

THE INFORMER

Montreal West Viewpaper

January-February 2019, Vol. 47, No. 1

Photo: Kathy Nye



Peggy Wadsworth Parkes and Esther Kalan Nye:

Teaching generations of MoWest children

by Maurice Krystal

We met at **Esther Nye's** house. There was a jungle feel to the living room as much of the decor was covered in leopard skin print. Like her setting, Esther is bold and extraverted. **Peggy Parkes** is quieter and serious. Together they have taught multi generations of MoWesters.

continued on page 6



Photo: Nolan Ganz

CP Holiday Train

The *CP Holiday Train* rolled into Town on November 27 for the fifth year. It makes over 100 stops from British Columbia to Quebec and at least as many in the U.S. In 2014, **Mayor Massella** was instrumental in having it stop here, and our event has been growing every year and that is a good thing, as *CP*'s destination decisions are based on community participation.

Purpose

The focus of the *Holiday Train* is to raise awareness of hunger and the needs of food banks. Not only do they encourage donations, *CP* itself makes a generous one at each stop. In our case, the money went to *Le*

Depot Community Food Centre.

Before the train arrived, the crowd was entertained by a mascot and the Royal West Honour Band. *Meals-on-Wheels* volunteers manned a BBQ, the Girl Guides sold cookies, and the Honour Band sold hot chocolate. Volunteers from the *Food Depot* and *Meals-on-Wheels* circulated to collect donations.

MoWesters and people from the surrounding area had a good time, and the coffers of both organizations received a welcome boost. The *Food Depot* and *Meals-on-Wheels* owe a debt of gratitude to the Town and the Recreation Department.

from Sue Sladen

Notre nouveau site web! Our new website!

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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
January 30

Montréal-Ouest lance son nouveau site Web!

La Ville de Montréal-Ouest est fière d'annoncer le lancement de son nouveau site Web. Le nouveau site facilitera la communication et la diffusion d'information entre les services municipaux et nos résidents, tout en présentant un aperçu de notre superbe communauté à ceux qui ne sont pas familiers avec notre ville.

Le nouveau design de la page d'accueil met l'accent sur la fonction de recherche et présente un menu réorganisé plus facile et intuitif à naviguer, vous permettant de trouver ce que vous cherchez en quelques clics seulement! Conçu comme site web réactif, vous pouvez le visiter sur tout appareil électronique, y compris les téléphones intelligents et les tablettes.

L'actualisation du site Web nous a permis d'ajouter de nouvelles fonctionnalités, notamment:

- Une nouvelle carte interactive de la ville
- Des formulaires en lignes afin que les résidents puissent soumettre des demandes de permis et de services en tout temps
- Un nouveau calendrier amélioré qui servira de guichet unique pour tous les événements et les dates limites de la Ville

Nous sommes certains que vous allez apprécier l'impressionnante refonte du site Web. Assurez-vous aussi d'être inscrit au e-bulletin complètement revampé. Vous ne voulez pas manquer nos messages concernant les dates limites de paiement, les fermetures de rues, les détails d'événements, et beaucoup plus. Inscrivez-vous à partir de la page d'accueil du site dès maintenant.

Montreal West launches its new website!

The Town of Montreal West is proud to announce the launch of its new website. This new gateway makes it easier for municipal services to communicate up-to-date information with you while also serving as a sneak peek into our unique community for those who might not be familiar with us.

The attractive new homepage emphasizes the search function and features a revamped menu system that prioritizes ease of use and a more intuitive way to browse; so you can find what you're looking for with just a few clicks! The site is also designed to be fully responsive, making it easy to view on any type of device, including smartphones and tablets.

Updating the site has also allowed us to add some handy new features including:

- An interactive map of the Town
- Online forms for residents to apply for permits or put in service requests 24/7/365
- An improved, one-stop-shop calendar that highlights all important Town events and deadlines.

We know you'll appreciate this impressive website overhaul. And please ensure you're subscribed to the revamped e-bulletin. You won't want to miss the up-to-date info it sends out about tax deadlines, road closures, event details and more. You can subscribe via our new homepage. Do it today!

West End Quilters

Block of the Month quilt

The *West End Quilters* are back after the Christmas holidays with perhaps a lot of quilting done. We start the year with a Block of the Month quilt. Every month we will receive instructions for a different block and next December those who

participate will have a quilt.

We are also making log cabin squares in red and white with a yellow centre to be put together at the *Canadian Quilters' Association Show, Quilt Canada*, in Ottawa, June 12-15. These quilts will be given to injured veterans by *Quilts of Valour*.

One of our members, **Monique Covell**, wants to make a quilt to raise money for cancer research. She has cross stitched angel blocks of all colours and guild members will add fabric borders to put together for a quilt. So we are busy.

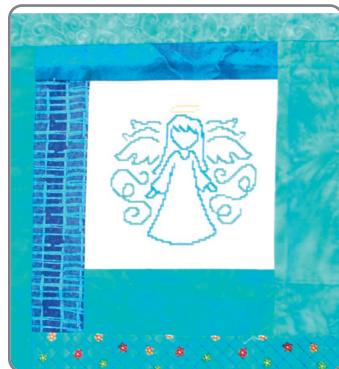
We would like to thank **Marie Crossen**, a former member, and her daughter **Rachel**



for their donation to the guild of quilting books. They have been put to good use.

For information on the guild please contact **Mary**, marys-dogbob@gmail.com.

from Mary Sutherland





Traditional dry stone walling

MON
February
18

John Bland, a dry stone waller, is the Horticultural Society's February speaker. John studied heritage masonry at Algonquin College and subsequently received valuable experience working alongside master dry stone waller craftsmen from the UK. His craft applies traditional century-old techniques fitting stones together without the use of cement or mortar. Bland, who lives, breathes and dreams stone, uses nature as his inspiration.

This presentation will take place, Monday, February 18, 7:30, at the Town Hall. Come one, come all, and spend a cosy and entertaining, not to mention informative, evening; refreshments will be served. Admission is \$5, or \$20 for all of 2019.

Anyone wishing to pay their 2019 membership ahead of the February meeting, may send their \$20 to **Philippa Vikander**, 3495 Trenholme Ave, Montreal, H4B 1X8.

from Sue Sladen

Curzon Creative Preschool

The *Preschool* recently hosted its 16th annual auction and fundraiser. Organized by *Curzon* parent volunteers, it was a wonderful evening filled with live music, incredible food, flowing drinks and plenty of community spirit! The event was a great success, raising funds to support the operating costs of *Curzon*, a cooperative preschool, part of the MW community for over 50 years.

A very special thank you to the main sponsors: *Pochiche, Emma Boutique Gourmande* and *Local 75*. The support and participation of so many MoWest businesses and people is what allows this night to be such a fun and successful event, year after year! Thank you to *MW United Church, Marché des fleurs Westminster, Pharmaprix, MoWest Fire Station, Action Sport Physio, Kammys, Burger de Ville, Shanti Yoga, Sheila Caplan, Joe Beef, Destination Sleep, Meadowbrook Golf Club, Dr. John Drummond* and *Ferme de l'Île*.

For more information about the school, please visit curzonschool.com.

from Andrea Dolan

Le Jardin d'Enfants
Curzon
Creative Preschool



EMPLOYMENT Recreation and Culture

Submit a cover letter and résumé to the:

John A. Simms Community Centre
8 Westminster Ave South
Montreal West, QC
H4X 1Y5

or via email:

[ckeарney@montreal-west.ca](mailto:ckearney@montreal-west.ca) to the
attention of **Christopher Kearney**.

Application deadline:
January 31, 4 pm

Pool Manager

(May 21-September 16)

Assistant Pool Managers

(May 21-September 16)

Head Swim Team Coach

(May 21-September 16)

Day Camp Coordinator

(June 3-August 30)

Day Camp Section Heads

(June 3-August 30)

Application deadline:
February 18, 4 pm

Lifeguards

(May 24-September 16)

Wading Pool Attendants

(June-August)

Application deadline:
March 15, 4 pm

Day Camp Counsellors

(June 25-August 16)

Community Centre Counsellors, full and part time

(June 17-August 16)

Pool Gate Attendants

(June 1-September 16)



Singers wanted!



The *Montreal West-End Operatic Society* is seeking singers as it begins its 80th season. We sing a variety of opera, folk and popular songs. Interested singers should contact **Heather Lewis** at music.director@mwsos.org

The Society is a non-profit community-based theatrical company. Our goal is to entertain audiences with the enchanting music and wit of English operetta, namely the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, while giving back to the community.

As a charitable organization, *MWOS* has raised more than \$105,000 for the *Montreal Children's Hospital* and its foundation.

Our company produces musical revues, concerts and fully-staged productions. For our concert, we will be performing a diverse program which entails many genres including grand opera, folk songs, as well as Broadway.

from Donna Pinsky

ART ETC. 2018

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

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

Special thanks to **Joyce Teiber** and the entire *Horticultural Society* and to the *Children's Library* for their hard work in making the Tea Room such a success and for pro-

viding us with a space to hold our general meeting with the artisans. The Tea Room and Café are such an integral part of our show and adds to the welcoming ambiance.

An enormous thank you to **Deborah Marcogliese**, Head Librarian of the *Public Library* for providing us with a space to hold our general meeting with the artisans.

We'd also like to thank the MoWest community for their continued participation. By visiting and bringing friends and family, you are contributing to the success of the show.

If you would like to participate as an artisan in our November 2019 show, please send our committee an email stating your interest and either send us photos of your work or links to your website or etsy store to the following email artetcmontréalwest@gmail.com. The deadline is Friday, February 15.

from Cate Gregory

MADA 'bout seniors

The MoWest Age-Friendliness Survey was mailed out to residents 60 years of age and over in mid-November. The survey is based on eight principal factors that are identified by the *World Health Organization (WHO)* as central to a municipality's age-friendliness.

In all, 1294 surveys were sent out to 800 households, and 424 residents responded. Factoring in address changes, the response rate of approximately 33-34% is considered very good, particularly since the survey took about 30 minutes to complete and had to be returned by hand. In addition, 40 residents participated in six different focus groups, where these and other issues were discussed in more depth.

The *MADA (Municipalité amie des aînés)* Steering Committee met in December to review the notes from the focus groups and was encouraged by the enthusiasm of the group leaders and the involvement of our seniors. Some of the topics which arose included granny flat dwellings, recreational drop-in "fun passes" for seniors, dissemination of information, the need for benches and even a pub! We do have an enthusiastic, highly sociable group of seniors in Montreal West! I would like to thank all the residents who took the time to complete the survey and those who participated in the focus groups. Your input is vital and most appreciated.

Residents who completed the survey were eligible for two prizes of \$100 gift certificates. The draw was done at the meeting, and the winners were **François Brunet** of Ballantyne N. and **Howard Schwartz** of Sheraton Drive. Congratulations!

We are extremely pleased that resident Dr. **Christina Wolfson**, Principal Investigator of the *Canadian Longitudinal Study*

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February 14
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on Aging, and her team at the study's Statistical Analysis Centre at McGill have offered to analyze the results of the survey. We will set up a public consultation meeting in the spring once the analysis is complete so that all interested residents can hear the results and provide input to the Town on our plan of action.

Colleen Feeney
Chair, MADA Steering Committee
feeney@montreal-west.ca

NDG Senior Citizens' Council

The *NDG Senior Citizens' Council (NDGSAC)* is a non-profit community organization situated in MoWest, which is dedicated to improving the quality of life of low-income older adults (50 plus). We are

a unique organization due the fact that we not only provide services, we also work to change the conditions of older people's lives through collective action and supporting social justice initiatives.

Our services are aimed at older people living in MoWest, NDG and some small sections of Côte Saint-Luc. These services provide both home support and help to alleviate the effects of living below the poverty line. Here are just some of the services we provide:

- **Medical transportation** to medical appointments such as pre- and post-operative appointments and cancer treatments. Where needed, we also provide accompaniment.
- **Boomer Café:** On Mondays, we hold a drop-in centre that offers free yoga classes, a healthy meal, a monthly household and clothing exchange, outings, as well as other educational and social opportunities.
- **Day Away:** Our Day Away Program takes place on Thursdays and provides a day of stimulating and healthy activities with a hot, nourishing lunch. This program is for people of an advanced age. Transportation is included.
- **Tax clinic:** Our annual tax clinic includes onsite services as well as a clinic for people who are homebound. This year's clinic operates from mid-March to mid-April. Please call for an appointment from February 13 onwards.

NDGSAC provides a sense of belonging and restores hope to individuals who might otherwise remain invisible in society. If you would like more information about us or to volunteer, please call us at **487-1311** or contact us through ndgsac.ca or our Facebook page.

We welcome your participation in our community.

from Shari Polowin



KEITH MARTIN

Bike ride for Muscular Dystrophy



Our speaker on Thursday, December 13 was **Keith Martin**. Keith is a volunteer for *Muscular Dystrophy* and came to talk to us about the coolest thing he has ever done.

He rode a bike across Canada to raise money and awareness about muscular dystrophy. Keith has a form of muscular dystrophy. He is currently working on his masters of engineering in renewable energy. *Muscular Dystrophy Canada's* goal is to ensure that people with the disease can lead a more active, self-sufficient and fulfilling life. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to finding a cure for the disease.

The bike ride took place 10 years ago and there were five people each riding a

bike. Keith along with friends **Brian, Mike, Pat** and **Jonathan** decided to bike from the West Coast to the East Coast and to raise money to find a cure for the disease. They started out after eight months of planning by dipping the back tires of their bikes in the Pacific Ocean in Tofino, British Columbia. The Rockies were amazing. They could not tell how steep the hills were by looking at them. The only way was to look back at them after the climb and also you could feel it in your legs.

MD Canada was very supportive and they tried to line things up for when they were not riding. The Prairies are very flat and they slept in a bird watching tower in Saskatchewan and talked to high school students while there. They saw moose in Ontario and stopped at the Terry Fox Memorial just east of Thunder Bay. He highly recommends to stop and check it out if you are ever in Thunder Bay. Keith said Lake Superior lives up to its name as it is big and they enjoyed racing downhill around the lake.

Bombardier was a valued sponsor so they stopped at the plant in Toronto. The bikes were provided by *Specialized Bikes*. He got to see Ottawa and Parliament Hill for the first time. Montreal is home for him so he got to spend a night at his parents' home and they had a big BBQ. He also got to see Quebec City for the first time and, by coincidence, Paul McCartney was playing at the Plaines of Abraham the night they arrived so they got to take in the concert. In the Gaspé the local kids rode with them out of town. They ate lobster in Shédiac, New

Brunswick and showed us a picture of the Shédiac giant lobster monument. The last leg of the trip took them on a 24-hour ferry ride to Argentia, Newfoundland. After 85 days on the road they rolled into St John's harbour where many friends and family welcomed them. They dipped the front tires of their bikes into the Atlantic Ocean and then partied on George Street, St John's. Keith said because of the ride he was able to connect and inspire many people. He was also able to raise \$150,000. Keith and his mates live up to the Rotary motto "Service Above Self."

Coming Rotary Events

Thursday, January 24

Russell Copeman, Director of *The Bishop's Forum*, a Civic Leadership Institute for English-speaking youth

Friday, February 1

Open

Thursday, February 7

Open

Saturday, February 9

Valentine dinner/dance

Saturday, June 8

Lobsterfest

The Rotary Club of Montreal Westward is always looking to embrace new members. If you want to give back to your community, city, country or the world, Rotary is an excellent way. Rotary is a worldwide organization that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards and helps build goodwill and peace. There are 1.2 million Rotarians across the globe and that number is growing.

from Doug Yeats



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Peggy Wadsworth Parkes and Esther Kalan Nye:

continued from page 1

Peggy Wadsworth Parkes

Peggy, real name Margaret, was born in St. John, New Brunswick, but the family moved to Boston in 1937. Her father, Dr. **Campbell Wadsworth**, was a United Church minister and three years later was hired to lead the congregation in MoWest. Except for a 20-year period in Côte Saint-Luc, she has lived her entire adult life in our Town. Growing up in here with her twin sister, **Jean**, and her brother, **David**, the Town was safe and protective. Not only her parents, but also the whole congregation watched over them. It also meant she couldn't get away with much, especially if you had bright red hair and were easily identifiable. She remembered the streetcars on Westminster and walking in the middle of the streets, no public transportation beyond Parkside Ave and seeing soldiers marching up Westminster Ave on Sunday afternoons.

At first the family lived at 26 Nelson then moved to 330 Brock Ave. N and then, in 1950, to 159 Brock Ave. N. This house became the manse for many years. In 1941, Dr. Wadsworth held the first United Church Christmas Eve service in Montreal. Peggy is still active in the same church where she is an Elder, a Trustee and served as the Clerk of Session for ten years.

She went to Elizabeth Ballantyne School (EBS) and then MW High. When she was interviewed for a teaching position, she begged not to be placed in her old high school. She wanted to gain more independence away from where she grew up, but that was where she was posted and taught for 23 years. When the school closed to become Royal West, she was moved to her old elementary school where she taught for the next 19 years.

Esther Kalan Nye

Esther grew up in Ville Saint-Pierre and attended MW High. Her father, **Joseph Kalan**, owned greenhouses and a flower nursery located at their household. She remembers, as a child, the wooden sidewalks on St. Jacques Street. In 1948, her father bought property north of the Hump Bridge on the right hand side of Westminster to increase his nursery, and supervised the building of a house in 1952. The following year, Esther married **Wilfred Nye** and raised a family in the house her father built. The area was like being in the country. Her father made a cinder road, which is now Ballantyne Ave. N. The road was created to get from Garden Road to their house. There was water from a well and a septic tank. Fifty feet from the house flowed the St. Pierre River (though it was more of a brook). Only a small part of this river is now visible running through the Meadowbrook Golf Course. Esther Nye saw minnows, tadpoles, rabbits and beautiful birds in the area and both she and Peggy remember that during the winter **Mr. Bradley** came by with his horses and sled to clear the snow.

At 19 Esther began teaching in Central Park School in Lachine for her first seven years and then took a break for 12 years to raise her daughters, **Kathryn** and **Cheryl**. Both are now involved in the music industry. Kathryn told her principal that her mother was a teacher and that's when Esther was called to do substitute teaching. Soon after Esther met Diane Brooks, the new Principal at EBS, who asked her to take over the grade 1 class. She taught in Room 1 for the next 35 years. While teaching Esther obtained a BA degree (cum laude) in Fine Arts at Concordia while Peggy obtained her B.Ed. from McGill.

How they met

Exactly when Peggy and Esther first met is a bit vague, but Peggy's dad did christen

both of Esther's daughters. Both teachers retired a few years ago. Esther said she retired at 75 and is still very active. And just before retiring Peggy finally found the love she had been searching for and married local resident, **Tom Parkes**, a salesman for many years at **CJAD**. After leaving the radio station he began his own manufacturing company. Peggy had taught his four children, **Ty, Tim, Dawna and Brenda** and also knew his late wife.

The teachers at EBS were and remain a tightly knit group who support each other. After retirement many would meet four times a year, though lately it has become twice a year. Esther has had a difficult time recently having lost her husband two years ago. They were married 63 years and have always lived in Montreal West with their two girls. Esther says it was a marriage made in heaven. Wil was a WWII navy veteran and a Market Research Analyst for **RCA** and **Hitachi**.

Both Peggy and Esther agree that things have changed in schools since they started. The Whole Language approach may work in the older grades but not in grade 1. Students have to be told when a word is spelled wrong. Unlearning a mistake is even more challenging. Also years ago parents tended to whole-heartedly support teachers, but now there is a tendency to first back their children. Be that as it may, they both agreed that the many years of teaching was an amazing experience. Sometimes, while helping to dress children going home in the winter, a child would mistakenly call their teacher Mummy and they would be embarrassed. But both Peggy and Esther considered it a compliment. They see their ex students all over the place. Children's minds are like sponges, especially at the early levels. September to December often proved difficult but then, after the Christmas break, they just "got it!" And seeing young children's eyes light up when they "got it" made everything worthwhile.



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Un conseil des élèves UNIS dans l'action!

Nos jeunes du conseil des élèves amorceront la nouvelle année avec des actions qui porteront sur le développement durable et le Vivre ensemble en français. Les élèves proposeront des activités qui mettent en lumière l'importance de prendre soin de l'environnement. De plus, ensemble, nous allons réfléchir sur comment prendre plaisir à parler français et comment le français, langue commune de communication, peut nous apporter du plaisir à travers les arts et la littérature. À partir de cette réflexion, nous profiterons du mois de la Francophonie pour mettre en place différentes activités.

C'est déjà le temps de penser à la rentrée 2019-2020

Vous avez un enfant qui aura cinq ans au 30 septembre prochain? Vous pouvez l'inscrire

à la maternelle dès la première semaine de février. L'école offre des classes de maternelle régulière et accueil pour les élèves qui ne parlent pas le français. Nous aurons deux plages horaires pour les journées portes ouvertes de l'école : le mardi 22 janvier à 13 h 30 et le jeudi 24 janvier à 9 h 30. Vous devez réserver votre place à compter du lundi 14 janvier en communiquant avec le secrétariat de l'école : **369-6951**. La semaine officielle des inscriptions est le 4 février. Vous pourrez réserver votre rendez-vous pour l'inscription dès le 14 janvier. Les rendez-vous sont de jour et nous avons prévu une soirée, soit le mardi 5 février où nous serons ouverts jusqu'à 20 h 30.

Pour plus amples renseignements, visitez le site web de l'école au <https://desamisdu-monde.ecoleouestmtl.com>.

*Lina Fortin
Directrice*

IODE

Fun in February!

Friday, February 22 an afternoon card party and luncheon will be hosted by *IODE* members at the Town Hall. Party starts at noon with a light lunch and we'll wrap up at 3 pm. All for only \$10 per person. Bring your cards and supplies for your group of four players. For tickets, please call Janet at **484-2783** or **481-6523**.



This February our chapter will celebrate its 75th anniversary! Any former members or anyone with an *IODE* connection or interest is warmly welcome to join us in the celebration at the Community Centre on February 12 at 2 pm.

Our coming meetings will be held March 12 and April 9 at 2 pm in the Community Centre.

IODE is a Canadian charitable organization established in 1900. Today, *IODE* stands for Interested, Organized, Determined, Energetic women working to make the world a better place. Follow us on Instagram @iodehmsvictory

from Nadine Fenton

Royal West

30th Annual RWA Science Fair

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

RWA students will answer these and many others at the 30th annual Science Fair happening February 14 in the new gym.

In the morning, almost 400 students (grades 8-11) will present their projects to judges from both the academic and professional worlds. The Science Fair will be open to the public 11:30 am-12:30 pm and 7-8 pm. Students look forward to presenting their projects during this time as the pressure of official judging will be over.

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

For information, contact **Jennifer Pevec** at rwasciencefaircoordinator@gmail.com.



from Jennifer Pevec

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Hours/Horaire

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Thu/jeu : 9:00-20:00

Sat/Sun – sam/dim :10:00-15:00

mwcl@videotron.ca

mwcl.ca

484-7194



La lecture en cadeau

Notre collecte de livres neufs a été fructueuse! Les livres recueillis ont pris le chemin de la *Fondation pour l'alphabétisation*, où une équipe préparera les envois destinés à plus de 550 établissements voués à l'éducation des enfants. Notre ancienne bénévole, **Stéphanie Beaumier**, participera à cette tâche. Tout ce beau travail sera couronné en mai 2019, alors que les groupes d'enfants recevront leurs livres en cadeau dans les écoles, CPE et autres établissements participants. La Fondation rapporte que la campagne 2018 a permis d'offrir des livres à 66 542 enfants provenant de milieux défavorisés. Depuis 1999, plus d'un demi-million d'enfants de 0 à 12 ans ont bénéficié du programme La lecture en cadeau. Il importe de souligner qu'un grand nombre des enfants visés par ce programme reçoivent un livre neuf pour la toute première fois de leur vie! Cette année, grâce à votre générosité, nous sommes heureux de participer à ce mouvement de solidarité et de promotion de l'alphabétisation. Merci de contribuer à changer le monde, un livre à la fois!



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Book Club

The last book club meeting took place on January 25. We discussed *Jake and Lily* by Jerry Spinelli. This is the coming-of-age story of fraternal twins who used to be inseparable, but as they enter sixth grade, things begin to change. You can visit the author's website at jerryspinelli.com to learn about him and about the exciting projects he has in store. If you are interested in joining this parent-kid activity from February to May, please contact us promptly for registration (age group suggested: 9-12 years old).



Drop-in Story Time and Craft

Our Saturday Story Time and Craft will be a drop-in activity starting now. You don't need to register in advance, but just visit us on a Saturday morning, twice a month, for an entertaining time with books in English and French, and a craft activity. Join our mailing list or surf on our website to learn more about our schedule.

Spanish-English Story Time

We are excited to introduce a new program – Spanish-English Story Time and craft, which will run once a month on Sundays. After the try-out last fall and the positive feedback we received, we decided to offer our young patrons the opportunity to be exposed to the Spanish language, and learn easy words through the books we have selected. The Spanish story will be read by a native speaker, and the equivalent text in English – by a library employee.

Family movies

We have an exciting lineup of movies for the coming season. We will show: *The Incredibles 2* (French) on February 16, *Tangled* (English) on March 16, *How to Train Your Dragon* (French) on April 13.

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Public Library

Happy New Year! Bonne Année!

And what a year it has been!

This year we have seen many changes at our little local library. We thought it might be a good idea to take the time to look back at everything we have accomplished with the help of our staff and volunteers. First and foremost, we brought our library system online to include the library circulation and catalogue; we started a French collection and we continued with the MoWest Reads, Writes and Talks series.

The most challenging change last year was the new library system that allows members to reserve and renew books online. It lets members know when their books are due and last, but not the least, it lets our members know what we have in our collection and what is actually "in" the library (that is, not out on loan). As the staff and volunteers learn more about this new system, we will be able to enhance our collection to suit members even more. We can determine what the most popular read is in the library (*The New Yorker* magazine is always going out), what the most popular new fiction was (*The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman), the most popular DVD (*Striking Out*) and the most popular mystery (Bill Clinton's *The President is Missing*).

481-7441

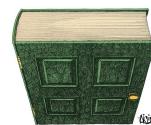
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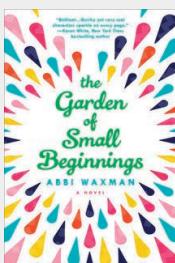
OPENING HOURS

Monday / Tuesday
10 am-6 pm; 7-9 pm
Wednesday / Thursday
10 am-4 pm; 7-9 pm
Saturday: Noon-4 pm



We had some wonderful authors visit us over the year from **Terry Mosher** (he designed our logo) to **Sheila Kindellan Sheehan**, a Montreal mystery writer. We held a raffle, started a monthly book discussion group, and even held some French conversation classes.

We look forward to another active year here at the library with more author visits and new programs. Drop by and let us know what you think!



What I have read recently

by **Mieke Van Soest**

The Garden of Small Beginnings by Abbie Waxman is a quirky and delightful read. A mix of art, motherhood and things that happen to a young widow. Her funny statements about relationships all interspersed with how to grow vegetables and start a garden. I just loved it!

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St. James Literary Society

Wine tasting evening

Saturday, March 2
1:30 pm

Held at St Jax Montreal, (formerly the Church of St. James the Apostle), Bishop and Ste.Catherine West, this wine tasting event will be led by **Jon Cercone**, the sommelier at the *La Taberne* restaurant in Westmount Square. Conventional, organic and natural wine-making techniques will be discussed.

Free for members of the *St. James Literary Society*, \$20 for non-members. Reservations are essential: **484-0146**.

Cognition and Aging

Tuesday, March 12
7:30 pm

John Simms Community Centre

Dr. **Gabriel Leonard** of the Montreal Neurological Institute will discuss Cognition and Aging: the Ugly, the Bad and the Good.

Free for members of the *St. James Literary Society*, \$12 for non-members. Reservations: **484-0146**.

Family Law Solutions

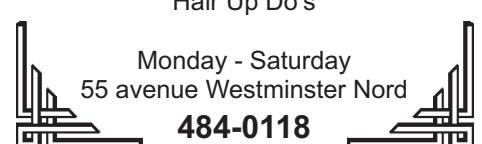
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Montreal West Scout Group



Beavers and leaders practising Wing Chung Kung Fu

Beavers

The Beavers finished off the fall season with their annual bowling party. Many friends and siblings joined in the fun displaying some strange, but interesting ways to knock down the pins. After a snack, all departed with a wish for a happy, safe holiday.

The New Year started with a guest, **Zachary Ryan**, who introduced the Beavers to a form of Kung Fu called Wing Chung. A woman developed this form as a means for women to practise the discipline of Kung Fu while providing a means of self-defence. While half of the group was practising their defence moves the other half talked about Chinese New Year and made paper lanterns to celebrate the year of the pig.

The next two weeks were spent building, decorating and racing their Beaver Buggies for their annual Beaver Buggy Rally.

The first weekend of February will be spent at winter camp – Fun! Fun! Fun!

Cubs

After a shaky meeting where the Pack practised their singing skills, the Cubs headed to the *Montclair Residence* for seniors to entertain the seniors singing Christmas carols. It is always amazing when the young people rise to the occasion; they sang beautifully and were so well behaved. The seniors were so pleased and treated the group to cookies and juice afterwards. Two of the seniors were over 100 years old and a few had lived in Montreal West. A great intergenerational activity.

The first meeting of this year was a blast. The Cubs made catapults out of simple materials such as popsicle sticks, elastic bands and plastic. When they were all complete there was a competition to see who could catapult a “pompom ball” the farthest. Preparations for winter camp are in the works.



Cubs carolling at the Montclair Residence



Beaver Investiture – receiving their group scarves

Scouts

The Scouts dove straight back into their activities after a well-earned Christmas break. With a second attempt at their orienteering hike in Angrignon Park (after an unfortunate spell of freezing rain before the holidays) undeterred by the delay and the cold weather, they spent a full day practising knot tying and map work with a compass, taught by the Scouters in advance.

The troop's Court of Honour has been busy researching and planning the winter camp. This has proven difficult in finding a location, as Camp Tamaracouta is no longer available. The Scouters are highly impressed with the initiative and perseverance taken by

the Court of Honour in this task. Despite the Troops' young age, they have demonstrated a great level of responsibility, communication and respect for one another. We look forward to developing this further and seeing how they progress throughout 2019.

Unfortunately Camp Tamaracouta has been shut down. It needs serious repairs and there is no money to pay the bills. Scouts Canada has over 600 properties, so they are looking at selling some to help keep the larger camps running. It is a shame that no one had the foresight to do this before things got so bad. It will be sorely missed as we in Scouting love the property. We can only hope that the camp committee will find the funds to upgrade it and open once again.

Guiding



Top photo: Sharing stories; Bottom photo: Lego Friends Building Kits

Wrapping up 2018

To wrap up 2018, the MoWest Guiding units were busy with service projects. For Remembrance Day, the girls learned all about the importance of Canada's armed forces, and the sacrifices they have made. The girls made poppies to decorate the wreath which was laid during the Remembrance Day ceremony.



Girl Guides
of Canada
Guides
du Canada

Building a neighbourhood

In November, every Spark and Brownie unit across Canada was given a set of *Lego Friends Building Kits* for each girl. The units were free to integrate the *Lego* kits into their unit meetings as they saw fit. The Sparks encouraged the girls to first draw a plan of their "neighbourhood" on a piece of paper. They were then given the *Lego* kits to construct a building of their

choice. The Brownies brought it up a notch by building the *Lego* houses and drew a map of their yard for each house on sheets of paper. When the houses/yards were completed they placed them around the room. The girls then made trails to visit several houses with directions such as Go 4 squares N, 6 squares W, 2 squares S, etc. Once they had made some directions they swapped and followed someone else's directions. They also learned how to use a compass. The girls all LOVED this meeting!!



Guider and Girl Tea

In late November, the *Quebec Council* organized a Guider and Girl Tea in recognition of sacrifice the families of Guiders make when their mother is an active Guider.

Sandy Nitchi, a MoWest Guide, was the guest speaker. She spoke of her experience on the television show *Canada's Smartest Person, Junior*. She spoke of the selection process and what it was like to be part of a television show, both on and off the camera. It was very interesting for all who attended.



Sandy Nitchi

The Guides participate in a service project by making toys for dogs at the *SPCA*. They made tug-of-war and fetching toys. They also made special dog treats using peanut butter as the main ingredient, something most dogs would love! The girls also organized their own holiday party. They played musical chairs with only seasonal music. They coordinated the food to bring for their end of year celebration. A good time was had by all!!

Sparks

As the New Year started, the Sparks were learning to explore their creativity through music, drawing and problem solving. The Brownies completed the dolls they were making, as well as deciding which badges they would like to earn. The Guides, in order to be prepared for the Provincial Thinking Day event in the Old Port, started to learn about Guiding in France and also in Mauritius. All in all, the second half of the Guiding year is off to a great start!

from Guiders
of Montreal West

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MAYOR'S REPORT



Recap of 2018

So, what did the Town accomplish last year? Besides the usual services that we provide to our residents, what has the average tax bill purchased in Town this past year?

Here are some specifics:

- Our new website that is now up and running
- Phase two of the Davies Park rejuvenation that added pathways, lighting and a splash pad for kids
- Our first electric vehicle charging station
- Reconstruction of RD Paul Park
- Reconstruction of a block of Percival Avenue
- A new roof over the flat section of the Arena
- The hiring of a communication employee
- Replacement of some of the playground equipment at Rugby Park
- The signing of a new collective agreement with the blue collar workers
- The amendment of our SPAIP bylaw
- Renovation of some Town Hall offices
- A host of new recreation activities: Duathlon family swim, ballet camp, and hosting the swim team sectionals.

I honestly believe this would be an impressive list for a larger team but when I consider the size of our team in Town, I am EXTREMELY proud. And I want to thank our DG, Raffaelle Di Stasio, and all of our Directors for their extremely hard work.

Grant for infrastructure work

I'm happy to report that we've been accorded a grant from the provincial government in the amount of \$1,020,300 for infrastructure work on Crestwood and Wolseley North (between Edinburgh and Radcliffe). Please note that we have not issued the contracts to undertake the work yet. We will go to tender in early 2019 and if we receive quotes in-line with our estimates, we will undertake the work.

Coffee with the Mayor

The next Coffee with the Mayor will take place on **Thursday, February 21**, from 7:30 to 8:30 am in the Community Centre.

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



MoWest's new website is here!



If you haven't been on the new website yet, please check it out! I urge you to spend 15 minutes poking around the new and improved platform and searching your favorite topics: OVERNIGHT PARKING, BUILDING PERMITS, SNOW REMOVAL, COMPOST PICKUP, DOGS and BALLET CLASSES. You name it; I'm betting you'll find it.

There's also a host of online forms that allow you to do loads of things from your living room couch: apply for a building or parking permit, rent the Town Hall, sign up for a fitness class, submit a piece of work to the Artists' Showcase, become a volunteer, make a suggestion or complaint. Contact us and we'll let you know by acknowledgement of receipt that we've received your enquiry.

The calendar feature in the bottom right-hand corner of the Home page will now provide info on all Town events, important meetings and deadlines at a glance. Also in that corner is a Town map (for those unfamiliar with the area) and quick links to the most frequently used pages such as activity registration, parking and building permits.

Last but not least, I want to draw your attention to the bottom of the Home page where you can sign up for the e-bulletin. This Town Newsletter sends out up-to-date info on tax deadlines, road closures, event cancellations, public security notices, etc. Most everything you need to know when you need to know it. Make sure everyone in your family is signed up on their own email. It's the most efficient way to stay informed about what's up in MoWest.

Happy browsing!

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

Better safe than sorry



Winter is upon us, and it's always prudent to engage in some seasonal preparedness for your safety. We all remember the Ice Storm and truly hope there will never be another one. But just in case, here are some useful tips to get you through it or any power outage as well other related winter precautions to consider:

- In the event of a power outage, you should have a personal preparedness kit with current supplies and be ready to stay on your own for a minimum of 72 hours.
- You should ensure your insurance coverage is up to date and keep copies in a secure place in your home.
- While a regular power outage is not a disaster and generally will not require you to evacuate your home, you can further prepare by having a portable generator to power items such as fridges, freezers and small heaters. However, make sure your generator is placed outside your residence and the exhaust does not enter your home.
- You might want to consider maintaining a landline phone (does not require power). As long as your phone line is intact, access should be maintained. Remember though, the

handsets of cordless phones stop working when the power is out, so you'll need to have a traditional one-piece model that plugs directly into the phone jack.

- Consider purchasing an external battery device that will charge a couple of smartphones and a tablet in just over an hour. These devices are readily available at most electronic stores for a reasonable cost and are invaluable during power outages.

Other winter tips

- Keep a medical emergency kit in your vehicle (including blankets, water and other sundry supplies).
- Always, walk along the left side of the road facing traffic. This is especially important when visibility is low or windshields are partially obscured by snow.
- When you see a Public Works snow plow approaching, please move to the inside of the sidewalk, and stay far away from the road when it is passing by.

*Dino Mazzone, Councillor
Special Projects Financing and Public Security
Cell: 514-949-3055*

Council salaries

– by Mayor Beny Masella, Councillor Colleen Feeney, Councillor Dino Mazzone, Councillor Maria Torres and Councillor Elizabeth Ulin

As mentioned at the last public meeting, we are actively looking at increasing council salaries. Most, if not all, of the demerged municipalities are doing so at this time, as are the vast majority of municipalities in the province.

Small and mid-sized municipal office has never been a highly paid position, and those of us who get into this form of community service are aware of its limitations. But in recent years the demands of the job have markedly increased and councils across the Island feel it is time for a review.

For instance, in our Town, besides being mayor, Mayor Masella presides over the ASM (an organization representing the interests of all the demerged towns). He is working with our municipal colleagues and with the Plante-Dorais administration to make an absurd Agglo system more equitable – all of which will benefit Montreal West. Each of our Town councillors holds more than one portfolio to ensure all departments have political accountability. And many councillors take on special projects. For instance, Councillor Feeney has been instrumental in developing the Strategic Financial Plan, is in the midst of a major revision of the

SPAIP by-law, and has spearheaded the MADA initiative for seniors.

In addition, our Montreal West council has a special workload challenge since we are the only council in the province that consists of a mayor and just 4 councillors. All other municipalities have a minimum of 6 councillors (even tiny Dorval Island!). In essence, the 5 of us are doing the job of 7+ elected officials everywhere else.

But, in reality, we would not be having this conversation if it were not for two new government regulations. One of these is related to tax changes. Until this year, a portion of our salaries was a non-taxable expense allowance. This allowance becomes taxable on the federal side in 2019 and we expect the provincial side to follow suit. So in effect, if salaries are not adjusted, the net take-home pay of this and other councils will be significantly reduced from prior years. However, a second important factor is the passing of Bill 122 which gives municipalities more autonomy in many areas, and which includes amendments to the Act Respecting the Remuneration of Elected Officials. As a result, many municipalities are revising how they manage compensation. We also

thought it prudent to visit the complete salary scale while considering these new regulations. The job of being an elected official should not be limited to those that can afford to do the job for little remuneration. We believe municipalities should provide a fair wage for the work required to run them. And this, in turn, should open the door to more residents who may want to run for office.

So when we're asked if we think it's fair to consider a raise for this and future councils, our answer is an unequivocal yes. We have put a provision in the budget for an increase, but any decision or amount will be determined after reviewing the remuneration guideline from the UMQ (Union des municipalités du Québec) which establishes a benchmark for a reasonable base salary by finding the average salary paid by 10 other similarly sized municipalities. We will also review the new council salaries from other municipalities. When a final determination is made, council will inform residents, and an amendment to the remuneration by-law will be put forth with detailed information available to the public. Residents, as always, will have an opportunity to voice their opinion.

RAPPORT DU MAIRE



Sommaire de 2018

Quels ont été les grands accomplissements de la Ville dans la dernière année? Outre les services habituels fournis à nos résidents, qu'avons-nous pu acheter avec la facture de taxes moyenne de l'année passée?

Voici quelques-uns de nos projets:

- Notre nouveau site web, maintenant en ligne
- La phase 2 du rajeunissement du Parc Davies avec l'ajout de sentiers, lumières et jeux d'eau pour enfants
- Notre première borne de recharge électrique
- La reconstruction du Parc RD Paul
- La reconstruction d'un pâté de maisons sur l'avenue Percival
- Un nouveau toit sur la section plate de l'aréna
- L'embauche d'une employée en communications
- Le remplacement d'une partie de l'équipement de l'aire de jeux au Parc Rugby
- La signature d'une nouvelle convention collective avec les cols bleus
- L'amendement du règlement sur les PIIA
- La rénovation des bureaux à l'hôtel de ville
- Une panoplie de nouvelles activités sportives: le duathlon familial, un camp de ballet, et la tenue des finales de l'équipe de natation.

Je crois honnêtement que c'est une liste impressionnante pour une grande équipe et je suis EXTRÈMEMENT fier de nos accomplissements considérant la taille de notre équipe. J'aimerai remercier notre DG, Raffaelle Di Stasio, et tous nos directeurs pour leur travail ardu.

Subvention pour des travaux d'infrastructure

Je suis heureux d'annoncer que nous avons reçu une subvention de 1 020 300\$ du gouvernement provincial pour les travaux d'infrastructure sur Crestwood et Wolseley N (entre Edinburgh et Radcliffe). Veuillez noter que nous n'avons pas encore octroyé les contrats pour entreprendre les travaux. Nous lancerons un appel d'offres au début de 2019 et débuterons les travaux si nous recevons des devis en ligne avec nos estimations.

Café avec le maire

Le prochain Café avec le maire aura lieu le **jeudi 21 février** de 7 h 30 à 8 h 30 au Centre communautaire.

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



Le nouveau site web de MoWest est arrivé!



Nous vous invitons à vous rendre sur le nouveau site web sans plus tarder! Prenez quinze minutes pour faire le tour de la nouvelle plateforme améliorée et cherchez-y vos sujets préférés : le stationnement de nuit, les permis de construction, le déneigement, la collecte du compost, les chiens et les cours de ballet. Vous êtes certain de trouver ce que vous cherchez.

Il y a aussi une panoplie de formulaires en ligne vous permettant d'accomplir plusieurs tâches directement de votre salon : faites une demande de permis de construction ou de stationnement, louez l'hôtel de ville, inscrivez-vous à un cours de conditionnement physique, soumettez une pièce d'art à la vitrine culturelle, inscrivez-vous comme bénévole, faites une suggestion ou une plainte. Nous confirmerons la réception de votre message lorsque vous nous contactez.

Le calendrier situé dans le coin inférieur droit de la page d'accueil fournit désormais des renseignements sur tous les événements de la Ville ainsi que les dates des séances de conseil et les dates limites. Vous y trouverez aussi une carte de la Ville (pour ceux qui ne sont pas familiers avec le coin) et des liens rapides vers les pages les plus consultées telles que l'inscription aux activités et les permis de construction et de stationnement.

Pour terminer, j'aimerai attirer votre regard au bas de la page d'accueil où vous pouvez vous inscrire au e-bulletin. Cette infolettre de la Ville contient de l'information sur les dates limites de paiement des taxes, les fermetures de route, l'annulation d'événements, des avis de sécurité publique, etc. Assurez-vous que chaque membre de votre famille s'y inscrive avec son propre courriel, c'est la meilleure manière de rester au courant de ce qui se passe à MoWest.

Bonne navigation!

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



Mieux vaut prévenir que guérir



LL'hiver est arrivé et il est toujours prudent de bien s'y préparer pour assurer votre sécurité. Nous nous souvenons tous de la crise de verglas et ne souhaitons pas en revivre une. Cependant, juste au cas où, voici quelques conseils pratiques pour vous aider à passer au travers de toute panne de courant, ainsi que d'autres astuces pour assurer votre sécurité.

- En cas de panne d'électricité, il est important d'avoir une trousse d'urgence contenant des articles essentiels et être prêt à être autonome pendant au moins 72 heures.
- Assurez-vous que votre police d'assurance soit à jour et gardez-en plusieurs copies dans un endroit sûr de la maison.
- Bien qu'une panne de courant ne soit pas un désastre et ne nécessite généralement pas d'évacuation, vous pouvez vous préparer davantage en ayant une génératrice portable pour alimenter certains de vos appareils ménagers (réfrigérateurs, congélateurs et chauffe-cigarettes). Assurez-vous que votre génératrice est placée à l'extérieur de la maison et que l'échappement n'entre pas dans la maison.
- Envisagez de garder une ligne téléphonique filaire fixe qui n'utilise pas d'électricité et fonctionnera tant que la ligne

sera physiquement intacte. N'oubliez pas que les combinés sans fil sont hors d'usage pendant une panne de courant; il est important de posséder un modèle avec fil branché directement dans une prise téléphonique.

- Envisagez l'achat d'un chargeur portable pour vos téléphones intelligents et tablettes. Ils se vendent à prix raisonnable dans la plupart des magasins d'électronique et sont inestimables lors d'une panne de courant.

Autres conseils pour la saison hivernale

- Gardez une trousse médicale d'urgence dans votre véhicule (couvertures, eau et autres).
- Marchez du côté gauche de la route, face à la circulation, en tout temps, particulièrement lorsque la visibilité est réduite ou quand les pare-brise sont partiellement obstrués par la neige.
- Veuillez vous déplacer vers l'intérieur du trottoir et de meurer loin de la rue lorsqu'un chasse-neige des travaux publics passe à côté de vous.

Dino Mazzone, conseiller

Financement de projets spéciaux et Sécurité publique

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La rémunération des élus

– par le maire Beny Masella, la conseillère Colleen Feeney, le conseiller Dino Mazzone, la conseillère Maria Torres et la conseillère Elizabeth Ulin

Occuper un poste électif au conseil d'une petite ou moyenne municipalité n'a jamais été très payant, et ceux d'entre nous qui s'impliquent dans ce type de service communautaire sont conscients de ces limites. Par contre, les exigences du poste ont nettement augmenté dans les dernières années et les conseils municipaux de l'île de Montréal croient qu'il est maintenant temps de revoir nos salaires. Par exemple, en plus d'être maire de notre Ville, le maire Masella est aussi président de l'AMB (un regroupement représentant les intérêts des villes liées). Il travaille avec ses collègues municipaux et avec l'administration Plante-Dorais à rendre plus équitable un système d'agglomération ridicule, ce qui bénéficierait à Montréal-Ouest. Chacun de nos élus supervise plus d'un portefeuille afin de s'assurer que chaque service ait une imputabilité politique. Plusieurs assument même des projets spéciaux. Par exemple, la conseillère Colleen Feeney a joué un rôle essentiel dans l'élaboration du plan financier stratégique, en plus de travailler sur la révision majeure du PIIA et de diriger l'initiative MADA pour les aînés.

De plus, le conseil de Montréal-Ouest a une charge de travail particulière puisque nous sommes le seul conseil/la seule ville

dans la province à avoir un maire et seulement quatre conseillers. Toutes les autres municipalités ont un minimum de 6/au moins six conseillers (même la minuscule Île-Dorval!). En réalité, nous sommes cinq à faire le travail de sept élus ou plus partout ailleurs.

En réalité, cette conversation n'aurait jamais eu lieu si ce n'était pas de deux nouveaux règlements gouvernementaux. L'un est lié à une modification fiscale. Jusqu'à cette année, une partie de nos salaires était considérée comme une allocation de frais non imposable. Cette allocation sera imposable au fédéral en 2019 et le provincial fera probablement de même. En conséquence, sans cet ajustement, le salaire net des élus sera considérablement réduit par rapport aux années précédentes. L'autre règlement est l'adoption du projet de loi 122 qui augmente l'autonomie des municipalités dans plusieurs secteurs et comprend des amendements à la Loi sur le traitement des élus municipaux. Comme dans la plupart des autres municipalités, nous avons jugé prudent de réviser l'échelle salariale au complet en tenant compte des ajustements liés à l'impôt. Le travail d'élu ne devrait pas être réservé à ceux qui peuvent se permettre de le faire en échange

d'une rémunération minime. Nous croyons que les municipalités devraient offrir un salaire juste pour le travail requis pour les gérer. Et ceci, à son tour, pourrait ouvrir la porte à plus de résidents qui voudraient se présenter aux élections.

Alors, quand on nous demande si nous pensons qu'il est juste d'envisager une augmentation de salaire pour le conseil, actuel et futur, notre réponse est un oui sans équivoque. Nous avons prévu une augmentation dans le budget, mais toute décision et tout montant sera déterminé après avoir examiné les recommandations de l'Union des municipalités du Québec. L'UMQ établit le point de référence pour un salaire de base raisonnable en calculant le nouveau salaire moyen versé par dix autres municipalités de taille similaire. Nous examinerons également les nouveaux salaires des conseils d'autres municipalités. Lorsque la décision finale sera prise, le Conseil en informera les résidents et un amendement au règlement sur la rémunération sera proposé. Des explications détaillées seront aussi mises à la disposition du public. Comme toujours, les résidents auront l'occasion d'exprimer leurs opinions.



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Great Chanukah... and more to come!

T'was a beautiful and action-packed Chanukah season in MoWest. With four community Chanukah events and countless parties with friends and family, there was a local celebration to join almost every night of Chanukah!

The highlight of our Chanukah was the giant Menorah Lighting that took place at Hodgson Field, with fresh donuts, hot cocoa and a special visit from the Fire Department to shower us with chocolate Chanukah gelt dropped from the top of the fire truck!

Thank you to all who made it out, espe-

cially Captain Martin Hamel and the Fire Department. We hope to see everyone next year!

Events and classes

Please take note of our ongoing events and classes, with some exciting new additions!

- Torah and Tea, weekly women's group
- Ethics of our fathers, text based
- Pizza and Parsha (high school students)
- Tanya, Jewish philosophy
- Talmudic Law (monthly)

- Shabbat Prayer service and Kiddush (monthly)
- Mommy and Me (coming soon!)
- Read it in Hebrew!

Tu B'Sheva

Next holiday coming up is Tu B'Shevat the new year for trees on January 21. We look forward to celebrating together.

For a full schedule or for more info please email info@chabadwestminster.com.

from Rabbi Mendy Marlow

News from the pews

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Wednesday, March 6, Ash Wednesday Masses, 9 am and 7 pm.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Is there more to life than this?" If so, Alpha is the experience for you!

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

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

Interest continues to grow, so we are expanding our Alpha offerings this spring. Two Alpha options are available: Monday nights or Saturday mornings. Check it out on our website: stig.ca/alpha.

St. Philip's

Thank you to all who we do not see on a regular basis, but who did come for Lessons and Carols and/or Christmas services. It was lovely to see everyone.

We had a very successful White Gift Sunday. With some help from the students of Montreal Diocesan Theological College, we provided gifts for 26 children at *Mile End Mission*.

Work is under way on the replacement of our organ console. The new-to-us console was delivered in December and, as of press time, was being installed. Work on the new electronics will take place in February and March, so that the resurrected organ can make its grand debut at Easter! We will also be having an Evensong and concert in May or June to show off the instrument's capabilities.

Easter is late this year, so Ash Wednesday falls on March 6. The Ash Wednesday service is at 7:30 pm.

MW United

... the brick one

Curious about our Christmas Day dinner deliveries this year? Would you believe 310 meals with trimmings personally presented to those who are at home, perhaps alone on Christmas Day. Twenty turkeys prepared and delivered with love by a multitude of volunteers....

Warmth for the soul

If you don't go South for months or elsewhere to ski every weekend, how do you counter the cold and drabness that February can bring? Well, coming into a community of folk at the church 10 am Sunday is one sure place of finding warmth and light. Our intriguing Sunday school, our thoughtful and friendly minister, our harmonious choir,

plus time to mingle over coffee following the 10 am service, I heartily recommend it.

Our student minister

We have the good fortune to have a young person preparing to enter the ministry who is currently part of our congregation. **Aaron Miechkota** is a gifted individual who brings us much life experience plus wisdom beyond her years. Her participation in our midst, and especially her sermons, brings a richness to our services that we eagerly anticipate each month. Aaron has intentionally informed herself about many life experiences e.g. a camping trip with an indigenous guide family visiting various sacred and historical grounds in Manitoba and south of the border. There is a depth here, which we can only begin to plumb during her time with us. No question, Aaron will be going places in our United Church of Canada. Come meet her while you can.

Outreach February 10

Sunday, February 10, there will be a second hour following worship. At MWUC we are committed to involvement beyond our walls.

Evening and afternoon Labyrinth Walks

Yearning for some time to let go and find a peaceful place for your own self for a while? Tuesday, January 29 between 7 and 9 pm, and Sunday, February 24 between 2 and 4, the Labyrinth will be laid in Wadsworth Hall for your individual walking meditation. Come tread this ancient pathway to find peace, answers or your own inner wisdom. All welcome, but be prepared to walk in socks or slippers. No charge, no experience necessary. Just come.

from Susan Upham

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Budget 2019

Revenus / Revenues

	2019 \$	2018 \$	% total
Taxes			
Résidentiel / Residential	12,227,784	11,991,547	75.73%
Lots vacants / Vacant Lots	40,261	39,619	0.25
Non résidentiel / Non-residential	1,341,183	1,281,311	8.31
Taxe Eau / Water Tax	447,000	447,000	2.77
CMM / MMC	104,310	103,680	0.65
Droits de mutation / Duties on transfers	500,000	525,000	3.10
Reçus au lieu de taxes			
Payment in lieu of taxes	273,853	262,052	1.70
	\$14,934,391	\$14,650,209	92.49

Autres/ Other

Loisirs et Culture / Recreation and Culture	640,000	614,800	3.96
Contravention / Tickets	120,000	120,000	0.74
Stationnement et permis / Parking and permits	89,500	81,500	0.55
Intérêts / Interest	110,000	115,000	0.68
Intérêts à recevoir sur subvention			
Interest receivable on grants	197,628	190,892	1.22
Autres / Others	55,645	50,645	0.34
	\$1,212,773	\$1,172,837	7.51
REVENUS TOTAUX			
TOTAL REVENUES	\$16,147,164	\$15,823,046	100.00

Dépenses / Expenses

Par service / By department

Conseil / Council	214,529	163,182	1.33
Administration	1,542,968	1,474,418	9.56
Sécurité publique / Public security	499,209	474,779	3.09
Travaux publics / Public works	2,962,169	3,039,142	18.34
Hygiène du milieu / Environmental health	958,441	980,674	5.94
Inspection et permis / Building inspection	146,091	148,661	0.90
Récréation, culture et parcs			
Recreation, culture and parks	2,523,544	2,527,481	15.63
Dépenses en capital à même les revenus	0	0	0.00
Capital expenditures out of revenues			
Service de la dette / Debt charges	1,531,832	1,479,407	9.49
	\$10,378,783	\$10,287,744	64.28
Quote part Agglomération			
Agglomeration remittance	\$5,768,381	\$5,535,302	35.728
DÉPENSES TOTALES			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$16,147,164	\$15,823,046	100.00

Programme triennal d'immobilisations

Three-year Capital Program

Catégorie / Category	2019	2020	2021
Infrastructures / Infrastructure	\$3,600,000	\$1,130,000	\$1,000,000
Bâtiments / Buildings	\$177,500	\$50,000	\$50,000
Véhicules / Vehicles	\$350,000	\$145,000	\$100,000
Équipements / Equipment	\$50,000	\$25,000	\$15,000
	\$4,177,500	\$1,350,000	\$1,165,000

Budget commentary

On December 17, Council adopted its operating budget for 2019. Our objectives remained keeping the tax increase for the average-valued home to less than the rate of inflation while maintaining the level of service and continuing the renewal of our infrastructure. The task was made more difficult by a 4.2% increase in our Agglo bill, this on top of the 2018 Agglo increase of 9%. To meet our goal required increasing revenues and decreasing expenses.

Additional income is forecast for the Recreation Department where revenues for the adult and youth programs continue to grow, with other small increases from government sources.

On the expense side, there were the usual increases due to collective agreements and other contractual obligations. Increases in other areas included: Council, for the *MADA* certification process and provisions for salary increases (see the article in this edition's *Communiqué* for more detail); Administration for a new asset management study and rising phone and insurance costs; Public Security for additional service hours; debt servicing for anticipated interest rate increases. Despite all of the above, the total increase in local expenditures was kept to 0.9%.

This was due mainly to decreases of almost \$100k in the Public Works and Environmental Health budgets, thanks largely to our continuing infrastructure renewal which has resulted in fewer water breaks and the related costs. Similarly, budgets for parks and equipment were reduced, as most of our parks have been upgraded and much equipment has been replaced in recent years. Other savings were achieved using our accumulated surplus or working fund to cover various studies and capital expenditures.

All these efforts helped offset the Agglo increase, and resulted in an increase in the overall expenditures of 2.1%. This translates into a **1.88% increase** in the tax bill of the average-valued home (\$610,173) for 2019. Rate increases for residential properties with six units or more and for non-residential properties are higher, to keep the ratio of tax rates more aligned with other municipalities.

Council also adopted a three-year capital expenditure program which includes anticipated spending of approximately \$4.2 million in 2019. Plans include sewer and roadwork renewal on Crestwood and Wolseley (between Edinburgh and Radcliffe), and investment in our buildings, IT network and vehicle fleet. Capital programs for future years are wish lists at this point and will be reviewed and reconsidered next year in light of government grants and available funds.

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

Comparaison du compte de taxe Taxation comparison

Résidentiel / Residential

Résidence valeur moyenne / Average value residence

Rôle 2017 - 2019 Roll: 610,173\$

	2019	2018
Valeur imposable / Taxable value	\$610,173	\$608,623
Taxes locales + Agglo / Local Taxes + Agglo	\$7,891.73	\$7,744.73
CMM / MMC	<u>\$64.37</u>	<u>\$64.18</u>
	<u>\$7,956.11</u>	<u>\$7,808.91</u>

Augmentation relative à 2018 / Increase over 2018:

% augmentation / % increase:

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

	2019		2018	
	Local	Agglo	Local	Agglo
Taxe foncière générale / General property tax	0.7593	0.5341	0.755	0.5175
Immeuble 6 logement + / 6 Units or more	0.7972	0.5608	0.755	0.5175
Immeubles non résidentiels / Non-residential buildings	1.9013	1.5121	1.8875	1.3762
Lots vacants / Vacant lots	1.5186	1.0682	1.51	1.035
CMM / MMC	0.0106		0.0105	

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Commentaire sur le budget

Le 17 décembre dernier, le Conseil a adopté son budget de fonctionnement pour 2019. Nos objectifs budgétaires demeuraient de limiter l'augmentation de taxes pour la maison de valeur moyenne sous le seuil du taux d'inflation tout en maintenant le niveau des services et poursuivant le renouvellement de nos infrastructures. Cette tâche a été compliquée par une hausse de 4,2 % de la facture du conseil d'agglomération, en plus de la hausse de 9 % en 2018. Atteindre nos objectifs demandait une hausse de nos revenus et une baisse de nos dépenses.

Revenu additionnel

Du revenu additionnel est prévu par le service des Loisirs grâce à la croissance continue de ses programmes pour jeunes et adultes ainsi qu'à la petite augmentation provenant des revenus de sources gouvernementales. Du côté des dépenses, il y a eu les augmentations habituelles dues aux conventions collectives et autres obligations contractuelles ainsi que les augmentations dans divers autres dossiers incluant : le Conseil (en prévision des augmentations salariales (voir l'article dans le Communiqué de ce numéro pour plus de détails) et

la démarche MADA), l'Administration (pour une nouvelle étude sur la gestion des actifs municipaux et une hausse des coûts liés aux téléphones et assurances), la Sécurité publique (pour des heures de service additionnelles) et le service de la dette (en anticipant une hausse des taux d'intérêt). Malgré tous les points énumérés ci-haut, l'augmentation totale des dépenses locales a été de 0,9 %.

Les sources

Ceci était surtout attribuable à une diminution de près de 100 k\$ dans les budgets des Travaux publics et de l'hygiène du milieu, due en grande partie au renouvellement continu de nos infrastructures qui a entraîné une réduction des bris d'aqueduc et des coûts connexes. De plus, le réaménagement de plusieurs parcs et le remplacement d'une majorité de nos équipements dans les dernières années nous ont permis de réduire le budget alloué aux parcs et équipements. D'autres économies ont été réalisées en utilisant nos excédents accumulés ou notre fonds de roulement pour couvrir différentes études et dépenses en immobilisations.

Tous ces efforts ont contribué à compenser la hausse de la facture de l'agglomération et ont entraîné une augmentation de 2,1 % des dépenses totales. Ceci se traduit par une hausse de 1,88 % sur la facture de taxes de la résidence moyenne (610 173 \$) de Montréal-Ouest en 2019. L'augmentation des taux pour un immeuble résidentiel de 6 logements ou plus et pour les immeubles non résidentiels est plus élevée afin de maintenir le ratio des taux de taxe en ligne avec les autres municipalités.

Le Conseil a aussi adopté un programme triennal d'immobilisations qui inclut des dépenses anticipées d'environ 4,2 millions de dollars en 2019. Les plans comprennent des travaux d'infrastructure et de voirie sur Crestwood et Wolseley (entre Edinburgh et Radcliffe) et des investissements dans nos immeubles, notre réseau informatique et notre parc automobile. Les immobilisations des années à venir sont des souhaits à ce stade et seront réexaminées l'an prochain en fonction de l'aide gouvernementale et des fonds disponibles.

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

Avez-vous verrouillé vos portières?

Selon l'information obtenue du directeur de la Sécurité publique de Montréal-Ouest, de nombreux cas de vols dans des véhicules ne sont pas signalés à la police.

Conseils de sécurité :

- Ne laissez pas votre portefeuille contenant vos pièces d'identité, immatriculation et assurance de votre véhicule, cartes de crédit dans votre véhicule.
- Rangez vos objets à l'abri des regards; placez-les dans le coffre de votre voiture avant d'arriver à destination.
- Ne gardez pas de petite monnaie à la vue des passants.
- Ne laissez pas votre voiture sans surveillance avec le moteur est en marche.
- Stationnez votre voiture dans un endroit éclairé.
- Verrouillez toujours vos portières.

Signalez-le!

- Si vous apercevez une personne suspecte, recueillez le plus d'information possible : description physique et vestimentaire, direction de fuite, numéro de plaque et détails du véhicule suspect. COMPOSEZ le 9-1-1.(En second lieu, vous pouvez également communiquer avec la Sécurité publique.).
- S'il n'y a aucun suspect ni aucun témoin; allez au lien ci-après pour remplir un rapport citoyen en ligne ou présentez-vous dans n'importe quel poste de police local afin de rédiger un rapport. Lien rapport citoyen en ligne : spvm.qc.ca/fr/Pages/Signalier-un-evenement/Rapport-de-police-en-ligne.

Il est important de signaler les vols à la POLICE. Cela permettra aux agents de connaître l'ampleur de la problématique en vue d'établir un plan d'intervention efficace.



Town Council meeting: November

by Carol Foster

Mayor Masella welcomed **Luis Oliveira**, new commander of Police station 9, as the November meeting began. He then expressed his pleasure at the large turnout for the Remembrance Day ceremony and offered his thanks to a very long list of all those who participated in the organization of the day. He added special thanks to all the veterans.

Two statements were reported under news from the Town Clerk's Office. The first was a statement of "no objection" to Côte Saint-Luc's bylaw regulating the traffic of trucks and tool vehicles (this is required from surrounding municipalities which could be affected). The second statement supports the *Union des municipalités du Québec*'s intervention before the Supreme Court of Canada for a case concerning Montreal's obligation to pay a contractor who entered into a contract with the city, which was not legally passed.

An item from the Public Works Department noted there has been a 30% increase in the cost of road salt due to the fact that it now needs to be obtained from Chile.

First question period

A discussion ensued between a resident, the Mayor, **Lieutenant Georgiou** (Public Security) and Commander Oliveira, concerning the need to block the roadway between Avon and Easton during the *CP Holiday Train*'s visit. This situation is to be looked into and the result will be reported to the Mayor.

The survey was questioned, by a Wolseley resident who felt that other generations' needs were not being heard. **Councillor Feeney** replied that this particular survey was designed to gather information in order to facilitate the work of the *MADA* (*Munic-*

ipalité amie des aînés) Steering Committee which is assessing the Town's age friendliness. However, she added, comments are always welcome.

Two residents had questions about the changes in the remuneration process. It was explained that this move by MoWest, along with a number of demerged municipalities, is being taken to offset the new federal taxation policy now taxing the expense allowances of elected officials which were previously tax-free. The change is to compensate these officials for the subsequent loss of income.

The Mayor explained to another resident that the cross-connected pipe study has not yet been completed but 95% of the work is expected to be finished by the end of 2018.

Councillors' reports

In addition to their regular duties, Public Works staff was involved in assisting the *ART ETC.* production as well as the installation of the Christmas decorations. The new electric car charging station has been completed and 16 cars have already made use of it, was the final item included in **Councillor Torres'** report.

Councillor Mazzone thanked Commander Oliveira for Station 9's continuing support of the Town. The Traffic and Safety Committee will now be focusing less on minor topics and more on issues concerning the general safety and security of the Town. Mazzone's final remarks included a reminder that snow clearing contractors working in the Town require a permit and must follow the regulations concerning snow removal. He added that the resident is responsible for the actions of the contractor.

In the absence of **Councillor Ulin**, the Mayor read her report. It included her observation that the Remembrance Day ceremonies were particularly well attended and the Walk to Remember, led by Dr. **Robert Drummond**, attracted 25 participants this year.

Councillor Feeney announced that the Town's budget for 2019 will be presented on December 17. The seniors' survey has been distributed and focus groups have been set up.

A meeting was held with the Town's merchants to hear their ideas about the revitalization of Westminster. Councillor Feeney was particularly pleased to report that there are now plans to develop a merchants' organization.

Second question period

Approximately 1,200 metric tons of salt are used by the Town and alternatives are continually being investigated, was the Mayor's response to the only question asked during the second question period, and the meeting was then adjourned.

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Réunion du Conseil : novembre



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

En ouverture de la réunion, le maire souhaita la bienvenue à **Luis Oliveira**, nouveau commandant du PDQ 9. Il a ensuite exprimé sa satisfaction quant à la participation à la cérémonie du jour du Souvenir et a remercié une longue liste de personnes ayant participé à l'organisation de la journée. Il ajouta des remerciements particuliers à l'endroit de tous les vétérans.

Du bureau du greffier, on a rapporté deux ententes/déclarations. La première, une déclaration de « non-opposition » au règlement de Côte Saint-Luc sur la circulation des camions et véhicules-outils (cela est requis des municipalités voisines qui pourraient être affectées). La seconde déclaration appuie l'intervention de l'Union des municipalités du Québec à la Cour suprême du Canada dans une cause concernant l'obligation pour Montréal de payer un entrepreneur qui a passé un contrat avec la Ville, lequel n'a pas été adopté également de la bonne façon.

Du service des Travaux publics on apprenait que le cout du sel fondant avait connu une hausse de 30 %, car on doit maintenant l'importer du Chili.

Première période de questions

Une discussion s'est amorcée entre un résident, le maire, le **lieutenant Georgiou** de la Sécurité publique et le commandant Oliveira concernant la nécessité d'interrompre la circulation entre Avon et Easton pendant la visite du *Train des Fêtes du CP*. La situation sera étudiée et le résultat transmis au maire.

Un résident de Wolseley estime que les besoins des autres générations ne sont pas pris en compte dans le sondage des aînés. La **conseillère Feeney** répliqua que le but de cette enquête était de recueillir des renseignements pour alimenter les travaux du Comité de pilotage *MADA (Municipalité amie des aînés)* qui évalue la convivialité de la ville à l'égard des aînés. Elle ajouta cependant que les commentaires sont toujours bienvenus.

Deux résidents ont remis en question les ajustements à la rémunération des membres

du Conseil par suite de la modification de la politique fédérale d'imposition. L'on a expliqué que cette décision de Mo-Ouest, ainsi que de bon nombre de municipalités reconstituées, vise à parer à la nouvelle politique fédérale d'imposition qui taxe dorénavant les allocations pour frais des élus, auparavant exemptes d'impôt. Ce changement compensera la perte de revenu des élus qui en découle.

Le maire a expliqué à un autre résident que l'étude sur les drains croisés n'est pas encore complétée, mais que 95 pour cent des travaux devraient être terminés pour la fin de l'année.

Rapports des conseillers

En plus des tâches habituelles, le personnel des Travaux publics a prêté assistance au salon *ART ETC.* et installé les décorations de Noël. La nouvelle borne de recharge pour véhicules électriques est maintenant installée et déjà on comptait 16 utilisations. Ainsi s'est terminé le rapport de la **conseillère Torres**.

Le **conseiller Mazzone** a remercié le commandant Oliveira pour le soutien continu du PDQ 9 à la Ville. Dorénavant, le Comité de circulation et de sécurité se concentrera moins sur des questions mineures et davantage sur la sécurité générale de la ville. Les dernières remarques de Mazzone comprenaient un rappel que les entrepreneurs en déneigement actifs dans la ville doivent détenir un permis et respecter la réglementation concernant l'enlèvement de la neige. Il a aussi fait remarquer que le résident est responsable des agissements de l'entrepreneur.

En l'absence de la **conseillère Ulin**, le maire a lu son rapport dans lequel elle notait la très bonne assistance aux cérémonies du jour du Souvenir et la Promenade du souvenir, menée par le Dr **Robert Drummond**, a attiré 25 participants cette année.

La conseillère Feeney a annoncé que le budget 2019 de la Ville serait présenté le 17 décembre. Le sondage des aînés a été distribué et des groupes de discussions ont été constitués. Une réunion a été tenue avec les commerçants de la ville afin de connaître leurs idées sur la revitalisation de Westminister. Madame Feeney s'est dite particulièrement heureuse d'annoncer que l'on planifie maintenant la mise sur pied d'un regroupement de commerçants.

Seconde période de questions

En réponse à l'unique question soulevée dans la deuxième période de questions, le maire a indiqué que la Ville utilise environ 1 200 tonnes métriques de sel pendant l'hiver et que l'on explore continuellement des solutions de recharge. La séance était ensuite levée.

MADA est l'amie des aînés

Un sondage portant sur les huit principaux éléments identifiés par l'*Organisation mondiale de la Santé* comme étant les facteurs clés d'une municipalité amie des aînés a été envoyé, à la mi-novembre, aux résidents de Mo-Ouest de plus de 60 ans.

Sondages et groupes de discussions

Au total, 1 294 sondages ont été envoyés à 800 foyers et 424 résidents ont répondu. Prenant en considération les changements d'adresse, le taux de réponse de 33-34% est très bon, d'autant plus que le sondage prenait une trentaine de minutes à compléter et devait être retourné en personne. Nous avons aussi tenu 6 différents groupes de discussions lors desquels 40 résidents ont discuté des sujets du sondage et autres.

Le comité de pilotage *MADA (Municipalité amie des aînés)* s'est rencontré pour revoir les notes des groupes de discussion et il était encouragé par l'enthousiasme de ses dirigeants et l'implication de ses aînés. Certains des sujets qui ont émergé au cours des discussions sont les maisons intergénérationnelles, des accès à la carte pour les loisirs, la diffusion d'information, le besoin pour des bancs et même l'ajout d'un pub! Nous avons un groupe d'aînés enthousiaste et très sociale à Montréal-Ouest! J'aimerais remercier tous les résidents qui ont pris le temps de compléter ce sondage et qui ont participé aux groupes de discussion. Votre opinion est essentielle et grandement appréciée.

Les gagnants de cartes cadeaux

Les résidents ayant complété le sondage courraient la chance de gagner l'une de 2 cartes cadeaux de 100\$. Le tirage a été fait pendant la réunion et les gagnants étaient **François Brunet** de Ballantyne N. et **Howard Schwartz** de la promenade Sheraton. Félicitations!

Offre d'analyser les résultats du sondage

Nous sommes ravis que la résidente Dre. **Christina Wolfson**, chercheure principale de l'étude longitudinale canadienne sur le vieillissement, et son équipe au centre d'analyse statistique de l'étude à McGill, nous ont offert d'analyser les résultats du sondage. Une fois l'analyse terminée, nous allons tenir une consultation publique au printemps pour partager les résultats du sondage avec les résidents intéressés et proposer notre plan d'action à la Ville.

Colleen Feeney

Présidente

Comité de pilotage *MADA*
cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca

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Town Council meeting: December



by Carol Foster

Following the presentation of the Town's budget for 2019, **Mayor Masella** emphasized that the 1.88% increase in residential taxes was in accordance with the Town's objective to keep the total tax bill rise for the average-valued home to no more than the consumer price index without any cuts in services. This was accomplished in spite of a 4.2 % increase in the Agglomeration's 2019 tax bill.

The Mayor was proud to itemize the wide variety of projects accomplished in the Town over the past year. These projects included an enhanced Town website, completion of phase two for Davies Park, construction of an electric car charging station, hiring of a Communications Officer, renovations of offices in the Town Hall, expansion of offerings in the Recreation Department, as well as the obtaining a grant of over one million dollars for infrastructure work on Crestwood and Wolseley North.

Masella mentioned, in the conclusion of his remarks that pay increases are in store for Council members in the coming year due to a new federal taxation policy which affects the total income of elected officials.

First question period

An Avon resident expressed her alarm at the traffic calming measures installed on her street being removed since the crossing area in that part of Avon can be very dangerous, due to the heavy volume of traffic.

The Mayor promised to consult with the Public Works Department to determine whether the snow removal process can somehow accommodate the bollards previously installed in that area.

Two residents questioned the pay adjustments for Council members. The Mayor stated that this move, by Montreal West along with a number of demerged municipalities, is being taken to offset the new federal taxation policy which will now tax the expense allowances of elected officials which were previously tax free. The change is to compensate these officials for the subsequent loss of income. The Mayor, in reply to the complaint that the public was not being consulted about this change, stated that the information will be published in a bylaw which then must be approved and therefore there is no need for a public consultation.

Another resident wondered why money had been spent on the development of a plan for the beautification of Westminster Avenue and no progress has been apparent for several years.

According to **Councillor Feeney** the original plan, produced by a hired consultant, was judged to be inadequate and a decision was made to do it "in house." This involves both the examination of PAC's updated regulations as well as consultation with merchants and the public. However, progress is expected to be seen in 2019.

The Town learned recently that the promoter of a new residential project of 178 units to be built close to Brock South and Boulevard Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is recommending these residents share access to an underground parking unit by a right corner entry from Boulevard Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Members of the Town Council have serious concerns about the impact the resulting increased traffic may have on nearby residents and pedestrians in MoWest. The Director General has been asked to update a 2017 Étude de sécurité to include an assessment of the impact of this project and to be distributed to all the responsible public officials.

Councillors' reports

The visit of the *CP Holiday Train* was attended by a large crowd and went off "without a hitch" according to **Councillor Mazzone**. PSOs are continuing to check on snow removal by contractors in the Town and are also available for their "home watch" service for residents leaving town over the holidays.

Councillor Ulin described the many recreational activities which have taken place during December and thanked all the merchants who donated to these events. The Recreation winter session begins on January

7, the troublesome portion of the arena roof has been repaired, and the hockey boards are up in Hodgson's Field. Ulin also gave notice that summer employment offers are now being posted on the Town's website.

Having both completed and presented the Town's budget for 2019, Councillor Feeney reminded residents that the next step in this process was the distribution of the property tax bills on January 24.

Some 1,290 surveys were distributed to seniors and 33% of them have been received. Six focus groups, involving a total of 40 residents, have been held. A group at McGill will analyze the data in January and the Committee will meet again in February.

Councillor Torres cautioned it is important to leave a small amount of water running in the house when the homeowners are out of town during the winter to minimize the danger of water damage due to frozen pipes. Complaints have been received about the appearance of this year's Town Christmas tree. Torres invited residents to send in photos of alternative options to the Public Works Department for consideration when planning future holiday decorations.

All of the Councillors added their wishes to those of the Mayor for very happy holidays to everyone.

Second question period

A question was raised concerning what was being done about the continuing illegal truck traffic problem. Councillor Mazzone responded that reports of infractions to the bylaw concerning this type of traffic have been passed on to Police Station 9 for action.

The meeting was then adjourned.



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Réunion du Conseil : décembre



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Après la présentation du budget 2019 de la Ville, le maire a fait remarquer qu'en dépit de l'augmentation de 4,2 % de la facture de l'agglomération, la hausse de 1,88 % des taxes résidentielles respectait l'objectif de l'Administration de garder la croissance de la facture totale d'impôts fonciers pour la maison de valeur moyenne en deçà de l'indice des prix à la consommation, sans coupe de services.

Le maire a fièrement énuméré la grande variété de chantiers réalisés au cours de la dernière année. Ceux-ci comprenaient un site Web de la Ville amélioré, l'achèvement de la phase II du parc Davies, l'installation d'une borne de recharge pour véhicules électriques, l'embauche d'une agente de communication, la rénovation des bureaux à l'hôtel de ville, l'élargissement de l'offre des Loisirs ainsi que l'obtention d'une subvention de plus d'un million de dollars pour des travaux d'infrastructure sur Crestwood et Wolseley Nord.

En conclusion de ses remarques, il a mentionné que des augmentations de rémunération pour les membres du Conseil sont à prévoir au cours de la prochaine année en raison de la nouvelle politique fédérale d'imposition qui affecte les revenus totaux des élus.

Première période de questions

Une résidente du chemin Avon a fait part de son inquiétude quant au retrait des mesures d'apaisement de la circulation sur sa rue, car la traversée de cette partie

d'Avon peut s'avérer très dangereuse étant donné le volume élevé de trafic.

Le maire s'est engagé à vérifier auprès des Travaux publics si l'enlèvement de la neige peut s'accommoder des balises qui étaient installées dans ce secteur.

Deux citoyens ont remis en question la modification salariale des membres du Conseil. Le maire a déclaré que ce geste de Montréal-Ouest, et de bon nombre de municipalités reconstituées, vise à compenser la nouvelle politique fédérale qui imposera dorénavant les allocations pour frais des élus, lesquelles ne l'étaient pas précédemment. Ce changement remédiera à la perte subséquente de revenus. En réponse à la plainte que le public n'était pas consulté sur cet amendement, le maire a indiqué que l'information sera publiée dans un règlement qui devra ensuite être entériné et, conséquemment, il n'y a pas nécessité de consultation publique.

Un autre résident se demandait pourquoi on avait dépensé pour élaborer un plan pour l'embellissement de l'avenue Westminster alors qu'on ne voit aucun progrès depuis plusieurs années.

Selon la conseillère Feeney, le plan initial préparé par un expert-conseil a été jugé inadéquat et l'on avait décidé de le faire en interne. Cela implique l'examen des règles à jour du CCU ainsi que des consultations auprès des commerçants et du public. Cependant, on s'attend à des progrès en 2019.

La Ville a appris récemment que le promoteur d'un nouvel ensemble domiciliaire de 178 logements à construire près de Brock Sud et du boulevard Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue recommande que les résidents partagent un accès à un stationnement souterrain par une entrée à angle depuis le boulevard Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Les membres du Conseil ont de sérieuses réserves quant à l'impact de l'accroissement de circulation en résultant, sur les résidents à proximité et sur les piétons de Mo-Ouest. On demande à la directrice générale de mettre à jour l'Étude de sécurité 2017 pour inclure une évaluation de l'impact de ce projet et de la distribuer à tous les responsables.

Rapports des conseillers

Une grande foule a participé à la visite du *Train des Fêtes* qui s'est déroulée sans accrocs aux dires du conseiller Mazzone. Les ASP continuent à vérifier le déneigement des entrepreneurs dans la ville et offrent toujours leur service de surveillance des maisons aux résidents qui s'absentent pendant les fêtes.

La conseillère Ulin a décrit les nombreuses activités récréatives qui se sont déroulées en décembre et a remercié les commerçants pour leurs contributions. La session d'hiver des Loisirs s'amorce le 7 janvier, la partie problématique du toit de l'aréna a été réparée et les bandes de hockey sont installées au terrain Hodgson. Mme Ulin a aussi donné un préavis que les offres d'emploi pour l'été sont maintenant affichées sur le site Web de la Ville.

Ayant finalisé et présenté le budget 2019 de la Ville, la conseillère Feeney a rappelé aux citoyens que la distribution des factures d'impôts fonciers le 24 janvier constituerait la prochaine étape.

On a distribué quelque 1290 exemplaires du sondage aux aînés et 33 % ont été reçus. Quarante résidents ont participé à six groupes de discussion. Un groupe de McGill analysera les données en janvier et le comité se réunira à nouveau en février.

La conseillère Torres a prévenu de l'importance de laisser couler un filet d'eau dans la maison en l'absence des résidents pendant la saison hivernale, afin de minimiser les dangers de dommages résultant du gel des tuyaux. Des gens se sont plaints de l'apparence de l'arbre de Noël de la Ville cette année. Mme Torres a invité les résidents à transmettre des photos de solutions de recharge au service des Travaux publics pour la planifications de décorations à venir.

Tous les membres du Conseil ont ajouté leurs vœux d'heureuses fêtes à ceux du maire.

Seconde période de questions

Une question s'est posée quant à ce qui se faisait concernant la circulation illégale continue des camions. Le conseiller Mazzone a indiqué que des rapports d'infraction au règlement visant ce type de trafic avaient été transmis au PDQ 9 pour suivi.

La séance était ensuite levée.



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Breakfast with Santa

On December 16 the CRA hosted their annual fundraiser, Breakfast with Santa.

Thank you to everyone who helped support the CRA by attending this event. There were over 350 people who joined. The CRA would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to our INCREDIBLY dedicated volunteers who worked so hard in the kitchen, clearing tables, washing, cooking, set up, clean up and of course who could forget Santa himself. Your commitment to our community was key to making this event so successful. Thank you to **Paula Cordeau** and her team at the Community Centre and the Town for their support in helping us plan and set up this event.

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

A quick year in review

This year the CRA offered 17 programs ranging from soccer to skating. Each season brought a new set of sports and activities for our children to participate in. Many of these programs require volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and parents who have dedicated their time and resources. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our community and its children.

Down by Percival Field, our Intercommunity baseball team, the Mudhens, had four teams playing in four age categories. This year the *Malcolm Mudhen Volunteer Coach Recognition Award* was presented to **René Breummer** for his volunteer coaching, for keeping the spirit of the Mudhens alive and for his outstanding contribution to coaching the "Hens" over the years. The *Golden Glove* awards were presented to players at each level for their contribution. Winners were Mosquito



B Tyler Johnson, Peewee B
Jack Alberts, Bantam B
Max Moreau, Midget A
Gabriel Tottenberg.

The rugby program under the direction of **Susy Binstock** and **Patrick Ghattas** entered teams from U6 to U12 in jamborees for the second year. With a group of dedicated rugby volunteer coaches, our little ruggers played against other teams and had an amazing season. The U12 MW rugby team was a force on the field dominating at each jamboree. We look forward to seeing them take to the fields this spring.

Our outdoor soccer program had 30 teams ranging from U8-U15. **Greg Macgregor** and **Sabrina Manolakos** had our teams playing twice a week doing drills and playing some incredibly close games. A highlight for the U15 girls was playing exhibition games against NDG.

The figure skating program had their annual skating show in March to a standing room only crowd. There were 13 performances and skaters performed solos and group numbers in full costume. Included in the show, were over 30 skaters from the learn to skate group. Under the direction of **Mackenzie Bullett** and her team of coaches these skaters performed in two sepa-

rate numbers. Thank you to **Anne Smith**, her daughter **Heather Smith** and all the amazing volunteers who help make this show a possibility.

Judo volunteer sensei **Steve Morissette** is working with Olympic judo athlete **Marie-Helen Chisolm**. Together they are building an even more outstanding program that benefits all the participants.

The indoor soccer program under the direction of **Greg Macgregor** and **Sabrina Manolakos** has been teaching the soccer players from 5 to 13 new techniques, skills and play fast moving scrimmages.

Women's indoor soccer coached by **Greg Macgregor** has players who range in abilities and experience, but one thing they have in common is they all play hard and have a great time doing it.

The future stars hockey program has over 40 mini Knights working hard learning hockey skills and improving their skating skills under the direction of director **Eric Rayment**. Twice a week these players are on the ice learning the basics of hockey and playing mini scrimmages.

This hockey season has 13 teams from Novice to Midget and four additional teams play-

ing at the Double letter level. Congratulations to our Novice A team who won the CSL tournament, Novice C team who were finalists at the CSL tournament, PWB who were finalists in the DDO tournament, our PWA who won the Gobble Cup in Burlington, the Midget A Knights who were finalists at Lasalle and the Atom AA team who were consolation finalists at the Gatineau tournament.

Currently our teams at both single and double letters are having a record season. Our Novice A and PWC teams are undefeated going into the second half of the season as well as our PWBB, PWB, PWC sitting in first place after the break. Go Kings! Go Knights!

Hockey Holiday Day

On December 6, MWH hockey hosted our annual Hockey Holiday Day at Legion rink with 24 teams playing exhibition games. Congratulations to **Bobby Titleman** who was awarded the *Sam and Jean Ducharme Hockey Coach/Volunteer of the Year* award. A special thank you to **Emma Boutique Gourmande** who donated tables full of goodies to support the bake sale.

Community Centre

March Break Madness

March 4-8, 8:30 am-4pm, 5-to 12-year-olds

Early bird price until February 2 :full week: \$195 resident / \$205 non-resident; daily fee: \$50 resident / \$60 non-resident

After February 2: full week: \$220 resident / \$230 non-resident; daily fee: \$55 resident / \$65 non-resident

Daily animation, art and crafts, games and more! Extended care available until 5:30 pm.

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 - Tuesday: Mardi Gras with the *Music Hive*
 - Wednesday: *Margo and Victore Fafouin* by *Théâtre Berlue*
 - Thursday: Trip to the LaSalle Aquadome
 - Friday: Pizza making and film: *Mune and the Gardian of the Moon*
- Call for more info: **484-6186** or montreal-west.ca.

WINTER CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

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

Red Cross babysitting course

Ages 11+

Saturday, February 9

9:30 am-4 pm, Community Centre
\$65 for residents / \$75 non-residents

Bilingual Discovery Playgroup

The Bilingual Discovery drop off playgroup meets Monday to Friday morning from 9 am to noon at the John A. Simms Community Centre for a fun-filled morning of interactive play. Our dynamic and energetic animators include park outings, arts and crafts, music and drama, cooking, themed days and much more in their daily and weekly lesson plans. Cost varies. Please contact the Community Centre at **484-6186** or recreation@montreal-west.ca for more information or you can register online at montreal-west.ca

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Chess and board games with Steve

Fridays, 4:30-5:45 pm
5-12 years old
Community Centre

Hip Hop

Wednesdays, 5-6 pm
6-8 years old
Town Hall

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

50+ Club

January

29 Games and cards drop in. Free.
10 am



29 Bridge (call in your team). 1 pm

February

13 Movie matinée:
A Man Called Ove

15 Valentine's luncheon

26 Bridge (call in your team). 1 pm

28 Soup's On: Fake News! Myths from History, Speaker: **Bruno Stenson**

Overnight Trip

Stratford Festival: May 28-31.

Deposit due February 22.

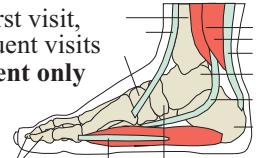
For more information, please call
Marian Scully at **484-6186**.

Foot clinics

February 6 & 20

484-6186

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



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COMING EVENTS

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

**Next deadline: January 30
delivery begins February 15**

Jan

- Mon 28** **Town Council Meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.
Tue 29 **Evening Labyrinth Walk.** MW United. 7-9 pm.

Feb

- Tue 12** **IODE 75th anniversary meeting.** Community Centre. 2-4 pm.
Wed 13 **Tea and Books** You're invited to chat about the books you've read over a hot cuppa. All are welcome. Look for more information on our Website. Public Library. 2 pm.
Thu 14 **RWA Science Fair:** open to the public: 1:30 am-12:30 pm and from 7-8 pm.
Mon 18 **Horticultural Society** welcomes John Bland on traditional dry stone walling. Guest fee \$5. Town Hall. 7:30 pm.
Thu 21 **Municipal taxes due** (first installment)
Échéance: taxes municipales (premier versement)
Coffee with the Mayor. Community Centre. 7:30-8:30 am.
Fri 22 **IODE card party.** Town Hall. Noon-3 pm
Sun 24 **Afternoon Labyrinth Walk.** MW United. 2-4 pm.
Mon 25 **Town Council Meeting.** Town Hall. 8 pm.



MONTREAL WEST: A compassionate community by the numbers

- 1 Mayor peeling potatoes
- 1 United Church minister cutting potatoes and preparing meals
- 1 Public Librarian scooping potatoes and vegetables
- 1 Horticultural president cooking a turkey and overseeing the potato table
- 2 Amazing families coordinating December 24 – **Swim/Goulet** and December 25 – **Jewers/Smith**. Multiple families baking their finest Christmas cookies and also cooking turkeys in their homes.
- 26 CLSC staff, 3 Meals-on-Wheels groups and the NDG Senior Citizen's Council collecting 308 names for Christmas Day delivery of a hot turkey dinner and trimmings
- 2 MWUC choir members singing carols to an isolated 103-year-old in our community
- 50 Community members turning up December 24 from 2-4 to prepare stuffing, desserts, wrap gifts, carve 21 turkeys, make gravy, prepare potatoes and breadrolls – ranging in age from youth to over 90
- 16 Volunteers turning up December 25 at 8:30 to start heating up and plating the **308 meals** to be delivered.
- 32 Families turning up Christmas morning at 11:30 to deliver the meals to those in our community who either are not well enough to attend a Christmas dinner or are isolated and have nowhere to go.

Monetary donations from many community members that allow this event to run at no cost to the recipients.

The World Health Organization states in its checklist of essential features of an age-friendly city that outreach include people at risk of social isolation.

Our Town and the surrounding community demonstrated this in spades this past Christmas. Thank you for all who participated in this wonderful event.

from Joan Foster



Upper right: "Slice N Dice", December 24; lower right: the Gupta/ Price Family; above: the Kitchen Crew, December 25