

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 46 ■ Autumn 2015 ■ \$2.00



- AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR LAWRENCE HILL AT THE MORRIN
- BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST SHOW IN QUEBEC CITY
- COWICHAN KNITTING ON THE CHAUSSÉE

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SOCIETY PAGES

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LIBRARY HOURS

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

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The mission of the **Morrin Centre** is to share and foster English-language culture in the Quebec City region. The Morrin Centre is administered by the Literary & Historical Society of Quebec.
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and supporters,

In the June issue of the *Society Pages*, I wrote about our membership survey. Our Membership Committee was absolutely thrilled with the number of responses and the detail of your answers. On behalf of the

committee, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to provide your feedback. Your input will help us shape the future of the Morrin Centre so that it meets the needs of you, our members. The survey results will be available in the near future.

The initial results show that a large portion of you would prefer to receive the *Society Pages* electronically. We have responded accordingly by offering a digital version. A significant percentage of our members are reading this on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. If you would prefer to change from the print to the digital version, please contact the Morrin Centre team and they will be happy to make the change.

The Literary Feast is our most important fundraising activity of the year. The Literary Feast committee and staff work hard to bring in notable, thought-provoking keynote speakers and this year is no exception. Lawrence Hill stands atop the list of great Canadian literary minds and we are fortunate that he has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our 7th annual fundraising dinner.

The Literary Feast is not our only fundraising initiative. The Morrin Centre team is hard at work on securing public and private sector funding in order to continue bringing you the high calibre events and services to which you have become accustomed. Later in the fall you will receive information about our annual fundraising campaign, which helps us achieve all that we accomplish. I encourage you to generously support YOUR Morrin Centre.

Sincerely,

Sovita Chander

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Members and partners,

By the time you read this, summer will be over. But, don't fret. In an effort to make the cooling temperatures a little easier to take, we here at the Morrin Centre have set up a fantastic fall lineup for

you. From cultural workshops to acoustic afternoons, I am sure that you will find something to your liking.

We are thrilled to be working with Hérôle again on the 3rd annual *Parcours de Peur*. This year's all-new theme is *Asile* (Asylum) and it promises to scare the living daylights out of you. It takes place every Friday and Saturday from October 23 to November 7 and, if you are brave enough, you should not miss it.

You can find out about all our programming and much more by staying connected to our website and Facebook page. If you have not signed up to the Morrin Centre newsletter, please be sure to do so.

The 7th annual Literary Feast is fast approaching and we are thrilled to have Canadian literary icon Lawrence Hill as our keynote speaker. I am confident that attendees will be thoroughly entertained and inspired. Their taste buds will also be satisfied by the delectable dishes of Panache Catering. Visit our website or call us for more information.

We are thrilled to have Communications and Development Director Elizabeth Perreault back from maternity leave. I am happy to announce that Hoffman Wolff will remain as Events and Communications Coordinator. They are part of a dynamic team that makes all we do possible, such as guided tours, rentals, events, library services. They have all been doing a wonderful job as demonstrated by the traffic going through the building and the fact that there is rarely a day at the Morrin Centre without a cultural activity or event.

Best regards,

Barry McCullough

TRANSACTIONS

QUEBEC'S WILD WEEK OF ENTERTAINMENT

By Jack Bryden

The celebrations started on a wet Tuesday, June 22, 1897, the day of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee — a celebration of her long reign over the British Empire. It rained heavily during the day, and the crowds attending the military parades in Quebec City were not huge. That evening, however, the illuminated buildings brought out large numbers of people to see this special tribute to the Queen. Electricity was still a novelty and the *Chronicle* estimated that more than 23,000 people were on the streets to admire the illuminated towers and spires of Quebec's Parliament, Laval University, the Court House and the City Hall.

On Thursday evening, June 24, large crowds of Quebecers filed into a sports field to see a pyrotechnic spectacle from Ontario billed as "The Siege of Sebastopol". People paid 25 cents each to see a cast of over 300 actors recreate this famous battle of the Crimean War. The large ensemble dressed as Russian, French and British soldiers, attacked and counter-attacked each other, all enhanced by a large display of fireworks and skyrockets overhead. The audience loved it. During the intermission people were entertained by a minstrel show called the "Happy Hottentots".

The fun didn't stop there. One of the world's most celebrated shows was also in town and setting up on the Plains of Abraham. "Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World" would take place on Friday evening, June 25 and Saturday June 26, 1897 on the racetrack facing what is now the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. Over three hundred riders, including Annie Oakley (and her gun) paraded up Grande Allée on Friday morning. A show

spokesman advised that none of the wild horses, buffalo or cattle would be included in this parade as it was necessary to keep them penned up on the plains. Considering what might have happened if wild buffalo ran amok in the centre of the city, this precaution probably made sense.

A BEDOUIN OF THE DESERT.



A PICTURESQUE AND NOTABLE FIGURE.

Illustration from the *Morning Chronicle*, June 25, 1897 (Source: BANQ)

The Wild West show did not attract large crowds. At 50 cents a ticket many may have thought it wasn't worth the price. In addition, the focus of the city, the press and even most of souvenir stores was the glory of the British Empire and not the conquering of the American West. Moreover, a British warship was in the Port of Quebec and the Governor-General of Canada was in town. Every move of the Royal Family in London was reported daily in the Quebec press.

The "Siege of Sebastopol" was a box office hit in Quebec City and shows continued the following week. After the echoes of the last cannon blast of the mock Crimean battle died away, pyrotechnics lit up the darkness with the image of Wilfred Laurier framed in fireworks and bordered with skyrockets.

At that moment the real Wilfrid Laurier was in London trying to resist pressure to have Canada help defend British interests around the world. But the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in Quebec were a spectacular demonstration of power, tradition, and military might, and back in Canada many could not resist the glitz and trappings of Empire. Three years after Quebec City's wild week of entertainment, thousands of Canadian soldiers were on their way to the other side of world to assist the British fight the Boers in South Africa. ■

LIBRARY PAGES

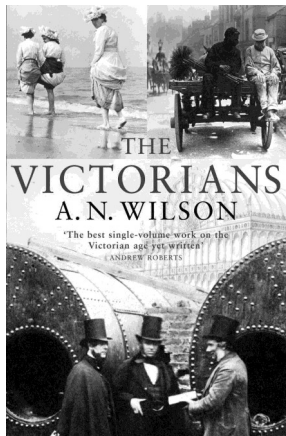
A SIEGE, A THRONE AND A HERD OF BISON

ALL IN THE LIBRARY

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden

Readers can capture the sense of excitement that gripped Quebec City in the summer of 1897 by visiting the Library.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee



There are several histories of the Victorian Age in the Library. The most recent is **The Victorians** (2002) by A. N. Wilson. It covers Victoria's entire reign, which spanned most of the 19th century.

There are six biographies of Queen Victoria or members of her family and household. The most intriguing title certainly is **Victoria and Disraeli: The Making of a Romantic**

Partnership by Theo Aron (1977).

Here in Canada, Wilfred Laurier was Prime Minister in 1897. Two biographies are available: **Wilfred Laurier** by André Pratte (2011) and Joseph Schull's insightful **Laurier: The First Canadian** (1965). Readers will also find the delightful **Dearest Émilie: The Love Letters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to Madame Lavergne** (published in 1989).

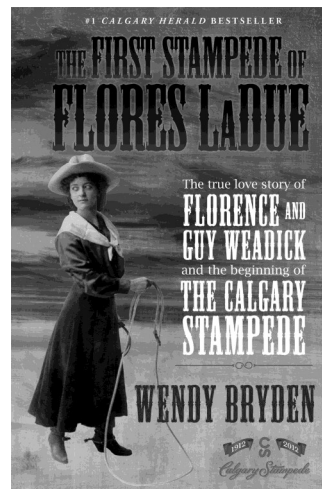
Where the Buffalo Roam

Wild Bill Cody's travelling extravaganza re-created the romance of the Old West. **Buffalo Gals: Women of the Old West** (1995) by Brandon Marie Miller captures the real stories of women who were sodbusters, schoolmarms, suffragettes and even sharp shooters.

Ian Frazier's **Great Plains** (1989) is a well-documented and readable work. One chapter refers to the Wild West shows, which ran until the 1950s. After that, anyone who wanted to know about the Old West just "went to the movies." Paul Simpson's **Rough Guide to Westerns** (2006), describes the films (check the 50 Classics), the Hollywood icons who starred in them and adds details like "best lines" and "cowboy couture."

The ultimate Rough Rider, Teddy Roosevelt, penned **Theodore Roosevelt: an Autobiography** in 1919. Fittingly, the caption for the first photo in the book is "President Theodore Roosevelt in His Riding Costume."

A direct descendent of the Wild West shows is one of Canada's biggest outdoor shows: the Calgary Stampede.



Wendy Bryden (no relation to this writer) celebrated the 100-year history of the Stampede by recounting **The First Stampede of Flores LaDue: The True Love Story of Florence and Guy Weadick and the Beginning of the Calgary Stampede** (2012). The caption for the first photo reads: "Florence LaDue, World's Champion Lady Fancy Roper."

The circus was another close relative of the Wild West show.

Water for Elephants (2006) by Sara Gruen tells the story of Jacob Jankowski, who like so many men, was forced through life's circumstances to "ride the rails" during the Depression. One train he hopped was a circus train ... and so the story unfolds.

There is even a book for readers want to develop their own circus act. Try **Magician's Magic** (1965) by Paul Curry to learn the secrets of levitation, miraculous escapes and even how to saw a magician's assistant in half.

Young readers will enjoy the great illustrations and simple rhyming text in **Goat Parade** (1982) by Steven Kroll, illustrated by Tim Kirle. For older children (and grown-ups who still love a circus), there is **The Fairy Caravan** (1929) by Beatrix Potter.

LIBRARY PAGES

The Siege of Sebastopol and the Crimean War

For those interested in the history of the Crimean War there is ***The Reason Why*** (1953) by Cecil Woodham-Smith. What keys to today's conflicts in that regions may be found in its pages?

Alfred, Lord Tennyson's immortalized one event of the war in his famous poem, "Charge of the Light Brigade". The poem may be found in ***Poems of Tennyson***, edited by Jerome H. Buckley (1958).

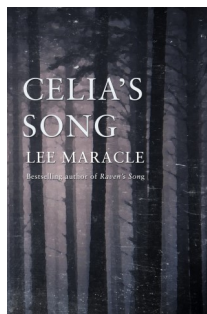
One name that many people associate with the Crimean War is Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing. She was also a social reformer and an

intrepid traveller. Readers will find her volume ***Letters from Egypt: A Journal on the Nile – 1849–1850***, republished in 1987, in the Biography section.

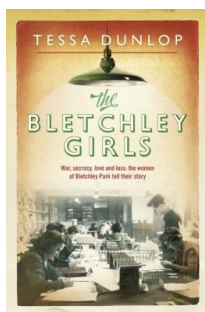
Readers will also find a novel about the Crimean War: ***Master Georgie*** (1998) by Beryl Bainbridge, Booker Prize nominee and Whitbread Prize winner. Told in less than 200 pages and in the first person (by three of the characters) this is the story of the complex relationships among a doctor, his wife, sister, brother-in-law, ward-cum-mistress and street urchin-cum-photographer – all of whom end up on the shores of the Black Sea as Great Britain enters the war in 1854. Fittingly, the novel ends at the Siege of Sebastopol. ■

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**.



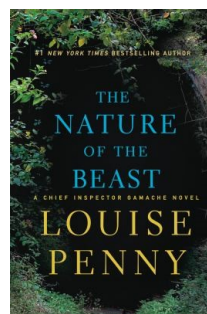
Fiction
Celia's Song
Maracle, Lee
M298 2014



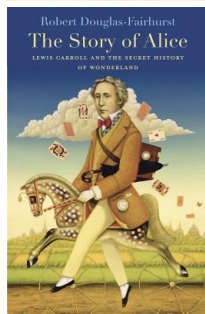
Non-Fiction
The Bletchley Girls
Dunlop, Tessa
940.548641 D922



Juvenile
See You Next Year
Larson, Andrew
JF LAR 2015



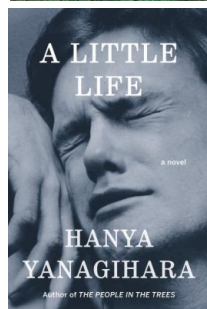
The Nature of the Beast
Penny, Louise
P416 2015



The Story of Alice
Douglas-Fairhurst, Robert
828.809 D737



You Nest Here with Me
Yolen, Jane
JF YOL 2015



A Little Life
Yanagihara, Hanya
Y21 2015



Food52 Genius Recipes
Miglore, Kristen
641.5 M634



What Makes Rain?
Wilson, Abby
J 551.577 W746

LIBRARY PAGES

BOOK QUEST

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER OF READING

By Lindsay Fleetwood

This summer we had a marvellous Book Quest summer reading club! We read stories, completed science experiments, watched a play and made some creative crafts, all around the theme of water. If you weren't able to make it to our activities, we've put together some ideas for you to try at home! And why not create your own ocean craft? Send us a photo of your creation! library@morrin.org

**Juice Box Boat**

Materials: empty juice box, skewer, scraps of fabric or felt, buttons beads or jewels, sticky tack

Cut along the long side of a flattened, empty juice box to open it up. Wrap strips of fabric or felt around the outside of the boat body to decorate, using white glue to secure the fabric. Add buttons or beads to the

outside to decorate. For the sails,

cut out squares of fabric and glue them to some white paper to add extra stability. Poke the skewer through the sail and press it into a ball of sticky tack in the bottom of the boat to allow it to stay upright. Be creative! What will your ship carry as its bounty on the high seas?

**Tie-dye Jellyfish**

Materials: 2 large coffee filters, washable markers, ribbon or streamers, spray bottle

Using washable markers, colour all over one of the coffee filters. The more colour the better! Place the coloured coffee filter on top of the blank one and spray water on the filters, so that the colours start to blend together into a tie dye effect.

Once dried, join them together using a

stapler but leave an opening. Stuff the filters using toilet paper or torn up newspaper. Close the gap. Glue ribbons or streamers to the underside to create jellyfish tentacles. Hang using a paperclip and string and watch it wiggle in the wind!

**Ocean Bottom-Feeder**

Materials: paper plate, markers or crayons, pipe cleaner, a bead or two

Cut a triangle out of your paper plate. Cut teeth into edges of the opening to make a mouth. Take the triangle cut-out and staple or glue it to the back of the plate to make a tail. Colour your creature with your own deep sea colours. Attach your pipe cleaner by poking a hole in the top and twisting it around. Add your own special light by placing a bead on the end of the pipe cleaner so that your creature will be able to see on the deep dark ocean floor!

**Rainstick Instrument**

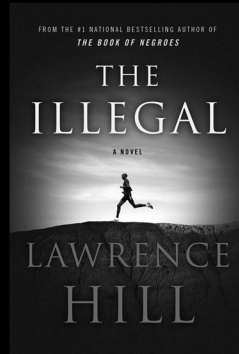
Materials: Thick cardboard tube, small nails and a hammer, packing tape, beans, rice or macaroni, paint

Hammer your nails into the cardboard tube, enough so that when you look through one end it is difficult to see out the other. Glue a large piece of paper around the outside of your cardboard tube, covering up the nail heads. Seal up one end with tape and pour in

some beans, rice, or macaroni noodles. Close up the other end with some more tape, and decorate all over using paint, sparkles, or whatever you have on hand around the house! Turn upside down slowly to make the sound of a rainforest, or shake it horizontally to the beat of your favourite song for some extra rhythmic fun. ■

FUNDRAISING

Support the Morrin Centre at the seventh annual

LITERARY FEAST
FESTIN LITTÉRAIRE**Keynote speaker**Lawrence Hill, author of *The Illegal* and *The Book of Negroes***Emcee**

Susan Campbell, CBC Radio

For tickets, contact the
Morrin Centre at **418-694-9147**

Thursday, November 5 at 5:30 p.m.

BOOK REVIEW: THE BOOK OF NEGROES BY LAWRENCE HILL

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden

Lawrence Hill is a Canadian author, literary award winner and 2015 recipient of the Order of Canada. He is also the Guest Speaker for the Morrin Centre's 2015 Literary Feast, to be held November 5.

Hill has novels, works of non-fiction and even a movie to his credit, so Lit and His members have numerous choices if they wish to read Hill's works before the Literary Feast.

At the top of that list is Hill's 2007 masterpiece, *The Book of Negroes*. The story of Aminata Diallo is one of a resilient child and a strong woman who withstands the horrors of the African slave trade, the brutality of slavery and the scourge of racism as practised in the British colonies of North America.

The Book of Negroes spans two continents and nearly sixty years. It is a story of place and time: the African village of Bayo, where Aminata lives until she is captured by slavers; an African slave port and the hold

of a slave ship as it crosses the Atlantic Ocean; a South Carolina plantation where indigo – not cotton – is king; the genteel world of Charleston, where Aminata may be called a “servant” but where she is still her master's property; the teeming port of New York, held by the British during most of the American Revolutionary War; Birchtown, the Nova Scotia shanty town where black “loyalists” struggle to survive freezing winters, prejudice and mob violence; Freetown, Sierra Leone, where former slaves are voluntarily “re-settled” but where they are anything but free; the London parlours and pulpits and the halls of Parliament where abolitionists finally convince lawmakers to end the slave trade – but not end or condemn slavery itself.

The Book of Negroes is a beautifully crafted work of historical fiction but equally significant, Hill's novel provides insight into contemporary race relations in Canada and the United States. His latest novel, *The Illegal*, released September 8, looks at another contemporary – and complex – issue. ■

MISCELLANEA

INTRODUCING OUR NEW TOUR GUIDES

ÈVE L'HEUREUX & FRANÇOIS DE LA BOISSIÈRE



Name: Ève L'Heureux

Hometown: Lévis

Field of studies: Multidisciplinary BA in Ancient Studies, Art History and Fine Arts, DESS Museology

There are so many things that are really appealing and motivating in the profession of tour guide at the Morrin Centre: but most of all, there's the little spark of wonder that appears in the eyes of the visitors as we transmit our knowledge of this history-filled building. However, I must say that when we open block A-5, the heavy and eerie atmosphere of the place always has the strongest effect on the visitors (and on me as well!).



Name: François de la Boissière

Hometown: Dolbeau-Mistassini

Field of studies: B.A. History, Certificate in College education

I really enjoy the Discovery Tour because it covers the whole history of the building. I like to see the people's reaction when I'm putting someone in solitary confinement in the prison. I want to be a history teacher soon and I really enjoy sharing my knowledge of the Morrin Centre with the public and showing them a part of Quebec City's history that is very little known to the public. ■



DO YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES WHO TOOK PART IN THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG?

We are putting together an exhibit for the 75th anniversary & would love stories, photos or objects about people from the Quebec City region who took part. Please contact patrickdonovan.qc@gmail.com

MUSIC REVIEW: MAC DE MARCO

By Barry McCullough



Mac DeMarco is your everyman rockstar. The kind of guy you'd like to sit down and have a chat and a drink with. (More on that in a minute). He's also been very prolific since embarking on his solo career in 2012. *Another One* is the fourth major release

in the past three and a half years by the Brooklyn-based, by way of Edmonton, Vancouver and Montreal, DeMarco.

Classified as a mini-LP, it's not a long one (it clocks in at under 24 minutes), but it features the reverb-laden guitar sound that made his previous releases such pleasurable listens. According to DeMarco in an interview with the *Austin American-Statesman*, he bought his guitar for \$30 at a pawnshop when he was 16 years old and it's still the only guitar he uses.

From the first chords of opener "The Way You'd Love Her," you know it's a Mac DeMarco record. That's to

say the songs on *Another One* don't break any new ground, but that's not the point and that doesn't make it any less enjoyable. The second song, "Another One," changes things up a bit by trading the trademark guitar sound for delicate synths.

The last track on the album, the instrumental "My House by the Water," was inspired by his house in Far Rockaway, NY, located on the Atlantic Ocean, just south of JFK Airport. DeMarco provides fans with a surprise – he gives away his home address and invites people to his place for a cup of coffee. According to a recent interview with the *Wall Street Journal* DeMarco said that he had actually had about 30 people stop by so far. This, coupled with the barbecue he hosted for fans to celebrate the release of *Another One* (a barbecue to mark the end of *Salad Days*, you see), show off his sense of humour and endear him to his listeners. And the music is pretty good, too.

All in all, *Another One* is an relaxed album and enjoyable summery listen, even if barbecue season is over. ■

MISCELLANEA

KNITTING AT THE KIRK HALL

By Katherine Burgess

Anyone who has visited St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, just in front of the Morrin Centre, would surely have noticed the Fraser Highlander's outfit which has a prominent place in the museum. Part of the uniform is a pair of red and white socks, which today are usually machine-made. But in the early days – think 1759 – they were hand-knitted by the Ursuline Sisters for the members of the Highlanders who were staying in Quebec. Winters then, as now, were quite cold, and the good sisters took pity on the former soldiers and knitted them stockings to wear with their kilts. In exchange, the men chopped wood and fetched water for the convent through that winter. Ecumenical co-operation was alive and well even then!

While the Frasers are now a ceremonial troop, and the few remaining Ursulines no longer produce socks, knitting is alive and well at the Kirk Hall. Each week, two groups meet to knit, to share stories, and to help each other. We have people from all over the world, and you are likely to hear as many as five different languages each week, not to mention the various accents among the English speakers. While the Knitting Circle is mostly made up of women, men have joined us, and at least one of them is a truly amazing knitter, putting many of the other knitters to shame with the speed with which he turns out his creations.

During this past year, we were able to host two workshops, one on drop spinning, which was taught by Heather Brooks. Heather is one of our own knitters, and is working on a doctorate at Laval, thus putting paid to the idea that all knitters are little old ladies sitting in rocking chairs!

The other workshop was on Cowichan knitting, and was offered by Sylvia Olson, known across Canada as one of the experts in this style of knitting. Both

workshops were much appreciated, and we are looking forward to having some more in the future.

The groups started about three years ago when some members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church realized that there were no English knitting groups operating in the area. There are several French ones, and some of us had gone to them, but we really wanted to have one in English. The Kirk Hall was available, and the rest is history. Some days we may have only three people knitting, but we have gotten as many as 16 at a time, and new people are constantly showing up. Now we even have our own private Facebook page!



Knitting Cowichan hats



Knitters come from all walks of life, from students to professionals to stay-at-home people. You are likely to see socks being made, or sweaters, or hats, or afghans, or shawls, or just about anything else you can imagine. We all agree that one of the best things about meeting like

this is knowing that there is always someone available to help if we find something a bit too challenging.

The group is open to new members all the time, and we operate year-round. About the only time we don't meet is when there is a major holiday on a Wednesday, and even then, you can be pretty sure that the knitters themselves find some time to knit a few rows at home. For us, knitting is more than a hobby – it is a part of our lives. Some of us use it as meditation; others use it in a more social setting; still others knit because they just love to wear or give away the items they make. Of course, living in this province, we are always sure that our knitted item will be put to good use during the colder months!

If you are interested in joining us, call Katherine at 418-704-2278. ■



Interactive Halloween Experience

THE ASYLUM

at the Morrin Centre

October 23, 24, 30, 31; November 6, 7

TICKETS 418-694-9147, morrin.org