

THE INFORMER

Montreal West Newspaper

March 2016, Vol. 44, No. 2

The Montreal West United partnership for SYRIAN REFUGEES

by Maurice Krystal

When the tragedy of the Syrian diaspora hit the front pages and became a hot election issue, a refugee sponsorship information meeting was held in the MoWest Town Hall in October. A group of residents who had attended this session decided to move forward with a private sponsorship. During the same period, **Fred Braman**, the chair of trustees at the MW United Church, initiated a committee of church members to sponsor a Syrian refugee family as well. Hearing of one another, the two groups decided to join forces to streamline the application process and increase the strength of their effort. As long as the Church exercised responsible oversight, they could act as official refugee sponsor and,

as well, donations could go through the church to allow for the issuing of tax receipts to both community and church members. And so, this February the *MW United Church Partnership for Syrian Refugees* was formed.

As a united community project, the group reflects a wide variety of religious and cultural backgrounds, and has set the initial goal of raising \$27,500 to sponsor a Syrian family for a year. Money is important but not the only way to support this cause. Our small Town is ideally suited to adopt a family and help them integrate by being involved in a hands-on manner, whether it's to help them shop, donate clothes and furniture, find work or services, or to just

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Mohan Radhakrishna, Tanya Radhakrishna, Elizabeth Ulin, Janice Bicknell, Tom Clarke, Laura Cousineau



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Photo taken by 10 year old son Tristan Clark

Emma's Emmagination

It is a tiny place, probably the smallest commercial property on Westminster, but it is cozy, warm and whimsical. I remember its previous lives as a children's clothing store, a second hand bookstore and, most recently, as a taco establishment.

by Maurice Krystal

In the midst of the raspberry coloured walls, multicoloured handwritten blackboards and every hue imaginable on her cupcakes and pies, is Emma herself. She is a petite, rosy-cheeked woman under a pink baseball cap, who can multitask like a pro. While talking to me, she served customers; grilled sandwiches and brewed coffee, never making anybody who entered her small world feel that they were not important.

Emma was born in Winnipeg and raised by her grandmother and uncles who installed in her

a sense of entrepreneurship. She remembers that as early as eight, she wanted to be the owner of her own business, like her grandfather, father and uncles.



Her start into the world of cupcakes began innocently in 2005 when her husband, Kevin, gave her a Christmas gift of a cookbook called *The Baking Bible* and a Kitchen Aid mixer. That was the year her first son, Tristan, was born. Married at 21, Emma wanted to be the best wife and mother possible and, like her grandmother, that meant cooking.

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THE INFORMER

**10 Westminster 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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Heather Baylis
489-7022

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Julia Ross
julia@ross.cd

AD MANAGER

Vaughan McVey
484-6330
vaughan.mcvey@sympatico.ca

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Rhonda Schwartz 482-0227

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE
March 16

IODE



Olga Motton and the mini-cupcakes

The 72nd Annual meeting of HMS Victory Chapter *IODE* took place February 9.

Fred Motton's mother started this chapter in 1944, and some 32 girls, aged 12-16 years old, met weekly in her living room. The photo shows **Olga Motton** and the mini-cupcakes, prepared especially for the event by **Emma Chassis** of *Emmagimation*, the friendly cupcake store on Westminster near the Royal Bank.

Among the highlights of the meeting were reports from the Citizenship Officer, **Heather Ferguson**. She reported 6220 volunteer hours by our nine members last year (a figure that gets passed to Statistics Canada by *IODE* Canada, the national chapter). Scholarships were given to two students at Royal

West, and of an amazing figure of \$9,000 dollars' worth of clothing, equipment, wool and sewing supplies and full ditty bags were redistributed by chapter members to *Chez Doris* and *Auberge Transition*. We may not have much money to give, but we recycle and give service to those in need.

Fundraiser in May

We are planning to raise funds on the first Saturday in May with an attic treasures and bake sale: donations, buyers and interested people will be more than welcome, and we always welcome potential new members: more information from **Janet King** at **481-6523**.

Janet King

SYRIAN REFUGEES

continued from page 1

be there to talk to. Small can be beautiful!

Various committee members talked about why they are involved in this project.

Tanya Radhakrishna is drawn to the opportunity to become directly involved with sponsored families. She likes the hands on impact.

Erica Besso comes from another country herself and can identify with these desperate people. She looks forward to helping people from a different background.

Tom Clarke was drawn by events in the news, especially to a photo of a despondent father trying to save his young children as they fled their war-struck land.

Artists' Showcase "Close Up"

The "Close-Up" theme of the winter 2016 Artists' Showcase has inspired some new participants and creative interpretations. Try to spot your friends in the close ups of eyes and mouths by photographer **Alex Brzezinski** and view **Pat Tuck**'s beautiful animal portraits. These works of art by MoWest residents are currently on view in the upstairs meeting room at the Town Hall. There are small pottery items and handmade jewellery in the front hall display case. The music room cannot currently be used for the exhibition.

The winter show will be on view until mid-May, when it will make way for the annual summer children's art show, open to Town residents between the ages of five and 17.

For more details and application forms, contact **Tammy Loftus** at the Recreation and Culture Department, **484-1610**.

More information about themes for the fall 2016 and winter 2017 showcases will be published in the spring, but at least one theme will be related to Canada's 150th anniversary. Meanwhile, all MW artists are reminded that *Art in the Park* will be held June 7. See montreal-ouest.ca/en/artist-showcase-and-art-in-the-park/.

Carolyn Cronk has assisted Vietnamese boat people in the past and is looking forward to being involved in another humanitarian cause. It is all the uprooted children that speak to her.

Elizabeth Ulin, as a councillor, sees that such a joint effort not only supports the struggling community but also strengthens our community.

Others from the secular sponsorship group are **Dan Boulterice**, **Richard Dufour**, **Alain Forget**, **Louise Woodfine**, **Frank Roop** and **Jennifer Sandford**. And from the MWUC: **Roseanne Baatz**, **Carolyn Cronk** and **Erica Besso**. Everyone has a reason to be involved in such a humanitarian cause. What will be your motivation?

For further information contact **Elizabeth Ulin** at: ulin@videotron.ca or **Tanya Radhakrishna** at radhakrishna@videotron.ca.

NDG Senior Citizens' Council

Seniors may be eligible for programs

Older adults in NDG or Montreal West may be eligible to participate in two low- or no-cost programs.

Action Transport

The Action Transport program provides transportation to medical appointments and treatments. Return trips are not included, but members may be eligible for taxi tickets. Accompaniment is also available.

Users must be over 60 years of age, unable to use public transport, ineligible for Adapted Transport (STM) and living on low income (up to \$27,000 for individuals or \$32,000 for couples).

Day Away Program

The Day Away Program is a community-based day centre held Wednesdays and Thursdays and is designed for isolated low-income seniors. It

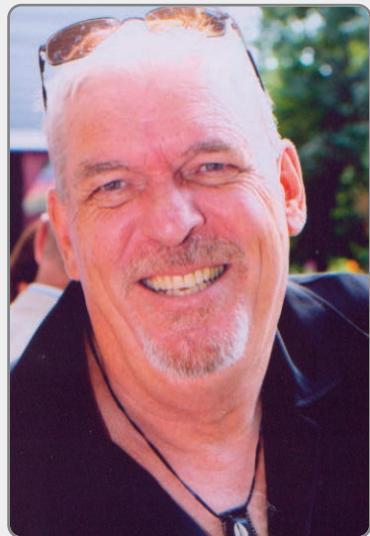
offers a range of activities as well as a healthy lunch. Transportation is available.

NDG Senior Citizens' Council (NDGSCC) is a non-profit community organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of adults (50+) by encouraging mutual aid and civic engagement. *NDGSCC* aims to lessen the impact of social and economic isolation through programs and services, outreach, advocacy, research, joint action and education. *NDGSCC* works to address the underlying causes of poverty and social exclusion by supporting social justice initiatives that represent the real changes required to promote dignity, not charity. We provide a sense of belonging and restore hope to individuals who might otherwise remain invisible in society.

For more information, please call the *NDGSCC* at **487-1311**.

Nova Natura is a small landscaping company created five years ago by passionate gardening experts, **Nicholas Cartier** and **Gilles Dorschner**. The business partners had worked in the industry for several years when they decided to venture off on their own. At the March 21 Horticultural Society meeting Nicholas will explain how the love of gardening sparked a desire to begin their own company and will detail the hows and whys that led to their business venture, their successes and pitfalls along the way, as well as the kind of work *Nova Natura* does. His presentation will be accompanied by a slideshow of the various gardens they have worked on.

Everyone is welcome at the meeting which will take place at the Town Hall Monday, March 21, at 7:30 pm. Admission fee is \$5 or \$20 for 2016 membership.



In memoriam

Angus Mackay

Angus Mackay was a well known figure in Montreal West and beyond. He passed away in January after having fought non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for three years.

Angus moved to Montreal West with his wife, **Neomie** and young son, **Liam**, in the spring of 2005. They were married that summer, in their back yard and went on to have a second son, **Callem**. You might remember Angus for his boisterous and friendly greetings. He made friends wherever he went, meeting people while he was out walking the dog or out playing sports with his boys. He was generous in the community, donating to various local charities. Angus had a big presence that will be sorely missed by many.

Eco-friendly dry cleaning

According to **Gordie Deol**, owner of *Nettoyeurs Westminster*, his new "Firbimatic EcoGreen K4 dry cleaning machine (www.lavanett.ca) offers the best balance of cleaning performance, ease of use and environmental friendliness."

After many years of working with perchlorethylene, the most commonly used solvent in the dry cleaning industry, Gordie did weeks of research and evaluation before deciding on the new system, the fastest growing alternative solvent on the market. Gordie says he is proud that *Nettoyeurs Westminster* is now an eco-friendly operation, something that the industry must focus on. And "the quality of the cleaning is even better than before."



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Emma's Emmagination

continued from page 1

She admits to being so bad a baker that she would burn a Betty Crocker cake mix because she didn't want to follow instructions. With her new cookbook and mixer, she began her baking journey; she followed recipes, learned techniques and terms and produced a new dessert everyday.

By 2011 Emma gained enough confidence in her culinary skills to start a part time dessert enterprise from her NDG home. Other than making and selling her cakes and pies Kevin and Emma went to children's parties teaching youngsters how to decorate these edible art projects. Her full time job was proving frustrating. She was a health care coordinator and she was not happy. Kevin saw her passion for baking and reminded her that life was too precious to not pursue one's dreams. It was risky to give up a steady income, with two young kids and a mortgage, but it was important to show the kids that living an authentic life was more valuable.

In May 2015, they took a chance and opened up *Les Cupcakes Emmagination*. Emma produces over 90 varieties of cupcake flavours, 12 to 15 of them daily, there is no set schedule as to which ones she will prepare on any given day. She says it's all part of her rebellion to conform to daily tasks. *Emmagination* also offers over 30 flavors of soft serve ice cream and a couple dozen milkshake flavors, including their Brownie Milkshake which is a vanilla base milkshake with an entire brownie blended right in there!

The family is quite active in helping out with mom's passion. Her husband comes in the early morning after his night shift at nearby *Parmalat* and cleans the place and helps out with deliveries. Her son, **Tristan** (10) has a definite flare for servicing customers while mom is busy baking. **William** (8) is her money man/accountant. It's a true family business.

Almost a third of her weekday business comes from RWA students. As I was there interviewing, they came in after their exams. She knows their names, their tastes, their exam days and even their bus schedule. When they rush to get the #162 out front, Emma says, "Pay me tomorrow!" Two buddies, **Alex** and **Evan**, say it's a warm, cozy place serving great grilled cheese and sweet stuff. **Celine**, from the bank next door, says the best brownies in town are here.

Emma did say that she dreams of a bigger space where people can actually sit down and enjoy her teas, lattes and cappuccinos with a cupcake or slice of pie, but options are limited as she still wants to stay in MoWest. Recently she was in the news when the *Office de la langue française* insisted on changes to her signage. She was overwhelmed at the support she received. It's ironic she says, that she is French Canadian and she raises her two sons to be bilingual and this issue comes up. She notes that after the changes were made, no one has bothered to follow up.

The week as this issue of *The Informer* was being prepared for press, Emma got her other wish: she moved into a larger space, with cozy tables, large windows and - hurray! - easier parking. Come check out her new place at **98 Westminster North**, on the corner of Curson and across from MW United Church. Royal West students have already followed her faithfully.

For information on catering, custom cakes, cupcake decorating parties, daily specials, etc. go to mtlcupcakes.com, visit emmaginationcupcakes@gmail.com or call Emma at **508-2151**.

We volunteer



Andrea MacDonald and Ros Knitter

Montreal West Public Library

The library exists because of volunteers! It was founded in 1971 by volunteers who not only established the library but also were responsible for much of the physical setup in our current premises.

For years now, the Town of Montreal West has provided the library with an annual grant to help in its operations but the library would not be in business if not for the volunteers who sit on the Board of Directors and the over 40 volunteers who, in total, provide 48 hours of their time per week to operate the front desk (a savings of \$26,000 per year at minimum wage)! There are also individuals who have donated their time to build shelves and artistically paint some of our furniture. All of this

unpaid help has made the library the warm and inviting place it is today.

The volunteers in the library do more than just stamp books and DVDs in and out. They add spirit to the library, such as the Thursday afternoon music event, and provide a wealth of information in various areas of expertise. Book and movie suggestions are just some of the topics open for discussion. It is not a quiet place!

The turnover of volunteers is slow; they like their job! Some have been working in the library for over 25 years! They enjoy this involvement in the community, having access to such a wide range of books and DVDs and being able to discuss them among friends.

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Rotary Club

Catherine Gardner

and the MW real estate market



Cath Gardner has an office on Westminster and works for *Imagine Realities*. She has lived in MoWest since 1978. Catherine talked about the local real estate market and came armed with a power point presentation. The first thing she showed us was the home price index for the last five years for Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. Montreal did have the lowest average price, but the average price has been increasing. She said that there were more homes sold in 2015 in Montreal West than 2014 and the average price was up about 10%.

Montreal has cheaper homes for a few reasons: they include slower economic growth, slower demographic growth in Montreal (population growth of ages 35 and under is close to zero) and lastly net immigration is not increasing.

Catherine says the CMHC has a great web site; according to them the supply of single dwelling homes will remain stable and there should be a 2% increase in home prices. Catherine does not see a bubble but the condo market is very slow.

The peak time to sell is from March to June and again from October to November. Right now it is a buyers' market. She said she had a great December and a spectacular January.

She works with a stager to make the home look as big and bright as possible. Kitchen and bathroom renovations are important as well as having a clean house. Catherine answered a few questions and promised to come back next year for a 2017 update.

Coming Rotary Events

- March 3: **Christine Pu**, Engineers without Borders
- March 17: No Thursday meeting
- March 18: March Madness Gala, Town Hall, 7 pm
- March 24: Maître **Frank Catalano**, notary – Update on mandate and assisted dying
- March 31: **Kathleen Weil**, MNA for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness “Welcoming refugees in our communities”
- April 28: **Ahmed Dakrouri**, Social Entrepreneurs – Challenges and Opportunities



Paul Harris Fellowship

We are looking to the MoWest Community for candidates for a Paul Harris Fellowship. A person who would qualify for consideration would be someone that volunteers their efforts to help make our Town and community better. Please submit your candidate's name 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 nomination along with a brief letter explaining why they deserve this award to: doug@westendpiano.com.

Come Join us for lunch

The Montreal Westward Rotary Club meets Thursdays at the Town Hall. Luncheon buffet is served at 12:30 pm with a speaker starting around 1 pm. Cost for a guest is \$20. Your attendance brings good speakers and good fellowship. For more information, please contact **Doug Yeats** at doug@westendpiano.com.

from Doug Yeats

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The Legion Rink and swimming pool: already half a century

by Andrew Caddell

In the spring of 1964, there was a sense of unabashed optimism throughout Canada especially in Montreal. The Métro was being built across the core of the city, the site of Expo 67 was coming together on Île Ste-Hélène and a new artificial island, Île Notre-Dame was built. Place Ville Marie was the Commonwealth's largest office building. Although the hated *Toronto Maple Leafs* had won the Stanley Cup, the city was still Canada's largest. Everywhere, Canadians were talking about "Centennial projects" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Confederation.

Montreal West was no different. And it was in that spirit that a group of local veterans decided the Town's Centennial project should be a swimming pool and arena complex.

For many years, local businessmen, led by the **Davies brothers**, had organized a carnival in September to raise

money for a swimming pool. Up until that time, the only outdoor pool in the sweltering summers was the wading pool at Strathearn Park. The alternative was a long walk or bus ride to Benny Pool near Cavendish. In the winter, the lack of an arena meant freezing on the outdoor rinks at Hodgson's Field from December to March. So the carnival kept alive the dream of a pool, but the money raised was not sufficient to break ground.

In the spring of 1964, the local Legion Branch, led by **Alec Duff** and **Lee Donahue**, hit upon the idea of selling the Legion Park, a small green space with benches on Westminster, to *Dominion Stores*. It had recently acquired the small "Thrift" grocery store and was looking to expand. The sale of the park would raise \$100,000 and this would be put toward an arena and pool, to be built on Hodgson's Field.

The Legion announced the project with great fanfare at the

Town Hall that May: it would include a full-size arena with stands, an indoor swimming pool, a library and, in the basement, a rifle range for aspiring young soldiers. The cost: a million dollars (equivalent to \$7,800,000 today). The rest would be raised by the Town and private donations.

When the project was announced, many people were thrilled at its bold vision. For the hundreds of children in baby-boom era Montreal West, the prospect of a pool and arena was too good to pass up. However, rather than being seen as a golden opportunity, it became shrouded in controversy.

He shoots, but does he score?



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Looking back

(my father), the CRA struck a couple of committees to examine the feasibility of a lower-cost project. Over the winter of 1964-65, they met extensively with volunteers and public servants from the City of Montreal and the suburbs, to examine different models of pools and arenas and to determine the annual budgets required to maintain the facilities. They also consulted with people in the neighbourhood of Hodgson's Field, who were wary such a complex might mean traffic nightmares.

When the CRA group was satisfied they had a clear idea of what was feasible, they consulted with the Legion and Town Council and then announced it publicly in the spring. They proposed to use the \$100,000 from the sale of the park to build a pool and arena for \$450,000, which would mean the town and private donations would raise \$350,000.

However, proposal had a few wrinkles: to assuage residents, the arena (to be named The Legion Rink for its contribution) would not have a full-sized ice surface. If not, in the minds of the CRA, that would reduce its attractiveness for evening rentals and would ensure more frequent use by the Town's children. Its roof and walls would be Spartan and the dressing rooms for the rink would double for the pool.

The pool would be outside, adjacent to the CPR tracks and operated from June to September – for peak revenues and use. Hodgson's Field would remain, rather than being cut in two by a large complex. However, if the pool was a standard L-shape, the pool space would jut into Hodgson's Field, no longer allowing it to be a regulation football field. My father suggested making the diving pool offset from the swimming area, thus allowing the pool space to run parallel to the sidelines of the field, and maintaining the field's integrity.

The proposal for the bond issue went to taxpayers in early summer 1965 and passed easily. Ground was broken for the arena and pool in November of that year and in the summer of 1966 the pool opened. Although skeptics had forewarned the pool would be vacant as many people had cottages out of town, it was always busy that hot summer, as families did not take more than a few weeks' vacation and not all had summer homes.

In October 1966, the arena opened, and was constantly busy. For those of us accustomed to freezing our feet on outdoor rinks, it was a dream come true. We did not notice the cold air, the thin roof, the small ice surface or the hollow brick walls around us. In later years, those flaws became more apparent. But in 1967, we pointed



The Legion Rink today

with pride to our own centennial project.

In 1968, thanks to the initiative of pool manager **Donna Ross**, our own Pan-American Games and Commonwealth Games swimmer, a swim team was formed, with groups of young MoWesters trooping up early in the morning to do laps and winning competition ribbons by the handful.

In retrospect, the original Legion proposal might have been a better choice, but given its expense, it was politically "dead on arrival." A million dollars was a huge sum of money to

people who had lived through the Great Depression and the Second War, so their reluctance was understandable. For those of us who benefited, we are fortunate the CRA volunteers took what could have been a setback and worked together with the Legion and the Town Council to ensure Montreal West would have a rink and pool that have served the community for half a century.

Andrew Caddell lived in Montreal West from 1957 to 1972 and from 1986 to 1994. He was Commissioner of Public Safety from 1989 to 1993.



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2 pm - 4 pm
7 pm - 9 pm**481-7441**

What should I read NEXT?

The library has lots of suggestions: Best books of 2015, best books of 2014, award winners. Pick up a brochure!

New Books

Fiction

Ebershoff, David	<i>The Danish Girl</i>
Martel, Yann	
	<i>The High Mountains of Portugal</i>
Palka, Kurt	<i>The Piano Maker</i>
Robson, Jennifer	<i>Moonlight over Paris</i>
Steel, Danielle	<i>Blue</i>

Mysteries

Jackson, Lisa	<i>After She's Gone</i>
James, Peter	<i>You are Dead</i>
Maron, Margaret	<i>Long Upon the LAND</i>
Mina, Denise	<i>Blood Salt Water</i>
Patterson, James	<i>NYPD Red 4</i>

Non-fiction

Bergin, Candice	<i>A Fine Romance</i>
Brown, Ian	<i>Sixty</i>
Green, Lyndsay	<i>Ready to Retire?</i>
Kalanithi, Paul	<i>When Breath Becomes Air</i>
Lawson, Nigella	<i>Simply Nigella</i>
Steinem, Gloria	<i>My Life on the Road</i>

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Membre APCHQ

Elizabeth Ballantyne School



Winter Carnival

This past February, Elizabeth Ballantyne students had a day of mega fun as they enjoyed a full day of outside and inside activities during their annual winter carnival.

The day was met with a lot of enthusiasm by our students as they made their way outdoors for some fun in the snow. They played soccer and broom hockey and various versions of tag. Some even made ice and snow sculptures.

Our cycle 1 students took some time at the local arena to practise their skating skills both for fun and to get ready for the EBS Skate-A-Thon. They also played in the park and the schoolyard.

Inside activities were held in the gym as kids whizzed around between drills led by

Dynamix and oversized versions of popular tabletop games like Jenga and Snakes and Ladders.

A great turnout of teachers, students and parent volunteers made this day a big success – and to top off the day, hot chocolate with marshmallows was handed out to thirsty and happy participants by members of the EBS Home and School. A day to remember!

The annual EBS Skate-A-Thon raises money for the Children's Library. If you would like to donate funds to this beautiful library please contact Elizabeth Ballantyne School (484-1006) or the Library (484-7194).



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École des Amis-du-Monde

Des journalistes talentueux

Les élèves de 4^e année participent au club des journalistes pour parler des nouvelles de l'école. Vingt élèves se rencontrent, composent des phrases et dessinent. Je voulais participer parce que j'aimais cette idée et parce que je suis vraiment bon en dessins et en phrases. Lisez nos beaux reportages ce mois-ci!

Calendrier d'hiver

Le Mardi gras se célèbre le 9 février cette année. On le fête 40 jours avant Pâques.

La Saint-Valentin est le 14 février. On fête l'amour et l'amitié. Les gens sont gentils et s'offrent des cartes sur lesquelles ils peuvent inscrire des mots positifs, des décorations ou des phrases d'amour. Pensez à vous dire que vous vous aimez!

À notre école, on fait des cartes et on les met dans une boîte. Les cartes sont ensuite distribuées dans chaque classe. Le jour de la Saint-Valentin, on peut s'habiller en rouge, en rose ou en blanc. Il y a des jeux et de la musique dans la cour. C'est très amusant!

Du 15 au 19 février, c'est la Semaine de la persévérance scolaire. On travaille fort, on écoute, on essaie d'améliorer nos notes et nos travaux. On essaie aussi de bien travailler en équipe et d'aider les autres. On travaille plus fort que d'habitude. On fête Pâques pour se souvenir de la résurrection de Jésus et célébrer des rites comme ceux-ci :

1- La veille de Pâques, les Orthodoxes vont à l'église et ils apportent une chandelle pour chaque personne de la famille.

2- Les Orthodoxes décorent aussi des œufs et les craquent les uns avec les autres.

3- On cache des chocolats qu'il faut ensuite trouver. En plus, il y a ceux donnés par le lapin de Pâques.

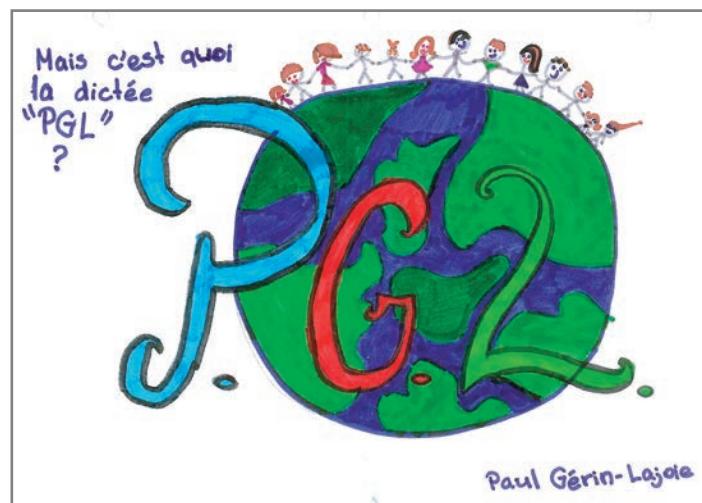
4- À l'école, on fait des bricolages et on reçoit des œufs de Pâques.

Adrian, Eric, Christina, Laura, Eileen, Romina et Alexia

Les phrases spéciales

Saviez-vous qu'il existe des phrases au premier et au deuxième degré qu'on appelle les expressions? Le premier degré est un degré positif, qui est vrai. Le deuxième degré est un degré figuré. Par exemple, pour l'expression « avoir un coup de foudre », le premier degré signifierait d'être frappé par la foudre » et avoir mal, alors que le deuxième degré signifierait être amoureux ou amoureuse, dès la première minute.

Flavia



Alexandre

La dictée de l'entraide

La Dictée P.G.L. permet de ramasser de l'argent pour les pauvres ou pour une école en Afrique ou en Haïti. Presque toutes les écoles du Québec y participent. Chaque classe fait la Dictée P.G.L. et reçoit de l'argent des commanditaires qu'elle a trouvés. L'école garde la moitié de l'argent récolté pour des projets destinés à ses élèves et donne l'autre moitié à la Fondation Paul Gérin-Lajoie, qui a créé la Dictée P.G.L.

Lika et Ekaterina

Les journalistes sont supervisés par madame Nathalie (maman de Saydie, 5^e année), madame Sophie et madame Loredana.

Le dessin a été réalisé par Ekaterina et Lika.



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Edinburgh School

Edinburgh School has been very busy these past few months:

- Working on the Dictée PGL
- Encouraging students to explore new interests or hidden talents with our extra-curricular activities
- Having fun at the Edinburgh winter carnival

La Dictée P.G.L.

La Dictée P.G.L. is an international dictation contest for grade five and six students and includes a local competition for the younger grades. All grades at Edinburgh participate in the competition and have done very well. Additionally, money is raised during the competition for Edinburgh and for schools in developing countries.

Edinburgh winter carnival

Winter carnival activities include: crazy hair day or crazy hat day, backwards day: wear your clothes inside out. The Irish people believe this is considered lucky, but only if you did it in error.), winter olympics, beach day, Black History Month and a performance by tap dancer **Justin Jackson**.

There are also outings: cycle 1: Lac des castors; Kindergarten, cycles 2 and 3: Tubing at Mont Avila and extra-curricular activities.

Culture à l'école

Le 25 janvier, dans le cadre du cours de musique de madame **Christine Crawford** et le programme « Culture à l'école », les élèves de 3^e et 4^e années ont eu la chance d'assister à un atelier de découverte d'instruments de musique du monde (le balafon, les djembés, l'aboyé, le fuya, etc.). C'était une invitation au voyage et à la découverte de différentes cultures d'Afrique, d'Amérique du sud, ainsi que l'Asie. Les élèves ont pu expérimenter et créer des pièces musicales à partir d'instruments fabriqués par des grands maîtres ainsi que des enfants du Sénégal, du Mali, de Burkina Faso et de Brésil. Un atelier très dynamique et enrichissant pour les jeunes.

Robotics

Our science and technology teacher, monsieur **Abdelghafour El-Hama** offers a robotics program that runs twice weekly after school. Children in grades four, five and six work in teams with the Lego NXT kits.

Cultural and linguistic exchange

The grade two classes have been participating in a cultural and linguistic exchange program with a French school, À l'Orée-du-Bois in Saint-Lazare, since 2005. They will be kicking off their 10th year anniversary on March 11 when this year's grade two classes will be meeting their pen pals for the first time.

Math-a-Maniacs Club

Parent volunteer Ms. **Tanya Radha-krishna** heads up our Math-a-Maniacs Club. Students from grades three to six learn to have fun with numbers and other math concepts, and then focus on preparing for the national Mathematica Centrum Contest. Participants learn math tricks and math magic.

The Math-a-Maniacs Club activities include: play math jeopardy, Math-O, Who has?, toss the dice, Measure yourself and predict the future.

Redpath

Students who participate in the Redpath Museum's club are introduced to a variety of nature topics, using natural history specimens and teaching props from the Redpath Museum.

LEGO® Bricks4Kids

Bricks4Kids offers a hands-on class where students can design and build machines, catapults, pyramids, derby carts, buildings or other constructions out of LEGO® Bricks. While exploring engineering, architecture and physics, students will develop problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Art club

Edinburgh kids nurture their creativity in a supportive open art studio. Workshops are provided where the children experiment and problem-solve with art materials.

Chess club

Edinburgh school provides a lunch time chess club for our Kindergarten, grade one, and grade two students. The game helps students with reasoning, patience and strategy.



Photo: Christine Downey



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Cubs

The Cubs are currently working on their Red Star that focuses on general health and fitness. We're learning about staying healthy, the importance of regular exercise and the ways to avoid communicable illnesses.

The month of January was mostly devoted to indoor games and developing a personal exercise routine.

Winter camp was held February 12 -14 at Camp Kinkora. Despite the cold weather, the Cubs prepared and ran an obstacle course, participated in winter games such as broomball and pulling a dog sled with a Beaver Scout onboard. We even improvised a game of curling using frozen windshield washer fluid containers. The toboggan hill was ever popular.

The month of March will be devoted to annual Kub Kar preparation and races. Trophies will be awarded for the fastest cars and most creative.



Rovers

Five of our 11 Rovers are busy planning and fundraising for their 34-day humanitarian trip to Nepal at the end of May.

Fundraisers to date: servers at a Robbie Burns supper, bagging at Adonis on Ste. Catherine Street and the spaghetti dinner on February 21. The crew held a sports night with the Venturers and have a ski day planned for late February.

Future plans include a joint activity with the Strathmore Rovers in Dorval, a BBQ fundraiser this spring, Comedy Nest Stand-Up Night and white water-rafting this summer.

Rovers are young adults 18-26 years of ages. Email **Rusty** at jonwiersma1968@gmail.com should you wish information on our program and details to join us.

Annual garden supply fundraising sale

Once again we are distributing our sales brochures and order forms in this issue of *The Informer*. If you have not been approached by a Scout by the end of March please contact **Bob King at 481-6523**.

This has become a very important fundraiser as we use this money to subsidize youth registration, purchase equipment and supplies and rent buses for camps.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Despite the -32 temperatures the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, parents and leaders braved the weather and had a blast playing outside! Thank you to Beaver parent Brendan Mirochnick for the fabulous photos.



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Guiding



Sparks

The Sparks have recently enrolled a new girl, bringing the total number of girls in the unit to five.

Together they have been working on badges, most recently, the Camping Keeper, in preparation for the district camp in June.

With the Brownies, the Sparks have made many Valentine's Day cards for the Veterans at Ste. Anne's Hospital. As part of the WAGGGS 2016 Thinking Day connections theme, the girls have learnt about Guiding in Belgium.



Thinking Day

To celebrate Thinking Day, the MoWest Brownies had the opportunity to attend the province-wide Brownie Connect Carnival, where they learnt about Peru, the country that Quebec and British Columbia are paired up with as part of a Cross Canada twinning project.

The girls also had the chance to meet Fred the moose, the mascot. The Brownies went to a skating party at Beaver Lake with all of the other Guiding units from the Monklands district.

Guides

The Guides have been working on the four program area badges (the square ones) necessary to earn the Lady Baden-Powell Challenge. They have

been working on their leadership and communication skills through games and discussions.

The Guides are also working on mastering the knots required to properly raise the Canadian flag at the beginning of each meeting. Finally, they (and their leaders) are all very excited to be exchanging pen-pal letters with a Guide unit in Nova Scotia, who will be coming to visit them this summer.

The cookies are coming!

The traditional spring sandwich Girl Guide cookies will be arriving soon. April 2 and 3 will be National Cookie Days and there will be a cookie blitz here in Montreal West.

*Elizabeth Barnes
1st Monklands Ranger Unit*



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Nous avons passé un merveilleux hiver dans notre bel espace si lumineux et tout douillet! Nous souhaitons vous rappeler que la bibliothèque demeurera ouverte du 29 février au 5 mars, aux heures habituelles. Venez découvrir les nouveaux livres que nous avons ajoutés à notre collection!

We have been enjoying the winter in our bright and cozy children's library. We are reminding you that the library remains open from February 29 to March 5 with our regular opening hours. Please drop by during spring break and browse our new books!

Plein de nouveautés sur nos rayons!

Voici quelques-unes des nouveautés que vous découvrirez en explorant les rayons de la collection française.

Léon, le sympathique cyclope très populaire auprès des jeunes lecteurs, est maintenant parmi nous! Les trois albums d'**Annie Groovie** que nous avons choisis pour vous s'intitulent « Léon et les expressions », « Léon et les grands mystères » et « Léon et les droits de l'enfant ». Nous pré-voyons acquérir d'autres titres au fil du temps. Un premier exemplaire de bande dessinée mettant en vedette cet amusant personnage est également disponible.

Les parents seront heureux de présenter à leurs enfants les aventures de « Caroline et ses amis ». Cette série, populaire depuis toujours, fait son entrée dans notre collection. Retrouvez Caroline entourée de Pitou, Pouf, Noiraud, Pipo, Youpi, Boum, Kid et

Benjamin Dufour fait la lecture à son nouvel ami



Bobbi. Vous rirez avec eux en lisant leurs aventures remplies de fantaisistes.

Nous avons les 18 tomes de la série Les Légendaires, en plus des quatre numéros appartenant au thème Origines consacrés à l'histoire personnelle des personnages principaux ainsi que « La pierre des dieux », le premier petit roman mettant en vedette les personnages de la série, à la section point vert.

De nouveaux titres se sont également ajoutés aux populaires séries Grompf, Les Schtroumpfs, Les Sisters et Lou! Pour les amateurs d'Astérix et Obélix, « Le papyrus



Les lecteurs améliorent ainsi leurs compétences en lecture et leur confiance en eux. Des sessions de lecture seront bientôt offertes les samedis.

Nous aimerais former un nouveau club de lecture pour garçons et filles de 5^e et 6^e année accompagnés d'un adulte. Le club se rencontrerait mensuellement à la bibliothèque pour discuter d'un livre. À noter que cette activité est offerte en anglais.

Pour plus amples informations sur la programmation et les dates d'inscription, appelez-nous au **484-7194**, écrivez-nous à mwcl@videotron.ca ou venez nous voir!

Great activities for our young patrons

The registration for the spring session of our programs will soon start. In the afternoon, we will still offer MakerSpace (Monday), Story Sparklers (Wednesday) and Lego Club (Thursday). For babies and toddlers, Mother Goose and Tales for tots are still on. An Easter egg decoration workshop will also be presented soon.

In February, we started a six-week *Reading Paws* program with a therapy dog! MoWest resident **Rhonda Amsel** brings her golden retriever to the library on Monday mornings and six students from Elizabeth Ballantyne school take turns reading to the dog to advance their reading skills and confidence.

We would like to start a new book club for children in grades 5 and 6 accompanied by an adult. Our intergenerational book club is open to girls and boys who would like to read a book each month with an adult relative or friend and meet in the library to discuss the book.

Please contact the library at **484-7194** or mwcl@videotron.ca if you would like to know more about the Caring Paws Animal Therapy *Reading Paws* program or the intergenerational book club.

Votre visite est toujours très appréciée à la bibliothèque. Revenez souvent y faire un tour! We are always happy to welcome you at the library. Please visit us soon!



Venez lire avec nous! Come enjoy reading with us!

de César » et « Astérix chez les Pictes » sont maintenant disponibles. Nous vous offrons aussi de nouvelles séries captivantes de bandes dessinées! Les jeunes lecteurs apprécieront l'Agent Jean, Marsupilami, Cédric, Gaston Lagaffe.

Parmi les documentaires, plusieurs livres sur l'univers de Minecraft s'offriront bientôt à vous. Deux séries de romans consacrés à cette thématique sont également disponibles. De plus, nous offrirons bientôt aux amateurs de la section étoile bleue de magnifiques animaliers que les enfants adoreront!

Ne manquez pas le mois prochain la présentation de plusieurs nouveaux titres des sections point noir et étoile rouge Si vous ne pouvez attendre, venez explorer le rayon des nouveautés!

Activités amusantes pour notre clientèle

L'inscription à nos programmes pour la session de printemps débutera très bientôt. En fin d'après-midi, nous offrirons toujours MakerSpace (lundi), Story Sparklers (mercredi) et Lego Club (jeudi). Pour les tout-petits, les programmes Mother Goose et Tales for tots se poursuivront également. Une activité de décoration d'œufs de Pâques sera offerte sous peu.

En février, nous avons commencé le projet de zoothérapie *Reading Paws*. **Rhonda Amsel**, de Montréal-Ouest, amène son golden retriever à la bibliothèque et six élèves de d'Élizabeth Ballantyne lisent tour à tour pour cet auditeur à quatre pattes.



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News from the Pews

MW Presbyterian

Quite some time has passed since you last heard from us, December 2015.

So... Happy New Year!

We do want to thank **Ben Kwong**, organist, and our choir for the wonderful Christmas concert. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the event a success.

Looking back

Our Gospel Jazz service in honour of Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela was a rousing success. **Chad Linsley**, pianist and director, and his musical group had us all on our feet during their enlivening renditions of gospel and jazz music. Our thanks to Chad, **Amelia McMahon**, voice; **Kevin Dean**, trumpet; **Tim Nolan**, bass; **Michel Bertiaume**, drums and **Ivan Ee**, saxophone.

We welcomed our friends from the Tyn-dale St-Georges community to this event.

Congratulations

To **Dorothy Kra** and Rev. **Sampson Afoakwah** on the birth of their son, **Elijah James Afoakwah** November 18. Elijah was baptized Sunday, January 10.

To **Linda Ekwe** and **Richmond Betngi Bassong** the birth of their son, **Nathaniel Etape Betngi** November 24.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to **Prosper Adzah** on the loss of his mother, **Angela Anorku**, December 10, in Ghana.

100 Years young

A celebration for Elder Emeritus, **Stan Highway**'s 100th birthday was held on Jan-

uary 15 at Ste. Anne's Veterans' Hospital. This warm and loving event was arranged by his family and was attended by many, many friends and relatives. Greetings were received from Her Majesty the Queen but Stan reigned as "King for the Day."

Looking ahead

Our spring card party will be held on Friday, March 11 at 1 pm in the Church Hall, entrance 160 Ballantyne N. A light lunch-eon will be served. For tickets (\$10) please call **Janet Dimock, 484-2783** or the church office, **484-7913**. This is a very popular event, so make up your tables of four and plan to be with us. You might win a door prize! N.B. tickets are sold in advance only.

Easter services

Passion week service: Wednesday, March 23 at 7 pm.

Good Friday service: Friday, March 25 at 10:30 am.

Easter Sunday service and communion: Sunday, March 27 at 10:30 am.

Ongoing

Food Bank Sunday is held on the last Sunday of every month. Donations go to the **NDG Food Bank**.

The Youth Group meets on Saturdays at 5 pm in the church parlour, 160 Ballantyne Ave. N. entrance. For information please call the church office at 484-7913.

Weekly Sunday service and Sunday school are at 10:30 am, followed by a social hour. We look forward to seeing you at any, or all, services and events.

from Janet Dimock



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News from the Pews

MW United

... the brick one

March comes in and goes out like a....

Regardless of how March arrives, we try to endure it in the hopes that winter will soon abate. However there are some ways to perk up March. For example, how about the military whist? Never played, you say? Never fear – newcomers can win just as easily as seasoned veterans. Friday, March 18, the evening starts at 7 pm with a dessert buffet. Following that, tables of four begin to play the first round. When the bell goes, two move on to the next table and play a round there. And so it goes.

Operating “under new management,” there will be a supervised games room for children 5 and up, so parents have a chance to come. Come as a table of four is preferred, but not required. Reservations are a must for the tables and for the free child care. Tickets are \$8 each player. Reserve by calling us at **482-3210** or emailing mwcoffice@gmail.com.

Our March Labyrinth Walk

Will be held Sunday afternoon, March 20 between 2 and 4 in Wadsworth Hall. All welcome in socks or slippers. We continue to get people who are interested in creating Labyrinths elsewhere. The concept is fanning outward, happily.

Easter is a'comin'

Palm Sunday, March 20 the choir will present readings and music for Passion Week. Composers wrote some of their best for this season, so don't miss it. Good Friday is a contemplative service at 7 pm. Then Easter arrives with its memorial flowers, celebratory music and stirring message on March 27. Hallelujah.

Save April 27 at 1 pm...

...for a Musical Wednesday when we will be entertained by the music of Leonard Bernstein. More about that next time.

Heads up also...

...because our book browse plus will be held Saturday, May 7. So now's the time to thin out your shelves of books, CDs, DVDs, games. You can drop them off at the church. Think of the space you'll create... and for a good cause.

You can join us at 10 am any Sunday, call us at 482-3210 or visit mwuc.org. May Peace come to you and yours this special season.

from Susan Upham

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St. Philip's

celebrated around the table at a pot-luck supper. St. Philip's traditional Good Friday service is at noon.

Holy Saturday at 7 pm, we will have our children's Easter Vigil. This is an adaptation of the ancient Easter Vigil service, shortened for children's attention spans, with many opportunities for the children to participate in telling and acting out some of the stories from the Bible.

Easter Sunday, March 27, we will have our usual services at 8 and 10 am, with special music at the 10 am service.

Saint Ignatius

Easter will be upon us soon! During this Lenten season, we will be having the Way of the Cross every Friday at 7 pm, followed by an hour of Adoration and the sacrament of Penance will be available.

Come to St. Ignatius to celebrate the joy of the Easter season. March 24, Holy Thursday, we will be celebrating The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8 pm. March 25, Good Friday, we will have our Veneration of the Cross service at 3 pm. Followed immediately after at 4 pm, we will have a poverty supper to show our solidarity with those who all too often go without. Everyone is welcome; we simply ask that you bring along a few non-perishable food items for the *NDG Food Depot* and share in a meal of soup and bread

We will be celebrating an Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday March 26 at 8 pm. March 27 is Easter Sunday. Our services are at 9 and 11 am. This is always a joyous celebration to mark the glory of the Resurrection and is the high point of the Christian calendar.

Concert: St. Michael's Choir School

The famed St. Michael's Choir School from Toronto is coming to Town! This promises to be a fabulous evening to benefit the Syrian refugee program. Invite your friends and neighbours to come out Wednesday, April 6 at 19:30 at Loyola High School; tickets are \$25. If you have not yet purchased your tickets for the concert, you can do so online at loyola.ca/choir.

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opens
March 4

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485-8598
mwcrasports.ca

Mini outdoor soccer

Starts Saturday, May 7 (weather/field permitting)
Little Strikers: born 2012 (4 years old) 1 x week \$75 (R) \$95 (NR)

Micro soccer

Born 2011 and 2010 (5-6 years old) 1x week \$75 (R) \$95 (NR)

Boys and girls regular outdoor soccer

Starts Saturday May 7 (weather/field permitting)
Born 2009 + Ages 7-15 (2 x week) early bird \$ 110 (R), \$130 (NR), after April 1 \$130 (R), \$150 (NR)

Mandatory soccer evaluations at Catalogna soccerplex

Boys: April 16, 9 am-1 pm; Girls: April 17, 9 am-1 pm. Please check our website mwcrasports.ca for details.

Women's outdoor soccer

For women 18+; coached by **Greg Macgregor**. 1 x week \$90 (R), \$110 (NR), 6 weeks

Youth outdoor soccer

Co-ed youth soccer for ages 16-20 coached by **Greg MacGregor**. 1 x week: \$90 (R), \$110 (NR), 6 weeks

Rugby

Ages 5 to 12; players learn basic rugby knowledge and skills from Coach **Susy Binstock**. This program is non-contact for U6-U10. Home practices and away jamborees. \$75 (R), \$95 (NR)

Baseball

Intercity baseball (Go Mudhens!) \$145

NEW: spring training will be run by Concordia baseball coaches and players; starts April 4 indoors at Royal West Academy.

Home games: Monday/Tuesday and Thursdays at Percival Field. Come out and cheer on our Mudhens as they play against other teams from Hampstead, Côte Saint-Luc, Westmount and TMR.

T-Ball

Introduction to the game of baseball. Ages 6-8; 6 weeks, 1 x week \$75 (R), \$95 (NR)

Gymnastics

Spring session: April 5-May 31 (8 classes); Tuesdays; 3 1/2-5 years old: 5:45-6:30 pm; 6-10 years old: 6:30-7:30. Classes are taught by **Dede Yim** from Wimgym gymnastics club; location: Elizabeth Ballantyne gym. \$110 (R), \$130 (NR)

MWH Hockey news

Future Stars opened their exhibition game schedule with a home game vs Verdun; it was a first time game experience for our 2009 and 2010 age players. Job well done and we will see our 2009 players move on to Novice next year!

Our Novice B team were semi-finalist in the ORMHA Winter Classic tournament in Ottawa under the direction of Head Coach **Jeff Fixman**. After going 2-0-1 in the round robin, they played a power house team from Akwesane in the semis and lost in a close battle. Players visited the Parliament Buildings, went to an Ottawa 67's Junior hockey game and had an amazing weekend with pizza and pool parties.

Peewee A Knights start their quest for the championship at the CSL outdoor Peewee "A" tournament; 16 teams and all games being played outside. The Knights co-head coaches **Ronny Steinberg** and **Scott**

Mackenzie are looking forward to the challenge and play February 15, 17 and 18 with elimination games on the weekend. All profits from this annual event go to charity.

At a very competitive Bantam A level, our Knights have climbed to 1st place in the standings and will represent our zone at the Lac St. Louis Regional Championship. Great job by Head Coach **Greg Azancot**.

Midget A Knights, finalist in Pierrefonds Midget Tournament, Head Coach **Neil Freder**. After their overtime win in the semis vs Lasalle, they loss a heart-wrenching 2-1 final in the last minute of play to the undefeated MRO Diables.

The season's not over yet...

The following teams are battling for the Regional Championships: Novice B, Novice C, Atom A, Peewee A, Bantam A, Bantam B, Midget A, good luck to everyone!

Novice B knights at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa



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Community Centre

Early bird Spring / summer registration

Activities for parent and tots, preschool, youth, adults, day camp, tennis camp, zoccer camp and pool

- Spring session: until March 6
- Summer session: until April 29

Receive a \$10 discount by registering before the early bird deadline, per person per activity (except pool programs).

Registration is ongoing at the John A. Simms Community Centre, Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Or online at montreal-ouest.ca/en/online-registration/.

Summer Employment

Pool applications:

pool@montreal-west.ca

Camp applications:

camp@montreal-west.ca

Community Centre applications:

recreation@montreal-west.ca

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

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
MARCH 18, 4:30 PM**

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



Birthday parties

Celebrate your child's next birthday with us. We offer a variety of themes and activities including arts and crafts, cupcake decorating and beading. Included in the package:

- access to the Town Hall Music Room or Davies Chalet for 3½ hours (table and chairs included)
- animation by a dynamic animator including all materials for 1½ hours (approx.)
- face painting
- choice of theme: super hero, fairy party, *Minions*, dinosaurs, just to name a few
- free parking available

The cost is \$210 for a party of 10 children. For larger parties, extra fees will apply. For more information, please contact the John A. Simms Community Centre, **484-6186**.

Volunteer Week April 10-16

Thank you to all the volunteers who have made all our events and programs a great success through your dedication and hard work! We could not have done it without you. Thank you!

MW Recreation Department



MW 50+ Club

March

- | | |
|----|---|
| 10 | Bon appétit tea |
| 15 | Movie matinée: <i>The Martian</i> |
| 18 | St. Patrick's Day luncheon |
| 23 | Breakfast Club: Speaker author Brenda Henry |
| 29 | Bridge |

Overnight trips

Îles-de-la-Madeleine cruise:
June 10-17
Stratford: September

For more information on the MW 50+ Club, please call: 484-6186.

Foot clinics

March 16 & 30

\$40 for the first visit and
\$35 for subsequent visits
by appointment only

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Town Council Meeting: January



by Carol Foster

The Mayor began his report by noting that although infrastructure repairs have already been completed on many streets there are still many more to do. Once again, the plan to apply for grants has been updated. As **Mr. Masella** described in the February issue of *The Informer*, attention will first be paid to a portion of Strathearn North in order to use up the money in a current grant. The last three blocks of Brock and the last block of Ballantyne will then become the highest priority for future grants.

The Mayor added that the temporary traffic lights have proven very successful according to comments he has received, and several improvements have been made to them since their installation.

Property tax bills will soon be received by all residents and it is possible to make payments online, according to **Councillor Feeney**. A summary of the 2016 budget is available on the Town's website. She pointed out that the 1.24% increase for 2016 was less than the cost of living, as it has been for the past five years. Information about an income tax guide for seniors will appear in the next issue of *The Informer*. A large portion of the \$682,000 spent by the Town last month went to snow removal expenses.

Councillor Torres then emphasized the efforts required by the Public Works Department in removing the snow in December. But clean-ups that month involved more than just snow. Christmas trees were also picked up and decorations were removed from lamp posts. In addition, the Music Room in the Town Hall was repainted and a water-main break had to be attended to.

Councillor Tasker-Brown announced that the Town is losing yet another building inspector as **Gabriel Hudon** is moving on to a job with *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*, and the search for a replacement

will have to begin. Approximately 750 compost bins are being picked up weekly but more than 1,000 households are still not participating. This is an unfortunate situation as the Town receives revenue from the total amount of compost collected.

The committee formed to review *Hydro-Québec*'s tree cutting policy now has a professional mediator engaged by *Hydro-Québec*. This is the first time the company has agreed to this type of process and the meetings have frequently involved long hours. (So long in some cases, that Councillor Tasker-Brown has been awarded a small stipend for providing dinner for the group.)

Although there is still lots of snow on the ground, **Councillor Ulin** is confident warmer weather is coming and early bird registration for summer activities will start in February. In addition, pool and camp staff applications are already being received.

New membership discounts for MoWest residents wishing to join the Eleanor London Library have been negotiated by Councillor Ulin and are payable at that library in Côte Saint-Luc.

The news from the Public Security portfolio was not so sunny. Three cars have been stolen from driveways in the past three months. Since they are all Japanese-made SUVs, the police suspect an organized crime ring is responsible. A bulletin containing a list of tips to prevent such theft is being sent out to all residents.

Councillor Ulin's bylaw education and enforcement policy continues. Two cars were towed for ignoring temporary snow-removal signs and each owner incurred a \$153 fine. Five tickets, amounting to \$221 each, were issued for permit infractions by contractors. Homeowners not respecting garbage pickup dates received six fines and five tickets were written up for dogs having no licence or running off-leash. It should be noted that the sale of dog licences has dramatically increased and 205 have now been issued.

Question period

Positive views were expressed over the recent efficient snow clearing, the welcome temporary traffic lights and the handsome new chairs at the Council table.

Queries were also raised concerning:

- the "eyesore" at the corner of Northview – the Town is waiting for a court date.
- the land for sale next to Elizabeth Ballantyne School – price negotiations are still under way.
- the increase in the contract price for compost pickup – not due to having a weekly pickup all year round, but rather due to general increases in all our waste removal pickups. Having a weekly pickup for compost will hopefully encourage more residents to use this service.

But, as expected, the main topic of interest was the plans for the future of the arena. Unlike the predominant show of support for a new arena expressed at the information meeting held on January 7, many residents at this Council meeting had reservations mixed in with their support for a new Town facility.

The initial cost and subsequent burden to taxpayers were concerns expressed by one resident and another worried that inevitable cost overruns can be expected and will just add to this burden.

An opinion offered by yet another resident was that the three options for an arena now being discussed should include a fourth option which would be a recreation centre without an arena. This concept would cost less money and would be of benefit to all the residents in the Town.

This sentiment was echoed in various ways by several other speakers. There was a question as to whether an expensive arena was the best investment for a Town with only 5,000 residents and an aging population. It was suggested that a multipurpose structure or "civic centre" would serve the Town better and some questioned whether this idea could be incorporated in the \$21,000 concept now being developed for a grant submission.

A resident from Wolsley North lamented what he felt was the lack of sufficient communication to the general public about such an important issue and wondered how many people in the Town were actually aware this project was being discussed. The Mayor was confident sufficient information had been circulated and Councillor Ulin added that a survey, consisting of random phone calls to residents, had been commissioned.

The issue of the future of the arena now having taken over from the issue of a dog run, the meeting was adjourned.

Stay tuned!

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Saturday: 8 to 5

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Réunion du Conseil : janvier



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Le maire a commencé son rapport en notant que même si, dans plusieurs rues, les infrastructures sont déjà refaites, il en reste encore beaucoup à faire. À nouveau, le plan pour demander des subventions a été mis à jour. Comme **M. Masella** l'a décrit dans le numéro de février de *The Informer*, on s'occupera d'abord d'une portion de Strathearn Nord à l'aide des fonds restants de la subvention actuelle. Les trois derniers pâtés de maisons de Brock et le dernier de Ballantyne deviendront alors prioritaires pour les prochaines subventions.

Le maire a ajouté que les feux de circulation temporaires s'avèrent très efficaces selon les commentaires qu'il a reçus et de nombreuses améliorations ont déjà été apportées depuis leur installation.

Les résidents recevront bientôt leurs factures d'impôts fonciers et il sera possible de les acquitter en ligne selon la **conseillère Feeney**. Le site Web de la Ville présente un résumé du budget 2016. Elle a fait remarquer que l'augmentation de 1,24 % pour 2016 se situe sous la barre de l'inflation, tout comme lors des cinq dernières années. Des renseignements sur un guide d'impôt sur le revenu pour aînés paraîtront dans le prochain numéro de *The Informer*. L'enlèvement de la neige représentait une large part des 682 000 \$ dépensés par la Ville le mois dernier.

La **conseillère Torres** a ensuite mis en évidence les efforts déployés par le service des Travaux publics pour enlever la neige en décembre. Mais le nettoyage en ce mois visait plus que la neige; on a aussi ramassé les arbres de Noël et retiré les décorations des lampadaires. De plus, la salle de musique de l'hôtel de ville a été repeinte et l'on a dû réparer un bris d'aqueduc.

La **conseillère Tasker-Brown** a annoncé que la Ville perd son inspecteur en bâtiments, encore une fois; **Gabriel Hudon** a accepté un poste avec *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal* et l'on doit lancer la recherche d'un remplaçant. Environ 750 bacs de compostage sont recueillis chaque semaine, mais au-delà de 1000 maisonnées ne participent toujours pas; cette situation est malheureuse puisque la Ville reçoit un revenu en fonction de la quantité totale de matière organique recueillie.

Le comité d'examen de la politique d'abattage d'arbres d'*Hydro-Québec* a maintenant l'aide d'un médiateur engagé par *H-Q*. C'est la première fois que la société a accepté ce genre de processus et les rencontres ont fréquemment duré de longues heures, au point où l'on a parfois accordé une petite rétribution à madame Tasker-Brown qui a procuré le repas au groupe.

Bien qu'il y ait encore beaucoup de neige au sol, la **conseillère Ulin** est sûre que la

météo plus clémence s'en vient et l'inscription hâtive pour les activités estivales débutera en février. De plus, on reçoit déjà les offres de service pour la piscine et le camp de jour.

Madame Ulin a négocié de nouveaux rabais pour les gens de Mo-Ouest qui souhaitent s'inscrire à la bibliothèque Eleanor London de Côte Saint-Luc. L'adhésion est payable à cette bibliothèque.

Les nouvelles de la Sécurité publique n'étaient pas aussi bonnes. Trois véhicules ont été volés dans des allées de maison ces trois derniers mois. Dans tous les cas, il s'agissait de VUS japonais et les policiers croient que le crime organisé serait responsable. Un bulletin de conseils pour prévenir ce genre de vol est en voie d'expédition à tous les résidents.

La politique d'éducation et d'application des règlements de la conseillère Ulin se poursuit. Deux véhicules ont été remorqués et une amende de 153 \$ imposée aux propriétaires pour non-respect des panneaux temporaires de déneigement. Des entrepreneurs ont reçu cinq constats d'infraction de 221 \$ chacun pour contraventions aux permis. On a imposé six amendes à des propriétaires qui ne respectaient pas les dates de ramassage des ordures et cinq constats ont été émis pour des chiens sans permis ou sans laisse. À noter : la vente des permis pour chiens a augmenté radicalement avec 205 à ce jour.

Période de questions

Des opinions positives ont été entendues concernant l'efficacité du récent déneigement, les feux de circulation temporaires et les belles nouvelles chaises à la table du Conseil.

- L'on a aussi posé des questions sur :
- La vue choquante au coin de Northview – la Ville attend une date d'audience à la cour;
- Le terrain à vendre près de l'école Elizabeth Ballantyne – négociations de prix en cours;
- L'augmentation de coût du contrat pour le ramassage des matières compostables – est due à la hausse générale de collecte des résidus, non pas au ramassage hebdomadaire à l'année qui, on l'espère, encouragera plus de résidents à utiliser le service.

Cependant, les plans pour l'avenir de l'aréna ont été le principal sujet d'intérêt. Contrairement à la prédominance des appuis exprimés lors de la soirée d'information du 7 janvier, de nombreux résidents présents à la réunion du Conseil ont émis des réserves tout en soutenant une nouvelle installation municipale.

Un résident a parlé du coût initial et du fardeau subséquent pour les contribuables, un autre a mentionné les dépassements de

coûts inévitables, lesquels ne feront qu'ajouter au fardeau.

Un autre résident quant à lui a offert l'opinion qu'une quatrième option devrait s'ajouter aux trois discutées, soit un centre récréatif sans aréna. Ce concept serait moins dispendieux et bénéficierait à tous les citoyens de la ville.

Plusieurs autres intervenants ont fait écho à cette proposition. On a soulevé la question à savoir si un couteux aréna serait le meilleur investissement pour une ville de seulement 5000 habitants avec une population vieillissante. Une suggestion voulait qu'une structure polyvalente ou « centre civique » serve mieux la Ville et on a même demandé si cette idée pourrait être incorporée au concept de 21 000 \$ en préparation pour une demande de subvention.

Un résident de Wolseley Nord a déploré ce qui, selon lui, était un manque de communication au public en général sur une question d'une telle importance; il se demandait combien de gens dans la ville étaient effectivement au courant que l'on discutait de ce projet. Le maire s'est dit persuadé qu'assez d'information avait été circulée et la conseillère Ulin ajouta qu'un sondage, constitué d'appels aléatoires à des résidents, avait été commandé.

L'avenir de l'aréna ayant dorénavant supplanté la question du parc canin, la séance était levée. À suivre!

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COMING EVENTS

Please call the editor: Heather at 489-7022
e-mail: montrealwestinformer@gmail.com
Next deadline: March 16

February

Tues 29 Town Council Meeting. Town Hall. 8 pm.

March

Sun 6 Pancake brunch. St. Philip's. Tickets: 481-4871. 11:30 am.
Sun 13 Cotton Tail party / La fête du lapin. Town Hall. 2 pm.
Tue 15 Royal West Academy's musical troupe will exceptionally put on their performances of *Vegas Bound* in the auditorium of Marymount Adult Centre (old Wagar High) 5785 Parkhaven Ave, Côte Saint-Luc. Continues Wednesday and Thursday. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and \$10 students. Guaranteed to be entertained! Performances at 7:30 pm.
Thu 17 St. Patrick's Day.
Sun 20 Palm Sunday procession and Eucharist. St. Philip's. 10 am.
CRA Annual skating show. Legion Arena. 2:30-4 pm.
Mon 21 MW Horticultural Society presents Nicholas Cartier of Nova Natura on the experiences of starting a gardening business. Everyone welcome; non-members, \$5. Town Hall. 7:30 pm.
Wed 23 Coffee with the Mayor. 7:30-9 am.
Tenebrae (Service of Darkness). St. Philip's. 7:30 pm.
Thu 24 Holy Thursday. Mass of the Lord's Supper. St. Ignatius. 8 pm.
Fri 25 Liturgy of Good Friday. St. Philip's. Noon.
Good Friday. St. Ignatius. Veneration of the Cross at 3 pm. Poverty supper at 4 pm.
Sat 26 Children's Easter Vigil. St. Philip's. 7 pm.
Easter Vigil. St. Ignatius. 8 pm.
Sun 27 Easter Sunday. St. Ignatius. Services are at 9 and 11 am.
Mon 29 Town Council Meeting. Town Hall. 8 pm.

Cotton Tail Party

Sunday, March 13
at the Town Hall
2-4 pm
for 2- to 10-year-olds



Come and enjoy an outdoor egg hunt, face painting, crafts, and more!

Buy your tickets now at the Community Centre or online at montreal-west.ca. Cost per child: in advance: \$10; at the door: \$13.

La fête du lapin



Classifieds

HALL FOR RENT: for meetings, parties, aerobic classes, etc. 6 Ronald Drive, Suite 250. **621-1698** or **365-8989**.

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Many thanks!

The *Informer* readers managed to find even more than the four copies of the October issue we desperately needed for binding and one for one of our subscribers who hadn't received it either.

Heather Baylis