

Get ready to vote – the final chapter

Municipal election on Sunday

We're only four days away from the municipal elections, and in this edition of the *Free Press*, we'll conclude our coverage with more of the candidates for council in both the NDG and Loyola districts. Don't forget to get out and vote on November 1 for Montreal mayor, borough mayor and your district councillor.

Also in this edition of the *Free Press*, we have two contributions from elected officials. Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau's column touches on his new job as Quebec representative (p. 4), while EMSB commissioner Anne Williams talks about a program at St. Monica's (p. 14). For those looking to purchase a new home, you can check out the real estate Inventory for the "H4A" region of NDG (p.13).

THE NDG FREE PRESS

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We are NDG

October 28, 2009

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Candidates forums stir up corruption questions

BY ISAAC OLSON

Two not-so-tranquil, heavily attended electoral inspired strong words from both politicians and voters alike.

Hosted by the NDG Community Council, the two forums intended to give local voters an opportunity to meet campaigning borough mayoral and council candidates. Held a week apart in the NDG and Loyola districts, the two meetings were both bursting with mudslinging, corruption allegations and even some name-calling, as attentive audience members chimed in with boos, cheers, applause and, at times, laughter.

Held first in the NDG district on October 15 and in the district of Loyola on October 22, the forums allowed three-minute open-

ing and closing statements while the rest of the time was dedicated to voters' questions.

NDG voters question corruption

"For anybody to vote for Union, it seems, would be like the chickens voting for the foxes to run the hen house," said Ethan Cox, a local resident who asked Project Montréal's Peter McQueen and Union party's council candidate Marie-José Mastromonaco what precise steps they will take to combat city hall corruption.

"There might be allegations, but there is no corruption at city hall," said Mastromonaco, drawing loud laughter from the back of the room. "Things are done within the rule of law."

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A Great Pumpkin Give Away



Agents, staff, family members and volunteers participated in Royal LePage Group Newton's annual Great Pumpkin Give Away. Starting the day with 200 pumpkins on October 18 at the real estate firm's 5765 Monkland Ave. location, organizers managed to give all the pumpkins away in just a few hours. Donations collected, which usually hover around \$2,500 each year, benefit the Auberge Transition shelter for female and youth victims of domestic violence. From left: Lianne Lamothe, Charles Dessane, Mia Fischlin, Kai Fischlin, Declan Fischlin (in front), Matthew Larsen and Jackie Fischlin.

Photo: Isaac Olson



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Concordia's seasonal dome to make November debut

By ISAAC OLSON

An air-supported structure, dubbed "Stinger Dome," will be making its first appearance on Concordia University's Loyola campus in early November, protecting the school's south field from winter's wrath for six months out of the year.

"The project represents an important facility development that will complement our wonderfully designed outdoor playing fields that were christened in 2003," said Katie Sheahan, director of Recreation and Athletics. "This project allows us to install, annually, an inflatable roof over the south field to make that wonderful playing surface available in the winter months — something that is a rare and precious opportunity for Montrealers."

The dome will be raised in early November and stay up until late April, Sheahan said.

Part of a \$60-million expansion project, the \$4-million dome will be 450 by 240 feet, covering the university's artificial field located near the school's stadium. The size of the dome will allow for sports ranging from football to soccer, and up to four activities at a time on "mini-fields."

The university's

athletes will be able to use it for training while other students will take advantage of it for intramural sports. Rental of the dome will also be available to the public, Sheahan said, noting they've already received numerous field-time requests from various community groups.

Other universities are also interested in taking advantage of the indoor field, she said, and there are already plans to host the inter-university indoor soccer league.

"It's really an innovative project," said Sheahan. "It will be an entire football field covered in the winter. It's going to promote so much more physical activity, fun and sports."



Katie Sheahan, Concordia University's director of Recreation and Athletics, poses in front of the construction of Con U's new air-supported dome that will cover the Loyola campus's south field.

Photo: Isaac Olson

Construction on new CLSC site to begin this spring

By ISAAC OLSON

Intended to complement the budding Benny Area while relieving the issues associated with its current Cavendish location, plans are in motion to move the CLSC NDG-Montreal West from lower Cavendish to a bigger, better facility on Monkland, across from Benny Park.

Michel Lechance, director of technical and material resources at Health and Social Service Centres Cavendish (CSSS Cavendish), said workers will be deconstructing the Monkland property's existing building as officials hope to re-use some of the material for the construction of CLSC's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified facility.

"We hope it's going to be a LEED project," said Lechance. "So far, we're doing everything we can to have a LEED project. We expect to have the building completed by spring of 2011."

Construction, which is expected to begin around the end of winter, will cost about \$13 million, Lechance said. The building will be double the size of the current facility and include, among many new features, a 43-space parking lot, more meeting rooms, a private space for breastfeeding mothers and a larger area for community education programs, Lechance explained.

"We can no longer work with the existing space," said Lechance, adding the current facility is over 30 years old. "We'll have more space, that's for sure, and we'll have more services."

CDN-NDG borough mayor Michael Applebaum said the CLSC's current location is hard enough for healthy people to access, let alone those with reduced mobility. Patients are hit by high winds, heavy traffic and, in the winter, a slippery slope. The new location will allow for the CLSC to take advantage of the Benny Sports and Community Complex's indoor pools and gymnasium, Applebaum explained, while permitting easier accessibility for the many senior citizens who live in Benny Farm.

"We want to make that area a focal point for the community," said Applebaum. "Having all the facilities there will create a synergy between sports, health and the library. I think it's great for the community."

Metu Belatchew, a CSSS Cavendish community organizer, said the proximity of two bus lines and the overall easier access is important for everybody in the community.

"Making the CLSC easily accessible is very important," Belatchew said. "The new location will have a tremendous amount of benefits."



De-construction at a building on Sherbrooke St. in preparation for the CLSC move.

Photo: Isaac Olson

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A tale of two councillors

Before looking backwards, let's take a small leap forward to four days from now. The landscape of our borough could either be marginally or completely different.

If we assume that team Union Montréal sweeps back into power, Mayor Michael Applebaum will still have four new borough councillors. Even though they belong to the same party, new councillors mean a change in the dynamic of the council, so at the very least, there will be a period of adjustment.

However, if Applebaum or any of the Union candidates go down to defeat, then all bets are off. In fact, many would argue that the borough needs some opposition councillors to keep Applebaum and his Union cohorts in line. We'll let the voters decide that one.

All of that is, of course, conjecture which will be put to rest on November 1. One thing for certain is that the two men who represented both NDG districts won't be back. So let's take a minute to reflect upon their municipal careers as they move on to very different futures.

I remember the first time I met Marcel Tremblay back in 2001. He bounded into our *West End Chronicle* office, full of energy and good ideas. My first impression of him was how much different he was from his brother. Gérald Tremblay always seemed diametrically opposed to

Marcel – the quiet, more thoughtful and reserved speaker. For his part, Marcel would seem to blurt out whatever was on his mind.

Being the brother of the mayor of Montreal doesn't hurt one's political aspirations, and Marcel got his fair share of Centre City attention. He made it onto the executive committee, and for a short period of time was even the city's snow czar.

Marcel never did accomplish everything he talked to me about during our first meeting. He always seemed to me to be one of those guys filled with good intentions, but who managed to get tangled in his plans' details.

I remember many residents who were astonished in 2005 when they heard that former Liberal MP Warren Allmand was set to run for the Union party in the Loyola district. Several of us wondered if he would be able to make the adjustment from being the former solicitor-general to a "lowly" city councillor.

Unlike Marcel Tremblay, Allmand came into office quietly, but he slowly grew into his job. Obviously, he had plenty of adjusting to do, especially when it came to staff. City councillor is, at least, a few rungs below solicitor-general, but Allmand had a good grasp on local issues. Unlike Marcel Tremblay, Allmand had no grandiose plans, yet if you speak to several commu-

nity groups in Loyola, they'll tell you he did his best to address their concerns.

We applaud both men for their service to NDG residents. They were different in style, and so too are their political futures heading down different paths. Tremblay is running for mayor of the Villeray-St. Michel-Park Extension borough. Allmand, apparently, is just running away from politics. But based on his history, we

know that Allmand will stay involved in the issues that are close to his heart, like human rights.

We wish Tremblay and Allmand the best of luck, and once again, we urge all of you to get out and vote this Sunday.

David Goldberg is editor of The NDG Free Press and communications coordinator for Prevention NDG.



Marc Garneau

A VIEW FROM PARLIAMENT

Keeping a broad perspective

Although October is not over yet, it has been a very eventful month for me. For one thing, I celebrated the 25th anniversary of my first spaceflight on the 5th of October.

As anyone who celebrates an anniversary will tell you, it always catches you by surprise. Although much water has flowed under the bridge, I do indeed feel that it was only yesterday that I climbed aboard the *Challenger* Shuttle to begin an extraordinary new phase in my life.

Today, 25 years later, while I continue to follow the space program with great interest, my focus has shifted to a different arena. And this brings me to the other important event that has recently occurred in my life: being named the Liberal leader's representative in Quebec. I am undertaking this new responsibility with humility, enthusiasm and determination. Simply stated, my goal is to make sure that Michael Ignatieff is aware of the hopes, needs and concerns of all Quebecers.

While there may be a presumption amongst some that being the member of parliament for Westmount-Ville Marie puts you in some kind of bubble, I fully intend to dispel that myth.

Over the past few months, I have been out and about in Quebec, doing what

politicians must do: making contact with the grassroots, listening and reporting back. I have been to La Mauricie, La Beauce, Quebec City (twice), Drummondville, the Eastern Townships, the Montreal South Shore and Laval. Last year, I was equally active in many of the same places but also visited the Saguenay, the Lower South Shore and Pontiac.

Lest you become concerned, I also am very present in my riding (my first priority) as well as other parts of Montreal island.

In September, I was officially nominated to once again represent our riding in the next election. In addition, I had the pleasure of conducting three separate town hall meetings: in Westmount, in NDG and in Ville Marie. On average, about 40 residents turned up for each event to ask questions or provide commentary.

The point I'd like to make is this: to be effective, a politician must have a broad perspective. Yes, my riding is my primary responsibility, but my focus goes well beyond its limits since I am also a Quebecer and a Canadian. I intend to maintain that perspective.

Marc Garneau is the member of parliament for the riding of Westmount-Ville Marie.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HE'S ANTI-APPLEBAUM

After reading Mr. Olson's comprehensive article on the sports centre (Benny Park construction means progress for some, destruction for others, Sept. 30), I should mention that opposition to the construction in the park was and continues to be enormous. We came within a mere 10 signatures of stopping the construction in the park. This despite an inaccessible location for signing the register, taxpayer-funded propaganda, and the fact that Benny Farm residents were banned by the Applebaum administration from participating in the signing process.

In addition, there is an understanding among sports facility operators in eastern NDG that they will be shut down as soon as the centre goes up.

On the new library, there was never any public consultation process on where the library should be built. Indeed, the borough only held closed-door meetings of hand-picked citizens – choosing (out of spite) to ban members of the Friends of the Fraser-Hickson Library such as Eleanor London, who could have contributed greatly. The cost of the project is upwards of \$18 million. But it would have cost a mere

\$4 million to upgrade the former Fraser-Hickson library building according to a study commissioned by the library.

The penalties around his party's water-meter fiasco are far less than the money Mr. Applebaum will have wasted due to his bad planning. Let us hope that this nightmare ends come November – when people who really believe in democracy, like David Hanna, get elected in NDG.

RAJ RAMTUHOL, SOMERLED AVE.

LEAVE THIS BIKER ALONE

I've been a bicyclist for a few decades, but I don't need pampering from those fanatics at city hall who think they're my friends. All their excessive advocacy of my "lifestyle" isn't necessary. Sometimes trendy innovations by special interest groups can cause more problems than they solve.

Motorists and cyclists belong together and not in segregated worlds. As a cyclist, I don't pretend to be bigger than I am and I know my place. The creation of bicycle lanes is an insult to any competent rider. Are the officials also implying I'm not fit to ride on those streets that lack such

lanes? Are we headed for that kind of over-regulation?

How about doing a better job of regulating traffic by simply enforcing the laws – which includes penalizing, and thereby educating, our more delinquent cyclists.

The more we learn, the less bureaucracy we'll need. My fellow riders, if you don't know how to share the road with motorists, you don't belong on bicycles.

L.S. CATTARINI, BEACONSFIELD AVE.

MORE HAPPY READERS

So delighted you are back in the business. I live on Connaught south and bugged *The Monitor-Chronicle* for years to get delivery to the door. Ironically Nancy Macdonald seemed to have succeeded and just a few months later they ceased printing.

We have a different problem in Lachine where my church is – St. Stephen's – I think you know it! There we used to get neighbourly news by Linda Pepper in English – stuff about schools churches the Legion sports etc. in *The Messenger*.

Now I understand, no more English!

I've always been a booster of neighbourhood newspapers and am thrilled to see the *NDG Free Press*. Congrats!

BOB SMITH, CONNAUGHT AVE.

I have just finished reading your September 16th issue, and I'm quite happy that we have a new source of information in the neighbourhood.

Like most residents, I have a certain number of issues and complaints, but now is not the time to express them. At this point I would simply like to wish you the best of luck in this endeavour. I look forward to your future issues, and perhaps a chance to pass on some comments on the columns and articles to come.

I hope the name *Free Press* means I won't have to search through the advertising to find the stories, as is the case with just about every other media outlet in North America. Excuse the run on but grammar is not one of my strong points.

Looking forward to the next issue.

MICHAEL FORESTELL, DUQUETTE AVE.

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SECURITY

- Increase measures to alleviate traffic in our residential streets basing our actions on the principle of a green neighborhood.

URBAN AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Redevelopment of the Namur-Jean-Talon sector into a residential area and plan an urban and sustainable development of the Hippodrome de Montreal once the Quebec government has moved the horse races.

RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT

- Transform park chalets into community pavilions, finalize

the revitalization of our current parks and increase and improve accessibility to green spaces, especially at Mont-Royal.

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Reform the system, from equal funding to public consultation: Hanna

BY ISAAC OLSON

With a near 30-year academic background in urban planning, Vision Montréal's NDG council candidate, David Hanna, is making his first run for borough council and, he said, his party is aiming to make fundamental changes citywide.

"CDN-NDG has the lowest per capita budget of any borough in the city of Montreal," said Hanna, citing Vision Montréal's promise to equalize borough budgets. "This is the way Gérard Tremblay set it up and Michael Applebaum has done nothing to change that. When you have the lowest per capita budget, you're lacking the funds to deliv-

er the kind of services people need."

Born in and a longtime resident of NDG, Hanna has been a UQAM professor of urban studies since 1981. An expert consultant on transportation and heritage issues, Hanna's involvement in the community includes, among many examples, developing heritage trails for the now closed Fraser-Hickson Library and arranging financing for the Wesley Community Centre. He also



Hanna

served on Montreal's Heritage Committee for more than a decade.

Although he supported the Benny Sports Complex and Community Centre in its original Benny Farm location, Hanna strongly opposed the destruction of the popular Benny Pool when borough officials relocated the project to Benny Park.

The sports complex's relocation is an example of "window dressing" public consultations that adhere to Quebec law, but, in the end, ignore citizens' concerns, Hanna said. Vision Montréal, he explained, has been working with the province to change public consultation laws so there will be two public hearings — one at the conceptual stage and the

other when plans are formulated.

Vision Montréal's campaign platform, Hanna observed, includes adding the St. Jacques Falaise, a protected eco-territory with ancient, tree-lined cliffs, to the regional park network with bicycle and nature paths.

Hanna said his party's plan for the future of Montreal is built on public input, party-member opinion and expert advice. The plan is composed of realistic promises that can be completed within four years, he said.

"Vision Montréal has a four-year program that is clear, concise and costable," said Hanna. "No Santa Claus platforms and no re-tread platforms like you find in the other parties."

The political will to make democracy work: Gomery

BY ISAAC OLSON

With a strong background in environmental activism and social causes, Cym Gomery, Project Montréal's Loyola candidate for CDN-NDG borough council, said it's important, when addressing issues big or small, to have a broad view of a better tomorrow.

"The one thing I would bring to the council is the political will to make things

better — the political will to make democracy work," said Gomery. "The borough council meetings are currently very autocratic — very arrogant. There's not really a will to work together to make our community grow and improve."

Long involved with organizations such as the Sierra Club of Quebec and Green Peace, Gomery, a longtime NDG resident, has nearly 20 years of experience as a

technical writer. Although this is her first run for office, she has worked on election campaigns at the provincial and municipal levels. She is the oldest daughter of retired judge John Gomery, head of the 2004 Gomery Commission and now manager of Project Montréal's fundraising campaign.

Gomery said she is very concerned about the future of the planet and that concern helped motivate her to run for municipal office. However, she is also focused on poverty issues, such as food security and housing.

The city of Montreal isn't lacking money, resources, a potentially beautiful



Gomery

city or great people, Gomery said, but there is a strong need for a change in the way decisions are made. Be it protecting green space or making public transportation more viable, Project Montréal has "big plans" when it comes to traffic calming, social housing and the city's infrastructure, she said.

The key to addressing any issue is holistic decision-making, Gomery explained. Citing ideas ranging from her party's proposed citywide tramway service to the hiring of local youth as crossing guards, she said there are ways to incorporate interconnecting issues, like the economy and the environment, into mandates.

"The beauty of the tramway is it touches on every aspect of urban life," Gomery said. "It improves the economy and, obviously, transportation, but it also helps people in poverty because they can more easily get to where they need to go."

Bringing a human touch to politics: Pentsos

BY ISAAC OLSON

George Pentsos, owner of Souvlaki George on Monkland Ave., is running again for the Loyola seat but, this time, he's flying the Parti Montréal Ville-Marie banner as he aims to bring a human touch to CDN-NDG's borough council.

"At this point in my life, I think it's good to give back to the community what the community has given me all these years," Pentsos said. "I have a moral obligation to be present — to be the voice of my fellow citizens and work hard to make sure there is a human touch in the

landscape of politics. Not just brilliant minds, but also good hearts and good intentions — people who love the community."

A former player for the Greek national soccer team, Pentsos has been a local restaurateur for more than two decades and, over that time, he has developed a strong love for his community.



Pentsos



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McQueen said Project Montréal has a three-point plan to fight corruption. The plan calls for the reform of municipal campaign finance laws, increased transparency and the employing of in-house expertise, he said.

NDG resident Bob Butler described Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay's need to cancel the \$355-million water meter contract as a "display of incompetence on an epic level." He asked Project Montréal's borough mayor candidate Carole Dupuis and Union Party's incumbent borough mayor Michael Applebaum what can be done to remedy the incompetence.

It is important, like a business, to maintain control of vital functions rather than outsource them, Dupuis responded. It is also important to maintain the management of those functions.

"You have to understand the mayor of Montreal is not the individual who is running every single service," said Applebaum, noting it cost \$3.5 million to cancel the water meter contract. "I think the mayor of Montreal, Gérald Tremblay, has a competent, capable team of candidates and councillors with many years of experience."

Benny area, libraries, transportation are hot topics in Loyola

Patrick McDonnell, former member of NDG's sports and recreation committee, questioned Project Montréal's council candidate Cym Gomery's position on the Benny Sports Complex and Community Centre.

"I wanted the sports centre as much as you did, but I didn't want it in a public park," Gomery said in response to heckling from the audience. "There were a lot of inaccuracies in what the councillors at the time were putting forth as the details of the proposed sports centre."

The debate between who is responsible for the actual manifestation of the under-construction sports centre and the

coming Benny Library and Cultural Centre continued as independent candidate Jeremy Searle, former Loyola councillor, and Applebaum both lay claim to the projects.

Janice Warren asked Gomery and Applebaum for their opinion on the former Fraser-Hickson Library and the incoming Benny Library.

Gomery said the Fraser-Hickson Library was shut down undemocratically despite a petition with 15,000 signatures. She questioned the spending of \$21 million on a new library when a perfectly good one was sold off.

Noting the Fraser-Hickson Library is a private institution, Applebaum said his administration worked very hard to invest \$200,000 annually for three years to keep the library alive. Despite the borough council's efforts, he said, the library was not able to continue.

"We're going to have a 40,000-square-foot library with multi-functional rooms and a 180-seat theatre where the seats are going to go into the wall," Applebaum said.

While referring to Project Montréal as the "silly party with their ridiculous Tramway scheme" and taking jabs at the current administration's traffic-calming "plastic poles," Searle said he would fight to have bus lanes installed on Sherbrooke between the Montreal West train station and the Vendôme Metro station.

Loyola voter questions corruption

"If there was any corruption that you ever see, if elected, would you report it?" Frank Zizek asked Applebaum and Union Party candidate Susan Clarke.

"I cannot imagine a circumstance where, if I saw any corruption whatsoever, that I would not report it," Clarke replied, noting situations in previous volunteer jobs where she reported inappropriate actions.

Applebaum said he too would report any corruption and he hopes every councillor would do the same.



Bob Butler asks borough mayoral candidates Carole Dupuis and Michael Applebaum about Mayor Tremblay's cancellation of the city's water meter contract.

Photo: Isaac Olson



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Source: Poll carried out by Jolicoeur et Associés on the rate of satisfaction of Montrealers concerning their municipal services.

Montréal

Checking out after 17 years

Motel Raphael closing meant moving day for one long-time resident

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

For some, the Motel Raphael was a traveller's port in a storm, a convenient haven and a cheap night's sleep. For others, it was two hours of carnal bliss in the arms of a lady of ill repute. But for John Rankine, the motel was something far different ... it was home.

Now, that home is history – the windows are boarded up as the Raphael ceased oper-

ations on October 1. A landmark with a checkered past on the St. Jacques strip, the motel was home to Rankine for 17 years.

In 1992, Rankine turned what was a convenience into his residence. A pipefitter for Building Products on St. Patrick and Dollard, Rankine would find himself working so much overtime that returning to his Hemmingford home just didn't make much sense.

"So most weeknights, I would stay at

the Raphael, and I'd go home for weekends," he said. "But after my divorce later on in the '90s, I didn't have a home to go back to, so I just stayed on at the motel."

Rankine called Room 16 home for much of his early stay, and he said during that period, he really didn't hear or see that much to justify the motel's colourful reputation.

"At one point, they moved me towards the back into one of the four rooms there and that was like living in a duplex," he said. "It was really isolated."

When Rankine retired from his job four years ago, he took a part-time job at the motel, filling in when needed at the desk on the nightshift.

"If I saw someone with one of the girls and it didn't look exactly kosher, I would ask the guy for ID, to protect the girl, myself and the motel. Sometimes the guys didn't like that, but they didn't give me too much trouble. And I could take care of myself," said Rankine, a Korean War vet who is still robust at 75.

As time went on, he saw the good, the bad and the bizarre at the Raphael.

"I remember one year on Mother's Day, a young lad committed suicide by slitting his wrists and he set his room on fire,"



John Rankine returning to his former home, the now boarded-up Motel Raphael on Ste Anne de Bellevue St. Rankine spent 17 years as a resident of the motel.

Photo: Isaac Olson

said Rankine. "And one night I remember hearing gunshots."

Then there was the man who tried to park his car, but ended up getting his bumper stuck on a low-lying roof.

"He was drunk," explained Rankine.

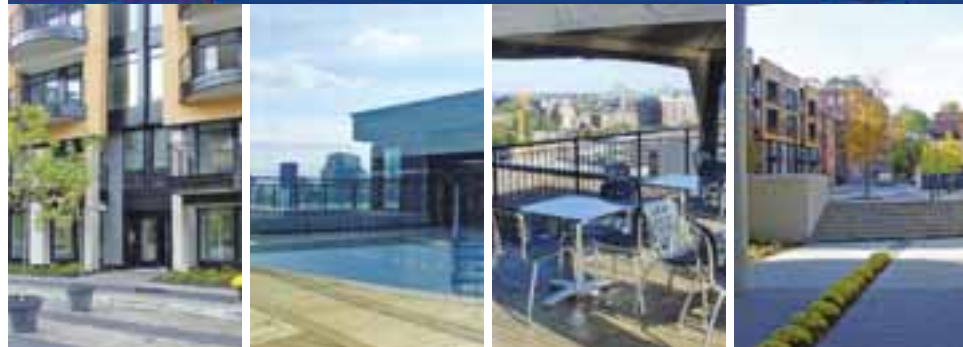
As he settled back in his black leather chair in his new home, an apartment on Sherbrooke St., the memories came flooding back.

"I was at the desk and I heard a commotion one day. I guess some guy rattled the cage of one of the hookers," he said.

.....
continued on p. 11



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Projet Montréal / Côte-des-Neiges - Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

Enough is enough! My team and I know what needs to be done and how to do it!

A message from the CDN-NDG team and Carole Dupuis, Candidate for Borough Mayor

BEFORE GOING OUT TO VOTE, CDN-NDG VOTERS NEED TO ASK OURSELVES: WHAT FUTURE DO WE WANT FOR OUR BOROUGH?

The parties of Gerald Tremblay and Louise Harel are this city's past. Both parties are rife with corruption, wasteful with our money and dismissive of citizens concerns. Taxpayers sickened by the repetitive scandals of Vision and Union Montreal would be justified in asking if all politicians aren't the same, and wondering if any party can fix the pervasive corruption at city hall.

But there is a better alternative. An alternative endorsed by Justice John Gomery and untouched by scandal. An alternative that can win.

The people who have stolen from our city would prefer you didn't vote, rather than get out and vote for Projet Montreal. Focused on issues of quality of life, sustainable city development and integrity, Projet Montréal is a party of experienced and competent citizens, not career politicians. We see politics differently, because we see it the way **you** do. Unlike the old municipal parties with their paternalistic attitudes and lacklustre leaders and results, Projet Montréal offers a thorough, inspiring, and realistic project to make Montreal a modern, liveable, and beautiful city. Here in NDG-CDG and across the city, citizens are turning to Projet Montreal in record numbers. We can win, but only with your help.

PROJET MONTRÉAL PROPOSES A PLAN THAT WILL TRANSFORM CDN-NDG:

- **Guaranteed snow removal deadlines** Projet Montréal's snow removal plan for CDN-NDG will guarantee snow removal on all priority one roads – including main arteries and all sidewalks – within 24 hours.
- **Zero tolerance for a dirty city** A sidewalk brigade will ensure empty trashcans, clean walls and spotless streets.
- **A whole new level of public transportation:** a reserved bus lane on Sherbrooke street in the direction of rush hour, improved bus and metro service, renewal of the Metro car fleet and gradual replacement of buses with hybrid or electric vehicles.
- **Improved access to decent housing and affordable home ownership:** under Projet Montréal's "Operation 21,000 homes", the availability of family, social, coop and affordable housing in CDN-NDG will be vastly improved. More housing inspectors will also put an end to unsafe and decrepit rental housing.
- **Awarding city contracts openly and without corruption:** Projet Montreal will break down contracts into smaller parts so that small and medium-sized businesses can compete for them. Not accepting corporate and anonymous donations means not being beholden to corrupt contractors.

- **Parks, gardens and public markets on the Decarie expressway and a park for the St-Jacques escarpment:** A Projet Montréal administration will gradually cover four sections of the Decarie expressway between Sherbrooke and Jean-Talon with public spaces.

Have you had enough of political parties with no vision for the city?

On November 1st reject corruption and start believing in Montreal again. Vote for the real alternative, Projet Montreal's CDN-NDG team:

- ⊗ Carole Dupuis, Borough Mayor
- ⊗ Peter McQueen, City Councillor, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
- ⊗ Magda Popeanu, City Councillor, Côte-des-Neiges
- ⊗ Cym Gomery, City Councillor, Loyola
- ⊗ Kamala Thevi Jegatheeswaran City Councillor, Darlington
- ⊗ Daniel Grenon, City Councillor, Snowdon

Carole Dupuis
Candidate for Mayor, CDN-NDG

INFORMATION: www.projetmontreal.org

Paid and authorized by Jacques Boucher, official agent for Projet Montreal



Roger Haughey

MR. ROGER'S NEIGHBOURHOOD

Welcoming our newer residents

On Saturday, October 10, newer arrivals to NDG got a look at and a taste of some of our autumnal traditions as the Welcome to NDG Project held their its social event, a Thanksgiving/Halloween Fest.

The event brought together NDG families to share in the Quebec traditions of Thanksgiving and Halloween. The weather was seasonal, and the festival coincided with the last Saturday Market of the season in Benny Park. Participants enjoyed a thanksgiving feast, Halloween costume-making and treats, not tricks. According to Miguel Cristamcho, the coordinator of the Welcome to NDG Project, "future events will include a Christmas Supper, which will serve over 200 people and Chinese New Year celebrations to start a real cultural exchange here in NDG."

Thanks to Halah Al-Ubaidi and the NDG Community Council for helping to get this project off the ground.

Where art thou, Romeo?

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, Marianopolis College is holding a series of free public lectures by Quebec-based political and educational leaders. Tonight's lecture (yes, October 28) features Senator Romeo Dallaire who will be speaking on "Revitalizing Canada's World Role and Renewing Youth Activism." Refreshments will be available at 6:30 pm, and the talk will begin at 7 pm in the Marianopolis College Auditorium, 4873 Westmount Ave. Call 514.931.8792 for more information.

Cope with it

The Chabad Project Pride is offering a four-week workshop called "The 11th Step Meditation Group" open to anyone interested in recovery. The focus will be on the development of mindful-awareness as a means of creating empowerment, grounded coping techniques and an overall expe-



Some pumpkin-carving fun at the fest

Photo: Roger Haughey

rience of profound conscious connection. The sessions will take place Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:45 pm on November 5, 12, 19, and 26, at Chabad Project Pride (4985 Queen Mary Rd., Montreal). The total cost is \$45 and pre-registration is required. Phone 514.485.5121 for more information or stop by in person.

Welcome to the neighborhood!

Jarred Campbell Pompey, born September 27 to Allison Brown and Simeon Pompey.

Bazaar time

Satin Ansgar's Lutheran Church is holding a Danish Bazaar on Saturday, November 7 from 10 am to 4 pm at 4020 Grand Blvd. Knox Crescent Kensington & First Presbyterian Church, 6225 Godfrey (between Grand Blvd. and Kensington Ave.) will be holding their annual Fall Bazaar on Saturday, October 31 from 10 am to 1 pm. Lunch will be served from 11:30 am to 1 pm, and all proceeds will go to the outreach programs of the church. For further information, please call 514.486.4559.

Four artful years

Galerie Cactus, a cooperative of nine artists, will celebrate four years of exhibiting and selling their creativity with a special vernissage on Thursday, November 5 from 5 to 8 pm at the Gallery (5276 NDG Ave., corner Decarie). The gallery also offers art classes for all levels of experience, and a continuing exhibition of local artists works open every week from Thursday to Sunday, noon to 5 pm, or by appointment. Phone 514.369.4414 or visit their website, www.gartistes9.com for details.

Scary times

Overheard on Sherbrooke St.: "Watch out for zombies for a good cause roaming the streets of NDG on Halloween night." If you like what you see, you are more than encouraged to join in the fun!

Speaking of Halloween, however you celebrate, have fun, be safe, and don't get too scared to vote in the municipal election on Sunday, November 1!

Remember, if you want to see your event or activity in a future column, send me an email: rogerhaughey@gmail.com.

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Station 11

POLICE WATCH



Did victim fall from moving car or was she pushed?

Station 11 police are concerned about a woman who claims she fell out of a moving car, fearing there might be more to the story.

The victim, a 37-year-old Montreal woman, was driving with her husband, a 39-year-old NDG man, on October 20 at 9 am on Decarie Blvd. She told officers they were running late for a physiotherapy appointment and were in a rush.

"Witnesses told us the car turned onto Monkland from Decarie and that the passenger-side door was opened while the car was moving," said Constable Peter Mandelos. "The victim told us that she had taken off her seatbelt and was getting ready to get out of the car."

The victim hit the pavement hard and was taken by ambulance to the Montreal General Hospital. Police say she suffered injuries to her head, hands, shoulders, hips and left knee.

However, the police became suspicious when they discovered the driver had been arrested recently for domestic violence, and that the victim had taken out a protective order against him.

"So, they shouldn't have even been in the car together," said Mandelos. "Because of that, we are going to continue our investigation. We have impounded the car and it will be examined to see if the door was somehow faulty, in case the suspect wants to make that claim."

For now, the suspect has been charged with dangerous driving causing injuries. However, the police say the investigation is ongoing, and more charges may be laid at a later date.

Alert kid leads to arrest

A young boy who was peering out his window after school discovered a group of kids showing off a firearm.

The witness saw five teens, aged 15 and 16, on the corner of Decarie and NDG at 4:24 pm on October 16. He saw one of the boys pull out a gun and pass it around.

"The boy panicked and told his mom, and she called 911," said Mandelos. "When our officers arrived on the scene, the five teens were still in the area. The one who was described as having the gun was questioned, but he denied

having a firearm on him."

Because they had probable cause, the officers searched the teen and found the weapon, along with some other items.

"The gun turned out to be a Baretta-style air gun. It's not an illegal weapon, but you can't carry it around in a public place," said Mandelos. "The officers also found three Ziplock bags, each containing about 5 grams of marijuana. Because we found drugs, we seize everything, which in this case included \$150 in \$10s and \$20s, and his cell phone."

Arrested was a 15-year-old Ville St. Laurent boy. He has been charged with possession of a firearm in a dangerous manner, possession of drugs and possession of drugs with the intent to traffic.

The other four teens – two from Ville St. Laurent, one from NDG and one from Côte St. Luc – were all released.

"If your children own air guns or pellet guns, they shouldn't be carrying them around in public," said Mandelos. "They should only be used at proper shooting ranges under supervision."

Thief helps himself

A robber armed with a screwdriver held up a dépanneur on October 14.

The suspect entered the Cuixiali store at 6400 Côte St. Luc Rd. at 6:33 pm and went directly to the counter. He asked the clerk to give him two \$10 bills as he reached into his wallet.

"The clerk thought he was going to give her some money, but instead he reached over the counter with a screwdriver and tried to open the register," said Mandelos. "The clerk pushed the suspect, but he pushed her back, and she panicked. She opened the register and the suspect helped himself to a small amount of money."

The suspect then ran out, heading east on Côte St. Luc. He is described as a black male, 35, 5'9" and 180 lbs. He wore a black cap with a white insignia, a brown hoodie with a black "G" on it and blue baggy pants.

Make your kids' Halloween a treat

Mandelos said the police are expecting more children out this year on Halloween because the holiday falls on a Saturday.

He said the police are ready, and he offered some tips for parents to make sure their kids enjoy a safe Trick or Treat.

"Your children should wear light-coloured clothes with reflective tape, and they should carry flashlights so they can see and be seen," he said. "They should wear makeup instead of masks, so they can see and hear, and they should stay in groups, with an adult, and when they ring

the bell, they should stay outside of the home."

Other tips include staying on one side of the street instead of criss-crossing back and forth, and always crossing at the intersection. They should also obey all traffic signs.

"And when they get home, the parents should check all the candy to make sure it's safe to eat," said Mandelos.

continued from *Checking out*, p. 8

"She came out of her room without a stitch of clothing on and she wanted to beat up this guy. One of the maids ran over and put a towel on her."

Then there was a little incident at the outdoor pool.

"I was having my breakfast and reading the paper at one of the tables next to the pool, when I had to go and change my load of laundry," he said. "When I came back, I saw this woman in the pool eyeing me. As I got closer, she really began eyeing me. When I got next to the pool, she got out, but she wasn't wearing any bottoms. She had a top on, but no bottoms."

The bottom line was finally too much for the motel's owners, and Rankine said he got the bad news on September 29.

"The owner's wife called me to the office and said, 'We're finished'. The city had come in and condemned rooms 26 to

46 on the top and 47 to 64 on the bottom," said Rankine. "They were worried that the rooms would cave in over the garage. The owners poured money in and got extensions for the work, but it wasn't enough."

So Rankine packed up and moved on.

"I had a hot plate and a microwave in my room, and I eventually bought my own TV and gave them back theirs," he said. "When I moved, I couldn't believe how much stuff I had in one room. I took my pots and pans, but I left the hot plate behind."

Rankine said he enjoyed his lengthy stay at the Raphael, but he knew his days there were numbered.

"Towards the end, I could see it coming. The place was falling apart," he said. "Now it's a different style and I have to get used to it."

And what will he miss the most about life at the motel?

"I'll miss the pool," he replied.



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More transparency, improved management, better know-how: Gallet

BY ISAAC OLSON

Looking to use his experience and education as both an economist and engineer to help better his district, borough and city, Hubert Gallet, Vision Montréal's Loyola candidate, plans to bring his knowledge and background to the council.

"I think we have to improve many services and this is our platform," said Gallet, citing a need to show more respect to the citizens of all socioeconomic backgrounds while maintaining honesty and increasing transparency. "I want to give my judgment — my experience — to help better the borough."

Just as he holds a dual degree as an

engineer and economist, Gallet holds dual Canadian/French citizenship.

Currently working as a consultant in the aeronautical industry developing markets for high-tech products, Gallet's experience as an economist has sent him to banking institutions around the globe. He has worked in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Gallet, who has lived in NDG since 2003, said one of the most important issues that needs to be addressed is the lack of budget equality between the boroughs. The fact that CDN-NDG has the lowest per capita budget requires reparation, he explained, noting private businesses have more transparency than

the borough's current administration.

The lack of transparency, Gallet said, is a waste of people's money. While working to equalize funding and increase transparency, he said he would also like to encourage citizens' interest and involvement with these types of issues.

Because he is an immigrant to the country, Gallet said he has an easy time relating to the diverse communities within his district as he talks with different



Gallet

people and groups of wide-ranging, ethnic backgrounds. One of his focuses, he explained, will be to work with these diverse communities and help those in need.

Gallet said he believes in Vision's candidate for CDN-NDG borough mayor, Brenda Paris, as well as the party's leader, Louise Harel.

"I am very excited to improve the finances and management of the district," Gallet said. "I am very much aware of how to manage funds. I want to bring my know-how regarding project management — something I have been doing for a large portion of my life — to the council."

Upgrade NDG to a more privileged lifestyle: Riachi

BY ISAAC OLSON

David Riachi, a CDN resident running for NDG's CDN-NDG borough council seat under the Parti Montréal Ville-Marie banner, wants to bring big changes to the district.

"I've been observing the local politics for some time now and I feel that, in Montreal, it's time for a change," said Riachi. "We want to upgrade NDG to the more privileged lifestyle of Westmount, Mount Royal and downtown. The NDG standard will go up for sure."

Riachi, who runs a downtown café, said he was born in Montreal and educated in

Lebanon, but he has no community or public service background yet.

Riachi said all the graffiti in NDG must be removed. His party's plan calls for the city to remove the graffiti from all buildings once or, in some cases, twice, he said, but it will thereafter be up to the property owners to keep their buildings clean.

While establishing a citywide prohibition on selling spray paint to minors, his party also intends on installing security cameras in heavily vandalized, high-crime areas to monitor criminal acts. His party will also work to increase police patrols while encouraging people to report vandal-

ism to law enforcement, he said.

Parti Montréal Ville-Marie's aim, Riachi said, is to establish a community centre in NDG that provides job-skill training for "less privileged people." The borough will also encourage the centre's participants to work in the public sector, he said, by offering jobs in fields such as graffiti-removal.

Noting his appreciation for NDG's



Riachi

diversity, Riachi said there is also a need to help new immigrants immerse and adopt the ways of Montreal.

His party, she said, is in the beginning stages of formulating an educational program for new arrivals, which aims to help rid them of habits or behaviours, like littering, that are not conducive to Montreal life. The program, he said, could become mandatory if necessary.

"We should invest more in NDG," Riachi said. "When we invest in the people of NDG, we can furthermore invest in infrastructure. We have a lot of revenue. We have a lot in reserves. Unless we spend, we cannot make."

continued from Pentsos, p. 6

Through his restaurant and independently, Pentsos said he has long been involved in community organizations and local youth sports.

With generations of families coming into his restaurant, he said he has gotten to know almost everybody in his district to the point that, when campaigning

door-to-door, he is almost always greeted by name and often invited inside.

Pentsos has his sights on cleaning up graffiti. The graffiti creates a bad image for the city and politicians have a responsibility to keep the city clean while better guiding the "youngsters" perpetrating the crimes, he said. He has a plan to provide forums for potential vandals to

exhibit their creative energy while instilling stronger penalties to those that commit crimes.

Inspiring more citizen participation in the community and in local politics, Pentsos said, would enhance the quality of life throughout the city as people of all backgrounds take a more active role in society. At the same time, politicians

should work with the community as a team with more transparency, integrity, equality and honesty, he said.

"We want more participation of the citizens in the political process," said Pentsos. "We, as politicians, should be there to serve the citizens, not to serve ourselves. The politicians must serve the citizens first."



Bravo NDG Free Press

What a great community initiative!

Kathleen Weil

MNA for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
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Québec

The Inventory: "H4A" real estate for sale

The Inventory is content provided by the *NDG Free Press* for the benefit of the reader. All information is garnered from public sources. Real estate agents have access to closed networks that allow them to see more information. The Inventory endeavours to list all of the real estate that is for sale in a given part of NDG (e.g. the H4A postal prefix) at press time. If you are a real estate agent or private seller whose property has been overlooked, please write to us at editor@ndgfreepress.com and we will work to include your properties in future editions.

\$129,000	2372 Hampton Ave.	\$299,000	5965 Terrebonne St.	\$499,900	4361 Decarie Blvd. #202
\$165,500	3611 Decarie Blvd. #102	\$299,000*	2001 Northcliffe #402	\$509,000	3583-5 Decarie Blvd.
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\$179,000	5122 NDG Ave.	\$314,000	2245 Wilson Ave.	\$525,000	2010-12 Grey Ave.
\$179,000	5225 de Maisonneuve Blvd. #503	\$315,000	4545 Girouard Ave. #304	\$529,000	4167 Beaconsfield Ave.
\$180,000	5225 de Maisonneuve Blvd. #502	\$317,000	5851 Sherbrooke St. #207	\$529,000	4324-6 Beaconsfield Ave.
\$189,000	3860 Decarie Blvd. #105	\$327,000	4609 Melrose Ave.	\$550,000	4135-37 Northcliffe Ave.
\$193,900	2129 Hingston Ave. #106	\$335,700	5374 NDG Ave	\$569,000	4030-32 Northcliffe Ave.
\$199,000	2129 Hingston Ave. #104	\$339,000	5402 Monkland Ave.	\$569,000	2112-14 Northcliffe Ave.
\$199,000	4510 Girouard Ave. #8	\$339,000	4343 Girouard Ave.	\$569,000	4449 Melrose Ave.
\$199,000	4510 Girouard Ave. #7	\$339,000	5429 Brodeur Ave.	\$569,000	2125-9 Hampton Ave.
\$209,000	4510 Girouard Ave. #4	\$345,000	1030-32 Addington Ave.	\$569,000	5126 NDG Ave.
\$209,000	4510 Girouard Ave. #11	\$349,000	932-34 Addington Ave.	\$569,000*	5430-32 Monkland Ave.
\$215,000	5375 NDG Ave. #207	\$375,000	5434 Brodeur Ave.	\$575,000	5399-5401 Duquette Ave.
\$215,000	4581 Oxford Ave.	\$385,000	925-7 Clifton Ave.	\$599,000	4075-77 Northcliffe Ave.
\$219,000	4510 Girouard Ave. #6	\$389,000	2205 Hampton Ave.	\$599,000	5375 NDG Ave. #202
\$224,000	4510 Girouard Ave. #5	\$389,000	2207 & 2207A Hampton Ave.	\$599,000	2065 Wilson Ave.
\$224,000	4510 Girouard Ave. #3	\$389,000	4335 Harvard Ave.	\$623,900	2041 Wilson Ave.
\$229,000	4510 Girouard Ave. #9	\$391,000	4533 Harvard Ave.	\$630,000	4340 Draper Ave.
\$239,000	2123 Hingston Ave. #104	\$399,000	2271-3 Hingston Ave.	\$639,000	4049 Grey Ave.
\$244,500	2151 Harvard Ave. #309	\$399,000	982-86 Melrose Ave.	\$649,000	4413 Decarie Blvd.
\$244,900	4510 Girouard Ave. #12	\$399,000	4166 Girouard Ave.	\$707,863	4174 Melrose Ave.
\$254,000	2207 Marcil Ave.	\$399,000	4078 Northcliffe Ave.	\$749,000	4080A Girouard Ave.
\$259,000	4164 Northcliffe Ave.	\$399,000	2120-22 Clifton Ave.	\$752,160	4080B Girouard Ave.
\$260,000	2040 Decarie #2040	\$409,000	5851 Sherbrooke St. #201	\$752,160	5417-19 Duquette Ave.
\$269,000	2150 Oxford Ave. #311	\$429,900	4105-7 Decarie Blvd.	\$765,000	3814 Northcliffe Ave.
\$269,000	5375 NDG Ave. #101	\$435,000	4647 Royal Ave.	\$769,000	3434 Northcliffe Ave.
\$274,000	944 Wilson Ave.	\$439,000	2200 Melrose Ave.	\$795,000	4068-70 Grey Ave
\$275,000	3442 Prud'homme Ave.	\$448,000	4151 Hampton Ave.	\$819,000	3459 Grey Ave.
\$279,000	2151 Harvard Ave. #101	\$449,000	4439 Beaconsfield Ave.	\$855,000	3757 Marlowe Ave.
\$285,000	6635 Mackle Rd. #401	\$469,800	2217-19 Girouard Ave.	\$929,000	4191 Wilson Ave.
\$295,000	2151 Harvard Ave. #102	\$476,000	2310 Clifton Ave.	\$1,195,000	4361 Decarie Blvd. PH
\$297,000	2151 Harvard Ave. #310	\$479,000	5720 Rembrandt #403	\$1,299,000	3544 Grey Ave.
\$299,000	2027-29 Clifton Ave.	\$489,000	2277-79 Marcil Ave.		
\$299,000	2393 Regent Ave. #102	\$495,000	4322 Oxford Ave.		

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Anne Williams

FROM YOUR SCHOOL COMMISSIONER

Breakfast at St. Monica's

Well before most students have arrived, the first of several volunteers has started breakfast preparations at St. Monica School. Thelma Martinez is soon joined by others: parents and members of the local community. They busy themselves setting out juice, yogurts and cereal, cutting up oranges and apples, warming muffins and, depending on the day, slicing dozens of bagels, toasting waffles or making cheese sandwiches.

Shortly after 8:30, the first students, children in the school's daycare, show up. They've been at school for a while and are ready for a second breakfast. Room 110 is bustling now. After each child has checked in and used the hand sanitizer, it's decision time. For some, it is hard to decide whether to opt for a muffin, cold cereal or oatmeal, or just to head straight for whatever is being toasted that morning.

Next to arrive are the students who come by bus. By now the toaster is working overtime! While the students eat, the program's coordinator, Avice Roberts-Joseph and Claire Caillé, St. Monica's new principal, circulate among the tables. They offer words of encouragement to children who seem sad or who aren't eating. Avice also reminds everyone to thank the volunteers and, to use an "inside voice" when talking to their friends. Despite the number of students present, St. Monica's Breakfast Club participants

are remarkably quiet.

As class-time draws near, Joanne Hall, the school secretary and various teachers stop by. A few stragglers arrive as most of the students are leaving. They eat quickly and go off to join their peers. By now it is 9 am, over 70 students have been fed and all that is left to do is tidy up.

St. Monica's Healthy Breakfast Program was started three years ago by the school's former principal, Andre Vamvakas; a teacher, Sandra Petrucci; and Avice Roberts-Joseph, a retired teacher and active volunteer. Their goal was to make sure that students had a good start to the day: a full breakfast or something to augment what they had eaten at home, plus a chance to chat and relax before classes. As coordinator of the Breakfast Club, Avice counts on parents, parishioners at St. Monica Church and other retired teachers to help out each morning.

She and the students are grateful for the generous donations of supplies made by Share the Warmth, Generations, the local Metro, Esposito and Loblaw's, and by the many of the volunteers.

Anyone interested in helping out should contact the school at 514.369.0070.

Anne Williams is the EMSB commissioner for Ward 5, which primarily covers central and eastern NDG.

Rainwater recuperation pilot project ends under quota

Still a success: project coordinator

BY ISAAC OLSON

Though NDG's rainwater recuperation pilot project didn't score as high as hoped, the project's coordinator says the program was still successful given the district's low number of eligible homes.

Eco-quartier NDG managed to convince about 170 property owners to sign up for a program designed to divert rainwater runoff from slanted roofs to the ground rather than the roads. When launched in late May, however, the goal was to have at least 500 properties on the roster by October 1.

"Considering the conditions we have in NDG, the program was a great success," said project coordinator Yannick Adou. "NDG is pretty special. We don't have a lot of sloped roofs."

Adou said it's too early to tell if the project will continue in the future, but he would like to see it carry on because the city, the home owners and the environment all benefit.

Montreal bylaw 2008-47 states rainwater collected in gutters must be directed to soil, 1.5 metres from a building. To help residents conform to the bylaw, the city-backed Eco-quartier was put to work — launching a rainwater recuperation pilot project in Ahuntsic and NDG.

Because the city's storm drains empty into sewer lines, Montreal's pipes often back up to the point of flooding — sometimes filling NDG basements — during major storms. Rainwater runoff, as it traverses grimy streets and parking lots,



Coordinator Yannick Adou with one of the rain barrels that was used in Eco-quartier NDG's rainwater recuperation pilot project

Photo: Isaac Olson

also causes pollution, erosion and other environmental issues around the globe.

Moreover, said Adou, rainwater, when not properly diverted, damages foundations and floods cellars directly.

Adou, going door-to-door, has been busy trying to garner interest in the free pilot project. The problem, he said, when he found homes with slanted roofs, they often didn't have the gutter systems necessary to facilitate the project.

When property owners signed up, Adou, who has a degree in urban planning, assessed their home's rainwater runoff situation and then offered property-specific solutions that include items such as a rain barrel, gutter extensions and a possible subsidy of up to \$200 to build a rain garden.

The goal is to collect and redirect rainwater into the soil, watering gardens and plants with natural, untreated water, explained Andou. Once Adou set a property plan in place, Société de verdissement du Montréal métropolitain conducted the installation.

"We've been destroying the planet," Adou said, describing his strong belief in building a sustainable society.

"Now we're feeling the effects. This is what we're leaving to our children. We need to find ways to sustain. We cannot continue in the same way if we don't find ways to sustain."



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L'assemblée générale annuelle de la ligue de baseball mineur de NDG, le mardi, le 10 novembre à la Légion Royale Canadienne, 5455 boul. de Maisonneuve à 19:00

Have an interesting story idea? You can send it to us at editor@ndgfreepress.com



Noah Sidel

OFF-SIDEL

Atom CC Tigers are ready to roar

A relatively new addition due to the rapid growth of NDG Hockey in recent years, the CC-calibre division has extended the opportunity for more local athletes to play their favourite sport at a higher level.

This week, we took a look at François Blanchette's Atom team.

"We've been off to a great start; we played two exhibition games against Lorraine-Rosemère and we won the first game 6-4 after trailing 2-0 after two periods. The kids showed lots of character even though we were not playing at home and they never quit," Blanchette said.

"The next day at Doug Harvey, Rosemère tied the game at 1:31 of the third period and it ended in a 1-1 tie, but what was interesting was that Rosemère played more physically than the day before, but our Tigers played good defence and still allowed just one goal. Then we won our season opener 3-2 against the Braves last Saturday in Ahuntsic."

Often with a young group, coaches will focus on defence first and build their strategies out from there.

"Overall I can say that the kids understand their role as backcheckers, but for the rest, it's too early to tell, so we're focusing mostly on being good in front of our own net," the coach said.

"Even after the BB Hurricanes selected two NDG goalies, we still have very solid goaltending with our duo of Mathieu Gervais and Édouard Tremblay. We've only allowed seven goals in three games so far, which is very good at this level. We are playing solid defence as a team."

With that defence-first philosophy in mind, the Tigers definitely have to count on solid goaltending.

"It's much more intense and it's a bigger challenge than being on a single-letter team," Gervais said. "Being a goalie is very different from being a player because you don't skate as much and you're not always in the game, but the team relies on you to keep them in it and there is lot more pressure on the goalie – you stand alone."



Mathieu Gervais is one half of a great goalie duo.

One of the toughest things to do at any level, but particularly in CC, is to choose the talent that will make up the team.

"It's very difficult to choose the players, especially when you have to pick after AA and BB. In NDG, the selection process is very fair: The players are evaluated by a number of different people on different occasions during training camp," Blanchette explained.

"The kids are evaluated on their general skating, stickhandling and shooting skills during drills and scrimmages. All of these results are transmitted to the convenor, who prepares a spreadsheet of the results and an average is calculated for each player.

"You would be surprised how accurate this process is, and in the end, we rely on these results 99 per cent of the time."

Joshua Mindel is one of the team's two "veteran" players, having made his CC debut last season. He likes what he's seen so far.

"To be a veteran is kind of fun because I feel more confident and I have more experience playing CC-calibre opponents. I have to lead by example for my teammates and that makes me feel important," Mindel said.

"It's still early in the season to compare to last year, but our new team is made up of a great group of experienced coaches, managers and players, and I'm confident we'll have an excellent season."

Please feel free to email me any time at noahsidel@gmail.com.



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