

SOCIETY PAGES

NUMBER 51 ■ WINTER 2016 ■ \$2.00



- ROCH CARRIER AT THE LITERARY FEAST
- GEORGE-ÉTIENNE CARTIER'S CHAIR MEETS CARTIER'S DESK
- 2016: A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR

morrin

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LIBRARY HOURS

Library **CLOSED** Dec 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan 1, 2

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.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members, friends and partners,

As the year comes to a close, I would like to reflect on the past year. I am delighted to report that 2016 was another record-setting year for total attendance from all activities (tours, events, rentals and library). None of this would be possible without you, our loyal and dedicated members. I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Centre and your unwavering participation in our events and activities. In particular, I would like to highlight the overwhelming response to the *My Morrin* initiative, which allows members to help shape our programming. I encourage you to look for more community-driven events in 2017.

The 2016 Literary Feast also set records thanks to our wonderful lineup featuring keynote speaker Roch Carrier and Honorary President Yvon Charest. During the evening, we raised over \$43,000, which is used to

fund cultural programming. The mood in the room was warm and vibrant, which was helped along by a long-term pledge made by Mr. Charest to the Centre on behalf of Industrielle Alliance. This support is a testament to all that we have accomplished in the development of our Three Pillars. I would like to thank everyone who made the evening so special.

We are elated to have such strong support from the region's business leaders; we still need your support for the Centre to continue providing the engaging programming to which you have become accustomed. Our annual fundraising campaign kicked off at the beginning of December and I ask you to please consider a donation before the end of 2016.

I hope you all have a fantastic holiday season with your families and I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Holleman
President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Members, Friends and Partners,

As I write this, December is arriving like a lion as we get pelted with our first big snowstorm. It's now time to look back on the busy year that just passed. We've had another extremely busy one and, by the time all is said and done, the

Centre will have seen more than 46,000 people come through its doors.

We have had a number of successes in 2016, including our *Hong Kong and the Home Front* exhibit which looked at the Pacific Theatre in the Second World War. It examined the contributions of Quebec City's English-speaking regiment, the Royal Rifles.

The *My Morrin* series has been very well received by our members and we have received many great applications. We are happy to see such a strong interest and we plan on making it a permanent part of our annual programming.

Arts Alive was back for the second consecutive year and its reception was even stronger than it was the year before. In addition to having Pascale Picard to headline the festival, several local English-language artists were featured, such as Randall Spear, Gilles Sioui, Jane Ehrhardt and Vibrant Voices. Over 1,000 people stopped by for the performances and to visit the kiosks of local artisans and community organizations.

ImagiNation 2016 was our most successful to date and the planning for the next festival is well underway. Please stay-tuned to our website and Facebook page as we plan to start announcing authors in early 2017. In addition to ImagiNation, we have a lot of exciting programming coming up this winter and spring. I think you are going to like what we have in store, so I hope to see you down at the Centre.

I wish you and yours Happy Holidays and a safe and happy 2017.

Barry McCullough
Executive Director

TRANSACTIONS

IF A CHAIR COULD TALK

By Jeannine Malchelosse, translated by Sameera Magar

Visitors to the library can see, next to Sir George-Étienne Cartier's desk, the chair that originally went with it. This has been leant to the Society by Mme Jeannine Malchelosse, whose father was one of the founding fathers of another great Quebec learned society. She tells the story of this historic chair.

I remember seeing my father, Gerald Malchelosse, working at his desk in his study, sitting in a chair that once belonged to Sir George-Etienne Cartier. He referred to this room as his great library. Its walls were covered with shelves, and the shelves were loaded with books from floor to ceiling.

During the week, for three hours each evening, he would sit there pursuing his historical research.

We, his four daughters and four sons, respected his 'devoted time', knowing we could only interrupt him to discuss important matters.

The study was also a place where he would entertain his friends, who, like him, were also fascinated by history. For years, they would get together, usually on the last Saturday of each month. After sharing a meal, often prepared by my mother and older sisters, they would go upstairs to the study where they discussed their work and personal discoveries. In these discussions they shared their knowledge with each other, each with his different area of expertise. They enjoyed these exchanges and their mutual friendship.

Most of his close friends were members of the *Société des Dix*, founded in 1935. My father was a founding member, and was elected Perpetual Secretary. He carried out this task with untiring devotion until his death. This *Société*, devoted to historical research, has remained active without interruption since its founding, and is still faithful to the spirit of its founding members

today. Every year, each member had to write an article to be published in the society's annual booklet, the *Cahier des Dix*. The last journal of *Cahier des Dix*, with papers from its historical collection, was published in 2015. We can only wish a long life to this learned institution.



George-Étienne Cartier's chair

Sir George-Etienne Cartier had bequeathed his chair to his friend and protégé Benjamin Sulte, who was Secretary in Parliament in Ottawa, a writer, poet, historian and member of several cultural institutions. Benjamin Sulte, in turn, gave it to my father, a long-time friend whom he regarded as his spiritual son. After the death of Sulte in 1923, my father classified and published many of the writings of his honoured mentor, Benjamin Sulte, in a book entitled *Mélanges Historiques*.

In 1963, my father offered me this historic armchair when he left Montreal to take up a new position at the Université Laval Library in Québec. There he oversaw Canadian books, and worked at Laval until he passed away in 1969.

It is an honour for me to lend this precious piece of furniture to the Literary and Historical Society, which will display it at the Morrin Centre in its prestigious and well-preserved library, located in a building loaded with history. For the pleasure of all visitors interested in our national heritage, this armchair will be placed next to the desk that also belonged to Sir George-Etienne Cartier.

"Je me souviens" means preserving the memory and tangible assets of our ancestors, who fought and strived to bequeath us a priceless cultural heritage, which is a guarantor of the values, pride and survival of the French-speaking people of North America. ■

TRANSACTIONS

EXPLODING BOTTLES & GYRATING TOPS
SCIENCE LECTURES AT THE LIT & HIST

By Louisa Blair

Have you ever wondered why an outfit that called itself a “literary and historical” society would start out by focusing mainly on science and refuse to purchase novels? In the early days of the Lit & Hist, botany, zoology and geology were called *natural history*, and math, physics, chemistry and astronomy were known as *natural philosophy*. This is why the Society’s impressive collection of scientific instruments were called *philosophic instruments*. Moreover, what people called *literature* included not only poetry, fiction and drama, but essays on history, biography and memoirs, and in fact any study of non-religious or vernacular writings, including about the sciences.

As for the word *science* itself, it simply meant knowledge that was systematically organized and presented. In our era of debate as to the place of religion in the public education system, we have trouble imagining that metaphysical or religiously-sanctioned ideas were once the only kind of knowledge taught. Darwin’s challenge to the religious explanation of human origins was not published until 1859, and the notion that science must be based exclusively on Cartesian reason and logic was yet to come.

Like capital punishment, science in the early nineteenth century was vastly entertaining. Highly popular “science” exhibitions visited Quebec periodically, such

as travelling zoos and freak shows (exhibitions of human beings with severe malformations). Itinerant lecturers

travelled with magic lanterns, solar microscopes (the LHSQ had one too) and camera obscura. New forms of “therapy” such as mesmerism were demonstrated to a pre-youtube public starved for entertainment. Mind-altering chemicals were also used to entertain the public. In 1821, for example, a Mr. Cullen advertised a demonstration of laughing gas “and other beautiful experiments” on a large crowd (tickets 2/6d, children half price), promising that the gas would “suddenly produce in the minds of those who breathe it, ideas of the greatest happiness and lordly independence.”

In the spirit of the times, lecturers at the Lit & Hist tried to entertain as much as they informed, and used its philosophical instruments to draw the crowds. In 1863, naval officer Edward David Ashe, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and Canada’s first astrophysicist, gave a lecture entitled “The

reason why a Boy’s Top goes to sleep,—illustrated by experiment with the gyroscope.” Perhaps the mention of toys and the promise of a demonstration was intended to draw in the unlettered masses, but as soon as the lecture began they would have realized their mistake, as Lieutenant Ashe began his lecture with the proposition that

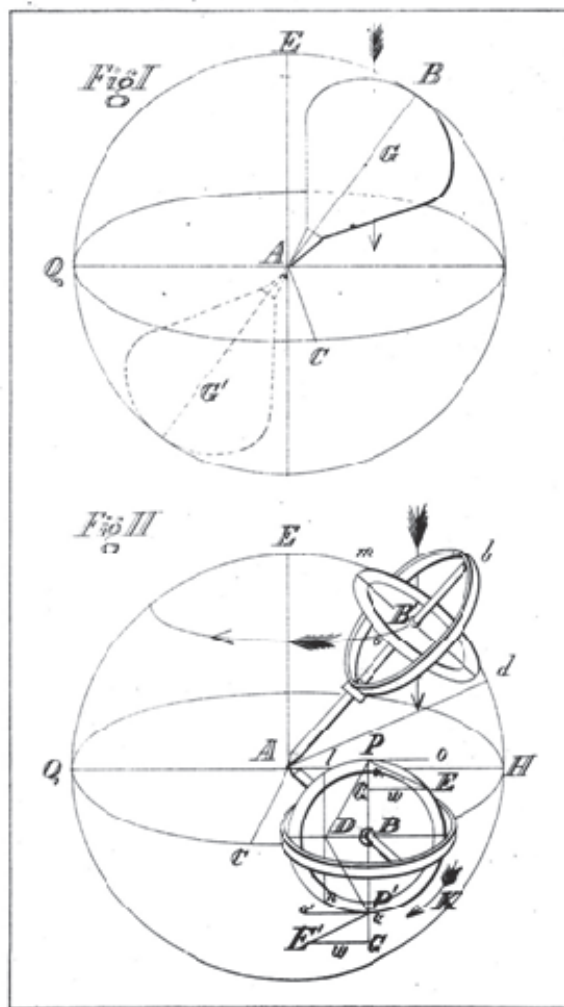


Illustration from the Transactions

TRANSACTIONS

If a body revolve about an axis AB with an angular velocity w , and if a force be impressed upon it which would make it revolve about the axis AC, with an angular velocity w' , then the body will not revolve about either of the axis AB, AC, but about an axis AD, in the plane BAC; so that $\sin BAD : \sin CAD :: w' : w$.

No doubt it wasn't just the top that fell asleep by the end of that one. Perhaps more exciting was a lecture the same year by Quebec pharmacist Samuel Sturton, an apothecary on Saint Jean Street, with the unpromising title of "Danger arising from the substitution of Benzole for Turpentine in Paint". He illustrated his lecture by putting a 12 drops of benzole into a dry soda-water bottle and shaking it for a few seconds. When he brought it close to the flame of a candle, it exploded and detonated the bottle. Gingras, a local coach maker, had been using Turpentoleum (benzole) to paint his coaches and the resulting fire had destroyed his factory and killed several employees. The very next year, the danger of mixing chemicals hit closer to home when Sturton's son, working in his apothecary, mistakenly administered such a heavy dose of digitalis to a client that he died, and the boy was charged with manslaughter. The experience was so traumatic for his son that he never entered a pharmacy again, and later, possibly to keep him out of

mischief, the government appointed him keeper of lighthouses and buoys on the Saguenay River.

But even an exploding soda-water bottle could never outdo Dr. James Douglas, who brought to his lecture a real live (dead) "Egyptian princess". This was a mummy

he had pillaged from the tombs of the pharaohs on his trips with his family down the Nile, which he stretched out on the Society tables for inspection by the public. After the lecture, he invited visitors to snip off locks of the princess' hair, a romantic gesture popular at the time. "She" turned out to be the long lost king Ramses I, who was finally located and returned to Egypt in 2003.



Temple of Ramses II, Abu Simble.
Image taken from *Photographic Views taken in Egypt (Nubia)*
by James Douglas, M.D, and James Douglas, LL.D,
Taken during the winter 1860-1861

Dr. Douglas perhaps also told the story of having been offered a hippopotamus as payment for curing an old man of pneumonia in Luxor. "It was not the first time my father refused a fee," recalled his son, James Douglas Jr. This James Douglas, the future mining magnate whose endowments still supply us with books, brought his own experiences on the Nile to the Lit and Hist. In 1863 he lectured on photography, which he had perfected on these trips down the Nile using the pyramids as dark rooms. Perhaps it was his idea to build the dark room we can still see today in the Morrin College chemistry lab, where he taught. ■



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LIBRARY PAGES

ON THE SHELF

GENEALOGICAL EXPLORATIONS

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden

Digging Up the Roots Beneath the Family Tree

Tracing one's family roots is all the rage these days. For those whose ancestors came to North America as colonists or immigrants, genealogy used to be a challenge. But times have changed. It has never been easier to create a family tree that goes back nine or ten generations. Genealogy websites and search engines continue to add scanned documents. It is possible to get (relatively) inexpensive DNA test results (most of which reveal that we all have a small percentage of Neanderthal genes in our background). Municipal, provincial and national archives all have a variety of vital records on line.

Yes, creating a family tree is easy these days. Digging down to discover the "roots" of that tree is a bit more difficult. Fortunately, the Library can help.

Think of those roots as the historical and geographical context in which our ancestors lived. Ask "What significant events were happening in the world at the time those ancestors began to establish themselves in North America?" Then browse the shelves in the history section of the Library's back room.

Consider, "Who were the major historical figures that shaped those events?" Then look for a good biography or check one of the "Who's Who" volumes, dating back to 1900.

Think about the social conditions: "What was society like? What did people wear, read, eat, drink, think?" Selections in sociology, literature and even traditional recipes may be of interest. Finally ask "How did political events define borders and how did natural forces shape the climate and the landscape?" Then turn to the

geography section or one of the Library's historical atlases.

The following account is how this writer used the Library to help "dig up the roots."



Susannah Johnson

A Family History

I have long been interested in family history. Back in the 1950's, an uncle created a small, leather-bound book, tracing our family bloodlines. I couldn't read the Swedish text but I could follow the dates and the names of people and places, all the way back to Iceland in the 1500's. In the 1970's I recorded an interview with my maternal grandmother, who was then in her mid-eighties but still sharp as a tack. She told me about her own parents and grandparents. Later, I was able to build on her stories plus a family tree created by a distant cousin in the 1980's. The result: accounts of the lives of a dozen ancestors, as far back as the so-called "Pilgrims" of Plymouth Colony in the 1630's.

Then I began looking around at my husband's family tree. We knew his paternal grandmother was born in the Eastern Townships in the late 1800's but digging a bit deeper lead to the discovery of family ties in New France as far back as 1694. I found that six distant relatives were among the approximately 1500 New Englanders who had been kidnapped by Abenaki or Mohawk raiding parties and taken to New France. What a story! I was hooked. I wanted to know as much as possible about these folks' lives in New France in the early eighteenth century. So, I went to the Library.

The Library contains nearly twenty shelves, some longer, some shorter, of North American, Canadian and Quebec history. I began by looking for more details about these New England captives. I found **Colonial**

LIBRARY PAGES

Captives, Marches and Journeys (1935) by Isabel Calder, which gave an New England take on such events and Gustave Lancot's **A History of Canada, Volume 2: From the Royal Régime to the Treaty of Utrecht, 1663 – 1713**, which gave a Quebec perspective on the well-known Deerfield Raid of 1704. I found a great map of the waterways along which the captives were taken in Allan W. Eckert's **Wilderness Empire: A Narrative** (1969). And I found a copy of Susannah Johnson's personal account of her own captivity in an edition published in 1796 as part of the "Indian Captive" series.

Like most captives, Mrs. Johnson eventually returned to her home in New England.

The more interesting part of our family story isn't that six relatives were captured but that five of them were among the fewer than 300 who chose to remain in New France.

The story of New England captives who stayed in New France still resonates with 21st century scholars as well as with family historians. The latest contribution to this field is Ann M. Little's **The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright** (2016).

The individual accounts are enlightening but I wanted the "big picture," too. Historian Antonia Fraser penned biographies of two kings: **Love and Louis XIV: the Women in the Life of the Sun King** (2006) and **King Charles II** (1979), giving insights into the lives of the French and English monarchs whose policies and decisions shaped their North American colonies and the lives of those who lived there.

In order to better understand the tensions between the French and English colonies in the early 1700's, I turned to Adam Lyons' **The 1711 Expedition to Quebec: Politics and the Limitations of British Global**

Strategy (2013). Despite the somewhat overwhelming title, the book is easy to read and the notes are excellent.

Next, I wanted to know more about Quebec City, the seat of power in New France. The perfect place to begin was **Quebec, Where Ancient France Lingers** (1936), by Marius Barbeau, with excellent illustrations by Marjorie Borden and a reproduction of a "View of Quebec in 1709" by Jean Bte Decoüagne.



Detail of Quebec in 1709, by Decoüagne (BnF)

My five New England ancestors, who chose to remain in New France, all lived out their lives near Montreal. So I wanted to discover more about Ville Marie. Who more engaging to read than Stephen Leacock, author of **Montreal:**

Seaport and City (1943)? Chapters III – V were very helpful.

Finally, I wanted to know more about the lives of "ordinary people". There were many nuggets about New France society in **Along a River: The First French Canadian Women** (2013) by Jan Noel. This is an academic work, to be sure, but the descriptions of the lives of women who lived on farms, in towns or in religious orders was fascinating.

I got lucky when I found that award-winner author Willa Cather had written **Shadows on the Rock** (1931), a meticulously researched novel about Quebec City, set in 1697. Not only does the Library have a copy, it has the 2005 Scholarly Edition, complete with an historical essay, illustrations and explanatory notes.

Members of the Literary and Historical Society who are interested in adding context to their family history are lucky indeed to have access to the Library. ■



1,250
people listened to
great music

222
e-books



315
days of
activities



74
dedicated
volunteers



46,000
total visitors

4,279
books
taken
out



morrin
in 2016

from the Centre's library



1,112
cups of
tea served



1,100
people scared
during the
Interactive
Halloween Experience

visitors
from
42
countries

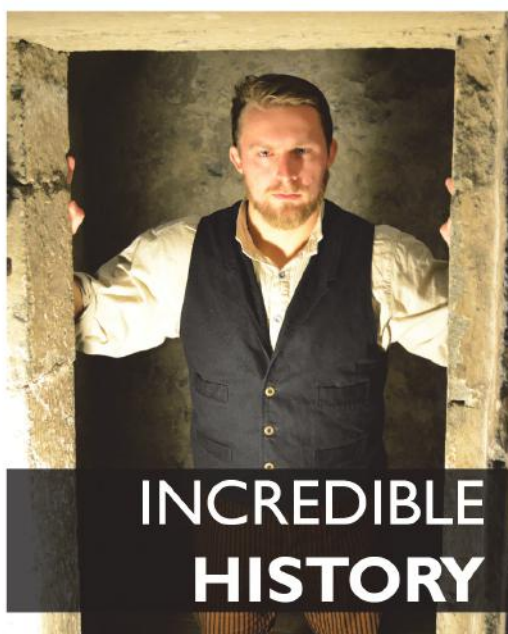




AMAZING STORIES



Help us
SHINE!



It's been an
exciting year at
the Morrin
Centre, and
2017 is shaping
up to be even
better.



Be a part of it.

Support your Morrin Centre and help provide Quebec City with quality cultural programming in heritage, education and the arts.

You can contribute to the 2016 annual campaign at **www.morrin.org/contribute**.

LIBRARY PAGES

TIME FOR BOOKS: THE VERY BEST GIFTS FOR YOUNGSTERS

A SPECIAL HOLIDAY SUPPLEMENT TO "ON THE SHELF"

By Britta Gundersen-Bryden

The Library is the perfect place for young readers to retreat from the pre-holiday rush or to relax before the end of the school winter break so make plans now to visit the Library this holiday season.

For wee ones: The corner with the cozy chairs in the quiet back room is the perfect place to curl up and read a little one a timeless fairy tale or one of the many books in the little cubbyhole devoted to A. A. Milne's **Winnie the Pooh** (the colourful illustrations in Disney versions, entitled "Lessons from the Hundred-Acre Wood", usually hold children's attention).



Winnie the Pooh and Piglet, by E.H. Shepard

Two large picture books with fantastic illustrations are **The Wolves in the Walls** (2003) and **Crazy Hair** (2009) by author Neil Gaiman and artist Dave McKern. Given the one of the newly-released movies aimed at children, there is sure to be renewed interest in trolls. **D'Aulaires' Book of Trolls** by Ingri and Edgar D'Aulaire (1972), which *The New York Times* called "a nearly perfect picture book for children" contains just about everything anyone – of any age – wants to know about trolls.

If time is short, young ones can browse the latest edition of the children's magazines *Owl* or *Chickadee*.

Tips for young adults: Do you often wonder what sort of gift to bestow on a grandparent, godparent, or visiting great uncle? One foolproof suggestion is a gift of time (time spent together, that is). And the Library is an ideal place to spend a few hours together. You could even offer to pay the bus fare (no need for the hassle of

bringing a car into the Old City).

Or give parents a break by taking a younger brother or sister to the Library for an afternoon. Mum or Dad will probably even spring for that bus fare.

While your "guests" browse the bookshelves, you can check out some of the latest young adult titles, like **Forensics Squad Unleashed** (2016), the latest from Quebec writer Monique Polak, where a young sleuth takes on dognappers, **The Crossover** (2014) a novel by Kwame Alexander about twin brothers who are basketball stars, or the

weird/odd/haunting **The Nest** (2015) by Kenneth Oppel.

For those young readers who are into fantasy series, how about the Heroes of Olympus series by Rick Riordan (the fifth and final volume is **The Blood of Olympus** [2014]) or **The Silver Dream** (2013) and **Eternity's Wheel** (2015), from the Interworld series by Neil Gaiman, Michael Reaves and Mallory Reaves.

And for something different, try reading a poem or two from Jacqueline Woodson's **Brown Girl Dreaming** (2014).

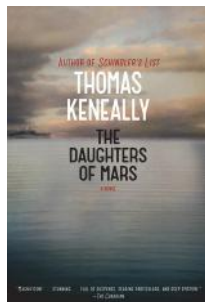
For All Readers: Tea is available in the Library for a nominal cost and rumour has it that elves have requested that hot chocolate be made available, too!

Be sure to check the Morrin Centre website to confirm opening hours during the holiday season. ■

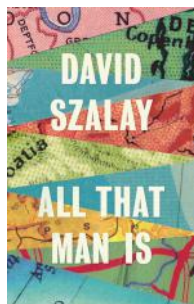
LIBRARY PAGES

NEW ACQUISITIONS

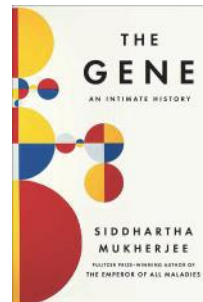
Here are a few of the recent additions to the Library collection. To reserve a title, please contact the Morrin Centre Library at **418-694-9147** or visit our online catalogue at www.morrin.org.



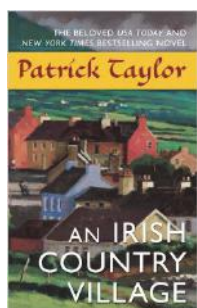
Fiction
The Daughters of Mars
Thomas Keneally



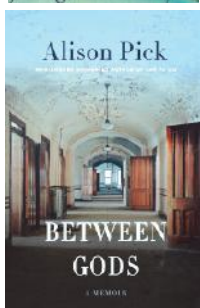
Non-Fiction
All That Man Is
David Szalay



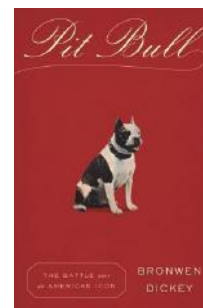
The Gene: An Intimate History
Siddhartha Mukherjee



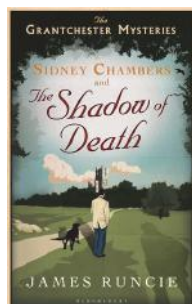
An Irish Country Village
Patrick Taylor



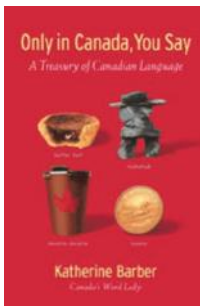
Between Gods
Alison Pick



Pit Bull: The Battle over an American Icon
Bronwen Dickey



Sidney Chambers and the Shadow of Death
James Runcie



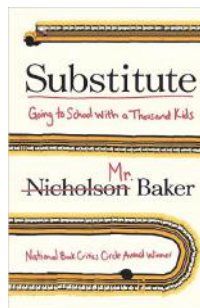
Only in Canada You Say
Katherine Barber



The Pigeon Tunnel
John LeCarre



Do Not Say We Have Nothing
Madeleine Thien



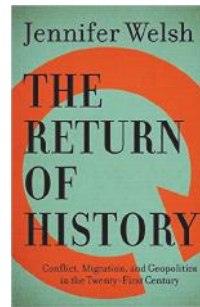
Substitute: Going to School with a Thousand Kids
Nicholson Baker



Invisible North
Alexandra Shimo



Hag-Seed
Margaret Atwood



The Return of History
Jennifer Welsh



The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright
Ann M. Little

LIBRARY PAGES

LIBRARY CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

These are titles missing from a series, or ones the Library used to have, but were so well loved they fell apart. We are now looking for like-new copies for our members to enjoy. **Thank you!**

Exit Music
Ian Rankin

The Underpainter
Jane Urquhart

Original Sin
P.D. James

Cruellest Month
Louise Penny

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
JK Rowling

Trunk Music
Michael Connelly

The Last Coyote
Michael Connelly

Strip Tease
Carl Hiaasen

How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?
Jane Yolen & Mark Teague



Practical Magic
Alice Hoffman

Heart of the Sea
Nora Roberts

If you have any of these books, please consider **donating them to the Library.**

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MISCELLANEA

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: THE LITERARY FEAST 2016

By Alicia Lamontagne

The Morrin Centre's eighth annual Literary Feast fundraiser, featuring author Roch Carrier as keynote speaker, and Yvon Charest, President and CEO of Industrial Alliance, as honorary chair, was held on Thursday, November 10, 2016. The event was attended by some of Quebec's most prominent public figures, including Quebec City's mayor, Régis Labeaume, and Geoffrey Kelly, Quebec's Minister responsible for Native Affairs.

The evening started with cocktails in our magnificent library with live music, played by harpist extraordinaire Fara Almond, followed by dinner catered by **Panache** in the historic College Hall. Here is a look at the lavish menu Panache's Chefs concocted for us:

***Beet salad with chives, goat cheese
and balsamic reduction***

*

***Cream of squash and chestnut,
chive oil and lardons***

*

***Angus Flank steak, puree of roasted
onions with honey, tarragon carrots***

*

***Panache Pastry Chef's delight:
Decadent 3 chocolate ganache cake***

Throughout the evening, a silent auction was held with enchanting items of interest for everyone. Some of our items included a gift basket full of French toiletries from L'Occitane en Provence; train tickets from Via Rail Canada, and jewelry from Zimmermann Québec.

The partners of the Morrin Centre's eighth annual Literary Feast included Ateliers de conversation anglaise (ACA), Quebecor, Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph, McCarthy Tetrault and Simons. Our sponsors included Le Saint and EVOQ Architecture. ■



MISCELLANEA

RECENT EVENTS

By Alicia Lamontagne

History of the 78th Fraser's Highlanders

Sam Allison, author of the book *Driv'n by Fortune* and a history professor, came to the Morrin Centre on November 29 and talked about the impact of the 78th Fraser's Highlanders, which extended far beyond Scotland and the Canada of their times.

The remarkable story of the men of the 78th Fraser's Highlanders moves from the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion in Scotland, through the Seven Years' War and the American Revolution, to the War of 1812.

Raised by Simon Fraser, chief of the Clan Fraser of Lovat, the 78th Highlanders played a major role in defeating the French on the Plains of Abraham. *Driv'n by Fortune* tackles the myths embedded in nationalistic history and in fictional accounts of these Highland soldier-settlers who brought the Scottish Enlightenment to North America. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS



Wednesday, January 25, 2017
7:00 p.m.

THEATRE: MY MORRIN
MIRACLE & APOCALYPSE,
A TWO-MAN SHOW
by Emile Beauchemin
and Bill Black



Saturday, February 18, 2017

Time to be announced

GENEALOGY: MY MORRIN
CREATE YOUR FAMILY TREE
WORKSHOP
presented by Lorie Pierce

150 NEW MEMBERS BY CANADA DAY

By Deborah van der Linde

The Morrin Centre has set itself a challenge, and we need your help. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canada, we intend to increase our membership by 150 new members by Canada Day 2017. The timing is perfect, especially since we have just lowered our membership fees. It now only costs \$20 for an individual membership, or \$25 for a family. So spread

the news – maybe bring a friend. With the holiday season fast approaching, a Morrin membership also makes a wonderful gift. It is one of those gifts that keeps on giving, with discounted or free admission to our events and access to our magnificent library. New memberships can be created online, or pop by the Morrin Centre, and we can help you sign up. ■

THE LITERARY & HISTORICAL KITCHEN CORNER

LITERARY RECIPES THAT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY

SPICY APPLESAUCE

By Gail Cameron

½ - ¾ cup vinegar
1 cup sugar
1 cup of boiling water
1 long cinnamon stick
6 -8 medium sized apples
1 clove per apple quarter

1. Put all the ingredients in a saucepan
2. Cook for about 20 minutes
3. Remove the cloves and the cinnamon stick
4. Stir to make smooth
5. Serve warm or cold with all white meats

MISCELLANEA

MEET OUR NEW INTERIM RENTALS COORDINATOR
MANON FORTIN

Born and raised in Rouyn-Noranda, Manon Fortin moved to Montreal when she was eighteen to study fashion design. Seeking the perfect career, she experimented with photography, and even went back to school to become a respiratory therapist.

While studying, Manon also worked as a waitress. Her employers often asked her to manage their restaurants, and she accepted these responsibilities with great pride and confidence. Thanks to this experience, Manon realized where her strengths – and passion – lay, so she enrolled in events management studies at Merici College. She graduated with honours, winning the award for the highest grade in her cohort. Shortly thereafter, she was offered an opportunity to do her internship at the Morrin Centre, a place where Manon immediately felt at home.

Manon is hoping that she will have the chance to practice her knitting skills with staff and members, as well as learn German, one of her long-time dreams. ■



MORRIN CALENDAR

By Rosemarie Fischer

Did you know that the Morrin Centre now has its own calendar for 2017? With twelve beautiful pictures of the Centre's venues, activities and events throughout the year, it makes a wonderful gift this holiday season. The calendar costs only \$10 plus taxes, and we can mail it anywhere in Canada for an additional \$3. All proceeds go directly back to the Morrin Centre, allowing us to provide you with our wonderful activities.

If you are interested in supporting the Morrin Centre by buying our calendar, please contact Rosemarie Fischer at 418 694-9147, ext. 221 or by e-mail at: info@morrin.org. ■



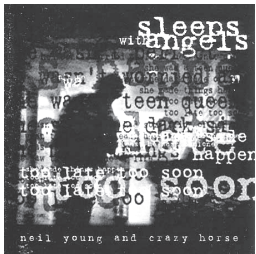
MISCELLANEA

DELIVERY ROOM PLAYLIST

By Barry McCullough

In this issue, I am taking a slightly different approach. I won't focus on a single album, but rather a collection of songs. My wife and I welcomed our first child in October and I have been more interested in creating playlists for my baby than digesting the latest releases. All that to say that, in an effort to remain relevant during my "dad years," I am shifting from the "album" to the "playlist."

In the lead-up to the birth, everyone was warning us about how long the process would be, especially if she was to be induced, which it turns out she was. Essential to making the time pass, of course, was adequate and appropriate music. And if we're looking at having a 12- to 14-hour wait for labour to start after being induced, plus an average of 12 hours of labour itself, we were going to need at least a 12-hour playlist. This way, we would only listen to each song a maximum of twice. Clearly, I was going to avoid heavier artists like Soundgarden, Sepultura and Yanni, but I didn't want the list to be filled with too much sap! I think I succeeded, but I'll let you bet the judge.



Surprisingly enough, **Neil Young and Crazy Horse** featured prominently, specifically *Sleeps With Angels* and *Broken Arrow*. Neil and the Horse are generally synonymous with barnstorming, feedback-drenched rock n'roll, but their mid-1990's output had a number of delicately crafted songs such as the piano-driven numbers that bookend *Sleeps With Angels*, "My Heart" and "A Dream That Can Last" as well the hushed acoustic ballad "Music Arcade."

There was also a heavy dose of the husky tones of **Sufjan Stevens**, particularly tracks from his hauntingly beautiful 2015 album *Carrie and Lowell* ("Eugene" and the title track) as well as selections from his entire catalogue.

R.E.M.'s underappreciated late-period songs made a nice contribution to the list. Even if some of the albums are quite uneven, there are real gems including "Chorus and the Ring" and "At My Most Beautiful."

I threw a few full albums on there too, including the latest album by **Brendan Canning** (of Broken Social Scene fame) *You Gots to Chill*. Its mood is about as perfect for a delivery room setting as you'd imagine with a title like that. The album is unremarkable but in a very pleasant way. *In Our Nature* and *Vestiges & Claws* (once featured in this very column!) by **José Gonzalez** were the other two full albums that made it onto the list.



The list also featured a sprinkling of delicate **Vampire Weekend** songs such as "Hannah Hunt" (definitely one of their finest moments ever) and "Young Lion."

And no list of dad rock would be complete without the genre's modern-day champions, **Wilco**. Even though they are one of my favourite bands ever, I only included a few of their tracks. However, one of the centrepieces was the 12-minute "One Sunday Morning" playing as the moment neared. I couldn't think of a better song to soundtrack something so significant.

Now, as it turned out, the whole day from being induced to delivery of the baby took about as long as a 9-to-5 work day, so much of the list went unlistened to! Sadly, **Dolly Parton's** "9 to 5" was not on the list.

Which songs does he like now? It's hard to say since babies don't really do much or give you any indication of liking things (boy, do they ever let you know if they *don't* like something!) I remain convinced that, of all the music I played for him while he was in the womb, he actually reacted to "I'm Lonely (But I Ain't That Lonely Yet)" by the **White Stripes**. In reality, though, I know that years of listening to kid's music will soon be here. Please pray for us.

I am really glad that we took the time to plan this out beforehand since it enhanced what was already going to be one of the most memorable events of our lifetimes.■



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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



Jean-Yves Duclos

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