

It's officially a move

After over two years of uncertainty the Town Council voted on September 29 to accept an offer to purchase the library building and adjoining lot. The library will eventually move to the new structure into one of two commercial spaces on the ground floor. The MWPL Board and Director have been regularly meeting with the Town of Montreal West to ensure a smooth transition supported by Town resources.

The Board is presently in negotiations to obtain a temporary location to house the library while the new structure is being erected. This transition period is estimated to be a year and a half to three years. While in this location the Board hopes to continue providing the usual services and programs of the past. The Board wishes to thank the staff and volunteers because during the pandemic the library delivered books and DVDs to peoples' homes, one of the only libraries on the island to offer this service.

During the actual move, the library will have to be closed and deliveries cancelled, but advance notice will be given so members can stock up ahead of time. As the mayor said, the new library will be a huge

improvement over the old structure. While it served well for four decades, (The library originated in the basement of the MW United Church) it was never meant to be a library. The new space will be modern, fully accessible, with up to date wiring, heating, cooling and lighting.

Membership is now free for all MW residents. Now is a good time to get involved. A survey to all members will soon be distributed to see how we can best make use of the new space and have say in what the future MWPL will offer.

There is no doubt that fund raising activities have taken a hit during the pandemic, but the Board continues to make applications for government grants, solicit private foundations and is planning a community-wide appeal. When the Covid-19 threat dissipates, we will be again reaching out to the community and hope we can count on your continued support.

Meanwhile the library remains closed to visitors but our dedicated staff continues to deliver and pickup library materials and provide virtual programming. Visit us at mwpl.ca.

*from the Board of
the Montreal West
Public Library*

Vanessa Sicotte: Sharing her love of colour and decor

by Maurice Krystal

Once again, due to the never-ending pandemic, the interview was conducted in early July over the phone. An important ingredient is missing when you can't look a person in the eye as you interview them, but Vanessa's upbeat spirit and personality is clearly evident over the phone.

In 2009, **Vanessa Sicotte** started her own blog called *Damask & Dentelle*. Over the years her brand has mushroomed. She has become something of a mover and groover, like Canada's own Martha Stewart, in the lifestyle and design world with appearances on *CBC*, *CTV*, *Canal Vie*, various platforms on the internet, magazines, as well as two books she authored, one in 2015 and the most recent two years ago.

Her academic training was in industrial psychology. The field has two main areas of study: conflict resolution within the workspace, whether between employees, or bosses and their staff; or consumer behaviour, such as why people buy certain items, where to place these items, such as displaying gum at the cash checkout. In her



Photo: Julia C. Yona

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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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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

November 11



Ahoy! Oyster lovers!

The Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG's Oyster Fundraiser for the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal
Order by November 1
Pick up Saturday, November 7
1:30-3:30 pm, Town Hall

Cost \$150 for a 100-count box, the same price as at a fish store, much less than a restaurant. The monies raised from these sales will go to the *Native Women's Shelter of Montreal*.

To pre-pay by e-transfer or to order, email kmontgomery@assante.com and drop-off cheque payable to *Rotary Club of Montreal West & NDG* at *Action Sport Physio* at 14A, Westminster N.

If you prefer to make a donation, we provide tax receipts. You can even say which of our projects you wish to support, such as Peru medical clinics, Armenian school classroom renovation, etc. We particularly need donations to the *Rotary Foundation*.

Vanessa Sicotte

continued from page 1

studies at Concordia and UCLA she focused on consumer behaviour.

Interior design was always a passion, but Vanessa never imagined the possibility that it could ever be a "real" vocation. As a child of 3 or 4 she cut out photos from the Ikea catalogue and pasted them into scrapbooks. These were images of her ideal bedrooms or places she would like to be in. When her mother gave her, many years later, her collection of cut and paste interior designs, she noticed she had even written little notes describing what she had done and why. The idea that one could make money from something you love to do, rather than be an enjoyable hobby, is not so surprising. Many of us are brought up with that idea that work was an unpleasant task.

The evolution into leaving industrial psychology and moving towards interior design began when she and her husband, **Jonathan**, moved into their first home (it was a condo) near the Atwater Market. They looked at the empty rooms and wondered how the space could reflect their personality and tastes. She had no idea where to turn to find things. Perhaps unconsciously she remembered her childhood passion of cutting Ikea catalogues. The family

grew and more moves occurred, from NDG to Montreal West six years ago. She calls her house in our town her "forever house," because she has no intention of leaving it.

She adored the area six years ago when they were invited to a wedding reception here. She fell in love with the neat yards, the art and craft style homes and the friendly neighbours. They visited one house on the market, made one bid and moved into Pleasantville soon after. Their 1929 house has oak floors and trim as well as plenty of character.

Her blog and her books are very eclectic, showing things she likes but she does not advocate a particular style or trend. People have to find their own style; Vanessa simply shows what could potentially be done. Followers of her blog and books have to trust their own instincts when it comes to designing their own space. Her role is to show that anything can be beautiful.

Never through learning, she has gone back to school to study Art History at Concordia. About four years ago Vanessa stopped doing one-on-one consultations, preferring to reach a much larger audience. If someone requests redecorating their home, she will gladly refer them to people she knows and respects.

Since the pandemic struck, there has been a definite in-

crease in viewership on *Damask & Dentelle*, as people trapped in their homes look for ways to improve their space. In fact, Vanessa has totally redone four rooms in their "forever house" in the past three months. People can watch the journey as she transforms these rooms on Instagram.

Vanessa lives with her husband, Jonathan, who is a headhunter, linking people with specific jobs, **Ma'ila** (16), **Madison** (11) and **Teddy** (10) (and **Phoenix** their cocker spaniel who is three years).

Website:

damaskdentelle.com

Books:

[editions-cardinal.ca/
auteurs/vanessa-sicotte-31](http://editions-cardinal.ca/auteurs/vanessa-sicotte-31)

And people can follow her decor life live on:
[instagram.com/damask_dentelle/](https://www.instagram.com/damask_dentelle/)



Photo: Julia C. Vona

West End Quilters

The *West End Quilters* are going online. Our next meetings will be on Zoom. We had three very successful outdoor in-person meetings, but unfortunately, the fourth one was rained out.

We have missed our retreats and as **Anna** found out, it is not the same having a retreat at home alone instead of with 10 or 12 creative women.

We have had three women interested in joining us. Two met us in the garden while the third will meet us first online. No matter what, we keep on quilting.

If you are thinking of quilting email **Mary**: marysdogbob@gmail.com and please check out our Facebook page to see the quilts we have recently made: facebook.com/westendquilters.

MoWest Meals on Wheels

After a long tenure as the coordinator of *MW Meals on Wheels*, **Audrey Moroney** is retiring and looking for a replacement. It is a very rewarding volunteer position, which involves managing the executive board to help provide nutritious meals twice a week. The position includes communicating

with the board members to manage schedules, volunteers and finances, when necessary. *Meals on Wheels* is not currently in operation, due to COVID-19, but will be back in business once it is safe to do so.

If you are interested in this position, please call **Audrey Moroney** at 489-8919.

In memoriam

Elizabeth (Betty) McNamee

Passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Saturday, September 26 at the Fulford Residence where she was cared for with love and tenderness. Betty almost reached her 105th year and lived gracefully in Montreal West until she was 99 years old.



As well as being a dedicated volunteer at the *Montreal Association for the Blind*, Betty was a loyal and lovely member of the *MoWest Horticultural Society*, both as member of the group and a member of the executive for more than 40 years. Our meetings were always made more charming by having Betty in her usual seat in the front row accompanied by at least one of her many friends.

mour. She always enjoyed **Dawn Smith's** slightly ribald jokes at the Christmas meetings and her contributions to the raffles were accepted with such love. You knew not to call Betty before noon each day, but she could always be reached up until 3 am! She was a very special lady.

We will miss her sense of hu-

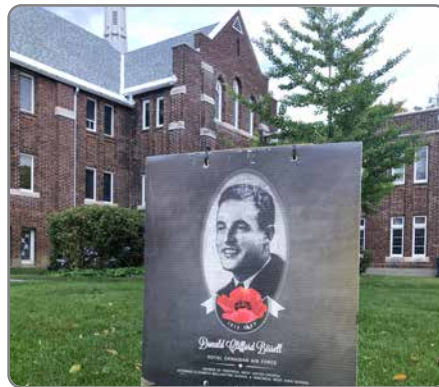
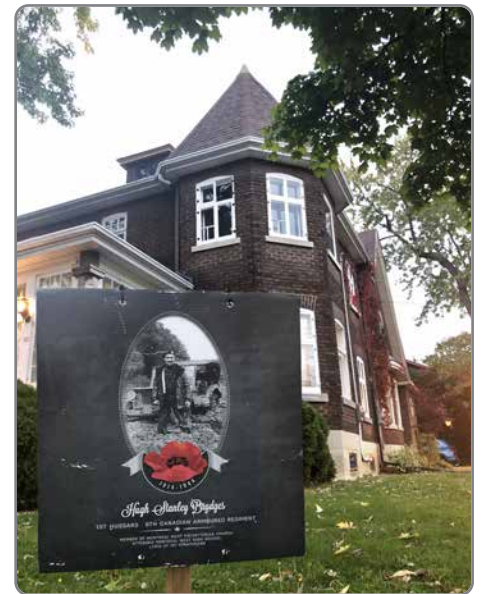
from *Joyce Teiber*
President

MW Horticultural Society



Jour du souvenir Remembrance Day:

Walking tour of veterans' homes



Over 40 homes have commemorative posters on their lawns remembering those service members who gave their lives in service during World War II. A full map and tour are available on the Town website courtesy of research done by Dr. Robert Drummond.



On Saturday, November 7 the virtual Walk to Remember is being organized by the Community Centre. A virtual Remembrance Ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 8.



David Brodeur, Darrin Sabourin, Matteo Cattelan, Scott MacKenzie



Dave Messina, Dave Guennette, Sean Francis, Nick Messina



Sandy Maag, Tony Cioffi, John Foglieta, Elvio Cesari.

Photos: Randi Weitzner

MoWest Charity Golf Tournament: another big success



Rob Trickett, Corry Kelahear, Mike Harper, John Flood



Marc Dore, Susan Emblem, René Bruemmer, Paul Moreau



Norm Cook, Lorena Cook, Shelly Kohut, Joe Kessler

Despite having the shadow of COVID-19 lingering in the sand trap the 8th annual MWC GT went ahead with great success on September 17.

Eighteen foursomes played in a staggered format rather than the usual shotgun and had a wonderful day. This allowed many people to enjoy their game without crowds congregating before and after the event. Individual post game BBQ's were held back at home for many of the groups rather than the usual grand banquet.

Rather than generating fundraising through hole sponsorship or a silent auction as has usually been done, the individual golfers paid the same amount as in previous years and the portion of their fees that normally paid for the banquet was allocated to our charitable causes.

As a result of great participation, and a few generous individual donations, a total of \$7867.50 was raised bringing our total over the last eight years to \$81,014.

Congratulations to **Sam McCoubrey** and his team of volunteers

for their great efforts in generating money for many local MoWest organizations.

Included this year as recipients of our funds are *La Fondation Place Coco / Little Red Playhouse, Children's Library, Meals on Wheels, Elizabeth Ballantyne and Edinburgh elementary schools, the Extra Miles Senior Visiting Program* in the MW United Church, the *Public Library, the Andy Collins for Kids Foundation* in memory of **Bruce Charon** and the *MUHC* in memory of **Rick Emery**.

There were many winners in this day's event, but only one group gets to be called The Champs. Once again, it was **Ryan Emery's** foursome that won even though Ryan was on the sidelines and had to be replaced by **Corry Kelahear** who joined with the usual group consisting of **John Flood, Mike Harper and Rob Trickett**. Congratulations to them for their continued success!

The lucky (or talented) foursome of **Tom Clarke, John Gubany, Dan Boulterice and Phil Birdgenaw** won the coveted Pink Ball Prize for

managing to play all 18 holes without losing their sole pink ball and then survived a draw amongst the other five groups who did the same.

"Best Dressed" went (as usual) to the very well-appointed **Scott MacKenzie** sporting a kilt made from his family tartan.

Thank you to our regular golf photographer, **Randi Weitzner**, who spent the afternoon capturing all of our participants enjoying themselves.

A big thank you goes out to **Tom** at the *Caughnawaga Golf Club* for hosting our gang while following all of the public health guidelines and keeping everyone as socially distanced as possible while still having an awesome day.

Thank you to all who participated and who once again made this event a great success. We look forward to seeing you all back again in 2021 in whatever format we will be able to work with 12 months from now!

from John Drummond

Rotary

Margo Buchanan: Resilience Montreal



Our September 24 Rotary speaker was **Margo Buchanan** who is Montreal-born and McGill-educated having studied anatomy and cell biology and loves working with the public.

Resilience Montreal is a project under the *Native Women's Shelter* and *Nazareth House*. It was set up as an emergency response to the crisis when *The Open Door* shelter moved to the Plateau. The shelter moved, but their clientele stayed in Cabot Square. As a result, the lack of services contributed to at least 12 deaths before *Resilience Montreal* was started. *Resilience Montreal* will soon stand on its own and are looking for a new building.

They operate in a fast-paced environment that is constantly changing. *Resilience Montreal* was only four months old when the pandemic hit. The City of Montreal opened five outdoor shelters to provide food to the homeless. Response from community was huge, food and clothing donations blew up. They moved back inside September 1 and offer laundry services, showers and clothing. They help get Medicare cards and open bank accounts for clients. They intervene to find apartments and make sure people are taken care of.

They basically organize things and are very grass roots in nature.

Right now, they receive enough articles to share with other shelters. They try to share the love and are trying to create a network to share everything. We have to empower more people and have been inspired by an amazing community that has been very supportive. They are very excited about getting everyone involved. *Resilience Montreal* is empowering the indigenous population so it is more like Resilience Plus.

Margo brought along two co-workers **Sully** and **Jarred**. Sully who is Inuk talked about the basic needs like food, water and clothing, things that most people take for granted. A sense of community is important and we have to build a foundation to improve the community. It really is Resilience Plus with all the support they get. Sully said there is a large Inuk community who are homeless and he has direct contact with them and he says it helps them when he can talk to them in their language and he can understand their needs better.

Ahoy, Oysters in MoWest

We will be doing an oyster fundraiser (Saturday, November 7 at the Town Hall) delivering the boxes of oysters that have been ordered and pre-paid. Cost \$150 for a 100-count box, the same price as anyone would pay at a fish store, much less than a restaurant.

To pre-pay by e-transfer or to order, email kmontgomery@assante.com and drop-off cheque payable to *Rotary Club of Montreal West & NDG* at *Action Sport Physio* at 14A, Westminster N.

The monies raised will go to the *Native Women's Shelter of Montreal*.

Join us

Come and join us via zoom Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. For details, email giulianapendenza@gmail.com.

The *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG* is always looking to embrace new members. If you want to give back to your community, city, country or the world, *Rotary* is an excellent way. *Rotary* is a worldwide organization that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards and helps build goodwill and peace.

from Doug Yeats



Join our Intergenerational Pen Pal Program!

MWUC's *Extra Miles Senior Visiting Program* is proud to announce a collaboration with the *MoWest 50+ Club* and *Elizabeth Ballantyne School*! The program will be a monthly exchange of letters (November through May) between older adults and the grade 6 students in **Ms. Lucy** and **Ms. Jessica's** classes. We know the many benefits that can come from the growth and development of intergenerational friendships!

If you are 50+ and interested in joining the Intergenerational Pen Pal Program, please contact **Tracie Swim** (*Extra Miles*) at **482-3210**.

*Accepting everyone as an individual,
rather than part of a group builds
a stronger, more compassionate,
empathetic and kinder community.*

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IODE and Rotary



IODE/Rotary new initiative GoFundMe

Rainbow bagels for
COVID-19 first responders



The IODE HMS Victory and the Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG have initiated a new fund-raising campaign for first responders, our too often overlooked firefighters and ambulance workers. The aim is to show our appreciation for these unsung heroes during our current coronavirus pandemic by sending them a platter of assorted bagels including appropriately multi-coloured ones.

Within a few hours, the GoFundMe campaign we launched has raised over \$400. The iconic Montreal rainbow-coloured bagel symbolically says “Everything will be all right – Ça va bien aller,” a morale boosting slogan that first appeared in Covid-19 gripped Italy as “Andrà tutto bene” shortly after the death of several doctors and nurses including the head of the Order of Physician in northern Italy. Many of us have witnessed first-hand how brave our frontline healthcare workers have been, cheered by many as they’ve entered our embattled hospitals. IODE and Rotary members, the latter under President **Ron D’Souza**, all wanted to get involved and help. After successfully raising funds for those without shelter, “We now wanted to reach out to our neighbourhood firemen and police officers in Montreal West and NDG,” said D’Souza. At the same time, we’ll be supporting our local merchants, *Dizz’s Bagel & Deli* and *Boulangerie Snowden*.

from *Giuliana Pendenza*
and *Ron D’Souza*

Edinburgh School



Students raise \$4450 with COVID-friendly *Terry Fox Run*

Edinburgh Elementary School held its annual *Terry Fox Run* September 25. The staff and teachers respected COVID-19 restrictions including social distancing and donning face coverings, but were able to get outdoors and accompany the children in the traditional fundraising run. Unfortunately, parents were not able to come out to cheer on the students as they normally do, but the kids felt the community’s support thanks to a handful of volunteers who were monitoring the route, but who also cheered them on with songs, clapping and even some noise makers!

From kindergarten to grade 6, students ran laps around the school in honour of Terry Fox’s memory and raised \$4450 for cancer research. Congratulations to Edinburgh students for taking part again this year!

from *Kate Shingler*
Co-President of Home and School



Elizabeth Ballantyne School

Mental health

The mental health and well-being of students is a top priority at EBS. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) education has been part of our curriculum and school culture for many years. This year, students returned to school excited to learn and to be reunited with their peers. Being reunited and reconnecting to a familiar safe space has been shown to reduce anxiety and increase positive emotional development. SEL is a process where students gain emotional intelligence by learning to recognize their feelings and be able to manage them. At EBS, we learn this process through daily mindful practices, connecting with others and ourselves, labeling emotions and taking our daily emotional temperature. The skills that students learn through SEL will serve them throughout their lives.

Peace Day

Students participated in Peace Days, an initiative of the Peace Network for Social Harmony. The school's culture is based on our core values, one of which is Kindness/Compassion. Students were taught that compassion comes from within and the need to connect, comprehend and have compassion for themselves before they can begin to understand others. Compassionate Diversity is about inclusion and the acceptance of cultures and traditions of all types. Students celebrated this compassionate diversity



At EBS, we prioritize social/emotional health



Cycle 3 students learn about Inuit culture

through art and play October 7.

Cycle 1 children were introduced to the African culture by **Ms. Devan** who worked in Africa. She taught the students a game that she played with the African children. Cycle 2 students have been connecting with themselves, other students in their class and, finally, others from diverse cultures in their community. Cycle 3 students learned about Indigenous cultures and the significance of inuksuit. A former EBS teacher (who lives and works in Aupaluk, Nunavut) and her students presented a pre-recorded video all about inuksuit and the northern lights. Cycle 3 enjoyed making their own beautiful chalk art drawing of the northern lights and inuksuit. The goal was to help the students expand their sense of compassion for others and to appreciate and celebrate diversity in all its forms. We are very proud of all our students who display compassion on a daily basis. For more information, please visit:

thepeacedays.com; click on "Learning" and then on "compassionate diversity: connect to self before connecting to others."

The Terry Fox Run

Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope celebrates its 40th anniversary, and the students and staff have been participating in this event for 35 of those years. The students have raised a total of \$156,970 to date. The COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped the children from pursuing Terry's dream. During the week of October 5-9, students from kindergarten to grade 6 participated in this fundraiser during their regularly scheduled gym classes. The boys and girls were asked to dedicate their run to the memory of a loved one. *The Terry Fox Foundation* is an organization that we hold deep in our hearts, and we will continue to support them in the future.

from Kate Marien

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Montreal West Scout Group



Moving Up Ceremony held at Royal West field



Scout Nathan Held participates in the Radcliffe cleanup



Cubs

The new year of Cubbing started September 16, with numerous precautions to keep our Cubs and Scouters safe during this pandemic. The Cubs were split into two groups, with different drop-off points and Scouters to help them. Hand sanitizer (graciously donated by *Sani-Marc* and **Paul Moreau** of Montreal West) was applied, and everyone was asked questions about their health and signed in for contact-tracing purposes. Despite being entirely outdoors, masks were mandatory for everyone the entire time. The Cub motto is to “Do your best,” and we believe this is our way to do our best to prevent the spread of the virus while having a great, safe meeting for everyone.

On September 23 we were able to finally have some ceremonies that had been post-

poned from the end of last year. We welcomed the Beavers who moved up to join our Cub pack, officially recognized the achievements of the three cubs who earned their Seeonee Award (the highest award in Cubs) and then said farewell to our Cubs who moved up into the Scout troop. Despite the restrictions in place because of the pandemic, we were able to have a touching ceremony that was enjoyed by the participants and their parents.

With the Red Zone restrictions now in place in the Montreal area, we have moved our meetings online, using Zoom. Our Scouter **Darzee** has been doing a fantastic job of organizing and coordinating the Cubs as we get used to this new way of having meetings.

Despite the pandemic we are committed to continuing with Cub Scouting while doing our best to provide a safe and wel-

come environment for our cubs. Registration is open for any boy or girl in grades 3, 4, or 5 who is interested in joining our pack.

from Todd Stedl

Scouts

The theme for Scouts this year is “Less talking; more doing!” Indoor meetings will not be possible this year, and we are changing the date and time of the meetings in order to get outside more. Every second week we will have a short virtual meeting on Wednesday, in order to prepare for an in-person adventure the following Sunday afternoon. We want to get the Scouts outside as much as possible, doing hikes and day trips to local parks, while building shelters, practising Scouting skills, and playing games. Scouts Canada has provided excellent guidelines on how to have outdoor meetings in a way that keeps them safe and maintains appropriate social distancing.

Our first outdoor meeting on September 20 was in MoWest where we did a clean-up of the Radcliffe trail. Scouts wore masks throughout the entire afternoon. It was a beautiful day, and it was wonderful for the Scouts to get together again after such a long time since our last in-person meeting in March. Our schedule this fall – as long as we are allowed to by public health authorities – includes biking to Park René Lévesque, and weekend hikes to Angrignon Park, Mount Royal and Bois-de-Liesse. We are hopeful that provincial guidelines for social distancing will allow us to have these outdoor adventures. In any case, our virtual meetings on Wednesdays have also turned out to be a lot of fun and a neat way for all the members of the Troop to re-connect.

from Andy Chapman

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Guiding

Staying connected!



The MoWest Girl Guides are all excited to be meeting again! They were all set to start their socially distanced, outdoor, in-person meetings in September. Unfortunately, the rate of transmission of the COVID-19 virus started to increase, and Montreal quickly went from a yellow, to orange to red. As soon as the politicians announced we were moving to an orange zone, Girl Guides quickly advised all the leaders we needed to suspend our in-person meetings. So, we have switched to virtual meetings. To make it easier for the girls to have the supplies they will need for their meetings, a little fairy created bags for each of the girls registered. The bags have the extra supplies which they may not readily have on hand to allow them to fully participate in the virtual meetings. The bags will also be used to transfer items from the Guiders to the girls and vice versa. For example, the Sparks and Brownies helped to make poppies to decorate the wreath for the Remembrance Day ceremony. In their bags, there was an envelope dated for October 21. These envelopes contained the felt, needle, thread and buttons to make the poppies. At the meeting, the leaders showed the girls, step by step how to assemble to poppy. The same fairy who assembled the bags will collect the created poppies and craft them into the wreath for the ceremony.

The Sparks and Brownies have a lower enrollment right now. In order to provide the best possible experience for the girls, it was decided to blend the two units, just for this year. The girls decided to unofficially call themselves the RAINBOW unit. On many levels, the leaders thought this was a very appropriate name.

We are excited to have a new Guider join our unit. **Sara Michelle Weinman** was once a Brownie and a Guide in MoWest. As a Brownie, she had **Brown Owl** as her leader. When she was a Guide, **Wendy Cooper** (Please see the article in last month's *Informer*) was her leader. Sara Michelle, better known as **Unicorn** to the girls, was a Guider in Ontario. Her studies have brought her back to Montreal, and to us! When the meetings are virtual, she'll be able to help us out!

The Rainbow unit has asked the girls for their ideas for programming for the year to come. The girls were excited about all aspects of the Guiding program. To start the year, the girls are learning about their specific branch of Guiding as well as all the different levels in Canada and internationally. It is easier and a lot of fun to have campfires virtually. With the technological delay, it

provides some funny renderings of the songs! For the girls who are new to the unit, the words to the songs are shared on the screen, so no one is left behind! At the end of our last meeting, the girls spontaneously decided to share their musical talents! We had girls playing the violin, ukulele and others who would like to play the trumpet, recorder and piano at meetings. This would have taken a bit more organizing if we had been meeting in person!

The Guide unit has been quite busy as well. They too have specially made bags for their supplies. The girls have had a helping hand in setting up the organization of the patrols. They choose who their patrol leaders and seconds would be, as well as their patrol emblems. They have also been learning about the Guide promise, law and their marching song. They also had several meetings to celebrate the International Day of the Girl. The girls made individual posters describing how they saw a brighter future for girls. One girl thought it would be great if it wasn't strange for girls to like sports.

Girl Guide cookies

We are excited to let you know you will be able to purchase the mint Girl Guide cookies this fall. The Sparks/Brownie unit will have the cookies available for responsible, socially distanced, in-person pick up.

The Guide unit will have the mint cookies available for purchase on-line. Follow this link to place your order: secure.girlguides.ca/site/TR/Events/General?team_id=3071&pg=team&fr_id=1112.

from MoWest Guiders



The Bag Fairy makes deliveries

Photos: Christine Downey



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LET'S MAKE NOISE



I'm sick and tired of seeing cars speed down our streets and not making full (or in some cases, any) stops at stop signs. I'm fed up of seeing cars speed by school buses right before a bus turns on its hazards. Having lived in MoWest for nearly 20 years, I have never observed the situation to be as alarming. We need to start taking back control of our streets, so that our children, the elderly and our residents at large may enjoy living in the safe Town to which we've all become accustomed. So, what can you and I do?

First, complain. Write to us at Town Council. Alert me, the Mayor and my fellow Councillors to the more problematic areas of Town. Raise awareness. Attend our Town Council meetings and let your voice be heard. Write to our local SPVM (police station) 9, located at Côte Saint-Luc Road and Westminster. In short, let's make noise. Together.

Second, speeding drivers will be more apt to slow down if they believe their speed is being monitored. A neighbourhood watch group may be a place to start. You and your neighbours could meet periodically to discuss the speeding issue. Residents could go door-to-door to make sure that everyone knows about it. A Facebook page to discuss the issue would also be a good idea. We can also look into posting signs, such as "Streets Patrolled by Neighbourhood Watch."

Third, video surveillance is a useful tool. Video cameras can, for example, be installed in your window or doorframe. It is actually possible to capture images of cars and licence plates with video surveillance. If there are chronic offenders, video surveillance can be used to alert the police.

Our Traffic and Safety Committee can look to the installation of speed bumps or directional or speed limit signs; however, too great a dependency on these traffic-calming measures will only displace problems from one street to another. No, fundamentally the answer needs to be a greater vigilance and effort on all our parts to be vocal and proactive. Our collective safety and security is simply non-negotiable.

Dino Mazzone, Councillor
Public Security and Special Projects
Fundraising
(514) 949-3055

Dino Mazzone, Councillor
Public Security and Special Projects
Fundraising
(514) 949-3055



COUNCIL communiqué

MAYOR'S REPORT



Pandemic update

Welcome to the second wave....

There is no doubting that we are in the midst of a second wave. We are back to more restrictions and closures in the hope of stemming off a potentially overwhelming wave in our hospitals. After a brief taste of normalcy over the summer, these new restrictions are especially hard to accept and digest, but we have no choice. These newly imposed rules worked last spring and they will work now if we adhere to them.

So please do follow the rules. Do not look for loopholes – no group sports mean no group sports. It does not mean you are allowed to play basketball because it's just a pick-up game and not officially organized. No gatherings in our homes mean no gatherings. Following the rules in one part of your day does not mean you can ignore them in another part of your day.

I wanted to acknowledge and thank the administration at Royal West Academy for working closely with the Town to try and get their students back outside of the rules when they are not on school property. Thank you to our Public Security and Public Works teams who are scrambling to close loopholes when we see them. And thanks to the Recreation department who is moving things back online quickly to keep us active during this new wave. And thanks to the Admin teams who are working in the background keeping the day-to-day functioning as normal as possible.

We live in urban setting so any outbreak in one home can so easily propagate to other homes. So please follow the rules and do what we need to do.

Redevelopment of the library lot

At our Council Meeting on September 29, Town Council voted unanimously to accept an offer from Guerrera-Tedeschi Investments Inc. to purchase the lot at the corner of Westminster South at Avon and including the building that currently houses the MW Public Library. The developer will erect a 3-storey building plus mezzanine that will contain 24 condominiums plus two commercial/institutional units on the ground floor. One of those two units will eventually house the public library.

In broad strokes, the redevelopment will entail moving the library to a temporary location (to be confirmed), demolition of the existing library building, relocation of water and sewer pipes, construction of the new building (including underground parking) and all the landscaping work, then moving the Public Library back into a newly built, accessible and modern facility.

The Board of the Library has been working very closely with the Town Administration on the temporary relocation and on the leases for the temporary location and permanent new home.

This redevelopment allows the Town to address a few major points:

- Increase our tax base
- Increase our variety of housing stock
- Set an architectural vision for that location
- And hopefully act as a catalyst for the whole commercial sector south of Sherbrooke

I need to congratulate Me. Raffaele Di Stasio, our Director General, who has worked with the developer, with the library board and with Council to allow us to reach this point. Bravo Raffaele. A dedicated webpage is online on our website.

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



KIDS AND COVID: HALLOWEEK IN MOWEST



It pains me to say this but Halloween in 2020 may not look much like the door-knocking ghost and goblin fest we're famous for here in MoWest. At the time of writing, we are under a Red Alert for COVID-19 and, by Halloween night, we may not be out from under it. Even so, we're unlikely to be back in the Green Zone for a while. Families may need to find alternatives to Trick or Treating. And house parties will definitely be out.

Although there's been much debate over how children are affected by the virus and how efficient they are at spreading it, a huge study out of India this month has found that children are, in fact, spreading the virus among themselves and also to adults. According to the study, "Many kids are silent spreaders in the sense that they don't manifest the disease with symptoms. They happen to get infected

as much as anyone else and then they happen to spread it to other people." Read more about the study here: <https://n.pr/3dBdUEb>.

So even though the government has mandated that kids stay in school, it may be imprudent to amplify that risk further with an evening of door-to-door social activity – both for the goblins and the givers-of-candy. It's also worth remembering that our reputation for fabulous decorations and generous treats attract many families from out of Town each year. That's wonderful in a normal year – maybe not so great in 2020.

So what to do?

Of course the MoWest Rec department has cooked up a terrific alternative with "Halloweek," a virtual celebration of this most cherished childhood holiday. For Halloweek, you're encouraged to carve your spookiest pumpkin, create your scariest home, dress your beloved pet in her Halloween best – and send us pho-

tos for prizes! Contest entries close October 31 and winners will be announced November 2. Check out the web for details.

It may not be as glorious for your goblin as a pillowcase full of candy, but it's sure to be lots of family fun. And, after all, Trick or Treating isn't the only way to get a pillowcase full of candy. I'm sure Costco can help you with that if you're determined to maintain that particular tradition.

As of this writing, Halloween is not, in fact, cancelled. And I understand it is an outdoor activity that can (and should) naturally employ nose and mouth masks. But I'd ask you to consider a variation on Halloween this year to help ensure that all Mowesters will be around to feed the goblins in 2021.

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

HOW DOES BEING IN THE RED ZONE CHANGE THINGS IN MONTREAL WEST?



Once the Red Zone designation came into effect for Montreal on October 1, Montreal West had to adopt measures in order to comply with the new regulations. Some of these changes are outlined below.

TOWN SERVICES

All services are continuing, and the Town is actively working on a plan of action should the government institute regulations that only essential services are permitted.

Most office staff continue to work from home, but respond to Town email or telephone messages. Those who are working on site, such as the Public Security Officers and Public Works staff are respecting government guidelines regarding distancing and masks. Some of the measures the Town has taken to ensure the safety of our employees include: the installation of plexiglass at work stations and in vehicles, a frequent cleaning and disinfection plan and the modification of work schedules to protect employees and limit close contact. This latter was negotiated by a letter of understanding

with the blue collar union. The Administration has also set up contingency plans to ensure we have enough employees should the rate of absenteeism increase.

The Recreation Department had been offering a mix of in-person and online classes. They have now moved all courses online until October 28 and will follow government guidelines after that. The arena was closed for repairs earlier this month. When the work is completed, it will be opened for free skating, with the date announced in an e-bulletin.

The Senior Outreach Program continues to offer a grocery pickup service for those who require it. The regular phone check-in service is also ongoing. If you are over the age of 70 or if you are in a vulnerable situation regarding COVID-19 and would like to enroll in these programs, please call the Community Centre at 514-484-6186.

CLARIFICATION REGARDING BACKYARD STRUCTURES

Although last month's Communiqué outlined the types of backyard structures which were permitted in Town this year, we caution residents that the government regulations take precedence over

those of the Town. It is unclear whether the Quebec government considers outdoor shelters as outdoor spaces or indoor spaces, and it should be noted that as a Red Zone, even outdoor gatherings are prohibited. Temps used as car shelters are prohibited in front, side or backyards.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS

We once again encourage you to support our local merchants. Most are open, and many of our restaurants are offering either pickup or delivery. A vibrant main street is important to all.

Residents who are interested in tracking the current COVID-19 cases in Montreal West will be interested to see that the government now gives details as to the number of new cases daily and for the past 14 days. The current situation in Montreal West is available on our website: <https://montreal-west.ca/en/resident-services/coronavirus/>.

Stay safe and stay healthy!

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

FAISONS DU BRUIT



Je suis fatigué de voir des voitures ralentir dans nos rues sans s'arrêter complètement (ou pas du tout) au panneau d'arrêt. J'en ai assez de les voir accélérer à l'approche d'un bus scolaire

juste avant qu'il allume ses clignotants. Depuis presque 20 ans à Mo-Ouest je n'ai jamais observé de situation aussi alarmante. Nous devons reprendre le contrôle de nos rues, pour que nos enfants, nos aînés et tous nos résidents puissent apprécier vivre dans une ville sécuritaire comme nous en avons l'habitude. Alors, que pouvons-nous faire?

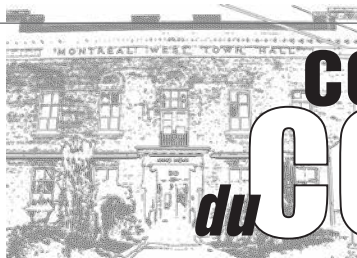
Premièrement, nous plaindre. Ecrivez au Conseil. Alerte-moi, le maire et mes collègues conseillers. Sensibilisez la population. Assistez à nos séances de Conseil et faites-vous entendre. Ecrivez à notre poste de police local. En bref, faisons du bruit. Ensemble.

Deuxièmement, les conducteurs qui roulent trop vite seront plus susceptibles de ralentir si ils se savent surveillés. Un groupe de surveillance de quartier pourrait être une idée. Vous et vos voisins pourriez vous rencontrer régulièrement pour discuter des excès de vitesse. Les résidents pourraient faire du porte-à-porte et s'assurer que tous soient conscientisés au problème. Une page Facebook pour en discuter serait aussi une bonne idée. Nous pourrions aussi penser à installer des panneaux, comme « Rues patrouillées par un groupe de surveillance de quartier ».

Troisièmement, la surveillance vidéo est un outil utile. Les caméras vidéo peuvent être installées sur vos fenêtres ou vos encadrements de portes. Il est possible de capturer des images de voitures et de plaques de voitures. Si il y a des récidivistes, la surveillance vidéo pourrait être utilisée pour alerter la police.

Pour s'assurer le respect des règles, notre comité de circulation et de sécurité pourrait considérer l'installation de dos d'âne ou de panneaux de signalisation et de limite de vitesse; cependant, une trop grande dépendance à ces mesures de ralentissement de la circulation ne fera que déplacer le problème d'une rue à une autre. Ainsi, la réponse doit être une plus grande vigilance et un effort collectif pour se faire entendre et être proactif. Notre sécurité collective est tout simplement non négociable.

Dino Mazzone, conseiller
Sécurité publique et financement de projets spéciaux / (514) 949-3055



communiqué du CONSEIL

RAPPORT DU MAIRE



Mise à jour sur la pandémie

Bienvenue dans la deuxième vague...

Il n'y a pas de doute que nous sommes au milieu d'une deuxième vague.

Nous devons, de nouveau, nous soumettre à des règles strictes et à de nouvelles fermetures pour espérer arrêter une potentielle vague écrasante dans nos hôpitaux. Après avoir goûté brièvement à un peu de normalité pendant l'été, ces nouvelles restrictions sont particulièrement difficiles à accepter et à digérer, mais nous n'avons pas le choix. Ces règles nouvellement imposées ont fonctionné au printemps dernier et elles fonctionneront encore maintenant si nous les respectons.

Donc s'il vous plaît, suivez les règles. Ne cherchez pas de failles – pas de sport collectif signifie pas de sport collectif. Cela ne veut pas dire que vous avez le droit de jouer au basketball parce que c'est un jeu qui peut s'improviser et que ce n'est pas une partie officielle. Pas de rassemblements dans nos maisons signifie pas de rassemblements. Suivre les règles une partie de la journée ne veut pas dire que vous pouvez les ignorer à un autre moment de la journée.

J'aimerais prendre le temps de remercier l'administration de Royal West Academy pour son travail en étroite collaboration avec la Ville visant à rappeler les règles à ses étudiants quand ils ne sont pas dans l'enceinte de l'école. Merci à nos équipes de la Sécurité publique et Travaux publics qui luttent pour que les règles soient respectées. Merci également au département des Loisirs qui rend les choses rapidement accessibles en ligne pour nous garder actifs pendant cette nouvelle vague. Merci aussi aux équipes de l'Administration qui travaillent en arrière-plan pour garder le fonctionnement quotidien aussi normal que possible.

Nous vivons dans un milieu urbain donc n'importe quelle épidémie dans une maison peut se propager très facilement dans les autres maisons. Alors encore une fois, suivez les règles et faites ce qu'il faut.

Projet de réaménagement sur Westminster Sud

À la séance du 29 septembre, le conseil municipal a voté à l'unanimité pour accepter une offre de Guerrero-Tedeschi Investments Inc. pour acheter le terrain au coin des rues Westminster Sud et Avon incluant le bâtiment qui abrite actuellement la bibliothèque publique de Mo-Ouest. Le promoteur va construire un bâtiment de trois étages avec mezzanine qui contiendra 24 condos et deux unités commerciales/institutionnelles au rez-de-chaussée. Une de ces deux unités accueillera la bibliothèque publique.

En bref, le réaménagement impliquera le déménagement de la bibliothèque dans un lieu temporaire (à confirmer), la démolition du bâtiment existant, la relocalisation des conduites d'eau et d'égouts, la construction du nouveau bâtiment (incluant un parc de stationnement sous-terrain) et tous les travaux d'aménagement paysager, ainsi que l'aménagement de la bibliothèque dans la nouvelle bâtisse, accessible et moderne.

Le conseil de la bibliothèque a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec la Ville sur la relocalisation temporaire et sur les baux du lieu temporaire et de sa nouvelle maison.

Ce réaménagement permet à la Ville d'aborder quelques points majeurs :

- Augmenter notre base d'imposition
- Augmenter la variété des types d'unités d'habitation
- Proposer une vision architecturale pour cet emplacement
- Et, avec un peu de chance, agir en tant que catalyseur pour tout le secteur commercial au sud de Sherbrooke.

Je me dois de féliciter notre directrice générale, Me Raffaella Di Stasio, qui a travaillé avec le promoteur, le conseil de la bibliothèque ainsi que le conseil municipal pour permettre d'atteindre ce résultat. Bravo Raffaella. Une page dédiée est en ligne sur notre site Web.

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



LES ENFANTS ET LA COVID : L'HALLOWEEK À MO-OUEST



Cela me peine de le dire, mais l'Halloween 2020 risque de ne pas ressembler à un festival de petits lutins frappant aux portes comme nous y sommes habitués à Mo-Ouest. Au moment d'écrire ce texte, nous sommes en Alerte rouge pour le COVID-19 et d'ici la nuit de l'Halloween cela n'aura peut-être pas changé. Il est peu probable que nous retournions en zone verte avant un moment. Les familles vont certainement devoir trouver d'autres choix aux « Bonbons ou mauvais tours ». Et les soirées en intérieur ne seront sans doute pas autorisées.

Bien qu'il y ait eu beaucoup de débat sur la manière dont les enfants sont affectés par le virus et à quel point ils le transmettent, une grosse étude venant d'Inde ce mois-ci démontre que les enfants se transmettent, en effet, le virus entre eux ainsi qu'aux adultes. D'après cette étude, « Beaucoup d'enfants sont des transmetteurs silencieux dans le sens qu'ils ne

manifestent aucun symptôme. Ils sont infectés comme n'importe qui d'autre et transmettent le virus aux autres. »

Donc même si le gouvernement a décrété que les enfants restaient à l'école, cela serait imprudent d'amplifier le risque avec une soirée à faire du porte-à-porte – tant pour les petits lutins que pour les distributeurs de bonbons. Il est aussi important de se rappeler que, chaque année, notre réputation pour nos fabuleuses décorations et nos généreuses distributions de gourmandises attire de nombreuses familles des villes alentour. C'est fantastique lors d'une année normale, mais un peu moins en 2020.

Alors, que faire ?

Le service des loisirs de la Ville vous a, bien entendu, préparé une formidable solution de rechange avec l'Halloween, une célébration virtuelle de cette fête que les enfants adorent. Pour l'Halloween, vous êtes invités à tailler vos citrouilles les plus effrayantes, à décorer votre maison de façon terrifiante, à déguiser votre animal de compagnie et à nous envoyer des

photos pour remporter des prix ! Le concours se termine le 31 octobre et les gagnants seront annoncés le 2 novembre. Jetez un coup d'œil à notre site internet pour les détails.

Cela ne sera certainement pas aussi glorieux pour vos petits lutins qu'un sac rempli de bonbons, mais ce sera tout de même de super moments passés en famille! Et puis, après tout, « Bonbons ou mauvais tours » n'est pas le seul moyen d'avoir un sac rempli de bonbons. Je suis sûre que Costco peut vous aider avec ça si vous souhaitez maintenir cette tradition.

À ce jour, l'Halloween n'est pas annulée. Je comprends que c'est une activité extérieure qui pourrait se tenir en portant le masque. Mais je vous demanderais de considérer une variation de l'Halloween cette année pour nous aider à assurer que tous les MoWesters seront là en 2021 pour nourrir nos petits lutins.

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

ALERTE ROUGE: QU'EST-CE QUE CELA CHANGE À MONTRÉAL-OUEST?



Une fois que l'alerte rouge a pris effet à Montréal le 1^{er} octobre, Montréal-Ouest a dû adopter certaines mesures afin de respecter les nouvelles règles. Certains de ces changements sont décrits ci-dessous.

SERVICES DE LA VILLE

Tous les services continuent, et la Ville travaille activement à l'élaboration d'un plan d'action au cas où le gouvernement établirait des règles où seuls les services essentiels seraient permis.

La plupart des employés de bureau continuent de travailler depuis la maison, mais répondent aux courriels de la Ville ainsi qu'aux messages téléphoniques. Ceux qui travaillent sur place, comme les agents de la Sécurité publique et les employés des Travaux publics, respectent les directives gouvernementales concernant la distanciation et le port de masques. Voici certaines des mesures prises par la Ville pour assurer la sécurité de nos employés : l'installation de Plexiglass aux postes de travail et dans les véhicules, un plan de nettoyage et de désinfection fréquents, et la modification des horaires de travail pour protéger les employés et limiter les contacts rapprochés. Ce

dernier point a été négocié par une lettre d'entente avec le syndicat des cols bleus. L'administration a aussi établi des plans d'intervention pour s'assurer que nous avons assez d'employés en cas d'augmentation du taux d'absentéisme.

Le service des loisirs offrait des classes en ligne et à l'hôtel de ville. Maintenant, et jusqu'au 28 octobre, les cours sont donnés en ligne exclusivement. Des mises à jour seront faites en fonction des nouvelles directives. L'aréna a fermé pour réparations un peu plus tôt ce mois-ci. Lorsque les travaux seront terminés, il rouvrira pour le patinage libre et la date sera annoncée dans un e-bulletin.

Le Programme d'aide aux aînés continue d'offrir un service d'épicerie. Le soutien téléphonique régulier continue aussi. Si vous avez plus de 70 ans ou si vous êtes dans une situation vulnérable à cause de la COVID-19 et si vous souhaitez vous inscrire à l'un de ces programmes, appelez le Centre communautaire au 514 484-6186.

CLARIFICATION CONCERNANT LES ABRIS DE JARDIN

Bien que mon communiqué du mois dernier renseignait types d'abris de jardin permis en Ville cette année, nous informons les résidents que les règles gou-

vernementales prévalent sur celles de la Ville. Il n'est pas clair si le gouvernement du Québec considère les abris extérieurs comme des espaces intérieurs ou extérieurs, et il est important de noter qu'en tant que zone rouge, même les rassemblements extérieurs sont interdits. Les Tempos® utilisés comme abris de voitures sont interdits à l'avant, sur le côté ou à l'arrière de la maison.

SOUTENEZ LES COMMERÇANTS LOCAUX

Nous vous encourageons à soutenir nos commerçants locaux. La plupart sont ouverts et plusieurs de nos restaurants offrent la livraison ou les repas à emporter. Une avenue principale dynamique est importante pour tout le monde.

Les résidents qui souhaitent suivre l'évolution des cas de COVID-19 à Montréal-Ouest seront intéressés de voir que le gouvernement donne maintenant des détails sur le nombre de nouveaux cas quotidiens et pour les 14 jours précédents. La situation actuelle à Montréal-Ouest est disponible sur notre site internet : <https://montreal-west.ca/fr/services-aux-residents/coronavirus/>.

Soyez prudents et restez en santé !

Colleen Feeny, *conseillère Finance, Administration, Ressources humaines et Urbanisme*
cfeeny@montreal-ouest.ca



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News from the pews

ST. Ignatius of Loyola

Believe it or not, St. Ignatius of Loyola Church has continued to flourish during the pandemic. Our live stream mass (Sundays at 10 am) regularly attracts several hundred visitors. After the mass, we offer an online virtual café where you can get to know the community and its programs. For kids, there is a short video each week, custom-made by our ministry team.

At present, in-person mass attendance is limited to 25 people. We offer masses on Saturday at 4:30 pm, Sunday at 10 am, Tuesday at 7 pm and Thursdays at 9 am. You can keep up with the community, including online groups and events, by going to our website, signing up for our newsletter, and following us on Facebook and Instagram. and please know that we're always praying for the safety and strength of our city and our neighbors!

MW United

...the brick one

Cancellations, isolation... and hope

The complexity of life these days – it takes a lot of jam to keep going. But so far, we are. Having a church community with its phone calls, its virtual worship services, its newsletters... these are the connections that keep us going and assured that we will weather this.

Have you re-done all those jigsaw puzzles? Or baked bread? Chatted over the fence with neighbours watching the flowers grow? Watched favourite programs move across the channels or to Netflix? Anyone writing their novel? Short story? Rhyming couplet?

We now have the space to re-evaluate our priorities. Many have found new ways of negotiating their daily lives. Some may have acquired new skills, albeit under duress – and likely technology features in there. Of the events that have been cancelled, perhaps a hiatus will find you embracing this activity with renewed energy when it can be resumed. Or not.

There is little point to forecasting what will be happening at “the brick one” anytime soon. Best to watch for posters for updates. So, while there is no bazaar this November, no fireside dinner, no apple pie making bee, the interest in each other continues. The hope of in-person worship remains and strategies are in place when that can happen safely. Indoor Labyrinth Walks,

while temporarily on hold, are still a reasonable possibility before long. And the outdoor one has served some well over these months.

If you would like to sample our online worship services, Google Montreal West United Church and you will find them all there from Easter to date. Rev. **Mark Hammond** offers warm and thoughtful messages that can lift spirits. Music too, cleverly crafted by **Samantha Borgal** our music director, and podcaster **Kevin Laramee**, can be enjoyed. And these continue....

For those whose circles have been touched by COVID-19, our sympathies. There is nothing fair about its trajectory or the loneliness it imposes. Your stories renew our convictions about keeping safe. Rev. Mark would welcome hearing from you, if you feel so inclined. May you find kindness in unexpected places.

At our November 1 service, names will be read and candles lit for those known to the congregation who have died in the last 12 months. If you would like someone's name included, please contact the office (482-3210) by October 26 and we will add them to this roll.

Let's all keep doing what we are doing and maybe we can duck this virus. Rest assured we are all waiting in the wings at 6-foot intervals, masked and ready when it's safe to resume. Keep as well as possible. Blessings on us all.

from Susan Upham

St Philip's

We reopened the church building briefly in September, but as the coronavirus case numbers started climbing, we quickly closed again. We continue worship every Sunday at 10 am on the GoToMeeting platform. Please see our Facebook page, facebook.com/StPhilipMontrealWest, for the access code for each week or email the church office, office@stphilipchurchmontreal.ca, to get on the email list for the weekly email.

Thank you to all who volunteered in, contributed to, or just stopped by to enjoy our community garden. For those who volunteered, it was an excellent means of having some socially distanced fellowship. In early October we started the pollinator garden – echinacea, black-eyed Susans, bee balm, false indigo, and other plants to attract bees and butterflies, and planted six black-berry canes. Plans for the spring include one or more additional raised beds, more fruit trees and some berry bushes.

from Fr. Jim Pratt

Kosher corner

High Holidays during COVID-19?!

Who knew what to expect for High Holidays during COVID-19?! However, despite the necessary guidelines and restrictions, there was beauty that may have actually outshone previous years!

For starters, praying outdoors surrounded by nature imbued our prayers with the beauty and vastness of creation. In addition, there was a constant feeling of community and care. For some, this meant staying home to leave room for a neighbour to attend, for others it was sanitizing their seat and prayerbooks. It was so special watching everyone go the extra mile for the safety of another.

Our Jewish pride was strongly felt at the shofar in the park. Over 100 in attendance! Definitely a first for MoWest.

A second outdoor shofar blowing took place in front of the Rosh Hashanah lights at Jamie and Sandy's house. Once again, with 80 participants, well beyond anyone's expectations!

We hope the prayers and mitzvahs will bring blessings to the entire MoWest over the year to come.

from Rabbi Mendy Marlow



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Public Library - Bibliothèque publique

We'll have a permanent home at last!

You will see a much shorter article from the library this month as the biggest news since Montreal West demerged is that the library is finally scheduled to have permanent home. Both the Board of Directors and the *Friends of the Library* are addressing this topic so we do not need to do it here too!

Remember the library is not closed, but open, and remains virtually open allowing members to receive deliveries or scheduled pick-ups. Not only can you join the library for free but we can deliver your requests to your door! And don't forget you can always send in recommendations for additions to our acquisitions by emailing us at mwpl.requests@gmail.com or online at MWPL.ca.

We are still offering a tech help service for all residents and members. To date, **Dane** has been able to answer over 300 emails since he began working with us in May. He has been a great addition to our small team, but remember, Dane, is only at the library Monday and Thursday between noon and 6 pm and not available 24/7 like some other help services.

Have you ever wondered "Who are the people in your neighbourhood?" Well, we at the library have. So, with that in mind we have decided to hold a series of lunch time interviews over ZOOM called "Women in Philanthropy" in November to honour National Philanthropy Day. The dates are not set as this article goes to print but check on our site mwpl.ca for more information.

Ongoing programs

Virtual Shakespeare: the play is set, the roles are being cast – look for the production in the New Year.

Tea and Books is continuing in November. All are welcome to our meetings so if you would like to join us (on ZOOM) please email mwlib.requests@gmail.com to register.

Library Volunteers Sharing their Stories: now taking place over ZOOM rather than in person, we are in co-ordination with the Atwater Library, having volunteers tell us their stories about the library. Get in touch at mwpl.librarian@gmail.com if you would like to share your story.



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OFFICE HOURS (COVID-19)

Monday - Thursday
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GREAT news!!!

Friends of the Library are delighted with the news that the MoWest Public Library will be integrated in The Easton Project of mixed residential and commercial complex. There are two commercial spaces, one for the library and another adjoining it, should the library need to expand.

We favour the library having both commercial spaces for several reasons, chief among them, the fact that the space offered now is smaller than the total we currently have. To transition as we must into a 21st century library, a cultural oasis and a gathering hub with the latest technology, then the larger the better. Moreover, during economic downturns, commercial spaces often have "For Lease" signs, less than desirable in an institutional area. As well, a bigger space means that a single library with a children's section along with an adult library might still be a reality at some point. Having a closed room or two such as a board room or resource centre can be useful for clubs and citizens' groups to meet, not to mention space for consolidating archives of our Town's treasured documents in the new library. With more space, a "library lounge" and a café corner where young and old can discuss a book or two become feasible possibilities.

Finally, it might be a tip of the hat to the **John Simms** green space we're losing, if the setback of the complex were increased and the building did not abut the sidewalk as the building sketch we've seen seems to suggest.

from Giuliana Pendenza

Children's Library

Summer reading program statistics

For a second year, the library took part in the *TD Summer Reading Club* in order to make the summer program even more engaging and entertaining. This year, we counted 93 registrations and 750 books read. Taking into account the current context, we are very happy that children participated in such a big number and read that many books! *TD Summer Reading Club* was offered entirely online; however, we made sure every child who registered received his own paper reading log. These logs "travelled" between the library and the homes; for every 10 books read, children discovered a surprise gift in their book bag. Congratulations everybody for the reading this summer and for participating in this memorable summer program! Special kudos to **Jaden Riven**, who read a total of 120 books and received a certificate of completion for the highest number of books read!



Jaden Riven with his Certificate of completion

Halloween celebration

Our traditional Spooky Tales cannot happen this year, but we will still maintain the pumpkin decoration activity. Come and pick up a pumpkin from the library on Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25, have fun crafting at home and send us a picture of the decorated/carved pumpkin and yourself in a costume! We will prepare a nice surprise for everyone with the pictures you send.

Parent and Child Book Club

The next Book Club meeting will take place on Zoom, on Friday, October 30. We will discuss the *Wishtree* by **Katherine Applegate**. This is the story of Red - an oak tree - who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree" - people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches. Along with her crow friend Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red's hollows, this "wishtree" watches over the neighborhood. If you are interested to read it and meet other passionate readers, please contact the library for information and registration, and to borrow a copy of the book.

Library visits in October

In compliance with the governmental guidelines, access to the library's shelves will be suspended until October 28, or until the guidelines stay in effect. The library collection will be within reach thanks to our "Books in a Bag" service which has been operational since March. To return books, you can visit us during the modified opening hours. To receive a new bag, please send us an e-mail or give us a call.

IODE



Kudos to Edinburgh students!

The *IODE* HMS Victory chapter wishes to thank the Edinburgh school students and parents for their generous contributions of more than three hundred grooming care products collected throughout the year.

The donations were distributed during the COVID-19 period to the Indigenous people at Cabot Square. The school's Care Campaign was initiated and coordinated by **Jagdeep Trehin**, Spiritual Care Guidance and Community Involvement Animator. As part of an outreach to the community, Jagdeep explained, "the goal of the leadership program involving grade 5 and 6 students was to work together to find ways to help the local community and the school." The goal of the program was to have the students become involved and contribute through helpful activities. These efforts which are a vital link from the students to local charities and the larger community are much appreciated.

The *IODE* chapter delivered these grooming care packages on Canada Day, Labour Day and will do so again on Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day and Christmas.

Moira Bettinville
Vice-President
IODE HMS Victory

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Town Council meeting: September



by Carol Foster

The Mayor's report was full of good news.

With help from staff in **Marc Garneau's** office, the Mayor was able to contact senior personnel in CN's public affairs office who informed him a directive has been issued that, barring any emergency, trains are not to be left idling behind homes on Ronald Drive nor will the area serve as a crew changing point. The Mayor also learned that the average number of trains has decreased from 19 in 2016 to 16 in 2020 and that a retaining wall is being built along the tracks. It was made clear that the destruction of the tunnel in that area was a decision made by Quebec's Minister of Transport office and there are no plans to restore it. The Mayor will continue to be kept informed.

The Mayor met with representatives of the RTM (Metropolitan Transportation Network) and received an update on the plans for the MoWest train station. Another building is to be erected at Sherbrooke and Connaught to allow people to allow access the northern track directly from Sherbrooke. The tunnel under tracks 1 and 2 will be extended to the new building. This will relieve pedestrian traffic at the level crossing. A public consultation is to be held October 22 and information will be posted on the Town's website.

The Mayor then announced what he called "exceptionally good news." A motion, accepting the offer of purchase and development of the lot at Westminster and Avon Road for the amount of \$1.9 million plus taxes was passed unanimously. The developer plans to erect a three-storey building containing approximately 24 condominium units and a ground floor

which will contain two commercial units. One of these units will be the new home of the Public Library. The benefits to the Town will be a new, modern home for the library, an increase in the variety of the Town's housing stock, an increase in the tax base and a stimulus for the renewal of the commercial artery of Westminster. The Mayor offered congratulations to **Raffaello Di Stasio**, the Town's Director General, who worked with the developer, the library's board, and the Council to achieve this goal.

The Mayor ended his report with a reminder that the Town is now included in the "red zone" and those regulations must be carefully followed for everyone's sake. These regulations will not yet affect the recreational programming, but may affect the Public Works Department and patience is requested.

First question period

The safety of pedestrians on Westminster promoted several discussions.

The Mayor announced that measures are being taken for children attending Edinborough School, to avoid having to cross Westminster twice in order to get to and from school. New directional signs will be erected on the sidewalks over the hump indicating that the one-way restrictions apply outside the school children's travelling times.

Many Royal West students have been observed completely ignoring COVID-19 safety regulations as they gather on Westminster during their lunch hour. This puts others, including the shopkeepers, at risk.

The Mayor has reached out to school administration and the school commissioners as well as the CCMU (Emergency Measures Control Centre) to find out if there are ways to ensure these precautions are taken seriously and he promised to continue to

monitor the situation.

It was pointed out that illegal bike traffic on Westminster's sidewalks especially endangers elderly pedestrians. **Councillor Mazzone** stated that, although there is very little that can be done, PSOs will be asked to make mention of the fact that no one should be riding their bikes on the sidewalks. Additionally, this regulation could be discussed within families.

Environmental issues were also raised. Lawn problems, possibly caused by white grubs, well as the presence of an unsightly waste container hung on a post in RD Paul Park were mentioned. Councillor Torres promised to look into a complaint that a Town tree on an adjacent property was causing damage to a resident's roof and eavestrough. This homeowner was told that the death of the tree has been predicted should it undergo further pruning and therefore no further action should be taken. The Mayor will ask Public Works to follow up on a question concerning the disposal of the Town's green waste.

Concerns about traffic are a staple of every question period. Cars driving the wrong way on Parkside, speeding on Bedbrook and dangerous driving in general were all commented on and ways to control these issues will be looked into. Residents are again urged to send their complaints directly to the police. The Mayor will contact the new Commandant at Station 9, which now houses officers transferred from Station 11 in NDG, to ask for increased surveillance in the Town.

Having been made aware of possible pandemic restrictions on the use of shelters for gatherings, Councillor Feeney will investigate this information. It was restated that the temporary shelters must not be visible from the street.

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Town Council meeting: September

Council was asked what measures the Town will put in place to support residents and business owners during this second wave of the pandemic. **Councillor Feeney** and **Councillor Ulin** enumerated the many initiatives already in place and gave assurance that this support will be continued.

The last question was about question period itself. Why, it was asked, are questions limited to 100 words and why is there such a short window for the submission of these questions.

It was explained that, given the new format of the Council meetings, many more questions than usual are being asked and it takes time to read them all out. Question period, therefore, takes up a larger portion of the meeting. However, questions can always be asked of Council by telephone or email. The limited window for the submission of questions raised a point that Councillor Ulin promised would be discussed at caucus since she agreed it may be too restrictive.

Councillors' reports

Considering the amount of time left in the meeting, the Mayor asked for short reports from the councillors and suggested a limit of 90 seconds for each. (There appeared to be some difficulties in following the Mayor's 90 second directive.)

Councillor Torres enumerated the many tasks attended to by Public Works during the past month, which included taking care of potholes, water breaks, street sweeping, tree planting and park maintenance. Work was also required in the arena to attend to the damages caused by a leak

Residents were notified of *Parmalat's* testing of their emergency siren and everyone is advised to ensure they are signed up for such notifications on the Town's Code

Red Alert system. No cause has yet been discovered for a fire that started inside the wall between two businesses on Westminster. Councillor Mazzone stated that leaf blowers will be allowed in the Town between October 15 and November 15. Both contractors and residents are warned that leaves are not to be deposited in the street and must be placed in paper or cardboard receptacles or in garbage bins in order to be picked up in Tuesday compost collection

Councillor Ulin announced the fall programs are in progress and are following the recommended COVID-19 precautions. The programs may be subject to change should new directives be put into place. New residents received 40 welcome baskets, which included contributions from the Town's merchants. Four outdoor rinks will be erected this winter, two for casual skating in Davies Park and Hodgson Field and two in Rugby Park and Hodgson Field for hockey.

Councillor Feeney reminded everyone that water tax bills will be distributed on October 26 and payment is due by November 26. She firmly reminded residents that work must not be started before the receipt of a permit or verbal confirmation for the project. Without adherence to these regulations, the work may have to be undone.

The annual flu clinic will not be held in the Town Hall this year. All residents must register with their local CLSC in order to obtain an appointment for the shot. The CLSCs will be distributing more information as soon as it is available.

No questions were submitted for the second question period and the Mayor closed the meeting with the warning that "we are going through a very scary period again." However, he feels if everyone looks out for the welfare of all, "we can get through this together."

Community Centre

Recreation programs

The fall recreation programs started in September but have gone virtual since October 8. A special thank you goes out to all the participants who were extra careful at following all the rules we had in place, answering all of our questions at every class! Remember to keep moving and stay safe.

Winter program registration begins November 2

Early bird pricing is in effect until November 27. Programs begin the week of January 11. Call the Community Centre at **484-6186** or go to montreal-ouest.ca/eng/online-registration.

Artist Showcase – fall 2020

Virtual exhibit of *Ça va bien aller*

Visit montreal-west.ca (Recreation and Culture) to see the work of some of your creative neighbours: **Alex Brzezinski, Lynn Cairns, Sheila Caplan, Maurice Krystal, Rose-Marie Loughran, Jamie McCallam, Elizabeth Ulin, Annette Joseph-Wolfstein.**

Halloweek

Lots of fun things to do all week long! – see flyer in this issue!

Contests for MoWesters (residents only)! Deadline to submit photos for House Decoration, Pumpkins & Pets is October 31. Winners will be announced November 2.

See the website for more details:
montreal-west.ca

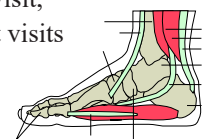
CANADA REMEMBERS: Tulip Art Project

75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. Tulips are a sign of friendship between the Netherlands and Canada. Since November isn't the best time to plant tulips, instead we would like to see your Tulip Art. Email (recreation@montreal-west.ca) your tulip art; some will be displayed online or in the next *Informer*.

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par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Le rapport du maire débordait de bonnes nouvelles.

Grâce à l'aide du personnel de **Marc Garneau**, le maire a contacté des hauts placés aux affaires publiques du CN. Ceux-ci l'ont informé d'une directive qui, sauf urgence, interdit de laisser les trains tourner au ralenti derrière les résidences de la promenade Ronald de même que de changer les équipes à cet endroit. Il a aussi appris que de 2016 à 2020, le nombre de trains est passé de 19 à 16 et qu'un mur de soutènement est en construction le long des voies ferrées. On lui a clairement indiqué que la démolition du tunnel dans ce secteur découlerait d'une décision du ministère des Transports et qu'il n'y a aucun plan de reconstruction. Le maire sera tenu au fait de la situation.

Le maire a rencontré des représentants du Réseau du transport métropolitain et on l'a mis au courant des plans pour la station de trains de Montréal-Ouest. Un second édifice sera érigé sur Sherbrooke à la hauteur de Connaught permettant d'accéder à la voie nord directement de Sherbrooke. Le tunnel menant aux voies 1 et 2 sera prolongé jusqu'à la nouvelle construction. La circulation des piétons au passage à niveau sera ainsi allégée. Une consultation publique se tiendra le 22 octobre et le site Web de la Ville en affichera les détails.

Nouveau site pour la bibliothèque

Le maire a ensuite fait part de ce qu'il a qualifié de «nouvelle exceptionnellement bonne». Une résolution acceptant l'offre d'achat et d'aménagement du terrain à l'an-

gle Westminster et Avon pour la somme de 1,9 M\$ plus taxes a été adoptée à l'unanimité. Le promoteur envisage d'ériger un édifice de trois étages comprenant environ 24 unités en copropriété et deux locaux commerciaux au rez-de-chaussée, dont un deviendra le nouveau site de la bibliothèque. Parmi les avantages pour la Ville, notons un emplacement moderne pour la bibliothèque, un ajout à la variété du parc de logements dans la ville, une augmentation de l'assiette fiscale et un stimulant pour le renouvellement de Westminster, notre artère commerciale. Le maire a félicité **Raffaella Di Stasio**, directrice générale de la Ville qui a su travailler avec le promoteur, le CA de la bibliothèque et le Conseil pour arriver à cette fin.

Le maire a terminé son rapport en rappelant que la ville est maintenant en «zone rouge» et que la réglementation doit être scrupuleusement respectée pour le bien de tous. Les règles n'affectent pas encore la programmation des Loisirs, mais pourraient avoir un impact sur les Travaux publics et la patience est de mise.

Première période de questions

La sécurité des piétons sur Westminster a suscité de nombreuses discussions.

Le maire a annoncé de nouvelles mesures pour éviter que les enfants qui fréquentent l'école Edinburgh aient à traverser l'avenue Westminster deux fois pour se rendre à ou revenir de l'école. De nouvelles affiches de sens unique seront installées sur les trottoirs traversant le pont en arche, indiquant que le sens unique ne s'applique qu'en dehors des heures de passage des écoliers.

On a observé de nombreux élèves de

Royal West qui se moquent allègrement des mesures de sécurité relatives à la COVID-19 en se rassemblant sur Westminster à la pause du lunch, mettant les autres à risque, dont les commerçants. Le maire a contacté l'administration de l'école, les commissaires et le Centre de coordination des mesures d'urgence (CCMU) pour voir s'il y avait moyen d'assurer que ces précautions soient prises au sérieux et il a promis de continuer à surveiller la situation.

La circulation illégale de bicyclettes sur les trottoirs de Westminster est dangereuse, particulièrement pour les piétons plus âgés. Le **conseiller Mazzone** a indiqué qu'il n'y a pas grand-chose qui puisse être fait, mais qu'il demanderait aux ASP de mentionner que les trottoirs ne sont pas faits pour les vélos. De plus, ce règlement pourrait être discuté en famille.

Des questions environnementales ont également été soulevées. On a mentionné des problèmes de pelouses, possiblement causés par des vers blancs, et la présence disgracieuse d'un sac de poubelle suspendu à un poteau au parc RD Paul. La **conseillère Torres** s'est engagée à vérifier la plainte d'un arbre public qui endommagerait le toit et la gouttière d'un résident. On a répondu à ce propriétaire que la mort de l'arbre était prévisible s'il subissait plus d'élagage et que par conséquent on ne poserait pas de gestes additionnels. Le maire demandera aux Travaux publics de faire un suivi sur une question concernant l'élimination des déchets organiques de la Ville.

La circulation est un sujet récurrent de la période de questions. Voitures à contresens sur Parkside, vitesse excessive sur Bedbrook et conduite dangereuse en général ont été soulignées et des moyens de contrôle seront vérifiés. Encore une fois, on incite les

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citoyens à transmettre leurs plaintes à la police. Le maire prendra contact avec le nouveau commandant du poste 9 où logent dorénavant les agents du poste 11 de NDG pour lui demander une surveillance accrue dans la ville.

Ayant été mise au courant de possibles restrictions dues à la pandémie sur l'utilisation des abris, la conseillère Feeney s'est engagée à fouiller cette information. Elle a réitéré que les abris temporaires ne doivent pas être visibles de la rue.

On a demandé au Conseil quelles mesures la Ville mettrait en place pour soutenir les résidents et entreprises au cours de cette deuxième vague de la pandémie. Les **conseillères Feeney et Ulin** ont énuméré les nombreuses initiatives déjà instaurées et ont donné l'assurance que ce soutien se poursuivrait.

La dernière question portait sur la période de questions même. Pourquoi les questions sont-elles limitées à 100 mots et pourquoi la fenêtre pour les soumettre est-elle si étroite?

Explication : compte tenu du nouveau format des séances du Conseil, beaucoup plus de questions que d'habitude sont posées et il faut du temps pour les lire toutes. Ainsi, la période de questions occupe un plus grand segment de la réunion. Cependant, on peut toujours poser ses questions au Conseil par téléphone ou courriel. La conseillère Ulin a promis que le créneau, peut-être trop restrictif, pour la soumission des questions serait discuté en caucus.

Rapport des membres du Conseil

Considérant le temps restant à la réunion, le maire a demandé de courts rapports



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et a même suggéré une limite de 90 secondes chacun. (Certaines difficultés à respecter cette directive du maire sont apparues.)

La conseillère Torres a listé les nombreuses tâches auxquelles se sont affairés les Travaux publics au cours du mois : nids-de-poule, bris d'aqueduc, balayage des rues, plantation d'arbres et entretien des parcs. Une fuite à l'aréna a aussi nécessité du travail.

Les résidents ont été avisés du test de la sirène d'urgence de *Parmalat* et tous sont invités à s'inscrire au système d'alerte Code Red de la Ville. La cause de l'incendie dans le mur mitoyen de deux entreprises sur Westminster est toujours inconnue. Le conseiller Mazzone a indiqué que l'utilisation des souffleuses à feuilles sera permise du 15

octobre au 15 novembre. Il a prévenu les résidents et les entrepreneurs qu'il est interdit de déposer les feuilles dans la rue et qu'on doit utiliser des contenants de papier ou carton, ou des poubelles pour la collecte des matières organiques du mardi.

La conseillère Ulin a indiqué que les programmes automnaux sont en cours avec les précautions concernant la COVID-19. Les programmes pourraient être modifiés au gré de nouvelles directives. De nouveaux résidents ont reçu 40 paniers de bienvenue contenant les contributions de commerçants de la ville. Quatre patinoires extérieures seront installées cet hiver, deux au parc Davies et au terrain Hodgson pour le patinage libre, et deux au parc Rugby et au terrain Hodgson pour le hockey.

La conseillère Feeney a rappelé que les factures pour l'eau seront distribuées le 26 octobre, pour paiement au plus tard le 26 novembre. Elle a fermement rappelé aux citoyens que l'on ne doit pas commencer les travaux avant la réception d'un permis ou la confirmation verbale de son émission. À défaut d'adhérer à cette règle, on pourrait devoir défaire les travaux.

Il n'y aura pas de clinique annuelle de vaccination antigrippe à l'hôtel de ville cette année. Les résidents doivent s'inscrire auprès du CLSC afin d'obtenir un rendez-vous pour l'injection. Le CLSC publiera de plus amples informations, dès que disponibles.

En l'absence de questions pour la deuxième période, le maire a mis fin à la séance en avertissant que « nous vivons à nouveau une période très angoissante. » Cependant, il croit que si tout le monde se préoccupe du bien-être de tous, « ensemble, nous pouvons passer au travers. »

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COMING EVENTS / À VENIR

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

Next deadline: November 11

— PLEASE CHECK WITH THE VENUE FOR POSSIBLE CANCELLATIONS —

OCTOBER

- Tue 27 Scouts' Blood Donor Clinic. *By appointment only*** (1-800-343-7264 or igive@hemaquebec.qc.ca). St. Philip's Church.
- Thu 29 Rotary meeting on Zoom** with Peter Vavougis: Respiratory Education in Age of Covid. us02web.zoom.us/j/88132722993. Host is Brian Bélanger. 7:30 pm.

NOVEMBER

- Thu 5 Rotary meeting on Zoom.** Remembrance theme (TBA). Please see October 29 for details.
- Thu 12 Rotary meeting on Zoom.** Peter Labelle: Ghana and Lebanon update. Please see October 29 for details.
- Wed 18 Tea and Books on Zoom.** Please email mwlib.requests@gmail.com to register. 2 pm.

Flu vaccination

Flu vaccination will be available at one of 's five CLSCs starting November 2. This year, due to social distancing and the need to safeguard everyone's well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic, the vaccine is offered on an appointment basis only. The on-line appointment service will be available as of October 26 at clicsante.ca.

La vaccination contre la grippe

La vaccination contre la grippe aura lieu à partir du 2 novembre dans les cinq CLSC du Centre Ouest de l'Île de Montréal. Cette année, en raison de la distanciation physique et de la nécessité de protéger le bien-être de tous pendant la pandémie de la COVID-19, le vaccin est donné sur rendez-vous seulement. Prenez un rendez-vous en ligne dès le 26 octobre sur le site internet clicsante.ca.

Lost cat

Our cat, Toby, has been missing from more than a month from our home on Campbell Ave. He's long-haired, completely grey and very shy. If you see him, please call us at 514 909-2545 or 514 271-0515. He has been neutered and has a microchip.





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