Changing Tides

Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign
Campagne des grands-mères à grands-mères

Ottawa-Gatineau Region
Région d'Ottawa-Gatineau

October 31, 2026
Volume 14, Issue 9

EDITOR'S NOTES 1
Photos – 20th Anniversary Celebration

GRL Updates – October 2026 2-5

Tribute - Suzette Ribout Burns 6

Correction: Kazuri Jewellery Initiative 7

GRASSROOTS EVENTS 8-9
Calendar/Contacts

Editor's Notes

The October issue of ***Changing Tides*** rightly focuses on some of the wholesome outcomes of the stellar ***20the Anniversary Celebration*** at the beginning of October. It was most uplifting to meet Grandmothers and Grandothers from across Canada, as well as the loved African Grandmothers and Grandothers with their celebratory presence and lively stories that had us spellbound.

As Sarah's marvelous synopsis of the interactions, panel discussions, and speakers revealed, we were captivated as we heard about people's experiences, creative sharing, as well as chatting over one of the glorious lunches with someone we had never met prior to the Celebration. The exchanges were heartfelt.

We were also delighted with our eloquent local emcees Sandi and Robin for announcing the diverse events of each day, every now and then having us chatter and giggle over the impromptu moments.

It was a joy to mingle with everyone at the event, to listen and learn, while the Marketplace had us buy inventive items from the crafts of other Grandmothers/others of their creative projects – not to mention the lively music of our talented musical performers that same evening!

Kudos particularly to the innovative *SLF* Team with their heartwarming encouragement, addresses and updates to keep us inspired and in the know in the beautiful city of Ottawa! The memory of being together from *far and away* is precious as we united in spirit and sharing!

Mia Overduin, Editor

PHOTOS – 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRAITON (Links on page 5)













Hello everyone,

What an amazing month October provided to be! Of course, the three-day ***20th Anniversary Celebrations*** were a major event, followed by *"Hill Day"* on the fourth day. Much material from the Anniversary is still to come, such as photos, videos and event recordings. The *SLF* staff are hard at work to provide us with special, significant, memorable moments, presentations and ideas for future efforts in support of the ongoing work of the Grandmothers Campaign.

20th ANNIVERSAY

A HUGE THANK YOU to all *Ottawa-Gatineau Regional Grandmother Network* supporters. There was committee planning participation for months in advance; *Beds without Breakfast* offers; volunteers obtaining sponsorship and other goodies to go in the "swag bags" (sewn, by the way, by more volunteers - weren't they fabulous?!); orientation information to Ottawa events/must-sees/things to do/restaurants/transportation/maps; Marketplace and entertainment planning and procurement; planning for the closing *March to Parliament Hill* on the third day of the Anniversary, and volunteers to help throughout all three days. And our very special emcees, Robin Scobie and Sandi London! Kudos to all!

An abbreviated summary follows, but please note: if you did not participate in person or virtually, you can still receive material from the event, including the Program extensively summarized below, and the follow-up material from the *SLF,* noted above.

We were energized and inspired on the *first day* ***"Celebrating 20 Years",*** *by Ilana Landsberg-Lewis' powerful Keynote Address,* which set the stage for the remainder of the day as we were joined by African grandmothers and *SLF* staff reflecting on progress made and the challenges now being faced. So pleased to see Mama Darlina and Mama Eunice!

On Tuesday, *"Revelations and Realities",* we were joined by community partners and leaders in Africa who updated us on the current landscape and the development of a movement-building toolkit for use by communities and partner organizations. Afternoon breakout sessions allowed for ideas and plans: to alleviate the funding crisis; to recruit new members; and to develop strategic advocacy skills. These sessions received active participation and suggestions.

The afternoon Marketplace contributed over $12,000 to the Campaign! In case you are wondering, members of *O-GRGN* who participated in the Marketplace ***(One World Grannies, Grandmas AIDing Grandmas, Grassroot Grannies, Capital Grannies)*** unofficially contributed $1,847, (to be confirmed). Well done! The evening's entertainment

(…/cont'd on page 3)

was excellent with many members singing and dancing to the music. **Stephen Page** closed the evening beautifully.

Wednesday saw us recommit to global solidarity, global health, hope and collective action to end *AIDS.* Rousing presentations inspired and emboldened us to commit to the next stages of the Grandmother's Campaign and continue our work together. After lunch, Grandmothers marched to *Parliament Hill.* Some were able to observe *Question Period* for a specified time. Unfortunately, the statement marking the Campaign's 20th Anniversary was not able to be read in the House due to other priorities and commitments that day. A Parliamentary reception followed in the early evening.

***HILL DAY,* October 8, 2026** - A note from Healy Thompson follows:

Dear grandmothers and grand-others who participated in the *Hill Day* on October 8.

You all were spectacular!

It's hard to believe it's been 3 weeks since we took the Hill by storm with 30 meetings in one day (plus two more that have been organized in ridings since then). I am thrilled by the results of that *Hill Day*. It is clear to me that you all were a force who made a real impact in your meetings with parliamentarians from all parties. Thank you so much for making sure that global health was on the agenda in these final weeks before the federal budget (which is now expected on Nov. 5)!

Multiple *MPs* and Senators said that they would write to the Ministers, raise the issue in committee, or take another action in support of global health funding. We have followed up with those offices to provide a draft letter they can send. We won't know about all of the actions that are taken as a result of the *Hill Day* since many of them will be informal conversations or caucus-level discussions. But I did want to share one clear outcome—Senator Paulette Senior asked a question on the floor of the Senate about the 10-Year Commitment to Global Health and Rights and a follow-up question about sexual and reproductive health and rights. Her office wrote to us after the *Hill Day* meetings to say that she wanted to ask a question, and *Results* and the *SLF* worked together to provide a draft question and draft follow-up question.

Here's the text of the question -
Senator Paulette Senior Topic Intervention 706415 - 15
And here's the video: Senate sitting no. 95

In addition, we are currently working on *MP* Vince Gasparro's office on finding a time for him to do a statement during Question Period. We will let you know when that gets scheduled!

(…/cont'd on page 4)

GRL Updates – October 2026

Thank you to everyone for sharing your meeting photos with us. Hopefully you've seen the *SLF* social media post about the *Hill Day*. I encourage you to re-share the post and/or comment on it about your experience with the *Hill Day*. It will help the post reach new audiences. I also invite you to post the photos from your meetings directly on social media tagging the *MP/*Senator you met with. Also, many of the parliamentarians posted a photo from the meetings themselves, so you can re-share those posts to boost their visibility.

GRL and CAMPAIGN CALLS

These were essentially: a review of the Anniversary event; reminders to share information about successes with other groups and partner with them on events if appropriate; have a member from your group join the monthly Campaign Calls; and use the tools now available on the Grandmothers website. Do not hesitate to get in touch with Thushika with any concerns or questions.

Here is a message from Brandon (Fairley) following the October Campaign Call:

The team celebrated the success of the 20th Anniversary event which saw 152 in-person and 60 virtual attendees. The focus is now shifting toward increasing public awareness of *HIV/AIDS* and strengthening regional communications through the *GRLs.*

The Marketplace raised over $12,000 in two hours.

"Hill Day" enabled members to meet with *MPs* and Senators, including a successful connection with Senator Rene Cormier.

Attendees praised the energy of the speakers, specifically Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Dr. Notisha Massoquoi, and Melissa Wainaina.

A woman expressed interest in restarting a grandmothers group in Kenora, northern Ontario. *A "Statements" section will be added to the members' login page.*

GRLs will continue to reach out to regional Chairs and Co-chairs to ensure everyone is informed about Foundation activities.

Future Campaign Calls will include 3-4 presentations or program-related sessions to ensure members are updated on ground operations in Africa.

Finance: turnaround for tax receipts is approximately 3-4 weeks; e-transfers should be sent to finance@stephenlewisfoundation.org, **but a submission form must be emailed to the**

(…/cont'd on page 5)

GRL Updates – October 2026

Campaign email to ensure a correct receipt is issued; any donation over $20 is eligible for a tax receipt, but MUST have a full mailing address, even if they are a returning donor. Please share Anniversary photos via FB or email them to the Campaign email. The next Campaign Call is Thursday, November 19, @12:30 pm EST.

To access photos of the 20th Anniversary Celebration from Maureen Murphy and Kate Grierson, One World Grannies, please click on the links below:

2026 20 Year Celebration - Maureen Murphy

2026 20 Year Anniversary Celebration Day 2 - Maureen Murphy

OTTAWA LITTLE THEATRE, Preview Performance - Jane Eyre, Sunday, October 25/26

This was an *O-GRGN* fundraiser, the second this year following *Grannyfest* in May. Many thanks to the *OTL* who offered the Preview Performance of Jane Eyre as a fundraiser for us. And thank you to all the grandmothers and grand-others who supported this event. This is a practice *OTL* employs for charitable organizations, which has proved popular and competitive! Should we wish to do this again, we will need a six plus month advance request, and more for very popular plays, such as Sherlock Holmes plays. Ian Fraser, the General Manager, shared that in his experience, attendance of over 100 + for a preview performance fundraiser is fairly standard. Nonetheless, I think we could do better in the future. The event was a little hard on the heels of the Anniversary, which had received excellent support across the country, and individual groups fall fundraising efforts. We will review and strategize for next time.

The Matinee Preview Performance sold 130 tickets @ $25 per ticket, but Eventbrite does take a fee. Total funds raised from ticket sales, donations and three basket sales was $3,311.60. Thank you again for your efforts in supporting this fundraiser.

So here we are at the end of October: the Mexican Day of the Dead celebrated on October 30, Halloween on October 31 as well as changes to daylight savings time. The ongoing cycle of life. As we draw nearer to winter let's reflect how fortunate we are to live in Canada, where we are able to assist our sister grandmothers in Africa. There are challenges ahead, but we are steadfast in our resolve to continue this important work.

Sarah Archer, Co-Chair, *O-GRGN*
(613-790-9537)

In solidarity, Sarah Archer



TRIBUTE – SUZETTE RIBOUT BURNS

Suzette Ribout Burns (1948-2026) - A TRIBUTE



It is with deep sadness that our small group, the ***GoGo Grannies of Aylmer QC,*** shares the heartbreaking news of Suzette (Suzie) Ribout Burns' passing on September 22, 2026. She had *Parkinson's Disease* and the last few years saw a steep decline in her health due to the ravages of the disease.

Given the nature of the disease, Suzette wasn't able to participate during the last few years in our activities but she always insisted on keeping informed about our regional events and faithfully supported the *Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.* While we were still in the heydays of fundraising and awareness-raising activities, Suzie always made her home and driveway available for our annual Spring and Fall Garage Sales. She would generously let people store their many items in her basement until sales day. Our sales were always advertised in our local community paper, ***The Aylmer Bulletin,*** and did they draw in community members!!! It was always a festive occasion of welcoming folks and hearing our stories from Africa and the ongoing fight against *HIV* and *AIDS.* Suzie would always make sure that we had plenty of coffee, tea and munchies (for the sellers)! She also organized the pick-up truck of leftover items for the *Girls and Boys Clubs!*

Pat Dolan makes these lovely comments: "Suzette was the first to welcome me to the Aylmer GoGos, when I retired. She and I walked together on my first march from Parliament Hill to Gatineau and back and during that time she helped me understand the work and the mission. We also worked on the silent auction for our Afternoon Tea, spending an afternoon in her basement pricing all the various 'priceless' items people had donated. She was a great teacher and mentor." Kathy adds: "She was very welcome when I first joined and I also found she had a great sense of humour."

Suzie was a former French as a Second Language Teacher for elementary school students and had a particular interest in environmental issues. She had wonderful stories about environmental projects with worms and the kids' enthusiastic involvement. She also was a wonderful French-speaking advocate in our community outreach endeavours! She read avidly on all manner of interesting topics, including education, health, environmental issues, as well as children's books! She had two beautiful grandchildren, Kayden and Lindsey.

With her wisdom and bright spirit, Suzie was well-loved by all of us – we will miss her profoundly!

Mia Overduin

CORRECTION – re. Kazuri Jewellery Initiative

CHANGING TIDES – AUGUST 2026: Kazuri Jewellery: A Winner Again, by Peggy Edwards

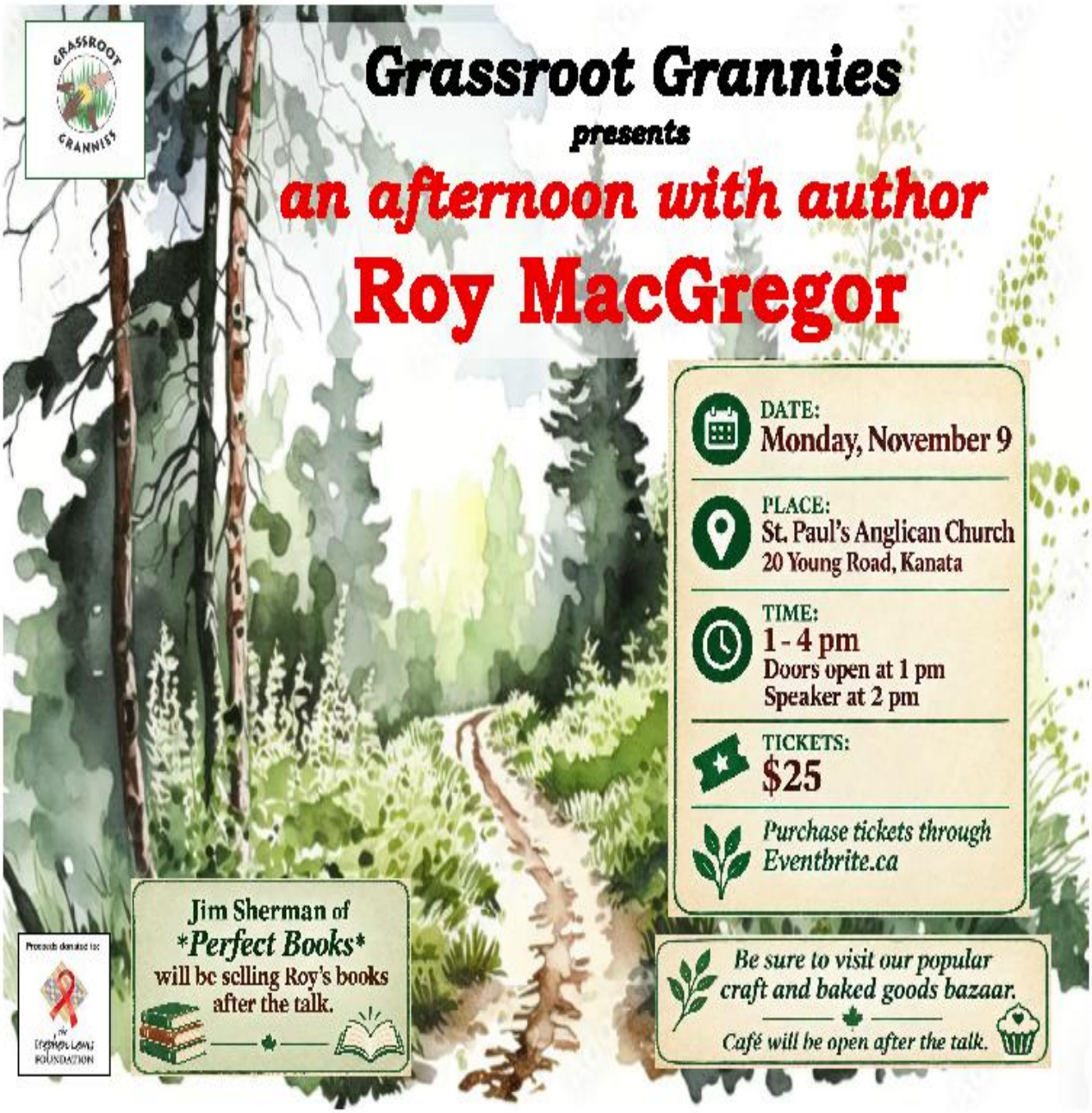


Omission of founders' names in the article by Peggy Edwards re. Kazuri Jewellery story just after the photo on page 9:

I'd like to recognize and thank several people who made KJGC possible:

- Marg Thompson, founder and original partner in the business.
- Great friends Mary Jane Sterne (One World Grannies) and Gay Coates (Oomama), Oakville for a short time) who succeeded Marg as partners in the business when she needed to withdraw. Gay took on ordering and jewellery design when she joined the company. Mary Jane, who had been on our first trip to the Kazuri workshop, applied her consultant and masterful spreadsheet skills to the project.
- Larry Davidson, partner of Marg and master strategist in ordering and sorting.
- The Unitarian Grandmothers for sponsoring and helping with the "sorts" at the Unitarian Congregation.
- Staff members (part-time): Annette Tolmie, bookkeeper: Lori Blinn, Operations Manager.
- And most of all, thank you to all the grandmother groups and grandothers who embraced Kazuri jewellery and supported the sales across the country.

GRASSROOTS EVENTS



GRASSROOTS EVENTS CALENDAR

Editor's Note: Submissions for the monthly newsletter are due on the 23rd of the month.

DATE	GRANNY GROUP	EVENT	LOCATION/TIME/CONTACT
Nov. 9 2026	*Grassroot Grannies*	*An Afternoon with Author Roy MacGregor* Be sure to visit our popular crafts and baked goods bazaar. Café will be open after the talk. Jim Sherman of *Perfect Books* will be selling Roy's books after the talk.	*ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH* 20 Young Road Kanata ON 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Doors open at: 1:00 p.m. Speaker at: 2:00 p.m. TICKETS: $25 Purchase Ticket through Eventbrite.ca

REGIONAL CONTACTS

REGIONAL GRANDMOTHER LIAISON:
GRL
Sarah Archer
sjaakafelix@icloud.com
Tel: (613) 790-9537
1) Group Leaders Meetings
2) Grannyfest Coordinators
Sandi London (GRL support)
sandilondon01@gmail.com
Tel: (613) 203-3026

Mia Overduin
miawboverduin@gmail.com
Tel: (819) 684-9720
1) Changing Tides Newsletter

SPEAKER'S BUREAU:
Peggy Rasmussen
margaretmary.rasmussen@gmail.com
Tel: (613) 440-2765
Sheila Green
sgreen8954@hotmail.com
Tel: (613) 739-8954

RESOURCES SLF:
www.stephenlewisfoundation.org
www.grandmotherscampaign.org

Grandmothers Campaign Officer, SLF
260 Spadina Avenue, Suite 100
Toronto ON M5T 2E4
Tel: (416) 533-9292
Toll-free 1-888-203-9990
Fax: (416) 850-4910

GRANDMOTHERS ADVOCACY NETWORK (GRAN):

Co-Chairs, Ottawa/Gatineau GRANs
Joanne Stead
Stella Val

GRAN Contact
Pat Dolan
Pat_Dolan@hotmail.com
Tel: (819) 230-3118