



The Quebec Association of Retired Teachers

Newsletter December 2021

Email qart.mtl@outlook.com

Website www.qart.ca

Happy Holidays!



HOLIDAY GREETINGS

The QART executive committee wishes to extend to all its QART members and friends Season's Greetings, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

As you can imagine, the previous 2020-2021 year proved to be quite difficult. COVID-19 forced the cancellation of several events including Christmas in 2020, St. Valentine, St. Patrick, and Easter in 2021. QART replaced these with special drawings and home delivery of some wonderful seasonal prizes. All members were eligible for these drawings and there were many winners.

By October 2021, most of our members had been double-vaccinated, and the province had relaxed the rules regarding restaurants and social distancing sufficiently that we were able to start organizing actual luncheons and parties.

There were luncheons for Thanksgiving, November memorial, and Christmas. These were some of the best get-togethers that we have ever had. They filled a need that had built up through the pandemic, a need to get back in contact with our friends and colleagues. All luncheons and parties were well attended. In fact, more people participated in these events than had ever in the past. You will find lots of pictures and details on the next few pages to attest to this.

We are now headed for uncertain times. Your number one priority is to take care of your health. Get that third booster shot. It really maximizes your resistance to the Omicron variant. Obey the governmental regulations. Mask up and maintain your distance. If we all do this, then we will be able to continue going to QART events.

QART has reserved Scarolie's restaurant for a St. Valentine's celebration on Wednesday, February 16th. Also, QART has reserved the Casa Grecque in Montreal North for its St. Patrick's party on Wednesday, March 16th.

We will closely monitor the situation as it develops. If it proves that we cannot proceed with any of these events, then we will find a suitable replacement. Till then, we will keep our restaurant bookings. Only by the end of January will we know the status for St. Valentine's. Only by the end of February will we know the status for St. Patrick's. Till then these activities are on.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The QART Christmas Party was held at the Le Bordelais restaurant on Wednesday, December 1st. No doubt, this was one of the best Christmas parties QART has ever held. It was near perfect. A beautiful restaurant, great food, festive table decorations, and a resplendent prize table. Everyone was there to enjoy each other's company and have a good time. A lot of work went into this one. Great job, Annie Schaffhauser, ably assisted by Caroline Korzec.

There were many prizes including six bottles of wine, four \$25 gift certificates to The Bay, and two boxes of chocolates. White wine went to Maria Laurienzo, red wine to Cathy Bélisle, another red wine to Vince Crivello, a bottle of rosé to Anna Plewinski, Lesia Mytko won a special orange wine, and Ruby Wood chose the bottle of champagne. Ron Barrowcliffe, Carol Gregor, Vida Lietuvninkas, and Rosetta Qualiotto each won a \$25 gift certificate for The Bay. Both Gerry Carroll and Flo Civitarese won a box of chocolates.

As for the free meals, these were won by Betty Callahan, Rose De Marco-Kalba, and Pat Pingitore. There were also two \$25 gift certificates donated to QART by the Bordelais restaurant. These were won by Maria Laurienzo and Cécile Doucet-Greene.

A special cash drawing was held in aid of Chez Doris, a local charitable organization for women in need. A total of \$420 was collected. Half, \$210 went to Chez Doris. The other half, \$210, was split into 7 cash prizes of \$30. Thais Auf der Maur won two of these prizes for a total of \$60. Carol Grigelis, Lucy Gualtieri, Genevieve Kalicun, Marion Slonosky, and Roma Pingitore each won one of the \$30 prizes. Also, Gail Ferraro won the tax receipt for the donation of \$210 to Chez Doris.

At the end of the lunch, after the chocolate cake or the baked Alaska, after the coffee or tea, Annie Schaffhauser distributed complimentary Lindt chocolates to the party goers. A selection of these chocolates were collected together and bagged as a gift for one more final draw. The winner was June Taberna, a guest of QART member, Frances Zicha.

All in all, a good time was had by all.



QART'S 1ST PRESIDENT ATTENDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

QART was founded in 1998, this, in light of the school board restructuring that took place at that time. QART's first president was Lorna Roel. Lorna founded QART, and she is still an active honorary member of QART. To our surprise and pleasure, she attended the QART 2021 Christmas party at the Bordelais restaurant on December 1st. I took advantage of the opportunity to have my picture taken with Lorna. I'm am so pleased to have met her and to have introduced her to those who attended the Christmas party.



Q.A.R.T. HOLDS ITS THANKSGIVING LUNCH

QART's Thanksgiving lunch took place Wednesday, October 13th at the l'Academie, a restaurant in Pointe-Claire, recognized for an ample choice of good meals.

A total of fifty-six members and guests attended. This was QART's first activity since the pandemic shut down. A full 604 days had past since our previous activity, the 2020 St. Valentine's party.

L'Academie was spacious, easily meeting the two-metre table distancing rule in effect. All members had to be double vaccinated and wear a mask when not seated. Despite this, the lunch was a great success. There was a strong need for old friends to see each other and just talk after being apart for so long. Congratulations to Annie Schaffhauser and Caroline Korzec who came in extra early to decorate the dining tables and the prize display table which gave this activity such a wonderful ambiance.

Before Gerry Carroll led us in prayer with the Gaelic version of Grace Before Meals, he was recognized for receiving a special order of merit from the City of Kirkland for his outstanding work in providing library services to those citizens who were not capable of going to the library on their own.

There were nine drawings for prizes: three bottles of wine, three free meals, and three \$30 gift certificates donated by the restaurant.

The winners were Claire Iasenza (red wine), Tony Iasenza (white wine), Jerry Baumann (rosé wine), Flo Civitarese (free meal), Gail Ferraro (free meal), Rose Anne Lashchuk (free meal), Ralph d'Abramo (gift certificate), Louise Gendron (gift certificate), and Mary Zenaitis (gift certificate).



THE QART ANNUAL MASS AND LUNCHEON

On November 10th, QART celebrated its annual mass and luncheon. In all, 67 persons participated. Of these, a record 63 members attended the mass, and 56 attended the lunch.

At the mass, we celebrated the lives of those who had passed away in the past two years, be they close family members or colleagues. We listened to their names being called out, and we remembered them. The list was exceptionally long, covering a two-year period instead of the normal one-year span.

Father Joe Sullivan was our celebrant, aided by Ron Barrowcliffe. Ruby Wood sang, Cathy Barrowcliffe, Flo Civitarese, Carol Gregor, and Mary Zenaitis read. QART members and guests donated a record total of \$325 to the benefit of the Our Lady of Fatima Christmas Basket Fund.

A luncheon followed the mass. It was held at Au Vieux Duluth in Ville St.-Laurent. As is our custom, there were drawings for door prizes including wine, free meals, and gift certificates. Lucy Gualtieri won a bottle of white wine; Maria Laurienzo, a bottle of red, and Jerry Baumann, a bottle of rosé. The free meal winners were Thais Auf der Maur, Rose De Marco-Kalba, and Frances Zicha. Mary Sbragia and Lucy Sup each won a \$25 gift certificate, donated by Tony, who owns and manages this Au Vieux Duluth.

Special thanks to Annie Schaffhauser for organizing this double event.



IN MEMORIAM

VINCENZA ARGENTO, former teacher at Our Lady of Charity School

ANITA ARSENAULT-FLYNN, member of QART and former teacher at St. Dorothy School

LOUISE MARTEL, former teacher at St. Pius X High School

MARIA DI ZAZZO BASCIU, member of QART and former teacher at Gerald McShane and Leonardo da Vinci schools

EDWARD BOND, member of QART and former teacher at D'Arcy McGee High School

SIDNEY KENNETH BRIGGS, former principal at Allion School in Ville LaSalle and at various schools in the former Baldwin-Cartier School Commission

NINO CESARI, member of QART and former teacher at James Lyng Adult Centre

MADELINE DELISLE, member of QART and former teacher at St. Francis of Assisi school

LOUIS FERNANDES, brother-in-law of QART member STEFANIE DEREWICKA-CASTELINO

HILDA FOX, former teacher at Children's World and Laurier-MacDonald Schools in Ville LaSalle

ROBERTA MACHNIK, co-founder of the Thomas More Institute

PASQUALINA MASTROPIETRO-ANTONECCHIA, mother-in-law of QART member BERNICE ANTONECCHIA

DAVID MULHOLLAND, former teacher at St. Raphael Centre and John F. Kennedy High School

ZENON MYZIUK, husband of QART member MARIA KISIL-MYZIUK

GORDON ROBITAILLE, former teacher at Bishop Whelan High School in Lachine

ELIZABETH THERRIEN-SCANLAN, former principal at Queen of Angels Academy in Dorval

JILL THOROGOOD-MILNE, former member of QART and former teacher at Msgr. Harold Doran High School

CHARLES VAILLANCOURT, former teacher and principal at Clement, Allion, and Laurier-MacDonald Schools in Ville LaSalle



To book your vaccination appointment, go to Quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine.

If you are unable to book online or have problems connecting, **ask a loved one for help** or call 1 877 644-4545.

It is important to **follow the vaccination sequence for your region**.

LET'S CONTINUE TO PROTECT OURSELVES!

In the coming months, **as long as most of us are not vaccinated**, COVID-19 will remain a danger. So please continue to follow good health instructions.



Learn more about vaccination at Quebec.ca/COVIDvaccine.

The vaccine. A safe way to protect ourselves.

Québec



THE AUDITS PROCEED

As you may be aware, QART is using the services of Marie-Michelle Salerno to take care of our financial audits on a pro bono basis.

Marie-Michelle brings with her years of experience in auditing the financial books of various companies. She has also just successfully completed her CPA exams, and has now become a chartered accountant. Congratulations to her on her accomplishment. We are indeed lucky to have her working on our audits.

Marie-Michelle has completed her inspection of our financial records for 2019-2020 & 2020-2021. Her findings, for these two years, were that there were no errors made in the procedures QART used to record and track financial transactions.

The next audit will be conducted shortly after March 31st, 2022 for the 2021-2022 financial year.



QART MEETING & ST. VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON

Place: SCAROLIE'S Pasta Emporium
950 boul. St. Jean (St. John's Blvd.)
Pointe Claire, QC H9R 5N8
514-694-8611

Date: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 2022

Time: 11:30 A.M.

QART MEETING & ST. PATRICK'S LUNCHEON

Place: RESTAURANT CASA GREQUE
10651 boul. Pie-IX
Montreal North
514-325-2000

Date: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16th, 2022

Time: 11:30 A.M.

