

Bruce Thicke: learning by doing

by Maurice Krystal

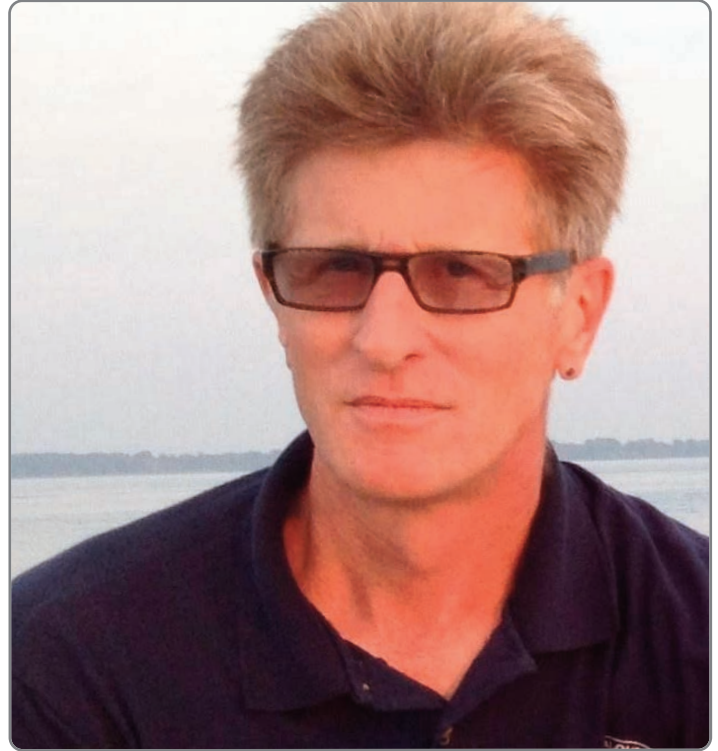
It was his lunch hour and we met in the greenhouse, a place I have never entered even after living in this town for more than three decades. There is a fountain in the middle and it's surrounded by tranquil greenery. The scent is like being in a tropical jungle. It was built in the 1920s. There were two other greenhouse structures before they were torn down some 25 years ago. They were no longer in use and got damaged because of the ice storm in 1998. Thankfully this one was saved due to the advocacy of the Horticultural Society. As the sun shone on the glass panels the place

was warm and humid in spite of the chill outside. **Bruce Thicke** sat at a small café-style table and chair in the corner eating a sandwich.

From ice rink to hot house!

We were meeting because Bruce will retire this November after 43 years of service with Public Works. He grew up in MoWest, his mom, **Mary**, was a long-time councillor. He began, when hired by Public Works, as one of three Zamboni drivers at the arena and a short time later also became maintenance supervisor at the pool

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Dr. Donald Vinh: battling infectious diseases

by Maurice Krystal

The house on Wolseley had a number of signs that warned of a dog. A notice by the bell advised one should not ring, so I knocked on the door. Almost immediately a huge dog leapt to the nearby window by the main entrance and started barking. It looked like some sort of St. Bernard. It was a very big dog, but the bark wasn't threatening.

It seemed to suggest more, do you want to play? Almost immediately a man sneaked out of the door making sure the dog didn't follow.

For early October it was unseasonably warm (28 C). We went into the backyard and talked about Dr. **Donald Vinh**'s life.

Many of his life choices seem to be connected to his par-

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MW Charity Golf Tournament

The annual MW Charity Golf Tournament took place September 14 under some clouds, but we thankfully avoided the rain.

Fifty-two golfers attended the event as well as the cocktails and dinner afterwards at the Curling Club.

We are very proud to have raised just over \$6,500 for the following local organizations: *Edinburgh School, Elizabeth Ballantyne, Little Red Playhouse, Children's Library and Meals on Wheels.*

A special THANK YOU to all participants and sponsors for their generosity and we are looking forward to another successful event next year.

For sponsorship opportunities or information for next year's tournament, please contact **Nick Mavidis** at 944-6314 or nick.mavidis@cibc.com

Looking forward to seeing all of you again next year!

from Nick Mavidis



Gaetano Sifoni, Principal, Edinburgh; Saverio Sarvello, Principal, Elizabeth Ballantyne; Alison Bissonnette Little Red Playhouse; Petrina Lee-Poy, Children's Library; Nick Mavidis, Montreal West Charity Golf Tournament; Wayne Feeney, Meals on Wheels



In the photos: (left) Fred Thibault, Geoff Poulad, Pat Logan, Rob Fiori, Steven Dion, Bertrand Leveillé; (right) Dave Phillips, JJ Heisler, Matt Donlan, Jeff Boyd, Sean Francis, Collin Brodhead, Bryan Nunnelle

THE INFORMER

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

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

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NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

January 10

Curling Québec U-18 Provincials

Come watch Québec's next curling stars compete for the title of Junior provincial champions! In partnership with Curling Québec, the Montreal West Curling Club is proud to host the 2024 U-18 Provincial! January 3-8 at 17 Chemin Ainslie.

Venez voir les prochaines étoiles du curling québécois s'affronter pour le titre des champions provinciaux juniors ! En partenariat avec Curling Québec, le Club de Curling Montréal-Ouest est fier d'accueillir les U-18 Provincial de 2024 ! Du 3 au 8 janvier au 17 Chemin Ainslie.

Action Sport Physio Food drive

Join us in making a difference! We're thrilled to announce our food drive to help those in need.

Let's come together to fight hunger in our community. Your generosity can make a huge impact. If you come by the clinic, please bring non-perishable food items to donate. Every little bit helps!

We would like to congratulate **John Balash** who agreed to shave his hair for Breast Cancer Awareness! Thank you to everyone who donated to the cause!

John Balash and Jennifer Gardner



MoWest computer store has found a new home

The Montreal West computer store, owned by **Richard Eckerlin**, has found a new home here in Montreal West.

Located approximately 100 meters from his old location, the new office is within walking distance conveniently located at 48 Wolseley North, corner Milner, unit J (a two-storey warehouse building, the former lumber yard and plumbing business). The entrance is a glass door; from the, lobby take the left side door "Avenue Ouest."

The telephone number remains the same: **438-938-6240**; hours are changed: Monday to Saturday from 1-3 pm. House calls for MoWest residents and seniors are still after 3 pm. Richard now meets clients by appointment only, so don't forget to call him when you are on your way to confirm that he is open.

The office is only 10' x 10' and Richard promises to keep it clean and neat; he is no longer a hoarder!

He still performs Windows 10 and 11 upgrades, reinstallations, data recovery and virus removal and can speed up a laptop or desktop.

Richard has been in business since 1986 and in Montreal West since 2007.

In the last year, many friends and clients gave him words of encouragement: "Don't give up. We still need you. You have saved our computers half a dozen times over the years. We still love you."

He never gave up.

MWUC December 25 Christmas Community Outreach dinner

Since 1990 MW United Church has coordinated a home delivery of a hot turkey dinner with all the trimmings to those isolated or too frail to go out to another home. This is done with the help of the CLSC Home Care team and many volunteers in the MoWest community. Two hundred meals are delivered around noon on December 25 – each "route" is 3-4 homes.

This meal is happening again and hopefully you will be a part of it. The "jobs" are numerous – donating a gift, cooking a turkey, baking your favourite squares or cookies, taking part on December 24 afternoon "Slice and Dice," Christmas Day serving up the meals, delivering the meals with your carolling voice in tow, and/or donating to the cost of this event.

For more information, please contact Joan Foster – joanfoster@hotmail.com or 779-5234. If you have never been involved, you are really missing out on an amazing event that will put the best smile on your face and also on your family and friends faces who join you.

from Joan Foster

Shades of Antarctica

Valmar Kurol, a resident of Courtney Drive, has recently released a new CD, *Shades of Antarctica*, his sixth CD of Antarctic-themed music. A collaboration with **Michael Stibor** of Dorval, this instrumental work was inspired by Valmar's travels to Antarctica over 30 years. Many of the tracks were also co-composed by **Carole Desmarteau**, Valmar's wife. The 11 tracks portray the colours and nature of this wondrous continent through a variety of rock, jazz and orchestral styles. The music will be available for streaming on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon, or CDs from www.shadesofantarctica.com.



Fundraising auction!

Curzon Creative Preschool is having its 20th annual fundraising auction from December 4 at 10 am until December 8 at 10 pm.

Tickets to bid are now available via: app.charityauctionstoday.com/t/curzon-20th-annual-auction-caca2765c6.

All ticket holders will be sent the link to the live auction closer to the date. Lots of great prizes for a good cause! Bid, bid, Bid!

Thank you for the support!

Juliette LORD

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Introducing newcomers

Zahra Yaghtin and Alexandra Aprodu



Zahra Yaghtin

Positive energy

Zahra Yaghtin has a business in MoWest, with two parts, *Crystal Canada Therapy Centre* and *Crystal Canada Academy*, the latter offering courses for both adults and children. She wants to introduce décor therapy such as Feng shui which adds positive energy and removes negative energy from one's house and life. Such therapy helps not only with interior decoration, but also reduces annoying vibrations around any house near a phone pole, train station or highway.

Her passion began when she lived in Dubai and attended classes on parapsychol-

ogy that focused on energy therapy. Her background includes software engineering, IT and logistics. She discovered benefits to crystals and quartz, also used in watches, radio and radiology devices. Once relocated in Montreal, she studied naturopathy, especially helpful during Covid, attended Laval College for two years, and engaged in a one-year internship. Her overall purpose is to improve lives by strengthening immune systems against disease. As both a naturopath and therapist, she is interested in three areas: how to have a healthy body, a happy soul through crystal therapy and how to recreate your home as a haven.

Alexandra Esthétique

Born and raised in Romania, **Alexandra Aprodu** is the owner of *Alexandra Esthétique*.

With a background in psychology with a minor in literature, she transitioned into business because she didn't see herself working at a desk as a translator from English to Spanish. As a new mom, she found herself doing facials at home while her newborn was in the crib. She dreamed one day of owning her own business. She settled on Westminster and opened her beauty salon just before Covid. Today her business is ever expanding and includes various services of Massotherapy, Madero and wood therapy, as well as mani/pedis. She is especially proud of being medically certified for laser hair removal and boasts the latest in hair removal technology from Israel. Her products are made in France from Académie, a company that has been around since 1890. Having realized her dream of a owning a luxurious spa, she prioritizes her clients and calls them her friends and even family.

Both Zahra and Alexandra have their salons at 16 Westminster on the second floor.

Rotary events

All *Rotary* events take place at the Town Hall. Enjoy Thursday lunch or Friday evening light dinner and speaker. Please check our website calendar at portal.clubrunner.ca/9719, email mowest.ndg.rotary@gmail.com or **Giuliana Pendenza**: giulianapendenza@gmail.com, phone 943-9310.

Thursday, November 30

- The art of adornment: repurposing your jewellery. **Anna and Morris Kaufer** from *Coach House Antiques* will showcase estate



Alexandra Aprodu and her son, Gabriel

jewellery. Lunch from local eateries: fresh and fabulous sandwiches, salads, dessert cookies and squares, with coffee/tea. \$25. Guests welcome to attend with no lunch. Complimentary dessert and coffee.

Saturday, December 2

- Garbage Bowl Association* fundraiser, 7:30 pm, \$20. All proceeds go to the *Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation/Rita Stafford Tribute Fund*.

Thursday, December 7

- Speaker **Josh Freed**, award-winning filmmaker, writer and journalist who works in every medium but the hammer and chisel. Freed has won two National Newspaper Awards as Best Canadian Columnist for his weekly column in the *Montreal Gazette*. Luncheon \$25, 12:30-1:30 pm. Guests welcome to attend with no lunch. Complimentary dessert and coffee

Friday, December 15

- Christmas Party, 6:30 pm featuring **Sasha Djihanian**, soprano. Buffet \$40. guests welcome to attend with no dinner, complimentary dessert and coffee. Certificates of Appreciation to **Sarah Lauer Lespérance** and **Stephanie Fontana** for their work on the nurses' break room at the Douglas Hospital and **Jamie D'Souza** for Zumba fundraiser for *Resilience Montreal*.

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Horticultural Society

Christmas meeting

Murray van Egmond from *Fleuriste Edgewood Florist* will be demonstrating a Christmas/winter decoration on December 4 at the Town Hall.

As well, he will give tips on what to do with the Christmas tree when the holidays are over. Murray's creation will be raffled off at the end of the meeting, so bring a few extra dollars for your chance to win.

This meeting is the garden club's Christ-

mas event and is always popular with members and non-members alike. \$5 will get you in the door if you are not a member. Refreshments will be served. Come to get your holiday season off to a good start.

Membership fees

Membership fees for the Horticultural Society have increased to \$25 for 2024 in view of increased charges by speakers. Fees for 2024 can be paid at the Christmas meeting or sent to **Andrea Macdonald**, 34 Westland Drive, Montreal West, H4X 1M2.

In January

Welder, **Mona Rutenberg** makes pieces of art from found objects, used steel, glass and sometimes wood. Many of her pieces find their way to gardens to age and rust and settle in. Mona will talk about her unusual work, how she got into welding, the process, and the horticultural component.

This meeting will take place Monday, January 15, 7:30, at the Town Hall. Once again, membership for 2024 can be paid at that time or \$5 for a one-time admission.

from Sue Sladen



Dr. Donald Vinh

continued from page 1

ents. As the name suggests, they came from Vietnam and both went to France to study pharmacology. French, at that time, was the second language of the educated class in Vietnam. They immigrated to Canada in 1974. Donald was born at the JGH (Jewish General Hospital) and was raised in Town of Mount Royal.

Influenced by his parents

Donald's father worked for a large pharmaceutical company in research and development and discovered some antibiotics as well as the formula for anti-dandruff Selsun Blue shampoo. His mother's work focussed on regulatory affairs (legal and ethical issues). Growing up he heard from both sides and became enamored with the field.

After elementary school in TMR, he attended Selwyn House, following **Marc**, his older brother, then went to Marianopolis College. At McGill in his undergraduate years, he was part of an interdisciplinary immunology program with only 14 students. What still sticks with him is the group all wanted to go into medicine and they all studied and helped each other. Not a common feature in the competitive nature in most universities.

In 1997, Donald enrolled in the McGill faculty of medicine. Meanwhile his parents moved to Chicago because his father got a promotion. In 2001 his

dad was diagnosed with cancer. Working Monday to Friday and interning at the JGH in internal medicine, he would take a plane to visit his parents on the weekend. He didn't completely have his "head in the game." On his own time, he would be doing research in the library to see if the doctors had missed something while treating his father.

Choice of specialty

When he had to make a choice of specialty, he opted for infectious diseases. Maybe his father's battle with an incurable cancer played a major role, but in this field, there was the ability to actually cure a sick person and be able to bring them back to health.

Further study and training were required. He had hoped to get a fellowship to study in Quebec but he got a letter from **Dr. Couillard** that they did not see the necessity of an infectious disease specialist in the province.

Move west

In 2004, Donald and his new wife, **Melanie Langelier**, moved to Winnipeg where he did research with **Kathy Bernard** for two years. Then in 2007, the family moved to Maryland where he collaborated with **Dr. Steve Holland** of the NIH for four years. There he pondered questions such as what roles do luck, exposure and genetics play in getting these diseases. Why did some remain immune while those all around them got sick? Is it possible that some people are genetically prone to certain diseases?

In October of 2010, the family returned to Montreal. They rented a place near the U de M, but not long after they visited a friend from Selwyn House who lived in MoWest and they loved the peace and quiet.

Cupid's arrow

With all the pressure of his studies for so many years, when did Dr. Vinh have time so socialize and get married? He smiled and told the tale of meeting **Melanie**. She was a nurse at the JGH (funny how many times that hospital crops up). He was attracted to her early, but she... not so much. It could have ended that way, but one day they were working together on a patient who just had a massive heart attack and they were trying to resuscitate her. As they placed the pads on the woman's chest, their hands touched and an electrical current went through both of them. A variation of Cupid's arrow? I forgot to ask if the patient survived.

The couple have four children. **Lily Rose** (born in Winnipeg and is 18), **Thomas** (born at the JGH and is 16), **Amelia** (born in Maryland and is 14) and **Olivia** (born at the JGH and is 9). And, of course, there is the dog whose name is **Leo**. He's a cross between a St. Bernard and a royal poodle. The breed is called a St. Bernardoodle and he's three and weighs 160 pounds. Everyone in the area knows he's a gentle giant.

Covid and politics

I asked about the connection between infectious diseases like

Covid and politics. He said it was not surprising. When there were various outbreaks that infected at high rates, politicians had a duty to protect society. It often required some major changes in behaviour that not everyone was willing to make. It has happened many times in history, probably going all the way back to biblical times. Montreal had its own small pox riots in 1885 when the government insisted people must be vaccinated. It divided along linguistic lines.

Major concern

I concluded by asking him what his major concern is for the future. Dr. Vinh waved his arms. "This, 28 C today!" he said. We talked for a while about the climate changes we have witnessed since our childhood. Rain in January in Montreal, burning forests, extreme weather patterns, droughts and floods and global warming. What were once classified as tropical diseases like malaria, dengue and most recently, monkey pox, are now "here" in the richer industrialized nations. Mosquitos, birds, ticks and other carriers are moving north and south from the equator. Tropical diseases have been under-studied because they are far away and not considered "our" problem. The massive amount of funding to find vaccines, like what was done for Covid, have not been there. Dr. Vinh called them "neglected" diseases. The term suggests that money and profit still talk, even when so many lives are at stake.

Bruce Thicke:

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because he knew something about chemicals. In 2005 he was asked to take over gardening. The glasshouse became one of his responsibilities.

In 2007, the Town asked him to work on a proposal to change from annuals to a perennial garden. He took an on-line course in landscape technologies, but most of his "learning" came from trial and error. You learn by doing.

While sitting there, Bruce was able to talk about each plant as if they were his children, which I guess they are. The cold snap this past February damaged 90% of the plants. After two days of -28 degrees Celsius the heating system couldn't keep up. Most had to be replaced. The oldest plant, a cactus, got

damaged by frost at the edges, but not only survived but flowered. He showed me the banana tree and the milkweed which were almost dead after the cold snap. The old gas heating system was replaced by electric and thankfully generators were purchased for the Town Hall and Fire Station after the 1998 ice storm. Looking out the window, I could see we were only 20-30 yards from the high school he attended so many years ago. That must be a strange feeling!

Another passion

Bruce has another passion; music. More specifically organ music. He has been playing since he was 15 in the Lutheran Church in Westmount on Clarke Ave. The congregation has moved three times due to shrinking numbers but he made sure the Casavant Frères organ went with him. He is now playing at a new merged group at Christ the

Redeemer Lutheran congregation in DDO. He laughingly said in his Charlton Heston accent that they will have to "Pry my gnarly fingers from the keyboard."

Both his parents reside in the Sherbrooke/Cavendish area. His dad is 92 and his mom is 89. He and his partner, a professor in the Contemporary Dance department at Concordia, as well as teaching at the Loyola College of Diversity and Sustainability, live in the Mile End area within the scent of *Fairmount Bagels*. They have bought land northwest of Lachute and plan to build a house. He hopes to live there 80% of the time because he is still committed to playing the organ in the West Island and to come in once a week to tend to the greenhouse.

What he will miss most are the people. He says Public Works is mainly about public relations. He obviously was equally good with people as he was with plants.



West End Quilters

Last month, we had a very productive sewing day at the Côte Saint-Luc Aquatic Centre working on Quilts of Valour.

These comfort quilts are given to veterans and injured armed forces personnel to recognize them and thank them for their service.

The sew day was organized by quilt teacher **Paul Leger**. Paul arrived with all the fabric pieces for the quilts cut and packaged and the attendees from *Loose Threads*, *West End Quilters* and other guilds sewed

and pressed. The room was filled with the hum of machines, including six vintage *Singer Featherweights*. At the end of the afternoon, nine quilt tops were finished!

The quilts with batting and backings are now being quilted and will soon be given to deserving individuals through the Quebec Branch of Quilts of Valour.

from Mary Sutherland

Photos (left to right):

One of the finished quilt tops with many of the sewers Mary, Anna, Paul and Orly working on Quilts of Valour



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CRA



Winter registration now open! Indoor soccer, basketball, gymnastics, skating lessons and pre-school skate.

To register go to mwcrasports.ca

Hockey Knights



The tryouts are completed and nine single letter teams for the 2023-2024 season are on the ice. Players range in age from 4 to 12, our older players are merged with CSLMHA for the next two years while our new facility is being built. Our teams are playing out of LCC, Concordia and CSL arenas and doing some off-ice training in the gym, led by some incredible parent volunteers. All our teams play in the EHL league against other cities such as Westmount, CSL, Lachine, TMR and Lasalle. We are off to a great start of the season and look forward to an action-

packed 2023-2024 season. To see the schedule visit our website at mwhhockey.ca

North Stars du EHL



This year at Double Letters, we have seven teams playing under the North Stars du EHL banner, with players from CSL, Hampstead, Montreal West, Saint Laurent, TMR and Outremont. New this year: we have added a Junior AA team for players 18-21. Home games are action-packed. Our teams are off to a fantastic season and are starting their first tournament soon. Go North Stars, go! For the complete schedule and standings check our website at northstarsduehl.com

Gym-Tastic!

The fall session is coming to an end in December, and what a fantastic group of kids we have. They have learned many of their basic moves and even some more advanced skills. Registration for the winter session starting in January is now open.

Skating lessons

Led by program co-ordinator **Mackenzie Bullett** and her team of coaches, this program shows these newest skaters how to make snow with their skates and to get up off the ice in less than five seconds, swirl, balance and control. Our youngest skaters, the pre-school skaters have impressed us with how fast they have caught on and are learning more advanced skills each session. We have opened more spaces for both pre-school and regular skating lessons.

We have opened a winter session as well as a few spots for private lessons. Classes run out of Concordia University Ed Meagher Arena in Sundays at 9-10 or 11am.

Basketball

This class has quickly become one of our most popular ones as players learn basic skills and then apply them in a game setting. Thank you to our coaches, **David Steiner** and **Alex Bruce**, for making this program so successful. New this session is a men's 18+ pick up game that happens Friday nights out of Elizabeth Ballantyne. To register, go to mwcrasports.ca. We are working towards building this program into something bigger and better in the years to come.

Indoor soccer

Our indoor soccer program started at RWA in late September and has been running non-stop ever since. We have classes for the younger players ages 5-18 years old. The classes have everyone running, doing drills, games, learning different strategies and playing a scrimmage each week. Registration for the winter session, starting in January, is now open.

Photos (left to right):

Men's basketball team 2023 with coach David Steiner
Future Stars hockey 2023 – Alexandra and Samantha Sommer

Learn to skate coach Mackenzie Bullett



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Edinburgh Elementary

— A sixth grader's perspective —

Interview with Ms. Wiesenthal

I am a grade 6 student at Edinburgh School. In my seven years at this school, I have had so many caring and interesting teachers. They are each so special, and I would like all of the readers of *The Informer* to get to know my current English and math teacher. Thank you, **Ms Wiesenthal**, for taking the time to answer my questions.

Simone: You have been a grade 6 teacher for many years. Why do you like it?

Ms. Wiesenthal: I like having engaging conversations with my students. It's also important to prepare the students for high school and the realities that come with that.

Simone: Which do you prefer to teach: ELA (English language arts) or math? Why?

Ms. Wiesenthal: It's tough to answer that question because I like to teach them both. For ELA, it is wonderful to see the students gain a deeper understanding of a text. I especially like it when students relate the stories that we read in class to themselves or to the world. In math, I enjoy teaching situational problem-solving because students have to use their reading skills and prior math knowledge to solve the problem.

Simone: What is special to you about teaching at Edinburgh?

Ms. Wiesenthal: It is very special teaching at Edinburgh because it feels like a very big family.

Simone: At Edinburgh, most teachers work in pairs. I can tell that you and **M. Jean-Michel** are partners. What do you like about that?

Ms. Wiesenthal: We are very lucky. M. Jean-Michel and I complement each other's strengths. One of the ways we do this is to discuss our students' needs to ensure that

they receive the same message from each of us in both of our classes.

Simone: Thanks for your great answers. My last question. If you are with a student who needs motivation, what would you say to them?

Ms. Wiesenthal: When a student needs motivation I will remind them of the following: success lies in one's ability to learn from mistakes.

from Simone Bazinet



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EBS



Spooktacular Halloween!

As Halloween approached, the pumpkins at EBS decided to get into their costumes as well! Each class had the chance to decorate a pumpkin, using recycled materials. The pumpkins were judged on originality and attention to detail; there were so many creative entries that the judges had a truly difficult choice to make! Students in the winning classrooms will be enjoying a FREE pizza lunch! Here are the winning pumpkins from each cycle! Spooktacular!



Planting tulips

Thanks to **Ryan Oxley**, our diligent B.A.S.E. Green Projects Facilitator, our K4, K5 and grades 1/2 students had the pleasure of planting tulips outside the school. They learned all about how tulips grow. We can't wait to see how beautiful the school will look next spring!

from Kate Marien

Montreal West Public Library

MWPL's 50th anniversary

Celebrating all year and celebrating our volunteers

November: a busy month!

It started with another session of sweater mittens where a group of crafty people learn how to turn old, unloved sweaters into a beautiful pair of warm, cozy mittens.

November also saw the first meeting of the "Who am AI?" book club where we discussed *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro (reviewed last month by **Trish Hewat**). This book club is a joint effort of a group of individuals who feel that they could learn more about AI through reading fiction. The discussion was moderated by Prof. **Fenwick McKelvey**, Co-Director of the Applied AI Institute of Concordia University. A lot of the

Prof. McKelvey saying goodbye to book club members



discussion centred on the book and the AI being, Klara, and as well as on the emergence of AI and its applications.

A big thank you to Prof. McKelvey, **Mitali Ruths** and Prof **Kim Sawchuck** who came out on a very bleak November night to join us. We would also be amiss if we did not thank **Marlene Chan** and **Eric Craven** who got the ball rolling. We hope to meet four times a year. Stay tuned for our next meeting!

Also, this November, the library is holding its annual raffle where we had many beautiful gifts contributed by members of the community. The *West End Quilters* outdid themselves this year by donating a lovely Christmas quilt, a beautiful handmade scarf was given by an artisan from NDG, Montreal West's own chef **Emma Cardarelli** contributed two dinner gift certificates to *Gia and Elena's* and of course, there will be a high tea served right here in the library.

The month ends with our annual fundraising campaign. This is a major fundraiser for us, and it allows us to keep our doors open six days a week. Stay tuned for the results!

And finally on November 30 the library celebrates its 50th anniversary with a 5 à 7 where all members and special guests are invited.

In December the library will once again hold the "Blind Date" with a book where members can blindly take a chance with a book recommended by their peers.

The library hopes you have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you in December.

from Deborah Marcogliese

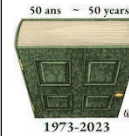
481-7522

41 Westminster N.

Reservations/requests:

info@mwpl.ca

Visit us online: mwpl.ca



OPENING HOURS

Monday to Saturday:
noon-6 pm

What Are You Reading Now?

The Housekeeper and the Professor

by Yoko Ogawa

from Kathleen Adamson



This little book is easy to miss on the library shelves, but it holds a wonderful story between its blue cherry-blossomed covers. The plot revolves around a housekeeper who is assigned by her agency to care for a retired professor of mathematics whose

otherwise excellent memory resets without fail after every 80 minutes. As the housekeeper and her young son get to know this unusual character, Ogawa uses the professor's unique qualities to illuminate the universal experiences of caregiving and maintaining relationships under challenging circumstances. Because of the professor's shortened memory, the housekeeper and her son must introduce themselves to the professor multiple times per day, as if they are meeting for the first time. Yet despite this serious obstacle, the professor's passion for mathematics soon infects both mother and son, changing each of their lives in a different way. Soon, the three are bonding over baseball as well as math, and a warm, lasting friendship begins to develop between them.

Ogawa's writing style treats day-to-day objects – like numbers, food, and baseball cards – with a quiet reverence that eases the heart. Her love and respect for all the characters is clear, and while the book has many poignant moments, it never descends into trauma or despair. This is a book that you will want to savour slowly, like a simple but delicious meal. It would be the perfect choice for a co-sy autumn evening.

If there is a library book that moved you, inspired you or you just found a particularly good read, please email us at info@mwpl.ca and we will be happy to include your thoughts in our next review.



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Round table discussions

October 21: a lively seniors' consultation

October 21, the Seniors' Advisory Committee hosted a consultation for seniors.

The afternoon started with a very enlightening talk from resident, Dr. **Natalie Phillips**, a professor in the Department of Psychology at Concordia University. Dr. Phillips' area of expertise is the study of sensory-cognitive health in aging and dementia. She pointed to the importance of hearing and sight in particular, and encouraged all present to get their sight and hearing tested, and to do what they can to mitigate this loss, for example with glasses and/or hearing aids. It was interesting to hear that although there is a natural memory loss or slowdown as we age, the majority of seniors do not experience dementia.

We were also encouraged to exercise and, in fact, we did just that during the break. **Megan Feeney** led the group in ten minutes of *Essentrics* stretching to pump the participants up and get those brain waves stimulated for the discussions which followed.

Before moving to future priorities, the meeting reviewed the objectives set out in the *Municipalité amie des aînés (MADA)* Age-Friendly Plan. The plan was a particularly ambitious one, with 21 specific objectives and 90 associated action items! We are now half-way through

the 2020-2025 plan, and, happily, have completed or initiated 47 of those actions.

Some of the goals completed include:

- adding more street furniture and greenery on Westminister
- obtaining a grant and moving forward with a new fully accessible recreation centre
- developing a seniors' webpage with information pertaining to seniors
- instigating a plan of action to reach seniors in times of

emergency, which was put into place during the early phase of Covid

- encouraging new housing opportunities
- organizing social events targeted to seniors
- creating several inter-generational activities
- setting up consultations with seniors

Next, we moved to round table discussions to help set priorities for future years. The seniors present were extremely engaged and provided insightful and valuable commentary and input. These will be reviewed by the Committee and submit-

ted to Council for action.

The afternoon was a great success, and was appreciated by all participants. Many thanks to our keynote speaker, Dr. Natalie Phillips, to the members of our Seniors' Advisory Committee and to the 50 residents who participated. Although we have moved many goals forward, we recognize we have more work to do. We will continue to strive to make our community more age-friendly, not just for seniors but for all residents.

*Colleen Feeney
Councillor, Finance, MADA,
Recreation and Culture*

Le 21 octobre : une consultation animée pour les aînés

L'après-midi a commencé par un exposé très instructif de **Natalie Phillips**, professeure au département de psychologie de l'Université Concordia. Le domaine d'expertise de la Dre Phillips est l'étude de la santé sensori-cognitive dans le vieillissement et la démence. Elle a souligné l'importance de l'ouïe

et de la vue en particulier, et a encouragé toutes les personnes présentes à faire tester leur vue et leur ouïe, et à faire ce qu'elles peuvent pour atténuer cette perte, par exemple en portant des lunettes et/ou des appareils auditifs. Il était intéressant d'entendre que, bien qu'il y ait une perte ou un ralentissement na-

Essentrics stretching during the break



MADA



Councillor Colleen Feeney and keynote speaker, Dr. Natalie Phillips

turel de la mémoire avec l'âge, la majorité des personnes âgées ne souffrent pas de démence.

Nous avons également été encouragés à faire de l'exercice, ce que nous avons d'ailleurs fait pendant la pause. **Megan Feeney** a dirigé le groupe avec dix minutes d'étirements Essentrics pour donner de l'énergie et stimuler les ondes cérébrales pour les discussions qui ont suivi.

Avant de passer aux priorités futures, les participants ont passé en revue les objectifs définis dans le plan de la *Municipalité amie des aînés (MADA)* en faveur des personnes âgées. Ce plan était particulièrement ambitieux, avec 21 objectifs spécifiques et 90 actions associées ! Nous sommes maintenant à mi-parcours du plan 2020-2025 et, heureusement, nous avons réalisé ou lancé 47 de ces actions.

Parmi les objectifs atteints, on peut citer

- l'ajout de mobilier urbain et de verdure sur Westminster
- l'obtention d'une subvention et la réalisation d'un nouveau centre de loisirs entièrement accessible
- création d'une page web destinée aux personnes âgées et contenant des informations les concernant
- la mise en place d'un plan d'action pour joindre les personnes âgées en cas d'urgence, un plan qui a été mis en place au cours de la phase initiale de Covid

- encourager les nouvelles possibilités de logement
- l'organisation d'événements sociaux destinés aux personnes âgées
- créer plusieurs activités intergénérationnelles
- organiser des consultations avec les personnes âgées

Nous avons ensuite organisé des tables rondes afin de définir les priorités pour les années à venir. Les personnes âgées présentes se sont montrées très impliquées et ont formulé des commentaires et des suggestions utiles et pertinents. Celles-ci seront examinées par le Comité et soumises au Conseil pour action.

L'après-midi a été un grand succès, apprécié par tous les participants. Un grand merci à notre conférencière principale, la Dre Natalie Phillips, aux membres de notre comité consultatif des personnes âgées et aux 50 résidents qui ont participé à l'événement. Bien que nous ayons fait progresser de nombreux objectifs, nous reconnaissons qu'il nous reste encore du travail à faire. Nous continuerons à nous efforcer de rendre notre communauté plus conviviale, non seulement pour les personnes âgées, mais aussi pour tous les résidents.

*Colleen Feeney
Conseillère, Finances,
MADA, Loisirs et Culture*

Guides

Enrollment ceremony



October 18, Mont West Sparks made up-cycled bags from old T-shirts; those who didn't have one used vintage Children's Library T-shirts. The bags will be used to store their Guiding items.

They are also preparing themselves for their enrollment. Enrollment is when you officially become a member of your unit.

For a new girl, there are a couple of steps needed to being enrolled: you need to learn your promise so you can apply it to your daily tasks.

The 110th Guides Unit had their enrollment, October 27. The meeting was a blast! Seven Guides were enrolled. After the ceremony, some girls led a short campfire for their parents and had a sewing party where they sewed their newly received badges onto their sashes.

Guide enrollment ceremony and awarding of earned badges



Photos: Christine Downey

Remembrance Day activities

The week of November 5, Girl Guides all over Montreal participated in Remembrance Day activities.

The 1st Monkland Rangers stood at the entrance of *Provigo* on Sherbrooke and sold poppies to shoppers for *The Legion*.

The 110th Montreal Guides unit reflected on Remembrance Day by going around the neighbourhood looking at the posters

of old veterans and reading their biographies, to truly understand who they were. The Guides and Embers units also wrote postcards for veterans and were involved in the Remembrance Day parade and ceremony. They held flags and placed a wreath. In the Westmount Remembrance Day ceremony, the Guides placed a wreath at their Cenotaph. As Girl Guides, we will remember.

from Liliana Grey

"Secret" Girl Guide and Scout handshake



St. Ignatius of Loyola

With the season of Advent upon us, you're invited to enjoy this beautiful time of anticipation and preparation as we look forward to Christmas! Please visit stig.ca/christmas for a complete list of all activities.

To help get your kids into the Christmas spirit, sign them up for Catch the Wave that takes place every Sunday at 10 am during the first half of Mass. There will be plenty of fun activities during Advent. Families are also invited to a holiday-themed family movie night Friday, December 1, 6-8 pm, as well as our family Christmas party December 17 after Mass.

For adults and children alike, join us Wednesday, December 13 at 7 pm for "In the Quiet," an evening of live music, prayer and time with Jesus in adoration to help prepare our hearts for Christmas. Refreshments will be served, and a few priests will be available for those wishing to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Finally, we're also pleased to be offering a variety of music styles at our various Christmas Masses: from our Music Ministry Worship Band December 24 at 4:30 pm to a traditional choir at the 8 pm Mass

Club 50+

Info: 484-6186 or/ou par courriel: email recreation@montreal-west.ca

November

- 28** Bridge/cards
Call to reserve your table.

December

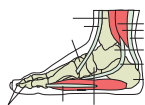
- 6** *Home for the Holidays* starring **Leisa Way** and the *Wayward Wind Band*. (Upper Canada Playhouse), departure time: 9:45 am
- 17** Christmas dinner/Souper de Noël (almost sold out)
- 19** Bridge/cards

Foot clinic

484-6186

December 7 & January 10

\$45 for the initial visit,
\$35 for subsequent visits
by appointment only



Christmas Eve, as well as a beautifully talented father-daughter duo from MoWest Christmas morning at 10 am, the music this Christmas is sure not to disappoint!

We look forward to welcoming you, your friends and your loved ones!

Christmas Mass schedule

December 24: Christmas Eve Masses 4:30 pm and 8 pm (livestream available for both at stig.ca)

December 25: Christmas Day Mass 10 am
December 31: Holy Family Mass 10 am and 4:30 pm (livestream available for 10 am at stig.ca)

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God at 10

from Shawna Rose

St. Philip's

Thank you to all who joined us at the Christmas bazaar. It was good to be back after a long hiatus, and to see so many familiar faces again and make new friends.

Preparations are under way for Advent and Christmas. White Gift Sunday, on December 2, will again support the Mile End Mission. As in previous years, we will be contributing cash support so that the Mission can provide a Christmas party for the children they serve; last year we donated over \$900.

Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, with music by **Peter Butler** and the choir, will take place on Sunday, December 17 at 5 pm. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

As Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year; Sunday, December 24 we will have our regular Sunday morning service, for the fourth Sunday of Advent, at 10 am. Our children's (all ages) Christmas Eve service will take place at 5 pm. Our main Christmas Eve Eucharist returns to its traditional 11 pm. We will also offer Holy Communion at 10 am on Christmas morning.

Two other musical events

St. Philip's is also playing host to two other musical events for the holiday season. Saturday, December 9 at 7 pm, the *Ensemble Vocal Gloria* will perform a concert of seasonal music, free will offering with proceeds going to Ukrainian refugees in Montreal.

The *Ensemble Bellechose* will present the music of William Byrd, the greatest composer of Elizabethan England, to mark the 400th anniversary of his death. The concert takes place on Saturday, December 16 at 7 pm, with a reception following. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the door.

from Fr. Pratt

MW United

...the brick one

Bazaar done, now onward to Christmas

Never fail to enjoy the bazaar. Working alongside others in different capacities is always rewarding. The silent auction had some truly intriguing baskets this year. Mark your calendar for next year (November 2) as it bears repeating!

Lickety-split it's December

December 3, Advent I gets things under way with worship and Communion. Then 3:30-5:30 come for an afternoon of Advent tea and carols, after which all will be invited to go outside to light our Christmas tree. For Advent III, the choir presents words and music of the season. As Advent IV falls on December 24, we will forgo the morning service. Instead, our Christmas Eve family service will be at 7 pm, complete with Communion, candles and Silent Night in its splendid glory.

Christmas Day, our home deliveries of turkey dinners begins 11-ish as orchestrated by **Joan Foster**. Has this become your family's tradition as yet?

Come December 31, our 10 am worship is a relaxed service, often with a chance to request a hymn you haven't heard enough of as yet. Then on January 7, regular worship resumes.

January Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday evening, January 17 between 7 and 9 pm will likely be our darkest walk of the year. So, the maximum number of candles will surround the Chartres Cathedral design in Wadsworth Hall creating a shimmering experience. This is your invitation into this peaceful individual walking meditation. An ancient, cross-cultural event, it is open to all. No cost, but please walk in socks or slippers. New walkers welcome.

Former activities re-visited

Rev. Mark has reinstated informal scripture discussions on Wednesdays at 2 pm in his study, or 7:30 pm on Zoom. Let him know if you would like to participate. And watch for The Spirit is With Us discussion group dates as it resumes soon.

Join us any Sunday at 10 am (except on December 24) at the brick one. Call 482-3210 or email to mwuoffice@gmail.com. Wishing Peace to you and yours during this season and onward. And never underestimate what simple kindness can do.

from Susan Upham

Scouts



Remembrance Day ceremony



Cubs' fall camp



Special Remembrance Day parade for Scouting family

Having been a part of the Montreal West Scout Group for nine and five years respectively, my sons **Seb** and **Jeremy** have attended many of the MoWest Remembrance Day parades and services. This year, however, felt very special, not least because Seb lowered and raised the Canadian flag, and Jeremy laid a wreath, but also because they did so as Canadian citizens.

Sebastian and Jeremy Fitzgerald



This is our family's tenth year of living in Montreal, having moved here from England in 2013. Relocating to a different country when your kids are 4 and 2, is quite a big undertaking, but we loved Montreal from the start – even enjoying the winter here (mostly) – and quickly decided to stay! Early on the Montreal West Scout Group welcomed our family into a special part of Canadian society, and over the years has taken my boys on many fantastic adventures and instilled in them many important values.

I'm sure for everyone this year, the Remembrance parade and service felt more

vital than ever with the world in its current state of turmoil. Watching it as a citizen made me feel very lucky to be living in such a safe, peaceful and welcoming society, and I was very proud of both my boys. It really was the perfect way to mark the conclusion to our journey to becoming Canadian citizens.

*from Jenny Fitzgerald
Scouting parent*

Beavers

The Colony invested our new Beavers, so they are no longer "Kits" but "Busy, Eager Beavers." We had a games night where one group played board games at a table in the hallway while the second group prepared an obstacle course in the gym. Then we switched! What a creative group! Several Beavers took part in the annual Remembrance Day parade. We didn't go to camp, but we learned how to pack our bags, roll our sleeping bags and set up a tent all with the help of our Scouts. Another night we practised skits, cheers and learned songs to perform around our pretend campfire. We'll be already for winter camp in February!

Cubs

The Cub pack helped to plan their fall camp at Lake Lovering near Magog: what to pack in your bag, menu planning – yummy but not too difficult, suggested activities and games to play both indoors and outdoors. They headed down to the camp on Friday night, settled into their cabins, one outdoor game in the dark, a snack and off to bed! Not much sleeping happens that first night! The weather was cool, but luckily it didn't rain too much.

Saturday they went for a hike around the property and learned "Scouting" skills from two of our Rovers (youth 18 to 26), **Jonathan Halliday** and **Liam Massey**.

They learned fire safety: how to build a fire, and make sure that it is drowned with water when you are finished. We had the usual campfire with skits, songs and Cheers at night. A parent, **Daphne Symeonides**, ran the kitchen with some help from the Cubs setting tables, washing up and sweeping the floors. Thank you to Daphne, Jonathan, Liam, Scouters **Darzee (Lee Ann)** and **Chil (Bruce)**.

Scouts

Our Scout troop did not fare as well at fall camp as our Cubs weather-wise: it poured rain all weekend. We slept in tents with tarps to protect them from the rain. The two Rovers (**Slater Covenden** and **Mathias Cantu**), who went along to help, really pulled their weight and got very creative with setting up the tarps. The Scouts persevered and stayed remarkably dry and cheerful given the circumstances!

The two practice mock camps helped prepare the Scouts; they cooked all their own food and even got a little gourmet making baked apples and banana boats in the coals of their fires. The rain did curtail some of the planned games, but our "Travois" team did very well, finishing in the middle of the bunch – much better than last year! We are all, so proud of the Troop!

Thank you to the Scouters **Micky, Peter, Leslie, Todd** and Rovers **Slater** and **Mathias**.

Comment from Scout parent **Charlotte Taylor**: "Scout Camp is a great way for our boys to be independent and learn real life skills, plus they love it!"

Scout **Theo Taylor**: "I love camp, it's always fun. I especially like when we meet other Scout groups and play games like capture the flag."

Blood donor clinic

Thank you to all who volunteered and donated. We surpassed our goal!

Community Centre communautaire : 484-6186

Mah-Jong

Venez jouer au mah-jong les jeudis à 13 h 30 les 23 et 30 novembre et les 14 et 21 décembre. Pour réserver votre place veuillez appeler le 484-6186 ou envoyer un courriel au recreation@montreal-ouest.ca

Come play mah jong Thursday, November 23 and 30 and December 14 and 21 at 1:30 pm. Call or email to reserve your spot: 484-6186 or recreation@montreal-ouest.ca.

Rock 'n Roll dance party

*Levée de fonds pour
le centre sportif et récréatif
Fundraiser for the
sports and recreation centre*

Friday, December 1
Town Hall

Live band: *Vintage Wine*

Déjeuner du père Noël

Dimanche 10 décembre
8 h à 13 h, Hôtel de ville

Pour une journée remplie de plaisirs des Fêtes, joignez-vous à nous pour le déjeuner du père Noël. Les activités de la journée comprennent des promenades en traîneau, du maquillage pour enfants, du bricolage, de la musique avec Shawny et, bien sûr, des visites spéciales du père Noël.

Réservez une heure de repas et profitez de toutes les activités avant ou après votre petit-déjeuner, entre 8 h et 13 h.

Prix des billets :

- Famille (2 adultes, 2 enfants) :
50 \$ à l'avance, 60 \$ à la porte
- Adulte (13 ans et plus) :
15 \$ à l'avance, 20 \$ à la porte
- Enfant (2 à 12 ans) :
12 \$ à l'avance, 14 \$ à la porte



Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, December 10
8 am-1 pm
Town Hall

For a day full of holiday fun, join us for breakfast with Santa. Activities for the day include sleigh rides, facepainting, arts and crafts, music with Shawny, and of course, special visits from Santa himself. Reserve your mealtime and enjoy all the activities before or after your breakfast, between 8 am and 1 pm.

Ticket prices:

- Family (2 adults, 2 children):
\$50 in advance, \$60 at the door
- Adult (13 years and up):
\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door
- Child (2 to 12 years old):
\$12 in advance, \$14 at the door

Environmentalism in action

I'm dreaming of a green Christmas

Each holiday season, Canadians produce approximately 25% more waste than usual. In our eagerness to go all out celebrating Christmas or Hanukkah, we use and dispose of 2.6 billion cards, 3,000 tonnes of foil, and 6 million rolls worth of tape each year. And that's on top of what's actually inside all the layers of giftwrap.

There are many ways for us to cut down on waste this year, including replacing giftwrap

with cloth or newspaper, reusing decorations, and organizing meal plans to minimize food waste. Compost your Christmas trees and your paper plates, and encourage your friends and family to do the same. Resist the "Black Friday" and "Boxing Day" dogma that sales justify buying more than we need or even want – and that shopping is a sport.

One area in which we can effectively cut down on waste is

in our gift-giving practices. Support local businesses by purchasing thoughtful gifts with minimal packaging at Christmas markets and art fairs in Montreal. Local typically means low carbon emissions.

One eco-conscious practice to keep in mind, especially during the holidays, is to ensure our environmental beliefs are reflected in our financial decisions. If you find the climate pollution and production practices of big companies to be problematic, don't support them. If you want to cut down

on material waste, consider gifting someone an experience. Or get creative at your local thrift store. Some of my most memorable and cherished gifts: concert tickets, a thrifted lamp that'd been repainted, and a vintage second-hand dress. In order to preserve our winter wonderland, let's think outside the box (and ribbons) this year.

*Hailey Clarke-Cousineau
on behalf of the EAC*



Je rêve d'un Noël vert

Chaque année, pendant les fêtes de fin d'année, les Canadiens produisent environ 25 % de déchets de plus que d'habitude. Dans notre empressement à célébrer Noël ou Hanoukka, nous utilisons et jetons chaque année 2,6 milliards de cartes, 3 000 tonnes de papier d'aluminium et 6 millions de rouleaux de ruban adhésif. Et c'est sans compter ce qui se trouve à l'intérieur de toutes les couches de papier cadeau.

Il existe de nombreuses façons de réduire les déchets cette année, notamment en rem-

plaçant le papier cadeau par du tissu ou du papier journal, en réutilisant les décorations et en organisant les repas de manière à minimiser les déchets alimentaires. Compostez vos arbres de Noël et vos assiettes en carton, et encouragez vos amis et votre famille à faire de même. Résistez au dogme du "Black Friday" et du "Boxing Day" selon lequel les soldes justifient d'acheter plus que ce dont nous avons besoin ou même ce que nous voulons, et qui nous fait croire que le magasinage est un sport.

L'un des domaines dans

lesquels nous pouvons réduire efficacement les déchets est celui des cadeaux. Encouragez les entreprises locales en achetant des cadeaux bien pensés avec un minimum d'emballage dans les marchés de Noël et les foires d'art. Les produits locaux sont généralement synonymes de faibles émissions de carbone.

Une pratique écoconsciente à garder en tête, surtout pendant les Fêtes, est de s'assurer que nos convictions environnementales se reflètent dans nos décisions financières. Si vous estimez que la pollution du climat et les pratiques de production des grandes entreprises sont problématiques, ne les soutenez pas. Si vous

souhaitez réduire les déchets matériels, pensez à offrir une expérience à quelqu'un. Vous pouvez aussi faire preuve de créativité dans votre friperie locale. Certains de mes cadeaux les plus mémorables et les plus chers : des billets de concert, une lampe d'occasion qui avait été repeinte et une robe vintage d'occasion. Afin de préserver notre pays des merveilles, sortons des sentiers battus (et des rubans) cette année.

*Hailey Clarke-Cousineau
au nom du CCE*



Community Centre communautaire : 484-6186

Winter adult health and wellness programs

The recreation department offers a variety of programs throughout the year: from fitness to yoga programs and everything in between. If you are the warrior type and want a real tough class join **Beth's** bootcamp on Tuesday nights. If you are interested in lengthening, strengthening and stretching than the Essentrics, TRX and stretch classes are for you. This is just a glimpse of what we offer during the week.

If you have any questions or suggestions of a class you would like to see offered, please call **484-6186**.

Develop rhythm, coordination and timing by making music with your feet

TAP dancing classes will be offered in January for children 4½-8 years old, Wednesdays from 5-5:50 pm, for 45mins.

Structured to progressively build on technique and vocabulary over time, students explore the fun and creative way their feet can produce sound!

Register on Amilia.

Holiday drive Collecte du temps des Fêtes

1^{er} au 15 décembre



Cette année la ville de Montréal-Ouest fera une collecte pour la *Maison Mosaik* qui s'engage à joindre et à soutenir les familles de Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Montréal-Ouest, Côte Saint-Luc, Hampstead et Snowdon.

Liste de souhaits: des couches, des lingettes, de la formule, de la nourriture à bébé, des produits d'hygiène (pour toute la famille), des jouets (neufs) pour les enfants 0 à 5 ans (Ils seront distribués avec les paniers de Noël).

La Ville vous invite à apporter vos dons à l'hôtel de Ville ou le centre communautaire.

This year the Town of Montreal West is collecting items for *Maison Mosaik* committed to connecting and supporting families in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Montreal West, Côte Saint-Luc, Hampstead and Snowdon.

Wishlist: baby diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, personal hygiene products (for the whole family), new toys for children 0-5 years (to be given with food baskets).

The Town invites you to bring your donations to the Town Hall or the Community Centre, from December 1 to 15.

2024 Events and deadlines

Soirée Jam de Montréal-Ouest

Le vendredi 9 février 19 h 30 à 22 h 30
Hôtel de ville

Expérience Open Mic : Mettez vos talents musicaux à l'honneur. Apportez votre instrument et partagez votre passion, que vous soyez guitariste, pianiste, batteur, chanteur ou que vous jouiez d'un autre instrument. Rencontrez d'autres musiciens ou admirez les talents locaux.

Billets : 5 \$ ou 10 \$ à la porte (Disponibles en ligne sur AMILIA).

Montreal West Jam Night

Friday, February 9, 7:30-10:30 pm
Town Hall

Bring your musical talents to the spotlight by joining in on this open mic experience.

Bring your instrument and share your passion, whether you're a guitarist, pianist, drummer, singer, or play any other instrument. Meet fellow musicians or be a spectator of local talent.

Tickets: \$5 or \$10 at the door. Tickets are available online on AMILIA.

La Vitrine artistique

Date limite : le 12 février

Thème d'hiver : Émotions libérées
Pour plus de détails et pour soumettre vos œuvres en ligne : www.montreal-ouest.ca

Artists' Showcase

Deadline: February 12

Winter 2024 theme: Emotions unleashed.
For more information and to submit your work, visit montreal-west.ca

Inscription pour le camp de jour de la semaine de relâche

4-8 mars

Les inscriptions seront disponibles en ligne dès le 11 décembre. Pour nous contacter : 484-6186.loisirs@montreal-ouest.ca

Registration for March Break Camp

March 4-8

Online registration will be open on December 11. To get in touch with us, call 484-6186 or email recreation@montreal-west.ca.

Get well quickly... we miss YOU!

In September, our very own **Miss Shirley**, as she is dearly known by our MW ballerinas, got a virus and was unable to teach. She has been in rehab for two months working hard to get better and then will be recuperating at her home continuing her physiotherapy. Shirley has been a big part of our community with her involvement in our children's programs in camp, Community Centre as well as adult yoga and barre classes throughout the year.

We wish Shirley a speedy recovery and anxiously await her return.

We miss you LOTS!



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Town Council meeting: October



by Carol Foster

Mayor Masella reported that the major demolition work is close to completion on the site of the old arena, pool and chalet and the debris is being removed.

Two more major donations to the fundraising campaign have been received: The *Webster Foundation* has contributed \$100,000 and another donation in the amount of \$150,000 came from a donor who requested anonymity.

Councillors' reports

The theft of cars in the Town is continuing and **Councillor Small-Pennefather** explained a number of measures to prevent the theft of cars as well as any contents left inside a vehicle.

She also reviewed the new leaf blowing regulations which go into effect on November 1.

Only electric- or battery-operated leaf blowers and vacuums will be permitted during the leaf-blowing periods. An extensive information campaign by the Town will warn both residents and contractors of this new bylaw. Residents will be responsible for following these regulations on their property and they must ensure their contractor has a landscaping permit issued by the Town. There will be a two-week grace period followed by the imposition of signifi-

cant fines for the property owner as well as the contractor for non-compliance.

In response to an increasing number of requests for public tree inspections, **Councillor Ulin** explained the Town's policy regarding the maintenance of its trees.

An inventory of all the existing public trees was done in 2010 and updated in 2020 with the assistance of an arborist. The maintenance is now prioritized based on this valuable information. Residents can report any of their concerns relating to these trees to Public Works which can then consult the inventory to determine if and when action may be required.

The Environmental Committee is continuing to work on a review of wood-burning regulations, increasing biodiversity, looking at the potential for bike routes within the territory and implementing better waste management policies.

Councillor Feeney reviewed the expenditures for the past month and expected the Town would be slightly over budget due to a small increase in revenues and in spite of the cost for the ice storm and recent number of water breaks.

Of the 45 requests received for property re-evaluations, 16 remained the same, 25 were decreased, one was increased and three are still being evaluated.

Remembrance Day activities, the arrival of the *CP Holiday Train* and Breakfast with Santa are events to look forward to and the Recreation Department is already preparing for the winter session which will begin on January 8.

More than fifty residents attended the *MADA* consultation meeting resulting in some excellent feedback and many ideas for future action of the committee. Councillor Feeney thanked everyone involved.

Forty-four permits were issued during October according to **Councillor Torres**. Seven infraction notices were given out. They included two for sanitation and maintenance of a building, two for work done without a permit, two for inspection requests and one for non-compliance work but no tickets were issued.

Councillor Torres pointed out that there have been amendments to four of the Town's bylaws and she described these changes in the November issue of *The Informer*.

First question period

Several environmental issues were discussed during this question period.

The mayor assured one questioner that, unlike new regulations being introduced in Montreal regarding the type of heating to be used in all buildings, the Town has not even started discussing this issue.

In response to another question, the mayor replied that the current method of using "sponge parks" to soak up excessive water during heavy rainfalls has been incorporated in the plans for the landscape in both the front and the back of the new recreation centre.

This summer's weather conditions have encouraged the lush growth of grass and while Public Works has modified the grass cutting schedule, any areas where dangerous conditions exist should be reported to their office.

The *Easton Project* may appear to be taking an excessive amount of time to complete, but it is not in default of its contract. Although the same construction company is being used to build the arena, the difference will be that it is the Town that will be in charge of this project.

A member of the bike safety subcommittee asked why it is taking so long for the Town to install a bike path in its territory. He said that this committee is preparing statistics on the number of dangerous incidents involving school children on bicycles, particularly in the area around the train station.

Councillor Ulin explained that there is a bike committee in the Town examining this issue and they are presently waiting for news from the Agglomeration committee for its recommendations concerning how Montreal West's plans can be incorporated into a citywide plan. Unfortunately, these recommendations have been in abeyance for almost five years. The Town would also have to seek guidance from some professionals on the implementation and safety issues involved.

Councillor Feeney has researched the topic of temporary car shelters and explained that safety issues as well as aesthetics will continue to prohibit the use of Tempos in the town.

Questions continued concerning the August massive water break on Brock South.

In response to a request from a resident's insurance company asking for an engineer's report confirming that the flood was due to a water main break rather than the severe weather conditions, the mayor stated that the Town does not have that kind of report partly because it was not Montreal West's pipe and the sheer volume of water will attest to its origin.

Another resident asked which jurisdiction was going to accept financial responsibility for this disaster and when compensation would be distributed. The mayor explained that while Montreal West has the services of an external insurance adjuster, Montreal is self-insured and it will be their call whether to compensate or to ask people to proceed with legal action.

The final question was whether a clear



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Town Council

action plan has been established for emergencies which cross-jurisdictional boundaries. Mayor Masella met with the mayor of NDG in August and learned that there is a protocol in place, but it is being reviewed, revised or modified.

Council was asked if the Town Hall's present daily opening for business can be increased from three to five days a week. Although the mayor stated that he hasn't heard many requests, the schedule is being reviewed.

Another item on the agenda contained the news that the Town is applying for a grant from the Green Municipal Fund of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to obtain financial assistance towards the "implementation of best practices in terms of energy efficiency" in the construction of the new recreation centre.

Second question period

One resident stated that he has failed to see any concrete examples of how *MADA* is making life any better for the senior citizens in the town.

Councillor Feeney responded that this group had created a very ambitious plan, containing 90 action items, when it was first mandated in 2020. To date it has either completed or partially completed over 45 of them. These examples were reviewed at the recent *MADA* meeting that was open to all citizens and will be the subject of a report to be published in *The Informer*. [Please see page 10.]

The lack of sufficient parking spots in the Town, especially with winter coming, was another concern mentioned. The mayor will take this subject under advisement and pass it on to Councillor Small-Pennefather.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Children's Library

Plans for the holidays

During the month of December, make sure to visit the library to look for the *Elf on the Shelf*, but also to take part in the following events.

Lego Challenge

Saturday, December 2, 1:30 pm, children can participate in this year's Lego Challenge. We will make sure children demonstrate their skills with the Lego bricks in every way. Different tasks will be given by the animator to put the imagination or rapidity to the test. Registration is needed, so please contact us.

Winter holidays tales with Shawny

To mark the coming winter holidays, we are inviting you for a winter tales extravaganza! You will have the pleasure of listening to stories about the holidays we celebrate at the end of the year – Hannukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. **Shawny**, the well-loved children's musician, will join the celebration and bring holiday music to the festivity. Children and parents can then take part in the craft – make a decoration for the library and also take a decoration home. Contact us to register for this activity taking place Saturday, December 9, 11 am.

La lecture en cadeau

La lecture en cadeau fête ses 25 ans cette année! Il nous fait plaisir d'organiser la collecte de livres jeunesse dans le cadre de ce programme de *La Fondation pour l'alphabetisation* qui s'adresse aux enfants de 0 à 12 ans des milieux défavorisés partout au Québec. Il vise à prévenir les difficultés de lecture qui peuvent mener au décrochage scolaire. Vous êtes les bienvenus à déposer

un livre neuf dans la boîte de collecte dans la bibliothèque dès le 19 novembre, et ce – jusqu'au 22 décembre. Les livres seront remis à la fondation pour être distribués en 2024. Merci de votre générosité!

Quilling

Quilling is an art where decorative designs can be made using coloured thin strips of paper – rolled, shaped and glued to form a design of your choice. Sunday, January 14, 11 am, we will meet for a workshop where children aged 7 to 12 years can try their hand at quilling and make beautiful cards. Don't miss this chance to have fun and learn a new craft!

Holiday closure

The library will be closed from December 23 to January 3 (inclusive). If you are in need of books, don't forget that we have the fabulous TUMBLEBOOKS database for read-along books, picture books you can explore online – access is through our website home page.

Joyeuses fêtes à tous! We wish you all happy holidays!



Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri /
lun, mer, jeu, ven :
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par Carol Foster
traduction par René Boucher

Le **maire Masella** a indiqué que les travaux majeurs de démolition sont presque terminés sur le site de l'ancien aréna, de la piscine et du chalet et que les débris sont en cours d'enlèvement.

La campagne de financement a reçu deux autres dons importants; la fondation Webster a versé 100 000 \$ et un donateur qui a demandé l'anonymat a fait un autre don de 150 000 \$.

Rapports des membres du Conseil

Les vols de voitures dans la ville se poursuivent et la **conseillère Small-Pennefather** a expliqué un certain nombre de mesures pour prévenir le vol de voitures ainsi que de tout contenu laissé à l'intérieur d'un véhicule.

Elle a également revu le nouveau règlement sur le soufflage des feuilles qui entrera en vigueur le 1er novembre.

Seuls les souffleurs et les aspirateurs à feuilles électriques ou à batterie seront autorisés pendant les périodes de soufflage des feuilles. Une vaste campagne d'information menée par la Ville mettra en garde les résidents et les entrepreneurs contre ce nouveau règlement. Les résidents seront responsables du respect de ces règlements sur leur propriété et ils doivent s'assurer que leur entrepreneur détient un permis de paysagiste délivré par la Ville. Il y aura un délai de grâce de deux semaines, **suivi d'amendes importantes pour le propriétaire et l'entrepreneur en cas de non-conformité**.

En réponse à un nombre croissant de demandes d'inspection des arbres publics, la **conseillère Ulin** a expliqué la politique de la Ville concernant l'entretien de ces arbres.

Un inventaire de tous les arbres publics

existants a été réalisé en 2010 et mis à jour en 2020 avec l'aide d'un arboriculteur. L'entretien est désormais hiérarchisé en fonction de ces précieuses informations. Les résidents peuvent faire part de leurs préoccupations concernant ces arbres au service des Travaux publics, qui peut ensuite consulter l'inventaire pour déterminer si des mesures s'imposent et à quel moment.

Le Comité sur l'environnement poursuit son travail d'examen de la réglementation relative à la combustion du bois, à l'accroissement de la biodiversité, au potentiel de pistes cyclables sur le territoire et à la mise en œuvre de meilleures politiques de gestion des déchets.

La **conseillère Feeney** a examiné les dépenses du mois précédent et s'attendait à ce que la Ville dépasse légèrement son budget en raison d'une petite augmentation des revenus et en dépit du coût de la tempête de verglas et du nombre récent de bris d'aqueduc.

Sur les 45 demandes de révision d'évaluation foncière reçues, 16 sont restées inchangées, 25 ont été réduites, une a été augmentée et trois sont toujours en cours d'évaluation.

Les activités du jour du Souvenir, le Train des Fêtes du CP et le petit déjeuner avec le père Noël sont des événements attendus avec impatience et le service des Loisirs se prépare déjà pour la session d'hiver qui débutera le 8 janvier.

Plus de cinquante résidents ont participé à la réunion de consultation MADA qui a donné lieu à d'excellents commentaires et à de nombreuses idées d'actions futures du comité. La **conseillère Feeney** a remercié toutes les personnes concernées.

Quarante-quatre permis ont été délivrés en octobre, selon la **conseillère Torres**. Sept avis d'infraction ont été émis dont

deux pour l'assainissement et l'entretien d'un bâtiment, deux pour des travaux effectués sans permis, deux pour des demandes d'inspection et un pour des travaux non conformes, mais aucune contravention n'a été émise.

La **conseillère Torres** a souligné que quatre règlements municipaux avaient été modifiés et a décrit ces changements dans le numéro de novembre de *The Informer*.

Première période de questions

Plusieurs enjeux environnementaux ont été abordés.

Le maire a affirmé à un intervenant que, contrairement à la nouvelle réglementation en vigueur à Montréal sur le type de chauffage à utiliser dans tous les bâtiments, la Ville n'a même pas commencé à discuter de cette question.

En réponse à une autre question, le maire a répondu que la technique courante des «parcs éponges» pour absorber l'excès d'eau lors de fortes pluies a été incorporée dans les plans de paysagement à l'avant et à l'arrière du nouveau centre récréatif.

Les conditions météo de cet été ont favorisé la croissance luxuriante de l'herbe, et bien que les Travaux publics aient modifié le calendrier de tonte, toute zone où les conditions sont dangereuses devrait être signalée à son bureau.

Le chantier Easton peut sembler prendre beaucoup de temps à se réaliser, mais il n'est pas en défaut relativement au contrat. Bien que la même entreprise de construction soit utilisée pour construire le centre sportif, la différence sera que c'est la Ville qui sera responsable de ce projet.

Un membre du sous-comité sur la sécurité des vélos a demandé pourquoi il faut autant de temps à la Ville pour installer une piste cyclable sur son territoire. Il a dit que

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Réunions du Conseil : octobre

ce comité était en train de préparer des statistiques sur le nombre d'incidents dangereux impliquant des usagers d'âge scolaire à bicyclette, particulièrement dans le secteur autour de la gare.

La conseillère Ulin a expliqué qu'il y a un comité vélo dans la ville qui examine cette question qui est actuellement en attente de nouvelles de l'agglomération pour connaître ses recommandations sur la façon dont les plans de Montréal-Ouest peuvent être intégrés dans un plan à l'échelle de la cité. Malheureusement, ces recommandations sont en suspens depuis près de cinq ans. La Ville devrait également demander conseil à certains professionnels sur la mise en œuvre et les questions de sécurité en jeu.

La conseillère Feeney a fait des recherches sur le sujet des abris d'auto temporaires et a expliqué que des questions de sécurité ainsi que d'esthétique continueront d'interdire l'utilisation des Tempos dans la ville.

Les questions se sont poursuivies au sujet de l'important bris d'aqueduc du mois d'août sur Brock Sud.

En réponse à une demande de la compagnie d'assurance d'une résidente exigeant un rapport d'ingénieur confirmant que l'inondation était due à la rupture d'une conduite principale plutôt qu'à des conditions météorologiques extrêmes, le maire a déclaré que la Ville n'a pas ce genre de rapport, en partie parce qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'une conduite de Montréal-Ouest et que le volume d'eau atteste de son origine.

Un autre résident a demandé qui allait assumer la responsabilité financière de cette catastrophe et quand une indemnisation serait distribuée. Le maire a expliqué que Montréal-Ouest utilise les services d'un expert externe en assurance; Montréal est auto-assurée et c'est à elle de décider si elle indemniserait ou demanderait aux gens de

poursuivre en justice.

La dernière question était de savoir si un plan d'action clair avait été établi pour les urgences qui transcendent les champs de compétence. Masella a rencontré le maire de CDN-NDG en août et a appris qu'il existe un protocole, mais qu'il est en cours de révision ou de modification.

On a demandé au Conseil s'il était possible de faire passer l'ouverture actuelle de l'hôtel de ville de trois à cinq jours/semaine. Le maire a déclaré qu'il n'avait pas entendu beaucoup de demandes en ce sens, mais que l'horaire est en cours de révision.

Un autre point à l'ordre du jour était la nouvelle que la Ville demande une subvention du Fonds municipal vert de la Fédération canadienne des municipalités pour obtenir une aide financière pour la « mise en œuvre des meilleures pratiques en matière d'efficacité énergétique » dans la construction du nouveau centre récréatif.

Seconde période de questions

Un résident a déclaré qu'il n'avait vu aucun exemple concret de la façon dont MADA améliore la vie des aînés dans la ville.

La conseillère Feeney a répondu que ce groupe avait créé un plan très ambitieux contenant 90 mesures lorsqu'il a été mandaté pour la première fois en 2020. À ce jour, il a achevé ou partiellement achevé plus de 45 d'entre elles. Ces exemples ont été examinés lors de la récente réunion MADA, ouverte à tous les citoyens. [Le rapport est sur la page 10.]

Le manque de places de stationnement dans la ville, surtout avec l'arrivée de l'hiver, est un autre sujet de préoccupation. Le maire prendra la question en délibéré et la transmettra à la conseillère Small-Pennafather.

La séance fut ensuite levée.

Kosher corner

Festival of lights!

Outside it is cold, and the world might seem dark, but Chanukah teaches us that light always prevails!

Now more than ever, bring light to the world! Light the menorah, decorate your home and let your light shine brightly.

There are many Mo-West community Chanukah events that we encourage you to join.

Monday, December 4 at 8 pm, Jewish Women's Circle. Enjoy an evening out together with local women and hear **Amanda Sculnik Spiro's** miraculous story and gain inspiration from her courage and strength.

Sunday, December 10 at 4:30 pm we will gather at Ainslie Park near the Community Centre and light our 15-foot tall giant menorah joined by local political representatives, delicious treats and lively music!

Tuesday, December 12, 4:30-6:30 pm. Family Chanukah celebration, enjoy games, crafts, dinner and fun.

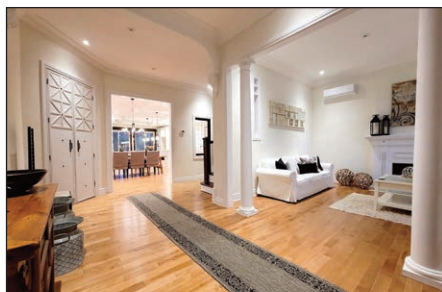
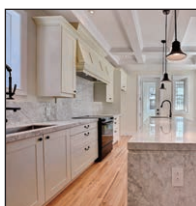
Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 pm. The grand finale at **Jaime and Sandy's** lighthouse (Sheraton corner Radcliffe). Join us as we celebrate all eight Chanukah lights.

Reminder, Tuesday afternoon Hebrew School second session begins January 9, Register to reserve your spot: chabadwestminster.com/hebrewschool.

Rosh Chodesh Society is back with monthly classes, and Jewish Women's Circle is busy. Reach out for the schedule. RCS and JWC are both fantastic opportunities to connect with other women and connect with your Judaism.



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COMING EVENTS / À VENIR

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

Next deadline: January 10

November

Mon 27 Town Council meeting. In person and virtually (Town's YouTube channel). Town Hall. 8 pm.

December

- Fri 1 Christmas family movie night.** St. Ignatius. 6 pm.
Rock 'n Roll dance party. Live band: *Vintage Wine*.
Fundraiser for new sports and recreation centre.
Town Hall. 7 pm.
- Sun 3 Advent tea and carols.** MW United. 3:30-5:30 pm.
- Lun 4 Curzon Creative Preschool's 20th annual fundraising auction.** Please see page 3.
Jewish Women's Circle. Enjoy an evening out together with local women. Chabad Westminster. 8 pm.
- Mon 5 Société horticole.** Voir la page 5. Hôtel de ville. 19 h 30.
- Sat 9 Ensemble Vocal Gloria concert.** Free will offering, proceeds to Ukrainian refugees in Montreal. St. Philip's. 7 pm.
- Sun 10 Breakfast with Santa / Déjeuner du père Noël.**
See / voir la page 14. Hôtel de ville / Town Hall. 8 h à 13 h.
- Wed 13 In the Quiet:** live music, Adoration and sacrament of Reconciliation. St. Ignatius. 7 pm.
- Thu 14 The grand finale: Chanukah.** Please see page 19.
Sheraton corner Radcliffe. 6:30 pm.
- Sat 16 Ensemble Bellechose concert.** Tickets: \$20 available at the door. St. Philip's. 7 pm.
- Sun 17 Choral service.** MW United. 10 am.
Family Christmas party. St. Ignatius Hall. After 10 am Mass.
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. St. Philip's. 5 pm.
- Mon 18 Town Council meeting.** In person and virtually (Town's YouTube channel). Town Hall. 8 pm.
- Wed 20 Tea and Books.** Public Library. 2 pm.
- Sat 23 Public Library closed** to January 7.
- Sun 24 Christmas Eve Masses.** 4:30 pm and 8 pm.
Christmas Eve children's service. St. Philip's. 5 pm.
No morning service. Family Christmas Eve service.
MW United. 7 pm.
Holy Eucharist (Midnight Mass). St. Philip's. 11 pm.
- Mon 25 Christmas Holy Communion.** St. Philip's. 10 am.
Christmas Day Mass. St. Ignatius. 10 am.
- Sun 31 Holy Family Mass.** St. Ignatius. 10 am, 4:30 pm.

January

- Mon 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.**
St. Ignatius. 10 am.
- Lun 15 Société horticole.** Voir la page 5. Hôtel de ville. 19 h 30.
- Wed 17 Labyrinth Walk.** All welcome. MW United. 7-9 pm.
- Mon 22 Town Council meeting.** In person and virtually (Town's YouTube channel). Town Hall. 8 pm.



November 9, 2023. First snow of the year. @Julia Ross

Classifieds

SNOW SHOVELER: (student or retiree or anyone else) to shovel a path from the back of my house to the basement and the kitchen entrances and deck. Done at any time as long as the area is kept clear. Strathearn North. If you are interested, please contact me at Judethepood1@gmail.com.

SNOW SHOVELER: someone to shovel out my car, driveway, steps and porch. **438 373-9012.**

Remembrance 2023

Thank you to all those involved in the 2023 Remembrance events.

Merci à tous ceux qui ont participé à nos événements du Souvenir.

Merci aux *Anciens combattants du Canada*, le Dr **Robert Drummond**, **David O'Keefe**, à la Sécurité publique, aux Travaux publics, au département des Loisirs, les Scouts, les Guides et leurs chefs, tous les bénévoles impliqués qui rendent les événements possibles ainsi qu'à **Joan Foster** qui est toujours là avec son esprit communautaire!

Thank you to *Veterans Affairs Canada*, Dr. **Robert Drummond**, **David O'Keefe**, Public Security, Public Works, the Recreation department, the Scouts, the Guides and their leaders, all the volunteers involved to make all these events possible and to **Joan Foster** for bringing everyone together.



Photo: Janice Hamilton

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À tous les résidentes et résidents
de Montréal-Ouest,
je vous souhaite de très joyeuses fêtes
entourées de vos proches!

To all the residents
of Montreal West, I wish you a
very happy holiday season
surrounded by your loved ones!



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MAYOR'S REPORT

There has been tremendous progress on the construction of the new Sports and Recreation Centre. The old arena, pool and chalet have been demolished and the site is almost ready for the shovels to begin the initial phase of the construction for the new building. Until now, there have not been any major surprises so we're continuing along unhindered.

In terms of fundraising, there have been two more major donors. One donation came from the Webster Foundation and amounted to \$100,000. Another donation in the amount of \$150,000 came from a donor who requested anonymity.

I wish news from the Agglomeration Council was as positive. Montreal has deposited their budget and the average increase of the quote-parts for the demerged Towns is 4%. Thankfully, because Montreal West does not have an industrial park, our increase in quote-parts is only 2.9%.

Many of the problems in the Agglo budget remained unchecked: over-estimating revenues, under-estimating expenses, and their insistence on using questionable budget practices. If you remove the transaction regarding past



deficits, the average increase is over 6%! Par for the course with Montreal, unfortunately.

In terms of negotiating a new fiscal pact with the demerged Towns, Montreal has proven VERY adept at pretending to show good faith while not making any substantive effort to solve this problem. With the change in the President of their Executive Committee, it does not bode well for a negotiated settlement.

Please continue to take care of yourselves and of each other.

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



YOUR STREET TREE HAS A PROFILE

Public Works regularly gets requests for public tree inspections and maintenance (primarily from concerned homeowners). But sometimes there are misconceptions about how the department prioritizes this work. So I'd like to provide a bit of context.

In 2010 the Town undertook a comprehensive evaluation of all our public trees (the first in over 25 years). What do I mean by "comprehensive"? A profile of each individual tree was created noting its species, size, age, and structural health (including its trunk and crown). Then a prescription was provided for work needed, if any. Using best industry practices, another full inventory was done in 2020, once again evaluating all the public trees with a certified arborist. So each of our mature public trees has been evaluated by an external arborist at least twice in the last 13 years. And our regular tree maintenance program is primarily designed around that inventory data.

Public Works also keeps track of all in-

coming requests from residents who may be concerned about a public tree. Once a call or message comes in, a foreman or other qualified staff member will go and inspect the tree. Our staff have been given training by a certified arborist to identify key issues. Based on these field inspections and the info from the tree inventories, Public Works will have a clear idea of what needs to be done, if anything (e.g. pruning, safety trim) and what priority to give the work. If a case is more complex, an outside arborist can be called in. And any new data collected is then added to that tree's profile.

Residents are encouraged to call Public Works if they have concerns about a public tree, but please understand that

the department already has a valuable set of data on that tree. For instance, you may notice a crack in the bark, but PW data may show it's been there since 2010 and not getting bigger. That's the advantage to having these extensive profiles. So, please don't hesitate to contact the department, but know that Public Work's assessment of your tree issue will be based on a lot of pertinent information that you may not have on hand.

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



SAFETY AND SECURITY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As we move into the holiday season, please find below some safety and security tips that you may find helpful.

Vehicles

Like many other municipalities across the city, the Town of Montreal West is not immune to vehicle theft and personal property theft from vehicles. Here are a few measure you can take that can deter thieves:

- Park your vehicle in a well-lit area and/or install a motion sensor light in your driveway
- Engrave ID into the windows and major parts of your vehicle
- Use an anti-theft immobilizer, a steering wheel lock, an alarm system or a tracking system
- Never leave your vehicle unattended while the engine is running, even just for a few minutes
- If you have more than one vehicle, park the less valuable vehicle at the end of your driveway
- Do not keep a spare key in or near your vehicle
- Do not leave your keys with people you don't know (valet, parking employee, etc.)
- Consider keeping your keyless entry fobs away from the front door or in a faraday pouch or in any type of metal container that can block the keyless entry signal
- Always lock the doors and close the windows, even if you leave your vehicle for just a few moments; i.e., to pay at a gas station
- Never leave any valuables in your vehicle including wrapped gifts
- Do not leave any documentation in your car that includes personal information such as insurance and vehicle registration, which can escalate to identity theft.

If you notice any suspicious activity, or are a victim of theft, please call the police at Station 9 at 514-280-0109 AND

Public Security at 514-630-1234. Call 911 for emergency situations where lives or property are threatened (requiring police, fire or ambulance services)

Away for the holidays?

We would like to inform residents that Public Security offers a vacant home/vacation watch. Residents planning to be away during the holidays, can notify Public Security of their intended absence. PSOs on patrol will be exceptionally vigilant of these properties. It is highly recommended that residents going away for extended periods designate someone they trust as an emergency key holder to their home. This can be a trusted neighbor, friend or relative living in close proximity. In the event of an emergency, Public Security would be able to contact this designated person and have them check in on your home. Such emergencies can be a water main break, or a prolonged power outage during severely cold weather. During the winter months, it is recommended that someone you trust verifies your home periodically during your absence to ensure the furnace is working and pipes are not frozen. You can also ask your alarm company to contact this person during an emergency if you are unable to respond.

Residential:

- Ask Canada Post to hold your mail or ask a neighbor to routinely collect it
- Cancel subscriptions and newspapers
- Ask a neighbor or a friend to collect the publisac and other weekly flyers
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye out and inform them on who is permitted in your home during your absence or if no one is expected

- Install programmable light timers on interior and exterior lights when possible
- Arrange for someone to remove the snow from your driveway and walkway
- If your vehicles are parked in your driveway, have someone clear off the snow
- Ask a neighbor to use your driveway during your absence

Final thoughts

The holidays can be a difficult time. If you know someone who may be alone, a senior or family in need, please be a good neighbor and check in on them.

If someone is in need of support, here are some local organizations that can assist:

Amiquebec: 514-486-1448

Montreal Island Directory of Community Services: 211

Suicide Action Montreal: 1-866-277-3553

Batshaw Youth and Family Centres: 514-989-1885

CLSC Rene-Cassin: 514-484-7878

CLSC Benny Farm: 514-484-7878

Finally, drive safe and please don't drink and drive. Make sure you get home safely, by calling a sober friend, using public transit, calling a cab or another safe ride service.

On behalf of the entire Public Security team, we wish you a safe and healthy holiday and a happy new year.

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



PROPERTY RE-ASSESSMENTS

Responsibility for preparing the assessment roll for all municipalities on the island of Montreal belongs to the *Direction de l'évaluation foncière of the Ville de Montréal*. In September 2022, they deposited a new three-year property assessment roll. The new assessment came into effect January 1, 2023 and is the basis for 2023, 2024 and 2025 tax bills.

The average increase in valuation for residential properties in Montreal West with this roll was 40.3%, with many single-family homes increasing more than this percent. Property owners had until April 30 of this year to request a re-assessment of their valuation.

Based on their recent report, the City of Montreal's Assessment Department received 45 requests for administrative reviews from Montreal West residents. To date here are the results of the files which were re-assessed:

- 25 files or 56% decreased in value
- 19 files or 42% remained unchanged, and
- 1 file or 2% increased in value

The Town has reimbursed the residents whose property values were decreased for the difference.

The only other event which may trigger a property re-assessment during the 3-year period of the roll would be a major renovation. In this case, the City of Montreal will contact the homeowner and schedule a visit. If the property owner does not agree with the new valuation, they have 60 days in which to contest it.

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



RAPPORT DU MAIRE

La construction du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif a énormément progressé. L'ancienne aréna, la piscine et le chalet ont été démolis et le site est presque prêt pour que les pelleuses commencent la phase initiale de la

construction du nouveau bâtiment. Jusqu'à présent, il n'y a pas eu de surprises majeures et nous continuons à avancer sans encombre.

En ce qui concerne la collecte de fonds, il y a eu deux nouveaux donateurs importants. L'un d'eux provient de la Fondation Webster et s'élève à 100 000 \$. Un autre don d'un montant de 150 000 \$ a été fait par un donateur qui a demandé à rester anonyme.

Je souhaiterais que les nouvelles du Conseil d'agglomération soient aussi positives. Montréal a déposé son budget et l'augmentation moyenne des quotes-parts pour les villes défusionnées est de 4 %. Heureusement, comme Montréal-Ouest n'a pas de parc industriel, l'augmentation de nos quotes-parts n'est que de 2,9 %.

De nombreux problèmes du budget de l'Agglo n'ont pas été résolus : surestimation des revenus, sous-estimation des dépenses et insistance sur l'utilisation de pratiques budgétaires douteuses.



Si l'on supprime la transaction concernant les déficits passés, l'augmentation moyenne est de plus de 6 % ! Ce qui est malheureusement attendu de Montréal.

En ce qui concerne la négociation d'un nouveau pacte fiscal avec les villes défusionnées, Montréal s'est avérée TRÈS habile à faire semblant d'être de bonne foi tout en ne faisant aucun effort substantiel pour résoudre ce problème. Le changement de président de leur comité exécutif n'augure rien de bon pour un règlement négocié.

Continuez à prendre soin de vous et des autres.

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



CONSEILS DE SÉCURITÉ POUR LE TEMPS DES FÊTES

Vous trouverez ci-dessous quelques conseils de sécurité qui pourraient vous être utiles pendant la période du temps des fêtes.

Véhicules

Comme plusieurs autres municipalités de la ville, la Ville de Montréal-Ouest n'est pas à l'abri des vols de véhicules et de biens personnels dans les véhicules. Voici quelques mesures que vous pouvez prendre pour dissuader les voleurs :

- Stationnez votre véhicule dans un endroit bien éclairé et/ou installez une lumière à détecteur de mouvement dans votre entrée.
- Gravez votre numéro d'identification sur les vitres et les principales pièces de votre véhicule.
- Utilisez un système antivol, un antivol de volant, un système d'alarme ou un système de repérage.
- Ne laissez votre véhicule sans surveillance lorsque le moteur tourne, même pour quelques minutes.
- Si vous avez plus d'un véhicule, gardez le véhicule le moins précieux au bout de votre allée.
- Ne gardez pas de double des clés dans votre véhicule ou à proximité.
- Ne laissez pas vos clés à des personnes que vous ne connaissez pas (le voiturier, l'employé du stationnement, etc.)
- Pensez à conserver vos clés télédéverrouillage loin de la porte d'entrée, dans une pochette faraday ou dans tout autre type de contenant métallique qui pourrait bloquer le signal de télédéverrouillage.
- Verrouillez toujours les portes et fermez les fenêtres, même si vous ne quittez votre véhicule que pour quelques instants, par exemple pour payer à une station-service.
- Ne laissez jamais d'objets de valeur dans votre véhicule, y compris des cadeaux emballés.
- Ne laissez pas dans votre voiture des documents contenant des informations personnelles telles que l'assurance et l'immatriculation du véhicule, qui peut mener à un vol d'identité.

Si vous remarquez une activité suspecte ou si vous êtes victime d'un vol, veuillez communiquer avec la police au Poste de quartier 9 au 514-280-0109 AINSI qu'avec la sécurité publique au 514-630-1234. Composez le 911 pour les situations d'urgence où des vies ou des biens sont menacés (nécessitant les services de la police, des pompiers ou d'une ambulance).

Partez pour la période des fêtes ?

Nous aimerions informer les résidents que la sécurité publique offre un service de surveillance des maisons vides pendant que les résidents sont en vacances. Les résidents qui prévoient de s'absenter pendant les vacances peuvent en informer la sécurité publique. Les agents de sécurité publique en patrouille feront preuve d'une vigilance particulière à l'égard de ces propriétés. Il est fortement recommandé aux résidents qui s'absentent pour de longues périodes de désigner une personne de confiance comme détenteur des clés de leur domicile en cas d'urgence. Il peut s'agir d'un voisin de confiance, d'un ami ou d'un parent vivant à proximité. En cas d'urgence, la sécurité publique pourra contacter cette personne désignée et lui demander de vérifier l'état de votre domicile. Il peut s'agir d'une rupture de canalisation d'eau ou d'une panne d'électricité prolongée par grand froid. Pendant les mois d'hiver, il est recommandé qu'une personne de confiance vérifie périodiquement votre domicile en votre absence pour s'assurer que la fournaise fonctionne et que les tuyaux ne sont pas gelés. Vous pouvez également demander à votre fournisseur d'alarme de contacter cette personne en cas d'urgence si vous n'êtes pas en mesure de répondre.

Résidentiel :

- Demandez à Postes Canada de conserver votre courrier ou demandez à un voisin de le collecter régulièrement.
- Annuler les abonnements et les journaux.

- Demandez à un voisin ou à un ami de collecter le publisac et les autres prospectus hebdomadaires.
- Demandez à un voisin de rester attentif et lui indiquer qui est autorisé à entrer chez vous en votre absence.
- Installez des minuteries programmables sur les lumières intérieures et extérieures.
- Demandez à quelqu'un de déneiger votre entrée et votre allée.
- Si vos véhicules sont garés dans votre allée, demandez à quelqu'un de les déneiger.
- Demandez à un voisin d'utiliser votre allée.

Dernières réflexions

Le temps des fêtes peut être une période difficile. Si vous connaissez quelqu'un qui est seul, une personne âgée ou une famille dans le besoin, soyez un bon voisin et prenez de leurs nouvelles. Si quelqu'un a besoin de soutien, voici quelques organismes locaux qui peuvent aider :

Amiquebec - 514-486-1448

Répertoire des organismes sociocommunitaires de l'île de Montréal-211

Centre de prévention du suicide de Montréal - 1 866 277-3553

Les centres de la jeunesse et de la famille Batshaw-514-989-1885

CLSC Rene-Cassin-514-484-7878

CLSC Benny Farm-514-484-7878

Enfin, conduisez prudemment et ne conduisez pas après avoir consommé l'alcool. Assurez-vous de rentrer chez vous en toute sécurité en appelant un ami sobre, en utilisant les transports en commun ou en appelant un taxi.

Au nom de toute l'équipe de la sécurité publique, nous vous souhaitons de joyeuses fêtes et une excellente nouvelle année.

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



RÉVISION FONCIÈRE

La préparation du rôle d'évaluation pour toutes les municipalités de l'île de Montréal incombe à la **Direction de l'évaluation foncière de la Ville de Montréal**. En septembre 2022, elle a déposé un nouveau rôle triennal d'évaluation foncière. Cette nouvelle évaluation est entrée en vigueur le 1^{er} janvier 2023 et constitue la base des comptes de taxes 2023, 2024 et 2025.

L'augmentation moyenne de l'évaluation des propriétés résidentielles à Montréal-Ouest avec ce rôle était de 40,3 %, avec de nombreuses maisons unifamiliales augmentant de plus de ce pourcentage. Les propriétaires avaient jusqu'au 30 avril de cette année pour demander une révision de leur évaluation.

Selon son récent rapport, le Service d'évaluation foncière de la Ville de Montréal a reçu 45 demandes de révision administrative de la part de résidents de Montréal-Ouest. À ce jour,

voici les résultats des dossiers qui ont été réévalués :

- 25 dossiers, soit 56 %, ont vu leur valeur diminuer
- 19 dossiers ou 42% sont restés inchangés, et
- 1 dossier ou 2% a augmenté de valeur

La ville a remboursé la différence aux résidents dont la valeur de la propriété a été diminuée.

Le seul autre événement susceptible de déclencher une réévaluation de la pro-

priété au cours de la période de trois ans du rôle serait une rénovation majeure. Dans ce cas, la Ville de Montréal contactera le propriétaire et planifiera une visite. Si le propriétaire n'est pas d'accord avec la nouvelle évaluation, il dispose de 60 jours pour la contester.

Colleen Feeney, c-onseillère
Finances, MADA
et Loisirs et Culture
cfeeney@montreal-ouest.ca



VOTRE ARBRE DE RUE A UN PROFIL

Le service des travaux publics reçoit régulièrement des demandes d'inspection et d'entretien des arbres publics (principalement de la part de propriétaires inquiets). Mais il y a parfois des malentendus sur la façon dont le service priorise ce travail. J'aimerais donc fournir un peu de contexte.

Le service des travaux publics reçoit régulièrement des demandes d'inspection et d'entretien des arbres publics (principalement de la part de propriétaires inquiets). Mais il y a parfois des malentendus sur la façon dont le service priorise ce travail. J'aimerais donc fournir un peu de contexte :

En 2010, la ville a entrepris une évaluation complète de tous ses arbres publics (la première depuis plus de 25 ans). Qu'est-ce que j'entends par "complète" ? Un profil de chaque arbre a été créé, indiquant son espèce, sa taille, son âge et sa santé structurelle (y compris son tronc et sa couronne). Ensuite, une prescription a été fournie pour les travaux nécessaires, le cas échéant. En s'appuyant sur les meilleures pratiques de l'industrie, un nouvel inventaire complet a été réalisé en 2020, évaluant à nouveau tous les arbres publics avec un arboriste certifié. Ainsi, chacun de nos arbres publics adultes a été évalué par un arboriste externe au moins deux fois au cours des 13 dernières

années. Et notre programme d'entretien régulier des arbres est principalement conçu en fonction de ces données d'inventaire.

Le service des travaux publics garde également trace de toutes les demandes émanant de résidents préoccupés par un arbre public. Lorsqu'un appel ou un message est reçu, un contremaître ou un autre membre qualifié du personnel se rend sur place pour inspecter l'arbre. Notre personnel a reçu une formation dispensée par un arboriculteur certifié afin d'identifier les principaux problèmes. Sur la base de ces inspections sur le terrain et des informations provenant des inventaires d'arbres, les services des travaux publics auront une idée claire de ce qui doit être fait, le cas échéant (par exemple, élagage et émondage) et de la priorité à accorder aux travaux. Si le cas est plus complexe, il est possible de faire appel à un arboriste extérieur. Toutes les nouvelles données recueillies sont ensuite ajoutées au profil de l'arbre.

Les habitants sont encouragés à appeler le service des travaux publics s'ils ont des inquiétudes concernant un arbre public, mais il faut savoir que le service dispose déjà d'un ensemble de données précieuses sur cet arbre. Par exemple, vous pouvez remarquer une fissure dans l'écorce, mais les données du service des travaux publics peuvent montrer qu'elle est là depuis 2010 et qu'elle ne s'agrandit pas. C'est l'avantage de disposer de ces profils détaillés. N'hésitez donc pas à contacter le service, mais sachez que l'évaluation de votre problème d'arbre par le service des travaux publics sera basée sur de nombreuses informations pertinentes que vous n'avez peut-être pas sous la main.

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

