



GRAEME CLYKE: part of a famous family

by Maurice Krystal

What's it like to have the picture of a relative on the Canadian ten-dollar bill? Very few of us ever have to think about such a scenario but that's the situation long time MoWest resident **Graeme Clyke** is now experiencing. He's pretty cool and calm about it even though it's his aunt.

continued on page 10

Thessiane Mbaïngo: Hourglass Workout

by Maurice Krystal

So why are gyms just for women becoming more popular? For some women who have attended mixed gender fitness centres, they complain that these places are often sexist. "I feel I'm ogled," or "I feel I'm being judged." I spoke to **Thessiane Mbaïngo** who opened *Hourglass Workout* this January on Ronald Drive and asked her what makes her place special.

The key issue is that it is a safe environment. Men and women who work out have generally different goals. Women understand each other and bond differently from men. It is less competitive and they share stories and help each other reach goals. Women tend to want to be healthy, fit and toned, rather than muscular. Women's aim, in spite of stereotyping, is not just to lose weight but also to accept their body and instill self-love and feel stronger.

Thessiane is a woman in her mid-thirties who, judging just by looks, is in excellent physical shape. She is, as she describes herself, muscular but with feminine curves.

Her father came to Montreal from the Central African Republic and her mother is from Haiti. They met in Montreal while attending university. The family moved to the Central African Republic when she was very young, but, at the age of 12, her father died in a car accident. Two years after the accident Thessiane's mother brought the family back to Montreal. Because of her history and cultural mix, Thessiane is fluent in English, French, Creole and Sango a dialect within the Central African Republic.

She was always physically active, running track in high school. She attended the University of Montreal earning certificates in communication and public relations.

While working at an administrative desk job, she led her fellow coworkers during the lunch hour through fitness routines. They told her she was good at it. At the beginning she bought fitness books and tried to train by herself. She had been involved in fitness/body building competitions since the age of 19.

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HOURLASS
WORKOUT

photo: Paul Buceta

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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

May 10

THE BAR CODE QUILT:

celebrating 150 years of Canada

In order to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday, **Paula Cordeau** invited The *Community Centre Quilters* to make a wall hanging. Our first challenge was to decide on a design. What images would we use? Many of the things we love about our community are already depicted in the magnificent quilt which hangs in the Town Hall that was made to commemorate MoWest's centennial year in 1997. To contrast with its traditional style, we chose to explore modern quilting a style influenced by the minimal look of modern art and which features solid colours and emphasizes negative space.

We usually work on our own projects, so we started this collaborative effort by looking through books and magazines for ideas. When we saw the quilt of a bar code in **Thomas Knauer's** *Modern Quilt Perspectives*, we were hooked.

With this picture as our inspiration, we chose numbers significant to Canada for our code. First, the dates, 1867 and 2017, with 0s in front to complete the five digit groupings. The single lead digit would be a 7 for our group of seven (what could be more Canadian than a group of 7?) With a little research about 12-digit bar codes, we calculated the UPC scanner's check digit for the final number. The number 150 was incorporated into the long vertical bars of the design.

For colours, we wanted to focus on our signature red brick architecture and the bright, warm feel of our garden suburb. With this palette in mind, we went shopping and found four red fabrics to symbolize both buildings and Canada, added the greens and browns of gardens and trees, agonized over the perfect background and finished with a bold pop of fresh, lime green.

Throughout the project we divided the tasks to take advantage of our individual strengths. Once the top was assembled,



Linda Power, Colleen Carroll, Anna Marrett and Lynn Cairns

we started quilting. Simple vertical stripes outlined the centre, but we were bursting with ideas for the border. We could trap into our Town logo, the school's clock tower. What about birds, trees, a map of Canada, the GPS location of Montreal West, a trailing vine of ivy, maple leaves, fireworks, flowers and the words Happy Birthday Canada. All in all we had enough ideas for about six quilts. Again we didn't want to duplicate anything from the centennial quilt, so that narrowed our choices. We also wanted to keep it "modern."

We finally settled on a series of diagonal lines going from west to east (left to right), representative of the usual direction of weather systems in our part of Canada. We summed up our patriotism with the single word Canada quilted down the left hand border. The finishing touch was a red maple leaf that

looked as if it had just dropped onto the corner. We worked individually on the hand quilting, passing the piece from one person to the next at each meeting. Finally, under the guidance of **Glenn Campbell** from *Campbell Picture Framing* we attached the work to a linen stretcher. Now it is beautifully encased in a maple sided box.

Thank you, Paula, for giving us the opportunity to gather and quilt on a regular basis at the Community Centre (where everyone is welcome) and, through this work, to share our passion with others and to celebrate Canada 150.

from Anna Marrett

The "group of seven" who made the quilt: **Lynn Cairns, Colleen Carroll, Joan Gross, Anna Marrett, Carol Ogilvy, Linda Power and Heather Shee.**

MAY
13

Grannies for Good

The *Grannies for Good* are holding a bazaar (women's clothing, new and slightly used) as a fundraiser for the *Grandmothers' Campaign* of the *Stephen Lewis Foundation*. The event will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 10 am to 6 pm at Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve West, corner Landsdowne. **Miriam Byers, 488-9763.**



Jazz vocalist **Andrea Superstein** is making waves on the Canadian jazz scene. Her most recent album *What Goes On* peaked at #4 on the Canadian National Jazz Chart and the record was also voted as one of the top five vocal jazz albums of 2015.

Jazz comes full circle

Andrea is known for her unique and modern arrangements of classic jazz standards and is holding her own as a strong songwriter. Her approach to music has critic **Tom Harrison** applauding that Superstein is “redefining jazz”.

Andrea grew up on Ballantyne North, where her parents **David** and **Susan** still reside. She credits her early interest in music and performance to the strong choir program at Edinburgh School, followed by an extensive theatre education at Royal West Academy where she performed in numerous musicals and explored an interest in directing. She returned to participate in one of RWA’s first

alumni productions under the direction of **Doug Floen**.

Now a resident of Vancouver, Superstein has toured extensively across Canada and has been featured in multiple festivals. She has studied with legendary artists **Nancy King** and **Jay Clayton** and Grammy nominee **Gretchen Parlato**.

Andrea is thrilled to be returning to Montreal for a special concert at the Segal Centre as part of their *Power Jazz Series* on Sunday, May 28 at 8 pm. She may even include a few songs in honour of her musical theatre days at Edinburgh and RWA. Tickets are available at segal-centre.org or by calling **739-7944**.

MoWest “Bottoms Up” Diaper Drive

In honour of Mother’s Day, please give generously to the 6th annual MoWest Bottoms Up Diaper Drive in benefit of the *NDG Food Depot*.

Please drop off your diapers and powdered baby formula from April 24-May 12 at the John A. Simms Community Centre (8 Westminster South) from 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday.

Campagne de couches : M-O « Bottoms Up »

En l’honneur de la fête des mères, S.V.P. donner généreusement à la 6^e campagne de couches : M-O « Bottoms Up » au profit du *Dépôt alimentaire NDG*.

S.V.P. déposer vos couches et formule pour bébé en poudre du 24 avril au 12 mai au Centre communautaire de John A. Simms (8 Westminster Sud) de 8:30-4:30 du lundi au vendredi.



Montreal West-End Operatic Society

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the support you have given the *Montreal West-End Operatic Society* over the years. What a glorious time we’ve had for almost 80 theatrical seasons!

MWOS is in the process of going dormant for a time to regain its strength. Once solvency is attained by selling assets and appealing for charitable donations, we hope to move towards production again. Your support is vital to our success. Charitable donation receipts will be issued to all those who make *MWOS* a gift of \$10 or more, and include a return address. If you value live performance and the continuance of your local theatrical society (nearing its 80th anniversary), please send donations payable to *MWOS* Donations, 4381 Walkley Avenue, Montreal, QC. H4B 2K4.

For more information: donations@mwos.org or **990-8813** (#6). Online donations - via Canada Helps: canadahelps.org/dn/10153. Thank you! A gift in any amount is most gratefully received. Your support is appreciated more than you could possibly know.

Sincerely,

Rod MacLeod, President, MWOS

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Community recreation centre project



MoWest, with crumbling infrastructure, seriously broken sidewalks, grandiose projects and virtually no source of commercial revenue. We are among the highest taxed communities on the Island. Poor cousins to larger, richer cities like CSL, Westmount and Hampstead who use our services which we pay for.

We just cannot afford to get further in debt with tempting government grants.

We cannot tolerate anymore fiscal irresponsibility. Projects like the expensive dog park, fancy curbs and overpriced bumps. Now an arena complex?

How will we pay for it? We need to tear up the credit cards and get our priorities in order. Needs, not wants.

I vote NO to the arena project because I want an affordable Town for my grandchildren to live in.

*Zofia Richter
Hudson Avenue
Resident since 1957*



I don't know if the April, 2017 edition of *The Informer* is the usual April Fool's joke or not, but the report from the Mayor made it sound like he was at a different meeting than the one I attended to discuss the results of the survey on the proposed new arena. The mayor cherry-picked the survey results to make it sound like a big majority of MoWest residents are in favour of the new arena.

Whereas the true facts only had 40% supporting the arena at \$200 tax increase and 27% support at \$300 tax increase. The users of the arena are only 4.2% of the pop-

ulation. The other 95.8% will be paying for the 4.2% usage. The mayor neglected to inform residents of these other results. The Town has a debt of \$15.6M. With the additional borrowing of at least \$7.5M that the Town is proposing to finance the arena (for a total debt of \$23.1M), our taxes will surely increase again. The town is too small to sustain such a debt load. If you do not want to see additional increases, please email your MNA **Katherine Weil** at cabinet@midi.gouv.qc.ca.

*William Dere
Wolesley North*

Mayor's response

In response to the two letters written opposing the proposed community recreation centre project, I would like to correct many of the false assertions.

In the letter written by **Mr. Dere**, he accuses me of cherry picking the results, but in my opinion, he is completely ignoring many facts. He was at the meeting where the pollster revealed the fact that 54% of the survey respondents were in favour of the project in general and 52% were in favour if the additional tax bill was \$100 or less. But Mr. Dere conveniently ignores that point in his letter. He also conveniently ignores the facts that 68% of respondents with children at home and 71% of respondents that currently use our facilities also support this project as proposed.

He then mentions that our current arena is used by 4.2% of our residents. But, true to form, he does not mention the facts that I spelled out in that same meeting that when we compare ourselves with other municipi-

palities, that usage is very high. In terms of hockey usage, Côte Saint-Luc is at 0.88%, Lachine is at 0.88% and Westmount is at 1.97%. Why provide facts that may actually refute his position?

In the letter written by **Ania Barnes** on behalf of her mother, **Zofia Richter**, she opens her letter speaking of crumbling infrastructure and broken sidewalks and our high taxes. Our tax rate has historically been high, that is not something that came about eight years ago. She fails to mention that more work has been done in the past eight years repairing our infrastructure than probably the past 40 years in this Town. And the urgency to address these problems is because the money was NOT spent in the past. We are continuing the work this year (Brock N. and Ballantyne N. between Sherbrooke and Curzon) and next year (Percival between Nelson and the dead-end) thanks to close to \$2M in grants we have been awarded. In fact, all of the major projects we have undertaken have been subsidized by grants over the past eight years.

She mentions "fancy curbs." I assume she refers to the curb extensions on Westminster. Those curb extensions have led to a 25% increase in proper stops at those intersections by motorists coming down Westminster. You call that increased pedestrian safety "fiscal irresponsibility (sic)"? And she continues by trying to negatively portray the "expensive dog park." That dog park also solved a 20-30 year old problem.

She mentions "Needs not wants." Well, in my opinion, the Town needs to keep investing in its infrastructure, in its parks, in its buildings and in the variety of its services. THAT'S what will keep our Town a desirable place for people with families to live in.

Beny Masella, Mayor

JANE F. LEE, B.Sc., D.D.S.
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HALAH AL-UBAIDI

NDG Community Council

Halah still can not understand how you can have poverty in a country like Canada and works on getting housing for the underprivileged. She showed us the demographics of NDG and said there were four areas where there is poverty: Benny Farm, St. Raymond, Walkley and Westhaven Village.

Halal said they are trying to create new initiatives, but she said she spends a lot of time writing and looking for funding and has a hard time keeping her staff as she does not have the funding to pay them what they are worth.

Lobsterfest Saturday, June 3

The T. Peter Webster Memorial Lobster Festival, sponsored by the *Rotary Club of Montreal Westward* will take place on Saturday June 3 6:30 pm at the Arena. The cost for this all you can eat event is \$85 per person with children 16-years and under half price and 8 and under free as long as both groups are accompanied by an adult. In 2016 we were able to give tax receipts of \$50 for each \$85 ticket; we expect the amount to be about the same this year.

We serve wonderful all you can eat lobster as well as boeuf bourguignon, salad and dessert. There will be a variety of other foods (cold cuts, bread and buns, desserts, coffee, tea, etc.) and a cash bar serving a variety of beers, red and white wines and various other alcoholic beverages along with soft drinks and juices. There will be a silent auction along with a live auction for some items and a raffle draw.

The event is a fundraiser for local and *International Rotary* charities. Locally, we are supporting the *NDG Food Depot* with cooking classes sponsored by *Rotary*. We also support the *MoWest Canada Day*, *Royal West science fair*, *YMCA Strong Kids* as well as many others. Internationally we are helping a *Rotary Club* in Peru that gives free medical/dental clinics using volunteer doctors and dentists. For many years we have supported *CYMA, Canadian Youth to Armenia*: young people rebuilding schools and hospitals. We support the *Rotary Foundation* that gives scholarships and works with the *World Health Organization* on polio eradication.

Join us! This event is a fun family event and has been my favourite *Rotary* event over the years. Hope to see many of you there. For tickets please contact me (**Doug Yeats**) at doug@westendpiano.com. This event is limited to 400 tickets and usually sells out.

Speakers and events of note

- May 25: **Kathleen Weil**, MNA, Minister of Immigration and Inclusiveness
- Saturday June 3: **Lobsterfest**

Come join us for lunch

The Rotary Club of Montreal Westward meets Thursdays at the Town Hall. Luncheon is served at 12:30 pm with speaker at around 1 pm. Cost for a guest is \$20. For information please contact **Doug Yeats** at doug@westendpiano.com.

from Doug Yeats



Halah gave us a short history lesson on the *NDG Community Council*. It was started in 1942 and is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. She has been working at the council for the last 11 years and just like *Rotary* you get addicted to it.

It was started during World War II because of a high incidence of juvenile delinquency in the area as fathers were overseas at war and mothers were working and trying to keep families together.

During 2015-2016 Halah said the *NDG Community Council* worked with 4500 residents from 325 different groups. They try to bring people together. Their strategic plan is to mobilize residents to work on issues to improve the quality of life of residents and support local initiatives. They provide services that are essential for some residents such as the *NDG Food Depot*, housing and *Le Bonhomme à Lunettes*.



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Edinburgh School

Annual storytelling contest



Kai Bondin, Katerina Bruce and Katherine MacNab were the finalists in the annual Edinburgh storytelling contest.

Kai's winning story is a humorous tale called: *The Day I Bled all Over my Childhood Hero* based on a true story. The story recalls the time Kai's met his favorite author and childhood hero **Geronimo Stilton** at the *Dictée PGL* finals last year. While Kai was writing the *Dictée* on stage, he had a nose-bleed. Geronimo Stilton, the guest of honour, went to help him, but, unfortunately, at that inopportune moment Kai sneezed; hence the title of Kai's story.

The story presented by Katerina Bruce and Katherine MacNab *Un voyage aux Bahamas* is about two adventurous 12-year-old girls, who went on a cruise ship in the Bahamas. One was a little bit too curious and fell overboard. When her friend decided to come to her rescue, they found themselves stranded in a lifeboat in the middle of the ocean. How will they find their way back?



Katherine MacNab, Kai Bondin and Katerina Bruce

Science fair

Edinburgh held its first Expo-Science on March 16. The grade five and six student exhibited their science projects in the gym. The students were judged by a panel of volunteer teachers and science experts during the day. In the evening, parents were invited to the school where students presented and demonstrated their projects.

The parents and students would like to extend a huge thank you to **Mr. El Hama**, the Edinburgh science teacher, for bringing such a great new tradition to Edinburgh school.

The Flash newspaper article

The *Edinburgh Flash* is a newspaper written, edited and published by budding reporters in the grade six classes. The paper

is distributed monthly for the entire Edinburgh community.

The following is a *Flash* article written by **Xavier Maclaren**.

At Edinburgh School, several awaited events have occurred during the past months. For example, the storytelling competition and La Dictée PGL happened recently at our school and we, as students, are proud of having participated in these events.

*First of all, I would like to announce that our winners for storytelling this year are the 6th graders **Katherine McNab** and **Katerina Bruce**. Their story was Un voyage aux Bahamas. Our newspaper editor, **Kai Blondin**, also won with his story The Day I Bled all Over my Childhood Hero!*

Secondly, I am proud to say that I, Xavier, have won the Dictée PGL for our school this

*year and will be representing our school at the international competition. The semi-finalists for this competition were **Kai Blondin** (grade 6), **Theo Radhakrishna** and **Olivier Bazinet** (grade 5). We raised \$920 in total!*

*I would also like to announce that the Expo-Science was an enormous success for Edinburgh School and many students from grades 5 and 6 will be participating in the regional finals, including grade 6 students **Samantha Marino**, **Siena O'Neil**, **A.J. Itovitch**, myself and **Stone Aitkin**. All of the projects presented were spectacular and the event was a huge success.*

Finally, during the month of February, our school collected 40 boxes of donations for the NDG Food Depot. This is a school record! Many grade 6 students helped promote the food drive and sort donations. Volunteers are always needed!

Sandra Roscanu:

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Elizabeth Ballantyne School

The EBS Green Team joined Super Recyclers on the "Green Side"



The EBS Green Team initiated a new fundraising campaign; our motto is "Join the Green Side." We collected used clothing (indoor and outdoor), linens and footwear. *Super Recyclers* paid us 25¢ for each kilogram of clothing collected. We love *Super Recyclers* because they redistribute what they can and actually recycle the rest of the clothing. The campaign ran until April 25 and profits from this campaign will finance EBS green initiatives.

The Green Team is working on many other ongoing projects as well – we have a rooftop beehive, a Recycling Club and team members pick up compost from all the classrooms several times a week. Student members of the Green Team are **Ronan,**

Christopher, Michael, Luciano, Brandon, Chiara, Islay, Ben and Noah. Their adult helpers are our behaviour technicians (**Carmy and Roen**) and our child care worker (**Crystal**).

Earth Day

We celebrated Earth Day with the following events:

- April 21: schoolyard cleanup and litterless lunch
- April 24: Our ban on plastic water bottles began. Students were encouraged to bring reusable water containers for the rest of the school year.

JOIN THE "GREEN SIDE"
WITH THE EBS GREEN TEAM!



Adult Library



Montreal West
Public Library

New extended hours!

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



Hello neighbors, residents and library members. I just wanted to introduce myself as the new librarian at the MoWest Public Library. Please come in and say hello!

Debbie M.

New additions

Fiction

Carter, Miranda *The Devil's Feast*
Cummings, Charles *A Divided Spy*
Iles, Greg *Mississippi Blood*
London, Joan *The Golden Age*
Oates, Joyce Carol
The Book of American Martyrs

Mystery

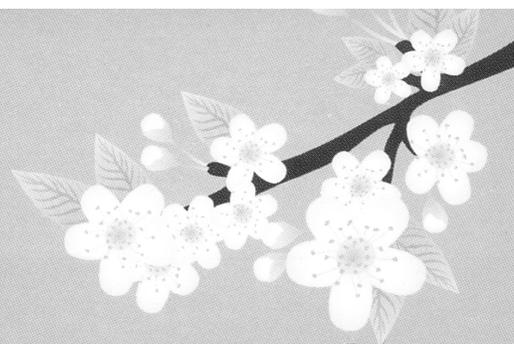
French, Tana *The Trespasser*
Gardner, Lisa *Right Behind You*
Mark, David *Dead Pretty*
Winspear, Jacqueline *In This Grave Hour*

Non-fiction

Britton, Sarah *Naturally Nourished*
Cerqueira, Elisabeth
Superfoods Anti-Aging
King, Ross *Mad Enchantment*
O'Reilly, Terry *This I Know*

DVDs

The Commitments, Victoria Season 1, Fences The Knick Season 2, Age Reversing Workouts, A French Village Season 6.



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Un apprentissage qui « pique » notre curiosité

Depuis l'année scolaire 2015-2016, notre école dispose d'une belle ruche. Grâce à la compagnie *Alvéole*, nous avons eu le plaisir de récolter le miel produit par nos abeilles au printemps 2016. C'était une belle production que nous avons pu déguster et il était plus que délicieux!

Cette année, la compagnie *Alvéole* nous offre différents ateliers auxquels certaines classes auront le plaisir de participer. Tout d'abord, une classe de 2^e année et une autre de 5^e année assisteront ensemble à un premier atelier portant sur l'introduction aux abeilles et à l'apiculture urbaine. L'animation se fera dans la classe des plus grands, permettant aux élèves plus jeunes de visiter une classe de niveau supérieur.

Par la suite, un deuxième atelier sera présenté à un groupe de 2^e et un groupe de 5^e année. Celui-ci parlera des abeilles et de leur rôle dans notre alimentation. Les élèves comprendront alors mieux certaines des raisons d'être de notre décision d'avoir opté pour la présence d'une ruche à notre école.

Enfin, le dernier atelier, auquel assisteront des groupes de 1^e et de 3^e année, sera celui de l'ouverture de la ruche, à savoir tout ce qu'il est nécessaire de faire au printemps pour que celle-ci soit fonctionnelle.

À la fin de l'année scolaire 2016-2017, nos élèves seront de vrais petits experts de nos amies les abeilles.

Un Croque-Livres qui a du mordant

La présence de notre Croque-Livres devant l'école favorise la participation de la communauté et permet à nos jeunes lecteurs de croquer à pleines dents dans les divers livres qui leur sont offerts. Les livres de tous âges et de toutes cultures peuvent y être déposés, à condition, bien sûr, que cela convienne à des jeunes d'âge primaire. Nous encourageons donc tous ceux et celles qui ont des livres à donner à passer par notre établissement afin d'y déposer leur précieux don. Nos élèves en seront grandement reconnaissants.



Nous apprenons à nos élèves que la lecture est importante pour la culture, mais également pour le plaisir. Lire en français favorise leur appropriation de la langue et leur permet d'apprendre à communiquer dans une langue commune. C'est un beau tremplin qui leur permet de plonger dans un monde de savoir.

Une visite dans la capitale

Le député d'Arcy-McGee, M. **David Birbaum**, accueillera nos élèves de la 5^e année au Parlement de Québec le 25 avril prochain. Après une visite du Parlement, les élèves auront le plaisir de visiter le Vieux Québec, accompagnés de leurs enseignants, d'un membre du service de garde, de la technicienne en éducation spécialisée et de la direction de l'école. Une belle sortie en perspective qui leur permettra de découvrir notre belle capitale. Ils y passeront la journée complète et ne reviendront qu'en soirée.

Une belle aventure à suivre lors de la prochaine parution de *l'Informer* en mai puisqu'ils seront invités à rédiger un article pour raconter leur belle expérience.

À suivre...



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SCIENCE FAIR

a huge success

Almost 400 students from Grades 8-11 participated in the 28th annual RWA Science Fair on February 23.



Again this year, all the projects were housed in the new gym where judges from both the academic and professional worlds evaluated the students' work during the morning. And in the early afternoon and evening, the Science Fair opened up to visitors and students from two nearby elementary schools.

The day ended with the awards ceremony. A full listing of those awards can be found on the RWA website. Congratulations to all of this year's participants!

And congratulations to the following students who participated in the Montreal Regional Science and Technology Fair at Concordia University, March 26-28:

Zachary Dahan and Peter Delis

Great Distinction; McGill University - Faculty of Engineering Award,

Yuan Ding and Alexandra Spyridakos

Champlain College Science Award; Great Distinction,

Alexandra Matos-Gerko and Emma Ranalli

Highest Distinction; The Order of Chemists of Quebec Award,

Lia Loebenberg

Bronze Medal - Senior; Cercles des jeunes naturalistes Award; Concordia University - Faculty of Arts and Science Award; Concordia University Faculty of Arts and Science Entrance Bursary; Highest Distinction; Super expo-sciences Hydro-Québec (SESHQ) Experimentation and Design Award,

Michael Diousskine and Bhuvan Manojh

Concordia University - Science College Award; Distinction,

Leia Khairy and Roxana Barin

Gold Medal - Junior; Highest Distinction; McGill University - Faculty of Science Award; Super expo-sciences Hydro-Québec (SESHQ) Experimentation & Design Award.

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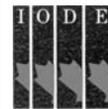
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IODE

What does IODE do in MoWest?



Why do we raise money?

Education support is a part of the mission of IODE and, in Montreal West, this year we are offering three awards at Elizabeth Ballantyne School to graduating students.

One helps to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday by rewarding a boy who has demonstrated good citizenship, for example in the anti-bullying program; it is funded in memory of **Doris Schurman** who lived on Percival and sent her boys to EBS.

Another is from the estate of **Marian McLeod**, who was a long time member of HMS Victory IODE, is also for citizenship.

The third, in memory of **Helen Reid**, a former IODE Life member and Regent of the chapter and a long time member of the *MW Curling Club*, is for a student who has shown marked effort and improvement in physical education.

Janet King
President, IODE HMS Victory Chapter

GRAEME CLYKE:

continued from page 1

Graeme's wife, **Betty-Lou**, is much more outgoing saying that in the induction ceremony in Ottawa, when the name and portrait of **Viola Desmond**, was announced and revealed, she had goose bumps.

Viola's story

The story of Viola Desmond has touched Canada's psyche mainly due to the tireless effort of Viola's baby sister, **Wanda**. Born in 1916 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Viola was one of ten siblings. After briefly teaching in racially segregated black schools she decided on a career change and went to Montreal, Atlantic City and New York to study to be a beautician. She returned to Halifax to open *Vi's Studio of Culture* within her husband's barbershop. Success came quickly and soon she opened her own beauty school and created a line of beauty products aimed at black women.

It was while she was expanding her business ventures that she happened to be in New Glasgow in 1946. Her car broke down and while it was being repaired she decided to see a movie. She was unaware that a movie ticket sold to an African-Canadian meant she had to sit in the balcony. She sat on the main level and theatre staff demanded she move; she refused. Police came and dragged her out. Her hip was injured and she spent the night in jail. The following morning she was fined \$20 and charged with defrauding the government of Nova Scotia of the tax levied between the ground floor and the balcony, a sum of one cent! She decided to fight the charges and she eventually won an appeal legally ending segregation in Nova Scotia in 1954.

Remembrances

Graeme remembers meeting his famous aunt a few times. When he was very young he met her at family gatherings in Halifax, where he was born, and around the age of 16 when he was sent to New York City where aunt Viola was then living. He remembers her as a very astute business-woman.

Graeme's family moved to Montreal while he was still a youngster and he grew up in the city's St. Henri district. His sister's best friend was a girl named Betty-Lou Headley, and they all played together and now, as we move the clock ahead, they recently celebrated their 54th anniversary.

They have lived in the Montreal West/NDG area since 1962. Graeme always had an "artistic eye" attending art classes with **Arthur Lismer** at the *Montreal Museum of Fine Arts* and then *École des Beaux Arts* in photography and art. After graduation he got a call from well-known photographer

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and teacher, **Hugh Frankel**, who invited Graeme to work with him. For much of his career he worked as a freelance photographer and dark room technician doing weddings, portraits, engineering projects and was hired to photograph and do darkroom work at Expo '67, Man and his World and the '76 Olympics. In 1970 he opened *Graeme Sights and Sounds* on Westminster, an interesting combination of photography and records. The store lasted until '72 when Graeme decided to go back to school in the evening and in '81 obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts. In '83 to '86 he opened **Graeme's Photo Studio** on Sherbrooke St. and in '86 moved his studio to 14 Milner. In '90 Graeme suffered a heart attack and has somewhat slowed down, still doing freelance work. He now watches over his mother, **Emily Davis Clyde**, who at 103 is a resident at the Waldorf. His son, also named **Graeme**, attended Elizabeth Ballantyne and Loyola, works in communication equipment and lives in the Plateau.

Aunt Viola died in 1965 and 45 years later she was granted a posthumous pardon, the first to be granted in Canada. The government of Nova Scotia apologized for prosecuting her for tax evasion, recognizing her struggle against racism. She had a stamp issued with her portrait in 2012 and a ferry was launched with her name that travels between Halifax and Dartmouth in 2016.

When Canadians were asked to submit names of women who could be considered to be on the \$10 bill, there were over 26,000 names submitted. Viola is the first female other than the queen to be on a Canadian bill that will be issued in '18, the first Canadian, and the first person of African descent. When she is labeled Canada's Rosa Parks, Betty-Lou says that Viola came first and Rosa is really America's Viola Desmond. The hardest part of this honour for Graeme and Betty-Lou was keeping the secret of the unveiling of this news for two whole weeks.



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Sparks with tornados in bottles

Thank you!

Spring has sprung, and the cookie sales are going very well. Thank you to Montreal West and the neighbouring communities for your continued support of this major fundraiser for the Girl Guides. We could not do all the wonderful programming we offer the girls without the funds generated from the sale of cookies. The cookie blitz the second weekend of April was a huge success. In two hours, the group of seven girls sold 6.5 cases of cookies! The girls were very proud of their accomplishment!

Sparks

The Sparks unit has been having fun with science. On April 1, some of the girls

from our unit attended the provincially organized Sparks in Space event. There were over 100 Sparks gathered from across the province to spend the day together learning how much fun science can be. They all took part in making a comet, an activity led by two scientists from McGill. The girls also had a chance to travel through the universe; they built space stations and learned about **Chris Hadfield** and different constellations, just to mention a few of the activities which filled their day. By the time it came to go home, they were all exhausted!

In our Sparks meeting we continued with the science theme. The girls tried their hand at making their own tornado in a bottle. They became proficient at flying air planes they had built. They witnessed the

refraction of light resulting in the production of rainbows. They conducted an experiment with *Glo Germ* to see how well different hand washing techniques worked. (The solution will glow under a black light. So when a young lady would say: "I washed my hands"...the light will show her how well she did actually wash her hands.

Brownies

Brownies have been busy planting shamrocks for spring. They also worked on their key to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). They have learned how math is important when using money. A mock store was set up to give the girls a chance to "shop." The girls were given Monopoly money to buy and make change. They had fun with science experiments as well. They could see the result of a chemical reaction between vinegar and baking soda when their balloons were inflated. They had a chance to make their very own silly putty. As part of learning about computer safety, there was a discussion about online safety.

Guides

The Guides have had a chance to explore the different Guide uniforms over the years. At a meeting in early April, one of the Guides wore her grandmother's uniform from the 1950s. The girls were surprised to see how different it was compared to the current one. The Guides were also lucky enough to have a visit from **Gigi**, one of the current Co-District Commissioners for Monklands District. Gigi is full of energy and fun ideas for girls of all levels. She took time to enrol **Alex**, the newest leader to join the MoWest unit, as a Guide Guider. It was fun for the girls to be part of the ceremony.

Next on the list, plans are under way for the traditional camp to be held at the end of May with the Sparks, Brownies and Guides from our wonderful local community.

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Montreal West Scout Group



What do you do with the arena filled with over 3000 units of garden supply products?

You get all of the Scouts, ages 6 to 20, plus their families and friends to come on a Friday night and Saturday morning to deliver them. And this is exactly what happened!

We all dressed in our old clothes, gloves on our hands and filled all sorts of vehicles to the brim and traipsed around MoWest, neighbouring communities and even as far away as Ottawa.

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Scout Group once again; your generous purchases will go a long way to keep our programs healthy and strong for the next year. Our sales were increased this year particularly through the efforts of our Scouts who will receive a percentage of their sales toward their jamboree expenses.

FYI – the MW Scout Group has been running this spring fundraiser for 40+ years. A Proud Community Tradition!

Rainbow (Karen Johnstone)

Beavers

The Beavers have been in fine form this month! As busy as ever they celebrated Earth Day by discussing recycling and reusing products by folding newspapers into small containers to place inside their compost buckets at home. (I think they had more fun wearing the buckets on their heads.) They also planted sunflower seeds that we hope to plant somewhere around the Town in May. One evening was spent on bicycle safety and another on challenges to become more physically fit.

The last meeting of April saw our Third Year Beavers Swim-Up to join the Cub Pack. They will be missed, but we are so proud of them!

All of the Beavers are gearing up for their exciting sleepover at Cap St. Jacques at the end of May. Some of the White Tail Beavers will be joining the Cubs for their spring trip to Ottawa.

Cubs

The Cub Pack held their annual Kub Kar Rally at Edinburgh school on Wednesday, March 29. The cubs were given three weeks in March to turn a simple block of wood into a racing car, and were asked to come up with imaginative designs. Inspiration was drawn from TV, movies and video games such as *The Simpsons*, *Pokémon* and *Star Wars*. Awards were given to the three fastest racers as well as to the best design.

This year's best design was a car that resembled a slightly unwrapped Hershey's chocolate bar. Special thanks to **David Roy** (our Master Track Builder) who helped



Cub leaders with winners of Kub Kar rally: front row: Lucas, Elliot, Sebastian, Sophie; back row: Bob, Dave, Philippe, Brendan, Lee-Ann, Robert, Erica

make the event a huge success. The month of April has been dedicated to completing requirements for stars and planning the spring trip to Ottawa where they will help celebrate our Nation's 150 years, sleep in the Aviation Museum, have a tour of Parliament and visit other Ottawa sites.

Scouts

The Scout Group built a *Ski-Doo* model, which works as a SAR (Search and Rescue) mobile, for the Scouts Canada STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics) contest. To enter the national Scout STEM contest, the Scouts were to improve on a Canadian invention. The Scouts chose to improve on the *Ski-Doo* because they wanted to use a Quebec invention and are all very enthusiastic about snowmobiles.

The Scouts researched the history of the *Ski-Doo* and were inspired to create the SAR mobile based on **Joseph-Armand**

Bombardier's idea to build a winter vehicle because of a blizzard that made it impossible to bring his ill son to the hospital. The Scouts decided to create a prototype of the *Ski-Doo* that could transport injured people in difficult Canadian terrain.

While the MW Scouts did not win the top prize, they are finalists. Their idea will be included in the Scouts Canada's New STEM program and will be shown at the Scout camp Jamboree in Nova Scotia this July.

The MW Scouts were the only troop in Quebec to be included in the finals and we are very proud of them. This group of boys is only between 11 and 12 years of age, younger than most of the other participants. The Scouts plan to represent Quebec at the STEM exhibit at the Canadian Jamboree in Nova Scotia this summer. A special thank you goes to one of our Rovers, **Slater Covenden**, who advised and aided the boys in this ambitious project. Well done guys!

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Thessiane Mbaïngo

continued from page 1

At the age of 28 she became pregnant and gained 60 pounds. She had to start again and this time worked with a coach who insisted the road to a healthier body was a total life style commitment, with a healthy diet, and consistent workouts at least three times a week. Today Thessiane is a certified personal trainer with *canfitpro*.

She was always able to easily build muscle tone and took part in a number of provincial body building contests, winning first place in the Quebec provincial championship in the medium figure competition in 2012.

Thessiane's sister, **Janice**, who lives in Toronto, was working out with **Lyzabeth Lopez**, a personal trainer, holistic nutritionist and TV personality who has franchised her methods to fitness centers in Ontario. Her sister's enthusiasm for the *Hourglass Workout* led Thessiane to go to Toronto to be trained and eventually open up her own franchise in Montreal. She chose the industrial space on Ronald Drive because it's central for the majority of her clients, who come mainly from LaSalle, Lachine, NDG, and Côte Saint-Luc. The location is private, quiet, there is free parking and there is a nearby park to exercise outdoors.

Compared to other female-only gyms, there are no machines, the workout period is longer, and not everyone is doing the same thing as everyone else. The facility is open five days a week at five different time slots and moms can bring their young children. **Nahla**, Thessiane's seven-year-old daughter, is a regular visitor who would like to be a trainer just like her mother. At the present time, there are 40 clients ranging from their mid-twenties to mid-fifties, the average being moms in their mid-thirties. Every session focuses on one part of the body, such as lower body drills, abs, upper body, circuit training, boxing, or Tabata. Clients create their own schedule. New members can sign up for a thirty-day trial period for \$30.

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News from the pews

MW United

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Book Browse Plus!!

So Saturday, May 6 from 9:30-3 is your chance to pick up books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, games and more – for a song – so to speak. Wadsworth Hall will have tables upon tables of enticing things that are being recycled for your pleasure. Come have a coffee and peruse. No rush – just take your time gathering up a new batch of books, etc. We will have bags, boxes and perhaps wheel barrows, if necessary, for you to take them home in. Hope to see you there.

Family Sunday, May 14

The Sunday school will be taking the worship service on Mother's Day. Always fun to see them up in the chancel telling us what is on their minds. Under **Brenda Murray's** leadership, a creative message will unfold no doubt.

Sunday school winds down

Sunday, May 28 will be our last day of Sunday school and of the nursery service for the season. Then following the service, there will be hot dogs and sandwiches. Not to be missed.

Final Labyrinth Walk of the season

Tuesday, May 30 between 7 and 9 will be our last indoor Labyrinth Walk of the season. Come to Wadsworth Hall prepared to walk in your socks or slippers and we will have the Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth laid for your individual walking meditation. (Psst. Don't tell anyone, but if there is a chance to set up a Labyrinth outside on the grass that could be left in place for a time, we just might do it. Stay tuned.)

If you haven't heard Rev. **Mark Hammond** yet, you have a treat in store. Join us any Sunday at 10 am, 88 Ballantyne N. Refreshments follow. For information call **482-3210** or visit mwuc.org. All are welcome.

from Susan Upham

St. Ignatius of Loyola centennial!

When the Jesuits priests opened Loyola College, now the Loyola campus of Concordia, in 1916 the student chapel was housed in the east wing basement of the junior or high school building (now the psychology building). Local residents from western NDG and Montreal West soon began attending mass in the chapel, and in 1917, this became the St. Ignatius of Loyola mission.

In 1933, the **Smith family** built the Loyola College chapel building and basement hall on Sherbrooke Street, which St. Ignatius parishioners shared with the college, the high school and the Jesuit communities. In the 1960s it became obvious the parish was outgrowing its facilities, so plans were made to build the current church building on West Broadway. The iconic building was opened in 1966 and consecrated as the new parish church in 1967. In 1982 the Jesuits turned over the parish to the Archdiocese of Montreal, and, since that time, it has been led by diocesan priests. Fr. **Michael Leclerc**, a former MoWest resident, has been leading the parish since 2013 and was named pastor in 2016.

The parish has been an important part of western NDG, MoWest and Ville St. Pierre for 100 years. We look forward to building even more concrete ties to the broader community as we move into our second century.



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News from the pews

Please join us for our centennial celebrations on June 18. More info to come in the next issue of *The Informer*.

from Fr. Michael Leclerc

St. Philip's

Our 125th anniversary celebrations draw to a close with the celebration of the Feast of St. Philip and St. James on Sunday, May 7. Thank you to all who participated in our activities, contributed to the "125 for 125 Campaign" for the interior restoration of the tower, and shared memories. We have produced a commemorative booklet, and still have a few copies available for anyone interested.

The annual spring fair (formerly Book and Bake Sale) is Saturday, May 13. New this year are extended hours – doors now open at 9 am to accommodate all those seasoned yard sale shoppers who map out their day's travels. Same delicious baked goods, broad selection of used books, plus a dozen or so craft vendors (jewelry, art, blankets, knitting and much more), a yard sale with just about everything, and Fr. Jim's hot dog stand. And if you would like to clean out your attic or basement and make some cash in the process, you can rent a table for just \$25.

On Friday, June 9, gospel duo *Infinitely More* will be back for a concert. We hosted them about five years ago and had a wonderful evening with them. See next month's *Informer* for more details on time and ticket price.

Finally, our refugee family have passed their interview with Canadian consular officials and have been approved. Now they just need to wait for the required security checks and have medical examinations. An arrival date sometime in the fall is more and more likely!

MW Presbyterian

At the time of writing, Easter weekend is fast approaching. Our Easter Sunday service will be especially joyous. Easter Communion will be served and three baptisms will take place.

Looking back

Our card party was a tremendous success. We had a sold-out attendance and we thank all of our loyal supporters.

We send a big thank you to the children of our congregation for their enthusiastic participation in our Palm Sunday service.

It's a boy

Ryan Lekunze, infant son of **Ivo Lekunze** and **Claudine Abangma**, was born on March 26. Congratulations to Ryan and his proud parents.

Reminder

We look forward to seeing many of you at our spring sale and BBQ on Saturday, May 27 from 9:30 am-2 pm. Weather permitting, it will be held outside on the church lawn. However, don't forget to ask if there are any items being sold in the church hall.

Ongoing

Prayer Night: 4th Friday of the month.
Bible Study: Wednesdays, 7 pm in the church parlour. Ballantyne entrance.

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

Hope the Easter Bunny was good to you.

from Janet Dimock



MW 50+ Club

May

- 3** The Ghost of the Carricks: An Irish Famine Odyssey in Rural Quebec by **Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin** CANADA 150
- 5** *Cinco de Mayo* tea party
- 9** Diners' Club: *ALEP*
- 15** Coffee with a Cop – 10 am FREE (breakfast and prizes)
- 17** Trip to Ottawa: a tour of Vimy exhibit at the War Museum, a guided tour of Ottawa. the tulip festival and lunch

23 Movie matinée: *Hidden Figures* (2016)

30 Bridge

June

- 2** *Cirque du Soleil: Volta*, show time: 4:30 pm
- 28** Upper Canada Playhouse: *Barefoot in the Park* by **Neil Simon**

Overnight trips

Stratford and Shaw Festivals
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Le printemps est là. Passez nous voir!

Quelle joie de retrouver le printemps! La verdure revient enjoliver le parc Strathearn, les oiseaux sèment la gaieté sur leur passage et le soleil illumine notre décor aux couleurs fraîches. Lorsque vous sortirez prendre l'air et admirer les jardins fleuris de notre charmante petite ville, faites un détour pour venir nous saluer et fureter parmi nos rayons. Vous adorerez votre visite!

Merci à nos bénévoles si impliqués!

Comme à tous les mois de mai, nous offrons une petite célébration à nos bénévoles pour les remercier de nous aider à mieux servir notre communauté. De septembre à

juin, nous pouvons compter sur leur aide, semaine après semaine, pour assurer le service au comptoir de prêt durant les visites de classe. Une équipe effectue également la réparation des livres et apprête les nouveaux exemplaires avant la mise en circulation.

Our wonderful volunteers are the heart and soul of the library! Their smiling faces greet everyone who enters, and their help is invaluable in getting the books off the shelves and into the hands of eager readers. We'd like to thank all our library volunteers for their hard work and dedication!

Birthday books

To help you celebrate a special birthday, the library continues to offer our popular birthday book program. For a donation of

\$25, a book will be purchased and added to the collection in the name of your special birthday person. We'll include a commemorative bookplate and the birthday person will be the first to borrow the book! Drop by the library for more information.

Website

Thanks to our McGill practicum student, **Jane Hawco**, our wonderful new website is up and running, and looking great! Have a look and let us know what you think: mwcl.ca.

Encore plus de nouveautés

Nous avons acquis récemment un grand nombre de nouveaux livres que vos enfants apprécieront assurément. La section « point orange » s'est enrichie de nombreux titres pour lecteurs débutants, incluant des livres de *LEGO City*, *Mademoiselle Nancy* et *Pat le Chat*. Nous avons aussi une histoire tirée du film *Les Trolls* et quelques nouveautés de la série *National Geographic*. Et pour se renseigner encore davantage sur la nature, la nouvelle série *Cycle de vie* fait son apparition à la section étoile bleue. Abondamment illustrés et expliquant les étapes de développement des êtres vivants en termes simples, ces livres plairont assurément aux petits et aux grands.

Linda Wishart and Mary Thicke welcome readers at the reception desk



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Friday / vendredi
9:00-12:00; 13:30-17:00
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May 27

Community Centre

Learn the skills required to carry out babysitting duties.

Saturday, 9:30 am-4 pm. Cost: residents: \$60/non-residents: \$65

Community Centre Summer Programs

- Tiny Tots (2 to 4 years olds)
- Little Buddies (3½ to 5 years old)
- Les Amis (5 to 7 years old) Full
- Kidz Klub (7 to 9 years old)
- Kidz Klub (10-12 years olds)
- Creative Adventures (2 to 4 years olds)
- Summerfest (5 to 7 years old)

Summer programs run for eight weeks starting June 26. Extended care is available for an extra cost.

NEW: Skatepark rental! Outdoor Express, TRX outdoors and more.

For more information go to montreal-west.ca/registration or call **484-6186**.

Special Events

Our first outdoor event is coming soon:

Tuesday, May 30

Community Night

and **Children's Dance Festival**

We'll have demos from our ballet and hip hop dancers, face painting, arts and crafts, BBQ and more. 6-8 pm.

Info: montreal-west.ca, **484-6186**

- **Tuesday, June 6: Pet Night**
- **Tuesday, June 13: Multicultural Night**

If you want to get involved in Community Night, Pet Night, Multicultural Night or Art in the Park, please contact **Marian Scully** mmscully@montreal-west.ca or **484-1610**.

Events are cancelled in case of rain.

Like our facebook.com/montrealwest page for updates or sign up for the Town Bulletin on our website: montreal-ouest.ca/en/subscribe-to-bulletin/.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the volunteers from *Villa Maria* and *Loyola* who made our Cotton Tail Party a success!

Pool

Summer is quickly approaching, and that means the pool is getting ready to open! Our managers **Rowan Fletcher** and **Mat Canuel** are excited to welcome everyone to the pool for another great summer. They are joined by assistant managers **Kristin Zavaglia** and **Soraya Kamen** (or **Soso** as everyone calls her).

After a fantastic season last year, our head coaches **Justine Mitchell** and **Phoebe Hirtle-Kattou** are returning to direct the swim team again this summer. They are already busy designing challenging practices for their swimmers, and they have some fun activities up their sleeves too. Keep an eye out for this year's Confederation Swim Meet, in honour of Canada 150! All pool members are encouraged to try out the swim team during our free trial from June 5-22. Practices run Monday through Thursday, 5-6 pm.

Diving program

Our diving program is expanding this year after record high enrolment last summer. Swimmers of all skills are encouraged to join our team and experience the fun! Our skilled coaches, led by returning head coach **Catherine Rendel-Green**, are excited to welcome you into the diving family. This year there are three levels for diving: development 1 (ages 6-8), development 2 (ages 8-10) and advanced (11+). The first levels will help swimmers gain confidence jumping and diving from the side of the pool and the diving board. In the advanced class, experienced divers will learn more complex and technical dives. All divers are encouraged to participate in the weekly meets held on Sunday mornings. Remember to sign up early, as this program always reaches capacity!

Swim to Survive

We are also excited to announce a new program this summer: Swim to Survive. This intensive course teaches children aged 8-12 basic emergency swimming skills. Children will learn how to survive a fall into water, how to tread water and how to swim to safety. As you get ready for summer plans that include going to the beach or lake, make sure that your child has the basic water safety skills to stay safe. Swim to Survive takes place from June 9-22, Monday-Thursday, 4-5 pm. Registration is \$30 and is open to members and non-members of the pool.

Sign up for all pool programs can be done online on Amilia at montreal-west.ca/en/registration. If you have questions about the pool, please email us at pool@montreal-west.ca or call the Community Centre at **484-6186**.

Call to all MoWest artists

Art in the Park will be held on Tuesday, July 18 in Davies Park in conjunction with *La fête Klezmer*. This is an outdoor exhibit, organized by the Recreation and Culture Department and is dedicated to encouraging the growth and development of art and creativity in our community.

Artists (painters, photographers, sculptors, etc.) are invited to exhibit and sell their artwork during the event at no cost and will be provided with a table and a designated area in the park. The event is open to applicants who are residents or merchants of Montreal West. The Artist Application Form can be found at the Community Centre and on our website montreal-west.ca. Application deadline is Friday, June 16. For more information call **484-6186** or contact Marian Scully by email: mmscully@montreal-west.ca.

Youth artists' showcase

If you are or know an artist who is between the ages of 5 and 17 and is a MoWest resident, this is for you. The Recreation Department is looking for talented painters, sculptors, collagists and general artists to display their work during the children's showcase at the Town Hall this summer. If you are interested, the application form can be found at montreal-west.ca or you can contact **Marian Scully** at mmscully@montreal-west.ca or **484-1610**. The deadline for applications is June 1.

Pieces must be ready to hang with wire or frame. Pieces that do not require hanging must be ready for display.

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CALL FOR ANY BOOK IN PRINT

Town Council Meetings: March



by Carol Foster

The Mayor reviewed the statistical details of the Recreation Centre Survey. He also reviewed the answers to many of the comments received on this survey. This information has been made available on the Town's website. Two more government grants have been received. One is in the amount of \$1.4 million to repair infrastructure on sections of Brock and Ballantyne North. Another, in the amount of \$570,000, has been allocated to reconstruct a portion of Percival. The Mayor commented that the Town has been very fortunate to receive so many grants to allow ongoing crucial repairs.

First question period

Several residents had questions about the action Council will take now that it has the results of the survey in hand. The Mayor answered that the survey included some questions that will require further research by Council, but ultimately no further action will take place until the results of the grant application are received. If and when the grant is approved, Council will go back to the citizens for consultation on the fine tuning of the project.

Concerns were raised about how possible cost overruns, which will not be covered by the grant, will be dealt with. The Mayor explained the "design build" concept in which the builder is presented with a detailed plan of a project, names a price and then assumes responsibility for any cost over-runs.

Councillor Tasker-Brown added that although "unforeseen issues" will not be covered by the grant, the estimate the Town has received contains a generous contingency factor to handle such events. It is Council's job to anticipate problems and to ensure careful monitoring of the project as it proceeds. The Town already has a good track record for overseeing large projects while keeping within budget.

It was mentioned by others that the responses indicated a very thin margin of consensus and it was therefore crucial that further consultation with citizens occurred. Again, it was pointed out that no further action can be taken until the results of the grant application are known. Although Council is aware that the margin was thin, Councillor Tasker-Brown made it clear that Council was heartened by the above-average response rate which indicated a high level of interest. She added that a committee of citizens would be formed to help guide the project should it go ahead.

A Ballantyne North resident felt that if steps were taken to reduce the existing tax burden already levied upon the Town's res-

idents, the approval rate might have been higher. It was his personal belief that one way the Town could reduce its expenses would be to reduce some of the cost of snow removal by blowing it onto home owners' lawns rather than carting it away.

Councillors Torres, Tasker-Brown and the Mayor all weighed in with responses to this suggestion. There are many factors determining the method of snow removal used. They include time spent, damage to property, actual savings provided and the citizens' level of service expectations. It was agreed that a proper balance of all these factors has to be considered in the final solution.

Thanking Council for finding a way to finally fund the infrastructure work on Ballantyne North, a resident living on that street asked what the anticipated timeline would look like. If all goes well, was the answer from the Mayor, the project will go to tender in a few weeks. This will be followed by a meeting with the supervising engineer and residents living in the area to have the schedule explained and any problems explored. The work could then be expected to begin no sooner than mid-May and finish by fall before frost sets in.

Councillors' reports

Councillor Torres was the first Councillor to report and she emphasized the efficiency of the recent clearing of over 30 centimetres of snow by the Public Works staff. She pointed out that this efficiency is the envy of many residents living in neighbouring municipalities.

In addition to this annual winter effort, repairs were made to a broken water main, a sinkhole and various potholes. Trees were trimmed, large debris was picked up and staff is working on preparing summer equipment.

Residents, once again, were encouraged to participate in the Tuesday recycling pickups. Councillor Tasker-Brown noted that MoWest was far below the average in other Towns in this initiative. Work continues on attempts to simplify and clarify the bylaws relating to permit requirements. In particular the distinctions between maintenance (no permit required) and renovation (permit always required) were emphasized. On a happy note for some owners, the permitted size of decks has been increased.

Councillor Ulin described the many events planned by the Recreation Department and made special mention of the popularity of the March Break offerings. The summer Tuesday Evenings in the Park events will be moved from Davies Park to Strathearn Park this year due to ongoing renovations to the Davies Park playground.

A meeting to address the city of Montreal's property assessment rolls was quite

successful and contestation information is available in the Town Hall according to Councillor Feeney. Claude Gilbert is now the Acting Director General of the Town, replacing Stephan Delude and has his hands full as he also retains his other duties as Town Clerk.

As is her custom, **Councillor Feeney** gave a breakdown of the Town's expenses for the past month, noting that approximately \$100,000 has been spent on keeping the streets and sidewalks safe during winter conditions. Flashing crosswalk signage has now been installed on the Community Centre crosswalk, overnight parking tolerance will be in effect during the Easter and Passover holidays and spring leaf blowing will be permitted during the last two weeks of April. Hours are available on the Town's website.

Councillor Feeney ended her report by rueing the departure of PSO Simon-Pierre Marcil who was one of the 11 successful candidates (out of 800 applicants) selected to join the police force. Mr. Marcil's achievement was met with a round of applause.

There being no further questions related to items on this meeting's agenda, the meeting was then adjourned.



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Réunions du Conseil : mars



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Le maire a révisé les détails statistiques du sondage sur le centre récréatif. Il a aussi revu les réponses à plusieurs des commentaires exprimés. Ces renseignements sont disponibles sur le site Web de la Ville. Deux autres octrois gouvernementaux ont été reçus, dont un de 1,4 million de dollars pour réparer les infrastructures dans des portions de Brock et Ballantyne Nord et l'autre, de 570 000 \$, devant servir à reconstruire une partie de Percival. Le maire a commenté que la Ville était très chanceuse de recevoir autant de subventions permettant de poursuivre des réparations essentielles.

Première période de questions

Plusieurs résidents avaient des questions concernant les actions du Conseil maintenant qu'il a en mains les résultats du sondage. Le maire a répondu que certaines questions exigeront plus de recherche de la part du Conseil, mais qu'en bout du compte, aucune action ne sera entreprise avant réception de la réponse à la demande de subvention. Lorsque la demande sera approuvée, si elle l'est, le Conseil consultera à nouveau les citoyens quant au peaufinage du projet.

Des préoccupations concernant la gestion de possibles dépassements de coûts non couverts par la subvention ont été soulevées. Le maire a expliqué la notion « conception-construction » où l'on présente un plan détaillé du projet à un constructeur qui fait alors connaître son prix et assume la responsabilité de tout dépassement.

La **conseillère Tasker-Brown** ajouta que même si le subside ne couvre pas les « imprévus » l'estimation que la Ville a obtenue comporte de généreux facteurs de contingence pour de tels imprévus. C'est le travail du Conseil d'anticiper les problèmes et d'assurer une surveillance prudente du projet en cours de réalisation. La Ville possède un bon dossier de supervision de grands projets tout en respectant les budgets.

D'autres ont mentionné que les réponses indiquaient un bien mince consensus et qu'il était dès lors crucial de consulter davantage les citoyens. Encore une fois, il fut spécifié qu'aucune autre action ne serait entreprise avant d'obtenir réponse à la demande de subvention. Bien que le Conseil soit conscient de l'étroitesse de la marge, la conseillère Tasker-Brown a affirmé que le taux de réponse au-delà de la moyenne, indiquant un fort niveau d'intérêt, encourageait le Conseil. Elle a indiqué qu'un comité de citoyens piloterait le projet s'il devait aller de l'avant.

Un résident de Ballantyne Nord a déclaré que si l'on avait pris les moyens de réduire le fardeau fiscal perçu des citoyens de la ville, le taux d'approbation aurait pu être plus grand. Il croyait qu'une façon pour la Ville de réduire ses dépenses serait de diminuer le coût d'enlèvement de la neige en la soufflant sur les terrains avant des propriétés plutôt que de la transporter.

Les conseillères Torres et Tasker-Brown et le maire ont répondu à cette suggestion. De nombreux facteurs influent sur le choix des moyens d'enlever la neige. Ils incluent le temps à y consacrer, les dommages aux propriétés, les économies réelles et le niveau de service auquel les citoyens s'attendent. Il fut convenu que la solution finale doit tenir compte de l'équilibre de tous ces facteurs.

Tout en remerciant le Conseil d'avoir trouvé le moyen de finalement financer les travaux d'infrastructure sur Ballantyne Nord, un résident de cette rue a demandé quel serait l'échéancier des travaux. Le maire a répondu que si tout va bien, le projet ira en appel d'offres dans quelques semaines. Une rencontre entre l'ingénieur-surveillant et les résidents du secteur suivra pour expliquer le calendrier et examiner les problèmes. On pourrait s'attendre à ce que les travaux ne débutent pas plus tôt qu'à la mi-mai pour se terminer à l'automne, avant que le gel s'installe.

Rapport des conseillères

La conseillère Torres fut la première à présenter son rapport et elle insista sur l'efficacité des Travaux publics pour le déneigement de plus de 30 centimètres dernièrement. Elle nota que cette efficacité fait l'envie de nombreux résidents de municipalités avoisinantes.

En plus de cet effort hivernal annuel, on a réparé une conduite principale d'aqueduc, un affaissement de la chaussée et des nids-de-poule. Le personnel a émondé des arbres, enlevé de gros débris et s'affaire à préparer l'équipement estival.

La conseillère Tasker-Brown a à nouveau incité les résidents à participer à la cueillette du recyclage du mardi. Elle a noté que Mo-Ouest se situe nettement sous la moyenne d'autres villes sur ce point. Le travail se poursuit pour simplifier et clarifier les règlements relatifs aux exigences de permis, particulièrement quant aux distinctions entre entretien (permis non requis) et rénovation (permis toujours requis). Sur une note réjouissante pour certains propriétaires, on a augmenté les dimensions permises pour les terrasses.

La **conseillère Ulin** a décrit les nombreux événements planifiés par le service des Loisirs et mentionné spécifiquement la popularité des offres pendant la semaine de

relâche. Les mardis soir dans le parc déménageront du parc Davies au parc Strathearn cet été, en raison des rénovations qui se poursuivront au terrain de jeux du parc Davies.

Une rencontre d'information sur le rôle d'évaluation foncière de la Ville de Montréal a bien fonctionné et des renseignements sur la contestation sont disponibles à l'hôtel de ville, selon la **conseillère Feeney**. **Claude Gilbert** occupe, par intérim, le poste de directeur général de la Ville, en remplacement de **Stephan Dulude**; il a les mains bien pleines puisqu'il conserve aussi ses fonctions de greffier.

À son habitude, madame Feeney a ventilé les dépenses de la Ville du mois précédent, signalant qu'environ 100 000 \$ avaient été affectés à garder les rues et trottoirs sécuritaires au cours de l'hiver. Un signal clignotant est maintenant en fonction au passage piétonnier du centre communautaire, on fera preuve de tolérance pour le stationnement pendant la période de la pâque juive et de Pâques et il sera permis de souffler les feuilles mortes au cours des deux dernières semaines d'avril. Les heures sont indiquées sur le site Web de la Ville.

Mme Feeney a conclu son rapport en déplorant le départ de l'ASP **Simon-Pierre Marcil** qui est un des 11 candidats (sur 800) sélectionnés pour se joindre à la force policière. Des applaudissements ont souligné la réussite de monsieur Marcil.

Aucune autre question relative à des points à l'ordre du jour n'étant posée, la séance a été levée.



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COMING EVENTS

Please call the editor: Heather at 489-7022

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Next deadline: May 10

MAY

- Fri 5 St-Pierre River ride.** Follows the course of the most important inland river on the island of Montreal from where it is visible on the Meadowbrook golf course to Pointe-à-Callière. Danielle Plamondon, featured in *Lost Rivers*, will give you insights of what 's underground and the environmental effects. Louise will discuss the river's cultural evolution through its topography. One-way 30-km bike trip with optional return by metro. Duration: four hours, numerous stops. Bring water, lunch. Helmets recommended. Meet at Sheraton Park/Côte Saint-Luc Road. Info: Louise Chênevert, LRChenevert@gmail.com, 464-9094. Danielle 937-3359. Talk: 10:30; departure 11. RSVP REQUIRED
- Sat 6 Book Browse Plus.** MW United. The sale includes used books, CD, DVDs and baked goods at very reasonable prices. If you want to donate books, CDs or DVDs, please drop them off at the church. No reference books please. 9:30 am-3 pm.
St-Pierre River ride. Please see Friday, May 5 above. 2 pm.
- Sun 7 Native Tree Walk.** The 90-minute walk will take you on an easy 1.5 km route around the Town to visit a few dozen native trees. Learn to identify them and their ecological benefits. Sample tree beverages, visit photo display and specimen table. Meet at St. Phillip's Church, 3400 Connaught. Info: Louise Chênevert at 464-9094 or LRChenevert@gmail.com. Morning talk at 10 am, walk at 10:30 am-noon or afternoon talk at 12:30 pm, walk at 1-3:30.
Falaise St-Jacques. Guided by Patrick Asch, biologist and founder of *Heritage Laurentien*. Discover the biodiversity of this eco-territory and its importance as a wildlife corridor. Meet at Madison/St-Jacques. Duration: two hours. Info: Lisa Mintz at l-mintz@hotmail.com or 438-877-2470. 11 am.
- Sat 13 Spring fair.** St. Philip's. 9 am-3 pm.
Grannies for Good bazaar (women's clothing, new and slightly used). fundraiser for the *Grandmothers' Campaign* of the *Stephen Lewis Foundation*. Westmount Park United Church. Info: Miriam Byers, 488-9763. 10 am to 6 pm.
- Wed 17 Informer's board meeting.** Block Tower. All welcome. 7 pm.
- Thu 25 Municipal taxes due** (second installment)
Échéance: taxes municipales (deuxième versement)
Coffee with the mayor. Community Centre. 7:30 am.
- Sat 27 Spring sale and BBQ.** MW Presbyterian. For info, please call the church office at 484-7913. 9:30 am-2 pm.
- Sun 28 Sunday school closing.** MW United. Hot dogs follow service. 10 am
- Mon 29 Town Council meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.
- Tue 30 Community Night and Children's Dance Festival.** Strathearn Park. 6-8 pm.
Evening Labyrinth Walk. Wadsworth Hall. MW United. 7-9 pm.
- ## JUNE
- Sat 3 Rotary Club of Montreal Westward's Lobsterfest.** Please see page 5.
- Tue 6 Pet Night.** Strathearn Park. 6 pm.

Composting in MW: I M P A C T S

In Montreal, the city's commitment to environmental sustainability led to the creation of the Metropolitan Waste Management Plan 2015-2020. One objective of this plan is to divert 60% compostable waste from landfills by 2025, with the eventual aim of banning organic waste from landfills. To fulfill this commitment, the Town introduced a household organic waste pickup program in 2013. Since then, we've achieved a diversion rate of approximately 35%, but we can do better!

By reducing our contribution to landfills, we are improving soil, water and air quality. Landfills produce leachate, a type of contaminated water that arises from decomposing garbage, which pollutes the soil and can enter water systems. Moreover, the anaerobic (without oxygen) decomposition of organic material in landfills produces large amounts of methane, a very potent greenhouse gas. Composting not only reduces pollution but also contributes to the revitalization of our natural environment, through use as a natural fertilizer and by reducing soil erosion.

An added benefit under Montreal's current waste plan is financial: MoWest receives a rebate from the city based on the percentage of diverted waste per capita. The rebate, however, is expected to end in three years. Considering that the amount of space available for landfills is decreasing, and that the cost of waste transportation and disposal is increasing, let's make the most of the rebate while it lasts!

Whether it's through the Town's home pickup service, backyard composting (vermicomposting, anyone?) or composting at Town events, you can do your part to make your local and global community greener.

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