



Gabrielle's World

Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Newsletter



Get updates on activities at Maison Gabrielle-Roy on our website

(www.maisongabrielleyroy.mb.ca) as well as Facebook.

Should you wish to comment on this newsletter, or share information, please write us at Box 133-375 Deschambault St., St. Boniface, Manitoba, R2H 3B4 or email us at info@maisongabrielleyroy.mb.ca.

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Robert Nicolas

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A NEW FALL START

As we had announced in the previous newsletter last spring, the beginning of the fall term in 2015 brings a lot of new developments to Maison Gabrielle-Roy.

The most important of these is no doubt the appointment of our new executive director, Robert Nicolas. You can find out more by reading the article dedicated to him on page 3.

Robert is not the only new face at Maison Gabrielle-Roy. Our recruiting efforts for volunteers have been fruitful. We can now count on at least four new recruits as a regular backup.

LAURENT GIMENEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY

Sincere thanks to each one and I hope our great team of volunteers will continue to be reinforced over the new few months.

There is also some new programming in the works. For the first time in the past few years, Maison Gabrielle-Roy associated itself with the Canada Day celebrations last July 1st. The public was invited not only visit the museum, but also to watch the full-length movie version of *Bonheur d'occasion* (178 minu-

tes). It was such a success that we promise to celebrate equally as well on July 1st 2016.

Until then, Maison Gabrielle-Roy will be offering a lot of new events to the public, including *Nuit Blanche* (September 26) and Halloween day. A conference in English on Gabrielle Roy and the Ukrainians, which promises to be enthralling, will be presented at the museum September 29th.

With all of these activities, which are presented in further detail on p. 2, the goal is not only to diversify the opportunities to

Continued on page 3 ▶

RARING TO CREATE

I am really looking forward to embarking upon this new year as writer-in-residence at MGR. Indeed, it promises to be a very productive year that will allow me to continue to share my knowledge and my literary know-how with emerging writers, and to organise encounters with readers and well-known writers while pursuing my literary and visual projects.

First of all, after several months of hiatus, the Kukai Rouge resumed its activities at the end of August beginning with a visit to the garden at the St. Norbert Arts Centre. What is a kukai? The Japanese word simply describes a group of poets who are enthusiastic about creating haikus, these minuscule poems about everyday life. The Kukai

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

Rouge is a series of workshops that I lead once a month at the MGR or at another inspirational venue. We develop our creative abilities and learn more about this poetic form, all within a friendly atmosphere. It's an excellent way to approach Japan's fascinating civilisation. If you would like to join the Kukai Rouge, call the MGR; the management will be glad to send me your contact information. Registration to the Kukai is free.

Still in relation to the haiku, I have accepted Francine Chicoine and Louise Saint-Pierre's invitation to help them prepare for the 7th international haiku

festival of the Association francophone de haiku (AFH), which will be gathering in Quebec, from October 13 to 16, 2016. The two codirectors of the Camp littéraire de Baie-Comeau/École nationale de haïku will be meeting with Canadian, American, Caribbean and European haiku poets. Faithful readers of the newsletter may recall that three years ago, I invited Ms Chicoine and Ms Saint-Pierre to present a series of workshops on haiku poetry.

However there is more to life than haikus, which is why I will be offering a series of eight creative literary workshops, from December 2015 to May 2016, entitled *Les mots pour me*

Continued on page 2 ▶

This fall on Deschambault Street

► De l'oreille à la bouche

Thursday, September 24, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – Entrance fee: \$10.00

As a result of last year's success, the organizers of Winnipeg Thin Air/Livres en fête are proposing a new evening of literary and culinary sharing, punctuated with pleasurable meanderings in Gabrielle Roy's birthplace. The three authors who have been invited are Manitobans Charles Leblanc and Marie Jack as well as Québécois Patrick Isabelle, who is a specialist in children's literature. Tickets will be sold on location or in advance on the Festival's website at: thinairwinnipeg.ca/events/2015/09/24/de-loreille-a-la-bouche/.

► An afternoon on the porch

Saturday, September 26 – Free event

Surrounded by golden leaves and the rustling of the great elms of Maison Gabrielle-Roy, come celebrate Culture Days in the company of our writer-in-residence Bertrand Nayet. He will lead you in a game of "exquisite corpses", a collective game inspired by surrealism that is a lot of fun. Refreshments will be served.

► Nuit blanche at the Maison

Saturday, September 26 – Free event

To celebrate *The Tin Flute*, Maison Gabrielle-Roy will play the documentary film *À Saint-Henri le 5 septembre* (Hubert Aquin,

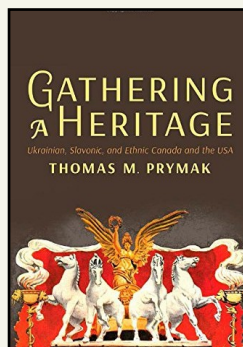


1962, 40 mn) all evening on a loop. The screening will be held inside or outside, depending on the weather.

► Conference with Thomas Prymak (in English)

September 29, 7:00 p.m. – Free event

Thomas Prymak, author of a recent book on Ukrainian and Slavic immigration in North America (see Gabrielle Roy headlines, p.4), will talk about the relationship between Gabrielle Roy and Canadian Ukrainians, including her tumultuous affair with a mysterious secret agent, in London, before the Second World War.



► Halloween at Gabrielle's

Saturday, October 31st in the afternoon – Free event

Bertrand Nayet, our writer-in-residence, will welcome both young and old for an afternoon of tales and games that will be (kind of) scary and (very) entertaining. Snacks will be served.

► An oldtime Christmas

Date to be determined – Free event

Once again this year, Maison Gabrielle-Roy invites both young and old to come celebrate an oldtime Christmas, gathered around the piano and at the foot of the Christmas tree. There will also be sweets to feast on!

► Literary creation workshops

December 2015 to May 2016

Cost: \$20.00

Bertrand Nayet will lead a series of eight workshops in French on the theme of "Words to tell my story", in the Red River region. Details will be released in advance in the media as well as on social networks.

Note: We inform all participants in advance that photos of the public taken during the course of all of these activities by Maison Gabrielle-Roy may be published and used for promotional purposes.

◀ RARING TO CREATE, continued from page 1

dire (Words to tell my story). We will have three goals. The first, learning the characteristics of a number of literary forms. The second goal will be for participants to discover their creative abilities. And the third will be the publication of an anthology, a collection of the participants' creations. So come tell me your story!

To get you in the mood to create, I will be proposing a revamped version of *L'après-midi sur la galerie* (*An Afternoon on the Porch*), a show presented in September during Culture Days. This year, there will of course be a few presentations by authors, but mostly exquisite corpses.

Rest assured, besides the surrealist title, there is nothing macabre in this creative game. In a nutshell, each emerging writer, artist or musician will be matched up with another emerging writer, artist or musician. I will introduce a theme, a few words, colours and rhythms and each of the twins will create individually for about thirty minutes.

Afterwards, each person will hand his or her creation to their counterpart, only allowing them to see the last sentence, a few lines or three or four bars of their work. Inspired by what each person has received, he or she fleshes out the work as they please. Then we will share the results - and our amazement - while having a good laugh.

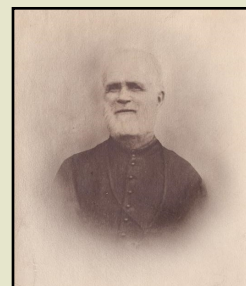
Bulletin Board

♦ Winners of the draws

Congratulations to **Vanessa Warne**, **Louisa Ryz** and **Amine Abdelmoula**, winners of Maison Gabrielle-Roy's June, July and August calendar-lottery 2015 draws. A big thank you to our sponsors: Winnipeg Goldeyes, Jardins St-Léon and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

♦ Painting exhibition

Colombe Fafard-Chartier, a volunteer at Maison Gabrielle-Roy and Board member, will be presenting the exhibition *Un livre se raconte en peinture* at Résidence Despins (151 Despins St.), from September 23-25. The exhibition is made up of paintings inspired by the book *Colombe Fafard-Chartier* dedicated to the fascinating correspondence of Oblate Father Jules-Louis Decorby (1841-1916), who was also the founder of St. Lazare. The public is invited to the launch Wednesday September 23rd, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.



Picture of Father Jules Decorby

♦ Gabrielle Roy translated

We have enlisted the services of **Annie Langlois** (exhibition curator) and **Thomas Brès** (graphic designer) in view of the creation of the exhibition *Gabrielle Roy traduite*, to be presented at Maison Gabrielle-Roy in 2017.

A new Executive Director

After a thorough recruitment process, the Board of Directors of Maison Gabrielle-Roy has hired a new full-time Executive Director in the person of Robert Nicolas.

A native Manitoban who holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba, Robert Nicolas is an active member of the Franco-Manitoban community. He has worked, amongst others, at Conseil Jeunesse Provincial (CJP), the 100 Nons and the Société historique de Saint-Boniface. Robert is also a lover of literature as well as a writer who will be publishing a collection of short stories this fall, at Éditions du Blé, entitled *Nouvelles orphelines*.

"I am very happy to join the team at Maison Gabrielle-Roy," said Nicolas. "It plays an important role in the midst of our com-



Robert Nicolas and Andréanne Caux

munity and I am looking forward, with great enthusiasm, to seeing it continue to flourish."

The selection committee of the new Exe-

cutive Director was made up of two members of the Board of Directors, Laurent Gimenez and Mélanie Jichuk, as well as the outgoing president, Andréanne Caux. Of the ten or so curriculum vitae received, the selection committee chose to interview four candidates during the month of August. In the end, Robert Nicolas was chosen as he had the best combination of experience, competency and motivation regarding the position.

The Board of Directors and the volunteers of Maison Gabrielle-Roy congratulate Robert on his appointment and extend a warm welcome to him on behalf of Maison Gabrielle-Roy. They would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to Andréanne Caux, who directed the organisation brilliantly over an eight-month period, and to wish her the best with her studies in education at Université de Saint-Boniface.

The summer in review

Despite a marked decrease in the number of visitors this summer at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, the proceeds drawn from entrance fees have increased.

The number of visitors during the summer months (June, July, August) went from 754 in 2014 to 493 in 2015, meaning a reduction of 34%. The main reason for this decrease is the reduced number of Quebecois tourists who visited Manitoba this summer, no doubt because of the depressed economic situation in Quebec.

Despite this decrease in the number of visitors, the proceeds from entrance fees at Maison Gabrielle-Roy increased by 64% as compared to the summer of 2014, going from \$1,625.00 to \$2 673.00. This gain is due to the increase in entrance fees that came into effect this spring. Before this increase, entrance fees had remained the same since the Maison opened in 2003.

Apart from this, the recruitment campaign for volunteers that we launched several months ago has produced results. About ten people offered their services and four of them were trained to be able to offer guided tours throughout the year.

However we still need volunteers, in particular for housecleaning the Maison, for about three hours per month, as well as to serve on the Board of Directors.

Please call Robert at 204 231-3853 if you are interested in doing any volunteer



Colombe Fafard-Chartier and Claudette Dumas, both volunteers at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, were amongst the 35 odd participants that took part in the *Le vieillard et l'enfant* excursion in and around Gimli last August 6. The activity was such a success that a larger bus needed to be chartered! We would like to thank all of the participants as well as our partners and sponsors (Ô Tour, Francofonds), and promise to organise more lovely excursions!

work at Maison Gabrielle-Roy, in any capacity. Thank you in advance! !

◀ A NEW FALL START, Continued from page 1

celebrate literature and Gabrielle Roy, but also to reach a wider public (children, families, Anglophones, in particular), in line with our multi-year marketing and development strategy that the Board of Directors adopted last November.

You may remember that the multi-year strategy doubles up as an annual fundraiser that you will be hearing about over the next few months (lottery-calendar 2016, fundraising and membership campaign, 2016 brunch).

As you can see, the staff, the volunteers and the Board of Directors of Maison Gabrielle-Roy have a lot of work ahead of them. But there is no shortage of motivation, commitment and talent. Nor of continuing support from the public, our members, and our financial partners, as well as our financial participants, headed by the Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba, who have been incredibly constant. Thanks to each and every one and I wish you a good fall start!

Many thanks...

- to **Rinella Printers Limited** for sponsoring parts of the printing costs of this Newsletter;
- to **Simone Hébert Allard** for having translated the newsletter into English.

▶ Gabrielle Roy HEADLINES

BOOKS

▶ **Gathering a Heritage: Ukrainian, Slavonic, and Ethnic Canada and the USA**

Thomas PRYMAK, *University of Toronto Press, December 2014, 144 pages, \$23.00*

In this work dedicated to the history of the Ukrainians and Slavs in North America, the University of Toronto research associate dedicates an entire chapter to Ukrainians in Gabrielle Roy's work, as well as the tumultuous relationship of the young Gabrielle with Canadian-Ukrainian nationalist Stephen Davidovich, in London, just before WW II.

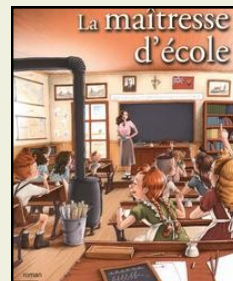


Thomas Prymak offered a signed copy of his book to Maison Gabrielle-Roy (represented here by Andréanne Caux). We would like to thank him for his kind offer. Inset picture: Stephen Davidovich.

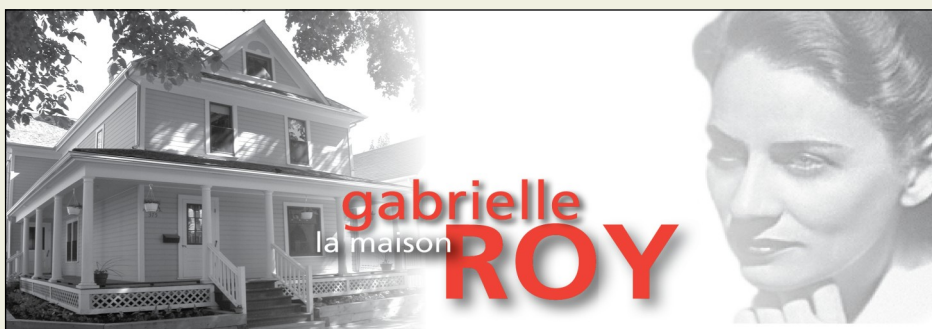
▶ **La maîtresse d'école**

Ismène TOUSSAINT, *Les Éditions réunis, August 2015, \$23.00*

"Manitoba, 1928. Gabrielle reaches a point in her life in which she needs to choose a profession to make a living and to fulfill the expectations of her modest family in which she is the youngest. She decides on teaching as her older sisters did, though her artistic talent would have preferred otherwise..."



After having three remarkable essays on Gabrielle Roy (*Les Chemins secrets de Gabrielle Roy*, 1999, *Les Chemins retrouvés de Gabrielle Roy – Témoins d'occasion au Québec*, 2004, *Gabrielle Roy et le nationalisme Québécois*, 2006), Ismène Toussaint dedicates her first novel to the teaching years and the maturing of the literary vocation of the famous writer.



MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION

OUR MISSION

Maison Gabrielle-Roy was established to offer the community – and indeed the whole world – a museum that is a fitting tribute to Gabrielle Roy, to disseminate her works and to protect a cultural heritage.

OUR VISION

375 Deschambault Street is the house where Gabrielle Roy was born in 1909, and lived until she left Manitoba to travel in Europe in 1937. Now restored as a museum, it is designated both a Provincial and a National Historic Site and houses a collection of objects and artifacts associated with Gabrielle Roy and her family during the years 1909-1937. The museum enables young people, researchers and the general public to learn more about the author herself, her works and her influence. Maison Gabrielle-Roy is also an important cornerstone of the cultural development of St-Boniface.

MEMBERSHIP

Enclosed please find ☐ \$25.00 for my annual membership in support of the museum's activities and the preservation of our cultural heritage. I understand that my payment entitles me to receive the museum's newsletter.

DONATION

I would like to make a donation to Maison Gabrielle-Roy.
(A tax receipt will be issued.)

☐ \$150 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Province: _____

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Gabrielle Roy
LA MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY

(Please make cheque payable to La Maison Gabrielle-Roy)



Painting from René Richard

EXHIBITS

▶ **A tribute to René Richard**

Gabrielle Roy's great friend René Richard (1895-1982), who inspired the character Pierre Cadourai in *The Hidden Mountain*, is the center of the exhibition in Montmorency Forest, near Quebec.

Visitors will discover the life of this painter of large spaces thanks to a meandering path in the central pavilion of this experimental forest, which has belonged to Laval University since 1964.