



.....
FOR YOUR DIARY!

June 26, 2008

Lac St-Louis cruise

August 14, 2008

Golf tournament at Club Atlantide
on Île-Perrot

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 14 NUMBER 1 JUNE 2008



GOLF TOURNAMENT

*Door prizes, special guests
and a wonderful day guaranteed!*

In hopes of attracting the greatest number of participants, this year the NFB Club is holding the annual golf tournament in a suburb of Montreal: Île-Perrot, known for its rural charm. See you on August 14 at Club de golf Atlantide!

Golfing enthusiasts will love the Don Quichotte course, which runs alongside Lac Saint-Louis in some places. We'll be playing "best ball" again this year to maximize the strengths of each foursome. At the end of the game, a hot-and-cold buffet will be served—ensuring there's something for everyone, and fast service!

WHO'S ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE?

You've probably read that our friend **Anthony Kent** is stepping down. **Monique Lavoie**, who was in charge of the Club's financial affairs in recent months, likewise has obligations that will effectively put an end to her involvement. Thank you, Monique, for all your hard work.

However, the Committee is pleased to welcome the newly retired Diane Masciotra as its Treasurer.

The Executive Committee is currently composed of Colette Gendron, Jean Glinn, Micheal Hazel, Diane Masciotra and Francine Simard.

*Interested in getting involved?
Please step forward!*

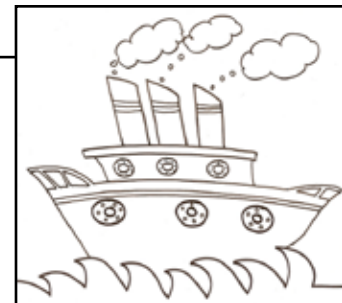
We're hoping to see a grand turnout this year. Full details on the invitation you'll soon receive.

ALL ABOARD!

On Thursday, June 26, 2008, the Club is organizing a cruise on Lake Saint-Louis, departing from Lachine Yacht Club and taking us past Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, before returning to the Yacht Club.

There may be a few seats left for latecomers! Join us to celebrate the first fine days of summer...For more information:

Jean Glinn: 450-834-2258 or 514-826-2258, or infoclub@nfb.ca



E-MAIL DIRECTORY

Many of you have been asking for the members' e-mail address directory. Once subscription renewals are finished, we'll publish the 2008-2009 directory.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW!

The most recent NFB Club Film Day, on May 21, included two much-loved classics and two new productions. The French-language programme commenced with Robert Awad's enduring 1980 satirical drama **LA FIÈVRE DU CASTOR/THE NATIONAL SCREAM**, about the mysterious disappearance of Canada's national beaver! This was followed by Carole Laganière's touching and powerful new documentary **COUNTRY**, sharing the passion of those who love country and western music every summer season in Quebec.

Producer, Jacques Turgeon joined the audience to provide more information about the making of the film and the world of rodeos and cowboys, musicians and singers, as well as to answer questions about the film.

The English-language programme opened with John Weldon's delightful animated **LOG DRIVER'S WALTZ**, based on the folksong sung by Kate and Anna McGarrigle. We were then privileged to see **PASSAGE**, a brand new docudrama by John Walker, co-produced by Kent Martin in Halifax. This was in fact an avant-premiere, as the film had only just returned from a highly successful screening at Hot Docs in Toronto. The film combines dramatic recreation and documentary to recount the search for Sir John Franklin and his crew of 128 men, who had perished in the Arctic ice, searching for the Northwest Passage.

John Walker joined us after the screening to tell us the fascinating background to the making of his epic 110-minute film – and to answer many questions from the enthusiastic audience.

Several Club members remarked on the advantage of being able to view enjoyable short film classics from the past, together with the most important new NFB productions – and to meet and talk with the filmmakers themselves. The NFB provides the privileged setting of Theatre 1, with its comfortable seating and excellent projection facilities, to add to our enjoyment.

Although I am regretfully stepping down from the Club committee, I will definitely continue to attend these precious Film Days. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to enjoy “something old and something new” on the big screen, in the company of our friends and colleagues!

Anthony Kent

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

During the 2008-2009 subscription renewals, over 100 people bought tickets for a chance to win a satellite navigation system. The draw took place on May 21 at our Film Day at the NFB.

Anthony Kent picked the winning name in the “members living over 100 km from Montreal” category. Ron Alexander, who now lives in California, was the lucky winner of the first GPS, which he received by mail.

For members living within 100 km of Montreal, Olivier Fougères picked the name of Dorothy Hénaut, who was present at Film Day. Dorothy was delighted with her prize, all the more so since she's planning a trip to the Maritimes in the coming months.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the contest.



...AND PARCEL DULY ARRIVED ...

Dear Anthony Kent:

*The GPS unit arrived today...
Thank you very much...*

As for my life in California, in 1970 I came to Stanford University for six months as a visiting lecturer... Eighteen years later I retired from Stanford as professor emeritus... Currently I am enjoying a quiet retirement in a modest little cottage overlooking San Francisquito creek in Menlo Park, California...

Best regards,

Ron Alexander

AN AFTERNOON WITH BILL WEINTRAUB

By Anthony Kent

Hi Bill! Our Newsletter readers are interested in what people have been doing since they left the NFB. Could you please give us an update?

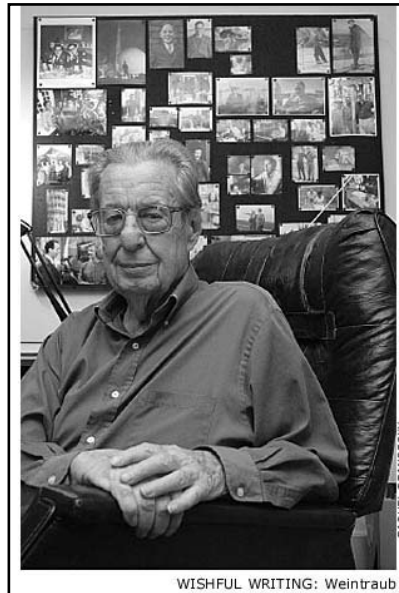
Well, I was a writer and journalist before I came to the Film Board, did a little bit of that at the Board and when I left, went back to writing of one sort or another. I did some freelance work and restructuring of films and narrations for the private sector. In fact, I made only one film after I left the Board, the controversial *RISE AND FALL OF ENGLISH MONTREAL*, which I felt passionate about. I took the initiative and fought with the Film Board in order to get it made, under contract to the Board. After that, I didn't really have any great urge to get involved with films.

That's when I was involved in Alliance Quebec, the old Anglo rights lobby. I was a member of the board, a militant Anglo, agitating against the injustices of Bill 101. So *RISE AND FALL*... was taken under their wing and Alliance Quebec organized many screenings of it and I was asked to become a member of their board. This was during the times when I felt very passionate about the infringements of the rights of the Anglos in Montreal. That passion seems to have subsided now!

Since then, I have been writing, three books, a stage play based on my comic novel, *THE UNDERDOGS*, various magazine articles, and so on. In addition to publishing the books, I have spent a lot of time giving readings of them here and there, all in an effort to flog a few more copies! The publication of each book is generally quite an exciting event, because you give a few interviews and people want to hear you speak and you do public readings. I have also participated in one or two literary juries and discussion groups,

Right now, I'm involved in giving a workshop for young writers - not so young actually - on how to write non-fiction. Another thing I've done is to help edit books for other people. I am also preparing for an appearance at the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival here in Montreal. I have worked with them several times over the years.

Since you left the Board, you have published three books, *CITY UNIQUE: MONTREAL DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE 1940s AND '50s*, *GETTING STARTED: A MEMOIR OF THE 1950s* and three years ago, *CRAZY ABOUT LILI*, about a college student who falls in love with a famous striptease queen, in 1948 Montreal. I read that it was on the Gazette's best-seller list for 18 weeks!



The most successful one was *CITY UNIQUE*, which sold very well. It was on the best-seller list in the Gazette for 17 months - quite often as No. 1. The book is still in print, still available, which is very gratifying, seeing it was published a good many years ago, in 1996. People always ask you if you are going to write a sequel and of course

I'm not, because I want to do something different!

But *CRAZY ABOUT LILY* is in a sense related – it's about the city you've lived in and loved.

Well yes, it grew out of it - and somebody has bought the film rights, so it might turn into a Canadian feature film. I have my fingers crossed. They actually asked me if I would like to write the script and I said: "No!" I wanted to do something new.

So what's coming next?

Well, another novel, but don't hold your breath, it's going very slowly! I donate a lot of my papers to McGill, but I've still got an awful lot and I'm going through those and reading them - and it absorbs a lot of time. You get distracted reading all this old junk, but I'm a packrat and I keep things, so I'm doing that and working on the novel - and a few other projects.

Could you tell me about the agreement with McGill? How did that happen?

Well, I was giving a reading of something or other at McGill and a lady from the Rare Books and Special Collections came up to me and said: "Do you have any interesting old manuscripts and records and letters?" and I replied: "Yes, I have an awful lot of it!" So she said: "Well, we might be interested in looking at it". I spent quite a lot of time rounding it all up and getting it together and gave it to them. Now they have it there, somewhere, in boxes! And scholars have looked at them. I have a lot of letters there from Mordecai Richler, Brian Moore and Mavis Gallant. Being a packrat, I kept everything and there is a new book just out – a biography of Mordecai Richler, which quotes from my papers quite a bit.

I kept a lot of scripts from the Board, which I gave them too - I started out in the days when you wrote scripts for documentary films - and countless narrations! Now it's all up at McGill somewhere.

With all this work, do you ever get stressed?

I'm always feeling I'm not doing enough. I don't know why. I try not to get involved with projects with too many deadlines, but on the other hand I seem to set my own deadlines and get quite nervous if I'm not doing it. But I think that's normal. On the other hand, I have had great sessions of book reviewing and other activities. Variety is what appeals to me, because basically I am a dilettante, a little bit here and there!

A very important thing happened 3 years ago. You became an Officer of the Order of Canada. Could you tell us anything about that?



After his many years on the NFB Club Executive Committee, a dear friend has decided to step down. "NO! IMPOSSIBLE!" was the unanimous response.

The announcement took us by surprise. Our friend Antony, known to all for his kindness and sensitivity, was the soul of the committee and a pillar of strength on whom many members relied. People contacted him constantly, sharing their concerns, their joys—even their secrets! Anthony was always ready to listen or talk, and he always found the right words to dignify anything confided to him.

Well, I was very surprised! When they told me, I felt this was really just another bureaucratic mistake in Ottawa, that they were looking for somebody else and there was just a mistake on the computer. But I didn't turn it down, anyway! The meal that they give up at Rideau Hall is absolutely splendid. It gives you a real motive for being an Officer of the Order of Canada! They gave me quite a nice exaggerated citation, saying I'd done the country some good in the artistic field, and it was a very pleasant occasion.

Have you been travelling much?

Yes, fortunately we've managed to take a number of cruises. It's an easy way to get around. You don't have to pack and unpack every day! In the old days, you rented a car or bicycle or something and we did all that. But now Magda and I have done cruises in the South Pacific as far as Australia, and the Baltic as far as St. Petersburg, and up the west coast of the Atlantic and across to Ireland. This summer we are going on a river cruise down the Danube and we are looking forward to that.

Can you manage well on your treadmill?

Yes. I try to do a little exercise with my treadmill and some weights and things like that, but I don't break any speed limits. I've had two knee replacements, so I make a lot of noise when I go through the airport metal detectors! Although the left leg is shorter than the other, so I walk as if I'm drunk.....

Many thanks, Bill – keep on writing!

THANKS, ANTHONY!

I saw Anthony regularly for many years at the NFB

and it was a great pleasure to see him again on the Club committee, a team dedicated to preserving a sense of belonging to the NFB. Working with him again these past 18 months (albeit in a different context), I really understood how much people appreciated his contagious good humour.

I could continue this tribute for pages and pages. Basically, we wish you all the best, dear Anthony. Take good care of yourself and your charming Ann, as well as the children and grandchildren. Thank you for everything. It will always be a pleasure to see you at our activities.

Jean Glinn for the Executive Committee



ARE NFB EMPLOYEES TRULY RETIRED?

Our two recently retired NFB employees, Marie Tonto-Donati and Linda Payette, have found new ways to promote the NFB.

Marie and Linda agreed to represent the NFB and speak about the various jobs in filmmaking at an Elementary School Career Fair, held at Sinclair Laird School, last April 2. The goal of the career fair was to encourage students of grades 5 and 6 to stay in school and continue their studies. It also allowed some students to discover personal interests and encourage them to start thinking about their future. This was achieved by the exposure to a variety of vocational and professional career options, new role models and valuable information.

The school gymnasium where the Fair was held accommodated between 10 to 12 booths, which 140 enthusiastic kids visited.

Marie and Linda found their experience in representing the NFB very interesting and were quite impressed by the representations of different professions, ie: Policewoman, Vet., Oncologist, Social worker, Pius X Culinary School, Make-up artist, Army Officer, Rosemount Technology Center, etc.

The booth which attracted the most interest would be the Vet's since a dog was part of the exhibit. Also notable was The Rosemount Technology Center which showcased a robot.

Here are some questions which the children asked: «How many movies a year does the NFB make?»; «What type of movies?»; «What's your favourite movie, why?».

The array of various materials that we can offer the educational sector is unquestionable, therefore the NFB's relevance at being part of these types of events is without doubt necessary. We are connecting directly one-on-one with the community and perhaps developing tomorrow's future NFBers.

Bravo Ladies on a job well done!

Marianne Di Domenico

From NFB Intranet



SUGARING OFF

March 28, 2008

NEWS FOR REGIONAL MEMBERS

Eric Gee visited Montreal from Victoria, B.C., in early May. He suggested that the Club might establish stronger connections with members in the regions. We explained that the little group of volunteers on the Club committee is unfortunately not able to organize regional activities, but we would talk with friends at the Board.

We did follow up and were told that organizers of local activities in NFB regional centres would often welcome Club members to screenings or special presentations!



The NFB website (www.nfb.ca) has a link in the left margin: Subscribe to Free Newsletters. Visitors can complete the application form online, to obtain regular electronic news bulletins, giving information on new productions and

upcoming activities across Canada.

Club members who sign up may then arrange get-togethers with friends and former colleagues in the same region, at local NFB events. The NFB Club e-mail address list may be useful in establishing contact with other potentially interested members....

Anthony Kent

THE NFB CLUB IS SOON TO HAVE A CHARTER

Two years ago, an agreement was signed between the NFB and NFB Club through which the NFB undertook to supply the Club with services for its activities, but required in return that the Club make its existence official. So we've registered the Club's name and taken out civil liability insurance.

We also had to draw up a charter. In this, we were guided by Dominique Aubry, chief legal adviser at the NFB. To be perfectly honest, the committee approached this task with something less than enthusiasm! The Club is a group of friends who meet up to enjoy different social and cultural activities together. Such an administrative undertaking, which involved many long hours of discussion, really wasn't our cup of tea! At last, though, we managed to produce a document that summed up the essential aspects of the Club. The charter will be available on our Web site soon.

Colette Gendron

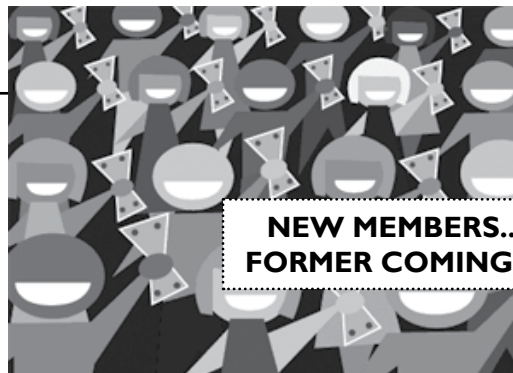


Hi, Old Friends!

Many thanks for the invitation to join the cruise, but I have other plans that day! I am now a part-time limousine chauffeur. Enclosed is a photo of me beside the limousine.

I wish you all a very enjoyable day and wonderful weather.

Roland Brideau



NEW MEMBERS...AND FORMER COMING BACK!

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Vinod Batra | John C. Foster |
| Jacques Bensimon | Marie-Marthe Gu nette |
| Jean-Jacques Chagnon | Marylyn Laurier |
| Michael Cleary | Karen A. Marginson |
| Bernard de Niverville | David Millar |
| H l ne Dennie | Keith Packwood |
| Francine Desbiens | Terry Richmond |
| Kathleen Dorsinville | Cynthia Scott |
| Phyllida Draper | Anne Taylor |
| Ray Dumas | Val Teodori |

Death

We regretfully note the recent passing of Fernand Brisson, who died in Quebec City on May 7, 2008, aged 88. Fernand had worked as an NFB distribution representative for the Quebec City region.