



The Quebec Association of Retired Teachers

President's Message

September 2011

Welcome back!

As I begin my second year as president, I am pleased to announce that the team, your executive, has been busy this summer planning luncheons , events and guest speakers that will be of interest to you in the coming months. Please take note of important dates and deadlines.

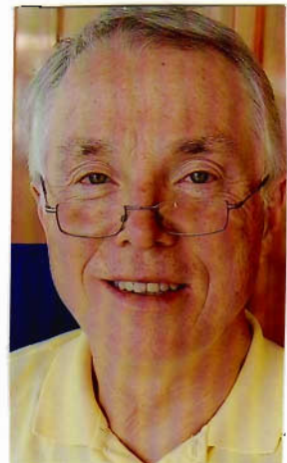
I wish to thank Gerry Carroll for looking after the cards of condolences. QART members certainly appreciate the time and effort that goes into this. Much appreciated, Gerry!

GOOD NEWS (finally) ! Ed Zegray has sent us an encouraging outline of a favorable turn of events this past summer. It's a start in the right direction re. **our pensions**. You'll find the article included in this newsletter to be of special interest to all.

Also, as a tribute to the 10th. Anniversary of 9/11, I have included a memorial essay written ten years ago by Catherine (Associate Editor of Poets' Podium). I thought it would be fitting at this time.

Have a great year!

Ron Barrowcliffe
QART, President



QART Newsletter,
Editor : Ronald Barrowcliffe
32 Morgan Rd.
Baie d'Urfe, QC, H9X 3A4
Canada

Regular Meeting – September 28, 2011

The September meeting will take place at Pius X in Room 1254 on Wed. Sept. 28, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. Membership fees and the Oktoberfest Luncheon may be paid at this time. The book exchange, which began last September, will continue for all our meetings. Any donations in very good condition would be appreciated.

Membership Fees

According to our bylaws, membership fees must be paid by November 30, 2011.

Oktoberfest Luncheon October 12, 2011

Please note that the calendar states that the Oktoberfest would take place on October 19, 2011; however, that date was not possible at Pius so it was **changed to October 12, 2011 instead**. Please note the necessary change of date on your calendars.

Place: St Pius X Culinary Institute

Date: Wed. October 12, 2011

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$20 which includes the meal, a glass of wine, tax and tip.

The deadline for payment is October 5, 2011.

Please make your cheque payable to QART and mail it to:

QART treasurer, Karen Habib

1500 rue Serigny, Laval, H7E 1N9

Annual QART Mass – Wed. November 9, 2011

Place: **Transfiguration of Our Lord Church** at 11775 Filion, corner Dudemaine

Time: **11 a.m.** Father Sullivan will once again officiate at the mass. Any members or family members of QART who are recently deceased will be remembered at the mass.

All are welcome. There will be a collection at mass for the Church's Christmas Baskets. Everyone present was very generous last year.

After the mass all are invited to **Au Vieux Duluth** 1997 Marcel Laurin, 514-745-4525 for lunch. The special luncheon menu (7 choices) includes the daily soup, rice, home fries and house salad, coffee/tea and daily dessert. Cost is \$ 9.95, individual bills, not including tax or tip. Bring your own wine.

If you plan on joining us for the luncheon, please let Maureen Goulet know by November 4th. Phone 514-334-1592 or email maureen.goulet@sympatico.ca.

If you need to cancel, it is imperative that you let Maureen know as soon as possible.

Regular Meeting – November 23, 2011

Place: St. Pius X in room 1254

Time: 1: 30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Keith Donoghue, Financial Advisor, Assante Capital Management, St. Laurent who will speak to us about such topics as retirement financial management, RIFFS, etc. Luncheon to follow.

OPAT Convention – November 25 – 26, 2011

Anyone wishing to attend the 2011 Teachers' Convention, please contact me at ronbarrow32@hotmail.com Every year QART has been given a booth in the exhibitors' hall. Anyone who would like to volunteer to man the booth either day (for a minimum of four hours) will be given a \$ 10 stipend for lunch/supper, as well as the cost of parking. All receipts are to be given to Karen, our treasurer for reimbursement. Let me know.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON – December 7, 2011

Date : Wednesday, December 7th. 2011 at noon

Place : *Le Crystal* 5285 Henri-Bourassa West 514-337-8160

The luncheon menu includes the following: Minestrone Soup, Chef Salad, main course - Veal with lemon Sauce and vegetables and Tiramisu Cake with coffee/tea . A glass of wine will be included with the meal. Cost per person is \$40 tax and tip included.

Please make your cheque payable to QART and send it to

QART c/o QART TREASURER, Karen Habib 1500 rue Serigny , Laval, QC. H7E 1N9

Deadline for payment is November 30th.2011.

Arts and Crafts Exhibit

For our last meeting in **May**, there will be an exhibit of arts and crafts by members of QART. Anyone wishing to participate, please contact Catherine at 514-457-2854 or email her at cathybarrow32@yahoo.com for more info. (art , jewelry, decorations ,etc.)

Newsletter /Website

As of June 2011, the executive was given notice by Stefanie that she will no longer continue working on the newsletter. We are grateful for all the work she has done for us over the past 7 years. On behalf of all QART members, we thank her and wish her luck with her new endeavors.

As president, one of the responsibilities is to write the newsletter, along with the competent input of the executive. I will continue to do so, as well as take on the task of collating and setting up the newsletter in Stefanie's absence. Kevin Marciniak has once again agreed to be QART's webmaster. QART is very grateful for his continued support.

Personal Note:

This was a most difficult year for me with the sudden heart attack and death of my younger sister, Helen, on December 18, 2010. I wish to thank all of you for your support and your condolences. Also news of my wife, Catherine's cancer diagnosis and surgery in November followed by twenty radiation treatments in March and April have been , to say the least, overwhelming. Through it all, Catherine and I continued our responsibilities and duties as president and vice president, with the amazing help of the executive members. I thank each and every one of you. Catherine is recovering, and considers herself a breast cancer survivor.

As I begin my second year as president, I wish you all a good year filled with health and happiness and we'll see you at the meetings and luncheons.

Ron Barrowcliffe
QART , President

A Tribute – September 11, 2001
by Catherine Heaney Barrowcliffe, Associate Editor

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Putting pen to paper and expressing our feelings regarding the tragic events of September 11th limits us to merely scratching the surface of the overwhelming events of that fateful day. Some of us can best convey these views through the poetic venue, even though the written word pales in comparison with the horrific images which we were subjected to in the wake of these horrible acts of terrorism.

How can we comprehend the incomprehensible, witness the unthinkable and forget the unforgettable? The world watched in horror as four hijacked planes methodically met their targets. One cannot begin to understand the horror and fear which the innocent passengers were so cruelly subjected to. Two of the

planes met their targets –the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, symbols of U.S. architectural and financial might. Another plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., the symbol of military strength. A fourth plane did not meet its target due to the courage and selflessness of some of the crew and passengers. Instead, it met its end crashing in a field in Pennsylvania.

That morning was like no other in North American history, in American history. We were numb, shocked as in shell-shocked during a war. Certainly, these three states resembled a war zone. It was like a movie set, reality imitating fiction.

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As ash-enveloped evacuees, eyes transfixed in vacant stares, began their exodus across the Brooklyn Bridge, these ghost-like figures, briefcases and cell phones in hand, could very well have been cast in a B-rated movie with New York burning as a backdrop. The scene was so surreal as we were witnesses to the events.

Our minds ran the gamut of the roller coaster ride of emotions. Shock and numbed disbelief gave rise to dreaded fear and horror. Terror and fright gave way to an overwhelming weight of sadness and grief. Tears and mourning gave way to prayer and resignation. But like the phoenix rising from the ashes, from the mangled steel and terrible destruction, there was the ever-present shadow of hope.

Hope and courage came in a multitude of shapes and forms. Families and friends displayed photos of their missing loved ones, hoping against all odds they would be found. Police officers and New York firefighters raced to the scene with deliberate determination in their quest for survivors. President George W. Bush, Governor George Pataki and New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani met the extraordinary challenge of demonstrating courageous and sympathetic leadership. Their resolve was mirrored in the countless citizens who selflessly volunteered in any way they could. The United States of America wrapped themselves figuratively and literally in their symbol of freedom, their stars and stripes – their flag.

As the many stories emerged of personal accounts of heroism, Canadians, as well as those around the world, cried their tears, mourned their grief, prayed their prayers. The world was united in grief after September 11th.

Stories touched our hearts as never before – courageous firefighters attempting to rescue those trapped in the fiery inferno of the Tower – only to meet their own death moments later as the Tower collapsed. Stories like the priest rushing to the catastrophic scene, taking his firefighter's hat off in respect as he gave the last rites to a fellow firefighter, only to be killed in the process. Stories like the business associate who chose to remain with his quadriplegic friend and colleague, meeting their death as the Tower imploded. Stories of passengers on the terrifying journey, changing the course of history, giving the ultimate sacrifice in order to save others.

Canadians mourned alongside our friends and neighbors of the U.S.A. Your pain was our pain; your tears were our tears; your prayers were our prayers. Donations began to pour in to the Canadian Red Cross, while Canadian firefighters volunteered to help out at Ground Zero. Lineups to donate blood were beyond anyone's expectation. Firefighters across the country, in every province of Canada, stood on street corners to collect for the victims of the disaster. Truckloads of teddy bears were donated out west and delivered to the children

of the victims. Ordinary citizens opened their homes and their hearts to those stranded on the airport tarmacs. Canadians helped in any way they could.

On September 14th, the official day of mourning, the United States, Canada and countless nations around the world came together in spirit to pray and mourn the thousands who were victims of such hideous crimes. Close to 100,000 people stood on Parliament Hill in Ottawa as Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson and U.S. Ambassador Paul Cellucci, as well as many dignitaries, held a memorial service to honour those who were missing or presumed dead.

Leaders from several communities in Montréal, Québec including Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist, as well as political figures, all joined together in an interfaith service at St. James United Church in Montréal. A Catholic mass was held at St. Patrick's Basilica in the heart of Montréal. These memorials and services were held in every province and territory of Canada.

In the wake of the terrible events of September 11th, 2001, we Canadians join our friends and neighbors in the U.S. and hope and pray for unity, tolerance, peace and harmony. God bless America!



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POETS' PODIUM
East Hawkesbury, Ontario, Canada

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- Continuity Officer** **Mary Zenaitis** 514-256-8118 gzenaitis@videotron.ca

QART MEETINGS and Luncheons for September 2011-May 2012

Executive Committee Meetings

Sept. 14, 2011, Nov.2, 2011, February1, 2012, May2, 2012

QART REGULAR MEETINGS and LUNCHEONS (Wednesdays)

- September 28, 2011** **Regular Meeting**
- October 12, 2011** **Oktoberfest**
- November 9, 2011** **QART Annual Mass and Luncheon**
- November 23, 2011** **Regular Meeting**
- December 7, 2011** **Christmas Luncheon**
- February 15, 2012** **Regular Meeting**
- March 14, 2012** **St. Patrick's Luncheon**
- April 25, 2012** **Spring Social**
- May 23, 2012** **Annual General Meeting**

IN MEMORIAM

ARTHUR LOAICONO, former teacher at John F. Kennedy High School

PHILLIP HOWE, former teacher and administrator in the M.C.S.C.

FRANCIS ALLISON SENNAT, member of QART and former teacher at D'Arcy McGee High School

MARGARET ZERTER, member of QART and former teacher at Francesca Cabrini School

MARY ANANIA, mother-in-law of **FRANCINE TOZZI-ANANIA**

REVEREND DAVID GOURLAY, former chaplain at Vincent Massey Collegiate

September 2011 Newsletter for the Outaouais

Summer should get a speeding ticket!! (Anonymous) So many people are amazed at how fast summer went. We all presume that it is not our age that makes it go faster but the beautiful weather we enjoyed. We sincerely hope everyone had a great summer doing what he or she found relaxing, fulfilling and enjoyable.

It is that time again when people are going back to work, children are back in school and we settle into more of a routine. Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 27th at the Bamboo Restaurant in Aylmer. We look forward to seeing a good turnout and visiting with members. You might want to think about ideas for:

- 1) future venues
- 2) guest speakers
- 3) ways to get members more involved in meetings, for example: speaking about a trip you enjoyed or possibly a book you think is worthwhile for the group to know about, presenting a hobby people might like to hear about.....

Registration and Payment of Fees will be done at this meeting. The fee is \$25.00 for Regular Members and \$12.00 for Members at Large. If you are unable to attend, please send your payment to Ann Beriau

110 de la Laterie
Gatineau, Quebec, J9J 0E3

Or, another option could be to send your payment to Judy Kavanagh at the return address on the newsletter. Please advise if there is a change of address, phone number, or email address. If this is completed without extra phone calls, it makes the work of the executive so much easier. We do appreciate your cooperation.

Reminder of the meetings: September 27, 2011
November 15, 2011
Christmas Social December 6, 2011
March 13, 2012
May 15, 2012
June Social June 5, 2012

June Social 2011

The Wakefield Train excursion was an enjoyable success. Guitarists, fiddlers and singers serenaded us along the way. The guide on our car was very friendly and informative which contributed to making the trip very pleasant. The weather cooperated and the day was sunny and quite warm. The only complaint may have been that we would have liked

to have more time to browse and shop in Wakefield. We sang “Happy Birthday” to Father Lomer who had recently celebrated his 65th birthday and 40 years in the priesthood. Father Lomer is a great supporter of our group and a good friend. Congratulations, again Father Lomer.

Autumn Equinox Ritual

“Smoke hangs like haze over harvested fields,
The gold of stubble, the brown of turned earth
And you walk under the red light of fall
The scent of fallen apples, the dust of threshed grain
The sharp, gentle chill of fall.
Here as we move into the shadows of autumn
The night that brings the morning of spring
Come to us, Lord of the harvest
Teach us to be thankful for the gifts you bring us...”

We look forward to another year of serving as your executive. Any suggestions are always welcome. We also welcome any new members. Please invite, or advise us, if you know of anyone who may be interested in joining QART.

Judy Kavanagh

Finally - Some Good News For A Change

Twenty-nine years after being first subjected to the effects of de-indexation, four years after joining forces with the *Groupe de travail des associations de retraités (GTAR)* to try to put a stop to the detrimental and escalating losses in our purchasing power, after participating in public demonstrations in Montreal and Quebec, fifteen months after the hearings held on this issue by the Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances, twelve months after this Parliamentary Commission published its interim report, CARRA's Board of Directors finally struck the Consultative Committee to examine the issues related to indexation of the pension plans.

You will recall that in its interim report, the Parliamentary Commission on Public Finances, on which sit members from all parties in the National Assembly, recognized the need to diminish, if not to eliminate, the loss in purchasing power of retirees who have been subjected to de-indexation of their pensions for the years 1982- 1999. The Commission recommended the creation of a Consultative Committee, within CARRA, to examine services to retirees and the parameters of indexation.

Nominations have been completed and the committee is composed of a Chair, 8 retirees and 8 union reps. Representatives from the Treasury Board as well as from the pension administrator, CARRA, will also participate in the discussions of the committee. Of the 8 retirees, 4 have been nominated by GTAR and are: Louise Charlebois (AREQ), André Goulet (AAR), Gisèle Goulet (RIIRS), and Madeleine Michaud (AQRP). The other four retirees are: Arlette Bouchard (RRAME); Rodrigue Dubé (ADR); Rosaire Quévillon (ADR - RRAME); and Jean Turgeon (AQDER). The Chair is François Turenne, recently retired Deputy-minister.

The Consultative Committee's mandate is to discuss and propose solutions concerning indexation of the pension plans. While no timeline has been determined at this moment, it begins its deliberations on September 8, 2011. Please note that this is the first time that retirees have been invited on a parity basis as official partners in discussions to determine the future of their pension plans. Finally, the first step in the right direction, that of setting into motion long-term solutions to this recurrent problem.

Ed. Zegray

Renewal QART Membership

Year 2011 – 2012

Please print and complete this form

Montreal Chapter

Last Name

First Name

Street

City

Province

Postal Code

Telephone

E-mail

Chapter / Location

Honorary Member

A member who has belonged to QART for 25 years or more (before 1984) **No Fee**

Regular Member

A member who attends meetings and /or socials
Membership Fee \$25

Member at Large

A member who attends neither meetings nor socials, but wishes to be informed through the Newsletter
Membership Fee \$12

Amount Enclosed

\$

Mail To:

QART
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1500 rue Serigny
Laval QC H7E 1N9
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E-mail: Karenanneh@yahoo.com