



EASTERN TOWNSHIPS
 RESOURCE CENTRE
ETRC • CRCE
 centre de ressources pour l'étude des
 CANTONS-DE-L'EST



Newsletter

Volume 31

Dear Reader,

Among the numerous activities and events the ETRC office has organized throughout the past year, the most memorable one for me was a colloquium which took place March 15th and 16th at Bishop's. The International and Domestic Colloquium on Québec Studies, Past and Present was funded by the Quebec office of the Ministère des Relations internationales, Francophonie et Commerce extérieur.

It was organized by the ETRC office and the Institute on Québec Studies at State University of New York (SUNY) at Plattsburgh. As ETRC President, I had the pleasure of co-hosting the event with Dr. Christopher Kirkey, the Director of the Institute. This is not the first time the two organizations have collaborated on a project. Dr. Kirkey is a member on our board of directors and has been for a number of years now. For the past six years, the Centre welcomes a student from SUNY to our office and archives for an eight to ten week internship during the summer months.

The day and a half colloquium brought together thirteen papers presented by Bishop's and SUNY professors, independent researchers and students from undergraduate as well as graduate studies from Bishop's, Concordia and Laval universities. The topics ranged from Eastern Townships tourism, cross-border schooling in the late nineteenth

and early twentieth centuries in Quebec and Vermont, education for sustainable development in Eastern Townships schools and in Sweden, the representation of race in popular culture artifacts found in the region, an ethnographic study of cemeteries in Lennoxville, Quebec cinema, cross-border security and economic trade between Quebec and New York, hydro power, language policy and its effects on Montreal's immigrant youth and the community vitality of English-speaking Quebecers. The papers were arranged into six sessions accompanied by a Chair as well as a commentator.

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On the Friday afternoon, I organized a roundtable discussion on identity and language with ten of my students enrolled in a Sociology course on Quebec society. I wanted to give them an opportunity to expand their learning beyond the classroom and be introduced to cutting-edge research on Quebec. Approximately, twenty-five people, many from the local community, attended the event to learn and participate in the informative and lively discussions.

On Friday night, March 15th, many of the colloquium participants joined Christopher and I for dinner in the Adams Dining Room. The keynote speaker was Mr. Gerald Cutting, President of the Townshippers' Association. We were treated to an entertaining talk on the many facets of life as an English-speaking Quebecer!

The colloquium far exceeded our expectations. Both Christopher and I were proud to be part of the process of knowledge building and sharing. Because of events like this, there is a growing body of multidisciplinary studies focusing on aspects of society which Quebecers feel are important to them: history, identity formation, citizenship, language, linguistic minorities, education, sustainable environments, First Nations and international relations, to name a few. The research will not only benefit us and our students but all of Quebec as we learn more about why this French gem fascinates us, and sometimes makes us scratch our heads in wonder. Most importantly, we gather to voice our experiences of living, and studying,



together with our differences. Christopher and I are in the process of assessing the papers for submission to an upcoming issue of the Journal of Eastern Townships Studies (JETS). We are enjoying our work as guest editors of this scholarly, refereed journal.

Cheryl Gosselin & Christopher Kirkey

This year's colloquium is actually the first of two such events; the second meeting will take place next year in March in Plattsburgh, New York, on the beautiful SUNY campus.

Au revoir et à la prochaine!

*Cheryl Gosselin
ETRC President*



Journal of Eastern Townships Studies (JETS) - 39

Diversities at the heart of intercultural research: harmony and dissonance

In 2001, UNESCO officially declared cultural diversity as the "Common Heritage of Humanity." Thus was launched a ten-year period devoted to the promotion of cultural diversity and its corollary, a dialogue between the cultures of the world. In 2010, UNESCO marked the end of this large-scale operation by the Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures while noting the increased complexities of the cultural diversity issues at the onset of the 21st Century.

During these ten years, the conferences organized by ARIC (an international French-speaking association devoted to intercultural research) embraced the path of diversity with topics on North-South relations, European intercultural contacts, linguistic pluralism, and the place of aboriginal communities in contemporary pluralist societies. ARIC offers a particularly fruitful space, in terms of research and intellectual exchanges, for multidisciplinary and international debates that foster new understandings related to diversities and intercultural dialogue. Organized by the Université de Sherbrooke in collaboration with Bishop's University, the 2011 ARIC Conference was held in Sherbrooke in the Eastern Townships.



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Titled “Les diversités au coeur de la recherche interculturelle : harmonies et dissonances – Diversities at the heart of intercultural research: harmonies and dissonances,” the conference offered a new space to reflect on cultural diversities – the progress made and obstacles overcome – and on the issues they continue to raise and the negative effects they bring about.

JETS 39 introduces some of the research presented during the 2011 ARIC Conference. Within its covers, you will be introduced to the new faces of ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity in the Eastern Townships while encountering the challenges attending the socioacademic integration of immigrant students into local secondary schools. Research documenting the state of religious diversity in the Eastern Townships underscores its role as a space of socialization and integration of newcomers. Also discussed are the ways in which the Eastern Townships English-speaking community members can become significant actors in the welcoming and retention of immigrants.

A final article describes the membership

and activities of the Sherbrooke/Lennoxville Branch of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs (1945–1988) founded by local men interested in international political affairs and the role of Canada on the international scene. Regions, countries and continents are all dealing with multiple diversities. Scholars and practitioners around the world are working on and challenged by contextual analyses of these historical processes and their impacts. We trust that this special issue will help you better understand the ways in which some of the area’s researchers are uniquely shaping the discourse on cultural diversity in the Eastern Townships.

Michèle Vatz Laaroussi
JETS Guest Editor

In charge of the 2011 ARIC Conference

Claude Charpentier
JETS Editor-in-chief

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New acquisition

Records of the Speid-Motyer family are now part of the ETRC archives



Among the ETRC's recent acquisitions are the records of the Speid-Motyer family, which include photographs and documents on various members of the family as well as information on the community of Lennoxville. In particular, the family's records bear evidence of the cultural and artistic history of the region.

*Jody Robinson
ETRC Archivist*



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New exhibit Temperance and Prohibition

Beginning in May, there will be a new exhibit on display in the Old Library on the topic of temperance in the Eastern Townships, featuring documents from the ETRC's archives. While the history of temperance movements in the Eastern Townships dates from as early as the 1830s, the documents from the ETRC tell of the more recent history of temperance, from 1874 to the 1960s. Among the material are records from a variety of temperance unions, which provide a window onto the history of temperance in the Townships

*Jody Robinson
ETRC Archivist*

Researchers can visit the archives Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Please contact the Archivist before coming to the archives in person.

Newsletter published by the
Eastern Townships Resource Centre

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Since 1992, JETS/RECE has served to disseminate scholarly knowledge on the Eastern Townships region and its inhabitants to scholars and to a general audience interested in Townships issues, while contributing to the preservation of the region's living and archival heritage. Our articles offer multiple perspectives on past, present, and future conditions within this unique area of the world from historical, sociological, environmental, and scientific viewpoints. It is a refereed and peer-reviewed journal indexed in the Canadian Periodical Index, Canadian Index, and CBCA.

If life in the Eastern Townships and the concerns of its residents interest you, this could be your journal too! We will be very happy to add you to our list of subscribers. The Journal can also be obtained in the bookstores of several historical societies in the Townships, as well as at Townshippers' Association's offices. For older issues please consult our website.

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