

MAUT FACULTY CLUB COMMITTEE REPORT, April 2021

The 2020-21 year has been a significant challenge for the McGill Faculty Club, due to the university closure. Urgent meetings were held in the spring of 2020 with Faculty Club Management and the Faculty Club Executive and Council, on which the MAUT Faculty Club Committee was strongly represented by Edith Zorychta and David Harpp. Three essential goals were addressed: 1) Maintain financial stability 2) Support the longstanding and dedicated Faculty Club employees during the closure 3) Create a positive outcome by using the closure to make constructive changes that are difficult or impossible to do when the Club is open. In summary, the Faculty Club is successfully accomplishing all three goals.

1) Financial stability has been ensured by our Faculty Club Emergency fund created in 1999/2000, which is invested through the McGill endowment and has grown through annual deposits and accumulated interest. The COVID-19 financial challenge is the type of crisis this fund was designed to cope with, and the Faculty Club will withstand the closure in solid financial shape. 2) The General Manager arranged for the unionized employees to relocate temporarily to other jobs within the university or they could choose to receive unemployment. The Managers have been redeployed in planning, directing, and supervising an extensive sequence of projects being done during the closure. 3) Approved projects include replacing all of the old, leaking windows and a few of the doors (cloak room, emergency exits) with energy-efficient, high quality windows by a company specialized in restoration of heritage buildings; repair the roof over the front entrance; restore the front door and steps; repair and upgrade the laundry room, staff quarters and changing rooms in the basement (this is long overdue); install disability provisions in the single bathroom on the 3rd floor; redesign the women's bathroom on the second floor and create an additional single-person bathroom to accommodate all individuals, including the disabled; install automatic door openers for 3 disabled-equipped bathrooms; replace the battery system in the wheelchair lift in the ballroom; replace a dangerous section of elevated flooring in the Council room; fix the cracked areas of ceiling in the main Dining Room; replace the walk-in fridge in the kitchen, and several other projects. The collective goal is to increase safety, increase accessibility, and address environmental concerns, while maintaining and enhancing the elegance of the heritage building.

In addition to the group meetings on zoom, Edith Zorychta in her role as Chair of the MAUT Faculty Club Committee and her involvement on the Faculty Club Executive has had regular meetings with the General Manager at the Club during the winter to inspect the progress of work being done and consult on various decisions including liaison with the university administration, submission of tender, city permits, and other details. A substantial amount of internal work has been completed, with the major external work on the windows scheduled to take place during the warmer months.

As a final note, it was decided that McGill members who have paid the annual membership fee would receive a credit of \$30 to be applied to their next invoice when the club reopens. This could optimistically be in September, with pandemic safety provisions in place, but the timing will be determined by the situation with COVID 19.

Edith Zorychta,
Chair, MAUT Faculty Club Committee