



**M S C M**  
Montreal Southwest Community Ministries

# THE SOU'WESTER

MONTREAL-SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

**VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1**  
**JANUARY/FEBRUARY**  
**2012**

A new day! A New Year! Welcome back everyone!

And, welcome to our first edition of the fourth year—yes, hard to believe time has passed so quickly—bringing you a variety of news headlines and a multitude of topics affecting our community.

We are proud to announce that our Steering Committee has adopted a new mission statement, which you will find on Page 5. Our Steering Committee will continue to work hard throughout 2012 so stay tuned for news as it becomes available.

Want to have yourself heard? Got an idea you would like us to consider? Just drop us a line and we will be happy to get you published.

Remember, this is your newsletter and we continue to encourage and look forward to receiving your feedback.

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## LEGISLATION COMES INTO FORCE TOUGHER SENTENCES

The Hon. Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, announced that as of December 2, 2011, two Acts which provide tougher sentences for murders will have come into force. The *Protecting Canadians by Ending Sentence Discounts for Multiple Murders Act* ensures that multiple murderers serve their parole ineligibility periods one after another. An *Act to Amend the Criminal Code and another Act* (originally called the *Serious Time for the Most Serious Crime Act*) effectively repeals the 'faint-hope clause' that allowed murderers to obtain early parole.

"These two pieces of legislation are further examples of our Government's commitment to keeping our streets and communities safe and ensuring truth in sentencing," said Minister Nicholson. "Canadians want to know that criminals are held accountable for their crimes. Making multiple murderers serve their parole ineligibility periods one after another, and effectively repealing the faint-hope clause will do just that."

Under the previous system, criminals convicted of multiple murders served

their parole ineligibility periods concurrently, meaning that they were eligible to apply for parole after just one period ranging from 10 to 25 years, depending on their sentence.

The Act to end sentence discounts allows judges to impose consecutive parole ineligibility periods of 25 years for each victim on individuals convicted of more than one first- or second-degree murder. This would mean that convicted multiple murderers would need to serve a significantly longer overall period in custody before they were eligible to apply for parole.

"Ending sentence discounts for multiple murderers acknowledges the value of each life taken," said Mr. Robert Goguen, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice. "Our Government is standing up for victims of crime and their families by making sure that criminals receive sentences that reflect the seriousness of their crimes."

First-degree murder and two categories of second-degree murder carry a mandatory life sentence with no eligibility for parole for 25 years. The remaining categories of second-degree murder carry a mandatory

life sentence with no eligibility for parole for a minimum of 10 years up to a maximum of 25 years.

The *Serious Time for the Most Serious Crime Act* ensures that criminals who commit first-degree murder on or after December 2, 2011 are not eligible for parole until they serve the full 25 years of their sentence. Similarly, offenders serving life imprisonment for second-degree murder are no longer eligible for parole until their parole ineligibility period is served, which could be up to 25 years.

"Families of victims should not have to relive their losses by attending multiple early parole eligibility hearings," said Minister Nicholson. "This Act puts the needs of law-abiding citizens ahead of criminals, and it spares the victimized from continually reliving their losses."

Offenders who commit murder on or after December 2, 2011 will no longer be able to apply to be eligible for early parole under the faint-hope regime. Those who are currently serving their life sentence or awaiting sentence will face tougher rules when they apply.

Source:  
Department of Justice  
Canada

## ***PRISON CHAPLAINCY: COWANSVILLE INSTITUTION***

*Rev. Tim Smart's  
report to the  
Anglican Diocese of  
Montreal Synod  
held in  
November 2011.*

*E*ach time I go into the men's medium security prison in Cowansville, I am both overwhelmed and appreciative. I feel overwhelmed by a bureaucracy which can, at times, seem more intent on incarceration than on rehabilitation. And I feel overwhelmed also by the tragedy of the place. The harm these men have done in the lives of their victims and their families, but also the harm that has often been done to them in their own lives. It seems like an unlikely place for healing to begin. And yet it does.

I appreciate the serious efforts many of the men are making to recognize their crimes and the behaviors that have led them to that place. I am amazed by the honesty and openness that exists as men and volunteers gather in the chapel each week to share their lives and their hopes and their prayers for restoration. I am hopeful when I see that nothing can separate us from the love of God—neither prison walls or barbed wire or federal sentences that often stretch into decades of confinement.

I am so grateful for the volunteers who come in from

the churches on Monday evenings: local Anglicans from Sutton, Bedford, Stanbridge East and Rougemont; Roman Catholics from Sutton, as well as a large group from Evangel Pentecostal Church in Montreal and Union United Church. Also the Yamaska Literacy Council comes in twice a month to the chapel to assist in literacy training. These community connections are so appreciated by the inmates who usually feel that that society has written them off as beyond redemption. It has been my delight to discover that none of us are beyond redemption, myself included.

*Tim Smart*

## ***MSCM COMMUNITY BUILDING WORKSHOP***

*An opportunity to strengthen the bonds within our Open Door Community*

**Date:** Weekend of March 23, 24, 25 2012

**Times:** Friday, March 23rd: 7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, March 24th: 9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. (lunch provided)  
Sunday, March 25th: 9:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. (lunch provided)

**Location:** 1439 St. Catherine St. West  
(in the lower Hall)

**Facilitators:** Margaret MacCormack and Peter Huish

**To register:** Submit your request to [m scm@sympatico.ca](mailto:m scm@sympatico.ca)  
and/or notify Paula, Margaret or Peter.

A commitment for all three days of the workshop is necessary in order to gain the full experience.

### **NOTE:**

In the near future, there will be a short presentation given at one of the Open Door evenings in order to familiarize people with the process and purpose of Community Building Workshops and to answer questions about participation.



## IN PERSON PROFILE

*The Sou'Wester is pleased to introduce and announce that Rev. Tim Smart has joined the **MSCM** family and Steering Committee, becoming a valuable resource and enhancing our capabilities. We are grateful that Tim has taken the time to sit down with us to discuss his background and future plans.*

*Q. With open arms, we welcome you to the **MSCM** family Tim! For those that know little about you, can you give our readers a self-introduction?*

*A. Sure. I grew up in the West Island of Montreal and later went to University in Kingston, Ontario. Upon graduation, Ruth (later my wife) and I taught in elementary school in rural Alberta for three years. I returned to the big city of Montreal and put in three more years of studies in the Faculty of Religious Studies. I graduated from there and have since been in various parishes in Montreal North, Mascouche, Westmount, and for the past 20 years, at Grace Church in Sutton, in the beautiful Eastern Townships of Quebec. Ruth and I have 3 children. Our eldest son, Jason, teaches English as a second language here in Montreal. Andrew just graduated from McGill and has gotten a job with Microsoft in Seattle. And Amanda is at home finishing high school in Cowansville. We live in the woods, off a dirt road, where you can still see the stars at night. We have two cats; one very fat, the other very skinny and nimble.*

*Q. We know that you are the Director for the Centre for Lay Education. Could you explain what this Centre's mandate is and your role?*

*A. I've had this part-time work since the year 2000. Basically, I organize courses and lectures for adult Christian education in the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. My office is at the Montreal Diocesan Theological College, 3475 University Street. From here, we run a resource centre with books and DVDs, invite guest speakers on various topics, train lay readers for the church, organize marriage preparation workshops, and work in conjunction with our colleagues in the Presbyterian and United Church Colleges to promote adult education.*

*Q. We understand that you have taken over the IMPACT group in Cowansville replacing Peter Huish. How do you see this experience assisting you in your new role with **MSCM**?*

*A. The IMPACT Group continues to meet twice a month at the Cowansville Institution. The group is for lifers or long-sentence inmates. I'm there acting as their facilitator and resource person. I've certainly begun to better appreciate the effect that a long sentence has on a man's life, the life of his family and friends, and the impact on his spirit and sense of hope. Under the imposition of a life sentence, we try to find hope, and find ways to support and encourage one another through the long periods of incarceration.*

*Also, during two days a week that I am in Cowansville, we host the Monday evening Chapel with outside volunteers coming in from various different churches, and a Friday afternoon English language literacy program supported by our local Yamaska Literacy Council.*

*Q. Are you planning to partner with our Founder, Peter Huish, on the work being done at institutions like CFF (FTC) and B-16 located in Laval? If so, how do you foresee this unfolding?*

*A. At this point, I don't have any additional time to spare for visiting people in these institutions. But we'll see how things unfold in the future.*

*Q. Can we expect to see you at our **Open Door** meetings held every Tuesday evening?*

*A. Yes, I hope to begin this year with more frequent visits to **Open Door** to enjoy and participate in the community that has been built over the years. I also hope that being a member of **MSCM's** Steering Committee will give me a better perspective of all the work that is being done by so many wonderful people.*



*The Rev. Tim Smart*

*People grow through  
experience  
if they meet life  
honestly and  
courageously.  
This is how  
character is built.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*





**MSCM**  
Montreal Southwest Community Ministries

*Be true to your  
work, your word,  
and your friend.*

*Henry David Thoreau  
American Author*

Donations of time  
and service are  
also welcome.  
We are especially  
looking for volunteers  
who would be  
interested in  
escorting.

Please contact our offices  
either by phone or email:  
(514)244-6147  
mscm@sympatico.ca

Please mail your  
cheques to:

**MSCM**  
1439 St. Catherine St.  
West  
Montreal, QC  
H3G 1S6

## ***CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PERSON?***



### ***WHO IS THIS?***

Clue: This boy has grown up and has become a very active member of our community.

Can you identify him? Make your best guess and give to  
Paula. The identity will be revealed in our next issue.

## **PLEASE SUPPORT MSCM**

**MSCM** is a volunteer organization welcoming ex-offenders back to the community by supporting them in their social, spiritual, social, emotional and practical needs. We foster restoration and accountability and attend to the needs of all those affected by crime.

**MSCM** has relied upon support from the Community Chaplaincy of Montreal (Aumônerie de Communautaire de Montréal) and individual donors like you. The stigma associated with offenders brings financial and other challenges with it. Your contribution helps.

**I support *MSCM* and their programs and am enclosing a donation of:**

☐ \$25      ☐ \$50      ☐ \$100      ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Cheques less than \$50 should be made payable to **MSCM**.*

*Cheques greater than \$50 should be made payable to:*

**Anglican Diocese of Montreal, memo: MSCM.**

*Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$50 or greater.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E:mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***MSCM's MISSION STATEMENT***

**“MSCM** (Montreal-Southwest Community Ministries) is a non-profit, English-speaking organization, working in accordance with the principles of Restorative Justice for a safe community, through the accompaniment and re-integration of those who have served time in a penitentiary.”



## ***WHAT IS COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY?***

Community Chaplaincy consists of faith-based organizations (**MSCM** is but one of many) that support offenders and their families as they re-enter society. These agencies usually include a chaplain and numerous volunteers. They serve out of a deep sense of vocation and conviction and offer a wide variety of assistance. Community Chaplaincies are usually governed by a board of directors, providing their services under contract and operating independently of the Correctional Service of Canada.

### **Core Values and Objectives**

Community Chaplaincy members:

- ♦ respect the dignity of individuals, and the rights of all members of society
- ♦ believe in the potential for human growth and development.
- ♦ respect the social, cultural and religious differences of individual offenders.
- ♦ recognize that offenders have the potential to live as law-abiding citizens.

### **Purpose**

Community Chaplaincy contributes to the protection of society by actively encouraging and assisting offenders to safely and successfully re-enter society by providing them with practical, spiritual, emotional and social support.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are motivated to give of themselves and of their time for a variety of reasons which include: wish to promote restorative justice; desire to give back to their community; care about the safety of their community; feel drawn towards working with marginalized people; need a valuable place to offer their free time; and wish to promote healing in their communities.

*Source: Correctional Service Canada*

*Safety,  
Respect  
and  
Dignity  
for  
All.*



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*Joe Schwarcz  
is Director of  
McGill University's  
Office for Science  
and Society  
(OSS.McGill.ca).*

*He can be heard  
every Sunday from  
3-4 p.m. on CJAD  
radio (800 AM).*

## **GEYSER ERUPTS ON SCHEDULE – THANKS TO PRISONERS' SOAP HABIT**

Yellowstone National Park's iconic Old Faithful geyser is pretty faithful. It can be counted on to erupt every 50 to 90 minutes. Iceland's Great Geyser, from which all other geysers get their name, is less reliable. It was mostly dormant for 65 years before it began semi-regular eruptions again in 2000 thanks to an earthquake.

But in New Zealand, you can set your watch by the eruption of the Lady Knox Geyser, named after a former governor of the country. At exactly 10:15 a.m. every day a spectacular plume of water and steam bursts into the air to a height of up to 20 metres. How can a natural phenomenon be so predictable? Well, in this case nature gets a little help from chemistry.

At an appointed time, a detergent solution is poured down the channel from which the water erupts. This has the effect of reducing the surface tension of the water that deep within the shaft has been heating up to boiling temperatures due to underground volcanic activity. Surface tension refers to the attractive force between water molecules, and is in fact responsible for water being a liquid at ordinary temperatures.

Liquids are characterized by the proximity of their component molecules, while in gases the distance between molecules is much greater. If the surface tension of a liquid is decreased, the H<sub>2</sub>O molecules can separate from each other with greater ease, with the result that the liquid turns into a gas. Molecules of 'surfactants', a class of substances that encompasses soaps and detergents, wiggle their way in-between water molecules allowing the boiling liquid to instantly turn into steam.

The steam then forces the water that has collected in the channel to burst upwards, and we have an eruption.

The possibility of making a geyser erupt artificially was discovered by accident in New Zealand in 1901 when an 'open prison' was established at Waiotapu for criminals who were deemed not to be a danger to society. It so happens that this is one of the most volcanically active areas of the world and the prisoners took advantage of the hot water seeping up from the natural thermal springs to wash their clothes. One day one of them must have used just the right amount of soap and triggered an eruption when the soap solution found its way down the

fissures in the rock into the chambers in which underground water had pooled.

This is the concept used today to stimulate eruption of the Lady Knox Geyser, although detergents have replaced soap because they have been found to be less damaging to the geyser's internal natural plumbing. On occasion, Iceland's Great Geyser has also been 'soaped' but this is now prohibited for environmental concerns.

If you want to experience a mini cold-water geyser, just drop a couple of *Mentos* into a bottle of *Diet Coke*. But do it outside. It makes a mess. If you use a special tube that can simultaneously drop 7-10 *Mentos* into the bottle, you can achieve a stunning height of about 10 metres short of the super eruptions once produced by the Waimangu Geyser in New Zealand between 1900 and 1904 when the natural plumbing was destroyed by a landslide.

The world's tallest geyser now is Yellowstone's Steamboat Geyser that propels water some 90 metres into the air. Unfortunately its eruptions are not predictable. Except on *YouTube*!

*Source: The Montreal Gazette*

## THE GREEN THING !

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days." The clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right—our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts—wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers and sisters, not always brand new clothing. But that young lady is right. We didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house—not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Texas. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right. We didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus, and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

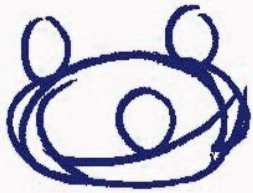
But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks are, just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

*Remember: Don't make old people mad.*

*We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to tick us off!*

*"There may be times  
when we are  
powerless to  
prevent injustice,  
but there must  
never be a time  
when we  
fail to protest."*

*Elie Wiesel*



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*Loyalty to the country  
always.  
Loyalty to the  
government  
when it deserves it.*

*Mark Twain*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ♦ **THANK YOU!**

Our HP printer recently experienced a breakdown which was not worth getting repaired. **Brother International Corporation Canada** came to our rescue and graciously donated a Brother high yield ink jet printer.

**MSCM** would like to express their heartfelt thanks to **Brother** for their corporate donation in helping our cause.

### ♦ **MONTHLY MOVIE NIGHTS!**

**MSCM** has reinstated monthly movie nights being held on the last Friday of every month at our offices located at St. James the Apostle Church, 14390 St. Catherine Street West (Guy-Concordia Metro). Movies start at 7:00 p.m. sharp. Don't forget to bring your popcorn!

## THE THREE SONS

Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly Mother.

The first said, "I built a big house for our Mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You remember how Mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well any more. I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took Elders in the church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."

Soon thereafter, Mom sent out her letters of thanks: "Milton," she wrote one son, "the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"Gerald," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel any more. My eyesight isn't what it used to be. I stay at home most of the time, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!"

"Dearest Donald", she wrote to her third son, "you have the good sense to know what your Mother likes.

"The chicken was delicious!"

## THE LAST LAUGHS

- ♦ If you don't pay your exorcist, you can get repossessed.
- ♦ Police were called to a daycare where a 3-year-old was resisting a rest.
- ♦ A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- ♦ Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
- ♦ If you take your laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.
- ♦ Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.
- ♦ In a democracy it's your vote that counts; in feudalism, it's your Count that votes!