

THE INFORMER

Montreal West Newspaper

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Photo: Katie Brook Photography

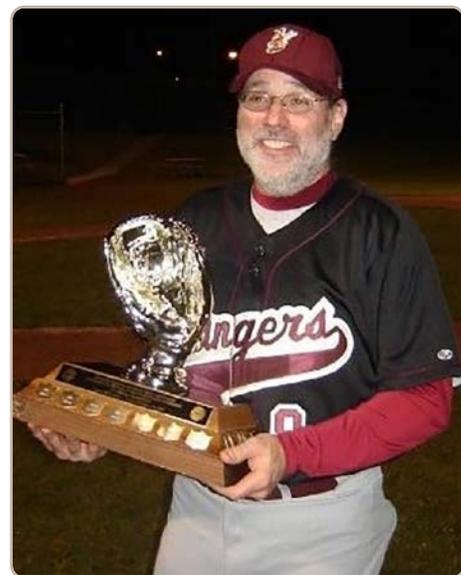
Welcome our new
Mudhens'
Baseball Director

HOWARD SCHWARTZ

It is with great pleasure that the CRA announces that **Howie Schwartz** will join the MoWest Baseball Program as the Baseball Director starting this spring.

Head coach Howie "Skip" Schwartz has led the Stingers baseball team since its 1995

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Chuck Altman and Evi Moss: *Little Bear*

by Maurice Krystal

I rang the bell and heard the barking of dogs. I could tell there was more than one and that they were large. I was let in and was asked if I was afraid of dogs. When I said I wasn't, the dogs greeted me by sniffing and being playful. **Bosco** and **Whinnie** are two rescue dogs with mainly a husky heritage. After saying their hellos they became docile for the rest of my stay.

Chuck Altman and **Evi Moss** have lived in MoWest for just over one year. They have lived in Verdun, Westmount and Côte Saint-Luc, but they were struck by the friendliness and facilities for toddlers in our Town. They even met their neighbours before moving in, which was quite different from what they were used to in their previous communities. Their young daughter, **Audrey**, 3½, has already been involved in the Town's Tiny Tots, swimming, skating and ballet programs.

Chuck, who barely looks like he's reached his third decade, started working part time in 1996 at *Little Bear* while studying communications at Concordia Univer-

sity. The store, located near the corner of St. Catherine W. and Greene, sells pet food and supplies for dogs and cats. After graduating Chuck received a number of job offers, but unfortunately, outside the province and country. At around that time Chuck's older brother announced that he was going to settle in Israel, and their Dad initiated what he called a youth retention program and helped Chuck to buy *Little Bear* in 2002 so he would stay in Montreal.

Chuck met Evi Moss at one of the dog runs in Westmount. He was acting as judge in a Halloween contest. She and her dog, **Bosco**, won first prize. While smitten, it still took another three months before he had the courage to ask her out.

Evi obtained her degree in human relations from Concordia and was involved in managerial positions at the Jewish General Hospital and at McGill's Faculty of Medicine. While she drops by from time to time at *Little Bear* to do some administrative tasks, she is primarily a stay-at-home mom for **Audrey**, **Henry**, 16 months, and the two dogs **Bosco**, 9, and **Whinnie**, 6.

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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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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE
March 15



Left to right: Becky Dolan, Susan Pahl, Philippa Vikander, Gail Mendonza, Joyce Teiber, Joanne MacPhail, Lynda Dickson, Colleen Carroll, Aynsley Devine, Sue Smith, Rosalind Knitter, Eleanor Henoch. Missing from photo: Norma Barnes, Peggy Garland, Joan Foster, Sue Sladen, Yvonne Kieley

Knitting for Canada's 150th birthday

Canada is turning 150 this year and a MoWest knitting group, affectionately known as Knit and Purr, decided to do something to celebrate this momentous occasion. Given that yarn bombing has become popular and we have such beautiful big trees in Montreal West, it was decided to wrap a large tree on the edge of Cenotaph Park.

Under the expert direction of **Becky Dolan**, the group got permission from the *Canada 150* organization to translate its logo into a knitted image. Two of our expert knitters, Becky Dolan and **Gail Mendonza**, knit the logos, while the rest of the group made all the surrounding coloured squares.

The Town was very supportive and was able to fund the yarn with a grant from the *Canada 150* fund. You can see the final result wrapped around the tree on the south-west corner of Westminster South and Ainslie.

Celebrating CANADA'S 150th MoWest-style



Let's Celebrate
Canada's Centennial!

To celebrate Canada's 150th, MoWest's quilting group was invited to work on a collaborative project to commemorate the event. Their gorgeous work will be displayed in March. Inspired by the bar code design in *Thomas Knauder's Modern Quilt Perspectives*, this wall hanging has additional special features to mark the occasion: a hidden 150 in the vertical bar code lines, the dates 1867 and 2017 and a 7 for the group of seven women involved in the project.

In contrast to the traditional motif of the Town's centennial quilt, theirs is modern, but the colours still reflect our garden suburb and red brick architecture. Both hand and machine stitching are integrated into the design.

This project was funded by *Canada 150* and the Town. The artists all donated their time and considerable talent. Many thanks to quilters **Lynn Cairns, Colleen Carroll, Joan Gross, Anna Marrett, Carol Ogilvy, Linda Power** and **Heather Shee**. Their work is simply stunning and will be enjoyed for generations to come!



Canada



Thank you!

IODE HMS Victory Chapter would like to thank readers of *The informer* for a great response to our appeal for knitters to make hats and mitts for the Henry Gordon Academy in Cartwright, Labrador. We are about to send 20 handmade hats and eight pairs of mittens, and more would be welcome.

Formerly yours



Hanna Knowles: day 1

Congratulations!

Former resident **Nicholas Knowles** and his wife **Olivia Mew** are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter **Hanna Grey Knowles**, born December 19.

Hanna is the granddaughter of long time Percival residents **Harold Knowles** and **Ansy Krouglicof**.



Montreal's Magic Mountain

The Horticultural Society's March meeting features **Wendy Graham**, landscape architect with the City of Montreal for more than 25 years.

Graham will share her observations and experiences on efforts to protect, plan and enhance Montreal's magic mountain, Mount Royal. Her recent collaboration as co-author of the *Atlas du Mont Royal* inspires her presentation on the evolution of the mountain landscape. She will also focus briefly on the past, present and future of some of her favourite places including Olmsted's Mount Royal Park, the Entremont and the Outremont Summit.

The meeting takes place on Monday, March 20, 7:30 pm, at the Town Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Guests are asked for \$5 or can pay the \$20 membership for all 2017 events.



Les Délices Lafrenaie in Montreal West

My mom, **Josie Spano**, and I will be opening *Les Délices Lafrenaie* in MoWest this March. What started off as a small local bakery in 1979 in St. Leonard has flourished into a four store operation to date. We are overjoyed to announce that we will be making a home for the fifth location on charming Westminster Avenue (at 51 Westminster N. to be exact; where the former *Totem Tea* was situated).

Josie is no stranger to the community, actually she has been missed by many for the past few months as we've been brewing up a special surprise! Josie's been serving MoWesters for a grand 11 years! She has been a huge part of Montreal West's commercial sector from her earlier days at *Trattoria Spano* to the then *Trattoria Micco*. Now, she is taking on a new and very meaningful mother-daughter venture, and I couldn't be more grateful! Together, we are so excited to bring new flavour to Montreal West.

Lafrenaie was voted "Your #1 Choice for Best Cake in Montreal" on *CTV News*. While *Lafrenaie* is ever so popular for our incredible cakes, we have tons of other delicious treats (both sweet and savoury) in store!

The grand opening is scheduled at the beginning of March. We encourage you to follow us on social media to keep



up with the news and updates!

Facebook: [lafrenaiemtlouest](#)
Instagram: [@lafrenaiemtlouest](#)

from Jennifer Ruvo



Adult library to open SATURDAYS

In a bid to encourage more residents to join the library, starting March 4, the adult library, will be open Saturdays from noon until 4 and also Monday to Thursday from 10 until 4 with no mid-day closing. (Evening hours, Monday to Thursday 7-

9 will continue.) The occasion will be celebrated with an open house on Saturday, March 4 from noon to 4 pm and all residents are welcome to drop by for coffee and sweets.

The new hours were made possible by an increase in the grant received from the Town. "We hope these additional opening hours will make it easier and more convenient for readers to access the great selection of material at the library: a current and diverse collection of books, over a thousand movies, a large selection of TV series worth watching, talking books and much, much more," said **Nora Powell**, library manager. "At \$30 per year, a library membership is great value, especially when you consider the high cost of best-sellers and paperbacks. What's more, in addition to many popular movies and TV series, we have a solid collection of British TV programming that is not readily available to the average consumer," she concluded.

The library is located at 45 Westminster, across from the Town Hall. Residents are welcome to drop in and look around and can join any time.

JIU-JITSU

school opens



Bruno F. Fernandes

On February 5, a new martial art school opened its doors to the residents of MoWest, NDG, Côte Saint-Luc and Hampstead. Their hope is to reach kids and teenagers of the many schools in the area and positively impact in the community by giving them the tools to stand up against bullying, build self-confidence and promote a healthy and active lifestyle, all benefits that are regularly associated to the practice of the sport.

Classes, training and more

Gracie Barra, located at 14c Westminster N., offers programs such as jiu-jitsu for everyone, self-defence classes specially catered to women, private training and much more. Parents are also very welcome to join the adult programs and make it a true family activity!

Here's some information about the teachers and their specialities:

Bruno F. Fernandes (Founder and Head Instructor, *Gracie Barra Montreal*) is an accomplished jiu-jitsu competitor in

Canada and the highest ranked BJJ instructor in Quebec. Fernandes is a 4th degree black belt and has studied Brazilian jiu-jitsu for more than 30 years.

Etienne Georges, one of the first students of *Gracie Barra Montreal* under the tutelage of professor Fernandes, currently holding the rank of brown belt. More than a sport, jiu-jitsu is for him a tool for moral development and personal improvement. Perseverance and attention to detail are his strong suits.

Frederic Aoud who currently holds the rank of brown belt, strives not only to teach jiu-jitsu as a technical and tactical martial art, but also as an activity that promotes self-respect, responsibility and friendship.

Gracie Barra Montreal-Ouest

14c Westminster

Email: info@gbmontrealouest.ca

Telephone: **357-8461**

Website: gbmontrealouest.ca

HOWARD SCHWARTZ

continued from page 1

inception 23 years ago. His career coaching record stands at 190 wins/152 losses for a .556 winning percentage. A clinical psychologist for over 30 years, he has worked with elite, amateur and professional athletes in baseball and other competitive

sports since 1990. He was also a personal sports psychologist to Montreal Expos and other MLB players as well as to minor league and future prospects. Howie also owned and operated *Future Stars* and *MVP Baseball Schools* until 2004.

In 2016, Howie fell in love with the Mo West Mudhens as a Midget coach and enjoyed consulting the lower level teams and coaches.

Howie's role with the Mudhens will begin with the coaches. He will work with them to increase their technical understanding of the game and to teach them the fundamentals and basics of the game so they

can pass that knowledge on to the players. He will continue to foster the Mudhens spirit while creating a sense of competitiveness within our Intercommunity baseball League. Howie will also provide coaching clinics, player evaluation and provide spring training to all the players.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Howie to the team!

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Rotary

Lindsey WHITELAW



Lindsey Whitelaw is the Community Director of the NDG YMCA and was our guest speaker in late January. Lindsey said we have had a long association with the Y and began her talk titled "More than a Gym, a Cause" by giving us a big round of applause for all the good work we do.

She said the Strong Kids program has been replaced and now the Y has four big priorities. She gave us a quick overview of four young people and an adult who use the Y and how the Y has changed their lives for the better.

She started talking about a young female Syrian refugee who came to Canada on her own as an underage refugee and how the Y has been a big part of her life.

The next person who Lindsey talked about was a boy who came to Canada with his family and had to attend to French school. He was having a hard time adapting and was able to get tutoring at the Y and, when he was accepted at Concordia, the first people he called was the Y; he still volunteers there.

She then talked about a boy who was always on the edge and hard to get along with. He took up boxing at the Y and his behaviour changed because of the boxing lessons. He was a different person and his physical literacy (your level of understanding how exercise benefits your body and health) increased.

The next person about whom Lindsey talked was a woman whose husband died and left her with a toddler and she became a worker at the day care.

The last person Lindsey talked about was **Nirra Fields** who was from Lachine and

started playing basketball at the Y. She went to play high school basketball in the States and played college basketball at UCLA and was drafted into the WNBA by the Phoenix Mercury. Nirra is a member of The Canadian National Team and was at the 2016 Olympics. The Y now has a women's division in their yearly basketball tournament because of Nirra.

She said it really does "take a village to raise a child" and the Y is looking for donations. She hopes to raise \$5000 for their Team Zone programs. They are also looking for mentors for French, math and science as well as volunteer campaign leaders.

Lindsey said her top Y experience was the exchange program with Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

The four big priorities for the Y are youth physical activity, school perseverance, youth zones and financial assistance. The *Rotary Club of Montreal Westward* is proud to support the programs at the Y.

Coming speakers and events

- March 9: **Halah Al-Ubaidi**,
NDG Community Council
- April 13: **Maître Frank Catalano**,
notary – Update on mandate
and assisted dying
- May 25: **Kathleen Weil**,
MNA, Minister of Immigration
and Inclusiveness
- June 3: **Lobsterfest**

Paul Harris Fellowship

We are looking to the MoWest community for candidates for a Paul Harris Fellow-



ship. A person who would qualify for consideration would be someone who volunteers to help make our Town and community better. Please submit your candidates along with a brief description of what and how they have made our community better. We will be presenting these awards later this spring.

Please send your nomination along with a brief letter explaining why they deserve this award to: doug@westendpiano.com.

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

from Doug Yeats



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NEW EXTENDED HOURS!

Saturday: noon-4 pm
Monday-Thursday: 10 am-4 pm
and 7-9 pm
(no lunch time closures!)

New Additions

Fiction

Correa, Armando *The German Girl*
Lapena, Shari *The Couple Next Door*
Mackintosh, Clare *I See You*
Ware, Ruth *The Woman in Cabin 10*
Whittall, Zoe *The Best kind of People*

Mystery

Connolly, John *A Time of Torment*
Cornwell, Patricia *Chaos*
French, Tana *The Trespasser*
James, Peter *Love You Dead*
Patterson, James *Cross the Line*

Non-fiction

Friedman, Thomas *Thank You for Being Late*
Garten, Ina *Cooking for Jeffrey*
Lewis, Michael *The Undoing Project*
Noah, Trevor *Born a Crime*
Wright, Lawrence *The Terror Years*

DVDs

French Village, seasons 3, 4 and 5;
Florence Foster Jenkins;
Shetland, seasons 1 and 2;
Hell or High Water;
The Knick, season 1.

Edinburgh School



Winter carnival

Keeping spirits high is a challenge for everyone during February, which feels like the longest stretch of winter, but Edinburgh school is boosting morale with a winter carnival. From Monday, February 27 to Thursday, March 2, our student will beat the winter blues with an exciting winter carnival program.

We start the carnival with an old favorite: Backwards Day. The students wear their clothes inside out. The Irish considered this lucky, but only if you did it in error. The teachers will also have back-

wards themed activities. The students really enjoy this day and like to prank each other by stating the opposite of how they feel, for example, "I wish we could skip recess and practise our dictée."

Tuesday is a fun-filled day of field trips for all grades: The grade one class is going to Parc-nature du Cap-St-Jacques; grade two students will visit Mount Royal Park and grades three to six are going tubing at *Glissades des Pays d'en Haut*.

On Wednesday, all grades play outside enjoying winter activities. It is our version of the winter Olympics. Hot chocolate will be served at lunch.

Thursday is Jersey Day. Students are encouraged to wear jerseys of their favorite sports teams.

Cultural awareness

Edinburgh students continue to have the wonderful opportunity to learn about various cultural traditions.

For Chinese New Year, the *Montreal Chan Lion Dance Club* visited Edinburgh. Children learned about New Year traditions and enjoyed a lion dance performance. The lion dance is a Chinese tradition with over two thousand years of history and is performed to scare away evil spirits, to bring good fortune, happiness and prosperity.

To celebrate Black History Month, the *Black Theatre Workshop*, Canada's oldest Black theatre company visited Edinburgh on February 13. Students were treated to a performance of *Bluenose* by **Emil Shear**. The performance was followed by a Q and A.



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Elizabeth Ballantyne School



Holden



Chinese New Year

On Monday, February 4, the kindergarten students celebrated Chinese New Year with the help of our special invited guests, former EBS parents **Julian** and **Sofun Hung**. They showed us maps, posters and movie clips to help us understand the holiday. We also did a Chinese craft, tried playing traditional Chinese instruments and got to taste yummy dumplings! We even learned how to use chopsticks properly... Happy New Year!

Robotics update

Over the past two months, students taking part in the after-school robotics program on Wednesday afternoons have been working very hard on building and pro-

gramming their robots. Following the Lego Mindstorms EV3 curriculum, students have finished learning the basics of robotics: EV3 brick navigation, sensors, motors, and building strategies. They are just beginning to program their robots to move and respond.

Over the next few weeks, students will choose their teams and the challenge they wish to take part in at the 15th Junior Robotics competition in April. A group of students, who have worked with the EV3 program before, have already begun preparing for the soccer competition.

Students are realizing that robotics requires a lot of patience, teamwork, problem-solving skills and determination. With such a dedicated team of students, EBS will be well represented at the competition in April and we hope to bring back a gold medal!

Aiden



NDGSCC

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are the cornerstone of *NDG Senior Citizens' Council* and are most welcome to join our community in roles that are meaningful to them and our organization. We are always looking for new volunteers of all ages and backgrounds.

Here are our current postings:

Reception volunteer

A reliable receptionist is needed immediately to help in our office doing various tasks, answering the phones and taking messages. The volunteer will assist in our office and work with seniors.

We currently need someone on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 am-noon.

Thursday kitchen volunteer

A reliable volunteer with culinary experience is needed to work in the kitchen on Thursdays in our Day Away program. Tasks include weekly meal and dessert preparation, serving, cleanup and monthly menu planning.

Youth interns

Students from secondary and post secondary institutions in need of community hours and placements are invited to contact: **Stephen Hogan**, Volunteer Coordinator.

Director of Creative Programming **Sherry Guppy** invites students from all creative disciplines (media arts, theatre, music, visual arts and music) to contact her for placements.

Please contact **Stephen Hogan** at 487-1311.

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École des Amis-du-Monde



Inscriptions 2017-2018

La période des inscriptions pour l'année scolaire 2017-2018 s'est déroulée du lundi 6 février au vendredi 10 février.

Pour toute demande d'inscription qui n'aurait pas encore été faite, il est important de prendre rendez-vous avec la secrétaire, Mme **Chantal Blais**.

Pour ce faire, vous devez communiquer avec elle par téléphone au **369-6951**. Elle fixera avec vous un rendez-vous et vous indiquera les documents nécessaires à avoir en mains lorsque vous vous présenterez à l'école. Il est important de prévoir un temps approximatif de 30 minutes pour procéder à l'inscription d'un enfant.

Persévérance scolaire

Cette année, la semaine de la persévérance scolaire aura lieu du 15 au 19 février. Pour souligner l'évènement, les membres du service de garde ont demandé aux parents de rédiger un petit message d'encouragement à leur enfant, dans leur langue d'origine. Ces petits mots, inscrits sur des cœurs en papiers verts, seront affichés à l'entrée de l'école.

De plus, tous les membres du personnel seront invités à remettre des petits billets verts aux élèves ou à d'autres membres du personnel sur lesquels figureront de beaux messages d'encouragement.

Cette initiative est dans le but de souligner l'importance et la reconnaissance des efforts fournis par chacun, jour après jour, que ce soit au niveau des apprentissages, du comportement ou de la collaboration avec les autres.

Sorties au service de garde

Lors de la dernière journée pédagogique, qui a eu lieu le 23 janvier, les élèves inscrits au service de garde ont eu le plaisir d'aller glisser sur le Mont-Royal. Pour cette sortie, les élèves ont eu la chance d'avoir une température agréable qui a rendu l'activité des plus intéressantes. Pour la prochaine journée pédagogique, qui aura lieu le 15 février, les élèves auront l'occasion d'aller à Écomuseum et de découvrir plusieurs animaux.

Carnaval d'hiver

Le comité organisateur du carnaval d'hiver de notre école, composé de deux enseignants en éducation physique et de la technicienne en service de garde, est affairé à organiser une semaine d'activités extérieures des plus stimulantes, qui aura

lieu du 27 février au 3 mars. Pour souligner l'ouverture de l'évènement, il y aura la visite de la cabane à sucre à notre école le lundi 27 février. Au cours de la semaine, une marche santé se tiendra autour de l'école et tous les élèves, de la maternelle à la 6^e année, y participeront. De plus, les groupes de jeunes seront encouragés à aller construire des bonshommes de neige sur la petite cour extérieure donnant vue sur la rue Blossom. Afin de clôturer l'évènement en beauté, la journée du 3 mars sera réservée à divers jeux extérieurs. Un horaire sera organisé afin que chacun des groupes puisse prendre part à toutes les activités offertes. Au menu, il y aura quatre jeux gonflables sur la cour d'école et l'accès au module de jeu du parc situé en face de l'école. Pour terminer, la thématique du carnaval sera abordée toute la semaine au service de garde.

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Little Bear

continued from page 1

Little Bear is an independent pet supply store that has been in operation since 1994. The name originates from the fact that the first owner had a dog named **Bear**. The store offers non-prescription raw feeding products, such as premade frozen patties, known as BARF (biological appropriate raw food). It is a diet that mimics what dogs and cats used to eat in the wild.

If you visit *Little Bear* the first thing people notice is that customers and pets roam the aisles, enjoying the friendly atmosphere and knowledgeable service. The sense of community is further enhanced by the bulletin board, where people can post their own notices. Ironically both Chuck and Eli are allergic to cats but a long time employee, referred to as "the cat lady," offers all sort of feline advice. The entire staff is friendly and knowledgeable and they are

the ones responsible for making the atmosphere as amazing as it is.

Chuck's start in this enterprise began with deliveries to clients. The store is open seven days a week and deliveries are every day but Sunday. Those who are interested can visit the web site pupparcel.com for a subscription to a gift box that includes a toy, treat and new food samples.

It was Chuck's dream to write a movie script or the great Canadian novel. But right now he enjoys this business adventure and with a staff of nine he has time to be able to play an active role with his family, something many fathers miss out on.

Little Bear

4152 St. Catherine West,
935-3425

Facebook.com/littlebearmontreal
Twitter @MrLittleBear
littlebear.ca

(for your DOG, for your CAT, for YOU!)
littlespaces.ca

(an online home for your pets)

Who's at your feeder?

Thanks so much for the comments and sightings and photos at your feeder.

Many of the sightings are similar. Could we all be watching the same flock as they make their way around Town?

Thanks for the photo of a Eurasian finch. Very pretty markings but not native to this area. Perhaps an escaped pet.

If you find sunflower shells messy, then take a trip to *Akavan* and buy reasonably priced kernels. As well, try to find black oil sunflower seeds (*Canadian Tire*). These seeds are preferred as the shell is thinner. I use a mix of both types in one of the silos.

House sparrows taking over? Look up feeder halos. I installed this device on one of my silos and the chickadees and nuthatches just zip around the wires with ease.

In the next column, I'll post my recipe for gourmet, homemade suet.

Until next time, happy bird watching.

from Bird Man of MoWest
Mowest.brdwatch31@gmail.com

Hawk in a tree along the back lane between Parkside and Northview - photo by Becky Dolan



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Montreal West Scout Group



Beavers

February is a very busy month for our Colony. We started with an outdoor night at the Arena: skating, pretend curling and sliding, topped off with hot chocolate and cookies. The rest of our meetings were dedicated to sanding, gluing and painting our Beaver Buggies.

We had a great time at winter camp where we spent many happy hours tobogganing. All of the Beavers tried using the snowshoes and enjoyed a hike in the woods led by the Venturers. We searched for icy treasures (hidden by the leaders), hunted for animal tracks and made yummy snow candy (like maple taffy but made from brown sugar). When we got chilly, we headed indoors for snacks and crafts. One of the most exciting things at camp is our group campfire in front of the huge fireplace at Camp Kinkora. We practised skits that we later presented (earning lots of cheers), sang songs and ate s'mores. We also had a special campfire investiture for three of our leaders. As one of the Beavers said, "This is the Best Night of my Life!"

from Fox (Susan Vivian)

Cubs

The Cubs are continuing the Canadian Path at their meetings, building neat periscopes from one-litre milk cartons and mirrors donated by *Glass Experts* on St. Jacques. Before and after camp they discussed being prepared for winter, how to dress, seek shelter and what not to do; like put your tongue on a metal post. At camp they completed OAS Winter Skills level 1 and a few things from Levels 2 and 3 in-

Cubs at Camp Kinkora



Scouts and Venturers at winter camp

cluding a one-km. snowshoe hike and how to stay warm. On Friday night the sky was clear so the Cubs were able to identify the North Star and three other features. They also had a great time tobogganing, playing broomball with the Scouts and Venturers, arts and crafts when they went inside to warm up. They went on a night time treasure hunt and practised their skits to present at campfire. One of the leaders stated, "The Cubs did a good job on their skits. The best I've seen from Cubs in a long time!"

from Bagheera (Brendan Mirotchnick)

Scouts

Once you get to Scouts, you don't just talk about what you should do to survive in the woods during the winter you learn and practise the skills necessary to stay alive. To

this end they hiked on snowshoes, used an axe to chop wood, built a campfire and lit it with matches (as opposed to a BBQ lighter). They dug a small snow shelter in the field that would keep them safe and out of the wind. One of the Venturers (**Jonathan**) reviewed knife safety with the scouts. Not everything was serious; they had lots of fun also: tobogganing, playing "Lantern on the Hill," building their "LARP" (Live Action Role Playing) swords and having pretend battles with them.

from Scouter Alex Donaldson

Venturers

The four Venturers who came to camp spent a great deal of time helping the other sections with their activities. This is very much appreciated by the leaders and they are good role models for the younger children. Many thanks to: **Juan-Carlos Garin, Jonathan Halliday, Liam Massey and Isaac Million-Lovett.**

Garden supplies

Our annual fundraiser will run the month of March. Order forms were included in this issue of *The Informer*. If you are not approached by a member of our Scout Group by the end of March, please call one of the following numbers and we will make sure that your order is picked up. The residents of Montreal West and neighbouring communities have always been very supportive of the MoWest Scout Group. This is a special year as we have a Scout Patrol heading to the Canadian Jamboree in Nova Scotia in July.

If you would like to give a donation in lieu of garden supplies, we can give you a tax receipt. Thank you for your help.

Call: **Dave Wood 487-6272** or **Bob King 481-6523.**

Guiding



The MW Girl Guides have been up to some of their usual tricks. With February being a cold month, and Valentine's Day right in the middle, what better way to warm the heart than with a Valentine's craft. The Sparks and Brownies worked independently in their units to make 111 Valentine's cards for the Veterans who reside at the Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue Veterans Hospital. The girls were thrilled to spread a little joy!

February is also a very special month for members of Girl Guides and the Scouts. Both organizations celebrate the birthdays of the founder of Scouting and his wife: Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. Although there was 32 years between their birthdays, they were both born

on February 22. This day is also known as Thinking Day. Girl Guides and Scouts around the world take this time to reflect upon the starting of the organizations, a little more than 100 years ago. They also celebrate the wonderful opportunities being a member provides for them today.

Sparks

As a way to help the children learn about the world of Guiding, the Sparks learned about the five World Centers. There are four which are stationary, and one which moves around! All the World Centers are open to members of Girl Guides all around the world. They are like hostels; you can stay there or just visit them if you wish. The four stationary World Centers



are located in Switzerland, Mexico, England and India. The one World Center which moves around is in Africa. The Sparks unit is very fortunate. There are different people associated with Guiding here in Montreal West who have visited each of the centers. It was great for the girls to learn first hand about the different experiences people had at each of the centers.

Brownies

The Brownies have been learning about Guiding around the world as well. Brown Owl has traveled extensively and

had great ideas for sharing her international Guiding experience with the girls.

Another way Thinking Day was celebrated was by allowing the girls who attend Edinburgh School to wear their Guiding uniform that day instead of their usual school uniform! A special thank you to **Principal Zampini**, for this opportunity.

The day ended with a district skating party at Beaver Lake. What a great way to end a month of celebrations!

from the Guiders of Montreal West



photos: Christine Downey

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Peewee C Montreal West /Hampstead Knights

Mini outdoor soccer

Starts Saturday, May 6 (weather/field permitting).

Little Strikers: born 2013 (4 years old) 1 x week. Early bird registration: \$75 (R) \$95 (NR). Starting April 1: \$90 (R) \$110 (NR).

Micro soccer: born 2012 and 2011 (5-6 years old) 1x week. Early bird registration \$75 (R) \$95 (NR). Starting April 1: \$90 (R) \$110 (NR).

Boys' and Girls' outdoor soccer

Starts Saturday, May 6 (weather/field permitting).

Born 2009 + Ages 7-15 (2 x week). Early bird registration: \$110 (R) \$130 (NR). Starting April 1: \$130 (R) \$150 (NR).

Mandatory soccer evaluations at Soccerplex Catalogna.

Girls: April 22, 9 am-1 pm. Boys: April 23, 9 am-1 pm.

Please check the CRA website for more details: mwcrasports.ca

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).

Intercommunity baseball

The Mudhens welcome our new Baseball Director **Howie Schwartz**.

The Intercommunity Baseball League features home and away games against other local communities. Players receive full uniforms and qualified coaches teach players all aspects of the game. Children must attend try-outs, beginning April 3 indoors at Royal West Academy and will be run by Concordia baseball coaches and players. Home and away games on various days.

Open to MoWest residents only, \$175, Ages 9+.

T-Ball

Introduction to the game of baseball through games and fun drills
Ages 5-6, 6 weeks, 1 x week, \$75 (R) \$95 (NR).

Introduction to baseball

Players learn the basics of baseball and how to throw, run bases, hit, catch and field. Ages 7-8, 6 weeks, 1 x week, \$75 (R) \$95 (NR).

Gymnastics

Spring session: Tuesdays, April 4-May 30

3½-5 years old, 5:45-6:30 pm

6-10 years old, 6:30-7:30 pm

Classes are taught by **Dede Yim** from *Wimgym Gymnastics Club*. Location: Elizabeth Ballantyne gym. \$110 (R) \$130 (NR).

MWH hockey news

The KNIGHTS are SHINING!

As we approach the end of the 2016-2017 season, the MWH Knights are shining at all levels.

Our Novice A team has its best record in over 10 years, Novice B has played close to 500 hockey all year and our C team made up of mostly first time hockey players are having fun and continue to turn out in double digits to practice.

Peewee A Knights

The Peewee A Knights had an unforgettable two days at the Bell Sensplex (Ottawa) at the December 2016 Holiday House League tournament. The team won two games, saw the Senators play the Florida Panthers and we even met many of the Panthers players as they stayed at the same hotel. There was also a pool party, team dinners and a trip to the local trampoline park.

Teams from Peewee to Midget

We have eight teams out of 10 in the running to represent our zone at the 2016-2017 Annual Regional Championships.

The 1st star of the year so far, goes to our Peewee C team for winning the prestigious 41st annual Anjou National Tournament, beating the Ahuntsic Braves 4-1 in the final. Job well done **Kevin Clarke, Steven Tasker** and your team of super stars.

It was a really exciting tournament for the players, coaches and parents. Game one was a back-and-forth battle between MWH Knights and Ahuntsic. The game ended with a tying goal by Ahuntsic with 4.5 seconds on the clock. Ten minutes of overtime with no score, lead to an exciting shoot out! The Knights prevailed 2-1 in the shootout with a stunning slap shot and excellent wrist shot.

They moved on to game 2 which was a back and forth game with the Knights taking the lead in the second period to never relinquish it. They coasted to an easy 5-3 victory.

Game 3 – the final. Preceded by lots of fan-fare and official “spotlight” introductions was a rematch against Ahuntsic. The game was very tight and there was a lot of pressure on the Knights. Down 1-0 going into the third, the Knights were feeling the pressure and in the third they came out and scored four unanswered goals and locked up the victory. Gloves and sticks into the air and the team spent 15 minutes collecting awards (best goalie – **Ilan Abarbanel**, top scorer – **Dylan Ifrah** and MVP – **Lily Rose Vinh**); Trophies, banners and generally celebrating for 20 minutes to cheering parents. What a great experience for all.

Great work! Thank you to all our volunteer coaches and managers!



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Clientelle:

Individuals, couples and families

News from the pews

MW Presbyterian

As I write these words, we are awaiting another round of snow, sleet, ice pellets and rain. But no matter what Mother Nature sends us, it doesn't seem to bother two friendly, little squirrels who live at the top of our huge maple tree in the garden. These very active little creatures spend the better part of each day chasing each other up and down the tree – occasionally taking refuge in their nest which, so far, has survived the elements. I watch them every morning at breakfast time.

Looking back

On Thursday, February 2, we celebrated the life of **Stanley Highway** at his funeral held in MWPC. Stan celebrated his 101st birthday on January 15 at Ste. Anne's Veterans Hospital. Sadly, he passed away January 28.

Stan and his wife **Eileen** (deceased) were longtime, faithful and dedicated members of our church. Eileen was our church secretary for many years.

Stan planted the rose garden – still seen by all at the corner of Nelson and Westminster – about 25 years ago and tended it until about 10 years ago. It still thrives under the dedicated care of **Margie Brass** who took over from Stan when he was no longer able to continue.

Stan served our country during WWII and many of you will remember him proudly laying a wreath, yearly, at MW's annual Remembrance Day service.

Our sincere condolences to his family. Stan will be greatly missed.

Looking ahead

Our spring card party will be held on Friday, March 31 from 1- 4 pm in the

church hall. A light luncheon will be served. So make up your tables and join with us for a pleasant afternoon – you might be a lucky winner of a door prize! Most people play bridge, but you can play any card game you wish. For tickets (\$10) and info, please call **Janet Dimock – 484-2783** or the church office – **484-7913**.

The tentative date for our spring sale and BBQ is Saturday, May 27. Further info in next issue.

Ongoing

- Prayer night: 4th Friday of every month at 7 pm in the church hall. 160 Ballantyne N. entrance.
- Bible Study: Wednesdays at 7 pm in the church parlour. Ballantyne entrance.
- Weekly Sunday service and Sunday school at 10:30 am followed by a social hour.

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of our events and services. We are the little stone church.

from Janet Dimock

MW United

...the brick one

Catch the Whist?

Perhaps you saw some flyers outside the church about the Whist evening that took place February 24 in Wadsworth Hall? If so, and if you went, I bet you had a great time.

This is becoming a young family thing to do as our Sunday school is involved in running it now. An easy game that is just good fun with yummy desserts, so if you missed this one, watch for another to pop up in the fall.

Donna Nicholson
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News from the pews

March-ing into Lent

Lent begins officially on March 1 this year. So this can be a time when one melds a little reflection into their routine. If you caught the Labyrinth Walk on Shrove Tuesday, this walking meditation may have given you a sense of something to mull over through these weeks ahead. But just sitting quietly, breathing deeply, eyes softly closed might do something similar. Finding time to listen to our inner wisdom can be so grounding. And that's a pretty simple way to do it. Whether you employ yoga, jogging, prayer, there are many paths to this inner peace. Find what works for you.

Speaking of which...

Our next Labyrinth Walk will be Tuesday evening, March 28 between 7 and 9 in Wadsworth Hall. We will have passed the spring equinox; the days will be lengthening and we will find tulips and daffodils catching our attention in the shops. Hope springs eternal in and amongst the routine. Join us (socks or slippers) for this individual meditative journey – at your own pace, in your own time, with your own thoughts. All welcome.

Come and meet Rev. **Mark Hammond**. Who knew there was so much spiritual philosophy in a dish of lasagna?! His gentle humour and thoughtful message leaves you feeling better than when you arrived. Services at 10 am, however Sunday school and nursery service stop for March Break but resume March 19. Info: **482-3210** or mwuc.org.

from Susan Upham

St. Ignatius

St. Ignatius wishes to sincerely thank the many MoWest families who have helped us

this past year in our efforts to sponsor a refugee family from Syria. It has been 10 months since the **Beiroutys** arrived from Aleppo to settle in Montreal. The teenage children are adjusting well and enjoying school, while continuing their interest in music; they now accompany their church choir. **Ghada**, the mother, is delighted to be starting a new job, while her husband **Bas-sam** continues to work hard on his French in order to find work. They are all extraordinarily grateful for the opportunity to rebuild that our support has afforded them, and we wish to thank all those who've helped make that possible.

St. Ignatius will also be starting an Alpha program March 15. Alpha is an opportunity for people who are asking themselves, "Is there more to life than this?" to get together to share a meal and ask the really big questions in a warm and open environment. If you want to know more about Alpha visit our newly redesigned website at stignatiusmtl.org for more information or to sign up.

from Fr. Michael Leclerc

St. Philip's

Lent begins March 1. There will be a service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 pm. We do not have a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday (many of our members go over to St. Thomas' Church on Somerled for their's), but we do serve an annual pancake brunch on mid-Lent Sunday, which this year is March 26. The men of the parish serve pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham and coffee and tea. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for children) and can be purchased at the door or can be reserved by calling the office at **481-4871**.



MW 50+ Club

February

- 28** Bridge: new teams are welcome

March

- 1** IMAX: *Humpback Whales and America Wild*
- 3** How to Keep the Brain Alive and Well
by Dr. **Karen O'Reilly, D.C.**
- 15** Movie matinée:
Captain Fantastic
- 17** St. Patrick's Day luncheon
- 21** Diners' Club:
Cabane à Sucre Constantin
- 28** Bridge

April

- 8** Black Watch Military Tattoo

Overnight trips

Stratford and Shaw Festivals
June 7-12

New Brunswick, fall

For more information on the
MW 50+ Club, please call:
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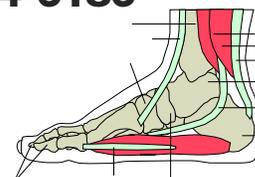
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Sunday / dimanche :
10:00-15:00



Coming activities

Our activities and clubs are open for registration beginning March 13. Contact the library to register.

- **Lego Club**, our after school building activity for 5- to 12-year-olds, takes place Thursdays from 3:45-4:30 pm, beginning March 23 through April 27.
- **Story Sparklers**, a time of stories and crafts for 3- to 6-year-olds will run for eight Wednesdays, from 3:45-4:30 starting March 22.
- **The Mother Goose program** for newborn through 3 years will run for eight weeks beginning on Monday, March 20, from 10:30-11 am.

The next book club meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 17, from 7-9 pm. We'll be discussing *Smells like Dog* by Suzanne Selfors. New members are always welcome. You must be in grade 5 or 6 and bring along an adult of your choice. Please contact us to register!

L'Étoile Rouge refait peau neuve

Nous travaillons actuellement à renouveler notre section française pour lecteurs avancés. Cette section intéresse un nombre grandissant de lecteurs plus jeunes et nous avons à cœur de leur offrir des lectures appropriées et intéressantes. Certains titres s'adressant aux lecteurs plus âgés seront remplacés par d'autres livres qui conviennent mieux à notre nouveau public-cible. Veuillez nous suggérer les titres que vous souhaiteriez trouver dans cette section en nous écrivant à mwcl@videotron.ca. Faites-nous également parvenir vos commentaires et vos attentes sur le contenu de la section Étoile Rouge française. Merci de votre contribution!

New website

The Children's Library website is currently under construction! Thank you for your patience while we review our options and refresh our look. If you need any information, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone or email.

Nouveautés et suggestions

De nouveaux titres se sont ajoutés à notre collection française et font la joie de nos lecteurs depuis déjà quelques semaines. Hâtez-vous de les emprunter et n'hésitez pas à en faire la réservation s'ils ne sont pas disponibles lors de votre visite. Les amateurs de Pokémon seront comblés avec l'arrivée sur nos rayons de plusieurs mangas (section point vert) et d'un livre d'apprentissage de la lecture (section point orange) consacrés à cette thématique. Nous avons également un nouveau livre sur *Pokémon Go* (section documentaires). Nous vous suggérons également la série *Les carnets de Julie*; de charmants petits livres qui suggèrent aux jeunes de 7 à 9 ans d'améliorer leurs habitudes de vie (section étoile bleue). Les apprentis lecteurs seront heureux d'apprendre que nous leur offrons maintenant une belle collection de la série *Shopkins*, de même que les nouvelles mini-séries *National Geographic* et *Hot Wheels*. Si vous suivez la série *Juliette*, ne manquez pas notre dernière nouveauté, le roman *Juliette à Québec* (section point noir). Les lecteurs de romans fantastiques seront heureux d'apprendre que nous avons fait l'acquisition des cinq premiers titres de la série *Fablehaven* (section étoile rouge).

Rainbows of Flowers

With spring fast approaching, the library will be holding a Rainbow of Flowers story time and craft activity on Saturday, March 25, beginning at 1 pm. Children 3-12 years old are welcome with an adult. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for non-members. Contact the library to reserve your spot!



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Canada



Let's Celebrate
Canada's Centennial!

MoWest St. Patrick's Breakfast

Sunday, March 19
Town Hall

Tickets available online or at the Community Centre.

Three seatings: 8 am, 9 am, 10 am

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

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

Cotton Tail Party La fête du lapin

Sunday, April 2
2- to 10-year-olds
Town Hall, 2-4 pm

Come and enjoy an outdoor egg hunt, face painting, crafts, followed by a magic show by *Le Theatre Magique*.

Tickets: Community Centre; cost per child: in advance: \$10 residents / \$12 non-residents; at the door: \$15 for all.

Early bird spring and summer registration

Activities for parent and tots, preschool, youth, adults, Day Camp, Tennis Camp, Soccer Camp, etc.

- Spring Early Bird: until March 6
- Summer programs: until April 28

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-west.ca.

Free presentations

Two-part series
by **Dr. Karen O'Reilly, C.P.**
Town Hall, 1 pm

- Friday, March 3: How to Keep the Brain Alive and Well
- Friday, April 21: Movement and the Brain

Please call to reserve a spot:
484-6186

Coffee with a Cop
Monday, March 13
Town Hall, 7 pm

Police officers from neighbourhood police station 9 invite you to come and "Join the Conversation, the Hidden Dangers of the Internet." There will be draws, door prizes and coffee.



SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Applications for:

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

recreation@montreal-west.ca

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

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

MARCH 18, 4:30 PM

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

March Break Madness

March 6-12
5-12 years

Full week: \$190 (R) / \$200 (NR); daily fee: \$50 (R) / \$60 (N-R)

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

Extended care also available.

- Monday: comics and cupcakes
- Tuesday: *WooHoo Amusement Centre*
- Wednesday: challenges with *Everblast*
- Thursday: building with *Bricks 4 Kidz*
- Friday: pizza making with **Toni Di Napoli** and hip hop

Call for more info: 484-6186.



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Town Council Meetings: January



by Carol Foster

The Mayor began his first report for 2017 by offering his sympathy to all those impacted by the tragedy in Quebec City.

Observing the unusually large attendance and assuming many were there to discuss the huge tax increases some properties in the Town have been hit with due to the City of Montreal's recent evaluations, he assured residents they have until April 30 to contest the evaluations and explained how this is done.

The Mayor went on to announce a change in two of the councillor's portfolios. **Councillor Feeney** will add Public Security and **Councillor Ulin** will add a new assignment called "Communications" to their responsibilities.

Responding to a complaint that some trees had been felled in the vicinity of the Town's snow dump, which is disturbing the habitat of birds in this area, the Town was visited by two wildlife inspectors. It was determined the complaint was without merit.

The Mayor ended his remarks by announcing that a community recreation cen-

tre information package and survey will be distributed. He reminded residents that maintaining the present arena is estimated to cost the Town approximately 7.5 million dollars over the next 10 years.

First question period

Although it had been announced that the Town's 2017 budget would result in a .43% decrease in the tax bill of an average-valued home (\$608,450), some residents, living north of the Hump, found they had been walloped with increases of up to 20 per cent and even higher. Some other residents reported increases in the range of 13%. These unexpected increases seemed mainly to focus upon duplex owners. Needless to say, this news became the main topic of the first question period. Council was presented with a list of the increases for many of the affected residences and was peppered with pleas to intervene.

The Mayor explained he has no power to influence the City's evaluation process, but he is ready to sit down and assist residents who wish to contest these evaluations. It was suggested an evaluation official from the City be asked to attend a meeting to explain the evaluation process. The Mayor agreed with this suggestion. In addition, a resident, who deals in real estate, offered to hold a seminar for the affected taxpayers.

A Westminster business owner reported being very "shaken up" by the recent series of break-ins along Westminster. She felt more timely information and expressions of support should have been offered by the Town to those affected by these incidents.

The next speaker expressed regrets that **Nora Powell** was resigning from the adult library. She asked why the Town is considering spending the extra money required to hire someone with a master of library science degree to run a very good small reading library rather than someone as warm and welcoming and community-minded as the present director is.

Although a committee, appointed by the Town, reviews and recommends the grants received by this library, Council is not responsible for the hiring of staff, replied the Mayor. These decisions are made by the library's Board of Directors.

Traffic problems, a familiar issue during question periods, were also raised. It was felt that the multitude of stop signs on Avon do more harm than good as they irritate drivers already having to cope with greatly increased traffic. It was pointed out by another speaker that this same increased traffic is causing the street "to fall apart" and he suggested the Town should request compensation. \$600,000 has already been promised to the Town for repairs, assured the Mayor.

When some homeowners in the Town opposed *Parmalat's* creation of a trucking centre behind the old *Salvation Army* residence, they were told that the building would be maintained as a facade to act as a noise buffer. Now the plan is to tear the residence down, so the situation will get worse, according to a speaker from Brock South. Although the Town has no jurisdiction over what is done in the Côte-des-Neiges / NDG borough, **Councillor Tasker-Brown** has been made aware that this plan will appear on a future agenda in that borough's Council meeting and it is possible for a MoWest resident to bring this matter up during the public portion of their PAC meeting.

Councillor Ulin announced there are many special events being planned in the Town to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. The first to appear is the very colourful "yarn bomb" created by some local women and hung around a large tree at the corner of Westminster South and Ainslie. Both outdoor rinks remain in good condition and the lights are kept on until 10 pm. Seven break and entries were reported during the past month, as well as the theft of the seventh Japanese SUV. Officers from Station 9 are holding an event, "Coffee with a Cop," to discuss the "Hidden Dangers of the Internet." Councillor Ulin ended the last security report she will be giving by cautioning residents to obey the snow removal signs to avoid having their cars towed and incurring a \$153 fine.

Property tax bills have been issued and are payable in two instalments on February 23 and May 25, was the first item on Councillor Feeney's report. She added that a summary of the 2017 budget is on the Town's website as well as in the February edition of *The Informer*. A public meeting will be held to advise residents of the procedure to contest their property evaluation. The electronic device that allows entry to the dog park will not work unless the dog's licence has been renewed. Councillor Feeney stated she looks forward to working with the staff in the Public Security Office as that becomes her new responsibility.

The Public Works Department has received thanks for the efficient dealing with the recent ice accumulation in the Town, according to **Councillor Torres**. Holiday decorations and discarded Christmas trees have been removed and winter conditions continue to keep the Public Works staff busy.

Second question period

The very last question of the evening concerned the use of French in the Council meetings. Mayor Masella explained that it is the practice of Council to answer questions in the language they are asked.

The meeting was then adjourned.



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Réunions du Conseil : janvier



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Le maire a amorcé son premier rapport de 2017 en offrant ses condoléances à tous ceux touchés par la tragédie de Québec.

Constatant l'assistance exceptionnellement nombreuse à la réunion et présumant que plusieurs étaient présents pour parler des fortes hausses de taxes qui ont frappé certaines propriétés en raison de la récente évaluation par la Ville de Montréal, il a rassuré les résidents qu'ils avaient jusqu'au 30 avril pour contester ces évaluations et en a expliqué le processus.

Il poursuivit en annonçant des changements aux affectations de deux conseillères. Ainsi, la **conseillère Feeney** ajoutera la Sécurité publique à ses responsabilités et la conseillère Ulin ajoute une nouvelle mission à ses fonctions, les « Communications ».

Par suite d'une plainte au sujet d'arbres abattus dans les environs du dépôt de neiges usées de la Ville, perturbant l'habitat des oiseaux dans ce secteur, la Ville a reçu la visite de deux inspecteurs de la faune qui ont conclu à une plainte non fondée.

Le maire a terminé ses remarques en annonçant qu'une trousse d'information et un sondage sur le projet de centre communautaire et récréatif seront distribués en début-février, avec le 21 février comme date ultime de réponse. Il rappela aux résidents que le coût du maintien de l'aréna actuel est estimé à environ 7,5 M\$ sur les 10 prochaines années.

Première période de questions

Même si les commentaires sur le budget 2017 de la Ville avaient précédemment annoncé une baisse de 0,43 % du compte d'impôts fonciers pour la maison de valeur moyenne (608 450 \$), certains résidents du secteur nord ont été frappés par des hausses atteignant 20 pour cent et même plus dans certains cas. D'autres parlaient de hausses de l'ordre de 13 %. Ces augmentations surprises semblent viser particulièrement les propriétaires de duplex. Inutile de dire que cela a constitué le principal sujet de la première période de questions. Le Conseil a reçu une liste des hausses visant plusieurs des résidences affectées et de nombreuses demandes d'intervention.

Le maire expliqua son impuissance à influer sur le processus d'évaluation, mais se dit prêt à aider les résidents qui souhaitent contester ces évaluations. On suggéra d'inviter un employé du service de l'Évaluation de Montréal à venir expliquer le processus d'évaluation lors d'une réunion que la Ville organisera sous peu, ce à quoi le maire acquiesça. Un résident qui œuvre dans l'im-

obilier offrit de tenir un atelier à l'intention des contribuables affectés.

La propriétaire d'un commerce se disait très secouée par la récente série d'introductions par effraction sur Westminster. Elle croyait que la Ville aurait dû offrir des informations et du soutien plus ponctuels à ceux touchés par ces incidents.

L'intervenante suivante a exprimé ses regrets quant au départ de **Nora Powell** de la Bibliothèque publique. Elle demanda pourquoi la Ville considérerait dépenser davantage pour embaucher quelqu'un détenant une maîtrise en bibliothéconomie pour gérer une très bonne petite bibliothèque plutôt qu'une personne aussi chaleureuse, accueillante et tournée vers la collectivité que l'actuelle directrice.

Bien qu'un comité nommé par la Ville étudie et recommande les subventions à cette bibliothèque, le Conseil n'est pas responsable de l'embauche du personnel, a répondu le maire. Le conseil d'administration de la bibliothèque prend ces décisions.

Des problèmes de circulation, toujours d'actualité pendant la période de questions, ont aussi été soulevés. Selon certains, la multitude d'arrêts obligatoires sur Avon cause plus de mal que de bien, constituant irritant pour les automobilistes qui doivent déjà composer avec un fort accroissement de l'achalandage. Un autre intervenant fit remarquer que ce même trafic accru détériore la voie et il suggéra que la Ville demande compensation. Le maire a indiqué qu'une somme de 600 000 \$ a déjà été promise à la Ville pour des réparations.

Lorsque des propriétaires de la ville s'opposèrent à la création d'un centre de distribution derrière l'ancienne résidence de l'*Armée du Salut*, on leur a indiqué que la bâtisse serait conservée en façade pour agir comme tampon antibruit. Les plans actuels veulent la démolition de la résidence de sorte que la situation se détériorera davantage, selon un résident de Brock Sud. Bien que la Ville n'ait pas compétence sur ce qui se passe dans l'arrondissement Côte-des-Neiges/NDG, la conseillère Tasker-Brown a été mise au courant que ce projet apparaîtra à l'ordre du jour d'une prochaine réunion du conseil de cet arrondissement et qu'il est possible pour un résident de Mo-Ouest de soulever ce point pendant la portion publique des réunions de leur CCU.

La **conseillère Ulin** a indiqué que plusieurs événements spéciaux sont planifiés dans la Ville pour célébrer les 150 ans du Canada. Le premier à voir le jour est le très coloré tricot urbain créé par des dames d'ici et enveloppant le tronc d'un gros arbre à l'angle Westminster Sud et Ainslie. Les deux patinoires extérieures demeurent en bonne condition et sont éclairées jusqu'à 22 h. Sept introductions par effraction ont été

rapportées au cours du dernier mois ainsi que le vol d'un septième VUS japonais. Des officiers du Poste 9 rencontrent parents et jeunes pour discuter de cyber sécurité lors d'un événement « Café avec un policier ». La conseillère Ulin a fermé son dernier rapport de Sécurité publique en avertissant les résidents de respecter les affiches d'enlèvement de la neige pour éviter le remorquage de leurs véhicules et une amende de 153 \$.

La conseillère Feeney a commencé son rapport par l'annonce que les factures d'impôts fonciers ont été émises et sont payables en deux versements, les 23 février et 25 mai. Elle ajouta qu'un sommaire du budget 2017 est présenté sur le site Web de la Ville ainsi que dans le numéro de février de *The Informer*. Une réunion sera tenue pour informer les résidents de la procédure de contestation de l'évaluation de leur propriété. Le mécanisme électronique qui contrôle l'accès au parc canin ne fonctionnera que si le permis pour chien a été renouvelé. Madame Feeney a indiqué anticiper avec plaisir travailler avec le personnel de la Sécurité publique qui relève dorénavant de sa responsabilité.

Les Travaux publics ont reçu des remerciements pour l'efficacité démontrée à traiter la récente accumulation de glace dans la ville selon la **conseillère Torres**. Les décorations des fêtes et les arbres de Noël mis à la rue ont été enlevés et l'hiver occupe toujours le personnel du service.

Deuxième période de questions

La toute dernière question de la soirée concernait l'utilisation du français lors des réunions du Conseil. Le maire Masella expliqua que la pratique voulait que le Conseil réponde dans la langue dans laquelle les questions sont posées.

La séance a ensuite été levée.

Sandra Roscanu:

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COMING EVENTS

Please call the editor: Heather at 489-7022
e-mail: montrealwestinformer@gmail.com
Next deadline: March 15

FEBRUARY

- Sat 25** **Walk at Falaise St-Jacques and Meadowbrook with Lisa Mintz.** Also Sun. facebook.com/TransitionTownNdg/. 10 am.
Sun 26 **Afternoon Labyrinth Walk.** Wadsworth Hall. MW United. 2-4 pm.
Mon 27 **Town Council meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.

MARCH

- Wed 1** **CRA spring registration opens.**
Ash Wednesday Service. St. Philip's. 7:30 pm.
Conference on The Birds of the Technoparc Wetlands with Joël Coutu. Coopérative la maison verte, 5785 Sherbrooke W. 7:30 pm.
Sun 12 **Purim at the circus!** Live entertainment, food and fun for the whole family! Come dressed in your favorite circus costume! \$13 a person (\$10 when reservation made in advance). RSVP Mendymarlow@gmail.com or 443-3410. Town Hall. 3:30 pm.
Mon 13 **Coffee with a Cop: Children and Cyber Security.** Town Hall. Music Room. 7 pm.
MWest Scout Group annual Garden Supply Sale. For info call Bob King at 481-6523. Ends April 9
Sun 19 **MoWest St Patrick's Breakfast.** Town Hall.
Annual figure skating show. Legion Arena. 2:30-4 pm.
Mon 20 **MW Horticultural Society** presents Wendy Graham on the evolution of Mount Royal Park. Everyone welcome, non-members, \$5. **Town Hall. 7:30 pm.**
Thu 23 **Coffee with the Mayor.** Town Hall. 7:30 am.
Sun 26 **Pancake Brunch.** St. Philip's. 11:30 am.
Mon 27 **Town Council Meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.
Tue 28 **Evening Labyrinth Walk.** MW United. 7-9 pm.
Fri 31 **Card party.** MW Presbyterian. Light luncheon. Tickets (\$10.) and/or info., call Janet Dimock 484-2783 or church office 484-7913. 1-4 pm.

APRIL

- Mon 3** **CRA baseball evaluations begin.**

Classifieds

WEEKLY TORAH CLASS: to join, please contact Rabbi Mendy Marlow 632-9649 or mendymarlow@gmail.com.

Looking to rent a MoWest lower duplex. Please call 971-8572.

Montreal West duplex owners

MoWest duplex owners have been hit hard with up to a 22% increase in their taxes. Does this affect you? Do you want to know your options? Should you contest or not? Email **Norbert** at nabadoucha@gmail.com or call **781-6562** for more information. Join our group and Facebook page "contre la hausse foncière a Mtl-O Protest against the property tax hike."

Reunion / Meeting:
February 28 février
Hotel de Ville/ Town Hall, 19 h 30

Propriétaires de duplex de M-O

Les propriétaires de duplex de M-O ont été durement touchés par une augmentation de leurs impôts de 22%. Cela vous affecte-t-il? Voulez-vous connaître vos options? Devriez-vous contester ou non? Pour infos, email **Norbert** : nabadoucha@gmail.com ou tel **781-6562**. Facebook : "contre la hausse foncière a Mtl-O Protest against the property tax hike."



WINTER FESTIVAL