

## MoWest Dentistry changes ownership



Montreal West is known for its unique and close-knit community. The streets have a distinctive and individual allure you can feel. *Montreal West Dentistry* has always had its special place in MoWest and in the hearts of the community. Its building has been handed down from dentist to dentist over the years, starting in the 50s until today.

It has been a place for highly talented and compassionate dentists, and now welcomes its new owner Dr. **Islam Shaat** who feels privileged and honoured to be Dr. **John Drummond**'s successor. *Montreal West Dentistry* stands as a unique practice developed through the hard work and effort of Dr. Drummond and his wife, **Ann**. With the help of the great and amazing team, a friendly and warm ambiance greets you from the moment you step foot into the clinic; it is a team that Dr. Shaat takes great pride in being welcomed into.

Dr. Shaat has a DDS and been practising dentistry for 18 years. He got his love for medicine and health from his father who is a neurosurgeon. As he grew up, the idea of helping others became etched in his mind and he aspired to make his dream come true. He continuously strives to update his knowledge with all the latest technologies and procedures

His love for helping people and his patience have been remarked by his patients. His goal is to make a positive contribution to the MoWest community, help provide his patients with excellent dental care and make their visits as pleasant and comfortable as possible.

A father of three boys, he loves spending time outdoors with them, playing soccer, biking or just taking a pleasant stroll; he treasures family time. He loves meeting new people, travelling and learning about different cultures. He dreams of filling the map on the wall of his home office with pins indicating a visit to countries around the world.

His wife, **Shymah**, and her friend **Heba**, both with dental backgrounds, are helping Dr. Shaat with the operation of the clinic and keeping it updated with new technology.

All the familiar faces at *MWD*, with their professional attitude and cheerful smiles, will stay with the new management to ensure your experience at *Montreal West Dentistry* is as pleasant as it has always been.

12 Avenue Brock Nord  
484-0521

montrealwestdentistry.com  
reception@montrealwestdentistry.com



## Skiing a marathon ...one lap at a time

by Catherine Macpherson

In the pre-dawn darkness of Sunday, February 7, the street lamps and lingering Christmas lights around Strathearn Park were joined by another small light, bobbing and whizzing its way around the park's perimeter. It was **Glenn Cowan**'s headlamp; Glenn was out for another early-morning ski.

Unlike some of his previous park skis over the past few weeks, today Glenn would ski around Strathearn for over four hours, putting in 50 km (150 laps, give or take). He'd already skied 50 km in the park the pre-

vious day, after carefully tamping down the snow with his snowshoes, shovelling snow bridges over the plowed pathways, and towing a modified baby glider sled in order to set a decent cross-country ski track.

On this weekend in pre-pandemic years, Glenn would have been whooshing his way across farmer's fields and over mountains in the Outaouais region, skiing the 160 km trail that makes up the *Canadian Ski Marathon (CSM)*. He would have been carrying a pack filled with all the supplies he'd need for sleeping out overnight, as part of the *Coureur des Bois Gold Level* of the CSM. He'd be meeting up with hundreds of other skiers from across North America and beyond, sharing ski waxing tips or a cup of hot soup at one of the marathon's checkpoints. And, as a double platinum *Coureur des Bois* legend with his own permanent bib number, Glenn would be catching up with old friends and new skiers alike at the Gold Camp,

The continuation of **MoWest: A late bloomer** appears on page 12.

### INDEX

Community Centre .....	17
Council Meeting .....	18
Guides .....	9
Horticultural Society ....	14
IODE .....	5

Kosher corner .....	15
Libraries .....	9, 14
MADA .....	6
News from the pews ..	15
Réunion du Conseil ....	19
Rotary .....	5
Schools .....	6, 7
Scouts .....	8

## THE 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.

ISSN: 084741X

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Cynthia Koomas - *Chair*  
Jeanne Ragbir - *Secretary*  
Robert King - *Treasurer*  
Heather Baylis  
Véronique Belzil-Boucher  
Jeannette Brooker  
René Boucher  
Carol Foster  
Maurice Krystal  
Lise McVey  
Julia Ross  
Rhonda Schwartz

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Heather Baylis  
489-7022

### LAYOUT DESIGNER

Julia Ross  
julia@ross.cd

### AD MANAGER

Heather Baylis  
489-7022  
montrealwestinformer@gmail.com

### DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Rhonda Schwartz 482-0227

### RATES

1/6 page: \$50. billed annually or semi-annually. Monthly billing \$60/per insertion.

1/12 page: \$30. billed annually. Monthly billing \$35/insertion.

Flyers: \$50 (non-profit), \$85 (commercial)

Professional card: \$135/year  
Subscriptions: \$20

Classifieds: 25-50 words – \$10,  
25 words or fewer – \$6

### TASK FORCE

René Boucher  
Lina Harun  
Cynthis Koomas  
Lise McVey  
Jeanne Ragbir  
Randi Weitzner

The *Informer* is published nine times a year (usually on the second or third weekend of the month) except June, July and December. Typesetting by *Informer* staff, printing by *Les Publicités A. Campeau Ltée*. Extra copies available at Town Hall and both libraries. Funded, in part, by the Town of Montreal West. Articles are printed in French or English, as submitted.

### NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

March 10



## Un nouveau camp de jour sportif arrive en Ville cet été ! New sports day camp in Town this summer!

Installé depuis six ans dans le quartier de Notre-Dame-de-Grace, le camp de jour sportif *Sharkx* déménagera à Montréal-Ouest cet été et sera situé au 160 Ballantyne Avenue North.

Le camp *Sharkx* offre aux enfants de 6 à 14 ans la possibilité de pratiquer différents sports tels que le basketball, le soccer, le flag football, le handball, l'athlétisme, les arts martiaux et la gymnastique tout en s'amusant.

En plus des activités sportives, le camp *Sharkx* propose à ses campeurs des ateliers ludiques et divertissants comme des ateliers science, magie, beatboxing, danse hip hop, reptiles, bataille Nerf et pêche.

Les activités se dérouleront principalement à l'extérieur et seront encadrées par des moniteurs sportifs et des étudiants en sport, bilingues français-anglais.



Les inscriptions pour le camp de jour sportif *Sharkx* sont ouvertes.

Established for six years in NDG, the *Sharkx* sports day camp is moving to Montreal West this summer and will be

located at 160 Ballantyne Avenue North.

The *Sharkx* sports day camp is for boys and girls ages 6-14 years old, where the kids will be participating in different sports such as basketball, soccer, flag football, handball, track & field, martial arts and gymnastics while having fun.

The *Sharkx* sports day also provides fun entertaining workshops for the campers such as science, magic, beat boxing, hip hop dancing, reptiles, Nerf battles and fishing.

The sports activities will be mainly held outdoors and be supervised by bilingual (French and English) sports instructors and students in sports.

Registration for the *Sharkx* sports day camp is open.

[www.sharkxsportsprograms.com](http://www.sharkxsportsprograms.com)  
(438) 887-1249

**Rachel Desjardins** is a McGill University graduate with a M.Sc. (Applied) in Physical Therapy. She also completed a B.Sc. in Rehabilitation Science and a B.Sc. in Kinesiology from McGill University. She is a member of the *Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec*.

Throughout her experience, Rachel has treated clients of all ages in various domains of physiotherapy, such as orthope-



## New physiotherapist at Action Sport Physio

Rachel Desjardins

**M.SC. P.T., B.Sc. Rehab. Sci and B.Sc. Kin**

dics, cardio respiratory and neurological rehabilitation. She truly believes that treating her clients using a holistic approach is essential to the recovery process.

### Helping seniors

She particularly enjoys helping the seniors as she understands the importance of remaining autonomous. It is important for many to be able to continue living at home and to remain functional and autonomous with regards to their daily life.

Rachel is able to help with tasks that may become difficult such as doing the laundry, whether it means transferring clothes from one machine to an-

other or hanging laundry on the clothes line outside. Other tasks that may be challenging are going up and down stairs and getting up from a couch or chair.

### Keeping your balance!

Additionally, as we age, it is very common for balance to decrease and consequently the requirement of a mobility aid such as a cane may be needed. In Rachel's experience, she has been successful in helping many improve their balance and daily activities through simple and accessible exercises that can be easily done in the comfort of one's home.

You can contact Rachel at **485-9292** or [rdesjardins@action-sportphysio.com](mailto:rdesjardins@action-sportphysio.com).

REMEMBERING

## Cortland Jerome Brown

(1925-2021)

**Cortland Jerome Brown** died peacefully January 26 at his home in the Mountainview Residence in Georgetown, Ontario. He joins his wife **Joan Brown** who died July 9 2020 and is survived by daughters **Carol Nicholas** (husband **Savian**) and **Anne Brown** and son **Scott Brown** (wife **Rosalind**), and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Born and raised in St. Jean/Iberville, descending from loyalists on both the Brown and Miller sides of his family, he was educated in Montreal West and McGill before joining the Canadian Forces during WWII. After university, he took a role at *Imperial Tobacco* and worked as an executive until he retired in his late fifties.

He met Joan while vacationing in Massachusetts and together built a life in the Montreal area. They shared a great adventure together for over 65 years, raising a family they were proud of, and demonstrating their values and care for others. They moved several times within Quebec, but set-



Joan and Cort Brown

tled in Montreal West and became fixtures in the community.

Their greatest pride was Manitou, their year-round cottage and ultimately their home, which they built over several decades. He showed his love for his family and friends by providing them with a com-

fortable place of rest and reflection – a sanctuary. You could find him in his sugar shack during maple syrup season testing his newly invented electronic concentration meter, or in the orchard grafting his new high oxidant fruit trees. He had a thirst for continually learning. Just last year he enjoyed sunning on the dock, swimming and boating.

### Committed to community

Cort was committed to the community. President of the *Montreal Westward Rotary Club*, he welcomed many international students into his home and travelled globally, building relationships and long-term friends. The annual oyster party fundraiser at the Town Hall was a must with much laughter. While living in Florida during winters, he served in the *Canadian Snow Birds Association*, was president of his local condo association, and tutored students at local schools. For decades he championed annual water testing around Lake Manitou, which ensured pure drinking water to this day. An avid sailor, tennis player, and golfer, he loved social events.

In lieu of flowers, donations are welcome for the Montreal General Hospital.

The end of an era, we will miss this loving father and friend.

*from Scott Brown*



A recent Quebec Court of Appeal ruling has both environmentalists and heritage advocates concerned about the future of an historic waterway on the Meadowbrook golf course. The court ruling, which ordered the City of Montreal to stop releasing water into the St. Pierre River, was designed to resolve a serious pollution problem, but it may pose a new threat to the waterway.

The St. Pierre River once flowed west from the foot of Mount Royal before turning east in Lachine and eventually emptying into the St. Lawrence in Old Montreal. It served as a transportation route and water source for the area's Indigenous people, and for early European settlers, but it became heavily polluted with industrial waste. In the 19th century, most of the river was buried in underground sewers and canals. The only section remaining open to daylight is the 200-metre-long creek that crosses the golf course.

## Alert level on St. Pierre River cranked up

The contamination problem is caused by cross connections, or faulty connections that allow household waste to empty into a storm sewer. In this case, the Toe Blake Collector was carrying waste from washing machines, showers and toilets in Montreal West and Côte Saint-Luc, and releasing it into the St. Pierre River.

Meadowbrook *Groupe Pacific Inc.*, owner of the golf course, asked the Quebec Superior Court to force the City of Montreal to bury the St. Pierre River. In 2018, the court ruled that the creek had become an open-air sewer and ordered the city to stop polluting it.

Both parties appealed that decision. Although it had won its case, *Groupe Pacific* appealed, asking the court to order the creek buried even if the provincial environment department refused to grant a permit, and even if the creek was no longer contaminated. The City also appealed, arguing it wasn't

given enough time to complete the work, but the Quebec Court of Appeal refused to grant any further delays since the city had known about the situation since at least 2002 and had done nothing about it.

In order to respect the court order, the City opted to deviate, or change the direction of, the water coming from Toe Blake Collector, but during dry periods only. The goal was to reduce the amount of pollution contaminating the river and give Côte Saint-Luc and Montreal West more time to fix the cross connections. But the work, completed in the spring of 2020, totally changed the nature of the river. There is now so little water left that the creek is often reduced to rocks and puddles.

In January of this year, the Quebec Court of Appeal ordered the city to stop all discharge into the creek. As a result, the City of Montreal will no longer be able to release any excess water into the St. Pierre, even during in-

tense rain episodes when there is a risk of flooding. Members of *Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook* are worried about this. With the deviation permanent and total, the only source of water in the creek will be rainwater and snow melt, and the flora and fauna that are natural to the riverbed and its banks may permanently disappear.

*Les Amis du Parc Meadowbrook* considers every effort must be made to save the river. This should not be the end of the matter. Cross connections should be corrected and the Toe Blake Collector decontaminated. That way, everything will be in place to reopen the river when Meadowbrook finally becomes an urban, nature, heritage park, accessible to all.

For more information on the St. Pierre River, please visit *Les Amis'* website at [lesamisde-meadowbrook.org](http://lesamisde-meadowbrook.org) and sign up for our newsletter.

*from Louise Legault*

## Skiing a marathon ...one lap at a time

*continued from page 1*

an outdoor encampment where Boy Scout troops provide bales of hay for sleeping and keep water boiled and fires burning through the winter night for those skiers who take on this ultimate Nordic ski challenge.

“People can sort of perceive the marathon, particularly the camping out part, as this winter suffer-fest,” says Glenn. “But what they don’t appreciate is that it’s the same people going back every year. You get to the campsite and there’re people that you may only see at that one event; you sit down on your bale of straw and you catch up. It’s the camaraderie of it all that makes people come back year after year. They’re not just being gluttons for punishment.”

Like so many other things compromised by the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s ski was a little different. For the 55<sup>th</sup> “virtual” edition of the CSM, *Coureur des Bois* skiers were instructed to ski 100 km over two consecutive days, skiing alone on a trail of their choosing, ideally in their own region. Gold-level participants were to submit GPS data showing their course and timing, as well as photos of their outdoor camp. Glenn’s camp was a cozy set-up in his Strathearn Avenue backyard, complete with propane fire pit and a snow cave for sleeping, hollowed out for him by his younger kids. “With the warm weather on the Friday, the shelter had started to sag a bit, so I was a little bit worried when I went to bed Saturday night, wondering what would happen if it caved in, but I did eventually sleep okay and it

Ready to go!



was fairly warm. For the first hour I was actually taking off layers.”

Glenn started cross-country skiing in elementary school in Toronto. He participated in his first *Canadian Ski Marathon* in 1992. In ’94 he skied the *Coureur des Bois* Silver level and, at age 18, was the youngest finisher at the time. The next year he skied Gold and has done so every year since, save for one year when a bike injury prevented him from participating.

### Skiing in Strathearn Park?

“This is the first year I’ve skied in Strathearn. I’ve skied in Hodgson before, but this year, with the rinks and the dog park, it’s trickier to navigate. I had seen other people skiing in Strathearn Park and when I went there on Friday night (before the first day of the marathon), there was a nicely skied-in track, so there’s definitely been a few people skiing there, which is kind of neat.”

With the curfew in place, Glenn’s original plan of skiing and camping on the trails

Snow cave: Home sweet home!



at the Viking Ski Club in Morin Heights wasn’t going to work. “I might have gotten a ticket. So, then I wondered, it what would be like to ski in the park? There are these stories of people running marathons in their hotel rooms, so this seemed comparatively civilized. And because you’re going around this same course, you have opportunities to fine tune what you do. There are a few 90 degree turns, so there’s a sort of step-turn you can do. The first time I would go around I wasn’t very efficient at them. And it was like I was refining it every time, perfecting the turn each time. So, it was kind of neat to see my skiing adapt to the terrain and improve each time going around. Plus, I listened to music so it wasn’t deathly boring.”

All of Glenn’s four children ski, including his youngest, **Emma**, who, at three years old, has done a few laps of her own around Strathearn Park. His wife, **Odile Ladouceur**, has skied the Gold level of the CSM and his older



Complete with propane fire pit

children, **Madelaine** and **James**, have participated in ski loppets and club championships at the Viking Ski Club, where Glenn is one of the Youth Program Coordinators. “There are half a dozen MoWest families who have kids in the program this year. And there’re lots in NDG. One of the neat things about the ski marathon, about cross-country skiing and about the Viking is that it’s an intergenerational thing.” There are Viking board members in their 80s, as well as neighbourhood university students on Nordic ski racing teams, including Canada’s national team. A number of MoWest families will also be participating either in the Touring class (skiing 15 km sections) or in the *Coureur des Bois* levels.

Do Glenn’s kids share his enthusiasm for cross-country skiing? “They like skiing, they are moderately into it. There is always this natural pushback with kids; they assume that all things their parents do are uncool. But they are good sports about it.”

## Artists' Showcase

### The Great Outdoors

Online edition

Thank you to all the participating artists: **Alex Brzezinski**, **Carole Desmarteau**, **Elisabeth Ulin**, **Louise Chênevert**, **Lynn Cairns**, **Pat Nicholson**, **Rose Marie Loughran**, **Valmor Kurol**, **Annette Wolfstein-Joseph**.

To see all the beautiful artwork, go the Town website [montreal-west.ca](http://montreal-west.ca).

## Rotary



### Jamie Orchard: Life in transition



**Jamie Orchard** is an award-winning journalist who spent two decades as senior anchor at *Global Montreal*. She is now the founder and CEO of the *Second Act Project*, an online forum that encourages both women and men who are encountering dramatic life changes to start over.

She has been named one of Montreal's most remarkable women by the *Montreal Chamber of Commerce* and a Women of Merit by the *YWCA*. She is very involved in the community and has served on a few boards and committees.

Jamie said she was a little nervous because she is speaking to people she does not know, does not have a prepared script and does not like talking about herself. She was not going to start with her Oprah story, but she did and said it was a highlight for her career and she was terrified. The year was 2013 and Oprah was touring Canada and coming to the *Bell Centre*. Jamie was asked to introduce her and got only one rehearsal. She was allowed one guest and brought her mom (a huge Oprah fan) who sat in the front row. She then showed us the signed plaque that Oprah gave her. It was one of the funniest days of her life and it was because she was able to bring her mom to meet Oprah.

One of the difficult things of being in the news is being in the news. You are always up against the insanity that is happening around the world every day. You are privileged to get this front row seat, but you also get defined by that because you are constantly looking at negative news. You are constantly bombarded in the news room with local and international news that is negative. Jamie did that for 28 years and always tried to make it appeal to the people of Montreal.

In 2019 the death of her mom upset her very much and she took time off work. She came back at the beginning of 2020, slipped on some ice and got a concussion. She was off work for over a month. She returned at the start of the pandemic and, although she was doing well, she was told in July that her job was being eliminated. She had been at the job for 23 years and was in shock and wondered how it could have happened as work was her whole life.

The first few weeks were quite traumatic and she was confused. People started reaching out to her and she received at least 120 letters of support telling her that she will be alright. She called it a flood of kindness.

*The Second Act Project* was launched to tell the stories of the people who have been through dramatic life shifts. Although she did not know how to start a website, she did so with help from her niece. It made its debut in October. Jamie said she was not ready and would have waited months longer because she was scared and still is. She went from being a daily journalist sharing the bad news every day to being a journalist who interviews incredibly passionate people who have had crazy shifts in their lives. Once a week, she will interview someone who has reinvented themselves and gets to share unique motivating stories about people.

Jamie ended her talk by saying she is still trying to figure out what the next step is in her Jamie Orchard life in transition. She does know that every interview has led her down a different path, a different way of seeing the world and is very excited about the future. Jamie reminded us that we also have the good fortune of living in Montreal. Jamie is on Facebook and [thesecondactproject.ca/](http://thesecondactproject.ca/)

### 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.

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.

### 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, 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*

## IODE



The *IODE* Canada is a national women's charitable organization that records volunteer hours. Our HMS Victory Chapter contributed 12,600 hours to our local community in 2020.

These hours of service are submitted to Statistics Canada. Community volunteerism is the bedrock of Canadian generosity. Our Chapter responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by initiating the Meals on Angels' Wings and partnering with the Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG. Together we have served meals to over 3000 frontline health workers, first responders, and those without shelter at Resilience Montreal. Our dedicated members also reached out to homebound seniors to help with groceries and household tasks.

*from Moira Bettinville*

## Mailbox



### An apology

To the lady I had an altercation with at the handicap parking spot on Westminster on Sunday, January 31.

Please accept my sincerest apologies. I was way out of line. I was feeling ill for the previous two days on top of my permanent handicap being moderate to severe pain 24/7 with difficult mobility. I lost it. I shouldn't have, that was no excuse and that's not who I am. I deeply regret my actions.

*from Allan Abramovitch*

## MADA

### COVID-19 vaccination centres

The CIUSSS West-Central Montreal health unit which serves Montreal West recently announced the location of the COVID-19 mass vaccination centres.

They will be located in the Décarie Square shopping centre (6900 Décarie Boulevard), in an office building (7101 Parc Avenue) and at the Bill-Durnan Arena (4988 Vézina Street).

Once open, these three sites will operate seven days a week, from 8 am to 8 pm.

Appointments will be mandatory. You will soon be able to make appointments online, through the Clic Santé platform (clicsante.ca), or by telephone.

Individuals who will have access to the vaccine will be prioritized as follows:

- 80 years old and up
- 70 to 79 years old
- 60 to 69 years old
- Adults under 60 with a risk of complications from COVID-19
- Essential workers and other healthcare workers
- Other adults

When the Town receives further information, we will announce it on our website and in an e-bulletin.

### Centres de vaccination contre la COVID-19

Le CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest -de-l'Île-de-Montréal, qui dessert Montréal-Ouest, a récemment annoncé l'emplacement des centres de vaccination de masse COVID-19.

Ces centres de vaccination seront situés dans le centre commercial Carré Décarie (6900, boulevard Décarie), dans un immeuble de bureaux (7101, avenue du Parc) et l'Aréna Bill-Durnan (4988, rue Vézina).

Lorsqu'ils seront ouverts, les sites seront en activité sept jours sur sept, de 8 h à 20 h.

Le rendez-vous sera obligatoire. Il sera possible de prendre rendez-vous par téléphone et sur le site Clic-Santé (clicsante.ca).

Voici l'ordre de priorité des individus qui auront accès au vaccin :

- 80 ans et plus
- 70 à 79 ans
- 60 à 69 ans
- Adultes de moins de 60 ans qui présentent un risque de complication des suites de la COVID-19
- Travailleurs essentiels et autres travailleurs de la santé
- Autres adultes

Lorsque la Ville recevra de plus amples informations, nous les annoncerons sur notre site web et dans un bulletin électronique.

## Elizabeth Ballantyne School



### Anti-Bullying Workshop

During the month of February, a well-known anti-bullying prevention program, Dare to Care presented a virtual workshop to students from kindergarten to grade 4. This program offers tools for our students to maintain healthy relationships and experience a warm and safe school culture. Students are encouraged to be more assertive, show more empathy and have open discussions about bullying. The grade 5 and 6 students will also take part in a three-hour anti-bullying workshop in March with Ensemble pour le respect de la diversité. This workshop will also address the issue of cyberbullying.

**Officer Rankin** from the SPVM came to visit our students to discuss bullying and cyberbullying with the grade 5 and 6 students. They were presented with video scenarios of bullying, informed of their rights and learned about the Civil Code. We are hoping that, with these workshops, students will be more mindful of others and continue to practise the EBS core values. The goal, of course, is to make our school a bully-free zone!

### Green Team sowing the seeds

Thanks to B.A.S.E. and our head of day-care, **Melodie Charette**, who provided EBS with a hydroponic Nutritower a few years ago, we are now able to run a Green Team in our school. Grades 3 and 5 daycare students, with **Ms. Carmy's** continued commitment and support, have been busy planting basil seeds in coconut pods. Once the seedlings have germinated and grown into little plants, they will be transplanted into the Nutritower. The students will be taught how to care for the plants and will be given different tasks to ensure their growth.

### Teacher and staff appreciation

During the week of February 1 to 5, teachers at Elizabeth Ballantyne were surprised daily with a token of gratitude during Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. This week provides an opportunity to recognize our teachers, and their commitment and dedication in education. Lunch, sweets and coffee were provided on some days by the Home and School Association, hot chocolate was delivered by our Principal, **Mr. Servello** and students surprised teachers with beautiful carnations. The staff room was decorated with hearts and Wanted posters, created by the students.



Regardless of the many challenges presented by the pandemic, teachers and staff members are always present and working hard with your children. We thank our wonderful educators for the incredible work they do for our students and for our school! Their passion and dedication are what makes EBS a loving home away from home.

## Edinburgh School

Teachers and staff at Edinburgh Elementary were treated to an extra special expression of gratitude in recognition of their exceptional efforts this challenging year, during the school's annual Teacher Appreciation Week from February 8 through to February 12.

Daily activities included a delicious morning snack from parent and baker **Judith Derlachter**, bound books of valentine appreciation messages written by students for each and every member of the staff, a boxed lunch from *McKiernan Luncheonette* from restaurateurs and parents **Allison Cunningham** and **Fred Morin**, as well as a virtual pub trivia staff game donated and hosted by quiz masters and parents **Johanna Miller** and **Noah Sidel** – complete with surprise door prizes gifted by a host of school parents.

The *Home and School Association* wishes to extend its thanks to Teacher Appreciation Week organizers, volunteers **Johanna Miller** and **Susy Bin-**



Mr. Cho and Miss Amanda



Miss Vanessa

### Edinburgh Home and School celebrates Teacher Appreciation Week in style

**stock** for putting together such an extraordinary calendar of events.

“Edinburgh parents are incredibly generous,” says long-time parent volunteer Binstock.

“Parents usually contribute homemade goods for a teacher appreciation luncheon at the school, but this year that wasn’t possible. When we reached out to the list of volunteer bakers, every

family donated funds to enable *Home and School* to purchase individually wrapped, delicious meals that comply with COVID-19 restrictions. We are lucky to be part of this community!”

To learn more about *Edinburgh Home and School*, visit [edinburghhomeandschool.com](http://edinburghhomeandschool.com).

from Kate Shingler

### Santropol Coffee for sale

Purchase organic, fair trade coffee and help support the *Edinburgh Home & School Association*. To order your coffee or for more information, please visit: [www.edinburghhomeandschool.com](http://www.edinburghhomeandschool.com) between March 12-21. Or email us at [info@edinburghhomeandschool.com](mailto:info@edinburghhomeandschool.com). Orders can be picked up in MoWest or delivered to your home.

**SALE ENDS MARCH 21**

### “The Beat Must Go on:” Teaching music in a pandemic

“At times it felt like teaching them how to swim in a pool without water.” This is the way Edinburgh Music Specialist **Radu Covaciu** describes teaching music in the current pandemic environment. “Playing wind instruments (recorders) or singing was not possible because of the air projection, social distancing or masks and even if the music theory or music history were solid options to replace singing, I noticed that our students needed more action.” Covaciu, with the support of Principal **Chantal Juhasz**, asked the *Home and School Association* for funding to purchase a 5-gallon bucket and set of drumsticks for every student. Music classes now consist of his leading the students in a bucket drumming exercise along to popular musical tunes.

When the pandemic caused schools to shut down in March of 2020, Covaciu, like all teach-

ers, had to re-think his teaching methods. “The main struggle was finding the resources for different online music activities, trying to integrate the technology by using free applications for music composition but also trying to keep the traditional methods such as singing or playing the recorders, activities

that are almost impossible to practice in group due to the different internet speed and connection quality.” Unlike other subjects, there were few online educational offerings for music: “For music lessons, the pre-made materials were limited or non-existent. Given this situation, I had to spend many hours building my lesson plans and I used my imagination to create from scratch the materials needed.”

What does he look forward to the most when teaching returns to normal? School concerts and the opportunities for his students to shine. “I hope that in the near future our students are going to have the chance to perform on stage in front of an audience, feeling confident and proud again, bringing joy and happiness to their families and to the whole community.”

from Joanna Duy



## Montreal West Scout Group



### Cubs

While we are unable to have “normal” meetings for the time-being, we are planning our programs, as much as possible, to provide learning through fun and also to help others.

To accomplish the latter goal, we made Valentine cards for health-care workers at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. The Cubs were asked to bring supplies to our Zoom meeting, and we all made cards at the same time. Then over the next 10 days everyone was asked to make a few more, with the objective of making 10 cards each. These were then collected for delivery to the hospital.

The cards were truly wonderful. There were 120 cards in all, and almost every one was different. It was obvious that much thought and effort went into their production, with imaginative ways of designing and decorating hearts, expressions of thanks to the hospital workers for helping to keep us safe and to fight the pandemic, and hopes that the recipient might be able to spend time with loved ones on Valentine’s Day.

Following on the success of making mug cakes before the holidays, Scouter **Raksha** planned two meetings to make heart-shaped cookies for Valentine’s Day. In the first, we read the recipe then gathered all the ingredients and mixed them together. The recipe called for refrigerating the dough for 4-6 hours before baking – as this was not possible in a one-hour meeting the dough was frozen, then thawed before the next meeting, ready to be cut and baked.

It is our usual practice to have a physical activity near the beginning of the meeting, usually a fast, or “steam-off,” game. This is not practical when we are separated in our own homes, and so we have to be imaginative. One such activity was an action song:

once everyone knew how to sing *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*, we sang it several times, faster each time. As well as singing, we alternatively stood or sat each time we sang a word beginning with a B. As there are many such words, we had all had quite a bit of exercise when we sang the song for the last time.

*from Robert King*

### Scouts learn lashing skills

The Scout Troop continues to meet online, and we are looking forward to the time when we will be able to have in-person meetings. At our online meetings, Scouts are given a challenge task to complete on their own and then asked to report on it at the next meeting. A recent challenge invited Scouts to practise their lashing skills. Securely lashing sticks together with rope is a useful skill for constructing camp equipment and shelters, and Scouts developed a variety of innovative approaches to the task. When we are able to get together in person again, we will be applying these skills as a group to the construction of a trebuchet, which is similar in design to a catapult.

*from Andy Chapman*

### Spring Garden Supplies Sale update

The MoWest Scout Group has been doing the Spring Garden Supplies Sale for over 40 years, until COVID-19 struck! Last year, spring 2020, we did not have access to the Arena for distribution. However, we were able to carry on with our *Vesey’s Bulbs and Seeds* as we did sorting and deliveries from our Commissioner’s home.

Unfortunately, *Vesey’s* is not doing any fundraising for 2021 and we still do not have access to the Arena for soils and fertilizers.

Therefore, we are forced to totally cancel our Spring Garden Supplies Sale. This has always been our largest Annual Fundraiser to supplement our programs and camps. The residents of MoWest, NDG, CSL and further afield have always been very supportive. A few keen gardeners have already called to ask about supporting our group.

### Help with a donation!

We do not want the youth going door to door selling anything, so we have suggested that those who are keen may give a donation to the MoWest Scout Group; Scouts Canada will issue a tax receipt for 2021.

If you wish to give a donation please contact **Karen Johnstone** at: karenmansfieldjohnstone@gmail.com or cel phone: **717-5696**.

Scouts did lashing projects and submitted photos to the troop. Submitted by Ari Semergian



## TOP BEAUTÉ

**Ongles, Coiffure, Esthétique**

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

Monday - Saturday  
55 avenue Westminster Nord

**484-0118**

## Montreal West Dentistry

Dr. Drummond · Dr. Afshin · Dr. Craig · Dr. Diamandis

Nous acceptons de nouveaux patients We are accepting new patients



“ It’s a family atmosphere here and the staff are all warm and friendly and **truly care** about you. Top notch! – Joe F. ”

**514.484.0521**

12, ave. Brock Nord, Montréal-Ouest, QC  
 reception@montrealwestdentistry.com  
 www.montrealwestdentistry.com



# The library has moved!

**New address: 41 Westminster N**  
**New phone: 481-7522**

By the time you see this article, our library will be up and running in our new location 41 Westminster N. We are loving it here, but it would not have been possible without the help of the staff, **Samantha Morel, Dane Oberon and Brigid Roberts** and our Board member **Sharon McKechnie**. It was a long move, but we are pleased



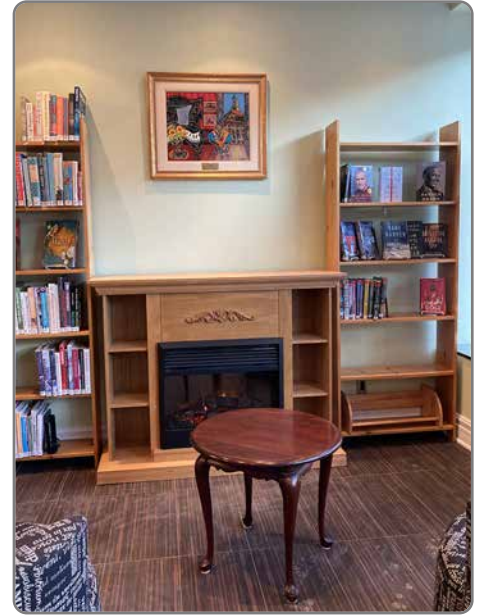
to be able to begin our pick up and delivery service again.

On February 15 at noon we opened once again to begin curb side pickup and deliveries. At this point in time, we do not have an exterior book return so books will have to be returned during regular library hours (Monday to Thursday noon to 6 pm). The book return is the big basket located at the front door.

To celebrate our successful move, we invited our Library's Board of Directors, our volunteers, the Children's Library and our Town Council for a special 15-minute tour of the new facilities, that took place the week of February 15. It was not as nice as a grand opening, but we were thrilled to see so many residents and volunteers.

As we settle in, we will begin some new programming and events in the spring. Even with the challenges of COVID-19, we hope to bring some interesting new programs to our members. Stay tuned!

We have included some photos of new location, if you haven't stopped by, please do, wave and say hello.



Please note that our Tea and Books program will be up and running March 17 at 2 pm. Our first meeting of the year will be a casual discussion of what we have been reading lately. It is open to everyone; please sign up on our website: [mwpl.ca](http://mwpl.ca).

## Guiding



### Guides

For the first meeting of 2021 to get back in the swing of things, the Guides completed a wide variety of activities from different areas of the program such as exploring Montreal West from a bird's point of view as well as an ant's. Perspective is everything. Under self-confidence, the girls were encouraged to express their uniqueness; each girl had an opportunity to share silly dances. Around *Bell Let's Talk* day, they held two meetings to explore mental health, emphasizing why it is just as important as physical health.

The girls also had a chance to explore positive role models and spent a meeting wearing their creative writing hats and put a modern spin on traditional fairy tales, so that the princesses were role models for us all to look up to. Sleeping Beauty became an engineer, Snow White taught us about consent and Little Red Riding Hood found

fame and fortune as a singer-songwriter.

### Sparks and Brownies

The younger girls started off the new year making Valentine's Day cards for the Canadian Armed services overseas. This year, the girls wanted to send the cards to military personnel who were stationed far away from their family and friends. We decided to do this activity so early, to allow time for the cards to make it to their destination. Traditionally the cards which the girls make would be given to the veterans out at the Sainte-Anne-Bellevue hospital.

The unit held their virtual enrollment ceremony for three first-year Brownies. **Rylee, Izzy and Joy** were proudly welcomed into the unit. This was a very special ceremony. As usual, family and friends were welcome to join in and watch. We also had two special invited guests: **Amanda Guay**, our District Commissioner extraor-

inaire, and **Jill Zelmanovits**, CEO of Girl Guides of Canada, who joined in on the celebration from Toronto, not something which could normally happen! Amanda presented the newly enrolled girls with their pins, and Jill with their certificates. With the magical help of parents, the pins and certificates made it through the screens and were given to the girls at just the right moment!

To kick off February, the Sparks and Brownies learned a bit about some important black women who have had an impact

on all aspects of society.  **Unicorn** made a fantastic interactive BINGO game for the unit to play. A few of the people the girls learned about included: Janita Westmoreland Traoré; Dr. Alexandra Bastiany and Viola Desmond.

### Registration

As of January 20, registration for the remainder of this Guiding year (which takes us to August 31) will be \$74. The Sparks and Brownies, girls from kindergarten to grade four, meet virtually on Wednesday from 5-6 pm. The Guides, girls from grades 4 to 6 meet every Friday 5-7 pm. Girls can try two meetings for free to see if it is something they would like to commit to. If you are interested, please reach out to **Pearl** through [pearl.barnowl@gmail.com](mailto:pearl.barnowl@gmail.com) for further information and the links to the meetings. If you know your daughter would like to join, then please visit [girlguides.ca](http://girlguides.ca) and follow the prompts to register.



Visit us on the web  
<http://www.bonder.com/>



**LIBRAIRIE BONDER INC.  
 BONDER BOOKSTORE INC.**

52 Westminster Avenue N.  
 Montreal West, Quebec  
 H4X 1Z2  
 Tel: (514) 484-7131  
 Fax: (514) 484-3745  
 E-mail: [bonder@bonder.com](mailto:bonder@bonder.com)  
 CALL FOR ANY BOOK IN PRINT

**Labrosse &  
 Michaëls**

rénovation • entretien • réparations

**Michel Labrosse**  
 514 239 5432

[labrosse-michaels@videotron.ca](mailto:labrosse-michaels@videotron.ca)

Licence RBQ : 8305-0898-53

Membre APCHQ



*Annette Wolfstein-Joseph*

**ARTIST**

**514 - 488 - 3200**

[annette.art@sympatico.ca](mailto:annette.art@sympatico.ca)

**DR. HEATHER FOX B.Sc., D.D.S.**

*Dentist*

18 Westminster N. #120

Tel: 487-4577

Fax: 487-8376

**Jocelyne Dorion**

Psychologue clinicienne

Clinical Psychologist

Pour un rendez-vous For an appointment

Tél : 514 663-6457

[jo.dorion@videotron.ca](mailto:jo.dorion@videotron.ca)

101 av Ballantyne S. Montréal-Ouest, H4X 2B4



**HAN CHUN WU, Ac**

Acupuncture

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise

[www.acupuncturewu.ca](http://www.acupuncturewu.ca)

**514-369-1198**

14-B Milner

Montréal-Ouest

CSST • SAAQ

H4X 1J1

**\$90 Flat-fee Virus Removal Service**

**Ultrasoft/Richard Eckerlin**

30+ years experience

MACs and PCs

We recycle all electronics for MoWest.

16 Westminster North, **438-938-6240**

Suite 100B (basement)

[canadanotebook@live.com](mailto:canadanotebook@live.com)

Monday-Saturday, noon-6 pm



HONORABLE

**MARC  
 GARNEAU**

DÉPUTÉ / MP

NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE - WESTMOUNT



House of Commons  
 Chambre des communes  
 CANADA

BUREAU DE CIRCONSCRIPTION  
 CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

340-4060 St-Catherine Ouest/West

Montréal, Québec H3Z 2Z3

514-283-2013

[marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca)

**JCC**

J. Collins  
 Construction



**General Contractor**

**Quality. Value. Style.**

Contact us for all of your renovation  
 and home restoration projects

514-554-6042

[info@jccmontreal.ca](mailto:info@jccmontreal.ca)

[jccmontreal.ca](http://jccmontreal.ca)

RBQ 5625-7694-01

**Sutton**

**DAVID  
 DOUBT**

**RESULTS... it's what matters most**  
**RÉSULTATS... c'est ce qui compte le plus**

**514 220 6298**

[ddoubt@sutton.com](mailto:ddoubt@sutton.com)

Real Estate Broker / Courtier immobilier  
 Groupe Sutton Centre Ouest





# COUNCIL communiqué



## **STRONG PROPERTY SALES IN MW**

Although the pandemic has slowed down many sectors of the economy, the housing market is not one of them. Property sales in Montreal West have been steady. Our Town remains a desirable place to live, with many young families deciding to settle here. This is not only good news for our community, it is also good for the Town's finances.

### **Duties on property transfers**

All municipalities in Quebec must collect a tax called duties on transfer whenever real estate ownership is transferred. This tax is often referred to as a "Welcome Tax". Although this may seem to be an odd way of welcoming new residents, the term actually derived from the name of a prior provincial minister of Municipal Affairs, Jean Bienvenue, who instituted the tax in 1976.

The tax is calculated by multiplying either the price paid or the market value (whichever is higher at the time of transfer) by a series of incremental rates. These rates are regulated by the provincial government and range from 0.5% to 3.0% depending on the price of the house. The precise formula for our Town can be found on our website.

### **2020 Housing sales**

In 2020, there was a 25% increase in the average selling price of a home in Montreal West from \$741,315 to

\$926,941. This can be partially explained by the new valuation role which came into effect in 2020, in which the values of single family residences increased by an average of 19.1%. As well, when the housing market is strong, which it has been in the past few years, selling prices tend to be well above valuation. In 2019, houses sold at an average of 27% above their valuations, and in 2020, that percent increased to 32% above valuation.

A major contributor to the increase in the average price was that in 2020 Montreal West saw a record number of properties sell for over \$1 million. In fact, 35% of the home sales, or 22 properties, sold for \$1 million or more. Based on discussions with a local real estate agent, this was because there were simply more larger houses on the market last year. Houses in the range of \$600,000 to \$900,000 are still very popular and often have multiple bids, however, there was a limited supply of them in 2020. It should also be noted that in a small market like Mon-

treal West a few high-priced sales can greatly skew the averages.

### **Town revenues**

Thus in 2020, duties on transfer increased to approximately \$950,000, or \$400,000 over the budgeted amount. When duties on transfer for a \$1.2 million house are over \$20,000, duties on the million dollar houses alone count for over \$500,000, or more than half of the total revenue. This additional revenue could not have come in a better year, with revenues from other sources, notably Recreation, expected to be down substantially.

So, despite many financial crises in this pandemic year, Montreal West homeowners can sleep well, knowing their investment is doing well, and so are the Town's finances.

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



## MAJOR 2021 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Every year, in addition to regular infrastructure maintenance, the Town of Montreal West undertakes one or two major reconstruction projects. I would like to outline the two major road infrastructure works scheduled for 2021.

### Avon Road

The entire length of Avon Road needs to be reconstructed, however, due to the complexity of this project, the construction work will be divided into two parts. The section west of the Westminster intersection down to the bridge into Ville Saint-Pierre will be done first. The work in this area will include resurfacing the road and repairing its foundation, and will take place this May or June. Since Avon is one of

the Town's main arteries, residents will be advised well in advance so they can plan their travel accordingly.

The section of Avon which runs from Westminster to the NDG border is scheduled to be redone in 2022.

### Fenwick Avenue

The second major road construction to be undertaken this year will be both blocks of Fenwick Avenue. The work will take place during the summer and

will include complete reconstruction of the sewer and water networks, and replacement of the roadbed, sidewalks, street lights, and fire hydrants.

As always, a couple of weeks before the beginning of this construction project, the Town will invite residents of Fenwick to an information session. This session will allow the Town and its contractors to explain the project, including the timetable and responsibilities of all stakeholders. It will also provide an opportunity for residents to meet the construction team, express any concerns, and ask questions related to the project.

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



## DAY CAMP 2021

Recently, I've gotten many inquiries about whether there will be a MoWest day camp this year, since in 2020 government directives made it impossible to organize anything resembling a summer camp. This year, however, things seem to be looking up and we fervently hope to be able to offer the service.

In saying this however, I want to be clear that, in the end, our ability to operate any camp is dependant on a very wily virus and the government's response to it. So there are no guarantees. But we understand how important this service is to MoWest families and have been moving ahead, on schedule, with plans for a camp.

For instance, we have opened applications for camp managers, made arrangements with local schools for rainy day and heatwave facilities and begun to create a number of probable scenarios for staffing and registration.

So when will registration open? As of the time of writing, we still do not have sufficient information to begin enrolling campers

(though its conceivable this will have changed by the time of reading). Certainly, 2021 will not be a typical year and our programming will have to look quite different. In fact, the majority of city-run camps on the Island, working under the same uncertainties, have yet to open registration.

### What questions are we analyzing?

There are several things to consider carefully: Will our camp accept non-residents (as usual) or residents only? How many campers can we safely accommodate at one time and in the available indoor spaces? If space is severely limited, how many weeks will each child be allowed to enrol? Last year the pool season was very

successful, but required severe limitations on attendance. What actual programming can we offer? Can we provide extended after-hours activities? The type of programming, of course, is critical for many parents in considering any camp, and it would be imprudent to accept registrations before having a firm handle on what we can provide. But please rest assured, the analysis of these questions is the top priority of the Rec Department at the moment, and all will be resolved shortly.

Some residents, anxious to begin registrations immediately, have pointed to the ability of schools to open and asked why camps should be any different. But, of course, in school children are required to sit masked

at desks all day, with the potentially problematic social activities eliminated. That's hardly the summer camp experience we'd be looking to offer. Registration will proceed when we know what we can provide – and what parents will be asked to pay for.

Throughout the pandemic the Rec Department has offered as many services as possible, reorganizing traditional activities and inventing new ones – and our strong commitment to running a camp is no different.

We know how important it is for MoWest families to plan for summer activities and childcare. Please know that we're doing our best in this very uncertain environment to ensure residents have as many of the services they've come to depend on as possible.

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



# communiqué du CONSEIL



## FORTES VENTES DE BIENS IMMOBILIERS À MO-OUEST

Bien que la pandémie ait ralenti de nombreux secteurs de l'économie, le marché du logement n'en fait pas partie. Les ventes de propriétés à Montréal-Ouest sont restées stables. Notre ville demeure un endroit où il fait bon vivre, avec des nombreuses jeunes familles ayant décidé de s'y installer. C'est non seulement une bonne nouvelle pour notre communauté, mais aussi pour les finances de la Ville.

### Droits sur les transferts de propriété

Toutes les municipalités du Québec doivent percevoir une taxe appelée droit de mutation lors du transfert de propriété d'un bien immobilier. Cette taxe est souvent appelée « taxe de bienvenue ». Bien qu'il puisse sembler étrange d'accueillir de nouveaux résidents de cette manière, le terme provient en fait du nom d'un ancien ministre provincial des Affaires municipales, Jean Bienvenue, qui a institué cette taxe en 1976.

La taxe est calculée en multipliant soit le prix payé, soit la valeur marchande (la plus élevée des deux au moment du transfert) par une série de taux progressifs. Ces taux sont réglementés par le gouvernement provincial et vont de 0,5 % à 3 % selon le prix de la maison. La formule précise pour notre Ville se trouve sur notre site Web.

### Ventes de logements en 2020

En 2020, le prix de vente moyen d'une maison à Montréal-Ouest a augmenté de 25 %, passant de 741 315 \$ à 926 941 \$. Cela peut s'expliquer en partie par le nouveau rôle d'évaluation entré

en vigueur en 2020, dans lequel la valeur des résidences unifamiliales a augmenté en moyenne de 19,1 %. De plus, lorsque le marché du logement est fort, ce qui a été le cas ces dernières années, les prix de vente ont tendance à être bien supérieurs à l'évaluation. En 2019, les maisons se sont vendues en moyenne à 27 % au-dessus de leur évaluation, et en 2020, ce pourcentage est passé à 32 % au-dessus de l'évaluation.

L'un des principaux facteurs ayant contribué à l'augmentation du prix moyen est qu'en 2020, Montréal-Ouest a vu un nombre record de propriétés se vendre pour plus d'un million de dollars. En fait, 35 % des ventes de maisons, soit 22 propriétés, se sont vendues pour un million de dollars ou plus. D'après un agent immobilier local, cela s'explique par le simple fait qu'il y avait plus de grandes maisons sur le marché l'année dernière. Les maisons de 600 000 à 900 000 \$ sont toujours très populaires et font souvent l'objet de plusieurs offres, mais leur nombre était limité en 2020. Il faut également noter que dans un petit marché comme Montréal-Ouest, quelques

ventes à prix élevé peuvent grandement fausser les moyennes.

### Revenus de la ville

Ainsi, en 2020, les droits de mutation ont augmenté pour atteindre environ 950 000 \$, soit 400 000 \$ de plus que le montant budgété. Lorsque les droits de mutation pour une maison de 1,2 million de \$ sont supérieurs à 20 000 \$, les droits sur les maisons d'un million de dollars représentent à eux seuls plus de 500 000 \$, soit plus de la moitié des recettes totales. Ces revenus supplémentaires n'auraient pas pu être obtenus à un meilleur moment, sachant que les revenus d'autres sources, notamment des loisirs, devaient diminuer considérablement cette année.

Ainsi, malgré les nombreuses crises financières de cette année de pandémie, les propriétaires de Montréal-Ouest peuvent dormir tranquillement, sachant que leur investissement se porte bien, tout comme les finances de la Ville.

Colleen Feeney, *conseillère Finance, Administration, Ressources humaines et Urbanisme*  
[cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca](mailto:cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca)



## PROJETS D'INFRASTRUCTURE PRINCIPAUX EN 2021

Chaque année, en plus de l'entretien régulier des infrastructures, la Ville de Montréal-Ouest entreprend un ou deux grands projets de reconstruction. Laissez-moi vous présenter les deux projets principaux de travaux d'infrastructures routières prévus pour 2021.

### Chemin Avon

Le chemin Avon doit être reconstruit en totalité, mais en raison de la complexité de ce projet, les travaux de construction seront divisés en deux parties. La partie à l'ouest de l'intersection de Westminster jusqu'au pont de Ville Saint-Pierre sera réalisée en premier. Les travaux dans cette zone auront lieu en mai ou juin et comprendront le resurfacement de la route et la réparation de ses fondations. Comme Avon est

l'une des artères principales de la ville, les résidents seront informés à l'avance.

La section d'Avon qui s'étend de Westminster jusqu'à la frontière avec CDN-NDG devrait être refaite en 2022.

### Avenue Fenwick

Le deuxième projet principal de construction routière cette année concernera les deux blocs de l'avenue Fenwick. Les travaux se dérouleront pendant l'été et comprendront la reconstruction

complète des réseaux d'égouts et d'eau, ainsi que le remplacement de la plateforme, des trottoirs, des lampadaires et des bouches d'incendie.

Comme d'habitude, la Ville invitera les résidents de Fenwick à une séance d'information quelques semaines avant le début de ce projet de construction. Cette session permettra à la Ville et ses entrepreneurs d'expliquer le projet, y compris le calendrier des travaux et les responsabilités de toutes les parties prenantes. Elle donnera également l'occasion aux résidents de rencontrer l'équipe de construction, d'exprimer leurs préoccupations et de poser des questions sur le projet.

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



## CAMP DE JOUR 2021

J'ai reçu beaucoup de demandes récemment concernant l'ouverture ou non d'un camp de jour à Mo-Ouest cette année, puisque les directives du gouvernement en 2020 n'ont pas permis d'organiser un semblant de camp d'été. Cette année, cependant, les choses semblent s'améliorer et nous espérons vivement être en mesure d'offrir ce service.

J'aimerais cependant être claire sur le fait que, finalement, la gestion des camps de jour dépend d'un virus très rusé et de la réponse du gouvernement à celui-ci. Il n'y a donc aucune garantie. Mais nous sommes conscients de l'importance de ce service pour les familles de Mo-Ouest et nous avons travaillé, dans les délais prévus, à la planification d'un camp.

Par exemple, les candidatures sont ouvertes pour les gestionnaires de camps, nous avons pris des dispositions avec les écoles locales pour nous y installer en cas de pluie ou de canicule et avons commencé à réfléchir à un certain nombre de scénarios possibles concernant le personnel et les inscriptions.

Quand pourrez-vous inscrire vos enfants? Au moment où nous écrivons ces lignes, nous n'avons pas encore suffisamment d'informations pour commencer

les inscriptions (bien que cela ait pu changer entre l'écriture et la publication de cet article). Il est certain que 2021 ne sera pas une année typique et que notre programmation devra être différente. En fait, la majorité des camps gérés par les villes de l'île, qui travaillent dans la même incertitude que nous, n'ont pas encore ouvert les inscriptions.

### À quelles questions essayons-nous de répondre?

Il y a plusieurs choses à considérer avec attention : notre camp acceptera-t-il des non-résidents (comme d'habitude) ou seulement des résidents? Combien de campeurs pouvons-nous accueillir à la fois, en toute sécurité, et dans les espaces intérieurs disponibles? Si les places sont très limitées, à combien de semaines de camp pourra s'inscrire chaque enfant? L'année der-

nière, la saison des piscines a été un succès, mais avec une capacité d'accueil très limitée. Quelle programmation pouvons-nous offrir? Pouvons-nous proposer des activités en dehors des heures d'ouverture? Bien entendu, le type de programmation est essentiel pour de nombreux parents qui envisagent d'inscrire leur enfant à un camp et il serait imprudent d'accepter des inscriptions avant d'avoir une idée précise de ce que nous allons pouvoir offrir. Répondre à ces questions est la priorité absolue du service des loisirs et nous en saurons davantage rapidement.

Certains résidents, qui souhaiteraient commencer les inscriptions dès maintenant, ont souligné le fait que les écoles pouvaient ouvrir et se demandent pourquoi ce serait différent pour les camps. Mais à l'école, les enfants doivent rester assis

toute la journée, masqués, ce qui met de côté les activités sociales qui pourraient potentiellement être problématiques. Ce n'est pas vraiment l'expérience que nous souhaitons offrir lors de nos camps. Les inscriptions débiteront lorsque nous saurons ce que nous sommes en mesure d'offrir – et pour quelles activités les parents vont payer.

Tout au long de la pandémie, le service des loisirs a offert autant de services que possible, en réorganisant les activités habituelles et en inventant de nouvelles – et il en sera de même concernant notre engagement à organiser un camp. Nous savons à quel point il est important pour les familles de Mo-Ouest de prévoir les activités d'été et la garde des enfants. Sachez que nous faisons au mieux dans les conditions actuelles pour que les résidents bénéficient du plus grand nombre de services auxquels ils sont habitués.

Elizabeth Ulin, *conseillère Loisirs, Culture et Communications*  
[eulin@montreal-ouest.ca](mailto:eulin@montreal-ouest.ca)



Dr. Michael J. Wexel  
Chiropractor / Chiropraticien  
Tel: 773-7246  
E-mail: drmjwexel@videotron.ca

18 Westminster N., Suite 110  
Montreal West, QC H4X 1Y8

JANE F. LEE, B.Sc., D.D.S.  
Chirurgien Dentiste - Dental Surgeon

63 WESTMINSTER N  
MONTREAL WEST  
H4X 1Y8

369-0255

## AUTO EVOLUTION 95 inc



### GENERAL MECHANICS

- Brakes
- Suspension
- Tune up
- Tires
- Air conditioning
- Electronic



### BODY REPAIR

- Collision & Body repair
- Painting
- Insurance claims
- Free estimation
- Courtesy cars



514-485-8101

11 WESTMINSTER SUD  
(south of Sherbrooke)



## BUDNING PHARMACY

*BIG ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU -  
SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU*

40 Westminster North  
Montreal West  
(514) 481-5665

www.groupeproxim.ca

MON TO FRI: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm  
SAT: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



- FULL SERVICE POST OFFICE
- PRESCRIPTION SERVICES
- FREE DELIVERY
- PERSONALIZED SERVICE
- GREETING CARDS & FAXING
- PET HEALTH SECTION

### EXCLUSIVELY USING ECO-FRIENDLY SOLVON K4

- Biodegradable
- Dermatologically safe
- Non-toxic
- Odourless
- Organic
- 100% Green

*all at no extra cost*

Nettoyeurs • Cleaners Tél: (514) 488-6220  
**WESTMINSTER**  
94 Westminister N., Mtl West H4X 1Z2



*Catherine Gardner*

Real estate broker - Courtier immobilier  
catherine@cathgardner.com

(514) 793-5608



Integrative  
Health Centre

*Discover the source  
of your well-being*

SINCE 2006

**Kadeja Lefebvre B.Sc. ND**  
Member of the Canadian Association  
of Naturopathic Doctors

**André Lalonde M.Sc.S, ND, LMT**  
Naturopathic Clinician  
Licensed Massage Therapist

**Jennifer Brennan, M.Sc., CNS**  
Nutrition Practitioner

**Tiffany Bukacheski M.A., OPQ**  
Licensed Psychologist

*An integrative and interdisciplinary  
approach to wellness.*

Come see us to learn more about our services  
www.ihcmontreal.com • 514 485 6789

# MoWest: a late bloomer

by Maurice Krystal

## 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.”

Wavell Cowan was invited to join the board of the *Citizens' Association* and the following year became its president. By-laws were proposed and passed that required all board members be elected. The Association changed its role from selecting a slate to encouraging and supporting all nominees who chose to run for any position.

The link between the *Citizens' Association* and the Town Council loosened and finally split when the Council proposed to increase the tax base by building a high-rise apartment building on a small park near the Town Hall.

“The Town Council had authorized the development of a complete architectural plan in the isolated quiet of its own council chambers. This was revealed only when the completed architectural plan for the high-rise apartment was ready and a change in the zoning law was needed to accommodate construction. The public discussion quickly developed a strong opposition. The subsequent election overwhelmingly voted it down. From the perspective of the Town Council, the Citizens' Association was to blame for this humiliating defeat.”

“For the following two years, the Association worked hard to activate the community to build some social infrastructure that could be used by the Town Council, such as Citizen Association committees, to explore solutions for the increasing number of problems affecting the community. This was hard slogging. Meetings set up were poorly attended, and the Town Council remained aloof to these efforts.

## The labyrinth

“The breakthrough came during my third term as president. The failures of the past years led us to the idea of creating an unusual community day. It was scheduled for a Saturday in October, and the community was invited to a day-long opportunity to explore the ‘labyrinth’.

“We made up and arranged theatre flats

continued from the January-February issue

to create a labyrinth in a large open room in the Town Hall. Within this labyrinth were a series of manned displays, each with a focus on a particular, desirable community project that had been studied over the past years. Each solicited the involvement of interested citizens. The layout ensured that each display area was a private part of the labyrinth ‘discovered’ sequentially as one entered and followed a tortuous path before exiting.

“On a delightfully crisp and sunny fall day our hard work was rewarded. All day, I welcomed a steady stream of citizens with an explanation that carried them into the labyrinth. Even the Town councillors and mayor were drawn in. Every display project recruited volunteer energy. It was an amazing day.”

This experience convinced the Town Council to cooperate with the *Citizens' Association* and support a local *Viewpaper*. At this point Wavell left the association, now a viable and stable organization, and took on the task of the newspaper. With volunteer support provided by the labyrinth, *The Informer* was launched in 1972.

“The next milestone was achieved a year or so later when the Town election cycle returned. With the help of *The Informer* the *Citizens' Association* publicized a drive for nominees and assisted those who stepped forward.”

## The election of 1973

The headline in the October, 1973 edition of *The Informer* announced, “First Contested Election for Mayor in History of Montreal West”.

The article continued, “A study of the records on the Town Hall archives indicates

that on six occasions since the town was incorporated in 1897 there have been contested elections for posts on the Commission, although the most recent of these was in 1927. Prior to 1921 the post of Mayor was assigned by the Commission to one of the Commissioners on a year-by-year basis.”

Three people came forward to run for mayor that year: **Elizabeth O’Neill**, **Alastair Reekie** and **Desmond Lartigue**. For the position of Commissioner, only Commissioner 2, in charge of police and fire, had an election. The others were acclaimed. Mr. Reekie won the Mayor’s position.

In Wavell’s view the “pre-election publicity in *The Informer* produced a level of interest that made for an exciting election day. Although at first bitterly opposed to the idea of the election as an unnecessary expense, those seeking re-election were mostly successful. They came to appreciate the greater commitment they now felt in discharging their responsibilities.”

But not everyone saw this tentative toe placed into the body of water called democracy as a positive move. *The Informer* received a number of letters before and after the election complaining about the new way of selecting a municipal council.

## The reaction

As one citizen put it, “I am writing to request that the *Citizens' Association* revert to its former practice of nominating a slate of officers for the Town Council and hold a general meeting before the official nomination day.... A screening or selection... is highly desirable.... Some desirable candidates will refuse to let their names stand if faced with the probability of an election. Unfortunately, some candidates value the publicity that accrues them when running for office”.



**RE/MAX ACTION INC.**  
AGENCE IMMOBILIÈRE  
Franchise indépendante et autonome de RE/MAX Québec Inc.

**Marie-Antoinette Del Peschio**  
Courtier Immobilier | Real Estate Broker

C 514.894.9929  
F 514.483.9929

1314 Av. Greene,  
Westmount, QC H3Z 2B1  
T (514) 933.6781

remax@tonidelpeschio.com  
www.tonidelpeschio.com

ENGAGEMENT  
COMMITMENT

QSC  
Qualité de Service à la Clientèle

Tranquill-T



Another letter points out that, “to run an election costs the Town \$10,000. If no one is nominated for any position the Quebec Government places a man in the job until a further election is held.”

In the issue after the election, one letter, by **Bill Boswell**, seemed to sum up the election process that probably most readers today would tend to agree with.

“Three cheers for the Montreal West *Citizens’ Association*, who by their action in refusing to put forward a slate of candidates in the recent election, forced us for the first time in many years to do some serious thinking about our civic responsibilities.... Choosing and thinking are often not very pleasant activities. Nevertheless, they are crucial if we value the type of society in which we live. The recent election has generated interest and participation on the part of many residents. Let us hope it continues, and in the meantime thank the Citizens’ Association who were responsible for it’s taking place.”

### The social fabric

**Frances Phelan**, who wrote many clever and witty articles, including Informally Yours, for *The Informer* in the 70s, recently commented about the town’s social fabric during this decade.

“In the early 70’s, MoWest was emerging from the establishment-Anglo-Protestant enclave it had been. In earlier times there was a sort of bias that was not uncommon. There was an elitism about the community, (garbage bins were never put at the front, but picked up from backyards by the sanitation workers and neatly returned. There were “blue” bylaws in place, no alcohol sold, etc.)

“All of which is to say that egalitarian sensibilities were likely long overdue, and it surely needed someone like Wavell to get the ball rolling. I suspect the Town may

have been run like an old boy’s’ club, or the *CPR* boardroom. I also believe that the spirit of volunteerism that evolved and became manifest in everything from The Informer to the library to the kids’ sports groups was also a feature of having such a small tax base, making funding for these likely too costly, at least back then.”

### Lessons learnt

I have learned a lot doing the research for this article. At first it seemed that the focus was the delayed evolution of democracy in MoWest, but ultimately, I came to learn that this was not a battle between the “progressives” and the “old boys’ club”. It is not just the issue of judging the past through the eyes of someone standing in the present. It really asks, what is democracy?

As Wavell said, “It worked until it didn’t.” The officers in the *Citizens’ Association* were elected. Sometimes the numbers were small. Apathy was a constant battle, but that is true today. But this was where the gripes of the community were aired. It may seem undemocratic that this group selected the slate for the Town Council. It is similar to the Electoral College in the USA voting for the President. It’s like an extra layer in the process. Why not just a popular vote by the citizens?

Those who defended the old system in letters to *The Informer* were not necessarily anti-democratic. Some of them supported the idea that the Association did all the vetting and removed the Mayor and Councilors from special interest groups. This way the Town Council remained above the fray. Through today’s eyes, as noble as this philosophy may seem, it does suggest a lack of trust for the ordinary citizen to make an informed choice.

**Pauline Ducharme** believed, “The *Citizens Association* may have died because its reason for existing was no longer valid....

Although, at the time, I remember feeling we had lost a strong arm in governance... the Association kept an eye on what Council was doing.... We were a sleepy little town until the MUC made us grow up and stand up for our rights.”

She may have a point, the creation of the MUC forced the small municipalities on the Island to change or be absorbed. Also, some citizens left the Town during the early seventies due to the political climate in Quebec. Those who stayed were much more flexible in accepting long overdue cultural changes in the province. Those who moved into MoWest were a much more diverse group with different expectations.

I also learned a lot reading back issues of *The Informer* (1973-1989). Many residents’ complaints from the 70s and 80s still haven’t been resolved. These included: the need for a seniors’ residence; fixing a freezing cold arena; repairing crumbling roads and pipes; placement of speed bumps; poor garbage collection; beautification of the shopping area on Westminster; complaints from south of the tracks and north of The Hump that they are being ignored; parking restrictions; restrictive renovation bylaws; dog owners not cleaning up; and, of course, excessive property taxes. History not only repeats, it regurgitates.

What the early editions of *The Informers* had, that is sadly missing, are the many letters to the editor where residents griped or praised. I know the paper will print them, so have we become apathetic or have we just lost the ability to express our convictions? Then there were the Informerly Yours columns. These were light-hearted pieces that told readers who moved out of Town, who moved in, who got engaged, married, promoted, won in tennis, or curling, or whatever. It was a chance to see your name in print. It told readers what their neighbours were up to. It informed in a humorous way.

And finally, you would think there would be some street, park, building or even water fountain that would be named for someone, like Wavell Cowan who fought so hard to bring democracy to our Town. And he does deserve credit even though he moved to Vermont years ago due to his business venture. After all, so many from the “old boys’ club” have their names remembered in MoWest.



Our tutors teach Elementary, High School and Cegep students.



Individualized programs that find the gaps and target areas of difficulty.



Our tutors have deep knowledge of the Quebec mathematics curriculum.

Online sessions available

## Mathematics Tutoring Centre



[www.pdec.ca](http://www.pdec.ca)

514-903-3165 | [ewisenthalmilech@gmail.com](mailto:ewisenthalmilech@gmail.com)  
67 Westminster North, Montreal West, QC

**St. James  
Literary Society**

ONLINE

[stjamesliterarysociety.com](http://stjamesliterarysociety.com)



## The library is open!

As of February 11, the library has once again reopened its doors for visits, for browsing the shelves, choosing different items, borrowing and returns.

We are observing a sanitary protocol in order to assure a safe visit for everyone. For those who still prefer to order a book bag, we are maintaining the popular service: just contact us by e-mail or phone to place your request, and we will prepare a bag taking into account your child's interest, reading level or age.

You can also use our catalogue to make requests for specific titles. Contact us for any questions regarding the use of the catalogue and the reserving procedure. Our vir-

tual programming is still available, and past videos can be found on the web-site.

### Observation d'oiseaux

Avez-vous remarqué les différents oiseaux qui vivent dans la ville ? Il est possible d'en distinguer une multitude. Alors, on vous invite à participer à l'aventure d'observation d'oiseaux ! Contactez la bibliothèque pour demander votre carnet d'observation où vous aller trouver des listes et des images d'oiseaux – pour noter ceux que vous observerez, pour essayer de les dessiner et apprendre leurs noms en français et en anglais. Cette activité est destinée aux enfants de 3 à 10 ans. La date limite de soumission du carnet est le 16 mai. Nous allons le valider et vous offrir une récompense.

### March Break activity: Travel the World

It is not possible to travel far away for real nowadays, but nothing can stop us from exploring different countries and their customs from home. For this year's school break, we have planned an exciting adventure: you can borrow a kit from the library, containing different materials – a passport, books, recipes, videos and other resources – that will assist you in the "travel" to the country of your choice. On our web-site, you can find the full list of the countries we offer. Reserve



Emma Garmaise and her puffy octopus made with the library's Take and Make craft and video

### HOURS / HORAIRE

Mon, Wed, Thu-Fri / lun, mer, jeu-ven :  
9:30-11 am, 3:45-6 pm

Tue / mar :

9:30-11 am, 3:45-7:30 pm

Sat-Sun / sam-dim :

10 am-3 pm

484-7194



info@mwcl.ca mwcl.ca

your country by contacting us.

### Maisy Mouse anniversary

Maisy Mouse, the character created by Lucy Cousins, turned 30 years old on February 10. To mark the occasion, we had lined up a list of activities, as well as a special virtual story time with questions on the Maisy stories. Participants were rewarded a surprise for taking part in this initiative.



The last meeting of the *Horticultural Society* was Monday, February 17, 2020. The speaker was the purple-haired **Sheena Swirlz** who spoke on how to grow sprouts and microgreens indoors. By the time our would-be March 16 meeting was to take place we were in lock-down.

So, this writer decided to take Ms. Swirlz's advice, and I purchased some seeds



for sprouting from the Montreal West Scouts fundraising campaign. I got to work with a mason jar and an old worn-thin tea towel. The process was easy and the results were quick. Within days I had a crop of sprouts to use in salads and sandwiches. And they were good!

Growing sprouts is a great way to get your gardening fix during the winter months. *Vesey's* (veseys.com), where my seeds came from indirectly, has a good selection of seeds for sprouting as well as sprouting kits. Their website also offers everything you could possibly want to get a jump on the growing season including a treasure trove of growing advice.

*Lee Valley* (leevalley.com) has plastic bean sprouting lids that fit preserving jars, and instructional videos under the heading Discover.

**Erin** at *Floret* (floretflowers.com), who has been mentioned before, is offering a free three-part video series on planting flowers from seeds (Cut Flower Garden, Winter Mini Course).

And I may as well once again put in a



plug for the online Canadian gardening magazine *Garden Making* (gardenmaking.com). I look forward to their weekly newsletter of interesting tips and articles. On their website you will also find that some gardening clubs have moved their meetings online and are accepting guests for a small fee. You may get to choose a Travelogue of New Zealand from the Flamborough Horticultural Society or Gardens of Scotland from Stratford, Ontario. It's worth a look.

Until we meet again....

from Sue Sladen

## Kosher corner

### Virtual Purim fun



Purim virtual celebrations at Chabad Westminster were a blast. Great community vibes and laughs with Joey Elias. We thank all those who joined and contributed to the “atmosphere.”

We hope the kids are enjoying their special Purim deliveries!

### New Torah lectures!

As we recently concluded a wonderful two-part course titled Paradigm Shift where we learned to emphasize positivity in life. Chabad Westminster is excited to announce that on March 11 and 18 we will be hosting two Passover related stand-alone Torah lectures on the topics of To Be Free: Is Freedom Subjective and The Rise of Machine-Made Matza. Both are complimentary and open to all, please email [rabbi@chabadwestminster.com](mailto:rabbi@chabadwestminster.com) to RSVP.

### Cooking with company!

Inviting all to a new cooking class on Wednesdays at 11 am. Special options for delivery of ingredients for seniors. Please email [Chaya@chabadwestminster.com](mailto:Chaya@chabadwestminster.com) to join. Chabad Westminster thanks Federation CJA for their support in this initiative!

### Rid your home of chametz

Passover is coming sooner than you think! Take care of the great mitzvah of selling your chametz free of charge at [chabadwestminster.com/chametz](http://chabadwestminster.com/chametz).

*from Rabbi Mendy Marlow*

## News from the pews

### Montreal West United

...the brick one

#### Twelve months but who's counting?

Well, truth be told, we all are. The novelty wore off a good while back. But if being this careful helps, we'll keep doing it.

Q: What's the difference between giving up something for Lent and living with COVID-19 restrictions?

A: You know when Lent is going to end.

If your practice is to forgo something for Lent, this year you might be hard pressed to embrace that concept gracefully. Rather than looking to restrictions, the United Church focuses more on being mindful of others around you. We often have a Lenten challenge where we put something aside each day to provide a donation to a charitable cause. Or we may introduce something like meditation into our day. How ever we mark Lent, like many other faiths around the world, these occasions provide a time to take stock, be compassionate with others and with ourselves. And at the end, there is a big celebration.

#### Zunday School on Zoom

Merrie Hammond has Sunday school up and running on Zoom Sunday mornings after the Children's Moment in the broadcast – so around 10:30 am. Anyone needing the link, phone or email the office and we will get it to you.

#### When might those big oak doors re-open?

There are several factors: a significant drop in COVID-19 cases, the lifting of sufficient restrictions by the governments and the effective applications of vaccines. On

top of that will be people's readiness to trust in the safety of such a move. At the end of it all, we expect there will be aspects of a service – like singing together – that will have to wait a good while before being reintroduced. So, we may be inching towards a resumption of in-person services, but, in the meantime, our on-line services continue.

Search for Montreal West United Church on YouTube or Facebook to watch present and past services. They premiere at 10 am each Sunday and are archived thereafter. To reach Rev. **Mark Hammond**, call us at **482-3210** and leave a message if **Vicky** isn't there or email: [mwuoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mwuoffice@gmail.com).

Keep on with the MDW (Masking, Distancing, Washing)... and just maybe....

*from Susan Upham*

### St. Ignatius of Loyola

Despite so many changes during the COVID-19 quarantine in the way that our church gathers and celebrates, St. Ignatius of Loyola is planning for a meaningful and special Lent and Easter. Beginning in mid-February, we'll have a special homily series on prayer and a regular Way of the Cross meditation each week.

Please check our website ([stig.ca](http://stig.ca)) for the latest details and sign up for the newsletter while you're there! We also have a Facebook page ([facebook.com/stig.ca](https://facebook.com/stig.ca)) and a weekly podcast of the Sunday sermon ([stig.ca/sermons](http://stig.ca/sermons)). Circumstances are changing all the time, but our mission to bring people closer to Jesus remains the same!

*from Rebecca Malone*

### St. Philip's

Except for a brief, partial re-opening in September, it is now almost a year since we shut down worship in our building. But our online worship continues strong, every Sunday at 10 am on GoToMeeting and occasional Evensongs or special services. Please check our Facebook page for the links (always pinned to the top of the page so you don't have to scroll down trying to find it). Decisions about our Holy Week and Easter services will be made mid-March, so please check Facebook for updates, or call the office at **481-4871**.

Our second refugee family is awaiting their interview which has been indefinitely delayed by the pandemic. Our fundraising goal for that sponsorship has been met, and we are half-way to our goal for the third family whose application has been approved by Quebec and is now being processed by the federal government.

*from Fr. Pratt*



**ANDREW BLUNDELL**

**(514) 772.0008**

[ablundell@profusion.global](mailto:ablundell@profusion.global)

Residential Real Estate Broker - Courtier Immobilier Résidentiel  
PROFUSION Realty Inc. - WESTMOUNT, Qc.



**PROFUSION**  
IMMOBILIER

**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

*Local knowledge, international network.*



**Dr. Mark Santaguida, O.D.**  
docteur en optométrie / optometrist

- examen de la vue
- lunettes
- verres de contact
- consultation laser
- eye exams
- glasses
- contact lenses
- laser consultation

514 481-4791

43a av. Westminster Ave. N. Mtl West, QC H4X 1Y8

**DR. BEVERLY LAI**  
Dentist • Dentiste

73 WESTMINSTER N.  
MONTREAL WEST  
H4X 1Y8

514-486-4411



## Little Bear Pet Supplies

Est. 1996

- Friendly and Knowledgeable staff
- Specializing in:  
Raw, Natural, Holistic, and Organic diets
- Many locally sourced treats available
- Free Delivery to Montreal-West  
(some restrictions apply)
- PETS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

514-935-3425

info@littlebearonline.ca

**FOR YOUR DOG! FOR YOUR CAT! FOR YOU!**

4152 St. Catherine W (corner Greene) Westmount, QC H3Z 1P4

## Dr. Michael J. Wexel

### Chiropractor

Low Back Pain  
Muscle Pain  
Numbness & Tingling  
Nutritional Counseling  
CSST & SAAQ



Neck Pain  
Headaches & Migraines  
Stiffness  
Sports Related Injuries  
Wellness & Preventative Care

773-7246

18 Westminster N., Suite 110

Call For An Appointment Today So *You* Can Feel Better Tomorrow.

## COIFFURE LOUIS ROBERT

BEAUHARNOIS - CHATEAUGUAY - MONTREAL WEST - ST-CONSTANT - ST-LAMBERT



Opening hours:

Monday: 9 to 6

Tuesday: 9 to 6

Wednesday: 9 to 8

Thursday: 9 to 8

Friday: 9 to 8

Saturday: 8 to 5

122 Westminster N.  
Montreal West  
514-488-0628

visit us on



*Catherine Gardner*  
Real estate broker - Courtier immobilier

(514) 793-5608



36 BALLANTYNE S. | MLS #14845300



Beautiful turnkey home - 5 bedroom / 2 bath

**Planning to SELL  
but uncertain of the market?**  
We are available to discuss  
your best options.

*Prévoyez de VENDRE mais  
incertain du marché?*  
*Nous sommes disponibles pour  
discuter vos meilleures options.*

**ANDREW BLUNDELL**

Residential real estate broker  
Courtier immobilier résidentiel

(514) 772-0008

**PROFUSION**  
IMMOBILIER

**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

AGENCE IMMOBILIÈRE - REAL ESTATE AGENCY

## Community Centre

### Free and Fun Activities for residents!

Check out our website [montreal-west.ca](http://montreal-west.ca)  
with online events, live zoom activities and ideas to do from home!  
Reserve your spots on Amilia.

#### Around the World with Alex and Margot

7- to 12-year-olds

**March 6: Italy**

**March 13: Australia**

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.

#### Snowshoeing in Strathearn Park

**Thursday, March 4**  
9 am-noon

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

#### Pachamama : Le trésor caché

March 5-7

Virtual Film available 48h.

Presented by / Présenté par le *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée* and / et *FIFEM (Festival international du film pour enfants de Montréal)*



#### Family Trivia Night

**Saturday, March 6, 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

#### Creative Snowman Contest!

Submit your photo on the website. **Deadline extended to March 7.** Top three winners will be announced early March and in the next *Informer*.

#### MoWest Virtual St-Patrick's Concert Wednesday, March 17

Put on your best green outfit and join your neighbors from the North, Centre and South of Town to toast to everyone's health and dance your best Irish jig Sláinte!

See the website for more details.

#### EGG Hunt in the Park

**Sunday, March 28**

Free! Families must register on Amilia to participate. Spaces are limited, Montreal West residents only.

#### EGGcellent Art around Town

**March 27-April 5**

Anyone can join the EGGcellent Art around Town! Get out your paint, markers, crayons and your craft materials or anything else you may need to get creative.

Decorate your windows, door, sidewalk, trees or yard for all to see.

Submit your images of your EGGcellent Art or what you find on your walk around Town to the Town website or contact **Kailin** at **484-6186**.

#### Spring Adult Fitness, Children and Youth Programs

Registration is opened for the spring programs on Amilia. Programs will be only virtually until government guidelines change to allow for LIVE classes.

##### Spring session begins April 12.

Here are a few of our spring classes: Zumba for kids, Ballet, Pre-Ballet, Red Cross Babysitting and Stay Safe and Manga.

Fitness: Barre, Essentrics, Stretching, TRX, Zumba, Older Adult Balance, 65+ Fitness, Strong Nation, Yoga for Stiff Men, Yogalates, Reach and Whimsical Art.

## 50+ Club

### March



- 16** Let's Talk about Fraud with SPVM  
Station 9 presenters:  
Community Relations Officers **Angela Rankin** and **Vincent De Angelis**
- 30** *Senior Discovery Tours*. Presenter: **Ruby Simard**. 1pm

### April

- 8** Stunning British Columbia and the Rocky Mountains. Presenter: **Frederic Hore**. 1:30 pm
- 13** Time, a History. Presenter: **Bruno Stenson**. 1 pm

### We're all in this Together

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

Episodes 1-5 available on their YouTube page: Art Therapy and Mindfulness and Movement, Author Conversations, Louise Penny and more.

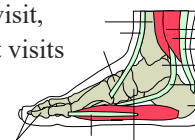
For more information email: [recreation@montreal-west.ca](mailto:recreation@montreal-west.ca) or call **Kailin** at **484-6186**.

### Foot clinics

**March 10 & April 14**

**484-6186**

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






*Sandra* & *MICHAEL*  
**ZACHOW | LEGARE**  
**ROSCANU | REAL ESTATE**  
RE/MAX ACTION

**VENDRE VOTRE MAISON POUR UN PRIX ÉLEVÉ,  
C'EST CE QUE NOUS FAISONS LE MIEUX!**

**SELLING YOUR HOME FOR TOP  
DOLLARS IS WHAT WE DO BEST!**

RE/MAX ACTION  
1225 AV. GREENE | WESTMOUNT H3Z 2A5

## Town Council meeting: January



by Carol Foster

Acknowledging that we are all starting this new year with continuing and tiring COVID-19 restrictions as well as a newly mandated curfew, the Mayor urged everyone to remember this community is a caring one and used to coming together and helping each other and “we will remain all in this together.”

He gave answers to some of the questions he has been asked during the past month.

- The Town will be delaying payment of property taxes until May 25 and August 27. After negotiations led by the Mayor on behalf of the demerged municipalities, deadlines for the payments of the agglomeration taxes will also be deferred for the towns which defer their property tax deadlines.
- To respect the curfew, garbage and recycling bins should be put out before 8 pm on the evening preceding the collection.
- The flashing red light at the intersection of Westminster and Avon will not become permanent; it is caused by a problem in the control box. The Town is working with KPH Turcot in order to resolve the problem.
- The outdoor rinks are a huge success. Thanks are due to the Town’s teams who have developed a new configuration, new places and continued maintenance to allow more residents to fully enjoy the outdoors. He added that the COVID-19 regulations must be respected at all times.
- It is never acceptable to interfere with the work being done by the Town workers or their equipment. The Town or an elected official in charge of the operation in question must be notified of any problem resulting from one of their decisions. Respect for the residents is part of the Town’s staff’s job and the converse must also be true.
- The new garbage collection day is Thursday. Although three different notices have been sent out to remind everyone, not all have been paying attention.

The Mayor ended his report by urging everyone to “continue to be safe and stay safe!”

### Question period

Council was asked if the Town had any plans for a public consultation on the Easton project in order to address some issues that were not fully covered in the virtual sales presentation by the company. These concerns included traffic, contamination of the property, safety at the five-way intersection, parking for library patrons and the removal of the John Simms designated green space.

The Mayor explained that decontamination of the land, if necessary, will be the responsibility of the developer who will have to follow the existing rules. Traffic concerns, as well as safety at the intersection, will be addressed by the Town in consultation with the Traffic and Safety Committee and appropriate adjustments will be made when needed. The parking space on Westminster, designated for those with decreased mobility will remain and library members can use parking spots behind the Town Hall. The John Simms Park will be a part of the development but it has not yet been decided where it will be located.

Garbage not being picked up on several streets as well as a garbage can being destroyed were problems brought. Both the Mayor and **Councillor Torres** explained that a new company is now being used for the garbage pickup and adjustments required by both the company and the residents may be the cause of the first problem. The change in the day for garbage pickup from Friday to Thursday is still confusing some residents as well as the fact that the pickup now begins as early as 7 am. When a pickup is missed or a garbage can destroyed, Public Works should be notified.

What should be included in the recycling bins remains a question for others. The answer to some of these queries can be found on either the Town’s website or by downloading the *Recyc-Québec* app called *Ça va où ?* Recycling questions not covered there can be forwarded to Public Works for discussion in their establishment of a Waste Management Strategy Plan.

Explanations were provided by **Councillor Mazzone** to a query about the issuing of overnight parking permits to many residents on Hudson. It was explained that due to the many multiple residential units as well as the limited use of some of the driveways on that street, there is a need for these permits.

Appreciation was expressed by several residents for the many opportunities being provided by the Town for outdoor winter activities during this pandemic-plagued winter. It was suggested that since the big tobogganing hill was so popular, it would also be nice to have a smaller sledding hill available for younger children. Another suggestion was to continue providing rinks in the parks every year.

**Councillor Ulin** replied that this pandemic has offered an opportunity for some creative thinking and an evaluation of all these innovations, including costs and maintenance, will be taking place.

At the same time as winter activities were being discussed, another resident was anxious to know when the applications for staff for the pool and the day camps would be available. Although it is still too soon to tell whether

those activities will go on, the hope is that decisions can be made by early spring was, Councillor Ulin’s reply. As for the hiring, the process will start soon, as it did last year, so we will be ready should the need arise.

Another seasonal comment came from a dog owner who was sorry the lights on the tree trunks in the park beside the dog park were removed with the rest of the Town’s Christmas lights. She felt that not only did they add an element of safety for women, walking their dogs alone, but the colourful lights reflected the optimism of the pandemic rainbows.

### Councillors’ reports

Councillor Ulin reported that, unfortunately, the annual March Break camp will have to be cancelled. However, in addition to the virtual programs now being offered by the Town, there are also many outdoor activities available. In addition to the skating rinks, a free cross-country ski trail is being maintained and popup entertainment will be appearing at some of the rinks to help keep residents enjoying being outdoors. And, in the spirit of the season, the theme of the next art exhibit will be “The Great Outdoors.”

An unusual number of applications for building permits were received in January, so it looks like a busy construction season ahead.

Councillor Torres, once again, reviewed the regulations in effect during snow removal operations with an emphasis on respect for the snow removal signs. The Public Works Department is reviewing the proper disposal of PPE including masks now being handed out in the schools.

Councillor Mazzone reported that January has been a very quiet month. There were two break-and-entries reported to the police and he reminded residents that the Town should also be alerted to these incidents when they occur. The extension for the issuing of parking permits and dog licences is now over and fines will be issued in cases of their absence.

Council adopted a bylaw which allows for the extension of the payment of taxes for the fiscal year 2021 and the meeting was adjourned.

**Tom Mallon**  
Engineering Technologist

### Home Maintenance & Repairs

NEQ: 2264576507

22 Brynmor  
Montreal West, Qc  
H4X 2A9

**514 651 4955**  
tpmalco@hotmail.com

## Réunion du Conseil : janvier



par Carol Foster  
traduction par René Boucher

Reconnaissant que nous amorçons cette nouvelle année avec d'ennuyeuses restrictions dues à la COVID-19 qui se poursuivent ainsi que l'ajout d'un couvre-feu, le maire a incité les citoyens à garder en tête que nous vivons dans une communauté bienveillante qui se tient et s'entraide et que « nous traverserons cette épreuve ensemble ».

Il a ensuite répondu à des questions qui lui ont été posées au cours du mois.

- La Ville reportera le paiement des taxes foncières au 25 mai et 27 août. Par suite de négociations menées par le maire pour les municipalités liées, les dates limites de paiement des taxes à l'agglomération seront repoussées pour les villes qui feront de même pour leurs citoyens.
- Pour respecter le couvre-feu, l'on devrait sortir les bacs de recyclage et les poubelles avant 20 h la veille de la collecte.
- Les feux rouges à l'intersection Westminster et Avon ne clignoteront pas en permanence; il y a une déféctuosité dans le module de contrôle. La Ville travaille avec *KPH Turcot* pour résoudre le problème.
- Les patinoires extérieures connaissent un grand succès. Merci aux équipes de la Ville qui ont préparé une nouvelle configuration, de nouveaux endroits et un entretien continu pour permettre à plus de résidents de profiter du plein air. Il a ajouté que l'on doit respecter les consignes COVID-19 en tout temps.
- Il n'est jamais acceptable d'entraver le travail du personnel de la Ville. On doit communiquer tout problème découlant d'une décision de la Ville à l'Administration ou à un élu responsable de l'opération en question. Le respect des citoyens fait partie de la tâche des employés de la Ville et la réciproque doit aussi s'appliquer.
- La collecte des ordures se fait maintenant le jeudi. Malgré trois annonces distinctes, certains ne font toujours pas attention.

Le maire a terminé son rapport en encourageant tout un chacun à « continuer d'être prudent et de rester en santé ».

### Période de questions

On a demandé au Conseil si une consultation publique sur le projet Easton était dans les plans afin d'aborder certains points incomplètement couverts lors de la présentation de vente virtuelle de l'entrepreneur. Les préoccupations incluaient la contamination du terrain, la sécurité à l'intersection

à cinq branches, le stationnement pour la bibliothèque et le retrait de l'espace vert John Simms. Le maire a expliqué qu'il appartiendra au promoteur de décontaminer le sol, si nécessaire, et qu'il devra respecter les règles en vigueur. La Ville analysera la circulation et la sécurité à l'intersection en consultation avec le comité de circulation et de sécurité (CCS) et les modifications appropriées seront apportées au besoin. La case de stationnement pour personnes à mobilité réduite sur Westminster demeurera et les usagers de la bibliothèque pourront se garer derrière l'hôtel de ville. Le parc John Simms sera intégré au projet, mais son emplacement n'est pas encore décidé.

Des ordures non ramassées sur certaines rues ainsi que des poubelles détruites ont été signalées. Le maire et la **conseillère Torres** ont expliqué qu'un nouvel entrepreneur a été retenu pour la collecte et des ajustements requis de la part de la compagnie et de certains résidents pourraient être en cause pour le premier problème. Le changement de journée de collecte, du vendredi au jeudi, semble encore confondre certains citoyens de même que le début hâtif du ramassage à compter de 7 h. Si des ordures ne sont pas ramassées ou si une poubelle est détruite, on doit en informer les Travaux publics.

Certains se questionnent encore sur ce qui doit aller dans le bac de recyclage. Des réponses se trouvent soit sur le site Web de la Ville ou en téléchargeant l'appli *Ça va où?* de Recyc-Québec. Les questions de recyclage qui ne sont pas couvertes peuvent être adressées aux Travaux publics pour discussion lors de l'élaboration de la stratégie de gestion des déchets.

Le **conseiller Mazzone** a fourni des précisions concernant l'octroi de permis de stationnement de nuit à de nombreux résidents sur l'avenue Hudson. Il a expliqué qu'en raison des nombreux bâtiments multirésidentiels ainsi qu'à l'utilisation limitée de certaines allées sur cette rue, il existe un réel besoin pour ces permis.

De nombreux résidents ont exprimé leur gratitude pour les multiples opportunités d'activités hivernales extérieures qu'offre la Ville durant cet hiver pandémique. Vu la forte popularité de la grosse pente pour la glissade, il est suggéré d'en aménager une plus petite pour les jeunes enfants. Une autre suggestion voulait que les patinoires se perpétuent chaque année dans les parcs.

La **conseillère Ulin** a souligné que cette pandémie avait offert l'occasion d'être créatifs et l'on procédera à l'évaluation de ces innovations, incluant leur coût et leur entretien.

Alors que la discussion visait les activités hivernales, une autre résidente voulait savoir quand les offres d'emploi pour le personnel de la piscine et les camps de jour seraient diffusées. Ulin a indiqué que, bien

qu'il soit encore trop tôt pour décider si ces activités auront lieu, on espère pouvoir le faire au début du printemps. Quant aux offres d'emploi, le processus s'engagera sous peu comme l'an dernier, de sorte que nous serons prêts si le besoin se présente.

Une propriétaire de chien s'est dite navrée que les lumières sur les troncs d'arbres à côté du parc à chiens aient été enlevées avec les autres décorations de Noël. Selon elle, en plus d'ajouter un élément de sécurité pour les femmes qui promènent seules leurs chiens, ces ampoules colorées reflétaient l'optimisme des arcs-en-ciel de la pandémie.

### Rapports des membres du Conseil

La conseillère Ulin a rapporté que, malheureusement, le camp de la semaine de relâche annuelle sera annulé. Cependant, outre les programmes virtuels que propose la Ville, bon nombre d'activités extérieures sont offertes. En plus des patinoires, une piste pour ski de fond est entretenue et des divertissements ponctuels apparaîtront à certaines patinoires pour aider les gens à profiter du plein air. Et dans l'esprit de la saison, le thème de la prochaine Vitrine artistique sera « Le Plein air ».

Janvier a connu un nombre inhabituel de demandes de permis de construction, laissant présager une période de construction occupée.

La conseillère Torres a, à nouveau, révisé la réglementation en vigueur pour l'enlèvement de la neige en insistant sur le respect des panneaux de déneigement. Les Travaux publics examinent l'élimination appropriée des EPI, dont les masques que les écoles distribuent maintenant.

Le conseiller Mazzone a rapporté un mois de janvier très calme. Il y a eu deux introductions par effraction signalées aux policiers et Mazzone a rappelé aux citoyens que la Ville devrait aussi être informée de ces incidents. La prolongation de la période d'émission des permis pour chiens et de stationnement est terminée et des amendes seront imposées aux délinquants.

Le Conseil a adopté un règlement permettant le report des dates d'échéances des impôts fonciers pour l'exercice fiscal 2021, et ensuite la séance était levée.

**Catherine Eustace**  
B.A., B.S.W., LL.B.

Avocate-médiatrice  
Attorney-mediator

425 Place Jacques Cartier  
Suite 10, Montréal QC H2Y 3B1

T. 514 866-4666  
F. 514 866-4667

ceustace@collardeustace.com  
www.collardeustace.com



IN MEMORIAM

# Butters

January 28, 2021

**Butters** was fatally injured in a vehicle collision on the corner of Côte Saint-Luc and Westminster at dusk while the police were escorting her off the road as they have been seen doing regularly. Our feathered celebrity, our local wild turkey brought much joy to many during the COVID-19 pandemic. She increased community bonding with upsurge of wildlife awareness.

## She opened our hearts

Mascot to many and climate harbinger to others. As more green spaces shrink due to urban sprawl, wildlife has been looking for safer havens. They return and reclaim old territories. In return, to honour her presence, we should vow to make room for wildlife in our urban landscapes. She was beloved and will be remembered in our caring actions towards other returning species.

*from Louise Chênevert*



Montreal West awaits spring



Butters in Strathearn Park by Russell Carter

My son **Russell** and I walk to school across Strathearn park every day, and one day came right up to Butters (unbeknownst to us!) who was hiding under the slide in the playground. She made her presence known with a loud, but friendly gobble gobble, and Russell recorded the event that day at Edinburgh with the attached drawing.

*from Morgan Carter*

## Erratum

In the article (last issue of *The Informer*) on page 24 about the Christmas window at *Antiquités Cacharel*, the name of the owner should have read **André Choquette**, not Nicholas Choquette.

A February night on Brock North



## COMING EVENTS / À VENIR

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

Next deadline: March 10

### March

- Wed 17 Tea and Books.** Public Library. Please sign up at: mwpl.ca.
- Wed 17 MoWest Virtual St-Patrick's Concert.** See website for details.
- Mon 22 Town Council meeting.** Online at: facebook.com/montrealwest. 8 pm.

**ACTIVITÉS DE LA SEMAINE DE RELÂCHE 2021**

**MARCH BREAK ACTIVITIES**

Essayez la raquette  
Le 4 mars @9h-12h

Try snowshoeing on  
March 4th!

Visionnement  
en ligne du film  
Pachamama : Le  
trésor sacré  
5 mars

Online Movie Viewing  
Pachamama : Le  
trésor sacré  
March 5th

Défi du bonhomme de  
neige!  
Dernière journée:  
7 mars

Snowman Challenge!  
Last chance to enter:  
March 7th

Soirée Quiz en  
famille!  
6 Mars @19h

Family Trivia  
Night!  
March 6th @7PM

Chasse au trésor de  
Montréal-Ouest!

Montreal West  
Scavenger Hunt!

INFO ET AUTRES ACTIVITÉS / OTHER ACTIVITIES  
www.montreal-ouest.ca / 514-484-6186