



Roger Haughey

MR. ROGER'S NEIGHBOURHOOD

Brunch is a blast at Gryphon d'or



Donna Malin in the Gryphon d'or kitchen.

Photo: Roger Haughey

When it comes to eating out, NDG has an embarrassment of riches — great breakfasts, brunches, lunches and dinners in almost every type of cuisine imaginable. In fact just last week I stopped in at Gryphon d'or, a Celtic tea room that offers a great selection of teas, including several blended in-house, coffees and non-alcoholic drinks. They also serve lunch and offer a daily afternoon tea every afternoon (reservations recommended), which includes tea, scones with homemade lemon curd, marmalade or jam, smoked salmon pikelets (a type of crumpet), egg and cucumber sandwiches, sausages, desserts and shortbread.

When I was there, I had Dingle smoked fish powder, named after the Irish town where Peggy Regan, the owner of Gryphon d'or, traded a traditional Tourtière recipe for this Irish favourite, and brought it back to serve in the tea room, located at 5968 Monkland near Royal.

When you go to the Gryphon d'or, be sure to say hello to the woman behind many of the traditional (and modern) delights, baker Donna Malin. She has lived in NDG for over 15 years. She's "been to other parts of town but always comes back to NDG because it's the best." Malin loves the community, the trees, and her daily walk to work. She began working with Regan at the bakery about 10 years ago, "before the restaurant was even open." Now she bakes for the restaurant, and serves meals and tea to its customers.

"We only get nice people in here, and over time I have become more involved in serv-

ice as well. It's a great way to spend the day." Malin is proud of the Gryphon d'or's new Sunday Brunch served from 9 am to 3 pm and featuring dishes like eggs Benedict with cheddar and Guinness Welsh rarebit sauce. Brunch is becoming so popular that it will soon be offered all day.

When she is not at the restaurant, Donna likes to play acoustic guitar, and can be found at Woodchippin' Wednesdays at Café Shaika, or Hillbilly Night at the Wheel Club. With her background in the theatre and arts education, and skills in the bakery and on stage, Malin is successfully bringing together her passion and creativity to make people happy. A noble calling indeed!

A Celtic feast

Speaking of all things Celtic, everyone is welcome to a special "Celtic Feast for All Saints" service with music led by the band, "The Rattling Bog." The Eucharist will be celebrated by reverends Gordon Guy and Jim McDermott. McDermott, a member of the band, will also preach. The service will take place at the Church of St. Columba, 4020 Hingston Ave. corner NDG Ave. on Sunday, October 30 at 10:30 am. A wheelchair ramp is available via the Hingston entrance. For more information, call 514.486.1753.

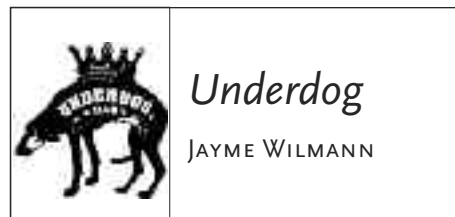
A loaf of bread ...

I recently received an email from a budding oenophile (wine lover) wondering if there is an established wine tasting and appreciation group in NDG that is looking for new members, or if there is any interest in starting up a monthly or bi-weekly wine tasting group. Since I do not know the answer to either query, I ask you, gentle readers for help in this matter. Please send me an email (see address below) if you are interested in expanding or starting a wine appreciation group here in NDG. Bon vin!

Welcome to the neighborhood!

Avery Margaret Burns, born September 19 to Leslie Bagg and Phil Bergeron-Burns.

If you have an announcement or idea you would like to see in an upcoming issue, send me an email: rogerhaughey@gmail.com.



This gal's a late bloomer

In *Romeo and Juliet*, it was proclaimed "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Bloom, despite her flowery name, smells infinitely more like a dog than a rose. However, Shakespeare's sentiment certainly rings true as this beautiful one-and-a-half-year-old great Dane mix has managed to charm her way into the hearts of everyone around her — and did so even before she had a name!

Found as a stray in a cornfield near Huntington, Quebec, Bloom was not only nameless but homeless as well. The couple that found her saw her gorgeous face peeking curiously out at them through the corn stalks and assumed that she belonged to a local resident. It was only as she drew nearer that they realized the dog had clearly been left behind, as she was emaciated and had an obvious physical abnormality.

Bloom has been diagnosed with radius curvus syndrome, which is an abnormal development of the front legs. The good news is that Bloom's condition can be remedied with corrective surgery, giving her a second chance at a healthy and pain-free life. The bad news is that the surgery is very costly, almost \$4,000.

In spite of the fact that she currently lives in a constant state of discomfort, you will never see Bloom feeling sorry for herself. A dog with a perpetually sweet and silly disposition, Bloom is social with dogs, disinterested in cats, and fantastic with children! She would thrive in almost any family setting. While small for a great



Bloom watching a squirrel.

Photo: Antonina Cagara

Dane at 85 lbs, Bloom loves to cuddle and considers herself a lap dog.

A country girl through and through, Bloom is eager to adjust to city life by taking on new tasks, such as on-leash walking and house training, which are both coming along nicely thanks to daily practice with her foster parents. Whether it be House of Capulet, Montague or anything in between, this sweet girl just wants a home and a family to love her, somewhere she can, well, bloom.

Can someone give Bloom a chance to live up to her name?

If anyone would like to be a part of Bloom's road to recovery, donations can be made to the DMV by calling 514.633.8888 and provide the file number 100861.

To consider adopting Bloom, please call 514.358.3647 or send an email to: stephanie_o_bready@hotmail.com.

For more underdogs needing homes near you, visit www.underdogclub.org.

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