

RAPPORT SIÈGE 2 / REPORT FROM SEAT 2: MARTHA SLOCOMBE

I'd like to start with a quick reminder that between April and November, we will be holding two PAC meetings per month. Next months meetings are on April 8 and 22. Please ensure that complete files are submitted at least two weeks in advance.

As an avid gardener, I am excitedly waiting for the weather to warm up, and I know many of us are eager to get our hands in the dirt. As you plan your gardens, I encourage you to consider incorporating indigenous plants—something that is close to my heart. There is such a variety available, and research continues to show that creating connected green spaces can support pollinators and local wildlife.

I know that there has been some concerns raised by residents about the removal of public trees. I can assure you that we view trees as very important assets, especially in their role in mitigating heat islands, and it is a priority to maintain and enhance our urban canopy.

Caring for our neighbourhood isn't only about our homes and gardens—it's also about looking out for one another. While the new Age-Friendly Municipality committee has not yet been formed, thanks to dedicated volunteers, we are moving forward with the Caring Neighbourhood Initiative. This spring, families are invited to sign up to donate three hours during the month of May to assist seniors with outdoor chores. Participants will be paired with residents who have requested support. You can sign up through the Recreation Department. My family will be participating, and I hope many of you will as well—it's a wonderful way to build connections in our community.

In the same spirit of connection, we continue to look for ways to engage more directly with residents. Our first "Discussion with Council" event will take place on April 15 at 8 a.m. at the new recreation centre. These informal gatherings will be held at different times and locations to make them as accessible as possible. They offer an opportunity to share your thoughts, concerns and ideas with us in a more relaxed setting. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

April is also Volunteer Appreciation Month, and Montreal West has a proud tradition of volunteerism. While it can be difficult to find the time, there are many ways to get involved—from Meals on Wheels to the public library to local sports teams. Applications for our town committees, including finance, mobility, environment, seniors and Westminster revitalization, will be accepted until the end of the month. These committees meet as needed, generally 8 to 10 times per year, and offer a

meaningful way to contribute to the life of our community. We are pleased with the response and are looking forward to working with our new committees.

Lastly, I hope to see many of you at the Pub Night on April 25 at the Sports and Recreation Centre for a night of music and fun. Some tickets are still available. Let's enjoy our new centre. I have it on good word that some members of council will be there.