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Mayor’s message

After three successful and vibrant editions of our annual Townies of Note merit awards gala, this year’s event will take on a lighter, more intimate form. This year, we celebrate as a family.

This is the only difference from previous years. The diverse lineup of winners in 2019 will still be recognized for their qualities as visionaries, builders, and community contributors.

All our award winners have this in common and will be honoured for their dedication. Across the board, it’s clear that the determination of these individuals is what drives their success. In addition to their talent and efforts, their place among the Townies of Note is based on their generosity, pursuit of the common good, and kind gestures. These beautiful souls keep the Townie spirit alive.

This year, seven exceptional men and women will be recognized at the highest level by the Town Council.

Many of them will probably be familiar to you from our garden city. You’ll be as proud of them as the Council is, whether you know them or not, in light of the accomplishments we’ve chosen to acknowledge on this evening. You’ll see them and think: that’s what Mount Royal is all about. That’s what sets us apart. And you will be right.

On behalf of the Council, and of myself, I extend my most sincere congratulations to the winners and hope that their successes, which belong to us all, continue to impress and delight us for years to come.

Philippe Roy
The members of the jury, representatives of the Caisse des Versants du mont Royal and the Townies of Note of the 2018 edition:

Claudie Vigneault  
(represented by Karine Barette)  
Award of merit - Community development

Claudia Di Iorio  
Award of merit - Emerging generation

Jacques Goldstyn  
(represented by David Rémy and Maxime Claudine Goldstyn)  
Award of merit - Achievement

Nathalie Tremblay  
Award of merit - Economic development  
(Town Centre)

Ed Pascal et Mark Pascal  
Award of merit - Economic development  
(Industrial Sector)

Ava Couch  
Award of merit - Special recognition
2019 Awards

Categories

Award of merit

ACHIEVEMENT

Person (athlete, artist, scientist, politician, businessperson, etc.) who has distinguished him/herself in his/her field and raised Town of Mount Royal’s profile outside the Town

Award of merit

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Person who has made a significant contribution to community development in the Town

Award of merit

EMERGING GENERATION

Young person (under 25) who has distinguished him/herself locally

Award of merit

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Person who has made a significant contribution to the Town’s economic development

Award of merit

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Awarded by Town Council members
A well-known local figure and go-getter, Suzanne Caron has a long history of community involvement. In light of her ongoing commitment, we would like to highlight a few of her key accomplishments.

Many families remember her as far back as the 1980s, when her involvement with École Saint-Clément led to the creation of the Fondation de l’École Saint-Clément and, a short while later, the opening of a second French-language primary school in Mount Royal, Académie Saint-Clément.

In the early 2000s, Suzanne took on the esteemed position of Mayor in the midst of municipal mergers, and was elected, along with her councillors, under Gérald Tremblay’s party banner. During her single term, she achieved what she could for the Town of Mount Royal, leaving the Union Montréal Party to pave the way for future de-merging. During those years, TMR’s Town centre underwent major redevelopment and began to allow terraces as part of new efforts to revitalize the area; the work she started as councillor, she concluded as Mayor.

Her musical education also led her to become the President of the National Music Therapy Institute, a charitable organization founded by music therapists and health and education professionals. She also organized Mount Royal’s Centennial Celebration in 2012. Under her leadership, Mount Royal’s Centennial Celebration Society put together a diverse and much loved program over the course of the year, highlighting 100 years of our community!

Over the past few years, Suzanne has been very involved, and has helped organize, in collaboration with the Town, the first three editions of the annual Townies of Note merit awards gala.
A positive presence in the community, Kathy Elie has many strings to her bow, not the least of which is her determination. Now a retired teacher, she has dedicated countless hours to the community.

Kathy is known for her longstanding involvement with the Town of Mount Royal’s Horticultural Society. The Annual Flower & Rose Show is the organization’s most popular activity, and Kathy Elie actively ensures that this event achieves the success it deserves, year after year.

She is also one of the directors of the Mount Royal Municipal Association, a volunteer organization that has represented the interests of residents for nearly 88 years. The MRMA selects their files with care, treating the important issues they face with integrity and respect—a standard to which Kathy Elie is no stranger.

Kathy is well known in Town Hall and over the years, she has been particularly focused on—though not exclusively—the various aspects of local recreational facilities. She played an active and consistent role in the Town’s consultations and meetings championing the Town’s need to have its own indoor pool, and by extension, the value of the new Sports and Community Complex, which is now about to be built. She showed the same dedication back when the arena was being renovated.

When the opportunity presents itself, she is also a passionate public advocate for the well-being of Mount Royal’s seniors, a cause she holds dear.

Whether it be culture, public safety or any other issue, she knows how to make an impression: she is an involved citizen who is not only heard, but listened to.
Maria Esposito has built her reputation in the community mainly through her leadership in the Town of Mount Royal Figure Skating Club. Sparing no effort over the past twenty years, she started as a volunteer, became the club’s Director, and its President.

Under her leadership, club membership skyrocketed, breaking the 400 mark, and they got their finances on track. This renewed momentum helped the skaters push their own limits by evolving from a recreational rink to representing Mount Royal in major competitions on the regional and provincial stage. Those who have worked with Maria have undoubtedly noticed the valuable support she gives to the other figure skating volunteers.

In recognition of her exemplary commitment to the club, she is a two-time recipient of the Art Libman Award for exceptional volunteers, which is granted by Mount Royal.

But her community involvement extends well beyond the rink. Maria Esposito particularly distinguished herself as a committee organizer for the Town of Mount Royal Centennial Celebration Society in 2012. Maria also sat on the selection committee for the 2016–2017 Townies of Note annual merit awards, which recognizes individuals like herself who are fully invested in the heart and soul of the community to help it shine.

Maria Esposito has been a Mount Royal resident for over 30 years, and today, she is a Townie of Note.
Twins and teammates, Marie-Pier and Sophie Vermette-Lacroix made their mark in the spring of 2017 at the finals of their third Canada-Wide Science Fair. At only 15, they won a bronze medal in the intermediate category (Secondary 3 and 4), each earning a $1,000 scholarship to the University of Western Ontario. Some 200 participants competed in the same category, with over 500 taking part in the finals in all categories.

Their winning project, *Attention, bébé à bord!* is an alarm system designed to prevent babies from being left alone in the car.

In 2018, *Attention, bébé à bord!* was referred to in the coroner’s report on the 2016 death of an infant in Saint-Jérôme. Their invention was also mentioned in such major media outlets as La Presse and Global News, highlighting their inventiveness to the rest of the province.

The École secondaire Pierre-Laporte graduates have much to celebrate, but their story does not end there. In 2015, they took home a silver medal in the junior category of the Canada-Wide Science Fair for their project on Lyme disease.

Marie-Pier and Sophie Vermette-Lacroix represent the amazing youth of Mount Royal. Curious, ambitious, and persistent, they want to leave their mark, and are clearly well on their way. As they pursue their respective careers, they are likely to do much for science.

Marie-Pier Vermette-Lacroix also sat on the second iteration of the Townschool Council in 2013–2014, where she focused on urban beekeeping while pursuing her studies at the Académie Saint-Clément. The Townschool Council is back this fall for its eighth year.
Le Graham salon pour hommes, which has been in business for more than 50 years, has seen the greatest success since Sonia Lepage joined its ranks 32 years ago.

A long-time resident, she has owned the business for 18 years. A chic place to relax right in the heart of the Town centre, everyone at Le Graham benefits from Sonia Lepage’s leadership. But beyond her professionalism, it is her kindness, gentle authenticity, and numerous other qualities that her employees emphasize.

Her business is a veritable institution: Sonia Lepage now cuts the hair of her very first customers’ children, easily navigating her way from one generation to the next. The salon is also an important place for networking. Le Graham is known as a hot spot for keeping up with the local buzz.

Sonia is well aware of this dynamic and has wisely seized the opportunity to organize several community cocktail events throughout the year to further promote local networking.

Le Graham is an institution, but not a museum: it is extremely modern and active on various social media platforms, including Instagram @ legrahamsalonpourhommes.

Sonia Lepage happily participates in the Leucan Shaved Head Challenge, which stands in solidarity with children who have lost their hair from chemotherapy treatments. She is a true Townie of Note!
He is the soul of Town Hall. As a rental agent, Roméo Desormeaux is in charge of venue rentals for weddings and parties, but anyone who has met him will tell you that this description does not do him justice.

Resourceful and committed, Roméo oversees the maintenance duties, looks after visitors' needs, and keeps employees up to date. He sometimes tends bar during ceremonies, attends every meeting of elected officials, and meticulously looks after the golden book and the Town's other ceremonial objects. At a well-accomplished 86, he is bright, quick as a whip, always on the move, remembers everything, and most of all, knows everyone.

In the 1960s, he first became known as the milkman driving down the streets in his J.J. Joubert milk truck. Roméo would deliver milk, eggs, and butter to the families in the Town of Mount Royal’s early days.

By the time the Town hired Roméo during the tenure of Mayor Reginald Dawson, he was already familiar with the most prominent Townies, always chatting and having a laugh with them. While the events came and went at Town Hall, the coming years would cement these budding relationships and create new ones.

Roméo Desormeaux is always on the lookout for an opportunity to pitch in to ensure the quality of municipal services. His winning candour and genuine care for efficiency make him a source of wisdom and a quiet force in the community. Be it on top of his regular work hours or during the weekend, he has dedicated countless hours to ensure the success of Mount Royal’s activities.

His presence in the Town, generosity, and deep love for Mount Royal make Roméo Desormeaux a genuine Townie of Note.
Selection Committee

From left to right:

Philippe Roy, Mayor
Caroline Emblem
Fouad Sahyoun
Ava L. Couch, Town Manager
Jonathan Lang, Councillor District, No. 6

absent from the picture: Nicholas Stephens
Congratulations to all the Townies of Note

2019

THANKS TO OUR COLLABORATORS

Dansereau Traiteur
Total Events
McKenna par Kevin Camara
The Volunteers