



FULFORD RESIDENCE

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

NEWSLETTER No. 21

SPRING 2006

Fulford Celebrates 150 Years with Gala Party

To celebrate Fulford's 150th anniversary and, at the same time, raise funds for some necessary improvements to the residence, an enthusiastic group of volunteers set about last spring to organize a Gala reception for September. Several alternative venues for the event were considered, but none appealed as much as the idea of hosting the party at Fulford itself. Recognizing that it would be a tight squeeze to fit a couple of hundred people inside the residence, a large tent was erected in the driveway in front of the home.

Arnold Sharp, a Fulford Director and artist in his own right, volunteered to commandeer donations of paintings from two dozen or so of his fellow artists in the Montreal area. The paintings were to be sold by way of a silent auction during the reception. By the time the auction was held, Arnie had gathered paintings from 30 artists.

Other members of the committee helped coordinate the catering, tent, parking, security, mailing of invitations and a host of other details. The invitation was an inspired design by **Sara Colby** and depicted several ladies celebrating the 150th anniversary in front of the home. As Wednesday, September 21st approached, more Directors, staff



Fulford transformed for the Gala....

and volunteers mobilized to help prepare for and execute the event.

On the appointed day, the resident ladies and 170 guests were blessed with a warm late-summer evening. Everyone was comfortable in the open air, sitting on the gallery and mingling under the tent. Serenaded by Montreal guitarist and composer, **Duncan McEntyre**, the guests were offered martinis and wine to accompany sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and finger food provided by Virgo Catering of

see Gala, page two



Mrs. Liliana Mulligan with Tassy and David McEntyre



Sheila Robertson, Mary Jane MacDonald



Miss Lou Pacaud and Miss Barbara Whitley



Janet Dussault, David McEntyre, Barbara Savage, Alan Greig

Gala, continued from page one

Knowlton. The nourishments and buoyant atmosphere had a positive effect on the bidders at the silent auction. All 30 paintings were sold, as were dining vouchers from nearby restaurants, including: La Mère Michel, Bistro on the Avenue and The Relais in Knowlton.

A heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful friends of Fulford who came to help us celebrate and for a special donation inspired by the event. Their generous support resulted in net proceeds to Fulford of over \$50,000!! These funds are designated for the enlargement and renovation of two bathrooms on the first floor, the painting of the residence exterior and the installation of a new security system. Many thanks and congratulations also to the Gala Committee, the Board, the Fulford staff and all the other volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a resounding success.

Is that "Encore!" we hear?!

Overheard in the house

A resident talking to the nurse:

"you know, it's terrible, I've become so old since I came in here"

Two ladies chatting:

"Your dress is lovely"

"I'll leave it to you in my will."

"Thank you very much. What will you leave me?"

"I'm not sure. I'll have to check my assets."

Welcome

Mrs. Elizabeth Balogh

Miss Gertrude Cagney

Miss Jean Clark

Mrs. Bernice Costin

Mrs. Grace Fletcher

Mrs. Lily Gelston

Miss Elizabeth Richardson

Mrs. Mabelle Ritchie

Activities and Excursions

Weekly activities such as morning stretch, reading circle, bridge, bingo, entertainment, games and crafts keep the ladies very busy and alert. But they really look forward to special occasions such as the McDonnell Tea in February, Irish dancers in March, visits to the Pubs on Crescent Street with our favourite policemen in May and October, the Shepard supper in July, plus Una Kay's special Italian dinners. The mulled wine party in December with members of the Board was very special. The ladies had good reason to get dressed up in their finery for a festive Christmas party.

Last June, our close relationship with the Grey Nuns was further strengthened when **Sr. Desanges** graciously invited our ladies to attend mass in their historic chapel. **Father Lawrence MacEachen**

was pleased to offer his services as celebrant on this very special occasion. For our ladies, this was more than a Eucharistic celebration. It was an opportunity to learn about the history of one of Montreal's great landmarks, replete with its unique artwork and original flooring. After mass, the ladies made their way through spotless hallways to a charming reception room where tea was served.



Sister Desanges, Father MacEachen, Mrs. Mulligan, Mme Pigeon, Miss Martin, Mrs. Racicot

In September, with straw hats and the temperature still like summer, the ladies headed to the Eastern Townships to Rivercross Farm with hostess **Sally Harrington**. They picnicked under the shade of majestic trees and were thrilled to see her magnificent horses.

In December, Fulford's annual Christmas Bazaar was organized by **Janet Dussault** and her Committee which included a sit-down tea in the dining room for the ladies and their friends. It was a treat having **Jean Joly** return to help for the day – a welcome addition with her smile and humour.



Picnic at Rivercross

Behind the Red Door...

Congratulations to us! We celebrated our 150th Birthday in 2005 with a marvelous Gala in September. The organizing committee is to be thanked, and a special thank you to **Arnie Sharp** who gathered a talented and generous group of artists who donated their works for the Silent Auction. Arnie brilliantly created a brand new use for the sprinkler system pipes in the Church Room - they provided a perfect hanging apparatus for the paintings!

Our year started off with our Annual Meeting in May 2005 where our President, **Bishop Barry Clarke** welcomed **Mary Jane MacDonald** as First Directress and we bade a fond farewell to **Janet Boeckh**, her predecessor. Although Janet has left the Board, she still organizes Pub Night at Fulford and also comes to play the piano on Thursday afternoon. Last



Dominic Dlouhy, Janet Boeckh

summer she entertained the ladies with a barbeque on her deck overlooking Montreal. We said goodbye to a special friend last year when **Ian McLachlin** moved to Toronto after more than ten years involvement with Fulford. His list of contributions includes serving on the Board as 2nd Director, Vice President and Treasurer and bringing us into the computer age.

A major problem turned into a blessing last spring. When the elevator had to be disconnected for repairs, instead of having trays in their rooms, the ladies of the second and third floors were served an al fresco breakfast on the second floor balcony at small tables with gaily coloured table cloths – just like any trendy café in the city! The ladies are clamouring for a repeat.

We are indebted to master painter **Darrell Rex** who restored our home to the shining jewel of Guy Street. He and his crew really cared about the building and the end result is proof. Everyone stops and admires this beautiful Victorian home.

Melanie Salhany and **Pam McLernon**, along with the Fulford Guild ladies, arrange church services on Wednesday mornings. We express our thanks to the lay people and clergy of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal and to **Sue Winn** and friends who, with **Alan Greig** at the piano, led a special Christmas Eve carol service. In February, **Mary Bassett** and **Francie Montgomery** (whose mothers, **Mrs. Edith Mitchell** and **Mrs. Raymonde Bieler**, were former residents in the home) organized an elegant memorial service for **Mrs. Betty Schwarzmann**. We look forward to Wednesdays as special treat days. **Anne Lawandi** arrives promptly every Wednesday morning with the most delicious cookies for the morning coffee and afternoon tea. There must be 52 different varieties as they vary every week of the year and all are delectable!

A special volunteer, **Di Ferrabee**, is moving to her

country home in Hatley. Di will be sorely missed by our bridge-playing ladies (she leaves **Dorothy Anderson** to this task – Dorothy is looking for other bridge players to help). Thanks also to Di for coming every December to decorate the house for Christmas and thanks to the **Diggers and Weeders Club** for their beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

Barbara Savage has almost single handedly been responsible for a clean-up operation in the downstairs activity room – often supervised by **Mrs. Louise Spira**, who spends many hours there on her computer, printing up special events cards and calendars for the house. Sometimes she, like everyone else, has computer woes. One of these incidents, however, was not related to either machine or server malfunction, but was caused by Charlie the house cat tripping the wires behind the desk!

Eleanor Coté and her loyal greeters are often the first people met on entering the Red Door. They are the fore-runners of a myriad of volunteers who devote hours of service to the ladies and our Home. It's not just Wednesday mornings at the church service when we can be found COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS! Thank you to you all.

Improvements at the House

Last year was a busy year for upgrading the house. In late spring, thresholds on three of the doors to the balconies were smoothed, making for easier and safer coming and going. Early in the summer we also repaired or replaced air conditioning units in the kitchen and pantry.

A major new addition is a security system which includes cameras to monitor various corridors and external doors. In particular, the front door is provided with a remote release so that someone can control entry without having to go to the door.

The biggest of our summer projects was the redesign of



two bathrooms next to the nursing office to permit wheelchair access. The bath has been replaced by a shower which the staff and ladies find much more convenient, with grab bars in the proper places. The adjacent nursing office was renovated with a new sink, paint and floor covering.

The inner-city environment is tough on a painted exterior and it was time for a new face for our beautiful Victorian home. At the end of the summer, all exterior woodwork including the large front balconies were scrubbed, repaired, sanded and painted ... all in all a mammoth job, completed by painter **Darrell Rex** and his conscientious crew in time for our fundraiser on September 21st.

Thanks to all of you for your patience and understanding while the work was being done!

Alan Greig

A tribute to Fulford staff

The mosaic of culture and experience brought by the Fulford staff makes me think how fortunate we are. Even though each staff member has their own unique approach they all show dedication, kindness, and perform little extras beyond the call of duty. Whether it will be sewing on buttons, finding a misplaced article, or singing a Christmas carol this staff rises to the occasion and takes pleasure in being of service.

Working in the healthcare field, there are many difficult and embracing moments. However, it's taken into stride. All out efforts are made to cheer someone up, sympathize with a family member or bring situations back to order and a good level of comfort.

You have to admire individuals who choose to work in the public arena and give years of service. The Fulford staff has more than 500 years of experience under their belt. Not everyone has worked only at Fulford but that does not make the experience less solid. It adds to the flavour.

The Fulford staff is all professional. Every department: cooking, housekeeping, nursing and maintenance take pride in their work. Besides working techniques specific to their tasks, they are armed with laughter, patience, tolerance and genuine love for the ladies.

You do a great work. Thank you.

Donna Girard, Managing Director

Testing the new intercom system

The nurse was at her desk in the office learning how to use the new security system when the front door bell rang. She pressed the intercom button – “Hello, who is there?” No answer. She pressed again and heard “Meow”. She walked down the hall to open the door thinking a visitor was unable to understand her. On opening the door to greet the visitor, who but ‘Charlie’, our cat, strutted in as if he owned the house (which he does!). We are thinking of giving him his own key!

In Memoriam

Mrs. Molly Ballantyne	Miss Kathleen Jones
Mrs. Elizabeth Balogh	Mrs. Theresa McCracken
Miss Ivey Estall	Miss Lorna Middleton
Mrs. Mary Jefferson	Mrs. Betty Schwarzmann

Bequests

Mrs. Mary Jefferson

Memorial Donations

Fulford is extremely grateful to the families and friends of

Miss Ivey Estall	Miss Lorna Middleton
Mrs. Mary Jefferson	Mrs. Betty Schwarzmann
Mrs. Theresa McCracken	

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

Board of Directors

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Mrs. T.P.H. Molson

Mrs. Elizabeth Nash

MANAGING DIRECTOR: Mrs. Donna Girard

Thank you, Dorothy Petrie...

Dear Dorothy,

Thank you for making our ladies look as elegant as the grand old house in which they live. Thank you for the hours and days you have worked in “Dorothy’s Salon” at Fulford.



Thank you for being the familiar face who appears each week to bring cheer, perk up spirits and help our ladies feel good when they look in the mirror. You, Dorothy, are a real part of Fulford, chatting and smiling as you transform each resident.

We are grateful that you came to Montreal 40 years ago to continue the career in hair-styling and esthetics which you began at the age of eighteen in Chester and Liverpool. When you worked in West Africa, we are lucky that you met your engineer husband-to-be John, who whisked you away from the whirlwind of the party and country club life of Lagos and brought you to Canada. Lucky too, that your love of travel (I guess that was engendered by your two years in the Navy at a young age) has been satisfied with the exciting trips you and John have taken together – last year to the Galapagos Islands and Chile. Lucky that your mother, Mrs. Caunce, came to Montreal to live near you and remain your best friend until the day she died at Fulford Residence, still knowing every word to every song that had ever been sung here!

It is people like you, Dorothy, who make Fulford the special place it is; you have contributed care, compassion and skill to the “beautification” of all for 34 years.

With our love,

The ladies, staff, volunteers and Board of Directors