

Tison will serve one last campaign as executive director for WICS

By Kevin Woodhouse
The Suburban

West Island Community Shares turned 18 years old and now that the non-profit agency has reached adulthood, Executive Director Caroline Tison feels confident that after one more campaign, she can pass the torch.

After being in charge for the last 12 years, Tison and her staff have seen the agency take on 50 percent more organizations, to a number of 40 this year as well as fundraising and distributing more than \$11 million to said groups, reaching 50,000 West Island residents every year.

And while Tison plans to step down as executive director next June, she still plans to remain as a volunteer and expert to see her at the organization's major fundraising events.

"Meeting with people and taking part in the events we host is so very near and dear to my heart that I am staying on as part of the distribution committee," Tison told *The Suburban*.

Even though WICS has taken on 20 more agencies in the past years, Tison said "we still want to grow while still maintaining our standards and we hope to raise

\$1.2 million for the next campaign."

WICS has reached another milestone as Tison has secured the non-profit into the Imagine Canada Standards Program Accreditation.

"Good governance has always been the key to a successful operation and this accreditation acknowledges that," Tison said. "Only 150 out of a total of 85,000 Canadian registered charities have been awarded this designation."

As a way for a smooth transition, the agency's board will be working on finding a replacement for Tison because "it will take time to recruit someone and then train the right candidate."

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Community Shares but it's time to re-orient my career," said Tison. "I believe that the organization is in a position of strength and relevance and is well placed to further increase its impact in our community. It has been most rewarding to work with outstanding and inspirational individuals: my dedicated team and board of directors, donors, partners, volunteers, community group leaders, citizens, and elected officials — all of whom have contributed to Community Shares' mission." ■

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2nd Annual West Island Health Festival

FREE ADMISSION OPEN TO ALL AGES

Saturday, September 26, 2015
11 AM to 5 PM (Doors open at 10:30 AM)

Dollard des Ormeaux Community Centre
(Next to the Library and Civic Centre)
12001 de Salaberry Blvd., DDO, QC, H9B 2A7

This Saturday! Don't Miss It!

Keynote Address
Featuring Dr. Laurie Betito
CJAD Personality and Author

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11:00-11:45:	Justine McIntyre	Going gluten free
11:45-12:30:	Sam Maniatis	Healthy exercising
12:30-1:15:	Mireille Guibord	Healthy body weight
1:15 - 1:30:	Intermission	The Record Breakers
1:30-2:15:	Sandra Reich	Anxiety Management
2:15-3:00:	Dr. Fiore Lalla	Mood Disorders
3:00-4:00:	Dr. Laurie Betito	Sexual Health

Come and meet your community providers, organizations and businesses!

Justine MCINTYRE, TONY, Sam MANIATIS, Sandra REICH, Mireille GUIBORD, Dr. Fiore LALLA

4pm Closing Ceremonies:
Just For Laughs Derek Seguin

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Festival des couleurs is upon us!

By Stephanie Azran
The Suburban

When the temperature starts to drop and the leaves start to turn, there's no need to fight the end of summer. In fact, it's a great time to look around and decide just where to go for the best fall colour show. Fortunately, it's not a hard decision to make- Rigaud's Festival des couleurs is the perfect event to pack in all those autumn activities.

Every year- and this year is the festival's 18th- thousands of visitors descend on Mont Rigaud on Thanksgiving weekend to hike the mountain, see the shows, taste local produce and gourmet foods, and visit the over 70 artists and artisans who set up their shops in the Parc Chartier de Lotbiniere.

The festival is arranged over three sites- the park, Mont Rigaud, and Sainte Madeleine de Rigaud Church. There really is something for everyone, from choral music to mini-trains to tree-top adventures.

Music is a big feature and no matter what your taste, there is a show for you. Hudson native Isabelle Young and guests will perform Sunday, October 11 at 8 p.m. (tickets \$10); Les Enchanteurs



sing Monday October 12 at 2:30 p.m. (free); Wilfred Lebouthillier will sing Saturday October 10 at 8 p.m. (tickets \$15). The complete list of performers can be found on the website.

At the same time, Vaudreuil-



Soulanges will launch its first OFF Festival with shows all over the region. Keep checking for updates on this one! Interested volunteers can contact Pa-

trycia Beaudry at 450-451-0873 or at patrycia_beaudry@hotmail.com. All information can be found on the website festivaldescouleurs.com.■

Athena's Pizza Party in support of the upcoming West Island Health Festival was a great success!



Pictured with Jonathan Kerr, S.G.S. President of the Board (center), are Pierrefonds-Dollard local candidates Frank Baylis (Liberal) and Lysane Blanchette-Lamothe (NDP)



Great entertainment was provided by 3 members of 'The Record Breakers'

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Les Perles de la Gare

The West Island Health Festival will take place this Saturday, September 26, 11 am - 5 pm at D.D.O. Community Centre, 12001 de Salaberry Blvd.

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