



Jenn Ruvo and Josie Spano in the window of *Les Delices Lafrenaie Montréal-Ouest*

Josie Spano:

MoWest loses a special woman

On December 9, 2021 we lost a bright and shining star when **Josie Spano** of *Les Delices Lafrenaie Montréal-Ouest* passed away after a long, hard-fought battle with cancer at the young age of 53. Josie first established herself in Montreal West at Trattoria Westminster and built a loyal following, many of whom met at her café early in the morning to enjoy a cup of coffee, a baked treat and a chat.

Next in line would be the young mothers after dropping their children off at daycare or school and, in the afternoon, there would be many more gatherings.

When the opportunity arose for Josie to move across the street to new premises, her daughter **Jenn Ruvo** became her partner in the new enterprise, *Les Delices Lafrenaie Montréal-Ouest*. This duo was unstoppable and their love for each other was undeni-

ably felt by all those who walked through their door. As well as greeting everyone with her signature smile and warm greeting, not to mention serving great coffee and warm pastries, Josie kept the two ladies in the kitchen busy preparing lovely salads, lasagne, pastas and wonderfully composed sandwiches. And, oh those cakes and pastries!!! Josie held court in the front of the

continued on page 4

Ronnie Fagen: *Have Drill will Travel*

by Maurice Krystal

If there is one thing that MoWest has in abundance, it's dentists. Not only have I recently interviewed two dentists; one starting out and one retiring, but now there is a whole new bank-load of new ones that have put up their singles in the old B of M building. Dr. **Ronnie Fagen's** story is somewhat different.

My meeting with Ronnie Fagen was somewhat unusual. I had seen this elderly man (about my age) ride his bike and

skateboard in the neighbourhood for a number of years. The skateboarding seemed a bit reckless but he looked like he was having fun. It was sometime in September that he stopped as I was mowing the grass and asked if I was the guy writing for *The Informer* and if I had a brother named **Jerry**. In fact, I do and that's when I found out we grew up together on the same street, Birnam, in

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THE INFORMER

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

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

February 9



We are 50!

This year marks the 50th year of publication of *The Informer*, but given the math, it is probably the 49th! Still, we're going to celebrate this year because it's the 50th volume.

Maurice Krystal has written short articles about each of the issues of the first volume. Enjoy reading about what's changed and what hasn't!



Issue One, April 1973

by Maurice Krystal

The first issue was eight pages long and looked like it was printed on a Gestetner copier machine. The editor was **Vince Carlin**. The consulting editors were **Wavell Cowan**, **Harry Goldsmith**, **Ned Lanthier** and **Jaime Watt**. The associate editors were **Kathleen Carlin** and **Marg Swetland**. Art was **Brian Philcox**. Layout was **John Ployart** and it was printed by Jolil Company Ltd. on 15 Garden Road. There were two black and white photos and no ads.

The lead article introduced the "Citizen's Viewpaper." The piece concluded, "This is Your paper – your vehicle to inform the community of what you and your organizations are doing, your form to express opinions, on the subjects that concern us all. The paper as such will not take editorial stands, but will allow the citizens of Montreal

West to arrive at their own judgements by informing them of how decisions taken at all levels of government affect the Town and by allowing them to read the views and opinions of their neighbours."

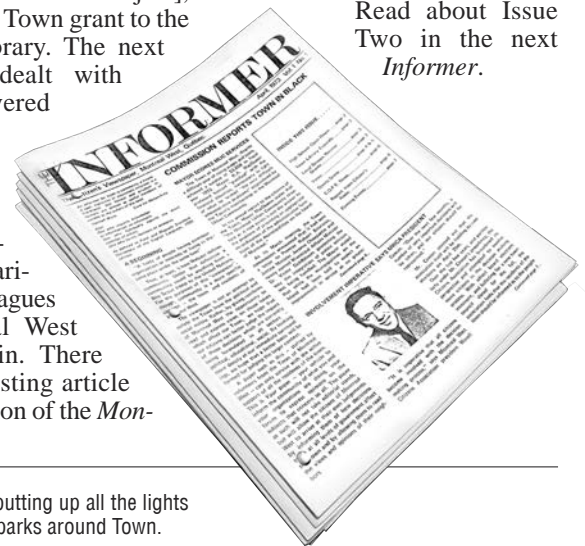
The next two pages dealt with a write up from Montreal West High School, the new public library leaving the United Church and moving into the upper floor of the old *Imperial Oil* building [Ed. note: the former library building at 45 Westminster South, that will be replaced by the Easton Project], and news of a Town grant to the children's library. The next two pages dealt with sports. It covered the CRA, the success of the swim team and the final standings of the various hockey leagues that Montreal West participated in. There was an interesting article on the formation of the *Mon-*

treil West Police Youth Boxing Club by Sgt. **Ron Fitzgibbon**.

The last three pages contained a report from *Montreal West Citizens Association* coming events and letters. The Coming Events briefly described what was important five decades ago. There was the Cubs and Scouts picking up old newspapers, a stamp club, a chess club, an antique fair at the Town Hall and a coffee party held by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospital.

There are only two letters and both seem to have been written by the staff or related to the staff of the paper. One was a poem about spring and the other was looking for people who would write about local news for a TV program dealing with public affairs. I assume this was to start the ball rolling. Letters in *The Informer* would become the most read section of the paper in subsequent issues.

Read about Issue Two in the next *Informer*.



Merci aux Travaux publics! Thank you to Public Works for putting up all the lights as the days got shorter, adding some light to the streets and parks around Town.



The Easton Project

by Carol Foster

With all of the permits finally signed and a view of the construction site visible from an upstairs window in the Town Hall, a small group gathered to celebrate the official launch of the Easton Development Project.

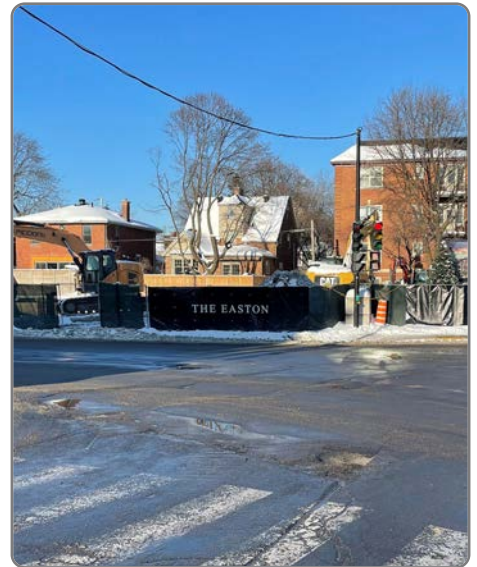
The purpose of the event was to show appreciation to the Town officials and to provide an update on the project. It also gave the Town an opportunity to meet some of the development team.

Noam Schnitzer, the developer of the project, introduced the members who were present from the SAJO construction company, to Mayor Masella, Councillors Torres and Small-Pennefather, Raffaele Di

Stassio, the Director General, and Vlad Florea-Archir, the Urban Planning Manager and Building Inspector.

Mr. Schnitzer, who is also a MW resident, detailed the evolution of the project and described it as the “history of a dream” which combines architectural vision with the opportunity for both those who want to stay as well as those who would want to join this vibrant community.

Both groups were thanked for their collaborative efforts in making the building become a reality that meets the desire of the Town to increase its tax base, increase the variety of housing available and act as a catalyst for the commercial development of Westminster South.



ART ETC. 2021

WE DID IT! *Art ETC.* returned to Town Hall on November 20 and 21, after last year’s absence. There was such enthusiasm and joy on the masked faces of both artisans and visitors to the show.

The committee members would like to give our enormous appreciation and thanks to the local MoWest community. You continue to support and welcome our show and artisans and this year was no exception. Special thanks to Paula Cordeau, Bruce Thicke and Darrel Kimble from

the Town who are essential to our success and without whom, the show would not go on!

Thank you for your extra efforts under trying and ever-changing circumstances. We are so grateful.

Huge thanks to JoAnne Eigenmann (committee chair and show floor manager) for her dedication, strength and patience in not only running the show but dealing with all the questions and concerns this year gave us.

Very special thanks to Lynn

Crawford and Poppy Baktis for their bravery and dedication in manning the “welcome station” checking the vaccine passports and setting the tone for the show with their patient, caring and friendly demeanor at the entrance. You made everyone feel welcome and safe.

We’d like to also express our appreciation to Maurice Krystal for the lovely article he wrote about the show and committee members this year. We loved speaking to him.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to extend our great appreciation, respect and gratitude to all our artisans. Without them, their bravery and commitment, there would not have been a show. We were so

happy to work with each and every one of you.

The committee is now planning ahead for the 2022 edition of *Art ETC.* which will be held in November as always. *Art ETC.* is and has always been, a juried show which means that every artisan who is participating must submit their work to be judged by an independent jury. If you are interested in joining our artisan jury or have questions about the show, please contact us at artetcmontrealwest@gmail.com – a committee member will quickly respond. As stated above, our jury takes place in February so please contact us as soon as possible.

from Cate Gregory



Josie Spano

continued from page 1

shop while Jenn moved mountains keeping everything running smoothly.

Many young children dropped by with their mothers and would run to Josie to be greeted with, "Hello sweetheart," a hug around Josie's knees and, of course, a sugar cookie.

The students from Royal West would pile in at lunchtime; Josie would take note of the ones she felt would make good employees and would ask them to come in when they were ready to work while attending university. So many of these lovely girls (and boys) faithfully worked at *Les Delices Lafrenaie Montréal-Ouest* under the tutelage of this warm, friendly boss. She always said they were part of her family and she trusted and protected them.

Many friendships were made at the small tables and counter that will continue through the memory of this lady.

Josie will be so greatly missed by her loving husband **Frank**, daughter and partner **Jenn (Julian)**, son **Frankie (Vanessa)** and her mother **Rosa Ierfino**, as well as her dearest friend **Trish Hine** and super employees **Eleni-Rose Bougadis** and **Heather Craig** who always stepped in when needed.

It was a part of Josie's day to leave the café and drop in at her mother's house to watch the soaps with her before heading home. She was so fortunate and thrilled to be able to hold her grandson, **Orlando**, her "golden child" before leaving us. Her plan was to slow down at the café, but of course be there for her many morning friends, visit her mom and spend the afternoons spoiling Orlando. Although Orlando never knew her, we will make sure to pass on the funny, serious, happy and lovely stories about his Nonna, this most amazing woman. Rest in peace darling Josie.

from Joyce Teiber

Tributes to Josie

Josie, Josie, always made me feel special, always made everyone she knew feel special. I will truly miss my talks with her in the back kitchen at 5:30 am having coffee and a just baked pastry. Rest in peace, love always.

Peter Paliotti

For the past 10 years I have started my day chatting with Josie at her café, sometimes as early as 5 am – coffee, a nice warm pastry and *The Gazette*. Josie became a dear friend and I miss her so much.

Tony Teiber

Montreal West has lost a wonderful person. Josie was a rare person who always greeted you with a true smile. She loved her family and friends and would do anything for them. A big light has gone out of our community with the loss of Josie.

Becky Dolan

Josie always made the kids in our neighbourhood feel special, regularly greeting them with sugar cookies and a smile. She consistently donated items from her bakery for local fundraisers and home and school activities. It wasn't a MoWest holiday raffle if there wasn't a basket from her and her daughter, courtesy of *Les Delices Lafrenaie Montréal-Ouest*. She was happy to sponsor local sports teams when asked as well and several years ago donated \$1,000 to a local hockey team. She proudly hung the "Thank You" plaque in her café, alongside many wonderful family photos and cards of gratitude from others she'd helped along the way. She will be missed. Her passing is a big loss for our community and our hearts go out to her family who will miss her terribly.

Katie Shingler, Brad Connell and their children, Jack, Violet and Fiona Connell.

Josie will be remembered by our family every time we walk down Westminster as a generous, sincere and loving woman

who would stop whatever she was doing to spoil the kids with affection and treats. But she didn't stop there, she also wanted to know how we were all doing and she truly cared about the answer. We will miss her very much.

Amy Bronstetter, Lloyd Rochester and their children, Olivia and Zoe Rochester



them. Josie definitely wore her heart on her sleeve. Even during her darkest days, she remained positive. She greeted everyone with her infectious smile despite her fatigue and pain. Life won't be the same without her. RIP my good friend.

Rosa Molinaro

Josie was honestly the best and most amazing second mom two young adults could have ever asked for. She took us under her wings and accepted us like we were her own. Josie showed us what it meant to be kind, compassionate, generous and strong... something only she could exemplify. We are so grateful to have felt her love and support throughout our time with her. Josie's contagious smile and laugh will always be something we carry in our hearts until the end of time. There won't be a day that passes where we don't think of Josie or mention one of our many fond memories together. We love and miss you immensely.

Eleni-Rose Bougadis and Heather Craig

Every morning for many years Josie helped kick start my morning with a coffee, croissant and a friendly conversation about nothing or everything. Josie cared about me and everyone she came into contact with. She was friendly, curious and passionate about people and their lives and that makes her a true friend of mine. If you're lucky and I mean really lucky, once in a lifetime you'll meet someone like Josie.

Tom Filgiano (long-time resident of Brock and now somewhere in the Caribbean on the Miss Moni)

I am going to miss my friend Josie, she was truly a force to be reckoned with. No matter the challenge she always approached everything with an extraordinary amount of determination and perfectionism. These characteristics empowered her to succeed at whatever she endeavoured. She loved her friends will all her heart and she would do anything for

What can I say about Josie? I can say many things about a friend who we dearly love and miss. Josie was a wonderful, kind and loving human being. Most of all, she was a devoted and dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and friend to all. She loved and cared about everyone. She greeted you with the warmest smile and said bye with a loving smile. It was always a delight to see her. Josie always treated me like family and I loved her for that. She was also a strong person who always overcame her obstacles to rise above all the nonsense. She was an abundance of kindness and love. She would start my day with a tasty coffee, delicious pastry and a smile that got you motivated for the day. Thank you, Josie for your love and kindness. We miss you every day and you will live in our hearts forever.

Alex Hyek Yoo, Marche de fleurs Westminster

Ronnie Fagen

continued from page 1

Park Ex in the 50s and 60s. Of course, we had to catch up! I found out he's been my neighbour for some two decades.

In mid-November, I was at his home, my first visit in someone's home in over a year and a half. He lives right by Rugby Park and there I met his two friendly dogs. At the dining room table, he told me his life story, saying more than once, he will understand if it's too boring to go into print.

After graduating from Baron Byng High School in 1961 he went to McGill for a BSc and found out in his second year, that if he transferred to dentistry, he could skip a year to obtain his Bachelor's degree. He had never thought about this profession before this point. He also believed it would make his parents happy that their son would become sort of a doctor.

In 1968 he set up a practice in Hampstead Towers on Queen Mary and was among the first in the city to make X-rays part of the regular dental check-up. He heard complaints that he found too many cavities, and being sensitive, he decided he would prefer to become a country dentist in Vermont where his family owned a house by Lake Champlain. He sold his practice after

four years and was waiting to obtain his dental licence from Vermont when his father suggested that, while he waited, he could join him in his small import business.

He got bitten by the capitalist bug and soon saw his father's small import business take off. He started his own enterprise with a partner making belts and accessories called CO7 and with lower labour costs and the Canadian dollar being 30% less than the US dollar, exports to the US boomed. At its peak there were 100 employees. But then 9-11 occurred and business declined. He was at loose ends, but his daughters reminded him that he really enjoyed dentistry when he worked at the *Herzl Clinic* before it was at the *JGH*. After so many years away, he had to go back to school to get back his dental licence.

He did well academically and McGill invited him to join their teaching staff. While teaching dental students he participated in an outreach program for his students where they would go with **Dr. Li**, who had a mobile clinic, and took teams of eight to nursing homes and places, such as *Sun Youth* and *Dans La Rue*, that dealt with people with challenges. He also volunteered his time at *Maimonides* and the James Bay area, and the small "pats on the back" made it worthwhile.

On the home front he married early to **Rosalie** when he first started his dental practice.

Unfortunately, the marriage did not last. He is still close to his son, **Jacob**, and his daughters, **Jenny** and **Kathie**. He met his second wife, **Robbi**, when he was running his belt and accessory enterprise. She was a design consultant.

They moved to MoWest in 2005 and had the wedding in their backyard. He likes the area, as it has plenty of green space and is dog friendly, but mostly the folks are not snooty. Robbi had two adopted daughters, **Kayla** and **Daniella**, who moved with them at the ages 8 and 6. Kayla is a student at Concordia and works as a bartender, while Daniella has inherited their mother's sense of fashion and works in the clothing industry.

About 11 years ago, Robbi started showing signs of memory issues. Her mood swings became more extreme and she was eventually diagnosed with Alzheimer. She is now at *Maimonides*, the same place Ronnie volunteered in and visited with their two dogs to provide pet therapy to the residents. He visits his wife regularly as well as his 98-year-old mother who resides

at The Cavendish Club.

The family home on Lake Champlain, where he did much of his boating and surfing over the years, was sold two years ago and now he visits his sister who has a cottage on Lac Manitou to kayak. Ronnie admits he's lonely, but he maintains his sanity by pushing his body with physical activity. He is an avid skier, biker, windsurfer, kayaker and amateur skateboarder. While he says he was never totally satisfied with what he has done in life, he believes you never do anything for nothing.



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Strathearn/Milner parking lot

Dear Reader/ Town Council,
As a frequent user of the parking lot on Strathearn at Milner. I am dismayed, but not surprised, at the proposal from Council that this parking lot be used for financial gain. I realise our tax base suffers from a lack of commercial or high-rise real estate. but I hardly think that measures to increase it should be at the expense of the residents of this Town.

As anyone knows parking on Westminster is not easy. This is a good thing for the merchants who depend upon us. Luckily, we have an alternative just around the corner, within easy walking distance for older residents such as myself. Taking away this choice, especially in the winter, would encourage many to just keep driving to the nearest shopping mall for easier parking.

In addition, there is the period from 2-5:30 pm when Westminster becomes its own parking lot owing to the number of trains passing through during the rush hour. Don't even think of driving down Westminster then, instead go along Strathearn and use the parking lot in order to access Westminster. As to the suggestion that one could use the parking lot on Percival at Milner, I repeat, consider the winter and our many older residents before contemplating a walking tour to Westminster.

We have a perfectly good parking lot, close by for everyone's convenience, as they say: "If it ain't broke..." instead think of our residents who depend on it. There must be more thoughtful ways to pay to increase the tax base.

Respectfully,

Ellen Cardarelli

[Ed. note: Please see the mayor's response in *Council Communiqué* in this issue.]



MoWesters are involved!

A huge thank you to all who, during the evening of January 2, helped search for **Brownie**, one of **Patrick's** and my grand dogs living in Northern Quebec and staying with us after needing urgent surgery. Just by exchanging a quick word, people became involved.

When we found her she was sitting in the front seat of the Public Security SUV being attentively cared for by **Hamit**, one of our wonderful Public Security Officers. She looked like she didn't have a care in the world! I now wish I had had the presence of mind to take a photo.

I love living in Montreal West, feel blessed to have been living here since 1978, because of the people who call MoWest home. Your care... and your caring... warmed my heart.

(And, just to let you know, Brownie flew back home January 8, fully recovered from her trampling by a musk ox at the end of November. A resilient girl!)

*from Catherine Gardner
Fenwick Avenue*



Meghan, Donna and Bill; Joanna and Mary at the back

Montreal West: A Town with a Christmas Heart

Once again this year – for the second pandemic Christmas – MW United Church, residents of MoWest and neighbouring communities and the local CLSC Home Care Team joined their hearts to prepare and deliver 155 meals to the isolated seniors in our area. This tradition has been going on since 1988 and not even the fatigue of the pandemic deterred this outreach.

Nineteen turkeys were cooked in the community, 110 pounds of potatoes were peeled and chopped, traditional stuffing was made in Andrea MacDonald's home, 17 families baked up their favourite Christmas treats, 20 people social distancing in three rooms prepared the food as it came in on December 24 and 14 people assisted 23 families to collect the meals and gifts and deliver them to the seniors. As one volunteer reported back, "The look on the faces of the recipients receiving a traditional Christmas meal with all the trimmings two years into isolation was incredible – no words can describe their thanks."

Thank you to all who took part in this wonderful event! if this sounds like something you want to add to your Christmas traditions in 2022, be sure to call MW United Church office (mwucoffice@gmail.com or 482-3210).

from Joan Foster

Peter, Andre, Joanna and Mary dishing out turkey



Rotary

Darlene Madott: *Dying Times*



Darlene Madott

was a lawyer for over three decades and practised family law in Toronto. She has written eight books and came to talk to us about her latest book *Dying Times* about a successful lady litigator who is confronted by the dying times of three people in her life. The first is her sweet mother who by dying unleashes conflict among her children. The second, her abusive senior partner and the third, her last client who is a man in a wheelchair who is trying to ruin his wife in a divorce case. The book frames an important question: we are all going to die and how are we going to confront it. The book shows that we are going to die individually as we have lived.

Darlene read a few pages and then showed us the front cover of her book. She then read a few more pages and, when she finished reading, she thanked the *Canada Council* and the *Writers' Union of Canada* for facilitating her being with us.

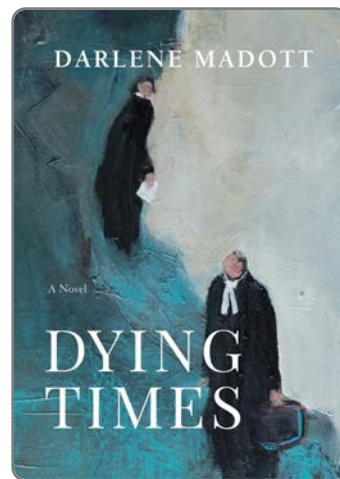
Darlene then introduced the artist, **Francesca Trop**, who designed the front cover. Francesca said for her a picture really is worth a thousand words. Francesca is a lawyer and practised law for 15 years in Montreal, Ottawa and Paris, specializing in entertainment law. She decided to put the law career aside and turn to her true passion, making art. She began painting sport scenes, but after a few of her classmates became judges, Francesca concentrated on the world of justice.

She became interested in painting women in law because they are now very present in the field; but before 1897, they were not allowed to practise. This gave her very specific challenges and focused on women as attorneys. She wrote a book in which she illustrated the *Great Trials That Changed the World*. The first story is Adam and Eve getting kicked out of Eden, oth-

ers are as Socrates, Galileo and Joan of Arc, among others.

Darlene explained how she picked Francesca's painting; it started with the publisher sending her some awful covers; she hated all of them. Someone gave her a copy of Francesca's book and she saw the painting and it was obvious that this was the perfect cover for her book. The woman litigator looking back at what seemed to be a senior male counsel was perfect. Francesca said that what she is looking for when she paints is the relationship between the characters in the painting. To purchase the book, go to dying-times.com. To see Francesca's work, go to francescatrop.com.

from Doug Yeats



IODE

Food baskets and "little gifts"

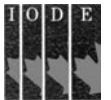
IODE HMS Victory's Christmas project was for 12 food baskets for families referred by the Westhaven Community Centre. Each basket contained fresh fruit and vegetables, turkey and trimmings, all bought or subsidized by local merchants.

We also wrapped 54 little gifts for the holiday party of *Auberge Tradition* and their outreach site in Ville St. Laurent.

A very special store sent us a box, wrapped with a large red ribbon, full of many kinds of sample beauty products, so that these vulnerable women had the opportunity to choose and try them.

One of the missions of **IODE** is to help to supply such nice surprises, beyond the usual charity donations, where we can see a need. For more information, please contact **Janet King** or **Moira Bettinville**.

from Janet King



Environmental Action Committee

Another clothing swap... perhaps!

This April will mark three years since the MoWest Environment Advisory Committee held a clothing swap in the Town Hall.

After months of planning, we were glad to successfully host an event that brought light to the harmful nature of fast fashion and trend culture. In fact, we displayed informational posters that discussed the benefits of moving towards less wasteful fashion practices, as well as the recent popularization of thrift shopping and other forms of clothing reuse. A particular custom among large fashion companies that is cause for concern is the slashing and burning of disposed articles. Rather than simply throwing away the clothing that does



not sell, they will often destroy the products. This prevents individuals who partake in dumpster diving from using any of their unsold products. These practices are especially prominent with more expensive and elite brands because they are more concerned with maintaining the exclusivity of their merchandise than creating less waste and it allows them to keep such high prices.

Part of the reason people pay so much for designer clothing is because access to it is so limited. However, there is a more environmentally sound option for those who value unique products. If consumers begin to turn their backs on brands that waste mer-

chandise just for the sake of maintaining their image, companies will be forced to change these damaging policies. Practices such as thrifting and clothing swaps are eco-friendly ways of acquiring special and unique clothing without damaging the environment.

This spring, we hope to be able to bring back the MoWest clothing swap, where you can all expect to find unique pieces without large monetary or environmental cost. Hope to see you there!

from Kaytee McGilton



Guiding



Sparks and Brownies

In November, the Sparks and Brownies decided they would do several service projects. The first was to send cards and a combined painting to a young Spark in Ontario. **Maggie** started out as an excited 5-year-old Spark in a small community north-west of Kingston; she loved everything related to her Guiding experience. Not long after she started Guiding, she was diagnosed with a large tumor in her spinal cord and was sent to Toronto's Sick Kids hospital for surgery. Following a lengthy stay there, she is in a rehabilitation centre 2.5 hours away from home. One parent is always with her; the other parent takes care of her sister.

The Guiding community decided to rally around her and her family by sending cards filled with love and encouragement. This will also help her realize she is not alone: she has over 97,000 sisters across Canada cheering her on in her recovery. (The cards are sent to her Guider, who staggers the delivery, so she is not overwhelmed.)

The girls also voted to maintain the tradition of making little

packages for the Extra Miles Senior Program of the MoWest United Church through coordinator **Tracie Swim**. The girls worked many weeks on their creations, including many surprises: upcycled holiday cards, evergreen trees made of toilet paper rolls and drawings (made from heavy quality artist paper) that the seniors could enjoy all year round. Finally, the girls, learning that lights are a common thread used in celebrations during the darker days of the calendar, made little wall decorations encouraging the seniors to "let their light shine."

During the last meeting of December, **Ivy** and **Lauren** were enrolled in an outdoor ceremony, as the snow gently fell. It was a wonderful way to end in person meetings and their parents were able to attend. The evening ended with a campfire. The girls sang the silly songs quite loudly. We truly hope the neighbours didn't mind!

Guides

The Guides were also busy voting on their service project leading up to the winter break. The girls decided they wanted to make toys and treats for the dogs at the local *SPCA*. They made

pull toys out of rags and created yummy banana treats for them. The Guides have a soft spot for our furry friends. To end the year, the girls held a celebration where they played games and exchanged a homemade gift. The girls were quite creative!

With the spread of the Omicron variant, we knew we would have to change the way we met. Girl Guides of Canada made it official: if we are to meet in person, we need to return to outdoor meetings. Having spent from April 2020 to June 2021 with only virtual meetings, the Guides were prepared to return to that format and, in January, all units returned to virtual meetings. It was a new experience for many of the younger members. Knowing it was not going to be the same as school, the girls were keen to see their Guiding friends. A wonderful positive of the virtual meetings, we can see each other's faces!

The Persons Case

The Guides learned about the Persons Case of the 1920s. The Famous Five were led by Judge Emily Murphy and included Henrietta Muir Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louise McKenney

and Irene Parlby. Some of these women started their political activism in the 1880s. It was not until October of 1929, that women were declared to be "persons" under Canadian civil law, thanks to their persistence.

We do not know how long we will need to hold virtual meetings. So, the Guides, Brownies and Sparks will be holding occasional joint outdoor meetings. Winter is a lot of fun, especially when there is a lot of snow to play in!

*from the Guide leaders
of MoWest*

Angie making the dog treats for the local SPCA



Montreal West Scout Group

Group Committee



Because no indoor or outdoor in-person meetings are allowed, the Cub Pack and the Scout Troop will have their weekly meetings on Zoom until the situation improves. Thank you to our wonderful Scouters for keeping Scouting afloat for the past two years.

When this wave of Covid dies down, please contact **Karen Mansfield-Johnstone** for information about our programs: karenmansfieldjohnstone@gmail.com.

Cubs

The Cub Scouts made Christmas (holiday) cards while we were still able to meet in person. Quite a few were made during a December meeting and over the following week more were made at home by the Cubs and their families. In all, 107 cards were delivered to *St-Andrew Residential Centre* to be

distributed mainly to the residents, but also some to the staff. A good and, in some cases a very imaginative, effort was made by all.

from Scouter Bob King

Scouts

The Scout Troop wrapped up 2021 with a lot of activities. We were able to have several indoor meetings towards the end of the year. New members of the Troop became full members at the investiture ceremony held on November 23. Our Troop Leader, **Nathan Held**, led a meeting in which he presented a really engaging activity on messaging and cryptology.

An annual meeting that we look forward to is Culture Night. The usual sharing of food was not possible this year, but each Scout brought something from home to represent a culture of their choice and gave a short presentation on it to the Troop. The

presentations and the respectful and attentive atmosphere were simply awesome.

We are looking forward to our next meeting with a theme of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) although not in person but on Zoom.

from Scouter Andy

Rovers

Luckily our Rover Crew was able to have a sports night the first week of December. We invited Crews from Huntington and Westmount to join us. Food is always part of the formula for a successful activity, so pizza was served following Covid protocols. Hopefully we will be able to carry on with our winter outdoor programs before the snow melts.

from Scouter Jon

ARC / CRA



CRA girls' soccer

2021 Recap

With no sports programming for an entire year, in April of 2021, the CRA was given the green light to bring outdoor sports back to MoWest. Starting in May, soccer, rugby and intro to baseball was in full swing. It was a challenge to develop programming within government guidelines, but the coaches, parents and, most importantly, the players were incredibly understanding. Even though we had to stay in our bubbles and couldn't play games, anyone watching could see the impact of being outside and playing a sport with your teammates: smiling faces on every player and coach on the field. It was not an ideal situation, but everyone made it work with such a positive attitude and incredible support.

We managed to run programming all spring and summer and even ran a full season of all our indoor sports this fall. The start of 2022 was not what we had hoped for, but we expect to be back up and running soon and we are working hard behind the scenes to make sure we are ready for when we get the next green light.

Thank you to all the parents, coaches, staff and players for their ongoing support as we continue to navigate through to the end of this pandemic.

A quick recap on the end of the 2021 year, we were able to complete the fall session for most of our sports. We had a great start to the fall welcoming back everyone to indoor soccer, gymnastics, judo, hockey, skating lessons, Champions at Play, youth hockey and basketball.

**We are hoping to open spring registration
(March: online at mwcrasports.ca)
for the following programs:**

- Intro to baseball
- T-Ball
- Intercommunity baseball
- Gym-Tastic
- Little Strikers soccer
- Micro soccer
- Outdoor soccer
- Women's outdoor soccer
- Men's outdoor soccer
- Rugby
- Sportball
- Basketball



CRA hockey 2021

HOCKEY

Knights



All 12 single letter Knights Hockey teams were in full swing up until the end of December, playing league games and tournaments.

M18A and M15A teams are currently in the top third in the standings, battling for a place in the Lac St. Louis Hockey Regionals Championships.

Our four novice teams have started playing EHL games. All the games have been extremely competitive and the players are having lots of fun!

We are looking forwarding to an action packed second half of the season. To see the schedule, visit our website at mwhhockey.ca.

Kings



Our two double letter Westluc Kings teams have had a great first half of the season. Both teams, have been working hard on and off the ice. Recently the M11BB and M13BB went to the finals in their last tournaments in Centre Sud and Longueuil. Congratulations to both

our M11BB and M13BB teams and we look forward to seeing them back on the ice soon. Go Kings!

Future Stars hockey

We have hit the mid-season mark for our Future Stars program. All the players have improved tremendously since the start of the season. We ended the fall session with a parent- player game and are excited to get back on the ice and introduce more game play to our youngest Knights!

Skating lessons

We have an amazing group of skaters and coaches this year in the skating and pre-school program. All the skaters have worked hard and learned so much in such a short time. You can watch a quick recap video on our Instagram at [MTLWESTCRA](https://www.instagram.com/MTLWESTCRA)

Indoor soccer

Our indoor soccer program was in full swing for the fall 10-week session. Our coaching staff is anxious to get back to the gyms so we can start getting ready for the spring session. We have classes for the players ages 5 to 18 years old. The classes have

everyone running, doing drills, games, learning different strategies and playing a scrimmage each week.

Gym-Tastic!

The fall session of gymnastics had such a great group of kids! They have learned many of their basic moves and even some more advanced skills. We are looking forward to the next session and some new faces. Participants will learn some basic moves, bridges, cartwheels and more.

Judo

We are mid-way through the judo season for 2021-2022 and everyone is progressing quickly. We are hopeful that we will be able to host a demonstration in the spring for all the parents to come and watch how much their children have learned this past year.

Basketball

This class has quickly become one of our most popular ones with kids learning drills and playing mini-scrimmages once a week. The improvement at each level is remarkable and we are excited to expand this program. Players practise once a week at Elizabeth Ballantyne gym.



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Budget commentary

On January 20, Council adopted its operating budget for 2022. As in prior years, our objectives were to keep the tax increase for the average-valued home to the current rate of inflation or less, while maintaining and adapting our level of service during these exceptional times and continuing the renewal of our infrastructure. The biggest challenge to this was a whopping 10.2% increase (\$599k) in our Agglomeration bill sent by the City of Montreal.

Revenues: To partially offset the increase in Agglo expenses, \$170k will be transferred from our surplus account from funds remaining in the 2020 government grant related to COVID-19. Additional revenues are anticipated from Duties on Transfer due to housing sales, and from Other Revenue due mainly to increases in building permits. Revenues from Recreation are expected to be up slightly but not yet at pre-pandemic levels. Total Revenues are expected to increase \$870k.

Expenses: Increases in local operating expenses were kept to a minimum to counterbalance the increased Agglo expense. The increase in Administration and Finance is due to various factors including a mandatory pension fund actuarial evaluation, communication and public consultation expenses and higher insurance costs. Environmental Health costs increased because of increases in water costs and contracts for garbage and recycling. Two new contract positions have been added, one in Administration and one in Urban Planning, to better serve residents. All other departmental budgets remained basically the same or less than the prior year except for increases in salaries and benefits related to our collective agreements and government contributions.

Debt: Although infrastructure work was completed on Avon and Fenwick in 2021, debt servicing charges will decrease slightly due to government grants and Council's decision to finance a portion of the work on Fenwick with surplus funds rather than accruing debt.

Summary: Total Local Expenses increased \$271k or just 2.6%; Agglomeration Expenses increased \$599k or 10.2%, bringing the Total Expenses to \$17.3M. This translates into a 4.23% increase in the tax bill of the average-valued home (\$729,004) for 2022.

Property tax increases for the average home have been 4.23% (2022), 0.99% (2021), 1.95% (2020), 1.88% (2019), 1.66% (2018), for an annual average of 2.14%. Council remains committed to monitoring expenses to optimize tax dollars and keep tax increases as low as possible.

Capital Investments: Council also adopted a three-year Capital Expenditure program which includes anticipated spending of approximately \$2.9M in 2022. Plans

Budget 2022

Revenus / Revenues

	2022 \$	2021 \$	Total %
Taxes			
Résidentiel / Residential	12,852,145	12,332,887	74.29
Lots vacants / Vacant Lots	41,386	39,742	0.24
Non résidentiel / Non-residential	1,451,361	1,335,501	8.39
Taxe d'eau / Water Tax	447,000	447,000	2.58
CMM / MMC	113,958	115,352	0.66
Droits de mutation / Duties on transfer	660,000	600,000	3.81
Reçus au lieu de taxes / Payment in lieu of taxes	286,571	236,554	1.66
	15,852,421	15,107,036	91.63
Autres/ Other			
Loisirs et culture			
Recreation and Culture	458,600	426,898	2.65
Contraventions / Tickets	100,000	80,000	0.58
Stationnement et permis			
Parking and Permits	257,500	122,500	1.49
Intérêts / Interest	134,250	134,250	0.78
Intérêts à recevoir sur subvention			
Interest receivable on grants	258,968	240,428	1.50
Autres / Other	68,600	58,600	0.40
Transfert de l'excédent de fonctionnement			
Transfer from surplus	170,000	260,000	0.98
	1,447,918	1,322,676	8.37
REVENUS TOTAUX			
TOTAL REVENUES	\$17,300,339	\$16,429,712	100%

Dépenses / Expenses

	2022 \$	2021 \$	Total %
Par service / By Department			
Conseil / Council	188,071	187,137	1.09
Administration	1,689,935	1,528,229	9.77
Sécurité publique / Public Security	507,963	517,441	2.94
Travaux publics / Public Works	3,097,065	3,221,233	17.90
Hygiène du milieu / Environmental Health	1,004,847	903,711	5.81
Inspection et permis / Building Inspection	199,714	\$146,542	1.15
Loisirs, culture et parcs			
Recreation, Culture and Parks	2,671,623	2,577,607	15.44
Dépenses en capital à même les revenus			
Capital Expenditures out of Revenues	0	0	0.00
Service de la dette / Debt Charges	1,457,921	1,463,812	8.43
	10,817,139	10,545,712	62.53
Quote part Agglomération			
Agglomeration Remittance	6,483,200	5,884,000	37.47
DÉPENSES TOTALES			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17,300,339	\$16,429,712	100%

include architectural and other professional services for the new recreation centre, improvements to Town buildings and renewal of our vehicle fleet and Public Works equipment. Capital programs for future years will be reviewed and reconsidered in light of government grants and available funds. Proposed Infrastructure costs for 2023 and 2024 include \$20.2M for a new multi-generation recreation centre, for which the

Town has received a government grant of \$12.5M.

To see how the 2022 budget lines up with the Town's Strategic Financial Plan, please see my article in the Council Communiqué section of this *Informer*.

Colleen Feeney
Councillor for Finance, MADA and
Recreation and Culture

Analyse du budget

Le 20 janvier dernier, le Conseil a adopté son budget de fonctionnement pour 2022. Comme les années précédentes, nos objectifs budgétaires incluaient garder l'augmentation de taxes pour la résidence de valeur moyenne sous le taux d'inflation, tout en maintenant et en adaptant les niveaux de service en cette période exceptionnelle et en poursuivant le renouvellement de nos infrastructures. Le plus grand défi à relever a été une augmentation considérable de 10,2 % (599 000 \$) de notre facture d'agglomération de la Ville de Montréal.

Revenus: Pour compenser partiellement l'augmentation des dépenses d'agglomération, 170 000 \$ seront transférés de notre surplus de fonds restants d'une subvention gouvernementale de 2020 liée à la COVID-19. Des revenus supplémentaires sont prévus provenant des droits de mutation en raison des ventes de propriétés et des autres revenus en raison principalement du nombre accru de permis d'urbanisme. Nous prévoyons une légère augmentation des revenus des loisirs sans toutefois atteindre le niveau d'avant la pandémie. Les revenus totaux devraient augmenter de 870 000 \$.

Dépenses: Les augmentations des dépenses de fonctionnement locales ont été maintenues au minimum pour contrebalancer l'augmentation des dépenses de l'Agglomération. Plusieurs facteurs expliquent l'augmentation des dépenses de l'Administration et des Finances, dont une évaluation actuarielle du fonds de pension obligatoire, des dépenses de communication et de consultation publique, et des coûts d'assurance plus élevés. Les coûts de l'hygiène du milieu ont augmenté en raison de la hausse des coûts relatifs à l'eau et des contrats pour les ordures et le recyclage. Deux nouveaux postes contractuels ont été ajoutés, l'un en administration et l'autre en l'urbanisme, afin de mieux servir les résidents. Les budgets des autres services sont demeurés essentiellement les mêmes ou inférieurs à ceux de l'année précédente, à l'exception de l'augmentation des salaires et des avantages selon la convention collective et les contributions du gouvernement.

Dettes: Bien que les travaux d'infrastructure sur Avon et Fenwick aient été réalisés en 2021, les frais de service de la dette diminueront légèrement en raison des subventions gouvernementales et de la décision du Conseil de financer une partie des travaux sur Fenwick avec des fonds du surplus plutôt que d'accumuler la dette.

Bilan: Les dépenses locales totales ont augmenté de 271 000 \$ ou seulement 2,6 %. Les dépenses de l'agglomération ont augmenté de 599 000 \$ ou 10,2 %, amenant les dépenses totales à 17,3 millions de dollars.

Cela se traduit par une augmentation de 4,23 % des impôts fonciers de la maison de

Comparaison du compte de taxe Taxation comparison Résidentiel / Residential

Résidence valeur moyenne / Average Value Residence
Rôle 2020-2022 Roll: \$729,004

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Valeur imposable / Taxable Value	729,004	727,991
Taxes locales + Agglo / Local Taxes + Agglo	\$8,465.92	8,118.56
CMM / MMC	72.17	72.80
	\$8,538.09	\$8,191.35
Augmentation relative à 2021 / Increase over 2021:		\$346.74
% augmentation / % increase:		4.23%

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

	2022		2021	
	Local	Agglo	Local	Agglo
Taxe foncière générale General Property Tax	0.6496	0.5117	0.6475	0.4677
Immeuble 6 logements + 6 Units or more	0.7347	0.5788	0.7323	0.529
Immeubles non résidentiels Non-residential buildings	1.7418	1.5385	1.6795	1.3687
Lots vacants / Vacant Lots	1.2992	1.0234	1.2950	0.9355
CMM / MMC	0.0099		0.0100	

Programme triennal d'immobilisations Three-year Capital Program

Catégorie / Category	2022 \$	2023 \$	2024 \$
Infrastructures / Infrastructure	2,500,000	17,200,000	7,000,000
Bâtiments / Buildings	302,000	705,000	0
Véhicules / Vehicles	45,000	50,000	150,000
Équipements / Equipment	50,000	0	0
	\$2,897,000	\$17,955,000	\$7,150,000

valeur moyenne (729 004 \$) pour 2022. Les hausses des taxes foncières pour la résidence moyenne ont été de 4,23 % (2022), 0,99 % (2021), 1,95 % (2020), 1,88 % (2019), 1,66 % (2018), ce qui représente une moyenne annuelle de 2,14 %. Le Conseil reste déterminé à surveiller les dépenses pour optimiser les taxes des citoyens et à garder l'augmentation des taxes foncières aussi basse que possible.

Investissements en immobilisations: Le Conseil a adopté un programme triennal d'immobilisations qui inclut des dépenses anticipées d'environ 2,9 millions de dollars en 2022. Les projets prévus sont les services professionnels d'architecture avec équipe multidisciplinaire pour le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif, des travaux d'amélioration des bâtiments municipaux, et le renou-

vellement de notre parc automobile et équipement des travaux publics. Les programmes d'immobilisations pour les années à venir seront réévalués l'an prochain à la lumière des subventions gouvernementales et des fonds disponibles. Les coûts prévus pour l'infrastructure en 2023 et 2024 comprennent 20,2 millions de dollars pour un nouveau centre sportif et récréatif multigénérationnel pour lequel la Ville a reçu une aide financière gouvernementale de 12,5 millions de dollars.

Pour voir comment le budget 2022 s'aligne avec le plan stratégique financier de la Ville, veuillez lire mon article dans la section Communiqués du Conseil.

Colleen Feeney Conseillère
Finances, MADA et Loisirs et Culture

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News from the library

As we look back to last year, we would like to give our members a heartfelt thank you for their generous support of our Giving Tuesday Fundraising Campaign. To date, we have raised over \$10,000 to support our collections and flexible spaces campaign. We could not have anticipated such a generous response from all our supporters. It was a great way to end the year.

And now, as we start the new year, we find ourselves in the middle of somewhat of a lock down where everything seems to change suddenly or not at all or both at the same time. Confusing, isn't it? So, at the start of January we took the decision to close our library to visits, computer use and in-house activities. We still offer our printing (with a USB key) and photocopying services. Books are now being reserved and available for pick up or delivery. Look for more online programming in the coming weeks.

Meeting Mutang Urud

from Dane Oberon

This past November, the library and *MW Turtle Island Truth and Reconciliation Circle (MWTITRC)* screened the documentary *A Time to Swim*, which was followed by a talk with the film's protagonist, **Mutang Urud**. The local event connected with serious national and international concerns, covering the relationship between Indigenous rights and environmentalism. The film focuses on Mutang's struggles to preserve the land of the Kelabit people of Sarawak in Malaysia, where he was born and raised. There are many parallels between the Indigenous peoples of Malaysia and Canada, who are both suffering from the ongoing destruction of their lands. MWPL and MWTITRC connected with Mutang at the first Truth and Reconciliation film night, sowing the seeds for this screening.

The event was hosted by the library and

the *MWTITRC* at the United Church. Given the state of the pandemic, vaccine passports were scanned and attendees were masked. The film night was as successful as possible with the capacity limits: 50 people arrived, and each family unit was able to sit a couple meters away from other bubbles. Everyone was greeted on arrival by Mutang's charming wife **Natasha** and their amiable son, **Agan**, as well as the library director, **Deborah Marcogliese**. The atmosphere was sparkling with pre-holiday excitement. As the room filled up with guests, people waved to each other with the friendly recognition that is a hallmark of small-town events.

The mood changed and the audience became more serious when the lights dimmed and Mutang's story was projected onto the screen. Narrated by his daughter, the award-winning film describes his rise as an activist, which led to his exile in 1992. He stood up to timber companies by blockading roads to prevent the destruction of Kelabit lands and brought his people's plight to international attention by serving as their first UN ambassador. In response, the Malaysian government banned him from politics, and he had to leave the country.

Moving to Canada, Mutang ostensibly stepped back from political activism and took up anthropology. This transition enabled him to return to his homeland for new projects, starting in 2013. The film follows him as he goes back to help make maps of the Kelabit lands and document their cultural heritage. In the film, Mutang works with youth to chart the rainforest, marking sites with GPS tracking tools, and he works with elders to record their oral histories. The film was made because Mutang knew of plans to develop large dams, and he wanted to document the landscape before it was drowned.

The question period that followed was engaging and enlightening. Mutang explained that he sees a direct connection between human rights and environmentalism, as the lives of indigenous peoples are routinely ignored for the sake of ac-

quiring natural resources, a problem that is ongoing even in countries like Canada.

The discussion was highly professional in tone, but one insightful attendee asked



about the "devastating" emotional impact of these events: with genuine sorrow in his voice, Mutang admitted that it has been very hard to be severed from his people, to be denied the ability to lead them in their struggle. One consolation is that he was able to meet the love of his life and has settled into a wonderful home here. Living in Montreal West, he is a local family man and he focuses on his life in the present to stay happy.

Even though he can no longer organize resistance in Malaysia, he is continuing to help preserve his people's culture. For example, since the production of this film, he has completed the first Kelabit dictionary. Mutang is an inspiring neighbor, and MoWest is blessed to have him and his family. If you want to know more about him and missed the screening of *A Time to Swim*, you can borrow the film on DVD from the MW Public Library.

JANE F. LEE, B.Sc., D.D.S.

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Elizabeth Ballantyne School

Holiday fun

Miss Patti's class had a Holiday Fun Day. Students decorated ice cream trees and listened to a fun holiday story. They also made snowman ball ornaments, which were then hung on the cycle 1 tree. On another day, they learned about Hanukkah. Miss Sharon (retired kindergarten teacher) and Miss Kate (school tutor) joined them in making latkes from scratch. Students also learned to play the dreidel game, listened to a story, and made a Hanukkah craft. The joy was certainly felt, even if the smiles were covered by the masks!

Visits!

The students had a visit from Constable Marie-Christine Nobert of local Station 9, (Police Distinguished Service Medal recipient 2020), who spoke to them about bullying – how to recognize it and how to protect themselves.

We also had a visit from *Santa's Bus*, and everyone had the chance to sing and dance with him on a beautiful snowy day!



Edinburgh School

Perspectives of a sixth grade alumna

Hello, my name is Luca Motta. I am a grade six student from Edinburgh. I interviewed my sister, Nicole Motta, who attended Edinburgh school between 2015 and 2019. She now attends Collège de Montréal, a French school located downtown. I thought it was very brave of her, since French was not her strong suit at the time. Now she has learned so much at her school, that it seems like she's a complete francophone!

She took the time to answer some questions that may concern the grade six students of Edinburgh, or any student in general.

When I asked what she liked the most about her old school, her response was that she was glad she had had the opportunity to practise and learn so much about many different sports in her physical education classes. Now, in her new school, she takes part in the sports program, so she feels it is much easier for her to do well in the

sports offered at school. When I asked Nicole what she liked the least, she answered by saying that she would have liked to have more experiments in science class.

Moving on from elementary school can be hard. One of the

Nicole Motta and Luca Motta



things Nicole missed from Edinburgh was the short walk from home to the school, because now it's far more complicated to get to her new school. Nicole also liked the fact that, although most of her old classmates were anglophones, the French classes

really helped her get accepted into her new school.

Nicole said that when she started out in her new school, although she knew a good amount of French, she felt intimidated by the other students because they were all francophones. If you also feel this way, scared or intimidated, her advice is to just put yourself out there. Don't be too scared to make mistakes, because that's what makes you stronger.

To wrap it up, Nicole said that she appreciated the education offered to her at Edinburgh.

She felt like that was the very thing that got her to where she is now: an excellent student and person altogether!

All in all, my sister and I both agree that Edinburgh is a great school that will help you thrive in high school!

from Luca Motta

Perspectives of a sixth grader is a new series, produced for *The Informer* through the Edinburgh Home and School Association. If you are a student in sixth grade at Edinburgh Elementary and would like to submit your perspective, please contact kateshingler@gmail.com

50+ Club



Thanks to all those who took part in the 50+ Club Christmas dinner.

It was a great to be able to bring people together safely, before all the Covid-19 regulations changed. Special thanks to **Paula, Mary Sawszynczyn, Pauline Ducharme, Mary Tofts** and all the other volunteers and staff involved in making this event a memorable one! STAY SAFE everyone.

February

Stay tuned for a virtual concert with **Dawn Tyler Watson**.

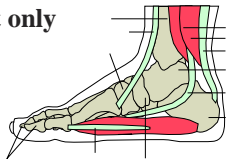
For more information on events email: recreation@montreal-west.ca or call **Tammy** at 484-6186.

Foot clinics

February 9, March 9

484-6186

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



West End Quilters

The *West End Quilters* were just getting used to regular in-person meetings when omicron hit and now we are back to Zoom. It is not all bad as we had chat sessions every Tuesday evening all through the holidays. An online workshop is scheduled for the end of January, with **Melissa Marginet**, on how to quilt using the machine walking foot.

We were all excited to learn that a new quilt shop, *Monkland Quilt Studio*, opened in the area. The owner, Rebecca, was to come to a meeting but instead, we had a virtual tour of her shop and saw lots of fabric we will need to buy. As things may be locked down for a while we are looking into more online opportunities.

As **Sandra** said "Never have I been so happy to be a quilter as in

the past 18 months. What other pastime could provide us with projects, warmth and cuddle gifts for family and friends, charity work and, best of all, great friends! We are a fortunate bunch!!! Bring it on 2022!!! More Covid = more quilts!" In the past year, we made more than 50 quilts and crocheted baby blankets for various charities.

We will continue to have sew and chats on weeks when there are no scheduled meetings and even some weekend Zooms when someone just wants company while they sew.

If you would like to fill hours with quilting, please get in touch with **Mary** at marysdogbob@gmail.com.

from *Mary Sutherland*

A quilt by Jean, an out of area member. *Happy Birds*, a Jen Kingwell pattern

Children's Library



Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri /

lun, mer, jeu, ven :

10 am-6 pm

Tue / mar : 10 am-8 pm

Sat-Sun / sam-dim :

10 am-3 pm

484-7194

info@mwcl.ca mwcl.ca

The library remains open with restricted access to only two family bubbles at the same time with physical distancing and mandatory masks for children 3 years old and up.

It is, as always, possible to order a bag of books with your selections or our suggestions. You can enjoy reading e-books from the *TumbleBookLibrary* database accessible through our website. *TumbleBook* provides picture books, early readers, read-along books, graphic novels, chapter books for children in English, French and Spanish.

The forthcoming programming includes bi-monthly Take and Make craft activities, monthly Book Club, and other events. Please make sure to consult the web-site for timely information.

New collection of children's costumes

After we launched the idea for a new collection of children's costumes, we were happy to receive many donations from the community with which to start the initiative. As of February 1, families are welcome to borrow a costume and help the young ones to get transformed into a character of their liking. The list of costumes is on our web-



Skye White has brought two puzzle pieces he has drawn on. They will be added to the collective art that we have been building for the past few weeks – a community puzzle on the theme of winter.

site and the costumes are also part of the library catalogue. For the launch of the collection, we will also make sure to include a book related to the costume.

Bill Foster Writing Contest

This year, the children's writing contest will be renamed in honor of **Bill Foster**. Bill loved reading, had a strong connection and a long-standing commitment to our library as a volunteer. He was a much-loved assistant who always greeted the children with a smile. In honour of his memory and in recognition of the generous donation of **Joan Foster**, we will hence call the children's contest *Bill Foster Writing Contest*. In 2022, the initiative will run from February 15 to April 15. Details will follow.



News from the pews

Montreal West United

... *the brick one*

Covid keeps us flexible

It was the morning of Christmas Eve when we learned that United Churches in this area were to close their doors to their congregations. So, turning on a dime we adapted our Christmas Eve service to being on-line only.

It was 80th anniversary of our first Christmas Eve service begun by Dr. **Campbell Wadsworth** in 1941. At that time, United Churches were not inclined to have a service Christmas Eve. But not to be swayed, we managed to celebrate this anniversary with the minister, choir and scripture reader (who was **Peggy Wadsworth**, daughter of said originator), all filmed live. By all accounts, it was a fitting tribute for the occasion.

Christmas Day dinners

Joan Foster and her army of volunteers managed once again to bring turkey and the fixings to those housebound and likely alone on Christmas Day. A special time for all involved. Angels all.

February: perhaps new ways of adapting

Impossible as it is to predict even a week ahead, your intrepid reporter is imagining that February won't be open entirely, but creative ways of adjusting to the on-going Covid issues may develop. So, this isn't a time to hole up totally under cover, but rather to be grateful for the strides we are making, and for all those who are taking care now that we may have a safer future before too long.

Zoom and its like are allowing us to connect with those whose paths we might never cross. Christmas cards recently sent remind us of the pleasure of a hand-written note from friends that we can return to, to re-read at will. Companionship can take many more forms than we nor-

mally exploit. So, challenge yourself in this short month to find a new way of connecting or re-connecting – near or far. Then reward yourselves with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, March 1! Seems only fair.

Vaccine passports

It is entirely possible that vaccine passports will be required at least the first time one attends an in-person service. Seems foreign as normally we prefer to be as inclusive as possible, but priorities are shifting....

We will likely continue to have our on-line services for a time even if we can meet again for in-person worship. **Rev. Mark, Samantha**, music director, **Samuel**, organist/pianist, and **Kevin**, our videographer, will continue to put services online to be aired Sundays at 10 am but also available after that. Search for Montreal West United Church and Bob's your uncle. Contact us at 482-3210 or at mwuoffice@gmail.com. Merrie and the Sunday School can be reached at mwucundaysschool@gmail.com and are Zooming again.

Keep as well as possible!

from Susan Upham

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Our team at St. Ignatius would like to wish everyone a blessed and healthy 2022. Although this isn't the start to the new year that many of us had envisioned, our parish remains united in prayer for the health and safety of our community and a prompt end to this pandemic.

Due to government restrictions, we unfortunately have not yet been able to reopen Masses to the public. In the meantime, you're invited to join us online every Sunday at 10 am to watch our live stream of Sunday Mass at stig.ca/live-stream. Please continue to check our website at stig.ca to find out when we'll be reopening our doors.

Should you wish to see one of our priests for the Sacrament

of Reconciliation or for any other enquiries, please contact our office at **481-7768** or office@stig.ca.

from Shawna Rose

St. Philip's

Three days before Christmas, we made the decision to go back to online-only worship. We were looking forward to greeting people in person and filling the church with song, but Covid had other plans. So, we pivoted at the last minute and managed to produce four virtual services from the empty church, with only a few technical glitches (like batteries on the wireless microphone dying in the middle of the sermon on Sunday morning).

As of press deadline, we are planning to continue on Zoom only at least through the end of January, with resumption of our hybrid (in-person with Zoom livestream) services dependant upon provincial regulations.

Please check our Facebook page for the latest news. Whether

online or hybrid, the Sunday service is always at 10 am. For the link, call the office at **481-4871** or email office@stphilip-schurchmontreal.ca.

Our vestry meeting (the annual business meeting of the membership) will also take place online again this year, Monday, February 28.

Ash Wednesday is March 2. Worship will be at 7:30 pm, details to be announced closer to the date. And looking ahead to Lent, a group from the parish will be joining an online study of the Book of Acts, "Living as a Christian in a World That's Not," led by the Rev. Dr. **Jesse Zink** of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, with our own online discussion afterwards, on Tuesday evenings.

We have had groups for several online classes over the past year, and they have been wonderful opportunities for learning and fellowship from the comfort of home.

from Fr. James Pratt

Kosher corner

MoWest Jewish women's circle

Tu B'Shvat was celebrated with a wonderful group of local women who gathered together on Zoom to create motivational canvas art! We sipped wine and enjoyed a good laugh as we internalized the positive messages of Tu B'Shvat.

Be sure not to miss any future events! Sign up to our email list chabadwestminster.com/subscribe.

Jewish bedtime stories

Do you have a child that would enjoy a Jewish story before bed? A wonderful new initiative by Chaya Marlow on Monday evenings at 6:30; local children gather on zoom to hear a story and sing the Shema together!

Purim initiative

Although Purim is still two months away, we are excited to share that this year Chabad Westminster has an original way to bring the community together through Mishloach Manot delivery. A safe and fun way to do the Purim mitzvah!

Reach out to learn more about our ongoing online Torah classes.

from Rabbi Mendy Marlow



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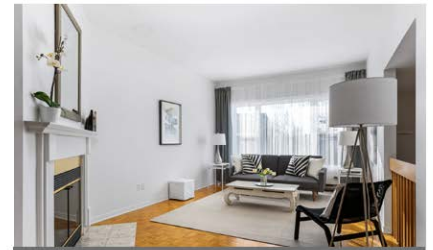


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Interior - living room



Interior - kitchen

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- Tuesday: 9 to 6
- Wednesday: 9 to 8
- Thursday: 9 to 8
- Friday: 9 to 8
- Saturday: 8 to 5

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- Wellness & Preventative Care

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

Community Centre

Summer camp and Community Centre program registration

Residents will be able to register for their favourite children's camp programs starting February 10 at 8:30 am. Limited spaces will be available as we await guidelines from the province on the particularities of restrictions. Visit the town website for full details!

Summer Employment

Job postings and deadlines

Pool

Assistant Manager – January 30
Lifeguard – February 10
Wading Pool Guard – March 1
Cashier – March 1

Camp

Assistant Coordinators – January 31
Counsellors – February 28

Community Centre

Animators – February 28

Visit

montreal-west.ca/en/our-town/town-management/employment/ to apply

Winter programs for children and youth

To sign up:
484-6186 or montreal-west.ca.

Ballet and pre-ballet

Currently being offered virtually until government regulations change.

Captain Catalyst

Start date delayed due to government regulations.

Red Cross classes

In person if possible. Otherwise, they will be offered online: two half-days on Zoom; you will receive all the materials at home.

Babysitting

When: Saturday, February 19; 9:30 am-4 pm
Ages: 11+
Cost: residents: \$85/non-residents: \$95
Learn the skills required to carry out babysitting duties.

Stay Safe!

When: Sunday, February 20; 9 am-3 pm
Ages: 9-13 years
Cost: residents: \$75/non-residents: \$85
Real-world scenarios often call on children to respond to challenges. The Stay Safe! program teaches applicable and age-appropriate skills, while increasing and reinforcing a youth's capacity to improve his or her own safety.

Fun activities for residents!

montreal-west.ca

Check out our website with online events and ideas to do from home!

- **Outdoor skating:** check the website for info on outdoor rinks
- **Arena:** reserve your spot for free skating or rental for family hockey. Covid-19 passports are required for anyone 13 or older. January 23 and 30, February 13 and 27
- **Snowshoeing @ Strathearn Park:** Get outside, dress warmly. Residents can try snowshoes for free. Register on Amilia.
- **Creative snowman contest:** Submit your photo on the website. Deadline: March 4. Top three winners will be announced early March and in the next *Informer*.

Artists' Showcase

online edition

Winter theme: **Beauty**

Please submit your art by February 11. MoWest artists are invited to display their art on the website for the online exhibition. To find out more about the Artists' Showcase or to get an application form, go to the MoWest website under "Culture". For more details, call **484-6186**.

March Break camp

When: planned for February 28-March 4.
Ages: 5- to 12-year-olds
Where: Community Centre

Because of COVID-19 regulations, registration is on hold until further notice. If you are interested in the camp, please sign your children up on Amilia (under March Break) or with the Community Centre at **484-6186** and we will keep you posted with any updates on possible activities and costs.

Camp de la semaine de relâche

Le camp est prévu du **28 février au 4 mars** pour les **5 à 12 ans**. Lieu: **Centre communautaire**

En raison des mesures annoncées pour le COVID-19, les inscriptions sont suspendues jusqu'à nouvel ordre. Si vous êtes intéressé par le camp, inscrivez vos enfants sur Amilia (sous l'onglet Semaine de relâche) ou en appelant le centre communautaire au **484-6186** et nous vous aviserons de tout changement, incluant les prix et les activités possibles.



Food collection

Thank you to all those who generously took part in our food collection. A full truck load was delivered to *Head & Hands* on December 17. Thanks to the delivery guys, too!

Town Council meetings: November and December



by Carol Foster

NOVEMBER MEETING

Mayor Masella welcomed the newly formed council that includes only one different face from the previous one: **Lauren Small-Pennefather** replaces **Dino Mazzone**.

Changes in responsibilities for each portfolio were announced as follows:

- **Councillor Feeney:** Finance, Seniors and Recreation
- **Councillor Ulin:** Communications, Public Works and Buildings, and Environment, assisted by Councillor Torres
- **Councillor Torres:** Urban Planning, assisted by Councillor Small-Pennefather
- **Councillor Small-Pennefather:** Public Security

Councillors' Reports

Although all of the councillors have new portfolios, the mayor asked for reports on their old portfolios for this meeting.

Councillor Feeney announced that parking and dog permits are due for renewal, some water tax bills are still outstanding and taxes are overdue on one property. All major aspects of The Easton project have now been approved.

Expenses over the past six weeks amounted to \$1,607,000. As well as regular monthly expenses, the largest portion of this money went to the work on Fenwick and a much smaller amount for Avon.

Although the majority of the work on Fenwick has been completed, some must wait until spring. The contractor will be paid for this work only once it is finished.

The Town contributes to the global climate process by continuing to plant trees and making changes to its Waste Management Program. **Councillor Torres** encouraged residents' collaboration to this endeavour by reducing waste at home.

The first report from **Councillor Small-Pennefather** included news of three more thefts from cars during the past month and she urged diligence from all car owners. She added that all such incidents should be reported to both the PSOs and the police.

Among the many events that took place in the Town during the past month, **Councillor Ulin** made special reference to the fact that it was the 100th anniversary of the Town's centaph. Dr. **Robert Drummond's** *Walks to Remember* were featured in both *The Gazette* and on *CTV News*. Activities have begun in the arena and all will require vaccine passports for those 13 and over.

Councillor Ulin expressed gratitude to the staff who run "that well-oiled machine" that is the Recreation Department and to

both the blue collars and animators for their continuing efforts to ensure the Town's community spirit stays alive and well.

While Councillors Feeney, Torres and Ulin all expressed some nostalgia about leaving their old posts, they agreed that they were looking forward to their new challenges.

First question period

Question period consisted of many of the very familiar questions and answers such as roads in need of repair, bikes on sidewalks, the location of dog parks, replacement of lead pipes, the location and maintenance of street lighting and some properties becoming eyesores in the Town.

But each question period also contributes new ideas as well as pointing out some new concerns.

The possibility of creating some kind of forum to engage the Town youth in the discussion of environmental issues was suggested by one resident and received enthusiastically by Councillor Ulin.

Another idea involved painting parking spaces on the street in the busy commercial area of Westminster to help ensure all available space was efficiently used. The mayor pointed out that the different sizes of vehicles would make this difficult but said he would pass on the suggestion to the appropriate departments.

The constant complaints of vehicles speeding in the Town took on a new twist when it was reported that on at least two occasions, it was police cars, with no lights flashing, that were speeding. The mayor responded that having a police station so close to the Town had some advantages, but at the same time, if the speeding was not related to duty, it was something he could discuss with the commandant of Station 9.

The designation of a space for a seniors' residence in the rezoning exercise was another suggestion. The mayor explained that the zoning bylaws are not the problem, it is the size of the lots available that rules out this idea.

The concern that trees do not always pay attention to the allowable leaf blowing period when they decide to shed their leaves was addressed. The mayor announced that the present leaf blowing period was being extended until the end of the month and that work will begin on modifying this bylaw.

A resolution was passed to urge the Minister of Municipal Affairs to reconsider the removal of any time limit from her draft decree because it would permit Montreal to continue to ignore any discussions of the shared expenses with the demerged municipalities.

Following extensive research, a contract has been awarded to a firm to design the new sports and recreation centre and the Town will soon announce the public consultation process.

Second question period

Another opinion was added to the leaf blowing discussion by a resident who suggested the allowable period should be determined by the current weather conditions rather than any fixed period. The mayor gave assurances that experts from both the contractors and some of the residents in the Town would be consulted before further decisions are made.

The meeting was then adjourned.

DECEMBER MEETING

Eighteen months after the last Council meeting was held in the Town Hall, the Mayor, members of Council and the administration once again took their seats at the

Aiguillage pour patins de hockey Hockey Skate Sharpening

sur rendez-vous / by appointment

7 \$



Technologie Sparx

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Town Council meetings: November and December

table in the Music Room. Although it was observed that there were more people at the council table than in the audience, over 100 viewers were also watching parts of the meeting on YouTube.

The Mayor announced that questions both from the floor and those submitted online would be heard. He wished everyone a safe and healthy year end as well as hopes for a better one ahead.

Councillors' reports

Now that snow removal operations are taking place, Councillor Ulin reminded residents to ensure no personal items, such as garbage bins, are left on the streets or sidewalks where they could impede access for the equipment and all no parking signs must be respected.

Councillor Ulin emphasized the importance of the Environmental Committee, noting that the position of coordinator is being made permanent and she urged citizens' participation on this committee. An environmental round table, joined by members of other demerged municipalities, has been created to discuss best practices in the field.

The most challenging job in the Communications portfolio recently has been setting up the live stream for the in-person Council meeting and comments on this project are invited.

The 2022 budget for the Town, normally presented in December, will be delayed until January according to **Councillor Feeney**. Approximately 35% of it will be affected by the finalizing of Montreal's budget which will apportion the amount of expenses to be shared with the demerged municipalities.

The Quebec Audit Department audits the budget process of all municipalities in the province and in the published results for the 2021 budget, only 57% of the 1074 municipalities audited complied with the selected legal requirements and for the 2021-2023 PTI process, only 44% complied. Councillor Feeney was proud to say that Montreal West received a perfect score for all the selected criteria verified. She congratulated **Valentina Todoran**, the treasurer, and her staff for this achievement.

Councillor Feeney went on to announce the many events planned for the holiday season as well as the ongoing winter activities. Information and registration for the March Break Madness will be available in January. Conversation is ongoing with the government on their *MADA* certification and the Seniors' Advisory Group will continue their meetings in the new year.

Councillor Torres reminded everyone to go to the Town's website in order to check the 2022 meeting dates for PAC as

well as the file submission dates. Since submissions can be made only online, complete instructions for how to proceed are also available on this site. PAC is presently looking for new members and a CV as well as a letter of intent can be sent to either the Urban Planning Department or to Councillor Torres.

The Public Security staff has been busy in the aftermath of the windstorm earlier this month as well as the beginning of snow removal operations. **Councillor Small-Pennefather** warned residents that fines will be issued for non-compliance with the orange signs indicating snow removal will be taking place. She warned that thefts may increase at this time of year especially with packages delivered to front doors as well as objects left in unlocked cars, so vigilance should be increased. Public Security is continuing its home check-up service for people leaving Town on holiday and should be informed when a house will be left vacant. And another warning from Councillor Small-Pennefather was for dog owners who were told they must leave their dog waste packets in the Town's public bins and not on private property or in a private bin.

Question period

The repair and reconfiguration of an old, broken traffic light at the corner of Avon and Westminster will have to wait until further work on that intersection and the sidewalks are completed.

The construction of *EXO's* new exit from the train station, allowing people to exit on Broughton or Sherbrooke, is now scheduled to begin in April.

Contracts for the new recreation centre as well as for the dog park were both given to the lowest bidder.

Any ideas for revision to the flow of traffic

on the streets in the Town have to be studied by the Traffic and Safety Committee as decisions can't be made in one area that would have detrimental effects on other areas.

The owners of the vacant, weed-filled lots next to the new condos on Brock South will be informed of the appropriate bylaws governing this situation. The mayor is presently unaware of the plans for the completion of the Bellevue apartment complex including access to and from that property.

The inclusion of an Indigenous evening in the program for the community nights in Strathearn Park, as well as possible ways to help educate people about this culture, was an idea presented to Council. This suggestion will be passed on to the Recreation Department. In addition, it was noted that the public library is currently holding an educational series on Indigenous peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation process, which is open to everyone.

Another suggestion was the creation of a contest for the best wildflower garden grown by residents in the Town to help attract the monarch butterflies. This idea was actually similar to the one promoted by the Environmental Committee who earlier put forward a proposal for planting pollinator gardens on Town land to Council. That proposal was approved and planning is currently in progress.

Moving on to other business, the Council members adopted a resolution suggested by the Agglomeration Council affirming all those at the Council table are adequately protected from COVID-19.

Disbursements and budget transfers were approved, PAC applications were reviewed and an employee was named to the now permanent position of Environment coordinator.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

RÉUNION DE NOVEMBRE

Le maire Masella a accueilli le nouveau conseil qui ne compte qu'un seul nouveau visage : **Lauren Small-Pennefather** qui remplace **Dino Mazzone**.

Il a annoncé les changements suivants aux responsabilités :

- **Conseillère Feeney** – Finances, Aînés et Loisirs;
- **Conseillère Ulin** – Communications, Travaux publics et bâtiments, et Environnement, assistée de la conseillère Torres;
- **Conseillère Torres** – Urbanisme, assistée de la conseillère Small-Pennefather;
- **Conseillère Small-Pennefather** – Sécurité publique.

Rapports des conseillères

Bien que les conseillères aient hérité de nouvelles responsabilités, le maire leur a demandé, pour cette réunion, de faire rapport selon leurs anciens portefeuilles.

La conseillère Feeney a annoncé que le temps était arrivé de renouveler les permis de stationnement et pour chiens, et que certaines factures de taxe d'eau étaient en souffrance de même qu'une pour les impôts fonciers. Tous les aspects importants du projet Easton ont été approuvés.

Les déboursés des six dernières semaines totalisaient 1 607 000 \$. La majeure portion de ces fonds est allée aux dépenses mensuelles ordinaires, aux travaux sur Fenwick et une part bien moindre aux travaux sur Avon.

Bien que le gros des travaux sur Fenwick soit terminé, il en reste une petite partie qui devra attendre au printemps. L'entrepreneur sera payé pour cette portion à la fin des travaux seulement.

La Ville participe au processus climatique global en continuant à planter des arbres et apportant des modifications à son programme de gestion des déchets. La conseillère Torres a incité les citoyens à collaborer en cette matière en réduisant les déchets à la source, à la maison.

À sa première réunion, la conseillère Small-Pennefather a rapporté trois vols dans des véhicules au cours du mois précédent; elle a incité les propriétaires de véhicules à la prudence et a ajouté que tous ces incidents devraient être signalés à la police et à la Sécurité publique.

Parmi tous les événements tenus dans la ville au cours du mois précédent, la conseillère Ulin a signalé particulièrement le fait que cette année marquait le 100^e anniver-

saire du cénotaphe. Les Marches du souvenir du Dr **Robert Drummond** ont fait la manchette dans *The Gazette* et aux informations de *CTV*. Les activités ont débuté à l'aréna et le passeport vaccinal sera requis pour les participants âgés de 13 ans et plus.

La conseillère Ulin a exprimé sa gratitude au personnel de la « machine bien rodée » des Loisirs, aux cols-bleus et aux animateurs pour leurs efforts continus afin d'assurer que l'esprit communautaire de la ville demeure vibrant.

Alors que les conseillères Feeney, Torres et Ulin ont toutes exprimé une certaine nostalgie à quitter leurs responsabilités antérieures, elles se sont aussi déclarées fébriles à l'égard de leurs nouveaux défis.

Première période de questions

Bon nombre des questions et réponses habituelles sur les rues en mauvais état, les vélos sur les trottoirs, l'emplacement des parcs canins, le remplacement des tuyaux en plomb, l'emplacement et l'entretien des lampadaires et certaines propriétés qui choquent la vue ont constitué la période de questions.

Mais chaque période de questions apporte aussi de nouvelles idées et fait poindre de nouvelles préoccupations.

Une résidente a soulevé la possibilité de créer un forum pour engager les jeunes de la ville à discuter des questions environnementales. La conseillère Ulin a reçu cette proposition avec grand enthousiasme.

Une autre suggestion voulait que les espaces de stationnement soient marqués sur la chaussée dans la partie commerciale de Westminster pour en maximiser l'usage. Le maire a fait remarquer que les différents formats de véhicules rendent la chose difficile, mais a indiqué qu'il transmettrait l'idée aux services concernés.

Les plaintes constantes de vitesse excessive dans les rues de la ville ont reçu un éclairage différent quand, à au moins deux occasions, il s'agissait de véhicules de police, gyrophares éteints. Le maire a répondu qu'il y avait des avantages à avoir un poste de police à proximité, par ailleurs, si la vitesse n'était pas reliée au travail, il pourrait en discuter avec le commandant du poste 9.

On a aussi suggéré de désigner un emplacement pour une résidence pour aînés lors de l'exercice de zonage. Le maire a expliqué que la difficulté ne réside pas dans le zonage, mais plutôt dans la taille des terrains disponibles.

Le fait que les arbres ne respectent pas toujours la période permise pour souffler les feuilles a été abordé lorsque la réunion a traité le point suivant de l'ordre du jour. Le maire a fait part de la prolongation de la période d'utilisation des souffleuses à feuilles jusqu'à la fin du mois et que le travail s'amorcerait pour modifier ce règlement.

Le Conseil a voté une résolution exhortant la ministre des Affaires municipales à réviser le retrait de la limite de temps dans son projet de décret, car ce retrait permettrait à Montréal de continuer à passer outre à toute discussion des dépenses partagées avec les villes liées.

Après des recherches approfondies, un contrat a été conclu avec une firme pour le design du nouveau Centre sportif et récréatif et la Ville annoncera sous peu le plan de consultation publique.

Seconde période de questions

Une autre opinion s'est ajoutée à la discussion concernant les souffleurs à feuilles. Un résident suggère que la période d'utilisation soit déterminée par les conditions météorologiques plutôt qu'à date fixe. Le maire a donné l'assurance que des spécialistes, entrepreneurs et résidents de la ville, seraient consultés avant d'arrêter une décision.

La séance a ensuite été levée.

RÉUNION DE DÉCEMBRE

Dix-huit mois après la dernière réunion du Conseil tenue dans cette salle, le maire, les autres membres du Conseil et l'Administration prenaient à nouveau place à la table du Conseil dans la salle de musique. Bien qu'il y avait moins de gens dans l'assistance qu'à la table du Conseil, au-delà de 100 personnes visionnaient des portions de la réunion sur YouTube.

Le maire a annoncé que les questions de l'assistance et celles soumises en ligne



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Réunions du Conseil : novembre et décembre

seraient entendues. Il a souhaité à tous une fin d'année en santé et en sécurité ainsi qu'une meilleure année à venir.

Rapport des conseillères

Maintenant que les opérations de déneigement sont en cours, la **conseillère Ulin** a rappelé aux résidents de s'assurer qu'aucun objet personnel, comme les bacs à ordures, n'est laissé à la rue ou sur le trottoir où il pourrait gêner l'équipement, et de respecter les interdictions de stationner.

Elle a souligné l'importance du Comité sur l'environnement, indiqué que le poste de Coordonnateur devenait permanent et incité la participation citoyenne à ce comité. Elle a mentionné la création d'une table ronde sur l'environnement, regroupant des membres d'autres villes liées, pour discuter des meilleures pratiques dans ce domaine.

Récemment, l'implantation de la diffusion en direct de la réunion du Conseil en présentiel a constitué la tâche la plus exigeante aux Communications et les commentaires sur ce projet seront les bienvenus.

Le budget 2022 de la Ville, normalement déposé en décembre, ne le sera qu'en janvier selon la **conseillère Feeney**. Le budget de Montréal qui sera finalisé en janvier répartira le montant des dépenses partagées avec les villes liées et représentera environ 35 % de notre budget.

Le ministère des Affaires municipales vérifie le processus budgétaire des municipalités de la province et, en 2021, seulement 57 % des 1074 municipalités vérifiées se conformaient aux exigences légales et pour le PTI 2021-2023, seulement 44 % les respectaient. Mme Feeney a fièrement annoncé que Montréal-Ouest avait obtenu un score de 100 % pour l'ensemble des critères vérifiés. Elle a félicité la trésorière **Valentina Todoran** et son personnel pour cette réussite.

Elle a poursuivi avec l'annonce des différents événements planifiés pour le temps des fêtes et les autres activités hivernales. Les renseignements et l'inscription aux activités de la relâche de mars seront disponibles en janvier. Les discussions se poursuivent avec le gouvernement pour obtenir la certification MADA et le comité consultatif des aînés reprendra ses rencontres dans la nouvelle année.

La **conseillère Torres** a invité les gens à consulter le site Web de la Ville pour vérifier les dates des réunions du CCU et les dates de présentation des dossiers. Comme toutes les soumissions doivent se faire en ligne, on trouve aussi les directives pour ce faire sur le site. Le CCU recherche actuellement de nouveaux membres; on peut transmettre son CV et une lettre d'intention au service d'Urbanisme ou à la conseillère Torres.

Les conséquences de la tempête de vent en début décembre et le début des opérations de déneigement ont tenu le personnel de la Sécurité publique occupé. La **conseillère Small-Pennefather** a averti les résidents que le non-respect des affiches orange annonçant l'enlèvement de la neige entraînera l'imposition d'amendes. Elle a averti que les vols pourraient augmenter à ce temps-ci de l'année, particulièrement avec les colis livrés à la porte avant ainsi que les objets laissés dans des véhicules non barrés, alors soyons encore plus vigilants. Le personnel de la Sécurité publique offre toujours son service de surveillance pour les gens qui quittent la ville en vacances; on devrait l'informer lorsqu'une résidence sera vacante. Et un autre avertissement de Mme Small-Pennefather s'adressait aux gardiens de chiens : les paquets d'excréments de votre chien doivent être déposés dans les poubelles publiques de la Ville, non pas sur des propriétés privées ou dans des poubelles privées.

Période de questions

La réparation et reconfiguration des vieux feux de circulation défectueux à l'intersection Avon et Westminster devront attendre que d'autres travaux au croisement ainsi que sur les trottoirs soient exécutés.

EXO prévoit pour avril l'amorce des travaux de construction des nouvelles sorties, permettant aux usagers d'évacuer la gare de trains par Broughton ou Sherbrooke.

Les contrats pour le nouveau centre sportif et pour le parc canin ont tous les deux été octroyés au plus bas soumissionnaire.

Le Comité de sécurité et circulation doit examiner toutes les idées pour la révision du flot de circulation dans les rues de la ville, aucune décision ne pouvant être prise pour un secteur de la ville qui affecterait

négativement d'autres zones.

Les propriétaires des terrains vacants en friche avoisinant les nouveaux condos sur Brock Sud seront avisés des règlements gouvernant cette situation. Le maire n'est pas au courant des intentions pour compléter le complexe immobilier Bellevue ni des plans d'accès à cette propriété.

Le Conseil a reçu une proposition d'inclure une soirée autochtone au programme des soirées communautaires du parc Strathearn ainsi que des suggestions de façons possibles d'éduquer les gens à cette culture. La suggestion sera acheminée au service des Loisirs. De plus, on a fait remarquer que la bibliothèque publique offre actuellement une série éducative sur les peuples autochtones et sur le processus Vérité et Réconciliation, laquelle est ouverte à tous.

Une autre proposition visait la création d'un concours du meilleur jardin privé de fleurs des champs dans la ville, pour attirer des papillons monarques. L'idée est en fait similaire à celle lancée par le Comité sur l'environnement qui a précédemment proposé au Conseil de planter des jardins pour pollinisateurs sur des terrains publics. Cette proposition a été retenue et la planification est en cours.

Passant à d'autres points à l'ordre du jour, les membres du Conseil ont adopté une résolution suggérée par le conseil de l'agglomération et affirmant que toutes les personnes à la table du Conseil sont adéquatement protégées contre la COVID-19.

Le Conseil a approuvé les déboursés et transferts budgétaires, les plans présentés au CCU selon ses recommandations et la nomination d'un employé au poste dorénavant permanent de Coordonnateur à l'environnement.

La séance a ensuite été levée.

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Pet portrait by Alona Chemtob



Pet portrait by Laura Polomeno



Tree decoration by Rosa Scalia

COMING EVENTS À VENIR

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

Next deadline: February 9

Please check with the library
that in-person activities are happening.

January

- Mon 30 Town Council meeting**
Online at: facebook.com/montrealwest. 8 pm.
- Tue 31 The Threads of Memory: MoWest seniors connecting through stories.**
Every Tuesday.
Email mwpl.librarian@gmail.com.
Public Library. 3 pm.

February

- Tues 1 Tea and TRC Circle Meeting.**
Email mwlib.requests@gmail.com for more information. Public Library. 1 pm.
- Wed 2 Chess Club. Every Wednesday.**
Email mwpl.librarian@gmail.com to register. Public Library. 4:45 pm.
- Thu 3 Drama Club. Every Thursday.**
Email mwpl.librarian@gmail.com to register. Public Library. 4:45 pm.
- Wed 16 Tea and Books (Zoom).**
Email mwlib.requests@gmail.com for more information. 2 pm.



Outdoor home decoration by Laura Polomeno

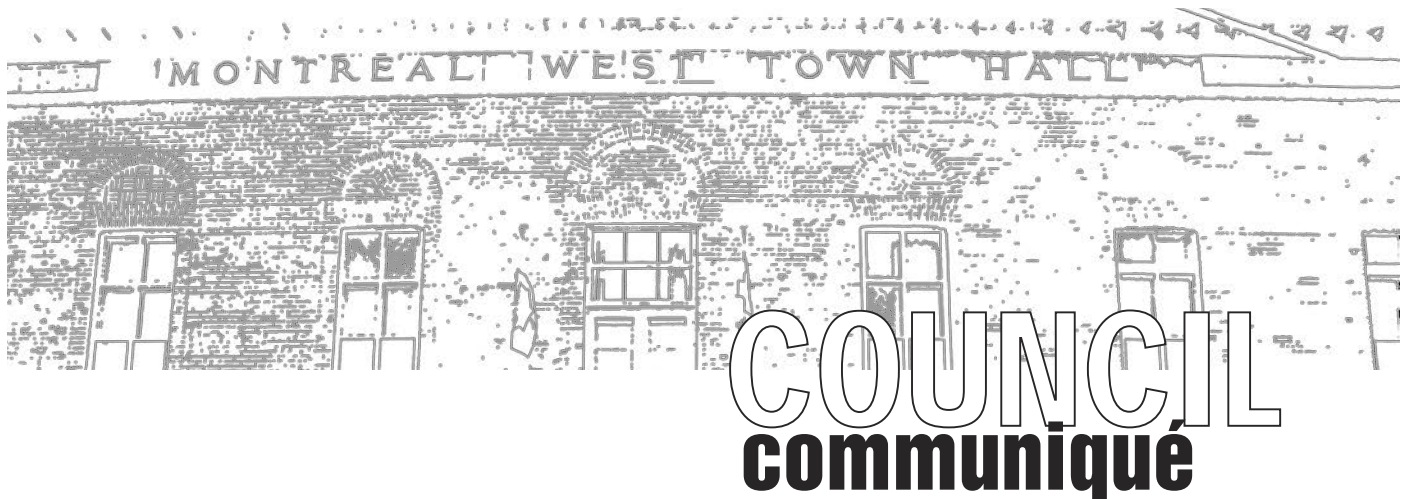
2021 Holiday contests winners

Thanks for being part of the fun and sharing your creativity! Thank you to the *MW Merchant Association* for their generosity in donating the prizes.



A January day on Avon. Photo by Julia Ross





MAYOR'S REPORT

Strathearn parking lot

In response to a letter received from Ellen Cardarelli concerning the Strathearn parking lot, I think some rectification is required.

As was mentioned in the Mayor's Report delivered at the Council Meeting on August 30, 2021, and as referenced by Councillor Feeney in her Council Communique in the October 2021 edition of *The Informer*, there is not any plan, any offer or any pending sale of the Strathearn Parking Lot.

As mentioned at the time, the purpose of the proposed zoning change was an overall plan by Council to evaluate whether we could expand our tax base by looking at all Town land. The only real undeveloped Town land remaining are the parking lots. So, we mandated to have them evaluated. The zoning changes were proposed to us by the professionals. Our job is

to then consult with our residents before adopting any changes. And that's where we are – or where we were.

After seeing the concerns raised, it became evident that we could not constructively and effectively consult with our residents via some virtual or hybrid system. Therefore, we put the consultation and zoning changes on hold until such time as we can consult with the residents in person. At that point, after receiving your comments and concerns, we will see how the zoning changes can be modified. And that is exactly where we stand.

The zoning changes have not been adopted, have not been implemented and have not progressed any further than as reported in the August 30 Council Meeting. And that point has not changed in any tone: neither black, nor white, nor grey.

Pandemic update

I think it safe to say we've all come across an acquaintance, friend, family member, or colleague who has been directly affected by this current wave. It's affected us in so many ways even when we have not been directly touched. We may have had to change our plans, increase our load at work to cover for our colleagues who have been forced into isolation, miss seeing someone we normally see....

To our own staff in Town who have also been affected, thank you for picking up the slack caused by your colleagues' absences. We're all better off being safe rather than allowing the virus to propagate.

Don't despair, we will turn the corner again soon.

Stay safe, stay vigilant and stay healthy.

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



STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLAN AND THE 2022 BUDGET

When defining and approving our budget, we are guided by the objectives set out in the Town's Strategic Financial Plan (SFP) 2018-2022. The following checklist provides an account on how the budget measured up against the SFP objectives.

1) Limit property tax increases

- The 4.23% tax increase for the average house is less than the current CPI
- To limit the increase in our local budget we will be using funds from our accumulated surplus and Working Fund to pay for building improvements and special projects.

2) Continue investing in infrastructure renewal

- The Town will embark upon its largest infrastructure renewal in 50 years as we finalize plans for our new multi-generational recreational center with the assistance of a \$12.5M government grant
- A fundraising campaign has been set up to help offset the cost of the new recreation center.

3) Manage the debt level

- Net debt at year end 2022 is estimated to decrease slightly from the prior year
- Debt servicing is 13.48% of our local budget, well below the maximum 18% recommended in the SFP

4) Increase the overall tax base

- The sale of the library lot and the planned development will significantly increase our tax base
- The Town has started a review of particular zones which may be amenable for future development or increased density

5) Provide high-quality, cost-effective services

- Adapted services continue to be provided to meet the needs of residents during the pandemic
- New personnel in Administration and Urban Planning were budgeted for to better serve residents
- The Communication budget was increased to ensure adequate consultations with residents

6) Improve preparedness for external agglomeration costs

- As President of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM), the mayor continues to seek changes to the Agglo funding formula which would make it more equitable for the ASM municipalities
- A portion of our accumulated surplus will be allocated to partially cover the 10.2% increase in our Agglo remittance

The SFP has proven to be an invaluable tool to help the Town in its short and long-term planning. We will be reviewing and updating the SFP this year to assess the goals reached and re-assess our objectives. I look forward to sharing that process with residents.

The full SFP can be found on the MW website under Finance and Administration.

Colleen Feeney, *Councillor*
Finance, MADA, Recreation and Culture
cfeeney@montreal-west.ca



TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

In an effort to address a number of traffic safety issues in the Town and develop a robust traffic management plan, we are looking to reconstitute the Montreal West Traffic Safety Committee.

If you are interested in volunteering and have a professional background in traffic engineering (civil engineer), urban planning, traffic safety project management or design, we are looking for you!

Please send me an email with a short expression of interest including your expertise to by February 28, 2022. The Committee will meet every second month or as needed.

Lauren Small-Pennefather, *Councillor*
Public Security
lsmall-pennefather@montreal-west.ca



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Town is looking for residents interested in participating on the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). PAC reviews and makes recommendations to Council on requests related to urban planning and development including site planning and architectural integration programs, minor exemptions, zoning amendments and periodic urban planning and building bylaw review.

This committee holds meetings twice a month on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and, occasionally, holds extra meetings. In current circumstances, the meetings are held online. The Committee has seven regular and four alternate members, with renewable two-year terms.

Candidates for this position should:

- be a resident of Montreal West;
- be available for evening meetings;
- have expertise, training or an interest in urban planning, architecture, engineering, development, heritage, construction or landscape design.

To apply for this volunteer position, please send your résumé and a cover letter explaining your reasons for applying by February 28 to:

Vlad Florea-Archir
Urban Planning Manager / Building Inspector
vfloreaarchir@montreal-west.ca

Maria Torres, *Councillor*
Urban Planning
mtorres@montreal-west.ca





SNOW CLEARING: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

We're very proud of our snow clearing in MoWest, but every year we get questions about the process. Let me take you behind the scenes to explain why we do what we do.

When do snow operations start?

We initiate plowing and salting once 2 cm of snow has fallen, day or night. In fact, we have two employees on the night shift for the peak winter months to ensure the snow operations can begin immediately. The actual snow removal generally begins once 20 cm has accumulated.

There are exceptions to this policy, however, under certain weather conditions. For instance, a mix of winter rain and freezing temperatures can block the catch basins causing flooding or turn the snow drifts into blocks of ice. So we may need to remove the snow before 20 cm has fallen.

Why do we hire contractors to clear the snow?

Our own employees do all the initial plowing after a storm but snow removal requires more equipment and manpower than we have available.

It's also more economical to rent some of the more specialized, expensive equipment than to purchase it. A grader, for instance, would cost around \$500,000 and would only be used about 10-15 times a year.

So our own crews take care of about half the job and we hire contractors for the other half.

Why doesn't the Town blow snow onto lawns instead of trucking it away?

We're extremely lucky to have a snow dump here in Town. It makes our removal operation highly efficient. Without a local snow dump, it would likely be more efficient to blow snow onto lawns as some communities do.

Our costs are measured by the time it takes the crews to clear the snow. And it's actually much faster to blow the snow into trucks than onto lawns, where the operator must stop constantly to aim the blower away from driveways, gardens, walkways, etc.

That said, under certain circumstances we have no choice but to blow onto lawns. When our snow dump is nearly full, we must resort to blowing on lawns. We've witnessed this in some very heavy snow years.

Why is the snow from the southern end of Town removed last?

The removal operation is planned to maximize efficiency.

The centre of Town has its snow removed first with crew #1, to clear the route to the snow dump (behind the Arena) and make Westminster accessible.

The north end is the next priority (usually with crew #2) fo-

cused around Edinburgh and its high density streets like Radcliffe.

Finally, both crews tackle the southern end. This is the most challenging area because the trucks must navigate around the train schedule which can slow the operation considerably. So, frequently, both crews are put on this job to ensure it can be completed in less time, between rush hours.

Using this method, the whole Town can be cleared in three-four days.

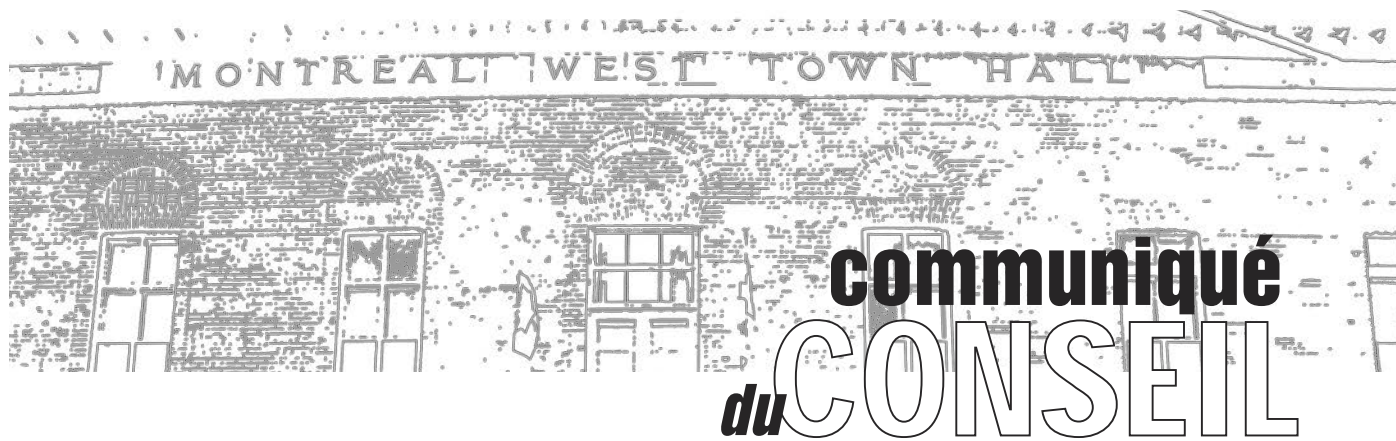
What are some of the biggest obstacles to snow removal in Town?

The biggest obstacles are literally "obstacles" in the way of clearing operations: vehicles that remain on the street after the warning signs are posted; cars in driveways that stick out onto the sidewalk, impeding the sidewalk plows; and snow pushed onto the street and sidewalk by residents and contractors.

Our sidewalk equipment, in particular, can only handle so much snow accumulation which is why some sidewalks may remain blocked until the snow can be removed.

Please send me your questions and I'll try to incorporate them into my next article.

*Elizabeth Ulin, Councillor
Public Works, Environment and
Communication
eulin@montreal-west.ca*



RAPPORT DU MAIRE

Stationnement municipal Strathearn

Je crois nécessaire de faire une mise au point concernant le stationnement Strathearn en réponse à une lettre reçue d'Ellen Cardarelli.

Comme il a été mentionné dans le rapport du maire présenté lors de la réunion du conseil du 30 août 2021, et comme l'a écrit la conseillère Feeney dans son communiqué publié dans le numéro d'octobre 2021 de *The Informer*, il n'y a aucun plan, aucune offre, ni aucune vente prévue du stationnement Strathearn.

Comme il a été mentionné à l'époque, l'objectif des changements de zonage proposés venait d'un plan global du Conseil visant à évaluer les options possibles pour augmenter notre assiette fiscale en examinant tous les terrains municipaux. Les seuls terrains municipaux non aménagés restants sont les stationnements. Nous avons donc mandaté des professionnels pour les évaluer. Les modifications de zonage nous ont

été proposées par les professionnels. Notre travail consiste ensuite à consulter nos résidents avant d'adopter tout changement. Et c'est là que nous en sommes – ou plutôt que nous en étions.

Suite aux préoccupations soulevées, il est devenu évident que nous ne pouvions pas consulter nos résidents de manière constructive et efficace via un quelconque système virtuel ou hybride. Par conséquent, nous avons mis sur pause la consultation et les modifications de zonage jusqu'à ce que nous puissions consulter les résidents en personne. En temps et lieu, après avoir pris connaissance de vos commentaires et vos préoccupations, nous verrons comment les changements de zonage peuvent être modifiés. Et voilà exactement où nous en sommes.

Les changements de zonage n'ont pas été adoptés, n'ont pas été mis en œuvre et n'ont pas progressé plus loin que ce qui a été rapporté lors de la réunion du Conseil du 30 août.

Mise à jour sur la pandémie

Je pense qu'il est possible de dire que nous avons tous une connaissance, un ami, un membre de la famille ou un collègue qui a été directement touché par la vague actuelle. Elle nous affecte de bien des façons, même si nous n'avons pas été directement touchés. Nous avons peut-être dû changer nos plans, augmenter notre charge de travail pour remplacer nos collègues qui ont été contraints à l'isolement, ne pas voir quelqu'un que nous voyons habituellement...

À nos employés municipaux qui ont également été affectés, merci de prendre le relais en l'absence de vos collègues. Il vaut mieux que nous soyons tous en sécurité plutôt que de laisser le virus se propager.

Ne désespérez pas, nous allons bientôt remonter la pente.

Soyez vigilants et restez en sécurité et en bonne santé.

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



LE PLAN FINANCIER STRATÉGIQUE ET LE BUDGET 2022

Lors de l'élaboration et de l'approbation de notre budget, nous sommes guidés par les objectifs définis dans le Plan financier stratégique (PFS) 2018-2022 de la Ville. La liste de contrôle qui suit donne une fiche de rendement du budget par rapport aux objectifs du PFS.

1) Restreindre les hausses d'impôts fonciers

- La hausse de taxes de 4,23 % pour la propriété moyenne est moindre que l'IPC.
- Pour limiter l'augmentation de notre budget local, nous utiliserons des fonds de l'excédent accumulé et du fonds de roulement pour couvrir les travaux d'amélioration des bâtiments et les projets spéciaux.

2) Poursuivre les investissements pour le renouvellement des infrastructures

- La Ville entreprend son plus grand projet de renouvellement d'infrastructure depuis 50 ans alors que nous finalisons les plans du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif multi-générationnel. Rappelons que nous avons reçu une aide financière gouvernementale de 12,5 millions de dollars.
- Une campagne de collecte de fonds a été mise en place afin de compenser les coûts du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif.

3) Gérer le niveau de la dette

- Une légère baisse dans la dette nette à la fin de l'exercice 2022 est prévue par rapport à l'année précédente.
- Le service de la dette est à 13,48 %, bien en dessous du maximum de 18 % recommandé dans le PFS.

4) Élargir l'assiette fiscale

- La vente du terrain de la bibliothèque et le nouveau projet de développement immobilier augmenteront considérablement notre assiette fiscale.
- La Ville a entamé une analyse de certaines zones qui pourraient se prêter à un développement immobilier futur ou à une augmentation de la densité.

5) S'engager à fournir des services de grande qualité avec efficience

- Des services adaptés continuent à être dispensés pour répondre aux besoins des résidents pendant la pandémie.
- Du nouveau personnel dans l'administration et le Service de l'urbanisme a été prévu au budget pour mieux servir les résidents.
- Le budget du Service des communications a été augmenté pour assurer des consultations adéquates avec les résidents.

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

- En tant que président de l'Association des municipalités de banlieue (AMB), le maire continue à chercher à modifier la formule de financement de l'Agglo afin de la rendre plus équitable pour les municipalités de l'AMB.
- Une partie de l'excédent accumulé sera affectée à couvrir partiellement l'augmentation de 10,2 % de notre quote-part.

Le PFS s'est révélé être un outil précieux pour aider la Ville dans sa planification à court et à long terme. Nous examinerons et mettrons à jour le PFS cette année pour évaluer les buts atteints et réévaluer nos objectifs. J'ai hâte de partager ce processus avec les résidents.

Le PFS peut être consulté en son intégralité sur le site Web de Montréal-Ouest sous l'onglet Finances et administration.

Colleen Feeney, conseillère
Finance, MADA, Loisirs et Culture
cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca



COMITÉ DE CIRCULATION ET DE SÉCURITÉ

Nous cherchons à reconstituer le Comité de circulation et de sécurité de Montréal-Ouest dans le but d'aborder un certain nombre de problèmes de sécurité routière dans la Ville et d'élaborer un plan de gestion de la circulation.

Nous sommes à la recherche de bénévoles avec une expérience professionnelle en ingénierie de la circulation (ingénieur civil), en urbanisme ou en gestion de projet ou conception de sécurité routière.

Si vous êtes intéressés, veuillez m'envoyer un court courriel d'intérêt comprenant votre expertise avant le 28 février 2022. Le comité se réunira tous les deux mois ou selon les besoins.

Lauren Small-Pennefather, *conseillère*
Sécurité publique
lsmall-pennefather@montreal-ouest.ca



APPELS DE CANDIDATURES – COMITÉ CONSULTATIF D'URBANISME

La Ville de M-O. recherche des résidents intéressés à siéger au Comité consultatif d'urbanisme (CCU). Le CCU étudie des demandes relatives à l'urbanisme et à l'aménagement, incluant les Plans d'implantation et d'intégration architecturale, les dérogations mineures, les amendements de zonage et la révision périodique des règlements d'urbanisme et de construction et fait ses recommandations au Conseil.

Ce comité se réunit deux fois par mois, les mercredis à 18 h 30 et occasionnellement, plus souvent. Dans les circonstances actuelles, les rencontres ont lieu de manière virtuelle. Le comité se compose de sept membres ordinaires et de quatre remplaçants, avec des mandats renouvelables de deux ans.

Les candidats à ce poste doivent

- résider à Montréal-Ouest;
- être libres pour des rencontres en soirée;
- avoir de l'expertise, de la formation, ou un intérêt en urbanisme, architecture, génie, aménagement, patrimoine, construction ou architecture paysagère.

Pour vous porter candidat à ce poste bénévole, transmettez votre curriculum vitae et une lettre de présentation énonçant les raisons de votre candidature avant le 28 février à :

Vlad Florea-Archir
Responsable de l'urbanisme /
Inspecteur en bâtiment
vfloreaarchir@montreal-west.ca

Maria Torres, *conseillère*
Urbanisme
mtorres@montreal-ouest.ca



LE DÉNEIGEMENT ET POURQUOI NOUS FAISONS CE QUE NOUS FAISONS

Nous sommes très fiers de nos opérations de déneigement à Montréal-Ouest, mais chaque année nous recevons des questions sur notre procédé. Permettez-moi de vous emmener dans les coulisses pour vous expliquer pourquoi nous faisons ce que nous faisons.

Quand commencent les opérations de déneigement ?

Nous procédons au déblayage et à l'épandage de sel à partir d'une accumulation de 2 cm de neige, de jour comme de nuit. En fait, nous avons une équipe de nuit composée de deux employés durant les mois d'hiver les plus occupés afin de pouvoir débiter les opérations de déneigement dès que nécessaire. Le chargement de la neige se fait généralement lorsqu'il y a une accumulation de 20 cm.

Il existe toutefois des exceptions à cette règle en raison de certaines conditions météorologiques. Par exemple, un mélange de pluie hivernale et de température glaciale peut bloquer les puisards et provoquer des inondations ou même transformer les accumulations de neige en blocs de glace. Il arrive donc que nous devions enlever la neige avant que 20 cm ne soient tombés.

Pourquoi faisons-nous appel à des entrepreneurs pour le déneigement ?

Nos propres employés effectuent le déblayage initial après une tempête, mais le déneigement complet exige plus de main-d'œuvre et d'équipement que ce dont nous disposons.

Il est également plus économique de louer certaines pièces d'équipement plus spécialisées et plus coûteuses que de les acheter. Une grappe, par exemple, coûterait environ 500 000 \$ et ne serait utilisée que 10-15 fois par an.

Nos propres équipes s'occupent donc d'environ la moitié du travail et nous engageons des entrepreneurs pour l'autre moitié.

Pourquoi la Ville ne souffle-t-elle pas la neige sur les pelouses au lieu de la souffler dans le camion ?

Nous avons beaucoup de chance d'avoir un dépôt à neige sur notre territoire. Ceci rend notre opération de déneigement très efficace. Sans ce dépôt, il serait probablement plus efficace de souffler la neige sur les terrains, comme le font certaines municipalités.

Nos coûts de déneigement sont basés sur le temps qu'il faut aux équipes pour déneiger. Et il est en fait beaucoup plus rapide de souffler la neige dans les camions que sur les pelouses, alors que l'opérateur doit constamment s'arrêter pour se repositionner et éviter de souffler dans les allées, les jardins, etc.

Cela dit, dans certaines circonstances, nous n'avons pas d'autre choix que de souffler la neige sur les pelouses, comme lorsque notre dépôt à neige est presque plein. Nous en avons été témoins lors de certaines années de neige abondante.

Pourquoi la neige du sud de la Ville est enlevée en dernier ?

L'opération de déneigement est planifiée de manière à maximiser son efficacité.

Le centre est déneigé en premier par l'équipe no 1, afin de dégager la route vers le dépôt à neige (situé derrière l'aréna) et rendre Westminster accessible.

Le secteur nord autour de l'École Edinburgh et des rues plus achalandées comme Radcliffe est la priorité suivante (généralement par l'équipe n°2).

Enfin, les deux équipes s'attaquent au secteur sud. C'est la zone la plus difficile, car les

camions doivent contourner les horaires des trains, ce qui peut ralentir considérablement l'opération. Il est donc fréquent que les deux équipes soient affectées à cette tâche pour s'assurer qu'elle peut être réalisée en moins de temps, entre les heures de pointe.

Grâce à cette méthode, la Ville au grand complet peut être déneigée en trois ou quatre jours.

Quels sont les principaux obstacles au déneigement ?

Les plus grands obstacles sont littéralement des "obstacles" qui entravent les opérations de déneigement : les véhicules qui restent stationnés dans la rue après l'installation des panneaux d'interdiction de stationnement, les voitures dans les entrées qui dépassent sur le trottoir, gênant ainsi les chasse-neige pour trottoirs, et la neige poussée dans la rue et sur le trottoir par les résidents et les entrepreneurs.

Notre équipement pour les trottoirs ne peut traiter qu'une certaine quantité de neige accumulée, c'est pourquoi certains trottoirs peuvent rester bloqués jusqu'à ce que la neige puisse y être enlevée.

Envoyez-moi vos questions et j'essaierai d'y répondre dans mon prochain article.

Elizabeth Ulin, *conseillère Travaux publics, Environnement et Communications*
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