

# 2026 QAHN HERITAGE TALKS (AND PLAYS & SINGS)

Musical heritage forms part of the backbone of cultural vitality for Quebec's many diverse English-speaking communities. Whether at a crowded downtown venue, a rural kitchen party or square dance, in lumber and hunting camps, or in one of Quebec's many historic churches, music has consistently been a force in bringing our communities together, nourishing social bonds, and expressing who we are. This year's Heritage Talks series celebrates the past and present of musical heritage in Quebec's English-speaking communities. Featuring both online and in-person events, our guest speakers and performers will share the musical sounds and histories which have given so much meaning to our cultural lives. Whether on Zoom, Facebook, or at a venue near you, we invite you to join us as we celebrate our rich musical heritage and contributions to Quebec's culture.



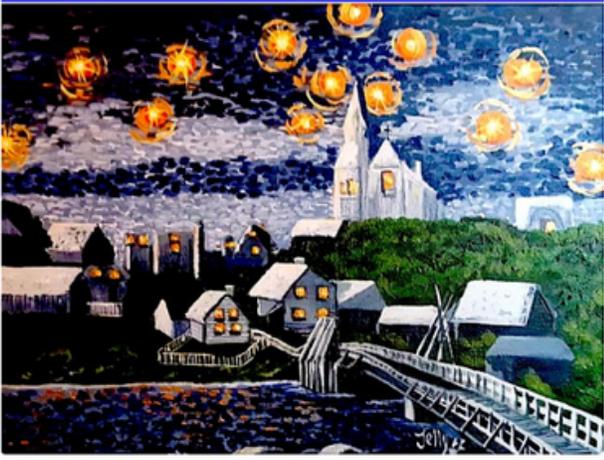
Le patrimoine musical est l'un des piliers de la vitalité culturelle de nos communautés anglophones au Québec. Que ce soit dans une salle pleine en ville, lors d'une veillée ou d'une danse carrée, dans les camps de bûcherons et de chasseurs, ou encore dans l'une des nombreuses églises historiques du Québec, la musique a toujours été un vecteur de rassemblement, renforçant les liens communautaires et exprimant notre identité. Cette année, la série de conférences « Heritage Talks » célèbre le passé et le présent du patrimoine musical des communautés anglophones du Québec. Avec des événements en ligne et en personne, nos conférenciers et artistes invités partageront les sonorités et les histoires musicales qui ont enrichi notre vie culturelle. Que ce soit sur Zoom, Facebook ou dans une salle près de chez vous, nous vous invitons à nous rejoindre pour célébrer notre riche patrimoine musical et sa contribution à la culture québécoise.

- Glenn Patterson,  
Heritage Talks Project Director



# THAT VILLAGE OF FAME: BALLADS, SINGERS, & HISTORY - CHAPEAU 1975.

Thursday, February 12, 7 pm



CHAPEAU BY STARLIGHT  
(JELLY MASSEE, USED WITH PERMISSION)

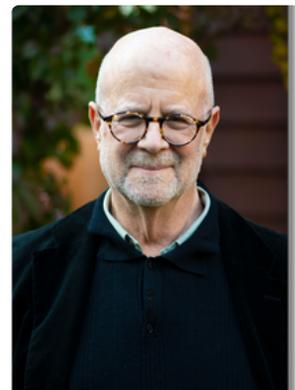
*In this Heritage Talk, Dr. Sheldon Posen will be wearing two hats - esteemed Canadian folklorist and professional folk musician - to take us back 50 years to his sojourn in Chapeau, QC one of the last great repositories of traditional Irish, English, and French song in North America, on par with Newfoundland and the Maritimes, Appalachia and the*

*American South. He will describe this tradition, and will sing and play some of the ballads and songs he heard from the last generation to work in the logging camps and sing unaccompanied to each other and their families in their homes and village.*

[Location: On Zoom](#)

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

**Shelley Posen** hails from Toronto and has led two lives. Professionally, “Dr. Sheldon Posen” was a folklorist and Curator of Canadian Folklife at the Canadian Museum of History. His PhD was based on several years’ field research into singing in the Ottawa Valley community of Chapeau, Quebec. In his other life, “Shelley Posen” was a singer-songwriter who, with the Ottawa folk trio, *Finest Kind*, appeared on club and concert stages across Canada, the U.S., and Great Britain; and twice on CBC’s “*The Vinyl Café*,” and recorded some 7 albums. He also recorded 7 solo albums.



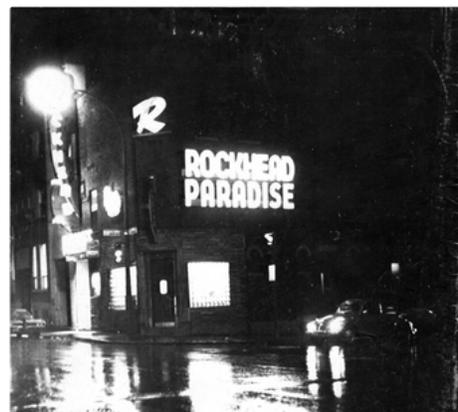
SHELDON POSEN

# NIGHTS OF MONTREAL: MAPPING BLACK MONTREAL MUSIC HISTORY

Thursday, March 12, 7 pm

*Over the past few years, ARCMTL, an arts and heritage organization in Montreal, conducted research projects exploring the little-known history of Montreal's diverse Black musical culture. ARCMTL hosted many activities with local community partners to engage the public in this quest to fill in the blanks of this history. This presentation will discuss some of these activities*

*such as zine workshops, radio broadcasts and an online map website, Nights of Montreal, that tell the stories of the places and people that made this culture thrive.*



ROCKHEAD'S PARADISE

[Location: On Zoom](#)

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

**ARCMTL** is a non-profit arts and heritage organization in Montreal that has a dual mandate to both promote and preserve the city's independent arts and culture. For over 20 years, they have grown their collections of Montreal indie arts culture which are accessible through their archive centre and through exhibitions and public programming. ARTMTL's Louis Rastelli and Chloe Martin both worked on the project Nights of Montreal and will be joining us to tell us about their work mapping Black musical culture in Montreal.



CHLOE MARTIN & LOUIS  
RASTELLI

# PIONEER GROOVES

## EXPO 67 & THE BIRTH OF STEELPAN IN QUEBEC

Thursday, March 26, 7 pm



GODSON CAESAR  
(PHOTO BY KIONI PICOU)

Come explore the rich history of the Trinbagonian musicians who brought steelpan music to Quebec and those who have followed in their footsteps. Presented in partnership with CKUT FM and emceed by CKUT's Pat Dillon-Moore, this will be a live taping of her groundbreaking podcast *Pioneer Grooves*. Featuring many of the legends of Quebec steelpan, Pat and her guests will tell the fascinating story of Trinidad and Tobago's national music in Quebec, from Expo 67 to the present-day.

*Interviews, musical performances, and conversation with: Leonard Marshall, Hollis Wilson, Winston "Skippy" Maingot, Godson Ceasar, & Bernard Paris.*

### LOCATION:

Caribbean Food Factory  
5311 blvd de Maisonneuve Ouest,  
Montreal  
(Metro Vendome)



### **REGISTER HERE**

**Pat Dillon-Moore** (emcee) has been a Montreal broadcaster, DJ, and actress for over forty years. In 1990 she became station manager of McGill University's CKUT FM. She currently produces a Black magazine and music format weekly show, *Bhum Bhum Tyme* on CKUT. Pat is a mother of three girls and a grandmother of four.

(CONTINUED...)

**QAHN HERITAGE TALKS 2026**

## PIONEER GROOVES ... CONT'D

### OUR FEATURED PAN ARTISTS

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, **Leonard Marshall** is the son of a Methodist preacher whose father was among the first to introduce the steelpan into church worship in Grenada. Marshall was serving in the Coast Guard when he auditioned for the Exponians. He plays both the tenor pan and the double seconds.

Originally from Tobago, **Hollis Wilson** was a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Army when he auditioned for the Exponians. He plays bass steel drums and percussion.



THE EXPONIANS & FRIENDS  
PAST MEETS PRESENT  
(PHOTO BY KIONI PICOU)



MONTREAL PAN LEGENDS  
(PHOTO BY KIONI PICOU)

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, **Winston “Skippy” Maingot** trained as a police officer before auditioning for the Exponians, migrating to Montreal at the age of 25. A triple-threat artist, Skippy is a calypsonian, arranger, and guitarist. He also performs on the guitar steelpan. He holds the record for most Calypso Monarch titles in Montreal.

Self-taught and originally from Tobago, **Godson Caesar** grew up immersed in steelpan—his grandfather stored the steelpans of a popular band in his home. A devotee of calypso, Godson taught himself the popular songs of the day after school, gradually mastering the instrument. He was a police officer when he immigrated to Canada and joined the Exponians as a tenor pan player.

**Bernard Paris** learned to play the steelpan as a boy on the island of St. Kitts and Nevis. After migrating to Montreal, he transitioned to bass guitar to join his father, Eugen Paris, leader of the family band Carib-Brass. Shortly thereafter, Bernard began performing with the Montreal Playboys Steelband.

# IT'S LADIES NIGHT ON CARIBOU ISLAND!

Thursday, April 9, 7 pm



CHARLES OSBOURNE,  
HARRINGTON HARBOUR  
(PHOTO BY LOUISE ABBOTT)

*In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, residents of St. Paul's River on Quebec's Lower North Shore put a new spin on Lady Day, the vernacular name for the August 15 Feast of the Assumption. On Caribou Island and Salmon Bay, Lady Day turned to Ladies Night, celebrating the cod-trap fishing season and the contribution of women in the fisheries. Here guests from as far away as Blanc Sablon would visit houses, partying and dancing to tunes played on accordions, fiddles, and mouth organs.*

*Filmmaker and photographer Louise Abbott will convene a panel of community members - Roger Roberts, Tony Roberts, and Val (Keats) Conway - who performed or danced at Ladies Night to help tell the story of this Lower North Shore tradition.*

[Location: On Zoom](#)  
**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

**Louise Abbott** is a writer, photographer, and filmmaker who has extensively researched the history of the Lower North Shore. The author of *The Coast Way* (1988) and *Islands of History* (2025), she has also produced numerous films about the region for the project *In Their Own Voice: Stories and Songs from St. Paul's River* for the Whitely Museum.

Fishing, shipping, guiding, maintenance, bridge building, road construction: **Roger Roberts** has worked in many occupations. But music has been a constant in his life. "I can't remember not singing," he says. Today, he performs country songs and traditional folk tunes alone or with one of his former bandmates for community events or local radio broadcasts.

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## (IT'S LADIES NIGHT ON CARIBOU ISLAND! ... CONT'D)

After pursuing higher education, **Tony Roberts** returned to his hometown of St. Paul's River to work as a teacher and principal. Long active in his community, he is a board member of the Coasters Association and has volunteered for the small craft harbours program. Although not a musician, Tony grew up with traditional music. His father, Jack Roberts played the fiddle and his uncle, Leslie Roberts, the accordion and both were well-known local performers. Tony's father and grandfather established "Ladies Night on Caribou Island."

**Val (Keats) Conway** was born in St. Paul's River and has lived there most of her life, spending summers in nearby Salmon Bay. Before her retirement, she worked at the local fish plant, where, as she says, "I did it all"— heading, salting, washing, weighing, and carting fish. She grew up singing hymns around her grandmother's pump organ. She went to her first "Ladies Night" house dance in Salmon Bay in the early 1960s when she was fourteen.



CARIBOU ISLAND LOOKING TOWARDS THE MAINLAND  
(PHOTO BY NIELS JENSEN)

# THE BAGPIPES IN QUEBEC

Thursday, April 16, 7 pm



BRUCE BOLTON

*The story of bagpipes in Montreal and Quebec dates to at least the Plains of Abraham in 1759. For the Scottish soldiers who remained or returned to Quebec, their bagpipes shaped Canada's wider colonial and Indigenous musical traditions. Quebec's piping tradition continued with the establishment of Canadian regiments in the 1860s, the oldest being Montreal's Black*

*Watch. In this talk, piper Bruce Bolton will explore Quebec's piping world, the bands and their traditions, and explain why a pipe band leads the annual Montreal St. Patrick's Day Parade! Music by Bruce Bolton & Gabriel Harris.*

## LOCATION:

Black Watch of Canada  
2067 rue de Bleury, Montreal  
(Metro Place-des-Arts)

## **REGISTER HERE**

**Bruce Bolton** began learning bagpipes at the Black Watch armoury on his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. His father was Sergeant-Major with the Black Watch during the Second World War. Bruce has been associated with the MacDonald-Stewart Foundation since 1966 and has held leadership roles in the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal, the Montreal Highland Games, the Atwater Library, Trafalgar School for Girls, and the McCord Stewart Museum.

**Gabriel Harris** is one of Montreal's outstanding young pipers. He began piping at a young age with the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal/Black Watch School of Piping and Drumming. He became a leader in the Cadet Program and worked summers as a piper with the 78th Fraser Highlanders. An army reservist with the Black Watch, he is now a qualified infantry soldier. He studies economics at Concordia University.



GABRIEL HARRIS

# ORGAN HERITAGE AT PLYMOUTH-TRINITY

[Sunday, April 19, 2 pm](#)



CASSAVANT ORGAN  
(IMAGE: ETRC, PLYMOUTH-TRINITY  
UNITED CHURCH FONDS)

*Sherbrooke's Plymouth-Trinity United Church began its life in two separate congregations: the Plymouth Congregational Church (1835) and the Sherbrooke (Trinity) Methodist Church (1846) which were amalgamated in 1971 forming Plymouth-Trinity United. An organ from S.R. Warren was installed at Plymouth in 1882. As the congregation grew more affluent, they traded in the organ for a 25-stop organ by Casavant Freres in 1907. This was an era of competition among Protestant congregations in Sherbrooke for the top musicians and the best organs. Plymouth-Trinity is now a multi-lingual congregation and continues this organ music tradition nearly 150 years later. Come explore the history of organ music at this iconic Sherbrooke church.*

## LOCATION:

Plymouth-trinity United Church  
380 Rue Dufferin, Sherbrooke

## **REGISTER HERE**

Organist **Leslie Young** studied at the Universities of Manitoba, McGill and Laval. He was also an organ builder for fifteen years, while working as a church musician. He further developed his passion for renaissance music by singing, playing cornetto, dancing and doing historical re-enactment. He presently has a strong interest in English church music of the first half of the twentieth century and is the music director at Plymouth-Trinity United Church.



LESLIE YOUNG

# RESOUNDING THE VALCARTIER ARCHIVES

Sunday, April 26, 2 pm

*We often think of archives as solitary places for quiet research in dark corners. Recently, however, researchers, musicians, and organizations have been using local archives to bring Valcartier's rich English-speaking traditional musical heritage to life through their innovative projects. Join fiddler-musicologist Laura Risk, local researcher-musician and Valcartier Historical Committee president Debbie Chakour, and singer-songwriter Linda Dacres to learn about their unique archival projects.*



SQUARE DANCING AT "CEASAR'S PALACE" - VALCARTIER 1986

## **LOCATION:**

Valcartier Community Centre  
2215 boulevard Valcartier, Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier

## **REGISTER HERE**

**Note:** This event will also be livestreamed to QAHN's Facebook and YouTube

**FEATURING ARCHIVAL RECORDINGS, LIVE PERFORMANCES, ORIGINAL SONGS, AND A VALCARTIER HOUSE PARTY WITH LAURA RISK, DEBBIE CHAKOUR, LINDA DACRES, AND LOCAL MUSICIANS AND DANCERS**

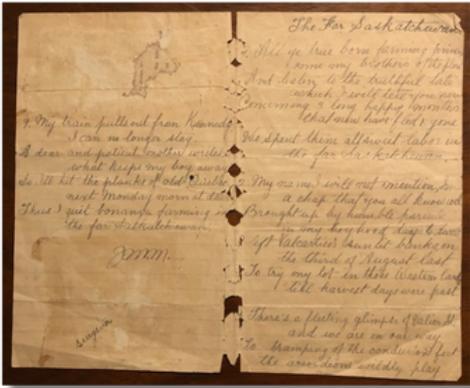
**DETAILS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES!**

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**QAHN HERITAGE TALKS 2026**

# (RESOUNDING THE VALCARTIER ARCHIVES ... CONTINUED)

## Part 1: The McCartney-Dacres Songbook (Linda Dacres)



JAMES MCCARTNEY'S  
"THE FAR SASKATCHEWAN"

Known as Valcartier's "Poet Laureate," James McCartney (1889-1931) was one of many Valcartier farmers who sought a livelihood in the Canadian prairies in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. His poems interpret his first-hand experiences in both Valcartier and Western Canada in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nearly a century later, songwriter and Valcartier descendent Linda Dacres will share the McCartney-Dacres Songbook: A Second Life and discuss how she is bringing McCartney's archival legacy into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Part 2: Fonds Jean Trudel (Dr. Laura Risk)

Jean Trudel was a prolific photographer and folklorist who left us with one of the most impressive archival recording collections of Quebec's traditional music and dance. Among his extensive recording trips across Quebec between 1966 and 1975, he made a number of audio and video recordings in the Valcartier area. Musicologist and fiddler Laura Risk (University of Toronto) will tell us all about her project to make Trudel's recordings accessible online over forty years after they were made and will share some of Trudel's precious recordings from Valcartier, Stoneham, and Tewkesbury.



## (RESOUNDING THE VALCARTIER ARCHIVES ... CONTINUED)

### Part 3: What's In the Box? Guess the Mystery Musical Guest!

*The Valcartier Historical Committee has been collecting home recordings of Valcartier musicians for the past decade. Committee president Debbie Chakour will review their efforts to digitize cassette tapes of local musicians and singers and will conclude with a game of "What's in the Box?", where the audience will be invited to guess the mystery musical guests from selected recordings.*



### Part 4: Valcartier House Party!

*Finish the afternoon with local musicians, singers, and dancers in true Valcartier style!*

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**Laura Risk** is an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Toronto and holds a PhD in musicology from McGill University. She is also an internationally acclaimed fiddler and has performed and taught Scottish and Québécois fiddling across North America and overseas. Her album *Traverse* was awarded the 2024 Prix Opus for Album of the Year in the category Traditional Québécois Music and her co-production of the CD *Douglastown: Music and Song from the Gaspé Coast* received the 2014 Prix Mnémo for documentation of Quebec's intangible cultural heritage.

A Quebec City native, **Linda Dacres** has had multiple careers in design, marketing, advertising, film, video and music production. After a further 30-year career as a registered nurse and nurse practitioner, Linda traded in her stethoscope for a guitar and has never looked back. She is now laser-focused on the new McCartney-Dacres Project, which has given a new musical life to the poetry of James A. M McCartney (1889-1931), the "Poet Laureate of Valcartier."

**Debbie Chakour** has served as founding member and President of the Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier Historical Committee since its inception 10 years ago. Originally hailing from the US, Debbie has spent over 35 years learning about and championing local history and musical tradition, blending her background in anthropology, education, and performing arts with passion and curiosity about her new home.

# ALL JOIN HANDS:

## MEGANTIC COUNTY SQUARE DANCE HERITAGE (FROM THE ARCHIVES TO THE DANCE FLOOR)

Sunday, May 3, 2 pm

*Megantic County is one of the last bastions of a rich English-language square dance calling tradition in rural Quebec. At small village halls in the rolling Appalachian hills west of the Chaudiere River, anglophone and francophone dancers have moved to Megantic County's singsong dance calls for over 150 years.*



LEEDS HALL SQUARE DANCE  
(PHOTO: CHANTAL ROY)

*This bilingual Heritage Talk hosted by Laura Risk (University of Toronto) and Glenn Patterson (QAHN) will feature a live oral history interview with Kinnear's Mills dance caller and pianist James Allan alongside archival video and audio from the Fonds Jean Trudel project to explore the past and present of Megantic County square dance.*

*The presentation will be followed by a square dance with live music by James Allan (piano and calls) and Lennoxville fiddler Courtney Drew. All join hands!*

### LOCATION:

Kinnear's Mills Community Centre  
400 rue Lowry, Kinnear's Mills

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

(Continued ...)

## (ALL JOIN HANDS ... CONT'D)



COURTNEY DREW



JAMES ALLAN & COURTNEY DREW  
(PHOTO: ALLISON KIRKWOOD)



LAURA RISK  
(PHOTO: EMANUELLE ROBERGE)

*Additional support provided by the Fonds Jean Trudel Project (University of Toronto, Conseil Québécois du patrimoine vivant, Canadian Museum of History)*

Pianist and caller **James Allan** doesn't remember a time when he wasn't around square dances. He began attending dances with his parents and grandparents as a young child around Kinnear's Mills and began calling dances in 1980. One of Quebec's most beloved and sought-after callers, he regularly hosts dances around Megantic County. James is also a Kinnear's Mills town councillor, president of Heritage Kinnear's Mills, organizes the town's summer Celtic Festival, and is a director of the Megantic Country Development Corporation.

**Courtney Drew** began classical violin lessons at age seven and has been fiddling ever since. She has toured North America with the Scott Woods Band and Cécilia and is a member of the trio Triptik. In addition to performing, Courtney fills her spare time with teaching and as a fiddler for dances and stepdance competitions.

**Laura Risk** is an Associate Professor of Music at the University of Toronto and holds a PhD in musicology from McGill University. She is also an internationally acclaimed fiddler and has performed and taught Scottish and Québécois fiddling across North America and overseas. Her album *Traverse* was awarded the 2024 Prix Opus for Album of the Year in the category Traditional Québécois Music and her co-production of the CD *Douglastown: Music and Song from the Gaspé Coast* received the 2014 Prix Mnémo for documentation of Quebec's intangible cultural heritage.



**SPECIAL THANKS:**

QAHN Heritage Talks would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors, the Zeller Family Foundation, Townshippers Foundation, and Canadian Heritage

