



McGill

School of
Continuing Studies
McGill Community
for Lifelong
Learning

The Courier

www.mcgill.ca/mcll

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Honouring our founders and past presidents at MCLL's 2015 AGM



In addition to the other three 25th anniversary events,* another highlight of the year was our Annual General Meeting, held at Le Nouvel Hôtel. It marked the official closing of our 25th anniversary year. Following MCLL President Paul Terni's and Dean Judith Potter's congratulatory speeches, the theme *Honouring our founder and past presidents* was illustrated by Sandra Frisby, a former president herself and superb communicator, who rendered homage to MCLL pioneers: initial collaborators, Pamela Stewart (Dean of Continuing Studies), David Johnston (then Principal, now our Governor General) and Fiona Clark (then administrative director of the School of Continuing Studies) as well as all the original founding and steering committee members.



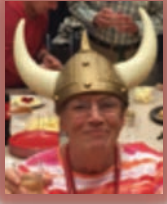
The history culminated with a video taped in the Faculty Club in 1997 as part of the 10th anniversary activities and featuring three of the founders of MCLL, Fiona Clark, Saretta Levitan and Peter Nash in an interview with Neil McKenty. Viewed also in a segment of the video was Ethel Kesler announcing the 10th AGM. Saretta, Ethel and Fiona were particularly applauded for their assiduous involvement in the MCLL community to this day. Former presidents were then asked to stand and give their name and the year in which they served. It was a moving walk along memory lane for many members of the audience.

Charlotte French

*The conference on the McGill campus with the theme *Celebrating Lifelong Learning* organized by Fiona Clark, the art exhibit organized by Ann Pearson, featuring the artists in our community at the Visual Arts Centre in Westmount, and Gordon Campey's portrait gallery. See *The Courier*, Volume 25, Nos. 2 and 3 for full coverage.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At the Viking
end-session
party

Dear MCLL Members:

In my first letter as your new President, I would like to introduce myself, share my vision for the next year and seek your insights and support.

Participation in MCLL events has enriched my retirement. I spent some 35 years at the Montreal General Hospital in many positions within the Nursing Administration. My work in education always stimulated my interest and the opportunity to continue this attracted me to MCLL. I have now been a member of MCLL for around 12 years and this has afforded me the opportunity to debate and discuss multiple topics with a diverse and intriguing group of individuals. Since volunteers support the continuing success of this community, after some hesitation I offered my services as president.

My first official act as incoming President is to publically thank the outgoing President, Paul Terni, for his great leadership over the last year. Many thanks are also extended to each member of Council, all of whom go that extra mile to support the ongoing activities of MCLL. I encourage all members to read the minutes of Council meetings that are kept in the office. These records of discussions and decisions made are freely available to all members.

I would like to share some of my vision for the coming year. Peer learning and active participation are two cornerstones of MCLL's curriculum; these principles differentiate its programs from traditional university courses and classes. For me, MCLL is all about giving and participating. As a volunteer organization, it needs the active support of members to build on the success of past ideas, effect new ways of bringing in members and expand the choice of offerings.

A survey of our members will be circulated within the next few weeks. I would be pleased to receive your suggestions and insights.

Moreover, as the continued survival of MCLL is vital to us all, I would request your help in introducing your friends to our community. Of all our marketing tactics, word of mouth has always been the best way to grow our membership. I am delighted to inform you that our membership numbers have increased this spring.

I really appreciate the hard work undertaken in the MCLL office by Ana and the volunteers to support the

smooth running of our organization.

Please reserve the date of October 23, 2015 for the Members' Meeting. The Planning Committee is working on a stimulating program. I hope you will participate in this important opportunity to provide further input into MCLL's vision for the future.

Thank you for your many best wishes on my appointment. I look forward to another exciting year.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

Ruth Allan-Rigby

MCLL Elected Council Officers and Committee Chairpersons 2015-2016



MCLL presents at the World Assembly of the International Council for Adult Education



On Saturday, June 13, Personal and Cultural Enrichment (PACE) program coordinator Alex Megalas presented at the 9th Annual World Assembly of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE). The ICAE defines itself as a global network with ties to UNESCO and a specific mandate to advocate for youth and adult learning and education as a universal

human right. This event marked the first time the World Assembly was held in Canada. Previous meetings were held in Bangkok (1990), Cairo (1995), Ocho Rios (2001) and Nairobi (2007).

Alex's talk was titled "Peer Learning and Seniors Education: the Structure and Method of the McGill Community for Lifelong Learning" and was meant to introduce MCLL and its unique approach as a community of practice to a broad range of international colleagues working on adult education.

A paper which Alex co-wrote with Sandra Frisby, Christie Huff and Astri Thorvik is still available as an online resource for the World Assembly. * The paper is titled "Expanding the Concept of Lifelong Learning Beyond the Campus: the Experience of the McGill Community for Lifelong Learning within the Wider Québec Community" and details the evolution of MCLL's relationship with the Community Learning Centers Initiative of Québec and the introduction of study groups to five regional communities outside of Montreal.

*<http://waam2015.org/en/resources/expanding-concept-lifelong-learning-beyond-campus-experience-mcgill-community-lifelong>

Meeting of the McGill Center for Aging



I represented MCLL at the barbecue given by the McGill Center for Aging at the Douglas Hospital on June 10 for about 60 people. There were several short speeches by the doctors and staff and by their students.

The impact of Alzheimer's was brought home to me when I met an old friend whom I had not seen for years but who I knew was suffering from the disease. We had played squash together over 30 years ago and he was a fine surgeon at the Montreal General in his time.

He recognized me but sad it was to see that, although he could understand everything said to him, all he could say was "right on". The incident made me realize more than ever the crucial role that medical research and care play in our lives and the importance of programs such as MCLL.

Tony Wait

MCLL Membership

Just over three years ago we started working on an integrated plan to increase our declining membership. The reason was not that we needed an increase in

membership just to be bigger. Since we are all volunteers, whether moderators, committee members, lecturers or office helpers, fewer members meant we had a smaller population to fill all the positions that make MCLL such a going concern. We also required more members to provide more services to our members and remain financially viable. At the same time we needed a more extensive program in order to attract more members. The plan consisted of several projects with an internal or external focus, i.e. aimed at our services or at potential members.

Starting in May 2012 we made a short promotional video which, now on our website for potential members to see, portrays who we are and what we do at MCLL. In June that same year, we held Montreal's first Bloomsday which then, and every year since, has helped *inter alia* to increase public awareness of MCLL. Also to spread the word we have a Speakers' Bureau which has featured several of our lecturers at different libraries around the city. We produced new promotional materials including an attractive brochure about MCLL now available at public libraries and throughout the city. Most importantly, we virtually redesigned our website, making it more user-friendly and providing more information.

One of the outcomes of the last biennial workshop was the creation of a Membership Committee, whose prime responsibility is to recruit new members. Previously, this responsibility was spread among various committees, with the result that no-one was clearly responsible. According to recent surveys, the website is the second-largest source of new members, after word of mouth but, in the last two years, we have also held an Open House twice a year for recruiting potential members. All our rooms are now equipped with modern facilities for presentations or music. Room 245 also has a web-conferencing capability. The Tech Savvy workshops are obviously responding to a need and drawing good attendance.

The projects and activities above required much effort and hard work by many MCLL members who must be commended for successfully putting all of them in place. It is only now emerging that all of the above, and perhaps other unknown factors, are having the desired effect on our membership and registration numbers. However, this is not a time to sit on our laurels, for our membership is still a little below that of six to eight years ago. We still need your help to spread the word, gain new members, expand our services to members, and remain financially viable.

Colin Hudson

MODERATOR PROFILES

Muriel Harrington



When asked what she does now she is retired, Muriel answers, "Interesting things". She likes reading potboiler crime fiction and doing jigsaw puzzles on the Internet but her chief interest is in woodworking.

She frequents the Cummings Centre where she does wood carving and has a workshop in her garage where she makes many different pieces, although there is not enough space for large functional furniture and in winter she has to remove all works in progress. She always has projects underway and several unfinished works festoon her home.

Muriel is from Hamilton, Ontario, and came to Montreal in 1975. She has a BSc from McGill and will celebrate 50 years a graduate in 2016. She pursued higher education at McMaster University in Hamilton and received a PhD in biology. She went on to become a professor of biology at Concordia and retired in 2009. Since then, she has done a bit of research and "written stuff up". She joined MCLL in 2014 and the Study Group "If I had a Hammer" is her first attempt at moderating.

Eleanor Hynes

Paul Aubé



Paul Aubé was born in Beauceville, a town with barely 5,000 inhabitants. For lack of farms available for sale, Paul's father had attended a boarding school in Québec City and become a teacher and eventually a

school inspector. At his funeral, Paul, the oldest of six siblings, recalled what a disappointment it must have been for his father to yearn to be a farmer and have it denied to him, while living deep in the country.

Paul himself graduated in Engineering from Laval University in 1968 then did a MSc. at the University of British Columbia. In 1970 he applied for a Rhodes scholarship but, when no answer arrived, stayed at UBC and began his MSc. An answer finally arrived: he had been accepted for the Rhodes scholarship, but it was too late to change course. During the late 60s, environmental activism enticed him, as well as union activities and international solidarity movements, and a few years later, "contaminated by some leftist virus", he decided to change the direction of his life.

He had completed five years at Hydro-Québec when, in 1976-77, he took time off to backpack around the world. Not willing to go back to technical work when he returned, he enrolled in the MBA program of HEC. This allowed him to obtain a job at Hydro-Québec's generation planning department where he worked on international projects. Retired since 2008, he still works part time doing economic analyses of power plants and electrical interconnections.

He is particularly interested in study groups on politics (a passion inherited from his father), economics, history and science. For Paul, MCLL is a fabulous gift of stimulation, companionship and encounter with bright minds and socially engaged people. For the first time this semester, he is co-moderating a study group (Science in the News).

Paula Friedlander



Wilfrid Dubé

Wilfrid est nouveau modérateur MCLL de la session du printemps 2015. Il co-anime avec Jean Carrière le seul groupe d'étude en français : «Le théâtre classique français du 17^{ième} siècle :

Corneille, Molière, Racine».

Wilfrid est natif d'Ottawa. Il a fait ses études classiques à l'Université d'Ottawa où il a enseigné avant d'aller faire son doctorat en Sciences des religions à Paris. Ensuite, passage du coq à l'âne : il est devenu comédien professionnel et a joué sur scène à Stratford. Plus tard, il accepte un poste universitaire à la faculté d'éducation de l'université de Regina en formation des enseignants mais, après sa retraite, il revient sur Montréal. Toujours comédien, il a surtout joué en anglais, en particulier au Hudson Theatre.

Une collègue lui a fait connaître MCLL il y a deux ans. Au cours de sa participation à un groupe d'études sur la lecture de Shakespeare, il a fait la connaissance de Jean Carrière, un habitué du groupe d'étude francophone de MCLL. Et avec Nycole Paquin, il a soumis une proposition de faire des lectures du théâtre classique français du 17^{ième} siècle et sa proposition a été acceptée). Wilfrid nous donne une brève expression de son expérience à MCLL : « Pour moi, la chance d'explorer et de lire le théâtre classique en groupe a été une expérience enrichissante et très formative.»

Roch DesRochers

Barbara MacLeod-Rey

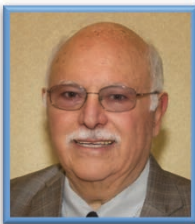
Barbara came to MCLL three years ago on the recommendation of a member. She was attracted by the calibre of the content, the interaction amongst members and the enthusiasm of the moderators. She made her first presentation in the fall of 2012 in a study group on hydro dams.

In 2004, she began working with her husband, a professor, to develop McGill's first comprehensive Energy Science course. Energy Science is interdisciplinary, involving Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. As the topics of energy, global warming and CO2 emissions began to seize the public interest, she observed that public discussion employed an increasingly confusing vocabulary and reference points, and often was not reliably data-driven. She decided this would be a timely subject for discussion at MCLL, and with Paul Terni recently moderated a study group on Alternative Energies. The group aimed to help lay people better understand the complex technical issues that are essential to finding solutions in today's troubling energy situation.

Barbara came to Montreal in the early seventies from the Maritimes, and worked in architectural project management. She later designed publications for Québec export development, acted as a liaison for incorporating fur as a textile in design, and worked with Northern governments to promote fur harvesting and grading programs. She loves the outdoors and enjoys cooking. In the fall, Barbara and Paul Terni will co-moderate a study group on the social meaning of skyscrapers.

Sue Purcell

Parlons français



Il y a déjà plusieurs années que MCLL (ou plutôt La Communauté d'apprentissage continu de McGill, soit la CACM) anime le programme SPEAK, qui a pour but de jumeler des bénévoles de la CACM avec des étudiants étrangers qui assistent à des cours de perfectionnement d'anglais à McGill. Il y a trois ans, Mimi Caouette a organisé la contrepartie française de SPEAK intitulée «Parlons français» pour les étudiants qui veulent perfectionner leur français. Nous venons d'assister à la cérémonie de clôture du trimestre courant de l'École de langues de McGill. Mimi a organisé une cinquantaine de bénévoles qui

passent une heure par semaine à bavarder en français avec ces jeunes gens originaires de différents pays. C'est une expérience enrichissante pour les deux parties, parce que les bénévoles de la CACM s'exposent à des jeunes de culture différentes et ont l'occasion d'aider à orienter leurs attitudes envers le Canada et Montréal. Mimi aura besoin de la participation de tous les membres francophones de la CACM pour continuer à animer ce programme pour la rentrée des classes en septembre 2015. On vous invite donc à venir aider ces nouveaux venus à «Parlons français».

Paul Terni

The future of the "Royal Vic"



Participants in Marlene Chan's study group, *21st Century Age-Friendly Habitat*, recommended that the guest speaker, Mr. Olivier Marcil, Vice-Principal, Communications and External Relations, McGill, be invited to make his presentation on the university's plans for the repurposing of the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) to a wider MCLL audience. This took place on May 15 in the form of a lecture entitled *The Future of the RVH*. Mr. Marcil showed many slides of architectural drawings and gave an overview of the potential for the site if McGill should have the opportunity to expand. The Vice-Principal said that McGill is interested in the concept of University-Based Retirement Communities possibly for the former Ross and Women's pavilions. After answering the audience's many questions, he encouraged the involvement of MCLL in the upcoming feasibility study and proposed public consultations.

Charlotte French

Bloomsday 2015: "Singing cockles and mussels, alive alive-o!"



And how they sang!
Those old Irish
songs! And they
listened to Irish folk
tales and they
watched the award-
winning Irish film
Ballymun Lullaby
which brought

warmth to their hearts and tears to their eyes.



Then they were up and out on the Lachine Canal walk with the informative Ruth Rigby as their guide, soaking up the sunshine together with the Irish history of Montreal.



Other highlights of this year's five-day celebration included the Victoria Hall gala, the scholarly discussions of Irish literature at Concordia's Department of Irish Studies, and the traditional June 16 readings from

Ulysses at Westmount Library, all interspersed with get-togethers at the city's Irish pubs, which were only too happy to cater to lingering literature lovers.



But the culmination of this Joycean celebration was the stimulating lecture by Kevin Birmingham at the Jewish Public Library, who explained the real dangers facing James Joyce when he came to publishing his book: the threat of legal action because of the pornography and graphic vocabulary, the poverty and ill health experienced by this expat in Trieste trying to make a living for his wife and family, the reluctance of publishers to touch any novel as revolutionary as *Ulysses*, the anarchy it expressed, its rejection of every convention that had ruled literature so far.



The Irish Ambassador Ray Bassett, who came down from Ottawa for this address, congratulated David and Judith Schurman for their initiative and leadership. Not only that but the highly respected Guardian newspaper in the UK contacted the Bloomsday



organizers for more information and gave precious space in their daily to what they say is the biggest Bloomsday festival in Canada. That put a real feather in their Bloomsday hats! So here's to Bloomsday 2016!

N.B. Copies of Birmingham's book are available, at a 15% discount, at Paragraphe bookstore, 2220 McGill College.

Lesley Régnier

Off again! To Ottawa this time



On Friday, June 26, twelve members of the Northern Ontario Railway History study group boarded a VIA train at Dorval and headed up to Ottawa. Co-moderator Andrew Macdougall had arranged with the Bytown Railway Society to host us for the day, and they did it in style: four members met us at Ottawa station, loaded us into their cars, and we set off on a tour of the historical railway sites of Ottawa and Gatineau.

We first headed for the old Union Station before exploring the Sussex Street area crossing the Alexandria bridge to Hull, and heading up the Gatineau Valley for lunch at Wakefield, outside the old train station, by the water. It was so delightful it was hard to drag ourselves away. We then headed back to Hull, crossed over the Ottawa river through the old E.B. Eddy facility and by the Chaudière Falls to Ottawa's west end, on to Dow's Lake, the Science Museum, Walkley Yard, and back to the (relatively) new Union Station for our train back to Dorval.

Our four Ottawa hosts (Dennis Peters, David Jeanes, Pat Brennan and Gerry Gaugl) were amazing. The whole tour had been planned to the minute, and they were all fountains of knowledge. We all felt very lucky and privileged.

Next spring's topic in the Canadian Railway History series will be the Prairie provinces – a bit too far for a day trip, but a suitable outing will definitely be included.

Andrew Macdougall and Robbie Robinson

Summer Reading Suggestions



Non-Fiction

Being Mortal by Atul Gawande (2014) hardback. Beautifully written—a wise, humane, and important book. Particularly urgent for our age group.

H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald (2014) hardback. An instant classic, this uniquely enthralling memoir has proven to be the literary sensation of 2015.

What Matters in Jane Austen? By John Mullan (2013) paperback. For all Austen lovers—will make you a more perceptive reader and increase your enjoyment.

On the Move by Oliver Sacks (2014) hardback. Recently diagnosed with terminal cancer, Oliver Sacks has written an engaging, brave, and astonishingly self-revealing memoir.

Victoria: A Life by A.N. Wilson (2014) hardback. This superb, definitive, revisionist biography “rescues Victoria from her widows’ weeds.”

Fiction

A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson (2014) hardback. A “companion” piece to *Life After Life*, beloved brother Teddy’s story. A summer treat.

The Beginning of Spring by Penelope Fitzgerald (4th Estate 2014) paperback. Set in Moscow in March 1913, a magical flawless novel. Penelope Fitzgerald is in a class of her own.

The Children Act by Ian McEwan (2014) paperback. Personal and professional crises collide in the life of a woman high court judge. Short, smart, and compulsively readable.

Nora Webster by Colm Toibin (2014) hardback. Portrays an ordinary woman’s progress in learning how to live on her own after her beloved husband’s death. A perfect, beautifully restrained novel.

Jeeves and the Wedding Bells by Sebastian Faulkes (2014) paperback. Written as a tribute to P.G.Wodehouse, a delightfully funny, “wonderfully happy” book. Perfect summer reading.

Pamela Sachs

Newsletter Committee

Co-chairs Charlotte French, Lesley Régnier,
Ruth Allan-Rigby ex-officio,
Roch DesRochers, Sandra Duchow, Paula Friedlander, Eleanor Hynes,
Sue Purcell, Pamela Sachs

Spring Fling 2015 at the Chalet at Beaver Lake



Spring Fling, MCLL's traditional event welcoming summer, took place again this year at the wonderful Beaver Lake Chalet. The weather was on our side and all agreed that the food was excellent. Ann Pearson is to be thanked for this well organized outing.

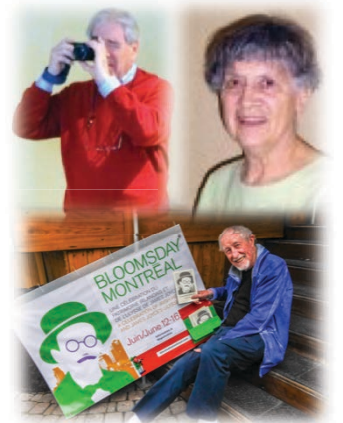


Ploughman's Breakfast and Plant Exchange



Despite the morning chill, a brave crowd of garden-lovers took their scrambled eggs, Irish soda bread and coffee outside to the deck for breakfast and were soon rewarded by glorious sunshine. Conversation flowed although, to Lesley Régnier's regret, few ideas for redesigning her jungle of ferns and Queen Anne's Lace were voiced. People appeared to appreciate the wildness of it all in contrast to the neatly tended gardens that meet the eye elsewhere in

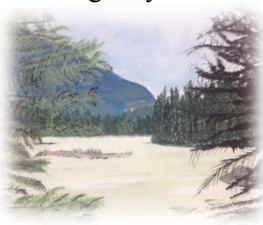
St. Lambert. Gardening tips and interesting plants were exchanged and plans for when and where to meet in 2016. Any other offers?



Special thanks to photographers Gordon Campey, Sherry Steinberg and Ron Campbell for their contribution to *The Courier*.

Art in the lounge

Nora Shanahan is a landscape artist who began experimenting with painting four years ago. These scenes from nature are done using acrylic on canvas.



Bernice Shaposnick: "My paintings are a result of the teaching and follow-up with three artists, Rita Briansky, Margaret Meakin and Suzy Levy. My thanks go to them for their belief and encouragement."

