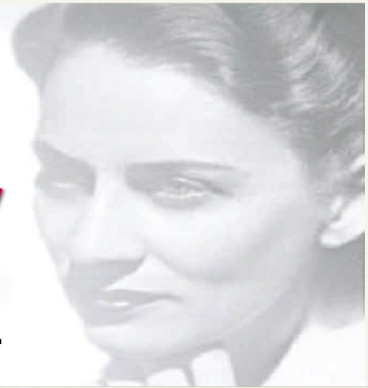




Gabrielle's World

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
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President:**
François Lentz
Vice-president:
Christian Morissette
Treasurer:
Jules Chartier
Secretary:
Laurent Gimenez
Administrators:
Mélanie Jichuk
Anne-Marie Maupertuis
Josée Paquin
Laura Sims
Francis Tremblay

- PERSONNEL**
Executive Director:
Lucienne Châteauneuf
Accountant (contract basis):
Stella Labossière

EXTRAORDINARY DARING

On the 19th of June, 2003, Maison Gabrielle-Roy was formally opened. The event marked the culmination of a long, complicated process to restore the house where the author of *Ma petite rue qui m'a menée autour du monde* was born. It was a huge visionary undertaking, coupled with an extraordinary community effort.

This magnificent Maison has been a National Historic Monument since 2009 and has, for ten years, been fulfilling its original mission as a museum and a part of our heritage. Beyond that, the Maison, in celebrating as it does Gabrielle Roy's essential legacy – her writing –, has become a fount of artistic creation, equally proud of the part it plays in

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

supporting local culture, community and sense of identity. The Maison now hosts a writer in residence as part of its active role in the cultural life of Manitoba, in particular the Franco-phone community.

The 10th anniversary provides the most fitting occasion for me to address my warmest thanks to all of the original team, a team that has done so much from the beginning to ensure that the restored Maison project would come to fruition. In particular, I wish to mention Ms Annette Saint-Pierre, the honorary president of the Maison; appreciation of her unshakable vision, combined with her

tireless, enthusiastic and contagious energy, cannot be overstated, as they supported her dedication throughout the restoration process.

This is also an appropriate time to thank the many Boards who, one after another, from the opening ten years ago until the present time, have striven to ensure that the Maison would fully realise its great potential. We also thank the indispensable and oh, so greatly appreciated volunteers, as well as Lucienne Châteauneuf, the executive director, whose whole-hearted commitment to the Maison is a source of inspiration. Let me not fail to express our thanks to the groups that support us financially, in particular the three levels of

Continued on page 2 ▶

A SYMBOL OF RESISTANCE

I believe that Gabrielle Roy is one of the symbols of a successful resistance against oppressive laws.

Her entire schooling took place in a setting where people refused to bow before the 1916 laws that forbade teaching French and teaching in French; yet she later became one of the greatest writers in Canadian literature. Together these facts are a striking demonstration of the resilient spirit in defence of their identity shown by the pioneers of the Association d'éducation des Canadiens Français

JACQUELINE BLAY, PAST PRESIDENT OF MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY

du Manitoba.

A few years ago, when I was asked to sit on the Board of Directors of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, I was charmed by the house itself. In the first place and perhaps obviously, it is a museum, and that means it is serious, historical and old. Nevertheless, every time I walk through the house, I seem to catch glimpses of Gabrielle here and there: stepping around a

well-polished floor that creaks, hearing a piano that is not to be touched, but is touched anyway, seeing the views into the garden and the street that led Gabrielle "to the end of the world"; we recognise that her presence is felt all through the rooms of the house where she was born. It is wonderfully easy to imagine the child, the adolescent, the young woman at different stages of her life! .

What, though, the Maison summons up best, in my opinion, is a picture of French Manitoba

Continued on page 4 ▶

Developing a consistent donor base

Maison Gabrielle-Roy's AGM was held on May 16, 2013; it clarified the organization's mission and set new financial goals.

The museum's by-laws had not previously contained any statement as to the fundamental mandate of the organization. The AGM corrected this lack by adding a preamble to the by-laws, stating that [translation]:

"Maison Gabrielle-Roy's mandate is to make available to its community and to visitors from around the world a museum that honours Gabrielle Roy, that furthers knowledge of her work, and that protects a cultural heritage.

Maison Gabrielle-Roy is a museum whose mission is to preserve the memory of one of the great Canadian writers and to keep alive the echoes of her personality and her work. Maison Gabrielle-Roy is, therefore, a heritage building, and a major attraction for tourists to Manitoba. However, the Maison is intended to be more than just a museum; by celebrating Gabrielle Roy's legacy – writing – the museum declares its commitment to its community's culture and identity. It intends to play an active role in the cultural life of Manitoba, in particular the French-speaking community."



L'AGA a été précédée d'une conférence sur la restauration de la Maison Gabrielle-Roy, que l'on voit ici pendant les travaux en 2001 (Photo : La Liberté)

The other major issue dealt with during the AGM was the Board's decision to develop a development and marketing plan. François Lentz, the president of the Board of Directors

of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, stated that it was necessary "to develop a consistent donor base to ensure the viability of the museum. Such a project is the challenge facing us in the next ten years."

Implementing such a project has become even more necessary since the provincial grant of \$50,000 per year over three years will end in 2014, and the renewal of this grant is not guaranteed.

The Board of Maison Gabrielle-Roy has approached *Mikuska Group* to help in preparing this development and marketing plan. The plan will focus on three areas: identifying individuals, groups, foundations and other organizations likely to support the museum; encouraging donors to make their support ongoing (through social activities in particular); and setting up a database in order to more effectively manage the donations and the network of donors. Last May, the Manitoba Community Services Council granted \$2,400 to Maison Gabrielle-Roy to assist in setting up this database.

◀ EXTRAORDINARY DARING continued from page 1

government and our numerous community partners.

Over the last ten years, Maison Gabrielle-Roy has been the visible result of a commitment to a vision and a project; it also represents a commitment to an author and her works, an author whose work still resonates strongly today. That is perhaps because, as the Franco-Manitoban writer Simone Chaput has said, "she found the words to express the distress and the enchantment of the human adventure".

In 2009, on the 100th anniversary of Gabrielle Roy's birth, the university critic, Jean Morency, wrote of her legacy, describing her "extraordinary daring". He pointed out that she had spoken out courageously, writing about experiences that had never been described before, whether "the big city, working-class districts, little villages, or the condition of women and immigrants." He suggested that, seen in this way, her work can still set out a road to be followed, in that liberty is never guaranteed, that it lies always in the future, in those distant horizons which, literally, haunted Gabrielle Roy all her life".

May La Maison Gabrielle-Roy live on! May it contribute to keeping alive for many years to come this precious vision of liberty.

Bulletin Board

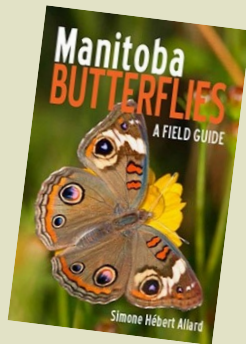
◆ A CHANGE AT THE BOARD

After working for several years as a member of the Board of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, **Gisèle Beaudry** has resigned for personal reasons. Her fellow Board members and all the staff wish to thank her very warmly. Gisèle's place will be taken by **Joëlle Saltel-Allard** to whom we extend a welcome.

◆ WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

Thanks to a grant of \$10,000 from the Manitoba Arts Council, Maison Gabrielle-Roy will continue to have a writer-in-residence for 2013-2014.

Bertrand Nayet will thus be able to carry on with the many projects and activities he has been leading for several years as part of the museum's programming designed to encourage literary creation and bring Franco-phone writing to the attention of the public.



◆ NEW FACES

Maison Gabrielle-Roy is pleased to extend a welcome to four new assistants who will be working over the summer. They are **Audrey-Ann Deneault** and **Stéphanie Hempel** (guides), **Émilie Bordeleau-Laroche** (part-time employee) and **Raven Nickel** (part-time volunteer).

◆ BUTTERFLIES – ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Simone Hébert-Allard, one of the newsletter's regular translators, has just had a guide to butterflies in Manitoba published at Turnstone Press, Winnipeg. *Manitoba Butterflies: A Field Guide* has beautiful colour illustrations on each of the 285 pages. It is on sale in bookstores for \$39.00.



10TH ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

August 1st & 24, Sept. 14

Performance: *La visite chez Mélina*

A 40 minute monologue featuring Mélina Roy, Gabrielle's mother, portrayed by Paulette Duguay.

Cost: \$10; performed at Maison Gabrielle-Roy (375, rue Deschambeault St.) at the following times – August 1, 7 p.m., August 24, 11 a.m., September 14, 2 p.m.

For reservations, call 204-231-3853.

September 12

Film: *Canada en amour*

Film about the relationship between Gabrielle Roy and Marcel Carbotte, followed by a discussion (in French).

Free; 7.30 p.m. – location to be announced.

October 17

Gabrielle Roy Banquet

Tickets at 204-231-3853, cost XXX, Fort Garry Hotel, 5.30 p.m.

October 31

Film: *Le vieillard et l'enfant*

Movie adaptation of a story from *La route d'Altamont*, followed by a discussion (in French).

Free; 7.30 p.m., location to be announced.

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

The celebrations got off to a flying start!

The Gabrielle-Roy Brunch took place on April 14th this year and was the start of the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the opening of Maison Gabrielle-Roy.

The annual event, which this year was held at the St. Boniface Golf Club, a departure from tradition, was a great success in many ways. No fewer than 162 people attended (up from 128 in 2012), and that made for a profit of over \$3,500, the best result in the last four years.

Several dignitaries attended, among them Senator Maria Chaput; a few days later she made a speech in the Senate chamber, recognising the 10th anniversary of Maison Gabrielle-Roy and honouring all the people who support the museum's continued existence. The speech can be found at the following link: www.parl.gc.ca/Content/Sen/Chamber/411/Debates/153db_2013-04-18-f.htm#11.

The city councillor for St. Boniface, Daniel Vandal, also spoke, announcing a special grant of \$10,000 to Maison Gabrielle-Roy from his discretionary ward budget.

Toronto scholar, Harvey Bride and his wife were also at the brunch. He donated his personal archives to Maison Gabrielle-Roy. The documents include, in particular, handwritten letters, photos and some texts

by Gabrielle Roy. The archives have been placed in the Fonds Gabrielle-Roy at the Centre du patrimoine in St. Boniface.

The President of the Board of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, François Lentz, had the pleasure of announcing to the assembled guests that the goal of \$20,000, set in the "Objective Zero Mortgage" campaign, had been reached. He extended warm thanks to all who contributed to the campaign and thus allowed the debt to be completely erased.



Yolande Roy-Cyr, Annette Saint-Pierre et François Lentz pendant les célébrations du 19 juin

The weeks that followed the brunch were filled with several events, among which a conference and reading, a writing workshop, storytelling presentations, two Open Doors Days, an outing to the Mountain/La Montagne region, and the launching of two new exhibits.

The highlight was assuredly June 19th, 10 years to the day since the opening of Maison Gabrielle-Roy. On that day, the public was invited to come to the museum for a performance by harmonica player Gérald Laroche, to hear extracts from the works of Gabrielle Roy read by Bertrand Nayet, and to tour the museum free. Among the guest speakers were the Manitoba Premier, the Honourable Greg Selinger, the councillor for St. Boniface Daniel Vandal, and Gabrielle Roy's niece, Yolande Roy-Cyr.

Everyone's talking!

The events celebrating the 10th anniversary have allowed Maison Gabrielle-Roy to expand its partnerships and increase its public exposure.

The collaboration called "Regards croisés d'artistes littéraires" is a noteworthy partnership between Maison Gabrielle-Roy and the Alliance française du Manitoba. It was launched in 2012, and allowed two creative artists who had never met to disregard distance and work together. Quebec story-teller Eveline Ménard and Bertrand Nayet, writer-in-residence at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, collaborated to produce a collection of original stories that

will be published in September, 2013, by Éditions des Plaines.

Another promising partnership was developed with the weekly newspaper *La Liberté*. There are two main components. First, a series of ten vignettes about the life and works of Gabrielle Roy, written by historian Jacqueline Blay, will be published between April and October 2013. Those which have already appeared can be found on Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Facebook page. And second, a writing contest for both children and adults was also launched. The names of the winners will be announced in September 2013, and the winning texts will

be published in *La Liberté*.

As well, Radio-Canada produced several reports on the events of the 10th anniversary on both radio and television. One particularly interesting initiative, called "Gabrielle en 10 œuvres (Gabrielle in 10 titles)" consisted of a series of 10 radio vignettes broadcast once a week from April until June. Each broadcast, lasting about 10 minutes, examined one of the writer's major works, from 1945's *Bonheur d'occasion* (*The Tin Flute*) to *Ces enfants de ma vie* (*Children of My Heart*, 1977). The broadcasts can be heard on the following website: www.radio-canada.ca/sujet/gabrielle-en-10-oeuvres.

▶ Gabrielle Roy HEADLINES

▶ Gabrielle Roy bursary for writing

The Fonds Gabrielle Roy and the Union des écrivaines et écrivains québécois have awarded the 2013 Gabrielle Roy bursary to Quebec writer and Journalist **Micheline LACHANCE**. The winner will spend the months of July and August in Gabrielle Roy's summer residence at Petite-Rivière-Saint-François, where she will work on her new novel.

▶ Prix Gabrielle-Roy

The Association for Canadian and Quebec Literatures has just announced the names of the winners of the 2012 Gabrielle-Roy prize. It is awarded each year for the two best publications, in French and in English, on the subject of Canadian and Quebec literature. In the

French-language section, the winner is **Bernard ANDRÉS** for his book *Histoires littéraires des Canadiens au XVIII^e siècle* (Presse de l'Université Laval). The winner in the English-language section is **Keavy MARTIN**, for her work *Stories in a New Skin: Approaches to Inuit Literature* (University of Manitoba Press).

▶ The Gabrielle-Roy Trail

On June 8 this summer, the organization SOS (Save Our Seine) opened the Gabrielle Roy Trail in St. Boniface. Three large bilingual signs have been erected along the route, which follows the Seine River over about two kilometres, between Provencher Boulevard and Youville Street. One access point to the trail can be found at the end of Des-

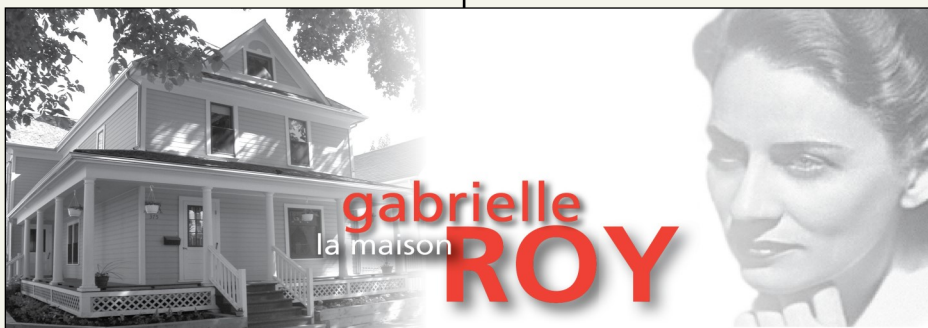
chambeault Street, a few steps away from Maison Gabrielle-Roy .

at a time when Gabrielle's ambition, to be a writer of was quite unheard of. Women continued from page 11

ever dare to express such an ambition. Moreover, the French Canadians who had come to settle in Manitoba often cast their eyes back to Quebec, but they did not go back there, often because of a lack of money. Just imagine what might have happened if the Roy family had had the means to return to Quebec when their educational rights were abolished in 1916. I have not the slightest doubt that, if the family had left rue Deschambault, then French Manitoba would still be awaiting its author. Gabrielle would really be a Quebec writer - as that province too often thinks is in fact true.

Fate decreed otherwise, and that is just as well. Who else could so well evoke the province and the community here? Only a little girl born on rue Deschambault could create so many universally recognisable characters, first dreamed up in the attic of the family home; only that child could choose to escape through her imagination over the big trees in the yard and into the skies and clouds of the West; only that child, with parents harking back nostalgically to the "country of their birth", could create a universe which would speak to the whole world, with graceful, limpid words, in a unique style, with a desire to bear witness. For as Gabrielle Roy writes:

"Writing is a need. It is almost physical. One cannot avoid taking up the pen. Nor touching the empty page spread out before one.... And one writes precisely because one wishes to give. To share with others. Because one has felt or understood the truth in certain beings and that one has to express it."



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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A warm thank you to Ms Doris Pruden for having translated the newsletter into English.