



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 and Twitter. Should you wish to comment on this newsletter, please write us at Box 133-375 Deschambault St., St. Boniface, Manitoba, R2H 3B4 or email us at info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca.

In this issue

- A new director 2
- This fall at MGR 2
- Bulletin Board 2
- A harvest of good figures 3
- A volunteer speaks 3
- Gabrielle Roy Headlines 4

MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
Laurent Gimenez
Vice-president:
Julien Allard
Treasurer:
Jules Chartier
Secretary:
Anne-Marie Maupertuis
Administrators:
Colombe Fafard-Chartier
Joanne Decosse
Louise Plamondon

STAFF
Executive Director:
Baptiste Marcère
Administrative clerk:
Gabrielle Joly
Marketing and Development Coordinator:
Dominick Blais
Accountant:
Stella Labossière

FRIENDS OF THE MAISON

Maison Gabrielle-Roy is entering the 2016 fall term with great optimism. This is largely the result of a very fruitful spring and summer.

Over the weeks and months that followed our annual general meeting on May 19, some major changes occurred. The Board of Directors now has three new members: Julien Allard, Joanne Decosse and Louise Plamondon. And our new full-time executive director, Baptiste Marcère, took up his duties August 8th.

Though it is important to welcome these new workers to Maison Gabrielle-Roy, it is also important to thank those who have faithfully accompanied us over the past few years.

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

Our thanks to Mélanie Jichuk, Christian Morissette and Laura Sims, outgoing members of the Board of Directors, as well as Robert Nicolas, who was at the helm of the organization and who held the position of executive director deftly and resolutely over a period of 12 months. The crew's only regret is having to say goodbye to their captain so soon!

This year, once again, hundreds of tourists from all over the country and the world visited the Maison throughout the summer. They were welcomed by three young guides who

were trained and supervised by our faithful team of volunteers. We extend our thanks to Samuel Lemoine, Julian Silva and Zoé Jichuk-Taillefer; we wish them the best as they pursue their studies.

Admittedly, our optimism is, in part, related to the fact that Maison Gabrielle-Roy begins this new season with the assurance of having the financial resources necessary not only to keep it functioning, but also to implement its programming over the next 12 months (see the article *A harvest of good figures*, p. 3).

Which leads me to the importance of thanking our financial

Continued on page 4

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Five words today: training, creation, publication, declamation and fair.

Training: Since January, I have been leading a workshop on literary creation in which three new writers have been honing their skills in the short story genre. At the end of the eight workshops, they will propose their best text to a literary magazine.

Creation: Yes, these three new writers are writing lovely stories, however the Kukai Rouge is not in retirement as, during the course of the fall and winter, the kukai maniacs (the

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

people obsessed with writing haikus who get together once a month at the MGR) have written eighty haikus, created eighty visual works and have bound them in twenty art books assembled in five box sets that contain a book for each season. Hours and hours of enjoyment.

Publication and declamation: On April 21, 2016, as I do every year, I invited lovers of literature to come celebrate *La journée mondiale du livre et du droit*

d'auteur at MGR. We commemorated the death of Cervantes (April 23, 1616) and reiterated the importance of ensuring copyright protection to creators. I had chosen to adopt the theme of brevity for the evening, and, as haikus are brief, each of us presented our collections of haikus created by the Kukai Rouge and offered one of the five box sets to the MGR. I had also invited a few of my writer friends to rise to the challenge of writing abridged short stories, no longer than 150 words, including the title,

Continued on page 2 ▶

A new director

The Board of Directors of Maison Gabrielle-Roy is happy to announce the appointment of Baptiste Marcère as the new executive director of our organization.

He was recruited when outgoing executive director Robert Nicolas decided to take leave of his functions to undertake doctoral studies in literature at the University of Manitoba.

Originally from France, Baptiste Marcère assumed his new role August 8th. Before this, he was the projects coordinator for the Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews Community Association of Winnipeg, and had worked previously in the environmental and university sectors in France and in Ontario.

"I will make every effort to use my abilities as a manager and my knowledge of associations to ensure that Maison Gabrielle-Roy's programs stay on track and that the museum continues to have impact," said the new executive director.

The Board of Directors welcomes Baptiste Marcère on behalf of all the volunteers and the members of Maison



Baptiste Marcère (left) and Robert Nicolas

Gabrielle-Roy. In addition, we extend our thanks to Robert Nicolas who led the organization with flair for one year and we wish him the best in his literary projects and future studies.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Continued from page 1

and to come read them that night. The champion of brevity was the story *Carrefour* that had only 13 words, title included. And, as is the custom in Barcelona librairies on April 23rd, everyone received a rose in honour of Sant Gorgi.

Book fair: I attended the Book Fair in Grand Sudbury May 5, 6 and 7. This is one of the aspects of a writer's work that I really enjoy, meeting readers and other writers during the course of literary festivals or book fairs. I met people there who knew some of the people that I know in Winnipeg, proving once again that it is a small world. It helps to establish contact.

I also witnessed how dynamic the Francophone community of New Ontario and other regions in Ontario are, as well as the communities of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Acadie, whose people are just as passionate about culture, community outreach and literature as I am. I spent time talking to them about the Red River, about us, about MGR, about Éditions du Blé and read my poems to them. In other words, making connections! Isn't that what it is all about?

Bulletin board

Gabrielle Joly did such a great job this summer as an administrative clerk that MGR has decided to extend her contract. She will be helping the executive director for 15 hours a week until December.

Janelle Tougas, Marie Labossière, Christian Morissette, Jules Rocque, Eileen Blais and Stéphanie Prince are the winners of the 2016 Maison Gabrielle-Roy lottery-calendar from February to July. Many thanks to the sponsors: Festival du Voyageur, Winnipeg Goldeyes, Jardins St. Léon, restaurants Mon Ami Louis and Helios and Chocolatier Constance Popp.

Gabrielle Roy in translation - In preparation for our exhibition on the translation of the works of Gabrielle Roy, which will be inaugurated in the spring of 2017, we are looking for people who are capable of reading excerpts or quotations in Korean, Greek, Danish, German and in Italian. Volunteers are asked to contact Baptiste Marcère at the MGR.

This fall at MGR

► De l'oreille à la bouche

Friday, September 30, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Entrance fee: \$10

Maison Gabrielle-Roy is associating itself once again with Winnipeg's Thin Air/Livres en fête Festival to propose an evening of literary and culinary sharing, punctuated with agreeable literary meanderings in Gabrielle Roy's native home. The three invited authors are Louise Dandeneau, Rhéa Dufresne and Alain Labonté.

► Vues et voix d'ici

Saturday, October 1st, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Free event

Every fall, Maison Gabrielle-Roy invites authors to read excerpts of their works on the veranda while listening to jazz. One of these authors will be Franco-Manitoban and Ottawa resident Jean Boisjoli, who published *La mesure du temps* last April, a novel whose action takes place in St. Boniface during the 1950s and 1960s.

► Nuit blanche à the Maison

Saturday, October 1st, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. - Free event

The documentary *À St-Henri le 26 août* (2011, 85 min.) will be broadcast throughout the evening in a continuous loop. It is the work of sixteen filmmakers who, cameras in hand, walked throughout the streets of the famous working-class neighbourhood of Montreal portrayed in *The Tin Flute* more than half a century after its publication. Nighthawks will also be free to visit Maison Gabrielle-Roy at no charge.

► Pumpkins and garlands

Dates to be determined - Free activities

Maison Gabrielle-Roy proposes once again to host creative and fun activities to celebrate Halloween and Christmas this year. Details will be announced on our Facebook page.

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.

A harvest of good figures

\$55,500: grant amount allocated by Heritage Canada to MGR for the 2016-17 fiscal year

\$50,000: grant amount allocated by Manitoba Sport, Culture and Heritage for the 2016-17 fiscal year

\$30,000: grant amount allocated by the Manitoba Community Services Council for salary expenditures of the MGR during the 2016-17 fiscal year

\$11,000: profit made during MGR's fundraising campaign at the end of 2015

\$5,950: grant amount allocated by the Designated Heritage Buildings Grant Program (Government of Manitoba) for the reparation of the veranda and the roof of MGR.

\$4,222: grant amount allocated by the Winnipeg Foundation to MGR for the production of the play *La visite chez Mélina* in English during the summer of 2017



The 2016 Gabrielle-Roy Brunch was held at the St. Boniface Golf Club

\$2,000: profit made during the Gabrielle-Roy Brunch held March 20, 2016, which drew 132 participants

628: number of paid admissions (visitors) at MGR in June and July. Admissions, donations and sales of items in the gift shop during this period amounted to \$2,356.

267: number of visitors to MGR during Doors Open Winnipeg (May 28-29). Donations and sales of items in the gift shop amounted to almost \$200.

100: approximate number of visitors to MGR on July 1st.

A VOLUNTEER SPEAKS

Born in Ste. Marthe, Saskatchewan, in a farming family of 12 children (one of whom is Joe Fafard, the renowned sculptor), **Colombe Fafard-Chartier** raised her four girls in Brandon and in St. Lazare before moving to St. Boniface in 2013.

When did you start doing volunteer work for Maison Gabrielle-Roy?

In the fall of 2014. My husband, Jean-Marc Chartier, passed away in February of the same year. By the time spring came, I had to find something to do to get my mind off things, so I filled in the form to do volunteer work at Maison Gabrielle-Roy.

What are your activities at MGR?

I give guided tours to visitors and often to groups, including school groups. When there are activities being held at MGR, I often offer my services and help out in the gift shop. I am also a member of the Board of Directors as well as being on the Volunteer committee and Museum planning committee.

How much time do you put into it?

I come at least once a week for three hours, but it can go up to three times per week including meetings. In all, I would say 22 to 23 hours per month.

What do you feel you get out of it?

I feel greatly inspired by Gabrielle. Spending time in her native home prompts me to write. I have already written a book about the founder of St. Lazare, Father Jules Decorby, who spent a lot of time on the prairie going from one mission to another.

Currently, I am writing a book on the life of my parents. I am also working on a large-scale painting on canvas that will represent about twenty portraits of Gabrielle – from childhood to old age – on the prairie.



If a genie could grant you a wish for MGR, what would it be?

I would ask him to finance MGR for all time!

Who is your favourite author?

Gabrielle has become my favourite author. In my little school on the prairie, in Ste. Marthe, we were taught in English and I had never heard of Gabrielle. My daughter Lisa introduced her to me when she gave me a copy of *Where Nests the Water Hen*. I became a real fan! The way she chose to write her sentences and how she explains things, I am still amazed by it. I can reread her books two or three times and it is as though they are new every time. In English, my favourite author is Robert Frost, especially his poems *Birches* and *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*.

What is your favourite work by Gabrielle Roy?

Children of my Heart. I taught graphic arts as a teacher's aide from kindergarten to

grade 12. I became attached to the students and wanted to know them all, just as Gabrielle did.

Who is your favourite literary character?

Médéric. His character is close to nature and he inspires freedom.

► Gabrielle Roy HEADLINES

MEDIA

► **Le pays de Bonheur d'occasion**

Gabrielle ROY, *Le Devoir*, 1974

www.ledevoir.com/documents/special/gabrielle-roy/texte-gabrielle-roy.html

► **Sur les pas de Gabrielle Roy**

Fabien DEGLISE (texte) and Jacques

NADEAU (photos), *Le Devoir*, summer 2016

www.ledevoir.com/documents/special/gabrielle-roy/index.html

Last August, the daily newspaper *Le Devoir* re-issued an article Gabrielle Roy had written for the newspaper in 1974. In it, the novelist describes how the Montreal where she was living and working at the beginning of the 1940s inspired *The*

Tin Flute. Also in August, *Le Devoir* published a series of four articles on different facets of contemporary Montreal. Untitled « Sur les pas de Gabrielle Roy », it is a follow-up to the series « Tout Montréal » that Gabrielle Roy published in the *Bulletin des agriculteurs* between June and September 1941.

PRIZES

► **Gabrielle-Roy Prize**

The Association for Canadian and Quebec Literatures announced the names of the winners of the 2015 Gabrielle Roy Prize last May. Each year, the prize is awarded to the two best works of literary

criticism in French and in English. In the French section, the prize was awarded to **Jimmy THIBEAULT** for *Des identités mouvantes : Se définir dans le contexte de la mondialisation* (Éditions Nota Bene). In the English section, the prize was awarded to **Winfried SIEMERLING** for *The Black Atlantic Reconsidered: Black Canadian Writing, Cultural History, and the Presence of the Past* (McGill-Queens University Press).

BOOKS

► **Mavis Gallant et Gabrielle Roy, journalistes**

Charlotte BIRON, Codicille éditeur (Québec), 2016, 128 pages

For a free download of the work or to obtain a paper copy (\$7): <http://ex-situ.info/codicille/>

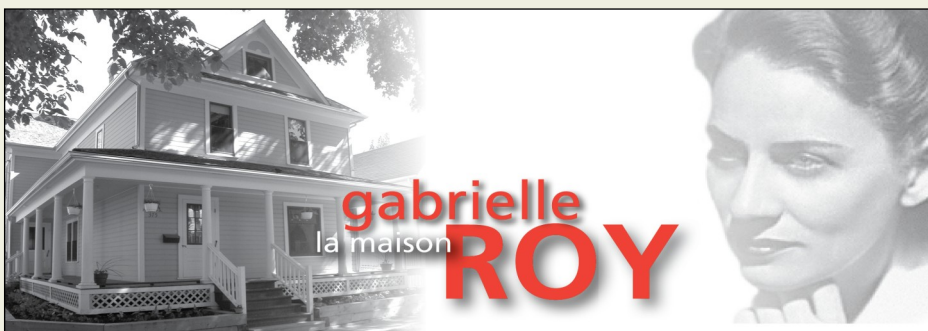
Mavis Gallant and Gabrielle Roy were both journalists during the 1940s in Montreal, the former at *The Standard*, the latter at the *Bulletin des agriculteurs*. In both cases, journalism allowed them to pursue their ambition to be published and to earn a living as a writer the most quickly, but it also nurtured their desire to travel, to see and to feel the world. These experiences had a profound influence on their work. This book puts the accent on the journalistic texts of the two writers as well as on the conditions that allowed them to start writing.

◀ **FRIENDS OF THE MAISON**

Continued from page 1

supporters. Their diversity, and in many cases their faithfulness, are a testament to the role and the major impact Maison Gabrielle-Roy has in the spheres of history, culture and tourism.

Whether it be the government of Canada, the government of Manitoba or organizations in the community sector, such as the Manitoba Community Services Council, the Winnipeg Foundation and Francofonds, our financial partners have earned our gratitude and can count on our continued determination to maintain and prolong the spiritual heritage Gabrielle Roy left us, in Manitoba and beyond.



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:

LA MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY
P.O. Box 133
375 Deschambault Street
Saint-Boniface, MB R2H 3B4

T: (204) 231-3853 F: (204) 231-3910
info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca
www.maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca

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