

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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ABOUT US

The Association was founded in November 1962, shortly after Jamaica's Independence in August 1962. Our seal of Incorporation was granted in 1970. Since its inception, the Association has grown strong in attracting members.

It is recognized as the official organization representing Jamaicans in Montreal at Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels. have accompanied delegations and presented briefs to all levels of government. Given our commitment to community development, the Jamaica Association developed our Mission Statement as follows:

“To assist in improving and enhancing the quality of life for the Jamaican Community”

In fulfilling this Mission, the Association manages its operations to ensure the development of the community through economical, educational, cultural and social activities.



Mark Henry, President
Jamaica Association of Montreal

Members and Friends of the Jamaica Association,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I write my Presidential greetings for this edition of our quarterly newsletter as we welcome spring and the re-opening of our organization, society, and country. There is certainly a lot to look forward to as we prepare to socialize as once again by truly appreciating life, a precious gift from God, and being in the company of friends and loved ones.

The members of the board and staff have worked hard over the now 2-year pandemic and emerged as an agile group that is readily adaptable and able to adjust to changes. It was not easy, but we turned this negative situation into an opportunity to build, plan

and properly prepare for the growth of our Association through programs and services, memberships, partnerships and our vision of owning a building to house all our activities and services. I would like to thank our entire Board and staff for their incredible work and dedication to the growth of the Jamaica Association of Montreal.

This year not only marks the **60th anniversary** of Jamaica's Independence from the colonial British rule, it also marks a proud 60th anniversary of the Jamaica Association of Montreal. Our brief history is in the “About Us” section of this newsletter. As such, we are planning a week-long celebration of events from August 1st to 7th inclusively. Additionally, we will celebrate these momentous occasions during our annual Independence Banquet, held in October, and we invite you to join us then as well. Follow us on our various platforms that include our Facebook page and group: the **Jamaica Association of Montreal Company 2021 page, the Jamaica Association of Montreal Group 2021**, Instagram, Youtube, website and the email messages sent by our Secretary Ingrid Barrett of our monthly schedule of events.

Finally, on behalf of myself and our Board of Directors, we take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of the spring and summer months. Enjoy your planned vacations and most importantly, be safe in all that you do. While the impacts of COVID have changed over the 2 years, new variants are a reality unfortunately the pandemic is not officially over. Thank you for taking the time to read this message and our newsletter.

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.
-Anatole France

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES !

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES	RESPONSIBILITIES	DUES & PAYMENT SCHEDULE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preferred pricing on certain events 2. An updated membership card 3. Voting rights at the Annual General meetings 4. Contributing to the growth of our Association 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign the registry at all member's meetings 2. Update your contact information 3. Pay your membership dues for the 2022 year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) 4. Respect the rules of membership 	<p>Family \$50 (2 children (under 17 yrs old)) & 2 adults), Adult \$30 (18 - 59 yrs) * Students \$10 (12 -17 yrs) & Seniors \$10 (60+ yrs) There are several benefits of getting your card. Contact us today to find out more. Thanks to the management at Kane and Fetterly for your continued support !</p>

WAR IN EUROPE: We must remember and be mindful of the invasion in Ukraine since Feb. 2022 . The ravage of war is real for those living this reality. Send help however you can and in whatever amounts you can. Our hearts, minds and prayers are with those who are suffering and are in need.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 4065 Jean Talon W., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1W6 * **Phone:** (514) 737-8229

Email: info@jam-montreal.com * **Website:** <http://jam-montreal.com> * **Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal>

Instagram: @jamaicaassociationmontreal * **Youtube:** Jamaica Association of Montreal

FEATURE: JAMAICA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY



In November 1962, the Jamaica Association of Montreal began in Côte-des-Neiges on Van Horne Street as a social club for Jamaicans and those from the Caribbean. Today, it is a hub of activity in its third home on Jean Talon Street, that continues to showcase its social side but it has grown to reflect the community in which it resides and to meet the needs of members of the residents of the neighbourhood also.

Learn more about us by visiting our site: <https://www.jam-montreal.com>

During this **Diamond Jubilee** year, we will be hosting several special events throughout the year and particularly during the first week of August starting with Emancipation on August 1, followed by Independence on August 6 among others. Stay connected !!

The journey and history of the Jamaica Association is one that is filled with many interesting stories and people who have shaped the course of this organization over time. It is important to thank all those who have come before and represented the organization at the board level as well as those who have played significant roles behind the scenes. Our motto "**We Grow Because We Serve !**" has stood the test of time and has grown to be a part of our DNA !

JAMAICA'S 60TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION



1962 – 2022

This year marks the **Diamond Jubilee** for Jamaica. There will be a year of celebration which you can follow at the list of activities by visiting: <https://jis.gov.jm/>

In June, the Diaspora conference will be held over 3 days, June 14 – 16, 2022 and will be in a hybrid format.

More information can be obtained at www.mfaft.gov.jm

CONTACT US

A) Board of Directors

1. **Mark Henry**, President, mhenry@jam-montreal.com, 514-238-2659
2. **Sharon Nelson**, 1st Vice President, sharon.nelson@jam-montreal.com, 438-507-9258
3. **Alexander Townsend**, 2nd Vice President, 514-737-8229
4. **Melrose Christopher**, Treasurer, jamtreasurer@outlook.com, 514-737-8229
5. **Ingrid Barrett**, Secretary, secretary@jam-montreal.com, 514-737-8229
6. **Uton Lynch**, Director, 514-737-8229
7. **Clyde Williams**, Director, IT, 514-737-8229
8. **Roger Hylton**, Director, Security & Entertainment, 514-737-8229
9. **Conroy Barnes**, Director, Games, Sports & Recreation, 514-737-8229

B) Committees & Chairs

1. **Jamaica Association Business Owners & Professionals (JABOP)**, Molly Young
2. **Membership Committee**, Sharon Nelson
3. **Social Committee**, Alexander Townsend
4. **Women's Auxiliary (WA)**, Sharon Nelson
5. **Building Committee**, Mark Henry
6. **Youth Committee**, Jade Parkinson-Gayle, jamyouthrep@gmail.com
7. **Senior Committee**, Shelley Morgan, jamsenior1962@gmail.com
8. **Human Resources**, Omar Ramus, jamhumanresources1962@gmail.com

C) Staff Contacts

1. **Diane Boyd**, Managing Director, jammanagingdirector@gmail.com, Banquet Manager, jambarbanquet@gmail.com, 438-390-7763
2. **Kim Payton**, Coordinator, Programs & Services, jamprogramservices@jam-montreal.com, 514-737-8229
3. **Keisha Wilson**, Bar Manager, jambarservices@gmail.com, 514-737-8229
4. **Winston Richards**, Chef, 514-737-8229
5. **Donna-Angella Stewart**, Coordinator, Au Futur Program, aufuturprogram@gmail.com, 438-499-8229

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FEATURE: WINSTON (PICKS) RICHARDS IS BACK AT THE ASSOCIATION !



Winston Richards
Chef, Cool Runnings

Winston Richards is a proud native of Savanna La Mar, Westmoreland, Jamaica. He grew up with his beloved Grandmother Mrs. Alberta "Ms. Berta" Samuels who taught him all she knew about housework. He confirms that he took to doing very well. In 1974, he left Savanna La Mar and went to Toronto to join one of his aunts. What was surprising to him was that many people in Toronto knew him, even though he had just arrived, as so many were from his hometown in Jamaica.

He spent 3 months in Ontario before moving to Quebec to join 3 other aunts who lived in Montreal. He found the latter city to be a better place for it was more hospitable. After a very short while, he started working at Eikens in 1975 and stayed there for 2 years.

In the early 70's that was the place for West Indian people to go and get produce from home. Those who do not know, Eikens was located on St. Laurent between Dorchester and St. Catherine.

In the early 80's, he studied to become a machinist at a school in Lachine. After his studies, he looked to apprentice in the field and found that opportunity in the East of Montreal. However, that only lasted 2 months due to work shortages. In 1982, he was the first Black man hired at UPS in Montreal. Being an industrious person, he looked for other work opportunities but there was no other so he decided that he would do something he knew, something his grandmother taught him which was cooking. He began his new venture in an apartment on Chester and Randall streets while working at UPS. In fact, at the time, the new owner of the building noted that Mr. Richards was doing a steady restaurant business out of his apartment and offered to start a restaurant with him; however, Mr. Richards refused.

By 1996, he decided to leave UPS, as he was not given the opportunity for a leave of absence to pursue what was a lucrative cooking business. This big change in his life is what started the restaurant named "Picks" on de Maisonneuve just across from Vendome metro station. However, by 2004, he left that space and opened another restaurant also known as "Picks" in Cote St. Luc between 2006 and 2010. After leaving that, it was then Mr. Richards, opened his kitchen at the Jamaica Association and was here for approximately 3 years. He states "that it was a wild ride"

After leaving the Association, he joined "Ma's Place" that was located on Sherbrooke Street for a couple of years. Shortly after this, he went to Florida to help his brother who also owns a restaurant in Tampa Bay. In fact, one can say that cooking in the family blood line as his brother in Florida and another in Jamaica both own restaurants. After leaving Tampa, he returned to Montreal. Over several years, Picks took time to crisscross the Atlantic and the Caribbean Sea paying homage to his dearly departed Mother in one instance. However, by 2019 he was back in Montreal. In early 2022, Mark Henry, President, reached out to Mr. Richards and asked him to give the Association another try, to which he accepted to our absolute delight.

In doing so, the restaurant was renamed to **Cool Runnings** to highlight new beginnings and a few fresh start ! However, the reader may still be wondering, why do people call Mr. Richards "Picks". Well, before that he was known as Saco; however, Mickey Gillespies' Dad renamed him Picks and that name stuck. The reason: he always had a toothpick in his mouth !!

Welcome back Mr. Richards, we are happy to have you join the Jamaica Association of Montreal team.

Cool Runnings Restaurant reopened on **April 9** with a soft launch – the **Grand Opening** is **Saturday, May 28** from **4 pm to 8 pm**. Regular hours: **Tues. – Wed. (12 pm – 7 pm) * Thurs. (12 pm – 5 pm) * Fri. (12 pm – 9 pm) * Sat. (12 pm – 9 pm*)**

**time can potentially change on Saturdays due to special events*

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OUR 6 PROGRAMS

- Au Futur Program (Young Mothers) – In collaboration with Maison D’Haïti since 1933 and Federally Funded by Health Canada.**
 For single Black women between the ages of **15 to 25 years old**. We also focus on helping young Black women up to the age of 35 years old with one or more children. Click [here](#) for more information on this confidential service. Services offered online due to COVID-19 pandemic and gradually in person. *Cost: **FREE**. Contact: **Donna Angella Stewart**, Au Futur Program, Program Coordinator, Contact: (Cell) **438-499-8229**, aufuturprogram@gmail.com
- Footsteps Program**
 A [program](#) run on Saturdays from 1 pm to 3 pm for toddlers and children aged 0 to 12 yrs old. Due to the pandemic, the program is **online** and includes reading activities, arts and crafts. Qualified educators deliver this program and have a wonderful time with the children. online to assist. **For summer 2022**, we will also be adding **outdoor activities** and **outings** that include being at the park (More info to follow). Contact footstepsprogram@gmail.com
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programs**
 We offer individual, as well as small classes with qualified & experienced teachers in a variety of subjects. Classes take place in the evenings with one-to-one tutoring also available. Per term registration fee gives access to all courses: **\$10.00**. Click [here](#) to view course descriptions and schedule. **All ABE courses are offered online**. Contact **Kim Payton**, Coordinator of Programs and Services during office hours at jamprogramservices@jam-montreal.com or by **phone at 514-737-8229** to register for classes
- Brilliant Minds Tutoring & Vocational Training** for elementary, high school and adult learners. This service provides help with schoolwork and career planning. Online sessions.
NEW !! Vocational Training partnership with PACC in Lasalle.
 Contact **Kim Payton**
- Food Bank** in collaboration with Moisson Montréal. The Food Bank is open **Thursdays (10 am to 5 pm) & Fridays (2 pm to 5 pm)**. *January to December*, holiday notices posted as necessary. Registration: Mandatory. Cost: \$5.00 per person, standard fee. Call or email the Association for more information. Registration and collection at the Association.
Note: New arrivals to Canada and new users of the food bank are asked to call one day in advance
- Tax Preparation**
 The Tax Clinic is held in collaboration with Canada Revenue Agency and Revenu Québec. Our qualified tax volunteers are graduates of the CPA Program at the John Molson School of Business and Tax experts. The Tax Clinic is seasonal and runs until the 15th of May 2022.
 Contact: jamgovernmentsservices@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Food Bank** Thurs. (10 am – 5 pm) & Fri. (2 pm - 5 pm), \$5.00
- Member's Meetings** Sat. May 21. & Jun. 18, 7 pm (on Zoom)
- Games Night** Friday, May 20, 8 pm
- Banking with JN** Postponed (TBC)
- Let's Talks about Sex, Pt 2** Postponed (TBC)
- GRAND OPENING – COOL RUNNINGS RESTAURANT**
Saturday, May 28 4 pm to 8 pm
- Tribute to the Greats: Past & Present with the Uprising Band** featuring local artists \$20 before more at the door - Saturday, May 28, 9 pm to 11 pm
- See our website for events in **June** (<https://jam-montreal.com/activities-to-dec-2022>)

OUR 6 SERVICES

Office Hours: Mon – Fri.: 10 am to 6 pm * (514) 737-8229
VISIT OUR WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA SITES FOR UPDATES.

- Documents** – Passports, Permanent Resident Card, Commissioner of Oaths (forms can be mailed to you)
- Space rental** for your small gatherings. Special events (birthdays, private parties, baby showers, shows, etc... - includes tables & chairs (table & chair coverings extra)).
- Community Service Program** – for adults and youths needing to complete mandated community hours.
- Licensed Restaurant – Cool Runnings Restaurant** –
 Hours: *Chef Winston Richards (Picks):*

Tuesday	12 pm – 7 pm,
Wednesday	12 pm – 7 pm,
Thursday	12 pm - 5 pm,
Friday	12 pm – 9 pm,
Saturday	12 pm – 9 pm, (time can potentially change on Saturdays due to special events),

Chef Ian Nelson (Warrior):

Friday night	10 pm – 3 am,
Saturday night	10 pm – 3 am,
- Fully Licensed Bar - Negril Bar** – Open Fridays and Saturdays as of 8 pm. On Saturdays, the Noel Alexander Banquet Hall is also available for rental for special events.

OVERPROOF FRIDAYS AND VERSATILE SATURDAYS

Fridays	9 pm to 3 am: Last call 2:30am, Bar closes at 2:50 am
Saturdays	9 pm to 3 am: Last call 2:30 am, Bar closes at 2:50 am

- A fun & secure place to come together** to enjoy each other's company and friendships.

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