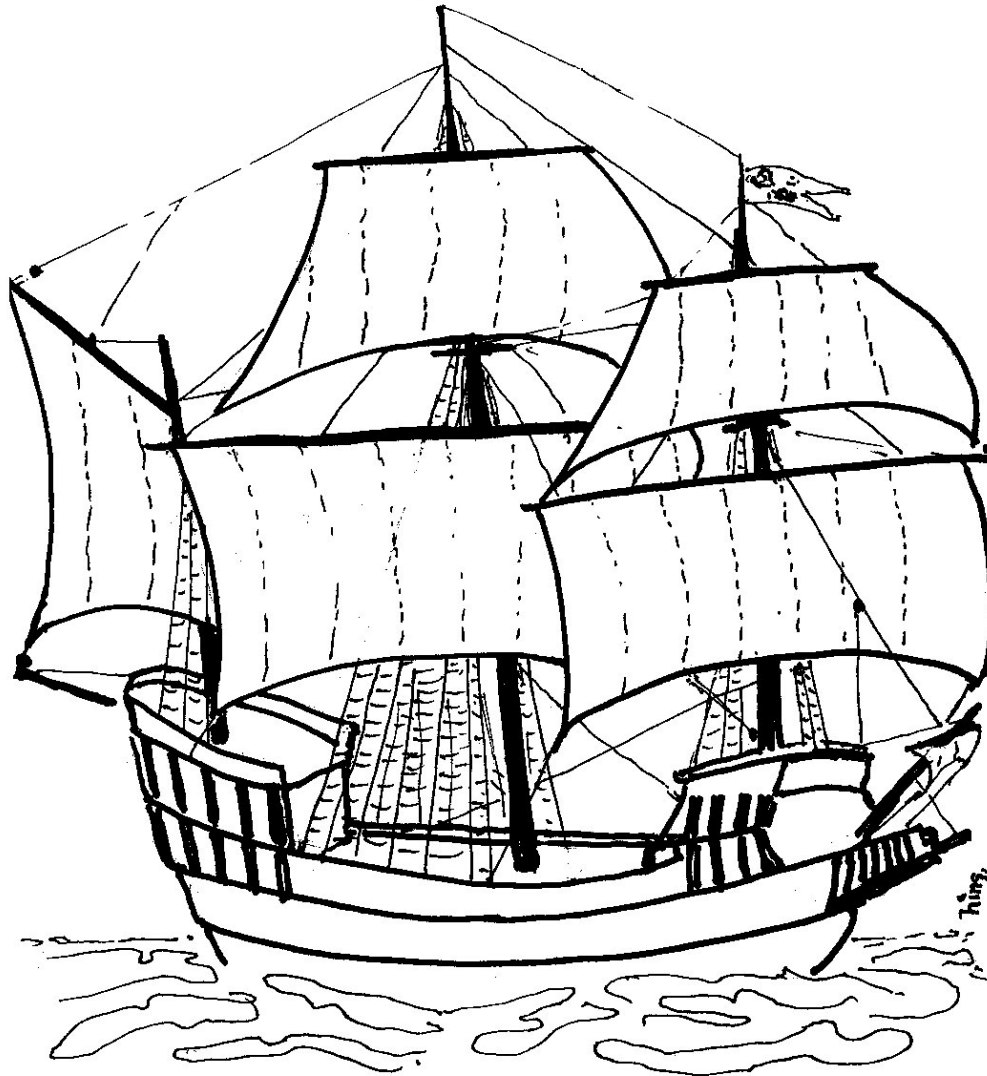


The Quebec Provincial Association
of Retired School Educators



Association provinciale du personnel
d'enseignement retraité du Québec



Spring Newsletter 2005

SPRING GARDEN PARTY

**Quebec Provincial Association of Retired School Educators
Protestant Retired Teachers Homes and Benefits Corporation**

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Robinson Residence

738 rue Principale

Cowansville

Two – Four PM

Cost \$5.00

Transportation: Private Car or Chartered Bus

By Private Car: Follow the map provided on the inside back cover. Tickets for the tea may be purchased at Cowansville.

By Chartered Bus: Reservations must be made by June 1

CALL for bus reservation: Alston Narick
for lift to bus pick-up: Renate Sutherland
(you may contact these people throught the web via the Contact form)

Loading at EMSB: 6000 Fielding Avenue: 12:30
Leaving: Griffith McConnell Residence: 1:00
Opposite Wagar High School

Cost: Bus \$10.00 + Tea \$5.00 Total: \$15.00

Pay by cheque (QPARSE) or cash at the Board if going by bus.

For comfort, ease, safety and economy, take the bus.

The bus cost (\$800.00) is heavily subsidized by our organization. Last year only 21 seats were taken, IF YOU RESERVE, but do not make it, please send your \$10.00 cheque to our treasurer.

* * * * *

Please be sure to write to tell us of any activities which have drawn your interest. If you have a change of address, please let us know.

Don Berry, Editor,

At this time a virus has taken hold and forced me to my bed. Not to be able to speak has no doubt pleased my throat and friends, but has reduced me to reading newspapers and listening to the media gurus. This has made me realize that the English language has evolved even more.

The change for me can be described as a new rule of English grammar. That is, use the noun that you really mean as an adjective and let this adjective then modify some empty or redundant noun. For example, an author writes about combining verbal symbols and visual representations which could be recorded as combining words and pictures; or a coach says improvement should set in with each game-type adventure; or three cows are referred to as three head of cattle.

These redundant nouns arise when a speaker or writer uses one word to help define another. Thus Americans talk of sherry wine, whereas to the British sherry is sherry. But a wonderful specimen of a combination of emptiness and redundancy in the noun is a recent newspaper report about a man who was resting comfortably after undergoing leg amputation surgery.

Why should current English have developed these tricks? One can readily see why radio and television announcers use them. These men have a task to fill so many minutes with verbiage, whether they have anything to say or not. The amusing thing is that they become so addicted to the ready made and round about expressions that even when they are actually pressed for time, they go on using padded language but speak it faster.

Many writers and speakers, however, do not have the announcer's excuse. They are simply pompous, and in their minds, the more and bigger the words, the more impressive the statement will be. They utilize instead of use, and donate instead of give and verbalize instead of talk. Since such expressions are impressive (if at all) by being out of the ordinary, once they become ordinary their point is lost, and those who use them come to consider them as normal English and the simpler words as somewhat substandard.

The trend toward the use of empty nouns continues, but where is it going to lead? The possibilities are fascinating. Think of this, if the adjective plus its empty noun is the standard formula, then it is possible to make the whole thing into an adjective expression modifying a new and even emptier noun. Thus the schools never taught driving, but only driver education; now one reads or hears of programs for teaching driver education skills. Once you double the padding, the possibilities become infinite.

Now I need a cure to get out of my sick bed and to end my fixation about the direction of the English language and that means a mixture of honey, lemon, and the "Water of Life".

Have a good summer and we will see you at the Spring Reception.

* * * * *

COVER DESIGNS**Bill Hine**

Front: Jacques Cartier sailed the first ship, the Grand Hermine, to go up the St. Lawrence River as far as Hochelaga (Montreal) in 1535.

Back: A variety of canoes from dugouts to those the Iroquois used made of elm bark plied the St. Lawrence for hundreds of years before Cartier's visit. The birch bark canoe was both beautiful and practical, and is copied to this day all over the world.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following retired educators have chosen to join QPARSE, and we extend a warm welcome to them.

Gwen Lord	Hampstead, Qc
Elyse Malick	Chomedey, Qc
Elsa Montealegre	Chomedey, Qc
Rose Solomon	Montreal, Qc
Gilliam Williams	Rigaud, Qc

QPARSE WEB SITE

Please be sure to visit our web site on the internet at www.qparse-apperq.org. Tom Murray has been gracious enough to put this site together for us. He would be happy to receive comments, suggestions or additional content at tmurray@sprucelog.com. A huge thank-you to Tom for doing all this work on behalf of our organization.

NEWSLETTER STRAYS

When a Newsletter is returned to Robin Narsted, we put out a special appeal to our members for information. You are our best source for discovering the reasons for that return. Please check the following list and send any information to Robin Narsted, 323 West Acres, Dollard des Ormeaux, Qc, H9G 1V2

Enid K. (Dixon) Anderson	Elizabeth A. Hayward	Anne Naimark
Britten P. Bernard	R. Evelyn Heatherington	M. Marjorie Nicholson
Gail Blackwood	Kenneth Hill	Agnes M. O'Kelly
Jocelyn Calotes	Rose E. Klyne	Lavinia Parker
Joyce Cloutier	Robert Kneeland	Mary S. Patterson
Daniel Cohen	Lawrence Lander	Lorna Roel
Lawrence G. Davies	Wilbur Leslie	Estelle Rosenthal
Iris Dawe	John Le Masurier	Roberta Ruddock
L. Thelma Doherty	Marion E. Lowe McLean	S. Khumar Sareen
Therese Dupuis	Isabella E. Lutes-Robert	Roy Shetler
Richard W. Eggleton	A. Helen Macdonald	Nancy Snow
Gerald M. Engeland	Dorothy M.J. Macdonald	Adele Sparber
Helene Fillion	Ella Macklin	Grace Stober
Jeannette Foshay	M. Joan MacMillan	Ernestine A. Stone
Erna K. Fox	M.C. John Major	G. Jean Talbot
Evelyn French	Bessie McConnachie	David Ungerson
Agnes Galbraith	Robert W. McEwen	Joan Ann Wheeler
Whitman A. Haines	Mary McLean	Mary Whiston
Irma Haney	E. Catherine McReynolds	Bertram C.R. Williams
Alice V. Harlow	Muriel Murray	Susie M. Woodman

SALUTING OUR SUPER-SENIORS

With pleasure we wish all our Super-Seniors the very best when they celebrate their birthdays. The following is a list of those whose birthdays fall between May and October 2005.

April		Almeda Thompson Bennett	90
		Marion E. Laberee	92
	1	Stuart Doak	91
	1	Joan Skinner Hanna	91
	11	Ethel B. Thompson	102
	14	Kathleen Morrison	98
	16	Margaret Cooper	105
	18	Rita De Pierro	91
May	4	Gordon Potter	100
	31	Ella Hoy	99
June	13	Esther Gilbert	94
	24	Ernestine Stone	97
	25	G. Clifford Johnson	92
July	13	Elizabeth Wales	91
	13	Betty Lou Cowper	92
	29	Ellen Stevenson	91
	31	Reta Staniforth	96
August		Herb Jordan	91
	5	Bob Peck	91
	30	Phyllis Wright	94
September	1	Gwen Markwell	93
	3	Dorothy Sear	103
	13	Hazel Stewart	97
	24	Margaret Stevenson	95
	25	Bertha Rohr	96
October		Edith Walbridge	93
	11	Peggy Lovelock	

If there is anyone who would like to have their name among our Super-Seniors, please send the name and date to the Newsletter Editor.

RETURN TO WORK AFTER RETIREMENT

Merle Lewis

There have been questions raised about the rules for returning to work once you are receiving your pension from CARRA - TPP, RREGOP or RRPE.

The information provided here only applies if you will be a salaried employee of an institution whose personnel contribute to one of CARRA's pension plans

You should note that after age 69, if you should be working in an institution covered by a CARRA pension plan, you can receive both your salary and your full pension and there is no penalty. (More power to you if you have the strength!)

You should contact CARRA before returning to work in order to determine how your actions could affect your pension.

The rules vary in accordance with the pension plan under which you retired, the age at which you return to work and the date you first contributed to a CARRA pension plan. This makes for complications.

Your employer should have you complete a form which advises CARRA of your return to work.

NB. The expression "pension reduced in proportion to service credited means if you work half a year; you have to repay half that year's pension. However, normal reporting procedures could result in a delay of 18 or more months between the time you worked and the time CARRA contacts you regarding repayment. If you are in the position of knowing that you will be required to repay a portion of your pension, you might want to contact CARRA directly and arrange to have the pension reduced while you are earning the salary.

Retired under TPP

Return to work under age 65.

You must contribute to RREGOP (or RRPE). You receive both the pension and the salary until age 65 and accumulate additional service.

Return to work at age 65 or more

1. If you choose to contribute to RREGOP (or RRPE), your pension is suspended in proportion to service credited and you accumulate service.
2. If you choose not to contribute to a pension plan, your pension is suspended in proportion to service credited.

Retired Under RREGOP and originally covered by a CARRA pension before Jan 1, 1983

Return to work under age 65.

1. If you choose to contribute to RREGOP (or RRPE), your pension is suspended in proportion to service credited and you accumulate service.
2. If you choose not to contribute to RREGOP (or RRPE), you receive both the pension and the salary until age 65.

RETURN TO WORK AFTER RETIREMENT (continued)

Return to work at age 65 or more

1. If you choose to contribute to RREGOP (or RRPE), your pension is suspended in proportion to service credited and you accumulate service
2. If you choose not to contribute to RREGOP (or RRPE), your pension is suspended in proportion to service credited.

Retired Under RREGOP and originally covered by a CARRA pension after Dec 31, 1982

Return to work at any age

1. If you choose to contribute to RREGOP (or RRPE), your pension is suspended in proportion to service credited and you accumulate service.
2. If you choose not to contribute to RREGOP (or RRPE), your pension is suspended in proportion to service credited

Retired Under RRPE and originally covered by a CARRA pension before Jan 1, 1983

Return to work under age 65.

1. If you choose to contribute to RRPE, your pension is completely suspended and you accumulate service.
2. If you choose not to contribute to RRPE, you receive both the pension and the salary until age 65.

Return to work at age 65 or more

1. If you choose to contribute RRPE, your pension is completely suspended and you accumulate service
2. If you choose not to contribute to RRPE, your pension is suspended in proportion to service credited.

Retired Under RRPE and originally covered by a CARRA pension after Dec 31, 1982

Return to work at any age

1. If you choose to contribute to RRPE, your pension is completely suspended and you accumulate service.
2. If you choose not to contribute to RRPE, you receive both the pension and the salary until age 65.

* * * * *

FROM THE EDITOR

QPARSE would like to include more of the Newsletter content in French. Any articles submitted in French will gladly be included in future issues. Also, if you can do some occasional translating from English to French, please contact me, Donald Berry.

WE REMEMBER

It is with sadness that we report the passing of the following members of our profession. We join with families and friends in remembrances.

Dorothy Chamberlain	Pincourt, Qc	
Sarah I. Clarke	Montreal, Qc	
Jessie Cockerline	Cowansville, Qc	
Irvine Cooper	Willowdale, ON	
Margaret Cooper	Willowdale, ON	
Constance Esdaile	Montreal, Qc	
Edith Howden		
Edith McClearn	Halifax, NS	
Edith True	Montreal, Qc	June 2003
Ernest Tetreault	Ottawa, On	November 4, 2004
Lyla Fletcher	Oakville, ON	December 3, 2004
George Greiner		January 24, 2005
Gladys C. Nugent	Ottawa, ON	February 2005
Muriel Mayhew	Brockville, ON	March 2005
Olive Boyd	Huntingdon, Qc	March 17, 2005
Helen Ross Luggar	Bobcaygeon, ON	April 2005
Norman Campbell	Stittsville, ON	April 6, 2005

QPARSE also acknowledges the passing of two Past Presidents of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers:

John C.T. (Jack) Johnson died February 15, 2005, and

Donald R. Peacock died April 30, 2005.

Our condolences go out to their family members and friends. Tributes to both men will be included in our Fall Newsletter.

TO THE MISS NORMANS OF CANADA

The following story is written specifically for Miss / Mrs. Norman, who taught Grade 1 at Royal George School, Greenfield Park, Quebec in 1954-55, but is also a tribute to all those teachers who dealt with immigrant children during the great Post-War Migration of the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Our family emigrated from Holland in October 1954, and my brother, sister and I returned to school in November. Since I was just starting Grade 1, my parents didn't bother to send me to school before we moved. So, one bright November day, Miss Norman was faced with a new pupil who didn't speak a word of English, didn't know Canadian customs, and was at least two months behind the rest of the class. Not only that, but, as she was to learn later, this particular little boy was not very keen on school, and liked to play hookey - having mastered that art in kindergarten. Mischievous was a term my sister would say was much too polite for the little troublemaker that I periodically became. Lucky Miss Norman.

Miss Norman took me under her wing over the next few months, and spent many recesses and lunch hours trying to help me integrate into the class, and particularly teaching me how to speak English. What a task that must have been for her! Well, the outcome of her efforts was rewarded in June 1955 when, during the annual class awards, I was given a book prize for my progress in learning English. I was very surprised - and pleased. Academic awards and I seldom shared the same stage. (Although I cannot remember the name of the book, it dealt with an otter that liked sliding down river banks, if I recall correctly.)

It took me many years to realize that the award should have gone to Miss Norman – for she had achieved a minor miracle with me that year. While she did not curb my desire to play hookey (university eventually did that), she did devote many long hours of that year to helping a new immigrant kid take those first critical steps to becoming a Canadian. So, thank you, Miss Norman, for your selfless dedication and compassion. You are a credit to the teaching profession.

P.S. I subsequently attended Sir George Williams University and the University of Regina, and have enjoyed a career in Canadian historic site archaeology, history, architectural history and archives for the past 38 years. And I share all this with my Saskatchewan-born wife, Toni, and our four children. Canada has been extremely generous to this immigrant.

Frank Korvemaker, Regina, Saskatchewan



Frank Korvemaker in Amsterdam, c1953,



and in Regina, 2003.

WRITING WITH LIGHT
FROM SUNLIGHT TO STROBE LIGHT – Part 2 (continued)

REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MAY 5, 2005

For our members who could not attend the AGM, we have included the reports presented at that time.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

Ann MacLeish

The Board of Directors has served the membership with diligence and perseverance and I thank them on your behalf. Q.P.A.R.S.E. is a better organization because of the Board's efforts.

You the membership cover a wide area and it is not easy to realize the most efficient way of keeping in touch. Newsletters, luncheons, receptions, workshops, e-mail, letters, the telephone and our newest approach, a web site are our best methods to-date for reaching you. Thus communicating with you the members is an interesting challenge and from your reactions we know that we are contacting a number of you in a meaningful way. Please continue your input as it is most important for the Board.

The question Q.P.A.R.S.E. faces at this time is in attracting new members. A new breed of retirees is emerging and to engage their interest is formidable. These are teachers who have endured a melt down in the educational milieu, large classes, heavy integration of challenged students without help, less resources, parental over-zeal, etc. and regardless of their idealism when entering the teaching field are leaving the profession with fatigue and relief. To persuade these individuals to join Q.P.A.R.S.E. requires new strategies and your help.

We continue to be involved with other organizations centered on health, taxes, security and pension issues, with the knowledge that a unity of voices can call attention to the requirements of retirees.

At this time it is not necessary to say more as the specifics of what the Board of Directors is focusing on will be referred to in other reports to follow. However, in closing I wish to again thank the Board members for their work on behalf of the Association. It is a privilege to be part of such a group. And as your Board we thank you the membership for your interest and support.

Now I would like to say thank-you in particular to two Board members who are leaving, namely Heather Lightfoot, who has been responsible for organizing our monthly fun luncheons, and Renate Sutherland, who has acted as Recording Secretary, Events Chairman and our Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (C.A.R.T.) representative. Renate is staying on as C.A.R.T. Rep. and so will continue to report to the Board.

Finally the Board acknowledges the significant contribution of Waneta Turner our administrative assistant responsible over many years for our typing, mailings, newsletter compilation, labelling and other computer necessities. We thank her and wish her well. Waneta will be missed.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2004

Ian Trasler

The assets of the Association for December 31, 2004 were \$167,656.17, approximately the same as the December 31, 2003. In 2004, the investments produced revenues of approximately \$14,000.00, or 85% of the Association's operating budget. Without this capital the Association could not carry out its activities.

The Newsletter (\$8,624.48), the Spring Garden Party (\$1,349.06), Communications (\$1,148.19), Fall Reception (\$1,191.23), Workshops (\$609.94) and Goodwill (\$1,000.00), continue to make up the greater part of the disbursements.

The Board of Directors has decided that in 2005, more money will be spent on Communications in an effort to increase the membership.

In the Auditor's Report to the Members, Phyllis McGlashan noted that she had examined the record of assets, receipts, and disbursements of the Association for the period ending December 31, 2004, and certified that the Treasurer's Financial Report was correct.

GOODWILL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Hilary Hill

Throughout the year we have continued to try to provide a bridge between the Association and its members.

Birthday greetings were sent to all known "Super Seniors" (aged 90 years or more) and two editions of booklets with poems, jokes and puzzles were sent to all members who have been retired 25 or more years, as well as to members living in residences.

The mailing of 242 Christmas booklets included the gift of a scarf. Copies of the booklet and gift bags were given to members of the Robinson Residence at the annual Christmas dinner.

I am extremely grateful to people who have made contributions and suggestions for the booklet. Special thank-you's to Maureen Howlett for her assistance with gift-shopping and preparing the booklet for mailing, to Waneta Turner for her help with lists and mailing labels, and to the efficient staff in the Printing Shop.

During the year we received many notes and letters or telephone calls expressing appreciation for our efforts. We thank those who took the trouble to write or call. We appreciate your suggestions and information and welcome your in-put.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Robin Narsted

This year has been a busy one for me. I think I did not realize how much was involved when I agreed to undertake the maintenance of the membership records. In addition to keeping track of new members, changes in address, stray members and, sadly, those members who passed away, I had to learn a new computer program and to reinstall it after my computer crashed. However, I think I have mastered the new system for now and I look forward to continuing, with your approval, for another year.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Waneta Turner for her tutelage and assistance. The task would have been much more difficult without her able and willing help.

In the year since the 2003 AGM, I have recorded the following: 61 new members; 25 deaths; 22 strays (in addition to the ones remaining from last year). There are 1328 regular members, 2 associate members, and 13 complimentary members.

A complete list of strays has been circulated and we ask your assistance in finding these members so we can continue to send them their newsletters.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a glorious summer and we look forward to seeing and hearing from you next year.

NEWSLETTER REPORT

Donald Berry

It has been a pleasure to continue to edit the QPARSE Newsletter this year. The feedback I have received has been very positive and I look forward to continuing on your behalf next year. Don't forget that we are always on the lookout for new talent! If you have a yearning to write something to be shared with your fellow retirees, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

I want to extend my appreciation to a number of people for their invaluable support. Waneta Turner continues to do an excellent job doing the word processing and final layout of the newsletter. Bill Hine is responsible for the attractive cover art each issue. Dave Chandler has been contributing a regular article on digital photography. Sincere thanks also go to Evelyn Lewis, Merle Lewis, Heather Lightfoot and Pat Steele for regularly submitting items for inclusion.

BENEFITS REPORT

Merle Lewis

Our annual benefits workshop was held on Friday March 11, 2005. A presentation called the ABCs of Fraud was done for us. This presentation has been made to over 83,000 seniors across Canada. The presenters were Harvey Goldman, Liliame Moshi with an assist by Merle Lewis.

BENEFITS REPORT (continued)

It has been estimated that fraudsters and scam artists cost Canadians as much as \$100 million annually. It is also estimated that 80 per cent of that amount is taken from individuals age 60 and over. "The Scotia Bank Fraud Awareness Program: ABCs of Fraud", begun in 1996, is an innovative program designed to help seniors recognize Frauds and Scams and thereby prevent victimization. This program, generally known as the ABCs of Fraud, is now operating in ten cities across Canada.

The CLSC René Cassin has taken on the challenge of spreading the message in Québec. The presentations are made by volunteers, not experts, whose purpose is to make sure that seniors are aware that there are con-artists out there who want their money.

Topics covered.

1. Why seniors are a target
2. Common types of fraud
3. Elder Abuse
4. Information that should not be given out to others.
5. Red flag situations on the phone, in the mail and at the door.
6. Identity theft.

The presentation was followed by a question period. Several members recounted personal experiences with fraud.

As usual, the meeting adjourned to the Amazona Restaurant for a very enjoyable lunch

SPECIAL EVENTS 2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Renate Sutherland

Our special events and activities organized this past year included:-

- **eight monthly Luncheons** at the Amazona Restaurant, 5525 Cote St.Luc Road
- the **Fall Reception** at the English Montreal School Board
- Q.P.A.R.S.E participation at **Teachers' Convention**
- **Digital Photography Workshop**
- **"A Musical/Holiday Celebration"** in December
- **Tax Benefits Workshop** in March

The regular monthly Tuesday **Luncheons** have provided the opportunity for 30-35 people (at times more than 60 persons), to get together and enjoy fellowship and good food "at a very reasonable cost". Prior to the **November 9th Luncheon**, *David Chandler*, gave a second "Digital Photography" workshop in which he outlined and shared some composition hints for better photos.

With special treats, beautifully arranged for by Heather Lightfoot and Alston Narick, we celebrated the luncheons with the spirit of the *Holiday Season, St. Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day*. We continued to welcome many "first timers" to our luncheons and we are so pleased that many of them have now become regulars.

More than 65 people registered for the **Fall Reception on October 14th**, when we welcomed nine new retirees, greeted friends and enjoyed refreshments which included wine, sandwiches and dessert.

Q.P.A.R.S.E continued to have an "information table" in the Exhibit Hall at **Teachers' Convention in November**. It was an excellent opportunity to visit with former colleagues, many of them interested and looking forward to joining our association soon.

On December 9th, sixty retirees attended a wonderful "**Musical Celebration**" at the English Montreal School Board. We were pleasantly entertained by concert performer **Lisa Walsh** whose extraordinary musical talent included singing such favourites as "Somewhere over the Rainbow", "Hello Dolly", "Georgia" and "Let it Snow". Following refreshments, Graham Knott led participants in a **sing-along** of many traditional holiday classics. In keeping with the

SPECIAL EVENTS 2004-2005 ANNUAL REPORT (continued)

“Holiday Spirit”, 5 large boxes of non-perishable food items were collected for the **NDG Food Depot**. To augment the **financial donation to \$150** for the NDG Food Bank, a variety of donated craft items were raffled off. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a festive lunch at the **Amazona Restaurant**.

At the **Annual Benefits Workshop on March 11, 2005** representatives from the CLSC Rene-Cassin presented an educational program for seniors entitled “The Scotiabank Fraud Awareness Program: ABCs of Fraud”. Afterwards lunch was held at the Amazona.

The Special Events Committee members, *Heather Lightfoot, Alston Narick and Renate Sutherland* thank you for your participation and look forward to seeing many of you at the **Spring Garden Party on June 16th** at the Robinson Residence in Cowansville.

WE WELCOME YOUR IDEAS!

Renate Sutherland on behalf of the Committee

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED TEACHERS (ACER- CART) 2004

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Retired Teachers (ACER- CART) was held at the office of the Canadian Teachers Association (CTF) in Ottawa on June 4 and 5, 2004. Twenty-three representatives from every provincial retired teachers' organization were in attendance. QPARSE was represented by Renate Sutherland, Director, and Pat Steele, member of the ACER-CART Executive.

ACER-CART **President, Val Alcock**, outlined the importance of ACER-CART as a lobbying group and suggested that it should move into a more political role. To this end:-

- Policies on **Health, Pension and Retirement Income Issues** were adopted.
- **Letters were sent** to the Prime Minister, the Ministers of Health and of Finance, and the Leaders of the Opposition parties along with a copy of the **motions adopted at the 2004 AGM**. However, there seems to be little interest from elected officials and politicians for our affairs.
- **Representations were made to the Federal Minister of Health** requesting that the Federal Government, in cooperation with all provincial and territorial Governments, work **to expand the scope of the Canada Health Act** to include nation-wide provision for the principles of long term care for seniors, the establishment of national training programs and national standards for home care givers and the integration of the home care system into the health care system.

As a full member of **Canadian Seniors' Partnership** and the **Congress of National Seniors' Organizations (CNSO)**, ACER-CART has access to posting and sharing ACER-CART policies, programs and projects with other national organizations in presenting a common front on major issues facing retirees and seniors.

ACER-CART will have a full two-day Annual General Meeting in June 2005, of which at least one half day session will be reserved for presentation, interaction and discussion of reports from its member organizations. Member organizations are to ensure that their web site posted information is kept up-to-date on the ACER-CART web site.

Renate Sutherland

PRTH&B CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Gary Crandall

Overall, 2004 was a good year at the Robinson Residence. Although we had changes in residents as well as staff and this is temporarily difficult to accept, the living experience there seemed to be at an all time high!

Residents interacted more it seemed, the staff has never been so supportive of each other and more of their time was spent 'hands on' with the residents. This became necessary as

PRTH&B CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT (continued)

more of the residents required a lot of attention in order to do things that last year they could do independently.

We are truly fortunate that we have an extremely dedicated team employed at the Robinson each giving so much of themselves to our residents.

Again we were blessed that people of all ages in the area volunteered on a regular basis to play bingo, take residents on outings and sat and visited one on one.

As volunteers all of us on the Board found that we were often stretched to the limit. As a result, we only met formally six times, most of them at Theresa Maguire's home in Bromont. However more communication was carried on electronically than you could imagine and the results were that the Residence ran smoothly.

With each local member having his or her own area of responsibility, many new ideas and physical changes were carried out all to the betterment of those who have chosen to make the Robinson Residence their home. The 'Out of Town Contingent' of our Board was always most supportive with ideas and suggestions and it is greatly appreciated that they continue to make the trek to the Townships for our meetings!

It was with regret that Evan Price, after many years serving on the Board, retired. We welcomed Murray Gunson to join us and he has been extremely occupied working on the evacuation plan as his first major assignment.

Hopefully we will be able to welcome many from Montreal and our neighbouring towns in the Townships to the Robinson Residence for the Spring Tea on June 16th.

If you are in the area, you are always welcome to stop especially at 3 p.m. for afternoon tea in the Green Room or on the balcony. You will never be at a loss for conversation! When leaving, you will know why those of us involved with the Robinson Residence Board receive so much gratification for our volunteerism.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Sadie Horne, Manager

There were thirteen residents, 12 women and one man during 2004 with the emphasis of our employees to spend as much time as possible with them.

More assistance from the staff was required because the average age is 88.3 and many require walkers to move about.

One of our residents moved to a nursing home in December as her needs were more than which we could cope.

Two residents died during the year and memorial services were held for them both at the residence to provide closure.

Exercise program, bingo, bean bag toss, Scrabble and card games are some of the activities provided for the residents.

Several choral groups come to entertain on a regular basis and monthly services are conducted by the local United and Anglican ministers.

An electric organ was donated and occasionally the donor comes by to play it for the enjoyment of all.

Other residents will have family and friends for dinner and at other times they will invite people to play cards with them.

The resident cat, McConkey, has certainly brought everyone a lot of comfort and they look forward to the weekly visits of Angus, the Highland terrier.

We have eleven staff – three who are new and one retired. A four hour cleaning shift was added three times a week.

The home was appropriately decorated for the different holiday seasons.

A spring Volunteer Tea was held to thank all our volunteers for their efforts.

A successful yard sale was held in early summer and proceeds went to purchase extras for the residence.

ROBINSON RESIDENCE BUILDING & GROUNDS REPORT

Roy Seaman

1. A fire alarm system, in keeping with the norms of the Fire Department, has been installed. A panel at the front door now indicates the exact location of the cause of the alarm.
2. Emergency evacuation procedures have been developed and a fire drill will be held when the weather is warmer.
3. A large crack was discovered in the Green wing and a contractor was contacted and a number of similar cracks were repaired.
4. An exterior door leading from one of the rooms was replaced with a window.
5. Foam insulation has been sprayed on the basement walls which should reduce heating costs and drafts.
6. A vent was installed in the furnace room door as was required by law.
7. Numerous repairs and renovations are required as part of the general maintenance and upkeep, so much so that it requires a permanent full time handyman.

PUBLICITY REPORT - - ROBINSON RESIDENCE

Evelyn Beban Lewis

Articles written and sent to the Sherbrooke Record and to Don Berry for the Newsletter re:

Memorial Service held at Robinson Residence for Mme Claire Paquette January 2004.

Robinson Residents, staff and board members bid farewell to Christine Wing March 24, 2004 after being on staff since 2000.

Mrs. Margaret Ward celebrated her 90th birthday at the home with family, friends, staff and board members April 3rd, 2004.

Residents, staff and board members say thanks to volunteers on April 21, 2004 with a tea.

Spring Tea June 17th, 2004 held on lawn and enjoyed by residents, teachers, guests and others in the community.

Christmas Dinner December 1st, 2004 held at Residence much appreciated by all present.

* * * * *

QPARSE MAILBOX

The following letter was received from Bhupinder (Bill) Dosanjh in March.

Thank you for the Winter Newsletter 2005. Hoping this finds you in the best of health. You will have to pardon me if you find my writing somewhat shaky - its because its about 8:30 a.m. of a winter morning of North India and there has been an unusually heavy snowfall up in the Himalayas about 100 km as the crow flies (if a crow is silly enough to do so towards that region). The cold wind blows down the mountains to where we live - about 7-8 km from the foothills of the Shivalik Range. Anyway I hope my writing is legible. Hardly anyone has central heating around here - thanks to all the sunshine but still my fingers are numb at this hour. My wife literally pulls me out of bed at the ungodly hour of 6 a.m. (ungodly for my 74 year old bones anyway) and forces me to join her for her daily session of yoga before I am served breakfast. Since she takes excellent care of me I have become an obedient husband. Its not a bad deal since I am diabetic and I need to have my life "regulated". I remarked to her the other day "you should have been a general dear". I got a wifely glare that would deter me from passing such a remark again.

I noticed in the latest newsletter that there is to be a LaSalle High School 25th Anniversary Reunion - Class of 1980. I would have liked to be present had I retired in Canada. I taught at LHS for 20 years from the day of the schools inception under the principalship of Mr. Ian Trasler. I took an early retirement in 1991 and decided to do social work in India. In 1995 we packed up our bags, loaded our stuff in a container, sold our lakeside home in Ile Bizard and flew to India with our dog (a regal creature who was half Timber Wolf and half German

QPARSE MAILBOX (continued)

Shepherd). Both of us are involved in social work and we enjoy doing what we are doing. I am currently a working volunteer as:

- Vice-Chairman - Speech & Hearing Handicapped Children's Society
- Vice-President - Family Planning Asber Mohali Branch
- Sr. Vice-President - Human Rights Society
- Vice-President - Haryana Red Cross
- Vice-President - Javahar Navodyatidhyala Education Society

Besides that I read just about anything in English - Michener, Mowat, Woodhouse are my favourites but that is not all. I am basically a naval aircraft engineer - spent 15 years in the Indian Navy, 6 in the Aircraft Industry in India and Canada and 20 years teaching with PSBGM as a vocational teacher during which time I did a BA, BEd and MEd (Tech) besides 4 diplomas at McGill, Concordia, Loyola. It took me 16 years of evening and summer classes but it was fun. LHS was an enlightening experience. At one stage the students and staff hailed from 52 countries. Having visited over 20 countries during my naval career people from different lands interested me. For that kind of an 'interest' Canada is a virtual treasure house. I will appreciate it if you could ask Mr. Ian Trasler to convey my best wishes to the students and staff of the one time LHS at the Reunion. I am sure that without Ian's presence the reunion will be incomplete. I taught Autos, Technical Drawing, MRE, Vocational Maths and Construction Electricity (adults) during my teaching career. Occasionally I gave lectures at John Abbot College in Aircraft technology and enjoyed doing so. At LHS I had a wonderful batch of colleagues. I stay in touch with Bob Smith and Walter Gapmann even now.

I enjoyed the contents of every newsletter that I have received since 1995. I passed on a photocopy of 'The Teachers Prayer' by Jim Wolfe (submitted by Evelyn Beban Lewis) to my grandnephew's teacher. She was very impressed and plans to photocopy copies and put one in each teachers mail box. She is also going to attempt to translate it into Hindi. English is almost one of the 16 national languages of India. About 200 million Indians can "handle" the language fairly well and that is a lot more that can do so in the UK itself - I spent three years in UK so I should know (I trained with the Royal Navy from 1957 to 1960).

Pass on my best wishes to all.

KIEL OXLEY

Bob Smith

It was a great pleasure to see the photo of Mr. Kiel Oxley in The Gazette (Monday, March 14, 2005) accompanying an article on 100-year-olds in Canada. He celebrated his 100th birthday on March 17, 2005 - - St. Patrick's Day. WOW!

Seeing his photo brought back warm memories of our years (my wife, Shirley Elmslie, a classmate at times, also remembers Mr. Oxley with fondness) at Lachine High School in the 50's. Mr. Oxley was our principal and an inspiring leader he was. The office of the principal was one we respected and even feared in those halcyon days. As we matured we learned to appreciate Mr. Oxley's leadership and humility.

Mr. Oxley was instrumental in having me sent to a Canadian-American Red Cross Study Centre at Queen's University in the summer of 1955. I often wondered what led him to choose insignificant little me (I really was little me then!) to be one of only five representatives from the whole province of Quebec. It was an unbelievable experience for a poor kid from Eastern Lachine to go to Queen's and mix with students at workshops, tours, social events, and residences, students who had come from all across Canada and the U.S.A. and a dozen other countries.

I have been ever grateful to Mr. Oxley for this experience which was probably the main influence (besides Ernie Spiller's) leading me into teaching. I had a wonderful, satisfying career and so, in a sense, Mr. Oxley contributed close to 70 years (his and mine) to education in Quebec! Thank you Mr. Kiel Oxley and congratulations!

DEAR EDITOR

With one exception, Ruth and I have had an uneventful, cold and wet winter in Florida while I was convalescing from a total right hip replacement, the exception being I had time to complete my dissertation for a doctorate.

My dissertation, entitled *The Damned Deserted of the Bloody Stars: John R. Hamilton's Lifelong Torment 1847 – 1922*, is the biography of a runaway fifteen year old boy who enlisted in the 123rd New York Infantry Regiment, fought at Chancellorsville, and was charged with desertion after the battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War.

Ruth and I will soon return to Canada to join in celebrating the Federal Taxation Festival on April 30th.

Our best regards to our friends in education, both retired and active.

Noel Hamilton, Ph.D.

TUTOR HONOURED

Congratulations to **JOHN BARTA** for his afterschool work at Westmount High School. John has been volunteering now for nine years. He tutors daily, Monday through Thursday with the Black Community Center.

John has recently received an award for this dedication to young people.

Heather Lightfoot

ROBINSON RESIDENCE HONOURS VOLUNTEERS

Once again the staff of the Robinson Residence for Seniors out did themselves when they entertained the volunteers, including the little white dog who felt completely at home and was enjoyed by all, on April 28, 2005 from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

This home is so inviting that one feels completely comfortable upon entering and knows that they are in for a good time. The only sad part was, that Manager Sadie Horne was not present to welcome us as she was home, recovering from surgery. It was great to hear that she is well on the "Road to Recovery" and everyone wished her the best.

Gary Crandall, Vice-President of the Protestant Retired Teachers Homes and Benefit Corporation welcomed everyone and, on behalf of the board, thanked everyone for the time and interest, which they give to and show in the residents. This is very much appreciated by all, board, staff and residents. He then took a moment to introduce those members of the board present – his wife, Bev., Thérèse Maguire, Roy Seaman and Evelyn Lewis. He added his hopes, to the already full room, that next year, those attending the tea, would spill over into many more rooms due to the increased number of volunteers.

Mrs. Irene Williams, on behalf of the residents, extended her thanks to the volunteers for what they did to liven up their days. She said that she had not looked forward to the day, when she would have to enter a Senior Home but finds that she enjoys every moment of each day due to the caring staff and volunteers.

A cup of good hot tea, coffee or cold juice with delicious refreshments brings out the best in everyone. Smiles and conversations seen and heard throughout the room, made it impossible to distinguish residents from volunteers. What a lovely way to spend a dreary, wet afternoon in such pleasant surroundings.

Too soon it was time to say our "Goodbyes" but, from the "looks on everyone's face", it was easy to see that happy memories were being carried away of a great afternoon.

Evelyn Beban Lewis

GOODWILL MESSAGES AND NEWS

Hilary Hill reported receiving the following:

Margaret Cook: I apologize for having been so remiss about writing to thank you for the card you sent me, on behalf of the QPARSE, for the occasion of my 90th birthday, but let me thank you now and say that I was happy to have all the good wishes.

Judging by the number of teachers who are reaching 90 years - an age which used to seem to me to be incredibly old - I am coming to the conclusion that the teaching profession must be a good field in which to have worked. We seem to survive some of the "onslaught" very well.

My main reason for having been so dilatory with my thank-you note is that I have a rather bad case of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, which makes it difficult to control a pen at times. Hence I procrastinate about writing. Thankfully plans are now afoot for the necessary treatment, so hopefully I shall be able to mend my ways with correspondence. Thank you, again.

Sadie Horne: Thank you so much for the get-well card and the warm wishes for a speedy recovery.

I am feeling very well since my last trip to the Sherbrooke hospital and think I was very fortunate in that there was no need for by-pass surgery. That was a conclusion reached by my local family doctor who obviously was incorrect - thank goodness. The team of cardiologists who tended to my needs are excellent and I was told by them to take five days off work after my discharge; I ended up taking nine days since there were two weekends in there.

I am trying very hard to slow my pace of activity - this is the most difficult for me, as you probably are aware, since I am such a classic type A personality, however, I am trying very hard to adapt to what my body is telling me.

It certainly feels good to be back - it was quite a tearful reunion between the residents and myself the day I returned - not sure who cried more, them or me.

Thank you very much for thinking of me.

Peter Boyd: It is with great sadness that I'm writing to let you know that **Olive Boyd** has passed away. This occurred on March 17, 2005 at the Montreal General Hospital. This happened after a brief illness. In that Mom always kept in touch with family and friends, we felt that you'd like to know. She will be greatly and sadly missed.

A memorial service was held in Huntingdon, Quebec, where Mom and Dad spent their later years. Internment will take place in the spring in Huntingdon. If anyone wishes to phone the family, please call me at 1-613-659-2712.

Almeda Thompson Bennett: Friday night was my allotted time for re-reading all my Christmas mail and sorting those that must be responded to, happy and sad.

I think the scarf you sent is so pretty and as I happen to wear them a good deal with my sweaters, I was so happy to receive it. I know I will enjoy wearing it.

As for the literal content of your gift, I was "tickled pink" to receive it. Its contents gave me a lift. As for puzzles, I love them. I work on all kinds to keep my brain as active as possible. As for the section on "remember when there were" - I remember them all! I am looking forward to my 90th birthday in April. It hardly seems possible. I am so lucky, I count my blessings every day. I don't walk too far but I still drive my car, so I'm still mobile. I live alone - with help inside, of course - and just have to pace myself. Two consecutive days out mean at least two or more to stay in and renew my pep.

I really manage quite well, have many friends and am lucky to be alive. Please give my thanks to all who helped with these Christmas gifts.

GOODWILL MESSAGES AND NEWS (continued)

Doris Conley: Thanks for the letters, booklets and birthday card. It is heart warming to be remembered by such a large group. Family and friends hosted by 95th birthday party celebrations at the Manoir recreation room. I received four lovely floral arrangements and a new T.V. set. 70 people attended including nephews from Calgary and Montreal. Belated best wishes to all for 2005.

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ROBINSON RESIDENCE SAYS “GOODBYE” TO ONE OF ITS OWN

The Robinson Residence for Seniors held a tea for relatives and friends of Eileen Coates following her funeral at Desourdy-Wilson Funeral Home in Cowansville on March 1, 2005. Reverend Wendy MacLean, Minister of Emmanuel United Church, led the service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for the life of Eileen Coates with Margaret Smith at the organ. Two hymns were sung, “What a friend We Have in Jesus” and “The Day Thou Gavest”. Eileen’s daughter told those present how PRECIOUS her mother was to the whole family and the service closed with John Wesley’s Rule:

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

As Manager Sadie Horne and members of the staff were busy with the residents and getting ready for the reception, Margaret Beattie represented them with Gary and Bev Crandall and Evelyn Lewis representing the board.

Eileen Coates was happy to call the Robinson her home for the past few years and was well loved by the residents, and the staff. So we were pleased to welcome Eileen’s family and friends for tea and refreshments.

A beautiful picture of Eileen with the house cat on her lap was displayed surrounded by candles. Reverend Wendy MacLean asked everyone to join her in a prayer before tea was served and gave everyone an opportunity to share their thoughts about Eileen.

As many of the residents could not attend the funeral, this gave them an opportunity to share in a final farewell to Eileen, who will be sorely missed.

Evelyn Beban Lewis

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<p>The editor is always looking for news, articles, information, etc. from our members off the island of Montreal. If you have something you think would be interesting for your fellow retirees please get in touch with me.</p>

A FEW REMINISCENCES (continued from the Winter Newsletter issue)

An essential part of every school was a cadre of school janitors. Their wages were meagre but shelter was provided free, and for some schools, this was an adjacent house. For others, there was an apartment within the school building. Not all of the caretaker's duties were pleasant. Pity the caretaker in a few of the very old Montreal school buildings equipped only with "dry" toilets. Here, one of the duties was to burn the waste material early on every morning. Smoke from some of these buildings was not the result of, solely, the burning of coal and the odour was frequently a cause for complaints of nearby neighbours.

Spare the rod and spoil the child. This ancient dictum has had a stronger influence than it should in both home and school. All too often it has been a handy excuse for those adults who mistreated children and there is certainly much evidence that physical punishment is unlikely to correct behavioural problems.

Each school was provided with a standard leather strap and with specific instructions about its use. Regulations required that it can be applied only to the palm of the hand and also that a record should be kept which included the name of the unfortunate miscreant, and the crime committed. It was noted in the regulations that other forms of physical punishment such as "pulling the ear", "striking with a pointer", and "shaking" were strictly forbidden. Nothing was said, however, about the practice of having children sit up straight with hands behind their back, or standing in the corner, or other similar practices. For some strange reason the use of the cane for punishing recalcitrant pupils was never sanctioned.

In the 1950's, Dr. Baruch Silverman, then a prominent Montreal psychiatrist, was publicly excoriated by some, including many teachers, for his strong criticism of the use of physical punishment in dealing with the behaviour problems of children. Ironically, the use of the strap in penitentiaries was abolished long before it was removed from the school classrooms, although in some provinces it still remains and is legally sanctioned.

Until the introduction of a compulsory education law in Quebec in 1943, and indeed after that, dropout rates were enormous. In the early 1950's only about half of those who entered schools in Grade I remained at the end of Grade VIII. Even throughout elementary grades dropouts were not unusual. Large numbers left at the end of Grade V, and many more in subsequent grades.

An important factor in the high dropout rate was the school fee then levied in all grades. In Kindergarten to Grade II the fee was \$2.00 per month; Grades III, IV, and V, \$3.00 per month; Grades VI and VII, \$4.00 per month. High School fees were \$4.00 per month. It was very difficult for many families, especially so for those in which the total family income often did not exceed one hundred dollars monthly, to meet such costs and especially so for large families. Indeed, one of the distasteful duties for teachers was the collection of these fees each month, including the badgering of students who did not, or could not, pay on time. Not until the end of the Second World War were such fees abolished.

In education, bad ideas often have a long life and many of them discourage, rather than encourage, students to complete high school. An example is the streaming of pupils, a practice that is still popular. Various studies have shown that streaming of pupils into so called homogeneous groups does not foster higher achievement by the academically able and tends to convince others that they are not capable of success.

A FEW REMINISCENCES (continued)

A recent report of UNESCO on international tests of reading, mathematics and science recently appeared. One of the authors of this report, Dr. Yan Hong Zang, a Montreal based policy analyst for UNESCO, had this to say. "Canada's education system is strong because lower and higher performing students are taught together in the same classroom instead of streaming them into different programs or even different schools, as is often the case in countries with lower overall performance, such as Germany and Belgium". One can hope that the information on Canadian schools is more typical than some studies seem to indicate.

During the era prior to Second World War, the Montreal Board had five high schools under its jurisdiction, Baron Byng High, West Hill High School, Commercial High, High School for Girls and the High School of Montreal. Of these, the High School of Montreal was the oldest, and for a long period was the only High School in the city. The origins of the school go back to 1842, when a group of Scottish schoolmasters first organized a school for boys. At one time, in the archives of the school could be found a detailed Minute Book of this early organized facility.

There were interesting accounts in this Book of Minutes. One is a fascinating record of a discussion among the teachers concerning their salaries, which were paid out of student fees. Some staff members received their pay in dollars and others in pounds sterling. Because dollars were then at a discount, the group remunerated in this latter currency rightly complained. How this issue was finally resolved is not stated.

Before the First World War, the school was located near the corner of Peel and Ste. Catherine on a site that later became that of the Mount Royal Hotel. In 1917, a new school building was erected on University near Sherbrooke Street, which housed both the High School of Montreal and the High School for Girls. It provided classrooms for approximately 2400 pupils, an assembly hall, a cafeteria, a library, two gymnasias, and a swimming pool. However, located where it was in the central part of the city, it lacked suitable outdoor play facilities, but otherwise it was a magnificent facility, largely unsurpassed anywhere at the time.

The head of the boys' school was the Rector, the title a reflection of the close relationship then existing between religion and education. Indeed, for some years the Rector was an Anglican Minister. The Girls' school had a lady principal and in general operated independently of that for boys.

Pupils came from all sections of the City. Most walked or took public transportation. Some walked long distances, unable to afford the cost of streetcar tickets. Pupils came from a plethora of societal groups, the rich and the poor, those who lived on the top of the hill, or below the tracks, or in between. The high achievers over the years were from all social groups, proof that scholarship is sprinkled through all segments of society.

Public participation in school affairs was minimal. Indeed, even a visit to the Rector was usually only at his request and for both the parent and the pupil it was an event of unusual importance. Public participation in education had yet to come to the fore, and in the operation of the schools the scrutiny of society concerning education policy was minimal, except for the school Boards, many of whose members were appointed and not elected.

In Montreal, school telephone numbers were private. Indeed, the Board published its own list of telephone numbers which was available only to administrators, with instructions that it was to be

A FEW REMINISCENCES (continued)

kept confidential. After all, it was argued, principals and others would be inundated with phone calls from parents if they were able to telephone schools.

After the end of the Second World War, there were dramatic increases in school enrolments. This required important changes in the Protestant Board's structure. Until this time the senior administrative cadre had consisted only of the Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, and a Director of Finance.

In the late 1940's the various small local Boards on the Island of Montreal were amalgamated and, although certain minor responsibilities remained with the local Boards, the PSBGM assumed the major responsibility for the education of children in the Montreal area.

To meet the requirements of a rapidly increasing population, the Administrative structure of the Board was substantially changed. Administrative districts were established under the direction of district education officers, and a Director of Personnel and Curriculum appointed, with appropriate staffs.

In Curriculum, special classes for children with learning disabilities were organized as were guidance and psychological services. A system of promotion by subject rather than by year was adopted. All of this was a reflection of the demands of a larger, more sophisticated society following the Second World War.

One may rightly look askance at some past policies and practices. An examination of some of the proposals for school improvement now on today's docket should receive careful examination. One can be reasonably certain that, as in the past, many are grounded in politics rather than on sound pedagogy.

What really makes the most positive difference in every era is the excellence of teachers and teaching, but that is another story.

Lorne Hamilton

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