

Nepal fundraising event...a huge success!

On Saturday March 18, 2017 a fundraiser was held at the Abiti-Price Pavillion at Laval University. The activity was jointly organized by Mission Nepal, a group of students from the forestry department, and Collaboration Québec Népal (CQN). About 120 people attended

the event and got to enjoy a typical Nepali meal, lovingly prepared by a team of Nepalese living in Quebec City, from ingredients graciously donated by the activity's sponsors. A silent auction was held during the evening in which guests could bid on over forty items: objects from Nepal, baskets and gift certificates from a variety of businesses and restaurants, tickets for shows, jewelry, books, photos and a painting by a professional artist. Thanks to the quality of the items offered and the festive atmosphere, guests playfully outbid each other, generating substantial benefits.



Dancing is part of all Nepalese festivities



A warm namasté awaited participants at the Nepal benefit evening

towards funding a trip to Nepal in May 2017 by 20 students from the forestry department. CQN's share will go towards a potable water project.

Both organisers and guests fully agreed that the evening was a huge success! Without the generous support of our partners who graciously offered various food items and different articles for the silent auction, this fundraiser would not have been possible.



A silent auction was held during the evening

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all our donors!

The list of sponsors for this event can be seen on our website: www.collaboration-quebec-nepal.org. *



Lyse Ferland

A Word from the President - Michèle Legault



To know them is to love them.

If I continue to enjoy working with CQN to help villages in Nepal, it is definitely because I love the Nepalese people. And many people who have travelled to this country share the same feeling. During our first Nepalese evening, which took place last March in Quebec City, we wanted to share a bit of this culture with others. Here are a few examples.

You are always welcomed with a lovely *Namasté* or else *Sanchai, kasto chha'm*, meaning 'How are you?'. But in the villages, one sometimes hears 'Have you eaten today?' because of course, if you've eaten, all is well.

Nepalese tea, made with black tea, sweetened milk and spices, is their favorite drink and is offered to visitors. This treat always tastes a bit different from one place to the next.

Daal bhat, a national dish if there ever was one, made of lentils and rice with a spicy little sauce, is served with vegetables and with meat on special occasions. Many Nepalese eat twice a day. If they could eat twice as much daal bhat, they would be very happy, believe me.

Music and dance are also part of happy gatherings: weddings, the New Year, festivals, school activities...there are numerous opportunities to celebrate in Nepal.

Unfortunately, poverty makes life very difficult for many, but the culture and traditional values are passed on at all levels of society. And, to be able to work together, it always helps to know each other better. ✱



CQN - 2017 Annual General Meeting

You are invited to participate in Collaboration Québec Népal's **2017 Annual General Meeting**, which will be held **Sunday, May 28, 2017 at 10:00 am** at **Laval University - Pavillion PEPS- Room 2878, 2nd Floor**

Come and learn about the work accomplished in 2016, hear about plans for 2017 and take part in the election of administrators.

Candidates and volunteers wanted

Elections for a position on CQN's board of directors will be held during the AGM. This involves a two-year mandate and bi-monthly meetings. If you are interested and have a particular skill such as marketing, accounting, fundraising, administration or other experience that could help us in our work, don't hesitate to contact us:

quebnep@gmail.com

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How to make Nepalese tea

1 cup of water
1 cup of milk
2 teabags of black tea
2 cloves
2 pods of cardomom
1-inch piece of ginger
2 to 4 tsp of sugar or to taste
Mix all ingredients. Simmer, not boil, them for 10-12 minutes.
Filter and enjoy!



Pratima Rijal serving Nepalese tea during the benefit evening

Ongoing projects

Water supply project for Badaore Primary School

The objective is to build a reservoir tank with a multi-tap tapstand, and to connect it to the village's intake tank with a 350m pipeline. Around 75 students attend this school with a staff of six teachers. It is one of the more active schools in the area and has an excellent management committee. Presently, the school gets its water from a pipe connected to the village reservoir tank.



Water reservoir tank

Cost: \$3,500

Training - Sewing, level 1 (2017)



During this course, women learn how to make different items of clothing while learning basic sewing techniques. Since the Community Centre (where the courses were given) must be

rebuilt, the training will be given at the sewing instructor's home, where the sewing machines and sewing materials have been moved.

Cost: \$1,280

Toolboxes for WUG and school peons

The objective of this project is to provide nine groups that took the Water User Group training in 2015 with basic tools so that they can maintain and repair their potable water systems.

Cost: \$1,600
(approximately 178\$ / box)



Tool boxes for plumbing maintenance

Projets to finance

Toilet project for Sikhar Ambote VDC

Construction of 674 toilets in the Sikhar Ambote VDC (Village Development Committee, which includes nine villages) over a three-year period. This project is co-funded by CQN and the VDC (Nepalese government) with the VDC and CQN each covering 50% of the subsidy given to the villagers. A total of 140 toilets are slated to be built during the first year.



A personal touch is given to toilets

Cost: \$65 per toilet

Reconstruction of the Community Centre



Storage for items from the Community Centre awaiting its reconstruction

The Community Centre is central to our work in Nepal. Unfortunately it was badly damaged during the earthquakes and was declared « to be demolished » by government engineers. We would like to reconstruct it as quickly as possible following the earthquake resistant standards set out by the Nepali government. Great care was taken during the demolition and all materials that are in good condition (doors, windows, roofing etc) will be reused during reconstruction.

Cost: \$30,000

We are currently working on a number of potable water projects. ✱



Anna Van Ermengen

Post-earthquake reconstruction - Who does what?

How do you choose what kind of help you can offer in situations where the needs are so great? This is the question that members of CQN and their Nepalese partners asked themselves after visiting the area following the two earthquakes in 2015.

Emergency aid includes health care, food, shelter and blankets. Then comes help for reconstruction, which can continue over many years. Roads, houses, schools, potable water... the list is long and everything is expensive.

A good understanding of the situation and of 'who does what' is needed before making choices. What does the government want to do? What's most urgent, most helpful and most doable?

Local NGOs are the best placed to understand the needs, but also the poorest. No one affected has insurance or money in the bank. For a small NGO, building one house after another with a limited budget would take too long and would generate unfairness. Who would get chosen? In the end, only a few people would get help. The Nepalese government ended up presenting its policy on the reconstruction of houses and, in 2017, the long-awaited help slowly began arriving for housing.

NGOs such as ours work to help schools, re-establish water fountains and rebuild community areas because these are helpful for everyone.



Demolition of the Community Centre and recycling building materials

The government concentrates on individual houses. We have to say 'no' more often than 'yes' and choose our priorities.

In the region where we work, CQN has chosen to prioritize the return to school for the largest number of children possible, which implies repairing school

roofs as well as supplying paper and pencils. The Community Centre is another of our priorities, since it is a key location for offering a number of services.

Finally, one of our main targets is access to potable water. Because the earthquakes modified underground hydrology, a number of potable water sources dried up. The impact of the lack of potable water is often misunderstood, but on a daily basis, this is the hardest thing to live with for thousands of people. In fact, since each family member must spend four hours a day transporting water, it is very demanding.

During the next few months, you will learn about projects that are slowly taking form, both reconstruction and other development projects such as toilets, always in great demand. Life goes on ... *

Michèle Legault

Make a donation to CQN and contribute to accomplishing our mission in Nepal

Clicking on the CanadaHelps button on our website will allow you to make a secure online donation to Collaboration Quebec Nepal and immediately receive a receipt for any donation. Learn more about CanadaHelps on their website: www.canadahelps.org



You can also make a donation by sending a check to the address below. Thank you for your generosity!

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For more information about our projects, our policies and our work, consult our web site:

www.collaboration-quebec-nepal.org