

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount

Weekly, Vol. 11 No. 7a

July 4, 2017



A long-lens view of the construction of the new Champlain Bridge, taken from Westmount lookout the evening of June 13.

Photo: WI

Dockless Dropbike could complement Bixi

City expected to approve another bike-sharing system

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A second bike-sharing system is expected to be introduced in Westmount on a trial basis in August and September, Councillor Philip Cutler said last week.

This is Dropbike, a “smart” dockless system that would allow it to operate in areas not now serviced by Bixi.

Dropbikes are outfitted with their own stand and GPS, which enables them to be left in “havens.” These are parking spots that potential users can identify by downloading an app to locate the closest bike.

The user pays \$1 an hour for use.

“This is a really good tool for low traffic areas,” Cutler explained. Dropbike complements Bixi by providing service to less busy areas than those serviced by Bixi.

Following a try-out May 9 when bikes were stationed at city hall, the city is now reviewing the system with the Dropbike or-

ganization as well as the city’s Legal department, he said.

“The plan is to pilot with about 50 bikes and see if there’s high use. One thing that’s really nice is that the company produces the analytics.” It costs a municipality nothing to provide the service after arrangements and lo- *continued on p. 10*

Letters p. 6
Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 21
Underdog BY J. DAVEY p. 8

November 5, 2017 municipal election

Wajsman declares his candidacy for mayor

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Suburban editor-in-chief Beryl Wajsman has confirmed he will be running for the mayoralty of Westmount in the November 5 election. He also said he would continue with his job at the newspaper if elected.

“Obviously I will be staying on as editor of the *Suburban* even if I win – I’m allowed to do that,” Wajsman, a Westmount resident for the past 15 years, said in an in-

terview with the *Independent*.

At the same time, he said “there will be nothing from Westmount other than straight news during the election or after,” while insisting his candidacy won’t interfere in the least with the paper’s coverage.

Wajsman said he would be filing his candidacy papers at Westmount city hall on July 4.

Noting that “every era has its issues,” and that heritage conservation and demerger were *continued on p. 7*

This is our second-to-last issue before the summer break.



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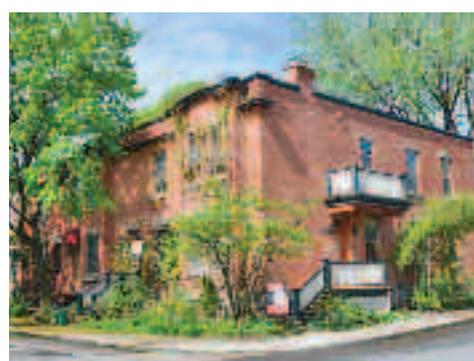
4 Bedroom Home Near Monkland Village - 3838 Old Orchard - \$869,000



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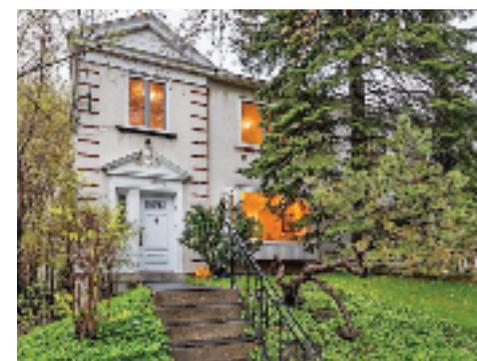
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Westmount - 519 Av. Clarke
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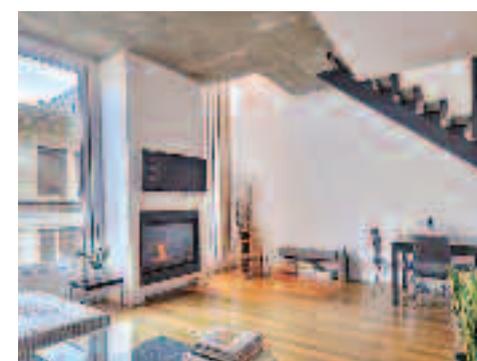
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All 13 have their own solution, says city

Study moves into viability of houses of worship

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The first part of a city study of its 13 houses of worship has been completed. It is an inventory of the built heritage, according to Urban Planning project manager Myriam St-Denis. The city is now meeting with each individually to discuss ways in which these institutions might remain viable.

The study is being conducted as part of the new Westmount Heritage Council at a time when the future of two local churches is uncertain. St. Stephen's Anglican Church is already reported to have a buyer, possibly a developer. Mountainside United has been for sale for a year.

"We're looking at the needs of these buildings and how the city might help them find creative ways to preserve their existence," she explained last week. This includes an inventory of what is historically and spiritually important to each con-

gregation.

"A house of worship is dedicated to the community, and we are trying to keep it that way," she added.

The study was launched two years ago (see story July 7, 2015, p. 4).

Given dwindling congregations and high costs of maintaining these aging heritage buildings, the need to protect houses of worship is a major challenge being faced across the country, she explained.

In Westmount, all 13 have been documented as Category I heritage buildings. "Each has its own issues and solutions," St-Denis said. "So we have one study with 13 different solutions."

In the event a house of worship is sold, as is happening to St. Stephen's, an inventory of architectural features inside and out will help identify those that should be protected or integrated into a new development.

At St. Stephen's, an example of some of

these are the exterior roof dormers with their neo-Gothic wood trim, the stained glass windows and the wood detailing of the nave.

In minutes of a meeting of the city's general committee of council February 6 (before the church was known to be for sale), it was explained that "the study of another church's architecture was postponed in order to determine what is essential to be preserved in St. Stephen's Church's

building...in case the building is put up for sale, this should be established beforehand."

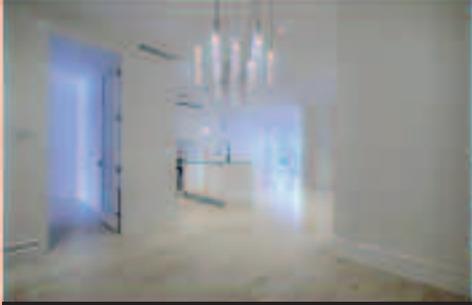
Representatives of all 13 had been invited to a round table discussion to introduce the process and dialogue with the city (see story September 8, 2015, p. 10), St-Denis said. Now a second roundtable will be required as part of the second phase to examine uses. This part of the study is expected to last another two years.



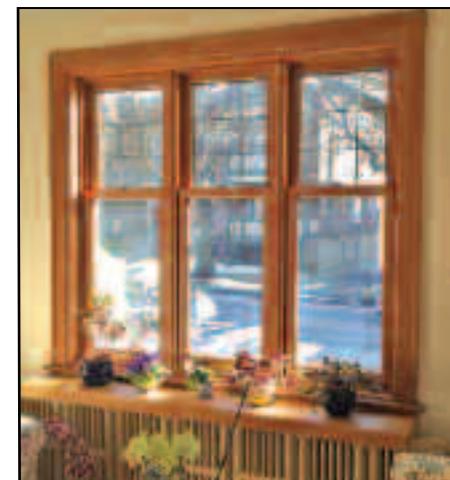
Myriam St-Denis in her office at the Urban Planning department June 29.



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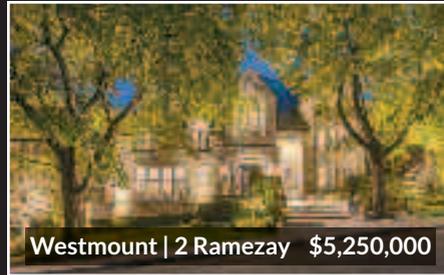
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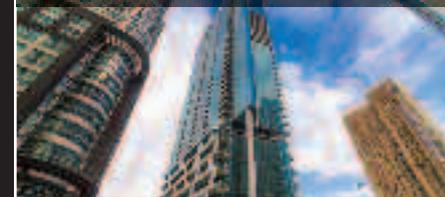
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WINDOW PERMIT BY-LAWS SHOULD BE MODERNIZED

Regarding, "City asked to consider new criteria for windows" (June 20, p. 1), my sympathies [go] to Mr. Neal. I really do not understand Westmount's permitting practices. Are there no engineers available so that the citizens of Westmount have to abide by standards that were mostly good 100 years ago? Because the choices were rather limited then?

In today's world, energy efficiency is a major objective. Also, most modern, high-efficiency windows can be made to appear like those of 100 years ago. After all, is it not the appearance that we are concerned about? Or is it the objective of the Westmount Planning Advisory Committee to turn all houses into museum pieces?

If this is so, I guess I will have to look for a source of coal, resurrect my old furnace and stock up on wood for the fireplaces!

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.

WESTMOUNTERS SHOULD BE PROUD OF RMR

As we examine the aftermath of Montreal's recent flood disaster, Westmount can be proud of the role played by its Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) in bringing aid

Photo courtesy of S. Buscemi



Members of the Royal Montreal Regiment at a Pierrefonds flood site May 8.

to the victims.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Shone, commanding officer of the RMR, in a recent talk at a Rotary Club of Westmount meeting, provided a concise account of the army's swift mobilization of resources. Those resources included the army reserve – men and women in the civilian workforce who dedicate their off-hours to training for times of crisis when they'll be called upon to serve.

In proportion to the size of other units, the RMR "punched above its weight" – it contributed 37 soldiers to the aid operation.

Lt. Col. Shone quoted from a letter sent by a flood victim in St. Geneviève to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau: "*Alors que nous étions épuisés, l'armée fut une bénédiction.*"

Ce fut un grand moment de bonheur de voir tous ces soldats travailler aussi efficacement et avec autant d'ardeur."

Eloquent, moving, and true.

SUSAN BUSCEMI, BOARD OF DIRECTORS,
THE ROTARY CLUB OF WESTMOUNT

POSITIVE PASSING OF THE MANTLE

As we said goodbye and expressed our great appreciation to Peter Trent for his tremendous contribution to our community, it was wonderful to know that we have an excellent candidate for the next election in Christina Smith.

Although I have not had the opportunity to work with her on council, I have had the chance to hear her cogent points of view and ideas, and to witness her enthusiasm for Westmount going forward.

One of the hallmarks of most members of our city councils has been having councillors and mayors who see this role not as a political position but as an opportunity to improve and give back to their community.

Christina seems to be continuing that agenda. I, for one, am thrilled to see that we can pass the mantle on to the next generation.

KARIN MARKS, FORMER MAYOR
OF WESTMOUNT

LEAVE THE STOP SIGNS

I am writing regarding the upcoming decision to remove the stop signs at the two crosswalks on Greene Ave. I think that pulling these stop signs would be a big mistake for three reasons:

1. Montrealers in general, and Westmounters in particular, are heedless in driving their cars. They drive too fast, endangering pedestrians. Without the stop signs, speeds are sure to increase.
2. The crossing at Greene and de Maison-neuve is already a very hazardous spot. While vehicles generally obey the stoplights, the cyclists do not, running into pedestrians on a regular basis.
3. Most importantly, the crossing on Greene between de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine is frequented by elderly people, who need extra time to cross the street. Removing the stop signs here will endanger these people.

For these reasons, I hope that this decision will be reversed.

JOHN STIX, MONTROSE AVE.

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WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

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Friendship Circle holds art vernissage at Shaar Hashomayim



Around 500 supporters of the Friendship Circle attended an art vernissage at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim on June 6 for the group's art program, which gives individuals who have special needs an opportunity to express their creativity while showcasing their artwork. Guided by professional artists, the participants were taught various art techniques to create art works. Those attending were invited to purchase one of the 86 pieces on display. Seen here is Monica Merleau of The Boulevard, left, with her daughter, Jasmin Khanna, who created the piece seen hanging on the bottom of the easel. The Friendship Circle was launched in 2001 with a mission to provide special needs people with social and educational experiences.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Board chair speaks up

'Premature' to say The Open Door has new home

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Contrary to some reports, The Open Door mission at St. Stephen's Anglican Church is still looking at "all options" and has not signed any agreement for a site rumoured to be "down the hill," at another church.

So said the day shelter's board chair Jason Baxendale last week, explaining that "I think it's premature at this point and unwise to be over-optimistic. I've seen lots of deals fall through before the ink is dry, and there are lots of obstacles ahead of us."

One, he said, is hoping the Anglican diocese can persuade the pending buyer of St. Stephen's to extend The Open Door's lease from July 31 until December 31. This is needed to allow time for preparing any new facilities.

Another is fundraising to pay the lease and to do what work is required to physi-

cally prepare any new facility to accommodate the day shelter.

One news outlet has reported a church in Little Burgundy on Coursol St. as the subject of negotiation.

St. Stephen's, at the southwest corner of Dorchester and Atwater in Westmount, held its last Sunday service at the end of December (see story January 28, p. 1). It has accommodated The Open Door throughout some 30 years as it provides shelter, meals and counselling services for a clientele of up to 150 a day centred around Cabot Square.

While the identity of the church's new owner has not been announced, Baxendale said he believes the ownership will be transferred before July 31, the date by which the mission has been given to vacate the premises.

Wants to work with buyer

"We'd like to work with the buyer and

the city to give them assurances of our intentions to pay rent and that we have insurance."

The Open Door has been allowed by the city of Westmount to operate as an outreach arm of St. Stephen's in its role as a house of worship. But Baxendale stated that the mission was a "church within itself because it carries on prayer sessions and ministers to those in need."

After the St. Stephen's congregation merged with St. James the Apostle (now St. Jax) downtown, the future of its 1908 building – which now exists in a residential zone by vested rights – was discussed by city council at its general committee meeting of February 6.

According to minutes of the closed-door session, the Anglican diocese wanted to ensure the church retained its vested rights. It was further reported that "a prospective developer for the site could apply for a PPCMOI. However, the maximum building height for residences in the zone is set at three storeys."

The PPCMOI refers to a city by-law process regarding projects that do not conform to current zoning.

The minutes also refer to the church's Category I rating and important architectural features that would be required to be preserved in any redevelopment (see separate story, p. 3).

Swift retires after 35 years



Catherine Swift left on retirement June 23 after 35 years with the city, 20 of them at Westmount Public Library as executive assistant to the director. Current director Julie-Anne Cardella described her as "driven, enthusiastic and appreciated by all." Seen here in her office the day before her last, Swift recalled her role, often interfacing with the public while working in Finance, the municipal court, the early days of Public Security, and Public Works as well as being executive assistant to the mayor. She has been replaced by Caroline Proctor, who formerly worked at the circulation desk and in Community Events.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Wajsman cont'd. from p. 1

two issues that brought Westmounters together at one time, he said a similarly important issue in the coming election could be the future of the provincial riding of Westmount-St. Louis.

Wajsman suggested that Quebec elections officials have plans to merge Westmount-St. Louis with another riding, as with the proposed merger of Outremont and Mont-Royal, which stirred up a hornet's nest of opposition in the process.

Wajsman maintained that during a recent interview he had with Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard, a member of Couillard's staff said that "bureaucrats" were going to get rid of Westmount-St. Louis. "It could happen again," said Wajsman. "The spectre of re-merger is always

present."

One plan to merge Westmount territory into the NDG riding was abandoned recently (see story March 7, 2017, p. 3).

However, Wajsman said he is not limiting himself only to that issue. He sees economic development, reasonable taxes and road maintenance as also being important.

"Christina said in her investiture speech that her priorities are expanding the green spaces, securing the bike paths and restoring the greenhouses to their former glory," he added, referring to interim mayor Christina Smith, who is also seeking the mayoralty. "Obviously my priorities are different."

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Construction work causes gas leak

Firefighters were called to Westmount Ave. and Victoria June 28 for a gas leak, Public Security officials said. The leak was related to the reconstruction of Westmount Ave. at that location, according to Benoit Hurtubise, city assistant director general for infrastructure. Officials said the fire department had not requested any assistance from public safety officers, and no report was made of the incident. Many fire trucks and an ambulance were spotted at the scene by a witness.



The Underdog Club
JANE DAVEY

We're told Jade stands at about 32 inches and weighs in at 74 pounds – though not a massive dog, she would be considered moderately statuesque to some, which gives her more challenge at being adopted. Her owner was evicted from her apartment and could not find accommodation that would also welcome her “plus-size” pooch, which sounds suspiciously like discrimination...

Back to Jade. This healthy six-plus-year-old bright-eyed beauty is a best-guess mix of shepherd, Dane and Lab, and is described by her present caretakers at Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions as a “sweet, smart and playful gentle giant.”

She is crate-trained and just adores her space – door opened or closed – and stays calm and quiet when left alone. She's been recently fitted with an easy-walk harness and now walks beautifully on the leash.

Big dog needs new digs



She also loves car rides, where she just curls up, chills out and falls asleep.

Jade will require adopters who are experienced dog people and can provide her with the love, attention and exercise she craves and needs. She could handle the company of another confident dog who won't be all up in her face, and is fine with

cats and kids older than 14.

A fenced-in yard would be a real bonus for her and extra fun for those who love the zen of ball-tossing, because Jade is a top calibre ball retriever!

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Hidden talents: Artistic photo project
Appreciating fleeting beauty



Photo courtesy of M.S. Gibson

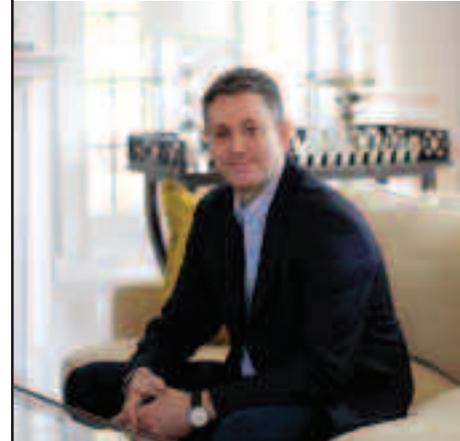
Mary Sue Gibson says about her photograph taken May 18: "It seems that we waited a long time to see the blossoms this year. I was struck by the beauty of this tree and its reflection in the lagoon. The moments of full bloom are short lived but much appreciated after a long winter."

Please submit your artistic photos to indie@westmountindependent.com, including what struck you about the scene and the date you took the photo. We'll run the best ones. We hope you've been enjoying the series so far.
 – Kristin McNeill, editor



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AlexisNihonMtl

alexisnihon_

#jazzbreak

Use of charging station more than doubles

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Use of the double-headed charging station installed last fall at the Westmount recreation centre is quickly gaining traction, city officials said last week.

The two have gone from 79 use-sessions during some four months in 2016 to 204 use-sessions in the first six months of 2017, said Benoit Hurtubise, city assistant director general and director of Hydro Westmount. “The charging station is being used more and more as it becomes known and as the number of electrical vehicles increases.”

The next 240-volt station, also a double-headed one, is slated for this year at the dead end of Belmont Cresc. at that entrance to King George (Murray) Park. Each station costs up to \$25,000 depending on the amount of digging and other installation required.

Councillor Philip Cutler, who has been encouraging the city to prepare for the increased use of electric vehicles by adding charging stations, told the *Independent* he is “proposing that one next year be at the

Victoria Hall/library lot.”

While others are planned for the future, Hurtubise said, these will likely always be in commercial or other public areas as a balancing act between supplying public charging and other considerations such as retaining parking spaces. “Each situation is unique but typically the stations are connected to street lighting under the sidewalk.”

Users are charged \$1 per hour to be connected to the charging station, a cost determined by “Le circuit Électrique” for all public charging stations across the province. The city gets to keep 90 percent of the revenue (see story October 25, 2016, p. 3).

The cost to Hydro Westmount varies depending on the state of battery being charged, Hurtubise said. A deeply discharged one will take more current. “All I can say is that the cost for Hydro is under the user cost.”

According to the utility’s reports, he said, charging stations are used on average 1.5 to 2 hours at a time which “makes sense” as a typical WRC user playing hockey would be in the arena for about that amount of time.

Reduced construction hours kick in

The city’s reduced hours of construction kicked in June 25, Public Security officials said last week. This means that all such work is prohibited after 6 pm Monday through Saturday rather than 9 pm on weekdays and 8 pm on Saturday. The summer hours last until September 15 and were brought in four years ago to provide residents with an opportunity to enjoy their gardens in a quieter summer environment (see May 14, 2013, p. 1). Public safety officers pointed out the summer times to one contractor working in the garage of Alexis Nihon Plaza following a noise complaint June 28 at 8:15 pm.

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Dropbikes new to Canada

cont'd. from p. 1

gistics have been worked out with the organization, Cutler said.

“If Westmount decides to sign on, we’re going to be one of the first municipalities to partner with Dropbike in Canada. It’s very big in Asia, and it will be very exciting for us.” Kingston is reported to be piloting it now with 100 bikes while the University of Toronto (St. George’s campus) launched a pilot June 15.

There is no membership fee for users who download an app to find the location of the nearest bike, similar to the concept of Car2Go. (CommunAuto is like Bixi.)

“Theoretically, you can just leave the bike anywhere” after riding it, Cutler said,

though there are certain havens worked out with the municipality. One being considered in Westmount would be the Westmount recreation centre.

Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, said he had seen the bikes when they were at city hall and believed the system would be a good addition to the city’s network. He noted it would not conflict with Bixi.

The plan is Cutler’s latest initiative as Public Security commissioner responsible for traffic. It follows pay-by-plate parking and the experimental bike lanes on Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave. He said he ran across Dropbike representatives while in Toronto on other business and became interested in the concept.



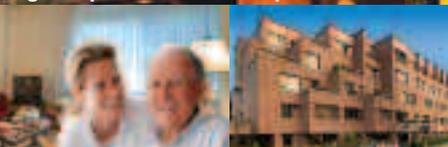
Photo: Ralph Thompson

Dropbikes were spotted outside city hall May 12. The city is considering piloting the idea.

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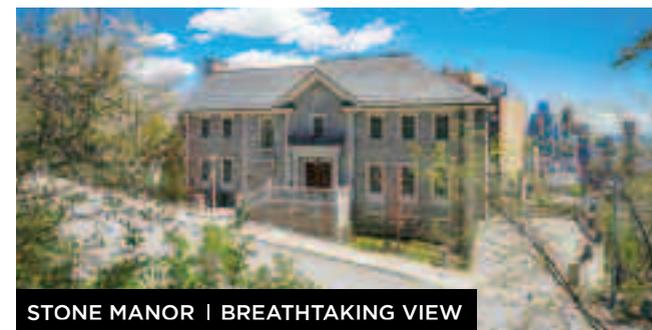
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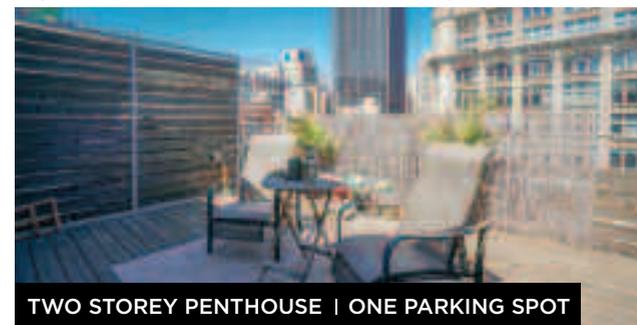
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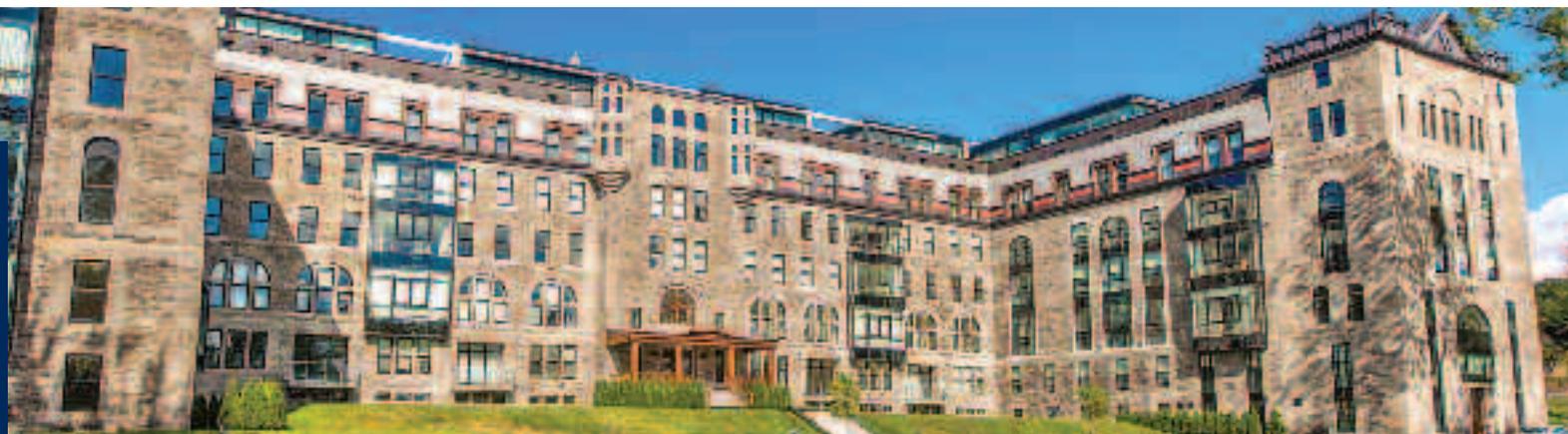
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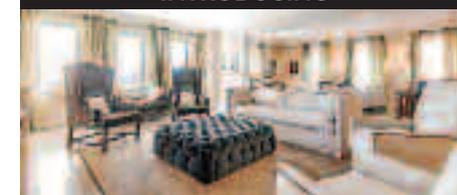
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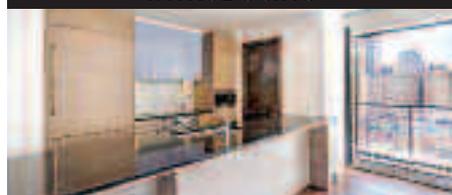
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For list of real estate transfers, please consult paper archive.

For Andy Dodge's analysis, please see p. 16.



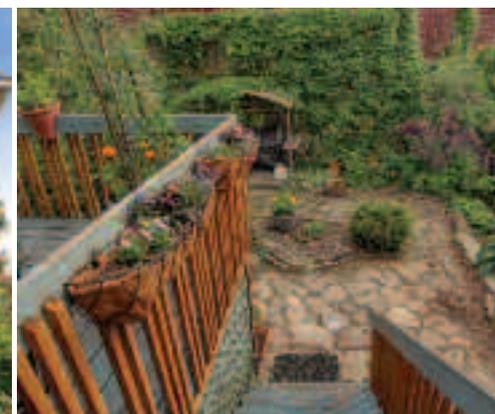
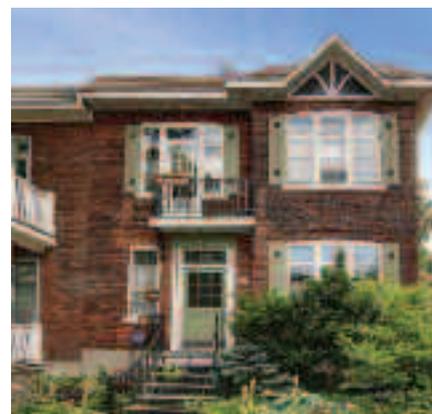
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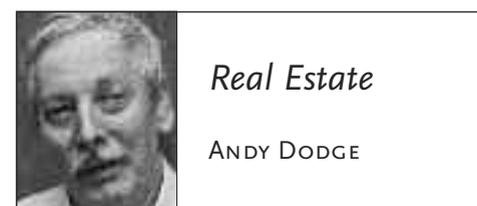
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Sales analysis

March transfers: Highest price in Westmount history



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in March 2017 gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

The highest price for a residential property in Westmount's history topped the list of sales registered in March this year, as 12-14 Sunnyside Ave. brought its owner some \$13,500,000 (see "Sunnyside house fetches highest price in Westmount history," April 18, p. 1). Sale was to the Marine Guard Trust, with an address on the 10th floor at 1 Westmount Square but no identification of the principals.

The sale actually involves two properties but does not distinguish between them. The original mansion was built in 1910-11 by Charles A. Smart; the coach house, with an apartment on the second floor connected to the main house by a cantilever, came soon afterward. In the 1970s, much of the land around the mansion was sold away from the property, and the coach house was the last part to go before Mike Rosenbloom purchased the main house in the name of his publishing house, Globe International, for \$940,000 in 1982. Over the decades since, the house

transferred among Rosenbloom, his company and his wife, Valeria, but the most important sale in that time period came in 2005 when Rosenbloom bought back the coach house for \$1,150,000.

The two properties have separate lot numbers and city tax account numbers but both use the same driveway and, in fact, the mansion's garage spaces are still in the coach house.

Next highest prices

The price for the double property far exceeds the next-highest amount, which actually held the record for only about a month: \$8,245,000 for 757 Lexington Ave. It also represents the highest mark-up over municipal valuation, 65 percent above the combined tax assessment for the two properties, and dwarfs the next-highest price in March of \$3,935,000 for 22 Edgehill Rd.

Overall, six home sales in March cleared the \$2-million marks, nine more ranged in price from \$1,094,000 to \$1,655,000, and four had prices below \$1 million.

Lowest price, biggest mark-down

The lowest price involved 34 Winchester Ave. at \$780,000, while the biggest mark-down was registered at 730 Upper Roslyn Ave., 18 percent less than valuation.

Overall among one- and two-family sales, 19 properties sold in March for a total of \$43,235,437, some 16 percent higher than municipal valuation.



12B Ingleside Ave., highest-priced condo, \$505,000. Photos of houses were taken June 26.

Three condos sold in March

Only three condominiums sold in March, for prices in a tight range between \$469,000 and \$505,000, averaging 7 percent above their municipal evaluation. In the context of the first quarter of 2017, however, the average in 13 sales turns into a mark-down of 14 percent, thanks largely to a serious distortion at 215 Redfern Ave., where one first-floor unit sold for less than half its municipal valuation in February. In fact, eight of the 13 sale prices were less than valuation, but only two had markdowns less than the 14-percent average mark-down.

Mark-up at Hillside

On the other hand, the 28 percent mark-up in the 11 Hillside Ave. project in March is the only condo in the first quarter to clear a mark-up of 10 percent. So there is no question the condo market does not have the strength which is growing in the home sales market, but is perhaps not quite as weak as the numbers might suggest.



The highest price for a residential property in Westmount's history was 12-14 Sunnyside Ave.



730 Upper Roslyn, biggest mark-down, 18 percent.



34 Winchester, lowest price, \$780,000.

TRENDSETTERS

VINCENT PRAGER & ROBERTO MENEGATI

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmount is full of dog lovers. Particularly now that summer is fully upon us and people tend to linger and socialize on the streets and in parks, it was a pleasure to chat with the owner of a lovely golden retriever who made me his new best friend. (Could it be that cookie?) Learning about the museum that lawyer Vincent Prager established to showcase his family's art – including that of his late artist mother, long-time Westmounter Eva Prager, I thought he would be a great addition to the Trendsetter column, along with his partner designer/caterer Roberto Menegati.

STYLE

How would you describe your own personal style?

Vincent: Well, as a lawyer, I am in suits pretty well all the time at the office. My personal look, I would say, is traditionally elegant, but I love colourful accessories. On my travels around the world, I often pick up bright socks, belts and shirts, especially in Germany and England at my favourite stores.

Do you “dress it up” or accessorize with colours? Pocket squares?

Exactly. As my suits range from gray and navy to navy and gray (some with stripes though!), I like to perk them up with happy hues in shirts, ties or socks. My sock collection is full of patterns: argyles, polka dots, geometrics and dogs of course, to remind me of my golden retriever Zeeba. My ties range from Hermès to a rare vintage Eaton's Christmas bear tie. But I never wear pocket squares.

Roberto, how do you dress for work?

I don't wear suits so much as I am on design-construction sites or in the midst of event catering. But I often throw a jacket on for a polished look. I love wearing colourful bow ties! My clothes get dusty or cilantro-stained, so my office “uniform” is pretty well a white t-shirt, sweater and slacks. But with clients and at events, I wear shirt and tie (bow ties!), elegant pants, a pocket square and a lapel pin.

On weekends, what do you like to wear?

Vincent: I am usually at my farm in Knowlton, and there I really relax. I wear sweatshirts and sweatpants in the winter. I am always doing work of some kind or walking the dog, and sweatpants are easy and super comfortable. In the summer, I like polo shirts or t-shirt and shorts.

Roberto: I am from Brazil, so I find Montreal winters way too cold – not to mention long! I wear wool/cashmere

sweaters in the city, and fluffy sweatshirts in the country. However, in the summer, I love Bermuda shorts and a “T.”

Do you enjoy a certain kind of art or have favourite artists?

Vincent: Impressionist, but I appreciate all good art. Clearly my favourite artists are my grandfather Joseph Oppenheimer and my mother Eva Prager. The walls in my home are full floor to ceiling with paintings from my family. In St. Andrews, New Brunswick, we established the Oppenheimer-Prager Museum at Dayspring in honour of my heritage. It features oil paintings, sketches, water colours and drawings from my grandfather and my mother.

Roberto: I like pop art and modern art. I love the work of Andy Warhol and Marc Chagall, whose show I just visited for hours at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. And, of course, Joseph Oppenheimer – especially his early sketches – and Eva Prager. Installing their work at Dayspring really opened my eyes to their art.

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live, money being no object?

Vincent: I really love Montreal. It is a great city: safe, vibrant, open and easy to get to the countryside. So I would choose Montreal or Barbados, so long as I could travel whenever I wanted.

Roberto: My dream would be a farm bordering a tropical beach. However, I would keep a *pied-à-terre* in Montreal. I love this city!

What is your favourite flower? Do you have flowers in your home? Do you like to garden?

Vincent: As a child, I loved carnations. Now my favourite flowers are iris, peonies and tulips. I sometimes have flowers at home but never buy them myself. I love gardening. I have a huge garden full of



Roberto Menegati, left, and Vincent Prager relax in Menegati's renovated old school house May 11 on Prud'homme Ave. in NDG, where it is for sale.
Photo: Ralph Thompson

decades-old rose bushes in St. Andrew's. And my perennials in the Townships are a constant surprise, as they often seem to move around. I rarely add annuals. In Montreal, [I always look forward to the tulips coming up.]

Roberto: Orchids are my favourite flower. Apart from their elegance, they last

such a long time and don't need a huge amount of care if I am away. I love having flowers in the house. I do love gardening. It is relaxing after a long week. Flowers transform the house and bring it to life.

BUILDING PERMITS APPROVED BY THE CITY IN JUNE

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the June 5 meeting of the city council.

475 Roslyn: to build a 3-storey addition on the south façade of the original building (see story May 23, p. 8);

19 Chesterfield: to replace basement windows;

737 Lexington: to build a new family dwelling provided a horizontal stone mullion is introduced on the window assembly at the rear;

558 Roslyn: at a Category I house, to replace the rear balconies provided the railing respects the original design;

643 Grosvenor: to rebuild the retaining wall along the side property line;

27 Burton: to modify door and window openings to accommodate a patio door;

59 Oakland: to landscape the front yard;

533 Victoria: to build a back fence and landscape the front yard including resurfacing the driveway;

21 Oakland: to build low retaining walls in the back yard along the two side property lines;

16 Windsor: to demolish a shed on the

second-floor rear balcony, extend the balcony and modify window and door openings;

3202 The Boulevard: to replace five basement windows and a rear basement door;

484 Elm: at a Category I house, to replace the windows;

44 Somerville: at a Category I house, to replace some windows;

589 Lansdowne: to replace some windows;

40 Somerville: at a Category I house, to replace some windows provided the divisions are respected as per those existing;

657 Côte St. Antoine: landscaping work in the front and rear;

526 Victoria: to replace some storm windows;

633 Victoria: to replace windows in the solarium;

111 Blenheim Place: at a Category I house, to rebuild the front stairs and foundations of the basement access.

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the June 19 meeting of the city council.

364 Victoria: to renovate the storefront;

558 Roslyn: at a Category I house, to build a swimming pool and accessory building and do landscaping work in the front and side yards;

4873 Westmount Ave.: at Marianopolis College, a Category I building, to do exterior renovations to allow for air conditioning of the building, replace some windows by exterior louvres, install two water towers and modify openings;

613 Côte St. Antoine: to do some landscaping in the rear and install a new pool and mechanical units provided the front landscaping is excluded from the application;

632 Clarke: at a Category I house, to build a rear addition, build a new balcony and install new windows and a door;

577 Roslyn: to landscape the rear yard provided the proposed lights at the foot of trees are omitted;

68 Forden Cresc.: at a Category I house, to replace windows and make modifications to the sunporch;

321 Prince Albert: to build a wood terrace at the rear;

478 Strathcona: to modify the railing on the front porch and install a new metal one;

786 Upper Lansdowne: to modify openings on the rear façade and replace some windows;

744 Upper Roslyn: to modify the rear balcony and stairs;

2 Ramezay: to resurface the front walkway, steps and landing;

4881 de Maisonneuve: to rebuild the front walkway, retaining wall and stairs;

654 Murray Hill: landscaping in the back yard to include a low retaining wall on condition the height does not exceed 24 inches;

454 Strathcona: to replace the windows;

6 Belfrage: to replace some windows;

87 Arlington: to replace a window on the front façade and one on the side;

12 Bethune: at a Category I building, to reconfigure the vehicular side entrance at the Public Works yard, and to do landscaping work along the public domain;

426 Wood: at a Category I house, to replace some windows on condition the one so designated is double-hung;

60 Rosemount: at a Category I house, to replace the roof;

77 Holton: to build an addition and balcony facing Mount Pleasant, install new windows and doors and do some minor landscaping provided the basement doors be in a high-gauge metal and the windows

and doors be in wood;

534 Grosvenor: to replace the windows;

15 Stanton: to do exterior ventilation work;

507 Grosvenor: to do landscaping work in the side and rear yards provided a minimum of 60 percent of the rear yard is soft landscaping;

48 Roxborough: to replace windows provided one so designated is double-hung;

41 Burton: to replace windows and doors and modify an opening on the rear façade;

14 Arlington: to replace fences in the rear yard.

Leaf-blowing offenders caught in action

Public Security officials said last week they would be recommending to Montreal municipal court that three gardening contractors be assessed higher than usual fines for using leaf blowers out of season. All were described as repeat offenders. One was spotted at work on Kensington June 27, another the same day on Edgehill and another on Westmount Ave. near Sydenham two days in a row June 20 and June 21. Two different contractors were issued the usual \$149 ticket when spotted in action on Côte St. Antoine June 27 and Forden Cresc. June 26.

Taken to hospital

A woman was taken to hospital June 20 from a house on Elm, Public Security officials said. Officers were dispatched to provide medical assistance at 10:53 am and found the woman seated in the house awaiting Urgences Santé. She was reported to have passed out briefly on falling down the front steps of the house, where she was working. She was transported to hospital by ambulance.



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Bar mitzvah boys reunite at Shaar, 70 years later



From left, front row: Eliezer Gelber, Michael Lands, Raphael Fleming; back row: Mark Bercovitz and Norman Cohen.
Photo courtesy of Shari Fleming

Five members of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim who had their bar mitzvahs at the Kensington Ave. synagogue seven decades ago were reunited June 3 with the rabbi who officiated at their ceremony, Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat.

“Rabbi Shuchat is one of the most prominent rabbinical figures in the history of Canadian Judaism,” said Westmounter Ray Fleming, one of the original group, which also included the late Leonard Cohen. – MCB

Trendsetter cont'd. from p. 17

Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone, from any era?

Vincent and Roberto: We would do this dinner together, especially as Roberto is a wonderful chef, and one of his businesses is catering, so he understands the timing of services and how to prepare tasty – and healthy! – food and make it a work of art.

Our list would include Alexander the Great – to us, an amazing young man; Katherine Hepburn, a really interesting person (but we would soon find out!); Bill Clinton (Vincent heard him speak at McGill University) – what an amazing intellect; Pierre Trudeau (Vincent: “I knew him for years and always enjoyed his company”); Queen Elizabeth II – what a remarkable person, and what an era she has known; Winston Churchill, for his character and intellect; Noël Coward, for his wit; Jack Benny because he was so funny; and Zsa Zsa Gabor, for her amazing life.

Where you live is right on the outskirts of Westmount in an area nicknamed “Tradau.” What is your involvement in this community organization and what is it?

Vincent: I have been president of Tradau for about 35 years. It was set up in about 1954. Our area receives all Westmount services, except the library, as if we were part of Westmount, a deal negotiated between it and Montreal.

Are you active in the lobby to get included in Westmount?

We are thinking of re-opening the discussions. We hope to achieve continued benefits for our 221 households.

What exactly is Tradau?

It was set up in the early '50s by Judge Miller Hyde and John Lynch-Staunton to protect the single-family home ambiance of the area and to ensure proper services in an area that pays the highest Montreal municipal residential taxes on the island. We continue our vigilance in that regard. We have succeeded in having our whole area

considered a protected heritage area within the zone de *héritage de Mont-Royal*. We liaise on a regular basis with our city councillor and hold an all-candidates debate before any election.

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Knowles, Chihuly: Luminous nature in painting, glass



Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Summer has arrived with Dorothy Knowles' paintings of sun-drenched prairie scenes at Han Art Gallery and with Dale Chihuly's translucent glass sculptures

Prenez avis que Tamar Dina Amor, dont l'adresse de domicile est le 376 Ave. Redfern #5, Westmount, Quebec H3Z 2G5, Canada presentera au directeur de l'etat civil une demande pour changer son nom en celui de Tamara Dina Pressman.

at Galerie de Bellefeuille. Innovators within their field, Knowles and Chihuly capture nature's fragile beauty.

Light-enhanced landscape

Knowles' exhibition, *From Roots to Eternity*, showcased scenes of streams, lakes and rolling plains. Painted with transparent glazes, her fluid painting style recreates elusive prairie beauty. Created from the 1970s on, some were composed *en plein air* while others were meticulously crafted in studio with watercolour, oil or acrylic paint over outlined shapes.

For the wildflower scene "Green Painting," vibrant light and saturated color recreate the freshness of a summer day. Light and airy, thin oil washes and thick brushstrokes capture billowing clouds and punctuate yellow and red blossoms.

Set against a cobalt blue sky, dramatic cloud formations create a sense of urgency in "Clouds and Prairie."

The intricate foliage pattern adjacent to the cliff's permanent, smooth surface in "Red Rock Canyon" suggests nature's fragility.

The charcoal and acrylic study "Hills in Fall" recreates the stillness of a warm au-



Dorothy Knowles "Green Painting"

turn day. Painted in Knowles' signature style, flecks of unpainted canvas evoke the landscapes of French Impressionist Pierre-Auguste Renoir. The exhibition ended at the end of June at Han Art on St. Catherine St.

Kaleidoscopic colour

Glass designer Chihuly's exhibition features translucent, organic forms in bold and luminous colours. Evoking seashells or flowers, his work captures the beauty of light transmitted through coloured glass. Each blown-glass design is an experiment in form and colour within a fragile but also permanent material. With a simplified yet stylized aesthetic, Chihuly recreates the multiplicity of design within nature.

In "White Pearl Seaform Pair," undulating lines rimmed in blue suggest an open yet protective shell. Familiar yet new, the wave-like pattern of transparent and translucent white glass evokes the sea.

The blue shell-like "Dakota Macchia" lined in magenta conveys nature's fragility and beauty. Rimmed with yellow and splashed with green, vivid colours and freeform patterns recall the work of Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollock.

In the floral composition "Garden Persian," a sense of the exotic prevails. A cen-

tral orange sphere is bold and dramatic against red and yellow petals trimmed in black.

Spiral lines on the assembled vase-within-a-vase composition "Jasmine Basket" evokes the Orient. In these works, Chihuly combines the tradition of a Venetian vase with a cultural sensibility to create an elegant, contemporary style. Work by this international artist is on display at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1367 Greene Ave.



Dale Chihuly "Garden Persian"

Cultural explorations

The wonder of nature prevails in the work of Knowles and Chihuly. Both cultural innovators with distinctive visual vocabularies, their work signals the triumph of art over craft and creativity over convention.

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To find out more about the role of a returning officer and how to apply, go to elections.ca and click on Employment or call 1-800-463-6868.

The online application will be available from June 30 to July 21, 2017.

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Announcements

27th Annual Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow. July 8th & 9th – 9:00 am onward. Just south of Montreal, Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Routes 132 & 138 (off the Mercier Bridge). Adults: \$8; 60+: \$4; 5 & under: FREE. Tel.: (450) 632-8667. www.kahnawakepowwow.com.

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Comin' Up

TUESDAY, JULY 11

Atwater Library lawn book sale, 10 am to 3 pm.

SUNDAY, JULY 9

City of Westmount's Sunday summer concert series starts with Durham County Poets, 2 pm by the lagoon in Westmount Park. Other musical groups play July 16, 23 and 30, and August 6 and 13.

SUNDAY, JULY 16

Sundays at the Shaar presents Rabbi Adam Scheier on "Mission to Poland with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau," 12 pm. Cost: \$5. 425 Metcalfe Ave. Reserve: 514.937.9474, ext. 139.

Red Cross gala gorgeous



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter **Michèle Dionne** was honorary president of the Canadian Red Cross' 13th annual gala on May 9.

Dionne, a Canadian Red Cross volunteer and author of *Missions*, attended with her husband, former premier of Quebec **Jean Charest**.

The eve was co-chaired by Westmounter **Jeffrey Orr**, president/CEO Power Financial Corporation; **Suzanne Legge Orr**, volunteer; **Norman Hébert**, president/CEO Groupe Park Avenue; and **Diane Dunlop-Hébert**.

Held at Griffintown's Arsenal, the sold-out soirée's dazzling décor was created by design guru **Dick Walsh**. The theme, "Red Cross, A Light in Darkness," reminded all attending that wherever war threatens and the elements rage (e.g. recent flooding in Quebec), the red-and-white vest with the red cross can be found.

The long (long!) welcoming red carpet was "accessorized" by myriads of volun-

teers wearing the organization's classic red vest with a white cross.

Over 600 guests participated, enjoying cocktails and dinner, which featured *sous-vide*-cooked deer loin served by **Dansereau Traiteur**, before dancing the night away to the always-fabulous **Paul Chacra** and his band.

Noted amidst the chic crowd were the Canadian Red Cross president and CEO **Conrad Sauvé**; senior director corporate services **Hugo Delorme**; communications advisors **Geneviève Déry** and **Carl Boisvert**; **Pascal Mathieu**, VP Canadian Red Cross in Quebec; **Marie-Krystine Longpré**, deputy director philanthropy; and volunteers **Denis Désilets**, **André Essombe** and **Zohra Doukani**.

Also seen were media celebs **Sophie Durocher** attending with her husband **Richard Martineau**; **Esther Bégin** and **Louise Deschâtelets**; along with **Lucie** and **Pierre Boivin**, president/CEO Claridge; **Serge Paquette**, managing partner, National; **Louis Bergeron**, Energy East VP for New Brunswick and Québec; star talent **Robert Charlebois** and his wife **Laurence Charlebois**; **Serge Sasseville**, senior VP Quebecor; **Jean-Yves Germain**, Groupe Germain Hotels; **Josée Arsenault** and lawyer **Jonathan Lee Hickey**. Enjoying the

elegance of the international eve were **Étienne Jacques**, VP health safety and environment Rio Tinto; **Isabelle Garon**, VP Desjardins; **Helene Gagnon**, VP CAE; **Pierre Vanier**, CGI Montreal; **Paul Setlakwe**, Fednav CFO, with his wife **Dominique Lanctôt**; **Claude Bigras** – CEO, Facility Services and his wife **Andrée Lafleur**;

continued on p. 22



From left: Conrad Sauvé, Jeffrey Orr, Suzanne Legge Orr, Michèle Dionne, Diane Dunlop-Hébert and Norman Hébert.



From left: Jean-Yves Germain, Josée Arsenault, Geneviève Déry, Laurence and Robert Charlebois.



From left: Marie-Krystine Longpré, Pierre and Lucie Boivin.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 21

Monique Maynard, president, Quebec Affairs for Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life; **Jean-Christophe Bedos**, president/CEO Birks and his wife **Ariana Bédos**; **Louis Marcotte**, senior VP/CFO, Intact and his wife **Céline Lauzier**; **David Rawling**, CEO Canada at JPMorgan Chase; **Jean Aucoin** and his wife **Cynthia Scott Aucoin**, president J. Sonic Services; **Daniel Gre-**

monprez, VP Mackenzie Investments; **Richard Payette**, president/CEO Manuvie and his wife **Louise Beaugard**; **Louis-Martin Richer**, chief risk and ethics officer WSP Global with his wife **Geneviève Bich**, VP Metro; and **Georges Paulez**, managing director/CEO Mirabaud Canada Inc. and his wife **Nicole Fauré**, Groupe Conseils Fauré Leroux.

The eve raised an unprecedented \$1.7 million.

MCC exhibits at McClure Gallery for its 125 anniversary



Montreal Camera Club photographers, from left: Sylvia Rourke, Frances Cable, Claude Bélanger and Ann Pearson at the McClure Gallery June 21.

BY HEATHER BLACK

The vernissage of the Montreal Camera Club's (MCC) 125 anniversary exhibition took place June 21 at the McClure Gallery. It was on for just over a week.

Archival photos of early members and others from 1940 to 1960 were on display, as well as over 100 works by 55 current members. The exhibit included landscapes, city scenes, portraits and still lifes, all artfully hung by Victoria Leblanc, former director of the Visual Arts Centre.

"This public event serves to celebrate the anniversary and to attract new and en-

thusiastic photographers to join the club," said MCC program chair Ann Pearson.

Other members of the exhibition committee, Claude Bélanger, as well as Westmounters Sylvia Rourke, Frances Cable and Diana Bruno, were also on hand.

The club, which meets Monday evenings from September to May at Westmount Park United Church, was founded in 1892. (See the June 20 "In Conversation" column "Surridge on the Montreal Camera Club's 125th," p. 11.)

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Man in distress

A man was found in apparent distress lying on a park bench across from the city hall near the bike stand at the parking lot June 27, Public Security officials said. A patroller came across him at 7:19 pm, noticed he appeared to be in an unnatural position and learned he had walked from Lachine. He had an infected leg and "ice cold" hands. Urgences Santé was called. The man was transported to St. Luc hospital.



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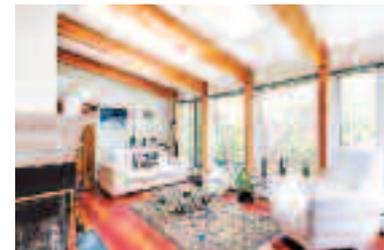


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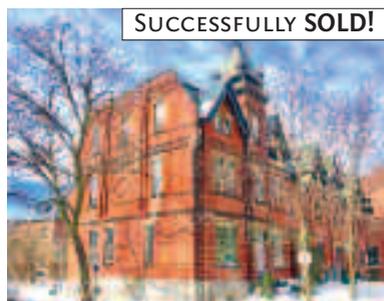
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Westmount, 421 Argyle Ave. EXTREMELY spacious, bright, BEAUTIFUL 4+1 bdr Victorian home. Fully renovated, exquisite details. Spacious, sun filled kitchen, gorgeous bathrooms. 4 car pkg. **\$1,965,000**



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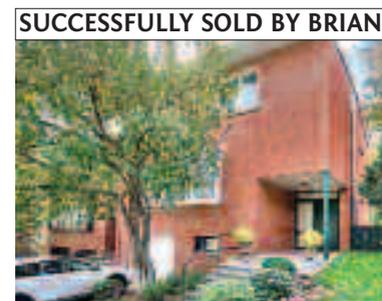
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