

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 43 ■ Autumn-Winter 2014 ■ \$2.00



- CHRISTOPHER MOORE AT THE MORRIN CENTRE
- OUR PRESIDENT SOVITA CHANDER AWARDED *PRIX HOMMAGE*
- MURDER AND INTRIGUE IN SAINT-SYLVESTRE

morrin

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CONTENTS

Interview with LHSQ President	1	
From the Executive Director	2	Barry McCullough
Transactions		
Hill Search:	2	
The Robert Corrigan Story		
Library Pages		
On the Shelf: Way out West	4	Britta Gundersen-Bryden
More Book Reviews	6	Mike Lawlor
Recipe: Plum Cake	7	Rosemarie Fischer
New Acquisitions	8	
Events & Activities		
Introducing Hoffmann Wolff	9	
Literary Feast	10	Hoffmann Wolff
Halloween at the Morrin Centre	10	Hoffmann Wolff
Miscellanea		
Music Review	11	Barry McCullough
Volunteer Thanks	12	

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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

INTERVIEW WITH LHSQ PRESIDENT SOVITA CHANDER

On November 12, the president of the LHSQ, Sovita Chander, was awarded the 2014 **Prix Hommage** by the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Québec. This prize honours the contributions to society made by an individual born outside Québec.

Morrin Centre (MC): Congratulations on winning the Prix Hommage.

Sovita Chander (SC): Thank you!

MC: Do you think your experience with the Morrin Centre has contributed to your success in the business world?

SC: Yes, definitely. You learn a lot about teamwork and bringing a vision to life when you're on a board. What you learn is invaluable in business.

MC: How has the Morrin Centre changed in the seven-plus years you've been on Council?

SC: When I first joined Council, we were in the thick of restoring the building. Today, we are building a leading cultural organization that every one of us can cherish. Council can be proud of the work we've done.

MC: What is the key to being recognized by influential organizations such as the Chambre de commerce et d'industrie de Québec?

SC: You know, I'm not sure that I'm an expert on that. All I can say is: be good at what you do. Know how you make a difference. And learn how to talk about what is important to you, whether it's business, culture, technology, or another topic. One thing I would like to add: we need more entrepreneurs in Quebec. There are strong entrepreneurship traditions in many English-

speaking cultures, so I think we have a lot to contribute locally and nationally.

MC: What are the benefits of being recognized?

SC: Awards like the Prix Hommage allow you to shine a spotlight on the issues and causes that matter to you, both inside and outside business. I can tell you that the

Morrin Centre is at the top of that list. On the professional front, I am a big believer in the need to bring more women into technology. We waste half our resources when women are not part of the picture, and we can't afford that.

MC: The position of President is a very demanding one. How do you balance this busy volunteer position with your career?

SC: Growing up, I was taught that you give back to the community you live in,

no matter where you live. Just to give you an example, my mother, who lives outside Washington DC, chairs her city's Aging in Place committee. Back in the day in Malaysia, my grandparents were active in their local communities, as board members and volunteers. I'm lucky to have these great role models.

MC: How do you see the Morrin Centre growing in the near future?

SC: Let me try to answer from a historical perspective. When Lord Dalhousie founded the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec in 1824, he started with 125 members. Last year, our cultural centre had 25,000 visitors come through our doors. This year, that number will hit 30,000. We are becoming a key player in the Quebec and Canadian cultural landscape. Lord Dalhousie wouldn't recognize the place! ■



Credit: fredphotographe.com

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear members,

It's hard to believe that 2014 is drawing to a close. With how much has been happening at the Morrin Centre, it is no wonder the year has passed so quickly. We set records for attendance with more

than 30,000 people coming through the doors. While the team had a busy year, it was incredibly rewarding to be able to bring you a rich program of heritage, educational and cultural activities.

Early in the year we hosted the fifth annual ImagiNation Writers' Festival where we hosted some of Canada's top authors such as Miriam Toews, Annabel Lyon, Wayne Grady and Terry Fallis. All throughout the year the Morrin Centre hosted its Connecting Through Culture series, which allowed us to celebrate bilingualism through a wonderful series of cultural events including music, history, literature and more.

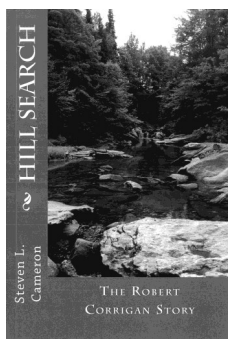
With such a full calendar, though, we are always looking ahead and have been hard at work preparing an even more exciting programming for 2015. The lineup for the 6th annual ImagiNation Writers' Festival is nearly set and will be unveiled early in the New Year. Additionally, the winter and spring programming is lined up. Be sure to check out our website and Facebook page for all of the latest updates on programming and more.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the presenters, collaborators, staff and members of Council for everything they have done for the Centre this year. Special thanks go out to our volunteers who make so many of the great events and activities possible. You will find their names on the back inside cover of this issue. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. I look forward to seeing you all in 2015.

Barry McCullough
Executive Director

TRANSACTIONS

INTERVIEW WITH STEVEN CAMERON ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK *HILL SEARCH: THE ROBERT CORRIGAN STORY*



Steven L. Cameron is co-founder of the Irish Heritage Group, Coirneal Cealteach, and former Vice President of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. Below is an short interview that the Morrin Centre did with Steven Cameron on his first book.

Morrin Centre (MC): So why did you write a book? And why this specific book?

Steven L. Cameron (SLC): Over the past few years, I have been driven by the idea of saving the Irish/Celt footprint in our area (southwest of Quebec City). A lot of effort has gone into saving cemetery stones, getting a 'historic site' designation for a section of Craig's Road, establishing our own Celtic Cross/Irish Stone Circle as a place to visit and finding and saving old stories. This story component evolved into a series of talks for

various non-profit organizations. And, the experience of sharing the stories got me to the next stage, making them into a book, whereby the target audience could be broadened and a bit of permanency added to the story-telling.

This story, the Robert Corrigan Story, was and is just too important to have been lost to time. In addition, I found that when I did find something about it in the public domain, most, if not all the sources included so many errors ... it simply had to be re-told.

MC: So, what's it about?

SLC: (*chuckles*) Obviously the focus is Robert Corrigan and his murder in 1855.... But it's more than that. The story provides a good view as to what it was like to live here at the time. In the 1830-1870 period, St. Sylvester was a tough place. The story is about Ribbonmen in the hills, armed Orangemen on the roads, body snatching, a

TRANSACTIONS

👉 **HILL SEARCH** (continued from previous page)

lost cemetery, police raids, intimidation and intrigue, fraudulent elections, fights and more. It also weaves the oral tradition into the telling. And always, as a principle, it maintains the nuanced difference between fact, rumour and opinion. This is not fiction...it really happened.

MC: How long did it take you to research this book? Can you tell us about the process?

SLC: Well, I have been playing around with this subject matter for years. As a youngster hearing about the men 'hiding in the hills', I was never sure whether I was being told the truth. Then a few years ago, a dear friend, Marianna O'Gallagher, asked me to give a talk on the subject matter. This simply made me realize how much I didn't know about the story. So, I gave the talk, and then *really* started the research...at the archives, re-visiting the oral tradition with the elders and finally, simply walking the hills. I know this land, I know these hills and now I know them really well.

MC: Why self-publishing?

SLC: It did not take me long to realize that I lacked patience. Publishers don't move at warp-speed. They never seem to say 'no' outright, but their "we'll be back to you" drove me nuts. I guess their lack of speed was a polite 'no'. So, I waited a while, and then thought of two solid examples of do-it-yourself : the musician, Loreena McKennitt, whose self-management is such a success story, and my friend Joe Lonergan, President of Irish Heritage Quebec, who completed his first book earlier this year. The option allows you full control of the process and assures you

have no one to blame for failure or error other than yourself.

MC: Any surprises in the process?

SLC: Not sure, but I have found that it has all been rather amusing. Having to learn the self-pub software, figure out pricing, the tax implications and the best sales channels have all been a hoot! And the little unforeseen pleasures have been a true joy: seeing *my first book* being placed on the shelf of my library, getting my first order (real \$), having someone ask me to sign their copy.... I had not expected that I would react with a smile at each of these new experiences, no matter how simple...so maybe that's the surprise!

MC: Will you do it again?

SLC: Absolutely. I am hoping to have the second book completed by the spring of 2015. There are a few more murders to document and share. Then, with a bit of luck, I hope to make a first attempt at fiction, leveraging some of the facts about a 19th century Quebec City lawyer with a strong air of

mystery about him.

MC: Thanks for this.

SLC: My pleasure. Enjoy the read! ■

Steven L. Cameron was at the Morrin Centre on November 26 to tell the Robert Corrigan story. Books can also be purchased by contacting the author at tirnanogsa@gmail.com.



Carey Corrigan, Steve Cameron, Denis Corrigan
(Left to right)



Check out pictures of our events and more
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LIBRARY PAGES

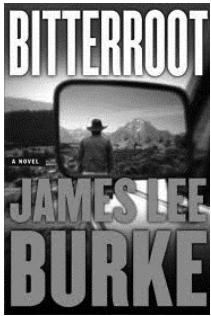
ON THE SHELF: WAY OUT WEST

A THEMATIC REVIEW OF SOME INTERESTING, IMPORTANT OR JUST ENTERTAINING BOOKS
IN THE LIBRARY OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC.

by Britta Gundersen-Bryden

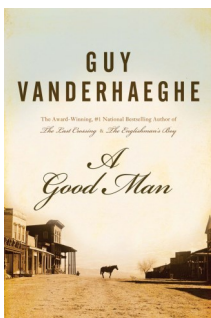
Quebec City readers can look West by following their gaze along the mighty St. Lawrence. Then, in their imagination they can cross the wide sweep of the prairies, climb up and over the Rocky Mountains and press onward to the forests and salt water of the Pacific Coast. The Library's shelves have many offerings to enrich that virtual journey.

Fiction So Good, It Seems "Real"



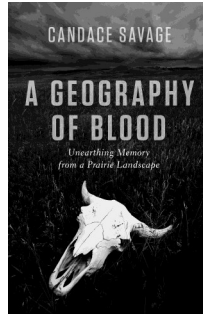
James Lee Burke is best-known for his crime novels set in New Orleans. However, the author himself splits his time between the Big Easy (New Orleans) and the Big Sky (Montana) and has set several of his books in Montana. **Bitterroot** (2001) is the story of challenges faced by Doc Voss and his daughter Maisey. Voss's friend, Texas lawyer Billy Bob Dixon, comes north for a

visit and gets tied up in matters of murder and mayhem. Like Burke's iconic Louisiana character David Robicheaux, Dixon has to face his own ghosts in order to help his friends.



Guy Vanderhaeghe was a featured writer at the 2013 Imagination Writers' Festival. Soon thereafter the Library shelves featured his 2011 novel, **A Good Man**. Vanderhaeghe takes his main character, Wesley Case, through the end of the Wild West period. Case encounters Mounted Police in their scarlet tunics and the U.S. Cavalry in their blue shirts. He spends time at Fort Walsh and interviews Sitting Bull. Throw in Fenian raids and the Battle of Ridgeway, the U.S. Civil War and a love story, and the author gives readers a real treat. The main characters (Case, with all his human weaknesses, and Ada, with all her strengths) ring true. **A Good Man** is a good, tightly-woven story with the haunting history of the Sioux as the undercurrent.

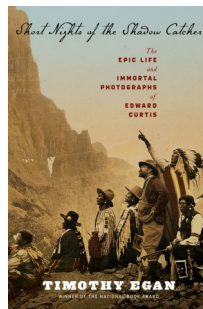
Non-Fiction at Its Best



Candace Savage sets **A Geography of Blood** in Saskatchewan's Cypress Hills. This Saskatoon-based academic found a deep, personal connection to the small town of Eastend, nestled into the eastern side of the Cypress Hills. Savage gives readers evocative descriptions of the landscape as well as flashbacks to her family's life in the

Peace River Country. She soon looks beyond her own family's story and finds stories of the First Peoples at the Interpretive Centre at the site of Fort Walsh. Those are stories of displacement, desperation, starvation, sacrifice and massacre but also of timelessness, resilience and friendship.

Fort Walsh, the Cypress Hills, the Sioux and the Mounties are threads that tie Savage's work to Vanderhaeghe's. Readers who pair these two works will come to a new understanding of a seldom-discussed chapter in Canadian history.



Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher: The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis by Timothy Egan (2012) provides a masterful sweep of the life and life's work of Edward Curtis. Curtis was the author, photographer and driving force behind the classic compendium, *The North American Indian*. Egan followed in Curtis's

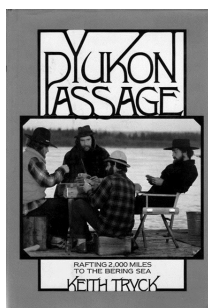
tracks to the US southwest, California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Alaska, out into the Bering Strait and to the Big Sky Country of Montana. Egan's writing is crisp, as always, and the reproductions of some of Curtis' best-known photos give the book a special touch.

Many Library members will remember reading the Little House on the Prairie novels. For "the rest of the story", try Ginger Wadsworth's biography, **Laura Ingalls Wilder: Storyteller of the Prairie**, (1997).

LIBRARY PAGES

WAY OUT WEST (continued from previous page)

Growing up in - and returning to - the American Southwest inspired ImagiNation Festival 2014 local author Rae Marie Taylor to pen a series of essays, **The Land: Our Gift and Wild Hope** (2012). Taylor writes of times past and hopes future. She also draws perceptive parallels between Canada and the United States and between Quebec and New Mexico that come from a deep understanding and her personal experience.



The Yukon is as far west as a traveler can go in Canada. Author Keith Tryck wrote about his adventures “way out west” (and north) in **Yukon Passage** (1980). This rafting story covers a 2000-mile long journey from Lake Bennett, south of Whitehorse, north to the Bering Sea.

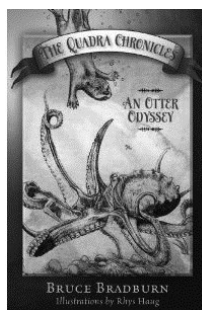
Another account of an exciting water voyage in the Library’s collection is the subject of Jonathan Raban’s **Passage to Juneau** (1999).

One of the grandest western adventures was the cross-continental trek of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Each man kept his own journal of the expedition, which lasted from May 1804 until September 1806. In 2000 the Folio Society published **Pathfinders of the American West: The Journals of Lewis and Clark**, edited by Frank Bergon. This work entwines both journals, by date, allowing readers to compare and contrast the observations and musings of these two celebrated explorers.

History buffs can dig even deeper by perusing **The Works of Washington Irving, Volume X; Bonneville’s Adventures**, published in 1860 – and still residing on the Library’s shelves.

For Younger Readers

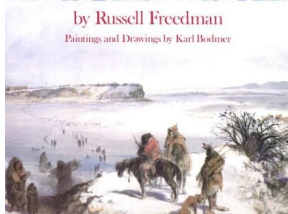
Few subjects fascinate 8 – 10 year old readers as much as dinosaurs and time travel. Author Helen V. Griffith and illustrator Sonja Lamut combine the two in **Dinosaur Habitat** (1998). Part fiction, part fact, this is an “up close and personal” account of a young boy who is mysteriously transported back into a world where his toy diplodocus, triceratops, hadrosaurus and fearsome t-rex all come alive.



The Quadra Chronicles: An Otter Odyssey by Bruce Bradburn with illustrations by Rhys Haug will appeal to those 8 – 12 year olds who are independent readers as well as to parents and grandparents who want to read an action-packed “chapter book” to younger children. Oscar the Otter and other animals of the Pacific Coast are portrayed as real

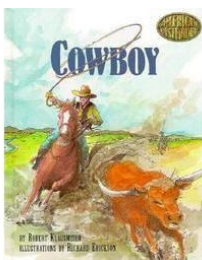
animals in their natural surroundings. They have only fleeting contact with human beings and spend most of their time learning how to survive, and thrive, in the wild. (In the interests of full disclosure, the author is the brother of the writer of this column. He has spent most of his life on the West Coast and has been a careful observer of the animals with whom he shares his beloved Quadra Island).

AN INDIAN WINTER



Older readers (and adults, too) will appreciate **An Indian Winter** (1992) by Russell Freedman with paintings and drawings by Karl Bodmer. In 1833/34, Bodmer, a Swiss artist, and Alexander Phillip Maximilian, a German prince, spent the

winter with the Mandan people of the Upper Missouri region. Freedman’s book is based on Maximilian’s published journal. The prince details his journey from St. Louis through the lands of the Sioux, the Hidatsa, the Assiniboiné, and Blackfeet, to what is now Great Falls, Montana. Along the way Maximilian and Bodmer meet Toussaint Charbonneau, who had been one of the Lewis and Clark expedition guides thirty years earlier.



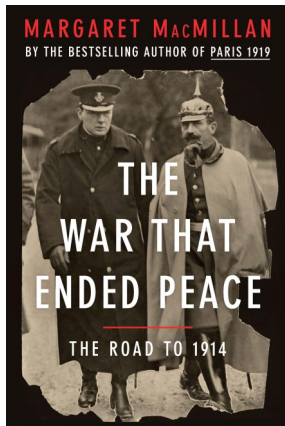
Finally, what single word evokes images of the West more readily than “cowboy”? A 1996 book entitled **Cowboy** by Robert Klausmeier, illustrated by Richard Erickson is complete with facts about cattle ranching from the Canadian border to southern Texas, round-ups, brands,

cattle drives, cowboys’ horses and daily life. There are biographical sketches of three famous cowboys and a good glossary of cowboy terms. There are even songs and recipes for cowboy beans and sourdough biscuits! ■

LIBRARY PAGES

MORE BOOK REVIEWS

by Mike Lawlor



Stumbling towards war
***The War that Ended Peace: The Road to 1914* by Margaret MacMillan**

Prior to 1914, Europe had not been in a general state of warfare since the conclusion of the Napoleonic campaigns nearly a century earlier. It had been an uncommonly harmonious stretch by the continent's historically bloodthirsty standards (albeit

the civil war in the United States had significant ramifications in Europe, and there was the isolated defeat of France by Germany in 1871).

But during this period a series of small but nagging confrontations in Morocco and the Balkans was having an accumulated effect; as well, the great powers were coming to view one another with a growing air of suspicion. Finally, there was a mood throughout Europe of an "odd combination of unease and complacency." This atmosphere was exacerbated by supremacy struggles between England and Germany over naval power, Austria-Hungary's attempt to maintain its power status in Europe, and Russia's objective of increasing its influence in the Balkans.

And then there was the June 28, 1914 assassination in Sarajevo of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand by triggerman Gavrilo Princip and fellow members of the Young Bosnia radical independence organization.

A month after Ferdinand's assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and Europe collectively stumbled toward war:

- Germany with Austria-Hungary;
- Russia with the Serbia;
- France with Russia;
- Britain with France.

A century's worth of forensic investigation into the causes of WW I has yielded its share of finger-pointing, with all of the principals (Germany, France, England, Russia, Austria-Hungary and Serbia) blamed for drawing Europe into a long senseless war of attrition. This war

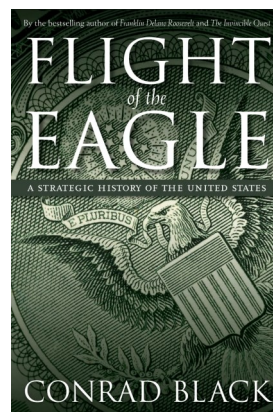
resulted in the deaths of more than 15 million soldiers, yet failed to produce anything remotely beneficial for any of the participants. But some things were changed, for example:

- Syria was created;
- The Ottoman Empire collapsed and Turkey arose;
- Empires were wiped out, such as Austria-Hungary;
- Communism and fascism were accelerated;
- US world power was established; and
- The seeds of WWII with Germany were planted.

The germination process of these seeds was significantly enhanced by the fact that Germany was not defeated on the WWI battlefield – it was neither invaded nor occupied. The Armistice (11.00 A.M. November 11; 1918), an agreement to stop fighting, resulted in the total capitulation of Germany but it did not technically surrender. There ensued six months of negotiations based upon US President Wilson's fourteen points. Who could be blamed?

- in Germany, Kaiser Wilhelm II and the chief of the German general staff, Von Moltke the Younger;
- in Austria-Hungary: Emperor Franz Joseph;
- in Russia: Tsar Nicholas II and his wife;
- in Britain: King Edward VII, Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, and British Admiral Jacky Fisher.

The 1914-18 slaughterhouse, initially called the Great War and later rechristened the First World War, gave us Remembrance Day and, from a Canadian perspective, Vimy Ridge. It ended peace in the 20th century.



Not in the same league
***Flight of the Eagle* by Conrad Black**

I found this book by Conrad Black to be his best; although his other two books on Roosevelt and Nixon were very good too. This, in my opinion, is the best account of the history of the U.S.A. Black does not hide the country's sins of commission or omission but they are marginalized by his

account of the greatness of the nation, beyond anything

LIBRARY PAGES

☞ **MORE BOOK REVIEWS** (continued from previous page)

ever achieved or even imagined, culminating in its bringing about the collapse of the USSR. It is a great not-so-short anecdote against 'Yankee Nay-Sayers'.

While each president of the U.S. is discussed from both a domestic and an international perspective, the book is essentially structured around the following periods: from its beginnings until 1776; from 1776 to 1863; from 1863 to 1930; from 1930 to 1991; and from 1991 to 2013.

He describes the greatness of Presidents Adams, Jefferson, and Madison, but clearly ranks Washington, Lincoln, and Roosevelt as the most effective and having made the greatest contribution to the nation and to the world. Black has high praise for Eisenhower, Nixon, and Reagan, but gives less standing to Kennedy, Johnson, the Bushes, Clinton, and Obama: not in the same league. He concludes by outlining that the U.S. is now in a bit of a funk, not having recovered from 2008, and weaker now than in the past as regards political gravitas and know-how. However, he predicts re-evaluation and re-growth. ■

RECIPE: PLUM CAKE

by Rosemarie Fischer



This plum cake recipe is a simplified version of the traditional German plum cake made on flat baking sheets with yeast. My inspiration comes from my German grandmother, Luise Volbrecht, the best baker of cakes I have ever known! She made this 'Zwetschkuchen' every September when Italian plums were in season.

Ingredients

100 grams butter (about ½ cup)
 100 grams sugar (about ½ cup)
 1 envelope vanilla sugar
 2 eggs
 Almond extract (to your taste)
 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
 200 grams flour (about 1½ cups)
 4 to 5 tablespoons milk
 500 grams blue plums (seeded and quartered)

Instructions

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl.

In a larger bowl, mix butter and sugar and beat until fluffy.

Add eggs one at a time, beating well between each, and then mix in vanilla and almond extracts.

Mix in dry ingredients in two or three sequences, alternating with the milk.

Spread this dough in a round spring form mold. Place quartered plums on top. The surface must be entirely covered in plums. Sprinkle with sugar.

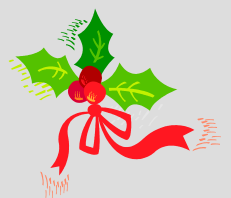
Bake in a 350°F oven for 45 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the cake comes out clean.

Serve with freshly whipped cream.

Notes: I prefer to sprinkle a mixture of cinnamon and sugar on top of the cake before baking. You can also use apples if plums are not in season. Cortland apples work best. ■

HOLIDAY LIBRARY SCHEDULE

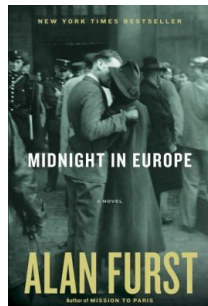
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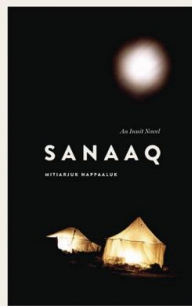
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NEW ACQUISITIONS

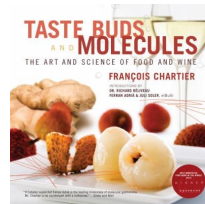
Here are a few of the recent additions to the Library collection. To reserve a title, please contact the Morrin Centre Library at **418-694-9147** or visit our online catalogue at **www.morrin.org**.



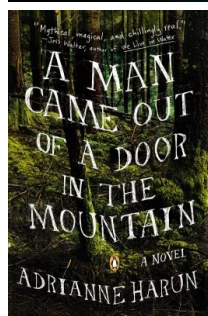
Fiction
Midnight in Europe
Furst, Alan
F991 2014



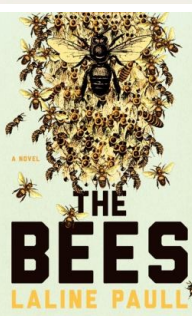
Sanaaq: An Inuit Novel
Nappaaluk, Mitiarjuk
N217 2014



Non-Fiction
Taste Buds and Molecules
Chartier, François
664.072 C486



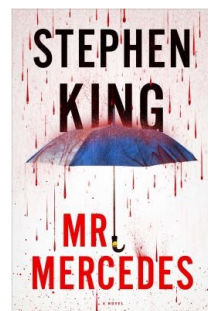
A Man Came out of a Door in the Mountains
Harun, Adrianne
H296 2014



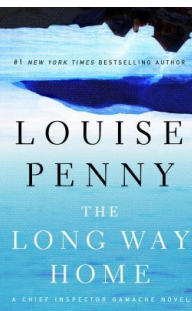
The Bees
Paull, Laline
P329 2014



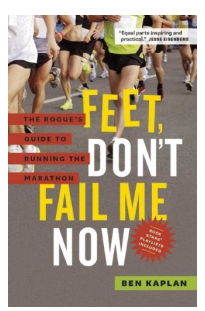
Reading Architecture: A Visual Lexicon
Hopkins, Owen
721 H795



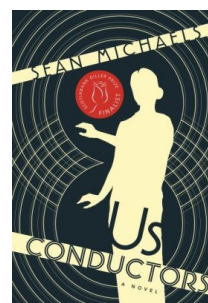
Mr. Mercedes
King, Stephen
K54 2014



The Long Way Home
Penny, Louise
P416 2014



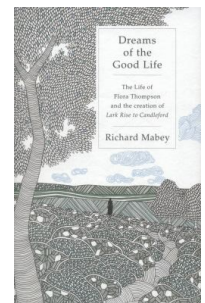
Feet, Don't Fail Me Now: The Rogue's Guide to Running the Marathon
Kaplan, Ben
796.4252 K17



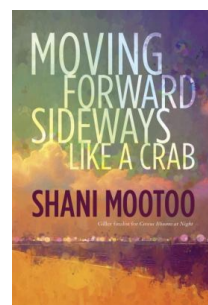
Us Conductors
Michaels, Sean
M621 2014



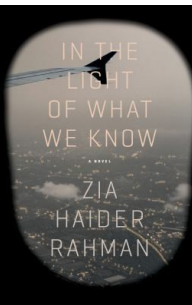
The Rise and Fall of Great Powers
Rachman, Tom
R119 2014



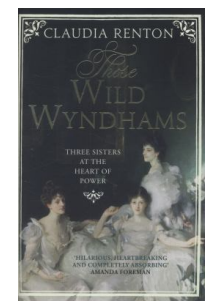
Dreams of the Good Life
Mabey, Richard
BIO M112 2014



Moving Forward Sideways like a Crab
Mootoo, Shani
M825 2014

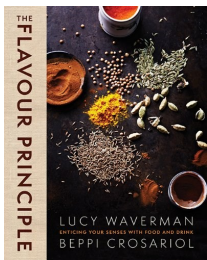


In the Light of What we Know
Rahman, Zia Haider
R147 2014



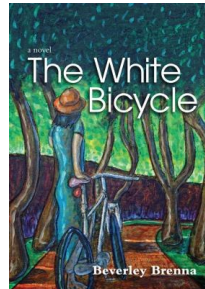
Those Wild Wyndhams: Three Sisters at the Heart of Power
Renton, Claudia
BIO W985 2014

LIBRARY PAGES



Jane, the Fox & Me

Britt, Fanny
GN B862 2013



Juvenile The White Bicycle

Brenna, Beverly
JF BRE 2014



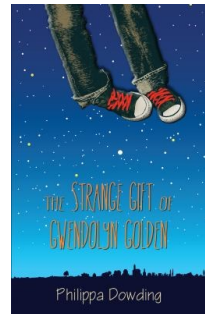
Four: A Divergent Collection

Roth, Veronica
JF ROT 2014



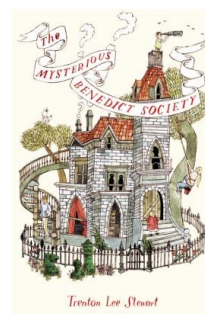
Graphic Novels Jane, the Fox & Me

Britt, Fanny
GN B862 2013



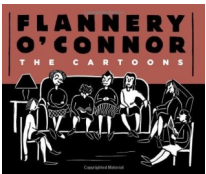
The Strange Life of Gwendolyn Golden

Dowding, Philippa
JF DOW 2014



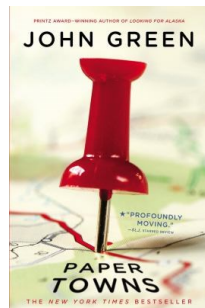
The Mysterious Benedict Society

Stewart, Trenton Lee
JF STE 2007



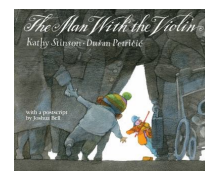
Flannery O'Connor: The Cartoons

O'Connor, Flannery
GN O18 2012



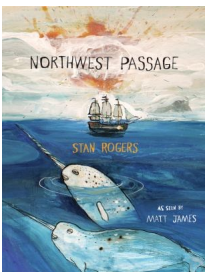
Paper Towns

Green, John
JF GRE 2008



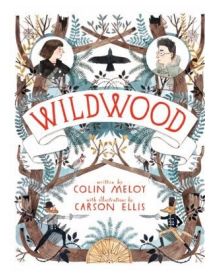
The Man with the Violin

Stinson, Kathy
JF STI 2013



Northwest Passage

Rogers, Stan
GN R729 2013



Wildwood

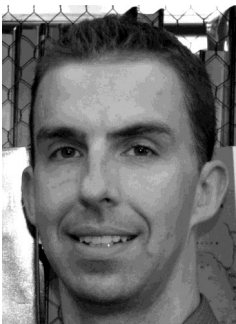
Meloy, Colin
JF MEL 2011



The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B

Toten, Teresa
JF TOT 2013

INTRODUCING OUR INTERIM PROGRAM AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR HOFFMAN WOLFF



"I'm originally from North Carolina, but first arrived in Quebec City as a teenager. I attended Quebec High School and learned French by playing on area baseball teams.

After completing my bachelor's in French at a small college in Virginia, I worked in the sports world, handling communications and operations for a number of teams and

sporting goods companies.

I returned to Quebec City in April 2013, and truly enjoy living here.

The Morrin Centre is an amazing, important place and I'm really happy to be on board with an excellent team." ■

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

MORRIN CENTRE SUPPORTERS COME TOGETHER FOR A QUEBEC CONFERENCE-THEMED EVENING

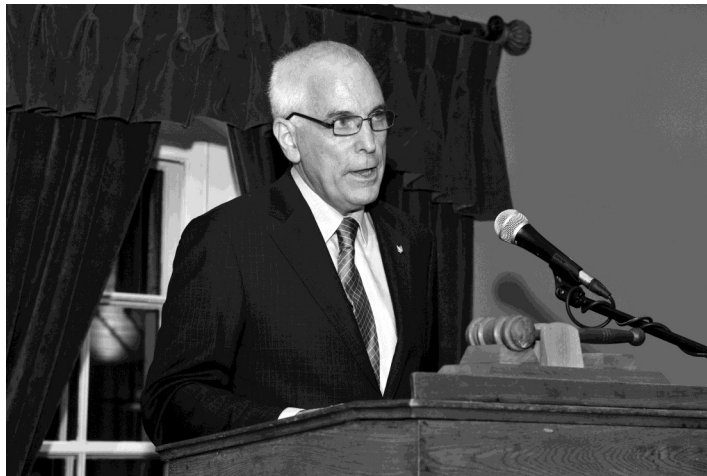
by Hoffmann Wolff

With the 150th anniversary of the Quebec Conference as its theme, the sixth annual Literary & Historical Society of Quebec Literary Feast on October 16 was a resounding success.

The Literary Feast has been the LHSQ's signature event since its debut, bringing together members of the area's Anglophone and Francophone communities for an evening of superb food and memorable guests.

After beginning the evening with a cocktail in the library, the over 100 attendees moved into College Hall for dinner, which was decorated in the spirit of the 1864 conference. In addition, the Restaurant Saint-Amour provided the meal for the evening inspired by dishes which were popular at the time, including rabbit stew with lime.

Former Society chairman David F. Blair, partner at the McCarthy Tetrault law firm, as well a member of the Order of Canada, was the evening's honorary chair. He discussed the history of the LHSQ and its adaptation into today's Morrin Center, the steps that have been taken to ensure its longevity for years to come, and the importance of the Literary Feast evening towards the Centre's fundraising goals



Mr. Christopher Moore (Credit: Louise Leblanc)

The crowd was then entertained by the evening's keynote speaker, Canadian historian Christopher Moore. Having previously won two Governor's General awards, he is currently a columnist for *Canada's History* magazine. In his talk, "Three Weeks in October: When Quebec City invented Canada," Moore spoke on the Quebec Conference of 1864, and how a handful of Canadians from all walks of life came together in Quebec City to develop the framework of the constitution for the new nation.

Susan Campbell, the host of *Quebec AM* on CBC Radio, entertained the crowd as the evening's emcee. Attendees were encouraged to bid on over 40 silent auction items which had been generously donated by members and corporate partners, including a round-trip business class ticket from Quebec City to Toronto on VIA Rail, a bottle of 12-year-old Old Pulteney scotch from QuebecWhisky, and an oil painting from member Joanne Coleman-Robertson, "Low Tide."

Between ticket sales and silent auction items, over \$35,000 was raised for the LHSQ, which will contribute greatly to the costs of putting on the wide variety of programming at the Morrin Centre during the upcoming year. ■

HALLOWEEN AT THE MORRIN CENTRE

by Hoffmann Wolff

For the second year in a row, the Morrin Centre hosted its Interactive Halloween Experience, which took place over 12 nights between October 17 and November 15. Hérôle, an entertainment company based in Trois-Rivières, transformed the building into a

frightening Halloween-themed environment under the theme "The World of Dr. Frankenstein."

As Hérôle described the event:

Three years ago, Victor Frankenstein

MISCELLANEA

abandoned his house after conducting research about life on earth, having finally achieved his greatest success. Unfortunately, every prior experiment left behind monsters, each more terrifying than the last. The scientist has disappeared...but his subjects still haunt the house's corridors.

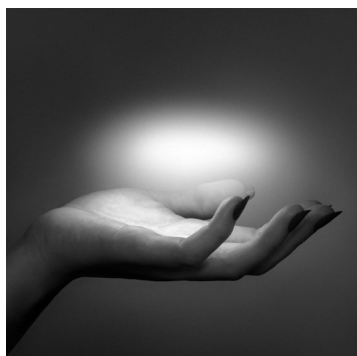
Guests purchased tickets for a one-hour tour of different areas of the Morrin Centre, through which they encountered various darkened corridors and scary characters.

The Morrin Centre received wide-ranging media coverage both before and during the event. Quebec City media was introduced to this year's theme at an interactive press conference that took place at the Morrin Centre on October 1, with performers from Hérôle bringing this year's characters to life. Radio-Canada television and radio also reported during the tours, enabling viewers and listeners throughout the area to become acquainted with the event.

Over 1,200 visitors attended this year's Interactive Halloween Experience, adding another spine-tingling event to the area's Halloween scene. ■

MUSIC REVIEW:

By Barry McCullough



Spoon – *They Want My Soul* (Loma Vista)

Full disclosure: I'm a bit of a Spoon fanboy. So, it's not with complete objectivity when I claim that they're one of the best bands of the past 20 years. If there not one of the best, they're at least

one of the most consistent and I have plenty of people who will corroborate this claim. Metacritic, a website that aggregates reviews of music and other media, determined that during the 2000s Spoon was the best-reviewed group ahead of heavyweights like Radiohead, the White Stripes and Tom Waits.

It had been over 4 years since Spoon's last album, a veritable eternity in the world of Spoon. The band cited being burned out after the album/tour/repeat cycle as the reason. That's not to say that Spoon's main man, Britt Daniel, hasn't been busy. Daniel formed indie supergroup Divine fits with Dan Boeckner of Wolf Parade. Other band mainstay Jim Eno kept himself occupied by producing albums for several bands, including Half Moon Run, !!! and Tennis.

Some saw 2010's *Transference* as either a bit of a step back or treading water. Following up 2007's incredible *Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga* was always going to be a tall order. That's not to say there weren't excellent songs. I would

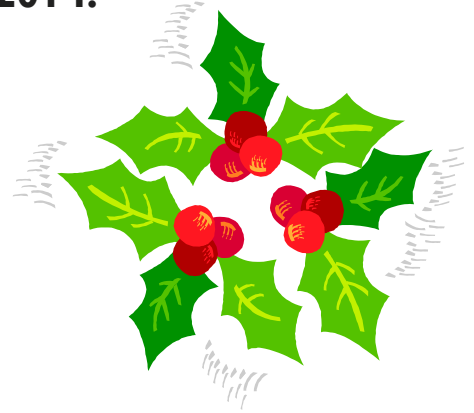
put *Who Makes Your Money*, up against almost anything they've ever put to tape (vinyl? computer?).

With the band switching labels, *They Want My Soul* is the first Spoon album to not be released on Merge Records since 1998's *A Series of Sneaks*. Even the Spoon connoisseur would agree that the band's distinctive sound remains firmly in place. Like so many of their previous albums, *They Want My Soul* is new and familiar all at once. "Rent I Pay" kicks things off with a slow burn and Daniel's first words being a confession that he's "been losing sleep." Restlessness is a common theme throughout the album.

One of the clear highlights is "Inside Out," with its classic spoon drum-machine beat keeping pace and enough synth complements to lend it a dreamy quality. Side two doesn't waste anytime setting the pace with the synth-laced "Outlier." Much of the album has a retro feeling including the cover of Ann-Margret's 1961 hit "I Just Don't Understand" and the title track. During the latter, Daniel claims "Educated folk singers want my soul." The song is clearly an assertion that there is always someone out to get you, listing sharks, street preachers and even Jonathon Fisk (see: 2002's *Kill the Moonlight*).

The album closer, the urgent "New York Kiss," is a fitting end to an excellent album. Its restlessness is proof positive that Daniel and company are still living, loving, searching. Let's hope that it doesn't take them four more years to put this on record. ■

A special thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their time to the **Morrin Centre** in 2014!



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Great things are happening.

It's been an exciting year at the Morrin Centre and 2015 is shaping up to be even better.

As a non-profit organization, we need your help! Your support will help us continue to provide Quebec City with quality cultural programming in heritage, education and the arts.



Support YOUR Morrin Centre by giving to our 2014 annual campaign at www.morrin.org/contribute, or by returning the enclosed form with your donation.