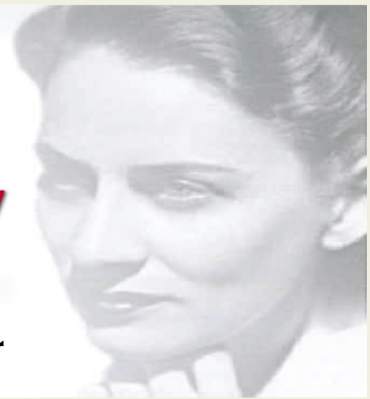




# Gabrielle's World

Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Newsletter



## A NEW BEGINNING

Get updates on activities at Maison Gabrielle-Roy on our website ([www.maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca](http://www.maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca)) as well as Facebook. ([www.facebook.com/LaMaisonGabrielleRoy](https://www.facebook.com/LaMaisonGabrielleRoy)). 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@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca](mailto:info@maisongabrielleroy.mb.ca). Telephone: 204-231-3853 Fax: 204-231-3910

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My wife and I arrived from France in mid-summer with our two children and our Jack Russell in tow. With the help of the team at Accueil francophone, we settled in quite easily and I quickly began to look for work.

I mostly worked in restaurant event management in Switzerland and taught in hotel schools in France as well as in Algeria. At the same time, as a result of my passion for literature and the arts in general, I founded a theater company and a publishing house. I also directed *La Tribune du Jelly Rodger*, a literary publication, while pursuing my poetic aspirations through various artistic venues.

Similarly to Christine, the character in the novel, I lost my way to Altamont in Haute-Savoie only to find myself in St. Boniface in Gabrielle Roy's native home! As the author



**SÉBASTIEN GAILLARD IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY SINCE THE END OF OCTOBER 2017.**

expressed so well, "Leaving means to search continuously for a new beginning in life."

This new beginning is happening for me in Manitoba! It is

quite an honour to be at the head of this historical and artistic museum and to be provided with the incredible opportunity to demonstrate my enthusiasm while executing the tasks entrusted to me.

Following the example of my predecessors, I hope to create a synergy with our partners and Francophone organisations to see the museum increase its visibility at a national and international level.

Upheld by a team of volunteers and a Board of Directors dedicated to the preservation and development of this symbolic place, I look forward with determination to the year 2018.

A year of celebration, replete with projects, encounters and creativity. In the end, if I understand correctly, whether it be Haute-Savoie or Manitoba, all roads lead to Altamont!

## BUILDING STRONG TIES

Greetings dear friends of Maison Gabrielle-Roy.

In my last column at the end of August 2017, I spoke to you about the upcoming publication of *BREF!*, an anthology of 150 short stories each 150 words long that were written by authors from across Canada. It was a project that I proposed to Éditions du Blé to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday that was directed by Charles Leblanc.

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

The anthology consists of texts, each one as powerful as the next, from 62 authors from the Maritimes, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. To emphasize the pan-Canadian nature of the project, Emmanuelle Rigaud, director of Éditions du Blé, organised a series of launches in Halifax, Moncton, Toronto,

Ottawa, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Vancouver. The seven launches that took place from December 5-10 reflected the nature of the project and allowed for the creation of strong ties between the communities. A group publication allows for a genuine camaraderie to occur.

Another characteristic of *BREF!* that I find particularly touching is that Maison

Continued on page 2 ▶

### MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President:

Laurent Gimenez

#### Vice-president:

Julien Allard

#### Treasurer:

Jules Chartier

#### Secretary:

Anne-Marie Maupertuis

#### Administrators:

Joanne DeCosse

Colombe Fafard-Chartier

Gabrielle Joly

Louise Plamondon

#### PERSONNEL

#### Executive Director:

Sébastien Gaillard

#### Accountant

Stella Labossière

## Through the seasons



A glimpse of our activities since the fall of 2017. Clockwise: Author Diane Lavoie at the microphone during "An Afternoon on the Veranda" (September 30); Halloween at Gabrielle's (October 21); celebration of the Epiphany (January 6); and our traditional Maison Gabrielle-Roy's Christmas tree.

## The real Médéric?

Some time ago, a Gabrielle Roy fan in Alberta got in touch with Maison Gabrielle-Roy to ask us whether we knew the identity of the person who inspired the character of Médéric Eymard, protagonist of the short story *De la truite dans l'eau glacée* (in *Children of my Heart*, 1977).

One of our volunteers, Colombe Fafard-Chartier, remembered an account told by Ismène Toussaint in her book *Les chemins secrets de Gabrielle Roy* (Éd. Stanké, 1999). Philippe Cardinal, one of Gabrielle Roy's former students at Cardinal, claimed to be the probable inspiration – at least in part – of the character of Médéric. Just as Gabrielle's fiery hero did, the young Philippe came to school on horseback and sometimes joined his teacher when she went riding in the hills; despite the fact, he made sure to point out, that "I never fished trout with her!"



This photo shows the young Philippe Cardinal a few years after the departure of Gabrielle Roy from Cardinal.

Philippe Cardinal passed away in September 2000 in St. Boniface, at the age of 82. By this time, the short story that he may have inspired had been translated into 12 languages (English, German, Portuguese, Arab, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Dutch, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and Finnish) to be published, in a condensed version, in the *Reader's Digest's* international editions.

### ◀ BUILDING STRONG TIES, continued from page 1

Gabrielle-Roy is at the heart of this project's success. To be expected of course. As you know, a large part of my work as the writer-in-residence consists in mentoring new writers. Not surprisingly, amongst all the works that were selected to be published, eight of the authors (three texts per author, 24 short stories) took part in the writing workshops I gave through MGR.

The launch of the anthology took place at the Alliance française du Manitoba, who received us with their customary friendliness. Another lovely way to make French Manitoba's literature reach a wider audience. A great project that has attained its goal.

Of course, this doesn't mean that I can sit on my laurels now. In fact I am preparing a

new series of creative writing workshops beginning in mid-January. Spread the word to any aspiring writers in your circle.

### Volunteers are the soul of the Maison

Last August, I briefly mentioned "An Afternoon on the Veranda", an event held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. I summoned a group of talented local authors, Diane Lavoie, Charles Leblanc, Louise Dandeneau and Robert Nicolas along with Guy Gauthier (a St. Boniface native who has been living in New York since the 70s), whose book of poems *La hantise du passé* was published by Les Éditions du Blé.

I would like to thank the volunteers who worked so tirelessly and who ensured that the afternoon was a marvelous success. You are without a doubt the soul of the Maison.

The next day, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, I joined Guy Gauthier and Roger Léveillé in St. Laurent, on the shores of Lake Manitoba, where we spent the afternoon discussing literature and literary criticism. Time spent with my literary compatriots is always very enriching and even necessary. I always feel inspired by these encounters.

Over the next few months, organising MGR's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary will take up most of my time. You will no doubt be pleasantly surprised. Here is a clue: mark the words on the territory. Until next time ...



# 2018, an exceptional year!

Throughout 2018, celebrations of Maison Gabrielle-Roy's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be taking place. Without a doubt, the highlight will be a festive day in the spring, but there will be many more activities before then!

## Writers' workshops

**Saturdays on January 27, February 17 and March 17, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at MGR, free**

Our writer-in-residence, Bertrand Nayet, will be giving three workshops on how to write short stories.

## Spoken Word

**Tuesday, February 13, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at MGR, free**

Multilingual evening of poetry slams, organized by the Alliance française du Manitoba and facilitated by Amber O'Reilly.

## Gabrielle-Roy Brunch

**Sunday, March 18, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Norwood Hotel**

The theme this year is "Gabrielle around the world", a reminder that Gabrielle Roy's works have been translated into 18 languages. Tickets (\$75) are on sale at 233-Allô (204 233-2556).

## Gabrielle-Roy dictation

**Thursday, March 22 at USB, free**

To celebrate Gabrielle Roy's birth date, children and adults in Manitoba and Quebec are invited to transcribe a short dictation taken from the writer's works. A collaboration between CEFCO, Radio-Canada, the Alliance française du Manitoba, Entreprises Riel and the Bibliothèque régionale Gabrielle-Roy de Québec.

## Gabrielle Roy in translation

**Opening on April 5<sup>th</sup> at MGR**

This magnificent multimedia exhibition on the translation of the works of Gabrielle Roy will be on display at MGR for one year.

## Petite fabrique poétique éphémère (Small factory of ephemeral poetry)

**Saturday, April 21 at USB, free**

Around 20 authors and poets will be celebrating the World Book and Copyright Day, in the context of a mini book fair.



After the 2017 Gabrielle Roy Brunch, whose theme was "Gabrielle Roy's Canada" (photo), the 2018 event will be dedicated to Gabrielle Roy around the world.

## Bulletin Board

### ◆ Thank you Mireille!

After fifteen years of exceptional service, **Mireille Blanchette** has decided to withdraw from her volunteer position at MGR.

Mireille was an ideal volunteer, versatile, committed, always at our disposal and very professional. She was, without a doubt, one of MGR's pillars since the opening of the museum in June 2003. The exceptional quality of the guided tours she gave to the public will remain in the memories of thousands of visitors who benefited from them. To express our gratitude, we have offered her a very beautiful painting by Colette Balcaen representing Gabrielle Roy's native home.

### ◆ New volunteers

We can console ourselves, somewhat, over Mireille's departure, by extending a warm welcome to **Ruth Swan** and **Eva Dupont**, our two new volunteers this fall.

### ◆ And the winners are...

Congratulations to **Mariette Mulaire**, winner of our first calendar-lottery draw for 2018. She won a pair of tickets donated by the Cercle Molière.

The winners of the 2017 calendar-lottery over the past seven months are **Thérèse Gagnon, Marc Monnin, Annette Saint-Pierre, Édith Grenier, Simon Boily, Marie Benoist, Stéphane Allard, Léonie Boivert, Aurize Kandziela, Gregory and Lynne Buchanan, Patrick Lemoine, Joanne Préjet** and **Diane Lemoine**.

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to the prize donors: Winnipeg Goldeyes (family pass), Winnipeg Fringe Festival (four tickets), Jardins St-Léon (gift certificate), Assiniboine Park Conservancy (books and a painting), Inspired Business Interiors (office furniture), La Belle Baguette (gift certificate), Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (two tickets), Say

Magazine (one-year subscription), Canadian Museum for Human Rights (family pass) and MGR's Bonheur d'occasion gift shop (gift certificates).

### ◆ Two friends have left us

We were saddened to hear that two of Maison Gabrielle-Roy's great benefactors passed away. **Celine Kear**, known for her infectious enthusiasm as a tireless defender of Heritage and culture, passed away September 9, 2017. Celine was Chair of heritage Winnipeg Fundraising Committee and host of Heritage Winnipeg Fundraising committee events from 2006 to 2016. She rarely missed the Gabrielle-Roy annual brunch and generally sold a few tickets for the occasion.

**Liane Michaud**, who passed away on September 14, 2017 in Ottawa, had founded a club that organized a public breakfast each year to celebrate Gabrielle Roy's birth date. We offer our sincere condolences to the families.

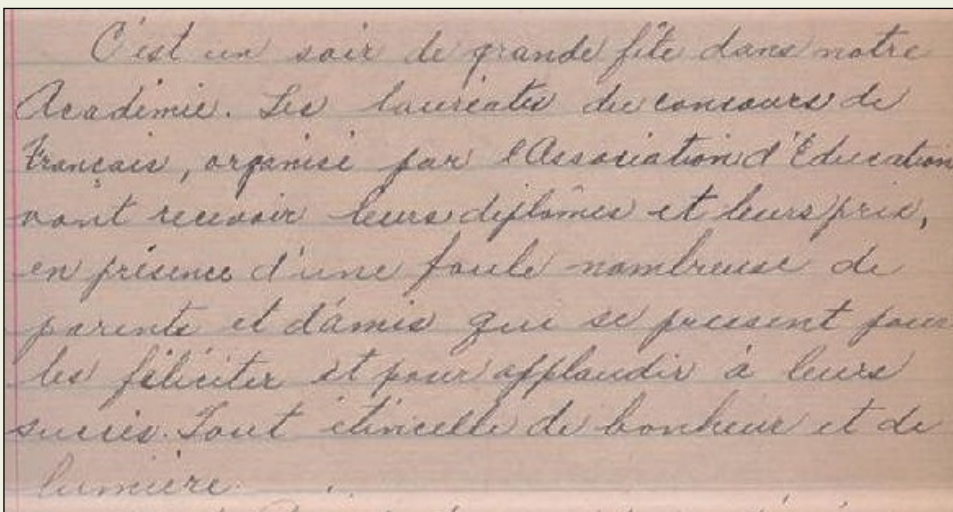
# ► Gabrielle Roy HEADLINES

## WEB

### ► À l'œuvre

#### Gabrielle Roy, October 1927

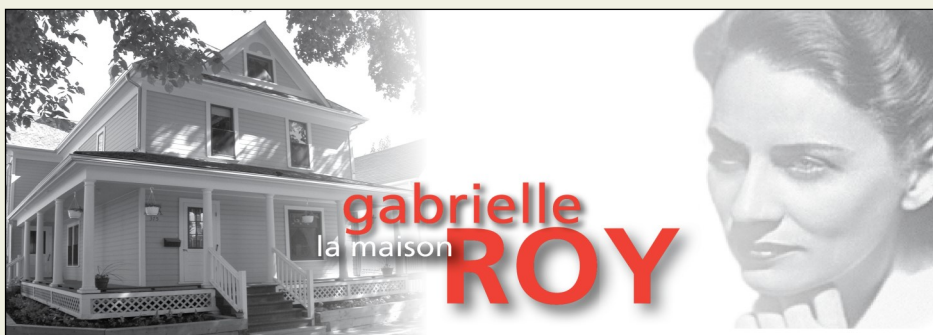
Amongst its innumerable nuggets, the Centre du patrimoine de Saint-Boniface has conserved the original French composition written by a young 18-year-old girl, then a grade 12 student at Académie Saint-Joseph: Gabrielle Roy. The manuscript, for which the young author won a writing award, was published in the *Bulletin de la Ligue des institutrices catholiques de l'Ouest* in November 1927. Beyond the backdrop that is marked by religious fervour and patriotic circumstance, *À l'œuvre* is a testimony to her remarkable mastery of the French language and provides a glimpse of the future writer's style. This precious document can be read in its entirety on Mai-



son Gabrielle-Roy's website at [www.maisongabrielloy.mb.ca](http://www.maisongabrielloy.mb.ca).

### ► Gabrielle Roy confides herself to us

To celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awarding of the French "prix Femina" to *Bonheur d'occasion* on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1947, Radio-Canada had the wonderful idea of digging up Gabrielle Roy's only televised interview, broadcast on January 30, 1961, in which the author brings up her childhood in Manitoba and pays tribute to her parents from whom she claims to have inherited an open mind and the desire to dream. The item can be accessed at <http://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1070508/gabrielle-roy-litterature-ecrivaine-archives>.



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on VISA card: \_\_\_\_\_ Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Authorization signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please forward this form along with your payment to:

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www.maisongabrielloy.mb.ca

*Gabrielle Roy*  
LA MAISON GABRIELLE-ROY

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

## BOOKS

### ► Littératures québécoise et acadienne contemporaines : au prisme de la ville

*Under the direction of Anne-Yvonne JULIEN and André MAGORD, Presses universitaires de Rennes, 2014, 526 p.*

An exciting selection of reflections on the theme of the city in French-Canadian literature since the 1950s. In addition, despite the title, the work also touches on Franco-Ontarian and Franco-Manitoban works.

## Many thanks...

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