

## Montreal West: A late bloomer

by Maurice Krystal

### Small is good

My wife and I moved into MoWest in the summer of 1987 with a one-and-a-half-year-old. The local park, now named after Toe Blake, was woefully lacking in playground equipment for toddlers. Three years later, now with our second son, we were concerned with the unsafe play area. After a phone call, **Pat Mann** from the Recreational Department and councillor **Pauline Ducharme** came by and told my wife that she should gather a group of concerned parents to discuss what equipment was wanted. It was all friendly and informal.

In September a small group of people in our living room were looking at catalogues. In the spring, new playground equipment was installed. When my wife hinted it was beautiful but there was no place for the parents to sit, the next day Pat came by with a spray paint can to mark the locations for some new benches. I was impressed. Moving here from Montreal, this sort of service was unheard of. Small was beautiful! The Town was intimate enough that you knew almost everyone. Your municipal officials were your neighbours. You were a somebody with a voice that was heard.

Very recently I learned idyllic MoWest wasn't always this way.

In researching the founding of *The Informer* some 48 years ago, I was in touch with **Wavell Cowan**, the inspiration behind the enterprise. He shared a memoir he wrote about the Town's struggle against apathy with the political structure and the fight for democracy.

### The history of MoWest and elections

"Montreal West, located some 12 miles west of Montreal's city centre, was founded in the 1890s by the *Canadian Pacific Railroad Company*. It was established as a small railroad town where executives and senior employees of the company were housed. The town was located at the junction where the east and west branches of the *CPR* came together on the Island of Montreal. Thus, railroad tracks enfolded the town giving it a particularly cozy geography. Most of the town was contained by these tracks with a small 'old town' enclave over the tracks to the south and a 'new town' enclave over the tracks to the north.

"The governing body, a mayor and council members, was originally selected from the resident *CPR* executives. Over time this selection process came to be handled by a Citizens' Association. When I joined the community (in the 1960s) this group was populated from the town's social 'upper-crust,' and membership was by invitation only. Property taxes were low compared to other communities on the Island of Montreal. The efficiency of garbage collection and winter snow clearing were the only concerns of residents. The status quo was quite acceptable."

When I read this memoir, I was not surprised that such a political structure was part and parcel of the town's establishment. What surprised me was that elements of "the old order" persisted for the next 80 years.

Ever since the Town of Montreal West was incorporated in 1897, the position of mayor had always been appointed by accli-



mation by the commissioners. This was in contrast to another railway town, Town of Mount Royal. Incorporated in 1912, two years after the *Canadian Northern Railway* (later the *CNR*) dug a tunnel under Mount Royal. TMR's election for mayor had been held that very first year.

According to Wavell, "things were running smoothly without any need for concerns by the citizenry until they weren't. I would say that there was no real concern that 'democracy' was not being well served. History simply caught up with the community when its absence became a problem."

### The collapse of the old system

Then in the 1960s, "the old infrastructure – water lines and sewage pipes – began to fall apart and required replacement. Also, at this time, the provincial government bailed out a bankrupt City of Montreal by giving it taxing authority over the suburban towns through a new Montreal Urban Community (MUC). These events overwhelmed the town as the property tax rate rapidly escalated. The status quo was no longer acceptable, and the governing body – with no electoral tradition or experience – was overwhelmed."

In the next issue of *The Informer*, you will discover how a home-grown citizens' group changed politics in Montreal West.

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# INFORMER

10 Westminster 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

February 10

# Tales of a feathered celebrity: Butters

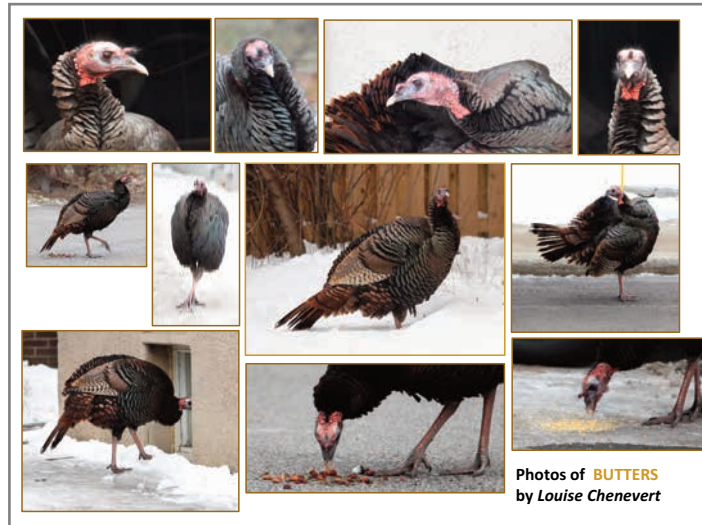
So, what is all the fuss about? For one, she is oddly alone, which causes much concern as the species travels in flocks of 30 in summer and larger ones in winter. Other concerns are Can she forage for enough food? What does she eat? Turkeys eat grain, seeds, fruit and nuts.

Will she survive the winter? They are an indigenous species so the cold will not kill her, but traffic could. She could succumb to starvation. She is quite plump, so she is managing well between foraging in local parks, people's gardens and receiving handouts from concerned residents. Some people have been feeding her bread, which is detrimental!

Experts have been consulted and the *SPCA* contacted. The summary is that **wildlife cannot be interfered with nor fed** and we should strive to coexist with it.

She has been adapting to her urban landscape. She travels up and down sidewalks, waits in bus shelters and has traversed Côte Saint-Luc Road on a green light. As a species that travels in flocks, she is probably copying human behaviour.

January 11, the first day of schools' reopening, many people stopped to photograph her; so much so, she was impeding traffic flow. Most passersby were curious, in awe, ecstatic to finally have met the much



Photos of **BUTTERS**  
by Louise Chenevert

talked about newcomer. She is definitely a conversation starter! Taxi drivers slowed down, two public work trucks stopped. The employees jumped out, and out came the phones and there were a few chuckles. Police officers were seen smiling as they escorted her to safety. She is bringing joy to so many.

Keep an eye out for her when you are out walking. Please do not feed her but do admire her beautiful bronze and copper plumage and her personality as she struts. Her head may be bare which only highlights her expressive eyes. She likes to look into windows and bus shelters; some say she is quite the peeping tom. I believe she feels that she has found her own kind

when she sees her reflection. If you have a chance to witness her pruning her feathers, as I have, it is quite a show!

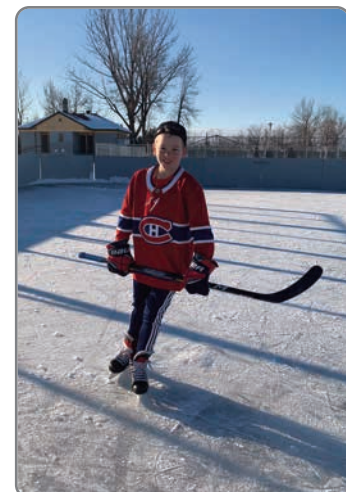
Remember that many animals perish due to their popularity. Don't allow your curiosity to make her a pet. Let her be wild.

I feel privileged to have seen her twice and was able to get some photographs. I will not hunt her down for more. If I see her, I will take a fleeting glance and let her be.

Please slow down if you are driving. She hasn't yet mastered oncoming two-way traffic. And don't startle her by honking.

Be patient. Give her space. Keep her safe!

from Louise Chênevert



Town of Montreal West employees Tom Simboli and Jake Sutherland are working day (and sometimes night too!) to ensure smooth ice surfaces for the town's many outdoor rinks this year. Not pictured, but part of the dedicated ice grooming crew, Jack Monaco. Jack Connell, 10 years old, was the first on the ice at the Bedbrook outdoor rink this year. Kate Shingler took these photos and sent them to *The Informer*.



**In memoriam****Jack Dunn**

*"He was a great guy."*

*"Jack was a family man  
who gave his all."*

*"He was generous and always pleasant."*

*"Jack was funny and a tease."*

*"He was a real gentleman  
who loved sports."*

These were some of the remarks I heard from fellow citizens who had volunteered with Jack during his many years of selfless giving to his community.

**Jack Dunn** moved to Montreal West in 1963 and quickly became involved in local sports programs.

In business, Jack was a self-made man who saw opportunity in the arcade business. He went on to develop *Alouette Amusement*, and Montreal West became a loyal cus-



tomers. Jack's company provided sound equipment for many, many functions organized by the Recreation Department. Jack would not only lend the necessary equipment free of charge, but would also set it up and take it down.

Many young hockey players will remember their end-of-year hockey banquets at the Town Hall. Jack would provide a full arcade of machines to keep the boys entertained before and after the meal.

Jack loved baseball and coached our youth until he was in his fifties. He spoiled himself rarely but did attend the Expos' Fantasy Camp in Fort Myers, Florida, where amateurs got to play with the pros. This was a highlight for Jack!

He loved hockey so much that he preferred to come back to Montreal instead of spending the winter at his Florida condo. Jack would spend a few days in the sun, then come home to play multiple hockey games each week – where he was probably the oldest guy on the ice.

Our former Director of Recreation, **Patrick Mann**, had nothing but good things to say about Jack, and his remarks perfectly sum up this man.

"Jack wanted to improve his hockey coaching credentials, so he took the necessary courses and attended the required clinics to earn his Level 6 for hockey coaches. This was a very big deal. Levels 1 and 2 were for those coaching locally, levels 3 and 4 for regional hockey (Lac St. Louis, AA, etc.), but levels 5 and 6 were for coaches at the provincial and national levels. I remember asking him why he went to all that trouble when his Level 3 certification would be fine for the AA teams he was coaching at the time. He told me he wanted to be a better coach. Very few people achieved Level 6 coaching certification."

Let's hope there is a rink in the sky!

*from Pauline Ducharme*

**Mailbox****Kudos to Paula Cordeau**

Among the as-yet unsung heroes of the COVID-19 experience in Montreal West – and no doubt many others will be revealed in the weeks to come – **Paula Cordeau** is an obvious choice. She's always been a great leader of fitness classes and a role model for her many fans. But when COVID-19 blanketed us all in despair and inactivity, Paula stepped up and brought a whole new dimension to her role.

In the summer, she found a location in the high school football field for her Stretch and Reach classes, and she even seems to have intervened with the Supreme Being to give us fair weather nearly every time! Suffering to work the unwilling muscles and improve balance was sweetened by the lovely smell of grass and the lovely sight of clear sky (free of all airplanes!) and gorgeous sunsets. For the few occasions when rain fell, she had set up a little canopy perfect for people who didn't mind getting their toes wet while their most crucial parts stayed dry.

For the fall sessions, she undertook a steep learning curve to allow for both indoor (Town Hall) and virtual (Zoom) classes. This situation rapidly evolved into Zoom-only, with Paula working to get her voice and the music in proper balance as she demonstrated every move in solitary splendour in the Music Room. Always cheerful and energetic, she has jollied us through dark and stormy nights and promises to continue to do so through the spring. There really is no way to express the gratitude we Reachers and Stretchers feel. Thanks, Paula!

*from Ellen Moore*

**Aiguillage Cunningham Sharps**

Service d'aiguillage de patins a MoWest

Suivant l'esprit entrepreneurial de sa famille, **Louis-Charles (LC) Cunningham**, hockeyeur, 15 ans, a décidé de se partir en affaires et d'offrir un service d'aiguillage sur mesure de son domicile.

Il a investit ses économies dans l'achat d'une machine de grade professionnel de marque *Sparx* ([sparxhockey.com](http://sparxhockey.com)).

Louis-Charles est passionné de hockey depuis son enfance. Il a évolué au sein des programmes de MTL-Ouest (Knights, Kings) et du programme des Lions (AAA). Il est

maintenant dans la ligne scolaire avec les Dragons du Collège Ste-Anne. Il est également assistant dans le programme estival de Hockey Montréal de Eric Rayment.

Louis-Charles aspire à poursuivre sa passion dans la LHJMQ ou NCAA.

N'hésitez pas à lui confier vos patins. 7\$/1 aiguillage/sharpening; 12\$/ 2 aiguillages/sharpening; 10\$/ 1 sharpening, home pick up and delivery

*LC Cunningham  
(514) 701-0932*





Holiday time on Brock North

## West End Quilters

There are advantages to the pandemic and staying at home. The *West End Quilters'* bi-weekly meetings have become weekly on Zoom. On the extra days, we just stitch and chat.

In February we are having an online class with **Cheryl Arkinson** who we couldn't afford in person and of course we all have more time to quilt. We are making more baby quilts to donate, thanks to **Monique** and her cross-stitch squares and blocks for Quilts of Valour.

New quilters have joined our guild and are getting pointers at our meetings and by email. Check out our Facebook page [facebook.com/westendquilters](https://facebook.com/westendquilters) or contact **Mary** at [marysdog-bob@gmail.com](mailto:marysdog-bob@gmail.com).

from Mary Sutherland

## IODE



Partnering with other MoWest organizations was rewarding and necessary during the pandemic year. First, we successfully joined forces with *The Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG*, which while helping local merchants, raised funds to provide meals for over 3000 frontline healthcare workers, first responders and those without shelter.

Our members were as busy as ever: long-time member **Heather Ferguson** sewed 50 grooming bags filled with toiletries destined for *Resilience Montreal* that services those without shelter. **Moir Bet- tinville** knitted mittens, slippers, tuques and scarves for our



Christmas cards delivered to *Resilience Montreal*

adopted class in Labrador. The children also received holiday gifts. She also gathered toiletries from Edinburgh Elementary School and redistributed them to *Auberge Transition*. For *Resilience Montreal*, she contributed dozens of handmade protective masks.

President **Janet King** and **Barbara Marshall** were involved with our local Cubs and Brownies in making Christmas cards which were delivered to *St. Andrew's Residential Centre*.

from Giuliana Pendenza

## Artists' Showcase

### The Great Outdoors

Winter 2021 - Virtual Exhibition

MoWest Artists are invited to display their art on the website for the online exhibition. All media are accepted from pottery to jewellery to paintings and much more. To find out more about the Artists' Showcase, or to get an application form, go to the MoWest website under "Culture." For more details, call 484-6186. Please submit your art by February 7.

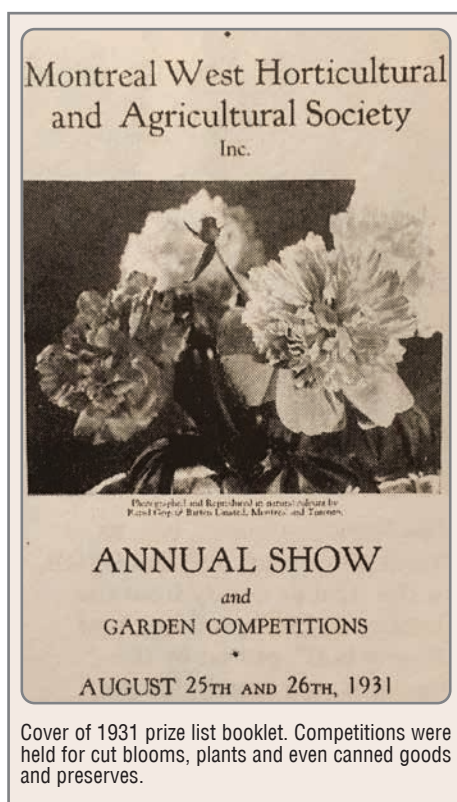


## The Garden Suburb

MoWest has always been The Garden Suburb. Over one hundred years ago, in 1908, several MoWesters got together to form an exclusive garden club – The *Montreal West Horticultural and Agricultural Society*. The fees were \$.50 per year and meetings were held at various members' homes. Early interest was in annual flower shows and competitions where many members won prizes. The *Horticultural and Agricultural Society* was incorporated in 1917 and eventually the agricultural part of the name was dropped.

No longer the "exclusive" club it once was, membership is open to anyone, resident and non-resident alike: people with gardens, people living in condos or apartments growing flowers or produce on their balconies and to anyone with an interest in nature.

Meetings are normally held at the Town Hall and membership fees have increased to



a staggering \$20 a year! There are no floral competitions, but volunteers do open their gardens to visitors in June every couple of years. We have had an eclectic assortment of speakers and have learned how to propagate seeds, take care of tender seedlings, choose appropriate trees for our properties, plant spring bulbs, colour coordinate our gardens, attempt to keep destructive critters away from tomato plants and much more.

The garden club has considered a website for some time and, what with certain individuals having more time on their hands during current restrictions, the website has come to fruition.

Beyond our history and list of executive members there is not much to see, but it will be a venue for posting our meetings and speakers in the future.

The *Horticultural Society* is looking forward to holding its meetings once again, hopefully by the fall of this year, and to welcoming new members. To be in the know, keep your eye on *The Informer* and check out our website: [montreal-west-horticultural-society.ca](https://montreal-west-horticultural-society.ca).

from Sue Sladen



## Rotary

### Deborah Marcogliese: MoWest Public Library



**Deborah Marcogliese** is a professional librarian with an inclination for librarianship and community service. She has been the director of the Public Library (MWPL) since April 2017. When Deborah joined the library, she had one overall guiding principle: "To transform the Montreal West Public Library from best kept secret to a cultural hub of the community."

The library is a small non-profit organization with three full-time staff. In March, COVID-19 hit and they had to

shut down. They decided to deliver books; all returned items are quarantined for a week. Deborah and a few volunteers delivered the books and the service has been a great boon to the library's patrons. Like *Amazon*, they can deliver the goods in 24 hours. Now the library offers free membership to all residents of Montreal West as public libraries are free. Non-residents have to pay \$40.

2020 has been one heck of a year and the library has had to turn on a dime, from cozy face-to-face to doing everything online. Now they are moving as they are making way for a new condo project and when the building is built, they will be moving back. They are trying to transition into a 21st century library and this will take between 3-5 years. There is still a lot of work to be done. They want to be a cultural hub and create a safe haven for young adults.



### Rotary Global Grant Scholarships

The single 7040 Global Grant Scholarship is awarded annually to a District 7040 permanent resident (Western Quebec, Eastern Ontario, northern NY state) whose undergraduate degree will be awarded by the end of June and who will be entering the first year of a first Master's degree in studies related to one of *Rotary's* seven areas of focus. Further criteria are listed on the District website and the list should be read carefully. The Global Grant Scholarship is for \$30,000 USD.

The purpose of the criteria is to give a boost to one of our talented young people as well as promote the *Rotary* theme of World Understanding and Peace. The area of study must relate strongly to *Rotary International's* areas of focus: peace and conflict prevention/resolution; disease prevention and treatment; water and sanitation; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; economic and community development; support for the environment.

We are looking for candidates who have a wide range of experience, a sense of adventure and a desire to change the world! The deadline for applications is April 15 with interviews.

### Rotary Peace Fellowship

*Rotary* offers two types of Peace Fellowships: a two-year Master's program and a three-month certificate program in peace studies. Candidates must have three years experience for the Peace Fellowship Master's degree and five years for the certificate program in a field related to peace studies. Once again, any candidates should read the criteria on the *Rotary International* website very carefully.

As a district, we have been fortunate to have had 14 Peace Fellows over the years, many of whom have come from the ranks of the federal civil service. We are looking for candidates whose dedication to a better world through peace is driving them to further studies. The deadline for applications is April 15.

*from Doug Yeats*

## Rotary and IODE

### Holiday tidings and goodwill work



*IODE HMS Victory* chapter and the *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG* were busy organizing their holiday meals while helping local businesses: *Pasteizza* provided Philly beef luncheon with trimmings and *Mini-Coût* provided cookies, brownies and carrot squares with eggnog to *Resilience Montreal*. **Traci Swim** provided Christmas cards that she had collected from students. They were given to participants at the shelter, who are lonely at this time of the year, more so since the pandemic.

**Margo Buchanan** at *Resilience Montreal*: "Thank you everyone for your incredible contribution to our mission in this crazy year. We would not be here without the support and strength of our community. Happy Holidays to everyone!!"

New *Rotary* member **Margarita Schultz** suggested because of Covid-19, we do holiday baskets for those families who would

normally not have to rely on them. We thought it was great idea. **Ron D'Souza** reached out to **Joan Foster** who suggested the *Westhaven Community Center*. *Quality Fruit Bowl* filled the baskets with fresh vegetables and fruits and Stollen. Altogether, 12 families benefitted.

**Tatu Katabe** of *Westhaven Elmhurst Community Recreation Association*: "Dear Ron D'Souza, the team from *Westhaven Elmhurst Community Recreation Association*, the parents and the kids would like to send the *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG* our greatest appreciation for the Christmas baskets. Seeing the parents' and kids' faces was magical during this difficult time. We thank you immensely for that great project and wish to stay in your list."

Another fellow Rotarian **Tiffany Blouin** with *MoWest Merchant Association* had a very successful food drive at *Action Physio Sport* and donated the food to St. Ignatius Church. **Anna Del Duca** from St. Ignatius of Loyola: "Ron, Thank you so much!



Traci Swim from *Extra Miles* with Christmas cards that she had collected from students

There was such an abundance of non-perishables, I was surprised and humbled!

"We were able to fill our baskets and send the extra to St. Monica's for their baskets and St. Vincent de Paul needs.

I wish you the very best for 2021, stay healthy and God bless you!"

*from Ron D'Souza and  
Giuliana Pendenza*

## Children's Library

### Santa book bag delivery

What is Christmas without a thrill, without Santa Claus? We managed to get in touch with Santa who was very happy to help deliver book bags to your homes. His visit made this holiday season special to the young members of our library. We prepared bags of library books, Santa added some surprises to them and toured the houses of the neighborhood children. We were delighted to add some magic to the holiday.

### 12 Days of Holiday Challenges

December 19, the library started sending daily messages to the subscribers on its mailing list, with different challenges of the day. There were story-times with questions, puzzles, riddles, mind games, physical challenges to take on. For a different number of answers, the library awarded special gifts. What a fun way to keep busy around the holidays! Together with the challenges we had prepared two special craft projects and instruction videos.

### Library services and programs

In compliance with the governmental guidelines, access to the library's shelves is still suspended, until the guidelines are lifted. The library's collection is within reach thanks to our Books in a Bag service which has been operational since March 2020. 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. On our website, you can find past virtual story-times, and past Take and Make craft projects. To receive timely information about our programs and activities, make sure you are part of our mailing list.

### Parent and Child Book Club

The forthcoming meeting February 26 will provide the possibility to talk about the modern classic *Inkheart* by **Cornelia Funke**. Contact us to borrow a copy, and to join the Zoom discussion. In this story, 12-year-old Meggie learns that



Jude and Maggie Williams received a bag of books from Santa

her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service.

### Children's Library Hours/Horaire

For pick-ups and returns only. Please contact us for a book bag. / Pour collecte et retour des sélections. Veuillez nous contacter pour demander un sac de livres.

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri  
lun, mer, jeu, ven :  
15:30-18:00

Tue / mar : 15:30-19:30

Sat-Sun / sam-dim :  
10:00-15:00



**484-7194**

info@mwcl.ca mwcl.ca

### Public Library: 481-7441

#### Reservations/requests:

mwlib.requests@gmail.com

#### Visit us online at:

mwpl.daphnis.opalsinfo.net/bin/home

#### OFFICE HOURS (COVID-19)

Monday - Thursday  
12-6 pm



## Public Library - Bibliothèque publique

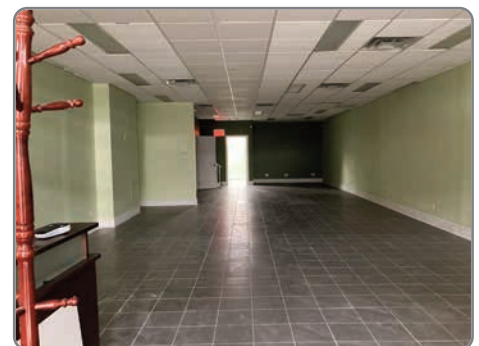
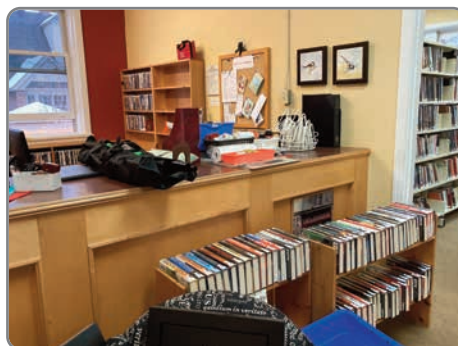
# The library is moving!

Happy New Year to everyone. We hope that you are all safe, healthy and reading from our wonderful collection. We hope that you were able to get everything you wanted from use before the holiday break because, right now, we are in the throes of packing up the entire library. So, if we do not answer our email or phone it may be be-

cause we are up to our eyeballs in boxes.

We hope to be up and running by February 15. If not in person at least virtually with some new programs and continuation of some old ones. Please don't be a stranger, come and wave to us starting February 1!

Here are some photos of our current space and a glimpse of our new space.





## Edinburgh School

"I look forward to doing a lot less laundry." This was the unexpected answer given by Edinburgh physical education teacher **William Cho** when asked what he's most looking forward to in terms of teaching physical education once COVID-19 subsides.

"Currently we are using coloured pinnies to visually differentiate between the bubbles during recess, and I am using pinnies as single-use in P.E. class so I have to wash them," he explains. Also, "I look forward to being able to use the entire outdoor facilities for my classes again when we go outside."

COVID-19 has prompted a shift to as much outdoor time during Phys Ed as possible. But, given the staggered recess and lunch times that have been scheduled to avoid having large numbers of students outside at once, he is more limited in the spaces he can use outdoors. In addition, with the cold weather here, having children exercise in their winter gear can be challenging. When they exercise in



Grade 3-4 split class ready for Phys Ed

## Phys Ed class... in a pandemic

the gym, Mr. Cho keeps the windows open. "When we are in the gym, many students initially complain about the gym being too cold because the win-

dows are always open, but after a few minutes of physical activity, they are happy to have the fresh air coming in."

The biggest challenge identi-

fied by Mr. Cho has been trying to teach gym via distance learning: "Having to interact with students via screens is not how I ever envisioned teaching this subject. Because it is such a limited platform for physical activity, I have had to get quite creative in finding ideas, resources and workouts to keep the kids engaged. I must thank my own family for helping me create videos and giving me inspiration to pass on to my students."

Mr. Cho's advice to parents: "Include your kids in some of your physical activities and think of games that you can do together. Almost all children loved to be chased and so many fun games can be structured around that simple fact." He adds that it is important to also make time for yourself and your own physical and mental well-being: "If possible, try to get some physical activity 'me time' away from your children as well. Overall, it will make you a better parent."

*from Joanna Duy*

## Edinburgh gets creative with fundraiser

Due to Covid-19, Edinburgh Elementary School's grad fundraiser had to be extremely creative!

This year we could not rely on traditional activities such as bake sales, pizza days, etc. Luckily, our parents discovered a recipe assignment given to us by our grade 6 French teacher, **M. Emmanuel**. He decided to build on something he'd done last spring with his students, "During the first wave of confinement, I chose to organize a few cooking sessions over video conferencing. Before I knew it, all the students were participating with siblings as well. I received a lot of positive feedback from the students and parents. Even students this year brought it up, so why not keep going!" he is quoted as saying. He had each of us in grade 6 create a recipe page in French as part of a collaborative virtual book. "When the Graduation Committee suggested using this project as a fundraiser, I did not hesitate one second. It was a great idea! With the excitement, I could not refuse. The students were

so proud; we had to share their work!" M. Emmanuel exclaimed.

Part of the assignment was for us to taste test our recipes at home, it was so much fun! To date, M. Emmanuel's favorite recipes are Aryan's poutine and Solana's salmon. Each student also had to design their own unique web cover and learned a lot about technology in the process. "My favorite part remains the students' excitement over this project. They completely forgot this was a school assignment!" announces M. Emmanuel.

The fact that the book was virtual allowed us to sell the books to our friends and families that live far away and those that we cannot see given the circumstances. The money will go towards a yearbook and hopefully an awesome party (if guidelines approve).

We would like to thank everybody who participated in the project, especially **M. Jean Michel**, grade 6 French teacher for his support and everybody who bought a cookbook. So far, we raised \$2,442 and sold 256 books! "This is quite an accomplishment,



Finley Klein and Audrey McCutcheon, Grade 6 students

but we are not done!" M. Emmanuel affirms. They are available for \$10 at [edinburghhomeandschool.com/graduation-cook-book-orders/](http://edinburghhomeandschool.com/graduation-cook-book-orders/)

*from Finley Klein and  
Audrey McCutcheon  
grade 6 students*

## Elizabeth Ballantyne School

### Students give back!

EBS held its first virtual house assembly to learn and reinforce our core value of gratitude. Students were excited to be resuming some activities that have been put off due to the pandemic. During the assembly, the meaning of gratitude was shared, as well as the importance of appreciating everything one has and not taking things for granted.

Ms. **Kimmy Chedel**, founder of *Team Frank Africa*, sent

the children a video message explaining all about her organization and how "gratitude is the best attitude."

*Team Frank Africa* is a non-profit organization that was started to honour **Frank Joseph Doyle**, a loving husband and father, who tragically perished in the World Trade Center attacks in 2001. Its mission is to build one preschool per year in remote areas of Africa. So far, three have

been built and the fourth will be started in 2021. The goal is to build 30 schools altogether.

EBS' kindness does not go unnoticed. Students and staff felt it was important to give back to a charity focused on education. During Spirit Week, students brought in donations and raised over \$200 for *Team Frank Africa*.

We thank the EBS students and their families for their generosity and for helping to make a dream become reality. For more information on *Team Frank*

*Africa*, visit the website at [teamfrankafrica.org/](http://teamfrankafrica.org/) or view the video: [youtube.com/watch?v=d79suGnp60Q](https://youtube.com/watch?v=d79suGnp60Q).

Crazy Hat Day 2021



## Montreal West Scout Group



### Cubs

Our Cub Pack is still restricted from meeting together in person, so we have continued our weekly meetings over Zoom. It has been going surprisingly well, as the Cubs seem to need this extra outlet for socialization during these difficult times. One recent highlight of our meetings was when the Cubs learned how to make cake in a coffee mug, and did so during our meeting!

Although we could not perform our annual Christmas caroling due to pandemic restrictions, our Cub Pack was able to create a special holiday season for many seniors. A dilemma was that the seniors no longer had access to the common rooms where we would normally display a few cards. Instead, the Cubs had to create enough cards to ensure that holiday cheer was abundant throughout the residence. The Cubs accepted the challenge and put in an enormous effort in creating holiday cards, and we were able to deliver more than 120 to the resi-

dents of *B'nai Brith House* and *St. Andrew's Residential Centre*! Well done, Cubs!

Until we can again begin gathering in person, we will continue our meetings over Zoom. Activities for January and February include making cookies and creating Valentine cards for our health care workers.

Our Cub Pack is open to all boys and girls who are in grades 3, 4, and 5 (generally ages 8-10). Everyone is welcome and new kids can join at any time. Just contact the **Pack Akela** at [nefariousphd@gmail.com](mailto:nefariousphd@gmail.com).

*from Todd Stedl*

### Scouts

The Scout Troop has been getting together through online meetings which have been a success. More and more, though, we are missing the opportunity to get together in-person. Our aim this year was to get together regularly on the weekends to explore the city parks and trails and practice outdoor activity skills.

In particular, we miss going to camp! At online meetings we recently discussed what to do if one finds oneself lost in the woods. We discussed the importance of taking care of basic needs for food, water, and shelter and, importantly, knowing when to stay put and helping searchers locate you.

Our December 9 meeting was a special one in which four new Scouts, who had completed their Pioneer Training, were invested into the Troop.

*from Andy Chapman*

### Registration 2021

The past year has been out of the ordinary to say the least. The MoWest Scout Group has made many adjustments to carry on as best as we are able. Our Cub Pack and Scout Troop Scouters have stepped up and created online programs to fill the void and keep our youth engaged. We realize that this is not for everyone but there are many young people who enjoy seeing their Scouting friends and working on the activities planned and presented by their leaders. If you know a young person who may be interested in joining our Scouting program, please send us an email to arrange for an online visit.

At the present time we do not have an active Beaver Colony, ages 5 to 7 (kindergarten/2/3). If you have a child who may be interested when we are able to set up online meetings, please call our group Commissioner **Karen Johnstone** at **717-5696**, to put your child's name on the list.

**Cub Pack:** ages 8 to 10 (grades 3/4/5); please email **Pack Akela** at [nefariousphd@gmail.com](mailto:nefariousphd@gmail.com)

**Scout Troop:** ages 11 to 14 (grades 6/7/8); email Troop Scouter **Robert** at [mantzeiser@gmail.com](mailto:mantzeiser@gmail.com)

**Venturers:** ages 15 to 18 (grades 9/10/11); please contact the Troop Scouter **Robert** at [mantzeiser@gmail.com](mailto:mantzeiser@gmail.com).

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## Guiding



We are all very aware that the pandemic situation in Quebec is not yet under control. Given this, the Guiding units of MoWest, as with most activities in our region, continue to be virtual. The girls who attend the meetings are having great fun. Some of them do not want the meetings to end and linger after our official closing for a chat with some of the other girls and the leaders. The Guiders know they are providing the young ladies with a much-needed creative outlet, and so don't rush them off the Zoom calls.

### Guides

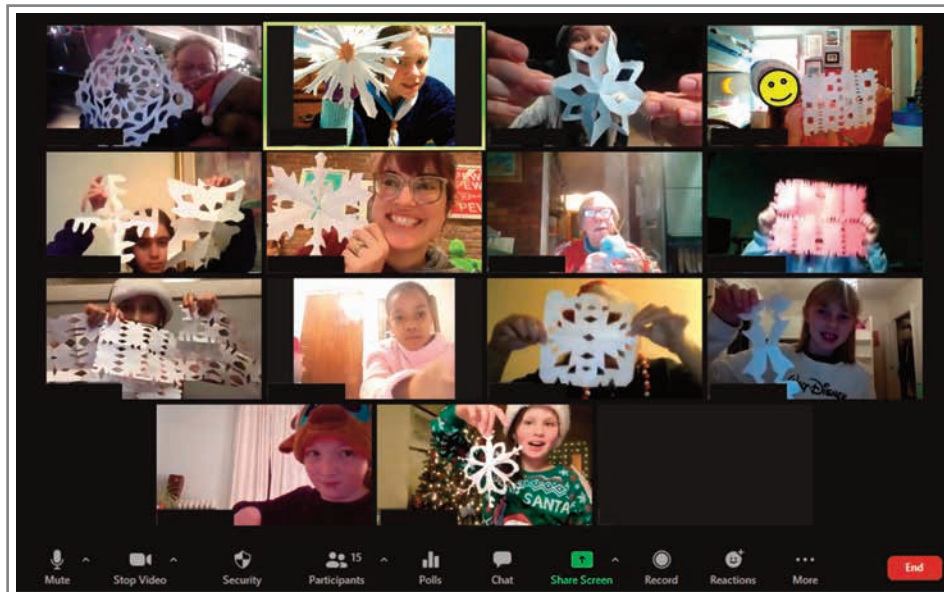
The Guides learned some important emergency preparedness skills to help them if they should find themselves at home during an emergency. Knowing exactly where the family keeps their emergency supplies was one helpful activity. Even how to place an unconscious person in the recovery position while they await the arrival of the EMS. These girls are ready for just about anything!

Leading up to the holidays, the girls participated in a service project. They made holiday cards and painted rocks with uplifting designs. All these thoughtful creations were donated to the residents of the *Vigi Mont-Royal* seniors' home. Their thoughtfulness was well received.

To wrap up 2020, the guides planned a special holiday bridging meeting with the Sparks and Brownies. The girls played games together, they shared what their favourite traditional family treats were and created a cookbook. It was a wonderful way to end a very different year.

### Sparks and Brownies

The Sparks and Brownies have been busy young ladies as well. They started on a project to connect with some Brownie pen



Guides winter party

pals in BC. They learned a bit of Canadian geography and climate of BC. Did you know there is a desert in BC? They made hat crafts for their new pen pals. The hope is to be able to meet with their pen pals virtually at some point in 2021.

At the end of November and early December, the girls learned of different holidays celebrated during the darker days of the calendar year. They learned of Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanza. They found it interesting how there were similarities among the holidays. Like the older girls, the younger ones also made holiday cards. These cards were distributed to the residents of St. Andrew's Residential Centre.

Like their older Guiding sisters, they learned some first aid, although on a more basic level. The leaders were all impressed with how well they all knew their home address. They practised scenarios where they would need to call 9-1-1. They also learned

how to be prepared for the colder weather we tend to experience here in Montreal.

The last regular meeting of the calendar year, the younger girls and their leaders held a talent show. They had great fun playing the piano, harmonica and trumpet. While others displayed their amazing drawing and dancing skills. Some girls even regaled the group with their jokes. Of course, no meeting would be complete without the participation of family pets.

The Sparks and Brownies started off the new year with another service project. They made Valentine's Day cards for Veterans. Given how things can take a bit longer to complete these days, the Guiders decided a bit more time was needed this year for the cards to be mailed overseas to members of the *Canadian Armed Forces*.

### Registration

Registration is always open for girls and leaders. If you think your daughter would be interested in joining in on our fun, reach out to one of the Guiders and we can help you get set up. Girls are able to attend two meetings free of charge to see if it is something they would like to commit to.

### Mint cookies

We still have mint cookies available at \$5/box. Feel free to contact **Brown Owl (Janet King 481-6523)** or **Pearl (Christine Downey 483-3303)** They would be more than happy to help you fill your cookie cravings and to support a fantastic program where girls are empowered to become the leaders of tomorrow.

from Guiders  
of Montreal West

These Valentine's cards were made by members of Montreal West Guiding at all levels. In addition to the Sparks and Brownies, Amilia from the 110<sup>th</sup> Guides was asked by Brown Owl to sign some blank cards which had been made. Catherine and Stephanie Barnes also offered a helping hand with the project.



## Budget Commentary

On December 16 Council adopted its operating budget for 2021. As in prior years, our objectives were to keep the tax increase for the average-valued home to less than the rate of inflation while maintaining the level of service and continuing the renewal of our infrastructure. There were new challenges this year however due to COVID-19 and its effect on our services and anticipated revenues and expenses.

**Revenues:** Tax Revenues will increase by \$191k or 1.2%. Other Revenues are down however. Notably, revenues from Recreation and Tickets (mostly SPVM) are budgeted to decrease by over 35% or \$283k. To offset this loss, \$260k will be transferred from our surplus account, a surplus which increased in 2020, thanks in part to a \$503k grant from the Minister of Municipal Affairs to assist municipalities with increased expenses and revenue losses due to COVID-19. Total Revenues are expected to increase \$172k.

**Expenses:** Operating expenses in most departments remain almost unchanged, despite increases in salaries and benefits as per collective agreements and government contributions. One exception is Public Works, where the budget increased by \$213k due to: new waste management and other contracts; additional personnel to respond to new requirements for sanitation and scheduling; increased budgets for road work and related engineering costs; and an increase in expenses of \$71k for the Adult Library as a result of its upcoming move, renovations and rent. The other exception is the Recreation Department where the budget decreased by \$63k due to lower remuneration and building costs. To keep overall expenses down, there will be no Capital Expenditures out of the operating budget this year, a savings of \$40k.

**Debt:** Debt servicing charges will decrease by \$80k due to a drop in interest rates and Council's decision to accelerate repayment of our Working Fund. The Working Fund was built up on past surpluses, and is used for capital investments on a Pay-As-You-Go basis instead of accruing debt.

**Summary:** Total Local Expenses increased \$46k or 0.4%; Agglomeration Expenses increased \$126k or 2.2%, bringing the Total Budget Expenses to \$16.4M for an overall increase of 1.1%.

This translates into a 0.99% increase in the tax bill of the average-valued home (\$727,991) for 2021.

Over the past five years, property tax increases for the average home have been 0.99% (2021), 1.95% (2020), 1.88% (2019), 1.66% (2018), -0.43% (2017), for an annual average of 1.21%. Council remains committed to monitoring expenses to optimize tax dollars and keep tax increases as low as possible.

**Capital Investments:** Council also

## BUDGET 2021

### Revenus / Revenues

	2021 \$	2020 \$	Total %
<b>Taxes</b>			
Résidentiel / Residential	12,332,887	12,213,609	75.06
Lots vacants / Vacant Lots	39,742	39,342	0.24
Non résidentiel / Non-residential	1,335,501	1,322,930	8.13
Taxe d'eau / Water Tax	447,000	447,000	2.72
CMM / MMC	115,352	108,730	0.70
Droits de mutation / Duties on Transfer	600,000	550,000	3.65
Reçus au lieu de taxes /			
Payment in lieu of Taxes	236,554	234,148	1.44
	<b>15,107,036</b>	<b>14,915,759</b>	<b>91.95</b>
<b>Autres/ Other</b>			
Récréation et culture			
Recreation and Culture	426,898	664,500	2.60
Contraventions / Tickets	80,000	125,000	0.49
Stationnement et permis			
Parking and Permits	122,500	117,000	0.75
Intérêts / Interest	134,250	134,250	0.82
Intérêts à recevoir sur subvention			
Interest Receivable on Grants	240,428	242,343	1.46
Autres / Other	58,600	58,800	0.36
Transfert de l'excédent de fonctionnement			
Transfer from Surplus	260,000	0	1.58
	<b>1,322,676</b>	<b>1,341,893</b>	<b>8.05</b>
<b>REVENUS TOTAUX</b>			
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$16,429,712</b>	<b>\$16,257,652</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Dépenses / Expenses

	2021 \$	2020 \$	Total %
<b>Par service / By Department</b>			
Conseil / Council	187,137	187,756	1.14
Administration	1,528,229	1,530,006	9.30
Sécurité publique / Public Security	517,441	513,609	3.15
Travaux publics / Public Works	3,221,233	3,008,229	19.61
Hygiène du milieu / Environmental Health	903,711	890,101	5.50
Inspection et permis / Building Inspection	146,542	145,126	0.89
Récréation, culture et parcs			
Recreation, Culture and Parks	2,577,607	2,641,135	15.69
Dépenses en capital à même les revenus	0	40,000	0.00
Capital Expenditures out of Revenues	1,463,812	1,543,990	8.91
Service de la dette / Debt Charges	<b>10,545,712</b>	<b>10,499,952</b>	<b>64.19%</b>
Quote part Agglomération			
Agglomeration Remittance	<b>5,884,000</b>	<b>5,757,700</b>	<b>35.81</b>
<b>DÉPENSES TOTALES</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$16,429,712</b>	<b>\$16,257,652</b>	<b>100%</b>

adopted a three-year capital expenditure program which includes anticipated spending of approximately \$3.6M in 2021. Supported by government grants, plans include road and water infrastructure work on Fenwick, improvements to Town buildings, resurfacing on Avon and improvements to Davies Park. These last two projects were planned for 2020, but postponed due to the pandemic. Capital programs for future years

will be reviewed and reconsidered in light of government grants and available funds.

To see how the 2021 budget lines up with the Town's Strategic Financial Plan, please see my article in the Council Communiqué section of this *Informer*.

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



## Analyse du budget

Le 16 décembre, le conseil adoptait son budget de fonctionnement pour 2021. Comme pour les années précédentes, nos objectifs sont de nous assurer que l'augmentation des taxes d'une maison de valeur moyenne reste en dessous du taux d'inflation, tout en maintenant la qualité de nos services et en continuant le renouvellement de nos infrastructures. Cependant, la Ville a fait face à de nouveaux défis cette année due à la COVID-19 et à ses effets sur nos services et nos revenus et dépenses anticipés.

**Revenus :** Les revenus de taxes augmenteront de 191 000 \$, ou 1,2 %. Cependant, les autres revenus sont en baisse. Notamment les revenus des loisirs et des contraventions (principalement la SPVM) sont budgétés avec une réduction de plus de 35 %, ou 283 000 \$. Pour compenser cette perte, 260 000 \$ seront transférés de notre surplus, un surplus qui a augmenté en 2020, entre autres grâce à la subvention de 503 000 \$ du ministère des Affaires municipales pour soutenir les municipalités aux dépenses accrues et qui ont subi une perte de revenus due à la COVID-19. Les revenus totaux devraient augmenter de 172 000 \$.

**Dépenses :** Les dépenses de fonctionnement restent pratiquement inchangées pour la majorité des départements, malgré l'augmentation des salaires et des avantages selon la convention collective et les contributions du gouvernement. Les Travaux publics sont une exception, puisque leur budget a augmenté de 213 000 \$ dû à : la nouvelle gestion des déchets et autres contrats; au personnel additionnel engagé pour répondre aux nouvelles exigences concernant l'hygiène et la planification; à l'augmentation des budgets pour les travaux de voirie et les frais d'ingénierie qui y sont liés et à une augmentation des dépenses de 71 000 \$ pour la Bibliothèque publique du fait de son déménagement, ses rénovations et son loyer. L'autre exception est le service des Loisirs qui a vu son budget diminuer de 63 000 \$ dû à une baisse des rémunérations et frais d'entretien des bâtiments. Cette année, pour diminuer les dépenses totales, il n'y aura pas de dépenses en capital à même les revenus de fonctionnement, cela permet une économie de 40 000 \$.

**Dettes :** Le coût du service de la dette diminuera de 80 000 \$ dû à une baisse des taux d'intérêt ainsi que la décision du Conseil d'accélérer le remboursement de notre fonds de roulement. Le fonds de roulement est constitué de surplus passés, et est utilisé pour des investissements de capitaux sur une base prépayée au lieu d'accumuler la dette.

**Bilan :** Les dépenses locales totales ont augmenté de 46 000 \$, ou 0,4 %. Les dépenses de l'agglomération ont augmenté de 126 000 \$, ou 2,2 %, amenant les dépenses du budget à un total de 16,4 millions de dollars pour une augmentation globale de 1,1 %.

## Comparaison du compte de taxe Taxation comparison Résidentiel / Residential

Résidence valeur moyenne / Average Value Residence  
Rôle 2020-2022 Roll: \$727,991

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Valeur imposable / Taxable Value	727,991	728,419
Taxes locales + Agglo / Local Taxes + Agglo	8,118.56	8,041.75
CMM / MMC	72.80	69.20
	<u>\$8,191.35</u>	<u>\$8,110.95</u>
Augmentation relative à 2020 / Increase over 2020:		\$80.41
% augmentation / % increase:		0.99%

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

	2021		2020	
	Local	Agglo	Local	Agglo
Taxe foncière générale General Property Tax	0.6475	0.4677	0.6466	0.4574
Immeuble 6 logements + 6 Units or more	0.7323	0.529	0.7312	0.5174
Immeubles non résidentiels Non-residential Buildings	1.6795	1.3687	1.6801	1.3429
Lots vacants / Vacant Lots	1.2950	0.9355	1.2931	0.9149
CMM / MMC	0.0100		0.0095	

## Programme triennal d'immobilisations Three-year Capital Program

Catégorie / Category	2021 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$
Infrastructures / Infrastructure	3,200,000	2,000,000	1,800,000
Bâtiments / Buildings	381,000	245,000	100,000
Véhicules / Vehicles	0	45,000	50,000
Équipements / Equipment	0	25,000	25,000
	<u>\$3,581,000</u>	<u>\$2,315,000</u>	<u>\$1,975,000</u>

Cela se traduit par une augmentation des taxes de 0.99% pour une maison de valeur moyenne (727 991 \$) en 2021. Au cours des cinq dernières années, l'augmentation de la taxe foncière a été de 0,99 % (2021), 1,95 % (2020), 1,88 % (2019), 1,66 % (2018), - 0,43 % (2017), pour une moyenne annuelle de 1,21 %. Le Conseil s'engage à surveiller les dépenses pour optimiser les impôts et garder l'augmentation des taxes aussi basse que possible.

**Investissements en capitaux :** Le Conseil a également adopté un programme d'investissement en capital sur trois ans qui inclut des dépenses anticipées d'environ 3,6 millions de dollars en 2021. Soutenus par les subventions du gouvernement, les plans incluent des travaux d'infrastructure sur

Fenwick, la mise à niveau des bâtiments municipaux et du parc Davies et le resurfage d'Avon. Ces deux derniers projets étaient prévus pour 2020, mais ont dû être repoussés dû à la pandémie. Les programmes d'immobilisation pour les prochaines années seront révisés et reconsidérés à la lumière des subventions du gouvernement et des fonds disponibles.

Pour voir comment le budget 2021 s'aligne avec le plan stratégique financier de la Ville, veuillez lire mon article dans la section *Communiqués du Conseil*.

Colleen Feeney  
Conseillère Finances, administration,  
ressources humaines et urbanisme

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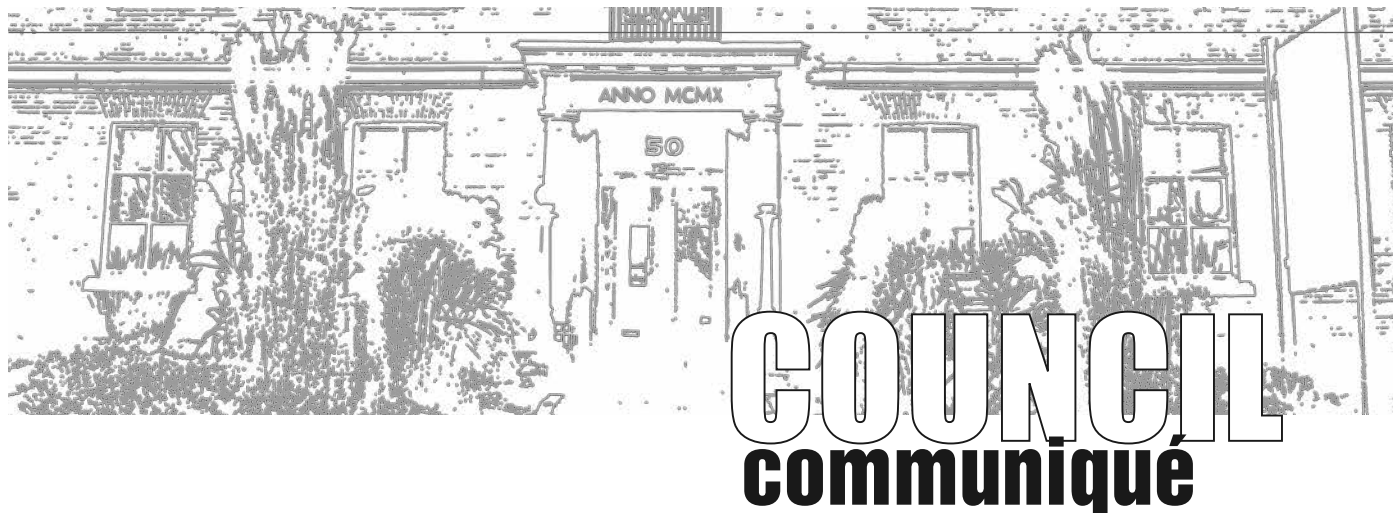
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## STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLAN AND THE 2021 BUDGET



The 2021 budget is the fourth budget approved under the Town's 2018-2022 Strategic Financial Plan (SFP). The SFP has been an invaluable resource to help the Town in its short and long-term planning. The following checklist provides a report card on how the budget measured up against the SFP objectives.

### 1) Limit property tax increases

- ✓ The 0.99% tax increase for residential properties is less than the projected CPI of 1%
- ✓ To balance the budget, we used funds from our accumulated surplus to offset the loss of revenue from recreation due to COVID-19 instead of making up this loss by increasing property taxes

### 2) Continue investing in infrastructure renewal

- ✓ Infrastructure work is planned for Fenwick and Avon with the assistance of government grants
- ✓ The Town has also applied for a grant for a multi-generational recreational centre and for the replacement of sidewalks on Westminster
- ✓ The budget for road repairs and related engineering costs has been increased
- ✓ Work continues on our program to review the state of our buildings

### 3) Manage the debt level

- ✓ Debt servicing is 13.9% of our local budget, well below the maximum 18% outlined in the SFP
- ✓ Council approved an accelerated re-

payment of our Working Fund to decrease debt servicing costs

- ✓ Capital expenditures, such as improvements to the Town Hall, Public Works building and Fire Station will be funded through the accumulated surplus and Working Fund to avoid incurring additional debt
- ✓ Proceeds from the sale of the library lot will be used to help fund major projects, thereby reducing the amount of debt to be incurred

### 4) Increase the overall tax base

- ✓ The future development of the library lot into condos and commercial space will significantly increase our tax base
- ✓ Triplexes have been approved in several zones, potentially increasing the value of many units that were previously duplexes
- ✓ Funds are being allocated for a review of Town properties to identify areas for potential future development

### 5) Provide high-quality, cost-effective services

- ✓ Services have been adjusted to meet the needs of residents during the pandemic

- ✓ Communications have been enhanced

- ✓ The MW Public Library budget was increased to upgrade their new facilities to better serve residents

### 6) Improve preparedness for external agglomeration costs

- ✓ As President of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM), the Mayor continues to seek changes to the Agglo funding formula which would make it more equitable for the ASM municipalities
- ✓ A portion of our 2020 surplus will be allocated to cover the anticipated increases in our Agglo remittance in upcoming years due to COVID-19

The Town continues to work on other long-term strategies, but the 2021 budget has hit the mark on several key objectives of the SFP. The full SFP can be found on the MW website under Finance and Administration.

**Colleen Feeney**, *Councillor*  
Finance, Administration,  
Human Resources and Urban Planning  
[cfeeney@montreal-west.ca](mailto:cfeeney@montreal-west.ca)

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## THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PPE DISPOSAL



For the past 10 months, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), particularly masks, have become an absolute necessity in preventing the spread of Covid 19. Unfortunately, as necessary as they are, they have also become a great source of pollution.

Single-use masks and gloves, made mostly of different plastic products are not biodegradable, therefore tremendous numbers of them end up in landfill or in our waterways. In fact, there have been many reports of people flushing them down the toilet – which you definitely should not do! On December 7 2020, CTV News reported that more than 1.56 billion face masks have likely ended up in our oceans in 2020. So imagine how many will end up in our landfills!

In addition, discarded masks (and to a lesser extent other PPE) found on streets, sidewalks, parks, and even in sewers, pose a contamination hazard for Public Works employees as well as waste collection crews.

So how can we adopt habits to lessen the environmental and health impacts posed by PPE?

- 1) Whenever possible, use reusable masks over single-use masks.
- 2) If you must use a single-use PPE, once you are done with it, throw it in the garbage. It is not compostable or recyclable here.
- 3) However, before throwing out your mask, make sure you cut the ear loops with scissors. This will lessen the chances of the mask entangling wildlife, if it somehow ends up in the environment.

Council is presently studying the feasibility of enrolling in a PPE reclamation program based in the US, but operating in Canada. In the event we are successful in joining this program, we will provide details of how you can participate.

Maria Torres, *councillor*  
*Public Works and Public Buildings*  
[mtorres@montreal-west.ca](mailto:mtorres@montreal-west.ca)

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## AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT



I think I can be forgiven for stealing this sentiment from the Queen – one Elizabeth to another – and designate 2020 as a true “Annus Horribilis” (or for those non-Latin

speakers among you, “the year of disaster”). We’re all hoping that 2021 will be characterized instead by Monty Python’s, “And now for something completely different...” Fingers crossed.

But, of course, we’re not there yet.

Hunkering down into our second major lockdown, we’re all getting very very tired. And while that’s considerably better than “sick and tired” in this context, it’s still pretty awful.

Having acknowledged this, however, I also want to declare how fortunate we are to have a place like MoWest to hunker down in. Our transmission rates are relatively low, our homes are comfortable, and our streets are safe for strolling. Not since the ice storm have we been able to truly appreciate the magic of our urban “small town.” Those of us who live alone need only

step out for a walk to find the smiles of friends and neighbours. Our seniors have an army of keen volunteers helping with errands and groceries. Young families find daily distractions and support among their growing local community.

I also couldn’t be prouder of our MoWest employees. With everything that’s been thrown at them, government directives changing – sometimes daily – they’ve always stepped up: Re-vamping recreation programming, providing citizens’ services from their homes; managing masked work crews, and dealing with tricky enforcement issues.

So I’d like to launch into 2021 on a positive note. And I’m going to get a bit metaphoric – apologies in advance.

For me, 2020 often felt like standing on the edge of a steep cliff with nothing to hold on to, looking down and feeling about to tumble over.

And, honestly, I still sometimes feel this way. But then I remind myself that the other thing about standing on the edge of a cliff – besides it being terribly unsettling – is that it can give you the

most amazing view. In fact, from atop that cliff if you look up and out, instead of down, you’ll see things like you’ve never seen them before. (I warned you, metaphoric.)

For instance, though we haven’t been able to see our friends and family the way we used to, I for one, have actually had more time for friends and family than before (albeit sometimes via Zoom or telephone). Many of us have connected with distant relatives or gone for long walks with neighbours we’d previously only chatted briefly with. We’ve had tons of time with our kids and been forced to find creative ways to stay entertained and sane. And I’m convinced that those connections and that creativity will last well into the future. Call it the Covid dividend. It’ll emerge, even if we can’t see it yet.

So I urge you to step back from the cliff with me for a moment. Look up and out. It’s 2021 and I really do believe ça va bien aller.

Elizabeth Ulin, *Councillor*  
*Recreation, Culture and Communication*  
[eulin@montreal-west.ca](mailto:eulin@montreal-west.ca)





## PLAN FINANCIER STRATÉGIQUE ET BUDGET 2021



Le budget 2021 est le quatrième budget à être approuvé en vertu du plan financier stratégique 2018-2022 (PFS). Le PFS a été une ressource précieuse pour aider la Ville dans sa planification à court et à long terme. La liste suivante fournit un rapport du calcul du budget par rapport aux objectifs du PFS.

### 1) Limiter la hausse de l'impôt foncier

- ✓ La hausse de 0,99 % pour les propriétés résidentielles est plus basse que l'IPC prévu de 1 %
- ✓ Pour équilibrer le budget, nous avons utilisé des fonds provenant du surplus accumulé pour compenser la perte de revenus du département des loisirs dû à la COVID-19, au lieu de compenser cette perte par une augmentation de l'impôt foncier

### 2) Continuer d'investir dans le renouvellement des infrastructures

- ✓ Des travaux d'infrastructure sont prévus sur Fenwick et Avon avec l'aide de subventions du gouvernement
- ✓ La Ville a également postulé pour recevoir une subvention pour un centre de loisirs multigénérationnel et pour le remplacement des trottoirs sur Westminster
- ✓ Le budget pour la réparation des routes et les coûts d'ingénierie associés a été augmenté
- ✓ Les travaux continuent dans le cadre de notre programme de révision de l'état des bâtiments

### 3) Gérer le niveau de dette

- ✓ Le service de la dette représente 13,9 % de notre budget local, bien en dessous du maximum de 18 % présenté dans le PFS
- ✓ Le conseil a approuvé un remboursement accéléré de notre fonds de

roulement pour réduire les coûts du niveau de dette

- ✓ Les dépenses en capital, telles que les améliorations apportées à l'hôtel de ville, au bâtiment des travaux publics et à la caserne de pompiers, seront financées par les surplus accumulés et le fonds de roulement pour éviter de créer une dette additionnelle

- ✓ Les bénéfices de la vente du lot de la bibliothèque seront utilisés pour aider le financement de projets majeurs, réduisant ainsi le montant de la dette

### 4) Augmenter l'assiette foncière

- ✓ Le futur développement du lot de la bibliothèque en condos et espaces commerciaux augmentera notre base d'imposition de manière significative
- ✓ Des triplex ont été approuvés dans plusieurs zones, ce qui pourrait potentiellement augmenter la valeur de plusieurs unités de logement qui étaient précédemment des duplex
- ✓ Des financements sont alloués pour étudier les propriétés de la Ville et identifier les zones avec un potentiel de développement futur

### 5) Fournir des services de grande qualité avec efficience

- ✓ Les services ont été ajustés pour remplir les exigences des résidents durant la pandémie

- ✓ Les communications ont été renforcées

- ✓ Le budget de la bibliothèque publique de Montréal-Ouest a été augmenté pour améliorer ses nouvelles installations pour mieux servir les résidents

### 6) Améliorer nos prévisions des coûts externes de l'agglomération

- ✓ En tant que président de l'Association des municipalités de banlieue (AMB), le Maire continue de proposer des changements de la formule de calcul dans le financement des charges d'agglomération qui la rendrait plus équitable pour les municipalités de l'AMB
- ✓ Une portion de notre surplus de 2020 sera allouée pour couvrir les augmentations anticipées de notre quote-part d'agglomération dans les années à venir dues à la COVID-19

La Ville continue de travailler sur d'autres stratégies sur le long-terme, mais le budget 2021 a frappé juste sur certains objectifs clés du PFS. Le PFS complet est disponible sur le site internet de la Ville de Montréal-Ouest sous l'onglet Finances et Administration.

Colleen Feeney, *conseillère*  
Finance, Administration,  
Ressources humaines et Urbanisme  
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## L'IMPACT ENVIRONNEMENTAL DES EPI



Ces dix derniers mois, les équipements de protection individuelle (EPI), plus particulièrement les masques, sont devenus indispensables à la prévention de la propagation de la COVID-19. Malheureusement, aussi indispensables soient-ils, ils sont aussi devenus une grande source de pollution.

Les masques et les gants à usage unique, faits majoritairement de différents produits plastiques, ne sont pas biodégradables, et un nombre très élevé finit ainsi dans les décharges ou les voies fluviales. En fait, beaucoup de rapports ont montré que les gens les jettent dans leurs toilettes – bien entendu, ne faites surtout pas ça! Le 7 décembre 2020, CTV News signalait que plus de 1,56 milliard de masques ont probablement fini dans les océans en 2020. Donc, imaginez un peu combien finiront dans nos décharges!

De plus, les masques jetés (et dans une moindre mesure, les autres EPI) dans les rues, sur les trottoirs, dans les parcs, et même dans les égouts, créent un risque de contamination pour les employés des Travaux publics ainsi que pour les équipes de collecte des déchets.

Alors comment pouvons-nous modifier nos habitudes pour réduire les impacts sanitaires et environnementaux causés par les EPI?

- 1) Utilisons, autant que possible, des masques réutilisables plutôt que des masques à usage unique.
- 2) Si nous devons utiliser un EPI à usage unique, lorsque nous avons terminé avec celui-ci, jetons-le dans une poubelle. Nous ne pouvons ni le composter ni le recycler ici.
- 3) Cependant, avant de jeter notre masque, assurons-nous d'en couper les cordes élastiques avec des ciseaux. Cela réduira les chances qu'un animal sauvage s'emmêle dedans, si le masque en vient à se retrouver dans la nature.

Le Conseil est actuellement en train d'étudier la faisabilité de s'inscrire à un programme de restauration des EPI basé aux États-Unis, mais exerçant au Canada. Si nous arrivons à rejoindre ce programme, nous fournirons des détails sur la façon de procéder pour y participer.

Maria Torres, *conseillère*  
Travaux publics et Bâtiments publics  
[mtorres@montreal-ouest.ca](mailto:mtorres@montreal-ouest.ca)

## PASSONS À QUELQUE CHOSE DE COMPLÈTEMENT DIFFÉRENT



Je pense que l'on peut me pardonner d'avoir volé cette expression à la Reine – d'une Elizabeth à l'autre – en désignant l'année 2020 comme une vraie « Annus Horribilis »

(ou pour tous ceux qui ne parlent pas latin, « l'année du désastre »). Nous espérons tous que 2021 sera plutôt marquée par « quelque chose de complètement différent », comme le disaient les Monty Python. Croisons les doigts.

Mais, bien entendu, nous n'y sommes pas encore.

Nous traversons actuellement un deuxième confinement, et nous sommes tous extrêmement fatigués par la situation. Et même si, dans ce contexte, cela est mieux que d'être fatigué par la maladie, c'est quand même déprimant.

En étant consciente de cela, cependant, j'aimerais tout de même souligner quelle chance nous avons d'avoir un endroit où vivre comme Mo-Ouest. Nos taux de transmission sont assez faibles, nos maisons sont confortables, et nous pouvons nous promener dans nos rues en toute sécurité. Nous n'avons pas réellement apprécié la magie de notre « petite ville » urbaine depuis la tempête de verglas. Ceux d'entre nous qui

vivent seuls n'ont besoin que de faire un pas dehors pour y trouver les sourires de leurs amis et de leurs voisins. Nos aînés ont une armée de bénévoles pour les aider à faire leur épicerie. Les jeunes familles trouvent de nombreuses distractions ainsi que du soutien dans leur communauté locale grandissante.

Je ne pourrais également pas être plus fière de nos employés à Mo-Ouest. Avec tout ce qui leur est tombé dessus, les instructions du gouvernement qui changent – parfois quotidiennement – ils se sont toujours adaptés : revoir la programmation des loisirs, fournir des services aux résidents depuis leur maison; diriger des équipes masquées, et gérer des problèmes délicats de mise en application des règles. Donc j'aimerais que l'on commence 2021 sur une note positive. Et je vais être un peu métaphorique – je m'excuse à l'avance.

Pour moi, l'année 2020 me faisait me sentir comme étant au bord d'une falaise sans rien pour me tenir, à regarder en bas et avec le sentiment d'être sur le point de chuter.

Et, honnêtement, il m'arrive encore parfois de me sentir comme ça. Mais je me rappelle ensuite que l'autre chose qui nous est offerte lorsque l'on est au bord d'une falaise – autre que l'inquié-

tude – c'est d'avoir une vue magnifique. En fait, du haut de cette falaise si vous regardez en haut ou autour de vous, et pas en dessous, vous verrez les choses d'une manière que vous n'aviez jamais explorée auparavant. (Métaphorique, je vous avais prévenus).

Par exemple, même si nous n'avons pas pu voir nos amis et notre famille comme à l'habitude, de mon côté, j'ai passé beaucoup plus de temps avec mes amis et ma famille qu'auparavant (bien que via Zoom ou par téléphone). Beaucoup d'entre nous ont été en contact avec des parents éloignés ou sont allés se promener avec des voisins avec qui ils n'avaient eu que de brèves discussions par le passé. Nous avons passé énormément de temps avec nos enfants et avons dû être créatifs pour rester divertis et sains d'esprit. Et je suis convaincue que ces connexions et cette créativité perdureront. Appelez ceci le dividende de la COVID. Il apparaîtra, même si nous ne pouvons pas encore le voir.

Alors je vous encourage, l'espace d'un instant, à faire un pas en arrière du bord de la falaise. Regardez en haut et autour de vous. Nous sommes en 2021 et je crois vraiment que ça va bien aller.

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## Creating and maintaining connections during the pandemic

**No one is immune to the psychological toll of the pandemic. If you are living alone, find yourself more alone than before, are a caregiver for someone at home or on their own, the measures put in place to reduce the risk of the COVID-19 virus have been particularly harsh on your need for connection.**

Physical distancing should not equate to social distancing, but it does require a readjustment to the ways in which we have been socializing. If there is a silver lining in this pandemic, it's that it allows us to try new ways to make and maintain connections.

Below are some suggestions to consider for remaining connected and feeling grounded.

- **Be mindful of what you can control.** We can spend a lot of time thinking about things we cannot control in relation to the pandemic. This depletes our energy and causes anxiety. If you find your mind wandering and anxiety building, ask yourself this: Is this something over which I have control? Is there something I can do to change this? If not, try to redirect your thoughts to stop your-

self from going down that rabbit hole. Feel grounded by taking charge!

- **Stay connected to the outdoors.** Whether you take a short walk down the street, from your front door to the backyard or just open the front door for a breath of fresh air every day, this helps you remain connected with your physical surroundings. You may catch a neighbor walking by and wave or have a small chat. At the very least, you will feel the cold on your face, take in the sights and sounds of the neighbourhood and feel grounded in the community.
- **Be open to technology.** Try new ways of connecting. Go on online adventures: take classes, listen to lectures and concerts, read books, watch videos, do exercise and even take tours from your home. Feel grounded by arts and culture!
- **Caregivers, enlist help.** Caregiving may have become much harder. The supports you have relied on may be reduced or no longer available. Although you may be reluctant to accept hands-on help in the home, think about other ways you can receive support to offset the increased

demands. Perhaps you can consider having someone else do the groceries, have another family member make the calls to health care providers, get a snow-clearing or food delivery service. You might be capable of doing every task but it doesn't mean you should be doing everything. Being a caregiver during the pandemic has its added stressors. Deciding who can step in should you become ill, documenting care needs and schedules, gathering important documents and sharing this with a trusted person can give you peace of mind. Feel grounded by planning what you can!

- **Ask about our Senior Outreach program.** MoWest has a regular telephone check-in service manned by trained volunteers, as well as a grocery delivery system for seniors who are unable to get out themselves and do not have family members who can assist with this. If you are over the age of 70 or are in a vulnerable situation and would like information or to participate in these programs, please call **484-6186** and leave a message. Your call will be returned.
- **Check out the senior page on the MoWest website for more resources.**

*MADA Steering Committee*

## Créer et entretenir les liens pendant la pandémie

**Personne n'est épargné par l'impact psychologique de la pandémie. Si vous vivez seul, vous sentez encore plus seul qu'avant ou si vous êtes un proche aidant, les mesures mises en place pour réduire le risque de coronavirus ont été particulièrement dures pour vos liens sociaux.**

La distanciation physique ne devrait pas rimer avec distanciation sociale, mais cela demande un réajustement dans nos manières de socialiser. S'il y a un côté positif à cette pandémie, c'est que celle-ci nous permet de tester de nouvelles façons de créer et d'entretenir des liens.

Voici quelques suggestions à considérer pour rester connecté et garder ses repères :


- **Soyez conscient de ce que vous pouvez contrôler.** Il nous arrive de passer beaucoup de temps à penser aux choses qui sont hors de notre contrôle en lien avec la pandémie. Cela nous vide de notre énergie et crée de l'anxiété. Si vous sentez votre esprit s'égarer et l'anxiété apparaître, demandez-vous ceci : Est-ce quelque chose sur lequel j'ai un quelconque contrôle? Puis-je faire quelque chose pour changer cela? Si la réponse

est non, essayez de rediriger vos pensées et d'arrêter de descendre sur cette pente glissante. Gardez vos repères en reprenant le contrôle!


- **Restez en connexion avec l'extérieur.** Que vous fassiez une marche jusqu'au

bout de la rue, de votre porte d'entrée à votre jardin, ou que vous ouvriez juste la porte pour respirer un peu d'air frais chaque jour, cela vous aide à rester connecté à votre environnement. Vous verrez peut-être un voisin qui passe par là et pourrez lui dire bonjour ou discuter un peu. Au

*continuation à la page 15*



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## MADA

continuation de la page 14

moins, vous sentirez la fraîcheur sur votre visage, vous vous imprégnez des sons et des odeurs du voisinage et vous vous sentirez ancré dans votre communauté.

- **Soyez ouvert aux technologies.** Essayez de nouvelles manières de rester connecté. Partez à l'aventure sur le Web : suivez des cours, écoutez des conférences et des concerts, lisez des livres, regardez des vidéos, faites de l'exercice ou même des visites depuis votre canapé. Gardez vos repères grâce à l'art et à la culture!
- **Proches aidants, sollicitez de l'aide.** Il se peut que prendre soin de vos proches soit devenu une tâche bien difficile. Le soutien sur lequel vous comptiez habituellement a peut-être diminué ou n'est plus disponible. Même si vous êtes réticent à l'idée d'accepter une aide à domicile, pensez à d'autres manières de recevoir du soutien. Peut-être que vous pourriez considérer demander à quelqu'un de faire vos courses, avoir un membre de la famille qui s'occuperait de passer les appels aux professionnels de la santé, engager une personne pour déneiger ou un service de livraison de l'épicerie. Vous êtes peut-être capable d'accomplir toutes ces tâches, mais cela ne veut pas dire que vous devez toutes les accomplir. Être un proche aidant pendant la pandémie vient avec son lot de stress. Décider qui pourrait vous remplacer si vous tombez malade, documenter les soins à fournir et les horaires de ceux-ci, rassembler les documents importants et partager toutes ces informations avec une personne de confiance peut vous apporter un peu de tranquillité d'esprit. Gardez vos repères en planifiant ce que vous pouvez!
- **Renseignez-vous sur le Plan d'action au soutien des aînés.** Montréal-Ouest dispose d'un service d'appels téléphoniques réguliers assuré par des bénévoles formés, ainsi qu'un système de livraison d'épicerie pour les personnes âgées qui ne peuvent pas le faire elles-mêmes et n'ont pas de proche qui pourrait s'en occuper. Si vous avez plus de 70 ans, que vous êtes dans une situation vulnérable et que vous souhaiteriez de l'information ou participer à ces programmes, veuillez contacter le **484-6186** et laisser un message. Nous retournerons votre appel.
- **Pour davantage de ressources, allez faire un tour sur la page dédiée à nos aînés sur le site web de Mo-Ouest.**

Comité de pilotage MADA

## News from the pews

### MW United

#### ...the brick one

Our outdoor tree made for a nice bit of brightness in the dark this Christmas season. Many thanks to the **Brodie family** for making it possible during the December and January nights.

Our church remains closed for in-person worship as it hasn't felt like a risk worth taking to bring people back into church yet. So, our online services continue to reach those at home with the technology and those further afield who tune in from all over Canada and beyond. It is quite fun to connect with former residents who have moved elsewhere as well as with farther-flung families. There are some benefits to be had from this pandemic after all, but don't tell anyone.

So, curfews have been added to curtailments in the hopes that this may make a difference. That plus vaccines may shift the balance. It likely won't happen in a hurry so keep the faith and in time....

In this age of emails, tweets and whatever else happens digitally, don't underestimate the value of the Phone Call. To have a conversation with someone that is immediately interactive has almost become a lost art. Yet, right now, the friendliness, the intonation, the immediate rapport that it provides – it is the only way to achieve this for many who don't Zoom, FaceTime or whatever else. To be able to hear your laughter or how your voice sounds when life weighs upon you or when you smile—that dimension is absent in the texted word.

We have just come through a season that invites the exchange of notes and cards. Stay close to these revived habits – they are what will see us through. Through calls and letters, we may hold on to what really matters.

Search for Montreal West United Church and click any of our services. Each Sunday service premieres at 10 am that day, but all can be viewed after that initial airing. If you would like to be sent the Sunday morning link, call the church office and leave your email address. We would be happy to oblige.

Keep as well as possible.

from Susan Upham

### St. Philip's

Here we are, 11 months into a new way of worshiping and being at church and the end is still a long way off. Our worship continues every Sunday at 10 am on the GoToMeeting platform. The link is always pinned to the top of our Facebook page.

Recently, GoToMeeting has made several enhancements to its audio capabilities and our organist **Peter Butler**, has begun to produce virtual choir videos. The musical offerings in our online worship continue to improve in variety and quality, greatly enhancing the experience.

Ash Wednesday is February 17. Our Ash Wednesday service will be online at 7:30 pm. For those who would like ashes, we are distributing them in advance on request, to be imposed on oneself or by household members during the service.

Our annual Vestry meeting will take place online; probably on Sunday, February 28. Details will be posted on our Facebook page. [facebook.com/StPhilipMontrealWest](https://facebook.com/StPhilipMontrealWest) church office at **481-4871**.

### St. Ignatius of Loyola

#### It's not too late!

At St. Ignatius of Loyola Church on West Broadway, we've just begun our 8<sup>th</sup> season of the Alpha program, and it's entirely online. Alpha is open to anyone who has big questions about life, and there's no better time than now to explore them. Alpha is not so much a course, but an experience! We welcome all in the neighborhood and beyond. Registration is now open. There is no cost. You can read more and sign up at [stig.ca/alpha](https://stig.ca/alpha).

We also welcome you to join us for live stream mass every Sunday at 10 am. ([stig.ca/mass](https://stig.ca/mass)) Special activities for kids are updated each week on our website as well.

from Rebecca Malone

### Sandra Roscanu:

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## Community Centre



### Congratulations...

to new parents **Chris and Morgan** on the birth of their baby boy. **Finn Murphy Kearney** was born November 16, weighing 7 lbs 1 oz.

### Winter Youth Programs

Call 484-6186 or sign up online at [montreal-west.ca](http://montreal-west.ca).

#### Red Cross Babysitting Course Saturday, February 6 9:30 am-4 pm

Ages 11+ Learn the skills required to carry out babysitting duties. Cost: Residents: \$65/Non-residents: \$75

### Free and Fun Activities for residents!

[montreal-west.ca](http://montreal-west.ca)

Check out our website with online events, live zoom activities and ideas to do from home! **Reserve your spots on Amilia.**

#### Draw with April

Learn all different kinds of styles of drawing. (all ages)



- **Sunday, January 31:**  
11 am-noon  
Pokémon
- **Wednesday, February 3:**  
4:30-5:30 pm  
4 panel comics  
(Yonkama in Japanese)
- **Sunday, February 7:**  
11 am-noon  
Kawaii-stye objects

#### Red Cross Stay Safe! Course Sunday, February 7 9 am-3 pm

Real-world scenarios often call on children to respond to challenges. The Stay Safe! program teaches applicable and age-appropriate skills, while increasing and reinforcing a youth's capacity to improve his or her own safety. Whether in their community or on their own, this group will be given better tools to Stay Safe! in a variety of different situations.

Ages 9-13 years.

Cost: Residents: \$65/Non-residents: \$75.

#### Storytime with Margot

**February 7 & 14**

5- to 7-year-olds, 2-2:45 pm

Come join us for a weekly reading club! We will explore some short stories, have some discussions and more importantly... have lots of fun!

#### Around the World with Alex

**February 6 & 13**

7- to 12-year-olds, 10-11 am

Got that travel bug? Join us on a (virtual) journey around the world! Each week will explore the customs, culture and interesting facts about countries all over the world.

#### Family Trivia Night

**Sunday January 31, 7 pm**

Get ready for some trivia fun! Questions are formatted in a way that target children, some questions for teens and some throw-back questions for parents! Put on your thinking cap and join us for trivia night

#### Snowshoeing in Strathearn Park

**Sunday, February 7**

2:30-5:30 pm

Get outside, dress warmly. Residents can try snowshoes for free. Register on Amilia.

#### Creative Snowman Contest!

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Carole Desmarteau



Ugliest Sweater winner: Jamie Melamed



Laura Polomeno



Prieur-Bergeron Family



Pâtisserie de La Gare

## Holiday contest results

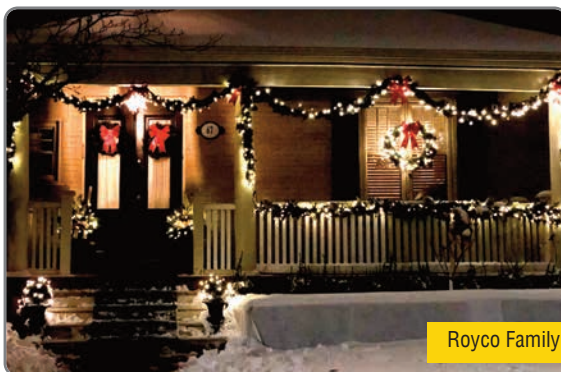
Thanks to all those who voted for your favorite merchant with the most holiday cheer! Winner for 2020 is *Pâtisserie de La Gare*. Felicitations! See you all again next year.

Congrats to our winners for the holiday contests! Thanks for being part of the fun and sharing your talents.

- Ugliest Sweater winner: **Jamie Melamed**
- Gingerbread House winner: **Prieur-Bergeron Family**
- Holiday Tree winners: **Di Stephano & Grandjean Family**, **Carole Desmarteau** and **Rubin family**
- House decoration winners: **Royco Family**, **Laura Polomeno** and **Jamie Melamed**



Rubin family



Royco Family



Di Stephano &amp; Grandjean Family



Jamie Melamed



## Kosher corner

### Was your New Year resolution to study more Torah?



Chabad Westminster has the class for your palate. Please reach out to Rabbi **Mendy Marlow** to join one of our ongoing classes on Talmudic Law, the weekly portion or from a Yiddish text! All classes taught via zoom and are complimentary. One-on-one classes available too.

#### Tu B'Shvat

The festive holiday of Tu B'Shvat in past years has been marked in MoWest with a women's night out. This year we look forward to an evening of art. Please contact **Chaya Marlow** to join. All supplies will be brought to you!

#### Thank you!

Chabad Westminster owes a debt of immense gratitude to the 75+ families who purchased tickets in our second annual raffle fundraiser. Your vital support will provide us the funding we need to provide free programming for the community year-round.

#### Purim!

Stay tuned for exciting Purim plans! Purim this year will be February 25.

*from Rabbi  
Mendy Marlow*



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## Town Council meeting: November



by Carol Foster

The process of creating a video of the Remembrance Day ceremony to allow everyone in the Town to watch the event was described by the Mayor in his opening report. Each participant went to the Cenotaph at different times to record their part in the ceremony. These recordings were sewn together by a cinematographer. The result was an impressive product and displayed the respect the Town has always demonstrated to its veterans and current members of the armed forces.

The Mayor gave heartfelt thanks to the coordinators of the event, **Joan Foster**, **Marion Scully** and the cinematographer, **Kevin Laramie** as well as a long list of participants.

#### Question period

The first question concerned the mix of potholes, cracks and crevices on the portion of Avon Road west of Westminster which constitute dangerous conditions for cyclists. The Mayor replied that the Town has been given money to make repairs to Avon from the border of Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce to the border of Lachine at the bridge. A study has shown that the portion of the road in question has a disintegrating slab of concrete under the asphalt which will have to be repaired before the surface can be repaved. This is work that has been scheduled to be completed by this spring or early summer. The section east of Westminster has underlying problematic pipes belonging to Montreal West as well as to the City of Montréal. Coordination of this project will obviously take considerably more time.

The next resident wanted to know why bollards were removed from their spot on Ballantyne North and why a speed bump, which had been requested, had not been installed. **Councillor Mazzone** responded that the bollards, placed in mid-October, were removed in preparation for the winter. The bollards will be replaced in the spring and the traffic situation will be reassessed at that time.

The question of why the Town has stopped clearing the stairs in the winter be-

tween Courtney and Ronald Drive was brought up again and this time by multiple people. The Mayor explained, once again, that those stairs have not been cleared of snow by the Town for decades. The steep stairs are considered very dangerous in the winter and, to prevent accidents, the Town had installed a fence at the top and the bottom of the stairs with a sign stating the stairs were closed during the winter. The Mayor expressed willingness to co-operate in a discussion with the appropriate people concerning what solution to this situation could be implemented and maintained.

The regulations that will govern the five outdoor rinks as well as the arena elicited a lot of questions which Councillor Ulin answered as follows:

- The outdoor rinks will be available as soon as the weather permits, which means four to five days of freezing temperatures, and there is no guarantee they will be ready for the holidays.
- Because the Town is still in a red zone due to the virus, no outdoor team sports are allowed. This means regular skating, but not hockey, will be the only activity allowed on the rinks. Maximum capacity and physical distancing must be respected at all times.
- Only families living together in the same household will be permitted to use the ice in the arena for hockey at the same time. The exception would be if a trainer from another household is included.
- Fire pits are not allowed at the rinks unless a special permit for an event is obtained.
- There will be more hours made available for free skating in the arena over the holidays if regulations allow.

A bird lover wondered if the Town can address the problem of cats disturbing the birds at the feeders on his property. Councillor Mazzone replied that, although the Town does have a bylaw prohibiting animals on an owner's property without the owner's permission, it is extremely difficult to enforce. The *SPCA* will pick up feral cats, but only to sterilize and then release them to where they were found. The suggested solution was to try and move the feeder to a location only accessible to the birds.

The pandemic has meant that there has been a delay in the delivery of new windows to a resident who had obtained a permit to have them installed. The regulations for requesting an extension to a permit were explained by **Councillor Feeney**. She said that there is no fee for a request for the extension of a permit, providing it is made within 30 days of the expiration of the original permit. The extension will be good for three months. However, if these timelines

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## Town Council meeting: November

cannot be followed, a resident must reapply for another permit, for which there will be a \$50 application fee.

Regarding the removal of some parking spots at the corner of Nelson and Bedbrook, Councillor Mazzone answered that the by-laws prohibit parking within seven-and-one-half metres of an intersection to allow plows to make the turn easily.

### Councillors' reports

Councillor Feeney announced the Town's budget for 2021 is being finalized and will be presented at the December 14 Council meeting. Applications for permits for both parking and dog licences, which are now due for renewal, are available to be completed on the Town's website. Three vehicles (Ford F-250 truck, an asphalt trailer and a Ford F-150 pickup truck) have all been purchased using money from the Town's working fund. This fund, accumulated from past surpluses, allows the Town to borrow money from itself, without interest, but with the obligation to repay the fund within a certain length of time.

In an effort to increase the amount and types of housing available in the Town, some changes have been made to the zoning bylaw. One of these changes now permits the conversion of a duplex into a triplex in certain zones.

Preparations for the winter have begun in the Public Works Department. All streets and sidewalks were cleared following a five-centimetre snowfall and this gave the Department an opportunity to test the equipment and review the procedures. Holiday wreaths and lights were put up and rinks were made ready. Attending to water-main breaks is a task that frequently occupies the staff in addition to all their other regular duties. **Councillor Torres** continued her re-

port by reminding residents to pay attention to the orange no-parking signs that go up preceding each snow-removal exercise.

Some of the ash trees in the Town have been identified as being at the end of their life and ready for removal. The ones on the public domain in front of homes will all be replaced as soon as possible.

Councillor Mazzone warned residents that the PSOs are constantly on the alert and have identified a number of instances where work is being done without a permit. They are also ensuring that contractors working in the Town have a proper permit. The regulations governing snow removal by citizens as well as contractors were reviewed. In addition to one break-and-entry and three thefts from cars, it was reported that two vehicles had crashed into the same pole at the corner of Westminster and Avon within a few days of each other.

All Community Centre and fitness programs are being offered in virtual format only, according to **Councillor Ulin**. Registration for the winter session has begun for activities starting in January, but it is unclear in which format they will be offered. Although the Community Centre building is closed, the seniors' group will be able to enjoy a Zoom Christmas dinner as well as Zoom guest speakers in January.

A Walk to Remember and the Remembrance Day ceremonies were both presented virtually and drew a very large number of viewers. Many holiday events are planned for the Town with details to come shortly. Ulin ended her report by describing all the work continually being done by the Communications Department to keep everyone informed.

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

## 50+ Club



### February

- 8** Speaker **Bruno Stenson**: All in the Family: Human Evolution. 1 pm
- 15** **Sharing the Love**: Share a poem or a story about a loved one. 3 pm
- 18** **AGEISM**: The OAS (*Observatory on Aging and Society*), a non-profit organization, active in Quebec for nearly two decades, has given itself the mission of improving the quality of life of seniors and facing the challenges of ageism and its consequences within our society. The OAS wishes to change the way we look at aging and seniors. Presentation by **Daphe Nahmiash**. 1:30 pm

### We're all in this Together

Check out the *We're all in this Together* (Senior Action Quebec & ELAN)

Episodes 1-4 available on their YouTube page: Holiday Cooking, Holiday Concert, Art Therapy and Mindfulness and Movement.

For more information email: [recreation@montreal-west.ca](mailto:recreation@montreal-west.ca) or call **Kailin** at 484-6186.

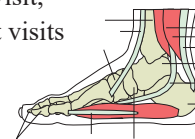
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## Réunion du Conseil : novembre



par Carol Foster  
traduction par René Boucher

En ouverture de séance, le maire a décrit le processus de création d'une vidéo permettant à tous les citoyens de la ville de suivre les célébrations du jour du Souvenir. Chaque participant s'est présenté au cénotaphe à son tour pour enregistrer sa portion de la cérémonie et par la suite, un cinématographe en a réa-lisé le montage. Il en est résulté un document impressionnant qui fait étalage du respect que la Ville a toujours démontré envers ses vétérans et les membres actuels des forces armées.

Le maire a exprimé ses sincères remerciements à **Joan Foster** et **Marion Scully**, coordonnatrices de l'événement, au cinématographe **Kevin Laramie**, ainsi qu'à une longue liste de participants.

### Période de questions

La première question concernait l'assortiment de nids-de-poule, fissures et crevasses sur ch. Avon à l'ouest de Westminster qui constitue un danger pour les cyclistes. Le maire a répondu que la Ville a reçu des fonds pour réparer Avon depuis la limite de Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce jusqu'au pont à la frontière de Lachine. Une analyse a révélé que la base de béton sous cette portion de la voie se désintègre et devra être réparée avant le repavage de la surface. Ce travail est prévu pour se terminer au printemps prochain ou au début de l'été. À l'est de Westminster, des conduites appartenant à Montréal-Ouest ainsi qu'à la ville de Montréal posent problème. De toute évidence, la coordination de ce chantier prendra beaucoup de temps.

L'intervenant suivant voulait savoir pourquoi les bollards ont été retirés sur Balantyne Nord et pourquoi le dos d'âne demandé n'avait pas été installé. Le **conseiller Mazzone** a indiqué que les préparations pour l'hiver expliquaient le retrait des bollards mis en place à la mi-octobre. Ils seront réinstallés au printemps et la situation sera réévaluée à ce moment.

La question de savoir pourquoi la Ville avait cessé de débayer l'escalier entre les promenades Courtney et Ronald a à nouveau été posée, par plusieurs personnes cette fois. Le maire a encore une fois expliqué que la neige n'est pas enlevée de ces escaliers depuis plusieurs décennies. L'escalier abrupt est considéré comme très dangereux en hiver et, pour prévenir les accidents, la Ville a érigé une clôture au haut et au bas de l'escalier, avec un panneau indiquant sa fermeture pendant l'hiver. Le maire a signifié son ouverture à collaborer à des discussions avec les personnes con-

cernées pour rechercher une solution pouvant être mise en place et entretenue.

La réglementation applicable aux cinq patinoires extérieures et à l'aréna a suscité nombre de questions auxquelles la **conseillère Ulin** a répondu :

- Les patinoires extérieures seront offertes dès que le temps le permettra, soit après quatre ou cinq jours de températures sous zéro, et il n'y a aucune garantie qu'elles seront prêtes pour la période des fêtes.
- La ville étant toujours en zone rouge à cause du virus, aucun sport extérieur d'équipe n'est permis. Par conséquent, seul le patinage sera permis sur les patinoires, à l'exclusion du hockey. L'on devra respecter la capacité maximale et la distanciation sociale en tout temps.
- Seules les familles vivant à la même adresse pourront utiliser la glace de l'aréna pour le hockey à un moment donné. L'exception à cette règle serait l'inclusion d'un entraîneur provenant d'une autre maisonnée.
- Les feux ouverts sont interdits aux patinoires sauf si un permis spécial pour événement est obtenu.
- Pendant les fêtes, on libérera des heures additionnelles pour le patinage à l'aréna si la réglementation le permet.

Un amoureux des oiseaux se demandait si la Ville peut s'occuper du problème des chats qui dérangent les oiseaux aux mangeoires sur sa propriété. Le conseiller **Mazzone** a indiqué que, bien que la Ville ait un règlement interdisant la présence d'animaux sur une propriété sans la permission du propriétaire, son application est extrêmement difficile. La **SPCA** recueille les chats sauvages, les stérilise et les relâche là d'où ils viennent. La solution suggérée était de déménager les mangeoires à un endroit accessible aux oiseaux seulement.

La pandémie a occasionné un retard dans la livraison de nouvelles fenêtres chez un résident qui avait obtenu un permis pour leur installation. La **conseillère Feeney** a expliqué la réglementation pour demander une prolongation à un permis. Aucuns frais ne sont exigibles pour la demande, pourvu qu'elle soit faite dans les 30 jours de l'expiration du permis d'origine et la prolongation vaudra pour trois mois. Cependant si on ne peut respecter ces délais, on devra demander un nouveau permis et acquitter à nouveau les frais de 50 \$.

Concernant le retrait d'emplacements de stationnement à l'intersection de Nelson et Bedbrook, le conseiller **Mazzone** a répondu que le règlement interdisant le stationnement à moins de sept mètres et demi d'une intersection vise à permettre aux déneigeuses de négocier les virages avec plus de facilité.

### Rapports des membres du Conseil

La conseillère **Feeney** a annoncé que le budget 2021 de la Ville est en voie d'achèvement et sera présenté à la réunion du Conseil du 14 décembre. Les permis de stationnement et pour chiens arrivent à échéance et l'on doit en faire la demande sur le site Web de la Ville. La Ville a acquis trois véhicules (un camion Ford F-250, une remorque pour asphalte et une camionnette Ford F-150) par le biais de son fonds de caisse. Ce fonds permet à la Ville d'emprunter à elle-même, sans intérêts, avec l'obligation de rembourser dans un délai prescrit.

Dans le but d'augmenter le nombre et les types de logements offerts dans la ville, des changements ont été apportés au règlement de zonage, dont un permettant la conversion de duplex en triplex dans certains secteurs.

Les préparations pour l'hiver ont débuté aux Travaux publics. Cinq centimètres de neige ont été dégagés des rues et trottoirs, donnant ainsi l'occasion au service de tester les équipements et procédures. Les couronnes et lumières des fêtes ont été installées et les patinoires préparées. Les bris d'aqueduc s'ajoutent fréquemment aux tâches routinières du personnel. La **conseillère Torres** a rappelé aux résidents de porter attention aux panonceaux orange qui apparaissent avant chaque opération d'enlèvement de la neige, interdisant le stationnement.

Certains frênes ont été identifiés comme étant en fin de vie et prêts pour l'abattage. Ceux du domaine public devant les résidences seront remplacés dès que possible.

Le conseiller **Mazzone** a averti les citoyens que les ASP sont constamment en alerte et ont repéré un certain nombre de cas de travaux exécutés sans permis. Ils s'assurent aussi que les entrepreneurs qui œuvrent dans la ville possèdent les permis adéquats. Il a révisé la réglementation sur le déblaiement de la neige par les résidents et les entrepreneurs. En plus d'une introduction par effraction et trois vols dans des voitures, il a rapporté que deux véhicules ont percuté le même poteau à l'intersection Westminster et Avon à quelques jours d'intervalle.

Tous les programmes du centre communautaire et de conditionnement physique sont offerts en format virtuel seulement selon la conseillère **Ulin**. L'inscription pour la session hivernale est en cours dans un format à déterminer. Le Centre communautaire est fermé, mais les aînés pourront quand même profiter d'un dîner de Noël et de conférences en janvier, le tout via Zoom.

La Ville planifie plusieurs événements pour les fêtes. **Ulin** termina son rapport en décrivant le travail qu'accomplit le service des Communications pour tenir tout le monde au courant.

## Town Council meeting: December

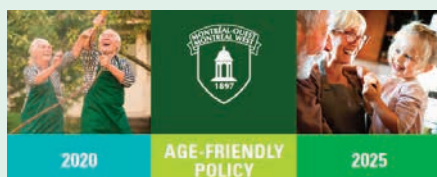


by Carol Foster

The Mayor opened the December meeting with his message for the days ahead. He acknowledged that the holidays will be very different this year, but urged everyone to stay safe and keep practising the good habits required during these difficult times. He thanked the councillors and the Town's staff for all their work during the year and offered holiday greetings to everyone, accompanied by hope for a better year ahead.

### Question period

In response to a question concerning the change of day for the garbage collection, **Councillor Torres** explained that a change in the company being used came with the option to change the collection day. It was decided Thursday would give Public Works staff an extra week day to resolve any issues. It would also benefit residents who leave town for the weekend.



### Did you get your copy?

The MoWest Age-Friendly Policy and Plan of Action 2020-2025 was delivered to all local households in late December. If you did not receive a copy, please leave a message at the Community Centre (484-6186) stating your name, address and telephone number, and we will see that one is delivered to you.



### Avez-vous reçu votre brochure?

La Politique amie des aînés de la Ville de Montréal-Ouest et le Plan d'action 2020-2025 ont été livrés à toutes les résidences de la Ville en décembre dernier. Si vous n'avez pas reçu votre exemplaire, veuillez laisser un message au Centre communautaire (484-6186) en mentionnant votre nom, adresse et numéro de téléphone, et nous nous assurerons qu'une nouvelle copie vous est envoyée.

More information was requested concerning the plans for two of the properties recently changing hands in the Town. The property housing the former library building was sold on October 30, according to the Mayor, and the new owner is currently working on his permit application. Once it has been received, more information will be available and residents will be kept up to date on the development schedule. The Public Library will occupy one of the two non-residential spaces to be included in the plan. The occupancy of the second space will be up to the developer as long as he follows the Town's regulations.

The old Bank of Montreal building was sold on August 13 and is going to become a dental clinic.

It was reported that rats, attracted by the garbage behind some of the commercial buildings on Westminster, have become a problem for residents on Strathearn. **Councillor Mazzone** will have the situation investigated.

In light of the news that the mayor of Beaconsfield is objecting to what he feels is a significant overpayment by his municipality to the City of Montreal, the next questioner wanted to know if there has been any progress in a review of the charges levied by the Agglomeration Council to the demerged municipalities. The Mayor replied that the Association of the Suburban Municipalities prefers to act as a whole in attempting to reach a negotiated settlement with the city. Talks supervised by a representative from the Minister of Municipal Affairs, will begin in January.

Why can't the Town clear the walking path across the tracks after a snowstorm, was the next question. The answer from the Mayor was that the Town is not allowed to clear the space between the train track barriers since that land belongs to CP Rail and they have forbidden any intervention in that space by the Town.

It has been noticed that there are new apartments being advertised for rent in Montreal West. These apartments are in a new building at the bottom of Brock South and are actually situated in NDG. Both the building owner and Canada Post have been made aware of this error and the advertisement will be corrected.

### Councillors' reports

Councillor Torres announced that Fenwick will be the next street to undergo major infrastructure work. Construction will take place between the tracks and Ainslie, and will begin next summer. A section of Avon between Westminster and Ronald Drive will also be getting some attention, which will involve the reconstruction of the road foundation and its surface.

The new Thursday garbage pickup will begin on December 24. Any problems with this pickup should be reported to Public Works, either by phone, filling out the form available on the Town's website or by email. Torres reminded everyone to exercise vigilance and to respect the no-parking signs during snow clearing by the Public Works staff.

In addition to their regular duties, the PSOs continue to assist the Building Inspector by reporting work being done without a permit. They have been issuing fines for bylaw infractions, which have included a leaf blower being used outside of the period allowed and the storing of a non-functional vehicle on a residential property. They also made the alarming discovery of a piece of meat, studded with nails, near the corner of Fielding and Brock North.

A wild turkey, subsequently named Butters, was seen strutting down Brock North and residents had been advised to keep their distance from it. The story of Butters' promenade in Montreal West was reported in the *Montreal Gazette*.

Councillor Mazzone reminded residents that there is a hefty fine for not respecting the temporary no-parking signs mentioned by Councillor Torres.

In spite of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, technology allowed the seniors' group to enjoy a holiday cocktail together, the CP Holiday Train could be viewed virtually and holiday contests and activities were made available to the many children in the Town. **Councillor Ulin** added that reservations for ice time in the arena can be booked online via Amilia.

As mentioned in the budget presentation which took place immediately before the Council meeting, **Councillor Feeney** announced that the average residential tax increase for 2021 would amount to 0.99%. The first tax instalment is due on May 25 and the second, on August 27.

PAC will only be meeting once a month from January through March and the deadlines for submission of applications for permits will be posted on the web.

Following two-and-a-half years of work, the MADA Plan of Action has been completed and will be distributed to all households in the Town. This was a major project, led by a very dedicated steering committee, and over the next five years will guide efforts to make the Town "age-friendly," safer and more secure for all of its residents.

All the councillors ended their December reports by wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

Following the adoption of the tax bylaw for 2021, there were no further questions, and the meeting was then adjourned.



## Réunion du Conseil : décembre



par Carol Foster  
traduction par René Boucher

Le message du maire pour les jours à venir a ouvert la réunion de décembre. Le maire a reconnu que les fêtes seraient très particulières cette année et a incité tout le monde à la prudence et à toujours mettre en pratique les bonnes habitudes qu'exigent ces temps difficiles. Il a remercié les membres du Conseil et le personnel de la Ville pour tout leur travail en cours d'année et a offert ses vœux à tous, accompagnés de l'espérance d'une meilleure année à venir.

### Période de questions

En réponse à une question concernant le changement du jour de collecte des ordures ménagères, la **conseillère Torres** a expliqué que le changement d'entreprise utilisée s'accompagnait du choix quant au jour de ramassage. Le jeudi offrait aux Travaux publics une journée ouvrable additionnelle pour régler les problèmes, le cas échéant. Il avantagerait aussi les résidents qui quittent la ville pour le weekend.

On demande de plus amples informations concernant deux propriétés qui ont récemment changé de mains dans la ville. Le maire a indiqué que la propriété où loge la bibliothèque a été vendue le 30 octobre et le nouveau propriétaire travaille actuellement à ses demandes de permis. Une fois les demandes reçues, plus de renseignements seront connus et les citoyens seront informés de l'échéancier des travaux. La bibliothèque publique occupera un des deux locaux non résidentiels devant faire partie des plans et le promoteur aura le choix de l'occupant pour le second, pourvu qu'il respecte les règlements municipaux. L'édifice de la *Banque de Montréal* a été vendu le 13 août dernier et est en voie de transformation en clinique dentaire.

Les rats, attirés par les ordures à l'arrière de certains commerces sur Westminster, sont devenus un problème pour les résidents de l'avenue Strathearn. Le **conseiller Mazzone** verra à ce que la situation soit examinée.

À la lumière de la nouvelle voulant que le maire de Beaconsfield s'oppose à ce qu'il qualifie de trop-payé considérable, par sa municipalité à la ville de Montréal, on s'enquerrait des progrès, si progrès il y a, dans la révision des frais que le conseil d'agglomération impute aux municipalités liées. Le maire a indiqué que l'Association des municipalités de banlieue préfère agir en groupe pour tenter d'en arriver à un règlement négocié avec la Ville-centre. Des discussions, supervisées par un représentant du ministre des Affaires municipales, s'amorceront en janvier.

Pourquoi la Ville ne peut-elle pas débayer la neige sur le passage piétonnier qui traverse le chemin de fer? Le maire a répondu que la Ville n'est pas autorisée à nettoyer entre les barrières au passage à niveau, ce terrain appartenant au CP qui a interdit toute intervention de la Ville dans cet espace.

On a remarqué des annonces pour nouveaux appartements à louer à Montréal-Ouest. Ces appartements se trouvent dans un édifice neuf au pied de Brock Sud qui, de fait, est situé à NDG. Le propriétaire de la bâtisse et Postes Canada ont été informés de l'erreur et la publicité sera corrigée.

### Rapports des membres du Conseil

La conseillère Torres a annoncé que Fenwick sera la prochaine rue où l'on entreprendra des travaux majeurs d'infrastructure, entre les voies ferrées et Ainslie, au cours de l'été prochain. Une partie d'Avon, entre Westminster et promenade Ronald, sera un autre chantier qui verra la réfection des fondations et de la surface de la voie.

La collecte des ordures ménagères aura lieu les jeudis à compter du 24 décembre. On doit rapporter toute difficulté liée à ce ramassage aux Travaux publics, par téléphone, en remplissant le formulaire sur le site Web de la Ville ou par courriel. Torres a rappelé à tous d'être vigilants et de respecter les affiches interdisant le stationnement lors de l'enlèvement de la neige par les Travaux publics.

En plus de leurs tâches normales, les ASP continuent à prêter main-forte à l'inspecteur en bâtiments en rapportant les travaux exécutés sans permis. Ils ont délivré des constats pour infraction à des règlements municipaux, dont pour usage d'un souffleur à feuilles en dehors de la période permise et pour entreposage d'un véhicule non fonctionnel sur une propriété résidentielle. Ils ont aussi fait la découverte troublante d'une pièce de viande truffée de clous près de l'intersection Fielding et Brock.

Un dindon sauvage, surnommé Butters, a été aperçu déambulant sur Brock Nord et l'on a averti les résidents de ne pas s'approcher de lui. La *Montreal Gazette* a d'ailleurs publié l'histoire de l'incursion de Butters à Montréal-Ouest.

Le conseiller Mazzone a renchéri sur l'avertissement de la conseillère Torres quant au non-respect de l'interdiction de stationnement en rappelant que l'amende est plutôt salée.

En dépit des restrictions dues à la pandémie, la technologie a permis au groupe des aînés de partager un cocktail des

fêtes, on a pu admirer virtuellement le *Train des fêtes du CP*, participer à des concours et, pour les nombreux enfants de la ville, prendre part à de nombreuses activités festives. La **conseillère Ulin** a ajouté qu'il est possible de réserver en ligne du temps de glace à l'aréna via Amilia.

Comme mentionné dans la présentation du budget précédant immédiatement cette réunion du Conseil, la **conseillère Feeney** a répété que la hausse moyenne de taxes résidentielles pour 2021 se chiffre à 0,99 %. Les comptes d'impôts fonciers seront expédiés le 26 janvier, le premier versement étant dû le 25 mai et le second, le 27 août.

Le CCU se réunira seulement une fois par mois en janvier, février et mars, et les dates limites pour les demandes de permis sont inscrites au site Web.

Après deux ans et demi de travaux, le plan d'action *MADA* est terminé et sera distribué à toutes les maisonnettes de la ville. Ce projet majeur, mené par un comité directeur des plus dévoués guidera les efforts au cours des cinq prochaines années pour rendre la ville conviviale pour les aînés, en faire un lieu plus sûr et sécuritaire pour tous ses résidents.

Tous les membres du Conseil ont clos leur rapport de décembre par des souhaits pour des fêtes sans danger, en santé et heureuses.

Après adoption du règlement sur les taxes pour 2021, puisqu'il n'y avait aucune question pour la seconde période, la séance était levée.



Photo: Caroline Hanrahan





The snowmen family on the corner of Westminster and Butters crossing Northview



## Change in garbage collection service

Please be advised that since Thursday December 24, garbage collection service is now on **Thursdays**.

## Changement au service de collecte des ordures

Veuillez noter que depuis le jeudi 24 décembre, le service de collecte des ordures se fait le **jeudi**.



## COMING EVENTS / À VENIR

Please call the editor: Heather at 489-7022  
or e-mail: [montrealwestinformer@gmail.com](mailto:montrealwestinformer@gmail.com)

**Next deadline: February 10**

### JANUARY

**Sun 31 Family Trivia Night.** Reserve on Amilia. 7 pm.

### FEBRUARY

**Sun 7 Snowshoeing in Strathearn Park.**  
Reserve on Amilia. 2:30-5:30 pm

**Mon 15 Public Library up and running!**

**Wed 17 Ash Wednesday.** St. Philip's. Online at 7:30 pm.

**Mon 22 Town Council meeting.**  
Online at: [facebook.com/montrealwest](https://www.facebook.com/montrealwest). 8 pm.

**Sun 28 Vestry meeting.** Details on [facebook.com/StPhilipMontrealWest](https://www.facebook.com/StPhilipMontrealWest).  
**Creative Snowman Contest ends.**



My grandfather, **Nicholas Choquette**, is the owner of *Antiquités Cacharel* on Westminster and he set up a beautiful Christmas/holiday window display for all to see. The window display showcases numerous antique toys that date back from the late 1800s. Beautiful toy trains, soldiers, match-box cars, dolls, circus characters and more! The display is surrounded by bright colored Christmas lights making it a truly special scene for passersby to take a peek.

I know that this year more than ever people in the community may be in search of a little extra cheer and I truly believe that this specially curated time capsule window display will bring a smile to many people's faces and even ignite their inner child!

My grandfather has put time and care into his beautiful window display and I think it deserves to be shared with the people from the neighborhood.

*from Olivia Choquette*



Our dear friend,  
**Fran Gahan,**

a resident of MoWest for over 65 years,  
will be turning **100** in February.  
At the age of 98, she moved from her home  
on Brock North to a residence in Ontario,  
but she keeps up-to-date  
on Montreal West with a subscription  
to *The Informer*.

All the McDonalds wish her a very

**Happy Birthday!**