

Frances Phelan: The founding of *The Informer*

by Maurice Krystal

It was 1971, a year after the FLQ crisis, and property values in MoWest had suddenly become unbelievably modest. **Frances Phelan** and her young lawyer husband **Dan** were looking for a new home for their growing family. He was from Westmount and she, from Lachine. They thought it was serendipity when they found a dream of a deal on a house in Montreal West, geographically between the two municipalities.

After settling in, Fran thought she should get to know her new community more intimately. She soon heard of a new project in the works, a community newspaper. The call had

been sent out by Town resident **Wavell Cowan**, the inspiration behind the idea. It seemed like serendipity once again since Fran was a writer, in fact she'd been a journalist for the *Montreal Star* before heading off to graduate school.

Almost before the family's boxes were unpacked, she joined a group that met in the basement of the library. The enthusiastic volunteers were in the early stages of creating a local newspaper called *The Citizens' Viewpaper*. After many fervent discussions about its role, the name was eventually changed in 1973 to *The Informer*. As Frances noted, "We hoped we'd be good informers."

continued on page 4



Mrs Yoo: The power of healing at *Quality Fruit Bowl*

by Maurice Krystal

Everyone in MoWest knows **Mrs Yoo**, the lady in the white coat behind the cash register on Westminster North. Some may not know her Korean name is **Myung Won**. While businesses come and go in the town's main street, she and less than a handful of other establishments have survived more than a few decades.

She and her husband have been at *Quality Fruit Bowl* for

just over 41 years, which probably makes them the second oldest business establishment on Westminster after *Budning Pharmacy*. In fact, the pharmacy began where *Quality Fruit Bowl* is presently located, and then **Charles Budning** moved to his new premises next door in 1967.

Born in Korea, she studied to be a nurse prompted by her father's urging.

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INFORMER

10 Westminister North
Montreal West, Quebec
H4X 1Y9

The *Informer's* role is to provide MoWesters with information about their Town and its citizens in order to foster the small-town, close-knit atmosphere that makes Montreal West a special place in which to live.

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

January 13

18th Annual auction and fundraiser

Curzon Creative Preschool will be hosting its 18th annual auction and fundraiser during the week of November 30 in a new virtual format! Join us for an auction from the comfort of your home!

We're looking forward to another exceptional year, with thousands of dollars worth of exciting auction items! Get ready to bid on some wonderful and unique gifts in time for the holidays and help support a local preschool in your community. All donations, auction and ticket proceeds go toward school operating costs.

Active in the MoWest community for over 60 years, *Curzon* is a well-respected preschool serving the needs of children age 2 to 5 in a secure, spacious bilingual environment. As a non-profit co-operative, the school's success depends upon the support of fundraising activities and the generosity of our community. We have had hundreds of children from MoWest and surrounding neighbourhoods come through our doors and have given them a strong foundation for kindergarten and beyond.

Tickets for the virtual event are \$10. Please visit *Curzon Creative Preschool* on Facebook for details on how to purchase tickets and attend the online event.



Dan McNeish Bellini drops first album *Moonshine River*



Photo: Jasmine Bellini

If you like folk/country/rock music, then you're going to love **Dan McNeish Bellini's** first album, *Moonshine River* featuring nine original songs and one cover. It will launch in December on all platforms including Spotify, You Tube and Apple Music. Follow Dan's Instagram "danmbmusic" to get to know the musician, the music and the exact launch date of the album.

Dan was born and raised in MoWest and attended Edinburgh School, Loyola High School and Concordia University. At the age of 18, having spent his earlier years in youth sports, he decided to take guitar and piano lessons. After graduating with a B.A. in psychology, he committed to pursuing a career in music full time. The rest is history. He has played in pubs around town, in Toronto and Halifax.

From a very early age, Dan preferred listening to Neil Young, Bob Dylan, James Taylor, The Band and The Beatles, to name a few, and their influence can be heard in his original songs. His one cover, *Tomorrow is a long time* by Bob Dylan, stays true to the original version while allowing Dan to give it a personal touch.

Dan's goal is to keep writing and recording new albums until he has a record contract. In the meantime, follow him on Instagram, and sit back and enjoy some great new music.

from Jeanne McNeish



Bird siting

Easton had an event that some people may be interested in knowing. Two American kestrels built a nest in Kirpatrick Park this spring and had two offspring. Every Saturday afternoon, a few residents would sit and watch the movements of the pair. It was a pleasure to watch the family grow over the whole summer. Fortunately, I got a photo of the young kestrel looking down at me.

from Jeannette Sharma



November 22, 2020. The first snowy night on Brock North.

Remembrance Day 2020

MoWest Remembrance Day service was held, as always, on the Sunday of Remembrance Week at 12:30, but for the first time it was a virtual ceremony filmed over many days by the talented **Kevin Laramée** and premiered on the Town web page through YouTube. It can still be viewed.

With the support of the Town of Montreal West and Veterans Affairs Canada, this service is very special to watch.

We thank all who participated in the filming of the service sometimes, in crazy weather. Representing our Town, country and province: Mayor **Beny Masella**, the Honorable **Marc Garneau** (MP NDG/Montreal West and Westmount) and **Kathleen Weil** (Member of the National Assembly for NDG/Montreal West).

Representing our communities of faith: Rev. **Sampson Afoakwah** (MW Presbyterian Church), Rev **Mark Hammond** (MW United Church), Father **Michael Leclerc** (St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish), Rabbi **Mendy Marlow** (Chabad Westminster) and Father **James Pratt** (St Philips Anglican Church).

Those taking part in the service were piper **Jeff McCarthy**, soprano **Samantha Borgal**, bugler **Bruce Lockhead**, **Simon Radhakrishna** and the Montreal West **Girl Guides** and **Scouts**.

Thank you also to all who laid wreaths at our Cenotaph representing so many special groups in our Town.

Thank you, **Marian**, for all your hard work in putting this special service together!



Although it was unique and memorable to be a part of – we all hope to be together in person again next year for this special event of our Town.

from Joan Foster

Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook goes international



Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook have been asked by the *Istituto per la Bio-Economia della Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* to submit a paper to an international conference on daylighting rivers. Daylighting is the process by which culverted or covered rivers are brought back to the surface in an effort to better manage surface water and heat island effects in urban areas.

The conference, called *Daylighting Rivers*, is being held December 1 and 2 in Florence, Italy. It falls within the framework of the Erasmus Programme, which targets high school students. Through an inquiry-based learning approach,

students investigate different aspects of rivers that flow through cities, such as pollution, flora and fauna and the effects of urbanization.

The conference brings together teachers, academics, conservation professionals and NGOs, as well as students interested in environmental issues. Student teams were invited to participate in an international competition, and finalists are being presented with awards for their daylighting projects at the conference.

Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook has submitted a paper titled *The St. Pierre River: Remembering an Historic Waterway* (lesamisdemeadowbrook.org. Scroll down the page to paper). It



looks into the history of the river, recent daylighting efforts and threats to the section of the waterway still visible on the Meadowbrook golf course. The group has also researched and designed a panel that will be presented at

the conference. Members of *Les Amis* are hoping to have this panel displayed in various public spaces in Montreal once confinement measures are lifted.

from Louise Legault

THE INFORMER *all page 3*

The Citizens' Viewpaper, Montreal West, Quebec

February 1974 Vol. 2 No. 4



The Informer — Is It Here To Stay?

The next phase in the establishment of a permanent community newspaper in Montreal West has been determined. The operating board of the Informer have agreed to accept the responsibility for four more issues spanning the period to the middle of June.

The Town Council have agreed to continue subsidizing The Informer over this period at the same level as for previous issues. As an indication of their support and confidence in this venture, the Council have also made the decision to suspend publication of the Town Newsletter and to publish Town news in the pages of The Informer.

The Citizens Association Executive have agreed to continue to subsidize the financial affairs of the paper.

PUBLIC WORKERS MOVE TOWARD UNIONIZATION

by Brendan Cavanaugh

Nineteen of the twenty-six public works employees of the Town have applied to the Provincial government for certification as a Local Union to be affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Up to this time the Town public works employees have not been unionized. They are now moving toward unionization for two reasons. The first is a political reason. The workers think that if and when Montreal West is merged into the MUC, their jobs might be in jeopardy. They think the Union might be more able to secure their jobs for them with the MUC than the Town. The second reason is more in the order of general work conditions. The workers feel that there is virtually no working communication channels between the Town government and themselves. Consequently, they have come to question the willingness of the Town

Jamie Watt doing paste-up. 1974

Frances Phelan

continued from page 1

That first Operating Board included: **Wavell Cowan, Ned Lanthier, Frances Phelan, Harry Goldsmith, Marguerite King, Jamie Watt and Marg Swetland.** The Town agreed to subsidize the paper, which it continues to do to the present day.

In those earliest days, long before the onset of computers, the group would meet every 4-5 weeks. Topics were discussed and researched, interviews scheduled and articles typed up to be sent to the typesetter. When the typeset sheets came back, they would be cut and pasted onto large boards in readiness for the printer. It was labour intensive but fun. What the volunteers had in common was a love of writing and the Town.

Frances quickly got to know the heart beat of MoWest. She initiated the page two feature, *Informers Yours*. People would submit announcements, from births to funerals and everything in between.



Informers Yours
column logo

Since the page needed a visual to draw attention to the column, and though she claimed not to have any artistic talent, Fran created an ink drawing of a gossip woman on the phone to illustrate the page. And of course, she wrote many features too. There were stories about the shopkeepers of Westminister and Town residents who had achieved their moment of fame in sports or the arts, or simply by serving all of us in the community.

As her family grew up and a career beckoned again, Fran gradually withdrew from *The Informer*. For ten years she taught writing courses in the Faculty of Education at McGill. By 1991, she had become the publisher and editor of a teaching newspaper used by English Second Language teachers across Canada. It's called *Your News* and is still published today, although she retired from the job ten years ago.

Fran and Dan's three children grew up in Montreal West. **Martin** was a lifeguard at the pool for many years and has fol-

lowed his mother's footsteps into the field of journalism. **Charles** took on various summer jobs in the Town and is today an information technologist at McGill. **Mary Jeanne** followed her Dad's profession and is a partner in a large law firm in Montreal. Fran's beloved husband Dan passed away in 2013 but she still lives on her favourite street, Percival Avenue, in her favourite Town,

Informer staff, 1981. Back row: Unknown, Sandra Mavrias, Ellen Cardarelli, David Watson; Middle row: Howard Streit, Paul Rush, Fran Phelan; Front row: John Keeping, Patricia Keeping



now with the wonderful *Neil Hanna*, affectionately known as **Doc** to the grandchildren.

Reading through old editions of *The Informer*, a reader quickly sees that Frances' writing style is perceptive, light hearted and witty. Here is an excerpt from an article called *Adventures from the Blackout*.

"Electricity is one of life's larger blessings. Like a chicken in the pot or a place to stand, it's something we know life owes us. It is, after all, part of our human heritage, along with the wheel, the flush toilet and plastic wrap...."

"At 10:30 on the morning of November 28th, a collective groan could be heard up and down the centre block of Brock and Ballantyne avenues North. Dozens of mothers stared in shock as washing machines gurgled to a halt, vacuums turned abruptly silent and the lunch time soup on the back burner began to congeal. The siege was on. It was to last three days...."

After all these years, Fran says she's delighted *The Informer* has stayed true to its earliest roots. She sees it as a vehicle bringing the community together. "It keeps us acquainted with each other," she says. "Our ordinary residents and extraordinary ones too: shopkeepers, children, clubs, churches, our characters and our heroes. It helps make Montreal West the very special place it is."

Rotary



Peter Vavougios:

Respiratory education in the age of COVID-19



Peter Vavougios is a physiotherapist with 35 years' experience and has worked at the Royal Victoria and St Mary's Hospitals and now works at *Action Sport Physio*.

He is an expert on getting people to breath properly. He said not to forget our lungs because we take them for granted. You have to breath better to live better. Breathing is a natural and automatic process and we do not give our lungs a second thought until we are sick or have problems breathing.

He said COVID-19 can attack either the upper or the lower respiratory track. The upper respiratory track consists of the nose and the back of the throat. The lower respiratory track is the lungs and this is the danger area for COVID-19 patients.

Peter showed us three techniques to help improve our breathing. The first was to sit up straight and take deep breaths from the diaphragm. The second was pursed-lip breathing: exhaling through tightly pressed lips and inhaling through the nose with the mouth closed. The third strategy is to use a spirometer an apparatus for measuring the volume of air inspired and expired by the lungs.

The spirogram will identify two different types of abnormal ventilation patterns, obstructive and restrictive. Peter said his wife has asthma and she uses a spirometer regularly to help improve her breathing. This device is not expensive (less than \$35) and is available for purchase at *Action Sport Physio*.

He told us that there are times when you should not exercise and that we should all practise

some sort of relaxation technique. A relaxation technique is any method, process, procedure or activity that helps a person to relax; to attain a state of increased calmness; or otherwise reduce levels of pain, anxiety, stress or anger. I myself meditate for at least 20 minutes and enjoy a hot sauna every day.

Hospital equipment for Lebanon

The *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG* is collecting donations for hospital equipment in Lebanon. Funds donated to our club will be added to donations from all 65 clubs in our district. Our district goal is \$18,000 US. The district will match funds collected to secure \$18,000 US in District Designated Funds. In turn, the district will apply for a Global Grant from the *Rotary Foundation*. The cumulative goal is to raise about \$51,000-\$54,000 US pending the grant's approval. Funds raised will help re-supply a room in a hospital (one of six hospitals damaged by the blast) with medical equipment. We are working with two clubs in Lebanon, (Beirut Cosmopolitan and Zahle) and West Ottawa as International Partner. We will give tax receipts. You can send your donation by e-transfer; please email **Kathie Montgomery** first for details: kmontgomery@assante.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.

from Doug Yeats

Rotary and IODE



First responders of Côte Saint-Luc Emergency Medical Services



Breakfast for first responders

At the height of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the *IODE HMS Victory* chapter and the *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG* treated the Côte Saint-Luc first responders and the MoWest firefighters to breakfast.

With the overwhelming response to our fundraising drive, we were reminded of the story of an ambulance transporter in New York who had contracted the virus and succumbed to it. He was only in his thirties. That tragedy inspired us to reach out

to our local firefighters, police officers, and paramedics. From the outset of the coronavirus, we have been busy delivering lunch meals to frontline health care workers at senior residences and hospitals as well as to the homeless at Cabot Square.

Plans are under way to prepare holiday baskets for those who normally would not need to rely on them.

From Ron D'Souza and Giuliana Pendenza

IODE



The National *IODE* has a long history of adopting an elementary school class in remote areas of Canada. Packages are sent periodically throughout the year.

The *IODE HMS Victory* chapter has followed this tradition, having adopted the Grade 3 class in Sheshatshiu Innu School in Labrador. In recent years we have sent handmade socks, mitts, hats and art supplies. This Christmas we are delivering gift bags with children's activity items.

Auberge Transition, a shelter for abused women and their children, will also receive Christmas gifts donated by the *IODE HMS Victory*.

from Moira Mettinvill



Mrs Yoo

continued from page 1

Highly trained Korean nurses were in high demand internationally and because Korea, at the time, was a relatively poor country he thought his daughter would be better off immigrating to Europe. At the age of 21 she left her homeland to become a nurse in Munich, Germany. While there she went on a brief vacation to Rome and met **Dong-Hoon Yoo**, fell in love and they married. After three years in Germany, the new couple moved to Sudbury, Ontario and opened a fruit and vegetable store. The stay in Sudbury lasted only six months and they moved to Montreal. When asked why the sudden move, she said Sudbury was too cold and the customers were 80% French. She spoke Korean, English and German. It may sound illogical to move to Quebec if your French was weak.

They settled in Ville St. Laurent and Mrs. Yoo became a manager at a local *Perrette* depanneur. That lasted about two and a half years and the desire to open their own business venture led to them looking at 300 stores in the Montreal area, finally settling on the one where they are presently located. They knew the owner of *Quality Fruit Bowl*, a fellow Korean named **Mr. Suo**. Mrs. Yoo was pleased the predominant language in MoWest was English. They have always liked the friendliness of the neighbourhood. They took over the premises on January 1, 1979.

Five years later the Yoo family decided to become part of the community and bought the building on Westminster and doubled the size of *Quality Fruit Bowl* by taking over the adjoining *Betty Brite Cleaners*. The family also departed Ville St. Laurent and moved into an apartment above the store. After ten years they purchased a house on Ainslie.

One of the unique features of *Quality Fruit Bowl* is that Mrs. Yoo's nurse training is still being used. In Korea a nurse not only learns Western medicine, but also is trained how to use Chinese medical techniques. People come to her for herbs and teas that are used in keeping the body in balance. Local doctors, who practise holistic medicine often refer their patients to her, and she in return refers her clients to Dr. **Hanchan Wu** on Milner, who was interviewed in 2012.

I first met Mrs. Yoo some three decades ago. I can swear she does not seem to have aged a day. When I asked if it was the teas and herbs, she laughed. Maybe, she replied but she really enjoys what she is doing. She tries to be positive and never gets upset, especially with her customers.

The long established business venture continues to be successful due to a loyal customer base and this is due to the meticulous care for high quality and freshness. Mr. Yoo goes early six, sometimes even seven times, a week to the Central Market near the L'Acadie traffic circle. But it is also due to the fact that Mrs. Yoo loves to chat with all customers who enter the store. Customers feel a connection that is more than just a business transaction.

Her three children grew up in MoWest and attended school in the area. **Matthew** studied engineering and lives in LA. **Steven** lives in Florida and is a pilot and **Chris** moved to NYC to pursue a career in drama. Chris was interviewed in August of last year for *The Informer*. While Mrs. Yoo regrets she never took formal lessons in French, she understands most of what is said to her. She is pleased that her sons are trilingual. It has opened all kinds of doors for them. This, she said, could happen only in Montreal.

Quality Fruit Bowl
34 Westminster N.
H4X 1Z2
481-4411

Artists' Showcase

Canada remembers

This November we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands. The *Artists' Showcase* had come up with an idea to celebrate the big date with an online exhibition titled *Canada Remembers*, asking MoWesters to email their tulip art. The *Informer* is happy to share some of the pieces with its readers. (Please see page 7).

A bit of history. For nine months, Canadians fought a vicious campaign with the Germans before the Netherlands was liberated on May 5, 1945. For the preceding three years, Canada had sheltered the future Queen Juliana and her family and Princess Margriet was born (1943) at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. The maternity ward was temporarily declared to be extraterritorial by the Canadian government, thereby allowing Princess Margriet's citizenship to be solely influenced by her mother's Dutch citizenship.

In 1945, the Dutch royal family sent 100,000 tulip bulbs to Ottawa in gratitude.

The Great Outdoors

Winter 2021 - Virtual Exhibition

Our next theme will be *The Great Outdoors*. Montreal West artists are invited to display their art online. To submit art or get more details, go to the Montreal West website under "Culture" or call **484-6186**. Please submit your art by February 7.



Extra Miles...

Programme de visites à domicile pour personnes âgées

Friendly senior visiting program

Eglise Unie de Montréal Ouest / Montreal West United Church

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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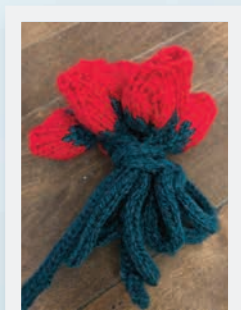
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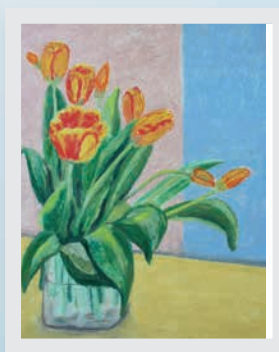
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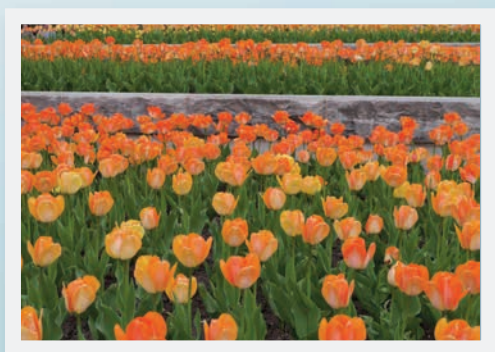
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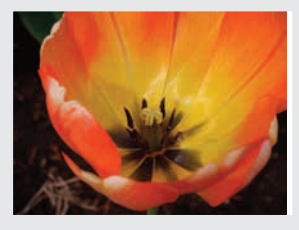
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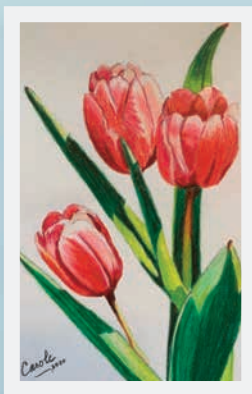
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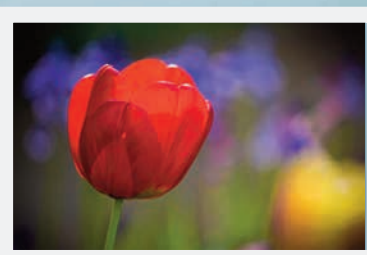
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CANADA REMEMBERS

the Tulip Art Project



Edinburgh School

Edinburgh's bee hives

Honeybees have been calling the roof of Edinburgh home since 2018. Like many schools in Montreal, *Alvéole* manages their rooftop hives. The roof of one of the kindergarten classrooms was selected as the site for the hives, partly because it can easily be viewed from the second floor library windows, so students can peek at the hives when they visit the library!

Urban beekeeping has been on the rise in the last number of years, as individuals and institutions recognize the importance of maintaining a healthy honey-

bee population. In urban areas, bees have wide access to a variety of plants, most of which are not sprayed with pesticides or herbicides. The gardens around Edinburgh have been planted with many pollinator-friendly plants over the years, ensuring a good source of food for the bees.

A single hive like the one at Edinburgh can have up to 50,000-80,000 bees in it during peak season! Honey is harvested in September, after which time the hive gets treated for parasitic mites and the bees are fed a special sugar syrup

which is enhanced with vitamins for their digestion. *Alvéole* staff then wrap the hives to keep them warm for the winter. The insulated wrapping has some holes in it so that bees can go and forage on warmer days. The bees manage to keep the temperature of the hive warm all winter – about 35 degrees Celsius – by forming a tight cluster around the queen and vibrating their wing muscles.

This year due to the pandemic and lack of access to the school by staff, the hives were removed in the spring and are being kept by *Alvéole* – they will be back next spring! In the



Honey from Edinburgh's bee hives, near the low roof where the hives are kept in summer

meantime, Edinburgh families can enjoy delicious honey produced from the hives by purchasing a jar at the office.



Edinburgh's caretakers Jamal McIntyre (left) and Wesner Chene (right)

Thank you to Edinburgh's amazing custodians!

Edinburgh's two custodians, **Jamal McIntyre** and **Wesner Chene**, have been hard at work keeping our school extra clean this year.

Indeed, when all education institutions were shut down in March, they were still coming in to clean and maintain the school. When a daycare was opened for healthcare front line workers at the former St. John Bosco site (now Westmount Park South Campus), they worked there.

With schools reopening this fall, "There has been a lot more work with all the extra disinfecting of desks, door knobs, bathrooms," said Jamal. Both Jamal

and Wesner, who have worked at Edinburgh for 6½ and 2½ years respectively, say that it took some time, but they have managed to adapt to the new reality.

As a thank you to Jamal and Wesner for their work, the Edinburgh Home and School Association created an online card for parents and kids to sign and purchased lunch for them from *Chicago Pizza* and some treats from *Les Delices Lafrenaie*. "One thing I can say is that with everything going on, our school is the cleanest it's ever been!" said Jamal. Thank you to our Edinburgh cleaning heroes!

from Joanna Duy

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www.friendsmuhc.org

This Giving Tuesday join us in treating our nurses and patient attendants to free coffee!

Help us thank them for all they do with free coffee or tea every Tuesday during January.

**Donate just \$20
which The Friends will match!**

Les Amis DU CUSM  Friends OF THE MUHC

Elizabeth Ballantyne School

Flowers for friendship

The Grade 6 students participated in a Remembrance Day tulip art project organized by the Town of Montreal West.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands. Students learned all about the courageous soldiers who sacrificed their lives to help the citizens regain their freedom and live a happy



and fruitful life. The students made three-dimensional tulips to symbolize the international friendship that still exists between Canada and the Netherlands, one that will forever be remembered and celebrated.

News from kindergarten

Kindergarten students can be heard singing, playing and interacting throughout the day in Room 5. They have been learning about the letters and their corresponding sounds. October and November were filled with fall and Halloween activities involving counting, colouring, cutting and pasting. **Ms. Eliane** says, "I really have the best job in the world. The students are always enthusiastic and ready to learn. I love being part of all their "firsts" and seeing how much they learn and grow in such a short time. I always try to make learning fun and provide them with the foundation for further education. I enjoy listening to the students and watching how they interact with each other." EBS staff members and students are very lucky to have such a positive and devoted teacher!

from Lucia De Petrillo



Kosher corner



Chanukah 2020

Chanukah is on the horizon! Various creative and safe ways are in the works to ensure we can celebrate this year like any other.

Below is a glimpse at the schedule of MoWest celebrations as it stands now. Be sure to be in touch with us closer to Chanukah, as we hope to organize additional celebrations once we have more clarity on what the COVID-19 safety recommendations will be.

- Drive by party! In front of Jamie and Sandy's house on Radcliffe: Thursday, December 10 at 5 pm.
- Town-wide online live event: Thursday, December 10 at 6:30 pm
- Walk by Menorah lighting ceremony in front of Joe and Samara's house. (Treats for the kids!): Sunday, December 13 at 3:30-4 pm
- Drive by menorah lighting at Jamie and Sandy's: Eighth Night, Thursday, December 17 at 7 pm

NEW! Teen Trivia Fun

The cold weather is forcing Pizza and Parsha in the park to take a winter break. However, in an effort to continue high school Torah study, Chabad Westminster is proud to announce JTEXT! A free bi-weekly Jewish trivia game that comes straight to your phone. Amazing prizes for each game.

Text ChabadTrivia at **438-700-7744** to join.

Raffle

Would you like to show appreciation and support Chabad Westminster and the work we do for the community? Please consider buying a ticket or two at our second fundraising raffle with a grand prize draw of ten thousand dollars on January 20. Visit to join. Your support and participation is greatly appreciated!

from Rabbi Mendy Marlow

Montreal West Scout Group



Blood donor clinic in a pandemic

The Scout Group has sponsored a blood donor clinic on behalf of *Héma-Québec* for over 20 years.

The clinic was very different this year. All donors were to make an appointment, we needed fewer volunteers and the usual sanitary measures were much more stringent.

But it was a great success! The objective set by *Héma-Québec* was 60 donors, a bit lower than in previous years, but we exceeded it by 5! Despite some concerns ahead of time, nobody, whether a donor or a volunteer, felt that their health was at risk.

Many thanks to all the donors, and also to the volunteers – Scouters and parents of present and past Scouts – who helped to make it a success. We hope to see you next year!

from Bob King

Scouting

The Scout Troop has continued our online meetings. We recently established the critical components that should be included in a grab-and-go bag in the case of a zombie apocalypse! The Scouts generated lists that included a basic first aid kit, navigation materials, basic rations, clothing and some form of shelter. Scout volunteers participated in advance filming of Remembrance Day ceremonies by raising the flag and laying a wreath at the cenotaph. Our meeting on November 11 was a special one as we observed Remembrance Day and also planned the construction of trebuchet catapults.

from Andy Chapman

Upper pic: Scouts Finn Duncan (R) and Ari Semergian (L) lay a wreath at the Cenotaph

Lower pic: Scouts Tom Chapman (L) and Nathan Held (R) raise the flag for the Remembrance Day ceremony filming



If you've experienced a significant loss whether from the death of a loved one, divorce, job loss, critical illness, or any other loss

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Guiding

Staying connected!



Guides

The Guiding meetings will continue virtually, until further notice. Girls who are joining us are having a great time! The Guides have been busy young ladies.

Their leader made a delivery of pumpkins prior to their Halloween meeting. As part of the Halloween celebrations, the girls participated in a spooky quiz, which was developed by Pathfinder, *Stephanie*. The girls all decorated mini pumpkins and had a great time showing their artwork to their fellow Guides!

Three new girls were enrol-

Remembrance Day wreath



led as Guides. Normally their leader would place the enrollment pin on the new Guide. This time, their parents had that special honour.

For Remembrance Day, the girls wrote postcards to veterans. The girls also learned about emergency preparedness. Not only did they learn a little first aid, they also learned how to be prepared for natural emergencies, like power outages. The best way to not need first aid, is to have a safe environment!

Sparks and Brownies

The Rainbow unit (Sparks and Brownies) of Montreal West started in mid-October preparing for Remembrance Day. The girls made felt poppies. The poppies were collected and adorned the wreath which **Adelina** and **Juliana Shafei** laid on behalf of Guiding in Montreal West for the Town's virtual Remembrance Day ceremony. Everyone did a great job!

As well as learning about the significance of the poppy, the girls learned of the Indigenous contribution to the war efforts; the liberation of The Netherlands 75 years ago and the significance of the tulip.

The girls have also been



Pine cone owl

learning about what it means to be a Brownie, and why many of the leaders are named after owls. The girls even had a chance to make their very own owl out of pine cones.

In mid-November, the Rainbow unit started to grow from two sources! We have had new girls join our unit who live within our area. As well, the girls from the Rosemount Sparks and Brownie unit (their numbers were quite low) accepted our leaders' invitation join us in Wednesday night fun. Not only do we have new girls, but new leaders as well! We are able to bridge so many gaps during this pandemic. It is wonderful to see the positives that can come from a very serious situation.

Cookies

The chocolatey mint Girl Guide cookies are available.

The MW Guides have been selling their cookies on-line only. They can be found at: tinyurl.com/MoWestCookies. By the publishing of this article, the Sparks and Brownies should have their cookies in person to sell. Should you know a young lady, please feel free to contact her family to find out the safe way to purchase your cookies. If you don't know a young lady and would like to purchase some chocolate mint cookies, then feel free to contact **Brown Owl (Janet) 481-6523** or **Pearl (Christine) 483-3303**; they will be able to help you out.

from MW Guiders

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THE MENACE OF MAGICAL THINKING



We're all guilty of it: believing (or wanting to believe) that our thoughts and actions can somehow influence an unrelated event. We knock on wood, step over a

crack, keep our birthday candle wishes secret. It's generally harmless.

But not so much in the time of Covid. Deciding what's safe and not safe these days is no place for magical thinking. Though we're hard wired to see the people we know (and especially those we love) as safe – and we REALLY want to believe it – they may not be. So while it feels odd to step back from an approaching neighbour and down-right wrong to slip on a mask to chat with a dear friend, we need to do it.

It's really hard though. Magical thinking tells me it should be safe for my daughter to drop by my home and hang out because she's an honest person and she says she's "being careful". And I truly believe she is, but are all the people she's come into contact with being careful? And what does "being careful" even mean when a large percentage of infected people are asymptomatic? It's not as if she'd necessarily know she's been exposed.

The Quebec government insisted, until recently, that children weren't danger-

ously affected by the virus and therefore wouldn't spread it in the community. But those two issues aren't actually connected – except through magical thinking. Even as studies surfaced that children can infect others at the same rate as adults, classrooms remained at full capacity. "Bubbles" of 30 kids sat unmasked in poorly ventilated classes for hours, going home to loving parental hugs, siblings and neighbourhood playmates. And, what do you know, Covid cases shot up.

We humans believe what we need to believe to justify our various philosophies and agendas. We're very clever that way and reality can be surprisingly elastic. But now is the time to clear away the magical cobwebs and take a good hard look at how we need to live in the coming winter months. What does the science actually say? Covid spreads silently, mostly in the air, especially indoors, in close proximity to others (even among friendly loving people).

So we must ask ourselves: Is it somehow safer to get together with friends and family because... they're conscientious honest people and they're probably being careful? It's Aunt Sarah's 50th birthday and we don't have to stay long? It's Christmas and that's super important for our family?

You know what's also super important

to our family? Staying alive and well. Being here for all the birthdays and Christmases to come.

So what is a sensible, sociable Mo-Wester to do?

Embrace the outdoors like never before! Winter schminter. Call a friend/neighbour/daughter and go for a walk – every day. Find yourself and the kids some snowshoes, skates, cross country skis – all can be rented if you're not ready to buy. Use the phone to call Aunt Sarah. Chat for an hour. In fact, open your address book (or what passes for one) and call all those people you've been meaning to catch up with. Of course there's also Zoom, Facetime and all the other 21st century solutions too. This could be our most social season yet!

And seriously consider – as hard as it might be – reinventing your holiday celebrations this year. Really. Seriously.

Our parents and grandparents got through two world wars, a pandemic, and a decade-long economic depression. It's been nine months for us and likely a few more – but we can do this. Just, please, avoid the magical thinking.

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

TIPS TO REDUCE WASTE DURING THE HOLIDAYS



The holiday season is fast approaching. A season to celebrate, to be thankful and (in spite of the unusual times we're living in) a season for hope.

However – not to put a damper on things – it is also a time that generates tremendous amount of waste. Today, I'd like to share some tips on how to make this a more environmentally friendly season:

1) Christmas trees: real versus artificial

An artificial tree might be an attractive idea if you plan to re-use it year after

year. They are easy to set up and don't leave needles on the floor.

However, did you know that a real Christmas tree has a significantly lower carbon footprint than an artificial one? Studies have shown that artificial trees have ten times the carbon footprint of natural trees, especially if the latter is properly disposed of, which is the case in Montreal West. Every year, Public Works picks up Christmas trees in front of residents' homes, recycles them into wood chips, and uses them in the Town gardens.

Furthermore, buying a natural tree from one of our Montreal West merchants supports our local economy!

2) Gift wrap and packaging

When it comes to wrapping and packaging, use products made of recycled materials and reduce waste by reusing last year's paper and packaging as much as possible.

Environmentally friendly gift wrap suggestions include reusable paper bags, fabrics or newsprint. To decorate your packages opt for natural fibres such as raffia, and experiment with pine cones or twigs; they're all compostable.

Materials to avoid are glossy or plastic bags, metallic paper and tissue paper with metallic or plastic designs, curling ribbons and bows. None of these are recyclable.

Any Styrofoam packaging or takeout containers (there will likely be lots of them) should be dropped off at the closest Eco-Centre. They are not recyclable.

3) Seasonal lighting

For decorating your tree or home opt for LED lights on parallel light strands (two lines intertwined) rather than single strand models. On the single strands, when one bulb burns out, the whole strand goes out. And install a timer to avoid energy waste.

4) Single-use items

Avoid using disposable single-use dishes, cutlery, cups, glasses and napkins. The Government of Canada's ban of these items comes into effect January 2021. But this year, it's up to us to reduce this waste ourselves.

5) Install the "Ça va où" app on your phone

This app is a wonderful guide on how and where to dispose of hundreds of items correctly. It will tell you whether the item you need to toss should be composted, recycled or thrown in the garbage. It will be especially indispensable this holiday season.

Last but not least, on behalf of my family and myself, I would like to wish you all a happy holiday season. Stay safe and healthy!!

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

TRIPLEXES NOW PERMITTED IN CERTAIN ZONES



After undergoing a public consultation in March, the Town adopted a series of changes to the Zoning By-law. One of the changes now permits the conversion of a

duplex into a triplex in certain zones.

Conversion of a duplex into a triplex consists of modifying a two-dwelling building in order to be able to accommodate a third independent dwelling unit. Triplexes are now permitted in several zones, including some areas north of the hump bridge, Westminster North, Strathearn South, Avon and Ronald Drive. A complete list of the zones allowing triplexes can be found in the Schedules of Uses and Standards (Annex 2) of the Zoning By-law: <https://montreal-west.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-002-annex-2-schedules-of-uses-and-standards.pdf>.

The change was made in order to increase the amount and types of housing available in the Town. It also fulfills one of the objectives of our Strategic Financial Plan (2017), which recommends that the Town review particular zones for the possibility of increased density, and "explore the possibility of rental suites in duplex basements". The change also responds to an objective

of the *Municipalité amie des aînés* (MADA) Action Plan (2020) to "increase the housing options for seniors wishing to remain in Montreal West".

Letters have been sent by the Urban Planning Department to the owners of duplexes in the affected zones notifying them of this by-law change.

Prior to revising the by-law, the Town conducted a study, which identified the triplexes currently located in Montreal West. The study revealed a certain number of triplexes, which were illegal, or not permitted in a particular zone. These triplexes can now be regularized, or made legal, by a process set up by the Urban Planning Department.

To carry out a new conversion project or to regularize one, please consult the information on permit applications on our website. (<https://montreal-west.ca/en/resident-services/urban-planning/permits-authorizations/>) If you have any questions, please call the Urban Planning Department at 514-481-4858 or the Urban Planning Manager, Vlad Florea-Archir, at 514-481-8126.

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



LA MENACE DE LA PENSÉE MAGIQUE



Nous en sommes tous coupables : de croire (ou de vouloir croire) que nos pensées et nos actions peuvent, d'une manière ou d'une autre, influencer un événement qui n'a

aucun rapport. Nous touchons du bois, évitons de marcher sur une fissure, gardons secrets nos vœux d'anniversaire. Généralement, cela ne fait de mal à personne.

Mais en temps de Covid, c'est différent. Décider de ce qui est prudent et de ce qui ne l'est pas ne relève pas de la pensée magique. Même si nous sommes formatés pour voir les gens que nous connaissons (plus spécifiquement ceux que nous aimons) comme des personnes prudentes – et nous souhaitons VRAIMENT le croire – il se peut qu'elles ne le soient pas. Alors même si cela semble étrange et injustifié de se reculer à l'approche d'un voisin et d'enfiler un masque pour discuter avec un ami, nous devons le faire.

Mais cela reste très dur. La pensée magique me dit qu'il est prudent pour ma fille de venir me rendre visite à la maison et de passer du temps avec moi parce que c'est une personne honnête et qu'elle dit « être prudente ». Et je pense sincèrement qu'elle l'est, mais est-ce que toutes les personnes avec qui elle a été en contact l'ont été? Finalement, que veut dire « être prudent » quand une grosse proportion des personnes infectées sont asymptomatiques? Ce n'est pas comme si elle pouvait savoir qu'elle a été exposée.

Jusqu'à récemment, le gouvernement du Québec insistait sur le fait que les enfants ne sont pas gravement affectés par le virus et donc qu'ils ne le propageraient pas dans la communauté. Mais ces deux points ne sont en fait pas connectés – sauf avec la pensée magique. Même après diverses études révélant que les enfants peuvent infecter les autres de la même manière que les adultes, les salles de classe restent remplies. Des « bulles » de 30 enfants assis sans masque dans des classes mal ventilées pendant des heures, qui rentrent chez eux pour retrouver les câlins de leurs parents, leur fratrie et leurs amis du quartier. Et, bien entendu, les cas de Covid montent en flèche.

Nous, les êtres humains, croyons ce que nous voulons croire pour justifier nos diverses philosophies. En ce sens, nous sommes très intelligents et la vérité peut alors être étonnamment élastique. Mais il est maintenant grand temps de faire le nettoyage des toiles d'araignées magiques et de réfléchir sérieusement à la manière dont nous allons devoir vivre ces prochains mois d'hiver. Mais que dit la science exactement? Le Covid se propage silencieusement, principalement dans l'air et dans les espaces intérieurs, en étant à proximité d'autres personnes (même si ces personnes sont aimantes et bienveillantes).

Donc nous devons nous poser la question : est-ce, d'une certaine manière, plus prudent de se rassembler avec de la famille et des amis parce qu'ils sont honnêtes et probablement prudents ? Ce sont les 50 ans de tante Sarah et

nous n'allons pas rester longtemps ? C'est Noël et c'est très important pour notre famille ?

Vous savez ce qui est également très important pour notre famille ? Rester en vie et en bonne santé. Être présent pour tous les anniversaires et les Noël à venir.

Donc que devrait faire un résident de MoOuest raisonnable et sociable ?

Profiter de l'extérieur comme jamais auparavant! Appelez un ami/un voisin/votre fille et allez vous promener – tous les jours. Trouvez des raquettes, des patins, des skis de fond – tout peut se louer si vous n'êtes pas prêts à acheter. Utilisez le téléphone pour appeler tante Sarah. Discutez pendant une heure. En fait, ouvrez votre carnet d'adresses et appelez toutes ces personnes que vous aviez prévu de contacter. Bien sûr, il y a aussi Zoom, Facetime et toutes les autres solutions que le 21^e siècle nous offre. Cela pourrait être notre saison la plus sociale !

Et considérez sérieusement – aussi dur que cela puisse paraître – de réinventer vos fêtes de fin d'année. Vraiment. Sérieusement.

Nos parents et grands-parents sont passés au travers de deux guerres mondiales, une pandémie, et une décennie de crise économique. Nous en sommes à neuf mois et certainement encore quelques-uns de plus – mais nous pouvons le faire. Par contre, s'il vous plaît, évitez la pensée magique.

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

CONSEILS POUR RÉDUIRE VOS DÉCHETS PENDANT LES FÊTES



La saison des fêtes arrive à grands pas. Une saison pour célébrer, être reconnaissant et (malgré la période exceptionnelle que nous vivons actuellement) une saison d'espoir.

Cependant – sans vouloir ajouter un bémol à tout cela – c'est aussi une période qui génère une quantité considérable de déchets. Aujourd'hui, j'aimerais partager avec vous quelques conseils pour rendre cette saison un peu plus respectueuse de l'environnement.

1) Sapin de Noël : vrai ou artificiel?

Un sapin artificiel est une idée attrayante si vous prévoyez de le réutiliser chaque année. Ils sont faciles à mettre sur pied et ne laissent pas d'épines sur le plancher.

Cependant, saviez-vous qu'un vrai sapin de Noël a une empreinte carbone beaucoup plus faible qu'un sapin artificiel? Des études ont démontré que les sapins artificiels ont une empreinte carbone dix fois plus élevée que celle des sapins naturels, surtout si ce dernier est jeté correctement, comme c'est le cas à Montréal-Ouest. Chaque année, les Travaux publics récupèrent les sapins de Noël devant les résidences, les recyclent en copeaux de bois et les utilisent dans les parcs de la Ville.

De plus, acheter un vrai sapin à l'un des commerçants de Montréal-Ouest soutient notre économie locale!

2) Papiers et emballages cadeaux

Quand il s'agit d'emballages, utilisez des produits faits de matières recyclées et réduisez vos déchets en réutilisant, autant que possible, les emballages de l'année précédente.

Des emballages cadeaux respectueux de l'environnement incluent des sacs en papier réutilisables, du tissu ou du papier journal. Pour décorer vos paquets, choisissez des fibres naturelles comme du raphia, et amusez-vous avec des pommes de pin ou des brindilles – elles sont toutes compostables.

Le matériel brillant ou les sacs plastiques, le papier métallique et les mouchoirs à motifs métalliques ou en plastique, les rubans et les nœuds décoratifs sont à éviter. Aucun n'est recyclable.

Tous les emballages en polystyrène ou les contenants de plats à emporter (il risque d'il y en avoir beaucoup) doivent être déposés à l'Écocentre le plus proche. Ils ne sont pas recyclables.

3) Illuminations de Noël

Pour décorer votre sapin ou votre maison, choisissez des lampes D.E.L. sur des fils parallèles (deux lignes entrelacées) à la place d'une guirlande à brin unique. Sur les modèles à brin unique, quand une ampoule grille, toute la guirlande est à jeter. Installez aussi un programmeur pour éviter de gaspiller de l'énergie.

4) Articles à usage unique

Évitez d'utiliser des assiettes, couverts, tasses, verres et serviettes jetables. L'interdiction de ces articles par le gouvernement du Canada entre en vigueur en janvier 2021. Mais cette année, c'est notre choix de faire l'effort de réduire ces déchets.

5) Installez l'application « Ça va où » sur votre téléphone

Cette application est un très bon guide pour savoir où et comment jeter correctement des centaines d'articles. Celle-ci vous dira si l'article que vous souhaitez jeter doit être composté, recyclé ou simplement mis dans votre poubelle. Cela sera particulièrement indispensable en cette saison des fêtes.

Enfin et surtout, au nom de ma famille et de moi-même, j'aimerais vous souhaiter de très joyeuses fêtes. Prenez soin de vous!

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

TRIPLEX MAINTENANT AUTORISÉS DANS CERTAINES ZONES



Après une séance de consultation publique en mars dernier, la Ville a adopté une série de modifications au règlement de zonage. Une de ces modifications consiste en la possibilité

de convertir un duplex en triplex dans certaines zones.

La conversion d'un duplex en triplex consiste en la modification d'un bâtiment à deux logements pour pouvoir accommoder une troisième unité de logement. Les triplex sont maintenant autorisés dans plusieurs zones incluant, mais sans s'y restreindre, des zones au nord du viaduc, Westminster Nord, Strathearn Sud, Avon et Ronald Drive. Des avis ont été envoyés aux propriétaires de duplex par le service d'urbanisme pour les aviser de ce changement : <https://montreal-west.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-002-annexe-2-grille-specifications.pdf>.

Ce changement a été fait dans le but d'augmenter la quantité et le type de logements disponibles en ville. Cela honore également l'un des objectifs de notre *Plan stratégique financier* (2017), qui recommande que la Ville examine certaines zones avec la possibilité d'augmenter la densité, et « d'explorer

la possibilité d'unités de location au sous-sol de duplex. » Ce changement répond également à l'un des objectifs du *Plan d'Action* (2020) de la Municipalité amie des aînés (MADA) pour « augmenter les options de logements pour les aînés qui souhaiteraient rester à Montréal-Ouest. »

Avant de modifier le règlement, la Ville a réalisé une étude visant à recenser les triplex se trouvant sur son territoire. Cette étude a permis de relever un certain nombre de triplex illégaux, ou interdits dans certaines zones. Ces triplex peuvent maintenant être régularisés, ou légalisés, par une pro-cédure mise en place par le service d'urbanisme.

Pour procéder à un projet de conversion ou pour en régulariser un, veuillez consulter les informations sur les demandes de permis disponibles sur notre site web : <https://montreal-west.ca/fr/services-aux-residents/urbanisme/permis-et-autorisations/>. Pour toute question, veuillez contacter le service d'urbanisme au 514-481-4858 ou le responsable du service d'urbanisme, Vlad Florea-Archir, au 514 481-8126.

Colleen Feeney, conseillère
Finance, Administration,
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News from the pews

St. Philip's

As of press time, our Christmas schedule is very much uncertain and will depend on the restrictions in place at the time. Please check our Facebook page facebook.com/StPhilipMontrealWest for the most up-to-date information, as well as links for online worship.

Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place via Zoom. We will be featuring music recorded by our choir several years ago, as well as familiar carols for everyone to sing along at home. December 20 at 5 pm.

Our popular Christmas Eve children's service will also take place online. As in past years, it will be centred around the Christmas crèche, and we encourage participating families to have their own family crèche available in whatever space they gather for service, and

children may have a chance to show them to everyone. There will also be several familiar carols to sing, with musical accompaniment by organist **Peter Butler**.

We will also have worship Christmas Eve at 11 pm and Christmas morning, online and possibly in the Church. Please check Facebook or call the church office at **481-4871**

Leading up to Christmas, for the four Tuesdays of Advent (December 1, 8, 15 and 22) we will have online Compline at 7:30 pm. This will be a 20-minute service of psalms, readings and prayers to quiet our hearts and minds.

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Christmas schedule

St. Ignatius invites you to be filled with hope as we prepare our hearts for Christmas! We welcome you to celebrate with us the season of Advent, a beautiful time of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth, which starts on Sunday, November 29 and continues for four Sundays thereafter.

Should you wish to get your children involved during this time, be sure to check out "Catch the Wave," our vibrant online community for kids. More details can be found at stig.ca/kids-teens/.

We want to be sure everyone is aware

that this year's Christmas mass schedule will be different from previous years given restrictions related to the pandemic:

- December 24: Enjoy a time of personal prayer, reflection and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Church will be open from 8 am-2 pm.
- December 24: Christmas Eve mass at 4 pm via live stream only: stig.ca/live-stream
- December 25: Christmas Day masses in-person at 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm. Advance registration required to attend: stig.ca/mass. The 10 am mass will be live streamed as well at stig.ca/live-stream.
- December 31 (Holy Day Vigil): In-person mass at 4 pm. Advance registration required: stig.ca/mass.
- January 1 (Holy Day of Obligation): In-person mass to celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God at 10am. Advance registration required to attend: stig.ca/mass. Live stream also available at stig.ca/live-stream.

Although this Christmas will be different for many of us this year, we find peace in knowing that it will be one to remember as we

gather online at stig.ca/live-stream on December 24 with family and friends from around the world to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! We hope that you can join us.

MW UNITED

...the brick one

Online at Montreal West United Church

And here we are still....

Yes, it is difficult to see winter approaching without the reassurance that we will have an exciting Christmas season to propel us forward. Instead we feel more apprehension than anticipation this year. The chances that the restrictions are going to be lifted significantly seem slight. So how do we cope?

Well, at the church, we have decided to continue our online services into the New Year. Even if we were to return to in-person Worship, limiting the attendance to 25 people only seems contrary to the Christmas spirit. Still, some things will look familiar.

The sanctuary will be decorated as per other years. The choir will prepare a choral Sunday, each from their own homes, for the

December 13 service. The Sunday school will participate on December 20. December 24, Christmas Eve will have one service which will premiere at 7 pm. So remember, to find us for all of these, search online for Montreal West United Church and select 'Online Services'. Choose current or past ones – they go back to before Easter.

No one wants COVID-19 for Christmas

Despite what and who we are missing, we want to protect ourselves and our loved ones – and apparently distance is the best way (sigh). So while some things can't happen, there are things we can do,

- Consider putting up at least some decorations. Winter goes better when our neighborhood twinkles in the dark December nights.
- Consider sending Christmas cards, letters or emails. Or make phone calls. This year receiving greetings from others will matter hugely.
- Treat yourself with some special foods – even if you are the only one around to enjoy them.
- Buy yourself a gift, wrap it up and open it Christmas morning. Why not? Or fill a stocking with some fun treats.

"But it isn't Christmas unless we...."

Understood. But the best traditions will survive to reappear in better times, like we never missed a beat – just like seeing a dear old friend after a long absence.

So remember, search for us online at Montreal West United Church. And watch our doors and sign boards for in-person worship when it is safer to resume. Please note that there will be no worship service December 27. Online services resume January 3.

So on behalf of Rev. **Mark Hammond** and all of us at MWUC, may the reason for the season find its way into all our hearts. And may our poor afflicted world enjoy better health in 2021.

from Susan Upham



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Public Library - Bibliothèque publique



Busy November

November has been a busy month at the library. We have had our regular programming with Tea and Books and Virtual Shakespeare rehearsals, plus we had our wonderful MoWest Talks series "Women in Philanthropy." This series interviewed three local residents who work in the philanthropic world, and the interviews focused on their work, their passion and their inspirations. The library really extends a heartfelt thank you to **Rachel Kiddell-Monroe**, **Désirée McGraw**, **Kate Shingler** and **Jamie Orchard** for making this series extremely successful. Look on mwpl.ca to see recorded parts of the interview.

Not only have we been delivering books and organizing curbside pickups, but we have been busy organizing our move to our new location at 41 Westminster N. The exact dates will be finalized by the end of November, but our objective is to close December 23 for the winter break and reopen in our new location. During this period, we will continue with our regular programs (Virtual Shakespeare, Tea and Books and Tech Help).



481-7441

Reservations/requests:

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Visit us online at:

mwpl.daphnis.opalsinfo.net/bin/home

OFFICE HOURS (COVID-19)

Monday - Thursday
12-6 pm

New this month

We have a few announcements to make this month, namely, we have secured a new streaming service for our members called Kanopy. This service allows our members to stream to their devices independent films, family films, documentaries, master classes and more!

The library is still looking for volunteers, high school age and older to help us form a Youth Advisory Group (YAG). The purpose of the group is to help us development a young adult collection and program development geared for the youth of our Town. We are a public library and this library belongs to all of us, help us make it a place for you too! Email **Dane** at mwpl.techhelp@gmail.com if you would like to be involved. Their first meeting is scheduled for December 16; check our website for details.

The library move in a nutshell

For the last few years, we have been describing the library as transforming itself from the best kept secret to the cultural heart of the community. Now this transformation has taken on a whole new level. We are not only transforming our services to meet the community needs, but we are now moving. This move has been talked about for ages; now we are ready to roll! We are now refining the plan and starting to pack. The actual move is almost upon us.

Part of the planning involves ensuring a minimal disruption to our patrons. So, with this in mind, the library will be allowing an even longer extended loan period for the winter break and the move. December 23 at 6 pm the library will close for the winter break and the move and there will be no more deliveries or pickups scheduled until we are in our new location. As of December 1, patrons will be able to take out as many books as they wish and they will be able to return them to the new location only some-

The MWPL is moving to....

As reported in last month's *Inform*, the library is progressing in its plans to move to a new home now that the existing library building has been sold.

The Board is happy to announce that MWPL's temporary location will be the recently vacated *Imagine Realty* offices: 41 Westminster N.

We anticipate that the library will stay there for two to three years, during the construction of *The Easton*. **Deborah**, Library Director, and **Sharon**, Board member, are working with local designer **Frances Sodhi** and the Town on preparing the space and planning for the move. We do not have a moving date yet, but will provide updates as things progress.

We look forward to seeing our members and friends once we can fully reopen. In the meantime, you can continue to request books and other materials via the online catalogue and participate in virtual programming. Visit us at mwpl.ca.

from Tanya Radhakrishna

time in February. As the dates become finalized we will be publishing this information on our website, Facebook and through the library newsletter.

As of December 23, the library on 45 Westminster S will close its doors permanently. This building, although not exactly ideal, has served as the public library for over 40 years. We, at the library, feel that it should be somehow marked and we are working at compiling a homage to the building (warts and all). If you have any photos or other items you would like to share with us, please email us at mwpl.librarian@gmail.com.

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 December 9 at 2pm. All our welcome to our meetings. To join us (on ZOOM), please email mwpl.librarian@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 At-water Library, having volunteers tell us their stories about the library. Get in touch with us at mwpl.librarian@gmail.com if you would like to share your story.

Children's Library

Library services

In compliance with the governmental guidelines, access to the library's shelves is still suspended – until November 23 or until the guidelines stay in effect. However, the library collection is within reach thanks to our Books in a Bag service which has been operational since the month of March. To return books, you can visit us during the modified opening hours. To receive a new bag, please send us an e-mail, give us a call, or make reservations through our catalogue.

Our continued online programs include the Saturday Story Time and the Take and Make craft activity. All past programs are uploaded to our website: you can listen to the stories from previous Saturday sessions and make any project if you get your own material and by following the instructions. Stay tuned to our invitations in order to receive the material for the upcoming crafts.

Donation to the library



Rosa and Miles Gardner

Mia and Myles Gardner surprised us with a wonderful fundraising initiative. At the end of September, they came up with the idea to organize a lemonade stand and donate all the proceeds to the Children's Library. The lemonade stand was installed in Strathearn Park and the twins were successful in their initiative. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Virtual meeting with Oliver Jeffers

In October, the beloved children's author **Oliver Jeffers** published a new book entitled *What We'll Build*. For its launch, the library obtained one pass to the virtual event and we decided to organize a draw and give a family the opportunity and joy meet with Oliver Jeffers virtually. **Kryisia Albert** was our lucky winner! The author is one of her favorites, and she was very happy to see him on the screen.

Kryisia Albert at a virtual meeting with Oliver Jeffers



Action de grâce

Le mois passé, dans l'esprit de l'Action de grâce, la bibliothèque a décidé d'orchestrer un effort communautaire au bénéfice du *Dépôt centre communautaire d'alimentation*. Nous avons publié et envoyé des plumes en papier, et nous avons demandé aux enfants de les colorier et d'écrire dedans « Je suis reconnaissant pour... » Des plumes nombreuses ont habillé le dindon sur notre babillard. Des messages de toute sorte ont été envoyés. Nous avons gardé notre promesse, et nous avons fait des dons pour chaque plume envoyé. Un total de 55 items de

nourriture non-périssable ont été donnés au *Dépôt centre communautaire d'alimentation*. Merci d'avoir participé dans cette initiative en grands nombres !

Parent and Child Book Club

The next book club meeting will take place on Zoom, 6:15 pm on Friday November 27. We will discuss the book *Saving Fable* by **Scott Reintgen**. 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.

Halloween

This year, we could not hold the traditional Halloween story time and craft, but we gladly provided our patrons with pumpkins and later received pictures of decorated pumpkins and costumes. We prepared a video collage to share with every participant. Your creativity and skills are amazing!

Félix Elliott in his costume, with his pumpkin

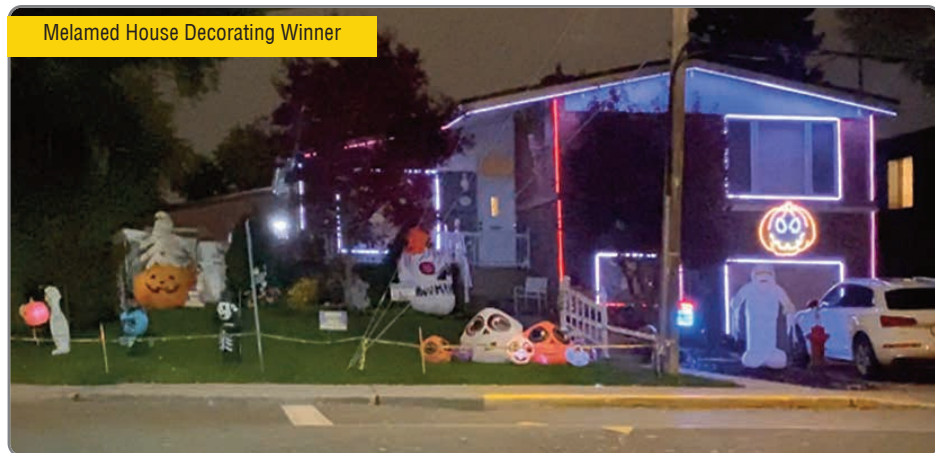




Eleanora Cau Gentile Pumpkin Winner



Pet Winner Perry Delayne



Melamed House Decorating Winner



Cervantes House Decorating Winner

Halloweek contest winners

Pumpkins: Gentile Family

Pet Costume: Perry Delayne

4 Top House Decorating:

Cervantes Family

Melamed Family

Piccioni Family

Trombley Family

Thanks to all the participants.
Can't wait for next year!



Piccioni House Decorating Winner



Trombley House Decorating Winner

MADA

Caring for our neighbours

Last April, as the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic was growing, members of the MADA (*Municipalité amie des aînés*) Steering Committee worked in conjunction with the Town administration to touch base with our seniors who were being asked to self-isolate, to see how they were doing and if they needed assistance.

After contacting over 700 seniors, a call then went out for volunteers. The generosity of MoWest residents was evident, with more volunteers stepping forward than we could actually use.

The volunteers were then trained and matched with seniors and have either been conducting regular phone check-ins, delivering meals or going grocery shopping for our seniors on a weekly basis for the past seven months. Thanks to their tireless ef-

forts, the program is ongoing, and we felt they deserved public recognition. So, on behalf of the Town and the MADA Steering Committee, a big shout out goes out to the volunteers listed below for their remarkable devotion and service to the community.

We know there are others in our community who have also lent a hand to those who needed help during these past difficult months. Even though we don't know all your names, we have heard you are out there, and you deserve a big thumbs up as well. Thank you and keep up the important work of looking out for one another. Your kindness is what makes Montreal West such a wonderful and caring place to live.

Colleen Feeney
Chair, MADA Steering Committee

Bénévoles du programme de sensibilisation aux aînés Volunteers in the Senior Outreach Program

Laura Cousineau, Joanna Duy, Gardner, Rhonda Grief, Nathaniel Haboucha, Brittany Haboucha, Beverley Hall, Dany Holland, Julian Hung, Janet King, Jennifer Leach Sandford, Victoria Leberg, Juliette Lord, Sophie Lynch-Staunton, Sabrina Manolakis, Karen Mansfield-Johnstone, Christine Mantzavarakos, Deborah Marcogliese, Maureen McCormick, Kathy Machnik, Rebecca Million, Michael Pitts, Natasha Schwartz, Tanya Radhakrishna, Alyssa Wilbur

Prendre soin de nos voisins

Avec la pandémie grandissante de COVID-19 en avril dernier, les membres du comité directeur du projet MADA (*Municipalité amie des aînés*) ont travaillé conjointement avec l'administration locale pour discuter avec nos aînés, à qui il était demandé de s'isoler, pour s'assurer qu'ils allaient bien et savoir si ils avaient besoin d'aide.

Après avoir contacté plus de 700 aînés, des bénévoles ont été appelés. Le nombre de bénévoles ayant répondu à l'appel a dépassé

toutes nos espérances, confirmant la générosité des résidents de MoOuest.

Les bénévoles ont ensuite été formés et jumelés avec des aînés pour leur téléphoner régulièrement, leur apporter le repas ou s'occuper de faire leurs courses chaque semaine au cours des sept derniers mois. Grâce à leurs efforts sans relâche le programme est en cours et nous estimons qu'ils méritaient une reconnaissance publique. Donc, au nom de la Ville et du comité directeur du projet MADA, un grand bravo aux bénévoles listés plus bas pour leur dévouement remarquable et leur service à la communauté.

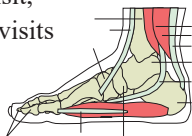
Nous savons que beaucoup d'autres ont prêté main forte à ceux qui en avaient besoin au cours de ces derniers mois difficiles. Même si nous ne connaissons pas vos noms, nous savons que vous êtes là et vous méritez un grand bravo vous aussi. Merci, et continuez ce travail important qui est de prendre soin les uns des autres. Votre gentillesse est ce qui fait de Montréal Ouest un lieu de vie aussi agréable et bienveillant.

Colleen Feeney
Présidente, comité directeur MADA

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Floral Café will be missed

– but you can still donate goodies!

This is one Horticultural Society member who will be sad to miss our usual Christmas event, not to mention the whirlwind Floral Café at ART ETC. in November – Jay's soup, Pauline's scones and everyone's homemade baking. The chaos, the camaraderie.... The café is always fun.

Our usual Christmas event is always our best attended event. A happy gathering of people, special refreshments, a Christmas-themed presentation, and arrangements going home with lucky winners. Who can forget Dawn and Bob from Smith Bros Florists. I wish I could remember just one of Dawn's jokes. They have both taken a well-deserved retirement, and Smith Bros Florists has moved to Varennes without any "Smith" brothers.

Also of note was Murray Van Egmond of Edgewood Florist who created an outdoor urn for us, as well as an interesting table runner. Our local florists would be happy to have our business, especially this year. Alex at Marché de fleurs Westminster has Christmas trees and wreaths. Both Alex and Murray also have plants, arrangements for any occasion, fresh cut flowers and so much more.

Back to the Floral Café and Christmas events to which so many people contributed their home-baked goods.... I live at 52 Easton Avenue and will happily receive those donations which would have otherwise been delivered to the Town Hall.

Together with all of the MWHC executive I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year. Take care and hope that we can get together before 2021 is over. We have a wonderful line-up of speakers for whenever we manage to meet again.

Sue Sladen
Publicity for the Horticultural Society

The Floral Café crew in a previous year



Town Council meeting: October



by Carol Foster

Prior to giving his monthly report, the Mayor had two announcements to make: the regular Friday garbage pick up will be moved to Thursdays in and a memorandum of agreement has been signed with the library.

Following a few quiet weeks, a train was heard idling on the tracks behind Ronald Drive. Upon reporting this incident to CN officials, the Mayor was assured that the crew has now been advised of the importance of following the September directive prohibiting this activity.

The Mayor went on to report that last fall, the Town was a victim of a ransomware attack. As soon as it was discovered, the Town hired a team of cybersecurity experts to remove the virus and secure the environment. An investigation of the event has been opened. According to the Mayor, the situation is under control and there is no evidence that any personal information has been accessed. However, free credit monitoring for residents whose information may have been compromised has been arranged with *TransUnion* and those residents have been notified.

In September the Minister of Municipal Affairs announced that \$800 million will be distributed to municipalities across the province to help them cope with the extra expenses incurred and the lost revenue due to the pandemic. The amount for each municipality was determined by an estimate of those factors as well as population size. The money can be used as needed including to offset any increases initiated by the Agglomeration Council. Montreal West's share will be approximately \$503,000.

The Mayor ended his report by urging

the COVID-19 regulations be followed in all Halloween celebrations.

Question period

The question period of the Council's online meetings has become a very popular forum for the exchange of questions, ideas and opinions. This question period saw the continuation of many previous questions concerning bikes, composting, garbage, road repairs, temporary car shelters, assistance to Town merchants and radar traffic sign on Ronald Drive.

When asked if there are any further solutions to the problem of bikes on the sidewalks, the Mayor explained that the PSOs can attempt to educate, but only the police can issue fines for moving violations by vehicles.

In reply to a proposal that a bike path be established on Westminster, the Mayor pointed out that because of the configuration of this street there is no safe way to do this. But, he added, when the street undergoes the required future reconstruction, this idea can be reconsidered.

What properly should go into compost bins was reviewed and **Councillor Torres** mentioned that the Town is not responsible for the sorting of the things in the bins but that this is done by an outside company.

In response to a problem with garbage being strewn around Toe Blake Park on Fridays, the Mayor suggested that the move of the garbage pick up from Friday to Thursday can enable the Public Works staff to attend to this situation more quickly.

In spite of repeated requests for the use of temporary car shelters, Councillor Feeney replied that the Town is not willing to change the existing bylaw prohibiting them. She said these structures are unsightly and can present a danger to a driver's sight

line when exiting a driveway. She added that while some residents are in favour of their use, many others are not.

A plea was made for repairs on Percival and a time line was requested for an update on the Town's plan to improve all of the Town's streets. Councillor Torres repeated, once again, that major road repairs are governed by a government master plan, funded by grants and dependent upon the condition of the infrastructure in the roads in question. Without these grants, the Town is limited to patchwork solutions.

The inadequacy of the solar-powered radar unit on Ronald Drive was reviewed. The Mayor announced that this problem is being addressed by a unit being retrofitted with a spare battery pack to avoid reliance solely on available sunlight and it will soon be ready to be picked up.

In response to a question concerning what efforts the Town was making to attract and maintain businesses on Westminster, **Councillor Feeney** replied that the Town is continually fostering a good relationship with the business owners. She described the many ongoing initiatives the Town has undertaken to achieve this goal including the promotion and assistance offered during the pandemic, the continuing improvement of the Westminster business area with new trees, benches, terraces and overhead lighting. She included the very successful street fair held last year as well as the continued partnership with PME MTL Centre-Ouest which fosters entrepreneurship in the Town.

Some new issues were also brought up. Council was asked if the Town would assist residents to be allowed access to the Meadowbrook grounds for winter activities. Councillor Ulin thought this was a "great idea," but explained that the Town had no jurisdiction in that area which is governed

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Town Council meeting: October

by Côte Saint-Luc and Lachine. She also mentioned that possible problems could occur in allowing access to outsiders. However, she added that individual pursuit of this idea might be the path to follow.

Several residents, alarmed at seeing gatherings in the Town where COVID-19 restrictions were not being followed, wanted to know how to report them. The Mayor replied that the enforcement of these regulations is up to the police and the local SPVM station can be reached at **514-280-0109**.

Another question was about exo's (public transit authority) plan to reconfigure the use of sidewalks on Westminster south of the tracks. The Mayor was aware of this plan and said it is meant to increase the safety for pedestrians in that area.

The Town has yet to receive any more information concerning their request for a grant for the new community/recreation centre was the response to the next question.

Councillor Torres, being made aware of the difficulties encountered by some residents when their water was shut off without warning, promised to rectify this situation for the future.

Councillors' reports

Due to the increase in the COVID-19 regulations, recreational activities will all now be moved online according to **Councillor Ulin**. The Walk to Remember, the Remembrance Day ceremony and November's Artists' Showcase will also be shown online. Halloween activities are being offered all week online and caution is urged to those who choose to go door-to-door for treats. The new basketball nets and boards at Hodgson's Field had to be removed shortly after they were installed due to the govern-

ment directives currently prohibiting group sports. Attempts to rope off the area were unsuccessful as the barriers were quickly vandalized and the nets and boards had to be taken down.

Councillor Feeney reported that the budget is still on track. While some revenues are down, including \$600,000 from the Recreation Department, some expenses are down as well.

The *MADA* Steering Committee received a government grant of \$12,000 to support the development of their plan of action. They also received valuable assistance, pro bono, from both Concordia and McGill personnel who helped in the development and analysis of the survey as well as the preparation of the final report. An honorarium of \$1,000, each, was awarded to McGill and Concordia for this effort. The program implemented by *MADA* has ensured grocery deliveries and telephone checks continue to be available for all seniors, when needed, thanks to the work of volunteers.

Preparations for the winter are now being made by the Public Works Department. The last of the trees have been planted, all gardens have been put to bed and leaves are being collected. Councillor Torres added the usual reminder that leaves must be put in paper bags and not plastic. She encouraged mulching the leaves as an environmentally friendly alternative to leaving them for the pick up. An extensive inventory of the Town's trees will soon be ready as part of a three-year capital plan for the environment.

There was no report from **Councillor Mazzone** due to his absence.

Since there were no questions put forward for the second question period, the meeting was then adjourned.

Community Centre

Winter recreation registration

For winter programs starting early January, sign up online on AMILIA.

The benefits of physical activity and exercise have been demonstrated across the lifespan. We are meant to move and many of our body's systems work better when we are consistently physically active.

The Recreation Department is offering on-line classes such as Strong Nation, Zumba, yoga, TRX, Essentrics, stretching, yoga for stiff men (and more) to help make exercise accessible during this critical period. When guidelines change, we will again offer both live and on-line classes. All the necessary precautions will be taken.

WHO recommends 150 minutes of moderate-intensity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity per week or a combination. These recommendations can be achieved even at home, with no special equipment and limited space.

If you are interested to find out more about what is offered, please call **484-6186** or go on line at montreal-west.ca.

Bilingual Discovery Playgroup

Winter session starts January 11

For 2 to 4 years old, Monday to Friday from 9 am to noon. Children will experience a fun and playful atmosphere with exciting and educational activities including arts and crafts, story time, drama play and much more. Small class sizes provide a more interactive and personalized service focusing on socializing, learning problem solving and gross motor skills. 2 to 5 days available.

Holiday activities

Here is a sneak peek at the holiday activities in Town:

- Holiday contests
 - Arts & crafts
 - Baking activities
 - Themed free skating
 - Virtual *CP Holiday Train*
- ...and much, much more!

March Break Madness

March 2-5:

A Week of fun for your children aged 5-12

This year's schedule available early January, stay tuned. As pandemic regulations change, we will do our best to offer an exciting and safe experience. Early bird prices until February 1.

Location: Community Centre.



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Réunion du Conseil : octobre



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Avant de donner son rapport mensuel, le maire a fait deux annonces : la collecte des ordures passera du vendredi au jeudi en 2021 et un protocole d'entente a été signé avec la bibliothèque.

Après quelques semaines de calme, on a entendu un train tourner au ralenti derrière la promenade Ronald. Le maire a rapporté cet incident au CN et a reçu l'assurance que l'équipage avait été informé de l'importance de respecter la directive de septembre prohibant cette activité.

Le maire a poursuivi en indiquant que la Ville avait été victime d'une attaque par rançongiciel, l'automne dernier. Dès sa découverte, une équipe d'experts en cybersécurité était engagée pour effacer le virus et sécuriser l'environnement. Une enquête sur l'événement a été lancée. Selon le maire, la situation est contrôlée et rien n'indique qu'il y ait eu accès à des renseignements personnels. Cependant, la Ville offre la surveillance du crédit gratuite avec TransUnion aux personnes dont les données auraient pu être compromises et ces citoyens ont été informés.

En septembre, la ministre des Affaires municipales annonçait que 800 M\$ seront distribués aux municipalités de la province pour aider à compenser les dépenses additionnelles et les pertes de revenus dues à la pandémie. Une estimation de ces facteurs et la taille de la population déterminent le montant alloué à chacune. Ces sommes pourront servir selon les besoins, dont pour pallier toute augmentation provenant du conseil de l'agglomération. La part de Montréal-Ouest sera d'environ 503 000 \$.

Le maire a mis fin à son rapport en ex-

hortant au respect des directives COVID-19 lors de toutes les célébrations de l'Halloween.

Période de questions

La période de questions des réunions virtuelles du Conseil est devenue un forum populaire pour l'échange de questions, d'idées et d'opinions. De nombreux sujets concernant les bicyclettes, les matières recyclables, les ordures, l'entretien des rues, les abris d'auto temporaires, l'aide aux commerçants et le panneau radar sur la promenade Ronald sont revenus.

À la question de possibles solutions au problème des vélos sur les trottoirs, le maire a expliqué que les ASP peuvent tenter d'éduquer, mais seuls les policiers ont le pouvoir de donner des constats d'infraction pour les infractions de circulation.

Répondant à la suggestion d'aménager une piste cyclable sur Westminster, le maire a fait remarquer que compte tenu de la configuration de la rue, il n'y a pas de façon sécuritaire de le faire. Il a ajouté que lors de la réfection nécessaire à venir, l'idée pourra être reconsidérée.

La **conseillère Torres** a passé en revue ce qui devrait aller dans le bac brun et a indiqué que la Ville n'est pas responsable du tri des matières dans les bacs, mais plutôt une compagnie sous contrat.

En réponse à un problème de déchets répandus au parc Toe Blake les vendredis, le maire a suggéré que la collecte se faisant les jeudis en 2021, les Travaux publics pourront réagir plus rapidement à cette situation.

En dépit de demandes répétées pour l'utilisation d'abris d'auto temporaires, la **conseillère Feeney** a répondu que la Ville n'est pas disposée à changer le règlement qui les proscrit. Elle expliqua que ces structures sont inesthétiques et peuvent présenter un

danger en obstruant la vue à la sortie d'une allée et ajouta que si certains résidents sont favorables à leur utilisation, nombre d'autres s'y opposent.

On a reçu un plaidoyer pour des travaux sur Percival et une demande d'échéancier pour mise à jour des plans de la Ville pour améliorer l'état des rues. La conseillère Torres a, une fois encore, répété que les importants travaux de voiries sont soumis à un plan d'ensemble du gouvernement financé par des subventions et en fonction de la condition des infrastructures des rues en question. Sans ces subventions, la Ville est limitée à du rapiéçage.

L'inefficacité de l'appareil de radar à énergie solaire sur la promenade Ronald a été revue. Le maire a annoncé que le problème est en voie de règlement par l'adaptation d'une pile auxiliaire pour éviter de devoir compter strictement sur le soleil; le tout sera prêt sous peu.

En réponse à une question sur les efforts déployés par la Ville pour attirer et retenir les entreprises sur Westminster, la conseillère Feeney a indiqué que la Ville entretient de bonnes relations avec les gens d'affaires. Elle a décrit les nombreuses initiatives lancées en ce sens, incluant la promotion et l'aide offerte pendant la pandémie, l'amélioration continue du secteur commercial de Westminster par l'ajout d'arbres, de bancs, de terrasses et d'éclairage aérien. Elle a inclus la première foire de rue de l'an dernier, couronnée de succès, ainsi que le partenariat continu avec PME MTL Centre-Ouest qui promeut l'entrepreneuriat dans la ville.

De nouveaux sujets se sont aussi pointés.

On a demandé au Conseil si la Ville aiderait ses résidents à avoir accès aux terrains de Meadowbrook pour des activités hivernales. La **conseillère Ulin** croyait que c'était là une « excellente idée », mais expli-

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Réunion du Conseil : octobre

qua que la Ville n'avait aucunement compétence sur ce territoire qui relève de Côte Saint-Luc et Lachine. Elle a aussi mentionné des problèmes potentiels en permettant l'accès à des gens de l'extérieur. Elle a cependant ajouté que l'idée mériterait sans doute d'être poursuivie sur une base individuelle.

De nombreux résidents, inquiets de voir des rassemblements contrevenant aux restrictions COVID-19, s'interrogeaient à savoir comment les signaler. Le maire expliqua que l'application de ces directives relève des policiers et que l'on peut joindre le poste local du SPVM au **514-280-0109**.

Une autre question concernait les plans d'exo (organisme public de transport en commun) de reconfigurer les trottoirs sur Westminster au sud des rails. Le maire était au courant de ce plan et a déclaré que c'était pour améliorer la sécurité des piétons dans le secteur.

Quant à la question suivante, la Ville attend toujours des nouvelles concernant sa demande de subvention pour le nouveau centre récréatif communautaire.

La conseillère Torres, ayant été mise au courant des difficultés qu'ont éprouvées certains résidents par suite d'une coupure d'eau sans avertissement, a promis de corriger cette situation pour le futur.

Rapports des membres du Conseil

En raison d'autres règlements COVID-19, les activités des Loisirs sont dorénavant toutes en ligne, a déclaré la conseillère Ulin. La Promenade du souvenir, la cérémonie du jour du Souvenir et la Vitrine artistique de novembre seront aussi en ligne. Des activités pour l'Halloween sont offertes en ligne toute la semaine et on incite à la prudence ceux qui iront de porte en porte. Les nouveaux panneaux et filets

de basketball du terrain Hodgson ont dû être retirés peu de temps après leur installation en raison des directives gouvernementales interdisant les sports de groupe. On a d'abord barré la zone avec une corde qui a rapidement été vandalisée; on a finalement tout retiré.

La conseillère Feeney a rapporté que le budget maintient le cap. Certains revenus ont baissé, dont 600 000 \$ en moins du service des Loisirs, mais des dépenses ont aussi diminué.

Le comité de pilotage MADA a reçu une subvention de 12 000 \$ pour soutenir son plan d'action. Il a aussi reçu l'aide bénévole précieuse de gens de Concordia et de McGill pour l'élaboration et l'analyse du sondage et la préparation du rapport final. Une rétribution de 1 000 \$ a été accordée tant à Concordia qu'à McGill pour ces bons offices. Le programme mis en place par MADA a assuré la livraison de victuailles à des aînés et des appels téléphoniques sont toujours offerts, lorsque requis, grâce au travail de bénévoles.

Le service des Travaux publics se prépare à l'hiver. Son personnel a planté les derniers arbres, a aménagé tous les jardins pour l'hiver et ramasse les feuilles. La conseillère Torres a fait le rappel habituel que les feuilles doivent être mises dans des sacs de papier, pas de plastique. Elle a encouragé le déchiquetage des feuilles mortes comme choix écologique plutôt que de les mettre pour le ramassage. Un inventaire exhaustif des arbres de la Ville sera bientôt prêt, comme partie du plan d'action triennal pour l'environnement.

Il n'y avait pas de rapport du **conseiller Mazzone**, vu son absence.

Et puisqu'il n'y a eu aucune demande pour la deuxième période de questions, la séance fut levée.



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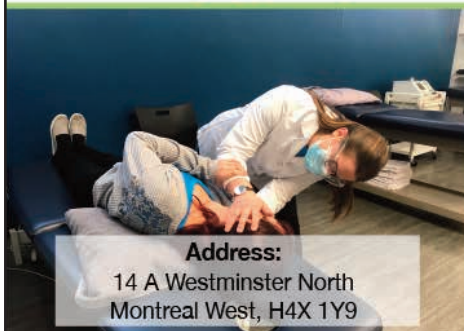
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COMING EVENTS / À VENIR

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

Next deadline: January 13

— PLEASE CHECK WITH THE VENUE FOR POSSIBLE CANCELLATIONS —

NOVEMBER

Thu 26 **Water taxes due / Échéance taxes d'eau**
Mon 30 **Town Council meeting.** Online at: facebook.com/montrealwest. 8 pm.

DECEMBER

Wed 9 **Tea and Books** – a virtual book talk. Zoom. 2 pm.
Sun 13 **Choral service.** MW United. Online. 10 am.
Mon 14 **Town Council meeting.** Online at: facebook.com/montrealwest. 8 pm.
Mon 16 **Youth Advisory Group meeting.** Email mwpl.techhelp@gmail.com.
Sun 20 **Sunday school service.** MW United. Online. 10 am.
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols via Zoom. St. Philip's. 5 pm.
Thu 24 **Christmas Eve mass.** St. Ignatius of Loyola. Live stream only: stig.ca/live-stream. 4 pm.
Christmas Eve service. MW United. Online. 7 pm.
Fri 25 **Christmas Day masses in-person.** Advance registration required: stig.ca/mass. St. Ignatius of Loyola. 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm.
Thu 31 **Holy Day Vigil in-person mass.** St. Ignatius of Loyola. Advance registration required: stig.ca/mass. 4 pm.

JANUARY

Fri 1 **Holy Day of Obligation in-person mass.** St. Ignatius of Loyola. Advance registration required: stig.ca/mass. 10 am.
Mon 25 **Town Council meeting.** Online at: facebook.com/montrealwest. 8 pm.

In this time of peace, joy and goodwill, The **Informer** staff sends greetings and a **huge thank you** to all residents who continue to make our newspaper a bright spot in our lives, in spite of the pandemic with all of its restrictions.

To the Town, to all our advertisers, writers, carriers, readers, volunteers and residents, **best wishes** for peace and good cheer during this holiday season and may **2021** bring you health and happiness.

*Merry Christmas!
Happy Hanukkah!*

The **Informer** profite de ce temps de paix, de joie et de bonne volonté pour transmettre ses vœux et un **énorme merci** à tous les résidents qui continuent de faire de notre journal un moment de sérénité dans nos vies, en dépit de la pandémie et toutes ses restrictions.

À la Ville, à tous nos annonceurs, auteurs, camelots, lecteurs, bénévoles et résidents, nos **meilleurs vœux** de paix et d'allégresse pour cette saison; que **2021** vous apporte santé et bonheur.

*Joyeux Noël!
Joyeuse Hanoukka!*



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