



LarsEncore

May, 2016

The Newsletter of the Association of Retired School Employees

BULLETIN 65

President: Jan Langelier
langelier.jan@videotron.ca

Vice President: Tania Kinsella
kinsellatd@gmail.com

Secretary: Janice Tessier Murray
Janicetessier@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Robin Narsted
rmnarsted@yahoo.com

Phone Captain & Membership: Lois Maeder-Alves
lois.maederalves@videotron.ca

Editor -in Chief: Tricia Roet
troet@ymail.com

Associate Editor: Janice Tessier-Murray
janicetessier@hotmail.com

Interest Groups Editor: Pam Greevy
pgreevy@hotmail.com

Tidbit Editor: Bryden Murray
bryden.murray@sympatico.ca



LUNCHEONS 2016

Lunches are generally the last Friday of the month. However due to changes made in the schedule May's luncheon will be:

June 3: Marco's: 82 Rue Ste Anne, St Anne de Bellevue

Summer luncheons will be on Wednesdays at Marco's at 11:00:

July 27 and August 24

BREAKFAST

IS ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH!
at The Manoir which is on the corner of Hymus and Boul. St.-Jean in Pointe-Claire.

Due to recent changes in luncheons our next breakfast will be:

Friday, June 17

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WEBSITE: www.larse.ca CANNOT BE ACCESSED THROUGH GOOGLE

Don't forget the 50/50 RAFFLE at lunch. Half goes to you if you win, and the second winner gives half to the charity of their choice. The third winner receives a gift certificate for the restaurant.

President's Address/ Message du président

Bienvenue au printemps – enfin!! Mais possiblement encore l'hiver car j'ai vu des flocons de neige hier!! Be that as it may – Spring has certainly invaded my spirit and my garden is showing signs of life!!

The Spring activities have begun in earnest with Cyclopaths cycling and Golfers golfing. Nous sommes invincibles!! I hope each of you is finding spring in your world and would encourage you all to participate actively in all kinds of activities. This past winter has been a hard one for me in that I have seen the passing of some dear friends and am trying to support other friends as they live with illness and great challenges. It has made me re-examine my own future and I have determined that I need to stay focused on living fully!!!! Thank goodness that associations like this one are there to give us options to engage in active living. Please take time to look at what things are happening in L'ARSE and if you have not yet joined an activity, or you would like to suggest one for us to start up, contact the leader of the group or me to get started. It is never too late!!

I would like to bring some important events to your attention.

1. Lunches through the summer – at Marcos in Ste. Anne de Bellevue Wednesday, July 27 and August 24 at 11:30AM.
2. Winery Tour in Eastern Townships – Thursday, September 15

Je voudrais aussi vous dire que nous allons collaborer plus étroitement avec APPERQ (QPARSE) qui est l'association provinciale des éducateurs et éducatrices retraités afin de mieux coordonner nos efforts. Alors vous allez recevoir des avis d'activités et événements organisés par cette dernière et je vous encourage à y participer selon vos intérêts.

So it is now on to living actively for me as I head out to join my cycling group. J'espère que vous allez vivre pleinement aussi et que je vous verrai à quelque part bientôt.

Have a wonderful summer!! Bonne été à vous toutes et tous!!

Jan Langelier, Présidente



Bulletin Board

3.

HALF N' HALF:

Congratulations to the three winners at our January luncheon. Patrick Clarke won \$62.00 while Bernie Lawetz will donate his \$62.00 to Operation Smile Canada. Bob McIlhone was the winner of a \$75.00 gift certificate for Madisons in Kirkland.

Congratulations to the winners from our March luncheon at Elixor. Ellen Gauthier took home \$77.50 in cash and Brenda Bertram donated her \$77.50 to Generations Foundation Breakfast Fund. Liuba Kostyk won a \$50.00 gift certificate from Elixor Restaurant.

At our most recent luncheon we made a small change to our normal half and half draw. The full amount collected of \$190.00 was donated to the Canadian Red Cross -Alberta Fire Fund. The winner of the draw, Alan MacMillan, will receive the tax receipt. Heidi Grant was the winner of a \$60.00 gift certificate from Casa Grecque. Thank you to all who contributed.

DONATIONS

March 2016 The L'ARSE Breakfast Group made a donation to West Island Community Shares after the first three months of the year of \$92.00. This amount was matched by the Tenaquip Foundation. Thank you to all who contributed

LINDSAY GOLF TOURNAMENT

If you are interested in supporting the Lindsay Place Foundation which gives scholarships, assists students with music tutoring, and defraying costs to play Football as well as one capital expense for the school each year, then come out and play golf on Monday June 27, 2016 at Windmill Heights Golf Club in Ile Perrot. Please go to lpafgolf@gmail.com for details.

If anyone would like to buy a raffle ticket to win a trip for two on Air Canada anywhere in North America or the Caribbean please contact me Tricia Roet troet@ymail.com. There are only 600 tickets made.

1 ticket is \$20.00 3 are \$50.00 7 are \$100.00

INTEREST GROUPS

InterestGroupsEditor: Pam Greevy pgreevy@hotmail.com



Book Club I

The Original Book Club

For the record, in January A Brief History of Seven Killings, by Marlon James, proved a bit much for us, so we switched to Fifteen Dogs, by André Alexis. The latter is an exploration of whether animals or humans lead happier lives. After the gods Hermes and Apollo make a drunken bet, the dogs are given human consciousness and the results observed.

In February, Orphan Train, by Christina Baker Kline, opened our eyes to the practice between 1854 and 1929 of shunting thousands of abandoned children from cities of east coast U.S. to farmlands in the Midwest.

It was fun for us to watch Clara Hughes pitch Lawrence Hill's The Illegal, our April selection, to win Canada Reads.

Our remaining book, to be discussed this month, is Laline Paull's The Bees. The heroine is Flora 717, a sanitation worker doomed by her birth to the lowest caste of the hive.

We've not yet selected a book to be discussed at the September meeting, when we also, by tradition, set up our reading list for the rest of the year. Enjoy your summer – happy reading! susansomerville8@sympatico.ca

For more information, contact Susan Somerville at susansomerville8@sympatico.ca.

Cross-Country Skiing

Well, it was a weird and erratic season for cross-country skiing. I would almost say that there was no real season at all. There was no snow in December and our hopes were raised in January by sporadic snow falls, only to have those hopes dashed, or should I say splashed, by steady rain falls.

It is easy to summarize our outings; we managed to ski ONCE and that was at Bois de Liesse. I personally did some cross country skiing only by leaving the city in search of ski centres which had passable and sometimes excellent ski conditions.

So as a rookie organizer for the cross-country ski group this year, I can say that it was none too taxing. At least I got my feet wet, no pun intended. Have a wonderful summer and hope to see you on the trails next winter.

Mary Anne Bindner



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Book Club II

5.

Our visit to the Agatha Christie exhibition at Pointe-à-Callières Museum to celebrate her 125th year was a terrific success. A wonderful time was had by all and thanks go out to Jan Langelier for organizing this event. We all learned some things about Ms Christie that we hadn't known and enjoyed our discussion over a delicious lunch.



We went on to read *Amazing Grace* by Lesley Crewe which had very mixed reviews. Some people loved it and some did not. *The Illegal* by Lawrence Hill resulted in the same kind of reaction. In both cases many in the group felt that too many misfortunes had befallen the main characters to make them believe.

We look forward to our discussion of *The Boys in The Boat* by Daniel James Brown at our end of year B-B-Q at Janice and Bryden Murray's. The Boys in question were the crew from Washington University who won gold at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, much to Hitler's dismay. Please contact me for information or to join our group.

Tricia Roet
troet@ymail.com

CRAFTING CORNER

FORT McMURRAY, WORKS IN PROGRESS AND CHARITY QUILTING PROJECTS:

Like everyone else, Modern Quilters were shocked by the situation in Fort McMurray and quickly started producing maple leaf blocks for quilts that can bring those survivors comfort and help with fundraising. Similarly, other charitable organizations, such as those aiding Syrian refugees, can benefit from our textile projects in which we all enjoy creating wild and surprising designs such as the Hexagon design or the surprising Feather and Asymmetry wall hangings. In addition, recent retiree Brenda Bertram has started exploring the world of quilting and has produced these beautiful patchwork squares quilts, including one for her Grand Dog. Way to go Brenda! Keep on innovating.
Michelle Fitzgerald

fitzgeraldmb@sympatico.ca



Casual Bridge Group

The L'ARSE Casual Bridge Group plays the the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m. It is a great place to learn to play bridge, to hone bridge skills, to teach others about bridge and to socialize!

Our skill levels have a wide range. 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. We often discuss bidding and such as we go along. For some, our games have been a starting point for pursuing more serious bridge experiences such as duplicate bridge clubs. Some of our most experienced and accomplished players have kept with us, maybe because they still learn with us or are still teachers at heart, but mostly because it's a really nice group and we have a lot of fun!

The members of the L'ARSE Bridge Group would like to express our deep gratitude to Lorraine Pawlusiak who, for many years has graciously hosted our games at her lovely home. Lorraine also crochets blankets for the homeless and welcomes donations of wool to further that cause.

We have many members but, with travel and other commitments, we usually have between eight and sixteen players on any given Wednesday. There is always room for new members! Our focus is to enjoy and to learn. We'd love to have you join us! If you are interested, please contact Pam Greevy at pgreevy@hotmail.com.

Canasta



The Canasta Group has made alternate Wednesday afternoons very lively in my house. Even the dog is tired at the end of the day! We have had as many as 17 participants all looking for those elusive 7's. Some members of the group have started learning a new form of Canasta called Samba Canasta. It is somewhat more challenging but equally enjoyable. I suspect more will learn in the fall.

The group will not meet during the summer, making June 29 the last session of the season.

I will not be continuing as hostess. It has been an enjoyable 4 years but I find I cannot continue next year. Jan Langelier has kindly offered to take on the task of hostess and, as of July 1, all enquiries should be directed to her at langelier.jan@videotron.ca.

New players will be welcome in the fall insofar as space permits. Please contact Jan if you would like to join the group or get further information. I will be pleased to remain in an "emeritus" role and, if you have any questions about either of the games, you can still email me at rmnarsted@yahoo.com.

Robin Narsted

Michèle Fitzgerald has been sharing many interesting art projects with our readers over the last years. She invites people to send in to her their projects too. We have many talented artists in our group. Lets hear from more of you.

TREKKER'S WORLD

TRAVEL TALK GROUP

The Travel Talk Group is planning a meeting in October.

More details to follow in the September Newsletter.

Daniel Abergel & Mickey Wernecke



The L'ARSE Golf Group began its 2016 outdoor season on May 9 at Caughnawaga Golf Club and our last planned outing will be on October 31. This season we plan to play on every Monday which is not a holiday. We will use three formats this year, rotating eighteen-hole outings, nine-hole outings and outings in which participants can opt to play either nine holes or eighteen.

Participation is not ability-dependent. Our goal is an opportunity for L'ARSE members to come together to spend time with former colleagues and new friends enjoying the sport, the collegiality and the weather. We aim to provide opportunity rather than create commitment.

We maintain a list of interested members. Typically, we book a course mid-week for the following Monday (usually four starting times) and then put out the information and a request for response. If we have more than 16 initial positive replies, we will attempt to add starting times. If this is not possible, we take the first sixteen to have replied. Communication is by e-mail.

We frequent various courses within commuting distance from the West Island. Last year our venues included Caughnawaga, Dorval, Meadowbrook, La Cité, Glengary, International 2000, Ile de Montréal and Golf des Iles. Sometimes we were as few as eight players and our largest group was over 30 for our "School is Open Open" golf and bar-b-q held on the first day of classes of each new school year.

If you are not a current participant and would like to be, please contact Bryden Murray at bryden.murray@sympatico.ca or Russ Kelly at russk@gmail.com to be placed on our contact list. Hoping to see you on one of our outings.

Russ and Bryden

INDOOR GOLF

Virtual Golf

With the arrival of spring and the outdoor golf season another Virtual golf session is over. We started in December and continued until April on every second Monday. There was a good turnout every week and everyone is looking forward to playing some golf in the outdoors. Enjoy the summer and we will begin again next winter.

Mike Kirk



"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." -Albert Einstein

Despite our relatively mild winter and the early disappearance of snow on most roads and bike paths, we were unable to get an early start on this year's cycling season. Normally, our season runs from April to November and has started as early as March 20th (in 2010). The only April Tuesday date conducive to cycling (weather-wise) was the 19th. Colin Legault stepped up upon my call for someone to lead this trip in my absence. (Susan and I were on a belated 50th Anniversary Celebration trip to Cuba).

We had 19 cyclists on May 3rd, my first trip as co-ordinator this year. We rode along the Lachine bike path to Atwater Market from 53rd. We didn't incur a headwind, as we faced the wide open stretch of Lac St. Louis on the return trip, for the first time in a long time, in my recollection. We look forward to another summer with the opportunity to visit vistas and places not always accessible by car. We're hoping to get a helping hand from the weatherman this year to compensate for disappointments last year.

Newly-retired or more seasoned retired teachers may wish to consider joining us and to have their emails added to my weekly trips invitation. I did remove a few names of some former participants from my list last year, as it was getting cumbersome (into the 70's) when most trips feature a core of "regulars" augmented by occasional joiners. People can ask to be reinstated should they feel up to rejoining us on trips. Should you wish to do so, send an email to wmclifford@gmail.com. If you have questions, you can check out pictures from our trips on the LARSE website & perhaps recognize a former colleague or acquaintance, or just call me at 514-697-8802.

Wayne Cliffordew joiners can email me at wmclifford@gmail.com

Wayne



COMPUTER USERS GROUP

Peter and Ann Tellier hosted an adult-to-adult iPad workshop at their home this spring. The group had a lovely session, and we have photos to prove it. Lately I have been tasked with serving the LARSE members as the coordinator of the Internet/Computer Users Group and so I will contact all the current and former network leaders this summer to try and organize for the (school) year that starts in September. Some time ago a survey was conducted, and among the replies were requests for training & information sessions regarding: Android tablets; Cell phones and their applications; Cleaning the computer so it can run faster; iPad and its relation to iPhone; Layers (Paintbrush Pro or Photoshop); Open Office; SmartBoard; Virus protection via free software; Windows 8, Windows 8 vs. 7, Windows 8.1 and Word. This is a wide range of needs and will provide a starting point for planning. Any updates or input that you would care to offer would be GREATLY welcomed.

Bill Stockwell (wstockwell@sympatico.ca)

SAYING GOODBYE

Sadly we have lost two wonderful people in the past few weeks.

JACK BAUER

Jack Bauer, teacher extraordinaire, passed away suddenly on April 8. Husband, father, grandfather, teacher, tutor, scout master, principal, store manager, pillar of his church community, summer camp director - there is little that he could not do, and do well. Jack moved from elementary school to high school, where he specialized in computer science and math, along with running an alternate program for some years. After a long and distinguished career at Beaconsfield High, Jack retired, only to reappear as math teacher and then principal of Emmanuel Christian School.

Jack leaves behind a beloved wife, Horty, who was an employee at the board for some years, a son, Donald, who also worked at the board for a time, and Jennifer, his daughter.

Jack had been fighting cancer for the last year or two, and, in his normal fashion, he was immediately involved in both cancer research and helping to develop a national support program for prostate cancer victims. He resisted the ill-effects of his treatment, fighting to regain lost strength. He insisted on playing his weekly old-timers hockey game and made great efforts to stay healthy and fit. Sadly, his heart gave out in his last hockey game.

cont'd

What I remember best about Jack were his smile and his kindness. I often found him cutting one of his neighbour's lawns, doing hospital visits, or housesitting. It was in his nature to help out anyone he could.

Jack, I shall miss you greatly. You were a great friend, an exceptional educator, and an example to many.

Bruce Corbett

DIANA JEAN (WOOLLEY) JACKSON

Diana Jean (Woolley) Jackson died suddenly on Friday May 20, 2016. Wife, mother, grandmother, sister, teacher, mentor, counselor, confidant, and friend extraordinaire...she wore all these hats with pride and joy.

She leaves her husband Ted, sons Scott, Stephen, Shawn and Stuart, daughters-in-law Martine and Christina and grandsons Benjamin and Justin to mourn her passing.

Mama J or Mrs. J, as she was known to many, was a master teacher at the elementary level until her retirement. Diana's dedication to her students led her to spend many hours devising special programs for those who needed them. Her wish for a positive atmosphere in school was behind her involvement with creating Peace Pals at both Edgewater and Dorset schools among her many other activities. She received the "Pat Lewis Peace award" for her Peace Pals project.

Diana was a talented poet and she shared this amazing gift to create wonderful memories for family and friends. These will be cherished by everyone who heard or read them.

She was active within her town and her church communities, and her dedication and creativity will be missed by all who knew her. Her battle with cancer was fought with her usual strength and positive attitude which carried her through her many health issues over the years.

Diana will be sorely missed by her family and her close friends as she was such a positive influence on their lives and such a model of strength.

Rest in peace my friend, we miss you.

Lynne Benjamin, Cynthia Corbett, Shirley McCallum, Lynn Thompson



Editor Bryden Murray

Yvon Charbonneau

Yvon Charbonneau, leader of the Centrale de l'enseignement du Québec between 1970 and 1978, has died at the age of 75. His former union says Charbonneau passed away peacefully on April 22 surrounded by family in a Florida hospital where he'd been since suffering a stroke on April 7.

In 1972 Charbonneau and fellow union leaders, Marcel Pepin and Louis Laberge, were ordered jailed for contempt of court for encouraging their members to defy injunctions to return to work during labour strife. He would sit in the National Assembly as Liberal in the riding of Bourassa (1994-97) and in the House of Commons as a Liberal for the Anjou-Rivière-des-Prairies riding (1997-2004). From 2004 to 2006, he served as Canada's ambassador to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Former Lakeshore Teacher Association President (1970's), Doug McCall recalls: " He and his colleagues were instrumental in that important shift in Québec society that even the Liberals had to acknowledge in political terms and the political consensus in Québec has remained quite constant ever since".

Phil Ritchie, who served as PAPT Teacher Negotiator in the mid-1970's, adds: " Charbonneau was an astute observer of the politics in the CEQ...the Péquistes, the anarchists, the hard-liners etc... He was a leader who put the interests of his members ahead of his personal politics.

Bryden Murray remembers Charbonneau as an observer at Canadian Teacher Federation events and from trans-border conferences with National Education Association (USA) in the mid 80's. " He and his CEQ delegation would sit and hang out with the PAPT folks. He was a really interesting fellow to talk with...lots of fun and very personable. These events always included social and cultural activities and we got to see Yvon clog dancing in West Virginia and playing fiddle in Regina. He was very accomplished in so many ways!

In recent years -and right up until his hospitalization -Charbonneau had been writing his memoirs, which are to be published in a few months.

Barb Randle

Barb Randle began teaching in 1974 at the PSBGM's Westminster Elementary. She also taught at Surrey Gardens, Central Park School, Meadowbrook, Carlyle (for six weeks after being declared surplus in 1983), and Elizabeth Ballantyne - everything from Kindergarten to Grade 4. A second surplus declaration in 1984 finally allowed her move to the Lakeshore School Board's Cedar Park Elementary, where she stayed for 26 years, including a few years after the merger with Seigniory, when it became Clearpoint Elementary. Barb retired in 2010, after 36 years of teaching.

Barb was a Union Rep almost her whole career. "I took after my mother, Jeanne, who was a Lakeshore Teacher's Association Rep when she was librarian at Beaconsfield High in the 70's". Barb became Vice-President Elementary when Maureen Morris moved to the Canadian Teacher's Federation.

Since her retirement, two of her children have married and the third is engaged. Andrea (36) works for the federal government in Ottawa. Neil (34) is looking for a job teaching high school history and/or English and Tyler (31) works at Wire Rope Canada. She now has two beautiful granddaughters. "I love to spend time with my oldest granddaughter, picking her up at daycare at least once a week (the second one is still too young).

To keep busy, Barb does a Fit and Tone class for 50+ three times a week, does Aquafitness twice a week, plays Canasta, goes to L'ARSE lunches and is a caller for the lunches. She is also now a member of the L'ARSE Executive Committee. She is active in Union Church in Ste Anne de Bellevue. Having enjoyed a recent experience as a student supervisor for McGill Education students, she hopes to be able to do more of it. She spends time with friends, visiting, doing lunch or brunch or dinner, shopping and reads a lot! (And doesn't feel guilty about it!)

A seasoned traveler, Barb has been to Cuba, St Maarten, South Carolina, Vancouver and on a river cruise from Prague to Budapest. She also visits her parents in Woodstock, Ontario where they moved in 2014. In September, she goes to Ireland.

"Mostly, I'm enjoying being able to do things on my own schedule - little things like getting up and going to bed when I'm ready to - not when I have to, reading The Gazette from front to back and doing the Sudoku puzzle every morning (in pen!), having a second cup of coffee, doing my banking and groceries whenever I want (my son says we retired people should stay out of the grocery stores after 4 and on weekends - and leave them to the working folk who have to be there then!).

Wisdom from the back pew!

A pastor's wife was expecting a baby, so he stood before the congregation and asked for a raise. After much discussion, they passed a rule that whenever the pastor's family expanded; so would his pay cheque.

After 6 children, this started to get expensive and the congregation decided to hold another meeting to discuss the pastor's expanding salary. A great deal of yelling and inner bickering ensued, as to how much the pastor's additional children were costing the church, and how much more it could potentially cost.

After listening to them for about an hour, the pastor rose from his chair and spoke, "Children are a gift from God, and we will take as many gifts as He gives us."

Silence fell over the congregation. In the back pew, a little old lady struggled to stand, and finally said in her frail voice, "Rain is also a gift from God, but when we get too much of it, we wear rubbers."

Trump's First Night In the White House

The Donald is elected president....

On the first night he spends in the White House, he is visited by the ghost of George Washington. He asks him, "George, what can I do to best serve the United States?" The ghost of George Washington responds, "Never tell a lie."

He says, "Oh, I don't think I can do that."

The next night, he is visited by the ghost of Thomas Jefferson. He asks him, "Thomas, what can I do to best serve the United States?" The ghost of Thomas Jefferson responds, "Do not bully the people."

He says, "Oh, I don't think I can do that."

On the third night, he is visited by the ghost of Abraham Lincoln. He asks him, "Abraham, what can I do to best serve the United States?"

The ghost of Abraham Lincoln responds, "Go see a play!!!!!"

L'ARSE MEMBERSHIP FORM

14.

REGULAR MEMBER

L'ARSE (L'Association of Retired School Employees) is open to any retiree from any educational institution and the spouse/partner of a retiree.

Name of Retiree _____ Retired from _____

Name of Spouse/Partner _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Subject to available space, L'ARSE is also open to people who wish to participate in a L'ARSE-sponsored activity.

Name _____

* * * * *

E-mail address _____ Phone # _____

Street address _____

Town _____ Postal Code _____

Please send a **cheque for \$10 per person, payable to L'ARSE** (one-year membership), to:

Lois Maeder-Alves
63 Devon Road
Baie D'Urfé, QC H9X 2W7
514-457-9073

**If your contact information above should change, e-mail Lois at:
*lois.maederalves@videotron.ca***

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The **L'ArsEncore newsletter**, issued 3 times a year, outlines the many and diverse activities available through our Association. It also highlights the activities of individual members. Articles highlighting members' travels, other activities or items of interest are most welcome!

The newsletter will be sent electronically, unless you prefer a copy by mail.

I wish to receive my copy of L'ArsEncore via Canada Post: _____

(Extra cost to L'ARSE is about \$3 per copy.)

Signature

Date