Marymount Academy and MIND to temporarily cohabitate

By Isaac Olson

Due to renovations at its facility on St. Urbain St., Moving in New Directions (MIND) will temporarily cohabitate with Marymount Academy on Côte St. Luc Rd., starting in November.

English Montreal School Board (EMSB) spokesperson Mike Cohen said, "It is a temporary co-habitation that was approved by the Marymount Academy International Governing Board in June. The building once housed the Marymount Adult Education Centre (now in Côte St. Luc), so the facility is designed in such a way that it can house two distinct schools with separate entrances etc."

MIND is touted on its website as an "alternative high school." It was founded in 1975 by the former Protestant school board. It is a "learning environment for motivated students seeking an enriching educational environment," the website states. It is a school for those students whose needs "are not being met within the traditional high school setting," it explains.

Head teacher Patrice Asselin said he does not anticipate any problems with this move. He said the co-habitation could last more than a year while MIND's current facility, in cohabitation with Bancroft Elementary, is renovated.

Asselin said the school has 42 students in grades 9 through 11. It's not a neighbourhood school, he noted, as the students are offered spots in the program based on their needs.

That means, he added, that those students are used to traveling to school from different parts of the EMSB coverage area. The students, he added, generally rely on public transportation and all the parents have already been warned about this planned move.