

LarsEncore

May 2012

The Newsletter of the Association of Retired School Employees

BULLETIN 53

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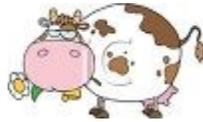
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LUNCHEONS 2011-12

On the Following Fridays at 11:30am:

- Sept 28, 2012 Casa Grecque
- Oct 26, 2012 Elixor
- Nov 30, 2012 Casa Grecque
- Jan 25, 2013 Mezz Amies

Casa Grecque

3855 Blvd. St. Jean, north of de Salaberry, on the east side.

Elixor: is in the Sources Mall at Sources and the 40. 3237 Boulevard des Sources Dollard-des-Ormeaux,

Mezz Amies: 985, boul Saint-Jean, Pointe-Claire. It is in the mall just past Brunswick heading north on St Jean.

If breakfast is your cup of tea join us at the Manoir at 8:30am on:

- September 14, 2012
- October 12, 2012
- November 9, 2012
- December 14, 2012

The Manoir is on the corner of Hymus and Boul. St.-Jean in Pointe Claire

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Why not come out to both!

If you need transportation to our lunches or other Larse functions we have many volunteers who would be more than pleased to give you a lift. Just give Al Jared (450 458-5471) a call and he will match you up with someone in your neighbourhood.

President's Address/ Message du président

Summer is nigh! While some L'ARSE activities such as golf and cycling are just getting underway, many others will go on hold until the autumn. It has been a very active year for our Association and I would like to thank all of our event and affinity group organizers for their great efforts on our behalf. I would also like to thank all of you who participated... it has been great fun!

I would like to express our collective gratitude to outgoing L'ARSE Executive members Odette Cote Weiss, Sonia Stante, Maureen Morris and Rod Heather for their efforts on our behalf over the past few years. The new L'ARSE Executive Committee is Chuck Merilees (Vice-president), Jan Langelier (Secretary), Mary Anne Bindner (Treasurer), Denis Daly (Past-President), Maureen Howlet (Membership), Tricia Roet (Newsletter Editor), Daniel Abergel (Nominating Committee) and Wayne Clifford, Mickey Wernecke, Hanns Wernecke and Al Jared (Members-at-Large).

I congratulate all members of "The Class of 2012". Welcome to the wonderful life of retirement. L'ARSE (L'Association of Retired School Employees) is open to any retiree from any school in any board. We meet for lunch the last Friday of each month and for breakfast the second Friday of each month. We produce this newsletter, L'arsEncore, three times each year. We have a cycling group, a computer users group, a golf group, two book clubs, a bridge group, a canasta group, a cross-country ski group, a travel group and are in the process of setting up an artists group. Highlights of the recent activities of each of these groups may be found in the pages of this edition. The schedule of fall luncheons and breakfasts is on the front page. Our goal is to create opportunity to participate, learn and socialize...not to create obligation.

On the last page of this newsletter you will find the LARSE MEMBERSHIP FORM. Our annual dues are ten dollars. If you join as a 2012 retiree your ten dollars covers the balance of this year as well as 2013. We look forward to seeing you at the first fall breakfast and/or lunch or perhaps on the bike paths or links in the next few months!

To one and all, I extend best wishes for a happy and healthy summer!

L'été est maintenant parmi nous. Des activités telles que le golf et le cyclisme ont déjà commencé et d'autres reprendront à l'automne. Cette année a été très occupée pour notre association et j'aimerais remercier tous les responsables des groupes d'affinités de leur travail et de leurs efforts. J'aimerais aussi remercier tous les membres qui ont participé à ces activités.

Nous aimerions également remercier les membres de l'exécutif qui ont terminé leur mandat, Odette Coté Weiss, Sonia Stante, Maureen Morris et Rod Heather de leur travail et de leurs efforts pendant ces dernières années. Le nouveau comité exécutif de Larse accueille Chuck Merilees comme vice-président, Jan Langelier comme secrétaire, Mary-Anne Bindner comme trésorière. Denis Daly est le président sortant. Maureen Howlett (responsable des membres-adhérents), Trish Roet (responsable du bulletin de nouvelles Larse Encore), Daniel Abergel et Al Jared (comité de nomination), Wayne Clifford, Mickey Wernecke et Hans Wernecke (membres associés).

Mes félicitations à tous les retraités de la "classe de 2012". Bienvenue à la belle vie des retraités! LARSE, l'association des employés retraités des écoles accueille les retraités de toutes les commissions scolaires. Nous nous rencontrons pour le lunch le dernier vendredi de chaque mois et pour le petit déjeuner le deuxième vendredi de chaque mois. Nous publions un bulletin de nouvelles "Larse Encore" trois fois par année. Nous avons un groupe de cyclistes, un groupe qui améliore leurs connaissances en ordinateur, un groupe de golfeurs, deux clubs de livres, un groupe de bridge, un groupe de canasta, un groupe de ski de fond, un groupe qui présente des voyages faits par nos membres et nous sommes en train d'organiser un groupe qui s'intéresse à l'art. Les récentes activités de ces groupes sont expliquées dans ce bulletin de nouvelles. L'horaire des repas et des petits déjeuners se trouve à la dernière page.

Notre objectif n'est pas de créer des obligations mais plutôt d'offrir des activités qui donnent à nos membres l'occasion de participer, d'apprendre et de se rencontrer.

A la dernière page de ce bulletin, vous trouverez le formulaire d'inscription de Larse. Le coût d'inscription est de \$ 10.00 par année. Si vous vous inscrivez en 2012, votre dix dollars couvre également votre inscription pour l'année 2013. Au plaisir de vous rencontrer au prochain lunch ou à un petit déjeuner ou encore sur l'une des pistes cyclables.

Nous vous souhaitons à tous un bel été, en santé et en sécurité.

Bryden Murray, President

INTEREST GROUPS

Interest Groups Editor: Bryden Murray

bryden.murray@sympatico.ca



Casual Bridge Group

The LARSE Casual Bridge Affinity Group, in its second year, has been meeting the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 1:30 p.m.. Lorraine Pawlusiak has graciously hosted the group throughout the Winter and Spring. On the one occasion when Lorraine was away, Jan Langelier stepped into the breach.

Membership has grown to twenty-five. Some play nearly every time, others less frequently. Participation has varied between two and four tables.

We use a format which changes partners and tables every four hands. If we have an odd number of players, we rotate in and out of play. Beginners will sometimes opt to watch the first few times instead of playing. They will often pair up with an experienced player who will explain and teach. Our skill levels have a wide range. Our focus is to enjoy and to learn. We have a great bunch of people and we have a lot of fun! We'd love to have you join us!

Many thanks to Lorraine and Jan for hosting and to Lynne Lang for taking over the organizing during the Winter. If you're interested in trying this out, please contact:

Lynne at

lynnelangbridge@yahoo.ca

or Bryden Murray at

bryden.murray@sympatico.ca

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Canasta

Wednesday afternoons has seemed to suit the card sharks of LARSE. Canasta now alternates with bridge and we play every 2 weeks. The numbers vary, but there are usually at least 7-8 of us to spice up the afternoon.

We have continued to play at my house, where we could accommodate up to 14 players. We will continue to play through June and then decide whether or not to stop for the summer.

New players are always welcome - no experience or knowledge of the game required. Canasta is a fun, social game with no pressure and it is easy to learn.

Please contact me at

rmnarsted@yahoo.com if you would like to join us or get further information.



Book Club I

On Tues., May 22, LARSE Book Club - "Old"? Group - will wind up a very good year with a discussion of *Extensions*, by Canadian author Myrna Dey. A chance discovery of a sepia photograph leads an RCMP constable on an investigation which eventually uncovers heart-breaking truths about her family history and in the process also resolves a century-old murder.

Since Christmas, we've enjoyed *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* (Jamie Ford), *Forgotten Garden* (Kate Morton), *Annabel* (Kathleen Winter), and *The Mistress of Nothing* (Kate Pullinger). During the summer months, we'll be reading whatever we like – and lining up suggestions for 2012-13! Susan Somerville .



After a glorious beginning to our cycling season on March 20th, our earliest start ever, recent cancellations due to rainy, inclement weather on Tuesdays has put a “damper” on things at the end of April and early May. Attempts to substitute alternate days have been only modestly successful as most of our group members seem to set aside Tuesdays for cycling and busy themselves with other activities the rest of the week. The 3 cancellations in a row, play havoc with consistency so it is hoped that participants are not relying on these trips as their sole exercise outlets.

Several of our group indicated that former M.N.A. and M.P. Clifford Lincoln wanted to join us, which he did before our spate of cancellations. Many were quite impressed how well a man in his eighties did in our group. Clifford explained to me that his son, an orthopedic surgeon, had counselled his Dad on the importance of cycling as a means of keeping his knees in good shape. To this end, his son bought Clifford a stationary bike which he religiously exercises on over the winter months (accounting for the fact he was able to keep up with us so well).

Most of our trips so far have been local West Island or Ile Perrot trips, but we do load bikes on cars and depart from other areas so that we can expose ourselves to other sectors of Montreal Island and beyond. Our first trip took us alongside the Lachine Rapids and our hope is to provide participants with new experiences and locales some of which are only accessible on 2 wheels. Should LARSE members wish to find a way to exercise in the company of former colleagues and others, cycling is highly recommended. If you wish to enquire about the possibility of joining in on this fun activity, contact Wayne Clifford at wmclifford@gmail.com

WHAT CHILDREN SAY

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, 'Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?' Her mother replied, 'Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.'

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, 'Mummy, how come ALL of grandma's hair is white?'

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted it on the apple tray: 'Take only ONE . God is watching.'

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

TRAVEL GROUP

The next meeting of the Travel Talk Group will take place in October. If you wish to talk about an interesting trip that you have taken or one that you plan to take this summer, please contact Mickey Wernecke
hbwernecke@aol.com
or Daniel Abergel
(abergeld@yahoo.com).

Cross-Country Skiing



legaultcj@yahoo.ca.

Hello everyone,

This year's cross country ski report will be very brief. This was not a hallmark year for cross country skiing in the Montreal area. Our first trip took place on Tuesday, January 10th, 2012. We drove up to Val David and five (5) of us enjoyed a lovely two hours or so of skiing in 'les Laurentides'. Maryanne B., Anne M., Maryanne K-W., Bernie L. and myself profited from snowy conditions that were not to be found in the Montreal area. Unfortunately, we were not able get any further skiing days in until March. I was away in Florida for much of February and the beginning part of March. However, Maryanne Bindner did an admirable job of organizing the last trip which took place on March 6th. The outing was held at Gai-Luron just north of St. Jerome.



Book Club II



The second Book Club for L'ARSE has been meeting regularly since September. We have a membership of about 8 and are more than happy to welcome others to the group. One experiment we are about to try is to operate our meetings in a bilingual format, choosing and discussing books which can be found both in English and French. This format would allow our Francophone members to participate by reading the books in French and then being able to share their thoughts about them in either language. The next selection is one such book – *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Hopefully this will allow more Francophone members to join our group.

The books which we have discussed since my last report are :

The Sentimentalists by Johanna Skibsrud
Wild Swans by Jung Chang

We usually meet on the second Monday of the month so if you would like to join us, please let me know either by e-mail at:

langelier.jan@videotron.ca

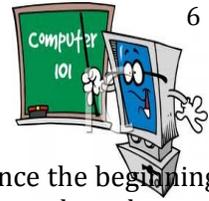
The participants were Diane L., Rick J., Bernie L., Jim K. and Maryanne B. It appears as though the day was a success. I have a few photos to prove that cross country skiing did, in fact take place in some areas of Quebec this winter. Let us hope that next season will be a much better one than the 2011-2012 'winter that wasn't!'

Happy trails

Cheers,

Colin Legault

Computer Group



The Internet Users' Group is a LARSE interest group which has been operating almost since the beginning of our organization in the nineties. For most of those years, we have been fortunate to have the voluntary services of former colleagues to facilitate the learning of the rest of us who may not yet have acquired some of the useful skills and knowledge that enrich one's experience on the computer. As our last regular facilitator, Bob Steele, had done about two years and wanted to "pass on the torch" at the end of the last academic year, we were left without an heir apparent to share the knowledge.

Not wanting to see the group dissolve, I appealed to LARSE members and friends and we managed to have a full year of activities thanks to the contributions of Alan MacMillan, Bob and Barbara Johansson, Bruce Corbett, Colin Legault, and Peter Tellier. Peter Tellier will be doing our last session on May 28th as a follow-up to a session on the iPad at the Fairview Apple store which he organized for us in April. This session in the LBPSB computer lab (our usual meeting spot) will be a workshop in which iPad owners and those considering the tablet format can learn more. There will be an interesting follow-up opportunity to be tutored on the iPad by elementary school students in June at Dorset Elementary School in Baie D'Urfe (date t.b.a.).

At the time of writing, half the available seats have been reserved, others wishing to attend the May 28th session should contact Wayne Clifford at wmclifford@gmail.com.

While I am willing to set up our usual monthly sessions for next year, we will need to have offers of facilitators for some of our sessions. Facilitators don't need to be experts, just able to help colleagues become familiar with some aspect of computer usage. If you can suggest someone, please let me know.

Amateur Visual Artist Group

As outlined in the January 2012 issue of LARSENOCORE, an invitation to form a new interest group for amateur artists was suggested by Michèle B. Fitzgerald, one of our recently retired members. At least six or seven members have expressed interest and a first informal get-together by four of these members was held in conjunction with the May 11th breakfast at Le Manoir.

The main goal of such an interest group would be to exchange ideas and experiences with the intention of keeping the creative floodgates open and helping stimulate more production and expressive use of each artist's favorite media. Working alone sometimes means losing momentum and seeing our best ideas gradually dry up – and we don't want that!

Another informal meeting has been scheduled immediately following (or perhaps during) the next breakfast at the Manoir on Friday June 8th. Each interested amateur artist is invited to bring samples or copies of their work and if time permits, we may be able to make a few quick sketches. One of the members present on May 11th will be looking into finding available school halls or classrooms in which we could eventually meet and work together and other members have made suggestions about the functioning of the group which will be discussed again at the next few meetings.

So please email me if interested so you can be added to the email list or if you have any questions or suggestions: welcome to all of you! Michèle B. Fitzgerald at fitzgeraldmb@sympatico.ca



The L'ARSE Golf group meets to play on the second and fourth Monday of each month. We are in our third season of operation and, currently we have thirty-four members. We try to play a variety of courses and make our selections taking price and proximity into account. Last season we played Atlantide, Golf Dorval, St. Raphael, Glengary, St. Francois, Caughnawaga, La Cite, Riviere Rouge, Le Versant and The Falcon. We played May through November with participation varying between four and six foursomes. One valiant twosome actually braved the elements to complete the season on December 5 at Club International 2000.

Our goal is create an opportunity to play rather than an obligation. A week or so in advance of each game, we send out an e-mail to our members asking who would like to play. Based on response, we book starting times to accomodate all who have replied positively. Once the set of slots has been filled, individuals deciding later to join in must book their own tee times. Some of our members play virtually all games; some play more sporadically. Generally we play eighteen holes but try to make accomodations for those who would prefer to play nine holes.

For those interested in playing every week, generally one of us books a couple of starting times and puts out the invitation and spots are filled on a first come first served basis. On Monday, May 7 Mike Kirk organized and seven of us played Atlantide's Don Quixote Course. Our first regular game was held on May 14 and twelve of us played St. Raphael.

Our skill levels vary considerably. We have in common an enjoyment of the game, the exercise and the company, not necessarily in that order! If you think you might be interested in trying this out, we'd welcome you with open arms!

Our leader, Russ Kelly, is currently on the disabled list due to a serious bout of employment but we expect this to be remedied by mid-June. In the interim, Bryden Murray is organizing the bi-monthly games. Russ can be reached at russk547@gmail.com and Bryden at bryden.murray@sympatico.ca.



L'ARSE Theatre Group

Those interested in theatre have continued to get together regularly to enjoy local theatre and each other's company. Since my last report, we have seen:

- “The Real Inspector Hound” performed by The Lakeshore Players
- “HMS Pinafore” performed by Lakeshore Light Opera
- “ Road to Hope” performed by Union Church Choir and guests.
- “Picasso at the Lapin Argile” performed by The Lakeshore Players.

As I write this report, it seems as though interest may be waning and so I will be rethinking the format and the kinds of theatre that we might choose for next year.

In the meantime, I will be looking for possibilities of outings to the Hudson Village Theatre throughout the summer months.

If you would like to be added to the Theatre Group e-mail list, please let me know. If you do not use e-mail, call me and I will add your name to call. If any of you has suggestions to make about the kind of theatre or which companies we should consider, please let me know by e-mail at langelier.jan@videotron.ca

Gardeners

**We are stardust, we are golden,
And we've got to get ourselves back to the garden
(Woodstock – Joni Mitchell)**

For many of our retired colleagues, gardening is a passion! Here are a few

Brenda Adams Henry: Despite an already busy retired life of working with McGill student teachers, travel and food bank volunteering, Brenda was thinking "what else is out there? Her naturalist mother reminded Brenda of her childhood fascination with dirt, as in creating clay cowboys, building forts in the woods and playing in a sandbox. So Brenda began to tackle the gardens of her and husband Phil's Beaconsfield home. Brenda, who Phil has labelled "Darth Weeder," describes her efforts to be more like artistic landscaping, rather than botanical knowledge. Brenda, who always has a pair of gloves, a tarp and a bag of tools in her car, is constantly on the lookout for stones, bricks and plants for her garden. She once enclosed a garden for about \$200 rather than the \$4500 quote from a landscaping firm. Brenda also helps a few senior women with their small gardens. "They call me when their garden needs a haircut." When her newfound pals can't distinguish between a plant and a weed, Brenda says "when in doubt, don't yank it out!" "Gardening is like teaching. You turn something that maybe nobody noticed, and coax it to grow in a different direction. But with gardening there is no dress code, bells, boss or marking. "You're alone in nature, dressed like a bum, hands deep in dirt"

Julie Nadler: Before Julie bought a one hundred plus year old Lachine house ten years ago, she had never gardened. The house was in need of major restoration and Julie, with help and guidance from brother David, undertook much of the work herself. Her large u-shaped yard had also been unattended for a while and, in the domain of gardening, David was of little help. Julie has found that gardening is a hit or miss affair. One tip that Julie picked up from experts was, "If you really like a plant, buy two of them. Maybe one of them will survive!" This thought and especially its source has provided much solace through the years. Julie finds that the garden is always a work in progress; you think you have it right but another season/idea comes and you change your mind. One of Julie's yoga teachers says that gardening is about trying to get the colours right. A gifted artist, Julie favours blue and purple (though she recently completed a white garden out back). Friends have tried to trick her by buying her plants of other colours, in one case a pink hydrangea. That's when Julie learned that you can turn a pink hydrangea blue by adding acid to the soil. Julie's home and garden, a favourite haunt for neighbourhood cats and birds, was featured in a front page article in the Home Section of the Montreal Gazette a few years back. If you are looking for a great garden center, Julie recommends La Pepiniere Jasmin in St. Laurent.

Janice Tessier Murray Janice inherited a small back garden from her mother-in-law when she and Bryden bought his parents' house in the late seventies. She muddled along blindly and managed to kill nearly everything in the first couple of years, including all of Mrs. Murray's prized tea roses. After a few years of simply planting a few annuals every spring, she decided to try perennials again. Over the years, several flower beds have been added, often to solve a problem – to cover a large stump, to fill in an area of lawn devastated by white grubs, to replace areas where grass grew poorly. Gardening involves a lot of trial and error – what grows well in one person's garden won't necessarily grow well in another's. The secret is to find plants that you like, that like your growing conditions and that require the amount of care that you are willing to give them. Stick with those as the mainstay of the garden and try a little something new every year. To her, gardening is part art, part hard labour and part magic. A garden is a form of artistic expression, it dresses a house in the same way a painting completes a blank wall. Of course, there is always Mother Nature, with her Lily beetles and slugs and winter kill, to keep Janice humble.

In the September, 2012 Edition of L'arsEncore we will be featuring the Photographers of L'ARSE
If you're interested, please contact Tricia Roet or Bryden Murray (Coordinates on the front page)

“Road to Hope”

A production of the Union Church of Ste Anne de Bellevue's choir and guests, was held in April to celebrate Earth Day.

This spectacular performance included pieces from the Misa Gaia, a Suite written for Earth Day, by Paul Halley and such guests as Milton Dawes, an African drummer and Denise Pelley, a wonderful Jazz and Blues singer.

The production was created by Pierre Gallant and Patti Murphy and was a wonderful blend of the guests and the choir, one of whom is our own Jan Langelier. Pierre Gallant's rendition of 'Blackbird' was exquisite and the only time I have ever heard a piano sing!

You might want to catch it next year!

Phil Ritchie says:

Retiring is good. Retiring and then working on your own terms doing something you really love is even better.

Six years ago, after being retired for less than a year and being quite content with my fate, Pat Ryan, a retired LBPSB teacher himself and science and math consultant for MELS, phoned me to ask me to go to a training session with him so I could help with a workshop in the fall and that would be it.

Six years later, after preparing and giving over 200 workshops in every English School Board in Quebec, I feel blessed at my good luck in being able to do this work. I do this with three other retired teachers, Bill Corrigan, John Novak, and Dick Esdale. Together we have travelled much of the province helping teachers from elementary to adult education sectors understand the new Science and Technology Program. Teachers love our workshops and give us high marks in their evaluations.

Lesley Pasquin

is travelling, writing and, after her years as a consultant and administrator, has returned to her love of teaching. She teaches one course a semester in the Faculty of Education at McGill; this term was Elementary Language Arts. Her poems have been published in several literary journals. She is an active member of the Quebec Writers' Federation and reads her work at various events in and around the city. This year, she and her husband have rented a small house in Loumarin, France, for the month of October and will be exploring Provence, particularly the vineyards! She continues to volunteer for the Pearson Educational Foundation and is chair of the Grants Committee, which allows her to have a say on funding for out of the box kinds of classroom activities. She also volunteers at the West Island Cancer Wellness Centre as the animator of a group in creative journaling. To keep in good voice, she sings in the Lester B Pearson choir. Often you can find her on the 401 heading west to Toronto to visit her daughter Lisa, who lives with her partner Brian and his two young children in their little Leslieville house.

LINDSAY PLACE

is having its 50th Homecoming Reunion Thanksgiving Weekend October 5,6,7, 2012.

To register please go to lphsgrads.org or contact Tricia Roet aka Pat Shaw

tricia.roet@sympatico.ca

Staff are invited free of charge!

Karen Osgoode

Some would say retirement is what you “make it” and so it can be. Life is great! Time seems to be on my side.

Being in control of my life, reading, decorating assistant, tending to loved ones, sewing and crafting projects, updating my home, gardening, walking, relaxing, watching TV or movies, grandparenting, singing with “Lester be Music” choir, eating at restaurants, keeping up with family history, renovating a cottage, enjoying my children, reconnecting with friends, downsizing, helping family and friends, enjoying family and friends, deciding what to do today and feeling contentment in my life... is my retirement.

SADLY, WE SAY GOODBYE

Jim Dewhurst Gore was born June 15, 1918 in Montreal and married Iris Charlesworth in 1948. He lived an active life, starting work at a young age to help support his family, serving in the RCAF during WWII, graduating from McGill and following a career in accounting. He later returned to university to pursue his passion, a career in teaching, where he touched on the lives of so many young people, many of whom remained in contact with him for life. He loved the outdoors and enjoyed traveling & meeting people. He was an active volunteer, sharing his time & expertise with seniors groups, the United Church and other groups. He remained busy in retirement volunteering and participating in aquafit classes into his 90's.

He will be sadly missed by the many educators and students who had the great good fortune of knowing him.

Cameron Gray is currently President and Activities Coordinator of the fifty-seven member Quebec Association of Geography Teachers which will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary on June 1 at the Terra Mare Restaurant. This group sends out a few newsletters per year to inform members of monthly activities which range from dinners and guest speakers to trips outside Montreal. It also publishes a yearly document, Geoscope, with articles on a specific topic. Previous editions have focussed on water, food, climate change, mountains and mountain climbing and immigrants and immigration. This year's version will tackle distribution of wealth and resources. Anyone interested in participating in QAGTS can get a hold of Cameron at qagts@yahoo.com

Montreal Ghost Tour

A group tour is being organized for Thursday, August 30th 8:30 PM. The 90-minute walking tour takes us around Old Montreal and the guide tells ghost stories about the many different buildings and areas. We may also plan dinner beforehand at a nearby restaurant for those who are interested. The cost is \$20.50 per person, taxes included. To see more about the tour, visit the website at www.fantommontreal.com

If you are interested, please e-mail Janice Tessier Murray at janicetessier@hotmail.com

One only has to look at the proliferation of “U-Brew” type establishments to know that many of us are into buying kits and making our own wine and beer. These guys, however, do it from scratch.

Raffaele D'Abramo: Raff, a member of the L'ARSE Golf Group, started making wine in Italy as a child when he would help stomp the grapes which the donkeys carted down the hills. His grandfather would say, “Jump around and do what you want in the vat...but no pee-pee or caca”! In Montreal, he used to make wine with his dad and now carries on himself every year. After much experimentation, he has boiled the process down to five steps: **1)** The week before Thanksgiving, he crushes the grapes and leaves them in a vat to ferment for seven days. **2)** On Thanksgiving weekend, when in his teaching days he had time, he presses the mash and returns the resulting juice into the vat for another week. Although the “experts” suggest adding yeast, Raff doesn't as the grape skins produce their own. **3)** He carefully siphons the juice into a fifty-litre demijohn to get rid of sediment and leaves it for forty-five days. **4)** He again decants into another another demijohn and leaves it for two-three months. **5)** By spring the wine is ready and could be bottled but Raff leaves it in the demijohn and fills gallon jugs when needed. Although probably no less expensive than making wine from a kit, Raff's wine has no sulfates or other artificial preservatives and, apparently, doesn't cause hangovers. The juice of the crushed grapes can also be simmered on a stove to make *musto cotto*, a maple-syrup like product which is wonderful in cooking rabbit. Not every batch of wine turns out well. Not-so-great batches can be converted into red-wine vinegar. Raff also distills lesser vintages to make grappa which he happily shares with his golfing buddies on those fusty outings in November and December.

Ken Elliott: Ken, also a L'ARSE golfer, started brewing his own beer from scratch in the 1990's and, at one point, won the American Home Brewing Association Local Chapter's annual award for both best stout and best beer. He quit brewing when the School Board gave him too much work to do (he also began a McGill doctoral programme at about the same time). In retirement Ken has taken up the art again with his son Michael who, long having been an accomplished consumer, is now growing in leaps and bounds in beer production skills. Ken readily admits that his process is not truly from scratch as he doesn't grow his own grain or hops. His process has nine steps and requires a glossary to understand. **1)** It starts like brewing tea...sit malted barley in hot water for an hour to **mash**. **2) Sparge** it by pouring hot water through the mash and drawing the **wort** (liquid good stuff) from the bottom. **3)** Boil the 20-25 litres of wort in hops for an hour and a half. This will make your whole house smell/reek of beer (depending on the perception of the brewer or the spouse). Ken now has an outdoor boiler! **4)** The first boil provides bitterness. After a while, more hops are added to provide flavour. A third, and later, dose of hops is added to provide aroma. **5)** Cool the boil down, as quickly as possible, to room temperature. (Mid-range temperature are susceptible to bacteria.) **6)** Transfer to another container, **the primary fermentor**, and add yeast. **7)** Set aside for five or six days while sugar changes to alcohol (**primary fermentation**). **8)** Transfer to a **carboy** for one week or so for **secondary fermentation**. **9)** Bottle when you can. Ken stresses that everything needs to be super clean!! The cost per bottle is less than \$0.75. He recommends Mout Internationale, which supplies most of Montreal's Brew-Pubs, as an excellent source of materials. Ken says that the the basic formula is: **Mash** and **sparge** change starch into sugar. **Fermentation** changes sugar into alcohol. (We're still working on the scientific notation for this formula).

If there is something that you make from scratch and would like to share please let us know!
CONTACT TRICIA ROET OR BRYDEN MURRAY (COORDINATES ON THE FRONT PAGE)

A woman went to the doctor's office where she was seen by one of the younger doctors. After about four minutes in the examination room, she burst out screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story. After listening, he had her sit down and relax in another room.

The older doctor marched down the hallway back to where the young doctor was writing on his clipboard. "What the heck is the matter with you?!" the older doctor demanded.

Mrs. Terry is 71 years old, has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?" The younger doctor continued writing and without looking up said, "Does she still have the hiccups?"

Well, Helloooooooooooooo!

Three blondes were all applying for the last available position on the Texas Highway Patrol. The detective conducting the interview looked at the three of them and said, "So y'all want to be cops, huh?" The blondes all nodded.

The detective got up, opened a file drawer, and pulled out a folder. Sitting back down, he opened it, pulled out a picture, and said, "To be a detective, you have to be able to detect. You must be able to notice things such as distinguishing features and oddities like scars and so forth." So saying, he stuck the photo in the face of the first blonde and withdrew it after about two seconds. "Now," He said, "did you notice any distinguishing features about this man?" The blonde immediately said, "Yes, I did. He has only one eye!" The detective shook his head and said, "Of course he has only one eye in this picture! It's a profile of his face! You're dismissed!" The first blonde hung her head and walked out of the office.

The detective then turned to the second blonde, stuck the photo in her face for two seconds, pulled it back, and said, "What about you? Notice anything unusual or Outstanding about this man?" "Yes! He only has one ear!" The detective put his head in his hands and exclaimed, "Didn't you hear what I just told the other lady? This is a profile of the man's face! Of course you can only see one ear! You're excused too!"

The second blonde sheepishly walked out of the office. The detective turned his attention to the third and last blonde and said, "This is probably a waste of time, but..." He flashed the photo in her face for a couple of seconds and withdrew it, saying, "All right, did you notice anything distinguishing or Unusual about this man?" The blonde said, "I sure did. This man wears contact lenses." The detective frowned, took another look at the picture, and began looking at some of the papers in the folder. He looked up at the blonde with a puzzled expression and said, "You're absolutely right! His bio says he wears contacts! How in the world could you tell that by looking at his picture?"

The blonde rolled her eyes and said, "Well, Helloooooooooooooo! With only One Eye an One Ear, he certainly can't wear glasses."

Help for Phone Chain Are you willing to make about 10 phone calls , once a month, to Larse members, to find out whether they're planning to join us for lunch on the last Friday of the month? This would mean that at the beginning of the last week of each month, from September to November, and January to May, you would call those on your list and let me know how many are going. Then we can let the restaurant know how many to prepare for. If you are unable to make your calls because of illness or being away, you'd just let me know and I'd do your calls for that month. P-L-E-A-S-E HELP!
Contact Maureen Howlett at: 514 630 3869 or maureen.howlett@gmail.com



le goût de lire / born to read

Retired or about to?

And looking for something stimulating to do?

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le goût de lire / born to read is a program to get young parents, especially ones that the CLSC considers “at risk” to read to their children at a young age.

A team of English and French volunteers, mostly retired educators from LARSE buy books, pack them in special little bags with useful information on reading to children, deliver them, and model reading activities for the young mums and dads who attend the monthly CLSC baby clinic. We are looking for people to join our team to help out anywhere from once a month to as often as once a week, as suits you.

BTR does other things too, and we would love to have people join us to help with:

- a Saturday morning Club for 5 to 7 year olds
- our Riverdale Lending Library for small clients of Books-and-Play
- our Books-and-Play Groups at Riverdale,
- fund raising, as a part of a committee,
- publicity,
- other duties that support the people who are working with the youngsters.

INTERESTED ? WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ?? GOOD IDEA !!! CONTACT:

Nick Barker at (514) 683-1510, or Mickey Wernecke at (514) 630-0138 or hbwernecke@aol.com to get on the list for an ORIENTATION WORKSHOP that will be organized for the Fall of 2012

For more information about btr go to www.le_gout_de_lire/born_to_read

Perhaps you would like to contribute to le goût de lire / born to read financially. The le goût de lire / born to read committee is very grateful to LARSE members who have provided much needed support in the past. If you would like to make a donation in the name of someone as a birthday or special holiday gift, or as a memorial, we will acknowledge it in your name -- just make sure to give us the name and the address. You will receive a tax receipt for a donation of \$25 or more.

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