

Notes associated with issues described in Post 17d on the Montreal West Community Forum FB.

Publish the infrastructure priority list.

Note 1: At the February 2023 council meeting (April 2023 Informer) a councillor agreed to publish the list only to reverse her decision at the June 2023 meeting – video (44:38). Here is the extract from page 17 of the April Informer where the February meeting as reported by Carol Foster: “Other topics discussed included a request for a continually updated list of streets scheduled for repair in priority order. Councillor Ulin agreed with this request and added that the list could be published in The Informer, accompanied by an explanation of how the streets are selected.”

Town discretion in prioritizing infrastructure renewal.

Note 2: At the November 25, 2024 meeting (1:26:54) a councillor acknowledged that “**things like lead in the water** or cross connections or other things under the street **can also be factored in**. If two streets we’re looking at, and all things being equal, we could consider lead as being one of the factors to put that street higher on the priority list.” This suggests some discretion in how roads are assigned priority for renewal. Exactly how much discretion does council have?

November meeting video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpfjyd1DJeU>

Publish the lead in water test results.

Note 3: Montreal has an interactive map that allows anyone to search any property to check if there are lead service pipes. Demerged suburbs are not included. No lead concentrations are given. We could do the same for each property tested with a yes or no, and also give the range of concentrations on a block-by-block basis. Try **4066 Boul Grand** in the following link, then click on the red teardrop marker, and you’ll see how they even indicate when tests were done. Check map [here](#). Or:

https://services.montreal.ca/presence-plomb/?utm_source=site-ville&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=vdm-eau-plomb-dans-leau-2019-traf

Publish committee memberships.

Note 4: For most of us, it’s always a mystery as to who are on the various committees. Why the secrecy? Residents might find that their acquaintances or neighbours are members of a committee they’d like to give feedback and suggestions.

Better pay for councillors, a little more for the mayor.

Note 5: As noted in Post 17c, base salaries for councillors were \$13,647 in 2023 and \$34,114 for the mayor or exactly 2.5 times higher. Councillors are responsible for up to 3 portfolios and sit on at least one committee, and must deal with resident problems arising from their portfolios. The mayor sits on the Agglomeration council and the Union of Municipalities of Quebec (which meets infrequently) and is paid for each I believe. Perhaps the mayor should only receive a maximum of twice a councillor’s salary? Councillors pay might easily be bumped to \$18,000 given the workload.

Improved follow-up on residents’ queries.

Note 6: A Percival resident remarked at the February 2025 council meeting (36:52) that the Town had not gotten back to her regarding a claim for the July 13, 2023 flood. Ditto for Brock South residents and their water main break that same day. At the June, 2024 council meeting (17:19), an Easton resident pointed out that Norway maples are designated an invasive species in Toronto and requested council do the same as they’re degrading the Falaise on Easton. A councillor promised to look into it, but nothing has been done as of March 2025.

But where is the place for debate?

Note 7: A candidate's platform during the 2013 election proposed "quarterly transparency meetings between councillors and citizens to answer questions/concerns including how our money is spent and to share ideas." This might be an interesting pilot project starting on a semi-annual basis.

Possible binding referendum questions every 4 years at elections.

Note 8: US citizens vote on a number of local and state propositions every 2-year election cycle. Although our cycle would be 4 years – an unfortunately long time to wait, there might be some value in it. Especially since we have an election this November 02.

Support and encourage residents' filing compensation requests for floods, etc.

Note 9: When residents experience a crisis such as a flood, the Town should actively encourage them to file a claim, or even sue the Town, and help steer their claim providing regular feedback. Even snowblower or pothole damage claims should be aided.

Give the PSOs cell phone number.

Note 10: Posts are occasionally made on the Town of MW Residents FB group that a resident has been unable to contact the PSO, or not in a timely fashion, or received the "run-around" at some generic call center. There can hardly be that many emergencies in the Town – two a day max? Why not provide the PSO's direct mobile phone number?

Publish location of crimes.

Note 11: Although Montreal West crime statistics are now combined with NDG, CSL, and I believe Hampstead – all served by station 9 – and hence are no longer separately available, our Public Security Officers are often aware of many incidents which should be publicized in The Informer giving the approximate location. The Westmount Independent has a regular crime section; for example, check page 3 of the March 18, 2025 issue: <https://westmountindependent.com/WIv19.3c.pdf>

Extend the deadline for filing a claim against the Town.

Note 12: Residents currently have only 15 days to file a claim against the Town. Many people are unaware of this, or sometimes don't realize that damage has occurred until much later, as in the case of snowblower damage this past winter on shrubs and trees. If this is a provincial regulation, surely we can find a work-around by describing it as something else: tree/shrub restitution fund It's our Town, our decision – which is why we voted for demerger.