



## The Holiday Cheap Sheet

To access our links, please go to our [website: mcgill.ca/studentaid/finances/cash-tips](http://mcgill.ca/studentaid/finances/cash-tips)

### 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 to 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.

## McGill Events

- Check out the [McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life \(MORSL\)](#) website for a weekly schedule of Spirituality and Wellness events.
- 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 hosted by International Student Services. Registration is free but required.
- Visit [the Student Services website](#) for a daily listing of events.

## Holiday Entertainment

- [Luminothérapie](#) takes place from November 30, 2023, to March 10, 2024. Illuminating [Place des Festivals](#) with a light installation, Luminothérapie is an antidote to Montreal's shortest and darkest days of the year.
- [Noël Dans le Parc](#) takes place from December 8 to December 31, 2023 at three locations: Place Émilie Gamelin, Parc des Compagnons-du-Saint-Laurent, Parc Lahaie. Check out the New Year's Eve activities taking place at Place Émilie Gamelin.
- [Santa's Kingdom](#) (Complexe Desjardins) for students with children and the young at heart. It takes place from November 25 to December 24, 2023.

## Exhibitions & Markets

- [The Great Christmas Market](#) is taking place from November 25 to December 30, 2023 at the Quartier des spectacles. Check out their list of events on their website.
- [Montreal Vegan Christmas Market](#) takes place online from December 2 to December 3, 2023. Free admission. They offer a wide range of vegan products.
- [Jean Talon Christmas Market](#) Make gastronomic discoveries and enjoy local crafts at the legendary Jean Talon Market's holiday edition. Check out their website for the Holiday schedule.
- [Sainte-Anne Winter Market](#) (St-George's Anglican Church, 23 rue Perrault) The winter market takes place on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. until December 23, 2023 – back January 13, 2024.
- [Montreal Christmas Village](#) The most magical of Montreal's Christmas markets returns to the vicinity of Atwater Market. Open from November 30 to December 24, 2023, Friday evenings, and weekends. Free activities on site.

## Films and Movies

- [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.

## Winter Sports & Recreational Activities

- Free **outdoor skating** rinks. [Outdoor Skating Rinks](#) Consult this page for schedules (weather permitting).
  - [Skate Rental](#) available at certain outdoor rinks (\$) such as Parc La Fontaine, Parc Maisonneuve, etc.
  - Skating, Snow tubing, Snowshoeing, Cross-country skiing at Mount Royal. Visit [Mount Royal Programming](#) for all scheduling and fee details.
  - Around Mac Campus: Parc Harpell, Parc Aumais, and Parc Godin in [Ste-Anne de-Bellevue](#) (check the opening hours).
- Free **indoor skating** rinks.

- [Mac arena](#) offers free skating for McGill students (with a valid McGill I.D.) Monday to Friday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Verify their [calendar](#) for more details on scheduling. Bring your own skates.
- [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.
- [Mac Fitness Centre/Gym](#) This is free for McGill students. Be sure to bring your McGill ID card. Verify their website for any changes to their schedule, including holiday hours.
- Visiting your local park or nature 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 (\$5 to \$10)
  - 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). Parking may be limited and entrance restricted to members only during peak times, so be sure to call ahead 514-398-7811.

**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.

### 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:

- [Cosmos Snack Bar](#) (5843 rue Sherbrooke Ouest) is a solid option for 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 your breakfast will likely run you less than \$10! **Open during regular business hours throughout the holidays.**
- [Cachitos](#) (3 rue Sainte-Catherine west) sells Venezuelan cachitos (bread with filling) as well as other pastries and coffee. They have many different fillings of cachitos to try.
- [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 (\$3) and their red bean steamed buns (\$3.50 to \$5.00). **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 \$8, and are open 24 hours, to help you with those hungry all-nighters! **Open 24/7.**
- [Pushap Restaurant and Sweet Shop](#) (5195 rue Paré) 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 most single portion options are under \$7. **Open 11:30 am-9 pm, but hours may vary during the holiday season.**
- [Tim Hortons](#) (674 rue Sherbrooke Ouest; 104 Boul Don-Quichotte) 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. **Open 24/7.**

## 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 (membership is required)
- [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
- [Super C](#) – 147 av Atwater or 44 Boul de la Cité-des-Jeunes

This document was last updated in **November 2023**.

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

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