
The Pointe-Claire Record

An Initiative of the Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association - www.pointeclaire.info

Thank You All for Your Support

Summer is upon us, and it's time for the [Pointe-Claire Record](#) to take a break for July and work on our tans (with proper sunscreen, of course). But that doesn't mean you can't send in your submissions of opinions, events, recipes, or anything else for the next issue in August.

As promised, I said I would let you know about my political intentions and the *Pointe-Claire Record* in June. I needed time to think things through, and yes, I'll be running for councillor in Valois-District 3 in the upcoming municipal election. Staying on with the *Record* would not be ethical and would give me an unfair advantage.

I have sought legal advice and spoken to the returning officer about how best to accomplish this. It was agreed that putting the *Pointe-Claire Record* in a blind trust is sufficient. This introduction serves as public notice, and I have submitted a letter to the interim editor who will be keeping PCR going, along with your support and contributions. On June 30th, all access to the files and websites will be modified so I will not have access to anything newspaper-related.

I am looking forward to meeting with all the Valois citizens again and hearing their concerns as well as their priorities for our great little community. Valois is a special district with a rich history, and I hope we can work together to build on that. I am not going to turn this into a campaign piece, but I think most of you know I care deeply about the Pointe-Claire community, and I will be sharing my campaign thoughts at a later time.

The *Pointe-Claire Record* has succeeded for a year and a half as a volunteer community paper because of your support and contributions; there is no reason for this great little paper to disappear just because I've stepped away. I do know that my colleagues hope to put out some election coverage and will be reaching out to candidates, especially the mayoral ones, to submit their platforms.

BREAKING NEWS

If you are running in the election, know someone who is, or have thoughts about what you'd like to hear from prospective candidates, please email us at editor@pcrecord.ca.

All that being said, it's time to browse some of the great content of our latest edition. This month, local legend Dave Stubbs has a piece on the history of Pointe-Claire's exceptional arena and indoor pool. There is also an interview with Brent Cowan, coverage by our own Caroline Speirs on the recent Take a Knee event, as well as an opinion piece on local dog legislation. We are also delighted to introduce a new contributor, Joy Perkins, and her awesome recipe for chocolate marble cheesecake, as well as pieces from our regular contributors, including Kim Dooley, Petra Hartweg, and Bonnie Wurst. We cannot thank these people enough for their time and efforts, as well as the volunteers behind the scenes who make every issue possible.

People move to Pointe-Claire for all it has to offer, from the amazing sports programs to the great community vibe. Let's keep the [Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association](#) and the *Pointe-Claire Record* thriving so we can make all newcomers to our town feel welcome.

Thank you all for subscribing and supporting us. Have a fun and safe summer!

Barry Christensen,
President, Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association

PC Record Contacts

General Questions and Info: info@pcrecord.ca

Get involved, submit an article or feedback on past articles. Nous encourageons la contribution des articles en français également ! editor@pcrecord.ca

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Council Highlights – June 3, 2025

By Deborah Ancel



Pointe-Claire City Hall

Measures taken to protect windmill site

In his opening remarks, Mayor Tim Thomas addressed the new fencing and security measures put up around the windmill.

The new protections were implemented in order for the Pointe-Claire Heritage Preservation Society to begin work to clear the windmill of various debris and carry out more work this year. These measures were also set up due to a recent break-in and act of vandalism, with a similar event occurring just days later at the former convent.

Thomas noted that, while a popular destination for residents, both the windmill and the convent are located on private property, and that Pointe-Claire would be "encouraging more frequent patrols of the area and encourage citizens in the area to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity."

Councillor Paul Bissonnette honoured for his years of service

Paul Bissonnette, city councillor for District 2 - Lakeside, was honoured by the L'Union des municipalités du Québec (UMQ) at their annual conference in Quebec City on May 16, 2025, and awarded the Mérite Ovation municipale award for his 20 years of service to the City of Pointe-Claire as a city councillor.

Thomas praised Bissonnette's commitment to the city, saying, "He never misses an opportunity to engage with residents and gather new ideas, firmly believing that small actions can often make a big difference in the lives of our citizens."

Bissonnette expressed his gratitude for the award, stating, "I've always tried to treat people the same way I'd have been treated, and I believe that people are entitled to get an answer and reasons."

In addition to his near-perfect attendance record at city council meetings, Bissonnette's initiative moved him to help establish a Navette Or bus route in Pointe-Claire in order to provide seniors with convenient transportation options in the West Island, and he is a co-founder of ABOVAS, a non-profit organization that matches volunteer drivers with West Island residents who need transportation to their medical appointments.

Improvements Coming to Brasserie Le Manoir

Council adopted, with modifications, a second draft resolution to improve the functionality of operations of Brasserie Le Manoir.

The changes will consist of the expansion of the restaurant kitchen, having at least three green areas incorporated into the parking lot, improvements to the appearance of the terrace, and the construction of a structure to conceal waste bins.



Paul Bissonnette poses with the Mérite Ovation municipale award. Photo: Screenshot of [Pointe-Claire council meeting](#), June 3, 2025.

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Editorial: Summer Safety



Bike riding safety.
Photo: Mark Stosberg
on Unsplash

Summer is the time for cycling to the pool for swim team practice, backyard parties, and playing outside. We are so incredibly fortunate to live in Pointe-Claire with the abundance of parks, pools, and activities for our children as well as plenty of things for us grown-ups to do all year long.

Summer activities also mean more people, including children, out and about; this translates to the need to be more vigilant as we are driving around, especially near parks and pools. As drivers, we can never assume that cyclists or pedestrians are aware of approaching vehicles or going to stop or going to act in a predictable manner.



A Montreal ambulance ready to go out on a call. Photo: Barry Christensen

Despite all the safety features built into new cars, they are also built higher, heavier, and are equipped with more distractions than ever. Pedestrians and cyclists can also be prone to distractions and dangerous behaviours, including wearing headphones, looking down at their phones while out and about, or wearing dark clothing after dusk. Editorials are not supposed to be signed, but as editor-in-chief of the *Pointe-Claire Record*, I can assure you we all stand behind this editorial. I spent 42 years as a paramedic in Montreal, and I have the nightmares to back it up. Please, let's make sure our kids wear helmets when cycling, and while driving, I implore you to SLOW DOWN.

What is astounding is the pushback to implementing safety measures to reduce injuries and fatalities. For years, I've been advocating for speed bumps around our parks and schools, but others argued, saying it wasn't necessary since they hadn't heard of any deaths. So we only make things safer after a child dies?! There's a reason why Pointe-Claire has created pedestrian islands, raised intersections, and curb extensions – these are exactly *why* you don't hear of any deaths. Because Pointe-Claire acts proactively instead of reactively.

There is hope on the horizon, though, with the CAQ's [road safety action plan](#) that would, without exception, reduce speed limits in all school zones across the province to 30 km/h, make photo radar available to municipalities for school zones, and invest in new signalling technologies to improve the safety of both drivers and pedestrians.

Pedestrian and cyclist accidents are not the only risks in summer, though. Water-related accidents are sadly far too frequent, with 59 presumed drownings being recorded in Quebec in 2024 and 25 since the beginning of 2025. That is 84 too many, with so many of those being preventable.

There are also new regulations in Quebec for backyard pools that many do not like, but these new regulations come because of too many deaths each and every year. Yes, a new fence isn't cheap, and making changes to your deck configuration can be a hassle, but the cost to your mental health of finding a child floating in your pool is immeasurable, I can assure you. And please do not forget to wear a life jacket while on a boat or at the lake. A selfie without an ugly piece of protective gear may seem like a great idea, but a moment of inattention can result in tragedy.

Together we can make Pointe-Claire as safe as it is a beautiful place to live. One last mention on safety, and then I'll let you relax with your delicious BBQ'd burger. If you have never taken a CPR/First-Aid course or are just overdue for a refresher, [contact the city and book a course](#). Those first few minutes of an emergency are critical, and YOU are an essential element in the chain of survival.

Barry Christensen,
Retired Paramedic and editor-in-chief.

A Man in Motion: Brent Cowan to Run for Mayor

By Deborah Ancel

To kick off our coverage of the municipal election, The Pointe-Claire Record sat down with Brent Cowan at a Valois coffee shop to learn more about him and his motivations for entering the mayoral race.

Brent Cowan, currently serving his 2nd term as councillor for District 8 in Pointe-Claire, will be running for mayor in this November election. Married for 32 years, Cowan moved to Pointe-Claire with his wife, Christiane, in 1994, first putting down roots near the Pointe-Claire Village, where they raised their two children, Stephanie and Tristan.

A staunch believer in sound decision-making, Cowan strikes a balance between the discipline learned in 12 years of service with Canada's Black Watch, leadership as a churchwarden, and experience as a small business owner, with his passion for wanting residents to be heard. "No one will follow you if you're miscalibrated and not in tune with where the people are," said Cowan. He continued by explaining his belief that to move the city forward, citizens require "coherent guidance" and that "democracy is about bringing people enthusiastically towards it."

When asked what would motivate him, a councillor with what seems like a safe seat, to run for mayor, Cowan explained that he was disheartened by what he has witnessed in his past four years serving on city council. Cowan is looking to improve the governance of Pointe-Claire and stated in his recent press release his desire to "prepare our city for what the future will bring without sacrificing any of the character that makes Pointe-Claire so special, so eco- and family-friendly, and so loved."

In the late 2000s, finding that his concerns as a citizen weren't being listened to, both at council meetings and at early PMAD (Metropolitan Land Use and Development Plan) consultations, Cowan became interested in the workings of city hall. He first embarked on his political career in 2013 when his brother-in-law urged him to "shut up and run." While he came in second in that election, Cowan bounced back in 2017 and regrouped with a new election strategy and an even greater determination to ensure that Pointe-Claire citizens would have their concerns taken seriously. He handily won his bid for reelection in 2021, proving again that campaign-ing based on what people want can make a difference.

With two terms under his belt, Cowan takes pride in many achievements for residents of his district. His most recent accomplishment was establishing a community garden in Horizon School Park. "All I wanted was to get a place for a local neighbourhood association to make a vegetable garden in the space. [...] I had to get the school, school board, and the city involved, and a community organization." It took nearly three years, but Cowan was pleased to have a space "that was used for nothing" transformed into a resource for the community.

He then described how he advocated for a splash pad near the Delmar apartments, located in a low-income area with minimal recreational opportunities for children. Cowan looked at his neighbourhood and noted that "there was an awful lot of development going on in my district." After doing his own study, he learned that when an area gets developed, 10% of the land value must be set aside for park development. Armed with this knowledge and an estimate of how much money that was, he asked himself, "How much of that is being spent in my district, with my district generating all this money?" Cowan's proposal to have a splash pad installed in Augusta Park had an impact on the administration, and to his delight, everyone agreed.

Cowan has always made himself available to his constituents. During the pandemic, he kept residents up-to-date with a monthly newsletter, the *Nouvelles D8 News*, making himself accessible even while in lockdown.

With the goal of becoming a leader who will stay on top of things before situations arise, Brent Cowan intends to bring his many years of knowledge, experience, and leadership to the role of mayor while including all Pointe-Claire citizens in the process, creating a partnership where people can reach a reasonable consensus through openness and dialogue.

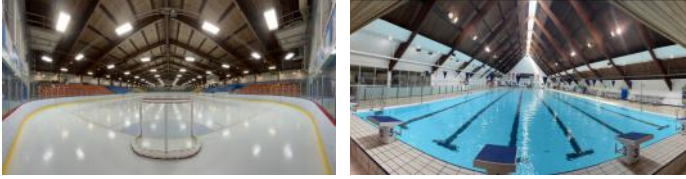


On June 11, 2025, City Councillor Brent Cowan formally declared his intention to run for mayor of Pointe-Claire.

Pointe-Claire's Crown Jewels: Our Facilities Celebrate 60 Years

By Dave Stubbs

The crown jewels of Pointe-Claire are celebrating their 60th anniversary this year, and they are sparkling as brightly as ever.



The main sheet of ice at the Bob Birnie Arena, and the original 50-metre pool now part of the Malcolm Knox Aquatic Centre. Photo: Dave Stubbs.

The Bob Birnie Arena and Malcolm Knox Aquatic Centre weren't so named when they opened their doors to the public in October 1965. Nor, at the time, did they house two sheets of ice and two 50-metre pools.

But differences and growth aside, the adjacent facilities have been a constant in the community, a hugely popular gathering place for residents over six decades – important, influential buildings in countless lives.

I have a great sentimental attachment to both the arena and aquatic complex, personally and professionally. As they turn their Maywood and Douglas Shand avenues corner into their seventh decade of vital life, I offer these words as a bit of a love letter to facilities that are much more to me than brick and mortar.

At age 8, I came through the arena doors for the first time, for the gala opening in October 1965, my late father having been invited by Mayor Arthur Séguin to the ribbon-cutting for the glittering new Pointe-Claire Recreation Centre.

It is here, as a journalist, that I reported on my first hockey game in the autumn of 1976, covering the West Island Flyers of the Metro Junior B League.

It is here in the late 1980s that, for one winter, I coached a team of novice-aged players. Never good enough in my youth to be on one of the teams that played at the arena – I was a weak-ankled Cedar Park Heights house league kid through and through.

About 25 years ago, I was on the cement floor of this arena to address a graduating class of my alma mater, John Rennie High School, which is a few rink lengths to the northwest. I recall John Rennie's winter carnival including skating on this sheet of ice – now two, with the addition of the annex.

Under this warm wood ceiling, I have many times covered the world-famous Pointe-Claire Oldtimers Tournament, a hugely important fundraiser for myriad charitable causes on the West Island, and reported on Montreal Canadiens alumni in exhibition games.

The recreation centre has been a cornerstone in Pointe-Claire since its 1965 birth. If you were a hockey player, the arena – in 2000 renamed for long-time city councillor Bob Birnie – was the place to be. If you were a swimmer or diver, the centrepiece was the adjacent aquatic centre, Canada's first indoor 50-metre pool and just the fourth in North America, which in 2005 was renamed for visionary former Mayor Malcolm Knox.

In 2011, a second pool – a state-of-the-art 10-lane, 50-metre facility – was named for aquatics pioneer and Pointe-Claire icon George Gate, whose innovative coaching and program development made Pointe-Claire a world power in swimming and diving and a global leader in aquatic teaching and safety.



In February 1976, six weeks into his journalism career, *News & Chronicle* Sports Editor Dave Stubbs (left) interviews Pointe-Claire Aquatic Director George Gate in the latter's pool office. Photo credit: Author's collection

My journalism career began at Pointe-Claire's weekly *News & Chronicle* in January 1976 as the newspaper's sports editor, and it was at the pool that I spent my first months as a writer, profiling a handful of Pointe-Claire swimmers and divers who soon would represent Canada in the 1976 Montreal Olympics. One of my first feature interviews was a profile of George Gate, the interview conducted in his pool office. George, who became a dear friend, died in 2014.

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Crown Jewels (cont.)



From his scrapbook, Dave Stubbs' September 23, 1976 *News & Chronicle* feature on Pointe-Claire swimmer Robin Corsiglia, who won a bronze medal on Canada's 1976 Montreal Olympic medley relay swim team. On the clipping is Stubbs' 1976 Olympic media pass.

Imagine, six months into my career, I was covering the Olympics; the bruises from the pinch-me moments have almost healed. I reported on the nine Pointe-Claire-based swimmers and divers who represented Canada in 1976; in subsequent years, as a reporter and later as a Team Canada media attaché at many global events, I would write about the performances and, more importantly, the lives of dozens more who, with grace and class, wore the red and white of our country into international waters.

Almost a half-century later, I'm a regular in the weight room of the aquatic centre, and I will almost always detour past the men's locker room to walk the original pool's deck, pausing to remember.

Next door, I often use the arena as a backdrop for video interviews done on behalf of the NHL, my employer since 2016.

The Pointe-Claire Recreation Centre wasn't an easy sell to the community; Mayor Arthur Séguin's initial proposal rejected by the population in a first referendum because the \$1.3-million project would increase taxes.

But with promised government contributions, it went through a second time in June 1964, citizens giving the municipality the go-ahead to borrow \$920,000 with an additional \$380,000 coming via Ottawa and Quebec grants.

The arena would cost an estimated \$440,000, the pool between \$356,000 and \$410,000, with infrastructure and related costs consuming the balance.

Tenders were put out in 1964; architecture firm G.R. Beatson and Associates of Calgary was hired for the project, Montreal's R.V. Chadwick and G.B. Pope serving as associates. Toronto engineers Haddin, Davis and Brown Co. Ltd. completed the team.

Paul Bibeault was named manager of the complex in late December 1964, the first of many wonderful hockey connections to the facility. Bibeault was married to Evelyn Selke, the daughter of Toronto Maple Leafs, then Canadiens general manager Frank Selke Sr. He had met his future wife when she was working as a switchboard operator at Maple Leaf Gardens.

Bibeault, a goaltender, played for the Canadiens from 1940 to 1943 for coach Dick Irvin Sr. Irvin's son, Dick Jr., has been a long-time Pointe-Claire resident and has sat in the stands over the years to watch his son and grandson play hockey and to attend Oldtimers tournaments.

The arena and pool were built efficiently and quickly, a July 1965 story in the *Montreal Gazette* showing Bibeault, architect D.W. Whiteside, and Pointe-Claire City Manager Oliver Nicholson at the pool, still under construction, the diving towers scaffolding in the background.

In mid-October came a story saying the complex was ready for its ribbon-cutting on Oct. 18, 1965, impressive details provided on the arena, pool, and the ultra-modern bells and whistles in both. Hundreds of youngsters would be invited to the gala opening.

If memory serves, I attended a cocktail (soft drink!) reception the night before with my father at the invitation of Mayor Séguin. Almost surely, I met Paul Bibeault that night, the first of countless NHL goaltenders with whom I've crossed paths since that day.

Five days after the arena's Saturday opening, the defending Stanley Cup-champion Canadiens played the first "meaningful" game on the rink, wrapping up their 1965-66 training camp with an intra-squad game that was open to the public. Gump Worsley's team lost to that of fellow goaler Charlie Hodge, and he paid off his \$1 bets to opponents with a mountain of pennies dumped on a dressing-room table, sprinkled with honey.

"That's what you call 'sweet money,'" the Gumper cracked.

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Crown Jewels (cont.)

The recreation centre was an instant, massive hit with Pointe-Claire residents, the pool packed for lessons, programs, and competitions, the arena home to a busy schedule of games and community events. That hasn't changed over six decades.

But the arena would be more than just a hockey rink.

On August 11, 1967 (are you sitting down?), Paul Revere and the Raiders, one of the world's most popular rock 'n' roll bands fronted by teen heartthrob Mark Lindsay, headlined a concert promoted by Top-40 radio station CFOX, may it rest in musical peace, its studios up the road at the corner of Hymus and St. John's.

The show included Billy Joe Royal, who in 1965 had recorded the chart-topping "Down in the Boondocks." The next day, the Raiders were headed for a look around Expo 67, Canada's centennial-year exposition on Île Notre-Dame and Île Sainte-Hélène.

Curling took centre ice the following March: the world curling championship, for the Air Canada Silver Broom, was held over five days among eight nations. Canada's rink, skipped by Ron Northcott, defeated Chuck Hay's Scotland 8-6 in the championship game. The first rock was thrown by Canada's Governor-General Roland Michener, an avid curler.

The Russians invaded, so to speak, in September 1974 for a practice during their Summit Series against a World Hockey Association all-star team. A crowd of about 1,500 – including Canadiens coach Scotty Bowman, taking notes – watched U.S.S.R. coach Boris Kulagin run his team through a spirited 90-minute workout featuring legends Vladislav Tretiak and Boris Mikhailov.

I have written many stories about arena events, notably the legendary Oldtimers tournament, which began in 1969. Through the years, it has included the participation of numerous former NHL players; among them, from the memory of tournament icon Jack Beaumont: Fleming Mackell, Don Awrey, John Ferguson, Norm Ullman, Bunny Larocque, Donald Audette, Robin Burns, and Leo Labine.

At various times, late Canadiens icons Maurice Richard and Jean Béliveau had come to the arena as honorary tournament presidents, spending a few hours with star-struck organizers and players.

In 2011, the Stanley Cup came to the arena for display in a parking-lot tent as part of Pointe-Claire's 100th anniversary celebrations. Hockey's holy grail drew a huge crowd, naturally.



Mayor William "Bill" McMurchie (right) poses with the Stanley Cup next to Pointe-Claire Oldtimers Hockey pioneer Jack Beaumont on April 30, 2011 as part of the city's centennial year celebrations. Photo: Dave Stubbs

I have always found my way back to both buildings. Sometimes, it's just to walk in the arena door to breathe the chill air and quietly reflect. The aquatic centre remains an important part of my life, the chlorine its perfume.

I swear that some days I can still hear the great George Gate enthusiastically yelling, "Sprint! Sprint! Sprint!", no matter that the age-group kids were barely off the blocks in a distance freestyle race.

There is great history within the walls of both buildings and fortunate are those of us who have memories to cherish. So, happy 60th birthday to the Bob Birnie and Malcolm Knox facilities. May you continue to age gracefully and serve a population for which you are a wonderful part of our lives.

Pointe-Claire resident Dave Stubbs is a columnist and historian for the National Hockey League. In January 2026, he will celebrate 50 years in sports journalism.

West Island Take a Knee 2025: The Importance of Community

By Caroline Speirs

On May 25, 2025, five years after George Floyd was brutally murdered at the hands of Minneapolis police, the 6th annual West Island Take a Knee was held in Valois Park. Since taking a knee is most associated with drawing attention to racial inequality and police brutality in the United States, you might think an event like this has nothing to do with the average West Islander. But you'd be wrong.



Allison Saunders addresses the crowd who gathered at Valois Park for the 6th annual Take A Knee event. Photo: Caroline Speirs

And I'm still doing that weeks later.

Saunders read out the names of three young Montreal men whose lives ended violently just in the last few months: Emmanuel Diafouka in Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Makhai Bennett-Ruddock in Côte-des-Neiges, and Abisay Cruz in St-Michel. She then widened that circle of concern to include not only victims of violence in the streets but also those who must endure hate speech in schools, in public, and online. She mentioned the rise of antisemitism and the reality of Islamophobia, both present in the West Island, and how the two do not cancel one another out. I loved how Saunders made a point to include everyone who has experienced hate, felt unsafe, or who has seen neighbours or friends go through this.

Ted Rutland, a professor at Concordia University whose work focuses on urban security, policing, and racial justice, was invited to say a few words. He spoke about the community spaces created by citizens in Minneapolis in the wake of George Floyd's murder and the subsequent police backlash. A champion of safe spaces, Rutland asked us to think about what's needed to create spaces of love to meet each other's needs, without violence. And to be able to use those spaces as a support, a base for when action is needed.

This made me think of how we used to live in the distant past: in small communities, where you knew all of your neighbours, and who to call if you needed help. How can we create that same sense of security today? Now, when few of us know our neighbours, a strange vehicle in front of our homes can seem like a threat.

Finally, Saunders thanked us for coming together as a community. She reminded us that in taking a knee together, despite our differences, we are united in our desire for justice for all our citizens. And her assertion, "Community is where change begins," has been rattling around in my head for days. She doesn't mean a community of strangers. She means a community where I know and care about you, and I want to make sure you are safe too. That's the kind of community I want to live in. Do you feel that way too?



A crowd begins to gather at Valois Park on a cool May morning, hoping to make a difference in the fight against racial inequity. Photo: Caroline Speirs

Striking a Chord for a Good Cause: PCCA's Evening of Caring

By Barry Christensen

Toes tapping, fingers snapping, people dancing...

The audience was all smiles at the [Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association's](#) fundraiser benefiting Ricochet (Hébergement/Homes) and West Island Mission on May 31, 2025, at the Mayfair Tavern in Pointe-Claire.

Rocking out until nearly midnight was Montreal's own J.B. and the Playboys, a band who, in the mid-1960s, opened for groups such as The Beach Boys and The Rolling Stones. Playing songs from their own repertoire as well as familiar classics of the era, the band kept the crowd entertained and on their feet all night long.

Selling out to a nearly full house, the event brought in nearly \$2000 for Ricochet, the West Island's only homeless shelter, and West Island Mission, which operates a food bank out of its new location on Brunswick Blvd. In addition to the funds collected, many of the generous attendees brought in bags of non-perishable items to help fill a need in the community – a need that continues to grow in the West Island every year.

The Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association is grateful for the generosity of all the attendees who were so generous in their support of these wonderful organizations and was thrilled to have



Tania Charron (left), Suzanne Scarrow, and Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association President, Barry Christensen, greet the crowd of enthusiastic concertgoers at the Mayfair Tavern.

Suzanne Scarrow, Executive Director of West Island Mission, and Tania Charron, Director of Ricochet, on hand to rock out for a great cause.

If you were unable to attend the event but would still like to support these organizations, please visit their websites at www.wimmoi.org and www.ricochetwestisland.com. Non-perishable food donations can be dropped off at 72D Brunswick Blvd. in Dollard-des-Ormeaux.



Left: J.B. and the Playboys, fronted by singer Allan Nicholls, put on a terrific show, performing a variety of original music and classic hits.

Right: A couple made their way to the dance floor as the crowd looked on, enjoying the music. Photo: Barry Christensen



In the Garden

By Kim Dooley

What's the buzz?

I have long been fascinated by the interactions between plants, their environments, and their pollinators. In local native plant communities, two interesting ones are the dissemination of trillium (and other) seeds by ants and the behaviour of bloodroots in response to the weather.



Trilliums in full bloom, although they are finished for this year. Photo: Kim Dooley

Trillium seeds have a fleshy structure called an elaiosome which is rich in fatty acids and proteins. Ants feed this elaiosome to their larvae. The trillium seeds are then disposed of by the ants and later grow into new trilliums. No ants equal no trilliums. Blood-

roots, on the other hand, are rather fussy about the weather. If the day is not sunny and warm enough to allow pollinators to fly, they will not open their petals and after three days will instead self-pollinate. A more recent discovery based on research done at the University of Turin suggests that plants produce more nectar when they hear their principal pollinators buzzing close by.

The lead researcher, Professor Francesca Barbero, states that “There is growing evidence that both insects and plants can sense and produce, or transmit, vibro-acoustic signals. The findings add to the ‘truly astonishing’ multitude of ways that plants can perceive their surroundings, including the presence of beneficial and harmful insects, temperature, drought, and wind.”

Why are there dandelions?

Some of us love them, some of us hate them, but they are everywhere, especially at this time of year. Yet throughout history they were revered as medicine, food, and soil conditioner. They were probably brought to North America on purpose by the first Europeans as a familiar medicine.

Their deep and widespread roots loosen compacted soil, aerate the earth, and reduce erosion. Their deep taproots pull nutrients to the surface. According to

Anita Sanchez’s book “The Teeth of the Lion,” data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture reveals that dandelions have more vitamin A than spinach, more vitamin C than tomatoes, and are a powerhouse of iron, calcium, and potassium. Dandelion tea, anyone?

What's blooming?

Although dandelions provide food for some pollinators, as host plants they are nowhere near as beneficial for biodiversity as native plants. Host plants are specific plant species that organisms such as butterflies or insects use for food, shelter, or reproduction. A notable example is milkweed, the only plant that monarch butterfly larvae can use as food.

The native spring ephemerals, wildflowers that appear only in spring and usually on the forest floor, are now finished blooming. These include plants such as trilliums, trout lilies, Dutchman’s breeches, bloodroot, hepaticas, and more. In my yard, the anemones are now blooming, the native columbines are feeding the returning hummingbirds, and the Jack-in-the-pulpits are threatening takeover, as are the multiple ferns!



Canada lilies like to celebrate too, so they bloom on or around Canada Day. Photo: Kim Dooley

Foxglove beardtongues and spiderworts are also blooming now, while Canada lilies, echinacea, rudbeckias, and, of course, milkweeds are preparing to burst forth. The milkweeds come up just in time to offer nectar to returning monarchs and feed their very hungry caterpillars.

When planning or adding to your garden, please consider using plants native to our region for their beauty and their tremendous benefits to biodiversity. Also, remember this is the time for animal babies as well. Before you mow or do other yard work, check for young rabbits, groundhogs, and birds on the ground.

Mother Nature will thank you!

Two nurseries that carry a good variety of native and pollinator plants are West Island Nursery/Pépinière de l'ouest Inc., 4780 boul. Saint-Charles in Pierrefonds and Jardins Buzz, 7000 boul. LaSalle in Verdun.

Bye Bye Birdie

Petra Hartweg

Hello, Pointe-Claire!

Some of you might still be in possession of a standard “mailbox,” although our mail has been delivered “self-serve” style for a few years now.

We still have one attached next to the front door, antique with the word “MAIL” carved out of wood, leaving certain bits as openings. This mailbox has served dutifully as a drop-off for our daily newspaper (thank you, newspaper carrier!) that we cherish and read every morning. Yes, we do. It is a tradition.

Well, we guess one bird thought it was a smart idea to start a new tradition and to have a mailbox, too, not for newspapers but for more practical things, like starting a family, oblivious to the matters of the world as we know it brought to us every morning.

I knew that birds scout out potential nesting possibilities, but we never thought that this old mailbox would become a prime piece of real estate for one!

It started subtly — a few twigs, some feathers, some little fluff tucked inside. We didn’t think much of it at first when I first opened the box, assuming the daily paper was there. But it was not.

Within days, it became clear: someone feathered was moving in. A determined little bird had decided our antique mailbox was the perfect nesting spot. It took her only two days to fabricate a perfect nest!

We couldn’t bring ourselves to disturb it. The newspaper carrier kindly adjusted their routine, placing the paper on the doorstep instead.

We try to open and close the front door as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the babies.

Our friend, a veterinarian and accomplished birdwatcher, reassured us that the babies were okay in our old mailbox — that they were safe and would most likely fly out 12-14 days after hatching, which is quite impressive. She also told us that “our” bird is a Carolina Wren, which is not commonly seen in this area.

Interestingly, in Carolina Wren families, the male and female split their duties quite distinctly. The male is the primary caregiver once the chicks hatch—he tirelessly brings food to the nest and keeps watch nearby. The female, after brooding in the early days, often turns her attention to preparing for the next nesting cycle, sometimes even scouting out or starting a new nest site. It’s an efficient little system, built on teamwork and instinct.

We’re not sure if they’re sharing or survival instincts, but thank you, my friends! We want all of them to fly!

Funny how something as simple as a mailbox can carry more than mail — it can carry memories, stories, and new life.



A picture of our new babies, sleeping while waiting for their next meal. Photo: Petra Hartweg

Have your say!

Tell us your thoughts about the upcoming election!

If you’re a candidate or a resident, we’d love to hear from you.

Email us at editor@pcrecord.ca



Bonnie's Babble: My Inner Peter Pan

By Bonnie Wurst

Hi, my Pointe-Claire friends and readers! I decided to write something different for this month.

Many of you should be familiar with the song "I Won't Grow Up" from the 1954 musical and 1960 NBC telecast "Peter Pan," both starring Mary Martin:

"I won't grow up
(I won't grow up)
I don't want to go to school
(I don't want to go to school)
Just to learn to be a parrot
(Just to learn to be a parrot)
And recite a silly rule
(And recite a silly rule)
If growing up means it would be
beneath my dignity to climb a tree,
I'll never grow up, never grow up, never grow up
Not me!
Not I!
Not me!
Not me!"



Peter Pan and Wendy flying over London.
Photo: ninikvaratskhelia_ on Pixabay

Well, the truth is I have grown up. I've already been to school – and learned to be a parrot while reciting all the rules. It wouldn't be beneath my dignity to climb a tree, but I would prefer to use a ladder now. I am proud to say my inner Peter Pan is alive and well!

Peter Pan, a character created by Scottish novelist and playwright J. M. Barrie, is a mischievous boy who can fly and who never ages. He spends his never-ending childhood adventuring on the small island of Neverland as the leader of his gang, the Lost Boys.

I don't suffer from "Peter Pan syndrome." It's a pop psychology phrase describing people who do not want to or feel unable to grow up – people with the body of an adult but the mind of a child. My adult mind has simply maintained a direct link to my inner child.

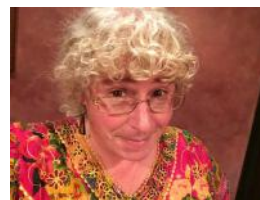
I need both – the adult to know the difference and act responsibly and the child to know when to let go and breathe.

We learn to recite the "silly rules" so well that they become a subconscious mantra, slowly drowning out the voice of the child. We are guilty of abandonment, leaving behind the wondrous and curious mind of childhood, the joy found in the simplest of things, the ability to laugh and giggle at everything and anything just because it is, well, funny.

Someone suffering from Peter Pan syndrome might take it too far. Burping with childlike abandon, oblivious to those around them – I would regard it as disrespectful and gross. People with the syndrome don't feel as though they are part of the problem, because they are not aware of it.

But I'm aware of exactly what I'm doing. Being an adult allows me to learn, to respect and appreciate people – ideas and things a child is unable to do. But when I walk by a park I like to go on the new funky slides and swings – if I can fit my adult butt into them. I like to hang out with the kids at family gatherings – they're funnier, sillier, and far more in the present. My idea of fun at the mall is finding an arcade and abandoning myself to the lights and dings of a good pinball machine before perusing the stores. I like joking around and laughing – I'm my own favourite joke.

It's true, my whimsical moments can sometimes get out of control. I can become quite loud and silly and scare the heck out of the adults around me. They look at me with concern, and I am forced to rein myself in. I become embarrassed at getting caught, just like a kid. And I'm proud of it. Nope, I won't grow up – not completely anyhow.



Much love (and silliness)!

I'll be back in August. If you have good "Babble" ideas for next month, feel free to contact me at: bonnierwords2024@gmail.com.

Who Kept the Dogs Out? Rules, Rules, Rules!

By Caroline Speirs

During the COVID pandemic, I adopted a dog, like many others. Post-COVID, doggy and I spend fewer hours together since I go to the office several times per week. Spending time with a canine pal is really important to me, as well as to thousands of other people here in Pointe-Claire. Dogs improve our mental health, keep us active, and doggone it, dogs make this community a happier place to be!

Quebec has some of the most dog-unfriendly rules and regulations in North America. Sépaq (Société des établissements de plein air du Québec) park rangers and other officials have told me this is because “without rules, Quebec society falls apart.” I’m skeptical about that, but I do appreciate rules that protect humans.

I am a responsible dog owner who is pro-leash rules and pet licenses. I am all for rabies vaccinations and am a super poop-picker-upper. Owners who break common sense rules designed to keep all residents safe should definitely be fined. But something I cannot abide is a rule that is overly strict and only sporadically enforced. Here are just a few:

1. Dogs must be kept on a leash of less than 1.8 m (6 ft.) at all times.

I have a 20-foot extensible leash that I use on walks, and I’ll tell any “my dog needs to be properly leashed” folks that this allows for sniffing, scampering, and adequate exploration for any dog. That said, if we are approaching a stranger, I make sure to keep my dog two feet at most from my side to avoid disturbing or scaring our fellow citizen.

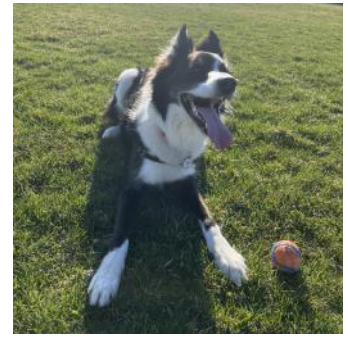
2. Dogs cannot be inside any place where food is served.

Really? I know of a handful of places – whose numbers are thankfully growing each year – where dogs are allowed: Victor Rose Espresso Bar and Station Café, to name just a couple. I have seen restaurant owners debate this law online in forums.

3. No kennels allowed in Pointe-Claire.

I own a Border Collie, so I am someone with plans and backup plans to keep my dog active all year-round, but that doesn’t work for many smaller, less furry canines. When searching for doggy daycares or places where folks can hang out, grab a coffee or beer, and let their dog play with other dogs inside, I was told that that is

considered a kennel and we are not zoned for that. Let me assure you there are tons of these businesses all over the U.S. Now, I understand why my Valois neighbours wouldn’t want me



Josie the Border Collie. Photo: Caroline Speirs

to turn my home into a doggy nightclub for noise reasons. But why would the industrial parks by Highway 40, which house all manner of businesses, be zoned for everything but a doggy play place?

4. Only 2 dogs per handler at the Terra Cotta dog park.

Admittedly, this is a fairly small dog park adjacent to the Terra Cotta sports fields and I have never seen more than 10 dogs inside at one time. However, for some reason, a human is allowed to bring a maximum of two dogs at a time into this dog park. This seems both arbitrary and illogical. Pointe-Claire residents are allowed to own a maximum of three dogs; is one supposed to sit and wait in the car while the other two frolic inside the gates?

Give dogs a chance.

When I hear that dogs are not well-behaved enough to be in stores, well, how would we know that without allowing them into stores where they can learn to behave appropriately? We know this is an invalid argument because dogs are allowed in many stores in Ontario, Newfoundland, every U.S. state, England, France, and so on.

Nine times out of ten when I pass someone on the street while walking my dog they give me a smile, a wave, or they ask to pet Josie. This furry animal is a conversation starter, connecting two strangers who might otherwise not have come together for a few words. Sure, some people don’t like or are afraid of dogs, and as a responsible dog owner, I hop off the sidewalk to give those neighbours the space they deserve.

Let’s give some rights and appreciation to our furry friends. I guarantee you that I am a kinder, happier person because of my dog. Let me share some of that doggy joy with you as well. Why must we impose restrictions on all dogs as if they were all aggressive nuisance animals? There’s got to be a will and a way to let dogs participate in more aspects of our public spaces and our community.

Book Series Review: Malazan Book of the Fallen

Review by Pierre Paré

Malazan Book of the Fallen is a 10-volume fantasy series by Canadian author Steven Erikson.

Each of these 10 novels has about 1000 pages, and reading them is similar to the nature of certain street drugs – great in the beginning, but things end badly.

The first five books are a complex and compelling story, well-written and exciting. But the next five are a self-indulgent stew of introspective whining and endless internal monologues decrying religion and civilization. I only kept reading for the unresolved subplots, but that was a mistake because nothing got resolved, and the writing kept circling the drain.

No one stays bad; all the rogues are eventually resurrected as misunderstood good people. People die, but not really – they keep returning again and again until they become so tiresome that you’d kill them yourself if you could.

You don’t expect tough guys to whimper and whine, because, well, they’re tough guys. But here the warriors suddenly break character and weep and bemoan stuff even I wouldn’t complain about. And I complain about almost everything.

And don’t get me started on the people who know what’s really going on but won’t share it with anyone, no matter how much the others beg them to know, even when it means that their unexplained silence will kill them all. Just because.

I like stories with dark edges, but the words “grief” and “despair” appear so often in the last book that I was tempted to contact the author to see if he was OK.

Maybe Erikson should have quit halfway through the series and abandoned his readers, like George R. R. Martin and Patrick Rothfuss did when they ran out of ideas or energy or both.



eBook image of the complete series. Photo: Macmillan Publishers



The Polling Station

This month, we want to hear your opinion:

[Will you be travelling to the U.S.A. this summer?](#)



The Statue of Liberty. Photo: TravelScape on Freepik

The Polling Station is meant for entertainment and informational purposes only and is not to be considered scientific in any way. The Pointe-Claire Record wants to elicit discourse from the citizens of Pointe-Claire and offer up a safe space to discuss comments and ideas to encourage communication between all residents of Pointe-Claire as well as the West Island.



Photo: Teejay on Pexels

Last month’s Polling Station:

What is your favourite ice cream flavour?

Here’s what you picked:

- Banana
- Black cherry
- Chocolate marshmallow
- Chocolate-vanilla swirl
- Death by Chocolate
- French vanilla
- Maple walnut
- Pralines & Cream
- Sea salt caramel

The Kitchen: Chocolate Marble Cheesecake with Chocolate Sour Cream Frosting

By Joy Perkins



The inspiration of this recipe comes from a 1978 New York Sunday Times Magazine clipping, with several modifications. Photo: Joy Perkins

I created this cheesecake recipe to pass my baking exam when I was in cooking school in the late 70s. Since then, it has won four baking contests (no prize, just the mention). It's not sweet, but it's rich and wonderfully satisfying.

You'll need a 9" springform baking pan, an electric mixer, and a "double boiler" type apparatus.

Read through the recipe carefully and plan to do it over two days.

- 1 1/2 cups of graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tablespoons of butter
- Grated rind of one orange OR one lemon
- 24 ounces (700 grams) of cream cheese, left at room temperature for about 1.5 hours
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
- 5 large eggs
- 2 squares of semisweet Baker's chocolate
- Chocolate Sour Cream Frosting (see below)

Chocolate Sour Cream Frosting

- 6 ounces (150-170 grams) of semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 heaping cup of sour cream
- Salt

1. Melt chocolate pieces on top of the double boiler over hot water.
2. Add sour cream and a dash of salt.
3. With a wooden spoon, beat the frosting until well-combined, creamy, and of spreading consistency.
4. Frost the cheesecake on top and the sides until you reach the graham cracker crumb crust.
5. Return to the refrigerator and chill well, at least 4 hours before serving.

Preheat oven to 300°F.

1. In a small bowl, measure out the graham cracker crumbs.
2. In a small saucepan, melt the butter with the grated rind of the orange OR lemon.
3. Combine the crumbs and melted butter mixture.
4. Lightly grease the bottom and sides of the assembled 9" springform pan.
5. Press the crumb mixture to the bottom and halfway up the sides of the springform pan, paying close attention to the pan's "join" of the sides and bottom.
6. In a large bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
7. Set aside 1 cup of the cheesecake mixture.
8. Pour the remaining mixture into the prepared springform pan.
9. Melt 2 squares of the chocolate and fold into the reserved cup of cheesecake mixture.
10. Spoon chocolate mixture over the batter in the pan, then "cut" through the batter in a spiral motion for the marble effect. Don't over-fuss with the spiralling.
11. Bake in the preheated 300°F oven for 50-55 minutes or until the mixture is set.
12. Remove from the oven, leaving the cake in the pan, place on a wire rack, and refrigerate for at least three hours. (I do the cheesecake one day and the frosting the next.)
13. Carefully remove the springform pan, slide the cake onto a plate with an icing knife, and prepare to frost with the Chocolate Sour Cream Frosting.

Serves approximately 12 😊

Life in Pointe-Claire

Pointe-Claire kicked off its summer offerings with a series of events celebrating the city, its history, and our provincial holiday.

Regardless of the weather, families came out to take part in all kinds of fun events, learning about how the city works, and enjoying outdoor shows and activities.

Don't forget to keep an eye on the [Pointe-Claire calendar](#) to see what's coming up next!



Paw Patrol came out to greet the young crowd at the entry to the Public Works exhibits.

Public Works Day



Pointe-Claire's Public Works Day was held on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at the Terra-Cotta Natural Park. Families got a chance to meet the dedicated teams working to keep the city in great shape. Visitors could ask questions, look at the fleet of vehicles, and see live demonstrations of how things work.

From left to right: A city worker shows how to stop a water leak; a bucket lift shows just how high it can go; colourful tractors were lined up so children of all ages could get behind the wheel.

Cultural Rendez-Vous 2025



Pointe-Claire held its Cultural Rendez-Vous: Along the Shoreline in Stewart Park on Sunday, May 25, 2025. With displays by artisans, exhibitions and workshops from local clubs, and a variety of performances, there was something for everyone!

From left to right: The Cockleshell Crew (la cloque de noix) are the most feared pirates on the high seas; a tightrope walker shows children "the ropes"; Perla and Alphonso the Fisherman performed their circus show.

Life in Pointe-Claire (cont.)



PoutineFest

PoutineFest returned to Pointe-Claire from May 22 to May 25, 2025, this year in the parking lot of Plaza Pointe-Claire. Offering up a variety of poutines and microbrews, PoutineFest was a big hit with residents looking to fill their bellies, and also had games for the kids. According to their website, a portion of the profits from this event was donated to local organizations.

60th Anniversary of the Bob-Birnie Arena



The Pointe-Claire Aquatic Centre and the Bob-Birnie Arena celebrated their 60th anniversary with a day of fun activities on Saturday, May 31, 2025. Activities included public skating, hockey skills sessionsth and ice go-karts.

From left to right: Visitors were invited to take a souvenir hockey stick commemorating the 60th anniversary of the arena; balloons decorate the venue; families lined up for a chance to enjoy a bumping ride on the spinning, glowing go-karts.

Pointe-Claire Celebrates Quebec's National Holiday



On Tuesday, June 24, 2025, Pointe-Claire invited residents to Alexandre-Bourgeois Park to celebrate Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, also known as Quebec's Fête nationale, providing an opportunity to gather and enjoy inflatable games, face painting, children's shows, musical act Franco Festif, and ended with fireworks later that evening.

From left to right: Entertainers "Les Impeccables" roamed the grounds, putting smiles on faces; an axe-thrower tries his luck; balloon animals are always a hit with children and adults alike; a young circus performer entertains the crowd.

Around Town

City of Pointe-Claire Events

- July 2: [Fuel Junkie](#)
July 9: [Collectif 4237: Cabaret noir et blanc](#)
July 9: [Introduction to Birdwatching](#)
July 13: [Dungeons & Dragons 1 Day Quests](#)
July 16: [Rémi Bolduc Jazz Ensemble: Tribute to Dave Brubeck](#)
July 23: [Habana Café: A Musical Voyage between Cuba and Québec](#)
July 29: [Repercussion Theatre & Persephone Productions present Theatre-in-the-Park: The Importance of Being Earnest](#)
July 30: [Guided Tour – Faux-Folklore](#)
July 30: [Mentana](#)
August 6: [Bumaranga : Fiesta en el Barrio](#)
August 13: [Great Irish Gathering](#)
August 14: [Dungeons & Dragons 1 Day Quests](#)
August 14: [Tenon Mortaise : La guerre des boutons](#)
August 20: [Art and Wine Evening](#)
August 21: [The 40 Years of Dixieband](#)

Local Events:

- July 3: [Jazz Series](#)
July 4: [I Know Those Guys!](#)
July 5: [Club ModelTech Miniatures](#)
July 5: [Apocaliptik](#)
July 5: [Daylite Vampires](#)
July 6: [Drop-In Darts](#)
July 9: [Wayne & Gerry Trio](#)
July 10: [Jazz Jam](#)
July 11: [Sylvain Poirier - Solo](#)
July 11: [I Know Those Guys!](#)
July 12: [Listen to the Music and Beat the Heat](#)
July 12: [Creepin Daisy and Sideways Mirrors](#)
July 13: [Drop-In Darts](#)
July 16: [The Wayne & Gerry Trio](#)
July 17: [Jazz Trio](#)
July 17: [Apocaliptik](#)
July 18: [I Know Those Guys!](#)
July 19-20: [Kayak Polo Tournament](#)
July 24: [Darcy Burnett](#)
July 26: [Maiden Head & Attraction](#)
July 31-August 3: [Summer Music Fest](#)
August 1: [Cinema 5](#)
August 2: [Derek Falls Band](#)
August 9: [Summertime Market](#)
August 14: [Less Than 4](#)
August 29: [Andy Cook](#)

Fundraisers:

- July 3: [Trivia Night to Support Camp Marigold](#)
July 19: [Todd's Car Meet](#)
August 22-24: [Pointe-Claire Charity Softball Tournament](#)
August 24: [Wanderers Golf Tournament & Fundraiser](#)
August 27: [Cocktail en blanc](#)



POINTE-CLAIRE CELEBRATES
CANADA DAY
TUESDAY, JULY 1ST, 2025
2:00-10:30 P.M.
ALEXANDRE-BOURGEAU PARK

In the event of rain,
activities will be
moved to the Olive
Urquhart Sports
Centre



WEST ISLAND **BLUES FESTIVAL**

JULY 5TH
DOLLARD-DES-ORMEAUX
AUGUST 9TH
DORVAL
SEPTEMBER 6TH
POINTE-CLAIRE

westislandbluesfestival.com