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1 MARS 2024

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CARLYLE ELEMENTARY WELCOMES BACK MODERN DANCE LEGEND MARGIE GILLIS



Margie Gillis joined Carlyle Elementary students in an improvised dance number during her visit last week to the school where she was once enrolled as a student.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Post

Mayor Peter Malouf had the honour of meeting Margie Gillis last week during her visit to Carlyle Elementary School.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Post

MARTIN C. BARRY

Looking almost as youthful as in her heyday with a waist-length mane of hair, legendary modern dancer and choreographer Margie Gillis was back last week in TMR where she grew up, delivering an inspirational message to children at Carlyle Elementary School.

Mayor Peter Malouf and town manager Ava Couch joined students from Carlyle's grades three, four, five and six to welcome Gillis in the gym. She was a grade three student at Carlyle back in the early 1960s.

Margie Gillis grew up in a home located not far from the corner of Athlone Rd. and Graham Blvd. near the town centre. She came from

a family that thrived on physical activity and athletics.

Her parents, Gene Gillis and Rhona Wurtele, were Olympic skiers. Her brother, Jere, had a long and productive career playing hockey in the NHL, while another brother, Christopher, was a professional dancer like Margie.

In an interview for the Carlyle students, she told former CJAD radio host Dan Laxer that she seriously considered becoming a professional in social services, although in the end dancing won her heart. "I like dancing in nature a lot," she said emphatically.

Gillis developed her art over nearly five decades, shattering norms while inspiring audiences. In 2023, she celebrated 50 years of creation and dance, assembling a repertoire of

over a hundred works.

Among her many honours and awards is the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement. She is also a Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

In 2020, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Concordia University in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to modern dance, teaching, and activism as one of the most influential dancers and choreographers of her generation.

The Margie Gillis Dance Foundation, created in 1981, enables her to depict human weaknesses and vulnerabilities, and to celebrate humanity's hopes through the power of creation. In recent years, her teaching has kept her busy. In 2023,

she performed her final solo, OLD, to a sold-out audience at the Agora de la danse in Montreal.

Margie Gillis also prides herself on being a socially committed artist. She has been spokesperson for a number of organizations dedicated to the fight against AIDS, as well as for OXFAM and the Planned Parenthood Foundation.

Résumé

La chorégraphe et danseuse québécoise de renommée mondiale Margie Gillis rencontrait les jeunes étudiantes et étudiants de l'école Carlyle Elementary la semaine dernière.

Mme Gillis a grandi à VMR. La famille Gillis habitait un foyer tout près de l'intersection du chemin Athlone et le boulevard Graham.

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Président: Pascal Richard
Comptable: San Lu Ly
Édition: Pascal Richard
Collaborateurs: Martin C. Barry
Dr. Brian Gazzard

Conseil comptable: Ciani & Associés
Production: Pascal Richard
Ventes: Pascal Richard
Publié par: STELE Médias inc.

La Poste de Mont-Royal est distribué par le site web de Stele Médias toutes les semaines, 48 fois par an.

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SENATORS PREVAIL OVER ROYALS IN DECISIVE 4-1 EXECUTIVE LEAGUE WIN

MARTIN C. BARRY

A decisive 4-1 win last week by the TMR Executive League's Senators against the Royals failed to move the Sens from a third place standing into a higher spot.

However, it demonstrated that some fierce playing may still lie ahead as the league's number two and number three teams vie for the right to challenge the league-leading Capitals in the season playoffs beginning next month.

The Sens/Royals Wednesday evening 9 pm game bestowed the Senators with 17 wins this season, compared to 16 for the Royals, although the latter team has 40 overall points compared to the Senators' 38.

The Capitals' 21 game wins and 45 points in 2023-24 – compared to just 16 and 40 for their closest competitor – leave little room for doubt as to who the second-place finalist should be facing in the end, although there have been some swift and dramatic reversals of fortune in recent seasons of TMREHL play.

If the league followed a tradition of naming a Star of the Game, in this instance it would undoubtedly be Senators forward Carl Belhumeur, who delivered all of his team's four goals against Royals netminder Avi Elmaleh.

The Senators dominated the first period, scoring twice and shutting out the Royals in that initial 13 minutes of play. Belhumeur singlehandedly scored the game's first goal at 04:56, following up almost exactly eight minutes later, with assistance from teammates Chris Mandelos and Stephen Murphy.

With a score of 2-0 during the opening third of play, the second period went scoreless curiously enough, although it was not without some horseplay that resulted in two-minute penalties for the Sens' Belhumeur and Justin Freedin of the Royals.

The first period also saw penalties handed out to both teams: a two-minute minor to Royals No. 9 left-winger Alex Antonatos after he ran into Senators goaltender Michael Gathercole (who was lingering quite a bit outside his net area), followed by another two minutes to the Senators' defenceman Daniel Levasseur around a minute and a half later.

The Royals scored their only goal just 16 seconds into the third period, courtesy of their No. 13 left-wing Waleed Zakem, with help from seasoned veteran Christian Charbonneau and No. 23 forward Tom Wilson.

The rest of the match belonged to the Senators, with Belhumeur scoring twice (01:20 and 12:22), assisted by Mandelos, as well as by Murphy in both instances.

Résumé

Les Senators de la Ligue exécutive de hockey de Ville Mont-Royal ont défait les Royals 4-1 dans un match à l'aréna municipal mercredi soir dernier. Les résultats à date indiqueraient que l'équipe qui se trouvera en seconde place aura à s'affronter aux Capitals dans les éliminatoires en mars.



TMRSenatorsVsRoyalsFeb21-1: Royals team members celebrate following their only goal scored in the 4-1 loss against the Senators.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Post



TMRSenatorsVsRoyalsFeb21-2: Senators No. 11 defenceman Chris Mandelos makes an unsuccessful attempt to slip the puck past Royals net defender Avi Elmaleh during last Wednesday's 9 pm game at the town arena.

Photo: Martin C. Barry, TMR Post

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OUR FOCUS FUELS OUR PASION!

Morris West's novel THE SHOES OF THE FISHERMAN tells of the election and activity of the first Russian Pope. Shortly after his elevation to the Papacy, the new pope decides to dress as an ordinary priest and visit Rome to become acquainted with his people, since he is the Bishop of Rome as well as Pope.

As he moves into Rome's poorer section, he meets a doctor who sends him upstairs into a rundown apartment building to give the last rites to a man dying of tuberculosis. The apartment was a large airless room, cluttered as a junk shop, and full of the smell of disease. In one corner was a large matrimonial bed where a man lay, fleshless and shrunken, under a stained bedspread. His face was unshaven, his thin hair clung damp about his forehead, and his head rolled from side to side on the piled pillows. His breathing was short, painful and full of rales, and a small bloody foam spilled out of the corner of his mouth.

In ten minutes the little tragedy was over. The unrecognized pope said the prayers for the departed spirit, while the young nurse closed the staring eyes and composed the body decently in the attitude of death. The doctor said firmly. "We should go, Father, none of us will be welcome now!"

"I would like to help the family," the Pope replied. The doctor said very definitely, "We should go. They can cope with death. It's the living that defeats them!"

Millions of men and women across the globe could echo those sentiments as they face their debilitating circumstances, feeling cheated by life. Spouses who have found their marriages floundering through infidelity, or increasing indifference as they have grown apart; others who are in a financial and emotional mess, fragmented by the consequences of over indulgence in our consumer, instant gratification culture.

Then, there are men and women made unexpectedly redundant, struggling to cope with little or no income; the frustration of ageing and the pain of sending out hundreds of unanswered CVs. They live with no job in sight, but with a clear view of their diminishing resources. There's the "lost generation", beyond the magic age of youth and without creative relevant job skills, caught in the limbo of uselessness, bloodied by rejection, and their self-respect as productive citizens ravaged, wondering "how in the hell" they are going to survive. There are the depressed individuals who cope with failure and alienation, consumers of society's most

frequently prescribed drug - Prozac.

To such people the concept of passionate purpose is an illusion. Yet that is the persistent message of Good News we share. And the key word here is: FOCUS! To find that creative passion for our lives and focus with laser-like intensity on that purpose. There is no passion without focus! We will all face situations that stop us dead in our tracks, seeking to deflate us, enticing us to give up on our struggle because of the pain involved in persevering. We are like marathon runners, knowing full well that at a certain point in the race we will run up against "the wall", which has to be broken through in order to complete the race and win.

If you are facing a seemingly impossible circumstance consider the story of Lazarus in the Bible. Lazarus was Jesus' friend who died unexpectedly. Rather than rushing back to console the family, Jesus took his time. Martha, Lazarus' sister, confronted Jesus saying, "If you had been here my brother would not have died!"

However you interpret the story, the following incident is fascinating. Jesus orders the people to roll away the stone from the burial cave, despite their objections: "By this time there will be a stench, for he's been dead four days."

Then Jesus says, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" Then, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb and Lazarus, now alive, walks out to be unbound from his grave clothes by his friends. To say the crowd was "stunned" would be an understatement.

So, to those people who live in their tombs of depression and alienation, whatever that oppression might be, entombed with their "stinking problems", thinking their particular problem is unique and that life is unfair - think back to the Lazarus story and see the delivering power of God. Realize we do not have to remain trapped in our tombs, trapped in our past, but that, through God's delivering power, we can persevere through our problems and be set free! As we persevere in spite of our obstacles, believing in God's intervening power, we will see His manifestation in our lives!

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