

■ NEWS & ANALYSIS ■

Close call with death inspired cyclist



Mike Cohen

Last September **Chantal Bertrand-Pye** received a horrible phone call from her doctor's office at the Jewish General Hospital. Her gynecologist, **Dr. Danny Wiener**, had died from cancer and results from her most recent mammogram detected a lump in her breast. Following a series of appointments, an ultrasound finally concluded that there was no sign of cancer. But this close call served as a wake-up call.

"I celebrated by going on a most glorious bike ride once I returned from the hospital," Chantal said. "Ironically that night I saw the commercial for the Ride to Conquer Cancer, and I knew that this was what I was supposed to do!"

Chantal soon went about establishing Team Finish Strong, a group of 34 dedicated Montrealers. Earlier this month they raised \$127,000 and still counting for cancer research at the JGH via the ride from Montreal to Quebec City. Supporter **Dave Migi** was so elated that he is beginning to train now to be part of the 2010 effort.

"One of my biggest inspirations on the team is **Nathalie Bedard**," says Chantal. "She joined the team because her husband is presently battling cancer at the JGH. In 2006 they discovered he had leukemia and colorectal cancer. They have a four-year-old daughter. Nathalie was not a cyclist, but took on this challenge as a means of doing something towards the cure, something for her husband and daughter and something positive to focus on. She bought herself a bike and started training. She's come so far!"

You can still contribute to the group. E-mail: chantpye@mac.com

Pro Baseball Pursuit: Hats off to PR consultant and TEAM 990 radio show host **Matthew Ross** for launching the Minor League Baseball in Montreal Facebook page. As noted in this column many times before, the six-team CAN-AM League, the equivalent perhaps of AA calibre, has a very successful franchise in Quebec City. Former Cy Young Award winner **Eric Gagné** has, in fact, been attempting a comeback there. "If some land becomes available to build a stadium we would be

on it," says former major league prospect **Marc Griffin**, who is part of a group which wants to bring a CAN-AM team here. "If we had somewhat of a baseball stadium in the Montreal area of between 3,500 and 5,000 seats we would already have a team. We will keep battling until we get it done!" **Pierre Karl Peladeau** was prepared to spend \$400 million to buy the Habs. How about Quebecor Stadium?

COHEN CHATTER: Former broadcaster **Jacques Doucet** has a two-volume book on the Expos coming out soon...**Chris Letange** of the Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins was spotted dining at Buonanotte Restaurant on St. Laurent Blvd. earlier this month... Have you ever heard of a "Goat-ess"? How about a spokes-goat? As St. Laurent-based Canus Goat's Milk Products (www.canusgoatsmilk.com)

marks its 10th anniversary worldwide, the new name of Caprina has been introduced for its brand of soap, body lotion and cream products — all made from real goat's milk. I have already made my request to speak to the Goat...The alumni of Gardenvue Elementary School in St. Laurent is having a reunion for the students and teachers of the class of 1973 on Aug. 1, 2009 at Bice Restaurant downtown on Sherbrooke Street. Info: a.katz@sympatico.ca. **Tina Spinder-Shulman** is the organizer...The B'nai Brith Food Basket program is assisting more than 4,000 families per year and the demand keeps growing. On Monday Aug. 10 the 25th annual Golf Classic Tournament will take place at the Islesmere Golf Club. Log on to www.mtl-foodbaskets.golf.reg.com to register or make a donation. ■

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CSL library considering downloadable books

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Côte St. Luc's Eleanor London Library is considering offering residents a service that will enable readers to download audio books in the compressed mp3 format, it was announced at the July Côte St. Luc council meeting.

Councillor Steven Erdelyi read a resolution at the meeting which pointed out that libraries in Côte St. Luc, Dollard des Ormeaux and Pointe Claire "expressed interest to group together for the purpose of considering a joint acquisition of an online downloadable digital media service, notably audio books."

The resolution contains an authorization from Côte St. Luc council to authorize the director of library services and of purchasing contracts to enter into negotiations with the two other cities to possibly make a group purchase.

"The result of any such negotiations will

be brought back to council for discussion," Erdelyi said.

The councillor, who is in charge of the library portfolio, explained that Côte St. Luc is trying to be on the "cutting edge" of technological advances.

"Residents can now take out CDs which contain audio books. In the past it was tapes, and this is the evolution of that [technology] — Côte St. Luc residents who are members of the library will be able to download a number of books off the Internet in mp3 format. But this resolution is just to discuss this with Dollard and Pointe Claire."

The website for British Columbia libraries points out that audiobooks can be downloaded onto computers, CD and mp3 players, but that the item must be deleted from these devices. In many cases, the file containing the audio book becomes unplayable at the end of the lending period, because of Digital Rights management software built into the mp3 file. ■

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