Peur*. This year, the *Parcours* took in nearly 1,300 over just six nights. I can't stress enough how cool it is to see the

building host an innovative, interactive activity like this. It is a pleasure working with production company Hérôle on this annual event.

The seventh annual ImagiNation Writers' Festival is fast approaching and the team is in the midst of confirming authors and partners. Stay connected to us on morrin.org and our social media for all the updates on this and other happenings at the Morrin Centre.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without you. This is why we are making the call to contribute to this year's annual fundraising campaign. The proceeds make the events and activities you value come to fruition. We have a lot of great things planned and, with your participation, they will be even better.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season,

Barry

TRANSACTIONS

HISTORICAL CONCERT IN COLLEGE HALL

By Rosemarie Fischer

This year, Le Club Musical de Québec is celebrating the 125th year of its existence. Formerly called the Quebec Ladies' Morning Musical Club, it was founded in 1891. From 1908 to 1912, many of the Club's concerts were held in Morrin College.

In order to commemorate their 125th anniversary, Le Club Musical has organised a series of concerts called *Retour dans le Temps*. The first one was held at the Morrin Centre on November 21. A recital that was originally given at Morrin College in 1910 was re-enacted almost exactly, with the only difference being that the original concert included a duet with two pianos and eight hands. Bringing one grand piano into College Hall was already a major challenge, and Artistic Director Marie Fortin made the wise decision to not try to bring in two.

The sold-out concert began at 3 p.m. and featured Maxim Bernard, pianist, Judith Bouchard, soprano, Benoît Cormier, violinist and Raphaël Dubé, cellist. Bertrand Guay hosted the event with anecdotes on current events from 1910, many of which were still pertinent today. Many of the 125 spectators were also given a guided tour of the Morrin Centre before or after the concert.

The afternoon musical programme was beautiful, varied and inspiring, with my personal highlight being Maxim Bernard's interpretation of Frederic Chopin's Ballade in G. Minor, enhanced by the rich acoustics of College Hall and the lovely tones of the grand piano.

Le Club Musical de Québec will be giving two other concerts in the series: The Maison de la littérature will be the venue for a sold-out concert on January 18, and the Retour au Château Frontenac concert, featuring an Israeli-Palestinian piano duo, will take place on Thursday March 24, 2016. This concert will be preceded by a conference by David Mendel about the history of the Club Musical's presence in the Château Frontenac's ballroom for nearly 50 years. For more information, or to buy tickets to this performance, visit the Club Musical's website at www.clubmusicaldequebec.com ■



MORRIN COLLEGE

Wednesday, March 16th, 1910



1. *Adolph Jensen*..... Wedding Music..... Duet 2 Pianos
Festival Procession 8 hands
Bridal Song
Notturmo
MRS. LYSTER, MRS. F. SCOTT, MRS. H. SHAW AND MRS. J. SHARPLES
2. *Chaminade*..... L'Automne..... Piano Solo
MELLE LANCTOT
3. *Wienawski*..... (a) *Legende*..... Violin Solo
Bohm..... (b) *La Mouche*.....
MRS. GOODAY
4. *James Rodgers*..... (a) *An Evening Song*..... Vocal Solo
Teresa del Reigo..... (b) *Happy Song*.....
MRS. ARTHUR BOULTON
5. *Max Bruch*..... *Kol Vidrai*..... Violincello Solo
MONS. J. B. DUBOIS
6. *Chopin*..... *Ballade in G. Minor*..... Piano Solo
MADAME MONTREUIL
7. *Mendelssohn*..... *Trio in D. Minor*..... Violin, Violincello and Piano
Andante
Scherzo
MRS. GAUDET, MRS. GOODDAY AND MONS. DUBOIS

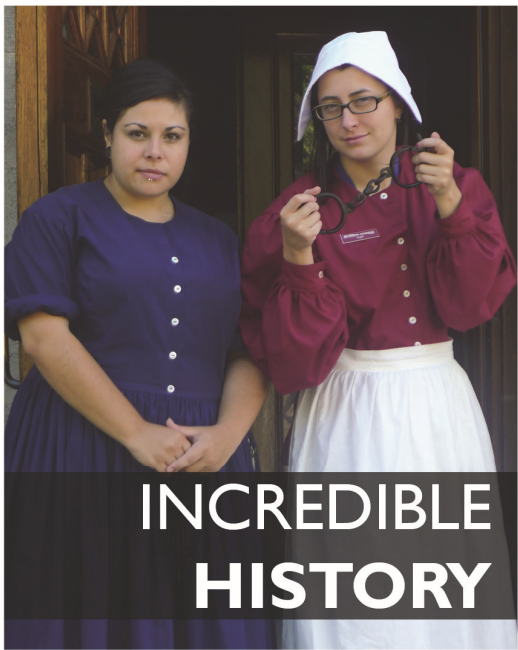
Programme arranged by MRS. GAUDET AND MRS. GOODDAY
NO ENCORES



Le Club Musical de Québec in 1910 and 2015
(Source: Archives du Club Musical de Québec)



AMAZING STORIES



INCREDIBLE HISTORY

THE CENTRE OF IT ALL

It's been an exciting year at the Morrin Centre, and 2016 is shaping up to be even better.



UNIQUE EVENTS



Be a part of it.

Support your Morrin Centre and help provide Quebec City with quality cultural programming in heritage, education and the arts.

You can contribute to the 2015 annual campaign at www.morrin.org/contribute.



1,113

people listening to
great music

100

new e-books



299

days of
events



47

dedicated
volunteers



40,000

total visitors

4,279

books
taken
out



from the Centre's library

morrin

in 2015



1,544

cups of
tea served



1,227

people scared
during the
Interactive
Halloween Experience

19

couples
who tied
the knot



visitors
from

39

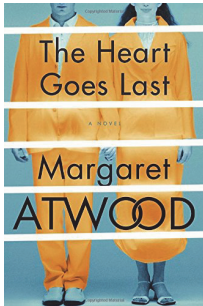
countries



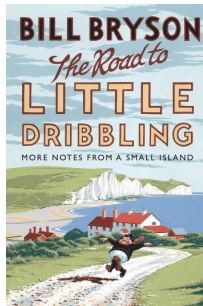
LIBRARY PAGES

NEW ACQUISITIONS

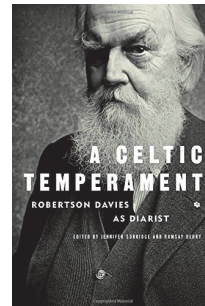
Here are a few of the recent additions to the Library collection. To reserve a title, please contact the Morrin Centre Library at **418-694-9147** or visit our online catalogue at **www.morrin.org**.



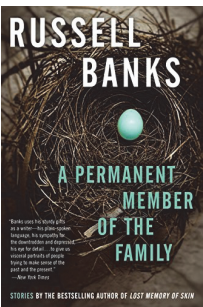
Fiction
The Heart Goes Last
Margaret Atwood
A887 2015



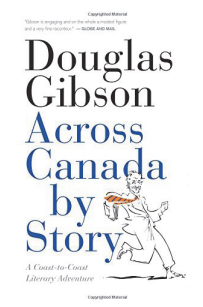
Non-Fiction
The Road to Little Dribbling
Bill Bryson
94.2 B916



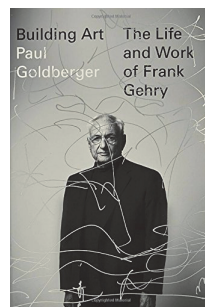
Biography
A Celtic Temperament
Robertson Davies
BIO D257



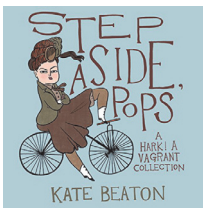
A Permanent Member of the Family
Russell Banks
B218 2013



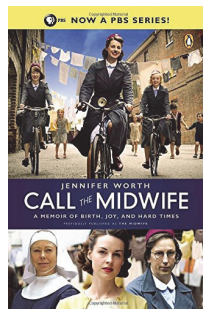
Accross Canada by Story
Douglas Gibson
070.92 G448



Building Art
Paul Goldberger
BIO G618



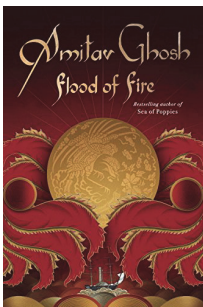
Step Aside, Pops
Kate Beaton
GN B369



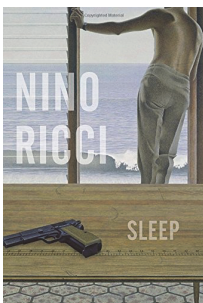
Call the Midwife
Jennifer Worth
618.2 W932



Mountain City Girls
Anna McGarrigle
BIO M145



Flood of Fire
Amitav Ghosh
G427 2015



Sleep
Nino Ricci
R491 2015

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST



The library needs to replace copies of the following books:

- **Oryx and Crake** by Margaret Atwood
- **Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell** by Susanna Clarke
- **Pillars of the Earth** by Ken Follett
- **Chasing Cézanne** by Peter Mayle
- **Moby Dick** by Herman Melville
- **Brisingr** by Christopher Paolini
- **The Princes of Ireland** by Edward Rutherfurd
- **Ages in Chaos I: From the Exodus to King Akhnaton** by Immanuel Velikovsky

Interested in donating one of these titles? Contact librarian Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume for details at library@morrin.org or 418-694-9147. ■

MISCELLANEA

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

By Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume

In August 2015, the Morrin Centre conducted a survey sent to all current members by email or mail. We appreciate the effort many of you made to provide us with valuable feedback on our various endeavours. We were able to collect information on the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, membership, programming, communications, rentals, guided tours, the library and the respondents' demographics.

We received 181 responses out of 677 surveys sent out, amounting to a 26.7% response rate. The survey has provided valuable data that we will use to improve services to members. The LHSQ Council and members of staff met for a day in early December to assess this data and findings will be compiled and shared with members in the coming months.

In the survey, several members requested to receive our quarterly publication, *Society Pages*, in electronic

format. The Morrin Centre has already taken action upon this and we now send out 81 copies of our publication by email instead of mail.

Other notable findings:

- 90% of members who filled out the survey intend to renew their membership.
- 63% became members for the library.
- 60% of respondents are 60 years old and up.
- 50% speak French, 45% speak English, 5% speak another language than French or English at home.

Finally, we are glad to know the majority of members who responded to the survey would recommend or have recommended that someone they know become a member. We have had 87 new members register with our \$20 Introductory Membership. Your recommendations have been successful, so please continue spreading the word! ■

MUSIC REVIEW: WILCO, *STAR WARS*

By Barry McCullough



In my household a new Wilco album is an event. So, imagine our delight one July evening when the band dropped *Star Wars* on the world as a free download with no advance warning. Also, since you're probably wondering what's up with the title: despite everybody in his camp advising him against doing so, including (especially) his lawyer, Wilco leader Jeff Tweedy opted to use the name of a movie franchise you may have heard of.

Wilco's *Summerteeth-Yankee Foxtrot Hotel-A Ghost is Born* run is one of the more fertile three-album stretches you will ever see out of a band. Following this run, 2007's *Sky Blue Sky* was a bit of a misstep, but even that had its moments like "Impossible Germany." Since that relative low they've been on a steady progression back to the

top, culminating (so far, at least) with *Star Wars*.

Star Wars is perhaps the loosest sounding album in Wilco's catalogue. The fun starts with the disjointed minute-long instrumental "EPK," which sets the mood for what's to come. The next track, with its harmonies and guitar solos, "More..." would be at home on a middle-years Beatles album. Things keep buzzing along with the post-punk "Random Name Generator." At more than five minutes, the dreamy "You Satellite" is by far the album's longest song and perhaps the least like the rest and probably the closest Wilco will ever come to shoegazing.

The rest of the album keeps moving along at a decent clip until the synth-led start of closer "Magnetized" eventually gives way to guitars and electric solos. It feels almost celebratory by the time it concludes, which is a fitting way to close this minor triumph of changing and staying the same all at once. ■

MISCELLANEA

HAUNTED BY IMMIGRATION

THE ILLEGAL PROVIDES FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT THE LITERARY FEAST

By Elizabeth Perreault

When asked about what pushed him to write about the timely and timeless topic of immigration, Literary Feast keynote speaker Lawrence Hill replied that the topic has haunted him for decades. The Ontario native who has become one of Canada's most recognized authors has had an intimate knowledge of immigration since his childhood. Both his parents came to Canada the day after they got married in Washington D.C., hoping to give their children a better life. But it was during one of his first summer jobs in the early seventies, helping greet Ugandan refugees at Toronto Pearson International Airport and guiding them through the first steps of their new life in Canada, that he became aware of the hardships and difficulties many immigrants face. Years later, he visited his sister in West Berlin and met the Sudanese expats and refugees she spent time with. "They couldn't really get their lives going legally once they arrived in West Berlin, so watching how they had to struggle and innovate—and be creative to stay alive and help each other—got me thinking about issues of statelessness," Hill said in a recent interview on CBC.

The President of the Literary and Historical Society, Sovita Chander, also immigrated to Canada as an adult, after having moved from Malaysia to the United States with her parents when she was a child. She shared her story and also talked about the importance of innovation. Not only has she worked with start-ups and in the technology sector, but she has been leading the Centre's efforts to bring an innovative model of culture to life. During her opening speech, she emphasized how the Morrin Centre is a library, a museum, a learned society, a performing arts centre, a meeting space, but also so much more in that it is a place for members of the community to come together and to exchange, which is why "the Morrin Centre stands as an example, not just locally, but provincially, and even nationally."



Lawrence Hill (Photo: Dylan Page)

The evening's honorary chair, Edwin Bourget, Vice Rector of Research and Innovation at Université Laval, paid tribute to the Centre's past and present role in educating and entertaining the local population. For him, the Centre is also a place for people to meet and exchange at a time when so many are looking for a cultural home or, as is the case for thousands of Syrian refugees, a new homeland. Coming from a bilingual family (his mother was Irish), he talked about his ties to both the Anglophone and Francophone communities and how, like the Morrin Centre which strives to build bridges between both communities, his family was involved in building the Pont de Québec, another landmark in our history and a symbol of our society's capacity to open its doors and welcome others.

There was indeed a sense of community during the seventh annual Literary Feast. This convivial, bilingual fundraising dinner allowed all to not only discover the issues discussed in Lawrence Hill's latest novel, but also enjoy an elaborate meal served by Panache Traiteur, bid on a large selection of auction items, and support a good cause. The evening allowed the Centre to raise over \$34,000 to support its cultural programming. It was all the more enjoyable thanks to the emcee, CBC's Susan Campbell, morning host of Quebec AM. A huge part of the dinner's success comes from the support of our sponsors. We would like to thank our Supporting Partner, La Maison Simons, and our Contributing Partners, McCarthy Tétrault, the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph and the Agence Le saint for their invaluable support.

For those who couldn't attend our fundraising dinner, it's not too late to help your cultural hub. You can still contribute to the 2015 fundraising campaign so that the Morrin Centre can continue offering a variety of innovative English-language cultural programs at a reasonable cost. ■

LITERARY FEAST FESTIN LITTÉRAIRE



Supporting Partner • Partenaire de soutien



Contributing Partners • Partenaires contributeurs

mccarthy
tetrault

Chronicle-Telegraph
North America's Oldest Newspaper • Since 1764
Quebec

Lesaint

Nous. Designers de marque.™



A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL VOLUNTEERS

WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME TO THE MORRIN CENTRE IN 2015!



Aiden Roberts
Andrée Houde
Angelica Montgomery
Arthur Plumpton
Barry Holleman
Bérénice Mountou
Bernard Vallée
Britta Gundersen Bryden
Bruce Laurie
Carol Finley
Caroline Joll
Colin Plows
Cynthia Johnston
David Blair
Diana Cline
Diane Bird
Diane Kameen
Donald Fyson
Donna Yavorska
Elizabeth Davies
Elizabeth Lowe

Elspeth Tulloch
Gillian Baird
Gina Farnell
Grant Regalbuto
Guy Dubois
Hélène Thibault
Héloïse Leclerc
Hideraldo De Filippo
Jack Bryden
Jacob Stone
James Haberlin
Janice Barron
Jeanette Kelly
Joanne Coleman Robertson
John Knox
Jonathan Black
Katherine Burgess
Kyle Chapman
Ladd Johnson
Laura Wilson
Laurie Defoy
Lorna Gailis
Lucie Bouchard
Malena Johnson
Marie Rübsteck
Marie-Claude Tremblay
Mary Geary

Melissa Syvanen
Michele Thibeau
Milly Hamill
Miriam Blair
Mitch Vandeborn
Neil Bissoondath
Patrick Donovan
Peter Black
Rachelle Solomon
Randall Spear
Robert MacGregor Demers
Robin Francis
Sarah Blair
Shauneen Furlong
Shirley Nadeau
Sovita Chander
Steve Cameron
Susan Campbell
Tom Bator
Vivianne White
Wallace Robertson
William G. K. Boden

