



## The Quebec Association of Retired Teachers

*June 2009*



**From left to right**

Flo Civitarese, Angela McIntyre, Dr. Ivan Harding and Stefanie Derewecka Castelino

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 QART went to Ottawa. This trip gave us the opportunity to meet with the President of the Outaouais Chapter, Angela McIntyre, the President of the South Shore Chapter, Dr. Ivan Harding, and the President of QART Flo Civitarese and the past President of QART, Stefanie Derewecka Castelino





## President's Message

Last September not one of us on the Executive Committee visualized ourselves in our present positions. Each of us stepped in at the last moment to do our bit to save QART. As it turned out, we have spent a most enjoyable and productive year. We have worked as a team from day one, each contributing his/her special strengths and talents. We respect and admire each other's abilities, and we really do enjoy working together for you and your interests.

Attendance was excellent at all our meetings. We were fortunate to have interesting and informative guest speakers: Dennis Bodin from Manulife Securities and Mme Geneviève Laurin and Constable Olga Belova from the RCMP COLT Fraud Squad.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Oktoberfest, Christmas, St. Patrick's, and Wine-Pairing Luncheons. Attendance at these socials was outstanding.

Our trip to Ottawa was a great success. Everyone was so pleased to have members from the South Shore and the Outaouais join us. Everything was splendid: the weather, the tour of Rideau Hall, the luncheon at the Lord Elgin, and the visit to Dows Lake to view those glorious tulips. We even enjoyed the lively and entertaining activities on the bus.

Hopefully, everyone benefited from the twelve gym classes at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre. We had three different trainers with three different techniques, so we were subjected to a variety of workouts. One of us was already a member at the LDV gym, and two have now joined the gym full time. If we have the required numbers in the fall, we may continue the class.

Our sincere gratitude to Stefanie Derewecka for her help and counsel during the transition period and for her excellent work on the newsletter and website. She has been working on the newsletter and website for the past five years and deserves a break. If you are willing to take over the job, Stefanie is willing to teach you the ropes. The task does not include composition or mailing. Others do that. You would just have to collect and put together the articles others have contributed. Please let me know ASAP if you are willing to volunteer for this task.

We also extend a special word of thanks to Mary Zenaitis who, after working for eight years on the Executive Committee, generously attended every Executive meeting this past year and was always available to help the new Executive with the transition. Thanks also to Guy Zenaitis for designing and printing the tickets for our social events.

Thanks to Christina Gasior and her telephone committee for a superb job emailing and telephoning our members. Without their help, we would not have had the outstanding attendance at our meetings and socials this past year.

QART owes Ed Zegray a huge debt of gratitude for representing us on both GTAR and ACER-CART and for attending all those meetings. He is well informed on all matters relating to both organizations. As the newly elected Quebec Regional Director at ACER-CART, Ed will play an even greater role on QART's behalf.

Our sincere thanks to Gerry Carroll for serving as our one-man benevolence committee. Those of us who have been recipients of his consoling messages are very grateful. We also appreciate the time he takes to write his messages in such beautiful calligraphy.

Thanks to Anna Mariani for making arrangements for our Christmas Mass and Luncheon and to Bertha Pitt for her inspiring Christmas Mass liturgy.

But most of all, your Executive Committee wishes to thank all of you for your outstanding attendance at meetings and socials this past year and for supporting and encouraging all our efforts.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions for activities, luncheons, and guest speakers. We are here to serve you. Just let us know what you would like, and we will do our best to comply with your wishes.

On behalf of your Executive Committee, I wish you a restful and pleasant summer doing whatever you most enjoy during this marvellous (albeit too short) season.

**Flo Civitarese  
President**

## **Indexation**

**Part of email  
From Ed Zegray**

You will recall that, in the short term, GTAR has been asking for 50% indexation for the years of service 1982-1999. And in a previous report, I indicated that the common front has this item on their agenda in the present round of negotiations. This is still the case.

However, in the long term, GTAR has requested that the government establish a permanent working group whose task it would be to make recommendations in order to halt the continuing impoverishment of retirees who worked during the 82-99 period. During the last provincial election campaign, all leaders of the three parties acknowledged that there is an injustice and if elected, they would establish a dialogue (working group) to search for answers (recommendations). Well, elections have come and gone and there appears to be a general memory loss.

To jar memories and to show that retirees can stand up and be counted, AREQ has decided to hold a rally and march on the offices of Mme Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Chair of the Conseil du trésor. This demonstration is planned for September 30, 2009, 11:00 – 13:00, in Québec. The objective is to reunite 8000 retirees for this event and AREQ is inviting all members of GTAR to join them for this rally.

Ed Zegray

**The executive will discuss this issue further in the near future to see if we will participate in the rally in Quebec. The reason for this is the cost primarily of the transportation to Quebec City. Flo. will keep us informed after she discusses this with the Chapter executives and the QART executive. You will receive confirmation of this sometime in the last 2 wks of July via email or by a phone call.**

## **TRIBUTE TO JIM TETU**

**By Gerry Carroll**



On May 18, 2009, Jim Tetu, a very special member of QART, went to his eternal reward at the early age of 68. A reward well earned by a life devoted to care for others. Son of a French-Canadian father and an Irish mother, Jim followed his mother into teaching. He taught at Marymount High School and, comparatively early in his career, moved into administration, serving at Papineau, John F. Kennedy and Tomas D’Arcy McGee High Schools, and retiring from Vincent Massey Collegiate. This latter school Jim founded and he took great pride in the successes many of its pupils achieved. Throughout his career, as a teacher he was highly regarded by his colleagues and his students; as an administrator he was admired for his administrative skills and for the respect he had for teachers, pupils and parents alike. Known for his untidy office and desk and his numerous anti-diet transgressions, about which he would joke, he had anything but an untidy mind or any lack of determination in fulfilling his responsibilities. At his funeral service May 26, Helen Vertolli, who worked as his assistant both at D’Arcy McGee High School and Vincent Massey Collegiate, paid tribute to his dedication and to the respect in which he was held by teachers and pupils alike. Fathers Brian Martin and John Baxter spoke of the Catholicity which was emphasized in his school and of the assistance he provided in encouraging pupils to get involved in religious retreats and other opportunities to practice their faith. Outside of school he was equally devoted to the Church and was of great assistance to Holy Family Parish, where he filled the role of “controller” and is remembered for the accuracy of his accounting, his story-telling skills and his sense of humour. After retirement in 1995, Jim brought all his skills and good qualities with him to QART and ACRA. Serving on the executive of QART, his good judgement and wisdom were greatly valued by QART that the position of Continuity Officer, was created. Poor health finally prevented him from regular attendance at meetings and active participation, but in no way diminished his interest. The Monaco Residence, where he spent his final years, proved a worthy outlet for his people skills and his opinions and advice where of great assistance to its residents whom Jim regarded as being so less fortunate than he. Jim will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by all his friends. May he rest in peace.

### **AGM – May 20, 2009**

Fifty Montreal members and six South Shore members attended the AGM at St. Pius X in Montreal on May 20.

The South Shore’s motion to change QART’s fiscal year from April 1-March 31 to July 1-June 30 was defeated by a majority of the members present.

The Executive’s motion to increase Associate Members’ fees from \$1 to \$10 a year was amended to \$5 a year, and this amended motion was passed by a majority of the members present.

The Executive's motion to reduce the number of newsletters from five to four a year was passed by a majority of the members present.

## **Foundation**

Since a motion was taken to dissolve the Foundation, the monies that remained in the account were distributed to the following students and thus, closing the books on the Foundation.

The bursary recipients are:

**Celine Audrey Beauregard from Dawson - 500\$**

**Diane Swiatko from Vanier - 400\$**

**Jason Miller from John Abbott - 400\$**

## **Word of Thanks from Anna Mariani**

Anna Mariani wishes to thank the members of QART for their thoughtfulness and good wishes. She is so very grateful for the many cards and phone calls that she has received. Unfortunately, because of the nature of the treatment she is receiving, Anna does not have the strength to call or write anyone right now, so she would like to express her gratitude to all in this newsletter.

We all wish you well, Anna; and we will certainly keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

## **QPAT Convention**

QPAT has invited the teacher members of QART to attend this year's Teachers' Convention on November 19-20 at no cost, provided we send them beforehand the names, addresses, and phone numbers of those teachers who would like to attend. If you are interested, please let us know at QART, 291 Avenue du Parc, L'Ile Perrot, QC, J7V 9Z5.

## **Delight in the Autumn Foliage and Visit the Mont Tremblant Casino**

We made many inquiries regarding a trip to Boston or a tour of the vineyards in the Eastern Townships, but both trips proved to be too expensive.

We have settled on a trip to Mont Tremblant where we can delight in the magnificent autumn foliage and try our luck at the new casino.

We will send you detailed information in early August, but here are the highlights.

- Our Oktoberfest Luncheon will be changed to October 21 so that we can enjoy the glorious fall foliage on October 14.
- Our first pick-up and drop-off site will be Vincent Massey Collegiate. You may leave your car there all day. Please arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. The bus will depart at 9 a.m. and will return around 6:30 p.m. During the summer we will set up a second pick-up site for those of you who live in the centre of town or farther west.
- The casino opens at 11 a.m. Each of us will be given a scratch card that offers the opportunity to win between \$5 and \$100 as well as 3000 points worth \$10 which may be used at any Quebec casino for the following 62 days beginning on October 15.
- We must spend three hours in the casino. This includes our lunchtime.

- There is no dining room, but there is a food court which offers lasagna, pizza, chicken, wraps, sandwiches, salads, other such food, soft drinks, wine, and beer. Everyone pays for his/her own lunch.
- After 2 p.m. we will have our bus driver bring us on a scenic tour through the Laurentians and stop at St. Sauveur for a drink or snack.
- There is no charge for admission to the casino. The cost per person for the bus is \$35 for members and \$37 for non-members. The deadline for payment is Monday, August 31. Please make your cheque payable to QART and mail it to Steve Dursa, 291 av. du Parc, L'Ile-Perrot, J7V 9Z5.
- Begin saving your pennies for those slot machines or gaming tables.

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – June 15

**World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** is on June 15, 2009. This special day started in Madrid in 2002 when countries throughout the world adopted the United Nations International Plan of Action on Ageing. This Plan recognized the importance of preventing abuse and neglect of older adults.

“Canadian retired teachers and their provincial organizations are well-placed to promote this cause,” Helen Biales, president of ACER-CART, noted. “All older people have a right to be treated with dignity and respect. No one deserves such mistreatment and we as retired teachers need to work together to ensure our colleagues and friends are not abused.”

## Meetings, Socials, and Activities - September 2009 - May 2010

September 23, 2009	Regular Meeting
October 14, 2009	Delight in the Autumn Foliage and Visit the Mont Tremblant Casino
October 21, 2009	Oktoberfest Luncheon
November 11, 2009	Possible Remembrance Mass
November 18, 2009	Regular Meeting
December 9, 2009	Christmas Luncheon
February 17, 2010	Regular Meeting
March 17, 2010	St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
April 21, 2010	Spring Social
May 19, 2010	AGM

## In Memoriam

**Lucy Amelia MacKinnon**, math teacher at St. Pius X High School, MCSC

**Rita Lemieux-Shea**, former Coordinator of French in the MCSC and member of QART

**Roy Bailey**, former Assistant Deputy Director of MCSC, English Sector

**George Tokar**, teacher at John F. Kennedy, MCSC

**William J. Neuheimer**, retired as school principal for the MCSC in 1995

Inez Lacombe, sister-in-law of **Frank Lacombe** and mother of **Gail Lacombe-DeGruchy**

Filomena Mucci, mother of **Tonia Mucci-Cifarelli**

**James Tetu** was a dedicated and respected educator with the Montreal Catholic School Commission, first as a teacher and administrator at Marymount High School and an administrator at both Thomas D'Arcy McGee High School and Vincent Massey Collegiate. Jim also served on the boards of the following professional associations: QACSA, QART, GMAA and was also an active member of ACRA.

**Audrey Chitayat**, teacher at John F. Kennedy High School, MCSC

**Ed Legare**, teacher at Cardinal Newman and Vincent Massey, MCSC  
**Mary Charasidis** was a member of QART

## Outaouais Sector - June Issue



My time as President of QART, Outaouais Sector, has come to an end. I've met many wonderful people, learned a lot, and have really enjoyed working/playing with my fellow executive members. After four years its now time to pass on the reigns. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, thirty-four members gathered at Café 349 in Shawville for an excellent buffet lunch then we dealt with the task of electing a new executive. Personally, I was delighted to see how many turned out for this luncheon since, habitually, many stay away to avoid the election pressure. I was relieved, after all the events we organized, not to be staring at an empty room. I was also impressed with the election/volunteer process this day. In a matter of about 10 minutes or so, we have four volunteers to take on this task for the next term. Many, many thanks to: Ann Beriau, Trudy Drummond, Carol Kavanagh, and Judy Kavanagh who will be your new executive. Although it's not necessary to have a fifth member, one extra would be a great help... more hands make a lighter load. Your new and former executive members will meet on September 15<sup>th</sup> to decide each one's position. Ladies, do know that your former executive will be there for you every step of the way.

**Spring Outing:** Fourteen members attended the romantic comedy "**A Room with a View**" at the Centrepointe Centre on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and afterwards had an early dinner at Kristy's restaurant on Richmond Road. Again, all were pleased with the performance and the good time spent with good friends

### In Memoriam

The pearly gates were opened  
 A gentle voice said Come,

And with farewells unspoken,  
 They gently entered home.

Since our last newsletter a couple of our members experienced the passing of a loved one.

### Our sympathies are extended to:

**Angela McIntyre** on the loss of her husband Ian

**Bernadette Maheral-Piché** on the loss of her sister-in-law Rita

### Personal Note:

My husband's death on April 16<sup>th</sup> was sudden and devastating to me and many, many of his friends. I am still having difficulty wrapping my mind around this major tragedy in my life. I want to acknowledge the enormous support I received from you, QART members, over the last 7 weeks. I know all of you by face, most of you by name, and some of you as good friends and former colleagues, but I was overwhelmed by the number of you who attended the wake and/or funeral, sent cards of sympathy and special thoughts, gave donations, and the special basket of flowers. All of these gestures, along with the many warm hugs I'm still receiving every time I see someone, were and are still beyond my expectations. For all of the above... I'm so, so grateful. Angela

**Please continue to keep in your prayers Lydia Richard** who underwent surgery for breast cancer and is now receiving chemo treatments. Our thoughts are with you, Lydia.

**First Luncheon in September** will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Dinty's (in front of the police station at the corner of Vanier and the Upper Aylmer Road) at which time we'll announce the dates for the rest of the year and the newsletter distribution schedule. Please mark this date on your calendar.

**A Special Note** to my executive gals. Throughout the four years, you have helped me look good in front of our members, but you do not get the acknowledgement you deserve. Our mini lunches together, where we shared opinions, suggestions and laughter, were the highlights of this task we took on. Work was play when we did it together. From the many times I travelled to the time I needed the ultimate comfort and help, all of you stepped in. QART, in my absence, was left in good hands... The members and I thank you. Angela

### Another cute e-mail to pass on...

When Julie Andrews turned 69, she made a special appearance at the Manhattan's Radio City Music Hall for a benefit. One of the musical numbers she performed was "My Favourite Things" from the legendary movie "The Sound of Music" Here are the actual lyrics she used:

*Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,  
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,  
These are a few of my favourite things.  
Cadillac's and cataracts, and hearing aids and glasses,  
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,  
These are a few of my favourite things..  
When the pipes leak, When the bones creak,  
When the knees go bad,  
I simply remember my favourite things,  
And then I don't feel so bad.*

*Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,  
 No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,  
 Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,  
 These are a few of my favourite things.  
 Back pains, confused brains, and no need for sinnin',  
 Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',  
 And we won't mention our short, shrunken frames,  
 When we remember our favourite things.  
 When the joints ache, When the hips break,  
 When the eyes grow dim,  
 Then I remember the great life I've had,  
 And then I don't feel so bad.*

*Ms. Andrews received a standing ovation from the crowd that lasted over four minutes and repeated encores.*

## **SOUTH SHORE CHAPTER**



The AGM of May 14<sup>th</sup>, marked the culmination of our last Chapter meeting for the 2008-09 fiscal year. The AGM was well attended by fifty four members. As usual, we had a very sumptuous pot luck luncheon. During the meal we were entertained with an exotic interpretative belly dancing performance by our former Secretary Cathy Lister-Palmer. A sum of \$134.00 was raised for the Chapter Bursary Fund. Thanks Cathy.

We can certainly say that we had a very successful year in the life of our Chapter. There was a significant increase in membership which now stands at eighty four members.

Letters of invitation will soon be sent to prospective retirees of the Riverside School Board to become members of our Chapter.

Several events were organized by the Coordinators of the various Clubs during the year. We also collaborated with the South Shore Womens' University Club at luncheons. Some of our Chapter members also joined with the Montreal and Outaouais Chapters respectively on a bus tour to the Tulip Festival in Ottawa. The highlight of the trip was a tour of Rideau Hall. After the tour we had lunch at the Lord Elgin Hotel. It was a memorable event. There were fifty four members on the coach trip.



The Chapter saw an increase in the numbers of participants at the various events that were held during the year. It is hoped that the numbers will also increase in this regard in the new year.

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, I will be presenting our Chapter Bursary to Genevieve Leduc the winner of the Bursary. This year's Convocation will mark the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in which we have been awarding an academic bursary to a student of the graduating class of Champlain College. Thanks to all of our members who have contributed most generously to the Bursary fund over the twelve years

We will continue to procure special guest speakers to address us on topics that are of interest to our members, in addition to organizing various event for all to enjoy. This is in keeping with making our attendance at our meetings a memorable and enjoyable occasion. I also request from each members their your suggestions for events as well as for ideas for speakers on specific topics that are of interest to all our members.

The Chapter is in very good fiscal position. The Treasurer produced a balanced budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Thank you, Ardele for your excellent financial capabilities. You certainly keep us on our toes where our finances are concerned.

On May 20, 2009, the Executive Members and I attended the AGM of QART in Montreal. Our Chapter presented a motion at the AGM. The motion pertained to a change in the date of the fiscal year of QART. After some intense debates, the motion was tabled for further discussion. A second motion by QART requested a change in the fee structure with respect to Associate Members. The motion stated that the fee be increased from \$2.00 to \$12.00. Our Chapter presented a counter motion in which we argued that the increase was exorbitant. Our counter motion requested that the fee be raised to \$5.00. After serious discussions, it was agreed that the fee for Associate members be reduced from \$12.00 to \$5.00. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote. Another motion that was put forward by QART was that there should be four News Letters for the year instead of five. This motion was also passed unanimously.

### **Election of Officers for the 2009-2010**

At our Chapter AGM, the members voted unanimously to return the Executive members by acclamation. My thanks, as well as that of the Executive members to each of you for the confidence expressed in us by returning the Executive to serve you for another term of office. I can assure that we will endeavour to serve our Association to the best of our ability as we did in the past. Thanks again for your cooperation and support in the past year.

**Dates of meetings for the fiscal year 2009-2010, are as follows:**

Third Thursday	September 17, 2009
Second Thursday	November 12, 2009
Second Thursday	December 10, 2009 (Christmas Luncheon)
Second Thursday	February 11, 2010
Second Thursday	April 8, 2010
Second Thursday	May 13, 2010 (AGM)

Please look for the notices of our regular meetings in the Senior Section of the Montreal Gazette a week prior to the date of the meetings.

Once again we extend our deepest condolences to **Henriette Ayres** whose mother died in Gatineau a few weeks ago. May she rest in peace.

Please also remember in your thoughts and prayers **Patrick O'Mally** and **Bill Zaslowsky** who are ill.

**Members of the Executive**

President	Ivan D.Harding	450-672-8560, <a href="mailto:ivan_harding@hotmail.com">ivan_harding@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President.	Peter Yaworski	450-656-7722 <a href="mailto:yaworski-jp@sympatico.ca">yaworski-jp@sympatico.ca</a>
Secretary	Ken Robertson	450-678-7563 <a href="mailto:ken.Robertson@videotron.ca">ken.Robertson@videotron.ca</a>
Treasurer	Ardele Warr	450-653-5157 <a href="mailto:ardelewarr@videotron.ca">ardelewarr@videotron.ca</a>
Past President	Bob Tomkinson	450-658-7281 <a href="mailto:tomkyr@sympatico.ca">tomkyr@sympatico.ca</a>

The Executive members join me in wishing you and the members of your family a very enjoyable (weather permitting) and safe summer.

Dr Ivan D.Harding  
Chapter President.



QART Membership Form  
Year 2009-2010

Last Name	
First Name	
Street	
City	
Province	
Postal Code	
Telephone	
E-mail	
Honorary Member	A member who has belonged to PACRT, known as QART for 25 years or more (no charge) – PACRT before 1981
Regular Member	A member who attends meetings and/or socials (\$25)
Associate Member	Wife or husband of regular members (\$10)
Member at Large	A member who attends neither meetings nor socials, but wishes to be informed through the newsletter (\$12)
Amount Enclosed	
Mail to:	QART c/o: QART Treasurer, 291 av du Parc, L'île-Perrot QC, J7V 9Z5

**QART Newsletter,**

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