

VILLES

Pointe-Claire

incendie

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Pointe Claire Council

Fire and reserve squad honored

By WALTER TURNER

Pointe Claire city council members were reminded anew last night that not all city business is listed on agendas of meetings.

With "representations" from the floor, in fact, it took an hour and a quarter before they were even able to glance at their agenda.

Concerned first was the city's noted Fire and Rescue Squad, half of whose members were present in uniform. Rather than council giving them something, it was the squad which gave council something — in trust for the city so to speak — and it was a handsome bronze statuette.

The squad won it in Hollywood, Fla., in August when, in world-wide competition, it took second place for ability in rescues and at emergency control.

Before accepting the award and shaking hands with the squadmen, Mayor Art Séguin noted that in the past seven years the same squad had three times come first and three times come second.

Couldn't compete

The mayor also noted that squad leader Walter Devereux had been elected vice-president of the world organization and that next year, in Cincinnati, he would probably become president.

During the "missing" year the competition had been held here and the squad, acting as hosts, couldn't compete.

Interested spectators to all this were students of Lindsay Place high school. To them Mayor Séguin introduced every member of council and every executive employe, with a rundown of their duties and responsibilities. He congratulated the students on their civic spirit — perhaps a moment too soon — for they countered with a series of penetrating questions.

Church delegation

These queries having been patiently answered, it was noted that a delegation from the Cedar Park United

Church civic study group was present — also a high-rise apartment house developer — also a questioning homeowner.

The latter, Mrs. Dorothy Linkletter, was advised by the mayor that her project for a better juvenile social welfare court for the west island—better than Montreal that is—was under study by members of "Little Metro."

The mayor was reserved on progress to date but assured Mrs. Linkletter — who has made written recommendations to council on how a juvenile court should function — that as far as he, the mayor was concerned, he "wouldn't settle for anything but a fully staffed court, and a qualified staff at that."

In business actually on the agenda, when council finally got down to it, was a copy of resolutions already adopted by a number of suburbs concerning the desirability of having railroad legislation amended so as to force the railroads to properly fence rights of way in a manner which could avoid accidents in densely populated areas.

Council went along with the resolutions, the mayor noting the "horrible job of railroad fencing in Pointe Claire. Even a respectable farmer wouldn't have such fences."

"Routine" business included such items as snow clearing, garbage collection, rezoning, subdividing, street repairs, bond issues, awarding tenders and correcting the valuation roll.

Malaise à Pointe-Claire

L'Association des pompiers de Pointe-Claire, qui négocie actuellement un nouveau contrat de travail pour ses membres, nie certaines affirmations de conseiller W. Eagle voulant "qu'il n'y aurait pas de problèmes" notamment en regard de l'intégration des corps de pompiers de l'île de Montréal.

Dans un communiqué, l'Association signale "qu'elle entend présenter un nouveau contrat de travail", les dernières propositions n'ayant pas été acceptées, et "qu'elle a demandé l'intervention d'un conciliateur provincial" pour régler le conflit.

Les pompiers de Pointe-Claire déclarent par ailleurs "qu'ils ne sont pas nerveux face à l'intégration de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal et nient en outre l'affirmation du conseiller Eagle voulant qu'il n'y ait pas de problèmes".



Pointe-Claire embauche 12 pompiers

Le conseil municipal de Pointe-Claire a embauché 12 pompiers qui poursuivent actuellement leur entraînement. Le besoin de nouvelles recrues se fait sentir depuis que Pointe-Claire a convenu d'assurer la protection contre les incendies aux citoyens de Beaconsfield. Le service des incendies de Pointe-Claire compte maintenant 48 hommes, pompiers et officiers. En plus de Beaconsfield, les pompiers de Pointe-Claire desservent également Kirkland.

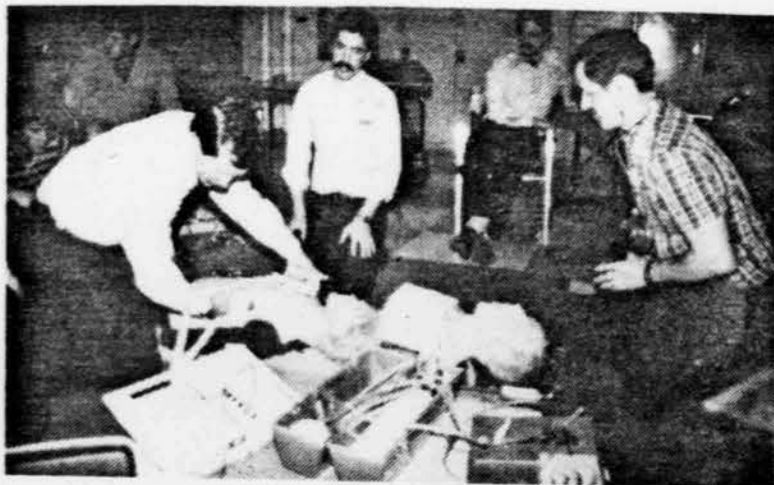


Photo LE JOURNAL

Pompiers de Pointe-Claire à une compétition internationale

Dès aujourd'hui, à Orlando, en Floride, une équipe de trois pompiers de la ville de Pointe-Claire qui ont subi un entraînement de technicien médical d'urgence (TMU) participeront à une compétition organisée dans le cadre du 9^e Concours international de premiers soins. C'est la première fois qu'une équipe canadienne se rend à ce symposium compétitif. Ces pompiers TMU devront démontrer leur savoir-faire devant 30 équipes issues des États-Unis lors de simulations d'états d'urgence comme la crise cardiaque, l'arrêt cardiaque et autres. L'équipe, choisie parmi huit pompiers-TMU de Pointe-Claire, a à sa disposition de l'équipement sophistiqué de grande valeur devant lui aider à prouver à quel point elle est qualifiée.



Gazette, George Bird

Sharing honors: From left, Urquhart, Yelle, Tottle and Gosselin.

Firemen in Pointe Claire improve life-saving skills

By **SUSAN SEMENAK**
of The Gazette

Three years of volunteer emergency lifesaving training has paid off for a team of Pointe Claire firefighters who completed a recent international competition and ranked among finalists.

But, back home after the gruelling meet in Orlando, Fla., with 36 other teams from across the United States, Quebec law bars them from putting their skills to work.

The first Canadian team to compete in the nine-year-old international life support contest, the four West Island firemen placed fifth in opening competitions and ninth overall.

They have trained more than 200 hours in advanced first aid and life support techniques which qualify them as emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

Pointe Claire's fire service is the only one in Quebec with advanced life-support training.

The July 7 contest, in which American paramedics and the Pointe Claire team were required to respond to simulated emergency situations including heart attack and head injuries, was part of the 1983 Clinical Conference on Pre-Hospital Emergency Care.

Firemen Romeo Gosselin, Barry Tottle, Don Urquhart and Norman Yelle began with a 45-hour advanced first aid course in 1977.

Later, they and most of their colleagues followed a 180-hour official ambulance attendants' course — all during off-duty hours.

They were trained on more than \$40,000 worth of equipment by Drs. Jacques Nadeau and Michel Tetrault of the Lakeshore General Hospital, Dr. David Williams of

Pointe Claire's Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) program and Gail Kelsall, head nurse at Queen Elizabeth Hospital's intensive care unit.

Now, 33 of Pointe Claire's 54 firefighters are trained EMTs who have responded to 325 emergency medical calls in Pointe Claire, Beaconsfield and Kirkland so far this year, in their work with Urgences Sante.

"We're here to protect and save lives but we saw in our city a lack of emergency services," Tottle said. "On many calls, firemen arrived and nothing had been done for the victims."

The men have learned to administer drugs, set up intravenous (IV) lines and use cardiac monitors and defibrillators for reviving heart attack victims — functions which American paramedics are licensed to perform.

But Quebec does not recognize paramedics. That means that EMTs here are prohibited from performing duties considered "medical acts," such as administering drugs and IVs.

However, they do resuscitate heart attack victims and stabilize accident victims.

Tottle said the Pointe Claire team trained and entered the Florida competition to prove there are Canadians capable and qualified to perform certain lifesaving functions.

"Our training aids us in assisting the doctor," he explained. "By the time he has arrived he has a record so that treatment can be started immediately."

Said deputy director Lamoureux: "We're getting ready in case one day we are permitted to practise."

Canadian paramedics are recognized only in Calgary, Edmonton and British Columbia.

'No doubt about arson' in Pointe Claire bar fire

By **RACHELLE HENDERSON**
of **The Gazette**

An arson detective has "no doubt" a fire that caused \$4,000 to \$5,000 damage to The Maples bar was deliberately set.

The 97-year-old Pointe Claire bar is unpopular with many neighbors, who complain of loud music, traffic noise and rowdy patrons.

"There's no doubt it was arson," said Det.-Sgt. Raymond Larochelle of Montreal Urban

Community police.

"A few bottles of gasoline were found in the front lobby."

Several area residents, with the support of the city, have taken The Maples to a hearing before the Quebec Liquor Permits Board to try to get the club's two-year licence revoked.

But club owner Brian Newman, who said he was "shocked" by the incident, does not suspect irate neighbors.

"I don't think it's the neighbors," he said. "People get a lit-

tle hot under the collar but nobody's going to be so stupid as to try to set the place on fire."

The fire was discovered early Sunday by a passer-by. Firefighters extinguished it before it spread from the front vestibule.

The doors to the porch are always open, Newman said.

The blaze charred wood and damaged electrical wiring, said Newman, who estimated the damage at \$4,000 to \$5,000.

One busboy, who asked not to be named, said the club threw

out two belligerent customers late Saturday night for refusing to remove their leather jackets.

The two, who were not regular customers, threatened to burn the bar, the busboy said.

However, Newman said he doesn't usually take such threats seriously.

"It's been my experience that when somebody (who has been drinking) says things like that, you have to take it with a grain of salt."

Still, Newman said those who

set the blaze were determined enough to wait around until two women preparing for the club's New Year's party left at 7:40 a.m. Sunday.

Kurt Langguth, Pointe Claire's fire prevention chief said he believes the fire was "some sort of threat."

Anyone determined to burn down The Maples would have broken a window and set a fire inside the building, he said.

The liquor permits board hearing resumes Jan. 22.

Embattled Maples destroyed by fire only hours after closing

The Maples, the Pointe Claire drinking spot embroiled in a battle for survival with its neighbors, burned to the ground last night only hours after the owner of the bar business decided to close up shop for good.

More than 200 people gathered around the Lakeshore Rd. landmark to watch flames destroy the 97-year-old building.

"It's a pretty sight," said Marceline Charpentier, who was watching the fire from her bedroom window. Her house at 125 Lakeshore is across the street from the white stucco building.

The Maples has been closed since Tuesday, after Brian Newman — owner of the bar business for less than two years — made an unsuccessful bid to purchase the building

Monday.

And yesterday, Newman decided to cancel his lease with the owner of the property.

Newman has been fighting before a hearing of the Quebec Liquor Permits Board since October to keep his licence in the face of complaints from neighbors and the city of Pointe Claire.

They have testified that the noise from rock-and-roll bands was too loud and that clients were fighting in the parking lot and throwing up and fornicating on the lawns of adjoining homes.

But Newman decided to throw in the towel yesterday, according to his lawyer Donald Seal.

"It's the end of the ball game," said Seal. "We're resigning our lease and our (liquor) licence."

Newman, who heard about the fire while driving back from an appointment in Ontario, said he was shocked as he watched the flames.

"I never anticipated the grief and anxiety I've been through," he said.

He said he did not expect his insurance would cover the loss. He said the fire would cost him \$35,000.

Pointe Claire Fire Chief René Bouchard said 65 firefighters from six municipalities battled the flames.

"I've been a fireman for a long time and I don't think this one was accidental," he said.

Police said a few bottles of gasoline were found in the lobby of the building following a small fire at the club on Dec. 30.

He said a caretaker and his wife lived in the inn with their dog but he did not think they were in their rooms when fire broke out.

Neighbors had mixed emotions.

"I know we shouldn't be happy that someone's house is burning down, but I can't say we're sad," said Charpentier, who along with her husband signed a petition seeking revocation of The Maples' permit.

Rob Ellis, a 21-year-old storekeeper, was watching the fire from his 10-floor apartment at 80 Lakeshore Rd.

"The whole sky is lit up," he said. "The flames must be shooting 35 feet in the air."

Other neighbors hoisted a glass of their favorite beverage.

"We're having a drink. We're toasting the fire," said Claire Sargent.

"I'm watching it burn down right now as I'm speaking to you. The roof has already collapsed and there are flames shooting out the windows," she said.

Lawyer Seal said earlier yesterday that the Quebec Liquor Permits Board hearing, which was suspended in January pending a decision by the board to call more witnesses, will not resume.

Howard Abrams, lawyer for Roxboro Holdings Inc., owner of The Maples, confirmed yesterday that the two sides had cancelled Newman's lease.

Newman, 34, took over The Maples in 1983, promising before a one-day liquor board hearing to restore the club's tarnished image.



Flames ravage The Maples nightclub last night only hours after the bar's owner cancelled his lease. Gazette, Michael Dugas

Operator of nightclub gutted by fire owes \$25,000 in rent says landlord

The former operator of The Maples, a Pointe Claire nightclub destroyed by fire Thursday, owes about \$25,000 in unpaid rent, the landlord's lawyer says.

Howard Abrams said operator Brian Newman had until last Monday to come up with the rent or buy the club, which neighbors had been trying to close down.

The landlord closed the club Tuesday after Newman failed to do either, Abrams said.

"We told him, 'You've been dragging it long enough; it's time to resolve it.'"

Abrams said he has not decided whether to press Newman for the rent, which he says hadn't been paid since early November.

The 25-year lease between Newman, who took over the club less than two years ago, and the landlord was mutually cancelled Thursday.

About four hours later, a fire authorities say may have been criminally set demolished the 97-year-old landmark in less than two hours.

The Quebec Liquor Permits Board had been conducting a hearing since October to consider a request from the club's neighbors to revoke the bar's licence.

The residents testified that music and patrons at the club disrupted the neighborhood.

Newman could not be reached for comment yesterday.

His lawyer, Donald Seal, neither confirmed nor denied his client owed rent.

He said Newman's only financial dispute was with the former owner of the property, Roxboro Holdings Inc., which sold The Maples about a month ago to Frank DeCiccio, Abrams's client.

However, two former employees at the The Maples said they were owed wages, and that there had been a shortage of liquor, glasses and heat at the club for about three weeks before it closed.

Seal said Newman simply did not want to "give back the keys with a lot of stuff in the place."

Abrams said DeCiccio, who did not wish to be interviewed, was in "shock" about losing the building.

The landlord had been planning to turn it into a restaurant, he said.

Though the property, worth "at least \$500,000," was insured, Abrams said DeCiccio will lose money because he'd only intended to renovate the building, not construct a new one.

Montreal Urban Community police arson squad will begin investigating the blaze Monday, Det.-Sgt. Raymond Larochelle said. An inquiry into a small fire at the club on Dec. 30 has turned up nothing, he added.



Photo Albert VINCENT

INCENDIES D'ORIGINE DOUTEUSE

Les pompiers de Montréal ont combattu deux incendies d'origine douteuse qui se sont déclarés à quelques minutes d'intervalle, hier matin, dans des immeubles à logements de trois étages, situés au 8030 et 8060, de la rue A. Desroches. Les flammes ont pris naissance dans une petite pièce où sont installés des panneaux électriques, en haut des escaliers centraux. L'incendie du 8030 a été rapidement maîtrisé alors que celui du 8060 a nécessité deux alertes. Des té-

moins affirment avoir vu un individu à l'allure louche rôder quelques instants avant le début des incendies. Une enquête est en cours pour trouver la cause de ces incendies.



Photo Yves FABE

L'incendie du Maple Inn de Pointe-Claire serait d'origine criminelle.

POINTE-CLAIRE: DES POMPIERS VEULENT REEMPLACER LES MÉDECINS «DANS LA RUE»

Des pompiers de Pointe-Claire iront à Ottawa le mois prochain participer à une compétition nationale visant à promouvoir un système médical d'urgence comparable à celui qui est en vigueur aux États-Unis.

MONIQUE RICHER

Ces pompiers, au nombre de six, apprennent à soigner les victimes de crise cardiaque, à intuber le patient et à faire de la réanimation cardio-vasculaire.

Le cours «Advanced Life Support», autrefois enseigné au Collège Dawson et maintenant abandonné parce qu'il n'est pas reconnu au Québec et dans plusieurs autres provinces canadiennes, est actuellement dispensé aux pompiers de Pointe-Claire par le docteur Michael Munzart.

Selon M. Claude Cousineau, un des «étudiants-pompiers», le but du cours est d'apprendre à faire le même travail que les médecins en réanimation cardiaque.

«Ils pourraient rester à l'hôpital, dit M. Cousineau, et nous, nous

pratiquerions dans la rue.»

À l'aide de communications adéquates comme celles qui existent chez les pompiers de Pointe-Claire, ajoute M. Cousineau, les «pompiers-paramédics», en liaison constante avec l'hôpital, pourraient donner les premiers soins aux personnes atteintes de malaises cardiaques.

À Vancouver et à Calgary, le système est reconnu tandis qu'à Montréal les policiers se sont vu retirer le dossier des ambulances au profit d'une centralisation des effectifs.

Plusieurs villes seront représentées à ces compétitions qui se tiendront à Ottawa le 5 juin. Quatre médecins jugeront le travail des personnes présentes qui devront effectuer des réanimations à partir de données fournies par les médecins.

À la fin de la compétition, les médecins-juges décideront si les prétendus patients, en l'occurrence des mannequins, sont toujours vivants ou s'ils sont passés de vie à trépas.

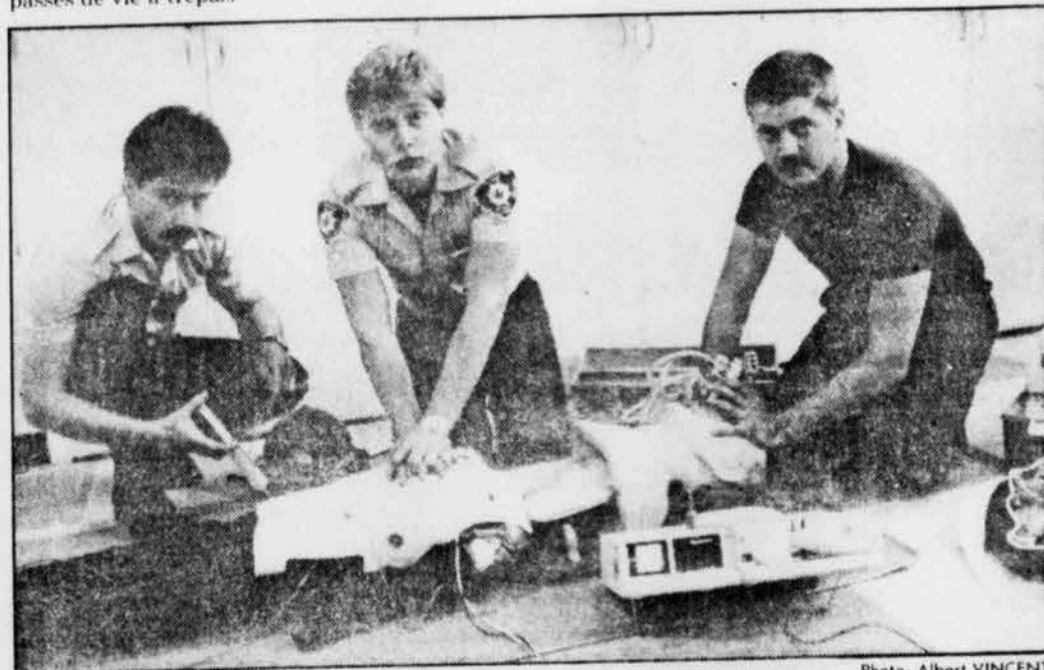


Photo: Albert VINCENT

Des pompiers de Pointe-Claire s'entraînent sur un mannequin. À droite, M. Claude Cousineau intube le «patient» tandis qu'au centre, M. Doug Nicholson pratique le massage cardiaque. À droite, M. Norman Yelle donne une piqûre au mannequin.

Fire evicts 15 adopted children

A fire yesterday gutted the attic of a Pointe Claire house, home to a virtual United Nations of adopted children.

Sandra Simpson sent the 15 children now living in the Bowling Green residence into the street after she discovered the fire at about 5 p.m. Their other children are with husband Lloyd at their home in Toronto, where they spend the school year.

The couple have adopted 28 children, 23 of them from im-

poverished countries.

"I'm glad they all got out because a lot of them are handicapped," Simpson said. "They were crying and screaming because they haven't had any security. This home is their security and they thought they were losing it."

Firefighters quickly quelled the blaze, taking great pains to protect the furniture.

Most of the bedrooms were in fairly good shape. Simpson thought they could stay there

last night. But neighbors and friends, including police, offered to harbor the children as long as necessary.

A next-door neighbor threw a barbecue for the children.

Piles of sodden clothes and toys sat on the front walk and yard of the rambling house.

"They were supposed to go to Bangladesh to victims of the tidal wave," Simpson said. "And about \$1,000 worth of medical supplies were in the attic waiting to be shipped."

Fire claims life

Police are investigating a fire which claimed the life of a 41-year-old man at 51 Kilarney Gardens in Pointe Claire last night. Name of the victim was being withheld.

A police official said it appeared the fire was caused by smoking in bed.

Pensioner, 70, dies in fire

A 70-year-old pensioner died yesterday in a fire that destroyed his Pointe Claire home.

Det.-Sgt. Marcel Dubé of Montreal Urban Community police said arson is not suspected in the fire that killed Lester Norman, of 56 Prince Edward Ave.

René Bouchard, Pointe Claire fire chief, said the fire began at about 3:30 a.m. and the house was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

Norman, a father of seven, had lived alone. He had spent 18 years as a white collar worker in the physical plant of McGill University. He retired in 1980.

Neighbor Ed Tallon, of 58 Prince Edward, said Norman had lived there about five years, and kept to himself.

He said Norman, who smoked, kept late hours and "never got up before three or four in the afternoon."

INCENDIE MEURTRIER à Pointe-Claire

Un professeur à la retraite de l'Université McGill de Montréal a péri dans l'incendie de sa demeure, dans la nuit d'hier, à Pointe-Claire. Il s'agit de C. C. Norman, 70 ans, qui vivait seul au 56, rue Prince Edward.

Guy Roy

L'incendie a éclaté vers 3 heures, mais ce n'est qu'une demi-heure plus tard que des voisins ont aperçu le brasier. Ceux-ci ont été alertés par les flammes gigantesques qui s'échappaient de la maison de M. Norman.

Le service d'incendie de Pointe-Claire a reçu cinq appels, en moins de cinq minutes, lui faisant part de l'incendie.

«À l'arrivée de mes hommes sur les lieux, la maison était éclairée par les flammes à toutes les fenêtres et les portes, ce qui rendait toute tentative de sauvetage vouée à l'échec», a men-

tionné le directeur des incendies, M. Bouchard.

Une quinzaine de pompiers se sont alors évertués à protéger une maison voisine, éloignée de 15 pieds seulement de la résidence en feu. Les flammes s'élevaient au moins à 50 pieds et étaient poussées par des vents de 70 km-h.

Dans les décombres

Les sapeurs ont maîtrisé l'élément destructeur en quelques heures. Rien ne laissait supposer qu'il y avait une victime. Toutefois, une automobile stationnée dans la cour devait susciter l'inquiétude.

Les pompiers ont donc fait venir une pelle mécanique qui a fouillé délicatement les décombres, car le deuxième étage s'était écroulé. Ils ont finalement fait la macabre découverte vers 8h30.

Les sergents-détectives Marcel Dubé et Guy Poirier, de la section des incendies criminels de la police de la CUM, ont ouvert une enquête pour déterminer les causes du sinistre.



La maison de M. Norman a été complètement détruite. Le cadavre fut découvert cinq heures après le début de l'incendie.

Photo Yves FABI

Usine détruite

■ Les pompiers de Pointe-Claire, assistés de leurs confrères de Dorval, Lachine et Dollard-des-Ormeaux, ont combattu pendant près de trois heures, en début de soirée, un incendie qui a détruit l'usine de produits chimiques Déco Plast, 100, boulevard Hy-mus. Il y a eu quelques explosions, mais on ne rapporte aucun blessé.