MCLL

McGill Community for Lifelong Learning

Annual Report *2022-2023*



Come learn for the joy of it!





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Message from The Dean

Lifelong learning is at the very core of the School of Continuing Studies' mission and mandate. It takes many different forms accompanying humans' different stages of life and the varied needs of the communities McGill University serves.

At the apex of life, the Third Age as some have described, the McGill Community for Lifelong Learning (MCLL), continues to be a bedrock for dynamic, participatory, and co-generational learning.

Whether through digital story-telling, exemplified so well by MCLL's new Voices of Lifelong Learners video series, hybrid learning made possible by two technologically upgraded classrooms, or through mentoring other learners throughout SCS and McGill University, MCLL continues to leverage the opportunities for virtual and in-person social engagement that the recent COVID pandemic highlighted as so critical to a healthy society.

The caliber of MCLL membership has attracted notable expertise from around the world. Luminaries in fields from architecture, such as Moshe Safdie – the designer of Habitat 67 along Montreal's waterfront, to politics, such as former Governor General David Johnston, have graced the MCLL "stage" and attract hundreds of members, McGill alumni, and friends.

The McGill Community for Lifelong Learning is precisely that - a community; a hub around which lifelong learners such as you and me come together to think out loud, to form and discuss new and old ideas that inform human society, to connect. The accomplishments of each and every MCLL member enrich our lives in so many ways.

Congratulations on another successful year and best wishes for many more ahead!

Carola Weil, PhD

Dean of Continuing Studies





Transition Takes Centre-Stage

Members of MCLL's Council gathered in mid-June 2023 at the end of the 2022-23 year to mark a leadership change.

Left to right: Robert Winters became past-president after serving as president; Rick Jones became president after serving as vice-president; Ana Maria Klein, incoming Curriculum committee chair; Ginette Bazergui, incoming Planning and Membership committee chair; Tim Skene, Information Technology committee chair; Nadine Ozkan, Communications committee chair; administrative coordinator Sally Cooper; Chris Neal, incoming vice-president; Julie Wait, outgoing interim Curriculum committee chair; and Tony Wait, interim Development committee chair.

Absent: Sandra Baines, incoming Community Outreach committee chair and Volunteer co-coordinator; outgoing treasurer Sid Rosen; Special Events committee chair Linda Sidel; past-president Jeff Sidel, also incoming treasurer; Secretary Lorne Huston, also outgoing Community Outreach committee chair; and Astri Thorvik, Volunteer co-coordinator.

President's Message

As president of the McGill Community for Lifelong Learning for 2022-23, I certainly learned what can be accomplished by a group of excellent people working together for a common goal. After the pandemic hurt our membership, we found ways to make a difference through a spirit of teamwork and innovation. There is a dynamism within MCLL that is hard to describe, but it is definitely there. Our members provide a seemingly infinite source of energy and inspiration for all of us who get involved with MCLL. Before you know it, you may find yourself more involved than you ever thought you could be. But don't worry, the other people who are involved will likely give you inspiration as they are devoting so much energy to exploring their interests and passions. MCLL is the kind of place where it feels sometimes that almost anything can happen. And if you want to make it happen, chances are somebody will be happy to help you see your dream come true.

The Voices of Lifelong Learning project is a good example of this. We chose seven members and had them tell their stories in a fascinating video project that gives a taste of the life of discovery you can find at MCLL if you take the trouble to talk to the people you meet here.

MCLL also can be an interesting place to collaborate with other organizations, as our position within McGill gives us a certain credibility with outside groups.

One case this year involved the Voices of Lifelong Learning video project that we did with the help of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN). The group (whose website is at https://qahn.org/) awarded MCLL a \$2,000 grant from a Quebec program it was involved with. The money helped us work with the McGill Video Production Studio, directed by the talented Frank Roop. Frank produced the excellent "sampler" video about our Voices project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LL44kc9ACAs

Don't be afraid to get involved, you will be surprised how many doors can open for you when you give yourself a chance.

Robert Winters, President



Rick Jones, Robert Winters and Chris Neal take a moment after June's Council meeting, when Rick became president, Robert became past-president and Chris became vice-president.



One highlight of the 2022-23 year was a video project that features seven MCLL members talking about their unique life stories, their ideas and what MCLL means to them.

McGill Community for Lifelong Learning brings together many fascinating people from diverse backgrounds. The Voices of Lifelong Learners project's goal is to showcase compelling stories from several interesting MCLL members. Their memorable tales can help inspire the next generations of lifelong learners and make younger people aware of the varied experiences and thoughts that lifelong learners can share.



Introduction

Through short videos, MCLL members recount remarkable tales about their lives, amusing anecdotes and social contributions they have made. They also highlight the key role MCLL plays in fostering a sense of community spirit and belonging.

Video highlights:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LL44kc9ACAs

Introduction to Voices of Lifelong Learners:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7NuDYqxeTg&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=2

Voices project page:

https://www.mcgill.ca/mcll/about-mcll/voices-lifelong-learners





Gordon Campey has been a member of MILR/MCLL for nearly 25 years. MCLL has played a big role in Gordon's gratifying retirement, enabling him to share his expertise in a number of areas, and to learn about many new subjects.

Life trajectory:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81mLcgsHCf4&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=13

Why I participate in MCLL:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZUm3b6MXSrw&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=14

Sharing computer skills:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQm64d8l-BA&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=15

Photography skills:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD-3en39G_w&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=16

His Zest for Learning photo project of MCLL members:

https://pbase.com/gcampey/zest



François Labonté is a proud Montrealer with a varied banking and international consulting career. Loves learning, travel, skiing and biking.

Life trajectory:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDGqM1mU9zM&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=9

My MCLL experience:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZrMr0prM1c&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=10

Becoming an international consultant:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUdnxiy3U5Y&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=11

Conseiller en Développement International:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqPCs3MzbzU&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=13





Nadine Ozkan's story took her from Montreal to France and Australia. She worked in research related to cognitive science, and in industry in speech recognition systems. Today, Nadine is an enthusiastic learner and volunteers at MCLL, where she enjoys giving back to the community.

My trajectory:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MuJ6Kyvqc6M&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=23

Growing up in Montreal:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT_mzfZTgdQ&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=26

Work life:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BE3SaeEg-Qs&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=24



Elizabeth Robinson enjoyed many years working in public health and family medicine. Since retirement, she has been preoccupied with issues such as climate change, the loss of nature, and over-consumption, all of which are major threats to human well-being.

Origins and Beginnings:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tA_bONesLnk&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=5

Meeting First Nations:

 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qV7HR60yhTQ\&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH\&index=6}$

Work and Family:

 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2UL8J_L7hA\&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH\&index=7}$

My MCLL Experience:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKfwrFHYKCs&list=PLc4LZDIbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=8







Martin Coles trained as a mathematician and philosopher. But he ended up as a photography teacher at Dawson College and a freelance writer for The Gazette and The Globe and Mail.

My trajectory:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6PydhVN3kH0&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=17

My Brush with Death:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5Sqa44-lkc&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=19

Large Hadron Collider Visit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRb3aAwsz_4&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=19



Miriam Tees, who was born in 1923, worked as a librarian for 35 years. Her lifelong interest in music, including playing recorder in a group for 20 years, led to her studying music at McGill. She has been an active member of MCLL since 1996.

My Early Life:

 $\underline{\text{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_N0v1oES99E\&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH\&index=20}$

My Career:

 $\underline{\text{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dm7v10_gk3s\&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH\&index=21}}$

Music and MCLL:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7aieu4hYH0&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=22





Denis Thompson is an enthusiastic member of MCLL and a veteran of 39 years in the Canadian Army, including command of NATO's Task Force Kandahar.

Early years:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQZo86FJ8WU&list=PLc4LZDIbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=3

Commanding in Afghanistan:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3RHhu1Z6n0&list=PLc4LZDlbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=3

Towards MCLL:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Td1WFadRUXU&list=PLc4LZDIbBsJnbMA5D_FSgzAtcuL3xcJAH&index=4











Habitat 67 creator talked about his career as a world-renowned architect

World-class architect Moshe Safdie spoke at MCLL's Annual General Meeting in March 2023 about his career and his noted Habitat 67, built for the Expo 67 World's Fair. Safdie, a McGill architecture graduate, also showed images of his firm's leading-edge projects from around the world.

Moshe Safdie's presentation as a special guest at MCLL's AGM can be viewed at the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9znwNtc8bOw



Tellina Liu, curator and archivist for the McGill Moshe Safdie Archive at the library, also spoke to the AGM about her role overseeing the Safdie collection. Tellina's presentation can be viewed starting at 1:04 of the video at this link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9znwNtc8bOw

Safdie is ever refining his Habitat concept

Guest speaker at MCLL's virtual AGM was architect Moshe Safdie, designer of the innovative Habitat 67 apartments at the site of Expo 67.

Speaking from his Boston offices, Safdie said his daring experiment stacking modular concrete boxes into three clusters of apartment units, was an opportunity to realize his McGill undergraduate thesis on the need to reinvent the apartment.

With the eyes of the world on Expo, Safdie's creation drew intense international interest. In the 50-plus years since he has continued to refine his approach of combining high-density housing with shared green space and individual gardens.

Safdie illustrated his talk with slides of striking projects he has designed, including a middle-income tower in China with 6,000 units and three levels of outdoor pool and play areas, and a 65-storey luxury green tower in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

More recently, he has been involved in an offbeat venture, working with a video game maker to digitize his original Habitat 67 design - combining terraced housing with underground schools and shops, which were eliminated in the final plan-as a 3D environment for use as a setting for games.

Susan Purcell











Elected Council Members and Committee Chairs 2022-2023



Robert Winters President



Rick Jones Vice-President



Jeff Sidel Past-President



Sid Rosen Treasurer



Juliet Wait Interim Chair - Curriculum



Nadine Ozkan Chair - Communications



Lorne Huston Chair - Community Outreach



Tony Wait Interim Chair - Development



Tim Skene Chair - IT



Leslie Paris Co-Chair- Planning



Honora Shaughnessy Co-Chair- Planning



Linda Sidel Chair - Special Events



Astri Thorvik Volunteer Coodinator



Lorne Huston Secretary



Ana Milic Program Administrator



Sally Cooper Administrative Coordinator











Communications Committee

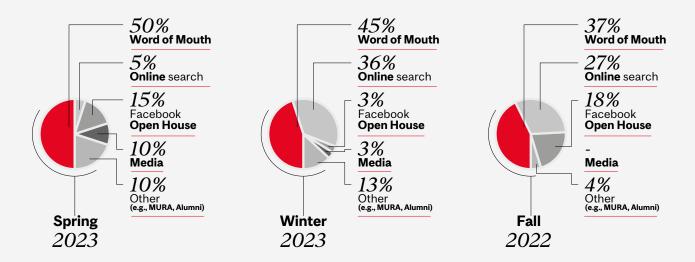
Activities of the Communications committee between August 2022 and June 2023.

Promotional activities

- The committee has submitted articles promoting MCLL and its program for publication in the Fadoq magazine's English and French versions. The Fadog is the association for seniors in Quebec and includes 550,000 members. It publishes a French and an English magazine every three months. Articles about MCLL were published in August 2022 (English) and November 2022 (French) and December 2022 (English and French). This has resulted in several new registrations.
- New promotional postcards were designed by committee members with an emphasis on the hybrid learning model. The committee also coordinated the distribution of these by volunteers in various libraries, community centres etc. around Montreal.
- CTV has broadcast a television segment on one of our members, Miriam Tees, who just turned 100 years old.

Membership retention and promotion positioning

Each term, committee members reach out by phone to all new members. The goal is two-fold: on the one hand, we wish to welcome new members personally, make them feel part of a community and have a personal interaction with them. This is to encourage them to remain part of the community for future terms. The second goal is to collect information which will enable more targeted promotion of our activities. To this end, we want to learn how they heard about MCLL, gather their feedback, and understand any reservations they would have regarding in-person attendance after Covid. The main sources of new members' knowledge of MCLL for the year 2022 and 2023 (up to Spring) are listed below.



To help foster a sense of belonging, the committee has recommended that a welcome letter be sent by the President to new members. This letter was written by committee members and reviewed by the Curriculum committee.

Communications Committee

Social media and online presence

- In collaboration with the IT committee, we have undertaken to list regular updates to be made to the MCLL website, to keep it fresh and current. Note that this was one of the recommendations from the Members Forum.
- As per McGill guidance, the committee has investigated the creation of a French version of the MCLL website, but only
 of its static pages. A quote of \$3,640 + tax was obtained from SCS for the translation. The creation of a French version
 of the website is dependent on the creation and implementation of a document management strategy, to be put in place
 by the IT committee.
- Facebook Open House events have taken place, at the rate of one per semester. These events are an important source of new members.
- The committee is playing an active role in the review of video recordings of lectures, to screen them for their appropriateness for internal access (i.e. by MCLL members) and for the public MCLL YouTube channel.

Copyright Policy

 The committee has delivered to Council the MCLL Copyright Policy report. Recommendations from this report have been implemented or are currently being implemented. An abridged version of the Copyright Policy has been made available to MCLL members on our Website (mcll_copyright_guidelines.pdf (mcgill.ca)).

Internal publications, eBulletin and Newsletter

- In October 2022, SCS-Communications indicated that it would no longer provide graphic design services for our
 internal communications (thus impacting the eBulletin and the Newsletter). As an interim solution, the graphic designs
 for both publications have been done by interns. The committee is planning for this role to be taken over by volunteers
 as of September 2023. Part of the planning includes a transfer of knowledge and digital tools from the interns to the
 volunteers.
 - Note that this handover from SCS has had no cost implications for MCLL. Moreover, it has been transparent to our membership, as there were no ill effects to the number of our publication's cadence nor their quality.
- The eBulletin saw several changes this year. Firstly, a new editor has been appointed following the resignation of the previous one. In addition, the eBulletin is now serving as a showcase for our partner organizations (MURA, Alumni, etc.) following a recommendation emerging from the Members' Forum. Lastly, readership data for the eBulletin has been established.
- There were two editions of the Newsletter this year: one in September 2022 and one in May 2023.



Communications Committee

Recommendations from the Member's Forum

- The committee has implemented several recommendations emerging from the Member's Forum. They are:
 - · The eBulletin now includes a regular section devoted to promoting partner organizations and their events.
 - Regular reviews of the MCLL website have been undertaken in collaboration with the IT committee, in the spirit of
 continuous improvement and to ensure it remains "fresh" and current while leaving its main structural elements in
 place.
 - A request for MCLL members with media contacts has been issued in the eBulletin.
 - The last issue of the Newsletter (Spring 2023) included an article about Zoom hosts and volunteers. These could be on-going columns.

Document update

• The committee has undertaken to update the Members' Handbook, which currently dates from 2013. The updated version is currently being reviewed by third parties before its finalization.

Nadine Ozkan, Chair, Communications Committee







Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach committee pursues activities designed to make MCLL accessible and inclusive to diverse communities. It also promotes activities that allow members to learn about issues related to groups that are under-represented at MCLL. In addition to the goal of opening MCLL to more diverse populations, the Community Outreach committee builds partnerships with units at McGill, with organizations serving the 55+ age group in Montreal, Quebec and the rest of Canada, and also with international organizations involved in later-life learning.

The Community Outreach committee meets monthly to discuss the outreach initiatives underway and to share ideas about how best to move forward.

Working with our McGill partners

The Outreach committee pursued several initiatives with our partners at McGill over the past year. Among our most important activities were the following:

- MCLL works with the Indigenous Initiative section of the School of Continuing Studies to co-promote activities
 organized by this body. During the course of the past year, an MCLL-based committee has met to discuss ways of
 promoting knowledge and awareness of indigenous issues. This committee arranged for the film Beans directed by
 Tracey Deer to be shown and discussed at MCLL.
- MCLL worked with the McGill University Retirement Association (MURA) to provide a series of five lectures on mental health. These lectures were organized by MURA and promoted as part of the regular lecture program offered by MCLL during the Winter 2023 semester. The lectures were well attended and certainly helped raise the profile of MCLL for MURA members and vice-versa.
- The "Volet francophone" of MCLL offered conversation partnerships to adult students registered at the McGill School of Continuing Studies (SCS) in the certificate program of "French for professional communication." This meant that 12 SCS students were partnered with a native French-speaking MCLL member with whom they met once a week to practice their communication skills in French. The Volet francophone of MCLL also participated in the activities of the Francofête which were held on the McGill campus on March 31.
- Fluid communication channels were established with the McGill Alumni Association. One result of this collaboration was an article which appeared in a recent issue of the McGill Alumni magazine informing their members about the activities of MCLL: https://giving.mcgill.ca/all-stories/alumni-find-new-home-mcgill-community-lifelong-learning
- Members of the Alumni Association were also invited to attend the keynote presentation by Habitat 67 architect Moshe Safdie at our annual general meeting in March. More than 300 people, many of whom were McGill alumni, attended the talk given by Moshe Safdie.

Community Outreach Committee

Our Montreal partners

- One Voice meetings: One Voice is an organization which allows representatives from various organizations involved in
 the anglophone health and social services sector for seniors to meet once a month to share best practices and to
 circulate information on the services and activities offered by each organization. MCLL sends a representative to these
 meetings.
- Projet changement: The Volet francophone of MCLL enjoys a close partnership with Projet changement, a French-speaking community group for seniors from the Plateau district in Montreal. In one of the joint projects, volunteers from each group offer conversation workshops to the members of the partner organization. Over the past year, three MCLL volunteers offered a total of six conversation workshops to over sixty PC members. Three French-language conversation workshops were offered by Projet changement volunteers to over thirty MCLL members.
- MCLL and PC also work together to offer a conversation exchange service for individual members of each association.
 At least twelve members of each group were provided with a conversation partner with whom they could practice their conversational skills on a weekly basis in their second language. Some of these duos have lasted over a year and are still continuing.
- Among other community outreach activities offered by MCLL is a lecture series for seniors' residences. MCLL works
 with the administrative personnel of some of the retirement homes in Montreal to provide a list of lecturers who are
 willing to give free lectures to the residents of these institutions.
- MCLL is presently partnering with the Cummings Centre. Each institution has agreed to inform its members about specific lectures offered by the other organization.

Lorne Huston, Chair, Community Outreach Committee









Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum committee continued to encourage and help members to offer and share as moderators and lecturers their interests in forming our program for the three terms and Wonderful Wednesday summer lectures. We are most grateful to all who prepare and give us their valued time.

New this year was the pilot project with U3AC (University of the Third Age Cambridge), through which members were able to attend study groups online with the other school.

Another first was the series of five lectures on mental health offered together with MURA to our combined members.

Exchanges with other like-minded organizations continue to be explored, a benefit to us all as we make use of the advantages of offering our program online, in a hybrid format or in-person.

Workshops were held during the year to thank, and hear and learn from, the experience of our moderators and lecturers. A new format for surveys was implemented.

As we go forward, emphasis should be given on attracting members to come and experience the full benefit of the joy of learning by coming back to in-person learning and sharing of ideas at MCLL.

The Curriculum committee could not function without the much appreciated guidance, help and organization of Sally Cooper, MCLL's administrative coordinator.

Julie Wait, Interim Chair, Curriculum Committee







Development Committee

MCLL is in a stable financial position as we raised about \$16,300 in the McGill24 Crowdfunding campaign, done in conjunction with SCS. We also have ample funding to cover the purchase of new, more adaptable and comfortable chairs for our classrooms.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Zellers Family Foundation, we have also funded our Pass It Forward Intergenerational Initiative which enabled us to hire two students to train our moderators in using Zoom and hybrid teaching methods. This has been very successful, and I don't foresee any problem in getting additional funding to continue this project.

I am in the process of approaching a number of foundations to determine their possible interest in supporting us in any new projects we may want to undertake. My approach for the near future is to make ourselves known to them with the understanding and agreement that we can make a concrete request for funds as the need arises.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee, *Nadine Ozkan* and *Robert Winters*, for their support.

Tony Wait, Interim Chair, Development Committee



IT Committee: The Age of Hybrid

The Information Technology (IT) committee has been busy the past year ensuring the smooth operation of both the hybrid and online study groups. This includes the hybrid classrooms and the reference material on the **MCLL** members' help website. The members are: *Susan Van Gelder, Mary Bialek, Rick Jones, Frank Nicholson* and *Tim Skene*.

MCLL now offers three ways of attending classes: in-person, hybrid and attending from home. After the Spring term ended in June 2023, MCLL had held 36 hybrid study groups, with nine more scheduled for the fall. The advantages of MCLL's hybrid option have made it very popular with members, particularly because of the flexibility of attendance and the close engagement between the online and in-person participants.

MCLL has purchased two laptop computers to replace the ones on loan from McGill IT. This has allowed them to be configured specifically for **MCLL**'s needs.

SharePoint

MCLL has expanded the use of its SharePoint site beyond the Lecture Recording System to include members of Council and for each committee. It now provides centralized access to documents such as attendance sheets, meeting minutes and various resources. Once its users are more familiar with it, it will greatly reduce the need to transfer documents by email, and will allow committee members and administrators to have more efficient, real-time collaboration.

Tim Skene, Chair, IT Committee







Activities of the committee in 2022-23

Members' Forum

Our chief activity in the first half of the year was to plan, implement, and then report on the October Members' Forum. Planning began earlier in 2022, and most members of the committee were also members of the Forum planning task force. After the Forum, we reviewed all the member recommendations from the roundtable discussions (and the brief survey administered at the end of the Forum event), grouped them by topic, and incorporated them into a report submitted to the MCLL Council in December.

In the winter, we worked with MCLL committees to create an action plan aimed at implementing recommendations considered both important and actionable. Various committees submitted a short list of concrete actions relevant to their mandates and that each was planning to work on in 2023. The Planning committee then put these lists together to form an overall action plan presented to Council in April 2023.

Annual membership report

Elizabeth Robinson contributed the lion's share of effort to obtain source information and, with Leslie Paris, to write a report on annual membership/registration statistics. Elizabeth worked closely with Sally Cooper, MCLL's Administrative Coordinator. The report was submitted to Council in May 2023.

The report tracks trends about membership numbers, demographics, and participation in study groups and lectures from 2019 to 2023, prior to, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic period. The sources of the data were the MCLL programs, with each term's study groups and lectures, as well as spreadsheets and other data routinely produced or obtained from the Athena system by Sally.

Follow-up on recommendations from the Potter Report

The task force completed this report and submitted a final draft to the Council Executive for corrections and additions before the September Council meeting. Members of the task force were Leslie Paris and Claire Booth from the Planning committee, as well as Susan Biggs.

A transition year

As this was a transition year after COVID, the committee met via Zoom through December. At that time, Claire Booth, a long-time member, resigned after more than five years of service on the committee. It's possible that a combination of the lack of in-person contact and Claire's resignation triggered a self-examination of the committee's mandate and direction going forward.



We met in person from January through the spring, and that seemed to make a difference, allowing for frank discussions, the generation of ideas, and the renewal of purpose as the committee undergoes another transition after four years, that is, to a new chair. We very much appreciate the input and support we received in this regard from Robert Winters, MCLL's president, vice-president Rick Jones and Council secretary Lorne Huston.

Members of the committee

These volunteers were members of the Planning committee in 2022-23:

- Howard Berger
- Marjorie Northrup
- Leslie Paris (co-chair)
- · Elizabeth Robinson
- Honora Shaughnessy (co-chair)
- · Ginette Bazergui joined in the spring as incoming chair

Two members resigned, having served well beyond the recommended four years for volunteers to remain on a committee:

- · Peter Roberts, resigned in September 2022
- · Claire Booth resigned in January 2023

The 2022 Members' Forum

For nearly twenty years, MCLL has held a Members' Forum to give us all a chance to reflect on issues that touch on the core mandate of our organization. In "normal" times, the Forum is held every two or three years, but due to COVID-19, this year was the first time the Members' Forum could take place since 2018.

In February 2022, a task force was formed to plan the Members' Forum; Jeff Sidel headed the task force, and Susan Biggs handled the venue and logistics. Four Planning committee members participated: Howard Berger, Marjorie Northrup (who acted as Forum animatrice), Leslie Paris, and Honora Shaughnessy (who invited the keynote speaker).

The Forum convened on October 21 and was a great success. It was held in a hybrid format with robust attendance: 55 members registered for the in-person event and 27 attended online, for a total of 82. Five guests from the McGill School of Continuing Studies also attended, including Dr. Carmen Sicilia, director of Adaptive and Integrated Learning (which includes MCLL), as well as Ana Milic and Sally Cooper, the MCLL Program Administrator and Administrative Coordinator, respectively. This compared very well with our inperson Forum in 2018, when 84 members attended.

We were extremely fortunate to have as keynote speaker David Johnston, the 28th Governor General of Canada and former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University. In a fireside chat, Johnston discussed his latest book, Trust: Twenty Ways to Build a Better Country, about restoring personal, community, and national trust, as well as the role of retirees and volunteerism in society. The fireside chat was animated by Cynthia Price, a Montreal-based community leader, volunteer, and a member of McGill's board of governors.

The Forum was convened to discuss a critical and timely issue: Given that we will never again be an inperson only community, how can we move forward in an environment that has evolved, by necessity, from inperson-only learning to remote and hybrid (simultaneous in-person/remote) learning? Our main objectives were to gather member input about two related issues:

- · How can we build on our evolution from in-person to remote and hybrid learning?
- How can we harness the resilience we've demonstrated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and build our membership for future success?

Forum attendees participated in two roundtable discussions to consider and offer recommendations on the following questions:

- What have we learned by coping with the pandemic? What were the ingredients for success, and what can be improved?
- How can we leverage what we have learned through remote and hybrid learning to connect with faraway members and partners?
- How do we attract more members to MCLL?
- How do we encourage more of our members to volunteer for MCLL committees and other MCLL volunteer roles?
- · How do we encourage MCLL members to become study group leaders and moderators?

Follow-up analysis

After the Forum, members of the Planning committee reviewed all the member recommendations recorded on flip charts during the roundtables, grouped these findings by topic, and incorporated them into a report to the MCLL Council.



Follow-up action plan

The next step was to work with MCLL committees to create an action plan designed to consider and implement the member recommendations that were considered both important and actionable. The Communications, Outreach, Curriculum, and Planning & Membership committees each submitted a short list of concrete actions relevant to their mandate and that each is planning to work on in 2023. These lists were then put together to form an overall action plan presented to Council in April 2023. The proposed plan is based entirely on the committees' submissions and addresses three overarching goals that emerged from the Members' Forum:

- 1. Increase our membership
- 2. Improve the quality, and therefore the appeal, of our study groups and lectures
- 3. Promote MCLL as a *community*, with a focus on volunteerism and on the participant experience as key elements, especially given that post-COVID MCLL is no longer an exclusively in-person organization

For each action, there is a corresponding goal, an owner (committee), a time frame, a set of success indicators, and a status indicator. Among the many planned actions, some examples are to:

- Advertise to McGill alumni around the world
- · Improve the MCLL website for better marketing impact
- Consider offering study groups in French
- Provide training for *online* presentations (in addition to the links already on the <u>members' help site</u>), and do a presentation workshop for moderators and lecturers
- Have technical hosts ensure that participants are fully informed about using technical features of Zoom, especially for those with hearing difficulties

We're pleased to report that many of the actions are already well under way and more will be implemented over the summer and in the fall. Committees are responsible for keeping the action plan up to date, and the Planning and Membership committee will report on overall progress to Council at regular intervals.

We are confident that we can indeed harness the remarkable resilience we've demonstrated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and navigate this "new normal" to build our membership for future success.

Leslie Paris & Honora Shaughnessy, Co-Chairs, Planning & Membership Committee



Special Events committee chair **Linda Sidel** (right) and committee member **Maria Roussakis** enjoy handing out gifts in a draw at the successful Holiday party in December 2022.

Special Events Committee

COVID certainly provided a challenge for the Special Events committee in 2022-23. MCLL was trying to observe all necessary COVID precautions (masks on, masks off, social distancing, indoor vs. outdoor, for example), so we had to throw out the tried-and-true social gatherings of the past and tried to reinvent the future! Cynthia Bowllan, Soheila Raesinezhad and Maria Roussakis (who joined later in the season) and I had many discussions of "what was" vs. "what will be."

We started the season in the summertime with a small luncheon in the MCLL Lounge for a Moderators' Orientation session. The food was delicious thanks to McGill Catering, and they were so generous with the sandwiches that we were able to share the bounty with the office volunteers.

The "Spring Fling" was adapted to "See you in (Almost) September", and our challenge was to bring MCLL members back together in a suitable outdoor environment where we could try to find a "new normal." As COVID was still very much a part of our lives, we chose Restaurant Duc de Lorraine, which had a large outside terrace where we could sit as a group with plenty of space and open air (and the wasps even obliged and stayed away).

Not knowing how many people would respond, we booked for 60, prayed for 10, and then had a waiting list! Obviously, people wanted to see each other in person and we were thrilled with the response. It was the start of our feeling "normal" again. We ate, we laughed, and we saw friends face-to-face for the first time in a long time.

By December, with COVID seemingly behind us, we held our Holiday Party in a separate section of Restaurant Table 51 where, once again, we had a strong turnout of about 60 members. Everyone agreed it was a perfect setting with wonderful food, ambience and easy access by metro as well as plenty of free parking. We even had little take-home gifts for our members.







MCLL members enjoying the Holiday party in December 2022.

Because of budgetary restraints, the Special Events committee decided to combine several of the smaller Thank-you luncheons that had been held pre-COVID into one large dinner in June at McGill's Faculty Club.

MCLL sponsored a four-course dinner for volunteers, hosts, moderators and Council members for 2022-23, because, after all, it's the people who make MCLL special. This is one way that we can say Thank You to all the people who make MCLL happen.

Linda Sidel, Chair, Special Events Committee

Financial Report

Financial Year: May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

| | Budget | Actual | Actual |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2022-2023 | 2022-2023 | 2021-2022 |
| Revenue | | | |
| Study Groups | | | |
| Spring 2022 | 40,700 | 30,580 | 35,640 |
| Fall 2022 | 41,800 | 42,680 | 37,730 |
| Winter 2023 | 42,900 | 39,480 | 42,570 |
| Total Study Groups | 125,400 | 112,740 | 115,940 |
| Lectures | 25,000 | 16,120 | 24,610 |
| Total Revenue | 150,400 | 128,860 | 140,550 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Salaries & Benefits | 79,800 | 90,139 | 80,624 |
| Office expenses | 24,700 | 7,818 | 12,020 |
| Overhead | 45,900 | 28,555 | 33,732 |
| Total Expenses | 150,400 | 126,512 | 126,376 |
| Fund Balance | - | 2,348 | 14,174 |

Treasurer's Report

With Covid restrictions coming to an end, we looked forward to fiscal 2023 with optimism and expectations of marching towards the level of revenue generated pre-Covid which was reflected in our budget. Unfortunately, the impact of Covid stretched into this year and actual revenue fell short of budget, as well as in comparison with last year. We were able to control our variable expenses and negotiate temporary reductions in our fixed expenses. Our dedicated volunteers are working hard to provide interesting study groups and lectures. We are also expanding our hybrid facilities to provide enough choices for members to feel at ease either online or onsite. We look forward with confidence to a bright future as more members join and old ones rejoin and participate in the joy of learning.

Sid Rosen, Treasurer





Occupational Therapy Task Force

Improved Classrooms

The Occupational Therapy (OT) Task Force continued its work from the previous year, to improve classroom accessibility and comfort. The members are: *Barbara MacLeod Rey, Michael Moore, Nancy Rosenfeld* and *Tim Skene*.

Last fall the task force implemented an improved table layout in the four classrooms, which increased accessibility and reduced the excessive number of chairs.

The purchase of new chairs for MCLL classrooms was an important and much anticipated improvement. The Task Force researched several chair models which would be suitable for the specific needs of our members. Sample chairs were obtained and evaluated by attendees in two classrooms. The purchase of 80 of the chairs with the preferred design was approved by Council in February. This included replacing the 10 chairs in the lounge with the same model. The delivery of the new chairs was to be in June. The old chairs will be taken by other departments at McGill or non-profit organizations.

Next year, the Task Force hopes to realize some improvements in signage and graphics in the MCLL building environment. This will make it easier for all, but especially new members, to find their way around our corridors.

Tim Skene, Coordinator, OT Task Force



Tim Skene examines new chair design, soon to be in all classrooms.



Keeping MCLL Connected

Zoom hosts help keep our study groups and lectures running smoothly in post-pandemic era

From July 2022 to the end of June 2023, MCLL's Zoom hosts handled:



71 Zoom lectures



56 Zoom study groups



Hybrid lectures



26
Hybrid study groups

All of this Zoom hosting was done by a group of about 20 people!

Hybrid in action: Study group participants (left to right) Karen Kennedy, Mary Ann Mongeau and Audrey Speck participate in a Zoom hybrid session with host Gordon Campey (far right). Online participants can be seen on the monitor screen as well as on the screeen in the room, which features a very sensitive microphone.

Zoom hosts for 2022-23

Astri Thorvik

Carole L. Molson

Claire Booth

Cynthia Bowllan

Frank Nicholson

Ginette Bazergui

Giovanna De Santis

Gordon Campey

Howard King

Kay Palkhivala

Krystyna Stewart

Marie Gravelle

Mary Bialek

Norm Haslam

Peter Roberts

Richard Flanagan

Rick Jones

Romano De Santis

Susan van Gelder

Tim Skene

All hosts are volunteers with different levels of technical expertise. When technical issues arise, the hosts can contact all the others with their questions. That way, answers are shared with everyone, and everyone then gets a chance to learn. As well, we meet online every month to discuss issues that have come up, things we have learned and any new developments in the technology we are using.

Most hosts take on one or more study groups each term. Hosts not only work with moderators but with study group participants as well. Supporting members can involve downloading videos they want to show, helping participants with their presentations, and practising with them to help them be comfortable with the technology. Hosts who take on participant presentation study groups give time each week to meet with the presenters, in addition to their work during the study group. They keep watch during a session to be sure mics are muted when they need to be and that everyone can be seen and heard well. They also

coach presenters who may need additional support.

Some hosts took on the additional technical challenges of hybrid hosting. While moderators may opt to run their groups from home or in person, hosts must be on-site to arrange what is seen in Zoom, including the in-room camera.

There are always challenges as hosts help both Mac and Windows users, as well as people using a variety of tablets. Some hosts have had to learn how to help presenters who wish to use presenter notes, whether in PowerPoint or Google Slides. This is where support from other hosts is essential as those who have learned a skill are able to share with a host who may need help.

And sometimes things break down. We have to keep our cool while study group participants get impatient. Hosts usually find ways to work around the technical issues. We appreciate when participants are supportive and, fortunately, that is the case for most of our members.

If you thought hosts only send out links and show up for the study group, think again. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes.

Why would anyone want to be a host? A key reason is that it is rewarding. Most participants are very grateful for the support they get, and the fact that Zoom has made participation possible even for people who don't come to McGill. It gives us an opportunity to keep learning and to feel part of a group whose members support each other. We always welcome and mentor anyone who wants to join our group.



Susan van Gelder, Chair of MCLL's hosts committee, was named MCLL Volunteer of the Year.

Newsletter Focuses on Life at MCLL



Spring 2022 Newsletter

Since Spring 2022, the MCLL newsletter has taken on a new look, a new name and some changes in content. In 2021, previous editor Lesley Regnier resigned as editor for health reasons, and was replaced later that year by another long-time member, Susan Purcell, advised by our Communications committee.

The previous publication had been called The Newsletter. We gave it a new name - MCLL News. Next came a facelift. The School of Continuing Studies agreed to provide a designer to create a more professional image.



Fall 2022 Newsletter

The new look featured liberal use of white space, headings in red, and a sketch of a strip of McGill buildings at the foot of most pages.

It was agreed that, for the foreseeable future, two issues per year would replace the previous three. Publication would remain online only, though in view of a slight uptick in in-person attendance late last year, we decided to print about 50 copies of the fall issue to leave in classrooms and the lounge.

The content of the new MCLL News reflects changes caused by Covid. Gatering in classrooms was no longer the norm - our membership had expanded online to places around the globe. We seek out people in far-off lands to describe their lives; so far members in Tel Aviv and Istanbul have done this.

Standard elements retained from the previous newsletter have remained - news and happenings at MCLL, profiles of new moderators and book reviews. The widely read set of six to eight capsule reviews written by the late Pamela Sachs were impossible to replicate. But they have been replaced by two reviews, one fiction and one non-fiction, of greater length and written by various members.

Photography has been given more attention. Coverage of a spring luncheon and a holiday dinner featured lively colour photos of members in small groups, snapped by our new Special Events chair, Linda Sidel.

Our first two issues each consisted of 12 pages, while the most recent issue fit nicely into eight, thanks to a tighter format with more articles per page. With the help of volunteer readers Sally Cooper, Astri Thorvik and Sandra Baines, proofreading and fact-checking are improving with each issue. Many thanks to Leslie Paris for her valuable help refining and developing templates last spring, and taking over the formatting of the newsletter. Thanks also to all members who have contributed to MCLL News. The doors are open to more writers, and more ideas for a newsletter that truly reflects who we are.



Susan Purcell

Susan Purcell, Newsletter Editor

eBulletin: Taking The Reins

At first I was nervous.

Freshly retired, I had circled back to MCLL, a place that had caught my interest close to 15 years previously when I worked in the same building at McGill. At the time, it was called MILR and I was fascinated by the idea of lifelong peer learning. I missed giving workshops and writing, the two pillars of my career, but was delighted to find a place within the MCLL community to try to scratch those itches.

Then Nadine Ozkan, chair of the Communications committee of which I was a member, asked if I would take over as eBulletin editor from Robert Foster. Yikes! – a seemingly perfect fit and opportunity to combine a past penchant for visual storytelling with written communication.

But, but, but...

Ignoring the nerves, I accepted. I sat with Bob as he meticulously explained the schedule and patiently answered a multitude of production questions while Nadine quietly encouraged from the wings.

Best team ever.

Bob said it took him about 8 hours a month to put it all together.

March - my first edition - took me 25 hours.

April: 17 hours.

May: 14 hours.

This month I am down to a more efficient 10 hours, but still aiming to match Bob's economical 8!

If truth be told, all the puzzle pieces were in place from the moment I took over: the collaborative members who respond to my request for submissions with enthusiasm and punctuality, the kind encouragement of readers, the support of the McGill and MCLL administrative staff and of course, the stimulating and engaged MCLL community. This community supplies an endless source of fascinating events, opportunities for learning and connection to publicize, and who are consistently willing to share their expertise and experiences. This collective effort is a driving force that looks to innovate and engage our readership. And if I have been able to continue Bob's handiwork – personalizing it with some of my own fairy dust - it is because the building blocks were there all along.

So, my takeaway to other MCLL members – new and old, even if in doubt – is to jump into roles of participation...as a moderator, committee member, MCLL volunteer, whatever. You will be surrounded by an inspiring group of people who invite you to keep your old skills alive, investigate new ones and have a blast while doing exactly that.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute and guess what? I'm not nervous anymore.

Sharon Bishin, eBulletin Editor



McGill Committee Members

June 2022- May 2023

Thank you to the members who volunteer their time to serve on our committees and in our office

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Louise Fullerton

Roger Humphrey

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Ana Maria Klein

François Labonté

Katherine Moore, Creative

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Coordinator: Nadine Ozkan, Chair, Communications Committee

Copy Editor: Susan Purcell

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And many thanks to Lia Maritza Chinen Minami, Graphic Designer at SCS, for her excellent design work with MCLL's 2022-23 Annual Report.







McGill University is on land which long served as a site of meeting and exchange among Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.





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