

POINTING NORTHEAST



The Québec-Labrador Foundation (QLF) exists to support the rural communities and environment of eastern Canada and New England

and to create models for stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage that can be applied worldwide.

We work across borders to link community, culture, and conservation.

Our programs aim to ensure continuity by fostering leadership development and taking a community-based approach.

QLF'S MAIN PROJECTS/PROGRAMS IN CANADA IN 2007-2008

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

- Climate Change (Labrador)
- Environmental Health (QC Lower North Shore and Labrador)
- Kilojoue (Baie-Comeau, Deschambault and Bécancour, QC)
- Marine Species at Risk (QC Lower North Shore, Southern Labrador and Western Newfoundland)
- Seabird and Seaduck Conservation (QC and NL)
- Seabirds and Whales (Northern Gulf and Strait of Belle Isle)
- Sustainable Fisheries (QC Lower North Shore, Gaspésie and Magdalen Islands)
- River and Wetland Stewardship (QC Lower North Shore and Labrador)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Community Mapping and GIS (Eastern Canada)
- Scholarship Program (Eastern Canada)

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

- CoastFest 2008 (QC Lower North Shore)
- Jacques Cartier Trail (QC Lower North Shore)
- Heritage Rivers Conference 2009 (Ottawa, ON)
- Labrador Innu-Inuit Photography Project (Labrador)
- Middle Bay Interpretation Centre (Middle Bay, QC)
- Miot Exhibition (Ship Cove, NL)
- Newfoundland Heritage Interpretation (Northern Newfoundland)
- Traditional Skills Network (QC Lower North Shore and NL)

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (Eastern Canada)

New QLF CANADA address starting June 1st, 2008:

Adrienne Blattel, Christine Diguier & Simone Hanchet
901-505, Boul. René-Lévesque O., Montréal (Québec), H2Z 1Y7
Tel.: 514-395-6020 Fax: 514-395-4505
ablattel@qlf.org, cdiguier@qlf.org, shanchet@qlf.org

CANADIAN FIELD DESKS

Trish Nash & Sophia Foley
Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon (QC)
tnash@qlf.org 418-461-3427
sfoley@qlf.org 418-461-3691

Serena Etheridge
L'Anse au Clair (NL)
setheridge@qlf.org 709-931-2291

This spring QLF will launch its **NEW WEBSITE!** www.QLF.org



CoastFest 2008

QLF and local partners are helping the communities of the Québec Lower North Shore to plan the first-ever regional festival in the summer of 2008. In 2008, Québec City will be celebrating the 400th anniversary of its founding by French explorer Samuel de Champlain. QLF is working with Tourism Lower North Shore, the Coasters' Association and others to use this as an opportunity to develop CoastFest 2008 and increase the visibility of this remote region. CoastFest 2008 will highlight the important role of the Lower North Shore in the founding and development of New France.

In preparation for CoastFest 2008, QLF and local partners are working with each community to plan for the commemoration and celebration of its unique history, heritage and culture. Among the many events planned is a Traveling Show set to spend a week in each village, moving from Blanc-Sablon to Kegaska. Why not join us for the opening ceremonies on June 21st in Blanc-Sablon? We thank our funders - Canadian Heritage, MDEIE, CLD, CRÉ and Air Labrador.

See www.coastfest2008.ca for more details.

Pointing Northeast is available in both print and electronic format. To join either distribution list, please e-mail us at montreal@qlf.org.

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH AND LET US KNOW IF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGES.



Marine Species at Risk Project Expands

The Community Marine Species at Risk program expanded in 2007 from the Québec Lower North Shore to include southern Labrador and western Newfoundland. Close to one hundred volunteer observers are now documenting sightings of twelve marine species that are considered "at risk" in Canada. Endangered and threatened species found in the northern Gulf of St. Lawrence include the blue whale, beluga whale, great white shark, porbeagle shark, leatherback seaturtle, two species of wolffish and the ivory gull. Information collected by fishers, marine tour operators and ferry crews as well as the use of proper release techniques from fishing gear are critical to the recovery of these animals. This project is supported by the Habitat Stewardship Plan for Species at Risk, Government of Canada.

Clams in the Magdalen Islands

QLF worked with the ZIP (zone d'intervention prioritaire) Committee of the Magdalen Islands, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, CEDEC (Community Economic Development and Employability Committee) and anglophone and francophone communities on an innovative project in the summer of 2007 to assess surf clam populations and evaluate the rate of harvesting. Results of the study, available in early 2008, will be used to ensure clam digging remains sustainable into the future.

Fishers' Associations in Québec

Fishing is still the most important economic activity on the Lower North Shore, in the Magdalen Islands and in Gaspésie. A number of fishing associations exist in these regions, all with varying capacities. QLF met with fisher leaders in each region to determine the needs of their associations to operate more effectively. Communication and administration were two of the main obstacles identified. A study tour held in November 2007 in the Magdalen Islands brought fishers from the three maritime regions together for the first time. They visited the Cap Dauphin Lobster Co-operative, fishery product manufacturers and boat builders and took part in several communications training sessions. A long-term partnership was formed between the three regions, which will help them to share ideas, build alliances and support each other. The project was funded by the Interdepartmental Partnership for Official Language Communities, QLF, several federal economic development agencies and the village of Gaspé.



Photo: Alain Lusignan

QLF and McGill University Intern Marc D'Entremont with his daily catch of eider ducklings at Table Bay, Labrador. The banding of ducklings is one part of a five year eider duck ecology research project being conducted by Ducks Unlimited Canada.



Photo: Sophia Foley

Garland Nadeau, St. Paul's River, stands next to a leatherback seaturtle carcass. Fishers reported six different sightings of leatherback seaturtles this summer swimming in the coastal waters between Old Fort and St. Paul's River, Québec. The leatherback seaturtle is an endangered species.

Climate Change Challenge in Labrador

With support from the Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Corps and Environment Canada's EcoAction Program, QLF implemented climate change projects in the communities of Nain and Forteau over the past two years. Cross-curricular education kits were developed for teachers in Nain – each complete with a polar bear! As part of the activities, Inuit students will collect local ecological knowledge from elders in their community to document and track changes in their local environment. Teachers also became associated with Climate Change North, an interactive educational website designed for northerners. Northern communities are already experiencing significant changes to their traditional way of life as a result of climate change.

Kilojoue

Kilojoue is an environmental education program supported by Alcoa since 2006. In 2007, Kilojoue was offered for the first time in the Québec communities of Deschambault and Bécancour as well as for a second time in Baie-Comeau, Québec. A new theme within the program, ClimActif, was also developed and implemented in Baie-Comeau this summer. This stream fostered learning about climate change while re-emphasizing the energy conservation messages to which participants were introduced in 2006. We are eager to continue our education work through the Kilojoue program in 2008.

Kilojoue Intern Julie Laprairie makes solar tea with program participants in Deschambault, QC.





Labrador Innu and Inuit See Themselves in Old and New Photographs

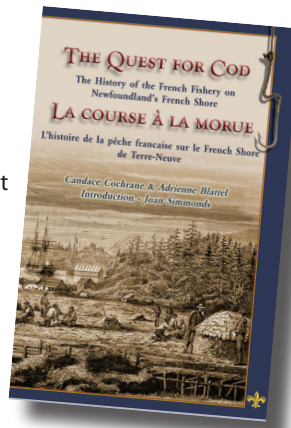
In March 2007 QLF staff member Candace Cochrane put up two exhibits in Sheshatshiu and Nain, Labrador, of photographs she made of community members between 1969 and 1986. This was part of the Inuit-Innu Recovering History Project. Her photographs of Inuit communities can be seen at the website www.oksociety.com. The next phase of the project will feature QLF alum Wendy Ewald (1969) returning to Sheshatshiu this summer to work with Innu youth in a photography workshop. The students will create self-portraits that will present an alternative image of themselves to recent negative portrayals in the international media. The photographs will be shown locally, in St. John's, and, we hope, travel across Canada. Wendy's photos, as well as those of her 1969 Innu student photographers, can be seen at www.tshikapisk.com.



The smile remains the same! A visitor to Nain community photography exhibit finds her picture, taken by Candace Cochrane in 1986.

The Quest for Cod

QLF collaborated with the French Shore Historical Society in Conche, NL to create a catalogue to accompany a traveling exhibit about the history of Newfoundland's French Shore. Copies of the catalogue can be obtained by contacting the French Shore Historical Society (frenchshorehs@nf.aibn.com).



Linking 9000 Years of History and Culture at the Middle Bay Interpretation Centre

Through funding from MDEIE, QLF is working with the Bonne Espérance Tourism Development Foundation and a team of professionals to create a permanent exhibit and marketing materials for the Middle Bay Interpretation Centre. The exhibit will focus on the five distinct cultures that have played a large role in the Lower North Shore's 9000 year history and heritage.

Jacques Cartier Trail

The Jacques Cartier Trail (JCT) is a regional natural and cultural history interpretation circuit also used as a tourist route along the Québec Lower North Shore. Thanks to a financial contribution from the MDEIE and local municipalities, QLF will be extending the JCT in 2008. With fifteen new panels developed in collaboration with the communities, the JCT will soon encompass the entire Lower North Shore.

With its official opening during the summer of 2008, the Centre will serve as the gateway to Bonne Espérance and will house a variety of artifacts from the region, an information kiosk, settler exhibit, canteen area, gift store and media room. This unique attraction will provide an opportunity for visitors to learn about and, in some ways, experience the connection between the region's landscape and the five cultures that have left their footprints on local history.

Preserving Knowledge of Lower North Shore Traditions

Following an eventful summer with the craftspeople and youth of the Traditional Skills Network (TSN), QLF is working on a new project along the Lower North Shore that aims to link culture, traditions and generations.

Beginning in October of 2007, and thanks to funding from Canadian Heritage, Monica Anderson of Harrington Harbour was hired to assist with the development of three initiatives:

- A Heritage Booklet highlighting the step-by-step processes of various crafts and traditional stories;
- Heritage Workshops in local schools that will increase youth's awareness and appreciation for traditional skills; and
- A Heritage Celebration in each municipality that will recognize and celebrate the unique traditions and heritage of the region.

These activities are an important steps toward preserving and promoting knowledge of local heritage, and will involve all communities and generations.



Kyla Hobbs Lavallee, Lower North Shore summer student, works with a local resident to learn how to make traditional bread



Shaping Our Future



Photo: Emily Gustafson

Sophia Foley, Marine Species at Risk Intern during the summer of 2007, is now based in Blanc-Sablon (QC) where she is helping to coordinate CoastFest 2008 and Marine Species at Risk projects for QLF.

QLF's Leadership Program

QLF's Leadership Program began with founder Ven. Bob Bryan's youth programs on the Coast in the early 1960's, making it our longest-running program. It exists today to inspire and equip young people to become tomorrow's conservation leaders. It offers meaningful work experiences in a wide range of areas associated with our mandate.

This year, QLF placed fifteen interns and two volunteers in rural Canadian communities, where they worked with QLF and QLF partners on projects ranging from tourism initiatives to marine biology research. To this year's group of dedicated and talented interns and volunteers and to our partner organizations... many thanks!

Positions are offered year-round, with most running during summer months. Open positions are posted on our website on an ongoing basis. To find out more, apply, or become one of our partners, please visit www.QLF.org.

QLF Fun Run Fundraiser

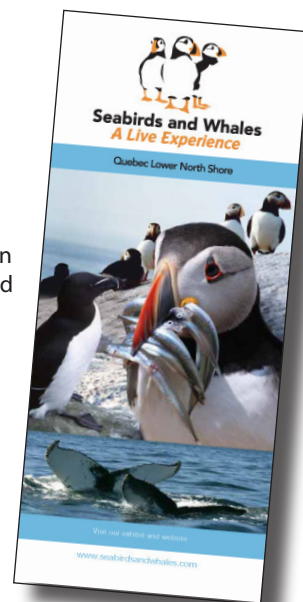
The 6th Annual QLF Fun Run Fundraiser for our Scholarship Program is scheduled for **September 27th, 2008** in Bulwer (QC). For the Academic year 2006/2007, QLF created a special scholarship, The Robert A. Bryan scholarship. The first two recipients of this new Scholarship were: Tamara Etheridge of St. Paul's River, who is pursuing her MA in Education at McGill University, and Liane Kandler of St. Augustine, who is pursuing a BA in Psychology at Concordia University. Congratulations to Tamara and Liane and all the other QLF Scholarship Recipients for 2006/2007.

Hot off the Press

- **Seabirds and Whales: A Live Experience** – this pamphlet gives an overview of the webcam and underwater microphone system that will be placed on Perroquets Island, a federal bird sanctuary located offshore from Blanc Sablon. Real time video of puffins and vocalizations from the many whales found in the region, along with information on the region's significant marine resources, will be available on a new website: www.seabirdsandwhales.com which will be launched in late spring 2008.

- **Our Ocean Resources Poster** – funded by the Government of Canada's Environmental Damages Fund, this poster highlights the marine resources of the Québec Lower North Shore.

- **Our Birds** – a brochure that provides information on the identification and conservation of seabirds found on the Québec Lower North Shore



Condolences to Marc Chikhani, 2007 Intern

We offer our deepest condolences to QLF Intern Marc Chikhani (2007) and his family for the tragic loss of Charles Chikhani, Marc's older brother. While returning home from work one day this September, Charles Chikhani (age 28) was one of four innocent casualties of a political assassination in Beirut, Lebanon. The Chikhani family is establishing a NGO to support Lebanese youth wishing to pursue higher education in Charles' name.

Marc spent the summer in Chevery, Quebec, working on science education and marine species conservation. Having grown up in a Lebanese village, Marc's time in Chevery was an opportunity for cultural exchange, about which he reflected:

Despite the enormous cultural barriers separating us, despite the immense distance separating our countries, the people of Chevery and I share the same values... Our cultural differences enabled me to learn so many new things, at the same time sharing my own experiences and stories... Based on my experience this summer, I can't help but observe how sad it is that in many parts of the world, we kill one another because of ethnic, religious, cultural, and geographic differences.

QLF echoes Marc's observation and shares in his sadness. We thank him for his contributions to our work, wish to support his continued efforts to make this world a better and more peaceful place, and share in his commitment to doing so.



Photo: Simone Blanchet

Annual Newsletter

Québec-Labrador Foundation Canada

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