



The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network *20 years and counting*



The Quebec Anglophone
Heritage Network
20 years and counting



Twenty years - what a marvelous milestone! From this vantage point, QAHN can celebrate the fact that over 100 museums, historical societies and heritage, cultural and community organizations across the province are part of "the network."

While the kernel of an idea that led to an idea that led to QAHN began in the 1980s among the historical societies in the Eastern Townships, the organization became a reality in 2000. In February of that year, a focus group met to discuss the idea of a provincially connected organization that would advance the history, heritage and culture of Quebec's English-speaking communities. A steering committee was formed in April and, by June, the first conference was held at Bishop's University. It was here that delegates opted for an organization that would connect people through inspiring activities and professional services. Ongoing support from the Department of Canadian Heritage and other funders has meant that this has been possible.

Coming up with the right name for the fledgling organization was a tricky first task for the newly elected board of directors. Names like "Quebec Anglo Heritage Network," "Quebec Heritage Network" and "Quebec Network of Anglophone Heritage" didn't quite roll off of the tongue like "Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network." By November 2000, QAHN had a federal charter outlining its objectives. Coinciding with the new millennium, it was a perfect beginning for the new organization.

Moving QAHN's mission forward is an ongoing task carried out every day by staff, board members and volunteers with a diverse set of skills. Membership continues to expand as well, because of the creative ideas and knowledge-sharing from within the network which only goes to show that "the best way to have a good idea is to have a lot of ideas."

QAHN continues to advocate for historic preservation and increased funding for heritage projects, and encourages youth engagement through school heritage contests and university internships. It sponsors travelling exhibitions, fairs and other heritage-themed events. One of QAHN's most celebrated achievements is its range of print and digital publications. The popular quarterly magazine "Quebec Heritage News" circulates across Canada. In recent years, QAHN initiatives have related to oral history, museum security, volunteerism, fundraising, communications, heritage tourism, identity, and musical heritage, among others.

Twenty years ago, QAHN's first president Dick Evans reflected that "a journey of a thousand leagues begins with a single step." We can be extremely proud of the fact that QAHN is well on its way.

Twenty years is a long time in the life of any organization.

Yet, it's amazing how fast the years can fly by. QAHN's founding conference at Bishop's in 2000 seems almost a blur to me. So are Charlie Bury's instructions on my first day on the job back in 2004 (he said something really vague like, "Matthew, just go and do some historical research")...

When I think back about my time with QAHN, two things stand out. The first is the names and the faces of all the volunteers and staff who have given their time, their ideas and their enthusiasm to this organization. There are too many of them to name here. But what I can tell you is that what they have all shared is vision, leadership and dedication. Some of them have been mentors. All of them have been outstanding colleagues and friends.

The other thing that stands out in my mind are the truly superb projects we have accomplished over these past twenty years. I am so proud to be a part of this group of people, and these remarkable achievements.



Matthew Farfan
Project Director, 2004-2011
Executive Director, 2011-



QUEBEC ANGLOPHONE
HERITAGE NETWORK
QAHN



RÉSEAU DU PATRIMOINE
ANGLOPHONE DU QUÉBEC
RPAQ

Canada 

© 2020 Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN)

3355 College, Sherbrooke, Quebec J1M 0B8

Tel: (819) 564-959 • Toll-free: 1-877-964-0409 • www.qahn.org

Translator: Hervé Gagnon, Graphic design: Simbole, Sylvain Leblanc

ISBN 978-0-9688618-5-1



On the occasion of QAHN's twentieth anniversary we have much to celebrate.

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network is a thriving and growing organization with close to 500 institutional and individual members. Through our many workshops, projects and events, including our Heritage Talks series, QAHN plays an important role in preserving and promoting the history of the province's diverse English-speaking communities.

Our quarterly flagship publication, *Quebec Heritage News*, features stories of places, people and events from this province's colourful past that might otherwise be forgotten.

Our people have always been, and will continue to be, our strength. Among these are our Executive Director, Matthew Farfan, and his hard-working and capable team, our Board of Directors, and our volunteers that keep QAHN up and running. I must also recognize the many people, both paid and unpaid, that work for our member-organizations and "make good things happen," often with few resources and little expectation of reward. My heartfelt thanks and congratulations to you all. Keep up the good work.

Grant Myers
President, 2018-

After joining the QAHN Board in 2009, I unsuspectingly accepted the nomination for the position of Vice President.

Matthew started as Executive Director soon after and was firmly in place when I became president in 2013. I decided the best position to take was in a supportive role and made sure I did not get in Matthew's way, although I did make a few suggestions. We saw the creation of a new 5 year strategic plan, a closer collaboration with other organizations and an increase in membership. During my tenure we had a very supportive and involved Board, all of whom contributed to the organization. We also produced some incredibly successful projects, each leading to increasing our organizational knowledge and helping build our reputation to where it is today. Best of all, we always served our members throughout the entire province. I am proud to be part of this legacy!

Simon Jacobs
President, 2013-2018





Though I now live in Vancouver, Quebec is still my home – the site of my “neurotic affiliations,” as Leonard Cohen once said of Montreal.

Looking back, I am particularly grateful to have played a role in QAHN, even as president - to my and everyone else's surprise.

Many memories come to mind looking back on these years... Heather Darch giving a museum “how-to”

presentation to an enthralled heritage group in the Outaouais; Matthew Farfan highlighting the place of English-speaking heritage to a provincial assembly in Montreal; Dwane Wilkin organizing a train excursion to New Carlisle for the entire QAHN board and staff; Rod MacLeod hiding on the floor of a car in the Gaspé (I'm pretty sure it wasn't from the police)... too many memories now to fit into this limited space.

But I can't leave without paying special tribute to *Quebec Heritage News*. Its beautiful design and well-written articles by Sandra Stock and many others is proof that our history and heritage are in good hands. I look forward to each issue. And I miss you all.

Kevin O'Donnell
President, 2008-2013

Twenty years ago I drove out to Lennoxville to attend a gathering of history buffs, and came back the Vice President of QAHN.

As the “Education” representative on the board of directors, I brought a supposedly academic perspective, but most of the time I just sat there learning about local history and marvelling at the expertise and enthusiasm marshalled on so many levels – a lesson for all academics! I watched QAHN grow from a kind of heritage clearing house to a well-oiled machine (with lots of heart!) capable of creating a stunning array of publications, exhibitions, websites, manuals, and commemorative events – all while continuing to bring heritage people together and promote understanding of Quebec Anglophones. Proud as I am of having helped launch this majestic craft – alongside some of the smartest, hardest working, and affable people I (now) know – my choicest role has been as editor of QAHN's ever-evolving magazine, the *Quebec Heritage News*, which allows me to work with a wide variety of authors and to write whatever I want four times a year. Happy Twentieth!



Rod MacLeod
President, 2003-2008





The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network grew out of a regional group of historical and museum societies operating in the Eastern Townships in the 1980s.

They met three times per year to discuss problems, opportunities, fundraising, legalities and all the many aspects of having a heritage organization. There grew from this a dream of a province-wide network of similar

local and provincial heritage and cultural groups who, in various ways, were linked through a common connection to the English language. Diverse people of many cultural origins were absorbed into this larger historic blending. The Eastern Townships group also taught us that each society has a well of people with knowledge, skills, storytelling capabilities and community lore known perhaps to local amateurs, but perhaps not to professional academic historians.

What a pleasure to learn in 1999 that funds were available from the Department of Canadian Heritage to turn the dream into reality! A focus group from across Quebec was brought together in Montreal and a planning committee formed. I accepted the chairmanship. The planning and founding conference were funded as a project of the Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society. The founding conference at Bishop's University in June 2000 was a resounding success, and QAHN was under way. I was elected president, and would serve in that capacity until 2003.

Since that time, QAHN has shown steady growth and outreach, completed many projects and demonstrated it can regularly renew its officers and board of directors.

All told, QAHN has remarkably fulfilled early hopes, stated goals and worthy objectives.

Richard Evans
President, 2000-2003

