

# The Sacred Heart School of Montreal Alumnae Association Newsletter



[www.sacredheart.qc.ca](http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca)

Winter 2022



## A Message from the Head of School

**Shawn O'Donnell**



The snow is melting, spring is around the corner, and life at Sacred Heart continues to be vibrant! The Saints triumphantly returned to our various sports, our Secondary Vs completed two successful SSX selling days, and our Hoops for Hope tournament in November truly showcased the best of our community. We celebrated our first Christmas Wishes together

in our new auditorium, as well as BLCs and CLBs! Many speakers have also visited to broaden our perspectives, with Bombardier engineers speaking to our Sec V and Grade 12 Science stream students, our recent full-school Black History Month presentation, and some of you sharing your own experiences during Career Morning last December!

As I write this - looking forward to DASHABUSTADD and La Semaine de Français, laughter ringing down the hallway outside my office - it's clear that this vibrant energy is what makes Sacred Heart so special. Our girls are leaders: not just for school activities and House meetings, but also in social and community initiatives like those driven by our Green Team and our Truth and Reconciliation Club, among others. Despite those responsibilities, they have so much fun without having to worry about what others think! They infuse our school with life and love, wild excitement and fierce dedication towards helping others and giving back.

These qualities continue to shine in all of you: in your laughter at every reunion, your generosity in school projects like the auditorium and the Wellness Center (already under construction!), and your dedication to preserving our Sacred Heart traditions and community. Sacred Heart wouldn't be the same without its students, past and present, giving it the life it has. I am thrilled to see that excitement continue through the end of the school year!

## A Message from the Alumnae Association President

**Tara Durley '85**

"The more you do, the more you can do!" said longtime Headmistress Mother Johnson. This favourite phrase of hers has stood the test of time as the focus at Sacred Heart continues to be the empowerment of young women to become leaders and givers in today's society.

Education transforms, and an all-girls' high school education encourages young women to go beyond the status quo and transform the world around us. This was the mission of our foundress, Madeleine Sophie Barat, who saw the special role that educated women could play in society. Sacred Heart women centred in the humanizing Christian tradition have carried on her goals

ever since throughout the world. The accomplishments of Sacred Heart alumnae is a source of pride as they continue to inspire so many people in numerous ways.

In this edition of the Alumnae Association newsletter, read about some of the impressive things our very own Montreal alumnae have accomplished, as well as the many ways in which you can share your experiences and expertise with our students. As Sacred Heart alumnae, and as role models, you inspire the youth of today to strive to be the best that they can be.



# School News

## Sacred Heart Student Entrepreneurs

During the first week of December, family and friends, faculty and staff and the entire student body were invited to visit the gym to partake in the annual SSX ( Student Stock Exchange ).

As a means of fostering entrepreneurial spirit and developing financial literacy skills, Secondary V students participate in the annual SSX event which is a cross-

curricular project requiring students to create and manage a business that sells a product or service, as well sell shares and even design a corporate social responsibility policy for their student-led companies. Furthermore, each of the student-led companies choose a charity which will receive the profits from the sale of shares and products. This year's non-profit organizations included: La Rue des Femmes, Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, Leucan, The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, Benedict Labre House, Sun Youth, The J.J. Watts Foundation and Water First Education & Training inc.



## Mentoring Sacred Heart Students

Whether it be sharing post-secondary experiences via an online class or discussing a circuitous career path that led to an expertise or profession during a career morning, all forms of mentorship are invaluable. These and other opportunities, like guiding a student on research techniques for an independent study project or partnering with a Grade 12 student who is actively



exploring work skills in a particular industry, can shape and inspire students in countless ways.

The School is thankful to all alumnae who have mentored students in any manner or have expressed interest to do so. Please contact the Alumnae office if you would like to learn more about the many ways in which you can share your experience and expertise.



## Congratulations



Congratulations to **Harriet Dolan '62 Stairs, C.M.**, who was recently named to the Order of Canada by the Governor General, Mary Simon. The Order of Canada recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. It is one of Canada's highest civilian honours. Harriet is being recognized, "For advancing women's opportunities within the financial sector, and for creating equitable and inclusive policies within corporate and community-based initiatives."

*"When I was interviewed recently by the Press, shortly after receipt of the 'Order on Canada' award, they asked who were the principal influences in my early life that guided me in my career. The two most important were definitely my parents (Andrea Hingston Dolan McNally and Dr. Harry Dolan) and my alma mater- the Convent*

*of the Sacred Heart now The Sacred Heart School of Montreal.*

*I remember as a student being told the history of the founding of the Society of the Sacred Heart by Mother Sophie Barat in Paris at the time of the French Revolution. It was one of her objectives to educate girls to be future leaders, and also to take an awareness of the need for social justice into their lives. I always knew I was being educated in that tradition.*

*The nuns who taught us were dedicated teachers and were always available when we needed help. They created a culture where we were expected to be aware of the needs of others whether it was in our school or in society, and we were encouraged to use our talents to the fullest in giving back to society. The Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ) were ahead of their time in awareness of social justice issues. I am very fortunate to have received my formation at their hands.*

*I understand that the same ethic and principles are followed in the School and I am sure the present students are profiting by it."*

After a long career with the Bank of Montreal, Harriet Stairs retired in 2001 as Executive Vice-President, Human Resources. Since that time, she has been leading not-for-profit organizations such as the Psychology Foundation of Canada, Portage Ontario Foundation and Smile Theatre Co., as well as a Board member of the Shaw Theatre Festival, McGill University and Ryerson University.

Congratulations to longtime Sacred Heart supporter and alumna **Anne Marie Marilley '82 Johns** for being named 2021 Hotelier of the Year. Anne Marie, the General Manager at Fairmont Tremblant, is no stranger in the hotel industry. Over the past 30 years, she has worked in numerous hotels across Canada and Europe in the areas of sales and marketing, event management, catering, financial analysis and budgeting. Before becoming the GM at Fairmont Tremblant, one of North America's leading ski resorts, she worked at Montreal's Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth, Fairmont Monte Carlo and Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge.

In a recent interview when asked about the challenges of COVID-19, Anne Marie expressed she "believes the pandemic has provided her leadership team with the opportunity to be innovative in reviewing structures and processes while providing engaging guest experiences in a safe and secure environment." Thrilled to be this year's recipient of the Pinnacle Award, she hopes "this recognition will inspire future women to become hotel general managers so we can continue to actively contribute to a more diversified leadership environment that celebrates diversity, equity and inclusion."

Anne Marie is a former Director on the Sacred Heart Alumnae Association Board and currently is a Vice-President of the School's Board of Directors.

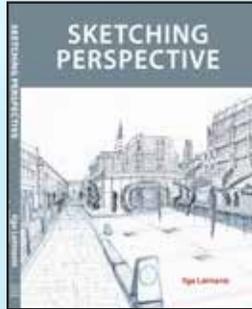


# Alumnae News



**Ilga Leimanis '89** is a London-based visual artist, educator and author. Her first book, *Sketching Perspective* focuses on developing an understanding of how to translate what you see in front of you onto the page as quickly as possible - and the real test of skill comes from being able to do this rapidly and repeatedly. Ilga

explains, " *In addition to looking with your eyes, the book covers methods that show you how to use your hands and arms, in various ways, to bring the three-dimensional world flat onto the two-dimensional paper surface.*" Ilga's book is available widely online and can be purchased locally in many countries.



**Christine Saykaly '00** (Alumnae Board, Director) and her husband Yohann welcomed their second daughter Arianne in July 2021. Proud big sister Juliette, who is 3 years old couldn't be more thrilled to welcome her little sister.

**Tenisha Valiant '05** is the founder of TAC Solutions, a consulting firm that offers business plan, strategic plan and grant writing services. "I started my first business (at 18) without an MBA, without a business course, without a business coach, without a mentor and without a single clue of what a business plan was... but I had PASSION. I had a vision of what I wanted my life to be like and I knew what I didn't want it to be like. I had a desire to change my circumstances and those of the people around me. I wasn't an #entrepreneur but I definitely had an entrepreneur #mindset! I had a goal, I had a deep respect for best-practice and informed-decision making, and I never stopped learning." Currently, Tenisha works in business development and coaches MBA graduates, mentors MBA students and teaches aspiring entrepreneurs the basics of starting a business.

Congratulations to **Tiffany Piergiovanni '08** on her marriage to Alexandre-André Piché, son of **Suzanne Nault '69** (College Sophie-Barat) on October 2nd, 2021. During this last year Alex and Tiffany have also moved from Montreal to Maniwaki to rejuvenate their family farm.



Proud parents **Elizabeth McDonald '09** and Jonathan Christensen welcomed baby Liv Janna Christensen, born on October 28, 2021. Congratulations to proud Nonna, Anna Di Tomaso (former Parents Guild President and CHF Trustee).

Congratulations to **Christina Paolucci '09** (Alumnae Board, Treasurer) and her husband Joe Bartlett on the birth of their daughter Olivia Juliana Bartlett on Friday, January 21, 2022. Olivia weighed 7.6 lbs. Mom, dad and baby are all well - mom and dad are very sleep deprived! Christina is fortunate and thankful to have her mother close by; God bless Nonnas!



On October, 9th, 2021, **Joanna Dos Santos '10** married her long-term partner, Dov Silva-Smith during an intimate ceremony followed by a reception at Ferreira Café, in downtown Montreal. The two met after high school at l'Institut du tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec while completing their degree in Advanced



Prefer to receive this newsletter by email?  
Have news to share? Please contact  
the Alumnae Office  
at 514-937-2845, ext. 108  
or email [alumnae@sacredheart.qc.ca](mailto:alumnae@sacredheart.qc.ca)

Studies in International Hotel Management. The pair graduated in 2016 and Joanna went on to become the Head of Customer Experience for the functional chocolate company, Mid-Day Squares.

Congratulations to **Rachel Watts '17**, a fourth-year undergraduate journalism student at Carleton

University's School of Journalism and Communication. Rachel was the recipient of the Fraser MacDougall Prize for Best New Canadian Voice in Human Rights Reporting, for her story *Pandemic intensifies silent sorrow of Canada's asylum seekers*, published in Capital Current.

The Fraser MacDougall Prize is jointly sponsored by the National News Media Council (NNC), in partnership with Journalists for Human Rights (JHR). In addition to the \$1,000 prize, Rachel was celebrated at JHR's Night for Rights gala, held in October 2021.



Congratulations to **Ms. Florise Boyard** (Personal Counsellor) and her husband Dramane on the birth of their third daughter Mariam Koné, a sister to Fanta Shaïlo, 6 and Sétou, 3. "On July 16th, we welcomed Mariam Koné, our latest addition to the family. A big 8 lbs healthy baby girl.

*What joy it is! We have a full house! A house full of love, laughter, cuddles and diapers."*



Congratulations to Mr. **Tino Bordonaro** (former Faculty) on his appointment by Education Minister Jean-François Roberge as Chair of Quebec's Advisory Board on English Education (ABEE). The mandate of ABEE is to advise

the Minister of Education on all matters affecting the educational services offered in English schools. More information on the Advisory Board is available on the Commission de l'éducation en langue anglaise (CELA) website. Tino is a former Sacred Heart Social Studies teacher (2000-2010) and was responsible for the Social Studies program at the English Montreal School Board (2010-2019). Mr. Bordonaro is also a course lecturer at McGill University.

## In Memory of

### Alumnae

**Helen McCarthy '42 Hooper** sister of Sr. Josephine McCarthy RSCJ (predeceased) and Mary McCarthy '45 Moore (predeceased)

**Paule Rolland '46 Thomas**

**Joy Belcourt '47 Macklem**, sister-in-law of Janet Gray-Donald '51 and Richard Macklem (former Board member).

**Pauline Ramsey '47 Joyal**, sister of Marguerite Ramsey '42 Mackinnon (predeceased)

**Sr. Clare Peckham '49**, sister of Sr. Maureen Peckham '47 RSCJ (predeceased) and Thora Peckham '54 Snow

**Diane Weldon '50 Pitfield McAvoy** (2018)

**Evelyn Stearns '50 Murphy** (Sault), grandmother of Sarah Murphy '12 and mother of John Murphy (former Board member)

**Louise Morrow '60 Wickson** (Sault), sister of Katherine '68 and Claudia '71

**Debra Hackett '72**, mother of Lauren '96 and Meagan Penney '99, sister of Jane '69, and niece of Cora Hackett '42 (predeceased)



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# In Memory of

## Family & Friends

**Mr. Michael Allan Derwin**, husband of Sheila Donahoe (former CASHA President)

**Mrs. Diane C. Fitzgerald**, sister-in-law of Kathleen Fitzgerald '77

**Mr. Leo Lowe**, husband of Lana Conway '71

**Mr. Jim McCann**, Second World War veteran and long-time participant in Sacred Heart's Remembrance Day Mass and activities.

**Mr. Brian McGuigan**, brother of Joyce McGuigan '51 Nesmith; uncle to Janice Nesmith '82 Naylor, Paisley Nesmith '83 and Stacey Nesmith '86 McLean

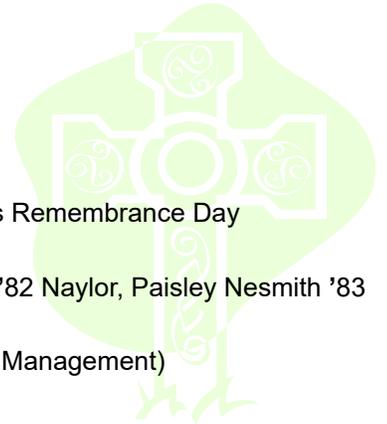
**Mrs. June Ord Morrison**, grandmother of Stephanie Broadhurst (Director of Enrolment Management)

**Mr. Serge Pottie**, husband of Margaret Murphy '68 and father of Martine Pottie '89

**Mr. J. Ricardo Rodrigues**, father of Michèle Rodrigues '87

**Mr. John Turley**, father of Barbara Turley-McIntyre '70 and Anne '83

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### Clare Peckham, RSCJ (1932 - 2020)



**Clare Peckham**, RSCJ died peacefully on December 20, 2020, at the Wales Home in Cleveland, Québec. She was born in 1932, in Montreal and attended the City House where she formed a great love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1954, following her older sister Maureen Peckham, RSCJ, she entered the Society of the Sacred Heart at Kenwood in Albany, NY, and

pronounced her first vows there in 1957. She made her profession in Rome in 1962.

Sr. Peckham earned a B.A. in English from Marianopolis College, and an M.A. in Philosophy from Manhattanville College. Her studies were extensive including courses

at University of Montreal's Institut Supérieur de Sciences Religieuses, as well as earning an M.R.Ed. from Loyola Institute of Pastoral Studies in Chicago, and an M.Div. from the Toronto School of Theology, University of St. Michael's College.

Sr. Peckham taught at Sacred Heart Convents in Halifax, in Vancouver and at the Sault-au-Récollet in Montréal. She went on to serve in campus ministry at Assumption University of Windsor and as a religion consultant for the Separate School Board in Barrie, Ontario. For seven years, Sr. Peckham was the parish assistant at St. Gregory's and a chaplain (CPE) at Riverdale Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital, all located in Toronto.

Sr. Peckham retired in 2019 and returned to Grandby, Quebec. She is predeceased by her parents Sidney Brittain Peckham and Elizabeth Caroline and siblings, Hugh, Maureen, Brian and Patricia. She is survived by her sister Thora Peckham '54 Snow and many nieces and nephews and grand nieces and nephews.



### Mildred Peterkin, RSCJ (1921-2022)

**Mildred Peterkin**, RSCJ was born in 1921 in Regina, Saskatchewan. She grew up in Winnipeg and studied at the University of Manitoba, UBC and the University of Toronto. In 1943, she entered the Society of the Sacred Heart in Albany, NY, later making her final profession in Rome in 1951.



Over many years, Sr. Peterkin taught in Sacred Heart Schools across Canada: Le Sault au Récollet and the City House in Montreal,

Vancouver, Winnipeg and Halifax. Sr. Peterkin loved her students and was loved by them. Along with teaching, she had a long apostolate in liturgical music and was an

accomplished organist. She also engaged in pastoral hospital work, ecumenical concerns and instruction in ESL.

Sr. Peterkin, affectionately called "Petie", died peacefully at the age of 100 years, on January 9, 2022 at Caritas Residence, Halifax, surrounded by the love and care of her RSCJ Sisters. She spent the last seven years of her life at Caritas Residence where she was well-loved by all who met her. Sr Peterkin was predeceased by her parents, two brothers, Dr. David Peterkin and Reverend Allan Peterkin, SJ, and her only sister, Dr. Edith Peterkin of Belleville, ON. She is survived by one brother, John (Esme) of Winnipeg and by several beloved nephews and nieces in Canada and the USA. She will be dearly missed by her family and all of her Sacred Heart Sisters. "After heading for heaven," said Sr. Peterkin, "I shall lovingly help and pray for all the Sacred Heart students I have taught and for all the children of the world. Our foundress, Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, points the way to Christ's Heart."

## Advancement News

### The Julia Cianci Wellness Centre to begin construction in early March

After months of planning and hard work by many, the construction of the Julia Cianci Wellness Centre will begin in early March, with the expected completion by June 2022.

It will be designed as a space to support the physical, mental and emotional health of our students. Comprising two distinct zones, it will be used to enrich the physical education program as well as the extra-curricular athletics program. The Centre is named in memory of **Julia Cianci, Class of 2018**. During her 5 years as a student at Sacred Heart, Julia's vibrant spirit embodied the essence of each of the Sacred Heart Goals and her leadership inspired the school community and helped it flourish.

This Centre would not be possible without the generous donation of the Cianci family and two charitable gifts from anonymous donors, which brings our fundraising effort for this project to 75%. We are counting on the support of our community to complete the remaining 25%. Due to COVID, our Gala which was expected to raise \$60,000 was canceled. Help us bridge the gap - make your donation today to the building fund at [www.sacredheart.qc.ca/donate](http://www.sacredheart.qc.ca/donate)  
The students thank you!



### Celebrating 50 years!

**The Class of 1971** celebrated their 50th high school anniversary on the grounds of the School on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Although many from the class were not able to attend, 15 Jubilarians did come together to reminisce and catch up. Towards the end of the afternoon, some went on a tour of the new auditorium and boarding facility, and thoroughly enjoyed walking the halls of their alma mater. The BBQ luncheon was organized by Maureen Brown '80, Alumnae Relations Coordinator and Tara Durley '85, Alumnae Association President.



**Standing (L to R):** Eileen Kennedy, Marie Colford, Lorraine D'Artois, Lia Hone, Marylyn Hill, Deborah Benoit, Sarah Mary Ellen (Mems) Maloney, Lillian Stanimir

**Seated (L to R):** Andrea de Gosztonyi, Erica Besso, Linda Hammerschmid, Karin Katz, Ruta Danaitis, Louise Bourke, Eileen Marcella,



## Share The Love - Bursary Project



The Sacred Heart Alumnae Association is embarking on a new and creative project to raise funds for the School's Bursary Program.

We need your support!

An installation made up of individual hearts will be displayed inside the Doctor Penfield entrance.

One donation = One Heart

\* Donations start at \$35 per Heart... How big is your Heart?  
Make your donation by going to:

<https://www.sacredheart.qc.ca/share-the-love/>

*"Please donate by April 15, 2022 to help us reach our milestone of 150 hearts."*

## *Welcome Back Alumnae BBQ*

Saturday, September 24 from noon-3 pm

The Alumnae Association invites ALL alumnae & their families to reconnect on the grounds of the School.

Food and beverages will be available as well as tours of the School.

Hope to see you there!

For more info: contact the Alumnae Office  
at 514-937-2845 # 108  
or [alumnae@sacredheart.qc.ca](mailto:alumnae@sacredheart.qc.ca)