



AGENDA

October 20: Bowling Tournament (*Here we go again*)

November: Film Day *15th Anniversary*

December 13: Christmas Lunch at *Le Bordelais*

BULLETIN

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ON THE RIVER AND UNDER THE SEA

BY ANTHONY KENT



Nearly fifty enthusiastic Club members met on the Jacques-Cartier Quay of Montreal's Old Port on June 26, well equipped with a variety of hats, sunscreen – and the occasional umbrellas, just in case. Fortunately, the rain held off for our delightful cruise on the Bateau-Mouche and we were able to admire the picturesque panoramas of Montreal from various vantage points along the Saint Lawrence. The group enjoyed close-up

views of the La Ronde amusement park and Saint Hélène Island, as well as architect Moshe Safdie's unique Habitat 67 apartment complex and the changing skyline of the largest inland port in the world!

Somehow being surrounded by water has a relaxing effect – and everyone appreciated the opportunity to talk with old friends and colleagues, while admiring the changing scenery.

When we disembarked, there was time to take advantage of the charming restaurants and pubs along the cobbled streets of nearby Old Montreal, before returning to the Old Port, to take our seats for a screening of the new IMAX film: UNDER THE SEA 3D. We experienced a fascinating underwater journey, through the reefs of Indonesia and Australia, meeting sea creatures we had never heard of, sometimes in extremely close proximity, as they swam out into the audience!

Many thanks to the Club Committee for organizing this unique event!





BIRDIES AND BUNKERS...

JEAN GLINN



tribute to its honorary chairmen Ron Jones and Olivier Fougères. The Club's traditional golf tournament has been the result of their hard work down the years. I'm sure we all remember tournaments that attracted over 100 golfers on different golf courses as well as dinners attended by over 200 people. Ron and Olivier also sought out sponsors to provide prizes and spectacular presents from NFB suppliers. We warmly thank them both for all those years of dedication and we fully intend to continue the golfing tradition.

Our latest golf tournament was played on August 13 at the Atlantide Golf Club. In sweltering temperatures, nearly 60 golfers put their best foot forward and completed the course with very impressive results. The winners were the foursome Guy Gauthier, Claude Parent, Jean Beaudin and the "pro" Denys Arcand, with a scorecard of 62. Not to be outdone, the valiant threesome Jean-Guy Renaud, Monique Hazel and Jeannine Hopfinger submitted a very respectable scorecard of 91.

At the buffet following the tournament, the NFB Club paid

Lastly, we'd like to thank the NFB suppliers who were there and who provided the participants' presents. Thanks again to Lew Browne for contacting suppliers for us.



Next year, if all goes as planned, the tournament will take place on the last Thursday of August. A note for your diary!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

We would like to introduce a new series in the quarterly Newsletter, in which people share information about their activities since leaving the NFB - either in retirement or with a new employer.

Former colleagues are always interested in hearing what their old friends have been doing for the past few years. If you are interested, please send us a few paragraphs for the Newsletter.



MIREILLE KERMOYAN

Hello, my dear old colleagues! Apparently you'd like to know what I've been up to since leaving the NFB in 1994. At least, that's what Jean Glinn says. "Are you sure, Jean? You want me to talk about myself? OK! What's the deadline?"

Around the time I left, everyone was talking about multimedia, which sounded like the new El Dorado. As I was closely associated with the publishing company Art Global, it seemed natural to create an electronic subsidiary company, Édiorom, to use the technological shift to digitize

the cultural documents to which we held the copyrights.

That's how I executive-produced the following works: the CD-ROM *Terre des Inuit*, an edutainment encyclopaedia that won the Silver prize at the 9th Muse Awards in Los Angeles in June 1998, and the Gold Multimédi'art award at the International Audiovisual Festival Musées et Patrimoine in December 1998; the Web site *Une aventure en Nouvelle-France* : Pierre Boucher interprète et explorateur for the Virtual Museum of New France at the Canadian

Museum of Civilization; and the French adaptation of the CR-ROM *Louis Riel and the North-West Rebellion of 1885* in partnership with Terra Nova, a division of Heritage Canada.

In February 2000 Édiorom produced a CD-ROM and a Web site entitled *La Nouvelle-France - Sur la route des explorateurs*, designed for tourists who are keen on history and want to explore Quebec following in the steps of the early explorers. The site was ranked among the 100 best Web sites in Quebec by the Guide Internet in October 2000 and among the best sites of 2001 by Yahoo Canada in French. The CD-ROM earned a Special Mention in *Mérites du français dans les technologies de*

l'information, a contest organized by the Office de la langue française du Québec in March 2001.

Despite these successes, the road was not exactly paved with gold, so I decided to join a TV production company, Hyperzoom, to diversify my activities. This was the start of Édizoom. Together we are going to produce *L'Amérique française*, a series for Télé-Québec consisting of 65 episodes 2 min 30 sec each, starring Luck Mervil and directed by Loïc Guyot. The series has its own Web site – www.telequebec.tv/ameriquefrancaise – which will be entered for a Gémeaux award.

This is the first time that the story of the French in North America has been told exclusively in historical anecdotes and filmed on sites where the action took place, in regions chosen for their scenic and cultural interest. Shooting began in France, in the picturesque region of Poitou-Charentes, and continued from Quebec to Louisiana by way of the Maritimes and the Great Lakes.

Since then, a number of documentary projects submitted to the usual sponsors have failed to find funding in spite of their originality. Producing programs for TV networks has become an extreme sport. It seemed time for me to change course and devote myself to traditional publishing and writing.

I have worked on various publications for Art Global and Les Éditions La Presse, including Joanna Villeneuve's *Gilles Villeneuve and Jean Lemire's Mission antarctique de*. The most recent book, *De toute beauté!* by Dali Sanschagrin, a journalist who specializes in the field of beauty and is something of an iconoclast, was published by Art Global last spring.

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Mireille Kermoyan...

De toute beauté! is particularly dear to my heart, since I had to persuade the publisher Ara Kermoyan to bring out a book that was not in the company's usual line. We are not talking about an art book here, but rather a book addressed to all those women (and some men) who are concerned about the effectiveness and possible toxicity of beauty products. The work reviews everything to do with the field of cosmetology with complete honesty. Some 300 products of which the author is especially fond are included. The tone is mordant and witty. In fact, it

reads like a novel, and I heartily recommend it to you. Guaranteed to please at only \$24.95... You'll say that I'm giving it a plug. Well, yes, but I love this little book. It's one of those books for gloomy days friends lend each other!

At the moment I'm working on a book to be published, also by Art Global, next November: *Mémoires d'un cinéaste libre* by Jean-Claude Labrecque, written in collaboration with Francine Laurendeau. It will come out at the same time as a retrospective of Jean-Claude's films organized by the Cinémathèque québécoise.

Working in the cultural milieu requires a

lot of determination, but it's also a source of great satisfaction. Meanwhile, the years go by, the children grow up, and now my two-year-old granddaughter Jade is taking me back to the wonderful world of childhood. Soon I will be able to show her all those fabulous animated films by the NFB that delighted my own children when they were little.

When I occasionally see former colleagues, I find that the years spent in the corridors of the NFB or in the cafeteria, talking about films, have bonded us more closely than I ever imagined. I send you all my warmest greetings.

DAVID MILLAR

I am living halftime in London UK, halftime in Toronto and I consider myself in active retirement. I play "CRUSHER" with my grandson James.

I recently executive produced John Walker's Passage for NFB, History Canada and BBC with my daughter Andrea. Also for the third year in a row I am executive producing an event in New York in January/2010 called History Makers for Achilles Media who produce the Banff TV Festival. It's attended by History and Current Affairs Producers and broadcasters from around the World.

Best regards to all

BILL NEMTIN

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Best regards to all

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The Club executive is planning a variety of entertainments, which we hope will be of interest to members. First, we're looking for a second bowling tournament since the first one, held in May, proved so popular.

In November we'd like to invite you to another film day. We're keeping mum about the party for now... but watch this space!

Finally, our traditional Christmas dinner takes place on December 13 at Le Bordelais restaurant. We hope to see you there and look forward to meeting new club members.

WANTED

P.S.: Perhaps you know a former NFB colleague who may be interested in joining the NFB Club! Please send us the address (post or e-mail) and we will be delighted to follow up.

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ARTHUR HAMMOND

Arthur Hammond, having been solicited by Anthony Kent to provide information for the Newsletter on his whereabouts and whatabouts, was prevented by his customary modesty from responding personally. However, enquiries among those who know him have supplied us with the following facts. He lives with his partner in a construction site in Toronto, the other residents of which, having more money than they know what to do with, are constantly renovating and re-renovating their houses and gardens in an effort to revive the economy. Prominent among the features of this on-going work is the dumping of loads of stone and gravel, and the cutting and shaping of rocks with power saws, in an apparent attempt to restore the neighbourhood to something of its appearance before the glaciers of the last ice age cleared the rocks away.

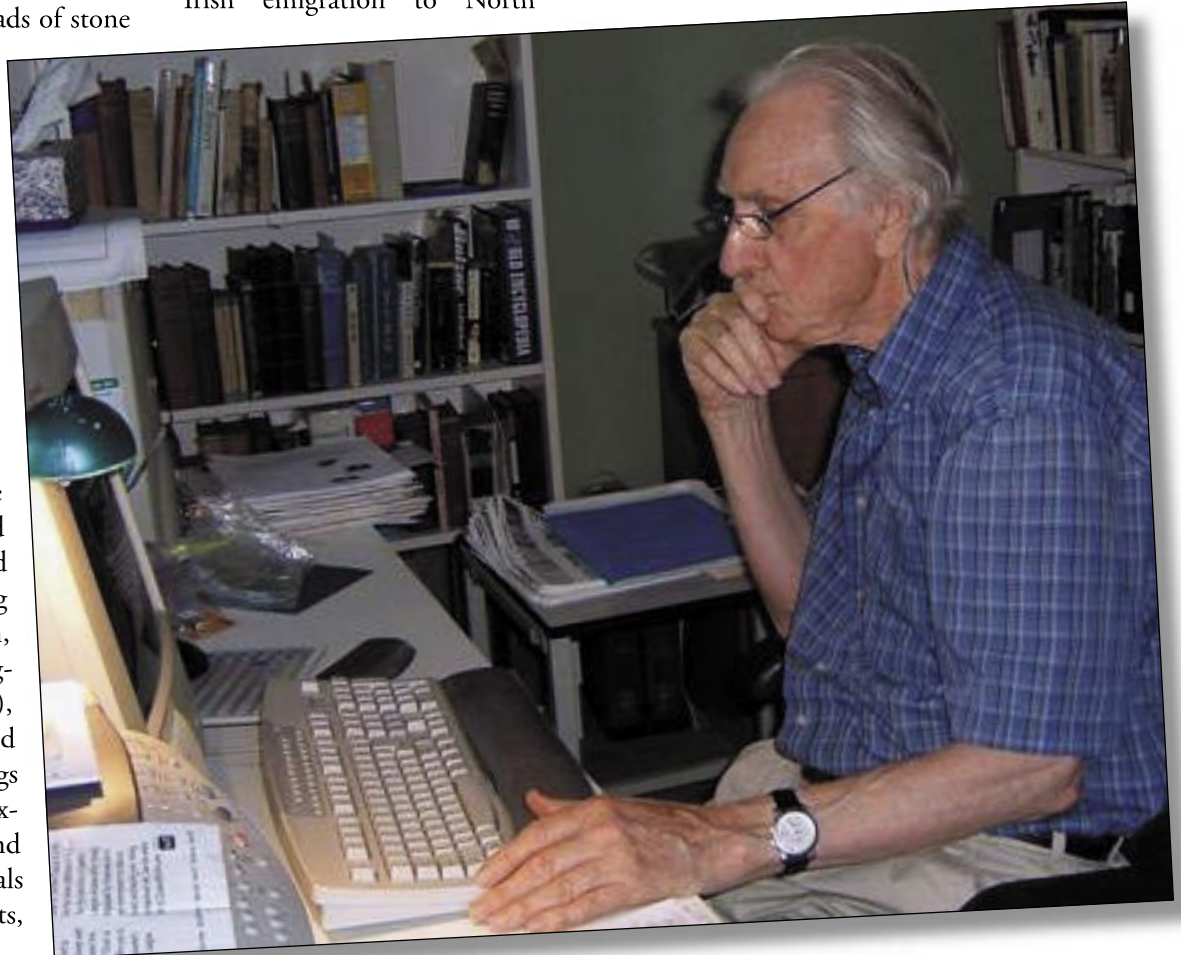
Having spent the first couple of years of retirement in his basement, sorting old nails and screws by size and putting them into old preserve jars, he emerged to turn a backyard parking lot into a perennial garden, patronized by hummingbirds (the trumpet vine), goldfinches (the woodland sunflowers), robins, starlings and, occasionally, cedar waxwings (the chokecherry and elderberry), a pair of cardinals who, or whose descendents,

return annually. Once a woodpecker dug an ants' nest out of the deck, another time a hawk made a meal of some other bird at the foot of the garden. Crows and bluejays, alas, have succumbed locally to West Nile disease, and are seen and heard no more.

Since then, he has been working on what he describes as 'a work in perpetual progress', researching and writing a documentary history called "The Season of '47", featuring Lord Elgin, the 3rd Earl Grey, Lord Palmerston, the relative value of money in 1847, the Irish Famine, mass Irish emigration to North

America, early railways, the invention of the electro-magnetic telegraph, the Atlantic crossing by paddle-wheel steamships and emigrant vessels, conditions, rioting and policing in mid-19th century London, Liverpool, Quebec City, Montreal and New York, pre-anesthesia surgery and the 'invention' of ether, the American seizure of New Mexico and California, 'responsible government' in the Province of Canada, typhus, the Grosse

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

Arthur Hammond...

Île quarantine station, Drs. George and James Douglas of Quebec City, the miasmatic theory of disease, Ledoyen's and Burnett's rival disinfecting fluids, temperance and Father Charles Chiniquy, his own great-great grandparents, &c., &c. Uncontrolled by budget or deadline, these subjects ride off in all directions, and have forced him to spend time in London at the British Library and British national archives, and squinting at microfilm from the National Library and Archives in Ottawa. And Googling, of course, always Googling. 11 chapters of God knows how many have been drafted, and he confidently expects to finish if he lives to about 100.

In the last couple of years he was active in Fair Vote Canada, an organization advocating proportional representation. In both Ontario and B.C the campaign to change the voting system failed, but the organization is still active. He isn't, except in the form of a monthly donation. Handing over small amounts of cash to various good causes, in fact, is about the only way in which he is socially useful,

apart from not littering the streets.

His partner, Susan, leads a much more useful life teaching 28 nine- and ten-year-olds from almost as many countries in a downtown public school, in spite of all efforts of the educational bureaucracy to prevent her from doing anything except fill in forms.

His daughter, Alice, an admin. assistant at Kraft Foods Canada, keeps him supplied with free coffee and cookies.

The questionnaire with which he has been supplied asks, among other things, about his favourite job and happiest memory in his twenty-two years at the NFB.

Favourite job was undoubtedly making documentaries, from which, alas, fate forced him to mutate into a producer and administrator. No single happy memory, but many, making those documentaries: with the Nisga nation on the Nass River in British Columbia ('This Land'); with Don Brittain on the Lord Thomson film ('Never a Backward Step'): interviewing Lord Lyon King of Arms in Edinburgh about the Thomson coat of arms ('Be-

vers and bits of beavers'), Don pocketing cigarette butts as souvenirs in Kensington Palace on a visit to look at some of Lord Snowdon's photographs for Thomson's Sunday Times, where he worked, (not used), or interviewing George Raft about money in the London casino where he was resident celebrity (also not used); exploring the fascinating innards of the Steinberg corporation for the 'Corporation' series, and particularly the pleasure of getting to know the remarkable Sam Steinberg ('Listen to me slowly'). What a privilege and a pleasure exploring aspects of the world through documentary was, he says, and still is, though now on the computer rather than through the camera.

Still in occasional touch over coffee or a meal with Jarvis Stoddart and his wife Carol, and by e-mail and the rare meeting with Dorothy Henaut, Susan Huyke and, of course, Ann and Anthony Kent, who is responsible for this exposé. Complain to him, not Hammond.

WELCOME



Micheline Sauvé-Bernier
(1976-1985)



Lynn Foran
(1980-2000)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We know that many talented Club members spend a lot of their spare time on artistic activities such as painting, sculpture, handicrafts etc. This gave us the idea of organizing an exhibition, which would give us all an opportunity to view and admire the results of their work.

In order to do this, we need people willing to work on the organization of the event, which would probably take place next spring (2010).

Anyone interested in joining the organizing committee should contact Micheal Hazel, a member of the Club Executive, who will be heading up the committee.

If you are interested or if you have any questions, you can reach Micheal Hazel by telephone or e-mail:

Phone: (450) 689-0351
E-mail: hist.mi@b2b2c.ca

10 QUESTIONS ABOUT.....ROLAND BRIDEAU

1. Q: Where do you live?

A: I live in Moncton, New Brunswick, with Suzanne Doucet and my cats Tenor and Alto. I met Suzanne while I was a university student at Bathurst College. We got married in May 1973 and have lived happily ever after.

2. Q: Which job did you like the best when you worked at the NFB?

A: I held two positions at the NFB. The first was as the NFB Representative with the Acadian communities of the Atlantic Provinces and the second was as the Distribution and Marketing Agent for the Programme français – Studio Acadie.

I preferred the job as Representative because at that time there were two programs that corresponded to my personal desire to use our films to offer Acadians a means of personal and collective enrichment in unity with the other members of the Canadian community. They were “Aide à l’Éducation” and “Société Nouvelle”.

3. Q: How long did you work at the NFB?

A: I spent nineteen years at the NFB office in Moncton. In that time I had the privilege of seeing hundreds of first-rate documentaries, of travelling through all the Acadian communities in the Atlantic Provinces meeting terrific, generous people, and of learning about and appreciating the richness and diversity of the Maritimes and of Canada.

4. Q: What was the best experience you can remember in your time with the NFB?

A: I have so many good memories of my time there, I could write a book. There are a few that were really special.

The first was the community screening of Les Jeux de la 21e Olympiade, shown outdoors on a giant screen. Imagine a mobile drive-in that had to be assembled and dismantled for every screening and stabilized with the help of a huge crane. The second was the community screening of “Feeling Yes, Feeling No”. After that tour people thought of me as an expert counsellor on questions of the physical

and mental abuse of children.

But the most wonderful experience of all was undoubtedly the premiere of the film Robichaud by the Acadian director Herménégilde Chiasson at the Capitol theatre in downtown Moncton. Over 800 people came to the screening. They included such notables as Frank McKenna, the Premier of New Brunswick, his predecessor Raymond Frenette, Louis J. Robichaud (the subject of the film and the first Acadian to be elected Premier of New Brunswick) Joan Pennefather, Commissioner of the NFB and Guy Maguire, director of marketing for the films of the NFB’s Programme français.

5. Q: Did you ever have any embarrassing moments at the NFB?

A: I did find myself in one embarrassing situation. I had invited Barbara Janes, my boss and the director of the Maritime Provinces region, to a restaurant. It was only my second week on the job as Representative. When the time came to pay the bill for our meal, I didn’t have a cent in my wallet and what was more, I didn’t possess a credit card. Needless to say, Barbara paid the bill, and as you can imagine, the very next day I applied for a credit card.

6. Q: How did you feel about leaving the NFB?

A: Without wishing to be melodramatic about it, my departure from the NFB was distressing. During the last two years the continual threat of a federal budget cut made many of us fear that our jobs would be eliminated. I left the Board

four months before being made to undergo the process of applying for the position I had held for a number of years, which amounted to telling me that I did not have the requisite skills to fill the po-



sition and consequently to dismissing me. That is my view of events: other people might not necessarily agree with it.

I feel no resentment towards my former bosses; they had to preside over the dismantling of the Board although they wished to protect jobs. Unfortunately, that’s the way the system works, and it’s always the regional offices that get the worst of it.

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10 QUESTIONS ABOUT..... ROLAND BRIDEAU

That being said, since my reluctant departure from the NFB I have nevertheless been able to work again in the public sector as a correctional officer at the Springhill Institution in Nova Scotia, a parole officer at the Dorchester maximum security penitentiary in New Brunswick and a continuing education officer with the Canadian forces in Ottawa. These positions were rewarding experiences I would never have had if I had stayed at the NFB.

7. Q: What is your main occupation or volunteer activity?

A: Since I retired from the public service in November 2006 I am still in the "honeymoon" stage with the purchase of our house, which we are renovating and furnishing in the hope of living in it for

another thirty years.

My activities revolve around eating at home with friends and members of our two families, golf, motorcycle rambles, an hour of cardio-vascular exercise five days a week, and reading.

8. Q: Do you have a favourite project in mind at the moment?

A: Yes. For years I've wanted to ride my motorbike across Canada. This fall the dream is going to come true. Suzanne will go by bus and I'll follow on my bike. We meant to do it last year, but the company had to cancel for lack of reservations. If it's not cancelled again, I'll be somewhere between Moncton and Vancouver by the time you read this piece.

9. Q: Do you keep in regular contact

with your former colleagues?

A: I haven't kept in touch with colleagues since leaving the NFB in November 1994, but I read the NFB Club bulletin from cover to cover. I very much enjoyed reading Andrée Delagrave's article in the latest issue. I send you a big hug, Andrée.

10. Q: Have you done any travelling since leaving the Board, and if so, where have you been?

A: No, except for Arizona, I've done no travelling since leaving, except for the trips related to my work with the Canadian Forces. We travelled a lot before we retired but we're postponing other trips except for my motorbike trip across Canada in September 2009.

AU REVOIR

WILFRED JOBBINS

Passed away in Kingston, Ontario. Devoted husband of Honora Rebecca Jobbins. He represented the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) for 34 years in various parts of Canada, South America and Europe, traveling extensively and living with his family in Canada, Argentina, and

England. His most senior position at the NFB was Director of Distribution at the Montreal head office. He retired with Honora to Mallorytown, Ontario where he was actively involved in volunteer work for Escot Township.

ARNOLD SHIEMAN

This is to inform you of the passing of Arnold Schieman on June 4th in his 83rd year. Arnold held many positions with the NFB including Cinematographer, Optical Effects Cinematographer, Assistant Colour Lab Supervisor, and Senior Technical Officer finishing his career as Senior

Technical Consultant. Upon retirement Arnold along with Wes Heeney opened up The Restoration House of Film Group inc. A company specializing in the restoration and preservation of the moving image.

Louise Kedro

MARIE FITZGERALD-NYCZ

Marie Fitzgerald-Nycz died on August 26, 2009. Marie was a conscientious and cultured woman with a wide range of interests. She loved theatre, music and art in all its forms. When we retired, we travelled the length and breadth of Montreal, looking for museums, art galleries and exhibitions of all kinds. We ate in unpretentious little cafes and in trendy restaurants, relaxed after helping our children to complete their education. Marie was discreet and was always there when I needed her. Having commenced at the NFB in 1958, Marie worked with French Production, then in Distribution and eventually with

Technical Services. She left the NFB in 1990 and was immediately hired by Jacques Bensimon, who recruited her as Administrator for the new French-language television service that he was preparing to launch at TV Ontario (TFO). A little later, Marcel Carrière invited her to join the executive of the Sound Archives in Montreal. Finally having a little more time on her hands, Marie decided to become a member of the NFB Club Executive and a reader at the Magnétothèque (taping audio books for the blind). She was my best friend. Ave Maria!

Marie-Pierre Tremblay