

FALL/WINTER 2024

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# ST. MICHAEL'S

UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ALUMNI MAGAZINE

A photograph of a woman and a dog sitting in the cab of a green tractor. The woman, wearing a black t-shirt and a white baseball cap, is smiling and petting the dog. The dog is a white and brown spaniel with its tongue hanging out. The tractor is green and has a large black tire visible in the foreground. The background shows a lush green forest.

**Alumna Eleanor McGrath:  
Living in Harmony  
with Life's Seasons**



# 2024 Golf Classic

We salute our donors and corporate sponsors who helped make the 2024 USMC Golf Classic such a success. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you.

**SAVE THE DATE:** St. Mike's 2025 tournament will take place on Wednesday, September 24 at Eagles Nest Golf Club.



*The winning team was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Toronto and included Jake Cappiello, Jerome McGrath, Kevin Fawcett, and Jim Milway. Kevin Fawcett won Longest Drive Men, Patrick Gallo won Closest to the Pin, and Kay Leung won Longest Drive Ladies.*

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# ST. MICHAEL'S

The University of St. Michael's  
College Alumni Magazine

Fall/Winter 2024  
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## COMMUNITY

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can flourish.



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**ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE**  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO





## FROM FOUNDERS HOUSE

# Tracking to 180

*An eye on fulfilling our goals*

I OFTEN JOKE WITH THE TEAM in Founders House that I sleep with our university’s strategic plan, *St. Mike’s 180: Rooted in the Future*, under my pillow. Not true! But I do admit to referring to pertinent sections on a regular basis, especially when we are engaged in planning and budgeting. ¶ This week, however, a colleague from across Queen’s Park inquired about how *St. Mike’s 180* ‘came to be’ as he is about to lead his own institution into its first strategic plan. His words to me were, “I had seen it before and was impressed, but I’m now looking at it with new eyes and interest...” I hope he finds some merit in the undertaking.

And so, inspired by my colleague, at 5:00 am this morning, I set myself to approaching our strategic plan as if for the first time, with my own set of ‘new eyes,’ as it were. My goal was to be critical and open to surprises of both deficiencies and strengths of the document as we continue to navigate our path to institutional renewal.

Since so many of our alumni were engaged in the formation of this plan, you’ll remember our Vision and Mission: to be Canada’s leading Catholic university, promoting respectful dialogue, taking concrete steps on care for our common home and in solidarity with the human family (calls to action drawn directly from Pope Francis’ encyclicals *Laudato si’* and *Fratelli Tutti*); we described St. Mike’s as a university grounded in the rich Catholic Intellectual Tradition committed to the education of the whole person, challenging all its members to exercise transformative leadership in service of the common good and care of all creation.

In advancing this Mission and Vision, we focused on three pillars:

- building an authentic learning and faith **COMMUNITY** that was diverse, accessible and inclusive;
- providing opportunities for transformational **EDUCATION** on campus and around the world;
- tending to our resources, our relations, and our planet, modelling comprehensive **SUSTAINABILITY**

My conclusion? Of course, I have a page of notes on what we can improve, but on the whole together we did a pretty good job developing the plan, both in recognition of our historical strengths and our future possibilities.

While we will continue to focus and refine how we are implementing *St. Mike’s 180* — as my kids used to say in elementary school, how to ‘bump it up’ — I believe we are on track to fulfilling the goals we set together as we approach our 180th anniversary.

For any alumni who would like to see how St. Michael’s is tracking on our journey to 2032, I would invite you to take a look at *St. Mike’s 180* with your own ‘new eyes,’ and then to look at the annual President’s Reports to Collegium, which highlight our progress each year. I would be happy to hear from you on how you think we’re doing here on Clover Hill and how we might ‘bump it up’. ♦




*David G. Sylvester*

*David Sylvester, PhD*

*President and Vice-Chancellor*

For more on the *St. Mike’s 180 strategic plan*, please visit: [stmikes.utoronto.ca/stmikes180](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/stmikes180). To read the most recent *President’s Report to Collegium*, please see [stmikes.utoronto.ca/about-us/governance-and-administration/office-of-the-president](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca/about-us/governance-and-administration/office-of-the-president)



  
**ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE**  
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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Under separate cover I have sent you some brochures about St. Michael's College and the University of Toronto. I hope that these will be of some help to you.

Once again, thank you for your interest in St. Michael's College. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours truly,  
*Bridget Caspary*  
 Secretary to the Registrar

bc

  
**ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE**  
 UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
 49 ST. MARY ST.  
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OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

November 21, 1978.

Miss Elenor McGrath,  
 49 Bennington Heights Drive,  
 Toronto, Ont.,  
 M4G 1A8

Dear Elenor,

Thank you very much for your interest in St. Michael's College. I hope that this letter will answer some of your questions.

At the moment, The University of Toronto does not require that grade 13 students take specific courses in order to be admitted to the University; instead applicants in order to have good standing in at least six grade thirteen subjects of their choice. Generally students who have at least a 70% or better in their grade thirteen subjects are admitted to the University. (It should be noted that all St. Michael's College students are admitted first to the University of Toronto and then to St. Michael's College.)

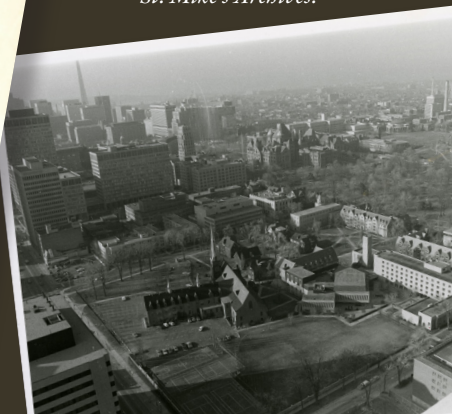
By the time you enter grade thirteen, the admission requirements for the University may have changed a great deal. At this time, first year university students in the Faculty of Arts and Science may take whatever subjects they wish. When you enter your first year of university, it might well be that the University will ask you to take certain subjects, e.g., a language or a science, etc.

Since it is impossible to guess just what changes, if any, the University may make to current regulations, I can only suggest that you try to take a wide variety of subjects in high school. This will provide you with a solid base should admission requirements change and it will also be beneficial insofar as you will broaden your own educational background. I would also suggest that you visit your high school Guidance Officer occasionally so that you will be up to date on any changes.

*Above: Eleanor and her sister Martha on a family trip to the Boozier Brown game, held on the back campus playing field.*

*Below: Correspondence with the Registrar's Office.*

*A view of the campus as it appeared in 1977. Photo courtesy of St. Mike's Archives.*



# Alumna Eleanor McGrath: Living in Harmony with Life's Seasons

FROM PHILANTHROPY TO FARMING, alumna Eleanor McGrath (SMC 8T9) is motivated in everything she does by a desire to protect, to better, and to celebrate the world around her. ¶ Some of the earliest seeds to this approach to life, she says, stem from her St. Mike's connections. ¶ Today, Eleanor and her husband Finbarr McCarthy are the proud owners of Springfield Farm in eastern Ontario, an operation based on a "slow farming" philosophy of using sustainable practice. The farm produces a variety of crops and sells its own maple syrup and honey nurtured along by beekeeper Finbarr.

But as satisfying as it is to run an organic operation, Eleanor has taken her passion for healthy stewardship of the land a step farther, sharing her gorgeous rural space with visitors, encouraging reflection on the need to protect an increasingly vulnerable environment. Agritourism and culinary tourism have clear ties to the land and its beauty, and Eleanor is a firm believer in witnesses becoming supporters.

The farm routinely hosts events, and the property has a yurt that can be booked for glamping, a more pampered form of camping. Visitors can also play an 18-hole disc golf course, which leads them through a "managed forest" that contains at-risk species.

"Climate change is here," she says. "We want to offer some sort of hope."

McGrath cites *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, as an inspiration for the life she leads. "Care for creation," she says, "was sort of embedded into how we were raised."

The daughter of John McGrath (SMC 6T3) and Anne McGrath, née Morse (SMC 6T2), Eleanor always knew that St. Mike's was in her future.

"I grew up in a St. Mike's family," she says, remembering visits to campus for various events, including the annual Boozer Brown game, and of being introduced to big college names

like former principal William Dunphy and Prof. Robert O'Driscoll, one of the founders of the Celtic Studies program.

"When I was 13, I wrote the registrar," she laughs.

Studying English and philosophy at St. Mike's helped Eleanor develop key skills she would use professionally, including how to glean critical information and present it effectively. She also gained an enhanced appreciation for beauty, whether in the arts

or in nature, and honed her love for storytelling, because the telling of stories helps preserve history, ensuring we remain mindful of what is important.

Her time at St. Mike's also helped her identify her own values and ethics. As an example, she cites a bioethics course she took with Prof. Barry Brown.

"It was an amazing course," she recalls. "I came from a pro-life family. This course allowed me to come to the same conclusions myself."

After graduation, there was work with





non-profits. Serving as the Executive Director of the Ireland Fund of Canada strengthened her ties to her family ancestry on her father's side.

Then, work as an investment banker gave her a new appreciation for the stories of newcomers who saved and scrimped to create a better world for their children.

In time, though, the thought of being at home with her four children called. But that didn't slow Eleanor's pace; instead, a door opened to new ventures.

She researched, interviewed and edited a book titled *A Story to be Told: Fifty Years of Personal Accounts of the Irish Immigrant Experience in Canada* with photographs by William C. Smith. She also began creating documentaries, first with *Kanata: An Irish Story* and then *Alive from the Divis Flats*, profiling radio icon Hugo Straney from Belfast waiting for his big break in show business.

All this, while serving on the board of the Ireland Canada University Fund, an organization dedicated to enhancing the relationship between Ireland and Canada, including supporting programming in St. Mike's Celtic Studies program. Subsequently, she was headhunted to return to work as a fundraising consultant for the Jesuits of English Canada.

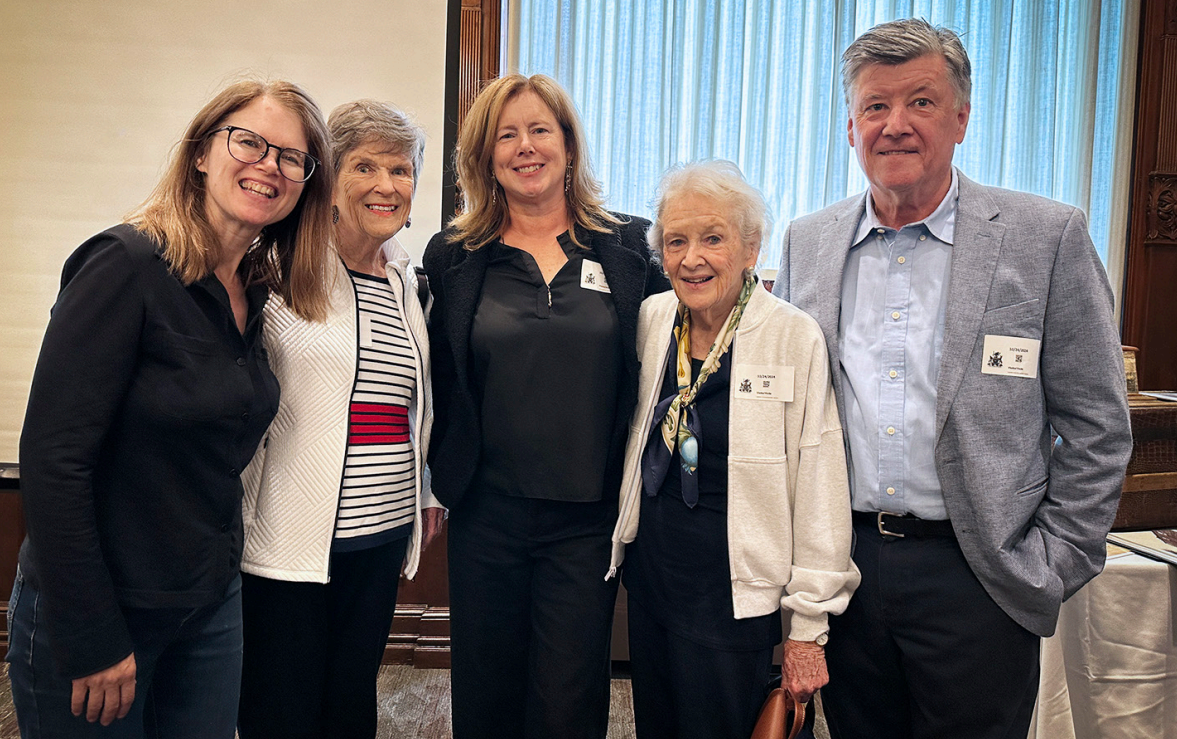
In the midst of this busy life, she and Finbarr purchased the farm in 2014 as a place to visit as "weekend warriors." But the farm quickly wove

its way into other aspects of her life. She learned, for example, that the property sits on Mohawk territory, which spurred her involvement in a 2016 conference that saw the Jesuits partner with St. Mike's to produce *Truth, Reconciliation and Hope: a New Vision for Canada*, an event that featured former prime minister and St. Mike's alumnus Paul Martin Jr.

"I was proud to be part of the TR & H conference and to help take the conversation forward," she says.

A casual walk one morning downtown in Toronto gave rise to another passion when a house she passed intrigued her. The building, which the next day was devastated by fire, had once been the Fegan Home for the Distribution of Boys, part of a network that received British Home Children, orphans and other destitute children who were shipped to Canada and put to work.

She states "this story found me" and she was driven to preserve the building which led to another documentary. *Forgotten* tells the often-tragic stories of what happened when these children arrived in Canada. Recently, *Forgotten* was screened at Queen's Park on a day the Ontario legislature recognized the 155th anniversary of the arrival of the first of the 125,000 children brought over by the program between the 1850s and 1939. At a reception before the filming, members of all four provincial parties



*Eleanor with family, friends and dignitaries at the Queen's Park screening of "Forgotten", including her husband Finbarr and aunt, Cynthia Teeter (née McGrath, SMC 5T7).*

showed up to thank Eleanor for her efforts to ensure these children are not forgotten.

"We need to start correcting the stories in history books and telling stories that haven't been told," McGrath says, adding that the histories of the British Home Children and the Indigenous children forced to attend Residential Schools overlap. To know the stories of the past is a first step in ensuring we avoid repeating mistakes, she adds.

Whether greeting dignitaries or getting off her tractor to take a call, Eleanor shows the same warmth and enthusiasm for everyone she meets. Her many gifts have been acknowledged with everything from an honorary diploma from St. Lawrence College for demonstrating "that hard work pays off" to an Award of Excellence at the LA Movie Awards.

None of this stops her from getting her hands dirty, though. When she and Finbarr took over the day-to-day operations of the farm in 2017, they were immersed in a new world, a challenge she approached the same way she took on her courses at St. Mike's: rolling up her sleeves, learning new things and relishing the challenge. In that way, she says, she is like her mother Anne, who died when Eleanor was a student at St. Mike's.

Today, she is teaching herself to grow winter wheat, and she is proud of the "lovely" tomatoes grown at Springfield Farm, which come

from "sun, soil and water." Avoiding the use of pesticides and fertilizers is not only better for the environment but also reduces the risk of dangers such as listeria. Untreated, these beauties need very little washing before they are fit to be served.

**“I am mindful that we are just passing through, that we are just stewards.”**

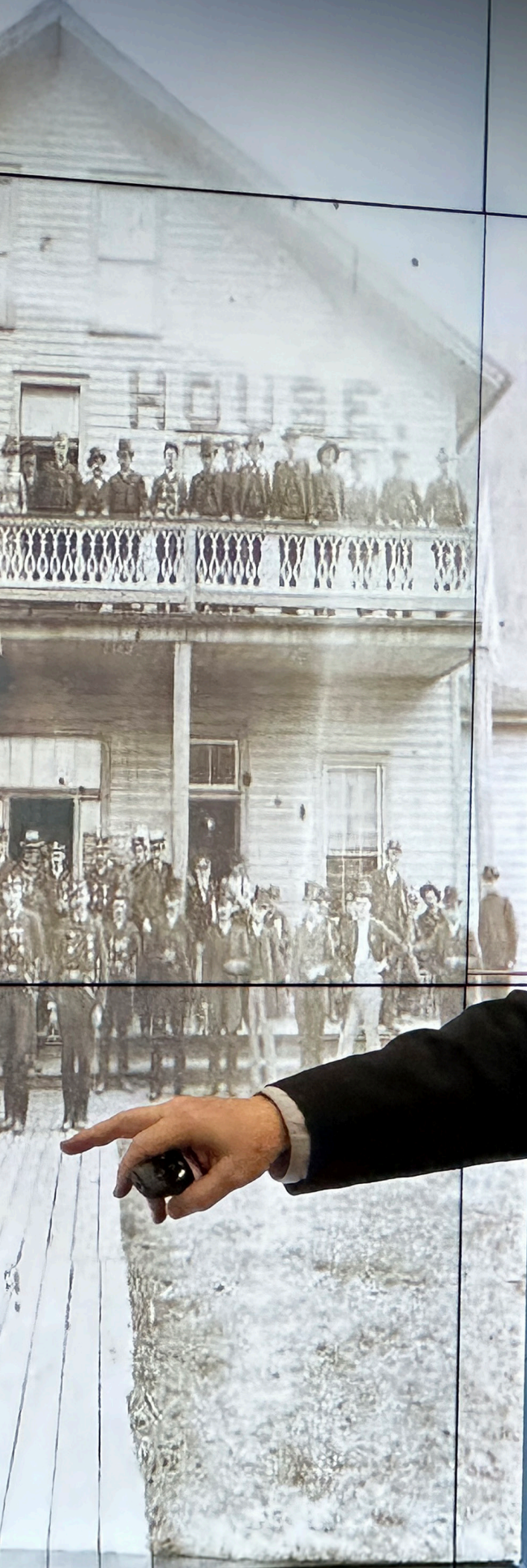
*Eleanor McGrath (SMC 8T9)*

Eleanor is also interested in cooking and baking items that would have been served when the farmhouse was built 200 years ago. Right now, it's scones, a process that involves guesswork, because she's using a wood stove just as the original farm owners would have done and she's still learning how to gauge temperature.

Whether talking about tomatoes or the joy of birdsong, Eleanor is clearly delighted in learning from the farm to live in harmony with the seasons.

"There is such beauty. I see it in Toronto, too. But here you're encountering how nature works together. How can you deny a creator?" she says.

"I am mindful that we are just passing through, that we are just stewards." ♦



*Presenting at the  
"Finding Molly Johnson:  
Irish Famine Orphans  
in Canada" book launch  
November, 2024.*

*Right: Official portrait as  
Principal and Vice-President.  
Photo: USMC Archives, 2002.*





## Reflections on Mark McGowan's Extraordinary Career at St. Mike's

**F**OR PROF. MARK MCGOWAN, being inducted into the Royal Society of Canada, one of the highest academic honours in this country, is the latest entry in the lengthy list of accomplishments in his illustrious career at St. Mike's. But to hear him tell it, that career almost didn't play out as planned.

On the eve of his retirement, McGowan took time with *St. Michael's Magazine* to reflect on his 34 years at the university as a professor, principal, administrator, and vital member of the community. "My maternal grandfather, Albert Giesler, was a storyteller, telling tales of Bruce County. He inspired me to know history beyond textbooks," he says of his earliest days in the southwestern Ontario towns of Wingham and Walkerton.

McGowan's family moved to Ottawa when his father, Douglas, was offered a job with

CFRA-CFMO, and later the fledgling Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission. Both parents were immersed in Canadian media, with his mother, Betty Anne, holding many on-air roles over the years, including as one of the original *Romper Room* ladies in the Canadian franchise. Sadly, McGowan's father died when Mark was a teenager, but the family's lasting interest in media helped shape his career, with Catholic media being one of his many areas of expertise.

After receiving his doctorate, supervised by

*Delivering a lecture in  
St. Mike's Celtic Studies course  
"Ireland Since the Famine,"  
October, 2024.*



University of Toronto Prof. John S. Moir, one of Canada's foremost religious historians, McGowan headed back home, teaching at the University of Ottawa for three years before the opportunity at St. Mike's arose. He had interviewed at a number of places, turning down job offers from two other major Canadian universities—but the job at St. Mike's was initially offered to someone else. When that person turned down the position, then-President Richard Alway interviewed all the short-listed candidates, and the job was offered to McGowan.

The rest, of course, is history. For two years, from 1991 to 1992, McGowan commuted between Toronto and Ottawa, where his wife Eileen and growing family were still based. Weekdays, he lived in a room provided to him by the Basilians in what was then called Clover Hill — the upstairs portion of Odette Hall. Thursday afternoons he would take the bus home before turning round and taking the midnight bus back to Toronto on Monday nights.

His time spent living on campus proved entertaining, with some of the big Basilian names associated with the college — Frs. Finlay and Madden, as well as social historian Fr. Ambrose Raftis, for example — sharing stories about the early days of St. Mike's and modelling their love of teaching.

As a specialist in the religious, social and communications history of Canada and Ireland, McGowan was cross appointed to U of T's history department, where he was later appointed deputy chair. In 2002, a decade after arriving at St. Mike's, he was appointed college principal, a move he accepted in part because he knew it would be good for his family, allowing, for example, for him to continue summer vacation traditions with Eileen and their five children.

"I took an un-administrative approach to the job," McGowan explains, adding that he wanted to continue his classroom work because he "needed not to lose touch with the ground. I firmly believed that a principal was a 'principal teacher.'"

The decision to accept the position was made as a couple, with one key ground rule laid down by Eileen.

"You can only do it if Jo Godfrey remains as the office executive assistant," McGowan recalls his wife saying, as she recognized what invaluable support Godfrey offered.

Godfrey did stay and, along with program assistant Jean Talman, the three were a strong team for the nine years McGowan served in the role.

"Mark got along with colleagues. He was not overbearing but asked people for ideas," Godfrey recalls, emphasizing his positive impact on St. Mike's relationship with U of T.

"His gifts for dealing with people were particularly noticeable in his dealings with students," she adds.

“What I’ve appreciated most has been the opportunity to do independent research with Prof. McGowan. His deep knowledge of the pre-Confederation history of the Irish in Canada together with his approach to technical research has resulted in a truly wonderful academic experience.”

*Sheila Reesor  
current student*

McGowan “was very popular with students because he gave them his time. I could see when they had learned something from him.”

In no time, he was making decisions that would have a lasting impact on the college, all while continuing to teach history at U of T and in Christianity & Culture and Celtic Studies at St. Mike's. For example, he and colleague Prof. Yannick Portebois, began chatting with colleagues across U of T about creating a program to foster a critical look at book history and print culture, focused on media literacy. The result was the renowned Book & Media Studies program (BMS), one of the four sponsored programs St. Mike's offers in conjunction with U of T. It remains one of the most popular sponsored programs at the university.

With boundless energy, McGowan continued his research, establishing himself as the world's leading expert on the Irish famine's impact on Canada, a role that further cemented St. Mike's Celtic Studies department with the Irish community in Canada, as well as strengthening St. Mike's ties to Ireland's Maynooth University.



Above: Mark and Eileen McGowan (far right) with friends and colleagues Jean Talman, Jo Godfrey, and David Wilson at the 2023 “Hope and Hunger” book launch. Top right: Profs. Mark McGowan and Alison More with St. Mike’s Boyle Seminar students in Ireland, 2023.

(This past spring, McGowan joined Dr. Eamonn McKee, then serving as the Irish ambassador to Canada, on a journey that started in Ireland and ended in Ontario, delivering bronze shoes to mark the path of the Irish refugees in Canada, part of a worldwide project. He also organized a conference on campus in May that included a

“His gifts for dealing with people were particularly noticeable in his dealings with students.”

Jo Godfrey,  
former Executive Assistant

look at research he had conducted into aid local Indigenous communities sent to Ireland during the famine.)

On top of a variety of administrative roles at St. Mike’s and in U of T’s History Department, he also produced twelve books, with the latest – *Finding Molly Johnson: Irish Famine Orphans in Canada*, created with help of student researchers, published this past fall.

Current and former students carry great respect for McGowan’s creative approach to teaching and research and are quick to cite his activities-based learning style, whether with in-class assignments, or field work.

“Prof. McGowan was always very supportive and the opportunity to work on real research at that stage of my career was one of the highlights of my undergrad,” says alumna Chiara Fallone, who in her second year, in 2016, worked on the Missing 1,490 project, which

looked into the fate of 1,490 famine refugees from Strokestown, Ireland.

McGowan sees the relationship between teaching and research as “symbiotic,” and cites the satisfaction of taking students to Ireland so they could, *in situ*, see what they had been researching.

“Dr. McGowan ... successfully combined difficult theoretical content with insights from the field to create interactive lectures that everyone in the class enjoyed,” recalls Elizaveta Poliakova, now a doctoral candidate in York University’s Communication and Culture program. “Dr. McGowan played a crucial role in shaping me as a young academic, and I will look back on my time in the BMS program as foundational to my achievements.”

For current student Sheila Reesor, the opportunity to study with McGowan was one of the appeals of the Celtic Studies program.

“What I’ve appreciated most has been the opportunity to do independent research with Prof. McGowan. His deep knowledge of the pre-Confederation history of the Irish in Canada together with his approach to technical research has resulted in a truly wonderful academic experience,” Reesor says.

Long-time Celtic Studies colleague Prof. David Wilson offers both professional and personal praise.

“The leading authority on the Irish in Canada, author of numerous books and articles, winner of four outstanding teaching awards, long-serving Principal of St. Mike’s, founder of the Book & Media Studies Program, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, community leader, great conversationalist, wickedly funny mimic, bass guitarist in a rock band, excellent colleague and friend, Mark McGowan



has done it all,” Wilson says. “He has made a real difference to the history of St. Mike’s, and his positive contributions will long be remembered and appreciated. *Ní Bheidh Mo Leitbéid Arís Ann!*”

The university speaks with one voice in praising McGowan’s academic successes.

“A pillar of St. Michael’s for almost four decades, Mark has served with grace and expertise. His teaching and research has inspired thousands of students and shaped the state of scholarship in Irish and Canadian Catholic history,” says President David Sylvester.

St. Mike’s Principal and Vice President Irene Morra agrees. She first met Mark McGowan as an undergraduate student in SMC309, Church, State and Society.

“I still have all of my notes from that class,” she exclaims.

“My experience in that course was my first exposure to the breadth of Mark’s scholarship and his profound sense of both education and historical study as a form of social justice in itself. I am so grateful to have had the chance to enrich that experience as a colleague decades later, where I have come to know him as a widely respected leader, scholar, and teacher at St. Mike’s and at the University of Toronto. Mark has also exerted a profound influence far beyond the university, from the

MacDonald Park Famine Graveyard Restoration project and the Global Irish Famine Way to his work with the National Famine Museum in Ireland and Strokestown Park Museum and Archives.”

And so McGowan moves on, having created countless fans. In retirement, he’ll be assisting his archaeologist

“The leading authority on the Irish in Canada, author of numerous books and articles, winner of four outstanding teaching awards, long-serving Principal of St. Mike’s, founder of the Book & Media Studies Program, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, community leader, great conversationalist, wickedly funny mimic, bass guitarist in a rock band, excellent colleague and friend, Mark McGowan has done it all.”

*Prof. David Wilson,  
Department of History,  
University of Toronto*

daughter Kathleen (SMC 1T6) in research she is conducting. Amid all the praise for his accomplishments, a common thread runs through the observations.

“Mark has five great kids. He and Eileen have done a great job and they are all very close, He’s very good at finding work-life balance,” says Godfrey, who still meets regularly for lunch with her former boss. “Mark is just a great guy. He’s one of the nicest people I ever worked with.” ♦



## CONTINUING EDUCATION

# Continuing Education Plans Include AQ Courses for Teachers



BY DR. MICHAEL SALVATORI, DIRECTOR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

ST. MICHAEL'S RECENTLY RE-LAUNCHED Continuing Education division continues to strengthen our relationships with local Catholic school boards through a variety of collaborative initiatives including the introduction of some Additional Qualification courses. ¶ This past fall, for example, the Continuing Education Division coordinated a series of campus learning experiences for students in the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB). A recent orientation and learning day for 60 senior high school students from our neighbour, St. Joseph's College School, provided an opportunity for students to experience a day in the life of a St. Mike's undergraduate student, including mini lectures by faculty and presentations on student life and Campus Ministry, as well as a tour of campus and residences and lunch in the Canada Room.

A second experiential learning series has been developed for students enrolled in the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program from schools throughout the TCDSB. The SHSM is a specialized high school program that allows students to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) while focusing their learning on a specific economic sector. Students develop skills for their future careers, graduate high school with industry certifications and training and earn an SHSM seal on their diploma.

The university is supporting this program through the development and delivery of four industry certifications facilitated by St. Michael's in the following areas:

- Advanced Training in art form: Printmaking
- Advanced Training in a technique: Book Repair and Conservation
- Curatorial techniques: Developing an art or book exhibit
- Event Planning

Following St. Michael's designation as an accredited provider of AQ courses in spring 2024, the Division has partnered with the *conseil scolaire catholique Mon Avenir* to develop and deliver the AQ course:



*enseignement religieux en milieu catholique*. The course has been submitted to the Ontario College of Teachers for approval.

St. Michael's plans to develop and offer other AQ courses in English and French to build on our proud history in teacher education, including a one-time partnership with OISE/UT's concurrent teacher education.

These collaborative initiatives and partnerships reflect our commitment to cultivate a healthy, welcoming community, supportive of our members and community partners. ♦



For more information on the new general interest and professional interest non-credit offerings in Continuing Education, please visit [stmikes.utoronto.ca/academics/continuing-education](https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/academics/continuing-education).



## HONOURS

# The Fr. Robert Madden, CSB, Leadership Awards

**F**R. ROBERT MADDEN WAS A much-admired professor, chaplain and Basilian Superior at St. Michael's College who served as the Director of Alumni Affairs in his retirement. The Fr. Robert Madden, CSB, Leadership Awards are presented to students who have made significant contributions to the University of St. Michael's College community by demonstrating leadership, cooperation, and solidarity in student-run organizations or community endeavours. ♦



The recipients of the Fr. Robert Madden, CSB Leadership Awards for June 2024 are:

Semira Omer Abdella  
Adedoyin Temiloluwa Adeyemi  
Paraney Babuهران  
Victor Edouard Buklis  
Rosemary Faith Crowley  
Hedieh Hashemi

Olivia Maria Marinelli  
Isabel Anne Padolina  
Dhruvi Hiren Parekh  
Anita Rajkumar  
Maria Paz de Barros  
Barreto Scavone

Ayanna Sharma  
Gyan Sinha  
Giovanna Toillier de Macedo  
Jiaao Yu ♦



## HONOURS

# Arbor Winners Announced



*The University of St. Michael's College is delighted to announce that three members of our alumni community have been named Arbor Award recipients. The award is the highest honour granted to volunteers by the University of Toronto. The awards will be presented on January 22, 2025.*

### Maria Hunt



As a member of the University of St. Michael's Collegium, Maria Hunt has positively influenced decisions and discussions by drawing on more than 20 years of experience

working in capital markets and finance and prior governance experience at other Basilian-founded institutions. Ms. Hunt has been a dependable and thoughtful contributor to strategic decision-making on the Collegium's Investment and Executive Committees. She is gracious with her time and talent and vocally supportive of St. Michael's staff, faculty, students and mission. She has represented the University of St. Michael's College well during her many years of volunteer service. ♦

### Sr. Evanne Hunter, IBVM



Sr. Evanne Hunter has represented the Loretto Sisters on the University of St. Michael's College's Collegium since 2021. As an advocate for St. Michael's, she has created channels for

St. Michael's resources and programming to positively impact the wider community while drawing new talent and opportunities to St. Michael's. Sr. Evanne was engaged in the University's strategic planning process and made pivotal contributions to "St. Mike's 180" Strategic Plan and the University's newly articulated Mission, Vision and Values. Her contributions demonstrate that the legacy of the Sisters of Loretto continues to flourish and inspire the St. Mike's community. ♦

### Michael Binette



Michael Binette brought his 40 years of investment and portfolio management experience to St. Michael's College's Investment Committee. Having served as a member since 2015

and as its Chair since 2021, he has developed strategies to enhance the financial sustainability of the institution while also pursuing St. Michael's deep commitment to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) in its investments. Under his leadership, the Investment Committee has engaged in ongoing training, updated its investment policies, and endorsed and implemented St. Michael's divestment from fossil fuels. His service ensures St. Michael's has planned responsibly for its future and for the planet. ♦



## CAMPUS NOTES

# News from St. Mike's

*Celebrating accomplishments*

### Honorary Degrees Celebrate Service to Church, World

The University of St. Michael's College has awarded its most recent honorary degrees to a member of the Xavière Sisters who is carving out new ground for women in the Church, and two St. Michael's alumni members who reached the peak of the financial world while establishing themselves as philanthropists.



Alumnus **Victor Dodig (SMC 8T8)** was awarded his degree at Orientation Week's Invocation, marked in Convocation Hall. One of Canada's most articulate advocates for, and supporter of, new

Canadians, he is also passionate about the student experience, having been a student leader, social convener, and athlete while at St. Michael's. He and his wife, Maureen, have supported student scholarships, experiential learning programs, and the Dodig Family Student Commons. ♦

Alumnus **F. Anthony Comper C.M., (SMC 6T6)** and **Sr. Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ** were awarded their degrees at the Faculty of Theology's November convocation, held in St. Basil's church.



**Mr. Comper** has shared generously of his time and talents with a number of organizations and charities, including serving as vice-chair of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. His generosity includes offering invaluable counsel to University President David Sylvester, insights gleaned from his many years guiding BMO. His passion for study of the mediaeval world led to the establishment in 2020 of the Comper Professorship in Mediaeval Studies at St. Michael's, a position currently held by Dr. Alison More. ♦



**Sr. Nathalie's** vocation as a member of the Congregation of the Xavières has largely focused on youth and synodality. In 2021, Pope Francis appointed Sr. Nathalie as the undersecretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod, making her one of the highest-ranking women in the Vatican. While she was in town for the convocation, she took time to chat "synodal-style", with students from the Faculty of Theology, explaining the synodal process, and why the Synod of Synodality heralds a new way for the Church to communicate with, and listen to, the world. ♦



### Three New Names Grace St. Mike's Legacy Wall

Michaelmas celebrations also honoured the newest inductees to **St. Michael's Legacy Wall**. **Former Prime Minister Paul Martin (SMC 6T1)**; **Joan MacDonald Smith (MC 4T9)**, Ontario's first female solicitor general; and founder of St. Mike's Continuing Education division, **Dr. Mimi Marrocco (SMC 6T9)**, joined the wall, which honours the efforts and achievements of key community members. Portraits of the three inductees were displayed alongside citations noting their accomplishments. The Legacy Wall is located in the hallway linking the COOP and the Registrar's office in Brennan Hall. ♦





**Mark McGowan**  
 Institutional Affiliation University of Toronto  
 Division of Humanities

Historian Mark G. McGowan is internationally recognized as the leading expert on Irish migration and settlement in Canada. His original and innovative research methodology has resulted in pioneering publications on the Irish diaspora in the North Atlantic world, sectarian relations, religious education, and Irish Famline orphans. His research has prompted diplomats, scholars, educators, and religious leaders, to seek him as an advisor, principal investigator on special projects, and research collaborator.

L'historien Mark G. McGowan est internationalement reconnu comme l'expert en migration au Canada originale et publications dans le monde séctaires, Fe de la famine incite des dir éducateurs en tant que les des projets de recherche.



## Congratulations to the Class of 2024

*Congratulations to all our newest alumni, whether you graduated in the fall College convocation, with the Faculty of Theology convocation, or as part of the Continuing Education group. ♦*

## Bravo, Prof. McGowan

**Prof. Mark McGowan** has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, one of the highest honours an academic in Canada can receive. In noting McGowan's inclusion, the **Royal Society** cited his "original and innovative methodology" which has produced a "pioneering publication on the Irish diaspora in the North Atlantic world, sectarian relations, religious education, and Irish Famline orphans." ♦

*For more on Prof. McGowan, please see page 10.*

## Marking the Opening of the Fall Term with Michaelmas

This year's **Michaelmas** festivities took place on a glorious fall day. We marked the feast of our patron saint with an academic procession into Mass at St. Basil's, followed by snacks on Elmsley Lane and games in the quad and, finally, a family-style meal for students hosted by Campus Ministry. ♦



## Heading to the Links to Help St. Mike's

This year marked the 23rd annual **St. Mike's Golf Classic**, which took place at Eagles Nest. Thanks to alumni, sponsors and donors, this event has raised close to \$3-million for the **President's Excellence Fund**. Thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, donors and participants who made the event a success — and for news on the day's big winners, please see this issue's inside front cover. ♦

## Sonal Castelino Takes on New Role at St. Michael's



**Sonal Castelino** has been named the inaugural **Director of Mission and Ministry** for the University of St. Michael's College, with a mandate to guide the integration of St. Michael's mission, vision, and values into the life of the university.

Reporting to the President and as a member of the senior leadership team, she will also continue to provide leadership for the community's religious, spiritual, and liturgical life. ♦



## Windle House Renamed Sheptytsky House

Following a generous donation from the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute Foundation (MASIF), the building known as Windle House has been renamed in honour of one of the most important figures in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The building houses the classrooms and administration of the **Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute for Christian Studies** (MASI). A special reception was held at Sheptytsky House in October to announce the gift and the new name. The announcement came just before MASI's conference marking the 80th anniversary of the death of Metropolitan Sheptytsky. ♦

## Book Sale Sets New Record

Congratulations to the **Friends of the Kelly Library** on setting a new record at the annual Fall Book Sale. In its 20th year, the sale depends on high-quality donations as well as a team of student and community volunteers whose skillful sorting, judicious pricing and good-humoured energy ensure the event's success. In consultation with the Kelly's Chief Librarian, James Roussain, the Friends are using the proceeds to buy a cylinder printing press for the library's Print Studio, set aside funding for library exhibits, refurbish worn-out chairs and sponsor an undergraduate research colloquium. ♦





## A Season of Lectures

Fall offered a wealth of choices of St. Mike's-sponsored lectures. Among the options available, **Prof. Michael W. Higgins**, who is the Basilian Distinguished Fellow of Contemporary Christian Thought, spoke on the Vatican synod, while legendary writer **Tomson Highway** delivered the Christianity and the Arts lecture, and then took to the grand piano at the reception following. **George Corbett**, Prof. of Theology from the School of Divinity at Scotland's St. Andrews University, spoke at the annual Dante Lecture of the great love between the legendary Italian poet and Beatrice. **Prof. Mark McGowan** delivered *Finding Molly Johnson: Adventures and Mis-adventures Tracking Irish Famine Orphans in Canada*, a lecture stemming from his book on the subject, and **Prof. Anoni Ucerler, S.J.**, delivered a talk entitled *Jesuit Missionaries and Mandarins in Ming and Qing China: Faith, Science and the Arts*. In the SMC Book & Media Studies Lecture Series, meanwhile, speaker **Alissa Sokolski** posed the challenging question of "If it's not in the newspaper, it didn't happen?" ♦



## Checking up on Wellness

**Dean of Students Duane Rendle** proved he is the GOAT (greatest of all time) by showing up to events put on by our **Wellness** team throughout the fall semester. From puppies and farm animals to massage chairs and movies, the Wellness team works hard to ensure students find ways to de-stress. Many thanks to donors for supporting these efforts. ♦



## AI4W Hosts Panel on the Synod

The **Alumnae Initiative for Women** held another event in their timely Conversations series, hosting a panel discussion on the recently wrapped-up Synod on Synodality. A lively discussion ensued, featuring doctoral student **Sr. Carla Thomas, O.P.**, doctoral candidate **Christine Way Skinner** and St. Mike's Christianity & Culture student **Bridget Bowles**. ♦

## Coming in 2025: Mark Your Calendar!

**January 12-14: Alway Symposium/Emmanuel College Symposium:** "Bridges and Boundaries: Religious Diversities in the 21st Century Classroom." ♦

**January 21: Exhibition opening: The Golden Rule: Social Justice and the Scarborough Foreign Mission Society** launches with a talk by Father Robert E. Carbonneau, C.P., PhD, Research Fellow of the Ricci Institute for Chinese-Western Cultural History at Boston College and Archivist of the Passionist China Collection. The lecture will take place at St. Michael's College (Room TBA) at 6:00 pm, with a reception to follow in the John M. Kelly Library. ♦

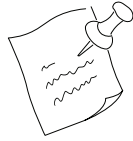
**May 30-June 1: All alumni who graduated in years ending in 0 or 5 will be our special guests at 2025 Alumni Reunion.** We're just putting the finishing touches on a three-day schedule filled with get-togethers, lectures and lots of celebration. More news is coming in the New Year. All years are welcome. ♦

**September 24: St. Michael's Golf Classic 2025** tournament will take place on Wednesday, September 24 at Eagles Nest Golf Club. ♦

**Late September: St. Michael's College Book Sale** will take place at the end of September in the Kelly Café and all are welcome. Exact days TBA. ♦

**For updates on these and other events, please check our website: [stmikes.utoronto.ca](http://stmikes.utoronto.ca).** ♦





## FROM ST. MIKE'S STUDENTS

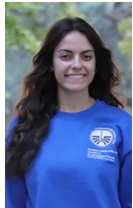
# Something for Everyone

*Student clubs run the gamut*

*We often hear from alumni keen to keep up to know what our student are up to these days. When we are asked, we turn to in-house expert Yusuf Durmus, president of the St. Michael's College Student Union (SMCSU). We'll let Yusuf take it from here...*

**S**MC FRIENDS, I HOPE YOU'RE ALL DOING WELL, and your SMC memories are treating you well. We'd love to tell you a little about what has been happening at SMC, and how your legacy lives on. SMCSU has just finished its second round of club recognitions, with more than 20 clubs officially recognized. Recognition allows groups access to event space, as well as to SMCSU funding and promotion. We are more than proud to highlight the clubs we have on campus, as each club, whether representing athletics, the arts, or overall wellness, represents a different aspect of SMC's values and aims to enrich student life on campus through variety in cultures, interests and goals.

### Here are some updates from club leaders:



*"My involvement with the SMC Troubadours these past three years has been one of the highlights of my university experience. This club, with its rich history and passion for the arts, opened my*

*eyes to the beauty and depth of theatre. SMC Troubadours helped me discover new strengths—confidence, discipline, and communication—that I now carry with pride into every role I take on, both at work and in my other leadership roles."*

**Christina Shnaider**  
Vice President of Arts



*"RUN CLUB!!" Two words that can be heard echoing off the walls of Brennan Hall, even outside of the Wednesday evening window when St. Mike's students are found*

*running through the streets of downtown Toronto. SMC Runs was founded in an effort to build a community that promotes physical and social well-being. Each week, runners come together not just to log miles but to share stories, offer encouragement and celebrate each other's progress. The blend of fitness and camaraderie keeps everyone motivated, making every run a reminder that wellness is best achieved together."*

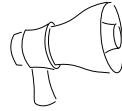
**Sariha Dewan**  
Vice President of Athletics



*"As a cherished tradition at SMC, USMC Wellness's family games nights are a wonderful opportunity for students to connect in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Cooking and dining together, playing games and singing along at karaoke foster a strong sense of community. These gatherings allow students to bond over shared interests, build social capital, and strengthen friendships through teamwork and unforgettable shared memories, all while cultivating a true sense of family here at SMC."*

**Aaliya Bhamla**  
USMC Wellness President





## AMPLIFY

# Checking in on AMPLify

*Finding sound advice in a friendly setting*

*Launched in 2023, the AMPLify program brings together St. Mike's students with alumni eager to offer career advice and support. Recently, we checked in with program participants to see how things are going. Here is what we heard:*



"I'm finding the program quite useful," says student **Helia Karami**, who also serves as the program's student coordinator. Helia, now in her final year of political science, global health and immunology studies, says the ability to connect online as well as at periodic events such as a pub night coming in

January help bridge the gap between students and alumni in order to foster connections. "As a student soon to enter the so-called 'real world', I'll be able to use the experiences and words offered by alumni in order to help my transition post-graduation."

*From bottom left: SMC Troubadours appear in the "Lord of the Flies" dress rehearsal. Our students take a break after a run with the SMC Run Club and engage in wellness activities. Below: St. Mike's students connect with Alumni at a recent AMPLify event. Photos: SMCSU and St. Mike's Student Life.*



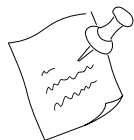
"The AMPLify program is an excellent way to stay connected to the St. Mike's community while also contributing to a program that fosters educational and professional growth in a fun yet laid-back setting," says mentor **Victoria Asikis (SMC 1T1)**, a Senior Associate at Norton Rose Fulbright in Ottawa, where she practices regulatory law focused on food and beverage, cosmetics, natural health products, textiles and other consumer goods. A big believer in mentorship at any career stage, Victoria says she wanted to be there for students in the same way that her mentors have been there for her throughout her journey from U of T to the boardroom.



**Interested in learning more?**

Please email [smc.amplify@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.amplify@utoronto.ca) for details.





## BULLETIN BOARD

# Keeping up to Date with Our Alumni

*News from Alumni and Friends*



**Rosemary Ganley (SMC 5T8)**, a writer, activist, and educator, was recently named a member of the **Order of Canada** for her lifelong advocacy for human rights, gender equity, and social justice, including co-founding Jamaican Self Help, an organization of Canadians working to support the development of healthy Jamaican communities. Ganley is a contributing columnist to the *Peterborough Examiner*. ♦



**Rita Iorfida (SMC 7T2)** hosted a mini-SMC reunion with her friends in Hope Springs, in Northern Ontario, this summer. **Maureen McKenna (SMC 7T1)**, **Diane Janzen (Johnson) (SMC 7T2)**, and **Anne Murphy Crosdale (SMC 7T1)** attended. ♦

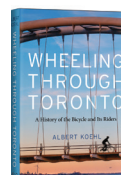
**Dr. Ray Shady (SMC 7T1)** is leading a special campaign in memory of **Fr. Timothy Horan (SMC 7T1)**, who died last year. Fr. Tim thoughtfully included St. Mike's in his estate, establishing the **Father Tim Horan Future Fund** to ensure that future students can share in the transformative experiences he cherished here —“where it all started: my life, my relationships, my vocation.”

The campaign invites others to honour Fr. Tim's legacy by contributing. Gifts can be made online at [engage.utoronto.ca/timhoranff](https://engage.utoronto.ca/timhoranff), by sending a cheque to St. Mike's with a note designating it for the Father Timothy Horan Future Fund, or by contacting Advancement Officer Vanessa Awando at (416) 926-7281. Fr. Tim's book, *Walk With Me: Reflections of a Parish Priest*, published shortly after his death, is available on Amazon. ♦

His Holiness Pope Francis announced the appointment of Toronto-born **Fr. Michael Brehl (SMC 7T5, USMC 7T9)** C.Ss.R. as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Pembroke. Fr. Brehl was formerly Superior General for the Redemptorists in Rome and Provincial Superior of the Province of Canada. Please join us in congratulating Fr. Brehl on his appointment and keep him in your prayers as he begins this new chapter of ministry in the Diocese of Pembroke. ♦

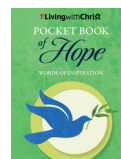
**Denis Stokes (SMC 8T0)** released his latest book *A Wolf Rages Down the Little Jocko* (Silver Bow Publishing). A dual citizen of Canada and Ireland, Denis's work has appeared in journals such as *Descant*, *Queen's Quarterly*, *Quarry*, *CVII*, and various anthologies in Canada, the United States, and Ireland. He is the winner of the Northern Ontario Writers Award in Poetry (1995) and was nominated

for a Pushcart Prize and a National Magazine Award. ♦



**Albert Koehl (SMC 8T1)** recently published his new book, *Wheeling through Toronto, A History of the Bicycle and Its Riders* (University of Toronto Press, May 2024). The

book is the product of five years' research and writing and there is no similar book in Canada on the history of utilitarian cycling. Albert has been an environmental lawyer for more than 30 years and coordinates several community groups, including Community Bikeways. ♦



Just in time for the Jubilee Year 2025, whose theme is “Pilgrims of Hope,”

**Anne Louise Mahoney (SMC 8T4)** edited a collection of brief

essays by a range of Canadian Catholic authors. Many of those who shared heartfelt reflections in *Pocket Book of Hope: Words of Inspiration* (Novalis) are St. Mike's or Regis alumni: **Joe Gunn (SMC 8T0)**, **Greg Kennedy (USMC 1T4)**, **Catherine Mulroney (SMC 8T2, USMC 1T0)**, **Constance Price (SMC 8T7, USMC 0T8)**, **Stephen Bede Scharper (SMC 8T2, SMC 8T6)**, and **Anne Walsh (SMC 9T4)**. Other contributors with links to St. Mike's are **Donald Bolen**, who received an honorary degree from St. Michael's in 2023 and **Christine Way Skinner**, who is a current doctoral candidate. ♦

## BULLETIN BOARD



Canadian writer **Kate Marshall Flaherty (SMC 8T6)** was the featured guest at a recent Friends of the Kelly Library literary event: "A Poet Talks About Poetry". The event was hosted by fellow SMC alumna, writer, and President Emerita of the Friends of the Kelly Library, **Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni (SMC 7T0)**. Kate has published seven poetry books, including *Reaching V*, published by Guernica Editions, and *Digging*, published by Aeolus House. She won the 2018 Film and Poetry Symposium Award for her video-poems set to music; was shortlisted for the Mitchell Poetry Prize 2021 and Arc's Poem of the Year 2022; and has been published in *CV2*, *Vallum*, *Grain*, *Room*, *Trinity Review*, *The Literary Review of Canada*, *Event and Tamarack Review*. She was writer in residence at the Heliconian Arts and Letter Club last year. She writes spontaneous Poems of the Extraordinary Moment (P.O.E.M.) for charity conducting sessions in person and, online; and guides StillPoint Writing and Poetry Editing Circles.

**Chris Wheeler (SMC 8T7)** has been living in Dublin since 2000. Chris is acting manager partner of DWF (Ireland) LLP and practises primarily construction and energy law. He still manages to trek up to Belfast to play hockey. Chris is member of the SMC Alumni Board of Directors and looks forward to seeing classmates and friends at Reunion 2025. ♦

Prof. **Siobhan Brady (SMC 9T9)** was appointed a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the largest scientific organization in the world. AAAS fellows are scientists, engineers, and innovators who have been recognized for their achievements in science, including research, teaching, administration, and science communication. A Prof. in the Department of Plant Biology and the Genome Center at UC Davis in California, Prof. Brady is originally from Welland, ON and completed her PhD at U of T. ♦



Governor General's Award-nominated authors **Kevin (SMC 9T8)** and **Basil (SMC 2T1) Sylvester** wowed the crowds at this year's Toronto Word on the Street festival. A broadcaster and award-winning illustrator and writer of middle-grade books such as the Neil Flambe Capers series and the MiNRS space adventure series, Kevin just launched his latest work *Penguin and Puffin* (Kids Can Press). The child-parent duo co-authored *The Fabulous Zed Watson!*, a vibrant and enormous-hearted story about friendship, identity, and belonging (Harper Collins). ♦

Omni Hotels & Resorts has announced the appointment of **Michael Innocentin (SMC 0T0)** as its CMO. Innocentin has more than 20 years of career experience in the hospitality industry and prior to joining Omni, he served as the SVP of commercial projects for Fairmont Hotels. In his new role with Omni, Innocentin will be tasked with the planning, developing, and execution of all brand marketing initiatives, including advertising, PR, social media, the website, and digital campaigns. ♦



Congratulations to **Dr. Wendell Nii Laryea Adjete (SMC 0T8)** for earning the 2024 Best Scholarly Book in Canadian History Prize of the Canadian History

Association for his book, *Cross-Border Cosmopolitans. The Making of a Pan-African North America*. ♦

In her new book, *Healing Touch and Saving Word*, **Dr. Linda M.**

**Malia (USMC 0T8)** draws upon the rich theology of Anglican tradition personified in the Episcopal Church's sacramental liturgies of healing. She examines the theological foundations of those healing liturgies, from the first *Book of Common Prayer* to the most recent sacramental rites. Linda is a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York who serves historic parishes of South Buffalo. Many of her articles and book reviews have appeared in the *Toronto Theological Review* and the *Anglican Theological Review*. Linda is also a short story writer and currently working on her next book. ♦

**Anthony Quinn (0T9)** was a member of three Mulock Cup-winning teams when he was on campus between 1989-1993. This past September he was appointed Chief Operating Officer at the Canadian Association of Retired

Persons (CARP). This year also marks 25 years of Anthony working for Moses Znaimer in his various enterprises, including CityTV, MuchMusic, M, Zoomer Media and CARP. Anthony has been married to **Maria (née Rivera, SMC 9T0)** since 1990. They have four daughters and live in Oakville, ON. ♦

Former SMCSU president **Zach Nixon (SMC 1T8)** appears to be on a meteoric trajectory with his selection as an Emerging Leader for this year by *The Peak*. The list is composed of inspiring young leaders from across Canada who are shaping this country. We're also proud to share that Zach recently started a new position as Ontario Regional Advisor at Office of the Prime Minister of Canada. ♦



**Grace Ji-Sun Kim (USMC 2T1)** published her 24th book this year, *Surviving God*, co-written with Susan Shaw. It is available on Amazon. ♦



**Evangeline Cowie (SMC 2T3)**, another former SMCSU president, started a new position at the Senate of Canada as Special Assistant, Office of the Honourable Krista Ross. She is looking

forward to this exciting new step in her professional career. ♦

### Send Us Your News!



**What's new? We'd love to hear from you! Send your Bulletin Board updates to Lisa Webb, Manager, Alumni Affairs: [l.webb@utoronto.ca](mailto:l.webb@utoronto.ca)** High-res photos are encouraged.



**Have you moved? Update your information through U of T's address update form: <https://bit.ly/3BmgvCo>**



## Rest In Peace

*We acknowledge the passing in recent months of the following alumni,  
who graduated from St. Michael's in the class years shown here.*

### 1940s

Dunphy, Kathleen H. F (née Cahill),  
SMC 4T8

### 1950s

Travers-Griffin, Helen M. T (née  
Smyth), SMC 5T0  
Bilsborough, Henry C., SMC 5T0  
Kelly, Miriam, SMC 5T2  
Prendergast, Paul B., SMC 5T2  
Lennon, Paul J., SMC 5T2  
Waechter, John D. J., SMC 5T3  
Wajda, Frederick J., SMC 5T5  
Driscoll, Daniel L., SMC 5T5  
Mccullough, John N., SMC 5T5  
Manuel, Ann, SMC 5T5  
Buklin, Christopher V., SMC 5T8  
Sullivan, James A. M., SMC 5T8  
Prower, M. E, SMC 5T9

### 1960s

Gardner, William P. V., SMC 6T0  
Sullivan, Glenn, SMC 6T0  
Hawkins, Margaret M. (née  
Gillespie), SMC 6T2  
Corrigan, Matthew A. F., SMC 6T2  
Swirsky, William J. L., SMC 6T3  
Frane, Thomas P., SMC 6T4  
Kaiser, Gordon E., SMC 6T5  
Le May, Susan (née Hall), SMC  
6T5  
Moreau-Keefe, Gail A. (née Keefe),  
SMC 6T7  
Shaughnessy, Rita (née Vettor),  
SMC 6T7  
Kuttner, Thomas S., SMC 6T9

### 1970s

Allemano, Michael C., SMC 7T0  
Matthews, Irene L., SMC 7T4  
Wahl, Judith, SMC 7T4

Edwards, Victorine M. (née Shed),  
SMC 7T5

Kauffman, Dennis J., SMC 7T8

### 1980s

Freer, Gordon J., SMC 8T0  
Tenaglia, Morris T., SMC 8T3  
Blasi, Anthony J., SMC 8T4  
Mclaughlin, Michael, SMC 8T8  
Campitelli, Richard A., SMC 8T9

### 1990s

Johnson, M. A., SMC 9T1  
Smith, Carolea. M., SMC 9T2  
Martyshuk, Gordon E., SMC 9T3  
Ferrari, Catherine, SMC 9T7  
Herridge, William R., SMC 9T9 ♦

**To share an update please  
contact 416-926-2331 or  
[smc.alumni@utoronto.ca](mailto:smc.alumni@utoronto.ca)**



## FROM ST. MIKE'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# Alumni Lost and Found

*Reaching out to missing grads*



BY MARIA GALLO, PRESIDENT, USMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**E** DUCATION. COMMUNITY. SUSTAINABILITY. These are core values of St. Mike's 180, woven into the fabric of our *alma mater*. ¶ What do those terms mean to alumni? We reflect the quality of the holistic education we received while at St. Mike's, an experience that piqued a curiosity for lifelong learning and service.

Alumni: we are at the heart of the St. Mike's community. We actively contribute to the St. Mike's student and campus experience. More poignantly, we are leaders in our local neighbourhoods, in our connection to faith, and in our professional world.

Some St. Mike's alumni are lost, a circumstance that usually occurs by accident, not by design. For many alumni, St. Mike's is part of the past. I would argue there is a place for St. Mike's in our lives, *for life*.

The sustainability of the St. Mike's education and community relies on our alumni ecosystem. We – and our fellow alumni before and after us – are transforming the world. We contribute to making a positive change in social justice, human rights, the environment, medicine, international development, law, education, technology, the arts, and beyond. We need to celebrate our collective achievements. We are St. Mike's ambassadors. Our accomplishments inspire. We are relatable role models for current and prospective students. We can enhance our careers and our lives through alumni connection. The sustainability

of St. Mike's relies on the stewardship of an active alumni community.

It's time to get as many St. Mike's alumni as possible back in touch. Personal messages are the most effective way to reach out to our lost St. Mike's alumni.

Let's encourage friends, family, neighbours, colleagues to reconnect back with USMC.

The Alumni Association has launched a St. Mike's **Lost Alumni Campaign**. If you didn't get a link for this magazine by email, St. Mike's may not have your updated contact details. Be found! Email is a quick and efficient way to reach most alumni. Updating your email address — and encouraging fellow alumni to do the same — is key!

We need YOU to spread the word about this 100-day Lost Alumni Campaign. Our goal is to encourage 1,000 St. Mike's alumni to update their contact details by February 18th. This is 100 days before Alumni

Reunion (May 30th to June 1st — mark your calendars!) giving our “found” alumni friends time to attend the reunion, submit a nomination for the St. Mike's Alumni Awards, sign up as an AMplify alumni mentor,

“Let's encourage friends, family, neighbours, colleagues to reconnect back with USMC.”

join the Friends of the Kelly Library, be a part of the Young Alumni Committee, and participate in the advancement of USMC. Found alumni also receive this magazine, regular e-newsletters, event invitations, and, most importantly, a warm welcome back. ♦



Get in touch with Maria Gallo:  
[m.gallo@alumni.utoronto.ca](mailto:m.gallo@alumni.utoronto.ca)



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FROM ALUMNI & ADVANCEMENT

# Savouring Renewal: A Spirit of Connection



BY LISA GLEVA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ADVANCEMENT

**M**Y LIFE HAS LONG FOLLOWED the rhythm of the academic calendar, yet every year I'm amazed at the pace September brings. ¶ There's something unique about a calendar that resets in September. While the traditional calendar signals new beginnings in January, those tied to academia know that September is when the world really shifts. For faculty, staff, and students alike, the yearly reset is a call to revisit and rethink, pushing us to make meaningful strides toward improvement in every aspect of our work.

As we enter the fall season in Advancement, we're excited to launch our annual fund campaign. Many of you will have received messages from me and Elise Cressatti, an outstanding student pursuing an English specialist degree with minors in history and book & media studies. Elise is deeply engaged in our community, serving as a copy editor for *The Mike*, a member of the Historic House Council, and an active participant in St. Mike's environmental society, CleanSMC. I'm proud to feature Elise in this year's campaign, and I'm deeply grateful to you, our alumni, for your continued support in creating transformative experiences for our students.

Our Alumni Affairs team hits the ground running each September, organizing events and activities designed to foster alumni

engagement—both independently and in partnership with the St. Michael's Alumni Association Board, Alumnae Initiative for Women, Friends of the Kelly Library and the Young Alumni Committee. As alumni, you've helped shape this place, and your continued involvement strengthens the community we are today.

Our alumni community is one of the most engaged at the University of Toronto, and this spirit of connection leaves a lasting impact on today's students.

So here's to September and the burst of life it brings, setting our course for the months ahead. To everyone in our community — students, faculty, staff, alumni — join me in savouring renewal. The academic year's rhythm may be familiar, but it always holds the potential to surprise us. ♦





*As we celebrate the season of Christmas, we pause to reflect on the many blessings that fill our hearts and the St. Michael's community. Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.*



## The University of St. Michael's College

# Donor Report 2023–2024

*We are filled with gratitude for the loyalty and generosity of St. Michael's alumni and friends*

**S**T. MIKE'S MAKES A LASTING IMPRESSION. Time and again, alumni share memories of extraordinary professors, engaging classes, supportive staff, and lifelong friendships formed in the quad, the COOP, or the classroom. Your stories remind us of the profound impact of the St. Mike's experience. Every gift to St. Michael's helps us sustain exceptional, innovative programming while providing students with the support they need to thrive. We are deeply grateful for the unwavering loyalty and generosity of our alumni and friends, who make it all possible. ♦

### ANNUAL GIVING BY GRADUATING YEARS

*We are grateful to all the alumni listed here. These gifts, which honour their years on campus, mean a great deal to the St. Mike's community - especially to today's students who benefit from your generosity.*

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“I cannot express my immense gratitude for the generosity that you have shown to me. This will impact my studies in ways that you can't imagine. This money has lifted a great weight off my shoulders that I couldn't think was possible. Thank you once again and a thousand times more. May God bless you all.”

*St. Michael's Student, recipient of Robert and Mary Catherine (Ware) Birgeneau Scholarship*

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*Gifts listed in this report were received in fiscal year 2023–2024 (between May 1, 2023 & April 30, 2024) † Deceased ■ Matching Gift Company*



“The Friends of the John M. Kelly Library is a volunteer group committed to ensuring that the library continues its vital mission of supporting the personal and intellectual endeavours of all those who study, research and work at the University of St. Michael’s College. 2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the annual book sale. All proceeds are gifted to the university to preserve and enhance the library’s collections, support programming, and contribute to improving the library’s physical space, furnishings and technological equipment. In the past 20 years, the Friends have raised more than half a million dollars.”

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“Thank you for your unwavering dedication and support.  
I am deeply appreciative of the difference you are making in my life.”

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“I wanted for very little growing up, however, one of my earliest memories was being nurtured with an “attitude of gratitude” — taking nothing for granted. St. Mike’s gave me the foundations for my post-graduate studies, which in turn provided career opportunities that were both rewarding and fulfilling. St. Mike’s helped put me in a position to share and “give back”.”

*Marie Deans SMC 1975,  
Annual Fund donor since 1984*



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*Christopher Deans SMC 2004,  
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*St. Michael's Student, recipient of the Victoria Mueller Carson In-Course Scholarship*

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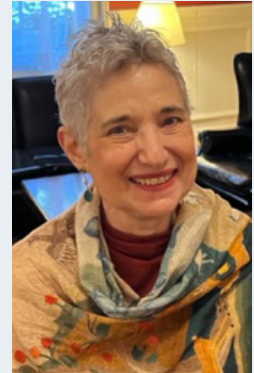
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*Marianne Sciolino SMC 1973, Double Blue Society, Vice-Chancellor’s Club, Heritage Donor Society*

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“Thank you so much for having faith in my academic journey. Your generous donation has provided me with a plethora of opportunities. I am excited to explore them in the coming years.”

*St. Michael's Student, recipient of the Louis L. Odette Residence Scholarship*

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*Eithne Heffernan,  
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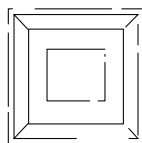
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## THE DONOVAN COLLECTION

# Light Blue, Marines (Seascapes) Series

*Discarded convenience*



BY JAMES ROUSSAIN, WILLIAM D. SHARPE CHIEF LIBRARIAN AND DIRECTOR  
OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND CHAIR, DONOVAN ART COMMITTEE

**W**HEN REFLECTING ON THE MEANING of “sustainability,” the care of our common home often comes first to mind. This is especially true as we face a climate in flux; ‘100-year’ forest fires and floods seem commonplace and our ability to adapt to a new normal of environmental uncertainty will be a trial for all of us, collectively.

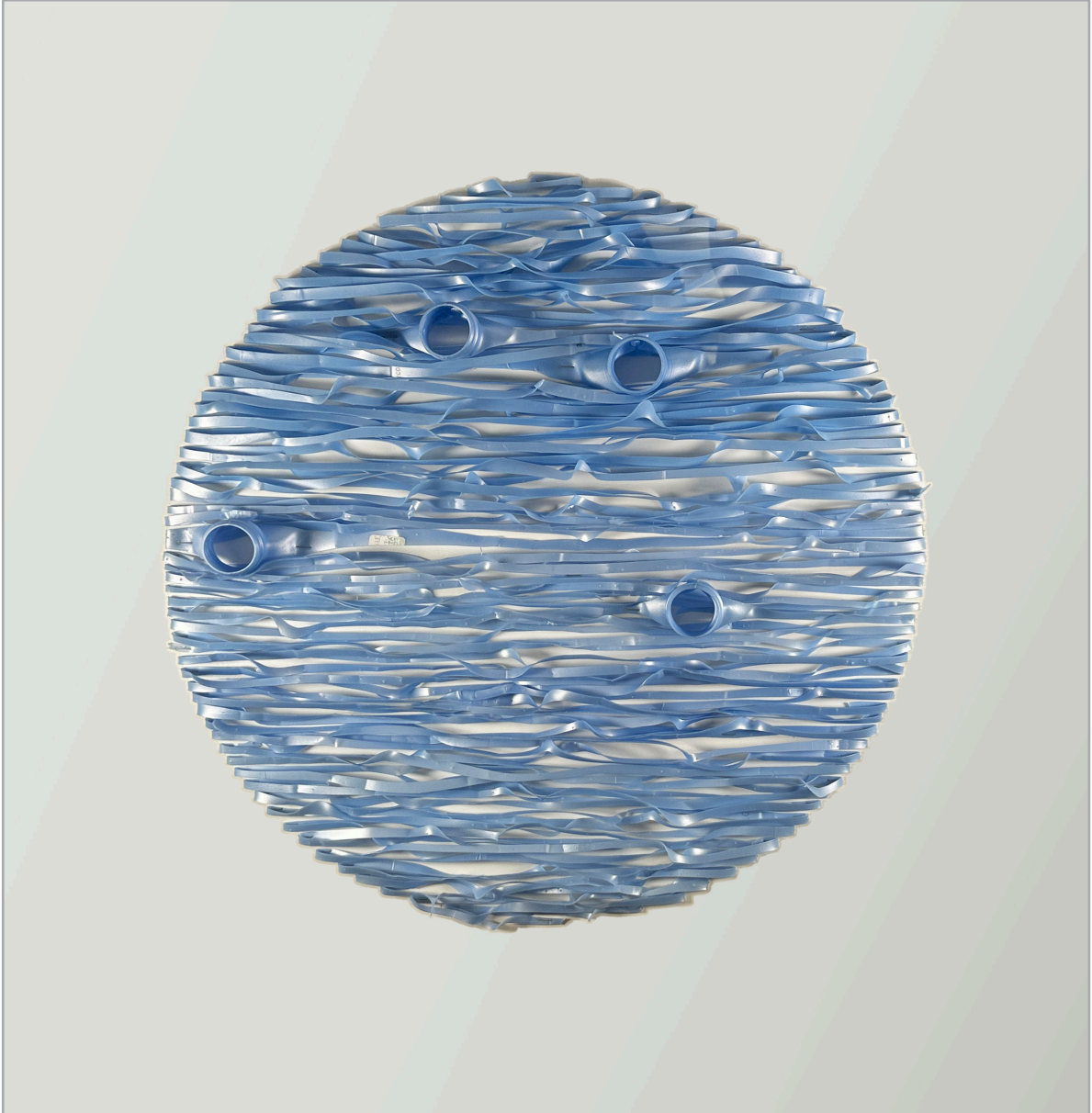
Jérôme Fortin’s “Light Blue,” from his Marines (Seascapes) Series, is a 2001 work giving a subtle nod to our changing world. From a distance the artwork reads as abstract, textured, perhaps evoking ripples or a nautical porthole. Up close one sees fine ribbons cut from plastic bottles—bottles harvested by Fortin as springtime detritus from the riverbanks of the St. Lawrence River near Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, Québec—carefully composed to suggest a wave motion. The bottlenecks reveal the number of bottles used in each seascape. “Light Blue” is one of 44 pieces in the Marines Series.

Hundreds of bottles revealed in the spring melt.

This work is a quiet yet forceful contemplation of our impact on our shared environment. In the playful reuse of discarded waste to effect new meaning, Fortin creates an object of contemplation through metamorphosis. Fortin, winner of Montréal’s 2004 Pierre Ayot Prize, is a celebrated Canadian artist with solo exhibitions worldwide, including in Prague, Tokyo, and Paris. His work has been featured in prominent group shows across Europe, and he has participated in international residencies. In 2007, the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal held a major solo exhibition of his work. His art is included in public and private collections worldwide. ♦



**An endowment fund has been established to generate funds that will support the ongoing care and maintenance of The Donovan Collection. To contribute, please contact the Advancement Office at (416) 926-7281.**



*Light Blue, Marines (Seascapes) Series, Jérôme Fortin, Plastic bottles mounted on panel, 23.5" x 23.5", 2001.*



“Progress is attempting to solve challenges, even when you feel unprepared, and developing the skills you need while you go.”

*Elise Cressatti, BA, SMC 2T5*

Elise, a third-year student in Book & Media Studies, English and History, has benefitted from unparalleled learning and leadership opportunities at St. Mike's. Supported by donor-funded awards, she has visited historic print studios in Italy, conducted research in Margaret Atwood's archives and experienced letterpress printing at the John M. Kelly Library's Print Studio. For Elise, St. Mike's is the place where her love of learning has flourished.

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