From the Principal
As I reflect on the past year, I am impressed by the resilience and dedication shown by so many, and the leadership role our alumni have played throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

For members of our Athletics and Recreation family, resilience is nothing new. The ability to respond, adjust and bounce back, whether from a tough loss or injury, is simply part of the game. With this comes the keen understanding that helping a teammate, means helping the team. This characteristic may be learned during their time at McGill, but also lives on in our student-athletes long after they have left the University.

Laurent Duvernay-Tardif (MD ’18), a proud McGill alumnus and former McGill football player, thoroughly exemplified these qualities when he decided to forgo his 2020/21 NFL season in order to work at a long-term care facility on Montreal’s South Shore (page 13). Having been a part of a team environment for years, he understood the difficult choice that needed to be made and did not hesitate. His efforts were rewarded when he recently received the Muhammad Ali Sports Humanitarian Award at the 2021 ESPYs (Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly).

He was not the only alumnus to come forward to support their community. As a co-chair of the Made by McGill campaign, Claude Généreux (B. Eng. ’85) and his family made a milestone gift to Family Community Service Award, to be awarded annually to a being of the entire McGill community.

With fields and rinks inaccessible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our student-athletes turned their attention to areas in need. For instance, the Redbird soccer program joined forces with Meals for Milton-Parc (page 19), a McGill student-led group, to provide support for the homeless, while the women’s volleyball team launched their Cactus for a Cure fundraiser (page 17) with contributions going to the Quebec Breast Cancer Association. These are just a few of the heartwarming initiatives taken on by our student-athletes. It is inspiring to see our future leaders use their talents to better the lives of those around them. Turn to page 16 to read more stories featuring our student-athletes supporting community organizations in their area.

From the Executive Director
In a year when no varsity games could be played, and limited recreation programming was permitted, the strength and dedication of our Athletics and Recreation community shone bright. As the world was forced into hibernation in 2020, our student-athletes, staff and alumni found meaningful ways to keep active and stay connected.

Thanks to our M Club family

Mr. George Lengvari

“YOUR GENEROSITY MOTIVATED OTHERS TO GIVE”

$318,826

RAISED BY ATHLETICS WITH 1245 GIFTS

McGill24

- M24 held its 6th edition on March 10, 2021
- Athletics raised $318,826 with 1,245 gifts
- McGill raised $3.8M with 6,885 gifts
2020-21 Recreation Summary

RECREATION PROGRAMMING KEEPS MEMBERS ACTIVE AND INVOLVED

Through 2020-2021, the recreation program at McGill transformed itself to meet students’ needs in a unique environment. Online workout programs were developed, featuring a wide variety of classes: 10 different instructors teaching 15 different classes, with over 7,000 participants throughout the year.

From stretch breaks to Pilates, every week the McGill community could log-in from wherever they were studying or working from and connect with our instructors. This was in addition to in-person services, which remained available whenever government safety restrictions would allow.

The Memorial Pool, indoor track and some of our gym activities were options for students and staff to stay active in a safe and healthy environment. In all, over 10,000 members came in for lap swim, and close to 4,000 members took advantage of the University’s track, courts and skating rink.

In addition, intramural activities such as lawn games, chess, catan and trivia were offered. As examples, over 25 trivia nights were hosted and averaged 150 participants per event, 75 in-person lawn games were played and more than 250 chess matches were contested throughout the year.

To further engage the McGill community when in-person activities were limited, the recreation team turned to social media to challenge students with cycling events, Strava runs, short HIIT workouts (over 1,000 views and counting) and promoted exciting daily activity programs to motivate individuals through the December holiday break.

Communication online was more crucial than ever, allowing participants to stay connected wherever and whenever they were. With over 55,000 views on our YouTube channel alone, free access to recreation content made it easy for McGill students and staff to stay active.

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS FOR THE YEAR**

7,654

**INTRAMURAL (ONLINE)**

- **CHESS** 255
- **FIFA** 223
- **ROCKET LEAGUE** 93
- **NHL** 36
- **NBA 2K** 7

**TRIVIA**

- **25 EVENTS**
- **AVERAGE OF 30 TEAMS PER EVENT**
- **AVERAGE OF 150 PARTICIPANTS PER EVENT**

**IN PERSON**

- **76 LAWN GAMES**
- **FITNESS CENTRE PARTICIPANTS** 7,856
- **INDOOR TRACK PARTICIPANTS** 1,093
- **BADMINTON PARTICIPANTS** 757
- **BASKETBALL PARTICIPANTS** 993
- **TENNIS PARTICIPANTS** 906
- **SKATING PARTICIPANTS** 327
- **11,820 LAP SWIMS**

**DROP-IN FALL 2020/WINTER 2021**

- **13 CHALLENGES**
- **692 CLUB MEMBERS**

**LIVE/ONLINE**

**TOTAL PARTICIPANTS FOR THE YEAR**

7,654

- **FUTSAL** 223
- **ROCKET LEAGUE** 93
- **CHESS** 255
- **NHL** 36
- **NBA 2K** 7

**STRAVA RUN CHALLENGES**

- **13 CHALLENGES**

**PARTICIPANTS**

- **30**

**EVENTS**

- **93**

**36 7**
CELEBRATING McGILL’S BICENTENNIAL: The History of Athletics & Recreation

In this, the 200th anniversary year of McGill University’s founding, we take a look at a historical timeline of the role that athletics has played on our campus.

Sports in Montreal started as a feature of community activities for entertainment or competition. It was natural that sports became an important part of the community activity in winter with variations of hockey and in summer with rudimentary rugby, soccer, and the early version of the game of baseball. McGill students participated informally – an early form of intramural activities – in the 1850s through the 1860s. An annual athletics sports day, primarily for track and field events, was initiated on campus in the early 1870s.

In the mid-1870s, McGill students turned it up a notch and played a prominent role in the founding of football and hockey. That followed two decades later by basketball, which was invented by McGill graduate James Naismith in 1891. After graduating, other famous names with ties to McGill’s intercollegiate sports like Molson, Birks, Redpath, Notman, Pitfield, Robie-Culic, Clough, Chipman and Tilden, among others, went on to become household names in the business community.

In the 1860s the McGill students took advantage of the Montreal Gym Club and began regular exercise programs called “physical jerks”. This became more of a McGill project when Frederick Barnjum established gym classes three times a week in 1880.

The students formalized their annual athletics competitions by establishing the McGill University Athletics Association in 1884. This was the first student athletics association in Canada and an annual MURLA competition became the highlight of the school year. Only a couple of years after Naismith laid down the rules to basketball, it was first played as an intramural sport on the McGill campus in 1893, followed by the introduction of a varsity hoops team in 1903.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

### MILLION-DOLLAR GIFT FROM GÉNÉREUX FAMILY GENERATES MANY MERCIS FOR MCGILL ATHLETICS

Two McGill University graduates, Claude Généreux (B.Eng. ‘85) and his wife Myriam Legault (B.Ed. ‘85), announced in June 2021, a $1 million gift to McGill Athletics and Recreation to enhance varsity scholarships, as well as the men’s lacrosse program and community engagement initiatives.

The Claude Généreux and Myriam Legault Excellence Award, was created as an $800,000 endowment fund, which will generate between two and six annual Athletic Financial Awards, presented on the basis of high academic performance and leadership.

Also, the Généreux Lacrosse Road to Excellence Fund was established with $125,000 spread over the next five years, to enhance the men’s lacrosse team operations. Believed to be the largest gift for a university lacrosse program in Canada, it was designed to buttress everyday operations for the McGill team, to help offset travel expenses, improve scheduling, coaching, nutritional and medical support, purchase specialized equipment and aid recruiting efforts, as well as enhancing both practice and game conditions.

Finally, the Généreux Family Community Service Award, a $75,000 endowment, will be utilized to create prizes at the year-end McGill athletics varsity gala, to a male and female varsity athlete who demonstrate exceptional community service. A unique twist to encourage the development of this program, the varsity team for each of the winning recipients will also receive a financial incentive to support operational needs.

### MCGILL SPORTS HALL OF FAME CELEBRATES INDUCTION CLASSES OF 2020 AND 2021

Three Olympians head a list of six new inductees for the Class of 2021 for the McGill University Sports Hall of Fame. Former Canadian national basketball team captain Sylvia Sweeney, a Montrealer now residing in Toronto, will be joined by swimmer Marianne Limpert, a silver-medallist at the 1996 Atlanta Summer Games who hails from Fredericton, N.B., and rower Derek O’Farrell (BSc ’77) from Unionville, Ont.

Other honoured laureates include five-time volleyball All-Canadian Jennifer Thomson (BED ’99, MA ’11) of Rosemere, Que., who now resides in St. Alexandre, Que., Gilles Hudon (BA ’84), a Montreal-born hockey player currently residing in Columbus, S.C., and Thomas Thompson (BSc (PE) ’56, DipEd ’61, MEd ’75) of Westmount, Que., who was elected in the builder category after six decades of administrative support and alumni development for McGill Athletics and Recreation as well as the University.

The induction ceremonies will take place on October 27, 2021. This group will be celebrated along with last year’s inductees, the Class of 2020, who were honoured via an online ceremony that also marked the 25th anniversary of the Hall’s inauguration.

That class included basketball great Atanas “Nasko” Golomeev, a native of Bulgaria, football all-star Glenn Miller of Beavescroft, Que., and soccer All-Canadian Odille Desbois, a current Montrealean from Sherbrooke, Que., plus All-Canadian hockey players Bryan Larkin of Saskatoon, Sask., and Vanessa Davidson of Pointe Claire, Que., elected in the builder category was Michael Richards, a resident of Westmount, Que., who originally hails from Estevan, Sask. He played hockey for McGill from 1958 to 1962 and since then, has had a profound impact on the athletics program at the University.

The silver anniversary ceremony in 2020 also featured special messages from the past and current chairs of the Hall, including the Right Honourable David Johnston, John Cloghern (BCom ’52) and Richard Pound (BCom ’62, BCL ’67).

The McGill pantheon, located inside Tomlinson Hall at the Sir Arthur Currie Gymnasium, now has 163 honoured members, 30 of them Olympians, since it was initiated in 1996.

### ATHLETICS AND RECREATION LAUNCHES PODCAST SERIES WITH PROMINENT ALUMNI

To help rally the troops through the pandemic, McGill Athletics and Recreation launched Alumni Matters, a podcast series featuring interviews with prominent alumni who once competed or coached while sporting the red and white of McGill.

Earl (The Pearl) Zukerman (BA ’30), long time sports information officer at McGill, hosted the bi-weekly podcast. Featured guests included Mathieu Darche (BCom ’00), who previously skated for the Montreal Canadiens and merited a 2020 and 2021 Stanley Cup ring as director of hockey operations with the Tampa Bay Lightning. Others included Hubert T. Lacroix (BCL ’76, MBA ’81), a Montreal lawyer and past president of the CBC, who once coached the McGill women’s basketball team and most recently served as co-chair of the men’s varsity renaming committee.

Also interviewed was Kim St-Pierre (BED’04), a three-time Olympic gold medalist who was a 2020 inductee to the Hockey Hall of Fame from Unionville, Ont. Also sharing their stories was Montreal lawyer Richard Pound (BCom ’62, BCL ’67) and Dr. Shauna Burke (BA ’01), who became the second Canadian woman to successfully summit Mt. Everest in 2005. Pound, a former Olympic swimmer and past chancellor at McGill, is the longest serving International Olympic Committee member. Burke, who was an alpine skier and rugby player during her McGill years, is a professor at the University of Leeds in the UK. The 2021 winter series concluded with Mark Hantho (BCom’81), a former McGill rugby player who went on to
become a global investment banker and is currently a vice-chair with Citigroup. Plans are already underway to resume the podcast in the 2021-22 school year with a new slate of McGill’s sporting celebrities. Alma Matters is available on all major streaming platforms and can also be found on the McGill Athletics and Recreation website.

**URQUHART APPOINTED HEAD COACH OF MEN’S HOCKEY PROGRAM**

David Urquhart was appointed full-time head coach of the McGill men’s hockey team in May 2021.

A 2018 inductee to the McGill Sports Hall of Fame, Urquhart is trilingual and spent the last three seasons as an assistant coach of the San Diego Gulls, an American Hockey League affiliate of the Anaheim Ducks. During that span, he helped guide the team to a 92-60-17 record in regular season play and three playoff berths. Originally from Thorold, Ont., Urquhart became the 30th bench boss in team history and the 13th former McGill player to take the helm of the historic 146-year-old program, which played its first game on Jan. 31, 1877. He replaced Liam Heelis, who served two years as interim bench boss and is now coaching with the QMJHL’s Halifax Mooseheads.

**BASKETBALL BENCH BOSS BOWLES PROMOTED TO FULL-TIME STATUS**

Rikki Bowles was elevated to head coach of the McGill women’s basketball team in May 2021 after serving in an interim role during the 2020-21 season. Originally from East Farnham, Que., the bilingual Bowles had spent nine years on staff over two terms with the McGill Martlets, including the last three years as a full-time assistant coach under the Women in Sport program, which strives to prepare candidates for full-time roles in coaching. During her time as an assistant to head coach Ryan Thorne, the Martlets won six Quebec conference crowns and the 2017 Bronze Baby national championship, while posting a formidable 93-35 regular season record and a 173-96 mark overall.

**CREW COACH HEDREI MERITS ROWING CANADA SERVICE AWARD**

Dr. Philip Hedrei, a part-time head coach with the McGill crew, received a Long Service Award from Rowing Canada. The national governing body annually recognizes individuals who have served for 15 years or longer. Currently on staff as a pediatrician at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, Hedrei is a native of Town of Mt. Royal, Que., who rowed for McGill while completing medical school. He graduated in 2000 with an MDCM, then joined the team’s coaching staff in 2004 and was appointed head coach in 2009. He was named OUA men’s coach of the year in 2009 and won a similar award two years later for his work with the University’s novice program. Hedrei has truly paid his dues and risen through the rowing ranks at the University. He started out in a novice boat during his senior year in 1998. The next year, he earned a spot on the heavyweight eight, where he rowed until 2002 before taking a break to complete his residency in pediatrics. He served as co-captain of the team, elected club president, has overseen numerous fundraising ventures and contributed significantly with gifts to the program. He began his coaching career with the Montreal Rowing Club in 2003 then made the move back to McGill the following year.

**CECERE CONFIRMED AS HEAD COACH OF WOMEN’S HOCKEY PROGRAM**

Alyssa Cecere was officially appointed full-time head coach of the McGill women’s hockey team in May 2021. A fluently bilingual native of Brossard, Que., she served in an interim role since September 2020. A full-time associate coach with the Martlets since 2014, Cecere, received a BFL Canada female coach-of-the-year award in May 2020, as the high-performance nominee from Hockey Quebec.

She was an assistant with the Quebec under-18 female team at the 2019 Canadian championship in Manitoba. She belongs to a rare group to reach the national gold medal game in five consecutive seasons during her playing career. Also, a member of five RSEQ conference championship-winning teams at McGill, she collected three gold medals at the nationals (2008, 2009, 2011) and a pair of silvers.

**CARPENTER APPOINTED TO BOARD OF WORLD SWIMMING COACHES ASSOCIATION**

Peter Carpenter, head coach of the McGill swim program, was appointed to the administrative board of the World Swimming Coaching Association (WSCA). The WSCA is an advocacy group that has served for the past three decades as an international unified voice for coaches, promoting an anti-doping stance while enhancing coaching education and certification. He is the only Canadian currently on the WSCA board. Carpenter took over at McGill in the fall of 2009 and is entering his 13th season with the men’s and women’s program, which competes in the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) conference, under the national U SPORTS umbrella. The native of Pointe Claire, Que., is a two-time recipient of the U SPORTS Fox 40 men’s coach-of-the-year award, winning in 2018 and 2020. He has also merited similar honours four times in the RSEQ, winning the women’s category after league titles in 2012 and 2020, along with the men’s award for conference crowns achieved in 2018 and 2020.
Basketball graduate George Lengvari Jr., who played for both Concordia and McGill, was recently named a co-winner of the inaugural Mitchell Family Alumni-of-the-Year Award. This pays tribute to The Honourable Lois and Doug Mitchell – the long-time benefactors of McGill Sport and Athletics. The Mitchell Family Alumni-of-the-Year Award recognizes McGill’s accomplished alumni who have continued to have a significant impact on intercollegiate athletics and their community. It recognizes the continued contributions by male and female alumni to their alma mater.

Lengvari, who continues to have a significant impact on intercollegiate basketball in Montreal, was co-nominated by McGill and Concordia, both his alma maters. A high-scoring forward, Lengvari powered the 1962-63 Loyola College men’s basketball team to its first Ottawa-St. Lawrence Athletic Association conference title. He then played three years at McGill, serving as team captain in 1964-65, before graduating with a law degree in 1966.

An inductee to the McGill Basketball Wall of Honour and the Concordia Sports Hall of Fame, Lengvari is passionate about giving back to his alma maters. In 2017, Concordia and McGill initiated an annual regular season rivalry challenge in the form of the George Lengvari Cup. At McGill, he has donated significantly since 1966 and established three different annual Athletic Financial Awards: the George Lengvari Basketball Awards (2003) for incoming undergraduates in women’s basketball. In addition, at Concordia, he committed to match all donations made up to $15,000. He also sits on the board of governors for the Martlet Foundation, which promotes excellence in athletics and academics.

LAUREATES ANNOUNCED FOR PRINCIPAL’S STUDENT-ATHLETE HONOUR ROLL

The varsity sports program at McGill continues to be a shining beacon for academic prowess. About 39 per cent of the 727 varsity athletes registered in the 2019-20 season – a total of 280 names – qualified for a berth on the 2020 Principal’s Student-Athlete Honour Roll (PSAHR), which celebrates the next generation of top Canadian football prospects, with 110 U SPORTS-eligible standouts identified for the 2022 CFL Draft, following completion of the 2021 Draft on May 4, 2021. The McGill group included defensive end Joshua Archibald, an economics senior from Montreal and linebacker Alexandre Pare, a fifth-year science major from Neufville, Que. Rounding out the defenders were a pair of defensive backs, namely Tristan Fleury, a science senior from Deux Montagnes, Que., and Markens Valcourt, an industrial relations senior from Ile-Bizard, Que. On the offensive side, the McGillians were headed by quarterback Dimitrios Sinodinos, an electrical engineering senior from Laval, Que., and wide receiver Pearce Dumay, a physical and health education senior from Montreal.

McGill Grads Led Nottingtom to Elite Series Hockey Championship in the UK

Dominic Talbot-Tassi, the all-time top-scoring defenceman for the McGill men’s hockey team, helped lead his Nottingham Panthers to the British Elite Ice Hockey League’s Elite Series championship in May 2021. The native of Mascouche, Que., was signed to a professional contract a few months earlier by former McGill forward Guillaume Doucet (B.Ed ’11), who serves as Nottingham’s director of hockey operations.

Six McGill Football Players Named to Prestigious East-West Bowl Roster

A half-dozen football players from McGill were highlighted in the 2021 East-West Bowl roster recognitions in May 2021, announced jointly by U SPORTS and the Canadian Football League. The roster celebrated the next generation of top Canadian football prospects, with 110 U SPORTS-eligible standouts identified for the 2022 CFL Draft, following completion of the 2021 Draft on May 4, 2021. The McGill group included defensive end Joshua Archibald, an economics senior from Montreal and linebacker Alexandre Pare, a fifth-year science major from Neufville, Que. Rounding out the defenders were a pair of defensive backs, namely Tristan Fleury, a science senior from Deux Montagnes, Que., and Markens Valcourt, an industrial relations senior from Ile-Bizard, Que. On the offensive

Peter Smith Announces Retirement After Four Decades at McGill

Peter Smith, who spent the past four decades as a coach and sports administrator at McGill, announced his official retirement in May 2021. The 68-year-old native of Lachine, Que., had been serving as a varsity coaching mentor since stepping down as head coach of the women’s intercollegiate hockey program in September 2020. Smith, who helped coach Canada to gold medal victories at both the Turin and Vancouver Olympics, guided the McGill Martlets hockey club to nine Quebec league titles and four national championships. He began his long tenure with McGill Athletics & Recreation in the late 1970s, as a coordinator of the intramural programs, also served a short stint as facilities manager and took over the reins of the women’s hockey program in 1999. A member of the varsity swim team during his undergraduate days at McGill, Smith earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education (1979) and a master’s degree in sports psychology (1986).

Rugby Grad Zussman to Officialize at Tokyo Olym pics

Julianne Zussman, a product of the McGill women’s rugby program who played a decade for the Canadian national team, was among 22 officials appointed to work for the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. The roster of game officials was announced by World Rugby for the women’s and men’s rugby sevens competitions at the Games. Zussman, a native of Ottawa, graduated from McGill in 2008 with an arts degree, majoring in international development studies. She will be part of an officialing team at the Games, drawn from 12 countries spread across four continents.
McGill Football Trio Ink CFL Pacts

The Calgary Stampeders announced in January 2021 the signing of McGill football player Andrew Seinet-Spaulding to a contract. A sixth-round selection (52nd overall) by Calgary in the 2020 Canadian Football League draft, the 6-foot, 292-pound defensive tackle from Kelowna, B.C., has been a fixture on special teams since being selected by Winnipeg in the 2014 Canadian Football League draft, where he was picked in the second round, 17th overall. He played four seasons at McGill, where he studied physical and health education, until being drafted in 2014.

_defenceman_ Nicolas Brouillard and goaltender Louis-Philip Guindon of the McGill men’s hockey team both signed professional contracts this year. Brouillard, a two-time OUA all-star who merited All-Canadian honours, became the 12th McGill product to play in the AHL, when he signed with the San Diego Gulls. With McGill, he was named as both the OUA East’s most outstanding rearguard and the U SPORTS defenceman of the year. Guindon inked a deal to play for the ECHL’s Fort Wayne Komets and became the school’s 83rd recipient of a Gretta Chambers Award for demonstrating leadership qualities while contributing to the advancement of alumni activities in a volunteer capacity.

Two hockey grads invited to _Team Canada Training Camp for IIHF Worlds_

Two high-profile McGill graduates, Mélodie Daoust and Anne-Sophie Bettez, were among 35 players invited by Hockey Canada to attend the 2021 national women’s team training camp in Halifax in March 2021. The IIHF world championship tournament was eventually postponed until August 2021. A four-time All-Canadian, Daoust was a physical education major who won gold with Team Canada at the Sochi Winter Olympics. A three-time recipient of the Duvernay-Tardif named co-winner of the Lou Marsh Award as Canada’s top athlete of 2020.

Defenceman Nicolas Brouillard and goaltender Louis-Philip Guindon of the McGill men’s hockey team both signed professional contracts this year. Brouillard, a two-time OUA all-star who merited All-Canadian honours, became the 12th McGill product to play in the AHL, when he signed with the San Diego Gulls. With McGill, he was named as both the OUA East’s most outstanding rearguard and the U SPORTS defenceman of the year. Guindon inked a deal to play for the ECHL’s Fort Wayne Komets and became the school’s 83rd recipient of a Gretta Chambers Award for demonstrating leadership qualities while contributing to the advancement of alumni activities in a volunteer capacity.

Duvernay-Tardif named co-winner of Lou Marsh Award as Canada’s top athlete of 2020

Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, a highly-decorated McGill football grad who won a Super Bowl ring with Kansas City in February 2020, added yet another honour to his trophy case in December 2020. The native of St. Hilaire, Que., was named a co-recipient of the Lou Marsh Trophy. Presented annually by the Toronto Star to Canada’s athlete of the year, professional or amateur, this award is voted by a panel of sports journalists from across the country. He becomes the third McGill medical school grad to merit the honour, joining Dr. George Genereux (1952), an Olympic gold medal trapshooter and Dr. Phil Edwards (1936), a five-time Olympic bronze medalist in track & field, over three different Summer Games. Dr. Duvernay-Tardif shared the award with Alphonso Davies, a global soccer sensation who became the first Canadian man to lift a UEFA Champions League trophy.

NHL’s Panthers pilfer McGill grad Morin from Habs scouting department

Ken Morin, a former captain of the McGill men’s hockey team, joined the Florida Panthers of the National Hockey League as the team’s scout for Western Canada. He was lured away in December 2020 from a similar post with the Montreal Canadiens, where he had been employed since 2010 in their hockey operations department. A native of St. Prosper, Que., Morin had served with the Habs for the past decade, occupying the roles of hockey information coordinator and scouting coordinator before being promoted in 2015 to the role of amateur scout responsible for the Western Hockey League. Morin patrolled the McGill blue line from 2005 to 2009, before graduating with a degree in industrial relations. In his senior year, Morin served as captain and won the Bobby Bell Trophy as Team MVP. He received the 2009 Richard Pound Trophy, presented to a graduating male athlete for proficiency and leadership in athletics and also was the recipient of a Greta Chambers Award for demonstrating leadership qualities while contributing to the advancement of alumni activities in a volunteer capacity.

Geoffrey Phillips appointed executive director of McGill A&R, joins U Sports board

Geoffrey Phillips was named to the U SPORTS board of directors in June 2021. He took over as executive director of athletics and recreation at McGill in December 2020. He replaced Philip Quintal, who had been serving as interim senior director since Marc Gélinas retired in December 2019. Fluently bilingual, Phillips is originally from Gaspé, Que., and currently resides in Vaudreuil-Dorion, Que. Most recently serving as the director of sport programs for A&R, Phillips is a McGill alumnus twice over, having earned both a bachelor’s degree in physical education and a master’s degree in sports psychology at the University. Phillips began his career in A&R as an assistant manager in both, the Campus Recreation and Varsity Sports offices, before rising to the position of assistant director, where he remained until taking on a senior role in 2016. Having played varsity hockey for McGill during his undergraduate studies, Phillips also served as head coach of the women’s hockey program between 1990 and 1994. He was named the Quebec conference coach of the year in 1992.
**McGill Men’s Varsity Teams Renamed “Redbirds”**

Principal Suzanne Fortier announced on November 17, 2020, that “Redbirds” will be the new nickname for the men’s varsity sports teams, heading into the University’s third century. This decision was the culmination of extensive consultation, debate and deliberation. While several names emerged as top choices over the course of the Naming Committee’s mandate, in the end “Redbirds” rose to the forefront for its strong links to both the past and present of McGill Athletics & Recreation.

These links include its past use as the name of several McGill sports clubs, teams and events: the Red Birds Ski Club was founded in 1928 by three McGill graduates and still exists today. The 1932-33 Red Birds nordic ski team was inducted to the McGill Sports Hall of Fame. From 1994 and well into the 2000s, the baseball team was known as the Redbirds. And since the mid-1990s, McGill has traditionally hosted a fall basketball tournament that was known as the Redbird Classic. It is also the name of the Currie Gym’s sports shop – the Redbird Sports Shop.

The voting members included two McGill directors of athletics, five current student-athletes, three graduates who were McGill athletes and two varsity coaches. Most of the Level 1 funded sports programs had representation in the voting process, including football, hockey, basketball, soccer, track rugby and lacrosse.

Over the course of its mandate, the Men’s Varsity Teams Naming Committee held 13 committee meetings, which included both individual and group presentations from students, staff, varsity athletes, and alumni. An open call for submissions was put out and widely publicized in order to obtain broad participation. Finally, a request for feedback on the names submitted most often was sent to the community, in order to ensure that all perspectives were heard and understood.

In total, 1,238 submissions were received, making up 230 different options.

**1960 McGill Football Team Celebrates 60th Anniversary of Churchill Bowl National Title**

The 1960 McGill football team celebrated the 60th anniversary of their first national championship in December 2020. The event was held over a Zoom call due to the coronavirus pandemic. The historic title match resulted in a lopsided 46-7 victory over Alberta on November 19, 1960, before 9,200 fans at Percival Molson Stadium. The Churchill Bowl conquest capped a fine season for a McGill lineup that featured 10 graduating seniors. The team was inducted to the McGill Sports Hall of Fame in 2000.

**Jean Béliveau Athletic Awards Announced**

The recipients of McGill’s Jean Béliveau Athletic Awards for 2020 were announced in December 2020. Swimmer Daphné Danyluk of Rivière-des-Prairies, Que., was selected along with hockey’s Louis-Philip Guindon of Saint-Joseph-du-Lac, Que., artistic swimmer Maria Gheta of Montreal and soccer’s Cameron Butterfield of Ottawa. These Athletic Financial Awards were established in 2016 to honour the memory of the Montreal Canadiens iconic captain, a Hall of Fame member and inspirational community leader who passed away on December 2, 2014. They recognize outstanding McGill student-athletes for leadership in the community. Recipients receive a medallion accompanied by a bursary which ranges between $2,500 and $4,000, as per U SPORTS regulations.

**Women in Sport at McGill**

A message from Sylvie Béliveau, Senior Advisor - Varsity Programs

McGill’s Women in Sport program continues to gain steam

When the Women in Sport (WiS) program was launched in 2018, 11% of head coaching positions at McGill University were held by women. Three years into the program, progress is being made with the addition of Alyssa Cecere as head coach of the Martlet hockey team, and Rikki Bowles now steering the Martlet basketball squad.

In addition, though the COVID-19 pandemic had a direct effect on our ability to retain assistant coaches, McGill Athletics was able to keep two women in their roles throughout, what would have been, the 2020/21 season.

Thanks to the support of the Coaching Association of Canada and U SPORTS’ Women in Coaching apprenticeship program, Kelsey Wilson, assistant soccer coach of the Martlets, was able to continue her certification training at the national level. Additionally, McGill secured the services of former Olympian Savannah King to our swimming program.

Unable to meet in person due to the pandemic, virtual workshops were held online, where participants could discuss and learn about mental performance. As well, in partnership with the Athletics and Recreation Wellness Advisor, we launched an online community of practice. In January 2021, current female student-athletes were invited to panel discussions, where they were encouraged to dive deep, proactively take charge of their well-being, establish goals for themselves beyond the field and support each other along their respective journeys.

Adding to this, was WiS’s inaugural virtual roundtable discussion on Gender Equity in Sport. A combination of staff, female student-athletes, mental performance consultants and other experts from the McGill Leadership team gathered together to share their experiences and stories.

In a year unlike any other, the Women in Sport program found new and unique opportunities to further our mission. Though our work is far from over, we are encouraged by what we have been able to accomplish since the program was first launched in 2018 and are confident, we will continue to make meaningful steps forward.

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McGill Varsity Team Recaps

Varsity student-athletes excel in a year without sports Team initiatives and #McGill24 exemplify the dedication of McGill athletes.

McGill’s student-athletes were not about to let a global pandemic slow them down. Unable to compete in their sports due to public health guidelines, they turned their attention to improving the lives of those in their community. While so many of the teams made considerable contributions this year, below are just a few examples of how they gave back:

**REDBIRD RUGBY**

Rugby program raises over $5,000 for Ste. Justine Children’s Hospital

The McGill University men’s rugby program has a long and proud history of philanthropy and they didn’t let the COVID-19 pandemic slow them down. Led by players Dylan Havelock, a fifth-year senior in software engineering, Andrew Knopp, a physical education senior and Monty Weatherall, an arts sophomore, some 38 members of the program laced up to raise funds for Montreal’s CHU Sainte-Justine children’s hospital by taking part in the RBC Race for the Kids in October 2020. They raised over $5,000 to help support a variety of youth-focused causes.

When it became apparent that the on-field 2020 season was a no-go, the team decided they wanted to carry the momentum from an excellent 2019 campaign in other ways and searched for worthwhile projects to get involved with that could benefit the community, while increasing team camaraderie.

They decided to lead off with the Race for the Kids campaign. Havelock liked the idea of entering a running event and when the original plan of the Montreal Marathon was temporarily put on hold due to COVID-19, this seemed like a perfect stand-in.

“Originally, I had been planning on doing a half-marathon, and before this the longest I had ever run was a 10k,” said Weatherall. “Nearing the completion of the half I was feeling pretty good and since I would have had to walk six miles home anyway if I had stopped, I decided to keep going. Obviously, I’m pretty happy with the results. It feels great to support a worthwhile cause and have fun doing it. The further you run, the more money you’re likely to raise so it felt great.”

**MARTLET VOLLEYBALL**

Volleyball Martlets get creative raising funds for Breast Cancer Foundation

For the past eight seasons, the McGill women’s volleyball team has hosted an annual Dig for the Cure Game, with proceeds directed to the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation. Hosting the event was not possible in 2020, so the program decided to get creative and transformed the fundraising initiative to a cactus sale.

The program called it Cactus for a Cure, and from January 25 to February 10, they sold 2.5” plants for $12.00 and 4” plants for $18.00, while accepting donations as well. Rachèle Beliveau, currently in her 30th season as head coach of the women’s program, said the team was highly motivated to keep the initiative going even though the on-court portion of the initiative was no longer possible.

“Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer for women in Canada, and it’s something our entire program was passionate about supporting. I’ve been incredibly impressed with the initiative of our team and would like to thank everyone who has made a donation or in any way supported this worthwhile cause. It’s great to keep the tradition going for a ninth consecutive season and is something we are really proud of.”

THIS COMPLETE STORY CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT: mcgillathletics.ca/breastcancer2021
Martlet hockey sets record, raises $3,300 for Shoebox Project

In 2018, Emilia Cotter of McGill's women's hockey was searching for positives after the incredibly successful program failed to qualify for nationals. She began researching charities in the Montreal area, eventually landing on the Shoebox Project, an initiative that provides aid for at-risk, or homeless, women. Founded in 2011, the Project has raised over $12 million dollars and has approximately 70 volunteer-run local chapters. Her teammates quickly bought in, and through the 2018 and 2019 seasons the program contributed a combined 96 shoeboxes filled with goods, including household items, toys and clothing.

When Emilia's career as a Martlet came to an end after the 2019-20 season, Samantha McCluskey and Ria Stevens stepped up and assumed ownership of what they hope will be an annual fundraiser. Normally, the shoebox fundraising effort is kicked off on a varsity game night, where donations are collected at the gate; however, that wasn't possible this year. Instead, the two decided to have each player on the 23-woman roster pledge to run 20 kilometers to raise awareness and support. The buy-in exceeded their expectations, with alumni, friends and family all getting involved to help.

"Our goal heading into this was to raise $1,500, and we wound up totaling over $3,300," said McCluskey. "We also ended up initiating great conversations and interaction with our alumni network, everyone was posting to their social channels in creative ways, and it was also a great way for us to stay in touch and be supportive of one another." Donations were record setting, reaching the equivalent of roughly 80 shoeboxes. Due to the pandemic, the recipients received gift cards instead valued you at approximately $40.00 and mainly to various grocery locations.

McGill soccer program comes together in support of Meals for Milton Parc initiative

Several years ago, a McGill student living near the University's athletics complex founded Meals for Milton Parc, a student-led, community-based initiative that supports the homeless who live in the Milton Parc area. Now, the program is flourishing and providing much-needed support to a community that is particularly in need.

The McGill men's soccer program has a track record of successful fundraising campaigns, emphasizing the importance of support from both alumni and the community. "As a team, we promised one another that we would use this assistance to not only better our program on the field, but also as an opportunity to use sport for social transformation," said Francesco Pisegna, a third-year goalkeeper with the Redbirds. While the COVID-19 pandemic did delay certain initiatives, Meals for Milton Parc stood out as a worthwhile cause that the team could pitch in to support.

In November 2020, Francesco, along with teammates Chris Cinelli-Faia and Ramdane Tafer, toured the island, stopping at teammates homes to pick up donations, which ranged from non-perishable items to hand-sanizers, masks and clothing.

"We are committed to the idea that we, as varsity athletes, have a responsibility to give back and enrich our community," said Pisegna, a neuroscience junior. "For this reason, we decided to collect the aforementioned items and work with another student-led organization in order to promote the idea that we as students can have a positive impact on our community. We are proud of our team's ability to come together as a unit and have such a successful fundraising campaign."

Pisegna explained that everyone was eager to get involved in the project, from freshmen to fifth-year veterans and it included players from across the country and around the globe.

"It took every one of us to reach our goal," says Pisegna. "We are hoping to continue along this path and giving back to the communities that have played an important role in shaping who we are as McGill student-athletes."

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Varsity Council

**VARSITY COUNCIL EXCELS IN 2020-21 DESPITE HURDLES**

The 2020-21 season was very different for McGill Athletics varsity council. Lead by their President, Evelyn Silverson-Tokatlidis, a member of the women's rugby program, the council focused on a different set of goals and realized great success.

"Since we couldn't do any in-person events, we moved to Zoom and had more success than we expected. We ran a varsity bonding session, following the same framework as frosh week, where we went over any questions they had, and we had a great turnout with around 40 athletes."

"Later, we ran a Spooky Trivia event, and again the turnout exceeded our expectations, with over 30 athletes attending. Of course, the varsity gala, where we worked alongside six staff members, was another large project that we are very proud of."

The team was made up of James Mulvaney (SSMU Rep), Owen Cumming and Laura Jardin (VP Communications), Makayla Mitchell (VP Community Outreach), Belanna Gans and Juliette Croche (VP Varsity Affairs) and Charlotte Clayton (VP Student Initiatives). Silverson-Tokatlidis says the group was excellent despite the challenges posed by the pandemic.

"My team has been fantastic, it was very hard for all students during COVID-19, but it's particularly hard for athletes. We're so ingrained with schedule, training and having our time filled up that taking that core thing away people can lose a part of their identity. But with us, everyone was still putting their best effort into what is being done."

"Moving forward, our goal is to focus on our athletes and their stories. Last year we ran social media takeovers which were successful - this year we'd love to launch a podcast series, focus on post-game interviews, and reach out to our student body on lower campus effectively. It's a very exciting time."
Who We Are

Thousands of McGill students actively participate in the many Athletics and Recreation programs and services that contribute to campus life. Thirty varsity teams, numerous competitive clubs, 853 intramural teams, 5,000-plus intramural athletes and over 100 non-credit fitness and recreation courses make it one of the largest athletics programs in the country.

McGill’s athletics programming has been enjoyed by students and staff all the way back to the 1860s, with our students being instrumental in some historic sporting firsts. These include participating with Harvard in the first intercollegiate rugby-football game in 1874 and playing in the first organized indoor ice hockey game in 1875 at the famous Victoria Skating Rink. In 1886, the McGill University Athletics Association was formed. Among the many significant moments on the women’s side, our hockey program, established in 1894, was one of the first university teams in the country. And in 1920, McGill hosted Queen’s in the first-ever intercollegiate basketball game.

McGillians are known for their contributions to the origins of sport, with students drafting the first published rules for football (1872) and hockey (1877), in addition to graduate James Naismith, who invented the game of basketball in 1891. The legendary Percival Molson, who at age 16 was the youngest player ever to win the Stanley Cup, was the University’s first Olympian and competed in track and field at the 1904 Summer Games in St. Louis. Since then, McGill alumni have competed virtually every Olympic Games. Some 138 McGill students or grads that have gone on to Olympic glory over the past century and have won a combined total of 31 Olympic medals, 11 of them gold, in addition to seven silvers and 13 bronzes.

The most decorated McGill Olympian is the late Dr. Phil Edwards, a graduate from the faculty of medicine, who racked up five bronze medals while representing Canada in track & field at the Olympic Games in Amsterdam (1928), Los Angeles (1932) and Berlin (1936). Swimmer George Hodgson, who reached the top of the podium twice at Stockholm in 1912, is the only McGillian to strike gold at the Summer Olympics.

Five McGill students have struck gold a combined total of nine times at the Winter Olympics. That group includes hockey players Kim St-Pierre, Charline Labonte, Catherine Ward and Melodie Daoust, in addition to Jennifer Heil, a gold and silver medalist in freestyle skiing.

Some 16 McGillians have won the Stanley Cup, nine have skated in the NHL and 10 others have coached in the NHL. Among those names in that illustrious group are Frank and Lester Patrick, Mike Babcock, George Burnett, Guy Boucher, Martin Raymond, Jaime Kompon and Mathieu Darche.

We have proudly produced 136 draft picks since the Canadian Football League was initiated in 1953 and three of our grads have played in the NFL, namely Randy Chevrier, Dr. Jean-Philippe Darche and Dr. Laurent-Duverney-Tardif, the latter two who have merited Super Bowl rings.

McGill athletes have gone on to coach in the NBA (Kevin O’Neill), become astronauts, leaders in business, philanthropy, medicine and the arts, politicians and the Governor General of Canada. Their success highlights the potential for sport to develop leaders and influencers who impact the world around them.

Our athletics facilities, spread over two campuses, features both indoor and outdoor running tracks and tennis courts, an eight-lane, 25-metre pool, two double gymnasias, a 10,000 square foot fitness centre, McConnell Winter Arena, several outdoor fields and fitness studios, the McGill Sports Medicine Clinic and the iconic Percival Molson Stadium, which is also home to the Montreal Alouettes football team. Located at the base of Mount Royal Park, the McGill community takes full advantage of numerous running, hiking and cross-country ski trails as well as stunning views of the city.

The Macdonald Campus facilities in suburban Ste. Anne de Bellevue, located on the western tip of the island of Montreal, include an arena, gymnasium, fitness centre, fitness studio, outdoor gym, a beach volleyball court, outdoor playing fields, an area for the lumberjack team competition and a paddling centre. There are also hundreds of acres of green space including the Morgan Arboretum, which has cross country skiing, walking and running trails.
Generosity Report
2020/2021

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McGILL’S VARSITY SPORTS PROGRAM

U SPORTS TEAMS (16)
Basketball (m & w)
Cross Country (m & w)
Field Hockey (w)
Football (m)
Ice Hockey (m & w)
Rugby (w)
Soccer (m & w)
Swimming (m & w)
Track and Field (m & w)
Volleyball (w)

NON U SPORTS TEAMS (14)
Skiing (m & w)
Badminton (m & w)
Golf (m & w)
Rugby (m)
Rowing (m & w)
Baseball (m)
Lacrosse (m)
Artistic Swimming (w)
Woodsmen (m & w)