

## Champions de trampoline

Saviez-vous que deux champions de trampoline habitent à Montréal-Ouest? À la 56<sup>e</sup> Finale des Jeux du Québec qui s'est tenue à Rivière-du-Loup en mars dernier, **Gabrielle Bell** et sa partenaire, **Alessia Lajoie** de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, se sont distinguées en remportant la médaille de bronze au trampoline synchronisé. Un autre résident, **Yaniv Benadiva**, a remporté la médaille d'argent au trampoline masculin. Tous trois s'entraînent au club Gym-

nitours de Lachine depuis quelques années. Leur détermination et leur persévérance auront été payantes lors de cette compétition de niveau provincial. La prochaine étape sera les Championnats de l'Est, qui auront lieu à Sherbrooke en mai. Cette compétition regroupera les huit meilleurs athlètes de leur catégorie de chacune des provinces de l'Est du Canada. Félicitations à nos deux jeunes champions et bonne chance aux Championnats de l'Est!



**Médaille de bronze**  
**Gabrielle Bell**  
**Alessia Lajoie**  
 Trampoline Synchro Représentativité



## Trampoline Champions

Did you know that there are two trampoline champions in Montreal West? At the 56<sup>th</sup> Finale des Jeux du Québec held in Rivière-du-Loup last March, **Gabrielle Bell** and her partner, **Alessia Lajoie** of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, won the bronze medal in synchronized trampoline. Another resident, **Yaniv Benadiva**, won the silver medal in men's trampoline. All three have been training at Club Gymnitours in Lachine for the

past few years. Their determination and perseverance paid off at this provincial-level competition. The next step will be the Eastern Canada Championships, which will be held in Sherbrooke in May. This competition will feature the top eight athletes in their category from each of the Eastern Canadian provinces. Congratulations to our two young champions and good luck at the Eastern Championships!

## Bravo Mikaela !

**Mikaela Salameh Grijalva** a représenté son club de gymnastique rythmique, Questo, aux Jeux de Montréal ce samedi 1<sup>er</sup> avril. Elle a remporté la 1<sup>re</sup> place (or) en routine libre, la 2<sup>e</sup> place (argent) en routine avec corde, ce qui lui a valu la 2<sup>e</sup> place (argent) dans l'ensemble de sa catégorie !

En tant que résidente de la Ville de Montréal-Ouest, Mikaela est fière de contribuer à son rayonnement.



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## The game goes on!

The Wheelers hockey game on Saturday afternoons started in 1982 and is now in its fifth decade. Players from the original 1982 roster include **Mike Barrett** and **Dan Blunden**. **Peter Coughlin** joined a couple of years later and now has the pleasure of playing with his son and fellow resident, **Michael Coughlin**.

# MoWest Meals on Wheels needs **YOU!**

In 1971, under the umbrella of the Montreal Volunteer Bureau, Montreal West opened a local *Meals on Wheels* group to make and deliver hot meals twice a week to the frail and vulnerable seniors in our area. Every Tuesday and Friday morning in the kitchen of United Church, 20 hot meals were prepared and delivered to these seniors.

The pandemic in March 2020 forced us to temporarily

close the program for two years. Following public health guidelines set by the province we re-opened the church kitchen last May and resumed the *Meals on Wheels* program.

### 2 hours per meal

Do you have two hours to spare in a given month to **shop** for the groceries (you are given the money), **cook** the meals (recipes all supplied), **deliver**

the meals OR **tidy** the kitchen? Do you have a friend to do this with either on a Tuesday or a Friday morning to reach out to our seniors?

Ideally, with enough volunteers, you need to sign up for only one month – the Tuesday or the Friday once in the fall, once in the winter and maybe once in the spring. That is a total of 24 hours maximum per year to support our community.

We are still slowly rebuilding after three years of the pandemic. The only way that we can rebuild our community is to see this uplifting of the community as our collective responsibility.

Please consider being a part of this amazing organization and contact **Joan Foster** at [joanfoster@hotmail.com](mailto:joanfoster@hotmail.com) or **779-5234**.

*from Joan Foster*

## 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.

ISSN: 084741X

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### RATES

1/6 page: \$50. billed annually or semi-annually.  
Monthly billing \$60/per insertion.  
1/12 page: \$30. billed annually.  
Monthly billing \$35/insertion.  
Flyers: \$50 (non-profit), \$85 (commercial)  
Professional card: \$135/year  
Subscriptions: \$20  
Classifieds: 25-50 words – \$10,  
25 words or fewer – \$6

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

*L'Informer* est publié neuf fois l'an (habituellement le deuxième ou troisième week-end du mois) sauf en juin, juillet et décembre. Composition par le personnel de *l'Informer*, impression par *Les Publicités A. Campeau Ltée*. Des exemplaires supplémentaires sont disponibles à l'hôtel de ville et dans les deux bibliothèques. Financé, en partie, par la Ville de Montréal-Ouest. Les articles sont imprimés en français ou en anglais, tel que soumis.

### NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

May 10



Mr. and Mrs. Langvee in front of their house in the 1970s

## 50 years of memories

Long-time resident **Laine Langvee** passed away, just a few weeks short of her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Langvee died at her home in Burlington, Ont., but she always treasured the 50 years she spent living on Campbell Ave.

Laine and her husband, **Fred**, were originally from Tallinn, Estonia, but moved to England and then Montreal after the Second World War. Fred got a job at *Alcan* and, in 1958, they started looking for a house. Her son, **Allan Langvee**, said they lived in an apartment on Mountain St. when they went house-hunting in MoWest. “They fell in love with it once they saw it,” he said.

**Andrew Caddell** grew up across the street. He remembers that, “when the Langvees moved to Campbell Ave., they were very different from the

mostly white-bread WASP families on the street.” Caddell especially remembers Laine: “She was outgoing, beautiful and expressive and she got along with everyone. It was not long before she was one of the favourite moms in the neighbourhood. And everyone was impressed with their back story.”

Laine’s husband passed away more than 30 years ago. In 2009, she decided to sell the house to be closer to her family. It was not an easy decision, Allan said. “It became difficult for her to keep up the house alone and, as I live in Burlington, we felt it best for her to move into a retirement residence here.” His mother was in good health, he said, until the very end, “She lived a great life.”

from Joanne Bayly

## Private refugee sponsorship: Community film night and information session



As the recent news regarding Roxham Road makes clear, the global refugee crisis is on our doorstep. As a member of a local refugee sponsorship committee, I believe that private sponsorship is a viable and effective way to respond practically to the global refugee crisis.

In the fall of 2015, the Syrian refugee crisis was a catalyst to action for members of three west-end churches – Trinity Memorial (now closed), St. Philip’s and St. Thomas Anglican – to form a refugee sponsorship committee. The committee now includes parishioners from the latter two churches, as well as individuals from the broader Montreal community.

### Making it happen... one family at a time

In 2017, we successfully sponsored a family of five from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who had been living for many years in Dzaleka, a refugee camp in Malawi. We have subsequently undertaken three other sponsorships: a mother and her adult son who had been in Dzaleka for years due to the long history of conflict in Rwanda since the genocide; and a family from Afghanistan that had been displaced as refugees to Pakistan. This spring, we will

submit applications for three new sponsorships, all for Afghans currently living in Pakistan.

### Challenging limits on private sponsorship in Quebec

We are also committed to raising awareness in our communities (NDG and Montreal West) about the global refugee crisis. We write letters to elected officials, we host awareness-raising events, and we participate in Montreal-based activism related to refugees and other displaced peoples. As a group, we are especially concerned about the fact that Quebec limits the number of private refugee sponsorships each year. This means that many groups that have fundraised for a sponsorship and are ready to help refugee persons integrate into Quebec society have their applications refused in the annual government lottery.

### Organizing a community film night for all

This spring we have a community film night planned. It will feature the *NFB* documentary *From Sherbrooke to Brooks* (2016, French with English subtitles). The documentary narrates the experiences of a group of refugee persons from central Africa who arrived in Sherbrooke, Quebec in the early 2000s. Unable to find work

there, many of these French-speaking families left the province to move out West. The documentary lays bare the challenges many French-speaking African refugees face. At a time when the news is dominated by images of refugees fleeing war and poverty, *From Sherbrooke to Brooks* takes stock of the work that’s yet to be done to successfully integrate those who will be contributing to tomorrow’s world.

### Sharing information and strategies

Following the film, two experts in international development and private refugee sponsorship, **Clothilde Parent-Chartier** and **Tevfik Karatop**, will lead a discussion about refugee sponsorship in Quebec.

All are welcome to our community film night. It will take place on Thursday, May 25 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the community hall at St. Philip’s Anglican Church. Pay-what-you-can tickets may be reserved ahead through [jodymason1@gmail.com](mailto:jodymason1@gmail.com). No donation is necessary but a ticket must be reserved. Donations above the minimum suggested price are eligible for a tax receipt and donors will have the opportunity to choose from a selection of beautiful objects handmade by local artist and committee member **Christine Mantzavarakos**. Please join us!

from Jody Mason



## Re-thinking the planned recreation centre

Montreal West began planning for a new multifunctional recreation center in 2015. Consultations did not determine if a majority of residents wanted an arena as part of the project, but it was decided to rebuild both the existing outdoor pool and the arena. The initial cost estimate in 2017 was \$22M. Only 52% of residents supported a \$100 tax increase, and 40% a \$200 increase.

Bids for the latest proposal were opened on March 31; the lowest bid was \$38.2M. This requires a radical re-thinking of the project. Montreal West is a town of 5050 residents with a small commercial tax base. We are already heavily indebted, and generally pay the highest municipal tax rates on the Island. There will be a debt of approximately \$13M for the current project (after spending \$5.2M from our accumulated surplus, and deducting \$12.6M in government grants, about \$2.5M in donations, and tax rebates). Counting the accumulated surplus, which is revenue and taxes previously collected, the cost will be about \$9,824 for each of the 1575 taxpayers.

The \$13M additional debt will increase average taxes by over \$440 per year for the next 40 years. The Town's debt servicing charges will increase to more than 18%, which was the limit set by the Town. The large tax increase will further reduce the affordability of our Town, and strain the finances of residents on fixed incomes. Debt charges will affect our ability to comfortably pay for Town expenses and infrastructure maintenance.

Any new recreational facility will make the Town more attractive. Our very high taxes are already a deterrent to people considering moving here. A less costly and more flexible facility will prove a greater attraction and increase property values. Homebuyers consider the property, its location, proximity to schools and the cost of utilities and taxes. To maintain property values, taxes have to be kept under control.

Hockey and ice sports are important in the lives of some of our residents, and not replacing it will be a loss. However, the number of residents who actually use the arena is small relative to the great expense of rebuilding it. Non-residents pay for ice time, but our small Town can't afford to subsidize this service by incurring so much new debt.

The rink is a huge portion of the planned facility. Removing it will greatly reduce

costs, and increase space for a wider range of activities used by more residents. Removing the rink will also reduce the footprint of the centre and increase space available outside for field activities: basketball, an eventual running track and off-street parking.

The current proposal has 2 multipurpose rooms rather than 4 in the 2017 proposal. Space for these rooms has been reduced by 60% and cannot support all activities. We need a rec centre with multiple rooms so that we can increase our programs.

Town Council supports the current proposal and argues that the \$12.6M PAFIRS government grant will be lost. However, modifications to the "nature or scope" of the facility can be requested, and there is an excellent case to make for a modified plan. It will be more financially responsible and still clearly satisfy the grant criteria, by increasing "accessibility to recreational and sports infrastructure for multiple clientele," and increasing "the quality of recreational and sports infrastructures in response to the needs of the population."

The choice of a new recreation centre will shape our finances for years to come. The Town needs to conduct a frank needs assessment and develop an alternative plan. There will be a vote in April to decide if we should proceed with the current project. We need to vote against the current proposal and plan for a facility with a cost that is realistic for our small Town to bear.

*Andrew Chapman is a member of the Montreal West Citizens Group*

Data and further information available at:  
[laos-village-project.com/montreal-west](http://laos-village-project.com/montreal-west)

## Repenser le projet du centre sportif et récréatif

La ville de Montréal-Ouest a commencé la planification d'un nouveau centre récréatif multifonctionnel en 2015. Les consultations n'ont pas établi si une majorité de résidents désirait un aréna intégré au projet cependant il fut décidé de reconstruire la piscine extérieure et l'aréna. Le coût initial global était évalué en 2017 à 22 M\$. Seulement 52 % des résidents appuyaient une augmentation de taxes de 100 \$ par an et 40 % une de 200 \$.

Les soumissions furent ouvertes le 31 mars 2023 et la plus basse était pour 38,2 M\$. Ceci exige donc de repenser entièrement le projet. Notre ville a une population d'environ 5050 résidents et un petit secteur commercial. Nous sommes déjà fortement endettés et donc payons une taxe foncière des plus élevée sur l'Île. La dette sera d'environ 13 M\$ pour le projet (sans compter l'apport de 5,2 M\$ du

surplus accumulé, en déduisant 12,6 M\$ de subventions gouvernementales et 2,5 M\$ en dons et congés de taxes). Si vous comptez le surplus de 5,2 M\$ consacré qui représente des revenus et taxes en caisse, le coût final sera environ 9824 \$ pour chacun des 1575 contribuables.

La dette additionnelle de 13,3 M\$ augmentera les taxes de plus de 440 \$ par an pour les 40 prochaines années. Les frais reliés au service de cette dette représenteront 18 % du budget ce qui rejoint la limite fixée par la Ville. Nos taxes déjà élevées découragent de nouveaux acheteurs. Une augmentation de taxes réduira davantage l'attrait de notre ville et sera un fardeau financier pour nos résidents vivant sur un revenu fixe. Les montants alloués au service de cette dette limiteront également notre capacité à entretenir nos infrastructures et autres dépenses.

Un nouveau centre rendra notre ville plus attirante. Nos taxes élevées exercent déjà un effet préventif pour les nouveaux acheteurs. Un projet plus modeste et flexible serait plus attractif et augmentera la valeur des propriétés. Les acheteurs choisissent la propriété en fonction de son emplacement, les taxes et le coût des services publics. Afin de maintenir la valeur de nos propriétés, les taxes doivent être sous contrôle.

Le hockey et les activités sur glace sont importants pour plusieurs de nos résidents et de supprimer l'aréna sera une perte pour eux. Toutefois le nombre de résidents qui l'utilisent est relativement petit si on considère le coût de reconstruction. Les non-résidents payent pour le temps sur glace, mais notre Ville ne peut pas subventionner ce service en s'endettant tellement.

La patinoire représente une grande superficie du projet. En l'éliminant, nous réduirions les coûts et augmenterions l'espace disponible pour un plus grand éventail d'activités pour un plus grand nombre de résidents. En supprimant l'aréna, nous réduisons aussi les dimensions de la structure tout en augmentant l'espace disponible à l'extérieur pour le soccer, basketball, piste de course et autres activités ainsi que pour le stationnement.

Le projet actuel propose deux salles multifonctionnelles plutôt que les quatre prévues en 2017. La superficie de ces salles fut réduite de 60 % et donc ne peut suffire pour toutes les activités. Nous avons donc besoin d'un centre avec multiples pièces afin d'augmenter notre offre de programmes.

Notre Conseil soutient le projet tel que proposé et affirme que les subventions gouvernementales de 12,6 M \$ (PAFIRS) seraient perdues en votant contre. Toutefois nous pouvons présenter des arguments convaincants pour apporter des modifications

## Mailbox

touchant l'envergure des services du projet qui seraient financièrement plus responsables tout en rencontrant les exigences pour les subventions et en augmentant l'accès aux infrastructures sportives et récréatives correspondant aux besoins d'une variété de clientèles.

Notre choix d'un nouveau centre influencera nos finances pour des années à venir. La Ville doit faire une étude sérieuse des besoins et développer un plan en conséquence. Il y aura un vote ce mois-ci sur le projet tel que présenté par la Ville. Nous devons voter contre ce projet et planifier d'avoir un centre à un coût abordable et selon nos moyens.

*Andrew Chapman est membre du  
Regroupement des citoyens  
de Montréal-Ouest.*

Données et informations complémentaires  
disponibles sur :  
[laos-village-projet.com/montreal-west](http://laos-village-projet.com/montreal-west)



### A different view

I have been following the discussion on the proposed new rec centre in Montreal-West with interest. As a 19-year resident of Montreal West, my family and I have been year-round users of the arena, the day camp and the pool with great pleasure. We have made new friends, been reacquainted with old friends, seen our children work their first jobs and now continue to enjoy the facilities through youth hockey and adult hockey. One of my sons is a now a referee helping the new generation of MoWest

youth get acquainted with soccer, rugby, baseball and hockey.

I once was asked by a new parent about hockey as they were not familiar with the game as they did not grow up with it. I explained that there is the game itself but there is also the social aspect of putting your child in a group environment so they can build confidence and make new friends... for life. As I have.

By way of sports, we have traveled to many parts of the province for games and tournaments. We have seen first hand what a community centre brings to the picture. Families gather for games, bad coffee and the chance to share stories. We battle on the ice, shake hands and move on knowing we tried our best, win or lose. Players learn to handle adversity, work towards common goals, deal with coaching all the while providing much needed exercise.

We, as a society, gladly pay hundreds of dollars every month to be entertained, yet most of the conversations around the new rec centre are complaints about taxes going up. We never think twice about paying Netflix, Amazon and all the other service providers. Why are people so concerned with paying what is a relatively low incremental cost for something that will benefit everyone, especially our kids?

Community centres, libraries, pools, playing fields are essential to well being of everyone, young and old. We NEED to continue to invest in all our facilities. Like many others, I've already put my money where my mouth is by donating to this fantastic project. So now is time to look at the big picture, to get on board and vote YES to the new rec centre.

*Yours truly,  
Paul Moreau*



### Hockey, swim team and for seniors

Montreal West is a wonderful community, and we consider ourselves very lucky to raise our three boys here (12, 10 and 6 years old). Our family is very involved in Montreal West hockey and our older boys have enjoyed swim team and swim lessons at the pool. A new arena/sports facility will be an amazing asset to our Town. I think it's really important for children, teens and adults to have access to community centres where they can play sports, stay active and make friends in the neighbourhood. Teens especially need access to after school activities to keep them out of trouble.

A major perk for our family will be having an access to a year-round arena. Montreal West hockey families have to travel to other parts of the city to access hockey training in spring and summer because our Legion Rink is closed due to the warm weather. Our teams miss out on key early season practices because the ice is just not ready.

Our new facility will not only benefit young families in Montréal-West it will also positively impact all age groups, including our seniors. As a trained physiotherapist, I know how important it is for our seniors to stay active and continue to lead a healthy lifestyle. This facility will be inclusive and multi-generational, benefiting all the residents of Montreal West.

*from Michelle Yeates*





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## Elizabeth Ballantyne

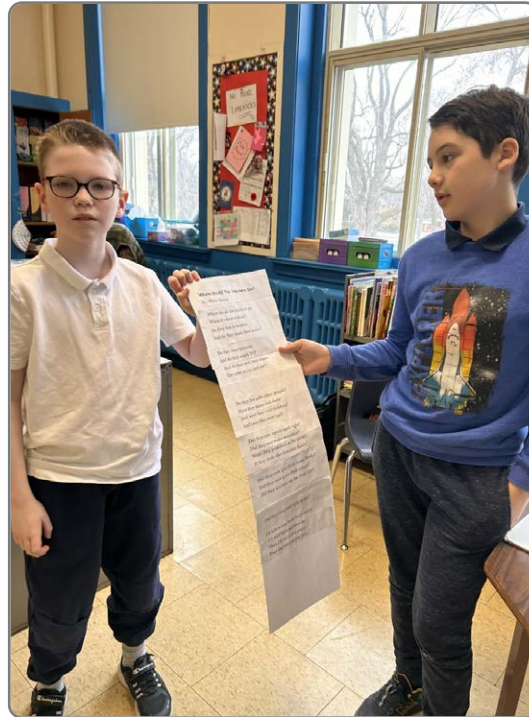
### Loving poetry!

April is National Poetry Month! To kick off the festivities, Miss Alison's grade 5 class and Miss Raquel's grade 4 class teamed up to complete a fun poetry scavenger hunt! They went in search of pieces of the poem *Where Do All the Teachers Go?* by Peter Dixon.

### Storytelling

Grade 6 student, Isadora Cool, was chosen to represent Elizabeth Ballantyne at the EMSB's West Sector Storytelling Festival that was held at neighbouring Edinburgh School, Tuesday, April 4.

Isadora had the audience laughing with her story, *The Camping Disaster*, that told the tale of her caterpillar-infested camping trip. We were so proud of her confident and entertaining delivery!



Tyler Lennox and Henry Lobach



Isadora Cool

## Edinburgh Elementary

— A sixth grader's perspective —

### Edinburgh's annual drive for *The Depot*

*The Depot* is a non-profit organization that has been around for over 30 years! It helps families that are experiencing food insecurity. *The Depot* not only provides food for those who need it, but acts as a place to bring people together and let them freely socialize with fellow citizens.

*The Depot* offers emergency food baskets. This organization lets you pick what foods you want, to make it a more pleasant experience. Fun fact: 79% of participants feel they belong at *The Depot*, a stunning rate for a program usually layered with stigma. The website also states that 93% of participants said that *The Depot* was an important source of healthy food during COVID 19. And something to convince you to donate: with every dollar that you donate, *The Depot* can buy three dollars worth of food, which initially doesn't seem like very much, but picture this: \$100 equals an astonishing \$300 worth of food, which is more than enough to feed a family for an entire week.

*The Depot* also offers a wide selection of activities, like cooking workshops, community gardens, a community meal and the *Good Food Market*, at parks in NDG. The *Good Food Market* is an affordable place to buy your fruits and vegetables. *The Depot* gives access to healthy and affordable foods

and supports the consumption of fruits and other fresh foods.

Did you know that one in four children in Montreal experiences food insecurity?

This is one of the things we learned when **Tasha Lackman**, the new Executive Director of *The Depot*, visited the grade six classrooms at Edinburgh School in March. Tasha explained the concept of food insecurity; it can mean not having enough to eat, but it can also mean not having access to a range of healthy foods (because fresh fruits and vegetables can be more expensive than canned and packaged foods like frozen pizzas, Kraft Dinner, etc.). She also explained to the students what stigma means. Stigma is a kind of shame related to asking for help.

The Home and School Association at Edinburgh School runs an annual fundraising campaign for *The Depot* each spring. This year, the Edinburgh campaign will run through the month of May. We invite all MoWesters to get involved; with your help we can ensure that *The Depot* is able to continue its important work in our community!

You can find our campaign page here: [canadahelps.org/en/pages/edinburgh-school-annual-campaign-for-the-depot/](https://canadahelps.org/en/pages/edinburgh-school-annual-campaign-for-the-depot/) Please give what you can!

from Charles MacLaren



Tasha Lackman, Executive Director of *The Depot*, with grade six students Autumn Watson and Inbar Shahmoon

## IODE

### Treasures! Treasures! In the attic: Step out for a good cause!

The *IODE* HMS Victory Chapter is asking for donations of fine china, cups, glasses and other dinnerware items as well as costume jewellery.

All proceeds for the sale will go towards the Snack Pack Program started by *IODE* Canada that enables students in remote areas to have a nutritious snack. Across Canada, all chapters contribute

to this long-standing and worthwhile program.

We are having a sale at the end May. All items in good condition can be dropped off at **Janet King's** porch.

If you wish to contribute your time and help to the sale, please contact: **Giuliana Pendenza** at **943-9310**.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 9, 1-3 pm at the Community Centre. Join us for tea and biscuits.

from Giuliana Pendenza



## Environmentalism in Action / L'environnementalisme en action

### Two events you don't want to miss

#### Rewild your Yard Workshop: Do More by Doing Less!

Do you want to create a beautiful outdoor space that's low-maintenance, attracts local wildlife and saves time and money? Using native plants can do just that.

Native plants can create an eye-catching display that attracts butterflies, bees and other pollinators. These plants are well-suited to our local climate and soil so you save on water, fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides. Plus, the deeper root systems of native plants help improve soil health, prevent erosion, and reduce storm water runoff.

Creating your own striking natural space will increase biodiversity and promote a sense of environmental stewardship.

Sound good? The *Environmental Action Committee (EAC)*, in collaboration with the

*GRAME*, will be hosting a workshop to help you Rewild your Yard on Sunday, April 30 at 10 am at the Town Hall. And bring the kids for a mini-workshop on creating seed bombs for the garden!

#### Swap 'til you drop

Four years after organizing a town clothing swap that brought in over 100 swappers, the *EAC* is finally hosting a second one!



Here's why you should come swap 'til you drop on May 7 from 1-4 pm at the Town Hall:

Not only is our clothing swap a fun place to find new clothes and accessories, socialize and enjoy some baked goods; it is also an effective way to support a sustainable lifestyle. In-

stead of throwing out old things to buy new ones, together we can give hundreds of items another life. This is one of the best ways to act against fast fashion, which pollutes our sky, land and water.

You can drop off your clothes as of 11 am so we can start sorting them in preparation. There's a \$5 entrance fee which will help fund some of the green projects overseen by the *EAC*. You can take as many bags home as you bring; additional bags are \$2 each. Make sure all clothes, shoes, and accessories you bring are clean and wearable. There will be a bake sale, and anyone who brings a reusable cup can help themselves to free tea!

Stay updated with the Montreal West Facebook page! See you there!



## Deux événements à ne pas manquer!

#### Atelier Favoriser la biodiversité dans votre jardin

Voulez-vous créer un bel espace extérieur qui nécessite peu d'entretien, attire la faune locale et vous permet d'économiser de l'argent sur l'arrosage et l'entretien de la pelouse?

En plantant des plantes indigènes, vous pouvez créer un espace attrayant qui attire les papillons, les abeilles et autres pollinisateurs. Adaptées au climat local et au sol, ces plantes indigènes vous feront économiser de l'argent sur l'arrosage et la fertilisation, tout en réduisant le besoin de pesticides et d'herbicides. De plus, les racines plus profondes des plantes indigènes aident à améliorer la santé du sol, à prévenir l'érosion et à réduire le ruissellement des eaux pluviales.

Créer votre propre jardin qui encourage la biodiversité peut être une expérience gratifiante et encourage un sentiment de responsabilité environnementale.

Alors pourquoi ne pas essayer? Le *Comité d'action environnementale (CAE)*, en collaboration avec le *GRAME*, animera un atelier pour vous aider à « Favoriser la biodiversité dans votre jardin » le 30 avril à 10 h à l'hôtel de ville de Montréal-Ouest. Amenez les enfants - il y aura un mini-atelier pour créer leurs propres bombes de semences pour le jardin!

#### Échange de vêtements:

Après le succès de notre premier échange de vêtements qui a eu lieu 4 ans plus tôt, le *CAE* organisera un autre échange de vêtements le 7 mai prochain à l'hôtel de ville de 13h à 16h. Non seulement cet échange vous permettra de vous procurer de nouveaux vêtements et accessoires, de socialiser avec vos voisins, et de déguster des pâtisseries, mais c'est une occa-



sion parfaite de maintenir un mode de vie durable. Plutôt que de vous débarrasser de vos anciens items et d'en acheter de nouveaux, ensemble nous pouvons leur redonner une deuxième vie, et ainsi contrer les effets du "fast fashion" qui pollue notre air, notre terre et nos eaux.

Vous pouvez déposer vos items dès 11h pour nous permettre de faire le triage plus tôt. Il y a un droit d'entrée de 5 \$ qui aidera à financer certains projets environnementaux supervisés par le *CAE*.

Assurez-vous que tous les vêtements, chaussures et accessoires soient propres et portables. Pour chaque sac que vous apportez, vous pouvez en ramener un à la maison. Les sacs additionnels coûteront 2\$ chacun. Il y aura également une vente de pâtisseries et du thé gratuit pour ceux qui amènent leur tasse.

Pour plus d'informations, consultez la page Facebook de Montréal-Ouest. Rendez-vous le 7 mai!



## MWPL's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### Celebrating all year and celebrating our volunteers

The week of April 16 is National Volunteer Week, the week that celebrates volunteers in the community. Did you know that the library has over 30 volunteers who contribute well over 2000 hours a year to the library? In the last few years, the library has been asking volunteers to fill all sorts of roles. Not only do we have volunteers at the circulation desk, we have volunteers that help us process our new books, we have volunteers that help with our accounting, we have volunteers that help with the garden, and we have volunteers that help with fundraising. We have volunteers that volunteer two hours a week or more and some volunteer two hours a month. We try to match the role to the volunteer. Making the library a safe, engaging place for volunteering is a key objective for us at the library. So next time you come in say hi to our volunteers and thank them for all their work. Fifty years young and we would not be here without our volunteers.

#### A library card?

We are excited to announce that in June, we will be introducing new membership cards for all our new and existing members. These cards will be a reflection of our 50 years of serving the community and will be designed to fit easily into your wallet.

We believe that membership cards will provide a number of benefits to our library community. First, they will make it easier for members to access our library services. With the membership card, you will be able to quickly and easily borrow books, DVDs and other materials from our collection. It will also allow you to access our online resources, such as e-books and e-audiobooks, with ease.

In addition to the convenience factor, membership cards will also provide a sense of belonging and community. By having a physical representation of your membership, you will feel more connected to the library and the services we offer. Plus, it's a great way to show your support for the library and the important role it plays in our community.

So how can you get your hands on one of these new membership cards? It's simple! If you are a current member, you will receive your new card automatically in June. If you are a new member, you will receive your card when you sign up for a membership. The card will be free of charge and will be valid for the duration of your membership.

We are excited about this new initiative and hope that you will be too. We believe that membership cards will enhance the overall experience for our library community and we look forward to seeing you soon with your new card in hand.

*from ChatGPT*

Well, what would a librarian do with all these new AI tools at our disposal? Try them out! The above article was written by ChatGPT with a few key phrases like "friendly article about introducing library cards to our members." It certainly saved me time; I did not do many edits and editing is always easier than creating. Could this be harmful? Absolutely. You always must use your own judgement and read what is before you. You must check your facts. It is a tool, and not all tools should be used for all jobs. Just remember when you have a hammer not everything is a nail.

#### New and on-going activities Knit and Natter with Ann

Join us Thursdays from 3 to 5 pm (started March 9) for our knitting circle! This is a group for everyone, beginners and experts and everyone in between. Bring your own needles and yarn. Cost: FREE for members – not a member? Come and join the library!

#### Tea and Books

MWPL is proud to announce that once again Tea and Books will be hosting another local author. These visits will be in person and on ZOOM and they are open to the public but seating is limited. These visits are possible with financial assistance from *The Canada Council for the Arts* through *The Writers' Union of Canada*.

On May 17 at 2 pm Tea and Books will host **Claire Holden Rothman** both on ZOOM and in the library. Claire has written many books but at this time we will be discussing one of her earlier works called *My October*. *My October* is available in the library and through Libby (our eBook provider). We will be posting more information on our website. These events are open to the public, but seating is limited so we ask you to reserve online at [mwpl.ca](http://mwpl.ca).

#### Seed bank at your library!

In March, the library started to collect seeds to distribute to residents, neighbours,



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[mwplib.requests@gmail.com](mailto:mwplib.requests@gmail.com)

**Visit us online:** [mwpl.ca](http://mwpl.ca)

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Saturday, May 20 and Monday, May 22

and members. A seed bank is a place where other gardeners can either deposit seeds from their gardens or withdraw seeds to plant in their garden. It allows new gardeners to learn what has worked for others and to try something new. The seed bank has grown to include many flowers like calendula, nasturtiums, milkweed and lupins. Some can be sowed directly in your garden once the frost warnings have passed. We have also received a generous donation of seeds from the *West Coast Seed Company*.

Residents and members are invited to collect three packages of seeds to try. In the fall we are hoping that people will collect seeds from their gardens and deposit seeds back into the library. In this way, we will be able to continue to keep the seed library growing just like our gardens here in Montreal West.

This project is a joint endeavour with the *Environmental Action Committee*, and we look forward to more partnerships with them in the future.

*from Deb Marcogliese*

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## Children's Library



### April – Poetry Month

Here is a picture of a poem to brighten your day! There is still time to have fun with the magnetic words and experiment with poetry. April is National Poetry Month,



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La bibliothèque sera fermée  
les 21 et 22 mai, la Journée des patriotes.

The library will be closed  
on May 21 and 22 for Victoria Day.

and we are happy to marvel at the spontaneity with which simple, beautiful and ephemeral poems adorn the library. Come to see us and play with words!

### Festilou

Le festival du conte « Festilou » est de retour avec des présentations en personne. Nous sommes heureux d'accueillir **Judith Poirier** à la bibliothèque le dimanche, 14 mai, 10 h 30. Elle va enchanter les jeunes de 4 à 8 ans.

Judith offrira une sélection de contes insolites et captivants. Vous serez ravi(e)s par ses récits d'aventure. Ses histoires feront participer le public et chacun(e) pourra repartir la tête pleine d'histoires. Contactez-nous pour l'inscription.

### New StoryWalk®

This spring's StoryWalk® is already installed. Until June 1, you are invited to read the book *Pas moi* by Elise Gravel when passing by our library.

We always tie the story with an amusing activity and, for this one, we would like you to make a sock puppet, then come and read the story with your sock puppet. Send us a picture doing the StoryWalk® with it!

### Bill Foster Writing Contest Awards ceremony

Mark your calendars! The names of the winners of this year's contest will be announced at an event in Strathearn Park on Saturday, June 17. Make sure to come and marvel at the talent of the young writers who have put effort and time to create sto-

ries, in celebration of writing. Members of the jury will be present, as well as **Joan Foster** who will have the pleasure to meet the children-participants in the Bill Foster Writing Contest this year.



Anne-Marie Yaworski is featuring the book and T-shirt *Charlotte's Web*, after our Parent-Children's book club selection for the past month. It is never too late to join our group of passionate readers for an exciting and stimulating talk. Check our website on regular basis to learn about the titles we discuss every month.



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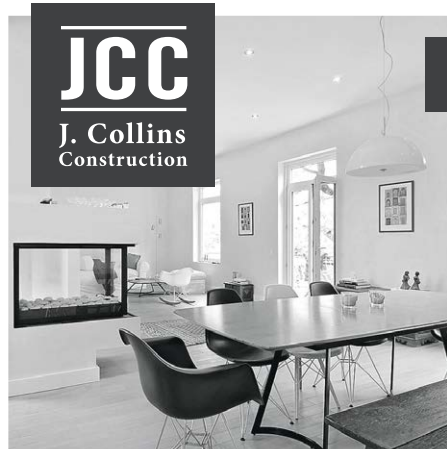
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## Scouts



### Beavers

We have been a very busy Beaver Colony since the March Break. At our first meeting, we talked about the human senses and did some science experiments to show how they help us explore our world.

We compared crystals, powders and liquids. We shook sugar and salt in containers to hear the shushing sound. We checked the colour differences of baking soda and flour and then felt them both. They both felt like powder and the flour was beige while the baking soda was very white. For taste we sampled the salt and sugar.

We examined two jars of clear liquid. They looked similar but a few brave souls discovered that they smelled and tasted very different. One was water, the other was vinegar.

The highlight was mixing baking soda and vinegar to create a chemical reaction with lots of bubbles.

### Beaver Buggies

The following week we painted our Beaver Buggies and got them ready for our rally.

Parents, family, and friends attended our rally the next week. There was lots of cheering as the buggies raced down the inclined track that was designed by **David Roy** – a former leader. The Beavers had a blast and received a crest for participating.

### Musical treat

We had a special treat when **Olga Gross**, a MoWest resident, who is a member of the *Montreal Symphony Orchestra* came to visit. She brought along her very large harp and explained how it works. She played some scales, high notes, low notes and tunes that the Beavers were familiar with.

One of the many questions from the Beavers was how was Olga able to transport her harp? She uses a dolly and a van!

Many Thanks to Olga.

### Obstacles

In small teams the Beavers designed and built their own obstacle courses in the Edinburgh gym and took turns racing through them – over, along the top, jumping forwards, walking on small round cups holding ropes, bouncing and shooting baskets. A great time was had by all.



Daniel balancing on the snake

### Plans

Lots to come in the next six weeks – plans include basic first aid, planting seeds and an introduction to orienteering and compasses.

## CRA



### Knights Single Letter Hockey

April 2, we held a Hockey Day for all our single letter hockey program to celebrate and play one last game together before the end of season. Over 250 players from the EHL played against our Knights from 9 am until 11 pm. The day was full of great hockey, a bake sale, music, popcorn, pizza and lots of fun.

Thank you to all our volunteers who came out to make this day such a great success. A big thank you to all our volunteer coaches and managers who have gone the extra mile to make this past season so successful for MWH hockey. You are the backbone of the program and are the reason it is so special. Thank you for all that you do.



### North Stars Double Letter Hockey

Our first year as North Stars, we had six teams competing in the Lac St. Louis Double letter hockey program and

what an incredible year it was. Our M18AA and M13AA teams finished first in their divisions and the M18AA continued to win their playoffs and earned a spot at the provincial championships.

All our teams worked hard on and off the ice this season and it showed. Amazing team spirit, wonderful coaches and an amazing season all round. Good luck to the M18AA at the Chevy Cup.

### Winter programs come to an end

It seemed like winter was never ending but all indoor winter programs soccer, judo, gymnastics and basketball finished earlier this month.

The gymnastics class held a demonstration during the last class for the parents to show off some of the skills they learned over the session. They did a great job performing bridges and back walk overs for the crowd.

Our sensei **Steve** held a judo demonstration for parents and awarded belts during our last class to those who graduated levels. For a belt to be awarded, the student must have attained the knowledge to assess the technical level, their effectiveness in combat, their level of seniority and their moral

qualities. An enormous thank you to sensei Steve for all his time and incredible effort that he has generously given to the judo program this season. It was a huge success because of him.

Basketball was another season of fun and great games. Players learned and improved so much over the winter session; it was impressive to watch the games on the last day. Looking forward to seeing everyone out on the courts this summer.

The indoor soccer classes at Royal West finished with lots of fun games. The players are ready for the spring session that starts early May on the fields.

Spring Programming starts May 6 (weather permitting) with soccer, mini soccer, baseball, mini baseball, sportball and rugby.

### Look out for...

- Soccer Evaluations April 22 and 23
- Uniform pick-up May 3 and 4
- Soccer coaches' clinic May 1
- Soccer referee clinic May 3
- MW Rugby jamboree May 28

If you have any questions, contact the CRA at [infocra@mtlwestcra.ca](mailto:infocra@mtlwestcra.ca).

## Guides



### Cookies!

All three units were busy cookie sellers; within two weeks, the girls had sold over 60 cases. This is a record for the units in recent years! At this rate, the traditional cookies will be sold out before Canada Day! If you have not had a chance to pick some up, feel free to contact to **Pearl** at [pearl.barnowl@gmail.com](mailto:pearl.barnowl@gmail.com) to see if there are any left.

This wonderful fundraiser supports not just our local girls and units, but a little bit of each box also supports Guiding at a provincial, national and international level.



Ember helping to put a sling on a Spark

### New members

With the increase in registrations for all the units, this spring saw them enrolling 13 new girls. Brown Owl was invited back for the Spark and Ember enroll-

ment. The girls were thrilled to see her once again. She played the roll of the Wise Old Owl in the traditional Brownie story. It is wonderful Guiding is blossoming in MoWest!

### Embers

The Embers are a large enough group to be able to divide the unit into smaller circles or sixes, as they were traditionally known. The girls voted on which circle they wanted to be. The winning circles are: Elves, Fairies, Leprechauns and Sprites. Each circle has a little song they sing during the opening ceremony, they all have a theme of helping others and having fun. The second-year Embers are given additional responsibilities as the lead or second in the circle. They are quite excited to have additional responsibilities in helping to run the meetings. The leaders enjoy watching them blossom and take on a bit more of a leadership roll.

### Guides

The Guides are busy planning a sleepover for late April for their unit and a spring camp. All of the MoWest units will have an opportunity to camp together in May spring at the provincial Girl Guide camp in Morin Heights.



Brown Owl at the Spark and Ember enrollment

### Try now and join later

Right now, Girl Guides of Canada offer the opportunity for girls to try the unit meetings, and join later. In June, these

girls will be given priority registration over new girls. All of the units have a few spaces available, if you were thinking your daughter may be interested in joining Guiding in the fall, why not try now and join later?

## Podcast explores the St. Pierre River

McGill University's *Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montreal (CIRM)* recently launched a podcast about the historic importance of the St. Pierre River. Called *Le fleuve qui nous traverse*, it is part of the series *Montrealers and Islanders*.

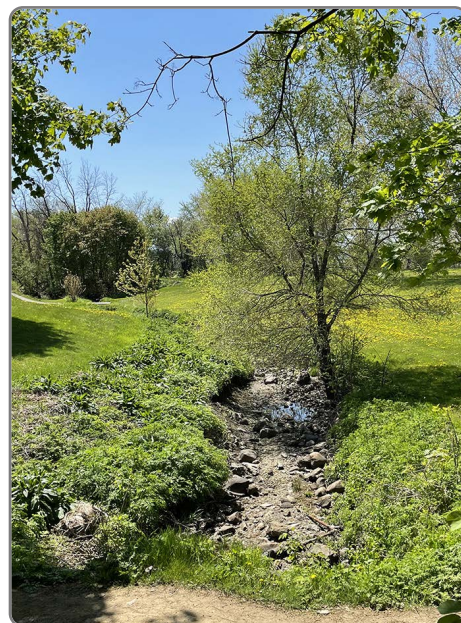
The speakers are **Kregg Hetherington**, associate professor at Concordia University, and **Louise Legault**, both of whom are members of *Les Amis ddu parc Meadowbrook*, **Danielle Plamondon** of *Les Amies de la Craig and Yenny Vega Cardenas*, president of the *Observatoire internationale des droits de la nature*, who participated in the campaign to save the St. Pierre River and continues to promote recognition of the St. Lawrence River as a legal person. **Pascale Rouillé**, president of *Les Ateliers Ublo*, rounded out the panel. You can listen to the podcast at [anchor.fm/insulaires](http://anchor.fm/insulaires).

In February 2022, the City of Montreal buried the last remaining open portion of the St. Pierre River where it crossed the Meadowbrook golf course. This waterway that once flowed from Mount Royal to the St. Lawrence River near Île-des-Soeurs now flows entirely underground. The former riverbed can still be seen on the golf course, but it is dry for much of the year.

The podcast arose from a June 2022 guided tour tracing the course of the St. Pierre River from Duquette Park to Baie des Capotes.

A map of the tour route can be found at [goo.gl/maps/t9eRpo4gF32oMnwV8](http://goo.gl/maps/t9eRpo4gF32oMnwV8).

from Janice Hamilton  
for *Les Amis du parc Meadowbrook*  
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## News from the pews

### MW United

...the brick one

We have hardly caught our breath from April, a full and intriguing time. From the music director's *Prière – The Lord's Prayer* sung in Creole with syncopation – through envisioning our future, to feting our *Extra Miles Program*, Easter was flanked with many blessings!

### Evening Labyrinth Walk early in May

April was so busy (see above) we have to postpone our April walk until May 3, 7-9 pm. We will hold a Sunday afternoon walk June 3, 2-4 pm to make up for this. In the spirit of our walking meditation, we are taking all this in stride. ;-) Please join us during those times when it suits you, with socks or slippers.

### Grab your book bag and come...

Book Browse Plus is on Saturday, May 6: 9:30 am-3 pm. Bargains galore, old favourites, new treasures and many curiosities – yours for the perusing.

### Christian family Sunday

May 14 has broadened its focus in the United Church. Mothers of all sorts are clearly honoured, but we make this service an Intergenerational event. Our Sunday school, who brought us that wonderful spaghetti lunch last month, participates in the service and we love it.

### Back to Labyrinths

During Covid, we were prompted to place a temporary outdoor Labyrinth on the Ballantyne lawn. With a little attention it has survived three summers already – which begs the question “Would a permanent outdoor

Labyrinth be worthwhile?” As with our indoor events, we don't keep a record or a tally of those who use it. We hear that it gets some activity, but we don't intend to track it. A permanent facility while being more attractive, would be a major effort. So if you have an opinion or comment to make in this regard, please do. We are at 482-3210, mwu-office@gmail.com or speak to us – there's a novel idea. Your thoughts matter as this, like all walks, are open to the community and beyond. Such is the nature of this ancient cross-cultural activity.



Come enjoy **Christopher Ducasse's** musical direction (and compositions) while he is with us. The online recording doesn't do it justice sometimes so in-person is definitely best. Our choir leads are with us through May, then return in October. Worship is at 10 am (Rev. **Mark Hammond**), Sunday school also with **Merrie Vicky** is in the office Monday-Thursday, 9-2ish. Love to see you....

Keep well – Btw, masking is now your option. If you have a cold or are vulnerable – good idea. If you have Covid, see you again when you don't.

from Susan Upham

### St. Ignatius

It was wonderful to welcome so many new faces this past Holy Week and Easter. It was nearly a full house on Easter Sunday with nearly 600 people in attendance! We'd like to thank everyone who was able to join us both in person and online, as well as all of our volunteers.

Our 15<sup>th</sup> Alpha series will be wrapping up in early June, and we'll be taking a break for the summer to plan out the rest of the year. However, it's never too early to get on our waiting list for September! If you're itching to explore faith and ponder life's big questions, simply head over to [stig.ca/alpha](http://stig.ca/alpha) to sign up.

The fall session will run every Wednesday from 7-9 pm from September 20-December 6, and you can expect a free home cooked meal, live music and thought-provoking discussions. We hope to see you there.

from Shawna Rose

### St. Philip's

At our Holy Week and Easter services, we saw a number of old friends whom we had not seen for a while, except perhaps on Zoom, as well as some new faces. It was good to see people, and the extra voices made the singing that much better. We have resumed communion at the altar rail and most of our pre-pandemic practices.

Sunday, June 4, Bishop **Mary Irwin-Gibson** will be presiding at Confirmation, with special music by the quartet before they begin their summer break.

Sunday, June 11 at 5 pm, the *West End Jazz Project*, a group of local musicians, will play for Jazz Vespers. It will be a service of meditative jazz music, both instrumental and vocal, with a free-will offering for our Tri-Parish + Friends Refugee Sponsorship.


Another benefit for the refugee sponsorship program will be a movie night, on Thursday, May 24 at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Hall. The movie and other details were not quite finalized as of deadline, so please check our Facebook page for details, and a link for registration.

Spring is in the air, and our community garden and food forest will continue to expand. Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, *P3 Permaculture* will be holding another workshop, this time on Food Forestry for an Edible Urban Landscape. While learning about urban forestry and guilds of understory plants to enhance the health and productivity of fruit trees, we will be planting several trees and guilds. To register, please contact the church office.

Transforming our land for the benefit of the entire community is part of our commitment to care for God's creation. Our gardening group also welcomes local residents to help out in the garden, whether planting, watering, weeding or sharing information with those visiting the garden.

from Fr. Pratt


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[www.curzonpreschool.com](http://www.curzonpreschool.com)

## West End Quilters

We are coming to the end of another quilting season although that doesn't mean we will stop quilting. It was a fun and productive year with many quilts donated to different hospitals and charities. Many thanks to **Marika** for all her machine quilting. Also, a big thanks to **Nathalie** our president, for all her organizing and inspiration.

Our last group project was sewing brightly coloured Luv Bugs, **Gloria's** idea. Some were made at our retreat and we are planning another sew day to finish the forty pillows we plan to make. The bugs will have some donated books slipped in them and then will be given to *Sainte Justine Hospital*.

Every year we have a challenge. This year's challenge was to exchange fabric with another member and make something from what you received. These creations will soon be revealed. The guild will close our season with a picnic in the park and make plans for next year.

*from Mary Sutherland*

Luv Bugs



## Kosher corner

With a memorable Passover behind us we shift our focus to the holidays of Lag Ba'Omer and Shavuot!

With look forward to celebrating Lag Ba'Omer outdoors, with the second annual community BBQ Tuesday, May 9!

For the celebration of Shavuot on Friday May 26, it is customary to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments and relive the Sinai experience. Following the reading, a full buffet dinner with many dairy options will be served including blintzes and ice cream as we have done in the past!

As many are preparing for the coming school year, Chabad Westminster is excited to announce that once again we will be offering Hebrew School for kindergarten through grade 4! Please reach out for details.

First Friday Shabbat services will be continuing through the summer. A meaningful and relaxing way to begin the Shabbat weekend, followed by L'chaim and refreshments.

Two lessons of RCS Women's study groups left for the season, Mondays April 24 and May 22. Hope to see you there!

*from Rabbi Marlow*

**Community Centre: 484-6186, montreal-west.ca**

## Summer Artists' Showcase

Calling all MoWest Artists

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

## Art in the Park

MW artists who might be interested in having a table at our June 7, 6 pm, *Art in the Park* event, can contact **Marian** online or by phone.

## Summer is around the corner!

Register on AMILIA or go to our website for more info.

• Summer Camp • Tennis Camp • Community Centre Summer Programs • Summer Fitness • Pool Programs and Membership

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l'empathie, la compassion, la

compréhension et l'acceptation de

toute diversité.

En savoir plus:



## Town Council meeting: March



by Carol Foster

**Mayor Masella** opened the March meeting with a detailed explanation of the decision about the future of the Town's recreational services.

He emphasized, once again, that the Council is in favour of the project and that he has worked diligently for the past six to seven years to secure a grant to move this project forward.

The mayor described the many advantages a vote in favour of the construction will provide for the community for at least the next 50 years. He feels that property values will be increased, homes will be easier to sell and more young families will want to move into the Town. He acknowledged that it will "cause a bump" in property taxes but the actual amount will not be known until the bids are opened.

A vote against construction will come with a lot of uncertainty about the path ahead. If the design cannot be tweaked to help cut costs, the \$12.5 M grant will be lost. If major changes, such as foregoing the ice surface, are proposed, a grant will have to be re-applied for with no certainty that one would be approved.

The existing arena is in such bad shape it will probably have to be demolished within the next few years and the pool would have to be rebuilt. This cost would also cause a bump in property taxes, but will be accompanied by fewer services and decreased property values.

The mayor ended his remarks by stating that while he understands that there is no agreement on this important issue, he will ensure that all information put forward is clear, factual and complete. He asked that those opposed do the same. In closing, he emphasized the need for everyone to respect the result of the vote, put aside their differences and work for solutions to make Montreal West an even better place to live.

### Councillors' reports

During the past month, \$4,500,373 was spent and **Councillor Feeney** explained that 85% of this money was the expenses due to the Agglomeration Council.

Despite the fact that the Easter bunny had to hide the eggs in the snow this year, the Cotton Tail party was a sold-out event. Spring registration is filling up, and summer events will be starting soon. The first event will be the annual Community Night in the Park, that will be held June 6 and the schedules for the coming months will be available on the web. The decision to open the pool this summer will be taken later in April.

Appreciation was expressed by **Councillor Torres** for the fact that some residents

took advantage of the low period to apply for permits. This will help alleviate the processing of requests later in the season when the construction starts to peak.

The Urban Planning Department is continuing to verify that projects for which a permit was issued conform to all the requirements. They are also checking on the exterior heating, cooling, and ventilation systems as well as propane tanks to ensure they are installed in the proper location. Removal may be required and tickets may be issued for improper placement.

**Councillor Small-Pennefather** warned residents that an increase in scammers has been noticed since the pandemic and many are targeting seniors. Door-to-door solicitors claiming to represent well-known organizations are also increasing. She advised residents to always ask for ID and report any suspicious activity to the PSOs and the police.

Thefts from cars continue and leaving personal items in clear view in a car will increase the likelihood of the car being targeted.

And, finally, street cleaning will begin April 1 and continue until November 15. During this time, additional parking regulations will be in effect.

The extreme weather fluctuations observed in January have continued and so has the increased workload of the Public Works staff according to **Councillor Ulin**. The numerous snow events and the attention being paid to water breaks have continued and now the road and sidewalk patching has begun. This work will continue throughout the summer.

In spite of the news of the unpredictable weather conditions, spring will come and the annual tree subsidy will be back. The fee will increase from \$10 to \$20. But, as **Councillor Ulin** pointed out, this is still a bargain for trees that retail for between \$50 and \$100.

Dozens of addresses will be slated for a municipal tree to be planted on the public domain portion of the front yard. Residents will be consulted and given a choice of three different species. All other residents wanting a municipal tree should contact the Public Works Department.

The *Environmental Action Committee* is partnering with the public library in creating a seed exchange program. Planning is in process for a workshop on rewilding your lawn and creating a wildflower and pollinator-friendly garden.

### Question period

Questions about the proposed sports and recreation centre continued to be asked during the question period. The process to be followed in reaching a decision was ex-

plained. Alternative options and the pros and cons of the impact on the community were discussed. Council was also thanked by several residents for their hard work in tackling such a huge project for the Town.

The plan to schedule two meetings in April, open to the community, to discuss this project was announced by a member of the fundraising committee.

Other familiar topics included traffic, taxes and the desire for additional dog-run areas.

The Town is in the process of hiring a professional to conduct a study of the traffic and parking problems on Bedbrook, problems that may be caused by the construction of the proposed sports and recreation centre. The increase in police traffic on Westminster was explained by the location of the new station following the merger of Stations 9 and 11 which resulted in increased activity including nighttime emergency calls; Westminster is the main artery used for responses.

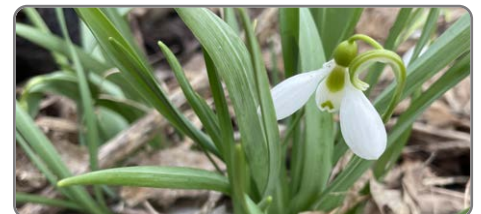
The construction of *The Easton* project, as well as the train crossing, continues to wreak havoc on traffic using Westminster. The good news is that the majority of the heavy construction equipment required for that building's foundation has been completed and this will mean there will be less need for turning the street into one-way traffic in the area. New traffic lights will replace the current temporary ones, making it easier to control traffic and the directional use of *The Easton* may be modified.

While acknowledging the Town has high taxes compared to some of the surrounding municipalities due to its limited tax base, the mayor feels that that doesn't deter some young families from still moving in because they are attracted by the good schools and many services.

There is no current plan to increase the number of dog runs.

It was suggested that, in view of the Town's new *MADA* designation, thought should be given to offering a senior discount for fitness programs for older residents. The present lack of equal ice time as well as other athletic activities for girls and women compared to that offered to men and boys was also pointed out and it is a concern that will be forwarded to the *CRA*.

Following the other business included on the agenda, the meeting was then adjourned.



## Réunion du Conseil : mars



par Carol Foster  
traduction par René Boucher

Le **maire Masella** a ouvert la réunion de mars avec une explication détaillée de la décision concernant l'avenir des services récréatifs de la Ville.

Il a souligné, une fois de plus, que le Conseil est favorable au projet et qu'il a travaillé avec diligence au cours des six à sept dernières années pour obtenir une subvention afin de faire avancer ce projet.

Le maire a décrit les nombreux avantages qu'un vote en faveur de sa construction procurera à la collectivité pour au moins les 50 prochaines années. Il croit que la valeur des propriétés augmentera, que les maisons seront plus faciles à vendre et que davantage de jeunes familles voudront s'installer dans la ville. Il a reconnu que cela «entraînera une hausse» des impôts fonciers, mais le montant réel ne sera pas connu avant l'ouverture des soumissions.

Un vote contre la construction s'accompagnera de beaucoup d'incertitude quant à la voie à suivre. Si la conception ne peut pas être modifiée pour aider à réduire les coûts, la subvention de 12,5 millions de dollars sera perdue. Si des changements majeurs sont proposés, comme le retrait de la surface de glace, une nouvelle demande de subvention devra être présentée sans qu'il soit certain qu'elle sera approuvée.

L'aréna actuel est en si mauvais état qu'il faudra probablement le démolir au cours des prochaines années et la piscine devra être reconstruite. Ce coût entraînerait également une hausse des impôts fonciers, mais s'accompagnerait d'une diminution des services et de la valeur des propriétés.

Le maire a terminé son intervention en disant que, même s'il comprend qu'il n'y a

pas d'entente sur cette importante question, il veillera à ce que tous les renseignements présentés soient clairs, factuels et complets. Il a demandé que ceux qui s'y opposent fassent de même. En conclusion, il a souligné la nécessité pour tous de respecter le résultat du vote, de mettre de côté leurs différences et de travailler à trouver des solutions pour faire de Montréal-Ouest un endroit encore meilleur où vivre.

### Rapports des conseillères

Au cours du dernier mois, 4 500 373 \$ ont été dépensés et la **conseillère Feeney** a expliqué que 85 % de cet argent était dû au Conseil d'agglomération.

Bien que le lapin de Pâques ait dû cacher les œufs dans la neige cette année, la fête du Lapin s'est déroulée à guichets fermés. Les inscriptions pour les activités du printemps se remplissent, et les événements estivaux s'amorceront bientôt. La première manifestation sera la Soirée communautaire annuelle dans le parc, qui aura lieu le 6 juin, et les calendriers pour les prochains mois seront disponibles sur le Web. La décision d'ouvrir la piscine cet été sera prise plus tard en avril.

La **conseillère Torres** s'est félicitée du fait que certains résidents ont profité de la période d'accalmie pour demander des permis. Cela contribuera à réduire le temps de traitement des demandes plus tard dans la saison, lorsque la construction atteindra son apogée.

Le service de l'Urbanisme continue de vérifier que les projets pour lesquels un permis a été délivré sont conformes à toutes les exigences. On vérifie également les systèmes de chauffage, de refroidissement et de ventilation extérieurs ainsi que les résér-

voirs de propane pour s'assurer qu'ils sont installés au bon endroit. Il pourrait être nécessaire de retirer l'appareil et des contraventions pour mauvais placement pourraient en découler.

La **conseillère Small-Pennefather** a averti les résidents qu'une augmentation du nombre d'escrocs a été observée depuis la pandémie et que plusieurs ciblent les aînés. Les sollicitateurs qui font du porte-à-porte et qui prétendent représenter des organisations bien connues sont également de plus en plus nombreux. Elle a conseillé aux résidents de toujours demander une pièce d'identité et de signaler toute activité suspecte aux ASP et aux policiers.

Les vols dans les voitures continuent et le fait de laisser des objets personnels à la vue dans une voiture augmentera la probabilité que la voiture soit prise pour cible.

Enfin, le nettoyage des rues débute le 1er avril et se poursuivra jusqu'au 15 novembre. Pendant ce temps, d'autres règlements sur le stationnement seront en vigueur.

Les fluctuations météorologiques extrêmes observées en janvier ont continué, de même que l'augmentation de la charge de travail des Travaux publics, selon la conseillère Ulin. Les nombreux épisodes de neige et l'attention portée aux bris d'aqueduc se sont poursuivis et, maintenant, les travaux de réparation des rues et des trottoirs ont commencé, travaux qui dureront tout au long de l'été.

Malgré les nouvelles des conditions météorologiques imprévisibles, le printemps viendra et la subvention annuelle aux arbres sera de retour. Les frais passeront de 10 \$ à 20 \$. Mais, comme l'a souligné la **conseillère Ulin**, c'est encore une aubaine pour des arbres qui se vendent entre 50 et 100 dollars.

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## Réunion du Conseil : mars

Des dizaines d'adresses seront désignées pour la plantation d'un arbre municipal dans la partie du domaine public des cours avant. Les résidents seront consultés et auront le choix entre trois espèces différentes. Tous les autres résidents qui veulent un arbre municipal devraient communiquer avec les Travaux publics.

Le *Comité d'action pour l'environnement* s'associe à la bibliothèque publique pour créer un programme d'échange de semences. La planification d'un atelier sur la promotion de la biodiversité et la création d'un jardin propice aux fleurs sauvages et aux pollinisateurs est en cours. La création d'un jardin propice aux fleurs sauvages et aux pollinisateurs est en cours.

### Période de questions

On a continué de poser des questions au sujet du centre sportif et récréatif proposé pendant la période des questions. Le processus à suivre pour parvenir à une décision a été expliqué. On a discuté des autres options et des avantages et inconvénients de l'impact sur la collectivité. Plusieurs résidents ont également remercié le Conseil pour son travail acharné dans la réalisation d'un projet d'une telle envergure pour la ville.

Un membre du comité de financement a annoncé l'intention de tenir deux réunions en avril, ouvertes à la collectivité, pour discuter de ce projet.

D'autres sujets familiers incluaient la circulation, les taxes et le désir de parcs pour chiens supplémentaires.

La Ville est en voie d'embaucher un professionnel pour analyser les problèmes de circulation et de stationnement sur Bedbrook, problèmes pouvant être causés par la construction du centre sportif et récréatif

proposé. L'augmentation de la circulation policière sur Westminster s'explique par l'emplacement des postes 9 et 11 fusionnés, ce qui a entraîné une augmentation de l'activité, dont les appels d'urgence de nuit; Westminster est la principale artère utilisée pour les interventions.

La construction du projet *Easton* et le passage à niveau continuent de causer des problèmes de circulation sur Westminster. La bonne nouvelle est que le gros de la phase de construction des fondations du bâtiment est terminé, ce qui signifie qu'il sera moins nécessaire de transformer la rue en voie à sens unique en alternance dans le secteur. De nouveaux feux de circulation remplaceront les feux temporaires actuels, ce qui facilitera le contrôle de la circulation et l'utilisation directionnelle d'*Easton* pourrait être modifiée.

Tout en reconnaissant que la Ville a des impôts fonciers élevés par rapport à certaines municipalités environnantes en raison de son assiette fiscale limitée, le maire estime que cela ne dissuade pas de jeunes familles d'y emménager, attirées par les bonnes écoles et les nombreux services.

Il n'y a actuellement aucun plan pour augmenter le nombre de parcs canins.

Il a été suggéré que, compte tenu de la nouvelle désignation *MADA* de la ville, on envisage d'offrir aux résidents âgés un rabais pour les programmes de conditionnement physique. Le manque actuel de temps de glace équivalent et d'autres activités sportives pour les filles et les femmes par rapport à celles offertes aux hommes et aux garçons a également été souligné et il s'agit d'une préoccupation qui sera transmise à l'*ARC*.

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

## 50+ Club 50+

### April

26 Bridge

### May

11 Royal Lecture:  
Royal Canada, in honour of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

Speaker: **Bruno Stenson.**  
1 pm

27 Spring luncheon.  
Musical guest: Dawn Tyler Watson.  
1 pm.

30 Bridge

### Overnight trip

Shaw Festival, September  
Details coming soon

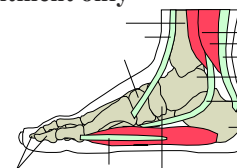
For more information on events email: [recreation@montreal-west.ca](mailto:recreation@montreal-west.ca) or call **Tammy** at 484-6186.

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May 4 & June 1

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## COMING EVENTS À VENIR

Please call the editor: Heather at 489-7022  
or e-mail: [montrealwestinformer@gmail.com](mailto:montrealwestinformer@gmail.com)

**Next deadline: May 10**

### Apr

- Sat 22 Boys' soccer evaluations.** Catalgona Soccerplex (must be registered)
- Sun 23 Yom HaShoah** (Holocaust Remembrance Day) included in service. All welcome. MW United. 10 am.  
**Girls' soccer evaluations.** Catalgona Soccerplex (must be registered)
- Mon 24 Town Council meeting.** In person and virtually on the Town's YouTube channel. Town Hall. 8 pm.

- Sun 30 EAC Workshop:** Rewilding Your Lawn. Town Hall. 10 am.

### May

- Mon 1 EAC Beginning of No-Mow May**
- Wed 3 Evening Indoor Labyrinth Walk.** MW United. All welcome. 7-9 pm.
- Sat 6 Book Browse Plus.** MW United. 9:30 am-3 pm.
- Sun 7 EAC Clothing Swap.** Town Hall. 1-4 pm.
- Tue 9 IODE meeting.** Join us for tea and biscuits. Community Centre. 1-3 pm.
- Thu 11 Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG.** Speaker Rev. James Pratt: The Garden Project. Lunch catered by local merchants. Town Hall. 12:30-2 pm.
- Sun 14 Christian family Sunday.** MW United. 10 am.
- Wed 17 Tea and Books** with Claire Holden Rothman discussing her work, *My October*. In person and on ZOOM (register at the library or online [mwpl.ca](http://mwpl.ca)). Limited seating. Public Library. 2 pm.
- Sat 20 And Monday, May 22.** Public Library closed.
- Wed 24 EAC Guest speaker** Daniel Breton: Why Buy an Electric Vehicle? Community Centre. 7 pm.  
**Movie night in support of refugee sponsorship.** St. Philip's. Reservations: 481-4871. 7:30 pm.
- Thu 25 Municipal taxes due (second installment) / Échéance: taxes municipales (deuxième versement)**
- Sat 27 Garden Club plant sale.** Lots of interesting plants. Prices very reasonable. Cash only. Westminster and Curzon. 9 am.  
**Treasures from the attic sale.** Public Library.

### June

- Sat 3 Garage Sale/Garage Band Fest** (rain date June 4)
- Sun 4 Afternoon Indoor Labyrinth Walk.** MW United. All welcome. 2-4 pm.
- Mon 5 EAC Guest speaker** Enuf: Advice for the Reluctant Composter and/or Confused Recycler. Community Centre. 7 pm.
- Wed 7 Art in the Park.** Davies Park. 6 pm.
- Sat 10 Free for All Day / Journée bon débarras**

## Restez informés / Stay informed

### Site web / Town website

La source d'information sur l'actualité de la Ville, les activités et les services municipaux.



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[montreal-ouest.ca](http://montreal-ouest.ca)

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This photo, taken by Margaret Dolan the morning after the ice storm, says it all outside 135 Strathearn. Lots of branches scattered the lawn. This raccoon had only recently taken up residence.



## MAYOR'S REPORT

### Plus ça change...

A springtime vote to be held. The whole Town expressing opinions on the matter.

The Mayor and the Council promoting a project. Few people refute the idea that a project is needed – just not that one. Different groups stepping up and making donations to help offset costs.

Those opposed express concerns about the scope of the project, the costs, about it becoming a white elephant, about the ongoing operating costs. They could support the project if it did not include a skating rink inside the building.

Those in favour cite progress, moving forward, building better facilities for all generations of residents and better facilities for the students in the area.

But I am not referring to our situation in Montreal West in 2023. I am referring to the situation in Montreal West in 1964! I came across three articles that appeared in *The Westward News* on May 28, June 10, and June 18, 1964. The articles detail the discussions at the time concerning the proposed con-

struction of the Legion Rink and the pool on Hodgson Field.

Mayor Kirkpatrick and the Commissioners proposed the project to build an indoor skating rink and an outdoor pool. The project was supported by many groups including Civic Recreation Association, the Montreal West branch of the Canada Legion, the Montreal West Businessmen's Association, and the Montreal West Citizen's Association. The project was estimated to cost \$450,000. The CRA and the Legion came forward and made donations of \$15,000 and \$100,000 respectively to help fund the project. The parallels to our current situation continue as they refer to the cost of building the arena at LCC back then. The Council at the time decided to open the decision to a Town-wide referendum.

It's absolutely amazing the way the situation in 1964 is so identical to our situation in 2023.

The referendum was held on June 15, 1964 and obviously the results favoured moving forward with the project. The results were 307 votes in favour and 252 votes against.

Montreal Westers had the courage to move forward with the project in 1964. And the sky did not fall! The Town was not saddled with white elephant. Instead, the Town built facilities that lasted 59 years so far and housed some of the recreational facilities that so many generations of Montreal Westers have enjoyed over those years. And the current project we are promoting will be built in a more sustainable manner that will, with proper and timely maintenance, outlive the 59 years of the Legion Rink and pool.

I am imploring you to have the same vision and courage that 1964 Montreal West had. Let us move forward with a project that can serve the next generations of our fellow citizens. We have the historical proof that the citizens of the time had expressed the same concerns, but they still voted to move ahead and ensured that our Town was able to thrive.

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

## VOTE Favors Centre

YES ..... 307

NO ..... 252

Montreal West Ratepayers voted for the building of a Recreation Centre Monday--those favoring the project totalled 307 as compared to 252 who turned thumbs down on the proposition.

Council will now draft a by-law approval by property owners.

### Montreal West

## "WHITE ELEPHANT - COST TOO HEAVY" RESIDENTS CHARGE

Doug Beharriell doesn't like the idea of a \$450,000 Civic Centre for Montreal West; Mrs. Elizabeth O'Neill prefers an outdoor covered rink and an indoor swimming pool; Eric Denman looked upon the scheme as a "Recreational White Elephant."

These were just a few of the objections voiced at the Montreal West Citizens' Meeting last Thursday evening when close to 400 residents jammed the Montreal West High School Auditorium to discuss the proposed Recreation Centre.

Main objection was the \$450,000 building estimate which many considered too exorbitant a figure.

This fact was evident when an amendment was put forth which read that "the residents would favor a Recreation Centre which would cost less than proposed and would not include a hockey rink."

After much haggling, the amendment was dropped when a large number of residents on hand started filing from the Hall.

Other comments follow:

Paul Willard: "How does the Town expect citizens to vote on something not specific in regards to cost"... everyone in Town should be equally taxed as they are enjoying the same privileges."

Eric Denman: "It seems to me there is something of a 'hard sell' here. The whole thing is in excess of what we can afford."

J.J. Rolian: "Maintenance cost of \$30,000 per year is not realistic... there will be deficits and they will be borne by the taxpayers... I'm not against the Centre, but I do urge a reconsideration of the plan minus a hockey rink."

Bob Fullerton: "It seems that when anyone attempts to do anything good in Montreal West there are always those who knock the project."

#### OTHER OBJECTIONS

The Library, Pistol Range and Club Rooms in the basement of the building were completely unnecessary, one dissenter felt; another claimed there would be added traffic hazards, added police cases and added taxes--the same objector protested because those in charge failed to have an alternative plan and felt that some people may have been blinded by a gift of \$100,000; a resident claimed that the Town couldn't afford it as his taxes had been raised \$200 since 1959.

Alderman Peter Dobush, who is Chairman of the Building Committee assured the gathering that the \$450,000 figure would not be exceeded. He revealed that there would be a seating capacity of 800 for the skating rink. The gathering disagreed with Mr. Dobush's assumption that Lower Canada College Ice Rink would cost \$270,000 to build today in comparison to the \$135,000 figure of some years ago.

Mayor Kirkpatrick revealed that he had checked on the operational expenses of similar projects. He estimates that a local Centre would cost \$30,000 a year to maintain. He believes that seven to twelve thousand dollars a year could be obtained by renting the premises. He felt that no difficulty would be encountered in signing up 800 families at \$15 a year for skating privileges and 600 families at \$20 for pool facilities. This, he feels would defray costs which would be the responsibility of the Town Commission.

Those who have been advocating the project were conspicuous by their silence.

THE WEST-WARD NEWS Wednesday, June 10, 1964/11

### JUST AMONG

FROM PAGE 4

LOUIS BURKO, well known local piano teacher is offering a piano scholarship valued at \$150 to an outstanding piano student between the ages of 12 and 17 who is a resident of Cote St. Luc or Montreal West. Application forms and full particulars may be obtained by writing "Piano Scholarship," c/o Mr. Louis Burko, 5774 Glenarden Ave., Cote St. Luc. Applicants are requested to en-

SHALOM CHAPTER NO. 824 B'Nai B'Rith Women will hold a paid up membership tea at the Gourmet, 2765 Van Horne Ave., at 8:15 p. m. this evening.

The MOUNT CARMEL TEMPLE, PYTHIAN SISTERS of Cote St. Luc, will have their closing dinner at Cafe André on Wednesday, June 17, at 7.00 p.m. MRS. A. POSNER is the Programme Chairman.

....Congratulations to ALLEN COHEN, son of MR. AND MRS. HARRY COHEN, of Wentworth, who recently celebrated his Bar Mitzvah.... Ditto DOUGLAS LANG, son of MR. AND MRS. CARL LANG, of Regal Rd., who also celebrated his Bar Mitzvah recently.... We're happy to hear that his brother JEFFREY is recuperating from a recent illness.

#### MANY FAVOR PROJECT

FROM PAGE 1

DR. H. F. OWEN, 43 Brock N.: "Oh, Boy, we're 100% in favour. My neighbour, Dr. Roland T. Lamb is with me at the moment and he wants to tell you he's equally for it."

ROBERT A. HORWOOD, Canadian Agency Secretary, The Standard Life Insurance Co. 31 Campbell: "Very much in favour. This is a step forward for the Town and a must."

REV. FATHER JAMES W. DYER, Pastor, St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church: "Just as recreational facilities are an important part of college and high school and are provided for the students, so also such facilities should be provided by municipalities for those young people who need them. I favour the project."

MRS. G. BENNETT POPE, Recreation Chairman, Montreal Council of Women, 235 Brock N.: "On Montreal Island we are surrounded by waters containing sewage. The Montreal West project is a wonderful idea and I'm very definitely for it."

REV. WM. J. WHITE, Minister, St. Philip's Anglican Church, 25 Brock N.: "I certainly do favour it. It will be wonderful to have a real centre where the young -- and the old, too -- can all get together."

R. BURNS MACDONALD, Chief of Police, Montreal West: "This will be a wonderful opportunity for the Town to provide additional controlled recreation to our young. I'm sure it will benefit all people, whether they have children or not."

Montreal West

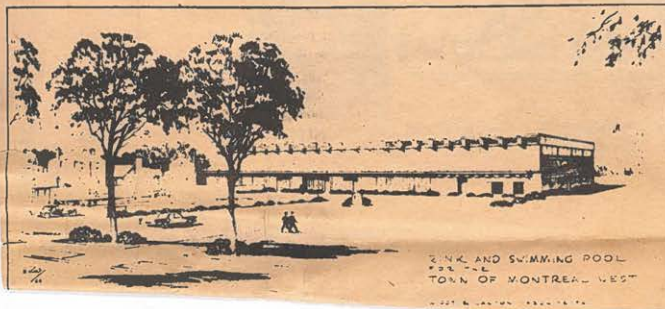
# Referendum June 15

## Mayor - Commission Endorse Civic Recreation Scheme

Thursday, May 28, 1964  
18 WESTMINSTER AVENUE NORTH - 489-3897

# The Westward News

(Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office Dept., Ottawa and for payment of postage in cash.)



Pictured above is an architect's sketch of the proposed Civic Centre and Swimming Pool for Montreal West.

At a special meeting held last week, Mayor E. C. Kirkpatrick and Town Commissioners unanimously endorsed a proposal to build an enclosed artificial ice rink and an outdoor swimming pool slated for Hodgson Field. The Mayor disclosed that a special Centenary Committee had been appointed under the Chairmanship of Commissioner Peter Dobush and composed of representatives of the Town Commission, The Civic Recreation Association, The Montreal West Branch of the Canadian Legion, The Montreal West Businessmen's Association, and the Montreal West Citizen's Association, to study the proposal. This report was unanimously and enthusiastically favourable to the project.

Having been mooted for many years, an artificial ice rink and a swimming pool is not a new idea. What forces immediate attention upon it now is an offer recently made by the Legion to donate \$100,000 to such a project. Legion President Lee Donahue reported

that the Dominion Stores had offered to purchase the Memorial Park adjacent to their store on Westminster Ave. This is the land which was originally donated to the Montreal West Branch of the Legion by Imperial Oil Limited in 1946. In view of the purpose which the Legion would have for selling -- changing their Memorial from a park to a recreational centre land; the aggregate of both being \$100,000.

Adding fuel to the fires of enthusiasm generated by this incident was a further offer made by the Civic Recreation Association of \$15,000 which had been raised by the Montreal West Businessmen's Association through past community Carnivals and turned over to them for provision of recreation facilities.

Having received these offers the Commission immediately appointed a special committee to study all angles and report. The Commissioners pointed out that such a project might qual-

ify for governmental assistance as suitable for participation in Canada's 1967 Centennial celebrations. In fact, the Town Committee has designated the Centenary Committee.

With Mayor Kirkpatrick as Honorary Chairman and Commissioner Peter Dobush as Chairman the committee was further composed of Commissioner C. K. Lockwood as an additional Town representative; Messrs. Alan Carlyle, R. W. Jones and Borden Empey, representing the Citizens' Association; Messrs. Lee Donahue and Alex Duff, representing the Legion, Ron McLean, Frank Krug and Jim McJannet representing the C.R.A., Arthur Snow for the Businessmen's Association. Other members included Danny Gallivan, Chuck Kennedy, Frank Radcliffe, Doug Kennedy, Doug McKay and Hap Pauley. Commissioner Peter Dobush also chairs the Building Committee, Alex Duff is Chairman of the Finance Committee, while

(Continued on Page 6)



## SPVM POLICE WEEK COMING IN MAY

The week of May 14-20 marks SPVM Police week. As many residents are aware, there has been an uptick in a number of criminal activities in the Town, including car theft, door to door and phone scams, attempted break-ins and other nefarious activities.

Unfortunately, this is a trend not only in our Town, but across the country and North America. Some crimes involve some very sophisticated technology and organization.

In an effort to be proactive and coordinate with our own Public Security, our SPVM sociocommunity officers and Commander of Station 9, would like to have an opportunity to meet with residents of the Town and hear your concerns. As security and safety experts, they work along side communities to practice prevention and share recommendations to protect yourself and your property. As enforcers of the criminal code, the SPVM officers have

a distinct but complementary mandate to those of our own Public Security Officers who enforce bylaws in the Town.

Station 9 is also represented on the Montreal West Community Safety Committee and is providing guidance on some of the traffic and circulation issues we have in the Town. The representatives are very committed to working with the Town to find practical solutions to improve safety.

I also participated in the Westhaven Neighbourhood Committee in NDG in April and we discussed similar safety and security issues regarding the railway crossings. The Committee is com-

prised of community representatives, political officials and Station 9 participants. These are excellent communities of practice and sources of information.

If you are interested in participating and meeting representatives from Station 9 during SPVM Police Week, please save the date for **May 16** from 6-7 PM at the Community Centre. More details to follow in the Town's e-bulletin and on the website.

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



## INSPECTIONS BY THE URBAN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

At any point in time, usually after the construction work is done, property owners can expect a visit from the Urban planning department.

Every year, the Montreal West Urban Planning department issues hundreds of permits to property owners for work to be done on their properties. The issuance of permits is specific to certain types of work, and property owners must comply with the conditions and restrictions outlined in the permits they have been granted.

The purpose of the visit from the Urban planning department is to ensure that the work was done in conformity to the specifications of the permits and that the Town's by-laws were respected. Please note that this **inspection is mandatory**.

The Urban Planning department will close the file in the system provided that the work complies to the permits that have been issued.

However, if it is determined that the work is not compliant with the issued permits, the property owner will be notified of an infraction and given a 10-day delay to contact the Urban Planning department and proceed with corrective measures.

Depending on the situation, the property owner might have to re-apply for permits to include the changes made, so that they can be analyzed and authorized before the required work is carried out. In other cases, the owner might have to restore the property to the original state or to redo the work according to the permits and plans submitted in the permit application.

If construction work is ongoing and is determined to be non-compliant with the permit, or if the property owner

does not possess a valid construction permit, the Urban Planning department will require the suspension of the work until the matter has been resolved.

If the property owner refuses to cooperate and the situation warrants it, the Town could take legal action in order to correct the situation.

Tip of the month: Prior to commencing any work on your property, regardless of whether a permit is required or not, it is advisable to consult the Urban Planning department. This step may potentially save you both time and money.

Maria Torres, *Councillor Urban Planning*  
[mtorres@montreal-west.ca](mailto:mtorres@montreal-west.ca)





## THE POOL LIVES TO SEE ANOTHER YEAR

As the schedule for the new Recreation Centre project has been delayed a bit, I am happy to announce that the pool will be open for the 2023 season.

It will have to undergo some repairs and a new paint job, however it will be ready to open in June, offering our full slate of pool programs. The Day Camp and Tennis Camp programs which also use the pool will be in full swing, and we are looking forward to another summer of fun outdoor activities.

### Summer events

I would also like to encourage you to take advantage of our Tuesday evenings in the park. The first such event will be a **Community Night/Art in the Park on Tuesday, June 6** at 6:00 p.m. in Davies Park. Local artists will be displaying their work, and representatives

of community organizations will be on hand to highlight their role in the community.

Plans for other summer events include an Open Mic night, the family duathlon, and of course la Fête nationale on Friday, June 23 and Canada Day celebrations on Saturday, July 1. Mark your calendars for these community-building events, which are fun for young and old. Food is available for purchase, so take advantage of a night off from cooking!

### Thanks to our volunteers

As April is volunteer month, Council would like to let our volunteers know

how grateful we are for their participation and assistance in community events. Montreal West is known for its community spirit, with over 300 people volunteering for our Town annually in jobs ranging from hockey coaches to hamburger flippers. Our community would not be the same without our wonderful volunteers.

I look forward to seeing you at the pool and at our many summer activities.

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



## TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE/GARAGE BAND FEST!

One of the best ways to reduce our environmental footprint is to extend the life of the items we've purchased to avoid creating unnecessary waste.

What once seemed a treasure can too fast become trash. Then we dump it and head back to the mall or online to fill Jeff Bezos's pockets. But we can flip this cycle on its head in really fun ways.

In MoWest we have a very active **Buy Nothing Facebook group** where all manner of items are given (for free) to other members. And there's **Free For All Day (Saturday, June 10)** where used items can be set out on the curb for neighbours to take away gratis. Also nearby is a Renaissance offering hours of excellent thrifting. And coming up on Sunday, May 7 the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) is

holding a **big clothing swap** at the Town Hall (see the EAC article in this issue).

In the spirit of reuse, the EAC will also be sponsoring its first Town-wide **Garage Sale/Garage Band Fest** on **Saturday June 3** (rain date **June 4**). The garage sale component was inspired by a similar event in Pointe-Claire where residents of the Beaurepaire neighbourhood hold a community-wide sale with an interactive map noting each participating address. We'll be doing the same thing. So any MoWest household who wants to participate can register online and be placed on the map. Event and registration details will

follow in an upcoming Town e-bulletin. In Beaurepaire, bargain hunters from surrounding areas are drawn to the sale each year and it's become wildly successful.

The Garage Band component is inspired by NDG's Porchfest which features local musicians playing mini-concerts from their porches/driveways/garages for enthusiastic friends and neighbours. We think that's right up MoWest's alley! So a Garage Sale/Garage Band event seemed like a match made in heaven. And who in MTL doesn't love a fest? Like garage sale participants, Fest musicians will also be able to register on the same interactive platform so peo-

ple will know where to catch their shows.

Finally, in keeping with the themes of local community and environment the EAC encourages all garage sale participants to consider donating their proceeds to an environmental or local initiative. It may be something like The David Suzuki Foundation, Equiterre, Meals on Wheels, or even the new Rec Centre. Garage sales are all about feeling a little lighter. So why not double down on that feeling and make a difference too.

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





## RAPPORT DU MAIRE

### Plus ça change...

Un vote au printemps. L'ensemble de la population qui s'exprime sur le sujet. Le maire et le conseil municipal en faveur d'un projet. Peu de personnes réfutent l'idée qu'un projet soit nécessaire, mais pas celui-là. Différents groupes se mobilisent et font des dons pour aider avec les coûts.

Les opposants expriment des inquiétudes quant à l'ampleur du projet, aux coûts, à la possibilité que ce soit un gouffre financier, aux coûts de fonctionnement permanents. Ils disaient pouvoir appuyer le projet s'il n'incluait pas une patinoire à l'intérieur du bâtiment.

Les partisans du projet évoquent le progrès, le besoin d'aller de l'avant, de construire de meilleures installations pour les générations à venir et pour les étudiants de la région.

Mais je ne parle pas de la situation de Montréal-Ouest en 2023. Je parle de la situation de Montréal-Ouest en 1964 ! Je suis tombé sur trois articles parus dans *The Westward News* le 28 mai, le 10 juin et le 18 juin 1964. Les articles décrivent en détail les discussions de l'époque concernant la construction

proposée de la patinoire de la Légion et de la piscine sur le terrain Hodgson.

Le maire Kirkpatrick et les commissaires proposaient le projet de construction d'une patinoire intérieure et d'une piscine extérieure. Le projet était appuyé par de nombreux groupes, dont l'Association récréative civique, la filiale de Montréal-Ouest de la Légion canadienne, le Montreal West Businessman's Association et l'Association des citoyens de Montréal-Ouest. Le coût du projet était estimé à 450 000 \$. L'ARC et la Légion ont fait des dons de 15 000 \$ et 100 000 \$ respectivement pour aider à financer le projet. Les parallèles avec notre situation actuelle se poursuivent alors qu'il y avait des comparaisons avec les coûts de construction de l'aréna du LCC. Le Conseil de l'époque a décidé de soumettre la décision à un référendum à l'échelle de la ville.

Il est tout à fait étonnant de constater que la situation de 1964 soit aussi identique à la nôtre en 2023.

Le référendum s'est tenu le 15 juin 1964 et les résultats ont évidemment favorisé la poursuite du projet. Les résultats étaient de 307 voix pour et 252 voix contre.

Les habitants de Montréal-Ouest ont eu le courage d'aller de l'avant avec le projet en 1964. Et le ciel n'est pas tombé ! La Ville ne s'est pas retrouvée avec un éléphant blanc. Au contraire, elle a construit des installations qui ont duré plus de 59 ans et qui abritent certaines des installations récréatives qui ont profité à tant de générations de Montréal-Ouest. Et le projet actuel que nous promovons sera construit d'une manière plus durable qui, avec un entretien adéquat et opportun, durera plus longtemps que les 59 ans de l'aréna et de la piscine de la Légion.

Je vous implore d'avoir la même vision et le même courage que la Ville de Montréal-Ouest en 1964. Allons de l'avant avec un projet qui pourra servir les prochaines générations de nos concitoyens. Nous avons la preuve historique que les citoyens de l'époque avaient exprimé les mêmes préoccupations, mais qu'ils ont quand même voté pour aller de l'avant et ont fait en sorte que notre Ville puisse prospérer.

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



## SEMAINE DE LA POLICE DU SPVM EN MAI

La semaine du 14 au 20 mai 2023 sera la semaine de la police du SPVM. Comme de nombreux résidents le savent, il y a eu une augmentation du nombre d'activités criminelles dans la Ville, y compris le vol de voitures, les fraudes téléphoniques et par porte-à-porte, les tentatives d'effraction et d'autres activités malveillantes.

Malheureusement, il s'agit d'une tendance qui ne concerne pas seulement notre ville, mais l'ensemble du pays et l'Amérique du Nord. Certains délits font appel à une technologie et à une organisation très sophistiquées.

Dans un souci de proactivité et de coordination avec notre propre sécurité publique, les agents sociocommunautaires du SPVM et le commandant du poste de quartier 9 aimeraient avoir l'occasion de rencontrer les résidents de la ville et d'entendre leurs préoccupations. En tant qu'experts en sécurité, ils travaillent avec la population pour partager des recommandations pour se protéger et protéger ses biens. En tant que responsables de l'application du

Code criminel, les agents du SPVM ont un mandat distinct, mais complémentaire à celui de nos propres agents de sécurité publique, qui eux veillent à l'application des règlements municipaux.

Le PDQ 9 est également représenté au sein du Comité de sécurité communautaire de Montréal-Ouest et fournit des conseils sur certains problèmes de circulation dans la ville. Les représentants sont très déterminés à travailler avec la Ville pour trouver des solutions pratiques afin d'améliorer la sécurité.

J'ai également participé au Comité de Voisinage de Westhaven à NDG en avril et nous avons discuté d'enjeux de sécurité semblables concernant les passages à niveau. Le comité est com-

posé de représentants de la communauté, de responsables politiques et de participants du PDQ 9. Il s'agit d'une excellente communauté de pratique et de source d'information.

Si vous êtes intéressés à rencontrer les représentants du PDQ 9 lors de la Semaine de la police de la SPVM, retenez la date du **16 mai** de 18 h à 19 h au centre communautaire Plus de détails suivront dans le e-bulletin et le site web de la Ville.

Lauren Small-Pennefather, *conseillère Sécurité publique*  
[lsmall-pennefather@montreal-ouest.ca](mailto:lsmall-pennefather@montreal-ouest.ca)



## INSPECTIONS PAR LE SERVICE DE L'URBANISME

À tout moment, mais généralement à la fin des travaux, les propriétaires peuvent s'attendre à une visite du Service de l'urbanisme.

Chaque année, le Service d'urbanisme de Montréal-Ouest délivre des centaines de permis à des propriétaires pour des travaux à effectuer sur leur propriété. L'émission des permis est spécifique à certains types de travaux, et les propriétaires doivent se conformer aux conditions et restrictions énoncées dans les permis qui leur ont été accordés.

Le but de la visite du Service de l'urbanisme est de s'assurer que les travaux ont été effectués conformément aux spécifications des permis et que les règlements municipaux ont été respectés. **Cette visite est obligatoire.**

Le Service de l'urbanisme procédera à la fermeture du dossier dans le système en autant que les travaux soient conformes aux permis qui ont été délivrés.

Toutefois, s'il s'avère que les travaux ne sont pas conformes aux permis, le propriétaire sera avisé d'une infraction et disposera d'un délai de 10 jours pour communiquer avec le Service de l'urbanisme et procéder aux correctifs nécessaires.

Selon la situation, le propriétaire peut être obligé à déposer une nouvelle demande de permis pour inclure les modifications apportées, afin qu'elles puissent être analysées et autorisées avant que les travaux requis ne soient effectués. Dans d'autres cas, le propriétaire peut être amené à remettre le tout à l'état initial ou à refaire les travaux selon les plans présentés dans la demande de permis.

Si des travaux de construction sont en cours et qu'il s'avère qu'ils ne sont pas conformes au permis, ou si le proprié-

taire ne possède pas de permis de construction valide, le Service de l'urbanisme exigera la suspension des travaux jusqu'à ce que le problème soit résolu.

Si le propriétaire refuse de coopérer et que la situation le justifie, la Ville peut entreprendre des procédures judiciaires afin de remédier à la situation.

Conseil du mois : il est conseillé de consulter le Service de l'urbanisme avant d'entreprendre des travaux sur votre propriété, que vous croyiez qu'un permis soit requis ou non. Cette étape peut vous faire gagner du temps et de l'argent.

Maria Torres, *conseillère Urbanisme*  
[mtorres@montreal-ouest.ca](mailto:mtorres@montreal-ouest.ca)



## UNE AUTRE ANNÉE POUR LA PISCINE!

L'échéancier du projet de construction du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif ayant pris un peu de retard, je suis heureuse d'annoncer que la piscine sera ouverte pour la saison 2023.

Elle devra subir quelques réparations et être peinte, mais elle sera prête à ouvrir en juin, offrant notre gamme complète de programmes de piscine. Les programmes du camp de jour et du camp de tennis, qui utilisent également la piscine, battront leur plein, et nous nous réjouissons à l'idée d'un autre été rempli d'activités amusantes à l'extérieur.

### Événements estivaux

J'aimerais également vous encourager à profiter de nos soirées spéciales les mardis dans le parc Davies. Le premier de ces événements sera **la Soirée communautaire/Artisanat en fête le mardi 6 juin** à 18 h. Des artistes lo-

caux y exposeront leurs œuvres et des représentants d'organismes communautaires seront présents pour souligner leur rôle dans la communauté.

D'autres événements estivaux sont prévus comme une soirée Open Mic, le duathlon familial et, bien sûr, la Fête nationale le vendredi 23 juin et la fête du Canada le samedi 1<sup>er</sup> juillet. Inscrivez ces événements communautaires sur vos calendriers. Ils sont amusants pour tous les âges et il sera possible d'acheter de la nourriture, alors profitez d'une soirée sans cuisiner !

### Merci à nos bénévoles

Le mois d'avril étant le mois du bénévolat, le Conseil aimerait exprimer à

quel point nous sommes reconnaissants de la participation et de l'aide de nos bénévoles lors d'événements communautaires. Mo-Ouest est reconnue pour son esprit communautaire, avec plus de 300 personnes qui font du bénévolat pour notre Ville chaque année dans des postes allant d'entraîneurs de hockey à maître du grill. Notre communauté ne serait pas la même sans nos merveilleux bénévoles. J'ai hâte de vous voir à la piscine et à nos nombreuses activités estivales.

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



## GARAGES ET GUITARES À L'ÉCHELLE DE LA VILLE !

L'un des meilleurs moyens de réduire notre empreinte écologique est de prolonger la durée de vie des articles que nous avons achetés afin d'éviter de produire des déchets inutiles.

Ce qui nous semblait une trouvaille peut rapidement devenir un déchet. Et puis nous nous en débarrassons et retournons au centre commercial ou en ligne pour remplir les poches de Jeff Bezos. Il est toutefois possible d'inverser ce cycle. À Mo-Ouest, nous avons un **groupe Facebook Buy Nothing** très actif où toutes sortes d'objets sont donnés (gratuitement) à d'autres membres. Il y a aussi la journée **Bon débarras (samedi 10 juin)** où des objets usagés peuvent être déposés au bout de votre entrée afin qu'ils soient recueillis gratuitement par vos voisins. Il y a un magasin Renaissance à proximité. Le dimanche 7 mai, le Comité d'action environnementale (CAE) organise un grand

**échange de vêtements** à l'hôtel de ville (voir l'article dans ce journal).

Dans l'esprit de la réutilisation, le Comité d'action environnementale parrainera également le premier événement **Garages et Guitares à l'échelle de la ville, le samedi 3 juin (le 4 juin en cas de pluie)**. L'événement implique une vente de garage communautaire, inspirée par un événement similaire à Pointe-Claire où les résidents du quartier Beaurepaire organisent une vente de garage à l'échelle du quartier avec une carte interactive indiquant chaque adresse participante. Nous prévoyons faire pareil. Ainsi, tout foyer de Mo-Ouest souhaitant participer peut s'inscrire en ligne et être inclus sur la carte. Les détails

de l'événement et de l'inscription figureront dans un prochain e-bulletin. À Beaurepaire, les chasseurs de bonnes affaires des environs sont attirés chaque année par la vente de garage qui connaît un grand succès.

Le volet Guitares s'inspire du Balconfête de NDG, où des musiciens locaux donnent des mini-concerts sur leur balcon, entrée ou garage devant des amis et des voisins enthousiastes. Nous pensons que c'est tout à fait dans les cordes de Mo-Ouest ! L'événement Garages et Guitares nous a donc semblé être un mariage parfait. Et qui à Montréal n'aime pas les festivals ? Tout comme pour la vente de garage, les musiciens intéressés pourront s'inscrire sur la même plateforme interactive afin que les

gens sachent où assister à leurs concerts.

Enfin, conformément aux thèmes de la communauté locale et de l'environnement, le CAE encourage tous les participants à la vente de garage à envisager donner leurs profits à une initiative environnementale ou locale. Il peut s'agir de la Fondation David Suzuki, d'Équiterre, de la Popote roulante ou même du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif. Les ventes de garage permettent de se sentir un peu plus léger. Alors, pourquoi ne pas profiter de ce sentiment et vraiment faire une différence ?

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