

JOHN LENNON PROJECT INITIATED BY CHANTEREL RESIDENT

Chanterel resident Robert Harrison whose family moved to Canada in 1925 from Glossop, Derbyshire has persuaded the City of Montreal to create a monument to John Lennon on Mount Royal.

A chemical engineer by profession, Rob has been a volunteer for Amnesty International for over 20 years, and in 2004-2005 served on the Board of Directors for French-speaking Canada.

"I knew Lennon had written and recorded Give Peace a Chance here in Montreal in 1969, so I contacted Yoko Ono's lawyer in New York and asked if we could stage a thirty-fifth anniversary celebration."

Rob was astounded when Yoko said yes. On June 1st, 2004, eighty Quebec pop stars gathered in the original suite at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel to record a new version of the song. The producer was legendary rock impresario Donald K. Donald, who worked with Lennon the late 1960's. Yoko Ono provided a short video message from Europe.

It was released as a single in Canada, with all sales revenue going to the London-based human rights organisation. Among the singers was Quebec-based rocker Nanette Workman, who also worked with Lennon (back-up vocal on "Power to the People") as well being the female voice on the Rolling Stones' hit "Honky Tonk Women".

The following year, Rob submitted a second idea to Yoko Ono, namely to hold a photo exhibition called "Imagine Montreal Living Life in Peace". Montreal photographer Michel Cloutier photographed 25 Quebec celebrities including Oscar-winning director Denys Arcand and CFCF's Mutsumi Takahashi offering each one a chance to say a few words about human rights. The photos and quotes were exhibited in the Hall of Honour at Montreal City Hall in July 2005:

http://www.artforamnesty.org/view_event.php?id=29

During negotiations with the City of Montreal, Rob casually suggested that they should think about naming a street or park after John Lennon. "They were very receptive to the idea, and it ended up being sent to a number of committees and finally accepted." The official decision was to create a Give Peace a Chance garden at the Peel Street entrance to Mount Royal Park, to be inaugurated in 2009.

In another interesting British connection, last year Rob helped organise a James Bond charity event in Quebec City featuring Sir Roger Moore. "A very warm and charming man, a real pleasure to talk to, just like you'd expect." Also a man of good taste, since Sir Roger appreciated the home-made cookies made by Rob's wife, Renate! Also at the event were Guy



John Lennon and supporters gather in a Montreal hotel room in 1969 to record "Give Peace a Chance."

**Timeline:
Canada
A chronology
of key events:**

**Autonomy from
Britain**

1931 - Statute of Westminster grants British dominions complete autonomy.

1939 - Outbreak of World War II. Canadian forces fight in Italy, Europe and in the Atlantic.

1947 - Canada is declared to be of equal status with Great Britain within the Commonwealth.

1949 - Canada becomes founder member of Nato. Newfoundland, until then a British dominion, becomes a province of Canada.

1950 - War in Korea. Canadian forces participate in the United Nations war effort.

1965 - The present Canadian flag is adopted, replacing one which had incorporated the British flag.

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Hamilton, director of several Bond films, Britt Ekland, and Nic Raine, a British composer/conductor who recently did the music for the Wallace and Gromit movie.

Right now Rob working on a brand-new project with the Amnesty International office in Dublin, Ireland. It is still confidential, but there will be an official announcement later in the year.

Finance

One of the major motivations for creating www.britclub.ca and the associated BritClub Gazette was to foster a "British community" spirit in Quebec. The publications endeavour to offer as much help, advice and news, relevant to the British community, as possible.

So, if you are anything like me you found running your finances in Quebec very different from running them in the UK. Therefore, I set out to research the main stumbling blocks, such as pensions and taxes, and to explain the mechanics behind them in the Gazette. During my research it was my very good fortune to meet a true financial guru, Marc Dacosta. He has been in the business for twenty years and works as an independent financial consultant throughout Montreal, Laval, The West Island, Montégégie and Eastern Ontario.

Marc works with people from all walks of life and, first of all, determines their financial objectives. These could be anything from buying a first home to paying off the mortgage, buying a holiday cottage to affording a trip abroad each year, starting a business to retiring early. Once the objectives are understood he studies the clients assets and liabilities and, working alongside the client, formulates a sound, safe and achievable long term plan. Marc's main aim is to have a long term relationship with his clients and to make sure they are successful now and in the future.

"If my clients are happy they will refer others to me and that's how my business grows. It is in my best interest to make sure my clients exceed their expectations" say Marc.

However, if you are a gambler and like the thrill of risking your hard earned cash for the promise of huge short term gains Marc is probably not the man for you. His considerable experience has lead him to develop a very skilful, well thought out, safe and practical approach to wealth creation. His aim is to keep as much of your money in your pocket each year as possible and to protect your assets whilst, at the same time, using them to create wealth for you. As he says "It is investors that make money not the speculators".

You would think that to have a talented financial planner on board help and advising with taxes, RRSPs, investments, long term planning etc. would cost an arm and a leg. However, you would be wrong; the fact is there are no direct costs to the client at all. Once the planning is done and explained to you in detail, Marc recommends products that can be used to put the plan into action. Commissions are paid to the planner if a product is used. Marc is independent and is not tied to any company's products so he can choose what is right for you. Unlike banks he is not motivated by making money for the bank's shareholders he is motivated by doing the best for his client. I have been working with Marc for some months now and have been thoroughly impressed by his commitment and financial know how. I would strongly recommend that, if you need a little help sorting out your finances, you should talk to Marc Dacosta first.

You can contact Marc Dacosta through the BritClub by email - mick@britclub.ca or by telephone on 514 432 4986.



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A Starr from London Brightening Up Homes in Canada

Ruth Starr is an Expat who has lived in Montreal for many years. She now owns and runs Starr Cards (www.starrcards.net) selling beautiful collectible cards and prints that can be framed and made to order.

Ruth grew up in London, England, and still has family there. The day after her marriage in 1967 she set sail for Canada with her husband. Both had secured teaching jobs in Montreal and thought life was too good to be true. At the time the Canadian government was offering a no tax deal for 2 years and the outdoor life suited them both. Ruth traveled extensively including two camping trips in a VW Beetle to the Yucatan and back. Ruth retired from teaching in the early 1990's.

Ruth's family in the UK are involved in selling antiques at the famous Portobello Road market in London. Whilst visiting her family in London a friend asked her to bring back some cards depicting dogs and painted by her grandfather. Ruth became hooked and saw the potential for a business. She decided to start Starr Cards with a friend and business partner and the response was very positive.

Nowadays, as well as selling online, Ruth can be found selling her cards at Finnegan's Market in Hudson, Quebec, during the summer, and at various craft markets around Montreal throughout the year. (information@starrcards.net)



Iran Seize British Sailors in Gulf

Seizure of Royal Navy personnel by Iran occurred on 23 March 2007 when fifteen Royal Navy personnel, from HMS Cornwall, were surrounded and detained by the naval forces of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard off the Iraq-Iran coast. The team of eight sailors and seven Royal Marines in two rigid-hulled inflatable boats had been searching a merchant vessel when they were detained at 10:30 Baghdad time by six Guard boats of the IRGC Navy. They were subsequently taken to a Revolutionary Guards Corps base in Tehran for interrogation.

Intense diplomatic efforts have been made to secure the release of the detainees. On March 28, 2007 television channels around the world showed footage released by the Iranian government of some of the 15 British sailors. This included a statement by captured Royal Navy sailor Faye Turney, along with a letter allegedly written by her, which apologised for UK intrusions into Iranian water. Over the next two days a further video was shown on Iranian television displaying three of the detained British naval personnel and two further letters, again attributed to Faye Turney, were released, again admitting the British boats were in Iranian waters. Iran has stated that an apology from British officials will "facilitate" the release of the personnel. The United Kingdom Government states that the team had been conducting a compliance inspection of a merchant ship under the mandate of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1723. The merchantman had aroused suspicion while moving along the Arvandrud/Shatt al-Arab waterway. HMS Cornwall was part of the British contribution to multinational forces engaged in maritime security operations following the War in Iraq.

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On April 4, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced the release of the personnel as a "gift" to Britain in the name of the upcoming birthday of Muhammad celebration on April 5, and the Easter holidays. During a news conference, Ahmadinejad reiterated the statement that Iranian waters had been invaded, and he praised the border guards who detained the British personnel. Abolqassem Amangah, commander of Iran's southwestern Maritime Border Patrol Guard was awarded the third degree medal of bravery for stopping the "intruding" sailors. Ahmadinejad also criticized the British government for what he called was sending the mother of a child to battlefield, and asked the government "not to prosecute them for their confessions". After the conference the Britons met Ahmadinejad outside the presidential palace, where they reportedly showed their appreciation for their release. Later Tony Blair said he is glad and "bears Iranian people no ill will."

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_Iranian_seizure_of_Royal_Navy_personnel

History - The Language Laws?

If there is one thing that effects us all in Quebec in one way or another it is the language laws. Over the next few issues we will delve into the history of the laws themselves.

BILL 63

The Loi pour promouvoir la langue française au Quebec was issued, in the fall of 1969, by the National Assembly of Quebec under the leadership of the Union Nationale government of Jean-Jacques Bertrand. The Bill attempted to resolve a number of issues: the St-Léonard school situation, where a francophone majority on the local school board had enacted that all children whose mother tongue was not English would have to go to French schools (despite the opposition of most of the parents of Italian-speaking children who sent their children to English schools), the general demand by francophones for a more French Quebec and the recognition of minority rights. The bill, while promoting the teaching of French in English schools and making available to immigrants French classes for a better integration into the Quebec milieu, fell short of the demand of the majority of francophones who would, seemingly, have favoured the elimination of the freedom of choice of parents to send their children to English schools and to restrict access to such schools to the children whose mother tongue was English. Not only did the bill not implement the linguistic policy that most Quebecers seemed to have wished, but, in reality, its substance was to guarantee to all in Quebec the right to choose the language of instruction for their children. The effect of such a clause was to accelerate the rate of integration of the rapidly increasing population of allophones to the anglophone group and, thus, to potentially threaten the position of dominance of French in Quebec, especially in the context of the rapidly diminishing birth rate of francophones in the province. The intense discontent which resulted from the passing of this bill led to the appointment of the Gendron Commission to study the status of the French language in Quebec and, in 1974, to the passing of the Loi sur la langue officielle (Bill 22). The passing of Bill 63 was instrumental in the defeat of the Union Nationale government at the polls in 1970 and in the demise of that party from the political landscape of Quebec.

The Warrington Male Voice Choir tour Montreal

The Warrington Male Voice Choir (60 members) are touring Montreal and will be holding a benefit concert at St John's United Church in Pointe Claire, address 98 Aurora on May 30th at 7.30pm. Tickets are \$12 if purchased beforehand or \$15 on the door. For further information please call Fiona at 514 693 1186. They are an internationally renowned male voice choir and have a wide repertoire of songs, great for the whole family!

Other News & Events

Malaysia lambasts Top Gear host

Jeremy Clarkson thinks Perodua Kelisa sounds like a disease
Top Gear host Jeremy Clarkson has come under attack in Malaysian parliament for labelling one of the country's cars the worst in the world. The BBC presenter has been filmed attacking the Perodua Kelisa with a sledgehammer before blowing it up. But minister Abdul Raman Suliman defended the nation's car industry, saying Mr Clarkson was like a football commentator who cannot play football.

He told MPs, Perodua had not received a single complaint from British owners.

He added that the comments were made merely to boost sales of the Top Gear magazine.

Mr Clarkson has voiced his frustrations with the small three-cylinder model in both magazine articles and on the Top Gear motoring show. In one article, he said its name was like a disease and suggested it was built in jungles by people who wear leaves for shoes.

And on the show, he described it as "unimaginative junk, with no soul, no flair and no passion".

He then smashed it, hung it from a crane with a one-tonne weight attached, before blowing it up.

Perodua is Malaysia's second national carmaker and began producing small compact models in 1995.

Clashes mar Man Utd-Roma match

Manchester United fans and police clashed during the game Manchester United's Champions League match against Roma

was marred by violence involving supporters before and during the game.

Local media reported clashes between fans as they made their way to the Olympic Stadium in Rome.

During the game United fans clashed with police wielding batons.

Manchester United warned fans before the game they could be attacked by Roma supporters, sparking criticism from Rome's mayor.

Local media reported that five people were injured in clashes as fans made their way to the stadium.

Democratic Unionist leader Ian Paisley and the Irish prime minister Bertie Ahern are to visit the historic site of the 1690 Battle of the Boyne.

Mr Paisley said it would show "how far we have come when we can celebrate and learn from the past".

He was speaking after talks with the taoiseach in Dublin when the pair shook hands publicly for the first time.

Mr Paisley said he hoped "old suspicions and discord can be buried forever" through mutual co-operation.

The Battle of the Boyne was fought between William of Orange and Catholic King James II in 1690. The Protestant Orange Order celebrate William's victory every year on 12 July.

Reid defends 'talking' CCTV plans

The home secretary, John Reid, today denied that plans to expand the use of "talking" CCTV cameras across the country were akin to "Big Brother gone mad".

Loudspeakers are being fitted to cameras in 20 areas, allowing CCTV operators to

bark commands at people committing antisocial behaviour.

An existing scheme in Middlesbrough which has been used to stop vandals and tell litterbugs to pick up their rubbish has received widespread support from locals, Mr Reid said.

"It helps counter things like litter through drunk or disorderly behaviour, gangs congregating," Mr Reid told GMTV. "They are the sorts of things that make people's lives a misery. Anything that tackles that is better."

Council workers in a control centre can monitor pictures from 12 talking cameras in the town, and communicate directly with people on the street at the flick of a switch. The scheme has been criticised by opponents as "Big Brother gone mad".

Source:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

Red meat vastly increases breast cancer risk

Older women who eat even small amounts of red meat are at significantly greater risk of developing breast cancer, according to a study published today.

Post-menopausal women who ate as little as 57g (2oz) of beef, pork or lamb a day had a 56% increased risk compared to those who ate none, according to researchers at the University of Leeds.

Their report, published in the British Journal of Cancer, also found that those who ate large amounts (more than 103 grams or 3.6 ounces) of processed meat a day, such as bacon, sausages or pies, had a 64% greater risk of developing the disease.

Source:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

Learning to Speak French

For many years now I have tried to learn to speak French. Like most of us I started at school in the UK but, in my case, I paid little attention during class. After several attempts at teaching myself I had all but given up. Then I emigrated to Quebec!

How stupid do I feel now? Why didn't I pay attention during class at school?

Anyway, for all of you Brits out there who, like me, are desperately trying to learn to speak French I want to explore ways in which the process can be made easier.

I think the whole process can be split into three distinct areas:

1. Vocabulary
2. Grammar
3. Listening/Speaking

The most fundamental of these is vocabulary. You cannot hope to speak a language without learning the words that make up the language. But, going back to the school scenario, this can be a very boring, monotonous process. It does not have to be a boring process though, particularly if we find ways to bring the words to life. So this week's topic is concerned with very powerful techniques that will help you to learn French words.

Vocabulary

Traditionally people have associated these words by repetition - by saying the word in their own language and the foreign language time and time and time and time again. You can improve on this tedious way of learning by using three good techniques:

1. Using Mnemonics to link words

Here you are using images to link a word in your own language with a word in a foreign language.

For example, in learning English/French vocabulary:

English: rug/carpet - French: tapis - imagine an ornate oriental carpet with a tap as the central design woven in chrome thread

English: grumpy - French: grognon - a grumpy man groaning because there is no grog.

English: to tease - French: taquiner - a woman teasing her husband as she takes in the washing.

This technique was formalized by Dr. Michael Gruneberg, and is known as the '**LinkWord**' technique. He has produced language books (an example is German by Association) in many language pairs to help students acquire the basic vocabulary needed to get by in the language (usually about 1000 words). It is claimed that using this technique this basic vocabulary can be learned in just 10 hours.

2. The Town Language Mnemonic

This depends on the fact that the basic vocabulary of a language relates to everyday things: things that you can usually find in a city, town or village. To use the technique, choose a town that you are very familiar with. Use objects within that place as the cues to recall the images that link to foreign words.

Nouns in the town:

Nouns should be associated to the most relevant locations: for example, the image coding the foreign word for book could be associated with a book on a shelf in the library. You could associate the word for bread with an image of a loaf in a baker's shop. Words for vegetables could be associated with parts of a display outside a greengrocer's. Perhaps there is a farm just outside the town that allows all the animal name associations to be made.

Adjectives in the park:

Adjectives can be associated with a garden or park within the town: words such as green, smelly, bright, small, cold, etc. can be easily related to objects in a park. Perhaps there is a pond there, or a small wood, or perhaps people with different characteristics are walking around.

Verbs in the sports center:

Verbs can most easily be associated with a sports center or playing field. This allows us all the associations of lifting, running, walking, hitting, eating, swimming, driving, etc.

Remembering Genders

In a language where gender is important, a very good method of remembering this is to divide your town into two main zones. In one zone you code information on masculine gender nouns, while in the other zone you code information on feminine nouns. Where the language has a neutral gender, then use three zones. You can separate these areas with busy roads, rivers, etc. To fix the gender of a noun, simply associate its image with a place in the correct part of town. This makes remembering genders easy!

3. The hundred most common words

Tony Buzan, in his book 'Using your Memory', points out that just 100 words comprise 50% of all words used in conversation in a language. Learning this core 100 words gets you a long way towards being able to speak in that language, albeit at a basic level. The 100 basic words used in conversation are shown below:

1	A,an	21	Always	41	In	61	Our	81	They
2	(I) am	22	And	42	Last	62	Out	82	Thing
3	(I) can	23	Because	43	Little	63	Over	83	This
4	(I) come	24	Before	44	Many	64	People	84	Time
5	(I) find	25	Big	45	More	65	Place	85	To
6	(I) go	26	But	46	Most	66	Please	86	Under
7	(I) have	27	Either/or	47	Much	67	Same	87	Up
8	(I) know	28	First	48	My	68	She	88	Us
9	(I) like	29	For	49	New	69	So	89	Very
10	(I) love	30	Friend	50	No	70	Some	90	We
11	(I) make	31	From	51	Not	71	Sometimes	91	What
12	(I) see	32	Good	52	Now	72	Still	92	When
13	(I) tell	33	Good-bye	53	Of	73	Such	93	Where
14	(I) think	34	Happy	54	Often	74	Thank you	94	Which
15	(I) use	35	He	55	On	75	That	95	Who
16	After	36	Hello	56	One	76	The	96	Why
17	Again	37	Here	57	One	77	Their	97	With
18	All	38	How	58	Only	78	Them	98	Yes
19	Almost	39	I	59	Or	79	Then	99	You
20	Also	40	If	60	Other	80	There is	100	Your

Summary:

The three approaches to learning foreign languages shown here can be very effective. They help to point out:

1. Link words in your own language to words in a foreign language
2. Structure recall of the language through use of the town mnemonic.
3. Learn the most important words at an early stage.

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And Finally!

Just a bit of a laugh.....

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent terrorist threats and have raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved."

Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated" or even "A Bit Cross." Londoners have not been "A Bit Cross" since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies all but ran out.

Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to a "Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was during the great fire of 1666.

Also, the French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Surrender" and "Collaborate." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

It's not only the English and French that are on a heightened level of alert.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."

The Germans also increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade a Neighbour" and "Lose."

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual, and the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new sub-marines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

The Canadian threat level has been raised from "Feigned Concern" to "Possible Concern..... maybe....", leaving only 1 more level, "Send a tersely worded letter to terrorist leaders", (in both French and English).

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