



## September 2021 eBulletin

### A BUSY AUTUMN AHEAD



**After being closed since March 2020, the MCLL office opens after Labour Day, on September 7. Volunteers will be on hand to help members who call or drop by for information. Welcome back!**

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**Opportunities for learning abound:** If you haven't yet registered for a fall study group, several are still open. In a group about researching weather (SG 335) you can learn how to get facts on climate change using an online archive, create a blog post linking a specific Montreal day's weather to a narrative mentioning actual events of that day, learn how to transcribe old handwritten

documents, and more. Canada's pioneering role in developing peaceful nuclear energy will be reviewed in another group (SG 336). Participants may also discuss prospects of reliable, greenhouse-gas-emission-free nuclear and other power sources — hydro-electric, wind and solar. Watch for an email listing a variety of available study groups, most starting next week.

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**Tablets are going fast:** MCLL's tablet lending program, announced in an email August 13, has attracted enthusiastic responses, and there may still be one or two tablets available. Fourteen Samsung tablets have been purchased and can be borrowed for up to ten weeks, starting in the Fall session. Email MCLL fast if you are interested in borrowing a tablet.

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**A master storyteller sends thanks:** Were you in a study group in January 2020 on the novels of John le Carré? The author of *The Spy who Came in From the Cold* corresponded with the group's moderator, Naomi (Nonny) Rankin, for four years before his death late in 2020. It began when Nonny wrote thanking him for "56 years of joyous reading" of his many spy novels; le Carré (aka David Cornwell) replied warmly, always in his own hand. "It was a treasured friendship", Nonny says. When the study group ended, members sent the author a card of thanks, each one expressing personal appreciation for his work. "He wrote back, thanking members for their 'overgenerous' comments", says Nonny. "He was deeply moved." Members, for their part, were delighted to be emailed a copy of "David"'s handwritten letter on le Carré letterhead.

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**A good way to improve your French:** This fall, a workshop led by MCLL's Lorne Huston and Michelle Dupont, of the French-speaking seniors' organization **Projet changement**, will allow MCLL members to practice their French in group. Alternately, if you are interested in learning one-on-one, we may be able to put you in touch with a Projet Changement member interested in improving his or her English while you improve your French. You and your partner will determine the best way to exchange safely in these times of pandemic (in person or by phone, Skype, Zoom etc.). We will provide you with the contact details of a potential partner. Contact Lorne Huston at [parlonsfrancais.mcll@mcgill.ca](mailto:parlonsfrancais.mcll@mcgill.ca) or visit the Projet changement website.

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...ou **aider les autres à parler français**: Si vous parlez couramment le français et aimeriez aider un étudiant qui étudie la langue, **Parlons français** vous offre une autre option: En cours depuis 2013, ce programme jumelle des bénévoles du MCLL à des étudiants inscrits au certificat de compétence en français de l'éducation permanente de McGill. À raison d'une heure par semaine, pendant cinq semaines, ceux-ci conversent librement, permettant aux étudiants de développer plus d'aisance dans cette nouvelle langue et de confiance dans le fait qu'ils arrivent à se faire comprendre. Les cours se donnant à l'automne en virtuel, la clientèle peut habiter Montréal ou vivre ailleurs dans le monde. Les rencontres peuvent donc se tenir en personne, par visioconférence ou par téléphone. Intéressés à en savoir plus long ou à vous tenter l'expérience? Joindre Danielle Duhamel à [parlonsfrançais.mcll@mcgill.ca](mailto:parlonsfrançais.mcll@mcgill.ca).



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*News, opinions and views on any MCLL-related topic are most welcome. Just contact Susan Purcell, the eBulletin editor, at [suepurcell@videotron.ca](mailto:suepurcell@videotron.ca), or call her at (514) 488-3503.*

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