

The Quebec  
Provincial Association  
of Retired School  
Educators



Association provinciale  
du personnel  
d'enseignement  
retraite du Quebec



May Showers bring flowers and grass-cutting  
then its time to lie back and relax in the pool



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## QPARSE PROGRAM CALENDAR 2011

DATE	TIME	PLACE
OCTOBER 19 <sup>th</sup>	12.45 p.m.(Wednesday)	EMSB/Patterson Room <b>Fall Luncheon for Retirees</b> (Free will donation)
DECEMBER 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m. (Thursday)	EMSB/PATTERSON ROOM <b>HOLIDAY CELEBRATION</b> Dix Mille Village Table (arts & Crafts, jewellery, gift items)
	12.30 p.m.	Lunch" Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant
<b>2012</b>		
FEBRUARY 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00a.m. (Tuesday)	Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant <b>Paul Barnes? QPAT &amp; Rep/SSQ</b> Insurance information/who owns your policy? How are premiums determined?
	12.30 p.m.	Lunch follows
MARCH 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00 a, (Friday)	EMSB/Patterson Room/WORKSHOP <b>Investors Group</b> /estate planning-income planning, Tax Planning - Long term care insurances LUNCH PROVIDED following presentation
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m. (Thursday)	Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant <b>Author: Sheila McLeod</b> <b>Arnopoulos/Investigative Journalist</b> "Attacking poverty through micro credit" Challenges in India
	12.30 p.m.	Lunch follows
MAY 8th	9.30 am (Tuesday)	EMSB/PATTERSON ROOM <b>AGM</b>
	12.30 p.m.	Lunch: Carmines Tuscany Grill

Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant is at 5525 Cote St Luc Road, H3X 2C6 (514-484-7525)  
**Guests Welcome:** Please inform the Events Co-ordinator Ken Cooke (514-485-9118) if you  
attending the luncheons. Program information, contact Erene Anthony (514-626-8002) or  
[www.qparse-apperq.org](http://www.qparse-apperq.org)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This past year has been a most difficult one for this President and the Protestant Retired Teachers' Homes and Benefits Corporation Board (PRTH&B). It became more and more evident that a decision would have to be made concerning the future of the Robinson Residence. It is with regret that the PRTH & B Board made the announcement on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the QPARSE/PRTH&B AGM, of the closing of the Robinson Residence as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.

Over the years, considerable time and effort to maintain this stately residence through donations, monies bequeathed, love and generosity has sustained this endeavour. The increasing financial demands of salaries, maintenance, and Provincial Certification requirements resulted in this operation no longer being viable. The average age of our residents is 90 years with no available nursing care it resulted in there often being vacancies which created a constant problem. Operating deficits have been a challenge down through the years and now the time has come to bid farewell.

For those of you who are "new" to QPARSE and for those who care, I would like to recap a little on the history of this stately "old lady".

How many of our present members remember that the Robinson Residence in Cowansville started out as the Canadian Centennial Project of the Protestant Teachers in Quebec? The Protestant Retired Teachers' Homes and Benefits Corporation was formed when in 1959, 23 forward looking retired teachers under the driving leadership of Helen Shearing, had the courage and foresight to seek and get from the Quebec Government a charter for the corporation. Its avowed aim was to establish and operate "a residence for the retired teachers who wished to use such facilities". By 1967, after considerable effort to finance through many fund-raising projects, the Robinson Residence became a reality. An impressive brick mansion was purchased, elegant with its stately white columns supporting the gallery over the front entrance, tall, magnificent windows shaded by spreading pines, all set in a 10 acre tract of land, sweeping back to the Yamaska River.

Forty-four years of service to retired teachers, that's the story of the Robinson Residence. In the chapters of this story, it would tell of the many hard working and loving staff who attended to the needs of the residents with unselfish enthusiasm. It would also mention the many members of the Board who, throughout the years, have contributed unselfishly of their time, effort and dedication. A chapter would have to include the countless number of volunteers who passed through the doors offering programs that would brighten the residents' day. The most important chapter would be dedicated to the

residents' themselves who brought to life this stately residence and gave it the character that continues until this day.

I would like to thank all those who have passed through the doors of the Robinson Residence over the years for their dedication, love and devotion.

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER CONTINUES**

The QPARSE and PRTH & B Boards will continue to operate as they do now. Decisions will be made at a later date regarding monies received from the sale of the property, I can assure members that we will continue to support the retired educators as we have in the past.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the members of QPARSE a joyful summer season. I sincerely hope that your life and the weather is warm, sunny, rewarding and that you will return to QPARSE in October with full enthusiasm. Our first event of the Fall Luncheon for Retirees held at EMSB and I hope to see you all there.

Sandra K. Aird  
President QPARSE/PRTH&B

## **THE ROBINSON - THE WINDING DOWN PROCEDURE**

The Robinson Board" (PRTH & B Corporation) has been talking for over five years about the future of the residence as yearly we have had to use funds from our invested assets. Last year we contacted a local lawyer for advice and then in early January we asked for further direction from the QPARSE lawyer who passed our file to a corporate lawyer. In April the sad day arrived when we voted on resolutions to close our residence by the end of December 31, 2011.

With the lawyer's guidance, letters of work termination were given to the staff May 2<sup>nd</sup> and to the residents and their designated care-giver on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

With much regret and great feeling, we offered a generous package to our staff giving them eight weeks pay after their last day worked in addition to four week's pay for each year they worked for us.

The residents' indemnity was for three complimentary months lodging plus moving expenses up to 150 km in Canada from the residence.

A real estate agent and an appraiser have toured the premises in order to determine an asking price. Once this has been completed, the "Robinson Board" will meet with the real estate agent, discussion will take place and our president will sign on behalf of the board that the RR is on the market for sale.

Once all is said and done in the future, we will then discuss the placement of the profits of the sale mindful of our original mission.

Gary Crandall Vice-President

## Contact QPARSE

If you would like to submit an article, story, poem, anecdote etc or make a correction to the newsletter, When e-mailing Dick Meades with an article, or Ellen Holzman with membership information, please start your info in the "Subject Space" with QPARSE. This should avoid messages sometimes being shuffled off into the "Junk" folder. Many Thanks  
Please contact: Dick Meades, Editor, 26 Broadview Avenue, Pointe Claire, Québec H9R 3Z2: 514-695-2164 or by e-mail: [dickmeades@gmail.com](mailto:dickmeades@gmail.com)

You are also invited to contact our website at:

[www.qparse-apperq.org/e/feedback.shtml](http://www.qparse-apperq.org/e/feedback.shtml)

This Newsletter will now be published twice a year, in November and June by,  
The Quebec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER EDITION OF THE  
NEWSLETTER IS OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> 2011**

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## 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 he act for you, there will be a charge.

Andrea F. Durso, Notary      Tel: 514-931-2531  
4635 Sherbrooke St. West      Fax: 514-931-2534  
Westmount,  
QC H3Z 1G2

# QPARSE Annual General Meeting 2011

## Board of Directors Report Submitted by Sandra K. Aird

My first year as President has been a learning experience for me and the "new" members of the Board. We were very fortunate to have the expertise of two past Presidents and seasoned Board members who guided us through. I was extremely pleased when Ann MacLeish agreed to stay on our Board as a Director. I would like to thank them for their support. Unfortunately, 3 members of our present Board will be leaving us. I would like to thank Joseph Hackett and Hyacinth Layne and my sincere gratitude to Robin Narsted who has been a member of the QPARSE Board for many years. Robin was a strong support to this president and was always there when called upon. She certainly will be missed.

Last June prior to becoming President I was fortunate to attend my first ACER-CART AGM meeting in Ottawa. This was an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed. It was a pleasure as well as very informative to sit with retired teachers who represented 10 provinces and 3 territories. It gave me considerable insight to what is happening across this great country and the amount of work that is done on our behalf in dealings with the Federal Government. (Please see additional information, CART report)

The annual Garden Party at the Robinson Residence June 2010 in Cowansville was, as usual, very successful. This residence is a beautiful building located on property that looks over the Yamaska River. I would like to extend my thank you to the PRTH&B Board, staff, volunteers, and the residents who have welcomed us over the years. This is also repeated at Christmas when a superb lunch is prepared by the staff and with the residents we get to enjoy each other's company. At that time the QPARSE Board represented by Alanna Dow, Correspondence/Goodwill, gives each resident a Christmas gift.

The retired teachers, over 65, were shocked at the severe increase in the premium put forth by Industrial Alliance Insurance Company for 2011. This increase was as a result of drug costs not covered by RAMQ and payments to private medical facilities. In addition, we now benefit from coverage for 180 days for out of country medical travel insurance. Cancellation insurance is still under discussion but there is a possibility that it will be offered as an option in 2012.

The fee structure for QPARSE remains a constant matter for discussion. The lifetime fee increased to \$85.00 in 2011 and consideration is being given to the possibility of charging

for mailing of the Newsletter. Many of our members have email address but there are still more than 700 hard copies being sent out. We ask if you have an email address and it is not on file with our Membership Chair, Ellen Holzman, that you contact her.

Our program for 2011-2012 will also face a change. We will no longer have events in November and January. During this past year, our Program and Event Chairpersons have tried their best to provide interesting and stimulating events but attendance has fallen considerably. An average of 25 members and at times less is making it difficult to obtain good guest speakers, who often give freely of their time. Securing a room at Carmine's Tuscany Grill also has become a problem due to costs for the restaurant to staff and provide adequate food service for such a small group. I would like to ask, that whenever possible you make every effort to support QPARSE events next year.

There are many issues that face the Retired Teacher and only through an organization such as ours can we have an influence on matters such as, pension indexing, insurance policies and many other concerns that face us now and in the future on both Provincial and Federal levels. This can only be done with the membership of QPARSE being fully behind our efforts to adequately represent you in all aspects of our endeavors. As President I ask for your support by participating where possible in meetings or with suggestions as to how we can improve. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to find an answer.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable summer and look forward to see you at our first get together in the Patterson Room, EMSB, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for the "Fall Luncheon for Retirees".

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS  
(ACER - CART) 2011  
Report to QPARSE Annual Meeting, May 10th, 2011**

This year ACER-CART is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year as an association. In the words of President Vaughn Wadelius, "we can be proud of our efforts over the years to promote issues affecting retired teachers. Equally important is the forum we provide for the exchange of ideas among our member associations, and with like-minded national groups of seniors." When in June 1991, the representatives from nine Retired Teachers Associations in seven provinces and, the Canadian Teachers Federation met for the organizational meeting, Bill Munro and Don McQuat of the Quebec Retired Teachers Association were in attendance.



The **19th Annual General Meeting** of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER-CART) was held June 4-5, 2010 at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel. It was attended by twenty-seven delegates, representing 13 of the 14 retired teacher organizations in Canada. QPARSE was represented by Pat Steele, Past President and, Sandra Aird, President. A Certificate of Service was presented to Pat Steele for her fine contribution to ACER- CART during her years of service on the Board.

For the first time, a pre-AGM information session was held on the afternoon of Thursday, June 3. Ed Zegray, our Quebec Regional Representative, reviewed an information hand-out on federal **Bill C-516 (guaranteed Income Supplement changes)**. This was followed by an informative **workshop session** presented by John Staple, Deputy Secretary General of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) on the topic of **"how to lobby politicians effectively"**.

Member organizations presented and discussed events, issues and concerns of their respective associations. Reports of the activities of the ACER-CART committees (Pension and Retirement Income; Communications; Health Services and Insurance and Legislation) are a regular feature of the AGM and indicate the effort expended during the previous year to advocate and publicize the positions proposed by the national organization.

A representative from Johnson Inc., Lori MacDonald-Blundon, gave an interesting **presentation on "Cross Canada Drug Costs and Plan Coverage"**. Delegates were introduced to a new AGM Handbook binder format. ACER-CART made additional efforts to provide communications equally in French and English.

This past year, ACER-CART was disappointed to learn that the largest Quebec association (AREQ), a founding member of ACER-CART twenty years ago, has decided to withdraw from ACER-CART, to pursue other priorities. The 2011 AGM will accept the resignation for it to become effective.

The **motions adopted at the 2010 AGM**, publicized previously in our Newsletters, have been acted upon. Lobbying efforts and goals identified at the AGM work best when all the member associations and affiliated organizations communicate with a common position to government. ACER-CART provides support materials for member associations in their lobbying efforts. CTF sought ACER-CART support when the Government of Canada (CIDA) rejected the submitted CTF International Cooperation Programs' proposals for 2010-2015. QPARSE, together with the other provincial organizations, wrote and requested the Government of Canada to reconsider their decision to reject the CTF proposal.

Since one of **ACER-CART's priorities for 2010-11 is the "Protection of seniors from fraud"**, the organization asked the National Seniors Organizations (CNSO) members to lobby the federal government on the issue of investment and fraud against seniors. Lobbying action taken by several groups (including ACER-CART) seems to have prompted the government to consider whether the "no application" option for obtaining the OAS and GIS. In addition, the

ACER-CART website [www.acer-cart.org](http://www.acer-cart.org) has posted an article on "Elder Abuse in Canada". On June 15<sup>th</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Elder Abuse Awareness Day is being observed.

ACER-CART also expressed concern regarding the fact that the Long Form Census Survey is no longer Compulsory.

The annual 2010 ACER-CART election returned all but one of the previous executive officers: President, Vaughn Wadelius (Manitoba); the four Regional Representatives are ATLANTIC: Dr. Thomas Gaskell - Nova Scotia; QUEBEC Ed Zegray - Montreal; ONTARIO: Brian Kenny; WEST - Dean McMullen - Alberta; Past President Helen Biales from Windsor. The Executive is supported by Executive Director Norbert Boudreau with secretarial assistance provided by CTF support staff person Lynne Richard, and financial management by CTF's Debbie McCarthy.

As a result of the call for a federal election on May 2, 2011, a special website page was set up for replies by federal parties to questions posed by ACER-CART.

On your behalf, I express my thanks and appreciation to **Merle Lewis**, who continues to provide ACER-CART with invaluable information on Quebec seniors' health, tax and pension issues; to **Jean LeGuillou** for his services in the translation of reports and documents for ACER-CART and; to **Dick Meades and Tom Murray** for helping to publicize the affairs of ACER-CART to our membership in the Newsletter and on the QPARSE website, respectively.

Respectfully submitted,

Renate Sutherland  
ACER-CART Director

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT TO QPARSE AGM 2010-2011**

In the year since the last AGM meeting in May 2010, the following have been recorded.-

There were 26 new members as compared with 53 in the previous AGM report.

There were 34 deaths and 24 members who have gone astray.

There are also 39 members who are unaccounted for since October 2009. The names of these 'missing persons' have been published in the newsletters.

After 2 years, if not found, these members are removed from the active membership list.

Presently there are 1295 members. Last year there were 1329 members at this time and the year before that, 1345.

These figures show that the membership is slowly declining. For the long term continued existence of QPARSE, it is essential that we encourage our retired educator friends and acquaintances to join us.

Of our total membership, 722 people are still receiving mailing via snail mail .As we know, postage and printing costs continue to escalate yearly. Thus, if you do have an email address, we would be grateful if you would let us know.

Several members have made voluntarily contributions towards postage costs and membership. We are very thankful to them.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Robin Narsted, Alana Dow, and Tom Murray for their cooperation and assistance with membership matters.

Wishing you all a happy summer.

Ellen Holzman,  
Membership Director

## **QPARSE PROGRAM REPORT - 2010-2011**

### **Our Appreciation:**

We extend our sincere thanks to those members who graced us with their presence throughout the past year and ask for your continued support. Most of our events were held at Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant on Cote St Luc Road and a few were held at the EMSB.

Our designated room at Carmine's allowed us an opportunity for real enjoyable and social interactions. The meals were excellent and the price was reasonable. We were particularly pleased when members joined us for lunch even though they were unable to attend the scheduled event. Attendance was usually 25 to 30. We welcome this, however, we would like to encourage and appeal to the members at large to make a greater effort to attend the 2011-2012 events.

I must commend the members of the Board of Directors for their resourcefulness and monthly commitment that enable us to carry out our programs.

### **Program Highlights:**

Approximately 50 members attended our Fall Luncheon for retirees. The highlight of the day was, welcoming new members to that reception and sharing stories of our past work experiences. Our goal is to encourage this level of attendance so that we can have a respectable showing, particularly when we sponsor speakers for our workshops.

The Montreal West Operatic Society graced us with beautiful renditions of holiday songs in December while retirees shopped as usual from Dix Mille Village. Our Gold Party and Wellness workshops were quite successful with lots of fun. There is an interest in presenting another Wellness workshop. This is an area of life to which our retirees are giving priority and we would like to continue to provide you with interesting presentations in this area.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our presenters were unable to attend our events on **Insurance** and **Haiti**, however, our Luncheon sessions for these two were truly special.

### **PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN IMPROVE YOUR PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE.**

We welcome your ideas and suggestions for the upcoming year and may be able to fit in extra activities from time to time. Our upcoming June 2 Lachine Canal Boat Ride is an example. Do join us.

You may contact any member of the Board of QPARSE listed in the front of the Newsletter or:

Ken Cooke,	Events Coordinator	(514) 485-9118
Erene Anthony,	Program Director	(514) 626-8002

### **GOODWILL REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Birthday cards were sent to the 35 Super Seniors (those 90 and over) who have identified themselves to us. It is a pleasure to note that we are receiving many requests from members to be added to the list. Birthdates were not provided in the past, so we depend on members to inform us of their status and that of their friends.

Once again Christmas stockings were filled for the ladies of the Robinson Residence. These were presented to them at the lovely Christmas sing-along and dinner held at the retirement home in December.

The 205 QPARSE members who have been retired for 25 years or more received Holiday and Spring booklets of 10 pages each containing poetry, jokes and puzzles. An attempt is made to provide a variety of both materials and levels of difficulty.

My thanks to Anastasia Adamakis and Mair Richards for their help in folding booklets and in stuffing, labelling and stamping envelopes.

We have been sent many notes of appreciation for these publications and have received several much-appreciated donations to cover the cost of postage for the Newsletter and the booklets.

Final word of thanks go to Membership director Ellen Holzman for keeping the Super Seniors list up to date, and for providing the labels for the mailings to 25-year retirees.

Respectfully submitted  
Allana Dow, Chair, Goodwill Committee

## **QPARSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2010**

The assets for the Association for December 31, 2010 were \$129 283.97, an increase of \$1251.17 from December 31, 2009. Income and expenses were both reduced from last year.

Our capital improved last year as stock markets continued to rebound. Income from new members was considerably lower last year. The cost of the Newsletter continues to decline as we are printing and mailing less copies. Most of our other expenses are at the same level as last year.

In the Auditors Report to the members, Phyllis McGlashan reported that she had examined the record of assets, receipts, and disbursements of the Association for the period ending December 31, 2010, and certified that the Treasurer's Report was correct.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald Berry

## **NEWSLETTER REPORT FOR THE A.G.M.**

Three issues of the Newsletter will have been produced by years end, this year. Sept/Oct, Jan/Feb & finally May/June. The latter is being worked on presently. For the coming year there will be Two issues, Nov. & June. The Fall edition will be replaced by mailing(s) that will outline the years programme & upcoming events. This decision was made for two reasons:

- It was felt that the Fall Newsletter went out too late to inform the membership about upcoming events etc.
- To stay within the existing budget for postage.

The coming editions will continue to be 28 pages.

Since the retirement of Bill Hine we have not had a regular replacement submitting cover designs & we have only had one submission from a member. Submissions of Drawings, designs, stylized b/w photos would be most welcome. Also we would welcome articles, artwork, jokes etc. for our upcoming issues.

Thanks go to Kathy Malcius who has stepped in as an assistant Editor & to Rosemary Stewart for her typing & layout work.

Respectfully Submitted  
Dick Meades

## WEB SITE REPORT FOR 2010

Our Web Site [qparse-apperq.org](http://qparse-apperq.org) provides our president with a way to pass on the "Latest News" to our members. Gray power activities of ACER-CART, job opportunities and school reunions. Members may also check our event calendar of speakers, workshops and trips. It is a place we can all go to when we want to verify the timing of an event.

Our email list is now over 500 members who get alerts about newsletters and event reminders. Most new members are comfortable with Internet. Photos and reports on events are welcome.

Members with web experience are encouraged to get involved in building pages. I have been doing the web site for six years and am ready for someone to take over.

It is a pleasure to serve  
Tom Murray

## **PRTH& B CORPORATION ROBINSON RESIDENCE - MANAGER'S REPORT 2010**

The Robinson Residence finished the year with ten residents, two of whom were educators. The average age was 89.3.

Our Board of Directors remembered our residents with flowers on special occasions such as Valentine's and Easter, and the staff with chocolates. Each birthday was celebrated and on special holidays the house was decorated accordingly.

The upkeep of the Residence is ongoing and this summer two air conditioners were purchased for the common areas such as the dining room and the Grand Salon. They were certainly appreciated during the extreme heat we had.

We are very grateful for the many volunteers who share their time with us in many ways. Our Board of Directors give generously of their time to govern the Residence. We have pet therapy weekly, bingo, piano playing, singing, weekly 500 games, worship services, drives in the country, to name a few. A luncheon was held in April to honour these folk, who add much to the well being of our residents.

The Robinson Residence is a beautiful property and the back porch is the place to be when the weather is favourable, many hours of enjoyment can be had there. The flowers and feeders attract many hummingbirds. A few of our hearty residents will bundle up and absorb the fresh air and sunshine well into the fall months.

The Annual Garden Party was held in June. It was a cool, damp day but this year the tent was put adjacent to the 3 car garage which enable everyone to enjoy themselves with excellent refreshments and visiting.

Our Christmas Party was held on December 02/10 with 48 in attendance. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves at this event as well.

Our vegetable garden was smaller this year but we had a good return. Our residents enjoy fresh produce as it is available. Other than the traditional meals for the various holidays, a spring "sugar shack" meal, with sugar on snow was enjoyed.

In May our Garage Sale was held on the front lawn. It was profitable and it is the ideal spot for a sale. Some of our residents were out to view everything and also to visit with some of the customers.

The staff are dedicated to the care and comfort of our clients and we continue to maintain our standards for certification with course up-dates for all employees. We have applied to be re-certified for May 2011.

We welcome visitors, especially at 3:00 PM when tea, homemade goodies are served in the tea room over looking the lake. Regardless of the weather outside, there is always a warm welcome inside.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Beattie

## **PRTH & B CORPORATION 2010 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT TREASURER/TRUSTEE**

In 2010 the Corporation received \$4214 from 29 donors, 2 of which were in memory of a deceased friend or relative. This compares with \$2745 from 38 donors in 2009. Letters of appreciation were sent to all donors with their receipts.

As of the April 15, 2011, \$245 had been received for this current year. We welcome your financial support. As a registered charity, all donations are tax deductible.

Our sincere thank you to all those who made donations last year. Many of our donors have given faithfully for several years. Your donations have helped us make the Robinson truly a home for its residents.

Graeme Sutherland - Assistant Treasurer/Trustee

The **PRTH & B Corp Financial statement** is a detailed 6 page document that is far too long to publish in this Newsletter. As announced in the reports of President Sandra Aird and Vice President Gary Crandall, the Robinson Residence has been drawing on its capital assets now for a number of years as expenses have far exceeded income. Hence the difficult decision has been made to close the Robinson Residence as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. Should you wish to see a copy of the full financial report, please contact us via the web-site or by mail.

R.J. Meades  
Editor



## **PRTH & B CORPORATION ROBINSON RESIDENCE PUBLICITY REPORT FOR 2010**

This report is 'short and sweet' as I continue to do as I have done for many years—write publicity for any occasion which takes place at the Robinson Residence for Seniors in Cowansville and send it to our local English paper—The Record.

I also organize and contact volunteers who are willing to play bingo with the residents once a week from September to the end of May.

Respectfully submitted,  
Evelyn Beban Lewis, Publicity

### **NOTES FROM THE GOODWILL COMMITTEE:**

We thank the following members for their notes of appreciation for the Holiday and Spring booklets (sent to those retired 25 years and more) and the Newsletter: Eileen Cornell Wales, Ellen Stevenson, David Benett, Margaret and Jean Laird, and Joanne Wilson.

We wish Richard Jones (May 9) and J. Esme Laflin belated 'Happy Birthday', having heard from them that they have achieved Super Senior status.

Several members, who wish to remain anonymous, have sent donations to cover postage costs. These are much appreciated.

Remember to let us know when you, or another QPARSE member, attain Super Senior status (90 years of age).

Please read the Goodwill report to AGM in this publication for further information on the committee's work of the past year.

Alanna Dow, Chair,  
Goodwill Committee

## Super Seniors' Birthdays to the end of 2011:

Our very best wishes to the following:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
June 8	Eileen Cornell Wales	92
June 17	June Howie-Bullock	92
July 10	Helen Shutt	95
July 13	Gladys Gummer	96
July 29	N Ellen Stevenson	97
August 4	Gloria Bellam	92
August 11	Ruth A Johnson	103
August 17	Thomas Wallace	96
September 4	J Esme Laflin	90
October 6	Hilda Little	96
October 19	Doris Cookman	98
November 9	Leslie Clark	93
November 21	Kenneth Hill	94
November 29	George Rothney	91
December 1	Lorne Hamilton	94
December 7	Bessie Maconnachie	98
December 7	Nancy A Drury	92
December 7	Lillian Parkinson	92
December 20	Margaret Weeks	94
December 29	Norma Westman	92

## MEMBERSHIP

The following Members are new to the Association since our last newsletter, and we welcome them to QPARSE.

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
Westlake	Sidney	Montreal, QC
Allen	Richard	West Bolton, QC
Nadler	Julie	Lachine, QC

## NEWSLETTER STRAYS

When a newsletter is returned, we put out a special appeal to our members for information. You are our best source for discovering the reasons for that return. Please check the following list of returned newsletters, and send any information to

Ellen Holzman  
6067 MacDonald Avenue, Montreal, QC, H3X 2W9  
(E-mail: [mcellen@yahoo.com](mailto:mcellen@yahoo.com))  
(Please write QPARSE in the subject line)

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
Graham	Marian	Dorval, Qc
Dix	Joan	Ottawa, On
Stewart	Alexander P.	St, Sauveur, Qc
Sher	Olga	Montreal, Qc
Kendall	Catherine	Ayer's Cliff, QC
Bury	Josie	Pointe Claire, QC

## WE REMEMBER

We remember also, the following members of QPARSE who have passed away since the last newsletter. We join with their families and friends in remembrance.

<b>Date (if known)</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
2010	Wood	Glenn	Peterborough, Ont.
May 22,2010	Evans	John	Montreal West, QC
Nov.27-2010	Macdonald	Walter Larry	Lachine, Qc
Dec.3-2010	Staniforth *	Reta	Lachute, Qc
Dec 24-2010	Barnett	Anne Elizabeth	Laval, Qc
Dec.27,2010	Teesler	Horace	Lachine, Qc
Jan. 22,2011	Farquharson	Margaret	Pointe Claire, Quebec
Feb. 01,2011	Quilliams	Pat	West Bolton, QC
Feb 21,2011	Vallance	Bernice	Nanaimo, BC
Mar 18,2011	Higgins	Daisy	Lachine, Qc

## NEWS FROM THE ROBINSON RESIDENCE

Evelyn Beban Lewis

April 21st was the date of the luncheon to honour our volunteers. The weather outside was wintry & Christmas decorations would not have been out of place but the home was decorated with Easter Bunnies & eggs & offered a cozy welcome inside.

Vice President Gary Crandall with his wife Beverly & Matron Margaret Beatty welcomed everyone with name tags & greetings. We were joined by Rev. Allan Gault & his wife Anna as well as Rev. David Warner.

Over a glass of wine, a great deal of chatting by both guests & residents took place. Gary & Matron Margaret offered thanks to everyone for coming & for their contributions to the life of the residence. These volunteers offer many activities: Church Services, singing, card games, animal visits & Bingo just to name a few. Board members were introduced & apologies offered for those unable to attend.

Rev. Gault said Grace before the residents went to their places & guests proceeded to the delicious buffet prepared by Chef Judy Jones & staff. As usual the staff made sure that everyone was well served.

All too soon, it was time to say "Good bye" leaving this warm, friendly home to face the wintry weather outside but carrying warm hearted feelings from another successful gathering at the residence.

## INDEXATION OF PENSIONS: WHERE ARE WE AT IN 2011?

Here is a brief summary of what has happened and where we are now. This will set the context for those who have recently retired and also serve as a reminder for the others. Indexation of pensions is a Cost Of Living Allowance - if you have retired friends or relatives in the other provinces, they usually refer to this as COLA - which is calculated annually using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the rate is used to adjust various pensions (RRQ, OAS, CARRA, ...). Those who retired on or before June 1982 have had their CARRA pensions fully indexed every January 1<sup>st</sup> according to the rate for that year. In 1982, the government past a decree that not only rolled-back salaries, but also removed full indexation of pensions, (Bill 68). Henceforth, for years of service after 1982, the first 3% of the CPI was lost. In 2000, the government improved the situation slightly by indexing to at least half of the CPI for the years of service since January 2000. In a nutshell, years of service are translated to pension dollars, keeping a record of three

possible time periods: up until 1982/06/30; 1982/07/01 - 1999/12/31; and since 2000/01/01; and the CPI rate is applied differently for each period. (The end of this article gives you a link to find how much you have lost since retirement.)

In the fall of 2006, a coalition of associations of retired persons from the public/parapublic sectors was formed to speak out on behalf of the retirees. ACRA, QART and QPARSE joined the alliance in 2007. AAESQ also joined the group in the fall of 2008. Presently comprised of twelve associations of retirees, the Groupe de travail des associations de personnes retraitées des secteurs public et parapublic (GTAR) represents about 120 000 retirees from these sectors. GTAR's demands are threefold:

- Correct immediately the inequities in pensions for the years of service 1982- 1999 so as to give the same rate of indexation as for the years since 2000;
- Create a standing committee to discuss long term solutions to our increasing impoverishment since 1982;
- Determine realistic pension contribution rates once the standing committee has had a chance to make recommendations.

On November 5, 2007, AREQ organized a major rally in Montreal where 4000-5000 retirees joined forces to publicly protest the indexation losses suffered over the years. Then on September 30, 2009, AREQ launched another offensive with a rally grouping over 5000 retirees in front of the National Assembly in Québec and reiterated GTAR's demands.

The government reacted and mandated its Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances to investigate the indexation issue. The Commission held public hearings on February 2-3, 2010 and prepared an interim report that was deposited in the National Assembly on June 8, 2010. In this report, the Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances recommended the creation of a Consultative Committee, within CARRA, to examine services to retirees and the parameters of indexation.

On another front, the Common Front for the 2010 round of negotiations, was going ahead with only one demand concerning retirement: protect the purchasing power of those who worked during the 1982 - 2000 period (good news). However, in the dying hours of the blitz of negotiations, the Common Front opted to reduce their demands regarding pensions. They decided to favour the here and now (salaries and a more gradual increase in pension contributions, see next paragraph), rather than the there and then (indexation of pensions) (bad news). It's not hard to follow the storyline, unions take a cut on salaries (many union dues are a percentage, no max), but they get nothing from increased pensions to non-members.

Then on December 14, 2010, CARRA divulged the results of its latest actuarial evaluation of pension plans: a 3 billion dollar surplus for the RREGOP (good news); the contribution rates required to finance future retirees should be increased to 10.08% as of January 1, 2011 (bad news). But the collective agreement that had been recently negotiated with the Common Front limited the contribution rate to 8.69% for 2011 with a gradual increase to 10.08% over 3 years (bad news). Further, the unions accepted that the totality of the 3 billion dollar surplus be carried over to a new stabilization fund rather than be used to improve indexation (bad news).

Let's end on a positive note. From October to December 2010, Madame Michelle Courchesne, President of the Treasury Board, repeatedly confirmed to numerous associations her intention to announce the imminent formation of the Consultative Committee on the issues related to indexation (the one that the Parliamentary Commission recommended). This Committee is to be composed of representatives from retirees, not just from the unions (good news). This is not the permanent Standing Committee that GTAR has been asking for, but at least it will have representation from retirees. Also, CARRA has finally changed their accounting procedures, so that now surpluses can be truly recognized as such, and hopefully this Consultative Committee will have a say as to how future surpluses are to be used.

**DISCLAIMER:** The following exercise is not for those who have health related problems. Engage in this exercise only with EXTREME CAUTION!

How much have you lost due to partial indexation of pensions? If you dare, here is a link to the AREQ site: <http://areq.qc.net/exercice-de-calcul-de-la-perte-de-pouvoir-dachat/>

You will need your 2010 annual statement issued by CARRA in January 2011. It details the information as it applies to you, 1.7% for the fully indexed portion, 0% for the portion 1982-99, and 0.85% for the portion since 2000, if applicable.

1. Scroll down and insert the following: Your date of retirement - e.g. 1998-06-30.
2. Insert the following information that you will find on your 2010 annual statement from CARRA:
  1. Portion of pension indexed to the full PI rate (for service before July 82).
  2. Portion of pension indexed, basic rate - 3% (for service between Jul 82 - Dec 99).
  3. If applicable, portion of pension adjusted to 50% of basic rate (for service since Jan 2000).
  - 4.

The calculator will give you approximately what you will have cumulatively contributed (read lost) to the government non-voluntarily for the period up to December 31, 2011. That's correct, the amount you will be out-of-pocket by the end of 2011

Exhortations to adopt what has become known as a healthy "lifestyle" by eating this or that, or merely less; by following a particular, often peculiar diet; by exercising regularly; by avoiding the sun and eschewing tobacco; by moderating one's consumption of strong waters; by ingesting a variety of pills and potions; by thinking positive thoughts; and by swearing off Ponzi promotions: in short, by adopting a cornucopia of measurers, benign and bizarre - assault us from every quarter. All, it is claimed, will help us realise our fondest dreams, as we pursue comfort, health, beauty, financial security, long life, seniors' discounts and a host of other benefits too numerous -- and, in some cases, too indelicate - to mention in a publication that could conceivably, fall into the hands of minors.

An important objective of all this bother is the preservation of one's mental faculties, and one of the many exercises that might contribute to that worthy end is that of composing mock epigrams. Once thought of as the exclusive preserve of errant school-boys, this irreverent sport can be enjoyed whatever one's age.

The recipe for crafting a mock epigram is ridiculously simple: to a line or two of legitimate poetry -- any line will do -- add a line or two - unrelated or not -- of your own invention. In this example, to a line of Milton's "The Passion IV" the anonymous writer has added one of his own:

- "See, the chariot and those rushing wheels"  
But don't miss out on our other "deals".

A line from Longfellow's "The Rainy Night" permits of less commercial treatment.

- "The day is cold, and dark, and dreary,"  
But the pub is warm, and bright -- if beery.

A third selection, from Robbie Burns "Highland Mary" allows for an environmental allusion.

- "Ye banks and braes and streams around"  
Where bottles, scrap, and trash abound.

The neophyte will be best advised to stick to couplets, but with experience -- and armoured with a nice disregard for poetic convention -- some athletes will inevitably venture into quatrains, if not beyond. Consider, for example, what can be done with a pair of lines from Sir Walter Scott's "Brignall Banks".

- "O Brignall Banks are wile and fair  
And Gretna Woods are green"  
But does it matter, do you care  
When poison ivy's everywhere?

A couplet from Oscar Wilde's "The Ballad of Reading Jail" gives rise to this four-liner:

- "I never saw a man who looked  
With such a wistful eye"  
And on his lips a nasty cuss,  
For once again he'd missed his bus.

The last example: these lines, inspired by a quotation from a song by Martly Coleridge:

- "She is not far to outward view  
As other maidens be"  
But she will serve a luscious stew  
And tops each meal with pie and brew.

## MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL EXPERTISE

We are continuing to include in the Newsletter a list of names and phone numbers of members who have skills and interests that they are prepared to share with other. 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](mailto:info@qparse-apperq.org) or by phone

Sandra Aird - President, 514-738-6169, Richard Meades - Editor 514-695-2164

Name	Contact point	Service
Bill Bernhaut	450-246-3796 <a href="mailto:rbernhaut@bellnet.ca">rbernhaut@bellnet.ca</a>	Antique furniture refinishing
Sonia Browman	514-748-5788 (home) 514-747-0568 (machine)	Sign language, speech therapy, lip reading
David Chandler	514-334-7418 <a href="mailto:ptolomee@autoroute.net">ptolomee@autoroute.net</a>	Digital photo-help, Skye assistance possible
Robin Narsted	<a href="mailto:mnarsted@yahoo.ca">mnarsted@yahoo.ca</a>	Computer questions.



The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number.

Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates designed the US railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they had used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long-distance roads in England, because of the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long-distance roads in Europe (including England) for their legions. Those roads have been used ever since. And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels.

Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of the wheel spacing. Therefore the United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Bureaucracies live forever!!

So the next time you are handed a specification/procedure/process and wonder "What horse's ass came up with this?" you may be exactly right. Imperial Roman army chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the rear ends of two war horses. (Two Horses' asses)

Now, the twist to the story: When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains, and the SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a horse's ass.

And you thought being a horse's ass wasn't important?  
Ancient horses' asses control almost everything ... and  
CURRENT Horses' Asses in government  
are controlling everything else!

# New Members Application Form

**QPARSE FEES:**

**Life Membership \$85.00**

Please complete the form below and return it, with your cheque for \$85.00 made payable to QPARSE, to:

Ellen Holzman  
6067 Macdonald Avenue  
Montreal,  
QC, H3X 2W9  
e-mail: mcellen@yahoo.com



-----  
Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_(dd/mm/yy)

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt/Hse #/Street

\_\_\_\_\_

Province

Postal Code

Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_(dd/mm/yy)

(Area code plus number)

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anyone residing at the same address who is already a QPARSE member? If so, please specify first and last names.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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