



# Fall Newsletter



2021



## President's Message

The leadership role is really to build the riverbanks and let the water flow freely.

*Bonnie Brooks, vice-chairman of Hudson's Bay Company*

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Please welcome the 52nd president of the Women's Canadian Club of Hamilton, Louise Noel-Ambrose. A member of the Board for four years she previously served as our Media and Public Relations chair.

Louise has been an image of excellent leadership throughout the years she has worked and represented many communities and projects to make her local community and the City of Hamilton a much better place for women and their families to foster their growth and resilience. Louise will continue to do so in her role as President of the Women's Canadian Club of Hamilton.

Louise Noel-Ambrose is an event specialist, public relations guru, founder of *eventobewellness*, and a trailblazer in the African-Caribbean Community. Among her recognitions are being named one of the 100 Black Women to Watch in Canada - CIBWE, the YWCA Hamilton Women of Distinction Award – Trailblazer and the Absolutely Fabulous Women - Excellence Award in the Community Leadership .



Louise is a lover of films, in particular Bollywood films with subtitles in English. She has worked with four international film festivals via Toronto, UK, Grenada and Hamilton.

Louise has a smile that will brighten a room! We hope that you get to know her over the next few years. *Congratulations Louise!*

### WOMAN OF SPIRIT AWARD

The first annual Woman of Spirit Award was presented to Clare Freeman in October 2019. That year we celebrated the spirit of Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw. Plans for subsequent awards have been put on hold, owing to the restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are hopeful that, with vaccinations and continued diligence, we will be able to present the second Woman of Spirit Award in the fall of 2022. If you have an idea as to who's spirit we should celebrate, or would like to be part of the planning committee please get in touch with us.



**MEMBERSHIPS**



Introducing our new Membership Secretary, January Bailey Will. January was born and raised in Hamilton: she is the daughter of the late Rev. T. Melville Bailey and his wife Janet. She has been active with several local heritage groups and her church. January resides on the Mountain with her German Shepherd, Lily. And she loves the snow!

The Board of the Women’s Canadian Club of Hamilton has established the membership fees for the 2021-2022 season at **\$25 per person**. This fee acknowledges that there are still expenses to be covered during a pandemic!

Membership entitles you to vote at the AGM and serve on the Board. In addition we are hoping to have ‘members draws’ at each of our meetings: one lucky member will win a donated gift basket from a local entrepreneur.

Membership forms are available on our website: [wccofhamilton.ca](http://wccofhamilton.ca). Payment can be made by cheque or e-transfer.



WOMENS CANADIAN CLUB OF HAMILTON INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT YEAR ENDING 31 MAY 2021		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Contributions & Support		100
Membership Fees		50
Interest - GIC		119
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>269.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Speakers Honorariums		800
ZOOM license		226
Insurance		162
Supplies		90
Mask Supplies		49
Membership in other organizations		50
Printing & Reproductions		34
Postage & Delivery		38
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,449.00</b>
<b>Net for 2020 - 2021</b>		<b>(\$1180.00)</b>
<i>Note: Insurance is Directors &amp; Officers only</i>		
<b>FINANCIAL STATUS as of 31 May 2021</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
GICs		10155
Cash in Bank		6432
Cash on Hand		30
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>16,617.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Encounters - 50-50 Draw		27
<b>EQUITY</b>		<b>16590</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES PLUS EQUITY</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>16,617.00</b>
<b>This financial statement will be presented for acceptance at the 2022 AGM</b>		

2021—2022 WCCH Board of Directors	
President	Louise Noel-Ambrose
Secretary	Ruth Pearson
Treasurer	Lee Gowers
Past-President	Susan Ricketts
Membership	January Bailey Will
Citizenship Court	Christina Begley
Encounters with Canada	Ruth Pearson
Councillors	Alison Buffett Diane Chiarelli Mary Lorimer Pat Saunders

**KEEP IN TOUCH AND IN THE KNOW**

Please share this newsletter with family, friends and co-workers. Anyone wishing to have their name added to our electronic distribution list should send a request to [WCCofHamilton@gmail.com](mailto:WCCofHamilton@gmail.com). Names are kept private and any contact information is for the sole use of the WCCH.

Like us and follow us on **Facebook**. Learn about upcoming events and read other items of interest. We are also on **Instagram** and **Twitter!**

[wccofhamilton.ca](http://wccofhamilton.ca)

On our website you can find our newsletters, details of upcoming events , membership forms and more.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMMES**

Given the uncertainty of these times, and wishing to err on the side of extreme caution, the Board of the WCCH has renewed their ZOOM license and will host meetings during the first half of the 2021-2022 season on that platform.



**September 15 @ 1 p.m.— Alex Jacobs-Blum**

In June 2021 Alex Jacobs-Blum was named the first Indigenous curator in residence of Hamilton Artists Inc. Her ancestry is Cayuga Nation and European (German). Much of her life and work as an artist has been about ‘engaging in conversation about reclamation and colonialism’. In her new role she will centre on maximizing safely, comfort and equity for Indigenous artists in institutional spaces and finding alternative spaces and platforms for their art and expression outside of institutional framework.

**October 20 @ 1 p.m.—Meaningful Citizenship with Esther Bruins, OCELT (Ontario Certified English Language Teacher)**

Esther is passionate about building a better and more inclusive Canada that starts with meaningful citizenship. Her online Citizenship Preparation Course, available across Canada, started out with teaching in an HWDSB Adult ESL classroom with Hamilton’s own future citizens.

The deep respect for immigrant experiences stems from 15 years of work in the area of Immigrant Settlement; specifically in the area ESL Language Testing. She has interviewed thousands of Newcomers for language skills, helping them get started on their path in Canada. She currently works as a Language Assessor Trainer, Canada-wide. Esther’s heart is always in Hamilton because Hamilton is home



**November 17 @ 1 p.m.—Estate Planning, Administration & Litigation with Shayna Beeksma**

Called to the Ontario Bar in 2012, Shayna Beeksma articulated and practiced with firms in Toronto and Burlington before opening Beeksma Law in 2018.

A passionate innovator and entrepreneur Shayna’s practice focuses primarily on estate law (litigation, administration and planning), and also incorporates corporate and real estate law. Shayna was the 2019 and 2020 Platinum Award winner for the best lawyer and best real estate lawyer in Hamilton, while Beeksma Law was voted the 2019 and 2020 Platinum Award winner for best law firm and best real estate law firm by the readers of the Hamilton Spectator.

A foodie at heart, you can often find Shayna enjoying a coffee and treat at one of Hamilton’s fabulous independent coffee shops.

**December 15—Our Annual Holiday Social**



**DR. MARY ANDERSON**

An Honorary Member of the Women's Canadian Club of Hamilton, Dr. Mary Anderson passed away in July. She was in her 90th year. Dr. Anderson was enthralled with Hamilton history, especially the McQuesten family. Her interest was peaked when she read some of the McQuesten letters during a visit to Whitehern, the McQuesten family home located behind City Hall.

She was the author of several books including *The Life Writings of Mary Baker McQuesten: Victorian Matriarch* and *Tragedy & Triumph: Ruby and Thomas B. McQuesten*. She was also a project director, along with daughter Janelle, of the website [whitehern.ca](http://whitehern.ca), which is maintained by the Hamilton Public Library. Mary led a public campaign to allow tobogganing in Hamilton and was passionate about having sculptures of local notables built into the niches of the pillars at each end of the Thomas McQuesten High Level Bridge. She suggested McQuesten and Joseph Brant for two of the spots, with the others being filled after a public competition. Perhaps Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw or Ellen Fairclough?

In 2016 she was the recipient of the Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award, an honour she felt was a culmination of all the work she had done over the years.

Mary had two children (Mark and Janelle), was nana of Jessica, Sarah and Rebecca and great-nana of Sylvia. In lieu of flowers the family asked for donations to The Whitehern Historic House and Garden or McMaster University.



Dr. Anderson accepting the Bailey Heritage Award. Also in the photo are Pat Saunders and Monique Taylor.

*Photo courtesy of Ruth Pearson.*

**AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

"The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers."

The City of Hamilton is covered by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant as well as the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792 which was an agreement between the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Crown. The Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers, have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

*The Women's Canadian Club of Hamilton urges all levels of government to enact the 94 Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.*



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