



# The Holiday Cheap Sheet

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## McGill Events

- Check out the [McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life](#) (MORSL) website for a weekly schedule of Spirituality and Wellness events. They are also hosting a [How I Celebrate](#) series on Facebook.
- **Residences:** Some McGill residences host events over the holidays—ask your Floor Fellows/Dons and Residence Life Facilitators.
- **Winter Break Club** for [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) students is hosted by International Student Services. Registration is free but required.
- For a daily listing of events in Student Services, click [here](#).

## Holiday Entertainment

- Free! [Luminothérapie | Coeur Battant](#) takes place from December 3, 2020, to March 14, 2021. All over Quartier des Spectacles, discover fascinating interactive, audio and static public artworks. Every evening at 6 p.m., be part of a magical sound-and-light moment to show your appreciation for the cultural scene.
- The little elves at the [Montreal Science Centre](#) have prepared some really great programming to help you count down to the Holidays! Explore a fun new activity everyday with their [Advent Calendar](#) from December 1 to 24.
- [Noël Dans le Parc](#) will be hosted « Sous le sapin » this year. 20 musical concerts will be offered virtually for you to enjoy from the comfort and safety of your own home. Find the lineup and registration links [here](#).
- Going to see a performance of The Nutcracker by Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montreal is a cherished holiday tradition for many. This year's performance will be presented as a recording of their 2016 show in its entirety on ICI TÉLÉ on Friday, December 18th at 7 PM and on ARTV, as part of LUNDI CULTURE, on December 28th, at 8 PM.

## Exhibitions & Markets

- [Jardins d'hiver](#) A little treasure hidden in the heart of the Quartier des spectacles and Place des Arts, which invites discovery, in a magical and luminous fairy-tale journey. December 5 to January 3. Free admission.

- [Jean Talon Christmas Market](#) Make gastronomic discoveries and enjoy local crafts at the legendary Jean Talon Market's first holiday edition. Open Fridays to Sundays from December 4 to 23 (including the 21-23). Free admission.
- [Marché Sainte-Anne Christmas](#) (24 rue Perrault) The winter market takes place on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St-Georges Church. Please take note of public health measures posted on the website in preparation for your visit.
- [Montreal Christmas Village](#) The most magical of Montreal's Christmas markets returns to the vicinity of Atwater Market. Open every weekend from November 26 to December 20, 2020. Free admission.
- [The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts](#) (1380 rue Sherbrooke Ouest) The museum is closed under the current public health measures, but you can enjoy their [collections](#) and [Bourgie Hall concerts](#) online.
- Every year, [The Salon des métiers des arts](#) sets up a one stop shop featuring hundreds of artisans and makers from across Quebec. This year, you can support a local artist and shop virtually [here](#) and [here](#). Note: variable price range.
- The [Souk](#) at the SAT, a cornerstone of the Montreal holiday markets for the past 17 years, will go digital from November 17 to December 17. Buy local and support one of 69 designers curated by the Souk's expert jury. Note: variable price range.

### Films and Movies

- The [Grande Bibliothèque](#) is offering contactless service while the library itself is closed. You can join, arrange for contactless pick up for reserved materials and return items. They have large a selection of movies and music available to borrow. Check their website for more information on the [services available](#).
- The [Montreal Science Centre](#) has [Online IMAX adventures](#) available that you can enjoy from home. \$1.31 CAD per rental.
- The [National Film Board of Canada](#) (NFB) has a wide range of films, documentaries and animation available to stream for free. There is also [interactive](#) and [educational](#) content.

### Holidays and Holy Days

- MORSL has compiled, and is regularly updating their list of virtual and local celebrations [here](#).

### Winter Sports & Recreational Activities

- McGill Athletics offers a variety of online and on-demand classes. Fall 2020 programming can be found [here](#).
- Free [outdoor skating](#) rinks. Weather permitting. Check the Ville de Montréal website for updates on the rink nearest you. Availability may vary according to public health measures. [Here's](#) where to go skating in Montreal this year.
- Check the [Mac Athletics Facebook](#) page for up to date information on the activities available under the current health measures, including recreational skating.
- [Skiing and Snowshoeing rentals](#): McGill Macdonald Athletics offers rentals for cross-country ski equipment and free snowshoe rentals if returned on the same day. Be sure to bring your McGill ID card. They have a winter break special: \$35 to rent skis, boots and poles for the week.
- Visit your local park for winter activities, such as walking, [sledding](#), [snowshoeing](#), or [cross-country skiing](#). Here are a few suggestions:
  - Mont-Royal: bring your own sled. East side of the mountain bordering Avenue du Parc
  - Parc Jarry
  - Cap St. Jacques

- Parc-nature Bois-de-Liesse: bring your own sled or rent one (from \$5-\$10 depending on the length of time)
- **Note:** Equipment rentals and activity availability may vary according to public health measures. Check the [City of Montreal](#) website, where you can search for information by borough.
- Morgan Arboretum has plenty of trails for walking, [tobogganing](#), [snowshoeing](#) and [cross-country skiing](#) (there is a daily fee of \$9 for snowshoeing and skiing). Under Covid-19 Sanitary Measures, only credit and debit payments are accepted, and trails are unidirectional. Parking may be limited and entrance restricted to members only during peak times, so be sure to call ahead 514-398-7811.

### Cheap Restaurants (open during holidays)

Generally, restaurants may be **closed on December 25 and January 1** and may have **reduced hours on December 24, 26 and/or 31**. Please check their website for more details. Here are some suggestions:

- [Cachitos](#) (3 Sainte-Catherine Street West) sells Venezuelan cachitos (bread with filling) as well as other pastries and coffee. They have many different fillings of cachitos to try, and most are only \$5.20 each. **Closed December 25 and January 1. Reduced hours December 24 and December 31.**
- [Cosmos Snack Bar](#) (5843 rue Sherbrooke Ouest) is a solid option when you're starving, or just craving some good greasy-spoon fare. They're famous for creations like breakfast burgers, and 6 egg omelets and breakfast is likely to run you less than \$15! **Open for take-out and delivery.**
- [Bao Bao Dim Sum](#) (83 rue de la Gauchetière Ouest) is similar to Cocobun but cheaper and yummiier (in this humble writer's opinion at least). It may not be as conveniently located as Cocobun, but Chinatown is filled with sights to see, and other cheap food to eat, so it's definitely worth it. My favourite items are their mixed vegetable steamed buns and their red bean steamed buns. **Open during regular business hours throughout the holidays.**
- [Joe's Panini](#) (1404 rue Drummond) is the Super Sandwich of Concordia. They offer a variety of sweet and savoury grilled sandwiches for \$6.75 each, and are open 24 hours, to help you with those hungry all-nighters! **Open 24/7.**
- [Pushap Restaurant and Sweet Shop](#) (5195 [rue Paré](#); 4777 [boul des Sources](#) –available for pick up and delivery), the people who make all the samosas for McGill fundraisers (known as "Samosa Gods") have a physical location, and it is filled with CHEAP Indian food. Their entire menu is vegetarian (with quite a few vegan options) and single portion options are \$7.50 each. **Normally open 11 am-9 pm, but hours may vary during the holiday season.**
- [Tim Hortons](#) (674 rue Sherbrooke Ouest; 104 Boul Don-Quichotte- both **open 24/7**) is a Canadian legend. They offer cheap coffee, hot drinks, donuts and sandwiches, and you can barely walk 3 blocks in any Canadian city without walking into one. They're reliable, everywhere and open late.

### Grocery stores around campus (holiday hours)

Generally, grocery stores are **closed on December 25 and January 1** and have **reduced hours on December 24, 26 and 31**. Here are a few suggestions:

- [Costco](#) – 300 rue Bridge or 5701 autoroute Transcanadienne
- [PA Supermarché](#) – 1420 rue du fort or 5242 av du Parc
- [Provigo](#) – 3421 av du Parc, 50 Av Mont-Royal O, or 90 rue Morgan
- [Segal's](#) – (Montreal's oldest, cheapest grocery store) 4001 Saint Laurent Boulevard
- [Super C](#) – 147 av Atwater or 44 Boul de la Cité-des-Jeunes

## Intent

Similar to the Cheap Sheet, the Holiday Cheap Sheet is a document that lists free or cheap resources at McGill and on the island of Montreal during the winter holidays. This initiative is part of our Frugal Scholar Money Management Program, which aims to help students with budgeting and to promote financial wellness. All the information in this document was compiled by your fellow students and our Financial Aid Counsellors.

## Disclaimer

The purpose of this document is to provide frugal ideas to students living on the island of Montreal. The Scholarships and Student Aid Office is not affiliated with and not paid to endorse the services, businesses, and companies listed in this document. All the prices listed in this document are subjected to change without the knowledge of the Scholarships and Student Aid Office.

This document was last updated in **December 2020**.

For financial aid resources and information, visit our [website](https://mcgill.ca/studentaid) at mcgill.ca/studentaid

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