

Environmental issues raised at Council meetings and in The Informer

Comments and questions at Council meetings are taken from **Carol Foster's** Council meeting reports in **The Informer** and videos and minutes of meetings available on the Town website: <https://montreal-west.ca/en/our-town/town-council/public-meetings/>

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Compost box knocked over. From the Montreal West Residents Facebook page, September 13, 2024. A resident asked for some advice to prevent raccoons and squirrels getting into her brown compost box and received the following:

1. Freeze compost bags and put out Monday night, or Tuesday morning.
2. Keep in garage or shed.
3. Bungee cord (available at dollar store) on lid.
4. Spray Javex inside bin and clean outside with Javex.
5. If your bin is damaged, the Town will replace the latch or top or entire bin.
6. A heavy-ish rock. Pave Uni.

Dog attacks.

Councillor Small-Pennefather reported a dog attack that happened in Montreal West. She warned that there is a provincial regulation that has been in place for almost three years *obliging doctors and veterinarians to report such incidents*, that goes beyond municipal regulations. The law goes as far as euthanizing a dog if it has harmed a person or another animal. (September, 2023 Informer – **June 2023, Council meeting**)

Electrical charging stations.

A resident suggested that more electrical charging stations be added around the Town. **Councillor Ulin** replied that there are no plans to add more charging stations in the Town presently, but some will be included in the new recreation center. (November, 2022, Informer – **September, 2022, Council meeting**)

Fireplaces & wood-burning stoves.

The Environment Action Committee is working on a variety of projects including a review of woodburning regulations, better waste management policies and the potential for bike routes within the territory. (November, 2023, Informer – **September, 2023, Council meeting**)

Several residents were concerned about a possible ban on wood-burning fireplaces. They were reassured by both the mayor and **Councillor Ulin** that what is to be examined is the placing of certain restrictions on the use of these fireplaces rather than a total ban. (May, 2022, Informer – **March, 2022, Council meeting**)

A resident queried why Town is considering a ban on wood-burning fireplaces when they are attractive, contribute a minimal amount of air pollution and are needed in the event of power outages? Instituting a ban is under discussion because, while fireplaces are attractive and useful, they also contribute to urban smog which is not good for the environment and can also cause health problems for those with respiratory issues was **Councillor Torres'** reply. Both the pros and cons will be considered in the wording of the final bylaw. (April, 2022, Informer – **February, 2022, Council meeting**)

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Fossil fuel heating ban.

Mayor Masella assured one questioner that, unlike new regulations being introduced in Montreal regarding the type of heating to be used in all buildings, the Town has not even started discussing this issue. (December, 2023, Informer -- **October, 2023, Council meeting**)

... the Town is going to start looking into this situation in order to be in sync with governmental mandates when they are released. The mayor expects a phased-in approach with plenty of notice given in advance. (September, 2022, Informer -- **June, 2022, Council meeting**)

Lead in water pipes. (Also see Water filter rebate program below)

A resident discussed the issue of lead water pipes. He wondered what proportion of them are safe. **Mayor Masella** said the Town knows 70% are. The resident asked if that means 30% are not, but the Mayor answered it only means we do not know for them. Also, this is only about public pipes; the Town does not know the state of plumbing on the private side. The resident noted that Côte Saint-Luc was criticized for not sharing reports. The Mayor said the reports for Montreal West are up-to-date, the last one dating back to January 2019. *The testing is done at selected addresses by the City of Montreal, upon suggestions from Montreal West.* The resident asked if these reports [were made public?] and the Mayor said he assumed they are but would follow up. [There was a gap in the official minutes. My assumption was: "were made public".] **December 16, 2019 Council meeting. From the Town's minutes.**

The **January 2020 Informer** reported this question and answer as: "He (the Mayor) was also asked about the reports in the news about amounts of lead being measured in drinking water. The Mayor responded that 70% of the water service lines on the public side are lead-free and the Town is continuing to replace lead pipes in all future infrastructure work. Water tests are continually shared with the province and residents are kept up to date with detailed information by the e-bulletins and on the Town's website."

Also check the Town website: <https://montreal-west.ca/en/resident-services/public-works/lead-in-drinking-water/>

And the following PDF has a couple of extra points: [Lead in drinking pipes](#)

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Salt on roads and sidewalks.

August, 2024 Council meeting (1:28:54) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7AoOo8rKOc&t=4647s>

A resident asked "Has Councillor Ulin found a solution to the dilemma of using salt on the roads to the great detriment of the St Lawrence river, local gardens, and also pavement? If not, please consult the Concordia Engineering Department.

Councillor Ulin: We have not yet found a solution, and it needs to be taken seriously. If you have information about Concordia, maybe you can send me an email.

A resident noted that salting of roads and sidewalks seems to be overabundant and in some areas there are large accumulations of salt. This makes it difficult for dog walking and also has consequences for plantings and landscaping. Asked if there is a reason for such heavy salting and if there are more ecological alternatives. **November, 2020 Council meeting. From the Town's minutes.**

Trees – Cutting down (From the **Trees – Invasive Norway maples** reference below)

Councillor Torres stated that **our bylaws state that we cannot cut trees unless they're diseased or decayed or pose a safety issue.** She advised cutting the saplings when they are 10 cm or less. She will write an article about it in the beginning of the fall (in the Council Communique section of The Informer).

Trees -- Invasive Norway maples.

June, 2024 Council meeting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZmCXFu_m44

A resident asked (video 17:19) if council considering allowing homeowners who are struggling with invasive Norway maples on their properties to be able to remove the trees. Homes backing into the ravine have seen an exponential growth of Norway maples that is destroying the ecosystem. Toronto has an organization responsible for the preservation of the ecosystem of their ravines and the Norway maple is identified as an invasive species that homeowners are expected to remove. **Councillor Torres** replied (18:00) that she will read the Toronto article that was provided and will do some research to find what other towns are doing, But, at the moment our bylaws state that we cannot cut trees unless they're diseased or decayed or pose a safety issue. She advised cutting the saplings when they are 10 cm or less. She will write an article about it in the beginning of the fall (in the Council Communique section of The Informer).

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Trees -- Norway maple damages car.

August, 2024 Council meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7AoOo8rKOc&t=4647s>

A resident described (video 1:15:55) how a fallen branch from a not particularly healthy Norway maple did \$12K of damage to her car depreciating it by \$5K (according to Spinelli) and increased her insurance by \$500. **Councillor Ulin** replied that the tree was inspected in January and was in good health and stable. Hence no reason to remove at that time. **The Town only removes trees if they're sick or dangerous.** Public works will inspect. [The photos below suggest that the tree is not doing well, and that there's another dead branch which will surely fall.] **[Editor's note:** Can blocking sunlight be added to the list? Some yards are over-run with Norway maples.]

Tree planting program -- choice of trees

April, 2024 Council meeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjGhSVanBUk>

A resident asked (video 50:11) that "with the increase in extreme weather and branches falling on distribution lines I question why the city proposes trees in its tree planting program that are not recommended by Hydro Quebec. Why incur extra costs for vegetation management and outage management when this can be avoided?" **Councillor Ulin** (50:44) replied that the Town does use the Hydro-Quebec guidelines for where the tree is positioned and how far from the [power] lines. We take their suggestions where possible but also need a very diversified tree canopy. We can't always be using the same 15 to 20 trees. We will on occasion choose trees not on the HQ list that meet other specifications.

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Water filter rebate program. From the Town's website:

<https://montreal-west.ca/en/resident-services/administrative-services/water-filter-rebate-program/>

Wild Animals – removal.

The following was posted on the Town Facebook page around May 7, 2024: As spring emerges, so does an increase in wildlife activity. *The law stipulates that the Town cannot remove wild animals (from) your property.* However, for advice on how to prevent wild animals from settling in, what to do when they become a nuisance, and what to do if you care for their wellbeing, visit the **SPCA de Montreal** website: <https://www.sPCA.com/en>

Wild animals – injured/dead.

June, 2024 Council meeting (video 2:48) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZmCXFu_m44

A resident had an injured bat on their property which later died. She followed the Town website advice to phone the SPCA but was told that the Town does not have a contract with the SPCA. The **Town clerk** replied that the Town is being invoiced by the SPCA. The Town will investigate the contract. (The resident informed that Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control charges \$400 to remove a dead bat.)

Where does our recycling go? The oft-asked question about where the recycled material picked up in the Town actually goes. The mayor replied that the recycling trucks are often mistaken for garbage trucks, but they serve two separate functions. The Town's contract with the recycling company states that the items picked up by them go to a recycling plant. (November, 2021, Informer – **August, 2021, Council meeting**)

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Recycling is complicated!

A visit to *Société VIA*

“Recycling is complicated!” This was a comment received from one of 16 MoWest residents after a trip to the local recycling sorting facility in Lachine, on June 7. The trip was organized by the *Environmental Action Committee* to help raise awareness about our local recycling ecosystem.

“Where are we?” asked **Maxime Moisan**, our guide and the plant manager, in the sunny and quiet staff break room. After some guesses from the group, he confirmed that we were not at a recycling centre, but rather a sorting centre for recycled materials. The role of the centre is to triage and sort everything that gets dropped off by recycling trucks and get it ready for sale to those who recycle these materials. The centre is operated by *Société VIA*, which operates five recycling centres around Quebec and has a mission to foster social inclusion of people living with functional limitations and providing them with work opportunities.

Once we left the break room, we were led to a loud space overlooking a large open floor where recycling trucks unload and front-end loaders de-compress materials to improve sorting. Items then go to a “pre-triage” area, where anything that could be dangerous or interfere with the sorting machines is removed. Then, the mass of items moves along a dizzying array of conveyor belts to be machine sorted based on parameters such as size, weight, colour, light reflection and magnetic properties.

Materials end up in different areas according to their material type (paper/cardboard, plastic, etc.), and staff then do quality control on the conveyor belts. It’s a fast-paced job, with the conveyors moving many items by the workers, who have to quickly identify and pull out items that don’t belong

on the belt. As noted by one of the survey respondents: “After seeing people working at the facility, I want to help them with their work... their job is already difficult.”

What happens next?

Sorted materials are then bailed by material type and sold to various companies. *Société VIA* prioritizes selling to as many local and/or Quebec-based buyers as possible. For some plastics, there is not yet a market/purchaser to sell to, but plant manager Moisan says people should continue to put them in their recycling bins: “recycling is an evolving process,” he concedes, but they want citizens to develop the habit of putting plastic bags, for example, in recycling. He noted that *Société VIA* has only been operating the plant for the past year and a half, and it will take time and investment to get their processes maximized.

Recycling responsibly

Back in the quiet of the break room, Moisan was asked about his main advice for citizens who want to ensure they are recycling responsibly. Think before putting certain items in the blue bin – items to be recycled are containers, wrappings and printed materials. Items such as lithium batteries cause dangerous fires at the plant several times a year, and large items that are not meant to be recycled (e.g. hoses, very large metal sheets or pieces of plastic) can block the conveyors, thus disrupting the sorting process for materials from all over Montreal.

Moisan also emphasized one piece of clear advice in what can be an overwhelmingly complex system, especially when it comes to plastics and mixed materials: con-

sider what you purchase and reduce consumption at source. Also, educate yourself – use the “Ça va où” app to find out where to put your items.

Visiting a sorting centre is another way to educate yourself about the complexities of recycling. *The Environmental Action Committee* hopes to organize another visit in the coming year.

As noted by one participant: “I feel as an individual and as a society we can do much better.” Another noted: “The more I see and understand, the more I am willing to participate.” Educating citizens about our recycling systems – and the importance of reducing our reliance on packaging – is a key component of improving our waste recovery stream.

from Joanna Duy
Environmental Action Committee



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Des éésidants de Montréal-Ouest observant le triage à la Societe VIA

Le recyclage, c'est compliqué!

Une visite à la Société VIA

« Le recyclage, c'est compliqué! » Voici un commentaire entendu de l'un des 16 résidents de Montréal-Ouest après une visite au centre local de tri de matières recyclables à Lachine, le 7 juin. Le voyage a été organisé par le *Comité d'action environnementale* pour contribuer à sensibiliser les citoyens à notre écosystème de recyclage local.

« Où sommes-nous? » a demandé **Maxime Moisan**, notre guide et directeur de l'usine, dans la salle de repos du personnel, ensoleillée et calme. Après quelques suppositions du groupe, il a confirmé que nous n'étions pas dans un centre de recyclage, mais plutôt dans un centre de tri de matières recyclées. Le rôle du centre est de trier tout ce qui est déposé par les camions de recyclage et de le préparer à la vente à ceux qui recyclent ces matières. Exploité par la *Société VIA*, qui possède cinq centres de recyclage partout au Québec, le centre a pour mission de favoriser l'inclusion sociale des personnes vivant avec des limitations fonctionnelles et de leur offrir des possibilités d'emploi.

Une fois que nous avons quitté la salle de repos, nous avons été conduits vers un espace bruyant donnant sur un grand étage ouvert où les camions de recyclage déchargent les matières recyclables et les chargeurs frontaux décompressent les matières pour améliorer le tri. Les articles sont ensuite acheminés vers une zone de « pré-triage » où tout ce qui pourrait être dangereux ou gêner les machines de tri est retiré. Ensuite, la masse d'articles se déplace le long d'un gigantesque réseau de tapis roulants pour être triée par machine en fon-

ction de paramètres tels que la taille, le poids, la couleur, la réflexion de la lumière et les propriétés magnétiques.

Les matières arrivent dans différentes zones selon leur type (papier/carton, plastique, etc.), puis le personnel effectue un contrôle de la qualité sur les tapis roulants. C'est un travail rapide, les convoyeurs déplaçant de nombreux articles à l'aide des travailleurs, qui doivent rapidement identifier et retirer les articles qui n'ont pas leur place sur le tapis. Comme l'a souligné l'une des personnes interrogées : « Après avoir vu des gens travailler dans l'établissement, je veux les aider... leur travail est déjà difficile ».

Le triage n'est pas la fin de l'histoire

Les matières triées sont ensuite mises en ballots par type de matière et vendues à diverses entreprises. La *Société VIA* priorise la vente au plus grand nombre possible d'acheteurs locaux ou québécois. Pour certains plastiques, il n'y a pas encore de marché ou d'acheteur à qui vendre, mais le directeur de l'usine, M. Moisan, estime que les gens devraient continuer à les mettre dans leurs bacs de recyclage. « Le recyclage est un processus évolutif », admet-il, mais la société souhaite que les citoyens développent l'habitude de mettre, par exemple, les sacs en plastique au recyclage. Il a souligné que la *Société VIA* n'exploite l'usine que depuis un an et demi et qu'il faudra du temps et des investissements pour maximiser ses processus.

Recyclage responsable

De retour dans le calme de la salle de repos, on a posé des questions à M. Moisan sur ses principaux conseils aux citoyens qui souhaitent s'assurer de recycler de manière responsable. « Réfléchissez avant de mettre certains articles dans le bac bleu : les articles à recycler sont les contenants, les emballages et les documents imprimés. Des articles tels que des piles au lithium provoquent des incendies dangereux dans l'usine plusieurs fois par an, et des articles volumineux qui ne sont pas destinés à être recyclés (p. ex. boyaux, très grands morceaux de métal ou de plastique) peuvent bloquer les convoyeurs, perturbant ainsi le processus de tri de matières provenant de partout à Montréal.

M. Moisan a également souligné un conseil clair dans ce qui peut être un système extrêmement complexe, en particulier lorsqu'il s'agit de plastiques et de matériaux mixtes : réfléchissez à ce que vous achetez et réduisez votre consommation à la source. Renseignez-vous également : utilisez l'application « Ça va où » pour savoir où déposer vos objets.

Visiter un centre de tri est une autre façon de se renseigner sur les complexités du recyclage. Le *Comité d'action environnementale* espère organiser une autre visite au cours de la prochaine année.

Comme l'a souligné un participant : « Je pense qu'en tant qu'individu et en tant que société, nous pouvons faire beaucoup mieux ». Un autre a confié : « Plus je vois et je comprends, plus je suis disposé à participer. » Éduquer les citoyens sur nos systèmes de recyclage – et sur l'importance de réduire notre dépendance aux emballages – est un élément clé pour améliorer notre flux de récupération des déchets.

de Joanna Duy,
Comité d'action environnementale



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September, 2023 Informer. Council Communique



WHERE DOES OUR RECYCLING GO?

At the beginning of the summer, the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) took a field trip to the sorting centre in Lachine, Société VIA, which handles MoWest's recycling. And some of what we saw was shocking.

Our tour began at the pre-sort station where employees, lined up on either side of a conveyor belt, do a manual sorting of items removing 10-15% of the material that cannot be recycled. We saw loads of items that had no business being in the recycle bin: vacuums, laptops, hoses, suitcases, Styrofoam packaging. Some of these items are downright dangerous. Long, thin items like hoses, straps, lengths of wire and electrical cords can get jammed up in the machinery, stretching until they snap, badly injuring or maiming employees. We were told this happens every year.

The conveyor moves quickly and it is clear that a lot of the remaining material is still not recyclable. Employees must be careful of broken glass and other sharp items. The decibel level is extremely high, the smell sharply pungent. Masses of flies are everywhere. There is a reason we are asked to clean our food containers before tossing them in the bin. Week-old milk cartons, tins of canned fish, greasy take-out containers may all be technically recyclable, but when thrown in the bin unwashed create an unhealthy (frankly intolerable) environment for the workers. And it's worth noting that Société VIA

hires employees with various mental and physical disabilities as part of its mandate. This is laudable, of course, but as "suppliers" to this facility, we have a responsibility to contribute items in sanitary condition.

After the pre-sort, the remaining items go past a series of sorting machinery. An optical scanner removes plastic items with blasted air. An electromagnetic machine removes metal using a magnetic field (allowing them to achieve 97% metal purity). A "shakeout machine" is usually used for glass sorting, but during our visit that machine was broken. In the meantime, they must manually sort the glass, but can achieve only 80% purity. This lower-grade material is repurposed as sandblasting material and in pool filtration systems. None of it can be recycled back into glass. The coming Provincial bottle consignment program (2025) will allow glass to be properly recycled. At the end of the line, a "quality control" station bales up the paper and cardboard (30% of all recyclables), and all non-conforming materials are sent to landfill.

When we asked what MoWesters could do to help make the system work better these are the tips we got:

1) When in doubt, throw it out! You're better off tossing an item in the garbage if you're not sure it's recyclable. Contamination is a big problem in our current system. Textiles, shoes, diapers, long items (hoses, cords, straps), and lithium batteries are especially problematic. (Lithium batteries cause many accidents and fires. The Saguenay sorting centre has 17 battery fires per month!)

2) Think of the human beings that have to sort through your stuff. Clean food containers, especially dairy, meat and fish.

3) Do the stretch test for plastics bags. If they're stretchable they're recyclable. And put them all together in one bag.

4) Tetra boxes can be recycled. Leave the covers on or they will get lost in the glass.

5) Number 6 plastic and Styrofoam is not recyclable except at the Lasalle Ecocentre. Bring it there in bulk.

The EAC is looking into organizing another field trip to the recycle centre for the public so you can see for yourself how it all works. Keep an eye out for details.

Elizabeth Ulin, *Councillor
Public Works, Environment and
Communication*
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September, 2023 Informer. Council Communiqué



Au début de l'été, le Comité d'action environnementale (CAE) s'est rendu au centre de tri de Lachine, Société VIA, qui s'occupe du recyclage de Montréal-Ouest. Et ce que nous avons vu était parfois choquant.

Notre visite a commencé à la station de pré-tri où les employés, alignés de part et d'autre d'un tapis roulant, effectuent un tri manuel des articles en éliminant 10 à 15 % des matériaux qui ne peuvent être recyclés. Nous avons vu des tas d'articles qui n'avaient rien à faire dans un bac de recyclage : des aspirateurs, des ordinateurs portables, des tuyaux, des valises, des emballages en polystyrène. Certains de ces objets sont carrément dangereux. Les articles longs et fins tels que les tuyaux, les sangles, les longueurs de fil et les cordons électriques peuvent se coincer dans les machines, s'étirer jusqu'à se rompre et blesser gravement ou mutiler les employés. On nous a dit que cela se produisait chaque année.

Le convoyeur avance rapidement et il est clair qu'une grande partie des matériaux restants n'est pas recyclable. Les employés doivent faire attention aux bris de verre et autres objets tranchants. Le niveau de décibels est extrêmement élevé, l'odeur très forte. Les mouches sont omniprésentes. Ce n'est pas pour rien que l'on nous demande de nettoyer nos récipients alimentaires avant de les jeter à la poubelle. Les briques de lait vieilles d'une semaine, les boîtes de conserve de poisson, les récipients gras pour les plats à emporter peuvent tous être techniquement recyclables, mais lorsqu'ils sont jetés à la poubelle sans avoir été lavés, ils créent un environnement malsain (franchement intolérable) pour les travailleurs. Il convient également de noter que, dans le

cadre de son mandat, la Société VIA embauche des employés souffrant de divers handicaps mentaux et physiques. C'est louable, bien sûr, mais en tant que "fournisseurs" de cet établissement, nous avons la responsabilité de contribuer à la salubrité des articles.

Après le pré-tri, les articles restants passent par une série de machines de tri. Un scanner optique élimine les articles en plastique à l'aide d'air comprimé. Une machine électromagnétique élimine les métaux à l'aide d'un champ magnétique (ce qui leur permet d'atteindre une pureté de 97 %). Une "machine à secouer" est généralement utilisée pour le tri du verre, mais lors de notre visite, cette machine était en panne. En attendant, l'entreprise doit trier manuellement le verre, mais ne peut atteindre qu'une pureté de 80 %. Ce matériau de qualité inférieure est réutilisé comme matériau de sablage et dans les systèmes de filtration des piscines. Aucun de ces matériaux ne peut être recyclé en verre. Le prochain programme provincial de consignation des bouteilles (2025) permettra de recycler correctement le verre. En fin de chaîne, un poste de "contrôle de la qualité" met en balles le papier et le carton (30 % de toutes les matières recyclables), et tous les matériaux non conformes sont envoyés à l'enfouissement.

Lorsque nous avons demandé ce que les résidents de Mo-Ouest pouvaient faire pour améliorer le fonctionnement du système, voici les conseils qu'ils nous ont donnés :

1) En cas de doute, jetez-le ! Il vaut mieux jeter un article à la poubelle si vous n'êtes pas sûr qu'il soit recyclable. La contamination est un problème majeur dans notre système actuel. Les textiles, les chaussures, les couches, les objets longs (tuyaux, cordons, sangles) et les piles au lithium sont particulièrement problématiques. (Les piles au lithium sont à l'origine de nombreux accidents et incendies. Le centre de tri du Saguenay compte 17 incendies de piles par mois).

2) Pensez aux êtres humains qui doivent trier vos déchets. Nettoyez les contenants alimentaires, surtout les produits laitiers, la viande et le poisson.

3) Faites le test d'étirement pour les sacs en plastique. S'ils sont extensibles, ils sont recyclables. Et mettez-les tous ensemble dans un seul sac.

4) Les boîtes Tetra peuvent être recyclées. Laissez les couvercles en place, sinon ils se perdront dans le verre.

5) Le plastique numéro 6 et la mousse de polystyrène ne sont pas recyclables, sauf à l'écocentre de Lasalle. Apportez-les en vrac.

Le CAE envisage d'organiser une autre visite du centre de recyclage pour le public afin que vous puissiez voir par vous-même comment tout cela fonctionne. Restez à l'affût des détails.

Elizabeth Ulin, conseillère
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Kosher corner



High Holiday services

Looking for local and welcoming High Holiday services? Chabad Westminster is the place for you! Please join us for Rosh Hashana (October 2-4) and Yom Kippur (October 11-12) for prayers accompanied with English explanations and insights. Light refreshments and Kiddush will be served after the Rosh Hashana services and a breakfast after Neilah. Services this year will be held at the curling club.

Shofar will be blown in Strathearn Park Thursday, October 3 and Friday, October 4 at 4:30 pm.

Yizkor on Yom Kippur will be held October 12 at 1:15 pm. Yizkor pledges are welcome at chabadwestminster.com/donate.

For a full schedule of all High Holiday

services and communal meals or to RSVP, please visit chabadwestminster.com/HH5785.

Hebrew school

Hebrew school has begun, but it is not too late to join! For more information or to register, please visit chabadwestminster.com/hebrewschool or call Chaya at 746-9649.

Sukkot festivities!

Lastly, don't forget the Sukkot festivities! Community BBQ in the sukka Tuesday, October 22 and family Simchat Torah celebration Friday, October 25!

Looking forward to celebrating this busy month together, wishing everyone a Chaitima Tova!

from Rabbi Marlow

Environmental Action Committee

Profile of a dedicated composter

During May and June, along with the Public Library, the *Environmental Action Committee* hosted a series of workshops on composting and the circular economy. Together we looked at the food waste situation in Quebec today, and focused on participants' own composting practices.

So what makes a good composter? Here are their tips:

Shop smart: Know what your family likes to eat and buy only the correct proportions. It helps to keep a running shopping list.

Organize: Plan as many of the meals in advance as possible and keep the fridge organized to avoid spoilage.

Use the whole food item: Make use of as much of each foodstuff as possible (including stems, leaves, and bones) and find other uses for commonly wasted parts.

Soup stock is a good option for such components.

Get the family on board: Supercharge your efforts by enlisting all family members to participate.

Freeze: Use your freezer to preserve the value of food, and store some organic waste like meat and bones that may become smelly in the kitchen bin, in the freezer until it can go out on pickup day.

Spread the word: Discuss composting with friends and neighbours whenever you get a chance, and offer to work with them if they're skeptical or are having trouble getting started.

from Julie Waters



Comité d'action environnementale

Profil d'un composteur dévoué

En mai et juin 2024, en collaboration avec la bibliothèque publique, le *Comité d'action environnementale* a organisé une série d'ateliers sur le compostage et l'économie circulaire. Ensemble, nous avons examiné la situation des déchets alimentaires du Québec d'aujourd'hui et nous nous sommes concentrés sur les pratiques de compostage des participants.

Qu'est-ce qui fait un bon composteur? Voici leurs conseils:

Faites vos courses intelligemment: Sa-

chez ce que votre famille aime manger et n'achetez que les bonnes quantités. Il est utile de tenir une liste d'épicerie.

Organisez-vous: Planifiez autant de repas que possible à l'avance et organisez le réfrigérateur pour éviter les pertes.

Utilisez l'intégralité de l'aliment: Utilisez la plus grande partie possible de chaque aliment y compris les tiges, les feuilles et les os et trouvez d'autres utilisations pour les parties habituellement gaspillées. Le bouillon de soupe est une bonne option pour ces éléments.

Faites participer la famille: Mettez toutes les chances de votre côté en invitant tous les membres de la famille à participer au compostage.

Congelez: Utilisez votre congélateur pour préserver la valeur des aliments et stockez certains déchets organiques, comme la viande et les os, qui risquent de sentir mauvais dans la poubelle de la cuisine, dans le congélateur jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent être ramassés.

Faire passer le message: Parlez du compostage avec vos amis et vos voisins dès que vous en avez l'occasion et proposez-leur de travailler avec vous s'ils sont sceptiques ou s'ils ont du mal à se lancer.

par Julie Waters
traduction par Daniel Boulterice





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