



QUEBEC  
ANGLOPHONE  
HERITAGE  
NETWORK

# ANNUAL REPORT

June 2005

CANADIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM  
SAINT-CONSTANT, QUEBEC



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><u>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JUNE 4, 2005</u></b>	<b>2</b>
AGENDA	2
NOTICES IN WRITING	2
VOTING RIGHTS	2
NOMINATIONS	2
<b><u>MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JUNE 19, 2004</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>PRESIDENT’S REPORT</u></b>	<b>5</b>
<b><u>DIRECTORS REPORTS</u></b>	<b>9</b>
WESTERN QUEBEC	9
EASTERN TOWNSHIPS	10
GULF OF ST. LAWRENCE	10
<b><u>QUEBEC HERITAGE WEBMAGAZINE REPORT</u></b>	<b>13</b>
<b><u>HERITAGE TRAILS PROJECT REPORT</u></b>	<b>15</b>
<b><u>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT</u></b>	<b>18</b>
<b><u>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004-2005</u></b>	<b>22</b>

---

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 4, 2005**

The Annual General Meeting of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network will place Saturday June 4, 2005 at 10 a.m. in Saint-Constant Room #2 at the Canadian Railway Museum in Saint-Constant, Quebec.

### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Acceptance of the Minutes of June 19th, 2004
4. Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005
5. Appointment of an auditor
6. Reports
  - a. Heritage at Risk
  - b. Quebec Heritage News
  - c. Quebec Heritage WebMagazine
  - d. Oral History
7. President's Report
8. Resolutions
9. Other Business
10. Election of Directors
11. Report of Election of Officers as chosen by the Board
12. Presentation of the Marion Phelps Award
13. Adjournment

### **Notice in writing**

Please note that any proposals for resolutions or business to be brought before the general meeting must be presented in writing in advance and not later than 9:00 am on the day of the meeting. This would include items for discussion, amendments to the by-laws, resolutions and nominations for election. Within the meeting, only amendments of clarification to wording of previously submitted written proposals will be considered.

### **Voting rights**

Voting delegates are described in the Charter and By-Laws. Formal voting will be restricted to delegates of Core member groups in good standing for 2005/06 as of the opening of the meeting.

### **Nominations**

The following seats are up for election for a two-year term 2005/06:

Seat 1	West and Northwest Quebec
Seat 3	Eastern Townships
Seat 5	Central and Eastern Quebec
Seat 7	Education sector
Seat 9	At Large
Seat 11	At large

---

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 19, 2004**

1. **Call to order**  
The President called the meeting to order at 10:25 am.
2. **Approval of the agenda**  
Ruth Evans (Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society) moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Patrice Lambert MacLeod (Clan MacLeod). Carried unanimously.
3. **Acceptance of the minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting**  
Elaine Evans (Uplands) moved the approval of the 2003 AGM minutes, seconded by Michael Price (Price Patterson). Carried unanimously.
4. **Financial Statements**  
Due to the absence of the Treasurer, the President presented the audited financial statements. Board member Philip McMaster suggested a column showing percentages in the financial statements. There were no further comments. Dick Evans (Heritage Huntingville) moved the acceptance of the financial statements, seconded by Michael Price (Price Patterson). Carried unanimously.
5. **Appointment of an auditor**  
Sylvain Bouchard is our current auditor. He is very helpful and understands the requirements Canadian Heritage demands. For these reasons, Dick Evans (Heritage Huntingville) moved the approval of Sylvain Bouchard as auditor, seconded by Heather Darch (Missisquoi Museum). Carried.
6. **2004 Needs Assessment Report:** Susan Grundy presented the recommendations of the report.
7. **Oral History Report:** Ronald Ratcliffe presented the Oral History CD-ROM and called on the QAHN membership to understand that this project is moving beyond history into education. The quality of the interviews done by the youth is not sufficient, but the quality of the educational experience is enormous.  
"Youth today are interested in heritage – not history."
8. **Quebec Heritage WebMagazine:** Matthew Farfan used the newly acquired Townships Heritage WebMagazine to illustrate the key concepts behind the Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine, before unveiling the look of the latter. The WebMagazine should be launched on or around August 20.
9. **President's Report**  
The President called attention to his report in the QAHN Annual Report, focusing on the Recognition and Acknowledgements sections.
10. **Resolutions**  
Be it resolved that the by-laws be modified so that the immediate Past-President continues to serve on the Executive Committee until he is replaced. Moved by Michael Price (Price Patterson), seconded by Sandra Stock (Morin Heights Historical Association). The motion was carried unanimously.

- 
11. **Other Business**  
Our President presented his new book published by McGill Queen’s University Press “A Meeting of the People: (insert correct text here) 1801-1988”
12. **Election of Directors**  
Michael Cooper, Chairman of Elections, resumed the meeting by presenting three new Board members to the group: Doreen Lindsay, William Campbell and Rick Smith. The following line-up was presented and approved unanimously:
- Seat #2: Montérégie, Georges Howson nominated by the Châteauguay Valley Historical Society
  - Seat #4: Montreal, Doreen Lindsay nominated by the Westmount Historical Association
  - Seat #6: Gulf of St-Lawrence, Monique P. Nadeau nominated by the Bonaventure Women’s Institute
  - Seat #8: Cultural, William Campbell nominated by the Quebec Thistle Council
  - Seat #10: At Large, Dick Evans nominated by Rod MacLeod
  - Seat #11: At Large, Philip McMaster nominated by Rod MacLeod
  - Seat #12: At Large, Rick Smith nominated by Rod MacLeod
13. **Report of Election of Officers**  
The Report of Officers chosen by the Board was deferred to an upcoming Conference Call meeting of the Board due to time constraints.
14. **Adjournment**  
The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

---

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I report on a year that has been significantly less interesting, in the manner of Chinese curses, than 2003-04. QAHN is in better shape financially, though hardly comfortable, and the staff continues to improve the administration of services.

Though the office saw another change of hands, this time I am delighted to note that it has been a much smoother one than in 2003. Valérie Bridger, QAHN's executive director, who returned from maternity leave at the beginning of the fiscal year 2004, proved true to her stated game plan and lined up baby No. 2 in time for his arrival in February 2005. Colin emerged on schedule and intends to keep Valérie busy until next January, at which point we very much hope to welcome her back. (I am trying not to remember what I think I know about the next phase of that game plan...)

In the meantime, QAHN is being successfully managed by Dwane Wilkin, creator of QAHN's Heritage Trails, contributor to the *Quebec Heritage News* and QAHN websites, and marketer of the Trails and other publications. Dwane brings an awareness of the media and savvy regarding the promotion of QAHN's public image. The Network is also very fortunate to have Kathy Teasdale as executive secretary in the office, thanks to a government-sponsored retraining program. If Kathy needed retraining, it didn't show. From her arrival last summer she very efficiently reorganized and updated QAHN's membership lists, forging new members for us in the process, and has managed all aspects of QAHN's communications with great skill and conviviality. It is a testimony to the hard work and dedication of this pair that QAHN continued to thrive during the last quarter of 2004-05, and has done so since, despite the virtual disappearance of the QAHN president for long periods. For personal reasons, as many of you know, this has been a very difficult winter and spring for me, and I have been particularly grateful for the efficiency of the QAHN staff and for the good wishes so many of you have sent me.

### Finances

Our Treasurer, Executive Director, and Assistant Treasurer / Bookkeeper have kept QAHN afloat fiscally throughout the inevitable periods of dollar stretching and creative financial management. We kept within budget, although this meant we could only afford to have our executive director working three days a week. Since the summer, and at no cost to QAHN, the executive secretary has kept the office open five days a week. Clearly such arrangements are inadequate to the most efficient functioning of a communications centre, and it remains our objective to have an accessible office staffed with full-time, reasonably well-paid employees. As it stands, QAHN can never express often enough its appreciation for the loyalty and good cheer of its staff.

I wish I could report that the federal Department of Canadian Heritage, our principal source of funding, has brought the long negotiations over the 5-year Canada-Community Agreement to its expected conclusion, but community groups are still up in the air, thanks to ongoing political uncertainty. On the expectation of additional funds available for the minority language communities, QAHN put in a more ambitious program funding application for 2005/06. To date, however, there has been no word as to whether we shall receive our requested amount or continue to work at the level of funding allotted in previous years. The Quebec Community Groups Network, of which QAHN is a member, has been working very diligently all year to fine-tune the Agreement, which ought to have come into effect April 1. It is certainly an uphill battle to ensure that the interests of anglophones in Quebec are taken seriously in Ottawa!

---

We have been fortunate this year in receiving a grant of \$15,000 from Quebec's *Ministère de la culture et communications*, a body that has been unable to allot us funds in the past. We were encouraged to apply again for a similar amount, have done so, and expect to hear from them soon.

Phase II of QAHN's WebMagazine project was completed thanks to the IPOLC agreement (Interdepartmental Program for Official Language Communities) signed some years back. This agreement constitutes a funding partnership between the departments of Canadian Heritage (PCH) and Economic Development (DEC) on the grounds that heritage preservation can and should be a vehicle for community economic development. Our WebMagazine now covers the Eastern Townships and the Laurentians, and we are beginning work on a third region, the Outaouais region in western Quebec. Unfortunately, DEC has indicated that it does not wish to continue funding the project, which could be interpreted as an unwillingness to adhere to the spirit of the IPOLC agreement. QAHN is in the process of protesting this decision and is exploring other ways to continue funding this crucial project. If you haven't already done so, please have a look at these regional WebMagazines by visiting [www.quebecheritageweb.com](http://www.quebecheritageweb.com).

### **Recognition**

QAHN's revamped website, the Quebec Heritage WebMagazine, and of course, *Quebec Heritage News*, have done much to advance public awareness of QAHN and its activities. QAHN has been an active participant in Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) meetings and has attended such community events as Townshippers' Day. Our collaboration with the *Fédération des sociétés d'histoire de Québec* (FSHQ) at last autumn's bilingual colloquium on French and English perspectives in Quebec history, "Two Solitudes: Myths and Realities," garnered QAHN recognition among the francophone heritage community as well as the academic world.

In April 2004 I joined the steering committee of the federal-government sponsored Global Development Plan, since renamed the Community Development Plan (CDP), as the chair of the committee's Task Force on Heritage. Most of the preliminary work in this regard had already been accomplished by my predecessor, the late Ed Laberee, and so our main activity was planning and organizing the town hall meetings that occurred across Quebec throughout the fall of 2004. Led by consultants Susan Grundy and Hugh Maynard, these meetings enabled people from a cross-section of Quebec society to respond to the blueprint for community groups created by various earlier task forces. On the whole, attendance was good, and the reactions surprisingly consistent. The final version of the CDP was recently ratified by the QCGN, and may be viewed on the Internet at [www.englishspeakingquebec.ca/heritage.html](http://www.englishspeakingquebec.ca/heritage.html).

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network maintained a heritage presence at the National Co-ordination Committee of PCH and the minority language community; meetings took place in Ottawa in June and November. In October 2004 I was invited to the Interministerial Consultations with the minority language communities, held at the House of Commons in Ottawa. While this was not generally considered a useful event (too many speakers, little actual consultation), I believe it can do QAHN no harm to become a familiar face around the Privy Council.

Also in October, I attended a "deliberative dialogue" hosted by the new Director General of Canadian Heritage, Hubert Lussier. The goal of this meeting was to evaluate the delivery of government services to community organizations. Community groups made it clear to M. Lussier that what we need is a greater degree of control over sufficient funds to carry out our functions.

Over the winter of 2004/05 QAHN began to introduce changes to the appearance of *Quebec Heritage News*. This process has two objectives: first, to make the publication a more

---

attractive vehicle for heritage issues within Quebec and beyond; and second, to make the publication eligible for financial assistance from the Canada Magazine Fund. With support from the magazine fund, QAHN would be in a better position to produce the News more efficiently and to strengthen and diversify editorial content. The March 2005 issue of the QHN, with its larger cover picture and bolder headings, represents a step in this direction.

### **Events**

The QAHN annual general meeting was held on June 19th, 2004 at the McCord Museum, Montreal. We met in the J. Armand Bombardier theatre, which lent itself nicely to conducting business and to enjoying audio-visual presentations on the Oral History Project and the WebMagazine. The Marion Phelps Award was presented to Kenneth Annett of Quebec City for his lifelong contribution to education in the province of Quebec, and especially for his scholarly work on the history of the Gaspé peninsula; the award was accepted on his behalf by his son, Richard. Instead of a guest speaker at the banquet we were treated to a guided tour of the museum's exhibition on the Scots in Canada, "Dyed-in-the-wool Montrealers."

On August 25, 2004 QAHN launched *Laurentians Heritage WebMagazine* at a ceremony, followed by a reception, held at the Morin Heights town hall. There was good local turnout, including members of the press. Since the launch, the Laurentians webmagazine has received considerable praise from heritage webservers.

QAHN co-organized a fall workshop in collaboration with the FSHQ, held at College Maisonneuve in Montreal on October 16th, 2004. The theme was to examine some of Quebec's key historical events (the rebellions of the 1830s, responsible government and confederation) from French and English perspectives. Academics spoke and the rest of us discussed. The "English" side was represented by Bruce Curtis of Carleton University, an expert on government in the 1830s, and Elspeth Heaman of McGill University, who has written on fairs and exhibitions in the 19th century. The event was entirely bilingual, in that people used French or English as they pleased; questions asked in one language might be answered in the other, and vice versa. Together we proved that the concept of the "Two Solitudes" is no longer valid.

Several QAHN members took part in a conference to discuss the idea of creating a special research institute devoted to the study of Quebec anglophones. The conference was sponsored by the Quebec Community Groups Network and held at the Université de Québec à Montréal on February 25-26. Speakers included several with QAHN connections: Mary Anne Poutanen, who spoke at the Historians @ Work event in May 2003; Graeme Decarie, QAHN's guest speaker at the 2001 conference in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue; and Lorraine O'Donnell, who guided many of us around Morrin College during the Quebec City Heritage blitz of September 2003. The conference concluded with a decision to create a secretariat that will co-ordinate research into Quebec's anglophone community.

### **Organizational Development**

In May 2004 QAHN's Needs Assessment survey was concluded by a one-day strategic planning session in Lennoxville, chaired by Susan Grundy. Together we put together a strategic plan for the next few years of QAHN's existence, based on the findings of the survey of members. In the course of this discussion QAHN's mission statement was up for consideration, and a subcommittee was struck to recast these defining words in time for the June 2004 AGM.

### **Acknowledgements**

It is a great pleasure to be acknowledged as the face of QAHN at community events, government meetings, webmagazine launches and other social events, but the truth is that a great number of people do most of the hard work keeping the organization going. The QAHN family grows

---

larger all the time, but unlike some families it is a well-oiled mechanism, every part of which works with impressive dedication and efficiency. Naturally, the lion's share of the burden was supported by the capable shoulders of our executive director, Valerie Bridger, an accomplishment all the more admirable when you consider that for much of the year she wasn't permitted to lift anything heavy. Dwane Wilkin has certainly picked up this load with a great deal of enthusiasm and imagination, and I look forward to working with him during the rest of 2005. Kathy Teasdale, our executive secretary, has been a veritable blessing; without her we would now be an infinitely less coherent network. To Matthew Farfan goes the credit for having created a stunning webmagazine which will continue to put QAHN on the map. Charlie Bury has done some innovative work on the *Heritage News*; I am certainly grateful to him for much good publicity for my book on Protestant schooling. No QAHN employee is paid as much as they deserve, but Ron Ratcliffe, our Oral History Co-ordinator, has virtually created for himself a new category of volunteer staff. Despite his ongoing efforts to integrate oral history in the classroom, QAHN has been unable to secure additional funding for this project. We hope Ron will not be too weak from hunger when we find ourselves able to give Oral History the backing it deserves.

All the people I have come to know via the QCGN have made this year particularly satisfying. I have also enjoyed working with various members of the FSHQ, despite the difficulties rounding up speakers for the fall workshop. Getting to know members of local historical societies is always a delight as well as an education. Helen Meredith, and more recently Tarek Toni, at the Montreal office of the Department of Canadian Heritage, continue to expertly help us through the often tedious task of applying for funding.

I have enjoyed working with this year's board, sorry only that we were not able to meet in person more often. Michael Cooper, Georges Howson, Monique Nadeau, Ralph Farley, Philip McMaster, and Dick Evans have become valued colleagues and good company, and I have enjoyed getting to know new board members Doreen Lindsay, Bill Campbell, and Rick Smith; Heather Darch, a longtime QAHN ally, hardly qualifies as a new face, but she is certainly a welcome member of the board. You are a bunch of people with a lot of ideas and enthusiasm. Let's keep up the good work!

Rod McLeod, Montreal West, June 2005

---

## DIRECTORS REPORTS

### Western Quebec

There has been a steady stream of heritage-related activities throughout the year in the region west of Montreal. In August we launched the latest QAHN Internet venture, *Laurentians Heritage Webmagazine*, an impressive presentation very ably collected and assembled by Sandra Stock and Matthew Farfan. They both deserve congratulations.

Discussions with the Regional Association of West Quebecers (RAWQ) led to a proposal for a similar project in the Outaouais region, and in May of this year QAHN learned that our project has been recommended for funding approval by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

On October 16, 2004, I had the pleasure of moderating an academic conference jointly sponsored by QAHN and the *Fédération des sociétés d'histoire*, entitled Two Solitudes – Myth or Reality? The day-long conference held at the Université du Québec à Montréal, featured many thoughtful presentations by English- and French-speaking scholars on the causes and repercussions of the 1837-38 Rebellions.

In November, I represented QAHN at the semi-annual meeting of the joint Canadian Heritage and Quebec Anglophone Community coordination committee, made up of 30 representatives of English-speaking community groups and officials with the federal Department of Canadian Heritage. Discussions centred around recently released demographic statistics and survey results that offer a portrait of the attitudes and values of Quebec's anglophone youth. These studies provided much grist for topical discussions on current needs and potential directions for policy makers both at governmental and non-governmental levels.

In the Gatineau Valley, I am pleased to report that recent municipal council decisions in the communities of Chelsea and Wakefield have moved public interest in heritage to a higher level. There has been much talk, for instance, about the need to recognize and create an inventory of local historic sites. A timely application of this increased heritage interest developed in Wakefield with the arrival of our first condominium development.

The community's oldest frame house (circa 1860s), built by pioneer settler William Fairburn, best known as builder of Wakefield's historic grist mill, was apparently declared "surplus" to site requirements and threatened with demolition by the condominium's developer. However, the Gatineau Valley Historical Society was able to successfully lobby the La Pêche municipal council to accept the house as a donation and move it from the proposed condominium site, to a small park adjoining Wakefield's covered bridge. Once moved and installed, the Historical Society plans to convert the old Fairburn House into a small regional summer museum.

Michael Cooper, Wakefield

---

## Eastern Townships

This year has again been an eventful one for the historical societies of the Eastern Townships. Under the umbrella of *La Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec* (FSHQ) the Eastern Townships historical societies met three times in the year and networked through the resources of both the FSHQ and the *Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network* (QAHN).

The historical societies took several stands this year concerning threatened toponomy in the Eastern Townships. A letter was sent to the City of Sherbrooke regarding a missing sign, which used to mark the history of Sherbrooke's founder and surveyor of the region, Gilbert Hyatt. The sign had been removed from the location marking Hyatt's Mills. The letter requested information on the location of the sign and its possible replacement. The director of "*Culture et bibliothèque*" of Sherbrooke informed the historical societies that the sign was given to the Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke after a request from the Abenaki community that it be removed. The term "savage" on the plaque was understandably offensive to this community. Two new historic information panels have been installed near the local power station.

A second letter was sent to the municipality of Ascott concerning fallen signs in the municipality that bore the names of early settlers. There was no response to this attempt to have them replaced. A third case that caused a great deal of consternation in the Townships was the removal of the name Gilbert Hyatt from a section of Route 143 known as the Gilbert Hyatt Highway. The municipality of Waterville was respectfully asked to reinstate the designation of "Gilbert-Hyatt" highway to the small section of road, alongside its numerical designation. The historical societies in partnership with QAHN encouraged the town of Waterville to uphold the unique cultural heritage and harmony of this region and avoid the widespread practice of deleting or "Frenchifying" names of places and institutions founded by English speakers. This has the unfortunate affect of rendering the Quebec's English-speaking history and communities all but invisible. The fate of the highway has not yet been determined.

All of the historical societies were busy with their own projects. The *Richmond County Historical Society* for example received funding from *Hydro Quebec*, which enabled them to raise the museum foundation out of the flood plain, replace the roof, restore the veranda and improve the museum's electrical wiring. The good fortune of this organization was celebrated by all of the societies. Similarly, the *Compton County Historical Museum Society* has been undergoing major renovations to the museum building throughout the past year.

The *Missisquoi Historical Society* received a grant from the *Historica Foundation of Canada* to manage an oral history project with some of the early families in the region. They also received confirmation that the 12-sided Walbridge Barn was designated a provincial heritage site by *Le Ministère de la Culture et des Communications* (MCC).

*Heritage Huntingville* held several concerts in their wonderful Universalist Church including concerts by Juno award winner David Francey and a Christmas Candlelight concert with the Montreal Welsh Male Choir. The *Georgeville Historical Society* owns and maintains the Bigelow Pioneer Garden. The garden contains heritage plants and flowers from the region. The popular annual plant sale helped to support this interesting project. The *Little Forks Branch of the UEL* held a BBQ Méchoui with a silent auction at the Hyatt Schoolhouse. Special guest appearance from hockey great Bobby Hull facilitated in raising much needed funding.

The *Stanstead Historical Society* participated in a television show called "Past Lives" that featured a murder committed in 1941. They also held a lecture with filmmaker Louise Abbott on October 23, 2004 concerning round barns. The *Brome County Historical Society* maintained a dynamic schedule of antique shows, exhibitions and a lecture series presented by Dr. Jimmy

---

Manson. The *Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society* was successful in a number of activities including a “Corn beef & Cabbage” dinner held in March, exhibitions on sheet music and fans, and a flourishing oral history programme.

The majority of the historical societies came together to celebrate Townshippers’ Day held on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2004 in Magog. Societies were able to sell their books and memberships, hand out brochures and talk with the community about their undertakings. Over 10,000 people attend this event each year and thus it was a positive experience for the societies.

Community meetings concerning the Community Development Plan created by the *Quebec Community Groups Network* (QCGN) were presented in October 2004. Many of the historical societies had followed the progress of this plan, specifically the recommendations concerning the heritage sector, and thus attended the community consultations to offer their impressions.

Individual members of historical societies also attended the FSHQ/QAHN Colloquium held at the Collège de Maisonneuve on October 16 2004. Entitled «Les deux solitudes: myths et réalités », historians presented their perspectives on the fascinating time periods of the Rebellions and Confederation.

Finally, the historical societies remembered Mr. Ed Laberee, colleague and founding member of QAHN. A book was presented to the *Compton County Historical Museum Society* in his memory. A Meeting of the People by QAHN President Rod McLeod was deemed an appropriate gift to remember Ed’s dedication to the preservation of Anglophone history in the Eastern Townships.

Heather Darch, Pike River, June 2005

### **Gulf of St. Lawrence**

This year again, personal reasons prevented me from leaving my home in the Gaspé and travelling to Montreal as often as I would have liked, to the point that I have yet to meet QAHN’s new staff member, Kathy Teasdale. But my husband is not a well man and I hate to leave him alone. Friends are friends, but a wife, well, a wife is is a wife. Anyway, I do try to make myself available for conference calls, and just because I don’t get to Montreal doesn’t mean that nothing is getting done at this end of the train line.

Slowly, people on the Gaspé coast are discovering the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network, as I endeavour to attend local gatherings, such as those organized by CASA, the Musée de la Gaspésie or the British Heritage Centre.

The first person to really become aware of QAHN was Normand Desjardins after getting help from the New Carlisle Historical Society to restore the Kempfer House. This house has now been moved to its new location and the second phase of restoration is on its way. I make a point of sending Normand copies of all QAHN communications that I feel may be of interest to him. Lately, I sent him a discussion paper on how QAHN might deal with endangered heritage and I was able to introduce him to the Cultural Spaces Program, via QAHN’s HeritageLine.

This past year I have been working on a very special anniversary project for the Town of Port-Daniel. The year 2005 marks our 150th Anniversary and the municipality plans to publish a commemorative book, which is scheduled to come out on July 3. My task has been to research the origins and history of the English-speaking pioneer families who settled here: families such as the Lawrences, Sullivans, MacDonalds, McPhersons, Sweetmans, Millars, Gillies, Beebes, and Dows.

---

The book will also examine the historical fallout of the wreck of the British merchant brig Colborne in October 1838, the history of local Protestant churches and a number of local English stories and poems. As a Catholic, I must say that my research into the history of Port-Daniel's anglophone families has taught me quite a bit about Quebec's Protestant heritage. And I am pleased to report that rugged Gaspé anglophones continue to make waves elsewhere in Canada. A case in point: Hazel McCallion, the tireless 84-year-old mayor of Mississauga, Ontario, who was born at Port-Daniel in the house across from mine.

Next year, I'm thinking of getting QAHN involved in a project to restore an old forge in Port-Daniel and a charming family general store along the coast that boasts its original interior décor, complete with wooden counters and an antique cash register. The store is still operated by the grandson of its first owner, Winston Sweetman.

As you see, even though I'm not physically present, I'm still around.

Monique Nadeau, Port-Daniel, June 2005

---

## QUEBEC HERITAGE WEBMAGAZINE REPORT

Hired by QAHN in mid-April 2004, I worked to get the Portal Project and its constituent regional webmagazines off the ground and concentrated last year on development of Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine, the first in a series of new websites that QAHN proposes to develop for each region of Quebec. Work initially consisted of developing contacts, writing and editing content, reprinting material from books and select websites and compiling information on local landmarks, historical figures and place names. With help from Sandra Stock of the Morin Heights Historical Society, we also compiled hundreds of photos and maps.

Working with Kezber, a web-development firm, we proceeded to work out a design for the website's visual appearance, featuring early photography from the region to give the site a distinctive "antique" look. As the person with a vision of what the final site would look like, it was my job to convey that vision to the programmers, who then constructed a site based on my instructions. All of this back and forth took up a lot of time. Added to this the constructive input from QAHN's advisory committee, it was a lengthy process to arrive at the finished product. But I must say that I was delighted with the results. And from what I hear, others were, as well.

The design of the main portal site, *Quebec Heritage Web*, was completed in July. Kezber also designed the logo for Heritage Web logo, which incorporates a well-known Quebec symbol – the purple iris. The site itself, like the Laurentian regional site, features a collage of historic photographs from around the province. The colour scheme reflects the colours (purple and green) found in the iris logo. The whole effect is quite eye-catching.

Summer being a busy tourist season, submissions and updates to the existing Townships Heritage WebMagazine (both the English and French versions) continued to roll in. These I kept up with, so that the site would remain as current as possible. My priority, however, was Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine, so I tried to minimize the time spent on Townships Heritage (spending at most 15-20% of my total work time on this site).

Uploading all the new material to Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine was no mean feat and, with our website launch date looming, I found myself constantly discovering glitches in the programming. The good thing, however, was that by constantly testing the site as the programmers were working on it, we were able to locate all of the major glitches in advance of the launch. Also, since the website is designed as a template or model that we can use for other regional webmagazines, there will be no new programming to be done, and fewer glitches to deal with. For any future sites we create, all we will have to do is choose the photos and colour scheme, design a logo, and of course, create content.

The official launch of *Quebec Heritage Web* and *Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine* took place in Morin Heights in the Laurentians on August 25 and was well attended by local heritage enthusiasts. It was also well organized, with invitations, publicity and catering handled from the Lennoxville office. Three newspapers were present and took pictures at the launch, and I was interviewed by CBC Radio the next day. Judging by the positive feedback both at the launch and since, I think we can safely say we have succeeded both with the creation of our new portal and the first of our regional sites. Both sites are easy to navigate, look great, and contain a wide range of interesting content.

---

Although funding from the federal Department of Economic Development for the second phase of the Quebec Heritage Web project came to an end in mid-November 2004, QAHN has been able to allocate a small portion of its operating budget since then toward the weekly maintenance of our existing Internet publications, *Townships Heritage WebMagazine* and *Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine*. Regrettably, this budgetary constraint has severely limited the time I can spend working on the project. For most of the past six months I was able to devote just 3 hours a week working on the existing webmagazines. Obviously, this has had a major impact on the amount of new editorial material I can generate.

I have endeavoured, nevertheless to keep QAHN's webmagazine sites as fresh as possible. Essentially, new editorial content has consisted of occasional news or feature articles and some new photography. Here are some of the highlights of my activities since November:

### **Quebec Heritage Web Portal**

I continue to regularly rotate photographs on the Quebec Heritage Web home page in order to keep the site looking fresh. Also, I have prepared all 20 of QAHN's Heritage Trails brochures for Internet publication, a very time-consuming task, since each Trails text has to be re-formatted manually. Whereas printed versions of the original brochures contain few graphics, I have supplied the Internet versions with new and/or reformatted photographs.

### **Laurentian Heritage WebMagazine**

In addition to rotating photographs on the home page, I have added two new photo galleries and a number of new articles written by myself and other contributors. I have also posted several articles re-printed with permission from other sources. Visitors to the site will also find a new quiz, new maps and updates to the calendar of events, as well as numerous other superficial changes.

### **Townships Heritage WebMagazine** (English version)

I write between one and two articles per week for the News and Events section of this site, and also post press releases from museums, historical sites, and other heritage organizations. Since November I have also added a new photo gallery (Lake Megantic) and kept the calendar of events feature up to date.

This site now hosts all five Heritage Trails texts pertaining to the Eastern Townships.

### **CyberMagazine Patrimoine des Cantons** (French version)

With no budget for translation, I have had to rely mainly on French press releases from museums, historical sites, and other organizations to keep this site fresh. I have also reprinted occasional articles on heritage topics from regional French newspapers.

I continue to send out a *Quebec Heritage Web* newsletter by email to more than 500 people. I also continue to monitor visitor feedback, respond to email, telephone, and media queries, which are quite frequent, and occasionally trouble-shoot when technical problems arise.

I routinely log more hours than I am paid for, but it doesn't bother me too much, because I know how well the public appreciates QAHN's websites. In April 2005 alone, the Townships Heritage website received 16,000 visitors; the Quebec Heritage Web had 1,200 visitors.

All things considered, I think we made the right decision not to abandon these websites last November when the funding ran out; even the minimal maintenance that I can provide with the current restricted budget is preventing us from losing a great many of regular readers. I would like to thank QAHN for continuing to support this innovative project. I think it's a great feather in QAHN's cap and a wonderful way to fulfill the organization's province-wide mandate.

Matthew Farfan, Stanstead, June 2005

---

## HERITAGE TRAILS PROJECT REPORT

The Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) added several new titles to its Heritage Trails pamphlet series during 2004 and set in motion a system for their distribution throughout Quebec's official visitor regions. An increase in the number of inquiries about products and services offered by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network were attributed in part to gains in publicity generated by distribution of our these pamphlets. By December 2004, the last four titles were added to the series, completing the set of 20 guides originally planned as part of QAHN's Heritage Portal Project, and electronic versions of the guides made their debut on the Quebec Heritage Web, *Quebecheritageweb.com*.

Published in both official languages, the Heritage Trails brochures feature compact accounts of English-speaking history in various regions of the province and descriptions of heritage sites. They are designed to appeal to a general audience and to serve as a basis for developing heritage-oriented tourism in the province.

Most brochure content grew out of material gathered during personal visits to each region of the province; local historians and heritage enthusiasts, many of whom are QAHN members, were consulted and in many cases kindly accepted to review preliminary versions of the texts. Background material was sometimes culled from existing reference volumes, including the excellent series of general regional histories published by the *Institut quebécois de recherche sur la culture* (IQRC).

In districts where QAHN has no members and where historical English-speaking communities have virtually disappeared in recent decades, my informants were very often francophones who generously offered suggestions and encouragement in the project.

In the summer of 2004, I accepted responsibility to develop and implement a distribution strategy for the Heritage Trails series. Work progressed during July and August, culminating in a mass mailing campaign that saw more than 10,000 brochures put into circulation across the regions of the province. Altogether, QAHN has printed approximately 100,000 copies of the Heritage Trails brochures since the start of the Heritage Portal project in 2002, so at the current level of demand, we should be able to offer our core members and distribution partners a steady supply of regional guides for many years to come.

Management of the Heritage Trails inventory follows these basic rules:

1. A computerized inventory of all Heritage Trail pamphlets in QAHN's possession has been established and is currently maintained by office-support staff on a weekly basis.
2. Individuals are limited to a single free brochure per request, but may receive the whole set at no extra charge by becoming a QAHN member for one year.
3. Orders for Heritage Trail pamphlets are recorded in our Trails distribution ledger and always include the following information:
  - Name and address of recipient
  - Quebec Travel Region Code
  - Telephone number and contact name
  - Title and quantity of each pamphlet ordered

- 
4. No more than 25 per cent (1,250) of the Heritage Trail pamphlets in a given title may be allotted to the region featured in that pamphlet during a single 12-month period.

The Trails distribution protocol I established limits non-members of QAHN to a single free brochure per request, while members are entitled to receive the whole set of 20 titles at no charge. This policy creates a tangible value-for-membership that didn't exist previously.

Heritage groups from the regions were by far our most important distribution partners last year. Many of these groups are also QAHN members who provided me with key advice and support in the development of content.

Since QAHN was under obligation to our principal sponsor, Economic Development Canada, to distribute certain Heritage Trails brochures to potential visitors from the United States, I asked the director of a major regional tourist association in southern Quebec to consider including our product in future direct-mail campaigns that target the New England market. I regret to report that Tourisme Cantons de l'Est, though impressed with the quality of the Heritage Trails brochures, has so far not taken us up on the offer.

Our brochure mailings garnered attention for the Heritage Trails project from at least three media outlets. The *West Quebec Post* newspaper ran a favourable article about the Lower Gatineau Heritage Trail in its August 13 edition. CBC Radio's Quebec Community Network carried a five-minute long item about the Heritage Trails brochures on its afternoon program, *Breakaway*, hosted by Madonna Hamel, which aired on August 17. In addition, I was interviewed by Montreal Gazette reporter Julian Armstrong for a disappointingly tiny article about the Heritage Trails brochures that appeared in mid-September.

The pamphlets have proved very popular overall, and their presence in dozens of communities around the province and at select tourist-information centres has contributed perceptibly to QAHN's public image. I intend to turn my full attention to another brochure-mailing campaign in the second half of my one-year term as interim executive director.

It should be mentioned that the cost of mailing Heritage Trails pamphlets is substantial and it prompted a general discussion about possible ways and means of recovering distribution expenses. This cost became prohibitive early in 2005 when QAHN learned that Economic Development Canada was withdrawing its support for the Heritage Portal Project, out of which development of the Heritage Trails series had been previously funded.

A new policy proposal that grew out of this discussion is reflected in rule No. 3 of our distribution protocol, which effectively allows QAHN to charge a fee for each future shipment of the complete Heritage Trails set. As of May 2005, distribution partners, including QAHN core members, will be asked to pay a modest shipping and handling fee for each bulk order.

While each Trail has proven quite popular in its corresponding region, it's certainly more difficult to assess the impact of these publications on tourism. For this reason, the Heritage Trails distribution inventory I established last summer allows for tracking the destination of each title according to its official Quebec visitor region code. A cursory review of the inventory shows some cross-regional distribution to date, which is at least some indication of the interest Quebec heritage enthusiasts have shown for exploring the history and culture of regions other than their own. Still, it must be said that this cross-regional distribution remains weak. For instance, of the 1,100 Upper Saguenay Heritage Trail pamphlets distributed so far, all but 174 copies have been sent to the Saguenay region itself.

---

The consulting firm, Fingers Communication, delivered a much-anticipated marketing report to QAHN in late November 2004. The report contains valid suggestions for positioning QAHN as a Canadian leader in the supply of information on English heritage in the province of Quebec. A few, I think, warrant repeating.

To begin with, the the report finds that QAHN should eschew any costly advertising spending and concentrate on using the Internet to publicize the Heritage Trails pamphlets. This is in line with the evidence, mentioned earlier, that the pamphlets and the Quebec Heritage Web magazine are already serving to increase QAHN's visibility among the general public.

The consultant who wrote the report, Jennifer Lumba, also suggested that QAHN diversify its products and services. Frankly, I couldn't agree more. English-speaking Quebecers are in a position to offer fellow Canadians and the rest of the English-speaking world a unique perspective on Quebec culture and heritage. As has been suggested elsewhere, QAHN should consider reviewing all of its membership services with a view to refining its existing communications products.

Dwane Wilkin, Lennoxville, June 2005

---

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

With no change in the level of funding QAHN received from the Department of Canadian Heritage in 2004/05, this office was challenged to meet higher performance expectations during the last fiscal year, while juggling day-to-day operations with project management duties. One consequence of this budgetary constraint was the decision to shorten the executive director's work week by 11 hours, effectively turning the position into a part-time job. On the bright side, much progress has been made in three key areas of QAHN's administration, and I am happy to report that these developments have placed the organization in a much better position to fulfill its mandate to promote anglophone heritage in Quebec.

### Membership Development

Membership files fell into disarray during the maternity-leave absence of QAHN's executive director Valérie Bridger in 2003-04. But in July 2004, thanks to a grant from Emploi-Québec, QAHN was able to hire a full-time secretary who, over the last nine months, has brought our records completely up to date. Kathy Teasdale came to QAHN from a background in sales, which she recently supplemented with training in office-management computer software. These skills, combined with the friendly and professional manner that she employs when dealing with members and prospective members, have proven a great asset for QAHN. Despite not getting our 2004-05 renewal notices out until late autumn, Kathy managed to collect dues from 106 individual, core and affiliate members. Even more encouraging, because we were able to begin our 2005-06 recruitment campaign in March 2005, it appears that paid memberships will be higher this coming year than ever before, in spite of the higher membership fees. As of June 2005, QAHN had brought in \$2,140 in dues for the current fiscal year, 2005-06.

In the fall of 2004 QAHN modified its annual membership fee schedule after an internal review of costs, in particular those associated with producing, mailing and distributing printed communications material. The higher fees (\$20 per year for individuals, instead of \$10; and \$30 per year for historical societies and affiliated organizations instead of \$15) have not measurably affected recruitment. In 2004-2005, QAHN registered eight new paid-up core members, five new individual members and two affiliate members.

One of the "selling points" we introduced in August 2004 to reward past members and attract newcomers, was to offer a complete set of our Heritage Trails brochure series with each membership registration. Although impossible to gauge, it is likely that this offer of a tangible, portable benefit will continue to have a positive impact on recruitment.

### Organisational Review

With financial help from Emploi-Quebec the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) retained the services of a business consultant who reviewed our operations and produced a *Diagnostic Report* containing recommendations as to how QAHN might diversify its revenue sources by modifying existing member services and fees. The consultant's report was delivered at the end of the fiscal year 2004-2005.

One recommendation that came out of this report was to establish a variable fee structure for products and services offered to different categories of clients, namely those who are QAHN members, and those who are not. This is a variant on what QAHN already practices, the difference being that certain products and services currently offered free of charge (online editions of *Quebec Heritage News*, for instance) would become fee-based.

---

Another interesting suggestion arose from this report: to seek corporate sponsorship for the conferences QAHN organizes, either alone or in concert with the FSHQ. This is a very good idea, considering that budget constraints have severely limited the number of conferences QAHN can afford to sponsor on its own.

### **Board Governance**

Regular meetings of the board of directors throughout the year ensured that the actions of staff were guided and supported by the policy directions set forth by duly elected representatives from QAHN's constituency. The board takes seriously its commitment to periodically examine the Network's governance, organizational structure and day-to-day activities to ensure that QAHN can respond effectively to the needs of Quebec's heritage community.

Three new directors from the Montreal region joined QAHN's board last year, reflecting our organization's goal of strengthening links to Quebec's largest urban community.

The Board of Directors met on May 8 in Lennoxville in conjunction with a Strategic Planning session. A conference call among the Board was held on June 16 to discuss the agenda for the annual general meeting and various matters related to the composition of the Board. The Board met again during the annual general meeting on June 19, during which seven candidates were nominated for board seats. A follow-up conference call was held July 28 to elect board officers, including QAHN president Rod MacLeod, re-elected for another term.

The Board met again Sept. 11 in Montreal to consider status reports and to ratify the Strategic Plan. The final board meeting of the fiscal year was held January 22, 2005.

### **Endangered Heritage**

At the request of our Board of Directors, QAHN began to formulate a policy for responding to urgent matters of heritage preservation. Although we received a few requests in 2004-05, our consultation service has not been in great demand, possibly because of QAHN's low public profile. Board members agreed that intervening effectively in this area will contribute to heritage preservation in Quebec and garner increased recognition for QAHN. In February 2005 I produced two background papers for discussion meant to assist the board in adopting an official policy.

Here are some examples of the type of requests that QAHN received in 2004-2005 for specific help to promote or protect Quebec heritage:

- We helped put the Harrington Harbour Tourism Association in touch with a museum consultant who subsequently provided expert advice for cataloguing and preserving a collection of historic artifacts on display at the Rowsell House Interpretation Centre.
- We provided advice to a small anglophone community in the lower Laurentians who appealed for help to cover the cost of restoring an historic Protestant church.
- We were asked how to stop logging operations in the scenic and historic Bolton Pass area of the Monteregie region.
- We were asked to help save and restore an old water-powered mill in the Estrie region.
- We were approached for and suggested information on how to raise funds to restore and maintain a pioneer burial ground south of Quebec City.

---

## **Cooperation between QAHN and FSHQ**

Together with the *Fédération des sociétés d'histoire du Québec (FSHQ)* the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN) organized a fall workshop entitled, *Two Solitudes: Myths and Realities* and published a summary of the proceedings in *Quebec Heritage News* magazine (see attached copy). Our presence at the conference display table generated several new members.

In addition, QAHN recruited a new board member, Rick Smith, who also sits on the board of the FSHQ.

Our subscription to the FSHQ's electronic bulletin board service and its magazine, *Histoire*, allows QAHN members to stay in touch with French-language historical society activities across the province, and to promote select events among our own membership.

The October 2004 joint conference was reasonably well attended, drawing participants from both the francophone and anglophone heritage communities. More advance publicity targeted at mainstream news media might have produced even better turnout. It is disappointing but not surprising to note how little effort the popular press currently devotes to history and heritage topics. Such events are a reminder that *Quebec Heritage News* could play a much larger role in the dissemination of contemporary historical research, were it not for budget constraints.

We experienced some difficulty confirming academic speakers for this workshop because we canvassed them during the summer months. The next time around we will make sure to have all speakers confirm their presence prior to the summer holidays.

A planning oversight resulted in QAHN missing the opportunity to hold a joint annual general meeting and conference with the FSHQ in Gatineau in June 2005, to the disappointment of some board members and FSHQ staff. A number of individual QAHN members from western Quebec are planning to attend, however, and have agreed to help gather material for submission to *Quebec Heritage News*.

## **2004 Marion Phelps Award**

As part of our mandate to recognize outstanding Quebecers who have contributed to preserving and promoting knowledge about the heritage of Quebec's anglophone communities, it was with great pleasure that QAHN chose to honour Dr. Kenneth Annett as the 2004 recipient of our annual Marion Phelps Award. Dr. Annett, a Gaspé-born historian, wrote more than 400 articles on Gaspé heritage for the weekly *SPEC* newspaper in New Carlisle and has donated bound volumes of these articles to Bishop's University, the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec and two Gaspé community libraries.

Dr. Annett's son received the non-financial award on his father's behalf during QAHN's Annual General Meeting and Luncheon, held at the McCord Museum of Canadian History in Montreal on June 19, 2004.

## **Quebec Heritage News**

According to the *2004 Needs Assessment of the Heritage Community*, members of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network cite our bimonthly publication, *Quebec Heritage News*, as our single most important service. As a tool for recruiting new members, *Quebec Heritage News* continues to be very important, as evidenced by the membership inquiries we receive.

---

Unless current financial resources improve, however, long-term content planning and development will remain beyond QAHN's means and hoped-for upgrades to the magazine will not materialize.

For more than five years, QAHN has endeavoured, through the *News* and other publishing initiatives, to promote greater appreciation of Quebec's unique history in North America. In 2004-2005, the *News* garnered particular praise for issues we produced that were devoted to Quebec's aviation and military heritage; we also published a special books-review edition in which recent works by Quebec historians were featured, and an issue devoted to the history of education in Quebec. During the 2004-2005 fiscal year the number of recipients on our mailing list grew to more than 400.

Unfortunately, we experienced difficulty meeting production deadlines in the fall of 2004 and had to bundle fall content with the January 2005 issue. The severe budget constraints that QAHN faced through much of 2004-2005 limited our operations and continues to prevent us from strengthening our communications capacity.

Time for thoughtful editorial planning is a vital ingredient for the continued success of *Quebec Heritage News*. Relying exclusively on volunteer article submissions from members while contracting out production and layout services challenges our ability to meet publication deadlines and in the long run, may not be a sustainable policy for the magazine.

In January 2005 members of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network's board of directors approved a motion to explore the ways and means of redesigning *Quebec Heritage News* as a first step toward making the publication self-financing. The most pressing need is for training and desktop-publishing equipment to enable QAHN to streamline magazine production.

### **Website presence**

The main QAHN website underwent renovations in the summer and fall of 2004 and was finally relaunched in November after some initial supplier difficulties. Our home page, [www.qahn.org](http://www.qahn.org), was in need of an overhaul, as it had not been updated in years and contained some erroneous information. The revamped site now contains our revised membership-fee schedule, electronic back issues of *Quebec Heritage News* and provides better visibility for our core members, as well as new links to our Laurentians and Townships regional heritage webmagazines.

### **HeritageLine**

This is our electronic news-bulletin service, or listserv, by which means QAHN keeps its members informed of upcoming events, funding opportunities and last-minute notices that can't await publication in *Quebec Heritage News*. As of March 31 2005, there were 157 subscribers to HeritageLine, which is sent out three or four times a month.

Our experience suggests that the HeritageLine is very well-received and useful. Increasingly, QAHN members themselves are the originators of HeritageLine items; many subscribers use the service to publicise heritage-related events in their own communities. Staff use this communications tool to post queries received from outside the membership and to solicit information that could help strengthen QAHN's own effectiveness as a defender of endangered heritage architecture.

Requests from regional heritage and cultural organizations to publicise their activities on the HeritageLine have been numerous since the listserv was reinstated in the fall of 2004.

Dwane Wilkin, Lennoxville, June 2005

