SOCIETY PAGES

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LITERARY FEAST WELCOMES TWO OUTSTANDING WOMEN
 EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PUBLISHER ANNE SIGIER
 GHASTLY HALLOWEEN READS AND EVENTS

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SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 39
AUTUMN 2013

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LIBRARY HOURS

Sunday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	I 2:00PM-8:00PM
Wednesday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Thursday	I 2:00PM-8:00PM
Friday	12:00PM-4:00PM
Saturday	10:00AM-4:00PM

Front cover: First event of the Morrin Centre Connecting through Culture: Song Series

<u>CONTENT</u> Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume <u>LAYOUT/EDITING</u> Patrick Donovan <u>PROOFREADING</u> Louisa Blair

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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 and friends,

I recently attended one of the Celtic Festival events that took place at the Morrin Centre. I had the opportunity to speak with one of the organizers and we had an interesting discussion. He was

passionate, as a francophone, about preserving Celtic culture and his own roots. I completely agree with him and I would extend this to our Quebec roots. Some of us have deep roots in Quebec, others of us more recent, but we are all an important part of the city's increasingly diverse composition.

It is important for us to remember that culture is a living thing. Even the places where our roots lie change over time. The Washington, DC I went to this summer is nothing like the DC I grew up in. The London I first visited in 1977 was different to the London I took my kids to in 2002. It is important to preserve our past and to be active in the present in order to grow our future. That's what we stand for and what we have at heart with every event and activity we undertake. From the current fundraising campaign to fundraising events like the Literary Feast, our goal is to celebrate our rich heritage while moving fearlessly into the future.

Speaking of the Literary Feast, we will host our 5th annual fundraising dinner on November 21. This year, the event will feature renowned architect and philanthropist Phyllis Lambert as the keynote as well as Honorary President Monique F. Leroux who is Chair of the Board, President and CEO of Desjardins Group. David Mendel, author and president of Mendel Tours, will be Master of Ceremonies. On behalf of the Council of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, I would like to extend an invitation to you for this special event.

The Literary Feast is more than a fundraising dinner; it has become one of the community's marquee cultural events. It is the perfect mix of culture, community and supporting a noble cause. It is your participation that helped make last year's dinner such a meaningful event. The 2012 feast was very special and the sense of belonging in the room was palpable. I truly believe that a strong presence of our community members is a key indicator of how successful the event is.

I hope to see you there, Sovita Chander, President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear members,

By the time you read this, summer will have officially passed. If you are like me, at this time every year you ask yourself how it could possibly be over. Here at the Morrin Centre, we had a very busy

summer. From May to August we were able to share our story with over 7200 visitors who took part in our guided tours. This represents an increase of 33% compared to the same period in 2012. Guided tours continue throughout the fall until the end of October. Please check our website for details on tour times.

Our autumn calendar is full of great activities. In late October and early November, we will present, in partnership with Hérôle, Mr. Hyde's Laboratory. This "parcours de peur" will take visitors through the Morrin Centre, plunging them into Robert Louis Stevenson's haunting and mysterious novel, the Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

In September the Morrin Centre hosted its first Connecting Through Culture: Song Series. The series, which is hosted by local singer-songwriter Randall Spear, pairs performances by well-known and up-andcoming artists with discussions about linguistic duality and how this influences music and song writing. If the first installment is any indication, the event on Sunday, November 10 featuring Gilles Sioui is not to be missed.

It may seem far away right now, but we are busy preparing for the 5th ImagiNation Writers' Festival, to be held in April 2014. From preparing grant applications to confirming authors to lining up event partners, there is much to be done. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for all of the latest updates on ImagiNation and all of our cultural activities.

Sincerely, Barry McCullough, Executive Director

LIFE OF A PRESIDENT ANDREW WILLIAM COCHRAN (1793-1849)

By Maxime Chouinard, Curator

Throughout the tense political climate of the early 19th century in Lower Canada, a number of people tried their best to climb the ladders of power without being

consumed in the process. In addition to being a president of the Literary and Historical Society, Andrew William Cochran was a colourful characters who was deeply involved in the affairs of government, in rebellions, and even in piracy!

The son of the first president of King's College in Windsor, Nova-Scotia. Cochran was destined to a life of intellectual pursuits. After completing a degree in classical studies, he chose law as his future profession quickly built a and reputation through the publication of a spectacular trial in Halifax. The trial was that of Edward and Margaret Jordan, accused of murder and piracy aboard the Three Sisters ship. The report included Edward Jordan's dying confession, and became a very popular read at the time.

This brought the young Cochran to the attention of the Lieutenant Governor of

Nova Scotia, Sir George Prevost. When Prevost was appointed Governor of British North America and took residence in Quebec, he offered Cochran a position there. Cochran arrived in Quebec City in June 1812 around the age of 20. Quickly rising through the administrative ranks, he became assistant civil secretary barely a year after his arrival. He also received a commission in the militia, and quickly rose through the military and judiciary ranks, too.



Andrew William Cochran Credit: LHSQ Collection

Conflicts between the House of Assembly and the Executive and Legislative Councils in Lower Canada at the time were frequent, but Prevost favoured conciliation, a position also held by Cochran and the following governor, Sir John Coape Sherbrooke, who named Cochran his civil secretary. Cochran held the position from 1816 until 1818 when Sherbrooke was replaced by the much more confrontational Duke of Richmond who hired a new secretary. Studying law with Chief of Justice Jonathan Sewell, Cochran set up a private practice in Quebec City. In a relatively short time he came to collect governmental various positions, giving him experience and a sizeable stipend.

In the meantime, Richmond had been replaced by Lord Dalhousie, who was seeking to replace the current civil secretary. Having become much more aligned with the English party through the

influence of Jonathan Sewell, Cochran was the logical choice for Dalhousie, and in 1822 he was given the position again. This time he was able take more advantage of the post.

His task being mainly oriented toward reading and administering the governor's mail, Cochran had @

LIFE OF A PRESIDENT (continued from previous page)

considerable influence over the information given to Dalhousie, who was a newcomer to the intricacies of Lower Canadian politics. He used this influence by advising the governor on legal, administrative but also political matters. Dalhousie rewarded him with a

position on the Executive Council while the tensions with the Patriot party were growing. When Dalhousie was recalled in 1828 after petitions for his removal reached London, he said of Cochran that he was "my best informed and most able assistant." Papineau painted a rather different picture by saying that he was the governor's "right-hand man, vile architect of his master's plots, confidant of all his unjust schemes against the country." This close association with the disgraced governor cost Cochran his position. Dalhousie's replacement, Sir James Kempt, looking to appease the tensions between the parties, chose to let go of Cochran, seeing him as too clearly associated with the old regime.

One of Dalhousie's legacies was the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, and Cochran had been one of its first members. Cochran was a learned man, delivered several papers

and was elected vice president in 1829 as well as president in 1837, 1842, 1845 and 1848. His interest lay mostly in the study of ancient texts and he was a natural choice as member of the Historical Documents Committee under the leadership of Georges-Barthélémi Faribault. He helped to collect not only administrative documents relating to Canada's history but also

personal documents of interest which he called "old and curious papers."

In the 1830s, Cochran also supervised the construction of the Wolfe/Montcalm monument, another of Dalhousie's dreams. A devout Anglican, he was also

> involved in various institutions relating to his faith such as the Church Society of the Diocese of Quebec. By this time he had collected many different government positions, some of which he no longer fulfilled but through strange administrative loops was still being paid for (also known as sinecures). In total he received about £1000 per annum, making him one of the highest paid civil employees in Lower Canada, and used it to buy property in Sillery, which came to be known as "Beauvoir" (now the Pères Maristes' property on Chemin Saint-Louis) as well as land in England, Scotland and Ireland. The giving of sinecures as signs of colonial favouritism was a common occurrence in the colony and also one of the irritants that led to the 1837-38 rebellions. In consequence, actions were taken to eliminate sinecures and this considerably reduced Cochran's pay.

During his lifetime Cochran was

married twice: First to Houston Thomson in 1818 and in 1843, following his first wife's death, to Magdalen Kerr. He retreated to Beauvoir during cholera epidemics, but through an ironic twist of fate he died in 1849 in his manor of the very disease he had so carefully tried to avoid, leaving his four young children to inherit the estate.





Wolfe Montcalm Monument

Credit: L'Opinion Publique, 1871

ANNE SIGIER QUEBEC PUBLISHER FOUND AUTHORS WHO WERE "TRUE TO WHAT THEY WROTE"

An exclusive interview by Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume, Morrin Centre librarian

Anne Sigier started her publishing house, Les Éditions Anne Sigier, in 1975 in Quebec City three years after moving here from France. Her company focused mainly on works about Christian spirituality but also, spurred on by her love for Quebec, published works highlighting the richness of the

did you accomplish this?

During my career, I was lucky enough to be able to create contacts with French editors, and to listen. In my profession it is very important to listen. Anyone can

Québécois heritage. Over 30 years her team has worked with nearly 300 authors and published 600 books. Her commitment to the publishing world her work and in building relationships France with and Canada have been so great that France recently recognized these lifetime accomplishments by naming her Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur, the country's greatest public honour. I met Mme Sigier in her



Jean-Claude Olivier, brother of Anne Sigier; General Frédéric Dequen; Nicolas Chibaeff, Consul General of France; Anne Sigier; and her husband Jacques Sigier Photo Credit: Samuel Tessier

home looking out at a breathtaking view of the St. Lawrence River.

Mme Sigier, let me begin by congratulating you. How did you feel about your work being recognized in such a way?

Well, this is recognition for the profession, for the work we have done. It is not only recognition for me but for my husband, my children and my employees, with whom I worked for over 25 years and who were extremely faithful and competent. I thank France for this honour.

You have been rewarded, among other things, for your work in creating and reinforcing strong connections between Canada and France. How We wanted them to be happier, to take on something new, to feel closer to nature, to live better. We wanted to convey a message that meant that when the reader closed a book of ours, they were slightly changed.

My colleagues in publishing say that I have a special knack, I call it discernment, for finding our authors. Throughout my career, the other publishers I would meet were always collaborators, never competitors. Today, I am retired but I still receive manuscripts. I give my opinion and I am severe. If it's worth it, I open a door. This medal is a result of that, too. This discernment, this capacity of listening and always keeping the reader in mind has meant that I've been successful in my profession. There has always been this element of giving without expecting anything in return. It is rewarding to render a service and to see \bigcirc

write beautiful sentences. but wanted to work with authors who were transparent in their work, who were true to what they wrote. When I received a manuscript, I would call the author and listen to their voice to see if the person behind the writing was in fact the person whom I had read. My publishing company's aim was to add something to the life of the reader when they opened an Anne Sigier book.

ANNE SIGIER (continued from previous page)

happiness enter into someone's life, be it the reader, the author or an editor.

What did you do before working in publishing?

I come from a large family of 10 children. My father taught me hard work. He was a cheese-maker and we had to go see the clients and present our products. My father used to say "L'avenir appartient à ceux qui se lèvent tôt" [The future belongs to people who get up early]. We would work long hours, always with the goal of making the client happy.

After working for my father, I got married, had four children right away and looked after them. My four children were very important. Then I taught catechism at my children's school. There I was given a collection of books for mothers who were teaching catechism. It was a collection about the Bible that gave all sorts of explanations and answers to questions the children might ask. Because I saw that this collection was important, I spontaneously told other teaching mothers about it. One day, I received a call from the owner of this publication and he told me that thanks to my work, his representative had sold a great number of collections in northern France. He asked me if I'd be interested in going to Canada for three weeks to talk about their collection.

So I left right away for Canada. My husband encouraged me to go and looked after the children. After reading my report, my boss gave me a few days off and sent me back to Canada for another three weeks. This happened three times. I went in July, in September and in October. The same year, my family and I moved here permanently. We sold the house and packed everything up.

It was December 8th 1972. We were so well received. When we got to Canada, there were 30 people waiting for us at the airport. When we arrived at the cottage we had rented, there was meal ready for us and music. The beds were even made. The welcome here in Quebec was extraordinary, which means that today we are still just as happy to be here and to have Québécois friends.

Once here we worked very hard going door-to-door to sell this collection. I went everywhere, in Ontario, in

New Brunswick, to try to sell it. Then, one day, our warehouse was flooded and we lost everything. My father was extraordinary and told me to phone the editor in France and have them ship a cargo of books and then go back to work immediately without wasting time.

We did just that. It was marvellous because a few months later, the government agreed to help us, which is how we were able to open our own publishing company. On top of that, my boss in Paris sent us a cargo of books free of charge because their publishing company was closing down. It was their way of thanking us for leaving everything in France to come to Canada.

I began writing to a few authors including to Jean Vanier, who looks after children with a handicap and has homes around the world for them. I asked him to write a book for people who did not know the Bible and I asked a nun in Rome to illustrate it. The author's conditions were that it should be accessible and that it could be purchased at low cost. That's what we started with, and it sold over 500,000 copies and was translated into 18 languages.

Can you tell me about one of the works you published celebrating the Québécois heritage?

I met an extraordinary woman named Thérèse Sauvageau. She was a teacher with the Ursulines. She had sent me a few photos and handwritten articles. For a long time, I wasn't sure what to do with them. She didn't want young people to forget how our ancestors used to do things. She didn't want them to forget the worth of hard work, of friendship, of small communities. She went to see all sorts of people to learn how people used to make straw hats, mattresses; how people stored meat, and more, and she recorded all this in a book that she illustrated herself. It was magnificent. She was an artist without knowing it. It was a wonderful meeting with a woman from Quebec who was passionate about Quebec and wanted to leave us with the memory of the ancestors.

Anne Sigier has now retired from publishing. She regularly visits the elderly, the sick and the lonely. Her bookshop, though it has changed owners, is still open in the Diocesan services headquarters at 1073 Blvd René Lévesque.

This interview has been translated and abridged.

LIBRARY PAGES

NEW ACQUISITIONS

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



Fiction The Ocean at the End of the Lane Gaiman, Neil GI4I 20I3



The Cuckoo's Calling Galbraith, Robert G148 2013



Time Being Ozeki, Ruth L. 099 2013

Paris

Edward

Rutherfurd.

R975 2013

A Tale for the



Bilingual Being: My Life as a Hyphen Saint-Onge, Kathleen 306.44 \$148



Consider

the Fork

Let's Explore **Diabetes With** Owls Sedaris, David 814.6 \$447



VOMAN

UPSTAIRS

AIRF

LISA MOORE

MESSUD

The Golden Egg Leon, Donna L579 2013



Ghana Must Go Selasi, Taiye S464 2013



The Autistic Grandin, Temple and Panek, 616.85882 G753

Jerusalem: A Cookbook Ottolenghi, Yotam 641.5676 O91

AUL AUS' HERE AND NOW M. COET



Consider the Fork: A History of How we Cook and Eat Wilson. Bee and Lee, Annabel

643.3 W746

Biography Here and Now: Letters (2008-2011) Auster, Paul and Coetzee, J.M. Bio A934 2013

Swimming Studies Shapton, Leanne Bio S529 2012

The Woman Upstairs: A Novel Messud, Claire M586 2013

Caught Moore, Lisa M821 2013





LIBRARY PAGES

GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEWS HALLOWEEN By Mary Linklater

With Halloween just around the corner it is time to start scouring the shelves for some scary reading material. Of course there are a number of good skeletons – er, selections on the Graphic Novel shelves.

Heading the list is the book **Amphigorey: Fifteen Books by Edward Gorey** (1972). Many people will

immediately recognize Gorey's illustrations from the animated credits for the PBS television show Mystery! Gorey has also illustrated other author's works, including T.S. Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats. His many accomplishments include a Tony award for the stage design of Broadway's Dracula.

Gorey, known as the Edwardian Eccentric, made a name for himself creating illustrated stories of the macabre with disturbing characters and dark humour. These 15 books were published in the years 1953-1965, but unfortunately are now out of print. This welcome compilation brings us these 15

books under one cover. The term amphigouri means a nonsense verse or composition, and indeed Gorey's Amphigorey is a delightful mix of limericks, poems, stories, and illustrations, all with a macabre twist. Whether it's the Hapless Child or The Wuggly Ump whose song the children end up singing from deep inside him, you are in for scary read.

Adrian Tomine's **Sleepwalker and Other Stories** (2007) is another collection of short stories that were originally published in Tomine's comic series *Optic Nerve* (1995-1998). Each selection paints a dark or unsettling story with characters wrestling with adversity, loneliness, and self-doubt. A number of the stories have surprise endings or leave the reader wondering.

Alex Robinson's *Tricked* (2005) uses a very different format. In the opening chapters we are introduced to

THE GASHLYCRUMB TINIES

the six main characters of the book: a rock star, a young girl, a store clerk, an office worker, a waitress, and a rock fan. We learn about each character, their lives, their work and their network of family and friends. Eventually all the characters become connected in some way as their lives are influenced and affected by each other. The chapters count down from 50 to I as

Robinson cleverly unveils each character and their lives become intertwined. Finally, at Chapter I, all the characters cross paths in one gigantic crash which leaves one character dead! But who? The surprise ending makes for a very gripping conclusion.

A macabre tale of a strange world where people shrink until they disappear, or worse, become part of a strange religious sacrificial ritual, can be found in **Percy Gloom** (2007) by Cathy Malkasian. The main character is a strange little man who only eats buckwheat muffins and drinks the juice of thirty lemons. His mother is an eccentric inventor (his pedal car

folds up into a suitcase) and his father slapped himself to death when Percy was a boy. Percy's new job at the Cautionary Writing Institute ("be careful with a fork, you could poke your eye out!") takes him away from home and all he knows, plunging him into a strange adventure.

Percy first meets Tammy, who practises the ancient art of Yagapantha and terrorises the town. He also meets two children who are looking for the magic flagstone in the town square which, once removed, will make the whole town fall down – which then of course will mean no more school. Together with fellow Cautionary Writer Bernard, Percy begins to unravel the mystery of the disappearing citizens and the strange taste of the food. But it is when Percy descends the stairs to the Lower Market that his troubles really begin!

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MEET OUR NEW RENTAL AND EVENTS COORDINATOR MATHIEU TREMBLAY

"I grew up in Quebec City where my love of history and culture led to early jobs in the tourism industry. Working as a hotel receptionist, concierge and later as a tour guide, going above and beyond my official duties was second nature to me.

"I have a multidisciplinary bachelor's degree in business administration, tourism development and consumer sciences at Université Laval. I spent the last three years working at the Université Laval's École de langues, where one of my jobs was developing tools to measure and increase customer satisfaction.

"I am now eager take on new challenges as Rentals and Events Coordinator at the Morrin Centre, where my goal is to ensure, with the help of our team, that every event we host is as successful as can be."

morrin centre

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MEET OUR NEW MORRIN CENTRE TOUR GUIDE

Name: Janick Tremblay

Hometown: Valleyfield

Field of Studies: BA in English Studies, currently doing MA in English Literature



"The library certainly counts among the most beautiful places in the city to enjoy a good book. It holds many artifacts, which tell of improbable and captivating stories, and a wonderful variety of books, both old and new. The fact that the library stands to this day is a great proof that the English-speaking community of Quebec City, although now quite small, is still very much alive and present in the city's cultural scene. I like that!"

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MR. HYDE'S LABORATORY QUEBEC CITY'S FIRST INTERACTIVE HALLOWEEN TOURS AT THE MORRIN CENTRE By Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume, Librarian

From October 25 to November 9, the Morrin Centre will be hosting a literary Halloween event. Hérôle, an interactive experience company based in Trois-Rivières,

has created this hairraising tour in partnership with the Centre.

The Morrin Centre's unique Victorian decor is what inspired Hérôle to transform our building, including the old prison cells, into Mr. Hyde's laboratory. They have created a unique onehour tour during which participants will become Dr Jekyll's heirs, who have yet to learn about their inheritance after the mysterious doctor perishes in a trap laid by the dark Mr. Hyde.

First you have your role explained to you:

"For weeks, rumours were circulating about the state of Dr Jekyll's health. When his death was announced, you were astonished to learn that the famous doctor had named you as his heir. While you are waiting in the front hall of his manor for the



notary to arrive, you are suddenly struck by a sombre premonition: What if the stories about the doctor's experiments are true? Who is the mysterious man who has been lurking around the manor for the last few weeks? Who, or what, is crying out from the rooms in Dr Jekyll's laboratory?" The script is designed to interact with the participants' perceptions of reality, creating an atmosphere that is

bound to unsettle the most stoic. As a character yourself, you begin to question your senses. You start doubting others and realize you can trust no one. Is everyone who they say they are? Will you survive Mr. Hyde's machinations?

Hérôle has been presenting an interactive tour designed to play on one's fears in Trois-Rivières' Old Prison since 2011. Last year, this activity was sold out.

A great idea for an office outing or for an evening out with friends, the Morrin Centre's activity will be held from Thursdays to Saturdays, between October 25 and November 9 inclusively. There will be 4 tours per hour on the quarter hour, from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. and 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.. Please check our online calendar of events for the exact dates and times (www.morrin.org). We encourage strongly

reserving ahead of time with a credit card by phoning 418-694-9174.

The activity is for an audience aged 16 and older and costs \$20 (\$17 for members) for an hour of intense emotions, mystery and suspense.

FUNDRAISING

THE LAMBERT-LEROUX BANQUET MORRIN CENTRE'S FIFTH ANNUAL LITERARY FEAST TO HOST TWO REMARKABLE WOMEN

This is a landmark year for the Centre, since we will be hosting our fifth annual Literary Feast in the midst of launching our 2013-2016 Fundraising Campaign. The fact that two Director and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Canadian Centre for Architecture and founder of Heritage Montreal, Ms. Lambert was the driving force

women who are both so highly distinguished in their fields accepted our invitation to fulfil the Literary Feast's enduring promise to nourish mind. body and soul is an honour and a confirmation that through our outstanding programming we are positioning Morrin the Centre as a key venue for authors, artists,



behind the redevelopment Montreal's of Vieux-Port. In addition, she has received the highest honours for her remarkable contributions to urban planning heritage and preservation. At Literary the Feast Ms. Lambert will discuss her latest book. Building Seagram, and the crucial role the building played in history the

community partners and decision makers.

Monique F. Leroux

On November 21, 2013, Monique F. Leroux, Chair of the Board, President and CEO of the largest cooperative financial group in Canada, will be Honorary Chair of the Literary Feast. Member of Desjardins Group's senior management since 2001, Monique F. Leroux is a Member of the Order of Canada and has received the titles of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur and Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Pléiade.

Phyllis Lambert

World renowned architect Phyllis Lambert will be keynote speaker at the Literary Feast. Known as North America's "Joan of Architecture", Lambert first made architectural history at the age of 27 when she directed the planning of the legendary Seagram Building in New York City. This iconic skyscraper is still regarded as the pinnacle of New York's postwar architecture. Founding of modern art and architectural culture.

"Our fifth annual Literary Feast is a key part of our efforts to secure the future of our historically significant building. As the second woman president of the LHSQ, I am also particularly proud that we are welcoming two exceptional women as guest speakers," said Sovita Chander. "I invite all those interested in art, history, culture, architecture—and an excellent cause—to attend what promises to be an unforgettable evening."

Tickets

Tickets for this black-tie (optional) event are available for \$220 per person and may be reserved by contacting Elizabeth Perreault at 418-694-9147, extension 223 or by visiting www.feastfestin.org. The evening—which was sold out in 2012—will start with a cocktail at 5:30 p.m. in one of Canada's most beautiful libraries, followed by dinner in the historic College Hall at 6:30 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

FAREWELL TO THE MORRIN CENTRE

By Peter O'Donohue (U.S. Consul General), and Mary Linklater

Very soon, my wife Mary Linklater and I will be packing our bags and leaving Quebec City for retirement and a new set of adventures in Northern California after three wonderful years here. Mary and I met in Kuwait

the opportunity to meet and chat with authors, poets, travelers, and just plain folks in a setting that is both warm and intimate. And the building itself! For history lovers like us, just walking through the door of the

and later married there just before coming to Quebec. what So а wonderful honeymoon our years here have been! Summer strolls around the Old City, biking on Plains the of Abraham. winter weekends exploring virtually every crosscountry ski and snowshoe center for miles around. the trips to Beauce, the Gaspé, the Far North. in La camping Mauricie, Forillion. Les-Hautes-Gorges



reminder of how immediate and contemporary and "with it" the Centre remains. For both of us, but especially for Mary, who's been a weekly library volunteer (which always she has fondly referred to as the "very best" part of her week), the Centre has been a place to meet and befriend Ouebecers from the whole amazing ethnic SOUD anglophone and

Peter O'Donohue and Mary Linklater Photo Credit: CBC, Quebec Community Network

-de-La-Rivière-Malbaie, les Grands-Jardins, and many others. For us, every day in Quebec has been a new adventure, a new opportunity to explore the manifold charms of the province and to delve deeper and deeper into this wonderful city's complex history and its almost mystical charm. What a city, and how fortunate are those who have the opportunity to reside here, even for a short time.

For both of us, one of the particular charms of being here has been the opportunity to get to know the Morrin Centre, its staff and members, and to share in the extraordinary range of activities there. Literary Feasts, lectures on Himalayan exploration, a fascinating week-long series of readings by Canadian authors, workshops on the Anglophone experience in Quebec, poetry nights, and on and on. Mary and I have loved being part of every one of these events, loved having

francophone (and allophone) that make this city the amazing place that it is.

So, on behalf of Mary and myself, I just want to say - to all those dedicated staff and volunteers who keep the Morrin Centre running and who keep coming up with great ideas, and to all those wonderful folks who find their way to the Centre's events and have become our friends over the past three years - thanks for the memories! (Also, please keep up the great work, because Mary and I plan to re-visit Quebec and the Morrin Centre many times in the future.)

With great fondness,

Peter O'Donohue and Mary Linklater

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