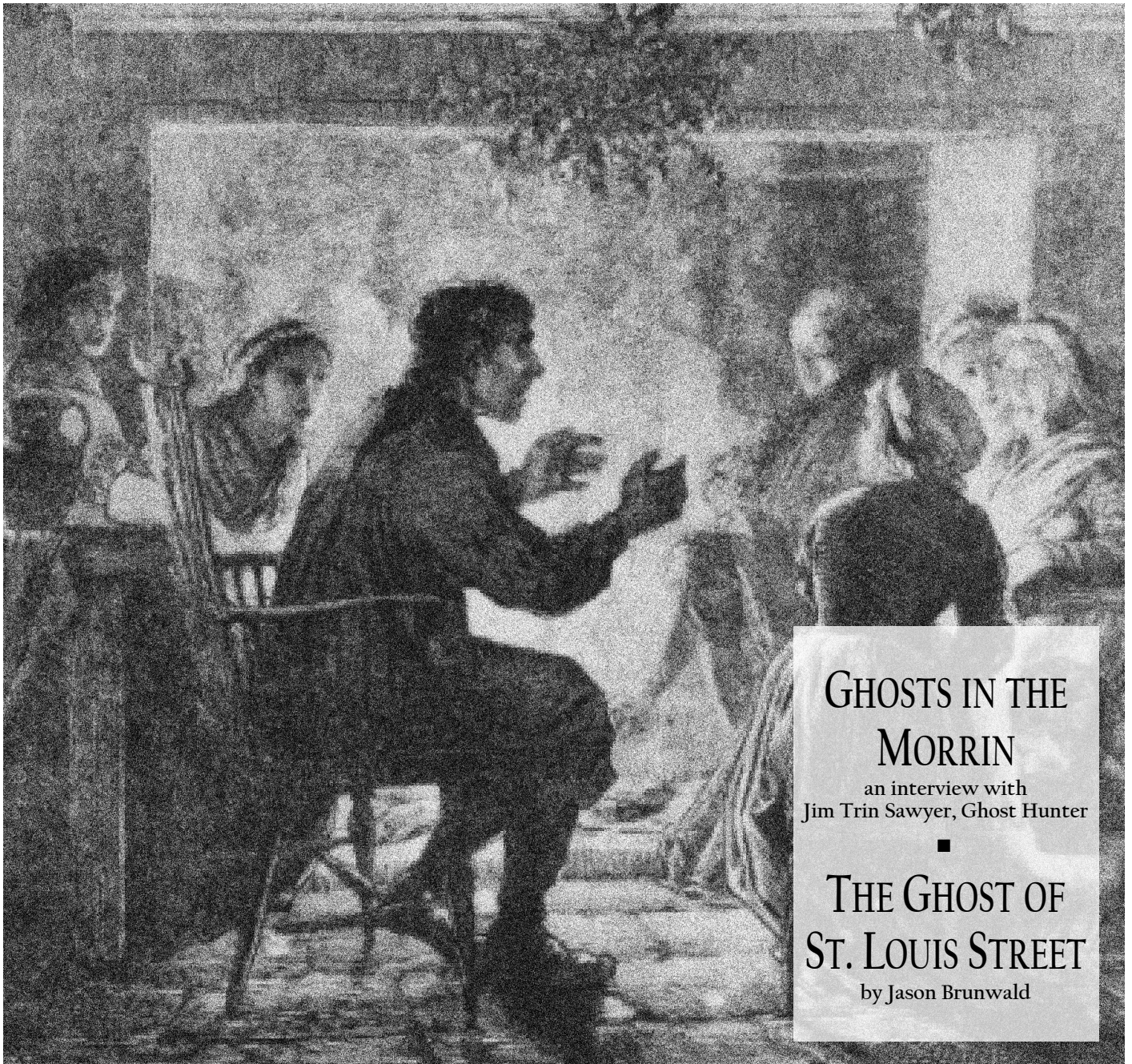




SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 17 ■ AUTUMN 2007 ■ \$2,00



GHOSTS IN THE MORRIN

an interview with
Jim Trin Sawyer, Ghost Hunter



THE GHOST OF ST. LOUIS STREET

by Jason Brunwald



SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 17 ■ AUTUMN 2007

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TEA CONTEST
NEW PRIZES
SEE BACK COVER

LIBRARY HOURS

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

Front page: « A Ghost Story » by George Thomas (detail). Originally published in Canadian Illustrated News, 23 December 1871.

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The *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec* is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region and share its diverse heritage. The LHSQ manages the Morrin Centre

■
ISSN 1913-0732

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends,

With only four months to go before the start of Quebec's 400th anniversary festivities, the Morrin Centre is busy developing its programmes to ensure a major presence throughout the year.

I am very pleased to report that the former Minister for Canadian Heritage, Ms. Bev Oda, confirmed the Federal Government's participation in Phase II of the Morrin Centre restoration project to a maximum of \$ 550,000. Since that letter, Quebec City's Josée Verner has been named Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages on August 14th, 2007. This can only be good news for the Society. I have invited her to visit our magnificent building

During the course of the summer, Philippe Couillard, Minister of Health and Social Services, and Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region, visited of the Morrin Centre. At his insistence, the productive visit was conducted in English. He showed an excellent understanding of the Society and the English community in general. We took time to show him the many delightful features of the building, the beauty of the library, and also the empty elevator shaft. As Minister of Health and Social Services, he took great interest in our accessibility for handicapped issues. He promised to look into the situation in the near future.

We also enjoyed a very pleasant visit in August from Graham Fraser, Commissioner for Official Languages. He is a staunch supporter of the Society and has fond memories of spending many hours in the library. He was also responsible for assembling the entire PQ cabinet of René Lévesque's government in our library for a book launch many years ago.

Over the course of the Labour Day weekend, the activities of the Celtic Festival brought a large number of visitors and an intense level of activity to the Centre. It was an unqualified success and enjoyed excellent media coverage, with attendance in excess of 4,000 people! We look forward to an even larger festival next year.

As we prepare to launch our major capital fund raising campaign, the Society is taking its rightful place as an "incontournable" on the city's cultural landscape.

I wish you all an excellent Fall Season and thank you for the continued support of your Society. I encourage you to find out more about our Annual Campaign on page 12, and to contribute generously.

Warmest regards



David F. Blair, President

RENTAL CAMPAIGN

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2008

Did you know that you can treat yourself while supporting the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec?

As a member and friend, you can make a big difference by participating in the Morrin Centre's first ever rental campaign. Each time someone you have referred to us rents one of our rooms, you get a gift certificate at a nearby restaurant and an extra chance to win our special prize at the end of the campaign. You will have until the end of January to collect your certificates through this "hands-on" campaign.

Three spaces are available for dinner parties, dances, meetings, weddings and other occasions.:

College Hall: the most spacious rooms in the centre can accommodate up to 225 people.

LHSQ Library Reading Room: this charming space can easily accommodate 30 seated or 54 standing.

Presidents' Hall: the first place you see upon entering the building, with a capacity of 40 people.

Time is limited!

Contact us at rentals@morrin.org
or call (418) 694-9147 to plan an event today!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AUTUMN 2007 UPDATE

by France Cliche, executive director

The LHSQ has had an encouraging summer. We are starting to reap the rewards of our long-term fundraising efforts. We also received many confirmations for short-term project grants. This will enable us to begin work on phase II of the building project in the fall and to secure our programme of activities for Quebec's 400th anniversary celebrations in 2008. Although we still need to raise more to ensure the Centre's long-term viability, initial results are encouraging.

SOME NEWS

Staff, Interns, Volunteers: Many temporary staff and interns worked with our team since the last issue. **Julie Brouillette**, a student in graphic design, helped us update our website and worked on promotional material. **Hong Liu**, student at the Eastern Quebec Learning Centre, did a summer internship as an administrative assistant. We also welcomed **Wes Covey**, a library science graduate at the University of Indiana, who did some work on the Children & Young Adult collections. Recent grants from the Young Canada Works program have allowed **Andrée-Anne Pelletier** and **Andrea Spencer** to continue working with us throughout the fall. We also plan on hiring new staff to prepare for the 400th anniversary celebrations.

The library is also in the midst of change. **Anne-Frédérique Champoux**, who efficiently managed the library for over a year, is returning to school to complete her Masters' in literature, but she will stay with us as a part-time clerk. **Simon Auclair**, a recent Masters' Graduate in literature, will be taking over the management of the library. Part-time library clerk **Emilie Nicolas** is also returning to her studies. The library continues to be supported by many dedicated volunteers—special thanks to **Lila Bujold**, **Charles Patterson**, **Marc Boutin**, **Kavitha Kopalkar**, **Ronnie Blair**, **Jill Carette**, **Marie-Claude Tremblay**, **Barbara Salomon deFriedberg**, **Maureen Shier**, **Karen Pick**, and **Shirley Nadeau**.

Restoration project: We were excited to receive confirmation of federal government funding to the tune of \$550,000 for the restoration project. This allowed us to begin active planning for Phase II. Staff went around the building scanning every little detail and drew up an initial list of 471 things that need to be done to complete the project. This includes everything from bringing in the elevator to greasing door handles.

Project Grants: We are pleased to confirm \$100,000 in funding for the *Voices from the Crossroads* initiative from the *Société du 400^e anniversaire de Québec*. Detailed programmes will be publicized in the near future. Support from Canadian Heritage is also expected. Turn to page 10 for more details.

We also received a grant from the Canada Culture Online programme to digitize all the LHSQ's publications from 1824 to 1924—nearly 8,000 pages! This will complement the existing *Eclectica* exhibit, whose search engine capacities will be dramatically improved.

The Department of Canadian Heritage's Community Life Programme has also recently confirmed their support for a new oral history project. We are looking forward to reviving material from previous local initiatives, collecting new testimonials, and making all these great stories accessible. Please contact us if you wish to propose potential interviews.

Fundraising: We are very pleased to have received confirmation of matching grants from the *Placements Culture* program (see page 12). This provincial programme will allow donors to quadruple the value of donations to our endowment fund.

Events: We will be offering an excellent programme of activities this fall. Please see our calendar brochure for details. ■

TRANSACTIONS

THE GHOST OF SAINT LOUIS STREET

by Jason Brunwald

On May 25, the Quebec Writer's Federation's Executive Director Lori Schubert presented a cheque for \$500 to Jason Brunwald, winner of the Morrin Centre's Ghost Story Competition. Here is an excerpt from the winning story.

I woke up with a start. My bedroom was pitch dark and all was quiet except for the wind gently rattling my window. As I lay in bed staring into the inky blackness, I wondered what had awakened me with such abruptness. Was it a nightmare? A noise from the street below my room? I heard only the whistling wind which seemed to blow in fits and starts, as if unsure about its present course. I glanced over at the red numbers of my alarm clock - only four o'clock. I wasn't sure if I could get back to sleep. As I lay quietly in bed, I thought I could perceive another, quite distinct sound coming out of the surrounding darkness that was barely audible. I thought at first it was just the wind blowing at a different pitch, but as I listened it became clear to me that it was another kind of noise entirely. It was like the sound of bellows being slowly pressed to stoke the fire, like the slow inhaling and exhaling of a person who is having trouble breathing. It seemed at once to be both distant and close. The hairs on the back of my neck bristled.

We had no pets roaming around the house, so either my mind was playing tricks, or someone was in my bedroom with me. The realization petrified me; my limbs felt like lead weights and my mouth had the texture of dry sand. As I frantically considered my options, I realized that even if I did somehow manage to cry out, it might have the effect of provoking the person to do something drastic - I shuddered at the thought. How much

time passed I could not say, but it felt like an eternity as my mind raced with the possibilities and dangers that seemed just a few feet away. The wind still shook my window while the long, deliberate breathing grew in volume and intensity. I cringed, expecting a hand out of the darkness to grab hold of me. Just when I thought I could bear the stress no longer, the noise began to fade. It was as if the person labouring to breathe were slowly drifting away into the night beyond the walls of my room, until the sound completely subsided. With great apprehension, I switched on my bedside lamp, half expecting to see a stranger before me, but no one was there. Everything was just as I had left it before falling asleep. Even a quick check of the closet and under the bed turned up nothing unusual. It was impossible that someone had been there in the room and then left without making a sound, for the door and window were tightly shut and there were no other ways to leave. I was

perplexed, as the strange breathing had seemed too real to disbelieve. Nevertheless, I began to wonder if it had all been a trick of the wind on my imagination. I drifted once again into a restless sleep.

Daylight poured through my window the next morning. As I rubbed my eyes and tried to focus, I saw my mother opening the blinds and telling me to get a move on or I'd be late for school. I dressed and headed for the door, grabbing my school bag and a bagel on my way. A few months ago, I never would have thought I'd be eating bagels every morning, but the food was one aspect of Quebec culture I thoroughly enjoyed. The other big surprise about living in Quebec was that my fears



about being ostracized because of my mother tongue proved to be entirely unfounded. The people here were warm and friendly toward me, even though I spoke only broken French. I was determined to become fluent as quickly as I could. I stepped out onto Rue St. Louis and scurried down the street. I admired the architecture once again and couldn't imagine that I would ever become blasé about it, even after many years.

It was good fortune that we lived where we did in the heart of Old Quebec, just up the street from the Chateau Frontenac. When my father got a promotion last spring, we had to move clear across Canada from my hometown of Victoria. We had just arrived in Quebec City and were going for a stroll through the historic, European-style city centre when we noticed someone placing a sign in the window of one of the houses that read À VENDRE. Even with my limited high school French, I could figure out that they were putting the house up for sale, and more out of curiosity than anything, my parents decided to knock on the door for a visit. They had been talking about buying something out in one of the suburbs, but after a half hour tour of this historical home, we all fell in love with it. My parents knew just how much this kind of house in the old city was in demand. They sat down with the realtor and made an offer on the spot, and within an hour of first seeing that sign in the window, our family had a home. The contrast from my old neighbourhood couldn't have been more striking. I went from a quiet neighbourhood of Tudor-style houses where the most action was from the cricket pitch across the street, to a narrow avenue of historic homes bustling with hordes of tourists, pricey restaurants and horse-drawn carriages called calèches by the locals

Now it was well into October, and the air had a distinct chill in it. It seemed a portent of the coming winter that people here wanted to tell me about as soon as they heard that I was new to the city. The overcast sky and the barren trees at the top of our street near the gate in the fortified walls gave the empty early-morning city a forlorn feeling that had previously been unknown to me. The gloomy atmosphere brought back to mind the strange episode of the previous night. The idea of

living in such an old home had appealed to me intensely when we first moved in, as I was an avid reader of mysteries and Gothic tales full of houses with dark secrets and noises in the night. My family and I had jested several times that such an old house would surely have picked up a ghost or two along the way, and I wondered if there had indeed been something supernatural in my room. I tried to banish the idea from my head, knowing that if I started to believe there was a ghost paying a visit to me in the dead of night, my love for this house would quickly grow cold. Still, I had been convinced at the time that someone was in the bedroom with me, and I had a history of accurate first instincts

I mulled over all these things throughout the school day, retaining very little of what my teachers said. When the final bell rang to dismiss us, I had resolved to tackle this mystery head on, starting with some investigative work into the background of our house.

When I got home I asked my mother if the previous owners had left any documentation about the history of the house, but she replied that they had not. They had mentioned that there was something well-known about this house, but she couldn't remember offhand what it was. There was also a bronze plaque designating something historical about the house on the outside wall, but it was entirely in French and I could understand so little that I had paid no attention to it. There were quite a number of those bronze plaques around on houses and so I figured the city found any excuse to put them up to try to impress the tourists. I mused aloud about whether city hall kept records about houses. My mother suggested that I visit a nearby library that she knew had many books about local history. The Literary and Historical Society, it was called; she and my father had visited it recently and they had even taken out a family membership. I thought it might be worth a try, so I got directions and scampered over to spend an hour before supper. [...]

Read the rest of the story, along with the runners up, in the Library of the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec, or online at <http://www.qwf.org>

TRANSACTIONS

TRINITY MCKENZIE: GHOST HUNTER FOR HIRE

an interview by Patrick Donovan

Trinity McKenzie, originally from Ontario, has lived in Quebec since 1999. Trin splits her time between computer jobs and professional ghost hunting. She kindly volunteered to go around the Morrin Centre on two separate occasions to look for ghosts. This is what she had to say.

What are ghosts? Why are there here? Why do they stick around?

It depends on the ghost. Sometimes it's people that have died and simply haven't realized it. Sometimes it's people that are stuck because they've left something unfinished.

Why can you feel the presence of ghosts whereas most people can't?

It's an ability that people can learn. If you spend time with certain meditations and breathing exercises, almost like old-fashioned yoga, you can develop sensitivity to it. Some people, like me, have that sensitivity to start with, but everyone has the ability to develop it. For some the switch is turned on, for others it isn't, and some people flick it on.

Is it easier to feel ghosts at night or during the day?

The city is quieter at night—there's less interference, less light, allowing the eyes to relax and notice subtle movements. Too much daylight washes out the little specks you might otherwise see. It's like trying to see a 5 watt light bulb in the presence of a 100 watt light bulb. Personally, I'm in a calmer, more relaxed and meditative state at night.

What's the strangest thing you've ever seen?

I've see a fair share of strange occurrences. Once, I was in an old house from the turn of the century. There was a very old concrete sink with a washboard built right into it. Next to the sink was an old rough bar of lye soap and rag—it was there one minute but not the next. They looked brand new, but they were clearly not of the modern era.



Trinity McKenzie

I remember sleeping in this house. I had a dream where I heard and saw a little girl in the basement. She was screaming "mommy no!" I got the impression that mommy had put a hammer through her head. At that time, my friend and I woke with a start because we heard something hit the floorboards beneath the bed.

The next day we went digging underneath and actually found a piece of jawbone, some pieces of shattered skull, a good piece of hipbone, and two complete hands buried about one foot deep in the basement. We called the police and they said it was too old, that we should call the university. So we got a specialist at the university to look at it. He said it was not uncommon to find bones from graveyards that had been built over from when the city expanded. But this body was only a foot and a half from the surface! From the hip fragment he was able to determine that it was a female, 5 to 7 years old. This concurred with what we had heard in the dream.

Have you found any interesting ghosts in the Quebec City region?

I found one that was quite curious on the top floor of the Delirium Tagball, an old shoe factory on Saint-Vallier est. On the third floor is a ghost that is there almost every night. He seems completely unaware of everyone and everything around him and doesn't seem like a very happy person. You get a very unpleasant feel.

What did you find at the Morrin Centre?

I've definitely seen at least two or three things moving around. I'm assuming that they would be spirits of people that either passed away here or were connected to the place. There are also many echoes.



The Morrin Centre's Gaol Cells

What's an echo?

When something extreme happens it can leave an imprint, like an echo. This can last for years. It's like when you stare at a light, close your eyes, and see a flashback of sorts. You might think there's a ghost but it's just an impression left behind. Certain areas collect lots of energy and this can cause disturbances. It's like a build-up of static electricity.

Tell me about some of the echoes you've come across in this building.

The first time I was here, in the smaller bathroom downstairs, I had the feeling of a hand coming through the wall, calling for help. It felt really urgent. And I have had the sensation of something being there every time I've been in there. I don't have the impression that there's anything left but an echo. If someone was in trouble and it was traumatizing, it would probably leave a good solid echo for quite some time. But I don't have the feeling that anyone perished there. The only thing I saw was a hand, a right hand, but not a big hand. It wasn't an old person. The impression I had was that it was small and belonged to someone young. There's another echo in the cells. The first cell on

the left gives me a sense of cold fear, but I wouldn't say it's a ghost. It's as if many people had been put in there and experienced the same unpleasant sensations.

Did you find any ghosts in the gaol cells?

The last cell on the left gave me a sense of pressure, as if someone was pushing on my chest. I felt like I was trespassing. It was as if they were telling me to get the hell out.

During my first visit, I felt that same sensation coming from the secondary staircase. It was as if someone really didn't want me there. This leads me to believe that there's something there, that it's a ghost, and it's moving around the building.

Who is it?

The spirit is definitely not friendly. I don't get the sense that it's a prisoner. It's an authoritative figure, perhaps a prison guard. It's telling me "Get out! This is my place!" That's all I can say. There's lots of energy between the cells and it's overwhelming and saturating to the senses. Figuring it out is a matter of going down there a couple of times. Each time it gets a little clearer and you can filter out more information. I've seen a couple of things moving in the corner of my eye.

What exactly do you see?

Sometimes all I see is a transparent light, or a bit of silver light. In the library I saw a bluish light.

So you don't see an actual person?

Sometimes I do. I had the impression of a woman on the balcony in the library. I wondered if she had fallen from the second floor and died there. I got a flash of a pool of blood on the library floor. Mostly what I saw was a blue light that was shifting from the front of the Wolfe statue and I saw it dancing around up there. It was definitely

trying to hide. As soon as I saw it, it would move somewhere else.

What else?

When I first went to the balcony of College Hall, there's a little spot where it's wider before it goes around. Right in that little spot, there's an overwhelming sense of extreme sorrow. I didn't have that sensation this time, so it's moved.

Are there any dangers associated with having a ghost in your building?

It depends on the ghost. I don't sense anything dangerous from the ones at the Morrin Centre, but I have run into ghosts that are aggressive.

One time I stepped onto something that wasn't there and it nearly chopped my toes clean off. That hurt, that one really hurt. I had to go to the hospital. We looked around and there was nothing I could have stepped on. It was smooth concrete all around.

Another time, I stepped through the door of a bedroom in an old house that was severely disturbed. I got knocked out the door into the banister railing hard enough that I nearly went over—this would have meant a fall into the first floor living room! I've also had a TV tip off a table and smash at my feet. One other time, I stepped into a bedroom and something knocked me into a closet across the hall.

So ghosts have the ability to move physical objects?

They can, but it's very uncommon. I don't know if that's because they lack the ability or they lack the desire. Most ghosts are not harmful.

What can we do about these ghosts? Should we live with them, seek to help them, or drive them out?

Let them be. If you're curious, poke around for them. If they start to become a nuisance then you may want to consider getting rid of them.

How do you do that?

Generally with some incense, some blessed water, and a few prayers and blessings. You can't just do it once. It's something that has to be repeated a few times. All energy occupies space, so when you push out the energy of a haunting you create a void. If you push air out of a space it creates a vacuum that will suck something back in. Until you fill that space, live and function within it, you will create a vacuum where the thing you got rid of can easily fall back.

You can also have something else get pulled in. There's probably a reasonable population of spirits around the old downtown. If you create a nice little vacuum you'll pull something in. Sometimes the ghosts get unhappy about new life in the building. You may notice things like the lights flicker, or maybe a bulb will break.

Funny you should mention that. Our lights have an abnormally short lifespan. We tried buying long-lasting bulbs, but they only lasted a few days. We called the electrician and he said there was nothing wrong. We also had problems with doors in the secondary staircase, which work fine one day and stay stuck on other days.

Well there's definitely something in the building that doesn't want people here. Maybe that's its way of trying to annoy you enough that you'll go away. ■

Interested in having Trinity McKenzie check out your home for ghosts? Send an e-mail to TcM2007@oricom.ca. She'll be talking more about ghosts at our Halloween event on October 28. Check out our calendar for details.



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LIBRARY PAGES

MAKING YOUR LIBRARY A BETTER PLACE

by Anne-Frédérique Champoux

Thanks to all our volunteers...

During my last months as library manager, I had the chance to work with many devoted volunteers. Some drop by occasionally to perform technical tasks, such as covering, labelling or stamping books. Others commit to a regular schedule and help with the library desk, adding books to the database, etc. The Book Committee volunteers, a group of six regular library users who meet once a month, skim through newspapers and reviews, and select the books you will want to read.

When asked why they volunteer at the library, these individuals give all kinds of answers: They want to “work in a beautiful environment,” “gain some experience,” “improve their English speaking skills,” “get involved in the community,” or “do one’s part to support a great place.” Above all, they want to help. They contribute to make our library a more lively place. By carrying out a wide range of tasks, they help to develop the library and allow books to reach the shelves more quickly. Everybody, from library users to LHSQ team members, benefits from their hard work. To all of you, dedicated volunteers, thank you!

...and to all our generous book donors!

The LHSQ collection would not be what it is without the many books that are given to us every year. Thanks to all of you who keep us in mind as a

new home for your books.

Do you have books that you’d like to give to the LHSQ? We ask that you contact us in advance to ensure that these books meet our collection development priorities and that staff can be on hand to welcome you properly. To limit book handling on both sides, we greatly appreciate receiving a list of the books you wish to donate before you bring them to us. We can therefore preselect the books we plan to integrate.

Once your books are received, here’s what we do. First, we select those that are relevant to the collection and check their condition. We then make sure we do not already own the selected volumes. Books need to be integrated to the electronic catalog, covered, labelled, stamped and carded. Finally, they make their way to the library shelves. As we have already received more than 25 boxes of donations this year, your books won’t hit the shelves overnight!

The books that aren’t selected are either sold by the LHSQ or given to other charitable organizations such as the Quebec City Women’s Club, Ozanam, or Toxi-Aide. Rest assured that we won’t throw away books given to us!

Though we don’t offer tax receipts for books, your donation will be gratefully acknowledged within the book itself. ■

Wish List

MODERN LIBRARY’S
100 BOOKS OF THE 20th CENTURY

We are still looking for some classics to build up our fiction collection. When we first started this Wish List a year ago, we had 41 of the top 100 books of the 20th century. We are now up to 63! Thanks to **Wallace & Mary-Ellen Rooney, Jill Carette, Virginia Couture, Rider Cooley and Christine Lalonde** for recent donations. Here are a few more classics from this list:

Sherwood Anderson, *Winesburg, Ohio*
James Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*
Saul Bellow, *Henderson the Rain King*
Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*
John Cheever, *The Wapshot Chronicles*
Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*
James T. Farrell, *The Studs Lonigan Trilogy*

William Faulkner, *Light in August*
Ford Madox Ford, *The Good Soldier*
Ford Madox Ford, *Parade’s End*
Dashiell Hammett, *The Maltese Falcon*
Aldous Huxley, *Point Counter Point*
Henry James, *The Wings of the Dove*
James Jones, *From Here to Eternity*

Norman Mailer, *The Naked and the Dead*
Henry Miller, *Tropic of Cancer*
Walker Percy, *The Moviegoer*
Anthony Powell, *A Dance to the Music of Time*
Philip Roth, *Portnoy’s Complaint*

LIBRARY PAGES

HIS DARK MATERIALS: A TRILOGY FOR HARRY POTTER FANS

By Wesley Carroll Covey

The LHSQ is proud to announce the launch of our *Young Adult Collection*. This section has been created in an attempt to draw in teenage readers and young adults, with exciting new titles added and more to come. It can be found in the back room between the two large windows. Please stop by and take a look! Here is a review of one of an interesting series within this collection that will appeal to fans of *Harry Potter*.



Called "the last great fantasy masterpiece of the twentieth century" (*Cincinnati Enquirer*), Philip Pullman's brilliant and controversial trilogy *His Dark Materials* set a new standard for intellectual Young Adult fiction. Darker and more complex than *Harry Potter*, Pullman's series introduces a cast of characters that will stay with the reader long after the final page.

Book 1, *The Golden Compass*, places us in a world similar to, yet quite different from, our own. In strikingly beautiful prose, Pullman, who holds a degree in English from Oxford University, presents a world in which every individual has a unique animal, called a daemon. This is not unlike our concept of the conscience; the daemon exists physically separate from the individual, yet is still part of them.

The story begins with our hero, the parentless Lyra Belacqua (pronounced 'lie-ra'), a wild young troublemaker who lives at Oxford's Jordan College. While hiding in a prohibited area, Lyra and her daemon, Pantalaimon, find themselves suddenly immersed in a situation of global consequence. She

is sent to live with the scholar Mrs. Coulter, and becomes obsessed with the work of her uncle, cutting-edge scientist Lord Asrael. Lyra soon learns that she was already a part of the situation, and that its consequences may stretch beyond her own world.

The second book, *The Subtle Knife*, begins in our world. Will Parry, a good-hearted young man, has stumbled into Lyra's world after being forced to hide due to his part in an accidental death. Will and Lyra form a friendship, and begin to learn more about the problems they, and the world(s) at large, are facing.

As the books progress, it becomes obvious that the central issue at hand is the existence of a certain type of invisible matter, known alternately as 'dust' or 'shadows.' This substance, which seems to settle around people as they reach adolescence, may or may not be a physical manifestation of Original Sin.

The final book of the trilogy, *The Amber Spyglass*, brings the story to a stunning climax: a second war between Heaven and Hell. Pullman's unique take on the subject provides for a fascinating and provocative look at the foundations of belief.

Pullman has commented that his series is a retelling of John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Written for older or advanced readers (15 and above), the series makes for challenging reading, but is well worth the effort.

A companion volume, *Lyra's Oxford*, is also available, and should follow the trilogy. ■

Wes Covey recently completed an internship at the LHSQ as part of his Masters of Library Science degree at the University of Indiana. Recording as *The Ten Thousand Things*, Wes is an accomplished experimental musician, whose work can be heard at www.myspace.com/things10thousand



À la croisée des VOIX VOICES from the crossroads

THE LOGO FOR THE VOICES FROM THE CROSSROADS INITIATIVE
 USES THE CHARACTERISTIC QUEBEC 2008 RIBBONS
 TO REPRESENT THE MINGLED STRANDS OF QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY.

The LHSQ was involved in the city's 300th anniversary celebrations in 1908 by fostering the creation of the National Battlefields Park (Plains of Abraham). Now, the Morrin Centre has been chosen to facilitate the English-speaking community's contribution to the 400th anniversary in 2008.

The numerous activities taking place in 2008 will be promoted under the *Voices from the Crossroads* umbrella. Our special calendar of events will begin with performances of Frances Brooke's *Rosina*, an operetta by the author of North America's first novel; this event is organized in partnership with the Conservatoire de musique de Québec. It will continue with a heritage symposium, the launch of the Morrin Centre's permanent exhibit, talks about anglophone writers linked to Quebec City, a special English-Community weekend hosted by Voice of English-speaking Quebec, celebrations of the Plains of Abraham centenary with our partners at the National Battlefields Commission, a heritage

symposium, self-guided Anglo-themed tours, and a bigger & better Celtic Festival.

Support for these projects was confirmed in June. Agreements with the *Société du 400e Anniversaire de Québec*, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the Interdepartmental Partnership on Official Language Communities will allow us to cover most of the funding needs. This project also brings together many partners from the English-speaking community, Federal government agencies, and the cultural sector.

The 400th anniversary will allow Quebec's English-speaking community to showcase its dynamism and consolidate its profile in the city's cultural landscape. 2008 will be a chance for us to break open, reach out to other cultures and languages, and celebrate our essential interconnectedness

Find out more on the *Voices from the Crossroads* website, which will be launched this fall. ■



VOICES FROM THE CROSSROADS: 2008 PROGRAM CALENDAR

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rosina: an Operetta												
Written Voices: Literary Talks												
Plains of Abraham: Centennial Tea												
Spoken Voices: Oral History DVD launch												
VoxTours: Launch of self-guided tours												
VEQ Homecoming event												
Morrin Centre: Launch of permanent exhibit												
Quebec City Celtic Festival: Celtic Crossroads												
Roots 2008 : QAHN/Shalom Quebec summit												

TESTIMONIALS

A SPANISH WEDDING AT THE MORRIN CENTRE

by Jason Beaulieu

Québec City is known for its historical landmarks and picture-perfect locations. It was therefore difficult for Caroline and I to find the ideal spot to celebrate our wedding. We began our search in the Fall of '06. We visited many places: the *Musée de la Civilisation*, *Musée du Québec*... Each location had its charms, yet my wife-to-be was never fully satisfied. Little did I know that the answer had been staring at me all along.

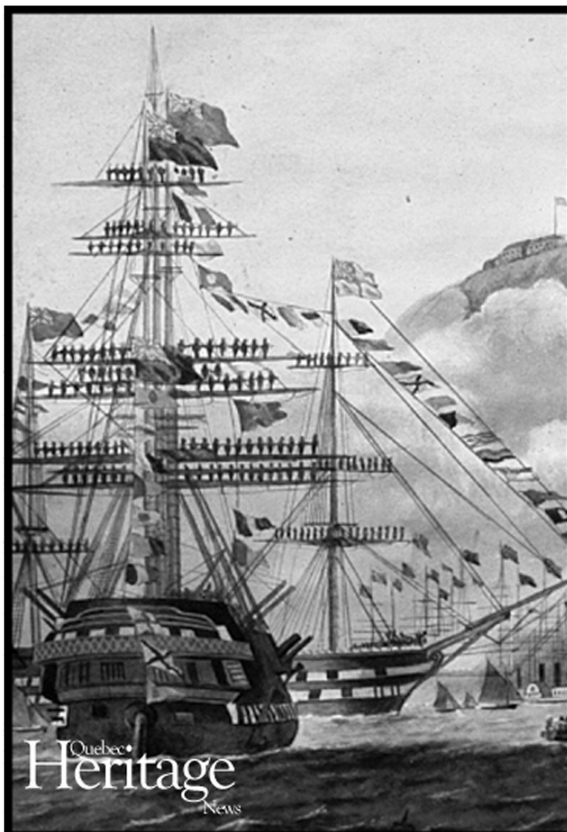
I first discovered the Morrin Centre back in 2005 when I took a guided tour of the place. I later gave a poetry performance and hosted a Halloween event in 2006. I realised that the Morrin had great potential for our Spanish-themed wedding. I had omitted mentioning the place, thinking my future wife wanted something more contemporary.



Toasting the newlyweds

Obviously, I was wrong...

“Why didn’t you mention this in the first place!?” said Caroline, upon seeing the rooms. She immediately fell in love! What attracted her the most was the balcony, the wooden floor and the vintage tall windows. Being an industrial designer, she could easily picture the ideal setting for the evening. And what an evening it was! We had decided on a “cocktail dinatoire” atmosphere to let the guests discover the elegance and cosiness of the hall. Most of the guests had never been to the Morrin Centre and were charmed by such a well-hidden jewel in the heart of Old Québec. It was a night of romance and discovery for all. Thanks! ■



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FUNDRAISING

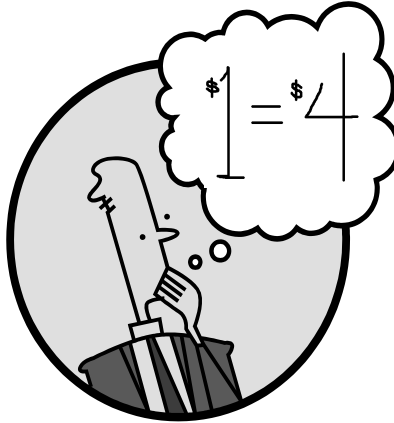
ONE DOLLAR EQUALS FOUR

The provincial government recently accepted the LHSQ's request to take part in a new provincial programme called *Placements Culture*. This will allow all our patrons to quadruple the value of donations to our endowment fund.

The objective of *Placements Culture* is to help non-profit organizations in the culture and communications areas and to encourage private donors to contribute to these same organizations. Most government grants help us on a year-to-year basis, but this program will allow us to build medium- and long-term financial security.

In order to reap the maximum benefit from this program, the Morrin Centre has to raise \$83,000 in

endowment funds by July 2008. If the goal is reached, the government will add \$249 000 to our endowment fund.



Distributed in an endowment fund and a reserve fund, the grant will continue to grow every year. The endowment fund will include 20% of the donation and grants, which will not be available before ten years. The reserve fund includes 80% of the amount. This total, plus the accrued interests, will become fully available to the Society after two years.

If you want to ensure that your dollar goes four times farther, now is the time to invest in our future! ■

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You can now make online donations! CanadaHelps is a registered charity that manages an e-donations portal, allowing donors to make secure credit card donations to us. Visit www.morrin.org for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO ASSIST AT EVENTS



Saturday, September 29
Ghosts of Quebec Past

Sunday, October 6 at 20:00
Bal Famille Verret & Benoit Bourque

Sunday, October 28 at 19:00
Ghosts: Fact and Fiction

Sunday, November 4 at 20:00
Sunday in Song

GRAND PIANO ?



Call for donors: Looking for a grand piano to add to the College Hall. This would be used for musical events (or to add music to events). Charitable receipts may be issued based on an independent professional evaluation.

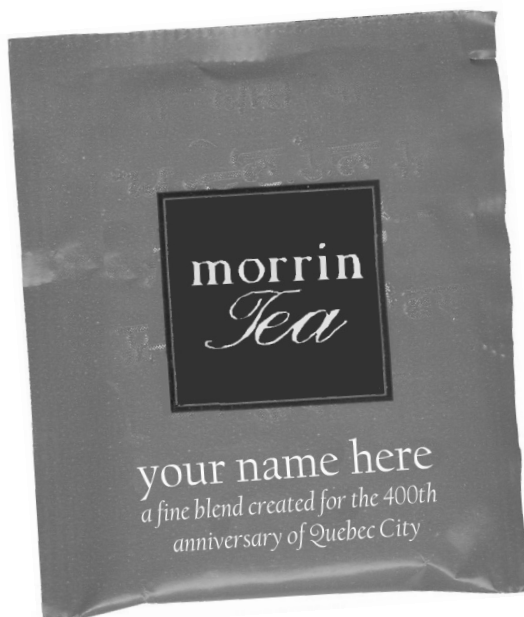


Thanks to Mr. Keith Knox for responding to our call of distress and donating a fine canister cleaner to the Morrin Centre.

The BAnQ recently received boxes of archives from the *Women's Canadian Club of Quebec* and would like to have more information about this organization. Any information will help. Contact Christian Drolet at 644-4800, extension 6414.

LOST BOOKS

A book was recently lost: *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg, is missing. If you find it, please return it to the library!

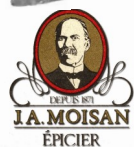


Tea blend launched for Quebec's 400th anniversary named after **you**

We need your help, whether it be a secret that has been passed down through generations, or an aromatic mix of cloves, apple oil, pine needles and Assam tea concocted yesterday. An expert panel will taste your creation and a winning entry will be chosen. You will also be given the opportunity to name your tea, a chance for you or your loved ones to join Earl Grey in the pantheon of tea legends.

NEW contest deadline is January 10, 2008

- FIRST PRIZE teapot valued at \$100
 - SECOND PRIZE gift basket of teas valued at \$50
 - THIRD PRIZE \$20 gift certificate for J.A. Moisan épicier
- Prizes offered by J.A. Moisan Épicier. Contest details available at LHSQ library.



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