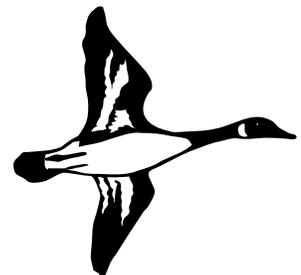
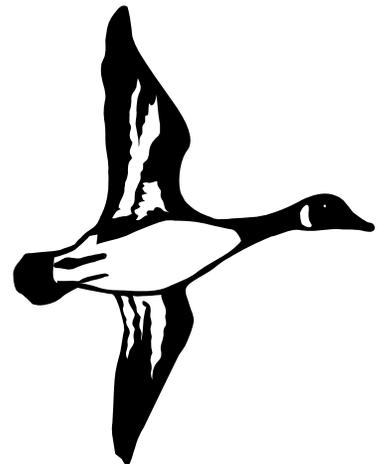
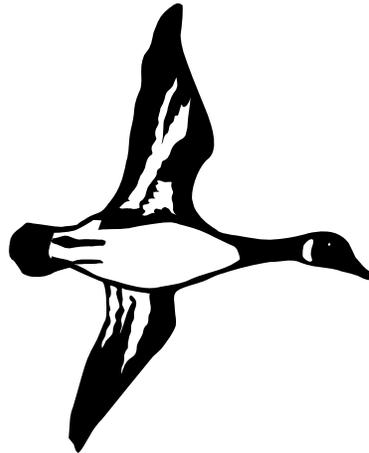
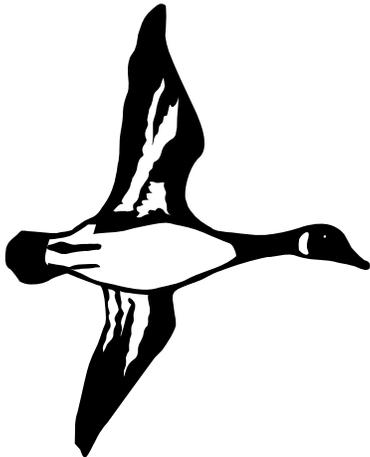


The Quebec
Provincial Association
of Retired School
Educators



Association provinciale
du personnel
d'enseignement
retraite du Quebec



**QPARSE PROGRAM CALENDAR
2010 & 2011**

DATE	TIME	PLACE
October 21 st	1.30 pm (Tues)	<u>EMSB/Patterson Room</u> Fall Luncheon for Retirees ("free-will offering")
November 16 th	11.00 am (Tues)	<u>Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant</u> Erika Katsof/Gemologist Diamonds, precious stones, do you know what you are buying when travelling (cruising) Gold Party (sell your unwanted gold)
December 9 th	12.30pm	Lunch (Optional)
	10.30 am (Thurs)	<u>EMSB/Patterson Room</u> Montreal West Operatic Society's Holiday Concert Dix Mille Village Table (arts & Crafts, jewellery & gift items)Food Bank Donation
January 20 th	12.30 pm	Lunch/TBA
	11.00 am (Thurs)	2011 <u>Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant</u> Paul Barnes/QPAT - Representative/SSQ Insurance workshop/who owns your policy? Travel Insurance - How are Premiums Determined?
February 15 th	12.30 pm	Lunch (optional)
	11.00 am (Tues)	<u>Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant</u> Elderly Fraud Christian Edmond/SPVM officer Economic & property crimes division
March 25 th	12.30 pm	Lunch (optional)
	10.00 am (Friday)	<u>EMSB/Patterson Room/WORKSHOP</u> Wellness Workshop/Harmony Health Centre Ruhkshana Surty & Ian Ramsay presenters Cost \$15.00
April 21 st	12.30 pm	Lunch (Optional)
	11.00 am (Thurs)	<u>Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant</u> Sue Montgomery/Gazette Reporter Haiti/The crisis and what is being done
May 10 th	12.30 pm	Lunch (Optional)
	9.30 am (Tues)	<u>EMSB/Patterson Room</u> AGM
	12.30 pm	Lunch: Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant

Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant is at 5525 Cote St Luc Road, H3X 2C6 (514-48407527)
Guests Welcome: Please inform Events Co-ordinator Ken Cooke (514-485-9118) if you are attending the luncheons. Program information, contact Erene Anthony (514-626-8002)



QPARSE



PROGRAM EVENT

NOVEMBER 16TH 2010

CARMINE'S TUSCANY GRILL

11:00 A.M.

PRESENTATION BY:

ERIKA KATSOFF, GEMOLOGIST

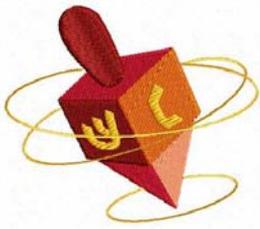
Erika is a well known designer of unique and timeless jewellery for all occasions. Erika has a considerable knowledge of gems and their overall value. Have you ever wondered if that diamond bracelet that you purchased or inherited is the "real mc coy?" The jewellery you saw while cruising, do you think it was worth buying, OR NOT? Come and listen to Erika and find out!

There will also be a *GOLD PARTY*. Gold Party Canada will buy all of your unwanted gold jewellery "ON THE SPOT" after quickly and expertly appraising it. Members and guests could go home with an average of \$750. and some go home with literally thousands in cash. They will remove the stones from all jewellery and return them to you.

White gold * Yellow gold * Tangled chains

Broken bracelets * Orphan earrings * that gaudy necklace from the 80's

QPARSE is hosting a *GOLD PARTY* in conjunction with Erika's presentation. QPARSE will receive 10% of all sales as a fund raiser. Please join us to make this event a success.



Retirees Holiday Concert
Thursday December 9, 2010
EMSB, Patterson Room
10.30 A.M.

Come and join us as we celebrate the Holiday with members of the Montreal West Operatic Society. They will dazzle you with their beautiful costume and musical comedy. This non-profit based company has been serenading Montrealers since 1937.

Do some interesting Christmas shopping with us from selections of creative items from artisans around the world. Support our local Dix MillesVillages, one of 50 stores across Canada as this international organization continues to partner with thousands of talented artisans. Through "fair trade" artisans receive respect and fair value for their work so that they can have sustainable living. Their philosophy is based on the principle that Fair Trade should have a conscience.

We would appreciate your non perishable donation as we continue to support the NDG Food Bank,

Then at 12.30, let's wine and dine as we have lunch at Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant, 5525 Cote St. Luc Rd.,(514-484-7525)

Please bring a Friend.



President's Welcome

Another summer has come and gone and I sincerely hope that it was an active and enjoyable one. The weather was reasonably good though the extreme heat and humidity in July at times made it difficult for some. I moved to an apartment after having a house for 35 years and I chose the hottest day of the summer to do it. To the QPARSE members I welcome you to an exciting program year. The autumn is a beautiful time of changing color, getting back into a routine and involving ourselves in an impressive array of QPARSE activities.

A special welcome to our new members who have recently retired. You now have the opportunity to do all the "fun" things you have always dreamt of. I can tell you from personal experience that this can become somewhat overwhelming; you don't know what to do first. Don't worry, you will eventually figure it out. You have already experienced the feeling on the first day of the 2010-2011 school year when your friends and colleagues returned to school and you could "sleep in." One of our new retirees was rock climbing on that day in the Canadian Rockies, momentarily thought of her friends and then had a feeling of total freedom as she kept on climbing! Just wait for that first snow storm when you put your feet up, take that extra cup of coffee, read the newspaper and just smile!

I would like to thank Patricia Steele for years of dedication as President of QPARSE. She is devoted to this association and took every opportunity to keep us up to date with changes in the various issues that concerned retired educators.

The Life Membership fee for QPARSE is now \$85.00. This is a one-time charge as we do not pay annual dues. The increase of \$10.00 was necessitated by escalating mailing and photocopying costs.

Presently there are 16 members of the QPARSE Board. We make every effort to ask questions and keep our members informed concerning issues that affects retirement life. Last January after many requests, the Teacher's Insurance Plan reinstated the six months (180 days) coverage for out-of-province and out-of-Canada. We are following this up with a request to include Cancellation Insurance which is not covered in the current plan. Join us at our January 2011 meeting where you will have a chance to voice your opinions concerning the insurance plans. A Representative from QPAT and SSQ will be present.

Our first QPARSE event will be the Fall Reception on Thursday, October 21st 2010, 1:30pm in the EMSB/Patterson Room. A light lunch will be served at that time which will give us an opportunity to meet, greet and chat with "old" and "new" friends and colleagues. (A free will donation will be requested.) I hope as many of you that can, will attend our events over the next eight months. The continuing participation and support by QPARSE members is important to our future endeavours as well as maintaining contact with those we have worked with over the years. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming program events.

Sandra K. Aird President

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 Avenue
Pointe Claire,
Quebec H9R 3Z2
514-695-2164

E-Mail: dickmeades@gmail.com

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 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

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 Winter Newsletter is
January 15th 2011 by e-mail to the Editor
Art Work for Front cover by mail December 28th -:**

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

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

REPORT FROM THE ACER-CART 2010 AGM

The 19th ACER-CART Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on June 4-5, 2010, was preceded by a special information session on the afternoon of Thursday, June 3. An information handout on federal Bill C-516 (Guaranteed Income Supplement changes) was reviewed by Regional Representative-Québec Ed Zegray. This was followed by an informative session on lobbying by John Staple of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. At the AGM 13 (of 14) retired teacher organizations in Canada gathered at the Ottawa Marriott Hotel to address various reports and resolutions from the Executive and Member Associations. Delegates also renewed acquaintances, met new friends, shared ideas, and reported on the activities of their associations since the last AGM. QPARSE was represented by Pat Steele and Sandra Aird.

A major portion of the meeting was used to discuss events and issues of the member associations based on their well developed written reports. Johnson Inc.'s Lori MacDonald-Blundon gave a presentation on "Cross Canada Drug Costs and Plan Coverage" which was both informational and concerning. As well, a new AGM Handbook binder format was introduced this year.

2010-11 Election of Officers

The annual election returned all but one of the previous executive officers: Vaughn Wadelius (RTAM) from The Pas, MB remains as president. The four Regional Representatives are Atlantic: Dr. Thomas Gaskell (RTO-NSTU) from Little Bras d'Or, NS; Québec: Ed Zegray (QART) from Montréal, QC; West: Dean McMullen (ARTA) from Vermilion, AB; Ontario: Brian Kenny (RTO/ERO) from Dryden, ON was newly elected and is the 2010-11 vice-president. The past president is Helen Biales (RTO/ERO) from Windsor, ON. 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.

Committee Reports

Regular annual reports from the ACER-CART committees, provide a view of the many efforts during the 2009-10 year to advocate and publicize the positions proposed by ACER-CART.

Communications Committee (Vaughn Wadelius, Chair)

The website is a source of communication and information, with updates done regularly to the standard website pages. Visits since its development are approaching 7000. Information releases on our issues are circulated and put on our website, including any

briefs to government. The Summer edition of the ACER-CART newsletter OPTIONS is produced for use by member associations. A special Directors' website access page for AGM documents was used again in 2010 to provide access to AGM documents in advance of the meeting. In addition, this feature was used to deliver the Executive Director's Quarterly Reports. The committee produced an ACER-CART logo banner, an information pamphlet to promote our association at events we attend, and service certificates for presentation at the AGM to departing Directors.

Health Services and Insurance Committee (Thomas Gaskell, Chair)

This committee, with a focus on the issues of the Canada Health Act, developed a paper reviewing the necessity of **supporting the development of a national pharmacare program**. It raised the concern of the growing efforts to privatize Canadian health care, and the wide variation in the cost to seniors of provincially approved generic prescription drugs.

Legislative Committee (Helen Biales, Chair)

A full review of our policies was completed, and most were affirmed. A revised Reserve Fund policy was approved at the AGM. It set upper limits on the size of the Fund. Also presented and approved were policies outlining the process in case of the dissolution of ACER-CART, the duties of the Regional Representative, and the use and protection of our logo. Policies are to be reviewed at least every five years, and a new format was produced for distribution to the Directors.

Pension and Retirement Income Committee (Arnold Hull, Chair)

This committee took direction from a 2009 AGM resolution that we **lobby the federal government for a National Securities Regulator** and prepared a paper supporting this issue. Copies were forwarded to various federal ministers and member associations, requesting their support. A summary report article "Are Canadians at Risk of Outliving Their Retirement Savings" had also been approved and distributed.

Other Action Taken in 2009-10

ACER-CART is a member of the **Congress of National Seniors Organizations (CNSO)**, and President Wadelius participated in its executive discussions on federal issues. A response was produced to the National Seniors Council Report ("Canada's Aging Population"), and to the Special Canadian Senate "Report on Aging," and distributed to the appropriate federal Ministers. Direct contact with various ministers was also used by ACER-CART. A revitalization of the CNSO is underway.

ACER-CART Positions Taken

Motions were passed at the 2010 AGM directing the organization to:

- Seek trademark protection for the ACER-CART logo
- Clarify budget lines for regional and national representation
- Extend the budget line for development of communications in both official languages
- Pursue with other seniors' groups the goal of lobbying the federal government on the issue of investment fraud against seniors
- Lobby the Government of Canada to:
 - a) restore funding to the "Lest We Forget" program
 - b) increase the CPP/QPP, OAS, and GIS benefits and to take measures to protect seniors from living in poverty
 - c) change tax legislation to allow charitable donations up to \$1200 be accorded the same treatment as political contributions
 - d) support Bill C-516 to improve the GIS, and ask member associations to contact their MPs to do the same.

Referred to the executive for a feasibility review were the issues of the poverty among retired teachers in Canada, and membership in the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation.

2010-11 President Vaughn Wadelius Comments

As we enter our 20th year as an association, 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. In gratitude to the support of ACER-CART Directors and Officers over the years we have set out to develop a database of their names and service, and this June we began presenting a Certificate of Service to more recent directors retiring from the Board.



Our new Ontario Regional Representative, Brian Kenny, has ably stepped in to replace Arnold Hull who has been ill for several weeks, but is now well on the road to recovery. Brian himself also recovered from a serious accident this year and these incidents were suitable backdrops to the 2010 AGM presentation identifying the great discrepancies in calamitous illness drug coverage across Canada.

Service Award Recipients this year were:

- Patricia Bowslaugh (RTAM)**
- Patrick Brady (BCRTA)**
- Fred Herron (STS)**
- George Little (NBSRT)**
- Patricia Steele (QPARSE)**

This year we made additional efforts to provide our communications equally in French and English. Executive Director Norbert Boudreau was tireless in following up on this task with memos, letters and documents so that delays were minimized.

Some lobbying efforts and goals identified at the AGM work best when all our member associations and affiliated organizations communicate with a common position to government. We will work to include, with our requests for member assistance, some support materials such as background papers and briefs.



Consultative Committee on the Indexation of Pension Plans: Finally, a Small Step Forward

You will recall that on September 30, 2009, 5000 or so retirees rallied noisily in front of the National Assembly in Québec and called for the creation of a Standing Committee with the government. This major public demonstration led to an announcement by the government to reactivate the Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances with a mandate to examine the situation regarding pension plans in the public sector.

The Commission was struck and public hearings were held February 2-3, 2010. Here interested associations of retirees presented briefs. This included some of the larger associations in the *Groupe de travail des associations de personnes retraitées des secteurs public et parapublic (GTAR)*. Then, to follow-up on these hearings, at its meeting of April 20, 2010, GTAR unanimously adopted the following resolution (liberal translation, EdZ):

"That GTAR forward an open letter to the Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances, underlining the fact that the various associations of retirees who presented at the Parliamentary Commission are all in agreement with the creation of a Standing Committee of retirees from the public and parapublic sectors.

That a copy be sent to the other associations (non-GTAR) who presented at the Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances on February 2-3, 2010, inviting them to do likewise. *"

* After consulting their groups, the two other associations followed suit.

In an interim report deposited in the National Assembly on June 8, 2010, the Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances recognized that the erosion of purchasing power of retirees is a reality, especially for those with service in the years 1982-99. Further, it also acknowledged the need to find a means to diminish, if not to totally eliminate, the loss of purchasing power of retirees due to the de-indexation of their pension plans. The Commission also considers that the involvement of the associations of retirees is necessary to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of this matter. Thus it recommended the creation of a consultative committee, within CARRA, to examine services to retirees and the parameters of indexation. This consultative committee is seen as a place for discussion and labor, grouping together associations of retirees, unions, and CARRA, the manager of the pension plans. It would answer directly to CARRA's Board of Directors.

This is certainly a step in the right direction, but we are still a long way from closure on this matter. The composition of this Consultative Committee and its mode of operation have yet to be determined, so much remains to be done. However, this is the first time that a group of parliamentarians has recognized that a solution to halting continued impoverishment among retirees begins with involving these retirees in the search for a solution.

The other unknown in the equation is the outcome of the present round of negotiations in the public sector. Although agreements in principle have been reached at the bargaining tables in the public and parapublic sectors, these clauses concern non-monetary matters. The question of salaries and pensions remain to be negotiated and the outcome reached may have an impact on the Consultative Committee's deliberations.

Ed Zegray
2010/06/15

A GREAT STORY !!!

Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Wal-Mart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk.

"Charlie, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang up job, but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear. It's odd though your coming in late. I know you're retired from the Armed Forces. What did they say if you came in late there?"

"They said, "Good morning Admiral, can I get your coffee, sir?""

QPARSE Health Insurance Plan

Administration

Our health insurance plan is insured by Industrial Alliance. They process and pay claims and assume the risk of insuring our members. QPAT is the policy holder, which means that it negotiates with the insurance company as to what is covered and what level of premium is required to maintain the plan. If there is a catastrophic claim in one year, it is Industrial Alliance that has to pay out. They will, of course, raise the premiums in future years to cover their losses.

Parts of the administration of the plan are assumed by the school boards (for active teachers) and by QPAT for retired teachers. A percentage of the premiums is paid to QPAT to allow them to fulfill this function. Retired teachers do not get a free ride - we pay for the services we get from QPAT. The administrative functions assumed by the school boards and QPAT are enrolling people in the plan, deducting their premiums from salary, or, in the case of retired teachers, authorizing CARRA to deduct premiums or sending annual bills to members.

Our plans (active and retired teachers) are *experience rated*. Premiums paid are used to cover claims made. If there is a deficit, premiums are increased the next year. If there is a surplus, various methods are used to give it back to plan members. For example, the 2008 surplus was used to give a premium holiday for retired teachers in 2009. The premiums returned to their 2008 levels in 2010. The experience rating of retired teachers is separate from that of active teachers - contrary to what you may have heard, the active teachers do not support us nor subsidize our insurance plans.

At Age 65

The Quebec government provides drug coverage for all persons age 65 and over. Our plan with Industrial Alliance covers drugs up to age 65. When you reach age 65, you will be *automatically transferred to the government plan*, unless you choose otherwise. If you do nothing, you will be covered by the government drug insurance plan and by Industrial Alliance for everything else (if you decide to keep the plan). In certain circumstances, it may be to your advantage to remain with Industrial Alliance for drug coverage even after age 65. The premium goes up drastically, but if you and your spouse take a large number of expensive medications, it may be worth it. For most people, however, transferring to the government plan saves money (not much!). If in doubt, consult QPAT or Industrial Alliance.

Note that it is the age of the policy holder that determines when you transfer to the government plan. So if you reach 65 and your spouse is younger, s/he will nevertheless be automatically transferred to the government plan. Similarly, if your spouse is older than you, s/he will not transfer until you reach age 65.

This year, the premium for the government plan is \$600.00. Medications are reimbursed at 68% and the monthly deductible is \$16.00. This compares to the Industrial Alliance reimbursement at 80% and a yearly deductible of \$25.00 (individual) or \$50.00 (family). This sounds attractive until you check out the premiums that Industrial Alliance would charge for drug coverage over age 65.

How do I claim RAMQ benefits?

Once you reach age 65 you are entered into the government data base. At your first claim, you show your Medicare card and the pharmacy enters you into the system. Subsequently, the pharmacy will fill any existing prescriptions each month and will add new prescriptions to your file. You have to pay the deductible and co-insurance (32% of the cost of the prescription) to the pharmacy. The maximum amount you are required to pay in any given month is \$80.25. Anything over this amount is paid by the RAMQ.

The RAMQ does not cover certain medications, particularly those that are new and have not yet gone through the lengthy approval process of the government. If you have a medication refused by the RAMQ, submit the claim to Industrial Alliance who may very well cover it.

Income Tax Time

I just want to remind you that your pharmacy will provide you with a print out of all your drug expenses for the year, which saves you having to add up all those monthly receipts.

More Information

We have invited Paul Barnes of QPAT to give a workshop on our insurance plans in January 2011. We have also requested representation on any QPAT committee that discusses our plans particularly during the renewal period.

For further information contact QPAT (514-694-9777 or 1-800-361-9870) or Industrial Alliance (514-499-3800 or 1-800-363-3540). The RAMQ web site is www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca.

MEMBERSHIP

We enjoy hearing from you. We have had notes from the following members: Mary Cameron, Yvonne Wilson, Ellen Stevenson, Reg Anslow, and Helen Shutt.

We thank the following members for their donations towards mailing costs for the Newsletter or the booklets: Reta McVie, Gloria Bellam, Hilda Lane and Dorothy Walsh Cross.

Super Seniors:

The following members will become Super Seniors in the following months. We send them our very best wishes:

Johnson, Alfred E.	95	6 th October
Mullins, Robert James	93	11 th October
Martin, Mary	98	November
Clark, Leslie	92	9 th November
Hill, Kenneth	93	21 st November
Hamilton, Lorne	100 **	1 st December
Drury, Nancy A.	93	7 th December
Meeks, Margaret	93	20 th December
Westman, Norman	91	29 th December
Miller, Alice	97	January
MacLean, Dorothy	93	4 th January
Owen Frank	90	4 th January

The following are members who have joined since the last newsletter

Droulis	Stan	Pierrefonds, QC
Garnham	Tina	Cote St. Luc, QC
Pinos	Brenda	DDO, QC
Schachter	Leslie-Ruth	Cote St. Luc, QC
Bertam	Brenda	Roxboro, QC
Cherry**	Catherine	Dorval, QC
Convention Winner		

The following members have passed away since the last newsletter, and we send our condolences to the families:

Spring 2010	Keelah, Beaulah	Ayer's Cliff, QC
Spring 2010	Chisholm, Eleanor	Pointe Claire, QC
?	Lough, Stewart	Chatham, QC
12 th Feb 2010	McVie, Doug	Mississauga, ON
10 th April 2010	Robert AW Douglas	Cote St Luc, QC
14 th April 2010	Walbridge, Edith	Mystic, QC
1 st May 2008	Davis, Waltraut	Kanata, ON
24 th May 2010	Perras, Lucien	Oakville, ON
Sept 2010	Tawil, Samir	Terrebonne, QC
25 th Oct 2010	Clarke, Reynold	Bowmanville, ON
22 nd Nov 2010	Bolger, June B.	Pointe Claire, QC

The following members newsletters have been returned to us. In order to help us keep our membership files current, if you have any information about following, address changes, strays, deceased, birth dates, e-mail address, please send it to:

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

Borkowski	Henryk	Ville d'Esterel, QC
George	Amy F.	Baie D'Urfe, QC
Lunn	Charles	Franklin Centre, QC
Schmidt	Imela	Montreal, QC
Tate	Christina, E	Rawdon, QC
Vallance	E. Bernice	Nanaimo, BC

Also If anyone has any information about the following people, please contact Ellen Holzman at the address above.

Ms D. Graham, St Lambert, QC: Mrs M McClary, St Lambert, QC: Ms A Naimark, Cote St. Luc, QC: Mr J Serruya, St Laurent, QC: Ms N Travers, Sutton, QC: Ms J Mani Paris, France: Ms Hotzel, Chesterville, QC: Mr Stutt, Ottawa, ON.

DID YOU KNOW?
THE ROBINSON RESIDENCE
(Dreams can come true!)

How many of our present members of QPARSE know that the Robinson Residence in Cowansville started out as the Canadian Centennial Project of the Protestant Teachers in Quebec? The PAPART (Provincial Association of Protestant Retired Teachers) grew to a point in 1962 when members, under the driving leadership of Helen Shearing had the courage and the foresight to seek and get from the Quebec Government a charter corporation to become The Protestant Retired Teachers Homes and Benefits Corporation. Its avowed aim was to establish and operate "a residence for those retired teachers who wished to use such facilities."

This dream of dedicated PAPART members gradually became a reality as heroic efforts to finance it began to bear fruit. Proceeds from fund raisers projects of all sorts and descriptions, large and small including sale of Canadian Savings Bonds, coffee parties, rummage sales, and bequests began to mount up. Personal donations from individual teachers, their relatives and friends, as well as group donations from PAPT helped to make possible the purchase of the property that was to become known as the ROBINSON RESIDENCE FOR RETIRED TEACHERS. The doors opened in 1967, under the aegis of the P.R.T.H& B. Corporation, to become mortgage free within a year.

The original house was built more than 128 years ago by G.C. Buchanan, first a Commissioner of the Court and later a judge, in what then was the village of Sweetsburg. The Residence must have looked much as does today, an impressive brick mansion with its stately white columns supporting the gallery over the front entrance; tall elegant windows shaded by spreading pines, all set in a 10-acre tract of land, sweeping back the Yamaska River. One can even imagine carriages bowling around the circular driveway, for behind the house are outbuildings, one of which was surely the carriage house.

There were many owners throughout the years with additional buildings added to the property. There seemed to have developed a Vilas connection as, from about 1940 on, it became known as the Vilas Estate, having been purchased by H. Vilas, son of the owner of the Vilas Furniture Company. On his death the controlling interest was left to his sister, Mrs. C. Robinson of Waterloo, Quebec, and it was she who carried on the estate until her death in 1964.

During this period there was the addition of a swimming pool, bathhouse (to accommodate family and guests) stables and paddock for riding horses, and sweeping lawns, as well as

tool-house, storage warehouse and garages at the back. It assumed the proportions of a highly desirable country estate.

Such features together with the large, spacious residence, a subsidiary house and land upon which to expand were the main factors which influenced the retired teachers to purchase the Vilas Estate. Under the management of the PRTH&B Corporation, it was to become the ROBINSON RESIDENCE.

Thirty three years of service to retired teachers, that's the story of the ROBINSON RESIDENCE. A hard-working and loving staff tends to the needs of the residence with unselfish enthusiasm. Retired educators form the Executive and Board which meets monthly and with effect. Lending continuity, our President serves both the QPARSE and the PRTH&B Corporation.

I sincerely hope that this has given you some insight into the formation of and the present day ROBINSON RESIDENCE. Many of you have visited the residence for the garden party in June and have often asked how the residence was started. We retired teachers have a magnificent property which we have invested heavily in over the years. To know more about the Residence speak to a QPARSE Board member and remember, the Residence is serving retired educators in style. However, there are disquieting signs on the horizon. Lower occupancy and a greater financial need has become a concern for the members of the QPARSE and PRTH&B Boards. We suspect that there are many difficult days ahead of us.

Information taken from the handbook, Dreams Can Come True,(1986) by the late Bill Munroe.

Sandra Aird
President - QPARSE



The residence is fortunate that the Rev. Allan Gault, and his wife, of Trinity Anglican Church in Cowansville visit twice a month to conduct services for the residents. On May 12th he conducted a belated Easter service combined with a memorial service for Mrs. Hilda Florence Cooke Hunt, a 9-year resident, who had passed away in April. Matron Margaret Beattie truly appreciates the love that the Rev. Gault and his wife share with everyone during their visits.

The Annual Garden Party this year was on June 16th, the dull weather did not limit the enthusiasm of the fifty or more guests who had come from Montreal, Ontario, Vermont, Lennoxville etc. They enjoyed the refreshments that were served by the ladies of All Saints Anglican Church, Dunham and the conversation and laughter was evidence of the pleasure that this event creates.

Vice President Gary Crandall welcomed everyone & presented the Board, including Past President Pat Steele and new President Sandra Aird. Pat Steele received a beautiful Rhonda Price painting of the Residence in thanks for her work during her 4-year term as President. Two drawings for flower arrangements were held with the delighted winners being Elaine Evans and Therese Maguire.

All too soon it was time to say farewells and for everyone to head home but not before promising to return and renew old friendships the following year



The Robinson Residence



Private Rooms with Bath
Home Cooked Meals
Caring Personnel on Duty 24 hours a day
Elevator
Emergency Generator System
Cable
Near essential services: Churches, Banks, Hospital, CSLC
Delightful Environment
Gracious Living for Retired People

The Robinson Residence
738 Principale, Cowansville,
Quebec J2K 1K1
450-263-4404
For more information

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.

Amount enclosed \$ _____
Name _____
Address _____
Postal Code _____
e-mail address _____
Telephone _____

Forward to: Graeme Sutherland
Asst. Treasurer/Trustee
28 Lansdowne Gardens, Pointe Claire, QC
H9S 5B9

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

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

City 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 _____

THE BLUE PLANET

Children Writing About The Ocean

-1) Here is my picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles. (Kelly, age 6)

2) - Oysters' balls are called pearls. (Jerry, age 6)

3) - If you are surrounded by ocean you are an island. If you don't have ocean all round you, you are incontinent. (Wayne, age 7)

4) - Sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend any more. (Kylie, age 6)

5) - A dolphin breaths through an asshole on the top of its head. (Billy, age 8)

6) - My uncle goes out in his boat with 2 other men and a woman and pots and comes back with crabs. (Millie, age 6)

7) - When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans. (William, age 7)

8) - Mermaids live in the ocean. I like mermaids. They are beautiful and I like their shiny tails, but how on earth do mermaids get pregnant? Like, really? (Helen, age 6)

9) - I'm not going to write about the ocean. My baby brother is always crying, my Dad keeps yelling at my Mom, and my big sister has just got pregnant, so I can't think what to write. (Amy, age 6)

10) - Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves into chargers. (Christopher, age 7)

11) - When you go swimming in the ocean, it is very cold, and it makes my willy small. (Kevin, age 6)

12) - Divers have to be safe when they go under the water. Divers can't go down alone, so they have to go down on each other. (Becky, age 8)

13) - On vacation my Mom went water skiing. She fell off when she was going very fast. She says she won't do it again because water fired right up her big fat ass. (Julie, age 7)

14) - The ocean is made up of water and fish. Why the fish don't drown, I don't know. (Bobby, age 6)

15) - My dad was a sailor on the ocean. He knows all about the ocean. What he doesn't know is why he quit being a sailor and married my mom. (James, age 7)

WHAT DO TEACHERS MAKE?

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?" To stress his point he said to another guest; "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"

Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make? (She paused for a second, then began...)

"Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the Order of Canada. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental.

You want to know what I make? (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table) I make kids wonder. I make them question. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions.

I teach them to write and then I make them write. Keyboarding isn't everything. I make them read, read, read. I make them show all their work in math. They use their God given brain, not the man-made calculator.

I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know about English while preserving their unique cultural identity. I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe.

Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life. (Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.)

Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, with me knowing money isn't everything, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant. You want to know what I make? I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do you make Mr. CEO?

His jaw dropped, he went silent.

Teaching is...the profession that makes all other professions possible!

A CAMBODIAN ADVENTURE

Bertha Dawang

In 2009, my husband, Elie, and I decided that it was time to visit southeast Asia. We wanted to tour Viet Nam, China, Laos, and Angkor Wat in Cambodia and spend 3 months doing so. As we planned, we considered spending longer in that part of the world combining our trip with a volunteer experience. We settled on a project teaching English to young adults in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. We decided on Cambodia for a few reasons: this was a needy third world developing country, the project would not charge us for volunteering (only for room/board) and the fact that Cambodia had suffered a genocide under the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot was emotionally moving.

So, after 2 months "on the road" we arrived in Phnom Penh, excited about being in one place for the next 3 months and not having to live out of a suitcase.

The project had been organized and given start-up money by a couple of Australians and was now run by young Cambodians. The students were young adults who paid the sum of 30.00 for 3 month's oral conversation classes with foreigners. The money earned from their fees was used to support rural development in the country villages, building schools, wells, agricultural development, etc. Each volunteer had about 50 students divided into 4 groups and thereby generated \$1500.00 income for rural development.

We were the only Canadians and of course, the eldest volunteers. Most were from Australia, New Zealand, 2 from the U.S and one from Wales. We were about 4-5 professional teachers and the others were university graduates taking some time off.

We lived in a residence. This was convenient since the school was only 2 minutes away and we started at 6:30 in the morning. We were allotted 2 to a room, with a private bathroom. (toilet/sink/shower). Since there was only cold water in the house, we soon learned that to avoid the "refreshing" morning experience, it was better to shower in the p.m. after the water had naturally warmed up a bit in the hot weather. No, there was no air conditioning, but we did have 2 fans and mosquito netting over the bed. The eating area was ground level, along with a small tv. room (CNN/Australian news channel/Chinese and Cambodian Channels, etc.) There was a large collection of D.V.D.'s (pirated) attesting to their cheapness and the need to keep occupied watching the latest American movie releases. Conditions were spartan by our standards, but adequate.

There was a cook and a cleaner who kept the common areas in a reasonable condition. Ants were prolific, the occasional large Cambodian cockroach appeared, and soon we began to tolerate the resident rat (s) that roamed through the garbage in the courtyard every a.m.

Meals were prepared for us- rice, rice, and more rice. Yes, there was a good supply of local fruits, and the rice did contain some small pieces of meat and vegetables. However, noting the sanitary conditions in the markets, we learned to avoid the meat and stick to the rice/vegetables. The cook was anxious to learn new recipes and we were all excited when one of the volunteers prepared a western style dish. Looking at my journal, I noted my comment- "Can you imagine, we are all excited over mashed potatoes!"

Did we experience culture shock? Of course! We had to get used to a total lack of knowledge/regard for sanitation. Cold water was used to wash our clothes/dishes/food. Garbage

was strewn about in the streets, pedestrians feared for their lives due to the undisciplined traffic of mainly motor bikes, medical services were inefficient and corrupt, dogs (the local burglary alarm system) kept us awake, the local karaoke bars played loudly until at least midnight, etc.

I could go on and on about the living conditions. Suffice it to say, that for the first week, every night as I went to bed, I silently asked myself, "What the h__ll are we doing here?"

The teaching was a wonderful and rewarding experience. We taught 4 groups a day. The first group was at 6:30 and the next 3 groups were 4:00 - 8:00 pm., one hour for dinner (of course, rice). The students were grouped according to their level of English and the majority were in their twenties, although I did have a 14 year old and a 68 year old. These people worked at day jobs or attended school. They were all desperate to learn English since this was their pathway to a successful future. Many were already studying English with Khmer teachers and we provided the opportunity for them to speak with English foreigners (barangs). Students were respectful, polite, and conscientious. Although we told them our names, according to custom, they called us "teacher" (teachah). There was a set of program books to follow however, teachers were given the freedom to do as they wished. There was no homework, no written work to correct, and a general laissez faire attitude. At the end of the 3 months there was a conversation scheduled with each student to evaluate progress. However, group movement was very flexible.

I realized that there was no way I could learn to pronounce, or even remember, the students' names. I wanted to be respectful and so my description of a student became their name- medical student, hopeful CEO, jeweller, dentist, retired policeman, high school student, miss housekeeper (before sitting at the table she always dusted her place with a rag), Mr. early bird (he was there at 6:15), Miss musician, Miss cell phone salesperson, etc. I had difficulty with a specific name for the many finance/management university students - this was the cheapest "university" they could attend- but I wondered where they might be able to get jobs in this field in Cambodia upon graduation.

Students were often absent. Their jobs were a priority. They earned money for their living expenses and then to send the remainder home to their families in the poor, agricultural villages (they called this their homeland).

Cambodia is a third world, underdeveloped, poor country with a corrupt government. The police are there to be bribed. Teachers work from 8:00 to 1:00 for a subsistence salary. They then continue teaching their groups in the p.m. for a fee paid by students. No fee=no p.m. classes. If a student does not have the school uniform, they cannot attend classes. When I pointed out that they were not wearing uniforms or closed shoes for our lessons, but still learning, and I asked what was the reason for the uniforms, my students could not respond, but if the government said they had to, well, they had to. Generally, their flip-flops would come off their feet in our classes and this was the first time in my career that I taught a class of barefoot students.

There is a vibrant ex-pat community in Phnom Penh. Bars and restaurants are filled during the evenings/weekends. You can choose between major world cuisines at very reasonable prices. There are many cultural organizations (French, German, etc) that have weekend music/documentary film programs, lectures, etc). We even got to see a Broadway level rock musical called "Where

Elephants Weep". There are English book stores, internet cafes, (I read the Montreal Gazette frequently), swimming pools, gyms, etc. and many foreigners due to the NGO's that Cambodia depends on. One does not feel isolated.

Two unforgettable experiences remain in my mind. A group of retired Australian men has organized a project to feed the families that live on the garbage dump. One Saturday, we pooled some money, got a truck, and went to the market to purchase fruit, eggs, bread, juice, etc. for distribution. Imagine- families living ON the dump! A medic came along and tended to minor injuries that would otherwise have been neglected. As we walked on the dump, with the gaseous fumes and occasional self combustible fire, we had to keep out of the way of garbage trucks dumping their loads.

The second experience that stands out in my mind is celebrating Hanukah on a boat on the Mekong River. This event was planned by a Jewish mother (former Peace Corp worker), married to a native of Zambia. Invited were expats somehow connected to the Jewish tradition. The story of the holiday was recounted to the children, in English, although most of the children were bilingual (English/Khmer/Spanish/Hebrew/French) and racially mixed. The Cambodian cooks had even been taught how to prepare potato latkes!

We have been often asked, "Would you go back?" If we were 10 years younger, yes, we would. The big drawback is the total lack of medical services. One has to fly to Viet Nam or Thailand for adequate services. Of primary concern is the need for immediate attention in a medical crisis. A younger person might expect the occasional temporary illness, but not a major emergency as might an individual "of a certain age."



Some of the students still send us the occasional email message and we do communicate with Sambo, the director via Skype. Some students hope to immigrate one day to be reunited with their relatives in California, Atlanta, Minnesota (!) and even Montreal. They have our co-ordinates and they know that if they should ever come our way, we would be more than happy to have them stay with us. Realistically, however, this

is most unlikely.

In the meantime, the school has expanded and moved to new larger premises and facilities. There are 800 students presently attending and this year \$20,000 will be earned for rural development. Hopefully, the project will continue with a steady flow of volunteers.

Only a home-room teacher of long standing can testify as to the myriad of tasks that, since time immemorial, have fallen to the lot of those that fulfill that key role. One of the more demanding of the many chores required of daily of the long suffering home room teacher is the obligation to obtain from every pupil returning to school after an absence - however brief -- the time honoured "note" from the parent or guardian acknowledging and explaining the absence.

While a collection of such notes is unlikely to constitute a treasure trove of literary gems, a selection of items culled from the files in one high school classroom over a period of years gives the observer a privileged glimpse into lives beyond the classroom wall.

Minor domestic dramas contribute generously to the file. "Allan was at home Friday afternoon" according to his mother, "because I was sick and it was necessary to have someone at home to keep me company and", perhaps ominously, "to watch". Another note has a seasonal ring to it. "Bruce was having a little trouble with his sunburn, and decided to take a baking-soda bath to help it" or perhaps to help him? Carl's situation was more complicated: a suit bought in his absence proved to be too large. The suit having been returned to the store, "his father had to take Carl to be fitted", presumably so a replacement could be obtained. Meanwhile who cannot empathize with Donald's mother when she reveals despairingly, that "The whole family slept in, and everyone was in an uproar".

Judging by this particular sample, one might be tempted to conclude that the noon hour harbours special perils for the unwary adolescent. Submitting a note in his own handwriting - authenticated by his mother's counter signature - Earl recounts how he went to his grandfather's for lunch and - exhausted, perhaps by his morning labours? -- "laid down for a rest and accidentally fell asleep, and woke up at 2.30, too late for school". Frank, for his part, made the mistake of going home for lunch during a bus strike. As his mother explains, "He couldn't go back to school in the afternoon because the chain on his bicycle broke". Mechanical failure of another sort proved, to be George's undoing. According to his mother, "Over the noon-hour the zipper on his pants broke, so he came home to change them". Hapless Harold was marooned at home "because at noon he broke his shoe lace and could not find another one."

Notes from home often reveal a great deal about parental priorities. Evidence of this range from a note from one lad's mother covering a two day absence stating frankly that "Ian had a chance to work", to an equally unapologetic communication from Jack's father explaining that "I needed assistance in installing a tail pipe on my car".

Another parent acknowledges that "Kenneth was absent Monday and Tuesday because he was down at the country hunting". And at a more frivolous level, Leonard's mother admits that her son was absent one afternoon because "He wanted to buy a ticket for the Beatles, and it was too late to return to school when he arrived home at lunch".

On occasion, the file yields tantalising hints of adolescent excess. For some reason not divulged in the note he presented at school, Martin evidently arrived home at 4.00 am on the day of his absence. In the note his mother made it clear that Martin had been "strictly admonished" as well as warned that should he offend again, he would be sent off the school". - regardless of his condition - "and - left to the mercy of your judgement". Norman's fall from grace appears to have many similar features. The experience evidently left him in so parlous a condition that, in his mother's nicely understated words, "He would be no use in class".

A few older pupils - the newly adult or nearly adult - were coming face-to-face with new realities, and this is occasionally reflected in the "notes" file. Doing his duty as a responsible citizen kept one boy out of school for a day: as his mother explains, "Orville had to appear in Court yesterday as a witness for his father due to a hunting accident in December". If Orville's day in Court was a valuable learning experience, Peter's was a truly chastening one. "You undoubtedly know why Peter had to be absent this morning and why he will be absent tomorrow for the same reason", writes his mother. Several days before, Peter and a friend had been arrested while in possession of a stolen car. Unfortunately, he had just reached his 18th birthday, and as a consequence, he now faced the daunting prospect of trial as an adult, and the possibility he might emerge with a criminal conviction.

PUNCTUATION

An English professor wrote the words :

"A woman without her man is nothing"

on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All of the males in the class wrote:

"A woman, without her man, is nothing."

Are you ready for this.....?

All the females in the class wrote:

"A woman: without her, man is nothing."

Punctuation is powerful.

LOST AND FOUND (in Translation)

In a Bangkok temple:

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN, EVEN A FOREIGNER, IF DRESSED AS A MAN.

Cocktail Lounge, Norway:

LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR

Doctor's Office, Rome:

SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES

Dry Cleaner's, Bangkok:

DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR THE BEST RESULTS

In a Nairobi Restaurant:

CUSTOMERS WHO FIND OUR WAITRESSES RUDE OUGHT TO SEE THE MANAGER

On the main road to Mombasa, leaving Nairobi:

TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE

Hotel, Japan:

YOU ARE INVITED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID

In the lobby of a Moscow hotel across from a Russian Orthodox monastery:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETARY WHERE FAMOUS RUSSIAN AND SOVIET COMPOSERS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS ARE BURIED DAILY EXCEPT THURSDAY

Hotel, Zurich:

BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THISPURPOSE

Advertisement for donkey rides, Thailand:

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RIDE ON YOUR OWN ASS?

A laundry in Rome:

LADIES, LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES HERE AND SPEND THE AFTERNOON HAVING A GOOD TIME.

QPARSE Board of Directors 2010-2011

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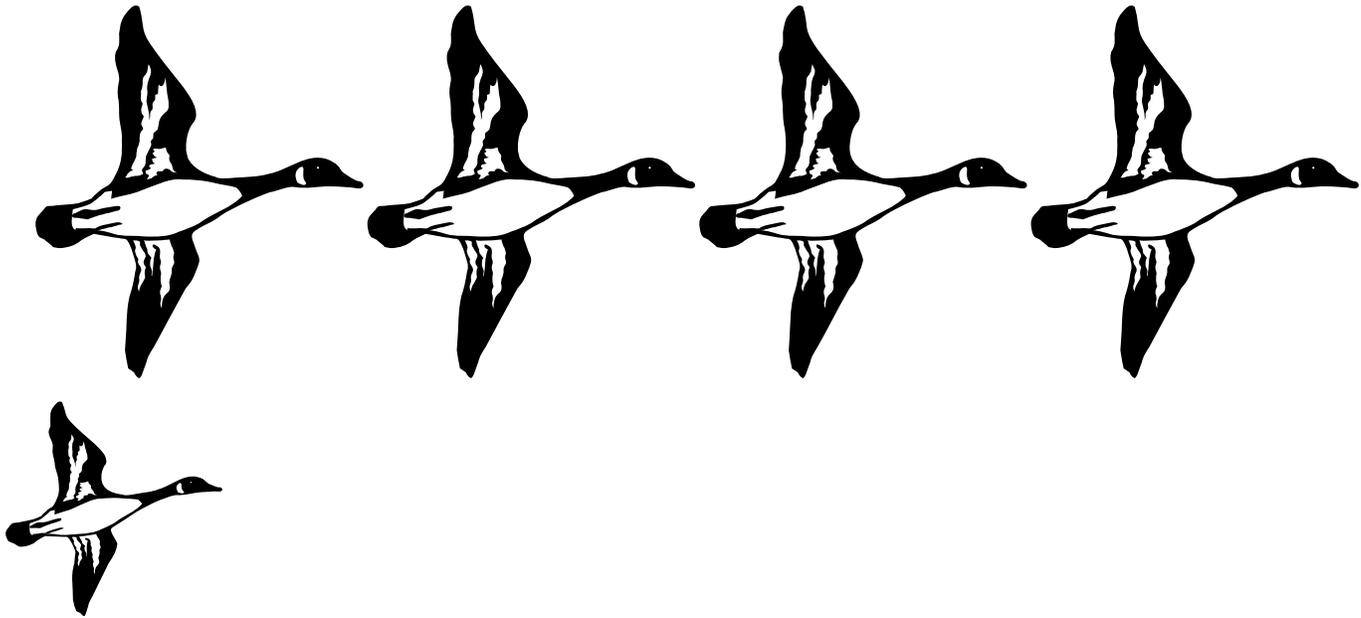
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The Quebec
Provincial Association
of Retired School
Educators



Association provinciale
du personnel
d'enseignement
retraite du Quebec



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The deadline for submission of items for the Winter Newsletter is as follows:

Cover Art must be mailed to reach the Editor no later than Dec. 28th

Articles etc to my e-mail account: dickmeades@gmail.com by Saturday January 15th 2011

Editor Richard Meades
Printing Rivett Printing
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