Thanks to Mountainside for MCL support

For the past 25 years, the annual bridge luncheon in support of The Montreal Children's Library (MCL) takes place in autumn. A big thank-you to our loyal bridge players and Mountainside United Church for its success.

The MCL is an independent, bilingual, not-for-profit organization, which is looking forward to its 88th anniversary in 2017. In 1929, Elizabeth Murray of Westmount formed a committee to establish a children's library under the chairmanship of Maysie McSporran. With the help of enthusiastic community support (20-plus different locations over the years), talented staff and dedicated volunteers, the MCL has remained deeply committed to developing literacy, fostering imagination and connecting children and parents to their communities by equipping them with the building blocks of lifelong learning.

Yearly donations, grants and fundraisers allow MCL to offer its library services, programs (science, chess, crafts, etc.) and outreach activities free of charge in economically disadvantaged communities. Currently it operates a library at the Ren Goupil Recreational Centre in Montreal North, and its main outreach service is the parent-child Mother Goose program. This 10-week, pre-literacy course for children zero to 3 years old and their parents is offered at nine sites across Montreal. (Visit www.mcl-bjm.ca for more details.)

The MCL board of directors expresses sincere gratitude for the generous support of individuals, foundations and businesses throughout the past 87 years.

Special recognition at this time goes to the Tyndale St. Georges Community Centre Board. Since 1970, there has been an MCL branch in Little Burgundy. Due to financial constraints, the difficult decision was made recently by the MCL board to gift the branch's assets to the centre. How thrilling that the local community will continue to nurture the joy of reading and life-long learning. Another bridge for child literacy!

Theresa Coffey, board member,
The Montreal Children's Library