

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN – LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTRÉAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and here's wishing you Happy New Year as we look forward to a very interesting 2017.

Our 2016 year ended on December 8th, with our WOTY Luncheon as Monique Séguin, PhD a professor at the department of psychology and psycho education at Université du Québec en Outaouais was named Woman of the Year. A researcher at the McGill Group for Suicide Studies and researcher at the Quebec Network on Suicide, Mood Disorder and Related Disorders Mme. Seguin gave a short synopsis of her work.

2017 is a very big year as the Province of Quebec celebrates the City of Montreal's 375th anniversary; celebrations will take place in every neighbourhood. And across Canada, there will be many special events as all of Canada celebrates their 150th Anniversary, since Confederation. Lots of festivities are planned for this historic occasion.

Our 2017 program list promises to be equally interesting as we begin our first meeting of the year with guest speaker Dr. Maria di Tomasso who will be speaking about "Women's Mental Health across the Life Cycle." Please bring your friends, everyone is welcome.

Forward and onward we go, 2017 here we come. - Shirley Gyles - *President*



Dr. MARIA DI TOMASSO

**WOMEN'S MENTAL HEALTH
ACROSS THE LIFE CYCLE**

GUEST SPEAKER, FEBRUARY 2 MEETING

Dr. Di Tomasso will be speaking about women's mental health across the life cycle, including a brief historical overview of roles. She will show how mental health needs differ across the life span. She will comment on prevention strategies to enhance mental health and wellbeing with age.

**Please join us for this very inspiring presentation.
New members and guests are welcome.**

MCW FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon on February 2, 2017 at the cost of \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. The address is: 2700 Rufus Rockhead, Montreal.

Please advise Shirley Gyles if you plan to attend at: [450-672-7181](tel:450-672-7181) or e-mail: sagyles@sympatico.ca

Woman of the Year 2016

The MCW held its 30th Woman of the Year (WOTY) Award Luncheon on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the OMNI Hotel in Montreal.

The focus for this year's award was a woman who had made a significant contribution in the prevention of suicide. The 2016 WOTY recipient, Monique Séguin Ph.D. is a professor in the department of psychology and psycho-education at *the Université du Québec en Outaouais*. She is also a researcher at the McGill Group for Suicide Studies. She has been involved in suicide prevention research for over 30 years.



Monique Séguin, Ph.D. and Shirley Gyles, MCW President

The guests were served a delicious and copious lunch. Prof. Monique Séguin was then awarded as MCW's 2016 Woman of the Year and gave a very meaningful acceptance speech on her career and the topic of suicide prevention which certainly received all the attention it deserved from a captive audience.

We then proceeded with a prize draw including a night at the OMNI Hotel, a pair of tickets to the Seagal Centre and a beautiful sculpture by artist Bonnie Detsounis that certainly made three of our guests very happy.

We ended the event with all WOTY present having their photo taken. It all made for a very enjoyable and pleasant afternoon.

Isabelle Godefroy

Woman of the Year 2016



Guests enjoying their lunch at the OMNI Hotel on December 8, 2016



**MCW WOTY from left to right:
Beverly Townsend, 2000 WOTY- Shirley Cohen, 2012 WOTY, Shirley Gyles,
MCW President and 2002 WOTY, Monique Séguin Ph.D., 2016 WOTY**

Cheryl Braganza 1945-2016
Painter, Writer, Poet, Pianist and Cancer Survivor



Sadly, on Friday, December 16, 2016, Cheryl Braganza passed away peacefully after a 12-year battle with cancer. Her three devoted sons and her friends were by her side along this difficult journey.

Cheryl was a valued member of the Women's Art Society of Montreal, of the Zonta Club of Montreal and of the Montreal Council of Women. She was recognised as the 2008 Woman of the Year for her excellence in the integration of women immigrants through the Arts. A copy of her beautiful acceptance speech is available on her website: www.cherylbraganza.com. Click on Montreal Woman of the Year 2008 ceremony for a full copy.

Cheryl will be missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

Here is a tribute to Cheryl by Vivianne Silver, MCW Education Convenor.

"And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years" (Abraham Lincoln)

Our dear friend Cheryl's life was sadly shortened due to illness, but the legacy of her years is a most worthy and meaningful one.

She leaves behind her cherished and dedicated family of her son Andre and his family, her sons Carlos and Miguel.

It is as a magnificent artist, a writer, a musician and so much more that Cheryl will be remembered.

But it is mostly as a dear friend that Cheryl will have left a lasting place in our hearts.

I first met Cheryl when I became involved with the MCW more than a decade ago. She was always most encouraging and supportive of my efforts. I was able to rejoice when she was named Woman of the Year. It is however at the time of her illness that a special bond was formed between us.

The Board had organized a schedule visits and of meals to be brought to her home. My days were usually on a Monday. That's when I could sit with Cheryl and truly get to know the exceptional and gifted human being.

We were able to share many of our mutual loves. Our three sons, our grand-children, our commitment to women's issues, our writings, our love of music (she was most helpful to me with my study of piano).

It was however about her magnificent art that we had our most profound discussions. She was most generous in painting my music briefcase with lovely flowers and the notes of Chopin's Nocturne -I am now studying it with the hope of playing it at my next piano recital and dedicate it to her memory.

Cheryl fought the devastation of her illness with courage and with dignity and always remained hopeful even in her darkest hour.

There is so much more that one could write about this wonderful and gifted human being. I feel privileged to share just one page of her life.

Cheryl wrote this beautiful quote on my music briefcase: "Something mighty and sublime, leave behind to conquer time" (Goethe) - That is truly Cheryl's legacy.

Vivianne M. Silver



The Famous 5, 2010

In memoriam Catharine Laidlaw Sly 1931 – 2016

Members & friends of Councils of Women across Canada and beyond were saddened to hear that Catharine had died on October 15th 2016 after a life of extraordinary activity & activism on many fronts, especially concerning women's issues. After raising her six children, during which time she was very active in Girl Guides & Curling, she turned to wider fields in national & international affairs. She started by volunteering at Auberge Transition, a shelter for battered women in Montreal which has just celebrated its 40th anniversary and has long been a Federate member of the Montreal Council of Women. Catharine soon became involved in MCW and served as President from 1988-90. I think I first met her in 1985 when MCW hosted the NCWC AGM at which I represented women of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Catharine soon went on to involvement in the NCWC and was a member of the national Board in the early 90s. She attended the World Conference of Women in Beijing in 1995 and was always very concerned that Canada should support the Beijing Platform for Action & recommendations from succeeding conferences. In the late 90s she was instrumental getting NCWC membership at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to which the International Council of Women already belonged. She represented NCWC at the annual meetings of the UNCSW from 1998-2000. Also in 1998 she spoke passionately at the AGM in favour of a resolution urging Canada to support the newly-proposed International Criminal Court by signing on and ratifying it. Support of the ICC then became part of NCWC policy. I feel that she would be saddened by the trouble now besetting the ICC.

The environment was always a great concern of Catharine's – she served as Convener for the Environment from 1997-98 & as V-P in the same portfolio from 1998-2001. In 1997 she made an important presentation to the Seaborn Commission on the deep burial of high level nuclear waste – a suggestion that she likened to opening Pandora's Box. It is worth noting that this problem is still ongoing & the nuclear industry is still very influential. Catharine served as President of NCWC from 2001-05; as Policy Advisor from 2005-08; as President of the NCWC Education Fund from 2005-07 and as President of CPFQ-PCWQ from 2006-08. She was an Honorary Life Member of NCWC since 2005.

Catharine & I worked together on many topics and travelled far & wide. In September 1999 we went to New York for a meeting of the UN Department of Public Information for NGOs. It was an interesting meeting which ended with a storm which washed out the rail lines north of Albany – we eventually got back to Montreal by bus!

The next month we were off to London to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Persons' Day at Canada House in Trafalgar Square. I had been asked to make a presentation there and we both participated fully in the 2 day conference & met many interesting people. In 2000 Catharine was a very helpful member of the delegation I led to the ICW Triennial General Assembly in Helsinki, Finland. We were also both members of the Canadian Committee for the World March of Women 2000 & attended many months of meetings in Ottawa leading up to the March on Parliament Hill in October 2000. Catharine & I were carrying the big NCWC banner & I remember her waylaying a CBC reporter to interview me – it appeared on the 10 pm TV news! Catharine was always a good friend & colleague whom I last saw at the memorial service for our friend & mentor Amy Williams in Montreal in 2010. Catharine was in good form and will be sorely missed.

*Elizabeth Hutchinson, President CPFQ-PCWQ & Past
President NCWC*



**NCWC Board with the Famous 5 statues on Parliament Hill just after
Persons' Day, October 18, 2000**

From left to right: Cheryl Steernberg, VP-BC; June Hughes, Recording Secretary – BC; Shirley Browne VP-ON; Lynda Newson VP-SK (back); Pat Rustad VP-NS (back); Catharine Laidlaw-Sly VP-QC; Carol Schweitzer VP-QC (back); Elizabeth Hutchinson President – QC; Mary Lambros Treasurer – ON; Gracia Janes VP-ON

**In memoriam Patricia Rustad
1929 – 2016**

Pat Rustad who died on November 5th is the second outstanding Council member whom NCWC & MCW have lost in the last two months. She was born in Britain and grew up in Buenos Aires, Alderney (in the Channel Islands) as well as the UK where she was educated. I remember her talking about being in the Channel Islands during World War II when the Germans invaded after overrunning continental Europe though I don't clearly remember how she & her family escaped. After settling in Montreal with Paul, her Norwegian husband, Pat became involved in municipal politics, serving as municipal councilor from 1970-1982. She is still well-remembered in Beaconsfield Quebec as a most capable & beloved Mayor from 1982-1990 – the trees planted during her time as mayor are now mature though the lovely fall colours have disappeared for this year. She & Paul were also active in the Montreal Norwegian community.

At the same time Pat became involved with MCW and served as President from 1978-81. She has been an Honorary Vice-President of MCW since 2010. On the national level Pat served as V-P from 1998-2001, with responsibility for Arts, Education, PE & Recreation and Youth. She was Recording Secretary from 2001-02 – a position which was subsequently abolished when we adopted the use of a tape-recorder to record the AGM minutes. She had been named as President-Elect for 2002-03 but that position was also abolished when we adopted a biennial election cycle.

Pat was always a most helpful & reliable member of the NCWC Board during my presidency (1998-2001) and I enjoyed working with her on a number of projects. She & Paul moved to Nova Scotia in the early '90s – it was a joke in NCWC that he had accompanied her to an AGM in Halifax, after which they went out & promptly bought a house! I visited them on several occasions later on, both in their Halifax apartment and in their house at Hubbards, when I was also visiting the Anglican diocese of Nova Scotia & P.E.I., wearing my Anglican hat. In November 2000 Pat invited to her apartment a small group of younger women who might be interested in joining Council – we had a good discussion with them about their & our concerns. We also attended a meeting of the Halifax LCW where they were discussing the revision of their Constitution & By-Laws. I seem to remember that the printed documents the LCW was using at the time were pretty aged, with references to the Dominion Government, which could only be approached through the National Council.

As a member of the NCWC Board in 2000 Pat attended the October meeting in Ottawa and appears in the picture when we all met with the statues of the Famous 5. Pat also helped to plan and host the NCWC AGM in Halifax in 2002 which I was unable to attend as my husband was sick.

*Elizabeth Hutchinson, President CPFQ-PCWQ & Past President
NCWC*



**Go to our website:
montrealcouncilwomen.org
and click on the facebook icon on the top
right-hand corner.
Looking forward to sharing with you!**

**WOMEN'S ART SOCIETY
OF MONTREAL**



The Women's Art Society of Montreal invites you to become member of our group where you can connect with like-minded people who enjoy the arts.

We gather bi-monthly on Tuesdays at the McCord Museum from 1:30 to 2:30 PM to listen to great talks.

Please look at our website for info:
www.womensartsociety.com or call 514-495-3701.

February 28, 2017

The Women's Art Society of Montreal presents Art Educator/ Writer/Artist, **DEIRDRE POTASH** – *The Art and Times of J. W. Waterhouse*, from 1:30 to 2:30 PM at the McCord Museum, 690 Sherbrooke West. Non-members: \$ 10.00.

www.womensartsociety.com or 514-495-3701.



University Women's Club of Montreal Inc.
Club des Femmes Universitaires de Montréal Inc

UWCM Dinner Meeting

Reflections of a minor biographer

How do you get from an ordinary Montreal upbringing to collaborate with Graham Greene on his final book, write his and other biographies, and edit the correspondence between Leonard Woolf and the woman he spent his life with after Virginia died? That's an ordinary Montreal story. But writing literary biography is not - it's a peculiarly devilish task. This talk will reflect on the difficulty of the work and the luck in finding subjects.

Newcomers are welcome.

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Cocktails: 6:00 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

**Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Avenue,
Montreal, H3H 1YZ**

Speaker: Judith Adamson is the author of many books, including *Graham Greene And Cinema*, *The Dangerous Edge*, a political biography of Graham Greene, *Charlotte Haldane*, a biography of JBS Haldane's first wife, and *Max Reinhardt: A Life in Publishing*.

Tickets: \$31.04 Members - \$50.00 Non-members

Contact by February 9: 514-935-2431 or 514-934-1362 or e-mail: uwcm@uwcm.com.



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Date: FEBRUARY 13, 2017 MONDAY

Place: E.M.S.B
6000 Fielding Avenue
Montreal, H3X 1T4

Time: 5:30 – 6: 30 p.m.

light supper: Check with security for Room

7:00 p.m.

Speaker

COST:

- for DKG members: 15.00\$ ****
- for non-members: 20.00\$ ****
- Students:10:00\$ ****

R.S.V.P.: Members RSVP to your Chapter Presidents by phone or e--mail.

- Non-members - RSVP to Erika Sebaldt 514-489-2760
- or email erika.sebaldt@bell.net

**PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT WOMEN &
CHILDREN & OUR DKG EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS**

www.gammaque.weebly.com;

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The Coloured Women's Club

Founded 1902 ■ Member of the Montreal Council of Women

PRESENTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SOIRÉE

AN EVENING OF PASTA, WINE & THEATRE



FEATURING

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Direct from Houston, Texas, and back by popular demand, Ms. Melissa Waddy-Thibodeaux is a one-woman show performing multiple character re-enactments of historical figures: **HARRIET TUBMAN**, **LAVINIA BELL** (fled to Montreal) **AND CATHAY WILLIAMS** (Female Buffalo Soldier).

Come and experience this amazing, riveting, inspirational, educational and fun show that will leave **YOU** sitting on the edge of your seat.

The performance will be in English.

DATE:

**Saturday,
25th February, 2017**

PLACE:

**COTE DES NEIGES
COMMUNITY CENTRE
6767 Cote-des-Neiges Rd
Montreal, QC H3S 2T6**

Door opens at 5:30 pm
Supper starts at 6:00 pm

TICKETS:

\$30.00 in advance or
\$40.00 at the door
*Children 12 years and younger
\$20.00

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TICKETS AVAILABLE:

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Atlantique Driving School
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Montreal-Ouest, QC H4X 1Y9
514-482-3636

Naomie: 514-365-7774

INFO:

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sagyles@sympatico.ca

Everyone is welcome!