

Town Crier

Town of Mount Royal Rugby Football Club

Volume 1 Issue 2
June 2008



Message de l'executive

Well here we are, the second issue of the Town Crier is now delivered. Better late than never! I promise, we'll get better timing as we go along.

I'd like to start this issue by thanking, on behalf of the executive, all those who have participated in last month Clubhouse clean-up in preparation for Pascal Coletti's birthday, and to those who have attended the notorious party and made sure it was a success. It is good to see that the TMR family is still well in shape!



In the same spirit, I'd like to point out that the men's official season is set to take off on June 14th, and that the guys are all fired up. This year the league is structured in a way that both men team play at the same location every Saturday. This allows for better development of younger players, but most importantly, for better parties. So consult the schedule and come out support your team, have a beer or two at the Club and share your stories... the tradition must continue!

Finally, I'd like to remind you all that this newsletter is news about your team, your club. If you have something to share, if you have an idea of a chronicle, an event to point out, send us an email, we are open to suggestions... and quite frankly we would appreciate the material! 🍷

Jean Phillippe Martineau
Treasurer

Elite Update



www.rugbyquebec.qc.ca

Congratulations to all townies that represent the yellow and blue with the Caribou...

On the men's side: Etienne Bouchard, Courtney Bishop, Rob Grodinsky, Dave Macloed and Bob Miller.

On the women's side: Jocelyn Barrieau, Susy Bienstock, Leigh Garland, Briana Gibson, Robin Hunter and Lauren Rudko (developmental squad).

With the great managerial changes within the Caribou organization the men finished almost first sit in their pool... Tough game

until the end vs the Niagara last May 31st . Although their season may be over, the players will be back to hard training in a matter of days.

On the other hand the women are just beginning. It started quite harsh with a tough loss to a strong Ontario side, but the women are impatient to redeem themselves on June 22 when they play Ontario for a second time in Toronto.

Best of luck to all our Super Stars!!!! 🍷

Marie-Josée Blais
Communications Officer / Secretary

Townie Profile

Height: 6' 1"
Weight: 210 lbs
Player Position:
Back Row



What are your strengths and weaknesses:
Strengths: I guess my biggest strength as a player is tenacity/

stubbornness/pig headedness, whatever you want to call it I don't ever give up or stop trying. I think that's a characteristic a lot Townies share. I'm also crazy about the game which does help.

Weaknesses: In the past my temper has had a tendency to get me into trouble but worse than that it has occasionally gotten the team into trouble. I think that I've improved in this aspect but it's something I always need to keep an eye on.

Greatest TMR memory: There have been a lot of them both on the field and off. I've thought about this a bit and I have a really hard time picking one but here goes. Off the field it was maybe stalling Alun's antique tractor and rolling backwards down a hill and messing up the potato patch we had just finished planting. On the field, the first time we beat the Barbarians with me in the lineup was a big moment. As I recall I told Mitch I loved him after he scored the winning try.

Caribou Début: Versus the hated Newfoundland Rock at Westlake park back in 2004.

Next Goal on the table: To take the Caribou to the National final by defeating the hated Newfoundland Rock.

Pet Peeve(s): The Toronto Maple Leafs. It isn't even a grammatically correct name. It also bothers me that Pat Ghattas has a shortage of club related neck ties. Who does he think he is?!?

Favorite ref: Refs and I have never really been favourites of each other.

Worst Injury you had or Faked: Broken heart... but I was faking. Actually my worst injury would be a torn labrum in my hip. Not a very straightforward thing to deal with. Getting eliminated in the playoffs is much more painful though.

Favorite aspect of rugby: It is the duality of man. Getting fit in order to beat yourself to a pulp. Trying to crush your opponent just so you can have beers with them afterwards. It is a fast paced, hard hitting, intelligent game of contradictions

If given the chance; Would you rather play for Canada or Scotland and why:

First of all, I think it's pretty unlikely I'd be offered the choice but it would be a huge honour to play for either one. Having been born and brought up here I think it would be more appropriate to play for Canada if I were ever lucky enough to be considered for a spot.

What is story behind the removal of the dreads:

One day I woke up and just felt tired of having them on my head. Something in my mind decided that it was time for a change, so I sat down at home alone with a mirror and a pair of scissors. The first

one was hard to part with but after that I didn't look back.

Most importantly if you were given one word such as "Expos" what would be your comments?:

When I make my first billion, I'm buying them back!!![👑]

Dave "almightly" Macleod
Townie

Upcoming Events

Games:

June 14th

WII vs. Laval Nomades @ 12h00 (away)

MII vs. RCM II @ 17h00 (REC CENTRE)

MI vs. RCM I @ 18h30 (REC CENTRE)

June 21st

WII vs. Sherbrooke

MII vs. Locks II

MI vs. Locks I

June 22nd

Senior Québec Caribou Women vs Ontario
in Toronto

June 28th

WII vs. St-Jean

WI vs. CRQ

MII vs. Wanderers II

MI vs. Locks II

Event:

Thursday June 26th

Comedy Works @ 20h00

Note: Run in the direction of Laughter
straight after practice... Come in numbers...

For more info:

Cathy Nichols (cathynichols@gmail.com)

Labor Day Weekend

Saturday, August 30th

1st Annual

OLD BOYS / VIEUX GOSSÉS

7s Tournament



www.tmrffc.qc.ca

Traveling Townie

I still can't believe I have been living in England for 7 years. This might not seem too long for a few of you old boys but I can ensure you that this period of time has severely damaged my liver and limbs!

For six of those years, I played my rugby at Rosslyn Park FC, one of the oldest teams in London. Rosslyn Park is unique in the 3rd division national because its players are still mostly amateur. This makes sense



because it isn't worth paying a player in London, when you can easily find highly paid flexible work, compared to a player in the North of England, where the average price for a pint or a meal is nearly double.

Playing for the more serious teams was a massive commitment. With 50 to 60 players at training on Tuesday's and Thursday's and 4 coaches, you couldn't miss any training sessions.

My first years there provided me with a few highlights such as friends having to pay to watch me play, going on a team building trip to Normandy to honor former Park players that had died in the Second World War and of course making some very good friends.

After a couple of seasons, when balancing the rugby and work commitments became too hard I joined one of the clubs social teams. On top of the 3 normal competitive teams at Rosslyn Park, there are also 4 social teams.

These teams trained once a week (occasionally!) and still enjoyed some very competitive rugby. One of the social team captains called me one weekend because he was short of a prop. His team was called the Rosslyn Park Hatters (unofficially the club's fourth team). He mentioned that JP Landry another former Townie played for his team! I was sold and turned up for my first game with them.

JP had unfortunately retired and I never had a chance to play with him. The style

of rugby played by this team was however perfect. Before every game, the back line is reminded of the team's one rule: "No kicking - 100% champagne rugby". Fast flowing French type rugby is what we aspire to play although none of the English in our team will admit it.

The winter games are the hardest, especially when the wet cold English weather really doesn't make you want to get out of bed on Saturday morning. But games are organized around the six nations schedule so you can always guarantee that after 80 minutes in the mud and rain, everyone will be in a warm pub enjoying a few pints and a good meal.

Touring is obviously huge for my team. By touring of course I mean going to a game that involves taking any sort of organized travel. I was truly amazed by how much alcohol the guys bought for a 35 minute train journey back into London. On that trip, we ended up having to offer everyone in our wagon a beer and I was really amazed when some random Welsh guy in the train downed a whole bottle of rosé we gave him (Wales had just won the six nations).

My two overseas tours with my team gave me the opportunity to experience rugby in the south west of France, Biarritz and Toulouse. This is quite a unique experience. Even our kiwi players are stunned by how the people are fanatical about their rugby in this region. Every where you go there is a team flag at someone's front door showing off their club's colors. The rugby is also fantastic. One year we played against some old boys with an average age of 40 and still you could not believe how quickly the ball was spread out wide. Post game meals always involve excellent red wine and food you simply cannot find anywhere else in the world.

The most memorable drinking moment on tour in France was definitely explaining (as the only French speaker) why my English team mates were imposing drinking fines with a funnel. The French could not understand ... "But this is how we make foie gras!!!" I agreed with them that this was very wrong but still by the end of the night, half of their team was downing their finest red wine with our funnel.

I just finished my third season with Rosslyn Park Hatters and still can't believe the characters I have met and played rugby with, all supposedly respectable city workers, some of which working at London's top financial institutions. With them I even

got the chance to play in a charity game at Twickenham against a team of politicians. Most valuable player for two years in a row and last season's team captain, this traveling townie has found his new home! 🏆

Patrick "Moose" Jawich
Traveling Townie

Rugby Junior League for the Montreal Region

Début: Friday June 13th



The inaugural Montreal Junior league was launched on Friday June 13th at McGill's Molson Stadium. The Junior league, which consists of U18 and U19 teams for boys and a U19 women's league for women, was created to develop young rugby talent in Quebec given that FRQ rules now require players to be 18 to compete in club fixtures.

Junior matches will be held on Friday nights from June 13-July 18th. Our very own Jocelyn Barrieau is the program coordinator for the league while Cathy Nichols, TMR's Women's Junior development, is coaching the U19 girls team. Brianna Gibson and Julianne Zussman, who coached a successful ECS season, have recruited 4 young players for the TMR Junior program: Sabine Elian, Bianca Farrella, Kia Fischa & Liana Balaghi. Additionally, several rising TMR stars, who recently reached the age of majority, including Maria Bernier, Liz Lougheed and Amy Qi are pulling double duty to play in both club and junior league matches this summer.

Good luck this season girls! 🏆

Leigh Garland
VP Women Playing

www.tmrffc.qc.ca

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