

# THE INFORMER

Montreal West Newspaper

February 2024, Vol. 52, No 1



## Ann Smith: teaching upcycline

by Maurice Krystal

She always smiled when I came into the library, but we never really said much to each other beyond the usual greetings. At some point, I told the editor I needed names of people who could be potential candidates to interview. **Ann Smith's** name often came up. She had quite a following, even though

she was hired by the library a year and a half ago.

When I asked what she felt comfortable sharing about herself, Ann said she was at heart an introvert but also an “open book.” Very *apropos* in a library.

She was born in Toronto but, while she was in high school, the family moved to Port Hope. Much of the influence in her life seems to be due to the women

in her life. Her great grandmother on her father's side was a seamstress to Thomas Edison in West Orange, New Jersey. (She inherited some buttons from the turn of the last century). But it was her grandmother on her mother's side and her mother who taught her how to crochet, knit and embroider. She remembers a neighbour in Toronto who taught her how to make little felt mice when she was 10. She started selling these creations door-to-door.

Her mother was a French teacher and a volunteer in the library in Port Hope. Ann has fond memories growing up there and definitely preferred life in the small town to that of Toronto. Neighbours watched and helped each other. You were known by everyone. There was a sense of community, almost a large extended family, very similar to MoWest. Her mother passed away in 2017; her father still resides in Port Hope.

Ann wanted to be a commercial artist, but in high school she saw a brochure about courses at Sheridan College and she enrolled and studied textiles and furniture design. Ann and her younger sister came to Montreal in 1990,

she to Concordia to study fine arts with a specialty in fibers and textiles, while her sister, Jennifer, enrolled in McGill to obtain a BA. After graduating from Concordia, Ann stayed in Montreal and was hired straight

out of university to become a textile designer. She loved her work, but in 2020, after 70 years of production, the knitting mill and dye house closed its doors. Covid and the drop of quotas on Chinese goods was the final nail in the coffin.

But Ann never stopped being involved in fabric crafts. She sold her creations online on Etsy and participated in a yearly craft show in Port Hope. She also has her work presently displayed at the *Native Immigrant Gallery* (previously *Mètèque Art Gallery*) on Côte Saint-Luc Road.

On a more personal journey, Ann was set up by a group of friends and met **Tauhid Rahman**. Originally his family immigrated from Bangladesh, and he came to Canada as a child. The family now includes two sons. 2020 didn't begin well. Out of work, and a pandemic restricting movement and socializing, the family had just moved

to MoWest. The neighbours, in spite of Covid, were very welcoming.

Ann, like many others, was stuck at home. In *The Informer*, she read about the *West End Quilters* and met all these people who had the same pas-

sion as she. In the same paper she saw that the Town library was looking for an assistant librarian.

At the interview with **Deb Marcogliese**, she said it had



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# Mayor's Report — Rapport du maire

November 27 novembre 2023

Good evening, everyone. *Bonsoir à tous.*

Welcome to this regular Council meeting. *Bienvenue à notre réunion ordinaire du Conseil.*

The demolition work is completed on the site of the old arena, pool and chalet. They have started the formwork for the footings for the new complex.

*Les travaux de démolition sont terminés sur le site de l'ancien aréna, de la piscine et du chalet. Les travaux de coffrage des semelles du nouveau complexe ont commencé.*

Thankfully, no major surprises yet.

I want to address a comment made by a resident at the last Council meeting. The resident referred to me in a very derogatory manner by making a snide remark about my size. I want to highlight two points:

As someone who has battled with his weight his whole life, you can be sure that there is absolutely no need to point it out. When we put on weight, we know it before anyone else. And we struggle with it. So yes, I know I have put on weight. By pointing it out in such a negative way, it can only be interpreted that the resident was trying to be insulting or hurtful.

Which leads to the second point. As elected officials, we are more apt to control our emotions and try very hard not to lash out when we are attacked, especially on a personal level. That does not make it acceptable to attack us. Nor does it mean that the attacks, no matter who launches them and in what context, have no negative impact upon our own mental health. I have been doing this for 16 years already and have been called a crook, had snide remarks directed toward me about being on the take, been likened to a mobster because of my

Italian background, and now, have blatantly and publicly been ridiculed because of my size. Let me be categorical, whether nonsensical as the first three cases or true as in the last case, it negatively affects me in a major way.

*Je voudrais revenir sur un commentaire fait par une résidente lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil. Cette personne a fait référence à moi d'une manière très méprisante en faisant une remarque sarcastique sur ma taille. Je voudrais souligner deux points :*

*En tant que personne ayant lutté toute sa vie contre son poids, vous pouvez être assurés qu'il n'est absolument pas nécessaire de le souligner. Lorsque nous prenons du poids, nous le savons avant tout le monde. Et nous nous battons avec. Alors oui, je sais que j'ai pris du poids. En le soulignant de manière aussi négative, on ne peut qu'interpréter que la résidente a voulu être insultante ou blessante.*

*•Ce qui nous amène au deuxième point. En tant qu'élus, nous sommes plus aptes à contrôler nos émotions et nous nous efforçons de ne pas nous braquer lorsque nous sommes attaqués, en particulier sur le plan personnel. Cela ne veut pas dire qu'il est acceptable de nous attaquer. Cela ne signifie pas non plus que les attaques, peu importe qui les lance et dans quel contexte, n'ont pas d'impact négatif sur notre propre santé mentale. J'exerce ce métier depuis 16 ans déjà et on m'a traité de voleur; on m'a fait des remarques méprisantes sur le fait que j'étais dans le coup, on m'a comparé à un mafieux en raison de mes origines italiennes, et maintenant, on s'est moqué de moi de manière flagrante et publique en raison de ma taille. Permettez-moi d'être caté-*

*gorique : que ce soit absurde comme dans les trois premiers cas ou vrai comme dans le dernier, cela m'affecte négativement de manière importante.*

Many of my peers in elected office have had to step back or resign under such personal and vile attacks. And there is no way to try and justify that behaviour by ANYONE no matter what your situation, real or perceived. Many people who witness these attacks question my patience in not lashing out. Maybe I have a high tolerance for this level of abuse and felt it was part of the job.

But, it isn't. So I won't be bullied nor will I continue to stand by idly while being attacked. No one should.

*Nombre de mes collègues élus ont dû prendre du recul ou démissionner à la suite d'attaques aussi personnelles et ignobles. Et il n'y a aucun moyen d'essayer de justifier un tel comportement de la part de QUICONQUE, quelle que soit sa situation, réelle ou perçue. De nombreuses personnes qui sont témoins de ces attaques se demandent si j'ai la patience de ne pas réagir. Peut-être que ma tolérance à l'égard de ce type d'abus est élevée et que j'ai l'impression que cela fait partie du travail.*

*Mais ce n'est pas le cas. Je ne me laisserai donc pas intimider et je ne resterai pas les bras croisés face aux agressions. Personne ne devrait le faire.*

I don't care who you are or what your situation may be, there is never a reason to be disrespectful.

Please continue to stay safe, stay vigilant and stay healthy.

*Peu importe qui vous êtes ou quelle est votre situation, il n'y a jamais de raison d'être irrespectueux.*

*Je vous prie de rester en sécurité, vigilants et en santé.*

*Beny Masella*

*Mayor, Town of Montreal West/  
Maire, Ville de Montréal-Ouest-  
masella@montreal-west.ca*

## INFORMER

10 Westminster North  
Montreal West, Quebec  
H4X 1Y9

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

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

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### NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

February 7

## Mailbox



### The Public Library, our little treasure

I was somewhat concerned, and so were others, when the MoWest library at the corner of Westminster and Avon was razed and relocated to Westminster North. As a resident of over 20 years, I had enjoyed the cozy joy that librarian **Nora Powell** and the volunteer staff provided.

As it turned out my worries were unfounded. The library's Westminster North location goes beyond expectation. Well organized, cheerful atmosphere, **Debra Marcogliese**, staff and volunteers have kept the place the pleasure it always was. Understandably, much excitement has centered around the new, modern arena, a necessity. However, I remain grateful for our little treasure and the community of MoWest.

*Bill Saunders*  
250 Westminster North

### New service at MW Computer Store

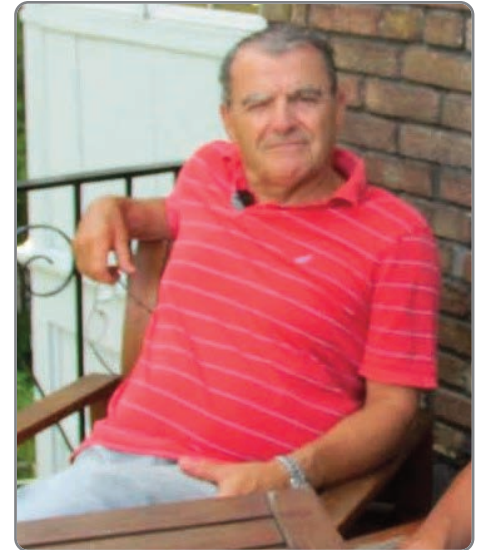
In 2024, **Richard Eckerlin** will be offering a new service, virtual or remote house calls using "Teamviewer." This is a remote control software that allows Richard to take control of your Windows computer to help you remove viruses, configure a new printer, install new software or optimize your PC.

You would be on the phone during the session and would spend between 1-2 hours together. Payment would be in advance by eTransfer to [canadanotebook@live.com](mailto:canadanotebook@live.com) and would come out to \$50 for a 1-hour session or \$100 for a 2-hour session. No passwords are required.

Given that Covid is again on the rise and some people are with weakened immune systems, this gives you the option of Richard's 37+ years of expertise without risking exposure to viruses.

**Richard Eckerlin**  
Montreal West Computer Store  
438-938-6240

P.S. Richard is down in weight from 400+ lbs to 270 lbs and has managed to keep the weight off without regaining. Congrats, Richard!



*in memorium*

### Rick Lavell 1946-2023

On December 22, we lost a good friend. **Rick Lavell** passed on after a long fight with cancer.

Some of us knew him as a shopkeeper on Westminster a long time ago or as a real estate agent in a team with his wife **Isabelle**. Most who knew him called him a friend.

For the last few years, he fought hard for his life, with all he had, without complaining, his Isabelle by his side, tirelessly from day one to the very end.

Rest in peace Rick, we will miss you.

Le 22 décembre, nous avons perdu un bon ami. **Richard Lavell** a perdu sa bataille contre le cancer.

Certains l'avaient connu, il y a longtemps, comme commerçant sur Westminster, ou comme courtier immobilier, en équipe avec son épouse **Isabelle**. La plupart des gens qui le connaissaient l'appelaient leur ami.

Ces dernières années, il s'est battu pour sa vie, avec tout ce qu'il avait, sans se plaindre, son Isabelle à son côté, infatigable, du début à la fin.

Repose en paix Rick, tu vas nous manquer.

### Food drive at Action Sport Physio!

A heartfelt thank you for the community's incredible generosity and support towards the *Hope Food Bank* food drive we hosted at *Action Sport Physio*. Your donations of both food and money have made a significant impact and helped a family in need.

Your kindness is a shining example of the power of community coming together to make a positive difference.

With your continued support, we can keep nourishing lives and spreading hope. Thank you for being the driving force behind our efforts to create a hunger-free community.

Olivia Haddad, Brie-Anna Gerardi, Tiffany Blouin and Vivianne Lei Gantala



## Juliette LORD

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**ART ETC. 2023 once again ushered in the holiday season with the annual artisan show in November. We welcomed a large number of new artisans this year, many from MoWest.**

For anyone new to town or new to the show, please come and visit us next November. An invitation will be sent with The Informer in the fall.

ART ETC. is a juried artisanal show, which means that anyone who wishes to be in the show must participate in our jury process. The committee is always looking for a wide variety of different disciplines all done to a high standard. This year we had fine art painting and photography, pottery, candles, soaps and bath products, preserves, chocolates and baking, children's items, scarves, knitting, hats, stained glass, a variety of differ-

ent jewelers, clothing, home accessories and vintage items.

The ART ETC. committee would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following people: *Paula Cordeau* (without whom we would not have a show), **Bruce Thicke** and **Nick Ciambella** (both of whom were amazing and extremely helpful, as always!), **Poppy Baktis**, our

amazing floor manager and **Lynn Crawford**, who helped staff the door prize table and generally assist the floor manager. We would also like to say a very special thank you to the *Montreal West Children's Library* committee who organized the *Saturday Café* which is always greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.



To the families and individuals from MoWest who make our show an annual event in their lives, thank you! All our artisans comment on how lovely our show is and how wonderful the visitors are – very interested in each artisan's process and talent.

### Want to participate?

Any MoWest artisan interested in participating in the November 2024 show, please send us an email to [artetcmontrealwest@gmail.com](mailto:artetcmontrealwest@gmail.com) by early February so we can give you all the details about the jury process.

Any MoWest group or organization who would like to join us and organize the *Sunday Café* as a fundraiser for your group, please send us an email to [artetcmontrealwest@gmail.com](mailto:artetcmontrealwest@gmail.com) for more details. We'd love to welcome you aboard.

It is all the amazing events like these which involve local residents, groups and organizations that make living in MoWest so special. We look forward to welcoming you in November.

## The Return of *I Can Dream Theatre*

In January 2020, *I Can Dream Theatre* started planning their next production. They had just wrapped their 8<sup>th</sup> production (*Saving Marvel*) in November of 2019 and, like clockwork, January would roll around and the plans would begin for their 9<sup>th</sup> show. Meetings began, and initial intro rehearsals started.

Rehearsals started at the be-

ginning of February, but then, not like clockwork, the world had another plan altogether.

As the pandemic hit and consumed the globe, directors **Ada Masciarelli** and **Tricia Bartley** made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel *I Can Dream Theatre's* show and put the group on pause to see what would happen next.

Little did anyone realize that the pause in 2020, would end up lasting three years.

In those three years, Ada and Trish would arrange for meet ups via Zoom with the cast, and as restrictions lessened, some social distancing activities happened. The group missed each other immensely and missed performing.

In November of 2021, the cast got back together to get a sneak peek screening of *I Can Dream Theatre's* documentary *The Love Letter* which chronicled the group's ten-year anniversary and was a necessary look back at the amazing work that's been done. It was clear that night that while the group might have been on hold, they were not out for the count.

It was with much excitement when *I Can Dream Theatre* came back together in February 2023 to begin rehearsals once more with their returning cast. A lot of life lessons were learned from not only the directors but the cast as well, prioritizing a more gentler rehearsal pace and resetting the focus on

the great things that make this group magical.

A year later, *I Can Dream Theatre's* 9<sup>th</sup> production is ready to go! It is entitled *The Godfather's Wonderful Life* and will be performed on Friday, February 9 and Saturday, February 10 at the Eric Maclean Centre for the Arts (2477 rue West Broadway).

Our show takes its inspiration from not only the Corleone family (from the Godfather series), but also from the classic film *It's A Wonderful Life*. Trust me – this is a mashup you didn't see coming!

Tickets are available at [ican-dreamtheatre.com](http://ican-dreamtheatre.com) via Eventbrite. Keep your eye out on our social media platforms (Facebook, Threads, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube) for all updates.

Come follow us on the journey.

*I Can Dream Theatre* is back and better than ever – and they can't wait for you to see their new show. Join us for the very first time or come back and see what you've been missing.

from Merrill Matthews



## Action Sport Physio

### Unlock your well-being:

Meet Rachel Desjardins, expert physiotherapist

Embark on a transformative journey to well-being with **Rachel Desjardins**, a physiotherapist renowned for her expertise in Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) dysfunction, vestibular rehabilitation and senior care.

Rachel Desjardins graduated from McGill University in 2015 with a Masters Degree (Applied) in Physical Therapy. She is a licensed physiotherapist with *l'Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec (OPPQ)*. She has been working at *Action Sport Physio Montreal-West* for the last 9 years and is proud to serve the community.

#### TMJ excellence

With a deep understanding of the jaw joints, she employs techniques to alleviate pain, enhance mobility and restore optimal function. Say goodbye to TMJ discomfort and rediscover the joy of pain-free living.

#### Vestibular rehabilitation

Addressing dizziness, vertigo and balance concerns, Rachel specializes in vestibular rehabilitation. Through targeted exercises and therapies, she guides individuals to regain stability and confidence, allowing them to navigate life with renewed assurance.

#### Compassionate senior care

Aging gracefully is Rachel's focus in senior care physiotherapy. Her compassionate approach addresses the unique challenges seniors face, enhancing mobility, managing pain and improving overall quality of life. Rachel's personalized care empowers seniors to lead fuller, more active lives.

Give us a call at *Action Sport Physio*, **485-9292**, text us at **438-793-2290** or email us at [montrealwest@actionsportphysio.com](mailto:montrealwest@actionsportphysio.com).



## Montreal West reaching out

On December 24 and December 25, Montreal West again demonstrated what a caring community it is. 160 meals were delivered to the frailest and most isolated members of our community and adjacent NDG at noon on Christmas Day.

75 families participated by baking, cooking 18 turkeys, peeling 90 pounds of potatoes, creating dessert boxes, buttering bread rolls, creating gift packages, making stuffing, carving turkeys, making gravy, plating the meals and delivering them on Christmas at noon.

The recipients' names were given to us by the local CLSC Home Care nurses and

social workers. We even had 8 dogs taking part in greeting the recipients – sometimes they were more welcome than the meal!!! One gentleman told a family that they would be the only people he would see this holiday season. This Community Outreach Meal – coordinated by MoWest United Church is a special time to reach out to those in our community who need a smile and a kind word.

Thank you to all who showed how wonderful Montreal West is as a community that cares about others.

*from Joan Foster*

Carvers are John Buckles and Doug Sladen



Deliverers are Doug and MC Hall



(above) Potato gang are Mike Benson, Joyce Teiber and Catherine Doyle; (below) Dessert gang are the Gupta, Price and Marshall families





## Making the garden bird friendly

Former President of *Bird Protection Quebec* **Sheldon Harvey** will give a presentation on making the garden bird friendly on Monday, February 19. Gardeners and others are always interested in attracting birds and butterflies to their properties, and Sheldon's talks are enthusiastically attended.

The presentation takes place at the Town Hall at 7:30 pm. Admission is \$5 or a membership for 2024 can be had for \$25.

As a point of interest, *Bird Protection Quebec's* Montreal Christmas bird count is centred at the intersection of Sherbrooke Street West and Westminster Avenue. Sheldon Harvey is the coordinator.

## Ann Smith

*continued from page 1*

been 25 years since she helped out at the small library in Port Hope. Ann also said she was committed to working some hours at the *Native Immigrant Gallery* working on the Neighbourhood Slipper project, La pantoufle du quartier. This was a multiyear endeavour to make slippers and decorate them. Its purpose was for each participant to bring their own cultural history to the slipper. The final workshop was given in the library.

Ann was very pleased that Deb was open minded about hiring her and allowing her to play to her strengths. She now gives workshops on making mittens from old sweaters, creating holiday ornaments, visible mending and knitting and crocheting.

Each workshop has seven participants, due to the size of the table. The popularity of the workshops has spawned a second workshop for the overflow. The group bonds as they work together with their hands. What is particularly gratifying is that it doesn't just teach new skills but how to recycle/upcycle.

Upcycling is elevating something broken. It is based on the idea that everything can be reused or mended. The repairing actually makes the end product better than the original. The Japanese have developed a whole art form in repairing the broken. They fuse broken pottery with gold and artistically restitch torn fabrics. Kintsugi is Japan's ancient art of embracing imperfection. When I saw the women in the library stitching with Ann, I felt I had entered an oasis of calmness in a hectic world just outside the doorway.

If these workshops interest you, contact the public library, **481-7522**.

## West End Quilters



Moishe's quilt

Looking our Facebook page photos one can see that some members have been very busy quilting over the holidays while others might have been too busy eating, drinking and visiting to get to their machines.

We plan to have in-person meetings this winter if the weather permits. Our first meeting of 2024 had to be rescheduled to Zoom as the snow started to fall early. Twenty members attended virtually, and **Randi** gave us a talk on decluttering and organizing our sewing space. Luckily this doesn't mean getting rid of fabric, but rather making one's quilting space more user-friendly. When you need a certain ruler, you want to know exactly where it is. We will all do a little sorting before we start quilting.

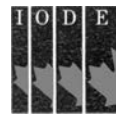
One of our most productive members, **Moishe**, recently finished this quilt. It is made with a technique called paper piecing where you sew pieces together through lines on a paper pattern using the stitch-and-flip method. This gives accurate seams and perfect points. This quilt has a lot of perfect points!

[facebook.com/westendquilters/](https://facebook.com/westendquilters/)

*from Mary Sutherland*

## IODE

### Newly elected officers at IODE HMS Victory Chapter



With the New Year come newly elected officers of the *IODE* HMS Victory Chapter, a volunteer women's charitable organization dedicated to the betterment of our community and country.

Our new president is **Diane Ellison**. Involved in her youth as a Girl Guide and having volunteered within senior homes during high school, Diane learned early that we receive so much more than we give when we volunteer.

These experiences – and being the daughter of a British immigrant with respect for and recognition of *IODE* values – led her to participate in our local *IODE* chapter. “I hope that with a great team, we can encourage broader participation by many future new members and an expansion of our presence into a ‘younger’ market where each can find their space to contribute to the vision of the *IODE* within Canada.”

Presently she is the Chair of the Board of Directors and General Manager of *Voces Boreales* (Montreal Choral Institute) and

serves as the Co-Chair of the Mission and Outreach Committee at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul.

These professional and volunteer roles have enabled Diane to draw on solid leadership skills to effect change and to obtain positive results from diverse projects.



Diane Ellison

**Giuliana Pendenza** steps down as President after two years and will now assume the position of Vice President. **Maira Bettinville** continues as Treasurer and is responsible for the adopted school in Labrador. New member **Trish Hewat** will serve as Secretary and **Charlotte D'Souza** as Membership Officer, respectively. **Heather Ferguson** continues as Services and Citizenship

Officer and **Barbara Marshall** as our Standard Bearer.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month in the John Simms Community Centre, 1-3 pm. All are welcome to join us.

Women Who Make a Difference in our Community

*from Giuliana Pendenza*

# Montreal West Garbage Bowl

A Reunion charity dance that was simply a blast!



Ron D'Souza, President of *Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG*, Tim Thomas, Mayor of Pointe Claire, Donna Stafford, Past President of Garbage Bowl Association, Cara Bridgeman, past Garbage Bowl committee member.

If you have lived in Montreal West any time since 1950, you must know this part of our history!

The charity football game was played every January 1 with the Northern Combines vs the Southern Bombers for over 60 years! In conjunction with the *Montreal*

*West Rotary*, the funds collected were distributed to many children's organizations in Montreal.

Guess what we (calling ourselves the Garbage Bowl Alumni!) did? On December 2, 2023, still under the trusty wing of the *Montreal West Rotary*, we had a Garbage

Bowl reunion charity dance at the Town Hall. It was simply a blast!

Past players and supporters from all across Canada came together and had a genuine reunion! All the same faces (just a little older) made the trip from Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa, Toronto and Vermont, USA! Along with the rest of us still in and around Montreal, we were thrilled to reunite. "It was magical, no one wanted it to end" was the unanimous feeling that evening.

Apart from all the fun, dancing, storytelling and laughter, we kept to our Garbage Bowl mission of collecting funds which we decided to donate to the *Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation /Rita Stafford Tribute Fund*. We will be presenting a cheque for \$3000 to the *MCHF* this month. **Rita**, a 40-year MoWest resident passed away summer 2022 as did **Mary-Jane Telfer**. It was at their respective wakes that the idea for this reunion was born. They would be very proud of us all!

The Garbage Bowl Alumni would like to thank the *Rotary* for their priceless help, the Town of Montreal West for the Town Hall set up and all those from near and far who participated in this charity reunion.

Stay tuned for the next one!

*Donna Stafford*  
MoWest Garbage Bowl Alumni

Club de Montréal-Ouest & NDG  
**Rotary**  
Club of Montreal West & NDG

## Dr. Michael J. Wexel

### Chiropractor

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## PAUL DESJARDINS

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## CRA



Another great session for our U9 (left) and U13(right) girls' indoor soccer class; great job everyone. Thank you to all the players and coaches for a fun filled session.



### Hockey Knights



The first half of the season played by our MWH Knights have had many achievements and fun times. We celebrated the end of the first half with pictures and a pizza party. Over the past few months, we have seen decisive victories over their opponents to standout individual performances; the organization has been making waves in local hockey circles. Memorable goals, clutch saves and sportsmanship have become synonymous with MWH Knights leaving fans and opponents cheering louder than ever. Shout out to our M11A team who played in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cumberland Dukes Showdown tournament winning the SILVER medal! Go Knights go!

As we head into the second half of the season, the anticipation and excitement among players, coaches and supporters is at

an all time high. The journey ahead promises more thrilling moments on the ice as our Knights continue to chase glory.

In the coming weeks, many of our teams are participating in tournaments throughout the city, we look forward to bringing you updates in the weeks to come.

Starting January 20, our youngest players in the M7 division will be starting their first games. Good luck to all the players and coaches.

To see the schedule, visit our website at [mwhhockey.ca](http://mwhhockey.ca).

### North Stars du EHL



Our seven double letter North Stars teams have had a great first half of the season. Overall, the North Star's teams are having a successful first half. Congratulations to our M11BB and M13AA who are currently sitting in first place. The coaching staff has been working hard with their teams: setting goals for player development and team progression. With their hard work and leadership our teams are experiencing great success.

Good luck to all our teams who are in tournaments over the next few weeks and good luck in the second half. Go North Stars, go!

To see the schedule, visit our website at [northstarsduehl.com](http://northstarsduehl.com).

### GYM-TASTIC!

The winter session of gymnastics is full with our head coach **Sarah Faith** teaching stretching, balance and fun circuits! From learning their Gym Stop to more complex moves everyone's working hard and having fun as they learn more moves getting ready to show off their moves at the end of session demonstration.

### Skating lessons

It's another year of amazing coaches and great skaters in the skating and pre-school

program. All the skaters have worked hard and learned so much in such a short time. Our figure skaters are working on their routines Saturdays at CSL, and everyone is getting ready for the end of year skating demonstration March 24! Mark it in your calendars!

### Basketball

Our basketball class has filled up quickly for the boys on Thursdays at Elizabeth Ballantyne. Players go through various drills to teach different dribbling and shooting techniques and finish the class with a scrimmage. The improvement at each level is remarkable and we are hoping to expand this program and get more girls involved. Players practise once a week at Elizabeth Ballantyne gym.

### Indoor soccer

Our indoor soccer program was in full swing for the winter 10-week session. We have classes for the younger players ages 5 to 18 for. The classes have everyone running, doing drills, games, learning different strategies and playing a scrimmage each week and of course a fun game at the end.

### Judo

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

### Calendar

March 1: Spring registration opens online at [mwcraports.ca](http://mwcraports.ca) for residents and March 15 for non-residents.

March 24: End of Year Skating demonstration at Ed Meagher Arena (Concordia), everyone is invited.

## Sandra Roscanu:

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## CRA

## M11A Knights take home silver at Cumberland Tournament

What a tournament! Our M11A Knights travelled to Ottawa late November to take part in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Cumberland Dukes Showdown. The players arrived ready to play and rolled through the tournament beating the Nepean Raiders 5-1 in their first game. Saturday, they continued their winning streak by beating Case 6-0 and then beating the Nepean team 6-0 to secure a spot in the playoffs. **Benjamin Casault** backstopped a nearly perfect round robin effort, the scoresheet saw **Nico Violini** and **Nico Lajoie** adding a couple of key goals, and **Rory** and **Tobin Coughlin** combined efforts to assist for the goal. Shoutouts to Players of the Games **Ciaran Donlan**, **Jacob Deich** and **Dante Forlini**.

Off to the playoffs Sunday morning against the formidable Carlton team. **Tagan Hilf** and **William Woo** skated hard and created some great chances, but our Knights were held off the scoreboard until late in the third. **Julian Forlini** netted a beauty with 3:45 left to put the Knights ahead. A late penalty kill and an empty netter sealed the deal to advance our boys to the finals! **Logan Beecher-Schnarch's** standout effort between the

pipes earned him a well-deserved Player of the Game.

Finals were against our local rivals, the Diables of MRO. This was a game filled with end-to-end action. **Lucas Leckner** played an amazing game on defence but with 4:42 left in the third a goal from MRO would be the only goal of the game sealing silver for the MWH Knights. **Isaac Casarotto's** heart and grit earned him the Player of the Game. Our M11A team showed they are a force to be reckoned with and we look forward to seeing the match up between MRO and MWH as the season moves ahead.

The action on the ice was almost as much fun as the action off the ice. Team meals, pool time at the hotel, and lots of laughs brought the team together. Team managers **Jennifer MacMillan** and **Melanie Lomanno** did an amazing job with the organizing the out-of-town tournament. A huge thanks to our coaches **Matthew Schnarch**, **Franco Forlini**, and **Michael Coughlin**. Not only are they teaching our kids to play hockey, but they are also showing the positive lessons that team sports have in shaping young adults.

Let's Go Knights!!!

Congratulations to M11A MWH Knights for winning silver at the Cumberland tournament in Ottawa



## Edinburgh



Ryan Karawani in San Diego at the Torrey Pines State Park

— A sixth grader's perspective —

## Hopes for last year at Edinburgh

Hello, my name is **Ryan Karawani** and I am 11 years old. I am so happy to finally be able to call myself a sixth grader. After seven years at Edinburgh Elementary School (including kindergarten), I know I can overcome anything that comes my way at this school. Edinburgh helped me improve many of my skills, like learning how to play new sports in the gym and getting prepared for high school. I remember my first day at Edinburgh school, I was so excited but nervous at the same time. I felt ready to learn new things and make new friends. And I did!

After every school year ends, I mostly think of one thing, and that's how many more years until grade six, the graduating year. Now that I'm finally here I'm looking forward to something way more exciting and stressful: high school! High school has brought up really in-

teresting conversations with my friends and family at school or at home. For example, the admissions process and waiting for the schools to answer. Another topic has been figuring out which activities I'd like to participate in. To me, high school means a fresh and new start. A new start to make new friends, while still keeping my friends from Edinburgh. Over the years in elementary my perspective of school has changed a lot. In my first years at school, I only cared about making new friends and didn't care much about other things at school like grades. Now a lot has changed and I care a lot about my grades and my graduation. The hard work I put in and grades I received have set me up for my next chapter. I hope Grade six will leave me with memories and friends that I will have forever.

from Ryan Karawani

## Children's library

### Have you read our most popular books?

We start the new year with a look back to 2023 and the most circulated children's books in our collection.

Here is the list:

1. *Dog Man: Two Thousand Fleas under the Sea* by Dav Pilkey
2. *Minecraft Combat Handbook*
3. *Cat Kid Comic Book: on Purpose* by Dav Pilkey
4. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Diper Overload* by Jeff Kinney
5. *The Baby-Sitters Club: Dawn and the Impossible Three* by Gale Galligan
6. *Amulet* series

It is obvious that comic books/graphic novels have a privileged place in our young patrons' reading habits. To satisfy an expressed demand on the part of our readers, we are expanding the library's manga collection. New key series have been added and old series have been continued. Come and check them out!

### Bill Foster Writing Contest

It is that time of year again: the annual **Bill Foster** writing contest is back for its fourth edition in 2024. This year, we ask budding authors to write on the theme of "Imagination." Your text can be created in English or French, you can submit a poem, short story, graphic novel or illustrated story. All formats are accepted: handwritten or printed. Submissions will be accepted from February 1 to April 15. Two categories will be awarded: 6 to 8 years and 9 to 12 years. Please drop by the library to pick up an envelope in which to submit your text.

### Family movies

The library has renewed its movie licence and once a month, on Sunday, families can count on us for a fun afternoon with a family movie. We will make sure the movie experience is all you want it to be. The list of forthcoming movie projections can be found on the library's website.

### Lunar New Year

The folks from *Peek-a-Boo Activity Center* are favourites with our community. We often invite them to animate art classes which are much liked and appreciated. On February 11 (Sunday), from 11 am to noon, Peek-a-Boo will animate a multimedia art activity in celebration of the Lunar New Year. In 2024, we celebrate the year of the Dragon, so you can expect a beautiful and inspiring creation! Registration is mandatory.

You can find all pertinent information on other activities and programs that we organise and implement on our website.



**Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri /  
lun, mer, jeu, ven :**  
10 am-6 pm  
**Tue / mar :**  
10 am-8 pm  
**Sat, Sun / sam, dim :**  
10 am-3 pm

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## Kosher corner

### Advice for life

Did you ever wonder what brought scientists and military experts to the doorstep of a rabbi in Brooklyn?

Why do world leaders still come to pray by the resting site of **Menachem Mendel Schneerson**? Join us for a 6-week deep dive into the Rebbe's advice for life and get glimpse into his vision for a fulfilling life, starting Thursday February 1, 8-9:15 pm. Sign up at [chabadwestminster.com/adviceforlife](http://chabadwestminster.com/adviceforlife).

### First Friday Shabbat

First Friday Shabbat service moved to February 9, 6:15 pm. Followed by Kiddush and refreshments!

### Rosh Chodesh Women's Society

Class four of the "One WOW Moment" Wednesday, February 7, 7:45 pm. Learn about the amazing women in Jewish History and how their decision effects us until today.

### Jewish Women's Circle

Enjoy an evening out making mosaic challah boards! Monday, February 19.

### Purim is fast approaching!

Saturday night March 23-March 24. Stay tuned for emails about parties, hamantash bakes, brewery tours and kids' events!

*from Rabbi Marlow*

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# Montreal West Public Library



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## What Are You Reading Now?

### *The Trees*

by Percival Everitt

from Deborah Marcogliese

Percival Everitt's *The Trees* unravels as a murder mystery with currents of blatant racism in America. The narrative orbits around a series of chilling murders, each crime scene eerily marked by the presence of a deceased figure mirroring Emmett Till – a young Black boy lynched in the same town 65 years prior. Tasked with unraveling



the enigma behind these unsettling crimes, Ed Morgan and Jim Davis are dispatched to Money, Mississippi. These two Black detectives possess a unique blend of wit, gravitas and just the right touch of sensitivity, embodying the timeless tradition of classic murder mystery detectives.

In a poignant exchange, Jim remarks, "And that's not just because we're Black," Jim said. "Though plenty true because we are." This declaration adds depth to their characters, emphasizing their awareness of the racial nuances entwined with their investigation. The special detectives, with their distinctive qualities, contribute to the narrative's rich tapestry, making *The Trees* a compelling read that seamlessly blends the conventions of a traditional murder mystery with an examination of societal complexities.

A fusion of noir and murder mystery elements, *The Trees* weaves a poignant tale of murder, race and discrimination. Shortlisted for the Booker Prize and honored with the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, Everitt's narrative leaves an indelible imprint on the reader's consciousness well beyond the final page.

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## Budget Commentary

On December 18, Council adopted its budget for 2024. Our objectives were to limit the increase in the tax bill despite the impact of major ongoing projects, to provide maximum value to taxpayers by scrutinizing all expenditures and to continue to invest in our long-term infrastructure. The biggest challenge was incorporating projected costs for the new sports and recreation centre into our budget despite rising interest rates and increased costs of goods and services.

**Revenues:** Projected non-tax revenues are down 8% this year, due mainly to a decrease in Recreation revenue with the pool and arena closed, lower anticipated permit fees and a drop in interest rates and other revenues.

**Expenses:** Increases in local operating expenses were kept to 3.7% or \$359k. Public Works' budget increased \$348k due mainly to the increase in road repairs, snow removal, and equipment costs. Environmental Health costs rose \$150k related to testing for lead in the water, replacing crossed sewage lines and contracts for garbage, compost and recycling. Administration costs rose \$124k with increased legal, insurance and IT fees. All other departmental budgets had small variations except Recreation, which decreased \$298k due mainly to the non-operation of the pool and arena.

**Capital Expenditures and Debt:** The Town will allocate \$60k to install flow restrictors on Easton to prevent backflow. However, the largest single change is for Debt Servicing charges. This will increase by \$449k. \$112k of this is related to higher interest rates and the long-term debt repayment schedule for our current debt. The remaining \$337k is related to the new debt based on the construction payments for the sports and recreation centre.

**Summary:** Total Local Operating plus Capital Expenses increased \$838k, Agglomeration and MMC Expenses increased \$218k, bringing the Total Expenses to \$19.7M, an increase 5.7% over 2023.

This translates into a 7.58% increase or \$699 in the tax bill of the average-valued home (\$1,033,348). It should be noted that this increase includes an amount of \$194 for the debt related to the new sports and recreation centre. Excluding this, the regular tax increase is 5.48% or \$505 for the average-valued home. For further details on the projected cost of the new centre in 2024, please see my Council Communiqué article in this *Informer*.

**Capital Investments:** Council also adopted a three-year capital investment program which includes anticipated spending of \$17.5M in 2024. This includes \$15.9M for the sports and recreation centre as well as infrastructure work for sidewalks and

## Budget 2024 Revenus / Revenues

	2024 \$	2023 \$	Total %
<b>Taxes</b>			
Résidentiel / Residential	14 875 371	13 822 043	75.69
Lots vacants / Vacant Lots	66 073	56 020	0.34
Non résidentiel / Non-residential	1 806 706	1 645 049	9.19
Taxe d'eau / Water Tax	447 000	447 000	2.27
CMM / MMC	128 217	119 993	0.65
Droits de mutation / Duties on transfer	700 000	660 000	3.56
Reçus au lieu de taxes			
Payment in lieu of taxes	330 564	307 649	1.68
	<b>\$18 353 931</b>	<b>17 057 754</b>	<b>93.38</b>
<b>Autres/ Other</b>			
Loisirs et Culture / Recreation and Culture	392 000	\$554 000	1.99
Contraventions / Tickets	100 000	100 000	0.51
Stationnement et permis / Parking and permits	137 500	257 500	0.70
Intérêts / Interest	152 000	184 250	0.77
Intérêts à recevoir sur subvention			
Interest receivable on grants	465 275	276 405	2.37
Autres / Other	53 350	68 600	0.27
Transfert de l'excédent de fonctionnement /			
Transfer from surplus	0	100 000	0.00
	<b>\$1 300 125</b>	<b>\$1 540 755</b>	<b>6.62</b>
<b>REVENUS TOTAUX</b>			
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$19 654 056</b>	<b>\$18 598 509</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Dépenses / Expenses

	2024 \$	2023 \$	Total %
<b>Par service / By Department</b>			
Conseil / Council	204 041	194 266	1.04
Administration	1 737 741	1 613 365*	8.84
Sécurité publique / Public security	535 991	526 181	2.73
Travaux publics / Public works	3 586 817	3 238 451	18.25
Hygiène du milieu / Environmental health	1 250 429	1 100 927	6.36
Inspection et permis / Building inspection	246 834	231 637	1.26
Loisirs, culture et parcs			
Recreation, culture and parks	2 444 631	2 742 792	12.44
Dépenses en capital à même les revenus			
Capital expenditures out of revenues	60 000	30 000	0.30
Service de la dette / Debt charges	1 981 055	1 531 897	10.08
	<b>\$12 047 539</b>	<b>\$11 209 516</b>	<b>61.3</b>
Quote part Agglomération et CMM			
Agglomeration and CMM remittance	<b>7 606 517</b>	<b>7 388 993*</b>	<b>38.7</b>
<b>DÉPENSES TOTALES</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$19 654 056</b>	<b>\$18 598 509</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* *la quote-part du CMM a été reclassée du budget de l'administration au montant total des quotes-parts / the CMM expense has been reclassified from the administration budget to the total amount of the remittance for shared services*

paving, improvements to Town Hall and the purchase of vehicles. Capital programs for future years will be reviewed and reconsidered in light of government grants and available funds. Proposed Infrastructure costs for 2025 and 2026 include a further \$15M for the recreation centre, infrastructure renewal on Avon and Courtney and the

continued replacement of our aging vehicle fleet. The Town has received government grants of \$16.3M for the recreation centre, and \$2.4M for infrastructure renewal related to sewer and aqueduct work.

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

## Analyse du budget

Le 18 décembre, le conseil municipal a adopté son budget pour 2024. Nos objectifs étaient de limiter l'augmentation de la facture fiscale totale malgré l'impact des grands projets en cours, d'offrir une valeur maximale aux contribuables en examinant minutieusement toutes les dépenses, et de continuer à investir dans nos infrastructures à long terme. Le plus grand défi a été d'intégrer les coûts prévus pour le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif dans notre budget, malgré la hausse des taux d'intérêt et l'augmentation des coûts des biens et services.

### Revenus

Les revenus non taxables prévus sont en baisse de 8 % cette année, principalement en raison d'une diminution des revenus des loisirs avec la fermeture de la piscine et de l'aréna, d'une baisse anticipée des droits de permis et d'une baisse des taux d'intérêt et d'autres revenus.

### Dépenses

L'augmentation des dépenses de fonctionnement locales a été limitée à 3,7 %, soit 359 000 \$. Le budget des travaux publics a augmenté de 348 000 \$, principalement en raison de l'augmentation des coûts des réparations de routes, de déneigement et d'équipement. Les coûts de l'hygiène du milieu ont augmenté de 150 000 \$ en raison des tests de détection du plomb dans l'eau, du remplacement raccords inversés et des contrats pour les ordures, le compost et le recyclage. Les coûts administratifs ont augmenté de 124 000 \$ en raison de l'augmentation des frais juridiques, d'assurance et d'informatique. Tous les autres budgets des services ont connu de faibles variations, à l'exception de celui des loisirs, qui a diminué de 298 000 \$, principalement en raison du non-fonctionnement de la piscine et de l'aréna.

### Dépenses en capital et dette

La ville affectera 60 000 \$ à l'installation de limiteurs de débit sur Easton afin d'empêcher les refoulements. Cependant, le changement le plus important concerne les frais de service de la dette. Ces frais augmenteront de 449 000 \$, dont 112 000 \$ sont liés à l'augmentation des taux d'intérêt et au calendrier de remboursement à long terme de notre dette actuelle. Les 337 000 \$ restants sont liés à la nouvelle dette basée sur les paiements pour la construction du nouveau centre sportif et récréatif.

### Bilan

Le total des dépenses locales et a augmenté de 838 000 \$, les dépenses liées à l'agglomération et à la CMM ont augmenté de 218 000 \$, ce qui porte le total des dépenses à 19,7M\$, soit une augmentation

## Comparaison du compte de taxe résidentiel Taxation comparison residential

Résidence valeur moyenne / Average Value Residence  
Rôle 2023-2025 Roll: \$1 033 348

	2024	2023	Différence	Variation
	\$	\$	\$	%
Valeur imposable / Taxable value	1 033 348	1 033 882		
Taxes locales / Local Taxes	5 575.95	4 996.75	579.19	
Quote-part Agglomération / Agglo share	4 259.46	4 144.83	114.63	
CMM / MMC	81.63	76.51	5.13	
	<u>\$9 917.04</u>	<u>\$9 218.09</u>	<u>698.95</u>	<u>7.58%</u>

**Augmentation relative à 2023 / Increase over 2023: \$698.95**  
**% augmentation / % increase: 7.58%**

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

	2024		2023	
	Local	Agglo	Local	Agglo
Taxe foncière générale / General property tax	0.5396	0.4122	0.4833	0.4009
Immeuble 6 logements + / 6 Units or more	0.6448	0.4926	0.5737	0.4759
Immeubles non résidentiels / Non-residential buildings	1.5151	1.4072	1.2993	1.3641
Lots vacants / Vacant lots	1.0792	0.8244	0.9666	0.8018
CMM / MMC	0.0079		0.0074	

## Programme triennal d'immobilisations Three-year Capital Program

Catégorie / Category	2024	2025	2026
	\$	\$	\$
Infrastructures / Infrastructure	460 000	2 800 000	2 340 000
Bâtiments / Buildings	16 867 000	15 575 000	160 000
Véhicules / Vehicles	205 000	275 000	75 000
	<u>\$17 532 000</u>	<u>18 650 000</u>	<u>\$2 575 000</u>

de 1,06M\$ ou de 5,7 % par rapport à 2023.

Cela se traduit par une augmentation de 7,58 %, soit 699 \$, des taxes foncières de la maison de valeur moyenne (1 033 348 \$). Il faut noter que cette augmentation comprend un montant de 194 \$ pour la dette liée au nouveau centre sportif et récréatif. Si l'on exclut ce montant, l'augmentation de taxes foncières est de 5,48 %, soit 505 \$ pour une maison de valeur moyenne. Pour plus de détails sur le coût prévu du nouveau Centre en 2024, veuillez consulter mon article dans la section Communiqué du Conseil de ce numéro de *The Informer*.

### Investissements

Le conseil a également adopté un programme triennal immobilisations qui prévoit des dépenses d'environ 17,5M\$ en 2024. Ce montant comprend 15,9M\$ pour le centre sportif et récréatif ainsi que des travaux d'in-

frastructure pour les trottoirs et le pavage, des améliorations à l'hôtel de ville et l'achat de véhicules. Les programmes d'investissement pour les années à venir seront examinés et reconsidérés selon les subventions gouvernementales et des fonds disponibles. Les coûts d'infrastructure proposés pour 2025 et 2026 comprennent un montant supplémentaire de 15 M\$ pour le centre sportif et récréatif, le renouvellement des infrastructures sur Avon et Courtney, et le remplacement continu de notre flotte de véhicules vieillissante. La Ville a reçu des subventions gouvernementales de 16,3M\$ pour le nouveau centre et de 2,4M\$ pour le renouvellement des infrastructures liées aux travaux d'égouts et d'aqueducs.

Colleen Feeney  
Conseillère en finances,  
MADA, Récréation et culture



# Winter doesn't stop Scouts!



## Co-ed program for youth from 5 to 18

We are looking forward to Scouting year 2024.

- **Beavers:** Ages 5/6/7 – kindergarten, grades 1 and 2
- **Cubs:** Ages 8/9/10 – grades 3/4/5
- **Scouts:** Ages 11/12/13 (14) – grades 6/7/8
- **Venturers:** Ages 14/15/16/17
- **Rovers:** Young adults 18 to 26 interested in continuing the Scouting experience.

## Interested in registering your child?

Check us out in Scouts.ca, 1<sup>st</sup> MoWest Scout Group for meeting places, days and times. Contact our commissioner, **Karen Mansfield-Johnstone**, for information at karenmansfieldjohnstone@gmail.com or at 717-5696.

Clockwise from top left: Louis Roche and his father Scouter Rocky - snowshoeing; Finn Duncan - ice fishing; Beavers - sliding; Noah Wizman - sledging; Samuel Fogl-Nguyen - Kub-Kar Rally



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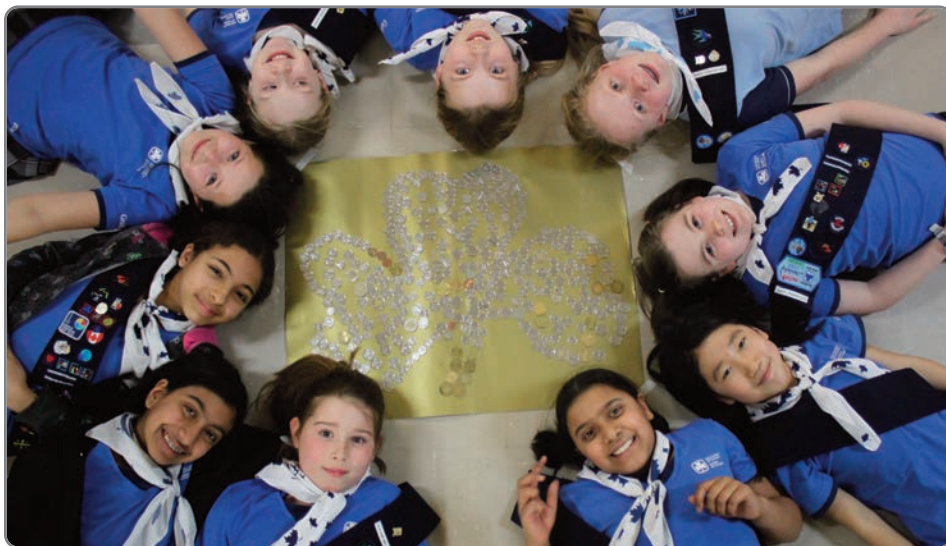


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## Guides



In the last issue of *The Informer*, we told you about Guiding adventures until early November. Since then, the Guides visited our local children's library and were given a tour of its collections. The Guides presented charades based on fairy tales. They also created their own story by selecting a sentence from different books which were chosen by **Ekaterina**, the Head Librarian. The story read as follows:

### ***The Weird Mouse the Police Couldn't Help***

*Are you ready for a surprise, asked Alexander's Dad, putting on an apron.*

*He hated the vines that crept up the red brick and the way the peaks over the upstairs window looked like angry eyebrows. I am the little kid.*

*Penny waited for snow at the window in her bedroom.*

*Oh, yah, yah, oh, oh, wow!*

*She pointed at the tractor.*

*So, Gibon found something new to pass the time, playing pranks as people walked by below.*

*Trees are losing their leaves.*

*Hi, guys, he shouts back.*

*Of course, says Catina, I have only one chapter left to write.*

*I will be travelling around the world.*

*Broccoli was the only veggie we had left.*

*Yuppie, yelled Mouse.*

*The police won't help me either.*

### **Camp Wa-Thik-Ane**

In other news, our beloved provincial camp, Wa-Thik-Ane, has a name which does not truly reflect the indigenous culture in that region of the Laurentians. Girl Guides of Canada is taking steps to rectify this. In recognition that the camp sits on unceded lands and waters, the Quebec council, in discussion with indigenous groups, will

rename our camp. The Guides were invited to offer their ideas as to what the new name of the camp should be and they decided to submit their suggestions.

### **Enrollment**

In mid-November, the Sparks and Embers units held their enrollment ceremony. Half of the girls in each unit were new and had learned all the things they needed to know to become official members of the units. The Sparks studied their promise and shared what it meant to them. The Embers, being a bit older, needed to learn many things, including their promise, law and the Guiding motto and how it relates to them personally.

The second-year girls helped teach the first-year girls. As always, friends and family were invited to the ceremony – we had a packed house! It was wonderful to see so many people eager to share this special moment in their young lady's Guiding life. As has become tradition, after the ceremony, all the guests were invited to join in singing our campfire songs. The girls were eager to sing their favourites.

On another evening, the girls created their own "property". They could either make a single home or develop a little community. The "properties" were joined together, and the girls went on adventures visiting the different locations.

Finally, the Guiding year in Montreal West ended on a fun note! The Sparks and Embers held a meeting where any member could share their talents. We had everything from magic shows, dance recitals, joke telling and musical performances. **Unicorn**, one of our amazing leaders, even wrote her own lyrics and performed them for us as she played the tune on her ukulele. Everyone was quite impressed!

*from Montreal West Guiders*

## Book published by local wellness coach

**Zahra Afasaneh Yaghtin**, a wellness coach, naturopath and therapist at *Crystal Canada Therapy Center* in Montreal West, published her first book entitled *My House, My Heaven* at the end of 2023.

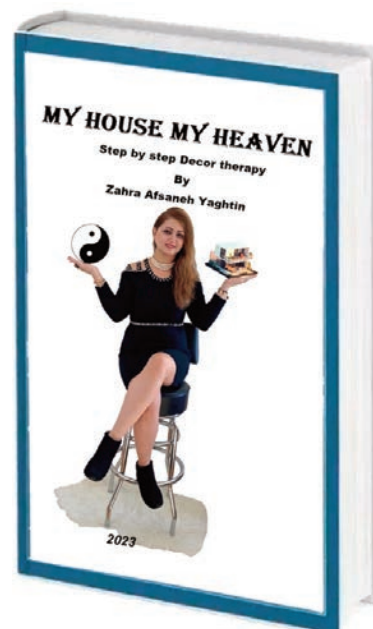
She has planned a wellness project to help people have better feelings, improve their life quality and raise their vibration. It includes three main aspects of a person's well-being: physical aspects (body), mental aspects (mind and soul) and environmental aspects (house/workplace). "To have a good feeling in life and to have it permanently, we need to keep raising vibrations in our body, mind and place", says Zahra.

Your house or workplace may be located near train tracks, highways, public parking, high-voltage poles, hospitals, churches, police stations, cemeteries, gas stations or any place that can create harmful electromagnetic waves that can have a negative effect on your physical and mental health and cause imbalances in energy, diseases, financial or emotional problems, study and focusing problems, etc. *My House, My Heaven* offers a kind of decor therapy method that evaluates and analyzes the energy of your home or workplace and identifies the factors that cause energy imbalance.

At the end of each section, you can write down the current situation and the related problems and the possibility of choosing the right solution.

The publication of this book is the first step towards Zahra's greater goal of helping people improve the quality of their lives.

Meet Zahra at the library on Wednesday January 31 at 5 pm.



## MW United

...the brick one

Remember: the inconvenience of winter precipitation can offset the problems of summer drought. We must be careful what we wish for.... Life is a conundrum is it not?

### Before we get into February:

“As the Outreach committee of Montreal West United Church, we would like to express a huge thank you to the community of donors, peelers, cooks, bakers, organizers, delivery teams, turkey donors and all who participated – for once again, making the Christmas meal a huge success!!!” – **Samantha Borgal** and **Joan Foster**.

If you were there, you know it felt right.

### Onward to February... with its 29 days!

An extra day every four years – I get more excited over the extra hour of sleep each fall when we give up daylight savings time. Remember the L'il Abner comic and the Sadie Hawkins Day dance? The girls could invite the guys – maybe even propose? We've come a long way....

### Wednesdays in the study

Rev. **Mark Hammond** would like to invite any people interested to join the Wednesday Bible study group. Afternoon sessions are at 2 pm, in-person (Minster's study). Evening discussions are on Zoom 7 pm. Not a series so come as you can. He says “Our Bible study is more about sharing diverse perspectives than teaching one person's answers. Come and explore the Bible with neighbours. All are welcome.” For more information, call **482-3210**.

## Afternoon Labyrinth Walk, Sunday, February 11

Between 2 and 4 pm, come by and join us in Wadsworth Hall for the peace of an individual walking meditation. We will have the Chartres Cathedral design laid in a calm atmosphere. Put your world on pause for a while. Takes 20 minutes to walk in and out; however, a stroll rather than a gallop will likely give you time to relax into it and let your own inner wisdom speak to you. All welcome – please walk in socks or slippers. No charge, no experience necessary. Bring anyone you wish as this ancient practice crosses all cultures.

Lent I is February 18 when we will have Communion in our service. Rather than give up something for Lent, we tend to add something to our daily routine which may involve putting something aside (like loose change) toward a charitable donation the church will make. Be part of choosing which organization should benefit as it is usually selected by the congregation at fellowship time after the services.

Wishing you a hopeful mid-winter month. Keep your stick on the ice, as Red Green would say but now it is a much more inclusive statement, and isn't that a good thing!

from Susan Upham

## St. Ignatius of Loyola

On behalf of **Fr. Mike** and our team, happy New Year! We truly wish everyone a wonderful 2024. We'd also like to thank everyone who visited us this past Christmas. We were grateful to welcome over 1000 people at our Christmas masses, including a number of new guests from Montreal

Fr. Mike Leclerc celebrating Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Mass at St. Ignatius, the parish he attended as a child.



West. If it was your first Christmas with us, we hope that you enjoyed your experience and we look forward to welcoming you again soon!

### Parents' info session

If you're curious to learn about our numerous programs for kids and teens, we encourage you to attend our Parents' info session January 28 at 11:15 am for parents of kids ages 3 to 18. Alternatively, feel free to visit [stig.ca/kids](http://stig.ca/kids) or [stig.ca/teens](http://stig.ca/teens) or contact **Rebecca** at [kids@stig.ca](mailto:kids@stig.ca) or **Adrian** at [youth@stig.ca](mailto:youth@stig.ca) with your questions.

### Curious about faith? Try Alpha.

This spring, we'll be launching our 17<sup>th</sup> Alpha! Alpha gives people from all walks of life the chance to explore the Christian faith in an open and friendly environment. Each week explores a different topic, and gives participants the chance to ask questions, reflect and connect with others over a good meal and meaningful discussions. To learn more or sign up, check out [stig.ca/alpha](http://stig.ca/alpha).

from Shawna Rose

## St. Philip's

Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 14. If your practice is to give up chocolate for Lent, you may need to make alternative arrangements for a gift for your sweetheart. Our Ash Wednesday service, Holy Communion with imposition of ashes, will take place at 7:30 pm.

### Lent Pancake Brunch

A long tradition at St Philip's is our mid-Lent Pancake Brunch. In 2020, it was the first parish event to be cancelled as Covid became an issue. This year, it returns! Join us on Sunday, March 10 after the 10 am Sunday service (about 11:15 if you want to come only for brunch), for pancakes, ham and scrambled eggs. Why do we have it on this particular Sunday? The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, called Laetare Sunday or Refreshment Sunday, is a day of relaxation from the austerity of Lent, before the intensity of the last week of Lent and Holy Week. Reservations encouraged, call **481-4871**, but walk-ins are welcome.

### Vestry meeting

Our vestry meeting (annual general meeting) takes place on Sunday, February 25, immediately following Morning Prayer at 10 am.

from Fr. Pratt



## Community Centre communautaire : 484-6186

### Summer camp registration Inscription pour le Camp de jour

- Residents: February 12
- CSL and Hampstead: February 13
- All others: February 14

### Winter Programs

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

#### Parent and Baby

Sign up on Amilia

- **Music with Shawny:** Mondays at 10 am
- **Baby and Me Workout:** Tuesdays at 11 am

#### Children and Youth

- **Ballet:** a couple of spots are available for Saturday mornings.  
9:50 am (5-6 years old) 10:40 am (7-11 years old)
- **Captain Catalyst:** spots available Saturday mornings.  
9:30 am (4-6 years old) 10:45 am (6-9 years old)
- **Red Cross Babysitting Course**  
Saturday, February 17  
9:30 am- 40 pm  
Ages 11+  
Cost: residents: \$85/non-residents: \$95  
Learn the skills required to carry out babysitting duties.
- **Red Cross Stay Safe Course**  
Sunday, February 18  
9 am-2:30 pm  
Ages: 9-13 years  
Cost: residents: \$85/non-residents: \$95  
Real-world scenarios often call on children to respond to challenges. The Stay Safe! Program teaches applicable and age-appropriate skills, while increasing and reinforcing a youth's capacity to improve his or her own safety.

### Artists' Showcase

Winter 2024 theme:

*Emotions Unleashed*

Please submit your art by February 12.

MoWest artists are invited to display their works on the website for the online exhibition and the Town Hall.

To find out more about the Artists' Showcase or to get an application form, go to the MoWest website under "Culture" or call 484-6186.

### Meditation workshop:

*Embark on a journey within*

Saturday, February 10

9-Noon

John A. Simms Community Centre

Unlock tranquility and inner peace with our meditation workshop. Join us for a transformative experience where ancient wisdom meets modern mindfulness.

What to expect:

- guided meditation sessions
  - practical techniques for daily life
  - stress reduction and relaxation
  - mind-body connection exploration
  - welcoming community atmosphere
- Cost: \$50 Residents, \$60 Non-Residents  
Why Attend?

Whether you're a curious beginner or seeking to deepen your practice, this workshop is crafted for you. Rediscover a sense of calm, enhance focus, and embrace a mindful lifestyle.

Limited spaces available! Secure your spot now and embark on a journey toward a more centered and balanced life. To register sign up on Amilia or call 484-6186.

### 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).

### March Break Camp

March 4 -8; 5- to 10-year-olds

Location: Community Centre

Cost: \$280 residents / \$290 non-residents

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

### Camp de la semaine de relâche

4 au 8 mars : pour les 5 à 10 ans

Lieu: Centre communautaire

Coût : 280 \$ rés. / 290 \$ non-rés.

Si vous êtes intéressé, inscrivez votre (vos) enfant(s) sur Amilia (sous l'onglet Semaine de relâche) ou en appelant le centre communautaire au 484-6186.

### A special thank you...

to Mayor, **Beny Masella**, who was a great help at all the events in December: Breakfast with Santa, Christmas dinner for seniors, and Holiday Hounds (the photos shoot with Santa).

### 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.



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Winter on Westminister. @Julia Ross

## Club 50+

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

Thank you to all those who took part in the 50+ Club Christmas dinner December 16 and to all those involved: set up, cooking, serving, cleaning, dancing and celebrating!

## February

- 14** Valentine's brunch
- 15** Mah Jongg (drop in)
- 27** Bridge/cards  
Call to reserve your table.

## March

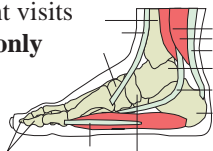
- 15** St. Pat's luncheon

## Foot clinic

**484-6186**

February 7 and March 13

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



## Town Council meeting: November

by Carol Foster



The mayor's report is being published separately because what he had to say was very important and deserved to be heard by everyone. Please see page 2.

### Councillors' reports

**Councillor Feeney** reviewed the expenditures during the past month and announced the Town's budget for 2024 will be presented during a special meeting held just prior to the December council meeting.

Registration for the winter programs, including the new tap dancing class for children, has begun and classes will start the week of January 8.

Thousands of people came out to participate in the *CP Holiday Train's* visit and thanks were given to all who helped make this event so successful.

Among the many events scheduled for the next few months, seniors are looking forward to their annual Christmas dinner at the Town Hall and outdoor rinks will be available this season at Rugby, Davies and Strathearn parks whenever the weather permits.

**Councillor Ulin** reminded residents not to leave their waste collection bins on the streets or sidewalk once the winter snow removal operations begin.

The recent fluctuations in temperature contributed to the water main pipe bursting in two locations along Curzon this month and both have now been repaired after which, no further problems are anticipated.

Changes to the waste management by-

law will become available to residents early in the New Year.

**Councillor Torres** reminded the residents that December 16 was the last PAC meeting for the year. Residents were asked, again, to collaborate with the team verifying work being done is in accordance with the permits that have been issued.

There was no report from **Councillor Small-Pennefather** due to her absence.

### Question period

A member of the Bike Safety subcommittee announced that detailed statistics concerning the number of rush hour cyclists crossing the intersection of Westminster and Sherbrooke have now been completed. He suggested that, in the absence of receiving direction from the Agglomeration Committee on citywide bike paths, the Town could make plans for bike routes within its own territory. The mayor agreed this was possible and said he would also try other means of getting an answer from the Agglo Committee.

Automatic receipts from the Town for residents' payments on line are not available but can be obtained upon request by mail.

The replacement for the missing stop sign at Brynmor has been ordered but not yet received.

The Q & A information concerning the new recreation centre is now back on the Town's website after a short absence due to a technical problem.

The Town's budget contains an allocation to cover routine emergency work, but in exceptional cases, working funds can also be made available.

It was acknowledged that the crabapple trees planted by the Town do indeed cause a mess but it is the Town's objective to find the right tree for the right spot and crabapples are hardy, salt tolerant and require only a small space.

The costs to the Town incurred by the *CP Holiday Train* event include security and staffing. The benefits are the collection of money and food offered by the attendees as well as a generous check from CP, all of which gets donated to a local food bank.

In response to a request, the Mayor agreed to participate, as Santa, in a photo op with some of the dogs in the Town.

*Exo* is planning to install a barrier at the railroad crossing on the east side to deter pedestrians crossing, which will help eliminate some of the dangers in that area.

The Town has no control over the ads that may appear on the Town Council's YouTube webcast and receives no compensation for them. However, attention will be paid to that complaint.

The meeting was then adjourned.



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SINCE 2006

## Réunion du Conseil : novembre



par Carol Foster  
traduction par René Boucher

Le rapport du maire est publié séparément parce que ce qu'il avait à dire était très important et méritait d'être entendu par tous. Voir page 2.

### Rapports des membres du Conseil

La **conseillère Feeny** a révisé les dépenses du mois précédent et a annoncé que le budget de la Ville pour 2024 serait présenté lors d'une réunion spéciale tenue juste avant la réunion du Conseil de décembre.

L'inscription aux programmes d'hiver a débuté, y compris le nouveau cours de claquettes pour les enfants. Les cours commenceront pendant la semaine du 8 janvier.

Des milliers de personnes ont assisté à la visite du *Train des Fêtes du CP* et des remerciements ont été adressés à tous ceux qui ont contribué au succès de cet événement.

Parmi les nombreux événements prévus au cours des prochains mois, les aînés ont bien hâte de prendre part à leur dîner de Noël annuel à l'hôtel de ville, et des patinoires extérieures seront disponibles cette saison dans les parcs Rugby, Davies et Strathearn lorsque le temps le permettra.

La **conseillère Ulin** a rappelé aux résidents de ne pas laisser leurs poubelles dans les rues ou sur les trottoirs une fois que les opérations hivernales de déneigement auront commencé.

Les récentes fluctuations de température ont contribué à l'éclatement de la canalisation principale d'eau à deux endroits le long de Curzon ce mois-ci; les deux bris ont maintenant été réparés et aucun autre problème n'est prévu.

Les modifications au règlement sur la gestion des déchets seront mises à la disposition

des résidents au début de la nouvelle année.

Le 16 décembre se tiendra la dernière réunion du CCU de l'année, selon la **conseillère Torres**. Encore une fois, on a demandé aux résidents de collaborer avec l'équipe qui vérifie que les travaux effectués sont conformes aux permis qui ont été délivrés.

La **conseillère Small-Pennefather** n'a pas présenté de rapport en raison de son absence.

### Période de questions

Un membre du sous-comité de la sécurité en vélo a annoncé que les statistiques détaillées sur le nombre de cyclistes qui traversent l'intersection Westminster-Sherbrooke aux heures de pointe sont maintenant complètes. Il suggère qu'en l'absence de directives du Comité d'agglomération sur les pistes cyclables à l'échelle de la cité, la Ville pourrait planifier des pistes cyclables sur son propre territoire. Le maire a reconnu que c'était possible et a dit qu'il essaierait aussi d'obtenir une réponse du Comité d'agglomération par d'autres moyens.

Les reçus automatiques de la Ville pour les paiements en ligne des résidents ne sont pas disponibles, mais peuvent être obtenus sur demande par la poste.

Le panneau d'arrêt manquant à Brynmor a été commandé, mais pas encore reçu.

Les questions et réponses concernant le nouveau centre récréatif sont maintenant de retour sur le site Web de la Ville après une courte absence en raison d'un problème technique.

Le budget de la Ville contient une allocation pour couvrir les travaux d'urgence de routine, mais dans des cas exceptionnels, des fonds de roulement peuvent également être mis à disposition.



Winter on Westminster. @Julia Ross

L'on a reconnu que les pommeliers plantés par la Ville causent effectivement un gâchis, mais l'objectif est de trouver le bon arbre au bon endroit; les pommeliers résistent au sel et ne nécessitent que peu d'espace.

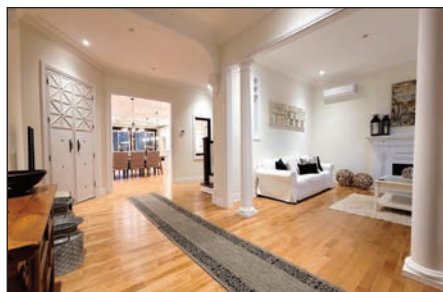
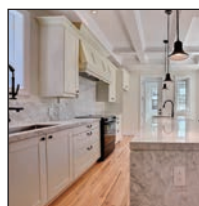
Les coûts engagés par la Ville pour l'événement du *Train des Fêtes du CP* comprennent la sécurité et la dotation en personnel. Les avantages sont l'argent et la nourriture que donnent les participants ainsi qu'un généreux chèque du CP, le tout remis à une banque alimentaire locale.

En réponse à une demande, le maire a accepté de participer, en tant que père Noël, à une séance de photos avec des chiens de la ville.

*Exo* prévoit installer une barrière au passage à niveau de la voie ferrée du côté est pour empêcher les piétons de traverser, ce qui contribuera à éliminer certains des dangers dans cette zone.

La Ville n'a aucun contrôle sur les publicités qui peuvent apparaître sur la diffusion YouTube du conseil municipal et ne reçoit aucune compensation pour celles-ci. Toutefois, on prêterait attention à cette plainte.

La séance était ensuite levée.



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## Chronique de l'environnement en action : Le blues du bac à compost

Nous savons tous que nous devrions composter, mais les meilleures intentions ne suffisent pas toujours. Les odeurs du compost peuvent déranger, les mouches à fruits peuvent frustrer et, en fin de compte, des bestioles astucieuses du voisinage peuvent saboter votre bac à compost ! Mince.

Ce sujet fait l'objet d'un long fil de discussion sur la page Facebook des Résidents de Montréal-Ouest. Mais cette discussion contient aussi beaucoup de conseils utiles, surtout pour tenir les bestioles à distance. Voici ce que vos voisins veulent que vous sachiez :

### Déjouer la faune

Gardez votre bac brun à l'intérieur d'un garage ou d'une remise jusqu'au jour de la collecte. Pas d'abri ? Essayez de tendre un élastique sur le couvercle. Cette méthode a

fait des merveilles. Vous pouvez également placer une pierre ou une brique lourde sur le couvercle. Si les créatures doivent travailler trop dur pour obtenir ce qu'elles cherchent, elles trouveront un endroit plus facile pour grignoter. Plusieurs habitants ont dit qu'ils nettoyaient leurs poubelles ou les vaporisaient régulièrement avec un peu de Javel, ce qui fonctionne à merveille.

À l'intérieur de la maison, de nombreux résidents utilisent les petits sacs en papier compostables et les stockent dans le congélateur (en particulier pour les produits animaux pouvant être odorants: viande, poisson, fromage, os, etc.) Ils ne sortent le sac que le jour de la collecte. Non seulement cela dissuade les animaux, mais cela élimine les odeurs dans votre cuisine. Personnellement, je conserve tous mes produits comestibles « potentiellement odorants »

dans le congélateur jusqu'au jour de la collecte et je n'ai jamais eu de problème.

### Problèmes délicats

L'astuce du congélateur aidera également à résoudre le problème des 7 lettres de l'été (les asticots, si je dois l'épeler). Je sais que c'est inqualifiable, mais c'est le cercle de la vie et tout ça. Pensez au *Roi Lion et tout ira bien. Idem pour les mouches* à fruits. Cependant, ces mouches peuvent être vaincues avec quelques pschitt de vinaigre blanc et en jetant régulièrement le sac de cuisine. Je range ma poubelle doublée de papier dans un tiroir profond (plutôt que sur le comptoir). Elle reste ainsi à l'abri des regards et des mouches.

### Les ordures ne sont pas une solution

À bien y réfléchir, les mêmes problèmes qui se posent avec le compostage se posent avec les déchets s'ils ne sont pas traités correctement. Si vous jetez votre vieille carcasse de poulet et votre compote de pommes dans la poubelle, ces mêmes bestioles feront tout leur possible pour la dévaliser. Il existe de nombreuses preuves dans la ville de poubelles en plastique rongées où les écureuils et leurs cousins cherchaient un repas gratuit. Alors pourquoi ne pas mettre ces produits dans la bonne poubelle et aider la planète à prendre une direction plus sûre ?


### Pourquoi s'en préoccuper ?

Science. Les matières compostables jetées dans une décharge produisent du méthane, un gaz à effet de serre extrêmement puissant, dont le potentiel de réchauffement est 80 fois supérieur à celui du CO2 (ce n'est pas une faute de frappe). Sachez que les déchets organiques ne se décomposent pas simplement dans les décharges. Ils créent des gaz mortels.

Malheureusement, certains résidents en ont eu assez des difficultés liées au compostage et ont abandonné l'idée. Je comprends. C'est un véritable défi. J'espère que ces conseils vous encourageront à essayer à nouveau. N'hésitez pas à m'envoyer un courriel si vous êtes confrontés à d'autres problèmes de compostage et j'essaierai d'y répondre. Ensemble, nous vaincrons les bandits de la poubelle, nous vaincrons la vermine et nous éliminerons les « bibittes ». Oui ! Nous pouvons y arriver.

Conseillère Elizabeth Ulin,  
pour le Comité d'action  
environnementale






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[thelittleredplayhouse.com](http://thelittleredplayhouse.com)

Notre mission est d'enseigner à tous les enfants en tant qu'individus, d'être le meilleur qu'ils peuvent être. Nous enseignons à tous les enfants l'empathie, la compassion, la compréhension et l'acceptation de toute diversité. En savoir plus:

[petitemaisonnetterouge.com](http://petitemaisonnetterouge.com)

## Town Council meeting: December



by Carol Foster

In the Mayor's absence, **Councillor Feeney** chaired the meeting and presented the Mayor's message that he wanted to be conveyed at this last Council meeting of 2023.

**Mayor Masella** felt that the community had debated a major decision, held a referendum and, despite the difficulties encountered, residents were now working together to heal the division in the community and to contribute to making the new centre a defining addition to the Town.

"We also just finished my favourite week of the year. I was able to help serve the kids and young families during Santa's Breakfast and to see the smile on my granddaughter's face as she met Santa for the first time."

He was pleased to be invited to participate in the menorah lighting ceremony and happy to help serve the Town's seniors during their annual dinner. He was also able to participate in a new event, for which he thanked **Linda Hammerschmid**, featuring Holiday Hounds with Santa and he enjoyed that immensely.

He went on to thank the Town's team, starting with **Raffaele Di Stasio** and **Valentina Todoran** as well as all the members in Administration, Recreation, Public Works, Public Security and Urban Planning whose work and dedication in serving the Town were greatly appreciated.

The councillors were also thanked for ensuring residents the level of service they deserved even during his absences.

In closing, he wished everyone a peaceful end to 2023 and good health into the New Year.

### Councillors' reports

Following what she described as the "challenging" budget report for 2024 that she had just presented prior to the meeting, and which will be available on the Town's website the next day, Councillor Feeney then reported on her portfolio.

She announced that the property tax bills will be mailed out January 22, and the first payment will be due February 22. As she explained during her budget presentation, the average increase in the average residential property in the Town will be 7.58%.

The Community Centre was able to offer childcare services during the school teachers' strike, the winter programs are available online and the rinks will be open once the weather cooperates.

The Holiday Hounds with Santa was a great success and the money raised is going towards the recreation centre.

Councillor Feeney thanked the staff in the Recreation Centre, who worked tire-

lessly during the past few weeks. Their efforts have been appreciated by the Council as well as the residents who attended the many events.

Forty-nine permits were issued during the past two months, according to **Councillor Torres**. Five notices were issued. Two were for lack of maintenance to a building, two for work without a permit and one for non-compliant work.

PAC will be meeting only once a month during January and February and, as always, residents are always reminded to check if a permit is required before they begin work on their premises.

Theft from cars is a huge and growing problem all across North America and vehicles in Montreal West are not exempt from this situation. Things as trivial as gum and a hair brush have been reported stolen according to **Councillor Small-Pennefather**. She has continually been warning residents of the need to never leave personal objects in their cars and to always ensure the car is securely locked. e-bulletins from the Town and articles in *The Informer*, containing detailed information about how to protect vehicles from being broken into, even with more and more sophisticated means, have recently been published.

An incident on an STM bus travelling on Avon in St. Pierre, which involved a stabbing was included in the recent crime stats.

A new officer, **Antonia Mihai** has been welcomed in the Public Security Office.

Public Works staff are now busy removing the branches from public trees damaged during the recent heavy snowfall. They are hopeful that it will be possible to make private branch collections in January and residents will be notified if this is the case.

The snow removal operations in Montreal West are known to be the most efficient among all the island communities. **Councillor Ulin** described, in detail, how this is accomplished by strategic planning and maximizing available resources. However, this efficiency is occasionally hampered by contractors who pull snow out of driveways and leave it on the sidewalks.

Changes to the Town's Waste Management bylaws are still being fine-tuned and residents will be advised of the new regulations in the new year.

Warm wishes for the holidays and the year ahead were extended by all of the Councillors at the end of their presentations.

### First question period

Recent problems which involved the need to dig up the road to ensure pipes from the new Easton Building connected properly with the Town's pipes added to the frustration of drivers in that area. Although it is

a private project, fines can be issued for non-compliance with the permit. However, most of the work is now being done to the interior of the building, and the Town is reluctant to apply too many restrictions to ensure the work is finished as soon as possible. Following some complaints, the construction workers will be reminded of the need to always be respectful of private property.

The police seen on Sherbrooke and Westminster at the level crossing are hired by *Exo* and are responsible for ensuring vehicles obey the barriers when trains are moving. They are authorized to give out tickets to recalcitrant drivers.

The Town's responsibility for the maintenance of the dog park includes two visits each week to fill holes dogs have dug and to empty the garbage. They are not responsible for cleaning up dog waste. That is the responsibility of the owners. Residents are again reminded that dogs are not permitted in Percival Park off leash and owners will be fined for not observing this regulation.

Council is happy to receive the online questions submitted for Council meetings but they must be limited to 100 words due to the many questions received and the time limit allowed for the answers. Longer questions can be sent in advance by email or asked, in person, at the meeting in the Town Hall.

Although they frequently work together, the responsibilities of the Town's PSOs and the SPVM officers are quite different. It may be possible, in the future, to change the wording on the Public Security vehicles so that they are more clearly identifiable to avoid any confusion.

The snow that was recently blown on Avon residents' lawns is not normal practice but was made necessary by the lack of sufficient snow removal trucks in the aftermath of that storm.

The hunt for alternative substances for melting the ice continues but has not yet been successful.

The question period included thanks to the members of the Council from residents who appreciated all the work done in the Town, the attention paid to ensuring the seniors' annual dinner was such a happy affair, for the many events offered by the Recreation staff and for the Holiday Hounds and Santa photo op which was great fun and should become a yearly event.

In other business, the Council announced the yearly grants to organizations in the Town and agreed to support the move to ensure that mandatory information about the Holocaust is made part of the curriculums in the elementary schools in Quebec.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## Réunion du Conseil : décembre



par Carol Foster  
traduction par René Boucher

En l'absence du maire, la **conseillère Feeney** a présidé la réunion et a présenté le message du maire qu'il voulait transmettre lors de cette dernière réunion du Conseil en 2023.

Le **maire Masella** a estimé que la communauté avait débattu une question importante, tenu un référendum et, malgré les difficultés rencontrées, les résidents travaillaient désormais ensemble pour guérir la division dans la communauté et contribuer à faire du nouveau centre un ajout déterminant à la ville.

« Nous venons également de terminer ma semaine préférée de l'année. J'ai pu aider à servir les enfants et les jeunes familles pendant le petit-déjeuner du père Noël et j'ai vu le sourire sur le visage de ma petite-fille lorsqu'elle a rencontré le père Noël pour la première fois. »

Il s'est réjoui de l'invitation à participer à la cérémonie d'illumination de la menorah et heureux d'aider à servir les aînés de la ville lors de leur dîner annuel. Il a également pris part à un nouvel événement, pour lequel il a remercié **Linda Hammer-schmid**, mettant en vedette les Toutous des fêtes avec le père Noël (*Holiday Hounds with Santa*), et il a beaucoup apprécié.

Il a ensuite remercié l'équipe de la Ville, en commençant par **Raffaella Di Stasio** et **Valentina Todoran**, ainsi que tous les membres de l'Administration, des Loisirs, des Travaux publics, de la Sécurité publique et de l'Urbanisme dont le travail et le dévouement au service de la ville ont été grandement appréciés.

Les conseillères ont également été remerciées d'avoir assuré aux résidents le niveau de service qu'ils méritaient même

pendant ses absences.

En conclusion, il a souhaité à tous une fin de 2023 paisible et une bonne santé pour la nouvelle année.

### Rapports des membres du Conseil

À la suite de ce qu'elle a décrit comme étant le « défi » du rapport budgétaire pour 2024 qu'elle venait de présenter avant la réunion et qui sera disponible sur le site Web de la Ville le lendemain, la conseillère Feeney a ensuite présenté un rapport sur son portefeuille.

Elle a annoncé que les factures d'impôt foncier seront postées le 22 janvier et que le premier paiement sera dû le 22 février. Comme elle l'a expliqué lors de sa présentation du budget, l'augmentation moyenne pour la propriété résidentielle moyenne dans la ville sera de 7,58 %.

Le centre communautaire a pu offrir des services de garde d'enfants pendant la grève des enseignants, les programmes d'hiver sont disponibles en ligne et les patinoires seront ouvertes une fois que la météo aura coopéré.

Les Toutous des fêtes avec le père Noël a été un grand succès et l'argent récolté va au centre récréatif.

La conseillère Feeney a remercié le personnel du centre récréatif qui a travaillé sans relâche au cours des dernières semaines. Leurs efforts ont été appréciés par le Conseil ainsi que par les citoyens qui ont assisté aux nombreux événements.

Quarante-neuf permis ont été délivrés au cours des deux derniers mois, selon la **conseillère Torres**. Cinq avis ont été émis, dont deux concernant le défaut d'entretien d'un bâtiment, deux pour travaux sans permis et un pour travaux non conformes.

Le CCU ne se réunira qu'une fois par

mois en janvier et en février et, comme toujours, on rappelle aux résidents qu'ils doivent vérifier le besoin d'un permis avant d'entreprendre des travaux dans leurs locaux.

Le vol dans les voitures est un problème énorme et croissant partout en Amérique du Nord, et Montréal-Ouest n'est pas épargnée. Selon la **conseillère Small-Pennefather**, des objets aussi insignifiants que de la gomme et une brosse à cheveux ont été dérobés. Elle n'a cessé de mettre en garde les résidents contre la nécessité de ne jamais laisser d'objets personnels dans leurs voitures et de toujours veiller à ce que la voiture soit bien verrouillée. Des bulletins électroniques de la Ville et des articles dans *The Informer* contenant des informations détaillées sur la façon de protéger les véhicules contre les introductions par effraction, même ceux avec des moyens plus sophistiqués, ont récemment été publiés.

Un incident impliquant une attaque au couteau dans un autobus de la STM circulant sur Avon à Saint-Pierre a été inclus dans les statistiques récentes sur la criminalité.

La Sécurité publique a accueilli une nouvelle agente, **Antonia Mihai**.

Le personnel des Travaux publics est maintenant occupé à enlever les branches des arbres publics endommagés lors des récentes chutes de neige abondantes. On espère qu'il sera possible de faire des collectes privées en janvier et les résidents seront informés le cas échéant.

Les opérations de déneigement de Montréal-Ouest sont connues pour être les plus efficaces de toutes les collectivités de l'île. La **conseillère Ulin** a décrit en détail comment cela s'accomplit par une planification stratégique et la maximisation des ressources disponibles. Cependant, cette efficacité est parfois entravée par les entrepre-

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- Long-time MoWest Resident



centre-ouest inc.  
Agence immobilière

**Nancy Christiansen**

Res. Real Estate Broker  
514-654-8007

- Long-time Townships Resident

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

## Réunions du Conseil : décembre

neurs qui poussent la neige des allées et la laissent sur les trottoirs.

Les modifications aux règlements municipaux sur la gestion des déchets sont encore en voie de mise au point et les résidents seront informés du nouveau règlement au cours de la nouvelle année.

À l'issue de leurs présentations, toutes les conseillères ont adressé leurs vœux les plus chaleureux pour les fêtes et pour l'année à venir.

### Première période de questions

Les problèmes récents qui ont nécessité de creuser la route pour s'assurer que les conduites du nouvel édifice Easton soient correctement raccordées aux conduites de la ville ont ajouté à la frustration des conducteurs dans ce secteur. Bien qu'il s'agisse d'un projet privé, des amendes peuvent être infligées en cas de non-respect du permis. Cependant, la majeure partie des travaux sont maintenant effectués à l'intérieur du bâtiment, et la Ville est réticente à appliquer trop de restrictions pour s'assurer que les travaux sont terminés le plus tôt possible. À la suite de certaines plaintes, on rappellera aux travailleurs de la construction qu'il faut toujours respecter la propriété privée.

Les policiers vus au passage à niveau à

Sherbrooke et Westminster sont embauchés par Exo et s'assurent que les véhicules respectent les barrières lorsque les trains circulent. Ils sont autorisés à remettre des avis d'infraction aux conducteurs récalcitrants.

La responsabilité de la Ville pour l'entretien du parc canin comprend deux visites par semaine pour combler les trous creusés par les chiens et vider les ordures. Ils ne sont pas responsables du nettoyage des déchets de chiens. C'est la responsabilité des propriétaires. On rappelle encore une fois aux citoyens que les chiens ne sont pas autorisés dans le parc Percival hors laisse et que les propriétaires sont passibles à l'amende s'ils n'observent pas ce règlement.

Le Conseil est heureux de recevoir les questions en ligne soumises pour les réunions du Conseil, mais elles doivent être limitées à 100 mots en raison des nombreuses questions reçues et du délai accordé pour les réponses. Les questions plus longues peuvent être envoyées à l'avance par courriel ou posées en personne lors de la réunion à l'hôtel de ville.

Bien qu'ils travaillent souvent ensemble, les responsabilités des ASP de la Ville et celles des agents du SPVM sont très différentes. Il pourrait être possible, à l'avenir, de modifier le libellé des véhicules de la Sécurité publique afin qu'ils soient plus

clairement identifiables pour éviter toute confusion.

La neige qui a été récemment soufflée sur les pelouses des résidents d'Avon n'est pas une pratique normale, mais elle a été rendue nécessaire par le manque de camions de déneigement par suite de cette tempête.

La recherche de substances de remplacement pour faire fondre la glace se poursuit, mais elle n'a pas encore été couronnée de succès.

La période de questions comprenait des remerciements aux membres du Conseil de la part de citoyens qui ont apprécié tout le travail accompli dans la ville, l'attention portée à s'assurer que le dîner annuel des aînés était une affaire si heureuse, pour les nombreux événements offerts par le personnel des Loisirs et pour la séance de photos des Toutous des fêtes avec le père Noël, qui était très amusante et devrait devenir un événement annuel.

Dans d'autres dossiers, le Conseil a annoncé les subventions annuelles aux organismes de la ville et a accepté d'appuyer la démarche visant à faire en sorte que l'information obligatoire sur l'Holocauste fasse partie des programmes d'études dans les écoles élémentaires du Québec.

La séance fut ensuite levée.

## Environmentalism in action

### Compost Bin Blues

We all know we should compost, but best intentions don't always cut it. Odours can upset, fruit flies can frustrate and, in the end, clever neighbourhood critters can sabotage your curbside bin! Damn.

This was the essence of a recent thread on the residents' Facebook page. But there were also lots of helpful hints, especially to keep the critters at bay. Here's what your neighbours want you to know:

### Foiling the fauna

Keep your brown bin inside a garage or shed until pick up day. No shelter? Try a tight bungee cord across the lid. It's worked wonders for many. Or place a heavy stone or brick on top. If the creatures have to work too hard they'll find an easier place to snack. Several residents said they clean their bins or spray with a bit of

bleach regularly which works like a charm.

Inside the house, many residents use the small compostable paper bags and store them in the freezer (especially for pungent animal products: meat, fish, cheese, bones, etc.). They then only put the bag out on collection day. Not only will this dissuade the animals, it'll eliminate any odours in your kitchen. Personally, I store all my "potentially pungent" compostables in the freezer until pick up day and I've never had a problem.

### Icky issues

The freezer trick will also help with the icky 7-letter summer issue (maggots, if I must spell it out). I know it's unspeakable but, hey, it's just the circle of life and all that. Think Lion King and you'll be fine. Ditto with fruit flies. Though, those pests can be vanquished with a few spritzes of white

vinegar and regular disposal of the kitchen bag. I store my paper-lined kitchen bin in a deep drawer (rather than on the counter). That keeps it out of site and totally free of flies.

### Garbage is no solution

When you think about it, the same problems that arise with composting still arise with garbage if it's not treated properly. If you toss that old chicken carcass and apple sauce in the trash bin, those same critters will do their darnedest to raid it. There's plenty of evidence around Town of gnawed plastic garbage containers where squirrels and their cousins were looking for a free lunch. So why not put that stuff in the right bin and help nudge the planet in a safer direction?

### Why bother?

Science. Compostable material thrown in a landfill pro-

duces methane, an incredibly potent greenhouse gas – with 80 times the warming potential of CO<sub>2</sub> (not a typo). Please know that organic waste doesn't "just decompose" in landfill. It creates deadly gas.

Sadly, some residents have gotten fed up with the hassle of composting and quit trying. I understand. It's a challenge. I hope these tips will encourage you to give it another go. Please email me if there are other composting issues you've faced and I'll try to address them. Together we'll defeat the bin bandits, vanquish the vermin, eliminate the icky issues. Yes! We can do this.

*Councillor Elizabeth Ulin  
for the Environmental  
Action Committee*



# COMING EVENTS / À VENIR

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

Next deadline: February 7

## January

Wed 31 **Planning your well-being** with naturopath Zahra Yaghtin. Library. 5 pm.

## February

Ven 9 **Soirée Jam de Montréal-Ouest.** *Levée de fonds pour le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif.* Voir la page 17. Hôtel de ville. 19 h 30 à 22 h 30.

Fri 9 **Montreal West Jam Night.** *Fundraiser for new sports and recreation centre.* Please see page 17. Town Hall. 7:30-10:30 pm.

Wed 14 **Ash Wednesday service.** St. Philip's. 7:30 pm.

Mon 19 **Sheldon Harvey talks about making the garden bird friendly.** Town Hall. 7:30 pm.

Wed 21 **Tea and Books** monthly meeting. Everyone welcome! Library. 2 pm.

Thu 22 **Municipal taxes due** (first installment) / **Échéance: taxes municipales** (premier versement)

Mon 26 **Town Council meeting.** In person and virtually (Town's YouTube channel). Town Hall. 8 pm.

## March

Sun 10 **Pancake Brunch.** Reservations 481-4871. St. Philip's. 11:15 am.



Believe it or not; that's Mayor Beny Masella under the beard! Linda Hammerschmid managed to persuade the mayor to pose with some of MoWest's best-loved dogs!

## Classifieds

**PRIVATE ACTOR COACHING** is available in Montreal, on a one-on-one basis or in groups of two. We will work on: audition material, an exploration of new material, the investigation of fresh choices. Please contact me at carolezucker@gmail.com to schedule an appointment. Or take a look at the website: Acting Workshops by Carole Zucker.

**DOG LOVERS:** new book *Dogmatic Truths: What Dogs Teach Us About Life*, by Spencer Boudreau, PhD, explores our relationship with dogs including insights to the many ways they enrich our lives: roles played in the lives of saints, the many services they render to human beings, the virtues they can teach us to enrich our lives. Available on Amazon.

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## NEW GARBAGE BY-LAW 2024

It sounds impossible, but Canadians actually send more garbage to landfill per capita than any other country in the world. Not a stat I'm happy to lead with, but there it is. When it comes to waste reduction, we really need to clean up our act. So, MoWest will be joining most other municipalities across the Island and instituting a new waste management protocol. Ours will come into force April 30.

### What's the trouble with trash?

As trash (specifically organic matter) decomposes in a landfill it releases methane - a hugely potent greenhouse gas. This greatly contributes to atmospheric warming. So it's extremely important to divert kitchen scraps and green waste to compost rather than tossing it in the garbage. Also, recycling, when done properly, can increase the sustainability of our economy ultimately using less energy and natural resources to produce the goods we need.

### So, what's this new protocol?

Starting April 30, 2024 each single family home will be allowed to put out a maximum of one 240L bin (smaller sizes are also acceptable). Duplexes, triplexes, apartment buildings, and commercial establishments may be allowed more. Specifics can be found on the website.

You may also put out extra large items for collection if they won't fit in the bin (furniture, etc.). But no additional garbage bags, boxes or loose small items may be set out for pick up. Other than over-sized pieces, all items must fit into your bin(s).

### What do I do with my old 360L bin?

You may keep your 360L bin for other purposes if you like (storage, autumn green waste), or sell it in the secondary market if it's in good condition, or give it to a duplex/triplex or business owner who's permitted to use them. If you just want to get rid of it, the Town is currently looking for a contractor who will collect them to be recycled for a modest fee. Specific info on this arrangement will be made available shortly.

Not sure of your bin size? It should be indicated on top of the lid. Most people have 240L and under.

### What's this going to cost me?

The vast majority of MoWesters are currently using acceptable-sized bins, so there will be no cost. A new 240L bin costs

about \$120. But those who must replace a 360L bin with a 240L or smaller will be eligible for a \$50 rebate on the purchase of a new bin. Proof of purchase required. One rebate per address. Details will be available on the website.

### What other impacts will this change have?

If you currently recycle and compost, the new protocol won't likely affect you at all. There are many other options to divert waste such as: the hazardous waste collection, the "electro-bac" at the community centre for small electronics and the bulk pick up service Public Works offers by appointment. The Ecocentre is also a great place to take old appliances, hazardous waste, construction material and more. The closest one to us is on St. Patrick in Lasalle. And of course there's Renaissance for clothes and household items. MoWest also has a thriving Buy Nothing Facebook group that "re-homes" unwanted items of all descriptions.

### Why choose this particular new protocol?

Council had a few options. 1) Reduced garbage pick ups to once every two weeks. We felt this would be too drastic a change for now but may be considered in future. 2) A Pay as You Throw: A system that measures the amount of garbage each address puts out and bills the address accordingly. This would require all new uniform bins with trackers for each address. An extremely expensive plan, with very few companies able to bid on the collection contract (hence \$\$\$). 3) The protocol described above. Moderately disruptive for some but much less costly. A good first step to encourage garbage diversion where possible.

For more info on this new protocol keep an eye out for the bulletin, the Town's website & Facebook page

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





## HOW MUCH IS THE NEW REC CENTRE COSTING YOU IN 2024

Progress continues to be made on the construction of the new sports and recreation centre. As of January, the foundation has been dug, some concrete has been poured, and some footings erected. The work will continue throughout the winter months.

Using the timetable established by the construction firm and the related payment schedule, the Town estimates that the costs associated with construction will be approximately \$15,865,000 during the course of this year. In the long term, the Town will finance the project with a combination of government loans (\$16.3 million), fundraising and long-term debt financed over 40 years. However, to be fiscally responsible in light of the current high interest rates for long-term borrowing, the Town will initially finance the project through our cash flow and revolving line of credit.

Based on this, the estimated interest to be paid by the Town for construction costs in 2024 is \$337,000. This translates to \$194 for the average household (value \$1,033,348) in 2024. When we do go for long-term financing and when

the project is complete, of course this number will change. As you may recall, the best estimates provided to residents at the time of the referendum in June approximated this debt service amount to be \$436 per year for the average-priced house at an average borrowing rate of 3% over 40 years.

Please note as well that this amount of \$194 for the average-priced home is included in your total tax bill. In other words, the \$699 property tax increase for the average household, is made up of two components: \$505 for the regular local, Agglomeration and MMC expenses, plus \$194 for the new sports and recreation centre.

During the construction phase, our recreation programs, including pool programs, hockey and skating programs and day camp will be offered at

a new venue. Information will be provided to residents as it becomes available.

And, as I do every month in my Council Report, I will continue to keep residents apprised of the amount spent on the new sports and recreation centre and respond to your questions. If you do have questions on the project at any time (finance or otherwise), we encourage you to complete the online form to ensure the administration is aware and can address your queries and concerns.

**[montreal-west.ca/en/recreation/sports-recreation-center-2-0/](http://montreal-west.ca/en/recreation/sports-recreation-center-2-0/)**

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



## URBAN PLANNING REPORT 2023

For the first communiqué of the year, I like to follow the tradition of giving you all a summary of activities undertaken by the Urban Planning Department the previous year:

Last year, a total of 373 permits were issued, just slightly above the average of the last five years. The top categories for the permits were Renovation (95), Public Domain Intervention (81), Deck and Patios (34), Excavation and Fill (34), Driveways and Walkways (30), Fences (29). Other permits were issued for the balance Renovation of categories i.e., extensions, swimming pools, landscaping, etc.

The Planning Advisory Committee, PAC, met 19 times and reviewed a total of 150 files, just below the average of files presented to PAC in the last five years. This indicates that there were fewer files that required review by the Committee than in previous years.

The department closed about 600 permits in the system. Permit files are closed once the work is completed, inspected and found to be in compliance with the Town's bylaws.

There were 29 notices sent and eight tickets issued, with a few still to come for infractions committed in 2023. Most notices and tickets were given for work without permits, the

most serious issue we have to deal with at the Urban Planning Department. Too many property owners are still conducting work at their properties without permits.

This year, the department will be stricter in reinforcing the Town's Urban Planning Bylaws. If you are planning to have work done, I urge you to inform yourself if permits are required and make sure that the permits have been issued before embarking on any work. Do not take the risk of getting an infraction, having to modify or demolish your project, as this will be at your expense.

Finally, January to March, is the best time of the year (before the construction period starts), to consult the department concerning permits, do not hesitate to contact us via the Town's website.

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



## WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

The Montreal West by-law concerning animals, is in force to protect the owner, the animal and other individuals. As a pet parent to two dogs, I understand the importance of exercising and socializing my dogs to contribute to their overall health and wellbeing.

As per the animal by-law, a dog must be leashed at all times, with the exception of the property owned or occupied by its keeper or in a dog park or officially designated exercise area identified by official signs of the Town. A dog off leash in a school yard, public park, playground or sports field, constitutes a nuisance and is in contravention of the Town by-law.

Over the last couple of years, we have been receiving complaints about dogs that are off leash in Percival Park near Elizabeth Ballantyne Elementary School. Public Security Officers have been providing verbal warnings to residents and unfortunately, if you are a repeat offender, you will receive a fine, to maximum of \$4,000 for a legal person.

In March of 2020, the Regulation respecting the application of the Act, to promote the protection of persons by establishing a framework with regard to dogs, came into effect in the province of Quebec. The aim of the legislation is to prevent dog attacks and mauling. Municipalities including the Town of Montreal West, are required to enforce the provincial legislation, which include reporting dog bites to both animals and humans, restrictions such as muzzles and in extreme cases ordering dangerous dogs to be seized and euthanized. I invite you to review the full details of the legislation here: *P-38.002, r. 1 - Regulation respecting the application of the Act to promote the protection of persons by establishing a framework with regard to dogs (gouv.qc.ca).*

In an effort to be proactive, we ask that you please leash your dogs in the Town and ensure that they have an up-to-date licence, which is renewable on January 1 of each year and can help identify your pet in the event that it becomes lost. The Montreal West dog park, next to Town Hall, is open between 6:00 am-10:00 pm every day for registered users. Please note that the dog park is closed for maintenance on Tuesdays and Thursdays from noon-1:00 pm. To apply for a dog licence, please visit: *Domestic Animals | Montreal West (montreal-west.ca).*

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



## RAPPORT DÉPARTEMENT DE L'URBANISME BANISME

Pour le premier communiqué de l'année, je suivrai la tradition en vous donnant un résumé des activités entreprises par le département de l'urbanisme au cours de l'année précédente.

L'année dernière, 373 permis ont été délivrés, soit un peu plus que la moyenne des cinq dernières années. Les principales catégories de permis étaient : Rénovation (95), Intervention sur le domaine public (81), Terrasse et patio (34), Excavation et remblai (34), Allées (30), Clôtures (29). D'autres permis ont été délivrés pour le reste des catégories, telles que les extensions, les piscines, les aménagements paysagers, etc.

Le Comité consultatif d'urbanisme (CCU) s'est réuni 19 fois et a examiné un total de 150 dossiers, ce qui est légèrement inférieur à la moyenne des dossiers présentés au CCU au cours des cinq dernières années. Cela indique qu'il y a eu moins de dossiers nécessitant un examen par le comité que les années précédentes.

Le service a fermé environ 600 permis dans le système. Les dossiers de permis sont fermés une fois que les travaux sont terminés, inspectés et jugés conformes aux règlements de la Ville.

Il y a eu 29 avis envoyés et 8 contraventions émises, dont quelques-unes sont encore à venir pour des infractions commises en 2023. La plupart des avis et des contraventions ont été donnés pour des travaux sans permis. Cela s'agit du



problème le plus grave que nous ayons à traiter au service de l'urbanisme. Trop de propriétaires effectuent encore des travaux sur leur terrain sans permis.

Cette année, le département sera plus strict dans le renforcement des règlements d'urbanisme de la Ville. Si vous envisagez de faire des travaux sur votre propriété, je vous invite à vous renseigner sur la nécessité d'obtenir des permis et à vous assurer qu'ils soient délivrés avant de commencer les travaux. Ne prenez pas le risque de recevoir une infraction, de devoir modifier ou démolir votre projet, ce qui serait à vos frais.

Enfin, de janvier à mars, c'est la meilleure période de l'année (avant le début des travaux), pour consulter le service des permis, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter via le site web de la Ville.

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





## QUI A LAISSÉ SORTIR LES CHIENS ?

Le règlement de Mo-Ouest concernant les animaux est en vigueur pour protéger le propriétaire, l'animal et les autres personnes. En tant que parent de deux chiens, je comprends l'importance de l'exercice et de la socialisation de mes chiens pour contribuer à leur santé et à leur bien-être.

Selon le règlement sur les animaux, un chien doit être tenu en laisse en tout temps, sauf sur la propriété appartenant à ou occupée par son gardien, ou dans un parc à chiens ou un espace officiellement désignée et identifiée par des panneaux de la ville. Un chien non tenu en laisse dans une cour d'école, un parc public, un terrain de jeu ou un terrain de sport constitue une nuisance et contrevient au règlement municipal. Au cours des deux dernières années, nous avons reçu des plaintes concernant des chiens sans laisse dans le parc Percival, près de l'école primaire Elizabeth Ballantyne. Les agents de la sécurité publique ont donné des avertissements verbaux aux résidents et, malheureusement, si vous êtes un récidiviste, vous recevrez une amende, jusqu'à un maximum de 4 000 \$.

En mars 2020, le Règlement d'application de la Loi favorisant la protection des personnes par l'encadrement des aux chiens est entré en vigueur dans la province de Québec. L'objectif de la législation est de prévenir les attaques de chiens et les mutilations. Les municipalités, y compris la Ville de Montréal-Ouest, sont tenues d'appliquer la législation provinciale, qui comprend le signalement des morsures de chiens, qu'il s'agisse d'animaux ou d'êtres humains, des restrictions telles que l'utilisation de muselières et, dans les cas extrêmes, la saisie et l'euthanasie des chiens dangereux. Je vous invite à prendre connaissance de tous les détails sur le règlement : P-38.002, r. I - Règlement d'application de la Loi favorisant la protection des personnes par l'encadrement des chiens (gouv.qc.ca)

Dans un effort de proactivité, nous vous demandons de tenir vos chiens en laisse dans la ville et de vous assurer qu'ils ont un permis à jour, qui est renouvelable le 1er janvier de chaque année et qui peut aider à identifier votre animal au cas où il se perdrait. Le parc à chiens de Montréal-Ouest, à côté de l'hôtel de ville, est ouvert de 6h00 à 22h00 tous les jours pour les utilisateurs avec un permis. Veuillez noter que le parc à chiens est fermé pour entretien les mardis et jeudis de 12h00 à 13h00. Pour faire une demande de permis pour chien, veuillez visiter le site : [\*Animaux domestiques | Montréal-Ouest \(montreal-ouest.ca\)\*](http://Animaux domestiques | Montréal-Ouest (montreal-ouest.ca)).

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



## COMBIEN LE NOUVEAU CENTRE SPORTIF ET RÉCRÉATIF VOUS COÛTERA-T-IL EN 2024 ?

La construction du nouveau Centre sportif et récréatif continue de progresser. Au début du mois de janvier, les fondations ont été creusées, du béton a été coulé et des semelles ont été érigées. Les travaux se poursuivront tout au long de l'hiver.

En se basant sur le calendrier des travaux établi par l'entreprise de construction et sur le calendrier de paiement correspondant, la Ville estime que les coûts associés à la construction s'élèveront à environ 15 865 000 \$ au cours de cette année. À long terme, la ville financera le projet par une combinaison de prêts gouvernementales (16,3M\$), de collectes de fonds et de dettes à long terme financées sur 40 ans. Cependant, pour être responsable sur le plan fiscal compte tenu des taux d'intérêt élevés actuels pour les emprunts à long terme, la ville financera d'abord le projet par le biais de sa trésorerie et de sa marge de crédit.

Donc, l'intérêt estimé à payer par la ville pour les coûts de construction en 2024 est de 337 000 \$. Cela représente 194 \$ pour une maison de valeur moyenne (valeur de 1 033 348 \$) en 2024. Lorsque

nous aurons obtenu un financement à long terme et que le projet sera achevé, ce chiffre va sûrement changer. Comme vous vous en souvenez peut-être, les meilleures estimations fournies aux résidents au moment du référendum en juin évaluaient le montant du service de la dette à 436 \$ par an pour une maison de valeur moyenne, à un taux d'emprunt moyen de 3 % sur 40 ans.

Veillez également noter que ce montant de 194 \$ pour la maison moyenne est inclus dans votre facture fiscale totale. En d'autres termes, l'augmentation de 699 \$ de l'impôt foncier pour un ménage moyen se compose de deux éléments : 505 \$ pour les dépenses régulières locales, de l'Agglomération et de la CMM, plus 194 \$ pour le nouveau Centre sportif et récréatif.

Pendant la phase de construction, nos programmes de loisirs, y compris les

programmes de piscine, de hockey et de patinage, ainsi que les camps de jour, seront offerts dans un nouveau lieu. Les informations seront communiquées dès qu'elles seront disponibles.

Et, comme je le fais chaque mois dans mon rapport au Conseil, je continuerai à tenir les résidents au courant du montant dépensé pour le nouveau Centre sportif et récréatif et à répondre à vos questions. Si vous avez des questions sur le projet (financières ou autres), nous vous encourageons à remplir le formulaire en ligne afin que l'administration soit informée et puisse répondre à vos questions.

[\*https://montreal-west.ca/fr/loisirs-et-culture/centre-sportif-et-recreatif\*](https://montreal-west.ca/fr/loisirs-et-culture/centre-sportif-et-recreatif)

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



## NOUVEAU RÈGLEMENT SUR LES DÉCHETS 2024

Cela semble impossible, mais les Canadiens envoient plus de déchets à la décharge par habitant que n'importe quel autre pays du monde. Ce n'est pas une statistique avec laquelle je suis heureux de commencer, mais c'est la réalité. En matière de réduction des déchets, nous devons vraiment faire le ménage. C'est pourquoi Mo-Ouest va rejoindre la plupart des autres municipalités sur l'île et instituer un nouveau protocole de gestion des déchets. Le nôtre entrera en vigueur le 30 avril.

### Quel est le problème avec les déchets ?

En se décomposant dans une décharge, les déchets (en particulier les matières organiques) libèrent du méthane, un gaz à effet de serre extrêmement puissant. Ce gaz contribue grandement au réchauffement de l'atmosphère. Il est donc extrêmement important de composter les déchets de cuisine et les déchets verts plutôt que de les jeter à la poubelle. En outre, le recyclage, lorsqu'il est effectué correctement, peut accroître la durabilité de notre économie en utilisant moins d'énergie et de ressources naturelles pour produire les biens dont nous avons besoin.

### Quel est donc ce nouveau protocole ?

À partir du 30 avril 2024, chaque maison unifamiliale sera autorisée à déposer un maximum d'un bac de 240 litres (des bacs plus petits sont également acceptés). Les duplex, les triplex, les immeubles résidentielles et les établissements commerciaux pourront en recevoir davantage. Les détails sont disponibles sur le site web.

Vous pouvez également déposer des objets de grande taille s'ils ne rentrent pas dans la poubelle (meubles, etc.), mais vous ne pouvez pas déposer de sacs à ordures supplémentaires, de boîtes ou de petits objets en vrac. À l'exception des objets de grande taille, tous les articles doivent entrer dans votre bac.

### Que dois-je faire de mon ancien bac de 360L ?

Vous pouvez conserver votre bac de 360L à d'autres fins si vous le souhaitez (entreposage, déchets verts d'automne), le vendre s'il est en bon état, ou le donner à un propriétaire de duplex ou de triplex ou à un propriétaire d'entreprise autorisé à les utiliser. Si vous souhaitez simplement vous en débarrasser, la ville est actuellement à la recherche d'un entrepreneur qui les collectera pour les recycler moyennant une somme modique. Plus d'information sera bientôt disponible.

Vous n'êtes pas sûr de la taille de votre poubelle ? Elle devrait être indiquée sur le dessus du couvercle. La plupart des gens ont un bac de 240 litres ou moins.

### Combien cela va-t-il me coûter ?

La grande majorité des gens de Mo-Ouest utilisent actuellement des bacs de taille acceptable, il n'y aura donc pas de

coût. Une nouvelle poubelle de 240 litres coûte environ 120 \$. Mais ceux qui doivent remplacer un bac de 360 litres par un bac de 240 litres ou moins pourront bénéficier d'une remise de 50 \$ sur l'achat d'un nouveau bac. Une preuve d'achat est requise. Une seule remise par adresse. Les détails seront disponibles sur le site web.

### Quelles sont les autres conséquences de ce changement ?

Si vous recyclez et compostez actuellement, le nouveau protocole ne vous affectera probablement pas du tout. Il existe de nombreuses autres options pour détourner les déchets, telles que la collecte des déchets dangereux, l'électrobac au centre communautaire pour les petits appareils électroniques, et la collecte des déchets organiques. L'écocentre est également un endroit idéal pour déposer les vieux appareils, les déchets dangereux, les matériaux de construction et plus encore. Le plus près se trouve sur la rue St-Patrick à Lasalle. Et bien sûr, il y a Renaissance pour les vêtements et les articles ménagers. Mo-Ouest dispose également d'un groupe Facebook Buy Nothing très actif où des objets de toutes sortes trouvent une nouvelle utilité.

### Pourquoi choisir ce nouveau protocole en particulier ?

Le Conseil avait plusieurs options. 1) Réduire le ramassage des ordures à une fois toutes les deux semaines. Nous avons estimé qu'il s'agissait d'un changement trop radical pour l'instant, mais il pourrait être envisagé à l'avenir. 2) Payer au fur et à mesure que l'on jette : Un système qui mesure la quantité d'ordures produite par chaque adresse et la facture en conséquence. Ce système nécessiterait la mise en place de nouvelles poubelles uniformes équipées d'un système de suivi pour chaque adresse. Il s'agit d'un plan extrêmement coûteux, très peu d'entreprises étant en mesure de soumissionner pour le contrat de collecte. 3) Le protocole décrit ci-dessus. Modérément perturbant pour certains, mais beaucoup moins coûteux. Une bonne première étape.

Pour plus d'informations sur ce nouveau protocole, gardez un œil sur le bulletin, le site web de la ville et la page Facebook.

Elizabeth Ulin, *conseillère*  
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eulin@montreal-ouest.ca

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