

“I AM FILLED WITH OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE OF AMI”

AMI’s Annual General Meeting and Awards

For the first time since 2019, we held our Annual General Meeting and Awards in person. 42 people joined us for a look back at the past year and to celebrate our award recipients. Seeing old friends and meeting new ones at the reception afterwards was a highlight!

Susanne Serres —Extra Mile Award

Natalie Boileau, Family Peer Support Worker at AMI, “Through the wonderful art of film, Susanne, you have managed to gracefully open a door allowing a full, in-depth look at what is psychosis, and suicidal ideation, and its many subtleties we often cannot see. Not only are we able to better understand the realities faced by the person experiencing psychosis, but we are witness to the impact on carers, and the power that their support can provide to someone in recovery.”



Anne Newman—Monty Berger Award for Exemplary Service

The Monty Berger Award is given to an AMI member for significant voluntary contribution to AMI or to AMI’s mandate over a long period of time. Anne has been volunteering at AMI for twenty years and has been AMI’s president for the past two years. Presented by Past President Donna Sharpe, “I am not sure how Anne finds the time between work, personal life and community but I am really happy to have served with Anne these last few years. She has a style of no non-sense, share the work and get the work done.”

Elinor and Michael Truesdell —Special Recognition

Elinor and Mike have been integral to AMI’s South Shore support group for many years. This year, they decided to step back to focus more on themselves and their family. They have passed the baton to Patricia O’Beirne, who said, “In the last ten years I have seen firsthand how they have helped many people who turned to AMI-Quebec for support in navigating what, as we all know, can be challenging situations when trying to help a loved one who has mental illness. On behalf of everyone they helped over the years, I say, thank you so very much and all the best!”

Art for Healing Foundation —Extra Mile Award

Art for Healing Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring the healing power of art to hospitals and wellness facilities.

Since 2002, the Foundation has installed over 14,500 works of art in 93 healthcare institutions across

Canada and abroad—including seven paintings at AMI. The award was presented by board member Katie Fagen to founders Earl Pinchuk and Gary Blair, who shared a quote from Richard Kamler: “Art is our one true global language. It knows no nation, it favours no race, it acknowledges no class. It speaks to our need to reveal, heal, and transform. It transcends our ordinary lives and lets us imagine what is possible.”



Dr. Carmella Roy—Exemplary Psychiatrist Award

Dr. Henry Olders, board member: “I quickly became aware when she joined the hospital staff of her exceptional work ethic, commitment to her patients and their families, and the depth of her clinical skills. And a nice person! I am most happy to have her as a friend.

“As Assistant Professor in McGill University’s Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Roy exercises a number of teaching roles, supervising medical students, psychiatry residents, geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry fellows, as well as nurse practitioners in mental health. Not only that, but earlier in her career, she also looked after child psychiatry patients and their families. Marvellous flexibility, looking after people at both ends of the age spectrum!”

