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TMR VOLUNTEER CENTRE 2023 ‘WALK-A-TOWN’ DRAWS A CROWD

MARTIN C. BARRY

Members and supporters of the Town of Mount Royal Volunteer Centre gathered at the TMR Country Club in Connaught Park last Saturday morning for an event some in the town have come to think of as the official start of summer – the Walk-A-Town.

While the day was an opportunity to get out and walk around the town, there was also a chance to become acquainted with the games of croquet and lawn bowling at the country club, while meeting and greeting friends and neighbours who hadn't been seen during the long winter months.

Every year, Walk-a-Town is the major fundraiser for the volunteer centre, which provides support and assistance to townies in need – especially the elderly. It was the 10th year the event started from the country club and it was the 23rd annual Walk-A-Town event.

In addition to its main sources of funding, the volunteer centre brings in several thousand extra dollars each year through Walk-a-Town registration fees and money pledges brought in by participants.

Among the elected officials who turned up to show support was Councillor Antoine Tayar (representing Mayor Peter Malouf who was away on official business), town councillor Caroline Decaluwe, Quebec Liberal MNA for Mont-Royal-Outremont Michelle Setlakwe and Mount Royal Liberal MP Anthony Housefather.

This year's walk was along a route 3-5 kilometres long. Those who completed the circuit along several of the town's streets were invited back to the country club where a BBQ lunch was served beginning around 12 noon.



Mount Royal MP Anthony Housefather (centre) is seen here with members of his Constituency Youth Council helping lead the walkers at the start of the 2023 Walk-A-Town event in Connaught Park last Saturday.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste

For many, it was a return to normal after the disruptions brought about by the Covid pandemic. The volunteer centre had been unable to organize Walk-A-Town events in 2021 and 2022.

The weather was perfect and everyone seemed in an upbeat mood. "We're blessed with this wonderful weather," said Town of Mount Royal Volunteer Centre president Caroline Emblem.

"We have a wonderful turnout of people, and we are very, very happy to see so many people

who are able to come out and support our volunteer centre's fundraising event. I think this is our most popular event. It's wonderful to see supporters come out year after year. We really appreciate that."

"It was a pleasure to join Mont-Royal—Outremont MNA Michelle Setlakwe, Députée de Mont-Royal - Outremont, TMR Councillors Antoine Tayar and Caroline Decaluwe, and members of my Mount Royal Constituency Youth Council at the Marche-en-Ville charity walking event in support of the TMR Volunteer Centre," Housefather wrote on his Facebook

page afterwards.

Résumé

Des partisans du Centre de bénévolat de Ville Mont-Royal se sent réunis dans le parc Connaught samedi dernier pour participer dans le départ officiel pour l'événement Marche-en-ville 2023 qui sert comme levée de fonds pour le centre.

C'était la dixième année que les participants faisaient le départ au country club. En plus, c'était la 23e année pour la Marche-en-ville.



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LE MAIRE PETER MALOUF DÉFEND LE STATUT BILINGUE DE VILLE MONT-ROYAL



Au cours de la séance du conseil municipal du 25 avril, Alex Bastien, un jeune Monterois de l'avenue Jasper, interrogeait le maire Peter Malouf sur la nécessité de maintenir le statut bilingue de la municipalité, tenant compte que les anglophones ne représentent actuellement que 23% de la population de VMR.

Photo : Martin C. Barry, La Poste de VMR

MARTIN C. BARRY

Au cours de la séance du conseil de ville du 25 avril, un jeune Monterois de l'avenue Jasper soulevait des questions au maire Peter Malouf au sujet du statut de ville bilingue que la municipalité affirmait au gouvernement caquiste il y a quelque mois.

En décembre l'an dernier, l'Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) avisait 47 municipalités à travers le Québec qu'elles pourraient perdre leur statut de bilinguisme, puisque le pourcentage d'anglophones parmi la population de chacune n'atteignait plus le seuil de 50%.

Ainsi, à la séance du conseil de janvier 2023, les conseillers adoptaient une résolution en faveur de maintenir le statut bilingue de VMR. Selon la Loi sur la Charte de la langue française, l'adoption d'une telle résolution assurait le maintien du statut bilingue de la ville.

« Il y a quelques mois, le conseil municipal a voté pour la préservation du bilinguisme institutionnel à Ville Mont-Royal, Alex Bastien rappelait au maire Malouf. Ce geste est lourd de sens. On se souvient même que le bilinguisme institutionnel représente une valeur fondamentale de Ville Mont-Royal. Je dis bien fondamentale ».

Citant quelques chiffres du dernier rapport de Statistique Canada, il rapellait que seuls 23% de la population de Ville Mont-Royal est actuellement de langue maternelle anglaise.

Soulignant que le dossier le la langue appartient à l'Assemblée nationale du Québec, mais que les municipalités peuvent agir sur de nombreux plans, « particulièrement lorsqu'elles ont le choix d'arrêter d'imposer un bilinguisme institutionnel, précisait M. Bastien, lorsque leur réalité historique a considérablement changé et que la population anglophone ne représente plus la même proportion qu'auparavant », il posait la question suivante au maire.

« Face au déclin du français et considérant que la réalité historique de Ville Mont-Royal a considérablement changé, pourquoi décider que Ville Mont-Royal demeure une municipalité bilingue? »

Le maire Malouf lui répondait, « On y croit au conseil que le multilinguisme est important dans la société. Ville Mont-Royal a toujours desservi tous les membres de la population, les résidents de Ville Mont-Royal qui sont anglophones ou francophones.

« Et même si les pourcentages ont changé à Ville Mont-Royal le nombre d'anglophones qui sont enregistrés ici, je crois que c'est important de respecter toutes les langues. Et en faisant ça, on respecte ça en étant bilingue. Et on va continuer à rester bilingue ici à Ville Mont-Royal comme plusieurs autres villes sur l'île de Montréal. Et on trouve ça une richesse et une valeur qui est très importante pour tous les résidents et c'est la décision que le conseil a prise ».

Répondant à une question supplémentaire de M. Bastien, le maire prétendait de ne pouvoir exprimer une opinion sur des faits démographiques d'ici cinq ou dix ans. « Ça pourrait changer, disait-il. Mais pour le moment, étant donné les faits que nous avons devant nous, on va continuer à être bilingue ».

Summary

During the April 25 town council meeting, a young Townie from Jasper Ave. questioned Mayor Peter Malouf on the viability of upkeeping the town's bilingual status, taking into account that English-speakers now make up only 23 per cent of the population of TMR.



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940 Ch. MacNaughton

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Ce grand cottage détaché de 4+2 chambres à coucher et 3+1 salles de bain est situé sur un terrain de coin dans un secteur recherché du côté ouest de VMR. Il a un design à aire ouverte avec salle familiale au rez-de-chaussée, d'énormes fenêtres et une grande mezzanine au 3e étage donnant sur VMR.

4+2 3+1 7



136 Balfour Ave. Prix demandé 1 489 000\$

Charmant maison centenaire dans un endroit convoité au centre d'une rue calme et bordée d'arbres. Beaucoup de son caractère d'origine conservé, elle possède une cuisine intemporelle avec comptoirs en granit, 3 chambres et deux salles de bain à l'étage, ainsi qu'un boudoir au RDC. Terrain près de 7300pc!

3+1 3.5 6



756 Cr. Lanark Prix révisé 1 585 000\$

Lumineuse et grande maison à pallier multiples, sur un croissant tranquille. Elle offre plus de 2700p.c. de superficie habitable avec un garage double, un salon avec fenestration abondante, salle familiale spacieuse avec foyer, 5 chambres à coucher et 3 salles de bain complètes plus une salle d'eau

4+1 3.5 6



1475 Ch. Regent Prix demandé 610 000\$

Haut de duplex lumineux situé au plein centre de Ville Mont-Royal. 2 chambres + solarium qui peut servir de bureau. Stationnement extérieur, 5 électroménagers incluant laveuse & sècheuse dans le logement. Emplacement pratique près des écoles St-Clément et Académie St-Clément, le futur REM, et ++

2 1 1



250 Av. Lockhart Prix demandé 2 289 000\$

Maison détachée de plus de 2800p.c. avec 5 chambres spacieuses et 2 salles de bain au 2e étage. Maison impeccable et en état parfait, prête à emménager. À seulement quelques pas de l'école Dunrae Gardens, du parc Mohawk, et à proximité de nombreuses commodités quotidiennes et transport.

5 2.5 3



1090 Boul Graham no. 4

Prix demandé 1 335 000\$

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3 2 2



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Faith

YOU CAN HAVE WHAT YOU REALLY WANT!

Bob Proctor, internationally renowned motivational consultant, said: "I have worked all over the world and I'm always asking people, 'What do you really want?' And I have found most people don't want to be really wealthy. What they do want is not to have any financial concerns. If they want to buy a new suit, they can go and get one. If they want to take a trip, they can take the trip. If they want a new car, they can get the new car. They don't want to just go and spend and buy; they just don't want to have any financial concerns.

"Secondly, they want to wake up in the morning, excited about how they're going to spend the day. And thirdly, they want to mix with people who are upbeat and creatively productive. These are the things people really want."

How, then, should people go about getting what they really want? Proctor says that the first thing people should do is to understand how to have proper goals. Most people are operating with a limited level of consciousness and think: 'If I could get a little more money, and if I could get him to help me, and if this happened, then I could do this; then I could get a new car, or whatever their goal is.'

"What we've got to understand is we're trading our life for our goals. So the goal has got to be something really meaningful. And we're not taught to think this way. We should sit down and not give any thought to where the money, or the help, is going to come from. Just think about WHAT you REALLY WANT." The important thing is our DESIRE rather than knowing HOW.

The Wright Brothers were bicycle mechanics in Dayton, Ohio. No one believed they could fly. They'd been trying for years and they wanted to fly. They didn't know how, and they couldn't tell you how, until after they had done it. Now, their first flight only lasted 12 seconds, and the naysayers said, 'They were only up for 12 seconds.' The Wright Brothers said, 'We not only got the plane up there, but we kept it up there for 12 seconds.'

"When a person sets a goal, they have to say: 'What could I want if I just let my mind wander and use my imagination to answer the question, how do I really want this?' That's what they should be doing; that's where it should start. Then don't listen to anyone who says it can't be done. Rather, go to someone who has done something creative and ask them 'What should I do?' And then do exactly what the person tells them."

Here's the key: Imagination has the power to unlock the doors that seem impossible to

open. Albert Einstein is quoted as saying, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know now and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand." Again he said, "The true sign of intelligence is not KNOWLEDGE, but IMAGINATION."

Napoleon Hill, 20th century motivational guru, pointed out that "imagination is the most marvellous, miraculous, inconceivably powerful force that the world has ever known." The average individual uses their imagination, if they use it at all, against themselves. They imagine what they don't want; they imagine problems coming. We should begin to use our imagination the way God meant it to be used. It's the greatest creative faculty that we possess and we can build anything we want with it.

In addition to our five sensory faculties, we have the higher faculties of perception, the will, memory, intuition, reason and imagination. Bob Proctor says we can take our imagination and build an image in our mind of how we want to live. Block out what is going on now. Don't let your present results have anything to do with this, just focus on what you want. And it is with your imagination that you will build it. He has this famous saying: "IF YOU CAN SEE IT IN YOUR MIND, YOU CAN HOLD IT IN YOUR HAND."

Everything we have was first created in the mind of an individual. We're God's highest form of creation and have been given these creative faculties to use. But they're only used by 2 or 3% of the population. It's almost inconceivable that we would walk around with so much power and potential and squander it. The average person does not believe that they are creative. Everyone is creative. It's just that some have chosen to use their creative faculties to a greater degree than others.

What do you REALLY want? Build the picture in your mind. There's a creative power that is flowing in and through you. Build beautiful images in your mind of how you want to live and then hold those pictures there and live that way. If you keep your imagination alive, keep it active, you're going to have a phenomenal life. Always live with the German poet Goethe's words as inspiration: "BE BOLD AND MIGHTY FORCES WILL COME TO YOUR AID."

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ARTTRAM'S 'SALON D'ART' 2023 EXHIBITED 175 ORIGINAL WORKS

MARTIN C. BARRY

More than 175 framed original works by 55 ArtTram artists were on exhibit in Schofield Hall last Friday and Saturday during the local arts group's 2023 Salon d'Art.

All artworks were available for purchase, including a number of unframed works which were set up on floor displays. There was a big turnout by many Townies and their families for this much anticipated annual event.

It had been more than 20 years since the former TRAM staged its first art show. ArtTRAM, as it is now known, currently has 75 members. The styles included virtually every type imaginable. As TMR is now populated by a highly diverse cross-section of ethnicities, the artists explored a wide range of subject matters.

"We're very, very proud of the works shown here and the dedication and participation of the members who worked very hard in conjunction with our excellent board to pull this together," said longtime ArtTRAM president Lori Burnett, noting that the board received strong support from the town, as well as local federal and provincial officials.

According to Burnett, around three-quarters of the artists in the show were residents of TMR. "We have many, many demands from outside, but we try to keep a balance," she said, agreeing that there is a lot of artistic talent in TMR.

She said ArtTRAM appreciated the town's allowing Schofield Hall to be used as the venue. "We wish that there were more places to show art in the community," said Burnett. "We would use whatever is out there."

Among the venues where ArtTRAM currently



The vernissage last Friday evening in Schofield Hall for ArtTRAM's 2023 Salon d'Art.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste

displays or stages shows of its members' art is the Dupond et Dupont bakery/café on Canora Rd. (where a new artist is shown each month), as well as at the Reginald J. P. Dawson Library on Graham Blvd. where ArtTRAM will be staging an exhibition of members' work in the fall.

"This exhibition is always a highly anticipated and popular event in our community and remains a wonderful opportunity for us to discover and recognize the many local talents throughout the town," said town councillor

Antoine Tayar, who was representing the mayor who was in Gatineau for the Union of Quebec Municipalities' annual general meeting.

"The annual ArtTRAM show has become one of our finest cultural traditions," said Tayar. "For years, it has been a pleasure to see the town hall welcome the best artists of Mount Royal in the span of a few days. I would like to congratulate all those who have participated in preparing such a beautiful show for us, the artists who participated in the exhibition and, specially, the members of the ArtTRAM Board

of Directors."

Résumé

Plus de 175 œuvres encadrées de 55 artistes membres de ArtTram étaient exposées au Salon Schofield pour le Salon d'Art 2023.

Les œuvres d'art étaient disponibles à l'achat, y compris un certain nombre d'entre eux non encadré qui était installé sur des présentoirs. C'était un événement bien attendu.



Bonjour à tous nos citoyens, visiteurs et lecteurs occasionnels; ci-bas est la liste courante des points de dépôts publics où vous pouvez trouver La Poste de VMR.

Hello to all our citizens, visitors and occasional readers; here beneath is the current list of public deposit points where you can find The TMR Poste.

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ABOUT MUNICIPAL TAX INCREASES OF 2023

Darlene Cattiny
Brittany Ave.

It seems each month our mayor shifts the goalposts on his new taxation model that has disproportionately put the burden on tenants living in 6+ dwellings. First he claimed landlords are business people who have a choice whether to pass on their expenses to tenants or not. When he got pushback he doubled down the next month, talking about cumulative growth rates (CGRs) and the expenses landlords can deduct that homeowners cannot, and if tenants aren't happy they can fight the increase at the rental board. Now he has taken a different tack, claiming that the proportionate share per tenant is less than the average homeowner, therefore the hike is "not as egregious as has been presented."

Fact: My building evaluation went up 40% with a corresponding 45% property tax increase.

Fact: That increase has been passed onto each tenant IN FULL.

Fact: In a court hearing to fix the rent, matters of landlords' choice, CGRs and deductions have no relevance.

Fact: If landlords have the receipts to back up their submitted expenses – as they do with the property taxes – tenants' not only lose but have to pay the court costs.

Fact: The calculation formula used by the rental board takes into account a landlord's FULL expenses to come up with one percentage that is then applied to each tenant.

Fact: If we were only paying a 3.5% property tax increase as the mayor is now claiming, my actual rent increase would be much lower than it is.

Fact: My rent increase has tripled from last year with more than a third of it just for the property tax because of the much higher mill rate applied to 6+ dwellings.

While one tenant alone is not responsible for the entire property tax increase of an apartment building – what he must mean by proportionate share – if one were to apply this logic across the board, for example on the island of Montreal, a tenant would not be paying an average 7% increase in property tax but a proportion of that which would be negligible if we go by his calculation model which has our 45% increase reduced to 3.5%. The end result however



One of the many buildings renting apartments in Town of Mount Royal.

Photo; Centris.ca

would still be the same. We are paying far more proportionally in property taxes than other tenants outside of TMR because of his taxation model. In actuality, this 3.5% which makes up only one component of our rent increase is BASED ON A FULL 45% hike in property taxes. For our mayor to now pit this 3.5% figure against the average homeowner who is paying a 6.92% increase in property tax is disingenuous at best and also leaves out the inconvenient fact that tenants do not have equity in the buildings in which they live.

Does the mayor also not realize that 3.5% for an actual rent increase would be considered high, never mind as just one component? Tenants already knew they were facing hefty rent hikes this year thanks to rental board percentages set for heat at 4.5%, plus insurance, maintenance, etc... What was shocking was that a mayor who is supposed to be working for the entire community would choose to add to rather than ease the burden of those least able to afford it. Mayors use mill rates to reduce the impact of property taxes when assessment rolls jump. This mayor has done the exact opposite to one third of the TMR community. Who has ever heard of a property tax percentage being more than the evaluation after a mill rate has been applied? It makes zero sense. Or in times of inflation applying a mill rate (.6548) that is higher than the previous year (.6326)?

What's even worse is contrary to his purported sympathy for tenants when his taxation model first came to light - in answer to my question at the April council meeting - he knew exactly

how things worked at the rental board before he adopted his taxation model. So despite his vehemence in February and March that it was the landlords' choice to pass on their expenses, in reality he knew they were not only justified in doing so, but would win in a court hearing, all while telling tenants they can go fight the increase. And now he's pivoted from the landlords' choice, to tenants don't really have it so bad. It's hard not to feel like you're being gaslighted.

It is very disappointing on all levels and the fact that he has been so stubbornly intransigent with what seems like a glaring lack of empathy for the situation he's put tenants in, has me very concerned about what's coming next and his plans for the urban vision. I'm not sure if he was joking when he mentioned having PTSD from a couple of landlords who challenged his misguided taxation model in the now infamous February council meeting. Speaking for many tenants I can say if not outright PTSD, he has given us much stress, worry and sleepless nights. As a lifelong Town resident I have never felt so unsettled wondering if this is the beginning of tenants' being slowly squeezed out of their homes and community.

In a tight rental market with housing shortages and the threat of renoviction always looming, many government officials have put procedures in place to actually help tenants rather than add to their hardship. In both Ontario and BC this year they put caps on rent increases of 2.5% and 2% respectively. The previous year Ontario put a freeze on rent increases. Other

provinces have put in place a spike protection mechanism for when evaluation rolls jump as they did here. I am aware that none of this is in the mayor's control. But setting the mill rate was in his control and he made the choice to go for the maximum on tenants' backs.

Renters are one third of the TMR community including people on their own, single parents, young families, the elderly, students, recent arrivals, etc... In other words those who struggle as it is with the expenses of daily living. Many live on limited and fixed incomes and most cannot afford this huge hit. What might have seemed like a minor decision, will greatly affect some to the point where they will have to cut back on food or medicine to absorb this increase. Rather than diminishing the true impact as he was doing in the last council meeting, I hope going forward he factors in the human cost of his decisions.

I'd like to end by thanking homeowners who have stood up on tenants' behalf with regard to this unfair and unbalanced taxation model. While I know some homeowners got very minimal property tax increases – in some cases I as a tenant with no equity in my building am paying multiple times what some homeowners are with homes valued at \$2 million plus – others got significant increases, though nowhere near the 45% and up apartment dwellers are paying. So I am deeply appreciative to all those that despite this two-tiered, unjust and divisive taxation model have advocated on our behalf. Thank you to my fellow Townies.

TMR Poste
DE MONT-ROYAL

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