

THE INFORMER

Montreal West Newspaper

February 2018, Vol. 46, No. 1



MoWest delivers... turkeys!

Once again this year, the community and friends proved that others matter.

Twenty-one ovens cooked turkeys and many baked their favourite goodies prior to the annual Slice and Dice at MW United on December 24 when close to 50 people showed up to carve turkeys, make stuffing, prepare 120 pounds of potatoes, wrap gifts and prepare dessert containers. Then on

December 25 – even though it was snowing big time! – all 32 families shovelled out their cars and loaded their children to go to the church where 20 people were busy putting the Christmas meal together.

243 meals were delivered to those in our and surrounding communities who were unable to go out to a Christmas meal owing to frailty, illness or isolation.

Thanks to MoWest United and the Horticultural Society who are the backbone of this event and to the CLSC Benny Farm Homecare team who not only help with the lists of recipients, but many dedicated health care workers take part in the event.

from Joan Foster

Photos: (top left) Ella Beck, Ben Smith and Delfine Smith. Ella is one of the longest serving volunteers of the Christmas turkey meal and Delfine, one of the youngest; (top right) Slice and Dice team



Navigating through big blue snowbanks.
Brock North, January 2018

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THE INFORMER

10 Westminister North
Montreal West, Quebec
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The *Informer's* role is to provide MoWesters with information about their Town and its citizens in order to foster the small-town, close-knit atmosphere that makes Montreal West a special place in which to live.

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE
February 7



There was a foot of snow on the ground and the thermometer hovered around minus 20 (and maybe a little bit lower than that inside our beloved Legion Rink). What could be better than that for the 17th annual *Steve and Rob Michelin Memorial Hockey Tournament*, our own local version of hockey's Winter Classic?

This year we were back to four teams, making the tournament a little bit smaller but no less fun and certainly no less exciting than previous years. Making things extra special this year were some new father and son duos, and one duo that became a trio as the youngsters were finally old enough to play in the show.

In the opening contest, the Devils combined youth and experience (they had the four youngest players – **Max and Luke Moreau, Matthew Bruemmer** and **Matthew Doré** and two of the oldest – **Paul Moreau** and **Mauro Degano** – in their line-up) to battle the Big Bad Bruins, forced to play this year without their leader, President **Darren McGuire**, sidelined with a bum knee. Rookie goalie Luke Moreau was fearless and flawless in his first Michelin Tournament game and stood on his head allowing the Devils to storm back twice from two goals down to force overtime. **Kevin McGuire** was the hero for the Bruins, scoring in OT on a breakaway.

In Game 2, the Lightning took advantage of an early Sharks' own-goal (poor **Chris Kearney**, it was the only mistake he made in organizing and playing in this year's tournament) and hung on for 3 to 1 victory, the last goal scored into the empty net.

In Game 3, the Sharks bounced back to win a close contest over the Devils. **Matthew Yaremko** carried the load for the Sharks, sniping four goals. A highlight for the Devils was a father-son "Golden Goal" scored when **Marc "the Elder" Doré** dug the puck out of the corner and made a

no-look pass to his son, Matthew who whipped a one-timer to the back of the net.

Game 4 was another nail biter. The Lightning scored on their first shift but then gave up two quick ones and trailed the Bruins 2 to 1 at the half. An early goal in the second half gave the Bruins a 2-goal lead.

Yossi Matthews scored his second of the game to close the gap to one goal, but a Bruins slap shot restored the 2-goal lead with only 5 minutes to play. Cue the Lightning comeback! **Lavie Freedman** scored from in close.

Defenseman **Shawn Rozansky** pinched in and scored to tie the game at 4. And then, in the waning minutes, Lavie Freedman blasted a slap shot 5-hole to clinch the game and the Tournament for the Lightning.

Game 5 pitted the Lightning against the Devils, the Devils playing for pride and the Lightning to go undefeated. The Devils carried a 2 to 1 lead late into the game but the Lightning scored a couple of quick ones and closed out the Tournament with a 5 to 3 win. The 6th and final game was a high scoring affair as **Kevin McGuire** and Matthew Yaremko traded hat tricks as the Bruins beat the Sharks 8 to 4.

Once again, the *Steve and Rob Michelin Memorial Hockey Tournament* was a tremendous success – great hockey, great sportsmanship and great fun. While the final numbers have yet to be tallied, we raised at least \$10,000 pushing our 17-year total to more than \$450,000.

Thanks to everyone who made this such a great event: **Mike Barrett** and **Jake Sutherland** at the rink, **Simon Rodunchuk** and his fellow referees, **Randi Weitzner** for all the great pictures and the folks at *Pasteizza* for treating us right at the post-tournament beer and pizza bash. And of course our biggest thank you goes to **Chris Kearney** for pulling everything together. Without Chris, there would be no tournament.



Celebrating over 50 years of early education

Many local residents who grew up in Montreal West have something in common that goes beyond the same hometown.

Ranging in ages from two to four, MoWest children have had their first chance to venture away from their parents to enjoy a morning full of educational fun, exploration and socialization.

Six decades later, *Curzon* is still offering programming for local youngsters lead by a dedicated group of teachers who love to teach, nurture and develop the knowledge and abilities of our children.

Annual fundraiser a success

Recently the cooperative preschool hosted its 15th annual auction and fundraiser. *Curzon* parents worked together to deliver a wonderful evening filled with live music and entertainment, wonderful food

and community spirit! In large part due to the ongoing support of MoWest participants, the event was a great success raising the operating funds needed to support school activities as well as the new Parent and Tots program.

Much gratitude is owed to all of the event's sponsors from around NDG, Montreal and Côte Saint-Luc, but a special thanks goes to *Joe Beef* and to MoWest contributors including *MW United Church*, *The Amazing Todsky*, *MoWest Fire Station*, *Coiffure Louis Robert*, *Dr. John Drummond*, *Emma's*, *Esthetique Ellequence*, *Les Délices Lafrenais*, *Pharmaprix*, *Budning* and the *Marché des Fleurs Westminster*.

For more information about the school or its open house on March 26, please visit curzonpreschool.com.



MoWest's MTQ-KPH-Turcot Neighbourhood Committee representative



On November 23, the Quebec Ministry of Transportation (MTQ) nominated **Suzanne Barwick**, a resident of Brock South, as the MoWest's representative for issues concerning the KPH-Turcot construction project. Lieutenant **Demetrios Georgiou**, MW Public Security, also holds a committee position.

Roughly every two months there is an MTQ-KPH Turcot Neighbourhood Committee meeting that represents NDG/Westmount/MoWest. The committee includes representatives from each borough/town, the City of Montreal, the Service de Police de la Ville de Montreal (SPVM), KPH, and MTQ. The committee was created to inform the population about public information meetings and public consultations. Through the committee representatives, many topics are brought forth from traffic concerns to bicycle access and green spaces. A major portion of the meetings is reserved to inform the public on the next steps in the KPH Turcot construction project and to hear the affected sectors' concerns.

These meetings are open to the public and the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 6, 7-9 pm at the Centre Saint-Raymond (5600 Upper-Lachine Road).

If you need further information regarding the KPH-Turcot construction project as it relates to the Town of MontrealWest, contact Suzanne at Suzanne.barwick@sympatico.ca.



St. James' Literary Society

St. James' Literary Society will be in MoWest March 27 and April 24

The talk on March 27 is on *Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)* an independent international humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency medical aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural and man-made disasters or by exclusion from health care in more than 60 countries around the world.

Every year *MSF* sends about 3,000 doctors, nurses, logisticians, water-and-sanitation experts, administrators and other professionals to work alongside over 25,000 locally hired staff. In 2016 this included 343 Canadians from many different professional backgrounds.

Drawing on the guest speaker's (**Nick Annejohn**) own experiences and those of colleagues, this illustrated talk will go behind the scenes to examine how these organizations face the practical challenges of delivering aid where it is most needed.

A question period will follow.

John Simms Community Centre, 7 pm. Reservations essential (**484-0146**); \$12 for non-members. stjamesliterarysociety.com.

Read more about the April meeting in the next issue.

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Landscape Designer Myke Hodgins

Myke Hodgins, Principal Landscape Architect and Director of his firm *Hodgins et Associés Architectes Paysagistes*, since 1986, has built a team known for its innovative award-winning garden designs.

"Collaboration, innovation and timeless design" is the caption on their website. Myke's passion for garden design has meant over 30 years of creating original and sustainable landscapes, and the *Horticultural Society* is thrilled to have Myke return for another promising engagement on Monday, February 19, 7:30 at the Town Hall.

Everyone is welcome. Admission is \$5 or \$20 for all of 2018.



Children at Henry Gordon Academy in Cartwright, Labrador, were thrilled to choose a new knitted tuque on the first day back at school. *Canada Post* took only a couple of weeks to

deliver the parcel sent by HMS Victory Chapter.

We have several knitters around town, who knit tuques and mitts for the Chapter. The mitts are knitted from real wool to withstand the colder temperatures up there on the Labrador coast. The wool is donated on the front porch at 131 Wolseley Avenue North. Thanks to the donors, the knitters, and also the congregation of *MW United Church* who provide so many toiletries and goodies to **Heather Ferguson**, our Assistant Services Officer. One recent delivery to *Chez Doris* included four cases of *Always* sanitary pads which were donated to us, and we have received a large box of beautiful cosmetic samples too.

The 74th annual general meeting of *IODE HMS Victory Chapter* will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at the home of **Nadine Fenton**, 241 Ballantyne Avenue North, at 2 pm. Reports on volunteer hours, service work, etc. will be presented; refreshments will be served. All ladies are welcome to join us. Please call **Nadine** at 485-9127 to say that you will be coming.

from Janet King

Mailbox



I read with empathy in your previous issue **Mrs. Hammer-schmidt's** comments on the deplorable traffic situation in our town and Mr. Rodgers' response which correctly states that MoWest "will always be a junction between neighborhoods and highways." That being a given, why do we try to turn it into a gated community disconnected traffic-wise from its adjoining communities? Our quick fix answer to our traffic problems is to block off streets, reduce Westminster Av. to a single lane each way at intersections and put oversize speed bumps everywhere so our children can play safely in our streets rather than in our parks.

With the Turcot disruption, did we consider temporarily re-opening Broughton (at Westminster) to siphon off the traffic at the Avon intersection for drivers heading for the 2/20 highway? Would the good burghers of Broughton have acquiesced? This would relieve the congestion until Turcot is completed.

Once the new roadwork is completed on the Ste. Anne de Bellevue Boul. linking it to the 2/20, will our town again block off Brock S. and thus eliminate another access to and exit from our town for our citizens as well as other users of our urban road grid?

Robert DesLauriers

Council's response

The traffic situation in our Town is definitely challenging at times, and difficulty in getting to and from the Town has been accentuated of late as a result of the Turcot project. Many of the traffic configurations and traffic calming measures adopted by the Town over the years were considered and

implemented with a view to addressing legitimate concerns raised by residents. It has never been my desire nor is it Council's wish to want to create a gated community in Montreal West. None of these measures are inspired by a desire to disconnect from adjoining communities. I will fully admit to you and all that our priority as a Town has always been to increase pedestrian safety even at the expense of vehicular traffic.

I fully appreciate that some of the traffic decisions made over the years cause some inconvenience to our residents. And, to that end, I am very open to receiving concrete and thoughtful proposals at the Town's Traffic and Safety Committee (TSC) as to how we can better address some of the issues you have highlighted. For example, we are currently reviewing the size of certain speed humps on Strathearn and intend on modifying them (this came about by virtue of a productive exchange between a concerned resident and the Town, and the Town seeking out professional expertise). As for any other measures or decisions we may adopt, I do not intend to make such recommendations to Council until such time as the TSC has appropriately and fully deliberated the matter. The composition of the TSC is currently being revised and a formal by-law as to the Committee's scope, mandate and responsibilities will soon be adopted by Council.

Please note that I encourage you to call or meet with me to discuss in greater detail any and all ideas you may want to bring to my attention.

Regards,

Dino Mazzone
Public Security and
Special Projects Fundraising



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Call for applications

Planning Advisory Committee

The Town is looking for residents interested in participating on the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). PAC reviews and makes recommendations to Council on requests related to urban planning and development including site planning and architectural integration programs, minor exemptions, zoning amendments and periodic urban planning and building bylaw review. This committee holds meetings twice a month on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and, occasionally, holds extra meetings. The Committee has seven regular and four alternate members, with renewable two-year terms.

Candidates for this position should:

- be a resident of Montreal West;
- be available for evening meetings;
- have expertise, training or an interest in urban planning, architecture, engineering, development, heritage, construction or landscape design.

To apply for this volunteer position, please send your résumé and a cover letter explaining your reasons for applying by **March 2** to:

Vlad Florea-Archir

Urban Planning Manager
Building Inspector

vfloreaarchir@montreal-west.ca



*Colleen Feeney,
Councillor
Finance, Administration,
Human Resources
and Urban Planning*

Rotary

Ziena Kahwan of Action Sport Physio: *"Eat less – it's effortless"*



Ziena Kahwan has been working as a dietician for the last four years and has been with *Action Sport Physio* for the last year.

The first thing Ziena said was that portion size was important and promised to tell us five ways to change our environment so we eat less.

The number one reason people stop eating is because they have finished everything on their plate, not because they are no

longer hungry. She showed us how portion sizes have increased over the last 20 years and used pop corn that has doubled in size and calories from 270 to 540.

The first thing we should do is change to a smaller plate; a nine inch plate is ideal. The second, see all you eat. Serve yourself the whole meal and leave some food on your plate. This includes wrappers, shells and bones. Her third tip was out of sight, out of mind. She said to leave serving dishes on the stove or in the kitchen. Put leftovers in the back of the fridge and wrap them in tin foil. Her fourth was to eat slowly. Ziena said to pace yourself with the slowest eater. Also eat with your non-dominant hand or eat with chopsticks or put your fork down or take a sip of water after each bite. It takes the body twenty minutes to realize it is full. The last tip we were given was to take away the convenience of food. She said find harder ways to open resealed food; try duct taping those snacks food shut instead of using the "chip clip." Try moving your chair four inches further away from the table. Also move food farther away because convenience equals impulse.

Rotarian **Ramesh** thanked our speaker by saying that he did not have a dietician in his day but he did look up to Gandhi. He said he also had to use his non-dominant hand because of a skiing injury (probably après-ski) and it did help him lose weight.

Valentine's dinner and dance

Join us Saturday, February 10 at 7 pm at the Town Hall. Valentine's buffet dinner \$40 followed by dancing. We will have a cash bar. For tickets, please email Vince at vincent.occhionero@sci-us.com.

Come join us for lunch

The *Rotary Club of Montreal Westward* meets Thursdays at the Town Hall. Luncheon buffet is served at 12:30 pm with speaker at around 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. The *Rotary Club of Montreal Westward* is always looking to embrace new members.

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



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Edinburgh School



Edinburgh's winter music concert

The students and staff of Edinburgh held their winter music concert on December 20 and 21 under the guidance of music teacher Mr. **Radu Covaciu**. Students from kindergarten to grade 6 had been preparing for this performance since September and they put on a magnificent show.

Students recited traditional and holiday songs in different languages such as *Ninna Mamma* (Italian), *Des Colores* (Spanish), *Nes Gadol Haya Sham* (Jewish), *Togo* (Polynesian) and *Syiahamba* (South African). The concert concluded with a stunning performance from our grade 6 students on the djembes.

Our students are looking forward to their next performance in the spring.

Elizabeth Ballantyne School



The Great Canadian Mail Race

The grade 1 students in room 1 have joined the The Great Canadian Mail Race! They received a letter from a student in Ontario, inviting them to respond and to write to different elementary schools in Canada. The race is to see which student receives a response the fastest! Room 1 students wrote their letters and sealed their envelopes. They are sending them all over Canada, from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia. They are all excited to see who will get an answer first!

Robot Spelling "Bee"!

As part of EBS's STEAM and Robotics initiatives, the grade 1 students have been using the Bee-Bot robot in order to spell rhyming word family words. After using their spelling knowledge to figure out how each word is spelled, students are given the opportunity to program the Bee-Bot so that it will move and land on the letters they want. This activity gives the students the opportunity to use their knowledge of important spatial concepts such as left, right, forward and backward all while practising their spelling. What a fun way to learn!



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Marché de Noël

Le jeudi 7 décembre a eu lieu la deuxième édition de notre Marché de Noël. Le tout se déroulait au gymnase et plusieurs classes y participaient. En fait, les enfants avaient été invités à confectionner différents articles qu'ils devaient ensuite vendre. Une table offrait même de succulentes sucreries, pour le plaisir de tous. Certaines réalisations avaient été bricolées en classe et d'autres, en présence des éducatrices du service de garde.

Au moment de la soirée, les enseignants(es) et les éducatrices accompagnaient certains élèves aux différentes tables et les parents et voisins étaient invités à venir acheter les réalisations des enfants, tout en écoutant de la musique de Noël.

Cette deuxième édition a attiré de nombreux acheteurs et a fait le plaisir des élèves, qui amassaient des fonds pour des activités éducatives dans leur classe.

Ce sera un autre beau rendez-vous pour Noël...

Spectacle de la chorale de l'école en prestation à l'Espace culturel Georges-Étienne-Lapalme de la Place des Arts

Le matin du 14 décembre était juste un matin comme les autres. Nous nous sommes réveillés et on est allés à l'école. C'est au midi que notre chorale est allée chanter à la Place des Arts. On est arrivés un peu avant la prise de son. Alors, on est allés au centre commercial du Complexe Desjardins pour écouter un petit spectacle de Noël; c'était inspirant. C'était maintenant le temps d'aller pour la prise de son et répéter pour une dernière fois. Il y avait trois chorales des écoles de notre commission scolaire. Nous avons été dans une grande salle de répétition de la Place des

Arts. Madame Jacquelinet, notre professeure de musique, nous a remis des petits chapeaux de lutins. Puis, nous sommes allés chanter. C'est notre chorale qui commençait le spectacle. C'était une journée magnifique et magique. J'espère que l'année prochaine, notre école fera encore ce concert.

Elizaveta, 6^e année

Inscription année scolaire 2018-2019

Déjà le temps de songer à inscrire votre enfant pour la prochaine année scolaire. Vous devez communiquer avec le secrétariat pour prendre rendez-vous à compter du 15 janvier. La semaine officielle des inscriptions est la semaine du 5 février. Le numéro de téléphone du secrétariat est le 369-6951.

L'an prochain, l'école aura huit locaux de classes supplémentaires.

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Head Librarian: mwlib@videotron.ca

Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you back at the library.

Opening hours

Monday and Tuesday
10 am-6 pm and 7-9 pm
Wednesday and Thursday
10 am-4 pm and 7-9 pm
Saturdays: noon-4 pm

We are reviewing our opening hours; let us know what you think!

Coming events

February 20
2 pm

Joan Foster on communicating with your health care provider

Some new items at the library

DVDs

Game of Thrones – Season 7
Victoria and Abdul
Rake Seasons 2 and 3
On the Way to School

Fiction

Kathleen Barber *Are You Sleeping*
Fiona Mozley *Elmet*

Mystery

John Lawton *Friends and Traitors*

Non-Fiction

Richard F Thomas *Why Bob Dylan Matters*
Phil Kay *Redeployment*
(National Book Award Winner)
Scott Kelly *Endurance*
A Mombourquette *25 Years of 22 Minutes*

A few points to remember

We have become a food drop off-point for *NDG Food Depot*. Come and bring in a non-perishable item.

We are now accepting reservations, requests and renewals in email. Simply email the library with your request and information to mwlib.requests@gmail.com. Include the name of the item and the date it is due back and the type of item (DVD, book, talking book or magazine).

Check out our Facebook page to keep up to date on all the events.



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Marc Garneau, Scott MacKenzie and Mayor Masella as Santa's elves

Santa's Breakfast!

Thank you to everyone who helped support the CRA by attending breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 17. Over 300 people joined in all the holiday celebrations. Radio station 92.5 was there to keep the festive music going. Another special guest was The Honorable **Marc Garneau** who worked side by side with volunteers to make sure the event went smoothly.

The CRA would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all the INCREDIBLY dedicated volunteers who worked so hard in the kitchen, clearing tables, washing, cooking, setting up, cleaning up and, of course, who could forget Santa himself. Thank you to **Paula Cordeau** and her team at the Community Centre 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** and **Melissa Ross**, **Pâtisserie de la Gare**, **Emma Boutique Gourmande**, **Bol de Fruit de Qualité**, **Marché de fleurs Westminster**, **Richard Gianfelice**.

A year in review

In 2017 the CRA offered 17 programs for children ages 3 to 18 years old. Each season brought a new set of sports and activities. Many of these programs require volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and parents. To these volunteers we would like to say thank you for all your hard work, time and dedication to our community and its children.

Spring 2017 brought a rainy soccer season but, once the ground was dry, players from 4 to 18 took to the fields kicking and passing a soccer ball.

Down by Percival Field or "Henway Park" our intercom-

munity baseball team, the Mudhens, had 4 teams playing in 4 age categories. This year the **Malcolm Mudhen Volunteer Coach Recognition Award** was presented to **Paul Bordo** for his years of volunteer coaching and for keeping the spirit of the Mudhens alive in MoWest.

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 rugby volunteer coaches, our little rugger played every Sunday against other teams and had an amazing season.

Skating show, March 2017



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Our outdoor soccer program had a record 31 teams ranging from U8-U15. **Greg Macgregor** and **Alison Piela** had our teams playing twice a week doing drills and playing some incredible games. New this year: the U8 girls played a fantastic exhibition game against a Pointe Claire team.

The *Norman Rae Volunteer Coach Award* for 2017 was awarded to **Steven Tasker** and **Dr. Robert Barnes** in recognition of their dedication and commitment and leadership as a coach.

The figure skating program held the annual skating show in March to a standing room only crowd. This year's show featured music from the *Sound of Music*, *Maleficent* and *Aladdin* in 14 separate numbers with solos and group demonstrations. This annual skating show is put together by a team of incredible volunteers. A big thank you to organiser **Anne Smith**, her daughter **Heather Smith** as well as all the volunteers.

Under the direction of **Mackenzie Bullett** and her team of coaches, our newest skaters from the Learn to Skate program performed in two separate numbers, *You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile* and *You Can't Stop the Beat*. They did a fantastic job performing and had the crowd on their feet with cheers and applause.

Judo completed its third year and our volunteer sensei **Steve Morissette** has built a successful program teaching judo techniques and building self-confidence to each participant. In December there was an impressive judo demonstration and belting ceremony. We look forward to watching the end of year demonstration in April.

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

Our newest program Sportball made its debut in 2017 with a sold out class. Coach **Matt** and coach **T** are back for the winter and spring to help kids 3 and up develop skills while introducing 8 different sports.

Women's indoor soccer coached by Greg Macgregor is another popular program that fills up quickly. This group of players has a range of abilities and experience but all work hard and have a great time. This year we will add back an outdoor session in the spring.

The Future Stars has our mini Knights ages 4-6 working hard learning hockey skills and improving their skating skills under the direction of our hockey Director **Eric Rayment**.

Hockey Holiday Day was held December 10 and hosted over 24 teams from the Lac St. Louis region. The day was full of



Eric Rayment, Randy Weitzner and Ian Bresler

music, food and gifts for all the players. Congratulations to **Randy Weitzner** 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 fund-raiser. A special thank you to *Emma Boutique Gourmande* who donated tables full of goodies in order to support the bake sale.

This year the single letter 2017-2018 season has 15 teams from Novice to Midget. Congratulations to our Pee wee A Knights who were the finalists in the Cougar Cup in Ottawa. Our Novice A team went to semi finals in CSL in November and Atom B teams are also doing well in the St. Laurent tournament in January going to the semi finals in January. In the

double letter hockey program congratulations to the Bantam BB Westluc Maroons who won the Lachine Bantam tournament in December. More congratulations to the ATAA Maroons who captured a win at the Shawinigan tournament in January.

To wrap things up, 2017 was a busy year of sport in MoWest and we are looking forward to another great year, Go Mudhens, Go Knights Go! Go! Go!

Spring registration

Opens mid-March online at mwcrasports.ca : Intro to baseball, T-Ball, intercommunity baseball, Gymnastic, Little Strikers soccer, micro soccer, Outdoor soccer, women's outdoor soccer, rugby, Sportball.



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Urban plan update

Back in June 2009, after a resident survey and two public consultations, MoWest Council adopted its Urban Planning Programme. The plan is available on the Town's website and identifies several long-term objectives for the Town.

In 2017, Council reviewed the Urban Plan to assess how we had done in the implementation of these objectives. By our tally, 48 of the goals or, 72% had either been completed or were ongoing, with 18 still to tackle. The following is a brief update on some of our progress.

1) Town Centre Revitalization

A company was hired to control the spread of graffiti; architectural guidelines regarding signage and facades for the commercial district on Westminster are under way; Phase 1 of Davies Park revitalization was completed, with Phase 2 planned for 2018.

2) Land Use and Zoning Changes

Zoning bylaws were revised to harmonize density and setbacks on Westminster South.

3) Infrastructure Renewal

Over 20% of the Town's road and water infrastructure renewal has been completed, with plans for work on Percival in 2018.

4) Transportation and Traffic Management

A traffic calming policy was created; numerous traffic calming

measures were implemented; traffic lights were installed at Westminster and Avon; Strathearn parking lot was improved; new parking spots were created where needed.

5) Enhancing Neighbourhood Life

Numerous traffic studies were undertaken and measures implemented to improve safety; sidewalk snow and ice removal was prioritized; new pedestrian crosswalks were installed.

6) Improving Municipal Facilities and Services

Plans were developed for a Recreation Complex and government grants were pursued; a dog run was established.

7) Green Planning

A study was conducted on Town building energy efficiency, and work is under way to implement key recommendations; bylaws have been amended to protect trees during construction and limit hardscaping; a tree inventory was done and a tree policy is near completion.

The Urban Plan provides the long-term vision for the Town and gives us the road map to implement changes as funds become available. Council will continue to review the plan and work on the stated objectives.

*Colleen Feeney, Councillor
Urban Planning, Finance, Administration and Human Resources
cfeeney@montreal-west.ca*

MAYOR'S REPORT

Agglomeration budget outrage

At our last meeting in December, your Town Council passed a budget that saw an increase for the average home in Montreal West of 0.99%. This was based on an expected increase in our Agglomeration Council bill of approximately 2.5%.

You have undoubtedly heard about the outrageous increase in the Agglo budget for 2018, prepared by the Plante-Dorais administration. They inflated the Agglo budget by such an amount that the increase in Montreal West's charges for Agglomeration services has gone up by 9%! And that increase came without any notice or discussion. Our increase is the second highest on the island; our bill going from \$5.17 M to over \$5.63 M, up by \$460 K.

What does that mean for our tax bill? If we passed the whole 9% increase in the Town's Agglo charge completely along to taxpayers, the effect would be that your tax bill would increase about 4%. This is unacceptable to Council, so we have reopened our budget to make adjustments, in an attempt to absorb the increase without unduly burdening residents. These adjustments will include cuts to some expenses, delays in some capital works and a change in the way some capital works are funded—by using some of our surplus. We will work to ensure no cuts in service. This revised budget will be presented and passed at the January 29 Council meeting.

Is the Agglo budget a *fait accompli*? The short answer is, no. As soon as the Agglo budget was deposited, the mayors of the suburban municipalities voiced their anger. The Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) has kept the issue in the public spotlight. As president of the ASM, I have been interviewed by all of the Montréal media outlets and led a press conference on January 12 to formally demand the Plante-Dorais administration revise its budget. All 15 suburban mayors have sent formal letters and council resolutions to Mayor Plante and our provincial MNAs.

Will the Agglo budget change? While we are staying optimistic that Mayor Plante will work with her suburban partners to revise her budget, the reality is that, with an absolute majority on the Agglo Council, she can pass and defend any budget she wants. This further illustrates the inequity and flawed nature of the agglomeration system as it is structured now. The silver lining in this mess is that it may be the impetus to convince the provincial government that a structural change to the Agglo is long overdue.

Coffee with the Mayor

The next Coffee with the Mayor will take place on **Thursday, February 22**, at 7:30 to 8:30 am in the Community Centre.

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



Can you help make MoWest safer?

Committee applications

We start the New Year by seeking applications from MoWest residents who wish to form part of the Town's Traffic and Safety Committee (TSC). The TSC deliberates on traffic and security matters affecting the Town. It submits recommendations to Council for consideration and possible implementation. Examples include new traffic configurations and public safety by-laws. The scope, mandate and responsibilities of the TSC will be set forth in a new by-law to be adopted by Council. Please submit a letter to my attention explaining why you wish to be a member and the skill-set you possess that would best serve this Committee. We want to ensure that all parts of MW are represented on the committee (North, South and Centre). Your application should be submitted **no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, February 16.**

Incidences of theft and crime

Lately, there have been certain incidences of theft and a few home break and entries in town. First, please note that our PSOs and the SPVM are aware of these matters and we are closely monitoring all updates. Second, you are strongly encouraged to file a written report of any incidence of

crime with police authorities. This helps direct needed SPVM resources to our community. Third, I want to put your mind at ease: while any incidence of crime is one too many, as of November 30, 2017, reported incidences of crime in Montreal West were down by 22% compared to the same period in 2016. Statistically speaking, in comparison to all other demerged cities and Montreal boroughs, Montreal West remains **one of the safest communities** on the Island. Nevertheless, I will be convening a meeting in February (date TBA) with residents where we can discuss ways in which to better protect our homes and community. For instance, we will look at the security technology available and explore the idea of a neighbourhood watch program.

Turcot project

For those of you wishing to discuss matters relating to the Turcot Project, you are invited to an information meeting at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 30 at the Montreal West Curling Club.

*Dino Mazzone, Councillor
Public Security and Special Projects
Fundraising
dmazzone@montreal-west.ca*

Snow, snow and more snow!

After receiving our first couple of major snow dumps, I thought it was time for a brief review of the snow clearing and removal operations.

Salting the sidewalks and roads takes place as soon as snowfall begins. Special attention is paid to areas where there are stop signs, hills, schools and in high traffic arteries such as Westminster.

Snow clearing is done by plowing the snow from the middle of the roadways and sidewalks. This process is begun only after there is 2.5 cm of snow on the ground and it is executed solely by the Public Works crew.

Snow removal is the act of eliminating snow from the sidewalks and streets using industrial snow blowers, dump trucks and other large equipment. This operation is executed by our Montreal West Public Works department along with specialized contractors. Removal starts when there is at least 15 cm of snow on the ground. It is based on a pre-determined route, giving priority to main arteries, emergency routes, hills, schools,

and access to the snow dump (behind the Public Works yard). Snow removal for an average accumulation (20 to 30 cm) is targeted to take three workdays. The ultimate objective after each operation is to ensure that all areas of the Town are in similarly excellent condition.

Important reminders

Pay attention to the **orange No Parking signs** placed on the streets the day before the crew passes and do not park on the street until after the signs have been removed. Public Security will enforce this.

Residents and their contractors may move snow from driveways on the side of the street before the snow removal operation is performed. But that **snow must never block** the street, sidewalk, or neighbouring driveways. These infractions will be ticketed.

*Maria Torres, Councillor
Public Works, Buildings and Environment
mtorres@montreal-west.ca*

All in favour, say, "Aye"

If you've ever attended a council meeting in Montreal West, you may have been struck by the apparent unanimity of council votes. Typically, a councillor will read out a motion, it will be seconded, the vote will be called and (over 95% of the time) all will promptly say, "Aye" and move on. You may have wondered: Is this true democracy? Where is the debate? It's worth clarification, I think.

Debate is indeed alive and well in MoWest politics, but like most small towns, our Council operates on a consensus model rather than confrontation. In the party system of federal, provincial and big-city politics, there's always an official opposition publicly challenging government initiatives. Here in MoWest, we elect five independent voices that are free to speak their minds. And I can assure you they do! But our debating is done in caucus (similar to cabinet meetings) rather than in public.

For contentious issues, only when a reasonable consensus has been reached is the issue voted upon at a public meeting. Very occasionally, when consensus can't be reached, some councillors may vote against a motion and explain their reasons.

Why not hash everything out at the public meetings? Well, truly contentious or complex issues often take months to resolve. Proposals to deal with these issues are generally presented, discussed, researched, and discussed again in light of additional information. Public Council meetings aren't the place for this evolving analysis and consensus building.

It's also worth noting that 80% of the issues voted upon by Council are mundane housekeeping matters and there's no real hashing out to do. Issues like routine permit approval, renewal of insurance policies and rental of Town equipment aren't very debatable items.

Consensus might not be a very exciting spectator sport, but it brings about strong, well thought-out decisions that benefit the entire MoWest community.

*Elizabeth Ulin, Councillor
Recreation, Culture and
Communications
eulin@montreal-west.ca*

MONTRÉAL WEST TOWN

communiqué du CONSEIL

Mise à jour sur le plan d'urbanisme

En juin 2009, par suite d'un sondage des résidents et de deux consultations publiques, le conseil municipal de M-O. adoptait son Plan d'urbanisme. Celui-ci est disponible sur le site Web de la Ville; il identifie plusieurs objectifs à long terme pour la Ville.

En 2017, Le Conseil a révisé le Plan d'urbanisme pour évaluer notre performance dans la mise en œuvre de ces objectifs. Selon notre compte, 48 des objectifs (72 %), avaient été atteints ou étaient en développement et 18 demeuraient à entreprendre. Une brève mise à jour de certains progrès suit.

1) Revitalisation du centre-ville

Une firme a été embauchée pour contrôler la propagation des graffiti; des balises concernant l'affichage et les façades du secteur commercial de Westminster sont en voie d'élaboration; la phase 1 de la revitalisation du parc Davies est complétée et la phase 2 planifiée pour 2018.

2) Modifications de l'affectation du sol et du zonage

Les règlements de zonage ont été révisés pour harmoniser la densité et les marges de recul sur Westminster Sud.

3) Renouvellement des infrastructures

Au-delà de 20 % du renouvellement des rues de la ville et des infrastructures d'aqueduc sont complétés et des travaux sont planifiés pour 2018 sur Percival.

4) Transport et gestion de la circulation

Une politique de modération de la circulation a été élaborée; de nombreuses mesures d'atténuation de la circulation ont été mises en place; des feux de circulation ont été installés à

l'intersection Westminster et Avon; des améliorations ont été apportées au parc de stationnement Strathearn; de nouveaux emplacements de stationnement ont été créés là où requis.

5) Amélioration de la vie de quartier

De nombreuses enquêtes de circulation ont été réalisées et des mesures prises pour améliorer la sécurité; déneigement et déglacage des trottoirs ont été prioritaires; de nouveaux passages piétonniers ont été aménagés.

6) Amélioration des installations et services municipaux

Des plans furent élaborés pour un complexe récréatif et des subventions gouvernementales recherchées; un parc canin a été ouvert.

7) Planification environnementale

Une étude sur l'efficacité énergétique des édifices de la Ville fut menée et des travaux sont en cours pour mettre les principales recommandations en application; des règlements ont été amendés pour protéger les arbres lors de construction et limiter les aménagements à l'aide de matériaux inertes; un inventaire des arbres a été réalisé et une politique de l'arbre est presque finalisée.

Le Plan d'urbanisme fournit une vision à long terme de la ville et nous fournit la voie pour mettre en application les changements au fil du temps, selon la disponibilité des fonds. Le Conseil continuera à réviser le Plan et à travailler sur les objectifs établis.

*Colleen Feeney, conseillère
Urbanisme, Finances, Administra-
tion et Ressources humaines
cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca*

RAPPORT DU MAIRE

Outrage quant au budget de l'agglomération

Lors de sa réunion de décembre, votre Conseil a voté un budget avec une augmentation pour la maison moyenne de M-O. de l'ordre de 0,99 %, basé sur une hausse attendue d'environ 2,5 % de la facture du conseil d'agglomération.

Vous avez sans doute eu connaissance de l'outrageuse majoration du budget d'agglomération préparé par l'administration Plante-Dorais. Le budget de l'agglomération a gonflé par un montant tel que pour M-O., l'augmentation de la facture pour les services de l'agglomération se chiffre à 9 %! Et cette hausse est venue sans préavis ni discussion. Notre augmentation est la deuxième en importance sur l'île, notre facture passant de 5,17 M\$ à plus de 5,63 M\$, un accroissement de 460 k\$.

Quel est l'impact sur votre compte de taxes? Si toute la hausse de 9 % de la facture est transmise aux contribuables, l'effet serait une majoration d'environ 4 %. Cela est inacceptable pour le Conseil. Nous avons donc rouvert notre budget pour y apporter des ajustements afin de tenter d'absorber l'augmentation sans indument surcharger les citoyens. Ces ajustements incluront des coupes de certaines dépenses, le report de certains travaux d'immobilisations et une modification dans le financement de certains travaux d'immobilisations, en utilisant une partie de nos surplus. Nous nous astreindrons à assurer qu'il n'y aura pas de réduction de services. Ce budget révisé sera présenté et adopté lors de la réunion du Conseil du 29 janvier.

Le budget de l'agglomération est-il un fait accompli? En un mot, non. Dès le dépôt du budget de l'agglomération, les maires de municipalités de banlieue ont fait entendre leur colère. L'Association des municipalités de banlieue (AMB) a gardé cette question dans l'actualité. Comme président de l'AMB, j'ai été interviewé par tous les médias montréalais et tenu une conférence de presse le 12 janvier pour formellement demander que l'administration Plante-Dorais revoie son budget. Les 15 maires de banlieue ont transmis une lettre officielle et une résolution de leur Conseil à la mairesse Plante et aux membres de l'Assemblée nationale provinciale.

Le budget de l'agglomération changera-t-il? Tout en demeurant optimistes que la mairesse Plante travaillera avec ses partenaires des banlieues pour revoir son budget, la réalité est telle, qu'avec une majorité absolue au Conseil d'agglomération, elle peut voter et défendre n'importe quel budget. Cela ne fait qu'illustrer davantage l'iniquité et la nature viciée du système d'agglomération tel qu'actuellement structuré. L'aspect positif de ce désastre est qu'il pourrait être le déclencheur pour convaincre le gouvernement provincial qu'un changement à la structure de l'agglomération est dû depuis longtemps.

Café avec le maire

Le prochain Café avec le maire aura lieu le **jeudi 22 février** de 7 h 30 à 8 h 30 au Centre communautaire.

*Beny Masella, maire
ville de Montréal-Ouest
bmasella@montreal-ouest.ca*

Aider à rendre M-O. plus sure?

Candidatures pour un comité

Nous amorçons la nouvelle année en sollicitant des candidatures de résidents de M-O. qui souhaitent siéger au Comité sur la circulation et la sécurité (CCS). Le CCS traite de questions de circulation et de sécurité affectant la ville. Il soumet des recommandations au Conseil pour sa considération et possible mise en application. À titre d'exemples, parlons de nouvelles configurations de trafic et de règlements sur la sécurité publique. La compétence, le mandat et les responsabilités du CCS seront énoncés dans un nouveau règlement que le Conseil doit adopter. Veuillez transmettre une lettre à mon attention, exposant pourquoi vous voulez faire partie de ce comité et l'expertise que vous possédez qui servirait au comité. Nous désirons nous assurer que tous les secteurs de M-O. (le nord, le sud et le centre) soient représentés sur le comité. Votre candidature devrait nous parvenir **au plus tard le vendredi 16 février, 17 h.**

Épisodes de vols et crimes

Dernièrement, il y a eu certains incidents de vol et quelques introductions par effraction dans la ville. D'abord, veuillez noter que nos ASP et le SPVM sont au fait de ces incidents et nous surveillons de près les développements. En second lieu,

De la neige, encore de la neige!

Après nos deux premières bordées de neige, je crois qu'une brève revue des opérations de déneigement et d'enlèvement de la neige est de mise.

Le salage des trottoirs et des rues survient dès qu'il commence à neiger. On porte une attention particulière aux arêts, aux côtes, des écoles et aux rues très passantes comme Westminster.

Le déneigement consiste à dégager la neige du milieu des rues et trottoirs. Ce travail débute après accumulation de 2,5 cm au sol et est exécuté uniquement par le personnel des Travaux publics.

L'enlèvement de la neige est son élimination des trottoirs et rues à l'aide de souffleuses à neige, camions-bennes et autres gros équipements industriels. Les Travaux publics de Montréal-Ouest et des entrepreneurs spécialisés se chargent de ce travail. L'enlèvement débute lorsqu'au moins 15 cm sont tombés. Un circuit prédéterminé dicte la séquence, priorisant les artères principales, les routes d'urgence, les côtes, les écoles et l'accès au dépôt à neige derrière la cour des

nous vous incitons instamment à déposer un rapport de tout crime auprès des autorités policières. Cela aide à diriger les ressources voulues du SPVM vers notre communauté. Troisièmement, je tiens à vous rassurer; alors qu'un seul crime en est un de trop, en date du 30 novembre 2017, le nombre de crimes rapportés était en baisse de 22 % par rapport à la même période en 2016. Statistiquement, en comparaison avec toutes les autres villes constituées et les arrondissements de Montréal, M-O. demeure **une de collectivités les plus sûres** de l'île. Néanmoins, je convoquerai une rencontre en février avec les citoyens (date à venir) où nous pourrions discuter de moyens de mieux protéger nos maisons et notre communauté. Par exemple, nous examinerons les technologies de sécurité offertes et explorerons l'idée d'un programme Surveillance de quartier.

Chantier Turcot

Pour ceux d'entre vous souhaitant discuter de questions touchant le chantier Turcot, vous êtes conviés à une séance d'information le mardi 30 janvier à 19 h, au Club de curling de M-O.

*Dino Mazzone, conseiller
Sécurité publique et Financement de
projets spéciaux
dmazzone@montreal-ouest.ca*

Travaux publics. La cible pour l'enlèvement d'une accumulation moyenne (20 à 30 cm) est trois jours de travail. L'objectif ultime à la fin de chaque opération est de s'assurer que chaque secteur de la ville est en même excellente condition.

Rappels importants

Prêtez attention aux **panonceaux orange interdisant le stationnement** installés sur les rues, le jour précédent le passage des équipes, et ne stationnez sur ces rues qu'après l'enlèvement de ces affichettes. La Sécurité publique fera respecter ces interdictions.

Les résidents ou leurs entrepreneurs peuvent mettre la neige des entrées en bordure de rue avant l'opération d'enlèvement. Par contre, cette **neige ne doit jamais bloquer** la rue, le trottoir ou l'entrée du voisin. Ces infractions seront sanctionnées par constat d'infraction.

*Maria Torres, conseillère
Travaux publics, Bâtiments
et Environnement
mtorres@montreal-ouest.ca*

En faveur, dites « Oui »

Si vous avez déjà assisté à une réunion du Conseil à M-O., l'apparente unanimité des votes du Conseil vous a peut-être surpris. Typiquement, une conseillère ou un conseiller fera lecture d'une motion qui sera appuyée et lors du vote, dans plus de 95 % des cas, tous diront rapidement « Oui » et passeront au prochain point. Vous vous demandez peut-être : « Est-ce vraiment démocratique? » « Où est le débat? » Je crois bien que cela vaut des éclaircissements.

Les débats se portent effectivement très bien dans la vie politique de M-O., mais, comme dans la plupart des petites villes, notre Conseil fonctionne par consensus plutôt que par confrontation. Dans le système partisan de la politique fédérale, provinciale et des grandes villes, on retrouve toujours une opposition officielle qui conteste publiquement les initiatives gouvernementales. Ici à M-O., nous élisons cinq voix indépendantes, libres d'exprimer leurs opinions. Et je peux vous assurer qu'elles le font! Mais, nos échanges se déroulent en caucus (semblables aux réunions du Cabinet) plutôt qu'en public.

Pour les matières contentieuses, ce n'est qu'après conclusion d'un accord raisonnable que le vote est tenu lors d'une réunion publique. Très occasionnellement, devant l'impossibilité de consensus, certains conseillers pourront voter contre une motion et expliquer leur raisonnement.

Pourquoi ne pas tout discuter en réunion publique? Les questions vraiment contentieuses ou complexes prennent souvent des mois à résoudre. Les propositions pour traiter de ces sujets sont généralement présentées, discutées, étudiées et rediscutées à la lumière de renseignements supplémentaires. Les réunions publiques du Conseil ne sont pas l'endroit pour cette analyse évolutive ni pour articuler un consensus.

Il est aussi à noter que 80 % des points votés par le Conseil sont des sujets de gestion terre-à-terre et qu'il n'y a pas de véritables pourparlers à avoir. Il est ici question de routine, d'approbation de permis, de renouvellement de polices d'assurance et de location d'équipements de la Ville, des sujets qui portent peu à discussion.

Le consensus n'est peut-être pas un sport-spectacle très excitant, mais il mène à de solides décisions, bien fondées, qui sont bénéfiques pour l'ensemble de la collectivité de M-O.

*Elizabeth Ulin, conseillère
Loisirs, Culture et Communications
eulin@montreal-ouest.ca*

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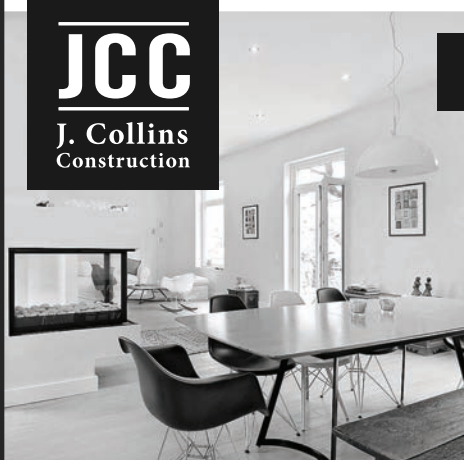
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Montreal West Scout Group

Photo: Mike Phalen



Beaver Daniel Phelan wall climbing



Beavers

Our Beaver Colony was busy in January. They jumped right into a three-week program where they sanded, glued and painted their Beaver Buggies for their Rally on January 23. We had a great time racing the buggies with family and friends cheering them on. The last meeting of the month was a pretend campfire where each lodge presented a song, skit or cheer to the colony in preparation for winter camp at Camp Tamaracouta.

Cubs

The Cubs are continuing on the new Canadian Path program. As part of this new youth-

led initiative, 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 Murray Hill, getting ready for winter camp.

Scouts

The Scout Troop started the year with a night of LARPing (Live Action Role Playing). The Troop is trying to spend more time outdoors, so they planned a hike in Angrignon Park where they practised orienteering and geocaching. A fun night of skating and tobogganing on Mount Royal is in the works for February. They got a head start planning for winter camp at

Beaver Noah Hoffman wall climbing



Tamaracouta and plan to build Quinzees (snow shelters) to sleep in on the second night. They are joining a Troop from Moncton to cycle across PEI in July.

Venturers/Rovers

The Venturer Company/Rover Crew helped the Town celebrate the arrival of the *CP Holiday Train* in November. They set up a table to sell hot chocolate and baked goods. The profits were used to help pay for a training program so that these young people could assist in the younger sections. In December they had a holiday party where they all brought instruments to have a jam session – a gifted

group of young people! In January a large chunk of their training was completed at Scouter Lesley's house and they joined the older group of Rovers for a games sports night in the Edinburgh gym. Skiing plans are in the works.

Spring is coming!

Lastly, even though MoWest 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 the March *Informer*, but for those optimists who are already counting the days, hang in there – so are we!

Our Venturer Company/Rover Crew - Holiday potluck after "Jam Session"



Photo: Lesley Coles



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Guiding



The MoWest Guiding units were busy at the end of 2017. The Sparks and Brownies teamed up again, as is their tradition, to make gift bags for the *Meals-on-Wheels* recipients as well as the *NDG Food Depot*. The girls created upcycled Christmas cards, home made cookies, candy cane reindeer, glitzy Christmas tree window hangings and snowman soup. (Snowman soup is a ziploc bag of hot chocolate powder, mini marshmallows and a small candy cane to use as a stir stick.) The seniors are always very appreciative of the young ladies' handiwork. The Brownies, at their last meeting in 2017, decided to challenge themselves to make a snowman out of recycled objects.

Sparks

The Sparks were also busy working on their "Being Me" badge prior to the holidays. They each had a turn to do a little oral presentation about their favourite things and to bring in an object that had special meaning for them. Some girls were a bit shy to talk, but that was OK. Their leader was able to read their answers, and they were always happy to share their special object. The girls were also taught how to braid. They braided two friendship bracelets, one for a special friend and the other for themselves.

The Guides ended the year by finishing off odds and ends of program work. They explored the theme of diversity through skits and hands on activities, encouraging the girls to realize that our similarities and differences are to be celebrated equally.

Starting 2018, the Brownies worked on the "Say no to Violence" challenge. This encourages the girls to learn about friendship and anti-bullying. As well, they are shown



Photo: Christine Downey

the differences between accidentally hurting someone's feelings and intentionally being mean.

The Sparks have started the New Year with their "Being Healthy" badge. They are encouraged to make up games with different props like skipping ropes and hula-hoops. They also have a special invitation from the NDG ringette mosquito team's head coach to give the sport a try at one of their practices.

In September of 2018, Girl Guides of Canada will be unveiling a new program for

all the different levels entitled "Girls First." The Sparks unit in Montreal West is on of 800 test units. In January, the girls had a chance to test the new diversity theme. The Girl Guides are really putting the girls first. All of the test units are encouraged to give their feedback on the suggested activities. Based on the results, the program will be modified to reflect the majority interest of the girls. They will be keeping the program relevant to the girls of today.

from the Montreal West Guiders



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If you've ever asked yourself, "Is there more to life than this?," then Alpha is the experience for you. Once again, we're offering our Alpha experience at St. Ignatius.

Come join others in a friendly and open environment where we gather once a week over an 11-week period to share a wonderful meal, watch a short video and explore some of your big questions about life and the Christian faith in small discussion groups. No question is the wrong question. Alpha is for everyone and anyone.

"I was searching for something, but didn't know what until St. Ignatius welcomed me with open arms and introduced me to the Alpha course. Over home cooked meals and heartfelt discussions, I renewed my faith, discovered a sense of deep joy and made new friends along the way. Alpha has truly changed my life. The greatest blessings are the ones you least expect, and the one I least expected was Alpha." (Laurie L., Alpha participant)

This session we will be offering Alpha at the church beginning Wednesday, February 21 from 6:30-8:45 pm. We'll also be hosting a "Pub Alpha" at a local restaurant/pub. For more info or to register, please visit: stignatiusmtl.org.



MW United

...the brick one

Remember the crush that was Christmas? Would you believe many, many stalwart volunteers came out to prepare and then deliver 243 turkey dinners to those in our communities, who are housebound and/or infirm. Takes more than a snowstorm to put us off our purpose. Thanks to all and a tip of the hat to **Joan and Bill Foster** who started all this about 25 Christmases ago.

And if you came to the family Christmas Eve service, you witnessed **Rev. Mark** wending his way through a story with the enthusiastic, spontaneous input of the children. Magical. The later service with choir, Communion and candles was a different kind of magic. Or maybe it was the same.

Pancakes coming!

February moves us right along to prepare for an early Easter – has something to do with that full moon so early in January. So Shrove Tuesday is February 13, with Ash Wednesday right after. Then Lent arrives with its time of reflection and pondering. With all that whirs 'round in our heads, pausing to create a little space doesn't hurt.

A place to ponder

Our February Labyrinth Walk – tailor-made for pondering – will be Sunday afternoon, February 25 between 2 and 4 in Wadsworth Hall. It doesn't matter why anyone comes for a walk; it only matters that any who wish to do so feel welcome to come. A Labyrinth is a unicursal, single pathway marked on the ground that leads to a centre and then back out again. It knows no particular cultural affiliation and so belongs to

everyone. There is no charge; we just ask that you walk in socks or slippers. We lay the labyrinth pattern, line it with candles and play gentle music for a meditative atmosphere. This is your individual experience, so arrive when you can, walk at your own pace, and leave when you feel complete.

Join us any Sunday at 10 am for worship, Sunday school and nursery service. Rev. Mark Hammond is very welcoming, as is **Brenda Murray** who inspires the Sunday school. **Barbara Holman** is our new office person and a good soul she is too. Call us at **482-3210** or visit mwuc.org for information.

from Susan Upham

St. Philip's

Thank you to all friends and neighbours who joined us for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and for our Christmas services.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14 – a real challenge for those who usually give up chocolate for Lent! Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 7:30 pm. On Sunday, February 18, the 10 am service will begin with the Great Litany sung in procession.

Our in-ministry student, **Jonathan Widell**, will be leading a Lenten study entitled, "Who do you say that I am?," using *lectio divina* and some tools from the Spiritual Exercises to deepen our understanding of our relationship to God. Full details, including meeting time, are not available at press time; please check our Facebook page for complete information, or call the church office.

The annual pancake brunch will be Sunday, March 11.

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Kosher corner

It was cold outside on the 6th night of Chanuka, yet inside the Curling Club there was warmth in the air, at the community Chanuka party. All enjoyed: Chanuka crafts, traditional goodies, games, songs, presents and a show by our very own **Amazing Todsky** along with the traditional lighting of the giant Menorah (try saying all that in one breath)!

A big shout out to an amazing group of sponsors and volunteers. The MoWest Jewish community is extremely grateful for the opportunity to celebrate together!

Tu B'shvat women's night out

The MoWest Jewish Women's circle invites you to a social night out in honour of Tu B'shvat. The evening will include glass etching while exploring the meaning of the holiday over delicious fruit. The event will be held on Tuesday, January 30 at 8 pm. Cover fee \$18. Please call or text **Chaya** to join, **746-9649** or email chaya-marlow@gmail.com.

Monthly Friday night Shabbat service

The Monthly Friday night Shabbat service for the month of February will take place on February 2 followed by a light Kiddush. Please contact Rabbi **Mendy Marlow** for more details **632-9649** or at mendymarlow@gmail.com

Purim celebration!

Stay tuned for the second annual community Purim party coming up on March 1! To volunteer or for sponsorship please contact the Rabbi.

from Rabbi Mendy Marlow

Children's Library



On December 21, we were able to celebrate the holidays with our wonderful team of volunteers. Our volunteers are central to the operation of the library, and it was wonderful to be able to show them a little love!

Skate-a-thon

Le 23 février prochain, les élèves de l'école Elizabeth Ballantyne feront leur Skate-a-thon annuel. Ils auront du plaisir à patiner et, du même coup, ramasseront 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!

"At the zoo" – Yoga for kids. February 4 at 1pm

Winter time and a busy life can take a toll on even the youngest yogis at heart. Help your kids unwind from daily activities with a calming, stimulating and fun one-hour session of yoga. Moms and dads are free of charge if they wish to join their child.

Don't miss the journey "At the zoo." Interactive games, standing poses, breathing and relaxation techniques and sun salutations will keep the whole family engaged, healthy and happy.

Bring a mat along with your beautiful smile.

Please call **Micheline** to reserve in advance at **690-9196** or register at the library. Fee: \$10 per child.

Toute l'équipe de la bibliothèque vous souhaite une très belle et heureuse année 2018!

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January

30 Bridge

February

9 Olympic tea party

14 Tea and talk:
Senior Discovery Tours

27 Bridge:
new teams welcome

26 Movie matinée:
Loving Vincent

March

16 St. Patrick's Day luncheon

Overnight trips

Stratford Festival: June 13-16
Charlevoix: fall

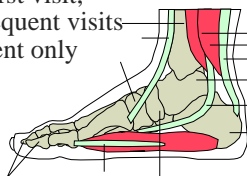
For more information, please call
Marian Scully at 484-6186.



Foot clinics

February 8 & 22

\$40 for the first visit,
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Community Centre

Employment Recreation and Culture

Application deadline:
January 31, 4 pm

Assistant Pool Managers
Head Swim Team Coach
Pool Office Manager
Day Camp Section Heads
LIT & Junior Leader (camp)

Application deadline:
February 8, 4 pm

Lifeguards
Wading Pool Attendants

Application deadline:
March 16, 4 pm

Day Camp Counsellors
Community Centre Counsellors - full & part time
Pool Gate Attendants

Applications

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 (8 Westminster South).

March Break Madness

March 5-9
8 am-4 pm
5-12 years old

Early bird prices until: February 2.

- Full Week: \$190 resident/\$200 non-resident
- Daily fee: \$50 resident/\$60 non-resident

As of February 3:

- Full week: \$215 resident/\$225 non-resident
- Daily fee: \$55 resident/\$65 non-resident
- Extended care also available.

Monday Madness

Snow fun, crafts, Zumba, giant games, hot chocolate and more

Tuesday

Trip to the Aquadôme and Lego challenges

Wednesday

Circus workshop by Cirkazou

Thursday

Music and rhythm with Tatiana and intro to Brazilian jiu-jitsu

Friday fiesta

Reptiles and animals with Educazoo, tacos, piñatas and movie

Call for more info: **484-6186.**
montreal-west.ca

Calling all volunteers!



The Community Centre is looking for a volunteer to take over the organising of the Canada Day BBQ. In an article last year, it was mentioned that **Joan Foster** has stepped down after many years of service and we are now in need of a replacement. If you are interested, please contact the Community Centre at **484-6186** for additional information.



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Community Centre

Time to get back into shape

The holidays are over and it's time to get back into shape. Whether you are a beginner or fit enthusiast, the Community Centre has a program for you. Classes are offered in the morning as early as 6:30 am and as late as 8 pm as well as classes on Saturday mornings. Classes offered are Essentrics, stretch, gentle yoga, yagalates, TRX and Rip Training, Fit Interval, Zumba and Yoga for Stiff men.

For additional information please go to the Town website montreal-west.ca and look at the winter brochure to find the times and places they take place as well as how to register. You can call the Community Centre for any additional information on the classes and instructors at **484-6186**.

SPECIAL EVENTS

February Fun

Sunday, February 11
Town Hall

Face painting, arts and crafts, 10:15 am. Circus show by **Mr. Verdin**: 11 am.

Cost per child in advance: \$5 for residents/\$7 non-residents; additional \$2 at the door. Free for children under 2. Tickets available at the Community Centre or on-line montreal-west.ca.

Free skate in the Arena: 1-2:30 pm
Call for more info: **484-6186**

St Patrick's Breakfast

Sunday, March 18
Town Hall

Come and have breakfast before the parade, crafts, face painting, calèche rides, Irish coffee for sale and live music by the *Mariner's Curse*.

Tickets available online or at the Community Centre

Cost in advance: under 2: free. Children under 12: resident: \$5/non-resident:\$8; 12 and up: resident: \$10 resident/ non-resident: \$13. Additional \$5 at the door.

Youth Programs

Call or sign up online
at montreal-west.ca.

Bilingual Discovery

Drop-off preschool program for children ages 2 to 4 years old.

One to five days a week (Monday-Friday, 9 am-noon) at the Community Centre

Red Cross babysitting course

Saturday, February 10
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 old

Chess with Steve

Fridays, 4-5:30 pm
Davies chalet

Ages: 5-12 years old

Hip Hop

Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm
Town Hall

Ages: 13-17 years old

Come get that hip hop flavour through the techniques of hip hop bounce, rock and groove. Leave the class really knowing how to move!

Children's Birthday Parties

Davies Chalet

3 hours on Saturdays or Sunday

Includes: animation for 60-75 minutes by one of our animators and supplies for the chosen activity: cupcake, beading, arts and crafts, face painting and more.

Cost: \$200 for residents/\$225 for non-residents.

Appels de candidatures

Comité consultatif d'urbanisme



La Ville de M-O. recherche des résidents intéressés à siéger au Comité consultatif d'urbanisme (CCU). Le CCU étudie des demandes relatives à l'urbanisme et à l'aménagement, incluant les Plans d'implantation et d'intégration architecturale, les dérogations mineures, les amendements de zonage et la révision périodique des règlements d'urbanisme et de construction et fait ses recommandations au Conseil. Ce comité se réunit deux fois par mois, les mercredis à 18 h 30 et occasionnellement, plus souvent. Le comité se compose de sept membres ordinaires et de quatre remplaçants, avec des mandats renouvelables de deux ans.

Les candidats à ce poste doivent

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- être libres pour des rencontres en soirée;
- avoir de l'expertise, de la formation ou un intérêt en urbanisme, architecture, génie, aménagement, patrimoine, construction ou architecture paysagère.

Pour vous porter candidat à ce poste bénévole, transmettez votre curriculum vitae et une lettre de présentation énonçant les raisons de votre candidature au plus tard le **2 mars** à :

Vlad Florea-Archir

Responsable de l'urbanisme / Inspecteur en bâtiment
vfloreaarchir@montreal-west.ca

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Town Council meeting : December



A special meeting in which **Councillor Feeney** presented the Town's 2018 budget preceded the regular December Council meeting. The details of this presentation are available on the Town's website.

The first item in the Mayor's report was the announcement that he has been elected president of the *Association of Sub-urban Municipalities*. The Association represents the 15 demerged municipalities on the Island of Montreal, with an approximate population of 242,600 citizens. In addition, he is now on the Board of the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*. (The CMM is an entity comprising the Agglomeration of Montreal, Laval, Longueuil and other municipalities on the North and South shores. It was created several years ago by a law from Quebec to better coordinate various planning interventions in the Greater Montreal area.)

The Mayor concluded his remarks by mentioning that the Town has resubmitted its application for a grant to assist in the building of a new recreation centre since submissions have now been invited for consideration during the second phase of the grants program.

First question period

Environmental issues were on the minds of several residents during the first question period. One urged Council to compose a bylaw prohibiting the use of plastic bags for the collection of garden waste and the Mayor said he would look into it.

A little later into the meeting, Lieutenant **Demetrios Georgiou** of Public Security brought to everyone's attention the fact that a bylaw prohibiting the use of plastic bags for garden waste already exists.

Another speaker questioned the cost to the Town of the planting of trees at Edinburgh School. The Mayor explained that this was part of the Town's regular tree-planting policy and an amount of money is regularly allocated for the planting of 75 to 100 trees every year.

Public safety was another item raised by several residents. It was proposed by one that a Crime Watch Program should be organized in the Town which would encourage neighbours to be observant of any suspicious activities. **Councillor Mazzone** expressed his approval of this idea.

Another suggestion was that light reflectors should be installed on the curb extensions, and the Mayor replied that the feasibility of improvements such as this is continually being investigated.

Traffic problems on Ballantyne North and on the hill leading up from Lachine-Saint-Pierre were also raised and both the Mayor and Councillor Mazzone stated their interest in seeing these problems resolved.

The final question asked why the Town's Planning Advisory Committee was created and why it had grown substantially in size. The answer was that its creation was a legal requirement and change occurs over time.

Several compliments were paid to Council for both its hard work on behalf of all of the citizens as well as for the respect shown to the many questions asked of it.

Councillors' reports

Snow fences and Christmas decorations have been installed, three more water main breaks have been attended to and members of the Public Works staff assisted in the *CP Holiday Train* festivities, according to **Councillor Torres**. She also noted that the 25 centimetres of the first significant snowfall on December 12 were completely cleared from the streets and sidewalks by December 16. Citizens were reminded that care should be taken to prevent water pipes from freezing when there is no one in the residence for a period of time.

Although Montreal West is considered to be one of the safest communities on the Montreal Island, Councillor Mazzone emphasized the need for both individual and

neighbourhood vigilance as well as the importance of reporting criminal activity to the Police Department. Mazzone has also written to a Côte Saint-Luc councillor concerning the flashing light at the corner of Westminster and Westover which he felt was of mutual concern to both municipalities.

Councillor Ulin announced that the third visit by the *CP Holiday Train* was once again a huge success. The annual flu clinic was well attended and much appreciated and plans are already in progress for the March Madness activities.

Councillor Feeney reviewed the highlights from her 2018 Budget Presentation and emphasized that the average property tax increase for 2018 of 0.98% follows the promise to keep the impact on the total tax bill for the average-value home at the CPI Montreal or lower. She thanked the Town's Treasurer for her assistance in preparing this report, as well as all the directors for keeping a close watch on their budgets.

Holiday greetings were extended to all by both the Mayor and all of the Councillors and the meeting moved on to the next opportunity for questions.

Second question period

Only a few questions were raised during this period. The first concerned the progress being made in the redesign of the Town's website. The reply was that this was a major undertaking in order to improve both "the look and the feel" of the website as well as the ease of its maintenance by staff members. Outside help is being used for the redesign and it will be subject to comments from a focus group before it is finalized.

Both the speed bumps on Strathearn and the traffic barriers on Avon were questioned next. Re-evaluation of the speed bumps will take place in the spring and the traffic barriers are the result of consultation with a traffic engineer and have been put in place for pedestrian safety at the intersection of Brock South and Avon were the answers.

The last comment came from a Westminster South resident who commended the Public Library for having recently hosted a thoroughly enjoyable musical evening and, on that note, the meeting was adjourned.



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Réunion du Conseil : décembre



Une réunion spéciale au cours de laquelle la **conseillère Feeney** a présenté le budget de la Ville pour 2018 a précédé la réunion ordinaire de décembre du Conseil. On retrouve les détails de cette présentation sur le site Web de la Ville.

Le premier point du rapport du maire était l'annonce de son élection à la présidence de l'Association des municipalités de banlieue qui représente les 15 municipalités reconstituées de l'île de Montréal et leur population d'environ 242 600 citoyens. De plus, il siège maintenant au conseil de la Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, un organisme regroupant l'agglomération de Montréal, Laval, Longueuil et les autres municipalités des rives Nord et Sud. Sa création, il y a plusieurs années, découle d'une loi québécoise et vise à une meilleure coordination des différentes interventions de planification dans le Grand Montréal.

Le maire a conclu son rapport en mentionnant que la Ville avait resoumis sa demande de subvention pour la construction d'un nouveau centre récréatif par suite de l'ouverture de la seconde phase du programme de subventions.

Première période de questions

L'environnement occupait l'esprit de plusieurs citoyens pendant la première période de questions. Une résidente a exhorté le Conseil à préparer un règlement interdisant l'utilisation de sacs de plastique pour la collecte de déchets de jardin et le maire a indiqué qu'il se pencherait sur la question.*

Un autre intervenant se questionnait sur le coût pour la Ville de planter des arbres à l'école Edinburgh. Le maire expliqua que cela faisait partie de la politique de plantation d'arbres de la Ville et qu'un montant est régulièrement alloué pour la plantation de 75 à 100 arbres par année.

La sécurité publique fut aussi soulevée par plusieurs. Une citoyenne proposa que la Ville mette sur pied un programme de surveillance qui inciterait les résidents à être à l'affût de toute activité suspecte. Le **conseiller Mazzone** s'est dit en accord avec cette idée.

Une autre suggestion visait l'installation de réflecteurs aux avancées de trottoirs; le maire a répondu que la faisabilité de telles améliorations est continuellement à l'étude.

Les problèmes de circulation sur Ballantyne Nord et sur la côte en provenance de Lachine-Saint-Pierre ont aussi été soulevés et le maire ainsi que le conseiller Mazzone ont réitéré leur intérêt à voir ces difficultés résolues.

La dernière question demandait la raison de la création du Comité consultatif d'urbanisme et pourquoi sa taille s'était substantiellement accrue. La réponse fut que sa création relève d'une exigence légale et que les changements se produisent au fil du temps.

De nombreuses louanges furent adressées aux membres du Conseil pour leur bon travail au nom de l'ensemble des citoyens ainsi que pour le respect démontré en rapport avec les nombreuses questions qui leur sont posées.

Rapports des conseillers

Les barrières à neige et les décorations de Noël ont été installées, trois autres bris de conduites d'eau ont été réparés et le personnel des Travaux publics a participé aux festivités du *Train des Fêtes du CP*, selon la **conseillère Torres**. Elle a aussi noté que, le 16 décembre, les rues et trottoirs étaient entièrement débarrassés des 25 centimètres de la bonne bordée de neige du 12 décembre. Elle a rappelé aux citoyens qu'il faut prendre des précautions pour prévenir le gel des tuyaux si une résidence est inoccupée pour une période prolongée.

Même si Montréal-Ouest est considérée comme une des communautés les plus sûres sur l'île de Montréal, le conseiller Mazzone a insisté sur le besoin de vigilance, tant individuelle que collective, ainsi que sur l'importance de rapporter toute activité criminelle au service de police. Il a de plus écrit à un conseiller de Côte-Saint-Luc relativement au feu clignotant à l'intersection Westminster et Westover qui, selon lui, est un souci partagé des deux municipalités.

La **conseillère Ulin** a signalé que la troisième visite du *Train des Fêtes du CP* a encore une fois connu un franc succès. La clinique annuelle de vaccination contre la grippe a attiré de nombreuses personnes et l'on planifie déjà les activités pour Mars en folie.

La conseillère Feeney a revu les grandes lignes de sa présentation du budget 2018 et fait remarquer que l'augmentation moyenne de 0,98 pour cent des impôts fonciers est conforme à la promesse de maintenir l'impact sur

la facture globale de taxes pour la maison de valeur moyenne au niveau de l'IPC pour Montréal ou en deçà. Elle a remercié la trésorière pour son aide dans la préparation de ce rapport de même que tous les directeurs qui ont su contrôler leurs budgets.

Le maire et les conseillers ont offert leurs vœux de la saison à tous et toutes et la réunion s'est poursuivie avec une autre occasion de poser des questions.

Deuxième période de questions

Seules quelques questions furent soulevées au cours de cette période. La première concernait les progrès de la transformation du site Web de la Ville. La réponse voulait qu'il s'agit d'une entreprise majeure pour améliorer « l'apparence et la sensation » du site Web ainsi que la facilité de son entretien par des membres du personnel. On utilise de l'aide extérieure pour la mutation et un groupe de discussion se prononcera avant sa finalisation.

Les dos-d'âne sur Strathearn et les barrières sur Avon furent ensuite remis en question. On a répondu qu'une réévaluation des ralentisseurs aurait lieu au printemps et que les barrières sont le résultat de consultations auprès d'un ingénieur de la circulation et ont été mises en place pour la sécurité des piétons à l'intersection de Brock Sud et Avon.

Le dernier commentaire émanait d'une résidente de Westminster Sud qui a louangé la Bibliothèque publique qui a récemment organisé une soirée musicale des plus agréables; sur cette note, la séance était levée.

*Un peu plus tard dans la réunion, le lieutenant **Demetrios Georgiou** de la Sécurité publique a attiré l'attention des gens sur le fait qu'il existe déjà un règlement interdisant l'utilisation de sacs de plastique pour les déchets de jardin.

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COMING EVENTS

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

Next deadline: February 7

JAN

- Mon 29** **Town Council Meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.
Tue 30 **Tu B'shvat women's night out.** Please call or text Chaya to join, 746-9649 or email chayamarlow@gmail.com.

FEB

- Fri 2** **Monthly Friday night Shabbat service.** Please contact Rabbi Mendy Marlow for more details: 632-9649 or mendymarlow@gmail.com.
Tue 6 **MTQ-KPH Turcot Neighbourhood Committee meeting.** Centre Saint-Raymond (5600 Upper-Lachine Road). 7-9 pm. Please see page 3.
Sat 10 **Rotary Valentine's dinner and dance.** Town Hall. Tickets, please email Vince at vincent.occhionero@sci-us.com. 7 pm.
Tue 13 **74th Annual general meeting of IODE HMS Victory Chapter.** Please RSVP at 485-9127.
Wed 14 **Valentine's Day!**
Tea and books at the library - a lively discussion of books and movies. Public Library. 2 pm.
Ash Wednesday Masses. St. Ignatius of Loyola. 9 am and 7 pm.
Ash Wednesday service. St. Philip's. 7:30 pm.
Sun 18 **Great Litany sung in procession.** St. Philip's. 10 am.
Tue 20 **Joan Foster** will speak on communicating with your health care provider. Public Library. 2 pm.
Wed 21 **Alpha begins.** St. Ignatius of Loyola. 6:30-8:45 pm.
Thu 22 **Coffee with the Mayor.** Community Centre. 7:30-8:30 am.
Municipal taxes due (first installment)
Échéance: taxes municipales (premier versement)
Sun 25 **Afternoon Labyrinth Walk.** MW United. 2-4.
Mon 26 **Town Council Meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.

MAR

- Sun 11** **Pancake brunch.** St. Philip's.
Mon 26 **Open house** at *Le jardin d'enfants Curzon Creative Pre-school* (9-11:30 am). Drop in or RSVP 489-7860.
Tue 27 **St. James' Literary Society** presents a talk on *Médecins Sans Frontières*. Reservations essential: 484-014; \$12 for non-members. Community Centre. 7 pm.



Classifieds

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