



**Matt Aronson**  
**Westmount City Councillor**

*From Composting to  
Council: How Municipalities  
and Residents can Shape  
Local Climate Policy*

The City of Westmount has quietly worked on improving its environmental policies, but that progress isn't linear. It gets made, defended, and sometimes fought for, program by program, budget cycle by budget cycle.

**PUBLISHED MARCH 25, 2026**

This talk traces the full loop: what a city does and can do on sustainability, what residents can and should do individually, and why civic engagement is the only thing standing between good environmental policy and the short-term thinking that can sometimes erode it.

Matt Aronson, previously Commissioner for Environment and Sustainability, will present the view from inside Westmount City Hall including what all of us can do when the decisions coming out of our municipalities fall short.

**Wednesday, April 15**

starting at 6:00 pm

**Geso Ristorante**

1800 Sherbrooke St.W, H3H 1E5

To reserve your spot, contact  
Mica Faciubefore April 13.



**MEAL: \$62 (cash)**

**Glass of wine: \$16 (cash or c.c.)**

incl. taxes and tip

Menu will be emailed before  
April 13.



**WEBSITE UPDATE: REJUVENATION!**

When you visit [uwcm.com](http://uwcm.com), you'll see it has changed.  
Website wizard Norm Lachance continues to work his magic as we  
streamline and restructure the site. Check it out!



### ***The ecosystem of women's organizations in Quebec***

This March, people from around the world gathered in New York for the 70th Commission on the Status of Women to address the theme of access to justice. Once again, [CFUW](#) sent a delegation and issued a [written statement](#). This year's warning: failing to ensure women's equal access to justice perpetuates economic inequality and heightened vulnerability to violence.

Inspired by this level of feminist organizing, I decided to look into the more local landscape of women's organizations. I found it to be vast and varied; here are three of many such groups that might interest you:

#### **1. Fédération des femmes du Québec (FFQ)**

This major feminist organization “stands up for the interests and rights of women through collective actions.” FFQ organizes International Women's Day events, writes briefs (including a sharp critique of the Constitution Act, Bill 1), and runs working groups on topics ranging from economics to democracy. Great stuff! Their website is mostly in French.

#### **2. Réseau des Tables régionales de groupes de femmes du Québec (RTRGFQ)**

All 17 regions in Quebec have roundtables of regional women's organizations. The Réseau is a network of the 17 roundtables. Like FFQ, it is a

high-level group producing briefs and resources on hot topics like housing, health, and women parliamentarians.

The roundtable for Montreal that is part of the Réseau is called the Table des groupes de femmes de Montréal ([TGFM](#)). It has 60+ member groups, including ones our Club supports like Auberge Madeleine, Chez Doris, and Logifem. UWCM is not a member, though. Why is that? I will discuss this with our Board.

#### **3. Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal**

**(AWCM)** Montreal is home to many smaller groups gathering women of diverse ethno-cultural backgrounds. The Afghan Women's Centre is one and it is especially impressive, given that women in their home country face extreme Taliban restrictions. Through projects and workshops, AWCM “empowers socially isolated immigrant women” so they can “find their rightful place” here in our city. This is truly inspiring.

As my little survey shows, sisterhood is powerful. Our own Club is part of this ecosystem. I hope you are as proud as I am to be part of it.



*Lorraine O'Donnell*

**President**

PHOTO CREDIT: © CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
BY LISA GRAVES

### **SEEKING A MARKETING STRATEGIST**

Are you — or do you know — a professional strategic planner to help revitalize our Club's public image?

Don't hesitate to contact Lorraine O'Donnell.



- Welcomed new Board member-at-large Colleen Cattiny.
- Considered membership welcome package and linking it to the website.
- Agreed to Club Room carpet cleaning.
- Discussed ongoing website update and purging outdated emails.
- Agreed to purchase new laptop for membership database.
- Received report of CFUW approving a new GWI Coordinating Committee.
- Agreed to hold International Women’s Day gathering on March 23 to view NFB documentary.
- Discussed hiring a graphic artist to revitalize Club image.
- Agreed to participate in next year’s “Coldest Night of the Year” campaign.

## *A Century of Empowerment*

### **Marion Taber Byers**

Club President from 1927 to 1932

By Donna Jensen

According to Catherine Joyce’s *The First Forty Years*, McGill graduate Marion

Taber (later known as Mrs. Archie F. Byers) became the first president of UWCM and helped mentor many succeeding club presidents.

Beside her graduating picture in the McGill University 1905 yearbook, a young and feisty Marion (B.A.) writes of herself “She would stuff



an alligator or pickle a lizard with any apothecary's wife in town.”

Joyce writes that Marion had “a keen intellect, integrity of thought, charm of personality and sound judgment and good business sense.” (*The First Forty Years*, C.H. Joyce, p. 23)

In Susan Button’s article of Octavia Grace Ritchie (see February 2026 newsletter), we learn of the “Donaldas” that were in the 1888 graduating class, of which Marion was president serving with another UWCM member, S.M. Idler.





Member Tanya Fitzpatrick (Ph.D, MSW, RN; Professor Emeritus at Arizona State University.) has written a book entitled *Longevity and Cognitive Health Among a Group of Canadian Centenarians*. It provides a study of Canadian centenarians, offering insights from in-depth, face-to-face interviews to help professionals understand cognitive health and longevity in those over 100. It examines daily living, and social involvement, highlighting resilience despite physical decline. Published by Springer/Nature, an international research publishing company covering cognitive science, neuropsychology and behavioural medicine. Learn more [HERE](#).



By Donna Jensen

As part of [this campaign](#), we walked along the Lachine Canal to support [Logifem](#), a local non-profit helping vulnerable women. UWCM members Michelle Chi, Lorraine O'Donnell, Veronica Noble, Jennifer Jessup, Leah Trineer, and me with my husband Dominic joined National Council of Women President Penny Rankin on Saturday evening, February 28.

We did this to help support local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness.

Photo courtesy of Dominic Varvaro.

The next day, Lorraine wrote “Thanks for your company at the Coldest Night of the Year walk. I found the event inspiring and am proud to have contributed to the funds raised for Logifem.”



Photo courtesy of Dominic Varvaro.



Photo courtesy of Leah Trineer.





### BOOK CLUB BUDDIES

**Monday, April 20, 4:00 - 5:30 pm**

**UWCM Club Room, 1200 Atwater Avenue**

This group usually meets the third Monday of each month. Each member of the group chooses a book to discuss. The book presenter acts as host and brings snacks and beverages for participants. She also leads the discussion on her book of choice.

This month: *Monday Rent Boy* by Susan Doherty will be presented by Leah Trineer. Convenor: Tanya Fitzpatrick)

### STAGE AND SOIRÉE

**Wednesday, April 1 - Les Deux Hamelin**

**Bourgie Hall, 1339 Sherbrooke West, H3G 2C6**

A sold out concert of piano duets featuring pianists Marc-André Hamelin and Charles Richard-Hamelin.

**Wednesday, April 22, - MSO concert** Stravinsky's

*The Rite of Spring*, Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto*

*No. 1* Convenor: [read more here](#) Convenor:

Christine Gilsenan

### LADIES WHO LUNCH

**Outing details TBD**

Convenor: Adèle Hebert

## WANTED!

### OUTDOOR LADIES CONVENOR

This group finds itself once again looking for someone to lead this activity of fun, interesting walks in and around town. Contact Interest Group Coordinator Olga Shevchenko.

### COFFEE KLATCH

**Friday, April 10, 17, 24. 7:45 - 9:00 am**

We meet on the second Friday of each month, starting around 7:45 am at Avenue G coffee shop, 1386 Greene Ave. Convenor: Leah Trineer

### LIBRARY LECTURES & LUNCH

**Thurs., April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 12:30 to 3 pm**

**Atwater Library Auditorium & our Club Room**

After the 12:30 in-person lectures, Carly serves a light lunch for \$5 in our Club Room. Great chance to discuss the lecture and catch up with fellow members. Convenor: Carly Pepler

**To be sure of having enough to serve, Carly MUST BE CONTACTED before the day of the lecture if you plan to attend her lunch.**

### MUSEUM JAUNTERS

**Outing details TBD**

Convenor: Adèle Hebert

### WOMEN'S ISSUES

**Thursday, April 30, 6:00 p.m.**

**3450 rue McTavish**

Over drinks and dinner at the McGill Faculty Club, the group meets first for a cocktail and then moves to the dining room 45 minutes later. Short walk from the Peel metro station. Parking (for \$15) is available at the back of the Faculty Club building. Convenor: Olga Shevchenko



**AFTERNOON TEA**

**Wednesday, May 20, 3 p.m.**



**619 Murray Hill, Westmount**

Starting with a cordial and canapés, I'll lead a discussion about Lady Eaton and her impact on developing job opportunities and professional training for women in food production/services within the Eaton store empire. Lady Eaton was recognized for providing opportunities to

women during the 1930s Depression when jobs were scarce. A full English tea will be served using Lady Eaton recipes. A home economist by profession and having come from humble beginnings, by in marrying Timothy Eaton she became Canadian royalty and continued to be interested in the culinary arts. Room for seven; not wheelchair accessible.

Convenor: Yvonne Mass



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 	2 LECTURES & LUNCH	3	4
5 	6	7	8 BOARD MEETING	9 LECTURES & LUNCH	10 COFFEE KLATCH	11 Francophone Quebec Learning Circle
12	13	14	15 CLUB DINNER	16 LECTURES & LUNCH	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 LECTURES & LUNCH --- WOMEN'S ISSUES	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 WOMEN'S ISSUES		



Valerie Aitken - April 1

Send Donna Jensen your birth date — not the year! — so fellow members can send you best wishes on your special day!



## CENSUS JOBS UNTIL JULY

Statistics Canada is now hiring for approximately 32,000 census jobs. You must be over 18, a Canadian citizen/permanent resident/work permit, have a Canadian home address.

Pay is **\$25.87/hour** (non-supervisory) and **\$31.32/hour** (supervisory) plus expenses.

[census.gc.ca/jobs.com](https://census.gc.ca/jobs.com)

This July, CFUW will be holding its AGM in Montreal. Members from across Canada will be staying at the Delta Hotel Montreal (475 President-Kennedy Avenue). The opening ceremony and dinner will be held on July 21, the Charitable Trust Dinner on July 23, and the Conference, workshops, and policy session is scheduled for July 23-24.



By Veronica Noble

On February 26, 2026, after a thought-provoking talk at the Atwater Library on the challenges facing Montreal's Chinatown, members and two guests met in the Club Room to enjoy Carly's lovely lunch.

Pictured above, clockwise from left: Veronica Noble, Carly Pepler, Helgi Soutar, Sheila Mohammed, Anne Emond (granddaughter of Libby Emond sitting to her left), Ros Acutt (guest from the Chateau Ramezay), Anelia Wright. Photo credit: Judith Ritchie.

## SUBSCRIBE TO:

- CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women) *Club Action* newsletter [HERE](#).
- GWI (Graduate Women International) *The Update* newsletter [HERE](#).
- NCWC (National Council of Women of Canada) newsletter [HERE](#).



By Veronica Noble

*Graduate Women International, an NGO based in Geneva, brings together university women committed to international understanding and peace through education. GWI maintains National Federations and Associations in 48 countries. In Canada, GWI's affiliate is CFUW, of which our Club is a member.*

**At the 70th Session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)**

- Co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Ireland and Soroptimist International, GWI organized the March 11 in-person side event

titled “Knowledge is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls.”

- The GWI Young Member Network, held a virtual March 12 parallel event titled “From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Pathways to Access Justice for Women.”
- GWI President Pat Patton was a featured speaker at the March 12 CSW70 in-person parallel event titled “ From Law to Life: How Women’s Organizations are Advancing Justice through Community Accountability.”

(Source: GWI Update, 11 March 2026) "

By Christine Gilsenan

Recently, I thoroughly enjoyed the Centaur techno musical play *Frequencies*. It was touching and humorous in equal measure.

As for Ronald Brautigam's Schubert *Impromptus* concert, at first I wasn't entirely convinced by the forte piano, but once my ear adapted, the sound became quite intimate and engaging and anyway, Schubert writes a good tune no matter the instrument!

## Submissions welcome!

Do you have an item that might be of interest to our members? Submit it to:

**Newsletter Editor** Donna Jensen  
**Copy Editor, Proofreader** Lauren Rudy



RIGHT PHOTO,  
FROM LEFT:  
Christine Gilsean,  
Gretchen Cheung,  
Maurene White,  
Anelia Wright, and  
host Leah Trineer.



LEFT PHOTO, CLOCKWISE  
FROM LEFT:  
Maria Masi, Anna Di Turi,  
dinner host Adèle Hébert,  
Marsha Sklar, Lynn Travers,  
and Jennifer Jessup

FROM LEFT: Miriam Roland, Sylvia  
Ruby, Mariana Frank, Lorraine  
O'Donnell, Hannah Trineer-  
Roberts, Leah Trineer. Photo  
courtesy of host and new member,  
Sharon Brissette.



Elaine Bander, host, writes  
she and guests Carly Pepler,  
Zofia Lowbitz, Judy Mowat,  
Olga Shevchenko, and Karen  
Staudinger were “having too  
much fun to remember  
to take photos.”



From left, clockwise:  
Michelle Shi, Elizabeth Mast  
(guest), Sylvia Ruby, Anna di  
Turi, Haya Chetrit, Olga  
Shevchenko, Leah Trinner,  
Alaka McConnell, Maya  
Bergeron-Métivier, Karen  
Staudinger



By Leah Trineer

This photo was taken at the McGill Women's Alumnae Association Scholarship Reception on February 23. Members of UWCM in attendance were, from left, Carly Pepler, Sheila Mohammed, Linda Sestock (CFUW National President), Lorraine O'Donnell, Anelia Wright, Judith Ritchie, and me.

 <p><b>SAVE THE DATE!</b></p>  <p><b>BENEFIT EVENT 2026</b></p> <p>Thursday, May 28, 2026 6 p.m.</p> <p>Maison Principale Montréal 872, du Couvent street Montréal</p> <p>Ticket sales open in January 2026</p> <p>Sponsorship opportunities available</p> <p>For information: don-donation@chezdoris.org</p>	 <p><b>RÉSERVEZ VOTRE SOIRÉE !</b></p>  <p><b>ÉVÈNEMENT BÉNÉFICE 2026</b></p> <p>Le jeudi 28 mai 2026 dès 18 h</p> <p>Maison Principale Montréal 872, rue du Couvent Montréal</p> <p>Ouverture de la billetterie en janvier 2026</p> <p>Plusieurs possibilités de commandites</p> <p>Pour information : don-donation@chezdoris.org</p>
---	---



## **CRUISE and BRUNCH**

### **Sunday, June 14**

A 90-minute guided tour from the Old Port of the city from out on the St-Lawrence River while enjoying a delicious three-course meal.

Contact Zofia Laubitz.

**\$125 per person**



The **Annual Giving Campaign** runs until June 30. Encourage your family, friends, colleagues, or neighbours to donate.

Scan this QR code or click [HERE](#).



Collecte de fonds / Fundraiser

# UNDER *the* COVER

Découvrez le pouvoir des mots!  
Joignez-vous à nous pour une soirée  
inoubliable avec un auteur canadien  
et soutenez l'alphabétisation des  
adultes.

*L'événement se déroulera en anglais.*

Unlock the power of words!  
Join us for an unforgettable  
evening with a Canadian novelist  
and support free adult literacy  
tutoring.

*The event will be held in English.*



**Shari Lapena**



**Trudie Mason**

**Le 6 mai 2026 / May 6**

**7 pm - 10 pm**

**Au Vignoble Souffle de Vie / at Souffle de Vie Vineyard**



**BILLETS / TICKETS \$55**

(incluant un verre de vin complémentaire /  
includes a complimentary glass of wine)

Scannez le code QR ou visitez notre site Web pour réserver votre place.  
Scan the QR code or visit our website to reserve your spot.



Visitez [literacyunlimited.ca](http://literacyunlimited.ca) ou composez le 514-694-0007 pour en savoir plus.  
Visit [literacyunlimited.ca](http://literacyunlimited.ca) or call 514-694-0007 to learn more.

Généreusement commandité par Revline Industries Canada Inc.  
Generously sponsored by Revline Industries Canada Inc.



