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In May, I had the pleasure of attending the 690 Lakeshore Air Cadets' year-end review. The squadron is a wonderful youth organization, and their annual review is an opportunity for cadets to display the skills they have developed over the past year. At the same time, merit awards are



handed out to those who have excelled in different skill categories. This year, I had the honour of addressing the cadets. I took the opportunity to quote Colonel Jeremy Hansen who has said, in relation to astronauts specifically but to life in general, that failure is indeed an option: we will not always succeed in what we are attempting. But we must continue to seek solutions and therefore quitting, says Colonel Hansen, is never an option.

Colonel Hansen was himself an Air Cadet as a youth. I had a chance to speak with him on his visit to Parliament Hill following his



historic spaceflight. At our meeting, he presented Parliament with a framed Canadian flag that travelled with Artemis II to the far side of the Moon. Colonel Hansen also mentioned that he harboured a fascination with airplanes from the earliest age, since before he could remember. It was this that led him to a career with the Royal Canadian Air Force and, eventually, with Canada's space program.

I recently had the opportunity to attend two important announcements at MDA Space Ltd. In May, I attended the inauguration of the company's new plant expansion, which adds



185,000 square feet to its Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue facility. In June, I attended the announcement of a \$688 million federal contract to the company to build, test, and launch a replenishment satellite for the RADARSAT Constellation Mission. The RCM is what makes possible a wide range of important satellite-based activities, from observing Arctic sea ice and other environmental changes to tracking floods and supporting maritime safety.

Here on Earth, in April, I attended the inauguration of McGill's new agri-research and teaching facilities at Macdonald Campus. The project, which will further enhance McGill's reputation as a leader in agricultural science, includes seven independently controlled greenhouse bays and two demonstration rooms for laboratory sessions. These will support teaching and research on crop resilience, sustainable agriculture,



and food security — all major priorities in the face of climate change. The Canada Foundation for Innovation and Quebec government each contributed \$9.5 million for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment for the new facilities.



Following extensive public consultations and planning, the Beaconsfield Cultural Centre and Riverfront Park project officially broke ground in June. The project will benefit from both federal and provincial financial support (over \$6 million from Ottawa) as well as from local donations.



The West Island enjoys an enviable arts and culture scene. The Cantabile Chorale has long been a pillar of that scene. Last April, I attended the choir's final concert under the direction of Maestro Peter Willsher, who has retired after leading Cantabile since 1992. Following a magnificent choir performance, I took the opportunity to share our community's gratitude and appreciation for Maestro Willsher's outstanding contribution to its classical musical landscape for

over 34 years as Cantabile's artistic director.



At the most basic level, literacy means the ability to read and write. But to speak of literacy today solely in those terms would be incomplete. In a rapidly changing, technologically driven society, literacy has evolved far beyond its traditional definition. Today, it includes the capacity to interpret and engage with a vast and complex flow of information — across digital platforms, financial systems, and media environments. Literacy Unlimited has been a vital community resource since its founding in 1981 by Beaconsfield resident Leona Kemp. It was a pleasure to connect with both Leona and current executive director Julia Asselstine at Literacy's 45th anniversary President's Cocktail in early June.



This summer marked the 20th year of the federal Canada Summer Jobs program. The program offers wage subsidies to local not-for-profit groups, public sector organizations, and businesses with 50 or fewer

full-time employees to hire summer students. The program opens doors for youth between 15 and 30 to build skills, earn income, discover potential career interests, and contribute to their communities. This year, 120 employers in Lac-Saint-Louis hired 356 youth with federal funding of \$1.5 million.



The summer is an opportunity for Members of Parliament to spend more time in their ridings. In many ways, the summer season in Lac-Saint-Louis kicks off every year with the Baie d'Urfe Days Parade. It is always a pleasure to walk and meet residents along the parade route as well as to connect with Mayor Heidi Ektvedt, members of town council, and the many volunteers who make the parade a great success.

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