



QPARSE News

The newsletter of the Québec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators

Les nouvelles de l'Association du personnel d'enseignement retraité du Québec

www.qparse-apperq.org

AUTUMN : 2014

September Excursion to Mont-Tremblant



Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, Sept 10th
Lunch
in Pointe-Claire Village

Tuesday, Sept 30th
Excursion
to Mont-Tremblant



Mark your agenda NOW!

When did you last visit Mont-Tremblant?

No matter the season the primary resort in the Laurentians is an inviting destination for short or long getaways. Whether you're interested in hiking or fishing at the nearby national park, relaxing at one of the many restaurants, people-watching while slowly sipping coffee at a café, or strolling through the pedestrian village September is a great month to visit the Laurentians.

The management of the various resorts in the pedestrian village emphasize summer visits and they organize many events - from jazz festivals to stargazing. The period from May to September is the most pleasant, weather-wise; the days are long, the temperature is in the mid-20s and there is no excuse for not taking advantage of the great outdoors. So book now and mark September 30th in your agenda! Once you arrive you can do as much or as little as you like!

Spend the day at Mont-Tremblant where you can even ride the panoramic gondola to the top of the highest peak in the Laurentians. There you can appreciate the view and a number of other activities. Travel the hiking trails, watch a spectacular bird show or discover Mother Nature's awesome fall color display. It's all waiting for you on September 30th!

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Editorial

Fresh beginnings

What do you want to be when you grow up? As a child I knew the answer: "a teacher" I would say, with much certainty and conviction. By CEGEP, I may have wavered and considered law school but teaching was always my passion. I always had some sort of plan. For someone who had an early career plan, by contrast, my retirement plan is not as definitive.....and that.....is perfectly fine! It is a new beginning and my reinvention on a yearly basis....and if the retirement roadmap is not all that clear, so be it. That is part of the great interest and opportunity for discovery!

I must tell you that at the start of each semester, while working at Rosemount Technology Centre, we would speak to new students about their reinvention at Rosemount Technology Centre. We would tell them that people would have an average of twelve careers in their lifetime. Opening day and their start in the vocational program of their choice would be part of their reinvention. So you see the roots of my "reinvention" beliefs and ideas on new beginnings go back a long way!

Whereas most people live by the January to December calendar, teachers have been conditioned to the start of the New Year coinciding with the return to school. There is still something fresh and invigorating about the start of a new school year. We would derive great pleasure in meeting the new students before us. Now we derive special pleasure in being able to travel in non-high-season periods. Nonetheless, ours is still a school-year type of organization - even if retirement occurred some time ago.

Often with thirty five years of conditioning, this new beginning in the fall is ingrained in all of us! So what will you be doing this fall as part of your reinvention and new beginning?

Hopefully, you will join us for a day at Mont-Tremblant to see the fall colours, explore a little and enjoy a great meal together.

On behalf of the newsletter working group, may the start-of-the-school-year energies past, so well developed by a life time in education, serve as a catalyst for your new beginning this fall!

See you soon,

Marzia Michielli
Editor

www.qparse-apperq.org

Mont-Tremblant Excursion (continued from page 1)

You can travel by comfortable coach bus, with two convenient pick-up points, one at the EMSB at 6000 Fielding Ave at 8:30am, or the other pickup point at Fairview Pointe Claire Shopping Centre (near the Bay entrance) at 9:00am. The cost for transportation is only \$30. Guests are welcome to participate for \$35.

To purchase your tickets for this fall extravaganza simply contact Erene Anthony at 514 626-8002 or email her at ereneanthony1@sympatico.ca

Hope to see you there!



Message de la présidente

«L'ENSEIGNANT AFFECTE
L'ÉTERNITÉ; IL NE PEUT SAVOIR
OÙ S'ARRÊTERA SON INFLUENCE»

Henry Adams

Il est difficile de croire que l'été tire déjà à sa fin. J'espère que vous avez pu tous en profiter et vous détendre. Bienvenue!

Nous apprécions le travail de la rédaction, Marzia Michielli et Dave Chandler, qui ont su convaincre certains de nos membres de fournir des articles intéressants et informatifs pour la présente édition de septembre. Nous remercions tous ceux qui ont contribué et nous espérons que d'autres nous enverront aussi leurs articles. À l'heure où le débat sur les régimes de retraite et sur le projet de loi 3 bat son plein au Québec, le rapport d'Ed Zegray sur les pensions et retraites prend toute sa signification.

Alors que l'APPERQ se prépare à l'arrivée de l'automne, nous vous invitons à explorer les diverses activités de notre association, à vous y engager et à y participer. Soutenons les efforts de notre comité des programmes et rejoignez-nous pour notre première excursion, au Mont-Tremblant le mardi 30 septembre!

Nous étions ravis de recevoir notre premier rabais de 4% (1 436.07\$) de Senior Tours Canada. Nos sincères remerciements à tous les membres de l'APPERQ qui ont voyagé avec Senior Tours depuis février 2012 et ont rendu possible une telle contribution.

C'est avec tristesse que le Conseil d'administration de l'APPERQ a appris le décès prématuré de Maureen Morris, ex-membre du Conseil. Lors de son assemblée générale annuelle au mois de juillet à Winnipeg, la Fédération canadienne de l'enseignement avait célébré la contribution de Maureen à la cause de l'éducation en lui attribuant un prix spécial de reconnaissance pour 2014.

Nous continuerons à améliorer nos efforts pour garder le contact avec vous tous, grâce au courrier électronique, aux mises à jour régulières de notre site web (www.qparse-apperq.org) et à un programme attrayant d'activités diverses où chacun trouvera quelque chose à son goût.

J'ai hâte de vous revoir lors de nos événements ou de savoir comment l'APPERQ peut mieux vous servir.

Renate Sutherland

President's Message

“A TEACHER AFFECTS
ETERNITY: HE CAN
NEVER TELL WHERE
HIS INFLUENCE STOPS”

Henry Adams



It seems hard to believe that the summer season has almost ended. I hope you have all had a relaxing and an enjoyable summer. Welcome back!

Our appreciation to the editorial staff of Marzia Michielli and Dave Chandler, who have inspired some of our members to submit interesting and informative articles for this September edition. We thank all contributors and hope that others will be encouraged to send in articles. At a time when the debate on public pension and Bill 3 is making media headlines in Quebec, Ed Zegray's report on Pension and Retirement is of particular significance.

As QPARSE gears up for the beginnings of the fall, we invite you to explore, engage and participate in the varied activities of our association. Let's all support the efforts of the Program Committee and join your colleagues and friends on our first out-of town excursion to Mont-Tremblant on Tuesday, September 30th!

We were thrilled this summer when Senior Tours Canada Inc. rewarded us with our first 4% rebate of \$1,436.07. I extend our heartfelt thanks to the QPARSE members who travelled with Senior Tours since February 2012 and made this contribution possible.

The QPARSE Board of Directors was saddened to hear of the untimely death of former QPARSE Board member, Maureen Morris. At the July Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) in Winnipeg, Maureen's contribution to education was recognized, when she became the recipient of a 2014 Special Recognition Award.

We will continue to improve our efforts to “keep in touch” with all of you through electronic mailings, regular updates of our website at www.qparse-apperq.org, and an exciting events program this year with a little something for everyone.

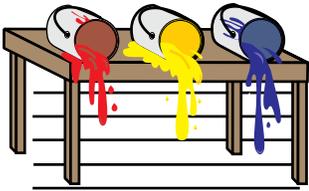
I look forward to seeing you at our events or hearing from you on how better QPARSE can serve you.

Renate Sutherland

Members' Musings

OH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING

I think I've said this most every day since retiring. It's been full two years now and I still find it hard to believe I really made it. Made it to the Golden Years of Senior Discounts and when every day is a Saturday!



Have I kept busy? You bet, re-did the upstairs bathroom and continue to spend summers painting the house and maintaining the garden - the latter two I'll probably never call finished. I've continued two favoured pastimes - Book Club, started at Beaconsfield High School and grown beyond, and orienteering with the Ramblers Orienteering Club. I now play bridge and canasta with members of the Association of Retired Employees (LARSE), cook for Meals on Wheels and help out at WICS fund raising events.

I want to re-start work with Habitat for Humanity, join a curling club this fall and hope to be an active member of LARSE Cyclopaths next summer. Golf is on that future list too. Travel? Of course I want to travel. My husband, Eric, and I continue to be busy caring for our moms. We still haven't taken that first and longed-for retirement trip. But it will happen!

Most important now is a return to union days. Accepting a position on the QPARSE Board of Directors is renewing friendships and commitments to a cause. Current QPARSE focus includes well, I have to attend a few meetings before I can know that. Just where I'll fit and what I'll tackle are yet to be known. This is another new beginning.

Do I have any Words of Wisdom for retirees? No. Well, maybe, yes. Remember all those good friends who taught across the hall, shared lunches, duty, invigilation schedules and covered your class when needed? Well they're all still here. Attend a QPARSE or LARSE (or other local retiree group) activity and you'll find a laughing and smiling welcome. We're all happy to be together again.

Mary Ellen Montague

Beginnings

How appropriate it is for me to be writing about new beginnings. This past year has been filled with new beginnings that I never thought possible. Since retiring in June 2013 my life has changed dramatically. After a 37 year career in education, I left the profession I had begun dreaming about since I was young as 8 years old. I always wanted to teach children with special needs because I had a neighbour who had Down's syndrome. I had told my mother when I was in second grade that I wanted to teach children like him. I achieved this goal after graduating with a Bachelor of Education from McGill University in 1975.

I can honestly say that I looked forward to going to school every day of my career. I loved the challenges and rewards of working with my students whether they were 5 or 16 years old. I must say that last August it did feel strange to not be looking for supplies for my room or caring about back-to-school flyers but that quickly disappeared. I did volunteer at school 1/2 day a week so I didn't feel complete withdrawal.

As the school year began I started doing activities for "me", which was also a new beginning. I started doing exercise classes in the AM instead of PM, took doctor's appointments whenever there was an opening - October 16th 10:17am? No problem! Had lunches and outings with friends, did grocery shopping during the day and no rush hour driving. I was beginning to like this.

My husband and I decided to go on vacation on September 29th 2013!! What a beautiful time of year to enjoy being away. Followed by a November cruise with my three best friends from elementary school to celebrate our 60th birthdays. It was unforgettable. Another vacation in December before the holiday break- no crowds, no kids, no frenzy. Another new beginning - my daughter announced her pregnancy with our first grandchild. I could be there every step of the way - shopping, going to appointments or just talking for hours. Another vacation followed in March. Then I decided I really needed to do more.



However, my newest beginning will be as a very involved grandma and I can't wait!

Carol Klein

Click here: [Retirement – Only the Beginning](#)

Second Thoughts

*New occasions teach new duties; Time makes ancient good uncouth;
They must upward still, and onward, who would keep abreast of Truth ...*

James Russell Lowell (1819 - 1891)



The problem for educators lies in that all-encompassing word: "Truth".

Has the education of youth kept abreast of "Truth"? Or has the process lost its way and become mired in short-term illusory goals and practices?

As teachers, we did our best under often difficult conditions. We tried to be aware of each young person as an individual, although there were frequently thirty of them in a class, often more.

Institutions that usually reinforced the work of teachers are no longer there. Socio-economic change has introduced a new kind of society, as well as technology-based living patterns.

There is a great need to redefine educational purpose. Is it to prepare youth with specialized skills that serve commerce and a shaky financial system? Or is it to help youth understand their globalized world and all the issues that bedevil the human condition?

Are humanistic studies – history, the arts, sociology, philosophy – "useful"?

What kind of human being should education strive to develop and foster?

With the weapons of total destruction that applied science has made possible our species can no longer take its permanence on planet earth for granted.

An education system that lacks a moral base will fail. We need to examine the concepts of "truth" and "morals" in relation to the education of our young people, on whose shoulders rests the burden of civilization.

Elizabeth C. Speyer,
Former history teacher, centenarian and valued QPARSE Super Senior

QUOTABLE QUOTES ON RETIREMENT

"I've got a sizeable retirement nest egg and it's going to make an omelet so big that it'll produce enough leftovers for decades."

Jarod Kintz

"Gainfully unemployed, and very proud of it, too."

Charles Baxter, *The Feast of Love*

"The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off."

Abe Lemons

"There's never enough time to do all the nothing you want."

Bill Watterson

"Age is only a number, a cipher for the records. A man can't retire his experience. He must use it."

Bernard Baruch





Spotlight on Members

Erene Anthony



Volunteer *par excellence*

Let me tell you about an amazing lady who at the age of eight was picking orchids in her native Antigua to decorate her church for the Harvest Cantata. At fifteen years this hardworking volunteer was a Sunday school teacher, at 19, an organist and then the director of the Youth and Senior choirs of her home church (Grace Bay Moravian) in the West Indies. Volunteerism and the willingness to give back was part of Erene Anthony's make-up, even as a child. So, naturally, today you will find Erene actively contributing within her milieu: be it as Chair of the Board and Joint Presbytery of the Union United Church, as a member of the Executive of the Montreal Presbytery, as an active member of the United Church of Canada or as a member of the Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Association. As you know, Erene also directs her energies for the benefit of QPARSE members as she helps to organize the yearly program of activities.

Erene is always selflessly giving of her time and it gives me great pleasure to shine a spotlight on her as an outstanding member of QPARSE. Her friends and colleagues are not the only ones who have noticed her commitment, for in 1999 Erene received the Jackie Robinson Award from the Montreal Black Business Persons and Professionals organization. Then, in 2009, her efforts were recognized by the Prime Minister of Antigua and she was given the Outstanding Citizenship Award for Community work done outside Antigua. Just this year Erene was cited as the *CJAD Hero of the Month*. All were awards she richly deserved! When she is not volunteering, Erene is a financial security advisor and mutual fund representative for Primerica Financial Services. If you are wondering where she gets the time and energy to do all that I could not agree with you more!

Erene and I were principals at the EMSB at the same time in our careers and we became friends. It was Erene who suggested that I join the QPARSE Board. Although I did not know then of her penchant for volunteerism I knew she had a deep attachment to children with special needs. At the time, in 1993, Erene was principal of the McKay Center, and then, in 1995, she became principal of John Grant High School. I have always admired her as a lady of intellect, composure and an oh so stately presence.

As for Erene's background, she placed high value on education and obtained a B.A. in sociology and anthropology. That was quickly followed by a B.Ed. and thereafter a Masters in Education. Erene, the mathematics and English teacher from Royal Arthur Elementary School and Verdun High School, always had a special place in her heart for education and all her children.

She may have had numerous children at school but her greatest pride and joy is her son Joel. You may know Joel as the center for the NBA Miami Heat basketball team who has recently been drafted to Boston.

Erene says: "Joel played basketball in Grade 6 at Wilder Penfield School, where he received his first All Star Trophy. However, my schedule never enabled me to see him at play there. By the time Joel reached high school I was able to watch all of his after-school games. Little did I know that these extra-curricular games at Selwyn House would be the start of Joel's great passion for the sport of basketball. Who would have thought that Joel's beginnings in Grade 7 at Selwyn House would have led him to where he is today!"

Joel's rise to stardom has been nothing short of meteoric. Erene has raised a fine son and he too is now involved in volunteerism. Erene, my friend, keep flaming!

CJAD Heroes

Joel Anthony

Marzia Michielli

Retirement Pension Report

When we began teaching, we were all obliged to pay for protection, starting from day one. We didn't have a choice. A certain percentage of our salary was skimmed off the top. What we may not have realized, or even appreciated at the time, was that these monies were saved (credited is probably a better word) for our own financial protection. This was our initiation to the world of pension plans. *Investopedia* explains 'Pension Plan' in this way: "a pension plan is a method in which an employee transfers part of his or her current income stream toward retirement income". In other words, in a pension plan, part of the salary earned is withheld, and it is carried forward to be withdrawn at a future date. We commonly refer to this as deferred salary. This is not a gift. It is a salary earned during our career that is redeemed during retirement years. It is really our retirement salary, which is referred to as our pension.

Our collective agreements also stipulated that our employer was required to match contributions on a fifty-fifty basis. Although this may appear normal to us now, as we have heard of late, this doesn't seem to be the norm in the municipal world of pension plans (in some cases employees of municipalities pay only 30% into the plan). But in our case, we paid the price and contributed an equal share, so we should not be embarrassed that, as retirees, we now collect the benefits, our pensions.

When many of us started working we belonged to the Teachers Pension Plan (**RRE**). Here our employee contributions weren't actually set aside, but they ended up in government coffers and they were used to build roads, hospitals and schools (thus the previous reference to credited, versus saved monies). It was only in 1973, with the creation of **the Régime de retraite des employés du gouvernement et des organismes publics (RREGOP** - Government and Public Employees Retirement Plan), that employee contributions began being accumulated separately and managed by **CARRA**. However, employer contributions were still just a promissory note. The government promised it would honor its agreement and would contribute its share of the pension paid to retirees, when the time came. This was part of the government's liability, its debt.

But the government liability, its promissory notes, just kept on inflating drastically. It was only in 1993, twenty years after the creation of the RREGOP (yes, 20), that the government finally decided that it best begin setting aside monies to cover its share of pension liabilities. Thus the **Fonds d'amortissement des régimes de retraite (FARR** - amortization fund for pension plans) was finally established. By 2012, the FARR had accumulated slightly over 45 billion dollars (45 G\$), but its debt towards pensions was about 75 G\$, a shortfall in the neighborhood of 29 G\$. It is projected that by 2017 the FARR will attain 70% of its obligation towards pension benefits.

All of our pension plans (RRE, RREGOP, ...) are defined benefit (DB) plans. That is, we knew in advance what we would be entitled to receive in retirement (2% / year of service based on average of five best years)). This is the financial protection for which we paid throughout our careers - a salary that was deferred, our beginning salary as a retiree - and it is guaranteed for life. At the other end of the spectrum are defined contribution (DC) pension plans. Here contributions are made to the plan each year and when someone is considering retirement, their pension is determined by the returns, the investment's performance that the plan has managed to accumulate. Here there isn't any financial security, or any sort of guarantee in these plans.

The **D'Amours Report** (April 2013) found that 47% of workers in Quebec do not have any form of pension plan, not even RRSPs, and only 35% of the workers contribute to a DB plan. Nonetheless, going against the trend, D'Amours came out strongly in favor of DB plans as the only vehicle offering financial security in retirement years and insisted that the government should find the means to increase participation in DB pension plans. However, the media focused on the former, referring to those persons (mostly public sector) with DB plans as society's lucky ones. So, it is not surprising that in the first round of consultations to get demands prioritized for the 2015 public sector negotiations, it was decided to keep a low profile on pensions.

Although the D'Amours Report was shelved, the context may now be shifting. Bill 3, which governs municipal pension plans, was introduced to force negotiations regarding the sharing of deficits and of contributions, and to make indexation conditional on investment returns. A by-product of this is that there since has been much more talk in the media about DB pension plans, pension plan deficits, employer/employee contribution shares, and even indexation of pensions. The general public is becoming more knowledgeable and questions are being raised. What is a fair share? Why should judges and MNAs have fully indexed

(Continued on page 10)

CALENDRIER DES ÉVÉNEMENTS

2014 – 2015

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------|---|
| Mercredi 10 septembre | Midi | Lunch au Village de Pointe-Claire
Le Pionnier, 286, chemin Lakeshore, Pointe-Claire |
| Mardi 30 septembre | 8h30 | Excursion au Mont-Tremblant
Départ 8h30 CSEM et 9h Fairview (La Baie)
Départ pour Montréal: 15h30 Estimé temps d'arrivée: 16h
Coût 30,00\$ (autobus seulement) -- non-membres 35,00\$
Lunch à votre convenance |
| Mercredi 29 octobre | 13h | Lunch de l'automne pour les retraité(e)s
CSEM
Réception dans l'Atrium, suivi du
Lunch à 13h30 (10,00\$) -- Non membres (15,00\$) |
| Mardi 9 décembre | 10h | Célébrations des fêtes
Rosedale Queen Mary Community Hall
6870 Terrebonne, NDG (entre Rosedale & Mariette)
Réception et programme: 10h
Artisanat, bijoux & cadeaux à la table Dix Mille Villages
Dons à la banque alimentaire NDG
Lunch: Restaurant Monkland Grille |
| 2 0 1 5 | | |
| Jeudi 12 février | 11h | Présentation: Maladies cardio-métaboliques et styles de vie
Animateurs: Dr Colin Rose et Sandra Cohen-Rose
CSEM: Salle Patterson
Café: 10h30 dans l'Atrium
Lunch: Restaurant Monkland Grille |
| Mercredi 11 mars | 10h | Excursion: Cabane à sucre
1050 boul Arthur-Sauvé, St-Eustache
Coût : 35, 00\$ (autobus et lunch inclus) Non-membres : 40,00\$
Départ : CSEM 10h and Fairview (LaBaie) : 10h30 |
| Jeudi 16 avril | 11h | Avantages marginaux et assurances"
Animateur: Paul Barnes
Édifice APEQ
17035 boul. Brunswick, Kirkland
Lunch : dans l'Ouest de l'isle (lieu à déterminer) |
| Mardi 5 mai | 11h | Assemblée générale annuelle
CSEM: Salle Patterson
Café 10h30 dans l'Atrium |

L'édifice CSEM est situé 6000, avenue Fielding, NDG (coin du chemin Côte-St-Luc)
Restaurant Monkland Grille: 6151, avenue Monkland, H3X 2C6. (514 484-2611) (coin Beaconsfield)

Veuillez aviser le Coordonnateur des événements, Ken Cooke (514 485-9118) ou erica2ken@yahoo.com de votre présence aux lunches.

Pour plus d'information sur les évènements: Erene Anthony (514 626-8002) ou ereneanthony1@sympatico.ca

Visitez notre site web: www.qparse-apperq.org

PROGRAM CALENDAR

2014 - 2015

- Wednesday, September 10th** 12 Noon **Lunch in Pointe-Claire Village**
Le Pionnier, 286 Lakeshore Road, Pointe-Claire
- Tuesday, September 30th** 8:30 am **Mont Tremblant Fall Excursion**
Departure: 8:30 am EMSB and 9.00 am Fairview (La Baie)
Return: 3.30 p.m.
Cost: \$30.00 – Non-members: \$35.00 (Bus only)
Lunch at your leisure
- Wednesday, October 29th** 1:00 pm **Fall Luncheon for Retirees**
EMSB/Cafeteria
Reception: 1:00 p.m. in Atrium followed by
Lunch: 1:30 p.m. (\$10.00) – Non-members (\$15.00)
- Tuesday, December 9th** 10:00 am **Holiday Celebration**
Reception: 10.00 am
Rosedale Queen Mary Community Hall,
6870 Terrebonne (between Rosedale and Mariette)
Arts, crafts, jewelry & gift items: Ten Thousand Villages table
Donations: NDG Food Bank
Lunch: Monkland Grill Restaurant
- ## 2 0 1 5
- Thursday, February 12th** 11:00 am **Cardiometabolic Disease and Lifestyle presentation**
Guest speakers: Dr. Colin Rose and Sandra Cohen-Rose
EMSB, Patterson Room
Coffee: 10:30 am in Atrium
Lunch: Monkland Grill Restaurant
- Wednesday, March 11th** 10:00 am **Cabane à sucre**
1050 Boul Arthur-Sauvé, St-Eustache
Price: \$35.00 – Non members: \$40.00 (includes bus & lunch)
Departure: 10:00 am EMSB and 10:30 am Fairview (La Baie)
- Thursday, April 16th** 11:00 am **Benefits/Insurance Session**
Speaker: Paul Barnes
QPAT Building
17035 Brunswick Blvd, Kirkland
Lunch: the West Island (TBD)
- Tuesday, May 5th** 11:00 am **Annual General Meeting**
EMSB/Patterson Room
Coffee: 10:30 am in the Atrium

The EMSB Building is located at 6000 Fielding Avenue, NDG (corner of Côte Saint-Luc Road)
Monkland Grill Restaurant is at 6151 Monkland Ave, H3X 2C6. (514 484-2611) (corner of Beaconsfield)

If you will attend a luncheon please inform the Events Coordinator:
Ken Cooke (514 485-9118) or erica2ken@yahoo.com

Program information, contact Erene Anthony (514 626-8002) or ereneanthony1@sympatico.ca

Visit our website: www.qparse-apperq.org

Une affolée tourmentée

Une affolée dans les affres
D'un embarras effarant
Scrute la tourbe
Moutonnaire et fourbe
Qui braille, <<Salope!>>

Alors que leur raison
Quitte les rails!

Dans le tumulte
De cette multitude
Elle discerne émerger une face
D'une allure pondérée
Et curieuse.

Leurs yeux se retrouvent
Alors que les huées effroyables
Sans retenue s'intensifient:
<<Salope! Salope!>>
Dénuées de tout motif justifiable
Concevable.

© Brian Ostrovsky

Modified version of my poem **Un affolé** published in *Canadian Jewish News Literary Supplement*, April 10, 2014

Le bon usage : Le saviez-vous?



Have you noticed the red attachment hanging from parking signs that says "Attention nouvelle signalisation"? Knowing that "panneau de signalisation" means road sign is the key to ascertaining that the message here is to be aware of the new road marking. Hopefully, this will help to reduce the number of parking tickets or "contraventions" which would help make summer that much more enjoyable.

Bon été!

© Brian Ostrovsky

(Retirement Pension Report. Continued from page 7)

pensions? Is it appropriate that municipal elected officials only pay 23% into their pensions, and MNAs only 21% into theirs (no wonder that the MNAs' plan is being referred to as the Ferrari of pension plans)?

We know that we cannot predict the future. Even for the past, we often get conflicting interpretations of what really happened. The Groupe de Travail des Associations de Retraités (GTAR) is at a crossroads, and in the process of self-evaluation.

How can we get better representation of retirees on CARRA's pension committee? Presently there are only two retirees out of 26 members on the RREGOP pension committee, yet retirees are soon to outnumber active participants in the pension plan. How can we ensure that we have representatives of seniors and retirees in negotiations and decisions that have a major impact on retirement conditions? How should we modify our strategy to protect purchasing power of retirees, that is, keep the level of pensions based on increases in the cost of living? Will the controversy over Bill 3 and the publicity campaigns that unions are undertaking (to defend their rights related to pensions) create new opportunities for GTAR (Groupe de Travail des Associations de Retraités) to reiterate or to reformulate demands? The coming months will be interesting and may prove to be quite agitated. Keep listening.

Check out this CBC link:

[Money Matters](#)

Ed Zegray

Services d'une notaire

QPARSE est heureux de vous annoncer que les services d'une notaire sont disponibles pour répondre à vos questions générales concernant l'immobilier, les testaments, les mandats en prévision de l'incapacité, le règlement de successions, l'homologation de testaments et de mandats d'incapacité ainsi que les régimes de protection (curatelle). Toutefois, si Me Dubé agit pour vous, des frais seront applicables.

Mélanie Dubé, Notary/Notaire
5765, Av. de Monkland
Montreal, (Qc) H4E 1E8

Services of a Notary

QPARSE is pleased to announce the services of a notary who is willing to answer general questions dealing with real estate, wills, mandates, estate planning and settlement, homologation of wills and mandates, as well as curatorship. Should Ms Dubé act for you, there will be a charge.

Tel: 514-481-7500
Fax: 514-487-0667
email: melanie.dube@notarius.net

We send our condolences to the family and friends of:

Maureen Morris

It is with considerable sadness and regret that I write this tribute about my friend and mentor, Maureen Morris, who passed away on June 1, 2014 at an all too young age of 68.

I had the distinct pleasure and honour to have known and worked with Maureen over more than 30 years. She was a good friend when I most needed her and I am also very aware of how many people could say the same thing about her. She touched many lives and good memories of her humour, her laugh and her determination will comfort us all as we bid her farewell.

Maureen was born and raised in the Eastern Townships where her roots continued to be attached. She was a dedicated mother and grandmother who raised her children as a single parent while juggling her teaching career and her involvement with the Teachers' Union movement.

Maureen taught for most of her career at the Lakeshore School Board (Lester B. Pearson School Board) over a long and dedicated period spanning from 1978 until her retirement in 2010. Interspersed with her teaching at such elementary schools as Thorndale, Seigniory, Harwood and Allancroft, Maureen was very involved with the teachers' union movement moving from school level representation to local union executive to President of the Lakeshore Teachers' Association. She spent time as the President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and worked on staff there as well. She completed her union involvement as President of the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers until her retirement in 2010.

Maureen was a woman who knew what was right and who did not hesitate to speak up and stand up for those rights. Whether it was the rights of her own children or those she taught or whether it was teachers' rights both at home and in far away places such as Africa, Maureen was a strong and clear advocate for those less able to defend themselves.

Maureen leaves her husband Jeff Roberts and her children and grandchildren to honour her as a wife, mother and grandmother; and she leaves hundreds of us, her friends and colleagues to honour her contributions to the teaching world. The world is indeed a better place because of Maureen's presence in it. We all love you very much Maureen. God speed!

Jan Langelier

Ruth Johnson

Recently Linda Monti-Oscar advised us that her mother, Super Senior Ruth Johnson, passed away on April 28th, 2014.

Ruth Johnson lived in Ottawa for many years, and turned 106 years old last August. Linda says that her mother had a wonderful and long life. "Imagine being retired for fifty years" says her daughter.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Linda and her family.

Earle Thomas

"The announcement of Earle Thomas's death in the last edition of the **Newsletter** brought back memories," says Adelaide Lanktree. Earle Thomas was the author of *Sir John Johnson, Loyalist Baronet*. Earle was also an honorary vice-president of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada and he wrote: *At Home with Sir John Johnson* (a paper delivered at the national convention of the United Empire Loyalists' Assoc., Kingston, Ont., 1984).

Sir John Johnson's remains, as well as those of some members of his family, were interred in a vault on Mount Johnson, now known as Mont Saint-Grégoire. Years later the vault was bulldozed into the ground. The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the UELAC has worked for years to have the remains reinterred in a new Johnson Vault.

The rededication ceremony was held on August 23rd, 2014.

Adelaide Lanktree

Dr. Herre De Groot

We are all saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Herre De Groot. We remember him as a dedicated teacher and principal who always strove for high academic standards and good discipline. We also recall accounts of his bravery as a member of the Dutch Resistance during the Second World War as a committed fighter for freedom and democracy. These ideals will not die, but will live on in the hearts and minds of all those who worked with him.

"...I must tell you about a remarkable coincidence that Herre once related to me. He and another school principal were about to land at the Los Angeles Airport on their way to a conference when an American passenger in the neighbouring seat asked them how they would feel if they had to jump from the plane by parachute. The passenger then admitted that he had had to do just that as a fighter pilot during the war. He spoke of how he landed in a farmer's field in Holland and was helped by a young man from the Resistance. The passenger on the plane also related how the young man eventually gave him the necessary forged documents to get back to England. After further questioning that young man turned out to be Herre De Groot!"

At great risk to his own person, Herre helped many refugees and persecuted persons flee from the Nazis to safety. For his efforts, he was eventually caught, imprisoned and brutally treated by the enemy.

There are so many accounts of Herre's actions as a leader and a man of great initiative and hope that his examples of bravery will forever serve as a beacon to guide us on our way.

Adapted from the eulogy given by Neville Murison

Did you know??

Many of us do not realize we have this option.

Any time you call an 800 number (for a credit card, banking, charter communications, health and other insurance, or computer-help desk request) and you find that you're talking to a foreign customer service representative, you may consider doing the following:

After you connect and you realize that the Customer Service Representative is not working in Canada (you can always ask, if you are not sure), you can say, "I'd like to speak to a Customer Service Representative in Canada".

The representative might suggest talking to his/her manager, but again respond by saying, "Thank you, but I'd like to speak to a Customer Service Representative in Canada."

You will be immediately connected to representative in Canada. That is the law in Canada.

Imagine the jobs that would be saved.

Richard Meades



Le crabe et l'huître

Un crabe est très amoureux d'une huître. Repoussant sa timidité il la demande un jour en mariage. L'huître accepte:

– À une condition, dit-elle: que tu marches droit.

Le jour de la cérémonie le crabe marche droit. Quelques jours se passent et il se met à marcher de travers à nouveau.

– Tu m'avais pourtant promis! s'exclame l'huître, furieuse.

Alors, le crabe, indigné:

– Mais, ma chérie, je ne peux tout de même pas continuer à me saouler tous les jours!

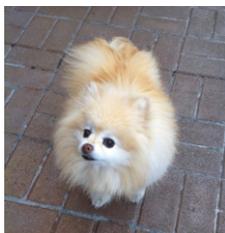
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www.qparse-apperq.org

Our website is where you can find the most current information about our events, dates and venues. Members can read the latest updates on our political lobbying and the most recent edition of QPARSE News. The last page of the newsletter is a commonly used as a way to notify us about changes needed in our membership records. The number of members who receive email notifications of the Newsletter release continues to increase. Please remember to notify QPARSE if your e-mail address changes. At the last count our website had 89,000 hits and the top download continues to be our newsletters

Senior
Advising
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Sugar



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The Quebec
Provincial Association of
Retired School Educators



Association provinciale
du personnel
d'enseignement retraité
du Québec

Application Form / Formulaire d'adhésion

Please return with your cheque for \$85 made out to QPARSE to:
Veuillez retourner avec votre chèque de 85\$ au nom de APPERQ à:

Jan Langelier
c/o QPAT - APEQ
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Kirkland QC H9H 5G6

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Code postal: _____
Province: _____
Telephone _____ Email: _____
Téléphone: _____ Courriel: _____
School board at retirement: _____
Commission scolaire à la retraite: _____
Birth date _____ Year of retirement: _____
Date de naissance: _____ Année de la retraite: _____

Kindly pass this newsletter/application form to teachers who have recently retired

We are a volunteer organization and do not have an office.
For further information contact Jan Langelier at langelier.jan@videotron.ca

On est un organisation de bénévoles et on n'a pas de bureau. Pour des informations supplémentaires contacter Jan Langelier à langelier.jan@videotron.ca

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