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MONTREAL SOLDIERS' WIVES' LEAGUE

MG 28, I 311

Finding Aid No. 1116 / Instrument de recherche no 1116

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in 1980 by Tom Nesmith of the
Social and Cultural Archives

Préparé en 1979 et révisé en
1980 par Tom Nesmith des Archives
sociales et culturelles

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MONTREAL SOLDIERS' WIVES' LEAGUE (1899-)

Originals, 1900-1975. 85 cm. F.A. No. 1116.

The Montreal Soldiers' Wives' League was formed in 1899 by Lady Hutton, wife of the Imperial Officer in Command of Canadian Militia, to assist the relatives of men who had volunteered for service in the Boer War. It was the first time that Canadian Military Units had gone overseas to war, and nothing was being done for the families they had left behind. The stated aim of the Founder was "to bring their wives and other relatives in closer touch and sympathy in time of trouble and distress".

Between the end of the Boer War and the beginning of World War I the League was almost inactive, but in September, 1914 its work was resumed. It was officially recognized as a Charitable Organization by Order-in-Council #1720 of the Province of Quebec, dated November 29th, 1917. After the War another period of inactivity followed until 1939. Then Brigadier L. Armstrong of M.D. 4 requested that the Montreal Soldiers' Wives' League be reorganized to coordinate the work of all the Women's Auxiliaries in the Navy, Army and Air Force units in the Montreal area. A number of committees were active during the war years, of these only the Hospital Visiting Committee was retained after the war ended, and this continues to function on behalf of the veterans of two World Wars.

The Montreal Soldiers' Wives' League has no revenue. The only money-making projects it undertakes are specifically designated for the Hospital Visiting Committee, and all money is spent on the veterans in the Ste. Anne de Bellevue Military Hospital and the Queen Mary Veterans' Hospital. Members of the League visit these hospitals once a month making approximately 9,000 individual visits to the patients each year, distributing cigarettes, candy and other small comforts at a cost of approximately \$1,900. This money is raised by one fund-raising event each year and by charitable donations.

Presented in 1979 by Montreal Soldiers' Wives League through Mrs. Coderre-Smith, Hampstead, Québec, League President.

The Finding Aid No. 1116 is a list of subject files.

The papers of the Montreal Soldiers' Wives' League deal for the most part with the assistance offered by the League to the families of Canadian servicemen during World War II. There are a few reports for annual meetings dating from 1900 and the World War I era. See volume 2, file 30.

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Subject files are listed in finding aid No. 1116 for League minutes and financial reports, relations with the federal government, other social agencies and affiliated groups as well as for special projects like funding raising drives, christmas parties, and hospital visitation.

April 1980
T. Nesmith

7-8554
Social/Cultural

MONTREAL SOLDIERS' WIVES' LEAGUE

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The finding aid is a list of subject files.

(Bracketed file numbers are those employed by the League to identify these files.)

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	2 (6)	Dependent's Board of Trustees, 1942-45
	3 (7)	Housing Correspondence, 1942-43
	4 (8)	Housing Report, 1942-45
	5 (11)	Local Council of Women of Montreal, 1945
	6 (16)	Registration Wartime Charities Act, 1939-47
	7 (23)	Auxiliaries and Presidents M.S.W.L., 1942-45
	8 (26)	Campaign for Funds, 1950-51
	9 (27)	Correspondence Ste Anne de Bellevue - Bingo, 1964-66
	10 (28)	Victory Loan Committee, Jan.-Feb., 1942
	11 (29)	Central Volunteer Bureau, 1939-43
	12 (29 ¹)	Associated Broadcasting Co. Ltd., "For Distinguished Service" - Script - M.S.W.L. - Paul's Service Stores, 1944
	13 (30)	War Charities Act, 1939-47
	14 (31)	Women's Voluntary Services Centre, 1943-46
	15 (32)	Report on Burials, 1941-42
	16 (32 ¹)	War Services Coordinating Council, 1942
	17 (34)	Council of Social Agencies, 1939-42

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	21 (39)	Standing Committee and Letters of Thanks, 1968-70
	22 (43)	Invitations to Affiliate with M.S.W.L., 1940-43
	23 (44)	Executive Committees Affiliated Auxiliaries, 1940-46
	24 (45)	Welfare, 1942-45
	25 (47)	Affiliated Auxiliaries Annual Reports, 1943-46
	26 (49)	Quebec Committee for Allied Victory, 1942-43
	27 (53)	Last Post Fund, 1941-46
	28 (55)	Wool Committee Reports, 1940
2	29 (56)	Auditors Financial Statements, 1940-43
	30 (57)	Annual Meetings, M.S.W.L. and Reports, 1900-51
	31 (59)	Annual Meetings, M.S.W.L. and Reports, 1951-73
	32 (59)	Office Committee Reports, 1943-46
	33 (66)	Welfare Committee M.S.W.L., 1939-45
	34 (67)	Office Finances, 1943-46
	35 (68)	Out-of-Town Auxiliaries, 1941-1945
	36 (70)	Auxiliary Service Comforts, 1939-46
	37 (71)	Red Cross (General Correspondence), 1940-45
	38	Tramways Strike Resolution, 1943
	39 (74)	Department of Pensions and National Health, 1943-45
	40 (75)	Treasurer M.S.W.L., 1943-46
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	42 (79)	Letters of Application for Membership and fees, 1939-43
	43 (80)	Junior Board of Trade, 1943
	44 (82)	Margaret Currie's Mail, 1942
	45 (83)	Prisoners of War Relatives Association, 1943
	46 (84)	War Savings Stamps, 1943-45
	47 (87)	Radio Broadcast, 30 Nov. 1943 on the "New Woman" program, CFCF, Montreal.
	48 (88)	Hospitality Committee Coordinating Council, 1943
	49 (90)	Registration, n.d., Dept. of National Revenue.
	50 (91)	Convalescent Homes - Welfare of Returned Men, 1943-44
	51 (93 ¹)	Christmas Visiting to Hospitals - Correspondence to Auxiliaries, 1945-51
	52 (93)	Hospital Visiting, 1944-46
	53 (94)	Well Baby Clinics, 1943-44
3	54 (95)	British Wives, 1944-46
	55 (97)	Monetary Donations - Correspondence, 1964-67
	56 (97)	Monetary Donations - Correspondence 1971-75
	57 (98)	Fashion Show - Eaton's, 1944
	58 (99)	Fund Raising, 1959-69
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	60 (99)	Garden Party, 1973
	61 (99)	Garden Party, 1974
	62 (99)	Correspondence - 75th Anniversary, 1974

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	64 (101)	Major General Chisholm, 1944
	65 (102)	Degenerates Correspondence - Benson Boy Murder, 1945
	66 (103)	Oak Society, Oct. 1945
	67 (104)	United Nations Society in Canada, 1945-46
	68	Christmas Party, 1942-44
	69	Tickets and Special Invitations, 1942
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	71	Christmas Party, 1943
	72	Patrons and Invitations, 1943-44
	73	General Organization, 1943-44
	74	Christmas Party, 1944
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	76	Christmas Party, 1945
	77	Permits, 1940-54
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	79	Prizes for Drawing, 1954
	80	Record of Regimental Auxiliaries, 1957-60
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	82	Secretary's File, 1971-73
4	83	Scrapbook, 1943
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	85	Scrapbook, 1944

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5	86	Minutes, Montreal Artillery Branch, General and Executive Meetings, 1939-46 .
	87	Minutes, Montreal Artillery Branch, General and Executive, Meetings, 1940-41
	88	Minutes, General and Executive Meetings, 1944-45
	89	Minutes, General and Executive Meetings, 1954-62
	90	Minutes, General and Executive Meetings, 1962-70
	91	Minutes, Executive Committee, Meetings, 1939-46
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