

Concordia official keeps busy on the Cape



Mike Cohen

CAPE COD- No matter where I go on summer vacation, I always find a story. So when my family and I navigated our way through the Macy's department store at the Cape Cod Mall in Hyannis I noticed a familiar face sending an email from his iPhone. It was **Noel Burke**, the former assis-

tant deputy minister of education for the Quebec government and presently the director of Concordia University's School of Extended Learning.

Burke rented a cottage in nearby Falmouth and was looking very youthful, having recently shaved off his beard. "I shaved it off last year," he smiled. "Alas, it did not make me look young enough, so I'm growing it back!"

For more than 30 years Burke has gained notice for his distinguished work in education. Concordia's School of Extended Learning blends credit and non-credit offerings in programs designed for the needs of specific students. It addresses non-credit studies, web-based distance education, off-campus education and credit studies.

"We will be offering a new series of

30-credit business certificates in marketing, business practices and human resources," Burke shared with me. "These may be taken either part-time or full-time at very reasonable tuition rates."

Downtown Merchants: Are there some major U.S. retailers headed to some of Montreal's downtown storefronts? At the Red Jacket Beach Resort in the Cape Cod town of South Yarmouth I spotted a large flotation which looked just perfect for the fetching ocean water before me. "Go ahead and enjoy it," came a friendly voice from behind me. I politely accepted and off I went. When I brought it back I found out that the owner was one **Bruce Munro** of Town of Mount Royal, the vice-president for retail advisory services at Avison Young Commercial Real Estate Brokers who was at the hotel with his wife and three kids.

Munro was taking a well deserved break from what he happily reported has been a good season in the real estate trade. "I have leased 90 percent of the stores on downtown Ste. Catherine Street," he said. While he would not give details, he did say to watch the scene closely for he is indeed working with some interesting U.S. retailers who are considering some downtown locales. Stay tuned!

Tremblant Racer: One of the most inspiring people I met in the Cape was **Kurt Kossmann**.



(PHOTO BY MIKE COHEN)

Kurt Kossman and his wife Sarah.

He and his wife Sarah run Gold Coast Parasail, an outfit based at the Red Jacket. Kurt, 39, is also a race-car driver. One of the most amazing aspects of his successful career is the fact that he lost his left leg to cancer in 1988. Kurt was diagnosed with an osteosarcoma and had to have an above the knee amputation. Even with the amputation Kurt was given only a 30 percent chance of survival. He underwent 13 months of chemotherapy and through strength and perseverance he survived. While in the hospital he designed a unique prosthetic so that he could shift the race car flawlessly and continue his racing career. Interestingly his first race back was in 1989 at the Mont Tremblant raceway in the Porsche Turbo Cup Series.

Item of interest? Email mcohen@thesuburban.com or call 514-484-9203, ext. 307.