

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN – LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTRÉAL

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President's Message

It was good to see so many of you at the February meeting and to hear Dr. Charmaine Nelson speak about African enslavement in eighteenth century Montreal. We will have to visit the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts to see the infamous renamed painting, "Portrait of a Haitian Woman."

We are now off to some other interesting meetings: March brings with it the consideration of proposed NCWC resolutions for the upcoming AGM. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring their perspective to the new resolutions before we send our comments to NCWC. Discussions regarding these resolutions will take place from 10 am until noon. We hope that many of you will come and participate in the grass roots process of developing NCWC policy. After a break for lunch, there will be a panel discussion organised by the Hon. Eleni Bakopanos where we will hear from the Hon. Marlene Jennings, Mme Mair Verthuy, C.M. and Mme Manon Gauthier, Executive council member for the City of Montreal.

On another note, we are very excited to be hosting the NCWC AGM in Montreal this year! We will have some interesting events and speakers. On Thursday evening the Mayor of Montreal will host a cocktail for our delegates and attendees and on Friday after a day of plenary sessions we will hear from our own Bonnie Destounis, she will speak about what the Development Organisation of NCWC has been doing in the past year. Cocktails and dinner will be hosted at the home of Ginger Petty, a member of our MCW board. Saturday will continue with more plenary sessions and presentation by the Education Fund of NCWC followed by a Council banquet; and finally on Sunday morning there will be a last plenary session after which we will bid a fond farewell to our guests from across the country.

To make all of this happen and to showcase our group and our city in a most wonderful light, we need your help both as volunteers and also financially by acquiring sponsors and donors. Please watch for information going out to you soon. - *Dr. Chitra Chopra*

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMAN OF CANADA (NCWC) AGM MAY 21 - 24, 2015 MONTREAL,



DR. CHARMAINE NELSON

Black History Month Guest Speaker

As February is Black History Month, we were very fortunate to have as our guest speaker, **Dr. Charmaine Nelson** who is an Associate Professor of Art History at McGill University and who is also the first Black professor to teach art history at a Canadian university. Dr. Nelson has also held several prestigious fellowships and appointments.

Her research and teaching interests include postcolonial and Black feminist scholarship, critical (race) theory, Trans-Atlantic Slavery Studies and Black Studies. She has made ground breaking contributions to the fields of the Visual Culture of Slavery, Race and Representation and Black Canadian Studies. Nelson has authored five books including, "The Color of Stone: Sculpting the Black Female Subject in Nineteenth-Century America" (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007), "Ebony Roots, Northern Soil: Perspectives on Blackness in Canada" (Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2010), and "Representing the Black Female Subject in Western Art" (New York: Routledge, 2010). (- Continued page 2)



François Malépart de Beaucourt, "Portrait of a Haitian Woman" (formerly Portrait of a Negro Slave until 2011) [1786], oil on canvas, 72.7 x 58.5 cm., M12067, McCord Museum, Montreal.

MCW MARCH LUNCHEON MEETING

RESOLUTIONS DAY and INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - panel discussion. Lunch will be served, payable at the door. It will be most appreciated if you advise Frances Gregory (514)935-1674, Email: frances.gregory@videotron.ca if you plan to attend.

Nelson

(Continued from page 1)

Nelson's presentation entitled: "**François Malépart de Beaucourt's 'Portrait of a Haitian Woman': Revolutionary Saint Domingue and African Enslavement in Eighteenth-Century Montreal**" was a very thought-provoking enlightenment for most. A confliction of artist/owner/patron, which Nelson discussed, "was dangerous for the enslaved Black woman. For years, scholars were unable to pinpoint productions recent evidence has placed Beaucourt and his wife in Saint Domingue (now Haiti) on the eve of the Haitian Revolution." The Beaucourts' (François and his wife's) Haitian sojourn to recuperate the identity and subjectivity of the anonymized Black female subject and to position the renaming of the portrait within the context of the prolific and ongoing institutional erasure of Canadian slavery."

"Portrait of a Negro Slave" was renamed "Portrait of a Haitian Woman" in 2011 by its owner, the McCord Museum (Montreal). It is now on display, at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Nelson suggested several scenarios for the Beaucourts' escape from Saint Domingue to Montreal via Philadelphia, exposing that the couple's relocation likely resulted in the second forced migration of the sitter, a Dominguan slave woman who was most likely born in Africa.

Dr. Nelson concluded her presentation by reading, "the ambiguous landscape vignette, included in the portrait as a means through which Beaucourt alienated the sitter from the Dominguan plantation from which she was most likely removed.

For those of us who attended, a most informative and provocative discourse. Ashgate Publishing (UK) will be publishing Dr. Nelson's sixth book entitled "Slavery, Geography, and Empire in Nineteenth-Century Marine Landscapes of Montreal and Jamaica" in 2015. - S. Gyles

(Source: The Canadian Encyclopedia, Nelson, Dr. Charmaine, <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/portrait-of-a-negro-slave/>)

Dr. Charmaine A. Nelson, Associate Professor of Art History Books: <http://www.blackcanadianstudies.com/books/> Website: <http://www.blackcanadianstudies.com/>



Canada Post - Community Mailboxes

As part of a "Five -point Action Plan" to better serve all its customers and in a

major move to reduce significant regular losses to the post office, Canada Post has started the first phase of a five year plan to install community mailboxes. As door-to-door delivery is being phased out of various urban areas, Canada

Post will convert the Canadian households that previously received door-to-door delivery to community mailbox delivery. This initiative will affect about one third of all Canadian households, most of which are located in urban areas. The other two-thirds of households already receive their mail and parcels either through community mailboxes, grouped or lobby mailboxes or curbside rural mailboxes. These roughly 10 million house-holds will not experience any change as a result of the initiative.

Likewise, many businesses will continue to receive delivery to the door. There will be no change to seniors' residences, apartments or condos where mail is delivered to the lobby and rural customers with a mailbox at the end of their driveway, nor to businesses within business corridors or with high volumes of mail; addressees with delivery to the door, will be notified by mail. Urban home delivery will be phased out over the next five years. The first communities that will switch to community service were announced in the second half of 2014.



Why did Canada Post deem this necessary change?

According to a report published in December of 2013, "While Canadians are communicating and shipping more online, they often are not at home during the day to check their mail boxes for sensitive items that are increasingly sent through the mail, such as identification, credit cards or prescriptions." "Community mailboxes are the optimal solution; they are located close to home, personal mail compartments are locked and can be opened only with the keys provided to the address and they are accessible 24/7. Mail will no longer accumulate at the front door or sit in an un-locked mailbox when residents are away. Each community - mailbox contains locked parcel compartments, making online shopping easier."

It seems that the rise in digital communications has dramatically changed the postal needs of Canadians. More and more people are communicating and managing their household bills online and letter mail (*snail mail*) has declined however, due to more and more Canadians shopping online, the posting of parcels has shot up. This dramatic shift has created a pressing need for the post office to manage a greater number of parcels and less snail mail.

According to Canada Post, this change is necessary because Canadians **are in fact**, communicating and shopping more online and with the increasing use of digital communication and the historic decline of letter mail

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Post Office

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volumes, Canada Post has begun to post significant financial losses. "The corporation, if left unchecked, continued losses would soon jeopardize its financial self-sufficiency and become a significant burden on taxpayers and customers." Community consultation in most areas is now closed and the results compiled and shared feedback given to neighbourhood.



An investigation of problems involving community mailboxes done last year by CBC News found Canada Post recorded 4,880 incidents involving community mailboxes, ranging from vandalism and arson to mail theft, between 2008 and 2013. Canada post is doing everything to convince the public that these super-mailboxes also meet the needs of customers with disabilities. They are also exploring alternative approaches to meet the needs of Canadians with significant mobility challenges.

Other planned initiatives by Canada Post:

a) A new approach to prices as a new tiered pricing structure of "Lettermail," which will better reflect the cost of serving customer segments. Those who buy stamps in booklets or coils will pay \$0.85 per stamp, with discounts for customers that use the mail most.

b) Expanding convenience through postal franchises, Canada Post will strengthen its retail network by opening more franchise postal outlets in stores across Canada. The company will partner with local retail businesses that are conveniently located in their communities and which offer added benefits, such as better parking and longer hours. This will allow busy Canadians to do more of their shopping in one place. Canada Post will also streamline its corporate-run post offices.

c) Streamlining operations. Changes to internal operations will make for a more efficient flow of parcels and mail through the network and to the customer. These changes are driven by technology (such as faster computerized sorting equipment), consolidation (such as processing mail and parcels in a central location) and providing more delivery employees with fuel-efficient vehicles, so the same employee can deliver both mail and parcels. Improved operations will yield cost-effective and more reliable delivery to Canadians, along with better parcel tracking capabilities.

d) Addressing the cost of labour. With its current labour costs, Canada post has a much higher cost structure than its competitors, which is simply not sustainable. This is simply

not sustainable. The company will continue to bring the cost of labour in line with its competitors through attrition and collective bargaining over time. Canada Post will also take the necessary steps to permanently address the sustainability of its pension plan. A leaner workforce will create a more flexible and competitive Canada Post, able to respond quickly to the changing marketplace.

These initiatives will help the Corporation to better serve the emerging needs of Canadians, and fulfill its mandate to remain financially self-sufficient and avoid becoming a burden on taxpayers. For instance, delivering to community mailboxes provides convenience and security, but costs significantly less than the cost to deliver to the door. Franchise post offices provide added customer benefits and opportunities for small businesses looking to grow their business, but cost far less to operate than corporate-run stand-alone post offices.

At news release Canada Post stated that over the next five years, it will eliminate 6,000 to 8,000 positions but it also expects 15,000 workers will leave the company or retire within that period.



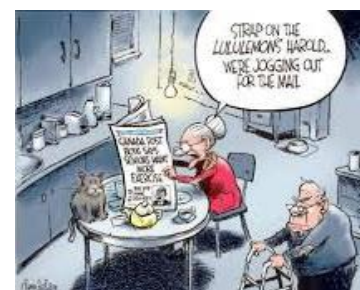
Past



Future

Of course there has to be some down side to all of this. As the Canadian population ages and people wish to stay in their homes and be autonomous for as long as they can, how will they fare, after fifty or sixty years of having their mail delivered right to the door. The thought might not be so bad during the summer or let's say even the spring and fall but what about our infamous 'l'hiver's', those frigid cold, icy, slippery days to walk perhaps only a few paces to the corner. Not too encouraging. – S. Gyles

Source: https://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/assets/pdf/aboutus/5_en.pdf



[MCW Article and Announcement Submissions](#)
 The next issue of **The Bulletin** will be in March. Please submit your articles, announcements and photos by the 10th day of March via email to: mcwbulletineditor@gmail.com
Please note our new bulletin email address.



**SENIORS
ACTION
QUEBEC**

A SENIORS NETWORK ...FOR SENIORS ... BY SENIORS



"SAVE THE DATE"
CONFERENCE ON END-OF-LIFE CHOICES
APRIL 27TH, 2015 - 8:30 AM- 5:00 PM
La Plaza
(Former Holiday Inn Downtown)
420 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, QC, H3A 1B4

Please circle the date on your Calendar

On April 27th, 2015, Seniors Action Quebec will be hosting a timely conference, in English, on the new provincial legislation Bill 52 "Dying with Dignity". There have unfortunately been mixed public messages which created serious concerns and stress among our seniors and family members.

It is important to note that Seniors Action Quebec is not promoting one side of the issue over another. Our goal is to bring a variety of experts together to provide an overview so individuals can have an informed discussion with family members, caregivers and their doctors. Once a decision is made, the individual's close networks will understand the reasons why and respect their decision.

Participants will include seniors, healthcare professionals, medical students, family members, caregivers, community organizations that provide direct services to seniors and the community-at-large.

For additional information email Ruth Pelletier, President, Seniors Action Quebec, ruthpelletier613@gmail.com

MCW PROGRAM 2014-2015

- **MARCH 5, 2015 - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S Day - "Make it Happen" RESOLUTIONS DAY - Meeting commences at 10 AM. Afternoon - panel discussion. Hon. Eleni Bakopanos - Moderator**
- **APRIL 2, 2015 - Dida Berku - ENVIRONMENT - Counselor in the City of Côte Saint-Luc, Quebec and an Attorney at Law -environment**
- **MAY 14, 2015 - MCW AGM - Dr. Clarence Epstein - Professor Concordia - "GET THE STOLEN ART BACK" - WARTIME THEFTS**
- **MAY 21 - 24, 2015 - NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA AGM**

MAKE IT HAPPEN

Montreal Council of Women International Women's

Day: March 8th

Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. The first International Women's Day was held in **1911**. **Make It Happen** is the **2015 United Nations theme** which encourages effective action for advancing and recognizing women. The UN has been declaring an annual **equality theme** for many years. All around the world, International Women's Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality.

Thousands of events occur globally to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day. Governments, various organizations, many charities and NGOs also identify their own International Women's Day theme by adopting a relevant theme or campaign to mark the day specific to their local context and interests. The Canadian government has chosen as its' 2015 theme **"Strong Women, Strong Canada"**. For example, organisations like the UN, Oxfam, Women for Women, Care International, Plan, World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and more - run exciting and powerful campaigns that raise awareness and encourage donations for good causes.

In celebration of International Women's Day, the Montreal Council of Women has invited for a panel discussion three (3) dynamic and exceptional women who have advocated and advanced women's rights locally, nationally and internationally; who have in fact "Made it Happen"! We are honoured and pleased that the **Honourable Marlene Jennings**, retired lawyer and former Member of Parliament, **Manon Gauthier**, City of Montreal municipal councillor responsible for a number of municipal portfolios including for the status of women and **Mair Verthuy**, MCW member and former MCW President, have confirmed their presence for Thursday, March 5th. They will each present their views on 3 policy areas for advancing women's rights as well as suggest and recommend actions for the MCW and other organizations to "Make it happen".

On behalf of the MCW, I encourage you to attend this important panel discussion in celebration of International Women's Day and look forward to seeing you on March 5th.

The Honourable Eleni Bakopanos, P.C.
Vice-President Government Affairs
Montreal Council of Montreal

The McGill Women's Alumnae Association (MWAA)

Muriel V. Roscoe Lecture:

Women's Human Rights and Engaged Global Citizenship

Date: March 12th at 6pm

McGill University, Leacock Rm 232

855 Sherbrooke St W, Montreal, QC, H3A 2T7

Cost: Free (but pre-registration is required)

RSVP to: montreal.registrar@mcgill.ca or 514-398-1248

The McGill Women's Alumnae Association (MWAA) invites you to a special lecture honoring International Women's Week 2015.

It is now widely recognized that empowerment of women is central to building peaceful, prosperous societies. Yet, across the globe, women's human rights are increasingly coming under challenge.

Join author and Professor, **Dr. Vrinda Narain** for an enlightening discussion to better understand how women can use universal norms of human rights in particular local contexts to move towards equality, and to foster an understanding of global citizenship built on powerful, meaningful community engagement.

Light refreshments will be served prior to Lecture. Space is limited; register today- *The Honourable Eleni Bakopanos, PC*
President
McGill Women's Alumnae Association



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015
Time: 11:30 am – 3:00 pm
ZONTA CLUB OF MONTREAL

cordially invites you to our

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKER

Wanda Lillian Kaluzny

*Founder, Conductor and Artistic Director
Montreal Chamber Orchestra
"MCO's Lunchtime Concert Series"*



Location: Marriott Montreal Airport In-Terminal Hotel
Bijou Resto I Bar
800 Place Leigh Capreol, Dorval, QC H4Y 0A4
(with your pass, take Bus 747 directly to the door)

Tickets: \$60.00 – meal, glass of wine, gift for each attendee

Parking: FREE parking for 4 hours

Cash Bar: 11:30 am – 12:00 pm

RSVP: Reservations of tickets a must by Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Email: zmcoccommunications@gmail.com and by online registration

Phone: Mickey Wernecke 513-630-0138 or Yvonne Quintyn 514-683-4213

SPONSORS



Centaury Theatre Company
www.centaurytheatre.com



L'Orchestre de chambre de Montreal
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Restaurant Montreal Airport
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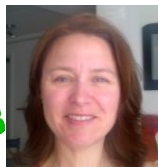
Zonta Club of Montreal
www.zonta.org
Montreal@ZontaDistrict2.org

Delta Kappa Gamma

Gamma Province, Quebec

Presents

TARA WHEELER



EDUCATOR

Speaks on

"The Role of the Resource Teacher"

Date: MARCH 17, 2015

Place: E.M.S.B
6000 Fielding Avenue

Time: 5:30 – 6:30 **light supper:**
McVicar Dining Room 4th floor
7:00 p.m. **Speaker**

COST: - **for DKG members: 15.00\$**
- **for non-members: 20.00\$**

R.S.V.P: Erika Sebaldt - erika.sebaldt@bell.net or
514-489-2760 or - renaentus@bell.net

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



The Coloured Women's Club
FOUNDED 1907 • BRANCH OF THE AFRICAN CHURCH SOCIETY



BLACK HISTORY MONTH SOIRÉE

LADIES, LADIES, LADIES

The **Coloured Women's Club of Montreal** invites all ladies of all ages, cultures and backgrounds to a Black History Month Soirée on **Saturday, February 28th** at 6:00 PM, at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges, in Montreal.



This presentation will be a demonstration of well-known and not so well-known women who have not only contributed and made a difference to their own communities but to the world at large.

Also, you will learn more about the Coloured Women's Club, who and what they are all about, a chance to 'meet and greet'. Admission is **FREE (upon presentation of a ticket)** and a light evening buffet will be served.



For free tickets or more information: S. Gyles 450-672-7081 or sagyles@sympatico.ca, B. Simmons 514-488-3284, L. Grant 514-696-7944 or Salon Rayshell 514-481-2635