

FALL 2021 EDITION

FALL 2021 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Inside This Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 1 About Us
- 1 Recap of the Heroes & Heroine Day Event
- 2 **Features:**
 - a) Noel Alexander
 - b) Banquet Hall
- 3 Dutch Pot Brunch
- 3 **Heroes & Heroine Day**
- 3 Notices & Focus
- 4 Events (Oct. – Dec.)
- 4 Programs & Services

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 Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels. We are a member of the United Council for Human Rights and 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.

Editor: **Sharon Nelson**
 Contact: sharon.nelson@jam-montreal.com



Mark Henry, President

Members and Friends of the Jamaica Association,

On behalf our Board of Directors, I hope that you and your family members are doing well. We trust that you are all continuing to be safe from the ravages of the virus and are taking measures to will keep you and your loved COVID free. I continue to urge all those who have not yet taken the vaccine, to research information that will assist you in making the best decision for you and your loved ones.

Our organization continues to follow mandatory government restrictions, including the requirement of the vaccine passports to attend our indoor events.

During our last quarter (July to September), we held several events that we, and many others, deemed successful. This includes the joint Caribbean Coalition Network of Montreal event to commemorate Emancipation.

Several Caribbean Prime Ministers and government officials along with academics participated. We also had a building fund fundraiser entitled the Lion and the Lamb. This concert was billed as were gospel meets dancehall was well received. It was held at the Association with a limited number of attendees but was later rebroadcasted via Zoom to reach a wider audience.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in these, and other events, through your contributions and / or attendance. Your continued support is critical in determining the directions we move forward.

On September 10, we were made aware of the passing of Mr. Noel Alexander one of our former Presidents. He was a stalwart and community champion, who led the Jamaica Association for 34 years. He has left a legacy that has impacted members in the Jamaican community in Montreal and across Canada, for a very long time. We are committed to making sure that he is remembered through the Association which he led for so many years. In so doing, on October 16, the Montego Bay Banquet Hall was officially renamed to the Noel **Alexander Banquet Hall** in his memory.

We have stated the new fiscal year as of October 1. By the end of the quarter, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at which time, we will hold our General Elections for our membership to elect a new President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Directors.

We are encouraging those that are eligible and interested to vote and run for office, and to consider being a part of our team. If you have a certain skill set that you feel will be an asset to the organization, then I urge to answer the call for community duty. May the Lord bless and keep always.

“When all is said and done, and we’ve completed this journey we call life, what will matter most is not what we achieve — but rather who we have become.” (unknown)

Thank you!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Elections in December 2021

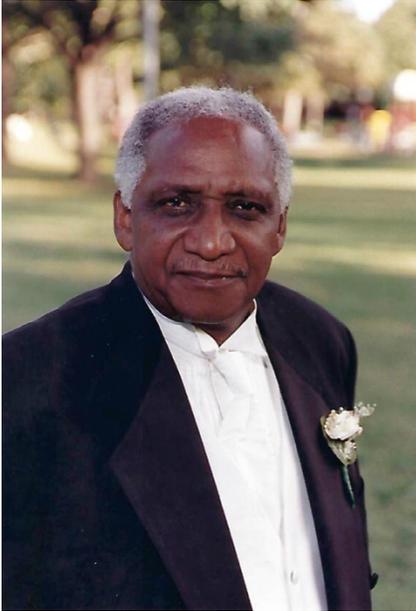
Eligible candidates are asked to call Mark Henry at 514-238-2659



Address: 4065 Jean Talon W., Montreal, Quebec, H4P 1W6 * **Phone:** (514) 737-8229

Email: info@jam-montreal.com * **Website:** <http://jam-montreal.com> * **Facebook:** : <https://www.facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal>
Instagram: @jamaicaassociationmontreal

OBITUARY OF NOEL ALEXANDER, OD



REMEMBERING Noel Alexander

I have been linked to him for many years. He involved me in so many ways to help to promote and defend the Association and the rights of Black people in Montreal. I remember him very fondly as an advocate for the people appearing on local radio stations, CBC and CJAD quite often.

Folks knew when he entered the centre especially with his signature words. One such phrase "a who a bell di cat" in other words, "who is buying a drink". His memory is imbedded in us into the far-off tomorrows – **Barry Danne**, Lifetime Member

Noel Earl Alexander passed away on September 10, 2021. He was born in Siloah, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica and immigrated to England in 1958 where he resided until he came to Canada in 1974.

Noel attended Harlow Technical College in England, Irish Management Institute in Dublin Ireland, and went on to study at City and Guilds London Institute in England where he earned a Welding Diploma. Once settled in Canada, Noel attended Concordia University, where he studied Applied Social Sciences.

His professional life included an apprenticeship at Appleton Estate in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. He was a junior machinist and welder at United Motors in Kingston, Jamaica as well as a technician at the University of the West Indies Chemical Technology Department. While in the UK, he was a fabricator, welder, and production engineer at Norwood Steel Equipment in England, which brought him to Canada, where he worked as a fabricator and welder at CAE Electronics in Montreal. His final position was as a fabricator and welder at Stelco Steel Company of Canada in Montreal.

While serving as the President of the Jamaica Association of Montreal Noel founded the Jamaica Day Festival in 1980, which is now celebrated worldwide. Dedicating 34 years to community work, Noel served as the President of the Jamaica Association of Montreal Inc from 1980 to 1986 and from 1988 to 2016.

Noel's hard work did not go unnoticed and was presented with the following awards. The Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada in 1992; The Order of Distinction from the Jamaica Government in 1997; Lifetime Achievement award from the Montreal Community Cares in 2014; Presented the Medal from the National Assembly in recognition for his exceptional contribution to the Quebecois Society in 2015; Dr. Clarence Bayne Community Service Award from the Black Theatre Workshop in 2015; Laureate for the Round Table on Black History Month 2016.

In addition to his tenure at the Jamaica Association of Montreal, Noel served on numerous boards across Montreal. Namely, Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, Miriam Home Board of Directors and served as a Partenaire Corporatif for the Black and Latino Community with the SPVM. Finally, Noel was one of the Founding members of the National Council of Jamaicans and Supportive Organizations in Canada where he served as the Vice-President for the Quebec Region, of which he was also the National President.

He leaves behind his children Audri, Paulette, Sandra, Christopher, Latoya, Noella and Kaela; Grandchildren Claudia, Rhys, and Elijah, Great-grand daughter Eden, sister Esmine, wife Molly, many nieces and nephews and other extended family.

FEATURE: RENAMING OF THE BANQUET HALL



Ribbon cutting ceremony after the announcement on the renaming of the Hall. Pictured here, front row (-) **George Grant**, Honourary Consul for Jamaica at Montreal, **Molly Young**, widow. Back row: **Diane Boyd** & members of the Board, **Clyde, Sharon, Alex, Keisha, Uton and Mark**

At the start of 2020, there were plans underway to hold an event in September to recognize the contributions of Mr. Alexander over this 34-year tenure as President of the Jamaica Association. During the year though, those plans changed to have an event in November, right after his birthday.

At one Board meeting, it was proposed and accepted that as part of that ceremony, that the name of the Hall be renamed to **The Noel Alexander Banquet Hall**. This decision was also shared with the membership at our September meeting to which there was positive feedback.

Given of Mr. Alexander's passing in September, it was then decided we could hold a posthumous a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Heroes & Heroine Day event as an appropriate way to pay tribute.



DUTCH POT BRUNCH

In the Fall and Winter months, the **Dutch Pot Brunch** will be held on the **3rd Sunday of each month**, starting in October 2021 until April 2022. Exceptionally in October, the Brunch will be held on Sunday, October 31 due to the many activities in the month of October.
 October theme: **Jamaican Hallowe'en**
 November theme: **Island Brunch**
 December theme: **Caribbean Christmas**

We look forward to having you with us!

HEROES & HEROINE DAY AND AWARD CELEBRATION RECAP!
Event held Saturday, October 16, 2021



Hazel Williams



Kenneth Warren



Brad Collinson



Christopher Thompson



Rodrick Rodney

Congratulations to all our honorees at the Heroes and Heroine Day & Award Celebration held on Saturday, October 16 at 7 pm. Honorees include **Hazel Williams, Kenneth Warren, Brad Collinson**, Concordia University Head Football Coach, **Christopher Thompson**, and **Rodrick Rodney**. **Tenicha Giffens (not pictured here)**, Concordia University Women's Basketball Coach was also honoured.

The evening was dedicated to honouring Jamaica's Heroes and Heroine. It was also an opportunity to thank all those who assisted us during the COVID-19 pandemic particularly in our Food Bank since last year to now. Rodrick Rodney received a special award for showing bravery in saving a man's life on the Decarie expressway in summer 2020.

Roen Higgins, Paris Boyd and **Zina Edwards** put on stellar performances in spoken word and song! We also had a wonderful dance rendition with **Diane Boyd** and **Audley Coley**. It was a fun and exciting evening!! More photos at facebook.com/jamaicaassociationmontreal

NOTICES

We send our love & **condolences to Sonia Millett-Robinson**, their families, and friends, at the passing her husband **Clifton Robinson of more than 20 years**. May he rest in peace.

In September 2021 Mrs. Una Moore celebrated her 100th birthday in style with family and friend – continued blessings to you Mrs. Moore!

COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

1. **Jamaica Association Business Owners & Professionals (JABOP)**, Molly Young
2. **Membership Committee**, Sharon Nelson
3. **Social Committee**, K. Wilson & A. Townsend
4. **Women's Auxiliary (WA)**, Sharon Nelson
5. **Building Committee**, Mark Henry
6. **Youth Committee**, Omar Ramus
7. **Senior Committee**, Audley Coley
8. **Elections Committee**, Ingrid Barrett

Call or email the JAM office: **514-737-8229** * info@jam-montreal.com

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

1. Preferred pricing on certain events
2. An updated membership card
3. Voting rights at the Annual General meetings
4. Contributing to the growth of our Association

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Sign the registry at all member's meetings
2. Update your contact information
3. **Pay your membership dues for the 2022 year** (Oct. 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2022)
4. Respect the rules of membership

UPDATED DUES & PAYMENT METHODS

1. Family **\$50** (2 children (under 17 yrs. old & 2 adults),
2. Adult **\$30** (18 - 59 yrs.)
3. Students **\$10** (12 -17 yrs.)
4. Seniors **\$10** (60+ yrs.)

Payment can be done using cash, cheque, or e-transfer to info@jam-montreal.com

Thanks to the management at **Kane & Fetterly** for your support!



OUR 6 PROGRAMS

- Au Futur Program (Young Mothers)**
 For women between **15 and 35** years old with one or more children. Click [here](#) for more information on this confidential service. Service offered online due to COVID-19 pandemic. *Cost: **FREE. (Federally Funded by Health Canada)** Contact: **Sue Hamilton**, Program Coordinator Cell: **438-499-8229**, aufuturprogram@gmail.com
- Footsteps Program**
 A [program](#) run on Saturdays from 1 pm to 3 pm for toddlers and children aged 0 to 9 yrs. old. Due to the pandemic, the program which is **online**, includes reading activities, arts, and crafts. There are qualified volunteers and an educator online to assist. Contact: **Shiane Johnson**, Coordinator, jamfootstepsprogram@gmail.com
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programs**
 We offer individual, as well as small classes with qualified & experienced teachers in a variety of subjects. Classes take place in the evenings with one-to-one tutoring also available. Per term registration fee gives access to all courses: **\$10.00. All ABE courses are offered online.** Contact **Kim Payton**, Coordinator of Programs and Services during office hours at jamprogramservices@jam-montreal.com to register for classes in the Winter term.
- Brilliant Minds Tutoring** for kids, high school students & adults. Tutors offer help with schoolwork and professionals offer career planning. Online sessions. This program is being revamped and will be launched in Fall 2021. Starting in fall 2021, we will have a special focus on **the trades** (plumbing, mechanic, food etc...) Contact **Kim Payton**
- Food Bank** in collaboration with Moisson Montréal. This community Food Bank is open **Thursdays (10 am to 5 pm) & Fridays (2 pm to 5 pm). ALL ARE WELCOME.** Open yearly: *January to December*, holiday notices posted as necessary. Registration: Mandatory. Cost: **\$5** per person. Call or email the Association for more information Registration and collection at the Association.
Note: *New arrivals to Canada and new users of the food bank are asked to call one day in advance.*
 Contact: **Kim Payton**
- Tax Preparation**
 We have launched our Jamaica Association Tax Clinic. The service is in collaboration with the Federal Government (CRA), the Provincial government (Revenu Quebec) and is free. Tax documents being accepted only in January 2022 until May 15, 2022. Contact: **TBA**, jamgovernmentsservices@gmail.com

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS

- Food Bank** Thurs. (10 – 5 pm) & Fri. (2 to 5 pm), \$5.00
- OverProof Friday nights** Fridays., 9 pm – 2 am
- Saturday Lounge** Saturdays., 9 pm – 2 am
- COVID Townhall** Thurs., Oct. 21, 7 pm
<https://covid19townhallpt2.eventbrite.ca>
- Members' Meeting** Sat., Oct. 23, 7 pm (Zoom)
- Seniors' Lounge**
starting Thurs., Oct. 28, from 2 pm to 8 pm
- Women's Auxiliary** Sun., Oct. 24, 11 am
Hiking on Mont Royal
- Bylaws Meeting with Counsellor** Thurs., Oct. 28, 7 pm
- Interview with Montreal Author, Russell Brooks**
Register:
<https://russellparkwaybookreading.eventbrite.ca>
Sat., Oct. 30, 7 pm (Zoom)
- Masquerade Party** Sat., Oct. 30, 9 pm, \$20
In collaboration with **Vince and Gouch**
- Dutch Pot Brunch** Sun., Oct. 31, 11 am – 3 pm
- Members' Meeting** Sat., Nov. 13, 7 pm (Zoom)
- Games Night** Fri., Nov. 12, 8 pm
- Travel to Jamaica** Nov. (TBA)
- Dutch Pot Brunch** Sun, Nov. 21, 11 am – 3 pm
- Annual General Meeting (AGM)**
Sat., Dec. 11, 7 pm (hybrid format, Zoom & in-person)
- Members' & Staff Xmas Brunch**
Sat. Dec. 18, time TBA
- JAM Office closure** Dec. 23, 2021 - Jan. 5, 2022

OUR 6 SERVICES

Office Hours: Mon – Fri.: 10 am to 6 pm * (514) 737-8229

WE ARE IN THE COVID-19 GREEN ZONE, RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IN EFFECT & VACCINATION PASSPORT NEEDED

- Documents** – Passports, Permanent Resident Card, Commissioner of Oaths (forms can be mailed to you)
- Space rental** for your small gatherings up to 50 persons. Special events (birthdays, private parties, baby showers, shows, etc... - includes tables & chairs (table & chair coverings extra)). Contact: **Diane Boyd**, jambarbanquet@gmail.com
- Community Service Program** – for persons needing to complete mandated community hours.
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
- Licensed Restaurant** – The Jerk Pit – Open Friday and Saturday evenings as of 9 pm to 2 am.
- Fully Licensed Bar** – Open Fridays as of 9 pm. Saturdays on certain occasions, for rentals for small gatherings (up to 50 persons).
- A fun & secure place to come together** to enjoy each other's company and friendships. **On FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS** (9 pm to 2 am)