

## Tree stock renewal jumps from last year

# City catches up on tree removal, finds new species

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

If it seems that more city trees than usual have been removed this spring on streets and greenspaces, it's true: a total of 137 compared to 85 last year, according to figures provided last week by Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Sustainability and Parks.

"We're playing catch-up, as many of our trees are diseased, attacked by the emerald ash borer or have reached the end of their life span. We're also planting 150 new trees." This is 66 percent more than 90 last year, she said.

The benchmark for the future is to take

down about 100 trees a year in order to renew the tree stock, she said. This is about 1.5 percent of the city tree inventory. The total of between 6,000 and 7,000 excludes Summit Woods.

The city now has a tree replacement program in place, following an inventory conducted last year by Nicolas Mory, the city's superintendent of arboriculture and horticulture, a new position.

Of the 137 trees already removed for this year – other than emergency situations – about 30 or 40 are ash trees attacked by the ash borer, Mory told the *Independent*.

Most of these are smaller ones planted during a trend in the '80s ..... and '90s in commercial ar- ..... continued on p. 7

## Private gardens visited during tour



The Westmount Horticultural Society held its "Secret Garden Tour of Westmount" fundraiser on June 15. Describing the rear grounds at 60 Oakland Ave. on Westmount's summit, tour organizers called the garden "respectful of its location in the shadow of the Oratory." A pond with a fountain and stone edges added to the peaceful setting. More photos, p. 12.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Letters p. 8

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 17

9 Lives by L. FOWLER p. 13

## November 5, 2017 municipal election

# Davis to run for councillorship again, wants indoor pool

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Councillor Rosalind Davis announced June 20 she would seek re-election November 5 as District 4 representative on Westmount city council.

"I feel it's fair to tell my constituents before the summer that I would like the honour of representing them for another four years," she explained. "I've enjoyed the experience and tried to bring their concerns

and issues to the attention of the city."

Another reason she's seeking a second term, she said, is because "I believe we need an indoor pool. I want to help see that this project gets off the ground" (see story May 23, p. 1). She is currently commissioner of Sports and Recreation.

She also is a member of the city's Community Events Advisory Committee and is the spokesperson for ..... the city's Canada 150 cele- ..... continued on p. 16

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# Commercial/office/condos planned for St. Catherine St.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A commercial property leasing agent has confirmed to the *Independent* that a developer hopes to build a new 11-storey commercial/office/residential condo project on the south side of St. Catherine St. near the corner of Atwater Ave.

“The project is a total redevelopment, so the landlord is going to pull the [old] building down and rebuild it entirely,” said Patricia Hirsch, a leasing representative with Nuns’ Island-based Intella Immobilier.

“We’re looking at end of 2018, early 2019 delivery,” she added.

The project at 4014-4022 St. Catherine St. will be replacing a dilapidated two-storey office and commercial building currently on the site. It used to house offices leased by the Montreal Children’s Hospital before it relocated to the McGill University Health Centre. It currently houses the Dé-

panneur 7 Jours.

According to a promotional brochure, the project will have 10,000 square feet of street-level commercial space, 20,000 feet of office space and at least 120 residential condos, taking up an unspecified amount of space.

Some of the the merits of the project that Intella is promoting include its close proximity to Alexis Nihon Plaza, the AMC Forum, Westmount Square and Dawson College, as well as the fact it would be close to the Atwater Metro station.

According to Hirsch, two buildings just to the east of the targeted area up to the corner of Atwater Ave., including restaurants Miso and Imadake, are not part of the project.

**To the west, St. Catherine garage not slated for demo: Cllr. Samiotis**

With its facade covered by a protective curtain, the fate of an old multi-storey St.

Catherine St. garage, classified as a Category 1 building by the city of Westmount, remains uncertain, despite rumours.

During a recent visit to the site, it was noted that several ground-level windows were broken and parts of the concrete facade at street level showed signs of water infiltration. Several merchants with stores in the building said they had not heard anything about any future demolition.

Councillor Theodora Samiotis, commissioner of Urban Planning, responded to the speculation.

“I have checked with the [city] administration and, as of yesterday, we are not in receipt of any application regarding that building,” she said June 16. “We do not have any application from the owner or otherwise regarding that building from

what I’m told by the administration.”

While adding that she was unaware of any recent speculation on the building’s future, Samiotis said “our city’s concern is that no application has been made for replacement or otherwise.”

Samiotis said she felt it was important to note that no demolition would be allowed by the city without a plan submitted by the owner for a replacement.

continued on p. 4



The former Subaru dealership building on St. Catherine between Atwater and Wood, June 15.



Plans to redevelop the site of this building are advertised at at 4014-4022 St. Catherine St. Businesses currently there include Dépanneur 7 Jours, the Amir restaurant and the Chez NGA Asian restaurant.

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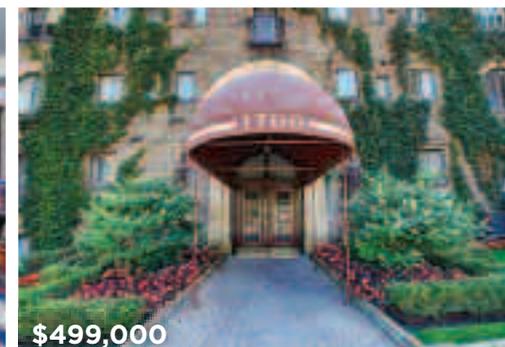
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## 500 Claremont project

# Neighbours rally against apartment development

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A petition against the proposed re-development of 500 Claremont is to be presented at the city council meeting July 4, Claremont resident Frank Philpott said last week. "There are now more than 100 neighbours against its height and the potential impact on traffic."

Because the project has been under consideration since its presentation at a public meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee in December (see story January 17, p. 9), Philpott said "we're concerned council might be planning to vote on it July 4. "We're also concerned that if they do,

they might hold the second public meeting about it during July and August vacation period." This happened with the timing of the initial meeting over a holiday period, he explained.

The project proposes construction of "boutique" apartments within the vacant institutional building at the southwest corner of Claremont and Windsor, the street the building actually fronts on. An extension is also planned to the south side along Claremont (see December 6, 2016, p. 16).

The 1908 building was formerly occupied by the Congrégation de la Fraternité Sacerdotale, and before that several other occupants.

## St. Catherine St. cont'd. from p. 3

She said that a few years back the city's Urban Planning department asked the owner to place a protective sheet over the front of the building "to protect any more of the facade from falling down. There were pieces that were falling off, and they've since then been removed and put in storage."

Westmount's director of Urban Planning Tom Flies would neither confirm nor deny if the city had received any permit application. "Those are confidential informations," he said. "I can't answer to any rumours. I hope that you do understand that I need to treat certain information confidentially."

"If there is information to share, it will be public," he added. "For example, [for] a demolition process, there is obviously public information that is related to that if there is anything at that level, but that is all I can say."

In effort to contact the building owner, listed as Fiducie Familiale Tehrani in property evaluation records, at a residential address in Côte St. Luc, it was found that its voice mailbox was full.

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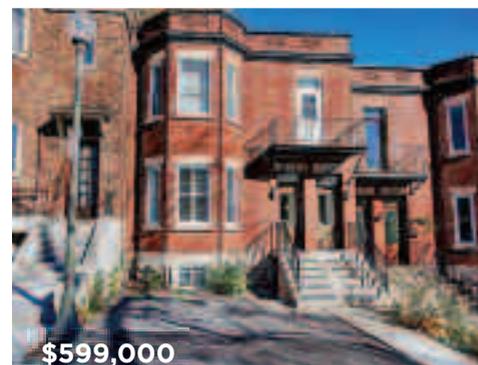
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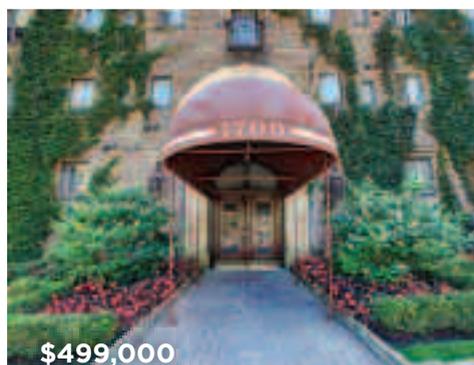
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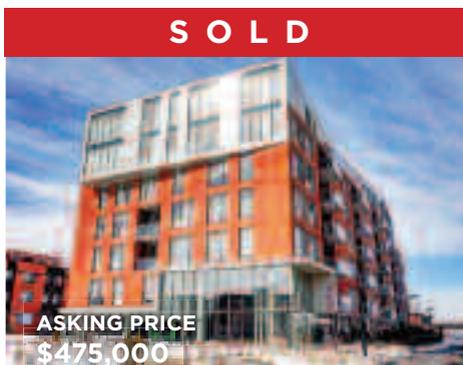
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## Police Report

# Dog dies after fight

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The following news story is based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the reporter.

Police at Station 12 report that a fox terrier, which had been seriously wounded in a fight with an American Staffordshire terrier on Hillside Ave. on the evening of May 31, died of its injuries a few days later while under intensive care with a veterinarian.

According to community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, one of the dog's owners, who was trying to separate the canines, was bitten during the same incident, although it wasn't clear in the police report which owner got bitten.

Laperrière said he was uncertain as to what happens next legally given the death of the fox terrier. "If the owner of the other dog wants to follow this through in court, there is a civil process for damages," he said.

### Bike stolen from apartment locker

A tenant in an apartment building on Park Place discovered while checking his basement locker on the morning of May 14 that someone had broken in and stolen his bike.

According to Laperrière, the Specialized brand road bike was stolen some time between May 13 around 5:30 in the evening when the owner last checked on the locker, and shortly before 10 am May 14 when another tenant advised him that the locker was open.

"There were signs of forced entry," said Laperrière, adding that the bike's estimated value was \$2,500. Laperrière's advice to apartment dwellers concerned about the security of their stored valuables is to beware of unauthorized persons entering their building.

"If you come in through the garage and you're not verifying what's happening behind or around you, somebody can easily sneak in and gain access to the whole building," he said. "This is something we see all the time."

Although he doesn't suggest confronting intruders, he said you can at least keep track of their movements and call 911 if it seems to be someone who doesn't belong there.

### Students: Is marijuana legal?

Following the arrest at the Westmount lookout of several individuals suspected of being in possession of marijuana, a Montreal police spokesman is pointing out that the use of cannabis in Canada is still illegal.

"As a community relations officer, I do sometimes get [questions] from students asking if it's still illegal," said Constable Adalbert Pimentel of Station 12.

While admitting that mixed messages are getting out through social media as well as news reports, he added, "Yes it is still illegal. Nothing has changed: possession of narcotics - specifically marijuana in this case - is illegal."

Police from Station 12 intervened at the lookout on May 11 following numerous complaints from residents on the summit about individuals loitering while using alcohol and cannabis. "When the officers got there, they noticed a strong odour of marijuana," Pimentel said.

Although a large number of cars were parked there, the officers followed their noses and traced the smell to a specific vehicle, where "they noticed that in plain view there was a substance that looked like marijuana," he added.

The occupants of the vehicle, who were all 18 years of age or over, were placed under arrest. *continued on p. 19*

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*Trees cont'd. from p. 1*

eas such as along Victoria and Sherbrooke and in parking lots. Mory calls them “pit trees” because they were planted in relatively small street pits in tight places alongside the road.

Other trees removed this year include diseased elms, but most are Norway maples planted in the 1960s. These are now nearing the end of their natural life spans all about the same time, he said (see story April 18, p. 1). By taking down some every year, the city is staggering the number so that all don't have to come down at one time in five or 10 years, he explained.

This will allow for new trees to mature and grow into suitable replacements by that time. As a result, some are being planted between the older trees.

#### **Bacteria hitting Japanese lilac**

A new bacteria has reared its head and is starting to affect the “Ivory Silk” Japanese lilacs used by the city in recent years, he said. “We aren't planting any more of these.” Those affected tend to be smaller less established ones, depending on their growing conditions. “At the peak of summer, you'll see leaves and some of the branches droop. These are dead branches.”

#### **New elm type, tulip trees**

Mory said this year the city is diversifying its planting, choosing six or seven species. One new one is the tulip tree, which the city has never planted before. A member of the magnolia family, it is found along the US border and tolerates hotter summers and warmer winters resulting from climate change, he said.

Another new type is a hybridized elm that he calls a “nephew” of the American elm developed to be resistant to Dutch elm disease.

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## **Inauguration set for second week of July**

# **Finishing touches ongoing at Summit Circle**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The new Summit Circle walking path and “naturalization” of the closed northern section of the road is undergoing finishing touches, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week. An official inauguration of the project is expected to take place during the second week of July.

Tree pruning is still required at the small new “belvedere” to make it a true viewpoint, and the pathway requires compacting and other work, she said.

Concrete also remains to be poured on two slabs needed for the parking of utility vehicles that service Hydro Westmount installations and Montreal's pumping station. One is located at the Oakland end of the walking path, the other at the opposite end to the east.

Also to be completed are stairs leading down to Ridgewood as part of the project (see story March 8, 2016, p. 1).

While the main walking path may appear to be quite wide, Lulham said, it has to be able to accommodate emergency vehicles such as fire trucks. “It will become overgrown at the edges as the smaller plantings grow,” she explained.

Some of the wild grasses and other seeds will likely be planted in the fall.

#### **Montreal's Summit Cresc. work 'disappointing:' Lulham**

Work by the city of Montreal to incorporate the dead end of Summit Cresc. (north of Devon) into Summit Woods, is “disappointing,” Lulham said. “They were supposed to be following our model to naturalize the area” (see story June 14, 2016, p. 1).

Instead, she said, curbs have been installed as well as grass at the sides of what was supposed to be a narrowed gravel footpath leading to a pedestrian gate to St. Joseph's Oratory.



New trees seen June 13 are already planted along the south side of the new walking path. Inset: This small stone belvedere at the north-east side of the summit will provide a lookout once vehicles can be brought in to prune trees that now obscure the view, seen June 13.

Photos: WI



## **Comin' Up**

#### **FRIDAY, JUNE 30**

“Storywalk” launch of the *The Hockey Sweater* with author Roch Carrier and illustrator Sheldon Cohen, 6:30 pm, Westmount Park. PJs/movie night, 7 pm. Register at Victoria Hall or the children's desk of the Westmount Public Library.

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 1**

Westmount's Canada Day celebrations,

as part of Canada's 150th anniversary, starting at 11 am.

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 4**

City council meeting, 8 pm at city hall.

#### **TUESDAY, JULY 11**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WHY NOT SOME NEW BINS FOR PARKS?

As a citizen of Westmount for the past 10 years, I am grateful to our city for great parks and for helping change our bad habits into good ones by implementing residential recycling and composting programs. I am proud of how little my family



Photo courtesy of A. Goldberg

Westmount Park, June 11.

now throws away that ends up in landfills.

The issue is that after five years of reaching out repeatedly to the city and requesting it set up proper waste receptors in our parks, all my requests have gone unanswered. I have to believe that 90 percent of what goes into our 1970-era garbage cans in the park can be recycled properly and not go to landfills.

I don't understand the reasoning behind a city, which is so conscientious about so many things, and how they can be so neglectful for so long when it comes to the easy task of changing over to the proper waste receptors in our parks.

ALLAN GOLDBERG, LANSDOWNE AVE.

### MISSED THE PARTY, HERE'S AN OPEN TRIBUTE TO TRENT

Dear Peter [former Mayor Trent:] Hanna and I regret that we have to celebrate from a distance [on June 20], you and your good works for Westmount. Not only did you inspire what one hopes the best mayors do, smoothly functioning and improving services, as well as what may be the world's last remaining courteous [officers] at Westmount Public Security. You have also, alas not on horseback and even without a car, fought our battle for independence, thus becoming Westmount's George Washing-

ton. This leaves your successors with the problem of configuring our mountain into a suitable Mount Rushmore, but let them worry about that.

The unsung heroine, Kathy, undoubtedly deserves her share of the credit.

You are too young and energetic to retire. We shall stand by to watch what comes next.

TONY DEUTSCH, LANSDOWNE AVE.

### ADD TRAFFIC FROM NEW CONDO TOWER AT CHILDREN'S TO SOUTHEAST DISTRICT WOES

Further to an article on p. 4 and a letter to the editor on p. 6 regarding traffic studies in the June 20 issue, planning for the

southeast sector must now take into account a much larger project than the 10-storey building planned for St. Catherine at Atwater.

The former Montreal Children's Hospital site will be developed with six towers from 20 to 32 storeys in a mixed-use project including retail and office space, and about 1,200 housing units.

Though only a small part of the complex - its west and south edges - lies within Westmount, this mammoth development will reach from Atwater to Sussex, and from Tupper to René Lévesque.

From demolition - starting soon - and forever after, traffic in Westmount's southeast and adjacent areas will increase exponentially. Planning must take this dramatic development into account.

LUCY FELLOWES, WOOD AVE.

## Windsor holds annual street party



"Residents, young and old, of this beautiful street, and a few newcomers, enjoyed the first evening of summer. Great food and a serious street hockey game were on the menu for the annual street party. Thank you to the city to let the residents continue a pleasant tradition," said Jean-Francois Emmanuel of Windsor Ave., seen here June 21 looking west.

Photo courtesy of J.F. Emmanuel

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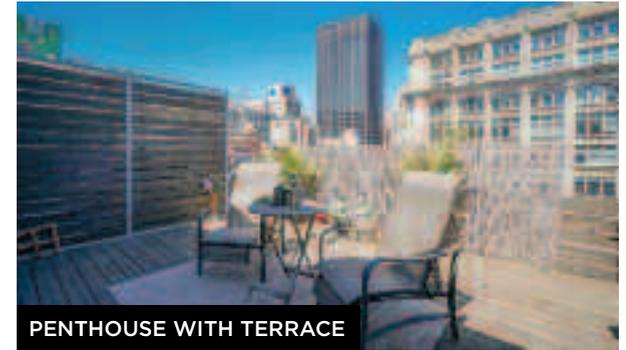
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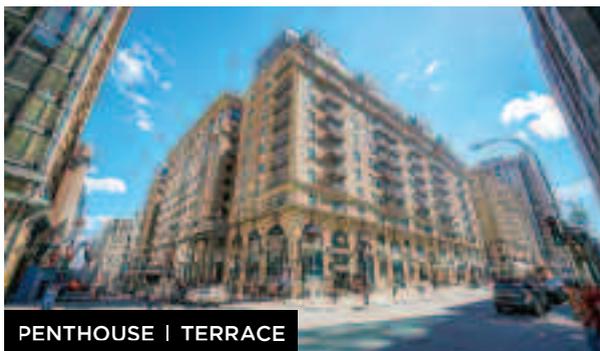
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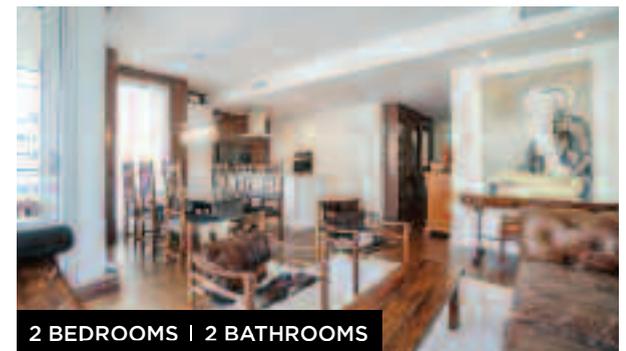
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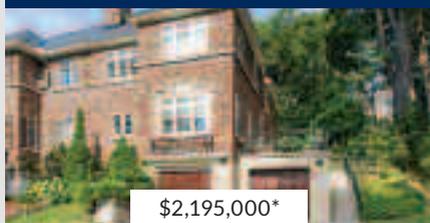


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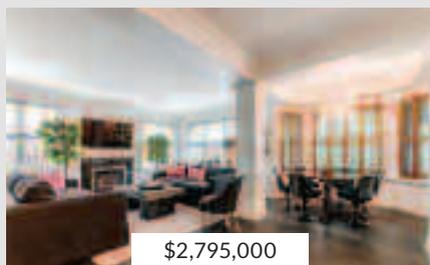
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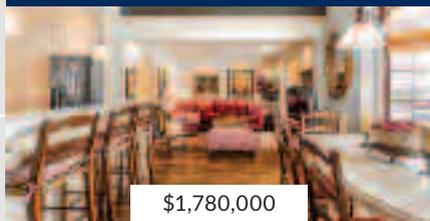


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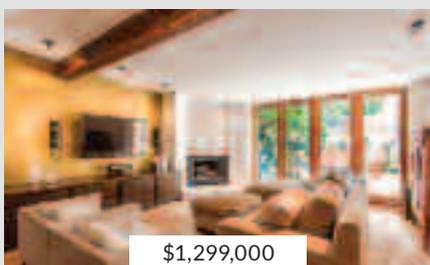
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Encourages 'inventive play'

# New play equipment for Westmount Park set for August

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

New playground structures for Westmount Park are expected to be installed in August, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week. They were chosen to provide new opportunities for "inventive" play, she said.

"These are very different from anything we've ever had before," she explained. Everything but the slide will be made of bamboo and metal, to "get away from plastic."

"The play equipment is designed for in-

teractive and inventive play. There's a component with doors and windows to climb through and for rope climbing. Lots of children will be able to play in different ways."

Lulham, as commissioner of Sustainability and Parks, had moved the approval of its purchase and installation for a total of \$194,000 at the June 5 council meeting. The quote from Les Paysagements Lumi-Vert Inc. was the lower of two conforming bids, the other being \$259,000.



Some of the new play structures planned for Westmount Park.

Image courtesy of C. Lulham

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# Belmont reconstruction gets okay, work to start later

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Belmont Ave. is the next street to get the thumbs-up for reconstruction this summer. City council approved the work June 5 at a cost of \$851,000 for the block between Westmount Ave. and Belmont Cresc.

Pavages D'Amour Inc., which won the contract, was the only bidder but it conformed to specifications, said Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works.

The work will include replacement of a section of water main, replacing the conduit bank and street lighting as well as installing new sidewalks and asphalt paving. It is tentatively scheduled to start mid-August but a firm start-up date has not been finalized, according to Engineering direc-

tor Elisa Gaetano.

The timing, she said, is being coordinated with the winding down of the major reconstruction project for Westmount Ave. (Victoria to Claremont) since both work locations are relatively close to each other (April 11, p. 3).

A charging station for electric cars is also expected to be installed at the turnaround portion of Belmont Cresc. at King George (Murray) Park as part of being proactive in street design, Councillor Philip Cutler told questioner Paul Marriott of Grosvenor. He had announced this last month (see story May 16, p. 1).

Councillor Cynthia Lulham also said the city was now adding pedestrian-friendly bump-outs and raised intersections when rebuilding streets.

## Nothing cooking in lane

A box containing a microwave oven was found in the lane behind 225 Clarke June 4, Public Security officials said.

A patroller had seen a man carrying the box from afar at 5:18 am but he was reported to have fled when the officer found it abandoned.

The item was turned over to local police Station 12 on Stanton St.

## Boy injured playing at KGP

A 12-year-old NDG boy was injured while playing in King George (Murray) Park June 2, Public Security officials said. The incident occurred around 3:23 pm when he fell, hurting his ribs. First responder firefighters also attended. The boy's mother was contacted and he was protected by a blanket and comforted until she arrived. She was to take him to hospital.

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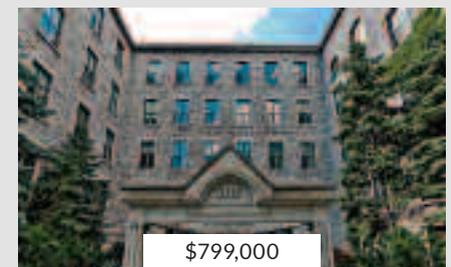
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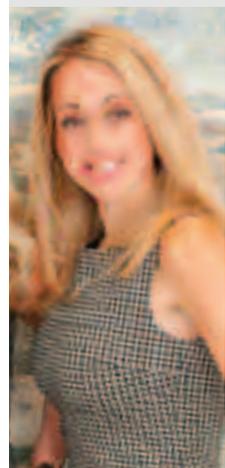


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# Horticultural society hosts 7th 'Secret Garden' tour

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Twelve gardens were part of this year's Westmount Horticultural Society's Secret Garden Tour, which is in its seventh year. About 140 tickets were sold at a cost of \$40 for WHS members and \$5 more for non-

members. Ticket prices included a boxed lunch and drink from Mouton Noir Café. It took place June 15.

The next event is scheduled for 2020. See p. 1 for additional photo.



This was the second time Claire Archambault volunteered her garden at 625 Côte St. Antoine Rd. The program described the rear yard of her property as including "interesting combinations of trees, shrubs and unusual perennials."



As Erica Bloom, who lives at 94 Sunnyside Ave., readily admits, the large garden behind her home offers ample opportunity during the summer to escape, although she wishes she could do it more often. The area has stands of birch trees that lead into a leafy garden containing plantings of dogwood, lilac and viburnum.

Photos: Martin C. Barry


  
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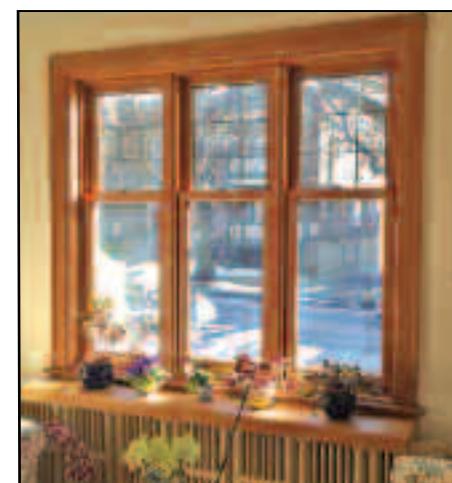


## Woman treated for fall on speed bump

An 85-year-old woman fell outside Westmount Public Library June 1, Public Security officials said. When patrollers answered a call for assistance from the library at 11:14 am, they located her seated in a car trying to stop bleeding from the face. They cleaned cuts to the nose and knee but the woman refused transport to hospital when Urgences Santé arrived. The resident of downtown was reported to have tripped on a speed bump.

## Dog wears licence, returned home quickly

A loose dog wearing a Westmount tag was found May 27 at 602 Argyle and returned to its home on Westmount Ave. before the owner had noticed it missing, Public Security officials said. The owner was tracked down quickly on the spot through use of the new Emili.com dog registration system. It was "a perfect example" of the value of the new system, officials explained.



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## Trent's 'grand finale'

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

A farewell party for Peter Trent June 20, in which he became the main source of entertainment onstage, could probably be called a “grand finale” to his 24 years on city council, 18 of them as mayor. One of Trent's great pleasures in life is well known to be playing the guitar, singing and performing.

After a short, humorous roasting, Trent teamed up with the event's emcee – entertainer and former councillor George Bowser – to entertain the 250 attendees, ending with a hearty rendition by all of “There'll Always Be a Westmount” (lyrics by Trent to the tune of “There'll Always Be an England,” 1939).

Among those attending were former mayor Karin Marks, more than a dozen former councillors spanning the years, current and some former staff members, community volunteers, regular council attendees and other residents. Among them was Kathleen Weil, Quebec minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness.

Underscoring a general theme of demerger leadership, former St. Lambert mayor Sean Finn (2005-2009) thanked Trent “on behalf of the South Shore” for



On stage at the Victoria Hall event for Peter Trent June 20 were George Bowser, left, and Trent. Inset: Former city clerk Robert Wilkins, right, presents Trent with a poem he wrote about him as mayor (see poem June 20, p. 4).

showing residents how demergers could be achieved.

Mayor Christina Smith presented Trent with a pair of silver cufflinks bearing the Westmount crest.

Director general Mike Deegan told him



the staff would be giving him a pair of lamp standards to light the way as he had through his leadership. These are the mayoral lampposts and heads currently in place outside his home.

## King Arthur



Here he is, cuddly Arthur. He is patiently waiting for a family of his own, after being found abandoned. He is a big, burly grey domestic short-hair with mitten feet. His happiness is to play. Arthur could be a comforting family cat, a homebody who would greet every person as they arrive.

Arthur is approximately six years old, neutered and inoculated. You can visit him at the Hôpital Vétérinaire Général MB, located at 3400 St. Antoine St. or call 514.935.1888.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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# The Irish helped build Montreal, Concordia prof tells WCCM

By MARTIN C. BARRY

While Montreal has been celebrating its 375th anniversary this year, shining a spotlight mostly on the city's French founders, according to a preamble given by the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal, perhaps not as well known is the role of other another people who helped build the city – the Irish.

It was with this in mind that the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal (WCCM) invited Jane McGaughey, an assistant professor in the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University, to speak on the Irish contribution to Montreal's history during the WCCM's annual general meeting on May 23 at Victoria Hall. Over 100 people attended.

McGaughey, who will be teaching a course on the Irish in Montreal at Concordia in September, opened with two contrasting images of the Irish.

The first was of Susan Kennedy, who, during the late 19th century, was depicted by the *Montreal Witness* newspaper as a stereotypically drunken and violent Irish-woman after she murdered Mary Gal-

agher with an axe in Griffintown.

"This is one vision of Montreal's Irish women," said McGaughey, before pointing to the next projected image as "probably more familiar to many of you." It showed the 2014 Montreal St. Patrick's Parade queen and her court. "The two images of womanhood could not be more diametrically opposed."

According to McGaughey, Montreal is one of four hubs for the Irish diaspora globally. While the historical impact of the potato famine has left some people of Irish origin with the impression that Irish immigration to America was at its peak during this mid-19th century period, the majority of the Irish in Canada actually came before or after, McGaughey added.

"Most people think that their families are famine families," she said. "It's part of the mythology of the diaspora. However, it's actually only a very small percentage of all of those Irish who had been on the move throughout the 19th century. Many more came before or came afterwards, particularly to the States."

Another factor that had a great influence on the destiny of the Irish in Montreal was the construction of the Lachine canal. Many who were arriving from Ireland in the early 1820s came specifically to help build it.

It was no accident that the Irish were hired in large numbers for this purpose, McGaughey added. "There was a very strong belief at the time that the Irish were naturally built for hard labour. This is what we would now call a very racist attitude, but it was a very prevalent attitude at the time."

The Irish labourers excavated more than eight miles of rock and soil along the canal's path, mostly manually. Although they sometimes used plows to break the



Jane McGaughey from the School of Irish Studies at Concordia University made a presentation on the history of the Irish in Montreal to the Women's Canadian Club of Montreal on May 23.

ground, for the most part they simply dug downward to a depth of 28 feet using picks and shovels, wheelbarrows and occasionally gunpowder during 14-hour days, earning two shillings per day.

During this time, racist depictions of the Irish flourished in Montreal. A pseudoscientific illustration from the era that McGaughey showed compared the facial characteristics of English nurse and social reformer Florence Nightingale to those of a thuggish-looking Irishwoman identified in the drawing as "Bridget McBruiser."

"This was a process by which the Irish were denigrated as being less evolved," McGaughey commented. "It's taking what would eventually be a Darwinian type of logic and applying it as a reason to control the Irish, to not pay them enough money for their wages, to belittle them, to keep them sectioned off from not only the city but the running of the empire."

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# 'Health literacy' matters, Healthy City Project gathering hears

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Health care costs are four times higher for people with low literacy, members of the Westmount Healthy City Project (HCP) were told during a lecture at Victoria Hall May 30.

In the third and final instalment of the HCP's joint lecture series organized in conjunction with McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Foundation, Nancy Posel and Dr. David Fleiszer focused on the role of "health literacy" and patient education in medical practice.

Posel is co-director of the McGill-Molson Medical Informatics Project and also director of the Patient Education Office at the MUHC. Fleiszer, an associate-professor of surgery at the McGill University faculty of Medicine, is co-director of the MM-MIP and was a founding director of the Cedars Breast Centre at the MUHC.

"Literacy problems cost the US health care system between \$106 and \$238 billion annually," Posel pointed out. "We need to find better ways to address this."

According to her, illiteracy has been used as a weapon in the past to disempower and disenfranchise people and can be used in a similar manner against medical patients.

As an example, she cited the literacy tests that black citizens of many southern US states were subjected to at one time if they wanted to vote. The questions on such tests were worded in such a manner as to confuse them and virtually assure they could not vote.

"We don't want to use literacy as a weapon," she said. "We don't want to use jargon as an area for misunderstanding. But what we want to do is focus on understanding." She defined health literacy as the "ability to obtain, process and understand basic health information."



Nancy Posel and David Fleiszer of the MUHC focused on the role of "health literacy" during their presentation May 30 at Victoria Hall to members of the Westmount Healthy City Project.

For his part, Fleiszer described two options a doctor faces when he needs to explain a medical situation to a patient. The doctor might ask the patient: Do you have hydrosis? "What I could have said is: 'is your mouth dry?'" He said the choice involves "using medical terminology versus using plain language."

He said he likes to tease his francophone friends sometimes by telling them that "translating stuff into French is not important in what we do. What's really important is that we translate things from medical jargon into plain language. And everything we do is in English and French as our two main languages, and we have a lot of stuff in other languages as well."

### Visual aids coming

During a question-and-answer period, Posel said the MUHC is moving beyond using only text materials to provide patients with medical information, and the

approach is increasingly visual. "We are extremely cognizant of the need to develop materials that suit all the patients at the MUHC and the need to ensure that the medium that we use is appropriate," she said.

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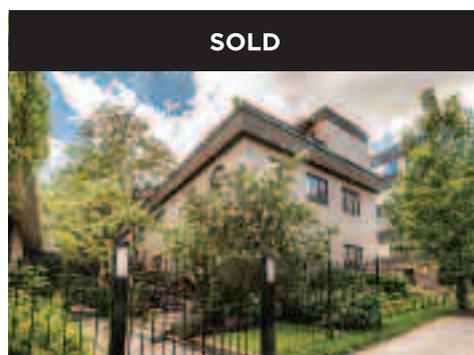
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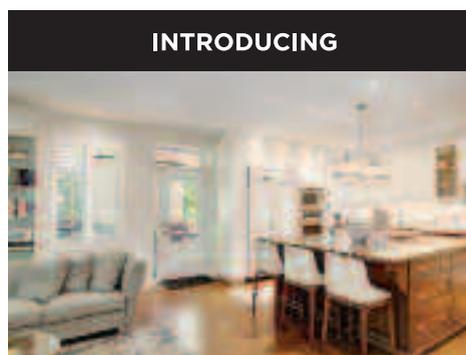
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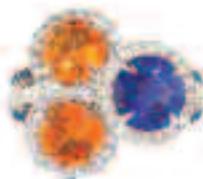
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## Local students showcase artwork on theme of Montreal's 375



Photo courtesy of Lori Burnett.

An invitation-only vernissage of MontréalART375, featuring artwork by students aged six to 16 on the theme of Montreal to mark its 375th birthday, took place the afternoon of May 28 in the lobby of the Esplanade Loft Project. It was organized by the Quebec Association of Independent Schools. Several Westmount schools participated, including ECS, The Study, Selwyn House, St. George's elementary and high schools and The Priory. The exhibition of over 300 works was on public view until June 2.

### Davis cont'd. from p. 1

brations.

The only other declared councillor candidate is Cynthia Lulham in District 7 (see story January 24, p. 1). Nicole Forbes is not running again in District 6.

District 5's seat also has no incumbent since interim Mayor Christina Smith is now a mayoral candidate (see story June 20, p. 1).



Rosalind Davis, June 20.

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# A magical McCord moment



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

plastic.

The always-fun sold-out eve was under the co-presidency of board chairs local res **Hélène Fortin**, Loto-Québec, (attending with her husband **Denis Larose**); **Jean Houde**, Banque Nationale and Gaz Métro (with wife **Jeanne Leclerc**); **Monique Leroux**, Investissement Québec (with daughter **Anne-Sophie Forget-Leroux**); and **Robert Tessier**, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (with wife **Denyse Tessier**).

Industrious ball committee members were Westmouter **Bente Christensen**, (with hubby **Gerry Shadeed**), along with **Bita Cattelan** (with hubby **Paolo Cattelan**), **Emmanuelle Demers**, **Jean-Michel Lavoie** (with **Scott Yetman**), **Nathalie Deshaies**, (with **Pierre Campeau**), **Claudia Gervais**, **Olivier Legault** (with **Anik Matern**), **Nathalie Lévesque** (with **Eric Dunberry**) and **Roberto Reino**.

Event designer *extraordinaire* **Dick Walsh** created the wow-worthy décor on the theme of transparency. A massive clear balloon, within which writhed red-clad Dante-esque devils, awed party-goers as they entered the dining room. The incredible lightness of the theme was echoed throughout the cavernous Arsenal space. Tables were plexiglass, plates were clear glass and a translucent orb sat atop tall water-filled cylinders. (How refreshing not to have florals wasting away. Speaking of wasting away, around 9 pm after a champagne-fuelled over-two-hour long cocktail with only slippery oysters ..... continued on p. 18

A break from Montreal's record-breaking daily deluge was a welcome respite for the annual McCord Museum Ball. The gala was held on May 4 – a rare non-rain eve. Arriving guest Montreal mayor **Denis Coderre** must have had the right connections. The magic “Abracadabra” theme brought out man-buns, man-skirts, trailing tulle ball gowns and late designer **Alexander McQueen** influences, as noted on DJ **Geneviève Borne** – cool, as in leather jacket cool over a long tartan skirt.

In fact, leather jackets were worn by many belles of the ball: Style with attitude. Women wore gowns ranging from fashionably floral, slit-thigh-high, ruffled, stunningly strapless, cunningly cut-out and all-out pretty. Soft cascading ruffles on a transparent skirt was worn by **Laurence Gilbert-Deschenes** attending with **Pierre-Olivier Renaud**.

The McCord's CEO/president **Suzanne Sauvage** and Osler lawyer **Monique Jérôme-Forget**, chair board trustee, (there with her husband **Claude**) greeted guests at the red carpet, staffed by black-tie clad magicians (11 years old and up!), who performed their shuffling prowess with cards. Flanking the entry were piles of Jeff Koons-like large shiny cushions in gold and black

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From left: Jacques Marchand, Suzanne Sauvage, Daniel Fournier, Denis Coderre and Nathalie Lévesque.

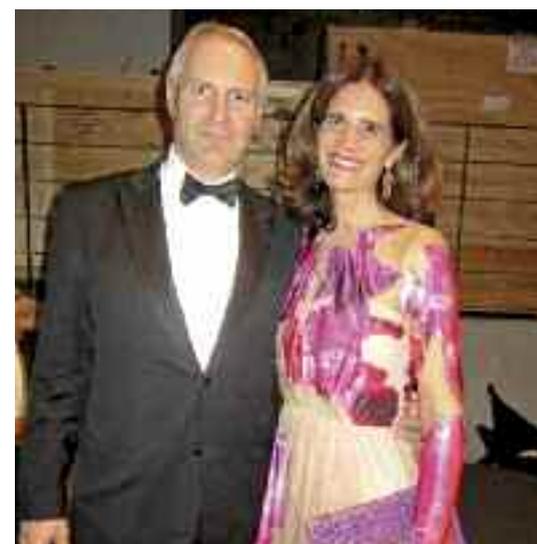
Social Notes cont'd. from p. 17



From left: Caroline Drouin, Robert and Denyse Tessier.



From left: Hélène Fortin, Michael and Michaela Penner.



François Olivier and Isabelle Marcoux.

heard to say he was going to order pizza and eat it in his car.)

The otherwise flawless night included McCord Foundation board chair **Daniel Fournier**, CEO Ivanhoé Cambridge, and his wife **Caroline Drouin**; **Louise Roy**, chancellor/chair, Université de Montréal; artist **Kent Monkman**; gallerist **Jean-François Ouellette**; Concordia dean **Re-**

**becca Taylor Duclos**; designers **Jean-Claude Poitras** and **Denis Gagnon** (wearing his black tie/tails with shorts, black knee socks and red lipstick); **Marie Sénécal Tremblay** and **Bruce McNiven**; **Manon Blanchette**; **Jacques Marchand**, president LaSalle College; **Nathalie Lévesque**, executive director McCord; **Belle and Ernie Gri-vakis**; Transcontinental titans **François**

**Olivier** and his wife, the perennially chic **Isabelle Marcoux**; **Carmen Robinson**; **Alain Simard**; **Danielle Sauvage**; **Robert Poeti** and Toronto philanthropist **Emmanuelle Gattuso**, radiant in red.

Westmounters noted included **Michaela** and **Michael Penner**, board chair Hydro Québec; **Sharon Azrieli** and **Victor Salvagio** and **Julie Couture**.

The following eve, the McCord's annual Sugar Ball, brought the total amount raised to \$1 million (gross), which supports the McCord's mission of protection and diffusion of cultural heritage.

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**Alarm triggers general evacuation at 4800 de Mais.**

A fire alarm caused a general evacuation of the Westmount Estates apartment building June 3 around 10 pm, Public Security officials said. The building is located at 4800 de Maisonneuve at the foot of Roslyn. Officers reported finding about 70 to 80 people outside when they responded to assist firefighters. No reason was recorded for what was described as a false alarm.

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**Police report cont'd. from p. 6**

They are charged with simple possession of marijuana.

**Grosvenor apartment broken into**

On May 22, a tenant in an apartment building at the corner of Grosvenor Ave. and St. Catherine St. found out after returning late that evening that the dwelling had been burglarized in his absence.

"He left his residence during the day, and when he returned in the evening he noticed that some lights which he usually leaves on were off when he got back," Pimentel said.

Although he didn't make much of it at first, he then noticed that some blinds over the back patio door were partly closed when he usually left them open and that the back door's lock was also forced.

When the tenant turned on the lights in his home office, he noticed that a piece of personal jewelry was missing. His wallet on the office desk had also been searched, and cupboards and drawers had been opened.

**Driver flees the scene after hitting cyclist**

The driver of an SUV who struck a cyclist at the corner of Olivier Ave. and de Maisonneuve Blvd. on May 19 fled the scene almost immediately.

According to the police report, the SUV driver hadn't bothered making a stop at the intersection, proceeding through and striking the bicyclist with one of the SUV's side mirrors.

"He [the cyclist] fell to the ground and hit his head," said Pimentel, noting that the cyclist was spared serious injury because he was wearing a helmet. The driver of the SUV stopped momentarily in the middle of the intersection, seemingly taking notice of the accident, but then fled the scene.

Although Urgences Santé was sum-

moned and recommended the victim be transported to and examined in hospital, he declined to accept the offer.

**Suspect wanted his taxi paid**

On the morning of May 31, a women's clothing boutique on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Victoria Ave. was robbed of \$20 by a distraught 33-year-old male suspect apparently under the influence of narcotics.

According to Pimentel, the suspect encountered the boutique's manager in a rear parking lot, asking the manager for \$140 to pay for a taxi.

When the manager refused, the suspect walked into the store where he started screaming to be paid, although the amount he demanded was now lower. The suspect then tried unsuccessfully to open the cash register. The boutique manager finally handed over \$20 and the suspect left.

Pimentel said the suspect behaved aggressively and pushed the manager at one point. The manager called 911 after the suspect fled and furnished a description upon the arrival of officers.

The police located the suspect a few blocks away and proceeded with his arrest. Pimentel said he is charged with armed robbery because of the use of force.

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Dylan Kalaydjian, Valedictorian



# Welcome to the *right* address



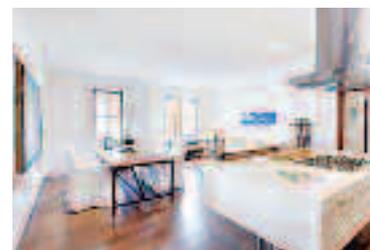
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