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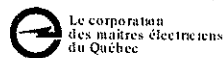
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Friends of the MUHC shifts from 'friendraising' to 'fundraising'

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

After being officially granted charitable status last fall, it's full steam ahead for the Friends of the MUHC, a new volunteer group.

"We've been ready to go since November," Andrea Usher-Jones, a Friends board member responsible for communications, said in an interview with the *Independent*. "Up to now, we've been 'friendraising,' but now we can fundraise."

Despite some initial birth pains, Usher-Jones and Friends board president Lesley Reford, both Westmounters, said they are very enthusiastic about the road ahead. "Our motto is 'all hands on deck.' We're really hands-on," Usher-Jones pointed out. "We would like to see people becoming involved from the community," Reford added.

According to a page on the MUHC website, the group's functions include raising money for the health centre as well as promoting the hospital's image in the community. Money raised can be used to pur-

chase medical equipment, sponsor research awards and support programs that enhance patient care.

Reford said the auxiliaries of the six merged hospitals (the Montreal General, the Royal Victoria, the Montreal Children's, the Montreal Neurological, the Montreal Chest Institute and the Lachine Hospital) lost membership and orientation in recent years, leading to a concerted move to create a new centralized organization.

Two other MUHC units, the Cedars Cancer Centre and the MUHC's Research Institute, will also be benefiting from the Friends' efforts, they added. So far, ac-



Friends of the MUHC president Lesley Reford, left, and board member Andrea Usher-Jones, seen here on January 28 in Reford's home, would like to see more people from the community involved in the new MUHC group.

cording to Reford and Usher-Jones, the Chest Hospital auxiliary has officially shut and handed over its remaining funds. Several of its members have also joined the new organization.

The Children's Hospital's auxiliary did the same in December and transferred \$10,000 to the Friends.

They said that a special effort has been made to ensure that appointments to the Friends of the MUHC's 16-member board are done in a manner that equitably represents the former auxiliaries. They also wished to dispel the time-worn notion that hospital auxiliaries are dominated by women.

They pointed out that a man, Kevin Peacock (also a Westmounter), is vice president of the Friends' board and that the group has many other male members.

For more information about Friends of the MUHC can be obtained by emailing friendsofthemuhc@gmail.com

Shearer cont'd. from p. 13

Shearer and her sister Athole did attend Montreal High School for Girls in downtown Montreal.

Shearer's time in Westmount was drawing to a close before World War I when her father was forced to sell his interest in his company as well as 507 Grosvenor. Dykij suggested that his gambling and bad investments had a lot to do with it. A 1912-13 Lovell's street directory listed a Southam as 507 Grosvenor's new occupant.

After leaving her husband, Edith Shearer moved with her children to the US, where Norma rose to fame in films. Athole also tried to make a career in

movies, but suffered from a bi-polar disorder and did not have a comparable amount of success.

A third sibling, Douglas, became a highly successful sound recording engineer in Hollywood and won seven Academy Awards for his work.

When Shearer was named to the city's posthumous honor roll of exceptional citizens for 1991, she was also described by the city as having lived on Columbia after the move from Grosvenor.

At the end of her presentation, Dykij presented the WHA with a copy of Shearer's unpublished memoir.