



Gabrielle's World

Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Newsletter



Get updates on activities at Maison Gabrielle-Roy on our website

(www.maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca) as well as Facebook.

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.

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MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY

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(contract basis):

Stella Labossière

TEN YEARS AT THE HEART OF ITS COMMUNITY

As you no doubt already know, 2013 will be a significant year for Maison Gabrielle-Roy, as it will be celebrating its 10th anniversary. It was in fact on June 19, 2003, that this magnificent museum opened with the mission of perpetuating the memory of one of Canada's greatest writers and reinforcing the resonance that her person and her work continue to inspire.

To mark this anniversary, there will be a number of cultural, literary and museum-oriented activities spread out over the year, most of them taking place in the Maison itself; this year's programming will involve a number of community partnerships. Bookending this year of celebration will

FRANÇOIS LENTZ, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY

be our traditional spring brunch this April 14, and a banquet at the Hotel Fort Garry on October 17. These events together will doubtless help raise the Maison's profile and expand its outreach!

In connection with the 10th anniversary, Maison Gabrielle-Roy has launched a fundraising campaign to erase the museum's mortgage. The Maison's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers are pleased to inform you that this campaign has been highly successful; it will be continuing into the fall and we thank you in advance for your contributions

A new name for a new decade

In this anniversary year, *Maison Gabrielle-Roy's newsletter* is changing its name.

Thanks to Laurent Gimenez and his expertise, enthusiasm and flair, this newsletter has, with each new issue, become more than the museum's newsletter. We now consider it a tool for promoting the museum, what it represents and the activities it hosts, as well as, more broadly speaking, the chords that Gabrielle Roy and her work continue to strike, chords that the Maison strives to amplify.

It is for this reason that the newsletter bears a new name: *Gabrielle's World — Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Newsletter*

F.L.

to the drive to make the museum more financially stable.

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SOME WONDERFUL THINGS

What a creative year I have had at Maison Gabrielle-Roy! I was mainly involved in four collaborative projects: Regards croisés, Haïkus de bois, Kukaï Rouge and Rassemblement d'Art.

Regards croisés, a joint project of Maison Gabrielle-Roy and the Alliance française du Manitoba, gave Quebec storyteller Eveline Ménard and I the opportunity to write a collection of original stories that will be accompanied by an oral recording by Eveline,

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

and illustrations in ink, pencil and watercolour by me. The book will be launched by Les Éditions des Plaines in September 2013. The objective of the Haïkus de bois project is to publish a collective anthology of haiku on the theme of wood and the relationship we have with this substance and those beings essential to life on Earth

that are trees. I managed to interest nearly eighty haikuists from various parts of Canada in the project and they, in turn, submitted nearly a thousand haiku. I have gathered the best of these in a hundred-page manuscript. I will be going over the comments of the review committee and proceeding to revise the manuscript shortly.

Kukaï Rouge is a haiku writing and study group open to anyone

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What does Maison Gabrielle-Roy mean to you?



(FM = Founding member of the MGR; P = Past President of MGR's Board of Directors)

Maison Gabrielle-Roy is the soul of Western Canada. It reminds us of a literary woman who gave satisfaction to thousands of readers in Canada and beyond. In addition to revealing to us the beauty of the West, and especially "her" Manitoba, "her" house reminds us of the story of a French-Canadian family whose footsteps we hear on each floor at the same time as it summons to mind characters shaken by life or elated by dreams. This house on Deschambault Street, which immortalizes one of Canada's greatest writers, is a heritage treasure: it sparks our curiosity, stirs our memory, and inspires us to wish it long life.

Annette SAINT-PIERRE

(FM, P-1998 -2003)

The enormous cultural imprint that Gabrielle Roy left on the Manitoba community has been acknowledged and celebrated by the purchase and restoration of her childhood home and its transformation into a museum. I had the great privilege of participating in every step of this worthy initiative and I am still happily involved through the Gabrielle Roy Literary Circuit. It was the restoration that was the greatest challenge, but capturing the details, the motifs, and the soul of the house's past authentically was as fascinating as it was difficult. This house has a beauty evocative of the past and the historical importance of a great literary figure. Maison Gabrielle-Roy is without a doubt one of our most precious national treasures.

Étienne GABOURY

(FM, P-1995-1997)

When I came to Manitoba in 2004, Maison Gabrielle-Roy was the first institution to give me a chance by allowing me to serve as coordinator under the presidency of Michelle Smith. I was genuinely impressed by the scope of the effort invested by the Maison's passionate volunteers and what they achieved. What a magnificent museum the community had established to showcase this beloved Canadian author with St. Boniface roots. At the same time, I was able to witness the pride and collaboration which is inherent to this fine Francophone community.

It didn't take long for me to be persuaded of the merits of becoming a donor. Then, my role on the Board of Directors of Maison Gabrielle-Roy enabled me to help consolidate the museum's core funding and help set it on its path to becoming a province and nation-wide anchor within the tourism circuit and enjoy the recognition that it has attained so far.

Congratulations to Maison Gabrielle-Roy on its 10 years of continuous homage to this great woman of literature, and long live the museum that is our pride and joy.

Annie GIRARD

(P-2008)

Maison Gabrielle-Roy is the vessel of a universe peopled and directed by the child born within its walls and the imagination-filled teenager and young woman still unsure of her true vocation who lived there.

Maison Gabrielle-Roy is the universe that ultimately made it possible to prove to people intolerant of cultural differences

that although one can be made to hang one's head, hide oneself and sometimes be ashamed, innate talent and elegance cannot be stifled or denied.

Maison Gabrielle-Roy is, above all, the cradle of a fundamental author of Canadian identity and its literature, who throughout her life bore witness to her world through writing, with a talent that was born on Deschambault Street.

Jacqueline BLAY

(P-2007, 2009)

When then-Treasurer of Maison Gabrielle-Roy Lucien Guénette approached me with his usual frankness and said, "Michelle, we need you!", I couldn't say no, and so I agreed to sit on the Board of Directors. When Annette Saint-Pierre decided to step down from her office as President, once again, Lucien said to me, "Michelle, we need you!" The task was enormous; to follow in Annette's footsteps is no small matter! The Maison was open to the public and it was now a question of putting systems in place for bookkeeping, human resources and financing. There being no employees, everything was done by volunteers. I worked the ground, planted flowers, signed cheques, prepared grant applications and financing strategies, and met with the various levels of government in search of funds. Carrying out this project was a real feat and I am proud to have participated in it. Long live Maison Gabrielle-Roy!

Michelle SMITH

(P-2004, 2005)

For me, Maison Gabrielle-Roy represents Franco-Manitoban success. First, I had the honour of privately discovering a number of details about the daily life of the Roy family during our research within the family home. After that, I came to understand the role that Gabrielle played to make French Manitoba known outside the province and the country. She was a fierce ambassador. The restoration of the house and its transformation into a museum enables us to continue to expand our heritage and share it with others.

Roger ROBIDOUX (FM)

A big thank you!

Caisse Financial Group has donated \$4,600 towards Maison Gabrielle-Roy's fundraising goal of \$20,000 as part of the zero mortgage campaign.

Caisse Financial Group CEO **Joël Rondeau** (right) submits the cheque to **François Lentz**, President of Maison Gabrielle-Roy.



10TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

April 14

Gabrielle Roy Brunch

Cost: \$50 – Time: Noon – Location: St. Boniface Golf Club (100 Youville St.)
Tickets: 233-allô/231-3853/1-800-665-4443

April 23

Gabrielle-Roy : célébration et filiation

On the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day, poets **Nancy R. Lange**, from Quebec, and **Charles Blanc**, from St. Boniface, will speak about Gabrielle Roy's influence on their work and read illustrative excerpts.

Free admission – Time: 7:30 pm – Location: Maison Gabrielle-Roy (375 Deschambault)

April 25

Workshop: *Écrire les lieux*

This workshop will be paired with a reading of excerpts from the collection *Au Seuil du Bleu* by Quebec poet **Nancy R. Lange**. She will explain various ways of using location as a source of inspiration in writing. Each participant will then be invited to experiment with various fun writing exercises. No previous writing experience required.

Free admission – Time: 7 pm – Location: Maison Gabrielle-Roy (375 Deschambault)

May

New Permanent Exhibit

Ten years after its opening, Maison Gabrielle-Roy will unveil its newly refurbished permanent exhibit.

March-June

Writing Contest

Adults and students (in grades 5–12) are invited to write a short piece of fiction on the theme of *10 ans!* The texts must be submitted to <promotions@la-liberte.mb.ca> no later than 5 pm on Friday, June 14, 2013.

The winners will be awarded a prize (iPad mini, e-reader or gift certificate) and will have their story published in an October issue of *La Liberté*. Further information can be found at www.maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca.

May 8 & 9

Storytelling

Quebec storyteller **Eveline Ménard** returns to Manitoba as part of the Regards croisés d'artistes littéraires project.

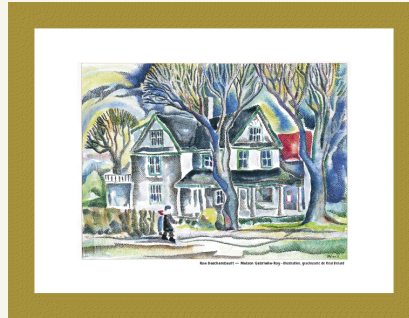
May 8: Alliance française du Manitoba (934 Corydon Avenue), 6–7 pm

May 9: Maison Gabrielle-Roy, 7–8 pm

May 16

La restauration de la Maison Gabrielle-Roy

Talks on the restoration of Maison Gabrielle-Roy by **Annette Saint-Pierre**, **Doris Lemoine**,



2013 Maison Gabrielle-Roy Calendar

All Maison Gabrielle-Roy members and all donors to the "zero mortgage" campaign have received, or will receive, a copy of this magnificent calendar illustrated by **Réal Bérard**. The calendar is also available at the Museum Shop (\$7).



Roger Robidoux, Gordon Menzies and Étienne Gaboury.

Free entrance – Time: 6 pm – Location: Maison Gabrielle-Roy (375 Deschambault)
This lecture will be followed by the museum's Annual General Meeting.

May 25 & 26

Doors Open Winnipeg

Free tours of Maison Gabrielle-Roy
Time: 1–4 pm – Information:

<http://doorsopenwinnipeg.ca/index.php>

May 26

Gabrielle, gardienne de l'horizon

The general public is invited to attend a performance of the play by **Lise Gaboury-Diallo** commissioned by *Le Cercle Molière*
Information (cost, time, location and tickets): *Le Cercle Molière*, 233-8053.

Information about the play:

cerclemolier.com/theatre-grand-cercle/de-bouche-a-oreille

June 6

Gabrielle Roy dans La Montagne

Bus tour

Cost and tickets : to be confirmed

Time: 8 am–7:30 pm

Departure: Maison Gabrielle-Roy

Space is limited; registration is required.

June 19

10 years, something to celebrate!

Celebration of the 10th anniversary of the opening of Maison Gabrielle-Roy
Admission free – Time: 5-7 pm

Location: Maison Gabrielle-Roy

The activities planned for the months of August through October 2013 will be listed in the next issue of the newsletter.

Maison Gabrielle-Roy

THE YEAR 2012 IN NUMBERS

(In brackets : numbers for 2011)

- **Visitors:** 1,260 people (1,673)
- **Gift Shop Sales:** more than \$4,000 (\$5,604)
- **Donations:** \$22,584 (\$10,588)
- **Volunteer Hours:** 1,231.5 (1,088)
- **Museum Members:** 140 (132)

Our thanks to **Rinella Printers Limited** for sponsoring parts of the printing costs of this Newsletter!

◀ SOME WONDERFUL THINGS, continued from page 1

wishing to learn the rudiments or enhance their knowledge of this form of poetry that originated in Japan. Novices are supported and encouraged by those with more experience, and everyone advances at their own pace. For almost two years now, Kukai Rouge has been meeting once a month at Maison Gabrielle-Roy for specialized workshops and friendly gatherings. Accordingly, on April 6, 2013, Kukai Rouge member Nicole Coulson facilitated a workshop on Japanese bookbinding during which we made booklets of our own haiku.

Rassembl'Art is a partnership between Maison Gabrielle-Roy and the Association culturelle franco-manitobaine, the objective of which is to guide participants through the writing, illustration and self-publication of a book. The participants were able to take part in workshops on

literary art, poetry, illustration, photography, and self-publication. The workshops were held at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, École St-Joachim in La Broquerie, École Gilbert-Rosset in St. Claude, and École de St-Lazare. A number of projects, with themes as varied as Christmas Eve, poetry, war memories, stories and family memories are currently underway. This is one of the projects that is closest to my heart as it gives the participants the opportunity to express themselves on topics that are dear to them and that represent an essential part of personal, family and community life.

It has thus been a very full year that enabled me to meet many people with whom I had the joy of sharing my knowledge and skills and creating some wonderful things.

▶ Gabrielle Roy HEADLINES

▶ **Paroles francophones de l'Ouest et du Nord canadiens**

Under the direction of Carol HARVEY
CEFCO, September 2012, 221 p., \$35
 This anthology of Francophone literary texts includes three works by Gabrielle Roy.

▶ **Québec en toutes lettres**

OCTOBER 10-20, 2013
 The theme of the third edition of the **Québec en toutes lettres** literary festival is "**Gabrielle Roy et l'imaginaire des femmes**" (for more information, go to www.quebecentouteslettres.com). To mark the occasion, the literary journal **L'écrit primal** is launching a call for submissions on this theme for its

49th issue, which will be devoted to Gabrielle Roy and women's literature in Quebec. Submissions are to be sent to ceula@asso.ulaval.ca **no later than April 11, 2013**. For more information, go to www.ceula9.wix.com/ceula.

▶ **Un vent prodigue**

Simone CHAPUT
Leméac Éditeur,
February 2013,
236 p., \$25

Two-time winner of the Prix Rue-Deschambault (1990, 1992) and the author of an already substantial body of work (four French no-



vels, two in English, and many short stories), **Simone CHAPUT** has published her first novel in Quebec, a portrait of a modern family scattered among the hallucinatory landscapes of Nunavut and the cities of Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal.

▶ **Pour une herméneutique de l'espace. L'œuvre romanesque de J.R. Léveillé et France Daigle**

Benoit DOYON-GOSSELIN
Éditions Nota Bene, November 2012,
390 p., \$34

The work of Roger Léveillé, the 2002 winner of the Prix Rue-Deschambault, is the focus of this study by professor Benoit Doyon-Gosselin, who specializes in minority Francophone literature.

◀ **TEN YEARS AT THE HEART OF ITS COMMUNITY!** **continued from page 1**

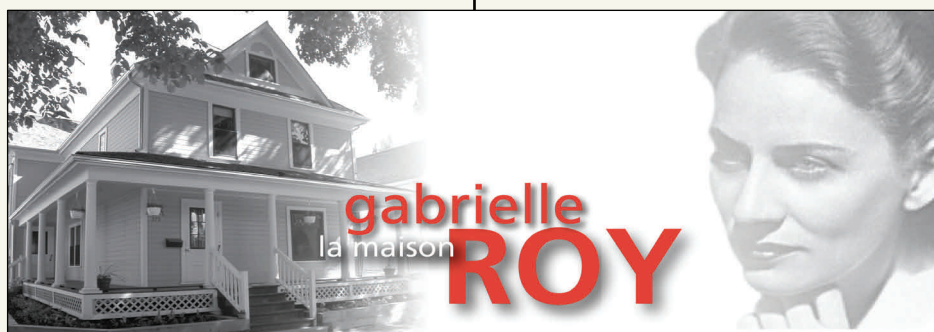
The purpose of this special programming and the campaign to eliminate the mortgage however is not only to mark a symbolic, milestone anniversary. In this year that represents an opportunity to take both a look back and a look ahead, they are accompanied by the Board of Director's deliberate decision to put in place a marketing and development plan aimed at strengthening the museum's financial footing.

All three measures fit into a longer-term plan for Maison Gabrielle-Roy: to ensure its viability, which is a prerequisite for it to move ahead and beyond the museum that it will continue to be and fully play its role as an agent in the cultural life of Manitoba and of the Francophone community.

I will be looking forward to celebrating Maison Gabrielle-Roy's 10th anniversary with you!



A warm thank you to Ms Janis Hughes for having translated the newsletter into English.



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: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Name on VISA card: _____ Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ Authorization signature: _____

Please forward this form along with your payment to:

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