

# SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 52 ■ SPRING 2017 ■ \$2.00



**morrin**

- IMAGINATION FESTIVAL 2017 LINEUP
- WHERE WILDFLOWERS GREW IN PRE-SPRAWL QUEBEC CITY
- THE BEST IRISH BREAD & BUTTER PUDDING RECIPE

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# SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 52 ■ SPRING 2017

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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.

**Front cover:** Volunteers puzzling over clues at Volunteer Appreciation Night. From left to right: Diane Bird, Joanne Coleman Robertson, Wallace Robertson, Lorna Gailis, Pona Tran, and Robert Patenaude.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Members, friends and partners,

I am delighted to report that 2016 was another record year for the centre. In total, the building welcomed in the order of 46,000 visitors for tours, library, events and rentals. For this, I would like to congratulate the tireless

dedication of staff and Council for making 2016 a year of significant growth and achievement.

Our 193<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting is coming up on Wednesday, March 29. It is a great opportunity for members to be heard, to hear more about us, and to find out what we have in store for 2017. The AGM is followed by a wine and cheese reception and our always popular magazine auction, which helps fund the purchase of periodicals for the library.

Every year we receive significant contributions from the three levels of government, as well as from foundations and corporations who are passionate about our

mission. We are thankful for those contributions, which continue to fuel our growth and diversity in putting together our programming. Projects such as My Morrin and Visions of Community wouldn't be possible without this support. We look forward to continuing to work with these partners in 2017 and beyond, as we do even greater things with the programming across our three pillars: heritage, arts and education.

Volunteer appreciation night was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> and those in attendance were treated to dinner as well as a night of murder and mystery. This gives us the opportunity to thank everyone who donates their time to make the Morrin Centre run as smoothly as it does. From library volunteers to Council members, event volunteers, committee members and more, all of your contributions are vital to our success and I would like to thank you for what you do.

With best regards,

**Barry Holleman**  
President

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Members & Friends,

It looks like we've picked up in 2017 right where we left off at the end of last year. This winter's events calendar has been jam-packed from January onward. The My Morrin series has provided members with a calendar of

engaging and dynamic events conceived by our own members. We knew that we had creative members with great ideas, but the results of the series have been beyond our expectations and the crowds coming out for these events are just one indication of their high quality. I can't wait for the next call for proposals, which will happen before summer.

The Visions of Community workshops, led by Louisa & Sarah Blair and Louis-Robert Bouchard, have been inspiring and creative. A variety of English-speaking Quebecers originating in Germany, Hungary, Algeria and South Africa as well as Winnipeg, Montcalm and Cap Rouge met at three workshops to explore their

histories through objects and stories. They also explored children and women's history through the Literary and Historical Society's precious "My Quebec Collection" donated by Hilda Stephens. The end result, a digital display of what community means to the participants, will be unveiled with a 5 à 7 launch on Thursday, March 30. I hope to see you there.

And of course, coming up from April 5-9, the always highly anticipated ImagiNation Writers' Festival is celebrating its 8th year. In 2017, the festival will bring our largest lineup yet of 19 authors from all across the continent. Each year, the festival strives to feature something for everyone and 2017 will be no exception. From cooking to history to sports to fiction, we have a wide array of genres covered. Be sure to check out the author profiles in the centerfold of this issue.

I hope to see you at one of our many upcoming events.

**Barry McCullough**  
Executive Director

TRANSACTIONS

WILDFLOWERS OF QUEBEC

By Samuel Sturton

With Spring around the corner, we could not resist reprinting this old paper. It was written by Samuel Sturton, the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec's Librarian and an apothecary who had a store at 1<sup>1/2</sup> Rue Saint Jean. His lecture, liberally scattered with poems, was originally read on December 19, 1860, then published by the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec in the Transactions, Original Series, Vol. 4, Appendix (1861).

In revising for the press the following paper, which was read before the Literary and Historical Society last December, I think I can say that I am solely actuated by the desire to facilitate the study of the Botany of Quebec, and to remove out of the path of others difficulties which I have myself encountered.

I delight in flowers, especially in those which are natives of the locality where I dwell; and when they are in bloom, wherever I am, may be seen several vases filled with the most beautiful I can collect—these never fail to excite in others the admiration which I feel; and the question is always asked, "where shall I find them?" It is this question which I attempt to answer.

I can truly say, I would rather that the task of writing this guide had fallen into hands more capable of doing justice to the subject. I have always loved flowers for their own sake, and have never, until now, entertained the thought of writing upon them. I would gladly carry my readers away into the scenes of nature—into the sunny meadows, where butter cups and daisies are still, in the words of the poet,

*"Like treasures of silver and gold;"*

or into the swamps, resplendent with the very luxuriance of beauty; or into cool shady woods, where flowers of the brightest hues abound; there I feel I could interest him, and infuse into him my own love of nature: but of these pages I feel diffident.

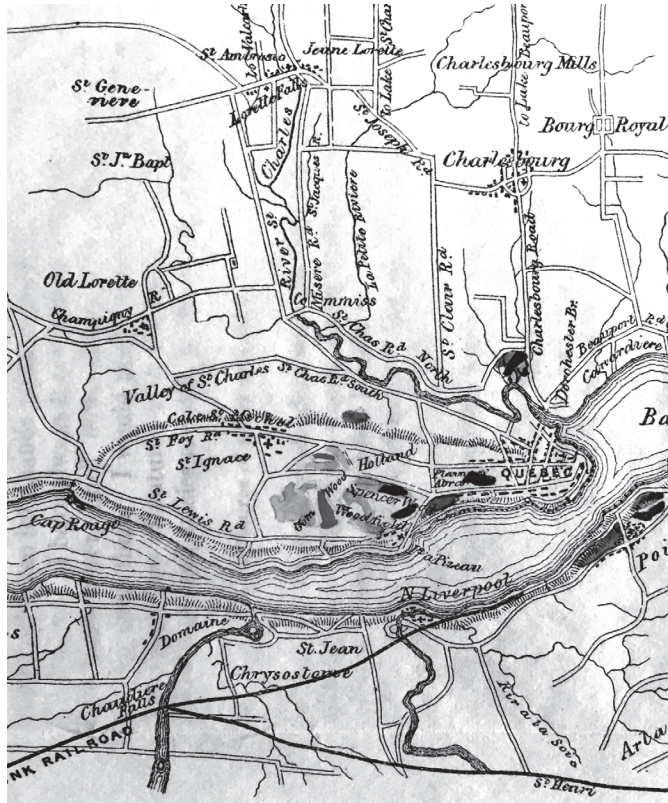
I have not aspired to write a paper which shall be read for its literary merits. All that I wish is, that these pages, and especially the accompanying Maps should help the student to find the flowers for himself; and this end being answered, I am content that the guide should be dismissed.

Many flowers are intentionally, and others probably unintentionally, omitted; and I shall feel obliged to all who can favor me with additions and corrections.

To the lovers of flowers who wish to make use of the assistance of these pages, I would suggest, that they visit the spots pointed out, search for the flowers described, and then, further,

compare them with the descriptions in Gray's Flora.

Even now, I can look forward to the time when the sound of the "Grelots" shall be heard no more, when the blows of the ice axe shall cease, when the ice bands of the earth shall be dissolved, and the earth again clothe herself in her beautiful garments. And although in this paper I pass by our stately and beautiful trees, and confine myself to those more lowly members of the Vegetable Kingdom, called "Wild-flowers," yet must I not omit the first flower that appears—the Willow, with its catkins decked with yellow pearls of gold,



"Distribution of Flowers For May," detail from one of the maps published with Samuel Sturton's paper.

## TRANSACTIONS

*"The first gilt thing Deck'd with the earliest pearls of spring."*

When a child I gathered them as "geese and goslings," or as "palms," and they gave to Ely, where I lived, its Saxon name; and in all places the first flowers I have gathered and arranged in a vase, have been the Willows with their golden catkins; they well deserve the attention of the young botanist as a dioecious plant; one tree bearing pistillate, and another tree the staminate flowers. These which are commonly called the FIRST FLOWERS of spring, are the Mayflower, the Skunk Cabbage, and the Hepatica.

The Mayflower, or Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) is a trailing evergreen; with rusty hairs and pinkish white flowers, which are sweet scented; it grows on sandy soils, beneath pine trees. I have found it at the Gomin, Montmorenci Falls, and on the north shore of the Isle of Orleans. This I am told is the emblem of Nova Scotia, as the Maple leaf is of Canada. The Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus*) grows everywhere in wet meadows; especially in a swamp below the toll bar of the St. Foy Road; it is shaped like a common sea shell with dark purple spots somewhat resembling tortoiseshell, the half buried flowers appears to spring ready formed out of the earth: a little observation makes it manifest that this is but the spathe: the flowers are inside, arranged in a spadix, which in the fall are succeeded by a mass of red fruit. That which is called the flower is beautiful, but the smell is abominable, whence its name "Skunk Cabbage." I introduced a gentleman from Europe to this flower:—he went and gathered it again and again, seemed fascinated by it, and at last became so saturated with its odor as scarcely to be admissible into society. The Indians are said to boil and eat it, which I dare say is correct; for many poisonous and disagreeable plants of this family, when properly cooked, yield wholesome food. If this plant be compared with the Arum, or Calla *Aethiopica*, which we almost all cultivate in our windows, they will be found to belong to the same family.

The Hepatica [liverwort] is a pretty little flower, appearing directly after, or almost before, the snow has disappeared from the ground; it may be found on the Island and at Pointe Levi, at the places indicated on the Map; the flowers grow in clumps, and the clumps commonly (not invariably) in large patches, so that the

places where they are found resemble large garden beds of Hepaticas. I was told they did not grow nearer Quebec than Château Richer, or Three Rivers, but in 1859 I found them at the Island almost out of flower, and in 1860, I first stumbled unexpectedly upon a clump of them at Pointe Levi, in full bloom in the sunshine. I stood and gazed and gazed again on the lovely sight:—I seized upon them roots and all, brought them home in triumph, and for some time they graced the window of my library. The Hepatica is a lowly growing plant, the leaves and flowers springing directly from the ground, and the flowers appearing before the new leaves; they are of all shades of color, pink, blue and white. At Orleans they are found near the ferry, and at Point Levy near the railway station.

A stranger from Europe, landing in this country, is much surprised to find the flowers which he has carefully cultivated in his garden at home, growing wild at his feet. This is especially the case in the spring, with our Dog-tooth Violets, Trilliums and Columbine. I was very much excited when I discovered them for the first time; the Trillium for which I had paid three shillings and sixpence when in England, positively growing wild. I could scarcely believe that I had a right to gather them; having paid so much for one, I felt that it was property, valuable property, and here was positively valuable property running wild and no one caring to gather it. No one? Yes! some did, for we gathered all that we could find, and if the reader will stroll along the hedges on St. Lewis Road, or if he will cross to Pointe Levi, or better still to the Isle of Orleans, he will find them in abundance. They are dark purple flowers, growing on a stalk naked to near the summit, where there is a whirl of three leaves, its sepals are three, petals three, stamens twice three, and its stigmas three, hence its name Trilliums; we have a few of the white varieties. After the purple Trillium has done flowering, we have the painted Trillium in the woods: the Trillium *grandiflorum* is abundant at Grosse Isle.

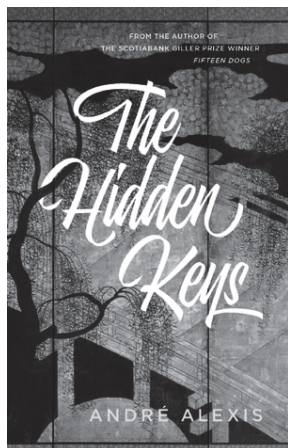
The Dog-tooth Violet (*Erythronium Americanum*) early arrested my attention; the spotted leaves and the bright yellow flowers fully recurved in the bright sunshine, contrast beautifully with the fresh green grass of the banks on which they are usually found; the bulbs are deep-seated, and the plant will at once, from the general appearance of the flower, be recognized as belonging to the lily family. ■

LIBRARY PAGES

BOOK REVIEW

THE HIDDEN KEYS, BY ANDRE ALEXIS

By Deborah van der Linde



I have always loved treasure hunts, ever since I was a child. I enjoy them almost as much as I enjoy a well written mystery. Andre Alexis' *The Hidden Keys* is a blend of the two, and most of the story takes place in Canada. The story begins in Toronto, where the main character, Tancred, a professional thief, makes a rather odd new acquaintance – a heroin addict named Willow with a bizarre family story. If

she is to be believed, she an heiress from a rich family whose deceased father has left her – and her siblings – a treasure hunt. It seems that each child was left a special token by their father to remember him by after his death, and it is these items that are at the heart of the mystery. Willow is convinced that each memento

contains a clue that will lead them to a large inheritance.

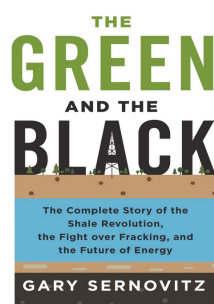
Unsurprisingly, Tancred does not think much of her story. It is quite a tale to hear from anyone, but it is especially suspect given that its source is a drug addict. But he ends up being drawn into it when Willow hires him to steal her siblings' mementos. Even after she dies, Tancred continues his hunt for the treasure.

This story has an interesting cast of characters with fully developed personalities. Neither perfectly good, nor perfectly evil, but with shades of grey – they have their strong points, but they also have their flaws. Even minor characters have background stories and a unique personality adding an interesting dimension to the overall story.

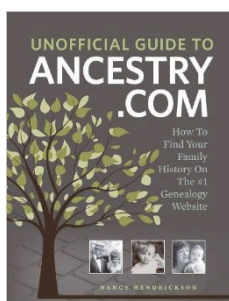
The book is a highly enjoyable read, and a great adventure. It's a perfect escape for these cold, snowy nights. ■

NEW ACQUISITIONS

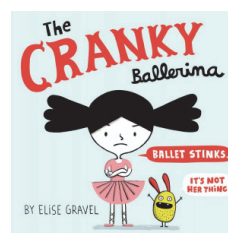
Here are a few of the recent additions to the Library collection. To reserve a title, please contact the Morrin Centre Library at **418-694-9147** or visit our online catalogue at **www.morrin.org**.



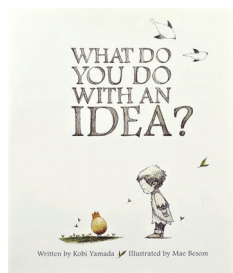
*Green and the Black*  
Gary Sernovitz



*Unofficial Guide to Ancestry.com*  
Nancy Hendrickson



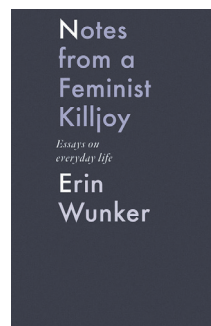
*Cranky Ballerina*  
Élise Gravel



*What Do You Do With an Idea*  
Kobi Yamada



*Every Hidden Thing*  
Kenneth Oppel



*Notes from a Feminist Killjoy*  
Erin Wunker

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For more info about events/tickets:  
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## THE BEST OF WRITERS & COMPANY

**Eleanor Wachtel**

Wednesday April 5, 6:30 PM  
 Host - Rachele Solomon

Eleanor Wachtel is known worldwide as the remarkable host of CBC Radio's *Writers and Company*. She was born and raised in Montreal, where she studied English literature at McGill. Wachtel has worked as a literary commentator on CBC Stereo's *State of the Arts*, a writer-broadcaster for *The Arts Tonight*, a Toronto reporter for *The Arts Report*, host of *The Arts Tonight* from 1996 to 2007 and has been host of *Writers & Company* since its inception in 1990. Her greatest interviews have now been collected in *The Best of Writers & Company* (Biblioasis, 2016).



## FROM PAPER TO PIXEL

**Merylyn Simonds**

Wednesday April 5, 8:00 PM  
 Host - Angelica Montgomery

Merylyn Simonds was born in Winnipeg and grew up in Brazil and Ontario. She started her writing career as a freelance journalist, publishing several journal articles and nine non-fiction titles. Her books include *The Convict Lover* (1996); *The Lion in the Room Next Door* (1999); *The Holding* (2004); and *Breakfast at the Exit Café: Travels in America* (2010), a travel chronicle she wrote with her husband, Wayne Grady. She has edited two anthologies and her new novel, *Gutenberg's Fingerprint*, will be released in April 2017.

## BOOKS AND WINE W/THE PANACHE SOMMELIER

**Yann Barrette-Bouchard**

Thursday April 6, 5:30 PM

Panache sommelier, Yann Barrette-Bouchard, will present four fine wines that have been paired with a selection of books being presented at this year's festival. Their authors will discover which wines the sommelier has chosen to drink while reading their books and participants will get to taste each wine. This will be the perfect opportunity to become more familiar with books from the festival and to meet their authors. Appetizers will also be provided by Panache.

**Tickets \$25 (25% discount on the ticket price for festival pass holders, Morrin Centre members and students).**

Presented by  **ACA**  **Panache**  
 TRAITEUR



## PATRICK DEWITT ON TELLING STORIES

**Patrick deWitt**

Thursday April 6, 8:00 PM  
 Host - Wayne Grady

Patrick deWitt is the author of the critically acclaimed *Ablutions: Notes for a Novel*, as well as *The Sisters Brothers*, short-listed for the Booker Prize, and *Undermajordomo Minor*, which was on the The Scotiabank Giller Prize 2015 Longlist. Born in British Columbia, he has also lived in California and Washington, and now resides in Portland, Oregon.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



**AN EVENING WITH  
C.C. HUMPHREYS**

**Chris Humphreys**  
Friday April 7, 6:30 PM  
Host - Peter Black

As an actor Chris (C.C.) Humphreys has performed on stages from London's West End to film sets in Hollywood. He has written eight historical novels, including the *Jack Absolute Trilogy*. He has also written a trilogy for young adults, *The Runestone Saga*. His novel *Plague* won Canada's Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime Novel in 2015. His books have been translated into 13 languages. Last year he earned a Master's in Creative Writing from UBC.



**CONVERSATIONS  
WITH MARK ABLEY**

**Mark Abley**  
Saturday April 8, 11:00 AM

Mark Abley was born in England, grew up in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and has lived for more than thirty years in the Montreal area. A Rhodes Scholar and a Guggenheim Fellow, he has written four collections of poetry and two books for children. Mark's most recent work of nonfiction, *Conversations with a Dead Man* (2013), looks at the troubled history of Settler-Indigenous relations in Canada. A language columnist for the *Montreal Gazette*, he is working on a new book about language, in addition to a memoir of his father.



**A NUMBER OF  
THINGS**

**Jane Urquhart**  
Friday April 7, 8:00 PM  
Host - Jeanette Kelly

Jane Urquhart was born in northern Ontario, and grew up in Northumberland County and Toronto. She is the author of seven internationally acclaimed novels. In 2005 she was named an Officer of the Order of Canada. Her latest novel, *A Number of Things*, was released in October, 2016, and is a national bestseller.



**BEFORE 150:  
PRE-CONFEDERATION  
CANADA**

**D. Peter MacLeod**  
Saturday April 8, 12:00 PM  
Host - Donald Fyson

D. Peter MacLeod curated the permanent exhibits on the Seven Years' War and the Battle of the Plains of Abraham at the Canadian War Museum. His previous books include *The Canadian Iroquois and the Seven Years' War* (2012), and *Northern Armageddon* (2008).



**STORYTIME FOR  
LITTLE MONSTERS**

**Marie-Louise Gay**  
Saturday April 8, 10:30 AM

Marie-Louise Gay was born in Quebec City. She has received prizes for her writing and illustrations, including the Vicky Metcalf Award, a number of Governor General Awards, the Ruth Schwartz Award, the Mr. Christie's Book Award, the Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award, the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, and the CLA's Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award.



**OF ROSES AND  
FLOURS**

**Alice Zorn**  
Saturday April 8, 1:00 PM  
Host - Julia Caron

Alice Zorn is the author of *Five Roses; Arrhythmia* and a book of short fiction, *Ruins & Relics*, which was a finalist for the 2009 Quebec Writers' Federation First Book Prize. She has twice placed first in *Prairie Fire's* Fiction Contest. Her novel, *Five Roses*, takes place in Montreal in the historic neighbourhood of Pointe St. Charles, where she has lived since 2001.

## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES



## DONNA MORRISSEY NOW

Donna Morrissey  
Saturday April 8, 2:00 PM

Donna Morrissey has written six best-selling novels. She has received many awards, and her novel, *Sylvanus Now* was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize. Her latest novel, *The Fortunate Brother*, spent over a month on the bestseller list and has been picked up for publication in London, England. Donna currently teaches fiction at Dalhousie University and Humber College, Toronto. She's also writing a new novel.



## I'M THINKING OF ENDING THINGS

Iain Reid  
Saturday April 8, 3:00 PM  
Host - Sarah Barclay

Iain Reid is the author of two critically acclaimed, award-winning books of nonfiction, *One Bird's Choice*; and *The Truth About Luck*, which was one of Globe and Mail's best books of 2013. In 2015, he received the prestigious RBC Taylor Emerging Writer Award. His debut novel, *I'm Thinking of Ending Things*, is a national best-seller and has sold in over fifteen countries to date.



## THE LONGEST YEAR

Daniel Grenier  
Saturday April 8, 4:00 PM  
Host - Michael Bourguignon

Daniel Grenier's debut short story collection, *Malgré tout on rit à Saint-Henri* was published in 2012, and he has translated Anna Leventhal's *Sweet Affliction*, Arjun Basu's *Waiting for the Man*, and Mireille Silcoff's *Chez L'arabe* into French. *The Longest Year*, his first novel, won the Prix littéraire des collégiens and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for French Fiction, the Prix des libraires, and the Prix



## THE FIREHOUSE CHEF

Patrick Mathieu  
Saturday April 8, 5:00 PM  
Host - Héroïse Leclerc

Firefighter Patrick is a passionate foodie and self-taught chef who followed in his French-Canadian family's traditions of firefighting and cooking from the heart. He has cultivated his love for cooking in the firehouse and, alongside his wife Andrea Lauren, is the proud owner of StationHouse Catering and Private Chef Services. Patrick is also a culinary instructor, a food and recipe columnist for *Firefighting in Canada Magazine*, and appeared on Season 2 of the Food Network's "Chopped Canada". He lives just outside Waterloo, Ontario with his wife and two children.



## THE PARTY WALL

Catherine Leroux  
Saturday April 8, 6:30 PM  
Host - Rachelle Solomon

Catherine Leroux was born in 1979. After practicing various trades, including journalism, she published her first novel in 2011, *La marche en forêt*, a finalist at the Prix des libraires du Québec. *Le mur mitoyen*, published two years later, won the France-Quebec Prize and was selected for the Grand Prix of the book of Montreal. Its English version, *The Party Wall*, was in competition for the Giller Prize. Published in 2015, *Ms. Victoria* won the Adrienne Choquette Award. Catherine Leroux lives in Montreal where she

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to purchase

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



**NOS AMOURS: THE ILL-FATED, BUT UNFORGETTABLE MONTREAL EXPOS**

**Jonah Keri**

*Saturday April 8, 8:00 PM*

Jonah Keri is the New York Times-bestselling author of two books: *Up, Up, & Away*, on the colourful history of the Montreal Expos; and *The Extra 2%*, the story of the Tampa Bay Rays' rise from worst to first. He covers baseball and numerous other topics for CBS Sports and Sports Illustrated. Subscribe to The Jonah Keri Podcast on iTunes, and follow Jonah on Twitter @jonahkeri.



**MURDER OVER EASY: BOOKS & BRUNCH**

**John McFetridge**

*Sunday April 9, 11:00 AM*

*Catered by: Buffet Maison*

Born and raised in Montreal, now living in Toronto, John McFetridge is a husband, father, novelist and screenwriter. As a novelist, his Montreal series, featuring Constable Édouard 'Eddie' Dougherty, has been compared to Joseph Wambaugh and described as, "a fine character study and a vivid snapshot of 1970s Montreal," by *Publishers Weekly*. The books in the series so far are *Black Rock*, *A Little More Free*, and *One or the Other*.

In addition, John has enjoyed wide critical acclaim for his series based in Toronto. *Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere* was named book of the year by *Quill and Quire* magazine, and *Tumblin' Dice* was an Amazon Editors' Pick.

For television, John McFetridge wrote two episodes of the Investigation Discovery network series, *Real Detective*. John also wrote two episodes of the CTV/CBS crime drama, *The Bridge*, and served as story editor for 11 episodes.

**Tickets \$25 (25% discount on the ticket price for festival pass holders, Morrin Centre members and students)**



**ADVENTURES WITH JAMES GRAY**

**James Gray**

*Sunday April 9, 2:00 PM*

*Host - Jessica Lebbe*

James Gray wrote poetry and short stories until he became a filmmaker in his twenties. Lately, Gray has returned to writing. His novel *The Curse of the Lost White City* was inspired by an adventure in Honduras. James Gray lives part of the time in Quebec City, part of the time in the Magdalen Islands, and at other times, somewhere else.

This event will be held at the Maison de la littérature, located next to the Morrin Centre at 40, Rue Saint-Stanislas. **Tickets for this event must be purchased online at [Billetech](#) or at the [Maison de la littérature](#).**



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## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

## PAST EVENTS

*What have you missed at the Morrin Centre in recent weeks?*

Morrin Centre members and non-members enjoyed the **My Morrin: Visions of Community** events. With Louis-Robert Bouchard, they had hands-on experience with digital equipment such as projectors and computers and “surround sound”. With Louisa and Sarah Blair, they shared objects that spoke to them of their memories of Quebec. They are joining together memories and new technologies to create an installation to be unveiled on March 30.

Emile Beauchemin and Bill Black’s play **My Morrin: Miracle & Apocalypse** was about a set of non-identical twins who, after years of estrangement, had to reunite following the death of their mother. It was a story that incorporated the theme of Yin & Yang in real life; about how twin brothers can be seemingly opposite and yet interconnected. Emile Beauchemin played Xavier, the “yin” twin: the brother who is rational, grounded, and steeped in academia. Bill Black played Donovan, the “yang” twin: the one who is irrational, head-in-the-clouds, and passionate about people. A set of twins and two mystical forces of nature collided in a story about family, forgiveness and redemption.

Member Lorie Pierce in the **My Morrin: Genealogy Workshop** used her personal experiences to help some of you create your own family tree. She shared what worked for her and what didn't; from gathering information, stories, and pictures, to pulling it all together. With Pierce's help, many members learned more about how to research their genealogy, as well as about the tools that can assist them.

Gaelic scholar Michael Newton and Gaelic Poet Lewis MacKinnon presented **My Morrin: The Scottish Gaels in Canada**, an event made possible by Ann Cochrane. They presented and performed material from Quebec and Ontario about the Scottish Gaels' literary contribution to Canada.

The little ones were not left out! At **Library Story Time** and **Pick a Book** on Saturdays, children participated in fun-filled storytime events about space, stars and astronauts; love; and winter; as well as reading new stories with a reading buddy! ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### THE HEALTHY HOUR WHAT TO EAT?

*Wednesday March 15, 7:00 PM*

Former general director of the Fiducie du Monastère des Augustines and former executive director of the Morrin Centre, Marie Rubsteck has been doing intensive research on healthy eating. In this lecture she will share her experience of moving from a typical North American diet to a healthy diet and weight – all the while having lots of energy and fun. Most people feel that healthy eating is time-consuming, costly or confusing; this lecture aims to make it easier. Rubsteck will help you discover what foods to eat – or avoid, where to buy them, and how to prepare them. You will also get some recipes to try, and the opportunity to taste some of her healthy treats.



### MY MORRIN SERIES: SLAVERY IN THE WORLD TODAY

*Monday March 20*

*Presentation starts at 7:00 PM*

*Wine & Cheese starts at 6:00 PM*

There are an estimated 45.8 million people trapped in slavery today; India accounts for approximately 13-14million. Slavery is illegal almost everywhere. So why does it still exist?

International Justice Mission Canada is a part of a global organization, International Justice Mission (IJM), that protects the poor from violence and slavery in the developing world.

Join Ed Wilson, IJM Canada’s Executive Director, and Justice D. K. Miller, former board member and volunteer of IJM, for an in-depth look into IJM’s work combating slavery in India.

## TESTIMONY OF A MORRIN CENTRE VOLUNTEER

By Elizabeth Davies

The time investment of a volunteer at the Morrin Centre is an enriching experience for anyone who helps out with its many cultural events or at the library desk. Indeed, this rewarding experience gives the volunteer the opportunity to meet and greet members, tourists, and guests from near and far. The Morrin staff values each and every volunteer. They go out of their way to show their gratitude by holding the much anticipated Volunteer Appreciation Night.

At this year's Volunteer Appreciation Night volunteers were treated like VIPs. The College Hall tables were decorated with classics that brought back many memories for some. For example, the popular Nancy Drew series was on one of the tables, and was a "clue" for what was in store! A luscious buffet with flowing wine was offered, topped off with a decadent cake!

There was a new twist this year: a made-to-order Morrin College mystery was written by Rosemarie Fischer, with some help from Deborah Van der Linde. A journal (fictional, of course), dated January 11, 1898 and belonging to a Morrin College student, Elizabeth McGrady, was found in a box of old books. Something terrible had happened.... the remains of Michael James McCauley from Saint Sylvestre were found under a mound of snow in the churchyard of Saint Andrew's, with a bootless foot sticking out! Another mystery involving the Presbyterian Church!

Four teams of detectives had to find the murderer after listening carefully to the narrated text for clues. Then, guided by a staff member, the squads of detectives

inspected the different rooms where the evidence had been judiciously planted. Several books had been left out on the tables of the Library, and a love poem written in a woman's handwriting was left in one of the books. In the cell block the detective squads discovered a man's coat, a plate of chocolate, and a satchel with a note in it. In the chemistry lab, two chairs had been overturned, a heavy metal stamp was lying on the floor, and a button from a man's jacket was found under a table. Some of the lab's pharmaceutical supplies were also missing!

College Hall was buzzing with excitement after the adventure and more surprises were to come. An array of spectacular gifts filled a table and a draw was held. Almost everyone went home with a gift. The Morrin Centre knows how to treat the volunteers who dedicate their time to keep it vibrant. ■



Volunteers looking for clues in the Morrin Centre prison cells

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## MISCELLANEA

## THE LITERARY &amp; HISTORICAL KITCHEN CORNER

LITERARY RECIPES THAT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY

**IRISH BREAD & BUTTER PUDDING**

by Alicia Lamontagne

**For the Bread Pudding**

12 slices medium-sliced white bread  
 3 ounces salted butter, at room temperature  
 2 ounces raisins  
 1 cup cream  
 1 cup milk  
 4 egg yolks  
 3 ounces superfine sugar

**Directions:**

- Butter an ovenproof dish. Remove crust from bread; butter on both sides and cut into quarters.
- Arrange layers of bread in triangles overlapping slightly in bottom of dish. Sprinkle in raisins and cover with another layer of bread slices. Keep extra slices for use later and gently press down with a spatula.
- To make the custard, heat the cream and milk until it almost comes to a boil and remove from heat.
- Whisk egg yolks and sugar in a large

heatproof bowl and set over pan of simmering water until thick. Remove from heat and add cream mixture. Pour 2/3 of this custard over layered bread. Let stand for 30 minutes or until bread has soaked up the custard.

- Heat oven to 350°F. Pour remaining custard over soaked bread and arrange remaining bread slices on top. Press down gently with spatula so the custard comes halfway up the bread slices.
- Bake for 30 minutes or until custard is just set and top is golden brown. **Stay tuned next issue for crême anglaise and caramel sauce recipes.**

## MUSIC REVIEW: LOS CAMPESINOS!

By Barry McCullough



Los Campesinos! – *Sick Scenes*  
 (Wichita Recordings)

It was in December 2007 at a Kevin Drew show at the Le National in Montreal in support of his “solo” record, “Spirit If...”

that I first encountered Los Campesinos!. They were the first band on the bill that night and, judging by their name, I certainly didn’t expect a group of Welshmen and women playing up-tempo, glockenspiel tinged numbers. That night they blew through songs from their *Sticking Fingers Into Sockets* EP as well as their as-of-then unreleased debut album *Hold On Now, Youngster*, which would not see the light of day for another two-plus months. They wowed an entire room with these songs that night.

*Sick Scenes* is their first album since 2014’s “No Blues.” The production values have gotten slicker through the years, but the lyrics are no less acerbic than they were in the beginning. The album starts off with the up tempo “Renato Dall’Ara (2008),” a takedown of one-percenters, has one of the album’s best lines: “Pictured reading Karl Marx beside his parents’ pool, facing ridicule he bleated: ‘that doesn’t make me rich, no way,

it’s only outdoor and it isn’t heated.”

Things slow down a bit when the fourth track, “A Slow, Slow Death,” which features half-rapped verses and a horn-infused chorus, making it stand out in the band’s catalogue. Next is the earnest and delicate ballad and first single “The Fall of Home.” The cleverly titled (and this band has a litany of clever titles) “For Whom the Belly Tolls,” sees Gareth lamenting someone for whom “time ticks by until one joke becomes old.”

“Got Stendhal’s” features the album’s most affecting guitar work as the song builds from a slow start into a late crescendo of a solo before one more run through the uplifting chorus. Death is a common theme throughout the record, which makes the album’s final two lines all the more fitting “Feels like I’ve been waiting on it, nearly all my life, But what, if this is it now, what if this is how we die?”

If you know and love the band’s past work, then *Sick Scenes* will likely strike a chord with you and require extended listening. While not their definitive work, the album would serve as an accessible introduction to the band that will encourage listeners to delve into their back catalogue. ■



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