

COMING TO THE MORRIN CENTRE IN NOVEMBER

CÉILIDH
ECHOES OF SCOTLAND



Inspired by the fascinating history of the Scottish pioneers, in 2009, Le Cochon SouRiant in collaboration with the Oscar Dhu Cultural Centre and Fig55 created Céilidh Echoes of Scotland. This performance binds together theatre, multimedia images, new technologies, storytelling, singing, instrumental music, dancing and poetry.

The play is steeped in the history of the first Scottish Pioneer settlers, who exiled from the Isle of Lewis, settled in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. The audience is invited to a céilidh (kaylee), a visit or gathering at the taigh-ceilidh, or "ceilidh house". The ceilidh is structured around stories, poems, proverbs, anecdotes, jokes, dances, songs and music taken from the life stories of the first Hebridean settlers. The occasion is the reunion between a brother, Seamus, and sister, Sine. Digging through old trunks found in the attic of the family home, Sine and Seamus, take delight in memories of the past. An old coat, a plaid, an old shoe, Uncle Angus' tam, Maryanne Morrison's diary... spark the story of the little dog that followed the ship

leaving Scotland, the memory of the logdriver's waltz, nostalgia for milling frolics... The multimedia effects and projection of old photos; family portraits and animations help the audience to imagine early life in "Canada, the land of everlasting forest and cold". It is a journey that weaves together the past and present, Gaelic, English and French languages, nostalgia, happiness, humour and tradition.

This theatre piece was based on historical and ethnological documents, from the works of Margaret Bennett, the Oscar Dhu Cultural Center archives and documents and information provided by Lingwick residents, particularly the descendants of the Scottish settlers. Céilidh Echoes of Scotland is a collective creation by Tess LeBlanc, André Bombardier, Michel Fordin and Martine Fordin, with musical suggestions by Daniel Fréchette, Catherine Bergeron and Lise Beauchemin. The play is enriched with multimedia images by Pierre Ménard and Vincent Myette, Fig 55 collaborators, and costumes by Sonia Létourneau.

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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

Due to the restoration work, guided tours are suspended until Spring 2011.

Front cover: Members of the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages. From left to right Standing up: Senator Pierre De Barré, Senator Dennis Dawson and Senator Judith Seidman. Sitting down: Senator Joan Fraser, Senator Andrée Champagne, Senator Maria Chaput, Senator Suzanne Fortin-Duplessis

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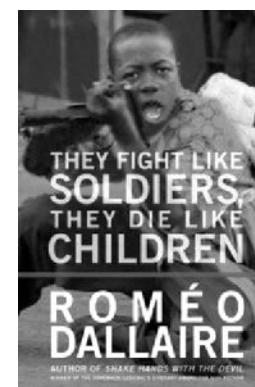
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The mission of the **Morrin Centre** is to share and foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region. The Morrin Centre is administered by the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec.
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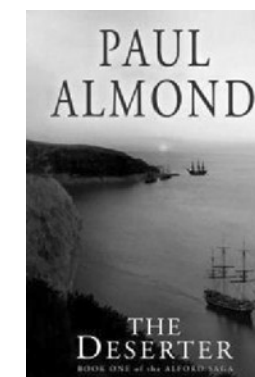
PARTNER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

COMING SOON TO LA MAISON ANGLAISE



On **October 29**, Romeo Dallaire, the Senator/General, best known for his account of his time as UN forces commander in Rwanda, will be visiting La Maison Anglaise. His new book, *They Fight Like Soldiers, They Die Like Children*, focuses on his passion, in his own words "...to eradicate the use of child soldiers and to eliminate even the thought of

the use of children as instruments of war." To reserve a copy of the book and your opportunity to meet this great Canadian, please send an email to romeodallaire@lamaisonanglaise.com



On **November 3**: Director / Author Paul Almond is coming to La Maison Anglaise. Meet one of Canada's preeminent film and television directors for a reading of his latest book, *The Deserter*, on Wednesday, November 3, starting at 5:00p.m. For additional information, please visit www.lamaisonanglaise.com



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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES HEARING AT THE MORRIN CENTRE

On September 13 and 14, the Senate Standing Committee on Official Languages held its public hearings in College Hall. The senate was conducting a study in the application of the Official Languages Act and of the regulations and directives made under it, in relation to the English-Speaking Communities in Quebec. This was the first time that the Committee had undertaken looking at the English community as a minority, since their preoccupation had been with the French minority in the past.

When presenting himself at the beginning of the meeting, Senator Dennis Dawson, born and raised in Quebec City, added: *It is a pleasure to be here. I am sure that my colleagues will appreciate not only the hearings but the atmosphere of the setting here at Morrin Centre. I think it will help improve their knowledge of Quebec with its history as well as its presence.* Further on during the meeting Senator Dawson, when questioning the director of VEQ, said: *Il est fait mention du centre culturel Morrin Centre. Il y a dû y avoir une évolution si on*

compare la communauté anglophone de Québec d'il y a dix ans à celle d'aujourd'hui.

On Monday, the Senators enjoyed their lunch at the Morrin Centre library and after the meeting met with members of Council and the executive director to discuss different subjects related to the Morrin Centre and its importance for Québec City. The informal meeting was followed by a guided tour of the building and, as you can see from the photo, the old prison cells confirmed their status as an important attraction of the Centre.

By the way, did you know that the Morrin Centre is No. 3 on Trip Advisor amongst 102 Things to do and see in Québec City? If we could have convinced the senators to stay in prison, the number one position on Tripadvisor would certainly be ours.

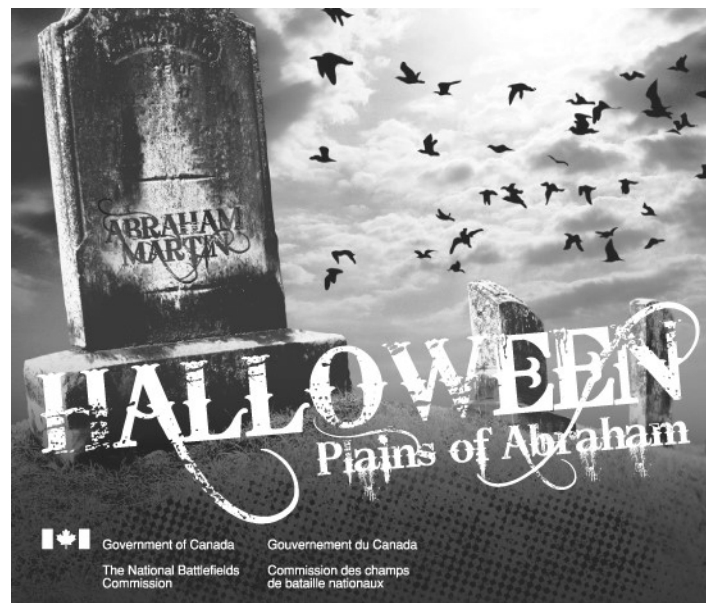
For information on the Senate Committee proceedings, please visit www.parl.gc.ca



From left to right: Simon Jacobs, Director of the Morrin Centre, David F. Blair, President of the LHSQ, Senator Maria Chaput, Senator Pierre De Barré



From left to right: Senator Maria Chaput, David F. Blair, President, Senator Pierre De Barré



Mysterious decorations will haunt the Joan of Arc Garden during the month of October and various activities will give the shivers to the bravest of visitors, young and old.

- **Haunted tower and fantastic rally**
October 16, 17, 23, 30, 31, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Lantern tour of the park**
October 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 6:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
- **Family lantern tour** *French only*
October 17, 31, 5:00 p.m.
- **Convict's last drink** *French only*
October 15, 16, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
- **Family day**
October 24, from noon to 4:30 p.m.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

I am very pleased to report that for the second year in a row, the Society will hold its Annual Literary Feast taking place in early December 2010. At the time of printing, the exact date has not yet been confirmed. The event promises to be an evening of good company, fine food and a thought provoking discussion with one of Canada's best-known philosophers.

This year we are very much honoured by the presence of Canadian philosopher Mr. Charles M. Taylor, who will be our keynote speaker of the evening. He is one of the most important thinkers Canada has produced and his writings have been translated into 20 languages. They cover a range of subjects that include artificial intelligence, language, social behaviour, morality and multiculturalism. He is also known for his important contribution as co-chair of the Consultation Commission on Accommodation Practices Related to Cultural Difference.

We are also extremely fortunate to have former Quebec City Mayor and long-time Morrin Centre supporter, Mr. Jean-Paul L'Allier, as our Honorary President of the event.

Despite the high literary and philosophical objectives, one of the principal driving forces behind the Feast is to raise money for the operation of the Morrin Centre.

As many of you know, the Morrin Centre operates the Library and maintains a very active calendar of cultural activities throughout the year, yet is in the unenviable position of receiving no core funding from any level of government. Your Council is working hard with representatives from the City of Quebec to try to come up with some form of ongoing core public funding but it is a daunting task.

I strongly urge you to support this year's Literary Feast in every way that you are able. Please purchase tickets and attend with your family and friends, participate in the silent auction, invite your neighbours and colleagues and, if you are able, help us gather contributions, corporate, individual or otherwise for the silent auction and the sponsorship of the event.

I look forward to seeing you at this prestigious event and I thank you for your continued support of the Society.

Yours sincerely,

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

With summer behind us, I find myself reflecting on all the things that happened: The Celtic Festival was a great success, with over 10,000 people participating, lasting longer than its predecessors; the Centre was open seven days a week, offering guided tours. Thanks to the stellar work of our three student guides, Maxime, Charles and Philippe, we were able to increase our attendance by more than 300%. We are now placed by the popular tourist web-site, 'Trip Advisor', as the third ranked attraction in Quebec City (out of 102)! The Center is also beginning to become better known for the rental of its spaces, with more organisations enquiring about the services we offer.

Looking ahead, things are really moving at the Morrin Centre! The long awaited final phase of the restoration of the building has started already with the prison cells. We are introducing new events, such as the Arts Matters series, the Song Writer's series and English conversation groups. We are also increasing our partnerships, giving greater scope and variety to what we offer. Also, by negotiating special discounts, such as with Les Violons du Roy and La Maison Anglaise, we can offer our members a 10% reduction on tickets and books. I am also investigating the possibility of introducing membership cards, to help other organisations identify our members.

We will present, along with one of our new partners, the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, some of their visiting artists and conductors in an intimate setting. Often, visiting artists are not able to communicate in French, so this will give the English speaking public a chance to get to know them and the works that they perform. To open this series, on November 9, I will have the pleasure of interviewing the wonderful Canadian mezzo-soprano, Susan Platts. Thanks to another partner, Les Violons du Roy, their assistant conductor, Eric Paetkau, will be giving pre-concert talks, offering fascinating insight to the musical program that follow the talks. This October, we will be partnering for the first time with *le Festival International de contes Jos Violon de Lévis* and *Le Festival Quebec en toutes lettres* to present two Anglophone storytellers, Mike Burns and Nathalie Picard. We are also starting up a Sunday afternoon music series, hosted by Randall Spear, who is inviting a variety of artists to join him explore the world of song writing. We are inviting historians to continue the Society's nearly 200-year-old tradition of presenting fascinating lectures. We have recently partnered with La Maison Anglaise, presenting a wide variety of authors

from near and far, such as Louise Penny, who will be launching her latest mystery detective book *Bury Your Dead* on October 28 at 6 pm. CBC will be doing a live broadcast of their afternoon show 'Breakaway' (called 'Murder at the Morrin') at 4pm prior to the launch party. All are welcome! Another partnership I am developing is with the Conservatoire de Musique de Québec. On Friday, November 12 at 7.30 p.m. hear Yeonathan Berick play Paganini's 24 Caprices for Solo Violin in concert in College Hall. Finally, we will be presenting a multi-media play by *Le Cochon Souriant* called 'Ceilidh', all about the Scots entry into the Eastern Townships, starring Tess Leblanc on November 26-28. If you ever want to see easily which events we are presenting and when they take place, just go to our website www.morrin.org and look up the handy calendar of events, or call 418-694-9147.

All of these events would be impossible to present without the help and dedication of the wonderful staff at the Morrin Centre. On that note, I have some news for you, both celebratory and sad: I am happy to announce that Erin Zoellner, (Activities and Events Coordinator) gave birth to a beautiful bouncing baby girl, Clara Elizabeth Gretillat, born on September 6. Congratulations Erin! On a sadder note, I regret to inform you that Simon Auclair, our Library Manager for the past three years, will be moving on to a post with the federal government. I wish him all the best of luck in his new career and thank him for all the time and effort that he put into running the library

While we do receive some funding for cultural projects from Canadian Heritage, your membership fees and contributions go a long way in helping us continue to present these programs and your presence is so important at these events. Please, tell your friends about the Morrin Centre and what we are doing, as there is always room for growth. I also look forward to seeing you at our annual fundraising dinner, the Literary Feast, with keynote speaker Charles Taylor, Me Jean-Paul L'Allier, Honorary President, and master of ceremonies for the evening, Diane Martin, host at Radio Canada.

Yours sincerely,



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES - continued

LOUISE PENNY BOOK LAUNCH BURY YOUR DEAD

On **Thursday, October 28th**, the Morrin Centre, in collaboration with la Maison Anglaise and CBC Radio, is proud to invite you to the launch of Louise Penny's



sixth mystery book in the award-winning series featuring C.I. Gamache.

Starting at 4p.m., CBC Radio will broadcast a special pre-Halloween episode of 'Breakaway' live from the Morrin Centre until 6 p.m. We invite you to be part of the audience.

Then come and join Louise Penny for the launch of her latest novel *Bury your Dead*. Loosely based on a true story, blood runs cold in this new mystery where the action takes place in Old Quebec and centers around the Lit. & His. This event will be hosted by CBC's Jacquie Czernin.

Louise Penny recently made history by becoming a three-time consecutive winner of the prestigious Agatha Award for Best Novel. She is also the only Canadian to have won the American literary prize.

ARTS MATTERS

Les Violons du Roy⁽²⁾ – Join us for a pre-concert lecture which will take a closer look at the Violons du Roy's featured presentation. Erik Patkau, assistant conductor of Les Violons du Roy, continues the season with a talk which will explain Bach's Branderburg Concertos. Don't miss this rare chance to discuss the complete works of baroque music's six masterpieces on.

Friday, November 5 at 6:45 p.m. (followed by the concert at the Palais Montcalm)

Premieres loges⁽²⁾ – The Morrin Centre, in collaboration with the **Orchestre Symphonique de Québec**, is happy to invite you to its first event of a series entitled *Premieres loges*. This series of intimate talks with internationally known artists, will be conducted by Simon Jacob, Executive Director of the Morrin Centre and former musician of the OSQ. These encounters are

the perfect chance to satisfy your musical curiosity, while getting to know the person behind the artist.

Our first guest is the Soprano Susan Platts – **Wednesday, November 9 at 7 p.m.**



Soprano Susan Platts

List of future conferences:

JoAnn Falletta, Conductor, Tuesday, December 14 - 7p.m.
Christoph Campestrini, Conductor, Monday, January 17 - 6 p.m.
Julian Kuerti, Conductor, Tuesday, March 8 - 7 p.m.
Anton Kuerti, Pianist, Tuesday, March 29 - 7 p.m.

On **November 12** you will have a rare chance to hear **Paganini's 24 Caprices for Solo Violin** performed by **Yeonathan Berick**.

A master class will be held with students of the Quebec Conservatoire de musique from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. The **concert** will take place at **7:30 p.m.** in College Hall.

Yeonathan Berick is a violin and viola virtuoso and pedagogue. He has performed as soloist, presented numerous recitals and collaborated in chamber music performances with a long list of internationally renowned artists. Touring as a chamber musician, he has been featured in the world's most important music centers. He is Professor of Violin at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance at the University of Michigan, he teaches at the Domaine Forget in the summer and has also taught at McGill University.

SONGWRITERS' CIRCLE SERIES

The Morrin Centre, in collaboration with Open Sky Music and Randall Spear, is happy to invite you to the first of several concerts that will take place on **Sunday, October 24 from 2 to 4 p.m.**

The series will consist of several friendly gatherings of songwriters showcasing their talents.

(2) Free for tickets holders, \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members.

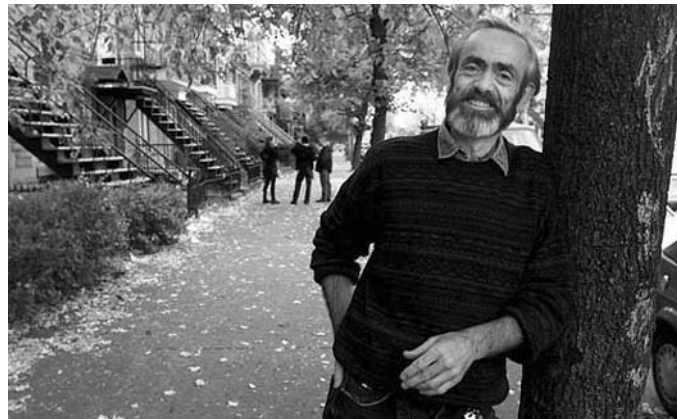
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

By Valérie Chabot

RENOWNED STORYTELLERS AT THE MORRIN CENTRE

The Morrin Centre, in collaboration with le Festival International du conte Jos Violon de Lévis and Le Festival Québec en toutes lettres, is proud to announce the following activities:

**Irish tales with Mike Burns⁽¹⁾
Friday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m.**

Mike Burns was born in Ireland where he grew up in a family of storytellers. He himself has now been a storyteller for over 35 years. His stories come from legends and tales of his native region and stem from pure ancient oral tradition. Mike Burns showcases his talent in Goidelic, French and English.

Message from the Wind / Yeriwenhawi Nioskwas Nathalie Picard⁽¹⁾**Wednesday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.**

Through the magic of words and sounds, Nathalie Picard transports her audience into the forest, while listening to the sounds of nature and gaining

wisdom from animals and birds. A unique musical adventure in a setting where traditional Native American nature harmonizes with the cycles of time.

(1) \$5 contribution is suggested. Consult our calendar of events for more details, including how to reserve online.

CANDLELIGHT SERIES

J.I. Little, Professor, FRSC, History Department, Simon Fraser University, will give a talk on *Fragment of the Old World: The Historical Regression of Quebec City in Travel Narratives and Tourist Guidebooks, 1776-1913*, on **Saturday, October 16 at 7 p.m.**

Quebec City figured prominently on the North American circuit of British travel writers in the earlier years of the nineteenth century when the obligatory description of the view of and from Cape Diamond served as a metaphor for imperial expansion. From this perspective, Quebec was not only the site where Wolfe had won his great battle against the French in 1759, it was also a military stronghold and gateway to an empire that stretched to the Pacific Ocean. The story told by American travel narratives and tourist guidebooks was rather different. They tended to see Quebec as unprogressive and of interest primarily for historical reasons, an image that local guidebook authors turned to the city's advantage as its population stopped expanding with the onset of the railway era. Reflecting the growing taste for romantic escapism in the later nineteenth century, Quebec City's image reverted to an early stage of the historical progress narrative, becoming frozen in a mythical past as a picturesque fragment of medieval Europe.

**CÉILIDH ECHOES OF SCOTLAND**

(see back cover)

November 26 at 8 p.m. in English
November 27 at 8 p.m. in French
November 28 at 2 p.m. in English

FROM THE VAULT

**THE PRESENT STATE OF LITERATURE IN CANADA,
AND THE INTELLECTUAL PROGRESS OF ITS PEOPLE DURING THE LAST 50 YEARS**

By James Douglas Jr., Comments by Simon Auclair

Originally published by the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec in *Transactions*, New Series, No. 11 (1875)

In 1874, President James Douglas Jr., started his speech before the members of the LHSQ by outlining the Society's role of in the development of literature in Canada.

"With the year 1874 closed the fiftieth year of the existence of our Society; and, therefore, I have thought an appropriate theme on which to address you is the intellectual progress of Canada, and more especially of the Province of Quebec and Ontario during the last half century. At its creation, expectations of a very exalted kind were entertained with regard to the influence of our Society. In their address to the public its founders said: "It will raise us in the moral and intellectual scale of nations. It will cherish our noblest feelings of honour and patriotism, by showing that the more men become acquainted with the history of their country the more they prize both their country and themselves. In a literary point of view, it is fair to expect that the formation of this Society will introduce a lasting bond of union and correspondence between men eminent for rank, erudition and genius, from one extremity of the British provinces to another". We can scarcely claim to have fulfilled these anticipations; nevertheless our Society has doubtless done much to encourage and foster a love of literature in this city; and in its publications it has distributed to historical students the world over, documents to which they have acknowledged their indebtedness. The Society has always afforded its members access to a good library, and, in addition, has tried in various ways to stimulate literary activity and encourage investigation in physical science; but the results have not been encouraging. Yet, when we look to see what success similar endeavours, made by kindred societies, have met with, we find that the disappointment has been general. We are, therefore, led to seek for influences operating everywhere in Canada, which are detrimental to literary culture and literary production:

and for such influences we shall not search far ere we find them.

However, the literary offers and standards were different at that time as we can clearly see in the following passage:

"In proof of the fact that we are not a reading people, the smallness and fewness of our public libraries bear humiliating testimony. In Montreal, the commercial capital of the Dominion, and a city whose corporation and whose citizens are ostentatious in the expenditure of wealth for purposes of outward show, there is not a public library worthy of the name, none at all of any kind to compare even with our own of 8,000 volumes. Toronto has a large University Library open for reference only to the public, but no free library of any pretensions; and all our other large cities are as badly or worse off. Even the Parliamentary Library at Ottawa, which has on its shelves 75,000 volumes, is small when compared with the Boston City Library, which circulates freely among the public 270,000 volumes."



James Douglas Jr

Today, our small library contains about 25,000 books. Even though the literary offerings have increased considerably, has the readership increased proportionally? It seems that we can still express the same concern as Mr. Douglas did a few lines further down:

"Now, if we be not a reading people, ..."

However, when it comes to writing, times seem to have changed:

"...we are sure not to be a literature-producing people. For writing is an art only to be acquired by a long and painstaking apprenticeship, and an art practiced therefore only

FROM THE VAULT

where there are readers to appreciate and reward it. Even when there be genius in the writer to suggest thought unless he possess also skill in the use of words, which shall enable him to express his thoughts clearly in language, and the art of arranging his thoughts thus expressed so that they shall impress and not confuse the mind of his reader, his genius will be of little avail to him; and these qualifications are the product usually of long practice only."

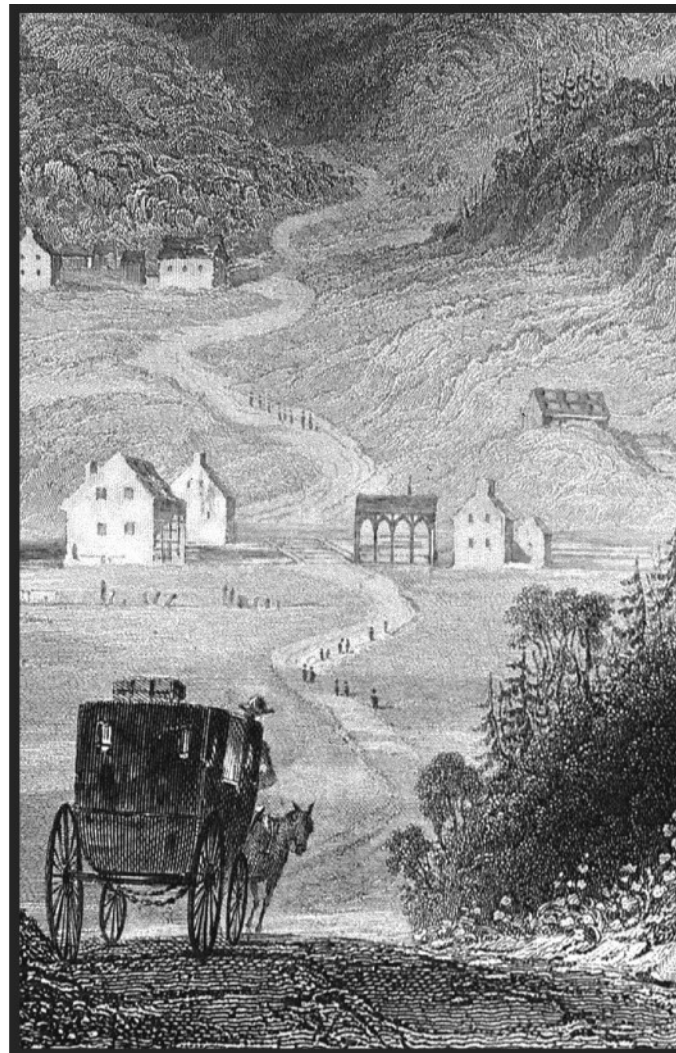
And

"But though literature is sometimes seriously followed as a pastime, it is generally pursued as a trade by men who earn their bread by it. Such a class, however, can exist only where there is a market for their wares, and such a market there certainly is not in Canada."

Even if customs may not have changed in regards to reading, they certainly have when it comes to writing. We can clearly see this when we look at the Internet (blogs, social networking sites, etc.). While Canada is the home of some of the world's most talented authors, more than ever, writing is not done by experienced professionals but has become a past-time.

And in his closing remarks Douglas states:

I think all these considerations make it clear that our intellectual acquirements have not kept pace with the growth in material wealth of our country. ■



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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

SIMON AUCLAIR INTERVIEWS LOUISE PENNY

Simon Auclair: We all know that you visited the library a few years ago while you were researching for *Bury Your Dead*. Why is such "field research" necessary to your creative process? Some writers do without it. What is the importance of actually "seeing" and "feeling" the places you are going to write about?

Louise Penny: Most of the time I don't need to go to where some of the action is set because it's all in a fictional village, so I suppose I do 'go' there, but I can still be in my own living room. I'm very lazy. But it was such a joy for Michael and me to re-visit Quebec City, to walk the streets, to see and taste and feel. My books are meant to be quite sensuous - not in the sexual sense of the word but the classical meaning. I hope in reading the book all your senses come into play. And to do that well I felt I needed to remind myself how magnificent the city is. As well, I needed to sit in the Literary and Historical Society, as Gamache does, and experience the deep peace and quietude, and beauty. As well as walk around the Morrin centre, see the nooks and crannies - the sub-basement. And to get help from local historians.

SA: Now, to the obvious question: why Quebec City and the library of the LHSQ?

LP: As you know, I worked in Quebec city for two years, and simply loved it. It's a treasure, and unique, and what novelist wouldn't be drawn to the beauty of the place, as well as the culture and history. My books aren't actually about murder or death - they're about life. And duality. Setting the book in the Literary and Historical Society gave me full scope to explore the duality of Quebec.

SA: Your novel also takes place during Quebec City's Winter Carnival. Why choose such a carnivalesque at-

mosphere for such a dark novel? Was the contrast of both interesting to you? Do you think this confrontation of apparent joyfulness and sombre matters (crimes, murders, a man dealing with his inner demons) helps create the uneasy, not to say macabre atmosphere that crime fiction writers are often looking for?



LP: As I mentioned above, my books are about duality. A murder in a gritty, dangerous, inner city is tragic, but perhaps not surprising. A murder in a place of peace is not only shocking it's a violation. In my books I explore how decent people react when their worlds are so violated. When their safe places prove unsafe. When people they know and love prove to be not quite what they expected. And yes, there is the exquisite duality of the celebration of Carnival, and the dark events just off the main streets. The false front and the rancid inner feelings and thoughts.

SA: It is said that *Bury Your Dead* addresses the tensions between Anglophones and Francophones. Why is it an important matter to you? Do you

still think that this needs to be addressed in today's Quebec City?

LP: Again, issues of duality. Of genuine tolerance, of intermarriage, of living not just bilingually but biculturally. I wanted the outside world to see that it is possible. The book certainly explores that relationship, but deeper than that is the place of memory and history. And the role those play in our perceptions. I describe Quebec as a 'rowboat' society - moving forward but looking back. *Bury Your Dead* is about both respecting the past, and letting it go.

SA: Finally, will we ever find Champlain's tomb?

LP: Actually, I know exactly where he's buried. I'm just not telling. (kidding) ■

MEMBERSHIP

By Marie Rubsteck

ADVANTAGES OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY

The following organization are offering special prices or benefits to members of the LHSQ:

La Maison Anglaise

La Maison Anglaise offers a 10% discount on all books to members. Please mention the promotional code Morrin-LMA in order to qualify for the discount.

Institut canadien

The Institut canadien provides a discount on the price of tickets for the Literary Festival: Québec en toutes lettres (see insert)

Les Violons du Roi

Les Violons du Roy offers a 10% rebate on ticket purchases. All you have to do is mention that you are a member of the Morrin Centre.

Quebec Whisky Club (QWC)

The Quebec Whisky Club is now holding its activities at the Morrin Centre. While the majority of the whisky tastings are in French, the one taking place on October 27 will be in English. The guest speaker will be the son of the Glenfarclas Distillery, Georg S. Grant, a Brand Ambassador.

Since these whisky tastings are reserved for members of the QWC, you may purchase a membership for 2010 at the reduced price of \$25. For reservations and more information, please consult their webpage at www.quebecwhisky.net

We are in the process of negotiating additional benefits for our members. As of January 2011, we intend to issue membership cards to all members in good standing.

FUNDRAISING

The second edition of our annual fundraising event

The Literary Feast

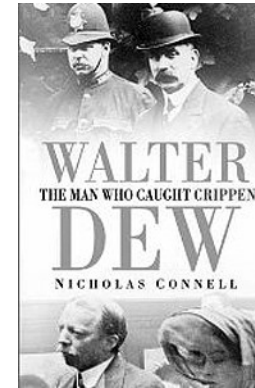
will be taking place on December 8 at the Morrin Centre. The keynote speaker will be Charles M. Taylor and the honorary president Me Jean-Paul L'Allier.

A limited number of tickets for this delightful black-tie event are on sale at the price of \$200 per person. You may reserve your ticket by calling Marie Rubsteck at 418-694-9147

As part of the Literary Feast there will be a silent auction. This is a great chance to purchase a valuable memento or service while supporting the Morrin Centre. Proceeds from the evening will go towards a variety of stimulating and innovative English-language programmes at a reasonable cost. ■

LIBRARY PAGES

BOOK REVIEW

**Walter Dew (The Man Who Caught Crippen)**
By Nicholas Connell

Quite by chance I recently came across a short, well written and thoroughly documented biography-history that should be of interest to members of the Literary and Historical Society because of its remarkable connection to Que-

bec City. The book hinges on the life of Walter Dew (1863-1947) who enjoyed a splendid 29-year career with the London police as Chief Inspector, C.I.D. retiring in 1910.

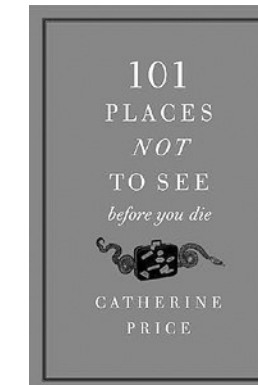
Dew's fame rests largely on his having brought to justice Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen, perpetrator of the most infamous crime of the first half of the 20th century. It was, furthermore, a case made illustrious by the first use of radio in the capture of a criminal.

Crippen murdered his termagant wife (by poison), dismembered her body and buried some of her remains under the floor of the coal-cellar of his house. Parts of the body, notably the head, were never found. Indefatigably, Dew followed the slender clues available. Feeling the heat, Crippen fled England under an assumed name with his mistress, Ethel Le Neve (disguised as a boy!), on board the SS Montrose on July 20, 1910, bound for Quebec. Owing to widely-distributed wanted posters, the Montrose's captain, Henry George Kendall, recognized Crippen and radioed his finding to London. (Here it must be emphasized that radio communication before WWI was daunting at best. Before the invention of the vacuum tube, messages were sent by spark transmitters, and received by fickle "coherers"). Dew immediately took passage on the White Star liner Laurentic, a faster boat (16 vs 13 knots) also bound for Quebec, and arrived at Father Point (today, Pointe au Père), "a desolate outpost on the St-Lawrence River, consisting of some wooden Shacks, a wireless station and a lighthouse" more than a day before the Montrose. Upon their arrival, Crippen and Le Neve were taken into custody by Inspectors McCarthy and Dennis of the Quebec City Police. The story goes on to detail Crippen's and Le Neve's imprisonment in Quebec City, their extradition to England, and their (separate) trials in London.

Crippen was found guilty and was hanged on November 23. Le Neve was acquitted.

The book concludes with biographical sketches of the principal participants in Dew's professional life, and a list of historical sources. Twenty-nine photographs and drawings are given on glossy paper in a 16-page section. In all, this is a fine book that will not disappoint the reader.

Reviewed by **Tomas Feininger**, Past President of the LHSQ

**101 Places Not to See Before You Die**
By Catherine Price

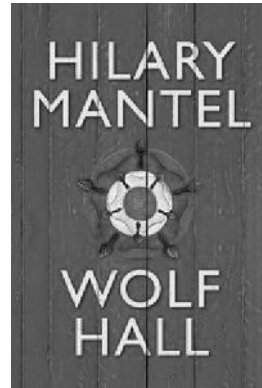
Here is an amusing little book taking a look at some of the least appealing places and events on the planet. Price takes us on a tour of her least cherished experiences, ranging from attending the Testicle Festival in Montana to the Road of Death in Bolivia. She also debunks the myth of some notorious attractions such as Stonehenge, which, she says, is smaller than you might think, accessible only from behind a steel fence and far away from being a place of peace and tranquility – that is not surprising considering there is now a highway perfectly visible in the distance. Then again, Timesquare on New Year's Eve isn't all it's cracked out to be either. Waiting for a ball to drop in a drunken crowd? Oh, consider the fact that there is almost no access to public bathrooms. Happy New Year! Indeed.

The book goes on with ill-conceived museums, bad theme-parks and other places that Mrs. Price might save us from going to. But is that really such a good thing? She herself seems to say that the worst experiences are often the ones we will never forget. And who knows, you might even make a book out of it. Let's go to Euro Disney.

Reviewed by **Simon Auclair**, Library Manager

LIBRARY PAGES

BOOK REVIEW



Wolf Hall
by Hilary Mantel

Hilary Mantel won the 2009 Man Booker Prize for *Wolf Hall*, a novel that brings Tudor England to life from the perspective of Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's chief minister from 1532 to 1540. In much historical fiction, Thomas Cromwell comes off as evil and Machiavelian. But not here. Here, he is given his due.

The book opens with the young Thomas Cromwell getting a savage beating from his blacksmith/brewer father. It is the final thrashing (in a long series) that sets him off across the English Channel. In the flashbacks that depict this period of his life, the reader catches glimpses of what an insular backwater England was at the time. As 21st-century readers living after the end of the British Empire, it's easy to forget that the 16th century was someone else's heyday.

Once Thomas Cromwell makes it back home to England, he is comfortably well-off and fluent in some of the most important languages of the day – Latin, Italian and French. Mantel masterfully evokes family life and contented middle-aged marriage, then yanks it away when Thomas Cromwell's wife and two daughters are carried off by disease. At that point the book dives into political, aristocratic, and ecclesiastical life, as Thomas Cromwell becomes an aide to Cardinal Wolsey (another chief minister of Henry's), and slowly but surely penetrates the royal inner circle. The canny yet mercurial Henry VIII of this book makes for a nice change from the usual plump, gouty Henrys of popular imagination and is closer to the king's portrayal in *The Tudors*, without the overwrought excesses of that TV series. As for Anne Boleyn, she comes off as one smart cookie – at first.


The author, Hilary Mantel, plays interesting games with narrative, writing in the present tense and referring consistently to Cromwell as "he." This stylistic practice helped me to adopt the protagonist's perspective; other reviewers have found it irritating. Mantel has an ear for voices, using current speech to great effect. The Duke of Norfolk, for instance, stands out as condescendingly upper-class, all clipped tones and dropped articles.


Thomas More, so often depicted in popular history and literature as highly principled and highly learned, is priggish and underhandedly cruel in *Wolf Hall*.

To read this book comfortably, it certainly helps to be familiar with the rudiments of English history for this period – who Henry VIII, his wives, and his advisors were. If you've forgotten your European history from secondary school or university, it's worth the 15 minutes of Internet research to get up to speed.

But even if history is not your cup of tea, *Wolf Hall* is still a wonderful work of literature, with humour and great beauty. ■

Reviewed by **Sovita Chander**, Vice-President of the LHSQ



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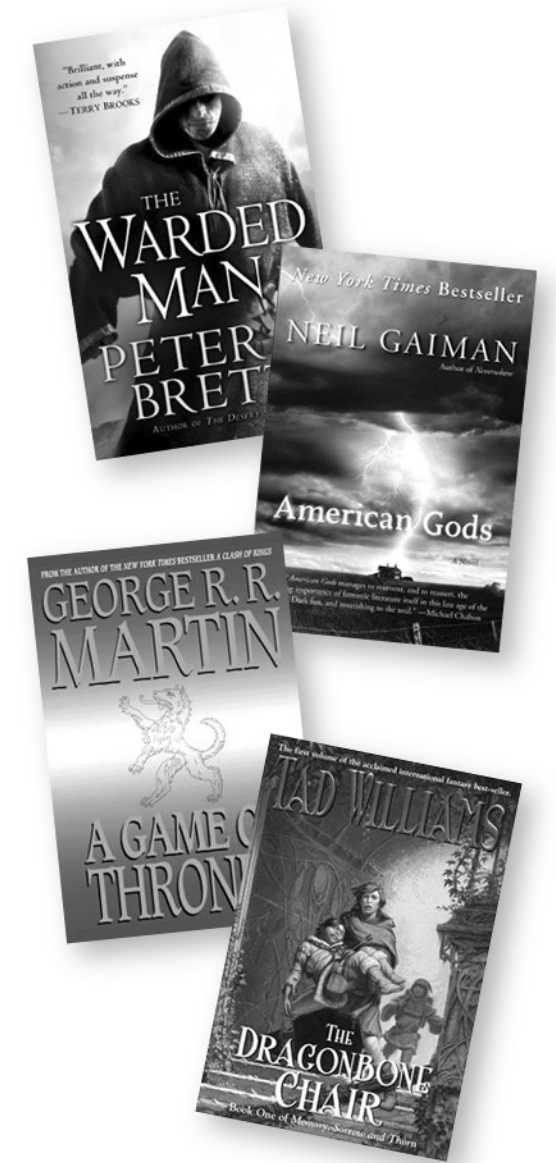
LIBRARY PAGES

WISH LIST

Fantasy is an often overlooked genre. However, it does contain some rather unknown gems. Would you have a few of them?

Top 25 Fantasy Books:

- Abercrombie, Joe**, *The Blade Itself*
- Bakker, R. Scott**, *The Darkness That Comes Before*
- Brett, Peter V.**, *The Warded Man*
- Butcher, Jim**, *Dresden Files*
- Clarke, Susanna**, *Jonathon Strange & Mr. Norrell*
- Donaldson, Stephen R.**, *Chronicles of Thomas Covenant*
- Durham, David Anthony**, *Acacia*
- Erikson, Steven**, *The Malazan Book of the Fallen*
- Feist, Raymond E.**, *Magician: Apprentice and Magician*
- Friedman, C.S.**, *Black Sun Rising (Cold Fire Trilogy)*
- Gaiman, Neil**, *American Gods*
- Grossman, Less**, *The Magicians*
- Hobb, Robin**, *The Farseer*
- Jones, J.V.**, *A Sword of Shadows*
- Jordan, Robert**, *The Wheel of Time*
- Lynch, Scott**, *Lies of Locke Lamora*
- Martin, George R.R.**, *A Game of Thrones*
- Moorcock, Michael**, *Elric of Melinbone*
- Nix, Garth**, *Abhorsen Trilogy*
- Peake, Marvin**, *Gormenghast*
- Rothfuss, Patrick**, *The Name of the Wind*
- Sanderson, Brandon**, *Mistborn*
- Weeks, Brent**, *The Way of Shadows (Night Angel Trilogy)*
- Williams, Tad**, *Memory, Sorrow, Thorn*





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