

THE INFORMER

Montreal West Newspaper

February 2023, Vol. 51, No 1



Ryan Silky

Randy's Bistro: in homage to a father

by Maurice Krystal

I had tried a number of times during the day to make contact with the new eatery replacing *Pasteizza* on Westminster, but it was always closed pending the official opening. It was only when I had a meeting in the library next door one evening that I finally entered *Randy's Bistro*. Since then, the establishment now opens at noon to accommodate Royal West students and regular lunch customers, and closes at 10 pm. That evening the place was bustling with people. There I met **Ryan Silkey** who was tending the bar. I introduced myself and he said he had been expecting me.

I found out in the few minutes I was there that he grew up in MoWest and went to Edinburgh School with my elder son and even visited my home. We made arrangements to meet at a later date.

About two weeks later I sat down at one of the tables as he left the kitchen to his chef, **Tyler Casey**. Each table had small vases of flowers and real cloth napkins. Ryan said it was his mother's doing. The family of five has been living in MoWest for close to four decades.

We began with the name of the place and Ryan informed me he named the place to honour his late father. Up to about ten years ago *Bistro Westminster* was a favourite hangout for Ryan's parents, **Nancy Cunningham** and **Randy Silkey**, to meet up with friends until it closed to become *L'Oeufrier*. Randy had thoughts of reopening a similar bistro in MoWest. (Earlier there was *Bistro 31*, which became a medical clinic and eventually *Pharmaprix*.)

Being in the food business Ryan heard rumours that the owners of *Pasteizza* (November 2014) were

Read more on page 6



John Buckles, Zelda Freitas, Sara and Lindsay Buckles of Westminster N.

Caring community

What is a ten-star recipe for a caring community? The December 25 community outreach Christmas meal is a perfect example.

Initiated in 1998 by Montreal West with the support of all of Montreal West and the

Home Care Department of our CLSC NDC Montreal West – this year's recipe was:

- 27 turkeys cooked in homes
- 120 lbs of potatoes peeled and chopped
- 20 loaves of bread made into stuffing
- 25 kitchens' favourite Christmas cookies or squares baked
- 22 volunteers showing up on December 24 for preparation
- 20 volunteers showing up on December 25 for preparation and plating
- 28 families delivering meals to the frailest members of our community

The result: 140 very thankful seniors and 150 volunteers knowing they made a difference during this challenging year of 2022.

Not a bit of food went to waste. Volunteers took all of the extras to *The Open Door* – a drop-in centre providing for the homeless

and those in need. They were thrilled that the food was "ready to be served".

A huge thank you to all who made this event happen. You all showed what a caring community Montreal West is.

from Joan Foster



Doug Sladen of Easton carving turkeys, Karen and Tom Mansfield Johnstone of Brock Ave N.

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Launch of the public fundraising campaign for the new sports and recreation centre

The Town of Montreal West announced the official launch of the public fundraising campaign for its new sports and recreation centre at a community event on November 20, that took place on the site of the future centre.

Mayor **Beny Masella** was joined on stage by councillors **Colleen Feeney**; **Maria Torres** and **Lauren Small-Pennefather**; **Desiree McGraw**, Member of Parliament for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce; **Andrew Michelin**, important donor and member of the Fundraising Committee and **Valentina Todoran**, interim Director General, to kick off the public fundraising campaign in front of an enthusiastic group of Montreal West citizens.

The Town and the Fundraising Committee aim to raise \$2.5 million to build the new sports and recreation centre. Launched in 2021, the silent fundraising campaign has already received important support from a number of partners with a total of \$1.5 million pledged and donated to date.

How you can help

The Town now calls on the community's generosity to help us achieve our fundraising goal.

Here are the different ways you can make a donation:

- Make a donation online
- Make a donation by cash or cheque at the Town Hall (50 Westminister Avenue South) or the Community Centre (8 Westminister Avenue South)
- Attend our fundraising events – details on the Special Events page of our website

January 29: Skating Day

March 26: Cotton Tail Party

March 31: Vintage Wine Dance

April 1: Pub Night

The Town will issue tax receipts to the individual or organization that has made a donation over \$20.

Lancement de la campagne de financement publique pour le nouveau Centre sportif et récréatif

La Ville de Montréal-Ouest a annoncé le lancement officiel de la campagne de financement publique pour son nouveau Centre sportif et récréatif lors d'un événement convivial dédié à l'ensemble de la population le 20 novembre 2022. L'événement avait lieu sur le site du futur centre.

Le maire **Beny Masella** était accompagné sur scène par les conseillères **Colleen Feeney**, **Maria Torres** et **Lauren Small-Pennefather**, par **Désirée McGraw**, députée de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, par **Andrew Michelin**, grand donateur et membre du comité de financement, et par

Valentina Todoran, directrice générale par intérim, pour donner le coup d'envoi à la campagne de financement publique devant un groupe de citoyens enthousiastes par le projet.

La Ville et le comité de financement visent à amasser 2.5 millions de dollars pour la construction du nouveau Centre sportif et récréatif. Lancée en 2021, la campagne silencieuse a déjà reçu un soutien important de la part de nombreux partenaires. Un montant total de 1.5 million de dollars a déjà été promis et donné jusqu'à présent.

Comment faire un don?

Voici les différentes façons dont vous pouvez contribuer :

- Faites un don en ligne
- Faites un don en espèces ou par chèque au comptoir de service de l'hôtel de ville (50, avenue Westminister Sud) ou du Centre communautaire (8 avenue Westminister Sud)
- Participez à nos événements de collecte de fonds

29 janvier : Journée patinage

26 mars : Fête du Lapin

31 mars : Soirée dansante
Vintage Wine

1^{er} avril : Soirée pub

La Ville remettra des reçus officiels aux fins d'impôts au nom de l'individu ou de l'organisme qui fait un don de plus de 20\$.



L to R: Montreal West Mascot; Samantha Mitra, Fundraising Committee member; Councillor Lauren Small-Pennefather; Mayor Beny Masella; Councillor Colleen Feeney; Councillor Maria Torres; Desiree McGraw, Member of Parliament for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce; Valentina Todoran, interim Director General; and Andrew Michelin, important donor and member of the Fundraising Committee

THE 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.

Le rôle de l'*Informer* est de fournir aux gens de Montréal-Ouest de l'information sur leur ville et ses citoyens afin de favoriser l'atmosphère de petite ville et de proximité qui fait de Montréal-Ouest un endroit spécial où vivre.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Heather Baylis, 489-7022

LAYOUT DESIGNER

Julia Ross, julia@ross.cd

AD MANAGER

Heather Baylis, 489-7022
montrealwestinformer@gmail.com

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Rhonda Schwartz, 482-0227

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

February 8

ART etc. 2022!



The 38th annual edition of *Art etc.* was a weekend full of amazing artisans of varied disciplines and so many visitors from the MoWest community and beyond. As always, a wonderful atmosphere, the hall was alive with enthusiasm and delight at finding perfect gifts for others and ourselves.

An event like this requires much work and many thanks. The *Art etc.* committee would like to thank **Paula Cordeau** who is an enormous support and help to us – the event would not run without her. Special thanks to **Franco Agostinelli** and **Bruce Thicke**, the dedicated Town Hall employees who are always so helpful and go the extra mile for us every year. We are so grateful. Big thanks to **Poppy Baktis**, our floor manager, who kept the show going smoothly for both artisans and visitors. You are amazing! Enormous thanks to **Lynn Crawford** and **Barbara Wells** for assistance above and beyond during the weekend – everything you do elevates the experience for everyone. We greatly appreciate the children's library committee,

specifically **Petrina Lee Poy** and **Michelle Wyse**, for organizing the much beloved café over the weekend. *Art etc.* is always such a wonderful alchemy of connection and mutual support between local community institutions, groups and associations.

Jurying for 2023

If any artisans are interested in participating in the 2023 edition of *Art etc.*, please email us at artetcmontrealwest@gmail.com. We will be holding our ejury (electronic jury) in late January/early February.

Partner with us!

If there are any MoWest institutions or organizations interested in partnering with our event by organizing and staffing one day of the tea room/café, please contact us at artetcmontrealwest@gmail.com. We are always happy to answer questions and explain the event.

See everyone in November!

Art etc. Committee

ART etc.



West End Horticultural Society

The West End Horticultural Society, celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, extends a warm invitation to MW residents to attend its February 15 meeting, at 7:30 pm at the Monkland Community Centre, 4410 West Hill. **Lisa Mintz**, co-founder of *Sauvons la falaise!* will be the guest speaker taking us on a pictorial tour of this treasured greenspace.

La Falaise Saint-Jacques, a hidden ecological gem in the form of a ribbon of trees, is a walking path that stretches 4 km from MW through NDG and Westmount. It is a 20-hectare home to 65 species of birds and welcomes both human and canine visitors alike year-round. Its entrance is located next to the *Canadian Tire* store on St. Jacques. Ms. Mintz will talk about its history, ecology and future. Everyone is welcome to attend what promises to be a lovely, informative evening about this local and accessible green treasure. Guest fee is \$5 per person, no reservations needed, the presentation is in English and refreshments will be served. Visit wehs.ca to learn more about NDG's *West End Horticultural Society* or La Falaise Saint-Jacques for information about La Falaise.

from Suzanne Csik



Vivianne Lei Gantala

Ending 2022 on a good note!

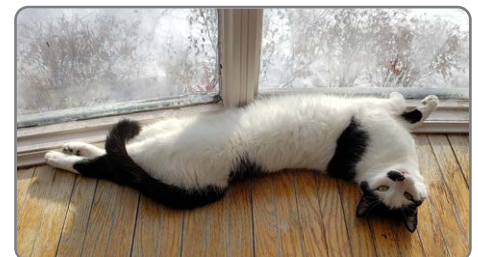
The *Action Sport Physio Montreal West* clinic is once again amazed by the generosity of the MoWest community. Over the months of November and December, we collected non-perishable food that we were able to donate to *Share the Warmth*. We thank everyone who donated and hope that these donations could help the ones in need.

A special thank you

Our family would like to thank the MoWest resident who rushed our cat, **Steve**, to the emergency vet in Lachine the evening of December 5 after a hit and run incident on Westminster. We don't know who you are as the clinic lost your contact information, but we are so thankful that you went out of your way to help him. While we are devastated that he didn't make it, we are grateful that he wasn't left to suffer and that we were able to get to him in time to say goodbye.

He was a very friendly cat who enjoyed wandering around much of the Town with several houses regularly letting him in to visit. He was even spotted strolling out from the arena on occasion. We imagine he will be missed by many and we appreciate that we live in a Town where people not only look out for each other but for their pets as well.

The Tzabariss





Don Brass

in memoriam

Don Brass

Don Brass, a long-time citizen of Montreal West, passed away on November 14, 2022 at the age of 96. Don and **Marg**, his wife of 66 years, have lived on Strathearn Ave for 62 years. While living there they have been blessed with many wonderful neighbours.

Marg continues to live in the family home. Many "Montreal Westers" would remember Marg as their elementary school Physical Education teacher. She taught for 15 years at Elizabeth Ballantyne followed by 15 years at Edinburgh Elementary.

Don was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and cherished the friendships he developed within the church community. His two children, **Ken** and **Sue**, were active participants in the *Civic Recreation Association*. Don happily volunteered countless hours coaching teams in the hockey and softball programs.

In the 70s the family was active in the tennis club. During the summer, Don loved to windsurf at the cottage in the Laurentians. In the winter, he enjoyed downhill skiing with his family and friends in the Laurentians, Eastern Townships and Vermont. Don liked being active and, even in his retirement years, you could see him on his daily walks to the Saint-Jacques McDonald's for morning toast and coffee with his buddies! Don had a good sense of humour and easy-going nature. At 96, he definitely had a long, wonderful life. He will be missed by all and especially his five beautiful grand-daughters and four precious great-grandchildren.

Mailbox



New recreation centre

I have always been against this project since the onset of the consultations and my concerns at Town Hall meetings have always been met with disdain.

Here are some sobering facts about our Town.

- We do not have a commercial tax base to support this project,
- There are only 1576 taxpayers in our Town, so the expense falls on a small number of homeowners,
- The reality is that we already have the highest taxes on the Island for years, so it is unfair to continue taxing us in order to build this centre,
- Our taxes are higher than wealthy cities such as Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto,
- Our debt as of December 2021 less receivables from government grants is \$13.5 MM.
- The interest rate is expected to increase again before year end of 2022 by half a percentage point.

Taxpayers have already paid for preliminary studies, budget for planning in 2023 is \$158 K, our mayor must inform the citizens what is now the expected cost of this centre and explain how we sent out well over 2000 surveys when there are only 1576 taxpayers?

Public funding campaign will only cover a fraction of the expenses. If this project is not halted immediately then the mayor must hold a referendum. This centre is not going to bring value to our Town but burden citizens for decades of high taxes.

Andre Chenier
430 Hudson Avenue
514-486-5575
andrechenier@bell.net

Response from Council

We are writing in response to Mr. Chenier's letter regarding the new recreation centre.

Every resident is entitled to their opinion. The points you have made regarding

the taxes and tax base in Montreal West are valid, and this is the reality our small town has been under for the past several decades at least. Largely because of this, past administrations have shied away from replacing necessary infrastructure for years, leaving us with roads and buildings in a sad state of disrepair.

In the past 15 years, our Town Councils have been working to correct this situation by rebuilding and repairing our road and building infrastructure. This has resulted in debt, but the debt is at a manageable level largely because we have only undertaken projects when we have government grants to offset the cost to taxpayers.

The situation we are now faced with is

- We have an arena which, based on 2015 figures, would have cost over \$7 million to repair. That number has grown substantially since then.

- We have a swimming pool which is also in dire need of repair and is also nearing the end of its useful life.
- We have received a government grant of \$12.5 million to replace, upgrade and modernize both of these facilities.
- We will use the money from the sale of the library lot, surplus funds and fundraising to further offset the cost to taxpayers.

- To do without these facilities would be a real loss to our Town. A new recreation centre would indeed add value to the Town and its citizens, from young to old, by providing a fully-accessible facility with a larger range of activities for all.

Mr. Chenier, as we have answered you politely, and not with disdain, at several Council meetings, we do not have all the figures yet. When we go to tender and have correct costs, we will share them with residents and discuss openly the impact on our taxes. There is no point to throw around unconfirmed estimates which could negatively impact our bidding process at this time. We look forward to having an open discussion with all residents when the time comes.

Beny Masella, Mayor
Town of Montreal West
Colleen Feeney
Councillor, Finance

JULIETTE LORD

PHYSIOTHÉRAPIE À DOMICILE
HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY

438 875 2115

maisonphysio@gmail.com

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

63 WESTMINSTER N
MONTREAL WEST
H4X 1Y8

369-0255

IODE honours local Rotarians



Dr. Robert Drummond – recipient of the IODE Award for his contribution to the local military history



The IODE HMS Victory Chapter awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. **Robert Drummond** for his invaluable research and contribution to local military history.

Dr. Drummond's extensive research has inspired him to raise awareness by giving annual tours to the homes of those men who had enlisted in the world wars, by doing a presentation at the library and by organizing a speaker on military affairs at the Town Hall. A book is also forthcoming.

When he accepted the Certificate of Appreciation, he said when he was a resident

at St. Mary's, he once saw an IODE plaque, but was not sure what it represented.

IODE was founded by **Margaret Polson Murray**, 123 years ago during the Boer War to help the families of those who had served, first by sending them comforts and then by setting up a War Memorial Fund. Historically known as the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, today it is simply IODE Canada, a charitable organization of long standing. Our Montreal West chapter is still supporting the veterans and their families; we also reach out to others in need locally and in remote northern communities.

Ron D'Souza was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his incalculable contribution to the *Meals on Angels' Wings* initiative that raised over \$30,000 and served 9,000 meals/snacks to the frontline healthcare workers while helping the merchants whose revenue was down by 75% during the pandemic. He delivered most of the meals himself when many were afraid to go out. Some of the beneficiaries were *St. Mary's Hospital, Lakeshore, Henri-Bradet, Father Dowd, St. Margaret's, first responders at CSL Medical Service, vaccine centres, CLSCs Rene Cassin and Metro, Vigi Queen Elizabeth, Sacre Coeur and Resilience Montreal*.

Both men have been members of the *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG* for

many years and have demonstrated a firm commitment to "service above self." Already a Paul Harris Fellow, Ron D'Souza received a new pin with a second sapphire for pursuing such worthy projects as raising \$13,000 for an industrial dryer for *Resilience Montreal*, replacing one that had caught fire due to overuse during the pandemic. To assist with fundraising, he also helped establish a *Rotary Theatre Troupe* in which he and his wife participated as actors.

In attendance at the ceremony were Town Councillors **Maria Torres, Lauren Small-Pennefather** and **Colleen Feeney**, as well as Public Library Director, **Deborah Marcogliese**.

from Giuliana Pendenza

Ron D'Souza – Rotarian, recipient of Certificate of Appreciation from IODE HMS Victory Chapter



Environmentalism in Action / L'environnementalisme en action

Join the challenge!

The first MoWest Zero Waste Challenge launched successfully last October. Twelve households took part in the friendly neighbourhood competition.

The challenge supported families who wanted to reduce their garbage footprint. They met twice over Zoom – first to learn some basic waste reduction strategies and form teams, and later to share lessons learned, and discover the winning team.

Participants were surprised by how much plastic waste they generated. Even seasoned recyclers found it difficult to determine which plastics could go in the blue bin. Others realized they needed to modify their purchasing habits.

We also learned that community makes it or breaks it. Those who did not attend the first Zoom meeting to join a "team" didn't ultimately follow the challenge. The 12 who became part of a "team" stuck with it (and really enjoyed themselves)!

So, what's next? We want to go bigger with the next challenge and will be recruiting full blocks to take part as teams. Would you like to gather some neighbours to take on the other blocks? So far, we've got blocks on Percival and Wolseley N throwing down the gauntlet! Details coming soon!

*Colin Robertson
and Julie Waters*

Relevez le défi !

Le premier défi de Mo-Ouest a été lancé en octobre dernier. Douze ménages ont participé à cette compétition amicale.

Le défi a soutenu les familles qui souhaitaient réduire leur empreinte écologique. Elles se sont réunies deux fois sur Zoom – d'abord pour apprendre stratégies de réduction des déchets et former des équipes, puis pour partager les leçons apprises et découvrir l'équipe gagnante.

Les participants ont été surpris par la quantité de déchets plastiques qu'ils génèrent. Même les recycleurs chevronnés ont eu du mal à déterminer quels plastiques pouvaient aller dans la poubelle bleue. D'autres ont réalisé qu'ils devaient modifier leurs habitudes d'achat.

Nous avons également appris que c'est la communauté qui fait ou défait les choses. Ceux qui n'ont pas assisté à la première réunion Zoom pour rejoindre une "équipe" n'ont finalement pas suivi le défi. Les douze personnes qui se sont jointes à une "équipe" ont persévéré (et se sont vraiment amusées) !

Quelle sera la prochaine étape ? Nous voulons aller plus loin avec le prochain défi et recruter des pâtés de maisons entières pour participer en équipe. Aimerez-vous rassembler quelques voisins pour affronter les autres blocs ? Jusqu'à présent, nous avons des blocs sur Percival et Wolseley Nord prêts à s'affronter ! Détails à venir !

*de Colin Robertson
et Julie Waters*

Elizabeth Ballantyne School

Shoebox Project

Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of the entire student body, we had a very successful dress down day to raise money for the Shoebox Project (shoeboxproject.com/): \$900 and 16 shoeboxes, to be donated to shelters and community organizations that serve women impacted by homelessness.

Each box was filled to the brim with personal items, treats and gift cards. A big shout out to the members of the Leadership Club for their help in assembling the boxes and for their special care with this kindness project.

Green Team project

The EB Green Team have engaged in a local urban agriculture project to explore, experience, practise and share their learning.

The inquiry-based project kicked off with a visit to a local urban agriculture/garden along with a guided tour from an experienced gardener. The gar-



The Shoebox Project

den is located at the extended backyards of houses located on Radcliffe Road.

Using this experience, the students applied their newly found

knowledge to grow food at the school. Now the challenge for the students will be how to grow food in the school, especially in winter.

Currently, they are growing an array of food such as kale, dill, cilantro, strawberries, mint and arugula in the school's hydroponic systems.

The NutriTower is a vertical, hydroponic system that can grow up to 32 individual plants.

The Green Team expanded their experience by inviting **Jane Barr**, the local gardener/farmer, to the school. The students demonstrated the hydroponic system, followed by a Q&A session.

Gift exchange

Thanks to a generous donation from the Montreal Community Cares Foundation, our students were able to enjoy a gift exchange just before the holiday break.

Each student wrapped a toy in brown (recyclable) paper and then decorated it.

Classes were paired up, and the children had a great time exchanging gifts with each other!

Randy's Bistro

continued from page 1

thinking of selling. Ryan knew the area well, and it was close to his mother and his own NDG residence.



Summer employment application deadlines

February 7

Lifeguard and
Camp Assistant Coordinators

February 28

Wading Pool Attendant, Cashiers,
Camp Counsellor,
Community Centre Animator

Visit the employment page of the
Town website to apply.

Like many teens, Ryan didn't know what he wanted to do in life. While attending Dawson College, he worked as a short order cook at *St. Viateur Bagel* on Monkland. The owner saw something in Ryan and suggested he go to cooking school. He attended the Pearson Adult Professional Cooking program and then worked at a number of establishments, such as *Times Supper Club* (near the Bell Centre) and in the catering departments of *The Tuck Shop* and *Arthurs*.

Randy Silkey ran a computer consulting business called *Gestion Informatique OKA*. Ryan didn't follow in those footsteps. He is more similar to his grandmother who had a restaurant/hotel in Ste. Adele, *The Snowy Owl*. When his father was contemplating retiring, he said it was the last chance he had to financially help Ryan improve his cooking skills. Ryan accepted and attended the Cordon Bleu Ottawa to earn his pâtissier diploma. He is pleased that all the food served in Randy's is prepared in house.

As a kid Ryan was a picky eater, perhaps an early sign that he cared about the food he ate. While he wasn't sure what career he wanted to follow, he did dream about being an artist. He now sees food as an edible art form. His canvas is the plate and nothing pleases him more than to see the plate returned completely empty. He is particularly

proud of the fish and chips, using only fresh cod and a soft, light batter.

Randy's Bistro carries Sleeman beers on tap, as well as Guinness and Sapporo brands, in addition to wine. Future plans include a permit to sell alcohol on the front terrace, a patio in the back, theme nights, such as martini night, dollar oyster night and a mussels' night.

For Ryan, the key element is to have fun. This happens when there is a good team working together. He claims to be a nerd, something I guess a bartender has to be able to talk about to those on the other side of the bar.

On the way out, I noticed the photo and a hat in a plexiglass box. The photo is of Randy fly fishing in the Gaspé, the hat had small metal pins attached and is also adorned with his favourite fishing flies, showing how avid a fisherman Ryan's dad was. There were ribbons and medals showing Randy's involvement with the Masons and the Shriners. I think Randy would be proud of his son returning to our Town to start this venture.

Randy's Bistro
45 Westminster North
(514) 481-7731
Randysbistro.wixsite.com

Edinburgh Elementary School



Jacqueline Sidel

We have now reached 2023! Although Grade 6 started over 4 months ago, I still feel like I never left grade 5. It really has been an absolute pleasure getting to see the school from a different perspective since I'm in the oldest age group in the school.

Now that we are post – Covid19, we all have the opportunity for leadership. We get to take care of the younger students, really get to be around everyone else instead of being isolated, and just enjoy our grade 6 year!

Edinburgh Elementary School has just started welcoming pre-k students too! It has given our school the opportunity to interest more families in sending their child to Edinburgh.

For the grad party we voted to decide on the theme and we

— A sixth grader's perspective —

Privileges of being the oldest grade

chose Hollywood movies and TV. To help pay for the party, we have done some fundraisers: a Mr. Freeze sale at the beginning of the year, a bake sale during the book fair, and we have recently started selling raffle tickets.

Now that I have finally reached Grade 6, I can experience the amazing privileges of being the oldest grade, which include: Every year the 6th graders go on a trip, read to kindergarten kids, do a legacy project and graduate, of course!

By now all the high school stress that was floating around in the hallways has faded to some murmurs here and there. The majority of us have chosen

our high schools and no longer have to worry about choosing the right one.

We have all tried to avoid the fact that next year nothing will be the same. Even though I am going to have a couple friends moving on with me, I will never forget the sounds and people that have filled my heart up with joy and laughter every day for the past 7 years.

In the end, I hope that everyone that has been together since kindergarten and those who joined along the way, never forget Edinburgh in all its glory and the friends we have made.

from Jacqueline Sidel

Royal West Academy

RWA's new clothes

Royal West's change of uniform provider and what it means for the community

Royal West Academy may be a poster child, but even it is not free of controversial news.

Just a few months ago, the School Store, an on-site, parent-run outfit that provided RWA's uniforms since time immemorial, was suddenly and mysteriously replaced by *Top Marks*, a local retailer. As I discovered, this was caused by a curious web of criticisms against the nature of the School Store. Unfortunately, the upheaval has left nearly everyone at school disappointed.

It is difficult to overstate how much of an institution the School Store. Uniform sales were the largest source of revenue for the *Home and School Association (HSA)*. Parents were even forbidden from trying to find uniforms anywhere else. How could this all come crashing down overnight? And what is to become of the School Store now that its main source of income is gone? Members of the community deserve to know.

Cristina Capela, an *HSA* volunteer, explains that the com-

motion began over a year ago, when a parent approached the Governing Board with a criticism. They were concerned by how the *HSA* was effectively making donation mandatory.

"They didn't feel *HSA* should profit from uniform sales" Yet the School Store did not make a profit. It was run by volunteers who distributed proceeds for the benefit of RWA students.

It is unclear what exactly happened in the Governing Board, as they were unable to comment. What is certain is that a decision was swiftly made to end the *HSA*'s uniform sales. Since this went against their directive of raising money, the uniform supplier would be changed to *Top Marks*. Effective November 3, 2022, students would be required to buy their uniforms from the new supplier. Staff members were not involved in this decision, according to **Jessica Fogel**, a teacher at Royal West.

By all accounts, *Top Marks* was the best choice for a new

uniform provider. They already had a relationship with the school and a great reputation from the other schools it services. However, the change has its disadvantages.

Though the price is comparable, buying a uniform is now much less convenient. If a student needs a new article of clothing, instead of buying it at lunch time, they must now wait three to five weeks for their online order to be fulfilled.

Moreover, the *HSA* is effectively cut off. The association that raised funds for the refurbishment of the front field, the Musical and the Science Fair, is now left without its primary source of income.

"It's a bit of a loss," says Cristina, "because, in the end, the money was going to the students" and now, *Top Marks* gets all the profits. The *HSA* understands that profiting from something that is necessary in a public school is unfavourable to some families. That being said, "[we] were always willing to give uniforms to students who didn't have the means."

Nevertheless, this was a change that had to happen, according to **Tony Pita**, the princi-

pal of Royal West. In his eyes, the school is doing due diligence. Though it will take time, people need to adapt to this change.

There is a silver lining to the overhaul. Cristina sees it as an opportunity to reinvent the school store as a "cooperative" where students, the *HSA* and staff can come together to sell summer reading books, new swag items as well as used uniforms, "an agora [...] we can use to help everybody" The store reopens this January, with students hopefully joining parents as employees.

The reform of school uniform sales is without a doubt the most important thing to happen at Royal West in recent years. Everyone at RWA agrees, that unfortunate as it may be, we are stuck with **Top Marks'** inconvenient online uniform sales for good. Looking back on the School Store's years of service, Cristina reflects, "It was a culture that everyone believed was good, and as long as nobody was upset, then everything's fine. But, it takes one squeaky wheel to upset the balance."

*from Eden Atlas
RWA student*

Montreal West Scouts



Mathias Cantu

Rovers

The following article was written by one of our Rovers, Mathias Cantu, who was able to give up his precious personal time to take a Winter Survival Course. Hopefully he will be able to share these skills with our younger Scouts at our winter camp in February.

Rovers are our eldest group of youth (18 to 26) who enjoy activities in the outdoors. Most are still in school or pursuing careers but their help with the younger scouts is greatly appreciated.

"My experience during the Outdoors Winter Survival course was pleasantly unexpected.

"I've been a scout for eight years and spent most of my time outdoors enjoying camping or on hiking trips. Yet the idea of

doing those same activities during the winter seemed foreign; I would neglect the idea by fear of being cold or from lack of equipment.

"When I came across the option of following a course that tackles such topics, I saw it as the perfect opportunity of being adventurous and engaging in a new terrain.

"To my surprise the 20+ participants of the course were scout leaders and group commissioners, taking the course to learn how to adapt, plan and prepare winter activities with

their youth. I saw it as an opportunity to learn from all of them and I did. They very generously shared great stories, about voyages or adventures, pieces of advice, general knowledge and their stove, to warm up my chili.

"I arrived late Friday night, so I missed most of the training for that day, but I was able to talk with the main instructor, Scouter Chuck, who instructed me on how to camp in the winter properly and safely. I was surprised at how comfortable and warm I was while sleeping outdoors.

"The second day started early and was loaded with different practical and theoretical sections of winter skills, both outdoors and indoors. We viewed different skills such as: building a quinzee, cooking in the cold, winter first aid, meal prep, dressing comfortably, transportation and more. During one of the outdoor activities I built, with two fellow Montreal scouts, an improvised shelter using a tarp and some rope. I ended up sleeping in it that same night.

"As any good camping is, we finished the second day with a warm meal and a campfire where some showed-off their campfire blankets and others shared their camping stories. I was eager to sleep in the shelter I built, despite the cold and to my surprise the hardest part was to leave my warm sleeping bag in the morning.

"The third and final day served as a conclusion of the course where we received our diplomas and parted ways.

"Overall, I was very pleased with the course, the people, the experience, and the I would recommend to everyone to try winter camping at least once; it sounds scarier than it actually is."

Instructor explaining winter hammock camping



For more information about joining our Rover Crew, please contact **Rusty** at jonwiersma1968@gmail.com. It is not a weekly commitment, join activities when your schedule allows.

For information about Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, please contact Karen Johnstone at karenmansfieldjohnstone@gmail.com.



from
Mathias Cantu

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Guides



Elizabeth, Stephanie, Janet (Brown Owl) Catherine and Charlotte. Janet has known all of these girls since they were in kindergarten or even younger.



The MW Girl Guides had a busy end to 2022. Our first locally organized camp since the pandemic was held November 18-20 at Camp Wa-Thik-Ane. We had 21 girls from 9 different units, ranging in age from Brownies to Rangers to join in on our fun.

And what fun we had! The “fall” camp actually turned into a winter camp! It isn’t every day you have a chance to go tobogganing and snowshoeing at a fall camp! The girls had a fantastic time renewing old friendships and making new ones. The girls loved the outdoor campfire. Singing songs as the snow gently fell.

It was a perfect weekend to restart our camping adventures!

Fall camp at Wa-Thik-Ane



It’s “official”

Janet King has “officially” retired from Guiding. Yes, this is her third time, but this time she insists she is really retiring. We held a little surprise party for her at her last meeting in December. We thought someone would certainly have leaked the news to her – but everyone kept the secret, and Janet was so surprised.

Her extended family were there along with many people in Guiding with whom she has a special bond. We had a little ceremony for her, and ended it with a campfire. Janet loves campfires. It was led by three Guides who she had in her Brownie unit pre-pandemic. She promises to come back and help out with the occasional meeting or two....

from Christine Downey



Photo: Montreal West Civic Recreation Association

Top row L to R: Benjamin Donlan, Nathaniel Grossman, Jon Cooperman (asst. coach), Micah Cooperman, Kyle Phillips, Robbie Small, Felix Elliot, Michael Small (asst. coach), Eric Rayment (head coach and hockey program director). Middle row: Nathan Hamilton, Jeremy Durocher, Elijah Raffoul, Logan Goyette, Kohl Hilf. Bottom: MJ Hadid (goalie). Not pictured: Markus Lulic-Descheneaux (head coach)

MWH Knights!

Winners of the M13A Centre Sud 2022 Tournament

Congratulations M13A MWH Knights with 4 wins in 2 days! Game one started Saturday morning with a close 2-1 win over MRO. Game two was against the Black Hawks. The Knights battled it out and came away with a 3-1 win to end the day 2-0.

Sunday morning with an early game at 7 am the boys were ready and played an amazing game beating the Jets 5-2 earning their spot in the finals.

The Final game was played with a decisive 2-0 win to take the Championship. Player of the game went to **Nathaniel Grossman** and another shut out for our goalie **MJ Hadid**!

Thank you to all the coaches for a successful tournament and a great weekend of hockey.

Kosher corner

Hebrew school starting season two

With the conclusion of a successful first season of Hebrew school, we are excited to start season two! Hebrew school runs Wednesdays 4:30-6 pm, light supper included. Serving grades K-3, Chabad Westminster Hebrew School teaches your child about our rich heritage and culture while ensuring your child can read, write and become familiar with common Hebrew Jewish terms. Visit chabadwestminster.com/hebrewschool for more info or to register.

First Friday Shabbat service

On February 3 at 6:15 pm, come enjoy a short, family-friendly service followed by a

light kiddush served with hot soup and scotch!

Tu B'Shvat: Jewish Women's Circle

Monday, February 6, join local women Tu B'Shvat celebration and enjoy a ladies paint night!

Purim holiday fun!

Purim is celebrated the evening of Monday, March 6 through Tuesday March 7. During the 24 hours of the holiday there are four unique holiday rituals! Stay tuned for emails with details, especially the community gift exchange. To join the email list visit chabadwestminster.com/subscribe.

from Rabbi Marlow

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Montreal West Public Library

MWPL's year in review

As we close out 2022, we thought it might be a good time to review our year. It started on a rocky footing with COVID curfews and lock downs; it was anyone's guess how the year would progress. But despite it all, the library remained open, and we were able to have some in-house activities and keep some virtual activities going. We saw some new staff members and had to say goodbye to others. This year we even tried some crafting activities (thanks to **Ann**). We also saw financial support from the *Kimberley Foundation*, the *New Horizons for Seniors*, the *Writers Union of Canada*, the *Canadian Council for the Arts* and *Culture et Communications Québec* and even *Microsoft Corporation*. We also had an extremely successful fundraising campaign. In other words, all three levels of government, a private foundation and our community members are supporting our local library. We are truly grateful to the continued support we receive.

In 2022 the *Kimberley Foundation* awarded us a grant to help develop our young adult collection and programming (Thank you **Dane**). This grant allowed us to host movie nights, board game nights; we now have a great collection of board games for in-house use and for short-term loans.

New Horizons for Seniors has supported our Threads of Memory Project for almost two full years. It has allowed us to by an iMac and iPad for library members' use.



Threads of Memory project

The team from the Threads of Memory Project has been busy this fall learning new skills by producing podcasts! Evolving from last year's series of video interviews with MoWest seniors, we are now working on audio recordings, via Zoom, with Montrealers working or volunteering in organizations and services relevant to seniors. Our aim is to build a living toolbox to let 60+ MoWesters know about resources available. We have had lively conversations with intergenerational network builders, social activists and people who are thinking outside the box to meet housing and other challenges that arise as we age.

We are just getting started and we invite you to listen in. Our podcasts can be accessed from the MWPL.ca website or wherever you listen to podcasts under the title "Forever Young - Living and Aging in Montreal West." Check us out! If you have suggestions for topics or people to interview, we welcome your input. Feel free to contact me to contribute your ideas or if you would like to join the

Threads of Memory group: **Kathy Minorgan**, kaminorgan@gmail.com.

Also, look for more information on our round table event (March 24) where we will be hosting panel discussions on Living and Aging in Montreal West. All of this has been sponsored by the *federal government of Canada* and the *New Horizons for Seniors*.



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Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday, Saturday:

noon-6 pm

Wednesday: noon-8 pm

Meeting authors

Thanks to the *Canadian Council for the Arts* and the *Writers Union of Canada*, in 2022 we met four new authors, two on zoom, one in person and one hybrid meeting. We hope to continue to offer more author readings in 2023 with their continued support.

New in 2022

We have been able to receive all our office software free of charge from Microsoft. So, all in all 2022 was a stellar year for our local library receiving support from many different institutions.

Fundraising

In November, the Board of Directors wrote to all members asking for their help in financing several initiatives, including the purchase of new shelving and funding for events and programming. The response from our members was overwhelming! We raised over \$10,000 dollars and we are so grateful to everyone who gave generously.

This year we included the Westminister merchants in our fundraising appeal. We want to give a special thank you to *Librairie Bonder Bookstore* and *Antiquités Cacherel* for their generous response, we appreciate their strong support. As the library starts a new calendar year, we want to take this opportunity to thank all the local merchants who have supported us in various ways during the past year. You are all wonderful neighbours.

Our holiday raffle was also a great success raising a record of over \$1700. Our winners were delighted with their prizes. Thanks to everyone who participated – good luck next year!

So, we started last year completely unsure of what it would bring and, in the end, it brought us more than we could have ever hoped for. Now in 2023, we hope to begin modernizing our space so that it is a place to read, learn, work, study and socialize. In other words, the centre of the community.

from Deb Marcogliese



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Children's Library



A craft for the library patrons

Creative writing workshops

Monique Polak, prize-winning author of books for children and young adults, is going to animate two workshops on creative writing. These activities are aimed at children 6 and up who are interested in learning how to write, what techniques to use, how to develop a creative idea and produce a story. The dates are Saturday, January 28 and Sunday, March 12. You can register for one or both of the sessions.

These workshops will be an excellent preparation for those who are planning on participating in the *Bill Foster Writing Contest!*

Bill Foster Writing Contest

For a third year, budding writers are invited to submit texts as part of the *Bill Foster Writing Contest*. From February 4 until April 23 you can pick up an envelope from the library in which to submit your text.

We accept writing in French or English, in any format, illustrated or not.

This year, the jury will divide the texts in two categories: 6 to 8 years old and 9 to 12 years old. Details will be provided at the library.

New collection of board games

We are busy preparing the launch of a new collection – board games – that patrons will be able to borrow.

If you have any board games that you no longer use, we would appreciate receiving them as donations. We will then decide if they can be added to the collection. The collection will be available in February.

Lego Robotics

Peek-a-Boo Activity Center will animate a Lego Robotics activity at the library. You will learn to develop programmable robots with Lego building blocks, use software to create a program to activate your creation and then test it. Registration is required for this activity, which will take place on Saturday, February 18 from 1-2:30 pm.

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West End Quilters

For years, the *West End Quilters* met twice a month in person from September to the end of May. As the group aged, most didn't like going out on a dark, cold and icy evenings, so we didn't plan meetings in the winter. Then came Covid, lockdowns and Zoom. We could meet every week in the comfort of our own homes and we have.

Again this winter, we don't have in-person meetings scheduled, but a full program of events every second week on Zoom. On alternate weeks, there are sew and chat meetings and weekend workshops and retreats.

In January, we have a "Happy Village" workshop and the beginning of a block-of-the-month. When the weather warms, we will come out of hibernation and haul all the quilts we have made to the church for a show and tell of oohs and ahhs! During the winter you can see some of our creations on Facebook: facebook.com/westendquilters/.

from Mary Sutherland

Artists' Showcase

Winter theme:
Textures, shapes,
patterns and forms

Deadline to submit art: February 13.

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



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News from the pews

MW United

...the brick one

So how is 2023 going for you so far? Somehow 2022 came up more easily on the keyboard but we'll adapt.

February is here and the days are lengthening – we're thinking of it with hope. We are appreciating being able to come together even if it is with masks or whatever the current protocol is. Hopefully we have developed some wise habits that stand us in good stead.

The Sunday school has been exciting this year as we have discovered some talented young folk in our midst which makes it intriguing. What will they come up with next? Come and see for yourself.

Remember Labyrinth Walks?

We held our first this year in January – did you see the posters? We plan to resume one walk a month, alternating between Sunday afternoons and a weekday evening – likely either Tuesday or Wednesday.

There is an ancient belief that walking in a meditative atmosphere can still a busy mind. We lay the Chartres Cathedral design (circa 1205) on the floor in Wadsworth Hall, illuminate the room with candles and play gentle music. By entering and following the single pathway you eventually arrive at the centre. After a time, you retrace your way back out to the beginning. As there are no choices to be made (it's not a maze or a puzzle) you can simply take a deep breath, enter at the mouth and saunter to the centre at your own pace. You can walk with something on your mind or nothing at all and see what thoughts arrive.

At the very least, it is a peaceful experience. We have been holding these walks since 2001, but people the world over have made use of labyrinths in one form or another for at least 4,000 years.

This is our gift to the community. There is no charge, no strings attached, just come when it suits you and leave when you are done. February's walk will be Sunday, February 19 from 2-4 pm. A walk can take as little as 20 minutes but you probably get more out of this meditative experience if you give yourself longer, allowing yourself to pause in the centre at least. This is a cross-cultural practice so all are welcome. Please come prepared to walk in socks or slippers.

Lent

Lent arrives at the end of February. This gives us a thoughtful, reflective time as we move towards Easter – the epitome of the Christian year. Great art in all its forms has been born out of this time, so it is rich and stimulating – and now is our time to step back to appreciate it.

Come enjoy the music that our interim music director is doing with our choir. **Christopher Ducasse** is passionate about making choral music and has composed several works himself, some of which our choir has already sung with pleasure. Christopher is with us until **Samantha** returns next season after birthing her boy soprano! (That was **Arthur Pierre** providing Baby Jesus' dialogue during the Christmas pageant.)

We gather at 10 am Sundays for worship and Sunday school. Services are online as well.

Rev. **Mark Hammond** can be reached at 482-3210. **Vicky** is back in the office Monday-Thursday, 10-2-ish. We'd love to see you.

from Susan Upham

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Fr. Mike and the team would like to wish everyone a blessed and healthy 2023! After two years of not being able to open our doors at Christmas, we were truly grateful to be able to welcome hundreds of new and familiar faces to our parish over Christmas this year.

This new year is shaping up to be a busy one, and our growing team couldn't be more excited to hit the ground running! This March, we'll be launching yet another session of Alpha to give people from all walks of life the chance to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a fun and friendly environment. Join us for great food, great company and even better discussions! Reserve your spot at stig.ca/alpha

Is your child ready to do his or her confirmation? If so, please check stig.ca/sacraments-confirmation for an overview of the process, and know that confirmations will

be held on Saturday, April 9 at 8 pm. Otherwise, all children are invited to join us every Sunday at 10 am for Catch the Wave, our vibrant Sunday program for kids during Mass. For more on all programs, visit stig.ca/kids.

Finally, our missionary partnership team continues to extend its reach in the Verdun community by welcoming more people to St. Willibrord Parish each week. If you haven't already, join us for Mass and coffee hours each Sunday at 10:30 am, stwill.ca.

from Shawna Rose

St. Philip's

Thank you to all who joined us for Lessons and Carols or for our Christmas services. It was wonderful to see both old friends and new faces and after two years of online-only Christmas services, it was good to be back in person in the building.

As we enter the new year, we are looking forward to resuming more of our habitual activities, like the spring fair (formerly the book and bake sale) and Christmas bazaar. Watch this space for more information. Meanwhile, we continue with regular worship Sunday at 10 am, with a Zoom option.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22, and we will have our usual Ash Wednesday Eucharist at 7:30 pm, and on Sunday, February 26, the choir will lead the singing of the Great Litany.

For a Lenten Bible study, a group from St Philip's will be joining the Montreal Diocesan Theological College's open online course on Paul the Apostle, Wednesday evenings; anyone is welcome to join our group.

from Fr. Pratt

Montreal West Dentistry




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Centre communautaire / Community Centre

2022 Holiday contests winners

Thanks for being part of the fun and sharing your creativity!



Gingerbread house: Cynthia Jones, Strathearn N



Honourable mention - Judy and Maggie Williams



Holiday tree: Ellen Yambouranis, Avon Road

Children and Youth Programs

Call 484-6186 or sign up online at montreal-west.ca

Parent & Baby Programs

Sign up on Amilia

- **Parent & Baby Drop-in group:** Wednesdays, 10:30 am, free
- **Baby & Me Workout:** Tuesdays, 9:30 am (10-week program)

Ballet & Pre-ballet

Spots are available for Tuesday evening and Saturday am.

Captain Catalyst

Spots available Saturday morning, 9:30 am.

Parent & Child Yoga

Children: 5-11 years old
Saturdays, 10:35 am, Town Hall

Red Cross Babysitting Course

Saturday, February 4
9:30 am-4 pm
Ages: 11+

Learn the skills required to carry out babysitting duties.

Cost: residents: \$85 / non-residents: \$95

Red Cross Stay Safe! Course

Sunday, February 5
9 am-2:30 pm.
Ages: 9-13 years

Real-world scenarios often call on children to respond to challenges. Stay Safe! teaches applicable and age-appropriate skills, while increasing and reinforcing a youth's capacity to improve his or her own safety.

Cost: residents: \$85 / non-residents: \$95

March Break Camp 2023

March 6-10, Community Centre
5-12 years old

To sign up please register your child on Amilia (under March Break or call the Community Centre at 484-6186).

Camp de la semaine de relâche

Du 6 au 10 mars pour les 5 à 12 ans
Lieu: Centre communautaire

Pour plus de détails et pour inscrire vos enfants, rendez-vous sur Amilia (sous l'onglet Semaine de relâche) ou appelez le centre communautaire au 484-6186.



Pet Portrait: Marie-Claude Messier, Ronald Drive



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Community Centre

Fundraising events for the new sports and recreation centre

Skating Day Fundraiser

Sunday, January 29
Legion Memorial Rink

Dig out your skates and join the fun!

- 1- 2:30 pm: Free skate
1:30 pm: Music show by **Shawny**, children's entertainer
2:30 -3:15 pm: Learn to skate lessons for beginners, \$10 per person for a 45-minute session (reserve your spot on Amilia ASAP) Music, bake sale, cotton candy and raffles.

Cotton Tail Party

Sunday, March 26
Town Hall, 2- 4 pm

Egg hunt, show and crafts

Cost per child: \$15 resident / \$20 non-resident / \$25 at the door (ticket includes access for one adult; additional adult: \$5 + tax

Fundraising event for the new sports and recreation centre

Vintage Wine Dance

Friday, March 31
Town Hall

Join us for a fun-filled night of live music, dancing, drinks and more.

Doors open: 7 pm, show time: 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$35 (\$25 for 50+ Club)

L to R: Ryan Fleury, Gary Sharkey, Craig Morrison and Alex Nesrallah



Pub Night

A pub night fundraiser for the new sports and recreation centre was hosted at Town Hall. With a sellout crowd entertained all evening by local band *The Hunt* (featuring resident **Davide Degano** on guitar) a great night was had by all. Many thanks to *Mini-Cout*, *Oshlag Beer*, *Montreal Mix Cocktails* and all our volunteers. Stay tuned for more fundraising events!

Breakfast with Santa was a huge success!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the event, which drew over 440 people, and to the 50 volunteers who made it all possible. Special thanks to the following sponsors: *Burger de Ville*, *Deli Snacks*, *Quality Fruit Bowl* and *IGA Lipari*.



Music of the 1950s

with **Craig Morrison**

Community Centre, 1-3 pm

- **March 16:** Pop
- **March 23:** Vocal groups
- **March 30:** Rock and Roll
- **April 6:** Elvis and the Rockabilies
- **April 13:** Country and Folk
- **April 16:** Blues and Jazz

Music in the 1950s drew on earlier sounds and had a huge influence on later developments. Illustrated with slides, recordings, some live music and stories of the song.

Cost for the series: \$90 (for 50+ Club members) \$120 (non-members) or per lecture: \$20 (members) \$30 (non-members).

Must register on Amilia or with **Tammy** at 484-6186.

50+ Club 50+



Thanks to all those who took part in the 50+ Club Christmas dinner. It was great to be able to bring people together.

A special thank you goes to **Paula**, **Mary Sawszynczyn**, **Pauline Ducharme**, **Mary Tofts** and all the other volunteers and staff involved in making this event a memorable one!

Coming events

January 23:

Chinese New Year tea

February 10:

Friday brunch

February 28:

Bridge

March 17:

St. Pat's luncheon

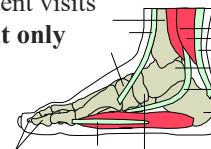
For more information on events email: recreation@montreal-west.ca or call **Tammy** at 484-6186.

Foot clinic

February 15 & March 1

484-6186

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



Dr. Michael J. Wexel Chiropractor

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Headaches & Migraines
Stiffness
Sports Related Injuries
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Muscle Pain
Numbness & Tingling
Nutritional Counseling
CSST & SAAQ

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Budget commentary

On December 19, Council adopted its operating budget for 2023. Our objectives were to limit the increase of the tax bill on the average home; to maintain our level of service to residents; to provide maximum value to taxpayers by scrutinizing all our expenditures; and to continue our infrastructure renewal. The biggest challenge to this was a whopping 12.1% increase (\$786k) in our Agglomeration bill sent by the City of Montreal.

Revenues: To partially offset the increase in Agglo expenses, \$100k will be transferred from our surplus. Additional revenues are anticipated from Recreation and Culture (+\$95k), as activities are expected to reach pre-pandemic levels and from Interest Revenue (+\$50k) due to increasing rates. Total Revenues are expected to increase by \$1.3M to a total of \$18.6M.

Expenses: Increases in local operating expenses were kept to a minimum (4.7%) to counterbalance the increased Agglo expense. Public Works expenditures are up due mainly to increased costs for salt, asphalt and equipment maintenance. Environmental Health costs rose due to increased water costs and contracts for garbage, compost and recycling. All other departmental budgets remained basically the same or less than 2022 except for increases in salaries and benefits related to our collective agreements, government contributions and health insurance costs. There are no new costs in the operating budget related to the new sports and recreation centre. In fact, arena expenses in Recreation have been decreased by \$65k in anticipation of the arena closing in the fall.

Capital Expenditures and Debt: The Town will allocate \$30k to install flow restrictors on Easton to prevent flooding in large storms. Debt servicing charges will increase by \$74k due to higher interest rates and the long-term debt repayment schedule.

Summary: Total Local Expenses increased \$512k or 4.7%; Agglomeration Expenses increased \$786k or 12.1%, bringing the Total Expenses to \$18.6 M, an increase of 7.5% over 2022.

This translates into a 7.96% increase in the tax bill of the average-valued home. It should be noted however, that there is a new three-year property valuation role which was deposited by the City of Montreal last September. The average increase in valuation for single-family homes was 41.3%. Depending on the change in your valuation, your change in property tax increase may be higher or lower than that of the average-valued home.

Capital Investments: Council also adopted a three-year capital investment program which includes anticipated spending of approximately \$15.8M in 2023. This includes \$15M for the new multi-generational recreation centre, as well as improvements

Budget 2023 Revenus / Revenues

	2023 \$	2022 \$	Total %
Taxes			
Résidentiel / Residential	13 822 043	12 852 145	74.32
Lots vacants / Vacant Lots	56 020	41 386	0.30
Non résidentiel / Non-residential	1 645 049	1 451 361	8.85
Taxe d'eau / Water Tax	447 000	447 000	2.40
CMM / MMC	119 993	113 958	0.65
Droits de mutation / Duties on transfer	660 000	660 000	3.55
Reçus au lieu de taxes / Payment in lieu of taxes	307 649	286 571	1.65
	17 057 754	15 852 421	91.72
Autres/ Other			
Loisirs et culture /			
Recreation and Culture	554 000	458 600	2.98
Contraventions / Tickets	100 000	100 000	0.54
Stationnement et permis /			
Parking and Permits	257 500	257 500	1.38
Intérêts / Interest	184 250	134 250	0.99
Intérêts à recevoir sur subvention /			
Interest receivable on grants	276 405	258 968	1.49
Autres / Other	68 600	68 600	0.37
Transfert de l'excédent de fonctionnement /			
Transfer from surplus	100 000	170 000	0.54
	1 540 755	1 447 918	8.28
REVENUS TOTAUX			
TOTAL REVENUES	\$18 598 509	\$17 300 339	100%

Dépenses / Expenses

	2023 \$	2022 \$	Total %
Par service / By Department			
Conseil / Council	194 266	188 071	1.04
Administration	1 733 358	\$1 689 935	9.32
Sécurité publique / Public security	526 181	507 963	2.83
Travaux publics / Public works	3 238 451	3 097 065	17.41
Hygiène du milieu / Environmental health	1 100 927	1 004 847	5.92
Inspection et permis / Building inspection	231 637	199 714	1.25
Loisirs, culture et parcs /			
Recreation, culture and parks	2 742 792	2 671 623	14.75
Dépenses en capital à même les revenus /			
Capital expenditures out of revenues	30 000	0	0.16
Service de la dette / Debt charges	1 531 897	1 457 921	8.24
	11 329 509	10 817 139	60.92
Quote part Agglomération /			
Agglomeration remittance	7 269 000	6 483 200	39.08
DÉPENSES TOTALES			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18 598 509	\$17 300 339	100%

to the Town Hall and the purchase of vehicles. Capital programs for future years will be reviewed and reconsidered in light of government grants and available funds. Proposed Infrastructure costs for 2024 and 2025 include a further \$5M for the recreation centre, infrastructure renewal on Avon and Courtney and the continued replacement of our aging vehicle fleet. These capital projects will be funded by the use of our surplus, working or operating funds, by

long-term debt or by government grants. The Town has received a government grant of \$12.5M for the recreation centre.

To see how the 2023 budget lines up with the Town's Strategic Financial Plan, please see my article in the Council Communiqué section of this *Informeur*.

Colleen Feeney
Councillor for Finance, MADA
and Recreation and Culture

Analyse du budget

Le 19 décembre dernier, le Conseil a adopté son budget de fonctionnement pour 2023. Nos objectifs étaient de limiter l'augmentation du compte de taxes de la maison moyenne, de maintenir le niveau de service aux citoyens, d'assurer une valeur maximale aux contribuables en continuant à examiner minutieusement toutes nos dépenses et de poursuivre le renouvellement de nos infrastructures. Le plus grand défi à relever a été une augmentation considérable de 12,1 % (786 000 \$) de notre facture d'agglomération de la Ville de Montréal.

Revenus : Pour compenser partiellement l'augmentation des dépenses d'agglomération, 100 000 \$ seront transférés de notre surplus. Des recettes supplémentaires sont prévues pour le service des loisirs et de la culture (+ 95 000 \$), alors que les activités devraient atteindre nos niveaux prépandémie, et pour les revenus d'intérêts (+50 000 \$) en raison de l'augmentation des taux. Les recettes totales devraient augmenter de 1,3 million de dollars pour atteindre un total de 18,6 millions de dollars.

Dépenses : Les augmentations des dépenses de fonctionnement locales ont été maintenues au minimum (4,6 %) pour contrebalancer l'augmentation des dépenses de l'Agglomération. L'augmentation des dépenses des travaux publics est principalement liée à l'augmentation des coûts du sel, de l'asphalte et de l'entretien des équipements. Les coûts de l'hygiène du milieu ont augmenté en raison de la hausse des coûts de l'eau et des contrats pour les ordures, le compost et le recyclage. Les budgets des autres services sont demeurés essentiellement les mêmes ou inférieurs à ceux de 2022, à l'exception de l'augmentation des salaires et des avantages selon la convention collective, des contributions du gouvernement et des coûts de l'assurance santé. Il n'y a pas de coûts dans le budget de fonctionnement liés au nouveau centre sportif et récréatif. En fait, les dépenses de l'aréna ont été réduites de 65 000 \$ en prévision de la fermeture de l'aréna à l'automne.

Dépenses en capital et dette : La Ville allouera 30 000 \$ à l'installation de limiteurs de débit sur Easton afin de prévenir les inondations lors d'importantes tempêtes. Les frais du service de la dette augmenteront de 74 000 \$ en raison de la hausse des taux d'intérêt et du calendrier de remboursement de la dette à long terme.

Bilan : Les dépenses locales totales ont augmenté de 512 000 \$ (4,7 %). Les dépenses de l'agglomération ont augmenté de 786 000 \$ (12,1 %), amenant les dépenses totales à 18,6 millions de dollars, une augmentation de 7,5 % par rapport à 2022.

Cela se traduit par une augmentation de 7,96 % des taxes foncières de la maison de valeur moyenne. Un nouveau rôle d'évalu-

Comparaison du compte de taxe résidentiel Taxation comparison residential

Résidence valeur moyenne / Average Value Residence
Rôle 2023-2025 Roll: \$1 033 882

	2023 \$	2022 \$	Différence \$	Variation %
Valeur imposable / Taxable value	1 033 882	729 003		
Taxes locales / Local Taxes	4 996.75	4 735.61	261.14	5.51
Quote-part Agglomération / Agglo share	4 144.83	3 730.31	414.52	11.11
CMM / MMC	76.51	72.17	4.34	6.01
	<u>\$9 218.09</u>	<u>\$8 538.09</u>	<u>\$680.00</u>	<u>7.96%</u>

Augmentation relative à 2022 / Increase over 2022: \$680.00
% augmentation / % increase: 7.96%

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

	2023		2022	
	Local	Agglo	Local	Agglo
Taxe foncière générale / General property tax	0.4833	0.4009	0.6496	0.5117
Immeuble 6 logements + / 6 Units or more	0.5737	0.4759	0.7347	0.5788
Immeubles non résidentiels / Non-residential buildings	1.2993	1.3641	1.7418	1.5385
Lots vacants / Vacant lots	0.9666	0.8018	1.2992	1.0234
CMM / MMC	0.0074		0.0099	

Programme triennal d'immobilisations Three-year Capital Program

Catégorie / Category	2023 \$	2024 \$	2025 \$
Infrastructures / Infrastructure	30 000	2 100 000	1 750 000
Bâtiments / Buildings	15 656 950	5 250 000	250 000
Véhicules / Vehicles	105 000	90 000	195 000
Équipements / Equipment	0	0	0
	<u>\$15 791 950</u>	<u>\$7 440 000</u>	<u>\$2 195 000</u>

ation foncière a été déposé par la Ville de Montréal en septembre dernier. L'augmentation moyenne de l'évaluation des maisons unifamiliales a été de 41,3 %. Selon votre nouvelle évaluation, l'augmentation de vos taxes foncières peut être supérieure ou inférieure à celle de la maison de valeur moyenne.

Investissements : Le Conseil a adopté un programme triennal d'immobilisations qui inclut des dépenses anticipées d'environ 15,8 millions de dollars en 2023. Ceci comprend 15 millions de dollars pour le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif multigénérationnel, ainsi que des travaux d'améliorations à l'hôtel de ville et l'achat de véhicules. Les programmes d'immobilisations pour les années à venir seront réévalués l'an prochain à la lumière des subventions gouvernementales et des fonds disponibles. Les coûts prévus pour l'infra-

structure en 2024 et 2025 comprennent un autre 5 millions de dollars pour le centre sportif et récréatif, le renouvellement de l'infrastructure sur Avon et Courtney et le remplacement continu de notre parc automobile vieillissant. Ces projets d'immobilisations seront financés à l'aide de notre surplus, de notre fonds de roulement et de fonctionnement, par une dette à long terme ou par des subventions gouvernementales. La Ville a reçu une aide financière gouvernementale de 12,5 millions de dollars pour le centre sportif et récréatif.

Pour voir comment le budget 2023 s'aligne avec le plan stratégique financier de la Ville, veuillez lire mon article dans la section Communiqués du Conseil.

Colleen Feeney
Conseillère en finance, MADA
et Récréation et culture

Town Council meeting: November, December



by Carol Foster

ED NOTE: There were some significant glitches in the production of the webcast for both the November and December meetings. Reports by the mayor and several councillors were not being transmitted at all or were so garbled they could not be understood and nothing appears in the transcripts which accompany the video.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Mayor Masella announced that, at the launch of the public portion of the campaign to raise funds for the new sports and recreation centre, commitments of over \$1.5 million of the 2.5 million overall goal have been raised. He is very encouraged by this news and praised the excellent work of the committee headed by **Scott Mackenzie**.

The 2023 budget deposited by the city of Montreal will severely affect all the demerged towns since their property evaluations have grown more than those in Montreal. This means that their portion of the Agglo expenses has grown as well. As a consequence, it may mean that despite the best attempts to manage the effects on the Town's budget, some services may have to be cut.

On behalf of the town of Montreal West, the mayor welcomed the news that Mr. **Fady Dagher** has been named new Chief of Police of the Montreal Police.

In spite of the rain, the visit by the *CP Holiday Train* was a great success. The mayor extended his thanks for the participation of the Recreation, Security and Public Works departments for their assistance

in the event. He also expressed his appreciation for the donation of \$5,000 made by CP to the *Depot* community food centre.

Councillors' reports

Councillor Feeney reported that payment of 82% of the water tax bills had been received by the deadline and she went on to review how the amount of approximately \$711,343 was spent in the past month.

She announced that the Recreation Department is now adding pickleball to its abundance of activities (registration on Amilia). Remembrance Day was commemorated by several new events this year, which included a Remembrance Day lecture and an evening of wartime music.

Many holiday activities are planned, including skating events, Santa's breakfast, contests and food collections for organizations that distribute it to those in need.

Reports by Councillors Torres and Small-Pennefather are unavailable because of the technical problems with the transmission of the Council meeting.

In **Councillor Ulin's** absence, the mayor gave her report. New regulations for waste management in the Town will come into effect in January. This will be accompanied by a rigorous information campaign. The Town has partnered with *Enough Canada*, a waste reduction organization, to train and provide waste ambassadors for some of the Town's larger events in order to inform residents how to be more waste conscious.

The Town has also partnered with McGill University to have groups of students do research on a variety of environmental issues in the Town, such as the Town's tree canopy and greenhouse gas emissions. This project benefits the students as they are able to conduct research for their

degrees and the Town benefits by having access to the results of this research.

The Communications Office has been working on the public fundraising campaign for the new sports and recreation centre as well as information about the water meter replacement initiative for the Town's business sector. The office is also providing information concerning the launch of a financial assistance program for the merchants. The details can be found on the Town's website.

First question period

Concerns about the effects of the final cost of the new sports and recreation centre upon the residents of the Town continued to be heard during the question period. The mayor reiterated his assurance that the final cost will not be known until a call for tender is issued and an acceptable bid comes in response. Therefore, it is too soon to have facts available for this discussion.

The disposal of leaves also continued to be questioned. One resident wanted to know why, upon learning that the street cleaner was broken on the last day of street cleaning, Public Works didn't send a bulldozer to clear the accumulated leaves on his street. He was told that if there is time and weather permits, Public Works will go with a loader to pick them up. However, it is worth noting that the leaves in question were left in the street by a private contractor cleaning lawns.

Another resident requested that the deadline for allowing non-gas-powered leaf blowers be extended to December 15 on an annual basis. This request was based on the fact that not all the leaves have fallen by the end of November. In addition, contractors won't pick up the leaves if it is raining and some elderly people are forced to depend on these contractors.

Councillor Torres explained that the deadline has already been extended until November 30, December usually brings snow and ice which would prohibit the removal of leaves and there is the option of not even raking the leaves but leaving them on the ground for environmental reasons. Any further decisions concerning this deadline would have to take place in the future.

Consideration of a more cost-effective way of disposing of the leaves such as having the street cleaner vacuum them up instead of trucks moving them from one place to another was suggested. The mayor agreed to pass this suggestion on to Public Works.

The new regulations coming into effect in January elicited many more questions. The type of garbage to be picked up, the size of the bins to be used, the disposal of bins not allowable and the role of the Écocentres were all questions needing answers. It was explained that more spe-



DÉSIRÉE MCGRAW
DÉPUTÉE DE / MNA FOR
NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE



✉ Desiree.McGraw.NDDG@assnat.qc.ca

📍 5890, avenue de Monkland, bureau 406
Montréal (QC) H4A 1G2

☎ 514-489-7581

🌐 www.assnat.qc.ca

Town Council meeting: November, December

cific information will become available on the Town's website.

In response to another question, the mayor stated that Council has not yet come to any agreement that would result in a resolution regarding the use of wood-burning stoves.

The path between Courtney and Ronald Drive which is closed during the winter season has been a topic discussed many times at Council meetings. This time, a petition signed by "86 parents, citizens and educators" repeated the same request for the Town to keep that path open during the winter. Their argument is that the path has been used, until just a few years ago "as a fire escape for the youngest students at the daycare, a vital route for foot traffic and for kids sledding."

Councillor Torres stated that that path has been closed during the winter for the past ten years because it becomes a safety hazard at that time of year. Furthermore, the owners of the daycare have been approached and are aware that it is their responsibility to present a safe evacuation plan which is approved by the SIM (Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal).

It was suggested, during the second question period, that the Town look into ways in which the garbage would only need to be picked up every second week. The mayor replied that the Town will be starting out with its present plan but will continue to look at different options in the future.

Following all the other items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

DECEMBER MEETING

The Council meeting followed the annual presentation of the Town's budget for the coming year. Details of the 2023 budget can now be found on the Town's website.

Reports by **Mayor Masella** and **Councillor Torres** are unavailable because of technical problems with the video and transcripts.

Councillor Small-Pennefather reviewed all the regulations that must be respected with the coming of winter. In order to enable the snow removal process, it is important that the no parking regulations are observed and there is a \$154 fine for infractions to this bylaw. No snow is to be shovelled onto the sidewalks or streets. Contractors must have permits. Upon notification, the PSOs will monitor empty houses for those residents who are out of town during the holiday period.

She reminded residents that no dogs are allowed to run off leash in the Town except in the temporary dog run in Hodgson's Field and the Town's dog park and she urged respect for this regulation.

A number of businesses in the Town, as well as in NDG, have been broken into recently. A suspect has been apprehended and will be appearing in court. Residents are reminded that valuable items should not be left in parked cars, and packages left on porches are another target for thieves.

Following her report, the mayor mentioned that Councillor Small-Pennefather had been running the Canadian pavilion at the COP 15 International Conference for the past two weeks and would be returning to her duties there once the Council meeting was over. He expressed admiration for the great work this Montreal West resident was doing for the country.

Public Works has dealt with the first snow removal operation of the season, and **Councillor Ulin** added that they will soon be removing Christmas trees which can be left on homeowners' lawns. She explained that items such as garbage bins or branches should not be left on the sidewalks so that the sidewalk plow always has room to do its job.

Due to the many questions being asked, the adoption of the new Waste Management Bylaw has been delayed to allow time for more information to be made available for residents in January.

A pilot project has been arranged with *Communauto*, which will allow it to extend its Flex service into Montreal West. This will be good news for all those who use this highly sustainable car-sharing service.

Councillor Feeney announced that the property tax bills will be mailed out on January 24, the first installment being due February 24 and the second May 25.

After reviewing the past month's budget expenditures, Councillor Feeney went on to report that all of the many activities planned for the holidays went very well. There were 400 attendees at Santa's Breakfast and over 100 people sat down together for the seniors' Christmas dinner.

The mayor added the news that **Commandant Montour** from Station 9 attended the seniors' Christmas dinner and helped serve the attendees for most of the evening. Mayor Masella said that this was the first time he had seen a Police Commandant get so involved in the community.

Looking ahead to 2023, a pub night, with a live band, will take place in the Town Hall on January 9, and March Break is being planned for March 6-10. The hockey boards are up and multiple skating rinks are being prepared in the Town with the hopes the weather will cooperate in making them usable.

First question period

A lot of support for the new Waste Management Bylaw was expressed during the first question period. However, many ques-

tions are still being asked about the new regulation will entail. **Councillor Ulin** acknowledged that there remains a need for more information concerning this endeavour and promised, as she had in her report, that it would be made available in January.

Both the condition of some street lights and the need for a stop light were other topics raised.

Councillor Ulin explained that the installation of a stop light at the corner of Nelson and Westminster is not possible and traffic violations observed in that area as well as in all other parts of the Town should be reported to Station 9. The street lights needing attention on both Fenwick and Ronald Drive will hopefully be fixed in January when parts finally become available and the condition of the lights on Easton will be reported to Public Works for their assessment.

One resident, irritated by the noise as well as the pollution caused by the use of gas lawn mowers, felt that even electric leaf blowers were noisy and wanted them all to be banned. Councillor Ulin suggested this might eventually happen but "one step at a time" is the way the Town wants to proceed.

The mayor gave assurances that the Town, having already been subjected to a small ransomware attack in the past, has already taken steps to increase the level of security in response to another question.

The sidewalks in the business section of the Town often become a major eyesore with the accumulation of trash discarded there, particularly during the high school lunch hour. Public Works, the merchants and the principal of Royal West will all be asked to cooperate in dealing with this recurring problem.

Every winter the question about blowing the snow on front yards comes up and the answer is always the same. It is more economical to have the snow removal vehicles take the snow to the public snow dump than to spend (and pay for) the much longer time it takes to maneuver these big machines into the correct position each time to distribute the snow only on front lawns and not on driveways or sidewalks in the process.

In response to an elderly resident, who was no longer able to clear the snow on her walk and asked if there was some assistance the Town could provide, Councillor Feeney replied that some municipalities have groups of volunteers to deal with this problem for their seniors, adding that Montreal West is a very caring town and that it is an issue for *MADA* to investigate further and perhaps get a little organization going to help when needed.

A wish for a happy and safe holiday season for everyone was repeated by the mayor and all of the councillors during this last meeting of 2022.



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

NDLR La production de la webdiffusion des réunions de novembre et de décembre a connu des ratés majeurs. Les rapports du maire et de plusieurs conseillères n'étaient pas du tout transmis ou étaient tellement confus qu'ils n'ont pas pu être compris et rien n'apparaît dans les transcriptions qui accompagnent la vidéo.

RÉUNION DE NOVEMBRE

Le **maire Masella** a annoncé qu'au lancement de la partie publique de la campagne de financement pour le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif, des engagements de plus de 1,5 million de dollars sur l'objectif global de 2,5 millions ont été recueillis. Il est très encouragé par cette nouvelle et a loué l'excellent travail du comité dirigé par **Scott Mackenzie**.

Le budget 2023 déposé par la Ville de Montréal aura de graves répercussions sur toutes les villes défusionnées puisque leurs évaluations immobilières ont augmenté plus que celles de Montréal. Cela signifie que leur part des dépenses d'Agglo a également augmenté. Conséquemment, il se peut que, malgré toutes les tentatives pour gérer les effets sur le budget de la Ville, certains services doivent être réduits.

Au nom de la Ville de Montréal-Ouest, le maire a salué la nomination de M. **Fady Dagher** au poste de chef du Service de police de la Ville de Montréal.

En dépit de la pluie, la visite du Train des Fêtes du CP a connu un grand succès. Le maire a remercié les Loisirs, la Sécurité publique et les Travaux publics pour leur participation à l'événement. Il a également remercié le CP pour son don de 5000 \$ au *Dépôt*, centre communautaire d'alimentation.

Rapports des conseillères

La **conseillère Feeney** a indiqué que le paiement de 82 % des factures de taxe d'eau avait été reçu avant la date limite et elle a ensuite expliqué comment un montant d'environ 711 343 \$ avait été dépensé au cours du mois précédent.

Elle a annoncé que le service des Loisirs ajoute désormais le pickleball à son abondance d'activités (inscription sur Amilia). Plusieurs nouveaux événements ont commémoré cette année Le jour du Souvenir, dont une conférence et une soirée de musique du temps de guerre.

De nombreuses activités sont prévues pendant les Fêtes, dont du patinage, le déjeuner du père Noël, des concours et des collectes de nourriture pour les organismes qui distribuent ces produits aux personnes dans le besoin.

Les rapports des **conseillères Torres** et **Small-Pennefather** ne sont pas disponibles en raison des problèmes techniques de transmission de la réunion du Conseil.

En l'absence de la **conseillère Ulin**, le maire a lu son rapport. De nouveaux règlements sur la gestion des déchets dans la ville entreront en vigueur en janvier et s'accompagneront d'une campagne d'information rigoureuse. La Ville a établi un partenariat avec *Enough Canada*, un organisme de réduction des déchets, pour former et fournir des ambassadeurs de déchets pour certains des événements plus importants de la Ville afin d'informer les résidents sur la façon d'être plus conscients des déchets.

La Ville a également établi un partenariat avec l'Université McGill pour que des groupes d'étudiants effectuent des recherches sur divers enjeux environnementaux dans la ville, comme le couvert forestier et les émissions de gaz à effet de serre. Ce projet profite aux étudiants qui peuvent mener des recherches en vue d'obtenir leur diplôme, et la Ville en bénéficie en ayant accès aux résultats des recherches.

Le service des Communications a travaillé à la campagne de financement public du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif, ainsi qu'à l'information sur l'initiative de remplacement des compteurs d'eau pour le secteur des affaires de la ville. Le service fournit également des informations concernant le lancement d'un programme d'aide financière pour les commerçants. Les détails se trouvent sur le site Web de la Ville.

Première période de questions

Des préoccupations au sujet des répercussions du coût final du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif sur les résidents de la ville ont continué d'être entendues. Le maire a réitéré son assurance que le coût final ne sera pas connu tant qu'un appel d'offres n'aura pas été lancé et qu'une soumission acceptable n'aura pas été présentée. Par conséquent, il est trop tôt pour disposer de faits alimentant cette discussion.

L'élimination des feuilles a également continué d'être remise en question. Un résident voulait savoir pourquoi, lorsque le

Service a appris que le balai de rue était en panne le dernier jour de nettoyage de rue, les Travaux publics n'ont pas envoyé un bulldozer pour nettoyer les feuilles accumulées dans sa rue. On lui a dit que si le temps et les conditions météorologiques le permettent, les Travaux publics iraient les chercher avec un chargeur. Cependant, il convient de noter que les feuilles en question ont été laissées dans la rue par un entrepreneur privé qui nettoie les pelouses.

Un autre résident a demandé que la date limite pour autoriser les souffleuses à feuilles non à essence soit reportée au 15 décembre sur une base annuelle. Cette demande était fondée sur le fait que toutes les feuilles n'étaient pas tombées à la fin de novembre. De plus, les entrepreneurs ne ramassent pas les feuilles s'il pleut et certaines personnes âgées sont forcées de dépendre de ces entrepreneurs.

La conseillère Torres a expliqué que le délai a déjà été prolongé jusqu'au 30 novembre, décembre apporte habituellement de la neige et de la glace, ce qui proscrirait l'enlèvement des feuilles et il y a la possibilité de ne même pas ramasser les feuilles mais de les laisser sur le sol pour des raisons environnementales. Toute autre décision concernant ce délai devra être prise dans le futur.

On a suggéré d'envisager une façon plus rentable de se débarrasser des feuilles, comme les faire aspirer par le balai de rue au lieu de les transporter par camion d'un endroit à un autre. Le maire a accepté de transmettre cette suggestion aux Travaux publics.

Le nouveau règlement, qui doit entrer en vigueur en janvier, a soulevé beaucoup d'autres questions. Le type d'ordures à ramasser, la taille des bacs à utiliser, l'élimination des bacs non autorisés et le rôle de l'*Écocentre* sont autant de questions qui demandent des réponses. On explique que des renseignements plus précis seront affichés sur le site Web de la Ville.

En réponse à une autre question, le maire a déclaré que le Conseil n'était pas encore parvenu à un accord qui déboucherait sur une résolution concernant l'utilisation des poêles à bois.

Le sentier entre Courtney et la promenade Ronald, fermé pendant l'hiver, a fait l'objet de nombreuses discussions au Conseil. Cette fois, une pétition signée par «86 parents, citoyens et éducateurs» réitérait la même demande à la Ville de garder ce passage ouvert pendant l'hiver. Leur argument est que le sentier a servi, jusqu'à il y a seulement quelques années, «d'issue de secours pour les plus jeunes élèves de la garderie, comme voie vitale pour la circulation à pied et pour les enfants qui vont glisser».

La conseillère Torres a déclaré que ce sentier était fermé pendant l'hiver depuis dix ans parce qu'il devient un danger à cette

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labrossemichaels@videotron.ca

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Membre APCHQ

Réunion du Conseil : novembre, décembre

période de l'année. De plus, les propriétaires de la garderie ont été approchés et sont conscients qu'il leur incombe de présenter un plan d'évacuation sécuritaire approuvé par le SIM (Service de sécurité incendie de Montréal).

Au cours de la deuxième période des questions, on a proposé que la Ville examine comment les ordures pourraient n'être ramassées qu'une semaine sur deux. Le maire a répondu que la Ville commencerait avec son plan actuel, mais qu'elle continuerait d'examiner différentes options à l'avenir.

Après les autres points à l'ordre du jour, la séance était levée.

RÉUNION DE DÉCEMBRE

La réunion de décembre du Conseil a suivi la présentation annuelle du budget de la Ville pour l'année à venir. Les détails du budget 2023 se trouvent maintenant sur le site Web de la Ville.

Les rapports du maire et de la **conseillère Torres** ne sont pas disponibles en raison de problèmes techniques avec la vidéo et les transcriptions.

La **conseillère Small-Pennefather** a passé en revue les règlements qui doivent être respectés à l'approche de l'hiver. Afin de permettre le déneigement, il est important de se conformer à la consigne interdisant le stationnement; enfreindre ce règlement entraîne une amende de 154 \$. Aucune neige ne doit être déposée sur les trottoirs ou dans les rues. Les entrepreneurs doivent détenir des permis. Sur demande, les ASP surveilleront les maisons vacantes pour les résidents absents pendant la période des Fêtes.

Elle a rappelé aux résidents qu'il n'est pas permis de laisser les chiens courir sans laisse dans la ville, sauf dans le parc pour chiens temporaire du terrain Hodgson et dans le parc canin permanent de la Ville, et elle a exhorté au respect de ce règlement.

Un certain nombre d'entreprises de la ville, ainsi que de NDG, ont récemment été victimes d'effraction. Un suspect a été appréhendé et comparaitra devant le tribunal. On rappelle encore une fois aux résidents de ne pas laisser d'objets de valeur dans les voitures stationnées, et que les colis laissés sur les porches sont une autre cible pour les voleurs.

À la suite de son rapport, le maire a mentionné que la conseillère Small-Pennefather dirigeait le pavillon canadien à la conférence internationale COP 15 depuis deux semaines et qu'elle y reprendrait ses fonctions une fois la réunion du Conseil terminée. Il a exprimé son admiration pour l'excellent travail que cette citoyenne de Montréal-Ouest accomplit pour le pays.

Les Travaux publics se sont occupés de la première opération de déneigement de la

saison, et la **conseillère Ulin** a ajouté qu'ils enlèveraient bientôt les arbres de Noël qui peuvent être déposés sur les pelouses des propriétés. Elle a expliqué que l'on ne doit pas laisser des articles tels que des poubelles ou des branches sur les trottoirs afin que la gratte puisse faire son travail.

En raison des nombreuses questions soulevées, l'adoption du nouveau règlement sur la gestion des déchets a été retardée pour laisser le temps aux résidents de disposer de plus d'informations en janvier.

Un projet pilote a été mis sur pied avec *Communauto*, ce qui lui permettra d'étendre son service Flex à Montréal-Ouest. Ce sera une bonne nouvelle pour tous ceux qui utilisent ce service de covoiturage très écologique.

La **conseillère Feeney** a annoncé que les factures d'impôt foncier seront postées le 24 janvier, le premier versement étant dû le 24 février et le deuxième le 25 mai.

Après avoir passé en revue les dépenses budgétaires du mois précédent, la conseillère Feeney a ajouté que les nombreuses activités prévues pour le temps des Fêtes se sont très bien déroulées. Il y avait 400 participants au déjeuner du père Noël et plus de 100 personnes se sont assises ensemble pour le repas de Noël des aînés.

Le maire a ajouté que le **commandant Montour** du poste 9 a assisté au dîner de Noël des aînés et a aidé à servir les convives pendant la majeure partie de la soirée. Masella a déclaré que c'était la première fois qu'il voyait une telle implication de la part d'un commandant de police.

Regardant vers 2023, une soirée «pub», avec orchestre, aura lieu à l'hôtel de ville le 9 janvier, et la pause de mars est prévue du 6 au 10 mars. Les bandes pour patinoires de hockey sont en place et de nombreuses patinoires sont en préparation dans la ville avec l'espoir que la météo les rendra utilisables.

Première période de questions

Le nouveau règlement sur la gestion des déchets a reçu beaucoup d'appuis au cours de la première période des questions. Cependant, de nombreuses questions se posent encore au sujet de ce que le nouveau règlement entraînera. La conseillère Ulin a reconnu le besoin pour plus de renseignements sur cette initiative et a promis, comme elle l'avait fait dans son rapport, qu'elle les communiquerait en janvier.

L'état de certains lampadaires et le besoin d'un feu d'arrêt ont été d'autres sujets abordés. La conseillère Ulin a expliqué que l'installation d'un feu d'arrêt à l'angle Nelson et Westminster n'est pas possible et que les infractions au Code de la route observées dans ce secteur ainsi que dans les autres parties de la ville devraient être signalées au

poste 9. Il est à espérer que les lampadaires en mal de réparation sur Fenwick et promenade Ronald seront réparés en janvier lorsque les pièces seront enfin disponibles; l'état de l'éclairage sur Easton sera signalé aux Travaux publics pour évaluation.

Un résident irrité par le bruit ainsi que la pollution des tondeuses à gazon à essence a estimé que même les souffleuses à feuilles électriques étaient bruyantes et voulait qu'elles soient toutes bannies. La conseillère Ulin a laissé entendre que cela pourrait éventuellement se produire, mais que la municipalité veut procéder «une étape à la fois».

En réponse à une autre question, le maire a donné l'assurance que, la Ville ayant déjà été victime d'une petite attaque par rançongiciel dans le passé, a déjà pris des mesures pour accroître le niveau de sécurité.

Les trottoirs de la section commerciale de la ville deviennent souvent un désastre visuel avec l'accumulation d'ordures qui les jonchent, en particulier pendant l'heure du dîner de l'école secondaire. Les Travaux publics, les commerçants et le principal de Royal West seront tous appelés à collaborer pour régler ce problème récurrent.

Chaque hiver, la question du soufflage de la neige sur les cours avant revient et la réponse est toujours la même. Il est plus économique pour les véhicules de déneigement d'amener la neige à la décharge publique que de mettre (et payer) le temps beaucoup plus long qu'il faut pour manœuvrer ces gros équipements dans la bonne position chaque fois pour distribuer la neige uniquement sur les pelouses avant et non sur les allées ou les trottoirs dans le processus.

Répondant à une résidente âgée, qui n'est plus en mesure de déneiger son entrée et qui a demandé si la Ville pouvait lui fournir de l'aide, la conseillère Feeney a répondu que certaines municipalités ont des groupes de bénévoles pour s'occuper de ce problème pour leurs aînés, ajoutant que Montréal-Ouest est une ville très bienveillante et que c'est une question sur laquelle *MADA* doit se pencher et peut-être démarrer une petite organisation pour aider au besoin.

En cette dernière réunion de 2022, le maire et les conseillères ont réitéré leur souhait à tous pour une période des Fêtes heureuse et sécuritaire.



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COMING EVENTS À VENIR

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

Next deadline: February 8

Jan

- Sun 29 Skating Day.** Please see page 16. **Fundraising event for the new sports and recreation centre.** Legion Memorial Rink. 1-3:15 pm.
- Mon 30 Town Council meeting.** In person and virtually on the Town's YouTube channel. Town Hall. 8 pm.

Feb

- Fri 3 Rotary Club.** Speaker Lucy Conte: 100 Inspirational Thoughts. All welcome. \$10. Coffee and dessert. Town Hall. 7-9 pm.
- Mon 6 Tea and Reconciliation.** On Zoom, email mwlib.requests@gmail.com. 1 pm.
- Tue 14 IODE meeting.** Join us for tea. Community Center. 1-3 pm.
- Wed 15 Tea and Books.** Public Library. 2 pm.
- Thu 16 Rotary Club.** Speaker Eric Craven, Community Creative Digital Facilitator. Town Hall. Noon gathering for 12:30 meeting and luncheon, \$25.
- Sun 19 Labyrinth Walk.** Socks or slippers. All welcome. MW United. 2-4 pm.
- Wed 22 Ash Wednesday Eucharist with imposition of ashes.** St. Philip's. 7:30 pm.
- Thu 23 Municipal taxes due (first installment) / Échéance: taxes municipales (premier versement)**
- Mar 24 Round table: Living and Aging in Montreal West.** Town Hall. 10 am-2 pm.
- Sat 25 Rotary Club.** Mardi Gras to benefit *Renaissance* homeless day shelter. Fun evening of Jazz and Creole cuisine. \$85. Town Hall. 6:30 pm.
- Mon 27 Town Council meeting.** In person and virtually on the Town's YouTube channel. Town Hall. 8 pm.



L to R: Wayne Feeny, John Preston, Ron Smith, Jay Garland

The ROMEOs of Montreal West

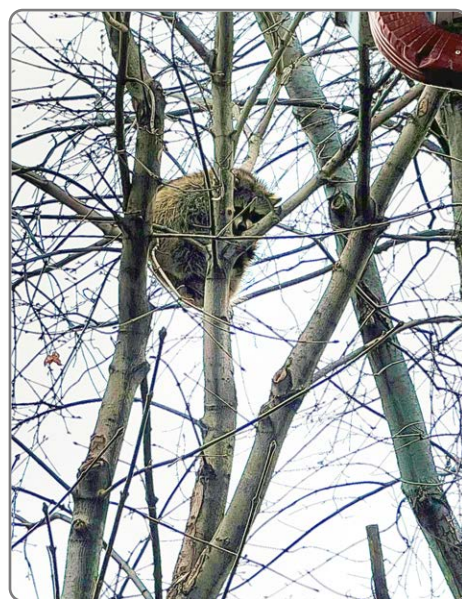
The Romeos (Retired Old Men Eating Out) was started a few years by **Ruedigar Pahl** and has joyfully morphed into a cohesive group of local men meeting on a monthly basis at *Randy's Bisto* to have lunch, a brew or two and maybe even a Jagermeister. Missing from photos: **Bill Knitter**.

Left photo: Paddy Cardarelli; right photo (L to R): Ruedigar Pahl, Doug Sladen, Tony Teiber, Marty Kiely



Together at Christmas half the way around the world!

Back row: **Joan Foster** (Strathearn), **Colleen** and **Germain Lalonde** (Curzon). Front row: **Rebecca Foster** (Washington, DC) **Catee Lalonde** (New York). **Andree Lalonde** and **Sarah Foster** (Vancouver) They all were in New Zealand for Christmas... small world! **Mark Foster** and **Andree Lalonde** both live in Auckland within walking distance of each other.



Voici un raton laveur bien perché dans son arbre sur la promenade Sheraton. De Pierre-Olivier Laberge



URBAN PLANNING: A YEAR IN REVIEW

As the first year of this new political mandate came to a close, I would like to offer you a glimpse of my experience as the new Urban Planning Councillor for Montreal West as well as a recap of activities carried out by the Urban Planning department in 2022.

I would like to start by mentioning that it has been an absolute privilege to work with the wonderful and very knowledgeable members of the Town's Urban Planning Department and the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). In addition to learning about the Town's by-laws, I became acutely aware of the uniqueness of each one of our properties and the importance to preserve their architectural character.

During this past year, I've also had the opportunity to

discuss with many of you about issues ranging from permit applications to the need for housing diversity in Town, our responsibility to fight and adapt to climate change and the 15-minute city concept, just to name a few. Thank you all for taking the time to share your concerns and ideas with me.

In 2022, a total of 326 permits were issued, including 94 permits issued in April, a record-breaking number of permits in a month! Most of the permits were for ren-

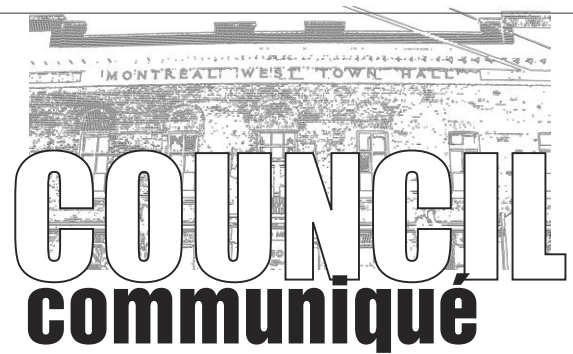
ovations, driveways and paths, decks and porches, excavations, and fences. I am glad to report that only a handful of notices were given and those were mostly for lack of property maintenance.

Hundreds of inspections were carried out and, a few tickets had to be issued for work done without a permit or for work that did not comply with the Town's by-laws.

Finally, the tip of the month: as the next two months are

among the slowest months for the Urban Planning department making it the perfect time to consult the Town for information regarding the building and renovation process. Do not hesitate to contact the department via the Town's website.

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



MOWEST WELCOMES COMMUNAUTO FLEX CAR SHARING

I'm pleased to announce that the car sharing service, **Communauto**, is extending its "Flex" service into MoWest making it much more attractive for residents to start car sharing!

What does Communauto offer?

Communauto offers two types of service: reserved vehicles (that must be picked up and dropped off at a fixed location) and Flex vehicles (which require no reservation and can be picked up anywhere and dropped off anywhere within the company's service area). Up to now, Communauto has only had two spots for reserved vehicles in the Westminster public parking lot. And these spots served our 100 local members. Now that we are part of their "Flex zone" residents will have much more access to vehicles and more leeway in how they use them.



Why use Communauto?

Most MoWesters who currently use the service do so in lieu of owning a car, or purchasing an additional family car. It's certainly a lot more economical and sustainable for those who don't have a daily commute, but still want the convenience of a car occasionally.

Communauto has several levels of membership. For the very occasional user their "Liberte" plans do not require a membership fee. For regular users, their "Econometique" plans require a membership fee and security deposit but offer quite moderate rates per hour (or \$/km) – certainly cheaper than owning a car.

Under the Flex system, MoWest users are now able to pick up a car steps

from their location, use it to run errands, etc., and leave it in Town – ready for the next person to use it.

The Flex cars must adhere to all local parking regulations but will be given dispensation from our overnight and four hour parking limitations.

Think you might want to give it a try? They have over 1000 designated Flex vehicles to take you where you want to go. Check out their website: <https://montreal.communauto.com/how-it-works/?lang=en>

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





STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PLAN AND THE 2023 BUDGET

When defining and approving our budget, we are guided by the objectives set out in the Town's Strategic Financial Plan (SFP). The following checklist provides an account on how the 2023 budget measured up.

1) Limit property tax increases

- The local tax increase of 5.5% for the average house is less than the current CPI of 6.8%
- To limit the increase in our operating budget we will be using \$100,000 from our accumulated surplus

2) Continue investing in infrastructure renewal

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

3) Manage the debt level

- Debt servicing is 13.5% of our local budget, well below the maximum 18% recommended in the SFP

- Reserves (surplus and working funds) will be used to fund over \$700k of capital projects in 2023

4) Increase the overall tax base

- The new development on Westminster S. will significantly increase our tax base
- The Town has proposed by-law changes which will be more amenable for future development

5) Provide high-quality, cost-effective services

- All departmental budgets were scrutinized to provide maximum value for taxpayers

6) Improve preparedness for external agglomeration costs

- The Mayor continues to advocate for changes to the Agglo funding formula to make it more equitable for the demerged municipalities

- A portion of our accumulated surplus will be allocated to partially cover the 12.1% increase in our Agglo remittance

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

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



THERE'S A NEW COMMANDER IN TOWN!

This past November at Town Hall, Mayor Beny Masella, Interim Director General Valentina Todoran and I had the opportunity to meet with the new Commander of the SPVM at Station 9. Commander **Martin Montour**, is responsible for the jurisdictions of NDG, Côte Saint-Luc, Hampstead and Montreal West.

We raised a number of public security concerns in the Town, that require close collaboration with Station 9 and Montreal West Public Security, as the SPVM is responsible to enforce the Criminal and Highway Safety Codes. Some of the issues we discussed, were excessive speeding, seniors, car theft and overall pedestrian and bicycle safety. These, of course, are also shared concerns with our neighboring communities.

Under Commander Montour's leadership, he is committed to prevention and looking at innovative ways that we can enhance security in our Town. As a community partner, Commander

Montour also participated in our seniors' dinner and happily served Christmas dinner to over 50 Montreal West seniors!

In addition to Commander Montour, the Town is also pleased to collaborate with the newly appointed Station 9 Community Development Advisor, Geneviève Polese, and long-standing Community Officer Marie-Christine Nobert. In the coming months, I plan to invite Montreal West residents to have an opportunity to meet with our new partners. As we gain traction for the new Community Safety Committee, I am pleased to report that Geneviève Polese will represent the

SPVM. An information session with individuals who have expressed an interest in participating on the Committee will take place before the end of February.

I am confident that, together, we can improve the safety and security of the Town of Montreal West.

For more information on Station 9, please visit:

<https://spvm.qc.ca/en/PDQ9>

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



URBANISME: BILAN DE L'ANNÉE

Alors que s'achève la première année de ce nouveau mandat, j'aimerais vous offrir un aperçu de mon expérience en tant que conseillère responsable de l'urbanisme ainsi qu'un bilan des activités menées par le Service de l'urbanisme en 2022.

J'aimerais d'abord mentionner que ce fut un privilège de travailler avec les membres formidables et compétents du Service d'urbanisme et du Comité consultatif d'urbanisme (CCU). En plus de me familiariser avec les règlements municipaux, j'ai pris conscience du caractère unique de chacune de nos propriétés et de l'importance de préserver leur caractère architectural.

Au cours de l'année écoulée, j'ai également eu l'occasion de discuter avec nombre

d'entre vous sur divers sujets, notamment des demandes de permis, du besoin de diversifier les logements en ville, de notre responsabilité de lutter et de nous adapter aux changements climatiques et du concept « de ville en 15 minutes ». Merci à tous d'avoir pris le temps de partager vos préoccupations et vos idées avec moi. En 2022, un total de 326 permis ont été délivrés, y compris 94 permis délivrés en avril, un nombre record de permis en un mois ! La

plupart des permis ont été délivrés pour des rénovations, des entrées, des galeries et des porches, des excavations et des clôtures. Je suis heureuse d'annoncer que seulement quelques avis ont été donnés et qu'ils concernaient principalement le manque d'entretien des propriétés.

Des centaines d'inspections ont été effectuées et quelques contraventions ont dû être données pour des travaux effectués sans permis ou pour des travaux non

conformes aux règlements municipaux.

Petit conseil : les deux prochains mois étant certains des plus calmes pour le service de l'urbanisme, c'est le moment idéal pour obtenir des informations sur les processus de construction et de rénovation. N'hésitez pas à contacter le Service via le site internet de la Ville.

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



LE SERVICE D'AUTOPARTAGE COMMUNAUTO FLEX ARRIVE À MO-OUEST

J'ai le plaisir d'annoncer que **Communauto** étend son service " Flex " sur notre territoire, ce qui rend l'autopartage beaucoup plus intéressant pour les résidents !

Que propose Communauto ?

Communauto offre deux types de services : les véhicules réservés (qui doivent être pris et déposés à un endroit fixe) et les véhicules Flex (qui ne nécessitent aucune réservation et peuvent être pris et déposés n'importe où dans la zone desservie par l'entreprise). Jusqu'à présent, *Communauto* n'avait que deux places réservées pour les véhicules dans le stationnement municipal de Westminster. Ces places servaient nos 100 membres locaux. Maintenant que nous faisons partie de leur « zone flex », les résidents auront un accès beaucoup plus large aux véhicules et une utilisation plus complète.

Pourquoi utiliser Communauto ?

La plupart des résidents de Montréal-Ouest qui utilisent actuellement le

service le font au lieu de posséder une voiture ou d'acheter une voiture familiale supplémentaire. C'est certainement beaucoup plus économique et durable pour ceux qui n'ont pas de trajet quotidien, mais qui veulent tout de même profiter d'une voiture à l'occasion.

Communauto propose plusieurs types de forfaits. Pour les utilisateurs très occasionnels, le forfait « Liberté » ne nécessite pas de frais d'abonnement. Pour les utilisateurs réguliers, leurs plans « Économiques » exigent un abonnement mensuel et un dépôt de garantie, mais offrent des tarifs très modérés par heure (ou par km) qui sont certainement moins chers que de posséder une voiture.

Avec le système Flex, les utilisateurs de Montréal-Ouest peuvent désormais prendre une voiture à quelques pas de

chez eux, l'utiliser pour faire des courses, et la ramener à Montréal-Ouest, prête à être utilisée par la personne suivante.

Les voitures Flex doivent respecter toutes les réglementations locales en matière de stationnement, mais seront dispensées de nos limitations de stationnement de nuit et de quatre heures.

Vous êtes intéressés de l'essayer ? Ils ont plus de 1000 véhicules Flex pour vous emmener où vous voulez. Consultez leur site web : <https://montreal.communauto.com/fonctionnement/>

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



LE PLAN FINANCIER STRATÉGIQUE ET LE BUDGET 2023

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

1) Restreindre les hausses des taxes foncières

- La hausse de taxes locales de 5,5 % pour la propriété moyenne est moindre que l'IPC actuel de 6,8 %
- Pour limiter l'augmentation de notre budget de fonctionnement, nous utiliserons 100 000 \$ de notre excédent accumulé

2) Poursuivre les investissements pour le renouvellement des infrastructures

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

3) Gérer le niveau de la dette

- Le service de la dette est à 13,5 %, bien en dessous du maximum de 18 % recommandé dans le PFS.
- Des réserves provenant de notre excédent accumulé et fonds de roulement seront utilisées pour financer plus 700 000 \$ des projets d'immobilisations en 2023

4) Élargir l'assiette fiscale

- Le nouveau projet de développement sur Westminster augmentera considérablement notre assiette fiscale.
- La Ville a proposé des modifications réglementaires pour faciliter les développements futurs.

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

- Les budgets de tous les services ont été examinés minutieusement afin d'offrir une valeur maximale aux contribuables.

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

- Le maire continue à chercher à modifier la formule de financement de l'Agglo afin de la rendre plus équitable pour les municipalités de l'AMB.
- Une partie de l'excédent accumulé sera affectée à couvrir partiellement l'augmentation de 12,1 % de notre quote-part.

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

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



IL Y A UN NOUVEAU COMMANDANT EN VILLE !

En novembre dernier, à l'hôtel de ville, le maire Beny Masella, la directrice générale par intérim Valentina Todoran et moi-même avons eu l'occasion de rencontrer le nouveau commandant du SPVM au poste de quartier 9 (PDQ 9). Le commandant **Martin Montour** est responsable des secteurs de NDG, Côte-Saint-Luc, Hampstead et Mo-Ouest.

Nous avons soulevé un certain nombre d'enjeux de sécurité publique dans la ville, qui nécessitent une collaboration étroite entre le PDQ 9 et la Sécurité publique de Montréal-Ouest, puisque le SPVM est responsable de l'application du Code criminel et du Code de la sécurité routière. Nous avons notamment discuté de la vitesse excessive, des personnes âgées, des vols de voitures et de la sécurité générale des piétons et des cyclistes. Ce sont bien sûr de préoccupations partagées par nos communautés voisines.

Sous sa direction, le commandant Montour s'est engagé à faire de la prévention et à rechercher des moyens

novateurs d'améliorer la sécurité dans notre ville. En tant que partenaire communautaire, il a participé à notre souper pour les aînés et a eu le plaisir de servir le repas de Noël à plus de 50 aînés de Montréal-Ouest !

En plus du commandant Montour, la Ville est également heureuse de collaborer avec la conseillère en développement communautaire nouvellement nommée au PDQ 9, Geneviève Polese, et avec l'agente sociocommunautaire de longue date, Marie-Christine Nobert. Au cours des prochains mois, j'ai l'intention d'inviter les résidents de Montréal-Ouest à rencontrer nos nouveaux partenaires. Alors que nous avançons avec

le nouveau comité de sécurité communautaire, je suis heureuse d'annoncer que Geneviève Polese représentera le SPVM. Une séance d'information avec les personnes qui ont exprimé leur intérêt à siéger au comité aura lieu avant la fin de février.

Je suis persuadée que nous pourrions améliorer la sécurité de la Ville de Montréal-Ouest ensemble.

Pour plus d'information sur le PDQ 9, veuillez consulter le site :

<https://spvm.qc.ca/fr/PDQ9>

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