

The Quebec
Provincial Association
Of Retired School
Educators



Association provinciale
du personnel
d'enseignement
retraite du Quebec



Winter 2010 Newsletter

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2009-2010 QPARSE Officers and Directors

<i>President</i>	<i>Pat Steele</i>	<i>514-369-3473</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Ann MacLeish</i>	<i>450-829-3172</i>
<i>1st Vice President</i>	<i>Sandra Aird</i>	<i>514-738-6169</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Donald Berry</i>	<i>514-487-3140</i>
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>Ellen Holzman</i>	<i>514-739-3022</i>
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	<i>Dana Star</i>	<i>514-481-3708</i>
<i>Correspondance/Good will</i>	<i>Alanna Dow</i>	<i>514-844-8715</i>
<i>Director, Newsletter</i>	<i>Richard Meades</i>	<i>514-695-2164</i>
<i>Director, Website</i>	<i>Tom Murray</i>	<i>514-631-8369</i>
<i>Director, Special Events</i>	<i>Ken Cooke</i>	<i>514-485-9118</i>
<i>Director, ACER-CART</i>	<i>Renate Sutherland</i>	<i>514-695-1970</i>
<i>Director,</i>	<i>Erene Anthony</i>	<i>514-626-8002</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Alanna Dow</i>	<i>514-844-8715</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Joseph Hacket</i>	<i>514-637-4997</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Hyacinth Layne</i>	<i>514-425-5309</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Kathleen Malcius</i>	<i>514-683-4429</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Robin Narstead</i>	<i>514-696-3215</i>

Association D'Hebergement des Enseignants Protestants Retraites Inc.

The Protestant Retired Teachers Homes & Benefits Corporation

<i>President</i>	<i>Pat Steele</i>	<i>514-369-3473</i>
<i>Honorary Past President</i>	<i>Ann Macleish</i>	<i>450-829-3172</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Gary Crandall</i>	<i>450-243-6608</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Art W. Hobbs</i>	<i>450-295-2349</i>
<i>Asst. Treas/Trustee</i>	<i>Graeme Sutherland</i>	<i>514-695-1970</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Ann Belden</i>	<i>819-569-4840</i>
<i>Dir. Buildings & Grounds</i>	<i>Roy Seaman</i>	<i>450-263-3502</i>
<i>Dir. Good Will</i>	<i>Shirley Wescott</i>	<i>802-933-4394</i>
<i>Dir. House Comm.</i>	<i>Bev Crandall</i>	<i>450-243-6608</i>
<i>Dir. Publicity</i>	<i>Evelyn Lewis</i>	<i>450-263-0105</i>
<i>Dir. Liaison/ARCPQ</i>	<i>Therese Maguire</i>	<i>450-534-2510</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Peggy Steele</i>	<i>450-538-3232</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Adelaide Lanktree</i>	<i>450-293-6342</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Elaine Barrington Buzzell</i>	<i>450-263-6342</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Bob Colvill</i>	<i>450-243-0182</i>

PROGRAM 2010

JANUARY 21st **10:45a.m. (Thurs.)** Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant
Elizabeth Jennaway-Eaman
Fabrics used in the 19th century, Clothing from the McCord's
education collection
McCord Museum, Speaker followed by lunch

FEBRUARY 16th **10:45a.m. (Tues.)** Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant
Stephen Gruber/Consulting Hypnotist
"Hypnosis for the Health & Wellbeing"
Speaker followed by lunch

MARCH 26th **10:45a.m. (Friday)** EMSB/ Patterson Room/WORKSHOP
Investment Group/estate planning, income planning
Tax planning-long term care insurances
Merle Lewis - Taxation Que/Can
Paul Barnes - QPAT Insurance (Industrial Alliance)
Luncheon to follow

APRIL 22nd **10:45a.m. (Thurs.)** Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant
Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan/Author
"Memoir and Fiction: Challenging Companions."
(copies of her book will be available after presentation)
Speaker followed by lunch.

MAY 11th **9:30a.m. (Tues.)** EMSB/Patterson Room
Annual General Meeting
12:30p.m. Lunch: Carmine's Tuscany Grill

SPECIAL EVENTS: ATLANTIC CITY April 26th to April 30th 2010
ROBINSON RESIDENCE/HIGH TEA & KNOWLTON DAY TRIP June 16th 2010

Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant - 5525 Cote St. Luc Rd., H3X 2C6. (514-484-7525)
PJ's Pub- 6910 St. Jacques St. West (in front of Super C (514-489-6356)
Bring a friend.

Please inform Events coordinator Ken Cooke (514-485-9118) if you are attending the luncheons. Program information, contact Sandra Aird (514-738-6169)

www.qparse-apperq.org

**QPARSE
And
The TMR Adult Center
Goes to
ATLANTIC CITY
(Escorted Tour)**

Travel to Atlantic City with its non-stop gaming action, top-name entertainment, luxurious casino hotels and resorts and beautiful white sandy beaches

Monday, April 26th – Friday, April 30th 2010

Departure Time: 7:00am - Return: 21:00 (approx.)

- 4 nights lodging at the Tropicana Resort
- Four buffet dinners \$15.00 food coupon
- One show
- Cash bonus \$40.00 US
- Side trip to Smithville
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Standard taxes and gratuities
- Day trip to New York City (optional extra charge)

Single Occ.: **\$520 CDN**

Double Occ.: **\$395 CDN**

A non-refundable deposit of \$30.00 is due by January 10th 2010. Balance of payment is due by March 16th 2010. For more information or to book call Sandra Aird 514-738-6169 or airsan@videotron.ca SPACE LIMITED BOOK EARLY

Cheques should be payable to **DMC Travel Inc.** (credit card payment available)

US Boarder: passport required

REGISTRATION FORM
Reply NOT later than March 16th 2010
Limited places - First come, First served

NAME(S): _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS : (PRINT CLEARLY) _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE REGISTRATION FEE OF \$30.00 (payable to DMC)
Return to: QPARSE, c/o 4290 Powell Ave., Montreal, QC H4P 1E4
For more info. Phone Sandra Aird 514-738-6169/airsan@videotron.ca

BUS DEPARTS FROM THE TOWN OF MT. ROYAL RECREATION CENTER
LOCATED AT 60 ROOSEVELT AVENUE. (Please arrive 30 minutes before departure)
FREE LONG TERM PARKING AVAILABLE. (Notify Sandra if you are leaving your car)

QPARSE
Presents
A DAY IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16th 2010

BUS from EMSB 9:30a.m.

Transportation cost \$25.00 per person - Guests welcome

High Tea at the Robinson Residence cost \$10.00 (to be collected on the bus)

- 9:30a.m. Depart for Knowlton**
- 10:45a.m. Knowlton: Visit the Brome Lake Duck Farm
Knowlton Museum which houses one of only 3 existing Fokker
planes from WWI
Antique stores
Quaint shops such as Jones New York, Christmas Shop,
Fudge shop, and Art Galleries**
- 12:45p.m. Snack time (optional)**
- 1:45p.m. Depart for the Robinson Residence (a beautiful home on the lake)**
- 2:00p.m. High Tea with the residents**
- 4:00p.m. Depart for Montreal (EMSB) (approximate arrival time 5:45p.m.)**

A little about what there is to see and do during this outing.

Knowlton is a beautiful area of the Eastern Townships. In addition to the Duck Farm the many stores and museum, you can take a walk along the hiking trail or stroll through the village and enjoy the magnificent scenery. Please join us that day for what will be a most rewarding outing. Maps will be provided to you so that you can design your own 2 hour tour.

REGISTRATION FORM

Reply NO later than Friday, JUNE 4th 2010 - LIMITED SEATING

NAME (S): _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

**PLEASE ENCLOSE REGISTRATION FEE OF \$25.00 (payable to QPARSE)
Return to: QPARSE, c/o 4290 Powell Ave., Montreal H4P 1E4
For more info. Sandra Aird-514-738-6169/airsan@videotron.ca**

President's Corner

As I write this, due to the tyranny of deadlines, it's Christmas Eve in a rather cold and wet Dallas! By the time you read it, the Holidays will be a distant memory, but I hope you had an enjoyable time with family and friends. I think we all enjoyed the QPARSE party with great entertainment from our friends from the Montreal West Operatic Society. I should like to take this opportunity to send my best wishes to all of you for a healthy and happy New Year. It's hard to believe it's almost 2010!

This is the time of year for looking back over the last twelve months (how many end-of-year lists have you read?) and anticipating the coming months. The major political campaign in which we were involved concerned the indexation of our pensions and the draconian measures which were taken in 1982 to cut back cost of living increases. Ed Zegray has written a very clear summary of the history of these measures, which you will find elsewhere in this issue. Ed is our very able representative on a working group set up by a coalition of public sector retired employees of which we are a member. He represents the four English-speaking retired associations; since we are all very small we agreed to name one person to speak on our behalf. Ed has worked very hard over the last couple of years, attending meetings and rallies and keeping us well informed of what is happening.

As you know, we are also a member of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers which continues to lobby at the federal level on behalf of retired teachers and other seniors. Our Director, Renate Sutherland, has been keeping us up to date on their efforts. As a small association with limited means we rely very heavily on these larger groups to represent our interests and we are lucky to have them around.

Looking forward to the coming year, we have an interesting program for you. Our Program Chair, Sandra Aird, has done a fine job in setting up the events, with the able assistance of Ken Cooke and his team who always have a welcoming smile to greet you. You can find full details of all the events elsewhere in this issue. We look forward to seeing many of you at the first get-together of the new year on January 21st, 2010.

Over the past few years one of our major preoccupations has been trying to increase our membership and attract newly retired people. Budgetary constraints limit our efforts in this regard so I would like to ask you all to encourage any retired school board employees of your acquaintance to come to one of our events. And pass the word to everybody you know who is not yet a member. Mailings are very expensive so word-of-mouth is probably our most efficient tool in attracting new members. Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Pat Steele

Indexation – A Brief History 1973 to 2009 by Ed Zegray

In 1973, the government recognized the principle of protecting purchasing power of retirees (indexation of pensions) in the public sector when it created the REGOP, following negotiations with unions.

In 1982, a decree put an end to negotiations in the public sector and abolished full indexation of pensions. The imposed formula, namely inflation rate minus 3%, and decreasing inflation had as a result that, for the years in question, no indexation has been given since 1993.

In 1999, the government of Québec introduced a partial correction to de-indexation of public sector pensions by allowing indexation equivalent to 50% of the cost of living for the years of service 2000 and later. This modification was not applicable to the years of service 1982-99.

In 2005, the government abruptly terminated that round of negotiations and extended working conditions until 2010, without settling the question of pension plans.

In 2006, the major associations representing retirees from the public sector of Québec formed a coalition named “Groupe de travail des associations de retraités des secteurs public et parapublic” (GTAR). Since then, meetings of GTAR have been held regularly and concerted actions taken.

In February 2007, GTAR elaborated a common position on de-indexation including a demand to establish a Standing Committee (permanent working group) with the government.

During the course of 2007, several rallies of retirees from the public sector were held throughout the province and brought together some 8000 retirees requesting the creation of a Standing Committee. A petition concerning the worrisome financial situation of retirees was also deposited in the National Assembly. It contained over 12 000 names.

In December 2007, the government created a committee to evaluate the cost of indexation of pension plans. This committee’s mandate was to specifically identify the main parameters and pertinent facts affecting indexation of pension plans in the public sector for the years 1982-99.

In May 2008, the government released a report that confirmed that public sector retirees lost approximately 1.9 billion dollars due to the de-indexation of their pension plans. This loss affected some 187 000 retirees who took their pensions between 1983 and 2006

.On September 30 2008, the National Assembly’s Commission on Public Finances examined this report in the presence of representatives from GTAR. Members of the Parliamentary Commission, MNAs from all political parties, agreed on the need to consult the associations of retirees from the public sector concerning their pension plans.

In November 2008, during the provincial election campaign, Premier Jean Charest, as well as Mme Pauline Marois, indicated that they were concerned about the de-indexation problem and they committed themselves once again to consult the associations of retirees from the public sector regarding their pension plans

In 2009, the unions negotiating the collective agreement stated their intention to settle the pension issue as soon as was possible at the negotiating table.

On September 30, 2009, over 5000 retirees rallied noisily in front of the National Assembly in Québec and called for the creation of a Standing Committee with the government. They came from across the province in over 100 rented buses, by car and by public transit or on foot. Considering the chilly and uncertain weather, who would have thought that 5000 seniors would take to the streets to express their impatience as well as their frustration, all the while demonstrating high spirits and a true sense of unity.

The vocal and vibrant crowd and the subsequent media attention – interviews on LCN, news reports on TVA as well as Radio-Canada, articles in Québec and regional papers – caught the MNAs ears. With this type of closing of the ranks, the squeaky wheel had its effect. Not only did we get MNAs from opposition parties to address the rally, but Raymond Bernier, the liberal MNA from Montmorency, came by to announce the government's intention to reactivate the Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances with a mandate to examine the situation regarding pension plans in the public sector. This is not the Standing Committee needed, that could solve the long-term problem, but it is a step keeps the dialogue open.

Bravo to all those who contributed to the Rally's success, the participants, the organizers, and the supporting associations. We had representation from the four English groups, AAESQ, ACRA, QART and QPARSE, including two presidents in attendance, namely Flo Civitarese (QART) and Charles Jeannotte (ACRA). Thank you one and all.

Please "stay tuned" and be prepared to be a squeaky wheel should the need arise.

A gathering of another sort:

**“An Annual Gathering”
Friday April 16th
3.00pm until “the end”
P.J's Pub, 6910 St Jacques St. West (Next to Super “C”)**

The origins of this event are lost in murky history, but rumours point to its beginnings with the staff of “Wagar” in those days of “Men only” at the “Bon Voyage Tavern”.

Or perhaps, the long gone “Verdun High” was somehow involved !

Anyone who has attended in more recent years know that teachers, support staff, professionals & administrators flock to this reunion from many towns & villages far from “the big city”. Next April there is even promise of a flying visit from the other side of the Atlantic!

Please join us , all are welcome.

Submitted by Bob Smith.

Membership

New Members

The following members are welcomed to QPARSE. They have joined since the publication of the last Newsletter.

<i>Family Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
<i>Allen Roy</i>	<i>Jewell</i>	<i>New Carlisle, Qc</i>
<i>Brigden-Amyot</i>	<i>Erna</i>	<i>Cookshire, Qc</i>
<i>Bromley</i>	<i>Carol</i>	<i>Montreal West, Qc</i>
<i>Collins-Botros</i>	<i>Sue</i>	<i>St Lambert, Qc</i>
<i>Cote</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Laval, Qc</i>
<i>Cousineau</i>	<i>Jocelyne</i>	<i>St. Laurent, Qc</i>
<i>Eames</i>	<i>James</i>	<i>L'Ange-Gardien, Qc</i>
<i>Fares</i>	<i>Lucie</i>	<i>Mont Royal, Qc</i>
<i>Franklin-Coyle</i>	<i>Linda</i>	<i>St Laurent, Qc</i>
<i>Furino-Foster</i>	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Dorval, Qc</i>
<i>Gebbie-Sproule</i>	<i>Marian</i>	<i>Ormstown, Qc</i>
<i>Horen</i>	<i>Doreen</i>	<i>TMR, Qc</i>
<i>Kinney</i>	<i>Louise</i>	<i>Chateauguay, Qc</i>
<i>Kouris</i>	<i>Christine</i>	<i>Laval, Qc</i>
<i>MacNeill</i>	<i>Coleen</i>	<i>Trois Rivieres, Qc</i>
<i>McCormack</i>	<i>Carol</i>	<i>Sherbrooke, Qc</i>
<i>McCullogh</i>	<i>Diane</i>	<i>Trois Rivieres, Qc</i>
<i>McDougall</i>	<i>Nancy</i>	<i>Montreal, Qc</i>
<i>Percio</i>	<i>Emilia Natalina</i>	<i>Montreal, Qc</i>
<i>Pickup</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Lasalle, Qc</i>
<i>Polifroni</i>	<i>Tina</i>	<i>St. Leonard, Qc</i>
<i>Prunier</i>	<i>Linda</i>	<i>Kirkland, Qc</i>
<i>Roddam</i>	<i>Nancy</i>	<i>Wolfville, N.S.</i>
<i>Rose</i>	<i>Miriam</i>	<i>Verdun, Qc</i>
<i>Roumeliotis</i>	<i>Angeline</i>	<i>Longueuil, Qc</i>
<i>Roumeliotis</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Longueuil, Qc</i>
<i>Segal</i>	<i>Marcia</i>	<i>Montreal, Qc</i>
<i>Semeniuk</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Ste. Julienne, Qc</i>
<i>Sieprawski-Trybowski</i>	<i>Christina</i>	<i>Montreal, Qc</i>
<i>Tawil</i>	<i>Samir Jean</i>	<i>Terrebonne, Qc</i>
<i>Wale</i>	<i>Janina</i>	<i>Montreal, Qc</i>
<i>Zdyb</i>	<i>Jeanne</i>	<i>La Macaza, Qc</i>

*When a newsletter is returned, we put out a special appeal to our member, for information. You are our best source for discovering the reasons for that return. Please send any information to **Ellen Holzman, 6067 Macdonald Ave. Montreal, Qc, H3X 2W9***

Newsletter Strays

<i>Bird</i>	<i>Tom</i>	<i>Bolton Center, Qc</i>
<i>Black</i>	<i>Doris</i>	<i>Cote St. Luc, Qc</i>
<i>Chubb</i>	<i>George</i>	<i>Burlington, Ont</i>
<i>Eddington</i>	<i>Brian</i>	<i>Knowlton, Qc</i>
<i>Goldman</i>	<i>Jenny</i>	<i>Cote St. Luc, Qc</i>
<i>Gopal</i>	<i>Raja</i>	<i>Montreal, Qc</i>
<i>Hunter</i>	<i>Gladys May</i>	<i>Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Qc</i>
<i>Moore</i>	<i>Elisabeth</i>	<i>Brighton, Ont</i>
<i>Saunders</i>	<i>Catherine</i>	<i>Pointe Claire, Qc</i>
<i>Struk</i>	<i>Margaret M.</i>	<i>Hudson, Qc</i>
<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Lynette</i>	<i>Kirkland, Qc</i>
<i>Verna</i>	<i>Clara</i>	<i>Westmount, Qc</i>

We Remember

We remember, the following members of QPARSE who, we have learned, have passed away since the last Newsletter. We join the families and friends in remembrance.

<i>Barrie</i>	<i>William Fraser</i>	<i>Brockville, Ont</i>	<i>Aug 13 09</i>
<i>Begin</i>	<i>Lois</i>	<i>Knowlton, Qc</i>	<i>Jul 01 05</i>
<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Pointe Claire, Qc</i>	<i>Jul 01 05</i>
<i>Clamen</i>	<i>Harry</i>	<i>Dorval, Qc</i>	<i>Nov 09</i>
<i>Jones</i>	<i>Martyn</i>	<i>St. Bruno, Qc</i>	
<i>Jordan</i>	<i>Herbert</i>	<i>Dorval, Qc</i>	<i>Jul 28 09</i>
<i>Langley</i>	<i>W.Roy</i>	<i>Markham, Ont</i>	<i>Aug 01 09</i>
<i>Miller</i>	<i>Eleanor Sophia</i>	<i>Deux Montagnes, Qc</i>	<i>Aug 01 04</i>
<i>Nagle</i>	<i>Nancy Louise</i>	<i>Chomedy, Qc</i>	<i>08</i>
<i>Tedford</i>	<i>Alfred Lee</i>	<i>Cote St. Luc Qc</i>	<i>Sep 07 09</i>

Super Seniors

*We wish a belated “**Happy Birthday**” to the following “Super Seniors”, whose names did not appear in the Fall Newsletter.*

<i>Cook</i>	<i>Margaret</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>January 9th</i>
<i>Hamilton</i>	<i>Lorne</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>December 1st</i>
<i>Hill</i>	<i>Kenneth</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>November 21st</i>
<i>MacLean</i>	<i>Dorothy</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>January 4th</i>
<i>Martin</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>November</i>
<i>McConnachie</i>	<i>Bess</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>December 7th</i>
<i>Miller</i>	<i>Alice</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>January</i>

We also send our **“Happy Birthday”** good wishes to those “Super Seniors” who will be celebrating a birthday in the coming months. We wish them our congratulations and good health.

Bennet	Amelda	95	April
Bowes	Gordon	92	February 1 st
Doak	Stuart	96	April 1 st
Hall	Wayne	<u>100</u>	March 1 st
Hanna	Joan Skinner	96	April 1 st
Higgins	Daisy	99	March 18 th
Hoy	Ella	<u>103</u>	May 31 st
Lancaster	Olive	93	February 25 th
Morrison	Kathleen	<u>103</u>	April 14 th
Taylor	Geraldine	94	February
Topham	M.	93	March 31 st

Please let us know when you will join the “Super Seniors Club” (on or near your 90th birthday) so that we may send you birthday greetings.

New Members Application Form

Lifetime **QPARSE-APPERQ** membership \$75.00

Please complete the form below & return it, with your cheque for \$75.00 made payable to QPARSE, to:

Ellen Holzman, Membership Director.
6067 Macdonald
Montreal, Qc. H3X 2W9

Name. (please print) _____

Address (street no.) _____ (apt no.) _____

(City) _____ (Prov.) _____ (postal code) _____

(Tel.No.) _____ (E-mail address) _____

(Date of Birth) Year _____ Month _____ Day _____

(Date of Application) _____

Members with Special Expertise

We are continuing to include in the Newsletter a list of names & phone numbers of members who have skills and interests that they are prepared to share with others. Any fees to be charged for these services are to be set with the agreement of the parties involved.

*If you are interested in adding your name to this list , please contact us by:
e-mail – info@qparse-apperq.org or by phone –
Pat Steele – President 514-369-3473, Richard Meades- Editor 514-695-2164*

<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact point</u>	<u>Service</u>
<i>Bill Bernhaut</i>	<i>450-246-3796 rbernhaut@bellnet.ca</i>	<i>Antique furniture refinishing.</i>
<i>Sonia Browman</i>	<i>514-748-5788 home 514-747-0568 machine</i>	<i>Sign language. Speech therapy. Lip reading</i>
<i>David Chandler (activity ad below)</i>	<i>514-334-7418 ptolomee@autoroute.net</i>	<i>Digital photo help Skype assistance possible</i>
<i>David Hogg</i>	<i>www.cruiseshipcenters.ca/davidhogg. dhogg@cruiseshipcenters.com</i>	<i>Cruise consultant</i>
<i>Robin Narsted</i>	<i>mnarsted@yahoo.ca</i>	<i>Computer questions</i>

Photo Safari – 2010 A Walk in a Park

In May 2008 several QPARSE members participated in an excursion to Mont Royal for a fun day of photography. Are you interested in joining us this May for a day of walking & photography ?

This time we'll visit Rene Levesque Park in Lachine, part of what is said to be one of the most pleasant bike paths in North America. The park, jutting into Lac St Louis and filled with large sculptures is a great place for photography. No experience or fancy equipment needed.

Tues. May 17th or if the weather is poor Wed. May 18th. Meet mid morning, have late lunch to share our efforts, continue in the afternoon. Details to follow.

If interested please contact David Chandler (see above)

Deadline for registration March 26th.

Check out: [http://www.qparse-apperq.org/images/Mt RoyalCollage.jpg](http://www.qparse-apperq.org/images/Mt%20RoyalCollage.jpg) to see a montage of our Mont Royal photos

Robinson Residence-Christmas Party

By Evelyn Beban Lewis

The "Gods" smiled on us on December 8th. There was just enough snow, accompanied by beautiful sunshine, to put us in the mood for the Christmas Party. The roads were clear so that all could travel safely.

The house was decorated beautifully to receive everyone. It is in a picturesque setting & at Christmas time when fully "dressed" for the occasion, could appear on any Christmas Card or magazine cover. At around 11.00am, President, Pat Steele, welcomed all present, in particular Rev. Wendy Maclean & her husband Michel as well as Rev. Sinpoah Han. Both have spent many hours visiting & conducting services at the residence. Rev Maclean is moving on at the end of January so we again thank her for her ministry & wish her well in new ventures. Also with us were Carol & Manon from C.K.'s Income Tax in Knowlton and Mr Bob Kerr our pianist for the "sing-song".

Pat offered regrets from Board members who were unable to attend due to illness, Bev & Gary Crandall were sorely missed from their role of greeting everyone on their arrival. Gifts were distributed by Pat Steele & Therese Maguire, as fine "stand ins" for "Santa". The residents thanked the Board members & staff for the wonderful care throughout the year and for being remembered at this special time of year.

Appreciation was shown to staff by the presentation of Christmas bonuses, Matron Margaret Beattie was singled out for thanks for her care & guidance of all things pertaining to the home.

A rousing sing-song took place which all enjoyed greatly. The staff impersonated Santa's elves running around ensuring that everyone had plenty of eggnog or punch and of course the accompanying goodies.

Residents were escorted into the dining room, where a "special" lunch was served; guests served themselves from a buffet table set up in the hall. This was laden with Turkey with stuffing, tourtiere, potatoes, vegetables & all the trimmings. Squares, tarts & fruit were there aplenty for dessert. Wine was served with the meal... Chef Judy Jones & her helpers are to be congratulated for such a fine spread.

Following dinner things were quite quiet for a while as everyone seemed full & satisfied. Mr. Rizk arrived, after the meal, with his beautiful basket made up especially for the Drawing. Three baskets were drawn for with winners coming from Residents, staff & Board.

Time passed all too quickly & guests reluctantly had to leave to make their journeys home, all doing so with very fond memories of another wonderful Christmas Party at the Robinson Residence.

N.B. Members are invited to take the opportunity to visit the Robinson Residence for "High Tea" as a part of our Day Trip organized for June 16th. (See the sign-up sheet included in this Newsletter).

The Robinson Residence



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 - Churches, Banks, Hospital, CSLC
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- Gracious Living for Retired People

The Robinson Residence
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 450-263-4404

P.R.T.H. & B. CORPORATION

Many of our members contribute to the upkeep of the Robinson Residence. Should you wish to donate, please use this form. Receipts for donations of \$15.00 or more will be issued for income tax purposes.

Please make your cheques payable to the P.R.T.H. & B. Corporation.

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Forward to: Graeme Sutherland
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 H9S 5B9

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of your receipt

Contact QPARSE

*If you would like to submit an article, story, poem, anecdote etc.
Or make a correction to the newsletter.*

Please contact:

*Dick Meades, Editor
26 Broadview Ave.
Pointe Claire, Que.
H9R 3Z2
514-695-2164*

Email: rjmeades@hotmail.com or dickmeades@gmail.ca

*You are also invited to contact our website at:
www.qparse-apperq.org/e/feedback.shtml*

Legal Advice

Please be reminded that QPARSE retains the services of a notary who is willing to answer general questions dealing with real estate or Taxes. Should she act for you, there will be a charge.

*Andrea F. Durso, Notary
4635 Sherbrooke St. West
Westmount, QC H3Z 1G2*

*Tel: 514 931 2531
Fax: 514 931 2534*

Alert to members of Strathcona Credit Union:

It has come to our attention that there was a problem with the allocation of interest in some member's Savings Accounts ! The problem seems to have started in May 2009. Therefore members are advised to check their statements carefully. If you see that there is a problem you should contact: Mary at the downtown office 514-937-5515 # 225

*Front Cover: Pond Hockey. If you couldn't skate well you were the goalie !
Back Cover: Modern necessities, padding & a uniform.
(covers are courtesy of Bill Hine of Nova Scotia)*

*This Newsletter is published three times a year by QPARSE-
The Quebec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators.
The deadline for submission of items for the Spring Newsletter is May 11th 2010*

From ACER-CART

At the June 2009 annual general meeting of the Canadian Association of retired teachers, members passed a resolution advocating that we lobby the federal government and opposition parties to establish a “National Securities Regulator” through legislation that enhances the rights of investors.

This discussion & eventual resolution came as a result of a number of high profile fraud cases/ponzi schemes that have defrauded investors of large sums of money in recent years.

It was suggested that member associations would likewise lobby and encourage their membership to write to individual M.Ps seeking their support for such legislation to crack down on white collar crime.

This has been discussed at the January QPARSE Board of Directors meeting. Individual members are encouraged to write to their respective MPs.

The ACER CART letter includes the following recommendations:

Canadian Securities Regulator

Parliament seek immediate confirmation that it has the constitutional authority to enact and implement a federal securities regularity regime.

A Canadian securities regulator create an efficient and streamlined securities regulatory system that reinforces financial stability, strengthens enforcement, protects investors, is accountable to parliament and encourages world-wide investing in Canada.

Reforms to Criminal Code

Comprehensive reforms to the Criminal Code and restructuring of its overall justice and regulatory system, including “Victim impact statements” be instituted in cooperation with the Provinces and Territories to meet the challenges of dealing with all aspects of white-collar crime.

Extensive mandatory white collar crime training for judges be instituted.

Sentencing should include mandatory jail sentences and restitution orders for victims.

Partnership

Provinces and Territories be supported financially, on a shared basis, by the federal government, to hire sufficient staff with credentials for surveillance, prevention and to bring the perpetrators to face the courts of law in a timely manner.

Investor’s Bill of Rights

An investor’s Bill of Rights be developed in co-operation with the Provincial & Territorial governments.

Support services be made available for victims who have to deal with stress, anger, depression, loss and isolation.

Strategies be developed to educate the public about their financial options when they reach the age of retirement.

Call for Nominations

Call for Nominations 2010

The association is always looking for new input, so if you would like to become more involved we would like you to consider joining the Board of Directors.

The Board consists of 18 members including a President; Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary and 14 other Directors who assume specific responsibilities.

The Board meets once a month from September to June and runs the affairs of the association.

There are potential vacancies on the Board for the coming year.

If you have an interest, or know of someone who would be interested, in joining the Board please contact:

Ann Macleish 450-829-3172

Nominations must be signed by at least 10 QPARSE members and must be accompanied by the Nominee's written consent. The slate of nominations will be approved at the Annual General Meeting on May 11th 2010 where votes will be held if necessary. Please forward your nominations to the Chair person of the Nominations Committee by April 1st 2010 so that names can be included in the notice of the AGM.

*Ann MacLeish
Chairperson, Nominations Committee
2346 North River Road
Ormstown, Que.
J0S 1K0*

450-829-3172

The following article has been submitted by Ann Cooper after reading "Cloakrooms and Copy books" in the Fall Newsletter. She recalls ; filling ink wells; smudging copy books; a beautiful pearly green fountain pen and the suspicious reception of ball point pens by her teachers. Her memories of learning French were collected at : Queen's School (Westmount), Valois School (later becoming Valois Park), Montreal West High School (now Royal West Academy) and John Rennie High School.

My French Education by Ann Cooper

Our Family's roots were in south western Ontario, but my father's job had brought him to Montreal. "Oh well," said my parents naively as they saw me off to school, "at least the child will learn to speak French properly."

My French Education – contd.

Formal lessons began in Grade 3, and I started with a ‘blank slate’, like all the others in the class. In our classroom, we cut out pictures of various objects, pasted them in a notebook, and carefully printed the French word beside each one. We learned to sing “Alouette” and “Au claire de la lune”. In our playground we also learned the then popular attitude toward French people.(negative)

By Grade 4 or 5 we had acquired a French textbook, and with it began the practice that continued until the end of high school of going over the same text again and again, for months on end, it seemed. One that I remember from that year was the story of “Little Red Riding Hood”, presented in dialogue form. One day Miss Lenfesty told us that we must learn one of the speeches by heart for homework and repeat it in class the next day. In an oversight for such an experienced teacher, she neglected to give us any guidelines about which speech to choose. The ‘smartest’ students quickly took advantage of this lapse and learned the shortest speech: “Oui maman.” After several repetitions of this, Miss Lenfesty was looking considerably annoyed. Meanwhile, I was in a panic, because I had completely forgotten about the assignment and hadn’t learned anything. Suddenly, it was my turn I opened my mouth, then picking up the cue from the student who had preceded me, I rattled off the next speech, astonished to find that I had unconsciously learned it by heart – indeed, I knew the whole play by heart, I soon realized. It so happened that this speech was the longest one in the play. When I finished there was stunned silence. Miss Lenfesty then gave a rather lengthy speech of her own, in which she compared lazy & conscientious students. I was embarrassed; I knew that the implied praise was unmerited, and I also knew that it was not going to endear me to my classmates.

By Grade 7, verbs had become a major preoccupation. Charts illustrating irregular verbs and verb families hung in a frieze around the classroom above the blackboards. “Avoir au futur!” Mr. Baugh would bellow, whacking the appropriate chart with his pointer. “J’aurai, tu auras, il aura, nous aurons, vous.....,” we chanted in unison. ‘Bon ! Choisir a L’imparfait’. Another order, another whack on the chart, and the chorus droned on. Sometimes by of a change of pace Mr Baugh would shout “Levez vous!” and we would spring alertly into the aisle for a brisk round of “Simon dit.” Refreshed by these calisthenics, we returned with new energy to our verbs. This method of teaching verbs was excellent as far as it went. Just name the verb, person and tense and I can still snap out an answer as quickly as I could if asked for the product of 7 times nine (without counting on my fingers). Ask me to provide a context for the verb – now that’s another story.

In Grade 9, Mrs Gulliksen was our French and our homeroom teacher. She taught us the French words to “O Canada.” “O Canada! Terre de nos aieux.....” We carolled at the start of every day, finding in the poetic imagery of this version a new perspective on our home and native land and its history.

My French Education – contd.

Our Grade 10 French teacher was (as far as I know) the only one of the lot whose native language was French. Miss van Reet was right off the boat from Belgium, trailing clouds of European glamour (and perfume). In an era when most female teachers wore pleated plaid skirts, twin sets and sensible shoes, she wore tight fitting tailored suits with plunging necklines and high heels. She wore pancake makeup on her face, mascara on her eyelashes and henna in her hair. Fearlessly she set out to correct our accents. The way we pronounced the word “femme” particularly irked her. “FEM” “Non non non!” The word is “femme” expostulated Miss van Reet. “F-A-A-A-A-m-m-e,” she repeated, opening her mouth wide and drawing the vowel out like an opera singer hanging on to a note. Make her r-r-r-round – she rolled her R with Gallic fervour – “and sexy!”. She sketched a curvaceous figure in the air with her hands. For an instant shock waves from the S word reverberated through the room; as they subsided, we stared stolidly back at our teacher, fifteen girls in grey pleated skirts, starched white blouses and navy blazers. Our reaction was unspoken but palpable. The word was spelt f-e-m-m-e, we had always said FEM and saw no reason to change. French women were quite sexy enough already without any help from us!

In Grade 11, Mr Bolla, a tall, dark, balding man with a florid complexion taught us French. We started off the year with a text called “L’évasion du Duc de Beaufort,” a typical Hachette publication in ultra-slim paper back format. I think it was an excerpt from a story by Alexandre Dumas. The Duc found himself in prison for reasons that were either unclear to me or are long forgotten. To while away the time he built a little gallows out of wood. One day when he was served lobster for lunch he playfully hung the shell from his gallows. Great was the horror and indignation of the prison warden who interpreted this act as an insupportable insult to Cardinal Mazarin. At this point in the story Mr. Bolla always wandered off into a lengthy aside in which he explained that : A Cardinal was not a bird but a superior kind of Bishop; Cardinals wore red gowns; Lobsters turned red when you cooked them; In hanging the lobster from the gallows the Duc was hanging the Cardinal in effigy and hanging the cardinal even if only in effigy was a naughty thing to do. “Right,” we said.

Given the title of the story, I suppose that at some point he must have escaped from prison, but obviously the feat was anticlimactic as I no longer remember how he did it.

At the end of Grade 11 we had the major hurdle of a French oral exam to get over. An inspector from the Dept of Education would come to assess our competence in spoken French. Ever since Grade 9 we had been anticipating this event. Like theatre students preparing for an audition, all of us had written out, memorized and practiced ad nauseum, little speeches on such topics as “ Mon actrice favorite,” “Un film que j’ai vu,” or “Un livre que j’ai lu.” The dreaded day arrived and we were sent in, two by two, to see the examiner. My partner was Pauline Jackson. That day, pinned to her cardigan, was a ceramic brooch in the shape of a Burro with a sombrero on his head and baskets of flowers on his back. The examiners eyes immediately focused on this object and he began to question her about it : “How had she come by the brooch?” “ What kind of animal was it?” “What country did he come from?”

My French Education – contd.

I froze in my seat, appalled and indignant that the man would depart from the prescribed script in this manner! It was not only mean and unfair, it was unsporting! Pauline however handled the situation with aplomb. She answered all the questions in a way that impressed me, if not the examiner. In my turn, I was allowed to gabble on about a book or a film – I no longer remember which, Pauline’s ordeal clearly having made a more lasting impression on me than my own – We both escaped with passing grades.

I went on to study French at University where, to my surprise, I found that we were expected to read entire books in the language. Not only that – we were expected to write essays and answer exam questions in it as well. This I managed to do adequately, without any discernable improvement in my ability to interact with a real live French speaker.

Now that I live in St. Lambert I have opportunities to practice my French. Just the other day, as I was crossing the parking lot behind the Senior’s Centre, a woman stopped me. Without difficulty I immediately grasped the verb in her question “avoir” au present avec vous ! But avez-vous what ? The rest of the sentence was mystifying. There ensued a few rounds of query negotiation, in which she re-posed her question and I aired my store of useful phrases : “Comprends pas;” “veuillez repeter;” “ Plus lentement, s’il vous plait;”

*.....
Finally light dawned. “Oui, oui, oui!” I exclaimed with relief , looking at my watch, “Trois heures et demi !”*

Editors note:

The detail of the memories contained in this piece & the one that stimulated it from the fall Newsletter are real evidence of the impact that teachers have on their young and impressionable charges. Those of us with children or grandchildren who have entered the noble profession of teaching would do well to use these articles as an illustration of that fact.

Re- French Education, it is interesting that since the times described here, English school boards in Quebec have developed a wide variety of French programs, including “French Immersion” in an effort to produce increasingly bi-lingual students. Both English Boards on the Island of Montreal have just recently announced initiatives to further enrich their French programs as a result of demands made by parents and in an effort to attract English students back from French Schools where there are a considerable number of English eligible students.

A New Alphabet

*A's for arthritis;
B's the bad back,
C's for chest pains, perhaps car-d-iac
D is for dental decay and decline,
E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!*

*F is for fissures and fluid retention,
G is for gas which I'd rather not mention.*

*H is for high blood pressure – I'd rather it low;
I is for incisions with scars you can show.*

*J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,
K is for knees that crack when they bend.*

L's for libido, what happened to sex?

*M is for memory, I forget what comes next.
N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low;
O is for osteo, bones that don't grow!*

*P is for prescriptions, I have quite a few,
Just give me a pill and I'll be good as new!*

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?

R is for reflux, one meal turns to two

*S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears,
T is for tinnitus ; bells in my ears!*

*U is for urinary; troubles with flow;
V is for vertigo, that's dizzy you know.*

*W for worry , NOW what's going round?
X is for X ray, and what might be found.*

*Y for another year I'm left here behind,
Z is for zest I still have – in my mind.*

*I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed, and
I'm keeping twenty six doctors fully employed!!!*

Groaners !

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novacaine during a root canal ?

His Goal: "Transcend dental medication !"

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked about barefoot most of the time. This produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet.

He also ate very little which made him rather frail.

His odd vegetarian diet resulted in him suffering from bad breath.

This made him: "A super callused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis !"

A vulture lined up to board an airplane carrying two dead raccoons.

The stewardess looked at him and said "I'm sorry sir, only one carrion per passenger !"

Editorial note: Yes these are terrible and there is no-one to blame but me !!!!!

Finally some letters, or excerpts from Letters that even "Abby" had trouble answering !

Dear Abby

I have a man I can't trust. He cheats so much, I'm not even sure the baby I'm carrying is his !

Dear Abby

Our son writes that he has taken up Judo. Why would a boy who was raised in a good Christian home turn against his own ?

Dear Abby

I joined the Navy to see the world. I've seen it. Now how do I get out ?

Dear Abby

My forty year old son has been paying a psychiatrist \$50.00 an hour every week for two and a half years. He must be crazy !

Dear Abby

I was married to Bill for three months and I didn't know he drank until one night he came home sober !

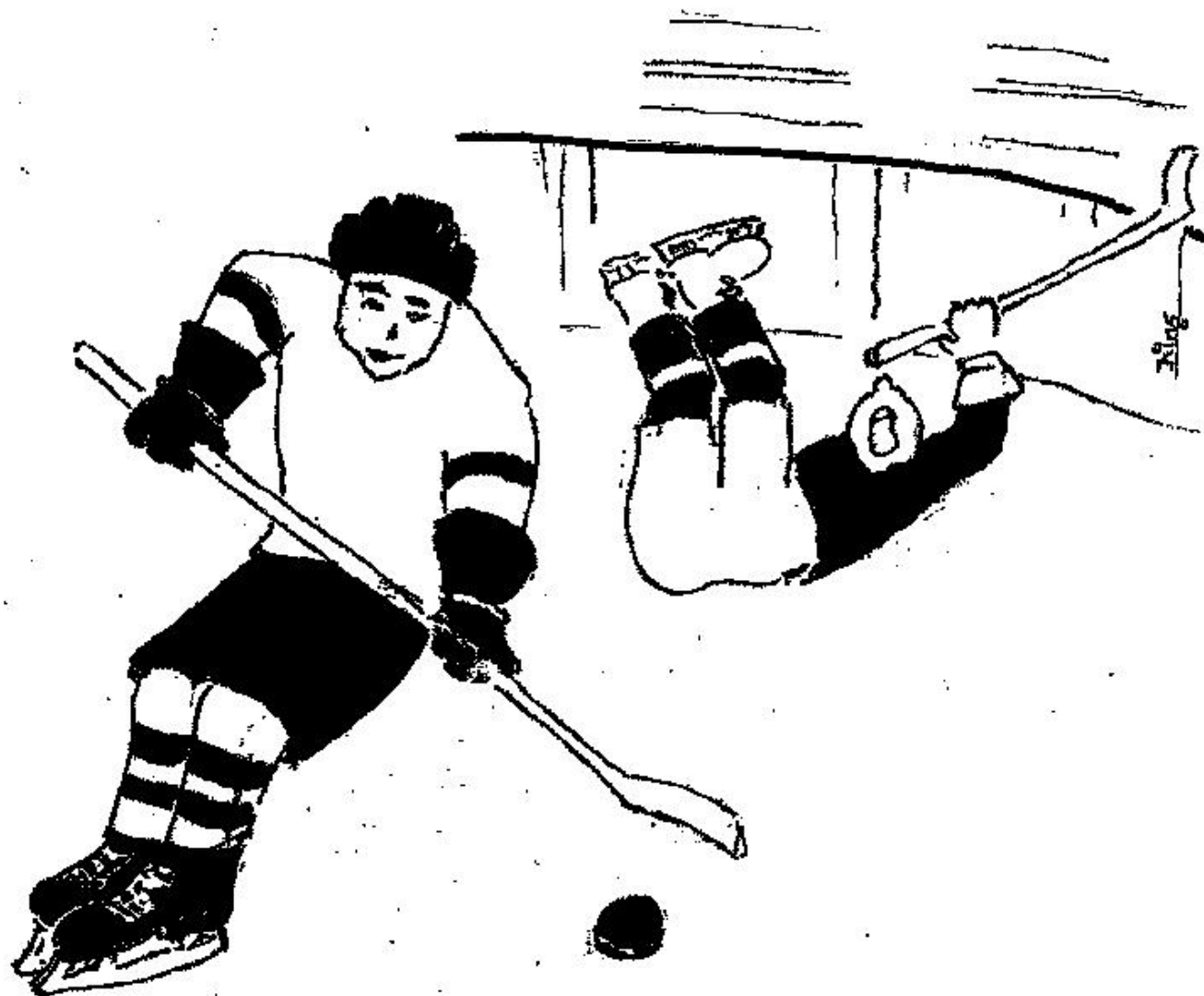
Dear Abby

You told some woman whose husband had lost interest in sex to send him to a doctor. Well, my husband is a doctor. Now what do I do ?

**The Quebec
Provincial Association
Of Retired School
Educators**



**Association provinciale
du personnel
d'enseignement
retraite du Quebec**



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