

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 47 ■ Winter 2015 ■ \$2.00



- 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLUB MUSICAL DE QUEBEC
- WHY IS LAWRENCE HILL HAUNTED BY IMMIGRATION?
- SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

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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

Front cover: Concert in the library by Fara Almond (playing the harp) on December 11, 2015.
(Photo: Morrin Centre.)

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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 friends,

Another year has flown by, and it has been a busy and exciting one at the Morrin Centre.

On November 5th, we at the Centre and the Society held our seventh annual Literary Feast fundraising dinner. With the

participation of renowned Canadian author Lawrence Hill (author of *The Book of Negroes*, among other novels) as keynote speaker, and Vice-Rector of Laval University Edwin Bourget as Honorary Chair, the event was a tremendous success. With the support of the organizing committee, the event brought together over a hundred supporters of cultural institutions from both the anglophone and francophone communities. I was moved by both speakers as well as by the generous support of our members, friends and partners.

Non-profit cultural organizations must take many different approaches to making ends meet. To this end, we have just kicked off our year-end annual fundraising campaign. Your generous donations will enable us to continue offering our heritage, educational, and arts activities - which served 40,000 people this year alone. We are counting on your participation in the end-of-year fundraising campaign to help us reach our ambitious 2016 goals. Take a look at the infographic in this issue of Society Pages, and I think you'll be proud to see what we accomplished together in 2015. I know that with the support of all of you we can make the coming year an even greater success.

I would like to wish you all a joyous Holiday season and happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Sovita Chander

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Members, friends, partners,

As you will notice on our infographic in the centrefold of this issue of Society Pages, it has been an incredibly busy and productive year for the Morrin Centre. We again hit high-water marks for number of people coming

through the doors. By December 31, we will have cracked the 40,000-person plateau, more than double the number from 2012. These people are coming for a number of different reasons; guided tours, to visit the library, rentals and events.

Speaking of attendees and events, we broke our previous records for both the ImagiNation Writers' Festival and our third Halloween event, *Parcours de Peur*. This year, the *Parcours* attracted nearly 1300 people over just six nights. I can't stress enough how cool it is

to see the building host an innovative, interactive activity like this. It is a pleasure working with production company Hérôle on this annual event.

The seventh annual ImagiNation Writers' Festival is fast approaching and the team is in the midst of confirming authors and partners. Stay connected to us on morrin.org and our social media for all the updates on this and other happenings at the Morrin Centre.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without you. This is why we are making the call to contribute to this year's annual fundraising campaign. The proceeds make the events and activities you value come to fruition. We have a lot of great things planned and, with your participation, they will be even better.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season,

Barry

TRANSACTIONS

HISTORICAL CONCERT IN COLLEGE HALL

By Rosemarie Fischer


This year, Le Club Musical de Québec is celebrating the 125th year of its existence. Formerly called the Quebec Ladies' Morning Musical Club, it was founded in 1891. From 1908 to 1912, many of the Club's concerts were held at Morrin College.

In order to commemorate their 125th anniversary, Le Club Musical has organized a series of concerts called *Retour dans le Temps*. The first one was held at the Morrin Centre on November 21. A recital that was originally given at Morrin College in 1910 was re-enacted almost exactly, with the only difference being that the original concert included a duet with two pianos and eight hands. Bringing one grand piano into College Hall was already a major challenge, and Artistic Director Marie Fortin made the wise decision to not try to bring in two.

The sold-out concert began at 3 p.m. and featured Maxim Bernard, pianist, Judith Bouchard, soprano, Benoît Cormier, violinist and Raphaël Dubé, cellist. Bertrand Guay hosted the event with anecdotes about current events in 1910, many of which were still pertinent today. Many of the 125 spectators were also given a guided tour of the Morrin Centre before or after the concert.

The afternoon musical programme was beautiful, varied and inspiring, with my personal highlight being Maxim Bernard's interpretation of Frederic Chopin's Ballade in G. Minor, enhanced by the rich acoustics of College Hall and the lovely tones of the grand piano.

Le Club Musical de Québec will be giving two other concerts in the series: The Maison de la littérature will be the venue for a sold-out concert on January 18, and the Retour au Château Frontenac concert, featuring an Israeli-Palestinian piano duo, will take place on Thursday March 24, 2016. This concert will be preceded by a lecture by David Mendel about the history of the Club Musical's presence in the Château Frontenac's ballroom for nearly 50 years. For more information, or to buy tickets for this performance, visit the Club Musical's website at www.clubmusicaldequebec.com. ■



MORRIN COLLEGE
Wednesday, March 16th, 1910

✻

1. <i>Adolph Jensen</i>	Wedding Music.....	Duet 2 Pianos
	Festival Procession	8 hands
	Bridal Song	
	Notturmo	
MRS. LYSTER, MRS. F. SCOTT, MRS. H. SHAW AND MRS. J. SHARPLES		
2. <i>Chaminade</i>	L'Automne.....	Piano Solo
	MELLE LANCTOT	
3. <i>Wienawski</i>	(a) Légende.....	Violin Solo
<i>Bohm</i>	(b) La Mouche.....	
	MRS. GOODDAY	
4. <i>James Rodgers</i>	(a) An Evening Song.....	Vocal Solo
<i>Teresa del Reigo</i>	(b) Happy Song.....	
	MRS. ARTHUR BOULTON	
5. <i>Max Bruch</i>	Kol Vidrei.....	Violoncello Solo
	MONS. J. B. DUBOIS	
6. <i>Chopin</i>	Ballade in G. Minor.....	Piano Solo
	MADAME MONTREUIL	
7. <i>Mendelssohn</i>	Trio in D. Minor.....	Violin, Violoncello and Piano
	Andante	
	Scherzo	
MRS. GAUDET, MRS. GOODDAY AND MONS. DUBOIS		

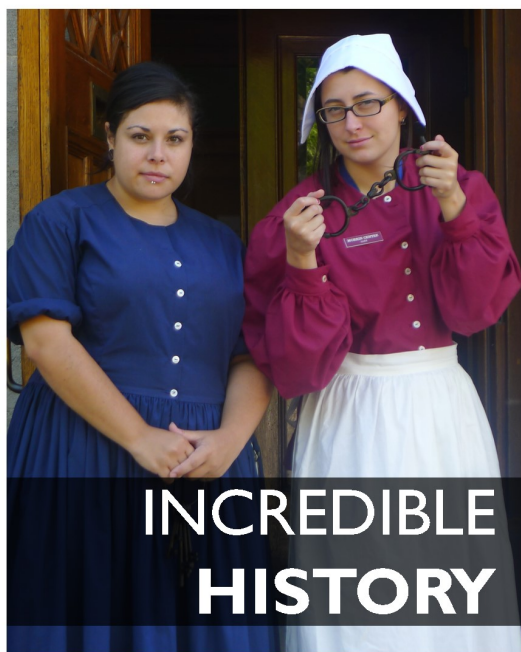
Programme arranged by MRS. GAUDET AND MRS. GOODDAY
 NO ENCORES



Le Club Musical program in 1910, and the same program played in 2015
 (Source: Archives du Club Musical de Québec)



THE CENTRE OF IT ALL



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exciting year at
the Morrin
Centre, and
2016 is shaping
up to be even
better.



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Support your Morrin Centre and help provide Quebec City with
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**You can contribute to the 2015 annual
campaign at www.morrin.org/contribute.**



1,113

people listened to great music

100

new e-books



299

days of events



47

dedicated volunteers



40,000

total visitors

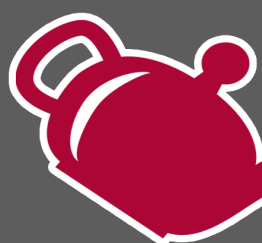
4,279

books taken out



morrin

in 2015



1,544

cups of tea served

from the Centre's library



1,227

people scared during the Interactive Halloween Experience

19

couples who tied the knot



visitors from

39

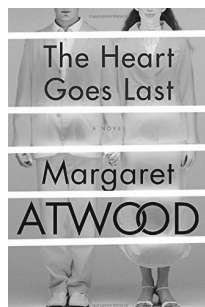
countries



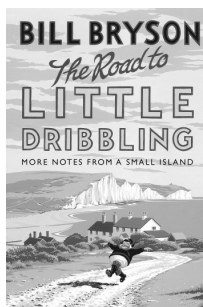
LIBRARY PAGES

NEW ACQUISITIONS

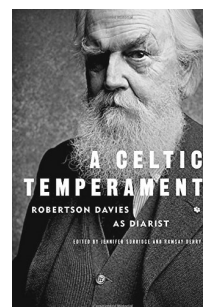
Here are a few of the recent additions to the Library collection. To reserve a title, please contact the Morrin Centre Library at **418-694-9147** or visit our online catalogue at **www.morrin.org**.



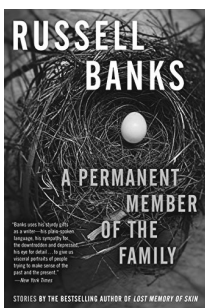
Fiction
The Heart Goes Last
 Margaret Atwood
 A887 2015



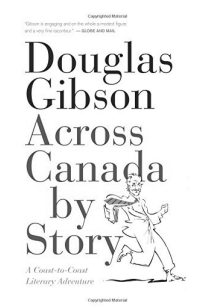
Non-Fiction
The Road to Little Dribbling
 Bill Bryson
 914.2 B916



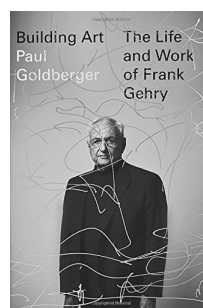
Biography
A Celtic Temperament
 Robertson Davies
 BIO D257



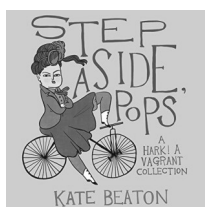
A Permanent Member of the Family
 Russell Banks
 B218 2013



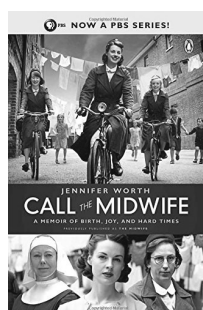
Accross Canada by Story
 Douglas Gibson
 070.92 G448



Building Art
 Paul Goldberger
 BIO G618



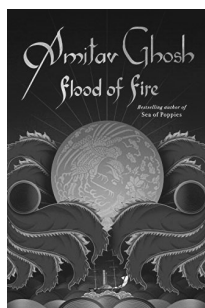
Step Aside, Pops
 Kate Beaton
 GN B369



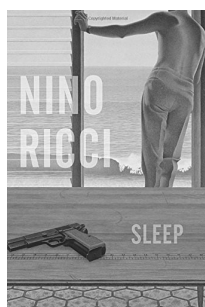
Call the Midwife
 Jennifer Worth
 618.2 W932



Mountain City Girls
 Anna McGarrigle
 BIO M145



Flood of Fire
 Amitav Ghosh
 G427 2015



Sleep
 Nino Ricci
 R491 2015

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST



The library needs to replace copies of the following books:

- **Oryx and Crake** by Margaret Atwood
- **Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell** by Susanna Clarke
- **Pillars of the Earth** by Ken Follett
- **Chasing Cézanne** by Peter Mayle
- **Moby Dick** by Herman Melville
- **Brisingr** by Christopher Paolini
- **The Princes of Ireland** by Edward Rutherfurd
- **Ages in Chaos I: From the Exodus to King Akhnaton** by Immanuel Velikovsky

Interested in donating one of these titles? Contact librarian Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume for details at library@morrin.org or 418-694-9147. ■

MISCELLANEA

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

By Jessica Kelly-Rhéaume

In August 2015, the Morrin Centre conducted a survey sent to all current members by email or mail. We appreciate the effort many of you made to provide us with valuable feedback on our various endeavours. We were able to collect information on the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, membership, programming, communications, rentals, guided tours, the library and the respondents' demographics.

We received 181 responses out of 677 surveys sent out, amounting to a 26.7% response rate. The survey has provided valuable data that we will use to improve services to members. The LHSQ Council and members of staff met for a day in early December to assess this data and findings will be compiled and shared with members in the coming months.

In the survey, several members requested to receive our quarterly publication, *Society Pages*, in electronic

format. The Morrin Centre has already taken action upon this and we now send out 81 copies of our publication by email instead of mail.

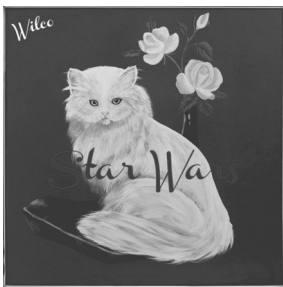
Other notable findings:

- 90% of members who filled out the survey intend to renew their membership.
- 63% became members for the library.
- 60% of respondents are 60 years old and up.
- 50% speak French, 45% speak English, 5% speak another language than French or English at home.

Finally, we are glad to know the majority of members who responded to the survey would recommend or have recommended that someone they know become a member. We have had 87 new members register with our \$20 Introductory Membership. Your recommendations have been successful, so please continue spreading the word! ■

MUSIC REVIEW: WILCO, STAR WARS

By Barry McCullough



In my household a new Wilco album is an event. So, imagine our delight one July evening when the band dropped *Star Wars* on the world as a free download with no advance warning. Also, since you're probably wondering what's up with the title: despite

everybody in his camp advising him against doing so, including (especially) his lawyer, Wilco leader Jeff Tweedy opted to use the name of a movie franchise you may have heard of.

Wilco's *Summerteeth-Yankee Foxtrot Hotel-A Ghost is Born* run is one of the more fertile three-album stretches you will ever see out of a band. Following this run, 2007's *Sky Blue Sky* was a bit of a misstep, but even that had its moments like "Impossible Germany." Since that relative low they've been on a steady progression back to the

top, culminating (so far, at least) with *Star Wars*.

Star Wars is perhaps the loosest sounding album in Wilco's catalogue. The fun starts with the disjointed minute-long instrumental "EPK," which sets the mood for what's to come. The next track, with its harmonies and guitar solos, "More..." would be at home on a middle-years Beatles album. Things keep buzzing along with the post-punk "Random Name Generator." At more than five minutes, the dreamy "You Satellite" is by far the album's longest song and perhaps the least like the rest and probably the closest Wilco will ever come to shoegazing.

The rest of the album keeps moving along at a decent clip until the synth-led start of closer "Magnetized" eventually gives way to guitars and electric solos. It feels almost celebratory by the time it concludes, which is a fitting way to close this minor triumph of changing and staying the same all at once. ■

MISCELLANEA

HAUNTED BY IMMIGRATION

THE ILLEGAL PROVIDES FOOD FOR THOUGHT AT THE LITERARY FEAST

By Elizabeth Perreault

When asked about what pushed him to write about the timely and timeless topic of immigration, Literary Feast keynote speaker Lawrence Hill replied that the topic has haunted him for decades. The Ontario native who has become one of Canada's most recognized authors has had an intimate knowledge of immigration since his childhood. Both his parents came to Canada the day after they got married in Washington, D.C., hoping to give their children a better life. But it was during one of his first summer jobs in the early seventies, helping greet Ugandan refugees at Toronto Pearson International Airport and guiding them through the first steps of their new life in Canada, that he became aware of the hardships and difficulties many immigrants face. Years later, he visited his sister in West Berlin and met the Sudanese expats and refugees she spent time with. "They couldn't really get their lives going legally once they arrived in West Berlin, so watching how they had to struggle and innovate—and be creative to stay alive and help each other—got me thinking about issues of statelessness," Hill said in a recent interview on CBC.

The President of the Literary and Historical Society, Sovita Chander, also immigrated to Canada as an adult, after having moved from Malaysia to the United States with her parents when she was a child. She shared her story and also talked about the importance of innovation. Not only has she worked with start-ups and in the technology sector, but she has been leading the Centre's efforts to bring an innovative model of culture to life. During her opening speech, she emphasized how the Morrin Centre is a library, a museum, a learned society, a performing arts centre, a meeting space, but also so much more in that it is a place for members of the community to come together and to exchange, which is why "the Morrin Centre stands as an example, not just locally, but provincially, and even nationally."



Lawrence Hill (Photo: Dylan Page)

The evening's honorary chair, Edwin Bourget, Vice Rector of Research and Innovation at Université Laval, paid tribute to the Centre's past and present role in educating and entertaining the local population. For him, the Centre is also a place for people to meet and exchange at a time when so many are looking for a cultural home or, as is the case for thousands of Syrian refugees, a new homeland. Coming from a bilingual family (his mother was Irish), he talked about his ties to both the Anglophone and Francophone communities and how, like the Morrin Centre which strives to build bridges between both communities, his family was involved in building the Pont de Québec, another landmark in our history and a symbol of our society's capacity to open its doors and welcome others.

There was indeed a sense of community during the seventh annual Literary Feast. This convivial, bilingual fundraising dinner allowed all to not only discover the issues discussed in Lawrence Hill's latest novel, but also enjoy an elaborate meal served by Panache Traiteur, bid on a large selection of auction items, and support a good cause. The evening allowed the Centre to raise over \$34,000 to support its cultural programming. It was all the more enjoyable thanks to the emcee, CBC's Susan Campbell, morning host of Quebec AM. A huge part of the dinner's success comes from the support of our sponsors. We would like to thank our Supporting Partner, La Maison Simons, and our Contributing Partners, McCarthy Tétrault, the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph and the Agence Le saint for their invaluable support.

For those who couldn't attend our fundraising dinner, it's not too late to help your cultural hub. You can still contribute to the 2015 fundraising campaign so that the Morrin Centre can continue offering a variety of innovative English-language cultural programs at a reasonable cost. ■

LITERARY FEAST FESTIN LITTÉRAIRE



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Nous. *Designers de marque.*



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WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME TO THE MORRIN CENTRE IN 2015!



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