



LarsEncore

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The Newsletter of the Association of Retired School Employees

BULLETIN 62

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LUNCHEONS 2015



Lunches are the last Friday
of the month.

Sept. 25. Madison's: 3000 Rue Jean-Yves,
Kirkland – at The Colisee

Oct. 30. L'Académie: 6321 Transcanada Hwy,
Pointe Claire

Nov. 27. Casa Grecque: 3855 Blvd. St. Jean,
north of de Salaberry, on the east side.

January 29. Madison's: 3000 Rue Jean-Yves,
Kirkland – at The Colisee

BREAKFAST

**IS ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE
MONTH!**

**The Manoir is on the corner of Hymus
and Boul. St.-Jean in Pointe-Claire.**

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website: www.larse.ca CANNOT BE
ACCESSED THROUGH GOOGLE

**DON'T FORGET THE 50/50 RAFFLE AT
LUNCH. HALF GOES TO YOU IF YOU
WIN, AND THE SECOND WINNER
GIVES HALF TO THE CHARITY OF
THEIR CHOICE!**

President's Address/ Message du président

Bonjour à vous toutes et tous. I hope you have all had a pleasant and relaxing summer and that the Fall is looking just as enjoyable. As I write this message, I am sitting on a bus returning from a 5 day excursion to Stratford where I was able to enjoy the lovely town of Stratford as well as attending four plays in the company of my sister and other retirees associated with the Montreal/ Lakeshore University Women's Association.

Pendant ce séjour, j'ai réalisé avec plaisir que c'est ça, la vie de la retraite où on peut vivre pleinement des activités qu'on choisit. I also am realizing as I progress further into retirement, that I am fortunate to be healthy and active, thus able to participate in many activities, to volunteer my time, to enjoy my family and to share my expertise with others. I encourage all of you to continue to live your lives fully and to reap the rewards you so deserve from your retirement.

LARSE continues to grow and, as more retirees join our ranks, we are developing and offering more activities and excursions to respond to the interests of the group. I would take this opportunity to remind those of you who have reached your 80th birthday or who have been members of LARSE for 20 years, that you are eligible to become Lifetime Members of the association. All you need to do is let me or Lois Maeder-Alves (Membership) know.

Récemment, l'Exécutif de LARSE s'est rencontré afin de planifier les prochains mois d'activités, et j'ai été frappée par l'enthousiasme et l'énergie de ces gens qui ont accepté d'agir comme représentant(e)s de leurs collègues. With such youthful energy, it was hard to believe that we are all retirees but it was also very exciting to be part of such a wonderful group of people. As we proceed through the year, if you have suggestions for activities or events, please be sure to share your ideas with us so that we continue to meet your needs.

Avec plus de tristesse, on doit mentionner le décès d'une collègue qui nous a quittés beaucoup trop jeune. Micheline Jacques est décédée après une longue lutte contre le cancer. She was a longtime teacher with the Lakeshore School Board followed by a second career as Executive Assistant to the Pearson Teachers' Union. A tribute written about her by her friend Julie Wilson can be found in this newsletter. LARSE sent a donation in her memory to the West Island Palliative Care Residence.

Finally, on another more serious note, I wish to draw your attention to my open letter included in this newsletter concerning the serious situation that our colleagues who are still working are facing this Fall. Although we are not directly affected by negotiations, we should be dismayed to realize that education and teachers in particular are once again being attacked by a government looking for funds in a time of austerity. We as retired educators and members of this society should be very worried about the impact this will have on the quality of education. If you are as concerned as I am, I encourage you to contact your MNA to express your disagreement with funds being cut from education budgets. We may also be asked to support our active colleagues as they demonstrate on different occasions. I will let you know of such occasions and hope you will consider coming out to show your solidarity.

Alors, je vous souhaite beaucoup de plaisir cet automne et le temps de profiter de la retraite. Hope to see many of you at lunch and in other activities.

Jan Langelier



Bulletin Board



CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

I know we all probably have Canadian Tire money tucked away in a drawer. We wouldn't be real Canadians if we didn't. The West Island Palliative Care Residence will gladly accept this money to help with their maintenance costs. If you would like to donate any of this money bring it to Mike Kirk at any of our L'Arse activities and he will drop it off. Thank you, Mike

Open Letter to Retired Educator Colleagues

Dear Colleagues,

As a retired educator who was once the President of QPAT (PAPT) from 1992-98, I am writing to say how shocked I am to read about the government's proposed changes to the collective agreement for teachers. These changes that include increasing class sizes and removing identification codes for students with special needs, will affect working conditions but in reality will affect learning conditions. Having lived through many rounds of negotiations from 1970 onwards, during which time teachers actively sought improvements to their collective agreement that would make the education system better for all students, it is with anger and dismay that I predict that the proposed changes will mean the deterioration of that system.

The collective agreement in existence today, was brought about by many rounds of negotiations that often included actions by teachers such as working to rule, demonstrating in political rallies and often, terminating in strike action. I was one of those teachers and I resent the likelihood that my contract will be detrimentally changed by the proposed government offers. The importance and value of the teaching profession are under attack and I, for one, am angry.

I suggest that we, retired educators, can play a role in supporting our active colleagues as they demonstrate their opposition to these proposals. We must be present to remind the younger generation of teachers what our role and responsibilities were in negotiating the collective agreement and the sacrifices we made to do so. We can also speak out publicly in support of the teachers who are making every effort to protect their contract and thus, the future success of students in the schools of the public sector.

If there is an opportunity to stand beside our colleagues in demonstrations or to walk a picket line in solidarity or to write a letter to the newspapers or to the Minister of Education, we should be doing so. We owe this to our profession and to the future of the education system of which we have been a part.

Jan Langelier, President of LARSE (Retired Educators) and Membership Director for QPARSE

InterestGroupsEditor: Pam Greevy pgreevy@hotmail.com



Book Club I

The Original Book Club

The "Original" Book Club will meet at 1:30pm on Sept. 22 (the 4th Tues. of the month) at Cedar Park United Church in Pointe Claire. The book under discussion will be **We Are Not Ourselves**, by Matthew Thomas, NOT The Night Stages, by Jane Urquhart. (Sorry – my error in the last LARSE Bulletin.) We'll also be selecting our books for the rest of the year, with special attention to those which will be featured at StoryFest in Hudson during the month of October. If you're not familiar with this literary festival, it's well worth attending! Over the years, its presentations have greatly enriched our reading and we feel very fortunate to have Jane Havard, one of its two organizers, among our members. Here's to another interesting year! For more information, feel free to contact me at susansomerville8@sympatico.ca

Cross-Country Skiing

Cross Country Skiing and Snow Shoeing

Hello cross-country skiers! I have volunteered to take over the cross country skiing from Colin. I have some pretty big shoes to fill but I will try. Last year Colin had suggested that we ski on any day of the week when the ski conditions were skiable (no weekends). I thought we could try the same thing this year.

I will send out an email the night before the outing. This may not work for everyone but with the Tuesday weather we have had in the past, this seems to be the most viable option. If you are interested please send me an email (mabindner@bell.net) and I will add you to my contact list. If you are already on the list and wish to be deleted, please let me know. See you when the snow flies.

Mary Anne



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Golden App Rappers

Golden iPads

In the past few years we have operated a successful "Golden iPad" pro-gram which has touched the lives of about forty different LARSE members. However, this fall, because of teacher negotiations, or, lack thereof, we have to put the program on hold as it would run contrary to the ECA ban and work-to-rule. Hopefully, we shall be able to continue once a new contract has been settled.

Peter Tellier

Book Club II

5.

After a very hot summer we resumed our Book Club meetings on Sept. 3, where we were regaled with a light lunch of hot dogs and gumbo! Thanks Evelyn. We were discussing ***A Confederacy of Dunces*** by John Kennedy O'Toole. It was a very unique book which didn't appeal to many members, but generated a good discussion and a yummy lunch based on the location and employment of our leading character.

We plan to read ***Theft of Life*** by Imogene Robertson, a mystery taking place in London in 1785 followed by ***The Story Of Edgar Sawtelle*** by David Wroblewski, the story of a mute young boy who grows up on a farm raising Sawtelle dogs. Our December meeting will be a dinner event in which our members will chose to be a literary character that the others will have to guess at. Tricia Roet troet@ymail.com Please contact me for information or to join.



CRAFTING CORNER

There will be a fascinating art show for those who may wonder what all the fuss about Modern Quilt Designs refers to. Some 25 modern quilts were designed and sewn by members of the Montreal Modern Quilt Guild to demonstrate five of the most distinctive aspects of modernism: Use of Negative Space, Asymmetry, Improvisational Piecing, Alternative Gridwork or Minimalism. The exhibition takes place during February 2016 at the Marie-Uguay Cultural Centre in Ville Emard (near Verdun) on Monk Street. Yes, a reminder will be issued around Christmas.

Hours are 1 to 7 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 1 to 6 on Thursdays and 1 to 5 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. As the Exhibit must include only unpublished quilts, we can only show you some small detail photos to pique your curiosity. (on line www.larse.ca) Michèle B. Fitzgerald fitzgeraldmb@sympatico.ca

OUTINGS

WINE TRIP:

On a beautiful late summer afternoon on September 17, we set off for Dunham to visit three different wineries: Côtes d'Ardoise with its garden of sculptures and ice wine, Château des Cartes with its young couple that makes outstanding sparkling, late harvest and dry cider and Domaine du Ridge with its beauty and its dry whites, late harvest and outstanding Port type wine. All this followed by a dinner at Venise en Quebec at the Marina Restaurant on Lake Champlain. Judging by the comments a great time was had by all. Look for pictures on our website.

Patrick Clarke



Casual Bridge Group

The bridge group is still thriving. We have had a few new members this year and continue to welcome players of all abilities, even those who have never played. Our format is to change partners and opponents every four hands so there is opportunity to play with a wide variety of people. It is very relaxed and allows for discussion and learning.

Our gracious hostess is Lorraine who opens her home to us every other Wednesday at 1:30.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Pam Greevy at pgreevy@hotmail.com

Canasta



Canasta Group

Canasta is a card game which requires little skill and lots of luck. We play in groups of 2, 3, 4, or 6, so we can always accommodate whoever can play on any afternoon. The canasta group meets every second Wednesday, alternating with the bridge group, at my home between September and June. Although there are usually 12-14 participants, we still have room to accommodate newcomers. Anyone who would like to join us can easily learn the game in an afternoon. If you played when you were young, as many of us did, be warned: the game has changed somewhat, but for the better if you ask me.

Canasta is a fun, social game with no pressure. Many of those who joined the group have become addicts as I am. Come and try it for yourself!

If you would like to join us or get further information. You can contact me at rmnarsted@yahoo.com

Robin Narsted

THEATRE

Due to lack of interest the Theatre Group is folding. Many thanks to Jan Langelier for organizing this group over the years. We saw many wonderful plays and musicals.



SQUARE DANCING

If you are interested in a good time contact Ken Chisholm at 514 695 9578 or kbchisholm@videotron.ca



TREKKER'S WORLD

The meeting of the Travel Talk Group will take place on Wednesday, October 21st at the Sequoia Restaurant on 4337 St John's Blvd. We will have two presenters, Bob Morrison and Brenda Henry.

Bob Morrison is putting together a power point presentation on a 15 day full transit cruise of the Panama Canal, Fort Lauderdale to San Diego. In addition to the day long transit, the ports of call included Cartagena, Columbia; Colon, Panama; Puntarenas, Costa Rica, Puerto Quetzal,

Guatemala and two days in Mexico for stops in Puerto Vallarta and Cabo San Lucas.

Bob and Jean sailed on Celebrity's Infinity, a true Panamax ship that had less than a foot

clearance in the locks. "Indeed, we left some paint as a souvenir ! " All documented in pictures.

Brenda Henry has followed her own advice as an English teacher and has written and published some of her most delightful travel stories in You Lost ! Get off Bus Now !! She is going to give us a reading of some of those stories. Those of you who were at the Travel Club a few years ago might remember the exploding stove top in Rio anecdote that Brenda related to us while trying to convince us that Rio was an easy place to be a tourist ! Brenda shares some stories about traveling with her husband Phil to Florida, Brazil, Scandinavia, the Cook Islands, Hungary and to Montreal. The Sequoia Restaurant offers tasty Mediterranean food at reasonable prices. We welcome everyone to join us for lunch at 12h00 before the presentation.

If you have any questions, please email Mickey Wernecke at hbwernecke@aol.com or Daniel

Abergel at abergeld@yahoo.com

Golf

The summer 2015 golf season was blessed with gorgeous weather resulting in only one cancellation! We also welcomed 6-8 new members to the group. I'm sure our vets would agree that our "rookies " have been great additions both as golfers and socially. The golf group is organized so that those wishing to play 9 hole sessions can come out specifically every 2 weeks and likewise those opting for 18 holes on the alternating weeks. We try to choose courses where both options are available so golfers could play every week. As has been our tradition we try to book courses off island every Monday, the exceptions being other weekdays when deals can be found, ie. Tuesday's at Glengarry GC.

Due to the extremes of winter our Spring preseason tour was delayed and shortened. Once the season began, we traveled to old favourite courses such as Glengarry, La Cite, and St. Francois. We broke new ground for our group by visiting Golf des Iles in Boucherville and returned after a 3 year hiatus to Golf Le Metropolitain in Anjou. Each week brought together a core group of 12 golfers often growing to 16 or 20. The highlight of the season is our "School's Open" Open which is held on the students first day back in school. It is usually held at Golf Dorval, followed by a BBQ kindly hosted by Jan Tessier- and Bryden Murray in their backyard. Food, drink, and conversation flowed liberally as the golfers and other LARSE members socialized through the evening.

Our fall golf will continue into December, weather permitting, as we hope to beat our

8.

previous mark of Dec. 6 as the date we bring the season to a close. If you have not golfed with us this summer, and would like to give it a try this autumn contact me, Russ Kelly at russk547@gmail.com, to be added to our golf list. If you are interested in 9 holes only, I will forward your email to Bryden Murray, who is the coordinator for the 9 hole group. Hoping to see you on one of our outings,

Mike, Russ and Bryden



COMPUTER USERS GROUP

2-PART COMPUTER WORKSHOP October 5th AND November 2nd, 2015 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

We are planning to hold a 2-part workshop on Excel this fall, conducted by Robin Narsted. These will be consecutive sessions and will deal with the basics of using and formatting Excel. For those of you who have attended her sessions previously, the content of these sessions will serve as a review. The sessions will be conducted using PC's, but most of the info is transferrable to Macs.

Knowledge/understanding of math is not a pre-requisite, according to this former English teacher, as we will deal only with basic operations. The workshop will open up the possibilities of uses for Excel which are not math-related. We are asking for a commitment for both sessions, as the info given in the first session will not be repeated in the second.

If you would like to attend, kindly email Robin Narsted, to indicate your interest at rmnarsted@yahoo.com. At the same time, please indicate your proficiency, or lack thereof, with Excel. As space is limited, it would be a good idea to reserve your spot as soon as possible. Venue: 1925 Brookdale Avenue, Dorval, QC H9P 2Y7



If you're not a person who participates in an activity that regularly occurs on a Tuesday, you may not have noticed how many Tuesdays had rain in the weather forecasts this year, especially this Spring and early Summer. From the perspective of someone who plans an outdoor activity that normally runs every Tuesday from April into November, this year has been the most difficult in my 11 years as organizer of our cycling group, the Cyclopaths. We have managed, nevertheless, to maintain continuity by seeking reasonable 'weather windows' on those questionable Tuesdays or rescheduling on an alternate day. Apart from individual conflicts, our busy LARSE affinity group schedule often eliminates this option for many of our active regulars. I do hate to cancel a week's cycling, and I believe we've only had to do this twice so far this year.

9.

We did hit a new high of 30 participants on one outing this year. Our weekly numbers have been as low as 4, but usually run in the upper teens, which, coincidentally, is usually our pace in kilometres per hour. Distances (in kilometres) have varied between low twenties to over sixty. This latter distance was the result of a decision by some of us on the Oka trip, at our turnaround point, to opt to do a loop through Como, Vaudreuil-Dorion, Ile Perrot and back onto the Island of Montreal through St. Anne de Bellevue. A lot more of this latter loop was done on regular roads, but, whenever possible, we usually endeavour to utilize designated bicycle paths which proliferate in this province. Our West Island communities could do more with respect to facilitating active transport and Vélo Québec has been meeting with local municipal officials and community organizations to promote this "green movement" to adapt our shared spaces.

The policy to engage members of LARSE affinity groups to join LARSE as members or associate members has reduced the number of email addressees we customarily send to in our Sunday email containing the proposed cycling trip itinerary.. Those no longer receiving these emails can still learn about our trips by visiting the Cyclopaths section of the LARSE website. This site has been greatly augmented by our resident photographer, associate member, Henriette Cann who has already surpassed 3000 cycling kilometres in 2015 so far. If you haven't viewed the pictures from our trips yet, you may be surprised at the vistas that can be seen from the seat of a bicycle. Henriette is the only member of our group to take her teacher training (at Mac) before me and is one of the most positive-thinking people you could ever meet, a regular participant and a welcome addition to our group.

We hope this Fall to be able to attempt more of our trips from departure points further from the usual West Island ones, if the weatherman cooperates. This involves transporting bicycles on racks or inside vehicles and sometimes carpooling among participants.

Respectfully submitted, Wayne Clifford wmclifford@gmail.com

SAYING GOODBYE

MICHELINE JACQUES

Jacques, Micheline (nee Gravel). It is with broken hearts that we announce the passing of our mother Micheline on August 23, 2015 at the West Island Palliative Care Residence. Daughter of the late Micheline (Skryski) and Rene Gravel, pre-deceased by our father Bill and her beloved Aunt Jennie Brooks (Businsky). She will be forever missed by her children Aaron and Erica to whom she was so devoted. In her early career as a teacher, Micheline was always an advocate for students, many of whom remember her to this day. In the early 90's, Micheline began working for the Pearson Teachers Union. In 2010, her retirement did not diminish her continued support of teachers. Always willing to help others, Micheline was dedicated to what was right and above all, what was fair. Aaron and Erica would like to extend their tremendous gratitude to "Mich's ladies" who visited with her and supported Micheline throughout her illness. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the many neighbours and friends who lent a helping hand. A celebration of Micheline's life will take place on Saturday Sept 5th, 11:30am-2:30 pm (dedications to begin at 12:30 pm) at Rideau Memorial Gardens, 4275 Sources Blvd. DDO. Thank you to the wonderful staff at the WIPCR for their compassionate care of Micheline. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Micheline's name to the West Island Palliative Care Residence.

MONTREAL GAZETTE THURSDAY AUGUST 27, 2015

Mich was a giver. She gave to others but found it difficult to accept help offered by them. Even during her illness, she continued to give advice to teachers; she listened to the woes of her friends and gave counsel. At the Palliative Care Centre, she managed to think about thanking those who cared and supported her. She gave each staff member a gift of lavender, her favourite scent.

Mich worried about those in need, for those in difficulty, especially the children. As a teacher, she had a soft spot for the kids who always got into trouble. She felt that they were misunderstood and felt it her mission to help them out. Micheline was a firm but fair teacher and her students respected her for it. As a result, they behaved and produced.

Reacting to the suffering of children in underdeveloped countries, she fostered four children during her life time. But she just didn't send off her check, she communicated with them, got to know them. Here at home, when Mich was a resource teacher at Mac High, she took a particular interest in one of the older boys, a gang member, named Ishmael. She took him into her home and cared for him, loved him as one of her own but making it clear that he abide by her rules. Mich had her hands full as Ish would get into some serious trouble. He was devoted to Mich. He lived with her, Aaron and Erica on and off for a few years. Mich kept in contact with Ishmael up until his death in 2012. She was heart broken at losing him.

Micheline had a passion for water. She told me that it was her most spiritual place. She was drawn to it. Being by the water was both relaxing and rejuvenating for her. She spent many afternoons hanging out at Centennial Park. Micheline took it upon herself to clear the sand of all pieces of glass brought to shore by the lapping waves. She worried that children and their parents would cut their feet. But she didn't just worry about human feet – paws, dog paws were of particular concern. She loved animals. Those of us who patrolled the beach with her, are now obsessed with finding glass whenever we walk on any beach.

Mich's memory was amazing . We'd be talking about such and such a student that we taught at Allancroft back in the '80's and she'd remember the name as though she had taught him/her yesterday. One day, a palliative care nurse was telling her the name of a particular med that she was taking. Mich asked her what the other name of the med was - a more technical word. The nurse didn't know it. Mich, took a moment, went back into her memory centre and out popped the word.

Her wonderful memory was a source of great joy for her and for anyone who was lucky enough to inadvertently receive a history lesson from her. Micheline had a passion for history. She was interested in all history but she was particularly keen on Egyptian history. Mich, who loved travelling, was lucky enough to have visited Egypt, (a sacred place to her) She also visited Tunisia, and Turkey. Her last trip and certainly the most special, was to Cuba in March with Erica.

Mich loved art and she was creative. She took up designing greeting cards and got a kick out of giving them away to friends, family and others for birthdays and during her illness as thank yous. She was also a news junkie. She always knew what was going on locally and abroad. She could debate the issues of the day and she ALWAYS had an opinion. She wasn't a fence sitter when it came to taking sides on an issue – she knew her mind. She'd get worked up about the injustices to the people and the general stupidity that seems to abound.

The one topic of conversation that resurfaced time and time again was her children. Aaron and Erica were the loves of her life. She'd beam and laugh when retelling stories of their childhood. She was very proud of what they have accomplished but mainly she is proud of who they have become as people - independent and strong, caring and loving. She felt their support and love every day and was beyond grateful to them for helping her move through her illness with a little more ease.

Getting the last word in, Micheline asked me, on her behalf, to thank her friends, her neighbours and her family for being there for her when it counted the most and for performing a myriad of tasks. She dictated a list of these tasks. Thank you for taking her to doctor appointments, taking her for her treatments, making meals and snacks, visiting her, walking in the woods with her, giving her a call to chat, taking her to the beach, to the stores, to the museum, to a restaurant for lunch but most of all, for reading to her.

Julie Wilson

MARGARET BROWN LEE (nee WILSON)

After a long illness bravely fought, she died peacefully at the West Island Palliative Care Residence on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. Margaret was born on December 2, 1928 in Leith, Scotland, obtained a nursing degree from Leith Hospital, married and immigrated to Canada in 1954. Margaret worked for 23 years as a special education technician at the JFK school in Beaconsfield and was a well-loved and valued member of the team, retiring in 1994. Margaret was a member of the Kirkland Artists Association and her medium was encaustic art. (See on line for an example. Sadly missed by her children Carol, Sheila and James, her many nieces, nephews, good friends and colleagues. Thank you to Dr. Neamt and Dr. Moghrabi of the oncology department of Lakeshore General Hospital and all of the staff at WIPCR. In lieu of flowers, donations to WIPCR or charity of your choice would be appreciated. A celebration of life will be held at Tadjia Hall (21 082 Lakeshore, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue (QC) H9X 1S2) on Saturday, July 25, 2015 from 2-4 p.m. All welcome; please join us. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Voluntas (514-695-7979, Voluntas.ca).

MONTREAL GAZETTE THURSDAY AUGUST 2. 2015

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS BIRD

The family of Thomas Christopher Bird is sad to announce that he died on August 18, 2015 at the age of 88. He leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Pat (always happiest together debating politics or philosophy) seven children, a dozen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A man of rare intellect, Tom was fascinated by people, ideas, gadgets and history. He was equally at home taking apart machines (and sometimes putting them back together) as he was discussing Kant or Hume. He and Pat raised their family in Pierrefonds; Tom was a teacher, a guidance counselor and a union rep for the Lakeshore School Board. He loved music and art and the outdoors; with his family and his students he shared many adventures. In 1989, he and Pat retired to the Eastern Townships. Their country home on a hill and the woodlot gave Tom lots of scope for his inventiveness. Most of his children and grandchildren lived nearby and were frequent visitors. Even after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2004, Tom

would often say that he knew himself to be a very fortunate man. All who knew him and Patricia, or his children (Natasha, Nils, Harry, Ralph, Ingrid, Erika, Colin) are invited to a service in his memory at the Unitarian Church in North Hatley, Saturday, August 29 at 3 p.m. Reception afterward, (www.uuestrie.ca) In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Childhaven International www.childhaven.ca

MONTREAL GAZETTE THURSDAY AUGUST 27. 2015



Editor Bryden Murray

Phil and Ginette Ritchie

When Phil Ritchie retired as Science Teacher at John Rennie and Science Consultant at the Pearson Board, he joined a team which travels around the province giving in-service training to Science teachers. His golf buddies rarely see him on the links and claim that he works more now than ever. When his wife, Ginette, retired last year from the staff of Pearson Teachers Union they figured that maybe he'd golf more often. However, while Phil is working less, other things are filling the time: grandparenting and travel!

"Ginette and I are spending a lot of time in Ottawa with our grandson Wyatt. He is a joy for us. He just reached 8 months old and he is a going concern. He is crawling and pushes himself to stand and hang on to anything tall enough, Window ledge, table etc... The last time we were there we babysat him and everything went well. He slept the whole time."

"Ginette and I just came back from an 11 day trip up the North Shore to Tadoussac, then Forestville, ferry to Rimouski and then around the Gaspé peninsula to Bonaventure. My colleague and I gave two days of workshops in Gaspé and two in New Carlisle. In between we took in the sights in Tadoussac and Percé. Ginette and I had not ever done a road trip like this and it was enjoyable for us, because we proceeded in small increments. The vistas in Gaspé are breathtaking specially around Matane as you drive between the Gulf and the mountains but the driving gets a little hairy."

Phil and Ginette have also reconnected with old Lakeshore Teacher Association buddies, Doug and Mary McCall now splitting their time between the coast of B.C. and California. A visit out west may be in the near future.

Garry Saunders

Garry Saunders began his teaching career in the Gaspé in 1970 at Murdochville High School. In 1978 he moved back to Montreal and taught at Lindsay Place from 1978 to 1991. He was then appointed Vice Principal at LPHS from 1991 to 1994. He was transferred to Beaconsfield High School as a VP and served there until 1998, at which time he was appointed as Assistant Director of Student Services for the newly formed Lester B. Pearson School Board. At the Lester B. Pearson Board, Garry also served as Director of Community Services and was Director of Schools for Region 1 when he retired in 2006.

In his retirement, Garry joined the Board of Directors of the Black Academic Scholarship Fund. This is a non-profit organization whose main goal is to provide scholarships to Black students who are actively pursuing a course of study at an accredited institution. The objective is to enhance the economic status of the Black Community and provide more opportunities for students to achieve their educational goals.

The Jackie Robinson International Golf Tournament is one of the major activities hosted by BASF annually to raise funds for the scholarship program. Between 1996 and 2013, a total of 221 scholarships have been awarded to students in trade, career, undergraduate and graduate programs.

Garry also spends a lot of time on the links. He has become a regular participant in the L'ARSE Monday golf group. This July he attended the Open Golf Tournament at The Old Course, St. Andrew's Scotland with his son, Matthew. This completed their career grand slam, as they have now attended all four major golf tournaments.

Gary Harvey and Charles O'Ree

Charles O'Ree and Gary Harvey met quite randomly, playing at The Dorval Golf Course, around 1985. Both were teachers (Gary at West Island College and Charles with the PSBGM) and so being off in the summer and always looking for deals, they both got Tee-Amis and Golf-Fore booklets and started to roam the province together looking for interesting golf courses at discount rates. This continued for several summers.

Between Gary's marriage and move to Pointe-Claire and Charles' many school transfers and down-town residence the two gradually lost touch. As he raised a young family, Gary played less and less golf. Charles remained a golf fanatic! He watched Lee Elder, "hit the best shot I have ever seen over a 20' pine tree to within 10' of the pin". He spoke with Gary Player, who was practicing bunker shots and, never shy, even served as step-in caddie for Florida pro, Randy Feather in a Canadian Open qualify round.

Over the years the two had a few chance meetings. In 1995, Gary started teaching and coaching basketball at LCC. Charles refereed GMAA basketball including some of Gary's games. But, in 2010, when Charles became a regular substitute at Lindsay Place where Gary had been teaching Math since 2004, the two started catching up on the "missing years". Over the last few years, they have refereed GMAA basketball and touch football together, and of course had many golf games. In retirement, many of those games have been with the L'ARSE Monday Golf Group. Charles has even bought a home in Pointe-Claire and now lives only a few minutes from his buddy. He is looking however, to make a move to the west coast. Says his buddy, Gary, " When that happens, I guess I'll just have to plan on a few rounds of golf in beautiful British Columbia."

For the hockey fans among us, Gary and Charles share another interesting piece of history. Gary is the nephew of Montreal Canadiens legend, Doug Harvey. Charles is the nephew of former Bruin, Willie O'Ree, often referred to as the Jackie Robinson of hockey.

L'ARSE MEMBERSHIP FORM

14.

REGULAR MEMBER

L'ARSE (L'Association of Retired School Employees) is open to any retiree from any educational institution and the spouse/partner of a retiree.

Name of Retiree _____ Retired from _____

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Please send a **cheque for \$10 per person, payable to L'ARSE** (one-year membership), to:

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**If your contact information above should change, e-mail Lois at:
*lois.maederalves@videotron.ca***

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The **L'ArsEncore newsletter**, issued 3 times a year, outlines the many and diverse activities available through our Association. It also highlights the activities of individual members. Articles highlighting members' travels, other activities or items of interest are most welcome!

The newsletter will be sent electronically, unless you prefer a copy by mail.

I wish to receive my copy of L'ArsEncore via Canada Post: _____

(Extra cost to L'ARSE is about \$3 per copy.)

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