

THE INFORMER

Montreal West Newspaper

March 2026, Vol. 54, No. 2

Onigiri shop

by Jada Cheng

Beijing-born designers **Cheng** and **Meng** have traded graphic design and photography for artisanal Japanese food. Their latest canvas is a compact *Onigiri* shop on Westminster, where they're aiming to perfect the small things. Think thick slabs of imported salmon, top-grade Japanese rice, crisp seaweed and portions that lean toward generous. Despite the premium ingredients, prices stay fair in community logic. Students and families come back steadily.

"We make it a point to maintain the quality of the food and service for our customers," Cheng explains, "So we personally micromanage the restaurant's

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Steve and Rob Michelin Rink officially opens

by Trish Hewat



Director General Raffaella Di Stasio, Chair of the Capital Campaign Andrew Michelin, Honourable Anna Gainey, Mayor Jonathan Cha, Former Mayor Beny Masella, MNA Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Désirée McGraw, Director of Recreation and Culture Chris Kearney

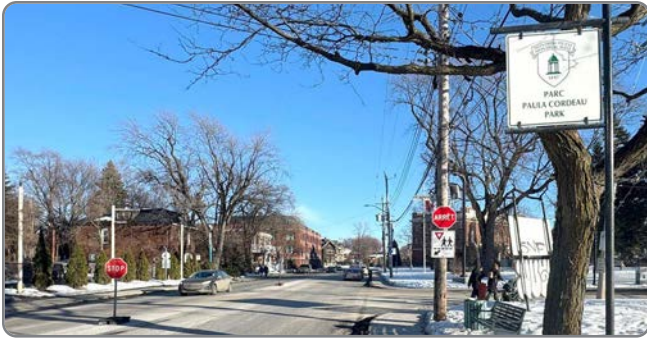
A ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, January 30 marked the official opening of the new Montreal West Sports and Recreation Centre. Holding the scissors together, current Mayor **Jonathan Cha** and former Mayor **Beny Masella** cut the ribbon following speeches by Mayor Cha, federal Member of Parliament and Secretary of State for Children and Youth **Anna Gainey** and Quebec MNA **Désirée McGraw**. Both current and former Town Councillors were in attendance as well as major donors whose contributions helped bring the project to fruition.

The centre will have a phased opening. The Steve and Rob Michelin rink saw the Knights hit the ice for their first hockey game February 1, with the first public skate held on February 7. The remainder of the complex is expected to open in the spring to allow for completion of the finishing touches to its construction.

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Two new stop signs at Westminster/Ainslie

Two secondary 1 Royal West Academy students were hit by a car at the intersection of Ainslie and Westminster while walking to school on the morning of February 16. A secondary 3 student was also hit at this intersection in October 2024. The Town acted quickly to add two free-standing stop signs along Westminster (north and south bound) at Ainslie.



New member of *The Informer* Team!

Joanna Duy has called Montreal West home since 2017. Originally from Ottawa, she worked for many years as a librarian, first at North Carolina State University and then at Concordia. She now works part-time as Executive Administrator at the Montreal School of Theology.

Joanna has served as a volunteer with different organizations around Town, and during that time she realised the importance of *The Informer* as a medium of communication and community building in the Town.

She began volunteering with *The Informer* over a year ago and is now Issue Editor. She is grateful to be learning from such a committed and passionate team of “Informerites!”

The *Informer* team wants to hear from you!

The Informer is interested in understanding the needs of the Montreal West community (including those who don't currently read *The Informer*!) and what they are looking for in their town paper.

We would appreciate you taking **five minutes** to complete the following survey. All answers will remain anonymous and confidential.

The survey can be accessed online via the **QR code at right (preferred!)**. Paper forms can be picked up and left at Town Hall, Montreal West Public, Children's Library or the Community Centre.

The survey deadline is March 22.

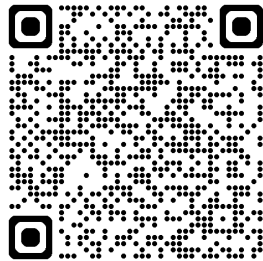
L'équipe d'*Informer* veut savoir votre avis !

The Informer souhaite connaître les besoins de la communauté de Montréal-Ouest (y compris ceux qui ne lisent pas actuellement *The Informer*!) et ce qu'elle attend de son journal local.

Nous vous serions reconnaissants de bien vouloir prendre **cinq minutes** pour répondre au questionnaire suivant. Toutes les réponses resteront anonymes et confidentielles.

Le questionnaire est accessible en ligne en scannant le code **QR à gauche (recommandée !)** Les exemplaires imprimés peuvent être récupérés et déposés à l'hôtel de ville, à la bibliothèque publique, la bibliothèque pour enfants ou au centre communautaire.

La date limite est le 22 mars.



THE INFORMER

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Montréal-Ouest, Québec
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The Informer's role is to provide MoWesters with information about their Town and its citizens in order to foster the small-town, close-knit atmosphere that makes Montreal West a special place in which to live. • Le rôle de *l'Informer* est de fournir aux gens de Montréal-Ouest de l'information sur leur ville et ses citoyens afin de favoriser l'atmosphère de petite ville et de proximité qui fait de Montréal-Ouest un endroit spécial où vivre.

ISSN: 084741X

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RATES / TAUX
1/6 page: \$50. Billed annually or semi-annually. / facturation annuelle ou semestrielle
Monthly billing / Facturation mensuelle : \$60 per/par insertion
1/12 page: \$30. Billed annually / facturation annuelle
Monthly billing / Facturation mensuelle : \$35 per/par insertion
Flyer / Dépliant : \$50 (non-profit / non lucratif), \$85 (commercial)
Professional card / Carte professionnelle : \$135 per year / par an
Subscription / Abonnement : \$25
Classifieds / Petites annonces: 26-50 words / mots – \$10, 25 words or fewer / mots ou moins – \$6

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The Informer is published nine times a year (usually on the second or third week-end of the month) except January, July and August. Typesetting by *Informer* staff, printing by *Les Publicités A. Campeau Ltée*. Extra copies available at Town Hall and both libraries. Funded, in part, by the Town of Montreal West. Articles are printed in French or English, as submitted.

L'Informer est publié neuf fois l'an (habituellement le deuxième ou troisième week-end du mois) sauf en janvier, juillet et août. Composition par le personnel de *l'Informer*, impression par *Les Publicités A. Campeau Ltée*. Des exemplaires supplémentaires sont disponibles à l'hôtel de ville et dans les deux bibliothèques. Financé, en partie, par la Ville de Montréal-Ouest. Les articles sont imprimés en français ou en anglais, tel que soumis.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE
DATE LIMITE DU PROCHAIN
NUMÉRO
March 11 mars

La patinoire Steve et Rob Michelin ouvre ses portes!

Pour souligner l'ouverture de la patinoire, la Ville a organisé une série d'événements accueillant les résidents, les citoyens riverains et les représentants officiels dans le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif. D'autres activités destinées à l'ensemble de la population seront prévues au printemps et à l'été, alors que le bâtiment ouvre complètement.

Le 23 janvier, les résidents habitant à proximité du Centre ont été invités à découvrir en avant-première les installations. Ils ont également pu profiter d'une période de patinage libre, en guise de remerciement pour leur patience tout au long de la construction.

Le 30 janvier, la Ville a tenu l'inauguration officielle du centre. La cérémonie comprenait des allocutions officielles, une coupure du ruban et des visites guidées du bâtiment. Elle s'est déroulée en présence de représentants municipaux, provinciaux et fédéraux, ainsi que de certains contributeurs

d'importance.

Le patinage libre a débuté le 7 février. Des visites guidées sont proposées pendant les heures de patinage, et plus de 100 personnes sont venues patiner ou visiter les installations lors de la première fin de semaine.



Doors open at Steve and Rob Michelin Rink

To mark the opening of the rink, the Town hosted a series of events that welcomed residents, neighbours and officials into the new sports and recreation centre. Additional events for the whole community will be organized in the spring and summer as the remainder of the building opens.

On January 23, residents living close to the centre were invited to get a first look at the facilities. They also enjoyed a free skate period as a token of appreciation for their patience throughout the building's construction.

On January 30, the Town held the official inauguration of the sports and recreation centre. The ceremony featured official remarks, a ribbon-cutting and guided tours of the building; it was attended by municipal, provincial and federal representatives, as well as certain key contributors.

Public skating began on February 7. Guided tours are offered during the public skating hours, and more than 100 people dropped by to skate or tour the facility over that first weekend.

Patinage libre / Free skate
Samedi / Saturday: 4-5:20 pm
Dimanche / Sunday: 1-2:20 pm

First public skate at the Steve and Rob Michelin Rink

On February 7 from 4 to 5 pm, the Steve and Rob Michelin Rink was open for the first time to the public. Free of charge, with hot chocolate on tap, as well as greeters and guided tours, the event was a draw particularly for young families, who were excited to use the facility for the first time.

Parents **Alexa and Peter** were at the rink with their three boys, **Henry** (age 2), **Arthur** (age 4) and **Charlie** (age 6), all of whom were testing out the ice with their dad. Alexa noted that they had used the Legion rink very briefly when they first moved to

Sophie, age 4, skates with her dad at the first public skate



their home on Strathearn a few years ago, but are very excited to have the new facility.

Mom **Amanda** was standing at the side of the ice with her three-month-old baby in a stroller. She and her husband, who moved to MoWest in 2021, were there with four-year-old daughter **Sophie**, who was on the ice with her dad. "We are very excited and plan on spending a lot of time here," she said enthusiastically, while watching Sophie learn to get her footing on the ice with the help of a skating aid and her dad's encouragement.

Some residents attended for the tour instead of the free skate and were impressed by what they saw. "It's stupendous. The Town has done a fabulous job designing the facility. I think it will be the centre of town. The former Council should be congratulated," said **Judy MacDonald**. "I'm anxious to see how we can make use of it," said **Eleanor Henoch**, with husband **Fred Braman** adding "I can't wait for the pool to open. My second favourite location will be the café," referring to Terrone Café, which will move into the facility in the spring. Resident **Elizabeth Neil** commented that the centre is "Absolutely beautiful, very bright, great floor plan" and hopes to use it for exercise classes.



Peter and son Henry, age two, take to the ice for Henry's first skate

Back on the ice, the kids and parents were still enjoying themselves as the hour-long public skate session wrapped up. The younger kids seemed unfazed despite having fallen multiple times. By all accounts, the first public skate seemed to have been a success, with a lot of enthusiasm from residents young and old.

from Joanna Duy

Rink opens

continued from page 1

The project has had its controversies. With a \$39.2 million price tag there were questions within the community about whether this was a too costly and ambitious project for a small community like Montreal West to handle. But a referendum conducted in June 2023 to approve additional funding for the project, after the call for tenders went out resulting in higher than expected bids, saw a majority of 57% of voters okay the plan, with just over 2100 out of 5,000 residents voting.

The Town secured funding to offset construction costs. An initial grant of \$12.6 million from federal and provincial governments in May 2021 was supplemented with \$3.8 million in funding in June 2023, bringing the total costs covered to 42%. An additional \$1.8 million from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, plus \$2.2 million from donors, brought the total to \$20.4 million, accounting for 52% of the complex's funding.

Some of the features

But despite the debates within the community, when you enter through the rec centre doors you can't help being impressed. It does have a bit of a wow factor. It's an open, modern, light-filled space, its two-storey glass walls and doors at either end of the

January 23 visit to the new centre



lobby giving it an indoor/outdoor feel. Look up and there's a large art installation visible from both levels of the complex crafted by visual artist **Maryse Chartrand**, some of whose works can be found displayed in the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

The centre is both environmentally friendly and accessible to those with disabilities. The pool has a ramp to facilitate access for those with mobility problems. The Steve and Rob Michelin rink has accommodations for sledge hockey, a sport for amputees played on low-slung sleds. Its one-inch lip from the floor to the ice surface eases access to the rink. The players' bench section has the boards cut down and filled with shatter-proof "glass" to allow players a good view of the action on the ice. As well there are two universally accessible dressing rooms designed with those who have disabilities. The second floor level can be reached by elevator as well as stairs.

Its environmental credentials include a design inspired by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification principles. However, it is not LEED certified due to the costs involved in achieving certification.

It boasts a bioretention basin, an engineered, shallow landscaped depression using natural materials designed to collect, treat and filter stormwater runoff from roofs and parking lots to slow the discharge of stormwater into the municipal drainage system. As well, it will have a green wall on the building's exterior facade that serves to filter pollutants while serving as attractive insulation. The swimming pool is warmed through heat recovery from the ice rink compressors. And outside there are plug-ins for electric vehicles.

Taking a tour

After the speeches and ribbon cutting, tours of the building were available. My guide took me around the facility pointing out its amenities. Beyond the reception desk, the doors at the far end of the lobby open onto the swimming pool area containing a six-lane pool, diving pool and a fenced wading pool with a shaded corner for the young ones. Just inside those doors are the family changing rooms, washrooms and showers. The main level also includes a cafe/restaurant space that *Terrone* will shortly occupy.

To the right of the lobby is an official-sized hockey rink, named in tribute to **Steve** and **Rob Michelin**. Both keen hockey players, their family wanted to honour their memories after their early deaths from cystic fibrosis. To that end brother **Andy Michelin** took over the fundraising reins in March 2024 from **Scott MacKenzie** who chaired the committee from 2021-2024. In total \$2.2 million was raised from donors.

Flanking the rink are six changing rooms with attached washrooms and showers. At the rink's entrance is a pro shop where you



Art installation by Maryse Chartrand

can replace your frayed hockey laces, get new tape for your stick or have your skates sharpened. And sitting at the rink's end is a brand new electric Zamboni, painted in the MoWest signature colour of forest green. Beside it is the office of the man in charge, **Jean Marc Saint-Vil**, the rec centre foreman, responsible for all its day-to-day operations.

We took the stairs up to the second floor to view the elementary school-sized gymnasium able to facilitate pickle ball, volleyball and basketball. There are also two large multi-purpose rooms able to host recreational programs that are also available for rental to groups. Completing the upper floor layout are a kitchen, lockers and offices. It's all so shiny and new you almost expect it to have that fresh paint smell fill your nostrils.

Beyond the gym, we saw waiters sporting crisp white shirts and black waistcoats and pants carrying crates of champagne into one of the multipurpose rooms. Peeking in, we saw the room was transformed, moody lighting giving it a downtown club vibe, waiters relieving the crates of their gold-necked bottles of bubbly, crunching them into crushed ice filled silver buckets, a musician at the mike doing a sound check. Invitation only, my guide informs me. VIPs and donors, I imagine. A little thank you.



Aspen enjoying the colourful ice fort on Wolseley N built by mom Lauren, dad Sean and her

Sharing some Aloha in Montreal West

Montreal winters can seem never-ending, and this season has been a particularly cold one. At Wolseley N, one family has been making the most of it, adding a pop of color to the street with their rainbow ice

fort. Inspired by images of DIY igloos on social media, **Lauren** and her daughter **Aspen** decided to give it a try and the results have been spectacular. “When it feels like minus 40, you’re a bit afraid to go outside

with a young child. This project has given us a creative way to enjoy winter.”

Lauren, who grew up in Hawaii, believes the seasons are a gift, but agrees winter can feel long. “Having a winter activity really changes your relationship with the season.”

The ice fort has been surprisingly simple to build, using aluminum lasagna trays, water and food coloring. Aspen has been in charge of choosing and mixing the colors. Lauren has been the main engineer and has recruited her husband, **Sean**, to help. The individual ice blocks have been stuck together with a slushy mixture of water and snow that freezes everything together. “We’ve done most of the building at night – both because the colder temperatures help things hold and because we have more time when our daughter is sleeping. It’s been fun to watch people stop and admire it, even see kids hopping out of cars to come take a look.”

As the days warm up, the colors are starting to fade as the structure melts away. “We’re probably the only people who are sad to see things starting to warm up,” Lauren laughs. The family has lots of notes for doing it all again next year.

Onigiri

continued from page 1

cleaning and all the ingredient preparation. It’s important that quality control is consistent, given that we work with fresh seafood.”

She operates almost entirely without staff, aside from brief midday help in the summer. It is only she and her husband overseeing the entire process.

“We don’t want to just step back and hope for the best – being involved keeps everything on the right path,” she says. “Besides, I’m a bit of a clean freak. It takes a little over an hour after closing (7 pm) to finish cleaning.”

She further remarks that quality, in her view, is no superficial marketing claim, but a part of their business philosophy. Their signature dalgona drink, which gained popularity over the summer, is formulated with whole and minimally processed ingredients intended to be a healthy option. Their recipe incorporates coconut milk, Japanese matcha and maple syrup as a natural alternative to sugar.

On the franchise

As for being part of the *Onigiri* franchise, she has a pointed take on brand discipline. Even though every decision technically runs through headquarters, she and her husband, Meng, push past the “typical franchise” model to preserve an artisan’s sincerity. They abide by the corporate rulebook with care, but run the shop as if it were a personal craft kitchen.

“It’s gotten to the point where everyone

who visits feels like a friend,” she says. “People even give us ideas – like when we get a big rush of students, how to make things more efficient or, in winter, maybe try hot drinks or another ordering system.”

They’ve been open less than six months and already have a loyal community orbiting the counter.

She describes herself and her husband as new immigrants and complete beginners, wanting to get things moving quickly. For now, they’re treating this venture as both a market study and training group. Cheng mentioned that they’d once dreamed of opening a cocktail bar, but when asked about long-term plans, she smiled and said they’re starting here, with this *Onigiri* shop, to understand local consumer behaviour before building something of their own.

Currently, as winter creeps in, business will inevitably be affected.

But Cheng is already finding ways to keep orders steady and make things easier for customers.

“Now that it’s getting colder, we’re encouraging residents to place orders through our website,” she explains. “The prices are the same as walk-in and cheaper than Uber Eats or DoorDash. They can choose a pickup time and come directly to collect their order without waiting outside in the cold. It’s a great solution.”

That’s the model they’re testing now. During the summer, when the shop filled during peak hours and they didn’t want customers waiting too long inside, they handed out buzzers so people can stroll around and come back when their order was ready.

On their life in Beijing

Cheng had never left Beijing her entire life. Until she graduated, Beijing was essentially her entire world. While studying, she held a stable position at a university – one of those lifetime posts common in China, where employment and salary are guaranteed for as long as the institution itself endures.

“I was very stable,” she recalls with a smile. “And I also freelanced for other companies on the side.”

It wasn’t until after completing her master’s degree that her then-boyfriend – now her husband – suggested she quit her job and move abroad with him, starting again from scratch. The couple came to Montreal chasing a fresh start and a new language. They began with English; now they’re working their way through French.

Despite the big move, they aren’t precarious newcomers anymore. They’re pragmatic in how they balance family and work. They’ve built a steady life in Montreal, now living downtown with their toddler son. Cheng now keeps the shop open only one day on weekends, reserving the other as family time – a full day with her child, which she calls non-negotiable.

They are happy to be a part of the fabric of Montreal West, noting, “Although our shop is small, we hope it feels warm and welcoming. We try our best to make up for the limited space with calming music and simple, playful décor.”

Cheng and Meng are reachable at **482-1888** for orders. They’re located at 30 Westminister Ave N, Montreal West.

Town holds info session on power failure

by Trish Hewat

Montreal West held an information session Monday, February 9 to review measures taken during the widespread power failure that took place on the weekend of January 24 and 25 affecting the three communities of Montreal West, Côte Saint-Luc and NDG. At 10:37 a.m. Saturday morning one of the four transformers at the Hampstead power substation located behind Mont Sinai Hospital in Côte Saint-Luc exploded in a blaze of fire, its smoke visible for several kilometers. Cold weather and aging equipment at the 70-year-old outdoor power station are the suspected cause of the failure, at its height leaving an estimated 15,000 hydro customers without power.

The power failure in Montreal West was limited to the northern section of the Town. Council opened the Town Hall as a warming shelter to affected residents on Sunday morn-

ing from 8 am to 10 pm, with a shuttle service available to the overnight shelter at Centre Communautaire de loisirs de la Côte-des-Neiges ready to receive residents of all three communities. Sunday afternoon, emergency services went door to door to check on residents and guide them to warming centres if needed. The CUISSS also contacted those on their list of people receiving home care.

Mayor **Jonathan Cha** informed the small group of residents who attended the information session that at first, Hydro Quebec had informed him that power would be restored on Saturday afternoon. Then, at a later briefing, by 8 pm. Only at 6 pm Saturday evening was the Town told that Montreal West would not have any power until at least noon the following day at which point a shuttle was provided to residents to take them to the Cote-des-Neiges overnight emergency shelter.

Côte Saint-Luc received more frequent and extensive updates from Hydro than did Montreal West. The CCMU (the Montreal Agglomeration Emergency Measures Coordination Centre), in charge of activating response measures in an emergency and deploying needed resources with relevant partners, initially left Montreal West out of the critical communication chain, leaving the Town unable to fully assess the scope of the situation.

Mayor Cha received criticism that Montreal West had not informed residents as well as Côte Saint-Luc had. His response was, "We are listening. We are in the process of improving our communication with Hydro and are reviewing our emergency plans with our partners. We want to be in a position to clearly explain to residents the procedures to follow in this situation and provide all the help that is needed."


Residents attending the information session to review the Town's response to the power failure Monday night expressed various concerns, from how to contact vulnerable adults to how to protect pets. One resident expressed concern that there is not a list of vulnerable seniors available for the Town to contact, pointing out at the same time that seniors often do not want to be on a list that identifies them as vulnerable as it could be hacked, leaving them exposed.

Questions were asked about future preparedness. Would a shuttle service be available to take residents without cars from their homes to the warming centre? Would there be a place to shelter pets? Could the new Rec Centre serve as a future overnight emergency shelter? Councillors pointed out that an overnight shelter needs a secure power source, away from an area at risk of losing power.

MNA **Desirée McGraw** said she is in discussions with the Government of Quebec, including a meeting with the Minister responsible for Hydro Quebec, regarding the causes of the power failure. She also said that for many Montreal West residents the Côte-des-Neiges emergency overnight shelter was just too far away. She also expressed concerns about the difficulty of contacting those without WiFi, internet and cell phones when there is no power.

A new power station to replace the existing Hampstead facility that currently serves the three communities of Montreal West, Côte Saint-Luc and NDG is slated to be built beginning this summer, with an expected completion date of 2029. It will be a covered facility designed to protect transformers from extreme cold snaps.

The Hampstead substation, one of the forty substations on the island of Montreal in need of upgrading, will be brought up to 315 kilovolts from its present capacity of 120 kV. To that end Hydro announced on February 5 that preparatory work has begun on construction of the 18-km long 315 kV line and on upgrading the distribution system to a higher voltage.



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Children's Library

Video game workshop

Do you love video games? Discover how you can make them, in a workshop offered by *Explorations Learning!*

In one afternoon, you will create epic characters with superpowers and special abilities, craft a unique world for your game's setting, and make friends to help or monsters to vanquish. Video game design is Montreal's biggest industry, so these are practical skills to learn.

This fun workshop could set you on the path to becoming a star game developer! Whether you dream of designing games or just want to try something new, this is a fun, creative way to explore game design and bring your ideas to life. Partici-

pants start by making unique characters, with images for talking and movement animations. They will make a small world and add a single problem to solve (a micro-narrative), code a short dialogue for the game to explain the problem to the players. By the end of the workshop, participants will be able to play through their game. Afterwards, the game will be uploaded, and can be shared with loved ones. The workshop will take place on Saturday, March 14, 12:30 pm. Registration is mandatory.

Slime workshop

Monday, March 16, 10:30 am, you can join us for an amusing workshop where you will make your own slime. You can choose and make it the



EBS Grade 6 students enjoy a donut and hot chocolate as an award for the excellent result at the Literary Trivia Quiz organized for them

color you like and enjoy it days after it is done. Don't forget to contact us for registration!

Dragon egg hunt

Do you know that we have been gifted some beautiful, artistic dragon eggs? You are invited for a special event, where you will use a recipe to make a no-bake edible dragon egg, listen to dragon stories and then go on a dragon egg hunt! Sunday, March 29, 11 am.

Bill Foster Writing Contest

In the previous issue of *The Informer* we introduced this year's theme – Friendship – and the details of the contest. We would like to remind, that we have already accepted submissions, and the deadline to bring back the envelope with your text is April 2. We hope you are in the final touches of your literary creation, and look forward to receiving it soon.





Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri / lun, mer, jeu, ven :
10 am-6 pm
Tue / mar : 10 am-8 pm
Sat, Sun / sam, dim : 10 am-3 pm

Fermée pour Pâques du 3 au 6 avril
Closed for Easter April 3-6

484-7194 www.mwcl.ca mwcl@mwcl.ca

Montreal West Public Library

The Montreal West Public Library has plenty to celebrate this winter, thanks to the continued support of our wonderful community.

First and foremost, we extend a heartfelt thank you to our donors. Your generous contributions to our Flexible Spaces campaign have allowed us to

purchase new rolling shelves that make our space more multifunctional and welcoming for everyone. These moveable shelves, which arrived mid-February, help us adapt the library for programs and events. We invite you to drop by and enjoy the refreshed space you helped create!

Our ongoing project Crafting Virtual Reality, supported by Concordia University and the *Grace Dart Foundation* brings together creativity and technology. Working with **T Braun**, a professional artist, participants have most recently been making sweater mittens that will soon be added to the virtual world. It's exciting to see their creations take on another form that allows us to interact with them in a whole new way.

Meanwhile, the library has been buzzing at lunchtime as

local students gather to watch the Winter Olympics. It's been a joy to see young people follow the event and share the excitement of the Games.

From new shelves to shared moments, our library continues to serve as a hub for community connection every day. We hope to see you soon!



Local high school students gather at the library to watch the Olympics at lunchtime

50 ans ~ 50 years

481-7522

41 Westminster N.

Reservations / requests:
info@mwpl.ca

Visit us online: mwpl.ca

OPENING HOURS
Monday to Saturday:
noon-6 pm

Edinburgh School

Celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week at Edinburgh was full of small, joyful moments that made a big difference. With the help of our amazing parent volunteers, the week was all about showing our staff how much they mean to our school community.

We started things off with a fun Smoothie Day, and throughout the week the staff room stayed stocked with coffee, tea, snacks and other delicious treats to brighten busy days. Our Book Fair was another highlight, with many families choosing to gift books directly to our teachers' wish lists – something that will keep our classrooms well stocked.

A brand-new addition this year was chair massages for staff, which quickly became a favourite. Even a few quiet minutes to relax went a long way.

Edinburgh teachers enjoy a lunch prepared by parents



Mme Lauryn and Mme Stephane at the book fair.

We wrapped everything up on Friday with a cheerful Breakfast Bonanza that filled the morning with good food and lots of smiles.

More than anything, the week was a reminder of what makes Edinburgh special: families and staff working together

to create a caring, welcoming place for kids to learn and grow. It was a wonderful way to say “thank you” – and already a highlight of the month for many of us.

from Alexandra Kelebay

A community tribute in the making

This June, our community will mark a significant milestone with the retirement of a much-loved and deeply respected educator, **Mr. Brian Turgeon**, who will be closing an extraordinary chapter at the end of this school year.

For many families in Montreal West and beyond, Mr. Turgeon is more than a teacher. He is a mentor, a steady presence, a voice of encouragement in hallways and classrooms, a lover of the bowtie and all things Halloween! He is someone who has shaped the Edinburgh experience of countless students over the years. His impact reaches far beyond report cards, it lives in memories, lessons learned and moments of kindness that former students and parents still carry with them.

As part of a small committee working alongside the school's social committee, we are quietly gathering memories to help create a meaningful tribute to honour his career and legacy. We are reaching out to former students, parents, colleagues and friends who may wish to share:

- A short written memory or message
- A story that captures what Mr. Turgeon meant to you or your family
- A photo (old or recent) that reflects your connection

All contributions will be treated with care and respect and may be included in a commemorative presentation celebrating his retirement.

If you would like to participate, please send your memories, messages, or photos to: m.turgeon.retires@gmail.com.

Whether your connection dates back many years or is more recent, your voice matters. Small moments often tell the biggest stories, and together they help paint a full picture of a career dedicated to education, leadership, and community.

Thank you for helping us celebrate someone who has given so much to so many.

*from Kate Shingler,
on behalf of Karen Friend*



Les Amis-du-Monde

Une mosaïque de cultures: celebrating our diverse community

Je me présente, **Jean-François Taylor-Wingender**, directeur de l'école des Amis-du-Monde depuis maintenant deux ans et demi. C'est un privilège de diriger une école où l'esprit de communauté est si fort et où la richesse culturelle de notre clientèle fait partie intégrante de notre identité. Aux Amis-du-Monde, la diversité est une véritable force qui favorise l'ouverture, le respect et le vivre-ensemble. Ce sera un réel plaisir de partager la vie de notre école, nos projets et nos réussites à travers le journal local et de faire mieux connaître notre belle communauté aux familles de Montréal-Ouest.

My name is **Jean-François Taylor-Wingender** and I have been the principal of École des Amis-du-Monde for the past two and a half years. It is a privilege to lead a school where the sense of community is so strong and where the cultural richness of our student population is at the heart of our identity. At Amis-du-Monde, diversity is a true strength that fosters openness, respect, and living together. It will be a real pleasure to share the life of our school, our projects, and our successes through the local newspaper, and to help more families in Montréal-Ouest discover our vibrant school community.

de Jean-François Taylor-Wingender



Automne 2025: Les élèves ont d'abord fait une parade dans le quartier avec des instruments de musique bricolés par nos minis artistes. Ils ont ensuite été invités à se placer dans la cour d'école de façon à former un bonhomme sourire géant. La fête s'est terminée par une danse dans la cour d'école au rythme de chansons entraînantes! Une belle journée pour les élèves de l'école des Amis-du-Monde!

Fall 2025: The students first paraded in the neighborhood with musical instruments made by our mini artists. They were then invited to the schoolyard in order to form a giant smiley face. The party ended with a dance in the schoolyard to lively songs! A great day for the students of des Amis-du-Monde school!

Elizabeth Ballantyne School



Room 5 Kind Kids with Miss Heidi

Kind Kids

K4 and K5 students recently completed an eight-week character education program called Kind Kids, offered by *Épique Programs and Training Inc.*

The program helps students to develop important social-emotional skills, including recognizing their feelings, building positive friendships, practising good sportsmanship, solving problems and managing anger.

Through engaging stories and interactive activities, students also learned the importance of sharing, cooperating, apologizing and offering forgiveness. The program provided meaningful opportunities to strengthen relationships and support their emotional growth.

The students really enjoyed the presentations!

from Kate Marien

Placemats, mosaics, SWAPS and games!

Sparks and Embers



A large part of Guiding is recognizing our units do not work independently, but are part of a far wider network of over 10 million members in 153 countries. We often speak of the sisterhood of Guiding and the friendships we have within our organization. With this theme in mind, the Sparks and Embers created their own friendship placemats. Although the placemats were woven with paper strips, it represented the woven fabric of all our relationships. Each girl wrote upon their own placemat what it meant to them to be a friend. We all signed each other's placemats.

In recognition of the Camp Peaceful Waters' centennial celebration, the Sparks and Embers held a "Day in the life at summer camp" meeting. The girls followed the camp map to hike to the bluff where they could watch the beautiful sunrise over Ranger

Lake. They then hiked down to the waterfront to partake in the regatta. They propelled their canoes across the lake. Then, they hiked over to Youngson for the central campfire. The girls led their favourite campfire songs and learned some new ones as well.

Centennial mosaic art project

While "up at camp" the girls did a second sorting of trinkets for the centennial mosaic art project. In the spring there will be three workshops held in various locations in and around the Island of Montreal, where the members of Guiding will have an opportunity to help create the tiles for the mosaic that will be installed in Stavert Lodge this summer. How fun will it be for the youth members to see it years from now, remembering how they helped to contribute to the beautiful final project!

SWAPS

The girls also created SWAPS. These are cute little creations which are usually pinned to a hat. All three units created SWAPS. They created canoes, touques, weather forecasters, tire d'érable, bagels, skates and traffic pylons. Between them, 100 SWAPS were created as part of the centennial challenge. These creations were given to one of the coordinators of the inter-provincial camp held at the end of July. Most provinces are sending a patrol of campers with two Guiders



Making friendship placemats

Winter Olympics



to experience our beautiful camp this summer. They will be coming with their own SWAPS and given an opportunity to exchange items with ones that have been created just for them. In the fall, our units will receive 100 SWAPS from across Canada to give to our girls. The interprovincial camp is for Pathfinder-aged girls and up. This is a fun way for the younger branches to participate in this as well!

Winter Olympic games

Besides creating SWAPS, the Guides held their very own Winter Olympics. They combined three winter sports into one and made the rules for their new event. The following week, the Sparks, Embers and all family members were invited to participate in the competition. Given the limitations of the meeting time, only five events were held. They were Speed Boarding; Figure Curling; Relay Sled; Belly-Back Halfpipe and Target Toss. All of these events involved racing two teams back and forth across the lawn of the Montreal West United Church. If you had driven past on Westminster the night of the Guide Olympics, you may have been puzzled as to what was going on. The participants were all very tired by the end of the five events. There was a lot more laughter at our events than at the official Olympics.

A kindly reminder, Guiding is now half price for the remainder of this Guiding year. Visit: register.girlguides.ca/web/en/unit and search to find the unit whose meeting time fits your family's schedule.

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ENTREPRENEUR GÉNÉRAL



A sweet talk for February!

On February 16, **Pamela Fillion** shared the art of “sweet remedies” with members of the MW Horticultural Society – an overview of how to preserve and concentrate plant (and fungi), ingredients using sweet syrups, elixirs, decoctions and more.

Fillion, originally from Saguenay Lac St. Jean, has been a “kitchen herbalist” since 2012, and has been experimenting, creating and selling her products since then.

While Fillion emphasized that she has not studied herbalism formally for diagnostic or

prescription purposes, as a kitchen or folk herbalist, she believes in “herbalism by the people, for the people,” and that humans have a right to maintain a relationship with plants and use them for their well-being. She eschews expensive equipment like stills, instead using simple, inexpensive methods that are accessible to anyone in their home kitchen.

She discussed the importance of sourcing her botanicals from a network of Quebec friends and farmers to ensure they are harvested responsibly and organically grown. As an example of this, Fillion has hosted “dandelion workshops” where participants go to a local organic farm and harvest a huge volume of dandelion flowers and then

transform and preserve them.

Members were treated to a slide show filled with lovely photos of various botanical combinations – hawthorn, sea buckthorn, rosehips, elderberries – combined with spices and mushrooms. She emphasized the benefits of common plants often considered weeds, such as plantain, which many of us pull from our gardens.

After the talk, Fillion shared a dark, mysterious-looking concoction made of chaga and reishi mushrooms, spices including cardamom and star anise, maple syrup and brandy. She had noted in her talk that she often uses similar syrups to make a “mushroom latte,” which sounded downright intriguing to many in the audi-

ence. We had a chance to sample it in hot water (along with home made baked goods) and it made for a nice warm evening drink. A lovely, sweet ending to the dark February evening.

Spring talks: Mushrooms, native plants!

Monday April 20: *The misadventures of a Morel Mushroom hunter!* Talk given by local resident and mushroom forager **Francesco Gallé**.

Monday May 11: *How we transformed our yard with indigenous plants.* NDG resident **Al Hayek** shares the process of transforming his garden to an oasis of native plants.

from Joanna Duy

Club 60+ Club

MARCH

- 13 **Saint Patrick's Day luncheon**, noon-2 pm.
- 17 **Tour of the sports and recreation centre**. 11 am and 1 pm.

MARS

- 13 **Dîner de la Saint-Patrick**, 12h à 14h
- 17 **Visite guidée du centre sportif et récréatif**, 11 h et 13 h

Info: 484-6186 or email: recreation@montreal-west.ca

Free lecture

McGill Community for Lifelong Learning

March 5, 1-2 pm

Nutrition is What We Eat and What We Digest

Conférence gratuite

5 mars, 13h-14h

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Foot clinic / Soins des pieds

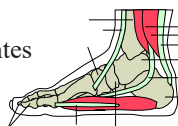
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\$40 subsequent visits

484-6186

by appointment only

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\$40 visites subséquentes

par rendez-vous seulement



Kosher corner

We can't wait to celebrate Purim with the MoWest Jewish community. We hope you can join us at one or all of the events!

Purim cocktail dîatoire

Join us Monday, March 2, from 7-9 pm for an elegant evening cocktail dîatoire. Enjoy delicious bites, festive drinks and lively conversation in a warm and spirited Purim atmosphere. The Megillah will be read both right before and right after the reception, giving you the full Purim experience in a relaxed and celebratory setting. RSVP required, so be sure to reserve!



Family-friendly Purim party

Calling all families and little ones! Tuesday, March 3 from 4-6 pm at *Caden's Light-*

house, join us for a joyful Purim playtime celebration. Come in costume for an afternoon filled with fun, laughter and Purim spirit.

Celebrations don't stop there....

Be sure to join us Friday, March 6, for our First Friday Shabbat services, followed by a lively Kiddush with refreshments, treats and warm community vibes. It's the perfect way to continue the joy of the season and welcome Shabbat together.

We can't wait to celebrate, laugh and share the spirit of Purim. For more information or to RSVP, please contact info@chabadwestminster.com!

Happy Purim!

from Rabbi Mendy Marlow



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- Balance & Fall Prevention
- Injury Prevention
- Cancer Rehabilitation



Brian Gillespie, Jonathan Cha, Eric Rayment, Charled de Toni (left player), Mark-Angelo Reddick (right player); M9B girls MWH team winning the Leitrim Hawks Jamboree Shootout competition

Historic first puck drop at the Steve and Rob Michelin Rink

Sunday, February 1 marked a milestone moment for the community as the Montreal West/Hampstead (MWH) Knights officially took to the ice for the first puck drop at the brand-new Steve and Rob Michelin Rink.

At 6:30 pm, the long-anticipated opening game began as Hockey Director **Eric Rayment** welcomed the visiting Lasalle Panthers to the ice. Moments later, the home crowd rose to greet the MWH M13B Knights as they skated onto their new

home ice for the very first time.

The atmosphere was electric, a culmination of years of planning, construction and patience from families, players, coaches and volunteers who have long awaited the return of home ice to Montreal West.

MWCRA board member and coach **Brian Gillespie** addressed the crowd before the ceremonial puck drop, expressing gratitude to the Town, parents, players and coaches for their support and perseverance throughout the process. Brian acknowledged the collective effort that made the new rink possible and the resilience of the hockey community while awaiting this milestone.

Mayor Jonathan Cha was invited to centre ice to perform the ceremonial puck drop between the Knights and the Panthers, a symbolic start to a new chapter in Montreal West-Hampstead hockey history.

Later that evening, history was made again when **Ashton Stermer** scored the first official MWH goal in the new rink, assisted by **Sebastien Cernovitch**.

One historic milestone belongs to the M13A Knights, who earned the distinction of recording the first official win in the new rink. As teams settled

into their long-awaited home ice, the M13A team set the tone for the season with a strong performance that will be remembered as part of the rink's early history.

For Montreal West-Hampstead hockey families, the wait was worth it. Home ice is back.

Go Knights Go!

Since opening night, MWH hockey has been in full swing. Games are now being played nightly, referees have returned to officiate on home ice, and the Future Stars program has resumed in its new facility. The Learn to Skate program has also launched successfully, offering a 10-week session to more than 100 young skaters aged 3 to 16.

The MWH hockey program has had an exciting and successful stretch since the holiday break, with teams competing in tournaments across the region and making their mark both on the road and at home in the Steve and Rob Michelin Rink.

Girls' team: outstanding!

On the tournament circuit, the M12A Girls team delivered an outstanding performance at the Tournai Provincial M11 de Verdun at the end of January.

The team captured the tournament title, showcasing the continued growth and strength of girls' hockey within the MWH program.

Meanwhile, the M9B Girls' team showed off their skill and confidence at the Leitrim Hawks Jamboree in Ottawa in mid-January. In a format that saw them competing against boys' teams throughout the weekend, the girls rose to the challenge. Their efforts culminated in an exciting victory in the Shootout Competition, earning them the title of B Division champions, what a memorable achievement to cap off a fantastic weekend of hockey!

Adding to the program's success, the M11B Knights battled their way to the finals at the Capital House League tournament in Ottawa. They showed strong team play and earned them a finalist finish, reflecting the competitive spirit that continues to define MWH teams. Congratulations to the team.

With multiple teams competing, winning and representing Montreal West with pride, MWH Hockey is enjoying a season filled with momentum, development and community spirit. As games continue at home and away, the Knights are proving that the program is thriving both on and off the ice.

North Stars Double Letter

Meanwhile, our double-letter program, the North Stars,

MWH referees James Prihoda and Theo Radhakrishna



CRA

continues to make a strong statement across the region.

In early January, the M13BB North Stars captured the championship title at the TOM Tournament. Their victory reflects the strong development and team efforts this season.

A special congratulations also goes to our M13AA North Stars, who have the honour of competing in the prestigious Peeewe International Tournament in Quebec City in early February. One of the most respected and competitive youth hockey tournaments in the world. Representing North Stars du EHL on that stage is a significant achievement and a testament to the hard work of the players and coaching staff.

The North Stars program is currently enjoying tremendous success in league play as well. At present, both the M11AA and M13AA teams are ranked #1 in their respective divisions. In addition, our M11BB and M13BB teams are ranked among the top three, positioning the program strongly heading into the final stretch of the season.

With playoffs approaching, the intensity is building. Teams are now competing for coveted spots at the provincial championships, and excitement is high

Future Stars group and coaches



M12A girls team winning the Verdun Provincial tournament

throughout the association. If current momentum continues, it promises to be an unforgettable playoff run for the North Stars.

Go North Stars, Go!

Spring registration

As our winter programming comes to an end, spring is just

around the corner, and the MWCRA is preparing for another exciting season of community sports. Registration for our popular spring programs will be opening soon, offering families a wide range of opportunities to stay active and engaged.

This season's lineup includes:

- Power Skating
- Mini Soccer
- U8+ Soccer
- Rugby
- Mudhens Baseball

Registration for residents opens March 1-15; non-residents, March 16. Families are encouraged to take advantage of our early bird registration period from March 1-31, which offers the opportunity to secure a spot early and benefit from reduced rates where applicable.

As in previous seasons, programs are expected to fill quickly. Parents are encouraged to review program details and register early to avoid disappointment.

Full program information, schedules and registration details can be found on our website: mwcra.ca.

We look forward to welcoming athletes back to the fields, diamonds and training spaces this spring for another great season of sport in Montreal West.

Anyone interested in being a soccer referee, baseball umpire or volunteer coach, please send an email to infocra@mtlwestcra.ca.

Beavers



Eleven Beavers, their brave parents and Scouters joined the whole Montreal West Scout Group for a winter camp at Camp Kinkora in the Laurentians.

Friday night was a noisy bus ride to the camp, a snack and off to bed in their warm cabins. After breakfast on Saturday morning they headed to the toboggan hill, coming in to have a snack and warm up before heading off through the woods and across the lake following Scouter Rocky (**Charlie Roche**), Sunshine (**Shanshan Huang**) and Éclair (**Marie Claude Robert**). They had a wonderful time and realized that if you keep moving, you keep warm! After lunch, the Beavers divided into groups representing a few winter countries and painted flags to use in their mini Olympics on Sunday. They practised three skits to be presented around the campfire that evening. The balance of the afternoon was free to do whatever outdoor activity they wished – some dug out a

Beavers at camp: Teddy, Elisabeth, Maya



fort, some tobogganed and our super snowshoers (**Emilie** and her mom, Sunshine) took off on a trail to a neighbouring lake.

After dinner we had an indoor campfire of songs, skits and cheers led by our Venturers. Of course we finished off the evening with S'mores!

On Sunday, since it was the opening weekend of the winter Olympics, we divided into four winter countries along with the other sections and took part in four events "Sorta-Kinda" like real Olympic events! We are so proud of the Beavers and their parents for weathering a good old-fashioned Canadian winter! We had a few cold fingers and toes, but no frostbite!

from Rainbow (Karen Johnstone)



Ben, Alex, Maya and Sam are painting a Swedish flag

Cubs

The Cubs spent a very successful weekend at Camp Kinkora from February 6 to 8. Despite frigid temperatures that at times dipped down to -34C with the wind chill, they all gave glowing reviews upon their return.

They used their know-how (or best guess) of snow dynamics to build and race cardboard toboggans to test their theories. They also had the opportunity to learn the proper choice of clothing and winter wear and how important it is to change your layers at midday to stay warm and dry while enjoying outdoor activities.

They practised their winter hiking skills with snowshoes. Before heading out onto the trail they got a chance to prepare their own individualized trail mixes, understanding how each ingredient contributed to sustaining them while hiking. A highlight of the hike was the opportunity to build fires. They learned the proper steps to making fires without using live trees. The marshmallows that they roasted were seasoned with the pride of building those fires in the snow. The cold didn't even stop them from traversing the frozen lake on their snowshoes.

Sunday was dedicated to their mini Olympic games complete with opening ceremonies using country flags created by the Beavers. They competed in four events: curling, snowball targets, sled race, and shots on goal. In keeping with the Cub motto, they all did their best and the winners were announced at the end of the games.

After the closing ceremonies it was a group of tired but happy campers that boarded the bus to return to the city, wondering what their next Cub adventure will be.

*from Darzee (Lee-Ann Simpson)
and Chil (Bruce Kahn)*

Venturers/Rovers

Before our all-section winter camp, the Venturers taught the Scouts about winter camping skills such as finding safe drinking water, signs and treatment of hypothermia and frostbite, dressing in layers, changing to dry clothes when wet and more. They also took part in the winter camp where, along with Rovers **Anais, Liam, Alex,** and Scouters **Slater** and **Jonathan,** they helped

Scouts build a toboggan from front Patrick, Theo, Andrew



Montreal West Scouts



Beavers marching on Olympic parade. Venturers' heated winter tent.

prepare food for 65 hungry campers, Scouters and parents, set up the tables and chairs and did the dishes all while also doing their own winter program.

Using a winter tent borrowed from the Canadian Wildlife Federation, they set it up and spent a night in a hot tent with a wood stove. They also took a 5 km snowshoe hike, organized the campfire program and helped run the mini Olympics for the other sections.

A special thank you to chefs **Anais** and **Daphne** for coordinating the kitchen during the entire camp – they were in the kitchen from 6 am to midnight

from Scouter Jonathan Halliday

Group Committee

Our winter camp would not be possible without the dedication, hard work and endless hours in the kitchen put in by Rover **Anais** and **Daphne** (who is a Scout mother) – it is a huge job! Many thanks, ladies!

Thanks also to Rovers **Liam**, **Alex**, Rover advisor **Rusty (Jon Wiersma)**, Scouters **Jonathan** and **Slater**, who all pitched in to help everywhere! Thank you to our Venturers: **Daegan**, **Rosa**, **Myles** and **Kai** who not only helped in the kitchen but supported the weekend program for everyone else.

Spring Garden Supplies Fundraiser

We are once again doing our Spring Garden Supplies Fundraiser, so keep an eye out for our order forms and QR code in the next issue of *The Informer*.

We appreciate your continued support of the Montreal West Scout Group.



Venturers in heated tent. From left to right: Scouter Jonathan, Daegan, Rosa, Myles, Kai.





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West End Quilters



Kathryn and Barbara H with blankets.

In addition to Zoom meetings, the guild has held two sew days at **Barbara M's** to make blankets for the Peter Hall School. These blankets are made with waterproof fabric and fleece so that wheelchair-bound students can enjoy the outdoors. Perhaps they won't be outside when it is minus twenty, but if they are, they will be kept warm and dry. People are working very hard, so the blankets keep piling up.

We had a demo by **Denise** on making a Valentine's Day mug rug with appliqued hearts. Cross that gift off your list.

Come March, we will be back meeting at the United Church and able to show off all our work in person.

Stay warm under a quilt!

by *Mary Sutherland*

Barbara M serging edges



News from the pews

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Lent is a 40-day season leading up to Easter, but it's more than just praying a little extra, giving something up or doing good deeds. At its heart, Lent is about coming back to Jesus and re-centring our lives on Him. If you're looking for simple ways to enter into the season, here are a few opportunities to journey with us:

Weekday Mass and Adoration

Start your day with Jesus at 7:30 am weekday Mass or join us Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm for Mass followed by Adoration – a peaceful space to pray, reflect or just sit in God's presence.

Worship Night

At the Centre, Wednesday, March 18, 7 pm, an evening of worship, prayer and community focused on keeping Christ at the centre this Lent. Music, quiet prayer, fellowship – plus an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Stations of The Cross

Saturdays at 3 pm. A guided 40-minute prayer walk reflecting on Jesus' journey to The Cross. A meaningful way to slow down and enter into the heart of Lent.

Holy Week schedule

Palm Sunday: March 29, 10 am

Holy Thursday: April 2, 8 pm

Good Friday: April 3, 3 pm

Easter Vigil: April 4, 8 pm

Easter Sunday: April 5, 10 am and 12:30 pm

Whether you're all-in for Lent or just exploring, you're always welcome. Let's keep Christ at the centre together this season.

from *Jon Eric Marababol*

St. Philip's

Our annual mid-Lent Pancake Brunch will be held in the St. Philip's Memorial Hall (7505 Sherbrooke St. W.) on Sunday, March 15 at 11 am, immediately following our 10 am Sunday service.

Delicious pancakes, ham and scrambled eggs (and Québec maple syrup!) are only \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged 6-10 and children under 6 are free. Please call the church office (481-4871) no later than Thursday March 12, to reserve your tickets.

Thrift Store

After a brief holiday break, our **Thrift Store** will re-open on Thursday, March 26, from noon to 3 pm in the hall basement. A variety of houseware items, kitchen utensils, used books, decorative accessories, jewelry and more will be on sale. Come for the bargains and stay for the friendly conversation!

Easter is coming (April 5)!

Please check out our coming events sign (corner of Connaught and Sherbrooke) for our Holy Week services.

from *Mark Reimer*

MW United

...the brick one

In the home stretch of winter

Like athletes in the final lap of the Winter Olympics, we've been pushing through winter's icy grip – heads down, steady and hopeful. The finish line is in sight, and spring is waiting just around the corner. Longer days, warmer light and new energy are on the way. Until then, let's keep going – together.





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News from the pews

Mid-week yoga, Wednesdays at 7 pm

You are warmly invited to join The Quiet Centre for our weekly Lenten Yoga Challenge. Each Wednesday evening through Lent, 7-8 pm, **Natalie** will guide us through a yoga session suitable for all ages and skill levels. Modifications and chair-based options will be offered to support participants with limited mobility. This program is free of charge. If you have a yoga mat, please feel free to bring it. All are welcome.

Youth are also invited to our youth only Thursday online sessions from 7 to 8 pm. All are welcome. For more info, contact Natalie at **884-0444**.

Crafts, Creativity and Laughter

As the weather begins to soften and the days slowly stretch longer, creativity starts to flow – a little like maple sap in spring. Why not let your own creative juices run and join our craft group on Tuesdays, 10 am-noon. This lively and welcoming gathering is filled with creativity, shared ideas and plenty of laughter. Best of all, it's free and open to anyone who enjoys making things – or simply enjoys good company. Drop in, share a laugh, and discover whether this creative time becomes your favourite part of the week. All are warmly welcome.

Labyrinth Walk

With spring around the corner – a time of renewal, reflection and quiet growth –

you are invited to walk our indoor labyrinth. Near the spring equinox and the International Day of Forests, it offers a gentle opportunity to reconnect with stillness, creation and yourself. The labyrinth provides a peaceful path for meditation, prayer and reflection. As you follow its winding journey toward the centre, you are invited to slow down, breathe deeply and let your thoughts settle. Sunday, March 22, 2 to 4 pm.

This is a free, drop-in experience. For comfort and care of the space, please wear socks or slippers. Come for a few minutes or stay awhile. All are welcome.

A little something for everyone

In a world that often feels unpredictable and overwhelming, worship offers a space to pause, reflect, and rediscover meaning and hope. During this season of Lent, at Montreal West United we practise “Lent with Intent.” While some choose to give something up, we choose to do something more. Together, our congregation creates a list of 40 Acts of Kindness – simple, meaningful ways to care for others and brighten the world around us. Drawn from the thoughtful suggestions of our community, these acts might include calling a friend, helping a neighbour, offering kindness or spreading hope. Nothing heavy, just small, heartfelt actions that make a real difference. Each Sunday we check in, encourage one another and continue the journey together.

Join us Sundays at 10 am while children enjoy a lively and engaging Sunday school filled with stories, creativity, and fun – a place to grow, learn and make friends. Meanwhile, parents can take a moment to breathe, reflect and recharge. After worship, stay for fellowship – conversation, connection and a few tasty treats shared with warm and welcoming people.

Unable to attend in person? You can find our services anytime on the Montreal West United Church YouTube channel. We would love to welcome you.

Annual Book Browse, May 2

As spring approaches and thoughts turn to fresh starts and spring cleaning, you may find yourself sorting through shelves and rediscovering forgotten books. If so, consider setting them aside for our annual Book Browse on May 2.

We will begin gratefully accepting book donations starting the week of April 13.

Clear a little space, share some stories and help make this beloved community event a success.

Life rarely slows on its own, yet clarity often comes when we take time to pause and reconnect – with ourselves, with others and with what gives life meaning. In doing so, we are reminded that community is not just a place, but a shared journey.

... Your church neighbor with a keyboard,
Tania Watson

IODE



Spring projects

Chili Cook Off

Support the Children's Hospital burn unit and IODE HMS Victory chapter

How you can participate:

- Volunteer on event day
- Buy delicious homemade chili – perfect for freezing
- Donate – gifts over \$20 receive a tax receipt
- Spread the word

MoWest Garage Sale

Find treasures support the community

How you can participate:

- Volunteer on event day
- Donate or shop for treasures
- Tell others about the sale

Archive project (ongoing)

Help preserve our history.

- Do you like discovering history?
- Are you comfortable in helping document our archival items?
- Would you like to help build a visual archival project?
- Are you comfortable in digitising archival material?

Join us! Our Archival Officer will support you as we build this project together.

Did you know?

IODE Founder's Day is celebrated every February 13. It is a highlight on our calendar be-

cause it marks IODE's founding in 1900 and celebrates a legacy of impact. That date commemorates the Montreal meeting where **Margaret Polson Murray** rallied women into a powerful national movement.

Honoring the founder

We honor Murray, who sparked a national women's federation for “Patriotism, Loyalty and Service,” during an era when women weren't even recognized as persons in law.

Evolving mission

Founder's Day celebrates 125+ years of *IODE's* bold evolution.

At first: Backed Canadian soldiers in the South African War and cared for their families

Now: Driving education, community service, and citizenship—through scholarships, Indigenous support, and research to prevent child abuse.

Traditions

Across Canada, chapters celebrate with lively luncheons, teas and ceremonies, honoring history and dedicated members.

Join us

Our meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 1 pm. We invite you to attend, connect with our members and see how your unique skills can contribute to our vibrant group.

For further information, please get in touch with us at iodehmsvictory@gmail.com.

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de Alexandra (Olesia) Lewyckij
traduction par René Boucher



La réunion du conseil s'est tenue le 26 janvier.

Rapports du Conseil

Le rapport du **maire Jonathan Cha** portait sur un certain nombre de réunions avec des partenaires municipaux, provinciaux et fédéraux. Avec ses pairs de l'arrondissement CDN-NDG et de Côte Saint-Luc, le maire Cha a discuté de la circulation et de la sécurité sur Westminster, des excès de vitesse sur Westover, du prolongement éventuel du boulevard Cavendish, de la fréquence du circuit 162 de la STM, de la possibilité de raccordement aux réseaux cyclables locaux et de l'expansion des stations *BIXI* à Montréal-Ouest, de la reprise de la discussion concernant le passage à niveau à West Broadway et d'autres.

Avec les députées provinciale **Désirée McGraw** et fédérale **Anna Gainey**, le maire Cha a discuté de l'état de nos infrastructures municipales, de la revitalisation de Westminster, de l'adaptation aux changements climatiques, de la densification urbaine et de la construction de logements, et bien plus encore.

Une réunion a également eu lieu avec des représentants d'*exo* pour aborder les améliorations en cours à la gare de Montréal-Ouest. Enfin, le Conseil travaille aussi sur plusieurs canaux pour favoriser la participation citoyenne, notamment l'introduction d'une réunion mensuelle plus informelle de type discussion ouverte pour compléter les réunions formelles du conseil municipal. Des comités citoyens spécialisés, des séances d'information, des groupes de discussion et des consultations publiques seront également organisés sur une base thématique.

Le **conseiller Nicholas Tassé** s'est concentré sur le budget 2026 et le programme d'investissement triennal, incluant les remplacements prévus au parc des véhicules des Travaux publics d'ici 2028. Concernant les critiques au sujet du déneigement, le conseiller Tassé a souligné que, lors de plusieurs petites chutes de neige comme celles que nous avons eues cet hiver, la Ville suit les procédures établies pour équilibrer sécurité et coût en n'amorçant le déneigement qu'après l'accumulation d'un certain minimum de neige. Bien qu'un déneigement plus fréquent après de petites chutes de neige soit possible, cela entraînerait un coût accru pour les citoyens, ce qui pourrait être un compromis impopulaire. Le conseiller Tassé fera également un suivi auprès du personnel des Travaux publics pour savoir si un dégagement manuel ciblé des passages piétons est viable.

Le rapport du **conseiller Philippe Bergeron** s'est concentré sur la réponse de la Ville à la panne de courant.

La **conseillère Lauren Small-Pennefather** a revisité le budget 2026 ainsi que le programme d'investissement triennal qui l'accompagne.

La **conseillère Martha Slocombe** a annoncé qu'elle assumera le rôle de personne responsable des questions familiales à Montréal-Ouest, ce qui comprend à la fois le portefeuille actuel de *MADA* et d'autres questions axées sur la famille.

Mises à jour de la Ville

Le budget 2026 de la Ville est maintenant adopté. Les priorités du budget consistent à réduire au minimum les hausses d'impôt tout en investissant dans l'infrastructure routière, y compris les trottoirs, l'amélioration du passage à niveau et un programme de vélos en libre-service, ainsi que les premiers travaux de revitalisation de Westminster. Selon la conseillère Small-Pennefather, le budget atteint les objectifs d'équilibre, de diversification des revenus, de soutien des objectifs stratégiques et de surveillance de la disponibilité des subventions.

Bien que son ouverture ait été retardée de quelques jours, le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif est maintenant accessible. Le conseiller Bergeron a expliqué qu'un problème mécanique avait causé des défauts dans la glace, ce qui a nécessité un report de quatre jours pour la refaire complètement. Le problème mécanique est couvert par la garantie et a été réglé sans frais pour la Ville. Le maire Cha a reconnu le soutien de la communauté pour faire du projet une réalité et a exprimé sa gratitude aux citoyens et au Conseil sortant. La conseillère Slocombe a fait remarquer qu'alors que le personnel des loisirs de la Ville déménage dans le nouveau centre, le statut de l'édifice Simms est à l'étude.

Le maire et le Conseil ont reconnu la résilience des résidents du secteur nord de Montréal-Ouest lors de l'importante panne de courant survenue en janvier. La Ville est demeurée en contact avec ses partenaires, dont *Hydro-Québec*, et a offert des services de soutien et des vérifications domiciliaires tout au long de la panne. Cela a inclus l'ouverture de l'hôtel de ville comme refuge pour se réchauffer une fois qu'il est devenu évident que les estimations d'*Hydro-Québec* concernant les délais de réparation étaient inexacts. Une résidente a malheureusement été retrouvée morte lors d'une vérification à domicile – la cause du décès n'est pas encore connue, dans l'attente du rapport du coroner. Le maire Cha a également reconnu les critiques formulées à l'égard de la réponse de la Ville à la panne et a souligné,

tout comme les conseillers Bergeron et Small-Pennefather, qu'un bilan sera effectué, en particulier en ce qui concerne les protocoles de communication d'urgence.

La demande de la Ville visant à obtenir une subvention pour la sécurité routière afin d'aider à financer la reconfiguration du passage à niveau à Westminster et Sherbrooke a été rejetée. La raison du refus n'a pas été donnée.

QUESTIONS DE RÉSIDENTS

Panne de courant et déneigement

La Ville a-t-elle la capacité d'accueillir un centre de réchauffement local plutôt que d'obliger les résidents à se rendre à Côte-des-Neiges?

La Ville coordonne toutes les interventions et tous les protocoles d'urgence avec le Centre de coordination des mesures d'urgence (CCMU), qui travaille aussi avec la Croix-Rouge. Ils ont une expérience spécialisée, du personnel et des ressources qui vont au-delà de ce que peut fournir notre petite municipalité, y compris l'espace physique et le matériel nécessaires pour un abri de nuit. Montréal-Ouest a quand même été en mesure de faire de l'hôtel de ville un refuge-chaleur de jour et, à l'avenir, la Ville pourra peut-être aussi utiliser le centre sportif et récréatif. Le maire Cha a fait remarquer qu'il a demandé à la députée McGraw de tenter d'accélérer les améliorations à la sous-station de Hampstead.

Le Conseil peut-il partager des renseignements supplémentaires sur la résidente décédée pendant la panne?

Le Conseil a exprimé ses plus sincères condoléances pour le décès d'une voisine de Montréal-Ouest. Les informations sont actuellement limitées dans l'attente d'un rapport du coroner, qui sera rendu public lorsque disponible.

La Ville envisagera-t-elle d'adopter de l'équipement de déneigement spécialisé pour éviter que les grattes poussent la neige dans les allées?

Le conseiller Tassé a expliqué qu'après consultation avec les Travaux publics, cette proposition n'est pas viable en raison des coûts importants et des inconvénients pour les résidents. Notamment, ce type d'équipement n'est pas compatible avec la plupart des rues de Montréal-Ouest à moins que la Ville n'élimine tout stationnement sur rue (des deux côtés) lors des opérations de déneigement. De plus, ce type d'équipement prendrait de trois à quatre fois plus de temps pour effectuer le déblayage.

Quels sont les projets du nouveau Conseil pour améliorer le déneigement?

En plus des facteurs soulignés par le con-

Réunion du Conseil : janvier

seiller Tassé dans son rapport concernant l'accumulation déclenchant les opérations de déneigement, la Ville a dû composer avec d'autres facteurs de complexité, notamment de nombreux problèmes d'équipement municipal et d'équipement d'entrepreneur. Certains sont des limitations structurelles, tandis que d'autres seront, espérons-le, résolus par des investissements dans l'équipement et les véhicules décrits dans le nouveau budget. Les déneigeurs privés qui déblaient les allées peuvent parfois exacerber le problème en empilant de la neige sur la voie publique, ce qui contrevient aux règlements municipaux.

Développement du secteur sud et construction majeure

Quels sont les plans mentionnés dans le budget pour le développement du secteur Avon-Milton-Courtney?

Il s'agit d'une étude initiale sur la circulation à l'intersection Avon-Milton.

Quand les escaliers entre Ronald et Courtney seront-ils remplacés? La dernière date estimée était le printemps 2026.

Malheureusement, il y a eu des changements d'échéancier depuis la dernière consultation publique sur cette passerelle. D'importantes infrastructures souterraines longent les escaliers existants et doivent être entièrement remplacées. Ces travaux de construction, actuellement prévus pour 2027, nécessiteront la démolition des escaliers, ce qui signifie qu'ils ne pourront être mis à jour qu'une fois les travaux d'infrastructure terminés. Une séance d'information pour les résidents se tiendra plus près de la date de début du chantier.

Y a-t-il du nouveau concernant la démolition et la reconstruction du bâtiment U-Haul?

Le CCU étudie toujours le projet et aucun permis n'a été délivré.

Quoi de neuf au sujet de la rénovation du complexe d'appartements au 49 Ronald?

Un permis de construction a été accordé et des travaux sont en cours, y compris des inspections de suivi par la Ville.

Quelle est la date d'achèvement prévue du chantier de logements multiples dans l'ancien édifice de la RBC?

L'estimation initiale est mai 2026 – il pourrait y avoir des retards, mais une date d'achèvement de 2026 est toujours prévue. Milner redeviendra une rue à double sens à la fin des travaux.

Sports et loisirs

Y a-t-il des plans précis pour le Centre communautaire Simms, comme le déménagement de la bibliothèque?

Pas pour le moment – l'utilisation future du centre est encore en cours d'évaluation. Il continuera d'accueillir des activités à

court et à moyen terme.

Quel avenir pour le programme de patinoires extérieures de Montréal-Ouest?

Le personnel et les ressources limités ont ralenti le démarrage des patinoires extérieures dans la ville, mais toutes sont opérationnelles depuis le 18 janvier, lorsque le temps le permet. Le programme fera l'objet d'un examen approfondi pour 2026-2027.

Pourquoi l'équipement extérieur de la nouvelle piscine n'a-t-il pas été retiré pour l'hiver?

Il s'agit d'un problème lors du transfert de l'entrepreneur à la Ville – l'entreprise de construction aurait dû retirer cet équipement pour l'hiver et la Ville fera pression pour que tout équipement endommagé soit remplacé sans frais.

Divers

La Ville prévoit-elle une campagne d'information sur le nouveau règlement limitant les appareils de chauffage au bois qui entrera en vigueur en septembre 2026?

Oui, la conseillère Slocombe envisage une campagne de sensibilisation publique.

Que peut faire la Ville à l'égard d'une propriété en état de délabrement important, au point que les voisins s'inquiètent du bien-être des résidents?

En ce qui concerne la propriété en question, la Ville a fait tout ce qu'elle pouvait, y compris tenter des poursuites et communiquer avec les autorités compétentes et les services de soutien pour aider le propriétaire. Les tribunaux doivent maintenant se prononcer.

La Ville envisage-t-elle de modifier la limite actuelle de deux permis de stationnement?

La Ville entreprend actuellement un examen stratégique du stationnement dans l'ensemble de Montréal-Ouest, tant sur les rues que dans les terrains municipaux, mais elle n'est pas prête à annoncer des changements précis.

L'annuaire de la ville est-il financé à même les deniers publics? Quelle est la meilleure façon de rappeler aux résidents de mettre à jour leurs informations d'annuaire?

L'annuaire est entièrement payé par les annonceurs. Les résidents souhaitant mettre à jour leurs informations doivent contacter directement l'éditeur.

Les panneaux solaires sont-ils permis?

Aucun projet du genre n'a jamais été présenté au CCU, mais si tel était le cas, l'approbation serait considérée au cas par cas. Il n'y a pas d'interdiction générale, mais il faut garder à l'esprit certains règlements de zonage. La conseillère Slocombe sera heureuse de transmettre les règlements par courriel.

Y a-t-il des changements prévus pour améliorer la sécurité des piétons à l'intersection Ainslie-Westminster, comme l'ajout de panneaux de signalisation à l'angle sud-ouest de l'intersection?

Oui, la Ville est au courant de l'absence de signalisation sur le passage piétonnier à cet endroit. Il sera commandé et remplacé prochainement.

Qu'est-ce qui est inclus dans le montant apparemment élevé prévu pour les études sur Westminster?

Cela fait partie du budget de planification stratégique et peut faire l'objet d'ajustements. Il prévoit le financement potentiel de plusieurs études dans l'ensemble de Westminster, y compris des examens de grands projets d'amélioration des infrastructures, d'aménagement et d'utilisation des terrains, d'examen de l'état du patrimoine, d'études d'ingénierie des rues et d'autres. Une partie de ces fonds pourrait également être réorientée vers des réparations urgentes, selon les besoins.

Rappel aux lecteurs

La préparation aux situations d'urgence dans notre climat comprend la préparation aux événements météorologiques extrêmes et aux pannes d'électricité qui peuvent les accompagner. Les ménages devraient avoir à portée de main des piles, des lampes de poche ou autres sources de lumière, et les résidents devraient se renseigner sur l'emplacement de leur valve d'arrêt d'eau. Il est également important de communiquer avec la famille, les amis et les voisins pour obtenir et offrir du soutien, comme l'ont fait de nombreux membres de notre communauté lors de la panne de janvier.

A snowman on Curzon. Photo by Julia Ross.



Town Council meeting: January

by Alexandra (Olesia) Lewyckyj



The Council meeting was held on January 26.

Council reports

Mayor Jonathan Cha's report focused on a number of meetings with municipal, provincial and federal partners. With peers from the CDN-NDG arrondissement and Côte Saint-Luc, Mayor Cha discussed traffic and safety on Westminster, speeding on Westover, the potential Cavendish Boulevard extension, the frequency of STM line 162, possible connection to local cycling networks and the expansion of *BIXI* stations into Montreal West, reopening discussion regarding the rail crossing at West Broadway and others.

With MNA **Désirée McGraw** and MP **Anna Gainey**, Mayor Cha discussed the state of our municipal infrastructure, the revitalization of Westminster, climate change adaptations, urban densification and housing construction and more.

A meeting was also held with *ex*o representatives to address ongoing improvements to the Montreal West train station. Finally, Council is also working on a number of channels for citizen participation, including the introduction of a more informal monthly town-hall-style meeting to complement the formal Municipal Council meetings. Specialized citizens' committees, information sessions, focus groups and public consultations will also be held on a topic-by-topic basis.

Councillor Nicholas Tassé's focus was on the 2026 budget and three-year capital program, including planned fleet replacements for public works vehicles into 2028. With regards to criticism of snow removal, Councillor Tassé stressed that when managing the multiple small snowfalls we have had this winter, the Town follows established procedures to balance safety with cost by initiating snow removal only after a certain accumulation is reached. While more frequent snow removal after small snowfalls is doable, it would come at an increased cost to residents, which may be an unpopular trade-off. Councillor Tassé will also follow up with Public Works staff on whether targeted manual clearing of crosswalks is viable.

Councillor Philippe Bergeron's report focused on the Town's response to the power outage.

Councillor Lauren Small-Pennefather reviewed the 2026 budget and the accompanying three-year capital program.

Councillor Martha Slocombe announced that she will be stepping into the role of *personne responsable* des questions

familiales in Montreal West, which includes both the existing *MADA* portfolio as well as other family-orientated issues.

Updates from the Town

The Town's 2026 budget has now been adopted. The budget's priorities are keeping tax increases to a minimum while investing in road infrastructure, including sidewalks, improvements to the level crossing and a bike-share program, as well as initial work for the revitalization of Westminster. Per Councillor Small-Pennefather, the budget meets the goals of being balanced, diversifying revenue, supporting strategic goals, and monitoring the availability of grants.

Although its opening was delayed by a few days, the new sports and recreation centre is now open. Councillor Bergeron explained that a mechanical issue caused defects in the ice requiring a four-day delay to re-sheet the rink. The mechanical issue is covered under warranty and has been fixed at no cost to the Town. Mayor Cha recognized the community's support in making the project a reality and expressed gratitude for both citizens and the outgoing council. Councillor Slocombe noted that as the Town's recreation staff moves to the new centre, the status of the Simms building is under review.

The Mayor and Council recognized the resilience of residents in Montreal West's north sector during the significant blackout in January. The Town remained in contact with partners, including *Hydro-Québec*, and offered supportive services and home checks throughout the outage. This included opening Town Hall as a warming refuge once it became clear that *Hydro-Québec's* estimates about repair times were not accurate. One resident was sadly found deceased during a home check – the cause of death is not yet known, pending a coroner's report. Mayor Cha also acknowledged criticism of the Town's response to the outage and stressed alongside Councillors Bergeron and Small-Pennefather that a full post mortem will be conducted, especially regarding emergency communication protocols.

The Town's application for a road safety grant to help fund reconfiguration of the level crossing on Westminster and Sherbrooke was denied. The reason for denial was not given.

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS

Power outage and snow removal

Does the Town have the ability to host a warming centre locally instead of requiring residents to travel to Côte-des-Neiges?

The Town coordinates all emergency re-

sponses and protocols with the Centre de coordination des mesures d'urgence (CCMU), which in turn works with the Red Cross. They have specialized experience, staff and resources beyond what can be provided by our small municipality, including the physical space and material required for an overnight shelter. Montreal West was still able to set Town Hall up as a daytime warming shelter and in the future, the Town may be able to also make use of the sports and recreation centre. Mayor Cha noted that he has petitioned MNA McGraw to fast-track improvements to the Hampstead substation.

Can Council share any additional information about the resident who passed away during the outage?

Council expressed their deepest condolences for the passing of a Montreal West neighbour. Information is currently limited pending a coroner's report, which will be made public when available.

Will the Town consider adopting specialized snow removal equipment to prevent plows from pushing snow into driveways?

Councillor Tassé explained that following consultation with Public Works, this proposal is not viable due to significant costs and inconvenience to residents. Notably, this type of equipment is not compatible with most Montreal West roads unless the Town were to eliminate all on-street parking (on both sides) during snow removal operations. Additionally, this type of equipment would take three to four times as long to conduct snow removal.

What are the new Council's plans to improve snow removal?

In addition to the factors outlined by Councillor Tassé in his report regarding how much snow accumulation triggers snow removal operations, the Town has been dealing with other complicating factors, including numerous municipal and contractor equipment issues. Some of these are structural limitations, while others will hopefully be addressed with investment in equipment and vehicles outlined in the new budget. Private driveway-clearing contractors can sometimes exacerbate the issue by piling snow on public streets, which violates municipal by-laws.

South Sector development and major construction

What are the plans mentioned in the budget for development in the Avon-Milton-Courtney area?

This refers to an initial traffic study at the Avon-Milton intersection.

When will the stairs from Ronald to Courtney be replaced? The last dated estimate was spring 2026.

Town Council meeting: January

Unfortunately, there have been some timeline changes since the last public consultation on this walkway. There is significant underground infrastructure that runs alongside the existing stairs which must be completely replaced. This construction work, currently scheduled for 2027, will necessitate the demolition of the stairs, which means they can only be updated after the infrastructure work is complete. An information session for residents will be held closer to the start date of the project.

Are there any updates to the demolition and reconstruction of the U-Haul building?

The project is still under review at PAC and no permits have been issued.

Are there any updates to the renovation of the apartment complex at 49 Ronald?

A construction permit has been delivered and work is ongoing, including follow-up inspections by the Town.

What is the estimated completion date for the multi-unit project in the old RBC building?

The initial estimate is May 2026 – there may be delays, but a 2026 completion date is still anticipated. Once the work is done, Milner will return to being a two-way street.

Sports and recreation

Are there any specific plans for the John Simms Community Centre, such as relocating the library?

Not at present. The centre's future use is still being evaluated. It continues to host programs for the short and medium term.

What's the future of the outdoor rink program?

Staff and resource limitations made for a slow start to the Town's outdoor rinks, but they were all up and running (weather permitting) by January 18. The program will be comprehensively reviewed for 2026-2027.

Why was outdoor equipment for the new pool not removed for the winter?

This was an issue with the contractor-to-Town handoff – this equipment should have been removed for the winter by the construction company, and the Town will push for any damaged equipment to be replaced at no cost.

Other

Does the Town have plans to launch an information campaign regarding the new by-law limiting wood-burning appliances that will take effect in September 2026?

Yes, Councillor Slocombe is exploring a public awareness campaign.

What can the Town do about a property in a state of significant dilapidation, to the point that neighbours are concerned for the well-being of the residents?

With regard to the property in question, the Town has done all it can, including both initiating legal action and contacting the relevant authorities and supportive services to assist the property owner. The matter must now work its way through the courts.

Is the Town considering changes to the current two-parking permit limit?

The Town is currently undertaking a strategic review for parking throughout Montreal West, both on-street parking and municipal lots, but isn't ready to announce specific changes.

Is the Town directory paid for out of public monies? What is the best way to remind residents to update their directory information?

The directory is paid for entirely by advertisers. Residents wishing to update their information must contact the publisher directly.

Are solar panels permitted?

No such project has ever been presented to PAC, but if one were, approval would be considered on a case-by-case basis. There is no blanket ban, but some zoning regulations need to be kept in mind. Councillor Slocombe is happy to make the specific regulations available by e-mail.

Are there changes planned to improve pedestrian safety at the Ainslie-Westminster intersection, such as adding signage to the southwest corner of the intersection?

Yes, the Town is aware of the missing pedestrian crosswalk signage at this location. It will be ordered and replaced in the near future.

What is included in the seemingly high amount budgeted for studies on Westminster?

This is part of the strategic planning budget and is subject to adjustment. It includes potential funding for multiple studies along the whole of Westminster, including reviews for major infrastructure improvement projects, land use and development, heritage status review, street engineering studies and others. Some of these funds could also be redirected towards urgent repair projects as needed.

Reminder to readers

Emergency preparedness in our climate includes readiness for extreme weather events and the electrical outages that can accompany them. Households should aim to have battery packs and flashlights or other sources of light on hand, and residents should acquaint themselves with the location of their water shut off valve. It's also important to reach out to family, friends, and neighbours to seek and offer support, as many members of our community did during the January outage.



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Commentaire sur le budget

En date du 22 janvier, à la suite de l'élection municipale, le nouveau conseil a adopté le budget de la Ville pour l'année 2026. Malgré un ralentissement économique à l'échelle nationale, la Ville a proposé un budget solide visant à assurer la réalisation de nos objectifs stratégiques à long terme.

La Ville de Montréal-Ouest maintient une approche de gestion financière rigoureuse et une surveillance accrue, en mettant l'accent sur la limitation de la hausse des taxes pour la résidence moyenne tout en diversifiant ses sources de revenus. Parallèlement, nous devons effectuer des investissements importants dans nos infrastructures vieillissantes et essentielles afin d'assurer leur pérennité et la fiabilité des services. En adoptant des approches novatrices, nous visons à renforcer la résilience financière de la Ville tout en continuant de répondre aux besoins de notre communauté.

Revenus

Les recettes non fiscales devraient augmenter de 39% ou de 1,2 millions de dollars cette année principalement en raison de la programmation des loisirs, des droits de mutation et d'autres revenus.

Dépenses

Les dépenses totales devraient augmenter de 9,8% ou 2,1 millions de dollars. L'augmentation la plus importante concerne le Service des loisirs et de la culture, principalement en raison de la hausse des coûts liés au fonctionnement du centre sportif et récréatif, ainsi que des frais des travaux publics et de l'administration.

Résumé

Le total des dépenses locales de fonctionnement et en capital a augmenté de 1,913 million de dollars et les dépenses de l'agglomération et de la CCM ont augmenté de 181 000 \$, portant le total des dépenses à 23,5 millions de dollars, soit une augmentation de 9,8 % par rapport à 2025.

Cela se traduit par une augmentation de 2.15 % ou 225 \$ des taxes foncières de la maison moyenne (1 113 447 \$).

Investissements en capital

Le Conseil a adopté un programme triennal d'immobilisations qui inclut des dépenses anticipées d'environ 5,53 millions de dollars en 2026. Ceci comprend le renouvellement des infrastructures et les mesures de sécurité sur Westminster, les travaux routiers sur Courtney, la réparation de trottoirs et la mise en œuvre d'un réseau de vélopartage *BLX*. Au cours des prochains 3 ans, 2,6 millions de dollars seront investis

Revenus / Revenues

| | 2026 \$ | 2025 \$ | Total % |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Taxes | | | |
| Résidentiel / Residential | 16,166,199 | 15,725,846 | 68.69 |
| Lots vacants / Vacant Lots | 163,113 | 139,527 | 0.69 |
| Non résidentiel / Non-residential | 2,347,373 | 1,969,068 | 9.97 |
| Taxe d'eau / Water Tax | 447,000 | 447,000 | 1.90 |
| CMM / MMC | 129,213 | 124,992 | 0.55 |
| Droits de mutation / Duties on transfer | 1,024,000 | 900,000 | 4.35 |
| Reçus au lieu de taxes | | | |
| Payment in lieu of taxes | 465,940 | \$419,578 | 1.98 |
| | \$20,742,838 | \$19,726,011 | 88.14 |
| Autres/ Other | | | |
| Loisirs et Culture / Recreation and Culture | 1,546,025 | 569,100 | 6.57 |
| Contraventions / Tickets | 125,000 | 95,000 | 0.5 |
| Stationnement et permis / Parking and permits | 169,000 | 169,000 | 0.72 |
| Intérêts / Interest | 240,000 | 152,000 | 1.02 |
| Intérêts à recevoir sur subvention | | | |
| Interest receivable on grants | 516,274 | 562,712 | 2.19 |
| Contribution système de collecte sélective | | | |
| Curbside recycling | 121,944 | 110,617 | 0.52 |
| Autres / Other | 74,150 | 56,650 | 0.32 |
| | \$2,792,393 | \$1,715,079 | 11.86 |
| REVENUS TOTAUX | | | |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$23,535,231 | \$21,441,090 | 100 |

Dépenses / Expenses

| | 2026 \$ | 2025 \$ | Total % |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Par service / By Department | | | |
| Conseil / Council | 211,768 | 270,772 | 0.90 |
| Administration | 2,248,776 | 2,095,716 | 9.55 |
| Sécurité publique / Public security | 554,183 | 528,033 | 2.35 |
| Travaux publics / Public works | 4,187,336 | 3,761,179 | 17.79 |
| Hygiène du milieu / Environmental health | 1,096,487 | 1,143,774 | 4.66 |
| Inspection et permis / Building inspection | 426,721 | 337,160 | 1.81 |
| Loisirs, culture et parcs | | | |
| Recreation, culture and parks | 4,263,691 | 2,973,924 | 18.12 |
| Dépenses en capital à même les revenus | | | |
| Capital expenditures out of revenues | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Service de la dette / Debt charges | 2,384,692 | 2,453,540 | 10.13 |
| Dépenses en capital à même les revenus | | | |
| Capital expenditures out of revenues | 60,400 | 0 | 0.26 |
| Dépenses constatées à taxer ou à pourvoir | | | |
| To amortize recognized expenses to be taxed | 42,865 | 0 | 0.18 |
| | 15,476,918 | 13,564,098 | 65.76 |
| Quote part Agglomération et CMM | | | |
| Agglomeration and CMM remittance | 8,058,313 | 7,876,992 | 34.24 |
| DÉPENSES TOTALES | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$23,535,231 | \$21,441,090 | 100 |

pour remplacer le parc automobile vieillissant de la Ville. Une grande partie de ce financement proviendra de subventions gouvernementales, de surplus affectés et du fonds de roulement. Les programmes d'immobilisations pour les années à venir seront

réévalués à la lumière des subventions gouvernementales et des fonds disponibles.

*Lauren Small Pennefather
Conseillère, Finances et bilinguisme*

Budget commentary

On January 22, following the municipal election, the new Council adopted the Town budget for 2026. Despite a country-wide economic downturn, the Town proposed a stalwart budget to ensure long-term strategic goals.

The Town of Montreal West remains committed to sound fiscal management and strong oversight, with a focus on limiting the tax increase on the average home while diversifying revenue sources. At the same time, we must make significant investments in our aging and critical infrastructure to ensure long-term sustainability and service reliability. By pursuing innovative approaches, we aim to strengthen the Town's financial resilience while continuing to meet the needs of our community.

Revenues

Non-tax revenues are expected to increase 39% or \$1.2M this year, due mainly to recreational programs, duties on transfers and other revenues.

Expenses

Total expenses are budgeted to increase 9.8% or \$2.1M. The largest increase is in the Recreation and Culture Department due to the operating cost of the sports and recreation centre and in the Public Works and Administration charges.

Summary

Total local operating plus capital expenses increased \$1.913M, Agglomeration and MMC expenses were up \$181k, bringing the total expenses to \$23.5M, an increase of 9.8% over 2025.

This translates into a 2.15% increase or \$225 in the tax bill of the average-valued home (\$1,113,447).

Capital Investments

Council also adopted a three-year capital investment program with anticipated spending of \$5.53M in 2026. Infrastructure renewal and security measures on Westminster, roadwork on Courtney, sidewalk repairs and the implementation of a *BIXI* bike sharing network in the Town are part of the 2026 investments. Over the next three years, \$2.6M will be invested to replace the Town's aging vehicle fleet. Much of this will be financed through government grants, appropriated surplus and working fund accounts. Capital programs for future years will be reviewed and reconsidered in light of government grants and available funds.

Lauren Small Pennefather
Councillor for Finance, Bilingual Status

Comparaison du compte de taxe résidentiel Residential taxation comparison

Résidence valeur moyenne / Average Value Residence
Rôle 2026-2028 Roll: \$1,113,447

| | 2026 \$ | 2025 \$ | Différence \$ | Variation % |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Valeur imposable / Taxable value | 1,113,447 | 1,034,567 | | |
| Taxes locales / Local Taxes | 6,290.98 | 6,039.80 | 251.17 | |
| Quote-part Agglomération / Agglo share | 4,329.08 | 4,356.56 | (27.48) | |
| CMM / MMC | 81.28 | 79.66 | 1.62 | |
| | <u>\$10,701.34</u> | <u>10,476.03</u> | <u>225.31</u> | <u>2.15</u> |

Augmentation relative à 2025 / Increase over 2025: \$225.31
% augmentation / % increase: 2.15%

Taux de taxes/100\$ d'évaluation Tax rates/\$100 valuation

| | 2026 | | 2025 | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Local | Agglo | Local | Agglo |
| Taxe foncière générale / General property tax | 0.5650 | 0.3888 | 0.5838 | 0.4211 |
| Immeuble 6 logements + / 6 Units or more | 0.7062 | 0.486 | 0.7064 | 0.5095 |
| Immeubles non résidentiels / Non-residential buildings | 1.6199 | 1.4012 | 1.6738 | 1.5091 |
| Lots vacants / Vacant lots | 2.2599 | 1.5553 | 2.3352 | 1.6844 |
| CMM / MMC | 0.0073 | | 0.0077 | |

Programme triennal d'immobilisations Three-year capital program

| Catégorie / Category | 2026 \$ | 2027 \$ | 2028 \$ |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Infrastructures / Infrastructure | 4,295,039 | 3,187,000 | 4,552,500 |
| Bâtiments / Buildings | \$0 | 575,000 | 160,000 |
| Véhicules / Vehicles | 1,234,500 | 1,023,500 | 315,000 |
| | <u>\$5,529,539</u> | <u>\$4,785,500</u> | <u>\$5,027,500</u> |

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Nouvelles activités de loisirs et sport

Une nouvelle passionnante pour notre communauté! Le tout nouveau gymnase, les salles polyvalentes et la cuisine du centre sportif et récréatif ouvriront officiellement leurs portes ce printemps. Ces nouveaux espaces offriront encore plus de possibilités pour rester actif, de créer des liens participer à des programmes, des événements et des activités de toutes sortes. Parmi ceux-ci, citons notamment quelques nouveautés ; le volleyball, le pickleball, le badminton, le temps de gym pour les 0 à 5 ans, le basketball et les classes de cuisine! Nous sommes impatients de vous accueillir et de voir ces espaces prendre vie. De plus amples détails et des informations sur l'ouverture seront communiqués bientôt !

Patinage libre

Enfilez vos patins et rejoignez-nous au nouveau centre sportif et récréatif pour une séance de patinage libre gratuite! Les résidents de tous âges sont invités à profiter de la glace dans une toute nouvelle installation moderne. Aucune inscription nécessaire, le Pro Shop sera ouvert pour louer des patins et des casques ou faire aiguiser vos propres patins !

Samedi: 16h-17h20
Dimanche : 13h-14h30

Des heures supplémentaires seront disponibles pendant la semaine de relâche. Consultez la section Patinoire Steve and Rob Michelin du site Web de la Ville pour connaître l'horaire complet

Hockey libre

Venez participer à des parties de hockey libre au nouveau centre sportif et récréatif ! Ouvert à tous les niveaux, il suffit d'apporter votre équipement, d'inviter vos amis et de vous rendre sur la glace pour participer à des matchs amicaux et amusants pendant toute la semaine de relâche.

Consultez la section Patinoire Steve and Rob Michelin du site Web de la Ville pour connaître l'horaire complet !

Programmation de piscine

Les programmes de piscine seront bientôt lancés au nouveau centre sportif et récréatif. Restez à l'affût pour les cours de natation, l'aquaforme, les bains libres, le plongeon, l'équipe de natation et plus encore! Les informations relatives à l'inscription et à l'adhésion seront bientôt disponibles.

Consultez la section « Piscine municipale » du site web de la ville pour obtenir les dernières nouvelles.



Camp de jour

Notre camp de jour et nos camps spécialisés, notamment le camp de Tennis et notre nouveau camp Splash, sont fiers d'être situés dans des écoles locales, et les campeurs auront accès au tout centre sportif et récréatif pour pratiquer une grande variété d'activités passionnantes. Tous les campeurs bénéficieront d'un accès à des installations ultra modernes, notamment une piscine, un gymnase, une salle d'activités polyvalente, une cuisine entièrement équipée et même une patinoire intérieure.

Pour profiter de nos rabais de préinscription, inscrivez-vous avant le 2 mars! Les inscriptions pour les semaines individuelles ouvriront le 11 mai selon les disponibilités.

Inscrivez-vous en ligne sur Amilia ou appelez au **484-6186**.

Camp de semaine de relâche

2 au 6 mars, pour les 5 à 10 ans
Centre communautaire

Prix hebdomadaire:
290 \$ résidents / 300 \$ non-résidents
Journées individuelles
maintenant disponibles!
Prix par jour: 60 \$ résidents
70 \$ non-résidents

Inscrivez-vous en ligne sur Amilia ou appelez au **484-6186**.

Musique avec Shawny

Bébé et moi : 0 à 2 ans, 3 à 5 ans
les samedis 14 mars

Premiers soins d'urgence et RCR/DEA niveau C

15 mars
8h30 à 16h30

Le cours de Secourisme d'urgence et RCR (réanimation cardiorespiratoire) est un cours essentiel d'une journée qui vous permet d'acquérir les compétences nécessaires pour sauver des vies en cas d'urgence dans votre milieu de travail ou à domicile. Le contenu du cours comprend la préparation des interventions, le système EMS, les urgences respiratoires, les urgences respiratoires et circulatoires, les premiers secours en cas d'arrêt respiratoire et cardiaque, les soins des plaies et les informations sur la sensibilisation à l'intoxication aux opiacés.

Pour vous inscrire, rendez-vous sur Amilia ou appelez le centre communautaire au **484-6186**.

Soirée congé pour les parents

Prochaines dates :
Les vendredis 20 mars, 17 avril

4 à 10 ans, 17h à 22h
Pizza, film et plaisir garanti

Fête du Lapin

Dimanche 29 mars

Chasse aux œufs, bricolage et MAGIE... oh là là! Avec un spectacle de magie fantastique présenté par **Yannick Lacroix**, cet événement plein d'action est spécialement conçu pour les enfants de 2 à 10 ans.

Lieu : Hôtel de ville
Heure : 14h à 16h

Coût : 25 \$ pour résidents / 30 \$ pour non-résidents

Chaque billet enfant comprend l'accès pour 1 adulte, des billets supplémentaires pour adultes sont également disponibles.

Achetez votre billet sur Amilia ou appelez le Centre communautaire au **484-6186**.

Cours de gardiennage de la Croix-Rouge

dimanche 12 avril

Les enfants âgés de 11 ans et plus acquièrent les compétences nécessaires pour exercer des fonctions de gardiennage.

- 9h30 à 17h30
- Coût : Résidents : 85 \$ / Non-résidents : 95 \$

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CALL FOR ANY BOOK IN PRINT

Community Centre 484-6186

New activities available soon

Exciting news for our community! The brand-new gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms and kitchen at the sports and recreation centre will officially be opening this spring.

These new spaces will offer even more opportunities to stay active and connect for programs, events and activities of all kinds. Including, but not limited to, drop-in volleyball, pickleball, badminton, 0-5-year-olds gym time, pick-up basketball and cooking!

We can't wait to welcome you in and see these spaces come to life – more details and opening information will be shared soon. Stay tuned!

Skating and hockey

See the Steve and Rob Michelin Rink portion of the town website for the full schedule!

Pick-up hockey



Drop in for casual, fast-paced pick-up hockey!

Open to all skill levels – just bring your gear, invite friends and hit the ice for

fun, friendly games all March Break.

Free skate



Lace up your skates and join us for free public skating! Residents of all ages are invited to enjoy the ice in a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility. No registration required – the pro shop will be open to rent skates and helmets or to sharpen your own skates!

Saturdays: 4-5:20 pm

Sundays: 1-2:20 pm

Additional hours at March Break.

Pool Programs

Pool programs are launching soon. Stay tuned for swim lessons, aquafitness, public swims, diving, swim team and more!

Registration and membership information coming soon, consult the Municipal Pool portion of the Town website for updates.



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Day Camp registration is now open!

Our day camp and our specialty camps, including tennis and our new splash camp are proudly based out of local schools, with campers benefiting from access to the brand-new sports and recreation centre for a wide range of exciting activities. All campers will enjoy access to state-of-the-art facilities, including a swimming pool, gymnasium, multi-purpose activity room, fully equipped kitchen and even an indoor skating rink.

To enjoy our Early Bird discounts, register before March 2.

Registration for individual weeks will open on May 11 based on availability.

To register your child(ren) on Amilia or call the Community Centre **484-6186**.

March Break Camp

March 2-6, 5 to 10 years
Community Centre

\$290 residents/ \$300 non-residents

Daily registration open now:

\$60 residents / \$70 non-residents

Register your child(ren) on Amilia under March Break or call the Community Centre at **484-6186**.

Music with Shawny

Baby & Me, 0-2 years, 3-5 years
Saturday, March 14

Emergency First Aid and CPR/AED Level C

March 15
8:30 am-4:30 pm

An indispensable one-day course that equips you with the essential skills to save lives in an emergency, whether at home or work. Course content includes response preparation, the EMS system, airway emergencies, breathing and circulation emergencies, first aid for respiratory and cardiac arrest, wound care and opioid poisoning awareness information. Register on Amilia or call the Community Centre at **484-6186**.

Parents' Night Off

4 to 10 years, 5-9 pm
Pizza, movie and fun!
Friday March 20, April 17

Cotton-tail party

Sunday, March 29
Town Hall, 2-4 pm

Egg hunts, crafts, and MAGIC – oh my! Featuring a fantastic magic show by **Yan-nick Lacroix**. This action-packed event is made just for kids aged 2-10 years.

Cost: \$25 residents / \$30 non-residents

Each child ticket includes access for one adult, extra adult tickets are available.

Purchase your tickets on Amilia or call the Community Centre **484-6186**.



Red Cross Babysitting Course

Sunday, April 12
9:30 am-5:30 pm

Learn the skills required to carry out babysitting duties.

- Ages 11+
- Cost: Residents: \$85/Non-Residents: \$95



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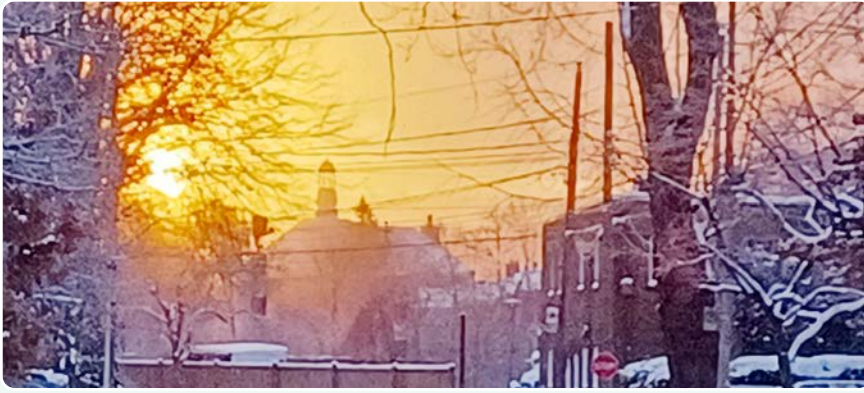


Photo by Joanna Duy

COMING EVENTS / À VENIR

Please call the editor: Heather
489-7022 or e-mail montrealwestinformer@gmail.com

Next deadline / Date limite: March 11 mars

March

- Thu 5 Free Lecture.** Nutrition is What We Eat, and What We Digest. 1-2 pm.
- Thu 5 Knit & Natter.** Drop in. Public Library. 3 pm.
- Thu 5 Rotary.** Speaker Keith Henderson: The Roof Walkers. Town Hall. 12:15 pm.
- Wed 4 Yoga Challenge.** Every Wednesday in March. MW United. 7 pm.
- Sat 7 Free Skate.** Every Saturday in March. Steve and Rob Michelin Rink. 4-5:20 pm.
- Sat 7 Knit & Natter.** Drop in. Public Library. 4 pm.
- Sun 8 Free Skate.** Every Sunday in March. Steve and Rob Michelin Rink. 1-2:20 pm.
- Tue 10 Crafting VR: Sweater Mittens!** New session. Sign up required. Public Library. 2-4 pm
- Fri 13 Club 60+ Club.** Saint Patrick's Day luncheon. Noon-2 pm.
- Sat 14 Music with Shawny**
- Sat 14 Knit & Natter.** Drop in. Public Library. 4 pm.
- Sun 15 Pancake Brunch.** St. Philip's. 11 am.
- Tue 17 60+ Club.** Tour of the sports and recreation centre. 11 am, 1 pm.
- Wed 18 Tea and Books.** Drop in. Public Library. 2 pm.
- Wed 18 Annual General Meeting** – all members welcome. Public Library
- Thu 19 Knit & Natter.** Drop in. Public Library. 3 pm.
- Fri 20 Parents Night Off**
- Sun 22 Labyrinth Walk.** All Welcome. MW United. 2-4 pm.
- Wed 25 Recipes for the Future for Empowered Aging:** Cracking Good Egg Recipes! Please register. Public Library. 2 pm.
- Thu 26 Thrift Store.** St. Philip's. Noon-3 pm
- Thu 26 Knit & Natter.** Drop in. Public Library. 3 pm.
- Thu 26 Rotary.** Speaker Cynthia Costigan: Unveiling My Family Roots. Town Hall. 12:15 pm.
- Sat 28 Knit & Natter.** Drop in. Public Library. 4 pm
- Sun 29 Palm Sunday.** All Welcome. MW United. 10 am.
- Sun 29 Palm Sunday.** St. Ignatius. 10 am.
- Sun 29 Cotton Tail Party.** 2-4 pm.
- Mon 30 Town Council meeting.**
In person and virtually (Town's YouTube channel). Town Hall. 8 pm.



Thank you, Sue Sladen!

If you are walking around the Town and bump into Sue Sladen, please say thank you to her for 25 years of dedicated volunteering for the MoWest *Meals on Wheels* program.

Sue had been on the executive and also volunteered in so many ways in the delivery of hot nutritious meals twice a week to our seniors who need our help to stay in their homes.

Like Sue, many of the volunteers in the *Meals on Wheels* program have been volunteering for many years and it is time for new volunteers if the service is to continue. Shopping, cooking, driving and delivering and kitchen duty are the four main categories.

Meals on Wheels

Cooks really needed

Cooking Tuesday or Friday morning 8:30-11 am at MoWest United Church with a friend once a month or twice a month or a couple of months a year would be amazing.

Please consider supporting our Town in this way. Contact MW United Church at 482-3210.

WE NEED YOU!

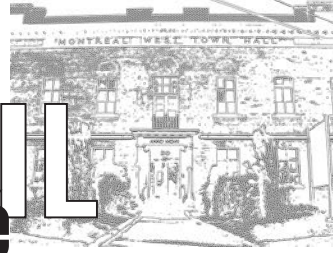
from Joan Foster

Juliette LORD

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HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY

438 875 2115
maisonphysio@gmail.com

COUNCIL communiqué



MAYOR'S REPORT

Power outage

I would like to begin by commending the resilience of the residents of the Town's north end affected by the major power outage that lasted approximately 30 hours on January 24 and 25, during the coldest weekend of the winter. Hydro-Québec predicted that the outages would be resolved by Saturday, but unfortunately, this was not the case. Throughout the outage, the Town of Montreal West remained in contact with the Montreal agglomeration Emergency Measures Coordination Centre (CCMU) to ensure the health and safety of residents. An emergency shelter run by the Red Cross was made available to residents, and patrols were deployed to the area. We opened Town Hall to welcome residents all day Sunday and offered a shuttle service to the centre. The Fire Department also visited all addresses without power to ensure everyone's well-being, especially that of vulnerable individuals.

I thank the employees and all the residents and businesses who offered their help to those affected, especially Natty from the 1923 barber shop—wonderful gestures that demonstrate the community's solidarity. The council held an information session on emergency measures with residents on February 9, and we are continuing our debrief meetings with our partners to improve our response in such situations.

Budget

Council adopted its 2026 budget and three-year capital works program.

This first budget, reflecting the concerns of the community, minimizes tax increases and strengthens resilience by investing in road infrastructure reconstruction. It also advances sustainable mobility through level-crossing safety improvements, the implementation of a bike-sharing program and sidewalk repairs, renews the vehicle fleet to strengthen daily operations and launches a reflection on the revitalization of Westminister Avenue. This is a responsible budget that respects our limited financial capacity while investing in the future of our community.

Sports and recreation centre

At the end of January, we began the phased opening of our sports and recreation centre and hosted a major donor recognition event. Montreal West now boasts a brand-new facility of which we can be proud. This spacious and light-filled building, defined by its contemporary architecture, represents an investment in our community's future and will benefit all residents. The commitment and financial support of the community were crucial in making this project a reality. I warmly thank everyone who helped bring this project to life, particularly former mayor Beny Masella, the outgoing council, the fundraising committee and all the donors.

Political meetings

Since the beginning of the year, I have had several political meetings. Meetings with Stéphanie Valenzuela, the Mayor of the Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce borough, and David Tordjman, Mayor of Côte Saint-Luc, allowed us to discuss various issues raised by citizens, including

traffic and safety concerns on Westminister Avenue, speeding issues on Westover Avenue, the extension of Cavendish Boulevard, the frequency of bus route 162, potential connections with local cycling networks, the installation of bixi stations, including one in front of the train station and the reopening of discussions on extending West Broadway Avenue beyond the railway tracks.

Other meetings with Désirée McGraw, Member of the National Assembly and Anna Gainey, Member of Parliament for NDG-Westmount, allowed us to begin discussions on the state of our infrastructure, the revitalization of Westminister Avenue, climate-change adaptation, Town densification through new housing development, and the grant programs that will support these projects.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The new council encourages citizen participation and is introducing several channels for dialogue to ensure that all voices are included. Here are the main participatory mechanisms that bring residents and elected officials together to collectively build a stronger community.

Town Council Meetings: Once a month, on Monday evenings at Town Hall, we formally welcome citizens' questions, either in person or online related to matters of general interest and the council agenda.

Discussions with Council: Approximately once a month, residents are invited to informal conversations with Council members in public locations across the town. These sessions

Continued on the next page

provide an opportunity to raise personal concerns and speak directly with elected officials. They will take place on a rotating basis on Wednesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Saturday mornings in various locations throughout the town. The full schedule will be made public.

Specialized committees: Citizen committees will be created on strategic topics to help advance the Town's priorities. Citizens will be able to apply and meet 4 to 10 times per year to collectively make recommendations to Council. Each committee will be chaired by an elected official.

Information sessions: Occasionally, the Town will organize information sessions to brief residents on local issues, procedures or development projects in their early stages. These sessions will allow citizens to ask questions and the Town to provide information and explanations on the topic at hand.

Focus groups: Occasionally, and by invitation, a group of individuals will be brought together to gather opinions, ideas and needs from a targeted audience on a specific topic.

Opinion polls: From time to time, opinion polls will be conducted to gather public opinion on specific issues or projects.

Public consultations: When changes are proposed to the urban plan or its regulations, such as changes of land use or during development projects or the creation of strategic documents, public consultations open to all residents will be organized. These activities aim to collect your input, ideas, needs and aspirations in order to enrich collective thinking and help shape a shared vision for our territory.

NEW CITIZENS' COMMITTEES IN MONTREAL WEST

Montreal West consultation table

Chaired by the mayor, this roundtable brings together local community organizations that serve the Montreal West area. Designated representatives meet two or three times per year to discuss their missions, share their challenges and exchange with the Town.

Financial planning committee

This committee examines revenue diversification, municipal taxation and strategies to strengthen Montreal West's financial health.

Ecological transition and environment committee

This committee supports the Town in its adaptation to climate change and proposes the implementation of environmental measures and public awareness activities.

Age-friendly municipality committee

This committee is responsible for updating and implementing the Age-Friendly Policy to encourage the participation and active aging of seniors within the community. It reflects the Town's commitment to making Montreal West a better, safer and more inclusive town for residents of all ages.

Westminster avenue revitalization committee

This committee proposes ways to enhance the commercial offer, highlight the area and increase the appeal of Westminster Avenue. Property owners and merchants will join residents to discuss community events, beautification projects and fiscal and regulatory measures to strengthen the heart of the town.

Sustainable mobility committee

This committee recommends measures to support the safe coexistence of all modes of transportation (pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles and trains) and to promote an efficient, safe, equitable and environmentally responsible transportation system that will include signage, parking and the use of public space.

Interested citizens can apply on the Town website between February 24 and March 27. The composition of the committees will be adopted in April, after which their work will begin in the spring.

Jonathan Cha, Mayor
Town of Montreal West
jcha@montreal-west.ca



LOOKING FORWARD

This past month, my work has focused on asset management (Public Works) and economic development, particularly as they relate to the 2026 budget and the services residents rely on daily.

For Public Works, the 2026 budget includes important investments in the municipal fleet, focused on replacing aging vehicles and equipment. These planned replacements help ensure reliable service delivery, especially during high-demand periods such as winter operations.

The Town's Three-Year Capital Program also looks ahead to fleet and equipment replacements in 2027 and 2028, allowing for responsible planning, better cost management and fewer service disruptions caused by unexpected breakdowns.

Winter operations continue to be a frequent topic of discussion. Snow clearing is a complex process, and current practices are designed to balance safety, efficiency and operational realities. Discussions are also underway to explore whether targeted measures could be considered at certain crosswalks in priority areas during major snow events.

On the economic development front, I met with PME Montréal to explore programs that support local businesses and strengthen main commercial arteries. I've also begun working to revive the merchants association and explore the potential return of the street fair, last held successfully in 2019.

Nicholas Tassé, Councillor
Asset Management and
Economic Development
ntasse@montreal-west.ca



WORDS MATTER

Incivility has become a growing concern in local municipal government. Community discourse is becoming less civil both online and in person.

This trend emerged in recent years and has accelerated during and after the pandemic. In a 2025 *Canadian Municipal Barometer* survey of elected officials, about 63% of respondents said they had experienced some form of harassment during their term or campaign. The Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ) reported even higher rates: 74% of Quebec mayors and councillors said they had been harassed or intimidated.

In Quebec, nearly 10% of municipal leaders left their positions early since 2021; these statistics suggest that across Canada, rising incivility is driving quality candidates away from running for council and pushing serving members out of office.

Despite these challenges, it is important to distinguish between fair criticism and outright harassment. Thoughtful questions about budgets, zoning or public services are not only welcome but essential in a healthy democracy. However, when dialogue devolves into repeated insults, slurs or threats, it erodes the very foundation of democratic engagement. Accountability and robust debate should always be encouraged; abusive conduct should not.

Most recently, the *Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA)* created a *Standing Strong Toolkit*: an essential guide for Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs). This comprehensive resource equips CAOs or Direct-

or Generals with strategies and best practices to maintain professionalism and foster a respectful work environment. These same principles can be applied by elected officials.

Council is currently working on scheduling some informal opportunities for discussion outside of monthly council meetings. Stay tuned!

Lauren Small-Pennefather,
Councillor
Finance and Bilingual Status
lsmall-pennefather@montreal-west.ca



SETTLING IN AND PLANNING AHEAD

Last month, I attended my first Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting as an observer. It was a great opportunity to meet members, understand the process and think about where Council can add clarity and

momentum. I've also been reviewing our by-laws and administrative regulations and I'm excited to get started as Council's representative on PAC.

As many of you know, our Recreation team is preparing to open the new recreation centre. Their offices and activities will move to the new facility over the coming months, eventually leaving the John A. Simms Community Centre vacant. Understandably, there is strong interest in the future of this space, and it is currently under review as part of a broader assessment of Town-owned assets. We will keep residents informed as decisions progress.

Following the major power outage that affected the North side of Town in late January, the Town held an information session reviewing the emergency measures taken in response. Thank you to those who attended and shared thoughtful feedback. The Town's presentation is available on the website. This is a good opportunity to remind residents of the Safety section of our Seniors' Services area

on the Town website. It's a handy way to access a range of safety resources in one place, including registering for fire safety evacuation. montreal-ouest.ca/en/resident-services/senior-services/fraud-and-safety/

Looking ahead, we are launching a new initiative: Discussions with Council. These sessions are meant to create space for open, informal conversation – a chance to raise ideas early, ask questions and speak directly with Council outside of formal meetings. Sessions will alternate days, times and locations, and details will be shared through our communication channels.

Finally, we are so fortunate to be able to count on your continued engagement as we form our advisory committees. Residents wishing to apply for a committee who prefer a physical application can submit it at Town Hall, attention Martha Slocombe. I look forward to the conversations ahead as we continue building Montreal West into a vibrant and inclusive community.

Martha Slocombe, Councillor
Ecological Transition, Urban Planning and Citizen Participation
mslocombe@montreal-west.ca





Dear neighbours and residents of Montreal West,

Sustainable Mobility – Public Safety and Security

The Town has gone back to tender for the pilot project for the reconfiguration work at the Westminster

level crossing to ensure compliance with Transport Canada and to increase safety for residents at this intersection. We hope to have more news in the spring regarding this project.

While discussing the level crossing, the Mayor and I met with the representative from exo. We spoke about the fence on the south side of the train station as well as several other items.

On January 24-25, the North sector of town (including my family) experienced a major challenge: extreme cold in combination with the loss of electricity. The HQ power outage that affected parts of Montreal West was not what anyone wanted to experience on the coldest day of 2026.

During this major obstacle, the Town followed plans and protocols provided by the *Centre de Coordination des mesures d'urgence*. In addition, we opened Town Hall as a warming centre for residents during the day of Sunday, January 25 from 7:30 am till 10 pm. About 20 residents used this shelter. Power was restored to all residents on Sunday evening after an outage that lasted around 30 hours in the worst cases.

I want to thank our employees, fellow council members, merchants and many residents who were not affected by this outage for their offer of assistance, many were posting on social media (SM) offering a place to warm up. This is what makes our community special. **Don't forget that not everyone is on SM, don't hesitate to reach out in person to friends and neighbours, especially our elderly and most vulnerable residents.**

To conclude this event, the Town hosted an information session on February 9 to review what had occurred and to discuss with residents what we can improve. This session was particularly animated by the residents and many concerns and suggestions were brought to Council. We will review the actions taken to improve our future crisis management responses.

That being said, we need to be mindful that extreme weather is happening more often. We all need to be prepared; a generator, battery packs, flash lights, knowing where and how to use the water shut-off valve, reaching out to family, friends and neighbours for help or to offer help. I noticed that many of you were well prepared. Bravo!

Sports

During the current soft opening of the rec centre, we were all excited for the arena programming to start, but unfortunately our new rec centre had a mechanical failure on January 24 which affected the quality of the ice. Staff worked all weekend to salvage the ice, but it was determined that a new sheet of ice was necessary, which takes approximately 4-5 days to redo. All programming was delayed for a week and began Sunday February 1. The failure is covered under the warranty, all repairs, labour and material are free of charge to the Town. I want to thank our Recreation Department for all the work they did to get the rink back and running (very early mornings and late evenings).

Since the soft opening, hundreds of residents have enjoyed the rink and guided tours of the facility. Hope you are as proud of the new rec centre as I am.

Reminder, the day camp registration is now open on the Amilia platform.

Here to serve.

Phil Bergeron, Councillor
Sustainable Mobility and Sports
pbergeron@montreal-west.ca



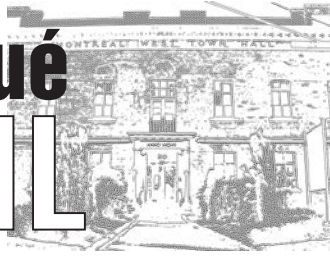
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RAPPORT DU MAIRE

Panne d'électricité

J'aimerais commencer par saluer la résilience des résidents du secteur nord de la ville affectés par la panne de courant majeure ayant duré une trentaine d'heures les 24 et 25 janvier durant le week-end le plus froid de l'hiver. Selon Hydro-Québec, les pannes devaient être résolues samedi dans la journée, mais ce ne fut malheureusement pas le cas. En tout temps, la Ville de Montréal-Ouest est restée en contact avec le Centre de coordination des mesures d'urgence de l'agglomération de Montréal pour assurer la santé et la sécurité des résidents. Un centre d'hébergement géré par la Croix-Rouge a été offert aux résidents et des patrouilles ont été affectées au secteur. Nous avons ouvert l'hôtel de ville et accueilli des résidents toute la journée dimanche et offert un service de navette vers le centre. Le Service d'incendie a de plus visité toutes les adresses sans courant pour s'assurer du bien-être de tous, en particulier des personnes vulnérables.

Je remercie les employés et tous les résidents et commerçants qui ont offert leur aide aux personnes impactées, notamment Natty du salon de barbier 1923, de beaux gestes qui démontrent la solidarité de la communauté. Le conseil a organisé une séance d'information sur les mesures d'urgence avec les citoyens le 9 février et nous poursuivons nos rencontres de rétroaction avec nos partenaires pour améliorer notre réponse dans de telles situations.

Budget

Le conseil a adopté son budget 2026 et son programme triennal d'immobilis-

ation. Ce premier budget, à l'écoute de la population, limite la hausse de taxes au minimum, favorise la résilience du territoire en investissant dans la reconstruction d'infrastructures routières, mise sur la mobilité durable par la sécurisation du passage à niveau, l'implantation de vélos en libre-partage et la réparation de trottoirs, renouvelle la flotte de véhicules pour améliorer nos opérations courantes et amorce la réflexion sur la revitalisation de l'avenue Westminster. Il s'agit d'un budget responsable qui respecte nos capacités financières limitées tout en investissant pour l'avenir de notre communauté.

Centre sportif et récréatif

À la fin janvier, nous avons procédé à l'ouverture graduelle de notre centre sportif et récréatif et à une soirée de reconnaissance des donateurs. Montréal-Ouest est maintenant doté d'un équipement d'envvergure dont nous pouvons être fiers. Cet édifice à l'architecture contemporaine, spacieuse et lumineuse est un investissement pour l'avenir de la communauté qui bénéficiera à l'ensemble des résidents. L'engagement et l'appui financier de la population auront été déterminants pour que ce projet devienne réalité. Je remercie chaleureusement tous les intervenants ayant contribué à la réalisation de ce projet, notamment l'ancien maire Beny Masella, le conseil sortant et le comité de sollicitation des dons.

Rencontres politiques

Depuis le début d'année, j'ai eu plusieurs rencontres politiques. Celles avec la mairesse de l'arrondissement Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Stéphanie Valenzuela et David Tordjman, maire de Côte Saint-Luc, ont permis d'aborder divers sujets qui ont été soulevés par plusieurs citoyens

dont les enjeux de trafic et de sécurité sur l'avenue Westminster, les enjeux de vitesse sur l'avenue Westover, le raccourcissement du boulevard Cavendish, la fréquence de la ligne d'autobus 162, les connexions éventuelles avec les réseaux cyclables locaux, l'implantation de stations bixi dont une devant la gare de train et la réouverture de la réflexion sur une connexion de l'avenue West Broadway au-delà des voies ferrées.

D'autres rencontres avec Désirée McGraw, députée à l'Assemblée nationale et Anna Gainey, députée à la chambre des communes de NDG-Westmount ont permis d'amorcer les discussions sur l'état des infrastructures, la revitalisation de l'avenue Westminster, l'adaptation aux changements climatiques, la densification de la ville par la construction de logements et les programmes de subvention pour nous aider dans ces projets.

PARTICIPATION CITOYENNE

Le nouveau conseil encourage la participation citoyenne et annonce la mise en place de plusieurs canaux d'échanges pour favoriser l'inclusivité des voix citoyennes. Voici les principaux dispositifs participatifs permettant aux citoyens et aux élus de se rencontrer et de construire collectivement une meilleure communauté.

Conseils municipaux : les lundis soirs, une fois par mois à l'hôtel de ville, nous accueillons dans un cadre formel les questions des citoyens en personne ou en ligne en privilégiant les questions liées aux sujets à l'ordre du jour du conseil et aux questions d'intérêt général.

Échanges avec le conseil : à une fréquence d'environ une fois par mois, nous proposons un dialogue informel avec plusieurs membres du conseil municipal dans un lieu public de la Ville. Nous accueillerons les questions des citoyens en personne sur des sujets personnels qui vous préoccupent. Ces échanges auront lieu en alternance les mercredis matins, mercredis soirs et samedis matins dans divers secteurs de la Ville selon un calendrier qui sera rendu public.

continué à la page suivante

Comités spécialisés : des comités citoyens sur des sujets stratégiques seront créés pour contribuer à l'atteinte des priorités de la Ville. Les citoyens pourront poser leurs candidatures et siéger ensemble 4 à 10 fois par année pour émettre collectivement des recommandations au conseil. Les comités seront présidés par un élu.

Séances d'information : à l'occasion, des séances d'information seront organisées pour informer les citoyens sur des enjeux locaux, des procédures ou des projets de développement en début de processus. Elles permettront aux citoyens de poser des questions et à la Ville de fournir des renseignements et des explications sur le sujet à l'ordre du jour.

Groupes de discussion : à l'occasion et sur invitation, un groupe de personnes se réunira afin d'obtenir les opinions, les idées et les besoins d'un public cible sur un sujet spécifique.

Sondages d'opinion : à l'occasion, un sondage d'opinion permettra de recueillir des avis de la population sur des sujets ou projets spécifiques.

Consultations publiques : lors de modifications au plan d'urbanisme et à sa réglementation, tels des changements d'usages, lors de projets de développement ou de réalisation de documents stratégiques, des activités de consultations publiques ouvertes à toute la population seront organisées afin de recueillir vos intrants, idées, besoins et désirs pour enrichir la réflexion collective et construire collectivement la vision territoriale.

LES NOUVEAUX COMITÉS CITOYENS DE MONTRÉAL-OUEST

Table de concertation de Montréal-Ouest

Cette table présidée par le maire réunit les organismes communautaires locaux qui desservent le territoire de Montréal-Ouest. Les représentants désignés siègent à raison de deux ou trois fois par année pour discuter et partager leurs missions et enjeux avec la Ville.

Comité sur la planification financière

Ce comité vise à réfléchir à la diversification des revenus, la fiscalité mu-

nicipale et les stratégies pour augmenter la santé financière de Montréal-Ouest.

Comité sur la transition écologique et l'environnement

Ce comité vise à accompagner la Ville dans son adaptation aux changements climatiques et à proposer la mise en place des mesures environnementales et des activités de sensibilisation de la population.

Comité Municipalité amie des aînés

Ce comité vise la mise à jour et la mise en œuvre de la politique Amie des aînés afin d'encourager la participation et le vieillissement actif des aînés au sein de la communauté. Il répond à l'engagement de faire de Montréal-Ouest une ville meilleure, plus sécuritaire et plus humaine pour les résidents de tous âges.

Comité sur la revitalisation de l'avenue Westminster

Ce comité vise à faire des propositions visant à bonifier l'offre commerciale, à mettre en valeur et à augmenter l'attractivité de l'avenue Westminster. Les propriétaires et commerçants s'ajouteront aux citoyens pour discuter d'initiatives d'animation, de projets d'embellissement, de leviers fiscaux et réglementaires pour renforcer le cœur de la ville.

Comité sur la mobilité durable

Ce comité vise à recommander des mesures afin de favoriser la saine cohabitation de tous les modes de déplacement (piéton, vélo, véhicule, train) et un système de transport efficace, sécuritaire, équitable et respectueux de l'environnement incluant la signalisation, le stationnement et l'occupation du domaine public.

Les citoyens intéressés pourront poser leur candidature sur le site web de la Ville entre le 24 février et le 27 mars. La composition des comités sera adoptée au mois d'avril et leurs travaux pourront débuter dès le printemps.

Jonathan Cha, maire
Ville de Montréal-Ouest
jcha@montreal-ouest.ca



REGARD VERS L'AVENIR

Au cours du dernier mois, mon

travail s'est concentré sur la gestion des actifs (Travaux publics) et le développement économique, deux domaines directement liés au budget 2026 et aux services essentiels pour les résidents.

Pour les travaux publics, le budget 2026 prévoit des investissements importants dans la flotte municipale, notamment pour remplacer des véhicules et des équipements vieillissants. Ces remplacements planifiés contribuent à assurer une prestation de services fiables, surtout pendant les périodes de forte demande comme les opérations hivernales.

Le programme triennal d'immobilisations de la Ville prévoit également des remplacements de véhicules et d'équipements en 2027 et 2028, permettant une planification responsable, une meilleure gestion des coûts et une réduction des interruptions de service causées par des bris imprévus.

Les opérations hivernales demeurent un sujet de discussion fréquent. Le déneigement est un processus complexe, et les pratiques actuelles visent à concilier sécurité, efficacité et réalités opérationnelles. Des discussions sont aussi en cours afin d'examiner la possibilité de mettre en place des mesures ciblées à certains passages pour piétons dans des secteurs prioritaires lors d'importantes chutes de neige.

Du côté du développement économique, j'ai rencontré PME Montréal afin d'explorer des programmes de soutien aux entreprises locales et de dynamisation des artères commerciales. J'ai également amorcé des démarches pour relancer l'association des commerçants et j'étudie la possibilité du retour de la foire commerciale de l'avenue Westminster, qui avait connu un franc succès lors de sa dernière édition en 2019.

Nicholas Tassé, conseiller
Gestion des actifs et
développement économique
ntasse@montreal-west.ca



L'IMPACT DES MOTS

L'incivilité est devenue une préoccupation croissante au sein des administrations municipales locales. Les échanges citoyens sont de moins en moins respectueux, tant en ligne qu'en personne.

Cette tendance est apparue au cours des dernières années et s'est accentuée pendant et après la pandémie. Selon un sondage du *Baromètre municipal du Canada* mené en 2025 auprès d'élus municipaux, environ 63% des répondants ont indiqué avoir subi une forme de harcèlement durant leur mandat ou campagne électorale. L'Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ) a fait état de taux encore plus élevés: 74% des maires et conseillers municipaux du Québec ont affirmé avoir été harcelés ou intimidés.

Au Québec, près de 10% des dirigeants municipaux ont quitté leurs fonctions prématurément depuis 2021. Ces statistiques laissent entendre qu'à l'échelle du Canada, la

montée de l'incivilité décourage des candidats de qualité à se présenter au conseil municipal et pousse certains élus en poste à se retirer.

Malgré ces défis, il est important de distinguer la critique légitime du harcèlement pur et simple. Les questions réfléchies sur le budget, le zonage ou les services publics sont non seulement bienvenues, mais essentielles au bon fonctionnement d'une démocratie. Toutefois, lorsque le dialogue dégénère en insultes répétées, en propos injurieux ou en menaces, il mine les fondements mêmes de l'engagement démocratique. L'imputabilité et les débats vigoureux doivent toujours être encouragés, les comportements abusifs, eux, ne doivent pas l'être.

Récemment, l'*Association Canadienne des Administrateurs Municipaux (ACAM)* a créé une trousse à outils « Rester solide: guide à l'intention des DG ». Cette ressource complète aide les directeurs généraux à conserver une attitude professionnelle tout en agissant pour un environnement de travail respectueux et productif. Ces mêmes principes peuvent être appliqués par les élus.

Le conseil met en place de nouvelles possibilités de discussion informelle en dehors des séances mensuelles. Restez à l'écoute!

Lauren Small-Pennefather,
conseillère,
Finances et bilinguisme
lsmall-pennefather@montreal-ouest.ca



TROUVER SON RYTHME ET PRÉPARER LA SUITE

Le mois dernier, j'ai assisté à ma première rencontre du comité consultatif d'urbanisme (CCU) à titre d'observatrice. Ce fut une excellente occasion de rencontrer les membres, de mieux comprendre le processus

et de réfléchir aux façons dont le conseil peut apporter plus de clarté et efficacité. J'ai également passé en revue nos règlements administratifs et nos politiques internes et je suis enthousiaste à l'idée de commencer mon travail comme représentante du conseil au sein du CCU.

Comme plusieurs d'entre vous le savent, notre équipe des loisirs se prépare à ouvrir le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif. Leurs bureaux et leurs activités seront transférés vers la nouvelle installation au cours des prochains mois, laissant éventuellement le centre communautaire John A. Simms vacant. L'avenir de cet espace suscite beaucoup d'intérêt. Son utilisation fait actuellement l'objet d'un examen dans le cadre d'une évaluation plus large des actifs municipaux. Nous tiendrons les résidents informés à mesure que les décisions avanceront.

À la suite de la panne d'électricité majeure qui a touché le secteur nord de la ville à la fin janvier, la Ville a tenu une séance d'information présentant les mesures d'urgence mises en place en réponse à cette situation. Merci à toutes les personnes qui y ont participé et qui ont partagé des commentaires constructifs. La présentation de la Ville est

disponible sur le site web. J'en profite pour rappeler la section Sécurité dans l'onglet Service aux aînés du site web de la ville. On y trouve, en un seul endroit, une variété de ressources liées à la sécurité, notamment l'inscription au programme d'évacuation en cas d'incendie.

Nous lancerons prochainement une nouvelle initiative : « Échanges avec le Conseil ». Ces rencontres visent à offrir un espace de dialogue ouvert et informel, une occasion pour les citoyens de présenter des idées, de poser des questions et de parler directement avec un élu en dehors des séances du conseil officielles. Les rencontres auront lieu à différents jours, heures et emplacements, et les détails seront communiqués par nos canaux habituels.

Enfin, nous avons la chance de pouvoir compter sur votre engagement continu alors que nous formons nos comités consultatifs. Les résidents souhaitant poser leur candidature et qui préfèrent une version papier du formulaire peuvent le déposer à l'hôtel de ville, à l'attention de Martha Slocombe. J'ai hâte de poursuivre nos échanges au fil des prochaines étapes, alors que nous continuons de faire de Montréal-Ouest une communauté dynamique et inclusive.

Martha Slocombe, conseillère
Transition écologique, Planification urbaine et Participation citoyenne
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Chers voisins et résidents de Montréal-Ouest,

Mobilité durable – Sécurité publique

La ville a relancé l'appel d'offres concernant le projet pilote de réaménagement du passage à niveau de

Westminster afin d'améliorer la sécurité de cette intersection et de se conformer aux exigences de Transports Canada. Nous espérons avoir plus d'informations au printemps concernant ce projet.

À propos du passage à niveau, le maire et moi-même avons rencontré la représentante d'EXO. Nous avons discuté de la clôture située au sud de la gare ferroviaire et de nombreux autres sujets.

Les 24 et 25 janvier, le secteur nord de la ville (incluant ma famille) a été confronté à un défi majeur : un froid extrême combiné à une panne d'électricité. Ce n'était pas une expérience que quiconque aurait souhaité vivre lors de la journée la plus froide de 2026.

Face à cet obstacle, la ville a suivi les plans et protocoles fournis par le *Centre de coordination des mesures d'urgence*. De plus, nous avons ouvert l'hôtel de ville comme halte chaleur pour les résidents pendant la journée du dimanche 25 janvier, de 7 h 30 à 22 h. Une vingtaine de résidents ont utilisé cette halte. L'électricité a été rétablie pour tous les résidents de Montréal-Ouest dimanche soir, après une panne qui a duré environ 30 heures dans les pires des cas.

Je tiens à remercier nos employés, membres du conseil, les commerçants et les nombreux résidents qui n'ont pas été touchés par cette panne pour leur offre d'aide. Beaucoup ont publié des messages sur les réseaux sociaux pour proposer un endroit où se réchauffer. C'est ce qui rend notre communauté si spéciale. **N'oubliez pas que plusieurs ne sont pas présents sur les réseaux sociaux. N'hésitez donc pas à aller à la rencontre de vos amis et de vos voisins, en particulier nos aînés et les plus vulnérables.**

Pour conclure, la Ville a organisé une séance d'information le 9 février pour faire un retour sur les événements et discuter avec les résidents sur ce que nous pouvons améliorer. Cette séance a été particulièrement animée par les résidents présents et de nombreuses préoccupations et suggestions ont été soumises au conseil municipal. Nous examinerons les mesures prises pour améliorer nos futures réponses en matière de gestion de crise.

Cela dit, nous devons garder à l'esprit que les phénomènes

météorologiques extrêmes sont de plus en plus fréquents. Nous devons tous nous y préparer : prévoir une génératrice, des batteries, des lampes de poche, savoir où se trouve la vanne d'arrêt d'eau et comment l'utiliser, contacter sa famille, ses amis et ses voisins pour leur demander de l'aide ou leur proposer son aide. J'ai remarqué que beaucoup d'entre vous étaient bien préparés. Bravo !

Sports

Pendant la période d'ouverture partielle du centre récréatif, nous étions tous impatients de voir débiter les activités prévues à l'aréna, mais malheureusement, notre nouveau centre récréatif a connu un bris mécanique le 24 janvier qui a affecté la qualité de la glace. Le personnel a travaillé toute la fin de semaine pour sauver la glace, mais il a été déterminé qu'une nouvelle couche de glace était nécessaire (ce qui prend environ 4 à 5 jours). Tous les programmes ont été reportés d'une semaine et ont débuté le dimanche 1er février. Toutes les réparations, main-d'œuvre et matériaux étaient couvertes par la garantie. Je tiens à remercier notre service des loisirs pour tout le travail qu'ils ont accompli à toute heure de la journée afin de remettre la patinoire en état de fonctionnement.

Depuis l'ouverture, des centaines de résidents ont profité de la patinoire et des visites guidées des installations. J'espère que vous êtes aussi fiers que moi du nouveau centre récréatif.

Rappel : les inscriptions au camp de jour sont désormais ouvertes sur la plateforme Amilia.

À votre service,

Phil Bergeron, conseiller
Mobilité durable et Sports
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