

Lac St. Louis soccer ready to launch

By Mark Lidbetter
The Suburban

Next Monday, June 22, Soccer Lac St. Louis will see a return to the pitches throughout the region stretching from Westmount to Hudson as training activities are a go. With the announcement of Phase Two by Minister Isabelle Charest during the daily press conference on June 4, Soccer Lac St. Louis put the wheels in motion to get their member clubs ready for the return. "It was tremendous to hear that news," Georges Tissot, Director General of Soccer Lac St. Louis said. "This is a start to a summer of soccer for our players." For the associations, there is a checklist that they have been closely following, gladly checking off each

condition as it meant a step closer to having a 2020 season. Following the first step, the government allowing team training to resume, organizations needed the okay from their municipalities to return to the pitch, suppliers to reopen for equipment and uniforms and most important, the registration of players. While many had registered with their respective clubs prior to the pandemic, once uncertainty of a season taking place set in many held back. "All players who haven't registered as of yet need to contact their clubs," Soccer Lac St. Louis President Alain Wilson said. The players from the youngest up will shake the rust off their skills in training while respecting proper distancing from others. "This is a big step forward that will allow our players to find the pitches, the ball, their friends, their educators," Tissot said. "Our athletes will need to stretch their legs and soccer will be there to get Quebec moving."

What the region will look for next is the launch of Phase Three where games would commence. At that press conference, Minister Charest noted that game play could be permitted by late June. If permitted, Lac St. Louis would plan to start competitive activities by July 10. ■



SUBURBAN FILE PHOTO



Annual Sports Celebrity Breakfast to go virtual with launch on June 28

By Mike Cohen

When the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown occurred in March, organizers of the 16th annual Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors (CJCS) Foundation Sports Celebrity Breakfast were only days away from their annual sold out event. It was initially rescheduled for this month, but when it became clear that such large gatherings would still not be possible they quickly readjusted plans for a virtual format.

For the past several weeks the organizing committee has been meeting via Zoom, putting together a top-notch event with the same original slate of guests and actually adding a lot more. Major corporate sponsors remained on board, with everyone agreeing that during this pandemic assistance for seniors in crisis has never been more critical.

The broadcast will go live on Sunday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at www.cummingscentre.org.

Sylvie Demers, Chair, Quebec market, TD Bank Group, is the Guest of Honour. McGill University medical school graduate, NFL Kansas City Chiefs offensive guard and Super Bowl LIV champion Dr. Laurent Duvernay-Tardif will be recognized as Sports Personality of the Year. Former major league pitcher Bill Lee will be presented with the Expos Legend Award and Pat Hickey of the Montreal Gazette will receive the Larry Fredericks Media Award.

Duvernay-Tardif was a member of the 2020 Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs. In May

2014 he became the 10th Canadian to be drafted by an NFL team. The six-foot-five-inch 330-pounder is passionate about both football and medicine. He turned a deaf ear when counsellors and family members advised him to choose between sports and studies — and it proved to be the right choice. "It's all about balance. Don't give up on your passions," he tells the young people he meets at the many talks he gives at schools.

Lee was a Major League pitcher for 14 seasons with the Boston Red Sox and the Montreal Expos, boasting a career 3.62 ERA, a 119-90 record, throwing nearly 2,000 innings with an all-star selection and two starts in the 1975 World Series. He joined the Expos in 1979, tossing 222 innings and winning 16 games. He was with the team until 1982 yet more than three decades later he remains a constant presence in this city and is a regular contributor to Mitch Melnick's TSN 690 radio show.

Hickey has been a sportswriter for 54 years and, following a stint as sports editor at the Montreal Gazette, on the Montreal Canadiens' beat full-time since 1992. His first experience covering the Canadiens came during the 1960s when he was with the Montreal Star.

The Seniors in Crisis, program delivers much-needed assistance to seniors in the community. Event Co-Chairs Mike Wagen and Bram Naimer, as well as Honourary Chair Morden "Cookie" Lazarus, emphasize that the event will remain online for eternity. "We sell out every year,

months in advance," said Wagen. "This year we expect thousands of people to access our program and we will soon be announcing some very extraordinary sports personalities who will join us."

Naimer wishes to thank the many sponsors who have remained committed to the event. They include Delmar International, Dym Family Foundation, Equinox Lifecare, Union Luminaires & Décor and TD Wealth in the Diamond Category; and Olymbec, RBC, Shulterm, The Alvin Segal Family Foundation, The Suburban Newspaper, Paysafe and the Ornstein family in the Gold Category.

Added Lazarus: "We are so fortunate that we have access to the type of technology that will allow us to produce an event that everyone will remember for a long time."

Prominent members of the media will conduct interviews with the different sports celebrities. They include Herb Zurkowsky and Stu Cowan of the Montreal Gazette, Rodger Brulotte of Le Journal de Montreal and TVA, Mitch Melnick and Matthew Ross from TSN 690, and Jessica Rusnak from CBC. Tune in to see some surprise guests and presentations. Since its inception this event has raised over \$2 million.

See *Suburban On Air's Judgement Calls* for Mark Lidbetter's interview with the three co-chairs. Go to www.thesuburban.com and click on the ON AIR tab and then select Judgement Calls.

