

# Friends' News

Issue #6

April 2016

## Students raise funds for the MUHC at 4th Annual Toonie Challenge

The Friends of the MUHC Toonie Challenge is back for its fourth annual run, and this year Montreal schools have once again hopped on board to help raise funds for the McGill University Health Centre. So far this year's Challenge has raised \$5,400, adding to a cumulative amount of over \$42,000.

Led by Co-Chairs Andrea Howick and Nicole Small, the Toonie Challenge committee enlisted 12 schools to participate including Trafalgar, St. George's, The Priory, Selwyn House School, ECS, Lower Canada College, The Study, Willingdon, West Island College, Vanguard, Roslyn and Narnia Daycare. Once again, each school is choosing its own activity to motivate students to raise Toonies, and by all accounts they have been imaginative and fun! "The goal of the Toonie Challenge is for students in Montreal schools to collect Toonies to raise funds, friends, and awareness of the MUHC hospital," says Nicole. "It's a wonderful way to engage students in an active relationship in their community hospital."

Although the total is not yet in, handfuls of students from each of the schools were chosen to attend an event on April 8th celebrating the fundraising effort at the Priory School in Westmount. It included food, drinks and many MUHC professionals managing interactive kiosks that featured various departments and medical disciplines. The students all agreed that they felt proud of their fundraising efforts and that the money would go towards helping others. "It felt good to raise money for the Children's Hospital," says Clara Frey, a grade 5 Willingdon Elementary School student. "And I am happy to be at this event to learn about health care."

This year, for the first time, students were given the opportunity to vote on how they would like their Toonies to be spent. Keynote speaker, Dr. May Khairy, pediatrician from the Neonatology Follow-up Clinic, outlined two options. One was the BAHA, or Bone Anchored Hearing Aid, for children with conductive hearing loss. Students were fascinated to learn these could be Bluetooth enabled to allow them to use cell phones like all their peers!



*(Toonie Challenge...continued on page 2)*





# Toonie Challenge

*(continued from page 1)*

The other option was a Neonatal Cribette. A premature infant graduates to this specialized crib when they are able to regulate their body temperature and maintain their body weight. Once in the crib, the baby is one step closer to going home! "Both options are incredibly important to children's healthcare," says Andrea. "We're excited to see which one the students choose to fund."

"The Toonie Challenge is one of our most successful programs to date," says Lesley Reford, president of The Friends. "It's one of a growing number of initiatives we are undertaking to help make the hospital a more comfortable place for patients, visitors, and staff."

The total raised and the most voted for purchase will be unveiled in May. Many thanks go out to Andrea and Nicole and their committee for all of their hard work to make this come together. As well, we thank all the students and their schools, as well as The Priory for their enthusiastic participation.





# Royal Victoria Hospital Auxiliary Honoured at Unveiling Ceremony

On February 10th, the Royal Victoria Hospital was honoured by the MUHC leadership with an unveiling ceremony in the Antepartum and Postpartum Unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital. MUHC Chairman, Claudio Bussandri and MUHC President and Executive Director, Normand Rinfret were on hand to present the plaque which reads *"In gratitude for their generous donation."* Several members of the Auxiliary were in attendance for this special commemorative event and were proud to see their fundraising efforts being acknowledged within this brand new maternity unit.



## We'll soon be on the web!

*Keep an eye out for the Friends new website, coming in May!*



## Mark your calendars!

The Friends of the MUHC Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday, May 18th at 12:00 pm at Glen Hall, 5100 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West.

Please don't forget to complete and send in your membership renewal form as soon as possible!

Friends' News is published by:

**The Friends of the MUHC**  
P.O. Box 23008 Vendome, Montreal, Quebec H4A 1S0  
Submissions are encouraged at [friendsofthemuhc@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthemuhc@gmail.com)

Les amis DU CUSM



Friends OF THE MUHC