

Jamaica Association of Montreal inc.

L'Association Jamaïquaine de Montréal inc.



www.jam-montreal.com

**Activity Report
2019 – 2020**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE	2
ABOUT US	3
OUR BOARDS, COMMITTEES, STAFF & PARTNERS	3
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	3
Membership Committee (2019-2020)	4
Social Committee (2019-2020)	4
Women’s Auxiliary (2019-2020)	4
Jamaica Association Business Owners and Professionals (JABOP) (2019-2020)	4
Staff (current and former, 2019-2020)	5
Partners	5
Volunteers	5
PROGRAMS & SERVICES	6
1. Au Futur Program	6
2. Footsteps Program	7
3. Adult Basic Education Program (ABE Program)	7
4. Brilliant Minds Program	8
5. Saturday Tutorials	9
6. Weekday Drop-in Math Tutorials	9
7. Extra-curricular activities	9
8. End of year Certificates, Award, and Graduation Ceremony	9
9. Food Bank	9
10. Community Services & Alternative Justice Program	11
11. Information & Referral, Immigrant Services, Tax Clinic	11
STAFFING & IMPACTS OF COVID-19	12
MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMS, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & PARTICIPATION	12
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	13



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members and Friends of the Jamaica Association,

On behalf the Jamaica Association and our Board of Directors, we trust that you are all well and keeping safe during these difficult times. We are thankful to God that we have been spared as a community, organization and individually from the effects of this terrible virus that has unfortunately claimed the life of many worldwide. Our upcoming AGM on December 12, 2020 was an important mark and a testament of the resilience of our membership and Board over the past 10 months. Despite the challenges that included Government shutdowns and self-imposed isolation and restrictions for all those working and visiting the Association, our Board have managed to accomplish 33 events for the calendar year, outside of monthly meetings. These events were purposed for the enjoyment and comfort of our membership and to raise funds for our much-needed renovations of the center. I am especially proud to highlight that most of these events were via the on-line format that required tremendous patience and training to allow our viewers to enjoy and participate.

I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their contributions during this year to these successes of these activities. Special mentions are in order to Sharon Nelson for her tireless work and commitment to the organization and ensuring the events that she was a part of and hosted were of the highest quality , Alexander Townsend and his team for their contributions in the preparation of the center to host some these events, Brian Kotler for his work in organizing and production some of the events and the Social Committee for their effort in raising funds for our much need renovations.

Finally, I would like to take the time to thank our membership for taking the time to participate in these events. Without your participation, the events would not be possible or successful. We look forward to the upcoming events in 2021 with great enthusiasm and hope that you will continue to support the activities of the Jamaica Association of Montreal. May the Lord bless and keep always.

Thank you

Mark Henry
President

"If you are facing a new challenge or being asked to do something that you have never done before don't be afraid to step out. You have more capability than you think you do but you will never see it unless you place a demand on yourself for more."– Joyce Meyer

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 the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels. We are a member of the United Council for Human Rights and 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. In 2019, the Association has become an active participant on the [Global Jamaica Diaspora Council](#) led by [The Honourable Minister Kamina Johnson Smith](#), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. This global initiative aims to rally Jamaicans with the purpose of building our island country through creativity, experience, and support.

OUR BOARDS, COMMITTEES, STAFF & PARTNERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of October 1 – December 14, 2019

Michael Smith..... President
Mark Henry..... 1st Vice-President
Conroy Barnes 2nd Vice-President
Aston Mendez Treasurer
Sharon Nelson Secretary
Melaine Campbell..... Director
Carlene Clarke Director
Alexander Townsend..... Director



The Annual General Meeting and Board Elections took place on Saturday, December 14, 2019.

As of December 14, 2019 – September 30, 2020

Mark Henry..... President
Sharon Nelson 1st Vice-President
Alexander Townsend 2nd Vice-President
Aston Mendez Treasurer
Shelley Morgan..... Secretary
(December 2019 - August 2020)
Keisha Wilson Interim – Secretary
(August– September 2020)
Carlene Clarke Director, Government Services
Brian Kotler..... Director, Special Events
Uton Lynch Director, Maintenance & Upkeep



Auxiliary & Non-voting members (as of December 14, 2019)

Omar Ramus, <i>Youth Representative</i>	Sophia Siedlikowski <i>Youth Outreach Officer</i>	Audley Coley. <i>Senior Representative</i>
--	--	---

Membership Committee (2019-2020)

CHAIR: Mark Henry
Hazel Williams Lloyd Shaw Carlene Clarke

Social Committee (2019-2020)

CHAIR: Alexander Townsend
Colin Page Clyde Williams Reta Campbell
Karen Irons Valerie Williams Carol Williams
Maria Williams Uton Lynch Keisha Wilson

Women's Auxiliary (2019-2020)

CHAIR: Sharon Nelson
Hazel Williams Delores Smith Vivienne Fairclough
Conchita Crooks Yvette Bailey Lorna Spence
Carlene Clarke Jo-Ann Johnson Hepta Deslandes
Enid Hall Venetha Gregg Madonna Stowe
Melrose Christopher Shelley Morgan Elizabeth Newton
Desrean McFarlane Sonia Millett Robinson

Jamaica Association Business Owners and Professionals (JABOP) (2019-2020)

CHAIR: Mark Henry
Rohan Bailey George Grant Delroy Peart
Mr. Pattie Restaurant *Brossard Bagel/Real Estate Agent* *Financial Adviser, WFG*

Brian Smith Oliver Cole Clement George
Financial Literacy Counsellor *Real Estate Agent/ Accountant* *Engineer/ACN Rep*

Sharon Nelson
*Assistant Director, Executive MBA
Program*

Staff (current and former, 2019-2020)

Susan Hamilton
*Coordinator, Au Futur
&Footsteps Programs*

Kim Payton
*Coordinator, Programs and
Services*

Franklin Onwuneme
Food Bank Manager

Kadeem Maxwell
*Canada Summer Job,
Community Worker, Archives*

Erika Ryan
Project Assistant, Archives

Callinice Davis
French Beginner Teacher

Claudia Miranda
Intermediate French Teacher

Chesline Pierre-Paul
Advanced French Teacher

Amritha Sanmugam
*English as a Second Language
Teacher*

Shari Castello
*Zoom Technical Online Class
Assistant*

Aranija Kathiresu
*(former) Coordinator, Programs
and Services*

Jordan Benjamin
(former) Office Assistant

Emily Ramdass
(former) Class Assistant

Partners

Moisson Montréal

Collège Frontière

Community Contact Newspaper

CKUT 90.3 FM

Maison d'Haïti

Otis Grant & Friends Foundation

Garderie Mobile

Volunteers

Kenneth Warren
Trevor Campbell

Hazel Williams
Christopher Thompson

Claudette Scott-Denes

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Our 7 programs include: 1) Au Futur, 2) Footsteps, and 3) Adult Basic Education Programs, 4) Food Bank, 5) Brilliant Minds, 6) Tax Preparation and 7) Steel Pan classes.

Our 6 services include: 1) Hall rental, 2) Legal documents, 3) Community Service Program, 4) Licensed Bar, 5) Restaurant, 6) A place to gather with friends.

1. Au Futur Program

As of October 1, 2019, there were 20 women in this program where our Sue Hamilton, Coordinator, continues to provide assistance that includes accompaniments to medical appointments, making home visits, helping them with their CV and finding employment or returning to school among other offerings. We have helped some mothers move into “OHLM” low rent housing, which has given these women a better quality of life for them and their children. We have also helped some mothers find daycare for their children and facilitated a series of parenting workshops.

Health Canada has adopted the new age range of women between the ages of 15 - 35 years old as long as they have at least one small child between 0-5 years old. It was a pilot project for one year to see if the service could be useful to the older mothers. Many organizations started referring mothers to the program because of the change in the age.

As of September 30, 2020, there were 25 women enrolled in the program. It is relevant to note that many women are eager to work or return to school, as such many are working or have returned to school on a part time or full-time basis.

During March 2020, the Association stopped all in-person activities as mandated by both Federal and Provincial Governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, Ms. Hamilton began to work remotely using Zoom and by phone. All activities continued except for any in-person events. In September 2020, Ms. Hamilton returned to the office to work one-day-a-week but that changed due to the Code Red lockdown mandated by the Provincial government in October.

Some Partner Organizations:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 – Batshaw | 7 – The Diet Dispensary of Montreal |
| 2 – Heberjeune | 8 – La Maison Bleue |
| 3 - Elizabeth House | 9 – Frontier College |
| 4 - Maison Transitionnelle 03 | 10 – MiniBiblioplus |
| 5 - CDC Cote Des Neiges | 11 – Comit  l a Ruche |
| 6 - Welcome Collective | 12 – Maison d’Haiti |

WORKSHOPS:

1. Nobody’s Perfect (September 25 to November 20)

2. Footsteps Program

As of October 1, 2019, there were 16 children registered in the program. Along with Sue Hamilton, Coordinator, there is a paid educator that is provided through Garderie Mobile and one volunteer provided through Frontier College. This program is offered on Saturdays from 12 pm to 5 pm over the period of September to June. The age range of children is between 0 years to 9 years. Due to the large number of children, a space in a classroom is reserved on the 6th floor at 6767 Cote Des Neiges so the older children ages 6 – 9 years old could have a quiet place to do their schoolwork for an hour. By 3 pm all the children assemble in the playroom for their snack. We finish the afternoon with arts and crafts and then free play.

As a result of COVID-19 in March 2020, the program was suspended until June 2020. In September 2020, the activities were resumed online using Zoom with approximately 5 to 9 children tuning in each week for activities that reflect those done in person.

3. Adult Basic Education Program (ABE Program)

The courses in our A.B.E. program target adult learners who want to improve their computer, French or English as a second language skills. Our adult literacy program focuses on helping adults to improve their reading and writing skills. Sessions are carried out in a private setting where each learner is paired with a tutor. Sessions are available evenings and weekends.

NAME OF COURSE	DESCRIPTION	REGISTRANTS
Literacy I: Introduction to the world of Words <i>Offered Fall 2019, Spring and Summer 2020</i>	The learner was paired with a tutor. They worked on phonics, spelling, and reading simple texts. Some exercises were taken from books, others were constructed by the tutor. The learner attended class frequently and expressed their gratitude for having access to the course. They also expressed that their reading and comprehension skills have improved.	2
French Beginner <i>Offered Fall 2019, Spring and Summer 2020</i>	The course is divided into three parts. This course introduces students to speaking, reading, writing and listening in French.	35
Intermediate French <i>Offered Fall 2019, Spring and Summer 2020</i>	This course builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in French Beginner	11
Computer Literacy <i>Offered Fall 2019</i>		2
Advanced French <i>Offered Summer 2020</i>	This new course is for non-native French speakers who want to improve their spoken French.	4

English as a Second Language <i>Offered Fall 2019, Spring and Summer 2020</i>	This is a Basic English course that introduces Non-English speakers to writing, speaking, listening and reading in English.	21
Computer I & 2 <i>Offered Fall 2019</i>	The course is divided into three parts and focuses on helping adults learn to properly use a personal computer. The course teaches the internet, features of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel, and how to communicate through email.	2
		77

Table 1 – List of classes and registrants – Adult Basic Education and Brilliant Minds Programs

UPDATES ON COURSES AS OF COVID-19 MARCH 2020.

Due to the pandemic, courses were moved to the Zoom online platform in April. The Association was closed and so no computer class was offered, although there was an attempt to have a 6-week online computer course on how to use a computer. That course was not possible in the end.

In the new paradigm, only the French Beginner, French Intermediate, English as a Second Language courses were run due to the ability to have those courses offered on an online platform. The number of weeks of each course was shortened to 8 weeks instead of the previously adopted 11 weeks. Secondly, each course became a stand-alone entity so that students did not have to go through three semesters with the same teacher.

A new French Advanced course was piloted during June to August 2020 session, which was very much appreciated by participants. This new teacher is a master's student in Concordia's French studies department who brings an expanded profile to our teaching staff.

Classes were held in Fall 2019 from September to December over an 11-week period. Classes then resumed in April to June and then in June to August for 8-weeks respectively.

4. Brilliant Minds Program

This program is for high school students and offers tutorials from Monday to Thursday, 4 pm to 6 pm. Volunteer tutors from Frontier College, McGill and Concordia and other volunteers assisted students.

At the start of the 2019 year, there 17 students on the list of participants. Some students came regularly while others were sporadic in their attendance. As of March 2020, activities were also moved online to accommodate the end of year test preparations. There was a dramatic decrease in participation to 2 students using the service due to different limitation which included lack of motivation to study as well as lack of a computer to be connected online.

As of September, that number went back to 8 students using the service in an online format.

5. Saturday Tutorials

The goal of the tutorials is to help students become successful in their classrooms. Tutors meet one to one with learners, reviewing concepts and methods and helping with homework. The number of students using the tutorials have grown.

As of March 2020, this program was halted and rolled into the Brilliant Minds program.

6. Weekday Drop-in Math Tutorials

The tutorials focus on helping adult learners in Secondary school math program who are having difficulties understanding methods and concepts in the classroom. We also provide remedial math help, preparation for math placement tests for admission into Vocational Studies (trades), preparation for provincial exams and study guide.

As of March 2020, this program was halted and rolled into the Brilliant Minds program

7. Extra-curricular activities

There were no extracurricular activities due to staff turnover, adjustments to new program offerings and transfer of information.

8. End of year Certificates, Award, and Graduation Ceremony

These activities were not held due to COVID-19 restrictions.

9. Food Bank

As of October 1, 2019, the Food Bank continued its partnership with Moisson Montréal. As the Camion Collectif service was no longer available, Michael Smith, and Mark Henry would use their personal vehicles to collect the food from Moisson Montreal on a weekly rotating basis. In December 2019, a second-hand van was purchased for the purposes of collecting the food instead.

In March 2020, the process at the Food Bank was changed as a result of a re-evaluation of the needs of the community and with the departure of personnel. In this new paradigm, the goal of the Food Bank was optimized to ensure that more produce and a variety of food items were made available. A second change included the ability of clients to choose their food they would like to have as opposed to being selected by staff. This change coupled with the strains of the new pandemic are thought to have factored into an almost doubling of clients between March and April 2020.

A list of the weekly offerings was created and posted on our Facebook pages, along with actual photos for clients to review prior coming to the food bank. Many of the clients remarked that they liked this new process for they are able to select their preferred items and that they felt respected. In order to respect physical distancing a number of protocols were developed to ensure the safety of workers, volunteers and clients. Clients could no longer enter the food bank but had to wait at the top of the stairs at the entrance. After they had selected their food choices, the volunteer or staff would then bring out the selected items on a cart for clients to place in

their own bags. Additionally, the hours of operations were expanded on Thursdays from 10 am to 6 pm instead of 1 pm to 3 pm and Fridays were added from 10 am to 5 pm. The cost remained at \$3 for all items selected irrespective of the amount; however, as of September 1st, there was a slight increase in the cost to \$5 which is within the guidelines outlined by the partnership agreement with Moisson Montreal.

The table below indicates the monthly visits:

MONTH	MONTHLY VISITS (2019 – 2020)
OCTOBER 2019	8
NOVEMBER	62
DECEMBER	44
JANUARY 2020	26
FEBRUARY	29
MARCH	71
APRIL	134
MAY	159
JUNE	162
JULY	183
AUGUST	143
SEPTEMBER	141

Table 2 – List of monthly visits to the Food Bank

During the pandemic, the Association applied for emergency funding from the Cotes-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Borough Council in the amount of \$9,500 to aid in the acquisition of food stock & hygiene products for the food bank. We received \$9,000 and that money was used to help in the salary of the newly hired Food Bank Manager. Other uses for that money included purchasing personal hygiene products from Laboratoires Colba inc. and making needed repairs to the van.

Since March, we have seen a steady increase in the number of clients, above 120 new clients. Also, it is important to note that our clientele is very diverse and many ethnic backgrounds that include: Caribbean, African, South East Asian, European, Latin-American, Quebecois. Additionally, we are proud to state that many different religious groups also use our service and include: Christian, Hindu, Muslim, among others.

The Board made the decision to help senior members of the Association, who are in a high risk group, and who would refrain from leaving their homes due to COVID-19. Consequently, we developed a system whereby seniors would contact the Association, place their order for food order from the weekly list and then receive the delivery on Friday afternoons.

In October 2019, there was only one Winter Clothing Drive for the year. Nonetheless, items such as books for kids and adults along with toys and games were made available to food bank clients for free. We take this opportunity to thank members and friends of the Association who

continued to donate and in doing so have helped vulnerable Montrealers, new immigrants and asylum seekers in the CDN/NDG borough among other boroughs.

10. Community Services & Alternative Justice Program

We were contacted by different agencies to assist those in need to complete their community hours. During the course of the year, there were a number of requests but only one youth who followed through on starting and completing his mandated hours. There were no participants in the Community Work Program and one youth in the Alternative Justice Program this year who completed 40 hours.

11. Information & Referral, Immigrant Services, Tax Clinic

The Association continues to offer services to our members and the community large. Throughout the year we assisted with the completion of application forms for Permanent Resident cards, Jamaican and Canadian Passport forms as well other documents that people had difficulty completing.

Kim Payton, Coordinator of Programs and Services, who joined the Association in August 2020, created step-by-step guide for the Jamaican passport application to allow individuals to fill in the forms in a relatively easy and straight forward process.

a. J.A.M. Services Directory 2020

A directory of various services available in Montreal, Ottawa, Canada and Jamaica was created. Services range from Advocacy Groups, Food Banks, Housing, Jamaican Services, Immigration, Legal, Passport and Social Services to Tourism

b. J.A.M. How to Documents 2020

A series of step-by-step guides were created:

- Jamaica - Passport Application Process for Jamaica
- Jamaica – How to Apply for a TRN (Taxpayer Registration Number)
- Jamaica - Citizenship Application Process for Jamaica – By Marriage and Descent
- Jamaica - How to Pay Your Jamaica Property Taxes Online
- Canada - Applying for a Permanent Resident Card
- Quebec - Becoming A Permanent Resident in Quebec

Additionally, referrals were made for various services that were requested.

No tax clinic service was available for the 2019 income tax year.

STAFFING & IMPACTS OF COVID-19

In October 2019, we had 2 full time office staff and two part time office staff. The full-time positions included Aranija Kathiresu, Coordinator of Programs and Services, and Susan Hamilton, Coordinator for both the Footsteps and Au Futur programs. The part time staff consisted of Jordan Benjamin, Office Administrator and the Emily Ramdass, Class Supervisor. In February 2020, Ms. Kathiresu resigned from her post. Two weeks later, COVID necessitated the closure of the Association and the cancelling of all in-person classes. Both Ms. Benjamin and Ms. Ramdass were on temporary leave until April 2, 2020 but due to the prolonged uncertainty of the pandemic, these positions were eventually terminated. At that point, the only full-time staff was Susan Hamilton who worked remotely from March until September 2020.

In August 2020, Kim Payton was hired as the new Coordinator of Programs and Services. In addition, two new part time positions were created that included the Food Bank Manager (Franklin Onwuneme) and the Technical Support (Shari Castello) for the online Zoom classes, that were offered in April until August 2020. As of the end of the September 30, our staff consisted of two full time positions, and two new part time positions.

There were 4 teachers that offered courses in French (Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels) and English as a Second Language. Due to the pandemic, the classes were moved from in-person classes to virtual Zoom classes.

MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMS, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & PARTICIPATION

Over the course of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we have seen an increase in the number of people participating in activities whether in program offerings, services or in social activities. Pre COVID, it is safe to say that the numbers were stable as compared to previous years. However, as March 2020, we saw a great increase in participation in programs, services as well as social events that were now online. With respect to the classes, we saw a higher number of registrants and retention rate, with services, many people made use of them as outlined in the report. The same is also true for membership, there was a 9% increase in renewal of membership and new members added to our list, as such we currently have a total membership of 304.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

(October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020)

In fulfilling its mission, the Association manages its operations so as to ensure the continued development of the community through economical, educational, cultural and social activities. Our committees are instrumental in fulfilling a large part of this mission. The Committees are: Membership, Social, Women's Auxiliary, and Business Owners and Professionals. We had 23 free events over the course of the year.

2019

1. 3 board meetings and 2 membership meetings (in person, October to December 2019)
2. Friday Night Socials – Overproof Friday - Games, DJs and Food * **FREE** (~10 people)
3. Heroes Banquet, featuring * Sat. Oct. 19 * **\$80 (members) & \$85 (non-members)** (89)
4. Breast and Prostate Cancer: A discussion * Thurs. Nov. 21 * **FREE** (Concordia University) (20)
5. Women's Auxiliary Xmas tree decoration event * **FREE** (7)
6. Annual General Meeting, Board Elections and Member's Christmas Party Potluck * Sat. Dec. 14 * **FREE** (58)
7. Children's Christmas Party *Sun. Dec. 15 * **FREE** (40)

2020

1. 9 board meetings and 8 membership meetings (6 online board meetings & 7 online membership meetings, January to September 2020)
2. SPVM public meetings, media interviews, with community groups (20 interventions, Oct 2019 – Sept 2020)
3. Space rental
4. Friday Night Socials – Overproof Friday - Games, DJs and Food * (Jan. 3 to Mar. 13) * **FREE** (~10)
5. Theater performance "Telling our Stories, Sharing our Lives": a focus on mental health in the Black community * Sat. Feb 8 * **FREE** (28)
6. Resume and Cover Letter Review with Melissa Allen * Sun., Feb. 9 * (Concordia) * **FREE** (6)
7. Facing mental health in Black & Caribbean Communities (S. Wint, C. Mellow, A. Coley), Wed. Feb. 26, * (Concordia University) * **FREE** (40)
8. Theater performance "Telling our Stories, Sharing our Lives": a focus on mental health in the Black community * Wed. Feb. 26 * **FREE** (40) – second performance at Concordia University

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN IMPOSED – MARCH to JUNE 2020 – Most activities were done online

9. Sharing posters and information on COVID news in the Association and on social media
10. Mother's Day Online Event * MadHatter's Tea Party * Sunday, May 10 * **FREE** (7)

11. COVID-19 Telethon involvement – Jamaican Canadian Response * Sat. May 30 (Online event) * **FREE**
12. Association Renovations – painting the entire hall, installing new ceiling tiles, removing old items, rearranging spaces and cleaning rooms (April to June 2020)
13. JUNE2020 - Focus on Fun and Mental Health June 3 – 29 (Online event) * **FREE** (193)
14. Youth Mental Health with Myrna Lashley, June 11 * **FREE** (15)
15. Canada Day Virtual Parade * Wed., July 1 * **FREE**

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN PARTIALLY LIFTED – JULY to SEPTEMBER 2020 – Most activities continue online except Friday Night Socials and Food Bank

16. Friday Night Socials – Overproof Friday - Games, DJs and Food * (July 3. to Sept. 25) * **FREE** (~ 25 to 50 patrons depending on government guidelines)
17. Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal meeting, June (online meeting) and July 2020
18. Car wash fundraiser * Sat. July 4 (\$1109 raised for bar renovations, 45 cars)
19. JAM Showcase – Sat. July 18 – (Online event) * **FREE** (\$1700 raised for bar renovations)
20. Archiving the Jamaica Association’s records (July to present - ongoing project)
21. Discovering Jamaican Patwa – July 2 – August 6, 2020 with Clive Forrester – Online 6-week class * **FREE** (6)
22. Independence Celebration in collaboration with Jamaican Associations across Canada Aug. 6 – 8 * **FREE** (Online event)
23. Folklore in Quebec - West Can celebrates Afro Caribbean Folklore in Quebec! Wed., Aug. 26 at 7 pm (online event in collaboration with West Can) * **FREE** (7)
24. " Your Money, Your Future" with Brian Smith, Thurs., Aug. 27, (Online event) * **FREE** (15)
25. Women’s Auxiliary Online Tea and Talk , Sun. Sept 6, 2020 * **FREE** (7)
26. Labour Day Fundraising Brunch, Sun., Sept. 6, 2020 (meals: \$10 & \$15) (\$350 raised,~40)
27. Fundraiser – Back to school drive for Jamaican school children in collaboration with Jamaican Associations across Canada * Sept. 5 donation deadline date. (Online event)
28. Family Appreciation Day BBQ in collaboration with Gouche and Vince * Sept. 12 (Angrignon Park) * **FREE** (~100)
29. Montreal Black Film Festival – Sept. 23 to Oct 4 (Online event) sponsor of the film entitled “Last Street”

Overproof Fridays

October 2019 to September 2020

The Overproof Friday is a weekly social gathering on Friday nights from 8 pm to 3 am. On Friday night, our restaurant, the Jerk Pit, and the bar are open. We have a contingent of 4 DJ's, who are present on a rotational basis and play a variety of music styles and genres. This activity is to garner additional funds for the Association outside of funding agencies.

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown, this activity ceased from March to June 2020. From July 2020 to September 2020, when government guidelines allowed for a reopening of bars and gatherings, strict protocols, in line with government health guidelines were instated. A security guard was hired to ensure that all patrons signed in, temperatures were verified before patrons entered using a medical thermometer, hand sanitizers were strategically placed in specific locations throughout the premises. Additionally, all patrons were strongly encouraged to wash their hands on a continual basis. Furthermore, all patrons were mandated to properly wear their face masks.



groups urge Montreal cease police street checks

DIGITAL REPORTER
Matthew Lapierre
Friday, October 25th 2019 - 10:33 pm



A coalition of groups are calling on Montreal to end random police checks because they disproportionately target minorities.

Community Engagement & Activism

October 2019 – September 2020

The Jamaica Association joined a Coalition of Community Organizations across Montreal led by Marvin Rotrand, City Councillor, NDG/CDN Borough for Snowdon speaking out against police street checks, violence and other issues of concern to the Black and racialized communities.

Heroes Banquet

Saturday, October 19, 2019

Our annual Heroes Banquet was created to celebrate Jamaica's National Heroes; however, we also take the opportunity to honour Jamaican men and women today who emulate excellence in their respective professions and exemplify all the attributes of a true Jamaican hero. The evening's agenda consisted of a cocktail hour, a 3-course meal, live entertainment, tributes and messages, and an address by our each of our guests of honour. This year's honourees included Ajay Patel and Manumati Patel owners of Épicerie Shavit, Tim Sobers, owner of Marché Colonnade and Ian Daley owner of Krazy Kuts Barber Shop. There were a total of 89 people at the event.

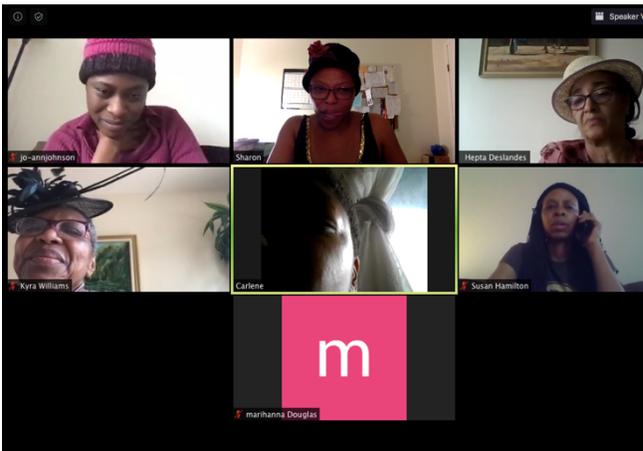




The Women's Auxiliary currently has 17 members. Over the year, there was a 3 -part speaker series on Women and Health where two of parts in the series were held. These include Breast Cancer and Mental Health but the third session in the series, Domestic Violence, had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions nonetheless, there were 6 meetings in total including a number of events held online through Zoom.

Breast and Prostate Cancer: A discussion Thursday, November 21, 2019

The Auxiliary teamed with a few guest speakers from the McGill University Health Centre and others to discuss breast and prostate cancers. The objectives were to build awareness about processes in the health care system and to help to break the stigma of speaking about cancer in the Black community. There were 20 participants at the event.



Mother's Day Event Sunday, May 10, 2020

For the first time, we celebrated Mother's Day in an online event. This event was entitled MadHatter's Tea Party and there were a total of 7 participants.

Children's Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15, 2019

An opportunity for the kids, some in our Au Futur and Footsteps Programs, to meet Santa Claus, celebrate Kwanzaa and to receive gifts and treats.

There were 40 participants at the event.



Sharing our stories, Telling our Lives.

Saturday, February 8, 2020

In collaboration with Black Mental Health Montreal and Teesri Duniya theatre company, we hosted this verbatim theatre performance focusing on mental health of Black people in Montreal and the experiences. It also touched on the migrant experience of persons issuing from the Caribbean to this new Canadian reality on their person and mental state. The play's aim is to sensitize Black and wider audiences to the mental health issues faced by many in the community but who do not necessarily speak of these issues openly. There were 28 participants at the event.

There was a second performance on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at Concordia University with 40 participants.

Canada Day Virtual Parade

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Due to COVID-19 the physical parade was cancelled but we submitted a short 20-second video with Mark Henry, President, George Grant, Honourary Consul for Jamaica at Montreal and Sharon Nelson 1st Vice President wishing everyone a Happy Canada Day. The video was part of a 3-hour online show for all to see.



Car Wash (Social Committee)

Saturday, July 4, 2020

The event was scheduled to begin at 10:00 am until 6pm but finished by 7:30 pm. There was a great turnout of members and friends. They all enjoyed themselves washing approximately 45 cars and socializing in the process.

Food was on sale. The menu consisted of rice and peas, jerk chicken, curried goat, white rice, salad, rock cake and black cake.

The food was prepared by our own chefs Reta Campbell, Conroy Barnes and Karen Irons who baked cakes. O'Neil Mitchell (aka Willie B Bashment) donated the rock cakes also.

This event helped to raised funds for the bar renovations that began in October 2020.

Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal meetings

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Over many years, there has been an ongoing alliance between Caribbean groups in Montreal to encourage and support each other. This sense of community is continually needed to bolster each organization, our efforts to be a connection to each other and a link to the Caribbean. In January 2020, Mark Henry reached out to Caribbean organizations informing the Presidents of the newly elected board members and extended an invitation to them should they need a space for rent for their various activities. In June 2020, he again reached out and invited all organizations to a Zoom meeting to further discuss ways of assisting each other through the sharing of information and other means. The Presidents of Barbados House of Montreal, Antigua and Barbuda Association, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association, Guyana Cultural Association of Montreal, Grenada National Association of Montreal and the Monserrat Association of Montreal were scheduled for the first meeting.

On Sunday, July 19, the third meeting was held at the Jamaica Association, socially distanced, and it was chaired this time by Barbados House President, Nigel Clarke. He noted that he was very encouraged to see so many groups coming together to discuss common goals, and ways of assisting each other. Mark Henry once again reiterated his offer of opening the Jamaica Association to Caribbean organizations for rental use. Various collaborative suggestions were presented in the meeting. Some are currently in place that include informing each organization of respective events and supporting opportunities.



(L-R): Mark Henry, (Jamaica), Cynthia Waithe (Barbados), Nicole Swan (Grenada), Veronica Payne (Barbados), Neville Boyce (Montserrat), Nigel Clarke, (Barbados), George Grant, Honourary Consul for Jamaica at Montreal, Leebert Sancho (Guyana), William Critchlow (Guyana), Jack Dear (St. Vincent).

YOUR MONEY, YOUR FUTURE



JOIN US FOR AN ENGAGING WORKSHOP WITH BRIAN SMITH ON PERSONAL FINANCE AND MONEY MANAGEMENT FOR YOUTHS



AUGUST 27TH 2020
7:00-8:15 PM
LIVE ON ZOOM
(REGISTRATION REQUIRED VIA EVENTBRITE)



Your Money, Your Future: Personal Finance 101 workshop for Youths Thursday, August 27, 2020

This workshop was created to provide tips and share tools about personal finance and money management that can assist young people in taking charge of their financial assets in order to reap long term benefits in the future.

Family Appreciation Day BBQ /Potluck – JAM alongside Vince and Gouch in Angrignon Park Saturday, September 12, 2020

This event was to give back to our community and was well attended. Participants brought their own food and drinks, and the Jamaica Association provided Jerk Chicken, Fish and bread rolls. The bread rolls were donated by a member of the organization. Egbert Gaye, editor of the Community Contact photographed the event and wrote an article for his newspaper to document the event. The deejays, (King Farre, Skizz, Vince and DJ Ncholas) played an array of music. During the event 5 people expressed interest in joining the Association.