

THE INFORMER

Montreal West Newspaper

March 2023, Vol. 51, No 2



Jam Jerk: adding spice to Westminster

by Maurice Krystal

The little “hole in the wall” next to the *Quality Fruit Bowl* has a new life. I have lost count how many businesses the small space has housed since I have been in MoWest, more than three decades. This venture has a colourful sign, a pungent scent that makes your mouth water and continuous Reggae music. It appeals to all the senses. This new enterprise is the combined effort of two entrepreneurs and a Jamaican chef.

Dwayne Harris was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, and came to Montreal when he was only four with his older brother, **Dwight**, and his mother. The purpose, as it is with many immigrants, is the opportunity of a better life for the children. Together with a new step dad and a younger brother, **Darren**, the family resided in various locations in western NDG. He attended Edinburgh, Royal Vale, Vanier and McGill where he obtained his Bachelor of Education. He has taught high school math and science for the past 15 for the EMSB and is presently at Marymount. With a growing family of five children, he felt he needed to supplement his teacher’s salary with his passion for entrepreneurial ventures. His first capital investment was in a children’s indoor amusement park called *Fun Zone*, in LaSalle on Champlain Blvd.

Read more on page 4

Jazz legend living in MoWest

Alto saxophonist and composer, **Dave Turner**, has been a fixture in the city’s jazz scene for over 40 years. But you may have seen him performing in Strathearn Park, the Canada Day celebrations or at *Randy’s Bistro*.

From a very young age Dave loved music. While visiting his grandparents one day, he discovered the piano. Taking his inspiration, at the time, from marching band music he sat in front of the piano and played what he heard. When his grandmother heard him, she realized how talented he was and said, “You are going to be a musician.” But due to her strong Scottish brogue and the fact that Dave was only four at the time, he heard, “You are going to be a magician.” Well, she was not wrong. Dave went on to teach himself the piano and then guitar. But by this time, his inspiration had changed. When he was eight years old his dad bought him two LPs one by Louis Armstrong and the other by Fats Waller – Dave fell in love with jazz music. It was in his late teens that he found the saxophone – the instrument he would play for the rest of his life. And after barely a year and a half of lessons, he went on to teach himself the saxophone as well.

His parents, of course, did not want Dave to pursue a career in music; they wanted their son to work in the corporate world where there would be more job security. And so, Dave’s dad got him a job in a brokerage firm where Dave quickly realized it was not for him – he wanted to play jazz.

Exit corporate world; enter jazz

Within a few years of leaving the firm, Dave was already playing back up to the then famous **Gilles Girard**. Gilles had been the lead singer to the popular Quebec band *Les Classels* and decided to go out on his own after that band broke up. Dave had steady gigs with Gilles touring all over Quebec and playing 5-6 nights a week.



Dave Turner

His next big adventure came when he started playing in the *Vic Vogel Big Band*. They got a gig playing with *Offenbach* and then recorded an album together, *Offenbach en Fusion*. By this point, Dave had steady work with the *Vic Vogel Big Band*, but he was busy with lots of other projects as well. He played shows with famous jazz musicians such as Charlie Biddle and Nelson Symonds and was playing in the Montreal Jazz Festival and in most other Canadian cities. And then his agent got him spots in jazz festivals in Europe where he played in Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland and Latvia. Despite his demanding performance schedule, he still managed to compose his own music and record albums.

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MoWest Zero Waste Challenge: Say "No" to the bag

MoWest's first Zero Waste Challenge in the fall of all 2022 showed participants, who were seriously trying to reduce their garbage footprint, how much single-use plastic is being tossed in the trash. An uncomfortable amount of packaging, water bottles and plastic bags that we barely notice – plastic that we barely touch – flows through to the landfill daily. So how can we refuse it, reuse it or reduce it?

First, we can learn to appreciate plastic in all its diversity and

durability. Many types of plastic do not need to be wasted in landfill, they can be recycled. Just read the numbers inside the triangle on each article to see where its future can lie. Numbers 1-7 (except 6) can be recycled here, and #6 plastic (including Styrofoam) can be taken to the Lasalle Eco Centre for recycling. One member of the Zero Waste Challenge held on to all her #6 plastic and Styrofoam until she had a garbage bag full and then took it to the Eco Centre. In the

end, it was only one trip, but diverted many months' worth of waste in one go.

Second, while shopping, we can ask ourselves if we really need our purchases to be wrapped in plastic. Have we planned a substitute, such as a net or cloth bag for veggies and fruits, and tucked it in our purse or pocket?

Third, how are we managing all the single-use plastic bags that we cannot refuse, such as flyer or newspaper covers?

Plastic is incredibly durable after all, so maybe we can find further uses for it, as dog poop bags, wastebaskets liners, or as a designer friend discovered, to knit into interesting shopping bags and purses!

Our second Zero Waste Challenge will take place this spring. To join this bigger and better challenge and get waste reduction tips, please visit the Town Website. And in the meantime, please say, "No thanks" to the bag.

from Julie Waters
for Environmentalism in Action

Défi Zéro Déchet de l'Ouest de Montréal – Dites non au sac !

Le premier défi zéro déchet de Montréal-Ouest, à l'automne 2022, a révélé aux participants, qui tentaient sérieusement de réduire leur empreinte écologique, la quantité de plastique à usage unique jeté à la poubelle. Une quantité gênante d'emballages, de bouteilles d'eau et de sacs en plastique que nous remarquons à peine – du plastique que nous touchons à peine – s'écoule quotidiennement vers la décharge. Alors comment pouvons-nous les refuser, les réutiliser ou les réduire ?

Tout d'abord, nous pouvons apprendre à apprécier le plastique dans toute sa diversité et sa durabilité. De nombreux

types de plastique n'ont pas besoin d'être envoyés dans les décharges, ils peuvent être recyclés. Il suffit de lire les chiffres à l'intérieur du triangle sur chaque article pour savoir comment le trier. Les numéros 1 à 7 (sauf le 6) peuvent être recyclés ici, et le plastique n° 6 (y compris le polystyrène) peut être apporté à l'éco-centre de Lasalle pour y être recyclé. Une participante au défi zéro déchet a conservé tout son plastique et sa mousse de polystyrène jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait un sac à ordures plein, puis l'a apporté à l'éco-centre. En fin de compte, elle n'a fait qu'un seul voyage, mais a disposé de l'équivalent de

plusieurs mois de déchets en une seule fois.

Deuxièmement, lorsque nous faisons nos courses, nous pouvons nous demander si nous avons vraiment besoin que nos achats soient emballés dans du plastique. Avons-nous prévu un substitut, comme un filet ou un sac en tissu pour les légumes et les fruits, et l'avons-nous glissé dans notre sac à main ou notre poche ?

Troisièmement, comment gérons-nous tous les sacs en plastique à usage unique que nous ne pouvons pas refuser, comme les pochettes de prospectus ou de journaux ? Après tout, le plastique est incroyablement

durable, alors peut-être pouvons-nous lui trouver d'autres fonctions, comme des sacs à déjections de chiens, des sacs pour poubelles ou, comme l'a découvert une amie styliste, pour tricoter des sacs à provisions et des sacs à main intéressants !

Notre deuxième défi "zéro déchet" aura lieu au printemps. Pour participer à ce défi, plus grand et meilleur, et obtenir des conseils sur la réduction des déchets, veuillez consulter le site Web de la ville. En attendant, veuillez dire non merci au sac.

de Julie Waters
pour L'environnementalisme
en action

THE INFORMER

10 Westminster North
Montreal West, Quebec
H4X 1Y9

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

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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René Boucher, Lina Harun, Cynthia Koomas, Lise McVey, Pam Montgomery, Jeanne Ragbir

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

March 15

Montreal West en lumière

February 25-March 4
Nuit Blanche 6

Nuit Blanche will be presented on Saturday, February 25 – into the early hours of Sunday morning – with an outdoor environmental exhibit to highlight Canadian artists, under the theme of a Rose in the Garden.

The Westminster Cultural Arts Center, located at 25 Westminster South, directly across from the Cenotaph, is also hosting an evening reception between 5 and 11 pm, February 25. Open to all.

For more information please contact:

438-835-6339

galleryrealart@gmail.com

Peace Garden + Studio Fridays©

West End Horticultural Society

The West End Horticultural Society, celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, extends a warm invitation to MoWest residents of to attend its next meeting Wednesday, March 15, at 7:30 pm. at the Monkland Community Centre, 4410 West Hill.

This month, the society will feature one of Montreal West's own: **Reiko Kobayashi**, Environment Technician for the Town of MoWest, who will speak on how to plant a pollinator garden this spring. Consider planting a pollinator-friendly garden to attract butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and all the other critters that help a garden to grow. Ms. Kobayashi will show us the how-to's as well as the numerous benefits of creating your own pollinator-friendly green space.

Guest fee is \$5 per person, no need to register in advance, refreshments are served and the presentation is held in English. For more info: wehs.ca or 239-6136.

from Suzanne Csik



Sherri McGurnaghan

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bespoke project management & software implementation

Open house at Curzon!

Le Jardin d'Enfants
Curzon Creative Preschool

Friday, March 17
10-12:30

Curzon is a non-profit co-op for children aged 3-5. Our unique approach to early learning is grounded in playful structure and individualized attention, with an emphasis on the arts and a love of nature. Our team of experienced teachers includes specialists in music, art and physical education and, each week, they lead the students through new projects which foster their emotional and social development.

Curzon's cooperative model offers parents the opportunity to be involved in their child's preschool experience by helping out in the classroom, contributing programming ideas and working together with other families to facilitate the business operation of the school. Our motto is that "It takes a village to raise a child."

Come join us at our open house, and see what has made Curzon such a special part of the community for the last 63 years.



Portes ouvertes

au Jardin d'Enfants
Curzon Creative Preschool

Vendredi le 17 mars
de 10 h à 12 h 30

Curzon est une pré-maternelle coopérative à but non lucratif pour les enfants âgés de 3 à 5 ans. Notre approche unique de l'apprentissage global est ancrée dans une structure ludique et une attention individualisée, avec une emphase sur les arts et un amour de la nature. Notre équipe d'enseignantes expérimentées comprend des spécialistes en musique, en art et en éducation physique qui organisent chaque semaine de nouvelles activités de nature à favoriser le développement global de l'enfant : moteur, affectif, cognitif, intuitif et social.

Le modèle coopératif de Curzon offre aux parents l'opportunité d'être impliqués dans l'expérience préscolaire de leur enfant en aidant dans la salle de classe, en contribuant à des idées de programmation et en travaillant avec d'autres familles pour faciliter la promotion de l'école. Notre devise est « il faut une communauté pour élever un enfant ».

Rejoignez-nous à notre portes ouvertes et découvrez ce qui a rendu Curzon si spécial au sein de la communauté depuis les 63 dernières années.

Artists' Showcase and Art in the Park 2023

Calling all MoWest artists, it is time to start planning your artwork for next season's **Artists' Showcase**. The theme for the spring exhibit will be Environmental Art.

Please fill out an application online or at the Community Centre. The deadline for application is April 17.

Art in the Park 2023 will be held on Tuesday, June 6 with Community Night at Davies Park. Application deadline: May 19.

To find out more or to get an application form, go to the MoWest website under "culture," or pick up a form at the Community Centre. For info: recreation@montreal-west.ca or 484-6186.

Jazz legend in MoWest

continued from page 1

In 1982, when he was asked to teach at Concordia University, he hesitated thinking he was too busy and did not want to give up his gigs. He did accept the job offer and he thanks god that he did for a few reasons. First, the live music scene has changed, while gigs were so readily available at the time, they are no longer so plentiful. Second, he says, he learned so much from teaching and finally he formed great friendships with some of his former students with whom he still plays music and remains in contact.

Hear Dave Turner and the Concorde here in Town

Dave has had a truly magical career in jazz and is happy that he did not choose to stay in the corporate world. He loves to play so much that during COVID, when there were no classes to teach and no one to play with indoors, he and two of his Concordia students who are also MoWesters decided to play in Strathearn Park.

That same trio, now called *Dave Turner and the Concorde*, plays every Friday night at *Randy's Bistro*.

from Mary Mastromonaco

Jam Jerk

continued from page 1

Vincent Bradshaw, the other financial backer, is a MoWest resident and comes from a long line of hospitality entrepreneurs in the UK. His father was at one point the Director of Tourism for the Maritimes. He invested in a hotel which was destroyed by fire and the insurance didn't cover the damage. The family returned to the UK and Vincent studied at the University of Hull, obtaining a Bachelor in Economics and Modern Languages. He knew he did it to only please the family and decided to return to Montreal. He runs a company that helps clients with credit card processing systems.

The location for this venture found them as the stars realigned in a series of seemingly unconnected events. It was sometime in April 2022 that Vincent took his daughter to a birthday party at *Fun Zone* where he met Dwayne. They talked about business ventures. Vincent has **Mrs. Yoo** as a client and she told him that the space next to her store was soon going to be vacant. From there, they found a good team to run the venture. It is particularly busy during the Royal West lunch break.

Why Jamaican patties?

Well, Dwayne's heritage does explain part of it. Surprisingly Vincent said the original patty came from England going back centuries. The Cornish pastie was a pastry eaten by the well-to-do and they were stuffed with fruit and venison. They are mentioned as early as the 13th century. In the 17th century pasties became a common meal for tin miners to eat underground. In Jamaica they added local spices to make their own hotter version.

The other specialty is jerk chicken, originally a slow cooked chicken buried in pits, often wrapped in banana leaves. The cuisine

goes back thousands of years to Africa and was also influenced by the Arawak natives of Jamaica. While patties and jerk chicken are the main sellers served at *Jam Jerk* there are also: curry chicken, fried chicken, jam wrap, curry goat, ackee and saltfish, oxtail, wings, fried dumplings and soup of the day.

The Jamaican Cook

The cook wants to simply be called, "**The Jamaican Cook**". He has been in Canada since the 90s. There are two large flags separating the kitchen from the public space. One is the Jamaican flag and the other is a flag with three horizontal bars of green, gold and red. This, the cook explained to me was the Rastafarian flag. It is based on the flag of Ethiopia in the 1930s during the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie who plays a major role in Rastafarian belief. The green represents the vegetation; the gold, the sun and the red, the blood spilled to gain freedom.

The Jamaican Cook is a Rastafarian and though he prepares all these meat dishes, his dietary laws require he eat only plant-based food, so he has to abstain from the artistic creations he cooks.

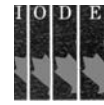
Sometimes these articles are written months in advance, and when it comes time to publish them, changes happen. Nothing stands still, especially on ever-changing Westminster.

Vincent is no longer a co-owner, but he continues to work indirectly with the company in sales and marketing. There is also now a young lady by the name of **Sophora** working at *Jam Jerk* who welcomes customers and answers all sorts of questions about the food when they enter or call.

Jam Jerk
30 Westminster North
419 2494

IODE

9,604 hours of service



Statistics Canada keeps a record of hours spent and reported by volunteers in Canada.

IODE HMS Victory was pleased to report 9,604 hours of service performed by our hardworking and dedicated chapter in 2022.

Our activities include making and distributing: grooming bags (**Heather Ferguson**), knitted warm wear, beautifully crafted dolls and snowmen toys, as well as books and Christmas gifts for two adopted grade 3 classes in Sheshatshiu, Labrador (**Moirra Bettinville**). An extraordinary donation by an anonymous donor of six crates of brand new cosmetics worth over \$5,000 was dropped off at **Janet King's** porch. Shelters such as *Resilience Montreal*, Women's Pavilion of the *Old Brewery Mission* and *Auberge Transition* were among the recipients of this largesse. We are still in the process of distributing to other shelters across Montreal.



All the knitted ballerinas and snowmen are made by **Moirra Bettinville**. She knits 5 hours a day throughout the summer at her country cottage. Her handiwork is mailed to Labrador in September.

Barbara Marshall made 140 beautiful birthday and Christmas cards, signed and delivered to seniors' residences.

Also grateful for our time and effort was *Ullivik Centre* that received a donation of knitting needles and wool. Knitting and beading are an integral part of the Inuit culture so the donation was greatly appreciated.

Come for tea!

Please join us for tea at our meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at the Community Centre, 1-3 pm.







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Tranquilli-T

Hockey Knights

All our 14 single letter Knights hockey teams were in full swing playing league games and lots of tournaments.

Congratulations to M11A for winning the Tournoi National Verdun in early February. What a fun tournament, with lots of teams, music and great parents.

February 5, many of our Knights teams participated in the CSLMHA Hockey Day enjoying exhibition games, food, prizes and of course lots of hockey. A big thank you to the organisers for inviting us to join in the festivities.

February has been busy with our youngest players on the M7 teams taking part in the Centre Sud Festival. This was their first time playing away games and they did an AMAZING job.

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

North Stars du EHL

Our six double letter North Stars teams have had a great first half of the season. All teams, have been working hard on and off the ice. Recently the M11BB won the St-Jérôme tournament and our M11AA and M18AA were both finalists

in the Verdun and Sherbrooke tournaments. Currently our M11BB, M13AA and M18AA are first in their divisions as we head towards the playoffs. Congratulations to all the teams and good luck in the second half. Go North Stars, Go!

To see the schedule, visit our website at northstarsduehl.com

Gym-Tastic!

The winter session of Gym-Tastic is in full swing with a great group of kids! Our coaches have everyone learning many of their basic moves and such as bridges, cartwheels and more. Lots of touching toes, stretching and learning their Gym Stop. The kids are working hard as they learn more moves getting ready to show off their moves at the end of session demonstration.

Skating lessons

We have an amazing group of skaters and coaches this year in the skating and pre-school program. All the skaters have worked hard and learned so much in such a short time. We are getting ready for the end of year skating demonstration on March 19! We will have a special guest: men's senior Canadian National skater **Marek Ramilison** will be joining us



M7 Mini Knights!

Our youngest Knights hockey players went on the road to the Centre Sud Festival, February 4-5, playing against teams from all over our region. For many of these players, it was their first time playing in a festival like this and they did an amazing job. Teams played 2-3 games on each day and enjoyed the music, snacks and of course the medals. Go Knights, Go!



M11A MWH Knights

Congratulations to our M11A MWH Knights for their victory at the 26th annual Verdun Atom Hockey tournament!

This tournament win was the result of great preparation, hard work and strong contributions from every player on the team. Congratulations to a terrific group of boys and parents. Our coaches **Sean Francis** and **Emlyn McCutcheon** as well as our manager **Jodie Richardson** are so proud of the boys and are so pleased to be a part of this terrific group. Trophies, banners and general celebration continued to a crowd of cheering parents. What an amazing experience for all.

and performing two numbers. Mark it in your calendars!

Basketball

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

Indoor Soccer

Our indoor soccer program was in full swing for the winter 10-week session. We have classes for players ages 5 to adults. The classes have everyone running, doing drills, learning different strategies and playing in a scrimmage each week.

Judo

Everyone in judo is progressing quickly with a great group of kids. They are learning their holds and how to use quick movement to leverage their opponents. We will be hosting a demonstration in the spring for parents to come and watch how much their children have learned.

Spring registration...

...for the following programs opens March online at mwcra-sportsports.ca

- Intro to baseball
- Intercommunity baseball
- Little Strikers soccer (Ages 3 and 4)
- Micro soccer (Ages 5 and 6)
- U8+ Outdoor soccer
- Women's Outdoor soccer
- Men's outdoor soccer
- Rugby
- Sportball

Calendar

March 1: Spring registration opens online at mwcra-sportsports.ca for residents and March 15 for non-residents

March 19: End of Year Skating demonstration. Everyone invited. Special guest, men's senior Canadian National skater Marek Ramilison. Legion Rink.

April 22: Boys' soccer evaluations at Catalgona Soccerplex (must be registered)

April 23: Girls' soccer evaluations at Catalgona Soccerplex (must be registered)

Elizabeth Ballantyne



At EBS, we have many happy angels!

Saint-Côme

This year the grade fives and sixes went to Saint-Côme! The place was beautiful, with tall trees and snowy landscapes, it

Saint-Côme



Room 4

The students in Room 4 had so much fun celebrating and learning about Chinese New Year in January. They also spent a whole week learning about the busy lives of many arctic animals!



was absolutely gorgeous.

Now I know that food is very important, and this place had it covered. They made delicious food, and after one bite, we were left wanting more.

There were tons of activities. Some of the amazing activities were sledding down a fast slope and swinging on a Tarzan rope over a cliff (that was fun!). The rooms were comfy and had all the essentials. They had many beds, perfect for our groups of 6 or 7 students. There were big windows with beautiful views of the forest. The kids of Elizabeth Ballantyne are begging to go back to this amazing trip to Saint-Côme.

from Isadora Cool

Edinburgh Elementary



Milena Rivera (left) and Melody Royko read their poem for Teacher Appreciation Week on February 7. They are pictured here with Edinburgh Principal Gaetano Sifoni.

— A sixth grader's perspective —

Teacher Appreciation

a poem to celebrate our teachers

We use our minds,
And you are so kind
You show how you care,
With all your help
We all think we can't make it,
But you help us push through
We can take our time,
Because we know you are patient
You are so hard working,
With planning and correcting.

You put all your effort into us,
Even though we sometimes make a fuss
You teach us to
Dream, work and reach far.
You motivate us to do our
Best to succeed
You help us fulfill our potential
And never let us give up.

It is not always easy,
sometimes it is not fun,
but thank you for your patience,
The laughter, the memories, and fun.
Thank you for teaching us, you are the number ones!
Thank you for guiding us when we lose our way,
Thank you for making us smile every day.
Whenever we are in a fuss, you bring out the best in us!
Roses are Red,
Violets are blue,
How lucky are we to have teachers like you!

*by Melody Royko and Milena Rivera
Grade 6 students*

News from the pews

St. Philip's

Sunday, March 12, at the regular 10 am service, the choir will be offering a special program of music in memory of **Claude Bernier**, much loved former organist and music director. That weekend will mark the 20th anniversary of Claude's death.

Winter still has us in its grip, but spring is coming. Plans are under way for our next gardening workshop, to be held Saturday and Sunday afternoons, May 30 and 31. The theme of this workshop will be fruit tree guilds. These are ensembles of understory plants and ground covers planted around fruit tree, to help balance the nutrients in the soil, attract beneficial insect, and deter pests. The workshop will include hands-on learning, as we add more fruit trees to our expanding food forest. If you have planted a fruit tree in your yard recently, this will give you ideas on how to keep it happy.

from Fr. Pratt

St Ignatius of Loyola

Have you ever wondered things like: Is there more to life than this? How can I make the most of my life? Is God real? Navigating life's big questions isn't always easy, so why not join us at Alpha beginning Wednesday, March 22 at 7 pm at St. Ignatius. Alpha creates a safe place to explore such questions over a good meal and with good people, just like you. For more information check out stig.ca/alpha.

Our team at St. Ignatius is also excited to announce big news about our missionary partnership with St. Willibrord parish in Verdun. Given a number of new families that have joined the parish since our launch mass back in September, we're pleased to

share that Catch the Wave, our Sunday program for children, is now also available at St. Willibrord's during their 10:30 am Sunday mass. Feel free to drop by anytime! St. Willibrord is located just north of Wellington on Willibrord street.

Finally, **Fr. Mike** and our entire team wish for you to know that you're more than welcome to join us this coming Easter and Holy Week. Easter mass will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 10 am Should you be interested in experiencing the Easter Triduum leading up to Easter Sunday, you're also welcome to join us on Holy Thursday, April 6 at 8 pm, Good Friday, April 7 at 3 pm or for the Saturday Easter Vigil on April 8 at 8 pm We truly look forward to welcoming you!

from Shawna Rose

MW United

... the brick one


Of lions and lambs

Time was when we would say if March came in like a lion It would go out like a lamb. These days, it seems climate change favours lions – big winds and all that they bring – more than lambs. So, regard your gentle, calm days as moments of grace. And maybe with combined efforts, we can reclaim some lambs. Hold that thought.

Our Lenten days

So, we are now into the time of making ourselves more aware (United Church types don't like to deny ourselves stuff for Lent) of needs around us. Our Outreach folks will have chosen a charity for Lent 2023 about which we are learning more, and gathering our loose change to support a donation at


Le Jardin d'Enfants
Curzon
Creative Preschool



Providing a strong, educational foundation for children aged 3-5 since 1959

A Parent Cooperative in Montreal West

OPEN HOUSE
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March Labyrinth Walk

This month we are trying out Wednesday evening, March 22 for a Labyrinth Walk in Wadsworth Hall. All are welcome and may arrive between 7 and 8:30 pm. The Walk will draw to a close by 9 pm. Our walking meditation is individual in nature, but you are welcome to bring a friend. Newcomer or experienced walker – it matters not. Come for answers, for the peace of the Walk or simply calm. No cost as it is our gift to make the Labyrinth available. Please be prepared to walk in socks or slippers.

Youth Group – a Happening

From time to time, young people 12-17 may gather on a Friday evening in one of the halls. Just when this is happening and what games are involved may vary, but keep an eye peeled for details on the church doors or call the office, **482-3210**.

We are there at 10 am Sunday mornings with worship, music, Sunday school and fellowship to follow. Our broadcast can be found on YouTube at Montreal West United Church. See you in church?

from Susan Upham

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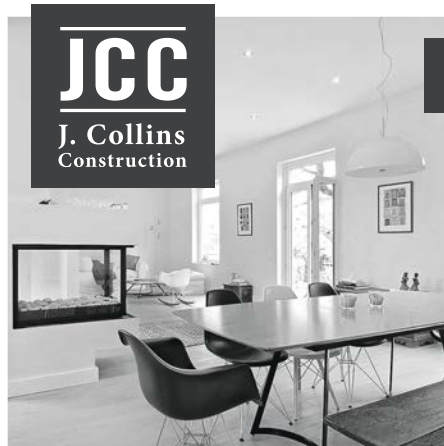
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YOUR VOTE COUNTS: NEXT STEPS

IN THE PROCESS REGARDING THE NEW SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE

The results of the register conducted on February 14, with respect to By-law 2023-001 regarding the construction of a new sports and recreation centre, to authorize a loan of \$27 318 686, did not meet the threshold of 391 signatures. The Town received a total of 329 signatures. Therefore, By-law 2023-001 is deemed to have been approved by those eligible to vote and will be forwarded to the *Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'habitation* for approval. Had the requisite number of signatures been obtained, a referendum would have been held to approve or reject the loan by-law.

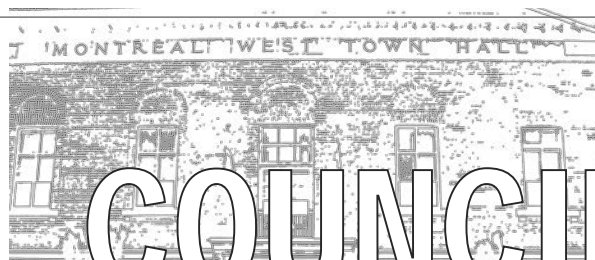
The estimated project costs in the loan By-law include net taxes, contingencies and other related and unforeseen expenses pertaining to the work. It is important to note, that the maximum borrowing power of \$27 M as listed in the By-law, is based on estimated costs and does not take into consideration private (fundraising) and public (provincial and federal government grants) contributions. The annual cost to taxpayers, will depend on the final project costs and the fluctuating interest rate when the amount is borrowed. Once these amounts are deducted, the estimated loan for taxpayers will be approximately \$11 M.

What happens next?

Due to the amplitude of the project, since it was first proposed in 2015, regardless of the result of the register and although the decision is completely within the purview of Council, Town Council committed to hold

a vote on whether or not to proceed with the new sports and recreation centre, following the opening of the bids. Residents will be presented with the total cost of the project, as well as the projected impact to your tax bill. The bidding period ends March 17. All residents who meet the majority age requirements will be able to cast their vote. A resolution announcing Council's intent to hold a vote, will be tabled at the February 27, 2023 Council meeting. The democratic vote on whether or not to proceed with a new facility, is where the rubber hits the road folks.

Although Council is very cognizant that the current economic conditions are challenging, we need to invest in our Town and here's why. The Town of MoWest, no doubt, is a jewel in the crown of Montreal. Our Town is desirable and sought out for the sense of community, the values that we share and the services that we offer. With that said, there have not been any major recreational infrastructure investments in almost 60 years; that is more than two generations. Considering that the Legion Memorial Rink was built in 1964, the existing aging facilities, the outdoor pool and the North chalet require colossal and costly upgrades and are unable to sustain modern day expectations of users and limit the Town in its ability to maintain and improve the quality of life in the community. We have simply run out of time. Serious structural issues leave us in a position where the Legion Memorial Rink and North chalet will need to be shuttered and demolished in the very near future.



COUNCIL communiqué

Why now?

A modern, universally accessible sports and recreational centre will revitalize the community and create a multi-purpose and multi-generational hub, fostering individual and community well-being with a sustainable approach. The construction of the new sports and recreation centre will serve the citizens living in Town, for the next 40 years or more. This municipal infrastructure project will benefit the entire population, community organizations and local merchants.

The Town received a grant of \$12,556,727 from both the federal and provincial governments, as part of the Financial Assistance Program for Recreational and Sports Infrastructures (PAFIRS) for the reconstruction of a new sports and recreation centre. The grant has afforded us not only a new regulation sized rink, but also a new outdoor L-shaped swimming pool, a gymnasium, multi-purpose rooms, pro-shop, café-restaurant, office, kitchen facilities and other important sustainable and eco-responsible facilities with a climate-resilient design. In meeting the criteria of the grant, including a rink and arena were non-negotiable, as this would reduce services; simply put, we could not offer less of what already currently exists in our sport and recreation service offering. The project that was reviewed

and approved by the *Ministère de l'éducation* included a completion date by February 2025.

In addition to the grant from the federal and provincial governments, representing over 1/3 of the estimated cost for the project, amounts coming from unallocated and allocated surplus and contributions by municipal taxpayers, present and future, a significant fundraising campaign has already received important support, in committed donations from major partners. The fundraising campaign aims to reduce the tax burden on its citizens and to multiply the sources of financing related to the project.

We are at a critical juncture of a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Although some residents have drawn their own conclusions and have decided not to support the new centre, we ask that you keep an open mind and assess all the information before you make a final decision and vote. Whether you are new to MoWest or have been in the Town for generations, a new sports and recreation centre provides an occasion to leave an enduring legacy. Once the bids are opened and analyzed, information regarding the tax implications, date, time and procedure to vote will be shared.

Montreal West Town Council



VOTRE VOTE COMPTE: LES PROCHAINES ÉTAPES DU PROCESSUS POUR LE NOUVEAU CENTRE SPORTIF ET RÉCRÉATIF

Les résultats du registre ouvert le 14 février 2023, relativement au Règlement 2023-001 décrétant des travaux de construction d'un nouveau centre sportif et récréatif et autorisant un emprunt de 27 318 686\$ à cette fin, n'ont pas atteint le seuil de 391 signatures (329 signatures ayant été reçues). Par conséquent, le règlement 2023-001 est réputé avoir été approuvé par les personnes habiles à voter et sera transmis au ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation pour approbation. Si le nombre requis de signatures avait été obtenu, un référendum aurait eu lieu pour approuver ou rejeter le règlement d'emprunt. Les coûts estimés du projet au règlement d'emprunt incluent les taxes nettes, les contingences et autres dépenses connexes et imprévisibles liées aux travaux. Il est important de noter que le pouvoir d'emprunt maximal de 27 M\$ tel qu'indiqué dans le règlement est basé sur des coûts estimatifs et ne tient pas compte des contributions privées (collecte de fonds) et publiques (subventions des gouvernements provincial et fédéral). Le coût annuel pour les contribuables dépendra des coûts finaux du projet et de la fluctuation du taux d'intérêt lorsque le montant sera emprunté. Une fois ces montants déduits, l'emprunt supporté par les contribuables sera d'environ 11 M\$.

Que se passe-t-il ensuite ?

Depuis que le projet du nouveau centre a été proposé en 2015, son amplitude a évolué et c'est pourquoi le Conseil s'est engagé à tenir un vote sur la réalisation ou non du projet après l'ouverture des soumissions, et ce, quel que soit le résultat du registre et

bien que la décision relève entièrement du Conseil. Les résidents se verront présenter le coût total du projet, ainsi que l'impact prévu sur leur compte des taxes. La période d'appel d'offres se termine le 17 mars. Tous les résidents ayant l'âge de la majorité pourront voter. Une résolution annonçant l'intention du Conseil de tenir un vote sera déposée à la séance du Conseil du 27 février 2023. La tenue de ce vote sur la décision de procéder ou non à la construction de nouvelles installations est une étape décisive.

Bien que le Conseil soit très conscient que les conditions économiques actuelles sont difficiles, nous devons investir dans notre ville et voici pourquoi. La Ville de Mo-Ouest est sans aucun doute un joyau de la couronne de Montréal. Notre ville est désirable et recherchée pour son sens de la communauté, les valeurs qu'elle partage et les services qu'elle offre. Cela dit, il n'y a pas eu d'investissements majeurs dans les infrastructures des loisirs depuis près de soixante ans, soit plus de deux générations. Il faut considérer que l'aréna de la Légion a été construite en 1964, que les installations existantes sont vieillissantes, que la piscine extérieure et le chalet Nord nécessitent des travaux majeurs de remise à niveau, et qu'ils ne sont pas en état de répondre aux attentes des utilisateurs d'aujourd'hui et limitent la capacité de la Ville à maintenir et améliorer la qualité de vie dans la communauté.

Nous sommes donc arrivés près du point de rupture. De graves problèmes structurels nous placent dans une situation où l'aréna de la Légion et le chalet Nord devront être fermés et démolis dans un avenir très rapproché.



Pourquoi maintenant ?

Un centre sportif et récréatif moderne et accessible à tous revitalisera la communauté et créera un carrefour polyvalent et multigénérationnel, favorisant le bien-être individuel et communautaire avec une approche durable. La construction du nouveau centre servira les résidents de la Ville pour les 40 prochaines années ou plus. Ce projet d'infrastructure municipale profitera à l'ensemble de la population, aux organismes communautaires et aux commerçants locaux.

La Ville a reçu une subvention de 12 556 727 \$ des gouvernements fédéral et provincial, dans le cadre du Programme d'aide financière aux infrastructures récréatives et sportives (PAFIRS), pour la reconstruction d'un nouveau centre. Cette subvention nous permet de construire non seulement une nouvelle patinoire de taille réglementaire, mais aussi une nouvelle piscine extérieure en forme de L, un gymnase, des salles polyvalentes, un pro-shop, un café-restaurant, des bureaux, une cuisine et d'autres installations importantes, et ce, de manière durable et écoresponsable, et avec un accent sur l'adaptation aux changements climatiques. Pour répondre aux critères de la subvention, l'inclusion d'une patinoire et d'un aréna n'était pas négociable, car le contraire aurait réduit les services ; en d'autres termes, nous ne pouvions pas offrir moins que ce qui existe déjà dans notre offre de services de

sport et de loisirs. Le projet qui a été examiné et approuvé par le ministère de l'Éducation prévoit une date de réalisation des travaux en février 2025.

En plus de la subvention reçue des gouvernements fédéral et provincial, représentant plus du tiers du coût estimé du projet, des montants provenant des surplus non affectés et affectés et des contributions des contribuables, présents et futurs, un appui important en dons engagés par des partenaires majeurs a été reçu dans le cadre d'une importante campagne de financement. Cette campagne vise à réduire le fardeau fiscal des résidents et à diversifier les sources de financement liées au projet.

Nous sommes à un moment critique d'une opportunité qui n'arrive qu'une fois par génération. Bien que certains résidents aient tiré leurs propres conclusions et ont décidé de ne pas soutenir le nouveau centre nous vous demandons de garder l'esprit ouvert et d'évaluer toutes les informations avant de prendre une décision finale et de voter. Que vous soyez des nouveaux résidents à Mo-Ouest ou que vous y demeurez depuis des générations, un nouveau centre sportif et récréatif est l'occasion de laisser un héritage durable. Une fois les soumissions ouvertes et analysées, les informations concernant les implications sur le compte des taxes, la date, l'heure et la procédure pour voter seront communiquées.

Le Conseil de Montréal-Ouest



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Kinkora winter camp



Building a campfire in the snow

Question: What has 72 legs and is yellow all over?

Answer: At the end of the article!

In February 2020, we attended our last winter camp, just before COVID hit. After three years we were all very excited to be heading up to one of our favourite camps, Camp Kinkora, in the Laurentians. We were a little concerned about the weather as it had rained all day Friday, but it stopped so that

Camp Kinkora



Photo: Bruce Kahn

we could safely depart from the RWA parking lot. The trip up was rather noisy with a bus load of excited children. On arrival, we collected our gear and settled in our cabins. The dining hall was nice and warm since our Rovers had arrived early and had the fireplace roaring. After our “Mug Up,” the Beavers reluctantly headed off to bed. The Cubs and Scouts stayed up later to play games as there were NO stars for stargazing!

The temperature dropped overnight so everyone had their first lesson on how to dress in layers to keep warm, put your snow pant cuffs over your boots, wear mittens – not gloves – a warm hat and scarf or neck warmer.

After breakfast, our Scouts headed out for a long snowshoe hike through the woods and across the lake – yes we made sure that the ice was very thick! The Cubs and Beavers were divided into three teams. They stayed in the dining hall to build their own sleds out of cardboard boxes held together with duct tape. They had to race their creations down the toboggan hill with at least two members on board. They managed three runs each before the sleds fell apart.

Everyone was more than ready for a hot bowl of soup and homemade pizzas prepared by Chef **Anais Eiser** and her crew of Rovers. That afternoon, the Cubs headed out for their hike around the lake, made fires and toasted marshmallows. The Scouts stayed closer to home: tobogganing, playing broomball and digging out two quinzees under the guidance of **Rover Slater** and their Scouters. Saturday supper was the traditional spaghetti, garlic bread and Caesar salad followed by ice cream sundaes with sauce and sprinkles.

After clean-up, the tables were pulled back and the benches were spread in a horseshoe to make it easier to watch the hilarious skits, cheers and sing songs. The Cubs had an Investiture ceremony along with a new Beaver,

Lily and Nadia jumping into the snow



Photo: Bruce Kahn



Photo: Michael Thun

Louis and Nichola digging a quinzee

all topped off with S'mores prepared in the oven. It really was a fun campfire!

Sunday morning was warmer, so everyone was able to choose their own activity outside or stay in to work on a craft or play games. The Scouts worked outside in patrols to build fires high enough to burn a string (like the TV show “Survivor”). Sadly, after lunch came the chore of cleaning up, packing up and saying our thank yous to everyone who helped make this wonderful weekend possible.

Special thanks to our Rovers **Anais** (Chef), **Billy** (Sous Chef), **Jonathan** (Sous Chef), **Slater** (everything) and **Tomi** (everything). Thank you to our Most Excellent Scouters: **Andy**, **Peter**, **Micky**, **Darzee** (Lee-Ann), **Raksha** (Cerrie), **Chil** (Bruce), **Wren** (Jenny), **Rainbow** (Karen), and our keen parents: **Daphne**, **Lucy**, **Sara** and **Charlie**. Last, but not least, Many Thanks to **Scouter Rusty** (Jon Wiersma) for donating the cost of our bus!

Answer: 27 kids, 5 Scouters, 3 parents and a driver on a yellow school bus



Guides



Winter is still in the air, but the three MoWest units have all doubled in size! It is quite exciting for everyone. More often than not, at the young lady's first meeting, she'll see a familiar face or three! Not only do we have many more new girls, we also have two new leaders, **Daffodil** and **Willow**, and one new junior leader, **Jade**, for the Sparks and Ember units. With **Brown Owl** retiring, their joining our units could not have been more timely!

A new name!

Guiding was first started in 1909. It was five years after that when a group was introduced for younger sisters, first known as the Rosebuds. Well, the girls themselves were not very fond of the name, so in 1915, Lord Baden-Powell changed the name to Brownies.

Within the Canadian Guiding sisterhood, it was felt the name needed to be updated once more. In December, the girls were asked to participate in a meeting where they did activities based on the two new name choices and then voted on which they preferred. All members of Girl Guides of Canada were invited to vote. The results were released in early January. In Montreal West we have a Spark, an **Embers** and a Guide unit. The girls are now being asked, if they wish, to submit a story for how the group received the name Embers. It is wonderful to see how creative the girls can be. In the fall, there should be a new story to go along with the new name.

Sparks and Embers

The Sparks and Embers have been working toward their My Healthy Relationships badge. This year, we did not participate in our traditional Valentines for Veterans serv-



Sparks Penelope and Hannah and Dahlia, an Ember, with Valentine cards: "Because you are my friend."

Welcoming new faces!

ice project. Instead, the girls made a card for someone who was a friend. A "just because I consider you my friend" card. It was not for a special celebration, it was just to let someone know how important they are to them. The girls have also been working on their My Physical Self badge. They had a lot of fun learning how to properly floss their teeth. They pretended an empty egg carton was their teeth, and some yarn was the floss.

Guides

The Guides have also been learning about how their bodies work. They knocked it up a notch though. The girls built model lungs and eyeballs. They were intrigued when they could see for themselves how the pupil dilates and constricts. They had so much fun, they very excitedly shared with their parents what they had learned as soon

as they were picked up from the meeting.

Our Guides joined the NDG Guides on Saturday, February 11 at the Montreal Science Centre's celebration of Women in Science. They had an opportunity to listen to a talk given by aerospace engineer Farah Alibay. The girls found her to be a very engaging presenter. This inspiring scientist encouraged all the girls to ask her questions; the girls were so motivated, they ran out of time!

Cookies!!

Mark March 25 on your calendar. That is the day of the delivery of the traditional Girl Guide cookies. More details will follow in the next *Informer* as to where you will be able to find these tasty treats!

from the MW Guiders

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Children's Library



Monique Polak and the participants in the first of two Creative Writing Workshops

Bill Foster Writing Contest

If you have missed the opportunity to take part in the Bill Foster Writing Contest in the past two years, since its foundation, you can participate this year. Your texts can be written in French or English, in any format – poem, short story, essay, comic book. You are welcome to illustrate the story, too. This year, the independent jury will divide the texts in two categories: 6 to 8 years old and 9 to 12 years old (and up to 14 years

old). Prizes will be awarded to the three best texts in each category. The texts must be submitted, by April 23, in an envelope that can be picked up from the library. More details will be provided at the library.

Creative Writing Workshop

Monique Polak, award-winning author of books for children and young adults, was at the library January 28 and charmed the children who came to learn how to shape their ideas

into stories. She shared her experience of that day in a detailed blog post that you may be interested to read – moniquepolak.com/monique-s-blog.

The second workshop with Monique will take place on Sunday, March 12, 11:30 am-12:30 pm. She is going to review the texts participants in the first workshop started writing and provide invaluable input. Children who didn't come in January are welcome as well.

These two workshops are designed to assist the participants in the Bill Foster Writing Contest, but anyone with an interest in writing is welcome to join. Please contact us for registration.

March Break

The activities for the Spring Break will take place online. We will share information and links

to different activities via e-mail. Quizzes, crafts, and story-times to indulge in from the comfort of your home. Prizes will be awarded for some of the activities. Make sure to consult our website for information and to sign up for our email list.

Nouvelle collection de jeux de société

Une nouvelle collection de jeux de société à emprunter est dorénavant disponible. Nous avons plus de 30 jeux de société, et la collection continue à grandir ! Des jeux de stratégie, des jeux qui développent le vocabulaire, l'imagination ou des jeux de construction et de chance peuvent faire le bonheur des jeunes. Si vous avez des jeux qui ne sont plus utilisés, il nous fera plaisir de les recevoir en don pour les inclure dans la collection.



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Montreal West Public Library

Learning about shared history

This year a group of dedicated library members completed reading the Executive Summary of the TRC. We met once a month and discussed the pages we had read. We hope to start work on some projects that will bring us closer to reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. Although it is an Executive Summary it is still over 500 pages.

MWPL is proud to say that this year we were able to create a land acknowledgement. This is an important and necessary step towards building trust and fostering reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours. So why are we doing this? As a library, we should be providing resources to help people learn about our shared history (and to teach ourselves in the process) and we feel that this is a good first step towards the process of truth and reconciliation. The MoWest Public Library's land acknowledgement is as follows:

We gratefully acknowledge that the Montreal West Public Library is located on unceded Indigenous lands. We respect the past, present, and future in our efforts to foster a lasting relationship between Montreal West and Indigenous communities.



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Community Centre

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For kids: Captain Catalyst, Ballet and Pre-Ballet, Parent-Child Yoga, Baby & Me Workout, Parent & Baby drop-in.

Red Cross Babysitting Course

Saturday, April 29

Community Centre

9:30 am-4 pm

Ages: 11-15

The Canadian Red Cross Babysitting course covers everything from managing difficult behaviors to essential content on leadership and professional conduct as a babysitter. This course promises to deepen and enhance the responsibility that older youth feel when caring for younger children. This updated curriculum, complete with new science, also provides improved learning when it comes to giving the appropriate care in the event of an emergency. Participants will receive a Canadian Red Cross certificate once completing the course. Course given in English.

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

Red Cross Stay Safe! Program

Sunday, April 22

Community Centre

9 am-2:30 pm.

Ages: 9-13 years

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

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

Emergency First Aid and CPR

April 30

Community Centre

9 a m-4:30 pm

Ages: 12+

Basic one-day course offering lifesaving first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills for the workplace or home. Course meets legislation requirements for provincial worker safety and insurance boards and includes the latest first aid and CPR guidelines.

Cost: residents: \$105 / non-residents: \$115

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 (for 50+ Club members) \$30 (non-members).

Spaces are limited, please reserve one week prior to each show on Amilia or with **Tammy** at **484-6186**.

The Swindlers



Fundraising events for the new sports and recreation centre

Cottontail Party

Sunday, March 26

Town Hall, 2-4 pm



Egg hunt, crafts and circus show by **Becky Hoops**.

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

Vintage Wine Dance

Friday, March 31

Town Hall

Join us for a fun-filled night of live music, dancing, drinks and more; special guest: **Melinda Bikhazi**.

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

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

Pub Night

Saturday, April 1

Town Hall

Doors open at 7:30 pm

After a sold-out Pub Night on January 7, we hope to see you all again on April 1. Join us for a great musical performance by **The Swindlers**. There will be food and drinks for sale. Buy your tickets in advance on Amilia for \$30.

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Town Council meeting: January



by Carol Forster

Sports and recreation centre

Mayor Masella welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Council in the new year. He announced that a call for tenders has now been issued and bids will be received until the end of February. Since the Town needs to borrow funds to complete project, a bylaw, required by law, authorizing this loan will be passed at a special Council meeting on February 2.

At the same time, to ensure residents are in agreement with this step, they have a right to sign a register (February 14) that can force a vote on this bylaw. If there are enough signatures on the register, Council can then either proceed to a vote or withdraw it.

All members of Council have been very clear in their support for this project. The existing facilities (arena, pool and north chalet) have reached the end of their useful lives and require either a massive investment or be demolished.

Aware that there is some opposition to this project, the mayor asked for the continued support of the "silent majority." He warned that a vote against it will mean that the arena will have to be completely shut down very soon and losing a \$12.5 million grant and \$2.5 million in committed donations would mean that this opportunity will be lost forever.

Councillors' reports

Aware of the news that **Clifford Jordan**, a long-time employee of the Town and a well-known PSO, sustained a life-threatening illness while abroad visiting his family, all of the councillors began their reports by offering sincere condolences to the Jordan family with hopes that Cliff will soon be able to return to Canada.

An item on the agenda included the passing of a motion to enable the Town to match the contributions made by its employees to the Go Fund Me-Medic in Distress page, helping Clifford Jordan up to a maximum of \$2,000.

Councillor Small-Pennefather urged compliance with the many orange signs around Town, indicating no parking was allowed between 6 pm and 8 am for snow removal operations.

Following another report of someone exposing himself to a Royal West student, she said that such incidents should be reported by calling 911.

A Town Safety Committee is being established and everyone who put their name forward to participate was thanked.

With the unusual amount of snow that has fallen in the past month, the Public

Works Department has already undertaken five snow removal operations. Councillor Ulin expressed special thanks for this tireless work and suggested that messages of appreciation and even some baked goods might be welcomed.

Residents were asked to help with this task by observing the no parking signs, not parking too close to the curbs and ensuring the sidewalks are kept clear of refuse bins so that the sidewalk plows can do their job efficiently.

Councillor Feeney announced that property tax bills have been sent out and the first payment is due on February 23 and the second one on May 29. Residents who wish to do so, have until April 30 to contest their new property evaluation. The form and the instructions for the renewal of parking and dog licences are available online.

Following her monthly review of the recent budget expenditures, she moved on to her Culture and Recreation report. The 50 + Club always has many activities lined up. This group has a newsletter that goes out to all members but is also available on the Town's website. They recently celebrated a Lunar New Year luncheon and another is planned to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. A six-week lecture series on the popular music of the 50s, hosted by **Craig Morrison**, as well as a webinar (a live event held online) on Knowing Your Rights as a Consumer and one on Estate Planning are some of the events planned during the winter.

Activities planned for the entire community will include the Cottontail Party, a *Vintage Wine* concert and the week-long March Break camp. All the rinks are being enjoyed. There is a constant update on their conditions available online.

First question period

Questions concerning the new sports and recreation centre project as well as comments about the recent snow-clearing operation dominated question period.

The mayor answered the questions about the financial implications of the sports and recreation centre by explaining, again, that a review of the estimated property tax increase can be done only once the final cost is available.

The total expenses for this project to date include \$89,000 spent in 2023, \$1.5 million spent in 2022 and \$127,000 before 2022.

If only one bid is received and it is acceptable according to Town estimates, the Town has the ability to negotiate a lower price with the bidder.

The snow removal operations elicited some praise. However, there were areas that a few residents felt were neglected or needed more attention. **Councillor Ulin** will pass on

all these comments to Public Works.

The mayor explained that there never was a master schedule for the blockages on Westminster by the Easton Project. Because they are on a rotating basis, they can only be approved three or four weeks ahead of time. The times are then posted on the Town's website. The developer estimates that the work will take until the fall and the Town continues to work with the developer to minimize the impact of these closures.

Councillor Small-Pennefather answered some queries by stating that the number and location of dog runs in the Town are not presently negotiable.

A homeowner, concerned about the possibility of a permit being issued for work on a property adjoining hers, was assured that if she wished to state an objection, she would be notified once the paperwork was filed and the consultation process was opened.

Councillor Ulin explained that the long delay in replacing a malfunctioning part of the crosswalk signal at Westminster and Broughton is due to difficulty finding replacement parts compatible with the existing solar system. She is aware that this crosswalk continues to be dangerous and the Public Works department is doing its best to expedite the process.

A Notice of Motion and Deposit of Draft By-law Ordering the Construction of a new Sports and Recreation Centre and Authorizing a loan of \$27,318,686 for this purpose was presented.

The mayor repeated that, since this bylaw permits a vote by the residents, the opportunity to sign a register will take place on February 14.

Second Question Period

In reply to the first question, the mayor said that a copy of the bylaw was available in the room and would be posted on the website.

The next question concerned the amount of this loan. The mayor explained that, given the present calculations, the loan is estimated to be the maximum needed to complete the project. It will be offset by such things as the grants, the already confirmed donations and the fundraising projects. Once the amount of the bids is known, the information will be more precise.

When queried about the possibility of cost overruns, the mayor admitted that anything is possible. However, he pointed out the fact that all of the construction done in the Town over the past 15 years has been done with no cost overruns and he gave his assurance that the homework for this project has been carefully done.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Réunion du Conseil : janvier



par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Le centre sportif et récréatif

Le **maire Masella** a souhaité la bien-venue à tous à cette première réunion du Conseil de la nouvelle année. Il a annoncé qu'un appel d'offres avait été lancé et que les soumissions seraient reçues jusqu'à la fin de février. Comme la Ville doit emprunter des fonds pour terminer le projet, un règlement administratif autorisant ce prêt, exigé par la loi, sera adopté lors d'une réunion spéciale du Conseil le 2 février.

Parallèlement, pour assurer que les résidents sont en accord avec cette étape, ils ont le droit de signer un registre qui peut forcer un vote sur ce règlement. S'il y a suffisamment de signatures au registre, le Conseil peut alors soit procéder à un vote, soit retirer le règlement.

Tous les membres du Conseil ont exprimé très clairement leur appui à ce projet. Les installations existantes (aréna, piscine et chalet nord) ont atteint la fin de leur durée de vie utile et nécessitent soit un investissement massif, soit leur fermeture complète et leur démolition.

Conscient d'une certaine opposition à ce projet, le maire a demandé le soutien continu de la « majorité silencieuse ». Il a prévenu qu'un vote contre cette mesure signifierait que l'aréna devra être complètement fermé très bientôt et que la perte d'une subvention de 12,5 millions de dollars et de 2,5 millions de dollars en dons engagés signifierait que cette occasion sera perdue à jamais.

Rapports des conseillères

Au courant de la nouvelle que **Clifford Jordan**, un employé de longue date de la

Ville et un ASP bien connu, a contracté une maladie potentiellement mortelle alors qu'il visitait sa famille à l'étranger, tous les membres du Conseil ont amorcé leurs rapports en offrant leurs sincères sympathies à la famille Jordan dans l'espoir que Cliff pourra bientôt revenir au Canada.

La **conseillère Small-Pennefather** a exhorté au respect des nombreux panneaux orange partout en ville, indiquant qu'aucun stationnement n'était autorisé entre 18 h et 8 h pour les opérations de déneigement.

Par suite d'un autre rapport d'une personne s'exhibant à une étudiante de Royal West, elle a déclaré que de tels incidents devraient être signalés en composant le 911.

Un comité de sécurité municipale est en voie d'établissement et tous ceux qui se sont avancés pour y participer ont été remerciés.

Compte tenu de la quantité inhabituelle de neige tombée au cours du dernier mois, le service des Travaux publics a déjà entrepris cinq opérations de déneigement. La conseillère Ulin a exprimé des remerciements particuliers pour ce travail infatigable et a suggéré que des messages de reconnaissance et même certains petits plats seraient bien accueillis.

On a demandé aux résidents d'aider à cette tâche en respectant les interdictions de stationnement, en ne se garant pas trop près des bordures de trottoirs et en veillant à ce que les poubelles soient gardées à l'écart des trottoirs afin que les chasse-neige puissent faire leur travail efficacement.

La **conseillère Feeney** a annoncé que les factures d'impôt foncier ont été envoyées et que le premier paiement est dû le 23 février et le deuxième le 29 mai. Les citoyens qui le souhaitent ont jusqu'au 30 avril pour contester la nouvelle évaluation de leur propriété. Les formulaires et les instructions pour le renouvellement des

permis de stationnement et de chiens sont disponibles en ligne.

Après son examen mensuel des récentes dépenses budgétaires, elle est passée à son rapport sur la culture et les loisirs. Le Club 50 + propose toujours de nombreuses activités. Ce groupe envoie un bulletin à tous ses membres, lequel est également disponible sur le site Web de la Ville. Ils ont récemment célébré le Nouvel An lunaire par un lunch et un autre est prévu pour célébrer la Saint-Patrick. Une série de six conférences hebdomadaires sur la musique populaire des années 50, animées par Craig Morrison, ainsi qu'un webinaire (événement en direct en ligne) sur connaître vos droits en tant que consommateur et un autre sur la planification successorale sont quelques-uns des événements prévus pendant la saison hivernale.

Parmi les activités prévues pour toute la collectivité, mentionnons la fête du Lapin, un concert de *Vintage Wine* et le camp de la Semaine de relâche. Toutes les patinoires sont bien fréquentées et leur condition est constamment disponible en ligne.

Première période de questions

Le projet du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif ainsi que des commentaires sur la récente opération de déneigement ont dominé la période de questions.

Le maire a répondu aux questions sur les répercussions financières du centre sportif et récréatif en expliquant, encore une fois, qu'un examen de l'augmentation estimée de l'impôt foncier ne pourra être fait qu'une fois que le coût final sera connu.

À ce jour, les dépenses totales pour ce projet comprennent 89 000 \$ en 2023, 1,5 million de dollars versés en 2022 et 127 000 \$ déboursés avant 2022.

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Réunion du Conseil : janvier

Si une seule offre est reçue et qu'elle est acceptable, selon les estimations de la Ville, celle-ci a la capacité de négocier un prix inférieur avec le soumissionnaire.

Les opérations de déneigement ont suscité des éloges. Cependant, quelques résidents ont estimé que certains secteurs étaient négligés ou nécessitaient plus d'attention. La conseillère Ulin transmettra tous ces commentaires aux Travaux publics.

Le maire a expliqué qu'il n'y avait jamais eu d'horaire global pour les entraves sur Westminster par le projet Easton. Étant donné qu'il s'agit d'une rotation, elles ne peuvent être approuvées que trois ou quatre semaines à l'avance. Les heures sont ensuite affichées sur le site Web de la Ville. Le promoteur estime que les travaux s'échelonneront jusqu'à l'automne et la Ville continue de travailler avec le promoteur afin de réduire au minimum les répercussions de ces obstructions.

La conseillère Small-Pennefather a répondu à certaines questions en déclarant que le nombre et l'emplacement des parcs canins dans la ville ne sont pas négociables à l'heure actuelle.

Une propriétaire, préoccupée par la possibilité qu'un permis soit délivré pour des travaux sur une propriété adjacente, a reçu l'assurance que si elle souhaitait formuler une objection, elle en serait avisée une fois que les documents auraient été déposés et que le processus de consultation aurait été ouvert.

La conseillère Ulin a expliqué que le long retard pour le remplacement d'une pièce défectueuse de la signalisation au passage piétonnier de Westminster et Broughton est dû à un problème de localisation de pièces de rechange compatibles avec le système solaire existant. Elle est consciente de la dangerosité de ce passage pour piétons et le

service des Travaux publics fait de son mieux pour accélérer le processus.

Parmi les autres points à l'ordre du jour, mentionnons l'adoption d'une motion visant à permettre à la Ville de verser une contribution équivalente à celle de ses employés à la page Go Fund Me-Medic in Distress, pour aider Clifford Jordan, jusqu'à un maximum de 2000 \$.

Un avis de motion et de dépôt du projet de règlement administratif ordonnant la construction d'un nouveau centre sportif et récréatif et autorisant un emprunt de 27 318 686 \$ à cette fin a été déposé.

Le maire a répété que, puisque ce règlement permet un vote des citoyens, la possibilité de signer un registre le demandant aura lieu le 14 février.

Deuxième période de questions

En réponse à la première question, le maire a indiqué qu'une copie du règlement était disponible dans la salle et serait affichée sur le site Web.

La question suivante portait sur le montant de l'emprunt. Le maire a expliqué que, compte tenu des calculs actuels, le montant est estimé représenter le maximum nécessaire pour mener à bien le projet. Il sera compensé par des choses comme les subventions, les dons déjà confirmés et les collectes de fonds. Une fois le montant des soumissions connu, l'information sera plus précise.

Interrogé sur la possibilité de dépassements de coûts, le maire a admis que tout était possible. Cependant, il a souligné le fait que tous les travaux de construction effectués dans la ville au cours des 15 dernières années l'ont été sans excédent de coûts et il a donné l'assurance que les devoirs pour ce projet ont été faits soigneusement.

La séance a ensuite été levée.



February sun on Westminster. @Julia Ross

Kosher corner



Purim

Purim is the most joyous Jewish holiday and also the best kept secret in Montreal West.

Reach out to join Chabad Westminster in celebrating through gift basket exchanges, Megillah and graggers, hamantashen and festive meals.

Purim falls out this year on March 6-7. Volunteers and sponsorship opportunities available.

First Friday Shabbat service

March 3, 6:15 pm. Come enjoy a short family friendly service followed by a light kiddush served with hot soup and scotch!

Mommy & Me

Mommy & Me every Thursday morning at 11:30. Enjoy coffee, cake and meet local moms and babies. Text **Chaya** to join **632-9649**.

Jewish Women's Circle

Meeting March 27 for glass etching Elijah's cup in preparation for Passover.

from Rabbi Marlow



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COMING EVENTS À VENIR

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

Next deadline: March 15

Feb

- 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.

Mar

- Tue 14 IODE meeting.** Join us for tea. Community Centre. 1-3 pm.
- Fri 17 Open house** at *Le Jardin d'Enfants Curzon Creative Preschool*. 10 am-12:30 pm.
- Wed 22 Labyrinth Walk.** MW United. 7-9 pm.
- Fri 24 Round table: Living and Aging in Montreal West.** Town Hall. 10 am-2 pm.
- Sun 26 Cotton Tail party.** Please see page 15. Town Hall. **Fundraising event for the new sports and recreation centre.** 2-4 pm.
- Mon 27 Town Council meeting.** In person and virtually on the Town's YouTube channel. Town Hall. 8 pm.
- Fri 31 Vintage Wine Dance.** Please see page 15. Town Hall. **Fundraising event for the new sports and recreation centre.** Doors open at 7 pm.

Apr

- Sun 2 Palm Sunday.** St. Ignatius. 10 am.
- Thu 6 Holy Thursday.** St. Ignatius. 8 pm.
- Fri 7 Good Friday.** St. Ignatius. 3 pm.
- Sat 8 Saturday Easter Vigil.** St. Ignatius. 8 pm.
- Sun 9 Easter mass.** St. Ignatius. 10 am.

Classifieds

DO YOU PLAY BADMINTON? A ladies' badminton club, that meets Friday mornings downtown (October to April), has openings for new members. For more info, please call Jane at **630-5939** or Rebecca at **482-2851** after March 4.

50+ Club 50+

March 17:

St. Patrick's luncheon

March 28: Bridge

April 3: Cabane à sucre

Overnight trip

Shaw Festival, September
Details coming soon

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

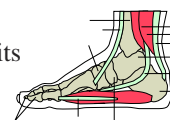


Foot clinic

March 1 & April 5

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by appointment only



West End Quilters



Some members recently participated in Quilts of Valour (QOV) sewing days. These quilts, made by volunteers from across Canada, are donated to Canadian Armed Forces veterans and wounded or ill soldiers to show them their sacrifices are remembered and appreciated. Some attended a virtual meeting organized by the Canadian Quilters Association and others an in-person day in Côte Saint-Luc with *Loose Threads*. Our guild has been making blocks and quilts for QOV for many years.

Last week we enjoyed a virtual tour of **Betsy's** sewing room. This was something we could only do on zoom as she lives in Kingston.

We had fun making Happy Villages during our online workshop, cutting, gluing and finally quilting. These are results made by **Moïse** (left) - *Happy Village*, and **Mary** (right) - *Winter*.

Juliette LORD

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