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## MAYOR REFUTES TENANT'S LINE OF REASONING FOR TAX-LINKED RENT INCREASES



**Darlene Cattiny, an apartment tenant from TMR's Brittany Ave., tried to contest Mayor Peter Malouf's arguments since last year that tenants haven't been as seriously impacted by property tax and rent increases as some people claim they have.**

**Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste**

### MARTIN C. BARRY

Mayor Peter Malouf spent a few minutes during the first question period of the January 24 town council meeting refuting the arguments of a Brittany Ave. apartment tenant who rejected the mayor's explanations after last year's apartment building property tax increases, which some see as the cause of steep local residential rent hikes.

Darlene Cattiny said she was disappointed that the mayor's administration decided to apply a maximum allowable mill rate increase this year after first doing so last year.

She dismissed the mayor's previous statements about the impact on rents compared to single-family home tax increases, saying that

"in reality we actually paid six times more than what the homeowners paid."

And she questioned the veracity of a study the mayor said he carried out on costs paid by renters over the years, claiming that she and other tenants in her building had paid increases close to 11 per cent since 2017.

She asked the mayor to publish his calculations publicly on the town's new website "so tenants can try to get an understanding of where you're coming from." Mayor Malouf maintained that Cattiny's information and facts were fundamentally flawed.

He said he obtained his information by downloading it from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., which conducts analyses of residential rental housing in most Canadian

regions, including Town of Mount Royal.

"The actual increase this year for tenants, which you are quoting, is totally incorrect," Mayor Malouf told Cattiny, while stating that the median price for a 3 ½ room apartment in TMR, according to CMHC figures.

"The portion that represents the increase for tenants in a rental apartment in a six-plex and more who pays \$1,800 is .4 per cent," said Malouf.

The mayor said he would be "more than happy" to meet with Cattiny to explain the data in detail, while adding that when he met with other tenants to hear them out on the issue "they were fully satisfied when I showed them all the numbers," he said.

Responding to additional questions from

Cattiny, the mayor maintained that a tax increase on apartment buildings last year was largely due to a massive hike in property valuations that was not within the town's power to control. "We have nothing to do with the evaluations," he said. "We only set the mill rate."

### Résumé

Le maire Peter Malouf était préoccupé au cours d'une période de plusieurs minutes durant la séance du conseil de ville du 24 janvier à contredire les revendications d'une locataire de l'avenue Brittany. Madame Darlene Cattiny rejetait les explications antérieures du maire pour les hausses de taxes sur les bâtiments d'appartements où les loyers ont augmenté au cours des deux dernières années.

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# LA LOI DU STATIONNEMENT HANDICAPÉ DEVRAIT ÊTRE APPLIQUÉE, DIT UN MONTEROIS

MARTIN C. BARRY

Au cours de la séance du conseil municipal de VMR du 24 janvier, le maire Peter Malouf attestait qu'il était en accord avec l'opinion d'un résident qui soutenait qu'un certain nombre d'automobilistes de VMR ne respectent pas la réglementation pour les espaces de stationnement réservés aux handicapés et qu'il serait peut-être bon temps que les amendes soient augmentées.

Brian Morton du boulevard Graham avait soulevé cette question pendant une séance antérieure du conseil il y a plus d'un an. Cette fois-ci, il demandait au maire Malouf de faire appliquer la loi auprès des contrevenants et d'augmenter les amendes.

« Comparé à d'autres juridictions, vous vous trouvez en dessous des montants facturés dans d'autres endroits et les gens en rient tout simplement », lançait M. Morton. « Or je vous demande encore une fois d'augmenter les amendes précisément pour le stationnement des handicapés ».

Selon les dires de M. Norton, l'amende pour une utilisation non autorisée d'un espace de stationnement pour handicapés à VMR ne dépasserait pas 180\$ actuellement. « C'est bien en-dessous de la norme à n'importe quel autre endroit ».

Le maire lui répondait qu'il était complètement d'accord. « À vrai dire, on pourrait dire que je j'insiste beaucoup sur la sécurité du stationnement, disait le maire Malouf. Quand j'aperçois des gens qui stationnent des espaces



Un résident de VMR demande au maire Malouf d'augmenter les amendes imposées aux automobilistes qui stationnent sans permis dans des espaces réservés exclusivement aux handicapés.

Photo : Martin C. Barry, La Poste de VMR

pour les handicapés, et ils n'ont pas de vignette et ils débarquent de leur auto et s'en vont faire leurs commissions, ça me trouble énormément et je cours après eux ».

« On est de même bord, ajoutait le maire. Just pour que tu saches que je suis d'accord et nous allons jeter un coup d'œil sur les amendes,

mais je pense que ce serait l'application de la loi qui serait importante sans aucun doute ».

Tout de même, le maire insistait sur le fait qu'il n'aurait pas l'autorité de livrer des billets d'infraction, si quand même M. Morton soulignait que l'objectif serait de décourager les contrevenants en leur imposant quelque chose de douloureux.

Le maire offrait la suggestion « qu'un couple de milliers serait bon » comme amende. M. Morton répondait qu'il avait l'impression que l'amende serait aux alentours de 400\$.

Selon la Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, l'utilisation frauduleuse d'un stationnement pour personnes handicapées alors que vous n'êtes pas titulaire d'une vignette ou que celle-ci n'est pas valide est une infraction passible d'une amende de 200 \$ à 300 \$.

## Summary

During the Jan. 24 meeting of TMR town council, Mayor Peter Malouf said he was in complete agreement with a retired Graham Blvd. resident who complained that a number of motorists from the town were flaunting handicapped parking space regulations, and that it might be about time to increase the fines.

According to the Société d'assurance automobile du Québec, fraudulent use of an accessible parking space by someone who does not hold an accessible parking permit, or whose permit is not valid, is subject to a fine of \$200 to \$300.

## EXECUTIVE LEAGUE'S PREDATORS PLAY TO A 3-3 TIE AGAINST ROYALS



TMRPredatorsVsRoyalsJan24-2: Royals No. 23 Tom Wilson angles for control of the puck on the edge of the Predators net in last Wednesday's match at the town arena.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste

MARTIN C. BARRY

In an era of professional hockey when the NHL no longer allows tied scores in regular season games, the tradition persists at the amateur level, with a 3-3 deadlock last week between the TMR Executive Hockey League's Predators and Royals as an example for possible debate. Since the 2005-2006 hockey season, the National Hockey League has relied on shootouts so that all games are decided with a winner and loser.

This was done following a time in NHL history in the 1990s when scores were comparatively low because of the defensive brand of hockey being played. NHL team owners and managers decided something was needed to bring excitement back to the game.

Although it's understandable that at the

recreational and amateur level overtime isn't something that comes easy, because arena ice time is booked for fixed periods, regular season games in the Executive League still end in ties, as the match earlier this week demonstrated.

In a way, it's owing to the strength of the defensive players on both the Royals and the Predators that this kind of deadlock is possible at all.

It's somewhat remarkable when you consider that the Predators were confronting the second-place Royals from their spot only one level up from the five-team TMREHL's basement, which has been occupied by the Jets virtually all this season.

Normally, the Predators should have been blown away, just as the Jets were in their match later that night against the third-place Senators who won by a score of 8-2. But such is the way things tend to work out in TMR Executive



TMRPredatorsVsRoyalsJan24: The Royals evened the score to 1-1 against the Predators in this shot near the end of the second period in last Wednesday evening's TMR Executive Hockey League match.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Poste

Hockey League play.

The defensive power of both teams was on full display during the first period, which failed to generate any scoring.

It was a full six and a half minutes into the second period when Predators centre Robert David finally broke the ice, scoring against Royals netminder Avi Elmaleh, assisted by Predators right-wingers Charles Escaravage and Angelo Mylonakis.

The Royals waited nearly six more minutes to exact their revenge. Royals left-wingman Alex Antonatos did the honors with help from teammates Jean-François Legault and Christian Beauséjour, for a 1-1 count on the board up to that point.

The final period was a fairly frantic scorefest, each team producing two goals each. For the Predators, Robert David and Charles Escaravage earned their team's third period

scoring credits, with Escaravage assisting David on his goal, and John Litwiller and Angelo Mylonakis assisting Escaravage in his effort.

The Royals' two last period goals were scored by Jean-François Legault and Stefanos Maris, assisted by Christian Beauséjour, Billy Freedin and Telly Loukas.

## Résumé

Les Predators et les Royals de la Ligue exécutive de hockey de Ville Mont-Royal ont conclu un match à l'aréna municipal de VMR mercredi soir dernier avec un comptage final de 3-3.

La réglementation actuelle de la ligue ne permet pas des prolongations des matchs au cours de la saison régulière, pour qu'il y ait un vainqueur.

# IT'S TIME TO JUMP!

W. Clement Stone, insurance magnate, prominent philanthropist, was at a dinner with Dr. Karl Menninger, and a well-known pastor. They were discussing "great concepts". The pastor said, "To my mind faith is the greatest concept." Clement Stone replied, "I think there is something more important than believing. Action! The world is full of dreamers, there aren't enough who will move ahead and begin to take concrete steps to actualize their visions."

At the beginning of a new year we are encouraged to make new resolutions. Often those resolutions are cast aside shortly after making them, even though we know that "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." Here's the point: procrastination is our greatest enemy. Delays will turn creative opportunities into hollow possibilities.

The German philosopher, Goethe, wrote: "Lose this day loitering, twill be the same story tomorrow and the next more dilatory. Indecision brings its own delays and days are lost lamenting over day. Action - there is courage, magic in it. Anything you can do, or think you can, begin it. Once started, the mind grows heated. Begin the job and the work will be completed."

Some of the most frequently used excuses that hold us back are these: "I don't have the right connections." "I don't have the investment money to start a new business." "I'm living in the wrong part of the country." Or, one of the most powerful, "I'm too old to start again!"

Is seventy-seven years of age too old to begin a new life? If you are a creative and positive personality you'll think you have another ten or twenty years left. In 1972 Frieda Schulze celebrated, at the age of eighty-seven, her escape from East Berlin ten years before. At the age of seventy-seven she took the plunge toward a new life. "I still shudder when I think about it," she said, as she recalled the incident that made newspaper headlines around the world. "But it was worth it."

When the East German Communists built their wall across Berlin on August 13, 1961, Frau Schulze lived on the ground floor of an apartment house right on the border of Bernauerstrasse in Berlin's wedding district. The sidewalk was in West Berlin but the house belonged to the East. As East German police and troops uncoiled barbed wire, hundreds of people on the east side of Bernauerstrasse, which became known as the saddest street in the world, threw a few belongings out of windows and escaped. The East Germans then bricked up ground floor windows and moved the remaining residents into upper level apartments vacated by those who had escaped.

Frau Schulze said, "They moved me up too, and when I got to the new apartment I sat there as if I was paralyzed. I had no light in the apartment. Finally I could not stand it anymore, and on September 23 I decided to escape. I tied a rope to my biggest armchair and I planned to let myself down on it. I lay awake all night thinking about it and the next morning I was ready to do anything. I was going to jump."

What happened next was captured in news photos that were transmitted around the world. Frau Schulze climbed onto the windowsill. The moment she was spotted by West German police officers, the fire brigade was called. A net was spread fifteen feet below her. In her arms she clutched her cat. The people started yelling "Grandma, jump" over and over. The East German police heard the noise, broke into her apartment and tried to pull her back.

The West Berliners on the sidewalk saw her plight. A young man climbed into the windowsill of the ground floor. He reached up and grabbed Frau Schulze's leg and began pulling her down while a communist police officer pulled one arm upward. The other hand still held her cat. She recalled, "I threw the cat into the net and I jumped." The crowd roared with joy and applauded her escape. She was lucky, injuring her hip only slightly.

The image of Frau Schulze's escape on the windowsill is an apt image for us as we face the future with our goals in sight. There we are with our eyes on our goal with one arm pulled towards the goal, while our other arm is being held by forces and attitudes which tie us to our past with all our fears and uncertainties. It's easy to stay in that kind of limbo.

What is called for is Frau Schulze's attitude of faith and determination, "I was ready to do anything. I was going to jump... I threw the cat into the net and I jumped."

The future beckons to each one of us. No matter our restrictions and hesitations, however seemingly real, we are called to set our creative, positive goals and then take that risk and jump!, having the faith that maintains: "With God, all things are possible." In many ways our slogan for the new year should echo Nike's slogan: "JUST DO IT!" AND JUMP.

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# ARTTRAM Tamara Zakon



ARTISTE DE LA SEMAINE  
THIS WEEK'S ARTIST

« Av Lajoie lit by  
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