



Gwendolyn Owens, Guest Speaker at 2014 MCLL AGM



It all began with a painting. It was a painting by Newfoundland artist Maurice Prendergast hanging on the wall of her college where Gwendolyn Owens was studying law. But its effect was such that, instead of pursuing her aim to become a lawyer, she took a degree in Art History at Tufts University and has never looked back. Her life eventually brought her to Montréal.

Upon her appointment as Senior Advisor of the Visual Arts Collection at McGill, she became acutely aware that she alone could never hope to have any control over the collection. It was scattered all over the place: in attics, down in basements, poking out from behind filing cabinets in offices ... and in some cases almost impossible to reach. Hence a team of young - athletic - students was co-opted to help. We saw slides of some of them up ladders photographing stained-glass windows, some crawling through holes to rescue some sculpture or abandoned piece of mosaic. And not just in the buildings around the main campus but also in Redpath Museum, in McCord Museum and throughout the grounds. The examples abound: the total so far is 2200!

The challenges? Many and formidable. Once all the artworks have been catalogued, many need to be restored, labels need to be made, permanent homes have to be found. Ms Owens believes that art should be made to be seen and her ideal would be to have a permanent exhibition room open to McGill staff and students, of course, but also the general public. She also wants the people on campus to have the same experience she had: artwork around them indoors and outdoors as they work so that they are impregnated with art on a daily basis and art becomes part of their lives. *Continued on p. 3*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MCLL Past-President Tony Wait (left) welcomes new President Paul Terni

The academic year 2014-2015 will be a significant one in the evolution of MCLL. It is the 25th year of its existence, and it will be marked by a couple of special events: the Conference to Celebrate Lifelong Learning organized by Fiona Clark, which will be held on August 20 at McGill, and an Art Event organized by Ann Pearson to take place at the Visual Arts Centre on August 28-30. Over those 25 years MCLL has contributed much to motivate us and enrich our lives. I met a fellow moderator last week, a retired university professor who confessed “I don’t know what I would do without MCLL”. I feel much the same way.

As you know, MCLL depends on its membership for its programming and functioning. We therefore count on your active participation in putting forth study groups and lectures, and in organizing the events we enjoy so much. The new MCLL Council took office on June 10 and will be concentrating on delivering quality programming and boosting our membership. Membership levels have been fairly static over the last few years, and increase is vital to ensuring our finances and the vitality of our programming. We have found that word of mouth is the most effective method of recruiting new members so we ask you to talk to friends, former colleagues, members of your club... We shall be holding two Open Houses this year, one in November to attract new members for the Winter 2015 session and one in winter for the Spring term. In addition, we shall be continuing the Bring-a-Friend program.

So, enjoy our coming year, and keep on spreading the word!

Paul Terni

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

The School of Continuing Studies (SCS) was in the limelight in early June at a national conference held in Halifax by the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE). The annual event attracts over 200 continuing-education professionals from universities throughout Canada.

A presentation entitled “How Does My Smartphone Work? We asked a Millennial” focused on Brainy Bar as a prime example of interdepartmental and intergenerational collaboration. The two SCS units responsible for this initiative are MCLL and the Intensive English Language and Culture program. Louise Kyrtatas and Lorraine Inglis represented the latter at this year's conference, while Chantal Tittley spoke on MCLL's behalf.



Brainy Bar, patterned after Apple's famous Genius Bar, is an 'open bar' serving one-on-one IT help

tailored to the needs of each participant. MCLL members at every level of computer literacy come to the workshops with questions about operating systems, a wide array of software, specific products such as computers, tablets, smartphones, digital cameras and GPSs, even programming. Tech-savvy English learners provide explanations while practicing their newly acquired language with people having a variety of accents and speech patterns. The exchange is mutually beneficial: the seniors make gains on the technological front while the young people become more confident and more adept at expressing themselves in English.

Attending CAUCE 2014 allowed us to see that MCLL is 'on trend'. There was much talk about the 'silver economy' and collaboration between institutions (locally and internationally), between units in the same institution and between people in different fields and in different age groups. The universities that do not have a seniors' program are thinking about it and many showed a definite interest in McGill's program.

Chantal Tittley

EDITORIAL



The big event season which began in May is still with us and will continue until late August, with a pause in July, giving us much to report on. Indeed, there has been no shortage of events sponsored by MCLL this season, and there will be more to come with the 25th Anniversary Conference and Art Exhibition. One of the first notable events was Fiona Clark being recognized for the significant role she has played in seniors' education in the province of Québec and we are proud of the honour that she reflects on our organization. On the front page of this edition, Lesley Régnier has written an interesting summary of Wendy Owens' conference at the AGM on McGill's art collection. Inside you will find an overview of Bloomsday in Montréal. Initiated by David and Judith Schurman three years ago, it is now well on its way to becoming a tradition for us at MCLL to participate in this world-wide literary festival.



Having chaired the Newsletter Committee for the past four years, I am pleased to welcome Lesley Régnier as co-chair of the Newsletter Committee and to introduce her to our readership.

Lesley is a technical translator-editor who worked at Hydro-Québec, mostly at its research institute, IREQ, for some 30 years. She joined MILR upon her retirement and has taken umpteen courses in various domains. She has been editing and proofreading the newsletter for quite a while and is ready to share the responsibility of the chair. Lesley devotes many hours of her week to different departments of the MUHC, including the Royal Victoria's Emergency Room, the RVH Patients' Committee, fundraising for dialysis patients and ethics committees. She is also involved with people living with a mental illness on the South Shore. Lesley admits that if her family were closer (her daughter and three grandsons live in Vancouver) she would have less time for volunteering but, as things stand, she is very happy to share the load with me and we welcome her on board.

Charlotte French

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Special thanks to photographers Ron Campbell, Gordon Campey, Sherry Steinberg

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Continued from p. 1

She pointed out the risks: theft (a new system of hanging paintings should take care of that), possible curtailing of funds for maintaining the collection as budgets shrink, sale of artworks by the university to pay for other requirements, etc. but her enthusiasm and optimism are tangible, and McGill would have a hard time wresting its art collection away from this curator!

Lesley Régnier

Fiona Clark nominated as Champion of Lifelong Learning at QALL Gala



Seated, Fiona Clark, surrounded by MCLL colleagues attending the Gala evening. From left to right, Chantal Tittley, Lise Dubé, Audrey Speck, Eunice deGruchy, Alex Megelas, Charlotte French, Liz Parish and Ana Milic

As we gear up to celebrate MCLL's Silver Jubilee anniversary, we would like to take a moment to pay homage to one of our members who has been involved in fostering this community since its onset and continues to contribute to MCLL today.

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate Fiona Clark, who was recognized on May 9, 2014 as a Champion of Lifelong Learning by the Québec Association for Lifelong Learning (QALL) at their third annual gala.

QALL believes that education is a lifelong endeavour and a human right. As an English-language lifelong learning association that supports those who support learners, QALL's multifaceted mission is to advocate for a culture of lifelong learning; raise public awareness; facilitate the exchange of information and resources; and bring together everyone for whom a learning society is a shared ideal.

What has now become MCLL first began to see light in the early 80s. In fact, in 1983, Fiona Clark was the Assistant Director for the McGill Centre for Continuing Education (CCE). That year, Fiona attended a CAUCE conference on the theme of seniors' education, and developed a link with the coordinator of the Seniors' Studies Program at Ryerson University. This led to some preliminary forays in educational programming for seniors and, in the spring of 1985, the CCE ran two courses of four weekly sessions. Since then, MCLL has grown into a

thriving hub for the promotion of continued educational engagement for its members.

The event took place at Buffet Il Gabbiano where Fiona (right), along with Tatiana Fraser (centre) and Gloria Keenan (left), was recognized as a champion of lifelong learning.

Congratulations Fiona!

Alex Megelas



P.S. Not content to sit on her laurels, Fiona has been active in putting together the 25th Anniversary Conference which all members are encouraged to attend. Please see below.

25th Anniversary Conference

August 20, 2014

A unique opportunity to:

- Share experiences
- Discover new learning opportunities
- Celebrate lifelong learning and MCLL

Choose from a wide variety of presentations.

**Register today
(Bonus before July 20!!)**

Detailed program, registration and fee information:

www.mcgill.ca/mcll

Hard copy was mailed with the fall program and is available from the MCLL office.

MODERATOR PROFILES



Paula Friedlander

Paula Friedlander has a passion for science. As co-moderator with David Schurman of the Science in the News study group, she is now able to share this passion with a lively and committed group of participants.

Science played an important part in Paula's education. While graduating from McGill with a B.A. in French and Anthropology, she took all the science courses that were available to her and even took an extra year to complete the science curriculum.

She rapidly found jobs doing research in science and eventually spent 18 years immersed in molecular biology research at the McGill Centre for Cancer Research.

Although a first-time moderator, Paula is not a new member of MCLL. When she partially retired six years ago (she is still not fully retired), she was introduced to MCLL by her friends Judith and David Schurman. During those six years, she was an active participant in a wide variety of study groups and, by the time she took the plunge and decided to co-moderate, she had had a wide range of experience at MCLL. In addition, she is now in her third year as Recording Secretary on Council.

Paula is enthusiastic about her experience as a moderator. The level of engagement of the group exceeded her expectations and she very much looks forward to moderating in the future.

Pamela Sachs



Sherry Steinberg

Sherry came to Montreal from the United States to play violin with the Montréal Symphony Orchestra (MSO). Her credentials include a Master's in Music from the University of Iowa, a year in Paris with the Paris Academy and two years in Israel with the Israel Academy of Music. She was a professional violinist for 32 years rising to the position of associate second violin with the MSO. After moving to Montréal she decided to stay because moving around

would be disruptive to her son who was three and a half at the time and, besides, she liked it here!

Much to her dismay, she found there was never enough time or space on her agenda to take courses in continuing education while she was working, her schedule being rather erratic. So, as soon as she retired, in 2002, she joined MCLL and started taking courses. Having her fill of music, she eschewed those courses and opted for Creative Writing in which participants were asked to write short pieces of original material. The Drama course she took after that involved reading one-act plays with moderator Anne Weinstein. Sherry continues to be a faithful participant in MCLL study groups in all fields.

In the spring term she gave two fascinating Friday lectures, one on music in the Bible and the second on Queen Isabella of Castile. Sherry says she enjoys doing the research and making presentations in class and her lectures are usually a 'beefed-up' version of these.

Eleanor Hynes



Marie Blydt-Hansen

Armed with a Master's degree in English Literature (M.A.) from McGill University, Marie Blydt-Hansen taught high school for some 30 years, first at Wagar High and then, for most of her career, at Herzliah High School both in Ville St. Laurent and at the Snowden campus. Since retiring, she has indulged her love of reading and had time to devote to music, an ongoing passion since she began to play the piano at five years old.

A member for over 30 years of the choir Anima Musica, she has sung alto under several conductors and still enjoys singing in concerts twice a year. As a volunteer for the MSO, she goes into schools twice a year and prepares students for the Matinées Jeunesses concerts, and also does guided tours of the Maison Symphonique and sundry other behind-the-scenes jobs. As a weekly volunteer for the fair-trade store Dix Mille Villages, she enjoys working among beautiful hand-crafted objects and interacting with the customers.

Married to a Norwegian, Marie has adopted the heritage, and she and her family in Montréal (son and two grandchildren) play an active role in the

Norwegian community here. She is co-president of the Norwegian Club, which oversees a wide variety of activities from September to June. Being part of a group reading Shakespeare's plays with "Pot Luck and Shakespeare" gives her great pleasure too.

Marie discovered MCLL about six years ago and has taken many courses, often those related to literature and music, but also some of a more historical and general bent. She has co-moderated a course on biography as fiction, and moderated three courses on Shakespeare. Most recently she co-moderated a course on *Macbeth*, comparing a number of different film versions and hopes to continue next year with a similar style of course on *Romeo and Juliet*. Working in a peer-learning situation has been an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for her.

Lesley Régnier



Sohelia Raesinezhad

Iranian-born Soheila Raesinezhad is a very lively and animated addition to the MCLL roster of new moderators, choosing to lead a 5-week study group in spring 2014 entitled Understanding Modern Iran, a country which, as she has experienced it, is very largely influenced by the Western World.

She was born in the city of Bousher in Southern Iran to an upper class family. She left her family to come to Canada in the winter of 1994. She found the winter overwhelming but stayed to get married and later had a daughter who is 17 now. She decided that learning French was the most important path to follow and she did that most intensively. She graduated from Concordia University where she majored in History and Politics. She admits that the study of politics is her passion. In 2007 she travelled to Guatemala and learned Spanish, returned to pursue her studies at University of Québec à Montréal and earned a certificate in Spanish language in 2014. She says she would now like to study for a Bachelor of languages.

On the less academic side of her life, she loves cooking and talking about Iranian culture and traditions. She values her many friendships, loves parties, dancing, picnics, and biking. She is married to MCLL moderator Peter Berry.

Sandra Duchow



Martin Coles

Martin Coles joined MCLL in spring 2014 and dived in at the deep end by moderating a study group on Physics in the 20th Century. Participants in the group, few with any understanding of physics, found that his explanations of elementary then advanced scientific discoveries were very clear and easy to understand.

Born in Cambridge (U.K.), he studied natural philosophy in his home town, emigrated to Canada in 1971 and earned a Master's degree in philosophy at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Meanwhile he had developed a passion for photography. In his own words, "The year was 1958 and I was a young teenager living with my family. My brother Julian and I had come to realize that joint ownership of our Hornby Dublo electric train set just wasn't working out and he agreed to buy out my share for £10. With the money, I bought a fairly sophisticated camera, an Agfa Isolette folding camera with a rather fast shutter speed. But here's the punch line: my brother became an electrical engineer and, after a two-year course as a high-school math and physics teacher, and then a brief career as a philosopher, I became a professional photographer!"

As photographer, for 30 years he wrote a newspaper column called "Camera Angle" which first appeared in the Montréal Gazette, then in the Toronto Globe and Mail before he switched back to the Gazette. He is still teaching photography at Dawson College and is currently working on a website where some of his articles and photographs will be recycled. The official launch of the website is scheduled for later on this year.

Roch DesRochers

Russell Breen Award for Dan Sullivan



Congratulations to Dan Sullivan, lawyer and long-time MCLL member, a pillar of Montréal's Irish-Catholic community who is this year's recipient of the Russell Breen memorial award.

Lecture on Iceland by Ambassador Thordur Oskarsson



His Excellency Thordur Oskarsson, Ambassador of Iceland to Canada with lawyer David Franklin, Honorary Consul of Iceland to Montréal and MCLL moderator

MCLL was pleased to welcome His Excellency Thordur Aegir Oskarsson, ambassador of Iceland to Canada, who gave a conference on this so-called "small green powerhouse of the north".

Mr. Oskarsson likens the Icelandic landscape to that of Nunavut. An island located in the middle of the North Atlantic, just below the Arctic Circle, and lying on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Iceland is home to the largest glaciers in Europe and one of the most tectonically active areas on earth. It has a large number of volcanoes along with geysers and natural hot springs. It is also one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world with more than half the population living in Reykjavík. Numbering only 320,000 inhabitants, Iceland's population, according to Mr. Oskarsson, can be compared with that of Laval!

The world's oldest democracy (930 AD) was among the poorest countries in Western Europe until the 20th century. Tongue-in-cheek, the ambassador said that two events put Iceland on the map, the Fischer-Spassky World Chess Championship in 1972 and the 1986 Reykjavik Summit between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev. Today, Iceland ranks among the top countries of the world in the OECD's Better Life Index.

Due to its national sustainable energy policy, Iceland is considered one of the greenest countries on the planet. Geothermal energy is used for space heating (88% of houses are heated by geothermal energy), as well as for electricity generation, heating of swimming pools and the famous Blue Lagoon (see accompanying photo), snow melting, greenhouses and aquaculture.

A major step towards developing high-temperature geothermal resources, Mr. Oskarsson explained, is the Icelandic Deep Drilling Project. Among the country's future plans is an undersea cable to carry renewably generated electricity to the U.K. which would become the world's longest undersea power cable.

The ambassador finds Reykjavik more culturally dynamic than Ottawa. With the highest literacy rate (100%) of any nation in the world, more books per capita get published than in any other country. One out of every six Icelandic authors gets published, including Nobel Prize laureate, Halldór Laxness (1955). Prosperous on the music scene, Iceland's Harpa Concert Hall in Reykjavik was selected as one of the most beautiful concert halls in the world and its builders won the 2013 European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture. The Iceland Symphony Orchestra has collaborated with conductors as renowned as Vladimir Ashkenazy (who became an Icelandic citizen in 1972), and won acclaim for performances and recordings such as the Sibelius symphonies.

Swept away by this dynamic presentation and with the enthusiasm of the moment, many members of the audience manifested a great interest in touring Iceland. David Franklin and Chantal Tittley are looking into making this a reality.

Charlotte French



Iceland's Blue Lagoon. Anyone for a swim?

BLOOMSDAY EVENTS

There were five June 16s this year, five glorious days of events related to James Joyce's *Ulysses*. In addition to the keynote address and the final well attended afternoon at Paragraphe Bookstore described elsewhere, there were films about Ireland, cabarets, lectures, readings from the book, Irish breakfasts, Guinness-tasting in Montreal's Irish pubs, and more.

Keynote Lecture: "Joyce, *Ulysses*, and the Jews"



The keynote lecture for Bloomsday featured Dr. Marilyn Reizbaum from Bowdoin College in Maine speaking on "Joyce, *Ulysses*, and the Jews". The event was held in collaboration with the Jewish Public Library and took place at the Gelber Conference centre there.

An internationally acclaimed scholar of the work of James Joyce, Marilyn Reizbaum has been teaching at Bowdoin College since 1984. She earned a Master's in literature at the University of Edinburgh and a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and is the author of many books and essays on James Joyce, including "James Joyce's Judaic Other".

Otherness is in fact one of the issues that Dr Reizbaum addressed in her very scholarly talk along with the significance of the concept of the other for Joyce's work in particular. Leopold Bloom himself did not take his Jewishness seriously and, in Dr. Reizbaum's view, was in fact a "modern Jew...both Jewish and Christian at the same time". As for the links between the Irish and the Jews, she pointed out that they share an age-old desire for a homeland and for a revival of their culture, the vision of a "promised land" that was important for both.

Sandra Duchow

Atwater Library, scene for the Cabaret



Song cycle to Joyce's "Chamber Music" at the McCord Museum



Irish breakfast at EVOO Restaurant



Victoria Hall hosting the Musical Gala



Bloomsday Readings at Westmount Library



Storytelling and Kitchen Ceili at Paragraphe Bookstore



The closing event of Bloomsday 2014 conjured up images of an old time kitchen get together where the children had their party pieces to perform and the adults played, and sang, and danced, and drank. On Monday evening we had a grand time crowded among the stacks of Paragraphe Bookstore with people chatting and relishing each other's company and the entertainment.



The performers were, first of all, MCLL's own storyteller and moderator Margaret Nicolai, who brought Joyce's "Boarding House" to life in a compelling and very droll performance.



Next, a newcomer to the MCLL community, Fergus Gleeson, recounted his picaresque alter ego's decision to move from Ireland and his odyssey to the shores of the St. Lawrence and seedier parts of The Main.



Lastly, Chris Joyce, who is James Joyce's great grandnephew, shared his memories of growing up as a Joyce, leaving Ireland to escape his history, but appreciating its value while working with Bloomsday's Montréal fans.

Like any good party, there was music. Belfast Andy started to play and other musicians joined in. Every participant left humming and buzzing with the excitement of being part of a remarkable literary celebration.



Judith Schurman

MCLL at Canada Day Parade



Passing the Bloomsday tradition on to the next generation? Below, the Schurmans and their daughter Miriam.



LE COIN FRANÇAIS

James Joyce, *Ulysse*, Bloomsday et moi.



Pour la première fois, en juin 2012, j'ai été initiée à James Joyce en lisant un extrait d'*Ulysse* en français. L'évènement se déroulait en plein air dans les parterres de McGill par un beau samedi ensoleillé. J'avais acheté la nouvelle traduction française de 2004.

Je comparais souvent des passages typiques de Joyce avec la version originale anglaise et tout y était : jeux de mots, esprit joycien. Quelle langue savoureuse! J'étais conquise.

Le livre *James Joyce, l'Irlande, le Québec, les mots* de l'écrivain québécois Victor-Lévy Beaulieu m'a aidée à saisir le monde de Joyce et les liens entre son *Ulysse* et l'épopée d'Homère. *L'essai hilare* de VLB – tel qu'il le qualifie – met aussi en relief l'esprit québécois et l'esprit irlandais. Le 13 juin dernier, j'ai eu la chance d'entendre *La souveraineté de la littérature*, conférence du Dr Jacques Pelletier qui a brossé un portrait de l'auteur québécois prolifique et situé l'essai sur Joyce dans son œuvre.

Au musée McCord, j'ai découvert deux autres œuvres de Joyce : *Finnigans Wake*, sujet du documentaire *The Joycean Society* de Dora Garcia, et *Chamber Music*, 36 poèmes mis en musique par Ross Lee Finney, chanté avec sensibilité par Maria Ramos.

Il me semble que Bloomsday commence à percer dans la communauté francophone. En mai, l'Espace Go présentait en français le monologue *Molly Bloom* – la Pénélope d'*Ulysse* – interprété avec brio par la comédienne Anne-Marie Cadieux. Le public était ravi ! Au fait, saviez-vous que Joyce parlait un très bon français ? Que c'est en France qu'il a édité *Ulysse*? Et qu'il préférait le vin blanc... à la Guinness ?

Le 16 juin, j'ai lu avec autant de plaisir un extrait d'*Ulysse*, chapitre 6, HADÈS, avec Jean Carrière, collègue de MCLL, à la magnifique bibliothèque de Westmount. Et je rêve toujours de visiter Dublin et l'Irlande de James Joyce !

Claire Rousseau

MCLL wishes to thank the following for helping make Bloomsday 2014 such a success:

The Bloomsday Committee

David and Judith Schurman, Kerry McElroy, Alex Megelas, Tony Wait, Kevin Wright, Astri Thorvik, Kris Epps, Ana Milic, Helen Forsyth, Howard Krosnick, Lesley Régnier, Maggie Benfield, Patmeena Sabit, Chris Joyce.

Sponsors and Partners

Zeller's Family Foundation, Jewish Public Library, St. Patricks Society of Montreal, Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, McCord Museum, Concordia University School of Irish Studies, Atwater Library, Westmount Library, Beaconsfield Library, Irish Embassy Pub and Grill, Paragraphe Bookstore, local MP Tyrone Benskin, and MCLL and some MCLL individual donors

Annual Ploughman's Breakfast and Plant Exchange



Maintaining the MCLL tradition again this year, the Annual Ploughman's Breakfast and Plant Exchange was held at Sandra Frisby's house and garden. After a hearty breakfast, guests were invited to tour the garden filled with carpets of plants and flowers in bloom: Japanese painted ferns, an early phlox, tulips, daffodils, irises, columbines, bleeding hearts and the bridal wreath bush. Guests were generous with their plants and the exchange was a plantful way to improve our gardens.

Charlotte French

Ontario's Glorious Railway History Study Group Outing



Photo: Gordon Campey

On June 11, 2014, members of the MCLL study group Ontario's Glorious Railway History boarded a train to Brockville at Central Station. Upon arrival, they walked a trail that replaced a loop line and visited the museum to hear a talk about the history of trains in Brockville. That was followed by a visit to the first railway tunnel built in Canada. Trains first passed through this tunnel on their way to the waterfront in 1860. Now, it supports (literally) city hall and is partially open to the public. After an early supper, the group took a Megabus back to Montréal. Special thanks go to the hosts in Brockville: Doug, Douglas, Brian and Jim; to the coordinators, Andrew and Robbie; and to Thelma for the muffins. Next year's topic in the Canadian Railway History series will be Northern & Western Ontario. One possibility for the outing is a trip to Ottawa on VIA rail and a ride on the Hull-Wakefield steam train (if its track has been repaired by then).

Andrew Macdougall

25th Anniversary Exhibition

Artwork from 32 MCLL visual artists

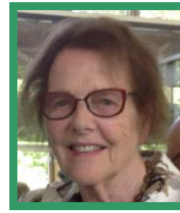
Date: August 28-30, 2014

Place: McLure Art Gallery, Visual Arts Centre,
350 Victoria Avenue, Westmount

Gallery hours: Thursday and Friday, 10-6 p.m.
Saturday from 10-5 p.m.

Vernissage: Thursday, August 28, at 6 p.m.

Free admission. No registration necessary.



SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Non-Fiction

Blood and Daring by John Boyko (2013) paperback. A vividly written, fascinating account of Canadian/American relations during the Civil War.

Stories About Storytellers by Douglas Gibson (2014) paperback. Alice Munro's prize read for people "interested in writers, books, Canada, life, and all that kind of thing."

What Are You Looking At? By Will Gompertz (2013) paperback. Written by a former director of the Tate, an informative and entertaining history of modern art from Impressionism to now.

The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King (2013) paperback. A brilliant, wide ranging, darkly humorous exploration of what it means to be an Indian in North America. Timely and important.

Birding with Yeats by Lynn Thomson (2014) paperback. Written by a Toronto-based writer and bookseller, this lovely unusual memoir is a must read for those of us who like to birdwatch.

Fiction

The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden by Jonas Jonasson (2013) paperback. A hilarious, satirical, totally implausible, romp of a tale. Perfect summer reading.

A Delicate Truth by John Le Carre (2014) paperback. Widely acclaimed as his best novel in years. Also his most personal.

A Man of Parts by David Lodge (2012) paperback. Meticulously researched fictional biography of H.G. Wells. A worthwhile and entertaining read.

The Innocents by Francesca Segal (2013) paperback. Transposed to an affluent Jewish suburb of North West London, a witty and stylish contemporary retelling of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*.

The Interestings by Meg Wolitzer (2013) paperback. Extraordinarily insightful and observant. A long, but compulsively readable, American novel about a group of friends. Wonderful summer read.

N.B. My best suggestion is still *Stoner* by John Williams. A perfect novel. (Suggested in my previous column.)

Pamela Sachs



Spring Fling



This year's Spring Fling ventured to a new location: The Chalet at Beaver Lake. It was a splendid choice. Participants marvelled at the dramatic change since the old days when they used to drop in for hot-dogs and Pepsi after skating. A good crowd of MCLL members turned up and enjoyed the ambiance as well as the excellent meal. Thanks to organizer Ann Pearson for a memorable day.



Visit to the Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art

On June 11, Mimi Caouette organized a visit to the Montréal Museum of Contemporary Art for interested MCLL members. What a treat! The visit began with a guided tour of the current exhibition, "Question of Abstraction". One of the paintings in that exhibition, an untitled 1965 piece by Ulysse Comtois, served as the inspiration for a session in the museum's workshop where all participants were expected to do a painting. No doubt about it, there are some budding artists among MCLL members! Mimi concluded the visit with an on-site interpretation of the installation of public art by Pierre Granche, which greets visitors to the museum as they enter from Place des Arts. *Lorne Huston*

