



Margaret Romans: 111 years young

by Maurice Krystal

In 2005, I interviewed a gentleman for *The Informer* named *Fred Morehouse*. He was 98 years young at the time. He was a bit hard of hearing but was otherwise, as they say, “sharp as a tack.” He was a chemist who worked for *CIL (Canadian Industries Limited)* and spent some time in Germany in the mid 30s during the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party. His two passions since retiring were photography and tracing his family genealogy. I thought about him after getting an email that another MoWest resident named **Margaret Romans** would be an interesting candidate to interview. On March 16 she will be turning 111 years of age. A party is planned in the residence. I discovered on the internet that Fred passed away in 2007 in his

101st year. They lived only a few blocks away from each other. I wondered if they ever met.

Margaret’s friend, **Pat Waters**, told me that Margaret Romans now resides in Chateau Pierrefonds and gave me her telephone number, assuring me her hearing was good. I called and sure enough she heard me and I introduced myself and asked if I could interview her. She told me she was born in Riga, Latvia on March 16, 1912. She said she and her husband, **Henry**, escaped to Germany when the Russians invaded Latvia in 1940. Margaret couldn’t be too specific about what happened exactly when. She said she had problems with numbers. (I’m some three decades younger and I also forget dates).

Read more on page 2



The Easton:

The dawn of a new MoWest

by Maurice Krystal
and Heather Baylis

If you try to cross the train tracks on Westminster, going towards Avon, you will inevitably come across a small army of traffic guards handling the one-lane bottleneck at MoWest’s busiest intersection. A crane takes up half of Westminster, but we see progress as The Easton is rising above

ground level. Originally scheduled to be completed in the spring of ’23, it is now expected to be finalized by November/December of this year. Delays caused by Covid, more soil contamination than tests predicted and issues with municipal sewer relocation, stalled the project. But the pace has quickened and the construction team is making up for lost time.

As of February 23, **Noam Schnitzer**, the developer (*SAJO Inc.*), informed us that of the 15 residential units (26 in total) that have been sold, 95% were purchased by MoWesters. Of the four commercial units, one has been sold and the others are in negotiation.

Noam, a MoWest resident since 2013, has had his eye on the site for some years, but did not bid on it the first time the Town put the corner lot on the market. When the Town tried for a third time and was willing to include the library lot and a change to the by-law to allow a multi-residential and commercial space, Noam made a bid.

His dream was to create some positive change in the Town. There were a number of reasons he took the gamble.

The corner lot was forgotten. It was in a prestigious and historic location right across from the Town Hall. He believes the empty

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Margaret Romans

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In 1948, Henry and Margaret immigrated to Canada and they eventually settled on Brock Avenue in 1969. Henry was employed by Alcan as an electrical engineer. The couple did not have any children of their own but Margaret seemed to have "adopted" local children and taught them how to make pottery and she fired their creations in a kiln she had installed at her home. It wasn't surprising that when she talked about Montreal West, she described the community as being like one large family. At that point the nurse came into her room and we needed to end the interview.

The next day, we talked about her love of art. She learned to paint and create ceramics in Latvia in a post-secondary institution. Many of her drawings were still life, portraits and traditional Latvian folk designs. Much of the art work on her plates look like intricate mandalas with flower and leaf motifs. When she came to Montreal, she taught for many years ceramics and painting at the downtown YMCA. She has

125 Brock 1984



kept in touch with many of her students whom she considers good friends.

I was also in touch with **Diane Webster** who cleared up some dates. Diane was her neighbour on Brock for 27 years and when they moved to an apartment in Westmount, Margaret and Henry followed them into the same building the following year. Unfortunately, Henry passed away one year after the move. Margaret stayed 20 more years in that building till she went to Chateau Pierrefonds this past October.

Diane said that Margaret's great niece, **Anne Lockwell**, could fill me in with more details and photos. Anne and her husband and mother-in-law regularly visit the residence. Anne said that the house on Brock was packed with her love of art, from ceramics, paintings, books, records and playbills from the plays, operas and concerts she regularly attended. Her collection was eclectic and ranged from the classics to very modern works. She was, and still is, very open minded to change.

Her love of art was mostly visual, but her eyes have deserted her and she is legally blind. She has had to adjust. She is an avid listener to CDs, the CBC and talk radio. When we spoke, she berated Trump for his latest faux pas. She also uses the telephone regularly to keep in touch with her social circle. Anne overheard her great aunt discussing on the telephone with a friend the shooting down of weather balloons. She is quite au courant with the latest inventions. She got an iPad for her 100th birthday and she uses it.

It is, of course, customary to ask someone who has reached this age, "what is the secret to your longevity?"

She didn't hesitate; her answer was, "It was all destination." I first thought this meant the genes you were born with, but she corrected me and said it was a power that gives you, at birth, the road you will take. It can be a good or bad destination.



Arts and crafts show in Montreal during the mid-50s

This did not seem to imply any religious implications, but something more spiritual.

Of course, there are choices to be made in life that she has lived by. First and foremost is to be happy with what you have. The second rule she has lived by is to never be bored. Have an interest in life. Observe what's around you, a characteristic found in most artists. Art was her passion. You can't be bored if you are learning new things. Always think of the future. The future holds promise. Her final tenet is to never hold a grudge. It can eat you up. As she was telling me these principles she has adhered to, I remembered reading that anxiety/stress kills. Forgiving others and constantly learning can be powerful medicine. She thanked me for taking an interest in her. She did almost all of the talking and I was the listener taking notes.

I was impressed with her gusto for life. She knows what is important in life.

THE INFORMER

10 Westminster North
Montreal West, Quebec
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.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Heather Baylis, 489-7022

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Julia Ross, julia@ross.cd

AD MANAGER

Heather Baylis, 489-7022
montrealwestinformer@gmail.com

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Rhonda Schwartz, 482-0227

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

April 5

Local artist has solo exhibit in Toronto

The Mira Godard Gallery in Toronto represents such iconic Canadian artists as Tom Thomson, David Milne and Jean Paul Lemieux. Now it also represents MoWest resident **Karen Thomson**. Her solo exhibit there opened March 4 and continues through April 15.

Karen moved to Montreal West in 2000 with her husband, **Frank Opolko**, and their three daughters. She was born and raised in Montreal, but spent many summers and weekends at the family cottage on Lake MacDonald in the Laurentians, a place that is a frequent inspiration for her paintings. “My grandparents were immigrants from Scotland. One day they drove to the Laurentians and discovered a spot on the lake that my grandmother said reminded her of Scotland. They bought the land and built the house themselves,” she says.

“When I’m up there, I am struck by the land and the water and the weather. There is some-

thing ancient about the place – this is some of the oldest exposed rock on the planet – and I feel it.”

Karen has loved drawing all her life. She has undergraduate degrees in visual art and French from the University of Western Ontario (now Western University) and in fine arts from Concordia University. She also has a masters in art history from the University of Toronto. At Western, Canadian artist **Paterson Ewen** was her professor and had a long-lasting influence on her. He painted on plywood, often gouging into the wood itself.

Karen also likes to work aggressively, putting layers of beeswax, gesso and oil paint on wood, then scratching into them, scraping back and reapplying colour. With this technique, she can evoke images of dried autumn weeds, early morning fog or black rocks sticking out of snow in the Arctic.

“It’s like the image reveals itself and you’re working with

accidents. It depends on the wax, the thickness of the paint and how translucent or opaque they are; it’s very textural,” she says. As a result, her landscape paintings are simultaneously fragile and eternal, more about memory and feeling than about any particular place or time.

Karen has previously had solo exhibits at the Montreal

gallery *Beaux-Arts des Ameriques* and at *Galerie la Folie des Arts* in La Malbaie, Quebec and she has participated in numerous group shows. She has taught at the Visual Arts Centre in Westmount and at John Abbott College and has also worked as an art appraiser and consultant.

from Janice Hamilton



Zeina Khawam, dietitian and HR technician

Helping women one fundraiser at a time!

During the month of March, the *Action Sport Physio* clinic collected feminine hygiene products in order to donate them to the *Hope Food Bank*. We are grateful to everyone who donated and we are so happy to be able to help wonderful women during Women’s History Month! Let us continue to break barriers and create a more equal world for all!

West End Quilters

In March we celebrate International Quilt Day. The *West End Quilters* will once again join our hosts, *Loose Threads of Côte Saint-Luc* for a day of quilting, friendly chats, snacking and shopping. It is a fun get-together that we have attended for years and really missed during Covid.

We are also packing up all our quilting supplies for another retreat at *Manoir*

D’Youville in Chateauguay. Nothing compares to days spent solely on quilting. No meals to prepare, no family to satisfy, only fabric and machines and friends.

March 14 we had **Colette Dumont**, an international award-winning quilter and a Quebecer, give us a talk on zoom. Colette creates works of art with beads, crystals and embroidery added to her intricate kaleidoscope quilts.

Her work inspired us all, not to replicate

and to follow our own path.

We have our own amazing quilter, **Marilyn**. She now lives in Sudbury, but we can still see her quilts on zoom. Pictured, is one with her hand-dyed fabrics that elicited many oohs and awes when she showed it. For more of our work visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/westendquilters/](https://www.facebook.com/westendquilters/).

from Mary Sutherland

Quilt hand-dyed fabrics quilt by Marilyn



Gardening group

There IS a gardening group in Montreal West. We meet at the Town Hall. With various levels of experience, we share ideas and learn from one another. We regularly engage individuals to present their expertise on topics of interest to us.

The next meeting will take place Monday, April 17, at 7 pm at the Town Hall. Please come if you are new to gardening, new to the Town, or even if you are an experienced gardener. There is something for everyone.

We ask a \$5 fee to help pay for the speakers. Or a \$15 membership fee will keep you abreast of group events.

*from Susan Sladen
Montreal West Horticultural Society*



Knights Hockey

We have had a successful season with teams in the playoffs starting mid-March.

MWH hockey will be hosting an end of season hockey day at Legion Rink on April 2 from 9 am-9 pm. All teams will be playing exhibition games against other teams from the EHL. We invite everyone to come out and watch our Knights in action, enjoy some music, popcorn and a fun-filled day with the KNIGHTS!

Skating Show

March 19, we held our end of year skating show with 140 skaters participating. Legion Rink was packed to capacity with proud parents and families as they watched their little ones perform. We had a guest performance from Canadian skater **Marek Ramilison** who put on an incredible number for the crowd with double twists and spins. But, the true stars of the show were the skaters, ranging in age from 3 to 15, as they performed choreographed numbers for the cheering crowd and did a fantastic job. Thank you to all the coaches, skaters and parents for making the show so successful.

Spring registration for the follow programs is ongoing online at mwcrasports.ca.

- Intro to baseball
- T-Ball
- Intercommunity baseball
- Little Strikers soccer
- Micro soccer
- Outdoor soccer
- Women's outdoor soccer
- Mens outdoor soccer
- Rugby
- Sportball

March 1-31
Spring early bird registration

The new sports and recreation centre VOTE YES!

The Town is well advanced in its plans to replace the Legion Memorial Rink and adjacent swimming pool with a new multi-generational sports and recreation centre. For everyone in the Town, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity! As citizens of our unique and wonderful Town, we owe it to the past, present and future families that have been and will be lucky enough to call Montreal West their home, to seize this opportunity and bring the project to life.

The new sports and recreation centre will have everything we need!

- A regulation-sized ice rink.
- An L-shaped, 25-meter outdoor pool with deep end.
- A wading pool for toddlers.
- A gymnasium.
- Two multi-purpose rooms.
- A pro shop.
- A café-restaurant.
- Offices.
- Kitchen facilities.

The centre will serve the entire community, young and old, in a universally accessible way that can't be matched by our existing and worn-out arena and pool.

The new centre will offer much more than just sports and recreation. It will be an important gathering place for people of all ages and will become an integral part of the Town's social activities, enhancing the sense of community that makes MoWest such a special place to live.

Building the new sports and recreation centre is fiscally responsible and will create wealth for you and the Town.

- The current cost estimate is \$32.5M. Of this amount, more than **50%** will be covered by confirmed federal and Quebec government grants, private fundraising and QST refunds. **The Town will have a brand-new facility and only has to pay half the cost!**

The Town will have to borrow money to pay for its half of the project costs. The loan bylaw has already been passed by Town Council and is now being approved at the provincial level. Based on the above estimate, for an average home valued at \$1 million, the annual increase in municipal taxes is expected to be less than \$300. This represents **less than 3%** of the annual tax bill. **Your cost will be less than \$1 per day!**

Supporting this project is the **BEST WAY** to protect the value of your home. We firmly believe that the new sports and recreation centre will not only increase the value of your home, but also its underlying attractiveness to potential buyers. Conversely, if we do nothing, and the existing rink and pool are demolished, we believe that your home will lose value and our community will become much less attractive to future residents. For an average home valued at \$1 million, over a ten-year period, the annual

increase in municipal taxes represents **less than 0.25%** of the value of your home. Again, **for a cost of less than \$1 per day**, you will preserve and increase the value of your home – for many of us, our most important asset, financially and emotionally.

• The status quo is not an option. In the near term, the rink and pool will have to be demolished and the cost will be significant. The government grants and private fundraising will not be available for the costs of demolition, which means it will be entirely on our backs. Ask yourself, do you want an increase in taxes to pay for the demolition of the existing facilities? **Or do you prefer to invest in our future with a tax increase of less than 3%, that will bring us a new sports and recreation centre that will increase property values and improve the quality of life in our Town for everyone, young and old, abled and differently-abled?**

The vote, and what you need to do

The timing of the vote on the project hasn't been announced. The project needs a simple majority to pass (50% +1 vote). Eligible voters include any residents of Montreal West over the age of 18. You need to:

- Talk to your neighbours about the new sports and recreation centre. Tell them why you support the project and ask them to do the same.
- We will be hosting question and answer meetings at the Town Hall on Tuesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 20 at 7 pm. Come out and share our excitement!
- For more information, including the plans for the new sports and recreation centre, please go to the Town website at <https://montreal-west.ca/en/recreation/sports-recreation-center-2-0/>
- **When the vote is called, make sure that you and all the members of your family eligible to vote show up to vote YES.**

*On behalf of the Fundraising Committee
for the New Sports and Recreation Centre*
Scott MacKenzie,
Julie Ducharme,
Kurt Johnson,
Samantha Mitra,
Geoff Adams
and Andy Michelin

Le nouveau centre de sports et de loisirs VOTEZ OUI !

La Ville a bien avancé dans son projet de remplacer la patinoire de la Légion et la piscine adjacente par un nouveau centre sportif et récréatif multigénérationnel. Pour tous les résidents de la ville, il s'agit d'une occasion unique ! En tant que citoyens de notre ville unique et merveilleuse, nous devons aux familles passées, présentes et futures qui ont eu et auront la chance d'élire domicile à Montréal-Ouest, de saisir cette occasion et de donner vie au projet.

Le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif aura tout ce dont nous avons besoin !

- Une patinoire de taille réglementaire
- Une piscine extérieure de 25 mètres en forme de L avec une partie profonde
- Une pataugeoire pour les tout-petits
- Un gymnase
- Deux salles polyvalentes
- Un pro-shop
- Un café-restaurant
- Des bureaux
- Une cuisine

Le centre servira l'ensemble de la communauté, jeunes et moins jeunes, d'une manière universellement accessible qui ne peut être égalée par notre aréna et notre piscine actuels qui sont désuets.

Le nouveau centre offrira bien plus que des sports et des loisirs. Il sera un lieu de rassemblement important pour les gens de tous âges et deviendra une partie intégrante des activités sociales de la ville, renforçant le sens de la communauté qui fait de Montréal-Ouest un endroit si spécial où vivre.

La construction du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif est fiscalement responsable et créera de la richesse pour vous et pour la Ville.

L'estimation actuelle des coûts est de 32,5 millions de dollars. De ce montant, plus de 50 % seront couverts par des subventions confirmées des gouvernements fédéral et québécois, des collectes de fonds

privées et des remboursements de la TVQ. **La Ville disposera d'une installation flambant neuve et n'aura à payer que la moitié du coût !**

• La Ville devra emprunter de l'argent pour payer sa moitié des coûts du projet. Le règlement relatif à l'emprunt a déjà été adopté par le conseil municipal et est en cours d'approbation au niveau provincial. Sur la base de l'estimation ci-dessus, pour une maison moyenne évaluée à un million de dollars, l'augmentation annuelle des taxes municipales devrait être inférieure à 300 dollars. Cela représente **moins de 3 %** de la facture fiscale annuelle. **Votre coût sera inférieur à 1 \$ par jour !**

• Soutenir ce projet est la **MEILLEURE FAÇON** de protéger la valeur de votre maison. Nous sommes convaincus que le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif augmentera non seulement la valeur de votre maison, mais aussi son attrait pour les acheteurs potentiels. À l'inverse, si nous ne faisons rien et si la patinoire et la piscine existantes sont démolies, nous pensons que votre maison se dévaluera et que notre communauté deviendra beaucoup moins attrayante pour de futurs résidents. Pour une maison moyenne évaluée à un million de dollars, l'augmentation annuelle des taxes municipales représente, sur une période de dix ans, **moins de 0,25 %** sa valeur. Encore une fois, pour un **coût de moins d'un dollar par jour**, vous préserverez et augmenterez la valeur de votre maison — pour beaucoup

d'entre nous, notre bien le plus important, tant sur le plan financier que sur le plan affectif.

• **Le statu quo n'est pas une option.** À court terme, la patinoire et la piscine devront être démolies et le coût sera important. Les subventions gouvernementales et les collectes de fonds privées ne seront pas disponibles pour couvrir les coûts de la démolition, ce qui signifie qu'ils seront entièrement à notre charge. Posez-vous la question : voulez-vous une augmentation des taxes pour payer la démolition des installations existantes ? **Ou préférez-vous investir dans notre avenir avec une augmentation des taxes de moins de 3 %, qui nous apportera un nouveau centre sportif et récréatif qui augmentera la valeur des propriétés et améliorera la qualité de vie pour tous dans notre ville, jeunes et aînés, avec ou sans handicaps ?**

Le vote et ce que vous devez faire

La date du vote sur le projet n'a pas été annoncée. Le projet doit être adopté à la majorité simple (50% plus 1 voix). Les électeurs admissibles comprennent tous les résidents de Montréal-Ouest âgés de plus de 18 ans.

- Vous devez tous parler à vos voisins du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif, leur dire pourquoi vous soutenez le projet et leur demander de faire de même.
- Nous organiserons des séances de questions-réponses à l'hôtel de ville le mardi 11 avril et le jeudi 20 avril à 19 heures. Venez partager notre enthousiasme !
- Pour de plus amples informations, notamment sur les plans du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif, veuillez consulter le site Web de la Ville : <https://montreal-west.ca/fr/recreation/sports-recreation-center-2-0/>.
- **Lorsque le vote sera appelé, assurez-vous que tous les membres de votre famille ayant le droit de vote se présentent pour voter OUI.**

Au nom du comité de collecte de fonds pour le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif
— Scott MacKenzie,
Julie Ducharme,
Kurt Johnson,
Samantha Mitra,
Geoff Adams
et Andy Michelin.



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*CENTRE STATISTIQUE
FOUS 2014 CUMULATIVE

Elizabeth Ballantyne



Skate-A-Thon

EBS students participated in the Skate-A-Thon, the annual February fundraising event for the Children's Library – or own school library – which has been in place for decades. It used to be run by our dedicated teacher **Stéphane Fortin**, who this year passed the torch on to teachers **Jessica Doubt** and **Daniela Colafabio**. Staff members, parent volunteers and children were all excited to be able to resurrect this event



100 days of learning and fun

The children in kindergarten celebrated the 100th day with so many wonderful activities! Some of these included building structures with 100 cups, 100 blocks and 100 pieces of Lego.

All of the students were very excited about making a 100-piece Fruit Loops necklace. By the end of the day, the students were undoubtedly 100 days smarter!

after a two-year hiatus. Students from all classes took turns on the ice to skate as many laps as they could.

We really appreciate all the volunteers who helped to make this such a success! Skaters were very happy to enjoy yummy cookies and a cup of hot chocolate, provided by the Children's Library in a rewarding calm-down after skating. We are happy to report that \$1841.10 was raised towards the purchase of new library books!

Edinburgh Elementary

— A sixth grader's perspective —

In appreciation... of two special people

Grade six is amazing and a big reason is because of our fabulous secretaries! I had a chance to talk with two very important people at Edinburgh: Secretary, **Nikoleta (Niki) Spiropoulos** and School Secretary, **Vanessa Mendaglio**!

Autumn (AW): What do you do at Edinburgh? How long have you been working here?

Both: We are secretaries, but we really do it all! If a kid is hurt or sad, they come to see us.

Ms Niki: I've been here for eight years.

Ms Vanessa: I've been here for seven years. The community was very welcoming when we came to Edinburgh. It felt like family when we came.

AW: Why did you choose this job?

Both: The job chose us! We love this school, the community and of course the kids. They are our family. It is so heartwarming seeing a mommy pregnant and then five years later having that little bun in the oven join the Edinburgh family.

AW: What is your favourite thing at Edinburgh?

Both: The KIDS! The kids really make Edinburgh, Edinburgh. They put smiles on our faces. Imagine having a job where you have kids' laughter fill your day. And get paid to boot! How lucky are we? We get to joke around with them all day.

AW: What is the funniest thing you have seen?

Ms Vanessa: The funniest thing at Edinburgh has to be seeing Ms. Niki dealing with throw-up!

Ms Nikki: Our gym teacher **Mr. Cho**'s sweaters always put a smile on my face. They mostly always have a twist on his name on the back, like "The cho-sen one" or "pika-cho."

AW: How do you keep track of everything?

Both: We help each other, and the parents help us out a lot.

AW: Thank you so much for your time!

Niki and Vanessa make Edinburgh the best. I couldn't imagine the school without them! They are always very helpful and cheerful. They make our Edinburgh experience the greatest. They are an important part of the Edinburgh family!

from Autumn Watson

Autumn Watson is a grade six student at Edinburgh Elementary. If you are an Edinburgh student and would like to submit a column to the Informer, please contact kateshingler@gmail.com

Miss Niki, Autumn and Miss Vanessa



Spring environmental updates



As you might have guessed, spring is a busy time for MoWest's *Environmental Action Committee (EAC)*, so we have several updates for you!

To start, we're excited to be working with the public library who is hosting a seed exchange. They'll be accepting seeds as of March 20. so swing by with any surplus seeds you might have and they'll start to distribute them on March 27. Learn more about this project in the library's

article in this issue of *The Informer*.

Second, members of the *EAC* will be leading a second Zero Waste Challenge, starting April 18, and we are encouraging all MoWesters to participate! It's a friendly competition among neighbours to reduce the trash sent to landfill. Learn how to seriously reduce your garbage footprint with a few simple steps. Make sure to check out the information in the next Town e-bulletin and on the web.

Third, April 22 is Earth Day. Have you thought about how you'll celebrate our planet, not just for one day, but in consistent and sustainable ways?

Have you thought about systemic ways that our Town – or province or country – can promote and adopt sustainable efforts? If you have any ideas about ways MoWest can be more eco-friendly, or you'd like to be involved with an *EAC* event (like the clothing swap coming up May 7 at the Town Hall!), please reach out to us on Facebook at our page entitled Montreal West Environmental

Action Committee or contact Councillor **Elizabeth Ulin** at eulin@montreal-west.ca.

Sunday, April 30 at 10 am at the Town Hall, members of the *EAC* will be hosting a "Rewild Your Yard" workshop to provide information on how to foster a beautiful garden that's low-maintenance, attracts local wildlife and saves money on watering and maintenance costs. More info to come in e-bulletin and the next *Informer*.

*Haley Clarke-Cousineau
Environmental Action
Committee*

Mises à jour environnementales de printemps



Comme vous l'avez peut-être deviné, le printemps est une période chargée pour le *Comité d'action environnementale (CAE)* de Montréal Ouest, et nous avons donc plusieurs mises à jour pour vous!

Pour commencer, nous sommes ravis de travailler avec la bibliothèque publique de Montréal-Ouest qui organise un échange de semences. Elle acceptera les semences à partir du 20 mars. Passez donc nous voir avec vos surplus de semence! La distribution débutera le 27 mars. Pour en savoir plus sur ce projet, lisez l'article de la bibliothèque

dans ce numéro de *The Informer*.

Deuxièmement, les membres du *CAE* mèneront un deuxième défi zéro déchet à partir du 18 avril et nous encourageons tous les habitants de Montréal Ouest à y participer ! Il s'agit d'une compétition amicale entre voisins visant à réduire les déchets envoyés à la décharge. Apprenez comment réduire sérieusement votre empreinte écologique en quelques étapes simples. N'oubliez pas de consulter les informations dans le prochain bulletin électronique de la ville et sur le site Web si vous êtes intéressés.

Troisièmement, le 22 avril est la Journée de la Terre. Avez-

vous réfléchi à la manière dont vous allez célébrer notre planète, non seulement pour une journée, mais de manière cohérente et durable?

Avez-vous réfléchi aux moyens systémiques par lesquels notre ville – ou notre province, ou notre pays – peut promouvoir et adopter des efforts durables ? Si vous avez des idées sur les façons dont Montréal Ouest peut être plus respectueux de l'environnement, ou si vous souhaitez participer à un événement du *CAE* (comme l'échange de vêtements qui aura lieu le 7 mai à l'hôtel de ville !), veuillez communiquer avec nous sur Facebook à notre page intitulée

Comité d'action environnementale de Montréal-Ouest ou contactez la **conseillère Elizabeth Ulin** à l'adresse suivante : eulin@montreal-west.ca.

Finalement, le dimanche 30 avril à 10 heures, à l'hôtel de ville, des membres du *CAE* organiseront un atelier intitulé "Rewild Your Yard" qui fournira de l'information sur la façon de créer un beau jardin qui nécessite peu d'entretien, qui attire la faune locale et qui permet d'économiser sur les coûts d'arrosage et d'entretien. Plus d'information dans l'e-bulletin et le prochain *The Informer*.

*Haley Clarke-Cousineau
pour le Comité d'action
pour l'environnement*



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MWPL's 50th anniversary

2023 is a special year for MWPL and we are making plans to celebrate: 2023 is our 50th birthday! We are not as old as the Saint Catherine's Monastery in Egypt, established in 565, nor as grand as the frequently photographed Trinity College Library dating from 1592, but in terms of an independent, community-run local lending library, we are a wonder!

Today's library represents the hard work of two full generations of MoWest residents who have volunteered their time, their expertise and their love of books to create a very fine local public library. The library was conceived in 1971, launched in the United Church basement in 1972 and was incorporated and moved to 45 Westminster South in 1973. Libraries also take money to run and our success owes much to years of partnership and support from the Town of Montreal West and the generous response of townspeople to our many fundraising drives.

Presently, we are located at the very visible storefront at 41 Westminster Ave North, in the heart of the community. We are

evolving from a book lending library to a social hub for the Town. We are small, personal and welcoming. We are a place to drop by, meet a friendly neighbour, enjoy our comfy chairs, use our group worktable, computers, WIFI, co-workspace, co-study space and more. We have free membership and programs for all: knitting workshops, teen movie nights, family game nights, author talks and guest lecturers. Our exciting *New Horizon* projects for seniors include *Threads of Memory*, an oral history of the past and the present of active senior residents and *Forever Young: Living and Aging in Montreal West*, our podcast series: anchor.fm/foreveryoungmwpl.

Join us as we mark our 50th anniversary with a year of special events and programs in the library and the community. Details will be on our website, MWPL.ca and our Facebook page. We shall be participating at Community Night in Davies Park in June. There will be cake!

from Kathy Minorgan
and Sharon Rozen

New and on-going activities Knit and Natter with Ann

Join us Thursdays from 3 to 5 pm (started March 9) for our new knitting circle! Bring in that unfinished project, that new kit you received as a gift or that yarn and needles you found buried in your cupboard and come in to knit and natter! It doesn't matter what level you are; you are welcome. Are you a total beginner? We can teach you how to knit! Are you a knitting pro? Come and show off your latest project and make us swoon! This is a group for everyone!

Register by emailing us at mwlib.requests@gmail.com (let us know if you are a beginner)

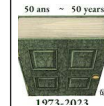
Bring your own needles and yarn. Cost: FREE for members – not a member come and join the library!

Watch our website for more craft programming to come!

Tea and Books

MWPL is proud to announce that once again Tea and Books will be hosting two local authors. These visits will be in person and on ZOOM and they are open to the public, but seating is limited. These visits are possible with financial assistance from *The Canada Council for the Arts* through *The Writers' Union of Canada*.

April 19 at 2 pm, **Russell Fralich** will be joining us; he is the author of *True Patriots*



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OPENING HOURS

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Sunday, April 7-Wednesday, April 10

a critically acclaimed political-military action thriller, published by Dundurn Press. It was shortlisted for the 2021 Best First Crime Book Award of Excellence by the Crime Writers of Canada and the 2021 Kobo Rakuten Emerging Writers Award (Mystery Genre). An early excerpt from the novel won an emerging writer award at the 2017 Eden Mills Writers Festival. Kola Magazine published one of his short stories in 2019. He is also a husband, father, amateur astronomer and a management professor.

May 17 at 2 pm Tea and Books will host **Claire Holden Rothman**. Claire has written many books, but at this time we will be discussing one of her earlier works called *My October*. We will be posting more information on our website.

Seed bank at your library!

The MWPL will be starting to collect seeds to distribute to residents, neighbours and members. A seed bank is a place where other gardeners can either deposit seeds from their gardens or withdraw seeds to plant in their garden. It allows new gardeners to learn what has worked for others and to try something new. We are asking members and residents to bring in the seeds labeled with its identification (common name) and brief instructions that is, sun or shade, height, blooming period, pollinator (bee-friendly), butterfly-friendly. The seeds may have been collected from gardens or extras that may have been bought. The library is hoping to concentrate on heritage and pollinator species. This project is a joint endeavour with the *MW Environmental Action Committee*, and we look forward to more partnerships with them in the future.

We began collecting seeds March 20 and we only begin distributing seeds once we have a sufficient number of seeds deposited. The availability of seeds will depend on the amount accumulated. If you have seeds you would like to share, please come and drop them off. We can't wait to see what people grow!

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Children's Library



Amélie, Chloe and Lily are having fun at the Slime Making workshop we organized during March Break

Bill Foster Writing Contest and Writing Workshops

Time passed so fast – it seems like yesterday when we opened the *Bill Foster Writing Contest* for submissions in February. A lot happened since then: author **Monique Polak** animated two creative writing workshops intended to assist the

budding writers in their creative process and she guided the children, gave tips to better their ideas and shape them into stories. Now, the time comes for the writers to submit their stories – April 23 is the deadline. Please pick up an envelope from the library for the submission. As a reminder, texts in English or French are accepted, poems, short stories, graphic

novels. The entries will be evaluated in two categories: 6-8 years, 9-12 years.

April – Poetry Month

In celebration of Poetry Month, try being a poet! Just visit the library, use the magnetic words at your disposal and arrange them on the magnetic board as whatever feelings prompt you to write. You don't have to finish the poem – another visitor can get inspired and continue writing.

Canadian Children's Book Week

We are happy to announce that illustrator **Sophie Casson** will be visiting the library as part of the Canadian Children's Book Week. This event offers the opportunity for Canadian authors and illustrators to connect with young readers. Sophie Casson will not only be reading from her book; she will also animate a craft that goes with her book *Sing Out*. This workshop for children 3-7 years old and their parents will take place on Sunday, April 30, 11 am to noon. Please contact us to register.

New Story Walk

On April 14, a new Story Walk will be put up outside for all to read. The book *Pas moi* by **Elise Gravel** can be enjoyed by anyone passing by the library. As usual, the Story Walk will be accompanied by an activity inspired by the story. Don't forget to check out the web-site, or get in touch with us to learn more.

Skate-A-Thon

We would like to express our gratitude to the students of Elisabeth Ballantyne who put their effort into the traditional Skate-A-Thon to raise funds for their (our) Library. Thanks to you, new books will be purchased for the collection! Thank you!

Board game mania

On Saturday, April 15, 1 pm, you are welcome to a first board game mania event. A drop-in event animated by library personnel, for children of all ages: we will make sure everyone has a great time playing! Our board game collection contains games for all levels and different strategies, so satisfaction will be guaranteed.



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Montreal West Scouts



Louis, Jeremy, Tom, Kai, Deagan, Ari, Liam, Rosa, Nicholas.

Doing community service



A large part of Scouting is doing community service.

The following article was written by one of our Scouts, **Sebastian Fitzgerald**, who organized a special event to support a community group called Bread and Beyond. Congratulations Sebastian on a job well done!

Sunday, February 19, 12 members of our Scout Troop, as well as several Rovers and Scouters, participated in a *Bread*

and *Beyond* event. *Bread and Beyond* is a charity for homeless people, set up by **Kirstie Jagoe** during the pandemic, to provide sandwiches to homeless shelters. The charity is based in NDG and works with nine homeless shelters in the greater Montreal area. As well as supplying sandwiches, they also organize “Essentials Boxes” for people moving out of homelessness into accommodation.

The event took place in the kitchen facilities of the curling

club, which we were kindly able to use free of charge. Kirstie organized us into four tables: two for making sandwiches; one for bagging them; and one where they were labeled and put in boxes. Over the course of 90 busy, noisy and fun minutes, we were able to make 377 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches!

I (Sebastian) organized this event as part of my Chief Scout Award. To receive this award, you must have carried out at least 30 hours of community service, as well as at least 18 outdoor adventure skills, and you must lead your Patrol on an adventure. I thought the event went very well. The Scouts who participated really enjoyed it, and we were so happy to make so many sandwiches. We hope this might be an event that is repeated in future Scouting years.

As a fun end to the afternoon, we were introduced to curling by **Lester Shepherd** (former Scouter) on the curling rink. He showed us the basics and we were all able to try out our new curling skills!

I would like to thank all the Scouts who participated in the event and those who donated money to help fund it. I would

also like to thank the Rovers, who spent their time bagging, labeling and boxing sandwiches. Thanks also to the MoWest Scout Group Committee, who contributed to the donation. This meant we were able to raise a total of \$450, which exceeded the costs of the event! Thank you to Lester and everyone at the curling club who allowed us to use the kitchen facilities and try out curling. And finally, to the Scout leaders, **Andy** and **Micky**, who helped me to organize the event along with *Bread and Beyond*.

Details of Bread and Beyond can be found on their website: breadandbeyond.ca/.

from Scout
Sebastian Fitzgerald

Jeremy, Micky, Deagan



The Easton

continued from page 1

lot's open space has made people rush to catch the traffic light before it changed, making it a dangerous corner for cars and more so for pedestrians. With hundreds of Royal West students using that corner, it was a potential disaster waiting to happen. Even more so than the railway crossing. By restricting long range sight and tightening the intersection (the Town has promised sidewalk extensions like those on Westminster North) traffic issues should be calmer.

The Easton will extend the commercial area to Westminster South and increase the Town's tax base. But with increased density there is some concern about parking spaces. The building will provide only 20 underground parking spaces. The Town is planning for nine spots on the street, but there is the parking lot only steps away at the Town Hall. It is believed that many of the residents of the building will be taking the train

and will be only minutes away from downtown. Not many communities have such easy access to the heart of an urban area.

Every effort has been made to harmonize the architecture with the Town Hall, including a similar brick herringbone design. But the final reason is the most important: Noam saw it as an opportunity for long time senior residents to downsize and still live within the Town's limits and be close to old friends.

How The Easton got its name is by being directly at the eastern end of Easton Avenue! There was a lot of thought in the selection of the name, including some word play of East and West (Westminster).

The building is concrete (built to last); the 20 parking spaces are on one level because of the footprint and the cost, some will have electric charging stations; a forced air heating and cooling energy recovery (VRF) system takes temperature differences to heat/cool the areas in need (reduces cost); there is one high-speed, efficient, quiet Otis elevator and it's pet-friendly with a pet washing station in the garage. The condo

association and a property manager will ensure building cleaning and maintenance.

Paul Desjardins, a real estate agent with *Royal LePage*, has been a MoWest resident for just over two decades and has been involved in soccer and hockey as a volunteer coach and plays hockey in MoWest weekly. He says he feels “fortunate to have raised my family here; both my kids hope they can raise their own families here one day.” He handles sales of The Easton's four commercial as well as the residential units and is very committed to the benefits of this venture. *Aimee Schnitzer*, with *Century 21*, is Noam's sister and she is managing the residential sales.

Noam was a member of the Town's Traffic Committee and believes this project is the beginning of a New Montreal West. He has three more projects in mind. Stay tuned!

For more info:

Website: theeaston.ca

Paul Desjardins (Royal LePage) 232-0364

Aimee Schnitzer (Century 21) 481-2126

Guides



Cookies have arrived!

The chocolate and vanilla sandwich cookies are now available (both flavours in one box). The cookies were \$5 a box for the past 11 years. We all know the cost of everything has gone up over the past decade! They are now \$6, but the box remains the same. The increase permits the units to raise the same amount of money to continue to provide a wonderful empowering experience for the girls.

The money goes to support our local units: helps provide subsidies for girls from financially less secure families to be members; provides campership support for girls who otherwise would not be able to go; as well as supporting Guiding at the provincial and national levels. When you purchase a box of Girl Guide cookies, you are enabling so many young ladies to experience things they otherwise would not have an opportunity to do.

The public library is a wonderful supporter of the Girl Guides and have graciously accepted our request to sell cookies outside the library Friday, April 14; 5-7 pm. Hope to see you there!

February 22

February 22 is a very special day in Guiding and Scouting: the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the movements. It is a time when all Guiding members reflect upon this wonderful organization. There are over 10 million girls and women in 152 countries involved in Guiding. Often two or more units are involved in bridging activities which involve getting together.

This past February 22, Guides in the MoWest and NDG units gathered together at Beaver Lake to enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship through skating together. Sparks, Embers, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers all joined their leaders to make a connection with one another.

Sparks and Embers

The Sparks and Embers learned about the five World Centers where Girl Guides and Girl Scouts can gather to meet and engage in activities together. The permanent World Centres are Our Chalet (Switzerland), Pax Lodge (England), Our Cabana (Mexico) and Sangam (India). The newest, Kusafiri (Africa) is a movable one.

Our Sparks and Embers were given their special passports and boarded a plane which took them all around the world! It was powered by music! **Jade**, our Junior Leader, taught the girls a song. The farther we needed to travel, the more rounds we sang! Once we reached our destinations, we did an activity associated with that particular World Centre and then boarded our plane to

travel to a new destination. The girls enjoyed learning about Guiding in different countries!

During February, the girls learned of Canadian women of colour who have left a mark on our world. This has become an annual tradition which the girls and Guiders look forward to.



MoWest Guides who participated in the Montreal West and NDG Guiding units' skating party

Guides

The Guides, as well as participating in the Thinking Day skating party, also took part in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Thinking Day Challenge. This year's theme was based on how important our environment is to our future. Through five different stories, where the girls needed to engage in an activity to rectify a situation, the girls learned the importance of keeping our environment in balance to promote both inner and world peace. The final challenge encouraged all members of Guiding to "Walk the World." Between Thinking Day (February 22) and Earth Day (April 22) all Guides and Guiders are keeping track of the distances they have walked outside. Their leaders will log in the grand total, and the girls will see how much they were able to contribute to the global organization walking around the earth. For the curious, the circumference of the earth is 40,075 km. We will let you know how successful our unit was!

Try Now, Join Later

The Try Now, Join Later program is now up and running. Girls, who register under this program, are able to see what the Guiding program is all about and register in June for the coming year. A nice perk of this program is it allows the girls to attend the summer camp. As of the writing of this article, the Spark and Ember units each have two spaces available.

from the Guiders of Montreal West

Kosher corner



Jewish Women's Circle

Meeting March 27 for glass etching Elijah's cup in preparation for Passover.

Passover

The eight-day Jewish holiday of Passover is celebrated this year from the evening of Wednesday, April 5-April 13.

Passover is observed by avoiding leaven, eating matzah and retelling the story of the Exodus. A great way to ensure your home is chametz free is via a simple and free transfer of ownership; learn about it at chabadwestminster.com/chametz. This online form only takes a minute and is strongly encouraged!

Passover is celebrated in the spring, which means that very soon we can restart some of the outdoor activities we have done in previous years including the coming holidays Lag BaOmer and Shavuot. Celebrated with the annual community BBQ, and outdoor dairy buffet with ice cream and more!

Hebrew school

As many are preparing for the coming school year, Chabad Westminister is excited to announce the opening of registration for the second year of the Chabad Westminister Hebrew School for Pre-K through grade 4. Contact chaya@chabadwestminster.com for details.

Shabbat service

First Friday Shabbat services for April will be held Friday March 31. A short, family friendly, meaningful and relaxing way to begin the Shabbat, followed by L'chaim and refreshments.

from Rabbi Marlow

Spring is spring up!





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News from the pews

MW United

... the brick one

Is that chocolate on your breath?

April is arriving and with it comes Easter. First is Palm Sunday when the choir, under our interim director **Christopher Ducasse**, will present words and music of the season on April 2. Christopher is also a composer so we will sing his version of the Lord's Prayer set in Creole. Just try to sit still while you listen – I know I can't.

Friday, April 7 our Good Friday service at 7 pm (not broadcast), will be followed by a chance to remain in silence in the sanctuary up to 9 pm. Very appropriate after the simple, thoughtful message.

Easter Sunday, April 9 will open with great fanfare, wonderful messages, music, the chancel festooned in potted plants. Our service culminates in Communion. This is the pillar on which Christendom is built after all. Join us for this special service.

Also of note, April 23, we will be honouring Yom HaShoah within our worship service – The Holocaust is not to be forgotten.

Labyrinth Walk for April...

Yes, we are looking for a date, however as the Sundays are all busy, our indoor walking meditation will be held on a weekday evening. Watch for posters on the High Street...

Bookworm alert!

Our Book Browse Plus will be held Saturday, May 6, 9:30 am-3 pm. So, April is the time to pass on those novels, teens' and children's books, non-fiction, hobbies, self-help, cookbooks, CDs, DVDs, games and more. Then you can come to the Book Browse May 6 with a clear conscience and find new treasures. Books etc. can be left at the church, day times. A word to the wise – pack your books in small boxes or in bags. Big boxes of books 'tax the backs.'

Time flies when you are in good company

If it is 25 years since the Ice Storm, it is 25 years since *Joan Foster* conceived the idea for our *Extra Miles Program*. Seeing the benefit back then to solitary seniors of being moved to shelters with power and people, once normal life returned, Joan wondered about matching a weekly visitor with these individuals. With a quarter of a century behind us, the program is still going strong. In fact, it has continued to evolve. Just ask **Tracie Swim**, our dedicated coordinator. But I'll let her tell you another time. Stay tuned. In the meantime – Tracie you are awesome!!!

Hope to see you in church... 10 am Sundays, Sunday school also. Good Friday at 7 pm. Rev. **Mark** and **Merrie** would love to see you as would we all. Keep well....

from Susan Upham

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Come and celebrate Easter at St-Ignatius!

Our staff and volunteers have been busy planning to make Holy Week and Easter a beautiful celebration this year. All are welcome to come and experience the joy of our thriving community!

The schedule for Holy Week and Easter this year is

- Palm Sunday, April 2: Mass at 10 am (palms will be available at Saturday's 4:30 pm Mass, too)
- Holy Thursday, April 6: Mass at 8 pm
- Good Friday, April 7: service at 3 pm (confessions from 2 pm-7 pm)
- Easter Vigil, April 8: Mass at 8 pm
- Easter Sunday, April 9: Masses at 10 am

All of Holy Week will also be available via our livestream at: stig.ca/live-stream/

Families

All children ages 4-11 are invited to participate in Catch the Wave, our Sunday program for children during Mass, on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Simply let our team know at the sign-up desk in the entrance!

For parents of infants and toddlers, we're pleased to share that we also have a family room equipped with speakers should your children ever need to take a break from the pews.

Alpha

Our most recent Alpha series just launched March 22, and we'll be welcoming new guests until April 5. All are welcome to check it out and enjoy a home cooked meal, good company and insightful discussions about life and faith. Alpha is free of charge and is also available in-person or online. Visit stig.ca/alpha.

from Shawna Rose

St. Philip's

Holy Week and Easter

We are returning to most of our regular Holy Week and Easter programming. For Palm Sunday (April 2), we will have the Liturgy of the Palms with Procession, followed by the Passion Eucharist. Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 pm, we will have Tenebrae (Service of Darkness), although with indi-

vidual voices rather than a full choir chanting the Psalms. Maundy Thursday will be a joint service at St Thomas' Church at 6 pm. Our traditional Good Friday Liturgy will take place at noon on April 7. And Easter Sunday, April 9, we will have the usual festival Holy Eucharist with choir. All services, except Tenebrae, will also be livestreamed on Zoom.

Book & Bake Sale

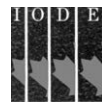
Our Book & Bake Sale will return on Saturday, May 13, with the addition of Attic Treasures in the basement. A lot of people have missed all the delicious treats at the bake table, and we have accumulated a substantial inventory of books, plus CDs and records. We will not be having craft vendors, as in some years, as we want to minimize crowding.

Jazz Vespers

In conjunction with the West End Jazz Project, a group of MoWest and NDG musicians, we will be having a Jazz Vespers service later in the spring, as a fundraiser for our Tri-Parish + Friends Refugee Sponsorship program. Watch this space for more information next month.

IODE

IODE Snack Pack



IODE Canada started breakfast programs in Labrador in 1978. School children in Davis Inlet and Northwest River receive a daily nutritious mid-morning snack, including milk, to supplement their scanty diet. It was recognized that an inadequate diet limits the ability to *learn*. *IODE* is proud of this program that is funded by primary chapters across Canada and individual donors. *IODE* Snack Pack is successful thanks to the enthusiastic co-operation of teachers and parents who prepare and serve the daily snack.

Attic Treasure Sale

Our Chapter is stepping into spring with fundraising efforts to support this ongoing project. Our Fundraising goal is \$2,000. Please donate to our Attic Treasure Sale (decorative items, fine bone china, tableware, lamps, cups, dishes, foulards, sunglasses, purses, custom jewelry in May.

Drop off any gently used items at **Janet King's** porch by May 1.

from Giuliana Pendenza

Town Council meeting: February



by Carol Foster

Mayor Masella announced that the promise to hold a vote on the sports and recreation centre will be formalized later in the agenda. This vote will take place in April after the bids have been opened. The cost of the project will then be known and the effects on the tax bills can be determined which will allow residents to make an informed decision. That decision will be based on the majority of the votes cast.

Information concerning the register was presented at two Council meetings, made available on the web and e-bulletins and reported in *The Suburban*. However, criticism was voiced by some residents who felt the population was not sufficiently informed. Although the mayor disagreed with this opinion, he stated, "We will do better."

Councillor Ulin reported that Public Works staff have had to be ready, both day and night, to deal with the snow accumulation which has surpassed the average of the past ten years. They have also had to deal with five water breaks, primarily related to the fluctuating weather conditions and Councillor Ulin explained that this has taken a toll on these men.

When doing renovations involving plumbing work, residents were asked to advise Public Works at least three days in advance to book their water shutoff.

Town employees have been asked to determine how to reduce their waste to lead by example. The *Environmental Action Committee* has planned a number of activities to further waste reduction in the Town. These will include a clothing exchange, the Free-for-All Day, another Zero Waste Challenge project and a town-wide garage sale. They will also be looking at extending

the bike path network and wood-burning regulations.

Councillor Feeney reported that 71% of the first instalment of the Town taxes have been received. She reminded residents who wish to contest their evaluation that the deadline is April 30 and she added that the City of Montreal's Evaluation Department has been relocated. Information concerning the move is available on their website.

Fundraising events, including a disco skate, a Vintage Wine dance, a Pub night and the annual Cottontail party have all been scheduled. March Break has been cancelled this year due to low registration. The outdoor rinks have been a challenge to maintain recently due to the weather. Applications for jobs at the pool are still open; however, information for pool membership will not be available until later in the spring when it can be determined whether the pool can be opened this summer. The spring session begins in April and summer programs are also open for registration.

No notices or tickets were issued by the Urban Planning Department during the past month and only nine permits were issued. PAC continues to ensure that work carried out is in compliance with the permit which was issued before closing that project file. **Councillor Torres** explained that the department will request an appointment for these inspections and she reminded residents that applications for a permit should be received by PAC at least one week before each scheduled meeting.

As spring break approaches, **Councillor Small-Pennefather** said that Public Security has been receiving numerous requests for vacation checks on homes.

The police statistics on crime have finally been received, but have been difficult to report since NDG, Côte Saint-Luc,

Hampstead and Montreal West have all been lumped together and it takes time to sort them out. It is hoped that a discussion about some of the safety and security issues in the Town will take place soon with the new commander, Martin Montour, and some of his officers.

With more snow predicted, residents were reminded of the fine of \$154 plus towing fees which will be incurred for not obeying the parking regulations during snow removal. A new PSO is in training and **Clifford Jordan** is now back in the country and continuing to show some improvement.

Question periods

Questions during both the first and the second question periods focused primarily on the cost, the alternatives and the communication process involved in the sports and recreation project.

The cost of the project was a major concern and was questioned extensively and in many different contexts. As has been discussed many times, the project's cost effect on property taxes will only be known once the bids have been received revealing construction costs and allowing calculations to be made more precisely.

The option of building a recreation centre without an arena would mean forfeiting the 12.5 million dollar grant from the government because that money was based on the inclusion of an arena. The terms of this grant are not negotiable. If the majority of the votes in April are negative, the Town would have to wait in line again to request another grant for a different project but as the mayor stated, "We're not there yet."

Fundraising efforts include some foundations as well as individual donors.

The cost of demolishing the present arena and just building a new pool has not

Juliette LORD

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Nous enseignons à tous les enfants l'empathie, la compassion, la compréhension et l'acceptation de toute diversité.

En savoir plus:

Town Council meeting: February

been determined at this time.

The actual number of residents using the arena is difficult to be known precisely as the recent statistics do not indicate the residency of all the users.

The government grants for the recreation project and the grants the Town receives for rebuilding the roads are completely separate; one does not affect the other.

The communication process needs improvement according to some residents who felt the lack of timely and adequate information concerning the progress of this project was a major issue.

The mayor promised improvement and gave assurances that ongoing information will continue to be published in *The Informer* and made available electronically with the addition of information being delivered door-to-door. "We will make sure the information is disseminated more completely," he stated.

Other topics discussed included a request for a continually updated list of streets scheduled for repair in priority order. Councillor Ulin agreed with this request and added that the list could be published in *The Informer*, accompanied by an explanation of how the streets are selected.

Public Works staff are constantly repairing potholes in the streets and patching sidewalks where possible. However, because of the construction of some sidewalks, such as the ones on Brock North and Strathearn, there is a particular problem because of the way the concrete used for the streets was poured along with the sidewalk making it all one piece. Asphalt patches are the only viable option unless the entire street is rebuilt in those locations.

When the amount of money recently spent on snow removal was questioned, it was explained that this cost includes the

usual need for additional outside personnel, the rental of additional equipment and overtime expenses.

Bollards are placed at the entrance to the bike path near Brock South to prevent traffic from using the path as a street. However, when the bollards are removed to allow for snow clearing some cars drive along the path. It was agreed that more signage is required to prevent this problem.

There is a nuisance bylaw that governs excessive noise in the Town and disregard of these regulations can result in a warning, followed by a fine if the nuisance continues. Incidents should be reported to the Public Safety Department.

The mayor has been waiting a long time for a response to his inquiry about the current costs of having a BIXI stand and a grant is being looked into for the possible installation of more charging stations in the Town.

The mayor agreed with a resident who felt the system of basing property taxes solely on property evaluations should be revised. The Association of Suburban Municipalities has been looking into this issue for quite some time. They argue that taxes should also be based on the services rendered. The Quebec government will have to be involved in any solution to this practice.

Concerns have been expressed by Bedbrook residents about the safety of the increased activity at a new recreation centre as well as the lack of additional parking spaces it would entail. A professional traffic study will be conducted to determine the impact of these factors on Bedbrook as well as on the neighbouring streets once it can be determined what and where the impact will occur.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm after having been watched by a total of 185 viewers.

Community Centre

Spring Artists' Showcase

Calling all MoWest Artists

It is time to start planning your artwork for next season's Artists' Showcase. The theme for the spring exhibit is Environment Art. Please fill out an application online.

The online exhibit will be up toward the end of May, the deadline for application is April 17.

Art in the Park

Art in the Park will be held on Tuesday, June 6 with Community Night at Davies Park. Application deadline: May 19.

To find out more about the Artists' Showcase or Art in the Park, or to get an application form, go to the website under "culture" or pick up a form at the Community Centre. For info: recreation@montreal-west.ca or call 484-6186.



National Volunteer Week

April 16-22

Volunteering Weaves us Together

Let's celebrate our individual and collective actions in creating a strong, interconnected and vibrant community!

Volunteering weaves us together, strengthening the fabric of our community by sharing our time, talent and energy to support one another.

La Semaine de l'action bénévole

16 au 22 avril

Le bénévolat tisse des liens

Célébrons nos efforts individuels et collectifs visant à créer des collectivités résilientes, rapprochées et dynamiques! Le bénévolat permet de tisser des liens et de renforcer le tissu de notre collectivité grâce au partage de temps, de talents et d'énergie dans une optique d'entraide.



Réunion du Conseil : février



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Le **maire Masella** a annoncé que la promesse de tenir un vote sur le centre sportif et récréatif sera officialisée plus tard dans l'ordre du jour. Ce vote aura lieu en avril après l'ouverture des offres. Le coût du projet sera alors connu et les effets sur les factures fiscales pourront être déterminés, permettant aux résidents de prendre une décision éclairée. Cette décision sera fondée sur la majorité des suffrages exprimés.

Des informations concernant le registre ont été présentées lors de deux réunions du Conseil, mises à disposition sur le Web et dans des bulletins électroniques et publiées dans « The Suburban ». Cependant, des critiques ont été émises par certains citoyens qui estimaient que la population n'était pas suffisamment informée. Même si le maire n'était pas en accord avec cette opinion, il a déclaré : « Nous ferons mieux ».

La **conseillère Ulin** a signalé que le personnel des Travaux publics a dû se tenir prêt, jour et nuit, pour faire face à l'accumulation de neige qui a dépassé la moyenne des dix dernières années et a également dû faire face à cinq bris d'aqueduc, principalement liés aux conditions météorologiques fluctuantes, et la conseillère Ulin a expliqué que cela a eu un impact sur ces hommes.

Lorsqu'ils effectuent des rénovations de plomberie, les résidents devraient informer les Travaux publics au moins trois jours à l'avance pour réserver leur fermeture.

On a demandé aux employés municipaux de déterminer comment réduire leurs déchets pour donner l'exemple. Le comité d'action environnementale a prévu un certain nombre d'activités pour réduire davantage les déchets dans la ville, notamment un

échange de vêtements, la journée Bon débarras, un autre Défi zéro déchet et une vente-débarras à l'échelle de la ville. Ils envisageront également d'étendre le réseau de pistes cyclables et la réglementation sur la combustion du bois.

La **conseillère Feeney** a indiqué que 71 % du premier versement des taxes municipales avait été reçu. Elle rappelle aux résidents qui souhaitent contester leur évaluation que la date limite est le 30 avril et ajoute que le service d'évaluation de la Ville de Montréal a été relocalisé. Des informations sur le déménagement sont disponibles sur leur site Web.

Des activités de financement, y compris du patinage disco, une danse avec Vintage Wine, une soirée au pub et la fête annuelle du Lapin, sont prévues. Un faible taux d'inscription a mené à l'annulation des activités du congé de mars. Les patinoires extérieures ont été un défi à entretenir récemment en raison du temps. Les offres d'emploi à la piscine sont toujours en cours; cependant, les renseignements sur l'abonnement à la piscine ne seront disponibles que plus tard au printemps, lorsqu'il sera possible de déterminer si la piscine peut être ouverte cet été. La session de printemps commence en avril et l'inscription aux programmes d'été est également ouverte.

Aucun avis ni contravention n'a été émis par le service de l'Urbanisme au cours du mois précédent et seuls neuf permis ont été délivrés. Le CCU continue de s'assurer que les travaux effectués sont conformes au permis délivré avant la clôture du dossier de projet. La **conseillère Torres** a expliqué que le service demandera un rendez-vous pour ces inspections et elle a rappelé aux résidents que le CCU doit recevoir les demandes de permis au moins une semaine avant chaque réunion prévue.

À l'approche de la semaine de relâche, la **conseillère Small-Pennefather** a déclaré que la Sécurité publique a reçu de nombreuses demandes de vérification de maisons par des vacanciers.

Les statistiques policières sur la criminalité ont finalement été reçues, mais elles ont été difficiles à rapporter puisque NDG, Côte Saint-Luc, Hampstead et Montréal-Ouest ont toutes été regroupées et qu'il faut du temps pour les démêler. On espère qu'une discussion sur certaines des questions de sûreté et de sécurité dans la ville aura bientôt lieu avec le nouveau commandant, Martin Montour, et certains de ses officiers.

Avec plus de neige prévue, les résidents se sont fait rappeler l'amende de 154 \$ plus les frais de remorquage qui seront engagés pour non-respect des restrictions de stationnement pendant le déneigement. Une nouvelle ASP est en cours de formation et Clifford Jordan est maintenant de retour au pays et continue de montrer une certaine amélioration.

Périodes de questions

Les questions posées pendant les deux périodes de questions portaient principalement sur le coût, les solutions de rechange et les communications relatifs au projet de centre sportif et récréatif.

Le coût du projet était une préoccupation majeure et a été largement remis en question dans de nombreux contextes différents. Comme on l'a déjà dit à maintes reprises, l'effet du projet sur les taxes foncières ne sera connu qu'une fois que les soumissions auront été reçues, ce qui révélera les coûts de construction et permettra d'effectuer des calculs plus précis.

La construction d'un centre récréatif sans aréna signifierait la perte de la subven-

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Réunion du Conseil : février

tion gouvernementale de 12,5 millions de dollars parce que cet argent était basé sur l'inclusion d'un aréna. Les conditions de cette subvention ne sont pas négociables. Si la majorité des votes en avril était négative, la Ville devrait faire la queue à nouveau pour demander une autre subvention pour un autre projet, mais comme l'a déclaré le maire, « Nous n'en sommes pas encore là ».

Les efforts de collecte de fonds visent certaines fondations ainsi que des donateurs individuels.

Le coût pour démolir l'aréna actuel et construire une nouvelle piscine n'a pas encore été établi.

Le nombre réel de résidents utilisant l'aréna est difficile à connaître avec précision, car les statistiques récentes n'indiquent pas la résidence de tous les utilisateurs.

Les subventions gouvernementales pour le projet du centre récréatif et les subventions que la Ville reçoit pour la reconstruction des routes sont complètement distinctes; l'une n'affecte pas l'autre.

Le processus de communication doit être amélioré selon certains qui estiment que le manque d'information opportune et adéquate sur l'avancement du projet est un problème majeur.

Le maire a promis des améliorations et a donné l'assurance que l'information continue continuera d'être publiée dans *The Informer* et mise à disposition par voie électronique avec l'ajout d'information livrée de porte à porte. « Nous veillerons à ce que l'information soit diffusée de manière plus complète », a-t-il déclaré.

Parmi les autres sujets abordés, mentionnons une demande de mise à jour régulière de la liste des rues devant être réparées par ordre de priorité. La conseillère Ulin a accepté cette demande et a ajouté que la liste pourrait être publiée dans *The Informer*, accompagnée d'une explication de la façon dont les rues sont sélectionnées.

Le personnel des Travaux publics répare constamment les nids-de-poule dans les rues et retape les trottoirs dans la mesure du possible. Cependant, en raison de la construction de certains trottoirs, comme ceux de Brock Nord et de Strathearn, il y a un problème particulier à cause de la façon dont le béton utilisé pour les rues a été coulé avec le trottoir en une seule pièce. Les plaques d'asphalte sont la seule option viable, à moins que toute la rue ne soit reconstruite à ces endroits.

Lorsqu'on a remis en question le montant d'argent récemment dépensé pour le déneigement, on a expliqué que ce coût comprend le besoin habituel de personnel externe supplémentaire, la location d'équipement supplémentaire et les frais d'heures supplémentaires.

Des bollards sont placés à l'entrée de la

piste cyclable près de Brock Sud pour empêcher la circulation de l'utiliser comme une rue. Toutefois, lorsqu'ils sont enlevés pour permettre le déneigement, certaines voitures circulent sur la piste. Il a été convenu qu'il fallait plus de signalisation pour prévenir ce problème.

Il existe un règlement sur les nuisances qui régit le bruit excessif dans la ville et le non-respect de ce règlement peut entraîner un avertissement, suivi d'une amende si la nuisance continue. Les incidents doivent être signalés à la Sécurité publique.

Le maire attend depuis longtemps une réponse à sa question sur les coûts actuels d'un stand BIXI et une subvention est à l'étude pour l'installation éventuelle de nouvelles bornes de recharge dans la ville.

Le maire était d'accord avec un résident qui estimait que le système qui consiste à baser les impôts fonciers uniquement sur les évaluations foncières devrait être révisé. L'Association des municipalités de banlieue se penche sur cette question depuis un certain temps et soutient que les impôts devraient également être basés sur les services rendus. Le gouvernement du Québec devra être impliqué dans toute solution à cette pratique.

Les résidents de Bedbrook ont exprimé des préoccupations au sujet de la sécurité de l'activité accrue dans un nouveau centre récréatif ainsi que du manque de places de stationnement supplémentaires que cela entraînerait. Une étude de circulation sera menée par des professionnels afin de déterminer l'impact de ces facteurs sur Bedbrook ainsi que sur les rues avoisinantes une fois qu'il sera possible de déterminer ce qui se produira et où l'impact se produira.

La séance était levée à 21 h 45 après avoir été suivie par 185 personnes en Web-diffusion.

50+ Club 50+

April

- 4 *Lasting Impressions*, Théâtre St-Denis.
- 12 *Cabane à sucre Constantin Sugar Shack* (new date)
- 27 Bridge
- 28 Friday brunch

May

- 3 Hudson Village Theatre: *A Clean Brush* by Norm Foster
- 5 Tea party on Cinco de Mayo
- 11 Bridge
- 17 Soup's on (lunch and lecture), **Bruno Stenson**: Elvis Presley the Road to his Kingdom
- 30 Bridge

Overnight trip

Shaw Festival, September
Details coming soon

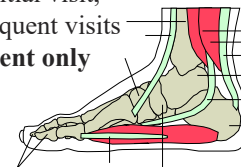
For more information on events email: recreation@montreal-west.ca or call **Tammy** at 484-6186.

Foot clinic

April 6 & May 3

484-6186

\$40 for the initial visit,
\$35 for subsequent visits
by appointment only



COMING EVENTS À VENIR

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

Next deadline: April 5

Apr

Sun 2 End of hockey season.
Legion Rink. 9 am-9 pm.

Palm Sunday. St. Ignatius. 10 am.

Choral service. All welcome.
MW United. 10 am.

Wed 5 Tenebrae (Service of Darkness).
St. Philip's. 7:30 pm.

Thu 6 Holy Thursday. St. Ignatius. 8 pm.

Fri 7 Good Friday liturgy.
St. Philip's. Noon.

Good Friday. St. Ignatius. 3 pm.

Sat 8 Easter Vigil. St. Ignatius. 8 pm.

Sun 9 Easter mass. St. Ignatius. 10 am.
Easter service. All Welcome.
MW United. 10 am.

Festival Easter Eucharist.
St. Philip's. 10 am.

Fri 14 CRA registration for spring
activities ends.

**Buy Girl Guide cookies at the
library.** 5-7 pm.

Mon 17 Garden Club meeting.
Town Hall. 7 pm.

Wed 19 Tea and Books with author Rus-
sell Fralich in-person and on
ZOOM (register at the library or
online mwpl.ca). Seating is lim-
ited. Public Library. 2 pm.

Wed 19 EAC Zero-Waste Challenge (on-
line registration)

Sat 22 Boys' soccer evaluations.
Catalgona Soccerplex
(must be registered)

Sun 23 Yom HaShoah
(Holocaust Remembrance Day)
included in service. All welcome.
MW United. 10 am.

Girls' soccer evaluations.
Catalgona Soccerplex
(must be registered)

Mon 24 Town Council meeting. In person
and virtually on the Town's
YouTube channel. Town Hall. 8 pm.

Sun 30 EAC Workshop Rewilding Your
Lawn. Town Hall. 10 am.

May

Sun 7 EAC Clothing Swap.
Town Hall. 1-4 pm.

Wed 17 Tea and Books with Claire Holden
Rothman discussing her work,
My October. Public Library. 2 pm.

Community Centre

Spring and summer registration is OPEN!

Spaces are available, but some programs are filling up quickly.
For more information: **484-6186** or recreation@montreal-west.ca or
www.montreal-west.ca

Red Cross Programs

1 day

Red Cross Stay Safe Program

Saturday April 22
ages 9-13
9 am

Red Cross Babysitting

Saturday April 29
ages 11-15
9:30 am

Emergency First Aid and CPR

April 30
Community Centre
9 am-4:30 pm

Ages: 12+

Basic one-day course
offering lifesaving first
aid and cardiopulmonary
resuscitation (CPR) skills
for the workplace or
home. Course meets leg-
islation requirements for
provincial worker safety
and insurance boards and
includes the latest first
aid and CPR guidelines.

Cost: residents: \$105 /
non-residents: \$115.

Day Camp

5-12 years old

- 8 weeks: June 26-Aug 18
- 4 weeks 1-4: June 26-July 21
- 4 weeks 5-8: July 24-Aug 18

Community summer programs

3-11 years old

Half day or full day options,
AM or PM
(8 weeks: June 26-Aug 18)

- Little Buddies: 3-4 years old
 - Les Amis 5-6: years old
 - Kidz Klub Jr: 7-8 years old
 - Tennis camp: 5-12 years old
- Registration is per week. Spots for week 1 to 8 are
still available.

Spring session begins early April summer fitness classes begin mid-June

Sign up on AMILIA. Classes offered in-person
and some online options.

- Pre-Ballet: 3½-4 years old
- Ballet ages: 5-6, 7-8 years old
- Fun science with **Captain Catalyst**: 4-6 and 7-9
years old
- Parent & Child Yoga (with **Miss Shirley**)
- Baby & Me Workout (Tuesdays and/or Thursdays)

Adults

Barre, Essentrics, Stretching, TRX, Zumba, Older
Adult Balance, Zumba, Yoga for Stiff Men, Yo-
galates, Reach, Meditation, Ballet for adults, Warrior
Workout.

Casual duplicate bridge

Join us for duplicate bridge (small group, about 4 tables) and casual, at the
curling club on Mondays at 1 pm on the top floor. Bring a partner.

from Sandra Jones

Tulips are up in a west-facing garden on Strathearn South.





COUNCIL communiqué



MAYOR'S REPORT

As a town, we are facing a crucial decision about the future of our recreational services. Will we vote to go forward with the proposed Sports and Recreation Centre?

There is no doubt that Council is in favour of this project. We have been speaking about this need since 2015. Personally, for the past 6-7 years, I have been in constant contact with our representatives at the other levels of government, administrators in the grant system, and even MNA's highly placed in the government from various parties, so that we don't lose any opportunity to secure a grant and move this project forward. In 2020 the stars aligned, and we won the support needed to be accorded the grant.

If we vote in favour of construction, we will have a brand-new centre that will act as the hub for the vast majority of our sports programs and so many of our recreational activities. It will be a multi-generational, multi-purpose, and accessible building that will serve our community for the next 50 years or more. It is a project for which we will receive \$12.5M in grants from the federal and provincial governments as well as donations in the area of \$2.5M – including a grant of \$250K from The Molson Foundation. And it will come with a bump in our property taxes. Will that amount be \$200? \$300? \$400? \$500? We will not know until we open the bids at the end of the month.

If we vote against construction, the paths are less well defined. If we are not able to tweak our design to help cut costs, we will have to forego that \$12.5M grant. And tweaking the design

does not mean eliminating the ice surface – that's a major change that will, without any doubt, require us to forego the grant and re-apply with a modified project. Will we be accorded a new grant? I would not bet on that. Because of the decrepit state of our existing arena, it will likely need to be shuttered and demolished within the next few years. Very likely, the pool would also need to be rebuilt – both because its mechanical room currently resides in the arena and because it too has reached the end of its useful life. Unfortunately, that too will cause a bump in our property taxes. And whatever that increase is, it will come with fewer services, decreased property values and difficulty in selling our homes. MW is already a high-tax destination, so the impact of a modest tax hike will have less impact than the large reduction in services under this scenario.

Conversely, a new facility will increase our property values, make our homes easier to sell and ensure that we have young families moving in making Montreal West their home.

Those are the facts.

However, a comment made to me by a friend, MW businessperson and resident struck a chord that prompted this communiqué. She said she has never seen the community so divided over an issue. That comment bothered me. My mind quickly went to the polarized situation of our neighbours in the US. Could we morph into a similar situation?

I would like to think we are far from that level of polarization. We may not necessarily agree on this major issue – I understand and accept that. But I cannot accept that the heated rhetoric will sink towards level of divisiveness that

plagues the US. That's not what we're about.

As Council has resolved, we will have a vote once all the bids are opened and validated and everyone has a solid idea of the tax implications. And we will abide by the will of the majority of votes cast.

I will maintain a respectful tone when answering questions from our residents. I ask that those questioners who are opposed do the same. I will ensure all the information that is put forward is clear, based on facts and complete. I ask that those opposed do the same. And most importantly, I know I will respect the results of the vote that has decided the fate of this project. I ask that those opposed do the same.

At the end of this vote, we will have two possible paths in front of us. One leads to a new Sports and Recreation Centre that should ensure the vitality of our community for future generations. The other path leads to some unpleasant discussions about how to finance the demolition of our existing arena and north chalet and the future of our pool and Sports and Recreation offerings.

In both cases, we need the whole community to put aside their differences and work towards solutions to make Montreal West a better place to live – not just for the current residents today but for all the young families clamouring to buy in our Town. We need that same spirit and cohesiveness our residents have always shown.

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



BUILDING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

What were your reasons for moving into MoWest? It may have been the beautiful old homes, the proximity to downtown, or it may have been something less tangible, but just as important – the sense of community.

MoWest is known for its vibrant community spirit. Families move here because they have friends or relatives living here who speak highly of this special characteristic. Children who grew up here often return to raise their own families because of this sense of connection.

In asking how this evolved, the answer may lie in our small size, and in the community events that so often bring us together. In Town Historian, David Watson's pictorial history, "Montreal West Looking Back", he states "Montreal West is a town where organized sports were always an important pastime. Long before the formation of the Parks and Playgrounds Association,

there was always a place for skating in the winter and a vacant lot available for baseball in the summertime."

Playing sports with your neighbours, meeting other parents in the stands while watching your kids play, when picking up your children after events, or participating in any of the many organized activities – all these provide great opportunities to meet other residents and form friendships. And, because our community is so small with our facilities close by, we keep bumping into the same people, strengthening our ties with them and our community. Not to mention the environmental benefits of being close enough to walk to so many of our facilities and events.

I have also found that these are ties that endure. As seniors, my husband and I continue to participate in recreational activities and get-togethers with friends and neighbours we met many years ago at Town activities.

In the next few weeks, Council will review the bids for our new Sports and Recreation Centre so we can present residents with the numbers. Then together as a Town, we will make the decision on how to proceed. When assessing the costs vs benefits of a new Centre, remember to consider the important non-monetary value of the recreational services offered to us. Fun events that foster physical health, mental well-being, and neighbourhood connectedness – these can bind residents of all ages together, and help maintain that sense of community which brought many of us here in the first place.

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



STREET TREES: OUR OVERLOOKED INFRASTRUCTURE

We all agree that care must be taken to maintain and upgrade our Town infrastructure. Roads, sewers, sidewalks, lighting and municipal buildings are what we most often think of in this category. Our green infrastructure, however, is no less important, but its value is often overlooked – especially that of street trees.

Street trees are good for your wallet

Studies show that homes landscaped with mature trees are worth 5% to 15% more. And with the average MoWest home evaluation now at over \$1M, that means \$50K to \$150K in increased value! Where the entire street is tree-lined, homes may be worth up to 25% more. You can do the math on that one.

Trees also help homeowners save up to 12% on heating and air conditioning costs. Cha ching!

Street trees extend the life of our roads by 40-60%, by preventing pavement degradation from ultraviolet ex-

posure. This saves taxpayers up to 58% in road rebuilding costs.

Trees significantly reduce storm water management costs and flooding, saving individual homeowners a bundle.

Street trees keep you healthy

Trees produce oxygen and reduce air pollution, enhancing respiratory health. And they promote greater physical activity, and markedly reduce stress. They also reduce noise pollution by as much as 40% which, in-turn, promotes mental health.

Street trees provide privacy and a sense of security. Studies show they ac-

tually reduce traffic speeds and decrease crime.

Street trees help save the planet

Trees absorb carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, filter storm water and stabilize soils.

Trees reduce the impact of weather extremes such as flash floods and heat waves which are becoming increasingly common here.

Finally, trees provide habitat and food for numerous bird, insect and animal species.

This spring Public Works will start its street tree planting program. Dozens of MoWest homes will be selected to receive a tree. If you're not on the list this spring but would like a street tree planted, please contact Public Works department.

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

communiqué du CONSEIL



RAPPORT DU MAIRE

L'ensemble de la Ville est confronté à une décision cruciale concernant l'avenir de nos activités récréatives. Voterons-nous pour aller de l'avant avec le projet de centre sportif et récréatif ?

Il ne fait aucun doute que le conseil est en faveur de ce projet. Nous parlons de ce besoin depuis 2015. Personnellement, au cours des six ou sept dernières années, j'ai été en contact constant avec nos représentants des différents paliers de gouvernement, avec les administrateurs de programmes d'aide financière et même avec des députés de haut rang de divers partis, afin que nous ne manquions aucune occasion d'obtenir de l'aide financière et de faire avancer ce projet. En 2020, les astres se sont alignés et nous avons obtenu l'appui nécessaire menant à l'octroi d'une aide financière.

Si nous votons en faveur de la construction, nous aurons un centre flamboyant neuf qui servira de point central pour la grande majorité de nos programmes sportifs et un grand nombre de nos activités récréatives. Il s'agira d'un bâtiment multigénérationnel, polyvalent et accessible qui servira notre communauté pendant les 50 prochaines années, voire plus. Nous recevrons 12,5 millions de dollars d'aide financière des gouvernements fédéral et provincial, ainsi que 2,5 millions de dollars en dons - y compris un don de 250 000 dollars de la Fondation Molson. Il est vrai que ce projet s'accompagnera d'une augmentation de nos taxes foncières. Ce montant s'élèvera-t-il à 200\$? 300\$? 400\$? 500\$? Nous ne le saurons pas avant l'ouverture des soumissions à la fin du mois.

Si nous votons contre la construction, les options s'offrant à nous sont moins

bien définies. Si nous ne sommes pas en mesure de modifier quelque peu nos plans pour réduire les coûts, nous devons renoncer à cette aide financière de 12,5 millions de dollars. Modifier les plans ne signifie pas enlever la patinoire – cela représenterait une modification majeure qui nous obligerait, sans aucun doute, à renoncer à l'aide financière et à présenter une nouvelle demande avec un projet modifié. Cette demande serait-elle approuvée ? Je ne parierais pas là-dessus. Notre aréna actuel devra probablement être fermé et démolit dans les prochaines années en raison de son état de décrépitude. Il est très probable que la piscine doive également être reconstruite, à la fois parce que la salle mécanique se trouve à l'intérieur de l'aréna et parce qu'elle a également atteint la fin de sa durée de vie utile. Malheureusement, ces travaux entraîneront aussi une augmentation de nos taxes foncières. Et quelle que soit cette augmentation, elle s'accompagnera d'une diminution des services, d'une baisse de la valeur des propriétés et de difficultés à vendre nos maisons. Montréal-Ouest est déjà une ville hautement taxée et donc l'impact d'une légère augmentation des taxes sera moindre que celui de la forte réduction des services dans ce scénario.

À l'inverse, une nouvelle installation augmentera la valeur de nos propriétés, facilitera la vente de nos maisons et assurera l'arrivée de jeunes familles à Montréal-Ouest.

Tels sont les faits.

Cependant, un commentaire que m'a fait une amie, femme d'affaires et résidente de M-O, a touché une corde sensible qui a motivé la rédaction de ce communiqué. Elle m'a dit qu'elle n'avait jamais vu la communauté aussi divisée sur une question. Ce commentaire m'a

dérangé. J'ai rapidement pensé à la polarisation de nos voisins américains. Pourrions-nous nous retrouver dans une situation similaire ?

J'aimerais penser que nous sommes loin de ce niveau de polarisation. Nous ne sommes pas nécessairement d'accord sur cette question majeure – je le comprends et je l'accepte. Mais je ne peux pas accepter que les débats enflammés atteignent le niveau de dissension qui sévit aux États-Unis. Ce n'est pas notre manière de faire les choses.

Comme le Conseil l'a décidé, nous procéderons à un vote une fois que toutes les soumissions auront été ouvertes et validées et que tout le monde aura une idée précise des implications fiscales. Et nous respecterons la volonté de la majorité des votes exprimés.

Je garderai un ton respectueux lorsque je répondrai aux questions de nos citoyens. Je demande aux personnes qui s'y opposent de faire de même. Je veillerai à ce que toutes les informations présentées soient claires, fondées sur des faits et complètes. Je demande à ceux qui s'y opposent de faire de même. Et surtout, je sais que je respecterai les résultats du vote qui décidera du sort de ce projet. Je demande à ceux qui s'y opposent de faire de même.

À l'issue de ce vote, nous aurons deux voies possibles devant nous. L'une mène à un nouveau centre sportif et récréatif qui assurera la vitalité de notre communauté pour les générations futures. L'autre voie mène à des discussions désagréables sur comment financer la démolition de notre aréna actuel et du chalet nord, ainsi que sur l'avenir de notre piscine et de notre offre sportive et récréative.

Dans les deux cas, nous avons besoin que l'ensemble de la communauté mette de côté ses différences et travaille à trouver des solutions pour faire de Montréal-Ouest un meilleur endroit où vivre - non seulement pour les résidents actuels, mais aussi pour toutes les jeunes familles qui achètent dans notre ville. Nous souhaitons voir nos résidents favoriser l'esprit communautaire et la cohésion dont ils ont toujours fait preuve.

Beny Masella, *maire*
Ville de Montréal-Ouest
bmaseella@montreal-ouest.ca



CULTIVER NOTRE ESPRIT COMMUNAUTAIRE

Quelles sont les raisons qui vous ont poussés à déménager à Mo-Ouest ? Il s'agissait peut-être des belles maisons anciennes, de la proximité du centre-ville, ou quelque chose de moins tangible, mais tout aussi important - l'esprit communautaire.

Mo-Ouest est reconnu pour son important sentiment de communauté. Les familles s'y installent parce qu'elles ont des amis ou des parents qui y vivent et qui apprécient grandement cette caractéristique particulière. Il n'est pas rare de voir les gens qui ont grandi ici revenir pour y élever leur propre famille en raison de ce sentiment d'appartenance.

Si l'on s'interroge sur les raisons de cette évolution, la réponse se trouve peut-être dans notre petite taille et dans les multiples événements communautaires qui nous rassemblent. Dans l'histoire illustrée de l'historien de la ville, David Watson, intitulée *Montreal West Looking Back*, on peut lire : « Mo-Ouest est une ville où les sports organisés ont toujours été un passe-temps important. Bien avant la création du Parks and Playgrounds Association,

il y avait toujours un endroit pour patiner l'hiver et un terrain vacant pour jouer au baseball l'été. »

Pratiquer des sports avec ses voisins, rencontrer d'autres parents dans les gradins en regardant jouer ses enfants ou en allant les chercher après les événements, ou participer à l'une des nombreuses activités organisées – tout cela offre d'excellentes occasions de rencontrer d'autres résidents et de nouer des amitiés. Et comme notre communauté est si petite et nos installations si proches, nous rencontrons toujours les mêmes personnes, renforçant ainsi nos liens avec la communauté. Sans parler des avantages environnementaux liés au fait d'être suffisamment proche pour se rendre à pied à un grand nombre de nos installations et de nos événements.

J'ai également constaté que ce sont des liens qui perdurent. Mon mari et moi, maintenant aînés, continuons à participer à des activités récréatives et sociales avec des amis et des voisins que nous avons rencontrés il y a de nombreuses années lors d'activités organisées par la ville.

Dans les prochaines semaines, le Conseil examinera les soumissions reçues pour notre nouveau centre sportif et récréatif afin que nous puissions présenter le montage financier aux citoyens. Ensuite, nous prendrons ensemble, en tant que Ville, la décision sur la façon de procéder. Lorsque vous évaluez les coûts et les avantages d'un nouveau centre, n'oubliez pas de tenir compte de la valeur qualitative des services de loisirs offerts. Ces événements favorisent la santé physique, le bien-être mental et le sentiment d'appartenance, lient les résidents de tous âges et contribuent à maintenir le sentiment de communauté qui nous a attiré à Mo-Ouest en premier lieu.

Colleen Feeney, *conseillère Finances, MADA, Loisirs et Culture*
cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca



ARBRES DE RUE : INFRASTRUCTURE SOUS-ESTIMÉE

Quand on parle de l'entretien et de l'amélioration des infrastructures municipales, les routes, les égouts, les trottoirs, l'éclairage et les bâtiments municipaux sont les éléments auxquels nous pensons le plus souvent. Notre infrastructure verte, cependant, n'est pas moins importante, mais sa valeur est souvent négligée – en particulier celle des arbres de rue.

Bons pour votre portefeuille

Des études montrent que les maisons aménagées avec des arbres adultes valent de 5 à 15 % de plus. Et comme l'évaluation moyenne d'une maison de Mo-Ouest s'élève aujourd'hui à plus de 1 000 000 \$, cela représente une augmentation de valeur de 50 000 \$ à 150 000 \$! Lorsque toute la rue est bordée d'arbres, les maisons peuvent valoir jusqu'à 25 % de plus. Faites le calcul.

Les arbres permettent d'économiser jusqu'à 12 % sur les coûts de chauffage et de climatisation. Cha ching !

Les arbres de rue prolongent la durée de vie de nos routes de 40 à 60 %, en empêchant la dégradation de la chaussée causée par l'exposition aux rayons ultraviolets. Cela permet d'économiser

jusqu'à 58 % des coûts de reconstruction des routes.

Les arbres réduisent considérablement les coûts associés à la gestion des eaux pluviales et aux inondations, ce qui permet des économies substantielles.

Vous gardent en bonne santé

Les arbres produisent de l'oxygène et réduisent la pollution de l'air, améliorant ainsi la santé respiratoire.

Les arbres favorisent l'activité physique et réduisent le stress. Ils réduisent la pollution sonore de 40 % favorisant ainsi une meilleure santé mentale.

Et ils offrent une certaine intimité et un sentiment de sécurité. Des études montrent qu'ils réduisent la vitesse de la circulation et la criminalité.

Contributeur à sauver la planète

Les arbres absorbent le dioxyde de carbone et autres gaz à effet de serre, absorbent et filtrent les eaux pluviales et stabilisent les sols

Les arbres réduisent l'impact des conditions météorologiques extrêmes, telles que les crues soudaines et les vagues de chaleur, qui sont de plus en plus fréquentes ici.

Et finalement les arbres fournissent un habitat et de la nourriture à plusieurs espèces d'oiseaux, d'insectes et d'animaux.

Ce printemps, le Service des travaux publics lancera le programme de plantation d'arbres dans l'emprise municipale. Des dizaines de maisons de Mo-Ouest seront sélectionnées pour recevoir un arbre. Si vous ne figurez pas sur la liste ce printemps, mais que vous souhaitez qu'un arbre public soit planté devant chez vous, veuillez communiquer avec le Service des travaux publics.

Elizabeth Ulin, *conseillère Travaux publics, Environnement et Communications*
eulin@montreal-ouest.ca