



Roger Haughey

ROGER'S NEIGHBOURHOOD

Sporting a full monty

The Montys are an NDG netball team that have been playing together on Wednesday evenings for over a year.

Netball involves two teams of seven who play on a rectangular court with raised nets at each end, similar to basketball, but with no backboard and with a football-sized round ball.

The players each have a specific position, which dictates where they can go on the court, and they are not allowed to move with the ball. They can hold the ball for only three seconds before shooting or passing. The team that scores the most goals wins.

The sport was developed in England, where Tammy Bray played it in her youth. When she and her husband moved to Montreal 11 years ago, she thought about joining a team.

"Last year I was grocery shopping at Loblaw's when I saw the Netball Association of Quebec selling hotdogs to raise funds and I thought it was my opportunity to find out what was locally available and whether I could start up a team."

She approached Avice Joseph, the president of the Quebec Amateur Netball Association, who encouraged Bray to start a "mums team" with her friends. The result is the Montys, now in their second season.

"We play every Wednesday evening from 8:30 to 10 pm at the Côte des Neiges Sports Centre." The team is made up of local women ranging in age (20s to 50s) and experience (from none to some), and they are looking to expand. To join the

team is "extremely cheap and you can come and try it out once for free."

For anyone who likes team sports and is looking for a fun way to keep fit, contact Tammy at tammenjbray@hotmail.com, or drop by the Sports Centre any Wednesday night. Go Montys go!

Industrial tax break?

With the PQ minority government threatening to impose a retroactive income tax on our already burdened paychecks, you may be surprised to learn that about a year ago, after the construction of the MUHC super hospital was well under way, the city of Montreal decided that it should give a five-year tax subsidy to commercial real estate developers who invest in developing the buildings that surround the MUHC site.

Called PR@M-Industry, the program was started in 2007 to encourage investment in manufacturing in economically depressed areas of the city. Fair enough, but the city expanded the program to include the MUHC super hospital site and the medical "industry" as eligible for the subsidy.

Do the investors in the buildings directly across the street (or tracks) from a \$1-billion public development project really need a five-year tax subsidy? In the words of my dearly departed father, that's "gilding the lily."

Remember, if you know a community standout, or would like to see you event or activity appear in a future column, send me an email at least three weeks in advance: rogerhaughey@gmail.com.

Jackie Wallace earns NDG Baseball award

BY ISAAC OLSON

Jackie Wallace has been involved with NDG Baseball since its inception back in 1961 when it went from pick-up games in NDG Park to becoming a formal league.

Some 51 years later, Wallace, who is now 82, still lives not far from where it all began and remembers fondly the decades he spent coaching young players in an organization that has since gone on to win national championships.

"I have never met a player that has played for Jackie Wallace that didn't love him," said the organization's president Graham Nevin, who presented Wallace with the NDG Baseball Legacy Award during last month's annual volunteer appreciation night. "Everybody universally loves Jackie."

Nevin described Wallace, who was involved with baseball long before the league formed, as an athlete, but because of his small stature, he didn't have the body type to play at a competitive level.

He was, however, still able to transfer that inherent athleticism on to the players, said Nevin. Of course, Wallace joked in an interview with the *Free Press* that even though he played baseball and hockey, his golf skills were sub-par. Along with coaching baseball and playing ice hockey alongside the Alouettes, Wallace was also a hockey coach.

When asked why he coached all those years, Wallace said with a smile, "I did it because I liked it."

Now Wallace has joined the ranks of only 10 others who have earned the award as it is given to NDG Baseball volunteers who have made a lasting contribution to



Jackie Wallace.

Photo: Isaac Olson

the league. Others who have received the Legacy Award this year are Charles Hindley, Henry Lavinskas and Kim Mavrokefalos.

Wallace grew up on Vendôme Ave. in eastern NDG and now lives in the Montclair Residence, a home for autonomous or semi-autonomous seniors. There he keeps an extensive scrapbook brimming with newspaper clippings and photos that dates back to over a half a century.

The league's recognition of Wallace certainly isn't the first time Wallace has been publicly celebrated as a contributing member of the community. In 1973, he was named NDG's Citizen of the Year. He also served as president and secretary of NDG Baseball.

Station 11

POLICE WATCH

A different kind of phone scam

On October 1 around 6 pm, a 21-year-old woman and her friend went to meet a man near the Vendôme Metro station to buy a new iPhone 5 he had advertised for sale.

The ad, which offered the phone and cellular contract for \$150 cash, was listed

on Kijiji.ca, said Station 11 constable Peter Mandelos. The victim brought a friend along for the sale and when they arrived, the man handed the victim an iPhone box and some documents that appeared to be contracts, said Mandelos. The woman then gave the man cash.

When the woman looked inside, she found an old, broken phone that wasn't even an iPhone. The contracts were also fake. When she looked up, the man was running down de Maisonneuve."

Police are investigating. The suspect is described as a white male, about 25 years old and wearing a dark jacket and blue jeans.

Laundry room assault

On September 25 in an apartment building on Madison Ave., a resident walked into the building's laundry room and discovered a man trying to break into one of the coin-operated machines. The resident, in his early 30s, asked the man

what he was doing, explained Mandelos.

The suspect approached the victim, slammed the door into him and punched him several times before fleeing the scene.

The victim was not seriously injured and no money was taken from the machines. Police are searching for a black man, described as 6'1" tall, 190 pounds, about 30 years old with a small moustache. He was wearing a gray, wool jacket and gray jeans.

— Isaac Olson