

CWL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Dear Ladies,

To our returning members, a warm welcome back after the very unexpected hiatus brought on by the Covid 19 pandemic. To our newest members, welcome to the CWL! We are delighted that you have decided to join our council and look forward to getting to know you.

My hope as we begin to resume our activities, is that each of us, in hearing God's call to serve, finds in our council an opportunity to exercise her God given talents.

The Catholic Women's League's core values of Faith, Service and Social Justice have inspired us to search out a variety of new projects this Fall. With so much happening, it seemed the perfect opportunity to introduce a newsletter where members can stay informed and connected even when unable to attend meetings.

Here's to a new year of service and friendship with an amazing group of passionate and energetic women!

God Bless,
Catherine

Christmas At the Port of Montreal

Once again, our CWL is donating gifts to the Ministry to Seafarers to make Christmas a little happier for the over 1500 seafarers whose international ships deliver goods to the Montreal Port. You are invited to donate new items in their original packaging from the following four categories and bring them to the meeting on Nov. 20th

Warm: Gloves, socks, tuques and scarves. Dollar store is fine.

Toiletries: toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, shaving cream, soap, shampoo, cologne/aftershave

Snacks: Candy, chocolate, nuts,

Leisure: Playing cards, travel games, Canadian souvenir, Sudoku, compass

Shoppers Needed ... Money Not Required

Ladies, we have been asked to shop with Ministry to Seafarer funds! Patty, their Volunteer Director, who hosted the girls from Teen Haven for us at the Old Port a few years ago, needs our help. We have been allocated \$2000 so far and volunteers are needed to buy items for the gift bags. We have found the best deals and the shopping has begun! Come storm Dollarama with us! Contact Catherine at 514-463-5991 or Marie at 514-965-9919 to get a shopping list.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 20, 2021

December 18, 2021

January 22, 2022

Our Mission

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Christmas Card Writing Project

We are collecting Christmas cards to accompany the Seafarers Gift Bags and if you have any to donate please contact Janice 514-630-0305.

Volunteers are needed to help write greetings in the cards to Seafarers. Come join us for coffee and company in the church hall while we do a good deed. We'll be getting together a few times during the month of November and December. Members will receive emails as we book the dates. If you would like to help, call Marisa 514-695-1470 or Catherine 514-463-5991.

Bring a Canned Good to Our Meeting

National CWL is encouraging all councils to support their local food bank by participating in the Food Bank Project. We are starting small by asking members to bring a canned good to every meeting. It will be an ongoing effort throughout the year and we are encouraged to participate in a number of ways. More information about the project can be found on cwl.ca by clicking on 'To Inform' and reading the most recent Community Life Communiqué.

Bags for the Seafarer's Gifts

The bags we use for packing the gifts are sewn by volunteers and Yvonne Bourque has been busy organizing sewers all year. If you would like to sew a few in time for Christmas or can sew throughout the year, contact Yvonne at 514-697-8512. She has precut fabric and will give you the simple instructions needed. The drawstrings will be inserted by another group of volunteers.



National Communiqués

Remember you can stay informed of all CWL activities Canada wide by visiting cwl.ca and reading the National Executive Communiqués and Memos. By staying informed you help bring fresh ideas to our Council.

Membership Fees Due

Our Council's 2022 per capita fees to CWL National will be due soon. Again, for 2022 our Membership fees will be \$25.

For those of you ready to do so, Marisa will be collecting your payment at our November 20th meeting. Payment can also be made as follows:

By e-transfer to becketcwl@gmail.com

Mailed or dropped off to Marisa at
6 Place Schwartz, Kirkland
QC H9H 4J7

Council Elections

Our Council will be electing a new Executive at the January 22nd meeting! The Elections Committee will explain everything at our November 20th meeting and will distribute Nomination forms. Please consider putting your name forward for one of the positions. Being on the team is such a rewarding experience. You will learn and grow while contributing to the success of our Council. All of the current Executive members are happy to ease the transition by helping until you are comfortable.



Douglas Hospital Auxiliary

On November 20th we will be welcoming guest speaker Sheilagh Cahill from the Douglas Auxiliary. As a retired social worker and long time member of the Auxiliary, she will give us an in-depth view of the role the auxiliary plays and the struggles it faces with dwindling membership and increasing need. She has offered to share many heartwarming stories of their work over the years and

suggest ways the CWL can help. We have made arrangements to film her presentation and upload it to our newly created YouTube channel. Members will receive a private link to view it after the Nov. 20th meeting.

Auxiliary: From the Latin Auxilia, 'helps'

There **is** Homelessness in the West Island

Recently, a group of CWL members toured the **Halte Transitions Warming Shelter** on Chateau Pierrefonds, a little west of St. Charles, to discover the true picture of West Island homelessness. Opening at 11pm and closing at 7am, they offer those who line up for hours, a bed, some food, a washer and dryer, some companionship and an offer to help obtain services in whatever way they can. Listening to client, Joanne, we heard a story of drug addiction and recovery that has left her eternally grateful to Halte Transitions.

Limited staff has meant restricted hours and worse, they are facing the possibility of closing by March 2022 without much needed government aid. The CWL has been investigating ways to help and one way is to sign a petition expressing our support of the project and submitting it to our West Island Councilors. We are also looking into bringing them a weekly home cooked meal for about 25 people prepared in our parish kitchen by CWL volunteer teams. Helping Others is being approached to fund this. More info to come!



CWL Tree Planting

We have received permission from the Wardens to plant a tree commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the CWL. Eco Quartier will provide a free Oak or Amur Maple that they will plant in Spring on the lawn overlooking the parking lot on the north side of the church property (pictured here). A granite plaque will indicate its significance and we will be inviting members to participate in a short ceremony.

Halte Transitions Shelter WAYS YOU CAN HELP NOW!

Winter is fast approaching and we can help the shelter by donating the following much needed items. Call Marisa 514-695-1470 or bring them to a meeting.

- Towels (clean and used is fine)
- Mugs
- Hats, scarves, mitts/gloves, socks, new underwear