

MLUWC

MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB

Newsletter, December 2022

Volume 66, Issue 4

Celebrating 65 years of Friendship, Advocacy and Education

**General Meeting
Monday,
December 5**

In person

**7-9 p.m.
Cedar Park United Church**

**Please bring a donation
of non-perishable food
for a local food bank**



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I write this, it is late November and snow is on the ground. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! 🎄

Apart from our own celebrations with family and friends, we have our Club Christmas Party to look forward to. Unlike last year, there will be **no cost** for our members. The Executive has kindly offered to provide the sweets for this event. In addition to the usual coffee and tea, we will be serving mulled wine with the wine left over from the kick-off in September. We have also organized entertainment – so this will surely be a festive event.

A party is difficult to stream so please note that the Christmas Party on December 5th will be **in person only** and not available on Zoom. In order that the Executive know how much to prepare, you will be required to register for this event.

Our Christmas Charity this year will be our very own Scholarship Fund. As you are aware, Fundraising events have had to be cancelled due to low enrollment. While the Scholarship Fund still has money in the bank, we always try to raise enough each year to cover our outlay of scholarships, so that we don't erode our capital. We will have a table at the Christmas party to collect any money you may wish to donate.

We have all seen the sad news out of Iran and the subsequent protests around the world. To help us better understand the situation, our Advocacy Committee will be organizing a Zoom meeting on December 8th at 7 pm. Our speaker will be Iranian-Canadian human rights activist, author and public speaker Nazanin Afshin-Jam. Mark your calendars as more information will be shared shortly.

Our Potluck Day is January 16th. There will be on-line events via Zoom as well as in-person events. So far, we have three people who have signed up to host cocktails from 5-7 pm but we could definitely use more hostesses.

Wishing you all a happy holiday!

Jane Cowell

PROGRAM

Monday, December 5, 2022
General Meeting

The Montreal Lakeshore University Women's Club will gather soon for its annual holiday celebration.....It's time to celebrate— this time in-person only!

WHEN: Monday, December 5, 2022, at 7 pm.

LOCATION: Cedar Park United Church, 204 Lakeview, Pointe Claire

WHAT TO BRING: Non-perishable food for donation to a local food bank; gift cards from larger stores for CARE Jeunesse; donations for the Club's scholarship fund (no gift baskets will be raffled off this year, so our scholarships are dependent on your generosity).

ENTERTAINMENT/FOOD: The **Sweet Adelines** will perform, and your executive board will provide sweet and savory treats, along with a mulled wine punch. Guests are welcome.

Note: Parking is available in the church lot and on the south side of the street. Winter parking rules are now in effect, so parking is not allowed on the north side of the street. The sanctuary is also being used that evening so parking may be somewhat difficult. Carpooling is recommended. **This meeting will not be hybrid—that is, no zoom!**

Even though this is an in-person event, you must register in advance so we will have enough food.

To register please click on the blue **Sign Up** button below. This will take you to a form where you will be required to enter your email address, your name and the number of people in your party.



(CTRL-click)

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE.

Are you interested in current events, the environment, and social causes? Are you available for about four Zoom meetings between September and May? If you answered yes to these questions, then the MLUWC needs you!

Our CFUW Quebec Council has an Advocacy Committee that writes letters and organizes petitions to the provincial government on topical issues. Every club has a representative on this committee. Since its inception, Linda Sestock has represented the MLUWC. However due to her new responsibilities as VP Quebec on the CFUW National Board and as a member of their Human Resources Committee, she has had to resign. We need to find a replacement ASAP. Please contact me at jane.cowell.poitras@sympatico.ca if you are interested.



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POTLUCK EVENTS

Dear Ladies of MLUWC

As we approach this busy holiday season, we wish to remind you that time is running out for us to set up our "in-person" January 16th, 2023, Potluck events.

Currently we have only a few signups. A few ladies have generously offered to host 5-7pm events. Some persons are interested in attending a lunch event, but no-one has offered to host one yet.

If you are willing to host lunch/brunch, dinner or another type of event please let us know asap.

Sign-up sheets will be available for "in-person" events at our upcoming MLUWC Christmas party on December 5th at Cedar Park United Church.

You also have a 2nd option instead of "in-person", you can participate "on-line" on January 16th.

There will be 2- Zoom events

Set-up : 11:30 am & 6:30 pm. An invitation will be sent out by our Zoom coordinator at the appropriate time.

You can sign-up for either morning or evening zoom meetings or for both if you wish. According to the number of persons participating on-line there will be a division of the total into « rooms » of 5 or 6 persons.

In-person events will be limited to 6- 8 people per event. If we don't have sufficient numbers, we will have to combine the events.

We hope to hear from you soon.

For further information you can contact one of us.

Carole Newberry at 514-697-3380 carolevin2013@gmail.com or
Suzanne chaussé at 514-426-0014 suzanne.chausse1@gmail.com
Co-chairs potluck event



NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Once again, it's time to begin the process of selecting the slate of officers for the year 2022 -2023. The following extract from the MLUWC Constitution and By-Laws outlines the steps to be followed:

ARTICLE VIII - Nominations and Elections

1. Elections - Officers and Chairs of committees shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Ballots shall be used if there is more than one candidate for any office.
2. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members chaired by the Past-President; one member shall be appointed by the Executive at their January meeting and three members shall be elected from the membership at the regular meeting in February.
3. Duties of the Nominating Committee - a. Inform the membership of the available positions at the February General Meeting and provide nomination forms. b. Recommend a candidate for each office. Each nominee must be a member in good standing and must signify her consent to stand for election. c. Send each Club member a copy of its recommendations at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting, plus a copy of Article VIII Section 4 of the constitution, explaining the procedure for additional nominations. d. Present the proposed slate of officers to the members at the Annual Meeting.
4. Additional nominations must be made in writing to the Nominating Committee at least five days before the Annual Meeting, but consent must be obtained first from the nominee and accompanied by the signatures of five members.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact me by mid-January. Linda Sestock Nominations committee



Linda Sestock

ADVOCACY

As in previous years, the month of December is when we collect gift cards for C.A.R.E. Jeunesse. We will collect them at the Christmas meeting on Dec. 5 or if you are not attending, you can send them to Nancy Acemian or drop them off at her house. These cards can be from big chain stores, i.e. Walmart, Dollarama, Jean Coutu, etc... Please include the receipt with each card and, if possible, a Christmas card with some encouraging words for the youth. They will be delivered before Christmas. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

We will keep you informed of future projects in the new year.
Wishing you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year.

Patricia Du Val & Mary Vlahos
Advocacy Co-chairs

Please include the sales receipt for the gift card in the envelope.



CFUW NEWS

GWI held its first-ever electronic triennial meeting in November, with many CFUW members participating.

CFUW proposed the following five policy resolutions. All were all passed.

- Violence Against Women in Politics
- Post Pandemic Recovery for Women and Girls
- A Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment is a Human Right
- Climate Emergency – Declarations and Action Plans
- Single Use Plastics and Plastic Packaging

Several CFUW members have also been elected to serve on the GWI Board and committees.

Application for CFUW's Delegation to the 67th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) March 6- 17, 2023

Participating in UNCSW is the primary opportunity for CFUW to contribute to global dialogue regarding the status of women within the United Nations framework. It also provides a platform for meeting with our international partners and an opportunity to influence domestic policy as federal ministers are attending at the session.

The priority theme is *“Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”* The session will also review the agreed conclusions of the sixty-second session, *“Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”*.

This year the sessions at the UN will be **“in person”** with the NGO parallel sessions, **hybrid**.

As a member of CFUW, you can apply to be a member of CFUW's delegation. If you are interested in attending, the link is in the November 11 Club Action Newsletter. The deadline to apply is January 03, 2023.

Patricia DuVal and Mary Vlahos

MLUWC

Standing in solidarity with Iranian Women
Thursday December 8, 2022, 7pm (ET)



Nazanin Afshin-Jam

Iranian-Canadian human
rights activist, author and
public speaker

Zoom event.
Please register online

For More information: @www.mluwc.com

MLUWC
MONTREAL LAKESHORE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB

This is a Zoom event.

To register please click on the blue **Sign Up** below. This will take you to a form where you will be required to enter your email address and your name. The Zoom link will be sent to you the morning of the event.

To register please [click here](#) (ctrl-click)



SHERBROOKE AND DISTRICT

RESOLVED that the Canadian Federation of University Women, Sherbrooke & District urge the government of Canada and Elizabeth Briere, MP for Sherbrooke, to urgently take whatever steps are necessary to allow the Flores/Rodriguez family to be granted temporary residency in Canada.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The family had tried to enter Canada from the United States in 2011 by presenting themselves at a recognized border crossing. Unfortunately, due to the Third Safe Country Agreement between Canada and the U.S., they were not allowed to enter Canada at that time and they returned to Mexico. Had they not gone to an official border crossing and had come across the border at an unofficial border crossing (as many refugees have done and continue to do), they would have been allowed to stay in Canada until their case could be heard. Several organizations (including CFUW and Amnesty International) have tried to have this law repealed. Upon their return to Mexico Ms. Georgina Flores was subjected to several attempts at extortion and forced recruitment to use her restaurant as a site for marketing drugs by a cartel. After she refused, her business was torched in retaliation. As a result, the family returned to Canada directly from Mexico in 2018 fearing for their lives.

A few months later, in 2019, the same cartel attempted to burn alive their daughter Claudia, by setting fire to the house where she resided, after having sequestered her in the bathroom in the company of her young child and her partner. These attempted murders are well documented by the authorities in Mexico. Claudia, her husband, and her young child have since arrived in Canada and are awaiting yet another hearing on their request for temporary residency in Canada.

It is the opinion of CFUW Sherbrooke & District that deporting the family to Mexico would mean sending them to certain death. Between the time of their arrival and the notice of deportation, the family had already integrated well into the Sherbrooke community. The parents, Georgina Flores and Manuel Rodriguez had jobs in a PPD Group factory and were taking French language courses. Their 18-year-old son Manolo was finishing high school at Goéland and worked at a pastry shop, Mr. Puff's. The Rodriguez-Flores family has shown tenacity and perseverance in integrating into Sherbrooke society. Since 2018, having become financially independent, they have contributed to the economic development of our region, paying their taxes and creating a life for themselves in Sherbrooke. Their employers are eager to have them

return. They also have the support of several community organizations including the Knights of Columbus, the United Church of Canada as well as numerous friends, family members and, of course, a committee of members of Plymouth Trinity United Church. They are being represented by Stewart Istvanffy, an immigration lawyer and his fees are being paid by the family.

On November 8, 2021, the family was informed by the Canada Border Services Agency that the request for the postponement of their deportation had been refused. The reason for their deportation is the fact that they are considered to have tried to enter Canada illegally back in 2011 and were refused. They have been living in sanctuary in Plymouth Trinity United Church for the last 11 months.

CFUW Resolutions pertaining to this issue:

Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers – 2018
CFUW Perth and District

RESOLVED, that the Canadian Federation of University Women urgently urges the Federal Government of Canada to provide and expand the resources, training, counselling, and infrastructure to the appropriate municipal, provincial, territorial, and federal entities to ensure an efficient and effective refugee claims system;

RESOLVED, that the Canadian Federation of University Women urges the Federal Government of Canada to **protect the world's most vulnerable by continuing to increase the number of vetted refugees and asylum seekers accepted, settled, and integrated into the country now and onward**, after the measures outlined in resolved clause #1 have been initiated; and

RESOLVED, that the Canadian Federation of University Women urges the Federal Government of Canada to suspend the Canada/United States Safe Third Country Agreement.

Implementation of the Refugee Appeal Division – 2004 CFUW Sherbrooke & District

RESOLVED that the Canadian Federation of University Women urge the government of Canada to implement without further delay the provisions of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPQ) enacted in 2001 calling for the establishment of the Refugee Appeals Division (RAD) scheduled to come into effect by June 28, 2002 and, which to date have not been implemented.

(This resolution was the result of CFUW Sherbrooke & District's support of a family from Columbia who were in sanctuary in a church in North Hatley)

WINTER COAT DRIVE 2022

Feel the Cold, Share the Warmth

The Advocacy Committee has organized a winter coat drive for the last two years to benefit a women's shelter downtown. This year the committee reached out to a local school to organize the drive. This project allows the students to develop their organizational, marketing and leadership skills. It also supports the Entrepreneurial Program by the Ministry of Education. The program encourages students of all ages to reach out to their community to develop innovative projects. On Monday, November 14, student representatives from Clearpoint Elementary school came to our general meeting to talk about the coat drive. It was such an honour to meet these future leaders (who just happened to be all girls). Since the microphone was not working very well their speeches have been reprinted here. The students asked our members to vote on the name of the project. : **"Feel the Cold, Share the Warmth"** was chosen.

We thank Mr. Estock, principal of Clearpoint Elementary and Mis. Della Graham, educator for the success of the project. We also thank the parents who arranged transportation to the meeting. The campaign is now complete and a whole carload of winter clothing will be delivered to the shelter this week.

WHAT WE'RE DOING (Beckett)

Good evening, my name is Beckett. We have divided our speech here, today, into four parts: What we're doing, What We're Working On, Our Goal, and How to Spread Our Ideas. I am here to talk to you about the first section of our speech, which is **What We're Doing** currently, for this project. This starts with broadcasting our message. To let the school know what we're doing, we've:

- Made a series of announcements over the loudspeaker to each classroom.
- Presentations made to the 6th, 5th, and 4th graders.
- To advertise, we've put up posters all around the school, including the hallways downstairs, and on the staircases where the seniors come in every recess.

We also have boxes in the center of the upstairs hallway, at the dance room, and downstairs at the principal's office. We've already collected a nice number of coats. I'm really proud that so many students in our school took initiative to help people who **really** need help. Now, with that, Silen can start her part of the presentation.

WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON (SILEN)

Hi my name is Silen and I wanted to tell you what we're working on. I am one of the grade 6 students who is working on an Entrepreneurial project for the homeless. As we can see we have a lot of grade 6 girls that volunteered. We got a lot of donations for the homeless. Since Covid started a lot of people have lost their jobs and now are on the streets. We loved that you thought of this idea. Now that we got donations for the homeless, I know they are not going to freeze. We worked with the school and told them about our project. Every Monday after last recess we made announcements to the school. A lot of people cared to bring winter suits for the homeless. So, we are deciding on a name for our group and a slogan. All the girls who volunteered to participate in this project have decided on a few names for what to call this project. Most of us loved name number 1,2 and the last one. What do you guys think? We really need names can you help us decide on one now. I am going to let miss Zofia say her part of the presentation.

OUR GOAL (Zofia)

Hi my name is Zofia and I wanted to speak to you about the third part of our speech which is our goal. Our goal is to collect a lot of winter clothes and donate them to the homeless. We really like doing this project with you to improve the lives over this winter. We think this is an awesome project and we would like to do this kind of project again. Thank you for listening and thank you for letting us come speak to you. We really appreciate it. I also want to thank Miss Della for letting us do this.

HOW TO SPREAD OUR IDEAS (Jayla)

Hi, I'm Jayla, and I am going to be talking to you about how to spread our ideas past school. I am going to be putting posters around my neighborhood and in my apartment building, along with some boxes to put the winter stuff in. Thank you for your attention any questions?

-



**Maria De Wolfe,
Advocacy Committee**

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The scholarship committee is kicking off the campaign for the 2023-2024 scholarships and bursaries. Publicity posters will soon be posted to MLUWC social media sites and have been sent to universities and local public libraries.

We no longer distribute paper posters because most students find out about our scholarships through websites or through friends and family. We would appreciate your help in getting the word out. You can help do this by sharing information about our scholarships & bursaries with students you know, with the organisations you frequent, (church, gym, social groups) and by posting about it on your social media accounts. Eligibility criteria and the application form can be found on the MLUWC website, mluwc.com.

Kathleen McGrath
Chairperson, Scholarship Fund

Applications must be postmarked no later than February 24, 2023



Member of the Canadian Federation of University Women

MLUWC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship Fund 2022-2023

The thermometer to the right of this article shows that over \$2000 was received from June 1 to October 31. Thank you so very much to all of you for your generosity.

The Fundraising Committee had organized a Games Day for November but unfortunately, that had to be cancelled. Those who had already paid for the Day very kindly donated the money to the Fund. Therefore, the Fund received \$225.

At the general meeting on November 14, over \$175 was raised through the half-half raffle plus two donation cheques were received.

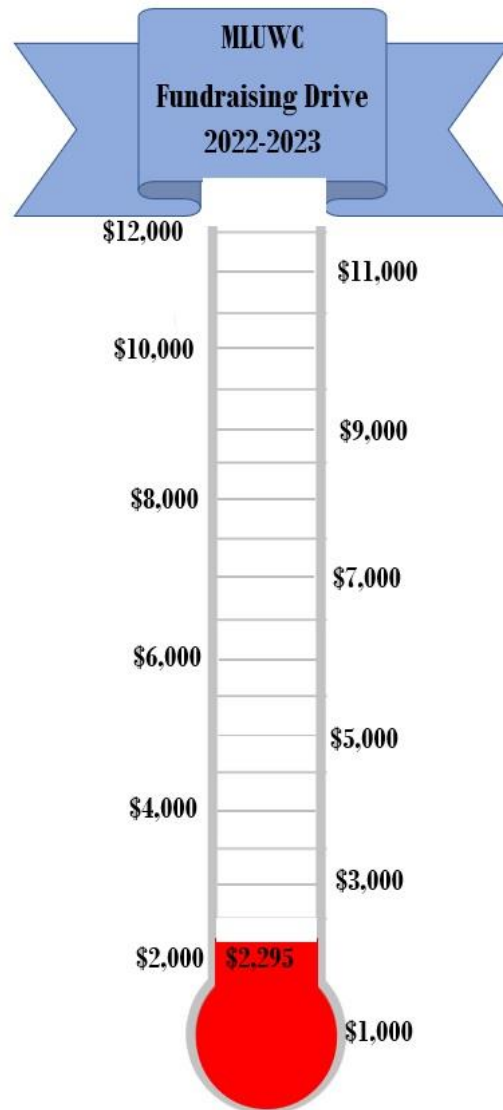
I would like to acknowledge a very generous donation of \$500 from a long-time member in honour of her mother.

These three amounts are not part of the \$2295 shown on the thermometer. But will be displayed on the thermometer in next month's newsletter.

It is this type of support from you, our members, that will finance four bursaries to the LBPSB Place Cartier Adult Education Centre and CSSMB Centre d'Éducation des adulte Jeanne Sauvé.

Donating to the MLUWC Scholarship Fund can be done at any time. Credit card donations are accepted online through canadahelps.org. If you prefer, you can write a cheque payable to MLUWC Scholarship Fund and send it to P.O. Box 383, Pointe-Claire, QC H9R 4P3. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$25 and more..

Gilda Martinello
Chair, MLUWC Scholarship Fund



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



As most of you are aware, we regrettably had to cancel Games Day. However, I would be amiss if I did not acknowledge those who purchased tickets and subsequently donated the money to the Scholarship Fund. A special thank you as well is extended to several members who made extremely generous donations over the course of this past month and finally to those who supported the raffle at the last General Meeting. Your combined efforts secured the equivalent of approximately several \$200 bursaries. Congratulations!

We will continue to conduct the Scholarship Fundraising Drive which began in September and will continue until April 2023. In that the interest groups will not be collecting the normal contribution towards the holiday raffle gift basket this year, you may wish to consider a small contribution towards the Scholarship Fund instead.

Credit card donations are accepted online through www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/10093 or with a cheque payable to; MLUWC Scholarship Fund and sent to P.O. Box 383, Pointe-Claire, QC H9R 4P3.

Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$25 or more.

A Fundraising Dinner is planned for Wednesday, April 19, 2023 to commemorate the Club's 65 th anniversary at the Enoteca Monza Restaurant on Blvd. Saint-Jean in D.D.O. Details will follow.

Members of the Fundraising Committee are; Anne Brohan, Sally Gurekian, Carole Newberry and Mary Vlahos. Should any MLUWC member wish to join our committee, you would be most welcome.

Victoria Pinnell
Fundraising Chair (vpinnell@gmail.com)

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Donation Form

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

Charity Registration Number 85457 5289 RR0001

Personal donation

☐

Company donation

☐

For: In Memory

☐

or In Honour

☐

In Memory/In Honour

☐

Please complete the following:

Honouree Name: _____

I enclose my donation of \$ _____

Notification Information:

Please make cheque payable to **MLUWC Scholarship Fund**.

Name: _____

Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$25.00 and more.

Address: _____

Donor Name: _____

City/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Address: _____

City/Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Email: _____

Send to:

MLUWC Scholarship Fund

P.O. Box 383, Pointe-Claire,
QC H9R 4P3

You can also make secure online donations using your credit card through CanadaHelps.org.

Visit mluwc.com and click on: Donate to the Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for your support!

INTEREST GROUPS

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

We will not have a zoom meeting in December but please be ready for a special presentation on January 24 . Gilda Martinello will show us her wonderful pictures of Africa which she took on her recent safari with three other members of our club.

We get together at 7:00 for chat and business and begin our “ travel” at 7:30pm.
Merry Christmas from Armchair Travel!

Joyce Schaaf

BOOK DISCUSSION I

At our meeting, December 14 at 1:00p.m.we will explore the life , and mystery fiction of Agatha Christie . The book chosen, is “ **The Mystery of Mrs. Christie** “ by Marie Benedict. .Weather permitting , we will gather in Marg’s apartment . More information to follow closer to the date.



Marg Nicoll-Griffith and Judy Kelley

BOOK DISCUSSION II

We will meet on Thursday, December 15 at 1:00p.m. via Zoom. Joan Dyer will be reviewing the book Clementine: “**The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill**” by Sonia Purnell.

Susan Pick Vadivel

COFFEE TIME

Welcome to **Coffee Time** on Wednesdays at 10:30a.m. via Zoom. No reservations required. This is a group that formed last year when we were in lockdown to keep in touch on a weekly basis. I must admit I didn't expect it to still be going on. So, we decided to make it an official Interest Group for the coming year. A topic of conversation is suggested for each week in the invite sent out on the Monday or Tuesday before. It is a chit chat group where we share laughs and opinions from the comfort of our homes. Hope to see some new faces. All are welcomed!



Nancy Acemian, Coffee Time Coordinator and MC

DINNER CLUB

This month we had a lovely dinner at **La Serenata Restaurant in D.D.O.** with an excellent turnout of 14 ladies.

If you would like to be a part of the dinner club, please do not hesitate to contact Sally or Victoria. It is a super group of ladies, and you are guaranteed to have a delightful evening! We tend to average between 12 and 20 diners an evening.

There is no dinner scheduled for December but a dinner or luncheon is scheduled for January 26, perhaps with a Robbie Burns theme. **We would appreciate two volunteers to help organize this outing.** Please e-mail us if you are willing to help.

Sally Gurekian (shgmontreal@gmail.com)

Victoria Pinnell (vpinnell@gmail.com)



Dinner at La Serenata

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION I

Members will be meeting in person at Marilyn Flaherty's place on Tuesday evening, December 6. Our selected book for discussion is "**Still Life**" by Sarah Winman. Look forward to seeing everyone there, before the Christmas rush.

Linda Ricketts

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION II

We are reading the book "**The Beekeeper's Daughter**" by Santa Montefiore. We will be meeting on December 29 at 1:30 p.m. at an undetermined location for coffee and cake. Happy holidays and happy reading to everyone.

Luhan Wabbeh and Diane Gibb

FRENCH CONVERSATION

French Conversation meets on Zoom at 9:30a.m. on Friday December 16.

Janet Anderson

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Our meeting in December will be held on Wednesday, 14th. Sandy Parek will review "**Murder in Old Bombay**" by Nev March. Our meeting will be held on Zoom.

Gilda Martinello

WEST ISLAND WALKS - MONDAY MORNINGS

Meeting Mondays at 10 a.m., the West Island Walkers have walked in Angell Woods, the Pointe-Claire and Beaconsfield waterfronts, Baie D'Urfé, Ste-Anne de Bellevue and Ste-Geneviève over the last few Mondays. Not everyone shows up every week, but those in attendance have a good walk and very interesting conversations. Consider putting your name on the mailing list by contacting Jane at jane.cowell.poitras@sympatico.ca.

Jane Cowell-Poitras



We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of

Pamela Deans who passed away on November 5, 2022

[Pamela DEANS | Obituary | Montreal Gazette \(remembering.ca\)](#) (CTRL click)

We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of

Sheila Parkins who passed away on November 25, 2022

<https://mountroyalcem.permavita.com/site/SheilaParkins.html?s=40> (CTRL click)



On this page, we announce activities that are going on in the community, e.g., breakfasts, concerts, etc. as well as other topics that may be of interest to our members but are not directly associated with our Club, e.g., commissioner of oaths. If you have any items you would like published on this page, please email the information to m (mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com).



MONTREAL COUNCIL
OF WOMEN
CONSEIL DES FEMMES
DE MONTRÉAL

Dear MCW and PCWQ Members and Friends,

There are movements afoot to amend the Official Languages Act. Changes to **BILL C-13** could impact the future of official bilingualism. Doing so would have direct implications for English-speaking Quebecers in particular, as well as, other communities across the country.

The Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) has shared an open letter to LaSalle—Émard—Verdun MP **David Lametti**, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. The QCGN urges Parliamentarians to remove all references to the Charter of the French Language in the federal government's **Bill C-13**. The letter also calls on the Government of Canada to ensure that all language rights created by Parliament are extended to both official languages – English and French.

MCW and PCWQ members are urged to read the [open letter](#) (CTRL click) and then make their own decision as to whether to sign or not. If choosing to sign- please use this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhdxFbAk7LCM4U9-v1cLA1MsmB3iPqlqolxQtLfNeu_sXqsQ/viewform. (CTRL click)

For more information, members are also advised to review the [press release](#) (CTRL click) issued by the QCGN.

Please also note that the government has signaled that it wants to have Bill C-13 adopted by the House of Commons before the end of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Rankin- MCW VP Gov Affairs

Maria Peluso- PCWQ VP Gov Affairs

cc Linda Sepone- MCW President

Jane Cowell Poitras- PCWQ President

CFUW ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

CELEBRATING A GREENER CHRISTMAS

1. The **importance of family and friends**. Some of us are connecting with loved ones more often via zoom than we ever did before COVID;

2. How much **we need nature** - many folks enjoy the beautiful outdoor trails and waterfront parks. Nature has saved us and is worth fighting for!

3. The **interdependence and interconnectedness of everyone** on this planet. It's been encouraging how well Halton residents have adapted to mask-wearing. We have been taking care of each other. Climate change is another global challenge. Let's hope we can mobilize and put more energy into preparing for the upcoming challenges;

4. For those unfortunate people who have lost loved ones, COVID has shown the **importance of cherishing and appreciating our loved ones**;

5. How much stuff we own! So many have used the lockdown to sort through closets only discover that **we all have TOO MUCH STUFF!**

With this in mind, the chart at right shared by Pat McKee last year offers suggestions for a green holiday season.

- Create a scrapbook of happy memories for ones you love.



- Try newspaper wrapping paper with articles that your loved one would enjoy!
- Consider giving eco-friendly products with no packaging from companies such as The Kind Matter Company on Keer St. and in Milton or EcoPhilosophy on Bronte Road.

Enjoy the beauty of nature during this magical winter solstice and focus on what really matters.

Source: <https://ethicalmag.org/2012/11/21/buy-nothing-day-nov-27-2012/>

THE GREEN GRAPEVINE Beth Junkins

Gift giving season is fast approaching and if you are still thinking about what to get for friends and families, you might consider gifts that encourage consuming less, giving fewer “things”. The Environmental Action Group has put together a long list of ideas! While each person is in a different situation, we hope that there may be a suggestion or two that will work for you or inspire you with other ideas!

Gift certificates are a very popular idea. There are lots of options for all ages, interests and prices, and they don’t have to be for ‘things’ – consider consumables, activities, events or classes:

Consumables: groceries, baked goods, teas, wines, restaurants

Activities: bowling, mini putt, the driving range, movie theatre, wine tasting, petting farm

Events: tickets to a play (good community theatre in Ottawa as well as professional and some have special Christmas programming!), walking tours, music concerts and festivals, a hockey game (junior or the Sens), Sens Skills competition, Disney on Ice.

Classes: sewing, painting, scrap booking, rock climbing, yoga, LCBO cooking classes.

Sharing the event with the recipient makes it extra fun.

All ages appreciate **memberships** to museums, zoos, art galleries – most can be purchased online for loved ones living anywhere in the world.

If you are a **baker**, consider some sweet treats to put under the tree, or offering to make a dessert a month for 2 or 3 months, or for an afternoon tea. The more ambitious among us may offer to provide a meal, or even a dinner party - maybe the start of a fun (themed??) gathering on a cold winter’s night.

Offering **your time and talents** is particularly special. You might provide someone modelling clay or paints and an afternoon around the kitchen table devoted just to them (maybe paired with a visit to the Art Gallery). How about a snuggly movie afternoon and popcorn? Hand made scarfs, mittens and hats are always valued, but think about offering to teach how to knit, crochet, embroider. Perhaps teaching a piece of music at the piano or on guitar, or how to make the favorite family cookies. If you have a green thumb, how about plant cuttings, or an afternoon showing how to start seedlings for spring? So many possibilities to share.

Some people would appreciate an offer to **take something off their ‘To Do’ list and lighten their day** – running errands, mending, walking the dog. You might be able to be a driver for a day, or head out to Almonte or Merrickville for tea! Every parent especially loves to have babysitting!

This may be the time to take some of the family photos and pass along a bit of **family history**, or a story about a special event or time. Maybe you would like to write down a **story** you grew up loving and get some special little artists to help illustrate it for you – something you create together.

What about a family challenge that all gifts must be **second hand** – from home or a shop. Great opportunity to repurpose special items, pass along some fun jewellery, your favourite books or music (an old LP??)

You might consider **donating** in someone's name to a charity that is important to you – a chance to have a conversation about something you care about, at home or abroad, while helping others.

The list could go on! Hope you will find something that will help make this Festive Season special for you.

THE GREEN GRAPEVINE

Beth Junkins

The November Green Grapevine focused on ideas to help us consume less this holiday season and shift away from 'things'. If you are still pondering on what you might give that won't 'sit on a shelf' here are more suggestions: vouchers for car washes; gift cards for manicure/pedicure/spa days; a session with a professional organizer or interior designer; workout sessions with a trainer; cooking classes (perhaps for a couple); knife sharpening including pickup and drop off of the knives; a selection of plastic free household environmentally responsible products like laundry strips, bar shampoos, dishwasher tablets in cardboard, beeswax wraps; a sports streaming service for a special month of hockey, soccer, football, curling, skating etc; a selection of favourites for the freezer like spaghetti, chili, stew; jams, jellies, relishes from local bazaars.

Now that the gifts have been chosen it is time to think about packaging them in a special way. There have been several requests for a rerun of the Green Grapevine from last year to help wrap up our treasures so that less goes to landfill. Here is a "freshened up" repeat of that article.

We all want our presents to look fun and inviting and as special as the person who will open it but what can we do about all of the paper and packaging?

We can encourage reusing wrapping paper, and wrapping without tape; instead tie parcels up with twine or wool that can find other uses.

Using paper that can be recycled is a good choice. According to the City of Ottawa Waste Explorer <https://ottawa.ca/en/garbage-and-recycling/waste-explorer> foil wrapping paper, ribbons and bows have to go to land fill so try to avoid these. Other non- foil wrapping paper and tissue paper go into the black box. Instead of ribbons and bows how about a foil wrapped sweet, a sprig of cedar, a hair bow, a small Lego character, a bookmark, frig magnet? So many options to individualize the package and make it fun.

You could also try decorating brown wrapping paper or paper bags to make them festive without ribbons and bows. Or how about starting a tradition of exchanging in boxes that can go back and forth each year: the size of the box gives nothing away (and adding a button or coin to the box can mislead the shakers and rattlers with unusual noises)!!

This is also a good chance to get imaginative and think about other ways to create mysterious surprises under the tree. How about wrapping in fabric scraps, towels, scarves, old maps or the pictures from old calendars? Socks and pillowcases can be a great way to create a parcel with lumps and bumps! Things packed in cookie tins make great sounds.

If you sew, perhaps you could make fun fabric carrier bags (lots of videos online using old clothes or scraps such as <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdiJ1TZ3HUY>), or produce bags (from old sheer or lace curtains, dishtowels, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBBg5CTqFWE>). These could be a welcome gift as well as used to hold one too!.

If you have old Christmas cards (or calendars) around, how about making your own box. Quick and easy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccrYKkwh6-8> - lots of scope to use the boxes for jewelry, gift cards. These also would make great advent calendars! If you enjoy origami, look online for instructions on how to make boxes and envelopes. There are lots of fun boxes with lids, some with animal faces and designs – and these can be used again to hold desktop items, and small treasures.

Have some fun and use your imagination!

Hoping your white Christmas has a touch of “Green”



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Do you know the role of a Commissioner of Oaths?

It is an individual who is empowered to certify the oath or “solemn affirmation” of a person upon documents such as diplomas, birth certificates and other records.

If you need this service, please contact **Victoria Pinnell** (vpinnell@gmail.com), or **call Jennifer Ferguson** (514-697-7663 between 9am and 5pm)



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We're also on **Instagram**



AIR CANADA AEROPLAN PROGRAM

Back in 2012 MLUWC got an Aeroplan number that would give the opportunity to our members to donate their Aeroplan points if they so wished. The minimum donation is 1000 points. Until this year we had accumulated **57,846 points**.

Please contact either Connie Ellis or Mary Vlahos for more information.



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December

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Advocacy Committee 7:30 Zoom	3
4	5 West Island Walks Holiday Party Cedar Park Church 7-9pm	6 Evening Book Club I	7 Coffee Time 10:30 Zoom	8 Nazanin Afshin-Jam Zoom 7:pm	9	10
11	12 West Island Walks	13	14 Coffee time 10:30, zoom Mystery Book Club	15 Book Club II 1:00pm	16 January Newsletter deadline French Conversati on 9:30am Zoom.	17
18	19 West Island Walks	20	21 Coffee time 10:30, Zoom	22	23	24
25 Merry Christmas	26 West Island Walks	27	28 Coffee time 10:30, Zoom	29 Evening Book Club I 1:30pm	30	31
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Newsletter Editor: Maria De Wolfe mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com

I take full responsibility for all errors, omissions or spelling mishaps and incorrect punctuation. If you would like me to correct an error in the next newsletter, please email me at:
mluwc.newsletter3@gmail.com.

If you would like to contact someone mentioned in the newsletter but you don't have their email address, please send a message to the email above and I will forward it.

Proofreaders: Janet Ankorn and Gilda Martinello (Many thanks)

January Newsletter Deadline: January 16, 2023

***Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah,
Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays!***

