



# Gabrielle's World

Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Newsletter



Maison Gabrielle-Roy on our website ([www.maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca](http://www.maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca)) as well as Facebook and Twitter. Should you wish to comment on this newsletter, or share information, please write us at Box 133-375 Deschambault St., St. Boniface, Manitoba, R2H 3B4 or email us at [info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca](mailto:info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca).  
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**Happy  
New Year  
2017!**

On behalf of the  
volunteers, personnel  
and Board of  
Directors of Maison  
Gabrielle-Roy

**MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY  
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## THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER?

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to do some volunteering? Maison Gabrielle-Roy may be a good fit for you.

First, it's important to set aside any preconceived ideas you might have. No, you don't need to have an in-depth knowledge of the life and work of Gabrielle Roy to become a volunteer in her birthplace. Yes, there are other things to do than to give guided tours. And no, not all the volunteers spend several hours per week at the Maison.

In fact, there are all kinds of opportunities to do volunteer

**LAURENT GIMENEZ, PRESIDENT  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY**

work at Maison Gabrielle-Roy. For instance: cleaning and general upkeep of the house; receiving guests when activities are underway; gardening and landscaping; office work and simple accounting (administration of the museum's gift shop); developing the museum and organising exhibitions; organisation and management of special activities such as Maison Gabrielle-Roy's annual brunch.

Volunteers can also become members of the Board of Directors that meets once a month to manage the organisation, supervise the staff and determine key strategies. Members of the Board also sit on other committees in which they can exercise their talents in fields that they have experience in or that interest them. These are the committees: museum development, planning and finances, marketing and fundraising, programming, volunteers.

You only have a few hours of volunteer work to offer through-

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## HAIKUS ON THE ST. LAWRENCE

Those of you who follow my entries in the Maison Gabrielle-Roy newsletters know of my passion for haikus, a form of poetry invented by the Japanese in the XVI<sup>th</sup> century, that has since spread throughout the world.

Spread is not an exaggeration as I regularly discover new sites and new groups of haiku poets across Canada, the United States, Africa and Europe.

You have probably the idea that haiku poets are gentle, curious dreamers. And you would be right. Yes, we love contemplation and solitude, but we are not averse to the sharing of ideas nor to spending time together. In fact, we are following the example of some ten million Japanese writers who

**BERTRAND NAYET,  
WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE  
AT MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY**

practice haiku and who gather together in a multitude of *kukais* (creation workshops led by a *sensei*) and associations who ensure that this ancient art continues to evolve thanks to intense collaboration and enlightened critiques. These *kukais* and associations then collaborate to organise festivals.

This is how it came to be that Quebec's *kukai* organised the 7<sup>th</sup> International Haiku Festival of the Association francophone de haïku (AFH) last October 13 to 16. The AFH is based in France, in the Lyon region, and they publish *Gong!*, a magazine that only publishes haikus. Its mem-

bers come from everywhere in the Francophonie (just over one third of them live in Canada, mostly in Quebec). So you can imagine that, when I learned that the next festival of the AFH was being held in Quebec, in the fall, when the maple trees are in all their glory, I pounced on the opportunity and bought my plane ticket.

I certainly did not regret it: a picturesque location, stimulating conferences, captivating recitals, and friendly and enriching encounters. The Festival took place in Old Quebec, mostly at the Maison de la Littérature, a former Presbyterian church that was renovated to serve as a literary den. An ideal setting for 97 haiku poets from

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# A delight in any season



October 1: writer Jean Boisjoli during Culture Days. The same weekend, MGR took part in the Thin Air Festival and Nuit blanche.



January 7: la galette des Roy. About 25 children and adults took part in this first celebration of the Epiphany at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, hosted by author Bertrand Nayet, singer Michelline Lamontagne and pianist Claude de Moissac.



October 31: Halloween at Gabrielle's



December 14: a visit from a group of grade 10 students of Garden City Collegiate in Winnipeg, led by their teacher Mrs. Le Ngo

## Correction

Due to a misunderstanding, we had written in the previous newsletter (autumn 2016) that the Manitoba Community Services Council had awarded the MGR a grant in the amount of \$30,000 for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Actually, a proposal was submitted, but the Council gave a negative response at the end of December.

This bit of news, though disappointing, does not significantly affect the current budget of the MGR, as it had been prepared without taking the hypothetical grant of \$30,000 into account. We apologize for the confusion.

## ◀ HAIKUS ON THE ST. LAWRENCE, continued from page 1

Quebec, Ontario, the Maritimes, Manitoba, the United States, France, Switzerland and Belgium. I developed relationships and strengthened my connections with the kukai group I lead, the Kukai Rouge (based at MGR), as well as with kukai groups from Quebec, Montreal, Baie-Comeau, Sept-Îles and Campbellton. I shared in the triumphs of our own haiku poets from Manitoba and jotted down inspiring ideas from my poetry accomplices.

During the festival, I participated in two readings in which I presented my own haikus as well as those written by the haiku maniacs of the Kukai Rouge before an en-

thusiastic crowd. During the closing ceremonies, there were two magnificent presentations. The first: an adaptation of the scene portrayed in the collection *s'agripper aux fleurs* written by Louise Canapé, Louve Mathieu and Shan-Dak Volant; the second: Zachary Richard presenting both haikus and songs. First-class art.

I came back from Quebec with eyes overflowing with colours, a soul full of haikus, a spirit revived by all these ideas and my heart overflowing with new friendships. Do you want to become a member of the Kukai Rouge? If so, contact me at [basile@mymts.net](mailto:basile@mymts.net).

# Ask for the programme!

## ▶ Writers' workshops

True to its mission to promote writing in the French language, MGR is offering a series of three workshops on short story writing under the tutelage of writer-in-residence Bertrand Nayet. Workshops will take place January 21, February 11 and March 4.

## ▶ Festival du Voyageur

MGR will be participating in the 2017 edition of Festival du Voyageur by hosting an information booth at Parc du Voyageur on Louis-Riel Day, Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. It will give us the opportunity to broaden our visibility with the public and maybe to recruit some new volunteers.

## ▶ Writing contest

To highlight Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, MGR will be launching a French writing contest in early March for children and adults. The theme will be: "Notre terre" "Our earth". The names of the winners will be unveiled during a ceremony held on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ▶ Gabrielle-Roy Brunch

MGR's annual fundraising activity will take place Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Norwood Hotel in St. Boniface. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

## ▶ World Book Day

MGR will celebrate World Book and Copyright Day on April 20<sup>th</sup>, during a special

evening that will provide an opportunity for the public to meet authors and translators.

## ▶ Gabrielle Roy translated

A new exhibition featuring the translation of Gabrielle Roy's works will be unveiled at MGR during Doors Open Winnipeg, May 27 and 28. In the meantime, visitors are invited to take in a historic exhibition on teaching in the French language in Manitoba, put up by our volunteers Lise Brémault, Claudette Dumas, Colombe Fafard-Chartier and Norma Rocan.

## Help us renovate

The first phase of renovations at Maison Gabrielle-Roy was undertaken during the month of December. The work consisted in replacing the carpet in the basement, which was quite damaged, with a very solid vinyl flooring with a hardwood design (see picture at the right).

The work was contracted out to Exclusive Carpets of Winnipeg, one of the three companies that had given us an estimate. The total bill, \$5,638.00, has already been paid. Our thanks to volunteer Jean Dumas who led the project from beginning to end.

The Province of Manitoba has accepted to contribute \$6,000.00 towards the second phase of the work, which consists in repairing the verandah and the roof of the house. However, this grant money is conditional upon the MGR contributing the same amount towards the project.

We hope to meet this goal with the help of the fundraising campaign that we launched last December. To date, about 14% of MGR members to whom we sent



a letter, along with a lottery-calendar, have responded. The total amount of donations is currently at about \$1,700, averaging about \$80 per donation. We extend warm thanks to all our donors.

This fundraising campaign is not over yet. We still need to raise at least \$4,000.00 to reach our goal. If you have not yet contributed, please consider making a donation towards the financing of maintenance work and renovations for Maison Gabrielle-Roy. You can drop off a cheque or mail it directly to the Maison (375 Deschambault St., R2H 3B4) or make an online donation by going to our website (<http://maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca/>).

You will receive a tax-deductible receipt for your 2017 income tax return regardless of the amount of the donation (there is no minimum!). With your help, we can preserve the integrity and beauty of Gabrielle Roy's native home.

## Bulletin Board

▶ Congratulations to **Simone Parent-Aubry**, winner of our first calendar-lottery draw in 2017. She won a pair of tickets donated by the Cercle Molière. Winners of the draws over the past five months of the 2016 lottery-calendar draws are: the **Druwé family** (books and merchandise donated by the Assiniboine Park Conservancy), **Jocelyne Burrow** (family pass donated by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights), **Normand Boisvert** (gift certificate and goody basket donated by La Belle Baguette), **Joanne LaCoste** (a pair of tickets donated by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra), **Shane Barnabé** (gift certificate for the gift shop donated by Maison Gabrielle-Roy). Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to our partners who donated the prizes.

▶ After having worked at MGR as an administrative assistant since last summer, **Gabrielle Joly** has now committed to being a member of the Board of Directors of MGR. Welcome aboard, Gabrielle!

▶ Maison Gabrielle-Roy was magnificently decorated again this year during the festive season, allowing visitors to experience the spirit of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Christmas. Many thanks to all who took part in the decorating: **Léonie and Normand Boisvert, Simone Le Gal, Adèle Hempel, Doris Lemoine, Éveline Newman** and **Norma Rocan**.

▶ **Marissa Hamlin**, an immersion student in grade 10 at Kelvin High School in Winnipeg, joined our team of volunteers a few months ago. Welcome and thank you, Marissa!

## Many thanks

- to **Rinella Printers Limited** for sponsoring parts of the printing costs of this newsletter and to
- **Simone Hébert Allard** for having translated the newsletter into English.

# ► Gabrielle Roy HEADLINES

## BOOKS

### ► **Bâtisseurs d'Amérique : des Canadiens français qui ont fait l'histoire**

Authors' collective, *La Presse*, Nov. 2016, 408 p., \$37 (paperback)/\$26 (digital)

The work is a collection of portraits of 13 French-Canadian men and women who have made a mark in the history of North America in the fields of politics, culture, sports and the economy. Amongst them: Gabrielle Roy, whose portrait is drawn by Margaret Atwood. Other important figures include Jack Kerouac, Jacques Plante, Henri Bourassa and George-Étienne Cartier.

► **Les éditions La montagne secrète** (Montreal), who specialise in the creation of CD books for children, are planning to adapt Gabrielle Roy's short story *Le vieillard et l'enfant* into an illustrated album accompanied by about ten original songs. They are planning to have Daniel Lavoie and François Ricard involved in the project, that will come to fruition no sooner than 2018.

## WEB

### ► **Les chirurgiens**

ROY, Marie-Anna  
[www.ismenetoussaint.com/ArticleView.php?article\\_id=32](http://www.ismenetoussaint.com/ArticleView.php?article_id=32)

The author Ismène Toussaint had the

great idea of publishing a previously unknown text on her website written by Marie-Anna Roy, in which she brings up the ambivalent relationship she had with her sister Gabrielle. Ismène Toussaint explains that Marie-Anna had given her the document in 1994, along with "the mission of publishing it after her death". She finds that "Marie-Anna, deep down, felt a profound affection towards all of her kin; made evident in her stunning descriptions of people and in these pages full of tenderness, nostalgia and regret."

## MAGAZINES

### ► **Pour une littérature-monde en français : le Canada**

Call for submissions, revue *Contact+*

The Association des professeurs de français de formation universitaire (Grèce) magazine is planning to publish a series, on a regular basis, that will pay tribute to literature in the French language outside of France called: *Pour une littérature-monde en français*. The first issue will be dedicated to French-Canadian literature (outside of Quebec) and Quebecois literature. Interested authors are invited to submit their manuscripts (no longer than 4,000 words) before June 18, 2017 to this address: [cnikou@apf.gr](mailto:cnikou@apf.gr). For more information, go to <http://apf.gr/r/>.



## MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION

### OUR MISSION

Maison Gabrielle-Roy was established to offer the community – and indeed the whole world – a museum that is a fitting tribute to Gabrielle Roy, to disseminate her works and to protect a cultural heritage.

### OUR VISION

375 Deschambault Street is the house where Gabrielle Roy was born in 1909, and lived until she left Manitoba to travel in Europe in 1937. Now restored as a museum, it is designated both a Provincial and a National Historic Site and houses a collection of objects and artifacts associated with Gabrielle Roy and her family during the years 1909-1937. The museum enables young people, researchers and the general public to learn more about the author herself, her works and her influence. Maison Gabrielle-Roy is also an important cornerstone of the cultural development of St.Boniface.

### MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed please find  \$25.00 for my annual membership in support of the museum's activities and the preservation of our cultural heritage. I understand that my payment entitles me to receive the museum's newsletter.

### DONATION

I would like to make a donation to Maison Gabrielle-Roy.  
 (A tax receipt will be issued.)

\$150    \$250    \$500    \$1,000    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Please make cheque payable to La Maison Gabrielle-Roy)

### ◀ THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER?

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out the year? No problem! Some of our volunteers help out on particular occasions, once or twice a year. For example, you could help decorate the Maison at Christmas-time or organize the draws during the annual brunch. You have no idea how even the smallest thing can help us a lot and is precious to us!

No matter what your talents or interests, whether you have a lot of time to offer or only a little, Maison Gabrielle-Roy can surely provide you with a great volunteer opportunity. To find out more, please communicate with our executive director, Baptiste Marcère, either by phone (204 231-3853) or by email ([info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca](mailto:info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca)), to see how you can help.