



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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Baptiste Marcère

Marketing and Development Coordinator:

Dominick Blais

Accountant:

Stella Labossière

APPETIZERS AND POETRY

It was another very busy year for your favourite artist-in-residence. It started with the inauguration of the literary season, during the *Festival des mots* that took place the last week of September 2016. The MGR welcomed three authors (Alain Labonté, Louise Dandeneau and Rhéa Dufresne) during *De l'oreille à la bouche*, an event that took place the evening of September 30.

On October 1st, our annual gathering, *L'après-midi sur la galerie*, took place from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. during which time the MGR, in collaboration with Le Collectif post-néorieliste and Les Éditions du Blé, invited author Jean Boisjoli, a St. Boniface native who now lives in Ottawa. His novel, *La mesure du temps*, is up for the 2017 Trillium Award. A bit of trivia: Jean used to live in the little house next door to Gabrielle Roy's native home.

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

Then, it was Halloween and we hosted the pumpkin sculpture workshop as well as an Exquisite Corpse game during which the children created their own little monsters. This year, instead of a Christmas celebration, we celebrated the Epiphany, the arrival of the Three Wise Men at the Nativity, and it was the perfect opportunity to sing, to tell stories and to enjoy the Kings' Cake (*Galette des Rois*).

The last literary evening of the year, World Book and Copyright Day, took place April 20 and we feasted on appetizers, poetry, visual art, short stories and excerpts of novels.

From January to April 2017, I led three workshops on writing short stories. Seven participants either learned the basics of this

literary genre or perfected their abilities. The group also submitted their creations to the BREF! Project launched by Éditions du Blé (150 short stories numbering 150 words for Canada's 150 years). Interested?

I also continue to lead the Kukaï Rouge, a permanent workshop involving the creation of haikus and related art. We usually gather together the third Thursday of the month, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the MGR. We are presently working on a collective creative project. We made art notebooks with the intention of creating a haibun (a travel diary with prose interspersed with haikus that we associate with visual works – watercolours, photos, collages, multimedia). Every month, we exchange notebooks. This is our third project that incorporates both binding and haikus.

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SUMMARY OF THE 2017 AGM

Last May 25th, about twenty people, including members of the Board of Directors, took part in Maison Gabrielle-Roy's annual general meeting.

It provided the opportunity to review the events that took place in 2016 and to look into a few prospects for 2017. All the resolutions, which dealt with current business, were adopted unanimously. The complete

annual report (including financial information) is available on our website at <http://maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca/fr/bilan-de-lassemblee-generale-annuelle/>.

We would like to welcome our new administrator, Gabrielle Joly, who was elected by the assembly for a three-year mandate. The other council members (still active) are: Julien

Allard (vice-president), Jules Chartier (treasurer), Joanne DeCosse, Colombe Fafard-Chartier, Laurent Gimenez (president), Anne-Marie Maupertuis (secretary) and Louise Plamondon.

A big thank you to all participants, as well as to Jean-Michel Beaudry, who was a courteous and efficient chairman of the meeting.

An enthusiastic gardener

By definition, miracles only happen when you least expect them. Just like the day in February 2017 when Maison Gabrielle-Roy received a letter from Rita Morier offering her services as a volunteer gardener.

A real miracle as Rita is not content with having a green thumb. Within the context of her studies as a master gardener at Assiniboine Community College, she took a particular interest in the history and old names of plants and flowers that, in all probability, graced the Roy family's garden when Gabrielle still lived in their house in St. Boniface (from about 1909 to 1937).

Her goal is to progressively restore the garden on Deschambault street so that, within a few years, it will be a close approximation to what Léon Roy had lovingly cultivated.

Fuchsias, geraniums and "cemetery roses" will each have their place, as Gabrielle Roy mentions them in her writings. Petunias as well, flowers that people called "St. Josephs" at the time, tradition having it that the seeds needed to be planted on



Rita Morier cares for this fuchsia that will soon be joined by « bachelor's buttons » and « mignonettes », flowers that today bear the much less charming names of "coleus" and "carnation".

March 19. But there won't be any red or striped petunias; according to Rita, these varieties didn't appear until the beginning of the early 1950s.

The physiotherapist by profession has perfected her horticultural talents by taking care of the flowerbeds at the church and in the parks of Sainte-Anne-des-Chênes, Manitoba. Thanks to her, the Roy garden will be reborn progressively, along with its flowers, its colours, but also its scent, harking back to a time when city-dwellers loved to inhale the strong perfumes of nature.

Bulletin Board

◆ Winners of the draws

Congratulations to **Mathieu Allard, Jacqueline Blay, Normand Brisson, Yves Chartrand, Odette Delysper, Denise Lécuyer, Michel Monnin, Yolande Roy-Cyr and Évelyne Valcourt**, winners of the MGR's 2017 calendar-lottery draws from January 30 to May 22. Many thanks to the prize donors: WAMMA (one-month membership), Festival du Voyageur (four tickets), Helios Restaurant (gift certificate), Fédération des parents du Manitoba (one-year membership and books), Mon Ami Louis restaurant (gift certificate), Tourisme Riel (a St. Boniface pass), Chocolatier Constance Popp (box of chocolates), MGR's Bonheur d'occasion gift shop (gift certificates).

◆ Thank you and good luck

A big thank you and the best of luck to **Adèle Hempel**, who moved to Kitchener, Ontario, after having sat on the MGR's museum planning committee for a long time. We will greatly miss her expertise and her kindness.

◆ A great lady

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to **Simone Bussièrès**, Gabrielle Roy's friend and collaborator, who celebrated her 99th birthday on June 8 in Quebec City. Mrs. Bussièrès is the remaining survivor of eight friends to whom Gabrielle Roy wrote and whose letters were published in the book *Femmes de lettres - Lettres à ses amies - 1945-1978* (Éditions du Boréal, 2005). If you want to know more about this great lady and her numerous contributions, look up the article written by Fernand Harvey entitled: *Itinéraire de quatre pionnières de la vie culturelle à Québec après 1945* (2007).

Summer programming

This summer, as always, Maison Gabrielle-Roy is making every effort to beef up its personnel to create prime conditions to welcome visitors from everywhere in Canada—and beyond!

Five student employees are joining our troops: Laurence Drainville (from Quebec), Ève Lemoine, Chloé Poirier, Sydney Puhach and Aoua Touré (all four from Manitoba). Our volunteers have trained them so that they can give guided tours from June to August.

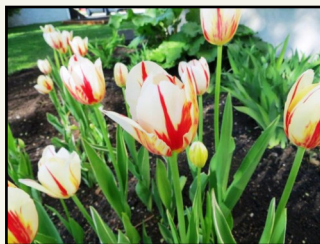
As a rule, these are the three months during which Maison Gabrielle-Roy receives the highest number of visitors. As a result, our hours have been extended, and the museum will be open Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as well as Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Special activities will take place throughout the summer, beginning with Canada's 150th anniversary celebration on July

1st. Besides offering free admission that day, we will be having a ceremony at 1:00 p.m. during which we will announce the names of the winners of our writing contest "Notre terre". Snacks and refreshments will be served and everyone is invited.

The first performances of *A visit with Mélina* will be starting by the end of July at the MGR. The performance of this theatrical monologue, written by Suzanne Kennelly, showcases the character of Mélina Roy, Gabrielle's mother, and was presented in French at MGR a couple of years ago. A new feature this year: the show will be presented alternately in French and in English.

Another novelty: before summer's end, we hope to organize an "afternoon tea with Gabrielle" with a taste of yesteryear. The idea is not only to tantalize the taste buds, but to reenact traditions of yore and raise funds for the MGR. More details will be announced in the media at a future date.



Notre Jardinier bénévole Jean Dumas a fait pousser une soixantaine de tulipes « Canada 150 », comme celles-ci, dans les parterres de la MGR.

Renovations: we're on a roll!

By mid-July, Maison Gabrielle-Roy will have a brand new wooden sidewalk, financed in large part via the crowd-funding site GoFundMe.

This GoFundMe campaign was launched at the beginning of May by board member Joanne DeCosse, and Dominick Blais, MGR's marketing coordinator. The goal was to collect \$1,000, which represents about half the cost of the material needed to replace the rotting wood in the sidewalk that dates from 2003.

The public responded generously to the call as we collected \$1,335 in one month! Donation amounts varied from \$15 to \$300.

We extend warm thanks to the 27 generous donors: Julien Allard, Sylvie Beaudry, Yvette and Alain Cenerini, Stephen Chapman, Cathy Collins, Suzanne D., Louise Dandeneau, Joanne DeCosse, Natalie



Duhamel, Michelle Gervais, Laurent Gimez, Chris Goulet, Normand Gousseau, Pierre Guérin, Elaine Labossière, Charles Leblanc, Aurèle LeClaire, Sara McGillivray, Christine Michaud, Rita Morier, Michael Moyes, Janine Tougas, Ismène Toussaint, Michelle Turenne-Smith, Rick Wishart and anonymous.

The replacement of the sidewalk is coordinated by two of our volunteers, Julien Allard and Jean Dumas. As Maison Gabrielle-Roy is a heritage building, any interior or exterior renovation work needs to be supervised by provincial architect Gordon Menzies.

Renovation projects will continue throughout the summer including replacing the bases of the porch's wooden columns. Volunteers Julien Allard and Jean Dumas (left to right) are already working on it!

Crunching numbers at MGR

\$183, 331: 2017 budget adopted by the Board of Directors of MGR.

\$53,000: project grant amount allocated to MGR by Heritage Canada for 2017-2018.

\$6,000: amount the MGR will receive from the City of Winnipeg's Community Incentive Grant Program to finance renovation work. This matching grant was obtained through St. Boniface City Councillor Mathieu Allard, whom we would like to thank.

\$5,815: net profit made during the 2017 Gabrielle-Roy Brunch, for which 130 tickets were sold. The profit is three times higher than in 2016, due to the higher ticket price (\$75 instead of \$50) and a reduction in the cost of the meal (a different supplier).

\$2 541: net profit of the fundraising campaign at the end of 2016 (about twenty donations, approximately 125 calendars sold, \$1,000 of sponsorships). Many thanks to all who participated in the campaign, including the sponsors (Caisse Groupe Financier, Envol 91, Inspired Business Interiors inc.) as well as the donors: Gisèle and Marc Beaudry, Mireille Blanchette, Louise Dandeneau, Jeannette Fraser, Lise Gohier, Louise Granger, Carol J. Harvey, Vivian Hilton, Louise Jubinville, Aurise Kondziela, Doris Lemoine, J.R. Léveillé, Louise Plamondon, Sisters of



The 2017 Gabrielle Roy brunch took place on March 19th at the Norwood Hotel.

the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, Michelle Smith, The Gail Asper Foundation, Corinne Tellier and Rhéal Teffaine.

1,224: number of visitors at the MGR in 2016, a 38% increase in comparison to 2015 (767 visitors).

1,100: number of visitors on average who log on to the MGR website every month.

980.5: hours of volunteer work at the MGR in 2016, a 5% reduction as compared to 2015 (1,031 hours). A perfect opportunity to remind everyone that MGR is always looking for volunteers, whether regular or occasional, for all kinds of work (cleaning, running the gift shop, greeting the public, giving guided tours, odd jobs,

gardening, etc.). If you're interested, please call Baptiste (204 231-3853) or send him an email(info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca).

202: number of people who came to MGR during Doors Open Winnipeg on May 26 and 27. A big thank you to the volunteers who welcomed them: Mireille Blanchette, Claudette Dumas, Jean Dumas, Doris Lemoine and Baptiste Marcère.

Many thanks...

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

▶ **Gabrielle Roy** HEADLINES

DOCUMENTARY

▶ **Marie-Anna Adèle Roy, school-teacher and Western Canadian writer (and a few observations concerning Gabrielle Roy)**

Cheryl GEORGET SOULODRE, 2016

Last March 25, a documentary film on Marie-Anna Roy, Gabrielle's sister, directed by Cheryl Georget Soulodre, professor of French at the University of Saskatchewan, was shown in Saskatoon. The documentary (in French) includes an interview held with Marie-Anna Roy that took place at Foyer Valade, Winnipeg, in October 1995. Professors Carol Harvey

(University of Winnipeg) and Paul Genuist (University of Saskatchewan), are interviewed, amongst others. Maison Gabrielle-Roy hopes to organize a public screening of the documentary sometime before the fall, to which the author would be invited.

PRIZES

▶ **2016 Gabrielle Roy Prize**

The names of the two winners of the 2016 Gabrielle Roy Prize were announced May 27 in Toronto. For the French section, the winner is **Alex GAGNON** for *La communauté du dehors, Imaginaire social et crimes célèbres au Québec (19th-20th cen-*

turies), published by Presses de l'Université de Montréal. For the English section, winners are **Candida RIFKIND** (professor at the University of Winnipeg) and **Linda WARLEY** for *Canadian Graphic: Picturing Life Narratives* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press). The Association for Canadian and Quebec Literatures (ACQL) awards this prize every year to honour the best books of Canadian literary criticism written in French and English.

WEB

▶ **Gabrielle Roy, in nine parts**

Margaret ATWOOD, March 2017

Maclean's Magazine has published on its website the text that Margaret Atwood wrote about the life and legacy of Gabrielle Roy for the book: *Legacy: How French Canadians Shaped North America* (McClelland & Stewart, November 2016). Address : www.macleans.ca/margaret-atwood-gabrielle-roy-in-nine-parts/.

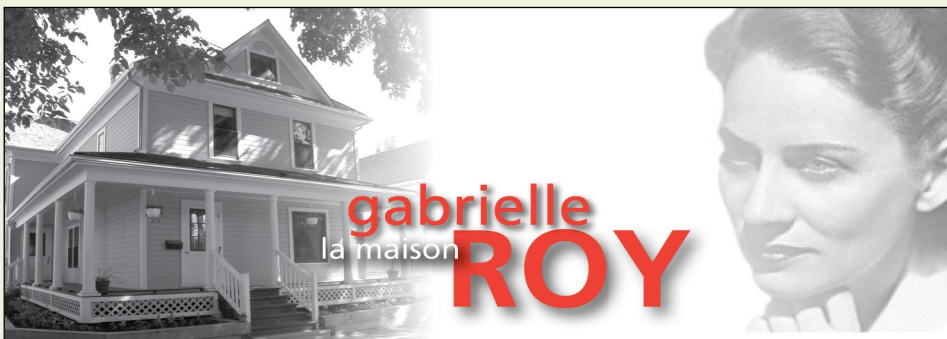
▶ **Gabrielle Roy journalist**

Thanks to a collaboration with Centre du patrimoine de Saint-Boniface, Maison Gabrielle-Roy will be publishing on its website the original articles that were written by Gabrielle Roy in the *Bulletin des agriculteurs* in the early 1940s. Address: <http://maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca>.

◀ **APPETIZERS AND POETRY**
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Presently, the volunteers of the MGR, representatives of the media and I are concentrating on the reading and evaluation of the texts submitted to the "Notre terre" (Our Land) writing contest, that took place from March 1st to May 15th. There are three categories: 18 and up, grades 11-12, and grades 9-10. The jury will meet soon to determine the winners whose names will be revealed July 1st.

And, besides all this, I continue to work on my own projects, a chapbook of poetry, along with drawings and watercolours to accompany it, stories for my notebook as well as personal and collective mythologies.



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: _____

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