

# SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 59 ■ WINTER 2018 ■ \$2.00



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# SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 59 ■ WINTER 2018

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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. ISSN 1913-0732



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members, Partners, and Friends,

In recent weeks, I have met several people who have brought their children to the Morrin Centre for events and activities in our Children's Reading Program. This program, vitally important to the future of the Centre and to

our community, has created an interest in arts, culture, heritage, and languages among our region's youth. The program has been greatly expanded in 2018, especially since hiring Azanie Roy as Education Coordinator in September. Her presence will help us accelerate these efforts and bring our programs to both English and French schools. I am excited to see what 2019 has in store for the program as the LHSQ continues to take more activities out to the community.

Every December, the Centre launches its year-end fundraising campaign. Last year, you probably remember that we used your generous contributions to restore the tables in the library. This year, the contributions will

be used to further grow the Marietta Freeland Fund for the Arts. This fund is used to support the Centre's Arts Pillar programming, ensuring that Marietta's legacy and generosity have a lasting impact in our community.

At the Literary Feast on November 15<sup>th</sup>, Guy Cormier, President and Chief Executive Officer of Desjardins Group, announced the company's contribution of \$150,000 over the next three years. The funds will be used to refresh our guided tours, which includes the development of an augmented reality tour based on the building's history with capital punishment. We are very excited to get started on this new initiative, which will be launched in May 2019. Desjardins Group has been a fantastic partner over the years, and with this ongoing support, they are helping us to ensure that the Morrin Centre continues to evolve through its innovative and inspirational projects.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season,

**Barry Holleman**  
President

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends, Members, and Partners,

As we reach the end of 2018, it is a good time to reflect upon the year's engaging and memorable programming at the Morrin Centre.

In April, we hosted our most successful ImagiNation Writers'

Festival to date, both in terms of participation and ticket sales. Our team is hard at work putting together another formidable lineup of writers and artists from across Canada and beyond. Stay connected to the Morrin Centre's social media platforms in the New Year for author announcements.

From our Back to Beer cocktail with Helen Antoniou to this summer's Arts Alive Festival, and all of the other great initiatives in between, it has been another incredible year for the Centre. It is only fitting that our

10<sup>th</sup> annual Literary Feast, held on November 15<sup>th</sup>, put a bow on a great year. Speaker Ken Dryden inspired us all with his thoughts on concussions in sports and on the current state of the NHL. Guy Cormier reaffirmed Desjardins' commitment to the Morrin Centre with a very generous contribution over the next three years. As usual, Susan Campbell masterfully hosted the evening.

We have received tons of positive feedback about our recent workshop series, and we have two more series in the winter. The "In the Press" journalism workshops kicked off at the end of November and will continue through March 2019. "Laugh Lab," a series of workshops about creating comedy, will run from January to March 2019. I hope to see you at some of these events.

My best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season,

**Barry McCullough**  
Executive Director

# SUPPORT Culture • Creativity • Community

Be part of an everlasting legacy that will support the Morrin Centre's Arts Pillar programming for years to come.



morrin centre



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***Marietta Freeland Fund for the Arts***  
at **[www.morrin.org/give](http://www.morrin.org/give)**



## TRANSACTIONS

*ELITES & ORPHANS*

## A NEW PERMANENT EXHIBIT AT THE MORRIN CENTRE

By Kathleen Hulley



**Hilda Stephens with her toys** (BAnQ-Q, P450, 2009-03-006/53), **Hilda Stephens later in life** (from *My Quebec Collection*), and a **12-piece toy dinner set from the collection** (Stephens Collection, 2004-196)

This Winter 2018 issue of *Society Pages* features three articles related to *Elites & Orphans*, a new permanent exhibit that opened on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Co-curated by historian Patrick Donovan and Library Manager Kathleen Hulley, this exhibit explores the diverging experiences of play for elite and poor children within Quebec City's English-speaking population at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Moreover, the display offers a new perspective onto Quebec City's past through the world of play.

The majority of the items displayed in *Elites & Orphans* were donated to the "Lit. and His." by Mary Hilda Freeland Stephens (1911–1999). Hilda, as she was known, belonged to the Protestant English-speaking community living near the present-day Morrin Centre. Over the years, she collected these treasures from this

community. As she wrote in *My Quebec Collection*, a text that accompanies her donation: "They all belonged to people I knew, and most of these people knew each other [...]. They are all together now telling a story of people who lived in Quebec in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries." The collection thus represents the interconnected networks of the English-speaking families of old Quebec City.

*Elites & Orphans* features charming pieces that are evocative of childhood play, from miniature furniture and horse-drawn carriages, to dolls and toy tea sets. If you haven't already seen the exhibit, take some time over the holidays to explore these fascinating mementos of childhood!

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## TRANSACTIONS

## STICKS, STONES, AND KNUCKLEBONES: GAMES AND PLAY AMONG QUEBEC'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING POPULAR CLASSES AROUND 1900

By Patrick Donovan

### *Haves & Have-nots*

The new exhibit in the Morrin Centre library's children's section examines toys and play in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Most of the objects were collected by Hilda Stephens (1911–1999), who played as a child in and around what is now the Morrin Centre. Her grandfather Andrew Tannahill Love lived in Kirk Hall and was both minister of Saint Andrew's Church and one of the last principals of Morrin College. Hilda studied art, and later taught it at Quebec High School. She was also a passionate collector, and bought up old childhood memorabilia from many of her friends in the Quebec City region. These objects were mostly toys for girls: porcelain-head dolls in tweed jackets, miniature chamber pots used to play house, British-made Punch and Judy tea sets, and golden embossed spoons from McWilliam's ice cream parlor on rue Saint-Jean (known as "John Street" to many English-speakers). It's an impressive collection that evokes the lives and stories of uptown Protestant elites that lived over a hundred years ago, and the Morrin Centre is lucky to have it.

However, when looking at the English-speaking community as a whole, this collection leaves out a large chunk of the population. Contrary to popular belief, there has always been more to Quebec's English-speaking community than affluent Protestants. In fact, by 1900, roughly two thirds of the city's English-speakers were Irish Catholics, and only one third were

Protestant. Moreover, professional white collar workers never represented more than a fifth of the total English-speaking population, and many of these were what we'd now consider middle-class middle-managers. Affluent Protestants were therefore a tiny minority within the English-speaking community. The

poor vastly outnumbered the rich across all ethno-linguistic groups. Over a third of the Irish Catholic population consisted of poorly-paid unskilled labourers, a larger proportion than among Francophones.

In short, most Quebec City parents, whether English- or French-speaking, could not have afforded miniature porcelain toilet sets for their children, or ice cream served with golden spoons.

Did these poorer kids have time to play? Did they spend all day toiling

at factories and as household drudges? What kind of toys did they own, if any? What games did they play?



**Boys playing with hoops, Toronto, 1922**  
Toronto Public Library, TRL, Acc. X65-189

### *Sticks & Stones*

Since most families did not have as much disposable income to spend on toys as today, many game objects were made with found or inexpensive materials. If you have kids, you'll know that they have incredible imaginations. Just about anything has the potential to be a toy. My own son has frequently taken a bite out of a piece of bread and pretended it was a toy gun. Sticks can make wonderful swords. Smooth stones can



## TRANSACTIONS

👉 **STICKS, STONES, KNUCKLEBONES** (continued from previous page)

become precious collectables. Old bones can be used to play jacks. A bit of rope is all you need to skip. Tops can be made from a spool and dowel. Chalk is all it takes to play hopscotch.

### **Hoop & Stick**

Some games have not stood the test of time. Hoop rolling was a game common to all classes. All you needed was a hoop from an old barrel, a discarded wheel rim, or a handmade circle made out of bent wood. These were trundled along with sticks in races through streets and parks. Authorities occasionally sought to ban them as a public nuisance, as hoops frequently ran into pedestrians or rolled out into traffic. The increasing presence of cars on city streets, combined with the rise of helicopter parenting, put an end to this practice.

### **Gangs & Pranks**

This type of unstructured play on the streets was far more common then than it is now. There were many unsupervised kids wandering about. At a young age, children played in informal groups with others in the neighbourhood. Later, from around age 10 to adolescence, young boys grouped together in gangs, played pranks and rough games, shot birds with catapults, engaged in petty theft, and frequently got into turf wars with rival gangs. Girls of the same age socialized in smaller packs of two or threes, observing and making fun of the boys, but parents typically tied them more closely to home.

They also played games that are still common today. These include hopscotch, tag, hide-and-go-seek, leap

frog, and red rover. They also included throwing games, whether with snowballs or regular balls. Ball games were not as formal and rule-bound as organized sports today.

Organized sports were still in their infancy, mainly hockey and lacrosse. The first hockey game was played in Quebec City in 1880, and the modern hockey net was only invented in 1899. Hockey tended to be more popular among upper class adults than among children. Working class kids still played with balls and hurley sticks on skating rinks and back alleys, but they played a “disorderly” form of the game without any of the rigid rules applied by the upper classes.

### **Money & Luxuries**

When it came to manufactured toys, working class families had less choice. Unskilled workers could earn ten cents an hour at manufacturing jobs, or five to ten dollars a week. Most of that money was accounted for. In fact, one in seven families in 1900, even after pooling their wages, did not have enough to adequately eat and clothe themselves. If you wanted to buy a tricycle with rubber tires for your child at Eaton’s or Kirouac’s toy store, it would cost more than a week’s wages.

### **Dolls & Doll Heads**

Given this, the seemingly affordable Eaton’s beauty dollar doll (pictured here), was a luxury for most working class parents. They’d have to put aside a few pennies every week to afford it, and would then need to buy or stitch clothes for it.

Doll heads were a more affordable alternative. By 1900, they were typically made out of porcelain, either



T. Eaton Co. Catalogue no.66, 1904-1905, p. 240



## TRANSACTIONS

bisque (unglazed) or china (glazed). The cheapest ones sold for 5 cents and could be sewn onto a homemade body made of cloth stuffed with straw.

However, rag dolls with cloth heads could be made even more cheaply with scraps found around the house. This is the type of doll that children from working class households typically owned.

### Penny Toys

Fortunately, some manufactured toys were affordable to a broad range of people. By 1900, the Western world was well into the industrial age of mass production and there were cheap toys aplenty. Canada did not produce many toys, but toy manufacturers in England, Germany, France and the United States exported here. Between 1880 and 1914, about 60% of the imports did not come from the USA or England, as one would expect, but from Germany.

Germany was a global manufacturing centre for “penny toys.”

These were made of die-cut tin coloured through offset printing and assembled by unskilled labourers on the factory line, hence the low price. They included boats, trains, horses, animals, clowns, and even Father Christmas with his traditional blue German hooded suit.

### Marbles

Whereas Germany specialized in penny toys, marbles were usually imported from the United States.

Although marble games existed before written history, mass production started in the 1880s in Akron, Ohio. One million clay marbles per day came out of Akron, and mass production brought the price down from one penny for a marble to 30 marbles for a penny. Cheaply made mass-produced glass marbles came later.

There was no single game called “marbles”: you could try to roll them into holes; you could draw a circle in the sand and knock out your opponent’s marbles, keeping the ones that were knocked out; or you could simply collect them as beautiful objects.

### Playing Cards

Playing cards have also been around for a long time, and would have been affordable to a working class family. Cards with diamonds, spades, clovers, and hearts have been around since the 1400s, but the joker only made a first appearance in the 1860s.

There were also 5¢ and 10¢ children’s card games for sale at Eaton’s in the late 19<sup>th</sup>

century. These included Old Maid, Snap, and Castaway. The Fireside company of Cincinnati, Ohio produced 25¢ glossy educational sets with flags, Biblical scenes, and one set called “Strange People,” that depicted “different dress, manners, and customs of the nations of the world” (pictured).

### Work & Play

Although parents of working class children could afford some games and toys, what about children in



**Strange People card deck, 1896**  
World of Playing Cards, <http://www.wopc.co.uk>

## TRANSACTIONS

👉 **STICKS, STONES, KNUCKLEBONES** (continued from previous page)

orphanages? In Quebec City, Saint Brigid's Home had 58 Irish Catholic orphans at the end of 1900, and the three Protestant homes had roughly the same number (24 in the Ladies' Protestant Home, 20 in the Female Orphan Asylum, and 15-20 in the Male Orphan Asylum). Many of these children were not orphans in the strict sense, but may have had one or two parents who were unable or unwilling to look after them, which meant that some still received gifts from their families. The wealthy patrons of these institutions, solemnly referred to as "temporal benefactors" of the orphans, also donated toys from time to time, particularly around Christmas. In other words, these children had access to toys.

Despite this, orphanages were not known for providing abundant play time. Young girls were taught skills that would make them good servants and were typically sent to rich homes at a young age. Boys were also apprenticed to tradesmen, as farmhands, or as manservants.

Poorer children, whether in orphanages or in poor households, were expected to pull their own weight at a young age, which left less time for play. Whereas kids in wealthier families often had servants to do the housework, poorer children had many chores. Furthermore, in the 1880s, children in Quebec City could work 10-hour days in factories. Some whaleboned corsets at the Dominion Corset factory. Some labeled cigarette packages at LeMesurier's tobacco factory at 20 cents a day. When William

LeMesurier was asked by a Royal Commission on Labor in 1885 how old the 30-or-so boys and girls in his factory were, he replied: "They all say they are 14 when they come in" (*italics mine*). The commission found that many were much younger, despite the laws in place. Laws prohibiting child labour were enacted in Quebec in the 1880s and 1890s, but the minimum working age for boys was still 12 by the year 1900. As seen above, employers didn't always check birth certificates.

In conclusion, social class did not dull children's instincts to play, and most children had access to toys, even orphans. In many cases, manufactured toys weren't even necessary. The unbounded imaginations of children made it possible to transform found objects like sticks and stones into priceless treasures. Rich and poor kids had many games in common: tag, marbles, cards, dolls, etc. The main difference is that poorer children had a smaller range of manufactured toys to play with, and probably had less time to let their imaginations run wild because of pressure to contribute to the household economy. ■

**Patrick Donovan** recently completed a Ph.D. in History on the evolution of ethno-religious boundaries within charitable networks for Quebec City's English-speakers. He currently works as the Associate Coordinator of the Quebec English-Speaking Communities Research Network at Concordia University. He has a Master's degree in Heritage Preservation and played an instrumental role in the restoration and establishment of the Morrin Centre. He continues to collaborate on projects for the Morrin Centre, including the Elites and Orphans exhibit.



## Jean-Yves Duclos

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## TRANSACTIONS

# BORN AND RAISED IN AN ELITE FAMILY IN QUEBEC CITY DURING THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

By Alex Tremblay Lamarche

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the perception of childhood changed considerably. With the rise of various forms of nationalism and the advent of the ideal of the bourgeois household, the child not only increasingly embodied what historian Michelle Perrot called “the future of the nation and of the race,” but also became the very center of the family. In the wealthiest segments of society, the child took on an even more important dimension: the heir, the one called upon to continue the family line and to assure its long-term posterity. Thus, elites paid special attention to the stakes involved in raising children. Indeed, given the scientific progress of the

era, there was a strong desire among the most educated families to be up to date with the latest knowledge about childhood in order to allow their offspring to benefit.

## Birth

In bourgeois families, the birth of a child—and in particular, of a first son—represented a moment of great happiness, even if each newborn came with the risk of experiencing “the pain of losing them” prior to their reaching the age of adulthood. Infant mortality was indeed quite common and did not spare the wealthiest of households. If a child was not stillborn

and did not pass away in the first hours of its life, he would often be given a name that recalled a notable ancestor, a closely related family member, or a famous person whose lineage the family wanted to be identified with. This is notably the case of Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, Jr., author of the book *L'influence d'un livre*

(1837), who bore the same first name as his father and his great-great-grandfather. Or again, the third daughter of the politician George-Étienne Cartier, Reine-Victoria (1853–1854), whose first name could not have more clearly expressed the political allegiances of her father!

Even if the wealthiest families in 19<sup>th</sup>-century

Quebec relied almost systematically upon servants to assist with the housekeeping and the upbringing of children, these families rarely employed wet nurses. Although wet nurses were very common in Europe (and particularly in France), they were quite rare here. Mothers preferred to take care of their own children, even if that meant dragging them along more or less everywhere, or limiting the frequency of visits with family and friends. In fact, an entire body of literature addressed to women developed during this era in order to allow them to be aware of the most recent scientific developments and to pass the benefits on to their children. In a book published in 1876, Doctor



**The Love Family**  
1895, St. Andrew's Manse Garden, Quebec City  
BAHQ-Q, P450, 2009-03-006/53

## TRANSACTIONS

☞ **ELITE CHILDREN** (continued from previous page)

Hubert LaRue recommended to no longer “submerge young children in a cold bath immediately after their birth” or to no longer resort to the “barbarous practice” of wrapping them up in swaddling clothes such as to inhibit all movement, but rather to wash them in warm water and to leave their limbs free of all constraints. He also suggested that mothers make use of a “modern invention”: the safety pin. Since it ensured that babies were not at risk of being pricked, this American invention from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century quickly became very popular in Quebec.

### **Early Childhood**

During early childhood, children developed autonomy quite slowly. In particular, it was recommended that children younger than 18 months to two years old be “kept confined to the house” from October until April (or even until the beginning of May) to ensure that they did not catch a chill. Boys and girls at this age wore dresses. Up until World War I, it was quite common to see young boys sporting long curls. This, however, was for a relatively brief period in their lives; around the age of four, boys began to wear masculine clothing that would distinguish them from their sisters for the remainder of their lives. Beginning at this age, children were able to enjoy more freedom, and it was recommended that they not be dressed in expensive clothing in order to avoid that “the worry of getting

them dirty would be an obstacle to their play.”

As the century progressed, toys became increasingly common in bourgeois households. Many toys were purchased in Germany, where numerous factories produced dolls and miniature tea services for girls, or small metal vehicles (trains, omnibuses, horse-drawn cars, etc.), wooden horses, and marbles for boys. During this era (and this is still true today, for that matter), games aimed to prepare children for the roles that they would occupy later in life. Little girls were thus initiated into maternity, the arts, and music, whereas their brothers were initiated into mathematics, the public sphere, and a variety of professional activities toward which they would later be directed. The cultivation of good manners and the values of their social class also began among children at this age, and it was only after mastering these that children could aspire to leave childhood behind little by little. Young children thus did not eat at the same table as their parents, and this continued until they had mastered the codes of

decorum and etiquette associated with mealtimes.

During this era, children were subject to strict discipline, and it was common for parents or tutors to inflict physical punishment on their offspring or their pupils. In the words of Louis Fréchette, “raising a child [in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century] involved excessive beatings; setting them straight required breaking their



**Toy Dessert Set**  
**Asprey, c. 1900, USA, Glass and silver, Belonged to the Breakey**  
**and Scott families of Breakeyville, QC**  
 Stephens Collection 2004-288



## TRANSACTIONS

bones.” According to Fréchette, the value of a teacher is thus “gauged by the size of their whip and the strength of the muscles required to make use of the instrument of torture.” It was often said in similar circumstances that “he is a good teacher; he is strict.” Nevertheless, during the second half of the century, many people questioned the use of such force. Even if everyone agreed that strict discipline was necessary to ensure that children obeyed the laws and did not become vile “hellions who would end up dying on the scaffold,” it seems that Protestants believed that beating children should only be resorted to “after having exhausted all of the other means of reprimand.”

### School-Aged Children

When children were old enough to attend school, their parents were intent on sending them to the best institutions in the city. Attending these institutions was in itself a mark of prestige and social status. Nevertheless, the importance of these institutions did not end there. They offered young elite children a curriculum that allowed them to learn Latin and to perfect their linguistic and rhetorical abilities, while also developing a taste for classical literature, Greco-Roman history, music, and theatre. As a result, when they had finished their studies, they were able to integrate themselves into the distinguished circles of society, where knowledge of these disciplines was necessary to assert one’s social status. Members of the lower classes, when they had access to a school, followed a much shorter curriculum that was often more pragmatic than theoretical. Thus, they did not internalize these components of social distinction, whereas private English-language schools for the elites offered an education similar to the one offered in

classical colleges. At Reverend John Jackson’s boarding school, which Philippe Aubert de Gaspé attended between 1804 and 1806, students would study Greek and Latin authors as well as the classics of English-language literature (Pope, Shakespeare, Scott, etc.).

Classical colleges did more than just transmit this elite culture common to Anglophone Protestants and Francophone Catholics; they also became genuine places for socialization, allowing young people from the two communities to get to know each other and to develop friendships. In fact, several Catholic schools already welcomed Protestant Anglophone students. During the period in which Aubert de Gaspé attended the Séminaire de Québec (1798–1806), one finds “five young Englishmen” who had “as many friends as there were students,” as he later wrote. Thirty years later, when he attended the school (1838–1845), James McPherson Le Moine counted “several young Protestants” among the boarders. Furthermore, the institution hired some British officers to teach music and to establish a brass band. The Ursuline Nuns of Quebec, for their part, welcomed several Protestant Anglophone students throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and maintained strong relations with the British authorities, whose representatives they regularly

welcomed within their walls. As a comparison, in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, “between a quarter and a third of students at the Sulpician College (in Montreal) possessed a British-sounding name” (cited in *Le collège classique pour garçons*).



**Doll**  
Late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century, unknown origin,  
Ceramic, leather, wool, cotton, lace, and metal  
Stephens Collection 2004-326

## TRANSACTIONS

☞ **ELITE CHILDREN** (continued from previous page)

### Adolescence

Upon reaching adolescence, the sons and daughters of the elite were invited to solidify the social networks in which they were already inscribed and to insert themselves into new ones. Parents deployed all of their abilities and resources to ensure that their children frequented the most fashionable places in order to become known by a wide circle and to consolidate their connections with the most important families. For example, some deputies would bring their children along to the Legislative Assembly so that they could follow the work from the gallery and get to know influential politicians. A notable case is that of Félix-Gabriel Marchand, Deputy for Saint-Jean, whose son and daughters frequented the Assembly during the 1870s. Others would spend a fortune so that their children could be seen at the most important balls.

Little by little, adolescents enjoyed more and more autonomy, even if their parents continued to keep a close eye on them and even if a close relative would almost always serve as a chaperone when the adolescent began calling on members of the opposite sex. Adolescents did not leave the family nest until they got married, at which point they would establish a household that would reproduce in large part the one in which they were raised. Others even remained in the parental home for some time after their marriage. This was notably the case for the Notary Charles Alexandre Lindsay and his wife, Amélie Juchereau Duchesnay. Even though the couple was married on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1861, they lived in his father's house until 1863, at which point they moved to Saint-Denis

Avenue. Whatever the path to adulthood may be, it can sometimes take some time!

### Selected Sources for Further Reading

Louise Bienvenue, Ollivier Hubert, and Christine Hudon, *Le collège classique pour garçons: Études historiques sur une institution québécoise disparue* (Montreal: Fides, 2014).

Lucie Desrochers, *Au pays de l'enfance, 1861–1962* (Sainte-Foy: Publications de Québec, 2006).

Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, *Mémoires* (Montreal: Bibliothèque québécoise, 2007).

Louis Fréchette, *Mémoires intimes* (Montreal: La Bibliothèque électronique québécoise, 2004).

Hubert LaRue, *De la manière d'élever les jeunes enfants au Canada ou entretiens de madame Genest à ses filles* (Québec: C. Darveau, imprimeur-éditeur, 1876).

Michelle Perrot, *La vie de famille au XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle* (Paris: Points, 2015).

Robert-Lionel Séguin, *Les jouets anciens du Québec* (Ottawa: Leméac, 1976).



#### Toy Toilet Set

Late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century, unknown origin, Porcelain,  
Belonged to Wilma Hoare  
Stephens Collection 2004-172, 2004-173

Recipient of the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec's Youth Medal, **Alex Tremblay Lamarche** has a Master's in

History from Université Laval and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at Université Laval and the Université libre de Bruxelles. His research focuses on the relationship between the elite Anglophone and Francophone populations of Quebec in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and, more broadly, on the history of the elite. As a member of the Cap-aux-Diamants editorial committee, and at the helm of 3 600 secondes d'histoire, a radio show on CHYZ 94.3 that popularizes history, Tremblay is actively involved in the dissemination of history to the broader public.

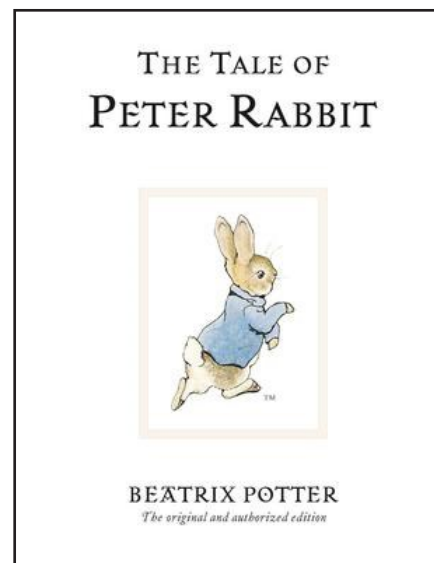
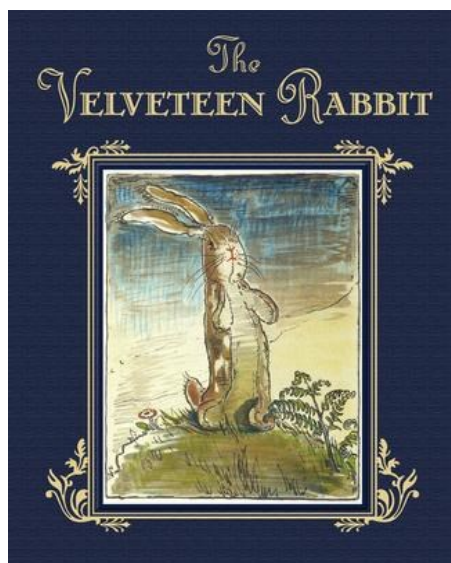
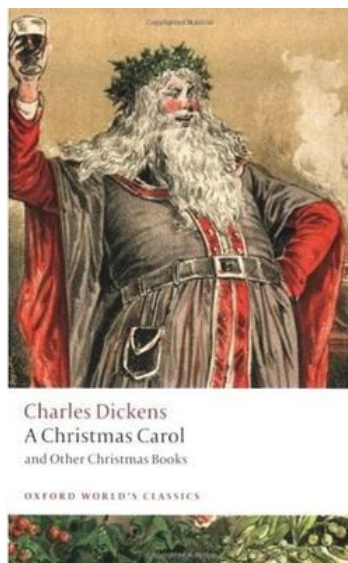


## LIBRARY PAGES

ON THE SHELF  
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

*This issue is dedicated to children, both rich and poor, and their right to read*

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden



Tea sets and toy soldiers. Pull toys and plush bears. Balls and bats. Rolling hoops. Tin whistles. The Morrin Centre's current exhibit *Elites and Orphans* helps answer the question: "What toys were Quebec City's children playing with during the Victorian and Edwardian eras?" Equally interesting are the questions: "What were they reading?" or "What books were being read to them?"

Many Quebec City children were exposed to books at school in the late Victorian or early Edwardian period. Attending school for at least a few years was the norm, even for poor children. But children would have also read stories outside of school.

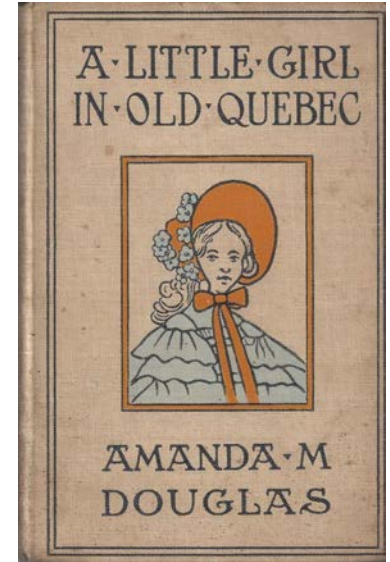
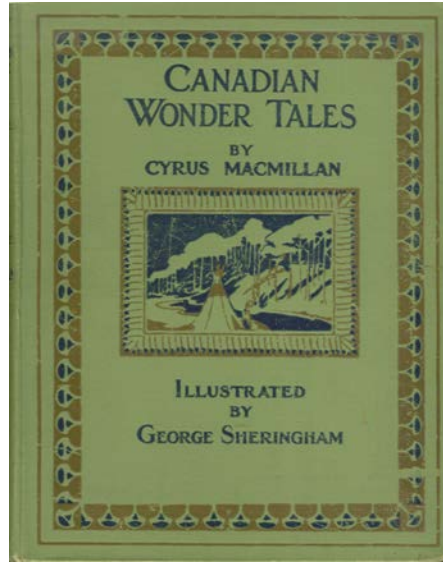
Newspapers and magazines published serialized works, and these may have found their way into the small hands of even impoverished children. Middle-class children may have been given full-length books, possibly British classics or best-selling reprints, produced in great quantities in North America at a time before copyright laws were in force.

Children of the elite had more access to books at home (think of leather-bound editions with lovely coloured plates). A nanny or governess may have read to them, and they may very well have received books as gifts for birthdays and at Christmas.

Charles Dickens' name is synonymous with Christmas. Not only did he pen his timeless 1843 tale of Scrooge (***A Christmas Carol***\*\*), he also published four additional "Christmas Books" between 1844 and 1848. A child in a posh Quebec City home may have received a first edition shipped from London as a gift from Uncle James or Aunt Maude. A child living in very modest circumstances may have read a serialized version of one of Dickens' works, such as ***The Old Curiosity Shop***\*\* (1840–1841) or ***David Copperfield***\*\* (1849–1850) in a weekly newspaper. Many of Dickens' works were written for adults (think of ***Oliver Twist***\*\*, serialized from 1837 to 1839, which portrayed the challenges facing the most marginalized children of English society). But Dickens did write at least one book specifically for youngsters: ***A Child's History of England***\*\* (serialized from 1851 to 1853; a 1901 edition is in the library). It is easy to imagine this volume on the shelf in Quebec City's more privileged households.

As the Victorian era gave way to the Edwardian period, books for very young readers gained a place on family bookshelves. In 1922, Susan Albee gave children a real gift: ***The Velveteen Rabbit***\*. The library has an illustrated 1975 edition. The fact that a new edition was published more than fifty years after the original speaks to the enduring appreciation of this little gem; chances

## LIBRARY PAGES



are there will be a centenary edition.

Beatrix Potter created not only Peter Rabbit\* (1902), but other memorable characters, including Squirrel Nutkin\* (1903), Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle\* (1905), Tom Kitten\* (1907), and Jemima Puddle-Duck\* (1908). She published 23 small-format children's books, in addition to numerous other works. Not only did her characters' names capture children's imaginations, but Potter's illustrations also were unforgettable. **The Art of Beatrix Potter\*\*** (1955) has many of the illustrations that continue to entice wee ones.

Beatrix Potter was the magician who made up imaginary worlds for the youngest readers, whereas J. M. Barrie did the same for slightly older readers with his tales of Peter Pan, Wendy, Captain Hook, and the Lost Boys. The library has a beautiful Folio edition of **Peter Pan\*\*** in the Special Collection.

Lewis Carroll also wrote about wondrous worlds for older children (and for adults, who may have seen other things through his magic mirror). His best-known works are **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland\*\*** (1865) and **Through the Looking Glass\*** (1871). Those who wish to learn more about Carroll's works may enjoy Mavis Batey's **The World of Alice\*** (2011).

Adventure stories were popular in the Victorian era. Alexander Dumas' **The Three Musketeers\*\*** (1844 in French; 1846 for the first English translation) and **The Count of Monte Cristo** (1844, serialized in English

from 1845 to 1847, published in book form in 1889) may have been found, in their original French versions or in English translations, in any number of elite homes. Robert Louis Stevenson added to this genre with **Treasure Island\*** (1883) and **Kidnapped \*** (1886), but he also wrote one of the first works of poetry aimed at young readers: **A Child's Garden of Verse\*** (1885).

The first stories for children were oral ones, going back millennia. For examples of stories told in First Nations communities, see Mohawk author-illustrator C. J. Taylor's adapted myths and legends in **How Two-Feathers was Saved from Loneliness\*** (1990) and **The Monster from the Swamp\*** (1995).


Cyrus Macmillan gave children **Canadian Wonder Tales\*\*** in 1918, followed by **Canadian Fairy Tales** in 1922. For even more local flavour, a parent with a dollar or two could buy **A Little Girl in Old Quebec\*\*** by Amanda M. Douglas (1906) or **A Boy of Old Quebec\*\*** by Orison Robbins (1926). And of course, there is Anne, the main character in Lucy Maude Montgomery's still-popular books, beginning with **Anne of Green Gables\*** (1908).

Good books and exciting stories have been a part of children's lives forever. May that continue. ■

\* On the shelf or in the library's e-book collection.

\*\* In the library's Special Collection; contact the Library Manager for access.





## Thank you to all of our volunteers from 2018!

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Diane Bird, Neil Bissoondath, Peter Black, David F. Blair,  
Louisa Blair, Miriam Blair, Sarah Blair, Lucie Bouchard,  
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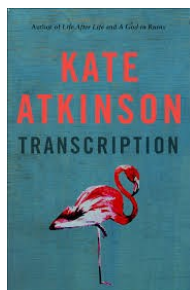


## LIBRARY PAGES

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

Some of the new titles in the Library collection are listed below.

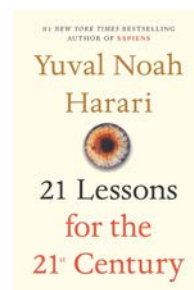
To reserve a book, please contact the library at **418-694-9147** or visit our online catalogue at **[morrin.org](http://morrin.org)**



*Transcription*  
Kate Atkinson  
A876 2018  
**Fiction**



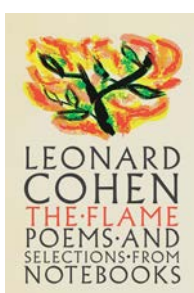
*A Sorrowful Sanctuary*  
Iona Whishaw  
W576 2018  
**Fiction**



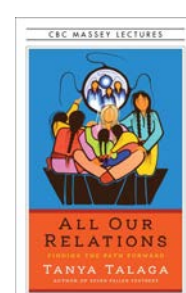
*21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*  
Yuval Noah Harari  
909.82 H254  
**Non-Fiction**



*Snap*  
Belinda Bauer  
B344 2018  
**Fiction**



*The Flame: Poems and Selections from Notebooks*  
Leonard Cohen  
819.12 C678  
**Poetry**



*All Our Relations*  
Tanya Talaga  
362.280 T137  
**Non-Fiction**



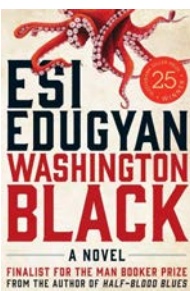
*French Exit*  
Patrick deWitt  
D523 2018  
**Fiction**



*The Never-Ending Present*  
Michael Barclay  
782.42 B244  
**Biography**



*Inkling*  
Kenneth Oppel  
JF OPP 2018  
**Junior Fiction**



*Washington Black*  
Esi Edugyan  
E24 2018  
**Fiction**



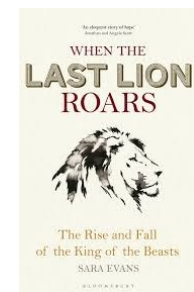
*All Things Consolled: A Daughter's Memoir*  
Elizabeth Hay  
H412 2018  
**Biography**



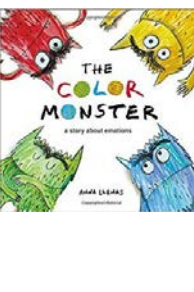
*Margaret and the Moon*  
Dean Robbins  
JB HAM 2017  
**Junior Biography**



*Something for Everyone*  
Lisa Moore  
M822 2018  
**Fiction**



*When the Last Lion Roars*  
Sara Evans  
599.75 E92  
**Non-Fiction**



*The Color Monster: A Story about Emotions*  
Anna Llenas  
JP LLE 2018  
**Junior Picture**



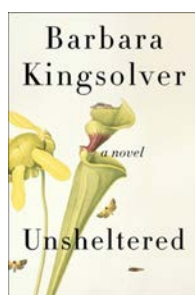
## LIBRARY PAGES

## DISCOVER OUR E-BOOK COLLECTION ON OVERDRIVE

Did you know that your membership to the Morrin Centre also includes access to our ever-expanding collection of e-books on the Overdrive system? With Overdrive, you can read an e-book on an e-reader, tablet, computer, or smartphone. Thanks to a new app called Libby, borrowing books through Overdrive is now even easier! Just download the app onto your smartphone or tablet, find the Morrin Centre library, and sign in with your library card.

Selections in our e-book collection range from popular new releases and classics, to non-fiction titles, biographies, and children's books. We even have audiobooks, which are perfect for a long car ride or travel over the holidays! Recently, we've also added a number of cookbooks to the collection.

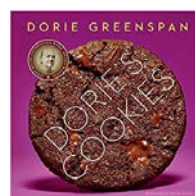
Log into the Morrin Centre's Overdrive system at [morrin.overdrive.com](http://morrin.overdrive.com) with your library card to check out some of our latest acquisitions. ■

***Unsheltered***

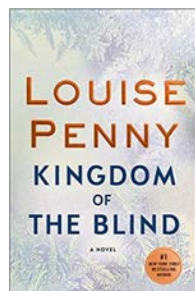
Barbara Kingsolver  
Fiction

***Plenty More:***

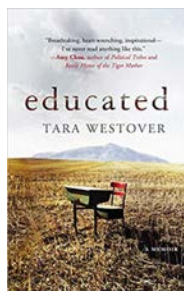
*Vibrant Vegetable Cooking*  
Yotam Ottolenghi  
Cookbooks



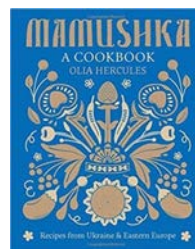
***Dorie's Cookies***  
Dorie Greenspan  
Cookbooks

***Kingdom of the Blind***

Louise Penny  
Fiction



***Educated: A Memoir***  
Tara Westover  
Biography



***Mamushka: A Cookbook***  
Olia Hercules  
Cookbooks



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## LIBRARY PAGES

HAPPY 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO THE LIBRARY!

In 2018, the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec's library celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its move to the Morrin Centre building! We marked the special occasion with a birthday cake on Members' Day.

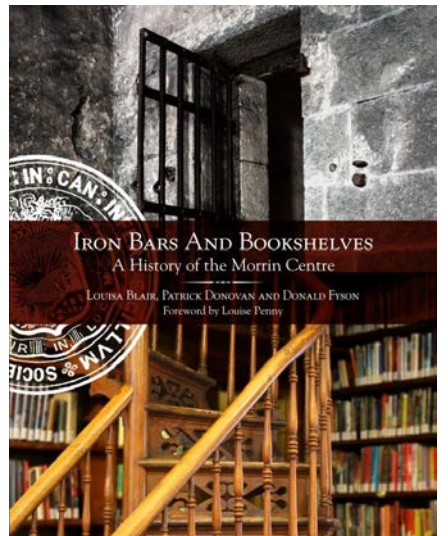
In her chapter "Moose in Flames: The Story of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec" in *Iron Bars*

and *Bookshelves*, historian Louisa Blair describes the library's move to the Morrin Centre as follows: "[O]n June 25, 1868, the Society paid four men 4s-6d per day for four days, and a carter with a horse and wagon 10s a day, to move the LHSQ from the Masonic Hall to Morrin College."

Here's a glance back at the library over the years. ■



To learn more about the history of our charming Victorian library, pick up *Iron Bars and Bookshelves*, on sale at the Morrin Centre!



The library in 1965, 1978, 2002, and today.



# IN THE PRESS 2019

## STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS

Registrations: [morrin.org](http://morrin.org)



### VIDEO REPORTING

Saturday / February 2 / 1:30 p.m.

**FEB.**




### BROADCAST TO PODCAST

Saturday / February 16 / 1:30 p.m.



**Morrin Centre**  
44 Chaussée des Écossais  
Quebec City, Quebec G1R 4H3  
418-694-9147 | [info@morrin.org](mailto:info@morrin.org)

These workshops are made possible with the support of 



PLEASE MIND THE GAP  
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library books on time!



## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

## THE 2018 LITERARY FEAST: DESJARDINS GROUP ANNOUNCES A \$150,000 DONATION TO THE MORRIN CENTRE

By Elizabeth Perreault

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Morrin Centre hosted the tenth annual Literary Feast, its annual fundraising dinner that benefits its programming and its mission. The event started with a cocktail in the Centre's magnificent Victorian library, which was followed by dinner in the historic College Hall. The evening featured keynote speaker Ken Dryden, former NHL goalie and former Member of Parliament, and was presided over by Guy Cormier, the President and CEO of Desjardins Group.

Cormier received a resounding round of applause from the over 140 guests present when he announced that Desjardins Group will be supporting a new immersive tour on capital punishment to be launched in May 2019. The donation of \$150,000 over three years will help develop this new educational activity for local visitors, school groups, and tourists. Barry Holleman, the President of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, which manages our cultural hub, noted that "thanks to Desjardins Group's donation, we have secured all the necessary funding for an inspiring programme that we have been planning for several years now. Our immersive tour on capital punishment will offer a new educational and fun activity for our visitors of all ages. Donations from foundations and corporations, such as Desjardins Group, are crucial for the growth and permanence of

our Centre and its cultural programming." Holleman also spoke of the importance for the Centre to continue developing meaningful programming in the areas of heritage interpretation, education, and the arts for our community. The My Morrin series is an example of this, as it allows members to submit ideas for events and to contribute to shaping the Centre's programming.

The Morrin Centre's members play a huge role in its success. Holleman explained that it is through the support of our community, members, patrons, and business partners that the Centre has been able to reach our objectives and more. He shared the news that Marietta Freeland (1921-2017), a former member of our community, created an ever-lasting connection to Quebec's English-speaking community with her generous bequest to several of its organizations, including the Morrin Centre. In her honour, the Centre established the Marietta Freeland Fund for the Arts. The entirety of

her bequest was used to start the fund and the revenue from it will be used to support the Arts Pillar programming, including the My Morrin series, the Arts Alive Festival, and more.

During his keynote speech, Dryden spoke of his connection to Quebec City, highlighting that his first



**Guy Cormier announces Desjardins Group's \$150,000 donation for the Morrin Centre's new immersive tour on capital punishment.**



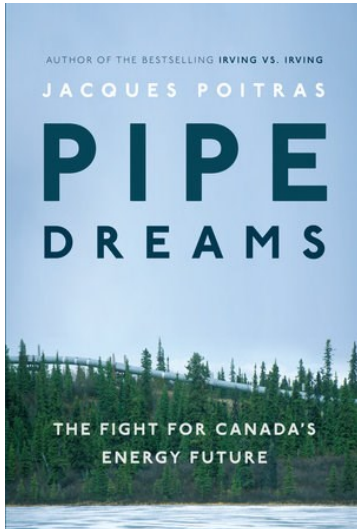
**Serge Tourangeau receives a Lifetime Honourary Membership to the LHSQ from Barry Holleman and Guy Cormier.**

**PAGE 21**

## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

## JACQUES POITRAS' *PIPE DREAMS* AN OFF-IMAGINATION EVENT

By Mark Lindenberg



*Pipe Dreams: The Fight for Canada's Energy Future* by Jacques Poitras is available in the library: 338.2 P757

On Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, the Morrin Centre hosted Jacques Poitras, who spoke and took questions about his new book, *Pipe Dreams: The Fight for Canada's Energy Future*. In it, Poitras, a political affairs reporter for CBC New Brunswick, covers the years-long saga of the TransCanada Corporation's Energy East pipeline, from 2013 to the project's cancellation in 2017.

Poitras travelled the proposed pipeline route across six provinces:

from Hardisty, Alberta to Saint John, New Brunswick. Given the engineering, business, and political interests involved, it is no wonder the project draws comparisons to the Canadian Pacific Railway. Poitras quotes businessman and former politician Frank McKenna describing the CPR as a "ribbon of steel [helping] knit the country together, both symbolically and economically." McKenna characterizes the pipeline as "another bold project, national in scope...a powerful symbol of Canadian unity."

In his presentation, Poitras outlined the various risks to that ideal, politically, environmentally, and commercially. Particularly intriguing were the nuances with respect to Quebec's interest in the project. Poitras recalled an aide to then-New Brunswick Premier David Alward saying to him: "[Pauline Marois] wanted to make sure the pipeline was good for Quebec, but she had no objection to the fact that it was important for the rest of the country... and was approaching it with the best of intentions."

Poitras summarized Quebec's gradual shift regarding the Energy East pipeline. The book goes deeper, delving into both John Diefenbaker's and Pierre Trudeau's earlier, federal pipeline-related decisions, and looking at the corporate argument for pipelines in light of the 2013 Lac-Mégantic train explosion.

Poitras read an excerpt relating to environmental concerns in Cacouna, Quebec, the proposed location for a marine export terminal. These concerns ultimately helped bring the Energy East project to a halt.

But, as described in the book, it was not just protest that helped kill the pipeline. Engineering challenges also contributed to the project's uncertainty. The challenge under consideration? "Getting the pipeline under the St. Lawrence." Consultants described horizontal direction drilling as "technically feasible, but high risk."

Also risky: a meeting between former Premier Jean Charest, a consultant for TransCanada, and members of the National Energy Board (NEB). Poitras told the audience that "this became a concern about bias by the [NEB]," ultimately hampering the organization's review process. "The conservative politicians who like to blame Justin Trudeau for killing Energy East seem to always forget that maybe Jean Charest didn't exactly help the case, either," he noted.

Poitras closed his presentation by listing five lies about the Energy East pipeline. Chief among these, that the pipeline was the modern-day equivalent of the Canadian Pacific Railway. "A curious argument to make," Poitras noted, given that the CPR fell victim to many problems: land speculation, shoddy and unsafe construction, conflicts of interest, and the displacement of thousands of Indigenous people on the prairies, to name only a few.

"I didn't want to tell people what to think; I wanted to tell them what to think about," said Poitras. *Pipe Dreams* does just that, providing readers a nuanced, accessible look at local and national issues. ■



## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

## THE MORRIN CENTRE AT THE 2018 SALON DES MARIÉS

By Vivianne Carrier



Hearts melted at the sight of the decor and the flower arrangements at the Morrin Centre's booth during the 2018 Salon des Mariés (bridal trade show) on October 20–21<sup>st</sup> at the Centre des Foires de Québec. Thanks to our partners La Vie est une Fête and Elodie Fleuriste, we were able to re-create an atmosphere that would amaze any guest attending a vintage-style wedding at the Morrin Centre. This bridal trade show gave Rentals Coordinator Manon Fortin and Events Coordinator Vivianne Carrier a chance to meet over 2,000 potential

clients, make several contacts in the field of events and weddings planning, and showcase all of the possibilities that our magnificent building has to offer. In addition to being an important heritage site and a cultural hub, the Morrin Centre is the perfect location for your most memorable life events. That's why our team goes out and presents our fantastic organization at key trade shows around Québec—and why you should give our event superheroes a call when it's your turn to plan your own special occasion. ■



## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

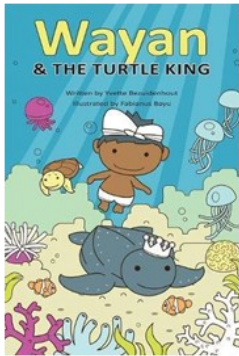
The Morrin Centre will be closed the following dates:  
December 24, 25, 26, 31 and January 1, 2

## EVENTS &amp; ACTIVITIES

## WAYAN AND THE TURTLE KING

### YVETTE BEZUIDENHOUT'S INSPIRING STORY ABOUT PRESERVING OUR ECOSYSTEM

By Azanie Roy



On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, children were invited to an interactive activity led by author Yvette Bezuidenhout at the Morrin Centre's library. Yvette is the author of the book *Wayan and the Turtle King*, which encourages young readers to change their consumption habits in order to protect marine wildlife. The book tells the story of a young boy named Wayan,

whose village relies on the ocean for food. One day, Wayan becomes aware of a problem: the ocean life is getting sick from all the plastic the villagers have left everywhere.

The children attending the Morrin Centre event that morning were captivated by Yvette's presentation of her book—they were heartbroken when they saw the Turtle King getting sick because of a plastic straw stuck in his nose. Through games and a colouring activity, the children learned what they can do to help protect

animals. For instance, avoiding plastic straws and single-use plastic bags, as well as going to no-waste stores, where they can buy products that are not packaged in plastic containers.

*Wayan and the Turtle King* can be purchased online in either paperback or e-book format. All the proceeds from sales of her book go toward a literacy project to enable the printing, translation, and distribution of *Wayan and the Turtle King* in Indonesia and other countries. For her reading at the Morrin Centre, she donated her book sales to help with the relief effort following the recent earthquake in Indonesia.

Yvette gives free presentations of her book in schools and strives to educate children and adults alike about the importance of preserving our ecosystems. As she puts it herself: "I have a duty to do everything in my power to protect my blue planet. This is my way of sharing my love for the ocean and its creatures with kids who don't necessarily have the means to SUP (Stand-Up Paddleboard), snorkel or swim." ■

## MORRIN YOUTH PROGRAMMING

By Azanie Roy

Exciting activities for youth are taking place at the Morrin Centre! This winter, children interested in reading, the arts, and the sciences can come explore their passions with other children in a variety of new activities at the Morrin Centre.

On Saturdays, children ages 3 to 10 are invited to Storytime, an interactive reading activity in which they are encouraged to ask and answer questions about the book. Each session begins with the reading of a story connected to the theme of the week. For the second half of the session, children can participate in a S.T.E.A.M. (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) activity that links the sciences and the arts.

Tuesday evenings are reserved for children ages 8 to 12. On every second Tuesday evening, children interested in drama can participate in improvisation and a variety of theatrical games with the new Theatre and Improvisation Club. Those who are interested in the sciences can come on alternate Tuesdays to the S.T.E.M. Club, where they will be introduced to different scientific concepts. During each club meeting, the participants will be given a S.T.E.M. challenge, which will encourage them to problem-solve and experiment with using their creativity and teamwork skills. ■



# Youth Programming



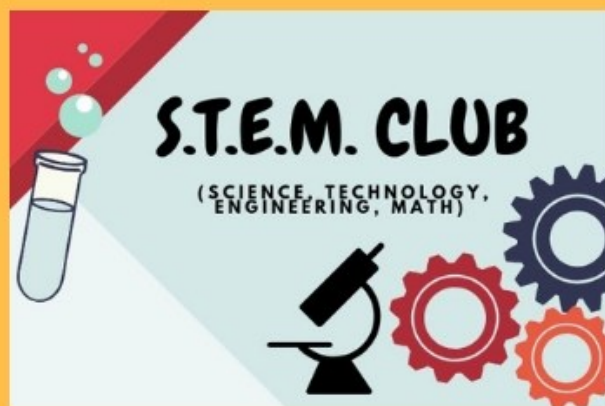
Children (ages 8 to 12)

Come develop your acting and improvisation skills with a series of fun activities!

Children (ages 8 to 12)

Join us for science experiments!

science - technology - engineering - math



Children (ages 3 to 8)

Visit us for interactive reading activities followed by crafts and science experiments.



See **morrin.org** for dates and times.

Morrin Centre  
44 CHAUSSÉE DES ÉCOSSAIS,  
QUEBEC, QC, G1R4H3



## MISCELLANEA

MEET OUR NEW EDUCATION COORDINATOR  
AZANIE ROY

It was a breezeless afternoon in an ordinary suburb of Quebec City. Azanie Roy was going about her everyday summer vacation routine, which mainly consisted of running away from her ever-so-clingy little brother. When her mother arrived that late afternoon, she handed the wide-eyed child a present wrapped in bright purple colours. Unwrapping it excitedly, Azanie's face sunk when she saw what lay beneath the gleaming paper. It was a plain, simple looking book with a hideous image of three students wearing witch-like clothing on the cover. Azanie knew the ornate decorations on the package were once again one of her mother's attempts to convince her that reading was, as she put it, "fun." Reading the book's synopsis, Azanie

wondered how her mother could ever think she might be interested in reading about a weird looking bespectacled boy attending a magic school in England. Nevertheless, because this was a present, Azanie thought she should at least read the first chapter.

That evening was the first of many that Azanie spent reading a book through the night. Enchanted by the words flowing from one page to the next, never wanting to put the book down, she quickly finished the first of the Harry Potter books and then moved on to the others. Over the years, she discovered new genres of books; she is particularly fascinated by biographies written by authors from around the world. Azanie was inspired by the stories of great men and women, such as Greg Mortenson, who built and taught in impoverished schools for girls in Afghanistan, and Lisa French Baker, who worked as nurse during the War in Darfur.

Azanie attended the University of Ottawa, studying International Development and Globalization. Through her studies, she became increasingly aware of the importance of education in alleviating poverty. After teaching English for a few months in the small town of Taxco, Mexico, she decided to return to university to become a teacher. After her studies, she remained in Ottawa, where she taught for three years in the French public school board.

Azanie is now the Education Coordinator at the Morrin Centre. She leads the Storytimes every Saturday, making sure to include books on a variety of different subjects to promote sciences and the arts. She also founded the "Tuesday Youth Programming," where, on alternate Tuesdays, children ages 8 to 12 are introduced to the foundations of performing arts during the "Theatre and Improvisation Club" and to scientific principles during the S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, math) Club. She is delighted to have the opportunity to share her passion for science and the arts with children who attend the Morrin Centre's activities. And, as her mother once did for her, she strives to help children develop a love of reading and learning. ■

## MISCELLANEA

## HEALTHFUL HOLIDAYS TRADITION WITH A TWIST

By Mary McCown

'Tis the season to be kind and generous. During the holiday season, we tend to focus on others, but it's important to take care of ourselves too. Think about it, before any plane takes flight, the message is clear: "secure your own oxygen masks before assisting others." A good way to do that is to stay strong and healthy with good nutrition.

The Morrin Centre has a wonderful cookbook section chock-full of healthy recipes, gift ideas, delectable desserts, and soul-lifting juice and smoothies, certain to brighten up the dreariest winter day.

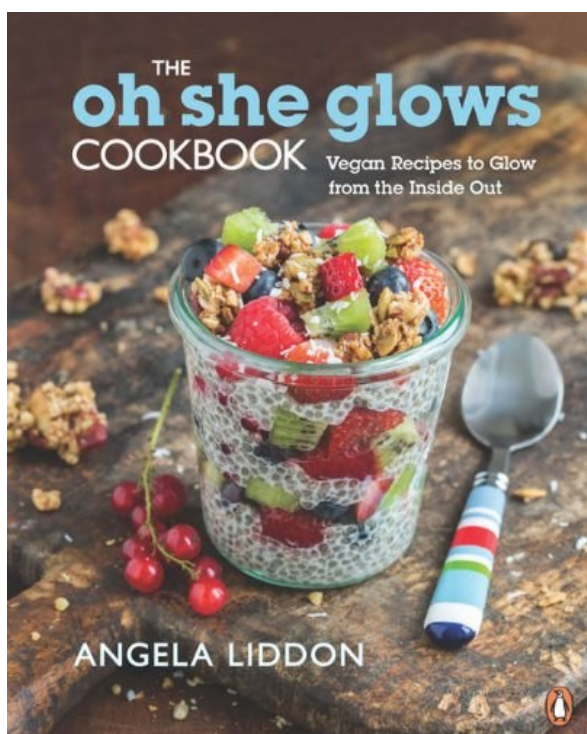
This edition of the Wellness Corner focuses on vegetarian recipes. What better way to support our health while being kind to the planet at the same time? Here's a surprising fact: according to an article in *The Guardian*, it takes more than 2,000 litres of water to produce one hamburger! Replacing one meat dish with one vegetarian dish reduces that water footprint.

So bundle up, put on your snow boots, and get out to the Morrin Centre to borrow the cookbook *Oh She Glows* by Angela Liddon. Your festive holiday table can include crowd-pleasers like a Lentil Walnut Loaf (page 167), roasted brussels sprouts, fingerling potatoes and rosemary (page 205), and rainbow carrots (page 190) with a festive kale salad (page 121).

These recipes have been tried and approved by a somewhat picky 6-year-old taste tester. The recipes are simple and straightforward, with the exception of the lentil walnut loaf. This recipe has a few steps, but

making a fuss in the kitchen this one, and only, time of year is part of the holiday excitement.

Oh, but what about the leftover turkey sandwiches? Don't fret! Try the chickpea salad sandwich on page 105. The only problem with this dish is that there were no leftovers.



**The Oh She Glows Cookbook: Vegan Recipes To Glow From The Inside Out by Angela Liddon is available in the library: 641.5636 L712**

In the *Oh She Glows* cookbook, you'll find a plethora of delicious (and nutrient powerhouse) breakfast options like Maple-Cinnamon Apple & Pear Baked Oatmeal. The mouthwatering desserts, like the Fudgy Mocha Pudding Cake or the Double Layer Chocolate Fudge Cake, will surprise you (you don't have to tell anyone that they are healthy).

In the "Homemade Staples" chapter you will find healthy gift ideas too. Who wouldn't love to receive a homemade Ten-Spice Blend as a gift? After all, according to a study published by the National Institute of Health, "several spices are potential sources for prevention and treatment of cancers, such as *Curcuma longa* (turmeric), *Nigella sativa*

(black cumin), *Zingiber officinale* (ginger), *Allium sativum* (garlic), *Crocus sativus* (saffron), *Piper nigrum* (black pepper) and *Capsicum annum* (chili pepper)." There are great gift ideas for those in your life with a sweet tooth too: pumpkin butter or pumpkin pie pecan butter or crunchy maple-cinnamon roasted almond butter! Ok, time to eat! Check out the Morrin Centre's cookbook collection.

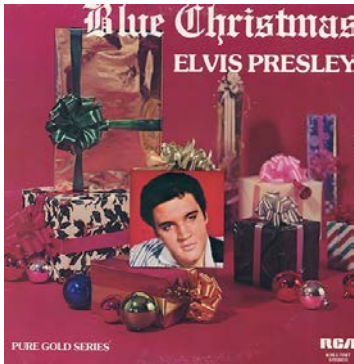
Happy Healthy Holidays, Y'all! ■



## MISCELLANEA

## THE TWELVE POP SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

By Barry McCullough



Generally in this space, you read an album review. For the holidays, I have changed things up a little. In the spirit of the “12 Days of Christmas,” a song you most definitely will not find in the list below, I present to you twelve twelve-word reviews of pop Christmas songs.

This list does not feature any traditional Christmas songs, nor does it cover versions of Christmas classics. I have tried to include several genres: rock, rap, country, pop, indie and more. Without further ado, here is the list:

## THE TWELVE POP SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

**Blue Christmas – Elvis Presley (1957)**

So mournful you think he'll cry by the time he sings “blue.”

**Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree – Brenda Lee (1958)**

A very fun Christmas song—I dare you to not sing along.

**Someday at Christmas – Stevie Wonder (1967)**

The situation is very urgent, even dire, but the message is hopeful.

**Pretty Paper – Willie Nelson (1979)**

Orbison's version was prettier, but, c'mon, it's Willie and he wrote it.

**Christmas in Hollis – Run-DMC (1988)**

Christmas is supposed to be joyous and that's what this song is.

**Merry Christmas (I Don't Want to Fight Tonight) – The Ramones (1989)**

This is what we should all hope for: a drama-free Christmas!

**Christmas All Over Again – Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers (1993)**

Jangly and upbeat, Tom Petty kind of missed his long-distance relatives.

**Christmastime – The Smashing Pumpkins (1997)**

Billy Corgan's take on a Christmas original, complete with strings and xylophone.

**Xmas Time is Here Again – My Morning Jacket (2000)**

Smooth vocal harmonies, wishes for a Merry Christmas, and sleigh bell percussion.

**That Was the Worst Christmas Ever! – Sufjan Stevens (2003)**

A sad holiday tale that would fit on Sufjan's album *Seven Swans*.

**Christmas Will Break Your Heart – LCD Soundsystem (2015)**

Frontman James Murphy called it a “depressing Christmas song.” Still, it's nice.

**Silent Night – Tom Waits**

Ok, so I broke my own rules, but if you think you have heard every possible type of version of Silent Night, you need to hear this. Rough, desperate, and beautiful.

Think of this as a playlist to accompany all of your holiday favourites. I hope you enjoy some of the songs on this list over the holiday season! ■



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Season's Greetings

**morrin**