

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



Activity Report
2021-2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Mark Henry
President

Members and Friends of the Jamaica Association,

This past year was incredible as it was filled with exciting and successful events, such as Games Nights, Black History Month events and Emancipation (*done in collaboration with the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal*), Independence Day and Jamaica Day, among other events. These festive events were meant to uplift and unite our community through culture, food, music, good times with friends and celebrations as well as to speak on our history and legacy as a Nation. On August 6, 2022, Jamaica celebrated 60 years of Independence, its Diamond Jubilee, from British colonial rule.

I would like to thank you all very much for your unwavering support of our organization and look forward to your continued partnership as we continue to build a strong, and vibrant organization.

On behalf our board of Directors, I wish you and your family the very best and a happy Christmas and New Year to those who celebrate it.

Mark Henry,
President

"It's easier to take than to give. It's nobler to give than to take. The thrill of taking lasts a day. The thrill of giving lasts a lifetime." —
Joan Marques

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 60 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, openness and flexibility of the organization and the fact that its administrators and staff recognize needs and want. Further to that, that the Board is reactive to continue to make the Association as welcoming a hub for all who chose to use the program, services and who take part in the activities.

JAMAICA & THE JAMAICA ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL CELEBRATES 60 YEARS – DIAMOND JUBILEE

On August 6, Jamaica marked the 60th year of Independence for this island country. In other words, its Diamond Jubilee. Throughout the year, all letterhead and information were marked with the anniversary logo to commemorate this important occasion.

On November 15, the Association celebrated its 60th anniversary as well. As such the anniversary logo draped the Noel Alexander Banquet Hall from February 2022 to September 2022 inclusively.



OUR BOARD, COMMITTEES, STAFF, PARTNERS & VOLUNTEERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of October 1 – December 11, 2021

Mark Henry	President
Sharon Nelson	1 st Vice-President
Alexander Townsend	2 nd Vice-President
Melrose Christopher	Treasurer
Keisha Wilson	Secretary
Ingrid Barrett.....	Director
Uton Lynch	Director
Clyde Williams.....	Director
Brian Kotler.....	Director



Figure 1: Board composition Oct 1 - Dec. 11 2021

The Annual General Meeting and Board Elections took place on **Saturday, December 11, 2021**. There were 93 eligible voters where 34 cast ballots online or abstained. The AGM was held in a hybrid format where there was online and in-person presence, there were **30 people present and 25 online for a total of 55 people**. There were no contestants for the President’s role and none for the Directors roles and there were acclaimed. However, there was one contest for the 2nd Vice-President role. The contest was between Alexander Townsend (incumbent) and Conroy Barnes for the role. The votes for Alexander Townsend were **28** (13 online votes and 15 paper ballots) to **27** for Conroy Barnes (21 online votes and 6 paper ballots).

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
Ingrid Barrett	Secretary	Private
Uton Lynch	Director	Private
Roger Hylton	Director	Private
Conroy Barnes	Director (appointed Dec. 16, 2021)	Private

Auxiliary & Non-voting members (as of December 11, 2021)

Jade Parkinson Gayle
 Youth Representative
 Private sector (began in Feb. 2022)

Shelley Morgan
 Senior Representative
 Private sector



For nine months of the year, excluding January, July and August, Members’ Meetings were held to share and inform members 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 no Executive Team meetings held in this fiscal year (5 Officers: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) but meetings with the Board were held with the full complement (5 Officers and 4 Directors).

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

All members of the board are members of the Black community.



Figure 2: Board composition - December 11, 2021 – September 30, 2022
l-r: C. Williams, I. Barrett, A. Townsend, S. Nelson, M. Henry, M. Christopher, U. Lynch, R. Hylton

Table 1 - Scheduled meeting dates over the 2021 - 2022 year

EXECUTIVE	BOARD 2021	MEMBERS
N/A	Tuesday, September 7	Saturday, September 11
N/A	Tuesday October 12	Saturday, October 16
N/A	Tuesday, November 9	Saturday, November 13
	Tuesday, December 7	Saturday, December 11 (AGM)



Voting For Positions: 1
(President), 3 (2nd VP), 5
(Secretary) & All Directors

2022

N/A	Sunday, January 16 - Strategic Meeting- Location Jamaica Association, 9 am to 4 pm	<i>No Members Meeting in January</i>
None	Tuesday, February 8	Saturday, February 12
None	Tuesday, March 8	Saturday, March 12
None	Tuesday, April 12	Saturday, April 16
None	Tuesday, May 10	Saturday, May 14
None	Tuesday, June 7	Saturday, June 11
None	Monday, September 13	Saturday, September 17

COMMITTEES (2021-22)

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 **347 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 quarterly newsletters
(January, April, July, & October)
- 5 posting on social media sites
(Facebook & Instagram)

1. **CHAIR:** Sharon Nelson

Committee Members:

- 2. Sophia Heath
- 3. Marlene Roper
- 4. Rosemarie Lewis
- 5. Natoya Bent
- 6. Keisha Wilson

Phone callers primarily: 1. Hazel Williams 2. 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. This year, they held various parties over the course of the year, as well as once a month games nights, Father’s Day Brunch on June 17, St. Jean Baptiste BBQ on June 24, and Jamaican Independence BBQ on August 6.

1. **CHAIR:** Alexander Townsend



Committee Members:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 2. Uton Lynch | 3. Clyde Williams | 4. Reta Campbell |
| 5. Karen Irons | 6. Conroy Barnes | 7. Keisha Wilson |
| 8. Lisa Morris | | |

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 some activities on Zoom but in May 2022 we held our first in-person event that was a walking tour of Old Montreal for Mother’s Day on Sunday, May 15, 2022.

- 1. CHAIR:** Sharon Nelson

Committee Members

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Hazel Williams | 3. Delores Smith | 4. Carlene Clarke |
| 5. Enid Hall | 6. Yvette Bailey | 7. Lorna Spence |
| 8. Melrose Christopher | 9. Jo-Ann Johnson | 10. Hepta Deslandes |
| 11. Shelley Morgan | 12. Venetha Gregg | 13. Madonna Stowe |
| 14. Ann-Marie Babineau | 15. Sonia Millett-Robinson | 16. Elizabeth Newton |
| 17. Gina Mai Simmons | 18. Rose Weekes | 19. Brenda Slater |

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. There are currently 55 businesses in the list of Jamaican entrepreneurs. There are approximately 60 entrepreneurs on the list of potential candidates to be added to the JABOP list.

- 1. CHAIR:** Molly Young

Committee Members

2. Nesta Mills 3. Peter Barrett

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. Fundraising efforts took place within the year and as of September there was over \$16,000 in funds raised.

- 1. CHAIR:** Mark Henry

Committee Members

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 2. Melrose Christopher | 3. Claudette Scott-Dénès | 4. Doreen Jones |
| 5. Gloria Diggs | | |



6. [Human Resources Committee](#)

This committee was created in 2021 to assist with Human Resources matters relating to the staff. Omar Ramus occupies the role of Chair of the committee and works with the Managing Director. Professionally, he works in Human Resources as such his knowledge is beneficial for the organization.

1. **CHAIR:** Omar Ramus

7. [Senior Committee](#)

The Senior's Committee is charged with organizing events for Seniors, reaching out to them individually to better their needs so that we all stay connected. Over the year, Ms. Morgan has also worked with Diane Boyd on monthly events for seniors entitled the Bamboo Lounge.

1. **CHAIR:** Shelley Morgan

8. [Youth Committee](#)

The Youth Committee is charged with organizing events for kids and young adults. The Committee will reach out to youth in various ways to better their needs, to stay connected and to create events.

1. **CHAIR:** Jade Parkinson-Gayle

9. [Election & Nomination Committee](#)

The Elections & Nominations Committee is charged with managing the nomination of candidates for elections and for managing the yearly election process.

1. **CHAIR:** Molly Young

[STAFF \(2021-22\)](#)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Diane Boyd,
<i>Managing Director
(began Jan. 2022)
Executive Assistant to the
President (began Jan. 2022)
Director, Banquet, Bar &
Compliance Services
(began June 2021)</i> | 2. Kim Payton
<i>Coordinator, Programs and
Services (began July 2020)</i> | 3. Donna-Angella Stewart
<i>Coordinator, Au Futur & Footsteps
Program (began May 2022)</i> |
| 4. Elsa Mizero
<i>Teacher, French Beginner &
Intermediate Courses</i> | 5. Claudia Miranda
<i>Teacher, French Beginner &
Intermediate Courses</i> | 6. Amritha Sanmugam
<i>Teacher, English as a Second
Language</i> |
| 7. Gary Matthews
<i>Teacher, Computers</i> | 8. Shari Castello
<i>Zoom Technical & Online
Class Assistant</i> | 9. Shilove Lauwers
<i>Food Bank Coordinator</i> |
| 10. Hazel Williams
<i>Food Bank Coordinator</i> | 11. Kenneth Warren
<i>Food Bank Coordinator</i> | 12. Shiane Johnson
<i>Footsteps Coordinator
(began Sept. 2021)</i> |



13. Susan Hamilton
*Coordinator, Au Futur
Program (left Dec. 2021)*

16. Lisa Morris
Bartender

19. Winston Richards
Chef

14. Ariel Marshall
Casual employee

17. Laury Rosembert,
*Project Assistant, Canada
Summer Jobs*

20. Keisha Wilson
Bar Manager

15. Reta Campbell
Bartender

18. Erika Ryan
*Project Assistant,
Canada Summer Jobs*

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

We enjoy good working relationships with a cross section of community and institutional partners for the various activities that take place at the Association. These are our current partners and collaborators with whom we have had many activities whether attending events & meetings, working together on projects, or supporting each other in several ways.

1. Moisson Montréal

4. CKUT 90.3 FM

7. Cummings Centre

10. Centre Universitaire Intégrée de
Santé Sociaux de l'Ouest de l'Île
(CIUSSS)

13. Direction Régionale de Santé
Publique (Montréal Public
Health)

16. Corporation de développement
communautaire de Côte-des-
Neiges (*CDC de CDN*)

19. Heberjeune

22. Welcome Collective

25. MiniBiblioplus

28. Kane and Fetterly Funeral
Home

2. Collège Frontière
(renamed *United for
Literacy*)

5. Maison d'Haïti

8. Concordia University

11. Frontline Restaurant

14. Black Mental Health
Connections

17. Table de Familles CDN

20. Elizabeth House

23. The Diet Dispensary of
Montreal

26. West Can Folk
Performing Company

29. Centre for Research-
Action on Race
Relations (CRARR)

3. Community Contact
Newspaper

6. Black Community Resource
Centre (BCRC)

9. Caribbean Coalition Network
of Montreal (Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados,
Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent & the
Grenadines)

12. Carib Patties Restaurant

15. Women Aware

18. Batshaw Family Services

21. Maison Transitionnelle 03

24. La Maison Bleue

27. Gaps Vies

30. B'Nai Brith Canada



31. What a Gwaan National – weekly facebook show on all things Jamaican

32. MTL Bagel

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
<i>Food Bank</i> | 2. Agnes Faustin
<i>Food Bank</i> | 3. Carlene Clarke
<i>Tax Clinic</i> |
| 4. Andy Tonta
<i>Tax Clinic</i> | 5. Andrew Mckay
<i>Events</i> | 6. Sharon da Silva
<i>Dutch Pot, Au Futur</i> |
| 7. Christophe Lewis
<i>Events</i> | 8. Michelle Reid
<i>Events</i> | 9. Clifford Dolphy
<i>Events</i> |
| 10. Yvette Bailey
<i>Events</i> | 11. Angela Campbell
<i>Events</i> | 12. And many more ... |

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Our 6 programs include:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Au Futur | 2. Footsteps | 3. Adult Basic Education |
| 4. Brilliant Minds | 5. Food Bank | 6. Tax Preparation |

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, 2021, there were 23 women in this program. Ms. Hamilton has helped many women over her time working for the Jamaica Association. In December 2021, Ms. Hamilton left the Association after more than 7 years working with us. After many months of searching, Donna-Angella Stewart was hired in May 2022.

Ms. Stewart created a quick rapport with many of the women over a short time where she got to know them and vice versa. Ms. Stewart also went to different meetings to represent the Association at the CDC de CDN, the Table de Familles, the Refuge Centre among others.

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:

There were some workshops planned but it was not possible complete them as Ms. Stewart was off work due to a medical matter from late August to September 2022.

CONTINUED STEPS TO REVAMPING THE PROGRAM

In early August 2022, there was a graduation ceremony held where 8 women graduated from the program. A small ceremony and reception were held where only one individual was present; nonetheless, certificates of completion were created for each graduating member as well as speeches given by the President, 1st Vice President, Managing Director and the Coordinator for the Au Futur Program.

By September 2022, there were 15 women in the program. We are now recruiting those who fit the profile of the program.

Table 2 – List of women in the Au Futur program

TERM	WOMEN
October 2021	23
September 2022	15



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, 2021, there were 20 children registered in the program. Sue Hamilton indicated that she could no longer coordinate this portion of the program as of August 2021.

In September 2021, the activities were resumed online using Zoom with approximately 5 to 9 children, above 5 years old tuning in each week for activities. Along with Shiane Johnson, Coordinator, there is a paid educator that is provided through our partner Corporation de développement communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges (*CDC de CDN*). Shiane Johnson was hired to be the Coordinator in September 2021 but could no longer continue as of January 2022. 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 and, Etobicoke.

This now online program was offered on Saturdays from 1 pm to 3pm over the period of October 2021 to September 2022. The program consisted of children doing reading exercises, drawings, sharing stories, focusing on mindfulness and other fun activities. To keep the programming fresh and as COVID was still a concern, we kept the online portion but also worked collaboratively with the Joujouthèque de Cote des Neiges starting in January 2022 where we had online and in-person sessions. At the beginning we had over 30 kids in both formats but there were fluctuations from week to week depending on weather and other factors. In the summer, some activities took place in Romeo Charette Park where there were between 3 and 5 kids and their parents. We also held one outing to Parc Safari with over 43 participants on July 30, 2022.

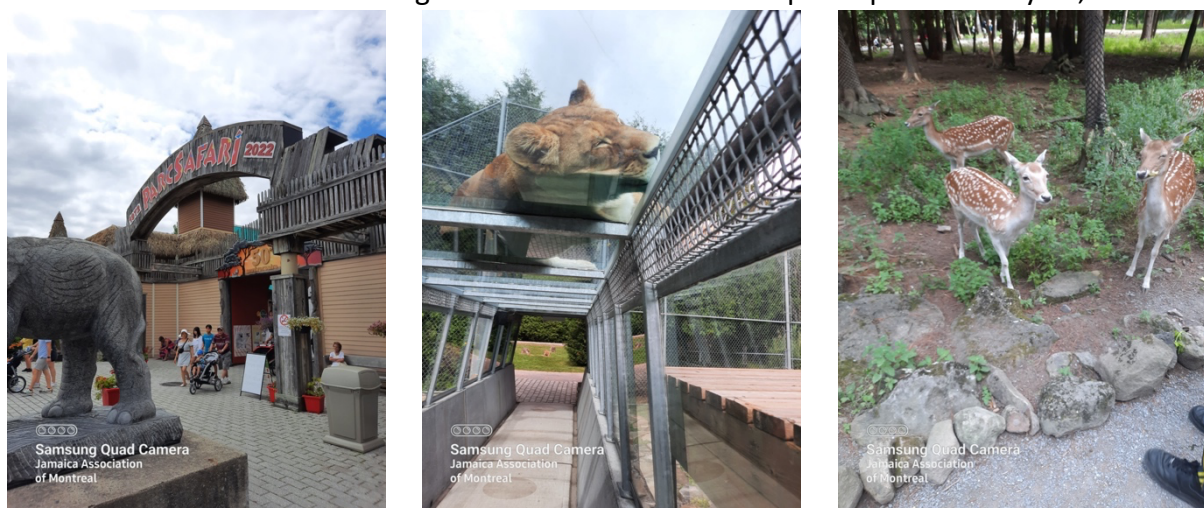


Figure 3 Visit to Parc Safari on July 30, 2022

The number of children varied over time, but we noted a decrease in participation from fall 2021 to 2022 for both in person and online. The same was true for our partner who had fluctuations in their in-person attendance. Some children & parents were no longer interested in the online format.

As of September 2022, there were 10 children in the program, and we no longer partnered with the Joujoutheque as the educator was no longer able to support both online and in person weekly events.

Table 3 – List of children in the Footsteps program

TERM	STUDENTS
October 2021	20
September 2022	10

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 among others. As a result of the pandemic, and a poll done by users of this service, courses remained in the Zoom format online during the 2021-22 year.

The French Beginner, French Intermediate, Computer class and English as a Second Language courses were once again offered. This time however, we offered, a course on money management and budgeting entitled “Money Works”. We partnered with the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) through their representative named Darine Haddad.

It was observed that while there was Zoom fatigue, students were still very engaged in taking course with a total of 51 students being registered in classes, a decrease by 29 over the previous year. This decrease is due in part to fact that there were 23 more people registered in the French Conversation class offered in the previous year and that class was not offered this year. The number of weeks of each course remained at 8 weeks which was appreciated by students and teachers alike.

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



Table 4 – List of classes and registrants – Adult Basic Education registrations

NAME OF COURSE	DESCRIPTION	REGISTRATION
French Beginner <i>Offered Fall 2021 and Winter 2022</i>	The course is divided into three parts. This course introduces students to speaking, reading, writing, and listening in French.	Fall – 9 Winter – 10 Total: 19
Intermediate French <i>Offered Fall 2021 and Winter 2022</i>	This course builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in French Beginner	Fall – 9 Winter – 9 Total: 18
Computer Literacy for Beginners <i>Offered Fall 2021 & Spring 2022</i>	This course focused on improving computer skills for participants as well as to reduce anxiety about using computers.	Fall – 4 Spring – 3 Total: 7
Money Works <i>Offered Spring 2022</i>	A course on money and how it works in collaboration with Royal Bank of Canada	Spring – 6 Total: 6
English as a Second Language <i>Offered Spring 2022</i>	This is a Basic English course that introduces non-English speakers to writing, speaking, listening, and reading in English.	Winter – 1 Total: 1
	TOTAL STUDENTS	51

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). During the fall of the 2021 school year, there 20 students on the list of participants. We maintained the online tutoring session even though Frontier College was on a gradual process to return to in-person tutoring. We opted to keep the online and as a result, the Tuesday night Homework Club sessions were created to allow for one evening where tutors meet their respective tutees in online breakout rooms for between 45 mins to 60 mins. This process was a success and we saw and increase in the Winter term.

We also adopted the program to make it a Jamaica Association program that is operated out of the Association and no longer with Frontier College. We were also looking for our own tutors as Frontier College had faced recruiting issues.

Table 5– List of students & adults in the Brilliant Minds program

TERM	STUDENTS
Fall 2021	20: children & adults
Winter & Spring 2022	26: 22 children & 4 adults
TOTAL	46 students



As usual, before the holidays in 2021, we received a generous donation of books for children who are in the program. We are truly thankful for this kind gesture.

With respect to the vocational aspect, it has been a challenge to integrate over Fall 2021. A meeting was held with Andrew Henry, representative for the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB) to partner with PACC in Lasalle. While there was a visit in April by Sharon Nelson to see the facilities and the potential programs for potential candidates, setting up a date and time to offer information sessions proved difficult. This was because there were staffing changes at PACC. The matter was revisited with new staff members, and we look forward to making this partnership more concrete in the 2022-23 year.

5. [Food Bank](#)

As of October 1, 2021, 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 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. We maintained the same protocols used previously to continue to respect physical distancing and safety of workers, volunteers, and clients. In 2021-22 we continued to use the mobile ventilator for COVID and other pathogens. It was placed in the stairwell to ensure clean ventilated air while clients waited. We also purchased a second machine from fund from the food bank to be placed in the work area for additional precaution.

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, 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 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 over 400 people who received their card, 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 6 –List of monthly visits to the Food Bank

MONTH	MONTHLY VISITS (2021 – 2022)	MONTH	MONTHLY VISITS (2022)
OCTOBER 2021	134	APRIL	185
NOVEMBER	106	MAY	193
DECEMBER	125	JUNE	238
JANUARY 2022	86	JULY	203
FEBRUARY	131	AUGUST	185
MARCH	220	SEPTEMBER	241
TOTAL	2047 visits over the year		

We continue to see a steady increase in the number of clients as shown in Table 5, an increase of approximately 22% over last year. 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 2022, the Hunger Count metric showed the Food Bank was assisting more than 300 people (including persons within families) for that month alone.

Senior members of the organization continue to have the service of home delivery if they use the food bank. A system was developed 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 continue to 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 **Mary Nelson and Yaros Lychvich**, who donate financially to the food bank on a continuous basis. We also mention **Glen Spence**, owner of MTL Bagel located on Westminster Ave. in Montreal, who over the past year, has donated thousands of bagels to help feed those in need. There are many other donors and anonymous donors who sincerely give from the heart and who we thank profusely for their generosity.



6. [Tax Clinic 2022](#)

The tax clinic service was available for the 2021 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 continued to use the protocols during COVID 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 17 registrants of which 11 submitted all their tax documents and their files were completed. We had 2 tax volunteers, Carlene Clarke, a member of the Jamaica Association, Andy Tonta, CPA. We intend to continue this program and partnerships in the upcoming years.

Table 7 – List of participants in the Tax Clinic

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS	COMPLETED FILES
17	11

SERVICES

1. [Banquet Hall Rental – The Noel Alexander Banquet Hall](#)

Over the fiscal year, there were approximately **30 rental events** in the hall that included both large and small and public and private events. Since last year, this represents an increase in 23 events over the year. This is one way to self-finance activities at the Association.

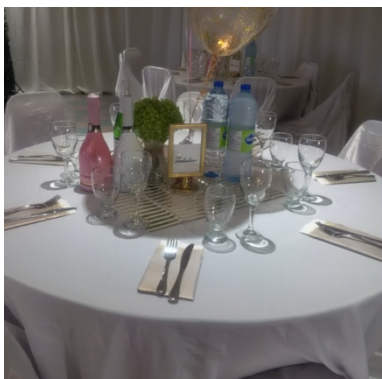


Figure 4: Banquet Hall Set Ups

2. [Information, Referral, & Jamaican Document Services](#)

The Association continues to offer services to our members and the community large. Throughout the year we assisted with providing application forms for Permanent Resident cards, Jamaican and Canadian Passport forms as well other documents that people had difficulty accessing or completing. Kim Payton, Coordinator of Programs and Services, who joined the Association in July 2020. She had created a 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 2021-22

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

b. J.A.M. How to Documents uploaded to the website

A series of step-by-step guides were updated and can be found on our website:

1. Jamaica - Passport Application Process for Jamaica
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 added to the directory of services that was created.

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

The Jamaica Association became official partners of the YMCA Community Service program again were individuals had to first register with that organization before being assigned to do community work at the Association.

There were **3 participants** in the Community Work Program through the YMCA and no youth participants in the Alternative Justice Program this year.

4. Licensed Bar – Negril Bar

The Association's Bar is named "Negril". In this fiscal year, the use of security measures and a guard were maintained. Based on guidelines, measures set by the government for contact tracing, temperature verification and checking vaccination passports were also observed. At one point, there was a limit to the number of people allowed in the establishment. In January 2022, there was a partial closure as the Omnicron variant was rampant and a threat to the population. Once regulations were relaxed, the hours of operation returned to normal hours whereby opening as at 9 pm and closing at 3 am. This service allows for self-financing activities.





Figure 5: Negril Bar

5. Licensed Restaurant – Opening of Cool Runnings Restaurant

In April 2022, we revamped the restaurant and rebranded it. In the past, the restaurant, that was named “The Jerk Pit” was rented to individuals that would pay a fee to the Association. This year, the Board opted to create another revenue stream that was wholly operated by the Association. The Soft Launch took place on Saturday, April 9, 2022. After ascertaining the viability, the Grand Opening was held on Saturday May 28, 2022 where there were official invites sent to municipal politicians, members of the Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal, elected officials and to our Members and Friends. Winston Richards, also known as Pick, was hired as the chef, and the name of the restaurant was changed to “Cool Runnings Restaurant”. Mr. Richards is a well-known chef in Montreal’s community as he has been cooking for over 30 years. He was a chef before at the Association before and had his own restaurant; furthermore, his food is appreciated by many. He has a large client base that the Board feels that his presence would be a benefit to the organization.

The initial hours of operation were Tuesdays to Wednesdays, 12 pm to 7 pm, Thursdays 12 pm to 5 pm due to the Seniors Hangout events, and Fridays to Saturdays 12 pm to 9 pm. However, after the postponement of the Seniors Hangout, the restaurant was open from noon to 7 pm on Thursday nights.

We introduced delivery with Doordash initially to be able to reach a wide audience who appreciate Jamaican food while catering to the different needs of the community.

A catering service is also available.



Figure 46 Flyer for the Restaurant



Figure 7: Image of Winston Richards, Chef

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 where the social activities offered on Fridays and Saturday nights 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.

NEW INITIATIVES IN 2021-2022

1. Dutch Pot

- a. This initiative began in August 2021 just before the start of the fiscal year. This event was initially every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month where we would have Jamaican breakfast served at the Association. This was an opportunity to have a space where patrons and friends can have Jamaican breakfasts on Sundays from 11 am to 3 pm as most Jamaican restaurants are closed. It was also another opportunity to have a new type of activity at the Association and to attract a new group of potential members who have not yet come to the Association. Over the course of the year, the frequency changed from twice a month to every 2nd month. Over the fiscal year, there have been 4 events. Between August & September 2021, there were 3 such events.

2. Senior's Hangout

- a. To connect with seniors and while we had activities through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, we began a weekly Thursday night event specifically geared for this demographic to break isolation particularly after confinement. Seniors were asked to wear masks while many had also been vaccinated. They socialized, played dominoes, listened to music and we had a chef in-house to prepare meals specifically for them at a minimal cost. These events began once

a week, from 4 pm to 9 pm on Thursday nights from late December 2021 until May 2022. Activities have been suspended until further notice.

3. Bamboo Lounge

- a. The Bamboo Lounge is a spin-off of the Senior’s Lounge where it is still geared toward the senior group. In this edition, seniors come together to do different activities that include painting, discussions, dancing, watching a Jamaican movie and the like. This is a monthly event at the beginning of each month. In this fiscal year and to date, there have been 5 events to date that were held in April, May and June, July, and August respectfully. The event would last between 2 and 3 hours once a month on the first Saturday of every month.

4. Linstead Market

- a. In Jamaica, there are many markets where people go to buy produce. The city of Linstead has a very important market, and it is even named in a popular Jamaican folklore song. The idea of having Linstead Market at the Jamaica Association is to offer members and friends certain produce that may not be as readily available in stores. This is another means to bring people into the Association to get to know us in a different way. This event would be held once a month on the first Saturday of each month for approximately 2 hours.



Figure 8- List of new initiatives in 2021-2022

GRANTS

1. New Horizons for Senior Program

We completed the 18-month grant received in May 2021 in the amount of \$25,000 in the year for 2021-2022. The table below show the

Table 8: List of activities and number of participants in the Senior Program

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: 15

2. Capacity Building

In April 2022, we received another \$15,000 from Groupe 3737 in addition to the \$30,000 that was already received the year prior (April 2021). This additional amount was to hire a professional and purchase needed items to assist the board in continuing to build the organization. The initial sum of \$30K was received in April 2021 and much of that money was allocated to the activities and items submitted to Groupe 3737 in the grant proposal. This 18-month program ended in October 2022.

3. Canada Summer Job

In Spring 2022, we were awarded a grant for approximately \$10,000 for the Canada Summer Job program; however, we spent under \$8,000. This past summer, it was hard to find young people to work. This problem was not unique to the Association but felt across all spectrums where it was hard for employers to find workers. Nonetheless, after searching, two young people, Erika Ryan and Laury Rosembert, were

employed and worked on updating the information of entrepreneurs in JABOP as well as finding potential new companies to add to the list. Both mandates lasted 6 weeks respectfully.

HOURS OF OPERATION, STAFFING & IMPACTS OF COVID-19

- Office hours:** Mondays to Fridays 10 am to 6 pm
limited to online and by phone only initially but when restrictions were lifted, clients were allowed to enter the Association.
- Food Bank:** Thursdays 10 am to 5 pm
Fridays 2pm to 5 pm
limited access to the facility clients had to remain on the landing and food items were brought to them
- Social gatherings** Fridays & Saturdays 9 pm to 3 pm after restrictions were lifted.
Strict protocols remained in place for these events

In October 2021, we had 2 full time office staff which included Kim Payton, Coordinator of Programs and Services, and Susan Hamilton, Coordinator for the Au Futur program only, as Susan Hamilton had ceased coordinating the Footsteps Program in August 2021. During the fall months, both employees worked from the office but continued to have zoom and phone meetings with clients. Sue Hamilton announced that she would leave the Jamaica Association as of December 2021 to launch her start-up.

Starting in July 2021, Diane Boyd worked part time as the Director for the Bar and Banquet; however, by January 2022, she became the Managing Director overseeing staff and working with the Human Resource Chair. Also in that same month, she became a full time staff where part of her time is spent on the Bar, Banquet, and newly added Compliance role while the second half of her time she was the Managing Director. Additionally, she was tasked with being the Executive Assistant to the President where she managed the President’s schedule among other duties. In all these roles she reports directly to the President.

As of April 2022, Winston Richards became the full time chef. While full-time staff worked the office, we had 16 part time staff working in various capacities as previously outlined.

MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMS, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & PARTICIPATION

Over the course of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, we noted another 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, there were less registrants in the Adult Basic Education Program, but the retention rate remained high.



The same is also true for membership, there was renewal of membership and approximately an increase of **11% new members** added to our list, as such we currently have a total membership of **354 people** as of September 30, 2022.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Website

As of September 30, 2022 ,we have high traffic with over **12,000 views**. The analytics show over **98% rating for the website**.

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

<https://jam-montreal.com>

2. Facebook

As of September 30, 2022, there were over **700 members** in the group and there were over **230 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

As of September 30, 2022, there were over **460 followers**.

Page address: @jamaicaassociationmontreal

ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Over the course of the year, the Jamaica Association continues its role in advocating for the community and there have been several radio and TV interview with Mark Henry, President and Sharon Nelson, 1st Vice President including radio (CBC, CJAD, and CKUT) and TV (CTV news, Global News & City News) interviews.

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 15 hours as of October 1, 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. In 2022, we now collaborate on the Lay Volunteer Committee for the Cummings Centre.



MENTAL HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFE SEX

In this year, we continue our role in 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 two and a half years 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.

SHARING RESOURCES

Over the past year, our collaboration with many groups has grown, including the Montreal Caribbean Coalition Network. Seven Caribbean islands are part of the group currently: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As part of our work to support each other, and outside of the Black History Month and Emancipation events, the Association has offered free use of its facilities for members' meetings. If they are hosting an event outside of a membership meeting, we offer a minimal flat rate for use of the space.

When other organizations need help or assistance, we also make ourselves available to help them in the most meaningful way possible either in time or donations when we can.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year, we participate in many activities outside the Jamaica Association to support and encourage community involvement at all levels. These events are both social and community based, particularly with the member organizations of the Montreal Caribbean Coalition Network, but also with B'Nai Brith Canada, CRARR as well as with all levels of government and with the Jamaican government and more. When we can, we donate resources, time and materials to organizations as needed. We have continued to work with the Regional Public Health Department on health issues within the Black communities of Montreal. In addition, we are also collaborating with the <<Black Opportunity Fund>> in their health care group.

On August 27, 2022, we were proud to participate in the Filipino community's Fiesta Extravaganza as well as the Bangladeshi community's Bangla Mela. The following day, we also participated in the Afro World Parade.





August 27, 2022
Participation with the Philippino Community



August 27, 2022
Participation with the Bangladeshi Community



August 28, 2022
Participation in the AfroWorld parade at the Old Port of Montreal

Figure 9- Participation with Community Organizations 2021-2022

SOCIAL & ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

(October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022)

In addition to the monthly meetings of the board, executive team, committees, and program activities there were many social activities. Overall, there were approximately 100 events on the calendar this year some of which are listed below. This list does not include the numerous parties that were held over the course of the year along with several organization meetings that were attended.

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 continued pandemic, many of the events held were in a hybrid format that accommodated both online and in person sessions. Additionally, many events were free of charge.



2021 – 2022 EVENTS

Table 9 – list of scheduled and completed events over the fiscal year.

October 2021 (11 events)	November 2021 (6 events)	December 2021 (8 events)
1. Every Friday night: Social, games and DJs * (October to September)	1. BOARD MEETING: 7 PM (TUES, .Nov. 10, 2020)	1. Annual General Meeting and Board Elections * December 11, 2021 (30 in person, 25 online)
2. Senior’s Lounge (October to December, every Thursday)	2. MEMBERS’ MEETING: Saturday, November 14, 2020	2. Women Auxiliary Putting up the Christmas tree, Sunday, December 4 (4)
3. BBQ for Anthony Housefather’s election win, Sharon Nelson represented the Association, Sunday October 3	3. Preparation for the Annual General Meeting	3. Walk for Jannai-Dopwell Bailey, Sunday December 4
4. BOARD MEETING: 7 PM (TUES, .Oct ??, 2021)	4. Sharon Nelson Guest speaker on CRARR’s forum for CURE and racism in schools, twice in the month	4. Guest speaker on CRARR’s forum for CURE and racism in schools
5. MEMBERS’ MEETING: Saturday, Oct. , 2021	5. Honouring Marvin Rotrand, Wednesday November 24 with Caribbean Coalition at the Jamaica Association	5. CBC News show Daybreak, Dec. 6 with Sean Henry on Food Banks and looking forward to 2022 with projected rise in food costs
6. Heroes Banquet 2021 * Sat., Oct. 16 * honoured Hazel Williams, Kenneth Warren, Christopher Thompson, Brad Collinson, Rodrick Rodney, & Tenicha Gittens, Concordia female basketball coach	6. MTL Bagel event with Glen Spence, Owner, Brilliant Minds, Vocational Training event, Nov. 24 online	6. CBC news show with Steven Rubinski regarding QCGN letter that various groups signed regarding Historic anglophones
7. Women’s Auxiliary Walk on Mont Royal, Oct 24 (10 participants)		7. Guest speaker with Women Aware regarding the Jamaica Association’s Au Futur Program
8. Marvin Rotrand’s retirement event, Bangladeshi Community at Dollar Cinema, Sharon represented the Jamaica Association		8. Games night December 18 (100 people)
9. Women’s Auxiliary and Caribbean Coalition event regarding Russell Parkway’s book “Jam Run” (October 30), 10 people online)		
10. Friday Night Games Night (80 people), Oct. 29		
11. Masquerade party Social Committee, October 30		
		ASSOCIATION CLOSED FROM THURSDAY DECEMBER 23, 2021 TO WEDNESDAY JAN 5, 2022 Due to Omicron variant, government guidelines dictate work from home until Jan. 17, 2022
January 2022 (10 events)	February 2022 (7 events)	March 2022 (3 events)



1. Strategic meeting, Jan. 16, 2022 in person at the Association.
2. interview with CBC Morning Break about food bank
3. interview with CBC about covid tax for unvaccinated
4. interview with CBC about rise inflation and what this would mean for food bank
5. repairs and rearrangements at the Jamaica Association include food bank, and main hall, upgrade of the social committee room, and other spaces
6. Medwina's session with the Au Futur program on Hair, Jan 28 at 11 am 1 participant, 3 registered
7. Coalition meeting with members of each group
8. Footsteps program started on January 8 with 3 students
9. on Jan 15, Footsteps program made a collaboration with Association des Parents de Cote des Neiges to have more kids participants in the Saturday program
10. Taping of Bob Marley Tribute at the Association, January 29 starting at 2 pm

April 2022 (13 events)

1. Seniors Hangout (Thur, 3 pm to 9 pm)
2. OverProof Fridays (Fridays)
3. Versatile Saturdays (Saturdays)
4. Bamboo Lounge – Saturday, April 2
5. Cool Runnings Kick off – **April 9** with Resident Chef Winston Richards (Pick)

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. Bob Marley – online tribute Feb 5 at 8 pm online streaming on www.sharetheshock.com
6. Reggae Symposium with Jamaican High Commission – February 26, 2022
7. Celebrating Caribbean Heroes and Heroines – Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal – Sunday, Feb. 27

May 2022 (10 events)

1. Seniors Hangout (Thurs, 3 pm to 9 pm)
2. OverProof Fridays (Fridays)
3. Versatile Saturdays (Saturdays)
4. New Horizon Lunch and staff appreciation – Sunday, May 1
5. Bamboo Lounge – Saturday, May 7
6. Dutch Pot Brunch – Sunday, May 15

1. OverProof Friday Night (Fridays)
2. Versatile Saturday (Saturdays)
3. Games Night (3rd Friday)

June 2022 (3 events)

1. BOARD MEETING; 7 PM (TUES)
2. Members' meeting
3. FATHER'S DAY Brunch – Sunday, June 17
4. St. Jean Baptiste Holiday BBQ – June 24 (75 people outside and in-person)



6. Building Fund Raffle – Friday, April 15 – (Draw 8 pm – 9 pm, George Grant)
7. Games Night - Friday, April 15
8. Easter Dutch Pot Brunch - April 17
9. Audley Coley Book Launch – April 21
10. Members’ Meeting – Saturday, April 23
11. Coalition Network of Montreal – Sunday April 24
12. Let’s Talks about Sex, Pt 1 - April 27 for Youth
13. Jamaica Association participated in Barbados celebration
7. Mother’s Day Walking Tour – Sunday, May 15
8. Games Night - Friday, May 20
9. Members’ Meeting – Saturday, May 21
10. Tribute to the Greats: Past & Present with the Uprising Band - Saturday, May 28

July 2022 (10 events)

1. Canada Day BBQ in Martin Luther King Park with Cool Runnings Restaurant - July 1
2. Bamboo Lounge, an event for seniors - July 2
3. Linstead Market - July 9
4. renovations to the stairs began - July 11
5. Games Night at the Association - July 15
6. Sharon J. Miller, High Commissioner for Jamaica in Canada had an official visit with us at the Jamaica Association of Montreal – July 22
7. A representative attended Archdeacon James Bennett's appreciation and retirement at the Hampton Inn - July 23
8. A representative took part in the Grenada Nationals Association of Montreal's (GNAM) Day at Angrignon Park - July 24
9. The Association was invited to a reception at Groupe 3737 offices received an award from Groupe 3737 for our high performance as an organization – July 25
10. Emancipation event with Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal on rums in the Caribbean – July 31

August 2022 (10 events)

1. Independence Day Celebration Pt1 (3 events) 1)collaboration with Youth in Motion, 2)held a Jamaica Independence BBQ at the Association, & 3) had a collaboration with Rastafest for a reggae concert at the Association - August 6
2. August 7 – I Independence Day Celebration Pt2 (3 events): 1) church service at Montreal West church of God, 2) Private independence lunch, 3) gospel concert - August 7
3. The Jamaica Association of Montreal Team, Programs and Services are featured in the August 8th edition of the online version of the North American Gleaner
4. Jamaica Day 2022 at Martin Luther King Park - August 20th
5. members of the Jamaica Association board attended community events of our community allies. In the morning, we were pleased to be with members of the Filipino

September 2022 (7 events)

1. Jamaica Association attended at the B'Nai Brith press conference on the wearing of religious symbols worn by police forces across Canada except in Quebec. – September 8
2. Completion of the front entrance with new tiles, fresh paint, and decor
3. Jamaica Association Participation in YULRumFest with Caribbean Coalition Network – September 17
4. member’s meeting - Sat. Sept. 17
5. Official visit by **Senator the Honourable Leslie Campbell** has been **postponed** to another date later in the year. – September 18
6. Games Night – September 23, 2022
7. End of fiscal year – September 30



community at Fiesta Extravaganza
at McKenzie King Park - On
Saturday, August 27

6. in the afternoon, we were at the
Bangla Mela with members of the
Bangladeshi community at Martin
Luther King Park - On Saturday,
August 27
7. participation in the AfroMonde
parade at the Old Port of
Montreal - August 28

Overproof Fridays & Versatile Saturdays

October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

The Overproof Friday is a weekly social gathering on Friday nights from 9 pm to 3 am. On Friday night, the kitchen, where we have Ian Nelson who sells food from Cool Runnings restaurant and pays us for the use of the space, and the bar were open. We have a contingent of 4 DJ's that include Terrence Wright (Fire T) , Eric Smith (G. Flex), Royan White (King Pharrrie), and Anthony Reid (DJ Tony), are present on a rotational basis and play a variety of music styles and genres. In this year two other DJs were added that include Nicolas Ross (DJ Nicolas) and Cecile Oliver (DJ Savage). This social activity is to garner additional funds for the Association outside of funding agencies.

During the more intense part of COVID, 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. While the vaccine passport is no longer needed, we maintain the use of the security guard and hiring more when needed for special events.



What-a-Gwaan National Show & Jamaica Association involvement

In late 2021, President Mark Henry, was approached by Donovan Simon, then President of the Jamaican Canadian Association of Calgary to partner with Associations across Canada for a weekly show on topics concerning Jamaica, its culture, and people among others. After an initial meeting with several Association Presidents, this National initiative began in February 2022 and ran for 9 months. The production team consisted of Association representatives from Alberta (Calgary & Edmonton), Manitoba (Winnipeg), Ontario (Toronto) and Quebec (Montreal). Each week, this team worked on acquiring hosts and creating content for the show online that is broadcast on YouTube, and Facebook. We are proud to say that the Jamaica Association took part in the creation of this important initiative.

Link to the show: <https://whatagwaan.ca/>

Topics	Topics
<p>February</p> <p>Black History Month</p> <p>LAUNCH: The Importance of Celebrating our Modern Day Black Champions</p> <p>Racial Profiling and Policing Practices have grown in people's - BLM movement and same the cause</p> <p>The Economic and Civic influence of Jamaicans' in the diaspora</p> <p>March</p> <p>Challenges of being Black woman</p> <p>Let's Talk Mental Health & the Importance of Self Care</p> <p>How do you think individuals, institutions and mainstream society justifies oppression in our culture?</p> <p>April</p> <p>Environmental sustainability: maintaining and managing our hidden treasures in Jamaica</p> <p>Easter traditions in Jamaica</p> <p>Holiday - NO SHOW</p> <p>Becoming Environmental Stewards</p> <p>Jamaicans and Dancing - International Dance Day</p> <p>May</p> <p>Motherhood: the good, the bad and the ugly</p> <p>Freedom of the Press and its influence in our society</p> <p>Labour Day in Jamaica</p> <p>Literacy- Promoting literary culture in Canada within our black population</p> <p>June</p> <p>Meeting with Global Jamaica Diaspora Council Reps</p> <p>Supporting Black Entrepreneurs in Canada</p>	<p>July</p> <p>Canada Day - NO SHOW</p> <p>Pan-Africanism</p> <p>Same the cause of Blacks in Canada?</p> <p>Caribbean Festivals in Canada</p> <p>August</p> <p>Jamaican 60 Yr. Independence - Severing colonial ties</p> <p>Festival Songs</p> <p>Jamaican Culture in Canadian Politics</p> <p>60 years old - What next for Jamaica?</p> <p>September</p> <p>The healthcare system in Jamaica</p> <p>Policing: A look from both sides</p> <p>Education and its place in national development</p> <p>Making Jamaica "clean" again</p> <p>Seniors - dealing with the aging process</p> <p>October</p> <p>Spirituality: What role has it played?</p> <p>Cancer Awareness - Breast & Prostate Cancer</p> <p>Jamaica Heroes - who should be a national hero?</p> <p>Finale</p>



Fatherhood: the good, the bad and the ugly
 Why you came to Canada?

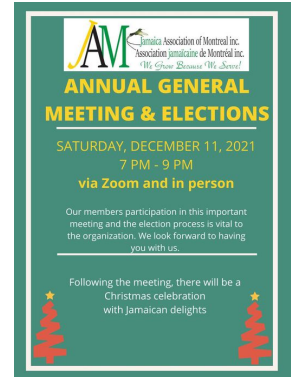
THE YEAR IN IMAGES



OCTOBER 2021 - Heroes Banquet Event & Official Launch of Noel Alexander Banquet Hall



NOVEMBER 2021 – Honouring Marvin Rotrand



DECEMBER 2021 – Annual General Meeting 2021



JANUARY 2022 – Hair care with Medwina



FEBRUARY 2022 – Reggae Symposium



MARCH 2022 – Games Night





APRIL 2022 - Restaurant



MAY 2022 – Appreciation Lunch for New Horizon Program and Staff



JUNE 2022 - Father's Day event



JULY 2022 – Canada Day



AUGUST 2022 – Jamaica Day



SEPTEMBER 2022 – YUL RumFest

Figure 10 The year in images 2021-2022

CONCLUSION

This report covers the true activities of the Jamaica Association from October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022. 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, and for whom we are very happy to serve.

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



