

# RALLYE

## DÉCOUVERTE

## Find the literary treasures!

10 authors draw inspiration from places or cultural artifacts found in Québec City, a UNESCO City of Literature. Learn about these objects and their modern-day echoes by visiting our partners or [rallyevieux-quebecclitteraire.ca](http://rallyevieux-quebecclitteraire.ca).

1. **Elizabeth Baril-Lessard**, former employee of Librairie Pantoute, reminds us of the important role booksellers play in introducing children to books—and to life!
2. **Jean-Paul Beaumier**, contributor to *Nuit blanche* magazine, pays tribute to the power of books in light of the tragedy occurring in Ukraine.
3. **Vanessa Bell**, hosted by Monastère des Augustines, responds to writer Gabrielle Roy.
4. **Louisa Blair** evokes the history of the Morrin Centre, from its former prison to present-day library.
5. **Paul Bordeleau** illustrates his first steps as an artist at Librairie Première Issue.
6. **Valérie Forgues** reacts to the exhibition at the Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec.
7. **Anne Guilbault** writes to Marie de l'Incarnation after reading one of her letters at Pôle culturel du Monastère des Ursulines.
8. **Simon Lambert** pays homage to Roger Lemelin and the mythical characters born of his typewriter, which is kept at the Musée de la civilisation.
9. **Andrée Levesque Sioui** connects her ancestors to the canivet, a writing tool that has been preserved at Îlot des Palais.
10. **Mattia Scarpulla** shares the silence of Maison de la littérature.



## Discover 25 points of interest and their treasures!

Old Québec, the cradle of French-speaking America, bears traces of a long literary tradition. To find out more about Québec's literary history and to explore astonishing archives, visit [rallyevieux-quebecclitteraire.ca](http://rallyevieux-quebecclitteraire.ca).

In partnership with Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec, L'Îlot des Palais, La Promenade des écrivains, Le Monastère des Augustines, Librairie Pantoute, Librairie Première Issue, Maison de la littérature, Morrin Centre, Musée de la civilisation, Nuit blanche, Pôle culturel du Monastère des Ursulines and SDC Vieux-Québec.

Marie-Ève Sévigny, researcher and author  
Julien Dallaire-Charest, illustrator  
An ICQ production

Visit the website for the references to footnotes 1 to 15.



### ● Séminaire de Québec

#### The Séminaire's collection dating from Mgr François de Laval

Since its foundation by Mgr François de Laval (1663), the Séminaire de Québec has amassed in its archives and library some 185,000 books and 65,000 ancient documents, dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 2007, UNESCO added part of the collection (1623-1800) to the *Memory of the World Register*. All these treasures have been preserved by the Musée de la civilisation since 1995.



### ● Morrin Centre

#### Canada's first learned society

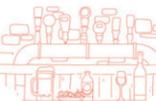
Canada's oldest surviving learned society, the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec (1824) is a heritage gem in the capital. It manages the Morrin Centre, a cultural organization dedicated to the history and culture of Québec City's English-speaking community. Its historic library, with its unique character, is immortalized in novels by Louise Penny and Jacques Poulin.



### ■ Maison de la littérature - L'ICQ

#### A unique institution in North America

Since 1848, L'ICQ (Institut canadien de Québec) has been watching over literature through its libraries and cultural programs. As manager of the Bibliothèque de Québec since 1897, L'ICQ established a public library and a performance hall in the former Wesley Temple in 1944. In 2015, the Maison de la littérature was inaugurated there, becoming a true beacon of literature in Québec.



### ● Chez Temporel

#### A "dear neighbor's" hideaway

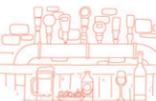
In the 1980s, novelist Chrystine Brouillet lived in Old Québec. While studying at the Petit Séminaire, and subsequently at Université Laval, she worked as a waitress at Chez Temporel. During this time she wrote her first detective novel, *Dear Neighbor*<sup>2</sup> (1982), where corpses popped up in every corner of the Quartier Latin. The mythical café also hosts the Temporel Mondays, poetry evenings organized by writer Guy Cloutier.



### ◆ La Gazette de Québec / The Quebec Gazette

#### The first Canadian newspaper

The first printing press of the British colony arrived in Québec City in 1764. On June 21st, the first Canadian newspaper in history was published: *The Quebec Gazette / La Gazette de Québec*. This four-page bilingual weekly newspaper moved to Côte de la Montagne in 1792. This area became the printing and newspaper district until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



### ● Le Chantauteuil

#### Saint-Jean, a street for singers

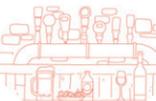
From the 1950s to the turn of the millennium, Rue Saint-Jean vibrated with the nightly din of bars, cafés, cabarets and «boîtes à chansons». One of the most popular addresses was undoubtedly Le Chantauteuil (1968-2013), a meeting spot for booksellers, writers and publishers, where many literary projects were born and later launched in this very location.



### ★ Crémazie, Garneau and Générale française bookstores

#### A crossroads of booksellers, publishers and writers

For nearly 200 years, starting with the Librairie Crémazie (1833-1862), then the Librairie Garneau (1880-1997), and finally the Librairie Générale française (1971-2013), Rue de la Fabrique and Rue de Buade were a literary crossroads. Québec's first writers, as well as more contemporary ones, met with booksellers in their back rooms to debate politics, or simply sip a coffee together.



### ● Bar L'Ostradamus

#### « Et la rue Saint-Jean est une rivière de bière<sup>3</sup> »

In « Satori à Québec<sup>4</sup> » (1999), the poet Patrice Desbiens depicts a drunken evening at the now defunct L'Ostradamus. From the 1970s to the turn of the millennium, this bar hosted a long list of jazz and blues bands, which made it a particularly noisy place in the Quartier Latin. "Satori" is a Zen Buddhist term for spiritual awakening.



### ● Alain Grandbois

#### « C'est dans cette petite chambre [...] que j'écrivis mes premiers poèmes.<sup>5</sup> »

On this street lived the poet and novelist Alain Grandbois (1900-1975). As a teenager, he attended the Petit Séminaire and resided in a boarding house for students where he wrote his first poems. He recounts this episode in *Visages du monde* (1950-1952), a radio series of his most beautiful travels. For Grandbois, « [J]e visage de Québec est l'un des plus émouvants parmi les visages du monde.<sup>6</sup> » ("the face of Québec City is one of the most moving faces of the world.")



### ■ Jacques Poulin

#### Jack Waterman's Old Québec

This house was the home of novelist Jacques Poulin (1937-), who used it as the setting for *The Heart of the Blue Whale*<sup>7</sup> (1970) and *Volkswagen Blues*<sup>8</sup> (1984). Poulin's Old Québec is a true literary myth: it is where the hero Jack Waterman crosses paths with books and cats, a river and ancient walls, intellectual waitresses and androgynous girls.



### ◆ Maison François-Xavier-Garneau

#### A national writer's last home

François-Xavier Garneau (1809-1866) lived in this house for the last two years of his life. Poet, notary, journalist, translator at the Legislative Assembly, and later clerk for the City of Québec, this literary man is best known for his *Histoire du Canada*<sup>9</sup>, which earned him recognition as a national historian in his lifetime. In 2016, the Gouvernement du Québec designated him a historical figure.



### ■ Maison Cirice-Têtu

#### The De Koninck Family - A Cultural Household

From 1935 to 1965, the Maison Cirice-Têtu was a cultural household gravitating around the philosopher Charles De Koninck (1906-1965) and his wife Zoe Decruydt (1913-2008). The office, the living room and the dining room welcomed many writers and intellectuals to discuss society, culture and politics. Even today, the De Koninck family nurtures the academic, cultural, athletic and social life of Québec City.



### ▲ Musée de la civilisation

#### From Treasures to "Trophoux": writers at work

Musée de la civilisation has some 225,000 objects, each bearing witness to cultural changes in Québec and abroad. Artifacts include items that once belonged to writers, including Jacques Ferron's medical kit, Félix Leclerc's typewriter, and miscellanea from the world of Réjean Ducharme, among them his "Trophoux," sculptures made from bits and pieces he found in the streets.



### ● Bibliothèque de Québec / The Quebec Library

#### The first public library in Québec City

The Quebec Library / Bibliothèque de Québec (1779) was nicknamed the "Haldimand Library": the governor of the Province of Québec tried to reconcile the newly conquered Canadians and the British citizens by providing a library for French and English speakers. Given that French books were difficult to obtain, the library did not open until 1783 - and its shelves were only accessible to subscribers, namely wealthy people.



### Place D'Youville and the theater scene

When Old Québec makes a scene  
Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Old Québec has witnessed the birth of many theaters and theater companies. The Conservatoire d'art dramatique (1958) brings out new talent every year. To this day, the construction of innovative venues such as Le Diamant and the renovated Capitole confirm how anchored the performing arts are in the area.



### ★ Terrasse Dufferin, Albert Camus

#### « Il me semble que j'aurais quelque chose à dire sur Québec<sup>12</sup> » ("It seems to me that I'd have something to say about Québec City")

In the aftermath of the Second World War, in May 1946, the writer and philosopher Albert Camus (1913-1960) visited the American East Coast. Unimpressed by New York City, the author of *The Outsider*<sup>13</sup> (1942) and *The Plague*<sup>14</sup> (1947) made a detour to Montréal and Québec City, attracted by their French-speaking dimension. This Frenchman of Algerian descent was particularly sensitive to our capital's colonial past.



### ▲ Ondinnok

#### Porteur des peines du monde (1987)

Founded in 1985, Ondinnok is the first Indigenous French-language theater company in Canada. Its first creation, *Porteur des peines du monde*, was presented at the Festival d'été de Québec (1987), attracting some 1,200 spectators each evening on the esplanade of Rue d'Auteuil. In thirty-five years, the troupe has produced more than thirty shows and events, placing itself at the heart of contemporary French-language Indigenous dramatic arts.



### ▲ Université Laval

#### The intellectual heart of the Quartier Latin

From the 1920s to the end of the 1960s, Old Québec enjoyed a strong intellectual vitality, with bookstores and student cafés spreading out in the Quartier Latin around Université Laval - until the latter moved to Sainte-Foy. The Faculty of Arts (1937), founded by Mgr Camille Roy, laid the first foundations for a modern scientific reflection on national literary history.



### ● Nuit blanche and Les libraires magazines

#### Carrying the voice of books

Rue Saint-Jean has been home to two important literary magazines: *Nuit blanche* (1982) and *Les libraires* (1998), whose influence has reached far beyond the city walls. Both magazines have promoted Québec and foreign literature throughout the province of Quebec, as well as in a large part of the French-speaking world.



### ★ Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec

#### Preserving the nation's books

The Bibliothèque de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec contains over 2 million documents, including 500 first editions of Québec literary works from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. One of its jewels is the collection of former Premier Pierre-Joseph-Olivier Chauveau: classified as a "heritage document" by the Gouvernement du Québec, it includes valuable editions by European printers of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, as well as some of the earliest Canadian and Québécois prints.



### ▲ L'Îlot des Palais

#### The first public archives

Most of the books and documents from New France came from the private archives of religious communities. The first public archives of the colony were set up in 1733 in the vaults of the Palais by Intendant Gilles Hocquart (1729-1748), who ensured the preservation of a very rich collection of public and civil documents from the French regime.



### ◆ Monastère des Augustines

#### A passion for people

The 2,800 manuscripts and printed documents in this library, dating from 1601 to 1900, illustrate the insatiable curiosity of the Augustine nuns, who were passionate about religion, medicine, botany, history, geography, music and even cooking. *Les Annales de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Québec (1636-1716), a retrospective history of the community*<sup>15</sup>, was written by Jeanne-Françoise Juchereau (Soeur Saint-Ignace, 1650-1723). This work is considered the first book written by a woman born in Canada.



### ■ Pantoute

#### Fifty years of "biblio-frenzy"

Over the years, Pantoute is where several generations of passionate booksellers have hosted book launches, talks, book signings and literary broadcasts. Its collection of some 45,000 books makes it THE reference for all of Quebec, when it comes to everything - from Quebec and foreign literature, to youth literature or comic books. Since 2014, the bookstore has been owned by its employees.



### ★ Pôle Culturel du Monastère des Ursulines

#### Marie Guyart, one of New France's great letter writers

Marie Guyart (1599-1672), known as Marie de l'Incarnation, was an extremely prolific writer in New France: she wrote some 13,000 letters during her lifetime as well as her autobiography, dictionaries and spiritual treatises. She opened the first school for girls in North America by founding the Monastère des Ursulines in Québec City, which has been dedicated to education for nearly four centuries.



### ▲ Première Issue comic shop

#### The treasure chest for comic strip geeks

For over 35 years, Première Issue has dedicated its vast inventory to the American comic book and other English-language comic strips. A magical universe full of thousands of treasures revealing the creativity of international artists, the bookstore is a depository for divergent publications, micro-publishing and Québec's alternative comic strip. It is an Ali Baba's cave for fans of the ninth art.