

The Pointe-Claire Record

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

We Are Back!

A new year and new adventures await us, including the upcoming municipal elections, and perhaps federal, too!

Last year, the Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association (PCCA) re-launched the *Pointe-Claire Record* 100 years after it was first published in 1924.

We are grateful for all the positive feedback

we have received — it truly has warmed our hearts.

We also received one lengthy complaint letter, suggesting that our content was often too nice, but that's something we'll happily live with.

Putting together a community paper is a lot of work, especially considering we are all volunteers, but we think it is all worth the effort. As we have said before, we are always open to submissions from those in our community; we would love to hear about your events coming up or a recap of those already held. Opinion pieces are also welcome so long as facts are verifiable and the content is not libellous. For those who enjoy the behind-the-scenes, we would very much appreciate assistance with layout, editing, and sales.

On a personal note regarding the *PC Record* and upcoming election year: In 2021, I ran for council, and I haven't made up my mind yet if I'll run again in 2025. If I do decide to run, I would have to step away from the paper so as not to have a conflict or an unfair advantage; I really wouldn't want to cease publication or have the *Pointe-Claire Record* go on hiatus because I left. With that in mind, I am reaching out to find a few individuals who appreciate having a community paper and who would want to put their talents to work and keep our little paper going.



Newspaper issues. Photo: Freepik

On January 29th, PCCA hosted another speaker series, and I must say this was one of our best yet. We partnered with the West-Island Women's Centre to host an evening with award-winning Tarah Schwartz and MC'd by the lovely Lori Graham, both famous for their work on CTV News. It was a full house at the Pointe-Claire Legion, and the audience was captivated as Tarah recounted her long struggle to motherhood and even read excerpts from her book *Can't Help Falling: A Long Road to Motherhood*. You can read all about it on [page 4](#).

Do you know of an engaging individual or someone with a compelling story who would be interested in being the guest speaker for one of our evenings? [Contact us](#) with the details and let's make it happen!

We currently have two exciting events in the works, as well as another speaker series planned just in time for the playoffs. We will also have news about an upcoming community fundraiser — a live music event!

As I always say, grab your favourite beverage, sit back in your comfy chair, and enjoy our latest issue of the *Pointe-Claire Record*.

Stay safe!

Barry Christensen,

President, Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association

PC Record Contacts

General Questions and Info: info@pcrecord.ca

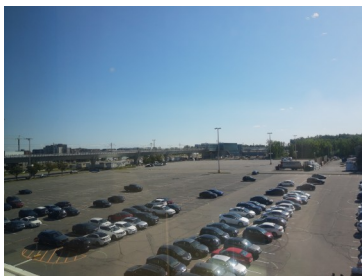
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Just the Facts: An Update on Mu1 & Mu2

by David Johnston

As many Pointe-Claire residents already know, Cadillac Fairview has been in court for the past three years trying to get Pointe-Claire to lift its development freeze on the Fairview mall property (Mu1, in zoning parlance) and adjacent John Abbott lot, informally known as Fairview Forest (Mu2) since 2019.



A view of the parking lot known as Mu1.

The company says it wants the freeze lifted so it can work toward a negotiated agreement with the city.

At the same time, Cadillac Fairview is trying to get the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) to lift its own development freeze, which is different from Pointe-Claire's, in that it applies only to Mu2.

Where the case against Pointe-Claire is concerned, Cadillac Fairview says, among other things, that the city hasn't done what it said it was going to do—hold public consultations on development in those areas affected by the freeze, including Mu1 and Mu2. The company contends that freeze – introduced as part of an interim-control by-law passed in early 2022—is being used instead to indefinitely stall to find “partners” to help Pointe-Claire buy Mu2. But that's *ultra vires*, or beyond the powers, of what Pointe-Claire can do under such a by-law, says the company.

It's true that Pointe-Claire has failed to hold meaningful consultations on development. A plan with a timeline to hold 10 consultations in 2023 and 2024 focused instead on general urban planning concepts. It fell apart in the fall of 2023, after the fourth consultation. There has been only one consultation since then, centred around what to do with Saint-Jean Blvd. Only late last year did council finally get around to proposing something more specific about Mu1 and Mu2. But Mayor Tim Thomas and council have been unable to agree on the process.

Cadillac Fairview's case against the MMC is different. The MMC introduced its own freeze, but only on Mu2, in its own interim-control by-law passed in early 2022. At first, Mu2 was not included in the early drafts of the by-law as one of several “natural environments of interest” that the MMC considered worthy of protection from development. It was only included at the last minute, just before the by-law was passed, at the request of Thomas and the Save Fairview Forest leaders.

Of course, this raises a good question: Why wasn't the so-called Fairview Forest on the original MMC list? What criteria did the MMC, its biologists, and outside consultants use to create that list? What studies were done?

Cadillac Fairview has been trying to find that out. It asked the MMC to provide it with the pertinent studies, briefing notes, and email exchanges. But the MMC has withheld some key information, citing “le secret professionnel.” As well, the MMC has refused to produce any of its communications about Mu2 that have occurred subsequent to the adoption of its by-law. That includes any email exchanges it may have had with higher levels of government, notably the provincial environment department.

The MMC did share with Cadillac Fairview, however, maps of Mu2 that had been sent to it by Pointe-Claire in support of the request to include Mu2 in the MMC freeze.

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Just the Facts (cont.)

Those maps show that almost all the old-growth, mixed-species forest of high ecological value is situated in the western half of Mu2, while the eastern half, parts of which used to be a municipal snow dump, is depicted as mostly fallow land or young tree regrowth of lesser ecological value. However, the eastern half is shown to be where the DeKay's brown snake, said to be "at risk," is concentrated. In fact, the snake, while classified in Quebec as "susceptible to being designated as vulnerable or threatened," as opposed to actually "vulnerable" or "threatened," is abundant in Ontario, Vermont, and New York, and is one of the most common urban snakes in eastern North America and the Mexican Caribbean coast. Montreal appears to be the cold-blooded snake's most northern habitat.

Here's where things stand now in the court case against the MMC: Cadillac Fairview wants the Quebec Superior Court to order Christine Boyer, a senior MMC research advisor in early 2022, to testify about how the original list was put together and why Mu2 was not on it. Last month, the court agreed to hear arguments from the company and the MMC as to why Boyer should, or should not, be compelled to testify. The court has set a date of May 1 for a 90-minute hearing.

The government of Quebec, meanwhile, has been paying very close attention to what has been going on in court.

In the fall of 2022, just months after Pointe-Claire and the MMC passed their interim-control by-laws, the Ministry of Environment issued a certificate of authorization to Cadillac Fairview, giving it the environmental green light to build everywhere on Mu2 except for two large patches of wetlands comprising half of the western half of Mu2. (As for the height of buildings, etc., that would be up to Pointe-Claire to approve.)

And in November of 2023, the provincial attorney general filed notice that it plans to intervene in the court proceedings under Section 79 of the Code of Civil Procedure (CCP), in order to defend "the public interest." Under this section of the CCP, the government has the power to appeal any ruling of the court, even though it is not a party to the proceedings.

So where is "the public interest" in all this?



Inside Fairview Forest. Photo: Geneviève Lussier

Preservation of greenspace and biodiversity is certainly in the public interest. But here some context is important. The West Island is already a leader in this regard. It is home to the largest urban nature park in Canada, the so-called Grand parc de l'Ouest, created in 2019 through the public purchase of various parcels of land that linked up already-protected greenspaces running from Pierrefonds to Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

It's eight times larger than New York's Central Park. Here in Pointe-Claire, we already have two forests, Terra Cotta and Ponner Woods. As a region, the West Island is very close, if not already meeting, the 30 per cent target for protection of natural spaces by 2030 set by the United Nations COP15 conference in 2022.

But there are other issues that weigh in the balance in defining "the public interest." There's the housing crisis, the fight against off-island Montreal urban sprawl, and climate change. Bill McKibben, one of the most respected environmentalists in the US, told CBC radio on August 13, 2023, that the single most important thing that car-dependent suburbs of major North American cities can do to fight climate change is support meaningful transit-oriented development along clean-energy transit lines. That's what the electric light rail REM is supposed to do. And that's why Pointe-Claire and other suburbs have been building condos near REM stations.

Then, of course, there are financial considerations.

The government of Quebec has guaranteed the owner and operator of the REM, the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, an 8 per cent operating profit for the next 99 years, with the possibility of another 99-year extension. Municipalities served by the REM would surely be asked to contribute to any potential future profit shortfall. Pointe-Claire, with two of the four West Island REM stations, might end up having to shoulder a disproportionate share.

David Johnston is a resident of District 1 (Cedar/Le Village). He worked for 33 years at the Montreal Gazette, concluding in 2014 as the editorial page editor.

An Evening With Tarah Schwartz

by Barry Christensen

Resilience.

It's the capacity to overcome difficult and challenging times by adapting, recovering, or bouncing back. And that resilience was very much evident when Tarah Schwartz shared her journey to motherhood with a rapt audience at the Royal Canadian Legion in Pointe-Claire on January 29th.

Organized by the [Pointe-Claire Citizens' Association](#) and the [West Island Women's Centre](#), Schwartz, winner of four awards for journalism for her work as a news reporter, persevered through a 2.5-hour traffic jam on the Île-aux-Tourtes bridge and captivated an audience of over 40 men and women with her compelling story.

With her close friend and former colleague Lori Graham acting as interviewer, Schwartz shared the struggles that led up to the joyous moment when she was finally able to bring home the toddler who would change her life forever.



Tarah Schwartz (right) being interviewed by former colleague and close friend Lori Graham.

Holding nothing back, and with both Graham and Schwartz tearing up throughout their discourse, Schwartz talked about her four miscarriages, the difficulties of in vitro fertilization (IVF), and the heart-break from a failed attempt at adoption.

Asked what gave her the strength to keep trying in the face of all the adversity, Schwartz replied, "I think I developed resiliency. Giving up would be the worst possible outcome."

Schwartz did not give up.

While Montrealers watched their beloved reporter and news anchor bring us local stories, they had no clue what was going on behind the scenes. Going to an IVF appointment at 7 a.m. and doing the news in the afternoon, Schwartz described it as "the hardest part," talking about feelings of embarrassment and shame and the stigma that comes with IVF. She spoke about the need to support the women among us and how, with the popularity of social media, "People are becoming more aware," allowing women to experience more compassion and feel more supported.

The dialogue continued, describing how Schwartz and her husband, Enrico, never gave up on their dream of having a child, seeking different avenues even while attempting IVF. Her advice for those considering adoption: "Put your name on a list. It doesn't cost anything."

Describing the process as "cray-zee," and explaining how long the process takes, with a minimum of two or three years before hearing back, followed by months of mandatory visits with a psychotherapist, all with no baby in sight — years of process just to be ready for the moment when the adoption agency asks, "Do you accept the proposition?" followed by more months of waiting.

And then dreams shattered once again. Getting the call that, for only the second time in the history of adoption in Quebec, the birth mother had changed her mind. It was the moment when Schwartz questioned everything. "It was almost too much."



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An Evening with Tarah Schwartz (cont.)

Schwartz described Enrico as a "solid, quiet rock," letting her live whatever she needed to live, always supportive, always present. And he was there for her when, 48 hours later, the phone rang. Another chance at her dream of becoming a mother. But Schwartz was still reeling from yet another loss. Thanks to the advice of a close friend who said not to wait because of how long the process takes, Schwartz "got back in the machine."

This time, "the machine" sent Schwartz and her husband to South Korea, where new rule changes and complications with a non-English-speaking interpreter resulted in an eight-month stay... and an introduction to a 13-month-old toddler who would become their son, Sam.

Showing the judge the iPad photos of the couple's interactions and their bond with Sam secured the judge's approval, succeeding in conveying in pictures what could not be expressed in words.

Describing it as "an extraordinary time," Schwartz described how Sam cried for two days, realizing he was "stuck" with Schwartz after his foster mother left. But it got better and better. "I saw him falling in love with me," recalled Schwartz.

Three months after a series of seemingly insurmountable obstacles and red tape to overcome after Sam "disappeared" from the system and was unable to get a visa, Schwartz was finally able to bring her son home, reuniting with Enrico in Montreal.

It is estimated that [one in six couples struggle with infertility](#). This statistic became more real as the evening went on, and women in the audience engaged with Schwartz, her story resonating deeply with the audience. Members shared their own experiences, their successes and disappointments, while others learned how many people have been affected by similar struggles.

Schwartz ended the evening by reading an excerpt from her book, providing guidance to all women who are looking for hope:

"You will survive this.
You will fall.
You will get up.
You will change.
You will hurt.
You will weep.
You will know sorrow.
You will find acceptance.
You will cultivate compassion.
You will heal.
From the most gut-wrenching hurt, from loss, from pain, from grief you will heal."



Copy of Tarah Schwartz's book.
Photo: Linda Leith Publishing

To learn more about Tarah Schwartz or to buy a copy of her book *Can't Help Falling: A Long Road to Motherhood*, please visit <https://tarahschwartz.ca>.

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Council Highlights — January & February 2025

by Deborah Ancel

A time to celebrate and remember

The meeting of Jan. 14, 2025, opened with the well-wishes of the mayor and his hopes for a wonderful year for all residents.



Pointe-Claire City Hall

Mayor Tim Thomas expressed his sadness on the passing of Jocelyne Déziel on Dec. 8. Déziel worked in Pointe-Claire's Legal Department and Clerk's office for 36 years. "We will remember her for her unwavering commitment and the genuine consideration she had for everyone."

A touching tribute was also paid to former mayor William Franklin McMurchie, who passed away on Jan. 1 at the age of 93. McMurchie, who dedicated 57 years to serving the city of Pointe-Claire, was described by Mayor Tim Thomas as "an iconic figure in our community" and one who "leaves an inspiring legacy of public service."

Terraces

The first drafts of a series of by-laws regarding terraces were adopted by the city councillors present at the meeting. These by-laws affect the development and use of commercial terraces, including their occupancy capacity, the structures themselves, and the changes amending the Village Code.

Councillor Brent Cowan of District 8 reminded residents that, "This is a first draft by-law. The plan is to have a public consultation going forward [...] There's always going to be the issue of promoting business versus the nuisance."

Mayor Thomas voiced his opposition to the draft by-laws, stating, "I feel it will overly constrain Pointe-Claire merchants with bureaucracy and limit their ability to engage in commercial activities on the outside of their establishments."

Councillor Eric Stork of District 7 reminded residents that merchants and organizations could request permission for outdoor shows and special events by making their applications through the city's permitting process.

Tariffs

The meeting on Feb. 4th began by addressing the city's role in facing the looming threat of tariffs from our neighbours to the south.

Mayor Thomas announced that, "In December, we introduced provisions in our contract management regulations to give preference to Quebec and Canadian goods and services for all contracts not exceeding the public tender limit. For contracts that have to go through the public tendering process, we have to wait for a legislative change from Quebec, but we are evaluating all possible options."

Field of Honour

A resolution was presented in response to a question at the Jan. 14 meeting. Posed by former resident Robert Peck, a former Pointe-Claire resident and son of a WWII veteran, he requested that council pass a resolution urging Minister Darren Fisher, Minister of Veterans Affairs, to take the necessary steps to ensure in perpetuity the viability and sustainability of the Field of Honour, a national historic site in Pointe-Claire.

It was with that request that council passed a resolution (2025-081) on Feb. 4, in support of the Last Post Fund and its offer to the Government of Canada regarding the National Field of Honour:

"THAT the City of Pointe-Claire gratefully acknowledges the near century of stewardship over the National Field of Honour provided by the Last Post Fund and lauds its continued commitment to make possible the same high standard of stewardship in the years to come by offering to transfer ownership of the National Field of Honour to His Majesty, King Charles III, in Right of Canada without consideration and to provide the Crown with approximately \$ 900,000 to be applied towards that stewardship;

THAT the City of Pointe-Claire urges the Government of Canada to accept this offer forthwith, that the dignity of this memorial be not broken and that the final resting place for so many honoured veterans of military service be not disturbed."

Remembering William “Bill” McMurchie (1931-2025)

by Dave Stubbs



Flag at half-mast honouring Bill McMurchie. Photo: Dave Stubbs

A personal Bill McMurchie story upon the passing of the late, legendary Pointe-Claire mayor who left us on New Year's Day at age 93:

Some years ago, the city — my hometown — was replacing street signs with newer, more durable and more visible versions. The old signs, which were heavy metal with black lettering and trim on a white background, were to be removed and sold, the proceeds benefiting the public library.

I had grown up on Kipling Avenue, a six-house Pointe-Claire cul-de-sac, carried into No. 105 in a car seat in November 1957 at seven months of age. Our family was the first on the brand new street; I lived in that house until I moved to Ottawa in October 1980, my wife and I returning to a different Pointe-Claire address in 1988. I sold the family bungalow in 2003, a few months after the death of my mother, having lost my father there, in his sleep, in 1978.

Where many streets in Pointe-Claire have several street signs at intersections, there was just one KIPLING AVE. on a single post.

In conversation, I shared a few Kipling stories with Bill as the street sign sale neared, expressing my disappointment that work would have me out of town that day, unable to try to buy that piece of personal history.



McMurchie (right) with Pointe-Claire Oldtimers Hockey pioneer Jack Beaumont on April 30, 2011 as part of the city's centennial year celebrations. Photo: Dave Stubbs

I returned home after my business trip a few days after the sale, answering the doorbell. It was Bill with the solitary KIPLING AVE. sign, which, without my knowledge or request, he had purchased for me, knowing how much it meant to me.

To this day, the sign hangs on the summertime fence in our yard, a few kilometres from my childhood street. Looking at the sign, I am reminded of Bill's kindness and generosity.

Dave Stubbs is a Pointe-Claire native who, since 2016, has been a columnist and historian for the National Hockey League at NHL.com. He began his journalism career with the weekly News & Chronicle in 1976, and during three decades at the Montreal Gazette, worked as a columnist, feature writer, and sports editor.



Profile of Bill McMurchie. Montreal Gazette, December 6, 2007

Kurt Scheunert, Man of Vision

On January 7, 2025, Pointe-Claire lost a man who brought so much of the community together. Arriving in Canada from Berlin, Germany, Kurt Scheunert worked as a labourer and landscaper prior to opening the Lakeshore Nursery. His success allowed him to purchase the Pointe-Claire Plaza in 1976 with his business partner, the late Bert Johnstone. Always proud of the wonderful vibe of the Plaza, Scheunert passed away at the age of 96, with his dedication to the Pointe-Claire community remaining strong throughout his life.



Editorial: Be an Informed Voter



Man casting his ballot. Photo: Edmond Dantès on Pexels

This issue features a piece about the upcoming municipal election and the importance of ensuring you are on the voter's list. As mentioned, it is also essential that

people get out and vote as well. Sadly, in some parts of the world, citizens have to risk their lives going to vote and even die doing so. Over 20 countries worldwide have compulsory voting, with differing levels of enforcement and punishment for not casting a vote!

Over the next eight months, candidates in Pointe-Claire will be vying for your vote for mayor of the city and councillor in your district. They will be meeting with residents and providing information on their platforms and will make themselves accessible to you in a number of ways. Please take the time to hear them out and gather information so that you can make an informed decision.

Putting yourself out there as a candidate isn't easy. It takes a lot of time and effort to campaign, but good candidates make sacrifices not only during their campaigns but also in the years they serve as your representatives on council.

Think about what you want for yourself and your city. Don't be afraid to ask questions, and don't be afraid to speak up and say what you want. Choosing the candidate who represents your interests is dependent on making your interests known!

So, whether you like a candidate or not, try to be respectful. These people are giving up their free time, sacrificing their family time, and opening themselves up to some harsh words from their critics all because they want to make a difference. We also hope we can say the same of the candidates, who should prepare to show each other respect and a willingness to listen since they may be colleagues in the future.

Our elected officials represent all their constituents, not just those who voted for them. Teamwork, communication, and compromise will always be necessary to keep our city thriving. Staying informed, asking questions, and participating in the democratic process are the best ways for residents to make their desires heard. Follow the candidates on their social media sites and talk to your neighbours; you can also attend council meetings in person or watch them from the comfort of your own home. There are plenty of ways to learn about how your city is run, and it's never been easier than it is in 2025.

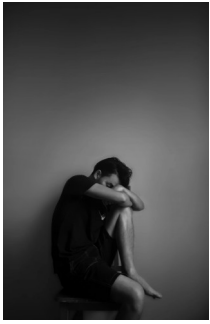
We at the *Pointe-Claire Record* hope to help with this election by providing important election information and by providing all candidates with the opportunity to submit a piece about themselves and what they stand for and against. In a future issue, we will be writing about the roles and duties of both a mayor and councillor as laid out by the Quebec government so that our readers can learn what falls under their purview and what their responsibilities and limitations are.

There are so many issues of concern for Pointe-Claire citizens, any of which should encourage them to vote. Issues such as the perpetual debate on housing and large-scale developments, improvements to the Valois and Pointe-Claire villages, windmill preservation, environmental causes and protection of greenspaces, and resources for our children and seniors — there are a multitude of reasons to make the time and effort to find out how your elected officials have served you in the past and to learn about your options for the future.

That's the beauty of municipal politics. It's close to home. It's about community. It's about getting along and working together. The next election is our opportunity to help Pointe-Claire continue to thrive while ensuring families can stay together while getting to enjoy all the benefits our unique city has to offer.

Taking the Time to Listen: A Look at Mental Health

by Eric Stork and Dr. Norman Shields



Coping with
mental health.
Photo: Pixabay

Driving home from work tonight, there was much talk on the radio about mental health and it made me think.

Just recently, a young adult whom I coached a long time ago reached out to me for personal help—I did, and I continue to do so. This caused me to reflect on my best friend living in Pointe-Claire, whom I lost 10 years ago, who succumbed to his addictions that were rooted in mental health issues. This led me to delve deeper into recollections of the years in my youth when the “S” word was a daily thought.

I reached out to a close friend, psychologist Dr. Norman Shields, a Pointe-Claire citizen, Pointe-Claire Oldtimers (PCOT) member, and valued member of our community, for his thoughts on today’s perspective on mental health.

When I consider the current state of mental health in our society, specifically in our community, I am hopeful. As I reflect on my past 25 years of practice as a clinical psychologist, I see the enormous strides we have all taken to improve access and acceptability of seeking help for mental health concerns.

When I hit the pavement as a health professional in the year 2000, I started practising in the field of addiction and mental health. I saw first-hand the devastating impact of numerous mental health conditions on people’s personal and professional lives. If left untreated or unsupported, people with mental health concerns risk losing relationships, economic opportunity, health, and, in the direst of instances – hope. What was evident 25 years ago was the abundance of shame and reluctance that people had in acknowledging their struggle and asking for help when needed. Also referred to as “stigma,” this has been and remains in some communities the largest barrier to people receiving care.

Although I have been impressed by and continue to actively participate in the development of evidence-based medicine to help people recover from various mental health concerns, I have been more impressed in the past quarter century with the shift in community attitudes

towards supporting mental health. When I think of the phrase “It takes a village...,” this shift has been championed by individual testimonials such as by Olympian Clara Hughes, government efforts and publications such as [“Out of the Shadows at Last,”](#) a report by Senators Michael J.L. Kirby and Wilbert Joseph Keon, and private industry juggernauts such as Bell Canada.

This has been no small feat and is essentially what I consider to be the most influential element in recovery, specifically the perception that others care about us when we are in need. Although evidence-based treatments are a key element in helping people recover, these are often eclipsed by the amount of impact that perceived social support has on mental health concerns and recovery outcomes. Perceived social support remains a large predictor in this domain and I can’t help but feel hopeful when I see initiatives, both population- and individually-oriented, that share in the common refrain – Let’s talk. That simple phrase signals to those in need that others are ready, able, and willing to talk. I would suggest, however, that the single most effective part of that gesture is the ability to effectively listen.

Why listen? Because it’s the act of giving someone your undivided attention, emphasizing that what they are saying is important to you and needs to be heard. Listening without judgement, fostering that acceptance that anything can be said. Letting them know that they have choices and that they are capable of bringing about change in their lives. When we pair that with a genuine compassion, that is, investing in their well-being, we have essentially fostered fertile ground for the perception of social support. In my estimation, restoring hope.

I am so glad that my friend, Eric, reached out to me to share on this topic. I am inspired by his willingness to step up and listen. I consider Eric, my PCOT members, and Pointe-Claire citizens as my community, and I fully appreciate the support they provide.

Eric Stork is the Councillor for District 7 – Northview in Pointe-Claire. Dr. Norman Shields is a former national chief psychologist for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and a former clinical psychologist at Sainte-Anne’s Veterans Hospital. He is currently in private practice in Pointe-Claire.

A Voter's Responsibility

by Barry Christensen

On November 2, 2025, municipal elections will be held throughout Quebec. If you are new to the City of Pointe-Claire or have moved to a new address within Pointe-Claire since the last municipal election in 2021, it is your obligation to verify if you are on the voter list.

There are three ways to [check that your name is on the list of electors](#):

- By [contacting Elections Quebec](#) prior to the election period;
- On the information card or registration notice you will receive in the mail at the beginning of the election period;
- By contacting your [returning officer](#) (the Pointe-Claire city clerk) during the municipal election.

Unfortunately, many citizens do not exercise their right to vote municipally while never missing a provincial or federal election. It is important to understand that the actions of the municipal government touch the lives of citizens on a daily basis, while the decisions made at higher levels of government will have a broader, but more impersonal, impact. From the moment a resident gets up in the morning and turns on the tap to fill the coffeepot, to garbage collection, to snow removal, an efficient municipal government is essential to ensuring the functioning of our everyday lives.

Pointe-Claire is unique in being able to offer many services to benefit its residents, including such resources as Olympic-class sports programs, a volunteer rescue squad that has been helping people for over 75 years, multiple recreational facilities and libraries, and activities for every age group.

In 2021, Pointe-Claire had a voter turnout of only 40.39%. Not even half of residents were interested in casting their ballot, despite having been able to vote by mail, in advance polling, at the office of the returning officer, or by showing up on the official voting day.

Nearly 60% of residents stayed home, deciding that they didn't care about who made decisions for their neighbourhoods or the city as a whole. Voting takes five minutes and provides the opportunity to have a say in how the city is run.

At the municipal level, our representatives, the city councillors, are our neighbours. They live near us; their children have attended the same schools as our children; they participate in community

activities and live under the same conditions as their residents. When reconstruction impacts our roads, it impacts their roads; when our taxes increase, so do theirs. They have a vested interest in what happens in our city because our city is their city as well.

It is also important to note that Pointe-Claire is not like the City of Montreal; we do not have a party system, and the eight councillors are independent entities who have no need to toe the party line, representing their districts and are beholden to their constituents while voting on issues affecting the city as a whole. At the same time, the mayor represents all the citizens of Pointe-Claire, with [a set of responsibilities set out by the Quebec government](#). In either role, Pointe-Claire's elected officials have a duty to work with each other, the administration and city employees, and higher levels of government to ensure that the city runs efficiently while following all guidelines and respecting the views of all residents, regardless of how their votes were cast.

The beauty of how municipal government works lies in its accessibility to all. It's local. It's open. The faces are familiar. If you have a question or a problem, it can be addressed quickly by your elected official or passed along to the appropriate department. While we have wonderful representation at the federal and provincial levels, the efficiency of local government should be encouraged with your vote.

The Pointe-Claire Record would like to encourage potential candidates and voters to share their opinions on what matters to them. Email us at editor@pcrecord.ca to share your thoughts.



Woman holding a referendum ballot. Photo: Freekpiik

Your Rights as a Tenant

Did you receive a rent increase and are wondering if it's too high? Are you unsure of what your rights are when it comes to lease renewals and rent increases?

We've got you covered!

The West Island Tenants' Action Committee (CALODI) is offering free workshops for West Island tenants to learn about their rights regarding rent increases.

With workshops in French and in English, in-person and online, there is bound to be an option for you! Come learn about your rights so that you can make an informed and confident decision this lease renewal season! To learn more and register, visit our website: www.calodi.info.

Hausse de loyer? Rent increase?

Ateliers gratuits **2025** **Free workshops**

| | | |
|------------------|---|----|
| JAN 28 | Pointe-Claire Library 7 - 8:30 PM, 100 Av. Douglas-Shand, Pointe-Claire | EN |
| FÉV 7 | Centre Gerry-Robertson 18h - 19h30, 9665 Boul. Gouin O, Pierrefonds | FR |
| FÉV 13 | Online 6 - 7:30 PM, on Zoom | EN |
| FÉV 18 | Bibliothèque de Pointe-Claire 19h - 20h30, 100 Av. Douglas-Shand, Pointe-Claire | FR |
| FÉV 25 | Gerry-Robertson Centre 6 - 7:30, 9665 Boul. Gouin O, Pierrefonds | EN |
| MAR 4 | En ligne 18h - 19h30, sur Zoom | FR |

Pour vous inscrire, visitez notre site web!
To register, visit our website!

→ www.calodi.info 514-505-0840 ext. 8 info@calodi.info



Charity doesn't stop when the holidays end Stepping Up/Un Pas Vers l'Avant needs your help

Poverty and homelessness are year-round
To show you care, please step up and help

To make a difference, please donate to these
great organizations in our backyard

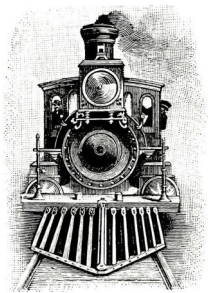


www.ricochetwestisland.com



West Island
Mission
de l'Ouest de l'Île

www.wimmoi.org



The Polling Station

This month, we want to hear your opinion:
Do you vote in municipal elections?



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.

Last month's Polling Station:

We wanted to know: What is your favourite coffee shop in Pointe-Claire?

Our readers are nothing if not loyal customers. In no particular order, these were your choices:

Victor Rose Espresso Bar, 15c Cartier Ave.

Studio 77, 271 Bord-du-Lac-Lakeshore Rd.

Delices de la Gare Valois, 123 Donegani Ave.



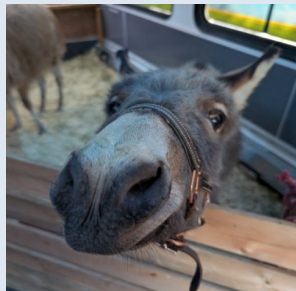
A tasty treat. Photo: Chevanon on Freepik



Celebrating Winter in Pointe-Claire



Yummy treats.



Make new friends.



Fun for the young at heart.

On Feb. 1st, Pointe-Claire welcomed the young and young at heart to its annual Winter Carnival at Northview Park. With games, snacks, and furry friends, Pointe-Claire offered something for everyone and celebrated our Canadian winter on a beautiful, sunny day.



Toasty!



Taking flight.



Our next Hab!

The festivities continued on Feb. 8-9 with Pointe-Claire's Sliding weekend at Belmont Park. Residents were invited to snowskate, ski, or snowboard while testing their skills on the specially designed sliding modules on Sunnyside Hill.

Photos by Deborah Ancel

The Kitchen: Tandoori Chicken

By Barry Christensen

- 1 3.5 lb chicken, halved
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 tbsp paprika
- 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 tbsp fresh minced ginger
- 1.5 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp cayenne
- 1 tsp turmeric
- ½ tsp ground cardamom
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground pepper



Remove chicken skin and save for crackling. Lay skin flat in air fryer and cook until lightly browned. Slice thinly and serve on rice.

Rinse and pat chicken dry. With a knife, make diagonal slashes about ½” apart on each piece of chicken. Place scored chicken in a large non-reactive bowl.

In a separate bowl, combine remaining ingredients and mix well. Apply marinade to chicken and massage it in well into all slits and crevices. Cover and let marinate for 2 hours or up to 8.

Tandoori chicken is most satisfying on a charcoal grill, but this can go in the oven @375°F or on a gas grill. Keep in mind that if using a gas or charcoal grill, cooking indirectly would be best to reduce the chance of burning the marinade.

When the internal temperature has reached 165°F, pull from heat, lightly cover and let rest for 10-15 minutes.

Serve with basmati rice topped with the chicken crackling and a side of curried chickpeas with spinach. (Recipe coming next issue!)

Around Town

- January 25-March 30: [Afrotopos](#)
February 13: [Intersections and Legends](#)
February 13: [Ensemble Mistral : Dans l'univers d'Astor](#)
February 13: [Less Than 4](#)
February 13: [Lily Vianne](#)
February 14: [West Island Comedy](#)
February 14: [Double Tonic](#)
February 15: [80's Hard Rock Night](#)
February 16: [Summer Camp Fair](#)
February 16: [Darts Tournament](#)
February 16: [Duo Vivo: Enamored Violins](#)
February 18: [Trivia Night](#)
February 21: [Shinebox](#)
February 22: [WIARC Flea Market](#)
February 22: [Trans-Atlantic Folk Music Concert](#)
February 22: [East Meets West at Valois](#)
February 22: [Thunder!](#)
February 23: [Benjamin Deschamps: Augmented Reality](#)
February 25: [The Jazz Knights](#)
February 28: [2Piece Suit](#)
March 1: [Sheldon Rourke](#)
March 9: [The Music Lovers' Forest](#)
March 12: [Ciné-art – Projection of Pendulum](#)
March 14: [Accademia De' Dissonanti: A Cello in Italy](#)
March 16: [Mariner's Curse](#)



Royal Canadian Legion
Pointe-Claire Branch 057

*Thank you, Pointe-Claire, for your
generosity during
the 2024 Poppy Campaign*