

# Women of St. Nicholas hold an original tea party fundraiser



Guests of the last week fundraising tea party of the Antiochian Women of St. Nicholas, including Mayor Vera Danyluk (center, in white), were encouraged to wear fine hats. Picture: Martin C. Barry

MARTIN C. BARRY

Members of the Antiochian Women of St. Nicholas, many of whom are residents of Town of Mount Royal, held an unusual, albeit very original, fundraising event at their church last week: everyone was encouraged to wear a hat.

About 180 people, most of them women, attended the tea party held in the basement of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church on De Castelnau Street East. Each of the 20 or so tables seating eight to 10 persons was hosted by its own sponsor. It was a refreshing reminder of a type of social event that was highly popular in another era.

The hostess was expected to design her table with the theme of her choice. One woman is said to have tried to convince her two brothers to act as butlers at a table for herself and her friends, although it wasn't clear if she got her way. At another table, a group of seven women, including Nancy Lufy of TMR, decided to do themselves up as the "Seven Belles from Gone with the Wind." They all wore identical hats.

Flowers and various decorative arrangements featured prominently at most of the tables. The main event was followed later in the afternoon by a fashion show staged by The Bay stores. The first thing most people probably noticed upon entering was that almost every woman there was wearing a fine hat.

In some cases, they were liberally decorated with a wide assortment of flower arrangements, although some were more conservative in their choice. "You have to wear a hat to come to tea this afternoon,"

said Grace Battah, who co-chaired the afternoon with Doreen Assaly. Funds raised during the tea party are going towards furniture and needed repairs at the church, said Battah. She was inspired to help organize it by a similar fundraiser she'd seen in the U.S.A.

"It's the first time we've ever done this," she said. "I was invited to one when I was in West Virginia last year and I thought I would bring it home. We were working on this since last fall. There's a hostess for every table. She sets it as if she were doing it in her home. Some are more elegant than others. Others are more ordinary."

Mayor Vera Danyluk showed up wearing a tiara-like headband, after the hat she planned to wear turned out to be unsuitable. "After I stored it for the winter, I had put it on a lampshade with another hat, and when I went to take it, the straw had stretched," she said. "I had a hat, but it fell over my face. So I went running to The Bay, I bought a headband with artificial flowers and I said this will have to do. It looks more like Mickey Mouse ears, but that's okay."

Danyluk said she had a serious problem finding a hat that would suit her. "They have a lot of these wide-brimmed hats, but they're all made big and all of them would have just covered my whole face," she said. "I thought I wouldn't see where I'm going."

#### Résumé

Les membres des Antiochian Women of St. Nicholas, dont plusieurs demeurent à Mont-Royal, ont organisé une collecte de fonds originale pour leur église la semaine

dernière. Toutes les participantes à ce thé-bénéfice, incluant la mairesse Vera Danyluk, étaient encouragées à porter un chapeau d'apparat et à décorer leur table. Inspirée d'une pratique américaine, la 1ère édition de l'activité s'est déroulée dans la salle communautaire de l'église orthodoxe St-Nicholas sise sur la rue de Castelnau.

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## Clinique de sang de Mont-Royal Objectifs atteints

BENOÎTE LABROSSE

Soixante et onze personnes ont pris part à la clinique de sang annuelle de Mont-Royal organisée en collaboration avec Héma-Québec qui se tenait mercredi dernier à l'hôtel de ville. Les donateurs, autant des résidents que des employés municipaux, étaient au même nombre que l'an dernier. «C'est sûr qu'on espère toujours avoir une centaine de donateurs et que l'on veut que toujours le nombre de donateurs augmente d'une année à l'autre, mais nous sommes tout de même satisfaits, car on a rencontré les objectifs et qu'en plus la température n'était pas clémente ce jour-là», résume Nicole Benchérit, coordonnatrice de la collecte depuis 11 ans.

### Mount Royal blood drive meets its objectives

Seventy-one people took part in the annual Town of Mount Royal blood drive last Wednesday at the TMR Town Hall in collaboration with Héma-Québec. The donors, TMR residents and municipal employees, were the same number as last year.

"We always hope to have about 100 donors and we always want the number of participants to increase each year, but we are still satisfied because we met our objective even though the weather was not on our side" noted Nicole Benchérit, coordinator for the Blood Drive for 11 years.



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