
SOCIETY PAGES

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- THE UNFORTUNATE MONTGOMERY
- THANKING BARRY HOLLEMAN
- NEIL YOUNG'S ARCHIVES

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Front cover: The Morrin Centre around the holidays. Photo by Dylan Page.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members, Partners, and Friends,

Unusual times call for unusual actions. 2020 has been a challenging year for the Morrin Centre. Nonetheless, financial contributions from the federal, provincial, and municipal governments have helped to see us through. Even more, the creativity and initiative of the

staff, under the leadership of Executive Director Barry McCullough, ensured that activities were held and that the Centre remained very present in the community.

The library, although in a restricted fashion, is open. During the lockdown period e-book loans were up more than 300%. Storytime is available online. It is probably not as fun-filled for the little ones and their parents as in-person participation, but I am sure it still brings a smile to many faces. Even online, the beer tasting event allowed for participants to taste real beer. The Imagination Writers' Festival, although drastically different, was held. We were

also able to carry out our Imagination in Schools program virtually this fall with over a dozen events taking place. Many other such events are on-going, and you are all invited to check the Morrin Centre website regularly.

The Annual General Meeting, although delayed, was held via Zoom. It was very well attended, and for that LHSQ Council members are most grateful. Furthermore, the traditional magazine auction fundraiser, led with much humour by Louisa Blair, raised a record amount.

This is my first letter as President of the LHSQ. I have big shoes to fill. On behalf of the LHSQ Council, members, and friends of the Morrin Centre, I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to Barry Holleman, our outgoing President. He went beyond the call of duty to guide us through this Covid-19 period of uncertainty. Barry never shied away from difficult decisions. His contributions to the LHSQ and the Morrin Centre will not be forgotten.

Wishing you all a very pleasant holiday season,

Gina Farnell
President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

First, I'd like to take the time to thank all of our members for continuing to support us during a time that is difficult for everyone. We have adapted to this new, hopefully temporary, reality and have held several online activities, including our 196th Annual General

Meeting, which took place on October 21. I'm very excited to work with our new Council and, in particular, our new President, Gina Farnell.

Virtual events will continue this winter as we bring you two exciting and educational workshop series. The first is *Sharing, Learning, Creating*, which starts in December and will feature five virtual workshops, including dance, painting, a special storytime activity, and more. Participants can watch presentations from experts in the fields and then try their hand (or feet!) at what they've just learned.

We are equally excited about our Moving Pictures project, which will highlight some of the wonderful English

-language cinema produced in the province. We have partnered with the Festival de cinéma de la ville de Québec to produce a series of five online events. Films will be available to view online for those who sign up. A few days later, we will then broadcast a live virtual event featuring someone involved with the film (writer, producer, actor, etc.), and participants will have the opportunity to interact with them and learn more about specific aspects of creating the film. This is a project we have long wanted to carry out and are delighted to be able to do so this winter. Both of these series are made possible thanks to support from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

With the holidays upon us, membership to the LHSQ is the perfect gift to give. For those who would like to contribute financially to the Centre's programming, a Friends membership is an excellent choice. All of the proceeds go directly back into the Centre's activities.

I hope you all have a safe and healthy holiday season,

Barry McCullough
Executive Director

THE UNFORTUNATE RICHARD MONTGOMERY

By Jack Bryden

Richard Montgomery wasn't the luckiest man around. An Irish Protestant who fought in the British Army for sixteen years, the middle-aged man realized that his career as a mid-level officer was not going to advance much further. In late 1772, Montgomery took a chance and migrated from Ireland to the colony of New York. The American Revolution lay three years in the future, but there is little evidence that the newly arrived Montgomery wanted to be a revolutionary. This soon changed, however, when he married a rich young colonist, Janet Livingston; she was a member of a powerful family, all strong supporters of the revolution and American independence. From the beginning, his new wife and her influential family pressured Montgomery to take a leadership role in the revolt.

On June 15, 1775, George Washington was chosen to head the Continental Army. In the colonies, British soldiers were known and feared for their discipline, training, and fighting ability. Washington needed experienced officers to lead and organize American volunteer soldiers. Montgomery, with his British Army experience, was encouraged both by his new family and by Washington to fight for American independence. Washington offered Montgomery a general's commission. A few months later, the reluctant General Montgomery found

himself daily imploring a large number of poorly equipped American volunteers to keep moving northwards up the Hudson River valley towards Montreal and finally Quebec City.¹



**Richard Montgomery (1738-1775),
in his Continental Army uniform**
1862 engraving by G. R. Hall,
after a painting by Alonzo Chappel

In a terrible snowstorm during the early morning of December 31, 1775, Montgomery led an American attack on the barricades at the foot of the cliffs of Quebec City. Only thirty Canadian militia and a handful of British sailors manning small cannon stood waiting for the onslaught. Quebec's defenders fired at a distance of fifty yards, and the unfortunate General Montgomery and two other American officers died almost immediately. Montgomery was hit in both thighs and the head by grapeshot. Without leaders, the army quickly lost its drive and retreated in disorder. Montgomery's frozen body was later recovered by British soldiers and buried in Quebec with respect.

Americans from George Washington to Benjamin Franklin soon learned of the General's death. Montgomery became a martyr and his death was used to recruit soldiers for the Continental Army. Paintings and sketches of their military hero were distributed and memorials were built. A large memorial to Montgomery can be seen at the entrance of St. Paul's Chapel in New York City, built in 1766. The American painter John Trumbull painted the death of General Montgomery in Quebec, which seems to have been

¹ For an account of Montgomery's march to Quebec, read Hal T. Shelton's excellent book on Montgomery found in the LHSQ library: *General Richard Montgomery and the American Revolution: From Redcoat to Rebel* (New York: New York University Press, 1994.) BIO M788 1994

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☞ MONTGOMERY (continued from previous page)



The Death of General Montgomery in the Attack on Quebec, December 31, 1775 by Jon Trumbull (1786)
Courtesy of Yale University Art Gallery

influenced by Benjamin West's famous *The Death of General Wolfe* painted a few years earlier. It took almost 45 years for Montgomery's body to be transferred from Quebec City to be re-interred in New York City. In 1818, large crowds of Americans lined the banks of the Hudson River to welcome the flotilla that delivered their hero home. Dozens of American counties, towns, and a city were named "Montgomery" in honour of this expatriate Irishman.

In Quebec City, many did not see Montgomery as a war hero. Many thought he was a traitor to the British cause who had been easily defeated by the defenders of the city. The difference of opinion came to a head in the first years of the twentieth century. In February 1901, the U.S. Consul in Quebec presented a petition to the roads committee of the Quebec City Council from the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution, asking for permission to erect a memorial

to Montgomery in Quebec City. American newspapers reported that the request was considered and unanimously approved. The decision upset several members of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec and many historical organizations in Ontario.

The Ontario Historical Society, the United Empire Loyalists Association, and the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire were determined to stop any memorial to General Montgomery from being built in Quebec and sent out petitions to the governments of Great Britain, Canada, and the Province of Quebec.

The LHSQ formed a special committee to prevent the request from the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution from proceeding further. Members included James McPherson Le Moine (former LHSQ President), William Wood (then-LHSQ President), Honourable Philippe Baby Casgrain (former LHSQ President), and

TRANSACTIONS

F.C. Wurtele (secretary of the committee). The LHSQ petitioned the Governor General of Canada. It commended Clementine Fessenden of Ontario for her “untiring energy” in helping to stop the construction of the Montgomery memorial. (Fessenden was a strong supporter of the British Empire and convinced many provinces to establish “Empire Day” in May to celebrate Queen Victoria’s birthday). The *Boston Post* reported that the LHSQ had written a strongly worded letter to the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution stating that, “Canada is part of the British Empire, and a most important one, too, and intends to so remain forever.” The LHSQ letter also demanded that Americans “keep your memorials on your side of the boundary... We will have none of them here.”

The American press reacted to the Canadian rebuff of their hero. The *Buffalo Commercial* complained about the “objectives of the ultra-loyalists of the Dominion.” The *Kansas City Star* was upset with the attempt of the “descendants of the United Empire Loyalists of Ontario to prevent the erection of the [Montgomery] memorial” in Quebec. A New York City newspaper pointed out that the LHSQ seemed to have forgotten that the city of Quebec had a memorial to Montcalm, the French general, who also fought the British. Stopping the Richard Montgomery memorial had become a cause célèbre for the Empire Loyalists and the Imperialists of Canada, but not everybody in Canada and Quebec felt that way. After all, the Quebec City Council had approved the memorial.

American newspapers reported that the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, reserved his opinion, not wanting to interfere in municipal politics. The *London Chronicle* speculated in June 1901 that “the whole cause of Quebec’s willingness to allow the Montgomery memorial is to be found in the fact that each summer thousands of Americans visit Quebec and leave a good many good American dollars behind them.” By 1901, tourism was becoming important to Quebec City. The Château Frontenac had recently been built, while at the same time other industries and head offices were packing up and moving to Montreal.



Plaque in Basse-Ville: “Here stood the undaunted fifty safeguarding Canada defeating Montgomery at the Prés-de-Ville Barricade on the last day of 1775. Guy Carleton commanding at Quebec”



Richard Montgomery Statue in Montgomery, Alabama

No memorial was built at the location in Basse-Ville where General Montgomery fell. Instead, today one finds plaques commemorating his defeat and celebrating the British General Guy Carleton. The LHSQ and its Empire Loyalist allies had won this battle.

The memory of Richard Montgomery continues to generate controversy for different reasons. In the past, Irish flags have been placed next to his memorial in New York but then removed and replaced with American flags by unknown others. In 2019, the city of Montgomery, Alabama commissioned a statue of the unfortunate general to be located in a place of honour in front of Montgomery’s city hall. This provoked a plethora of protests, and the statue was relocated to an obscure corner across the street. Why the protests? In 1773, poor Richard Montgomery left Ireland and married into one of the largest slave-owning families in New York.

LIBRARY PAGES

BINGEING ON BOOKS: THE IDEAL WINTER PASTIME

ON THE SHELF: A thematic review of some interesting, important, or just entertaining books in the Library of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden



As temperatures drop and flurries fly, Lit and Hist. members begin to ask themselves, “What will I read this winter?” Fortunately, there are books on the Library’s wooden shelves as well as the virtual ones to satisfy most tastes; in fact, sometimes the abundance of books makes it difficult to decide. One way to make choosing easier is to settle on a good series or two. Previous editions of “On the Shelf” have featured such prolific writers as Agatha Christie, Mark Twain, James Lee Burke, Wilbur Smith, and, of course, Louise Penny.

But what about some other engaging series (or unrelated books by a single author), from classics to contemporary?

There are twenty-one fiction titles by Margaret Atwood on the shelf, including a 2019 graphic novel adaptation of *The Handmaid’s Tale*. Other Canadian authors with several books in the Library include: Alice Munro, with fifteen selections, including *Dear Life: Stories* (2012), which is also available as an e-book; Robertson Davies, with an even dozen titles on the shelf; Carol Shields, with eleven titles available; and Thomas King, with seven titles. King’s latest novel, *Indians on Vacation* (2020) is also available as an e-book, along with four more of his books.

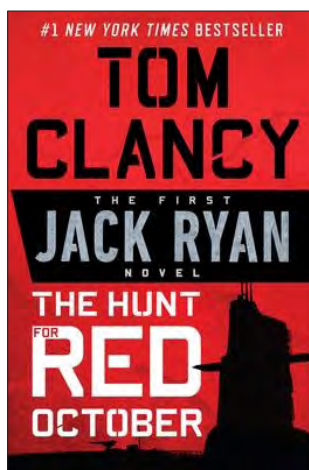
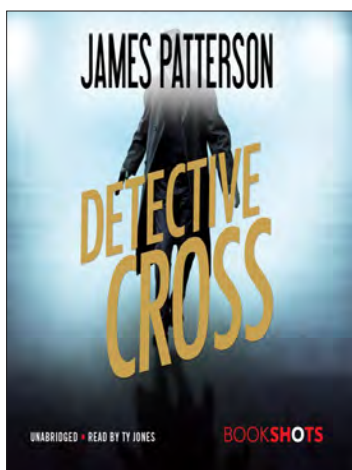
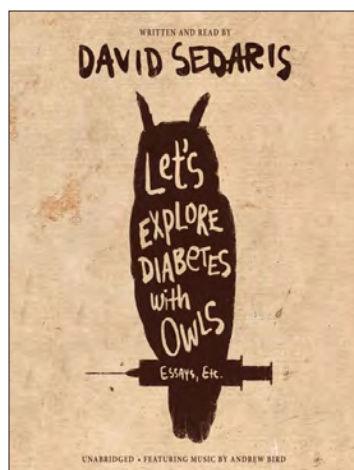
Some authors create more than one series. Take Alexander McCall Smith. There are more than thirty books by him on the shelf, including fourteen from **The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency** series, nine from the **Isabel Dalhousie** and the **Sunday Philosophy Club** series, four from the **44 Scotland Street** series, one from the **Corduroy Mansion** series, and three from the children’s **Akimbo** series.

And some authors create different series—in different genres. Ken Follett is a prime example. After penning many spy/thriller novels, he turned to historical fiction with the **Century Trilogy**; all three books are on the shelf, beginning with *Fall of Giants* (2010). Follett has also written the **Kingsbridge** novels, including Library selections *The Pillars of the Earth* (1989), *World without End* (2007), *A Column of Fire* (2017), and the new *The Evening and the Morning* (2020), available soon.

Craving something lighter for the coming holiday season? What about the seven books by Terry Fallis? *Poles Apart* (2015) and *Albatross* (2019) are on the Library shelves and available as e-books.

Some readers may make a New Year’s resolution to re-read some of the classics by using today’s technology:

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e-books. The nine William Shakespeare e-book choices—from *King Lear* (1605) and *Macbeth* (1606) to *Romeo and Juliet* (~1595) and *The Taming of the Shrew* (1590)—would suit nicely. Of course, the Bard's entire collection may be checked out using the Library's pick-up service. Fast-forward more than two centuries to Charles Dickens. There are twelve e-books, including *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), for which there is also an audiobook.

Audio and Visual Resources

The audiobook collection includes master storyteller David Sedaris's *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* (2013), *Me Talk Pretty One Day* (2000), and *Barrel Fever* (1994). For those who enjoy the thriller/suspense genre, try audiobooks by James Patterson: *The Detective Cross* (2017), *6th Target* (2007), and *Invisible* (2014, written with David Ellis).

Library members may not realize that they have access to three Alfred Hitchcock films through OverDrive: *The 39 Steps* (1935), *Sabotage* (1936), and *Secret Agent* (1936).

Maybe readers have been bingeing on series on various cable channels or streaming services these past months, and many of those series are based on—you guessed it—books! Viewers may have watched *Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan*. The Library has nine books by Clancy on the shelf, including five in the Jack Ryan series; *The Hunt for Red October* (1984) is a good place to start. The television series *Vera* is based on Ann Cleeves' detective, Vera Stanhope. The Library has

the latest Cleeves' book *The Darkest Evening* (2020). Henning Mankell's detective Kurt Wallander has inspired screen series in Swedish and in English and a new television series, *Young Wallander*. There are three Mankell e-books, including the newly translated *An Event in Autumn* (2004), and eight Wallander novels on the Library shelves.

Younger Readers Binge Too

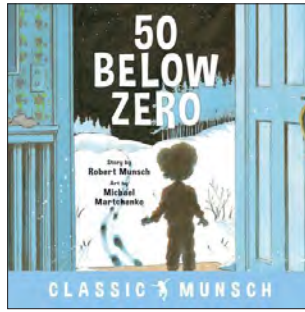
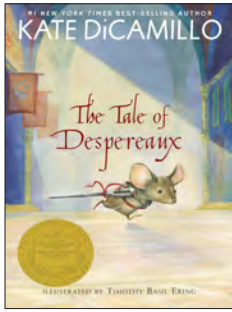
Youngsters often enjoy series, and the Library has plenty of choices. The youngest readers might gravitate towards favourite characters like *Scaredy Squirrel* (five on-the-shelf books and four e-books by Mélanie Watt, who has also written about Chester the cat and the little bunny who was kept waiting in *You're Finally Here*, 2011). With a book for every season (try *Berenstain Bears Meet Santa Bear*, 1984) and every circumstance, there are the *Berenstain Bears*, with thirty books by Stan and Jan Berenstain written over the past fifty—that's right, fifty—years. And then there is the irrepressible Robert Munsch, with three e-books, including one just for winter: *50 Below Zero* (1986).

Just for fun, there are three audiobooks in Patrick Jennings's *Guinea Dog* series.

Junior readers (a term which usually applies to independent readers and those ready to tackle chapter books) have many series on the shelf and in the e-book collection. With fifteen titles to choose from the shelf, Lemony Snicket is a good place to begin.

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👉 **ON THE SHELF** (continued from previous page)



Scott Chantler offers up one novel and two graphic novels, on the shelf. Then there are the four books on the shelf in Jim Benton’s **Dear Dumb Diary** series and three e-books in Jeff Kinney’s **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** series. Kate DiCamillo has nine e-books available; each explores a different, intriguing character or situation.

“Young Adults” is a somewhat broad classification, given that many of the authors and titles appeal to an even wider range of readers. Series and stand-alone books by a single author available on the Library’s shelves include four novels in Veronica Roth’s **Divergent** series as well as the first three books in the

Virals series, by Kathy Reichs and her son Brendan. And some writers like Cary Fagan and Neil Gaiman cover the gamut of genres and audiences. The Library has their picture books for the youngest readers, books for junior fiction, and young adult fiction.

The Library is offering contact-free book pick-up services. Please visit the Morrin Centre website, morrin.org for details. Library Manager Kathleen Hulley is available to provide advice on how to access the e-book, audiobook, and video collections. She may be contacted at kathleenhulley@morrin.org.



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AGENT SONYA BY BEN MACINTRYE

Book Review by Ronald G. Landes, Professor of Political Science

Many years ago one of my uncles, who was an avid reader, had a simple way of summarizing his conclusion about the most recent book he had finished: if he liked it, he classified it as “a good read;” if he didn’t like it, he wouldn’t comment on it. I am sure he would have classified Ben Macintyre’s latest espionage case study as not merely a good read, but a great read. So what makes a great read? First, a great story to tell, and second, a great storyteller. *Agent Sonya: Moscow’s Most Daring Wartime Spy* has both.

Two major themes permeate this analysis of Ursula Kuczynski’s successful career as a spy for the GRU (Russian Military Intelligence): the role of women in the “Great Game” of espionage and the importance of this particular woman in crucial espionage events of the twentieth century.

International relations, and especially espionage, have always been and continue to be highly misogynistic. Kuczynski, as *Agent Sonya*, was able to use her gender (rather than sexpionage) as a significant basis for her achievements: she was not a Mata Hari, but a woman who used her intellectual resources to become one of the most outstanding spies of the twentieth century. Along the way, Kuczynski was involved with other famous figures in twentieth-century espionage history: Agnes Smedley, Richard Sorge, Klaus Fuchs, Alexander Allan Foote, Roger Hollis, and Melita Norwood.

As a woman, Kuczynski was viewed as neither capable nor able to be a spy, especially by the Western (namely, British) intelligence agencies. She was thus able to “hide in plain sight,” as a woman, then as a wife, then as a mother with small children. The gender bias within espionage provided Kuczynski with perfect cover stories to explain her life, including using her

accommodations as safe houses, meeting sites for recruitments, and for radio communications with her GRU handlers in Moscow. In fact, she was recruited by Richard Sorge—described by Ian Fleming as “the most formidable spy in history” (*Agent Sonya*, 39), who gave her the code name Sonya, which in Russian means dormouse or sleepy person, that is, a sleeper agent (58). Kuczynski quickly became Sorge’s lover and “a housewife spy.” As Macintyre explains, Kuczynski was “not a feminist... she had entered a male-dominated profession and excelled at it, using every possible advantage that her gender gave her” (329).

As a committed ideological spy for communism from the age of sixteen, Kuczynski moved around the globe to help with the hoped-for Communist revolutions: to Shanghai, to Manchuria, to Warsaw, to Moscow, to Switzerland, among other places, and, finally, to England, where she

had her greatest triumph and impact as a key spy of the twentieth century. In 1942, still posing as just a housewife, she became the handler for Klaus Fuchs, the spy who was more responsible than anyone else for the success of the Soviet Union’s espionage mission of getting the secrets of the atomic bomb, thus changing the international balance of power. Even when Fuchs was exposed and then confessed, *Agent Sonya* was able to flee England in 1950 because of the misogyny of the British intelligence agencies.

In conclusion, *Agent Sonya* is a great read: it not only “reads like a novel,” but it is better than any fictional account of the spy game—even those by John le Carré. I feel compelled to give this author my highest compliment: I wish I had written *Agent Sonya*.

Agent Sonya: Moscow’s Most Daring Wartime Spy (McClelland & Stewart, 2020).



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THE GLASS HOTEL BY EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL

Book Review by Peter Black



Fans of Emily St. John Mandel's blockbuster best-seller *Station Eleven* knew the Vancouver Island-raised author had a hard act to follow. Launched in 2014, after a frantic publishing house auction, *Station Eleven* struck a chord with readers, awards juries, and HBO producers, with its tale of Shakespearean actors and musicians on a journey south of the Great Lakes in the wake of a worldwide swine flu pandemic that has killed billions and wiped out technology and communications.

Sales of *Station Eleven* had a resurgence with the coronavirus outbreak earlier this year, at about the same time Mandel's fifth novel, *The Glass Hotel*, hit the shelves. Her latest work, though far from science fiction, takes another type of disaster as its theme: a Ponzi scheme that vanishes the investments and ruins the lives of hundreds of eager dupes.

The glass hotel of the title refers to a luxury hotel in a remote inlet of Vancouver Island that the swindle mastermind, Jonathan Alkaitis, owns, and where he meets his "trophy" wife Vincent (named for poet Edna St. Vincent Millay), a restless young woman working at the hotel's bar.

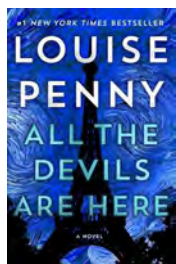
What follows is an intricately woven, brilliantly imagined, emotion-charged, time-hopping tale linking Vincent's wayward brother Paul, the conspirators in the Ponzi scheme, and their victims. Along the way, Mandel transports us to intriguing destinations around the world, from Manhattan high society to the deck of a huge container ship, where, alas—spoiler alert—something happens to Vincent.

The Glass House, in short, is a masterful follow-up to *Station Eleven*, cementing Mandel's status, at 41, as one of the most compelling young authors today.

The Glass Hotel (HarperCollins, 2020). Also available as an e-book.

ALL THE DEVILS ARE HERE BY LOUISE PENNY

Book Review by Gail Cameron



It was such a pleasure to reconnect with Chief Inspector Armand Gamache in the latest novel by Louise Penny. It is the sixteenth in the series, and I have devoured every one! We are transported to Paris to catch up with the Gamache family. Gamache and his wife, Reine-Marie, have travelled to the City of Lights to see their relocated children and to be present when their daughter has their newest grandchild. It was to have been a happy family reunion until there is a tragic turn of events: Gamache's godfather is struck by a hit-and-run driver, leaving his life in the balance. Was it accidental or intentional? An unidentified body is found in the aftermath. The Paris police chief and his second in command investigate. Can they be trusted? Once more, Penny uses a literary reference for the title. It refers to a line from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*: "Hell is empty and all the devils are here."

Gamache is now immersed in a true mystery without his usual resources to rely on. It is a battle between

good and evil with the safety of his family on the line. He is assisted by his wife as well as his son-in-law, former Sûreté homicide detective Jean-Guy Beauvoir. Their investigation brings them to face power struggles and corruption in the highest levels of various Parisian corporations and banks as well as the art world. Armand's son, Daniel Gamache, seems to be right in the middle of it. The story explores family secrets, old and new, and their unsuspected consequences. Family ties, relationships, and loyalties are put to the test.

Louise Penny has mastered the art of character development. She gives us a more in-depth view of her main characters with each novel, peeling back layers to allow us a better understanding of them.

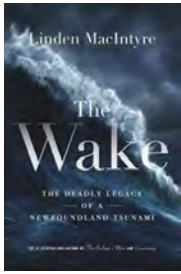
I genuinely enjoyed this latest novel. In these strange times, it was nice to reconnect with some of my favourite characters and enjoy a virtual visit to one of my favourite cities! I highly recommend it!

All the Devils are Here (St. Martin's, 2020). Also available as an e-book and audiobook on OverDrive.

LIBRARY PAGES

THE WAKE BY LINDEN MACINTYRE

Book Review by Françoise Carrière



Things I didn't know about Newfoundland: Did you know there was a devastating tsunami on November 18, 1929 in Newfoundland's Burin Peninsula? The domino effects of this event would impact the lives of over a dozen villages and its residents for decades after. Did you know that during World War II two US Navy vessels sank on the shores of Newfoundland's Burin Peninsula? Did you know that hundreds of young men died from diseases caused by poor conditions in the mines of greedy American entrepreneurs? We are quite far from the bucolic images of little coastal fishing towns that we typically associate with Newfoundland.

Enough trivia. This book is mostly about the resilient, generous, hard-working nature of Newfoundlanders. In *Wake: The Deadly Legacy of a Newfoundland Tsunami*, written by Linden MacIntyre (whose father worked in the St. Lawrence mines, located on the Burin

Peninsula), we discover families that struggled with the aftermath of the devastating tsunami: the loss of their homes and fishing boats as well as 28 members of their families; the Great Depression; the hope of a decent life as miners; the health problems they developed; families without fathers; and their abandonment by the British government in times of hardship.

MacIntyre's experience as a journalist (*The Fifth Estate*) is displayed through his rhetorical style as he sets the book in a pre-Canadian Newfoundland, abandoned by the British Government, before being saved by joining Canadian Confederation in 1949. The book is thoroughly researched, with just a hint of indignation.

The Wake left me in admiration, wanting to know more about Newfoundlanders, and wanting to visit the Burin Peninsula as well as the rest of "The Rock." Next holiday, when we are free to roam again!

The Wake (Harper Collins, 2020).

THE GIRL AND THE DINOSAUR BY HUGHES AND MASSINI

Book Review by Caroline Prévost-Levac



There was a time when I thought archeologists raided dusty temples just like Indiana Jones, and aspiring paleontologists could unearth entire T-Rexes in their backyards. Years later, I roomed with an actual archeologist and realized the lifestyle was much less glamorous than anticipated. Dirty coins and pottery fragments were the real-world golden statues and holy grails.

With Holly Hughes and Sarah Massini's *The Girl and the Dinosaur*, however, even the wildest childhood fantasies can come true. Young Marianne lives in a small village by the sea. She may not have many friends, to the fisherfolk's concern and disconcertion, but what she does have are ancient bones in the ground. Patiently and intently, she digs through the sand, and stony bone by stony bone, a dinosaur comes together. With all the might and imagination of kids her age, she calls it Bony. Now, if only Bony were alive today. They could get up to extraordinary adventures in the middle of the

unsuspecting night. Sometimes, no matter how improbable, a little girl's outlandish bedtime wish magically gets heard.

This book is magical for more than the obvious dream-like supernatural forces driving the plot. It is a story about imagination and creativity, about hope, and about ambition. It is about being different and owning it—no matter what others have to say about it. It is about following your dreams, sometimes a little more literally than the saying implies.

But what I love most about this tale is how an outcast becomes a leader for the other dreaming children in town. After all, aren't we all a little unusual in our own way? Don't we all want to be accepted for who we are and what we love? This book presents an empowering story paired with enchanting illustrations that readers of all ages will enjoy.

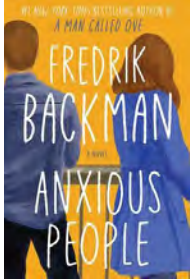
Oh, and you know, dinosaurs: always a winner.

The Girl and the Dinosaur (Bloomsbury, 2020).

LIBRARY PAGES

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Here are some of the new titles in the Library's collection.
Books with an * are also available on OverDrive.



Anxious People
Fredrik Backman
B126 2020
Fiction



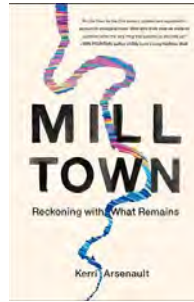
jack
Marilynne Robinson
R663 2020
Fiction



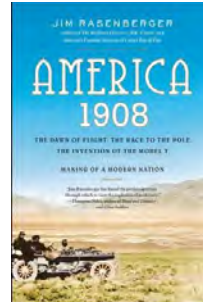
A Promised Land *
Barack Obama
BIO O12 2020
Biography



The Searcher
Tana French
F876 2020
Fiction



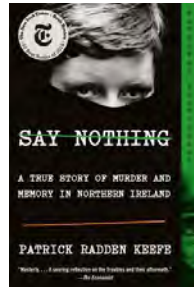
Mill Town
Kerri Arsenault
974.1 A781
Non-Fiction



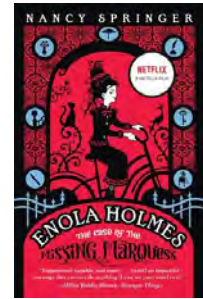
America 1908
Jim Rasenberger
973.91 R224
Non-Fiction



Transcendent Kingdom
Yaa Gyasi
G996 2020
Fiction



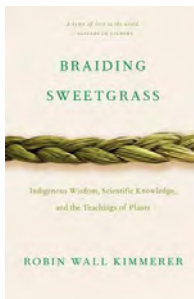
Say Nothing
Patrick Radden Keefe
364.152 K26
Non-Fiction



Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess
Nancy Springer
JF SPR 2020
Junior Fiction



The Midnight Library *
Matt Haig
H149 2020
Fiction



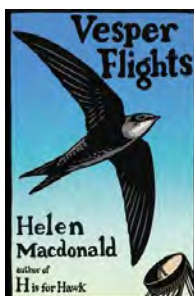
Braiding Sweetgrass
Robin Wall Kimmerer
305.897 K49
Non-Fiction



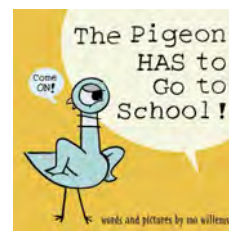
Dragons Love Tacos
Adam Rubin & Daniel Salmieri
JP RUB 2012
Junior Picture



Stay Where I Can See You *
Katrina Onstad
O59 2020
Fiction



Vesper Flights
Helen Macdonald
824.914 M135
Non-Fiction



The Pigeon HAS to Go to School!
Mo Willems
JP WIL 2019
Junior Picture

LIBRARY PAGES

WHAT'S NEW ON OVERDRIVE

Here are some of the new e-book titles now available. Log in to the Morrin Centre's OverDrive system at morrin.overdrive.com with your library card to check out our latest acquisitions. Books with an * are also available in a physical copy in the Library.



Kindred
Octavia E. Butler
Fiction



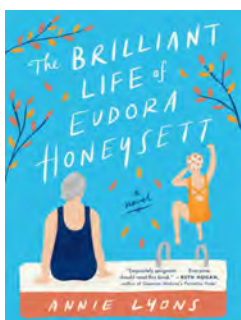
The Lying Life of Adults *
Elena Ferrante
Fiction



The Company We Keep
Frances Itani
Fiction



The Dish Washer
Stéphane Larue
Fiction



The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett *
Annie Lyons
Fiction



How to Pronounce Knife *
Souvankham Thammavongsa
Fiction

FILMS ON OVERDRIVE

Did you know that the Morrin Centre's OverDrive collection now includes some films?
Here are some of the films that you can borrow on OverDrive.



And Then There Were None



On Golden Pond



The Third Man



Secret Agent



Mon Oncle



Best of the Three Stooges



Thank you to our Volunteers

Philippe Authier, Gillian Baird, Jean-David Banville, Rowan Bartlett, Bharti Bhadana, Diane Bird, Neil Bissoondath, Peter Black, Louisa Blair, Miriam Blair, Sarah Blair, William Boden, Lucie Bouchard, Maude Boucher, Michel Bourguignon, Alison Brunette, Jack Bryden, Katherine Burgess, Steve Cameron, Susan Campbell, Claude Canuel, Julia Caron, Françoise Carrière, Sovita Chander, Diana Cline, Joanne Coleman-Robertson, Alina Doricheva, Guy Dubois, Fulya Erol, Gina Farnell, Raquel Fletcher, Louise Fleury, David Flood, Donald Fyson, Lorna Gailis, Mary Geary, Adrian Glanvill, Britta Gundersen-Bryden, Milly Hamill, Barry Holleman, Jennifer Hobbs-Robert, Ladd Johnson, Maya Johnson, Caroline Joll, Diane Kameen, Jeanette Kelly, Donald Landes, Mélanie Langlois, Guy LeRoux, Liani Lochner, Robert MacGregor-Demers, Mary McCown, Jorge Medina, Angelica Montgomery, Cheryl Moore, Shirley Nadeau, Charles André Nadeau, Anne-Marie Newman, Lisette Paradis, Isabelle Perreault, Jennyfer Plourde, Deepa Pureswaran, Grant Regalbuto, Cheryl Rimmer, Aiden Roberts, Wallace Robertson, Julie Rochon, Alain Rousseau, Naomi Rousseau, Susan Saul, Khawla Seddiki, Nydia Sepulveda, Rachelle Soloman, Jacob Stone, Éric Thibault, Elspeth Tulloch, Brigitte Wellens, Neil Williams, Donna Yavorska



GivingTuesday: *A Time to Reconnect*



Morrin Centre's Annual Fundraising Campaign

The past year has been a challenging time for everyone,
but hope is on the horizon.
Our 2020 fundraising campaign, ***A Time to Reconnect***,
strives to provide ways for people to reconnect
during this difficult time.

You can also support the Morrin Centre directly by upgrading to
a Friends membership or by contributing to this campaign.
All proceeds will be reinvested in the Centre's cultural activities.

morrin.org/campaign

Thank you!



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

CALENDAR



- **Sunday, December 13, 2020, 1:30 p.m.**
A painting workshop with Dominique Normand.
- **Saturday, January 16, 2021, 1:00 p.m.**
A special Storytime with Caroline Adderson.
- **Friday, January 29, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**
A Québécois and Celtic Music with Daniel Fréchette and Dominique Haerinck. This workshop is held in partnership with the Center for the Promotion of Living Heritage Ès TRAD and Groupe Satir Productions.
- **Friday, February 12, 2021, 7:30 p.m.**
A podorythmie workshop with Benoît Fortier.

Sharing-Learning-Creating/Partager-Apprendre-Créer is a bilingual project that aims to promote Quebec culture and build bridges between the Anglophone and Francophone communities of Quebec. To this end, we've put together a series of bilingual presentations and workshops.

This project is made possible thanks to the support of the Canadian Government and with the partnership of the Center for the Promotion of Living Heritage Ès TRAD and Groupe Satir Productions.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

LIBRARY SURVEY

Submit your responses now to have the chance to win a Morrin Centre gift package!

morrin.org/librarysurvey

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S READING PROGRAM
WINTER SCHEDULE

Storytime Online is a literacy program for children ages 3 to 7 that takes place on Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Each activity begins with the reading of a story followed by a craft inspired by the week's theme.



The S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Club welcomes children ages 8 to 12 who love to experiment, create, and learn more about the world around them. The Club meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

January 23, 2021	Like Water Off a Penguin's Back
January 30, 2021	Bad Hair Day
February 6, 2021	A Friend in Need Is a Friend Indeed
February 13, 2021	Don't Poke the Bear! (Or His Hat!)
February 20, 2021	Nókom, Why Do You Wear So Many Colours?
February 27, 2021	Is There Life on Mars?
March 6, 2021	Calling All Junior Paleontologists
March 13, 2021	A Word is Worth 1,000 Images
March 20, 2021	Sun Dogs in the Sky
March 27, 2021	Blackflies! Blackflies Everywhere!

January 19, 2021	The Art of Ceramics
January 26, 2021	Building Bridges
February 2, 2021	The Art of Ceramics: Part 2
February 9, 2021	Basketball Engineering Challenge
February 16, 2021	Building a Sorting Machine
February 23, 2021	Music and Dance
March 9, 2021	Radial Symmetry Art
March 16, 2021	Toy Launcher Challenge
March 23, 2021	Abstract Art
March 30, 2021	A Zipline in Space

MISCELLANEA

TO BARRY FROM BARRY

By Barry McCullough

The popularity of the name Barry peaked in the United States in 1963 and has been in steady decline since. So, for most of my life, I've generally been the only Barry in my circles, and definitely the only one in my age group. Certainly, I never expected that a Dutch man named Barry, born well after this popularity peak, would be the president of the organization where I work. And this, of all places, in Quebec City. In spite of the occasional confusion it has created having Barry² at the helm of the Morrin Centre, it has been my great pleasure to share first names with someone with whom I've worked so closely for the past four-plus years.



Barry Holleman and Barry McCullough
at the 2016 Literary Feast

Barry has been, and I'm sure will continue to be, an excellent ambassador for the Centre. His cool and calm leadership has permeated through Council and the whole organization. He always saw the potential of the Centre and its programming, and he understood how we could use it to connect not only to the English-speaking community, but to the whole region and beyond.

His work behind the scenes was instrumental to the Morrin Centre's fundraising success over the past four years. Under Barry's leadership, we have been able to confirm and renew pledges from our most important

partners, thus putting us on stable footing to weather unforeseen storms, as we have had to do in 2020.

And we had a lot of fun, too, over the years. Our phone calls always started out the same way: "Hi Barry, it's Barry," no matter who was calling whom. Somehow, this never became less funny over time. By the end, I think it was almost nostalgic, if one can be nostalgic for something that's current. And he even taught me the proper way to eat stropwafels.

One thing that is important to remember is that everything the members of Council do is on a volunteer basis, and, when you're president, some weeks the "job" can be very

demanding in terms of time and energy. I know that I speak for everyone when I say that we are very grateful and appreciative of Barry for his tireless dedication and all of his significant contributions to the Morrin Centre over the past four and a half years. Thanks to Barry's leadership, the Society is strongly positioned to accomplish great things in the short and long term. I hope, and I feel fairly certain about this, that this isn't so much a goodbye as it is a "see you later."

Thanks for everything, Barry, and see you later. ■

AN INTERVIEW WITH BARRY HOLLEMAN

Interview by Kathleen Hulley

Many exciting new projects took place at the Morrin Centre under the leadership of Barry Holleman, who served as the President of the LHSQ from April 2016 until October 2020. Some key initiatives included the growth of the children's educational programming, the expansion of activities beyond the Morrin Centre building, the creation of new interactive and permanent exhibits, and the recognition of the Morrin Centre as a museum. We wanted to hear more about Holleman's thoughts on these developments and his reflections on his time as President, so in November, he kindly agreed to an interview over Zoom with Society Pages editor, Kathleen Hulley.



Barry Holleman speaking at the 2018 Literary Feast

Photo by Dylan Page

When and how did you first become involved in the Morrin Centre?

I had to look that up because time flies! It was back in March 2012, almost 9 years ago. I was, at that point in time, at Cardinal Health and worked very closely with Sovita Chander [former LHSQ President]. I also worked closely with Nat Findlay, who had been a long-standing member of the Society as well. He was actually serving on Council and was giving up his seat. He was trying to figure out if there were candidates who would have an interest in joining. I came from the Netherlands to Canada in 2001, and I lived on the rue des Remparts until 2012. But I was not aware of the Morrin Centre, which was in my own backyard. I was introduced to the Centre this way. And, like many other folks, when you get into the Centre, you immediately sense the mood, the energy, its history when you step through the doors. So I thought, "Ok, I've been truly missing out. How come I didn't know about this place?" And when I started to read up on

the Society, its history, and what had been going on, I got a better appreciation for the programming, the mission, the Library. I saw all that, and I thought, "What a beautiful institution and what a wonderful cause to be a part of."

Having said that, I joined council probably a month after I first encountered the Centre. I was really recruited in; people thought that I could be a great addition to the team.

What have been some of your most memorable experiences as part of the Morrin Centre community?

Well, I really have to say that it's the community itself. What I really appreciate about the community and our membership is that whenever there is a gathering or an event, I always walk away with understanding our members, the wonderful people of our community, better. [This is] because you end up chatting and [finding out] people's interests. The people in our community have very deep and broad interests in a wide variety of topics, and it's fascinating how just through engaging and conversing you learn so much about people—and very often about the Society itself or the history of Quebec, depending on who you're talking with. I was thinking: "What was always the little thing that would lift me up after any event?" It's always how I was able to connect or understand an individual of our community better and learn about new, creative ideas or experiences that people have had. And I think that *that* is truly what is valuable, what was—what *is still*—very valuable to me and what I appreciate about the place. It's a wonderful, broad, and varied membership-based community that is very inspiring.

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👉 **HOLLEMAN** (continued from previous page)

Other memorable moments are when I have had visitors from abroad. Bringing them to the Morrin Centre is a highlight. It's wonderful how predictable everybody's reaction is! People just fall in love with the place.

What is your favourite annual event at the Morrin Centre?

It's the magazine auction!

Louisa Blair did a great job this year!

She was fantastic! There are a number of great events that I really enjoy. I like the Imagination Writers' Festival, obviously. It radiates so much of what we stand for and what we do as a Society. And it keeps on growing and brings us national and international exposure. It's a wonderful event. But I said the magazine auction because it always cracks me up. Once again, it's really a closely-knit community event. I really appreciate that. But the Literary Feast stands out as a magnificent event, which unfortunately we couldn't have this year. I think that's very sad, but it's a reality. The Literary Feast has really grown and is a fantastic evening. For us as a Society, in order to raise funds, it's very important. But when you set that aside, and when you think about the content that is actually being presented during that evening, it's always fantastic. So, I don't have one favourite event; it's many. But the magazine auction always cracks me up!

What accomplishment that took place during your tenure as President of the LHSQ are you most proud of?

I've got a list! There are so many things that took place, but they only really happened because there's a wonderful team on council and a wonderful team of staff and volunteers. Everybody contributes. But if I have to look at what I set out to do, it was really a story of

growth in all the aspects of the word. I think we saw David Blair [former LHSQ President] really focus his presidency on the building and the restoration. It was a magnificent and tremendous job that David did: to

mobilize the community for the Society, to take on this Morrin Centre dream and actually make it a reality. And with Sovita, it was figuring out, "Okay, now that we have this wonderful place, what are we going to do with it"? Under Sovita's tenure, a lot of discussion took place about our capabilities, setting the pillars for growth, programming, and

community engagement. We worked on that.

And if I look at my four years, it's really: "How do we execute that strategy?" We've seen growth in membership and significant growth in the number visitors we attract. What I'm very proud to communicate to stakeholders—the people who fund us and our general membership—is the number of days that we're open for activities and events. I think we were up to 350 days in 2019. Obviously 2020 is a bit of a different story. Every time you step into the Morrin Centre there is something going on—it's vibrant, people are engaged. Visitors to the city make a point of stopping by. It's that evolution of growth that I've enjoyed seeing—with the help of everybody, of course. A very important component of that is our increased ability to attract funding to be able to grow the Morrin Centre staff team and expand programming for the community. I also had the pleasure of working with a focused and unified council—and I'm proud of this. This is not always a given. There could be differences of opinion. I think that it's really been very good for the Society that we've been a unified machine, always moving forward.



Barry Holleman with the LHSQ Council at the 194th AGM (2018)

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Part of this is the focus on continuing our community outreach and making sure that people have a place where they can come together and actively contribute. The My Morrin programming, which was suggested by Ladd Johnson [LHSQ Vice-President], has been such an important part of that. Our mission is engaging with the community. And with Ladd and the team behind the My Morrin programming, we've seen some wonderful member-driven events and talks. That's been a pleasure to see.

I haven't touched on the museum status yet. Our museum status is an important recognition of the activity and the quality of the work that we have put into restoring the building and telling the story of the Morrin Centre and the Society. It's a major milestone, and yes, I'm proud that we were able to make it happen.

And the other thing, which we've only just started, and I know that the current team will explore further, is to think about the Morrin and the Lit and Hist. beyond the walls of the Centre. So how can we lead activities in combination with other organizations, bring activities into the schools? There's been a lot of evolution in that

over the past couple of years and I think that's great. And it helps us make sure that our community knows us. And I encourage this trend to continue, although I realize that we have a challenging year ahead.

The last thing that I have on my list is the empowerment of staff—providing staff with the accountability of operating the Centre and promoting the Society. To give staff the freedom to operate and help set the direction of the Centre, to determine the right steps, and to not always have the sense of having to check in.

What is your favourite room at the Morrin Centre? And why?

It's really between the Science Lab and the old Prison. For me it's, "Where do you get that sentiment that you're in this magnificent building that has seen so much, that

has been through so much?" The stories that are there speak to me and these spaces take you back in time. It's the prison because it represents the raw history of the building. And it's the science lab because of its atmosphere. It's probably the lamps—we've probably created that atmosphere and energy! There is the same



Barry Holleman with Guy Cormier, Ken Dryden, and Susan Campbell at the 2018 Literary Feast
Photo by Dylan Page



Barry Holleman and sommelier Yann Barrette-Bouchard at Books & Wine at the 2018 Imagination Writers' Festival
Photo by Dylan Page

MISCELLANEA

☞ **HOLLEMAN** (continued from previous page)

experience of being thrown back into time, and it immediately makes you wonder about the College era and the importance of Morrin College. And the little artefacts there, I always have fun just looking at them. I enjoy these spaces. And obviously I also think that the Library is wonderful, but the Science Lab and Prison are my favourites because of their atmosphere.

As a librarian, I have to ask: what is your favourite book or who is your favourite author? And why?

I am really attracted to the Nordic writers. One writer I really appreciate is Jo Nesbø. It was a friend in the Netherlands who got me interested in this writer. And now I'm sent these packages with the translations to read in Dutch. Nesbø's genre is really crime fiction, and he has a series about a Norwegian detective. I always appreciate that little darkness in his stories, and I appreciate how he always surprises you with the characters. Even his main characters are often very flawed and have many struggles while they are supposed to be the heroes of the story for resolving the crimes. I enjoy the complexity of his characters. My favourite book is actually not even by Nesbø, but by another Nordic writer, Jonas Jonasson: *The One Hundred-Year Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*. It's a book that I can read over and over again. But once again that's Nordic!

Now that your mandate as President of the LHSQ has come to an end, what new plans do you have?



Barry Holleman, Donald Fyson, Alicia Despina, and Marc Villeneuve at the launch of the Morrin Centre's new interactive tour, *The Hanging of William Pouden (2019)*

Photo by Dylan Page

For the past two years, I've served on the board of the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, and I've accepted to do more committee work over the past couple of months, so that's keeping me occupied and still engaged with community projects. There are some tremendous projects that are going on! Phase III of boulevard Champlain and the redevelopment are some of the big projects. We are also overseeing the redevelopment project of the old Casernes, which used to be one of the prison blocks as well. Those are really interesting projects to be involved in. And other than that, last year I started my own company, with a business partner, in health care and artificial intelligence.

We're very busy developing it, so that's taking up a lot of my time, which is really good.

Do you have anything else that you would like to share with the Morrin Centre community?

Stay involved and stay active! In both the community and the Morrin Centre. The reason we are there is to reach out to the community, which we are doing through fantastic programming. Our doors are open to our public! We are able to keep moving forward because of our active and engaged members. I'd also like to send a message of full support for Gina as President of the LHSQ. I have more than 100% faith that she is going to do an absolutely stellar job in continuing to deliver on our mission.

So, stay involved, stay active, and spread the word!

MEET THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE LHSQ: GINA FARNELL

Born and raised in Quebec City, Gina Farnell has always navigated between the French- and the English-speaking communities. A native French speaker, she was educated in the public English sector in elementary and high school. Gina Farnell then attended a French cégep and went on to Université Laval in English studies.

Her first encounter with the Morrin Centre was in 1995 when she was invited to give a talk on a trip to Beijing, where she had attended an international women's conference. Feeling comfortable in front of the audience, she half-leaned, half-sat on the huge desk in the Library. She remembers her embarrassment when the host of the evening informed her that the desk had once belonged to Sir George-Étienne Cartier. Gina Farnell meant no disrespect, especially in such a Victorian setting.

A member of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec since 2004, Gina Farnell went on to join the Council in 2010 and became Treasurer in 2012. Actively involved in the English-speaking community, Gina Farnell sits on a variety of boards, including the Citadel Foundation and the Jeffery Hale-St. Brigid's Advisory Committee to the CIUSSS.



The Society's new President recently retired after 37 years in the field of public English education, where she worked as a teacher, union president, school administrator, and Director of Complementary Educational Services at the Central Québec School Board.

Gina Farnell graduated from Université Laval with a B. Ed. She also obtained a Proficiency in English Language Certificate from Cambridge University in the United Kingdom, a Certificate in Educational Technology from McGill University, and a D.E.S. in School Administration from Université Laval.

She would never claim to be a historian, but history has always been one of her passions, particularly the history of Quebec and Canada. After years of reading reports and technical documentation, Gina now enjoys reading for leisure. Her favourite

literary genres are fiction with a solid historical background and biographies.

A mother of two, she is also the grandmother of a four-year-old who just *loves* Storytime at the Morrin. ■

MEET A NEW LHSQ COUNCIL MEMBER: SARAH BLAIR

Sarah has had a relationship with the “Lit and Hist.” since she was 18 and came from England to live in Quebec, her native city, after finishing high school and before starting university in Edinburgh. The Scottish connection became significantly more obvious over the years! Between regularly borrowing her grandmother’s library card and being shown the rings attached to the walls in the old prison by her brother a quarter-century before any renovations to the Morrin Centre building were even considered, she fell in love with the dilapidated European magic of the place. Working just down the road at the Old Homestead Hotel and popping by for library books, she never imagined that the LHSQ would continue to be an important part of Blair life 30 years on. Looking back at her brother’s fascination for the place, she might have guessed.

She moved back permanently to Canada in 1989 and brought up her family in Montreal until moving back to

her ancestral city with her family in 2011. Delighted to find a house only a five-minute walk away, she became a volunteer in the Library, and the following summer enjoyed putting together *Book Quest*, the Summer Reading Program for children. She felt so at home at the Morrin Centre that she became a tour guide and did a few odd jobs and some historical research for educational projects before heading up the road to work at Quebec High School, where she has worked with Special Needs students ever since.



Her biggest hobbies are reading, spending time with her family, and walking with children, donkeys, or dogs. She has a passion for unconventional education and sharing her love of learning with the younger generation. She looks forward to sharing more

ideas and interests with fellow LHSQ Council members and hopefully drinking quantities of tea at the same time.

MEET THE NEW CHILDREN'S READING PROGRAM ASSISTANT: CAROLINE PRÉVOST-LEVAC



When people ask Caroline where she is from, she answers “Quebec.” To this, well-intentioned conversationalists will typically inquire, “Quebec City?” And that, ladies and gentlemen, is a question to which Caroline has no clear answer.

You see, Caroline was born in Saint-Hyacinthe, raised in Saint-Alban, and educated in Trois-Rivières and Quebec City. She completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Université Laval, and after a few years of a bohemian lifestyle that took her to Toronto, Spain, Germany, and the Northwest Territories, she has now returned to our beloved capital city, to use her talents to facilitate and run activities at the Morrin Centre.

Ultimately, in spite of the excessive snowfall and bone-chillingly humid winters, she supposes she does consider Quebec City her home. This fact did not, however, stop her from controversially claiming that the minus-50 degree temperatures of northern Canada were more bearable than the minus-30 degree temperatures of southern Canada. (When the weather is dry, you see, there is such a thing as wearing enough clothes to face the elements.) To her friends’ and family’s outrage, she still stands by those words.

As an English major, she wrote her master’s thesis on comics and graphic novels, proving that the glasses are not for show—she is, indeed, a *real* nerd. She may not be an expert on 1930s-era Batman and Superman, but she *can* deliver a rant on the fundamental issues within working definitions of the medium of comics. In other words, casual small talk is not her forte.

She likes to read fiction and write stories. She likes to dance and sing in the shower. Her recipe for happiness is quite simple: a steaming mug of coffee, an engrossing book, and a purring cat to love excessively.

With her thirties right around the corner, Caroline remains youthful at heart. Over the years, she has worked with hundreds of teens and children in schools, summer camps, and tutoring programs. Although they always seem to have the uncanny ability to make her feel old—“Leonardo DiCaprio? Who’s *that*?”—children also keep her connected to the simple joys in life, from playing a silly game to reading an amusing book.

Caroline is excited to join the Morrin Centre family for this next chapter in her life.

■

NEIL YOUNG: TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Barry McCullough

I love making lists. It doesn't matter of what: best of, worst of, things I have, things I "need," grocery lists, packing lists, to-do lists, you name it. If you've ever been a fan of anything, you've probably made lists. If there was ever an artist who lent themselves and their creative output to list-making, it's Neil Young. Often, fans of an artist will make lists of things, such as unreleased songs. Ever prolific, Young's fans have long made lists of unreleased *albums*.

The lore surrounding Young's unreleased 1975 album, *Homegrown*, had grown to unsustainable levels. Shelved in favour of the 1973-recorded *Tonight's the Night*, Young claimed *Homegrown* was "too personal," as its overarching theme was the breakdown of his relationship with actress Carrie Snodgrass, the mother of his first child. A few songs trickled out on other albums, but three quarters of it remained in the vault. Over the years, however, Neil seemed to warm to the idea of eventually letting the world hear the album. There had been many teases or quasi-announcements about the album's imminent release, none of which had come to fruition. Finally, in late 2019, a video was published on his website showing sound engineer John Hanlon working on the album's production in the studio along with a note saying that it would finally be released in early 2020. Of course, we'd all been here before, and when Neil Young is concerned, you should never count on listening to a record until it's in your hands. Next, came an official release date: April 2020, as a special release for the semi-annual Record Store Day. It seemed like it was finally going to happen, but then came Covid-19 and the release date was moved to

June. Even though fans surely let out exasperated sighs, *Homegrown* did see the light of day in June, as promised, and received widespread critical acclaim.



**Neil Young Archives Volume II: 1972–1976
(Deluxe Edition)**

Young has long thoroughly documented his live and studio recordings. These days, he even employs a team that works on his archives, including a professional archivist. The first volume, *Neil Young Archives Volume I*, a sprawling eight-CD set covering his output from 1965 to early 1972, was released in June 2009. Soon after came promises that *Volume II* would follow in the next "2–3 years." Much as with *Homegrown*, promised release dates went by without a word or continually got bumped back to the end of time. More than ten years after the first volume appeared, it seemed as if we were no closer to getting the second volume.

Then came hope. Early in 2020, *Neil Young Archives Volume II* was announced with an August release date. The announcement was met with a roll of the eyes from even the most ardent supporters. Eventually, this date was pushed back to November "due to the pandemic." But it *did arrive*. And then, as quickly as it came, it went away. The initial run of 3,000 worldwide copies of the "limited deluxe edition" sold out in less than 24 hours, necessitating a re-pressing that will be released in March. A more affordable "retail" version will also be available at that time. The contents are impressive scores of previously unheard songs and recordings, three live albums, and a photo scrapbook of sorts documenting what has probably been the most fruitful period of his career. The book includes pages of

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what appears to be the reproduction of an Excel spreadsheet, presenting different takes of songs and detailed information about them. The ones in the box set are highlighted in yellow. Most of the entries are not highlighted. List-makers, rejoice! By the way, he's already hard at work on *Volume III*, slated to come out in "2022."

There was, however, a perfectly justifiable reason for the countless delays; Young was busy creating new music. In fact, from 2010 to 2020, he released nine studio albums, a film soundtrack, and a live album. During this time, he collaborated with famed Canadian producer Daniel Lanois, Jack White, Promise of the Real, and, of course, his trusty Crazy Horse, who are there for him whenever the mood strikes. He also found the time to release seven live archival albums covering the period from 1970 to 2004. He was also busy creating a virtual space for his archival material.

In late 2017, the website neilyoungarchives.com was launched. Initially, the vast majority of his officially released music was available for free. Since then, it has switched to a very affordable subscription model (\$20 USD per year), and it offers many interesting features, such as a virtual movie theatre with three "screens," each one showing a different Neil Young video project (of which there are many) at any given time. It really is an entire web portal and features an honest-to-god virtual file-cabinet-type structure that isn't entirely intuitive and is a bit clunky at times. The site also houses his very own *Times-Contrarian* digital newspaper. The publication is updated frequently, but on no fixed schedule, and covers news about Young and his projects, politics, art, religion, environment, and more. If you've been around his work long enough, you've come to expect this kind of quirkiness and, by this point, it is probably even one of the reasons you stick around.

If you'd like to delve further into the Neil Young rabbit hole, the LHSQ Library is a fine place to start. *Shakey* is

a very in-depth biography by music writer Jimmy McDonough, who has written for the *Village Voice* and *Variety*, among other publications. McDonough had direct access to Young for a number of years in the 1990s and many of the conversations are included in the book. The book features plenty of good material for the list-makers among us, providing fairly in-depth information about recording sessions, tours, and then-unreleased material. *Shakey* follows a "warts-and-all" philosophy regarding Young's career and his relationships, both personal and professional. Its goal is not to aggrandize him.

On the other hand, *Waging Heavy Peace*, one of Young's autobiographies, is written as if he's in the room talking directly to you. It's a scattered (appropriately, also the title of one of his songs from 1996's *Broken Arrow*) affair, jumping from period to period. Seemingly, the book was published without a lot of editing, which seems to have been a conscious choice.

Both of these books are available in our Library. You'll probably have time to read one or both of them while you wait for *Neil Young Archives Volume III* to be released.

Neil Young books in the Library collection:

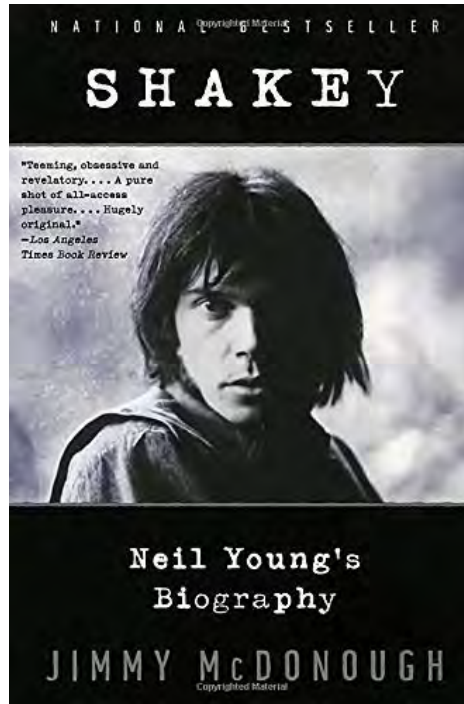
Neil Young, *Waging Heavy Peace* (BIO Y74 2012)

Neil Young: *Special Deluxe: A Memoir of Life & Cars* (audiobook on OverDrive)

Neil Young & Phil Baker: *A Songwriter's Mission to Save High-Quality Audio* (e-book on OverDrive)

Jimmy McDonough: *Shakey: Neil Young's Biography* (BIO Y74 2002; also available as an e-book on OverDrive)

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