

Jamaica Association of Montreal inc.
L'Association Jamaïquaine de Montréal inc.



Activity Report
2020 – 2021

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members and Friends of the Jamaica Association,

On behalf the Jamaica Association and our Board of Directors, I would like to thank all the members of our organization including our Board, membership, and staff, for the tremendous contributions to the continuous building of our organization.

This past fiscal year of 2021 was in my opinion, an extremely positive one compared to the challenges and difficulties that we faced in 2020. Our Association was able to re-open safely while following all government guidelines and regulations, and at the same time providing members of our organizations and community with a high level of programs, services, and social events. We were able to acquire several approved governmental funding that helped us in needed renovations and create on-line events for all.

As we move forward to 2022, we are very much aware of the new challenges presented by the newest COVID variant, Omicron. However, our members and Board continue to be extremely resilient. As such, we are confident that we will be able to continue do what is required to build our organization to new and unseen levels. We are also currently engaged in a Building Fund drive with the aim of securing our down payment by December 2022. I am very proud of our Building Fund committee and vision and commitment to the cause

Finally, I want to take the time to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, a safe and rewarding celebration with your loved ones and a very happy New Year 2022. May the Lord bless and keep always

Thank you

Mark Henry,
President

“Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.”— Lao-Tze

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 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.

The Association has always been in the Cotes des Neiges borough of Montreal over its 59 years to date in existence. Our members, clients, friends, new arrivals to Montreal and partners who live and operate across the island of Montreal, additionally who come from all social strata depending on the programs, services, or activities they take part in.

Over these many years, countless people have come to know of the Association and have come to know it as a go to place. As such, the number of activities that are produced reflect the versatility of the organization and the fact that its administrators and staff recognize needs and want. Further to that, that they are reactive to continue to make the Association as welcoming hub for all who chose to use the offerings.

OUR BOARD, COMMITTEES, STAFF, PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of October 1 – December 12, 2020

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mark Henry..... | President |
| Sharon Nelson | 1 st Vice-President |
| Alexander Townsend | 2 nd Vice-President |
| Aston Mendez | Treasurer (Private Sector) |
| Keisha Wilson | Secretary |
| Carlene Clarke | Director |
| Uton Lynch | Director |
| Brian Kotler..... | Director |



Figure 1: Board composition Oct 1-Dec 2020

The Annual General Meeting and Board Elections took place on **Saturday, December 12, 2020**. At that online AGM, there were **43 people present**. Board members elected on that day who served until the end of that fiscal year are:

| NAME | POSITION | SECTOR |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mark Henry | President | Private |
| Sharon Nelson | 1 st Vice President | Para public (education) |
| Alexander Townsend | 2 nd Vice President | Private |
| Melrose Christopher | Treasurer | Private |
| Keisha Wilson | Secretary | Private |
| Uton Lynch | Director | Private |
| Brian Kotler | Director | Private |
| Ingrid Barrett | Director (appointed May 2021) | Private |
| Clyde Williams | Director (appointed Jan. 2021) | Private |

Auxiliary & Non-voting members (as of December 12, 2020)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Omar Ramus <i>Youth Representative</i> Private sector | Sophia Siedlikowski <i>Youth Outreach Officer</i> Student | Audley Coley <i>Senior Representative</i> Private sector |
|---|---|--|

Over the course of the year, the Board of Directors held monthly meetings, from January to December, to plan for the year, to discuss emergency matters as they arise as well as to keep our membership abreast of activities and updates. There were several different meetings that involved the Executive Team only (5 Officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) while others included the full complement of the Board (5 Officers and 4 Directors). For nine months of the year, excluding January, July and August, Members' meetings were held to share and inform them of activities as well as to hear from them regarding their feedback, suggestions, ideas and to conduct voting or polling among other activities.

There were also Auxiliary members who had no voting rights but participated in organizing events for segments of the membership that included youth and seniors.

All members of the board, except for Brian Kotler and Sophia Siedlikowski of the Auxiliary Board are, members of the Black community.

Table 1 - Scheduled meeting dates over the 2020 - 2021 year

| EXECUTIVE | BOARD | MEMBERS |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| | 2020 | |
| N/A | Tuesday, October 13 | Saturday, October 17 |
| N/A | Tuesday November 10 | Saturday, November 14 |
| N/A | Tuesday, December 8 | Saturday, December 12 (AGM) Voting For Positions: 2 (1st VP), 4 (Treasurer), 5 Exceptionally (Secretary). & All Directors |
| | 2021 | |
| N/A | Sunday, January 10 (Strategic Planning @ Location TBA, 9 am To 4 pm) | No Members Meeting in January |
| Monday: Feb. 1 & Feb. 15 | Tuesday, February 2 | Saturday, February 6 |
| Monday: Mar 1, Mar. 15, Mar. 29 | Tuesday, March 2 | Saturday, March 6 |
| Monday: Apr. 12 & Apr. 26 | Tuesday, April 13 | Saturday, April 17 |
| Monday: May 10 & May 24 | Tuesday, May 11 | Saturday, May 15 |
| Monday: June 7 & June 21 | Tuesday, June 8 | Saturday, June 12 |
| N/A | Monday, September 13 | Saturday, September 18 |

COMMITTEES (2020-21)

1. Membership Committee

This long-standing committee is responsible for making decisions related to the membership, managing the list by ensuring it is correct and up-to-date. Over the year, there were **317 members** in the organization. Furthermore, it is responsible for ensuring that information is sent to all members over a variety of means that included:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 phone calls | 2 emails |
| 3 website | 4 posting on social media sites (Facebook & Instagram) |
| 5 quarterly newsletters (October, January, April, July) | |

CHAIR: Sharon Nelson

Board representatives

Phone team

1. Mark Henry
3. Hazel Williams

2. Keisha Wilson
4. Lloyd Shaw

2. Social & Entertainment Committee

This committee has always been part of the Association and is responsible for creating social and entertainment events over the year.

CO-CHAIRS: Alexander Townsend & Keisha Wilson

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Uton Lynch | 2. Clyde Williams | 3. Reta Campbell |
| 4. Karen Irons | 5. Conroy Barnes | |

3. Women's Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary was revived in 2016 and serves to engage more women to be a part of the Association. We continue to plan discussion groups on issues of concern or curiosity, outings to performances or museums and trips in and around Quebec, among others. Over the year all activities were held on Zoom

CHAIR: Sharon Nelson

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Hazel Williams | 2. Delores Smith | 3. Carlene Clarke |
| 4. Enid Hall | 5. Yvette Bailey | 6. Lorna Spence |
| 7. Melrose Christopher | 8. Jo-Ann Johnson | 9. Hepta Deslandes |
| 10. Shelley Morgan | 11. Venetha Gregg | 12. Madonna Stowe |
| 13. Ann-Marie Babineau | 14. Sonia Millett-Robinson | 15. Elizabeth Newton |
| 16. Gina Mai Simmons | | |

4. Jamaica Association Business Owners and Professionals (JABOP)

This committee was created in 2017 to help promote Jamaican owned businesses primarily as well as Black owned businesses in Montreal. It also serves as a hub of information for owners on how to access to tools and resources to build their enterprise within Montreal's community.

CHAIR: Molly Young

1. Nesta Mills

5. Building Fund Committee

This committee was created in 2020 with the purpose to raise funds for the eventual purchase of an adequate building to house the many activities of the Jamaica Association of Montreal.

CHAIR: Mark Henry

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Melrose Christopher | 2. Gloria Diggs | 3. Doreen Jones |
| 4. Gloria Diggs | | |

STAFF (2020-21) (current and former)

1. Susan Hamilton
*Coordinator, Au Futur
Coordinator, Footsteps
Programs (until Aug '21)*
2. Kim Payton
*Coordinator, Programs and
Services*
3. Erika Ryan
Project Assistant, Archives
4. Elsa Mizero
*Teacher, French Beginner &
Intermediate Courses*
5. Claudia Miranda
*Teacher, French Beginner &
Intermediate Courses*
6. Chesline Pierre-Paul
Teacher, Advanced French
7. Marie-Natacha
Papillon
Teacher, Beginner French
8. Gary Matthews
Teacher, Computers
9. Amritha Sanmugam
*Teacher, English as a Second
Language*
10. Shari Castello
*Zoom Technical & Online
Class Assistant*
11. Ariel Marshal
*Program Manager, New
Horizon for Seniors Program*
12. Miguel Lauwers
Summer employee
13. Hazel Williams
Food Bank Coordinator
14. Kenneth Warren
Food Bank Coordinator
15. Shiane Johnson
*Coordinator, Footsteps
program (as of August 2021)*
16. Diane Boyd,
*Director, Banquet and Bar
Services*
17. Franklin Onwuneme
*Former Food Bank
Coordinator*
18. Bastien McLean
*Former Food Bank
Coordinator*
19. Anaël Bolduc
*Former Food Bank
Coordinator*

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

1. Moisson Montréal
2. Collège Frontière
3. Community Contact
Newspaper
4. CKUT 90.3 FM
5. Maison d'Haïti
6. Black Community Resource
Centre (BCRC)
7. Cummings Centre
8. Concordia University
9. Caribbean Coalition Network
of Montreal
10. Centre Universitaire Intégrée de
Santé Sociaux de l'Ouest de l'Île
(CIUSSS)
11. Frontline Restaurant
12. Carib Patties Restaurant
13. Direction Régional de Santé
Publique (Montréal Public
Health)
14. Black Mental Health
Connections
15. Women Aware
16. Corporation de développement
communautaire de Côte-des-
Neiges (*CDC de CDN*)
17. Table de Familles
18. Batshaw
19. Heberjeune
20. Elizabeth House
21. Maison Transitionnelle 03
22. Welcome Collective
23. The Diet Dispensary of
Montreal
24. La Maison Bleue
25. MiniBiblioplus
26. West Can Folk
Performing Company
27. Gaps Vies
28. Kane and Fetterly Funeral
Home
29. Centre for Research-Action on
Race Relations (CRARR)

VOLUNTEERS

We are very appreciative to our volunteers who give of their time to assist us in achieving our goals. Typically, volunteers spend anywhere between 2 to 5 hours per person or group, in any a week and when possible, in assisting at the Association.

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|
| 1. Chris Thompson | 2. Agnes Faustin | 3. Carlene Clarke |
| 4. Concordia Stingers Men's Football Team | 5. Concordia Stingers Women's Basketball Team | 6. Sharon da Silva |

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Our 6 programs include:

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Au Futur | 2. Footsteps | 3. Adult Basic Education |
| 4. Brilliant Minds | 5. Food Bank | 6. Tax Preparation |
| 7. Steel Pan Class (cancelled in 2020) | | |

Our 6 services include:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1. Hall Rental | 2. Legal Documents | 3. Community Service / Alternative Justice |
| 4. Licensed Bar | 5. Restaurant | 6. A place to gather with friends |

PROGRAMS

1. Au Futur Program

The aim of the program is to continue to help young single Black mothers between the age of 15 to 35. This is a Federally Funded Program and we have worked in collaboration with Maison D'Haiti on this is a reinsertion / reintegration for this target population since 1985. Due to the pandemic, Ms. Hamilton, worked online and by phone exclusively to continue to provide services as per the program outline and as per government guidelines on restrictions. The services of the program include:

1. accompaniments to medical appointments (halted during the pandemic);
2. made home visits (halted during the pandemic);
3. help with CV writing and finding employment;
4. help women with questions and processes for returning to school;
5. Immigration referrals and information;
6. Help to find day care services, among other services.

As of October 1, 2020, there were 27 women in this program. Ms. Hamilton has helped some mothers move into “OHLM” low rent housing, which has given these women a better quality of life for them and their children. Ms. Hamilton continued to facilitate a series of workshops in the online format.

About 5 years ago, Health Canada began a pilot project with a new age range of women between the ages of 15 - 35 years old if they have at least one small child between 0-5 years old. While this pilot project has not been officially adopted to date, Ms. Hamilton continue to help women in this age range for it has been ascertained that they are a target audience that are also in need of assistance. Many organizations started referring mothers to the program because of the change in the age. Ms. Hamilton sat on the CDC de CDN Table de Famille and participated in the monthly meetings.

SOME PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS USED FOR THE AU FUTUR PROGRAM:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Batshaw | 2. The Diet Dispensary of Montreal |
| 3. Heberjeune | 4. La Maison Bleue |
| 5. Elizabeth House | 6. Frontier College |
| 7. Maison Transitionelle 03 | 8. MiniBiblioplus |
| 9. DC Cote Des Neiges | 10. Maison d’Haiti |
| 11. Welcome Collective | |

WORKSHOPS OVER THE YEAR:

1. Nobody’s Perfect Parenting workshops
 - a. Offered over the year
2. Coffee Talk Wednesdays:
 - a. Two 6-week sessions offered in Summer and Fall 2021. This was an opportunity for the women to get together online and to discuss matters of concern and interest to them specifically.

STEPS TO REVAMPING THE PROGRAM

In March 2021, it was decided that it was important to engage the women in a different way so that there is a marked change in how they strive to reach their potential. The Au Futur program is a 3-year program and we noted that several women were past or nearing the three-year mark. In March, a series of townhall sessions were held to inform the women about the program, its genesis, our partners, to hear from them about how they use the services provided and to know if they had any questions. After the townhalls, one-to-one meetings were held with each woman who registered and who responded to invitations to further ask questions on their involvement in the program and for them to create attainable objectives for them to launch their ideas and to begin steps to eventually change their potential in life.

Table 2 – List of women in the Au Futur Program in March 2021

| | WOMAN | AGE | CHILDREN | | WOMAN | AGE | CHILDREN |
|----|--------------|------------|-----------------|----|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Woman 1 | 27 | 3 | 15 | Woman 15 | 33 | 1 |
| 2 | Woman 2 | 26 | 1 | 16 | Woman 16 | 26 | 1 |
| 3 | Woman 3 | 23 | 1 | 17 | Woman 17 | 35 | 4 |
| 4 | Woman 4 | 27 | 2 | 18 | Woman 18 | 35 | 1 |
| 5 | Woman 5 | 28 | 1 | 19 | Woman 19 | 28 | 1 |
| 6 | Woman 6 | 36 | 2 | 20 | Woman 20 | 20 | 2 |
| 7 | Woman 7 | 20 | 1 | 21 | Woman 21 | 28 | 1 |
| 8 | Woman 8 | 27 | 1 | 22 | Woman 22 | 27 | 3 |
| 9 | Woman 9 | 30 | 2 | 23 | Woman 23 | 32 | 3 |
| 10 | Woman 10 | 27 | 2 | 24 | Woman 24 | 32 | 1 |
| 11 | Woman 11 | 35 | 1 | 25 | Woman 25 | 29 | 3 |
| 12 | Woman 12 | 26 | 3 | 26 | Woman 26 | 20 | 1 |
| 13 | Woman 13 | 34 | 3 | 27 | Woman 27 | 22 | 1 |
| 14 | Woman 14 | 27 | 1 | | | | |

The average age of the **27 women** at that time was **28 years old** and there were **47 children** in the program.

Over the spring and summer months, and during the townhall sessions and one-to-one meetings, which ended in September 2021, there were 3 more women added to the program resulting in 30 women in total. The average age of the women remained at **28 years old**, but the number of children increased to **53**.

Due to the non-response, 13 were suspended with the possibility of return if they followed re-entry steps as outlined in the letter sent to them. This removal was due to the fact that they did not attend the townhall, a one-to-one meeting or submitted their objectives by the dates outlined. Three women agreed that they would no longer continue in the program while there was no reply from the 10 others by year end. This resulted in **17 women** and **31 children** in the program by year end.

2. Footsteps Program

The aim of the program is to provide the opportunity for children to play together and to offer respite to parents. As of October 1, 2020, there were 27 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.

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, above 5 years old tuning in each week for activities. While in person, the age of the children varied from 0 years to 9 years; however, in this format the age range of the children varied between 5 years and 9 years. Children were in Montreal, Etobicoke, Toronto, and Ottawa. There were 3 sets of parents who no longer wanted their children to participate due to the online format.

This now online program was offered on Saturdays only from 1 pm to 3pm over the period of October 2020 to September 2021. Previously programming would halt over the summer months namely, July and August, but this year the sessions went onto September non-stop. The program consisted of children doing reading exercises, drawings, sharing stories, focusing on mindfulness and other fun activities. To keep the programming fresh, invited special guests over a period of 9 weeks in the summer came on to broaden the scope of activities. The table below shows the guests and the activities accomplished:

Table 3 –Summer 2021 activities with Invited Guests

| | NAME | ACTIVITY | DATE OF ACTIVITY |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Darlington Theodore | Djembe workshop | June 26 th 2021 |
| 2 | Jonathan Levey | Magic show | July 3 rd , 2021 |
| 3 | Dominique Pelletier | Illustrations for books | July 10 th , 2021 |
| 4 | Amanda Benn | Afro Caribbean dance | July 17 th , 2021 |
| 5 | Marie-Louise Gay | Story time with author | Aug. 7 th , 2021 |
| 6 | Star Horn | Mohawk art workshop | July 24 th , 2021 |
| 7 | Toronto Zoo | Virtual zoo | July 31 st , 2021 |
| 8 | Andrew Watson | Virtual Karate | August 14 th , 2021 |
| 9 | Darlington Theodore | Djembe workshop | August 21 st , 2021 |

Additionally, as many children remained indoors over the summer, tickets to activities were purchased to allow for parents to bring their children out in August and September 2021. In total, two sets of tickets were purchased. The first set comprised of 10 families for outings to the Botanical Gardens, The Biodome, the Planetarium, Ripley’s Aquarium in Toronto, and the Museum of Nature in Ottawa. The second set of tickets, which were for 9 families, were for outings to La Ronde, Bubble Adventures in Ottawa and to the Toronto Zoo. All tickets had to be bought on a reservation system where protocols for distancing and mask wearing were clearly outlined according to public health guidelines. All parents expressed their gratitude and appreciation for these activities of the special guests and for the tickets to these various places.

As of August 2021, Sue Hamilton was no longer the Coordinator for the Footsteps Program and Shiane Johnson was hired to continue in this role.

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. As a result of the pandemic, courses remained in the Zoom format online during the 2020-21 year.

In the new paradigm, the French Beginner, French Intermediate, English as a Second Language courses were once again offered. However, it was decided to offer a computer course to gauge interest, furthermore, to better understand if a computer class could be offered online.

It was observed that while there was Zoom fatigue, students were still very engaged in taking course with a total of 80 students being registered in classes, an increase by 3 over the previous year. The number of weeks of each course remained at 8 weeks which was appreciated by students and teachers alike.

During summer 2021, a consultant was hired to create placement test for the beginner and intermediate French courses. This would allow for registrants to demonstrate their French ability and to easily place them in the correct French course. Secondly, the beginner and intermediate French courses were further developed to have both Levels 1 and 2. Lastly, the length of those courses was moved to 10 weeks to allow for a midterm and final exam.

Table 3– List of classes and registrants – Adult Basic Education registrations

| NAME OF COURSE | DESCRIPTION | REGISTRATION |
|---|---|--|
| French Beginner <i>Offered Fall 2020, Winter and Spring 2021</i> | The course is divided into three parts. This course introduces students to speaking, reading, writing, and listening in French. | Fall – 10 Winter – 14 Total: 24 |
| Intermediate French <i>Offered Fall 2020, Winter and Spring 2021</i> | This course builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in French Beginner | Fall – 9 Winter – 9 Total: 18 |
| French Conversation <i>Offered Spring 2021</i> | This new course brought together the teachings offered in the Beginner and Intermediate classes to allow for students to practice their conversational French | Spring – 23 Total: 23 |
| Computer Literacy for Beginners <i>Offered Spring 2021</i> | | Spring – 5 Total: 5 |
| Advanced French <i>Offered Winter 2021</i> | This course is for non-native French speakers who want to improve their spoken French. | Winter – 3 Total: 3 |
| English as a Second Language <i>Offered Fall 2020, Winter and Spring 2021</i> | This is a Basic English course that introduces non-English speakers to writing, speaking, listening, and reading in English. | Fall – 3 Winter – 1 Spring – 3 Total: 7 |
| | TOTAL STUDENTS | 80 |

Advertising for these courses primarily was on our social media network and in sending emails to members, partner organizations and advertising on our website.

4. Brilliant Minds Program

This program is for elementary students, high school students and adults seeking tutorial assistance in particular subjects. Volunteer tutors are from College Frontiere (Frontier College). At the start of the 2020 year, there 19 students on the list of participants. Some students came regularly while others were sporadic in their attendance. Tutoring sessions continued online to

allow for the changing aspects of the COVID-19 virus and government health guidelines. Second to this, the Association was not open as such it would not have been possible to have any in-person tutoring sessions.

Table 4 – List of students & adults in the Brilliant Minds program

| TERM | STUDENTS |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Fall 2020 | 19 |
| Winter 2021 | 11: 6 children & 5 adults |
| Spring 2021 | 13: 7 children & 6 adults |
| TOTAL | 43 students |

Last Christmas, through the generous donation of College Frontier, we were able to send great books as presents to all adults and children in the program. We are truly thankful for this kind gesture.

Over winter 2021, the Brilliant Minds Program was revisited and revamped. As such a vocational aspect was added to the Program as well as a youth section. The vocational aspect is to allow for youth and adults to discover the trades and the opportunities that are also possible in this respected fields. The aim is to partner with schools and to showcase the different programs and offerings at those schools. The vocational aspect will start in October 2021. The youth aspect is to be explored in Winter 2022.

a. 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.

b. 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

c. Extra-curricular activities

There were no extracurricular activities due to pandemic restrictions.

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

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

5. Food Bank

As of October 1, 2020, the Food Bank continued its partnership with Moisson Montréal.

The purpose of this program is to increase food security by ensuring a healthy supply of not only fruits and vegetables but also of other needed food and non-food items. Clients continue to appreciate the ability to choose their foods they would like can eat or have. As the pandemic continues, the increase in the usership also increased.

The list of the weekly offerings is posted weekly 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 continue to like this process for they can select their preferred items and that they felt respected. To continue to respect physical distancing several protocols were developed to ensure the safety of workers, volunteers, and clients. In 2020, we purchased a mobile ventilator for COVID and other pathogens and placed it in the stairwell to ensure clean ventilated air while clients waited. Clients remained distanced in the stairwell and on the 2nd floor landing and could not enter the Association except for the use of the lavatory. After they had selected their food choices, the volunteer or staff members would then bring out the selected items on a cart for clients to place in their own bags.

The hours of operations were changed to Thursdays from 10 am to 5 pm and on Fridays from 2 pm to 5 pm. The cost remained at \$5 for all items selected irrespective of the amount of items chosen. This price range is within the guidelines outlined by the partnership agreement with Moisson Montreal. Food bank cards were re-introduced in June 2021 to properly quantify activity and to assist in the yearly Hunger Count activity with Moisson Montreal held each April. As of September 30, there were close to 100 persons who received their card. There were 240 confirmed unique users on the list as of September 31, with approximately 10% being members of the Association itself. The use ranges from weekly, to as needed.

The van that is used primarily for food bank pick up and deliveries has had decals with the Association's name, logo, phone number, email address, website and services added to it for marketing purposes.

Table 5 –List of monthly visits to the Food Bank

| MONTH | MONTHLY VISITS (2020 – 2021) | MONTH | MONTHLY VISITS (2021) |
|--------------|--|-----------|-----------------------|
| OCTOBER 2020 | 153 | APRIL | 161 |
| NOVEMBER | 136 | MAY | 111 |
| DECEMBER | 129 | JUNE | 125 |
| JANUARY 2021 | 95 | JULY | 139 |
| FEBRUARY | 149 | AUGUST | 110 |
| MARCH | 141 | SEPTEMBER | 144 |
| TOTAL | 1593 visits over the year | | |

We continue to see a steady increase in the number of clients as shown in Table 5. It is important to note that our clientele is very diverse and many ethnic backgrounds that include Caribbean, African, Southeast Asian, European, Latin-American, Quebecois, among others. Additionally, we are happy to state that many different religious groups also use our service that include Christian, Hindu, Muslim, among others. In April 2021, the Hunger Count metric showed the Food Bank was assisting more than 300 persons for that month alone.

Since March 2020, 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 food order from the weekly list and then receive the delivery on Friday afternoons. This system is still in place and is appreciated by all who use it. We have a list of approximately 9 seniors, where 4 regularly use the service.

There was a limited amount of clothing that was received as this donation was discouraged during the year. We thank all those who gave their items to the food bank clients. These were greatly appreciated. Books continue to be an interest as these items were made available through donations from Frontier College among others.

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. This year, we would like to thank **Olivier Ruiz**, NAM Regional Projects Business Leader at GE Renewable Energy in La Prairie and his staff who donated a total of \$900 to our food bank in the year: \$700 in Summer and an additional \$200 in early Fall. After this donation, a number of these individuals at GE also took part and were involved in helping to tutor youth in our Brilliant Minds program.

Additionally, we recognize the efforts of **Mallick Sylvain**, a football player with the Concordia Stingers Team who raised \$200 for our food bank as well through his own efforts and his want to give back to community.

6. Tax Clinic 2021

The tax clinic service was available for the 2020 income tax year. We partnered with the Canada Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP associated with Canada Revenue Agency) and the Income Tax Assistance – Volunteer Program (Revenu Québec) to offer this clinic. We adapted our services during the COVID period to ensure we were respecting government guidelines. Having said this, participants and tax filer could reach each other via designated zoom accounts and by email.

We had 24 registrants of which 17 submitted all their tax documents and their files were completed. We had 4 tax volunteers, Carlene Clarke was the lead and is a member of the Jamaica Association, while the 3 other participants were CPA students who were studying at Concordia University in the CPA program. We intend to continue this program and partnerships in the upcoming years.

Table 6 – List of participants in the Tax Clinic

| REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS | COMPLETED FILES |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 24 | 17 |

SERVICES

1. Banquet Hall Rental

In July 2021, Diane Boyd was hired as our Director of Banquet and Bar Services. Since that time, the rental of our space has increased significantly from about one or two a month to being booked on an almost weekly basis. These are the list of activities until September 2021. This is one means to also self-finance activities at the Association.

Table 7 – List of activities in the Banquet Hall Rental

| Date (2021) | Type of Event |
|------------------------|--|
| July 24 th | Lamb Meets Lion Concert– Building Fund fundraiser (limited capacity to 50 people inside) |
| July 31 st | Sip & Paint |
| Aug. 7 th | Jamaica Independence BBQ |
| Aug. 14 th | Henny Fete |
| Aug. 21 st | The World is not Enough |
| Aug. 29 th | Private 50 th birthday |
| Sept. 4 th | After Football Tournament |
| Sept. 11 th | Private Musical Event |
| Sept. 18 th | All White Affair |
| Sept. 25 th | Baby Shower |

2. 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 July 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 2021 (updated)

A directory of various services available in Montreal, Ottawa, Canada, and Jamaica was created in 2020. Services range from Advocacy Groups, Food Banks, Housing, Jamaican Services, Immigration, Legal, Passport and Social Services to Tourism. This document has been updated over the year to include more than 44 pages.

b. J.A.M. How to Documents 2021

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

1. Jamaica - Passport Application Process for Jamaica

On file we have the following documents that have been previously created:

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

Additionally, referrals were made for various services that were requested and a directory of services was created.

3. Community Services (Adults) & Alternative Justice (Youths) Program

We were contacted by different agencies to assist those in need to complete their community hours. During the year, there were several 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 20 hours.

4. Licensed Bar

The Association's Bar, named "Negril", was only allowed to open as of July 2021 due to government guidelines. This service allows for self-financing activities. The hours of operation were initially on Fridays and Saturdays from 9 pm to 1 am as per guidelines. The hours changed as per the changes announced by the government and public health.

At the reopening we hired a security guard, who worked every weekend, to ensure that proper COVID protocols were being followed. These measures included contact tracing, temperature checks, ensuring the wearing of masks, and social distancing as mandated.

5. Licensed Restaurant

When the bar was able to reopen, so did the restaurant which is named "The Jerk Restaurant". The hours of operation were the same as that of the bar as per government guidelines. The security guard also managed access to the restaurant so that all COVID procedures were being followed as well.

6. A place to safely gather

After reopening in July 2021, the Association once again became a meeting place for people to safely gather within government guidelines. Many individuals indicated that this facility helped them relieve loneliness and boredom. It also became a space to relieve the mental distress and anguish of coping with the restrictions of the pandemic and for human contact albeit that there were many offerings of activities on the Association's various zoom accounts.

GRANTS

1. New Horizons for Senior Program

This Federally funded program is intended for Seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic to help combat social isolation, to help with the mental wellness of older adults in communities and to bring older adults together virtually. All sessions were conducted via the Zoom platform. Further to this, the activities helped to create an online community where individuals looked forward to seeing each other over the week. Sessions were held from Mondays to Thursdays at various time and in some cases with professionals in certain subject matters such as Nutrition and Diet and exercise

The Jamaica Association was awarded \$25,000 for the entire year of programming that began in May 2021 and will end in April 2022.

The schedule was divided over 3 sessions that included mostly one hour classes in the following sectors:

| PART 1 CLASSES (May to Aug. 2021) | PART 2 CLASSES (Sept. to Dec. 2021) | PART 3 CLASSES (Jan. – April 2022) |
|--|--|---|
| The joy of cooking Fitness: Cardio Workout Crafts iPad / Computer Training Virtual Tours / Travel Nutrition Mental Health Diabetes Games | Dance Stretching Black History iPad / Computer Training Joy of cooking Wellness & Mental Health Virtual Tours / Travel Nutrition Games | Dance Stretching Black History Technology & social media Joy of cooking Wellness & Mental Health Virtual Tours / Travel Nutrition Games |
| Participants: 9 | Participants: 12 | Participants: To be determined |

Table 7 – List of participants in the New Horizon Senior Program

A book on mental health and a book on cooking were also purchased for the older adults in the program. More information to report in the 2021-22 activity report.

2. Capacity Building

In April 2021, we received \$30,000 in the form of a gram from Groupe 3737 to assist with building the capacity of the organization. This 18-month program will end in 2022. As a result of this money, we have to date been able to engage a specialist in governance to assist with updating our bylaws, additionally, we have engaged a specialist to help us develop the process for evaluation of our French courses as well as the delivery of the courses among some actions. Lastly, we have purchased equipment and complete renovations as per the activities earmarked in the grant proposal. More information to report in the 2021-22 activity report.

3. COVID-19 events and Vaccine Funding

In March 2021, the Association organized a couple of townhall sessions focused on the vaccines on the market. These events featured two PhD candidates in epidemiology at the University of Toronto namely Archchun Ariyaratnam and Alison Simmons. A second event featured a nurse to speak about her experiences as she was working with COVID patients.

Since April 2021, there was a working group created amongst organizations in the Black community and with the Direction Regionale de Sante Publique (DRSP) to tackle issues around vaccine hesitancy within the Black community. Over many months, there were weekly discussions, for approximately 2 hours each week, on how to best address the situations in Montreal. Sometimes there would be two meetings in a week to discuss urgent matters. The approximate time is estimated at about 40 hours.

We were also joined by two organizations in Ontario namely the Black Opportunity Fund and the Black Health Alliance. Throughout our discussions, it was determined that a series of videos and activities would be created in Quebec as was done in Ontario.

Collaboration partners include:

| | |
|--|---|
| 1 Black Opportunity Fund, | 2 Black Health Alliance |
| 3 Sommet Socioéconomique pour le développement des jeunes des communautés noires | 4 Quebec Black Medical Association (QBMA) |
| 5 Jamaica Association of Montreal Inc. | 6 The McGill Motivational Lab |
| 7 Santé Montréal | 8 CISSS de Laval |
| 9 Black Community Resource Center | 10 Ville de Laval |
| 11 Jorge Camarotti, award winning filmmaker | |

In summer 2021, we also received \$5,000 in grants from the Canadian Government to help tackle vaccine hesitancy, and misinformation in the Black community. As such in September, October, and November a series of 3 virtual townhalls were created that brought together experts in the health care sector to discuss the matters at hand. In the first townhall held in September, the discussion focused on the return to school, the pulse of the Black community on vaccines, what scientists knew then and certainly to hear from participants. There were 40 participants on this call there were over 40 people who signed on. Additionally, there was simultaneous translations from English to French so that the forum could cross linguistic lines. Speakers included **Alix Adrien**, Quebec Board of Black Educators, **Michael Farkas**, of Youth in Motion, **Dr. Patrick Dolce**, **Dr. Diane Sari**, Direction Regionale de Santé Publique, **Richard Koestner**, PhD, McGill University Behavioural Lab.

On September 18, a vaccine clinic was that was spearheaded by the Jamaica Association was held in collaboration Gilles Sirois and the team at the CUISSS l'Ouest de l'Île, the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal, the Direction Regionale de Sante Publique, and the Black Community

Resource Centre. The event was held at 6767 Cote des Neiges and was aimed at those who were still hesitant in the Black community.

To create a non-clinical atmosphere, we had a Caribbean theme and had a well-known radio personality and DJ, Roger Hylton, play music throughout the event. We also had Caribbean patties and drinks provided by Carib Patties restaurant. On this day, 22 persons came to be vaccinated but only 18 were able to go through the process.

Some of the grant money received was used to pay for the vaccine clinic as well as to the videos produced with award winning Brazilian documentary filmmaker Jorge Camarotti.

The vaccination videos and those of the townhalls can be seen at this site:

<https://jam-montreal.com/covid-19-town-halls>

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p>JAM Jamaica Association of Montreal inc. Association jamaïcaine de Montreal inc <i>We grow because we serve!</i></p> <p>presents COVID-19 VACCINATION TOWNHALL</p> <p>Speakers include: Alix Adrien Dr. Richard Koestner Dr. Patrick Dolcé Dr. Makeda Semret Dr. Edouard Kouassi Diane Saré Michael Farkas</p> <p>September 15, 2021 7:00pm-8:30pm Online via Zoom (Registration via Eventbrite)</p> <p>For more information, please contact: jamyoutherp@gmail.com</p> <p>Town Hall held September 15, 2021</p> |  <p>NOUS SOMMES TOUS ENSEMBLE CLINIQUE DE VACCINATION COVID 19 SANS RENDEZ-VOUS</p> <p>SAMEDI 18 SEPTEMBRE 2021 10h00 à 16h00</p> <p>Tout le monde est bienvenu, quel que soit le statut d'immigration Vaccination offerte - 12 ans et plus</p> <p>6767 Ch. de la Côte-des-Neiges en face du Plaza Cote-des-Neiges</p> <p>Organisée par : LES ASSOCIATIONS CULTURELLES CARIBÉENNES ET AFRICAINES LES ORGANISMES COMMUNAUTAIRES CÔTE-DES-NEIGES LA DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE (DRSP) ET LE CIUSSS DU CENTRE-OUEST DE L'ÎLE DE MONTRÉAL</p> <p>AM, BCRC, COTE-DES-NEIGES BLACK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC, BAHAMAS HOUSE (Montreal) Inc, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES Association of Montreal, SERAL LEONE, KUT</p> <p>DJ Roger Moore et le Positive Vibes Crew seront sur place Rejoignez-nous et venez faire votre part !</p> <p>Il y aura de la musique, des roties jamaïquaines et des boissons gratuites fournies par CaribPatties.com</p> <p>Pour plus d'informations contactez: Sharon Nelson, 1er vice-président, Association Jamaïquaine au 438-507-9258</p> <p>Vaccine Clinic held September 18, 2021</p> |
|--|--|

4. Canada Summer Job (addendum, Dec. 31, 2021)

In Spring 2021, we were awarded a grant for approximately \$4346 for the Canada Summer Job program; however, we spent \$3755. Erika Ryan worked under this grant from June to August 2021 on archiving documents with the eventual aim of creating a book about the history of the Jamaica Association soon.

HOURS OF OPERATION, STAFFING & IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Hours of operation

Due to COVID the office hours were:

Office hours: Mondays to Fridays 9 am to 6 pm
limited to online and by phone only
those who came to the door were served through a glass barrier

Food Bank: Thursdays 10 am to 5 pm
Fridays 2pm to 5 pm
limited access to the facility

Social gatherings Fridays & Saturdays 9 pm to 1 pm
Strict protocols in place for these events

In October 2020, we had 2 full time office staff which included Kim Payton, Coordinator of Programs and Services, and Susan Hamilton, Coordinator for both the Footsteps and Au Futur programs. During the fall months, both employees worked from the office; however as of December it was announced to that they would work from home starting late December 2020 which lasted until July 2021. Both full time staff returned to the office in July 2021. There were many uncertainties due to COVID as such the Association followed government guidelines.

While full-time staff worked from home, we had a 16 part time staff. Three part time staff who worked at any time in the food bank and were in person as well as the youth archivist who worked solely on Saturdays. In July 2021, our newly hired, Director of Banquet and Bar Services worked onsite due to the nature of her role.

There were 5 teachers who offered courses in French (Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels) and English as a Second Language and Computer Basics. Due to the pandemic, all courses continued to be on Zoom virtual platform.

MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMS, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & PARTICIPATION

Over the course of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, we have seen an increase in the number of people participating in the various activities whether in program offerings, services or in social activities. We also saw an increase of non-members taking part in events. 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 renewal of membership and approximately an increase of 6% new members added to our list, as such we currently have a total membership as of September 31, 2021 of 317 people.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Website

We always had a website however, in January 2021, we had to change our website on the GoDaddy platform as the initial one was compromised. Since that time, there has been a steady increase in traffic with over 2000 users by the end of September 2021. The analytics show over 90% rate in viewership.

The same domain name which is, jam-montreal.com, for 5 email addresses and website was kept: <https://jam-montreal.com>

2. Facebook

We always had Facebook accounts however, in May 2021, we had to also change our Facebook page and group due to the initial accounts were compromised. As of September 30, 2021, there were over 350 members in the group and there were over 150 likes on the company page. We continue to have a high viewership and engagement rate on the platforms.

Page address: <https://www.facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal>

Group address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jammontrealinc>

3. Instagram

In August 2020, we launched our Instagram page (@jamaicaassociationmontreal). We are growing this platform and as of September 30, 2021, there were over 240 followers.

ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Over the course of the year, the Jamaica Association has been implicated in many activities that relate to advocacy but also in media including radio (CBC, CJAD, and CKUT) and TV (CTV news, Global News & City News) interviews. This included attending press conferences on racial profiling, but also on the need for a better COVID response by government in Montreal but most particularly in the Cote des Neiges area. Most recently, the Association joined a consortium of about 12 other community groups in Cote des Neiges spearheaded by Marvin Rotrand to fight hate and hate crimes. The time allocated in attending these conferences, and meetings over the year is approximated at between 50 and 60hours as of September 31, 2021.

We were also vocal with groups such as the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations (CRARR) and joined a working group named Communities United for Race Equality (CURE). The time allocated to this is approximated 10 hours as of September 31, 2021.

Since June 2021, the Jamaica Association has been collaborating with the Cumming Centre, another community group in Cote des Neiges and active on their Steering Committee for their New Horizons for Seniors Program. This has been a fruitful collaboration in sharing ideas but also expertise and know how.

MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFE SEX

In this year, we also had a keen focus on promoting health and wellness in as many ways as possible. While mental health was at the forefront, we also began a pilot project of placing condoms in both the men's and women's lavatories to promote safe sex in late 2019. Approximately a year and a half later, and once we were able to open again to the public, we continued to make accessible condoms received from our community collaborator, Gap Vies. During the pandemic, it was shown that there was a rise in STIs in Montreal, as such we felt it was necessary for the Jamaica Association to play our part in also promoting safe sex. Not only condoms, but we also have literature about how to use condoms and what is safe sex. These materials also were taken at a high rate.

In the Black community, discussing sexuality or safe sex are taboo topics. We want to break that stigma and be also proactive on the matter of sexual health and wellness particularly at this time. Our patrons find this service an important one, as we replenish our stock of condoms in both bathrooms on a consistent weekly basis.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

(October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021)

In addition to the monthly meetings of the board, executive team, committees, and program activities there were many social activities. These activities ranged in information sessions on COVID, finance, travel, funeral arrangements, brunches to banking and an array of different choices for different audiences. Overall, there were approximately 99 events on the calendar this year.

In fulfilling its mission, the Association manages its operations to ensure the continued development of the community through economic, educational, cultural, and social activities. Our committees are instrumental in fulfilling a large part of this mission. The Committees are Membership, Social & Entertainment, Women's Auxiliary, Business Owners & Professionals and Building Fund.

Due to the pandemic most of the events held were online and many were free of charge.

2020 EVENTS

October (4 events)

1. Every Friday night: Social, games and DJs * (October to June 2020) **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**
2. Heroes Banquet 2020 * Sat., Oct. 17 * **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**
3. Heroes Day Celebration – Celebrating the Arts (Online – Facebook Live) * Sun., Oct. 18 * **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID**
4. Women's Auxiliary Get-Together (Online – Zoom) * October 21, 2020 * **FREE (5 participants)**

5. Women in STEM: A Panel discussion (Online – Zoom) * October 26, 2020 * **FREE (10)** * Youth Committee
6. Caribbean and African Hallowe’en Stories (Online – Zoom) * October 31, 2020* **FREE (35)**
7. Bar renovations started – preliminary work with Suhaila Niazi, Designer and Project lead

November (4 events)

1. Plumbing work for bar, kitchen, and bathrooms
2. BOARD MEETING: 7 PM (TUES, Nov. 10, 2020)
3. MEMBERS’ MEETING: Saturday, November 14, 2020
4. Preparation for the Annual General Meeting 2020

December (7 events)

1. Renovations to the Bar end
2. Annual General Meeting and Board Elections * December 12 (43)
3. Jamaica Association Christmas Holiday Show * December 19, 2020 online show * **FREE**
4. Mental Health Check – in & COVID-19 conversations in collaboration with Black Mental Health Montreal) * Dec. 21, 2020, online event * **FREE (7)**
5. My Caribbean Christmas * stories * December 23, 2020 * **FREE (38)**
6. Women Auxiliary watching the 6-part series entitled “Enslaved” via Zoom (Dec. 27, 28 & 29) * **FREE (4)**
7. Women’s Auxiliary Tea and Talk Dec. 30 (Online – Zoom) * **FREE (3)**

2021 EVENTS

January (6 events)

1. BOARD STRATEGIC MEETING: SUN. JAN 10. held at the John Molson School of Business **(8)**.
2. WOMEN’S AUXILIARY: JAN. 21 – WOMEN & RIGHTS – Eva Gourdij, Women Aware (10)
3. WOMEN’S AUXILIARY: JAN. 28 – WOMEN & RIGHTS - Tracy Robinson, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law, UWI, Is Equality Equal? **(10)**
4. WOMEN’S AUXILIARY BOOK CLUB - PART 1 – Jan. 25, 2021 **(6)**
5. Alternative justice (20 hours) distance due to COVID – created posters at a distance due to COVID for events (January to February 2021 – 9 +posters and a questionnaire)
6. Men’s bathroom renovations begin

February (15 events)

1. Daily posting in 2 Facebook accounts and on Instagram regarding Black History Month figures under these themes: science, sports, activism, politics.
2. Executive meeting – February 1, 2021, 7 pm
3. BOARD MEETING: 7 PM (TUES) – Feb. 2, 2021

4. MEMBERS' MEETING: Feb. 6, 2021, 7 pm
5. Online Valentines Event with DJ Mark Passion – Feb 14, 2021 (10)
6. CBC Daybreak interview on collection of race-based data – Feb 16
7. Press conference with CRARR, Marvin Rotrand and other community groups with news outlets on the collection of race-based data
8. LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX, PART 1, Feb 16, 2021 (7)
9. Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal meeting – Feb 21, 2021 (10)
10. WOMEN'S AUXILIARY BOOK CLUB- PART 1 – February 22 (6)
11. Press conference Tuesday, Feb 23, SPVM report press conference 25 recommendation
12. Attended public meeting with Public Security Commission, Feb 26 at 1 pm for the recommendations for the SPVM
13. Social & Entertainment committee DJ King Farre online, Feb 27, 2021, 4 – 6pm (10)
14. Next Steps for Black Communities, Michael Sutherland, PhD & Dr. Julius Garvey, MD – Feb 27, 2021, 6:30 (27 people)
15. Men's bathroom renovations end

March (17 events)

1. Executive Board Meeting – March 1, 2021, 7 pm
2. BOARD MEETING: March 2, 2021, 7 pm
3. MEMBERS' MEETING: March 6, 2021, 7 pm (27 p
4. WOMEN'S AUXILIARY – MAR. 8 – WOMEN & MONEY (13 people), Sophia Khan, Carlene Clarke
5. Meeting with Marvin Rotrand and community groups re COVID vaccine March 11
6. Press conference re-collecting race based data for COVID-19 with CRARR, Marvin Rotrand and community groups, March 11 1:30 pm, JAM featured on CTV news
7. Miracle Montreal, food delivery with Sonny Moroz, March 13 offered 15 names of families
8. Meeting with Sasha Obas, City TV, talking about the Stats Can report on race based data and the information in the report. Why it is important – March 15 (with Fo Niemi of CRARR)
9. Executive Board Meeting – March 15, 2021, 7 pm
10. Attended a press conference against racism with a CRARR, Marvin Rotrand and community groups (March 19)
11. Pavlova Narrainen, Olivier Ruiz, and his team donate \$700 to the Jamaica Association Food Bank from GE, Renewables, photo op took place at the Jamaica Association.
12. Town Hall meeting with women in Au Futur program, 1st Meeting, March 22 at 7 pm
13. Received funding for New Horizon Seniors Project (\$25,000, program to start in May 2021)

14. LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX, PART II –Anatomy, March 23, 7 pm, with Nora Jean Baptiste(7)
15. Emergency meeting March 25, 202, 7 pm
16. COVID VACCINE INFORMATION SESSION, with Archchun Arajarah and Alison Simmons, PhD Candidates – March 29, 202, 7 PM (20)
17. LOUISE PAQUETTE, JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD & Angella Bennett – PART 1 – March 31 – “Travelling to Jamaica after COVID restrictions” (25)

April (12 events)

1. Tax Clinic starts April 1 – May 15
2. Housing Issues and Solutions in collaboration with L’Oeil and CDC-CDN, April 7 (15)
3. Caribbean Coalition Meeting, April 11 (10)
4. EXEC BOARD MTG, (MON) APR 12 7 PM
5. PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE NEED FOR HATE CRIMES UNIT EXPANSION, April 13, 10;30 AM
6. Citizen Forum on Black Student representation in Health Sciences, April 14, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm
7. BOARD MEETING; 7 PM (WED) – April 14, 7 pm
8. Collection of items and contribution to St. Vincent and the Grenadines Relief Fund : one barrel of goods and \$250 contribution
9. MEMBERS’ MEETING: April 17, 7 pm
10. Bought Akilah Newton’s colouring books for kids entitled “Black Canadian Heroes”
11. LET’S TALK ABOUT SEX, PART III – April 27, 7 pm (8)
12. Migration to Canada, (in collaboration with JOCA), April 28, with Andrea Pierce (15)

May (15 events)

1. Preparation with CRARR and other groups for press conference, May 4
2. Press conference Topic: CRARR Press Conference: Responding to the Laurent Commission Report. Time: May 5, 2021 10:30 AM Montreal
3. Meeting with Quebec Public Health on COVID response May 5 at 6 pm
4. Women’s Auxiliary MOTHER’S DAY (SUN) – May 9
5. Executive meeting – Monday, May 10
6. JN Bank event – Banking in Jamaica right here in Canada – event with JN that brought in Jamaicans from eastern Canada to western Canada – May 11, 2021 (50)
7. BOARD MEETING; 7 PM (wed) – May 12
8. Meeting with Quebec Public Health with community groups on vaccine hesitancy in the Black community
9. MEMBERS’ MEETING: Saturday May 15
10. WOMEN’S AUXILIARY – MAY 17 – WOMEN & PROPERTY with George Grant, presenter and Madonna Stowe, moderator (10)
11. New Horizon for Seniors Program 1st session launched (May 17 to August 30) (9)

12. May 18 radio interview CBC radio on police recruiting from diverse communities
13. Meeting with Group 3737 for workshop May 19
14. Sunday Serenade with Mark Passion, May 23. (5)
15. Planning for the ones you love – with Mary Pallett of Kane and Fetterly Funeral Home– May 25 (6)

June (3 events)

1. BOARD MEETING; 7 PM (TUES)
2. FATHER’S DAY (SUN) – no activity
3. LOUISE PAQUETTE, JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD – PART 1I (June 16) (15 people)
4. St. Jean Baptiste Holiday BBQ – June 24 (75 people outside and in-person)

July (3 events)

1. Participation in virtual July 1 Canada Day Parade
2. Youth program – cancelled
3. Women’s Auxiliary Annual Tea and Talk – supposed to be an in person event at Mont Royal Park that became a virtual one – 6 attendees
4. Lamb meets the Lion building fundraiser July 24 with King Shadrock, Sampaloo and Mark Henry with Blessed Band (50 people in person)

August (5 events)

1. Emancipation event with Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal – Sunday, August 1, 2021 3 pm to 5 pm (85 people)
2. BOARD MEETING; 7 PM (TUES)
3. INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION – two events:
 - 1) BBQ event organized by Social Committee (100 people outside and in-person) and
 - 2) 2nd Virtual independence event with Jamaican Canadian groups from Coast to Coast – Saturday, August 7 (75 people online across Canada and the Caribbean)
4. DUTCH POT BRUNCH 1ST ONE – AUGUST 15TH WITH CHEF RODRICK RODNEY (25)
5. REPLAY OF LION AND LAMB VIA ZOOM (20)

September (8 events)

1. DUTCH POT BRUNCH 2ND – WITH CHEF MICHAEL NELSON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 (15)
2. Meet and greet for Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal members at the Association – September 12 (25)
3. COVID vaccine townhall 1st session – September 15 zoom meeting with invited guests (40)
4. Vaccine passport mandate started – September 15
5. COVID vaccine clinic September 18 held at 6767 Cote des Neiges (22 participants)
6. Dutch Pot Brunch - September 19 10 am to 3 pm (10)

7. BOARD MEETING: 7 PM (TUES, SEPT 7)
8. MEMBERS MEETING: 7 PM (SAT, SEPTEMBER 18)
9. End of fiscal year – September 30

Overproof Fridays

October 2020 to September 2021

The Overproof Friday is a weekly social gathering on Friday nights from 9 pm to 1 am. On Friday night, our restaurant, the Jerk Pit, and the bar were open as of July 2021. 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, from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021, government guidelines were followed as it pertains to bars, number of people who could gather, and strict protocols, in line with government health guidelines, were instated. The bar re-opened in July 2021. A security guard was on duty weekly 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. In September 2021, vaccination passports were mandated and verified. We also had events on Saturday evenings as of July 2021.

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 and Activism October 2020 – September 2021

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

October 26, 2020

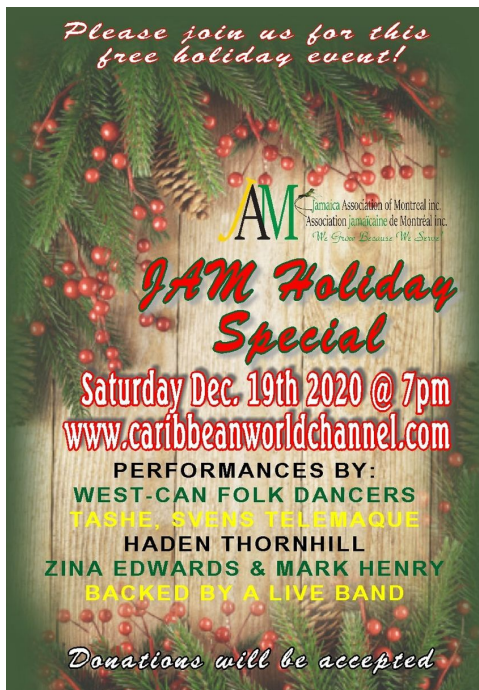


Women in STEM

The members of the Youth group created a unique opportunity for other youth to speak with women in the STEM fields. There were approximately 10 participants in this event including the speakers.

Christmas Special

Saturday, December 19, 2020



A Christmas special featuring local artists to ring in Christmas cheer online. There were people in the Caribbean, in Canada and other places that took part.

December 23, 2021

My Caribbean Christmas

A Christmas special featuring storyteller to ring in Christmas online and to recount Christmas stories told in the Caribbean from various countries. There were 38 participants who took part in this event.

MY CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS!

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020
7 PM (VIA ZOOM)**

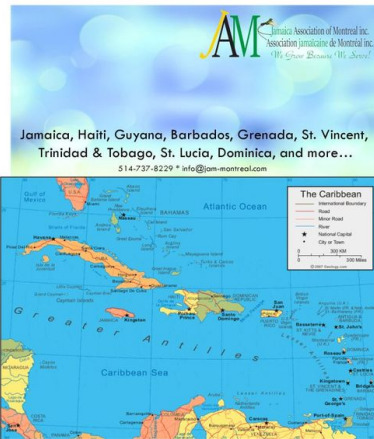
JOIN US & SHARE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN

FOOD * CELEBRATIONS * JUNKANOO & OF COURSE, STORIES!

REGISTER AT:
MYCARIBBEANCHRISTMAS.EVENTBRITE.COM

ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT TO REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS THE DAY OF THE EVENT

A TIME TO BE TOGETHER WHILE APART!



The Women's Auxiliary currently has 17 members. In the first part of the year, there was a 3 - part speaker series on Women, Law, Money & Property. These sessions were held in January, March, and May. All meetings were held online due to COVID.

Additionally, the members finished reading the book *Barracoon* by Zora Neale Hurston in January as well as had meet ups online to catch up and to keep each other up to date on what was happening in each other's lives.

Family Property Laws in Jamaica : A discussion

Thursday, January 28, 2021

The Auxiliary teamed with a few guest speakers from to discuss on matters pertaining to law, money, and property. The objectives were to build awareness about these matters. There were 10 participants at each event for a total of 30 participants.

**FAMILY PROPERTY LAWS IN JAMAICA:
IS EQUALITY EQUITY?**

Registration:
Eventbrite by January
27 at 10 pm

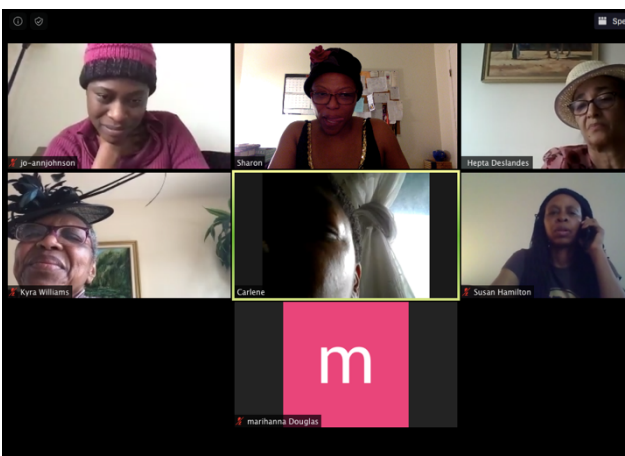
THE REGISTRATION LINK WILL BE SENT TO ALL PARTICIPANTS ON THE MORNING OF THE EVENT

JANUARY 28 AT 7 PM

PROFESSOR TRACY ROBINSON
SENIOR LECTURER & DEPUTY DEAN
GRADUATE STUDIES & RESEARCH AT THE
FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA.

For more information, contact Sharon Nelson at sharon.nelson@jam-montreal.com, 514-737-8229

created by Kurinchy Sithambaran



Mother's Day Event, Part 2

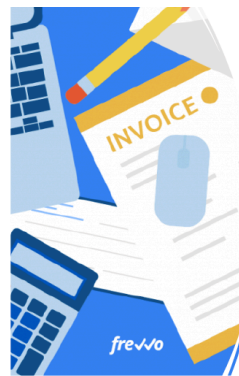
Sunday, May 9, 2021

For the second time, we celebrated Mother's Day in an online event. This event was again entitled *MadHatter's Tea Party* and there was a total of 5 participants. The President also released a video message to commemorate the day.

Black History Month Event

Sunday, February 21, 2021

An opportunity for everyone to reflect on their personal finances and to tackle personal debt. There were approx. 7 participants at the event.



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We Grow Because We Serve!

CALCULATING YOUR NET WORTH !

Understanding your relationship with money, your mindset and how you can use your net worth statements positively impact your lifestyle.

A fun online session with Carlene Clarke about money & net worth
Sunday, February 21, 2021 * 4 pm * register today on Eventbrite.

JAM Jamaica Association of Montreal inc.
Association jamaïcaine de Montréal inc.
We Grow Because We Serve!

NEXT STEPS FOR BLACK COMMUNITIES

Saturday, February 27, 2021
Time: 6:30 pm est (Montreal time)

You are cordially invited to an open discussion with Michael Sutherland, PhD & Dr. Julius Garvey, MD regarding their views on the continued steps for building Black communities and resiliency.

MICHAEL SUTHERLAND, PHD

DR. JULIUS GARVEY, MD

CLAUDINE BONNER, PHD

REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE BY FEBRUARY 26

Discussion moderated by Claudine Bonner, PhD (Acadia University)

created by Kurinchy Sithambaran

Next Steps for Black Communities

Saturday, February 27, 2021

This was an opportunity to discuss matters of important to the Black community as seen by Professor Michael Sutherland, PhD and Dr. Julius Garvey, MD. The event was moderated by Claudine Bonner, PhD.

There were approximately 35 participants at the event.

Let's Talk about Sex: a 3 part series
Feb, Mar & Apr. 2021

An event focused on talking about consent, anatomy, and pleasure vs shame. In total, there were approximately 20 participants who took part in these sessions.



Let's Talk about Sex!

An important topic focused on open and positive self-images in the Black community. We invite you to this three-part series with **Nora Jean-Baptiste**, health care educator & professional registered massage therapist.

1. **Consent**, February 16, 2021 * 7 pm
2. **Anatomy**, March 23, 2021, *7 pm
3. **Pleasure vs Shame**, April 27, 2021 * 7 pm

Register today on Eventbrite



Jamaica Association of Montreal inc.
Association jamaïcaine de Montréal inc.
We Grow Because We Succeed!

Local community organization committed to empowering citizens.

514-737-8229
<https://jam-montreal.com>

Join us on
Wednesday, April 7, 2021

at 7 pm
for a discussion on **Housing Issues & Solutions** for residents in the Côtés-des-Neiges borough.

Important topics include:
Mould
Rodents
Pests
Water infiltration

Register on Eventbrite



OEIL

Corporation de développement communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges

Safe Housing Brigade

Founded in 1971, L'OEIL-CDN works at improving housing conditions for residents.
514-738-0101
<http://www.oelcdn.org/#slide-6>

HOUSING ISSUES IN CDN
April 7, 2021
There were 15 people online for this event.

Canada Day Virtual Parade
Thursday, July 1, 2021

Due to COVID-19 the physical parade was cancelled; however, this year, we submitted a video of performing artist King Shadrock to be viewed as part of the online show for all to see. There were over 50 participant groups that was streamed on the Montreal Canada Day Parade.





Lion Meets Lamb Fundraiser

Saturday, July 24, 2021

The event was created as fundraiser for the Jamaica Association Building Fund as well as to launch King Shadrock's latest CD. This was a live event that was taped with approximately 50 in the meeting hall named the Montego Bay Hall.

The video was rebroadcast in August online via Zoom. There were approximately 20 people online for this event.

Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal meetings & Emancipation Event

Sunday, August 1, 2021

To commemorate Emancipation Day (August 1, 1834), the members of the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal organized an online event that involved the 7 Prime Ministers of each respective island. The group includes Antigua and Barbuda Association of Montreal, Barbados House Association of Montreal, Dominica Island Cultural Association of Montreal, Grenada National Association of Montreal, Guyana Cultural Association of Montreal, Jamaica Association of Montreal and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association. We are proud to celebrate one year of 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.

Commemorating
EMANCIPATION DAY
August 1, 1834

Join us the members of the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal come together to host this important event.

AM Jamaica Association of Montreal Inc.
Association jamaïcaine de Montréal inc.
"We Grow Because We Serve!"

BARBADOS HOUSE (Montreal) Inc.

DATE: Sunday, August 1, 2021
TIME: 3 pm to 5 pm
LOCATION: ZOOM

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES Association of Montreal

Stories and insights from 7 Caribbean countries that include Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

REGISTER on Eventbrite

EMANCIPATION THE CARIBBEAN EXPERIENCE

CONTACT NEWS EVENTS ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARIES CI

Celebrate Emancipation Day virtually on Aug.1

Community Contact Staff Jul 30, 2021 Community News



Messages from prime ministers Mia Mottley, Gaston Browne, Ralph Gonsalves and Mark Phillips

The prime ministers of several Caribbean islands will share messages of empowerment on Sunday August 1, when the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal hosts its first major event, a virtual Emancipation Day Celebration. The Coalition Network was formed last July when representatives from several of the city's island associations including Barbados, Guyana, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Montserrat, Grenada and Jamaica began laying the groundwork. The idea back then was to use individual resources to support each other, to coordinate on events and if called upon, speak on issues of common interest.

This event was also captured in the Community Contact which is a local Caribbean paper and featured on its front page. There were 85 participants on the call in Montreal, in the Caribbean and across Canada.

JAMAICA ASSOCIATION
AM SOCIAL COMMITTEE

PRESENTS

JAMAICA INDEPENDENCE BBQ & GET-TOGETHER
(INDOOR & OUTDOOR)
BAR OPEN UNTIL 12AM

AUGUST 7, 2021

BARBECUE TIME: 12PM - 7PM

HOUSE DJs PLAYING THE BEST REGGAE & SOCA UNTIL 2AM

MENU:
JERK CHICKEN, FISH, BURGERS
PASTA SALAD, GREEN SALAD

Hot Dogs & Roast Corn on the house
WEAR YOUR COLOURS!

Chicken \$10 Fish \$15 Burger \$2

JAMAICA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL
4065, Jean Talon, West, H4P 1W6
(514) 737-8229
jam-montreal.com

Jamaica Independence BBQ

Saturday, August 7, 2021

A BBQ held to celebrate Jamaica's Independence. There were about 100 persons in attendance including local politicians.

Jamaicans Coast to Coast Independence Celebration

Saturday, August 7, 2021

This is the second year where Jamaican organizations across Canada partnered to put on this unique event to promote each other and in our respective regions. There were close to 70 participants across Canada and internationally.

Jamaica Association of Montreal inc.
Association jamaïcaine de Montréal inc.
We Grow Because We Serve!

JAMAICA 59
STRONGER TOGETHER

:: VIRTUAL ::
INDEPENDENCE Celebrations

SAT. AUG. 7TH National Concert
2PM EST

LIVE STREAMING

facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal
Website: <https://jam-montreal.com>

Sponsored by:

Centre de Service Inc. PROSONIC Carib Patties.com CONGREGATION NAÏSSAÏTES WORKERS RACALISSES

Dutch Pot Brunch

Sunday, August 15, 2021 (25 people)

To celebrate Jamaican food, it was decided to host bi-monthly brunches on Sundays from 10 am to 3 pm to allow for a new offering at the Association. The first such event took place on Sunday August 15 with Chef Rodrick Rodney. In August and September there were 3 events.

JAM Jamaica Association of Montreal Inc.
Association jamaïcaine de Montréal inc.
We Grow Because We Serve!

Tired of the same food day in and day out???
Looking for a good old-fashioned breakfast/brunch?
Well...
look no more!!!
Come to the
DUTCH POT BRUNCH
Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month
Starting on Sunday, July 18, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

PORRIDGES: Cornmeal/peanut/banana
Ackee & Saltfish * Bammy
* Fried Dumpling * Festival * Fritters * Escovitch fish
* Fried ripe plantain * Fried green plantain

Soh come out, mingle and enjoy nuh maminu!!!
It's a family event!

Location:
JAMAICA ASSOCIATION
OF MONTREAL
4065, Jean Talon, West
H4P 1W6
(514) 737-8229
jam-montreal.com

CONCLUSION

This report covers the true activities of the Jamaica Association from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021. As noted, the Association is multi-faceted and as such there are several events and activities that respond to the needs of the many populations, described above, whom we are very happy to serve.

We look forward to your comments and are open to answering your questions.