



Amy Bronstetter and Jennifer Zimmerman

## Amy and Jenn: Epic Tofu

by Maurice Krystal

Being married to a vegetarian, I have been quite aware of tofu for over four decades. The word is Japanese but its origin goes back to China some 2000 years ago. Americans tend to label the product as bean curd. It is made from coagulating soy milk and squeezing the curds into blocks. It comes in varying textures, from silken to super firm. If there is a flavour, it's very subtle. Most dishes require mar-

inating, and because it is spongy it quickly absorbs any seasoning.

**Amy Bronstetter** grew up in Beaconsfield but her second home was MoWest. Her father's three siblings lived here: **Joanne MacPhail, Dave Bronstetter** and **Leslie Bronstetter** (I interviewed the latter two for *The Informer* years ago).

After attending Queen of Angels, she went to John Abbott College and Concordia's John Molson School of Business. Her first job was as a

product manager for a golf and ski clothing company called *Fletcher Leisure Group*. Her 15-year career in the fashion industry involved constant travel. As a product developer she was responsible for styling, pricing and getting the product made.

Ultimately the dream was to start her own business as the entrepreneurial spirit was in her bloodstream. Her mother and grandmother oper-

*continued on page 6*



### The joys of winter in MoWest

Sparkling from a hedge on Percival are these marvellous ice ornaments, bringing the freshness of berries, flowers, and summer leaves to us in the midst of our very cold winter. Kudos and thanks to you, **Eileen and Gord!**

*from Ellen Moore*



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# THE INFORMER

10 Westminister North  
Montreal West, Quebec  
H4X 1Y9

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

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## NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

March 9

# We are 50!

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> year of publication of *The Informer*, but given the math, it is probably the 49<sup>th</sup>! Still, we're going to celebrate this year because it's the 50<sup>th</sup> volume.

Maurice Krystal has written short articles about each of the issues of the first volume. Enjoy reading about what's changed and what hasn't!

## Issue Two, June 1973

by Maurice Krystal

There was no issue in May and once again the paper is eight pages. There were again no ads. The paper is now headquartered at 45 Westminister South (the former public library... and the old *Imperial Oil* building). There are now 15 people on staff, 6 more than last issue. They include: **Harry Goldsmith, Vince Carlin, Cathy Carlin, Alice Cowan, Wavell Cowan, Jack Colmenero, Sue Crompton, Marguerite King, Charlotte MacLaurin, Holly Newman, Brian Philcox, John Ployart, Marg Swetland and Bruce Wallace.**

The appearance of the paper has dramatically altered from the first issue. Everything is sharper and more defined. The photographs, and cartoon, of the suburb's struggle with the MUC, are of high resolution. The paper is still being printed by *Jolil* on Garden Road.

The main focus of this issue were two elections, both the school board and the Town Council elections in November. With the school board it seems that a major restructuring had recently occurred and local control over schools in the Town had been lost. The paper said it was

now more important than ever for citizens to vote. Three candidates were in the running for the one seat; **Dr. John Simms, Anne Usher and Claude de Mestral.**

The municipal election was even more a game changer. The headline suggested "Our Town's Future" was at stake. We must have a Town Council that protects the interests of its residents. The provincial government had recently placed the whole Island of Montreal under the jurisdiction of the MUC. There was a struggle between Montreal and the suburbs. Most likely, said the paper, Montreal West would become part of Côte Saint-Luc, Hampstead and other nearby districts.

There were three letters printed. One, by **Mary Thicke**, lamented the poor service in maintaining the outdoor rinks since the arena was built. Another, by **Robbie Drummond**, reminded readers to respect trees in our Town. **Bonnie Buxton** responded to a suggestion in the previous issue that a home owners association be formed to give suggestions regarding reliable service people maintaining and servicing homes and worn residents of scam artists. She said maybe this information can be printed in the paper.

Read about Issue Three in the next *Informer*.

## STAMP CLUB

Montreal West Children's Stamp Club held their last meeting for the season May 8th in the United Church. Feature of the meeting was a display of various topics on Canadian stamps. Mrs. F. G. Flynn presented prizes to the winning exhibitors – Diane Hebblethwaite, Linda Barry and Andre Williams. New members welcomed to the meeting were Martin Cytrynbaum and Michael Kenney.

The Junior stamp club is expected to meet again next fall beginning in October. Members will be notified of the first meeting date. Those interested in joining may obtain information from Mr. L. Waller by phoning 489-8448.

14<sup>th</sup>

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

will hold a Strawberry Social on Thursday, June 14 at 6:45 p.m. in Wadsworth Hall, Montreal West United Church. Admission is payable at the door. Adults 75¢ Children 50¢. For further information, contact Mrs. L.C. Griffiths, 484-8025.

20<sup>th</sup>

## BOXING CLUB

will hold its Third Annual Show on June 20 at 8:15 a.m. in the Montreal West Arena. Several sports celebrities are expected to be present. Proceeds from the show are used to support the club's activities. Admission: Adults \$2., Children \$1.

Police and Fire Protection . . . .  
continued from page 4.

## OUR STATION

It was feared that Montreal West might lose its Fire Station along with its Police Station through MUC takeover. This is now deemed an unwarranted fear since 80% or more of the building is used for the Fire Department and thus the building should not be considered as a part of the Montreal West Police Department for takeover purposes.



Captain  
George  
Booth


Thus the fire fighting potential remains the same for the present. Three men are on duty at all times ready to fight a fire alongside the volunteer brigade with the support of an outside Fire Department if the need arises.

The cost of fire fighting may rise in the future if we must call in the City of Montreal Fire Department. And it will certainly rise if the Daignault Report decrees that our local policemen may no longer act as firemen. In that case, Montreal West would have to hire an around-the-clock shift of paid-trained personnel to fight its fires. Alternatively, the Town could make other arrangements such as to let fire fighting out to tender as it does garbage collecting now; or it could establish a multi-community Fire Department with near by communities other than the City of Montreal.


Each Ward 5 candidate was sent the following four questions and asked to respond either point by point or in essay form in 200 words.

1. Is the School Board part of or separate from the community of Montreal West?
2. Does the present school system allow flexibility so that our local Montreal West schools can take initiative in directions which particularly concern them?
3. Outline a constructive way Montreal West School Committees could work with the School Board to facilitate positive action based on effective two way communication.
4. If elected will we voters in Montreal West ever hear from you again? How? Will you interact with us? How?


We reprinted below each of their responses exactly as they replied.



**DR. JOHN A. SIMMS**  
Montreal West has been very fortunate over the years in having its own School Board. Mr. W.J. Percival was the first Chairman in 1897, and classes were held in the Anglican Church



**ANNE USHER**  
1. The community of people in the Municipality of Montreal West, acting through its various roles of student, parent, teacher, administrator and voter, is very much part



**CLAUDE DE MESTRAL**  
1. I would rather say that the community of Montreal West, like all other areas of Ward 5, is part of the Board, which is duty-bound to "serve" every community within its



## Fifth Montréal-Ouest en Lumiere Nuit Blanche

We begin creating and mounting art displays (lighting and installations) February 16, leading up to a white night.

Nuit Blanche will take place on Saturday, February 26 and into the early hours of Sunday morning. This is an outdoor environmental exhibit to highlight Canadian artists, under the theme Jewels of the Garden.

The Westminster Cultural Arts Centre located at 25 Westminster South (directly across from the Cenotaph) will host a small indoor reception between 5-7 pm, open to all.

For information, please contact **Cynthia Nichols** at 438-835-6339, galleryrealart@gmail.com.

Peace Garden +  
StudioFridays©



Photo: Nigel Dove

## The St. Pierre River disappears



Construction work is progressing quickly this winter on the Meadowbrook golf course, as the City of Montreal diverts the last open 200 metres of the historic St. Pierre River underground. For many years, this stream was contaminated by raw sewage present in storm sewers in Montreal West and Côte Saint-Luc.

The owner of the Meadowbrook property took the matter to court and won the case. The Quebec Court of Appeal ruling ordered the city to prevent all water, polluted or clean, that comes from the storm sewer from flowing across the golf course.

Unfortunately for all, this part of our heritage has disappeared.

*from Les amis du parc Meadowbrook*

February metamorphoses. Montreal West. 2022. Photos by Julia Ross



## Mailbox

### Murphy's Law... Montreal West style



On Thursday, January 20, or was it Friday, January 21, (it's a bit of a blur at this point), my husband, **Shab**, surprised me with the news that our home had no water. I turned the taps, hot and cold, and saw that he was right. No water.

That was a bummer.

So, I called Public Security, in tears, and let them know the score. Whoever answered the phone was so nice. She realized that I was not happy and she let me know, very calmly, that help would be on the way. I must have called her at least five times

during the whole ordeal. She was great. I wish I had gotten her name.

Thus began the saga of our January 2022 from the Ice Age.

First of all, out came the hairdryer to try and defrost the pipe from the inside. No luck. At this point, we still had heat. However, the next day, when the outside temperature was hovering around sub-zero, the radiators slowly cooled off and the indoor temperature of our home plummeted to 0 degrees. We could see our breath. Then the radiator in the kitchen burst and spurted black, nasty water all over the kitchen floor.

The point of this article is to thank all of the Montreal West super employees led by **Danny Blunden**, Town plumber, who worked in freezing temperatures, indoor

and out, to get our water and heat back. Our front yard was dug up in order to defrost the pipe from the street to the house. The Public Works guys kept delivering water to our house so that we could wash dishes and flush toilets. (Hey, it had to be done). The plumber, **Don Jackson**, from *Côte Saint-Luc Plumbing* came on the weekend to assess the problem. Thank you, Don.

I just thought that the fine folk of Montreal West should know that our little town has a lot of great people watching our backs when disaster strikes. The next time you need them, I'm sure they'll be right there to help like they helped us. Thank you, all of you.

*from Jenepher Chopra*

## IODE

### How to stay positive in Covid times



For 2021, in that difficult year, members of *IODE* HMS Victory chapter accumulated 7,979 volunteer hours. This amazing number goes, via *IODE* Canada, to Statistics Canada.

These hours include, just for example, knitting tuques, mitts, slippers and gifts for children at

our adopted school class up north, recycling/redistributing clothing and toiletries to women's shelters, supporting local merchants and health care workers and a shelter for the homeless, in collaboration with other community groups.

#### Holiday food baskets

One very good project was holiday food baskets: we

shopped for a fresh turkey, cranberry sauce, fresh vegetables, a delicious dessert and so on – and delivered them to the *West-Haven Community Centre* which had identified 12 needy families who were delighted to receive them.

The money for this was raised by individual donations from our members, and we were very happy to help out these families and look forward to doing this again at Thanksgiving 2022.

Even in times of COVID, we tried to stay positive, caring for each other and for others.

We would welcome other women who would like to help with special projects like this or who have other ideas to help us fulfill the mission of *IODE*: to deliver education support, community support and citizenship programs. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, except during the summer, and are grateful to the MoWest Community Services for their assistance, even though we were able to manage by Zoom and with outdoor meetings. A special party is planned in April.

*from Janet King*

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# Beirut Pediatric Hospital, Lebanon

## \$600,000 from Canadian *Rotary Clubs*



Rotary Canada has received \$213,283.88 USD grant from the *Rotary Foundation* to add to money from Canadian clubs for a total of \$600,000 USD to rebuild the pediatric wing of the Karantina Hospital. This is the only hospital in Beirut that offers free health care. *Rotary* clubs also shipped 14 containers of medical equipment to Beirut.

All *Foundation Global Grants* must be audited. We give tax receipts. Please send your donation by e-transfer to [mowest.ndg.rotary@gmail.com](mailto:mowest.ndg.rotary@gmail.com). The *Rotary Foundation* is rated 5 stars out of 5 by *Charity Star*.

### Resilience Montreal update

We are raising money for an industrial dryer for *Resilience Montreal*, a day shelter that serves the homeless in Cabot Square (corner Atwater and Sainte Catherine), offering food, a place to sleep, clean clothes and support to anyone in need.

*Resilience Montreal* is a collaboration between the *Native Women's Shelter of Montreal* and *Nazareth House*. It is a low-barrier service open to everyone, providing food and shelter as well as mental health and medical support services and access to a multitude of other resources.

We appreciate donations for the dryer and will issue a tax receipt for a donation of \$50 or over.

### Meals on Angels' Wings continue

*Meals on Angels' Wings* - provides a luncheon/snack meal for frontline healthcare workers helping local merchants. More than 3000 nurses, doctors, support staff, rehab, maintenance, social workers, occupational therapists, orderlies, PAs in hospitals, CLSC homecare providers, seniors' residences as well as mom and pop shops have all benefited.

We raised \$27,000 for *Meals on Angels' Wings* including donations from MNA **Kathleen Weil** (\$1250), **CN** (\$5000), **M & R Goodman Foundation** (\$2000) and **Pharmascience** (\$2000).

### Testimonial

"I am writing on behalf of the staff of the Emergency Department of St Mary's Hospital. These are trying times, when the faith and strength of the most steadfast can be tested. We feel exhausted and alone, abandoned, as if the whole world has forgotten us, wants nothing to do with us. Then there is a call from the security desk 'Delivery for you!!' And there is the most welcome of sights, a meal, hot and ready, for all of us to share. It says more than 'Come and Eat.' It says, 'Someone Cares.'

Someone Remembers. You are NOT Alone.' It gives us the strength to go on for one more hour, one more day, one more week, because of all the people who need us." Recent testimonial from the Director at *Vigi Santé Queen Elizabeth*.

*Rotary Club of Montreal West and NDG* is celebrating 80 years of service to our community. If you are someone who wants to give back to the world, *Rotary* is an excellent way. *Rotary* is a worldwide organization that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards and helps build goodwill and peace. There are 1.2 million Rotarians across the globe and the number is growing.

from Doug Yeats

St Marys ER: Meals on Angels' Wings delivery January 2022



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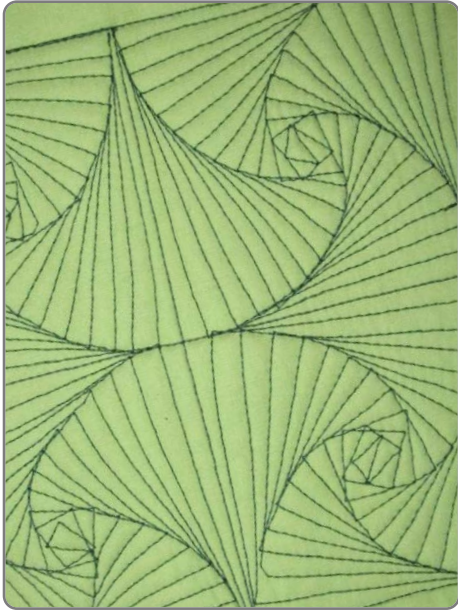


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## West End Quilters

The West End Quilters sometimes get bored just making quilts, so **Gloria Stermer** demonstrated how to make scrub caps. We all have lots of fabric in our stashes we can use so we shall see how many we can make. These will be donated to health care workers just to brighten their day.

We all enjoyed the workshop by **Melissa Marginet**. Many members were tired after a whole day of concentrating on quilting, but we are now using many of her patterns to finish up some quilts. This is one of her patterns. She calls it Zen quilting. Not what I would do on a whole quilt but fun and surprisingly easy for a small project.

If you are finding the winter long, get quilting! For information email **Mary**: marysdogbob@gmail.com and see more of our quilts on Facebook: westendquilters.

## Amy and Jenn

*continued from page 1*

ated *3 Spruce Antiques* in Beaconsfield for many years and her great uncle started Apple Saddlery in Ottawa.

**Jennifer Zimmerman** grew up in a farming community. She could see the soybeans grow from her bedroom window. Her grandparents came to Canada from Switzerland with the intention of living in a tent, in May, with two babies, one whom was her father, but were wisely talked out of it. They first settled in the Laurentians and then moved to Chateauguay on the South Shore. Jennifer was raised in the small town of Sainte-Martine, just south of Chateauguay. Like Amy she was drawn to business and attended Dawson and the John Molson School of Business. Though they were at Concordia at the same time, they did not meet there.

Like Amy, Jenn also was raised with strong entrepreneurial beliefs. Her grandfather and his four sons formed *CMP*, a metal shaping company. Like Amy, her work in marketing took her around the globe. Both women decided to start their families and Jenn paused her full-time career and went into consulting. Amy continued with her full-time job for five years after the children were born. Doing both “jobs” is very challenging.

They met at a “mommy group” and bonded quickly, after all, they were both young parents, with similar academic backgrounds, kindred values and a passion for cooking. Jenn has been a vegetarian for the past 12 years and Amy classifies herself as a “flexitarian.” These are people who mainly eat a plant-based diet with the occasional added meat or dairy. The term became popular after nutritionist Dawn Jackson Blatner’s book, *The Flexitarian Diet*, was published in 2008.

The final motivation to try something very different was the pandemic. The schools were closed, the children were home, the products in the food stores were sparse. They had been talking for the past three years about starting their own enterprise. They were passionate about cooking. They knew what they were bringing to the table. (The pun is intended!)

They were determined that what ever business they went into was local. Soybean farming is Quebec’s second largest crop. It had to be healthy for the customer and the environment, and this is particularly true of tofu. And finally, it had to have growth potential. The popularity of plant-based food has taken off the past decade, especially by those who are looking to eat healthier. Even meat emporiums like *McDonalds* have jumped on the bandwagon. Gen Z have shifted their eating habits, not only for health reasons, but for ethical and environmental considerations. And if anyone knows about marketing trends Amy Bronstetter and Jennifer Zimmerman are just the people who would know.

After much testing they found a local family-run company to make the tofu and experimented with organic marinades. By June they were ready to accept orders and do deliveries on Thursdays. At the end of January, they were shipping directly to over 200 households, 70% being non-vegetarians. They also just launched three flavours on *Lufa Farms*, one of Montreal’s largest online grocery stores. They took a course and registered with MAPAQ, a governmental agency that oversees food preparation, hygiene and safety. They began with four flavours and now have expanded their line to nine.

Amy dropped by with some samples for me to try. The tofu comes in sealed plastic bags and takes less than 10 minutes to prepare. There is a very distinct taste and appearance to each variety. Usually, those who do it themselves, the marination process can take many hours, sometimes a whole day. At first glance, the end product looks like different types of beef and chicken dishes, if that is an important consideration for you.

Amy moved to MoWest in 2014 and is married to **Lloyd**, who works for *Castle Hall Diligence*, an investment management company. They have two daughters, **Olivia**, 10, and **Zoe**, 6, both of whom attend Edinburgh School.

Jenn lives in NDG and is married to **Ben** who works for *Galvion* a company that manufactures military equipment They have three daughters, **Paige**, 9, **Charlotte**, 7, and **Evelyn**, 4. The two elder go to École NDG and the youngest goes to West End Day Care.



**Andrew Blundell**

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## ARC / CRA

### MWH hockey news

The Knights are back shining!

Valentine's Day 2022 was full of love for the Knights! We got to celebrate by playing games for the first time since December 2021. Our U9, U11A and U15A teams played at home to an arena full of fans cheering them on. Our regular season has been extended and we will be playing games and playoffs into April. We invite everyone to come by any night to cheer on the Knights!



### A note to our coaches

How do you measure the value of a good coach? Parents cannot fully understand the time and commitment coaches and managers put into their teams, simply for the reward of seeing their players succeed.

All of our hockey, spring soccer and rugby coaches are volunteers. I have witnessed, firsthand, the commitment that goes into being a good coach. Many of these coaches rush home after a full day of work, just to rush out the door again to coach their team. Managers inputting stats after traveling home from a game that was two hours away, just so their team doesn't miss any well-deserved points.

I have seen the concern on the faces of a coach when one of their players was having



### SPRING SPORTS

Spring Registration will open in the next few weeks, please check our website at [www.mwcrasports.ca](http://www.mwcrasports.ca) for more information.

- Soccer
- Mini soccer
- Basketball
- Intro to baseball
- Mudhens intercommunity baseball
- Rugby
- Adult soccer



a tough time. And I have also seen the joy in their eyes when one of their players succeeds and scores that long-awaited goal or makes that important save at the right moment in a game.

Time and again, I have watched coaches change seasons, from hockey to soccer to rugby, throwing balls, puck and sticks in their car in every type of weather. I've seen how much a coach gives to their team, to their individual players and their parents, all for the love of the game and their community.

These past couples of years have left a weight on the shoulders of our youth and their families. Our coaches and volunteers have never given up and have worked incredibly hard to lift that weight and put the joy of sport back into the hearts of our players. For everything they do, we say thank you.

Photos: counter clockwise

Back to hockey with MWH Knights M9 teams. Go Knights go!

Thank you to all our volunteer coaches in rugby, hockey, judo and soccer. Some of our 2021 rugby coaches: Stephane Chapheau, Karl Cernovitch, Susy Binstock, Stephen MacNeil and Patrick Ghattas

Thank you to our volunteer Sensei Steve Morissette who volunteers his time every Wednesday, teaching the sport of judo to little ones in our community



### Meet our Hockey Director, Eric Rayment

**Eric Rayment** has braved the cold of Legion Rink as our Technical Director for the MWH Knights Hockey for the past 12 years. he has 30+ years of experience coaching from novice to college hockey, and is the owner/operator of Hockey Montreal School since 1998 and also owned and operated a Midget AAA team and a Junior AAA team, Montréal Est Rangers

"As a Hockey Coach and Technical Director at all levels for over 30 years, the purpose has always been the same: to teach, educate, develop and have fun as well as improve skill sets, strengthen self-confidence and encourage parent volunteers to join in that process. As players get older, give them positive life lessons and amazing experiences. It is our responsibility to make sure children grow up, learn and experience as many great moments in life and in sport with friends and family. Learn to win, learn to lose and how to be a great teammate."



## Montreal West Scout Group



### Group Committee

Towards the end of January, Scouts Canada moved Quebec Council to a stage 2 so our Cubs and Scouts were able to resume meetings and activities outdoors.

By the middle of February, we were able to use the school gyms, but our Scouters decided to continue outdoors until after the March school breaks.

### Join us!

If you are interested in joining our Scout Group, please email **Karen Mansfield-Johnstone** at karenmansfieldjohnstone@gmail.com.

### Cubs

During one of our Zoom meetings during the lockdown in January, we made thank you cards for healthcare workers.

Each Cub, with materials available at home, made one or two cards during the meeting and shared their work with the other Cubs. They were then asked to make a few more over the next couple of weeks.

There were quite a variety of designs, from very simple to imaginative and elaborate. They all contained messages of thanks, such as:

*“Thank you for fighting Covid 19”*

*“Keep going! :) :) :)  
You can do it!”*

*“You are a great person.  
Thank you for taking care of people.  
It’s super important.  
YOU ARE A HERO!”*

*“Thank you for risking your life taking care of all children who caught covid”*

The cards were delivered to the Montreal Children’s Hospital for distribution to the staff.

Once we were able to meet outdoors in groups, we took advantage of the cold and snow to take part in many winter activities. The Pack has played broomball, tobogganed, skated, built snow sculptures and snow lanterns. They practised cooking outdoors and learned to melt snow safely for drinking water.

### Scouts

The scouts began the year with a virtual meeting broadcast from the chemistry laboratory of Scouter **Chris Wilds** at Concordia University.

We saw what it is like to work in a science lab and to get up-close with a variety of molecular interactions. Balloons exploded when exposed to spray from mandarin rind. Cloudy fog from dry ice boiled and bubbled. Water was split by electrical forces into oxygen and hydrogen. Toothpaste was made for elephants and sulfuric acid turned sweet sugar into an ominous black carbon snake.



Our meeting on cryptology discussed telegraphs, Morse code and number ciphers. The scouts were challenged to create their own secret messages for decoding.

It was also great to get out-

side and meet in person to play broomball, and we look forward to other outdoor meetings to toboggan and skate.

We will begin indoor meetings at Edinburgh once again after the March break.

## Kosher corner

### Thank you!

Chabad Westminster would like to thank 81 generous donors from the bottom of our hearts for making our end of the year fundraiser a success!

Thanks to you we raised \$22,400 to help fund the services we provide the community year-round.

We would especially like to thank the generous group of sponsors: **Carl and Enid Backman, Paul and Tina Baker, Jordan Berson and family, Ilan and Lisa Rose, Jack and Julia Ross, Brian and Lennie Trottenberg, Asher and Bronia Waldman, Joey Zukran and family.**

### Mazal tov!

A big Mazal tov to winners of the draw power couple **Alex Beauflis and Karine Ohayon** who have a hand in every event at Chabad Westminster. Thank you!

### Shabbat deliveries

As was done for the past five years, Thursday or Fridays, **Chaya** loves to prepare a Shabbat package to send to a family who has just moved in, celebrating a special occasion or to someone who can use a pick-me-up. Please reach out if you would like to nominate someone!

### Purim!

Purim is coming up on Wednesday night and Thursday March 16-17.

There will be various Purim celebrations taking place throughout the holiday to accommodate everyone in a safe way. Please reach out if you would like to hear the reading of the Megillah either at one of the communal outdoor readings or a private reading at your home! Arrangements are being made for the additional Purim mitzvot as well.

HaPpY PuRiM!

from Rabbi Mendy Marlow



## Guiding

# Keeping it together



We've all been living with the pandemic for two years now. The leaders of the MoWest Guide units wanted to offer the best possible situation for the girls when things started to close down again at the end of 2021. Keeping in mind, some families were not comfortable with virtual meetings, and others were not comfortable with in-person meetings, it was decided to offer a hybrid version to reach all the members. The leaders decided to offer virtual weekly meetings and one monthly bridging meeting, until we were all back to our regular in-person, weekly meetings.



### New winter sports

The first outdoor bridging meeting was held on a chilly sunny Sunday in late January. The Guides organized the entire event. Since we were leading up to the Olympics, the Guides created "new" winter sports for the girls to perform. The Guides took one aspect of three different winter sports to create a new Olympic "Event." The events were FSCG (figure skating, snowboarding and cross-country skiing game) All Together Race (curling, short track speed skating and Nordic combined) and BLISK (bobsled, biathlon and skiing). The Sparks, Brownies and Guides all had a great time performing the new sports in the freshly fallen snow.

### Sparks and Brownies

The Sparks and Brownies decorated puzzle pieces from the children's library, when the meeting theme was winter! The decorated pieces were given to the library, and now the girls can see how their one piece has been transformed into a much larger piece of art which they can see when they visit the library. It looks wonderful!

With the Sparks and Brownies being virtual since January, the idea of globetrotting was rather inspiring. The girls have visited 14 of the 152 countries where there are Girl Guides or Girl Scouts. They started off with the countries where the World Centres are located (Africa, India, Switzerland, England and Mexico). These are places where members can meet with others, enjoying the commonality of our organizations. In addition, the countries where the girls zoomed in on the Guiding program of a similar age

category were Australia, England, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago. The Canadian Promise and Law were compared to those in the other countries. The girls were pleasantly surprised to learn, although different words may be used, the meanings were always the same as our own.



Packages were made for Sparks and Brownies so they can either do the activities online at our weekly meetings, or independently, if virtual meetings are not their thing. We send out a weekly email to let the families know which activity is planned and which provided supplies will be needed.

In January the girls all made Valentines cards for the Veterans. **Brown Owl** kindly delivered 45 beautiful and creative cards to be distributed to the Veterans living at the hospital in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue.

### Guides

While the Guides were still meeting virtually, they enjoyed working on the Women in Engineering challenge by learning how to program a video game through the use of Scratch, a block-based visual programming language. The girls had a great time learning how to write their own video games!

The Guides returned to in-person meetings earlier than the younger branches. At their first meeting held in the church, they learned how to make soap. **Mel Palacios** came and shared her talent for soap-making. Each of the girls left with a one-of-a-kind creation!

### Membership

Membership is open year-round. As of the writing of this article, three new girls were in the process of joining the various units. "If it isn't fun, it isn't Guiding" as Lady Baden Powell once said – our units are having a lot of fun!



*from the MoWest Guiders*



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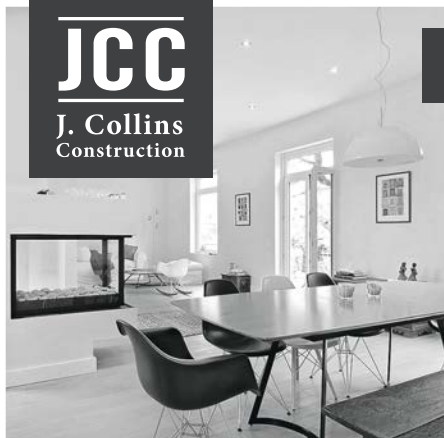
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mwlib.requests@gmail.com

Visit us online: mwpl.ca

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noon-6 pm



### Calling all teens!

The MoWest Public Library is your library! We are looking for youths to help us acquire the things that you want to find here. Boost our young adult collection by telling us what you're looking for: movies, manga, books and board games. Suggest events and activities, and we will work with you to make them reality! If you wish to join our youth group or desire more details, please email us.

### Call for volunteers

The library's board of directors is looking for members. Do you have accounting skills, management or other areas of expertise that you would like to contribute to the library's governance?

Board members are elected for a two-year term by library members at the annual meeting (March 23). The new board will choose a chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer to form an executive committee. The board works in partnership with the library director who manages day-to-day operations. The board's key areas of responsibility are overseeing the budget, fundraising, long term planning and location of the library. For the first 47 years of the library's existence, the "location" part was "stable" but for the past two years, we must confess, "location" has taken up many hours of board members' time and energy. The good news for members considering joining the board, is that we are in a very good location for at least the next two years. It is an exciting time to be on the board, to take a role in the next chapter of the library's evolution as the centre of the Town. Sound interesting? Contact us by email at: mwplboard@gmail.com.

### Do you have a story?

Do you have an opinion or anecdote about the Town's geography? If you have, we would like to hear from you. We have been recording all sorts of stories and anecdotes from residents of the Town through our Threads of Memory project. If you have something you would like to share, please email us and let us know.

### MWPL clubs

Want to try something different? Why don't you try one of our clubs that are hosted by the library? We have a few different clubs that are being offered online on a weekly or monthly basis.

### Drama club

Take a break to have fun with a play! The library's drama club has been a fantastic social outlet throughout the pandemic, and is still going strong. Participants enjoy the chance to gather with each other and step out of their usual lives. Laughing merrily as we engage with the characters, we take turns reading lines and discussing the scripts. New members are welcome to join any time. We are currently reading Wilde's *Importance of Being Earnest*, meeting weekly on Zoom, Thursday evenings from 6:45-7:45 pm. Write to our email address to join.

Young Adult section in the library



### Chess club

Challenge your brain and make some friends at the library chess club. This classic game has enduring appeal to all ages, and our club is open to veterans and newcomers alike. This group meets weekly for friendly matches of chess, Wednesdays at 4:45 pm. You can ask for more information or sign up by writing to our email address.

### Tea and Books

Tea and Books is a club where readers share their past reads, sometimes based on a certain theme, other times on something that they loved so much they couldn't wait to share. We meet the third Wednesday of every month at 2 pm. Email us to find out more information or to register.

### Tea and TRC

As part of the library's truth and reconciliation journey we are holding a lunch time gathering where we are discussing the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report. We meet the first Tuesday of every month and all are welcome.

### Fundraising update

The fundraising committee plans and organizes a variety of fundraisers throughout the year. Our goals include raising funds of course, but also developing engagement among our members and the wider community.

Our Giving Tuesday campaign is held every November. It asks supporters to contribute to major areas of focus established by the library. This year's focus areas were: flexible spaces and digital and traditional collections. We are happy to report that the campaign was a huge success thanks to the amazing generosity of our donors. A total of \$10,322 was raised, with \$4,098 earmarked for flexible spaces and \$3,164 allocated to collections. The remainder was unallocated

and will be used as needed for these and other strategic priorities.

Thank you so much to all who contributed! In particular, we would like to mention the generous donation of \$500 from local company *BJR Landscaping*. We appreciate and depend on your ongoing support. If you are interested in joining us, as a committee member or as an event volunteer, please let us know (mwplboard@gmail.com) – the door is always open!

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## Elizabeth Ballantyne School

### Reading time for grades 1 and 3

The grades 1 and 3 students teamed up to explore French books. They really enjoyed spending the afternoon together, looking at the books and then creating their own illustrations to accompany the stories they had read.



### Black History Month

Black History Month is in full force at Elizabeth Ballantyne School. The students will be studying the lives of several black activists who have made positive contributions to society. Several members of the Black community have been invited to speak to our students during the month.

## Edinburgh School

### January butterflies:

a sixth grader's perspective on returning to school

by Elin Klein with insights from Lee-Ann Walsh

For some reason, when I was doing online school this time around, I felt more organised than the previous times. Maybe it was because my classmates and I have had two years of experience already having been schooled online off and on since grade 4. Maybe it was because of the new desk in my room, that I got from *IKEA*, as I had previously been working in the kitchen with no privacy. Maybe it was because of the new computer that my grandparents bought me as my old hand-me-down was missing the space bar and could be challenging. Whatever the reason, I am really lucky because I had better focus and was able to finish my assignments way before the deadlines, which took a lot of stress off me.

But it was not the online schooling that was giving me butterflies this January! It was the thought of physically getting back to school that I had nerves about. The night before the first

day of school I was tossing and turning in bed and woke up feeling dread. I think it was a combination of worry and excitement, but I am not sure. I wondered, was anyone else feeling this way?

I worried that I would miss being able to turn off my camera or go to the bathroom when I needed to. I worried that perhaps I would not have enough time to complete the homework. Maybe I would not be able to handle a full day of school anymore, because online schooling was only 4 classes of 45 minutes.

When the day arrived to return to school, I groaned. Going to school also meant waking up early! As my friend and I walked to school we chatted about our experiences and noticed how many things we had in common with online learning; like feeling all over the place at the very start of the pandemic, then getting more used to it, but being unsure about returning to school. Even though that made me feel less alone, I still felt nervous about what the day would hold.

I am relieved to report that once I got there, a huge wave of relief washed over me and all my worries vanished. Who knew I could be so happy to see "real faces," to be at school! I felt as if

something had changed. It was still the same old building, with the same people and the same noises and smells... but it felt shiny and new and just like that, I knew I was home!

Elin and Lee-Ann



## 50+ Club



**March 24**

Documentary:  
*Resurrecting Hassan*, 1 pm

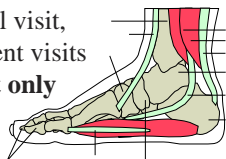
For more information on events call **Tammy** at **484-6186** or email: [recreation@montreal-west.ca](mailto:recreation@montreal-west.ca).



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### March break

We have prepared a week of daily challenges to keep the children busy and entertained during the school break. Members will receive, via our mailing list, riddles, puzzles, quizzes and challenges to complete daily. There is no time constraint – you are free to do them from February 28 to March 6. For those who complete all seven challenges, special prizes will be awarded. Different prizes will be given to children who accomplish five or three of our games. Make sure to check your e-mail regularly for messages from the library!

### Bill Foster Writing Contest

Ready, set, write! From February 15 to April 15, children 6 years old and up are invited to submit texts as part of the *Bill Foster Writing Contest*. The texts can be written in either French or English; they may be accompanied by illustrations or not. We have decided to not announce a common theme, but to let the children's imaginations explore a theme of their liking. The texts must be submitted in an envelope – to be picked up from the library. To avoid partiality of the judging panel, please make sure to write the child's name at the back of the last page of the text, as well as your telephone number. Three prizes will be awarded: first, \$80; second, \$50; third, \$30. Good luck to everyone!

### Travel the World

Traveling around the globe broadens our horizons as we learn about the countries we visit. Even if this year travel is made more or less possible, it is still not as easy as before 2020. So why don't you learn about a country, try out a recipe, and organise a thematic evening at home, just as if you were on a trip somewhere? We are there to assist you! Borrow a Travel the World bag from the library – in each bag you will find a non-fiction and a chapter book, a movie, a recipe, an easy reader – everything necessary to explore a country from different angles. We would be pleased to receive a postcard from you from the place visited at our mailing address. You can enjoy this program from February 15 to April 15.

Ava Brothaler is playing with shadows after she made the dragon of the Take and Make craft activity.



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## News from the pews

### St. Philip's

Our doors are open again! We are back to worshipping in the church, Sundays at 10 am. Per provincial regulations, vaccine passports are required for all age 13 and up. Pre-registration is encouraged, but not required. For the time being, our music is being supported by organ only, no choir, but we hope to have the choir back for Holy Week. For those not comfortable coming out and being in a large group, you can also participate live on Zoom. Please call or email the office for the link.

Ash Wednesday is March 2, and we will have our traditional service at 7:30 pm, Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes, with a Zoom option. For those joining on Zoom, we can arrange delivery of ashes, so that you may impose ashes on each other in your household.

Our usual mid-Lent Pancake Brunch is, unfortunately, cancelled again this year. We hope that the men of the parish have not lost their pancake-flipping skills, and this popular event can return in 2023.

### Sponsorships

Finally, our Tri-Parish + Friends Refugee Sponsorship group has lots of good news. We assisted the relatives of a gay couple from Iran (where homosexuals face the death penalty) in preparing and submitting a sponsorship application in January, 2020. That couple has arrived in Montreal (we are offering advice and accompaniment, but the family is providing the financial support)

A widow and son, survivors of the Rwandan genocide, for whom we submitted a sponsorship application in September, 2018, will arrive any day now.

An Afghan family, whose application we submitted in January, 2020, is in the final stages of approval and may arrive later in the year. And we have just submitted another application to sponsor a second Afghan family who fled just after the NATO withdrawal from that country. Since August,

we have raised over \$50,000 for these sponsorships, and we thank the many members of the Montreal West and NDG communities who contributed.

*from Fr. Pratt*

### MW United

*...the brick one*

### Ground hogs, lions and lambs

The zoo seems to be determining our weather these days. Well, it certainly isn't up to us is it? We need an animal to predict the Covid trajectory. Coal mines used canaries, so what would you suggest? I'd vote for the dodo bird or the passenger pigeon because they are already extinct... wishful thinking.

### Living with Covid as without seems less likely

We are returning to life-as-we-knew-it sort of. For the moment we continue online broadcasting, while welcoming those vaxed and willing into the sanctuary. We have yet to see how this will play out in the longer run, but your intrepid reporter can vouch for the value of being together, even if masked and distanced. It's not just what happens on Sundays at 10 am that makes us a church community – it starts there, but it blossoms into shared interests, purposeful groups, delicious meals, friendships and so much more. But don't take my word for it.

### Lent is under way

Instead of giving something up for Lent, we try adding something in. Like a daily intention – some idea that relates to helping others. It could be spending a moment to put yourself in someone else's shoes. Easter is 6 weeks away, so some small daily observance adds up over time – and who knows where that might lead? Anyone can give it a try.

### As restrictions relax...

...don't throw the baby out with the bath water as they say.

Consider the habits that have kept us safe (like masks perhaps?) as we move into greater contact with others. Until we see how it goes, let's take measured care.

Sunday services begin at 10 am and we are in the sanctuary in unrestricted numbers by March. Live filming will be limited to the minister, scripture reader and choir to protect the congregation from being broadcast online. And Sunday school with **Merrie** keeps happening.

Keep as well as you can.

*from Susan Upham*

### St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish

### Our doors are fully reopened!

After nearly two months of being either fully closed or only open for Sunday Mass, we're pleased to share that we were finally able to return to our regular Mass schedule February 21. Given the easing of certain health measures, it's no longer necessary to register in advance

to attend Mass, and the vaccination passport is no longer required.

Existing parishioners and guests are always welcome: Tuesday, 6:30 pm; Wednesday, Thursday, 9 am; Saturday, 4:30 pm; Sunday, 10 am (still live streamed: [stig.ca/live-stream](http://stig.ca/live-stream)), 5 pm.

### Children's ministry update

Both Catch Wave and the Good Shepherd Atrium resumed in-person programming February 27. Families are encouraged to sign up here to receive the latest updates: [stig.ca/kids](http://stig.ca/kids).

### Alpha spring 2022

Our Alpha team just launched the 13th Alpha program at our parish, and we couldn't feel more blessed for the opportunity to continue to bring people together in a safe space to explore their faith. If you're looking for a way to connect with others and ask some of life's big questions, sign up to our waitlist at: [stig.ca/alpha](http://stig.ca/alpha).

*from Shawna Rose*

February fog, 2022. Photo by Julia Ross





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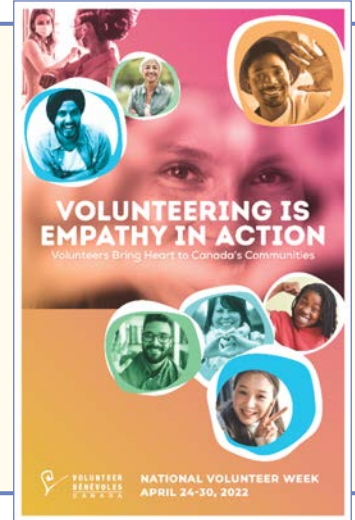
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### Red Cross class: Stay Safe!

**When:** Sunday, April 10; 9 am-3 pm

**Ages:** 9-13 years

**Cost:** resident: \$75/non-resident: \$85

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.

### Red Cross class: Babysitting

**When:** Saturday, April 9; 9 am-5 pm

**Ages:** 11+

**Cost:** resident: \$85, non-resident: \$95

Learn the skills required to carry out babysitting duties.

### Outdoor Warrior Workout

12 +

### Adults

Barre, Essentrics, Stretching, TRX, Zumba, Older Adult Balance, 65+ Fitness, Belly Dancing, Zumba, Yoga for Stiff Men, Yogalates, Reach

### Emergency first aid and CPR

**When:** Saturday, April 30 at 9 am

**Cost:** resident: \$100 + taxes,  
non-resident: \$110 + taxes

## Summer camp and Community Centre program registration

Residents can register for their favourite children's camp programs now. Visit the town website for details!

## Summer Employment

### Job postings and deadlines

#### Pool

Wading Pool Guard – March 1  
Cashier – March 1

#### Camp

Counsellors – February 28

#### Community Centre

Animators – February 28

#### Visit

[montreal-west.ca/en/  
out-town/town-management/  
employment/](http://montreal-west.ca/en/out-town/town-management/employment/) to apply

## Fun activities for residents!

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

- **Creative Snowman contest:** Submit your photo on the website. Deadline: March 4. Top three winners will be announced early March and in the next *Informer*.
- **SHEroes Trivia** (Women's Day Trivia) Join us online on March 4 at 7 pm for an evening of fun and test your knowledge about the world's most renowned women! Register on Amilia. Prize for the winning team! Suggested age: 8+
- **Cotton Tail Party:** Sunday, April 3, Town Hall, 2-4 pm  
Egg hunt, crafts and **M. Gazon**. \$12 (resident), \$15 (non-resident) and \$20 at the door per child (free for parents who accompany).



Check out our website with online events, live zoom activities and ideas to do from home! Reserve your spots on Amilia.

## Town Council meeting: January



by Carol Foster

With no official report from the mayor, the meeting moved right to the Councillors' reports.

### Councillors' reports

Public Security staff continued keeping watch over vacant homes during the holiday period and had received about a dozen requests for this service. They have also returned some lost dogs to their owners according to **Councillor Small-Pennefather**.

Following the storm on January 17, nine tickets were issued for illegal parking and four vehicles had to be towed. Residents were reminded once again of the importance of obeying the temporary orange signs that go up during snow removal operations. On January 11, there was a leak in one of the pipes in the compression room of the arena which involved ammonia. The situation was immediately addressed by the PSOs and any possible danger to surrounding residents was prevented. A pedestrian was struck by a car at the Westminster and Curzon crossing. Councillor Small-Pennefather pointed out the importance of pedestrians making eye contact with the driver when crossing at any crosswalk to ensure the car is stopped. An update on this incident is expected at the next Council meeting.

The recruitment of new members for the Traffic Safety Committee as well as PAC is still in progress.

Public Works staff undertook a double snow clearing operation with back-to-back storms resulting in resources being spread very thinly. Two snow blowers were damaged due to debris left on the street and residents are always urged to remove any items from the curb or sidewalk. In addition to the battle with the snow, two large water breaks had to be repaired in -31-degree weather. The department has also had to deal with the latest Omicron wave which at one point left 25 percent of the workforce absent. In order to avoid a department-wide outbreak, two teams that operate independently of each other have been organized due to the importance of maintaining the Town's services. **Councillor Ulin** suggested a friendly wave or hello would show appreciation to these dedicated workers.

The Environment Department is currently drafting a five-year plan to carry out a sustainable waste management policy. A Tree Information System which keeps track of the condition of the Town's trees is also being developed. Recycling and compost bins can be repaired by Public Works and returned to their owners instead of having to be replaced. New members are also being

recruited by the Environmental Committee.

A public consultation plan for the new recreation centre is being prepared by the Communications Department.

**Councillor Feeney** announced that property tax bills have been mailed out and the first instalment is due on February 24 with the second to follow on May 26.

As reported in the budget meeting of January 20, the tax increase for the average valued home in the Town is 4.23%. A summary of the 2022 budget is available on the Town's website as well as in the February issue of *The Informer*.

A few recreational activities, including ballet for children and the science program, are being offered in-person but programs for adults are still online. Once any new government directions are received, an e-bulletin will be sent out to all residents. In the meantime, programs continue in the arena and snowshoeing and outdoor rinks are available.

Online programs featuring **Craig Morrison** talking about Louis Armstrong and **Don Tyler Watson** reviewing soul, gospel, jazz and blues selections will be presented as part of Black History Month.

Looking ahead to warmer weather, registration for day camp programs will begin in February and summer job openings in the Recreation Department for students as well as blue-collar workers are posted on the Town's website.

### Question period

Problems caused by the weather were some of the concerns presented during the question period.

Rain causing a small lake in front of a driveway on Crestwood Avenue has been occurring ever since that street was repaved and Public Works will look into it in the spring.

Parking on Nelson is always restricted during snow removal operations because of all the large trucks using it as a path to the snow dump. However, according to a resident living there, this year the situation has become particularly bad because the restrictions lasted from five to seven days. Councillor Ulin explained that although the average snow removal operations take two to three days, the recent back-to-back storms created unusual conditions and were responsible for lengthening the removal period.

The constant winter problem of the accumulation of large areas of slush at the corner of Westminster and Milner will be addressed during the planned review of that problematic intersection.

Attempts are continuing to be made by the Town to find desirable alternatives to the

use of salt on the streets and sidewalks during icy conditions. A bylaw covering the use of wood-burning stoves in the Town is currently being explored.

Other issues included the problem of cars driving over a private driveway as well as the public sidewalk as a thoroughfare to get onto Easton south of Broughton. The mayor acknowledged the situation as a long-standing and complicated problem. It will be reviewed, once again, by the Public Security Department to try and determine a safe solution.

When asked if any of the 4.23% increase in the residential tax bill is attributable to the recreation project, Councillor Feeney explained that it was not, because the cost of the recreation project will be included in the Town's three-year capital expenditure program and not the 2022 operating budget.

The Town is not considering joining in Beaconsfield's court challenge to the way that town is being taxed by the Agglomeration's budget because it would simply redistribute the total tax bill among all the demerged towns. The Association of Suburban Municipalities wants a plan which would actually reduce the total amount billed by bringing in other factors rather than just property values into the determination of the total.

Following a review of the PAC's decisions concerning six permits which had been requested and an encouraging message from the mayor which urged all members of the community to "stay healthy and vigilant" while making small steps to get back some of a more normal life, the meeting was adjourned.

### New sports and recreation centre: we want to hear from you!

The Town is planning multiple consultation activities with its residents on the following themes relating to the new sports and recreation centre:

- Sports and recreational activities;
- Universal accessibility;
- Community life;
- Residents living close to the centre.

Those who are interested in participating in the focus groups should sign up by February 28 at noon by filling out the form online. Spaces are limited and participants will be selected by draw. For more information and to sign up: [montreal-west.ca/en/public-consultations](http://montreal-west.ca/en/public-consultations).

## Réunions du Conseil : janvier



par Carol Foster  
traduction par René Boucher

Le maire n'ayant pas de rapport à présenter, la réunion est passée directement aux rapports des conseillères

### Rapports des conseillères

Le personnel de la Sécurité publique a poursuivi sa surveillance des maisons vacantes pendant les Fêtes et a reçu une douzaine de demandes pour ce service. Les ASP ont aussi retourné des chiens perdus à leurs gardiens selon la **conseillère Small-Pennefather**.

Par suite de la tempête du 17 janvier, neuf constats d'infraction pour stationnement illégal ont été remis et on a dû remorquer quatre véhicules. Encore une fois, on a rappelé aux résidents l'importance de respecter les affiches orange temporaires pendant les opérations de déneigement. Le 11 janvier, il y a eu une fuite d'ammoniaque dans la tuyauterie de la salle de compression à l'aréna. Les ASP ont rapidement maîtrisé la situation, prévenant ainsi toute possibilité de danger pour les résidents du voisinage. Une voiture a renversé un piéton à l'intersection Westminster et Curzon. La conseillère Small-Pennefather a insisté sur l'importance d'établir un contact visuel piéton-automobiliste avant de traverser pour s'assurer de l'arrêt du véhicule. On s'attend à une mise à jour concernant cet incident lors de la prochaine réunion du Conseil.

Le recrutement de nouveaux membres pour le Comité circulation et sécurité ainsi que pour le CCU se poursuit.

Les Travaux publics ont entrepris une double opération de déneigement, conséquence de deux tempêtes de suite qui ont exigé beaucoup de ressources. Des débris sur la chaussée ont endommagé deux chasse-neiges et on incite les citoyens à retirer tout objet de la rue ou du trottoir. En plus de la bataille de la neige, deux bris majeurs d'aqueduc ont dû être réparés à des températures de -31 degrés. La dernière vague Omicron a durement frappé le Service qui, à un certain moment, a vu 25 pour cent de ses effectifs absents. Pour éviter une éclosion touchant tout le Service, on a mis sur pied deux équipes fonctionnant indépendamment pour assurer le maintien des services municipaux, La **conseillère Ulin** a suggéré qu'un bonjour amical ou un signe de la main manifesterait notre appréciation de ces dévoués travailleurs.

Le service de l'Environnement travaille à la préparation d'un plan quinquennal pour mettre en œuvre une politique de gestion durable des déchets. Un système d'information sur les arbres est aussi en développement, lequel gardera la trace de l'état des

arbres municipaux. Les Travaux publics peuvent réparer les bacs de recyclage et de compostage et les retourner aux résidents plutôt que les remplacer. Le comité sur l'Environnement recherche aussi de nouveaux membres.

Le service des Communications prépare un plan de consultation pour le nouveau centre récréatif.

La **conseillère Feeney** a annoncé que les factures d'impôt foncier ont été postées, le premier versement étant dû le 24 février et le second le 26 mai.

Comme indiqué lors de la réunion sur le budget du 20 janvier, l'augmentation pour la maison de valeur moyenne dans la ville se chiffre à 4,23 %. On trouvera un sommaire du budget 2022 sur le site Web de la Ville et dans le numéro de février de *The Informer*.

Quelques activités récréatives, dont le ballet pour les enfants et le programme de sciences, sont offerts en présentiel, mais les programmes pour adultes sont toujours en ligne. Dès réception de nouvelles directives gouvernementales, un bulletin électronique sera transmis à tous les citoyens. Dans l'interim, les programmes se poursuivent à l'aréna, et la raquette et les patinoires extérieures sont offertes.

Des programmes en ligne mettant en vedette **Craig Morrison** présentant Louis Armstrong et **Don Tyler Watson** proposant des sélections de soul, de jazz et de blues seront offerts dans le cadre du Mois de l'histoire des Noirs.

En prévision des températures plus clémentes, l'inscription aux programmes du Camp de jour débute en février et les emplois d'été pour étudiants aux Loisirs ainsi que comme cols-bleus sont affichés sur le site Web de la Ville.

### Période de questions

Des soucis causés par la météo figurent parmi les points soulevés pendant la période de questions. Depuis le repavage de la rue, la pluie alimente un petit lac devant une entrée sur l'avenue Crestwood; les Travaux publics y verront au printemps.

Le stationnement sur Nelson est toujours restreint durant les opérations de déneigement en raison des gros camions qui vont et viennent du dépôt de neiges usées. Cependant, selon un résident de cette voie, cette année la situation s'est détériorée alors que les restrictions ont duré de cinq à sept jours. La conseillère Ulin a expliqué que l'enlèvement de la neige dure habituellement deux ou trois jours, mais les deux tempêtes consécutives ont provoqué des conditions anormales et ont prolongé les opérations.

L'accumulation de gadoue à l'angle Westminster et Milner pose un problème hivernal récurrent qui sera traité lors de l'analyse planifiée de cette intersection problématique.

La Ville continue à rechercher des solutions de remplacement au sel de déglacage pour les rues et trottoirs.

Un règlement gouvernant l'utilisation des poêles à bois dans la ville est actuellement considéré.

Le problème des véhicules empruntant une allée privée et le trottoir public pour accéder à Easton au sud de Broughton a été soulevé. Le maire a reconnu que cette situation perdure et est complexe. Elle sera examinée à nouveau par la Sécurité publique pour tenter de trouver une solution sécuritaire.

Quelle portion de l'augmentation de 4,3 % des taxes foncières résidentielles est attribuable au projet de centre récréatif? La conseillère Feeney a expliqué qu'aucune part de ce projet ne contribue à la hausse parce que son coût sera intégré au plan triennal des immobilisations, non pas au budget 2022.

La Ville n'envisage pas se joindre à la contestation judiciaire que Beaconsfield a entreprise quant à la façon dont cette ville est imposée par le budget de l'agglomération, ce qui ne ferait que redistribuer la facture totale parmi les villes liées. L'Association des municipalités de banlieue souhaite un plan qui, dans les faits, réduirait la somme totale facturée en tenant compte de facteurs autres que la valeur foncière dans l'établissement du total.

Après la révision des décisions du CCU concernant six permis et un message d'encouragement du maire incitant tous les membres de la collectivité à « rester en santé et vigilants » tout en prenant des petits pas pour retourner à une vie plus normale, la réunion s'est terminée.

### Nouveau centre sportif et récréatif : nous voulons vous entendre!

La Ville prévoit de multiples activités consultatives avec ses citoyens autour des thématiques suivantes relatives au nouveau centre sportif et récréatif:

- Les activités sportives et récréatives;
- L'accessibilité universelle;
- La vie communautaire;
- Les citoyens riverains (les voisins du centre).

Les personnes qui souhaitent participer aux groupes de discussion doivent s'inscrire en ligne avant le 28 février à midi. Les places sont limitées et les participants seront choisis par un tirage au sort. Pour plus de détails et pour s'inscrire : [montreal-west.ca/fr/consultations-publiques](http://montreal-west.ca/fr/consultations-publiques).

## COMING EVENTS À VENIR

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

**Next deadline: March 9**

Please check with the library ([mwlib.requests@gmail.com](mailto:mwlib.requests@gmail.com))  
that in-person activities are happening or to register.

### March

- Tue 1 Tea and TRC Circle Meeting.**  
Email for information. Public Library. 1 pm.
- Tue 1 The Threads of Memory: MoWest seniors connecting through stories.**  
*Every Tuesday.* Public Library. 3 pm.
- Wed 2 Chess Club. Every Wednesday.**  
Email to register. Public Library. 4:45 pm.
- Thu 3 Drama Club. Every Thursday.**  
Email to register. Public Library. 4:45 pm.
- Tue 8 IODE meeting.** All welcome. Community Centre. 1:30 pm.
- Wed 16 Tea and Books (Zoom).**  
Email for information. Public library. 2 pm.
- Tue 22 Town Council meeting**  
Online at: [facebook.com/montrealwest](https://facebook.com/montrealwest). 8 pm.
- Wed 23 Public Library's Annual General Meeting.** 7 pm.

### April

- Tue 12 IODE meeting.** All welcome. Community Centre. 1:30 pm.

## Classifieds

**LOCAL PERSON** to work in Montreal West Vision Clinic at 43a Westminster N. Reception, pre-testing and helping people choose glasses and that look great. Potential of 20-30 hours per week. Personable, bilingual with basic computer skills. Join our team and help us provide great vision care to our community. Contact Cindy **481-4791** or email [montrealwestvision@gmail.com](mailto:montrealwestvision@gmail.com).



Night on Bedbrook. February 2022



Corner of Fenwick and Ainslie. February 2022

## Restez informés / Stay informed

### Site web / Town website

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



The go-to source for Town news, activities and municipal services.

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

### E-Bulletin

Inscrivez-vous au e-bulletin et recevez les dernières nouvelles de la Ville dans votre boîte courriel.



Sign up to the e-bulletin and receive the latest Town news directly in your inbox.

[montreal-west.ca/ebulletin](http://montreal-west.ca/ebulletin)

### Code Red

Abonnez-vous à Code RED, le service de messagerie d'urgence utilisé par la Ville pour rejoindre les citoyens par appel téléphonique, SMS et courriel.



Subscribe to Code RED, the emergency notification service used by the Town to reach and inform residents by phone, SMS and email.

[montreal-west.ca/en/code-red](http://montreal-west.ca/en/code-red)

### Facebook

Suivez-nous sur Facebook.



Follow us on Facebook.

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

# COUNCIL communiqué



## THE SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE UPDATE

The new multi-generational Sports and Recreation Centre is definitely the biggest project the Town has undertaken in over 50 years. We want to make every effort to ensure it is done correctly, and our team is already hard at work to that end. The following are some of the tasks that Council and various committees have been working on the past few months to make our new Sports and Recreation Centre a reality.

The Recreation Centre Steering Committee is headed by our Director General (DG) and includes staff from Administration, Finance and Recreation. They meet weekly to discuss issues and review progress. The DG provides status updates to Council on a regular basis.

Recreation and Administration staff made visits to other municipal recreation centres and touched base with officials to hear their recommendations and understand the pros and cons of various aspects of their centres. Although each municipality's needs may be somewhat different, the visits have proved quite fruitful and will help guide us in our initial design.

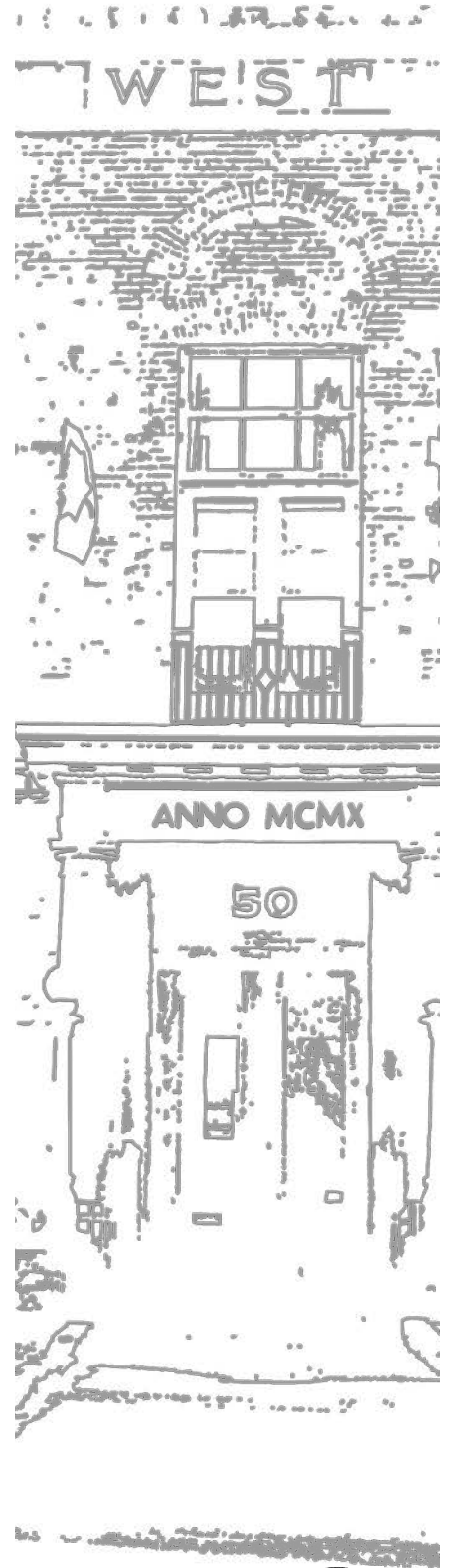
As approved at our November public meeting, Council awarded a contract to Consortium Blouin Tardif Architectes | Coarchitecture Architectes for the architectural professional services with a multidisciplinary team. They have met several times with the Recreation Centre Steering Committee, have reviewed various studies and documents and have made on-site visits to the current arena and swimming pool. Their team will provide the architectural plans, help guide the Town through the tender process and supervise the construction work. We are expecting to receive the first drafts of these sketches in the coming months.

The Town will soon launch its consultation process with residents to provide input on specific topics of interests related to sports and recreational activities, universal accessibility and community life. This will take the form of an online survey, focus groups with interested participants, and meetings with key stakeholders. Head to [montreal-west.ca/en/public-consultations](http://montreal-west.ca/en/public-consultations) for more information and to sign up for the consultation activities.

The Fundraising Committee headed by resident, Scott MacKenzie, has also been hard at work and has met several times to start the Capital Campaign. A fundraising policy and guidelines have been adopted by Council. More detailed costs and fundraising numbers will be provided as the campaign progresses.

Rest assured that we will keep residents involved and apprised along the way. If you are not already receiving the Town's e-bulletin, we encourage you to subscribe so you will have the most up-to-date news on this and other issues. The sign-up is at the bottom of the home page of the Town's website: [montreal-west.ca](http://montreal-west.ca).

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





## PUBLIC SECURITY

### Porch piracy

You may have heard the term porch piracy thrown around as of late, but unfortunately, this is not a new phenomenon. Many residents have advised of packages that have gone missing or that have been stolen. Please ensure that someone is home to receive the package, designate a neighbour who is home or arrange for an alternate delivery or pick up date with the delivery company. Please be vigilant, as there are individuals (porch pirates) who follow the delivery trucks to see if anyone is home, once the package is left, the perpetrators simply run up to the door, take the package and drive away. If you see any suspicious activity or have been a victim of theft, please call the police at Station 9 at 514-280-0109 to file a report.

### Solicitation

With more people working from home, you may have noticed your phone ringing more often during the day. Some of these callers have nefarious intentions, with pitches specific to targeting seniors. Never give out personal details over the phone. If someone is claiming to call from a bank, ask for a call back number and check online if it is a listed number

for your bank. If the intention is legitimate, no one should ever pressure you over the phone. If someone claims that you will be arrested and that you must transfer funds, again, ask for a call back number and file a complaint with the local police. If someone is threatening you over the phone, do not divulge any information. Many callers will try intimidation tactics and tell you that they are monitoring your phone and not to call anyone for help. Again, it is important to hang up and call for assistance from a family member, friend or the authorities.

Solicitation can also occur door-to-door. If someone is asking for a donation, always ask for identification. Please note that legitimate canvassers, including students, would have a paper or a badge to associate them with the organization. Cheques are always made payable to the organization and never to an individual. You can also opt to make a donation on-line directly. There are also businesses that solicit door to door, ask them to leave a business card and do your own research to avoid fraudulent activity.

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



## CALLING ALL LOCAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS!

Are you passionate about the environment? A professional in the field? Would you like to work locally to increase the sustainability of our community?

If so, perhaps the Montreal West Environmental Action Committee (EAC) is for you. Here's our official mandate:

The Montreal West Environmental Action Committee is a standing advisory committee of Council. It is invested in making the Town a more sustainable and environmentally friendly community. The committee was set up with the understanding that towns and citizens need to come together in order to work as responsible actors in lieu of the rapid decline of our global ecology. Through education, action, and policy change, it is committed to making Montreal West a greener neighbourhood.

Notice the word "Action" in the committee title. While part of our role is to make policy recommendations to Council, there will also be leg work too. Ideal members will be people who

want to get involved in environmental education and awareness, best practices research or who have professional experience to share. **We'll meet about every 4 to 6 weeks.**

Some of my key environmental priorities for this mandate include:

- 1) The not so sexy **waste management** issues like increasing compost and recycling participation, and reducing the amount we send to landfill.
- 2) The phasing out of **fossil fuels** at the local municipal, commercial and residential levels, mostly through educational initiatives and incentive programs.
- 3) The continued acceleration of our **tree planting and maintenance** program which will ensure the health of our green infrastructure for generations to come.

- 4) The promotion of **eco-friendly living** here in MoWest, by providing citizens the information and incentives they need to make sustainable choices.

So if this looks like your bag (not plastic, of course) and you're a "roll-up-your-sleeves" type, send me an email. Let me know how you see yourself pitching in. What professional or life experience would you bring to the table? What are your personal environmental priorities?

Let me know and let's get started!

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

# communiqué du CONSEIL



## DES NOUVELLES DU CENTRE SPORTIF ET RÉCRÉATIF

Le nouveau centre sportif et récréatif multigénérationnel est certainement le plus grand projet que la Ville ait entrepris depuis plus de 50 ans. Nous voulons tout mettre en œuvre pour qu'il soit bien réalisé, et notre équipe est déjà à pied d'œuvre à cette fin. Voici quelques-unes des tâches sur lesquelles le Conseil et divers comités se sont penchés au cours des derniers mois pour faire de notre nouveau centre sportif et récréatif une réalité.

Le comité de pilotage du centre récréatif est dirigé par notre Directrice générale (DG) et est composé de personnel de l'administration, des finances et des loisirs. Ils se réunissent sur une base hebdomadaire pour faire le tour de la situation et des progrès réalisés. La DG fait régulièrement le point sur la situation au Conseil.

Des employés des loisirs et de l'administration ont visité d'autres centres récréatifs municipaux et se sont entretenus avec les responsables de ces centres pour connaître les avantages et les inconvénients de divers aspects de leurs centres et entendre leurs recommandations. Bien que les besoins de chaque municipalité puissent être quelque peu différents, les visites se sont avérées très fructueuses et nous aideront à nous guider dans notre conception initiale.

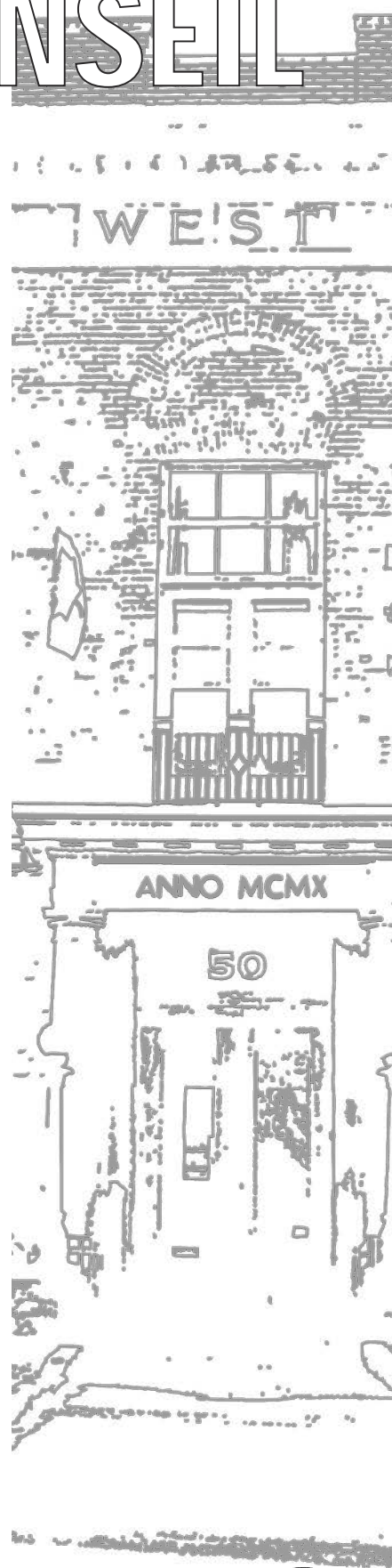
Comme approuvé lors de la séance du conseil de novembre, le Conseil a attribué un contrat au Consortium Blouin Tardif Architectes | Coarchitecture Architectes pour les services professionnels d'architecture avec une équipe multidisciplinaire. Ils ont rencontré le comité de pilotage à multiples reprises, ont analysé plusieurs études et documents et ont effectué des visites de l'aréna et de la piscine. Leur équipe fournira les plans architecturaux, assistera la Ville dans le processus d'appel d'offres et supervisera les travaux de construction. Nous nous attendons à recevoir les premières ébauches de ces esquisses dans les prochains mois.

La Ville lancera bientôt son processus de consultation pour permettre aux citoyens de partager leur avis sur plusieurs sujets d'intérêts relatifs aux activités sportives et récréatives, à l'accessibilité universelle et à la vie communautaire. Ce processus prendra la forme d'un sondage en ligne, de groupes de discussion avec les participants intéressés et de réunions avec des intervenants clés. Rendez-vous sur [montreal-west.ca/fr/consultations-publiques](http://montreal-west.ca/fr/consultations-publiques) pour plus d'informations et pour vous inscrire aux activités de consultation.

Le comité de collecte de fonds dirigé par Scott MacKenzie, un résident, travaille également d'arrache-pied et s'est réuni à plusieurs reprises pour mettre sur pied la campagne de financement. Le Conseil a adopté une politique et des lignes directrices relatives à la campagne de financement. Des résultats plus détaillés de la collecte de fonds seront partagés alors que la campagne de financement chemine.

Soyez assurés que nous tiendrons les résidents impliqués et informés tout au long du processus. Si vous ne recevez pas déjà le e-bulletin par courriel, nous vous encourageons à vous y abonner afin de recevoir les dernières nouvelles de la Ville. L'inscription se trouve au bas de la page d'accueil du site Web de la Ville : [montreal-west.ca](http://montreal-west.ca).

Colleen Feeny, *conseillère*  
Finance, MADA, Loisirs et Culture  
[cfeeny@montreal-ouest.ca](mailto:cfeeny@montreal-ouest.ca)





## SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

### Vol de colis

Vous avez peut-être entendu l'expression pirate de perron (*porch piracy* en anglais) récemment, mais malheureusement ce n'est pas un nouveau phénomène. De nombreux résidents ont signalé que des colis avaient disparu ou avaient été volés. Assurez-vous que quelqu'un soit à la maison pour recevoir le colis, désignez un voisin qui est à la maison ou convenez d'une autre date de livraison avec la compagnie de livraison. Soyez vigilant, certains individus suivent les camions de livraison pour voir si quelqu'un est à la maison. Une fois le colis déposé, ils se précipitent à la porte, prennent le colis et s'en vont. Si vous êtes témoin d'une activité suspecte ou si vous avez été victime d'un vol, veuillez le signaler à la police au poste 9 (514-280-0109).

### Sollicitation

Avec la hausse du nombre de personnes travaillant à domicile, vous avez peut-être remarqué que votre téléphone sonne plus souvent pendant la journée. Certains de ces appels proviennent d'individus aux intentions néfastes, avec des messages ciblant spécifiquement les personnes âgées. Ne donnez jamais de renseignements personnels au téléphone. Si quelqu'un prétend appeler d'une banque, demandez un numéro de rappel et vérifiez en ligne s'il s'agit d'un numéro

répertorié pour votre banque. Il ne devrait y avoir aucune pression sur vous si c'est un appel légitime. Si quelqu'un prétend que vous allez être arrêté et que vous devez transférer des fonds, demandez à nouveau un numéro de rappel et déposez une plainte auprès de la police locale. Si quelqu'un vous menace par téléphone, ne divulguez aucune information. De nombreux appelants tenteront des tactiques d'intimidation et vous diront qu'ils surveillent votre téléphone et que vous ne pouvez pas appeler personne à l'aide. Il est important de raccrocher et d'appeler à l'aide un membre de la famille, un ami ou les autorités.

La sollicitation peut également se faire de porte à porte. Si quelqu'un vous demande de faire un don, demandez toujours une pièce d'identité. Notez que les sollicitateurs légitimes, y compris les étudiants, auront un papier ou un badge les associant à l'organisation. Les chèques doivent toujours être libellés à l'ordre de l'organisation et jamais à celui d'un particulier. Vous pouvez également choisir de faire un don directement en ligne. Il existe également des entreprises qui font du porte-à-porte. Demandez-leur de laisser une carte d'affaires et faites vos propres recherches pour éviter les activités frauduleuses.

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## APPEL AUX ÉCOLOGISTES LOCAUX !

Êtes-vous passionnés de l'environnement? Travaillez-vous dans le domaine? Aimerez-vous agir localement afin d'améliorer le développement durable au sein de notre communauté?

Si vous avez répondu oui à ces questions, le comité d'action environnementale de Montréal-Ouest est pour vous. Voici notre mandat:

Le comité d'action environnementale de Montréal-Ouest est un comité consultatif du conseil municipal. Il se consacre à faire de la Ville une communauté plus durable et plus écologique. Le comité a été créé avec l'idée que les villes et les citoyens devaient se réunir et travailler en acteurs importants qu'ils sont, au lieu d'assister, impuissants, au déclin rapide de notre écologie mondiale. Par l'éducation, l'action et des changements de politique, il s'engage à faire de Montréal-Ouest un endroit plus vert.

Remarquez le mot "action" dans le titre du comité. Bien qu'une partie de notre rôle consiste à formuler des recommandations au Conseil, il y aura également du travail sur le terrain. Les membres idéaux sont des personnes

qui veulent s'impliquer dans l'éducation et la sensibilisation à l'environnement, la recherche de meilleures pratiques, ou qui ont une expérience professionnelle à partager. **Nous nous réunissons toutes les 4 à 6 semaines environ.**

Certaines de mes priorités environnementales pendant ce mandat comprennent:

- 1) Les questions liées à la **gestion des déchets**, comme augmenter le taux de participation au compost et au recyclage et réduire la quantité de déchets envoyés au centre d'enfouissement.
- 2) L'élimination progressive des **combustibles fossiles** aux niveaux municipal, commercial et résidentiel, principalement par de la sensibilisation et des programmes d'incitation.
- 3) L'accélération continue de notre programme de **plantation et**

**d'entretien des arbres** qui assurera la santé de notre infrastructure verte pour les générations à venir.

- 4) La promotion d'un **mode de vie écologique** à Montréal-Ouest en fournissant aux citoyens les informations et les incitations dont ils ont besoin pour faire des choix durables.

Si ceci vous intéresse et que vous êtes du genre à "retrousser vos manches", envoyez-moi un courriel et faites-moi savoir comment vous vous voyez participer à ce projet. Quelle expérience professionnelle ou personnelle pourriez-vous apporter? Quelles sont vos priorités personnelles en matière d'environnement?

C'est parti!

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