



FULFORD RESIDENCE

1221 Guy Street, Montreal H3H 2K8 – Tel: (514) 933-7975

NEWSLETTER No. 20

SPRING 2005

Behind the Red Door...

Behind the red door, time seems to stand still in our gracious Victorian mansion, but in fact, 2004 has been a year of great change. Most notably, we bid goodbye to our President of 14 years, **Archbishop Andrew Hutchison**, who was a great friend to Fulford – we shall miss him, but are delighted with his appointment as Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. The incumbent bishop of the Diocese of Montreal is, by virtue of his position, the President of the Board of Directors, and so we greeted our new President, **The Rt. Rev'd Barry Clarke**, in September and welcomed him celebrating the Christmas Eucharist service as bishop on Wednesday, December 22nd. Another special celebration was a Christmas Eve service led by Lay Reader **Sue Winn** and friends. We are very grateful to the clergy and lay readers of the diocese who take services each Wednesday during the year and to **Father MacEachen** and **Caroline Emblem** who conduct a mass for our Roman Catholic ladies on a periodic basis. At other times, **Soeur Desanges** of the Grey Nuns, visits our Roman Catholic ladies. **Pam McLernon** has replaced **Francie Montgomery** as the person responsible for 'pulpit supply'. Our Guild President **Kate Richmond-Smith** moved to Paris, leaving a huge vacuum – her enthusiasm and hearty laugh are sorely missed. Kate and Francie organized the purchase of large print service books and a silver chalice in memory of **Mrs. Irene Mulroney**. A special dedication service led by Archbishop Andrew which was attended by two of her daughters, **Doreen Bissonette** and **Olive Elliott** with husband, Dick.

Welcome

Mrs. Molly Ballantyne	Mrs. Margaret Mellor
Mrs. Elizabeth Forbes	Ms Madeleine Pigeon
Ms Grace Gibbs	Mrs. Dorothy Robinson
Mrs. Phyllis Hugman	Miss Elizabeth Stewart
Mrs. Elizabeth Jennings	



*Mary Racicot, 90, Annie Hicks, 105, and Mary Jefferson, 95,
waiting to exercise their right to vote
(as appeared in the Globe and Mail)*

Another major change at Fulford this year, **Mrs. Laurie Kirkpatrick** resigned as Manager in June and is succeeded by **Mrs. Donna Girard**. Donna operated Goodwin House, a nursing home in Westmount, and thus is conversant with our needs and problems. It is not easy to please the ladies, the staff and the volunteers, and to run a tight ship, but she seems to be managing admirably.

There are many activities at Fulford – most of which are organized by **Janet Dussault** – there are concerts of all types, school choirs from **The Study**, **The Priory**, adult choirs, classical recitals and a very popular evening of Broadway tunes played by **Alan Greig** (wearing his musical rather than hard hat!). Perhaps the most engaging of all was a concert of Christmas music given by the Grade II boys of **Selwyn House** – tears of laughter and nostalgia were apparent while watching the wrigglers, the earnest ones, and the class clown. Not all activities take place behind the red doors. Excursions to see the fall foliage and the Christmas lights – the latter followed by a soiree with glucein in the church room – and the flower show in the Westmount Greenhouse are enjoyed, but perhaps the most popular outings are the pub crawls with our gregarious policemen, **John Parker** and **André Leclerc**. A summer picnic lunch in the garden of the Grey Nuns is

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another treat. **Sue Brotherwood**, who with her husband **Nick**, is involved in Emerge – a downtown ministry involving young adults – has been a regular visitor with some Emerge congregants providing a musical and social event with the ladies.

Another popular event was the visit of young girls from the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dance, one of whom is Mrs. Keefe's granddaughter. They performed on an improvised wooden floor in the church



(left) Mrs. Hugman, Mrs. Mulligan talking to an Irish dancer after the show, (right) Mrs. Keefe, daughter Gillian Keefe and granddaughter Joanna

room and no one could possibly doze off with the clatter of their tapping!

Once again, **Rosy Padilla** organized a splendid bazaar with handicrafts made by the ladies. Retired staff members, **Jean Joly** and **Betty Martin**, prepared delicious sandwiches for tea. ...In June, Fulford was a polling station for the federal election. **Mrs. Barrett's** son **Ian's** photo of some of the voters appeared in *The Globe and Mail*. **Sally Harrington** brought her puppies to visit the ladies to everyone's delight.

Formal Teas are very special events at Fulford with silver service and an array of beautiful china tea cups (Each lady donates 4 tea cups when coming to reside at Fulford). November was the first of two annual **McDonnell Teas** – the second took place on Valentine's Day. A **Hat Fashion Show** was held in May. Stylish hats from 'yesteryear' were donned by volunteers and staff as well as the ladies. The afternoon brought many smiles and much laughter.



Mrs. Windsor...

Hat Models

Experiencing Fulford...

Nine months have sped by since stepping inside the red doors. The momentum at Fulford is anything but slow. Life is being embraced at its pinnacle.

Each of our 38 ladies brings something special everyday to Fulford. These ladies are artists, musicians, peacemakers, teachers, medical professionals, librarians, etc. They are a vibrant group, each continually changing and bringing new challenges to the staff and management. As they continue to grow we grow with them. By the side of the Fulford ladies is a staff of 45 plus. The cultural diversity, work experience and age of this group adds a whole new dimension to the life inside the walls of Fulford. The goodwill, willingness to go the extra mile and heart felt emotions of the moment lead to a dynamic environment. The staff rise to the occasion for each our ladies.

Standing there beside the ladies and staff is the added support of a sincere group of volunteers. Each time a volunteer walks through the red doors, they share a collection of experiences of the life outside Fulford. Their energy and enthusiasm add another level of being.

Along side these three groups are members of the board of directors. Each of them is energetic and professional with busy challenging and demanding lives. They are often in Fulford performing their various services and exchanging with the ladies, the staff and the volunteers.

Yes, there is never a dull moment, with many sharing all walks of life side by side. Fulford reflects a home of change, support, and growth.

Donna Girard, Managing Director



Improvements at the House

A retractable awning was installed on the upstairs verandah in May – no more need to remove and store it for the winter season. It provides welcome shade to ladies sitting and walking on the second floor where, with the trees in bloom, one would think you were in the country. The perennial gardens have survived and with nasturtiums added every year by **Sarah Colby**, they are a visual delight.



A mahogany cupboard 'Eleanor's Armoire' was installed at the end of the corridor by the dining room. It was donated by the family of **Eleanor Louison** who passed away in 2003.

Bridging the Gap



Bridge in the sunroom: clockwise from top: Mrs. Hart, Miss Pacaud, Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Richards (back facing) and Mrs. Robinson

In the mid to late Seventies, the residents at The Church Home (now Fulford Residence) were ambulatory. At that time my Mother was a resident and became very much a part of the activities there – typing menus and other office jobs, watering plants and arranging flowers. She had a soul mate, Mrs. Evans. My mother was also a keen bridge player. Those in the home who played bridge invited their friends to visit. They would set up a table in their rooms or use the sitting room, if convenient. It was an outing for friends to visit our beautiful home and between ‘rubbers’, they shared our elegant Tea Time and added to its social atmosphere.

Gradually over the years, friends were less mobile for visiting and residents likewise. So there was a period of ‘drought’ so far as the game of Bridge was concerned. Then to the joy of many, a vivacious, dynamic **Diana Ferrabee** joined our Volunteers. It did not take long before she found bridge players and the games started again. I became involved and there were times when we had two tables with one of us playing at each table. I’ll always remember one very exciting Monday morning (we played in the morning in those days) – It was Mrs. Moore’s one hundred and fourth birthday. She bid a small slam and made it – 12 tricks out of 13, a real accomplishment! Her family had been invited for a Birthday luncheon. I had the pleasure of presenting her with a flower bouquet, but the biggest thrill was her ‘making that slam’ on her special day.

Nowadays we usually have one table, sometimes with a spare. We reviewed Standard American Bridge and counting, and now we discuss bridge deals from The Gazette and occasionally set out hands to practice bidding and playing. Sometime last year our Monday afternoon bridge game had to relocate to the 2nd floor sitting room because the Church Room was required for another activity. It was a gorgeous sunny day – the whole room was bathed in sunlight. The finches in their cage were singing at the top of their bird voices. When we sat down to play, it was so bright that we couldn’t see the numbers on our cards! Before you could say ‘spit

spot’ Lou Pacaud was off to her room to return with sun hats, sun shades and umbrellas. Those of us who had sunglasses wore them. We propped things up and with much giggling and laughter, the game got under way. We soon settled down to serious playing. An hour or so later, we heard a voice say “What have we here? – a veritable Caribbean Bridge Party?” One of our ladies’ daughters had arrived to visit – well, now she had seen everything! We sipped our tea and juice and pretended just that – we were away down south in the middle of winter.

We share jokes, events both political and social, as well as stories of our families. They know how to play three handed bridge and I hope soon, that they will be familiar with Honeymoon Bridge for two! Then when we have more than four ladies but not enough for two tables, those taking a turn can play a game at the other table.

Monday afternoon bridge starts at 1:30 p.m. – it is competitive, FUN, and challenging, especially when you find you’ve been playing two hands with one card missing – the ACE of DIAMONDS left in the box!

Dorothy Anderson

Staff News

Many of our staff, some of whom had been here for 15 years, retired or went back to school to further their careers. We shall dearly miss **Jean Joly**, **Orysia Karpinskyj**, **Chanise Banton**, **Susan Chartrand**, **Brenda Fulton**, and **Angel Posadas**, who made Fulford a very special place with their unique personalities.

We were sad to hear of the death of **Myrtle White**, a long time employee at Fulford and recently, a very faithful door sitter on Mondays.



Brenda Fulton, Jean Joly and Orysia Karpinskyj



Chanise Banton, Susan Chartrand, Angel Posadas, Myrtle White and Betty Martin

Venniss, our devoted chef of 20 years



Venniss Pinder

Victorian mansions of the last century always had an 'upstairs' and a 'downstairs' life. The people who were downstairs only heard news of the residents upstairs by the staff who worked upstairs and came downstairs to the kitchen to dine. The kitchen was usually run by a dominant head cook who planned the menus, ordered all the food and made certain that all

was cooked to perfection. More often than not, she was also a sort of mother to the staff. This prominent position at Fulford is now held by **Venniss Pinder** who has been with us for 20 years and some of the staff actually refer to her as 'mum'.

Born in Barbados, Venniss was one of four siblings and learned to cook with her mother at a young age. After receiving a certificate from a cooking school, she worked at a small hotel in Barbados, La Bonberg, run by a couple from France. She came to Montreal to visit her aunt in 1974. She liked Canada and found a position with a family caring for their two children for 10 years. When the children had grown up, a friend informed her of a part time job at Fulford Residence telling her it was a really nice place to work. She was hired in 1984 as the weekend cook, which evolved into evening suppers for 5-6 years and now she has found her "niche" as head cook.

Her cuisine is traditionalthe kind of menus the ladies have been used to for most of their lives ... roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, roast lamb with mint sauce, shepherd's pie, chicken divan. The desserts are even more reminiscent of years ago ... apple pie, poor man's pudding, rhubarb crunch, gingerbread, Queen Elizabeth cake, ice cream sundaes etc. Special dinners are produced for special visitors such as the Bishop who



Rosa and Lillian

comes to dine twice a year. Christmas is a feast with turkey, stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce, home-made Christmas pudding and cake. Venniss is assisted in the large kitchen by Lillian Lafrance, Rosa Guerreiro-Rochon and David Lawson.

Board of Directors

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 Mrs. Elizabeth Nash

MANAGING DIRECTOR: Mrs. Donna Girard

The ladies and the door sitters thoroughly enjoy the cookies, banana and spice breads that are freshly baked for morning coffee and afternoon tea. Venniss does not know the ladies personally because, being 'below stairs', her only connection to them is the food that makes daily trips in the dumb-waiter up to the dining room. Complaints are few . . . minor things such as some like their beef rare and some like it well done. . . very difficult to please everyone but she tries 100%! Three cheers for Venniss – our longest serving staff member!

In Memoriam

Miss Helen Cullen	Miss Jean Wurtele
Mrs. Eileen Dalme	Mrs. Kathleen Shevlen
Miss Constance Esdaile	Miss Dora Stinson
Mrs. Ruth Georgette	

Bequests

The estate of Miss Constance Esdaile

Memorial Donations

Fulford is extremely grateful to the families and friends of

Miss Jean Wurtele
 Mrs. Kathleen Shevlen

who have chosen to make In Memoriam donations to the residence.