



# QLF NEWS AND NOTES

## Highlights from Summer 2018



Harrington Harbour, Québec



### Returning to the “Coast”

In July of 2018, QLF board member Jo-Ann (Stanwood) Watson joined Senior Consultant Dr. Kathleen (Kath) Blanchard on a return visit to Harrington Harbour, Quebec Lower North Shore – her first visit since the mid-1980s. You can imagine the happy reunions, as Jo-Ann was met with the same warmth and hospitality that she had experienced as a QLF Swim Instructor and Area Coordinator more than three decades earlier. Her reunion with Amy Evans, who had hosted Jo-Ann, was especially heartwarming. Harrington Harbour is where QLF began.



Christ Church



Amy Evans (left) with Jo-Ann Watson at Amy's home in Harrington Harbour



Jo-Ann Watson was pleased that the community has continued its swimming instruction program and maintained the community pool for decades—an example of solid community commitment. For fishing families, knowing how to swim even a stroke or two could be essential for survival.



Bobby Orr traveled with QLF Founder Bob Bryan and Jo-Ann Watson to Harrington Harbour in the early 1980s, giving hockey clinics in a number of coastal communities.



Former QLF Canada Board Members Sharon Chubbs-Ransom and Jim Ransom at their home in Harrington Harbour

## St. Mary's Island Forty Years Later

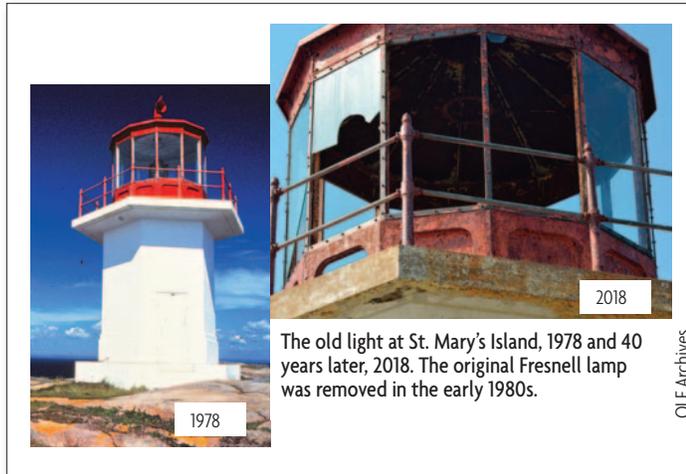
Kath Blanchard interviewed residents of Harrington Harbour and now is making plans for a renewed seabird conservation program that will help ensure the long-term sustainability of Quebec Lower North Shore seabird populations. Timing is critical as news broke recently that the last remaining federal migratory bird officer position would be transferred off the Coast. There has been an outpouring of concern from local residents, supporting the call for new conservation efforts.

With the help of Wayne Foreman, son of former lightkeeper Gordon Foreman, Kath Blanchard traveled to St. Mary's Island to observe the seabird colonies and assess the condition of buildings. The fog lifted just as they anchored in

the same cove where boatloads of children and QLF Intern instructors had landed each summer over two decades. The interpretive panel, created in the 1990's by QLF staff and Interns, which describes the sanctuary, was in good shape. The



Kath Blanchard, who directed QLF's seabird conservation programs for many years, observing birds in late July with Claire Foreman, the granddaughter of former lightkeeper Gordon Foreman, at the main Atlantic Puffin colony at St. Mary's Island seabird sanctuary.



The old light at St. Mary's Island, 1978 and 40 years later, 2018. The original Fresnell lamp was removed in the early 1980s.



Kath Blanchard introduces a puffin to Harrington Harbour youth, St. Mary's Island, 1978

walking to the main puffin colony, thanks to a lengthy boardwalk, still in excellent condition. It had been constructed in the late 1990's by local residents and QLF Interns under the direction of QLF's Gregor Beck.

climb to the hilltop revealed severe deterioration of the light station buildings and lighthouse. The sanctuary was alive with birds, from Red-throated Loons to Razorbills, burrowing puffins, and dense colonies of Common Murres! It was easy



The boardwalk leading to the main puffin colony



A Razorbill, locally referred to as a Tinker

# Elsewhere in the Region ...

## Bonne Espérance, Québec

Meanwhile, to the east, at St. Paul's River, QLF Interns were working with officers of the Whiteley Museum and teachers at the local school to create a play using the traditional phrases and vernacular



Garland Nadeau, Vice President of the Whiteley Museum, giving an overview of the maritime history of Bonne Espérance to QLF Interns.

names of birds. *Return of Dreambird* perhaps? *Dreambird* was a play about seabirds, written by QLF Alumna Louise Labarre and performed in Quebec North Shore communities during the 1980's.

At Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon, the bays were exploding with marine life as the capelin spawned on the beaches for the first time in years, an optimistic sign. QLF hopes to work with local partners on a new



Humpback whales have returned in good numbers to the Strait of Belle Isle. Here they feed on capelin close to shore in Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon.



Capelin, a forage fish is important to many marine species.



The populations of Common Murre and Razorbill have increased greatly at Perroquets Island near Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon.

commemorative sign dedicated to the memory of QLF intern Josh Nove (1973 - 1997), at the entrance to the trail to the observation platform overlooking Perroquets Island.

## Newfoundland & Labrador

Interns had an action-packed summer teaching environmental education on the Northern Peninsula and at Point Amour on the Labrador side of the Straits. Thanks to the generosity of Barb Genge, owner of Tuckamore Lodge in Main Brook, Interns were comfortably housed at a renovated ski hut. From there they traveled to schools, taking part in community events from Port Saunders to St. Anthony, Newfoundland, giving 13 workshops on birds, marine species, Atlantic salmon, composting, and climate change to over 300 youth. When not teaching, the Interns monitored seabirds and whales in the Strait of Belle Isle and learned fly-tying skills

from Hans van Klinken, internationally recognized author and angler, that they later taught to young people. They also joined Kath looking for rare bird species. A highly motivated and energetic team!



Ina van Klinken



QLF Interns giving a presentation at the Canon Richards Memorial Academy, Flowers Cove, Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, June 2018



QLF Interns depart with Kath Blanchard to monitor nesting birds in Hare Bay, Newfoundland Great Northern Peninsula, June 2018. Pictured (L to R) are Quinn Parker, Thierry Grandmont, Élise Gagnon-Lalonde, Victoria Thelamon, and Heather Grant McLoughlin



Quinn Parker, 2018 graduate of Princeton University, and QLF teammates conducted beach clean-ups to reduce the threat of entanglement and ingestion of plastic bait box liners and household waste on marine mammals, sea turtles, and other marine life, Port au Choix, Newfoundland



Common Eiders, Hare Bay, Great Northern Peninsula, Newfoundland, June 2018

## Message from QLF's President

In 2021 QLF celebrates its 60th Anniversary! Such long-term presence in a region gives QLF standing as well as the ability to assess program impact. Such is the case in Harrington Harbour, where young parents who were taught water safety in the 1970's and 1980's or attended the St Mary's Island seabird conservation program are now assuming leadership positions in their home communities. I am certain that hundreds of QLF Alumni will recall how families embraced them as "come from aways." QLF Alumni have never forgotten the warm and caring welcome they received. A good example is the

story of the late Charlie Collier and his summer in the Straits. He never forgot the experience; it influenced his entire life. The bond between QLF and local communities is one of the pillars that sustains us to this day. In 2019 we will renew some old programs like St. Mary's and create some new ones. A winning formula.



QLF Archives

Elizabeth Alling  
November 2018

In Memory of  
Charles Whitney Collier  
July 24, 1948 – August 2, 2018

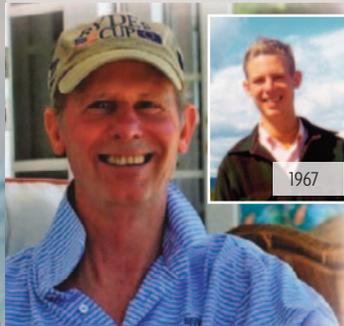


Photo courtesy of the Collier family

QLF Board of Directors  
Community Service Program  
Alumnus, 1967 & 1968



Photo by Larry Morris

The Montreal office has a new manager: Emily McIntosh (R). Emily has been trained by outgoing manager Mégane Déziel.

 **Mark your calendars**

**QLF Reception New York**  
**Monday, 19 November 2018**  
**w/ Adventure Canada Presentation**

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Courtesy of Adventure Canada

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