

HERITAGE TALKS 2025



25 years ago at a conference in Lennoxville, representatives of several heritage groups came together to form QAHN. The concept was simple: by growing the network, we could learn from one another and better advocate on behalf of Quebec's diverse English-speaking heritage found in every corner of the province. QAHN's strength is in its members. In 25 years, our network has grown to include over 100 heritage institutions and even more individual members. Our institutions are the small museums, archives, historical societies, and community groups who, in various ways, steward the cultural memory of Quebec's English-speaking communities.

Sustained by the tireless work of a small staff and dedicated volunteers, these institutions have their own stories to tell. Stories of triumphs and setbacks and the people who remained steadfast throughout. Like QAHN's story, they often begin with people coming together to forge a shared vision for protecting something intrinsically valuable: our past, our culture, our heritage. This year's Heritage Talks series celebrates the legacies of those who laid the foundations for Quebec's English-speaking heritage sector. Once again, we have a selection of speakers from across the province who – whether on Zoom, Facebook Live, or in-person at a local heritage venue – are here to bring these stories to life and give us a moment to reflect on our journeys and honour those who paved the way.

*- Glenn Patterson,
Heritage Talks Project Director*



PHOEBE'S DREAM

Sunday, February 2, 2 pm



PHOEBE HYDE IN
COSTUME IN HER
GARDEN

It could be said that Phoebe Hyde "cut a distinguished figure" in the community of Como, in Hudson, during her 84-year lifetime. She spent summers at – and would eventually inherit – Greenwood, the oldest home in Vaudreuil-Soulanges. Since a teenager, she had wanted her house to become a museum. Coming of age in the 1920s, hers was a tumultuous life, full of drama, both on and off the stage. In this talk, Karen Molson (Greenwood Centre for Living History) will present some of her fascinating discoveries about Phoebe Hyde's life as well as some of the stories of Phoebe that many have shared with her through the years.

[Location: On Zoom \(Register here\)](#)

Karen Molson has been a long-time volunteer board member at Greenwood Centre for Living History in Hudson and a liaison with the Canadian Heritage of Quebec. She is currently Associate Director at Greenwood. As a writer, archivist and historian, Karen has worked on projects sponsored by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network and The Canadian Heritage of Quebec. Another of her interests is doing ancestry research for clients. She is currently creating a documentary film on the life and passions of Phoebe Nobbs McKellar Hyde.



FROM WRECKING BALL TO CULTURAL HUB

Thursday, February 6, 7 pm

It has been nearly 20 years since an 1861 Wakefield farmhouse threatened with demolition was moved across the Gatineau River, renovated, and transformed into a successful cultural institution now known as the Fairbairn House Heritage Centre. Learn how a local heritage society worked with wide-ranging supporters to save this house and how volunteers, local craftspeople and staff have worked over the years to create a thriving heritage complex.



MOVING FAIRBAIRN HOUSE ACROSS
THE GATINEAU RIVER (2005)

[Location: On Zoom \(Register here\)](#)

Michael Cooper is a retired teacher and education consultant. He was a board member of the Gatineau Valley Historical Society in 2005 when it spearheaded the move of the 1861 Fairbairn House. Past President and dedicated volunteer at Fairbairn House, he has been a project manager for the site's numerous buildings.

Daniel Pelissier has a background in graphic design and over 20 years of experience in arts, culture, and project management. He has directed cultural events, exhibitions, and multidisciplinary artistic projects. He is currently the Director of the Fairbairn House Heritage Centre.

Tamara Tarasoff (MA, B.A.) is a retired project manager and exhibit developer with Parks Canada and has worked for several national museums. She was part of the Steering Committee and first Board of the Fairbairn House from 2005-2008 and then rejoined as a board member in 2022

HONOURING THEIR SERVICE

Thursday, February 13, 7 pm



BAY CHALEUR MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM
(NEW RICHMOND, QC)

The Gaspé Coast has a proud tradition of military service. This presentation tells the story of New Richmond's Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum, showcasing its origins, key exhibits, and the significant role it plays in preserving the military heritage of the region. Attendees will learn about the museum's diverse collection which highlights local

contributions to national defense, as well as the stories of the men and women who served. Through engaging visuals and historical insights, this presentation offers a deep dive into the museum's impact on cultural memory and community identity.

[LOCATION: ON ZOOM \(REGISTER HERE\)](#)

Tom Eden is the Executive Director of the Baie-des-Chaleurs Military Museum. He has been fascinated by regional military history since his childhood days in Gaspé where he was, in his words, surrounded by veterans. From his hometown of Gaspé to travels in Europe and Hong Kong, for the past several decades Tom has followed the footsteps of those Gaspésians who served in the First and Second World War. He has produced exhibits and delivered many conferences based on his research travels.



Sunday, March 2, 2 pm

IRELAND IN QUEBEC



JOE LONERGAN
2024 QUEBEC CITY ST. PATRICK'S
PARADE - MARCH 2024
(PHOTO ALLISON KIRKWOOD)

Join QAHN for a special 2-hr Zoom livestream for the 2025 "Green Season." We'll dig into the roots of Irish heritage preservation in Quebec, with stories of the individuals and institutions who have been keeping alive the memory of the profound contributions of Irish Quebecers to this province. With Irish Heritage Quebec, Montreal Irish Monument Foundation, the Sheenboro Archives, and Montreal flute and whistle virtuoso Dave Gossage.

FEATURING INTERVIEWS, PRESENTATIONS, LIVE MUSIC, AND DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE.

DETAILS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES!

[LOCATION: ON ZOOM \(REGISTER HERE\)](#)

Part 1: Marianna's Legacy

In this special live interview with Joe Lonergan and Bryan O'Gallagher of Irish Heritage Quebec, we explore the legacy of Marianna O'Gallagher, a trailblazing figure in the preservation of Irish cultural memory of Quebec City and in the creation of the Irish Memorial National Historic Site on Grosse-Île.

(CONT'D...).



MARIANNA O'GALLAGHER
2010 QUEBEC CITY ST.
PATRICK'S PARADE
(PHOTO BY FRANK CANNON)

(IRELAND IN QUEBEC ... CONTINUED)

Part 2: Echoes of a Fine-Tuned Valley



DANCING AT "CEASAR'S PALACE"
(VALCARTIER, QC)

A short excerpt from QAHN's 2021 documentary *Echoes of a Fine Tuned Valley* (by QAHN digital media assistant, Allison Kirkwood). This film uses archival photos, video, music, and oral history testimony to explore the musical heritage of the English-speaking families (including many Irish families) who settled along the Jacques Cartier River valley north of Quebec City in communities like Shannon, Valcartier, and Stoneham.

Part 3: Black Rock Updates with Fergus Keyes

The Montreal Irish Monument Park Foundation was established over a decade ago by members of Montreal's Irish community to raise awareness about the Black Rock and the mass graves near its site. They have been working to create a memorial park around the site to honour the memory of the Irish Famine victims and the local caregivers who died aiding them. Come learn about their work and some of the promising new developments in this unfolding initiative.

(CONT'D...).



BLACK ROCK MONUMENT
(GRIFFINTOWN, MTL)

(IRELAND IN QUEBEC ... CONTINUED)

Part 4: Welcome to the Sheenboro Archives!



Join Joann McCann and Lorna Agnesi from the brand-new Sheenboro Archives deep in Quebec's Pontiac region. They will introduce us to what is perhaps still the most Irish place in the Western Quebec and tell us the story of their the archives!

Part 5: David Gossage Celtic Music Innovator

David Gossage is one of Montreal's most respected and experienced musicians. David switches from flute to guitar, whistles and harmonica with ease and in virtually all styles of music. He has played in North American venues from New Mexico to New York City and from Louisiana to the Baffin Islands and all over Europe.



[LOCATION: ON ZOOM \(REGISTER HERE\)](#)

Thursday, March 6, 7 pm

SEEDING BLACK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did you ever wonder about Montreal's Black Community Associations? The critical Black organizations that exist today arose out of the vision of the now defunct Negro Community Centre (NCC). Still, the current neighbourhood pattern is an enduring legacy of the NCC's seeding of community hubs in the English-speaking, post-war Black community.



THE NCC
(RUE COURSOL, LITTLE BURGUNDY)

Sounds nice? Well, it was not without tension as the energies and contrasting concepts of community often led to fractures within the Black leadership.

[LOCATION: ON ZOOM \(REGISTER HERE\)](#)



Dr. Dorothy Williams is the author of *Blacks in Montreal (1628-1986)*, and *The Road To Now: A History of Blacks in Montreal*. A wealth of knowledge about Canada's Black history, she has consulted on several Canadian films and research projects, and developed *The ABC's of Canadian Black History Kit* for schools. She teaches the only course on Black Montreal at Concordia University. Her most recent awards include the John G. Dennison Award, the Order of Montréal, an Honorary Doctorate from UQAM, and the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

CARIBBEAN FOOTSTEPS

Thursday, April 3, 7 pm



WEST-CAN FOLK PERFORMING CO.
MONTREAL, 1995
(PHOTO BY CHARLES DANCİK)

Nearly five decades after it was founded, family is still part of the DNA of the West-Can Folk Performing Co. The 1960s and 70s saw a wave of new residents of Montreal arriving from the Caribbean islands. In the mid-70s, a group of these families sought to ease their homesickness by leaning into their rich folk culture of drumming, singing, dance, storytelling, crafts, and food. They also sought to pass their traditions on to their children and future generations. And it worked!

Come learn the stories of these families, their traditions, and their many contributions to Montreal and Quebec's cultural scene through the West-Can Folk Performing Co.

[LOCATION: ON ZOOM \(REGISTER HERE\)](#)

Canadian by birth and with Trinidadian parentage and cultural alignment, **Melika Forde** has been a dancer with West-Can Folk Performing Co. of Montreal since 1992. She is the former President and current Managing Director as well as the Principal Dancer, Choreographer, & Dance Tutor.

Shiata Lewis-Rouse was born in Montreal but was raised in Trinidad and Tobago. She has been a dancer in the West-Can Folk Performing Co. of Montreal since 1993 and has taken up the responsibility of Artistic Director, Principal Dancer, Choreographer, & Dance Tutor for the group.

Sunday, April 13, 2-4 pm

MARION PHELPS - HERITAGE HERO

Marion Phelps' (1908-2013) contributions to local history and heritage preservation are legendary in Brome and Missisquoi Counties. After retiring from teaching in 1962, she volunteered for the Brome County Historical Society archives for more than four decades. From behind her desk, she worked tirelessly to preserve the history of Brome and Missisquoi Counties and helped countless researchers who entered through the archives' doors. Local history expert and former student of Miss Phelps, Jim Manson, will guide us through her contributions and share his memories of her.



MARION PHELPS

A reception and "Marion Phelps Open-Mic" will follow where attendees will be invited to share their favourite anecdotes of Miss Phelps.

**LOCATION: BRUCK MUSEUM
225 RUE PRINCIPALE, COWANSVILLE (QC)**
[Limited Seating - RSVP here.](#)



Jim Manson is a Professor of History at Champlain College of Vermont and the author of four books about Eastern Townships history. He has taught history in Jamaica, the United States, and Canada. For the past twenty-four years, he has given a popular annual lecture series in honour of Marion Phelps for the Brome County Historical Society. His other passions include sports and music. He lives in Cowansville, QC.

QAHN HERITAGE TALKS 2025

Thursday, May 15, 7-9 pm

THE ANTI-BRUTALISTS: MONTREAL'S HERITAGE MOVEMENT



DESTRUCTION OF VAN HORNE
MANSION

PHOTO: JEAN GOUPIL
(BANQ ARCHIVES)

The demolition of the Van Horne mansion in September 1973 marked a watershed in Montreal's evolution: several prominent architects and community leaders launched a campaign to save the city's wealth of historic buildings from property developers eager to bulldoze blindly in the name of progress and profit. These heritage warriors saved not only buildings, streets, and neighbourhoods, but the very soul of the city we revere today. Their

campaign reversed half a century of utopian architectural and planning theory that had abandoned the human scale in favour of conformity and efficiency.

Join QAHN and historian Rod MacLeod at the Maison Louis-Joseph Forget for this captivating in-person Heritage Talk.

LOCATION: LA MAISON LOUIS-JOSEPH FORGET
1195 SHERBROOKE ST W, MONTREAL,
Limited Seating - [RSVP here](#).

Rod MacLeod is a social historian specializing in the history of Montreal's built environment and its institutions. He is the editor of *Montreal: The History of a North American City* (2018), and the author of *Spirited Commitment: The Samuel and Saidye Brofman Family Foundation* (2010).





SPECIAL THANKS:

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

