



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, or share information, please write us at Box 133-375 Deschambault St., Saint-Boniface MB R2H 3B4 or email us at info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca.

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MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (AS OF MAY 31, 2011)

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Executive Director:
Lucienne Châteauneuf
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Stella Labossière

A CELEBRATION OF WRITING

You have in hand the *Maison Gabrielle-Roy Newsletter*... published anew after a few years' hiatus.

The Newsletter, to be published three times a year, is a link to all those who support Maison Gabrielle-Roy; furthermore, it is also an informational publication which serves to promote the activities taking place at the museum.

Maison Gabrielle-Roy takes pride in the official recognition it has received. It is maintain-

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

ing its core mission as a francophone heritage museum by offering visitors a wider choice of activities (for example, starting this summer, a play will be presented). However, the Maison plans to be more than a simple museum in future. As it honours one of Canada's greatest writers and her essential inheritance – writing, so it also proclaims its vocation as a community

cultural institution, in which writing serves to strengthen the identity of Manitoba's francophone community.

Writing is, of course, an expression of oneself, but it is also a form of producing and creating oneself, and of creating and of discovering one's voice. That is why the writer-in-residence project, which embodies this vision, is central to the renown of Maison Gabrielle-Roy. Thank you for your support! Enjoy the Newsletter!

GABRIELLE'S ESSENCE

Every time I arrive at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, whether on a Saturday afternoon or in the early evening on any given day of the week, I take a tour through the house; the floors squeak as my eyes dwell on the rich patinas of the wood.

Without fail, every time, I jump in surprise! Whether in the kitchen, or in one of the upstairs rooms, out of the corner of my eye, I catch sight of Mélina or one of her daughters, at work or just getting into bed... mannequins in period costumes (dating back to the early 1900's). To some extent, these are the images and emotions this writer's residence conjures up. This is work that I am very familiar with... writing page after page, reading stories, and facilitating workshops. But here, within

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

the walls of the museum, there is always a surprise waiting for me... at any given time, and place, when I least expect it. Perhaps because I have more free time here, perhaps because there is a sense of Gabrielle's presence, as well as her family's, my writing is more productive and my meetings are more intense.

What have I accomplished to date? Well! I'm continuing to work on my historical novel—this being the first volume (the story begins in 1837 in Lower Canada, taking us to Spain, France and Western Canada); I've started writing a short story based on a trip I recently

took to New Orleans); I'm pursuing my work on a triptych of sculptures to be paired with a series of poems on trees (trees being the link between earth and sky, between the concrete and the spiritual worlds); in winter and spring, I facilitated two series of writing workshops—the first based on the short story, and the second based on the haiku.

In December 2010, I met with students in the course on poetry writing taught by Lise Gaboury-Diallo (CUSB) and in March I met with students in Sandrine Hallion-Brès' course on creative writing. I am pursuing my work as mentor for budding authors and I attended Suzanne Kennelly's reading of her script for *La Visite chez Mélina*. It is a gem!

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The return of *Génies en herbe*

Segments of the first episode of *Génies en herbe : l'aventure* were recorded at Maison Gabrielle-Roy on October 2nd, 2010 and aired on Radio-Canada on January 8th, 2011. This legendary program, created in the early 70's was re-invented and re-instated after a 13 year hiatus. In its new version, young contestants take part in a race which was a great opportunity for promoting the museum.

Welcoming new volunteers -

Information sessions about volunteer work at Maison Gabrielle-Roy were presented in October 2010. As a result of these sessions, five new volunteers were recruited. Welcome to the team! Our team of volunteers now numbers about 15 people. Of course, volunteer recruitment is ongoing! For information, contact our director, Lucienne Châteauneuf, at 231-3853.

Gabrielle-Roy Trophy-

On October 25th, Lucienne Châteauneuf, director of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, was on hand to present the Gabrielle-Roy Trophy to Andréa Rondeau-Brown, student at École Laura Secord in Winni-

peg. Andréa was awarded the trophy as winner of the grade 5/6 category of the United Nations Annual Public Speaking Competition organized by the United Nations Association in Canada (Winnipeg Branch).

Amongst the guests present for the ceremony were the Honourable Philip Lee, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, and the Honourable Nancy Allan, Minister of Education.



Author and former President of the Board of Directors of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, Annette Saint-Pierre, and the present President of the Board, François Lentz, during the recording of *Vous m'en lirez tant*, January 29th, 2011.

Christmas at Gabrielle's house-

Maison Gabrielle-Roy was filled with guests, as well as the sounds of the season, as we celebrated an Old Tyme Christmas on December 11th, 2010. The museum's writer-in-residence, Bertrand Nayet, took part in the celebration as storyteller, while music resounded throughout the house courtesy of Dominique Reynolds (vocals), Claude de Moissac (pianist) and Émilie Chartier (violinist).

Vous m'en lirez tant -

On January 29th, 2010, Maison Gabrielle-Roy was host to the team from the radio show *Vous m'en lirez tant* for the taping of a show about francophone literature in Manitoba. Amongst the guests were authors Bertrand Nayet, Simone Chaput, France Adams, Annette Saint-Pierre and Lise Gaboury-Diallo. In addition, editors, Roger Léveillé (Éd. du Blé) and Huguette Le Gall (Éd. des Plaines) were present.

A few days after the recording, the show's director, Claude Godin, sent a note to Maison Gabrielle-Roy highlighting... : *"The whole crew of Vous m'en lirez tant thanks you for the warm welcome you gave us on our recent visit to Maison Gabrielle-Roy. The restoration of this house should be a model for all sites of historical and cultural importance to francophone Canada. I want you to know that it was a very moving visit for us and we hope that we have done something to make both the house and Franco-Manitoban literature better known, and that it will have an impact—however small—on the rest of Canada."*

The show aired on Radio-Canada on January 30th. You can listen to it on the following website: www.radio-canada.ca/emissions/vous_men_lirez_tant.

The next issue of the Maison Gabrielle-Roy Newsletter will be published in the fall of 2011. If you wish to receive it by email (PDF format), send us a note at info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca.

Bulletin Board

CHANGES AT THE BOARD LEVEL

The Board of Directors of Maison-Gabrielle gained two new members during the months prior to the AGM of May 31st, 2011. **Laurent Gimenez**, was nominated for three years, while **Anne-Marie Maupertuis** fills a vacancy until the AGM (May), at which time she will be nominated for a term of three years.

Shannon Burns left the Board of Directors in September 2010, while four other members will not be renewing their terms at the AGM in May. These four are: **Claudette Dumas**, **Ernest Gautron**, **Carol Harvey** and **Richard Chartier**.

The Board of Directors wishes to express heartfelt thanks for their help and devotion.

MOURNING TWO FRIENDS

It is with sadness that we learned of the deaths of **M^{me} Marie-Thérèse Brunet**, on February 18, 2011 and of **M. Léo Blanchette**, on March 16, 2011. These two friends of Maison Gabrielle-Roy have made a great contribution, by means of their time or otherwise, to the museum. The Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their condolences to both families at this time of mourning.

BOOK DONATIONS

"*Au Bonheur d'Occasion*", the gift shop at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, is looking for English language books, both works by Gabrielle Roy or about Gabrielle Roy. If you have books to donate, please call us at 231-3853.

Thank you to **Rinella Printers Limited** for sponsoring part of the printing costs of this Newsletter!

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Chez Gabrielle - On March 15, 2011, Maison Gabrielle-Roy hosted an evening of readings when the public had a unique opportunity to hear three women from Manitoba—distinguished authors—read excerpts from their works. Annette Saint-Pierre, Simone Chaput and Anne Sechin made up the trio of authors who participated in this event facilitated by Bertrand Nayet.

Writing Workshop “the short story” - The workshops which took place during the winter of 2010 and spring of 2011, will leave an impression... and not only on the participants who attended the workshops. The four short stories written during the course of the project were of such quality that

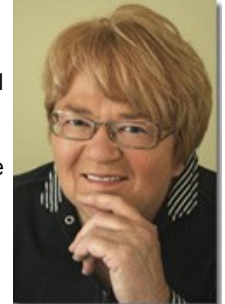
they have been selected for publication in the next issue of the *Cahiers franco-canadiens de l'Ouest*.

Gabrielle Roy Brunch - Just over 100 people attended the Brunch at the Norwood Hotel on March 20th. The event, an annual fundraiser, allowed the museum to raise \$2,743 for its operating expenses. Plan to attend next year!

Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Grand Draw - The winners of the Grand Draw which took place on April 16th are: 1st prize (travel voucher valued at \$2,500): Normand and Léonie Boisvert; 2nd prize (basket of 12 wine bottles): Catherine Lentz; 3rd prize (two tickets to Cercle Molière and two books by Gabrielle Roy): Sylvie Beaudry.

Writing Workshop “the haiku” -

The final series of workshops on the haiku was held on May 7th highlighting a full day dedicated to this typical Japanese poetic form which enchants people well beyond the Land of the Rising Sun. The day's agenda include nature walks, meals, “kukāi” sessions (discussions about haikus, as is done by a Master's students in Japan).



Francine Chicoine

Bertrand Nayet co-facilitated the workshop with Francine Chicoine, director of the collection *Voix intérieures - Haïku* (Baie-Comeau).

Theatre at Maison Gabrielle-Roy!



Méлина Roy with Gabrielle and Germain in 1912

From June to September, visitors to Maison Gabrielle-Roy will have the pleasant surprise of being greeted by... Méлина Roy... Gabrielle's own mother! Thanks to a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation, we will have the pleasure of presenting a play titled *La Visite chez Méлина*, written for the museum by Suzanne Kennelly.

During the course of the monologue, the actor playing Méлина (Paulette Duguay) will greet visitors as she speaks of her life and takes visitors through the house. The play is set in 1933, when Melina is 66 years old. A new and entertaining way of interpreting a part of history!

At this time, the event is offered in French only.

Stories from Québec and from

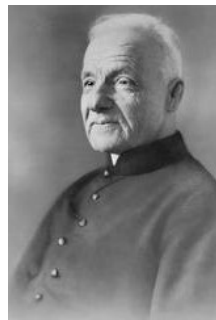
France - Devils, werewolves, and other spirits... are they the same on both sides of the Atlantic? In partnership with Winnipeg's International Storytelling Festival, and the *Alliance française du Manitoba*, Maison Gabrielle-Roy hosted a storytelling evening on May 12th. Lucie Bisson (Québec) and Aimée de La Salle (France), teamed up to showcase their talent and to involve the audience in their tales and fables through word, music and song.

A VISIT WITH BROTHER ANDRÉ

Excerpt from *Street of Riches* by Gabrielle Roy (trad. Harry L. Binsse, Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1957).

“... and the Naults went as far as to offer us an expedition to Saint-Joseph's Oratory. Its major purpose, I imagine, was to see Brother André. That poor wonder-worker sat from morning till night on a straight-backed chair, his head in his hands, listening to the appeals and prayers of the vast crowd filing past him. Many sought to be cured by him; others wanted only to see if he looked like a saint; and

perhaps a few hoped for no more than his understanding. You could not help feeling sorry for Brother André; almost the whole while he kept his face a little hidden; one might have thought that he had a headache, or that he himself felt sad at not being understood by everyone. Certainly he had little time to reply to all the people for every day, it would seem, there came as many as on the day we went. Now it was Maman's turn. She asked Brother André whether it was a great sin for a married woman to leave on a journey without having



André Bessette, better known as Brother André, was canonized on Oct. 17, 2010.

obtained her husband's consent. Perhaps Brother André did not hear properly. He hastily replied to Maman: “Say a good prayer to Saint-Joseph, don't drink too much coffee, and have trust, always have trust.””

Maison Gabrielle-Roy: The year 2010 in numbers

The numbers in brackets indicate the annual means from 2003 to 2009.

- **Visitors:** 1,929 persons (2,254)
- **Boutique Sales:** \$4,683 (\$6,235)
- **Donations:** \$12,318 (\$26,101)
- **Volunteer Hours:** 1,043 (1,888)
- **Volunteers:** 15 +/-



gabrielle la maison **ROY**

M E M B E R S H I P A N D D O N A T I O N

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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