



## Irene Lambert:

Former Montreal West resident receives lifetime advocacy award

Former Montreal West resident, *Irene Lambert*, has been named recipient of the 2021 *Chris Stark Distinguished Advocacy Award*, presented by *Barrier Free Canada*, for her work for Canadians with disabilities. Irene has spent 60-plus years working towards the betterment of the lives of blind people and people with low vision.

Many Montreal West residents will remember seeing

Irene and **Bob Lambert** around the neighbourhood with their golden retriever guide dogs. At one time there were four golden retrievers in their home – the two retired originals, **Lambda** and **Corey**, and their two replacements, **Zest** and **Zonta**. Bob and Irene lived on Percival Avenue from 1978 to 1990. Both were strong advocates for

*continued on page 8*

## New sports and recreation centre

expected to open in 2025

**Montreal West received over \$12.5 million in grants to build a sports and recreation centre.**

**The Town plans to start the construction of a new sports and recreation centre in the spring of 2023. The expected completion date for this project is sometime in 2025.**

*by Hannah Sabourin*

On May 3, 2021, the federal and provincial governments granted Montreal West millions of dollars to plan and build a sports and recreation centre at 220 Bedbrook. It will replace the Legion Memorial Rink and the North Chalet swimming pool.

This new building will include a swimming pool, an arena and classrooms. It will also include physical activity rooms for yoga and Zumba classes.

### Fundraising committee

**Scott MacKenzie** is the leader of the recreation centre's fundraising committee. The goal is to raise \$2.5 million. As of March 30, the committee had raised approximately \$700,000.

Scott cares about this project because he would like to give the next generation of children a sustainable sports facility. "Sports do so much good for children. Through sports, they learn how to interact with other children outside of school and work towards a common goal," he said.

According to Scott, the Legion Memorial Rink is not a safe place for children to skate. "We have a falling down, dilapidated arena [...] which frankly, should be condemned," he said.



Scott MacKenzie

In 2015, the Town conducted a health and safety inspection of the arena. Originally built in the 1950s, the Legion Memorial Rink has structural issues, mould and mice infestations. Additionally, it is inaccessible for those with disabilities.

"We saw that the amount of money to get the building up to

*continued on page 12*

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# INFORMER

10 Westminister North  
Montreal West, Quebec  
H4X 1Y9

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

ISSN: 084741X

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## RATES

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

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

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

Professional card: \$135/year

Subscriptions: \$20

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

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

## NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

May 11

## FOR MAYOR

ELIZABETH O'NEILL  
124 Brock N.



is a real estate agent and member of the Montreal Real Estate Board. Since moving to Montreal West in 1951, she has been involved in various community groups, most recently as vice-president of the Citizens' Association, and member of the M.U.C. Subcommittee of the Association.

ALASTAIR REEKIE  
39 Parkside



is a Chartered Accountant. He has lived 49 years in Montreal West and been active in many Community activities, including the C.R.A., the Curling Club, the Boy Scouts, etc. He has just completed a four year term on the Town Council as Finance Commissioner.

DESMOND LARTIGUE  
145 Brock N.



is marketing manager for a pharmaceutical company. A resident of Montreal West for 15 years, he is a sports enthusiast who has been active as hockey and baseball coach of C.R.A. youngsters.

## Issue Four, October, 1973

The headline was, "First Contested Election for Mayor in History of Montreal West."

"A study of the records in the Town Hall archives indicates... that prior to 1921, the post of Mayor was assigned by the Commission to one of the commissioners on a year-by-year basis. In the intervening 52 years since being established as an elected post, it has always been filled by acclamation."

Four pages were devoted to introducing the candidates running for the Town Commission with individual head shot photos, a brief bio and a short response to a questionnaire posed by *The Informer*. Running for mayor were **Elizabeth O'Neill**, **Alastair Reekie** and **Desmond Lartigue**. Those running for Commissioner for Public Works, **C.A. Norman Reid**; Building and Recreation, **Skip Warnock** and Finance, **William D. Moncur**, were acclaimed. **David C. Wadsworth** and **Harry Garber** ran for Police and Fire.

For the first time the paper had ads, only four: *Superb Tailor Shop*, *Great Bear*, *The Pin Cushion* and *Davies Bros*. Those who lived in MoWest at this time will recognize these long-established Westminister

businesses. All have since closed or moved. The issue expanded to 12 pages to accommodate more ads expected.

There were two pages of letters. Three dealt with the changes towards an elected council and mayor. Two complained about the change in selecting a Town Commission. The theme in both was that the slate selected by the *Citizens' Association* has worked well for decades, why change?

Another letter was a response by **Sonia Raikes**, president of the *Citizens' Association* who said the creation of the MUC has made the change to more direct democracy a must.

The last page of the paper contained six letters. **Frances Phelan** wrote a witty letter on trying to cross Westminister. Fifty years later, the traffic is far denser. Perhaps, because it hardly moves during rush hour, it's actually easier to cross.

**J.C. Chamberlain** lamented the no parking on Avon. I won-

# We are 50!

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

der what J.C. would have to say about traffic on Avon today. It's become a major highway! **Janet Hickey** went against the flow of most MoWest residents and said the MUC is the future trend and its ultimate aim is to protect city's inner core. Her observation proved correct. **Ian Carnegie** said it's sad that competition is limited only to sports. The paper should organize an essay writing competition and the best should be printed in *The Informer*. **Vera Telford** reminded readers that the election of leaders of community health care centres was an election issue. **Paul Holding** thanked organizers of the Harvest Festival. It seemed the event made the front page of *The Gazette*.

## TO CROSS OR NOT TO CROSS ... from Frances Phelan

Have you tried crossing Westminister Avenue on foot recently? If your habits are eccentric and you choose to do your strolling in the pre-dawn hours or after mid-night, you will probably have an easy time of it. Certainly only those in training for track and field events at the '76 Olympics could possibly enjoy the challenge of crossing at any other time.

Oh, there is a lovely pedestrian cross walk at one point, but only someone with a death wish would dare venture boldly across it. Are tickets actually given to drivers who fail to give the right of way to pedestrians there? No doubt the imposition of a traffic penalty would be small comfort to someone who finds himself prone on the street but at least it would satisfy the more vindictive urges in the rest of us.

As to the four-way stop signs at various corners along Westminister, you need the agility and timing of a Rudolph Nureyev to manage a crossing there without a crisis of nerves.



# Retiring the stethoscope

If you have lived or grown up in the Town, chances are you were a patient or a parent of a patient of Dr. **Gerald Ahronheim** or Dr. **Naomi Stein** of Brock North. Known for their “no nonsense” approach, the pediatric power couple hung up their stethoscopes after serving the community for over 50 years at the end of 2021.

Gerald graduated from the University of Michigan in 1966 and Naomi in 1969 from McGill. After meeting when she was an attending and he was a fellow at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, they married in 1978, moving to MoWest in 1980, raising their three daughters **Sara, Divvy** and **Anna**.

All three girls swam for

**MWAC** for years and played MoWest soccer. Sara is now an accomplished physician herself at the Jewish General Hospital in the Emergency Department, Divvy a Judaic scholar and Anna a military journalist for the *Jerusalem Post* now living in Israel. Naomi and Gerald are also proud grandparents of **Cloe, Moe** and **Ron**.

Serving as faculty members for the Department of Pediatrics, Naomi started the *Melville Clinic* in 1975. She established *Hillside Pediatrics* in Westmount in 1985, Gerald joining her in 1998 after his tenure at Sainte-Justine’s Children’s Hospital. They moved their practice to NDG in 2019, just before the pandemic.

I was fortunate enough to find Dr. Stein a few days before giving birth to my daughter *Avah*. After 13 years, it was also providential to share one more appointment with her on her last day at the clinic. Having chronicled her patients by having hundreds of photos adorning her office walls, these are all keepsakes of an outstanding and

dedicated career, contributing to the advancement of pediatric medicine.

Wishing you both well-deserved golden years of retirement, enjoying your children and grandchildren. Thank you for your outstanding service and commitment to community.

*The Pennefather Family*



## MoWest Meals on Wheels needs YOU!

In 1971, under the umbrella of the *Montreal Volunteer Bureau*, Montreal West opened a local *Meals on Wheels* group to make and deliver hot meals twice a week to the frail and vulnerable seniors in our area.

Every Tuesday and Friday morning from September to July (when the United Church is open) 24 hot meals were prepared and delivered to these seniors.

The pandemic in March 2020 forced us to temporarily close the church and therefore this program. Following public health guidelines set by the province, we can now reopen the church kitchen and hopefully resume the *Meals on Wheels* program.

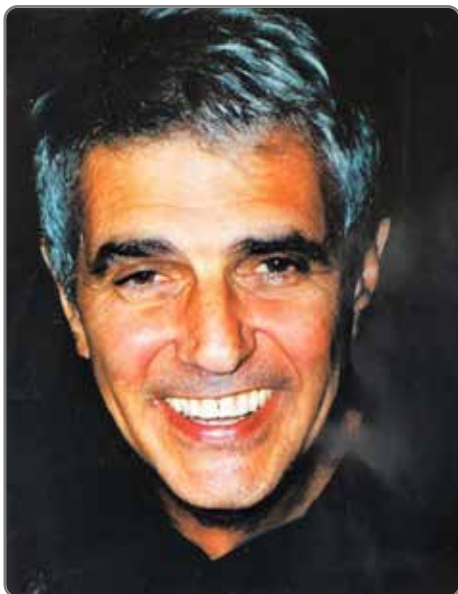
Do you have two hours to spare in a given month to shop for the groceries (you are given the money) or cook the meals

(recipes all supplied) or deliver the meals OR tidy the kitchen? Do you have a friend to do this with either on a Tuesday or a Friday morning to reach out to our seniors? Ideally, with enough volunteers, you need to sign up for only one month – the Tuesday or the Friday once in the fall, once in the winter and maybe once in the spring. That is a total of 24 hours maximum per year to support our community.

The only way that we can rebuild our community as we slowly and carefully resurface after the pandemic is to see this uplifting of the community as **our collective responsibility**.

Please consider being a part of this amazing organization and contact:

**Joan Foster**  
joanfoster@hotmail.com  
779-5234



*in memoriam:*

### Peter Prupas

On March 4 Montreal West lost a wonderful resident and an amazing “strip” business man when **Peter Prupas** died at the age of 76. Peter lived for 42 years on Radcliffe with his wife **Gail** and their two girls **Andrea** and **Amy**.

Most of us remember him as the smiling and amazing optometrist on Westminister where he had his welcoming and efficient office for over 30 years. Peter was so friendly and genuinely interested in others. He was respected by the entire community of optometrists and was always known to assist a child or a senior to see better – often at very little expense. His family says that he respected his clients so much that he only ever ate garlic on Friday nights so as not to

offend those he was caring for!! We shared Peter with his favourite spot at Petit Lac Long where he and Gail had as many friends and where he loved to raise his girls and then be with his sons-in-law **Adam** and **Mike** and his grandchildren **Arden, Ethan, Jesse, Caleb** and **Zara**.

Peter was diagnosed with cancer in 2001; yet with all the surgeries and treatments that cancer brought with it, he always had a smile on his face and a kind hello for whomever he met. His son-in-law Mike (Amy’s husband) says he had a life built on love and laughter. Peter rode in the *Ride to Conquer Cancer* Montreal to Quebec City while fighting his illness.

Montreal West was so fortunate to have Peter and Gail and their family be a part of the Town’s mosaic. Our sympathies go to the entire family on the loss of a great man.

*from Joan Foster*

## Artists' Showcase – Spring

Calling all MoWest artists!

It is time to start planning your artwork for next Artists' Showcase. The theme for the spring/summer exhibit will be **People and Pets**. Please fill out an application online. The online exhibit will be up toward the end of May, the deadline for application is May 13.

MW artists interested in having a table at our June 7 (at 6 pm) *Art in the Park* event, can also contact **Marion** Online: montreal-west.ca or call **484-6186**.



## West End Quilters

Spring is coming and although gardens are calling, quilters still enjoy playing with all their colourful fabrics.

In March, we met at the United Church and the 15 guild members who gathered were very happy to be together again. We enjoyed the display of their most recent quilts. We also had a machine spa day where **Mr. Kamel** came and cleaned many machines that had been working hard the past two years.

We discussed having a quilt show and the consensus was to only consider one in 2024. In the meantime, we might have some kind of a virtual show.

We are hoping that we all avoid the new Covid variant as we have more in-person meetings planned. **Ann** is going to demonstrate making skull brooches with felt and beads and **Mary** will show her methods of hand quilting.

Not all our quilts are patchwork. This stunning quilt, *Zoo Family Portrait* was made by **Randi Lenet** from a pattern by *The (Not So) Dramatic Life*. Keep quilting.

from Mary Sutherland  
marysdogbob@gmail.com

## Environmentalism in action

### Leaf blowers: worse than you think!

Leaf blowers are only permitted in MoWest from April 15 to May 1 and from October 15 to November 15. But should they should ever be used at all? Opponents often complain about the noise and air pollution caused by the loud contraptions. However, noise and pollution may be the least of the harm created.

Ecologists insist that leaf blowers can cause an insect Armageddon. Lawns and gardens that are cleaned using the machines will have significantly less beneficial insect life and actually become weaker than those that are cleaned with gentle raking. A leaf blower may make your property look tidy – but an antiseptically clean lawn and garden is neither natural nor healthy in the long-run.

The most well-known plant pollinators are bees and butterflies, but other insects like ants, beetles and moths also play an important role in pollination and soil aeration. These insects are essential for healthy plant life. And where do they go in the winter? Miami Beach? Well, maybe some well-to-do retired insects. But most hide in leaf litter and decaying plant matter. Other important insects burrow just under the surface. Some don't live through the winter, but they lay eggs that hatch in the spring. Leaf blowers

(as well as overly aggressive raking) will guarantee that your garden has fewer helpful insects.

Using a leaf blower also guarantees that your neighbours will have less healthy gardens too, since insects don't care about property lines. (I verified with a botanist who confirmed that insects don't care about property lines.)

I have never owned a leaf blower, but it looks like it would be fun. The power! The 9-year-old that still lives inside me would probably have a blast. But I'm not actually that kid anymore. I realize that I want my house surrounded by healthy flora and fauna. So, if you have a leaf blower, please sell it on Kijiji to someone who lives far away. If you have a lawn service provider, please tell them to not use a leaf blower on your property and that you don't need an antiseptic lawn. And remember that leaves should be picked up late in the spring rather than early, and with a simple, gentle raking.

from Daniel Boulerville  
Environmental Action Committee



### Souffleurs de feuilles : Pire que vous ne le pensez !

Les souffleurs de feuilles ne sont autorisés dans Mo-Ouest que du 15 avril au 1<sup>er</sup> mai et du 15 octobre au 15 novembre. Mais faut-il pour autant les utiliser ? Les opposants se plaignent du bruit et de la pollution causés par ces engins bruyants. Cependant, le bruit et la pollution sont peut-être les moindres des dommages causés. Les écologistes insistent sur le fait que les souffleurs peuvent provoquer un Armageddon d'insectes. Les pelouses et les jardins nettoyés à l'aide de ces machines abritent beaucoup moins d'insectes bénéfiques et deviennent même plus faibles que ceux qui sont nettoyés à l'aide d'un râteau doux. Un souffleur de feuilles peut donner à votre propriété un aspect ordonné, mais une pelouse et un jardin nettoyés de manière antiseptique ne sont ni naturels ni sains à long terme.

Les pollinisateurs de plantes les plus connus sont les abeilles et les papillons, mais d'autres insectes comme les fourmis et les coléoptères jouent également un rôle important dans la pollinisation et l'aération du sol. Et où vont-ils en hiver ? La plupart se cachent dans la litière de feuilles et la matière végétale en décomposition. D'autres insectes importants se terrent juste sous la surface. Certains pondent des œufs

qui éclosent au printemps. Les souffleurs de feuilles (ainsi que le ratissage trop agressif) garantissent que votre jardin aura moins d'insectes utiles.

L'utilisation d'un souffleur de feuilles garantit également que vos voisins auront des jardins moins sains, car les insectes ne se soucient pas des limites de propriété.

Je n'ai jamais possédé de souffleur, mais il semble que ce serait amusant. Le pouvoir ! L'enfant de 9 ans qui vit encore en moi s'amuserait probablement beaucoup. Mais je ne suis plus vraiment cet enfant. Je réalise que je veux que ma maison soit entourée d'une flore et d'une faune saines. Donc, si vous avez un souffleur de feuilles, veuillez le vendre à quelqu'un qui vit loin d'ici. Si vous avez un fournisseur de services de pelouse, veuillez lui dire de ne pas utiliser de souffleur de feuilles sur votre propriété et que vous n'avez pas besoin d'une pelouse antiseptique. Et rappelez-vous que les feuilles doivent être ramassées tard au printemps plutôt que tôt, et avec un simple râteau doux.

de Daniel Boulerville  
Comité d'action environnementale





## Rotary

### Douglas Floen:

## Update on Rotary Community Theatre



Our recent speaker was retired Royal West Academy and MWHS teacher **Doug Floen**. He taught drama for 30 years at Royal West and helped with the student exchanges. Doug corrected his introduction by saying he was at Montreal West High School for 50 years.

His passion was teaching English and drama and he put on a play for every one of those 50 years. Musicals, dramas and Shakespearean plays were all put on and many kids walked across the stage and he loved every minute of it.

Covid came along and put a stop to his play producing career at Royal West. He was at a loss because he loved putting on those plays. He got the idea to contact his good friend and Rotarian **Ron D'Souza** to see if the Rotary Club would be interested in sponsoring a community theatre group. Ron did his magic and Doug went about recruiting old students and even got Ron and his wife **Charlotte** to join the theatre group. They were able to reserve the Town Hall Fridays for practice.

The group was really coming along and then Omicron came along and put a stop to everything. They are finally starting up again after almost three months of being away from the stage. Doug said there is a crying need for community theatre in the West End and the *Rotary Club* is the ideal sponsor for it. He talked about the benefits of having a theatre group in Montreal West.

The play is an Agatha Christie play called *And Then There Were None*. It was originally called *Ten Little Indians*. Doug said it is light-hearted with comical moments that everyone will enjoy. He said it was a win-win situation for the *Rotary Club* as they will get all the proceeds. Doug hopes he can put on a play every year. The play takes place June 14-16 at the Town Hall and they are trying to schedule a matinee on the 17.

*from Doug Yeats*

Douglas Floen



## IODE



### Volunteering is empathy in action

There are many benefits to volunteering, an action for which Montreal West has an excellent reputation.

#### The beginning

During the Second Boer War of 1899-1902, a group of women volunteered to supplement government provisions for soldiers by knitting socks. They called themselves the *Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire*.

To this day, there are still 103 chapters across Canada. Although the title was upgraded to the acronym *IODE* in 1994, the mission of *IODE* remains: to enhance the quality of life for individuals, through education support, community service and citizenship programs.

Beyond knitting, members support shelters and supply little extras in hospitals and schools, when and where possible and depending on local needs and woman-power.



Canada Post stamp issued to mark the Platinum Jubilee

#### Our patron

Our patron is Queen Elizabeth II who, 70 years ago, dedicated herself to service. In honour of her Platinum Jubilee, chapters across Canada are finding ways to celebrate. *IODE HMS Victory* has responded to the Ukrainian War by donating \$700 to the *Red Cross* for work in Ukraine and \$700 to the Oncology Department of the *Montreal Children's Hospital* for Ukrainian children's cancer treatments.

*IODE* chapters across the country are aiming to celebrate their volunteer activities, in multiples of 7: for instance, some have collected 70 mugs for a food bank, others have used their social media accounts to report 7 of their works daily for a week.

#### Come and meet us!

We would love to attract 7 new members; please consider attending our meetings at the Community Centre. The next one is May 10, 1:30-3:30 pm. Please contact **Guiliana, Moira** or **Janet** for more details at 943-9310.

*from Janet King*





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**Tranquilli-T**

## Elizabeth Ballantyne School



"Drop Everything and Read"

### I Love to Read Week

March 14-18 was *I Love to Read Week* at Elizabeth Ballantyne School.

Students participated in theme days, such as Dress like a Superhero Reader and Come as your Favourite Book Character. The students created bookmarks for one another, wrote a story as a cycle and had guest teachers read to the class. Drop Everything and Read was done daily and even the principal, **Ms. Chilelli**, did a virtual reading for the whole school.

To end the week, the students had a pajama fort building event where they read with flashlights. To further build class libraries, the Scholastic Book Fair was held, earning the school extra money to make purchases for each class. The week was a lot of fun and a huge success!

### The magical wisdom of friendship

by the students of Room 5

Once upon a time, there was a Kindergarten Kingdom in the ancient skies.

In the castle, Houston the snake crawled around the castle and saw a big, big monster. A cat came up to the snake. The cat bit the snake! The snake got super, super mad!!!! They solved the problem by "talking-it-out." After their talk, they felt much better.

Meanwhile, a lion came to eat the cat and the snake. The lion and the snake decided to be friends.

At this time, outside the castle, there was a huge T-REX! The T-REX was trying to break the castle!

The lion, the snake and the cat decided to work together to try to save the castle.

There were 3 princesses in the castle who escaped to the forest. On the castle lawn there was a unicorn. She was running away from the T-REX and the lion and the snake and the cat.

When they saw the T-REX, they fought it, but it was too strong. Instead, they decided to catapult special cannonballs with a message written in Dinosaur language inside. The message said: "PLEASE GO AWAY!"

And he did.

The End



French Week

### La Semaine de français

*La Semaine de français* (French Week) was filled with lots of fun activities! We started the week with a "French breakfast," which included croissants, cheese and juice. In class, the students learned about the francophonie and that there are many other countries where French is spoken, other than France and Canada! Each class was assigned a different francophonie member country to research. On the Wednesday, the students came dressed in the colours that represented their country's flag.

**Ms. Chilelli** practised her French by reading a story, virtually, to the entire school. Lastly, cabane à Sucre came to our school and everyone enjoyed the delicious 'tiro' 'while wearing their plaid shirts!!! C'était une semaine amusante et parfaite!!!!



**Andrew Blundell**

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## Edinburgh School

— A Sixth graders' perspective —

### Preparing to leave and planning the grad

Hi, I'm **Sara**, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student at Edinburgh Elementary School. This is my last year at Edinburgh and next year I will be going to Royal Vale High School, in the French immersion program. Saying goodbye to Edinburgh will be really tough because it is great school with great staff and great facilities. One of the things I am most looking forward to this spring is the graduation at the end of the year.

The graduation dance will be held on the last day of school, June 23. The theme for the 2022 grad is Hollywood/Red carpet, which was chosen in a vote by the students. The graduation dance is usually in the gym but it will be outside depending on the Covid-19 situation. The theme of the grad has an impact on the decorations, the grad t-shirts and the yearbook. We have not yet received our t-shirts or our yearbook so I'm so excited to see the outcome.

We have a done a few fundraisers for the grad including, a raffle, pizza day and frozen yogurt day. For the raffle, each grade 6 student got 10 tickets to sell to family members, friends, etc. The raffle draw was

then held in the classroom and the students got to pick the winners out of a bin full of ticket stubs. Pizza day is a monthly activity where the grade 6 students help by handing out individual small pizzas to students. Frozen yogurt day is the same principle, the grade 6 students help deliver the frozen yogurt to the different classrooms.

There is a grad committee made up of parents that is organizing all of the grad activities, so the students don't know everything that will happen yet. All we know is that graduation will be our highlight of elementary school. It will be so sad to leave my friends and teachers who have been there since day 1. But I'm lucky that a lot of my friends are going to Royal Vale with me. I'm looking forward to starting a new chapter in my life and go to high school but I'm so sad I have to move on from Edinburgh. I hope I'm allowed to visit Edinburgh and my teachers when I'm in high school but for now I will just enjoy the moments I still have at Edinburgh.

*from Sara Johnson*

From left, grade 6 Edinburgh students Sara Johnson, Lily Scanlon, Jamie Brodhead and Nola Bedard



Students at the meeting with former television news anchor and Royal West Academy graduate Elysia Bryan Baynes

### Black History Month

Edinburgh Elementary School welcomed former television news anchor and Royal West Academy graduate **Elysia Bryan Baynes** to speak to students from grades 3-6 to mark Black History Month in February. The Home and School Association invited Elysia to talk to students and share anecdotes from her career at *Global Montreal*.

Elysia was the first black

woman to anchor a local newscast in Montreal. She was named a 2022 Black Changemaker by CBC this year. Now retired from broadcast news, Elysia has returned to the newsroom, not as a journalist, but as a teacher, to help her former colleagues inform their reporting around race. Part of that role is hearing from other journalists of colour currently working in the industry.



### Support for Ukrainian children

Cycle 3 students are fundraising for the *Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation*, in support of children from Ukraine who will be travelling to Montreal to seek cancer treatment. To learn more: [sites.google.com/emsb.qc.ca/misson-ukraine](https://sites.google.com/emsb.qc.ca/misson-ukraine).

Here is what some of the students had to say about their mission for Ukraine:

« Nous sommes des élèves de 5<sup>e</sup> année à Edinburgh. On fait des petits textes qu'on dit à l'oral et on intègre ces textes dans une vidéo informative.

Notre classe a été divisée en groupes et nous répondons à des questions en texte, qu'on affiche dans la vidéo. »

*de Charles MacLaren*

« On est des élèves de 6<sup>e</sup> année à Edinburgh. On veut aider l'Ukraine. On fait des affiches informatives pour décrire la situation en Europe. On s'est mis en équipes pour créer des affiches et c'était vraiment amusant. Ça a pris une semaine pour les faire et j'espère que tout le monde va les apprécier. »

*de Sara Johnson*

## Broomball, ice-climbing and mountaineering

The Scouts enjoyed a series of outdoor winter sports activities early in the year. We had a great evening of broomball at the rinks on Hodgson's Field. Tobogganing at Murray Hill in Westmount was also a wonderful day, with a mix of weather and great views of the city in both cloud and sun. Another special event was when the

Troop went skating downtown at the Atrium on a Saturday.

Our last virtual meeting was on Lord Baden Powell day, February 22, when Scouter **Leslie Coles** discussed the origins of Scouting, and how it has grown into a world-wide movement. Scouter **Michael Clark** led a meeting at Edinburgh school that focussed on wilderness survival skills.

Skating at the Atrium



Bowling at Rose Bowl

**Marcus Suvanto**, who is an expert mountaineer, led a meeting in which he described different techniques for rock and ice-climbing. He brought a bunch of gear to show the Scouts how to use carabiners, cams, crampons, harnesses and axes. The Scouts learned how to do the figure 8 follow-through knot, which is critical for climbing. They also learned how to fit a climbing helmet

and harness properly. We also discussed the seven principles of Leave-No-Trace camping. A very jam-packed evening.

It's good to hit the lanes occasionally so the Troop really enjoyed an evening at the Rose Bowl.

It's always fun and exciting to safely use dangerous but useful things so we will be turning to stoves, lanterns, and knives on April 12.

## Irene Lambert

*continued from page 1*

people with special needs, most specifically those with vision impairments. They accomplished many things during their time in the Town. On their own initiative they had our, then newly conceived *The Informer*, audiotaped on cassette and distributed to visually impaired residents.

Irene and Robert Lambert arrived in Montreal in 1969 in order for Bob to take up a faculty position in the Department of Psychology at Loyola College and then Concordia University. Bob initiated and directed a graduate specialization in the Psychology of Sensory Deficits, the first of its kind. Irene took the job of coordinator and scheduling and was instrumental in advocating for an office for university students with special needs.

When Irene and Bob arrived in Montreal with their three sons, they discovered that guide dogs were not accepted in taxis, at many restaurants or at Place des Arts. That was when they started actively advocating, one result being the passing of the Quebec Act, "An Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights" in 1978. This act has been reviewed and updated in the years since. They even convinced the chairman of *Bell Canada* that blind people should not be charged for directory assistance.

### Very involved

Irene started the *Block Parents* program in Montreal West which was well supported. She was involved in our first recycling program and was active with the Edinburgh School Home and School Association and the *Civic Recreation Association*.

In 1981 Councillor **Mary Thicke** invited Bob to propose

a program for the Town to undertake during the Year of the Disabled. *TOUCH (Town Office to Upgrade Conditions for the Handicapped)* was established as a result, with the objective of ensuring, among other things, accessibility of store entrances on Westminster and sensitizing town departments of recreation, public works, etc.

When Bob unexpectedly died in 1990, Irene moved to the West Island with her young daughter where she continued to advocate for persons with special needs. There she became president of the *Low Vision Self-Help Association* which she had helped form and where she is still active.

Irene was president of the *Montreal Association for the Blind Users' Committee* from 1993-2009, president of the *Quebec Federation of the Blind Foundation* and is still a board member there. She is founder and past-president of the Mon-

treil Chapter of the *Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians*. These are only a few of the numerous contributions Irene has made over the years. She has belonged to several West Island committees, and has given many speeches on living with vision loss.

### Gradually retiring...

At age 91 Irene is gradually retiring from the world of advocacy. She was both surprised and thrilled to receive the *Chris Stark Advocacy Award* which was established to honour the memory of **Chris Stark** who also worked tirelessly for the rights of all Canadians with disabilities and who Irene knew and admired.

Irene lives in Dollard des Ormeaux with her partner of ten years. And there are currently no golden retrievers in her life.

*from Sue Sladen*



## Guiding



### Sparks and Brownies

The Sparks and Brownies were given a real treat when **Olga Gross** came to visit the units. Olga is a multit talented professional musician. To name some of her accomplishments: Olga founded her company *Duolyra*, she has been the “pianist” with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal since 1996 and she also performs regularly with the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Ottawa. ([www.duolyra.com/](http://www.duolyra.com/))

Olga filled our meeting space, and our hearts, with the beautiful sounds of the harp. She explained all the inner workings of the harp. It is a very involved instrument. She answered every single question the girls had. Olga treated us all to a mini-concert. We could not thank her enough for coming and sharing her special talents with us.

The leaders were quite impressed with how observant and insightful the questions were. The girls really appreciated the music and made her some thank you cards. Olga has visited our units in the past, but it had been far too long since we were last treated to her beautiful music. We all wished it could have continued for so much longer!

### Sock puppets

Another activity which had been done many years ago is creating sock puppets. This activity introduces basic sewing skills. They had great fun creating their very own creature. This was a stepping stone to a larger project of creating comfort toys for the children fleeing Ukraine.

The leaders knew that undertaking a knitting and sewing project with girls aged 5-9 would require more adult support, so **Sunflower**, the mother of **Unicorn**, came to help us out. We would not have been as successful without her there!!

### Izzy dolls

Izzy dolls are a Canadian creation made in memory of Master Corporal **Mark Isfeld**. He was a Canadian Peacekeeper in the early 1990s. He was moved by

the fact so many children he came across while on peace-keeping missions had to flee their homes so quickly, they could not take anything with them. He asked his mother if she could knit little dolls which he could keep in his pocket, to hand out to children he encountered. He was moved by how such a simple act could light up the face of a child. He was killed in 1994 while removing a land-

mine. His mother has since died, however, their legacy lives on. The girls had the choice of knitting a doll or sewing a toy using a sewing machine or sewing by hand. All the sewers wanted to try their hand at using one of the four sewing machines set up for use. The girls loved how successful they were and asked to make more! Since Guiding is about empowering girls, they will be making more!

### Guides

The Guides also held a peace-themed meeting. It seemed very fitting given everything

which is happening in the world around them. The girls were asked to think of what peace meant to them. They then played a game where they were to run to one side of the room if they agreed with the statement or to the opposite side if they disagreed with the statement. Some of the statements included: “Peace means never having a disagreement.” or “People need food, water and

shelter for there to be peace.” and even “Peace means finding conflict solutions everyone agrees with.” They had many other through provoking statements as well. They created a peace path using pieces of construction paper shaped like rocks to make a pathway up to the word PEACE.

girls came back together to discuss whether their thoughts of what peace meant had changed.

### Trying out Pathfinders

The third-year Guides have been invited to attend Pathfinder meetings. This is an important step in continuing with Guiding once the girl is in grade 6. Pathfinders is the next older branch of Guiding. It also coincides with the start of high school and a different location (NDG) because we do not have a Pathfinder branch in our community. Often girls leave Guiding at this stage, due to the many changes in their schedule. These bridging meetings help to remove some of the unknowns about Pathfinders, and the girls learn that the fun just continues!

### Try now, Join later

Girl Guides of Canada has opened up a “Try now, Join later” program that allows girls to try Guiding for the remainder of the Guiding year and then pay later for the following Guiding year. The Sparks and Brownies have four new girls registered under this initiative! As our units are reaching capacity, it is important to register first or at least let the leaders know prior to showing up at a meeting.

### Cookies!

The Guides have been busy cookie sellers! The meeting prior to receiving the cookies, they played different cookie-themed games including Cookie Werewolf, Cookie Jeopardy, cookie hide and seek and cookie selling charades. They also discussed creative ways to sell cookies. As of the writing of this article, they have only one case left. Their strategies are working!!

The Sparks still have a few cases to sell. If you want to support this amazing girl-driven program and do not know of a girl in Guiding, please reach out to **Pearl**, 773-3303, or pop by **Janet King**’s home to be connected with this tasty treat.



Adelina and Juliana

Photo: Christine Downey



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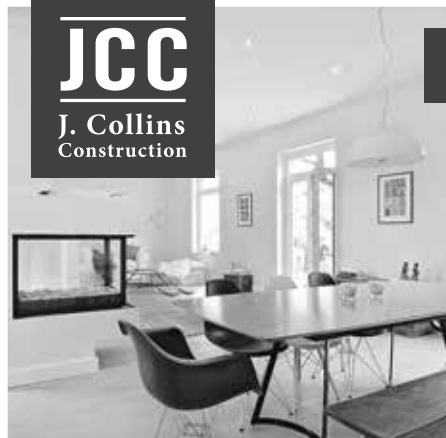
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## New sports and recreation centre

continued from page 1

code was around \$10 million—and that didn't make any sense. And after all of that, we would still end up with only a small skating rink," said mayor **Beny Masella**.

After years of working towards the construction of a new recreation centre, the mayor feels "satisfied" to see the centre become a reality.

### Where's the money coming from?

The grant money for this project comes from both the federal and provincial governments.

To secure funding, "we showed the government the decrepit state of our existing facilities," said the mayor. "We showed them what kind of an increase in recreation services we could offer with an updated building. We showed them that the new building would be fully accessible to people of all ages and abilities."

For example, the Town plans to make the area accessible for sled hockey players—an adaptation of hockey for players who have limited mobility. These players push themselves on sleds with specially designed hockey sticks.

The mayor also emphasized that the centre would be accessible to people from surrounding towns like Côte Saint-Luc and Lasalle.

Even though the mayor is excited to delve into this project, some MoWest residents wonder if this is the right decision for the Town. According to Town Council minutes from 2016 and 2017, some residents worry about tax increases. Also, according to mayor Masella, others wonder if the Town Council should allocate more resources to health care services.

"Eventually, we will need to impose a minimal tax increase to make up for the funding we need for the centre," said the mayor. "But whatever's leftover, to service debt—that's what comes on the backs of our citizens."

"We've always tried to commit ourselves to a reasonable tax increase—we admit that there's going to be a tax increase," he continued.

Also, mayor Masella believes that new recreation facilities promote healthy living. He also believes access to a swimming pool, a rink and workout rooms will help alleviate long term pressure from the health care system.

The Town Council continues to hold public consultation meetings concerning the development of the sports and recreation centre. The next virtual town hall meeting is on Monday, May 30 at 8 pm.

## Public Library - Bibliothèque publique



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**Closed Monday, May 23.**

### New staff

You may have noticed some new people hanging around our library recently and we are happy to introduce two of our new staff members.

**Newt Pekker** (you may know him from the children's library) has joined us to help with all our cataloguing needs. He joined us at the beginning of this year and he has been a welcome addition. Currently Newt manages all the item processing needs ensuring that the books are available in a timely manner and put in the right place.

**Ann Smith** is the latest addition to our small team. Ann is not only new to our library, but she is also a new MoWest resident having moved here in 2020. A textile designer by trade, she comes to us through a different path, but is no stranger to the stacks. Before moving to Montreal in 1990 to continue her studies in textiles at Concordia University, she spent several summers working at the library in her hometown of Port Hope, Ontario. Ann designed fine gauge circular knit fabric for many years at a local Montreal company. She and her family moved to Montreal West three weeks after that company, like so many others, had to close permanently due to Covid-related circumstances.

Despite social distancing, her neighbours have been such a friendly and welcoming bunch, as have the members of the *West End Quilters' Guild*. An ad in *The Informer* stated that they were looking for new members, so she contacted them soon after moving in and has been thoroughly enjoying their meetings ever since. When not at the library (or at her sewing machine), Ann can be found volunteering for *Scouts Canada*. She is also really pleased to be one of the artists teaching workshops as part of *La Pantoufle du Quartier* at Native Immigrant Gallery in NDG.

### Youth advisory group!!

Are you between the ages of 12 to 20? Do you have a passion for novels, board games, manga, graphic novels, or want to create a space for you and your friends? Come join us at the library and help plan your space for you.

Join the youth advisory group to help your library serve you better. We are looking for people to act as our advisors. The commitment is very small, but your impact will be huge! You also get to choose what you would like to see in the library and what you would like to see happening in the library. To join, please write to [mwlib.requests@gmail.com](mailto:mwlib.requests@gmail.com).

### eBooks are coming!

We have been working on implementing ebooks for our library for a while, but due to the pandemic shortfalls of staff and resources we kept having to postpone. Hopefully, by the time you read this article, ebooks and Libby (the application used with the Overdrive our ebook provider) will be available to all our members. Stay tuned!!

Ann Smith



**Catherine Eustace**  
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## Children's Library

### Thank you!

We would like to take a moment to thank all the people who donate their time and effort to the children's library.

Volunteers are an essential part of our operations. Some of them keep a longstanding commitment, others (students or EBS parents) contribute for a shorter time, but they all leave a mark on the library. The pandemic has made it difficult to maintain the volunteering activities as we have known them. Nevertheless, we have used volunteers' help as much as possible.

**Véronique Belzil-Boucher** has never interrupted her in-

valuable service: she has covered almost all of the new books in our collection since 2020.

**Janet King** has been repairing torn or broken pages and breathing new life into the much-loved copies of books. A huge and most heartfelt thank you!

### Nouveau sentier des contes

Le beau temps nous offre la possibilité d'élargir la gamme d'activités et les sortir hors-murs. Nous commençons par le nouveau *Sentier des contes* (Storywalk®). Le titre choisi c'est « Le mystère du printemps » des auteurs québécois **Rhéal Dufresne et Philippe Béha**. Du 21 avril au 12 juin, les pages de ce livre seront affichées devant la bibliothèque. Ne manquez pas l'opportunité de lire cette histoire amusante et de répondre à la question qui se trouve au dernier panneau. Venez nous voir pour fournir la réponse, et courez la chance de gagner un certificat cadeau pour la *Librairie Bonder*.

### Club de Scratch

Après une session de succès, nous poursuivons l'enseignement de Scratch avec la deuxième session qui aura lieu du 26 avril au 31 mai. Scratch est un langage de programmation conçu pour les jeunes de 7 ans et plus. Une simple interface



La première session de Scratch dans la bibliothèque, après une pause de deux ans

permet d'écrire et de tester le codage ainsi maîtrisant les bases de la programmation. Dans une ambiance conviviale et propice à l'apprentissage, les enfants vont s'amuser de créer leurs propres projets auxquels, par la suite, ils pourront accéder à partir de chez eux. Le coût : \$25 par session de six rencontres.

### Bill Foster Writing Contest award ceremony

As we are submitting this article, we are awaiting submissions for the *Bill Foster Writing Contest*. Please mark May 28 on your agenda; the award ceremony will take place at 1.30 pm in Strathearn Park. You are welcome to assist and encourage our budding writers!

### TD Summer Reading Program

We are so excited to share the theme of the *TD Summer Reading program*: Once Upon a Time. An engaging and stimulating array of books and activities will be offered as usual, mainly on the theme of fairy tales, myths, legends and more.

Aimed at children 0 to 13 years old, the *TD Summer Reading Program* is an excellent opportunity to keep the children motivated to read and thus prevent the summer slide – the loss of academic achievement during the summer vacation.

Make sure to consult our web-site on regular basis to keep informed about the different programs available as part of this amusing adventure.



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The intercommunity baseball league features home and away games against other local communities. Players must attend try-outs and spring training, beginning mid-April, run by Concordia baseball.

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**Open to MoWest residents only, ages 9+.**

We are looking for baseball players, come on out and play some Mudhens ball!

**Sportball**

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Ages 2-8, 6 weeks, 1 x week

**Congratulations U15A Knights**

It was a long season, with a lot of unknowns and through all, our hockey teams were incredibly enthusiastic and learned to adjust with the ever-changing rules and restrictions. Our regular season was extended due to the shut down in January resulting in fast and intense playoffs. Our M18A team made it to the semi-finals of the EHL League and lost to Lasalle by a slim margin.



M15A Champions

The M15A Knights battled through the playoffs that were a double elimination format. They won four consecutive games earning them a spot in the finals for the EHL championship. The last game was played in a packed Legion Rink Monday, April 4.

With the Knights dominating the game, CSL leads 1-0 into the 3<sup>rd</sup> period. On the power play, the Knights score with 6 minutes remaining. With 2:32 minutes left in the game, CSL **SCORE** to take the lead again, 2-1. MWH takes a time out and with 90 seconds left, They decide to pull their goalie, and

with crazy pressure they **SCORE** with 27 seconds left on the clock, 2-2.

A late penalty in the final 10 seconds of the game gives MWH a power play to start the overtime period. Off the draw, the puck goes to our right winger who skates into the zone, the CSL defense, pivots and falls down... MWH skates in and rifles it bar down for the winning goal, 5 seconds into OT for the Championship!!!

Congrats to head coach **Jeff Fixman**, his assistant coaches and all the players for an amazing playoff run to end the season.

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## News from the pews

### St. Philip's

We are back to public worship in the church, at 10 am every Sunday morning. Reservations are not required, but we ask everyone to keep social distancing in seating. Masks are required, and we will continue to require them for a time after the provincial government relaxes the regulations. Throughout this time, we have always chosen to err on the side of caution, and we will continue to do so. For those who are not yet comfortable coming out or who may be experiencing symptoms, we also have a live Zoom of the service, and connection by telephone to the Zoom is also possible for those who do not have a computer or are not skilled at using it.

### Community garden and workshop

Our community garden will soon be producing. Feel free to drop by, chat with the gardeners and help yourself to reasonable quantities of whatever is in season. As of deadline, the strawberries survived the winter quite well and look like they could produce a good crop, and parsley is already springing up.

Building on the success of our pocket food forest workshop last fall, we are joining with *Incredible Edibles*, *The Depot* and *P3 Permaculture* to offer another workshop on Saturday and Sunday, May 28-29, from noon to 5 pm both days. Hands-on Eco-Gardening will equip you with all the theory and practical experience to create a wildflower pollinator garden, a rain garden, a herb spiral and wildlife habitat. You will also revisit the essentials of companion planting, food forests and lasagna gardening, as well as the basics of permaculture ethics and principles. For more information or to register, go to [tinyurl.com/yzdy2jm](http://tinyurl.com/yzdy2jm) or call the church office at 481-4871.

### Parish picnic

Sunday, June 5, we hope to resume our annual outdoor worship and parish picnic on the church lawn. Details are still in the planning stage, and we expect to have a box lunch rather than our usual potluck barbecue for sanitary reasons, but we are looking forward to the time of fellowship for which Zoom has been a poor substitute.

We are also teaming up with the Anglican Diocese of Montreal to host on our lawn a Family Day celebration on Saturday, June 4, from 11 am to 2 pm.

We have learned so much about ourselves in these past two years. We have both struggled and evolved. We have discovered how resilient we are, proven that we can protect each other as a human family. We demonstrated that we can learn and adapt to

digital media and that there are many surprising, creative and innovative ways of staying connected during a pandemic.

We have also learned about the unique needs of children and how important it is for them to have face to face, real time engagement: in order to play, learn and grow meaningfully. The digital format may not always meet their developmental needs. Church programs, Sunday schools and youth groups have struggled with membership. Parents have expressed frustration. Well, it's time to return! The Diocese of Montreal is inviting children and families to be a part of Family Day to celebrate the tenacity of the human spirit and the return to in person communities: To find our way back to each other!

Parents, children, grandparents and friends, you are welcome to join in on the fun!

Meet friends and re-establish the joy of human connection! There will be clowns, a bouncy castle, picnic, live music and activities for the whole family! Register by May 28 to receive lunch and sign up for on site activities, by email to [mtlyouth@montreal.anglican.ca](mailto:mtlyouth@montreal.anglican.ca). The event is free, but you must register to receive lunch.

from Fr. Pratt

### MW United

...the brick one

### Cantata with a twist

Well, if you managed to catch the new cantata the choir did on Palm Sunday, you know why people had their toes tapping and were humming along. **Samantha Borgal** picked a super one that takes the stodgy out of choral music. You can still catch it online.

Easter Sunday continued the Cantata *What Wondrous Hope* (**Heather Sorenson**) and we were flush with memorial plants throughout. With **Rev. Mark's** special message, what a glorious time it was.

### May be promising...

Moving into May, all things being equal, we do hope to get back to instituting such things as Labyrinth Walks and our Book Browse Plus (Saturday, June 11), just to mention a couple. We all need to be very elastic these days – stretch to do more things when the Covid numbers are down, but be ready to reign stuff in, when they surge. It's an on-again-off-again-on-again kind of time. Keep your eyes peeled on the church doors for announcements of what is possible at the time. We will try to keep that up to date.

We do meet for live in-person services when we can and always have services online. Anyone interested can go to our You

Tube site to view any and all of them there.

Don't forget to gather your books, CDs, puzzles and games for the Book Browse. Then come find some new-to-you ones for a bargain on June 11... fingers crossed.

You can always reach us at 482-3210, [mwucoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mwucoffice@gmail.com). Rev. Mark is a willing listener.

Keep as safe and as well as possible.

from Susan Upham

### St. Ignatius of Loyola

Our doors are open! Although we continue to ask visitors to wear a mask and be mindful of distancing, the ropes have been removed from the pews and things are finally feeling a little more normal!

It was wonderful to welcome many new faces during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, and we look forward to continuing to greet new visitors every weekend this spring and summer. It's also been such a blessing to have many of our long-time parishioners back to in-person Mass. For those who aren't yet able or ready to join us in person, you can still count on our livestream Mass at 10 am every Sunday at [stig.ca/livestream](http://stig.ca/livestream).

### IgNation

The easing of restrictions also allowed us to relaunch IgNation, our program for teens ages 13-18 years old. All teens are welcome to drop in every Sunday from 3:30-5 pm (before our 5 pm Sunday Mass) to have fun, play games, connect with others and explore faith. Visit [stig.ca/youth](http://stig.ca/youth) for more information or to register. You're also free to email our **Tristan**, our Youth Minister, at [tmackenzie@stig.ca](mailto:tmackenzie@stig.ca).

### Alpha

Finally, if you're looking to connect with others and explore the Christian faith by discussing some of life's big questions, be sure to join the waitlist for our next session of Alpha, which will be starting in September. Visit [stig.ca/alpha](http://stig.ca/alpha) to learn more!

from Shawna Rose

JULIETTE LORD

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## Community Centre

### Summer programs

Summer is around the corner! Register on AMILIA or go to the website for more info: [www.montreal-west.ca](http://www.montreal-west.ca) or call 484-6186.

- Summer camp,
- Tennis camp,
- Community Centre summer programs,
- Summer fitness,
- Pool programs and membership

There is a variety of fitness classes during the spring and summer: both inside and outdoors. Enjoy the sunrise in a TRX class or a yoga or stretch class inside.

We are again offering the Outdoor Warrior class starting in May with Sule at

George Booth Park as well as yoga, Es-sentrics with **Megan Feeney**, stretch, Zumba and fitness. Browse through Amilia to see what might be of interest!

### Cotton Tail Party

Thank you to all the volunteers and to the families who joined in the fun!

### Influences by Le Patin Libre

One hundred people attended the skating show; it was great to hear a crowd of people clapping when it ended.

Thanks to all who attended and especially to **Greg** and **Jake** for making the arena a great stage for the performance.

At the Cotton Tail Party, Maddie is helping M. Gazon.



Influences by Le Patin Libre



Photo: Emmanuel Burriel

## 50+ Club

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

### April

**26** Bridge. \$3 per player. 12:30 pm.

### May

**11** ROYAL Lecture: Royal Canada, in honour of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee  
Speaker: **Bruno Stenson**. 1 pm.

**27** Spring Luncheon. 1 pm.  
Musical Guest: **Dawn Tyler Watson**

**31** Bridge

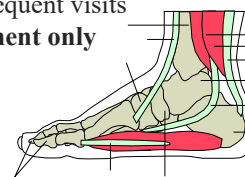


### Foot clinics

**May 4 and June 1**

**484-6186**

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



## Kosher corner

### Passover means spring!

Passover is celebrated in the spring, which means that very soon we can restart some of the outdoor activities we have done in previous years!

Friday evening services will be restarting after Pesach. A meaningful and relaxing way to begin the Shabbat weekend, followed by l'chaim and refreshments.

We also look forward to celebrating the coming holidays of Lag Baomer and Shavuot outdoors. This year we will celebrate Lag Baomer with a community BBQ and Shavuot with an outdoor dairy buffet with ice cream and personal pizza making!

### Hebrew school

As many are preparing for the coming school year, Chabad Westminster is excited to announce that this year we will be opening a Hebrew school for grades Pre-K through grade 3. Reach out for details.

*from Rabbi Mendy Marlow*

## Town Council meeting: March



by Carol Foster

**Mayor Masella** reviewed the progress being made on the new sports and recreation centre project and explained that many things are now in the planning stage.

The fundraising committee is currently working on securing major donations from key donors, followed by allowing broader participation in the capital campaign. The architects and Recreation Department are refining the functional planning program that will serve as a space allocation document that determines the size of the building and eventually establishes a more precise budget. A consultation plan has been developed and has been also divided into phases. Target groups of users, experts from Habilitas and two public consultation sessions, open to all residents, have been included. Finally, a general online survey will be available to expand the reach of residents consulted.

After the consultations, there will be more definitive sketches for the complex, that can be then translated to building plans costs and estimates that, in turn, will generate the budget and the business plan. The mayor urged all residents to "stay tuned as this is an exciting time for a community."

The rights of children to play in the street versus the need to legislate against certain aspects of these activities has been an issue brought to the mayor's attention in the past few weeks. The need to review the bylaws impacting this activity to determine which ones must be respected and which may have "passed their best before date" is seen as a way to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment of their property.

### Councillors' Reports

One of the first items in **Councillor Feeney's** report was the large number of disbursements totalling over \$4,600,000 passed during the past month; \$3,400,000 was for half of the Town's obligation to the Agglomeration Committee.

Tickets for the Cottontail Party have been completely sold out. The outdoor rinks provided 40 days of good skating conditions this winter and thanks are due to the staff who maintained them. Registration for summer programs begins April 4 and the pool opens exactly two months later. A government grant of \$5,000 has been received for use in the celebration of the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and plans for the event, which will involve the whole community, are under way.

Councillor Feeney ended her report by stating that in spite of the fact that the traditional April Volunteer's party will have to wait until next year, she wanted to emphasize how grateful the Town is for everything

the volunteers do in their participation and activities in community events.

PAC held one meeting in March and reviewed 15 files; 11 permits were issued. The roster of members for PAC has now been finalized. **Councillor Torres** reminded, once again, that applications for permits must be made on the Town's website where all the instructions are available.

Following complaints that time limits are not always being adhered to in the Town's parking lots on Westminster and Strathearn as well as on some streets, the PSOs will be following up on infractions. They will be verifying permits for cars using the Percival and Northview parking lots as well.

There have also been some complaints about aggressive dogs in the Town. There are bylaws regarding dangerous dogs and the Town should be immediately informed of any injury from a dog to another dog or from dog to a person.

**Councillor Small-Pennefather** announced that the use of leaf blowers will be allowed from April 15 to May 1 for spring cleanup. Both contractors and residents are reminded that leaves must not be blown onto the street or onto other people's property and the time periods must be respected.

The Traffic and Safety Committee is still looking for new members.

**Councillor Ulin** announced that Public Works has identified a hundred locations around Town for the planting of public trees. Letters will be sent out to all residents whose address has been selected. Consultation with residents as to species and location is available but the final decision will be made by the staff.

Potholes are being attended to and the annual maintenance of the dog run will take place in early May which could necessitate the closing of the run for a period of time.

Because of the enthusiastic response to the call for new members, the Environmental Action Committee now consists of ten members plus Councillors Ulin and Torres and the Environmental Manager, **Alyssa Wilbur**. There will be more opportunities for some volunteers to serve on subcommittees as they are formed.

### First question period

Several residents were concerned about a possible ban on wood-burning fireplaces. They were reassured by both the mayor and Councillor Ulin that what is to be examined is the placing certain restrictions on the use of these fireplaces rather than a total ban.

A snow removal operation being carried out on a Sunday prompted a question about overtime costs. Half of this task is carried out by Town employees and contractors take care of the other half. No overtime is

paid to the contractors no matter when they do their job. The budget and the weather conditions are taken into account in the scheduling of these operations and strategic decisions govern the process.

Councillor Ulin will pass on to Public Works the request that a garbage can be re-instated beside the water valve at Broughton as well as the accumulation of trash on Westminster's sidewalks between Curzon and Milner.

The Environmental Committee will be asked to review the current bylaw on the use of pesticides to determine if it is appropriate in current circumstances.

A suggestion was made to have a small reception and a plaque posted in the new sports and recreation centre to honour the **Dufour-Lapointe sisters** who have done so well in the Olympics. The mayor welcomed the idea and would favour expanding the idea to honour all the many Olympians who have come through Montreal West.

Cross walks in the Town are a frequent topic during question periods and one resident wondered why the crosswalk, planned some time ago, on the north side of Sherbrooke hasn't yet been established. According to Councillor Torres, the renovations planned by *Exo* for the Montreal West station will necessitate a clearly defined crosswalk in that location and residents living in the area are being notified of some preparatory work which will take place the week of April 4, followed by the renovation work expected to take place over the summers of 2022 and 2023.

Another query was why there wasn't another crosswalk for pedestrians crossing Westminster between Curzon and Milner similar to the one in front of the Community Centre. Councillor Feeney replied that the idea had been considered in the past but that it was hampered by the logistical problems. It would require the addition of stop signs, affecting traffic in both directions, and would involve the loss of some parking spaces in the business area.

As there were no further questions, the meeting was then adjourned.

**JANE F. LEE, B.Sc., D.D.S.**  
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## Réunions du Conseil : mars



par Carol Foster  
traduction par René Boucher

Le **maire Masella** a passé en revue les progrès réalisés dans le cadre du projet du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif et a expliqué que beaucoup de choses sont maintenant à l'étape de la planification.

Le comité de financement travaille actuellement à recueillir des dons importants de donateurs clés pour ensuite passer à une participation plus large à la collecte de fonds. Les architectes et le Service des loisirs s'affairent à peaufiner la planification fonctionnelle qui servira de document d'allocation d'espace, lequel déterminera la taille du bâtiment et finalement établira un budget plus précis. Un plan de consultation a été élaboré et divisé en phases; il inclut des groupes cibles d'usagers, des experts d'Habilitas et deux séances de consultation publiques ouvertes à tous les citoyens. Enfin, un sondage général en ligne sera aussi disponible pour élargir le bassin de résidents consultés.

À la suite des consultations, des esquisses plus définitives du complexe seront réalisées, qui pourront être converties en devis d'immeuble qui à leur tour généreront le budget et le plan d'affaires. Le maire a incité tous les citoyens à «rester à l'écoute en cette période excitante pour la communauté.»

Le droit des enfants de jouer dans la rue et le besoin de légiférer certains aspects de ces activités ont été portés à l'attention du maire au cours des dernières semaines. Revisiter les règlements ayant une incidence sur cette situation afin de déterminer lesquels doivent être respectés et lesquels pourraient avoir «dépassé leur date de péremption» est considéré comme un moyen d'assurer la sécurité et la jouissance de leurs biens par tous.

### Rapport des conseillères

L'un des premiers éléments du rapport de la **conseillère Feeney** a été le grand nombre de déboursés totalisant plus de 4 600 000 \$ qui ont été effectués au cours du dernier mois dont 3 400 000 \$ ont été consacrés à la moitié de l'obligation de la Ville envers le Comité d'agglomération.

Les cours et autres activités des Loisirs se tiennent maintenant en personne, et tous les billets pour la fête du Lapin ont trouvé preneur. On a pu profiter de 40 jours de bonnes conditions pour les patinoires extérieures; grand merci au personnel qui les a entretenues. L'inscription aux programmes d'été débute le 4 avril et la piscine ouvrira exactement deux mois plus tard. La Ville a reçu une subvention gouvernementale de 5000 \$ pour aider à célébrer le 70<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de règne de la Reine et la plani-

fication de l'événement qui visera toute la communauté, va bon train.

La **conseillère Feeney** a clos son rapport en déclarant que même si la traditionnelle fête des bénévoles devra encore attendre à l'année prochaine, elle souhaitait souligner à quel point la Ville est reconnaissante pour tout ce que les bénévoles font dans leur participation et leurs activités aux événements communautaires.

Le CCU s'est réuni une fois en mars et a examiné 15 dossiers; le Service d'urbanisme a délivré 11 permis. La liste des membres du CCU est maintenant finalisée. La **conseillère Torres** a rappelé à nouveau que les demandes de permis doivent se faire par le site Web de la Ville où l'on trouve toutes les directives.

Par suite de plaintes de non-respect des limites de temps dans les parcs de stationnement de la Ville sur Westminster et Strathearn ainsi que dans certaines rues, les ASP surveilleront particulièrement ces infractions. Ils vérifieront aussi les permis des véhicules utilisant les terrains Percival et Northview.

Il y a eu des plaintes au sujet de chiens agressifs. Un règlement municipal est en vigueur concernant les chiens dangereux et la Ville devrait être informée sans délai de toute blessure causée par un chien à un autre chien ou à une personne.

La **conseillère Small-Pennefather** a annoncé que l'usage des souffleurs à feuilles serait autorisé du 15 avril au 1<sup>er</sup> mai pour le nettoyage printanier. Elle a rappelé aux résidents et aux entrepreneurs qu'il est interdit de souffler les feuilles dans la rue ou sur la propriété d'autrui et que l'on doit respecter les horaires d'utilisation.

Le Comité de circulation et de sécurité est toujours à la recherche de nouveaux membres.

La **conseillère Ulin** a indiqué que les Travaux publics avaient identifié une centaine d'emplacements autour de la ville pour la plantation d'arbres publics. Des lettres seront envoyées à tous les résidents dont l'adresse a été sélectionnée. Il est possible de consulter les résidents sur les espèces et l'emplacement, mais la décision finale sera prise par le personnel.

On s'occupe des nids-de-poule et l'entretien annuel du parc canin aura lieu au début de mai et pourrait signifier la fermeture du site pour un certain temps.

En raison de la réponse enthousiaste à l'appel pour de nouveaux membres, le Comité d'action environnementale est maintenant constitué de dix membres en plus des conseillères Ulin et Torres et d'**Alyssa Wilbur**, gestionnaire à l'environnement. D'autres occasions de servir s'offriront à des bénévoles qui pourront siéger à des sous-comités selon les besoins.

### Première période de questions

Plusieurs résidents s'inquiétaient d'une possible interdiction des foyers au bois. Ils ont été rassurés par le maire et la conseillère Ulin que ce qui sera étudié, c'est l'imposition de certaines restrictions à l'utilisation de ces foyers plutôt qu'une interdiction totale.

L'opération de déneigement effectuée un dimanche a suscité une question sur les coûts des heures supplémentaires. La moitié de cette tâche est effectuée par les employés municipaux, et les entrepreneurs s'occupent de l'autre moitié. Aucune heure supplémentaire n'est versée aux entrepreneurs, peu importe quand ils font leur travail. Le budget et les conditions météorologiques sont pris en compte dans le calendrier de ces opérations et des décisions stratégiques régissent le processus.

La conseillère Ulin transmettra aux Travaux publics la demande de réintroduction d'une poubelle à côté de la vanne d'eau à Broughton ainsi que l'accumulation d'ordures sur les trottoirs de Westminster entre Curzon et Milner.

Le Comité sur l'environnement devra examiner le règlement actuel sur l'utilisation des pesticides afin de déterminer s'il est approprié dans les circonstances actuelles.

On suggère d'avoir une petite réception et une plaque dans le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif pour honorer les sœurs Dufour-Lapointe qui ont si bien réussi aux Jeux olympiques. Le maire a accueilli l'idée et serait favorable à élargir l'idée pour honorer tous les nombreux Olympiens qui sont passés par Montréal-Ouest.

Les passages piétonniers dans la ville reviennent fréquemment pendant les périodes de questions et un résident s'est demandé pourquoi le passage, planifié il y a quelque temps déjà, du côté nord de Sherbrooke n'a pas encore été réalisé. Selon la conseillère Torres, les rénovations prévues par *Exo* pour la gare de Montréal-Ouest nécessiteront un passage piétonnier bien défini à cet endroit. Les résidents du secteur sont avisés de certains travaux préparatoires qui auront lieu la semaine du 4 avril, suivis des travaux de construction qui devraient avoir lieu au cours des étés 2022 et 2023.

Une autre question était de savoir pourquoi il n'y avait pas un autre passage pour piétons traversant Westminster entre Curzon et Milner, semblable à celui devant le Centre communautaire. La conseillère Feeney a répondu que l'idée avait été envisagée, mais qu'elle était entravée par des problèmes logistiques. Ce passage exigerait l'ajout de panneaux d'arrêt, perturberait la circulation dans les deux sens et impliquerait la perte de places de stationnement dans le secteur commercial.

Comme il n'y avait pas d'autres questions, la séance a été levée.

## COMING EVENTS À VENIR

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

**Next deadline: May 11**

### April

- Tue 26 Town Council meeting.** Town Hall, virtually on the Town's YouTube channel. 8 pm.  
**Thu 28 Drama Club.** Online. Every Thursday. Email to register. Public Library. 4:45 pm.

### May

- Tue 3 Tea and TRC Circle Meeting.** Online. Email for information. Public Library. 1 pm.  
**Tue 10 IODE meeting.** Community Centre. 1:30-3:30 pm.  
**Wed 18 Tea and Books.** Online. Email for information. Public library. 2 pm.  
**Thu 26 Municipal taxes due** (second installment)  
**Échéance: taxes municipales** (deuxième versement)

### June

- Sat 4 Family Day celebration.** St. Philip's. 11 am-2 pm.  
**Thu 16 The Montreal West/NDG Younkers Little Theatre,** under the auspices of the *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG* presents Agatha Christie's ***And Then There Were None*** at 7:30.  
Continues Friday and Saturday, June 17-18, at 7:30 pm; matinee performance at 2 pm Sunday, June 19.  
Tickets (\$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors) may be purchased through the *Rotary Club* or at the door or by contacting Ron D'Souza at dsouza.ronald0920@gmail.com or at 563-9769. All funds raised go to the *Homeless Project*. Town Hall.

Please register for library activities at  
mwlib.requests@gmail.com.

## Pool

Summer is quickly approaching, and that means the pool is getting ready to open! The entire staff is excited to welcome everyone for another great summer!

All pool members are encouraged to try out the swim team during our free trial from June 6. During this time, practices for swim team run Monday through Thursday, 5-6 pm.

The pool opens June 4 and will be following our pre-season schedule until June 23.

## There is a little lake...

Spring on Wolseley North is heralded by the appearance of a persistent little lake. This little lake has been the cause of much discussion at Elevenses, a meeting on the street that has buoyed the spirits of some senior members of Wolseley on Friday mornings during the pandemic.

Many questions were posed as we awaited the appearance of the little lake, variously named just "the lake" or more extravagantly "Kingsmere." When would it appear, how big would it be, how long would it last? The little lake has been very persistent over the years and was not even daunted when the whole side lawn was dug up and filled with rocks to spoil its fun. Not even an excavator could prevent the little lake from appearing the following spring. This year the little lake was particularly successful; it appeared even before the April 1st, was so large that an unwary squirrel misjudged the distance to a tree



and plonked right in and was deemed sufficiently big for the launch of a boat. Sad to say, it has shyly shrunk back into the ground to plan its pranks for next spring.

*from Gerhard M. Serapins*

## Journée familiale

Retrouver le chemin l'un de l'autre !

Nous avons beaucoup appris sur nous-mêmes ces deux dernières années. Nous avons à la fois lutté et évolué. Nous avons démontré que nous pouvons apprendre et nous adapter aux médias numériques et qu'il existe de nombreuses façons surprenantes, créatives et innovantes de rester connecté.

Nous avons également appris les besoins uniques des enfants et combien il est important pour eux d'avoir un engagement face à face et en temps réel : afin de jouer, d'apprendre et de grandir de manière significative.

Eh bien, il est temps de revenir! Le Diocèse de Montréal invite les enfants et les familles à faire partie de la Journée de la famille, pour célébrer la ténacité de l'esprit humain et le retour aux communautés en personne!

Parents, enfants. Grands-parents et amis, vous êtes les bienvenus pour vous amuser! Rencontrez des amis et rétablissez

la joie de la connexion humaine!

À quoi s'attendre : clowns, château gonflable, pique-nique, musique live et activités pour toute la famille !

Inscrivez-vous avant le 28 mai pour recevoir le déjeuner et vous inscrire aux activités sur place: mtyouth@montreal.anglican.ca.

*de Lee-Ann Matthews  
coordonnatrice de projet*

### Journée de la Famille



samedi le 4 juin 11-14h

L'église St. Philips, 7565 Sherbrooke O.  
mtyouth@montreal.anglican.ca

DIOCÈSE ANGLICAN MONTRÉAL





# COUNCIL communiqué

## MAYOR'S REPORT



### Sports and Recreation Centre — consultation phase

As I mentioned in my article last month, we have begun the consultation phase of the development of our new Sports and Recreation Centre. On April 7, we held our first formal public consultation with regards to this project.

The event was published on our website and via our e-bulletin and open to all residents. Those interested to participate were invited to register. It was guided by a professional facilitator to help us ensure we derived the most information and feedback about the project.

After a word of welcome and introductions, the facilitator went over the agenda for the evening. I then took the time to present the overall view of the project as it currently stands including preliminary sketches and a general overview of its first phase. We then answered questions about the sketches and the project. The next portion of the evening was devoted to three different workshops during which we broke down into smaller breakout rooms and discussed, among other topics: the type of programming they would like to see evolving from this new complex, reasons why they may not have participated in recreation activities in the past, positives and negatives on the sketches they were presented and their overall perceptions of the project. Each breakout room was animated by a Council member. The small size of the groups allowed a very clear forum for participants to share their impressions and concerns and their feedback was duly noted. After each of the workshops, we returned to the larger group and a resident chosen during the breakout sessions summarized the discussions undertaken in the breakout rooms.

The quality and variety of feedback went above and beyond our expectations. The participants raised some very good points and some valid concerns. Many of these concerns had al-

ready been addressed by the steering committee in their meetings and the other concerns and suggestions will be summarized in a report at the end of the consultation phase.

Another session is planned at the end of April with another group of residents. As well, we have set up a round table that brings together the various community organizations that may use the building, for example the Rotary Club, Scouts, and many more. We will be consulting with experts from Habilitas and Altergo to ensure we are making this building fully accessible and open to use by the community they serve. As well, as I committed to in the past, there will be a separate consultation for the people living around the building to address their concerns. There will also be a general online survey that will help expand the reach of the people we have consulted.

I need to acknowledge the work of our Communications Manager, Elisabeth Roy. Together with the steering committee, the administration, and the professional facilitator, she developed a consultation event that demonstrated a level of sophistication and surpassed our expectations.

If the feedback and level of participation demonstrated during the first session is any indication, this project will come to fruition as we had dreamed: a project that makes our community stronger and prouder!

Beny Masella, Mayor  
Town of Montreal West  
[bmasella@montreal-west.ca](mailto:bmasella@montreal-west.ca)

## AT LAST! A FULLY ACCESSIBLE TOWN BUILDING



Over the years, the Town has worked to make its public buildings more accessible by installing ramps, automatic doors and wheelchair-accessible

washrooms where possible. However, it is very difficult to retrofit 100-year-old buildings. That is why one of the most exciting aspects of our new Sports and Recreation Centre will be its accessibility.

Universal Accessibility can be broadly defined as “the conditions for easy access that would allow any individual, regardless of their abilities, to access and enjoy a place, product or service, and to do so freely and independently”. Part of our vision is to develop a centre where citizens of all ages and abilities can engage in meaningful, accessible sports and recreation experiences.

Consequently, our new Sports and Recreation Centre will incorporate many aspects of universal design.

The two-storey building will have an easily accessible entrance and an elevator. The gender-neutral bathrooms will be accessible and have private changing rooms. Accessible changing rooms together with the accessible ice surface, will mean we will even be able to host para hockey games. The swimming pool will have a ramp access. There will be universal locker rooms at the pool.

The Town has been working with local community organizations that strive to promote universal accessibility. We are also getting great input from residents at our consultations on this topic.

Our new Centre will have so much to offer, and increased accessibility for all – children, seniors, disabled and non-binary members of our community – is an important way for us to further our goal of becoming a more inclusive Age-Friendly Municipality.

Colleen Feeney, Councillor  
Finance, MADA, Recreation and Culture  
[cfeeney@montreal-west.ca](mailto:cfeeney@montreal-west.ca)



## STREET HOCKEY IN MONTREAL WEST: GAME ON OR GAME OFF?

A Canadian rite of passage, the Town of Montreal West strives for balance between municipal regulations to ensure that all play is conducted in a safe manner while also respecting neighbours. While safety and security of our residents and streets is paramount, a code of conduct is also necessary.

It's that time of the year again, when kids and adults alike take to the streets for a "good ol' hockey game"; of the street variety, of course.

A recent article in the *Montreal Gazette*, "Street hockey protocols must aim for the right balance," references a common sense approach in the enforcement of municipal regulations and striking the right balance with nuisance or safety by-laws to deal with complaints related to noise, traffic or damaging property. A rule of thumb could be keeping a distance of a few meters from any parked cars and removing any equipment from the street once play is finished. Street hockey and other sports like basket-

ball have been "tolerated" provided they are not posing a danger to themselves or others by playing on too busy of a street or during peak traffic hours, for example. The current Town of Montreal West Bylaw Number 405 Concerning Traffic, Article 63 states:

*"Playing on roadways. No child shall be permitted to play on a roadway. No child under five years of age shall be permitted to be on a public thoroughfare unless in the care of a responsible person."*

The by-law could be useful in the case of an exaggeration where children decided to play on too busy of a street, or in a case where parents are neglecting their re-

sponsibilities. However, most street hockey games take place on quiet streets. The by-law applies to "child", not adolescents or adults, therefore it is permitted for adolescents and adults to play street hockey.

However, technically Article 500 of the Highway Safety Code also prohibits anyone from occupying the street and can be applied by law enforcement for occupying the roadway. Most police officers would also only employ this Article in an extreme situation.

I think we are a Town capable of mutual trust and working together to ensure that we can all thrive and get along. We are proudly

an Age-Friendly Town which promotes safety, respect and active participation for all.

In an effort to discuss these important issues, I am now moving towards a **Community Safety Committee model**, rather than a Traffic Safety Committee. We are looking for candidates. If you are interested in volunteering and have a background in traffic engineering (civil engineer), urban planning, traffic safety project management or design, please email me with a short expression of interest including your expertise by May 6.

Lauren Small-Pennefather,  
Councillor, Public Security  
[lsmall-pennefather@montreal-west.ca](mailto:lsmall-pennefather@montreal-west.ca)



## TREE PLANTING SEASON

The month of May marks the beginning of tree planting in MoWest. Those of you who've ordered trees through the \$10 Tree program will receive them, and about 80 locations have also been selected to plant Town trees alongside residential streets.

Sadly, we had to remove 92 public trees in 2021 – mostly ash trees infested with the emerald ash borer. Last year we managed to plant 80 trees, but that still put us behind. And we already had some catching up to do. Our deficit of young trees has been well documented in our recent tree inventory which catalogues all our public trees (by species, age, location, maintenance and health status). It's really quite amazing how much we know about all our public trees!

So this year we will be planting 80 trees (half in spring and half in fall) to help make up for this deficit and ensure MoWesters continue to enjoy the benefits of a healthy green canopy: shading pedestrians, mitigating storm water damage, purifying the air and raising property values, to name a few.

Each of the 80 planting locations has been pre-selected by a certified arborist and the precise positioning will be confirmed by the Public Works department prior to planting – to avoid any conflicts between the new tree and private or public infrastructure. Residents are given a choice of three tree species deemed ideal for their specific location. Some residents, on learning they are scheduled to have a tree planted on the public domain in front of their home ask, "Why here? There are already plenty of trees on my street." But of course it's imperative to recognize that in 50 years most of the trees we see now will be dead. If we don't continue to plant new trees every year, we'll be leaving a barren landscape to future generations.

Of course the aesthetics of your front yard are largely up to you, but the public domain in front every home is used for the installation of public infrastructure like lamp posts, hydro poles, fire hydrants, traffic signs and, yes, street trees.

There are also many MoWesters who request a tree planting in front of their homes. To get on the list, just give Public Works a call or fill out the online form. Someone will evaluate your property and be in touch.

Elizabeth Ulin, Councillor  
Public Works, Environment and Communication  
[eulin@montreal-west.ca](mailto:eulin@montreal-west.ca)



# communiqué du CONSEIL

## RAPPORT DU MAIRE



### Centre sportif et récréatif — la phase de consultation

Comme je l'ai mentionné dans mon article le mois dernier, nous avons entamé la phase de consultation pour la construction de notre nouveau centre sportif et récréatif. Le 7 avril, nous avons tenu notre première consultation publique officielle concernant ce projet.

L'événement était partagé sur notre site Web et dans le e-bulletin et était ouvert à tous les résidents. Les personnes intéressées devaient s'inscrire. Il était animé par un animateur professionnel pour nous aider à obtenir le maximum d'informations et de commentaires.

Après un mot de bienvenue, l'animateur a fait le tour du programme de la soirée. J'ai ensuite pris le temps de présenter la vue d'ensemble du projet dans sa version actuelle incluant des esquisses préliminaires et un aperçu global de la première phase. Nous avons ensuite répondu à quelques questions concernant les esquisses présentées et le projet. Le reste de la soirée a été consacré à trois ateliers différents lors desquels nous avons été divisés en sous-groupes et avons discuté, entre autres, du type de programmation que les participants aimeraient voir dans ce nouveau centre, des raisons pour lesquelles ils ne participaient pas aux activités récréatives, des points positifs et négatifs des esquisses qui leur ont été présentées et de leurs perceptions générales du projet. Chaque sous-groupe était animé par un membre du Conseil. La petite taille des groupes a permis aux participants de partager clairement leurs impressions et leurs préoccupations, et leurs commentaires ont été dûment notés. Après chacun des ateliers, nous sommes retournés en grand groupe et un résident a résumé les discussions entreprises dans son sous-groupe respectif.

La qualité et la variété des commentaires ont dépassé toutes nos attentes. Les participants ont soulevé de très bons points et des préoccupations valables. Nombre de ces préoccupations

avaient déjà été abordées par le comité de pilotage lors de ses réunions et les autres préoccupations et suggestions seront résumées dans un rapport à la fin de la phase de consultation.

Une autre session est prévue à la fin du mois d'avril avec un autre groupe de résidents. Nous avons aussi mis en place une table de concertation réunissant les différentes organisations communautaires qui pourraient utiliser le bâtiment, par exemple le Club Rotary, les scouts, et bien d'autres encore. Nous consulterons des experts d'Habilitas et d'Altergo pour nous assurer que ce bâtiment soit entièrement accessible à la communauté qu'ils servent. De plus, comme je m'y suis engagé par le passé, une consultation séparée sera organisée pour les personnes vivant autour du bâtiment afin de répondre à leurs préoccupations. Il y aura également un sondage général en ligne qui permettra d'élargir la portée des personnes consultées.

Je dois reconnaître le travail de notre Responsable des communications, Elisabeth Roy. En collaboration avec le comité de pilotage, l'administration et l'animateur professionnel, elle a mis au point une activité de consultation sophistiquée qui a dépassé nos attentes.

Si l'on en croit les réactions et le niveau de participation de la première session, ce projet se réalisera comme nous l'avions rêvé : un projet rassembleur qui rendra notre communauté plus forte et plus fière !

Beny Masella, maire  
Ville de Montréal-Ouest  
[bmasella@montreal-ouest.ca](mailto:bmasella@montreal-ouest.ca)

## ENFIN! UN ÉDIFICE COMPLÈTEMENT ACCESSIBLE



Au fil des ans, la Ville s'est efforcée de rendre ses bâtiments plus accessibles en y installant des rampes, des portes automatiques et des toilettes acces-

sibles aux fauteuils roulants lorsque possible. Cependant, rénover des bâtiments centenaires est très difficile. C'est pourquoi l'un des aspects les plus intéressants de notre nouveau centre sportif et récréatif sera son accessibilité.

L'accessibilité universelle peut être définie de manière générale comme « les conditions d'accès qui permettraient à toute personne, quelles que soient ses capacités, d'accéder à un lieu, un produit ou un service et d'en profiter de manière autonome ». Une partie de notre vision consiste à développer un centre où les citoyens de tous âges et de toutes capacités peuvent s'impliquer dans des activités sportives et récréatives.

Par conséquent, notre nouveau centre intégrera de nombreux aspects de la conception universelle.

Le bâtiment de deux étages sera doté d'une entrée accessible et d'un ascenseur. Les toilettes non genrées seront accessibles et disposeront de vestiaires privés. Des vestiaires et une surface de glace accessibles nous permettront d'accueillir des matchs de parahockey. La piscine sera dotée d'une rampe d'accès. Des vestiaires universels seront installés dans la piscine.

La Ville collabore avec des organismes communautaires locaux qui s'efforcent de promouvoir l'accessibilité universelle. Nous recevons également d'excellents commentaires de la part des résidents sur ce sujet lors de nos consultations.

Notre nouveau centre aura beaucoup à offrir, et l'amélioration de l'accessibilité pour tous – enfants, personnes âgées, personnes handicapées et membres non binaires de notre communauté – est un moyen important pour nous d'atteindre notre objectif de devenir une municipalité amie des aînés.

Colleen Feeney, conseillère  
Finances, MADA, Loisirs et Culture  
[cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca](mailto:cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca)



## LE HOCKEY DE RUE À MONTRÉAL-OUEST : C'EST OUI OU C'EST NON?

Un rite de passage canadien, la Ville de Montréal-Ouest s'efforce de trouver un équilibre entre les règlements municipaux, le jeu libre sécuritaire et le respect du voisinage. Bien que la sécurité de nos résidents et de nos rues soit primordiale, un code de conduite est également nécessaire.

Le printemps arrivé, les enfants et les adultes sortent dans la rue pour une bonne vieille partie de hockey.

Un article récent de la *Montréal Gazette*, intitulé *Street hockey protocols must aim for the right balance*, fait référence au bon sens dans l'application des règlements municipaux, sur les nuisances ou la sécurité, dans le traitement des plaintes liées au bruit, à la circulation ou aux dommages à la propriété.

Une règle de base pourrait être de respecter une distance de quelques mètres entre le jeu libre et toute voiture garée et de retirer tout équipement de la rue une fois le jeu terminé. Le hockey de rue et d'autres sports comme le basket-

ball ont été "tolérés" à condition qu'ils ne représentent pas un danger pour les joueurs ou autres, en jouant dans une rue trop fréquentée ou pendant les heures de pointe par exemple. L'article 63 du règlement no 405 de la Ville de Mo-Ouest concernant la circulation stipule :

*Jouer sur la chaussée. Il est interdit de permettre aux enfants de jouer sur une chaussée. Il est interdit de permettre qu'un enfant âgé de moins de cinq ans se trouve sur une voie publique s'il n'est pas sous la surveillance d'une personne responsable.*

Le règlement pourrait être utile dans le cas d'une exagération où les enfants décident de jouer sur une rue trop fréquentée, ou dans le

cas où les parents négligent leurs responsabilités. Cela dit, la plupart des parties de hockey de rue se déroulent dans des rues tranquilles. Le règlement s'applique aux "enfants", et non aux adolescents ou aux adultes, à qui il est donc permis de jouer au hockey de rue.

Cependant, techniquement, l'article 500 du Code de la sécurité routière interdit à quiconque d'occuper la rue et peut être appliqué par les forces de l'ordre. La plupart des agents de police n'utiliseraient cette disposition que dans une situation extrême.

Je crois que nous sommes une municipalité capable de confiance mutuelle qui peut travailler ensemble afin de tous nous entendre.

Dans le but de discuter de ces enjeux importants, je m'oriente maintenant vers un **Comité de sécurité communautaire**, plutôt que vers un Comité de circulation et de sécurité. Nous sommes à la recherche de bénévoles avec une expérience 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 6 mai.

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



## LA SAISON DE PLANTATION DES ARBRES

Le mois de mai marque le début de la plantation d'arbres à Mo-Ouest. Ceux d'entre vous qui ont commandé des arbres dans le cadre du programme des arbres à 10 \$ les recevront ce mois-ci et environ 80 emplacements ont également été sélectionnés pour planter des arbres municipaux dans les rues résidentielles.

Malheureusement, nous avons dû retirer 92 arbres publics en 2021 – principalement des frênes infestés par l'agrile du frêne. L'année dernière, nous avons réussi à planter 80 arbres, mais pas assez pour compenser nos pertes. De plus, nous avons déjà du retard à rattraper. Notre déficit en jeunes arbres a été bien documenté dans notre récent inventaire qui répertorie tous nos arbres publics (par essence, âge, emplacement, entretien et état de santé). C'est vraiment étonnant, ce que nous savons sur nos arbres publics !

Cette année, 80 arbres (la moitié au printemps et l'autre à l'automne) seront plantés pour combler ce déficit et laisser les habitants de Mo-Ouest continuer de profiter d'une canopée urbaine en santé : l'ombre pour les piétons, l'at-

ténuation des dommages causés par l'eau de pluie, la purification de l'air, l'augmentation de la valeur des propriétés, pour n'en citer que quelques-uns.

Chacun des 80 emplacements de plantation est sélectionné par un arboriste certifié et l'endroit précis sera confirmé par le Service des travaux publics – pour éviter tout conflit entre le nouvel arbre et les infrastructures privées ou publiques. Les résidents auront le choix entre trois essences d'arbres jugées idéales pour leur emplacement précis.

Certains résidents demandent : « Pourquoi ici ? Il y a déjà beaucoup d'arbres dans ma rue ». Mais dans 50 ans, la plupart des arbres que nous voyons aujourd'hui seront morts. Sans plantation annuelle d'arbres, nous laisserons un paysage dénudé aux générations futures.

Bien évidemment, l'esthétique de votre cour vous appartient en grande partie, mais l'emprise municipale devant chaque maison est utilisée pour l'installation d'infrastructures publiques : les lampadaires, les poteaux électriques, les bornes-fontaines, les panneaux de signalisation et, oui, les arbres de rue.

Il y a également de nombreux résidents qui demandent qu'un arbre soit planté devant leur maison. Pour être inscrit sur la liste, téléphonez aux Travaux publics ou remplissez le formulaire en ligne et quelqu'un évaluera votre propriété et vous contactera.

Elizabeth Ulin, conseillère  
Travaux publics, Environnement et  
Communications  
eulin@montreal-ouest.ca