The Quebec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators

Association provinciale du personnel d'enseignement retraite du Quebec

Spring (May-June) 2012 Newsletter

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President's Message

In May, QPARSE ended its 2011-2012 program year with the AGM. This event was well attended and those present helped us celebrate our 50th Anniversary as a Provincial Association for Retired Educators. Guest speaker Norbert Boudreau, executive Director of ACER-CART drove in from Ottawa to address the QPARSE members. During his presentation he thanked QPARSE for its dedication and contribution over the years, to the 167,000 members of retired teacher associations who make up ACER-CART. In addition, he thanked past Presidents and Board Directors, Don McQuate, the late Bill Monroe, Ann MacLeish, the late Keith Farquarhson, Pat Steele, and Renate Sutherland in their role as Directors to ACER-CART, throughout the many years.

The luncheon which followed the meeting allowed us to get together, reminisce and talk about our summer plans. I would like to thank all those who attended the meeting on this special occasion.

On a personal note I will be away on a "trip of a life time" during the months of September and October 2012. Traveling throughout Italy, followed by a River Boat Cruise from Prague to Paris, finishing in the South of England and then to London and returning home, you can only imagine how excited I am as well as fellow traveler, Gretta Pipe. In my absence Ken Cooke, first Vice President will chair the Board meetings and members of the Board will assume my additional duties. I thank them in advance for their help and support.

Our first QPARSE event will be the Fall Reception on Wednesday, October 17st 2012, 12:30pm in the EMSB/Patterson Room, 6000 Fielding Ave., Cote St. Luc. 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 during the 2012-1013 season. The continuing participation and support by QPARSE members is important to our future endeavors as well as maintaining contact with those we have worked with over the years.

On behalf of the QPARSE Board of Directors, I would like to wish you all a very happy summer.

Sandra Aird

President

QPARSE Program Calendar

2012-2013

DATE	TIME	PLACE
		2012
OCTOBER 17th	12.30 P.M. (Wed.)	EMSB/Patterson Room Fall Luncheon for Retirees ("Free Will" Donation)
DECEMBER 6th	10.30 A.M. (Thurs.)	EMSB/Patterson Room **Holiday Celebration** Dix Mille Village Table (arts & crafts, jewelry & gift items) NDG Food Bank Donation
		2013
FEBRUARY 12th	11:00a.m. (Tues.)	Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant **Seniors Tours Presentation** Escorted Tours/ Limousine Pick up 500 Destinations / Health cancellation & much more Lunch (Optional)
MARCH 22nd	10:00 A .M. (Fri.)	EMSB/Patterson Room **Wellness Seminar** **"Achieving Vibrance"** Harmoni Health Center. Registration Fee $20.00 **Coffee: 9. 30 A. M.**
APRIL18th	10. A.M. (Thurs.)	EMSB/Patterson Room **Insurance/ Medical: Paul Barnes/ QPAT** **Insurance/ Home/Car, ESSOR** **Lunch: Carmines Tuscany Grill (Optional)**
MAY 7th	10:00A.M. (Tues.)	**AGM** EMSB/Patterson Room **Coffee 9. 30 A. M.**

Carmine's Tuscany Grill Restaurant is at 5525 Cote St. Luc Rd., H3X 2C6. (514-484-7525)
Guests welcome. Please inform Events coordinator Ken Cooke (514-485-9118) if you are attending the luncheons. Program information,contact Erene Anthony 514-626-8002

www.qparse-apperg.org

Watch for details for Special Events:
Feb 3rd to 15th Caribbean Cruise
May 13th-20th Alaskan Cruise

QPARSE AND TOWN OF MOUNT ROYAL TRAVEL TOGETHER in 2013

CARRIBBEAN CRUISE
February 3 to February 15

13-day cruise on the NCL Jewel - departing from New York

- Transfers and all taxes
- Deluxe coach to and from New York

Ports: San Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Phillipsburg, St. Maarten, Castries, St-Lucia, Bridgetown , Barbados, & St. John, Antigua

Price: Double Occupancy

inside:	$1375/person
Outside:	$1765/person
Balcony:	$2035/person

A refundable deposit of $350 is July 6. Balance of payment due November 2.

ALASKA CRUISE
Monday, May 13 to Monday May 20

- ♦ 7 nights on board NCL's SUN
- ♦ Return airfare from Montreal
- ♦ Taxes

Ports: Vancouver,B.C., Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketichikan

Price: Double Occupancy

Inside:	$1820 per person
Outside:	$1970 per person
Balcony:	$2260 per person

A refundable deposit of $350 is due by September 7. Balance of payment is due by December 7, 2012.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Emergency medical and cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. **Please ensure coverage before leaving the province.** The Town will not be responsible for anyone travelling without emergency medical insurance. Cancellation insurance is available and must be purchased at the time of deposit. For more information, please contact **Jan Lauer at 514-734-2943 (day) 514-683-6389 (evening) or Sandra Aird at 514-738-6169.**

QPARSE ET VILLE DE MONT-ROYAL VOYAGENT ENSEMBLE EN 2013

CROISIÈRE AU CARAÏBES
Du 3 février au 15 février

Croisière de 13 jours à bord le 'NCL Jewel départ de New York

- Transferts et taxes
- Autocar deluxe aller/retour de New York

Ports: San Juan-Puerto Rico,St-Thomas, Virgin Islands, Phillipsburg-St. Maarten, Castries, St-Lucia, Bridgetown, Barbados et St. John-Antigua

Prix : Occupation double :

Intérieure :	1375 $/personne
Extérieure :	1765 $/personne
Balcon :	2035 $/personne

Dépôt remboursable de 350 $ verser d'ici le 6 juillet. Solde exigible le 2 novembre.

CROISIÈRE EN ALASKA
Du samedi 13 mai au LUNDI 20 mai

- 7 nuits à bord du SUN de NCL
- Taxes
- Transport en avion de Montréal

Ports : Vancouver,C.B., Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, Ketichikan

Prix : Occupation double

Intérieure:	1820 $/personne
Extérieure:	1970 $/personne
Balcon :	2260 $/personne

Dépôt remboursable de 350 $ verser d'ici le 7 septembre. Solde exigible le 7 décembre 2012

ASSURANCE VOYAGE : Nous recommandons vivement aux voyageurs de contracter une assurance maladie et annulation. **Veuillez vous assurer d'être couvert avant de quitter la province**. La Ville ne peut être tenue responsable de quiconque voyage sans assurance maladie d'urgence. L'assurance annulation est offerte et doit être acquittée au moment du versement de l'acompte. Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec **Jan Lauer, au 514-734-2943.ou Sandra Aird au 514-738-6169.**

OGUNQUIT, MAINE
September 4 to September 7 2012

See why Ogunquit has inspired visitors to call it "the beautiful place by the sea".

- 3 nights at the Anchorage by the Sea Motel
- 3 breakfasts and 1 dinner
- Visits to Kittery Outlets, Kennebunk
- Transportation
- Deluxe coach, baggage handling, all taxes and standard gratuities

Price: Single Occupancy: $520
Double Occupancy: $395

A non-refundable deposit of $45 is due by June 28, 2012. Balance of payment is due by August 1, 2012.

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ
October 22 to October 26 2012

- 4 nights lodgings at Bally' Hotel & Resort
- Virginia Buffet ($24.95) at Wild Wild West Resort
- 4 X $10 food credit,
- 50 $ US slot credits
- Deluxe coach transportation
- Optional trip to NYC to see matinee performance of 'Nice Work if You Can Get It' ($125)
- Transportation Deluxe coach, baggage handling, all taxes and gratuities

Price: Single Occupancy: $520
Double Occupancy: $395

A non-refundable deposit of $45 is due by September 7, 2012. Balance of payment is due by September 21, 2012.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Emergency medical and cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. **Please ensure coverage before leaving the province.** The Town will not be responsible for anyone travelling without emergency medical insurance. Cancellation insurance is available and must be purchased at the time of deposit. For more information, please contact **Jan Lauer at 514-734-2943 (day) 514-683-6389 (evening) or Sandra Aird at 514-738-6169.**

OGUNQUIT, MAINE
September 4 to September 7 2012

Découvrez pourquoi Ogunquit est surnommé «beau lieu sur la mer»

- Hébergement de trois nuits au Anchorage by the Sea Motel
- 3 petits déjeuners et un souper
- Visite de points de vente de Kittery et Kennebunk
- Transport en autocar de luxe, manutention des bagages, taxes et pourboires

Prix : Occupation simple : 520 $
Occupation double : 395 $

Dépôt non-remboursable de 45 $ à verser d'ici le 28 juin 2012. Solde exigible le 1 août 2012.

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ 2012
Du 22 octobre au 26 octobre

- Hébergement de 4 nuits à l'hôtel Bally's; crédit : 4 x 10 $ (repas), & 50 $ US (machines à sous)
- Coupon (24,95 $) souper-buffet à l'hôtel Wild, Wild West
- Voyage facultatif à New York pour voir le spectacle en matinée de 'Nice Work if You Can Get It.'(125 $)
- Transport en autocar de luxe, taxes et pourboires, manutention des bagages

Prix : Occupation simple : 520 $
Occupation double : 395 $

Dépôt non-remboursable de 45 $ à verser d'ici le 7 septembre 2012. Solde exigible le 21 septembre 2012.

ASSURANCE VOYAGE : Nous recommandons vivement aux voyageurs de contracter une assurance maladie et annulation. **Veuillez vous assurer d'être couvert avant de quitter la province**. La Ville ne peut être tenue responsable de quiconque voyage sans assurance maladie d'urgence. L'assurance annulation est offerte et doit être acquittée au moment du versement de l'acompte. Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec **Jan Lauer, au 514-734-2943 (jour) 514-683-6389 (soir) ou Sandra Aird au 514-738-6169.**

QPARSE
Annual General Meeting 2012
President's Report

The second year of my Presidency has at times been a difficult one, especially in my role as QPARSE & PRTH&B President. Never more so, than when the final decision was made to close the Robinson Residence in Cowansville. Many issues had to be dealt with which required a considerable amount of time and effort by the PRTH&B Board and the staff of the Robinson Residence. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Gary Crandall, first Vice-President, for his devotion, patience, and untiring work in making the closure a relatively easy one for the residents and the staff.

The selling of the property was difficult since I often had to commute to Cowansville to meet with the Board and Real Estate Agent to negotiate the sale of the property. In the notary's office when I signed the last document there was a feeling of extreme sadness. This Residence had meant so much to so many people, since the opening in 1967. I applaud the driving leadership of Helen Shearing, President of PAPRT, (the predecessor of QPARSE,) who, along with her colleagues, worked tirelessly to establish the Residence.

QPAT once more refused our request for representation to the Insurance committee on behalf of retired teachers. Cancellation insurance was also refused even though the QPARSE Board had asked that it be considered as an option. A meeting will take place with the QPAT President and the insurance representative to review the decision. We can only hope that eventually we will succeed in having a "voice" representing a very large segment of our population. There have also been some changes in benefits paid out to the retired members by Industrial Alliance. I would suggest you obtain a group insurance booklet through QPAT if you don't already have one.

In November of each year, members of the QPARSE Board attend the QPAT Teacher's Convention where information is given out concerning the program and also how we can help in the adjustment to retirement. Many teachers stop and ask questions pertaining to the future, both in anticipation and with anxiety. Teachers who are to retire in the coming year are asked to fill an entry form to win a "free" life membership to QPARSE. At the AGM meeting the lucky winner is announced.

There were changes in our program for 2011-2012. We did not have events in November and January. There were more meetings held at the EMSB building, mainly due to the uncertainty of attendance at a restaurant. The events were well attended this program year. The session on Insurance and the Investors Group workshop were very well received. As a result we will be expanding the Insurance information to include Home and Automobile Insurance in our April 2013 meeting.

I again attended the ACER-CART AGM in Ottawa in June 2011. As I stated in my last year's AGM report, this is an experience that I thoroughly enjoy. It is an opportunity to meet and listen to retired teachers from our 10 provinces and 3 territories. This has provided me a unique opportunity to listen to and review issues of importance and shared action plans that are common to the retired teachers throughout Canada. (Please see additional information in the ACER-CART report)

A Strategic Committee was formed during this year to help navigate the direction of QPARSE for the future. 7 members of the QPARSE Board volunteered to sit on this committee to review the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for QPARSE and to determine a clear Mission Statement. A survey was created and was sent out to all QPARSE members. The return was extremely encouraging with a

significant number of members replying. I would like to thank the members who took the time to fill out and return the surveys.
I would also like to thank the Committee Chair, Renate Sutherland, for her dedication to this project and to Robin Narsted who worked so hard on compiling the survey. (Please see Strategic Planning Committee report)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the QPARSE Board. The 16 members of the Board work very hard on behalf of the Membership and must be congratulated on their dedication. During the year Maureen Morris had to leave us for health reasons and Miriam Rose has submitted her resignation as of June this year. We were pleased that Robin Narsted agreed to return to the Board and has agreed to remain for 2012-2013.

There are still many issues that face retired teachers now and in the future. As President, I will continue to work to represent you in all aspects of concern relating to pensions, indexing, insurance, drug plans and issues regarding senior advocacy. QPARSE needs your support. Please participate where possible in meetings or communicate with us through the website.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing you at the "Fall Luncheon for Retirees" on Wednesday, October 17th 2012 in the Patterson Room, EMSB.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandra K. Aird
President/QPARSE

QPARSE Financial Report for 2011

The assets for the Association for December 31, 2011 were $113 875.54, a reduction of $15 408.43 from December 31, 2010. Income increased considerably due to the repayment of the $10 000 loan made to the Homes and Benefits Corporation. We have reduced our transfers from our investments to $100 monthly for about a year.

Expenses were higher last year due to increased costs for communications and the spring garden party which will not take place this year. The reduction to two Newsletters a year will be reflected in the 2012 report.

In the Auditors Report to the members, Ian Trasler reported that he had examined the record of assets, receipts, and disbursements of the Association for the period ending December 31, 2011, and certified that the Treasurer's Report was correct.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Berry

AGM Membership report- May 2012

First of all, we would like to report that the responsibilities of the membership director have been split. This has been done because over time it has become apparent that this role has two distinct components.

One part is ongoing throughout the year. It encompasses entering and changing data on the master list spreadsheet- essential in keeping the membership register up to date and current.

The other part is more time specific and concentrated. It involves merging data in order to create mailing labels for our mass postings. This occurs about five times yearly.
Chris Phelan has graciously volunteered to assume this challenging task.

The QPARSE membership statistics since the 2011 AGM meeting are as follows.

QPARSE presently has 1277 members.

We have acquired 23 new members and we know of 38 members who have died.

Currently we have lost contact with 42 members due to invalid addresses.

Of the total membership, 656 members are still receiving our communication via Canada Post. A few of these people have made monetary contributions towards mailing expenses and we are very thankful to them.

Postage and printing costs continue to escalate. Therefore if you do possess an email address, we would much welcome having it.

And finally,
In order to keep our files accurate we need your help. Please inform us of any home and /or email address changes. We would also appreciate any information you might have about members we have lost track of.

Thank you and until next year,
Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Holzman
Chris Phelan

Goodwill Report to the Annual General Meeting

Birthday cards were sent to 36 Super Seniors (90 years and over). Birth dates were not requested in the past, so we depend on members to inform us of their own status or that of former colleagues. One hundred and eighty-eight members who have been retired for 25 years or more received Holiday booklets and Spring/Summer booklets filled with poems, jokes, and word and number puzzles. We receive many notes of appreciation for these publications, and several donations to cover Newsletter and booklet mailing costs. The feedback is heartwarming.My thanks to fellow members of the Goodwill Committee, Anastasia Adamakis and Mair Richards for their help in getting the booklets folded, and the envelopes stuffed, labeled and stamped. And as always, thank you to Membership director Ellen Holzman for her help in keeping the Super Senior list up to date and for preparing the labels for the mailings to 25-year-plus retirees. Respectfully submitted, Alanna Dow

Newsletter Report for AGM 2012

The Newsletter has published 2 editions during the year. Winter 2011 & Spring 2012.The Spring 2012 edition is in process as we meet & is anticipated to be available in early June.

I would like to thank Rosemary Stewart for her stellar work in word-processing & layout over the last number of years. Sadly we are losing her services as she is returning to Scotland in the near future. Her cheerful disposition & crusty humor will be missed.

Rosemary's departure leaves us looking for someone with word processing & desktop publishing skills to help us in producing the Newsletter on a twice yearly basis.

Please contact me if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted
Dick Meades

Web Site Report for 2012

qparse-apperq.org

Our web site shares the "Latest News" with our members and Ed Zegray now has an area for his reports. Often we are being encouraged to be lobbyists. Our event "Calendar" of speakers, workshops and trips is a place we can all visit when we want to check the specifics of an event. The "Contact Us" page is a commonly used way to keep the membership records up to date.
Over 500 members on our email list get reminders of upcoming events, and announcements of another newsletter posted to the site.
Last year we had 92,000 hits, and the top downloads were the newsletters.
Any member with web confidence is encouraged to get involved. I have been doing the web site for several years and am ready for someone to take over and freshen it up. Maybe someone would like to rebuild it with WordPress?

It is a pleasure to serve.
Tom Murray

Program Report QPARSE AGM

I am pleased to report that the programs put on during the past year were quite successful. There was a significant increase in the number of members who attended. I would like to express my appreciation to those members and to thank them for encouraging friends to join them for our various events.
Our Fall Luncheon welcomed over 50 members. We were delighted to have 11 new members among them. The Montreal West Operatic Society graced us with their holiday songs and engaged our members who were not to be outdone with their energetic singing of carols. We extend our appreciation to members for their cash donation as well as canned food which were donated to the NDG food bank. A big thank you to Dix Mille Village for getting us started with our holiday shopping.
The June Lachine Canal Boat Ride was an interesting and informative event. The Wellness Event was again quite popular. We were extremely pleased with our biggest turn out of the year, to the Insurance Workshop that was held in February. Thank you to Paul Barnes and Michael Stirrup for their contributions. There were more questions than could be answered in our limited time, consequently another workshop will be held in the months ahead. An interesting feature of the Investor's Workshop was the long term financial plan for seniors as well as the resources available to us for long term care.
We appreciate the complimentary lunch they always provide. We never stop learning and this was evident in the informative presentation by Anne Kettenbeil , "Attacking Poverty Through Micro-credit."
We would like to thank Tom Murray for diligently sending out website reminders close to the date of events. This was one of the reasons for our increase in attendance. Your presence however, is always welcomed and we particularly appreciate those who consistently bring a friend.
Your suggestions for additional events are important to us so please stay in touch. Please watch out for details our upcoming cruises.
I would like to say thank you to Ken Cooke for his assistance in each event and to all members of the Executive for their individual contributions to the programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Erene Anthony

Canadian Association of Retired Teachers
(ACER - CART) 2011-12
Report to QPARSE Annual Meeting, May 8th, 2012

The **20th Annual General Meeting** of the *Canadian Association of Retired Teachers* (*ACER –CART*) was held June 2 – 4, 2011 in Ottawa. It was attended by twenty-six delegates, representing 12 of the 13 retired teacher organizations in Canada. QPARSE was represented by President, Sandra Aird and Director, Renate Sutherland. The delegates were welcomed by ACER –CART President, Vaughn Wadelius and CTF President Mary-Lou Donnelly. Dr. Calvin Fraser, Secretary General, brought greetings on behalf of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. As a national organization with a membership of 117,235, ACER-CART continues to make additional efforts to provide communications equally in French and English.

At a 2011 Pre-AGM brainstorming session, member associations discussed ***Future Directions of ACER-CART*** resulting in a document from the Executive called **The 2011 Pre-AGM Strategic Planning Session** which identified ACER-CART's strengths, weaknesses, perceived threats, and recommendations and proposed changes. This review of organizational structure, initiated in part by the withdrawal of AREQ from ACER-CART, and its recommendations will be the basis for further discussion at the 2012 AGM.

All member associations presented, shared and discussed events, issues and concerns of their respective associations. Reports received from the President and the various ACER-CART committees (Pension and Retirement Income; Communications; Health Services and Insurance, and Legislative), are a regular feature of the AGM and indicate the effort expended during the previous year to advocate and publicize the positions proposed by the national organization for future consideration.

The representative from Johnson, Inc., Lori MacDonald-Blundon, gave an informative and thought-provoking **presentation on "Out of Province/Canada Travel".** She emphasized the importance of appropriate travel insurance coverage, key provisions in policies, debunking myths from facts, and new developments for travel to certain destinations.

Committee Reports

The Communications Committee (Vaughn Wadelius, Chair) regularly updates the ACER-CART website which continues to report an increase in visits. The newsletter OPTIONS, published twice a year, and the Executive Director's Quarterly Reports keep the member organizations and directors well informed and up to date on ACER-CART activities as they advocate on behalf of all retired teachers. A special Directors' website is used to provide access to AGM documents in advance of the meeting.

The Health Services and Insurance Committee (Dr. Thomas Gaskell, Chair) continues to focus on the issues of the Canada Health Act and raises concern about the growing efforts to privatize Canadian health care. Other issues of concern are; the necessity of supporting the development of a national Pharmacare program and the wide variation in the cost to seniors of provincially approved generic prescription drugs. Member associations have taken an active role in contacting MP's and MLA's to express their concerns over health care. At the request of the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations (CNSO), the Canadian Health Association and ACER-CART, the QPARSE Board endorsed the document **"Secure the Future of Medicare: A Call to Care"**

The Pension and Retirement Income Committee (Arnold Hull, Chair) acted to comply with two 2010 AGM resolutions: that ACER-CART lobby the Federal Government to increase CPP/QPP, OAS and GIS benefits, and to support Bill C-516 on the automatic inclusion of eligible pensioners for GIS benefits. On the motion to develop a position paper on poverty amongst older retired teachers, given its complexity, difficulty of obtaining relevant data, and special resources required, the committee concluded that this study was not feasible.

The Legislative Committee (Helen Biales, chair) did not receive any amendments to the Articles and By-Laws, but the Executive recommended and the AGM approved the addition of one policy on the Performance

Appraisal of the Executive Director. "A performance appraisal of the Executive Director shall be conducted by the President with input from the Executive and the Executive Director within two years of the last evaluation."

The **motions adopted at the 2011 AGM** directed ACER-CART to
Accept with regret, the **withdrawal of AREQ as a member**
Convey to AREQ sincere appreciation for its involvement and contributions during its membership in ACER-CART and to extend an invitation to continue to work cooperatively to achieve shared objectives.
Reaffirm its support for the **five basic principles of the Canada Health Act (1984)** and pursue the preservation of these principles (universality, access, comprehensiveness, portability and public administration)
Review its organizational structure and include consideration of programs, expenditures and membership fees.
Approve the 2011-12 budget including increases in Executives' travel expenses and meals: $0.48/km; breakfast - $16; lunch - $23; dinner - $36. ACER-CART membership fees remain at $0.25/member. A donation of $500 was made to the Canadian Teachers' Trust Fund.
Lobby the Government of Canada:to eliminate the tax on the CPP/QPP Death Benefit;
To make Canadian adult passports effective for ten years
To extend any tax credit to seniors for registration costs for wellness and/or recreation programs; similar to that provided to youth.
To urge the federal government to act, in conjunction with the provinces, to establish a national formulary as well as a national drug plan.
In appreciation for the support of ACER-CART Directors and Officers, **Recognition Certificates** were presented to those retiring from the Board. This 20th Anniversary was also the occasion to recognize past presidents, past executive directors, the Canadian Teachers' Federation and Johnson, Inc. **A 20th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet** was specially prepared by Vaughn Wadelius for the occasion, and the Banquet featured a visual presentation honouring those who have led and supported ACER-CART over the years.

The 2011 Annual General Meeting elected the following ACER-CART executive officers.
President, Arnold Hull (Ontario)
Past President, Vaughn Wadelius (Manitoba)
The four Regional Representatives
ATLANTIC: Dr. Thomas Gaskell (Nova Scotia) also becomes vice-president
QUEBEC: Ed Zegray (Montreal)
ONTARIO: Brian Kenny
WEST: Dean McMullen (Alberta)
The Executive is supported by Executive Director Norbert Boudreau with secretarial assistance provided by the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) support person Lynne Richard, and financial management by CTF's Debbie McCarthy.

The next ACER-CART AGM will be on June 1-2, 2012 in Ottawa
On your behalf, I express my appreciation to **Ed Zegray**, our Quebec Regional Representative, who keeps us informed about Quebec pension issues, **Jean LeGuillou** for his services in the translation of reports and documents for ACER-CART, and to **Dick Meades** (Newsletter) and **Tom Murray** (Webmaster) for helping to publicize the affairs of ACER-CART to our membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Renate Sutherland

Strategic Planning Committee - Report to 2012 AGM

In October 2011, the QPARSE Board of Directors decided to set up a Strategic Planning Committee which was mandated to do **TWO** things:

a. to examine and determine the future direction of QPARSE
b. to submit a progress report to the May 2012 Annual General Meeting.

The decision to set up this ad hoc committee was taken in light of our **organization's trend of declining membership** (1278, down from 1335 in 2009) and **the closure and sale of the Robinson Residence in September 2011.** At its inception in 1961, the Provincial Association of Protestant Retired Teachers had as its primary aim, the establishment of a residence for retired teachers. To this end it set up The Protestant Retired Teachers' Homes and Benefits Corporation in 1962 which opened the Robinson Residence in 1967. QPARSE now needs to examine its changing role.

Since November 2011, this ad hoc committee has had six monthly meetings.
Its first task was to conduct a survey of our 1300 members for the purpose of determining the current pulse of the QPARSE membership with a view to establishing the future direction of our organization.

The committee is pleased to report a **35% response to the survey.** Those **452 responses** have now been tabulated.
The majority of responses came from Montreal, the surrounding areas and from the Eastern Townships
251 respondents have retired in the last 15 years
189 respondents retired more than 15 years ago of which 79 have been retired for more than 25 years
Not only has the survey helped us to update our address and email lists, but it has also identified those areas of QPARSE'S activities which are important to our membership. New program ideas and suggestions on travel and group trips, investments, computer literacy and educational topics have already been passed on to the Program Committee.

*The tabulation of the Survey responses **highlighted** the following results:-*

Most important to all members is:
to be kept informed on **pension and insurance issues**;
for QPARSE **to advocate for health and seniors issues**

Benefits of QPARSE membership include:
being updated on **current issues - pensions and insurance**
receiving **Newsletter**
Life Membership
staying in touch with **former colleagues**
special recognition - 25 years/Super Seniors;
lobbying for retired educators at the provincial level

Regular participation **in QPARSE activities** included:
guest speakers' events and **luncheons**
Insurance information sessions,
Fall Luncheons for Retirees
the **Robinson Residence Tea** in June
the **Annual General Meeting**

Several people suggested that occasionally events be scheduled at a West Island location as it is very difficult for many out-of-Montreal members to attend.

Comments on **Communication and publicity:**
E-mail reminders of activities and events
special flyers
summary of speakers' presentation in Newsletters
follow-up phone calls
encourage members to submit articles to Newsletter

Attracting new members
have QPARSE attend QPAT Retirement Sessions
need for QPARSE to develop a purpose/goal
information sessions for new members

The work of the Strategic Planning Committee continues.

We thank you all for your positive feedback, suggestions and invaluable input.

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee: Sandra Aird, Don Berry, Ellen Holzman, Jan Langelier, Kathleen Malcius, Dick Meades, Robin Narsted and Renate Sutherland

Respectfully submitted,

Renate Sutherland, Chair

Protestant Retired Teachers' Homes & Benefits Corporation Report for 2011

The saying, "That all good things must come to an end" was never more true this last year for the Protestant Retired Teachers Home and Benefits Corporation. With the selling of the Robinson Residence in Cowansville, the mission of this Board will be modified in years to come.

It was with great sadness but with quiet dignity we closed the Residence doors on September 21st, 2011 for the final time.

Our last resident left at the beginning of August and a skeleton staff remained on duty to provide security and to prepare for the new owners arrival.

Backtracking to early 2011, the "Robinson Board" had discussed the future of the RR for over five years amongst ourselves as well as involving a local lawyer for advice.

During our Board Meetings it became clearer that the option to continue operation was just not feasible due to rising costs, the age of our building, not being able to maintain a full residency and to continually having to use our investments.

After his seeing our financial situation, a QPARSE lawyer advised us to close as soon as would be possible. In April the Board met and voted by resolution to close the Robinson Residence by December 31st, 2011.

With our lawyer's guidance, letters of work termination & closure were given personally to the staff on May 2nd and to the residents and their designated caregiver the next day.

With much regret and great feeling, we offered a generous package to our nine staff, of eight weeks pay after their last day of work as well as four week's pay for each year that they had worked for us.

The residents' indemnity which was recommended by our lawyer was for three complimentary months lodging plus moving expenses up to 150 km within Canada from the residence.

A local real estate agent and an appraiser inspected the premises to determine a suggested asking price which was accepted by the Board.

In the midst of all the planning that was involved, we held what would be our last Spring Garden Party on June 16th with a goodly number in attendance.

An estate evaluator was hired and all items were listed and marked for an Estate Sale on August 23rd. The Board of Directors as well as the staff were given the opportunity to purchase meaningful items in the residence prior to the sale. A large number of purchasers went off with treasured items the day of the sale that had been part of the Residence's appeal over the years. There were items that were given in memory of people and we had great luck in contacting many of their families who were most appreciative to welcome these family treasures to their home.

Lesser items of value, but in very good condition, were donated to a home being built for respite care in Cowansville while other items were given to churches.

The staff was exemplary during this time of transition and helped us make arrangements for disposal of the contents and continued looking after the Robinson Residence in its final days.

An offer to purchase was accepted by the Robinson Board shortly after the property went on the market. September 21st was the designated day of the official signing and it very quickly approached with great impact on all of the Board members. Our president, treasurer and myself met with the notary and the new owners and with a signature, the last 44 years of dedicated time and energy by so many people came to a climax and ended an era.

October 27th was our last PRTH & B Corp. meeting for 2011 which was held in Dunham. A final farewell dinner was held after this meeting and to it we invited our staff. All were presented with a commemoration Robinson Residence mug and the Board Members received watercolours of the Residence executed by local artist Rhonda Price.

Over the years we have had outstanding managers and staff as well as very dedicated educators who took on the mandate to oversee the successful operation of 'our home'.

I am pleased to report that they, along with some Board Members and some of our volunteers of the RR, have remained in contact with our ladies and all remember the days when they called the Robinson Residence home with great feeling.

At that last meeting of the Robinson Board in October, a smaller committee of Board Members has been formed to discuss the future of the PRTH & B Corporation within the parameters of our Letters Patent and By-laws as well as to make suggestions with regard to the distribution of funds. The whole Board will meet as no decisions will be finalized without the prior approval of the PRTH&B Board.

The vision of that group of 'educational pioneers' that went back at least ten years prior to the actual Robinson Residences opening in 1967 where they vowed they would aid their fellow educators, and later other individuals who would come to call the RR their home, was certainly realized and has now come full circle.

Great memories were created by ever so many people and our forbearers must be very proud of their accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Crandall, vice-president PRTH & B Corp.

2011 Annual Report of the Assistant Treasurer/Trustee. P.R.T.H.&B.C.

In 2011 the Corporation received $515 from 8 donors. Three of the donations were received after it had been announced that the Robinson Residence would close. This compares with $4214 from 29 donors in 2010 and $2745 from 38 donors in 2009. Letters of appreciation were sent to all donors with their tax receipts, and in the case of the last three, the letter explained the decision to close the Residence.

As of the April 15, 2012, no donations had been received for this current year.

We thank all those who made donations last year and indeed all those who have made donations in the past. Many of our donors gave faithfully for several years. Your donations helped us make the Robinson truly a home for its residents.

Graeme Sutherland
Assistant Treasurer/Trustee

Notes from the Goodwill Committee

The NDG Food Depot thanks members for the generous donations of non-perishable foods and cash which were collected at the QPARSE Holiday event.Nancy Drury called to express her appreciation for her 92nd birthday card.George Novoselcev sends greetings to his former colleagues, as does Margaret Guihamet. She has moved permanently to the UK. We received notes of appreciation for booklets sent to those retired 25 years or more, and for the Newsletter, from the following members: Jean Laird, Ellen Stevenson, Elizabeth Roy, Yvonne Wilson, Joan Hirsch, Annie Reid-Brown, Dawn Bennett and Carol Lodge. Several of these sent holiday greetings also.The directors greatly appreciate the donations for postage sent by: M. Koch, V. Fowler, E. Moore, and J. Zamborsky.

SUPER SENIORS

Our very best wishes to the following members whose birthdays fall from June 1 to December 31: June 8 - Eileen Cornell Wales - 93June 17- June Howie-Bullock - 93July 10 - Helen Shutt - 96July 12 - Dr. Earle Thomas - 96July 19 - Stanley Jones - 96July 29- Ellen Stevenson - 98July 29- Anne Leach - 95August 4 - Gloria Bellam - 93August 11- Ruth A. Johnson - 104August 12 - Rose Sourkes August 17 - Thomas Wallace - 97September 4 - J. Esme Laflin- 91October 6 - Hilda Little - 97October 19 - Doris Cookman - 99November 9 - Leslie Clark - 94November 29 - George Rothney - 92December 7 - Bessie Maconnachie - 99December 7 - L. Anne Drury - 93December 20 - Margaret Weeks - 95December 29 - Norma Westman - 93

Our survey noted that Jann Barr has turned 90. We need her birthdate, please.

Apologies to June Rosevear whose year of birth was entered incorrectly in our Membership files. Her name should not appear on any Super Senior list.

Further apologies to Stella Lendon Johannson, former president of the Federation of Women Teachers who we referred to as Johnson.

Membership News

The following are members who have joined since the last Newsletter:

Linda Benoit	Montreal, QC	Lucie Gagne	Sherbrooke, Qc
Terry Gandell	Montreal, QC	Mary Hughes	St Mathias, QC
Aukje Huitema	Cowansville, QC	Tania Kinsella	Kirkland, QC
Libbie Roberts	St Lambert, QC	Helen Ann Savitsky	St Laurent, QC

Since the last Newsletter, we have learned that the following have passed away. We send our condolences to the families:

2011	Mary Cameron	Pointe Claire, QC
Feb 2012	Keith Farquharson	Pointe Clare, QC
June 6, 2011	Patrice Frémont	Sherbrooke, QC
Oct 2011	Al Gamble	Picton, ON
April 2, 2011	Philip B. Gaudine	Cornwall, ON
Nov 26, 2011	Lorne Hamilton	Pointe Claire, QC
Feb 29, 2012	Helen Jean Kaprusiak	St. Philipe d'Argenteuil, QC
Sept 18, 2011	Margaret H. Laird	Montreal, QC
Oct 26, 2011	Olive L. Lancaster	London, ON
Nov 22, 2011	Ursula Lewis	Brossard, QC
Oct, 2011	Charles Lunn	Hitchenbrooke, QC
July 03, 2005	Winona Matthews	Bromont, QC
Feb 01, 2012	Alice E. Mitchell	Montreal, QC
Nov, 2011	Heather Mizener	St. Bruno, QC
?	Doris Paradis	St Blaise, QC
2009	Betty Plouffe	St. Hilare, QC
2012	Mabel E. Probert	Montreal, QC
April 13, 2012	L. Jean Reid	Westmount, QC
Oct 7, 2011	Janet R.Rewakoski	Montreal, QC
March 01 2012	Hazel Snyder	Montreal, QC
April 2012	Frances Starkey	Toronto, ON
2011	Diana Louise Steeves	Shawville, QC
?	Clayton Storr	Brossard, Qc
Jul 01 2005	Glen Wood	Sarsota, FLA

The following members' Newsletters have been returned to us. If you have any information about them, Please send it to:

***Ellen Holzman**, 6067 Macdonald Avenue, Montreal, Qc. H3X 2W9 or mcellen@yahoo.com*

Genevieve Baker Quebec, QC.
Wendy Bohn Lachine, QC.
Leslie J.Clark Hawkesbury, QC.
Marian Graham Pointe Claire, QC.
Ruth Hamilton Oakville ON.
Frances Lamb St.John NB.
Suraiya Lutchmedial Chateauguay QC.
Evelyn Perry Orillia ON.
Lise Quintal Pincourt QC.
Audrey Roberts Brossard QC.
Joseph Sabo Laval QC.
Ronald D Sharp Ottawa ON.
Patricia Skene Nashville TN
Barbara Stabler Toronto ON.
Ursula R Wetjen Truro Heights NS.

Marvin & Doris Blakely Calgary, AB.
Ruth E. Bruce Montreal, QC.
Cecole Frechette Sept Isles, QC.
Elizabeth Ann Green Laval, QC.
Edward M. Kogut Willowdale ON.
Marilyn D. Lambshead Lasalle QC.
Joseph G. Okolowsky St Sixe QC.
Carol Plummer Westmount QC.
Philip Ritchie Pointe Claire QC.
Jeanette Saba Lachine QC.
Marjorie B Sellars St Laurent QC.
Florence Simon Montreal QC.
Nancy Snow Sherbrooke QC.
Thelma Westman Sherbrooke QC.

Please note that the large number of strays are the result of us sending out the member survey by regular mail! It is clear that many of you who usually receive mail electronically (email) do not think of informing us of changes of address etc. ***If you are moving please take the time to let us have your new address so we can stay in touch.***

The following members have been missing for 2 years or more:

Rosemary Christie, Margaret(Peggy)Bonnell, Gordon Day, Murray Gunson, Elsie McTurk, Margaret Westbrook.

Again if you are aware of their whereabouts, please let Ellen Holzman know.

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 _____

A Report on Indexation – Ed Zegray

You will recall, last June, the creation of a Consultative Committee within CARRA to examine services to retirees and the parameters of indexation. This committee brings together representatives from associations of retirees, unions, and senior management, as well as representatives from the Treasury Board and from the pension administrator, CARRA. According to its mandate, it will be called upon to formulate recommendations destined to diminish, if not to eliminate, the loss in purchasing power of retirees who have been subjected to de-indexation of their pensions for the years 1982- 1999.

The Consultative Committee began its deliberations on September 8, 2011. Although the meetings of the committee are not public, so far it has been exchanging and examining information. In the course of the next year, the committee will proceed with a discussion of possible solutions and a formulation of recommendations. Its timeline is narrow, as it is expected to produce a final report for September 30, 2012. Note however, that this Consultative Committee is operating in the context of one major constraint, that being Bill 23 adopted November last.

Although Bill 23 recognizes the problem created by the de-indexation of pension plans for the years 1982 to 1999, no real corrective measures are given. Further, as a result of the legislative changes brought about by this Bill, the portion of pension for the years between 1982 and 1999 could be subject to indexation according to the same formula as for the years 2000 and beyond (thus at least half of the inflation rate), only if certain conditions are met. Specifically, this could be the case if actuarial surpluses of over 20% are accumulated in the RREGOP fund, and if the government decides to index its share of the pensions. That's right, Bill 23 states that the government can decide – but is not obligated – to index that part of the pensions for which it is responsible. In other words, for the years of service between 1982 and 1999, indexation could be given yearly on an ad hoc basis if the government decides according to its priorities, and this regardless of the economic context or the investment profits of the Caisse de dépôt.

In the meantime, the Régie des rentes du Québec (RRQ) has just announced a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) of 2.8% effective January 1, 2012. This is calculated annually and is determined based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This allowance was instituted to compensate for the increase in the cost of living.

The new rate will serve to establish the level of indexation for all pension plans administered by Québec. Thus the Québec Pension Plan (QPP) will be indexed at 2.8%. However for the other public sector pension plans, including RREGOP, TPP and the RRPE, pensions will be indexed as follows:

- 2.8% for the years of service up to 1982 (full indexation)
- 0% for the years of service between 1982 and 1999 (CPI less 3%)
- 1,4% for the years of service as of 2000 (CPI less 35, minimum 50%).

On our about January 15, 2012 CARRA will forward a statement to all retirees showing their individual calculation of these amounts for their specific situation. Keep this for your records.

Coin Français

Lately we have all been hearing much talk about post-secondary students clamoring for a freeze on school fees and even going so far as demanding zero tuition. The French term for right, "**droit**" which is contained in "**droit de scolarité**", meaning school fees, implies that tuition bestows the right to an education. Should these students have the right to a free education or at least have their fees frozen? Hold that thought until their next boycott of classes.

"**Droits**" as in "**droits d'auteur**" acknowledges the author's right to financial compensation proportionate to the number of copies of his/her work that are sold. In the case of writers, they would like their copyright laws reinforced to better protect their rights.

A collect telephone call or "**un appel à frais virés**" occurs when the receiver accepts the costs. When asking someone if he/she will accept these charges, the question to ask is, "**Assumerez-vous les frais?"** but not "**les charges**" since the French term "**charge**" means load. For example, workload translates as "**charge de travail**".

Au royaume des allongés

Les mistrals macabre
Soufflent sur sa couronne
Là où le feuillage titubant
Effleure un cinabre
Céleste crépusculaire

Perchés encore plus haut
Trônent les vigils griffus

Et par dessus
Dans la nue
Près de l'horizon

Bien pourvu
De rayons,
Un dégagement:

L'éclaircie d'enchantement,
Féerique
Qui annonce un nouveau
Début.

Brian S. Ostrovsky

Contact QPARSE

If you would like to submit an article, story, poem, anecdote etc or make a correction to the newsletter, When e-mailing Dick Meades with an article, or Ellen Holzman with membership information, please start your info in the "Subject Space" with QPARSE. This should avoid messages sometimes being shuffled off into the "Junk" folder. Many Thanks
(Also please remember to inform us a change of address etc whether you receive the Newsletter by mail or electronically)

Please contact:

Dick Meades, Editor, 26 Broadview Avenue, Pointe Claire, Québec H9R 3Z2
514-695-2164or by e-Mail: rjmeades@hotmail.com
Please note that this is a new address & the old gmail address is no longer in service

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

This Newsletter will now be published twice a year, in November and in June.
The deadline for submissions for the November edition is October 14th 2012

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
4635 Sherbrooke St. West
Westmount,
QC H3Z 1G2

Tel: 514-931-2531
Fax: 514-931-2534

Members with Special Expertise

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

If you are interested in adding your name to this list, please contact us by:
e-mail – info@qparse-apperq.org or by phone
Sandra Aird – President, 514-738-6169, 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

UNION UNITED CHURCH
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
6870 Terrebonne
September 2012 – June 2013
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TUTORING - ELEMENTARY LEVELS
as well as
MATH & FRENCH
at **SEC 1, 2 & 3** LEVELS…
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST ANY DAY, FROM 4.00 – 6.00 P.M.
Monday Friday, please contact Outreach Director, Kaye Francis -McKenzie
at (514) 932-8731 Ext 2

Did you know ?

More Than half the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska.

The Amazon rainforest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen supply. The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than 100 miles at sea off the mouth of the river one can dip fresh water out of the ocean.

Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country. 90% of the worlds ice covers Antarctica.. This ice represents 70% of all the fresh water in the world.

Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world combined.

The Eisenhower interstate system in the USA requires that 1 mile in every 5 must be straight. These straight sections are usable as airstrips in times of war or other emergency situations.

And this from a Petroleum Industry worker from Britain: (to save a few cents, why not ?)

Only fill up your gas tank in the early morning, when the ground temperature is still cool, the cooler the ground the more dense the gas, as the ground warms up gas expands so if you fill up in the afternoon or evening your litre is not exactly a litre.

When filling up do not squeeze the trigger on the pump to the fastest setting, do it slowly so you minimize the vapor created. Hoses at the pump have a vapor return so if you create a lot of vapor you are having these vapors sucked back into the storage tank - so again are not getting the max. for your money.

Fill up when your tank is half full or less. Gas evaporates more quickly with more air.

Every little bit helps, I hope!

PRTH&B Board of Directors with Margaret Beatty, Robinson Residence Manager

L toR: S. Aird, G. Sutherland, R. Sutherland, P. Steele, A. Hobbs, A. MacLeish, G. Crandall, B. Crandall with Certificates of Appreciation presented at the AGM

Boards of Directors for 2012-2013

QPARSE

President	Sandra Aird
Immediate Past President	Pat Steele
Vice-President/Special Events	Ken Cooke
Treasurer	Donald Berry
Membership	Ellen Holzman
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Corresponding Secretary/Good will	Alanna Dow
Director Newsletter	Richard Meades
Director Website	Tom Murray
Director Progam	Erene Anthony
Director ACER-CART	Renate Sutherland
Director	Ann MacLeish
Director	Kathleen Malcius
Director	Robin Narsted
Director	Jan Langelier

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Director	Robert Colvil
Director	Ann Belden
Director	Adelaide Lanktree

N. Boudreau (ACER-CART), R. Sutherland, S. Aird, E. Zegray (Indexation Committee) at the AGM

FRONT COVER: T. Murray: TYPING: M. Meades, R. Narsted: EDITOR: R. Meades