Community Calendar of Events

Note: If there is a community event you would like to have publicized, please let us know by email at least two weeks in advance (editor@qctonline.com).

Thursday, Oct. 15 at 5 p.m. – Author and historian **Webster** launches *Fugitifs!,* a book based on the popular Musée national des Beaux-Arts du Québec exhibit of the same name, inspired by wanted ads for enslaved persons published in the *Quebec Gazette* (a forerunner of the *QCT*) and the *Montreal Gazette*. The launch will take place at the Librairie Pantoute St-Roch (286 St-Joseph Est).

Friday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. – It's the third annual **TRIVIA NIGHT** at Chalmers-Wesley United Church in the Old City. This fun event features a general knowledge quiz and some surprise categories. There are modest prizes for members of the top three teams. Bring your own team of four, or join other singles at the door. Snacks and beverages welcome. Cost is $5 per person (cash) to cover our costs. Please plan to arrive around 6:30 so we can set up teams; the first question drops at 7 p.m. Questions? Contact Eline at fiddler172000@gmail.com.

Sunday, Oct. 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. – Join the **St-Gabriel de Valcartier Historical Committee** at the Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier Community Centre (2215, boul Valcartier) as it celebrates its **10th anniversary** and launches a new online resource about the history of Redmond Road. John Neilson and Alexander Wolff – who returned from the past to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the settlement 10 years ago – will be present.

Sunday, Oct. 18 at 8:30 p.m. – Singer and guitarist **Shawn Barker** brings his **The Man in Black: A Tribute to Johnny Cash** show to **Le Capitole.** Barker's uncanny resemblance to the original "Man in Black" revitalizes the character and spirit of Johnny Cash for a truly one-of-a-kind show. The energetic show features Barker in character throughout the entire evening, walking the audience through each era of Cash's life and music, and features a full backing band.

Monday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. – Irish Heritage Quebec will hold its October activity in McMahon Hall of St. Patrick's Church. **Kerry Ann King** will speak about the development of dancing in the community of Shannon. The **Shannon Irish Dancers** will give a short demonstration. Please arrive by 7:20 p.m. as the church door on de Salaberry will lock at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and parking stubs for Îlot St-Patrick will be validated. For more information, please phone the office at 418-704-3404.

Oct. 22 to 25 – The Musée des Beaux-Arts du Québec celebrates the grand opening of the new **Espace Riopelle - Pavilion Michael Audain.** The museum's spaces will come alive with artistic performances and unexpected moments, transforming a regular visit into an immersive, sensory experience. Discover this new space where Riopelle's world is brought to life and unfolds through a series of encounters, performances, and artistic experiences. Tickets are available for $10 to museum members; tickets for non-members start at $23. Free for youth 17 and under. For details and reservations, visit mnbaq.org/en/programming/special-events/espace-riopelle-grand-opening.

Saturday, Oct. 24 from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – It's Halloween in Shannon! Get out your costumes for the 13th annual family Halloween party at the Shannon municipal park. Enjoy circus performances, pumpkin decorating (while supplies last), a mystery trail and haunted house, plenty of candy and inflatable games for younger children. This is a free event, parking is free and the site is accessible for strollers. No dogs allowed.

Oct. 24, 27, 29 at 7:30 p.m., and Oct. 31 at 2 p.m. – Opéra de Québec presents ***Orphée et Eurydice*** by Christoph Willibald Gluck, at the Grand Théâtre. Through this story of love that transcends death, the work explores themes of absence, doubt and the fear of losing a loved one, while also evoking the power of art when faced with that which eludes our grasp. For details and tickets, visit operadequebec.com/en/saison-26-27.

Wednesday, Oct 28 at 7:30 p.m. – Orchestre symphonique de Québec Brahms Festival - Chamber Music Concert – Quintet for Clarinet and Strings at the Monastère des Augustines, with **Stéphane Fontaine** (clarinet), **Sheila Jaffé** and **Catherine Dallaire** (violin), **Dillon Hatcher** (viola) and **Blair Lofgren** (cello) and works by Erwin Schulhoff, Brahms, Golijov and Boris Pigovat. Tickets: $49.76 general admission. See osq.org/festival-brahms for further information and tickets.

Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:00 p.m. – It's Classic Movie Night at Chalmers-Wesley United Church. Just in time for Halloween, this month's film is ***The Night of the Hunter,*** a 1955 American Southern Gothic horror-thriller film directed by **Charles Laughton** in his sole feature film directorial credit, and starring **Robert Mitchum, Shelley Winters** and **Lillian Gish.** Admission $5 (cash only). There is a snack bar with popcorn, soft drinks and candy. The side door opens at 6:30 p.m. Newsreels and cartoons of the day begin before the main feature. Limited parking is available.

***JH Partners** promotes the personal and collective well-being of English speakers in the Quebec City region by offering a range of health promotion programs across seven sites, including the Jeffery Hale Pavilion. Learn more at jhpartners.net.*

*Visit the **Voice of English-speaking Québec** website (veq.ca) for information about events in English for all ages.*

*Visit the **Morrin Centre** website (morrin.org) for information about more literary, artistic and educational activities for everyone.*

***Quebec City Reading Council** is a literacy organization for English-speakers offering family programs, adult learning, and activities for 50+ learners. They empower the community through connection and lifelong learning. For details visit qcrc.org.*

Regional Realities doc premières Quebec City version at the Morrin Centre

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A third documentary in a series by filmmaker and Quebec English-Speaking Community Research Network (QUESCREN) research associate Anita Aloisio – whose work explores immigration, language, identity and Quebec language policy – premièred Sept. 21, in College Hall at the Morrin Centre to 50 audience members.

The screening of *Regional Realities: English Speakers in Quebec: From Arrival to Belonging* was at the heart of the evening, followed by an audience-driven question-and-answer session. The film follows newcomers' efforts to learn French and put down roots in the city. Two previous films focused on challenges specific to health services in the Outaouais, and a struggling English school in Rouyn-Noranda.

The third focused on three women's stories: American Laura Burchell, who came to Quebec City for work with "zero French," Western Canadian and former Morrin Centre heritage co-ordinator Hee-Won Son, Ukrainian immigrant and VEQ employee Viktoriia Poulin Gareau; while getting perspectives from people who work with the English-speaking community such as Voice of English-Speaking Québec (VEQ) Brigitte Wellens, Richard Walling from Jeffery Hale Community Partners and author/translator Louisa Blair.

Patrick Donovan, who works as a senior researcher at QUESCREN, acted as moderator and told anecdotes from the '90s of "old ladies who would smoke and type up index cards" among piled books at the Morrin Centre, where he eventually worked from 2004-2009. Wellens, Walling and Blair joined Burchell and the filmmaker on the panel stage post-screening.

Audience member Maria Castro said she was "captivated by Laura's experience."

Burchell shared that her "mental health really took a hit" from the challenges she faced and stressors of a new job, new city, social isolation and learning French, but she got support from bilingual co-workers who started a game night, crediting their inclusion with her choice to stay.

Castro commented, "I would have liked to have seen a little more of that experience being expressed [in the film]. It's so frustrating to be around a lot of people who – although I don't think on purpose – have little interest in making you part of the community. I have been going to aqua spinning for seven years and I see all the participants talk about their weekend and I try to pitch in, in decent French, and it's like I'm a ghost!" She added, "We really do try to belong and become part of the society, but it's super difficult to pierce."

Another French-born audience member commented, "Quebecers welcome you with open arms, but they don't close them around you [in an embrace]."

A few audience members were curious tourists or first-timers to the building, but many more could relate from personal experience – even if they had lived in Quebec City for decades, like Jan Anderson. For her, access to health care is a big concern. She said she was treated "for the first time in 30 years in English" at a recent doctor's appointment.

Burchell questioned language laws which restrict access to services in English. "After six months of French classes, I was still working out how to say "*écureuil*" (squirrel)," she said.

Walling clarified that health care can be provided in English, but recognized that access to an English-speaking doctor can be a challenge, even at the officially bilingual Jeffery Hale Hospital.

Wellens wanted to "reiterate how absolutely difficult" it is to move here for a person who has learned French but doesn't speak Québécois, a phenomenon she sees a lot through her work.

Burchell said she doesn't think francophones understand the level of complexity of learning French here. "A lot of the material I find online is European-based … When you talk to the average person on the street, it's a completely different speed, contractions and the specific vocabulary."

Son was not at the première, since she has moved to work on a master's degree in Montreal. Son took two years of French immersion as a child and said her teachers "intended you to be fluent, but we definitely were not even close." In Quebec City, she found the English-speaking community "easier to approach" despite believing in immersion and seeking out people who spoke French. She said her experiences made her reflect on her parents, who immigrated to Canada as adults from Korea.

Poulin Gareau, who is married to a Quebecer, struggles with the uncertainty of her legal status, which affects her ability to make decisions like having children or buying a house.

Aloisio said, "It was a challenge to find participants" due to fears that stories might be "misinterpreted in a city where they need to make a living," adding that it made it harder for some to "express to the deepest of their souls." She pointed to Burchell and Poulin Gareau as examples: "They love living here and want to make it work, yet the circumstances are so overwhelming and they don't want it to be seen as criticism."

The filmmaker stated during the Q&A, "It's a challenge to be able to make up a 40-minute film and make selections and cuts." However, she said QUESCREN can pursue "more focused research" based on content collected. She told the *QCT* she is confident she "highlighted major challenges as well as participants' hopes." Aloisio said the *Regional Realities* film will be added to the QUESCREN YouTube page alongside the first two "eventually, after a première in Montreal in December."



Photo by Danielle Burns

A screening of the *Regional Realities* film set in Quebec City was held at the Morrin Centre with documentary filmmaker Anita Aloisio and her colleague Patrick Donovan from QUESCREN.



Photo by Danielle Burns

Patrick Donovan (far left) spoke to panellists Anita Aloisio, Brigitte Wellens, Laura Burchell, Louisa Blair and Richard Walling following the screening of the documentary *Regional Realities: English Speakers in Quebec: From Arrival to Belonging.*