



The Quebec Association of Retired Teachers

Newsletter September 2016

Editor John Greene (qart.mtl@outlook.com)

QART Executive Committee

Here are six of our executive committee members for 2016-2017.



John Greene,
President



Annie Schaffhauser,
1st Vice-President



Alda McCaffery,
2nd Vice-President



Patrick Griffin,
Treasurer



Cécile Doucet-Greene,
Secretary



Cathy Barrowcliffe,
Past President

Missing is Mary Zenaitis, our continuity officer. Her photo will appear in the next issue the Q.A.R.T. newsletter.

Thank you to our volunteers!

There are many who give of their time freely. Without them, QART would have a hard time functioning. The executive committee can't do everything on its own; we need those volunteers.

Gerry Carroll: *benevolence*

Mary Zenaitis: *obituaries*

Steve Dursa: *QART membership cards & labels*

Christina Gasior-Zarebski: *phones & e-mails*

Kevin Marciniak: *QART webmaster*

Ed Zegray: *GTAR*

Peter Tellier: *newsletter printing & posting*

Thank you to anyone else that I may have forgotten. Don't confuse my poor memory with your importance to QART.

QART Starts Another Year

Welcome back! I hope that you all have had a great summer. September marks the beginning of yet another year for QART. We are still representing you. We are still putting in the time making plans for activities and events that you'll enjoy throughout the year. We have some challenges ahead, but we will meet them and still be here next year.

One of the challenges that QART faces is maintaining its numbers. We did very well last year. In fact, we increased our membership. This year, as every year, QART started its membership drive in July with the big push at the first general meeting in September. We will be depending on you, our present membership, not only to rejoin us, but perhaps sing our praises to non-members, suggesting that they join, or inviting them to one of our get-togethers as a guest. About half of our new members last year were invited as guests and decided on their own that they liked what they saw and joined us.

Another challenge this coming year will be a result of price increases at Pius X. As you may know, Pius X has raised the price of the luncheon buffets from \$12 to \$15; it also raised the price of its full service lunches (Oktoberfest, April Spring Luncheon) from \$20 to \$25. That's a 25% increase. Pius X is becoming less and less competitive with other locations. We'll still use Pius for this year, but expect an increase in the use of other venues in the forthcoming years.

Membership Drive

Now is the time to renew your membership. The membership forms can be downloaded from the QART website. A blank renewal form can be found on the last page of this newsletter also. The rates are still the same. An annual regular membership is \$30. To date, many members have paid their membership fees. We appreciate their prompt response.

The fees should be paid by the end of November.

For those who are interested in keeping up to date with QART but because of circumstances, cannot participate in QART activities, there is the membership-at-large at \$12. A member-at-large receives a copy of our newsletter four times a year. We have members-at-large throughout Canada from B.C. to Nova Scotia and in practically every region in Quebec and Ontario. Their support is commendable and very much appreciated. Thank you one and all for your continued support.

GTAR Consultations stall to a crawl

an update by Ed Zegray, QART's representative on GTAR

The coalition Groupe de Travail des Associations de Retraités (GTAR) is a working committee of associations of retirees from the public sector. QART is a member of GTAR. GTAR was formed in 2007 to continue in dialogue with the government on issues of retirement, and the protection of the purchasing power of retirees, including indexation of pensions. Ever since that time, GTAR has asked the government to create a standing committee where retirees' viewpoints could be expressed and solutions to their loss of purchasing power be sought.

Fast forward to February 2015. As a result of a successful Press Conference held on February 9th, representatives from GTAR got an audience with the Chair of the Treasury Board, Martin Coiteux, later that month. After some consideration, in June 2015 Minister Coiteux confirmed that he was willing to create a "tribune with associations of retirees" to examine the situation. A first meeting to determine the composition, choice of members, topics of discussion and meeting schedule of such a committee was held with representatives from the Treasury Board on January 28, 2016. It so happened this was the exact day that a new Chair of the Treasury Board was sworn in.

In a letter of introduction and follow-up sent February 24, 2016 to the then recently appointed Chair of the Treasury Board Sam Hamad, GTAR identified itself as a grouping of twelve associations representing 115 000 retirees from the public sector. Further, this letter stated that GTAR is the most representa-

tive group of retirees as it has members retired from the fields of health and education as well as from the civil service, and this from both the Francophone and Anglophone communities. The letter then expressed hope that the new Chairman will bring renewed energy to the government's commitment to create a tribune of discussion with retirees.

But the dust hadn't yet settled, when just seven weeks later, on April 13, 2016, Carlos Leitão was sworn in as the new Chair of the Treasury Board. This appointment was in addition to his duties as Minister of Finance with responsibilities for Retraite Québec (which has been in operation since January 1, 2016). This past June 16, 2016, GTAR wrote to the Minister, taking the opportunity to introduce itself once more while deploring the fact that the government has named all the members of the Board of Directors of Retraite Québec except those representing retirees. It is obvious from Minister Leitão's response dated July 7, 2016 that the files of the retirees sent in from the previous call for nominations have been misplaced during the cabinet shuffles, and so the Minister asks that associations re-submit their candidates by mid-August.

Somehow this whole saga reminds me of the myth of Sisyphus, who was continually facing an uphill battle. *"Plus que ça change, plus que c'est la même chose"*. Well, it does beat sitting in a rocking chair all day, but I still wonder what 2016-17 will bring?

Ed Zegray Named as New Regional Representative in ACER-CART

ACER-CART (Canadian Association of Retired Teachers) is a national organization which lobbies the Canadian government on behalf of retired teachers. QART is a member of ACER-CART. There are many other member associations in ACER-CART. In all, ACER-CART represents around 138,000 individual retired teachers from across Canada.

ACER-CART advocates for retired teachers, particularly in the areas of health, pensions, housing, and inequality. It works in concert with other retirement groups.

Ed Zegray has for many years represented QART on the ACER-CART directorship, but now Ed has

been elected an executive officer of ACER-CART as its Regional Representative for Eastern Canada, that is Quebec and the Maritimes. Further, he has also been named as ACER-CART's chair for its Health Services and Insurance Committee. Congratulations, Ed.

Sadly because of this, Ed can no longer represent QART in particular, as he used to.

As President of QART, I will, by default, be QART's new representative at ACER-CART until such time as the QART Executive Committee names a new ACER-CART representative.

Oktoberfest

The Oktoberfest Luncheon will take place at the St. Pius X Culinary Institute on **Wednesday, October 26 at 11:30 a.m.** The cost of the 4-course meal, including a glass of wine, tax, and tip, is \$25. Regular members who have paid their membership fee will be charged \$22 for a savings of \$3.

Guests are welcome, but there is a limited number of places. These places will be allocated to those who send in their payments first.

Please contact Annie Schaffhauser if you are planning to attend.

email: azuk1024@gmail.com

phone: (514) 374-1549

Please make your cheque payable to QART and mail it to:

QART treasurer, Patrick Griffin,
413 rue Tremblay, Lasalle QC,
H8R 2W5

Please have your cheques in by **October 19, 2016**.

QART Christmas Party

Date: Wednesday, November 30th, 2016

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Restaurant Terra Mare, 3633 Boul. Des Sources, 514-683-4353 (private room)

LUNCHEON MENU

Cream of Leek and Potato Soup & Chef's Salad,
plus a choice of 4 entrees

Atlantic Salmon
Veal Marsala
Shrimps Provencale
Filet Mignon brochette **

Choice of two desserts: Crème caramel or
Swiss Chocolate cake
Coffee/Tea

Cost: \$33 (**\$37 for filet mignon)

tax and tip included

Payment at the entrance (the restaurant will collect payment at the door ... cash or credit card. The restaurant will then give each person a meal ticket. Those who choose the **Filet Mignon brochette will pay \$4 (tax and tip included) at their seat much like the payment of drinks.

Those who wish to go should give in their names to Annie Schaffhauser before **November 16th**.

email: azuk1024@gmail.com

phone: (514) 374-1549

You may invite a guest or two; however, since the room can hold only up to 80 persons, preference will be given to QART members, and guests will be placed on a waiting list.

Annual QART Mass and Luncheon

This year, the QART mass is at **Our Lady of Fatima on Wednesday, November 9th, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.** Father Joe Sullivan has agreed to be our celebrant again this year. During the offertory, we will have a collection for Our Lady of Fatima parish. As in the past, any members or family members of QART who have recently passed away will be remembered at the mass.

Our Lady of Fatima's address is 875 Boul. Marcel-Laurin, Ville St.-Laurent. It is at the south-east corner of Marcel-Laurin at Decelles. The best approach to the church is northbound on Marcel-Laurin so as to be able to turn into the church's parking lot situated just before the church.

Luncheon afterwards, around 12:00 p.m. at Au Vieux Duluth, 1997 Marcel-Laurin, Ville St.-Laurent, BYOB. The restaurant has included a complementary rice pudding with your meal. Guests are welcome.

Please let Annie Schaffhauser know by **November 4th** if you plan to attend the luncheon at Au Vieux Duluth.

email: azuk1024@gmail.com

phone: (514) 374-1549

QART Calendar of Events 2015-2016

September 14th, 2016 - QART meeting at St. Pius X, room 1254, 11:00 a.m.

October 26th, 2016 - Oktoberfest at St. Pius X Culinary Institute at 11:30 a.m.

November 9th, 2016 - QART Annual Mass at Our Lady of Fatima at 11:00 a.m. The Luncheon, around 12:30, at the Vieux Duluth, 1977 Marcel-Laurin, Ville St.-Laurent.

November 30th, 2016 - Christmas Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Restaurant Terra Mare, 3633 Boul. des Sources, Dollard-des-Ormeaux.

February 15th, 2017 - QART meeting and lunch

March 15th, 2017 - St. Patrick's Luncheon

April 26th, 2017 - Spring Luncheon at St. Pius X Culinary Institute at 11:30 a.m.

May 17th, 2017 - Annual General Meeting at St. Pius X, room 1254, at 11:00 a.m.

Front page headline, *The Gazette*, Thursday, September 16, 1976

Bill 22 dispute

Pupils sit in on classes
By PAULE des RIVIERES
Of The Gazette

Principals at 41 English Catholic schools yesterday allowed more than 800 who have failed Bill 22 language tests to participate in formal and informal classes in defiance of the province's Official Language Act.

The children, 90 per cent of kindergarten age, were placed in regular classes where space permitted and otherwise in libraries, recreation rooms and gymnasiums at schools under the Montreal Catholic School Commission (MCSC).

The MCSC will adopt its official positions on the occupations today, but during a television interview yesterday, school commission president, Therese Lavoie-Roux said she had no intentions of penalizing school principals for letting the children in.

As long as teachers fulfilled their regular duties, she probably would not prevent the youngsters from entering the school buildings. Lavoie-Roux said to the CBC. She expressed hope that the government would meet the parents to explain the Bill 22 tests administered by the education ministry.

The children, their parents and some off-duty teachers spent two hours at kindergarten activities in English. The parents, mostly of Italian descent, refuse to register their children in French schools as required by Bill 22 for those who fail English-language ability tests. About 80 youngsters eligible for grade 1 have still not registered for French schools and participated in yesterday's informal classes. Kindergarten-age children are not required to register for school and their parents are trying to improve their English-language ability in order to pass admittance tests next year.

English Catholic principals agreed last week to accommodate the children, but admitted they could not be registered legally for school.

On the Record, 40 Years Ago

In 1976, forty years ago, many of us were teaching for the Montreal Catholic School Commission. 1976 was a turbulent year in a decade full of turbulent years. Teaching is a hard enough vocation, but in 1976, we had to deal with Bill 22 and language testing, provincial negotiations and strike actions, against a backdrop of Olympic spending overruns and construction chaos. We didn't realize at the time that by the end of the year, we would have a new separatist party in power with a new language law in the making.

The above article highlights one of the many occasions that when the chips were down, teachers, administrators, and parents would co-operate with one another. Ironically, both Mike Doyle and Ron Garofalo are mentioned in this article; they both passed away this past year within months of each other.

"We accepted the kids in classrooms where there is space but it remains a temporary solution," a spokesman for the Federation of English Speaking Catholic Teachers (FESCT) said yesterday.

"Everything was just fine during the morning; no fights .. no trouble. Teachers did their work as usual not minding a few more students in the classrooms." Spokesman Mike Doyle said yesterday.

Doyle added that although English Catholic teachers had not taken an official stand on the controversy, the majority had always been against Bill 22 which "takes away parents' freedom of choice."

Some off-duty teachers and specialists helped parents supervise children.

Teachers were "tacitly" supporting school principals who decided Monday to let the children in English schools, without registering them, said Ron Garofalo, principal at Ste. Rita elementary school in the city's North-East end. At Ste. Rita, 24 of the 35 children studying in a recreation room have brothers or sisters already enrolled in the English school.

"They drew and spelled and spent the morning like any other child who is registered for kindergarten," Garofalo said.

Everything was quiet and in good order, but the parents are angry at the law, determined to have their children study in English and they will come back," Garfalo warned.

The parents brandished citizenship cards and asked why their Canadian-born children were discriminated against.

In Memoriam

STAN MACHNIK, co-founder and discussion leader at the Thomas More Institute and former teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas and Cardinal Newman High Schools

HELEN CONWAY, former math and science consultant on the South Shore

RON GAROFALO, former principal at St. Rita's School and husband of **BEVERLEY GAROFALO**

MICHAEL DOYLE, former teacher at John F. Kennedy High School and former Executive Director of the Federation of English-Speaking Catholic Teachers

JOHN PAUL ROCHFORD, former teacher at St. Pius X and James Lyng High Schools

WILLIAM MYERS TELLIER, brother of **PETER TELLIER**

MICHAEL Di MAIO, former teacher at Lester B. Pearson High School and Vincent Massey Collegiate

EARL HOWARD, former teacher at LaSalle Catholic High School

BOB CHARTRAND, former teacher at LaSalle Catholic High School

CONCETTINA LAURIENZO, mother of **MARIA LAURIENZO**



St. Gabriel's Church in Need of Repair

St. Gabriel's Church is 141 years old. It is one of the oldest Catholic churches in Montreal, serving the English-speaking community of Point St. Charles and surrounding areas. Many of our QART members have strong ties to this church. St. Gabe's now finds itself in desperate need of repair. Without help, it may close.

The eastern tower of the church is unstable. Stone slabs used in the construction of that tower are shifting and starting to protrude outwards, with the potential danger of falling down on and around the church building. The cost of repairs is estimated to be between \$300,000 and \$400,000. If St. Gabriel's is to avoid closing, it must proceed with these repairs now.

A repair fund for the church has been set up.

More information about the church and its community, the extent of damage to the church, the repair fund, and how to make a contribution can be found at www.saintgabrielparish.com/events.

Consultation Continues on Health Insurance

Last June, QPAT (Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers) held a consultative meeting on the retiree health insurance plan. At this meeting, representatives from QART and QPARSE met with Paul Barnes who is in charge of the health insurance dossier at QPAT.

Our representatives at this meeting were Mary Zenaitis and Cecile Doucet-Greene. It was generally agreed that one meeting did not provide enough time to review the retiree health insurance situation. A second follow-up meeting is expected to be called this month or next.

SENIOR TOURS: 514-344-4500

If you plan on taking a Senior Tour, please let SENIOR TOURS know that you are a member of QART when you make the booking. Also please let us know if you have taken a Senior Tour since we must send them a letter stating that you are indeed a member in good standing. Then and only then will QART receive the 4% rebate.

NEW NAME: SENIOR DISCOVERY TOURS

NEXT ISSUE: DECEMBER 2016

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter, please feel free to drop me an e-mail at qart.mtl@outlook.com, send me a letter at John Greene, 787 rue Dufour, Laval, QC H7Y 2G2, or call me at 450-969-0674.

Till next time, and Happy Thanksgiving.

Why Teachers DRINK. The following questions were set in last year's GED examination. These are genuine answers (from 16 year olds) as researched by Jerry Bauman.

Q. Name the four seasons. **A.** *Salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar.*

Q. How is dew formed? **A.** *The sun shines down on the leaves and makes them perspire.*

Q. What guarantees may a mortgage company insist on? **A.** *If you are buying a house they will insist that you are well endowed.*

Q. In a democratic society, how important are elections? **A.** *Very important. Sex can only happen when a male gets an election.*

Q. What are steroids? **A.** *Things for keeping carpets still on the stairs. (Shoot yourself now, there is little hope.)*

Q. What happens to your body as you age? **A.** *When you get old, so do your bowels and you get intercontinental.*

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty? **A.** *He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.*

Q. How can you delay milk turning sour? **A.** *Keep it in the cow. (Simple, but brilliant.)*

Q. How are the main 20 parts of the body categorized (e.g. The abdomen)? **A.** *The body is consisted into 3 parts - the brainium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The brainium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the five bowels: A, E, I, O, U.*

Q. What is the fibula? **A.** *A small lie.*

Q. What does 'varicose' mean? **A.** *Nearby.*

Q. What is a seizure? **A.** *A Roman Emperor. (Julius Seizure, I came, I saw, I had a fit).*

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean? **A.** *Benign is what you will be after you be eight.*

QART Renewal Membership (2016-2017)

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Province:** _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Telephone No.: _____ **E-Mail Address:** _____

- **Regular Member:** A member who attends meetings and/or socials.....Fee: \$30

- **Member-at-Large:** A member who does not attend meetings or socials but receives the newsletter.....Fee: \$12

- **Honorary Member:** A member who has belonged to QART for over 25 years.

- if the 25 years were completed prior to July 2013.....Fee: \$0

- if later,.....Fee: \$12

Date: _____ **Amount enclosed: \$** _____

Mail cheque to: QART
c/o Pat Griffin
413 Tremblay
LaSalle, Quebec
H8R 2W5

You can contact Pat through email at patgriffin44@gmail.com