

**Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network
Board of Directors Meeting
20 January 2007**

Best Western Hotel, Peel Street, Montreal

Directors present: Rod MacLeod, president; Kevin O'Donnell, vice-president; Richard Evans, treasurer; Heather Darch, secretary; Sandra Stock; Ann MacLeish; William Campbell; Richard Smith; Doreen Lindsay

Staff present: Dwane Wilkin, executive director; Carolyn Shaffer, coordinator, Montreal Heritage Outreach project

Regrets: Monique Nadeau, Patrick Donovan

1. Call to order

Rod MacLeod, president of QAHN, called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Dwane congratulated Heather Darch and the Missisquoi Historical and Museum Society (MHMS) for successfully promoting *Quebec Heritage News* magazine in its own newsletter. Dwane presented Heather with a cheque made out to the MHMS in the amount of \$35, representing a commission of \$5 for every subscription to *Quebec Heritage News* taken out as a result of the historical society's promotional initiative.

Sandra Stock spoke a few words about an upcoming musical fundraiser being planned by the St. Columban Irish and invited those present to publicise the event through their own networks. Proceeds shall go towards the upkeep of the St. Columban heritage cemetery in the Lower Laurentians. Heather mentioned that the Missisquoi Museum is featuring a special exhibit of never-before-seen historical documents to mark Black History Month. The Ruiters ledgers constitute a rare documentary record of the early presence of black settlers in the Eastern Townships.

2. Acceptance of the agenda

It was requested that the topic of Operations and Governance be added to the agenda under Business Arising. Rick Smith then moved to accept the current meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Heather Darch. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

3. Acceptance of the minutes of September 9, 2006

It was moved by Kevin and seconded by Sandra that the minutes from the September 9, 2006 board meeting also be accepted. All voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

4. Business arising from the Minutes

4.1 Board succession

Dwane recalled QAHN's resolution passed June 3, 2006 concerning board-succession planning, and reminded directors of their obligation to implement this resolution under the terms of the 2006-07 contribution agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage. The nominating procedure requires that directors discuss the names of qualified individuals who might be interested in presenting themselves as candidates for future election to the Network's governing board; and that potential successors are identified at least four months prior to the date of an annual general meeting, in the case of board members who intend to vacate their seats.

Discussion ensued around the table as to which current board members intend to stand for re-election. Rod proposed reverting to QAHN's original custom of pairing odd-number seats with odd-number election years, whereby each director is elected to a two-year term of office and annual elections held for alternating sets of seats.

Sandra and Heather alone reported that they have implemented the nominating procedures outlined in QAHN's 2006 board-succession planning resolution. However, it was generally acknowledged that financial limitations inherent in QAHN's programming funding continue to prevent other members from supporting the nominations procedures, especially in the area of constituency development. Kevin voiced concern over the geographic size of his constituency.

Dick urged the Core members to consider promoting QAHN by organizing meetings and presentations for representatives from other groups who may be interested in joining. Sandra noted that every region is different from another regions and "you have to work with what you have."

4.2 Operations Review

Dwane briefly reviewed another governance-related commitment that QAHN has yet to fulfill during the 2006-07 fiscal year: following up on the strategic recommendations of QAHN's 2006 Operations Review. In light of the several recommendations to grow out of this process, it was suggested that another Operations Review Committee be struck to evaluate QAHN's performance in addressing them. Heather, Rick, Kevin and Dick agreed to sit on this committee. Dwane suggested that committee members begin by reviewing the eight (8) recommendations contained in the 2006 Operations Review document.

Kevin mentioned that CEDECs and the Community Table offer an existing organizational structure that QAHN should explore as a potential strategic ally.

5. Finances

5.1 *Current Status*

Dick Evans presented and reviewed current statements of QAHN's general operating income and expenses. The financial statements are for the period ending 31 December 2006, heading into the last quarter of the 2006-07 fiscal year. Dick reported that current expenses are on track with budget projections.

5.2 *Critical path to April 2007*

Dick also reviewed QAHN's cash-flow forecast for January to May 2007, in light of the anticipated \$7,500 funding holdback. In developing this year's budget Dick noted that QAHN had planned in advance for this holdback and delays in new operations funding for the subsequent programming year. Consequently, although QAHN can expect no infusion of new cash until the anticipated springtime advance on its 2007-08 operational program budget from the Department of Canadian Heritage materializes, existing reserves will be sufficient to finance basic operations, including payroll, to the end of April.

"It's been clear for a long time," Dick remarked, "that we really need to double the funding we've got. We need to look at what things can we do, what ways we can we bring in corporate cash to our activities."

5.3 *Future funding*

Rod noted that for the first time since its founding in 2000, QAHN recently submitted a two-year, rather than a one-year, program funding application to the Department of Canadian Heritage [Program funding for 2007-08 and 2008-09]

Dick also mentioned that some years ago, QAHN was given indications that Quebec's *Ministère de la Culture et des Communications* (MCCQ) could find \$50,000 a year for QAHN. This has never happened, and likely never will unless the provincial government allocates significantly more money in its budget for MCCQ programs and services.

At this point, Rod introduced the concept of a Community Foundation, something that was discussed in a presentation in late 2006 by consultant Hugh Maynard during a meeting of the Quebec Community Groups Network. Kevin elaborated briefly on Community Foundations, saying that it started in Saskatchewan in the 1970s, and that it is an interesting way to fund a variety of community-based initiatives. Board members were invited to learn more about Community Foundations on the internet. Kevin agreed to explore the concept further and report back to directors at the next board meeting in the spring.

There was some discussion about how QAHN might benefit from affiliating itself with a charitable organization, in order to attract funding for specific projects or activities.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

6. Membership and Recruitment

6.1 Montreal Heritage Outreach Project

Carolyn Shaffer, coordinator of QAHN's Montreal Heritage Outreach Project, presented a mid-term status report on her progress attaining the following objectives:

- To generate knowledge about Montreal's multicultural history
- To establish contacts with heritage-minded groups and individuals among culturally diverse English-speaking communities in Montreal
- To plan and coordinate a major public history event in April, 2007

Carolyn reported that the project is going well, and that McCord Museum has agreed to collaborate directly on the event, to be called "Montreal Mosaic," both as a participant and as financial supporter. Museum director Victoria Dickinson is scheduled to give an opening address and McCord will make facilities and support staff available to QAHN for a fraction of the museum's usual fee, representing a donation value of approximately \$2,500. A number of potential speakers for the conference have already expressed their interest in participating. The McCord auditorium and atrium have been booked for Sunday, April 1st 2007, and all Montreal Mosaic participants will be entitled to free admission to the museum's current exhibit.

Carolyn noted that researching and preparing articles for *Quebec Heritage News* magazine has been a great way to introduce QAHN to English-speaking cultural community leaders in Montreal, and she reported that community groups have generally responded very favourably to the interest QAHN is showing in their stories.

"It just keeps snowballing," Carolyn said. "The more I write articles, the more I find out about people who would be willing to participate and to write about." And she urged QAHN to explore ways to distribute *Quebec Heritage News* magazine within community groups and institutions, noting that her interview subjects frequently ask, "Who is going to read it?"

Kevin suggested that QAHN approach the Quebec Library Association about placing *Quebec Heritage News* in community libraries. This prompted Rod to wonder aloud if the Westmount Library might be interested in becoming a member of QAHN.

There was some discussion around the fact that the original project proposal called for an event staged for 300 participants, and that the McCord venue would mean scaling back attendance to 100 people or so, but there was general consensus among the board that securing McCord's involvement in the project was a considerable achievement in itself, though it would entail a more targeted marketing effort, rather than mass public advertising.

Carolyn reported that she had received several good suggestions for the event from Montreal historian and author Dorothy Williams, a specialist in Quebec's English-speaking black history, and that she is planning to meet with representatives from Kahnawake to find potential speakers to talk about Mohawk history. Bill related that he had a Kahnawake contact named Milt Jacobs, whom he believed would make a fine speaker. Carolyn said she is planning to approach the Greek, Italian and Chinese communities.

Kevin asked what the precise focus of the event was going to be. Dick said that his personal hope is that the groups who show up will go away with an understanding of the importance of networking. Sandra cautioned against filling the day with too many speakers and activities, noting that it's important to allow enough "free time" to facilitate networking. Sandra suggested that Rod deliver the opening address and Doreen reminded everyone of the importance of having a moderator.

Kevin noted that a Carleton University professor has recreated a three-dimensional virtual tour of Montreal's famous Main on the Internet, and he suggested that QAHN invite him to participate in Montreal Mosaic.

Ann MacLeish noted that "multicultural" and "anglophone" mean two different things and sought clarification as to whether the Montreal Mosaic event was going to be mainly about anglophone heritage or about multiculturalism. Rod responded that QAHN is interested in gauging whether or not and to what extent cultural communities identify as being part of Quebec anglophone society.

Doreen paraphrased author Sherry Simon as saying that nowadays Montreal is no longer bilingual, but a trilingual and multilingual city.

Montreal Mosaic Publicity

Dick stressed that efforts should be made to publicise the event as soon as possible, and he suggested that Carolyn approach Montreal Gazette reporter Hubert Bauch to write an advance article on the Montreal Mosaic event. Dick also said that it's time now to start thinking about how QAHN is going to document the event itself. He suggested that a portion of the project publicity budget be spent printing up 200 or so notepads—or some other small takeaway gift, bearing the QAHN logo and contact information.

Rick asked that the Montreal Committee be kept informed regularly as the planning moves ahead.

6.2 2007 Annual General Meeting & Marion Phelps Award Luncheon

The board of directors expressed their desire to hold QAHN's 2007 AGM and awards ceremony in Centennial Theatre at MacDonald College, preferably on Saturday, June 9. It was further proposed that a guest speaker be invited to address QAHN members during

or after the luncheon, and that the AGM could be combined with a visit to the nearby airplane barn and/or the campus arboretum.

7. Project proposals status

7.1 Heritage Webmagazines

Rod briefly reviewed the status of QAHN's Quebec Heritage Webmagazine programme. Dwane reported that the Committee for Anglophone Social Action (CASA) in the Gaspé has submitted a project application to Canadian Heritage to create a Gaspé webmagazine modeled after QAHN's existing webmagazines in the Townships, the Laurentians and West Quebec (Outaouais).

Rick and Kevin both suggested that Heritage Web editor Matthew Farfan be invited to display QAHN's heritage webmagazine programme during the Montreal Mosaic heritage summit. Directors mused that perhaps participants could bring in old photos and stories, and Matthew could build a "mock" community heritage webmagazine right on site.

7.2 Cemetery Heritage Inventory and Restoration Initiative

Rod reported on QAHN's funding application for a Cemetery Heritage Inventory and Restoration Initiative (CHIRI).

8. Issues

8.1 QAHN Staff

As per the QAHN board's recommendations of September 2006 Rod MacLeod led an informal staff-performance review, based on a document he had circulated to fellow board members prior to the meeting. The document contains Rod's informal assessment of the staffing situation, observations and comments which were then summarized and reiterated by Dick Evans. Dick expressed his view that QAHN's full-time staffers Dwane Wilkin and Kathy Teasdale continue to perform their duties very well, but also reiterated that they remain unsatisfied with their rates of pay.

Given QAHN's current financial constraints, Dick wondered if Dwane might explore the possibility of sharing secretarial resources with another community group in the Margeurite Knapp building, and thereby free up some case to increase salaries.

Discussion centred on the previously reported problems concerning the production of the magazine and, in particular, the unsatisfactory performance of QHN's editor Charles Bury. Dwane reported that after consultations with Rod, he decided in December that it would be in the best interests of QAHN and the magazine to terminate Charlie's contract. Rod related that he had received a letter from Charlie after discussions with Dwane on December 18, 2006 in which Charlie outlined his view of the challenges that have arisen

since QHN underwent a redesign in the summer of 2006. Sandra Stock noted that, for all intents and purposes, Dwane had become the editor of Quebec Heritage News.

Heather Darch moved to accept Dwane's recommendation to dismiss Charles Bury as editor of Quebec Heritage News, with the understanding that QAHN president Rod MacLeod would seek legal advice from Ralph Farley as to the appropriate action required to formally terminate his contract. The motion was seconded by Ann MacLeish. All voted in favour by a show of hands.

MOTION PASSED

8.2 QAHN's public image

Rod mentioned that he is beginning to worry that the word "anglophone" is becoming a liability for the future health of the organization, and asked other board members for their comments. Rick Smith said he would like to reflect on the question and bring it up at the next meeting. Others concurred. It was also felt that it was too late in the day to begin a discussion around QAHN's policy on external communications. Therefore, it was agreed to table the following two items for discussion at the next board meeting:

1. External communications
2. Corporate name

9. Varia

It was reported that Townshippers' Association has invited QAHN to nominate candidates to serve on their board of directors. The Quebec government's health and social services committee has also requested QAHN to submit the names of candidates who would be willing and able to serve on a special advisory committee for English-speakers.

Rick Smith asked if QAHN would consider reviving its relationship with the Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec (FSHQ), noting that it has been a number of years since QAHN and the FSHQ have collaborated on any sort of event or other initiative. Rick suggested that there are at least two areas in which QAHN should consider working more closely with the FSHQ:

1. Joint conferences
2. The FSHQ's heritage committee

Next meeting and adjournment

A tentative date for the next board meeting was set for April 28, 2007. Rod MacLeod adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.