



Gabrielle's World

Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Newsletter



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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BACK TO SCHOOL

For the Board of Directors of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, the start of the school year was September 4, the day of our first meeting following the summer break.

Which doesn't mean Maison Gabrielle-Roy was on holidays all summer! On the contrary, the Maison kept up its activities, hosting visitors from Manitoba, Canada and around the world. Whether visitors were passionate about literature or history, admirers of Gabrielle Roy and her work or simply curious, all

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

of the visitors enjoyed memorable and enchanted moments. And this thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteers, personnel and our summer guides. Many thanks to all!

Our "homework" – to continue along the lines of the school metaphor – which the members of the Board will need to take

on, is just as ambitious. We will adopt a three-prong strategy: implementing an annual fundraising strategy and a strategic multi-year marketing and development plan; putting in place a structure that allows for long-term personnel; and the consolidation and renewal of the team of volunteers.

Important initiatives will be undertaken to address all of these issues as of this fall. You will soon find out more through a variety of sources, in particular

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THE HOUSE, A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

So it's done! The anthology of haikus, sur une même écorce, is finished – revised, printed and launched.

You may remember that in 2012, I invited French-Canadian haiku poets to take part in an anthology on the theme of wood. Éditions David in Ottawa accepted to embark on the adventure and, with the help and advice of editor Francine Chicoine, the collection *Voix intérieures – Haïkus* came to be.

Wood was the obvious choice, as without this matter and life form, we would not have come this far. Indeed, the tree and wood have been with us every step of the way going back to the first human who stood up in

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

the savannah. Even today, in this digital era of pixels, it has not lost its usefulness and never ceases to amaze us.

Poetic games

The anthology brings together 62 poets from everywhere in Canada. It was launched April 23, 2014, on the Journée mondiale du livre et du droit d'auteur, at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, where about fifty people

applauded its arrival. Since then, the anthology has made its way and has been very well received wherever it goes

In addition to the launch, Tatiana Arcand, Louise Dandeneau, Lise Gaboury-Diallo and myself presented a few short stories and tales to an audience that lent itself with enthusiasm to the little poetic games that I proposed throughout the evening.

Speaking of public readings, the last week of September in Winnipeg is dedicated to Thin Air – Livres en fête, the International Writers' Festival. I will not be presenting this year, however I will take the opportunity to

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Programming over the next few months

► From mouth to work

Thursday, September 25, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

375 Deschambault St.

Entrance fee: \$10.00

In the context of Livres en fête, the French component of Thin Air, the Winnipeg International Writers' Festival, novelists Herménégilde Chiasson (New-Brunswick), Simone Chaput (Manitoba) and Hélène Koscielniak (Ontario) will gather together at Maison Gabrielle-Roy to partake in a literary... and culinary evening!

A superb evening, ideal for groups, that offers not only readings and discussions alongside renown authors, but the opportunity to taste several tidbits of the traditional favourite foods of our authors. Books will be available for sale on-site.

► An afternoon in the gallery

Saturday, September 27, 2014

375 Deschambault St.

Free activity

Your eyes will feast upon the golden leaves and your ears will relish the sound of the great elms at Maison Ga-

abrielle-Roy as we celebrate the Fête de la culture while listening to the stories of Jean Chicoine, Bertrand Nayet and Simone Chaput as well as the notes of Anatol Rennie's piano.

We will set up for the occasion on the porch at Maison Gabrielle-Roy and if the weather doesn't allow, we will take refuge inside. Refreshments will be served to ensure a comprehensive treat for all of the senses.

► Workshops and other activities

Our local writer-in-residence Bertrand Nayet will be offering writing, haiku and mentoring workshops over the next few months. Maison Gabrielle-Roy is also planning to propose publishing workshops (revision, layout, illustration, self-publishing, etc.). Dates and registration requirements will be announced at a later date.

Other activities (movies, Christmas party) will likely be hosted by Maison Gabrielle-Roy from now until the end of the year. If you don't want to miss anything, keep an eye out for our ads in the media.

All kinds of visitors, even furry ones!

Summer tour guides at Maison Gabrielle-Roy are required to take on a variety of tasks, but until now, managing wildlife was not a part of the job.

This summer, however, they found themselves in the position of trying to fend off repeated attempts by a rabbit that was targeting the rows of lettuce growing in Maison Gabrielle-Roy's garden.

"I decided to chase him," said Keshav Bodhee, one of the three guides. But to make things worse, the rabbit invited his friend the deer! However he only came once because he attracted too much attention."

Keshav is studying psychology and French at Université de Saint-Boniface. Our two other summer guides were Gabrielle Gagnon, who has just started Grade 12 at Collège régional Gabrielle-Roy in Île-des-Chênes, and Adriana Chinchilla-Chaput, Grade 11 student at Collège Louis-Riel in St. Boniface.

"I learned a lot about Gabrielle's



home and family," said Adriana. I will be working at the museum on September 27 for the Fête de la culture. I am also available if ever Lucienne (Châteauneuf) needs me to help with something else."

◀ BACK TO SCHOOL

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in the next edition of the Gabrielle-Roy newsletter that will be coming out at the beginning of 2015.

Attaining our goals will be dependent upon the success of a number of conditions that are already in place: the commitment of both the personnel and the volunteers (including Board members); and the renewed support of our funding partners, both public and private.

In this respect, I would like to thank all of the municipal, provincial and federal elected representatives in St. Boniface for their constant and unwavering support. And of course there are a number of anonymous and dedicated business people through which the support of our elected representatives becomes concrete.

Our success will also depend on the renewed and increased commitment of the members of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, the general public, and new partners that we will need to get on board. As far as this commitment is concerned, one thing is for sure: we will do everything in our power to see it happen.

◀ A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

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meet other colleagues and discover and discover new literary voices.

The 10th anniversary celebrations of the opening of Maison Gabrielle-Roy were as varied as they were moving, allowing the gathering of people who hold literature, history and francophonie close to their hearts.

There is still one project left to finish. François Lentz, former president of MGR and André Fauchon, director of Cahiers franco-canadiens de l'Ouest, a magazine published by Presses universitaires de Saint-Boniface, agreed on the idea of publishing a number of works in response to a call that I launched around the theme « Construire maison ».

Fifteen authors and three visual artists from Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario and Alberta responded to my invitation. Each one chose to represent the theme in their own way, be it through photography, comics, textile art, poetry, a short story, a tale, an account, personal fiction or theatre.

I wanted to allow them the freedom to approach the theme in their own way. I promise that you will be enjoying passionate readings and images in an upcoming edition of Cahiers that will be published no later than early 2015.

The Maison charms the public

Maison Gabrielle-Roy won the prize for Best Restoration awarded by the public in the 2014 Winnipeg Doors Open contest. Lucienne Châteauneuf, Executive Director of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, received the prize from Jordan Van Sewell, president of Heritage Winnipeg, on June 24, 2014 (photo).



Every year, Doors Open Winnipeg invites the public on a free tour of more than 70 remarkable buildings in Manitoba's capital. Visitors are invited to choose their favourite building in view of five different prizes.

Besides Maison Gabrielle-Roy, the 2014 winners were the Millennium Centre (389 Main St. – Best Architecture), Vaughan St. Jail (444 York Avenue – Best Tour), Cathedral of Saints Vladimir and Olga (115 MacGregor St. – The Hidden Gem) and the Winnipeg Railway Museum (123 Main St. – Best Overall experience). Over the two-day Doors Open Winnipeg event, held May 31st and June 1st, 2014, Maison Gabrielle-Roy received more than 200 visitors, which is probably a record!

A VOLUNTEER SPEAKS

Mireille Blanchette started doing volunteer work at Maison Gabrielle-Roy as soon as it opened in 2003. She is in charge of guided tours one afternoon per week and also lends a hand once a month to the housecleaning team that keeps the Maison sparkling. Mireille was happy to play the game of questions and answers.

Your first memories of Gabrielle Roy?

"When I was young, the sisters who taught us literature never let us sidestep Gabrielle Roy. I was fortunate to have very young teachers who all liked Gabrielle. They kept us informed as to her writing projects. There weren't a lot of choices in those days: you either liked hockey or you liked Gabrielle Roy!"

Your favourite memory of Maison Gabrielle-Roy?

"I gave my first guided tour the day of the opening of the Maison. I was really scared! The first person I offered a visit to was a man who looked very interested and who was a keen participant. After the visit, I said to him: 'Sir, may I ask you what you do for a living, because you seem to know Gabrielle Roy very well.'"

And he answered: "I teach literature at Université Laval." I answered, "Sir, I think I will faint. Did I say too many stupid things? He reassured me, but I decided then and there that I would no longer ask anyone what they did for a living!"

Your greatest pleasure as a volunteer at Maison Gabrielle-Roy?

"When people are really interested and want to know more about Gabrielle-Roy and the Maison, we give with all our heart and we get it back. In particular, when Quebecers come here, they appear to be on a pilgrimage. They are so happy to get a tour in French! A lot of people cry, for them it is really important. They never thought they would ever get a chance to visit Gabrielle Roy's native home."



Your favourite work by Gabrielle Roy?

"I really liked *Where Nests the Water Hen*, because it meant a lot to me as a teacher. My husband and I talked a lot about education with our children. The mother in this

story is like that: she wants more education for her children, but she pays for it dearly. Because in the end, her children leave her to go work in the city. Her dream comes true, but she ends up paying with solitude.

There is another book I like a lot, that people rarely mention. When people come here and we ask them what their favourite work is, no one ever says *The Cashier*. We read it at school when we were 15, but it went right over our heads. I reread it when I was 25 and there wasn't a lightning bolt either. Then I reread it at 50 and I understood then that it was a magnificent book."

Andréanne stays on with us

After having worked all summer at Maison Gabrielle-Roy as an administrative assistant (student employment), we are happy to announce that Andréanne Caux has decided to stay on with us. She will continue working three days a week at the museum, until the end of August 2015, while continuing her studies in the arts at Université de Saint-Boniface.

Originally from the small village of Saint-Narcisse-de-Beaurivage on Quebec's south shore, Andréanne came to Manitoba in

September 2012. After having worked as a language instructor at École Macneill immersion school in Dauphin, she moved to Winnipeg in 2013 to finish her Bachelor of Arts, and eventually to continue her studies in education.

Besides the administrative support that she will provide to Lucienne Châteauneuf, Executive Director of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, Andréanne will take on a number of essential services, such as ensuring a presence during the hours that the museum is open,

offer guided tours and coordinate the programming activities.

"I loved meeting people from everywhere and talking about what particularly touches each of us in Gabrielle Roy's writings," said Andréanne concerning her summer employment. More than one visit was gratifying, but the one that stood out for me was probably the visit from three Quebecois professors who were so impassioned with Franco-Manitoban culture and Gabrielle Roy's life."

► Gabrielle Roy HEADLINES

► Yolande Roy-Cyr Collection

Centre du patrimoine, St-Boniface

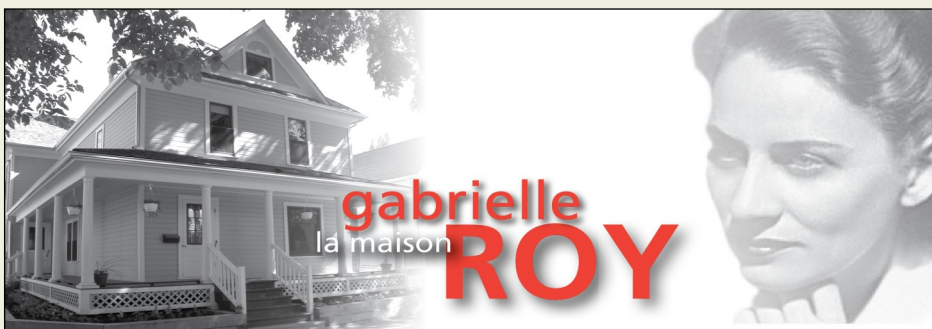
Joanne Therrien, a great admirer of Gabrielle Roy as well as president and editor-in-chief of Éditions des Plaines, never misses an opportunity to bring attention to the importance of the life and work of the author. As such, she recently found herself spending a few days in Gatineau helping Yolande Roy-Cyr, the writer's niece, to prepare some documents in view of handing them over to the Centre du patrimoine de Saint-Boniface.

These documents will be added to others that were handed over last year to be included in the Yolande Roy-Cyr Collection at the Centre du patrimoine de Saint-Boniface, and are a part of Marie-



Anna (Adèle) Roy and Antonia Houde's estate, Gabrielle Roy's

Two examples of photos recently included in Yolande Roy-Cyr's Collection (Centre du patrimoine). On the left: Gabrielle Roy, Bernadette Roy, Antonia Houde and Yolande Roy-Cyr, when she received a diploma. Below: Gabrielle Roy and Marcel Carbotte, Hull, Easter 1967.



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)

sister and sister-in-law, that Yolande Roy-Cyr inherited. They include :

- Negatives and photos dating back 100 years and several photos dating back between 30 and 60 years ago of Gabrielle, Marie-Anna and the Roy family, most of which have never been seen;
- manuscripts and other unpublished writings by Marie-Anna Roy;
- books that were signed by Gabrielle Roy;
- copies of letters Gabrielle Roy had sent to Antonia, Yolande's mother. The originals are kept in the National Library of Canada;
- a number of newspaper and magazine articles;
- original documents written by Gabrielle Roy, for instance the speech she had prepared for Expo 1967;
- a copy of Gabrielle Roy's will and testament;
- other documents of interest, such as correspondence between Marie-Anna Roy and a number of leaders in the community and organizations that received donations from her.

Many thanks...

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