

THE INFORMER

Montreal West Newspaper

September 2024, Vol. 52, No. 6



Canada Day parade returns to MW!

Yet again, this year's parade was a great success. With the enormous thanks to our photographer of many years, **Robert Ganz**, we are continuing the tradition of the Canada Day parade collage. See the photos on pages 16-17.

A mountain of garbage?

No, it's not, but to find out what it is, go to page 20.



Une montagne de déchets?

Non ! Mais pour en savoir plus, allez à la page 21.

by Maurice Krystal
and Trish Hewat

We arrived at **Kathy Machnik's** door and were greeted by her and her beautifully friendly rescue dog, **Frankie**.

Kathy escorted us into her kitchen and, after offering us tea, began to tell us about the trips offered by the organization she works for, called *Girls' Guide to the World*, a company that specializes in luxury trips for small groups of women.

Sometimes women want to travel, Kathy told us, but don't necessarily want to go on a trip by themselves. We offer them the opportunity to travel in small groups of six to eight women. That small group experience gives them an opportunity for bonding that you may not get in a large tour group. In fact, that bonding experience is one of the features of the trips.

Most of the customers are between 45 and 65, some recently widowed or divorced, and getting to know each other and sharing life experiences is a valuable part of the travel experience.

Unique adventures

And then there is the luxury aspect of the tours. Clients stay in boutique hotels and experience travel packages that offer

Kathy Machnik: Wanderlust



unique adventures that aren't usually found on the beaten path. The Paris trip includes dining at the restaurant Julia Child and her husband dined at when living there. The trip to Provence includes a visit to Van Gogh's house and Cezanne's atelier. Many trips offer cooking classes that specialize in foods from the region, like the one to the Amalfi coast. Or if your interest lies in trekking for gorillas there's the Rwanda excursion. Mindfulness more your thing, try Bhutan nestled in the Himalayas or experience whiskey tasting around a

campfire and an herbal medicine spa treatment.

Well-travelled!

Between nine and twelve years of age Kathy lived in Argentina when her metallurgist father was offered a posting there by his company.

She learned Spanish in three months. No one spoke English there, she explained, so Spanish was the only way to communicate. When she married her husband, **Zsolt Kekesi**, they moved frequently between Montreal and Toronto and en-

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Thanks

Meals on Wheels Montreal West would like to thank **Eleni** at *Lafrenai* for stepping in to help our frail seniors while the church kitchen was being renovated.

We are so blessed to have this Westminster gem in our Town. Please support them and all our town merchants.

from Joan Foster



Photo: Nicky Simes Foster visiting from New Zealand this summer. Her first stop is ALWAYS *Lafrenai* for their cannolis. She says they are the best worldwide.

Do you like to sing?



We are a group of women of all ages called Women Making Music who sing together every Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 pm at the MoWest United Church. Then every November and April we join with the McGill Chorale Society and put on an amazing concert for all to enjoy – participants and audience.

If you would like to see what we are about, please turn up September 10 at Montreal West United Church. We might be the wonderful chorale group you have been looking for.

For more information, please contact lbryan999@gmail.com.

from Joan Foster

CPFF's Khan Family Walk for Pulmonary Fibrosis

returns on September 28



Saturday, September 28, Parc Angrignon will once again be the site of the *Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation's* Community Walk in Montreal. This is our big annual event for Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month.

It's our third year for *The Khan Family Walk for PF* to raise awareness of pulmonary fibrosis and the work that *CPFF* does to support patients and families affected by PF. That work includes research programs, patient and caregiver support groups and ensuring patients across Canada have timely access to important treatments. The event will once again be hosted by the **Khan Family** (from Westmount and NDG), in honour of **Jawaid Khan** who passed away from PF in 2022.

Last year's event was a big success. Close to 70 people attended including family members, a few of our Montreal West

neighbours and a large contingent from the McGill University Health Centre's Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) clinic and research labs. We had great support from our fantastic *Rotary* chapter who funded a light lunch and who also showed up in numbers on the day itself.

This year's event will build on that success. We expect even more people to come out and join us for an easy 1 or 2 km walk around flat trails in the park, refreshments and a few comments from our organizers. The event is suitable for everyone, and we hope to see a few families join the fun as we did last year.

This has been another important year (2023-24) for *CPFF*. We conducted our annual survey of patients and families living with PF, we awarded three Robert Davidson Fellowships to support research projects and training of ILD Respiriologists and we launched our first PF Patient Support group in French.



Todd Georgieff and Nadine Fenton

There's much more information about Pulmonary Fibrosis and the Walk itself on the *Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation's* website, cpff.ca.

If you know a person or a family who's living with PF, please encourage them to check out all the resources you'll find there. *CPFF* is very proud of the information and our work.

from Todd Georgieff
MoWest resident and
Chair, Board of Directors for *CPFF*

THE INFORMER

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Montreal West, Quebec
Montréal-Ouest, Québec
H4X 1Y9

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 semi-annuelle
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 : \$20
Classifieds / Petites annonces: 26-50 words / mots – \$10, 245 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 June, July and December. 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 juin, juillet et décembre. 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
September 11 septembre



Photo: Julie Turcotte

In memoriam

Janet King

Janet King, a pillar of the *IODE HMS Victory*, Montreal West, since 1997, left an indelible mark on our organization. For 27 years, she embodied the *IODE* Mission Statement, enhancing the lives of individuals through her unwavering dedication to education support, community service and citizenship programs. Her role as a mentor and coach to numerous *IODE HMS Victory* Chapter members is a testament to her exceptional leadership.

She will live on in our hearts and minds as we remember her endless generosity of time, tal-

ent, treasure, sage wisdom and constant dedication to our Chapter and involvement with the National Office.

While our organisation has noble and lofty goals and is steeped in history, our current and future work is possible only with members who provide us with the foundational stability, focus and vision that Janet always personified.

Janet's departure has left a profound void within the *IODE HMS Victory* team. We are deeply appreciative of her significant contributions which have enriched our organization in immeasurable ways. Her absence serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of continuing her legacy.

We offer our profound condolences to **Robert** and her family and thank them for sharing her. May the grief journey be as gentle as possible for all who loved her.

from Diane Ellison

...

When Brown Owl passed away June 22, it was a huge loss to her family, friends, the community and our hearts. She was an amazing volunteer. She gave of her time and knowledge so freely.

One of her many volunteering positions started in Guiding in the 80s when her daughter started in the local Brownie unit. **Joan Foster** was the Brown Owl and Janet was one of the unit assistants. When Joan left the Brownies to start the Sparks unit, Janet became Brown Owl.

She touched the lives of countless girls and women during her time in Guiding. She was eager to share her talents and knowledge with all who crossed her path. She encouraged all to go outside their own limits. She was an enthusiastic recruiter, celebrating each new member. She also celebrated the successes of girls she knew as Brownies, even when they were well past Brownie age.

Brown Owl was an avid singer who sang in the Christ Church Cathedral choir for over 60 years. She loved singing

campfire songs with the girls. She felt if they knew some of the "old favourites" when they would go to a camp, they would find a common bond in singing the same songs as other Guiding members.

She always had Girl Guide cookies to sell. She loved to go camping with the girls. She was camping with the unit at Camp Peaceful Waters during their summer session, up until everything shut down when COVID first hit. She represented the Guiding traditions in our community.

Many leaders came and went under her watchful eye. When a new leader came on board, she would share with them what was traditionally done. Her traditions have securely been passed down to those of us who are still here. The years to come will incorporate some of her tried and true activities. Such traditions will include coordinating with Meals on Wheels for the holiday season; learning about Guiding around the world and promoting camping.

She remains our beloved Brown Owl. No one will ever be able to fill her shoes.

from Christine Downey,
Barn Owl

Janet also was Distribution Manager for *The Informer* for many years and afterwards mailed subscriptions.

Come show your support Aidez-nous à envoyer un message fort !

On September 7, *UrbaNature*, *Sauvons la Falaise*, *Parks People* and *Les amis du parc Meadowbrook* are organizing an event at Cour Turcot to advance the vision of a connected green space stretching from Falaise St-Jacques to the Lachine Canal.

This green space, the "*Parc Nature de l'écoterritoire de la Falaise*" (*PNEF*), would serve as a sanctuary for urban residents and wildlife alike, if only the City would complete it.

We aim to demonstrate that the surrounding communities and the people of Montreal are eager for the *PNEF*'s completion by 2027. Join us and fly a kite (bring one if you have, see our wish flags, and learn from environmental organizations and activists in Montreal!

Your presence will help us send a strong

message to the city that we want the Dalle Parc wildlife bridge and the falaise green space completed. Let's come together and show our support for a greener, healthier Montreal.

...



Le 7 septembre, *UrbaNature*, *Sauvons la falaise*, *Les amis du parc Meadowbrook* et *Parks People* organisent un événement à la Cour Turcot pour promouvoir la vision d'un espace vert connecté s'étendant de Falaise St-Jacques au canal de Lachine. Cet espace vert, le *Parc Nature de l'écoterritoire de la Falaise (PNEF)*, servirait de sanctuaire aux citoyens et à la faune, si la ville le complétait.

Nous voulons démontrer que les commu-

nautés environnantes et la population de Montréal souhaitent ardemment que le *PNEF* soit achevé d'ici 2027. Joignez-vous à nous pour faire voler un cerf-volant (apportez-en un si vous en avez un, sinon nous vous en fournirons un !), voir nos drapeaux de vœux, et apprendre des organisations environnementales et des activistes de Montréal !

Votre présence nous aidera à envoyer un message fort à la Ville, à savoir que nous voulons que cet espace vert soit terminé. Rassemblons-nous et montrons notre soutien pour un Montréal plus vert et plus sain.



Caring Neighbourhood Day A success

Saturday, May 25, you may have seen teams of students helping our seniors with their outdoor chores. Some were gardening and cutting the grass while others were cleaning, weeding and laying down earth. Sheds were rearranged, heavy pots were moved and decks were swept clean. That's because the *Seniors' Advisory Council (SAC)* organized a Caring Neighbourhood Day to assist our seniors who needed a helping hand with their spring cleaning. With the

Loyola students who helped this senior (third from left) on Caring Neighbourhood Day



collaboration of Loyola students eight teams of four were dispatched around Town and were able to service 16 homes. This was a pilot project and a successful one at that. One senior commented "Not only did the students help me with the physical work but they lifted my spirits."

Coming Caring Neighbourhood Day

The *SAC* plans to hold another Caring Neighbourhood Day on Saturday, November 2. Teams will be sent out to help older or disabled neighbours who need help with their outdoor fall chores, e.g., raking, bagging of leaves, etc. If you are in need of assistance or would like more information on registering, please call the Community Centre at **484-6186** or email recreation@montreal-west.ca by October 10.

We hope to have a good number of student helpers. However, we may be limited in the number of people we can assist and cannot guarantee that all requests for assistance will be met.

Seniors' Advisory Committee / MADA

La journée du bon voisinage : un grand succès

Le samedi 25 mai, vous avez peut-être vu des équipes d'élèves aider nos aînés avec leurs tâches extérieures. Certains faisaient du jardinage et tondaient la pelouse, tandis que d'autres nettoyaient, désherbaient et étalaient de la terre. Les cabanons ont été remis en ordre, les pots lourds déplacés et les terrasses balayées. C'est parce que le *Comité consultatif sur les aînés (CCA)* a organisé une Journée du bon voisinage pour aider nos aînés qui avaient besoin d'un coup de main pour leur nettoyage de printemps. Avec la collaboration des étudiants de Loyola, huit équipes de 4 élèves ont pu servir 16 foyers. C'était un projet pilote et un succès : un aîné a commenté « Non seulement les étudiants m'ont aidé avec le travail physique, mais ils m'ont remonté le moral. »

La prochaine journée du bon voisinage

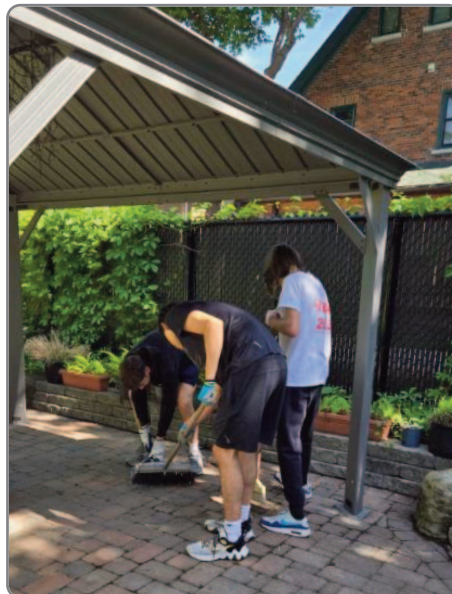
Le *CCA* prévoit organiser une autre journée du bon voisinage le samedi 2 novembre. Des équipes seront envoyées pour aider les voisins âgés ou handicapés qui ont besoin d'aide avec leurs tâches extérieures d'automne, par exemple, ratisser et ensacher les feuilles, etc. Si vous avez besoin d'assistance ou souhaitez plus d'informations sur l'inscription, veuillez appeler le Centre communautaire au **484-6186** ou envoyer un courriel à loisirs@montreal-ouest.ca avant le 10 octobre.

ouest.ca avant le 10 octobre.

Nous espérons avoir un bon nombre d'élèves bénévoles. Cependant, nous pourrions être limités dans le nombre de personnes que nous pouvons aider et ne pouvons garantir que toutes les demandes d'assistance seront satisfaites.

Comité consultatif sur les aînés / MADA

Des étudiants de Loyola aident des aînés



Kathy Machnik

continued from page 1

viros and spent some time in Luxembourg when her husband was transferred there. "There's wanderlust woven through my life," she smiled. In 1997, they moved to MoWest and found their home by placing an ad in *The Informer*. They settled here and raised their three daughters, now grown and pursuing their independent interests.

A traveller

Kathy started her working life with a short stint as an executive assistant to the president of a construction company. But, she explained, she had a desire to see more of the world and that led her to seek out a job as a flight attendant with *Wardair*, that merged with *Canadian Airlines* in 1990, and then with *Air Canada*. During both those transitions she was the local union president representing the flight attendants. It was a challenging time, she noted. "We had to fight for the working conditions and seniority of our members, among many other issues that needed to be resolved."

After retiring from *Air Canada*, a friend asked her if she was interested in filling in for her part-time as a flight attendant on a private jet based out of Ottawa. Her answer, of course, was yes. It was a job she held for seven years until the jet was sold and relocated.

At loose ends, she came across a website on travel so beautiful that she was intrigued. There was an invitation on the website that said "Tell us about your plans and dreams." She wrote back that "My dream is to work for you." And for the last six months that is what's she's done and it is obviously a job she loves. She leaned forward as she told us about the first trip she curated for *Girls' Guide to the World*, a vacation combining a stay in an exclusive London hotel with court-side tickets to Wimbledon. "I love tennis," she explained. She's been a member of the MoWest Tennis Club for many years and wanted to create a trip that combined a visit to a major city like London with her favourite sport, tennis. "These tickets are not just passes to the Wimbledon grounds. These are VIP seats near the Royal Box right there at court level in the middle of the action." The trip includes a stay at a boutique hotel, tours of Kensington Palace and Windsor and, of course, afternoon tea and West End theatre tickets as well as a deep dive into the untold lives of palace workers.

"I have landed in a sweet spot, doing exactly what I want to do and it's something I can do it at my own pace, which leaves time for other things, like tennis."

For more information see:

Girls' Guide to the World
kathy@girlsguidetotheworld.com

Blue Bonnets Race Track and the railway

A glimpse at the Montreal West that used to be

by David Watson

In the late 1800s, the original Blue Bonnets Race Track occupied the two Decarie farms, which were purchased for its construction. The Race Course ran from the old *Blue Bonnets Hotel* (situated on the present site of the Town Hall) which served as a clubhouse, north up the west side of Westminster Avenue, curving east on Parkside toward Ballantyne, up around Northview, and down Wolseley Avenue, past the grandstands and stables, back to the hotel.

The hotel was also known as Half-Way House, as it was halfway between Lachine and Montreal. This establishment was run by a **Mr. Charbonneau**, who staged boxing bouts in addition to catering to the horse race enthusiasts. The Half-Way House had

a liquor permit and gained quite a bad reputation. The children going to school, then held in the Anglican Church at Easton and Ainslie Avenues, passed the “Den of Iniquity” and became well aware of the goings-on within. Mr. Charbonneau once confided to a resident of the Town that without the Sunday sale of liquor he could not meet his expenses.

In 1886 the *CPR* put a rail line through to Toronto which cut the race track in half. This was known as the Blue Bonnets cutting, and thereafter the race course ran from Milner Avenue to Northview. The last race was held in 1892 after which the track moved to its present location.

Meanwhile the hotel continued to thrive until 1897 when the Town was incorporated. One of the first bylaws passed pro-

hibited the sale of liquor. The Hotel’s licence was cancelled and one night some years later, the hotel mysteriously burned to the ground, much to the satisfaction of the Town folk.

With the Blue Bonnets cutting of 1886, the Leach Farm was cut in three pieces. To accommodate them the *CPR* built two bridges over the railway tracks. One from Fenwick to Bedbrook, and the second was a double bridge from the top of Bedbrook Avenue, where the Municipal Yard is today. Both bridges were constructed of wood and remained until about 1918 when they were pulled down.

The Grand Trunk Railway (now *CNR*) preceded the *CPR* in track laying in 1846 with a rail line and station at the foot of Brock Avenue south, then Scotia Avenue.

The Grand Trunk Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway tracks met just within the limits of the Town, so the name was adopted as Montreal Junction. It was later changed in 1897 to Montreal West.

Congratulations to the Swim team!

Even with no home pool, the Montreal West swim team finished the summer with an undefeated record and won the Section C Finals, guaranteeing us a place in section B next year.

With the new pool under construction, the swim team and diving team were to train out of the Côte Saint-Luc indoor and outdoor pools.

Without our home pool, we appeared to have the odds stacked against us in what was bound to be an unconventional summer, to say the least.

But MWAC has something that the other teams in Section C did not and that is our unwavering team spirit.

Through hard work and sheer willpower, the MoWest swim team managed to not only win our first competition, but every single one after that.

Finishing with a magnificent record of 6 wins and 0 losses, a true testament to the determination of the swimmers and coaches to not let something as trivial as not having a home pool stop us.

Diving team

The diving team on the other hand were saddled with a completely different obstacle, a rigid one-foot diving board. Now I would love to claim that regardless of this we were full of confidence, but the situation did look somewhat dire....

Come our first competition, the divers were incredible. They adjusted to the height of the foreign one-meter diving board in no time at all and never looked back. Consistently outperforming all expectations and hugely impressing the ALPS coordinators and opposing coaches

whenever we competed, not to mention leaving **Corie** and me (**Benji**) in awe of their skill. Most of our divers have qualified for diving finals this coming Sunday; wish us luck!

This season would not have been possible without the generosity of Côte Saint-Luc in lending us pool space, the exceptional dedication of our esteemed parent volunteers, and the unrelenting team spirit and drive of our ALPS representative **Annie Brown**.

Until next summer,

from Benji



Local hockey player Jason Faith drafted to QMJHL's Baie-Comeau Drakkar



We are thrilled to announce that our very own **Jason Faith** has been drafted into the QMJHL by the esteemed Baie-Comeau Drakkar. The Drakkar, currently the Eastern Conference champions and ranked #1 for the 2023-2024 season, are gaining a phenomenal talent from our MWH hockey community.

Jason's journey through the ranks of hockey has been nothing short of impressive:

- MWH Single Letter Hockey: Jason began his career playing single letter hockey with MWH Knights Novice A and B.
- Atom BB and AA: As he progressed, his skills continued to shine at the double letter level with the Westluc Kings at Atom BB and AA.
- Pee wee AAA: He decided to try his hand at AAA with the LSL Lions and played Pee wee AAA where his dedication and talent saw him excel further.

- Loyola D1: Unfortunately, the pandemic put a pause in his hockey journey, but once he was back on the ice, he joined Loyolas Bantam D1 team enjoying continued success and making new friends.
- Lac St. Louis Lions Bantam AAA: His commitment to the sport was strong and he decided to return to AAA and played for the Lac St. Louis Lions, showcasing his abilities in Bantam AAA elite.
- In the 2023-2024 season, Jason made a significant leap by making the Lac St. Louis Lions M18AAA as a 15-year-old, a testament to his exceptional skill and hard work. He had a tough year, breaking his arm halfway through the season, but he still managed to be named as one of the top forwards in Quebec and was invited to the Q cup held in Blainville-Boisbriand. In May 2024, Jason was named as a top 100 draft pick for the pending QMJHL 2024 draft.

Balancing academics and athletics

Jason currently attends Loyola High School heading into Secondary 5, where he manages to balance his academic responsibilities with his demanding hockey schedule.

Preparing for the next step

This fall, Jason will be attending the Baie-Comeau Drakkar's training camp, ready to take on new challenges and continue his development as a hockey player. We are confident that he will bring the same

level of commitment and excellence that has characterized his journey so far.

Community pride

Jason's achievements are a source of immense pride for our MWH hockey community. His hard work, talent, and perseverance serve as an inspiration to young athletes aspiring to reach their dreams. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jason Faith and wish him the very best this upcoming season

Congratulations, Jason! Your community is behind you all the way.

Warm regards,

The MWH Hockey Association

Rocco Afonso drafted in the 2024 QMJHA draft

We are thrilled to announce that another MoWest resident **Rocco Afonso** was drafted in the 2024 QMJHA draft.

Rocco moved into Montreal West a few years ago and was already playing high level hockey with the Montreal Elites, when he made the jump to AAA joining the Lac St Louis Lions Pee wee AAA team. Rocco was one of 17 players that the Remparts drafted this past June.

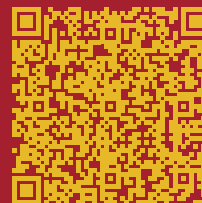
Rocco has had an impressive journey, playing with the Montreal Elites at double letters, College Saint-Anne D1 hockey, and the Lac St. Louis Lions Pee wee AAA. He is currently playing with Bishop Kearney in the US, the #1 ranked team in the country for the 2022-2023 season.

Congratulations to Rocco on this incredible achievement!



Loyola

THE JESUIT SCHOOL OF MONTREAL



loyola.ca

Register Now to attend our

**SEPTEMBER 14
OPEN HOUSE**

Loyola High School is an English-language high school for grades 7-11, leading to the MEQ's Secondary-School Diploma. English-language eligibility certificate is required.

LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL | 7272 SHERBROOKE ST. W. MONTREAL QC, H4B 1R2 | loyola.ca

ARC / CRA

Welcome back to fall programming!

As the summer days start to wane and the anticipation of cooler weather grows, it's time to gear up for another exciting season of fall sports programming. We are thrilled to welcome back all families to a new year of athletic adventures and community spirit!

Our fall sports programs are designed to provide a nurturing and engaging environment where participants can develop new skills, make friends and enjoy the benefits of physical activity. Whether your child is a budding athlete or looking to try something new, we have something for everyone.

This season, we are offering a range of

activities that cater to all ages and interests.

- **Gymnastics:** Ages 3½ to 12. Intro to gymnastics flexibility, strength, and coordination in a fun and dynamic environment.
- **Indoor Soccer:** Ages 5-adult. Develop soccer skills, teamwork and strategy
- **Hockey:** ages 4+. Join our exciting hockey program, suitable for all skill levels.
- **Learn to Skate:** Ages 5+. Perfect for beginners looking to gain confidence on the ice.
- **Preschool Skate:** Ages 3 and 4. A gentle introduction to skating for our youngest participants.
- **Figure Skating:** Ages 5+. An introduction to the sport of figure skating from basic to more advanced moves.

- **Judo:** Ages 8-12. Learn discipline, respect and self-defence through this martial art.
- **Basketball:** Ages 7-18+. Improve shooting, dribbling and game-play skills in our basketball program.

Registration information

Mark your calendars for our registration dates: Residents: opens September 1. Non-Residents: opens September 9.

To secure your spot and find more information about each program, visit our website at mwcrasports.ca.



MWH Hockey registration opened August 1

One of the highlights of our fall sports calendar is the much-anticipated hockey season. We are delighted to announce that registration for MWH Hockey will be open from August 1-31. This year, we invite all residents of Montreal West and Hampstead to join us in what promises to be a fantastic season on the ice.

Whether your child is lacing up their skates for the first time this year or is a seasoned player looking to sharpen their skills, MWH Hockey offers a welcoming and supportive environment for all. Our program is designed to cater to a wide range of skill levels, ensuring that every participant has the opportunity to grow, learn, and most importantly, have fun. This season during the construction of our new recreation facilities, we will be playing out of LCC, CSL and *Hockey Etcetera*.

Mark your calendars! Tryouts for the coming hockey season will commence at the beginning of September. This is a great opportunity for players to showcase their talents and be placed in groups that best suit their skill levels and development needs. Please remember, you must be registered to attend tryouts.

For the latest updates on the complete schedule and group assignments, please visit our website at (mwhhockey.ca). We will be posting all relevant information there, ensuring that you have all the details you need to prepare for the season ahead.

As we gear up for another exciting season, we look forward to seeing returning faces and welcoming new ones. Together, let's make this fall sports season the best one yet!

from the MWH Hockey Team



The Mudhens team with the four coaches: Matt Dinsmore, Chris Smith, Matt Schnarch, Jonathan Cha. Players (top row): Logan Dinsmore, Tobin Coughlin, Elodie Wojtecki, Logan Beecher-Schnarch, Rory Smith, Rory Coughlin, Eila Cha (bottom row): Ciaran Donlan, Chris Hurst, Tristan Lavoie, Lucas Jones. Missing from photo: Benjamin Hopf.

Let's play ball! The Mudhens are back!

As the warmer weather drew near, along came another much anticipated baseball season. And what a beautiful season it turned out to be! In just six short weeks, the Mudhens U11 team has proven that the love of the game is not defined by wins. It is defined by many other factors: by how much fun you have, by how many times you connect the ball and the bat and by how many friends you make along the way. The sense of community amongst these kiddos is the reason that we sign our children up for sports.

This year, Mudhens U11 player, **Rory Smith**, put his entrepreneurial skills to good use by setting up a lemonade stand in Davies Park on June 1. With the help of his

brother, **Hunter Smith**, and close friend, **Conor Gillespie**, the boys raised just about enough money needed for their goal: to buy new bases and a new home plate for Percival Park. After the team heard of Rory's stand, the rest of the Mudhens contributed to the cause and they met their goal, together, as a team!

A big thank you to Coach **Matt Schnarch** for teaching the team new lessons and for encouraging their personal victories. A shoutout as well to all the dads who stepped up as unofficial coaches and the mums for always making sure there were post-game treats. We cannot wait to do it all over again next spring!

from Sarah Carey

— What are you reading now? —

In this special edition of “What Are You Reading Now,” we are diving into one of Alice Munro’s remarkable short story collections. With her recent passing and the troubling revelations about her daughter, this review confronts the unease, disdain and sorrow that arise when a beloved artist’s failings come to light.

Dear Life

Alice Munro Uncovered

from Patricia Hewat

Quick question. Who is the only Canadian author to win a Nobel prize? The answer of course is Alice Munro. She died last May at 92 having received numerous awards for her body of work, including three Governor General’s Awards for fiction, a Giller and a Man Booker as well as numerous others. In 2023 she won the Nobel Prize in Literature for *Dear Life*, a collection of short stories. One publisher was quoted as saying “I’ll publish a book of short stories for a writer once but then they better have a novel in them if they want to get published again.”

Well, Alice Munro changed that narrative. She helped turn short story writing into a well-respected genre that stands on its own and, in the process, helped revolutionize its architecture. Her stories, set in western Ontario from where she hails, are all of small-town life. She has been compared to Chekov where the plot is secondary and it is the human experience, that inner struggle, that takes precedence.

Her stories are masterfully constructed yet there is an underlying tone in them that is disquieting. An undercurrent of dysfunction permeates her tales, of wounds not healed yet covered over, a sense of people living on the edge of mainstream life, of secrets concealed behind the pretty lace curtained windows.

In one story a married woman fighting to make time for writing amidst her duties as a young mother is invited to a literary party. There she meets a man and although she’s only seen him that one time he continuously haunts her thoughts. She travels half way across the country by train in hopes of reconnecting with him. On the way she meets a younger man with whom she has an affair in his compartment, while her young daughter searches the train for her. In another story a rootless man finds a home as a handyman with a lonely woman having difficulty coping. Both have inner demons they struggle with. His, it turns out, are because of abuse intuited as sexual in nature he experienced as a young child at the hands of his stepmother.

Which brings us to recent revelations about Alice Munro herself, the accusation by her youngest daughter that Munro ignored the allegations of childhood sexual abuse perpetrated on her by her stepfather. These occurred on visits to see her mother

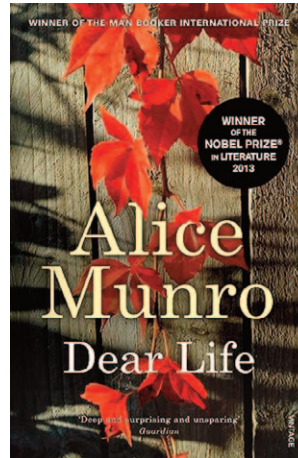
when she was a child of nine continuing until she hit puberty, when his interest waned. It was only in her twenties that her daughter managed to tell Munro what she had gone through. But instead of support for her daughter, Munro stuck with the abuser, putting her own needs above those of her daughter’s.

Reading Munro’s stories, I always felt there was something I was missing. So when the abuse and Munro’s reaction to it were revealed I felt that at last I had that piece of the puzzle, the key as it were, to understanding the themes and disturbing nature of many her stories.

There can never be any excuse for her callousness toward her daughter and the effect of this, on top of the abuse itself, deeply impacted her daughter’s life. Needless to say mother and daughter never reconciled. Was Munro herself a victim of abuse? We will

likely never know. After all she lived in an era where things like sexual abuse were kept as dark secrets.

But none of this detracts from her skill as a writer. The New York Times recently released a list of the top 100 books of the 21st century and two of Munro’s books made that list. In *Dear Life* she gives a masterclass in the art of short story writing. It is in her deft drawing of characters and the subtle twists in her plots that her genius lies. Her characters are sparsely drawn and it is often what she leaves unsaid that reveals what lies deep within.



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Montreal West Public Library



Montreal Rug Makers

Rug Makers of Montreal West

We are pleased to announce that Tapissiers de Montreal/Montreal Rug Makers (formerly Tapissiers de Saint Henri Rug Hookers) is moving to Montreal West. We are a small traditional rug hooking group that will be meeting one Saturday.

This guild has met at the CRSC St Zotique in St. Henri for over 25 years; however, recently our numbers have dwindled considerably. We needed to find a new home.

Serendipity brought us to meet **Deborah Marcogliese** and **Ann Smith** at the Montreal West Public Library, and a new endeavor was launched.

All are welcome to explore the ancient craft of rug making. Everyone is welcome

to join, especially those new to the craft! We have all the equipment needed (frames, hooks, cutters) and bilingual, experienced guild members to introduce you to this creative and very forgiving craft. We are hoping to attract new members to enhance our group.

Our first meeting will be September 14 at noon.

Calendar of meetings:
September 14, October 19,
November 16, December 14,
January 18, February 15,
March 15, April 12 and our last meeting of the year is May 10.

We also host weekly Sunday morning Zoom hook-ins as we meet in person only once a month.

*from Christina Delaney,
Treasurer of the Guild*



Tea and Books

At our September meeting (2 pm) of Tea and Books, **Kathleen (Kay) Dunn** will be reading and discussing her poetry from her book *Second Chances*. Her work explores the experiences of a thoughtfully lived life. Her community-based, intuitive process is both fascinating and inspiring. Please join us and sign up at the library or by emailing

info@mwpl.ca. *Second Chances* is available for members at the library.

Viva Vittoria

The library will be holding knitting sessions specifically for this project where we will knit or crochet 50 cm by 50 cm squares. These squares will be incorporated into blankets, be displayed and then sold. All proceeds will go to women's shelters across Montreal (*Chez Doris, Auberge Shalom, Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, Le Chaïnon*). More information is available at the library.

Book sale

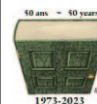
And finally, please don't forget our annual book sale starting September 14 where we have all sorts of novels including best-sellers, mysteries, science fiction to memoirs available for low prices.

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Friends and supporters of Piano Conbrio

Piano Conbrio, founded by professional pianists **Mengjie Xiong** and **Chen Li-Benard** and sculptor **Jacques Benard** in 2023, aims to hold annual concerts to raise funds for children's hospitals. Our mission is to help improve the health of sick children through the power of music.

Our concert on April 6 (see April issue of *The Informer*) was a resounding success, exceeding all expectations. The auditorium was filled to capacity, with many enthusiastic audience members even sitting in the aisles. Our musicians performed with incredible passion and dedication, creating a mem-

orable and moving experience for all.

We are immensely grateful to **Mengjie's parents** for providing all the necessary conditions and opportunities for the success of our concert. Special thanks to Ms. **Fancy Liu** for her warm and generous contributions, and to the Chinese media outlet *Seven Days* for their outstanding support and coverage.

On June 26, we proudly donated \$10,000 to Ste-Justine

Hospital, a testament to the hard work and collective effort of everyone involved. This achievement inspires us to work even harder in preparation for next year's concert, striving to make a positive impact on the future health and well-being of children. Thank you once again for being a part of our journey. Together, we are making a difference.

Warm regards,

The Piano Conbrio Team

St. Pierre River will not be classified

Readers of *The Informer* have been following the story of the St. Pierre River, the 200-metre creek that used to run through the Meadowbrook golf course, the only remaining section of the historic St. Pierre River.

In 2023, even though it had been canalized the year before,

this last remnant of what once was a mighty river flowing a distance of 43 km from Mount Royal to the St. Lawrence River, showed it still had life left in it and overflowed its banks. This prompted *Les Amis du parc Meadowbrook* to ask the *Ministère de la Culture et des Communications* to consider

classifying it as a heritage site. *Les Amis* wanted to protect the river bed – now prone to erosion and filling in with the absence of water – should the river ever be daylighted. In their request, *Les Amis* documented the historical, emblematic, environmental and landscape values of the site.

Sadly, we have learned recently that the river will not be classified. Following court-ordered work to decontaminate its

banks and its bottom, the City of Montreal widened and deepened the stream earlier this year and covered its banks with geotextile to prevent further erosion, thereby seriously affecting its original appearance.

Let's just hope our little stream is the last to suffer such hardship in Montreal.

*from Deanne Delaney
Les amis du parc Meadowbrook*

Edinburgh Elementary



Edinburgh Spring Fair

Q & A with Edinburgh Home and School Co-President **Tammy Dagenais**

How did you get involved with Home and School?

My son started kindergarten during the pandemic, so I began attending H&S meetings to learn more about the school. It was so eye-opening! This group of parents were determined to continue the fun, community-building activities that the students were used to, all within the limitations in place due to the health situation! I was invited to join the H&S executive the following year and was hesitant at first. I kept thinking, do I have time? Do I have the mental capacity? And what do I really bring to the table? This was my first time getting involved in volunteering, and I had no idea what to expect! I decided to join and became responsible for the communications sent out to the school community. I then was elected as Co-Vice-president, then Co-President and haven't looked back since!

What have you gained from being involved with Home and School?

In the beginning, H&S provided a way to connect to my son's school, since I could not be involved in person. As I became more involved, I realised how important it was to the student journey to have parents contribute to fostering their school spirit through activities, events and fundraising. It has given me a purpose outside of my full-time job and a better connection to my son. Also, I have met some truly wonderful, inspiring, hardworking and fun parents, many of whom have become friends – and it can be so hard to find good friends as a grown up!

What motivates you as a member of the executive team of Home and School?

Honestly, I don't want to let those kids down! It has been so rewarding to plan and execute an event, and the students are excited, and end up having so much fun! Last

school year, we hosted a movie night for the first time in many years, and a pasta night for the first time ever, and they were huge successes, and it was so fun to see families enjoying themselves!

And fundraising is so important to the school. With the funds we raise we can supplement or pay for educational activities and school equipment, like a climbing wall, Chromebooks and science equipment. We are very lucky that the Edinburgh community is so generous!

What are you most proud of that Home and School has helped to facilitate or enable at Edinburgh?

I am so proud that we get to continue to foster and grow the Edinburgh community through special events like the New Parent Breakfast and Welcome Back BBQ at the beginning of the school year. We also show staff and teachers our support by hosting a Holiday Luncheon and lots of activities during Teacher Appreciation Week.

I am very proud that whenever the school comes to us with a need, we can usually find a way to fulfil it! Whether it is enrichment activities for Black History month, a treat during Winter Carnival or some extra hands for the Terry Fox Run, the Edinburgh parent volunteers pull together to make it happen!

What is the most pressing need in terms of parent volunteers for the year to come?

We are looking for volunteers to lead and plan events and are always in need of committed volunteers during our events. For example, the Spring Fair needs over 30 volunteers to run smoothly! We also need help with daytime activities, like special lunches, which require some pre-planning that can be done off-site and on-site.

Some of our executive members will be moving on, and we will need to fill their positions as well, including communications. Executive members attend H&S meetings and usually commit to leading or co-leading one event a year.

We want to continue to find fun and innovative ways to support and grow the Edinburgh community – and we need parent volunteers to participate in sharing new ideas and in developing them. It is so hard to make yet another commitment, to take on even more – but believe me, every single little bit helps.

I very much so unexpectedly fell into this and I get to hang out with a great group of people, share ideas and have a lot of fun. It can be challenging, but it's also super rewarding. There's nothing like overhearing a parent or kiddo rave about a movie night, the joy of pizza day or the buzz of excitement for the Spring Fair.

To learn more visit edinburghhomeandschool.com.

from Kate Shindler





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Children's library

Summer activities

This summer, the library organised – as usual – a summer reading program with the aim to maintain the acquired language skills and provide entertaining activities all through the summer. We welcome the young patrons in their endeavour to complete reading challenges and other amusing tasks as part of this cherished event at the library. We will provide an extensive report on the program once it is over – we are still in the middle of it.

You may wish to mark your calendars for the program's closing party, which will take place Friday, August 30, starting at 4:30 pm. The children who have participated in the summer program will be awarded for accomplishing the weekly challenges, and the readers with the highest number of books read will receive prizes and be recognised for their achievement.

Bill Foster Writing Contest - Results

A look back at the results of the annual *Bill Foster Writing Contest*. The awards ceremony took place at the end of May. This event was attended by children who had submitted stories and their parents. **Joan Foster** was a special guest; she addressed the children and handed out certificates of participation – as has been the tradition for the past few years. A representative of the jury – author **Dara Murphy** – made an overview of this year's submissions on the theme of "Imagination" and congratulated the young writers for their creative ideas.

The winners in the category 6-8 years old are first place, **Geneviève Marchand-Kielman** for *The Sickness of Magic*; second place, **Evelyn Lloyd** for *The Fruit Bowl*; third place, **Oscar Petersen-Kramer** for *Joel and the Bat*. The winners in the 9-12 years old category are first place, **Henry Lobach** for *The Crow Lord*; second place, **Ronan Hunt-Douglas** for *Diary of a Villain*; third place, **Madeleine Paterson** for *My Tooth Fairy*.

New this year will be the possibility for every one to read the submitted texts, since they are compiled in a book available at the library – just ask us for the volume.

Programs and events in the fall

We are excited to invite you to the inauguration of the new *StoryWalk*®. Saturday, September 7, 11 am, the author of the picture book *NaMOOste*, **Marlee Kostiner**, will read the story, and after that will lead a yoga session – addressed to children – in Strathearn Park.

Our fall season of programs will start with Mother Goose, September 19, and will



Geneviève Marchand-Kielman – winner of first prize in the category 6-8 years old



Joan Foster awarding Madeleine Paterson

run on Thursdays, 10:30-11 am. The weekly Scratch coding, board games, Ozobot coding, LEGO will start the week of September 30. On a monthly basis, on the weekends, children will be able to play board games, screen different movies as part of the family movies events. Details can be found on our website.

The reading enthusiasts are welcome to join the Parent-Child Book Club. We meet once a month to discuss two titles – one for the younger readers, and a second one written for more advanced readers. Children aged 6 and up and their parents/caregiver can register for the club.

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Our garden club's 2023/24 season got off to a successful start as our first post COVID season. There were talks from experts on putting the garden to bed, welded yard ornaments, how to attract birds and how to grow clematis and roses. Members and friends got together over coffee and cake to catch up on life and landscaping. This season, 2024/25, looks to be shaping up similarly.

This fall, learn about the community garden on the large property adjacent to St. Philip's Church. There is an interesting raised spiral herb garden formed with discarded bricks and stones, several raised beds of vegetables, fruit trees and bushes, and they have managed to channel rainwater runoff from their roof to a holding area to negate the need for supplemental watering. All this is done by enthusiastic volunteers. They have not forgotten about flowers either. It is a beautiful and interesting place to visit.

Fall meetings are Mondays, September 16 and October 21. The Christmas meeting will be held December 2 and will feature holiday arrangement demonstrations and wine with the coffee and cake!

The meetings take place at the Town Hall at 7:30 pm the third Monday of the month. Anybody can attend. \$5 is asked for at the door from anyone who has not joined.



IODE



Closing Tea, June 11 (Missing: Heather Ferguson)

Happy fall, everyone!

We hope that you enjoyed the time off and were able to restore, renew and refresh for the new fall season.

We are briefly pausing our program highlights which will resume in October, to share news about our *IODE* HMS Victory Chapter.

Like with most things, there is good news and some sad news.

Let's start with the good news.

We announced our involvement in the MoWest Garage Sale in June and are thrilled to report that it was VERY successful. We were supporting two causes:

- The Nurses Bursary Fund Spa Day Draw allows a deserving nurse working at the Montreal General to participate in an appropriate educational conference to help advance her professional development. The funds will be added to the National *IODE* Fund which administers this program.
- *IODE* HMS Victory Chapter fundraising for use in our ongoing program.

It is our pleasure to report that both areas were financially successful. We thank everyone who contacted, worked on, visited and purchased items. Without them, it would not have been possible! We had a fantastic team working with us that day. You are all treasures!

We wrapped up the year with a lovely tea June 11 and were privileged to welcome several guests. We were thrilled to meet many new colleagues, and based on the feedback received, we all enjoyed the afternoon. This is an annual event to close the year.

We took the opportunity to draw the winners for the Spa Day Fund Raiser (Nurses Bursary Fund).

Our profound thanks to our generous sponsors and congratulations to:

FIRST PRIZE

Ayurveda Facial: \$100. *Spa Holistique Ayurveda*, 96 Westminister Ave. N.

- **Charlotte D'Souza**

SECOND PRIZE

Hair Blow Dry: \$60. *Coiffure Louis Robert*, 122 Westminister N.

- **Merle McPhail**

THIRD PRIZE

Pedicure: \$50. *Esthetique Ellequence*, 122A Westminister N.

- **Maria Di Santis**

FOURTH PRIZE

Spa Basket: \$45. *Hudson Apothecary Wellness Centre*, 422 Rue Main Suite 201, Hudson

- **Moira Bettinville**

On a heavier note, it is with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to our dear **Janet King** who passed away on June 22. She left peacefully, surrounded by her loved ones.

from Diane Ellison



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Rabbits! Rabbits! Rabbits!

So many more in our town than ever before (then again, who knows, maybe back in the 1930s they were so plentiful that residents couldn't walk down Westminster). There are definitely more than I have ever seen in my 20-odd years living here. This is good news for me and all other rabbit lovers.

I was curious to find out more about them, so I tried to find an expert to interview for *The Informer*. It was more difficult than I expected. Apparently, rabbits are more controversial than Bill 96. I asked the public works department if they could contribute to this article and they said no. Then I asked an expert in veterinary science who refused because it is a "touchy subject." Finally, the SPCA agreed to answer my questions, but only through a public relations firm. Here are their answers to my bunny questions.

In Montreal West, residents have noticed a dramatic increase in rabbit sightings over the last year. Have you heard of similar increases in other parts of the Island? **No.**

Based on the attached photos, do you think our rabbit population is native to the area or is it the result of "escaped" pet rabbits? Those are wild rabbits so they are born outside.

Is it safe to pet the rabbits (provided you can catch one)? No, because those are wild animals. You should not touch any of them as they can carry diseases that are transmissible to humans AND they don't want to be touched.

What about feeding them? Same as above. They are wild animals that can and should fend for themselves.

Apart from carrots, what do they eat? They don't eat carrots unless it's given by humans which we shouldn't. They eat clovers, grass and other greens found in nature.

Are they bunny rabbits or another variety of rabbit? They are wild rabbits.

Is there a chance that they could become too plentiful? No, because the life expectancy of wild animals is very short.

Do you agree with me that they make much better neighbors than squirrels or raccoons or skunks? I think we should learn to cohabitate with all our neighbors (human or otherwise).

I guess that the answer to the final question makes sense, but I still like rabbits much more than the other trouble makers (not my neighbors who are all nice).

from Daniel Boulerice

Des lapins ! Des lapins ! Des lapins !

Il n'y en a jamais eu autant dans notre ville (mais qui sait, peut-être que dans les années 1930, ils étaient si nombreux que les habitants ne pouvaient pas descendre Westminster à pied?). Il y en a certainement plus que je n'en ai jamais vus depuis les vingt ans que je vis ici. C'est une bonne nouvelle pour moi et pour tous les autres amoureux de lapins. Curieux d'en savoir plus sur les lapins, j'ai essayé de trouver un expert à interviewer pour *l'Informer*. Ce fut plus difficile que prévu. Apparemment, les lapins sont plus controversés que la loi 96. J'ai demandé au service des travaux publics s'il pouvait contribuer à cet article, mais on a refusé. J'ai ensuite parlé à un expert en sciences vétérinaires qui ne voulait pas se prononcer parce que le sujet était « délicat ». Finalement, la SPCA a accepté de répondre à mes questions, mais seulement par l'intermédiaire d'une société de relations publiques. Voici leurs réponses à mes questions sur les lapins.

À Montréal-Ouest, les résidents ont remarqué une augmentation spectaculaire des

observations de lapins au cours de la dernière année. Avez-vous entendu parler d'augmentations similaires dans d'autres parties de l'île ? **Non.**

D'après les photos ci-jointes, pensez-vous que notre population de lapins est indigène à la région ou qu'elle est le résultat de lapins de compagnie qui se sont échappés ? Il s'agit de lapins sauvages qui sont nés à l'extérieur.

Peut-on caresser les lapins en toute sécurité (à condition de pouvoir en attraper un) ? Non, car il s'agit d'animaux sauvages. Il ne faut pas les toucher car ils peuvent être porteurs de maladies transmissibles à l'homme et ils ne veulent pas être touchés.

Et pour les nourrir ? Même chose que précédemment. Ce sont des animaux sauvages qui peuvent et doivent se débrouiller seuls.

A part les carottes, que mangent-ils ? Ils ne mangent pas de carottes, sauf si elles sont données par les humains, ce que nous ne devrions pas faire. Ils mangent du trèfle, de l'herbe et d'autres plantes vertes que l'on trouve dans la nature.

S'agit-il d'un lapin de garenne ou d'une autre variété de lapin ? Ce sont des lapins sauvages.

Y a-t-il un risque qu'ils deviennent trop nombreux ? Non, car l'espérance de vie des animaux sauvages est très courte.

Êtes-vous d'accord avec moi pour dire qu'ils sont de bien meilleurs voisins que les écureuils, les rats laveurs ou les mouffettes ? Je pense que nous devrions apprendre à cohabiter avec tous nos voisins (humains ou autres).

Je suppose que la réponse à la dernière question est logique, mais j'aime quand même beaucoup plus les lapins que les autres causeurs de troubles (pas mes voisins qui sont tous gentils).

de Daniel Boulerice

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Cubs

Our Cub Pack has been very busy this spring and Summer.

They attended the Stoney Point/Dorval Camp at the end of May. There were 110 participants. The theme was Minecraft. The competition for the badge showcased some great talent. There were eight different Cub Packs participating so it was a real Cuboree.

The planning committee did a great job of coming up with fun activities, integrating the theme and scouting skills like orienteering, hiking, watercrafts, treasure hunt, etc. There was even Enderman who kept appearing and was finally caught much to the delight of the Cubs and White Tail Beavers.

The Howlers spent a day being initiated into Scout section activities where they are moving up to in September. They went off in canoes, cooked their lunch and began learning Scouting skills such as how to use a knife safely.

Lots of awards were given out to the tidiest cabin, the tug o' war winners and the artist who designed the camp badge.

from Mang (Virginia Elliott)

The last week of July, they attended a weeklong camp at Lake Lovering near Magog with another group of Cub Packs.

This was a group of 104 Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Scouters. The weather was very hot and humid so thankfully most of the activities centred around the waterfront – swimming, kayaking, canoeing, fishing and water gun fights. Other activities included tie-dyeing their camp shirts, gimp bracelets, archery, fire building, making

Cubs canoeing: Lee-Anne and Olgdia



bannock to cook over their fires, tug o' war, hiking, pioneer craft building and everyone got to make their own dumplings for our Chinese food night. The older youth went on an overnight canoe trip where they needed to be very self-sufficient.

On the last night there was a huge bonfire for cooking S'mores, singing songs, listening to stories and watching skits.

from Darzee (Lee Ann Simpson)

Cubs archery: Owen



Scouts

During the long May weekend, the Montreal West Scout Group participated in the annual Bear Claw Challenge which has run for more than 35 years.

Almost 200 participants attended Camp 45 Degrés Nord in Sainte-Calixte, with groups coming from all over Quebec. Three days worth of activities included making wooden swords and leather woggles, a flour war, to name just a few.

All the groups were judged and scored on their activities based on their punctuality, teamwork, energy, organization, campsite safety, creativity and correct answers.

The theme for the weekend was *The Lord of the Rings* and our campsite was decorated with lights. Our group was all dressed as wizards, wearing fun fur beards we had made at an earlier meeting, and everyone added to their own costumes with items from home including wizard hats recycled from Halloween costumes or made especially for the weekend.

In addition to the excellent weather, Saturday night's dinner was a pork and lamb



Scouts battling with swords they made

mechoui with rigodon québécois musicians for entertainment. Some lucky kids even got to play the spoons with the musicians.

Sunday night, the entire group attended the final secret Bear Claw ceremony for first year attendees which had an indigenous theme and sensibility. They each earned a bronze bear claw necklace.

Monday morning's closing was a time for reflection with Scouts' Own and the awarding of the pennant to the winners of the challenge.

Three teams of five were from Montreal West and once all the points for each activity were tallied, one of our three groups tied with another area for first place! It was noted that this was probably only the second time in Bear Claw history that a first-time team came in first.

Great job guys!

from Scouter Lesley Coles

Venturers

Calling all 15- to 17-year-olds with an interest in Scouting, camping and adventure! The MWSG Venturer group is back! Venturer-led, this group will be guided by a group of past Scouts and Rovers to run camps, go on hikes and partake in other adventures around Montreal. The Rovers look forward to convincing the Venturers to revisit the PEI bike trip – a famed trip – in collaboration with the Moncton Scout Group at the end of June 2025.

For more information, email **Jonathan Halliday** at jonathan@iamhalliday.com.

Registration

Our programs will resume in September. For information, email **Karen Johnstone** at karenmansfieldjohnstone@mail.com.

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Montreal West Canada Day parade 2024. Photos ©Robert Ganz, collage by Julia Ross



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Environmental Action Committee

Inch by Inch, Yard by Yard campaign entry reminder!

As summer draws to a close, the *Environmental Action Committee* reminds you that the deadline to submit your pictures and application for the Inch by Inch, Yard by Yard campaign is fast approaching! Don't miss your chance to showcase your rewilded yard and win fantastic prizes.

Our campaign encourages residents to replace portions of their traditional grassy lawns with native and pollinator-friendly plants. This initiative supports local wildlife, conserves water, reduces maintenance, and prevents soil erosion.

To participate, replace parts of your lawn with native and pollinator-friendly plants.

Next, share your garden pictures with us through our participation form found at the Yard by Yard campaign Webpage: montreal-west.ca/en/inch-by-inch-yard-by-yard/. By submitting your pictures, you'll be entered into a draw for amazing prizes such as two \$50 gift certificates from Lufa Farms, abundant native plants and a hammock from Tree Hug Club.

The submission deadline is September 15, and the prize draw will take place the week of September 28. Both ground gardens and container gardens are accepted.

Remember, it's never too late to plant! Whether you're just getting started or con-

tinuing your rewilding journey, even late-season planting can contribute to a vibrant and biodiverse garden. If you need help getting started, or for any more information, visit our campaign webpage for a list of native plants, pollinator garden tips and more useful links.

Together, we can create greener, healthier communities, one yard at a time. Don't miss this opportunity to make a difference in your own backyard!

from *Tagrid Akl*
Environmental Action Committee



Comité d'action environnementale

Ne ratez pas votre chance! Participez à la campagne « Remettre un mètre » et gagnez des prix incroyables!

Alors que l'été tire à sa fin, le *Comité d'action environnementale* vous rappelle que la date limite pour soumettre votre candidature et vos photos à la campagne « Remettre un mètre » approche à grands pas! Ne manquez pas l'occasion de révéler la beauté de votre jardin et de gagner des prix fantastiques.

Notre campagne invite les résidents à remplacer une partie de leur pelouse traditionnelle par des plantes indigènes et favorables aux pollinisateurs. Cette initiative soutient la faune locale, conserve l'eau, réduit l'entretien et prévient l'érosion des sols.

Pour participer, il vous suffit de remplacer une partie de votre pelouse par des plantes indigènes et favorables aux

pollinisateurs. Ensuite, envoyez-nous les photos de votre nouveau jardin via notre formulaire de participation qui se trouve sur la page Web de la campagne « Remettre un mètre »: montreal-west.ca/fr/remettre-un-metre/. En soumettant vos photos, vous serez automatiquement inscrit au tirage au sort pour remporter des prix incroyables tels que des cartes-cadeaux de 50 \$ des *Fermes Lufa*, des plantes indigènes en abondance, et un hamac du *Tree Hug Club*.

La date limite pour soumettre vos photos est le 15 septembre, et le tirage au sort aura lieu la semaine du 28 septembre. Le concours accepte autant les jardins en pleine terre que les jardins en contenants, y compris ceux sur les balcons ou dans des jardinières.

N'oubliez pas, il n'est jamais trop tard pour planter! Même les plantations en fin de saison peuvent transformer votre jardin en un espace vibrant et riche en biodiversité. Pour des conseils pratiques, une liste de plantes indigènes, ou toute autre information, consultez notre page Web dédiée à cette campagne, où vous trouverez des ressources précieuses pour créer un jardin favorable aux pollinisateurs.

Ne manquez pas cette opportunité incroyable de faire une différence dans votre propre jardin et au-delà. Travaillons ensemble pour créer des communautés plus vertes et plus saines, un jardin à la fois!

from *Tagrid Akl*,
Comité d'action environnementale (EAC)



West End Quilters



"Hot Dog" pillowcase

A new quilting season is almost upon us. We will be back meeting in mid-September.

Last year we donated 17 quilts, 6 knitted blankets and over 30 Luv Bug pillows to hospitals and residences. Over the summer, members have been hard at work sewing many colourful pillowcases. These pillowcases known as "Hot Dog" pillowcases are made from three pieces of fabric, the cuff is the bun, the main fabric is the hotdog and the trim is the mustard. These add cheer to a room and will all be donated.

One summer Sunday, some members gathered at *Nathalie's* for a BBQ after visiting a quilt store. Quilters like to eat as well as sew and shop!



Quilters enjoying a BBQ

from *Mary Sutherland*



Société VIA tour participants outside of the recycling sorting centre in Lachine

Recycling is complicated!

A visit to *Société VIA*

“Recycling is complicated!” This was a comment received from one of 16 MoWest residents after a trip to the local recycling sorting facility in Lachine, on June 7. The trip was organized by the *Environmental Action Committee* to help raise awareness about our local recycling ecosystem.

“Where are we?” asked **Maxime Moisan**, our guide and the plant manager, in the sunny and quiet staff break room. After some guesses from the group, he confirmed that we were not at a recycling centre, but rather a sorting centre for recycled materials. The role of the centre is to triage and sort everything that gets dropped off by recycling trucks and get it ready for sale to those who recycle these materials. The centre is operated by *Société VIA*, which operates five recycling centres around Quebec and has a mission to foster social inclusion of people living with functional limitations and providing them with work opportunities.

Once we left the break room, we were led to a loud space overlooking a large open floor where recycling trucks unload and front-end loaders de-compress materials to improve sorting. Items then go to a “pre-triage” area, where anything that could be dangerous or interfere with the sorting machines is removed. Then, the mass of items moves along a dizzying array of conveyer belts to be machine sorted based on parameters such as size, weight, colour, light reflection and magnetic properties.

Materials end up in different areas according to their material type (paper/cardboard, plastic, etc.), and staff then do quality control on the conveyer belts. It’s a fast-paced job, with the conveyors moving many items by the workers, who have to quickly identify and pull out items that don’t belong

on the belt. As noted by one of the survey respondents: “After seeing people working at the facility, I want to help them with their work... their job is already difficult.”

What happens next?

Sorted materials are then bailed by material type and sold to various companies. *Société VIA* prioritizes selling to as many local and/or Quebec-based buyers as possible. For some plastics, there is not yet a market/purchaser to sell to, but plant manager Moisan says people should continue to put them in their recycling bins: “recycling is an evolving process,” he concedes, but they want citizens to develop the habit of putting plastic bags, for example, in recycling. He noted that *Société VIA* has only been operating the plant for the past year and a half, and it will take time and investment to get their processes maximized.

Recycling responsibly

Back in the quiet of the break room, Moisan was asked about his main advice for citizens who want to ensure they are recycling responsibly. Think before putting certain items in the blue bin – items to be recycled are containers, wrappings and printed materials. Items such as lithium batteries cause dangerous fires at the plant several times a year, and large items that are not meant to be recycled (e.g. hoses, very large metal sheets or pieces of plastic) can block the conveyors, thus disrupting the sorting process for materials from all over Montreal.

Moison also emphasized one piece of clear advice in what can be an overwhelming complex system, especially when it comes to plastics and mixed materials: con-

sider what you purchase and reduce consumption at source. Also, educate yourself – use the “Ça va où” app to find out where to put your items.

Visiting a sorting centre is another way to educate yourself about the complexities of recycling. *The Environmental Action Committee* hopes to organize another visit in the coming year.

As noted by one participant: “I feel as an individual and as a society we can do much better.” Another noted: “The more I see and understand, the more I am willing to participate.” Educating citizens about our recycling systems – and the importance of reducing our reliance on packaging – is a key component of improving our waste recovery stream.

*from Joanna Duy
Environmental Action Committee*



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Des résidents de Montréal-Ouest observant le triage à la Société VIA

Le recyclage, c'est compliqué!

Une visite à la Société VIA

« Le recyclage, c'est compliqué! » Voici un commentaire entendu de l'un des 16 résidents de Montréal-Ouest après une visite au centre local de tri des matières recyclables à Lachine, le 7 juin. Le voyage a été organisé par le *Comité d'action environnementale* pour contribuer à sensibiliser les citoyens à notre écosystème de recyclage local.

« Où sommes-nous? » a demandé **Maxime Moisan**, notre guide et directeur de l'usine, dans la salle de repos du personnel, ensoleillée et calme. Après quelques suppositions du groupe, il a confirmé que nous n'étions pas dans un centre de recyclage, mais plutôt dans un centre de tri de matières recyclées. Le rôle du centre est de trier tout ce qui est déposé par les camions de recyclage et de le préparer à la vente à ceux qui recyclent ces matières. Exploité par la *Société VIA*, qui possède cinq centres de recyclage partout au Québec, le centre a pour mission de favoriser l'inclusion sociale des personnes vivant avec des limitations fonctionnelles et de leur offrir des possibilités d'emploi.

Une fois que nous avons quitté la salle de repos, nous avons été conduits vers un espace bruyant donnant sur un grand étage ouvert où les camions de recyclage déchargent les matières recyclables et les chargeurs frontaux décompressent les matières pour améliorer le tri. Les articles sont ensuite acheminés vers une zone de « pré-triage » où tout ce qui pourrait être dangereux ou gêner les machines de tri est retiré. Ensuite, la masse d'articles se déplace le long d'un gigantesque réseau de tapis roulants pour être triée par machine en fon-

ction de paramètres tels que la taille, le poids, la couleur, la réflexion de la lumière et les propriétés magnétiques.

Les matières arrivent dans différentes zones selon leur type (papier/carton, plastique, etc.), puis le personnel effectue un contrôle de la qualité sur les tapis roulants. C'est un travail rapide, les convoyeurs déplaçant de nombreux articles à l'aide des travailleurs, qui doivent rapidement identifier et retirer les articles qui n'ont pas leur place sur le tapis. Comme l'a souligné l'une des personnes interrogées : « Après avoir vu des gens travailler dans l'établissement, je veux les aider... leur travail est déjà difficile ».

Le triage n'est pas la fin de l'histoire

Les matières triées sont ensuite mises en ballots par type de matière et vendues à diverses entreprises. La *Société VIA* priorise la vente au plus grand nombre possible d'acheteurs locaux ou québécois. Pour certains plastiques, il n'y a pas encore de marché ou d'acheteur à qui vendre, mais le directeur de l'usine, M. Moisan, estime que les gens devraient continuer à les mettre dans leurs bacs de recyclage. « Le recyclage est un processus évolutif », admet-il, mais la société souhaite que les citoyens développent l'habitude de mettre, par exemple, les sacs en plastique au recyclage. Il a souligné que la *Société VIA* n'exploite l'usine que depuis un an et demi et qu'il faudra du temps et des investissements pour maximiser ses processus.

Recyclage responsable

De retour dans le calme de la salle de repos, on a posé des questions à M. Moisan sur ses principaux conseils aux citoyens qui souhaitent s'assurer de recycler de manière responsable. « Réfléchissez avant de mettre certains articles dans le bac bleu : les articles à recycler sont les contenants, les emballages et les documents imprimés. Des articles tels que des piles au lithium provoquent des incendies dangereux dans l'usine plusieurs fois par an, et des articles volumineux qui ne sont pas destinés à être recyclés (p. ex. boyaux, très grands morceaux de métal ou de plastique) peuvent bloquer les convoyeurs, perturbant ainsi le processus de tri de matières provenant de partout à Montréal.

M. Moisan a également souligné un conseil clair dans ce qui peut être un système extrêmement complexe, en particulier lorsqu'il s'agit de plastiques et de matériaux mixtes : réfléchissez à ce que vous achetez et réduisez votre consommation à la source. Renseignez-vous également : utilisez l'application « Ça va où » pour savoir où déposer vos objets.

Visiter un centre de tri est une autre façon de se renseigner sur les complexités du recyclage. Le *Comité d'action environnementale* espère organiser une autre visite au cours de la prochaine année.

Comme l'a souligné un participant : « Je pense qu'en tant qu'individu et en tant que société, nous pouvons faire beaucoup mieux ». Un autre a confié : « Plus je vois et je comprends, plus je suis disposé à participer. » Éduquer les citoyens sur nos systèmes de recyclage – et sur l'importance de réduire notre dépendance aux emballages – est un élément clé pour améliorer notre flux de récupération des déchets.

de Joanna Duy,

Comité d'action environnementale



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Town Council meeting: May, June



par Carol Foster

May meeting

Since there was no report from the mayor, the agenda moved on to the reports from the councillors.

Councillors' reports

The PSOs were kept busy during May by assisting Public Works in the Hazardous Waste Pickup and verifying compliance with the new waste management bylaw governing the Thursday garbage collection. The most common infraction has been some residents still using plastic bags for their garbage. Courtesy reminders are being given out during the month of May, after which fines will follow.

There was a meeting with representatives from Montreal concerning the new agglomeration aqueduct work that will begin on June 3. This will require the complete closure of Sherbrooke between Connaught and Brock N. In addition, Broughton will also be closed as well since a major excavation will be necessary as the new 600 mm aqueduct will need to pass beneath the train tracks to get from NDG to Lachine. As always, the Town's goal is to revise all the detour requests to try and minimize the impacts to our citizens as much as possible. The Town has sent out an ebulletin relating to the work and Montreal has sent a flier to the residences that will be in the closest proximity to the work. The work is scheduled to be completed by September 15.

Road markings will be repainted during the last week of May and a traffic study is being conducted on Brock south after reports of speeding vehicles.

Regular spring activities including park maintenance, street cleaning and repairs and installation of the Westminster commercial terraces are the ongoing activities of the Public Works staff. **Councillor Ulin** added that the tree-planting program is now under way and residents have been notified if their property has been chosen to have a street tree planted in front of their house. Those who didn't receive a notice and would like one of these trees should contact Public Works.

During the past month, the *Environmental Action Committee* hosted a Rewilding Workshop, a huge clothing swap at the Town Hall and an information table where they gave out free indigenous plants.

Coming events will include a field trip to the recycling centre and a Town-wide garage sale as well as the annual Free for All weekend in June.

Councillor Feeney reported that audited 2023 financial statements will be published online as soon as they are submitted to the

government and the mayor's report on the financial situation of the town will be sent via ebulletin prior to June 1. It will also be published on the website and in the September *Informer*.

She then itemized the expenditures of the past month and reported that the bulk of it went to the construction of the recreation centre and the least of it went to the remaining bills for last winter's snow removal.

The new Parents' Night out program offered by the Recreation Centre was so popular that the version in May was completely sold out and so it will be continued in June. The Summer in The Park events have begun and the traditional provincial and federal holidays celebrations are being planned for.

Registration continues for pool programming hosted out of Côte Saint-Luc Aquatic Centre this summer. Over 110 kids have registered in the Montreal West Aquatic Club program and a shuttle bus option for morning practices (from Montreal West to the Côte Saint-Luc pool) has been arranged for parents who may have a harder time getting their children to the pool. Check Amilia for all those details. Day camp is again doing well; there have been over 260 kids registered and we're on our way for a great summer. The staff has been hired and the managers began work on May 24 preparing a fun and safe summer for our campers. Space remains in select age groups.

Sixteen seniors who signed up for assistance with outdoor chores on a "Caring Neighbourhood Day" were cheerfully helped by students from Loyola with everything from grass cutting to furniture cleaning. This event was organized by *MADA*. The walking group continues to be popular and more projects will be scheduled.

Question periods

The mayor shared the considerable frustration expressed by residents over the continuing traffic disruptions the Town has had to cope with during the past several years starting with the Turcot project. The current detours caused by Montreal's aqueduct work are the latest inconveniences for motorists and are expected to last at least seven months.

The work that the Town has to do on a section of Avon will have to wait until it can be coordinated with the Montréal project.

In addition, this work will affect some of the southern portions of Brock and Ballantyne which will have to be resurfaced by Montreal West. Some work on Avon will also be the responsibility of the Town but the timing of this portion of the project will have to be coordinated with the work being done by Montreal.

An evaluation needs to be done on sev-

eral intersections on Westminster and the effectiveness of the current "bump outs" must be studied in that process before any further action can be considered.

The PSOs will look into the issue of what appears to be abandoned vehicles in the parking lot at Northview near Brock. A new fountain for the dog park has been ordered and will be installed in June. In response to many requests for restrooms in the parks, a port a potty will be installed at Strathearn Park and will remain there for the summer. As the number of problems being caused by wildlife is increasing in the Town, Council was asked to publish some suggestions on coping with the critters.

Public Works has offered to replace a spruce tree in a resident's yard which was badly disfigured when they removed branches which were overhanging the curb and interfering with the snow plow activity.

In response to a question that continually is asked, but never resolved, Councillor Feeney stated that it is absolutely not permitted to ride bikes on sidewalks but in spite of provincial as well as municipal by-laws and warning signs, the problem continues. Only the SPVM is in charge of the enforcement of this regulation and, while Councillor Feeney understands the concerns for safety when riding a bike on the street, especially on Westminster, "bicycle etiquette" means getting off the bike and walking it when the street feels unsafe.

An "Awareness Campaign" with representatives from the SPVM and the Town's PSOs is planned in the near future, following which, tickets will be issued if the law is not being respected.

Enthusiastic appreciation for the "brilliant idea" and the organization of the "Caring Neighbourhood Day" was expressed by one of the participants. Councillor Feeney gave credit to Danny Holland who organized the program, members of the Seniors' Advisory Committee, as well as members of the Environmental Committee and especially the students from Loyola who volunteered.

There was only one question during the second question period and it concerned the relocation of aqueduct and sewer pipes at the site where The Easton is located. The meeting was subsequently adjourned.

June meeting The mayor's report

"Summer has descended upon us with a hot and humid thud. The downside is that we must deal with the oppressive heat and the subsequent and inevitable rainstorms. On the upside, the summer is when our Town shines more than normal as residents are out and about at our events in the parks. The daddy of these events is Canada Day,

Town Council meeting: May, June

to be held as usual in Strathearn Park. Please take advantage of all of these occasions to come out and spend some time meeting and enjoying your neighbours. As well, as we have so many new families settling into our Town; please take a moment to introduce yourselves and make them feel at home in Montreal West. That sense of community is part of the reason they decided to come to Town.

“By the same token, we lose some very important neighbours as well. Though I do not normally single out residents we have lost, I feel I must mention the recent loss of **Janet King**. Janet was a pillar of our community and, along with her husband **Robert**, led a whole generation of MoWest kids through Brownies, Guides and Scouts. On behalf of my wife **Janet**, my sincerest sympathies to you Bob and your family

“And finally, I want to mention the recent retirement from our MoWest employee family. **Richie Seguin** spent close to 20 years in our Public Works department. People like **Richie** and **Bruce Thicke**, who retired this past winter, were devoted employees and with their work over the decades, I know they left the Town better than they found it. Thank you, gentlemen.”

Due to a problem with the website, the Councillors' reports were not available.

First question period

Traffic concerns continue to be presented during every question period and the problems presented included:

- the need for the replacement for a sign, indicating there was no access to Highway 20, which has been knocked over at the corner of Brynmor and Avon;
 - a sign, at the entrance to Westland indicating this street is a cul-de-sac would be useful;
 - a safety issue exists concerning the heavy traffic using Garden as a shortcut to Côte Saint-Luc;
 - the current sign prohibiting left turns from Garden onto Westminster between 4 and 6 pm impedes drivers' vision;
 - a request for a traffic study to determine the need for speed bumps on Radcliffe between Westminster and Hudson.
- Councillor Small-Pennefather** pointed out that traffic studies can determine the amount and speed of the traffic, but only the SPVM can control adherence to the Highway Safety Code.

Maintaining adequate facilities for dogs in the Town is another very common topic during question periods. But this time the question was what to do about dog owners who let their dogs roam off leash in the parks. It is currently happening very frequently in R.D. Paul Park where it is possi-

ble some people who are not from Montreal West may be unaware of the regulations and become hostile when they are being informed of the Town's bylaws.

Councillor Small-Pennefather is very aware of this problem and, at many Council meetings, has repeatedly urged compliance. She has pointed out that there are also provincial regulations regarding this situation. She agreed more signage may be useful and the PSOs can patrol more frequently but the best solution is for residents to call Public Security so that they can come and actually observe the infractions for which fines will be issued.

Small-Pennefather explained that the vehicles which appeared to be abandoned in the Northview parking lot actually have parking permits. She indicated that a change in the current bylaw may be required in order to stipulate the difference between parking and storage of vehicles in the Town's parking lots.

In response to questions about the new recreation centre, **Mayor Masella** said that the present completion date is scheduled for February 2025 and the summer activities are expected to be available at the beginning of that summer. The Town pays the developer, at intervals, according to the percentage of the work completed. Approximately \$7 million has been spent so far on the entire project.

The continually increasing number of problems being reported concerning the need for more precise information about wild animal control in the Town prompted the mayor to agree that, although the Town has no one staff with expertise in this area, the Town's website needs to be updated so that residents know who, when and where to call for assistance.

All waste bins should be stored discreetly when not put out for pickup. Although normally air conditioners should be placed at the side of the house, consideration would be given to a case where it was impractical.

Councillor Torres agreed to look into the situation where some residents on Easton are struggling with the invasive Norway maples on their property bordering the ravine. Studies have shown they help destroy the diverse ecosystem by eroding the soil. To remove them by cutting them down would contravene the Town's bylaws.

Second question period

The process of obtaining a permit from the Town's Planning Committee came up for discussion once again.

The plea for the simplification of permit requirements was forcefully made by a resident. The example used was the possibility

of publishing a guideline of standard colours which are acceptable when replacing doors, windows and roofs. This could help speed up the process while ensuring the Town's requirements were clear.

The case was made that a number of people may be delaying or opting out of doing work because of the presently onerous requirements involving multiple photographs, documents and wait times for answers. Some residents, and especially seniors or those on limited incomes, may be particularly reluctant because of the significant expense involved in obtaining a permit.

It is to the Town's benefit to not have residents reluctant to do the things that maintain the value of their property because while it will not get money for issuing a permit, it will also get a reduced amount of money on the "welcome tax" when a property is sold.

Councillor Torres acknowledged that a lot of good points had been made and that it is always something that is debated. However, she always recommends that everyone call the Town Hall to see if a permit is needed.

She went on to say that Quebec insists that the architecture of a town is preserved and that becomes the responsibility of the Urban Planning Department and PAC. The zoning and building bylaws of the Town are very long and some might seem open to interpretation. Therefore, it is up to PAC, which is composed of architects and people who know a little more about architecture than the average person to review the requests. Decisions are made with the intention that the style of the house is maintained and that it fits into the neighbourhood in order to follow the government's mandate. And when detailed information is required to make these decisions, the accumulation of all the facts is often necessary.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Foot clinic

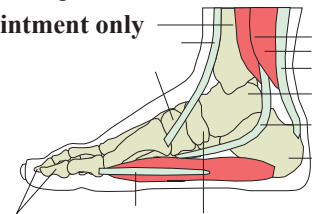
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Réunion du Conseil : mai, juin



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Réunion de mai

Comme il n'y avait pas de rapport du maire, l'ordre du jour est passé aux rapports des conseillères

Rapports des conseillères

Les ASP ont été tenus occupés en mai, aidant les Travaux publics à la collecte des déchets dangereux et vérifiant la conformité avec le nouveau règlement sur la gestion des déchets régissant le ramassage des ordures le jeudi. L'infraction la plus courante a été que certains résidents utilisent encore des sacs en plastique pour leurs ordures. Des rappels seront donnés pendant le mois de mai, après quoi des amendes suivront.

Il y a eu une rencontre avec des représentants de Montréal concernant les travaux d'aqueduc de l'agglomération devant débiter le 3 juin et qui entraîneront la fermeture complète de Sherbrooke entre Connaught et Brock N. De plus, Broughton sera aussi fermée pour une excavation importante permettant à la nouvelle conduite de 600 mm de passer sous les rails pour faire le lien entre NDG et Lachine. Comme toujours, le but de la Ville est d'examiner les demandes de déviations pour en minimiser les impacts sur nos citoyens. La Ville a émis un bulletin électronique au sujet des travaux et Montréal a transmis un feuillet aux résidents à proximité des travaux. Le chantier devrait durer jusqu'au 15 septembre.

Les marquages sur la chaussée seront repeints au cours de la dernière semaine de mai et une étude de la circulation est en cours sur Brock Sud après que des rapports ont fait état de véhicules qui roulent à vive allure.

Les activités printanières régulières, y compris l'entretien des parcs, le nettoyage et la réparation des rues et l'installation des terrasses commerciales de Westminster, sont les activités courantes du personnel des Travaux publics. La **conseillère Ulin** a ajouté que le programme de plantation d'arbres suit maintenant son cours et que les résidents ont été avisés si leur propriété a été choisie pour recevoir un arbre devant leur maison. Ceux qui n'ont pas reçu d'avis et qui aimeraient avoir un de ces arbres devraient communiquer avec les Travaux publics.

Au cours du mois précédent, le *Comité d'action pour l'environnement* a organisé un atelier sur le réensauvagement, un énorme échange de vêtements à l'hôtel de ville et une table d'information où ils ont distribué gratuitement des plantes indigènes.

Les événements à venir comprendront une sortie au centre de recyclage et une vente-débaras à l'échelle de la ville, ainsi que le week-end annuel Bon débarras en juin.

La **conseillère Feeney** a indiqué que les états financiers vérifiés de 2023 seront publiés en ligne dès leur soumission au gouvernement et que le rapport du maire sur la situation financière de la Ville sera envoyé par bulletin électronique avant le 1er juin. Il sera également publié sur le site Web et dans l'Informateur de septembre.

Elle a ensuite énuméré les dépenses du mois précédent et a indiqué que la majeure partie de ces fonds a servi à la construction du centre de loisirs et qu'une moindre partie a servi à payer les factures restantes pour le déneigement de l'hiver dernier.

Le nouveau programme de la Soirée des parents offert par le Centre récréatif a été si populaire que la version de mai a affiché complet et qu'il sera donc maintenu en juin. L'Été dans le parc a commencé ses activités

et les célébrations traditionnelles des fêtes provinciales et fédérales sont prévues.

L'inscription se poursuit pour les programmes de piscine organisés au Centre aquatique de Côte Saint-Luc cet été. Plus de 110 enfants se sont inscrits au programme du Club aquatique de Montréal-Ouest et une option de navette pour les entraînements du matin (de Montréal-Ouest à la piscine de Côte Saint-Luc) a été prévue pour les parents qui pourraient avoir plus de mal à amener leurs enfants à la piscine. Vérifiez sur Amilia pour tous les détails. Encore une fois, le camp de jour se porte bien; plus de 260 enfants sont inscrits et nous sommes en route pour un bel été. Le personnel a été embauché et les gestionnaires ont commencé à travailler le 24 mai pour préparer un été amusant et sécuritaire pour nos campeurs. Il reste des ouvertures dans certains groupes d'âge.

Seize aînés qui s'étaient inscrits pour recevoir de l'aide à effectuer des travaux de plein air lors d'une « Journée de voisinage bienveillant » ont été aidés joyeusement par des étudiants du Collège Loyola pour un peu de tout, de la tonte du gazon au nettoyage des meubles. Cet événement a été organisé par MADA. Le groupe de marche demeure populaire et d'autres projets seront à prévoir.

Périodes de questions

Le maire a fait part de la frustration considérable exprimée par les résidents à l'égard des perturbations continues de la circulation auxquelles la Ville a dû subir au cours des dernières années, à commencer par le projet Turcot. Les déviations actuelles causées par les travaux d'aqueduc de Montréal sont les derniers inconvenients pour les automobilistes et devraient durer au moins sept mois.

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Réunion du Conseil : mai, juin

Les travaux que la Ville doit effectuer sur un tronçon d'Avon devront attendre qu'ils puissent être coordonnés avec le chantier montréalais.

De plus, ces travaux toucheront certaines parties sud de Brock et Ballantyne qui devront être resurfacées par Montréal-Ouest. Certains travaux sur Avon relèveront également de la Ville, mais le calendrier de cette partie du projet devra être coordonné avec les travaux réalisés par Montréal.

Une évaluation de plusieurs intersections doit être faite sur Westminster et l'efficacité des avancées de trottoir actuelles doit être étudiée dans ce processus avant qu'une autre action puisse être envisagée.

Les ASP examineront ce qui semble être des véhicules abandonnés dans le stationnement de Northview, près de Brock. Une nouvelle fontaine a été commandée pour le parc à chiens et devrait être installée en juin. En réponse à de nombreuses demandes de toilettes dans les parcs, une toilette de campagne sera installée au parc Strathearn et y restera pendant l'été. Étant donné que le nombre de problèmes causés par la faune augmente dans la ville, on a demandé au Conseil de publier des suggestions sur la façon de gérer ces animaux.

Le service des Travaux publics a offert de remplacer une épinette dans la cour d'un résident, laquelle avait été gravement défigurée lorsqu'on a enlevé les branches qui surplombaient le trottoir et entravaient l'activité de déneigement.

En réponse à une question continuellement posée, mais qui n'a jamais été résolue, la conseillère Feeney a déclaré qu'il est absolument interdit de rouler à vélo sur les trottoirs, mais malgré les règlements provinciaux et municipaux et les panneaux d'avertissement, le problème persiste. Seul le SPVM est responsable de l'application de

ce règlement et, bien que la conseillère comprenne les préoccupations en matière de sécurité lorsqu'on circule à vélo dans la rue, en particulier sur Westminster, «l'étiquette du vélo» dicte de descendre du vélo et de marcher en le poussant lorsque la rue ne semble pas sécuritaire. Une campagne de sensibilisation avec des représentants du SPVM et les ASP de la Ville est prévue prochainement, par la suite des contraventions seront données si la loi n'est pas respectée.

L'un des participants a exprimé son appréciation enthousiaste pour «l'idée brillante» et l'organisation de la «Journée du voisinage bienveillant». La conseillère Feeney a rendu hommage à Danny Holland, qui a organisé l'événement, aux membres du Comité consultatif des aînés, ainsi qu'aux membres du Comité de l'environnement et, en particulier, aux étudiants de Loyola qui se sont portés volontaires.

Il n'y a eu qu'une seule question durant la deuxième période de questions, et elle portait sur le déplacement des conduites d'aqueduc et d'égout là où se trouve le Easton. La séance a ensuite été levée.

Réunion de juin Rapport du maire

«L'été s'est abattu sur nous avec un coup de chaud et d'humidité. L'inconvénient est que nous devons faire face à la chaleur oppressante et aux inévitables tempêtes de pluie qui s'ensuivent. Le bon côté des choses, c'est que l'été est le moment où notre ville brille plus que d'habitude, car les citoyens sortent et se promènent lors des événements qui se déroulent dans les parcs. Le plus important de ces événements est la fête du Canada, qui aura lieu comme d'habitude au parc Strathearn. Profitez de

toutes ces occasions pour sortir, rencontrer et apprécier vos voisins. De plus, étant donné le nombre de nouvelles familles qui s'installent dans notre ville, prenez le temps de vous présenter et de faire en sorte qu'elles se sentent chez elles à Montréal-Ouest. Ce sentiment d'appartenance à la communauté est l'une des raisons pour lesquelles ils ont décidé de venir s'installer en ville.

«De la même manière, nous perdons aussi des voisins très importants. Bien que je n'aie pas l'habitude de nommer les habitants que nous avons perdus, je me dois de mentionner la perte récente de **Janet King**. Janet était un pilier de notre communauté et, avec son mari **Robert**, elle a guidé toute une génération d'enfants de Mo-Ouest chez les Brownies, les Guides et les Scouts. Au nom de mon épouse **Janet**, j'adresse mes plus sincères condoléances à Bob et à sa famille.

«Enfin, je tiens à mentionner le départ à la retraite d'un membre de la famille des employés de Mo-Ouest. **Richie Seguin** a passé près de 20 ans dans notre Service des travaux publics. Des personnes comme Richie et **Bruce Thicke**, qui a pris sa retraite l'hiver dernier, étaient des employés dévoués et, grâce à leur travail au fil des décennies, je sais qu'ils ont laissé la ville dans un meilleur état qu'ils ne l'avaient trouvée. Merci, messieurs.»

En raison d'un problème lié au site Web, les rapports des conseillères n'étaient pas disponibles.

Première période de questions

Des préoccupations liées à la circulation continuent d'être soulevées pendant chaque période de questions, et les problèmes soulevés sont les suivants :

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Réunion du Conseil : mai, juin

- la nécessité de remplacer un panneau indiquant qu'il n'y a pas d'accès à l'autoroute 20, qui a été renversé au coin de Brynmor et d'Avon;
- un panneau à l'entrée de Westland indiquant que cette rue est un cul-de-sac serait utile;
- un problème de sécurité existe concernant la circulation dense utilisant Garden comme raccourci vers Côte Saint-Luc; de plus, le panneau actuel interdisant le virage à gauche de Garden vers Westminster entre 16 h et 18 h gêne la vision des conducteurs;
- une demande d'étude de la circulation pour déterminer la nécessité de ralentisseurs sur Radcliffe entre Westminster et Hudson. La **conseillère Small-Pennefather** a fait remarquer que les études de circulation peuvent déterminer la quantité et la vitesse de la circulation, mais que seul le SPVM peut contrôler l'adhésion au Code de la sécurité routière.

Maintenir des installations adéquates pour les chiens dans la ville est un autre sujet très commun pendant les périodes de questions. Mais cette fois, la question était de savoir ce qu'il fallait faire pour les propriétaires de chiens qui laissent leurs chiens courir sans laisse dans les parcs. Cela se produit très fréquemment au parc R.D. Paul, où il est possible que des gens qui ne sont pas de Montréal-Ouest ne soient pas au courant de la réglementation; certains deviennent hostiles lorsqu'on les informe des règlements municipaux.

La conseillère Small-Pennefather est très consciente de ce problème et, à de nombreuses réunions du Conseil, elle a demandé le respect des règlements à maintes reprises. Elle a souligné qu'il existe également des règlements provinciaux à cet égard. Elle a convenu qu'il serait peut-être utile d'avoir plus

de panneaux de signalisation et que les ASP peuvent patrouiller plus fréquemment, mais que la meilleure solution est que les résidents appellent la Sécurité publique pour qu'ils puissent venir observer les infractions pour lesquelles des amendes seront imposées.

Small-Pennefather a expliqué que les véhicules qui semblent avoir été abandonnés dans le stationnement de Northview ont en fait des permis de stationnement. Elle a fait remarquer qu'il pourrait être nécessaire de modifier le règlement actuel afin de préciser la différence entre stationnement et entreposage des véhicules dans les terrains de la Ville.

En réponse aux questions sur le nouveau centre récréatif, le maire a indiqué que la date d'achèvement est actuellement prévue pour février 2025 et que les activités estivales devraient être disponibles au début de cet été. La Ville paie l'entrepreneur à intervalles réguliers, en fonction du pourcentage des travaux réalisés. Environ 7 millions de dollars ont été dépensés jusqu'à présent pour l'ensemble du projet.

Le nombre sans cesse croissant de problèmes signalés concernant le besoin d'informations plus précises sur le contrôle des animaux sauvages dans la ville a incité le maire à convenir que, bien que Montréal-Ouest ne dispose pas d'un personnel ayant une expertise spécifique dans ce domaine, le site Web de la Ville doit être mis à jour afin que les résidents sachent qui, quand et où appeler pour obtenir de l'aide.

Les bacs et poubelles doivent être entreposés discrètement lorsqu'ils ne sont pas destinés à être ramassés. Bien que normalement les climatiseurs devraient être placés sur le côté de la maison, on examinerait le cas où ce n'est pas pratique.

La **conseillère Torres** a accepté d'examiner la situation où certains résidents d'Eas-

ton sont aux prises avec les érables de Norvège envahissants sur leur propriété bordant le ravin. Des études ont montré qu'ils contribuent à détruire l'écosystème diversifié en érodant le sol. Les abatteurs iraient à l'encontre des règlements municipaux.

Seconde période de questions

Le processus d'obtention d'un permis auprès du Comité d'urbanisme de la Ville a fait l'objet d'une nouvelle discussion.

Le plaidoyer en faveur de la simplification des exigences en matière de permis a été présenté avec force par une résidente. L'exemple utilisé était la possibilité de publier une directive sur les couleurs standard qui sont acceptables lors du remplacement des portes, des fenêtres et des toits. Cela pourrait aider à accélérer le processus tout en veillant à ce que les exigences de la Ville soient claires.

On a fait valoir qu'un certain nombre de personnes pourraient retarder leur travail ou choisir de ne pas le faire en raison des contraintes actuellement lourdes qui exigent de multiples photographies, documents et délais d'attente pour obtenir des réponses. Certains résidents, et surtout les personnes âgées ou à revenu limité, peuvent être particulièrement réticents en raison des dépenses importantes qu'entraîne l'obtention d'un permis.

Il est dans l'intérêt de la Ville de ne pas voir des résidents hésiter à faire les choses qui maintiennent la valeur de leur propriété, car, non seulement elle n'obtiendra pas d'argent pour l'émission d'un permis, elle recevra une «taxe de bienvenue» réduite lors de la vente de la propriété.

La conseillère Torres a reconnu que de nombreux points positifs avaient été soulevés et que c'est toujours un sujet de débat. Cependant, elle recommande toujours à tous d'appeler l'Hôtel de Ville pour vérifier la nécessité d'un permis.

Elle a poursuivi en disant que Québec insiste pour que l'architecture d'une ville soit préservée et que cela devient la responsabilité du Service de l'urbanisme et du CCU. Les règlements de zonage et de construction de la Ville sont très longs et certains peuvent sembler ouverts à l'interprétation. Par conséquent, c'est au CCU, composé d'architectes et de gens qui connaissent l'architecture un peu plus que la moyenne, d'examiner les demandes. Les décisions sont prises dans le but de maintenir le style de la maison et de l'adapter au quartier afin de respecter le mandat du gouvernement. Et lorsque des informations détaillées sont nécessaires pour prendre ces décisions, l'accumulation de tous les faits est souvent nécessaire.

La séance était ensuite levée.



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News from the pews

St. Ignatius

Our parish team hopes that you're having a wonderful summer! It's been lovely to welcome so many guests visiting loved ones in Montreal West this summer. Feel free to keep sending them our way as it's always a joy to see new friendly faces in our pews!

Kids and teens

Our KidsMin team has been busy putting the finishing touches on planning for the 2024-25 year. From incredible volunteer opportunities for teens, to monthly family movie nights, it's shaping up to be another great year for our community of 200+ kids and teens involved in programs at our parish. If your family is new to the neighborhood or to our parish, or if you're wishing to learn more about sacrament preparation, you're invited to attend our next **Parent Info Session September 8 after the 10 am mass**. This event will give you an overview of what we have to offer kids and teens ages 3-18, registration details and more.

Teaching Masses

A few weeks ago, Fr. Mike did a series of teaching masses to explain the elements of the mass as it unfolds. It was so interesting to learn about why we do the things we do, and say the things we say! If you're curious to deepen your understanding as well, visit stig.ca and click on the Teaching Mass section.

Job seeking support and guidance

In August, we ran a two-part online workshop to help newcomers to Canada, recent graduates, and those recently released from their jobs learn about key topics to help find employment. Participants learned about the Canadian job market, cv creation, the job application process, LinkedIn and one's online presence, interview preparation and the role of bilingualism and French in Montreal. Stay tuned for more workshops this year to support our community.

from Shawna Rose

St. Philip's

We hope everyone had a restful summer. While many of our activities took time off, our community garden was very active. Construction on Sherbrooke reduced foot traffic through the garden, but for those who did come there has been plenty of lettuce, kale, peas, beans, herbs and tomatoes. There was also a bumper crop of blackberries. The resident rabbits did help themselves to most of the dill, parsley and chives, leaving little

for human visitors. We also added a plum tree and an apple tree.

Worship continues every Sunday at 10 am, with a children's program provided. Due to scheduling conflicts for some of the singers, our choir will not be back in full until October, and our festive Harvest service will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving weekend, October 6.

St Philip's Thrift Shop

In mid-September, we will be opening a thrift shop in the hall basement (entry via 7505 Sherbrooke) one day a week, selling a variety of houseware items, wall hangings, decorative accessories, books and jewelry. Details (particularly the day and hours) are not yet finalized as of press deadline. Please check our Facebook page for the latest.

Finally, some sad news. After more than 15 years at St Philip's, Father James Pratt will be retiring at the end of October. On Sunday, October 27 at 4 pm, there will be a celebration of his ministry and farewell, with Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson presiding, followed by a banquet. Tickets for the banquet are available by calling the church office prior to October 4.

from Fr. Pratt

MW United

...the brick one

Welcome Ba-ack

Do hope your summer was golden in some sense of the word. If you watched the Olympics and Para Olympics, no doubt you had moments to shout for joy, shed a tear or two, wonder about the extremes to which some will push themselves; and be mesmerized by the Eiffel Tower, the Flaming Cal-

dron, etc. Shan't dwell on the colour of the Seine.... It all was quite a spectacle.

And now we return to our regularly scheduled lives. That need not be as mundane as it might sound. After all, **Rev. Mark** is back at work after Labour Day and our first service of the 2024-2025 Season is September 8 at 10 am as usual. Sunday school resumes September 15 with **Merrie Hammond** and her raft of good ideas taking hold.

The Crafts and Laughs Group meet Tuesdays at 10 am as they prepare things for the bazaar to be held November 9. The Spirit is With Us discussion group meets September 22d at 11:30 am. Labyrinth Walks will be resuming this fall so keep watching for posters around the church and in the "high street."

Our Music Director **Christopher Ducasse** will return with his vast knowledge of choir direction. He seems genuinely grateful for whomever comes to sing. He knows just how to tweak what we are doing to improve how we sound together, such is his skill and talent. And **Tanguy** on the piano or organ.... Time was when the Postlude was meant to be almost march-like to send you out into the world full of inspiration. But Tanguy's postludes, are more gentle, reflective, sometimes fun, and thus very satisfying, whether he is playing something classical or doing variations on a familiar tune in his melodic way. It all makes you glad you came. Our leads return in October.

Our Admin. Asst., **Vicky Leprohon** has moved on to another challenge, tailor-made for her. We will miss her friendly spirit but hope to see her around still in other ways. The rest of us will be here though, ready to welcome you with pleasure. Hope to see you there....

from Susan Upham

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Kosher corner

Hebrew School

Hebrew School is among the many programs offered by Chabad Westminister. We have created a stimulating yet friendly environment where children embrace their Jewish roots and gain a true sense of Jewish pride, no matter their level of observance or affiliation.

We look forward to our third year of Hebrew School in September and we would love your child to be a part of it! Registration is open for kindergarten through grade 4 on chabadwestminister.com/hebrewschool.

First Friday

First Friday Shabbat services for the September will take place Friday, September 6 at 8 pm followed by a Kiddush in honour of the third birthday of **Eitan Perez-Brier!**

High Holiday services

We are excited to announce that once again Chabad Westminister will be hosting local and welcoming High Holiday services for Rosh Hashana (October 2-4) and Yom Kippur (October 11-12), accompanied with English explanations and insights. RSVP at chabadwestminister.com/hhrsyp. Seats are free!

Chabad Westminister will be hosting numerous holiday dinners, Tashlich and the now famous shofar in the park (October 3 and 4) 4:30 pm.

In addition to High Holidays, we look forward to celebrating Sukkot here with a community BBQ in the sukka and joyous Simchat Torah dancing.

Please reach out for the detailed High Holiday schedule, or if you would like help ordering a Lulav or a Sukkah.

The dates for Yizkor are October 12 and October 24.

from Rabbi Marlowe

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5890, avenue de Monkland, bureau 406
Montréal (QC) H4A 1G2



Centre communitaire : 484-6186

Bravo !

Les Services communautaires tiennent à remercier tous les bénévoles qui ont contribué à faire de la fête du Canada un succès. Un grand merci à **Barbara** et à son équipe de 40 personnes au BBQ, aux **garçons Senderak et à leurs amis**, à **Phil Bergeron** et **Sam Ducharme** dans notre tente de rafraîchissements, aux bénévoles de la billetterie **Marla, Mary, Bob, Bob B, Rusty et Karen**.

Cet événement ne serait pas possible sans votre soutien continu. Merci à *Patriotisme Canada*, à *Meldrum The Mover*, au service des travaux publics de la Ville de Montréal-Ouest et aux agents de la sécurité publique pour leur contribution à notre plus grand événement de l'année !

Série estivale culturelle

Ce fût un été ensoleillé, à l'exception de la fête nationale à l'hôtel de ville (ensuite le soleil est sorti) et un mardi de pluie pour *The Blue Mondays Jazz Orchestra* (nouvelle date sera annoncée, possiblement le 21 septembre). Merci d'avoir participé à notre série estivale culturelle!

Le camp

Alors que le camp se termine pour cette année, nous tenons à remercier chaleureusement tous ceux qui l'ont rendu si merveilleux. Le camp a une fois de plus prouvé qu'il s'agissait d'un endroit spécial où chaque enfant apporte sa propre étincelle.

Nous sommes très reconnaissants à l'Académie Royal West de nous avoir accueillis et de nous avoir fait sentir chez nous.

Bien que nous soyons attristés par la fin du camp, les souvenirs et les amitiés que nous avons noués resteront à jamais gravés dans nos mémoires. Nous nous réjouissons de l'expérience fantastique que nous avons vécue au camp et nous remercions l'incroyable communauté qui a rendu tout cela possible !

Tout le monde nous manquera et nous avons hâte de vous revoir l'année prochaine!

Équipe de natation

Les entraîneurs du MWAC tiennent à remercier chaleureusement tous nos nageurs dévoués qui ont contribué à faire de cet été un véritable succès. Même sans notre piscine, l'esprit d'équipe n'a jamais faibli et l'équipe a réussi à faire en sorte que notre maison loin de la maison se sente vraiment comme à la maison.

Nous tenons à remercier chaleureusement le centre aquatique de Côte Saint-Luc pour son accueil chaleureux et pour avoir permis à notre équipe de s'épanouir au cours de ce que nous ne pouvons qu'appeler un été peu conventionnel.

L'équipe est actuellement 5-0 et se dirige vers les finales de section ce week-end, souhaitez-nous bonne chance, promet d'être un événement inoubliable !

Réservez la date !

Le samedi 9 novembre

Gala culinaire pour équiper la cuisine de notre nouveau centre sportif et récréatif

En vedette : stations de dégustation de *Joe Beef* et de plusieurs autres grands chefs qui habitent Mo-Ouest, animation musicale par *The Fundamentals*, encan silencieux et en direct avec une gamme d'objets uniques. Lieu : Hôtel de ville

Veillez écrire à MW.Recreation.Center@gmail.com avec vos dons pour l'encan silencieux.

Plus de détails suivront.

Nous espérons vous retrouver en grand nombre pour cette soirée de célébration, qui promet d'être un événement inoubliable !

Appel pour des souvenirs sportifs de Montréal-Ouest plus !

Le service des loisirs est à la recherche de souvenirs sportifs de Montréal-Ouest et d'autres souvenirs sportifs (des chandails signés, des articles de bar sportif, etc.) pour utiliser comme décor pour notre événement du samedi 9 novembre.

Tous les articles seront étiquetés et rapportés à leur propriétaire. Si vous avez quelque chose à partager, veuillez appeler le centre communautaire au **484-6186** et nous dire ce qu'est l'article.

Community Centre: 484-6186

Bravo!

The Community Services would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make Canada Day a success. A big thank you to Barbara and her BBQ team of 40, the **Senderak boys and friends, Phil Bergeron** and **Sam Ducharme** in our refreshment tent, ticket booth volunteers **Marla, Mary, Bob, Bob B, Rusty and Karen**. This event cannot be possible without your continuous support. Thank you to *Heritage Canada*, *Meldrum The Mover*, Town of Montreal West Public Works and Public Security officers for their contribution to our biggest event of the year!

Cultural Summer Series 2024

This summer was a sunny one, except for La Fête nationale in the assembly hall, (then the sun came out) and a rainy Tuesday for *The Blue Monday Jazz Orchestra* (new date to be announced, possibly September 21).

Camp

As camp comes to a close, we just want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made it so wonderful. Camp has once again proven to be a special place where every child brings their own unique spark.

We're so grateful to Royal West Academy for welcoming us and making us feel right at home.

While we're saddened that camp is ending, the memories and friendships we've made will stay with us forever. Here's to a fantastic camp experience and to the amazing community that made it all possible!

We'll really miss everyone and can't wait to see you all next year!

The team is currently 5-0 heading into section finals this weekend, wish us luck!

Saturday, November 9 Save the date!

Culinary gala to outfit the kitchen of our new sports and recreation centre.

Featuring: Tasting stations from *Joe Beef* and many other top chefs who live in MoWest, musical entertainment by *The Fundamentals*, silent and live auctions with an array of unique items.

Location: Town Hall.

For the silent auction, please write to MW.Recreation.Center@gmail.com with your donations.

Keep an eye out for more details in future editions of *The Informer*. Join us for this celebration and recreation evening, which promises to be an event to remember!

Call for Montreal West sports memorabilia plus!

The Recreation Department is looking for MoWest sports memorabilia for display purposes for our event on Saturday, November 9. Looking for vintage MoWest attire/items, signed jerseys, sports bar items etc. to use as décor for our event. All items will be labelled and brought back to owner.

Les inscriptions automne 2024, hiver et printemps 2025

Débutent le :

- 19 août pour les résidents de Montréal-Ouest
 - 20 août résidents de CSL et Hampstead
 - 21 août tous les résidents
- Spécial pour les pré-inscriptions précoces pour la plupart des programmes : 21 au 31 août. Certains programmes ne sont pas éligibles au tarif de pré-inscription.

Pour bénéficier du tarif pré-inscriptions pour les sessions d'automne, d'hiver et de printemps, l'inscription à toutes les sessions doit être effectuée avant le 31 août.

La session d'automne débute la semaine du 9 septembre.

Pour enfants

- La science avec Captain Catalyst (samedi)
- Intro au Dnjons and Dragons (jeudi and samedi)
- Cours de gardien avertis de la Croix-Rouge: samedi 24 novembre
- Musique avec **Shawny** (lundi, 11h à 11h30)
- Ballet et Hip Hop

Hip Hop pour enfants

Un cours de Hip Hop pour enfants sera proposé le mercredi avec **Sonya Polkii**. Sonya danse depuis 16 ans et enseigne depuis 5 ans. Vous la connaissez peut-être de la piscine de Montréal-Ouest ! La danse est sa passion et elle est très enthousiaste à l'idée de la partager avec vous tous.

- Mini Hip Hop à 16h45 pour les 4 à 5 ans
- Hip Hop à 17h35 pour les 5 1/2 à 6 1/2 ans

Ballet samedi pour enfants

Les cours de ballet du samedi seront enseignés par **Hannah Waddell**. Hannah est une danseuse de ballet accomplie qui a reçu une formation approfondie dans les méthodes Cecchetti et RAD, complétée par des stages d'été avancés à l'École nationale de ballet du Canada, au Royal Winnipeg Ballet et au Pacific Northwest Ballet. Elle s'est produite avec l'Edmonton Festival Ballet et

s'entraîne actuellement au Studio GB Montréal, où elle se concentre sur le ballet classique avancé et le répertoire. La riche expérience d'Hannah et son dévouement font qu'elle est bien préparée pour inspirer et éduquer les futurs danseurs de ballet.

- 3 à 4 1/2 ans : 8h45 (12 semaines, cours de 45 minutes)
- 5 à 6 ans : 9h35 (12 semaines, 45 minutes de cours)
- 7 à 8 ans : 10h25 (12 semaines, 1 heure de cours)
- 9 à 11 ans : 11h30 (12 semaines, 1 heure de cours)

Ballet de lundi pour enfants

Le cours de ballet du lundi sera enseigné par **Emma Goodfellow**. Emma est une actrice, danseuse et mannequin, actuellement basée à Montréal. Originaire d'Ottawa, en Ontario, Emma a grandi en dansant de façon compétitive, s'entraînant dans une grande variété de styles. Elle a obtenu son diplôme de l'école secondaire Canterbury en 2022, avec un certificat de beaux-arts (spécialisé en danse), avant de déménager à Montréal pour poursuivre ses études d'actrice dans le cadre du programme de théâtre de l'Université Concordia. Emma danse depuis maintenant 17 ans et ne pourrait être plus heureuse de partager sa passion pour l'art et le mouvement avec la prochaine génération.

- 3 à 4 ans et demi : 16 h 45 (12 semaines, cours de 45 minutes)
- 5 à 6 ans : 17h35 (12 semaines, cours de 45 minutes)

Nouveaux : Ateliers du vendredi soir

Ateliers pour les familles à 18h30 and ateliers pour les ados à 20h15.

- 4 octobre: Donjons and Dragons
- 1^{er} novembre: la boulangerie
- 29 novembre: Intro au codage à la programmation

Nouveaux ajouts aux programmes pour adultes

Le centre communautaire a ajouté quelques nouveaux programmes pour adultes à son répertoire de conditionnement physique déjà bien rempli.

Le Pilates avec **Megan Feeney** sera offert le vendredi à 9h00 et le Yoga le mercredi à 9h00.

Nous proposerons à nouveau nos programmes: Essentrics Aging Backwards, Essentrics for Men, Stretch, Barre, TRX, Yoga Doux, Yoga pour hommes raides, Yagalates, Reach, Warrior, 70+ fitness et méditation.

En plus des cours de fitness, nous proposerons du Pickleball, du dodgeball et des ateliers pour adultes.

Toutes les informations sont disponibles sur Amilia.

Nouvelle dates:

Soirée congé pour les parents

Centre communautaire : de 17h à 21h.

Les enfants (âgés de 4 à 10 ans) peuvent venir jouer ! Comprend : pizza, jus, bricolage, jeux et film.

- Vendredi 27 septembre
- Vendredi 18 octobre
- Samedi 30 novembre

Nouveau : Ballon Chasseur

Le lundi soir 19h30

Plongez, esquivez, et jouez au ballon chasseur comme jamais auparavant. Revivez les souvenirs de vos cours d'éducation physique à l'école. Vous ne pourrez pas éviter de vous amuser ! Chaque semaine, il y aura un tournoi Round Robin.

Dates de Mah Jongg (jeu libre)

29 août, 12, 19, 26 septembre, 3 et 10 octobre à 13h.

Cour de Mah Jongg

Débute de 20 septembre; Les vendredis de 12h45 à 14h45 au centre communautaire. Inscrivez-vous sur Amilia.

Groupe de promenade active

- 10 septembre: parc Lafontaine
- 1 octobre : Parc des Rapides (Lasalle) Inscrivez-vous sur Amilia. 5 \$ (résidents), 10 \$ (non-résidents).

La vitrine artistique, automne 2024:

Thème: La photographie de l'été 2024
La vitrine artistique de Montréal-Ouest offre aux résidents l'occasion d'exposer leurs œuvres en ligne et à l'hôtel de ville. Application seront accepté jusqu'au 20 septembre. Voir le site web de la ville sous « culture. » Pour plus d'infos : 484-6186.

Événement éphémère

Samedi 21 septembre, 10 h à 14h, Parc Davies

Nourriture à vendre, musique, venez découvrir les tables de marchands, artisans and résidents. Réserver votre table aujourd'hui!



Sherri McGurnaghan

sherri@themislogic.com

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Recreation programs: fall, winter and spring 2024-2025

Registration is now available online for resident for all Town programs on Amilia.com. Fall 2024 /winter and spring 2025 registration has begun.

- Montreal West residents: August 19
 - Côte-St-Luc and Hampstead residents: August 20
 - Everyone else: August 21
- *Early bird special for most programs: August 21 to August 31 Not all programs are eligible for early bird pricing.

To benefit from early bird pricing for fall, winter and spring sessions registration for all sessions must be done before August 31.

Fall programs begin the week of September 9.

Children

- **Captain Catalyst** science fun and brain challenges (Saturdays)
- Intro to Dungeons and Dragons (Thursdays and Saturdays)
- Red Cross babysitting course: Sunday, November 24
- Music with **Shawny** (Mondays, 11-11:30 am)
- Ballet and Hip Hop

New: Children's Hip Hop

Children's Hip Hop class will be offered Wednesdays with **Sonya Polkii**. Sonya has been dancing for the past 16 years and teaching for the past five. You may also know her from the MoWest Pool! Dance is her passion and is so excited to share it with all of you.

- Mini Hip Hop at 4:45 pm for 4-5 years
- Hip Hop at 5:35 pm for 5 1/2-6½ years

Saturday ballet for children

Our Saturday ballet classes will be taught by **Hannah Waddell**. Hannah is an accomplished ballet dancer with extensive training in Cecchetti and RAD methods, complemented by advanced summer intensives at Canada's National Ballet School, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Pacific Northwest Ballet. She has performed with the Edmonton Festival Ballet and currently trains at Studio GB Montreal, focusing on advanced classical ballet and repertoire. Hannah's rich experience and dedication make her well-prepared to inspire and educate future ballet dancers.

- 3 to 4 ½ years: 8:45 am (12 weeks, 45-minute classes)
- 5 to 6 years: 9:35 am (12 weeks, 45-minute classes)
- 7 to 8 years: 10:25 am (12 weeks, 1-hour classes)
- 9 to 11 years: 11:30 am (12 weeks, 1-hour classes)

Monday ballet for children

Monday ballet will be taught by **Emma Goodfellow**. Emma is an actor, dancer and model, currently based in Montreal. Originally from Ottawa, ON, Emma grew up dancing competitively, training in a wide variety of styles. She graduated from Canterbury High School in 2022, with an honours certificate of fine arts (specializing in dance), before moving to Montreal to pursue acting through Concordia University's theatre program. Emma has now been dancing for 17 years and couldn't be happier to be sharing her passion for artistry and movement with the next generation.

- 3 to 4 ½ years: 4:45 pm (12 weeks, 45-minute classes)
- 5 to 6 years: 5:35 pm (12 weeks, 45-minute classes)

NEW: Friday night Workshops

For families 6:30 pm and for teens 8:15 pm.

- October 4: Donjons and Dragons
- November 1: baking class
- November 29: Intro to coding
- January 24: LEGO challenge

New additions to adult programs:

The community centre has added a few new adult programs to our already extensive fitness repertoire. Pilates with Megan Feeney will be offered Fridays at 9 am and yoga class on Wednesdays at 9 am. We will be offering once again our Essentrics Aging Backwards program, Essentrics for Men, Stretch, Barre, TRX, Gentle Yoga, Yoga for Stiff Men, Yoyalates, Reach, Warrior, 70+ fitness and meditation.

Apart from the fitness classes we will be offering Pickleball, dodgeball and adult workshops. All info can be found on Amilia.

NEW: Dates for Parents Night Off Community Centre, 5-9 pm

Children (ages 4-10) get to come and play! includes: pizza, juice, crafts, games and a movie.

- Friday, September 27
- Friday, October 18
- Saturday, November 30

NEW Program: Dodgeball 16+, Mondays @ 7:30 pm

Dip, duck, dive and doge and play dodgeball like never before. Relive your school gym class memories. You won't be able to dodge having a good time! Each week will be a Round Robin tournament. Teams: of minimum 5 players.

Mah Jongg drop-in dates

August 29, September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10 at 1 pm

Active Walking Group

Call or sign up on Amilia. \$5 (residents); \$10 (non-residents).

September 10: Lafontaine Parc

October 1: Parc des Rapides (LaSalle)

Mah Jongg course

Begins September 20; Fridays, 12:45-2:45 pm; Community Centre.

Artists' Showcase:

Fall 2024:

Theme: Photography Summer 2024

Montreal West amateur and professional artists of all ages are invited to display their art on the Town Website. Application deadline: September 20.

To find out more about the Artists' Showcase or to get an application form, go to the Montreal West website under "culture," or pick up a form at the Community Centre. For more details, you may contact, Recreation and Cultural Services, 484-6186.

Montreal West Pop-Up Event

Saturday, September 21, 10 am-2 pm,
Davies Park

Food for sale, live music and discover the tables of merchants, artists and residents. Tables are available for rent on Amilia.

Club 50+

August 27

Bridge

September 12

Brunch

September 18

Play: *Those Movies*,
Upper Canada Playhouse

September 30

Bridge

For more information on our activities, please call: 484-6186.

COMING EVENTS / À VENIR

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

Next deadline: September 11

August

Mon 26 Town Council meeting. In person and virtually (Town's YouTube channel). Town Hall. 8 pm.

September

Fri 6 Rotary speaker: Masashi Kaneda, Post-doctoral researcher in Chemical Engineering at McGill University and a Rotary Global Grant scholar. Buffet \$40. Guests welcome to attend without buffet. Complimentary dessert and coffee. Town Hall. 6:30 pm.

Sun 8 MW United re-opens for worship. All welcome. 10 am.

Sat 14 Annual book sale begins and runs through to October. Public Library,

Sun 15 Sunday school resumes. All welcome. MW United. 10 am.

Sun 15 12th Montreal West Terry Fox Run at Strathearn Park. Registration starts at 10:30 am, run starts at 11 am, with a rolling start time until 2:30 pm.

Mon 16 Horticultural Society meeting. All are welcome. \$5 for non-members. Town Hall. 7:30 pm.

Wed 18 Tea and Books with Kathleen (Kay) Dunn. Public Library. 2 pm.

Thu 19 Rotary speaker: Peter Labelle, Rotary Club of Cornwall Sunrise: Rotary Global Grant in Ghana – Wells and toilets for a vocational school. Buffet lunch \$30. Cash or cheque only. Guests are welcome to attend with no lunch. Complimentary dessert and coffee. Town Hall. 12:15 for 12:30 luncheon.

Sat 21 Pop-Up Event / Événement éphémère. Parc Davies Park. 10h-14h.

Thu 26 Deadline for water meter readings / Échéance pour la lecture des compteurs.

Sat 28 Khan Family Walk for Pulmonary Fibrosis. Page 2.

October

Tue 1 Town Council meeting. In person and virtually (Town's YouTube channel). Town Hall. 8 pm.



Photo: Alex Brzezinski

Canada Day BBQ a great success!

The conditions were perfect for the 2024 Canada Day BBQ. July 1 fell on a Monday, the end of the long weekend, and this secured a great turnout from all those who escape the city on weekends. The skies were clear; the temperature was not too hot with little humidity; and the BBQ team of 40 (yes 40!) volunteers were decked out in their new T-shirts and ready to serve the crowd in Strathearn Park. And what a crowd it was! The serpentine lines leading to the BBQ seemed to never shorten. Our mayor and chief greeter, Beny Masella, worked relentlessly to keep the line moving as quickly as possible. Although breaks were promised to all the volunteers in the briefing, those on the frontline and the assemblers behind them had to steal away if they wanted a bit of a rest! It was the wildest ever! Even a quick jaunt to get more condiments was necessary, a first in the history of the BBQ.

A big thank you goes to the group of 40. Most of you are regulars and we are so grateful as you all know your jobs so well!

To those of you whose children are now independently celebrating Canada Day (and they don't want you around!), come and join us volunteers in the northwest corner of the park. Write to me at barbatekker@gmail.com if you are interested. Maybe we'll be able to have a real break next year!

Another big thank you goes to **Alex Brzezinski** for the group photo above. Some volunteers are sadly missing.

from Barbara Tekker

Action Sport Physio Montreal West



Why see an OSTEOPATH?

Osteopathy is an alternative medicine that aims to rebalance the body. If you have musculoskeletal problems such as joint stiffness, movement difficulties or reduced muscular strength or endurance, osteopathy can help. Also, if you complain of physiological disorders such as digestive problems, headaches, feelings of oppression or neurological pathways, don't hesitate to consult us.

Malaurie Barbelanne joined the ASP Montreal West team nine months ago as an osteopath. She also offers treatments adapted to pregnant women, the elderly and even athletes. Caring, gentle and passionate, she will be delighted to welcome you to Action Sport Physio.

514 485-9292

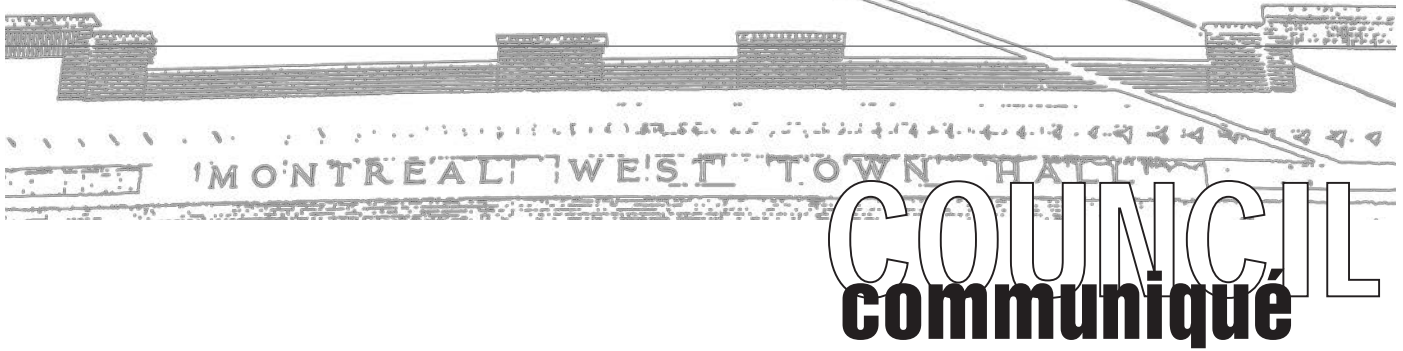
14-A, avenue Westminster Nord

Yard by Yard Contest

Submit photos
(eacmowest@gmail.com)
of your indigenous/pollinator plants
online
until September 15
to win prizes!

Fall cleaning

To celebrate his birthday, **Richard Eckertlin** will clean the dust, for free, from any laptop or notebook computer belonging to a senior (55+), any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday until the end of December. Just go to his office, located at 48 Wolseley North, Unit J between 1 and 3 pm. The same service on Thursday, Friday or Saturday is \$25. Call 438-938-6240.



MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE TOWN OF MONTREAL WEST



This report is a summary of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, deposited at the Council Meeting of May 27, 2024. The external auditor, Daniel Tétreault CPA Inc., confirms that, except for not having applied the requirements of the new Section PS 3280, "Asset Retirement Obligations," which came into force in 2023, the financial statements, in all material respects, present a true and fair view of the financial situation of the Town of Montreal West.

The results showed **an operating surplus of \$695,345** which is 3.7% of total budget. The following are some of the highlights:

Revenues were \$1.15M over budget, mainly due to:

- interest income \$343K over budget due to higher interest rates and increased cash
- recreation revenues \$247K over budget with day camp, pool, youth and adult program revenues higher than anticipated
- duties on transfer from the sales of homes \$210K over budget due to higher selling prices
- an additional \$131K from government grants for composting, recycling and asset management
- permits \$119K over budget due to more building permits, notably a non-residential one for \$57K
- parking permits \$48K over budget due mainly to a new business parking lease of \$35K

On the **expense** side, total operating expenses were \$457K over budget. The Town had savings of \$79K in salary costs, \$35K in bank charges and interest, and smaller amounts in various departments. However, these were offset by higher costs in the following areas:

- \$193K in Public Hygiene related to sink hole repairs (\$107K), additional water costs from Montreal (\$22K) and testing and removal of contaminated soil (\$28K)
- \$152K more in Public Works expenditures due to additional costs for snow removal (\$81K), road repairs (\$58K), traffic lights and studies (\$14K)
- \$54K additional costs in Recreation due to increased registrations and special events

In addition, \$222K was spent in Capital Expenses as part of our Pay-as-you-go financing which allows us to fund certain projects through our operations budget rather than incurring additional debt. This included the following expenditures:

- \$75K for a new Public Security vehicle
- \$56K for a new water tank and electrical entry at Town Hall
- \$18K for speed bump reconstructions
- the balance for storage containers and equipment (vehicle lifts, cameras, park equipment, crosswalk sign)

Capital investments for infrastructure totaled \$3.8M, which included con-

struction, architectural and consultant fees for the new recreation centre (\$3.5M), \$200K for vehicles and final payments for Fenwick. All the capital investments were funded by our accumulated surplus or working and operating funds, without incurring additional long-term debt.

At year-end, the Town's net debt stood at \$11.5M, down from \$12.6M in 2022. In the past 10 years net debt has decreased from \$14.8M to \$11.5M despite capital investments of over \$24.8M in the same period. Our unappropriated operating surplus is \$950K, while our appropriated surplus is \$894K, and our Working Fund stands at \$1.4M.

We are pleased with the excellent results of the 2023 Financial statements and express our appreciation to our Treasurer, Valentina Todoran, and all the directors for their careful management of the Town's finances. Full details of the financial results can be found on the website.

Beny Masella, *Mayor*
Town of Montreal-Ouest
bmasella@montreal-west.ca

Colleen Feeney, *Councillor*
Finance, MADA, Recreation and Culture
cfeeney@montreal-west.ca



A LOCAL GREEN MENACE

As Chair of the Environmental Action Committee I'm generally singing the praises of native plants. They're often the superior choice for creating a sustainable garden. But one native plant is simply a menace, causing seasonal discomfort for allergy sufferers everywhere.

Ragweed has become rampant across MoWest; peppering lawns and taking over whole boulevards (the grassy areas between our sidewalks and roads). On a short stroll from Fenwick to Wolseley North the other day, I spotted over 20 properties with thriving populations of the weed. Even a single plant can release a billion grains of pollen into the air, so these large clusters can wreak havoc on local allergy sufferers. Besides stuffy, runny noses, and itchy eyes, a ragweed allergy can trigger dangerous asthma flares. Nothing to take lightly.

It's for that reason that our bylaws explicitly prohibit growing it anywhere in the Town, and the fines for permitting it are stiff. But many people have no idea they're even harbouring it.

What can you do?

Learn to identify it. Ragweed season runs from August through mid-October and climate change is extending this further. It's fairly easy to spot with its almost fern-like green leaves that look feathery and somewhat "hairy".

The yellow flowers bloom in long clusters like streamers at the top of the plant. It tends to grow in neglected areas of your lawn, garden, and especially in the boulevards (which many of us don't care for as diligently).

Mowing regularly will prevent it going to seed but, if possible, you should remove it altogether. It's quite easy to pull out by hand – and be sure to do so before it flowers. Ragweed thrives in poor, heavy soil so, to keep it from coming back, try amending your soil with compost and aerating it. That will give the grass and other chosen plants a competitive advantage over the pesky ragweed, eventually eliminating it.

Once you've learned to ID it, please help your neighbours do so as well if you spot it on their properties. The extent of the current problem can only be tackled if we work together. Thanks for lending a hand!

Elizabeth Ulin, *Councillor*
Public Works, Environment and
Communication
eulin@montreal-west.ca



LOOK. LISTEN. LIVE.

Having attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) annual conference in Calgary this past June, I had the opportunity to speak with several of Montreal West's partners regarding railway safety, including Canadian National (CN) Railway, and Operation Lifesaver.

This has also been a significant preoccupation of the Community Safety Committee and all of Council for many years.

As you are aware, the crossing at Westminster and Sherbrooke is a treacherous intersection. Earlier this year, a senior was struck by a commuter train at the Montreal West station and tragically succumbed to his injuries. At the end of 2023, there was another incident where a car was struck by a commuter train, after the barriers were lowered.

This particular section of the railway is under the jurisdiction and operated by Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), with EXO and CN being major users. As such, we need a cooperative approach to improve safety and security for pedestrians and vehicles that transit through this crossing.

In addition, students from Royal West Academy as well as students from Loyola, commute on a daily basis in this area. Although EXO has made some considerable investments and changes to the configuration of the station,

there are more improvements that need to be made.

The week of September 23 will mark Rail Safety Week. Montreal West will be part of the **Look. Listen. Live.** campaign, to enhance railway safety awareness with CN, CPKC, Operation Lifesaver, EXO and the SPVM. Please stay tuned for more details.

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RAPPORT DU MAIRE SUR LA SITUATION FINANCIÈRE DE LA VILLE DE MONTRÉAL-OUEST



Ce rapport est un résumé de l'exercice financier se terminant le 31 décembre 2023, tel que présenté lors de la séance du conseil du 27 mai 2024. Le vérificateur externe, la firme Daniel Tétreault CPA Inc., confirme qu'à l'exception de ne pas avoir appliqué les exigences du nouveau chapitre SP 3280 « Obligations liées à la mise hors service d'immobilisations », qui est entrée en vigueur en 2023, les états financiers donnent, dans tous leurs aspects significatifs, une image fidèle de la situation financière de la Ville de Montréal-Ouest.

Les résultats montrent un **excédent de fonctionnement de 695 345 \$**, représentant 3,7 % du budget total. Voici quelques-uns des points saillants :

Les revenus ont dépassé le budget de 1,15 M\$, principalement en raison de :

- Les revenus d'intérêts supérieurs de 343 K\$ au budget grâce à des taux d'intérêt plus élevés et une trésorerie accrue
- Les revenus de loisirs supérieurs de 247 K\$ grâce à l'inscription plus élevée que prévue aux camps de jour, à la programmation aquatique, et aux programmes pour les jeunes et les adultes
- Les droits de mutation provenant de la vente de maisons ont dépassé le budget de 210 K\$ en raison de prix de vente plus élevés
- Des subventions supplémentaires de 131 K\$ pour le compostage, le recyclage et la gestion des actifs
- Les revenus provenant des permis ont dépassé le budget de 119 K\$ en raison d'un plus grand nombre de demandes de permis de construction, notamment un permis non résidentiel pour 57 000 \$.
- Les revenus provenant de permis de stationnement ont également dépassé le budget de 48 K\$ principalement grâce à un nouveau bail de stationnement commercial de 35 K\$

Les dépenses de fonctionnement totales étaient de 457 K\$ au-delà du budget. La Ville a réalisé des économies de 79 K\$ sur les coûts salariaux, 35 K\$ sur les frais bancaires et les Intérêts payés, et de plus petites économies

dans divers départements. Cependant, ces économies ont été compensées par des coûts plus élevés dans les domaines suivants :

- 193 K\$ en hygiène du milieu liés aux réparations d'affaissement de chaussées (107 K\$), des coûts supplémentaires pour l'eau facturés par Montréal (22 K\$) et aux tests et enlèvements de sols contaminés (28 K\$)
- 152 K\$ de plus en travaux publics en raison des coûts supplémentaires pour le déneigement (81 K\$), les réparations de routes (58 K\$), les feux de circulation et les études de trafic (14 K\$)
- 54 K\$ de coûts supplémentaires en Loisirs en raison de l'augmentation des inscriptions et des événements spéciaux

De plus, 222 K\$ en dépenses en capital dans le cadre du financement par répartition (PAYG), qui nous permet de financer certains projets par le biais de notre budget de fonctionnement plutôt que de contracter une dette supplémentaire. Cela comprenait les dépenses suivantes :

- 75 K\$ pour un nouveau véhicule de sécurité publique
- 56 K\$ pour un nouveau réservoir d'eau et l'entrée électrique à l'hôtel de Ville
- 18 K\$ pour la reconstruction de d'os d'ânes
- Le solde pour des conteneurs de stockage et des équipements (un pont élévateur, des caméras, de l'équipement pour les parcs, un panneau de passage pour piétons)

Les investissements en immobilisations dans les infrastructures ont totalisé 3,8 M\$, ce qui comprenait les frais de construction, d'architecture et de consultants pour le nouveau Centre sportif et récréatif (3,5 M\$), 200 K\$ pour les véhicules, et les paiements finaux pour Fenwick. Tous les investissements en immobilisations ont été financés par notre excédent accumulé ou par nos fonds de roulement de fonctionnement, sans contracter de dette à long terme supplémentaire.

À la fin de l'année, la dette nette de la Ville s'élevait à 11,5 M\$, en baisse par rapport à 12,6 M\$ en 2022. Au cours des 10 dernières années, la dette nette a diminué de 14,8 M\$ à 11,5 M\$ malgré des investissements en immobilisations de plus de 24,8 M\$ au cours de la même période. Nos surplus de fonctionnement non affectés sont de 950 K\$, alors que nos surplus affectés sont de 894 K\$, et notre fonds de roulement s'élève à 1,4 M\$.

Nous nous réjouissons des excellents résultats des états financiers de 2023 et nous souhaitons exprimer notre gratitude à notre trésorière, Valentina Todoran, et à tous nos directeurs pour leur gestion minutieuse des finances de la Ville. Vous trouverez tous les détails des résultats financiers sur le site Web de la Ville.

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UNE MENACE VERTE

En tant que présidente du Comité d'action environnementale, je chante généralement les louanges des plantes indigènes. Elles sont souvent le meilleur choix pour créer un jardin durable. Mais une plante indigène est tout simplement une menace, causant des malaises saisonniers pour les personnes allergiques partout.

L'herbe à poux est devenue envahissante à travers MoWest ; elle parsème les pelouses et prend le contrôle de boulevards entiers (les zones herbeuses entre nos trottoirs et nos routes). Lors d'une courte promenade de Fenwick à Wolseley nord l'autre jour, j'ai repéré plus de 20 propriétés avec des populations florissantes de cette mauvaise herbe. Même une seule plante peut libérer un milliard de grains de pollen dans l'air, donc ces grandes



grappes peuvent causer des ravages chez les personnes allergiques. Outre les nez bouchés et qui coulent, et les yeux qui piquent, une allergie à l'herbe à poux peut déclencher des crises d'asthme dangereuses. Rien à prendre à la légère.

C'est pour cette raison que nos règlements interdisent de la cultiver n'importe où dans la ville, et les amendes peuvent être sévères. Mais beaucoup de gens n'ont aucune idée qu'ils l'hébergent même.

Que pouvez-vous faire ?

Apprenez à l'identifier. La saison de l'herbe à poux s'étend d'août à la mi-octobre et le changement climatique prolonge encore cette période. Elle est assez facile à repérer avec des feuilles vertes qui ressemblent presque à des fougères, et plumeuses, en fait quelque peu poilues. Les fleurs jaunes fleurissent en longues grappes comme des guirlandes au sommet de la plante. Elle a tendance à pousser dans les zones négligées de votre pelouse, de votre

jardin, et surtout dans les boulevards (que beaucoup d'entre nous ne soignent pas aussi diligemment).

Tondre régulièrement empêchera la plante de monter en graines mais, si possible, vous devriez l'enlever complètement. Elle est assez facile à arracher à la main – et assurez-vous de la faire avant qu'elle ne fleurisse. L'herbe à poux prospère dans un sol pauvre et lourd, donc, pour l'empêcher de revenir, essayez d'amender votre sol avec du compost et de l'aérer. Cela donnera au gazon et aux autres plantes choisies un avantage compétitif sur l'herbe à poux, l'éliminant finalement.

Une fois que vous avez appris à l'identifier, aidez vos voisins à faire de même. L'ampleur du problème actuel ne peut être abordée que si nous travaillons ensemble. Merci de donner un coup de main !

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REGARDER. ÉCOUTER. VIVRE.

Ayant assisté à la conférence annuelle de la Fédération canadienne des municipalités (FCM) à Calgary en juin dernier, j'ai eu l'opportunité de discuter avec plusieurs partenaires de Montréal-Ouest concernant la sécurité ferroviaire, notamment le Canadien National (CN) et Opération Gareautrain.

C'est également une préoccupation importante du Comité de sécurité communautaire et de tout le Conseil depuis de nombreuses années.

Comme vous le savez, le passage à niveau de Westminster et Sherbrooke est une intersection dangereuse. Plus tôt cette année, un senior a été heurté par un train de banlieue à la gare de Montréal-Ouest et a malheureusement succombé à ses blessures. À la fin de 2023, il y a eu un autre incident où une voiture a été heurtée par un train de banlieue, après que les barrières aient été abaissées.

Cette section particulière de la voie ferrée est sous la juridiction du Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), avec EXO et CN comme principaux utilisateurs. Ainsi, nous avons besoin d'une approche coopérative pour améliorer la sécurité des piétons et des véhicules qui traversent ce passage à niveau.

Les étudiants de l'Académie Royal West et les étudiants de Loyola, se déplacent quotidiennement dans cette zone. Bien qu'EXO ait fait des investissements considérables et apporté des changements à la configuration de la gare, il reste encore des améliorations à apporter.

La semaine du 23 septembre marquera la Semaine de la sécurité ferroviaire. Mo-Ouest fera partie de la campagne « **Regardez. Écoutez. Vivre.** » pour améliorer la sensibilisation à la sécurité ferroviaire avec CN, CPKC, Opération Gareautrain, EXO et le SPVM. Veuillez rester à l'écoute pour plus de détails.

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