







INFORMER.

Montreal West Viewspaper

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Anuva Shah: Idealism starts early

by Maurice Krystal

Due to the pandemic, the interview was conducted over the phone, and six-year-old Anuva **Shah** is somewhat shy and soft spoken. Her mother, Nisha, had to gently prod her daughter to answer my questions and relay her answers. As the conversation went on and I was taking notes, I had to wonder what I was like at six. What was I thinking at that age? What was important to me? It was nothing like this young lady's resolve to fix the world.

Anuva attends *Children's World Academy* in LaSalle and in the fall will be going into grade two. This past February she learned about Black History Month. She was inspired when she studied Rosa Parks and her protest against racism. Anuva was motivated to follow in Rosa's foot-

steps and fight for equality.

She told her parents that she would like to join the march taking place downtown to show her support for antiblack racism. Her parents didn't simply reject it as being unrealistic, but suggested that social distancing was a problem. Even a smaller march on their street in MoWest had a similar social distancing problem. After brainstorming, the idea of people standing in front of their houses was conceived.

Anuva made a poster with the portraits of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King and the words, "Freedom yes, Racism no". With the help of Facebook and word of mouth, many neighbours and other young residents in our Town added their support to the idea and distributed flyers. Even MP Marc Garneau

put it on his Twitter and Facebook accounts and the movement grew.

On Saturday, June 13 at 3 pm, many residents came out and stood on their lawns or porches with anti-racism signs. When Anuva drove around the Town with her parents and saw the response, she was very happy. According to her mother, her daughter learned that change occurs when someone has an idea and acts upon it, like Rosa sitting in the front of the bus rather

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INFORMER

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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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Les amis du parc Meadowbrook

Protecting the St. Pierre River



An effort to clean up pollution in the St. Pierre River has created new environmental

problems, according to Les amis du parc Meadowbrook.

The St. Pierre appears to be just a stream as it meanders across Meadowbrook golf course, but it is the only remaining open-air section of a river that once flowed from the slopes of Mount Royal to the St. Lawrence. Over the centuries, most of the St. Pierre has been buried in sewers.

Sampling carried out in 2002 showed the waterway to be polluted, probably by residential sewers in Montreal West and Côte Saint-Luc that are connected to the rainwater system rather than to sanitary installations. A 2014 City of Montreal study of the Toe Blake rainwater collector showed 250 such crossed connections. In 2018, the Superior Court handed down a decision requiring the City of Montreal to stop the pollution within two years. However, a permanent fix is a big, expensive job, so in February, the City did some work that allows it to divert the collector



St. Pierre River, June 2020 by Andy Dodge

during dry periods. The collector continues to play its role during storms, averting overflow and potential flooding of basements.

The City promised that it would not allow the river to run dry, but this spring many people observed extremely low water levels in the rocky riverbed.

Professor **Daniel Rivest** of UQAM explains that fluctuating water levels could harm the river's ecosystem by preventing small invertebrates from settling permanently on the riverbed. In-

sects, worms and crustaceans are a source of food for fish, amphibians and birds. In addition, some species act as filters, while others cause organic matter to decompose, thereby playing a role in cleaning up a stream. Some species can survive drought, others cannot.

Protecting the river is vital to preserve this ecosystem and the animals that depend on it.

To learn more about the history of the St. Pierre River, see lesamisdemeadowbrook.org/development/the-st-pierre-river/.

Anuva Shah

 $continued \ from \ page \ 1$

than the back. It only takes one person to take a stand to start the ball rolling.

This is not the only time Anuva has fought for equality. For Halloween, she and a friend dressed up as Malala, when she realized that Malala could never be her teacher because she wore a head covering. While she may not be fully informed at this point about Bill 21, she knew it wasn't fair and that the Canadian government did nothing to stop it

Anuva lives with her mother, **Nisha Shah**, who is a professor of International Politics at the *University of Ottawa*, father, **Jai Shah**, a psychiatrist at the *Douglas Hospital*, and three-year-old brother, **Nikhil**, a student at *Curzon Preschool*.

Anuva Shah is six years old and she seems the type that will fight for her beliefs. It is a name we will hear more from in the future.











MoWest Merchant Association

The Montreal West Merchant Association teamed up with the Town to help support seniors in Town which in turn, helped with the creation of the Senior Outreach Program. This program, in collaboration with Burger de Ville, Kammys, Mini-Coût, Integrative Health Centre and Action Sport Physio offer a simplified menu elders can choose from, and the meals are delivered by volunteers directly to their home!

The association was present for its fellow merchants and provided ongoing support in the development of COVID-19. The association also has been working with *PME MTL* who have been very present in aiding us about resources during this difficult time.

Free butterfly-friendly plants!

Swamp milkweed (Asclepias incarnata) is a plant native to Canada that attracts monarch butterflies. It is a sun-loving perennial that grows in a clump and has beautiful clusters of pink flowers. Not only do milkweeds attract butterflies, they are the only food source for monarch caterpillars. As noted on the *David Suzuki Foundation* website: "What may be the monarch's most striking quirk is its caterpillars' reliance on milkweed as its sole food source, a phenomenon called "monophagy." Milkweed plants contain small traces of cardenolides, bitter chemicals monarchs store in their bodies to discourage predators which associate butterflies' distinctive



relying on a single type of plant for survival is a risky strategy that has put monarchs in grave danger."

Local resident **Tom Clarke** has been starting swamp milkweed seeds in his garden and has a number of small seedlings to give away. Please email him at tjgclarke@gmail.com if you are interested in planting some in your garden!

from Joanna Duy

Mailbox

Accident waiting to happen!



Westminster crossing has been a problem for decades. With

two schools a mere stone's throw away and Westminster a major thoroughfare to and from the highway traffic is always congested

Our federal Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau, has stated, as has Mayor Masella, that this is the most dangerous rail crossing in Canada, and a major accident waiting to happen, yet no actions have ever been taken! The only comment from Marc Garneau and Beny Masella is, "that will cost 10s if not 100s of millions of dollars." Thus, I should understand that a solution where human lives are concerned boils down to a "return on investment?"

It is clear that the Town cannot afford any projects to build either an overpass or "drop" the tracks 20 feet; this must be done at the provincial, federal level in collaboration with *EXO*. However it is Mowest that is most affected and bears the brunt of problems and consequences. Should another close call, as illustrated with the photo, turn to tragedy it is MoWest that will be directly impacted.

The federal government has had no issue dolling out millions to acquire a coveted UN Security Council seat or funding various programs and infrastructure projects in other parts of the world, but can't or won't find the funds needed to address a Canadian problem that threatens Canadian lives on a daily basis!

I wonder what value has the government assessed a human life to be worth that it is willing to dispose of human lives without a thought.

from Norbert Bedoucha



colouration with bad taste. But

Stay safe and keep the social distance!

162 Strathearn North photo by Joan Foster

Stay in shape!

Summer is here and the Community Centre has planned outdoor fitness programs in this time of COVID-19. Essentrics with Meg Feeney, yoga, fitness, Zumba and stretch. There are classes in the morning and evening that have started and are still available. If you are interested in moving and staying in shape as well enjoying the outdoors, go onto amilia and see if any of these programs are for you.









JOUR DU CANADA 2020 **CANADA DAY**

Thanks for celebrating with us, EH! Merci d'avoir célébré avec nous!

COVID-19 has made everything different this year but with help from Heritage Canada, we aimed to bring a little Canadian cheer to Town.

La COVID-19 a modifié certaines de nos habitudes et traditions alors cette année mais grâce à l'aide reçue de Patrimoine Canada, nous avons voulu de vous apporter de la joie et vous aider à célébrer la fête du Canada.

A big thank you to all those who participated in the contests and all the smiles and waves received on July 1.

Un gros merci à tous ceux et celles qui ont participé aux concours et pour votre appréciation en personnes le 1er juillet et tous les beaux sourires!

We had nine pop-up groups: pipers and drummers were spread out through the Town and played from noon-1 pm. The curbside greetings went around Town from 1:30-4 pm with fiddlers and a calèche following slowly behind, taking a few water and carrot breaks. The celebrations ended with the Mayor's message and O Canada led by Lauren Pennefather.

Il avait neuf groupes pop-ups des joueurs de cornemuse et de tambour parfois accompagné autour de la ville de midi à 13h. Ensuite la célébration ambulante à fait le tour de la ville de 13 h 30 à 14 h. La célébration s'est terminée avec un mot du maire et O Canada par Lauren Pennefather.

Gagnants de la décoration de maison :

La famille Chapman/Duy Family



Winners by sector : / gagnants par section Nrth / Le nord: Roula Stergianis & Will Eekoh

Centre: / le Centre: Joan & Bill Foster South: /le Sud: La famille Altman family

(also the quarantine dance / ainsi de la danse de la quarantaine)

Thank you to the MW Merchant Association for their support and generosity! Un grand merci pour le soutien et la générosité de l'Association des marchands de Montreal-Ouest.

IODE and Rotary



Joining forces again... 100 years later



A thank you from the Catherine Booth

Community involvement is at the heart of non-profit charitable organizations. Such organizations can and do respond quickly to crisis such as our current coronavirus pandemic. This was the case with two longstanding MoWest non-profit organizations: The *IODE* HMS Victory Chapter and the *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG*. In talking to *Rotary* President **Ron D'Souza**, we realized we didn't want the pandemic to pass without having done any-

thing. Then I heard of a Canadien hockey player's wife who donated monies to a local merchant to offer free meals for frontline healthcare workers. With the economy at a standstill, both benefitted.

As an Archivist officer for the *IODE*, I read that in the 1930s both the *Rotary* and *IODE* had worked together on a joint project to establish a Preventorium in Western Canada to test children for tuberculosis, known at the time as the "white death" be-

cause it affected primarily the very young. Almost a 100 years later, we found we could work together again. *IODE* V-P, **Moira Bettinville** agreed. Both organisations raised the initial fund of \$1,000. *Rotary*'s fund-raising apparatus continued to receive donations which now amount to over \$20,000.

This was a two-pronged project. We acknowledged the efforts of frontline healthcare workers by means of a luncheon/snack meal, all the while helping local merchants whose business revenues were down by 75%. Those to benefit were nurses, doctors, support staff, rehab, maintenance, social workers, occupational therapists, orderlies, PAPs in hospitals, CLSC homecare providers, seniors' residences as well as the military personnel who stepped in to help the most vulnerable. Most grateful for both moral and financial support were mom and pop shops.

On July 1, we delivered 50 grooming bags hand made by long-time member **Heather Ferguson** and filled with toiletries for the homeless at *Resilience Montreal*. We also supplied juice for over 200 people while *Rotary* offered breakfast for 80 from *Pâtisserie de la Gare* and 140 sandwiches from *Pâtisserie Molisana* in NDG.

The initiative was especially rewarding when we called smaller local hospitals and seniors' homes. They were surprised that someone had thought of them. We heard such comments as: "Oh, everyone thinks of the bigger hospitals." We knew working locally, that we had found a niche. It is gratifying to report that when I contacted some establishments, they said they were a cold clinic as opposed to a hot spot and that we should send to others whose need might be greater. The notion of "pass it on to those who might need it more" demonstrates the efficiency of our system and good Canadian values. A well thought-out plan that receives positive reinforcement begets more support. Raising funds to channel into the project becomes easier. During the pandemic we also realized our project required military-like precision. Deliveries had to be made at one specific entrance, as in many cases no one was allowed in the facility.

Rotarians demonstrated a willingness to spring into action when the world around us was shutting down and where, at times, the most active amongst us were "physically and mentally exhausted," a sentiment expressed by a medic and fellow Rotarian. It feels good to do good.

Who would have thought that nearly a century would pass before *IODE* and *Rotary* would work again together during a pandemic that affected not the very young, but the elderly.

Who benefitted

Those served to date: Catherine Booth (35), CLSC Metro (75), CLSC René-Cassin (62), Henri-Bradet (150), Jewish Eldercare (155), Jewish General (40), Julius Richardson (75), Lev Tov Senior Residence (50), Maimonides Geriatric Centre (150), Resilience Montreal (220) Sacré Coeur (168), Saint Andrew Residential Centre (80), and St. Mary's (90) through Aliments Marchigiani, Burger de Ville, Ca Lem, Croissant Monkland, Les Delices Lafrenaie, Mamma Mia. Marché de Fleurs Westminster, Boucherie Marchigiani, Mini-Cout, Pâtisserie de la Gare, Pâtisserie Molisana and Quality Fruit Bowl

If you would like to help, contact **Giuliana Pendenza** at **486-1538**, or email: giulianapendenza@gmail.com. *IODE* will also issue receipts for any donation over \$20.

IODE is a national women's charitable organization. Always welcome for those without shelter or reaching a shelter, are donations of travel toiletries to fill small grooming bags. Also welcome are fabrics suitable for masks or for making the grooming bags themselves. Such donations can be dropped off at 131 Wolseley Avenue North.

from Guiliana Pendenza

Rotary

Rotary Convention



Rotary had its first virtual International Convention from June 20-26. This year's theme was

Rotary Connects the World and RI President Mark Maloney led the opening session. Here is what I took away from President Mark's talk.

Together we can save lives and the world needs our leaders and our commitment. He said the one flag that unites us all is the Rotary flag and Rotarians are people of action. He showed a video called A Shared Vision on how Rotary had a hand in starting the *United Nations*. He said service and diversity were the corner stone of Rotary. Racism rips the social fabric and change will not come quickly, but will come and we know we can do better. He showed a video of the great work Rotary clubs from around the world are doing to fight COVID-19.

After that, there was a performance from the Australian pop opera group Aria who played two songs The Prayer and Puccini's Nessun Dorma. Two beautiful inspiring songs. Past President K R Ravindran gave a talk and ended it by saying "Every situation in life is temporary so when life is good make sure you enjoy it and receive it fully, and when life isn't so good remember it will not last forever and better days are on the way. We will endure and a sense of Rotary will always keep us together in spirit, side by side until we are ready to meet again."

President Mark gave another enlightening talk and then there was a talk on using the Polio Plus infrastructures to combat Covid-19.

The Rotary Foundation Chair Gary Huang talked about the foundation and that we have given \$5.2 million to Rotary clubs to fight Covid-19, but we cannot forget about fighting polio. To see the whole video go to YouTube and type in Together, We Connect 2020 Rotary Virtual Convention.

Norbert Bedoucha: business and real estate financing

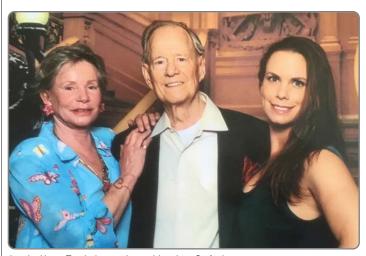
Norbert Bedoucha was born in Paris of Tunisian parents and has been living in MoWest for over 30 years and is a member of the *MoWest Merchant Association*.

Norbert started his talk by saying the myth money grows on trees is true if you do it right. Why should you buy or invest? To earn a living or supplement you must get a return on investment. It is based on valuations and bank criteria. We have to protect the loan or secure the loan or mortgage. This requires a minimum down payment and appraisals. bank Norbert showed us how the valuation process works: a mortgage is based on down payment, rate of interest and property yield. Every property has a life cycle and whether we will make money over time depends on capital gains or loss and the tax implications. Cash flow is important and Norbert used a day care as an example. He had us look at such things as comparative analysis, market position, the competition, our management team and our business plan. He next showed us how to prepare everything. Last not but not least according to Norbert was to know what corporate structure is best for you, what fiscal structure is best for you, know your tax implications and know your personal assets and your investment tolerance. The last thing Norbert talked about was the sources of financing.

The Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG is always looking to embrace new members. If you are someone who wants 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

in m<u>emoriam</u>



Lynda, Harry Trenholme and granddaughter Stefanie

Harry Edgar Trenholme

Harry Edgar Trenholme was born July 16, 1922 at 150 Brock South in Montreal West. His father, Wilfred, ran the Elmhurst Dairy which had been founded by his grandfather, Thomas A.Trenholme. I am sure everyone remembers the huge cow heads of Elsie and Elmer which are now back on a wall outside Parmalat and the ice cream and milkshakes which brought people from all over.

Harry attended Bishop's school/college and then enlisted in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve as Sub Lieutenant on March 1, 1941 where he served continuously until December 7, 1944 when Harry was honourably discharged with the rank of Lieutenant. Harry was a part of D Day, June 6, 1944, commanding a landing craft LCI(L)255 where he brought troops to Gold Beach in Normandy. Harry was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French government for helping to liberate France.

After the war, Harry married his childhood sweetheart, **Patricia Whiting** of Flushing, New York in 1945 and went on to McGill where he graduated in commerce. Harry worked for the *Royal Trust Company* as Vice-President of the pension department from which he eventually retired. Harry travelled all over the world, China, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates to name a few.

Memories...

One of the memories of Dad's living in MW was one time attending St. Philip's Church Sunday morning and finding a parking ticket on his car. He was so mad that he drove to the police station on Westminister and told them he wasn't paying the parking ticket. Can you imagine doing that today and no, he never had to pay the ticket.

Then there was a grocery store called *Davies Bros*, run by the two brothers, and when Dad would buy groceries he would play some game; if he won, he didn't have to pay for them, but if he lost, there was some penalty.

Other memories, include Hall's Florists, Mike Steven's dances at St Philip's Church, Shell gas station that was bought for Jimmy Darou by my grandfather. Jimmy had been a race horse jockey who got injured and couldn't ride again. My grandfather had race horses (two which won the Queen's Plate) and must have met him through that connection.

Dad had two daughters, **Lynda** and **Nancy**. Dad was married to my Mom for 69 years, had a granddaughter, **Stefanie** (mom, Lynda) and a sonin-law, **Gilles St Denis**. When my Mom passed in 2014, Dad lived with us until his passing on March 28, 2020.

Lest we forget.

from Lynda Trenholme

Edinburgh School



Edinburgh's graduating class of 2020. Photo collage by Shoshana Ruttner of Aglow Photography

A graduation to remember

When parents and teachers started organizing graduation ceremonies for the Grade 6 Edinburgh class in September, they had no idea what was in store for them. They were planning for the usual graduation ceremony with families and teachers in the Wagar Adult Education Centre auditorium, followed by a dance for the kids. End of year activities would also have included a day trip to Ottawa and a pool party. Fundraising was planned, and graduation photos were slated to be taken at the school on Monday, March 16. But with the arrival of the COVID 19 pandemic and the closure of schools on March 13, all bets were off.

At first, teachers and parents were hopeful that this was a

temporary setback and that graduation might still take place, but as the spring progressed, it became clear that a traditional ceremony would not be possible. At that point, Grade 6 teachers M. Jean-Michel Brunet, Ms. Avra Wiesenthal, Ms. Jessica Hodgson and madame Geneviève Hébert worked with Principal Chantal Juhasz as well as Graduation Committee parent volunteer chairs Siobhan Babkine and Emmanuelle Khoury to formulate a Plan B.

Like all schools in the province, Edinburgh had to come up with a way to mark the milestone while in the midst of battling a pandemic. It was decided to conduct an online ceremony via Zoom for the official graduation.

All 53 graduating students and their families joined, as well as many teachers from their years at Edinburgh. The principal gave a lovely address to the graduates, and awards were given. The Matteo Palum-bi Award – given in honour of a student who died in a tragic accident during his first year in kindergarten - was presented this year by M. Paul Cahill, who was Matteo's kindergarten teacher. The award was especially poignant this year as Matteo would have graduated with this cohort of students, many of whom were his classmates in kindergarten. In addition, with extra funds on hand, the Graduation Committee will be making a donation in Matteo's name to the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation.

The Zoom ceremony was followed by a goodbye event at the school a few days later. In early June, Education Minister Jean-Francois Roberge announced that graduating students - in line with public health guidelines - could have one last visit to their school. It was up to each school to decide how the event would take place. At Edinburgh, students were scheduled individually to come to the gym and say a socially distanced but special goodbye to their homeroom and specialist teachers. Since no parents were allowed inside, the school set up a Facebook Live event where parents could watch their children saying a final goodbye to their teachers, flanked by balloons and walking down a red

Edinburgh School

carpet. Grade 6 teacher M. Jean-Michel Brunet, who has organized graduations at Edinburgh since 2012, noted that "It took weeks of planning and organizing, but in the end it was all worth it because we kept it about the students and made them happy. We succeeded in having some form of closure which is what graduation is really about."

Other special items to mark the occasion were front porch photographs of each graduate, taken by parent volunteer and photographer Shoshana Ruttner (Aglow Photography), as well as a traditional t-shirt for graduates: vearbooks will be delivered to students' homes when they are ready in July.

Parent and Grad Committee co-chair Siobhan Babkine observed that "While this was not the graduation that we had hoped for or expected for our children, I believe that we still managed to make our graduates feel important and valued. For better or worse this will truly be a graduation to remember!" Cochair Emmanuelle Khoury added: "While working with the different public health measures and rules was complex, in the end, I think some wonderfully creative and fun ideas from parents and teachers made this a unique and memorable graduation." Congratulations to the Edinburgh class of 2020!

from Joanna Duy

Edinburgh Home and School donates \$3150 to The Depot Community Food Centre

by Kate Shingler

With Montreal-area schools closing in March following the World Health Organization's declaration of a pandemic, the Edinburgh Elementary Home and School Association moved to cancel and refund parents for the four remaining pizza lunches.

Many parents chose to donate their refunds to the Depot Community Food Centre and, on beof the Edinburgh community, Home and School was able to make a collective donation of \$3150 in June.

"We gave parents the option of donating their refunds and we are so pleased that so many accepted and were able to help out in this way," says Vanessa Gangai, Edinburgh Elementary Home and School Co-President, and the parent volunteer in charge of the pizza fundraising lunches. "It's a small gesture for each family to make, but when you add it all up, it can have a big impact."

Demand for healthy food and economic instability is increasing in Montreal, with many people laid off or on reduced income due to COVID-19.

"Thanks to your caring and generosity more families and in-

dividuals in our community will have access to enough healthy food to support them at this time," notes Bonnie Soutar, Director of Development at The Depot. "Since March, The Depot has delivered over 250,000 lbs of fresh and staple foods to over 6,500 people, 30 per cent of whom are children. More than half have never needed a food basket before."

This demand far exceeds *The* Depot's numbers for all of 2019. The current food security crisis will continue into the future and the best way to support The Depot's COVID-19 emergency response is through a monetary donation at depotmtl.org/.

The pizza refund donation initiative has prompted Edinburgh's Home and School Association to reflect on its mandate for the coming year, with the goal of implementing a year of "Giving Back" at the school where students and their families learn about how to support some of their community's most vulnerable populations.

For more information, or to get involved, please contact info@edinburghhomeandschool.com.



Action Sport Physio Montreal West



During our complete closure from March 17 to May 1, Action Sport Physio ensured their clients could still get access to the care they needed. We decided to

offer our services in a way that could keep both clients and staff safe by offering Tele Physio. Essentially we offered evaluations and education through web based programs such as Zoom and google handouts. We are pleased that many clients benefitted from this service and were kept from severely regressing during the first few months of the pandemic.

Some of our staff went and helped in CHSLDs when help was most needed. We are very proud to have members of our Action Sport Physio family help the community!

As of May 1, some of our physiotherapists were able to return into the clinic and offer manual therapy treatments to emergency cases. As of June 1, the rest of our team has been permitted to return to the clinic. We must make sure to follow the government's guideline regarding safety in the clinic at all times. Our staff welcomes you with face masks and lab coats. Although everyone's smile might be hidden, they are very happy to see you back! Everything is sanitized regularly and everyone is required to wear a mask and wash their hands upon entering the clinic.

CTV News came to the clinic on June 1 to interview us about our safety measures, and we were able to showcase how we value and take care of the safety of our clients.

Many people may not know that a physiotherapist is trained to aid in respiratory rehabilitation. We were able to showcase a skill that is not often in demand. The public was and is able to reach out to us for help, if someone was affected by the virus. We are happy

to educate the public about the respiratory system and provide help with breathing exercises. If anyone has been diagnosed with COVID or any other type of respiratory issue, we are please to be able to raise our hands and help.

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West End Quilters



We could quilt!

The West End Quilters are one group of people who didn't mind staying at home, at least not too much. We could quilt! We didn't have any meetings, not even on Zoom, but emails with pictures of works in progress and things finally finished were sent out frequently. Many of our members were busy making masks for family and friends and one member, **Nathalie Saviolidis** made hundreds for senior homes and hospitals. This was an opportunity to use up some of our fabric stashes. We couldn't shop in person, but luckily there was always online shopping.

We are still planning a quilt show in May 2021 and our quilt for the show is progressing. We look forward to the fall and hope that we can get together to see all the beautiful quilts that everyone has made.

from Mary Sutherland



(top left) Just a few of the masks that Nathalie made (botton left) A quilt top for *Quilts of Valour* ready to be quilted (bottom right) *My Small World* quilt, a Jen Kingwell pattern, made by Mary (still needs to be quilted)









MADA

MADA plan of action

The MADA (Municipalité amie des aînés) Steering Committee has resumed its meetings online and will be putting the finishing touches on the plan this month. Based on residents' input from a survey and numerous focus groups and consultations, the committee developed an understanding of the needs and expectations of our senior residents and was able to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Town's existing services and facilities. The plan sets out objectives to address the concerns expressed, with the goal of making Montreal West a more agefriendly community. Council has reviewed the document and provided comments, and we are expecting feedback from the management team shortly.

Prior to finalizing the plan and submitting it to the government for certification as a senior-friendly municipality, we had planned to have a public presentation. Under the current restrictions, this will no longer be possible. However, when the document is ready, we will post the *MADA* Plan of Action on the website and welcome comments from residents. We anticipate this will be in August and we will notify residents through an e-bulletin.

Senior Outreach during pandemic

In early April, as the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic was growing, and seniors aged 70 and over were identified as being particularly vulnerable and thus asked to self-isolate, members of the *MADA* Steering Committee and the Town administration embarked upon a new initiative to reach out to those seniors in our community to see how they were coping.

Over 700 senior residents were contacted and asked if

they needed assistance with groceries or would like a regular check-in call. Volunteers were then recruited, trained, matched up with seniors and the new program was launched. In May, we added the option of specially-priced packages of meals or groceries from our merchants on Westminster, that were picked up and delivered by volunteers.

The program is still ongoing, although the demand is somewhat less than at the start, with more seniors slowly venturing out. We continue to get positive feedback from the seniors and receive updates from the volunteers on a regular basis. As far as can be ascertained, our seniors are being well cared for during these difficult times.

A side benefit of our new program is that we now have a system in place in case of future emergencies. Thanks to all those who helped set up this initiative, to the members of the Recreation Department who continue to coordinate it, to the merchants who pitched in and a very special thanks to all the volunteers who responded to the call and are doing such a remarkable job. This is what being an age-friendly community is all about.

Stay safe

In another effort to try to keep our seniors safe and encourage the use of face masks, the Town, in collaboration with the provincial government, is distributing packages of face masks to households with seniors over the age of 70. Please wear them when you are indoors in public places.

And please continue to watch out for your neighbours in these exceptional times – particularly those who may be vulnerable - to ensure we remain a safe and caring community.

Colleen Feeney Chair MADA Steering Committee

Plan d'action de MADA

Le comité de pilotage MADA (Municipalité amie des aînés) a repris ses rencontres en ligne et finalisera son plan d'action ce mois-ci. En se basant sur les commentaires des résidents, récoltés dans un sondage et lors de nombreux groupes de discussion et consultations, le comité a pu saisir les besoins et les attentes de nos résidents aînés et a pu évaluer les forces et les faiblesses des services et installations existants de la Ville. Le plan fixe des objectifs pour répondre aux préoccupations exprimées, dans le but de faire de Montréal-Ouest une communauté plus conviviale pour les personnes aînées. Le conseil municipal a examiné le document et formulé ses commentaires. Nous attendons les commentaires des gestionnaires.

Nous avions prévu de présenter le plan lors d'une consultation publique avant de le finaliser et de le soumettre au gouvernement. En vertu des restrictions actuelles, cela ne sera plus possible. Toutefois, lorsque le document sera prêt, nous le publierons (probablement en août) sur le site Web et accueillerons avec plaisir les commentaires des résidents. Nous en informerons les résidents.

Programme de sensibilisation

Au début du mois d'avril, alors que la pandémie prenait de plus en plus d'ampleur et que les personnes âgées de 70 ans et plus étaient considérées comme particulièrement vulnérables et devaient donc s'isoler, les membres du comité de pilotage *MADA* et l'administration de la Ville ont lancé une nouvelle initiative visant à contacter les personnes âgées de notre communauté pour voir comment elles géraient la situation.

Plus de 700 résidents aînés ont été contactés et on leur a demandé s'ils avaient besoin d'aide pour faire leurs courses ou s'ils souhaitaient être mis sur notre

liste d'appel. Des bénévoles ont ensuite été recrutés, formés et jumelés avec les personnes aînées, et le nouveau programme a été lancé. En mai, nous avons ajouté l'option de commander des repas ou de l'épicerie à prix réduit chez nos commercants de Westminster. Ces commandes étaient ramassées et livrées par des bénévoles. Le programme est toujours en cours bien que la demande soit un peu moins importante qu'au début maintenant qu'un plus grand nombre de personnes aînées s'aventurent à l'extérieur de leur domicile. Nous continuons à être régulièrement informés par les bénévoles et à recevoir des commentaires positifs de la part des personnes aînées. Pour autant que l'on puisse en juger, nos aînés sont bien accompagné

os aines sont bien accompagne s en cette période difficile.

Un avantage secondaire de notre nouveau programme est que nous avons maintenant un système en place en cas de futures urgences. Merci à tous ceux qui ont contribué à la mise en place de cette initiative, aux membres du Service des loisirs qui continuent à la coordonner, aux commerçants qui ont participé, et un merci tout particulier aux bénévoles qui ont répondu à l'appel et font un travail remarquable. C'est cela, être une communauté conviviale pour les personnes aînées.

Restez en sécurité

Dans un effort d'assurer la sécurité de nos aînés et d'encourager le port du couvre-visage, la Ville, en collaboration avec le gouvernement provincial, distribue des paquets de masques aux ménages ayant des personnes âgées de plus de 70 ans. Veuillez les porter lorsque vous êtes à l'intérieur des lieux publics.

Et continuez à soutenir vos voisins en ces temps exceptionnels, en particulier ceux qui peuvent être vulnérables, afin d'assurer la sécurité de tous.

> Colleen Feeney Présidente du comité de pilotage MADA

Montreal West Scout Group



Left: Ari Semergian offers his Grandmother a home made mask Right: Finn Duncan dropping off some school supplies to Sun Youth



Scouting in the time of COVID 19



Since the March 13 shutdown of schools, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers have been unable to meet in person. Our last in-person

meeting was just a few days before that, on March 10, when the Edinburgh gym was packed with families to see Brian Ewenson talk about life as an astronaut trainer!

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel the soils, mulches and fertilizers portion of our annual Spring Garden Supplies Fundraiser This is the first time in over 40 year. It was

a tough call since the combination of stay at home orders, restricted travel and social distancing meant that many families are doing a lot more gardening this spring.

Fortunately, we were able to continue with the sales of *Vesey*'s spring glower bulbs and seeds, who extended our order window. Thanks to all residents who supported us in buying bulbs and particular thanks to those who gave us donations in lieu of ordering their spring garden supplies from our MW Scout Group. This was very much appreciated in these challenging times.

Our annual year-end banquet and ceremony was cancelled, as were spring and summer camps. Scouts and Cubs met online, but not often. Much of the fun of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts comes from inperson social and team-building activities. Some Scouters did participate in the Canada Day parade as flag bearers for the mini-parades that went about Town that day.

Many thanks to Tom Chapman, Finn Duncan, Pranav Manojh, Ian Rodriguez-Higgs and Ari Semergian for flag bearing during that hot noon hour!

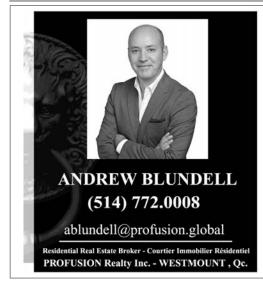
Seeonee Service Projects

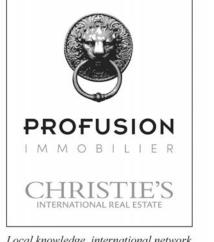
In Scouting, the Seeonee Award is the top award in the Cub section for a successful three-year journey that includes earning a minimum of 10 outdoor adventure skills badges and doing community service, and ends with an individual capstone project planned and executed by the third year Cub.

Three Cubs did service projects this year: Finn Duncan, Ari Semergian and Kai Taylor.

School supplies for Sun Youth

For his service project, Finn Duncan chose to collect school supplies to donate to Sun Youth. Many organizations give out school supplies to those in need at the beginning of the school year, but Sun Youth





Local knowledge, international network.

Montreal West Scout Group

collects donations all year long, knowing that supplements are needed throughout the year.

With his birthday being in February, Finn asked that guests of his party bring donations for his fundraiser, but the bulk of the supplies came through the MW Scout Group. With a meeting planned in March for all levels, Finn issued a challenge to Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to bring in their donations and see which group could amass the biggest donation. In the end, each of the three groups were able to fill their box and there was no clear winner other than *Sun Youth*.

Because all Scouting activities were halted in mid-March, it wasn't until the beginning of June that Finn was able to finally drop the supplies off. A big thank you to all who made the donation possible!

Mask-making project

Cub member **Aristotle (Ari) Semergian**'s original project was door-to-door school supply collection, but he switched to a project for an activity that would not violate any social distancing protocols. Ari decided to make and distribute masks.

Using a method that is popular on the internet, Ari created a video, which illustrates how to make a mask, and distributed it to his pack. The video is available here: youtu.be/Kim5Bb8MOnc.

Ari also challenged the other Cubs to make five masks each. With two grandmothers who sew, he had no trouble obtaining a donation of new, stretchy fabric to cut out his masks. Cutting fabric was not easy for a young person as it is different from cutting paper. After cutting and folding 20 masks, Ari began distributing them to friends, family members and whoever wanted one.

Donations for Mosaik Family Resource Centre

Kai Taylor reached out to our community via his mother's Facebook account on the groups NDG Living, Parents NDG and NDG People. He asked for clothing donations for the Mosaik Family Resource Centre. The centre offers clothing and other household items to families in need, such as refugees. They also have a daily schedule of classes offered to parents in the community such as the Mother Goose program, baby massage, drop in playgroups and respite sessions for parents in need. They also have a toy library where parents

They also have a toy library where parents can borrow toys for their kids.

Kai received all the donations, sorted

them into age groups categories. He also sorted shoes, accessories such as bags, hats, scarves and mittens; toys and other household items. He checked all clothing for damage and stains and then packaged all useable items and delivered them to the Centre. Three car loads were delivered.

Congratulations to these third year Cubs for their service projects and best wishes to all Cubs who will be graduating to Scouts next year! Although much uncertainty surrounds our fall activities (since they are held in schools, and we're not sure they will be allowing non-students and staff into schools), we will do our best to continue Scouting in some form!

from Joanna Duy

Kai Taylor sorting clothing donations for the Mosaik Family Resource Centre







Ongles, Coiffure, Esthétique

Pedicure, Manicure, Waxing,
Nail Gel, Acrylic Nails,
Hand Paint Design,
Eyelash Extensions, Make up, Unisex
Hair Styling, Colouring, Highlights,
Perm,
Hair Straightening,
Hair Up Do's



Guiding

Guiding did not come to an end because of COVID - 19, we kept ZOOMING along!

In early March, the MoWest units were coordinating dates for joint meetings and a joint spring camp. The Brownies started to work on planning a discovery evening to showcase the projects the girls had prepared individually or in small roups. The girls were very excited! Everything was progressing as it normally did. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of life as we knew it. Our last inperson meetings were held the week of March 9.

Our first concern was for the girls and their families. We wanted to make sure Guiding could support them in the best possible way. We realized the forced closure would impact people differently. We wanted the families to know, no matter how they were being affected by the current circumstances, we were available for them any way they needed us to be.

Another pressing concern was the delivery of the traditional Girl Guide cookies. . The cookies are the only fundraiser the Girl Guides regularly do. They were to be received on March 25. We had contingency plans in place, since the cookies are normally delivered to the Mountainside United Church which was closed by mid-March. The Girl Guides of Canada at the national level realized the girls would not be able to safely sell the cookies, so they took control. The national office coordinated with 33 different stores the selling of the cookies. Many of the stores were in Western Canada. There are three Canadian Tire stores, and fifteen Toys "R" Us here in Quebec who are helping us out. The Toys "R" Us in LaSalle and Pointe Claire have the tasty treats available for purchase. All the profits went back to the units. Girl Guides all across this wonderful country of ours are grateful to these stores for their support. At first, it was felt there would not be any mint cookies this year; however, there will be more news in August concerning the campaign this fall.

The Pathfinder and Ranger units did not miss a beat, they started with virtual meetings the first week of closures in March. Sometimes, they even had more girls at their meetings than usual! Catherine Barnes, a local Ranger, decided to take it upon herself to share some joy with the COVID-19 positive patients. She reached out to her Guiding and non-Guiding friends to let them know she was hoping to collect positive thought cards for the patients. She remembered making cards for the Veterans and the residents of Saint Andrew Residential Centre when she was in Sparks and Brownies. She also thought how lonely it must be for those individuals who were no longer able



to have friends and family members visit. People were so touched with her idea, and wanted to support her efforts. She ended up with over 600 cards! The participants ranged in age from 6-85. She even received cards from people in Toronto who were so moved by her idea, that they wanted to join in too! "The cards were distributed on the COVID-19 units at the Montreal General and the Royal Victoria Hospitals by social workers and nurses. The cards bring smiles to the faces of the patients," says Helene Jones, manager of Social Services of the MUHC adult sites. "We've put them in windows so that patients can see them every day." The cards were also appreciated by those working on the units. "Staff were touched by the kind gesture and the messages of inspiration written on the inside," says Helene. (May 27 FaceBook post: Centre universitaire de santé McGill - McGill University Health Centre).

Sparks and Brownies

The Sparks and Brownies started off connecting with their families through emails. Suggestions of activities the girls could do at home were made.

One of the activities the Sparks were encouraged to do was to convert two empty rolls of toilet paper into binoculars and then go off on a "bear" / rainbow hunt. The leaders made "porch drops" with a bag of activities the girls could do on their own or with family members. The parents and girls were very appreciative of the non-screen, self directed activities the girls could do. One of the activities for the Brownies was for the girls to write a note/card, and mail it to Brown Owl (Janet King) to let her know she was being thought of, even though they were no longer meeting in person.

By the end of April, when it was clear we would need to adjust to our new reality, the Spark and Brownie leaders joined forces to offer virtual meetings for the girls. The girls had a great time "seeing" their Guiding friends. The leaders found out just how tech savvy these young girls are! Some friends and siblings even joined in on the fun.

Guides

The Guides started their virtual meetings a few weeks into the closure. The families were surveyed to see how long they wanted to have their meetings, there was enough of

hotos: Christine Dow

Guiding

a demand to offer them into July! The weekly meetings give girls a chance to have fun and "see" their friends, all while continuing to earn badges, of course! The Guides have also been bridging with units closer to home. They shared meetings with older Pathfinders and younger Brownies and prepared a collection of bedtime story recordings to share with the Sparks. At weekly meetings, girls have played modified games, including LoupGarou, the Game of Life and Pictionary; made SWAP crafts to pin on camp hats, including warm fuzzies, tiny toques and baby cookie cases; and used their creativity to prepare silly skits, make up new constellations and invent wacky new sports.

Speaking of summer Guiding, there is a small group of dedicated young ladies who would like to continue to meet over the summer. It is a mixed level of Brownies and Guides. They have been working on specific challenges and finishing off badges which were not quite completed during the regular Guiding year. As long as there is interest from the girls, the leaders will make sure there are meetings for them!

Through the magic of the internet, the local Guiding members have had the chance to connect with other Girl Guides across Canada and around the world! There were district and national "camp-ins" held on two





Left: Catherine stands outside the MUHC's Glenn site on the morning she biked in to deliver some of the cards she collected/made for the COVID-19 positive patients. Right: Brown Owl holds cards and drawing from Brownies

different weekends. There is another "camp-in" being organized for the weekend of July 31-August 2. It provides the best of both worlds: everyone sleeps well and none of the girls are homesick! As well, the staff at Wa-Thik-Ane, our provincial Guide camp, has offered two virtual campfires. It was wonderful to see former and current Guiding members join in on the fun! A very special international campfire was held

whereby the participants were able to visit all five of the World Centers, and a few other countries through a virtual campfire sing-along.

The hope is for the return to in-person meetings this fall, if not, we are all set to continue with our virtual meetings. On-line registration is open at register girlguides.ca.

from Christine Downey

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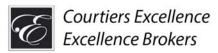
Purim parties this year were almost like pre-COVID-19 farewell parties! Great parties they were! With **Joe** and **Samara Brier** hosting cocktail creations on Monday night, and the **Zukran** family hosting a family-friendly party on Tuesday, it was great celebrating together in true MoWest atmosphere. Congratulations to **Rachel Rose** on winning the tickets to the Montreal Canadiens! We hope you were able to receive your gift of handmade matzah for Passover and blinzes before Shavuot! If you did not receive preholiday packages in the past and would like to receive them in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out to Rabbi **Mendy Marlow**.

Moving ahead!

Regular Torah classes are continuing via Zoom. Shabbat services will take place outdoors with precautionary measures to ensure everyone's safety. In addition, High Holidays are being planned with multiple shorter services being held to ensure each service will be safe for all participants.

To hear more details please contact Rabbi Mendy or **Chaya Marlow**.

from Rabbi Mendy Marlow





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MAYOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE TOWN OF MONTREAL WEST

I am pleased, as Mayor, to report on the financial position of the Town of Montreal West. The Financial Statements for 2019 were presented at the Council Meeting of April 27. The external auditor gave an unqualified opinion, meaning that the statements accurately reflect the financial situation of the Town with no exceptions or concerns. The results showed an operating surplus of \$462,813 which is 2.9% of our total budget.

Revenues

Revenues were \$738K over budget, and accounted for the vast majority of the surplus. This included:

- additional revenue of \$237K from Recreation for day camp, pool and other programmes
- an additional \$226K in duties on transfers due to the increase in the sales of homes
- an additional \$89K in interest due mainly to a new agreement with the bank
- government grants \$85K over budget due to the successful recycling program and the obtaining of several new grants
- permit fees \$69K higher than estimated due to building and snow-clearing permits and dog licences
- an additional \$35K in Town Hall revenues resulting mainly from film rentals.

Expenses

On the Expense side, total operating expenses were \$275K over budget. Savings were realized in the following areas:

- \$371K in administrative expenses due mainly to the cancellation of a provision for grievances
- \$138K in remuneration as a result of employees' absences due to various leaves
- \$89K in interest expense due to more favourable interest rates and a decrease in borrowing
- \$84K in public hygiene due to a decrease in the purchase of water and costs related to water breaks
- \$24K in Building Inspection due to the savings on consultant fees

Additional expenses

These savings were offset by additional expenses incurred in the following areas:

- an additional \$663K in Capital expenses as part of the Pay-as-you-go (PAYG) financing (see details below)
- an additional \$182K in snow clearing costs due to the high volume of snow
- an extra \$74K in Recreation expenses related to additional expenses due to higher registrations and the revision and resubmission of the arena grant to enhance sustainability elements
- \$54K more for capital reimbursement due mainly to advance reimbursement of the working fund

Capital projects

In 2019, the Town continued with its Payas-you-go (PAYG) financing of capital projects from the operating fund. Council prefers to do this, when possible, rather than incurring more debt to pay for these projects. This totalled \$663K and included:

- partial financing of infrastructure project on Wolseley \$380K
- purchase of sidewalk tractor \$86K
- LED street light replacements \$62K
- arena renovations \$58K
- Westminster beautification project \$56K
- pool sandblasting \$15K
- air conditioning for server room \$6.5K

In addition to this, and continuing with our infrastructure renewal program, a major capital investment of \$2.64M was spent on road and water infrastructure work on Wolseley and Crestwood.

Thanks to our PAYG program, use of prior surplus accounts and government grants, the Town had an increase of \$3.3M in capital assets in 2019, while our net debt decreased \$291K. At year end, our net debt stood at \$13.3M, with an unappropriated operating surplus of \$2.2M. The auditor pointed out that over the past five years, the Town has been able to make capital investments of \$12.3M, while actually decreasing its net debt.

All the above strategies regarding capital investments, infrastructure renewal and debt management are in accordance with the Town's Strategic Financial Plan which helps guide Town Council and the administration in setting financial priorities and managing risk. Council wishes to express its appreciation to our Treasurer, Valentina Todoran as well as our DG and all our Directors for their careful management of the Town's budgets and finances.

Full details of the financial results can be found on the website under the Finance and Administration tab.

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

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



LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT IN HEAVY TIMES



Since the deconfinement began, we've all struggled with how much "getting back to normal" we should actually be doing. The Recreation department is no exception. We've had to make some

pretty tough decisions. Sometimes we've erred on the side of caution, like the decision to cancel day camp, when the risk seemed far too high for what we could legally provide. Other times we knew we could modify the activities or facility enough to offer excellent, safe programming to residents. Opening the pool is one such example.

While we continue to tweak the options available, I believe the pool opening has been a real success. By limiting the number of advanced bookings people can make and offering swim times and programs for all ages, the pool has provided an equi-

table and safe respite from this scorcher of a summer. We only have 15% capacity with all the government directives, but the Rec department has made it work. Please go for a dip if you haven't already. You can buy a membership or just pay as you go: \$1 for kids and seniors, \$3 for adults. Book your spot online or call the pool at 514-489-6472.

We've also been able to offer some fun "Stay and Play" park programming for kids. Arts & crafts, games, science experiments, water activities and more are run by animators in Davies Park: 9 to 10:30 AM for ages 5-7, and 11 AM to 12:30 PM for ages 8 – 10. Sessions are \$5 each and you can register online or call 514-484-6186 for more info.

And certain adult fitness programs, taught outdoors, are available too, including TRX, stretching, Essentrics, and more. Of course, they're all respecting physical distancing rules. It's a nice way to stay in

shape and stay in touch with fitness friends. More important now than ever.

Though most of our regular special events have had to be cancelled, we couldn't completely throw in the towel. For those of you who were in Town on Canada Day, I hope you enjoyed the pop up concerts and circus performers and our modified parade. This "mobile greeting" travelled throughout the Town wishing Happy Canada Day to one and all. Even COVID-19 won't make us give up our sacred traditions! And it's worth noting that this event was planned by Rec staff along with a group of enthusiastic volunteers (another sacred MoWest tradition). So a big thanks to all those who orchestrated such lovely light entertainment in heavy times.

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

HOW HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED THE MONTREAL WEST BUDGET?



As citizens watch the federal and frovincial governments' budgets balloon with additional expenses due to COVID-19, several residents have asked about the impact of the virus on the Montreal West budget.

While we are unable to give firm projections at this stage, there are certain broad strokes we can outline.

Revenues

Close to 84% of the Town's revenue comes from property taxes. The first installment was received prior to the pandemic so figures remain unchanged. Thanks to the delay,we were granted in our June Agglo remittance for shared services, we have been able to postpone the second property tax installment to August 24. Consequently, we have not seen any impact yet on tax revenues and are hopeful that residents will have sufficient time to meet this new deadline.

We do expect revenues from recreation to be down significantly due to the cancellation of day camp, several other programs and to diminished pool capacity. These revenues were originally budgeted at \$664k. The full extent of the decrease here is not yet known. Smaller decreases are expected for revenues from tickets, permits and the rental of Town facilities.

It is uncertain the extent to which our duties on transfer revenues (based on house sales) will be impacted. They were originally budgeted at \$550k. Although there was a general lull in the real estate market during the complete shutdown, Montreal West continues to be a desirable location, and sales do not appear to have been affected as yet.

Expenses

On the expense side, although there have been additional expenses related to technology, equipment and supplies as a result of the virus, most of these should be reimbursed through government emergency relief measures. Furthermore, there have been significant reductions in expenses, mostly related to decreased recreation program costs and salaries. There were also savings generated when the Town was operating on essential services only for a few weeks.

In addition, we have been able to re-prioritize a couple of Town projects and defer those expenses until next year. We will continue to review discretionary spending as the year unfolds.

Capital investments

The Town will be proceeding with its infrastructure project on Avon (paving and permanent traffic lights), as we have received a government grant for a portion of that work.

In summary, at this time, providing the major uncontrollable events are not too drastic - such as early winter snowstorms - we anticipate being able to end the year with a balanced budget.

A bigger concern will likely be the year 2021, when the City of Montreal may attempt to download some of their additional COVID-19 related expenses onto the demerged municipalities. We will face that challenge when we get there!

Colleen Feeney, Councillor

Finance, Administration, Human Resources and Urban Planning cfeeney@montreal-west.ca

PUBLIC WORKS DURING DIFFICULT TIMES



I would like to take this opportunity to salute you all and to offer my most sincere wishes for your well being during theses unprecedented times.

The following is an overview prepared by our Public Works Department describing the impact that Covid-19 has had on the daily operations since the onset of this pandemic and what can we expect as long as we are under this sanitary emergency protocol:

As soon as the government of Quebec declared a state of sanitary emergency, we began the transformation of the public works department.

We have applied a contingency plan to provide the services deemed essential by the government. The organizational challenge was colossal. For several weeks, the department operated at reduced capacity with a minimum of employees. Gradually, the deconfinement allowed us to resume the normal course of activities, though it

took some time to fully get back to regular operations. Adjustments have been applied to the operating procedures in order to maintain a high level of safety when carrying out our activities. To name just a few examples, employees must now wash their hands at the entrance to the garage, disinfect their vehicles, keep a physical distance of two meters and wear masks when necessary.

We have been able to maintain the majority of our work schedule, although the scope has been reduced. Our employees worked very hard and continued to maintain the roads and parks, repaired water breaks, renovated the dog park, filled a large number of potholes, completed infrastructure work on Crestwood, awarded a contract for sidewalk repairs, redid the street lines and so on. Special pickups and branch collection services have resumed as well.

Certainly, as long as we remain in this sanitary emergency state, the sanitary measures will apply and will have an impact on the time allocated to carry out our activities. It is a period that requires a lot of resilience and adaptation. It is a great opportunity to rethink our modus operandi and see how to optimize all our work procedures.

For the time being, the offices located at the Public Works building are closed to the public, however, the staff will continue to return calls and emails on a daily basis. You can also contact them by filling out the "Contact us" form on the website. Lastly, you can consult the dedicated Coronavirus (COVID-19) page on the website to find out more regarding the measures taken by the Town.

Should you have any questions or comments that I can help you with, do not hesitate to send me an email.

Please continue to be prudent, be safe and stay well!

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

Mayor Beny Masella and councillors Feeney, Torres and Ulin celebrating Canada Day on July 1, 2020 outside the MW Public Works building on Bedbrook Avenue (photo by Upside Photography)







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RAPPORT DU MAIRE SUR LA SITUATION FINANCIÈRE DE LA VILLE DE MONTRÉAL-OUEST

J'ai le plaisir, à titre de maire, de présenter le rapport sur la situation financière de la Ville de Montréal Ouest. Les états financiers de 2019 ont été présentés lors de la séance du Conseil du 27 avril. L'auditeur externe a exprimé une opinion sans réserve indiquant que les états reflétaient avec exactitude la situation financière de la Ville. La Ville a terminé avec un excédent de 462 813 \$ représentant 2,9 % du budget total.

Revenus

Les revenus ont surpassé le budget de 738 k\$ et représentent la grande majorité des surplus. Ces revenus comprennent :

- des recettes supplémentaires de 237 k\$ provenant du Service des loisirs pour le camp de jour, la piscine et autres activités.
- 226 k\$ supplémentaires de droits de mutation dus à une augmentation des ventes de maisons
- 89 k\$ supplémentaires en intérêts, principalement en raison d'un nouvel accord avec la banque
- les subventions gouvernementales ont dépassé le budget de 85 k\$ en raison du succès du programme de recyclage et de l'obtention de plusieurs nouvelles subventions
- 69 k\$ supplémentaires de frais plus élevés qu'anticipés des permis de construction et des permis de chiens
- 35 k\$ de recettes supplémentaires à l'hôtel de ville en raison surtout de frais de location pour le tournage de films. Les dépenses de fonctionnement totales étaient de 275 k\$ au-delà du budget.

Économies

Des économies ont été réalisées dans les domaines suivants :

- 371 k\$ de frais administratifs, principalement en raison de l'annulation d'une provision pour les griefs
- 138 k\$ de rémunération en raison des absences des employés dues à divers congés
- 89 k\$ de frais d'intérêt en raison de taux d'intérêt plus favorables et d'une diminution des emprunts
- 84 k\$ en hygiène publique en raison d'une diminution de l'achat d'eau et des coûts liés aux bris d'aqueduc

 24 k\$ en inspection des bâtiments grâce aux économies réalisées sur les honoraires des consultants

Dépenses supplémentaires

Ces économies ont été compensées par des dépenses supplémentaires dans les secteurs suivants :

- 663 k \$ en dépenses en capital dans le cadre du financement par répartition (PAYG) (voir les détails ci-dessous)
- 182 k\$ pour le déneigement en raison du volume important de neige tombé cet hiver
- des dépenses de 74 k\$ par le Service des loisirs liés à la hausse des inscriptions et à la révision de la nouvelle demande d'aide financière qui renforce les aspects liés au développement durable
- 54 k\$ de plus pour le remboursement du capital, principalement en raison du remboursement anticipé du fonds de travail

Projets d'immobilisations

En 2019, la Ville a poursuivi le financement par répartition de ses projets d'immobilisations à même le fonds de roulement. Lorsque possible, le Conseil préfère utiliser ce type de financement plutôt que d'emprunter davantage pour financer ces projets. Ce montant totalisait 663 k\$ et comprenait les dépenses suivantes :

- financement partiel du projet d'infrastructure de l'avenue Wolseley : 380 k\$
- achat d'une déneigeuse à trottoirs: 86 k\$
- remplacement des lampadaires à DEL : 62 k\$
- rénovations à l'aréna : 58 k\$
- projet d'embellissement de Westminster : 56 k\$
- sablage de la piscine : 15 k\$
- climatisation de la salle de serveurs : 6,5 k\$

De plus, dans le cadre de notre programme de renouvellement de l'infrastructure, un important investissement en capital de 2,64 M\$ a été consacré à des travaux d'infrastructure sur Wolseley et Crestwood.

Grâce à notre financement par répartition, à l'utilisation des surplus antérieurs et aux subventions gouvernementales, la Ville a connu une augmentation de 3,3 M\$ des immobilisations en 2019, alors que notre dette nette a diminué de 291 k\$. À la fin de l'année, notre dette nette était de 13,3 M\$, avec un excédent de fonctionnement non affecté de 2,2 M\$. Le vérificateur a souligné qu'au cours des cinq dernières années, la Ville a été en mesure d'effectuer des investissements en immobilisations de 12,3 M\$, tout en réduisant sa dette nette.

Toutes les stratégies susmentionnées concernant les investissements en immobilisations, le renouvellement des infrastructures et la gestion de la dette sont conformes au plan financier stratégique de la Ville qui guide le conseil municipal et l'administration à établir les priorités financières et à gérer les risques. Le Conseil aimerait remercier notre trésorière, Valentina Todoran, ainsi que notre DG et tous nos directeurs pour leur gestion prudente des budgets et des finances de la Ville.

Tous les détails des résultats financiers se trouvent sur le site web sous l'onglet Finance et Administration.

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

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



DU DIVERTISSEMENT EN TEMPS DE CRISE



Depuis le début du déconfinement, nous avons tous été aux prises à savoir jusqu'où nous devions aller pour « revenir à la normale ». Le Service des loisirs ne fait pas exception à la règle. Nous

avons dû prendre des décisions assez difficiles. Certaines de nos décisions ont été prises par excès de prudence, comme la décision d'annuler le camp de jour. Le risque semblait bien trop élevé pour ce que nous pouvions légalement offrir. D'autres fois, nous savions que nous pouvions adapter suffisamment les activités ou les installations pour offrir une programmation divertissante et sécuritaire aux résidents. L'ouverture de la piscine en est un exemple.

Alors que nous continuons à améliorer les différentes options offertes aux résidents, je pense que l'ouverture de la piscine a été un véritable succès. En limitant le nombre de réservations anticipées que les gens peuvent faire et en offrant des horaires et des programmes de natation pour tous les âges, la piscine a permis aux citoyens de profiter

d'un répit équitable et sécuritaire pendant les périodes de chaleur accablante. En respectant les directives gouvernementales, notre capacité maximale est réduite à 15 %, un défi que le Service des loisirs a su relever. Allez vous baigner si vous ne l'avez pas encore fait. Vous pouvez vous procurer un abonnement ou payer un droit d'accès quotidien : I \$ pour les enfants et les personnes aînées, 3 \$ pour les adultes. Réservez votre place en ligne ou appelez la piscine au 514-489-6472.

Nous avons également pu offrir le programme «Viens jouer » qui consiste en activités extérieures pour les enfants. Des animateurs organisent des ateliers de bricolage, des jeux, des expériences scientifiques, des jeux d'eau et bien d'autres choses encore au parc Davies : de 9 h à 10 h 30 pour les 5-7 ans, et de 11 h à 12 h 30 pour les 8-10 ans. Les séances coûtent 5 \$ chacune et vous pouvez vous inscrire en ligne ou appeler le 514-484-6186 pour plus d'informations.

Certains programmes de mise en forme pour adultes sont enseignés en plein air cet été, notamment le TRX, les étirements, Essentrics, et autres. Bien sûr, les règles de distanciation physique sont respectées en tout temps. C'est un bon moyen de rester en forme et de rester en contact avec ses amis. C'est plus important que jamais.

Bien que la plupart de nos événements spéciaux réguliers aient dû être annulés, nous ne voulions pas tout annuler. Pour ceux d'entre vous qui étaient en ville lors de la fête du Canada, j'espère que vous avez apprécié les concerts et artistes de cirque éparpillés en ville, ainsi que notre défilé modifié. Ces célébrations ambulantes ont fait le tour de la ville afin de souhaiter une bonne fête du Canada à tous. Même la COVID-19 ne nous fera pas renoncer à nos traditions sacrées ! Il est à noter que cet événement a été organisé par le Service des loisirs et par un groupe de béné-voles enthousiastes (une autre tradition sacrée de M-O). Un grand merci à tous ceux qui ont organisé une superbe célébration pendant cette période difficile.

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

QUEL A ÉTÉ L'EFFET DE LA COVID-19 SUR LE BUDGET DE MONTRÉAL-OUEST ?



Alors que les citoyens ont vu gonfler les budgets des gouvernements fédéral et provincial avec les dépenses supplémentaires liées à la COVID-19, plusieurs résidents nous ont demandé quel était l'impact du virus sur le budget de Mo-Ouest. Bien que nous ne soyons pas en mesure de donner des projections fermes à ce moment, nous pouvons donner un aperçu des grandes lignes.

Revenus

Près de 84 % des revenus de la Ville proviennent des taxes foncières. Le premier versement ayant été reçu avant la pandémie, les chiffres restent donc inchangés. Grâce au délai qui nous a été accordé pour le versement de juin de notre quote-part à l'Agglo pour les services partagés, nous avons pu reporter le deuxième versement de la taxe foncière au 24 août. Par conséquent, nous n'avons pas encore constaté d'impact sur les recettes fiscales, et nous espérons que les résidents auront suffisamment de temps pour respecter ce nouveau délai.

Nous nous attendons à ce que les revenus des Loisirs diminuent considérablement en raison de l'annulation du camp de jour, de plusieurs autres programmes et de la capacité réduite de la piscine. Ces recettes représentaient initialement 664 k\$ dans le budget. L'ampleur de cette baisse n'est pas encore connue. Des baisses plus faibles sont attendues pour les recettes provenant des contraventions, des permis et de la location des installations de la ville.

On ne sait pas dans quelle mesure les revenus de nos droits de mutation (basés sur les ventes de maisons) seront affectés. Ils ont été initialement budgétés à 550 k\$. Bien qu'il y ait eu un ralentissement général du marché immobilier pendant le confinement, Montréal-Ouest continue d'être un endroit prisé, et les ventes ne semblent pas encore avoir été affectées.

Dépenses

En ce qui concerne les dépenses, bien qu'il y ait eu des dépenses supplémentaires liées à la technologie et à l'équipement en raison du virus, la plupart d'entre elles devraient être remboursées par les mesures d'aide d'urgence du gouvernement. En outre, les dépenses ont été considérablement réduites, principalement en raison de la diminution des coûts des programmes et des salaires du Service des loisirs. Des économies ont également été réalisées alors que la Ville offrait uniquement des services essentiels pendant quelques semaines.

De plus, nous avons redéfini les priorités de certains projets et avons reporté ces dépenses à l'année prochaine. Nous continuerons à examiner les dépenses discrétionnaires au cours de l'année.

Investissements en capital

La Ville va poursuivre son projet d'infrastructure sur Avon (pavage et feux de circulation permanents), car nous avons reçu une subvention du gouvernement pour une partie de ces travaux.

En résumé, à l'heure actuelle, nous prévoyons pouvoir terminer l'année avec un budget équilibré, à condition que les événements majeurs hors de notre contrôle ne soient pas trop drastiques (par ex. les tempêtes de neige du début de l'hiver).

Une préoccupation plus importante sera probablement l'année 2021, lorsque la Ville de Montréal pourra tenter de transférer une partie de ses dépenses supplémentaires liées à la COVID-19 aux municipalités liées. Nous relèverons ce défi en temps et lieu!

Colleen Feeney, conseillère

Finance, Administration, Ressources humaines et Urbanisme cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca

LE SERVICE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS PENDANT CETTE PÉRIODE DIFFICILE



Je profite de cette occasion pour vous saluer et vous présenter mes meilleurs vœux pour le bien-être de tous en ces temps sans précédent.

Ce qui suit est un aperçu préparé par notre Ser-

vice des travaux publics décrivant l'impact que la COVID-19 a eu sur leurs opérations quotidiennes depuis le début de cette pandémie et ce à quoi nous pouvons nous attendre tant que nous sommes sous ce protocole d'urgence sanitaire :

Dès que le gouvernement du Québec a déclaré l'état d'urgence sanitaire, nous avons entrepris la transformation du Service des travaux publics.

Nous avons mis en place un plan d'urgence pour fournir les services jugés essentiels par le gouvernement. Le défi organisationnel a été colossal. Pendant plusieurs semaines, nous avons fonctionné à capacité réduite avec un minimum d'employés. Progressivement, le déconfinement nous a permis de reprendre le cours normal des activités, même s'il a fallu un certain temps pour revenir complètement aux opéra-

tions normales. Des ajustements ont été apportés aux procédures opérationnelles afin de maintenir un niveau élevé de sécurité dans l'exercice de nos activités. Pour ne citer que quelques exemples, les employés doivent désormais se laver les mains à l'entrée du garage, désinfecter leurs véhicules, garder une distance physique de deux mètres et porter des masques lorsque nécessaire.

Nous avons pu maintenir la grande partie de notre horaire de travail, bien que la portée de nos opérations ait été réduite. Nos employés ont travaillé très fort à entretenir les routes et les parcs, réparer les bris d'eau, rénover le parc canin, remplir un grand nombre de nids de poule, finaliser les travaux d'infrastructure sur Crestwood, octroyer un contrat pour la réparation des trottoirs, refaire le marquage de rue, etc. Les collectes spéciales et la collecte des branches ont également repris.

Il est certain que tant et aussi longtemps que nous resterons dans cet état d'urgence sanitaire, des mesures sanitaires s'appliqueront et auront un impact sur le temps alloué pour mener à bien nos activités. C'est une période qui demande beaucoup de résilience et d'adaptation. C'est une opportunité pour nous de repenser notre modus operandi et de voir comment optimiser toutes nos procédures de travail.

Pour l'instant, le bâtiment des Travaux publics demeure fermé au public, mais le personnel continuera à répondre aux appels et aux courriels quotidiennement. Vous pouvez également les contacter en remplissant le formulaire « Nous joindre » sur le site web. Enfin, vous pouvez consulter la page dédiée au Coronavirus (COVID-19) sur le site Web pour en apprendre davantage sur les mesures prises par la Ville.

N'hésitez pas à me contacter par courriel si vous avez des questions ou des commentaires.

Veuillez continuer à être prudent, à rester en sécurité et à vous porter bien !

Maria Torres, conseillère Travaux publics et Édifices publics mtorres@montreal-ouest.ca

Citoyens de Montréal-Ouest et les agents de sécurité posent devant l'édifice des Travaux publics au Jour du Canada, le 1er juillet 2020 sur l'avenue Bedbrook (photo par Christine Downey)







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Public Library - Bibliothèque publique

Big news

The big news this spring is that we are now finally able to offer free membership to MoWesters. Free membership, our delivery/pick up service and our technical help have allowed us to continue our service without interruption to our patrons throughout this pandemic.

Although the library has been closed to the public, the popularity of our home delivery service and pick up continues to grow. Over 350 books were delivered during the month of June. A staff of two process and prepare the requests and the weekly deliveries are carried out by dedicated volunteers. And, along the way, we have registered 18 new households!

Work continues!

Of course, the lively chatter, exchange of information and opinions about the latest books being read are missing in our library building these days, but work continues behind the closed doors. New books are constantly being ordered, processed and made ready for circulation. Our magazines continue to arrive regularly and we are always on the lookout for new additions to our eclectic movie collection. Multiple copies of all the books on the summer reading list for Royal West students are now available by request. Also, we have started collecting items from Loyola High School's reading list. And don't forget you can always send in recommendations for additions to any of our acquisitions by emailing us at mwpl.requests@gmail.com or online at MWPL.ca.

Many of our book sale books have been donated to the *Saint Andrew Residential Centre* in NDG. If you did not know, *Saint Andrew* has been a member of our library for over three years. They have been hit

hard by the pandemic and they have been incredibly happy to receive some of our book donations. Donations to *Renaissance* are also continuing. If you know of any other organizations that would welcome some of this collection, please let us know.

We have also started working hard at trying to make our website more user-friendly. From now, on all information that is either published through *The Informer*, our Newsletter or Facebook will be found here. So, if you missed something, check MWPL.CA to find it.

Some of the changes to our website include:

- an online form for new members so that you do not even have to come into the library to become a member. For nonresidents there is still a small fee of \$40/year.
- new items this lists all new purchases that have been added to our collection;
- suggested Reading for Tea and Books
- how-tos: this section lists all our tutorials that we have developed to help you navigate our site and register your account;
- suggestions and reviews: this section allows you to suggest items for purchase and review items you have borrowed;
- newsletters: here you will find all our newsletter and *Informer* articles. The most recent will be available to read while links to earlier articles will be available.

New for September

A segment of the population that the library believes is under served, is youth (15-35 years old) population. For our purposes we refer to youth as those in secondary and post secondary institutions (between the ages of 13 and 29).



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This age group, according to the 2016 Census, represents 18% of the total population of Montreal West. As this library is known as the "Adult Library" and the Children's Library is that – the children's library, the youth really had no space for themselves. With this in mind the library has decided to start a Youth Advisory Group. If you know someone between the ages of 15 and 29 and would like to be involved in developing a collection and creating a safe place for young adults please contact Deborah at mwpl.librarian@gmail.com.

Relocation

Although we do not have an official moving date, we have known for quite some time that the library will be moving to a new location. The Board of Directors has started to plan for a new site and how it may look in terms of physical layout and services.

WED

August

12

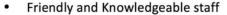
With this in mind, we have asked Prof. Avi Freidman to discuss one of his essays from his book, A View from the Porch, on August 12 at 2 pm as part of our Tea and

Books/Montreal West Reads series. This book is a collection of essays about community development, what works and what doesn't.

This is a crucial time for our little library. If you would like to be involved in the planning for our future, please join us at our Annual General Meeting on September 9 at 7 pm. This meeting is our 2020 meeting that was originally scheduled for March and is the meeting where we elect the Board members for a two year period. The meeting, depending on the social distancing rules in effect or weather, will either be held outside or by video conferencing. If you are interested in attending, email Deborah at mwpl.librarain@gmail.com. More details will be available in August on our website (MWPL.CA).

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Children's Library

Books in a Bag

Feeling the pulse and responding to community needs is always our mission. The COVID-19 situation presented us with a rare opportunity to test and implement new and diversified services. We never discontinued access to the library's collection thanks to our contactless service. Monday, March 16, we announced the Books in a Bag service. Responding to requests by email, we were preparing bags of books and inviting families to pick them up at a specific time according to a schedule: a 30minute slot was allocated for every family, thus preventing any encounters during pick up. The bags were left in the hallway, and returns were possible at the same time. Preparing the bags was a pleasant and challenging task and was an excellent occasion for readers' advisory!

The response was overwhelming. We received many a heartfelt testimony in acknowledgment of our effort to continue library service in a new way. Requests never stopped. The service was done by observing very strict hygiene protocol. In May we continued Books in a Bag by delivering the bags to the home address and picking up the returns. The bags were left on the doorstep, and returned bags picked up from there, too.

Another initiative was to provide book forms, downloadable via our web site. Children could fill them out and mail them to us. This way families and children could explore the books, exercise their book review skills and keep in touch with the library. We have a special section on our web site for Kids' Picks where the reviews are posted.

We are still operating Books in a Bag. As of June 8, requests are processed faster and can be picked up from the library's hallway 24 hours following the e-mail, any time during the opening hours

Virtual Story Time

Even if we cannot welcome you in the library for our Saturday Story Time, you can still listen to **Newt**'s stories every week. If you have missed out, you can visit the web site and enjoy them!

TD Summer Reading Program

Cette année, le programme ne peut pas être réalisé selon le format connu, mais nous sommes toujours en mesure d'offrir des défis de lecture! Le programme de lecture d'été se déroule du 15 juin au 30 août, et l'inscription est en cours tout au long de l'été. Les enfants âgés de 3 ans et plus peuvent participer au programme pour lire des livres de façon autonome ou avec l'aide d'un adulte un prix sera donné pour chaque lot de dix livres lus. Nous allons laisser votre carnet de lecture dans le sac de livres, tenez-le à jour, et après dix entrées, retournez le carnet dans le sac à livres, pour validation. Nous allons laisser une surprise dans le prochain sac que vous allez emprunter. Visitez notre site Web pour vous renseigner sur toutes les activités offertes par nous, et pour remplir le formulaire d'inscription : mwcl.ca/summer-reading-program.html.

Nous allons envoyer un mot de passe pour accéder au site Web du Club de lecture d'été *TD*, où vous trouverez une panoplie d'activités en ligne.

Mother Goose in Strathearn Park

All through the summer, join us for songs and stories every Thursday, 11 to 11.20 am. We respect physical distancing; the story time is a safe activity. In case of rain, the activity is cancelled.

Story Walk®

The Story Walk[®] is back this year! From June 15 to August 16, you can read *How to Give Your Cat a Bath* by **Nicola Winstan-**



ley. From August 17 to October 13, you can enjoy *La fée scientifique* by **Ashley Spiers**. The books are displayed in Strathearn Park, in front of the library.

Hours/Horaire

For pick-ups and returns only. Please contact us for a book bag.

Pour collecte et retour des sélections. Veuillez nous contacter pour demander un sac de livres.



Mon-Fri / lun-ven: 10:00-18:00 Sat-Sun / sam-dim: 10:00-15:00

info@mwcl.ca mwcl.ca

484-7194



Community Centre

Coming Events Futurs événements

Check out the website, ebulletin and Facebook page for more details. /

Surveillez le site Web, le bulletin électronique et notre page facebook.



September

Photo Hunt Chasse photographique

Town Chase Le 'Town Chase'



Entertainment, challenges, contests /
Divertissement, aventures, concours.

Program suggestions?

The Recreation Department is always looking to improve and expand programming for residents. If there are any programs you would lie to see offered, please do not hesitate to give us suggestions and we will try our best to offer them. Please call **484-6186** or send us an email at recreation@montreal-west.ca.

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News from the pews

MW United

...the brick one

Since soon after the lockdown, MWUC has been producing a virtual worship service each Sunday, which is online at YouTube or our Facebook page. Past services can be seen by searching for us there. We have been getting a lot of hits on the archived versions, so there is something of a following out there. Besides Rev. Mark Hammond offering scripture, a reflection and prayers, our music director, Samantha Borgal along with Owen Spicer have been adding the music — not to mention the virtual choir! Samantha's dog Stevie has been joining her for a children's time each week.

Now for July through Labour Day, we are joining three other United Church congregations to share in live Zoom services at 10:30 am Sundays. We are hoping Kevin Laramée, our producer, will be archiving a condensed version that will be available on YouTube and Facebook as above. We have heard from many who are grateful for the weekly moment of calm and reflection. It doesn't replace being together, but it does give one pause for the rest of the week. If you're interested in receiving the links for services, email mwucoffice@gmail.com or leave a message at 482-3210.

Outdoor Labyrinth

If you have passed by the church on the Ballantyne Ave. side, you may have noticed a Labyrinth laid out on the lawn there. We have put up a semi-permanent outline that anyone can walk at any time. While not a thing of beauty, it does allow folk to follow the pathway to the centre, pause awhile, then re-trace your steps back out. It does seem to get some use from all age groups which is great. Some simple instructions are posted by the mouth or entrance. So if you feel curious, are concerned about something or simply want the peace of the walk, feel free to enter and see what the experience may hold for you. While the atmosphere is not as private as our usual walks, one can enjoy the air, the breeze, the flowers, the birds, the shadows or perhaps even the stars and the fireflies. And yes, you can walk wearing shoes. Please only one person or household at a time. We ask that you leave it as you found it. It is there for your meditative pleasure.

What will September bring?

While we would like to open our doors, we need to do so respectfully so as not to cause a spike or resurgence of COVID-19. We have a group on it. Besides the governments, the United Church of Canada is also

providing us with guidelines for responsible re-opening. Safe to say, it will evolve over time. We'll keep you posted.

We hope that you find ways of connecting that are meaningful and safe for you and yours. Sending peace....

from Susan Upham

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Sometimes we at St. Ignatius joke that our building on West Broadway looks like a spaceship. Nowadays we kind of like that image, because we are actually in the "reentry" process. In other words, we're working through phases of opening up the church building so that people can return – slowly and safely.

Technically, St. Ignatius never actually closed. We just moved our ministries online! Every Sunday, we live stream the mass and hold a virtual café conversation after mass. We post videos of weekday homilies and children's ministries. Also, Connect Group gatherings and staff meetings take place on Zoom.

And yes, Alpha is online as well. In fact, we've had the biggest turnout ever for Alpha this summer! And we'll have another Alpha in the fall (stig.ca/alpha)

But now it's time to re-open the physical church to parishioners, neighbours and visitors. Following archdiocesan guidelines, we're moving through four phases:

- 1: The church is open during specific times for personal prayer and the sacrament of confession.
- 2: The church is also open for weddings, baptisms and funerals (with limited attendance).
- 3: The church can start to hold masses for the public (with limited attendance).
- 4: The church returns to full operation.

At every stage, we'll be following the government guidelines regarding physical distancing, sanitizing of surfaces and the wearing of masks. You can find more specific details on our website (stig.ca).

These past few months have challenged us all in so many ways. At the onset of the crisis, we identified four pastoral needs: hope, security, connection, and growth. We've tried to meet these needs through messaging, an intensified online presence and personal outreach and phone calls.

It is our firm belief that God is always with us, perhaps especially in times of hardship. If you or someone you know has a need for spiritual support, please let us know. We're looking forward to a return to normal life, but we're not going to rush. In the meantime, our mission continues!

from Rebecca Malone

News from the pews

St Philip's

Since March, St Philip's has shifted our worship from the building to online, using the GoToMeeting platform. We continue to worship every Sunday at 10 am, and the platform is available for both online and telephone access. The access instructions and codes are posted on our Facebook page each week (facebook.com/StPhilipMontrealWest) or you can call or email the church office and ask for them to be emailed to you weekly. The Anglican Diocese of Montreal has decided that churches will not open for worship before September 6. When we do reopen for worship in the building, there will continue to be an online component to our worship.

We have decided that, given the risks of large gatherings, our annual Christmas Bazaar will not be taking place this year. Look for its return in 2021.

Two of our big projects for the year are going forward. Transformation of our land into a community garden and orchard is under way. In this time of disruption of supply chains, locally grown food has an even greater importance, and the garden is a tangible way for us to care for our local community and for God's creation. Please see the separate article for more details.

The pandemic forced us to rethink some of our plans for ministry to children and families, but our Family Ministry Coordinator, Madden Watts, is being creative and adaptable. Together with his counterpart at

St Thomas' Church, he has launched a summer program under the name Interlocking Community Ministry ("IRL"). We have come together to make IRL so that we can be better neighbours to our surrounding and extended communities. We hope to provide services to kids, teens and families from all different backgrounds. We will be implementing virtual and in-person events as we see a need for both in our current situation. Current offerings include weekly online programs for families, a virtual youth group and a kid's garden club, learning about the community garden and nature. For more information, go to facebook.com/irl.min-

from Fr. James Pratt



St Philip's community fruit-and-vegetable garden

There is a new community fruit-andvegetable garden just off Brock Avenue, next to St. Philip's Church. Far from belonging to St Philip's, though, it belongs to the whole neighbourhood. A grant to build the new raised beds, get the earth and some of the supplies was facilitated by Christian Arsenault, the Loyola district Borough councillor. Another grant from the Anglican Foundation allowed for the purchase of five new trees and will, once some further work is done on the property, cover the purchase of more fruit trees and bushes. The justplanted trees have been damaged, we think by squirrels driven to their juicy shoots in the drought. These trees have been tended to in the hopes that they'll provide lovely pears and mulberries in future years.

The planting was all done by members of the neighbourhood, and there's a daily rotation among neighbours for watering, that has proven very necessary during the drought we've been having. Most of the garden is thriving and can be harvested by all residents of the area, including The

All we ask is that people cut off what they need and not pull up plants, so new shoots can grow for others. There are guidelines near many of the plants.

As well, in the corner between the church and the corridor to the hall, there is a Saskatoon berry tree. The fruit is ready to pick.

from Ellen Moore and Anne Williams



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Council meeting: June

by Carol Foster



The June 2020 meeting of Council opened online on Zoom with the mayor and councillors all wearing masks supporting the Mayor's opening

remarks. **Mayor Masella** reminded everyone, in the 16th week of confinement that it remains crucial to continue following the three main guidelines: washing hands, social distancing and wearing masks.

The Mayor reviewed the process for submitting questions to Council meetings and many residents had followed these instructions. Over 25 questions were asked and answered during the first question period spread over a variety of topics.

Safety

- Q: Will car shelters be allowed in the Town for seniors who have difficulty navigating winter driveways?
- A: There are no plans to change this bylaw, but other options for snow removal should be looked into.
- Q: Could southbound drivers on Westminster have the right of way to turn left on Broughton?
- A: The Traffic and Safety Committee will consider this request.
- Q: When will the Town take action to improve safety at the railroad crossing?
- A: The Town does not have the budget to undertake the major reconstruction required.

Roads

- Q: When will repairs be made to Roxton Crescent and its sidewalks?
- A: Not until the condition of the underground pipes warrants a grant for the work to be done.
- Q: Are there any plans to repave Fenwick?
- A: Not until the underground pipes are deemed in need of replacement.
- Q: When will the cracks and potholes on Westminster cease being simply patched over?
- A: Westminster is in need of a complete rebuilding at which time it will be resurfaced.

Trees and Weeds

- Q: Can the Town take action on the weeds and dead branches across from Ronald Park?
- A: Public Security will assess this situation.
- Q: What can I do when my neighbour won't trim the branches of his trees which overhang my property?
- A: If talking to your neighbour doesn't solve the problem, the only recourse left is to talk to a lawyer.

- Q: What is the Town's timeline for taking care of dead trees?
- A: Public Works is awaiting an arborist's opinion since the trees in question are diseased elm trees.
- Q: If "Friends of the Hydro Corridor" remove invasive buckthorn trees, will the Town remove the debris?
- A: More information is required in order to better understand this situation.

Parks

- Q: When will the temporary sign restricting traffic in an area in the dog park be removed?
- A: The sign is to protect grass seed that was planted there. Patience is requested.
- Q: When will Kirkpatrick Park on Easton open?
- A: Conditions for opening the Town's smaller parks are being studied but should be finalized soon.
- Q: When will the water fountain in Ronald Park be turned on?
- A: Public Works will look into it.
- Q: What action will the Town take to deal with the excessive noise from the basketball court?
- A: The old backboards are noisy and will be replaced. PSOs can deal with noise after 10 pm.

COVID

- Q: When will face masks become mandatory inside businesses in the Town?
- A: Enforcement is problematic, but efforts promoting awareness are ongoing.
- Q: How has the pandemic affected the Town's budget?
- A: So far, there has not been a huge impact but this may change once we hear from the Agglomeration.
- Q: Given that some of the directives have seemed unnecessarily restrictive, what is the Town's contingency plan for a COVID-19 resurgence?
- A: Municipalities do not have any input in the making of these decisions. All directives were based on provincial decisions combined with the reality of our limited budget.

Leaky roof

- Q: Why has there been no response to a request for a permit to fix a leaky roof?
- A: The delay was because the request included actual changes to the roof as well as just the repair.

Councillors' reports

Councillor Feeney assured residents that although the Town Hall building is closed, residents can still make contact via phone or the website. The second payment

of property taxes has been postponed until August 24 and no postdated checks will be cashed until then. Expenditures in June amounted to \$3.63 million with \$2.8 million going to the Agglomeration Council. Refunds of \$165,000 were issued for summer activity registration fees. PAC continues to meet virtually and permit applications must be filled out online. Masks are being distributed to seniors and the Outreach Program is going well.

Public Works staff has planted 45 trees in front of private residences and more are scheduled for the fall. This Department's regular duties now include the cleaning and disinfecting of all public buildings.

Parking regulations were back in force on June 1. Warnings have been given for lawns being too long and hedges too tall. There were reports of work being done without a permit as well as the illegal use of a leaf blower. **Councillor Mazzone** added that Public Security has received many noise complaints. With so many people working from home, it is important to follow the regulations covering noise (times for construction work and lawn mowing, preventing excessive dog barking). Councillor Mazzone encouraged communications from residents and can be reached at **949-3055**.

Although summer camps have been cancelled, some fitness classes for adults are now being held and summer activities in the parks for children will begin in July. Coun**cillor Ulin** described the conditions for using the pool and urged patience as well as flexibility as adjustments may be made to current regulations. A host of special activities are planned for Canada Day even during this time of social distancing and the Town's merchants have joined in, offering prizes for some of the events. Ulin gave a shout-out to Mike Barrett, who is retiring after 43 years of work with the Town. In appreciation of his service, dressing room #4 in the arena will be named after him.

There being no questions for the second question period, Mayor Masella closed the meeting as he had opened it with a warning that now is not the time to let guards down during this pandemic. He urged everyone to stay safe and enjoy the summer

The meeting was then adjourned.



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Réunions du Conseil : juin

par Carol Foster traduction parRené Boucher



Quand la réunion de juin 2020 du conseil municipal s'est ouverte en ligne sur Zoom, tous les membres du Conseil por-

taient le masque en appui aux remarques d'ouverture du maire. **M. Masella** a rappelé à tous qu'en cette 16^e semaine de confinement, les trois principales consignes demeurent cruciales : lavage des mains, distanciation et couvre-visage.

Le maire a passé en revue la façon de soumettre des questions aux réunions du Conseil et de nombreux citoyens avaient suivi les règles. Pendant la première période de questions on a répondu à plus de 25 questions couvrant une variété de sujets.

Sécurité

- Q : La Ville permettra-t-elle les abris d'auto pour les aînés qui ont de la difficulté à circuler dans leur entrée en hiver?
- R: Il n'est pas dans les plans de modifier le règlement, mais on devrait étudier d'autres possibilités pour le déneigement.
- Q: Les véhicules en direction Sud sur Westminster pourraient-ils avoir la priorité pour tourner à gauche sur Broughton?
- R : Le Comité de circulation et de sécurité examinera cette demande.
- Q : Quand la Ville agira-t-elle pour améliorer la sécurité au passage à niveau?
- R: La Ville n'a pas le budget pour entreprendre le réaménagement majeur nécessaire.

Rues

- Q : À quand les réparations au croissant Roxton et ses trottoirs?
- R: Pas avant que l'état des conduits souterrains ne justifient une subvention pour ces travaux.
- Q : Repaver Fenwick est-il dans les plans?
- R : Pas avant que les conduits souterrains ne nécessitent d'être remplacés.
- Q : Quand cessera-t-on de simplement rapiécer les fissures et nids-de-poule sur Westminster?
- R : Cette artère a besoin d'une reconstruction complète et sera repavée à ce moment.

Arbres et mauvaises herbes

- Q: La Ville peut-elle agir en ce qui a trait aux mauvaises herbes et aux branches mortes face au parc Ronald?
- R : La Sécurité publique évaluera la situation.
- Q : Que puis-je faire si mon voisin ne veut pas élaguer ses arbres dont les branches surplombent ma propriété?
- R : Si en parler avec votre voisin ne donne

- pas de résultat, votre seul recours est de consulter un avocat.
- Q : Quel est le calendrier de la Ville pour s'occuper des arbres morts?
- R: Les Travaux publics attendent l'avis d'un arboriste car les arbres en question sont des frênes malades.
- Q : Si les « Amis du corridor d'*Hydro* » arrachent des nerpruns, une espèce nuisible, la Ville enlèvera-t-elle les débris?
- R: De plus amples renseignements sont requis afin de mieux comprendre la situation.

Parcs

- Q : Quand enlèvera-t-on la restriction d'accès temporaire à une partie du parc canin?
- R : La partie interdite a été ensemencée et on souhaite la protéger. Patience s'il yous plaît.
- Q: À quand l'ouverture du parc Kirkpatrick sur Easton?
- R: Les conditions pour l'ouverture des petits parcs dans la ville sont à l'étude mais devraient aboutir sous peu.
- Q : Quand la fontaine du parc Ronald serat-elle remise en fonction?
- R: Les Travaux publics y verront.
- Q : Que fera la Ville pour régler le problème du bruit excessif provenant du court de basketball?
- R: Les vieux panneaux bruyants seront remplacés. Les ASP s'occuperont du bruit après 22 h.

COVID-19

- Q : Quand les couvre-visages deviendrontils obligatoires dans les commerces de la ville?
- R : L'application pose problème, mais les efforts de conscientisation se poursuivent.
- Q: Comment la pandémie a-t-elle touché le budget de la Ville?
- R: Jusqu'à présent, l'effet n'est pas majeur, mais cela peut changer dès lors que l'agglomération aura réagi.
- Q : Compte tenu que certaines directives ont semblé inutilement restrictives, quel est le plan de contingence pour une résurgence de la COVID-19?
- R: Les municipalités n'ont rien à voir avec ces décisions. Toutes les directives sont basées sur des décisions provinciales combinées à la réalité des limites de notre budget.

Toiture qui coule

- Q : Pourquoi n'a-t-on pas répondu à une demande de permis pour réparer un toit qui coule?
- R: La demande contenait des modifications à la toiture, additionnelles à la simple réparation.

Rapport des membres du Conseil

La conseillère Feeney a rassuré les résidents; malgré la fermeture de l'édifice de l'hôtel de ville, les citoyens peuvent toujours contacter le personnel par téléphone ou par le site Web. La date du second versement des taxes foncières a été repoussée au 24 août et aucun chèque postdaté ne sera encaissé jusque-là. Les dépenses de juin totalisaient 3,63 M\$, dont 2,8 M\$ pour le conseil d'agglomération. La Ville a remboursé 165 000 \$ pour les inscriptions aux activités estivales. Le CCU poursuit ses réunions virtuelles et l'on doit remplir les demandes de permis en ligne. Des masques sont distribués aux aînés et le plan d'action au soutien des personnes aînées va bon train.

Le personnel des Travaux publics a planté 45 arbres à l'avant de résidences privées et prévoit en planter d'autres cet automne. Le nettoyage et la désinfection des édifices publics sont dorénavant intégrés aux tâches habituelles du service.

Les restrictions de stationnement sont à nouveau appliquées depuis le 1er juin. Des avertissements ont été remis pour pelouses trop longues et haies trop hautes. Il y a eu des rapports pour travaux exécutés sans permis et utilisation illégale de souffleurs à feuilles. Le conseiller Mazzone a ajouté que la Sécurité publique a reçu de nombreuses plaintes pour bruit. Avec le grand nombre de gens en télétravail, il est important de respecter la règlementation sur le bruit, comme les heures pour les travaux de construction et la tonte des pelouses ainsi que de contrôler les aboiements excessifs des chiens. Le conseiller Mazzone a exhorté les résidents à communiquer avec lui sur son portable au 949-3055.

Il n'y a pas de camp de jour cet été; certains programmes d'exercice pour adultes sont en cours et des activités pour enfants débuteront dans les parcs en juillet. La conseillère Ulin a décrit les conditions pour utiliser la piscine cet été et a incité à la patience et à la souplesse, des modifications pouvant être apportées aux règles actuelles. Une série d'activités spéciales sont prévues pour la fête du Canada les marchands de la ville participent en offrant des prix pour certains des événements. Mme Ulin a lancé un Bravo bien senti à Mike Barrett qui part à la retraite après 43 ans au service de la Ville. En guise de remerciement, le vestiaire no 4 à l'aréna portera son nom.

Puisqu'il n'y avait pas de demande pour la deuxième période de questions, le maire Masella a clos la réunion comme il l'avait ouverte, en rappelant que le moment n'est pas venu de baisser la garde face à la pandémie. Il a invité tout le monde à profiter de l'été tout en demeurant prudent, après quoi, la séance était levée.



Ça va bien aller! Percival Ave. July 2020. Photo by Julia Ross

COMING EVENTS

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

Next deadline: August 5

- PLEASE CHECK WITH THE VENUE FOR POSSIBLE CANCELLATIONS -

JULY

Thu 23 Rotary meeting on Zoom. Mariella Carroga, Occupational Therapist: COVID-19 and Mental Health. us02web.zoom.us/j/86228153741. Host is Brian Bélanger. 7:30 pm.

AUGUST

- Wed 12 MoWest Reads/Tea and Books with Avi Friedman, A View from the Porch, a collection of 22 essays about the points where design touches life and the big and small things that make us appreciate, or become disconnected from, our homes and neighbourhoods. 2 pm.
- Tue 18 Town Chase / Le 'Town Chase'
- Mon 31 Town Council meeting.

SEPTEMBER

- Wed 9 Public Library's annual general meeting. All members are welcome. 7 pm.
- **Sun 13 More fun around Town!** Entertainment, challenges, contests / Divertissement, aventures, concours.

Pool Programs

We are pleased to offer our first pool program of the summer. Due to government guidelines and restrictions, we have very limited capacity, so they will be offered as a daily drop-in (but reservation ahead of time). Login to Amilia to see all we have to offer!

Aquafit

Tuesday and Thursday, 7-7:45 am \$3 per class (members), \$8 (non-members)

Diving

Monday and Wednesday, 10-10:45 am Tuesday and Thursday, 6-7:15 pm \$5 per class (members), \$8 (non-members)

Lessons

\$5 per class (members), \$8 (non-members)

Intro to swimming

3-, 4-, 5-year-olds Tuesday and Thursday, 10-10:30 am Monday and Wednesday, 4:30-5 pm

Intermediate Swimming

6-7-year-olds

Tuesday and Thursday, 11:15-11:45 am Due to restrictions, the instructor will be on deck and we require one parent in the water per child.