

THE INFORMIER

Montreal West Newspaper

February 2017, Vol. 45, No. 1

Photo: Maurice Krystal



Gabriel and Michel Massoud

Michael Massoud: **POCHICHE!**

by Maurice Krystal

Michel Massoud is a vegetarian on a mission since he opened *Pochiche* on Westminister on November 1. His aim is to dispel all the stereotypes connected to vegetarianism. He smiles and tells me that, "Gorillas are vegetarians and you sure don't mess with them."

When you walk into his new, beautifully decorated establishment, that used to house *Avenue Video* and before that, the *Ski Exchange*, you come face to face with a friendly, gregarious and passionate proprietor. *Pochiche's* main items are primarily falafel, homemade hummus and salads. Michel's wish is to convince people that vegetarian food is normal fare rather than exotic or fringe cuisine.

For an hour Michel regaled me with his life story and the history of chickpeas and falafel. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, he became a vegetarian at the age of 14. His father wrote dictionaries and his mother was a writer. Michel's command of words and turn of phrases comes quite honestly.

In 1981, at the age of 28, he came to Montreal and worked in advertising with *J. Walter Thompson*, an international advertis-

ing agency. The company transferred him to Toronto and not long after he shifted to another large advertising agency named *Saatchi & Saatchi*. He commuted between Montreal and Toronto regularly and in 1992 he met his future wife, **Grace**. She had just graduated with her Masters in Economics from the U de Montréal. They decided to move back to Lebanon where many of Michel and Grace's family still lived and they started their own advertising agency that did business in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. When the Syrian civil war broke out much of their business ventures collapsed.

Once again, Michel recreated himself and in 2013 the family returned to Montreal. He moved to NDG to be near his brother, **Sami**, who teaches at Ahuntsic College. Though he continued to do consulting work in branding and advertising, the idea of opening a vegetarian restaurant had been percolating on the back burner for over a dozen years. With a grin Michel quoted Jethro Tull observing that at 58 he was "too young to die and too old to rock and roll."

Pochiche, unlike other vegetarian restaurants, will not make food to look and taste like meat dishes. Michel, who has obvious researched his facts, says that in the historical past, most cultures used meat as an add-on to their diet. The cow or goat was more valuable for their milk and the hen for her eggs. A recent BBC special on gladiators reveals that their diets were mainly vegetarian with a heavy emphasis on grains and beans for quicker bone healing. In Europe it is a

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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.

ISSN: 084741X

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RATES

Camera-ready art:
1/6 page – \$45
1/12 page – \$25

Professional card:
\$125/year

Classifieds:
25-50 words – \$10
25 words or less – \$6

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The *Informer* is published nine times a year (usually) on the last weekend of the month except June, July and December. Out-of-town subscriptions: \$15 per year. Typesetting by *Informer* staff, printing by *Imprimerie Provost*. Extra copies available at Town Hall and both libraries. Funded, in part, by the Town of Montreal West. Articles are printed in French or English, as submitted.

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

February 8



Christmas Outreach Meal: A caring community

Montreal West once again this year showed how special it is as over 100 volunteers cooked turkeys, peeled potatoes, made stuffing, wrapped gifts and baked desserts. On Christmas Day, 32 families delivered a turkey dinner and a lot of love to 260 people in 170 homes in the area. In collaboration with the CLSC the frail elderly, those just out of hospital and those who were house-bound all received this special visit. Thank you to all who took part in this community event!

from Joan Foster



ART ETC. 2016

What a weekend! This year's show was an amazing success with lots of new visitors and many well received new artisans. The show is such an institution in Town and it is so wonderful to see so many local families come to visit together. We had such a diverse clientele, young families, grandparents, young adults, etc.

As with any activity, it does not happen by itself. The entire *ART ETC.* committee would like to thank the fantastic **Paula Cordeau** for her patience, support and assistance (the show would not happen without her!) and the wonderful **Darrell** for his hard work, kindness and assistance as caretaker

during the entire weekend. Special thanks to the *Horticultural Society* and the *Children's Library* for their hard work in making the tea room such a success. It is such an integral part of our show and adds to the welcoming ambience. We'd also like to thank the community of Montreal West for their continued participation in our show. By visiting and bringing friends and family, you are contributing to the success of the show.

If you would like to participate as an artisan in our November 2017 show you can contact us via Facebook or artetcmontreal-west@gmail.com. We hope to see you all in November.

Writing group

Every second Tuesday evening a dozen or so writers of various levels of expertise meet at the library to give each other feedback and do some writing exercises. There is no cost to participants. All that is asked is that you give your honest opinions and try to help others become better writers. The hours are from 7-9.

If you are interested in joining, please email **Maurice Krystal** at: mjkrystal@gmail.com or call **485-7674**.

Wealth of preschool options

Having moved to the neighborhood last summer, we discovered a wealth of great options exists for MoWesters for pre-school. Our middle daughter, **Victoria**, really came into her own last year in the wonderful environment of *Curzon* before she started kindergarten at Edinburgh this fall.

Our third child, **William**, freshly turned 3, bounds with energy and wows us all with his athleticism and coordination. We became sensitized earlier this year to the fact that his speech was delayed, although perhaps no more so than would be expected of any 3rd child with two elder sisters! As a family, we wanted to ensure that he had every opportunity and attention to improve his situation as he prepares for kindergarten in two years. This was to be a concerted family effort with the pre-school as the cornerstone.

William started at *Little Red Playhouse* in the spring in a program that embraces both learning and playing, as well as providing him with the one-on-one program he needs for his development. William benefits from the highly trained, warm and dedicated team with a low teacher to student ratio. Despite both parents working erratic hours, we are in constant communication about his progress with the teachers and director. Our real revelation has been the symbiotic learning relationship he has developed with his peers: erasing any pre-conceived notion we may have had about *LRP*.

His advancement has been remarkable over the summer, as he took swimming lessons at the pool during *LRP* camp and he has really begun to string his words together. We are at ease as he runs off happily into the gym at drop-off and are extremely grateful for our discovery of the *LRP* family.

Jessica and Emlyn McCutcheon
Strathearn North



Christmas carolling

The *Montreal West-End Operatic Society* carolled along streets of MoWest again this year raising funds for the *Children's Hospital*. If you missed us and are interested in making a donation to the *MCHF*, please visit: childrenfoundation.com/fundraiser/carolling-for-the-children-2/.

Thank you, MoWesters for your continued generosity in supporting the carolling campaign.

MWOS is gearing up for its second musical review singing songs from opera to Broadway and showcasing local talent. For an audition, please call **990-8813** ext. 3 or email casting@mwos.org or mwos.org.



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Planting from seed

For anyone who has toyed with the idea of starting seeds indoors for later transplantation in the garden, the *Horticultural Society's* February speaker will interest you. **Elaine Sanders**, founder of *Solutions Jardins*, garden designer, teacher and regular contributor to *The Suburban* through her gardening column, will be speaking at the February meeting and will answer those questions as to what are the best plants to start from seed, the right soil, light conditions and timing for best results. Starting plants from seed, whether vegetable, herb or flower is not overly complex if you have a bit of basic information.

Sanders' presentation will take place Monday, February 20 at 7:30 at the Town Hall. We welcome everybody, especially on a cold winter evening when our gardens are buried. There is a \$5 charge for non-members or you can pay the \$20 membership fee and be eligible for all the guest speaker presentations in 2017.

Become a member!

Membership fees, still only \$20, are now due and may be sent to:

Philippa Vikander
3495 Trenholme Ave
H4B 1K8

Or you can pay at the meeting.

Children's Library



Toute l'équipe de la bibliothèque vous souhaite une très belle et heureuse année 2017!

The Children's Library is happy to announce that we will be open SUNDAYS, beginning February 5. Sunday hours will be from 10 am to 3 pm.

Activities and clubs

Our activities and clubs are in full swing for the first session, with something for everyone. Lego Club and Makerspace are after school building and exploring activities for 5- to 12-year-olds, while Story Sparklers combines story time and crafts for 3- to 6-year-olds. Our Mother Goose program on Monday mornings is lots of fun for the under 3 crowd! Our next session will begin in March; keep an eye out for registration information.

Our book club meets on a monthly basis, Friday evenings from 7-9 pm. This club is for children in grade 5 or 6 with an accompanying adult. Our next meeting is Friday, February 10 when we'll be discussing *Wonder* by RJ Palacio. We welcome new members at any time, please contact us to register!

Activité bien aimée

Une des activités les plus aimées à la bibliothèque est la lecture auprès d'un chien de thérapie. Chaque vendredi matin, six élèves de l'école Elizabeth Ballantyne ont le privilège de lire avec un chien (et leur bénévole accompagnateur) du groupe *Pattes humanitaires thérapeutiques/Caring Paws Animal Therapy*. Ce programme aide aux élèves à développer leurs compétences en lecture et leurs habiletés sociales,

puisque'ils se font un nouvel ami lors de ces rencontres. Cette activité est vraiment en demande et notre liste d'attente est plus longue que jamais! La bibliothèque est très reconnaissante du travail des bénévoles, humains et chiens, de ce merveilleux groupe!

Skate-a-thon

Le 24 février prochain, les élèves de l'école Elizabeth Ballantyne participeront au Skate-a-thon annuel. Ils auront du plaisir à patiner et amasseront également des fonds au profit de la bibliothèque. Nous vous invitons à donner généreusement aux enfants de votre entourage qui vous demanderont de les commanditer pour cette activité. Vous pourriez en plus donner votre appui à notre bibliothécaire, **Casey Scott**, qui patinera avec les élèves elle aussi!

Winter is here, but there's a warm welcome for you at the Children's Library! We hope you'll drop in soon!

Love the library?

Come to our Valentine's Day activity on Saturday, February 11. Stories, crafts and snacks await you! Children 3-12 years old are welcome with an adult. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Contact the library to reserve your spot!

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Rotary



Marc Garneau

Member of parliament for NDG-Westmount and Minister of Transport **Marc Garneau** was our guest speaker recently. Marc said he was delighted to be with us and has just celebrated his first anniversary as Transport Minister as he took over the portfolio on November 4, 2015 and really loves his job. He said transportation has evolved and will keep evolving. The first point he brought up was the travel experience. He mentioned air travel and will improve speed but not at the cost of security. He said it was unacceptable to arrive home from an eight-hour flight and then have another two hour wait to clear customs. He then talked about raising foreign ownership in Canadian airlines from 25% to 49%. He said we need a bill of rights for travelers and will stop the overbooking and damaged or lost luggage by the air lines.

The second point Mr. Garneau made was that safety has to be improved: 46 people were killed at Canadian rail road crossings last year. The third point was green transportation and the reduction of greenhouse gases as cars and trucks are responsible for 80% of it. He said we have to innovate and talked about connected and automated vehicles. He added we can follow and adopt or we can

be a leader in the field. The fourth point brought up is that the North is underdeveloped in transportation and mentioned that we have very little deep water ports and only 11 of 80 runways are paved. We have the largest coast line in the world but we need \$1.5 billion to have a strong and robust marine coast line. The fifth and last point Marc made was that we have to make transport corridors and infrastructures as efficient as possible both provincially and internationally and said he had a good working relationship with US Secretary of Transport **Anthony Foxx**. He then answered many questions and talked briefly about the different levels of jurisdiction (federal, provincial and municipal) and the ramifications of the US election. He praised *Bombardier* and said they make a great product. He said, at the moment, the new Champlain Bridge belongs to the Minister of Infrastructure, but once it is completed it will be turned over to the Minister of Transport. Dr. **Nii Quao** thanked our speaker and noted Rotarian Marc Garneau is a master of his dossier and gets joy from showing up to *Rotary* every week.

Paul Harris Fellowship

We are looking to the Mo-West community for candidates for a *Paul Harris Fellowship*. A



person who would qualify for consideration would be someone who volunteers their efforts to help make our town and community better.

Please submit your candidates along with a brief description of what and how they have made our community better. We will be presenting these awards later this spring. Please send your nominations along with a brief letter explaining why they deserve this honour to: doug@westendpiano.com.

Come join us for lunch

The *Rotary Club of Montreal Westward* meets Thursdays at the Town Hall. Luncheon buffet: 12:30 pm; speaker: 1 pm. Cost for a guest is \$20. Your attendance brings good speakers and good fellowship. If you know a local business person, please ask him or her to be a speaker and to attend a meeting.

For information please contact **Doug Yeats** at doug@westendpiano.com.

from Doug Yeats



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Michael Massoud:

POCHICHE!

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long tradition that stallions before mating are fed chickpeas. So if you want stronger bones and increased virility... I guess chickpeas should be part of your diet!

Falafel is deep fried balls of chickpeas. It is placed in pitas and *Pochiche* uses their own special combination of herbs and spices. Tahini and lettuce and tomatoes are the customary toppings. Michel wants the eater to actually taste the texture of the beans. For countless centuries this dish has been considered the most popular street food in the Middle East. However, the increase demands for vegan meals, the demand for different fast foods other than pizza and chicken, and the rising increases in prices for the ingredients, has no longer made it a “poor man’s protein.”

The hummus is made weekly, as its shelf life is limited. Michel is more interested in pushing the vegetarian agenda rather than the Middle Eastern menu and is branching into other dishes. His latest is Putty Batty, which is a traditional English street food consisting of French fries on toast with mayo. The restaurant has substituted pita and makes its own vegan mayonnaise. Feedback has been positive.

Michel's aims

Like the astute advertising man he is, he explains why he has located in MoWest: he lives nearby on West Broadway; there are many students in the area with an increasing number preferring vegetarian food; parking is relatively easy; and a core group of people whose roots come from the Middle East live nearby. Of course his aim is to spread the love of this cuisine beyond this community. Plans are under way to do delivery in the area.

Michel says that without his elder son, **Gabriel's** help, *Pochiche* would not have happened. He is on temporary leave from his studies in computer networking. Grace works at the School of Industrial Design at the U de Montréal and younger son, **Raphael** is in his last year at Marie de France.

For fun Michel enjoys motorbikes, both racing and doing mechanical work. I guess that proves vegetarians can love speed and danger like the best or worst of us!

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Elizabeth Ballantyne School



Miss Donna's science and technology class

Science and technology

The students in **Miss Donna's** science and technology class have been busy learning, getting messy and having fun all at the same time!

Harley Nadley, a McGill student teacher, came to visit on a snowy December day. He taught the students how to make crayons and to create “elephant toothpaste”. They learned about the chemical reaction that makes the toothpaste experiment so much fun to watch. Miss Donna has been teaching them about the scientific method – making hypotheses, analyzing and observing their results.

CTV Spirit of Giving campaign

On Tuesday, December 13, The Grinch visited our school! He frightened the children and made a menace of himself – stealing toys and candy from everyone!

Luckily, EBS students had been busy collecting more than 45 boxes of food and brand new clothing and toys for the *CTV Spirit of Giving* campaign.

As the Grinch watched in amazement, a long line of students approached him and filled two more boxes with gifts. Cindy-Lou Who One and Cindy-Lou Who Two, from Whoville, explained to the Grinch that Christmas is all about giving and being with family and friends. Indeed – we all watched as his heart grew three sizes! He then joined all the students in singing holiday songs as they circled the Christmas tree. Luckily, **Lori Graham** and her *CTV* crew were there to film every bit of this wonderful event.

All the students of EBS should be very proud of themselves – they collected a HUGE amount of food, clothing and toys for needy families this Holiday Season.

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Edinburgh School



Holiday Fair Fun

On December 3, the Edinburgh Home and School Association held its first holiday craft fair. The fair was organized as a fundraiser to help meet the association's goal of purchasing 30 new laptops this school year to replace our aging fleet. Thirty tables were sold to various craft vendors. Items ranged from wool blankets to knitted goods, homemade soups, jewellery and much more.

The Home and School raised money by selling raffle tickets for over 50 prize, that were generously donated by local businesses and individuals, as well as selling food items and having kids make various craft items. One of the highlights of the day was the final drawing for the raffle prizes, including a pair of Canadiens hockey tickets!

Students in the Edinburgh's Parent Sponsored Activities (PSA), that runs the before and after school program, made ornaments and other crafts sold at the fair. These items raised \$350. In addition, two Edinburgh students, **Melanie** and **Rebecca Testani**, with the assistance of **Stephanie Barnes**, generously donated their time to make and sell stress balls. They donated all their profits of \$180 to the H&S laptop initiative.

In addition, we had several student entrepreneurs who were selling items at tables, including **Maximus Maxwell** (who sold pencils and bookmarks), **Gracia Garin** and **Ava Surette** (dog treats), **Raquel Williams-Richards** (soaps), **Jacob LeCouffe** (dog leashes) Next year we hope to attract even more student entrepreneurs!

Free entertainment was generously provided by **The Amazing Todsky**, *Break City* and *WIMA*. Their energetic performances



Marking the end of the fall semester with a school fair and a sleigh ride

were much enjoyed by all in attendance!

Non-perishable food donations were collected at the door and later delivered to the *NDG Food Depot*.

A total of \$5400 was raised, which will allow us to purchase five laptops, in addition to the 19 already purchased this year with other fundraising profits.

The event was a great success, with a fantastic turnout of parents and students as

well as members of the local community, which lent a neighbourly feel to this special Edinburgh event. A huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time for this event, school staff for their assistance and everyone from the community who attended!

Holiday sleigh ride

On December 22, Edinburgh students celebrated the holiday with a sleigh ride around Montreal West and enjoyed a hot chocolate upon their return.

Edinburgh School Governing Board News

The Governing Board is a legal body that is consulted on various school and school board matters. The Board is composed of parents, teachers, other staff and community representatives. We discuss matters from (but not limited to) school curriculum, school discipline, enrichment activities to finances and physical structure.

The GB is seeking one community representative to serve on the Edinburgh GB. This would be a member of the community who no longer has, or never had, a child at Edinburgh. The GB meets approximately six times per year. If you are interested, please contact the Edinburgh GB at GB.edinburgh@gmail.com.



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École des Amis-du-Monde



Janvier à l'école des Amis-du-Monde :

Participation à un concours international « Cœurs et esprits ouverts aux réfugiés » pour le préscolaire et le primaire.

Objectifs:

- Éducation à la citoyenneté mondiale;
- Sensibilisation des enfants à leurs droits et au respect des réfugiés ou des immigrants;
- Promotion de la culture du Vivre Ensemble et compréhension globale célébrant la diversité dans toute sa richesse;
- Stimuler les expressions créatives à travers diverses formes d'art.

Nous ferons deux œuvres collectives avec les dessins et les messages des élèves participants (une préscolaire et une primaire). Dans un premier temps, les œuvres seront acheminées à UNESCO Canada puis, les productions des écoles finalistes seront présentées à Paris. Le tout doit être acheminé avant le 1^{er} février.

Participation à la Dictée PGL

En janvier et février, tous les élèves du primaire ainsi qu'une classe du préscolaire participeront à la Dictée PGL ayant pour thème : « Le monde dans mon assiette ».

Lundi 16 janvier : Journée internationale du Vivre Ensemble

Nos élèves du conseil des élèves ont préparé des petites capsules pour la promotion du Vivre Ensemble. De plus, en matinée, il y a eu lieu le petit café avec la Direction, nous avons présenté une vidéo promotion-

nelle du Vivre Ensemble de la CSMB; une vidéo où figure notre école.

Semaine du 20 janvier

Les parents des petits qui auront 5 ans au 30 septembre pourront prendre rendez-vous pour la semaine des inscriptions qui aura lieu du 6 au 10 février. Vous trouverez les informations à ce sujet sur notre site web : desamisdu monde.ecoleouestmtl.com/.

La promotion du développement durable

Dès la semaine du 16 janvier, les élèves du conseil des élèves forment une brigade verte. Ils ont présenté dans les classes le tri des objets recyclables, réutilisables ou destinés au compost. De plus, les élèves de l'école sensibles à la cause pourront se joindre à un nouveau comité : Les petits écolos. Ensemble, nous ferons la promotion des gestes responsables à l'école.

Voici les vœux de nos élèves du Conseil des élèves pour la nouvelle année 2017 :

Nous vous souhaitons beaucoup de plaisir, d'amélioration, d'accomplissements, de paix, de joie, d'harmonie, de santé, de chance, d'amitié et de bonheur; tout cela sans violence. Nous souhaitons également que tous les enfants grandissent vite et heureux dans leur famille et qu'ils apportent du bonheur dans vos maisons. Nous souhaitons aux enfants pauvres la chance d'aller à l'école, qu'ils aient un toit et leur souhaitons aussi de belles aventures, des rêves et des sourires. Nous souhaitons finalement la paix dans tous les pays et la santé dans toutes les familles. Que l'année 2017 soit meilleure que la précédente.

*Le conseil des élèves
de l'école des Amis-du-Monde*



Lauréate du concours cartes de Noël du député de Darcy-Mc Gee, monsieur Birbaum

Notre école a participé à un concours de cartes de Noël organisé par le député provincial. Une élève du secteur de Montréal-Ouest a gagné le concours. Il s'agit d'**Audrey Collette Mvie**. Nous félicitons cette élève. Son dessin a fait l'objet d'impression de cartes de souhaits pour le bureau du député.

Donna Nicholson
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INTERGENERATIONAL DAY

Extra Miles



On November 23, Extra Miles senior visiting program brought together the Day Away participants of the *NDG Senior Citizens' Council* and Mrs. Robinson's grade 6 students from Elizabeth Ballantyne School (EBS) for Extra Miles Intergenerational Day. Intergenerational Day brings together

different generations to learn a little about each other. It is an award-winning program, fostering communication, understanding, the development of new friends and fun. The day's activities included ice-breakers, speed-dating, exercise, mindful-meditation and lunch.

This is an excerpt from a thank you letter written by **Anthony**, of EBS. "I was a little shy at first, but by the end of the day it was like I knew them forever. It was really nice that our class got to



meet the seniors. They actually were pretty cool. I hope one day we can see my friends again...."

The day, a huge success, was possible with the help of ten amazing volunteers and generous sponsors. The pictures, taken by **Jonah Picard**, really capture the spirit of the day.

Royal West Academy

28th annual Science Fair

Ever wonder how many species of bacteria can be found in your home? Or how music affects your mood? Maybe you've heard that chewing gum can increase your concentration levels... but is it true?

Royal West Academy students will answer these and many other interesting questions at the 28th annual Science Fair, happening on February 23.

In the morning, almost 400 students from Grades 8-11 will

present their projects to judges from both the academic and professional worlds. And in the afternoon, the RWA Science Fair will be open to the public from noon to 1 pm. The public is once again invited to attend in the evening from 6:30 to 8 pm. Students look forward to presenting their projects during this

time as the pressure of official judging will be over.

The day ends with the awards ceremony. Science Fair participants, family, friends and judges are all welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

Please contact **Jennifer Pevec** at rwasciencefaircoordinator@gmail.com for more info.

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Montreal West Scout Group



Beavers

Our Beaver Colony was busy in January. They jumped right into a three week rotation where they took turns “cooking” – building cute animals and cars out of fruit and vegetables; “crafts” – making beavers out of toilet paper rolls and “outside” in the dark playing in the snow. They had a pretend campfire to get ready for winter camp at Camp Kinkora.

February is the time to build Beaver Buggies and have our Rally with families and friends cheering us on.

Cubs

The Cubs received their maps of the “Jungle” and are working on the new Canadian Path program. As part of this new youth-led program, the cubs were asked to suggest activities for winter camp and they discussed the process for building their Kub Kars. One night was spent whooshing down the hill at Murray Hill Park in Westmount, getting ready for winter camp.

Scouts

The Scout Troop is trying to spend more time outdoors so they planned a hike on Mount Royal on Saturday, December 10. It was a cold day but they spent close to five hours outside.



The Troop has registered to go to the Canadian Jamboree in Nova Scotia this summer. As part of this program they have entered a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) contest. They have collectively decided to improve the “snowmobile”. They are being guided with the help of one of our Rovers, **Slater Covenden**. Good luck guys!

Venturers

The Venturer Company helped the Town of Montreal West celebrate the arrival of the *CP Holiday Train* in November. They set up a table to sell hot chocolate and baked goods.

They are using the profits to help pay for camp hammocks. They are discussing plans for the rest of the winter and spring.

Rovers

Our Rover Crew spent part of their holidays skiing at Owl’s Head and Mont Sutton. A few Rovers will be volunteering their time to come to winter camp to help the leaders.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 26, consider joining the Rover crew for outdoor and athletic adventures combined with service to your community.

Our activities include weekend camps, sports nights against visiting crews, triathlon com-

petitions, skiing and community service. For more information contact **Rusty** at jon-wiersma1968@gmail.com.

Garden Supply Sale

Lastly, even though Montreal West yards are currently covered with the dreaded white stuff, it is not too early to think about spring and spring of course means the Scout Group Garden Supply Sale. Forms will not be handed out until March, but for those optimists who are already counting the days, hang in there – so are we! This will be a big year as some of the profits will go towards the costs for the jamboree.

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Guiding



The end of 2016 was a busy time for the Guiding community in Montreal West. The girls were working on service projects.

Sparks and Brownies

The Sparks and Brownies teamed up for two meetings to help the *NDG Food Depot* and the *MoWest Meals-on-Wheels*. The girls made up-cycled Christmas cards for the participants of the *Meals-on-Wheels* program. These individuals also received a special Christmas tree craft to hang in a window, a special hot chocolate surprise package and some stained glass window cookies.

Non-perishable foods were collected for the *NDG Food Depot*. As an extra bonus, extra hot chocolate surprise packages were made for them as well!

The girls had great fun working together for others. At the end of each of the meetings, the girls joined together and had a good time singing songs at a campfire. The older girls thoroughly enjoyed teaching the younger girls new songs!

Guides

During this time, the Guides decided to participate in a service project; they brainstormed their ideas for different organizations they could help. The girls voted to make dog treats



for a local shelter. They also voted to visit a local seniors' centre in the new year, where they will perform skits and sing songs for the residents. It is very thoughtful of them to spread good cheer through the year and not just focus it during the traditional holiday period.

The new year brings new fun for the units. The Guides are working toward their Lady Baden Powell Challenge. This is the highest award the Guides can earn. It does take time to complete all the requirements. It will be interesting to see how the girls rise to the challenge!

The Sparks are also working on a challenge. In recognition of

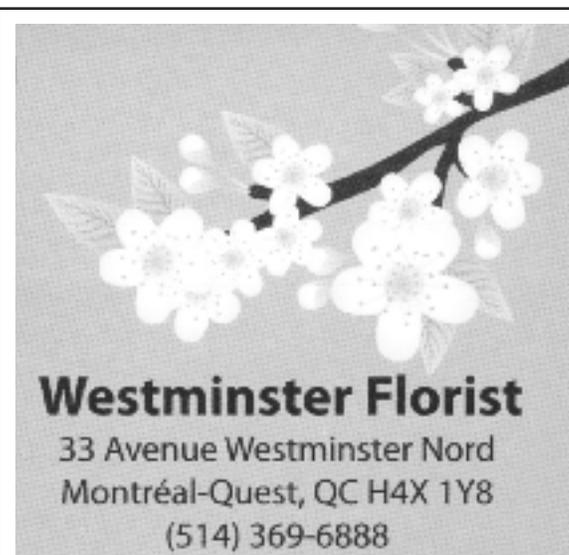
Canada's 150th birthday, the young girls are working on the Cross Canada Challenge. It will take quite a few meetings, but the girls will learn fun facts, and participate in engaging activities all while learning about this fantastic country of ours from coast to coast to coast.

The Brownies are always encouraging the girls to live up to the Guiding Motto "Be Prepared" for, if the weather is cooperative when their meetings start, they will move it to the wonderful outdoors! What a great way to enjoy the wonderful Montreal West community!

from MoWest Guiders



photos: Christine Downey



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BUDGET 2017

Revenus / Revenues

	2017 \$	2016 \$	% total
Taxes			
Résidentiel / Residential	11,676,078	11,421,408	76.33
Lots vacants / Vacant lots	59,843	31,401	0.39
Non résidentiel / Non-residential	1,239,330	1,271,031	8.10
Taxe d'eau / Water tax	422,000	442,000	2.76
CMM / MMC	106,305	105,100	0.69
Droits de mutation / Duties on transfer	415,000	370,000	2.71
Reçus au lieu de taxes / Payment in lieu of taxes	241,441	212,829	1.58
	<u>\$14,159,997</u>	<u>\$13,853,769</u>	<u>92.57</u>
Autres/ Other			
Loisirs et Culture / Recreation and Culture	590,800	584,200	3.86
Contraventions / Tickets	120,000	120,000	0.78
Stationnement et permis / Parking and permits	81,500	79,250	0.53
Intérêts / Interest	115,000	105,000	0.75
Intérêts à recevoir sur subvention / Interest receivable on grants	179,252	178,585	1.17
Autres / Others	50,345	45,545	0.33
	<u>\$1,136,897</u>	<u>\$1,112,580</u>	<u>7.43</u>
REVENUS TOTAUX/TOTAL REVENUES	\$15,296,894	\$14,966,349	100%

Dépenses / Expenses

	2017 \$	2016 \$	% total
Par service / By department			
Conseil / Council	178,195	154,065	1.16
Administration	1,449,587	1,399,532	9.48
Sécurité publique / Public security	434,549	411,033	2.84
Travaux publics / Public works	2,925,726	2,724,792	19.13
Hygiène du milieu / Environmental health	875,833	838,570	5.73
Inspection et permis / Building inspection	124,590	123,732	0.81
Loisir, culture et parcs / Recreation, culture and parks	2,468,898	2,313,574	16.14
Dépenses en capital à même les revenus / Capital expenditures out of revenues	22,500	27,600	0.15
Service de la dette / Debt charges	1,695,972	1,789,841	11.09
	<u>\$10,175,850</u>	<u>\$9,782,740</u>	<u>66.52%</u>
Quote part agglomération / Agglomeration remittance	<u>5,121,044</u>	<u>5,183,609</u>	<u>33.48%</u>
DÉPENSES TOTALES/TOTAL EXPENSES	\$15,296,894	\$14,966,349	100%

Budget commentary

On December 19, Town Council adopted its operating budget for 2017. Our objectives remained keeping the tax increase for the average-valued home to less than the rate of inflation for Montreal (forecast at .85%) while maintaining the level of service and continuing the renewal of our infrastructure.

Total expenses

Total expenses increased 2.2% related mainly to salaries and benefits, which included an increase of \$75k for the implementation of provisions related to Bill 15, the provincial law on municipal pension reform. Other increases included: costs related to the 2017 election (\$34k); repairs and upkeep of parks (\$27k); required arena repairs (\$25k); purchase and planting of more trees (\$26k); and additional water costs from the City of Montreal (\$15k).

Increases offset by decreases

However, these increases were offset by substantial decreases in our debt charges (-\$94k) and Agglomeration remittance (-\$63k). The former was due to lower interest rates and the paying down of some debt. The latter was the result of a new deal worked out with the Agglomeration in 2016 and the new valuation role. Consequently, the Town was able to not only meet our objectives, but to do so with a 0.43% decrease in the tax bill of the average-valued home (\$608,450) in Montreal West for 2017.

With increases of 1.24% (2016), 1.53% (2015), and 0.2% (2014), the average increase for the past four years is 0.64%, below the cost of living increase of 1.14% for that time frame.

Council is pleased to have been able to achieve our goals while maintaining service levels and continuing with our infrastructure work. In 2016, road and infrastructure work was completed on Strathearn. Some sidewalks were redone around town and upgrades were made to town buildings and to our fleet of vehicles without incurring any debt.

Three-year capital expenditure program

At its December meeting, Council also adopted a three-year capital expenditure program which includes anticipated spending of approximately \$3.3 million in 2017. Plans include sewer and roadwork renewal on Brock North and Ballantyne North (upon approval of government grants), the continuation of the upgrade to Davies Park, and the installation of French drains at Town Hall. Capital programs for future years are wish lists at this point and will be reviewed and reconsidered next year in light of government grants and available funds.

Colleen Feeney
Councillor for Finance,
Administration and Human Resources



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BUDGET 2017

Programme triennal d'immobilisations Three-year Capital Program

Catégorie / Category	2017	2018	2019
Infrastructures / Infrastructure	\$3,235,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000
Bâtiments / Buildings	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Véhicules / Vehicles	\$69,000	\$0	\$0
Équipements / Equipment	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
	\$3,344,000	\$2,040,000	\$1,040,000

Comparaison du compte de taxe Taxation comparison

Résidentiel / Residential

Résidence valeur moyenne / Average value residence

Rôle 2017 - 2019 Roll: 608 448\$

	2017	2016
Valeur imposable / Taxable value	\$608,448	\$613,991
Taxes locales + Agglo / Local Taxes + Agglo	\$7,615.34	\$7,647.26
CMM / MMC	\$66.32	\$67.54
	\$7,681.66	\$7,714.80
Réduction relative à 2016 / Decrease over 2016:		-\$33.14
% réduction / % decrease:		-0.43%

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

	2017		2016	
	Local	Agglo	Local	Agglo
Taxe foncière générale / General property tax	0.7684	0.4832	0.7477	0.4978
Immeuble 6 logement + / 6 Units or more	0.7684	0.4832	0.7477	0.4978
Immeubles non résidentiels / Non-residential buildings	1.8504	1.2562	2.1303	1.4977
Lots vacants / Vacant lots	1.5368	0.9664	1.4953	0.9956
CMM / MMC	0.0109		0.011	

Commentaire sur le budget

Le 19 décembre, le conseil municipal adoptait son budget d'exploitation pour 2017. Nos objectifs demeuraient de garder l'augmentation de taxes pour la résidence de valeur moyenne sous le taux d'inflation pour Montréal (prévu à 0,85 %) tout en maintenant les niveaux de services et poursuivant le renouvellement de nos infrastructures.

Le total des dépenses s'est accru de 2,2 %, en raison principalement des salaires et avantages sociaux, comprenant une augmentation de 75 k\$ pour la mise en œuvre des dispositions de la Loi 15 sur la réforme des retraites du secteur municipal. D'autres majorations incluaient les coûts relatifs aux élections de 2017 (34 k\$), réparations et entretien des parcs (27 k\$), réparations nécessaires à l'aréna (25 k\$), achat et plantation d'arbres (26 k\$) et coûts additionnels de la Ville de Montréal pour l'eau (15 k\$).

Cependant, ces hausses ont été compensées par des réductions substantielles du fardeau de la dette (-94 k\$) et du versement à l'agglomération (-63 k\$). La première était due à des taux d'intérêt plus bas et au remboursement de partie de la dette, la seconde à une nouvelle entente avec l'agglomération en 2016 et au nouveau rôle d'évaluation. Conséquemment, la Ville a non seulement atteint ses objectifs, mais a réussi à le faire avec une réduction de 0,43 % des impôts fonciers de la maison de valeur moyenne à Montréal-Ouest (608 450 \$) pour 2017.

Avec des hausses de 1,24 % en 2016, 1,53 % en 2015 et 0,2 % en 2014, l'augmentation moyenne pour les quatre dernières années est de 0,64 %, plus basse que le 1,14 % de hausse du coût de la vie pour cette période.

Le Conseil est heureux d'avoir atteint ses objectifs tout en maintenant les niveaux de services et avançant les travaux d'infrastructure. En 2016, nous avons complété la réfection de la voie et des infrastructures sur Strathearn. Des trottoirs ont été refaits un peu partout en ville et nous avons effectué des mises à niveau d'édifices municipaux et de notre parc automobile sans ajouter à la dette.

Lors de sa réunion de décembre, le Conseil a adopté un programme triennal d'immobilisations qui inclut des dépenses anticipées d'environ 3,3 millions de dollars en 2017. Les plans comportent le renouvellement des égouts et de la voie sur Brock Nord et Ballantyne Nord (après approbation des subventions gouvernementales), la poursuite de la mise à niveau du parc Davies et l'installation d'un drain en pierres sèches à l'hôtel de ville. Les programmes d'immobilisations pour les années à venir sont des souhaits à ce stade et seront réévalués l'an prochain à la lumière des octrois gouvernementaux et des fonds disponibles.

*Colleen Feeney, conseillère
Finances, Administration et
Ressources humaines*

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Santa's Breakfast 2016!

Thank you to everyone who helped support the CRA by attending this event. We had 350 people pass through the doors of the Town Hall December 11 to join in all the holiday celebrations. The CRA would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to our incredibly dedicated volunteers and, of course, Santa himself. Your commitment to our community was key to making this event so successful. Thank you to **Paula Cordeau** and her team and the Town for their support in helping us plan and set up this event.

Thank you to our sponsors for your generous contributions! *IGA Lipari, McDonalds, Pharmaprix Melissa Lena Ross, Pâtisserie de la Gare, Emma Boutique Gourmande, Bol de Fruit de Qualité, Nibbles, Marché de fleurs Westminster.*

A year in review

The CRA offered 16 programs last year. Each season brought a new set of sports and activities for our children to participate in. Many of these programs require volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and parents who dedicate their time and resources. To these volunteers, we say thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our community and its children.

Spring 2016 was our first year of soccer without one rain

out. On fields all over Montreal West you could see players from ages 4 to 18 playing, kicking and passing a soccer ball.

Baseball

Down by Percival Field, or as we like to refer to it "Henway Park," our intercommunity baseball team, the Mudhens, had six teams playing in four age categories. This year, the *Malcolm Mudhen Volunteer Coach Recognition Award* was presented to **Randall Alberts** for his years of coaching and for keeping the spirit of the Mudhens alive in MoWest.

Rugby

The rugby program under the direction of head coach **Susy Binstock** entered teams from U6 to U12 in jamborees all over Montreal for the second year. With a group of dedicated volunteer coaches, our little rugers played every Sunday against other teams and had an amazing season. We look forward to seeing them take to the fields this spring.

Outdoor soccer

Our outdoor soccer program had 29 teams ranging from U8-U15. **Greg Macgregor** and **Alison Piela** had our teams playing twice a week doing drills and had some incredible games. New last year, the U15 girls played an exhibition game against Westmount's intercity

team. At the finals in the fall, *The Norman Rae Volunteer Coach Award* was awarded to **Matthew Wood** and **Angela Corinthians** in recognition of their dedication and commitment and leadership as a coach.

Figure skating

The figure skating program presented their annual skating show in March to a standing room only crowd. The show featured music from *Frozen, Star Wars* and even *Harry Potter*. There were 17 numbers with solos and group demonstrations. This show would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of **Anne Smith**, her daughter **Heather Smith** and all the amazing volunteers. Thank you to everyone.

Lean to Skate

Under the direction of **Mackenzie Bullett** and her team of coaches, our newest skaters from the Learn to Skate program performed in two numbers, *Better When I am Dancin'* and *Footloose*. They did a fantastic job performing in front of their home crowd.

Judo

Judo completed its second year and volunteer sensei **Steve Morissette** has built an incredibly successful program that has benefited all the participants. We look forward to seeing the participants at the demonstration in June.

Gym-tastic

The Gym-tastic program welcomed **Dede Yim** from *Wimgym Gymnastics* club as program coordinator. The groups are learning new moves, going through equipment circuits and making new friends.

Indoor soccer

The ever popular indoor soccer program under the direction of **Greg Macgregor** and **Alison Piela** has been teaching the kids new techniques, skills and play fast moving scrimmages.

Women's indoor soccer coached by **Greg Macgregor** is another new program that has

been extremely popular. Last year, we added an outdoor spring session that was very successful. This group of players ranges in abilities and experience, but one thing they have in common is they all have a great time.

Future Stars

The Future Stars has our mini Knights working hard learning hockey skills and improving their skating skills under the direction of hockey director **Eric Rayment**.

The Single letter 2015-2016 season saw 14 teams from Novice to Midget. Congratulations to our Novice C team who won the EHL championship, Novice B team who were finalists in the EHL championship and the Midget B Knights who were finalists at the regionals. We also hosted our second ever Novice jamboree where our youngest players played exhibition games against teams from other cities. Congratulations to the Novice B and the Novice C team who won the jamboree for both their divisions.

Hockey Holiday Day

Hockey Holiday Day was held December 4 and hosted over 24 teams from the Lac St. Louis region. The day was full of music, food and gifts for all the players. Congratulations to **Mark Levine** who was awarded the *Sam and Jean Ducharme Hockey Coach/Volunteer of the Year Award*. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this hockey fundraiser. A special thank you to **Emma** of *Emma Boutique Gourmande* who donated tables full of goodies from her store on Westminster to support the bake sale.

The 2016-2017 hockey season is well under way and there are 14 teams this year with over 80% of them looking like they may go to the regionals. Go Knights, go!

To wrap things up, 2016 was a busy year of sport in Mo West and we are looking forward to another great year.

Go Mudhens! Go Knights, go! Go! Go!

U8 boys outdoor soccer team lead by coaches Robert Simpson and Jesse Bowden



16th ANNUAL



For the 16th consecutive year, dozens of eager ice warriors pulled themselves off their comfy Christmas couches and ignored the Christmas dinner leftovers and headed to our aging Legion Rink for the *Steve and Rob Michelin Memorial Hockey Tournament*. After shrinking to 4 teams in 2015, we were back up to 6 teams for the 2016 competition. As was the case last year and every year, the games were fast-paced, the competition was intense but friendly and everyone, players and fans alike, had a great time.

In the opening contest, **Chris Kearney's** young-blood Sharks beat the Devils by a score of 4 to 2. It was a great game with a stranger ending. After **Zach Frenkiel** scored an empty net goal to make it 3 to 1 and seemingly clinch the game, the Devils scored to make it 3 to 2. But on the ensuing face-off, **Zach Brzezinski** scored a beauty to clinch the win for the Sharks.

In Game 2, the Bruins man-handled the Rangers 6 to 2 while in Game 3, the Lightning handed the Devils their second loss, beating them 7 to 4. A highlight of the game was a brilliant father to son passing play as **Jesse Johnson** dug the puck out of the corner and found dear old dad open in the high slot. **Kurt's** wicked wrist shot left the crowd gasping in awe.

In Game 4, the Flyers opened their tournament with a 10 to 1 trouncing of the Rangers. The Rangers' always optimistic team



Photo: Randi Weitzner

SHARKS

2016 CHAMPIONS

captain **Mauro "No Scoro" Degano** shrugged his shoulders and said "Wait until next year!"

Game 5 was a battle from start to finish as the Sharks and Devils fought hard to keep their championship hopes alive. Ultimately the Sharks prevailed as **Bernard Bechard** rang a wrist shot off the post and in for the winning goal. In Game 6, the Bruins punched their ticket to the final with a 5 to 2 victory over the Flyers.

In the consolation game, the Rangers kept it close for the first half of the game but were ultimately swept away by the Devils. In the Bronze medal game, the Lightning beat the Flyers 7 to 4. Rookie **Jamie Michelin** ended his solid tournament debut with his first Michelin tournament goal.

In the Championship Game, the Bruins got off to a great start and took a 2 to 0 lead on a pair of goals by lifetime tournament scoring leader **Mike Ballard Jr.** When asked about his first goal, he gave all the credit to **Max Moreau** (perhaps the youngest player ever to play in the Tournament) whose brilliant pass set up the goal. But ultimately the Sharks youthful skating was too much for the aged Bruins. **Connor McRae** made it a one-goal game and then the Double Zees, Frenkiel and Brzezinski each scored to give the Sharks the lead early in the final period. The Bruins gave it their all but when the buzzer sounded, the Sharks skated off with their Championship beer mugs and toasted their 5 to 3 win.

Once again, the *Steve and Rob Michelin Memorial Hockey Tournament* was a tremendous success – great hockey, great sportsmanship and great fun. This year we raised just under \$14,000 pushing our 16-year total to more than \$440,000.

Thanks to everyone who made this such a great event: **Mike Barrett** and **Rob Macmullin** who kept the ice pristine and the beer on ice; our referees **Juliana Keefler-Johnson, Noah Levine, Simon Rodunchuk** and even **Trevor Drummond** (who took a turn as a player-ref), **Randi Weitzner** for all the great pictures and of course **Chris Kearney** for pulling everything together. Without Chris, there would be no tournament.

from Andrew Michelin

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News from the pews

MW Presbyterian

Happy New Year to all. This is the year that all bridge players will be learning a new application for the word Trump! In bridge it has a positive or negative connotation – depending on which side you are on. Let us pray for a positive result.

Looking back

White Gift Sunday, on November 27, was enjoyed by all, including our friends from Tyndale St-Georges. A delicious lunch was served and eaten with enthusiasm. The happy time was topped off by a visit from Santa Claus who had brought a gift for each child. Such excitement!

Thank you to those who supported our fall sale. The lucky winner of the gift basket was **Jules Temoh**.

Blessing and Baptism

The blessing of the marriage of **Richmond Bassong** and **Linda Ekwe** was held on Sunday, November 20. This was followed by the baptism of their infant son **Nathaniel Etape Betngi**. Congratulations to all.

Congratulations to **Raskaam Alwood**, organist and choir director, and our choir who presented such lovely music at our Christmas Carol Sing on December 9. As well, our Sunday school children and their teachers deserve many thanks for the delightful Christmas Pageant they presented on December 18.

Time change

We hope that we were able to notify those of you who were planning to come to our Martin Luther King/Nelson Mandela service on January 22 at 4 pm. Our sincere

apologies to those we missed. Instead they were remembered on Sunday, January 22 at the regular morning service at 10:30 am.

Looking ahead

Part of our Outreach is supporting *The Bell Fund* for cancer patients. In addition, our Sunday school children will be making greeting cards that will be delivered throughout the year to cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Bible study started on Wednesday, January 11 and will continue, on a weekly basis, at 7 pm in the church parlour. All are welcome.

Ongoing

Prayer night: 4th Friday of every month at 7 pm in the church hall. 160 Ballantyne N. entrance.

Bible study: Wednesdays at 7 pm in the church parlour. Ballantyne entrance.

Weekly Sunday service and Sunday school at 10:30 am followed by a social hour.

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of our events and services. A warm welcome awaits you.

from Janet Dimock

St. Philip's

Thank you to all who helped make our Christmas services so wonderful – the choir, the team who decorated the church, the children who participated in our children's service and all who helped out. We welcomed back a few former members now living in Toronto and elsewhere, and met some newcomers to the neighbourhood.

Sunday school continues every Sunday at 10 am. We may be hosting a summer day



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News from the pews

camp as well, watch this space in the coming months for more information.

Our 125th anniversary festivities are continuing into 2017, with our 125th annual vestry meeting on Sunday, February 26, and a concluding celebration on the Feast of St. Philip and St. James, which we will observe on Sunday, May 7.

Many have seen or read in the news that our sister parish Trinity Memorial Church in NDG will be closing its doors. We have been working with Trinity for over a year as part of the Tri-Parish and Friends refugee sponsorship group. The closing will not affect the sponsorship; funds collected by Trinity have been transferred to St. Thomas' Church, and the members of the committee from Trinity will continue to be active on the committee, regardless of where they find a new spiritual home.

Ash Wednesday is March 1. We will have our usual service of Holy Communion with imposition of ashes at 7:30 pm.

On Tuesday evenings at 7:30, we have a simple communion service using prayers from the Iona Community, with a short discussion on the Bible readings of the day. It is very informal, and we welcome anyone to join us. Enter by the side door on Connaught.

MW United

... *the brick one*

Rev. **Mark Hammond** has arrived!

It gives us great joy to announce that Rev. Mark began with us in January, and by now it feels like he has always been here. Having been here as a student before his ordination has made this transition easier all 'round. His family has grown up over the 5-year interval, but the essence is the same. Mark is every bit as approachable, as thoughtful, as genuine as

before. What has changed is that his perspective has deepened – a fine thing in a spiritual leader. But don't take my word for it. Come and see for yourselves.

And onward...

Our congregation continues to function much as before, marking the same events as always. With Easter being later this year, February is a regular sort of month. We will hold our next Labyrinth Walk, to which all are welcome, on Sunday, February 26 between 2 and 4 pm. No experience necessary as it is an individual walking meditation. So whatever you experience will be unique to you. Arrive when you can, enter with a question or nothing in particular on your mind; walk at your own pace and see what ideas or thoughts arrive in the course of making your way inward and retracing your steps back outward. People generally leave more peacefully than they arrive and, often, with some inner wisdom that was able to rise to the surface in the course of their journey.

To quote a Labyrinth Walker, "Something that took me by surprise... how the thoughts I had, suddenly received a totally new wording or expression that helped me see the issue in a different light." Allow yourself at least 20-40 minutes if not more for this experience. And remember to walk in socks or slippers please. Still no cost, this is our gift to offer. Come and give it a try.

We still meet Sundays at 10 am, with Sunday school and nursery service available at the same time. A family friendly zone on the west side of the sanctuary allows more wiggle room for the young ones. For info, call **Brenda Murray 482-3210** or visit mwuc.org. All are welcome.

from Susan Upham



MW 50+ Club

February

- 2** Chinese New Year's tea:
The Year of the Rooster
- 10** Luncheon
- 15** Movie matinée:
Hello, My Name is Doris
- 26** Trip Ottawa Little Theatre:
To Kill a Mockingbird
- 28** Bridge: new teams are welcome

March

- 17** St. Patrick's Day luncheon

April

- 8** Black Watch Military Tattoo

Overnight trips

Stratford and Shaw Festivals
June 7-12

New Brunswick, fall

For more information on the
MW 50+ Club, please call:
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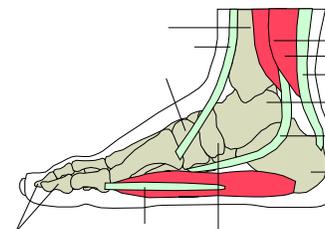
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 Wednesday: 9 to 8
 Thursday: 9 to 8
 Friday: 9 to 8
 Saturday: 8 to 5

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Nature In The City series

Three local groups – *Transition NDG*, *Sauvons la Falaise* and *Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook* – have teamed up to create a series of conferences entitled *Nature in the City*. The series will be held at *Coop la maison verte* throughout February and March.

“Our partnership with nature is so important for our personal wellbeing and to ensure that the inter-connected eco-systems that support all life on the planet are cared for and respected,” said **Kathryn Aitken**, spokesperson for *Transition NDG*. “Many families are not able to get away from the city to enjoy nature: it’s nice to know that so many people are working hard to preserve and protect these few remaining areas.”

L’Anse-à-l’Orme

The series consists of four presentations followed by walks in nearby green spaces.

The first to be held on February 8 deals with the impending loss to residential construction of L’Anse-à-l’Orme in Pierrefonds West, a 180+ hectare area teeming with biodiversity according to recent studies. Carpooling will be organized to the area on Saturday, February 11.

Falaise St. Jacques

The second conference on February 21 will be on two local green spaces: the Falaise St. Jacques, stretching 4 km along St. Jacques Boulevard from Montreal West to Westmount and Meadowbrook, a 57 hectare green space that straddles Côte Saint-Luc and Lachine. Participants will be invited to see both areas over the weekend of February 25-26.

Technoparc in St. Laurent

A third conference set for March 1 will turn its sights to the Technoparc in St. Laurent. Ornithologist **Joel Coutu** will show the importance of these last remaining green

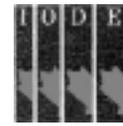
spaces; participants will feast their eyes on the many bird species found there and will continue with a visit of the area on March 5.

St. Pierre River

The fourth and last conference will follow the St. Pierre River, a river that used to run all the way down to Old Montreal and where the first French colonists settled. Like many urban rivers across the world, it was covered in the 19th century and diverted into Montreal’s sewer system because it was so badly polluted. The St. Pierre River is still visible on Meadowbrook and there are plans to daylight it again on a portion of its course. A tour is planned as part of the Jane’s Walks in May.

For more information on the series, please visit facebook.com/TransitionTown-NDg/

from Kathryn Aitken
Coopérative de solidarité Transition NDG



Come to the AGM

IODE HMS Victory Chapter will be holding its 73rd Annual General Meeting at 2 pm on Tuesday, February 14 at the Community Centre. All are welcome. Refreshments will be provided and, perhaps, a mini-bake sale.

Annual reports will be received from the officers: Education (about our adopted class in Henry Gordon Academy, on the Main Road, Cartwright, Northern Labrador), Communication, Citizenship, Membership and Services.

Thank you for donations

For the Services activities, it should be noted, with our gratitude, that we have been receiving great donations of travel toiletries from members of the MoWest United Church and toothpaste and toothbrushes from several local dentists. These items are very necessary for women trying to escape from troubled relationships when they arrive in a shelter.

Knitters needed

We are looking for knitters who would make tuques and mitts for our adopted children up north, where the one general store does not stock enough. There are 12 children in a Grade 3/4 class; the teacher appealed to us for help. Details can be obtained from **Heather Ferguson** or **Janet King**.

Red and white tulips

One thousand red and white tulips have been planted by Public Works in Strathearn Park to help us celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday. When will the first red one to bloom? Thanks to *Veseys Bulbs* for the donation.

from Janet King



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MoWest St. Patrick's Breakfast

Sunday, March 19
Town Hall

Tickets available online or at the Community Centre.

- Three seatings: 8 am, 9 am, 10 am
- Cost: in advance: \$5 residents / \$7 non-residents; at the door: \$10 residents / \$14 non-residents. Free for 2 years and under. Come for breakfast before the parade!

Food, live Irish music with Jonathan Moorman and The Swindlers, arts and crafts, face painting and spirits for sale.

February Fun

Sunday, February 5
Hodgson Field/Arena

- Outdoor winter challenges, arts and crafts and inflatables: 1-3
- Free skate in the arena: 1-2:30
- Music, hot chocolate, crepes
- Horse-drawn wagon rides: 12:30-3:30
- Garbage Bowl touch football game: come one come all! Guys, girls: bring your kids, dressed for the weather. 15 and up. Noon.
- Magic show at 3:30 at the Town Hall

Call for more info: 484-6186.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Applications for:

Pool: pool@montreal-west.ca
Camp: camp@montreal-west.ca
Community Centre:
recreation@montreal-west.ca

All applications may also be dropped off during business hours at the John A. Simms Community Centre.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

FEBRUARY 10, 4:30 PM

- Pool Lifeguards
- Wading Pool Attendants

MARCH 18, 4:30 PM

- Day Camp Counsellors
- Community Centre Counsellors (full and part time)
- Pool Gate Attendants

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Call or sign up online at montreal-west.ca

Red Cross Babysitting Course

Saturday February 18
9:30 am at the Community Centre
Ages: 11+

Captain Catalyst Science Fun and Brain Challenges

Saturdays, 10-11:30 am
Davies Chalet
Ages: 4-6 years

Chess with Steve

Fridays, 4-5:30 pm
Community Centre
Ages: 5-12 years

Hip Hop

Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm
Town Hall
Ages: 13-17 years

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March Break Madness

March 6-12
5-12 years

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After February 4: full week: \$215 (R) / \$225 (N-R); daily fee: \$55 (R) / \$65 (N-R)

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Town Council Meetings: November, December



by Carol Foster

November meeting

The Mayor welcomed Lieutenant **Fred Jennings** from Station 9 to the November Council meeting and began his report with an update on the proposed recreation centre. He explained that an information package is being developed that will be distributed to every household. The package will contain a detailed description of the project as well as a simple and concise opinion survey. He emphasized that the project cannot go ahead without government grants and approval from the community. An initial concept of the building is required before grants can be applied for and estimates obtained, and this concept will be included in the package.

Both the Armistice Day Commemoration and the arrival of the *CP Holiday Train* were very successful events and the Mayor thanked all who helped make these happen.

First question period

The meeting moved quickly to the first question period where a resident on Brock brought to the Council's attention that leaves were being blown onto the street by some people as well as being collected in plastic bags by others. Lack of awareness of the regulations seemed to be the problem in most cases.

Councillor Ulin reiterated the steps that have already been taken through her "Know the Bylaws" campaign and added that the situation should be referred to Public Security.

A Brock South resident then asked Council members if they had received a letter, sent by his lawyer protesting the change

in a zoning bylaw that would permit new condominiums to be built at the bottom of Brock South next to the existing condo development. Previously, this lot had been zoned for low-density housing.

The Mayor tried to explain that the zoning change had in fact come into effect in May 2016 and, at that time, there was a period when residents were informed and allowed to request a referendum. This information had been published in *The Suburban* as legally required.

However, some residents in the area contended they did not get *The Suburban*. Already having to deal with the huge increase in dangerous traffic in their neighbourhood caused by work on the Turcot interchange, these residents were frustrated by what was a perceived lack of adequate communication and transparency by the Town in this situation and the question period then exploded.

The recent attempts to establish rules of conduct at Council meetings, including "civil interaction," flew straight out the window as angry residents shouted comments from their seats, interrupted each other as well as those sitting at the Council table and contemptuously derided remarks from Council members who were attempting to clarify the situation.

One protestor stated that "whatever is done can be redone" and she asked that council reconsider its position.

The next contentious issue revolved around both the type and the amount of public consultation involved in the decisions surrounding the proposed recreation centre. The Mayor and several of the councillors reviewed in detail how both the meetings in January 2016 and the forthcoming survey are soliciting public input. But a few residents felt more citizens' involve-

ment should have occurred before the initial concept was developed.

The concept, explained the Mayor, was in no way cast in stone, but was required in order to apply for grants. Residents will be asked in the survey for their comments on the concept and these comments will be taken into consideration.

Both of these issues, involving what continued to be a perceived lack of adequate communication and consultation, prompted more discussion throughout the question period, but other residents had additional questions.

- Why wasn't there a representative from MoWest at the Turcot information meeting? *Because more gets done through direct contacts was the Mayor's reply.*
- Is there assurance that Brock South will remain exit only? *"Yes" was the answer.*
- Is there a surveillance camera at the dog park? *Yes, and it also covers the area around the cenotaph as a means of preventing vandalism, the Mayor stated.*
- Can the public lane behind the houses on Brock South below Avon be cleared of snow? *No, because the nature of the lane prevents the use of the existing equipment and subcontracting would go against union regulations.*
- Are there any plans to live webcast Council meetings and maintain a video archive of past meetings? *It may be looked into this spring.*

At this point in the meeting, question period having far exceeded the 45 minutes normally allotted, Council asked for a brief break.

When Council returned, the Mayor announced that they would not address the contentious zoning bylaw without first having a chance to sit down for a discussion with the affected residents. The Mayor was thanked for this decision.

With calm restored and the clock heading towards 11 pm, all four councillors tried to make their reports as brief as possible.

Councillor Torres began by saying that she found some of the preceding discussions difficult, but welcomed all input, preferably when it was "kept down a little". She continued with her usual itemized account of the repairs being carried out by Public Works staff, including the planting of 25 trees and the removal of five.

Councillor Tasker-Brown noted that the amount of green waste pickup continues to increase. She reminded residents that **Chris Kearney** at the Community Centre is the person to contact with any problems with the compost bins or the pickups. Problems with garbage pickups are to be directed to Public Works. Some students from McGill University are doing a survey of the

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Town Council Meetings: November, December

attitudes of Town residents regarding composting, and an energy audit will be carried out in all the Town's buildings.

The spectacular *CP Holiday Train* entertained huge crowds, and two children were temporarily lost in the tumult. November was crime-free in the Town, according to Councillor Ulin.

The 2017 dog tags are now available at the Town Hall and all dog owners are reminded they must have their dogs vaccinated against rabies.

Councillor Feeney was the last councillor to speak and she announced that the Town's staff was busy processing the water-tax payments and preparing the budget for 2017. Staff contract negotiations are ongoing. She reviewed a monthly itemization of the Town's expenditures. Following some public complaining that some of the rules were too strict, the modification of the bylaw for conduct at Town meetings has been completed.

No further questions were asked during the second question period, and the meeting was adjourned shortly before 11 pm.

December meeting

The Mayor thanked Treasurer **Valentina Todoran** and Town Manager **Stéphan Dulong** for the production of the 2017 budget that had just been presented earlier in the evening. He noted that this budget fulfills a promise to try to keep the residential tax increases at or below the cost of living. The budget will be posted on the Town's website. An information update on the proposed recreation centre is also posted on this website.

The Mayor concluded his remarks by announcing he has met with a group of the residents upset at the amendment to the zoning bylaw. During the meeting it was agreed that communication regarding this situation will be increased. It was also agreed that following a professional study concerning the large increase in traffic and its effect upon the safety in the area, these residents will meet with the traffic engineer to ensure their concerns are taken into consideration.

First question period

Several Meadowbrook advocates expressed their unhappiness about the condition of the area surrounding the land behind the Public Works Department that the Town uses as a snow dump. It was felt that this area that they describe as "wet lands" which is the habitat of birds and wild animals is being encroached upon by the expansion of the snow dump. The Mayor explained there are no "wet lands" in Montreal West and the snow dump area is actually shrinking rather

than being expanded. He added that the Town follows the rules set out by the Ministry of the Environment and has been assured by this Ministry that no inspection is required.

In spite of these reassurances, one person wondered if the land in question could be designated as a "protected area". Although the Mayor saw no need for that under the circumstances, he stated he "would not close the door" to a request for a meeting.

The topic of prior consultation on the options for replacing the arena was raised again by one resident. He felt that being presented with only one concept to vote upon was short-sighted and eliminated the possibility for further discussion. Both the Mayor and Councillor Tasker-Brown explained that while a single concept was required in order to request funding, the survey to be distributed to all households contains an area for individual input.

A frequent speaker from Ballantyne North questioned why the traffic increase on Brock South was receiving special attention when his street has also experienced increased traffic, as have other streets in the Town. The Mayor countered by saying the change in the amount of traffic for Brock South residents was very sudden and that a balance of concerns always has to be considered.

Councillor Tasker-Brown was the first to give a report and she got a hand from the audience when she announced she had no report except to wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Councillor Ulin protested this was a hard act to follow because she did have some items to report. She enumerated the various activities scheduled for the winter months and reminded everyone to lock their doors and cars, to pick up their dog licences and parking permits at the Town Hall and not to put snow on the sidewalks or streets. She added Public Safety is offering a "vacation watch" surveillance of homes for residents going on holidays who request this service.

The goal of keeping taxes under the cost of living while still maintaining all services has been met by the 2017 budget according to **Councillor Feeney**. This is in spite of new challenges such as obligatory salary increases and because of some increased revenues such as duties on house transfers.

There will be a slight decrease for taxes for homes in the Town (whose average value is calculated at \$608,450). Tax bills will be mailed out on January 19.

Public Works is dealing with the onset of winter conditions as well as their regular maintenance duties. Councillor Torres urged all residents to respect the no parking signs for snow clearing and to park their cars at

least 15 cm (6 in) from the curb to allow space for the sidewalk clearing equipment.

Councillor Tasker-Brown's wish for all residents to enjoy the holidays was echoed by all the other councillors as well as the Mayor.

Second question period

A resident on Westminster South complained that ploughed snow was being left in front of her walkway and she was urged by the Mayor to call Public Works immediately whenever this occurs.

A Brock South resident who could not attend the meeting held by the Mayor to address home owners' concerns in that area asked for a recap. The Mayor replied that those residents were upset by the increasing density of the neighbourhood and the resulting increase in traffic. They also felt they were not informed of the zoning change.

The last person to speak thanked council for their continued support of the Children's Library and offered to volunteer should there be a committee formed to help in the strategic planning exercise for future budgets.

It was a short and relatively calm meeting and was adjourned shortly before 9:30 pm.





Catherine Gardner

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Réunions du Conseil : novembre, décembre



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Réunion de novembre

Le maire a accueilli le lieutenant **Fred Jennings** du Poste 9 à la réunion de novembre du Conseil et a amorcé son rapport par une mise à jour sur le centre récréatif proposé. Il expliqua qu'une trousse d'information était en préparation et serait distribuée à chaque maisonnée. La trousse inclura une description détaillée du projet ainsi qu'un sondage d'opinion simple et concis. Il a maintenu que le projet ne peut aller de l'avant sans subventions gouvernementales et approbation de la communauté. Une conception initiale de l'édifice est nécessaire avant de demander des octrois et d'obtenir des évaluations; ce concept fera partie de la trousse.

La célébration du jour du Souvenir et le *Train des Fêtes du CP* ont connu un franc succès et le maire a remercié tous ceux et celles qui y ont collaboré.

Première période de questions

La réunion a progressé rapidement à la première période de questions alors qu'une résidente de Brock signala au Conseil que certaines gens soufflaient les feuilles mortes dans la rue ou les recueillaient dans des sacs de plastique. Un manque de connaissance des règlements semblerait être le problème dans la plupart des cas.

La **conseillère Ulin** rappela les démarches déjà entreprises, dont sa campagne « Connaissez les règlements », et ajouta que la situation devrait être signalée à la Sécurité publique.

Un résident de Brock Sud a ensuite demandé si les membres du Conseil avaient

reçu une lettre de son avocat protestant le changement de zonage qui permet la construction de nouvelles copropriétés au bas de Brock Sud près des condominiums existants. Précédemment, ces terrains étaient zonés résidentiels à faible densité.

Le maire a tenté d'expliquer que le changement de zonage avait pris effet en mai 2016 et qu'il y avait eu une période où les résidents avaient été informés et pouvaient demander un référendum. Ces renseignements avaient été publiés dans *The Suburban* conformément à la loi.

Certains résidents du secteur ont cependant soutenu ne pas recevoir *The Suburban*. Devant déjà composer avec une forte augmentation de circulation dangereuse provoquée par les travaux de l'échangeur Turcot, ces résidents se disaient frustrés par le manque perçu de transparence et de communication adéquates de la Ville dans ce cas et la période de questions a alors explosé.

Les récentes tentatives d'établissement de règles de conduite aux réunions du Conseil, incluant des « échanges courtois », s'envolèrent et des résidents en colère criaient de leurs sièges, s'interrompaient mutuellement ainsi que les élus assis à la table du Conseil et ridiculisaient avec mépris les remarques des membres du Conseil qui tentaient de clarifier la situation.

Une contestataire lança que « ce qui est fait peut être refait » et elle demanda que le Conseil révise sa position.

Le point litigieux suivant portait sur le type et la quantité de consultation publique aboutissant aux décisions concernant le centre récréatif proposé. Le maire et plusieurs des conseillères ont repassé en détail comment l'opinion publique est sollicitée tant par les deux réunions en janvier 2016 et par le sondage à venir. Malgré cela, quelques résidents croyaient qu'il aurait dû

y avoir plus d'implication citoyenne avant l'élaboration du concept initial.

Le maire précisa que le concept n'était d'aucune façon coulé dans le béton, mais était nécessaire pour faire la demande de subvention. Le sondage demandera les commentaires des résidents, lesquels seront pris en considération.

Ces deux questions impliquant la perception continue d'un manque de communication et de consultation adéquates ont alimenté la discussion tout au long de la période de questions, bien que d'autres résidents avaient des questions additionnelles.

- Pourquoi n'y avait-il pas de représentant de Montréal-Ouest à la réunion d'information sur Turcot? *Parce que l'on peut accomplir plus par des contacts directs selon le maire.*
- Peut-on être assuré que Brock Sud demeurera une sortie seulement? *La réponse, « Oui ».*
- Y a-t-il une caméra de surveillance au parc canin? *Oui et elle couvre aussi la zone entourant le cénotaphe pour prévenir le vandalisme, de répondre le maire.*
- Peut-on déblayer la neige dans l'allée publique derrière les maisons sur Brock Sud en bas d'Avon? *Non, parce que la nature même de l'allée empêche l'utilisation de l'équipement actuel et la soustraction ira à l'encontre des règles syndicales.*
- La diffusion Web en direct des réunions du Conseil et la conservation d'archives vidéo des réunions sont-elles planifiées? *Cette question pourrait être à l'agenda ce printemps.*

À ce point de la réunion, la période de questions ayant excédé de beaucoup les 45 minutes normalement allouées, le Conseil demanda une brève pause.

Au retour du Conseil, le maire annonça que le sujet du règlement de zonage en litige ne serait pas abordé sans d'abord une rencontre préliminaire avec les résidents concernés. On remercia le maire pour cette décision.

Le calme étant revenu et les 23 heures approchant, les quatre conseillères tentèrent de rendre leurs rapports aussi brefs que possible.

La **conseillère Torres** débuta en disant qu'elle éprouvait des difficultés avec les discussions qui avaient précédé, mais qu'elle accueillait toutes les opinions, particulièrement quand on les « exprimait un peu plus doucement ». Elle poursuivit avec son énumération habituelle des tâches exécutées par les Travaux publics, dont la plantation de 25 arbres et l'enlèvement de 5 autres.

La **conseillère Tasker-Brown** nota que le volume de matières vertes ramassé aug-





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Réunions du Conseil : novembre, décembre

mente toujours. Elle rappela que Chris Kearney du centre communautaire est la personne-ressource pour tout problème avec les bacs de compostage ou la collecte. Quant au ramassage des ordures, c'est le service des Travaux publics qui s'en occupe. Des étudiants de l'Université McGill effectuent un sondage sur l'attitude des résidents concernant le compostage et l'on procèdera à une vérification de l'efficacité énergétique dans tous les édifices de la Ville.

Le spectaculaire *Train des Fêtes du CP* a diverté une foule nombreuse et deux enfants se sont temporairement perdus dans l'effervescence. Selon la conseillère Ulin, la ville n'a connu aucune activité criminelle en novembre.

Les médailles 2017 pour chiens sont en vente à l'hôtel de ville et l'on rappelle aux propriétaires de chiens qu'ils doivent les faire vacciner contre la rage.

La **conseillère Feeney** a pris la parole en dernier et a annoncé que le personnel de la Ville s'affairait à traiter les paiements de la taxe d'eau et à préparer le budget 2017. Les négociations contractuelles avec le personnel se poursuivent. Elle a passé en revue les dépenses mensuelles de la Ville et annoncé que, par suite de plaintes que certaines règles étaient trop strictes, des amendement au règlement sur la conduite aux réunions de la Ville ont été apportés.

Comme il n'y avait pas d'autres questions au cours de la deuxième période de questions, la séance était levée quelques minutes avant 23 heures.

Réunion de décembre

Le maire remercia la trésorière et le directeur général de la Ville pour la production du budget 2017 présenté plus tôt dans la soirée. Il nota que ce budget réalisait une promesse de chercher à restreindre les augmentations de taxes résidentielles au niveau ou sous le niveau du coût de la vie. Le budget sera affiché sur le site Web de la Ville où l'on retrouvera aussi une mise à jour informative sur le centre récréatif proposé.

Le maire a conclu ses remarques en annonçant qu'il avait rencontré un groupe de résidents contrariés par l'amendement au règlement de zonage. On a alors convenu d'accroître les communications concernant cette situation et de plus, par suite d'une étude professionnelle de la forte augmentation de circulation et de ses effets sur la sécurité dans le secteur, ces résidents rencontreront l'ingénieur de circulation pour s'assurer que leurs préoccupations sont prises en compte.

Première période de questions

Plusieurs défenseurs de Meadowbrook ont exprimé leur mécontentement concernant

l'état de l'espace autour du terrain derrière la cour des Travaux publics que la Ville utilise comme dépotoir de neige usée. Selon eux, cette « zone humide » constitue l'habitat d'oiseaux et d'animaux sauvages et l'agrandissement de la décharge de neige empiète sur cet habitat. Le maire a expliqué qu'il n'y a pas de zone humide à Montréal-Ouest et qu'en fait, loin de s'agrandir, le dépotoir de neige usée rétrécit. Il a ajouté que la Ville respecte les règles du ministère de l'Environnement et a reçu l'assurance du ministère qu'aucune inspection n'est requise.

En dépit de ces assurances, une personne se demandait si le terrain en question pourrait être désigné comme une « zone protégée ». Bien qu'il n'en voie pas le besoin, le maire affirma qu'il « ne fermerait pas la porte » à une demande de rencontre.

Un résident a à nouveau soulevé la question de consultation préalable sur les options de remplacement de l'aréna. Il estimait à courte vue la présentation d'un seul concept sur lequel se prononcer et qu'elle éliminait la possibilité d'autre discussion. Le maire et la conseillère Tasker-Brown ont expliqué que bien qu'un seul concept soit nécessaire pour demander du financement, le sondage qui sera distribué à tous les ménages comprendra un espace pour faire valoir son opinion.

Un intervenant fréquent de Ballantyne Nord se demandait pourquoi l'augmentation du trafic sur Brock Sud recevait une attention spéciale alors que sa rue connaissait aussi un accroissement de circulation, tout comme d'autres rues dans la ville. Le maire répliqua que le changement de volume pour les résidents de Brock Sud avait été soudain et qu'il fallait toujours considérer l'équilibre des préoccupations.

La conseillère Tasker-Brown était la première à donner son rapport et l'auditoire l'applaudit quand elle annonça qu'elle n'avait rien à dire autre que souhaiter d'heureuses Fêtes à tous.

La conseillère Ulin affirma qu'il serait difficile de suivre une telle performance, mais qu'elle avait des choses à rapporter. Elle énuméra les diverses activités hivernales prévues et rappela à tous de verrouiller leurs portes et voitures, d'aller chercher leurs médailles pour chiens et permis de stationnement à l'hôtel de ville et de ne pas laisser leur neige sur les trottoirs ou les rues. Elle ajouta que la Sécurité publique offre un service de surveillance des maisons pour les résidents en vacances qui en font la demande.

L'objectif de garder les taxes sous le niveau du coût de la vie tout en maintenant les services a été atteint dans le budget 2017, selon la conseillère Feeney. Et cela, en dépit de nouveaux défis comme les augmentations de salaire obligatoires et en rai-

son de certains revenus accrus comme les droits de mutation des propriétés.

Les impôts fonciers des maisons dans la ville (dont la valeur moyenne est calculée à 608 450 \$) baisseront légèrement. Les factures de taxes seront postées le 19 janvier.

Les Travaux publics font face au début des conditions hivernales et s'occupent de leurs tâches habituelles d'entretien. La conseillère Torres a enjoint tous les résidents à respecter les interdictions de stationnement pour le déneigement et à stationner leurs véhicules à au moins 15 cm (6 po) du trottoir pour laisser l'espace voulu aux équipements de déneigement des trottoirs.

Les autres conseillères et le maire ont fait écho aux vœux de la conseillère Tasker-Brown de bien profiter du temps des Fêtes.

Deuxième période de questions

Une résidente de Westminster Sud s'est plainte que la déneigeuse laissait de la neige devant son allée; le maire l'a invitée à contacter les Travaux publics sans délai lorsque cela se produit.

Un résident de Brock Sud qui n'a pu assister à la rencontre où le maire a entendu les doléances des propriétaires concernés de ce secteur a demandé un abrégé. Le maire a répondu que ces résidents étaient contrariés par l'accroissement de densité du voisinage et l'augmentation de circulation qui en résulte. Ils se disaient aussi peu ou pas informés du changement de zonage.

La dernière personne à prendre la parole a remercié le Conseil de son soutien continu à la Bibliothèque des jeunes et s'est portée volontaire si un comité de planification stratégique pour les budgets à venir devait être formé.

Ce fut une réunion courte et relativement calme qui prit fin avant 21 h 30.

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COMING EVENTS

Please call the editor: Heather at 489-7022

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Next deadline: February 8

JANUARY

- Mon 30** **Town Council meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.
Open House at Elizabeth Ballantyne School.
 314 Northview Avenue. 10 am-noon and 2-3 pm.

FEBRUARY

- Sun 5** **February Fun.** Hodgson Field/Arena. For more info: 484-6186. 1-3:30 pm. Please see page 19.
- Wed 8** **Joanne Gormley** of the *Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign* of *The Stephen Lewis Foundation* will offer a **photo presentation of her trip to Zambia and The South African Grandmothers Gathering.** Freewill donations will be accepted in support of the African grandmothers who care for their grandchildren orphaned by AIDS. For further info, email jo123gormley@gmail.com. MoWest Library. 7 pm.
- Sat 11** **Walk at L'Anse-à-l'Orme.** facebook.com/TransitionTownNdg/. 10 am.
- Tue 14** **73rd Annual General Meeting of IODE.** Community Centre. 2 pm.
- Mon 20** **MW Horticultural Society presents Elaine Sanders** on growing from seeds. Everyone welcome. Non-members, \$5. Town Hall. 7:30 pm.
- Tue 21** **Conference on Falaise St-Jacques with Louise Legault.** Coopérative la maison verte, 5785 Sherbrooke W. 7:30 pm.
- Wed 22** **Coffee with the Mayor.** Town Hall. 7:30-9 am.
- Thu 23** **Municipal taxes due** (first installment)
Échéance: taxes municipales (premier versement)
28th annual RWA Science Fair. Open to the public: noon to 1 pm and from 6:30 to 8 pm.
- Sat 25** **Walk at Falaise St-Jacques and Meadowbrook with Lisa Mintz.** Also Sun. facebook.com/TransitionTownNdg/. 10 am.
- Sun 26** **Afternoon Labyrinth Walk.** Wadsworth Hall. MW United. 2-4 pm.
- Mon 27** **Town Council meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.

MARCH

- Wed 1** **Ash Wednesday Service.** St. Philip's. 7:30 pm.
Conference on The Birds of the Technoparc Wetlands with Joël Coutu. Coopérative la maison verte, 5785 Sherbrooke W. 7:30 pm.

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Classifieds

You can still purchase your copy of **MONTREAL WEST NATIVE TREES 2017 CALENDAR.** Please mail Louise Chenevert at LRChenevert@gmail.com.

MoWest bird feeder watch

Who's coming to your feeder?

Let's keep track of our feathered friends this winter. Send in your observations, comments, seed and food choices to mowest.brdwatch31@gmail.com.

Now that the bad weather of late is behind us (freezing rain, wet snow falls), I hope that you are seeing all your feathered friends returning to your back yard feeders. I'm sure they don't like flying around in this stuff anymore than you like walking in it. It has been a little quiet lately (too cold).

My feeder setup is quite simple. Two silo feeders and two suet stations. One feeder holds hulled sunflower seeds and the other multi-grain seeds for the finch family.

Chickadees and nuthatches enjoy the sunflower seeds and the occasional house/purple finch the other. "Woody," the downy woodpecker is always pecking away at the suet pole. Some juncos are often present as well.

That's about it for who's at my feeders but what about you? Let me know with a brief email. As well, let me know what type of seed/food you are putting out. This column will share that information in the next issue.

Until next time, this is the bird-man wishing you happy bird-watching.

from Wayne Feeney