



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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CELEBRATIONS, PURPOSE AND CHALLENGES

The year 2013, for Maison Gabrielle-Roy, will have been a year punctuated by celebrations supporting the slogan "Maison Gabrielle-Roy, 10 years at the heart of the community!".

Several events, curatorial, literary, cultural and social, took place throughout the year, most of them right here at the Maison, others outside the museum; a fair number of these activities provided opportunities for community partnerships. Without a doubt, all of these activities contributed towards increased visibility and exposure for Maison Gabrielle-Roy.

I am also pleased to remind you that the "zero mortgage" goal of the symbolic fundraising campaign that we had launched for this anniversary year was attained as of last spring.

This year allowed us the opportunity to affirm, once again, the dual mission of Maison Gabrielle-Roy: the Maison is – and will remain – a museum, a historical place, whose main purpose is to perpetuate the memory of one of Manitoba's and, more broadly, one of Canada's greatest writers, and to provide a context that will enable us to experience her work and person as a reality.

But I like to insist that Maison Gabrielle-Roy is more than a museum, since it celebrates the essential legacy that Gabrielle

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

left us: writing; Maison Gabrielle-Roy has made its cultural vocation clear to the community, and aims to continue playing its role fully as an actor in the cultural life of Manitoba, particularly pertaining to its Franco-phone identity.

One project that was finalized this anniversary year appears to be particularly emblematic from this perspective: the association of three community partners, Maison Gabrielle-Roy, the Alli-

Strengthening the financial position of the museum while ensuring its autonomy

ance française du Manitoba and Éditions des Plaines, in which the dynamic and committed Bertrand Nayet, writer in residence at the Maison, joined forces with quebécois storyteller Eveline Ménard, the former writing and illustrating the tales, the latter telling them. This collaboration resulted in a collection of stories titled *Contes de fils et d'eaux*, which includes a written and illustrated version of the tales as well as an oral

version available on compact disc, which will be launched October 23rd. A lovely example of what Maison Gabrielle-Roy, as a creative place, has the potential – and the means – to accomplish while fleshing out its mission.

In this anniversary year, Maison Gabrielle-Roy casts a retrospective eye on its first ten years of existence, which has been expressed in the form of warranted and expected celebrations. But this observation must be twinned with a second, more prospective slant. Indeed, the accomplishment of the double mission of the Maison imposes a second, indispensable requirement: the importance of strengthening the financial position of the museum while ensuring its autonomy.

The challenge is commensurate with the stakes: it would be essential, as I brought forward during the Annual General Meeting last May, that regular donations towards Maison Gabrielle-Roy appear to be a necessary condition to ensure the medium and long-term viability of the Maison. This kind

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Dates to keep in mind

The collection of tales **Contes de fils et d'eaux** will be launched on **Wednesday, October 23rd, 2013** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Fort Gibraltar's Maison Chaboillez (866 St. Joseph St. in St. Boniface).

This work is the result of a creative project that was launched by Maison Gabrielle-Roy and the Alliance française du Manitoba in 2011. It is a joint work executed by Bertrand Nayet, Maison Gabrielle-Roy's writer in residence and quebecois storyteller, musician and spinner Eveline Ménard.

Throughout the 92 pages, the voyageur Baladère tells the stories of his travels and meetings in Red River territory; a tale rooted in history, nature and geography set on a backdrop of legends with universal themes. The text and 14 illustrations by Bertrand Nayet are accompanied by the oral version on a CD recorded by Eveline Ménard. *Contes de fils et d'eaux*, published by

Éditions des Plaines, sells for \$24.95.

The original illustration by Bertrand Nayet that is reproduced on the cover page of the book will be drawn during the **Gabrielle Roy Banquet**, which takes place **October 17th starting at 5:30 p.m.** at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg.



Three other draws will take place during the course of the evening which marks the end of the 10th anniversary celebrations of Maison Gabrielle-Roy. Prizes include 12 bottles of wine, the entire series of the Centennial edition of the

works of Gabrielle Roy (Éditions du Boréal), and several books about Gabrielle Roy offered by Éditions des Plaines, including the French translation of the correspondence between Gabrielle Roy and Margaret Laurence.

CELEBRATIONS, PURPOSE AND CHALLENGES

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kind of formula represents, in my view, the challenge of the next 10 years as well as a new stage in the existence of the museum. I am convinced that putting this idea into action as well as the full start-up of the Maison's double mission constitute the two avenues that will permit us to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Maison Gabrielle-Roy.

On an entirely different subject, you are no doubt aware that Lucienne Châteauneuf, our Executive Director since 2008, will be leaving at the end of December. I would like to emphasize, in this special circumstance, her total commitment, her impressive efficiency, her amazing availability, her engaging manner, her sharp sense of initiative and her consistent concern with detail that she applied to all of her projects; without her, none of the events proposed for the 10th anniversary would have been possible. It was a real privilege – and a pleasure – for me to work with her to further develop the Maison. From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much Lucienne!

I will be leaving my position on the Board of Directors shortly, after having spent four years as the president, very happy to have been able to contribute in this way to the development of this magnificent Maison Gabrielle-Roy. Maison Gabrielle-Roy.

Bulletin Board

◆ TEN YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING

Since Maison Gabrielle-Roy's opening in June 2003, **Claudette** and **Jean Dumas** fell in love with the building and decided to become volunteers. Claudette, formerly a teacher at Duke of Marlborough School in Churchill, became very active in a number of capacities: welcoming visitors, giving guided tours, doing general maintenance, cleaning, gardening, being on the Board of Directors, etc. Though she accompanied many visitors on tours through the Maison, she speaks with particular emotion about a few of Gabrielle Roy's former students: Valentin Joyal and Patrick McDougal, grade 1 students at Provencher School in 1936-37; and the three Côté sisters, Simone, Marie and Hélène, who were taught by Gabrielle Roy at Waterhen during the summer of 1937, the place that inspired the episode she wrote about in her novel *La Petite Poule d'Eau* in 1951.

As for Jean Dumas, he takes care of "making the exterior of the Maison as inviting as the interior", which means planting flowers, taking care of the trees and lawn, and planting a small garden where tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes and other vegetables grow. The former Canadian Forces mem-



Jean and Claudette Dumas

ber finds that a cared-for exterior enhances the image of the museum and improves the visitors' experience.

The members of the Board of Directors and the personnel of Maison Gabrielle-Roy extend warm thanks to Jean and Claudette Dumas and all the other volunteers without whom the house would not exist.

◆ HISTOIRE DU MANITOBA FRANÇAIS

Éditions des Plaines has just published

Jacqueline Blay's second volume of her *Histoire du Manitoba français : Le temps des outrages (1870-*

1916). In this book, Jacqueline Blay, an active member of Maison Gabrielle-Roy and former president of the Board of Directors, mostly describes the crucial period of history when the suppression of Francophone educational and linguistic rights, guaranteed by the *Manitoba Act* (1870), occurred. The book is on sale for \$29.95 in bookstores as well as on the Éditions des Plaines website www.plaines.ca/.



Inspired by Gabrielle

Results of the writing contest jointly organized by Maison Gabrielle-Roy and *La Liberté* were announced September 12, 2013 at a special event held at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, where prizes were awarded.

The contest invited adults and students from grades 5 to 12 to submit a short story, in French, around the theme “Ten years”. All of the texts were judged according to criteria such as respecting the genre, creativity and proficiency in French. Twenty-six texts were submitted in the “adult” category. Here are the results:

GRADES 5 AND 6 CATEGORY

1st prize: *Le dixième dragon*,

by Jasmine Régnier

2nd prize: *Quand j’aurai 10 ans*,

par Angèle Grenier

3rd prize: *Le dragon et le médaillon*,

by Aimée Vrignon

Special mention: *Une pêche bossée*,

by Dominique Van Munster

GRADES 7 AND 8 CATEGORY

1st prize: *La vie de Noémie Lachance*,

by Manon Ketsman

2nd prize: *Courage*, par Linda Muzamuzi

3rd prize: *La vie de Maxine*,

by Jolene Rondeau

GRADES 9 TO 12 CATEGORY

1st prize: *Dix ans plus tôt*,

by Olivia Dagnaud

2nd prize: *Blanche déception*,

by Gavin Boutroy

3rd prize: *Choix et perspectives*,

by Marika Laczko

Special mention: *Les dernières volontés*,

by Danika Plas

ADULT CATEGORY

1st prize: *La beignerie et le coffret*,

by Louise Dandeneau

2nd prize: *Jérôme*, by Jean-Michel Beaudry

3rd prize: *Pas de dix*, by Marie-Jo Laroche

Special mention: *Telle mère, telle fille*,

by Sheila Clark

First-prize winning texts in each category were published in the September 11 to 17, 2013 edition of *La Liberté* and are posted on the Website <http://la-liberte.mb.ca/concours-2>. Maison Gabrielle-Roy thanks all of the participants, the sponsors as well as the teachers who presented the project to their students.

QUEBEC HOMECOMING

“*Gabrielle Roy et l’imaginaire des femmes*”: this is the theme of the 2013 edition of Le festival Québec en toutes lettres, which takes place from October 10-20 in Quebec City.

Organizers of the festival decided to celebrate the life and work of Gabrielle Roy to mark the 30th anniversary of her death. Nearly 200 writers and artists will take part in the special event, including French-Canadian writers such as the Franco-Manitoban Roger Léveillé.

Several activities are planned, in particular a reading of the novel *Bonheur d’occasion* as well as readings of excerpts of the autobiography *La détresse et l’enchantement*. For more information, visit the festival website at www.quebecentouteslettres.com/.



VISITORS GET

THE LAST WORD

About fifty people from amongst the visitors who came to see Maison Gabrielle-Roy through the months of June to August, 2013, left a few words in our gold book. Here are a few excerpts from their comments (originally written in French).

Excellent visit, very pleasantly conceived! Superb museum, touching, moving. The young guide knows how to get people to like Gabrielle-Roy. A magnificent discovery!

BRUXELLES, BELGIUM

It is surprising to see the understated luxury in this house. Realistic restoration and well conserved. A pleasant place!

MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO

I am so happy to be here in Gabrielle Roy’s universe. It is a huge gift for me. I will re-read her books now as I will have the impression that I understand and can appreciate the writings of Gabrielle Roy even more. Thank you, I have just lived a magical moment!

JONQUIÈRE, QUÉBEC

I began to read Gabrielle Roy’s works after a friend from Manitoba suggested it. I really enjoy what I am discovering. Visiting the author’s house allows me to make the link between her work and its context.

FRANCE

A PIECE OF HISTORY ♦ Excerpt of a letter published in *La Liberté*, February 18, 1982

To the friends of Gabrielle Roy

On a number of occasions over the past few weeks, the media have brought up – and probably amplified! – rumours concerning our internationally renowned Manitoba author Gabrielle Roy. Two of these “news items” were of particular interest to us and with just cause: the first, a suggestion that Gabrielle Roy should be nominated for this year’s Nobel Prize in literature! Which of course we support one hundred percent.

The second rumour reawakens hope, dreams often expressed, but never fulfilled because of adverse circumstances. It involves the sale of 375 Deschambault St., Gabrielle Roy’s home... What will the future hold for Gabrielle Roy’s former home? It seems that the time has come for all of the great writer’s friends and admirers

to seriously consider this question.

After all, it does come down to us to conserve this home for posterity; the place that sheltered her childhood, stood witness to her adolescent dreams and where so many of her memories as a fledgling young adult originated. Did this house not set the stage that inspired the blossoming of her future talent?

Besides this, how many of our Canadian compatriots, when passing through St. Boniface, and how many tourists from far and wide, ask to see and if possible to visit “Gabrielle Roy’s house”?

A number of diverse organizations, associations and societies are in agreement that it is time to answer these questions; that it is important, as much for our honour as Franco-Manitobans as it is for

the history of our burgeoning literature, to conserve this building and to breathe new life into it that is worthy of its past. At the same time, it is most important to consider what this would require from a material, financial and simply human point of view; to know who, in the end, would be ready to lend a strong hand towards this type of project, even to take the initiative, or at the very least, to second it. It would have to start there...

Maybe we should talk about it?

Sr Hélène CHAPUT, s.n.j.m.
vice-présidente
La Société historique
de Saint-Boniface

► Gabrielle Roy HEADLINES

MUSIC

► *Lettres de Madame Roy à sa fille Gabrielle*

Michel TREMBLAY (author), André GAGNON (composer), Marie-Nicole LEMIEUX (contralto), Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières, *Audiogram, September 2013*

This operatic suite in six acts was created in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, in November, 2012. Michel Tremblay imagined letters in which Mélina expressed her worries and the love she felt for her daughter Gabrielle, then exiled in Europe. The CD (\$13) is on sale in stores and excerpts may be heard on the Audiogram website (www.audiogram.com/).

WEB

► *Moi et mes livres*

GABRIELLE ROY'S CORRESPONDENCE IN THE CENTRE DU PATRIMOINE COLLECTIONS

La Société historique de Saint-Boniface had the very good idea to put online its 2009 exhibition dedicated to Gabrielle Roy's correspondence. About 40 letters, sent to a number of correspondents, such as Antoine Gaborieau and Annette Saint-Pierre, have been regrouped according to themes that correspond with those found in Gabrielle Roy's five novels. The exhibition is posted on the Centre du patrimoine website:

http://shsb.mb.ca/Exposition_Gabrielle_Roy.

BOOKS

► *Entre fleuve et rivière*

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GABRIELLE ROY AND MARGARET LAURENCE

Les Éditions des Plaines, November 2013, 144 pages, \$21.95

This is the first translation in French (by Sophie Voillot and Dominique Fortier, Governor General Award recipients) of the correspondence exchanged between the two novelists beginning in 1976.

Nine prizes to win!

Maison Gabrielle-Roy invites its members to participate in a draw that includes the following nine prizes (3 copies per item):

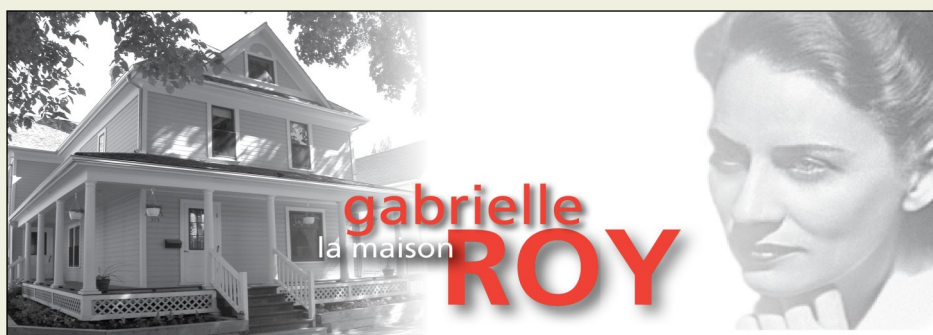
- *Contes de fils et d'eaux* (book and CD, Éditions des Plaines/MGR/AFM)
- *Entre fleuve et rivière, correspondance entre Gabrielle Roy et Margaret Laurence* (book, Éditions des Plaines)
- *Lettres de Madame Roy à sa fille Gabrielle* (CD, Audiogram)

To take part, simply send your contact details (name, address and telephone number) to **Maison Gabrielle-Roy**, by mail (P.O. Box 133, 375 Deschambault St., Saint-Boniface, Manitoba, R2H 3B4) or by email (info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca) indicating Fall draw 2013.

Entries must be received by **Friday November 29, 2013** at the latest. The names of nine winners will be drawn at random during the month of December 2013 and announced in the next edition of the newsletter.

Many thanks...

- to **Rinella Printers Limited** for sponsoring parts of the printing costs of this Newsletter;
- to **Éditions des Plaines** for their generous contribution toward our draws;
- to **Simone Hébert Allard** 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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LA MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY

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