



ANNUAL REPORT SEPTEMBER 2010

HOTEL CHÉRIBOURG
ORFORD, QUEBEC

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AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

8:30 A.M.– 8:55 A.M. REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

8:55 A.M. – 10:25 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of June 2009
4. Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2010
5. Appointment of an auditor
6. President's Report
7. Appointment of QCGN delegate
9. Election of Directors

Regional directorships

Seat # 2 Monteregie
Seat # 4 Montreal
Seat # 6 Gulf of St. Lawrence

Sectoral directorships

Seat # 9 Education
Seat # 8 Cultural

At-large directorships

Seat # 10
Seat #12

10. Report of Election of Officers as chosen by the Board
11. Adjournment

Notice: Core Member organizations in good standing who wish to nominate a volunteer to serve on the board of directors of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network must do so before 8:30 A.M. on the day of the Annual General Meeting.

MINUTES: QAHN 2009 AGM

SATURDAY, 13 JUNE, 2009

THE SMITH HOUSE, MOUNT ROYAL PARK, MONTREAL

Voting members (delegates) present:

Beaconsfield-Beauport Historical Society (*Barbara Barclay*); Chateaugay Valley Historical Society (*Mark Boundy*); Atwater Library (*Susan Chirke*); Missisquoi Historical and Museum Society (*Heather Darch*); Aylmer Heritage Association (*Mary Duggan*), Heritage Huntingville (*Richard Evans*); Sainte-Agathe Heritage Association (*Joe Graham*); Quebec Family History Society (*Derek Hopkins*); Morrin Centre (*Simon Jacobs*), Dorval Historical Society (*Alain Jarry*), Gaspesian British Heritage Centre (*Leonard Jordaan*); Morin Heights Historical Association (*Joy Kirkpatrick*); Uplands Cultural Centre (*Ruth Evans*), Westmount Historical Association (*Doreen Lindsay*), Montreal West Operatic Society (*Roderick MacLeod*), Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society (*Elaine Evans*); St. Patrick's Society of Montreal (*Mary McDaid*); Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Directorate Archives (*Janice Rosen*); Stanstead Historical and Museum Society (*Ann Montgomery*); Hudson Historical Society (*Kevin O'Donnell*); Richmond County Historical Society (*Don Healy*) and Norway Bay Historical Society (*James Ritchie*).

Proxies: Rawdon Historical Society, Lake Massawippi Area Historical Society, Compton County Historical Museum Society, Scotch Road Cemetery Association Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch UELAC and Little Forks Branch UELAC/Patrimoine-Asott-Heritage

Staff present: Dwane Wilkin

Guests: Lauri Belkamp, Jeff Doyle, Sylvie Guibault, Patrick Donovan, Esther Healy, Peter Howlett, and Richard Moorhouse.

1. Call to Order: President Kevin O'Donnell called the business meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed the delegates and guests to the lovely site of the Smith House in Mount Royal Park. Kevin O'Donnell requested the delegates to review the Agenda and called for any additions at this time. Dick Evans suggested that "Announcements" be added to the Agenda prior to the Adjournment of the meeting. Dwane Wilkin suggested that because many of the delegates did not receive and/read the Strategic Plan that

the ratification of the plan should be changed to a discussion of the plan.

2. Approval of the Agenda: Kevin O'Donnell called for a motion of acceptance of the Agenda with the suggested changes made. It was moved by Dick Evans and seconded by Derek Hopkins that the Agenda be approved as amended. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of June 14 2008: Kevin O'Donnell asked the delegates if they wished the Minutes 2008 to be read. The delegates agreed in general that this was not necessary and a review would suffice. Don Healy asked if the "Dick Evans" recorded in the Minutes was "Richard Evans". Dwane Wilkin clarified that this was the same person and that he would be called Dick Evans in the Minutes of this AGM Minutes. As there was no further discussion Kevin O'Donnell called for a motion to accept the AGM Minutes of 2008. It was moved by Elaine Evans and seconded by Mary McDaid to accept the minutes. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

4. Financial Report: Treasurer Dick Evans presented the audited financial report for the fiscal year ending March 31 2009. He stated that QAHN was "okay financially but, just okay". He explained the basic minimum revenue needed for operating as a provincial network is \$125,000 and although the contribution agreement awarded by the Department of Canadian Heritage is increasing, QAHN has not yet reached this "minimum vitale." Dick stated that the confidence placed in QAHN by the Department of Canadian Heritage is reflected in their increases to the Core operational funding each year.

Dick reviewed the revenues and expenses of the report and indicated that QAHN was "dangerously low" in its funds on March 31 2009. Funding was expected at that time however because of the 10 per cent "hold-back" and the confirmation that the contribution agreement would be granted for the next fiscal year. Dick Evans asked if there were any questions. As there were no questions, Kevin O'Donnell requested a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Dick Evans

moved to accept the financial report and Doreen Lindsay seconded the motion. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

5. Appointment of Auditor: Dick Evans moved to authorize the QAHN board of directors to appoint an auditor for the 9009-10 financial statements. He recommended Sylvain Bouchard of Sherbrooke QC to continue in this position. A question came from the floor regarding the statement in the Minutes of 2008 that “some comparison shopping” for an auditor would be carried out by the board so that QAHN would pay a fair price for accounting services. Dick Evans explained that this process had been conducted and to his satisfaction; Sylvain Bouchard was able to demonstrate that QAHN was indeed receiving very fair rates. The motion to accept Sylvain Bouchard as the auditor for the next fiscal year was seconded by Don Healy. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

6. President’s Report: Kevin O’Donnell gave a power point presentation to the delegates which highlighted the main goals and projects of QAHN over the past year. Kevin O’Donnell’s full report was available in the printed 2009 Annual General Report. The presented emphasized the communication aspect to QAHN’s mandate. The Quebec Heritage News, the Heritage Line, website, web magazines and the Quebec heritage web newsletter are all important tools in keeping the network viable. Questions asked from the floor focused on the circulation of the Quebec Heritage News, the number of issues printed and should the magazine be printed quarterly rather than 6 x/year. Kevin O’Donnell also reviewed the many projects of QAHN including Voices from Quebec, Quebec 400 –Roots Conference, FQM workshop, and the ACHAP Strategy proposal. All of the projects were detailed for the delegates in the printed AGM report. Kevin O’Donnell also took a moment to pay tribute to the late Captain William Campbell who served on the QAHN Board and passed away in February 2009. He also thanked the staff Dwane Wilkin, Kathy Teasdale and Marion Greenly, the departing board members Patrick Donovan, Rod MacLeod and Heather Darch, the continuing members of the board and the members of QAHN who continue to support the founding principles and vision of the organization.

7. Strategic Plan Review: Dwane Wilkin presented the background leading up to the presentation of the Strategic Plan to the delegates and outlined the survey of the Core members which was conducted recently by a team of volunteers and designed to establish a set of core planning elements including a mission statement, vision and goals, and benchmarks for the next five

years. In all 26 organizations participated representing almost 50% of the membership base resulting in a detailed indication of the needs of the membership. Kevin O’Donnell reviewed the funding considerations which included a breakdown of the percentage of funding received from the various agencies. Dick Evans commented on the difficulty of obtaining a charitable status and the on-going investigations into the concept of creating a foundation. The review of the strategic issues included QAHN’s policy and advocacy role, QAHN’s association and collaboration with the QCGN and QAHN’s mission statement. Kevin O’Donnell commented that it was important for QAHN to monitor the “activity creep” or the redirection organizations can take if they are not focused on the mission and goals on the organization.

A discussion on QAHN’s current mission statement ensued. The mission statement that was presented to the delegates was not well received. Members felt that it was “absurdly long” and that the objectives should not be a part of the mission statement. It was also felt that the mission statement in its current format was about its members and not about the actual mission of the organization. There was also some concern with the use of words that did not make the statement inclusive. After some discussion there was a general agreement although not mandated at this stage that the mission statement should be:

QAHN is a non-profit, non-partisan umbrella organization engaged in preserving the built, natural and cultural heritage of Quebec.

It was suggested by Don Healy that the Charter be re-examined so that the mission statement is reflective of the very core of the organization. Dick Evans replied that the mission statement never alters from the Charter but that it was a good idea for the board to revisit the Charter. It was moved by Joe Graham and seconded by Sandra Stock that the delegates mandate the QAHN board of directors executive committee to re-examine the Charter and re-write and re-present the mission statement to the members using the recommendations made today by the delegates as guideline. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

Discussion continued regarding the goals of QAHN which include strengthening the core membership, engaging communities and sharing stories. Mr. Jary stated that he would send Dwane Wilkin the recommendations his society would like to make on the issue of the goals. Matthew Farfan pointed out that many of the goals are being fulfilled as the web magazines are being used for school heritage projects for example. Kevin O’Donnell also mentioned that the

goals are not new to QAHN rather they are expanded definitions. The values and benchmarks were also reviewed and Kevin O'Donnell suggested that the membership look at the proposed strategic plan and if comments are required, please send them directly to Dwane Wilkin within the next two weeks.

8. QCGN delegate designation: Currently Rod MacLeod holds the position as QAHN's representative to the QCGN. Rod MacLeod explained that he is not on the board of directors but represents QAHN's voice at the AGM or other special meetings and has held this position since 2007. Rod MacLeod will not continue as a delegate as he is now stepping down from the QAHN board and the position as a delegate to the QCGN should be filled by a board member. It was moved by Rod MacLeod and seconded by Leonard Jordaan that Kevin O'Donnell takes on the role as official delegate to the QCGN and Dwane Wilkin will be the alternate voting delegate. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

9. Election of Directors: Rod MacLeod continued as the electoral officer for the meeting and presented the nominations for the board seats that are currently up for election. These are:

Seat 1: Western Quebec: Kevin O'Donnell
Seat 3: Eastern Townships: Ann Montgomery
Seat 5: Eastern Quebec: Simon Jacobs
Seat 6: Gulf of St. Lawrence: Leonard Jordaan
Seat 7: Laurentians: Sandra Stock
Seat 9: Cultural Sector: *Vacant*
Seat 11: At Large: Rick Smith
Seat 13: At Large: Derek Hopkins

Rod MacLeod asked for further nominations from the floor and as none were presented, the above named nominations were officially acclaimed and welcomed to the board of directors.

10. Election of Officers: Members of the new board of directors deliberated privately and announced the following slate of officers:

President: Kevin O'Donnell
1st Vice President: Sandra Stock
2nd Vice President: Simon Jacobs
Treasurer: Dick Evans
Secretary: Ann Montgomery (non-recording secretary at the request of Ann Montgomery)

Other Directors:

Mark Boundy, Doreen Lindsay, Leonard Jordaan, Mary McDaid, Rick Smith, Derek Hopkins.

As the "Cultural" seat is still open, Rod MacLeod requested the members to please present someone as a possible candidate for this seat.

It was moved by Joe Graham and seconded by Mr. Jarry that the QAHN Board of directors select the signing officers internally at the next official board meeting. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

11. Announcements: The Dorval Museum of Local History and Heritage in collaboration with the Forest and Stream Club and the Dorval Historical Society is presenting an exhibition "The Forest and Stream, 125 Years of Tradition". The McCord Museum in collaboration with the St. Patrick's Society is presenting "Irish O'Quebec". The QFHS will be holding its AGM in June 2010. The Richmond County Historical Society will be holding its annual Ice Cream Social. The Musée des religions du monde will present the "Jews of Quebec" exhibition.

Kevin O'Donnell finished the meeting with a word of thanks to outgoing board members Patrick Donovan, Rod MacLeod and Heather Darch. He also thanked the delegates for attending and hoped that everyone would be staying for the presentation of the Marion Phelps Award and the impressive guest speakers for the afternoon session.

12. Adjournment: It was moved by Derek Hopkins and seconded by Barbara Barklay to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by

Heather Darch
Stanbridge East

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It seems like only a few months ago that we met together at our last AGM at the Smith House on Mount Royal. It's also hard to believe that a decade has passed since the founders of QAHN met at Bishop's University to launch an organization having as its mission, *Building a Future for our Past*. "Time flies when you are having fun," goes the old adage. But recently scientists have taken the trouble to demonstrate the truth of an important corollary: time also flies when you are busy. And we – the staff and Core volunteers – have been busy this past year, even if the delay by almost six months of government program funding meant that there was little "fun" to be noticed early in the year (postponed paycheques have that effect).

Here are some highlights of the year for me:

Quebec Heritage News: Last year I noted that our flagship publication devoted to the history and heritage concerns of Quebec's English-speaking communities appeared bimonthly, mostly on schedule. Readers need only look at the masthead to realize how few people we have to turn out such a quality product. I believe my sentiments about the high quality of this publication are still accurate. However our publication schedule was thrown off-kilter by the aforementioned funding delay, which meant that you received your copy of QHN months after the date that appeared on the cover. We are striving to catch up. Our perennial problem – being understaffed and under-budgeted – still remains. I think that we owe editor Rod MacLeod, publisher Dwane Wilkin, production editor Dan Pinese, and the mostly volunteer writers our thanks for burning the midnight oil to make available this important publication.

We should be proud of *Quebec Heritage News* and encourage our individual members, local libraries, museums, clubs and anywhere else we meet to take out subscriptions. A number of recommendations in our 2009-2014 Strategic Plan relate to the print magazine:

1. Strive to become a self-sustaining, English-language voice for Quebec heritage and history;
2. Encourage Core and Affiliate members to sell subscriptions to members and local libraries;
3. Secure increased financial support from Quebec's Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the federal Department of Canadian Heritage, and from larger institutions in the museum and educational sectors;
4. Establish an educational foundation with a mandate to publish *Quebec Heritage News*.

Finally, the board of directors has recently consid-

ered other publishing options, such as moving to a quarterly publication format that might lighten the load, both financially and in terms of staff and volunteer resources. Not all of these plans have been carried out. They have not been forgotten, however. Our goal is to implement these worthy objectives.

Heritage Online Multimedia Enrichment Initiative (HOMEI): In December we received word that our application to Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (a federal government department) to undertake the HOMEI project had been approved, subject of course to various delays. Work began when project coordinator Matthew Farfan was hired in March. HOMEI is designed to radically improve the Web presence of both QAHN and a number of participating members. Beyond the initial groups who have undertaken to carry out projects for their (and QAHN's) websites, the project has the potential of making the Web an important communication platform for virtually all member historical societies and museums. This upgraded Web presence (based on the free open-source Drupal software) should be an important tool for promoting our heritage to ourselves and to tourists. Matthew will be giving an overview of the project at the AGM, and a more detailed written description will also be available.

Spoken Heritage Online Multimedia Initiative (SHOMI): This is another project with a long gestation period that was finally signed in early March. In a nutshell, SHOMI is designed to help member organizations digitize oral-history tape recordings. The project will also prepare the general physical and digital backgrounds for heritage/history exhibits that local history societies and museums can display, filling in local content relevant for their towns. We are fortunate to have the services of Megan Switzer as our Project Coordinator. HOMEI and SHOMI go a long way in achieving our digital and online objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan, which are to:

1. Re-evaluate QAHN's website offerings and their value to members of Quebec's heritage sector;
2. Analyse the cost and benefits of continuing QAHN's affiliation with its current internet services provider and compare these with alternative means of maintaining the main website and the regional heritage websites, using, in part, the expertise of our own members;
3. Encourage QAHN's regional partners and supporters to help generate content for the regional heritage websites;
4. Help members to become self-sufficient in their

own website development;

5. Encourage sharing by our members, of current best practices in web-based museum technology (e.g. putting digital collections of photographs, print documents and pictures of museum artifacts online).

Gaspésian Regional Heritage Conference: On March 6 Dwane Wilkin, Matthew Farfan and I participated in this one-day event designed to bring the three Gaspé communities—Mik'maq, Anglophone and Francophone—together to celebrate their common attachment to their region and to explore ways to use their heritage to promote tourism. QAHN spent many days on this project preparing background materials and aiding in project management. Both local and federal government officials present at the event expressed their complete satisfaction in the role QAHN played. We feel that we were fulfilling our mandate as expressed in our Strategic Plan:

1. Improve communications and promote information-sharing among historical societies, museums and other heritage organizations;
2. Assist members in acquiring resources and expertise they need to carry out their operations;
3. Raise public awareness of heritage-conservation issues;
4. Serve as a voice for member organizations in such areas as government relations;

Montreal Mosaic II Conference and Website Launch: On March 26 the Anglophone heritage network joined forces with the Greater Montreal Community Development Initiative (GMCDI) to present a conference entitled *The Role of Arts, Culture and Heritage in English-Speaking Montreal*, one in a series of conferences organized by the GMCDI around the theme of cultural diversity. About 45 people representing Montreal's artistic, cultural and heritage sectors as well as a federal Canadian Heritage department representative joined us at the Atwater Library. Networking, useful information-sharing and a fruitful dialogue ensued, capped off by the launch of QAHN's fifth regional Heritage WebMagazine, *Montreal Mosaic*. QAHN's Montreal Committee, chaired by Rod MacLeod and including Sandra Stock and Doreen Lindsay provided invaluable organizational support. Committee member Rick Smith could not attend this work-day event, but was an inspiring participant nonetheless. Contract staffers Dave Myburgh and Tyler Wood, ably coordinated by Heritage WebMagazines editor Matthew Farfan, put together the website on very short notice.

Canadian Historical Association Conference: The recent annual conference of the Canadian Historical Association was held at Concordia University. QAHN members Rod MacLeod, Patrick Donovan and I made up the panel for a presentation called, *Writing the History of Quebec's English-Speaking Communities*.

In my talk to this national gathering of professional historians, I described QAHN as a network of museums and historical societies who publish and hold meetings focused on local histories. I stressed how our network is striving to play an important role in presenting a more balanced and positive view of the many different communities that make up English-speaking Quebec. In the words of our vision statement, we plan to "...bear witness to the historical and living presence of English-speaking Quebecers, as expressed by their deeds, their stories, their art and the influence of their many contributions to the cultural heritage of Quebec and the rest of Canada."

Communications and Marketing: At our most recent board of directors meeting on April 17, QAHN's first Vice-President, Sandra Stock, presented her colleagues with some thought-provoking suggestions. In a nutshell, Sandra feels that QAHN does not publicize its "brand" and its good works in a consistent manner. She challenged us to update and translate our brochures, to send out press releases about our projects and events, to get more media coverage and do a better job of keeping the network informed. She finished by writing the magic words: "I am willing to assist with any of this, of course." Sandra has been an activist volunteer since the early days of QAHN. At the board meeting we agreed that her ideas were accurate and timely. I wonder, can any of you help us with our mission?

We Mourn: On May 24 Marianna O'Gallagher, the 2003 winner of QAHN's Marion Phelps Award and founder of Irish Heritage Quebec, passed away. She was a prolific author, publisher and heritage activist, who worked tirelessly to preserve Grosse Île as a monument to unfortunate immigrants who perished there trying to escape the Famine in Ireland. I was fortunate to visit the island with her a few years ago. I will never forget the sorrow in her eyes as we stood beside the grave-trenches, and the reverence in her voice as she explained to visitors from around the world the significance of the Celtic Cross designed by her grandfather. May she rest in peace.

A Word of Thanks: To staff members Dwane Wilkin and Kathy Teasdale and to our contract employees Matthew Farfan, Rod MacLeod, Megan Switzer and Dan Pinese. Thank you for the high standards you set for yourselves. And thanks also to directors Leonard Jordaan and Mary McDaid, who are leaving the board this year. Finally, to Dick Evans and the visionaries of 2000, who believed that the markers of our communities – their histories and heritage – were worth preserving and passing down to future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin O'Donnell, President, QAHN
Hudson

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Eastern Townships Chapter of the Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec (FSHQ) met four times this year, in Richmond (March 17), Milby (June 9), Stanstead (October 6), and Hatley (March 16).

The Chapter includes the following groups: Brome County HS, Compton County HMS, Richmond County HS, Missisquoi HS, Lennoxville-Ascot HMS, Stanstead HS, Patrimoine Ascott-Heritage and Little Forks UEL, Lake Massawippi Area HS, Georgeville HS, Heritage Huntingville, Old North Church Cemetery Association, as well as the Eastern Townships Resource Centre (ETRC), and QAHN.

All member societies reported a full schedule of programmes and exhibitions through the summer of 2009, though it seemed that attendance generally was down somewhat from 2008. Some societies had not received grants to enable them to hire summer students, which restricted their activities, though most had found inventive ways to cope with the situation.

Representations were made to the Townshippers' Association, regarding the placement of historical societies at Townshippers' Day. Frequently these groups have been assigned space outside the major traffic areas, and we were glad to see that improvements were made for the 2009 edition in Ayer's Cliff.

Representatives of the FSHQ attended three of the four meetings, reporting on activities of the Fédération.

Some concern was expressed by the group about the lack of English-language sessions at the annual conference, with the hope that this would be improved for the 2010 edition. We noted with regret the death of Robert Bergeron, a long-time FSHQ Board member who had frequently attended our meetings.

For 2010, members are planning many exciting exhibitions and other activities. Of particular interest are the opening of the Walbridge Barn (Missisquoi HS), the summer exhibition on Touring in the Townships 1850-2000 (Stanstead HS), the unveiling of the interpretation panels at Patrimoine Ascott-Heritage, the Oral History project at Lennoxville-Ascot HMS, and participation by various members in the SHOMI project headed up by QAHN.

The Chapter has undertaken to produce a promotional brochure which will feature all of the member institutions, with brief descriptions of their mandates, contact information, and a map indicating the location of each. It is expected that this will be ready for the 2011 tourist season; it will be distributed by the member societies and made available at local tourist information centres.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Montgomery, Secretary, QAHN
Cedarville

LAURENTIANS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This past year, once again, the greatest concern for both organized groups and involved individuals from whom we have had contact, is the preservation and maintainance of built and natural heritage. This appears to be especially pertinent to old cemeteries and small rural churches. However, the most active and successful groups and projects are also in this area. For example, Scotch Road Cemetery Association (Grenville sur la Rouge) and Knox Presbyterian Community Church and Cemetery in Crystal Falls (Arundel).

There has also been outstanding progress with the renovations of St. Mungo's Church in Cushing (Grenville-sur-la-Rouge). This impressive stone structure, dating from before 1850, was built as a somewhat smaller replica of the first St. Mungo's in Glasgow, Scotland. Cushing, like many older settlements, was once more populated and prosperous than it has been, being a major shipping port on the Ottawa River back in the nineteenth century. It suffered from a slow decline throughout the twentieth. This, and the diminishing English-speaking population, led to the ultimately poor condition of St. Mungo's. We hope that as a local heritage site and community point of interest, St. Mungo's can be preserved for the future.

The St. Columban Irish cemetery memorial project has been completed. The three-part wall with embedded tombstones was officially dedicated on July 3, 2010. There was good participation from the local community, descendants of some of the Irish settlers, and many people interested in Laurentian history. Last summer's poor weather had delayed the completion of the work. Fergus Keyes and Kenneth Neil are to be commended for their leadership of this project.

It is very unfortunate that publicly funded projects such as QAHN's cemetery heritage evaluation and inventory project of 2008 cannot be either extended or repeated according to government regulations. Often people in the communities are not aware of this and feel that QAHN has just stopped being interested in them, which is certainly not the case!

The Morin Heights Historical Association has held a series of events last autumn and this spring that were very well received by the community. Two retrospectives, *Morin Heights in the 1940's & 50's* and *Morin*

Heights in the 1960's & 70's. Also, a Genealogy Workshop was recently organized by the members to initiate interested people into family research. Another edition of *The Porcupine/Le Porc-épic*, the Morin Heights Historical Association's historical magazine, is to be launched at the end of September, 2010. This will be the ninth collection of locally written materials.

As QAHN's Laurentian members are usually at a distance from the venues of many QAHN events and regular meetings, it has been somewhat difficult to encourage attendance. Weather and driving conditions are very much a factor for those who live (some quite far) north of Montreal. However, more and more of our member organizations and individuals are now online and most historical societies have websites. This has been invaluable for maintaining contact with the regions far from urban centers, but participation is still not as it could be.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Stock, Vice President, QAHN
Montreal

MONTREAL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Montreal Committee (Rod MacLeod, Kevin O'Donnell, Doreen Lindsay, Mary McDaid, Rick Smith and new member Sandra Stock) continued to seek opportunities to raise QAHN's profile in the Montreal area throughout the summer and autumn of 2009. One promising avenue was some kind of partnership with the Greater Montreal Community Development Initiative. Committee members and the QAHN Executive Director had numerous conversations with Nina Kim, who took over as GMCDI coordinator from Michelle Dupuis, although Michelle retains an interest in the project. Several collaboration possibilities were discussed, and in the end it was agreed that QAHN should go into partnership with the English Language Arts Network under the umbrella of the Arts Culture Heritage Council of the GMCDI to develop a webmagazine for the Montreal area along the lines of QAHN's similar sites for the Eastern Townships, the Laurentians, the Outaouais and the Gaspé, but with additional focus on Arts and Culture.

As a member of the ACH Council, I pitched the idea in January 2010 at a Council meeting, and the idea was approved. The Council would pay for a coordinator to gather material for the webmagazine with input from both ELAN and the Montreal Committee, and QAHN would provide technical expertise. The webmagazine would be launched as part of one of the GMCDI's planned DiverCity conferences in March 2010. Tyler Wood, a frequent contributor to the Quebec Heritage News and other heritage projects, was selected as webmagazine coordinator. Tyler worked out of an office in the QCGN headquarters, reporting to Nina Kim. He and Nina met frequently with the Montreal Committee, once at the QCGN boardroom, to discuss the project's progress. The webmagazine adopted the name "Montreal Mosaic" from the very successful QAHN conference held at the McCord Museum in April 2007.

The launch of Montreal Mosaic webmagazine took place on March 26, 2010, at the end of the GMCDI morning conference on Arts Culture and Heritage held at the Atwater Library. The conference was attended by representatives from the Montreal arts and heritage communities, the federal government, and the media. Although the Montreal Committee might have hoped for a larger turnout, the nature of the conference necessitated invitation-only attendance to ensure even representation across the community. Presentations were made by Sylvia Martin-Laforge (Director General of the QCGN), Guy Rodgers

(Executive Director of ELAN and chair of the Arts Culture Heritage Council), Kevin O'Donnell and me, and Solange Bourgoin from the Department of Canadian Heritage Montreal Office. Matthew Farfan, QAHN's webmagazine editor, and Tyler Wood demonstrated the website. Reaction to the webmagazine and to the presentations was very positive, particularly from Solange Bourgoin.

QAHN's partnering with the GMCDI took place against a backdrop of transition. In November 2009 the GMCDI's coordinating committee presented its 5 year strategic plan to the QCGN board, which decided to undertake a review of its own commitment to the GMCDI given the realities of funding.

As a result, during the period in which the webmagazine was being prepared the GMCDI was in a state of flux, lacking direct leadership apart from the capable coordinating skills of Nina Kim. One effect this had on the execution of the webmagazine project was that the Montreal Committee occasionally felt the lack of a corresponding governing body within the GMCDI with which to interact; equally, Tyler was not sure at times whether he was ultimately responsible to the GMCDI, to the Montreal Committee, or to QCGN staff. Future collaboration of this sort will hopefully occur at more coherent junctures in the GMCDI's evolution. Such collaboration is, in fact, a distinct possibility, as the QCGN decided by April 2010 that the GMCDI's focus from now on will be Diversity, a theme that dovetails many of the Montreal Committee's own concerns and echoes the form and spirit of the Montreal Mosaic Webmagazine.

It remains for the committee to express hope that the Montreal Mosaic Webmagazine will continue to be updated and expanded on a regular basis in line with its potential as a tool to serve the Montreal area with information, stories, images, soundbites and video clips pertaining to Arts Culture and Heritage. If funding would allow Tyler Wood to have a hand in the webmagazine's ongoing existence, the committee would be delighted – it was a singular pleasure for all of us to work with him. Many thanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod MacLeod, Chair, Montreal Committee
Montreal West

SPOKEN HERITAGE ONLINE MULTIMEDIA INITIATIVE (SHOMI)

PROJECT REPORT

The Spoken Heritage Online Multimedia Initiative (SHOMI) will identify, preserve and promote oral histories of English-speaking communities across Quebec. The oral-history project began on February 22, 2010 and will run until May 31, 2011. Current participants span eight administrative regions: Lower St. Lawrence, Centre-du-Québec, Estrie, Gaspé, Laurentides, Montérégie, Montréal and Outaouais.

The SHOMI project corresponds closely with priorities outlined in the anglophone heritage network's 2009-2014 Strategic Plan, particularly QAHN's core goals of engaging local communities and sharing stories. We have already begun to gather existing oral-history voice recordings from many regions of English-speaking Quebec and together with our community partners will gradually incorporate these into multimedia exhibits for presentation in local venues and via the internet. We project that this project will inject \$66,000 in direct financial support to participating historical societies and heritage groups.

Phase I: Oral History Archives and Digitization

Core member participants are currently being funded through this project to review and catalogue their existing oral-history archives. These preliminary inventories will inform the prioritization of material and the development of the database during the digitization process. Additionally, the inventories will guide organizations' local content in the exhibit development in Phase II of the project.

The Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University has been contracted to digitize the oral-history recordings and create a searchable database of these recordings that will be accessible through the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network website.

Phase II: Multimedia Exhibits Development

During the second phase of the project, which started in the summer of 2010, participating QAHN member organisations began to design and assemble new multi-

media museum exhibitions. These exhibitions will be a collaborative effort between QAHN and participating member organizations.

A selection of core themes has been established in consultation with local partners. These exhibits will explore broad historical themes such as immigration, social norms, geography, technology, trade, and war from a local community perspective. Design will ensure that the SHOMI exhibit panels are bilingual, and presented on media using materials that are easily stored and transportable. Each QAHN-member group involved in this phase of the project has received funding and guidance towards the development of these exhibits.

Every effort has been made so far to exhibits will be created to provide teachers with a community-based exhibit that will correspond to elements identified in the Quebec Education Program as well as relate to classroom activities.

Phase III: Collection of New Oral History

Participants in this phase of the project will receive a workshop and guidance from an oral-history consultant to inform their collection of new oral histories pertinent to Quebec's English-speaking communities. Digital recording equipment will be provided by QAHN and shared among the participants. The new oral histories will be integrated into the database created in the first phase.

Additionally, Phase III will produce online resource tools related to creating multimedia exhibits such as a step-by-step guides as well as publicity templates. These online products will be part of QAHN's other project the Heritage Online Multimedia Enrichment Initiative. The third phase of the project is scheduled to begin in summer 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Switzer, Project Coordinator
Sherbrooke

HERITAGE ONLINE MULTIMEDIA ENRICHMENT INITIATIVE (HOMEI)

PROJECT REPORT

Core member organizations of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) operate as stewards of cultural and built heritage in communities across the province. Some of these groups maintain historical archives and museums, which are valuable local institutions and visitor attractions. A 2009 membership survey revealed that many groups would like to pursue development of internet-based publicity for their venues, but they lack money and technical resources.

With financial assistance from the Canada Economic Development agency for Quebec regions, QAHN began work on its Heritage Online Multimedia Enrichment Initiative (HOMEI) in January, 2010. This project aims to increase the capacity of Quebec's anglophone heritage sector to use digital communications to showcase local history and heritage.

The 15-month long project will result in a redesign of existing Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network websites and the transfer to "open-source" web technology that will make it easier for community groups to build and present digital exhibits for sharing on the internet. Heritage network members in four (4) Quebec regions are currently engaged in the creation of new online exhibits to be housed on the Quebec Heritage Web series of websites. French versions of these exhibits are also in development.

In addition to providing new online exhibits, preliminary conceptual work has been undertaken to redesign QAHN's main organizational website (www.QAHN.org). The goal is to create a bilingual site, with streamlined information on the heritage network and its members, with improved navigation features and a more appealing, functional home page. This will help better publicize our members' activities.

Eight (8) member organizations of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network have received funding through this initiative to work with the Project Coordinator on the production of new online multimedia exhibits. They are: Missisquoi Historical Society in Stanbridge East (Eastern Townships region); Compton County Historical Society in Eaton Corner (Eastern Townships region); Cascapedia River Museum in Cascapedia-St. Jules (Gaspé region); Kempffer Centre in New Carlisle (Gaspé region); Hudson Historical Society in Hudson (Montérégie region); Greenwood Centre for Living History in Hudson (Montérégie region); Gatineau Valley Historical Society in Chelsea

(Outaouais region) and the Fairbairn House Museum in (Outaouais region). Their work involves research and writing, and the gathering of archival photographs, audio recordings and, in some cases, video recordings.

In addition to text and digital photographs, QAHN member organizations will be able to add sound and video files to their online exhibits when this project is completed. Several exhibits have already been produced. To date, hundreds of web pages hosted on QAHN's existing website platform have been converted to the new "open-source" technology. In the coming months new bilingual multimedia exhibits mounted by members of the anglophone heritage community will appear on Townships Heritage, Laurentian Heritage, Gaspesian Heritage, and Outaouais Heritage web-magazines.

In addition to featuring bilingual exhibits, portions of the existing Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network website site, www.QuebecHeritageWeb.com and the regional webmagazines are being translated into French, beginning with content deemed most relevant for tourism promotion. It is not within the existing budget to translate all of the English content, but QAHN's goal is enough to create a basic French equivalent website for each. Here are some project-management highlights:

1. Salary and benefits expenditures are on target;
2. Travel expenditures were slightly lower than predicted for the first quarter of the fiscal year;
3. Expenditures on professional fees for the websites upgrade, multimedia products development and translation were lower than forecast in this past quarter;
4. External operating costs are on target.

Through this ongoing collaboration with community groups around Quebec, QAHN is helping anglophones to participate actively in the promotion of heritage tourism. By developing original exhibits for the internet that will serve to promote local museums, historic sites, and other heritage attractions, QAHN members are contributing directly to the health of their communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Farfan, Project Coordinator
Stanstead

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Unexpected and protracted delays in the receipt of core operational funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage caused a serious cash-flow problem in early 2009-10 that nearly halted operations of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network. Many heritage network members and other regional organizations affiliated with Quebec's English-speaking community reported similar challenges throughout year, a fact noted in the Official Languages Commissioner's report to Parliament in the spring of 2010. It was a reminder of just how much QAHN depends on public funding sources for its activities—sources which are by no means secure or necessarily apt to be sustained.

Because of the cash-flow crisis, offers from the Young Canada Works funding program that would have allowed QAHN to hire two summer students in 2009 had to be refused. This in turn prevented QAHN from investing as much as we would have liked in activities and services for members.

That being said, QAHN's volunteer directors worked effectively with staff to find alternative means of achieving organizational and strategic goals. Efforts were made for instance, to find partners and funding through the new federal Cultural Development Fund and through talks with Canada Economic Development. In the latter half of the fiscal year, these efforts met with considerable success. I am very grateful for the time and energy that each member of the board devotes to the work of this organization, but would like to extend my particular thanks to QAHN president Kevin O'Donnell whose vision, generosity, creativity and faith in community have contributed immeasurably towards the building of the heritage network in Quebecs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Core member groups who responded to QAHN's membership survey last year; the findings were used in the development of the 2009-2014 strategic plan, which was ratified by the heritage network membership in August 2009.

Community Outreach

While there is always hope that recurring funding for the anglophone heritage network's operations may continue to rise, QAHN's near-death experience in 2009 vividly illustrates the wisdom of working with partners wherever feasible. For instance, there may be a possibility of expanding QAHN's cemetery heritage inventory and conservation initiative by structuring a partnership with the Quebec Ministry of Culture and Communications and various regional municipal

authorities.

Together with the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) in the Gaspé, QAHN helped develop and stage a regional heritage conference on March 6, 2010 in which numerous francophone heritage organizations actively participated. Ninety-five (95) people attended the event. Also participating were representatives from tourism and cultural sectors, members of the local Gesgapegiag Mi'kmaq community and from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage and the provincial Ministry of Culture and Communications.

The good response to QAHN's annual elementary history-writing contest shows that this activity continues to appeal to young Quebec Anglophones.

The challenge remains finding and partnering with teachers willing and able to inspire a lasting interest in local history and heritage. The annual writing contest and the contacts QAHN is developing in English schools will strengthen the heritage network's ability to deliver other heritage-related activities geared toward youth.

Presence on the Internet

All in all, QAHN made real progress in the area of digital communications in 2009-10, finding financial resources and partners both within and beyond the heritage network to help improve and expand Quebec anglophone communities' access to online multimedia technologies. Thanks to very large financial investments from the Cultural Development Fund (Canadian Heritage) and Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions, QAHN has been able to implement two multi-year projects in collaboration with small museums and heritage organisations: our Heritage Online Multimedia Enrichment Initiative (HOMEI) and Spoken Heritage Online Multimedia Initiative (SHOMI).

These projects respond directly to the recommendations contained in our 2009-2014 strategic plan, namely to help heritage organizations generate new content for the Quebec Heritage Web and to encourage QAHN members to become self-sufficient in the use of web-based, digital museum technologies.

Quebec Heritage News

With some difficulty, QAHN managed to publish six issues of *Quebec Heritage News* magazine in 2009-10. This publishing schedule was scrutinized during the programming year and concerns voiced about our ability to continue publishing on a bimonthly basis. It has

been suggested that QAHN move to a quarterly format, and directors have resolved that the Editorial Committee should consider the matter and make a formal recommendation to the board. Unfortunately, the editorial committee has only managed to meet once, and this was only to plan production of the special Gaspé edition.

Following on one of the recommendations of QAHN's business plan for the magazine, a committee of five volunteer directors, including the president, assisted the executive director in carrying out a subscription appeal among QAHN's Core and Affiliate members in late 2009. Each institutional member group was asked to sign up 20 new individual subscribers from among their local network. As an incentive, QAHN offered a \$5 commission for each new subscription. Some member groups circulated the subscription offers in their own mailings. Others forwarded the offer electronically. Response to the campaign so far has not

yielded hoped-for results, and readership levels appear to be stagnant. Insufficient financial resources prevented full implementation of a business plan commissioned in 2008.

The strategic plan for Quebec's anglophone heritage sector is predicated on the notion that non-profit history societies and heritage organizations can and do make valuable contributions to their communities. Pursuing innovative activities that help diversify and sustain support for these institutions must remain a priority for QAHN in the coming months and years.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwane Wilkin, Executive Director, QAHN
Trenholm

PHYLLIS EMERY SKEATS

RECIPIENT OF THE 2010 MARION PHELPS AWARD

Phyllis Skeats, this year's recipient of the Marion Phelps Award, was born on a farm in Compton Township, a farm which had been in the Emery family since 1803 when her ancestor William Emery arrived with his wife as settlers from Fishersfield, New Hampshire. One of William's descendants was Willis Jonathan Emery, who took over the family farm generations later.

One of four children born to Willis and Geneva Emery, Phyllis' October 13th birthday has proven to be lucky for her. She was born with a very curious mind which has carried her through a busy, creative and exciting life full of achievements. Her first was to become the mother of three children: Sharon, Russell and Joanne Pocock. Russell is one of the first organic farmers in this area, Joanne lives in Ottawa where she researches and writes on the English community in Quebec. Sharon lives in Cambridge, Ontario where she worked for many years as a librarian.

Another of Phyllis' achievements was her work for over 20 years as a reference librarian at Bishop's University, where she met her current husband, Terry Skeats. After marrying Terry in 1980 a new life of researching her family history began. As a gift to her mother, who wanted a family history, she and Terry made numerous trips to libraries in Concord, New Hampshire, Haverhill, Massachusetts and Boston. In Concord, they visited the New Hampshire Genealogical Society Library where they discovered a genealogy of the Emery family, published in 1891, which linked her ancestor William with John Emery of Romsey, England, who came to Massachusetts in 1635. Her mother was delighted. That trip triggered many others to New England. She and Terry would leave work on Friday and drive to Haverhill from where they would look for people and places connected to her ancestors. Five trips were made to England between 1983 and 1998, several of which involved visits to Romsey, the home of her ancestor John before his departure for New

England. Phyllis began writing about these trips and doing genealogical research for the family.

From these research trips came the desire to write about her own home, in particular the Eastern Townships, which she came to love as a result of many trips and conversations which her father, Willis. Hatley Township became the place where she chose to live with Terry and she has spent many hours researching and writing the history of the place and people. When they first moved to North Hatley in 1986, she and Terry ran a bed-and-breakfast, "Sunsetview", and then built their first house in the village, for which she won a heritage award in 1991.

In the early 1990s, Phyllis was one of several people who formed the North Hatley Historical Society (now the Lake Massawippi Area Historical Society) which she served as secretary for several years. She is also secretary for Heritage Huntingville, an organization which restored and now maintains the Huntingville Universalist Church. However, the most important group for her was the Old North Church Cemetery Association, of which she has been president since its creation and leader of its restoration. This cemetery is the first cemetery created for the first settlers in Hatley Township. The church nearby (built in 1818 and taken down in 1928) was her father's church and several of her ancestors are buried there. Throughout the years Phyllis has written several books: a history of the village of Hatley, a history of the Old North Church and cemetery, and also a history of North Hatley to which many village residents contributed pieces. She has also written shorter works on churches such as St. John's Church in Waterville and the North Hatley Unitarian-Universalist Church, walking tours of Hatley and North Hatley, historical sketches of North Hatley and Ayer's Cliff, a annotated transcription of the diary of Lyman Hunting and a longer history of the village of Hatley. To all of this must be added a deep and lifelong love of music!