



The Quebec Association of Retired Teachers

November/2008



QART Newsletter,
Editor: Stefanie Derewecka Castolino
1412 St. Louis
Montreal, QC, H4L 2P3



Message from the President

The outlook for the Montreal Chapter of QART looked pretty bleak for awhile at our September 17 meeting, but in the end we were able to elect a new Executive; and the Montreal Chapter is now thankfully alive and well!

We all owe immense gratitude to the former Executive for their dynamic leadership and their significant and valued contribution to our association. We realize that replacing such a productive group will be a daunting task, but your new team will do its very best to continue organizing interesting, helpful, and pleasurable meetings, socials, and activities. In order for us to ensure that we meet your needs, please call or email us regularly to present your suggestions regarding guest speakers, activities, and trips.

Best wishes to all for an interesting and enjoyable year together:

President	Flo Civitaresse	514-322-7988	flociv@gmail.com
1 st Vice President	Catherine Barrowcliffe		
2 nd Vice President	Maureen Goulet		
Treasurer	Steve Dursa	514-991-0393	stevedur80@gmail.com
Alternate Secretary	Margaret MacCormack		
Past President	Stefanie Derewecka Castelino		

New Members

QART welcomes **Mary Bardo, Jessie DiPaolo, Richard Sanchini, Anne Schaffhauser, Jeanne Registre, and Gemillo Antoniazzi** to our ranks.

Foundation

On September 25, 2008, your Executive Committee voted unanimously to abolish all fundraising and will ask the members in attendance on November 12 to ratify this decision. We have monies left in the fund, so we will award scholarships next spring. Members will receive tax receipts for their 2008 Foundation donations.

Guest Speakers

We are pleased to have Dennis Bodin, a highly regarded investment councillor from Berkshire Securities, address us at our November 12 meeting. He will tell us where we should be investing our money for the best returns and how we should react to drastic market swings. His address will be followed by a Q and A period.

Now that the provincial Ministry of Health is transferring more and more patient care to the CLSCs, we are considering having someone from the CLSC visit on February 11 to describe what services are available to those of us who require its services every now and then, what services and free equipment are available to those of us who require more permanent help, what in-home services are available before and after an operation or hospital stay, and what services are available for those of us who are caregivers.

We are also considering having an RCMP officer address us regarding senior email fraud.

Please suggest other guests you would like us to invite or specific topics you would like discussed at our meetings.

Christmas

Our **Christmas Mass** will be held at **Notre Dame du Mont Carmel** on December 10th at 10 a.m. The church is located at **7645 Rue du Mans**, east of Lacordaire between Jean Talon and the Met, east of the Pacini and Harvey's restaurants. Turn east on the street between Pacini and Harvey's. Parking is available behind the church or on neighbouring streets. For a map, see "Paroisse Notre Dame du Mont Carmel" on the Internet.

Our **Christmas Luncheon** will be held following the mass at **Complexe Le Baron, 6020 Jean Talon East** at 12 noon (limited underground parking). The cost is **\$25 per person**. This includes one glass of wine and gratuities. We would be happy to receive donations for door prizes and raffles. Please send you cheques and confirmations to:

QART

C/O Steve Dursa, treasurer
291 Avenue du Parc
L'Île Perrot, QC,
J7V 9Z5

Activities

If you are interested in joining a gym conditioning class after the holidays, please let Flo know before Christmas. The class would focus on cardio and muscle toning. It would be held at the Leonardo da Vinci gym, 8370 Lacordaire, in St. Leonard. The instructor has training in and years of experience helping seniors to keep fit. Since the studio costs \$25/hour and the instructor costs \$35/hour, the cost to each participant for each class would be \$60/the number of participants.

If you are interested in organizing an activity or planning a trip, please contact Flo.

Please let us know

1. if you have a new address, phone number, or email address.
2. if you want a hardcopy of our newsletter or if the website will do.
3. if you would like to contribute to the newsletter a brief chronicle of a recent trip you took.

May we ask you

1. to pay your membership dues (Regular Member \$25, Member at Large \$12) either by mail to Steve Dursa (291 Avenue du Parc, L'Ile Perrot, QC, J7V 9Z5) or at our November 12 meeting.
2. to actively solicit new members. The more members and the more new ideas we receive, the more beneficial our meetings will be for you.

Flo Civitarese
President of QART

QART's Bowling League

Open to all, meets every Thursday at 1:15 p.m. at Laurentian Lanes on Jean Talon and Pie IX.
 For more information, please call **Vivianne McPherson** at **514-729-8904**.

Obituaries

Olivia Castelino, mother-in-law of **Stefanie Derewecka**, and mother of **Mike Castelino**
Hugh Adams, Guidance Counsellor with the EMSB.

Outaouais Sector

Prayer for Troops

Prince of Peace, we humbly ask your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honour, dignity, and devotion the rights of all who are imperilled by injustice and evil. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill, in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere, a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will towards all. Amen.

Our last meeting was held at the Summerhay's Bar and Grill on Baseline. Other than the fact that the service was slow, the meals, I believe, were enjoyed by all. Unless we hear differently, we will keep that location on our repeat list.

Our Next Meeting on Tuesday, November 18th, will be held at Dinty's in Aylmer, on the corner of the Upper Aylmer Road and Vanier, across from the police station. The following menu will be offered: soup as a starter, with a choice of Hamburger Steak, Lasagna with garlic bread, Fillet de Sole, Breast of Chicken, or a Chicken Salad. The choice of tea, coffee, or a soft drink and all gratuities and taxes are included in the price of \$17.00. At this meeting all arrangements will be finalized for the Christmas outing, all membership fees accounted for, and possible March plans. Hope you are able to attend.

Membership Fees: I've enclosed a membership registration form for all the members who have not as yet paid for their fees. Please send a cheque made out to the order of: **QART**, ASAP to Judy, (address on form), so she can close off this portion of her task and send our contributions to Montreal.

"International Day of Older Persons" I was pleased to see some of our members at this event. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and found that whatever your interest, something was there for you. Except for the very overpriced lunch, everything, including parking was free. The seminar topics were on target for the aging community, and the music and songs of Robin Avrill and the Searson family group were extremely entertaining. Mary Cook's 1930's reminiscing and the wine tasting and information session were truly uplifting! This is definitely something everyone should keep in mind for the future.

I spoke to the "Forever Young" distributors about the accessibility of this newspaper in Quebec and, as of yet, it's not available here. All that to say... when you are grocery shopping in Ontario do take a copy of this **free** newspaper. It is usually found on a rack at the front of the stores. The articles, advertisements, and information are priceless.

Thanksgiving/Harvest Celebration

On October 21st Father Lomer hosted and presided over a prayer service in his church hall. The twenty-two attending members were greeted at the door with a warm welcome and soft, peaceful music, setting the tone for the day. Father related personal experiences to remind us that although we can all list many things that we are thankful for; it is challenging to be grateful during times of trial and tribulation, such as illness, death, or depression. We have to look beyond the pain and strive to not only see life, but give it. The life we gave to our students during our career continues to live in each and every one of them and through their families. We should recognize the gifts we gave, cherish the memories we created, and in a variety of ways continue to give life to others through this same love and prayer.

Sister Pam then spoke on her mission to India through her service with the J.M.J. Children's Charity of third world countries, specifically, Africa, Haiti, the Philippines, and India. Finding it hard to access the severity of India's poverty from this safe and peaceful environment in Canada, Sr. Pam decided to take matters into her own hands and travel there. She witnessed many struggles of these people - tsunami devastation, mud homes, hungry and poorly dressed children, supply-deprived schools, homes and parishes, unfamiliar customs, etc... things we sometimes take for granted. Not content to just give "crumbs to her sisters and brothers" she's trying to break a personal barrier and give her gift of life in a special way. Through her diocese, Sr. Pam is trying to twin parishes here with that of India to, perhaps in some way, help each other both financially and spiritually. What a challenge! What a force of love!

We then ate a lovely hot turkey dinner with all the trimmings and dessert, catered by a former student of St. Mark's and D'Arcy McGee schools, Byron Shepherd. The service and food were excellent and thoroughly enjoyed... one of our little gifts giving back to us!

Many thanks to Fr. Lomer, Sister Pam, Mr. Bartraw, Shep's Catering, and to all who attended. All played an important part in this pleasant afternoon!

Christmas Outing

After a show of hands at our last meeting, plans were underway to arrange for another Phoenix Theatre Production at the Centrepointe Theatre in Nepean. It's really great to see how many have enjoyed this event in the past and wish to continue to do so. The production this year opens with "Joe Carpenter and Son, an English Nativity". It is a Christmas story, set in England at the turn of the twentieth century, and spoken in verse. Following an intermission "A Child's Christmas in Wales" will be presented. This is Dylan Thomas' memory play, set in Great Britain at the start of the last century and adapted for the stage by Phoenix Theatre's own Jo-Anne McCabe. It promises to be very entertaining! There is music throughout provided by the Ottawa Welsh Choral Society.

**Please keep these numbers available and contact us about important events.
Your executive for 2008 - 2009 (Outaouais Sector)**

President:	Angela M^cIntyre	819-685-0439	iangela@magma.ca
1 st Vice-President:	Jill Teske	819-684-3667	jill.teske@sympatico.ca
2 nd Vice-President:	Marina Moore	819-684-5903	
Treasurer:	Judy Foran	613-839-3030	
Secretary:	Diane Susak	613-224-3338	dmsusak@yahoo.com

Quote of the Day!

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."

SOUTH SHORE CHAPTER

As I write this November Newsletter I can distinctly hear from the radio the ominous news of the impending snow fall that is scheduled to begin tomorrow Wednesday October 29, 2008. The first snow fall last begun on November 15, 2007 and it lasted up to April 2008. We can now say that finally, Fall is over and the winter has arrived. Nearly all of us at this time of the year are faced with the necessary tasks such as the raking of leaves, planting bulbs, clearing up the garden, pruning shrubs, putting away patio furniture, etc. all those mundane tasks which are necessary as we prepare for the winter season. A reminder to the Garden Club members, please make sure that your amaryllis bulbs are in the dormant mode. They can be potted in mid-February for spring blooming.

Out to Lunch Club

In order to while away the winter blues, Marilyn Zaslowski the group coordinator organized a luncheon event on October 17, 2008, to the Verger et Cidre Denis Charboneau at Rang de la Montagne in Mt Gregoire. This event was organized in conjunction with the members of the South Shore University Womens' Club, and the South Shore Chapter of QART. The event was a highly successful one: good company, excellent food concomitant with the colourful fall foliage all helped to make the outing a most memorable one.

Thanks again Marilyn.

The Theatre and Dining Group

Another event which will lighten the winter blues is an event that is planned by the Theatre Club for Thursday November 21, 2008. The Greenfield Park Players is staging a performance of "Murder at Howard Johnson's". It is a hilarious comedy murder mystery by Pat Clarke and Sam Burke. It is customary for those attending the performance to meet for dinner prior to the show.

Please call Joan Crossley at 450; 671-4726 for further information.

Presentation

At the regular Chapter meeting on 13th, Ardele Warr our Treasurer will give a picturesque presentation of her recent trip to Antarctica and Argentine respectively. This will be an event which should not be missed.

Membership

This year we sent out thirty two invitation letters to the recent retirees from the South Shore School Board. I also urge each of our members to contact and encourage any recent and previous retirees with whom you are acquainted to join our Association.

Eligibility to become a member of QART is not limited only to teaching personnel. The revised Constitution states that, "Membership is extended to all teachers and also to non teaching personnel or union employees in the education system and to those who also had direct contact with teachers or students".

HOPE

Please remember to bring to all our meetings non perishable foods which are distributed by Hope to the needy in our community.

Benevolent News

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the mothers of **Henriette Ayres** and **Dorothy Shaw** and their families respectively who are both grievously ill.

Dates of meetings

November 13, 2008

December 11, 2008 Christmas **Luncheon**

February 19, 2009

April 16, 2009

May 14, 2009 **AGM and a luncheon.**

Please make every effort to attend the Christmas Luncheon. The format will be discussed at the November 13th meeting.

Chapter executives

President:	Dr Ivan D. Harding	(450: 672-8560)	ivan_harding@hotmail.com
Vice-President:	Peter Yaworski	(450:656-7722)	yaworskijp@sympatico.ca
Secretary:	Ken Robertson	(450:649-0503)	ken.Robertson@videotron.ca
Treasurer:	Ardele Warr	(450: 653-5157)	ardelewarr@aol.com
Past-President:	Bob Tomkinson	(450: 658-7281)	tomkyr@sympatico.ca

The acceptance and resignation to climate change is a fact to which we have to learn to adapt, and therefore, we have to dress accordingly so as to keep warm, be cheerful and enjoy the wonders of the winter wonderland which is characteristic of our home and native land-Canada.
So go out and enjoy the winter season.

Dr. Ivan D. Harding
President of the South Shore Chapter of QART

ARE TEACHERS PAID TOO MUCH?

Are You Sick Of High Paid Teachers?

Are you sick of high paid teachers? Teachers' hefty salaries are driving up taxes, and they only work 9 or 10 months a year! It's time we put things in perspective and pay them for what they do - baby sit! We can get that for less than minimum wage.

That's right. Let's give them \$3.00 an hour and only the hours they worked; not any of that silly planning time, or any time they spend before or after school. That would be \$19.50 a day (7:45 to 3:00 PM

with 45 min. off for lunch and plan — that equals 6 1/2 hours).

Each parent should pay \$19.50 a day for these teachers to baby-sit their children.

Now how many do they teach in day...maybe 30? So that's $\$19.50 \times 30 = \585.00 a day. However, remember they only work 180 days a year!!! I am not going to pay them for any vacations.

LET'S SEE.... That's $\$585 \times 180 = \$105,300$ per year. (Hold on! My calculator needs new batteries).

What about those special education teachers and the ones with Master's degrees? Well, we could pay them minimum wage (\$7.75), and just to be fair, round it off to \$8.00 an hour. That would be $\$8 \times 6 \frac{1}{2}$ hours $\times 30$ children

$\times 180$ days = \$280,800 per year.

Wait a minute — there's something wrong here! There sure is!

The average teacher's salary (nation wide) is \$50,000. $\$50,000/180$ days = \$277.77/per day/30

students= $\$9.25/6.5$ hours = \$1.42 per hour per student—a very inexpensive baby-sitter and they even EDUCATE your

kids!)

WHAT A DEAL!!!!

I wish I wrote this but I didn't. This was sent to me by one of the teachers in my school. It sure does put things into perspective...What you guys think?

Disclaimer I'm a teacher.

The above was an email sent to the editor.