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NEWS & VIEWS

CJAD has a gem in Angelica Montgomery



Mike Cohen

QUEBEC CITY—Odds are you have heard her voice on a regular basis for the past six years, but what do we really know about CJAD Quebec City correspondent Angelica Montgomery? I spoke to her often by phone and last winter we finally met in person when I attended the PQ's Charter of Values hearings. Back in the provincial capital recently for a conference, I invited her to speak with a group of colleagues who handle communications for school boards across the country.

Montgomery has done a terrific job reporting on government business. In 40 seconds or less she can tell a very interesting story and include a good sound bite to spice things up.

"I like what I am doing," Montgomery told me in a private chat. "When I went to journalism school there were two kinds of reporting that interested me: politics or courts. I am glad my focus is on politics where I need to gather all kinds of information, boil it down and filter through the essentials."

There are only five English language media bureaus in Quebec right now: CJAD, *The Gazette*, CTV, CBC and Global. *The Globe and Mail's* Rhéal Séguin recently retired and there is no indication he will be replaced. "I arrived here at the best possible time to do political reporting," Montgomery said. "There was the Jean Charest minority government, his return to majority status, calls for an inquiry into corruption which finally came to be, the student conflicts, the PQ minority government, the Charter of Values, the return of the Liberals and now billionaire tycoon PKP creating headlines as a politician. There is a soap opera atmosphere here."

Montgomery was born in Atlanta, Georgia, one of six sisters. The family moved to Campbellton, New Brunswick and then to Gold River, BC on North Vancouver Island. She

studied English at the University of Victoria, moved to Taiwan for a bit and then landed in Halifax to study journalism at the University of King's College. Her first job in the business was in Moncton for two years, but she took a break to experience Central America where she did undertake some freelance gigs. She got her first taste of Quebec City when she came back and was hired by CBC. Four months into that posting she was transferred to Sherbrooke to cover the Eastern Townships beat. She remained there for a year and a half when then CJAD program director Mike Bendixen's cleverly hired her.

It is ironic that while she is a well known voice to Montrealers, Montgomery has seldom ever been here. "I have a big map of Montreal and when I took this job I went to the Quebec Elections website and mapped out all of the ridings," she said. "I talked to MNAs about their ridings. This is how I got to know Montreal."

FOOD FARE: Steve Dizgun, son Max and their team continue to impress at Dizz's Bagel and Deli on Côte St. Luc Road, formerly REAL Bagel. Their homemade prepared specialties are a real hit. The hottest sellers these days are the to die for crispy shrimp cakes and the barbeque turkey burgers...Lenny Rosenberg reports that his TCBY franchise, also on CSL Road, is on the road to recovery. Shut down by a fire last spring, the gutted building has been demolished and new premises will rise in the spring. Until then he will continue to operate from a temporary storefront next door...The community lost someone special last week when longstanding Beth Ora Congregation dynamo Ann Slodovnick passed away. She was a very persuasive press agent for the St. Laurent synagogue and even up to a month ago was pitching stories to me.

Have something to share? E-mail me at mcohen@thesuburban.com or leave a message at 514-484-9203, ext. 307. Follow me on Twitter @mikecohencsl and at <http://blog.thesuburban.com>

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