Hydro Westmount will not supply electricity

City reviewing part of Children’s Tower 1 in its territory, address may be in Westmount

By Laureen Sweeney

Despite the start of sales promotion for Tower 1 (the first of six) in the “Square Children’s” project, the portion of the high-rise located on the Westmount side of the border with Montreal remains under review, according to city officials.

(For previous coverage of the development, see “1111 Atwater launches website,” February 12, p. 14.)

As a result, no related construction activity in the section along Atwater slightly south of Tupper can take place until a permit is approved and issued, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week.

This does not affect the start of work that can take place in the Montreal portion, however, where more than 90 percent of the 38-storey building is proposed to be located, explained Urban Planning director Tom Flies last week.

“We have no jurisdiction over Montreal,” he noted. “So, in theory they can work in Montreal even without having obtained a permit in Westmount. I’m not sure they would proceed with this, but they could do preparatory work.”

On the other hand, Westmount issued a demolition permit in August for removal of the back portion of the former nurses’ pavilion that lies mainly in Westmount at the corner of Atwater and Dorchester.

“This demolition is currently under way,” Flies said.

Building permit approved for Hillside development

By Laureen Sweeney

The four new townhouse units proposed for 65 Hillside at the corner of Metcalfe passed a final hurdle February 4 when city council approved the building permit.

While approval to demolish the vacant building at the site had been given by the city’s Demolition Committee at a hearing December 17, the project continued under review until being finally recommended to council last month by the Planning Advisory Committee.

“No permits have been issued yet,” Urban Planning director Tom Flies said February 20.

“The Demolition Committee’s conditions require that the construction permit is to be issued prior to the demolition permit.”

The plan for the new

continued on p. 8
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Unfreeze, freeze, repeat

Three-storey townhouses presented to the public at the demolition hearing calls for the four attached dwellings to be contained in one structure with a basement, a common garage entrance and car elevator (see story January 15, p. 1).

1948 building going

The one-storey building to be torn down was built as an industrial-type structure in 1948 but had been known more recently as the Hillside Medical Centre.

It no longer conforms to the residential zoning.

Hillside, cont’d. from p. 1

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Water becomes ice at 0°C.

Photos: Ralph Thompson.
On February 14, the Independent noticed some kind of string between a tree and lamppost on the Dorchester Blvd. median near Clandeboye. It is enhanced in the above photo. It does not appear to be from the eruv maintained by the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue, one of whose borders runs between Bruce and Hallowell, several streets away. (An eruv is an area enclosed by a thin wire that turns an area into a single space for the purposes of Jewish tradition, allowing practitioners to move about it and still observe the sabbath.) So what was it?
Family support key for transgendered kids, Manning tells Women’s Canadian Club

By Martin C. Barry

What is it like to be the parent of a transgender child?

Members of the Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal learned first hand from one who knows when Dr. Kimberley Manning, principal of Concordia University’s Simone de Beauvoir Institute, spoke about her experience in a presentation entitled “A Family Journey with a Transgender Child” on February 19 at Victoria Hall.

Manning’s transgender child started socially transitioning around age three or four, she said. “When I began this journey of learning about transgender children, in fact I didn’t even have a vocabulary for it. I had never heard of the expression ‘gender creative kids’ or ‘trans kids.’

And despite the fact that I taught gender and politics at Concordia University, including a graduate-level seminar on gender and politics, it had never even occurred to me that there was such a thing as a transgender child.”

A little more than a decade ago, according to Manning, just a single book, The Transgender Child, published in 2008, was the only serious writing available on the topic. “Parents, caregivers of trans children, really had no resources to access other than this book,” she said.

How do you know that a child is transgender? she asked. “When we use the term transgender, we are really meaning a child who is affirming a gender different from what they were assigned at birth.”

Up until relatively recently, she continued, there was almost no possibility for trans children to emerge because parents at home had no means to recognize it, “or if they saw it and recognized it, couldn’t tolerate it.

“And I say ‘tolerate’ carefully, because for many parents – some maybe even fairly progressive and well-meaning parents – their biggest fear has been ‘If I let my little boy go out of the house in a dress, how is this child possibly going to survive on the playground?’

“So there has been in a sense a real difficulty in the very possibility of the trans child emerging. First of all in the home, second of all in the school, and third of all whether it’s day camps or play groups or team sports – and of the hundreds of ways children interact in society. Everything about our culture up until very recently has said, ‘That is not okay. You are not okay.’”

Manning compared the challenges transgender children face today to the uphill battle gays faced in the 1950s and 1960s. Noting that for years transgenderism was regarded as a mental illness, she said, “This is the way we approached homosexuality up until the early 1970s.

“And, in fact, just at the very moment when homosexuality was depathologized in the diagnostics statistical manual that was sort of the bible of psychiatry and psychology, just at that moment, trans people were put in.”

A new body of emerging research over the past 10 to 12 years, she continued, suggests that transgender children who are supported and affirmed by their parents have mental health on par with cisgender siblings. (Cisgender is a term used in transgender studies for people whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth.)

In addition to having the support of family, Manning said having a supportive school makes all the difference, which is why her family chose an alternative school for their transgender child.

“And in the case of my own family member, who has now moved on to a high school situation, this family member experienced not one experience of bullying, is a straight-A student, has loads of friends and is a happy, thriving young person.”
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RECYCLING AND THE PRINT MEDIA: THE BREAKING POINT

Quebeckers are aware of the challenges that have faced print media for some time now. According to Ministère de la Culture figures, one weekly in four has permanently stopped its presses since 2010... and this situation is going to get much worse unless the government amends the Environmental Quality Act this year to give newspapers the same cultural protection as it does to books.

It is urgent because the dailies and weeklies are stuck in a vicious circle due to the obligations to finance print recycling:
• Newspaper media entities are falling in numbers every year.
• The newspaper tonnage they produce is also dropping.
• However, their annual recycling costs are rising dramatically.
• Conclusion: an exploding recycling bill has been imposed on surviving newspapers.

The numbers are telling. 92,000 fewer tonnes of newsprint were produced between 2010 and 2019 (down 68 percent). But the contribution demanded from the media rose by $9 million over the same period (up 340 percent). The per-tonne processing cost went from $23.03 in 2010 to $241.92.

It is true that the ministry of Finance proposed the beginning of a solution two years ago. Therefore, if this support slightly reduces the financial burden of print media, it does not improve the aberration of the current system and its adverse effects. In addition, it remains a short-term support in the face of a structural problem that has been increasing year by year.

From the beginning, it was inconceivable that we are treating newspapers, beacons of democracy and cultural expression, in the same manner as tin cans and plastic bottles.

The news media contributes directly to our communities’ vitality and their social and democratic life. As a result, they must benefit from a cultural protection analogous to that for books. Otherwise, the compensatory system for newspapers is about to drop the axe on other press organizations.

Since arriving in power, François Legault’s government has shown great sensitivity to the difficult situation the media are facing pursuant to the dramatic drop in advertising revenue that was the foundation of their business model.

The government must now agree with us that the first step is to extricate the newspapers from a system that is financially asphyxiating the print media. This intervention must come as of the next budget; otherwise, more communities will lose their print media.

DENIS TÉTREAU, GENERAL DIRECTOR (RecycleMédias)

RecycleMédias is a private, non-profit organization created in December 2000 with the mission of representing newspapers, which are required to contribute to the residual materials recycling and reclamation efforts in Quebec. The organization has 149 members from the following organizations: Québecor Média, Groupe Capitale Médias, Le Devoir, The Gazette, Hebdomos Québec, Québec Community Newspaper Association (QCNA), l'Association des médias écrits communautaires du Québec (AMEQ) and many smaller independent newspapers and groups.

Editor’s note: The Independent is a member of the QCNA and supports this letter. When we started publishing the Independent, there was no recycling tax. Now, we pay a cash tax to Recyc-Québec and are forced to publish its ads without payment. Meanwhile, in a process that started before the Independent’s founding, the provincial and federal governments purchase less advertising than they did previously, despite studies showing that Canadians read newspapers in a material way.

Please note that I am depleting extra fees from, and the taking of our product by, the provincial government, and the diminished purchase of our product by the provincial and federal governments. I am not asking for subsidies. – DP.

Dawson’s PRT graduates are autonomous practitioners, not assistants

In response to the article published on October 9, 2018 (“Dawson College’s physiotherapy clinic doubles its footprint,” p. 15) and the letter to the editor by Cheryl Cornforth published on October 16, 2018 (“Dawson’s program for assistant, not full, physiotherapists,” p. 8), the physiotherapy technology department of Dawson College would like to make a few clarifications.

The letter to the editor pointed out that Dawson offers a “physiotherapy technology program,” which is correct. The original article erroneously indicated that we offered a “physiotherapy program.” However, the letter to the editor goes on to state that said program, “trains students to be assistant physiotherapists.”

This is in fact false.

The three-year, technical program offered at Dawson College trains students to be physical rehabilitation therapists (PRTs), who are licensed under the same professional order as physiotherapists and have a substantially different scope of practice than physiotherapy assistants.

PRTs are autonomous practitioners who can offer treatment in a variety of cases, provided they have the evaluation of the physiotherapist. In contrast to physiotherapy assistants, PRTs can plan, execute and modify treatment plans without the supervision of a physiotherapist. They can also determine when a client has finished treatments and is ready for discharge.

It is unfair to assume that clients will not receive high quality physiotherapy services at the Dawson College Health Clinic. While the students are still in training, they are closely supervised by full-fledged, licensed practitioners. This is no different from the services received at the student dental hygiene clinic at John Abbott College.

In closing, although PRTs have been recognized Quebec physiotherapy professionals since 2003, the profession is unique to Quebec, and Dawson is the only college to offer the program in English. Therefore, it is understandable that there may be some confusion. We hope that this letter helps to clarify the situation and to increase awareness of the PRT profession in the anglophone health sector.

If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Vanessa Gangai & Alison Gélinas, faculty, Physiotherapy Technology Department (Dawson College)

* Editor’s note: For the general public, the target of our newspaper, a “physiotherapy technology program” is a “physiotherapy program.” As is the case for most articles, there was detail not included in the story, which can be important and which interested and affected parties should frequently investigate. – DP.

ENCOURAGE MAYOR SMITH TO OPPOSE VÉLO QUÉBEC FUNDING

Over 20 years ago, I first encouraged Westmount to help in an effort to increase philanthropy in Quebec. Quebec is the worst place for charitable giving in all of Canada and the USA. My requests were perpetual.

On September 1, I sent three pages of rationale as to what Westmount could do to help increase philanthropy, along with why they should act. Promises were made and never kept, to both a companion of the Order of Canada and myself. What else is new?

If politicians are not supposed to do fully what is in the best interest of the public, what exactly are they supposed to do?

Westmount taxpayers contribute to the approximately $1 million in annual public support given to Vélo Québec by the agglomeration and the province.

I have asked Westmount to follow the lead of Côte St. Luc and pass a motion calling for the defunding of Vélo Québec by the agglomeration of Montreal, until Vélo Québec adds an optional charitable fund-raising component to its events.

Why should Bike New York, an organization with the same mission as Vélo Québec do it and raise $1 million per year.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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while the least charitable people in all of Canada and the USA are not invited to do the same?

Please consider asking Mayor Christina Smith exactly what Westmount has against increasing philanthropy in Quebec. Her email address is: csmith@westmount.org.

Murray Levine, Dorval

Editor’s reply: Thank you for explaining, at my request, why your anti-Vélo Québec stance is relevant to Westmounters even though the Tour de l’Île does not go through Westmount at present, as I pointed out in my reply to you last issue (p. 6). I’m happy to publish it this once, but I still find it a bit outside of our Westmount focus.

Yes, the agglom does take money from Westmount without its consent, but if the agglom and the province contribute $1 million per year to this group, how high can Westmount’s “look through” portion be? For simplicity, let’s say the agglom contributes the whole $1 million. There are almost two million residents of the island of Montreal, so each would contribute about 50 cents to Vélo Québec, or Westmount would pay $10,000. Is this amount, itself a very high estimate, really worth all of this back-and-forth on a Westmount budget (agglo and local) of $111 million?

And many people want governments to encourage exercise. If that view is accepted, why can’t governments do one good thing that people want (encourage exercise) and not another (encourage charity) – in this particular instance?

And who’s to say that more options to give to charity will increase the total number of dollars given to charities?

Lastly, consider the agglom. I used the words “the agglom does take money from Westmount without its consent” deliberately. Because one entity, the city of Montreal, has a majority of the votes on the agglomeration council, all of the 15 de-merged mayors could light themselves on fire at the agglomeration council in support of any issue whatsoever and it would not affect the city of Montreal’s ability to extract its chosen amount of money from their municipalities. If she can’t stop this payment, why bother Mayor Smith about this matter? – DP.

Comin’ Up

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
Turcot “Bon voisinage” meeting. St. Raymond community centre, 5600 Upper Lachine Rd. in NDG. 7 pm.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Public consultation on St. Catherine St. zoning near Westmount recreation centre. City hall. 7 pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28
Marianopolis College launches Yasodhara: A Novel about the Buddha’s Wife by Professor Vanessa R. Sasson. 4873 Westmount Ave. 6:15-7:30 pm.

MONDAY, MARCH 4
City council meeting. City hall. 7:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6
Héma-Québec Blood Drive. Victoria Hall. 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12
Public meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) on presentation of SCAOPI project for the office development at 1100 Atwater. City hall. 8:30 am.

Westmount Horticultural Society presents a film on gardens in the rolling hills of the Charlevoix region. Westmount Library. 7 pm. Guests $7.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
‘St. Patrick’s Day’ Pub Quiz. Victoria Hall. Free, cash bar. Reserve at Eventbrite or call 514.989.5226. 7 pm.

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Gallery: Call for projects

The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces its Call for projects for its 2019-2020 exhibition season (September 2019 to August 2020). Emerging or professional artists who are residents of Westmount are invited to apply.

We will accept projects from February 15 to April 15 2019.

For more information or to know how to apply, galerieart@westmount.org ou 514 989-5265

westmount.org
Children's tower, cont’d. from p. 1

said.

Its high colonnade entrance, a landmark on the northeast corner, is protected by its heritage rating (see story March 6, 2018, p. 1).

Because the territorial border slices diagonally from the northwest of the site to the southeast, the entire area at the corner of Atwater and Tupper lies in Montreal, while the corner at Atwater and Dorchester lies wholly in Westmount.

Westmount or Montreal

Among unanswered questions until Westmount's review of the building application is finalized and approved, is in whose jurisdiction the main entrance of the tower will be located even though the building is already being listed on some websites as being at “1111 Atwater, Westmount.”

Once the building is completed, Hurtubise said tax bills from Westmount are ultimately expected to be calculated based on the percentage of the building’s evaluation that lies in the city’s territory.

What is already known, he said, is that Hydro Quebec rather than Hydro Westmount will supply the electricity because the electrical entry to the site has already been re-located in Montreal. “This dictates the supplier.”

Historically, the electrical entry to the hospital had been near the nurses’ pavilion in Westmount.

Asked how much revenue has been lost to Hydro Westmount as a result, Hurtubise—who was the utility’s director in 2014 when the hospital relocated to the Glen site—said he had calculated at the time the loss would have been around $900,000 for that year.

This site plan by MSDL architects shows how the Westmount border cuts through the preserved nurses’ building at the left corner as well through a nine-storey portion of the proposed Tower 1. The other five towers are positioned between Dorchester/René Lévesque, Tupper and Sussex/Hope to the right. North-pointing arrow and street names added by Independent.

The nurses’ pavilion (left) and construction pit on February 23.
Photos: Independent
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Profile: Julia Gersovitz

Order of Canada ceremony caps 4 decades of preserving historic buildings

By Laurene Sweeney

The white stylized snowflake appears tiny when fastened as a lapel pin to a dress worn by Julia Gersovitz. But the six-pointed symbol of the Order of Canada is huge in its recognition of her four decades of contribution to the preservation of architectural heritage.

The citation read out February 1 at her investiture as an officer in the Order reads in part: “Julia Gersovitz is a world authority in conservation architecture. Co-founder of EVOQ Architecture, she manages the company’s many large-scale restoration projects throughout the country.”

It speaks to her “award-winning designs that incorporate contemporary needs with historic aspects” and conserve the unique features of landmark sites.

“It was an exhilarating but humbling experience,” Gersovitz said after the investiture by the governor general, Julie Payette, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Accompanying her was her father, Westmounter Ben Gersovitz, along with her husband Mark Boresky and their grown son and daughter Jesse and Franchesca Boresky, both raised in Westmount.

And by coincidence, the honour topped off a week that stands as a milestone in her life. It had started with the inaugural session of the house of commons in its historic buildings that incorporated contemporary needs with historic aspects and conserve the unique features of landmark sites.

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“Known among her peers for her thoughtfulness, tenacity and generous spirit as well as for the impeccable standard of her professional work,” Gersovitz “in action.”

Among others, Gersovitz singles out the 2018 Prince of Wales Prize awarded to a city for heritage leadership by the Prince of Wales on the recommendation of the National Trust for Canada (see October 23, 2018, p. 8). “I felt a tremendous pride in that because I had contributed to the Westmount application.”

The main change she has seen during her tenure on PAC has been the formation and development of the Local Heritage Council, its protection of the Glen arch or railway bridge, and efforts to improve the long-term viability of the city’s houses of worship through complementary uses.

She’s also proud of the projects her firm has undertaken in Westmount such as the renewal of Victoria Hall, the addition of its Gallery, restoration of the library’s historic rooms and the rebuilding of the Lawn Bowling Club’s pavilion.

Another highlight for her was “stepping in” to chair the building committee of the Westmount recreation centre around 2011. “It was a very collaborative and interesting project.”

Gersovitz, who chairs Westmount’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and is now in the fifth year of her second seven-year term, was in the visitors’ gallery to witness the occasion.

“The acoustics were remarkable,” she says. “You could hear the questions and comments voiced without a microphone.”

**Passion for conservation**

Gersovitz, a third-generation Westmounter, attributes her passion for heritage preservation to the “emotional loss” she felt from historic buildings being destroyed, one akin to the extinction of animal species such as the dodo bird.

To many local residents, she is best known for her role in guiding the development of the city’s architectural character, though she is quick to point out that the PAC is an “advisory” body to the council in its approval of building permits that involve exterior changes — though in reality, most of the PAC’s recommendations receive council’s final blessing.

One of the things she has found very rewarding during her tenure on PAC (from 2001 to 2008 and now on-going from 2014) has been the formation and development of the Local Heritage Council, its protection of the Glen arch or railway bridge, and efforts to improve the long-term viability of the city’s houses of worship through complementary uses.

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The main change she has seen during her involvement on the PAC is people’s requirement for more space, which translates into home-extension applications.

Interestingly, however, the yellow brick semi-detached house in which she chooses to live on de Maisonneuve near Metcalfe is typical of the type of dwelling that has stood the test of time. It is essentially intact since its construction around 1926-1927.

**In action**

Considering that PAC meetings are not routinely open to the public, the five or six that have been over the past three years for SCAOPI presentations of non-conforming projects have provided insight on Gersovitz “in action.”

Many of those attending noted the aura of discipline she maintained and her effort to summarize every question asked to ensure “we understood it correctly,” as she explains.

The Order of Canada citation notes her commitment to sharing her knowledge as adjunct professor at McGill since 1980 as well as at the University of Montreal.

She has also served on city of Montreal review commissions and has been involved in work on many notable buildings across the country including those at McGill.

**Launched firm in 1983**

Gersovitz, who earned degrees in architecture from McGill, holds a master’s degree in historic preservation from Columbia University. She started her own firm in 1983, at a time when the field of historic conservation was undeveloped. She was soon joined by Westmount architect and resident Roseanne Moss. In its evolution, the firm now counts some 100 people.

Interestingly, her grandfather Joseph Gersovitz, who lived on Argyle, was a renowned builder of apartment buildings, including the 400 Kensington and The Trafalgar, at The Boulevard and Côte des Neiges, which he owned.

Julia designed her father’s house on Montrose, where he continues to live. She holds numerous awards and honours but her value to the architectural community was summed up in a citation from the National Trust in 2015 as being “known among her peers for her thoughtfulness, tenacity and generous spirit as well as for the impeccable standard of her work.”

And much of her inspiration, she told the Independent, is gleaned from walking around Westmount, often with her dog, a golden doodle named Boadicea after the Celtic queen. “It’s truly a wonderful community.”
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**Manker sees political activism in playing cello**

Brian Manker, principal cello with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, was the featured guest during the Atwater Library’s Lunchtime Series on February 7. He played J.S. Bach’s 1st Suite in G major, a Catalan piece known as the “Song of the Birds,” Tomaso Albinoni’s Adagio in G minor and Benjamin Britten's Suite for solo cello. Seen here during a pause in his musical presentation, Manker spoke about the role some cellists have had in political activism, including Pablo Casals, Mstislav Rostropovich and Vedran Smailović (who became known as the Cellist of Sarajevo).

Photo: Martin C. Barry
Houston and Chihuly: Nature projected

Jessica Houston’s vast northern expanses at the McClure Gallery and Dale Chihuly’s colourful glass sculptures at Galerie de Bellefeuille enchant and entice. Through the discerning lens of photography, painting and sculpture, the beauty – and fragility – of nature is recalled.

Northern landscapes

_Suspended in a Sunbeam_ Houston’s mixed-media exhibition is a visual exploration of Canada’s Arctic. Colourful photographs convey climate change and the vulnerability of northern landscapes while paintings question the forced relocation of Inuit communities to Resolute Bay. A film of time-lapsed photographic stills of the midnight sun includes a voiceover of residents’ comments on life in the far north.

Photographed with a coloured lens, the print “The Greening” captures a land engulfed in green mist. The Arctic terrain – bathed in orange light – of “Living Memory” also communicates the fragility of northern ecosystems. A video of time-lapsed photographs of the midnight sun taken over 24 hours – “Qausuittuq”/“Place with No Dawn” – includes Inuit songs and a Resolute Bay resident’s joy on the sun’s return following endless winter nights.

The federal relocation of Inuit communities during the Cold War is also the theme of a pilot’s portrait, “The Fatigue of the Conquest,” and the painting “Evacuation Plans.” Presented within geometric patterns, cropped photographs of Arctic tents and weather stations also evoke colonization. A sculpture of burnt wood, “Looking For a Place to Land,” emits the sound of a forest fire and chirping birds. Houston’s intriguing and important exhibition continues until March 2 at the Visual Art Centre.

Natural forms

An exhibition of Chihuly’s stunning blown-glass sculptures projects a fragile transparency as well as a bold solidity. Crafted with perfect ribbons of colour, dynamic circular rings and rhythmic forms, these limited-edition sculptures are inspired by nature. Evoking cultures from around the

continued on p. 23
Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 4 mars

Club de lecture en anglais ados (13-17 ans)
Le jeudi 14 mars, 16 h - 17 h, Bibliothèque. Monster par Walter Dean Myers. 514 989-5229.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel de dossiers

Spectacle : Bowser & Blue

Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition
Du 28 février au 29 mars, Victoria Hall. La galerie est fière de présenter les œuvres de Lydia Lockett et Sharon E. Sutherland. Rencontrez les artistes le jeudi 21 mars à 19 h. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5265.

Cinéma samedi

Collecte de sang d’Héma-Québec
Le mercredi 6 mars, 10 h 30, Victoria Hall. Donnez du sang, donnez la vie lors de la collecte du prêtre-mens. 514 989-5226.

Conférence : Parlons opéra!
Le dimanche 17 mars, 10 h 30, Victoria Hall. Twenty-Seven. Présentation en anglais par L’Opéra de Montréal. 514 989-5226.

Pub Quiz au Victoria Hall
Le mercredi 20 mars, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Inscrivez-vous en équipe de 4 à 6 joueurs, ou individuellement. Gratuit; bar payant. 514 989-5226.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Dénégement : nouvelle page web
Renseignez-vous sur l’avancement des opérations de chargement de neige après une chute importante : westmount.org/denagement.

Patinoires extérieures
Les mises à jour sur la condition des patinoires extérieures sont affichées à westmount.org/patinoires.

StoryWalk™ d’hiver :
Misiuk et les œils des neiges d’Anne Renaud Jusqu’au 18 avril, Parc Westmount. 514 989-5229.

Club de lecture en anglais – niveau avancé (9 ans et +)
Le jeudi 28 février, 16 h - 17 h, Bibliothèque. Gangsta turmey par David Walliams. 514 989-5229.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Le mercredi 6 mars, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque. Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount compose des poèmes à partir de thèmes proposés par les membres. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5299.

Club de films documentaires

Club de lecture – anglais langue seconde (7 ans et +)
Le jeudi 14 mars, 16 h - 17 h, Bibliothèque. rag and Toad are Friends par Arnold Lobel. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais ados (13-17 ans)
Le jeudi 14 mars, 16 h - 17 h, Bibliothèque. Monster par Walter Dean Myers. 514 989-5229.

CITY HALL

Public consultation meeting
Wednesday, February 27, 7 p.m., City Hall. A public consultation meeting will be held to explain draft by-law 1953x and to hear every person willing to express an opinion. The by-law concerns zoning and office-type commercial activities in zone RP-3-01. Consult the public notice posted at westmount.org or for more information.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Call for projects
Until April 15, Victoria Hall. The Gallery is currently accepting proposals for its 2019-2020 exhibition season. Emerging or professional artists residing in Westmount are invited to apply. 514 989-5226 / galled@westmount.org.

Concert : Bowser & Blue
Saturday, February 23, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Local folk legends Bowser & Blue perform their show Load, Organ & Sustainable. Cash bar. Tickets $30, available at Victoria Hall, the Westmount Public Library, or at eventbrite.ca. 514 989-5226.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition
February 28 to March 29, Victoria Hall. The Gallery is pleased to present works by Lydia Lockett and Sharon E. Sutherland. Meet the artists Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Gallery hours Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5226.

Saturday Cinema

Héma-Québec Blood Donor Clinic
Wednesday, March 6, 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Give the gift of life at the Spring Blood Drive. 514 989-5226.

Lecture : Let’s Talk Opera!
Sunday, March 17, 10:30 a.m., Victoria Hall. Twenty-Seven. Presented in English by Opéra de Montréal. 514 989-5226.

Pub Quiz at Victoria Hall
Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Register as a team of 4 to 6 players, or individually. Free cash bar. 514 989-5226.

New snow removal web page
Find updated snow loading operations after a heavy snowfall: westmount.org/removal.

Outdoor skating rinks
Updates on the conditions of the outdoor rinks can be found at westmount.org/rinks.
Council approves 24 building permits in Feb., including new Hillside project

The following 13 permit requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the February 4 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

**Approved**

- **21 Oakland**: to add an attic floor in the rear and make modifications to the exterior envelope;
- **65 Hillside**: new construction to build a three-storey multi-family residential project with basement (see story p. 1);
- **4840 Sherbrooke**: at the Metro store, to modify windows and doors;
- **3773 The Boulevard**: to replace windows;
- **128 Arlington**: to modify the front porch;
- **657 Roslyn**: to make modifications and build an addition at the rear;
- **4918 Sherbrooke**: at the former location of la Canadienne, to replace windows and modify the front façade;
- **646 Lansdowne**: to make a window opening on the rear façade provided that two double-hung windows are installed instead of one window;
- **4006 St. Catherine**: to install a commercial sign;
- **57 Holton**: at a Category I house, to replace some windows on condition they are of wood (interior and exterior) without cladding;
- **4400 St. Catherine**: to replace doors and windows at Hillside House apartment building;
- **4377 Westmount Ave.**: to block an existing window on the side;
- **467 Lansdowne**: to make a window opening on the rear façade provided that two double-hung windows are installed instead of one window;
- **5000 St. Catherine**: to replace doors and windows at an apartment building;
- **467 Lansdowne**: to modify the front porch;
- **5000 St. Catherine**: to install a commercial sign;
- **57 Holton**: at a Category I house, to replace some windows on condition they are of wood (interior and exterior) without cladding;
- **4400 St. Catherine**: to replace doors and windows at an apartment building;
- **4377 Westmount Ave.**: to block an existing window on the side;

The following 11 permit requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the February 18 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

**Approved**

- **1201 Greene**: to install two signs;
- **56 St. Sulpice**: to modify the existing sunroom at the side rear corner of the building and build a volume over it, and to replace windows and doors and modify some openings subject to several conditions including that the submitted dark tonal palette be respected in the window and woodwork colour and that the wood panelling be designed with traditional details;
- **3603 The Boulevard**: at a Category I house, to enclose the area and make modifications at the back of the building;
- **531 Claremont**: to repair the front staircase;
- **24 Devon**: to replace the front door and woodworking surrounding it to modify the broken pediment in order to create a canopy over the entrance;

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Arthur Younanian
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**Beer Review**

Les Sans Tavernes – Bar/Brasserie/Co-op

Batiment 7 – Point St. Charles, 1900 Le Ber – corner St. Madeleine

David Price, The Philistine: Beer drinker

Ideal beer: stronger-than-average lager, even if it's commercial Canadian beer.

He dislikes too much hops flavour or aroma in beer (i.e. most India pale ales or IPAs), and does not like roasted malts (e.g. stouts). He also dislikes wheat beers, which remind him of toothpaste, which he doesn't normally eat or drink.

Favourite beer: Harp or Sapporo, but Sapporo-in-a-can beats Harp-in-a-can, hands down. On-tap research on this question is still under way.

Greg Dunning, The Connoisseur: Beer drinker, homebrewer and beer hunter

Ideal beer: The one that is manufactured by people who care more about the beer than the money.

Favourite beer: Too many to mention and it depends on the season.

August 30, 2018

When you look at the map of Montreal, no matter where you start from, you will always descend to Point St. Charles. Since it was the home of all the workers who sweated the Lachine canal, the Victoria bridge, the Grand Trunk Railroad and the Northern Electric Company, legend has it that there were over 100 establishments in “The Point” to quell thirsts and hard times.

With the closing of factories in the 1950s, the neighbourhood went into an economic and demographic free fall and all the ubiquitous watering holes disappeared to the point where there were none left.

Consequently, the cheeky name for our latest adventure is Les Sans Tavernes; loose translation, a place where there are no taverns, which also sounds, in French, like Les Cent (100) Tavernes – a brilliant play on words!

THE CONNOISSEUR: Saison Framboise (5%, 24 IBU) – Belgian-inspired seasonal

Served in a nice tulip goblet, this beer is a refreshing, thirst-quenching start on a traditionally warm, late August evening. The rich fruit aroma tells me that they are using raspberry purée and not a bottling essence, which often tastes synthetic.

THE PHILISTINE: Bateleuse Gold (4.9%) – amber ale

This beer was grapefury, which I would normally avoid, but I am always trying to follow Greg’s lead and “expand my flavour profile,” as he puts it. Also, he always leads the gang and me to places where Sapporo, Harp and/or nice crisp, tasteless lager ain’t. So, how was it drinking a beer with a fruit taste? Not bad. It was not overdone, for which I applaud the brewer. If all microbrewed ales were flavoured this sparingly, I would feel differently about the whole genre. (Alas, it is not so. Most microbrewers are actually trying to create flavour bombs, in my view an overcompensation to what is available from the macrobrewers.)

However, by the end of the pint, I was coming around to my original point of view on these tastes: too much. Maybe a half-pint next time?

THE CONNOISSEUR: Aller Simple PSC (6.3%, 55 IBU) – IPA

This is definitely a “Hophead’s” IPA. It is not balanced as I expected. But I can wear the hophead hat if I have to, and I’d better, since this is “The Point,” the ancestral home of tough Irishmen who built the Victoria bridge with their bare hands, not le Plateau, home of Ubisoft programmers building software. It’s a nice change to tackle bitterness, which comes from aggressive use of hops during the boiling stage and which British IPA brewers seek, and not an aromatic grapefruit bomb that we usually encounter in today’s IPA and that comes from adding hops after the boil, in a process called dry hopping.

Server Gabrielle (a name that is strikingly common among our microbrewery servers, in defiance of the laws of statistics and randomness) Gérin, says it’s dry hopped but I’m skeptical. This is a nice blend of the traditional British bitterness with a restrained aroma from American El Dorado, Mosaic and Cascade hop varieties.

THE PHILISTINE: Blonde Helles by Les 3 Mousquetaires brewery (5%) – blonde

One member of our group told me before I tried this beer that it was peanutty. “Peanutty?” I thought. “That can’t be.” Boy, was I wrong. This beer is PEANUTTY. At first, it seems like a normal blonde, the go-to style for lager drinkers in an ale world. But under the flow of the beer as you drink it and as an aftertaste, there is a strong peanut flavour. It is unmistakable. In my Philistinal opinion, this is the worst beer I have ever tasted. Microbrewers: leave some room on your menus for the unwashed masses who want beer that tastes like beer, and not fruit, hops to the power of 10 – or nuts.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Sans Sûre + Cassis (3.7%) – German weissbier

The brewers have cleverly named this entry the “Champagne des Pauvres,” which is a double reference: a) to Berliner weisse, the champagne of beers, and b) “les pauvres,” which references the history of the neighbourhood, where an immigrant population was the majority and naturally had it harder. The clues are that it is served in a bowl-shaped goblet with a short stem, which is the classic Berliner weisse vessel,
and the deliberate addition of a syrup, in this case, cassis. The classic Berliner weisse is either consumed perfectly as is, or is infused with either the essence of woodruff or raspberry syrup to take the edge off its acidic character. This is one of the world’s great aperitifs and it should have been my first beer today. If not for the mission of exploration at hand, this would be my session beer till midnight. Outstanding on its own and for the style.

THE PHILISTINE: Rouse Anglaise by La Barberie brewery (4.5%) – rousse

Next was the rouse. This is a style I often (75 percent of the time?) like. It is usually not hoppy and usually has no other taste aside from its “red taste.” I describe this “red taste” as brown-sugar sweet and I like it. In this case, while the flavours of fruit and nuts and hops were (thankfully!) absent, I found it tasted like brown ale and not a rouse. No sweetness. Not for me.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Bateleuse Gold (4.9%) – amber ale

Let’s see what they do with a basic beer that is an entry point for someone new to craft beer. Nothing special, but maybe that’s the goal. Citra, Centennial and Cascade hops are normally IPA aroma hops, but in this case their use is limited to the boiling kettle (no dry hopping) and the result is a bitter, British-style amber, not an American citrus bomb. This would win over most beer-league players at the Westmount recreation centre.

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Buy locally to sell locally

SUMMARY

THE PHILISTINE: Despite the lack of beers for me, I really liked this bar. There were adults and children milling around the building as they made their way to and from the co-op’s other units, making the whole scene lively. The building is old, but the businesses seem new, and the net effect is one of an urban frontier as entrepreneurs take over a “brown fields” site and bring commerce back to it. This rejuvenation is in keeping with the pun in the bar’s name, which I did not know of until Greg explained it here. It seemed natural to meet a bartender from a previous outing working there, which we did. He remembered us too, which is not quite like Cheers’ “where everybody knows your name,” but pretty close. And there are hipsters! My notes say it is a “jean skirts, bandanas and black jeans kind of place.” Fine by me.

What is its purpose? To find your way around if there is a power failure? Now that’s thinking ahead.
And I am very pleased to read that Greg’s ongoing research (The Connoisseur never sleeps) has found a lager for our next visit. Let’s go.

Permits, cont’d. from p. 17

front door, and to build a canopy over the garage door;
641 Murray Hill: to replace windows and doors and to make a new basement access on the side façade;
156 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to replace the front ground floor windows provided a transom is incorporated above all four proposed windows, that the double-hung windows have a 50/50 split, and that the window designated #2 be composed of two double-hung windows below the required transom;
12 de Casson: to replace a door and some windows at the rear;
4350 St. Catherine: at Westmount High, to restore the main entrance;
4146 St. Catherine: to install a sign;
437 Elm: at a Category I house, to repair the rear balcony.
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Westmount diva Sharon Azrieli is not only an award-winning soprano whose voice has been heard live to great acclaim around the world: she is also a philanthropist.

Carrying on the legacy of her father David Azrieli, she is a board member of the Azrieli Foundation and the Azrieli Group.

She conceived of the Azrieli Prize, the foundation’s $100,000 composition and commission competition. The 2018 edition is two prizes of $50,000 each that support the creation and performance of new Jewish music. The second biennial prize gala took place recently and winners Kelly-Marie Murphy and Avner Dorman each won $50,000.

Jury members present were Ana Sokolovic, Steven Mercurio, Boris Brott and Aaron Jay Kernis. The event took place at Maison symphonique de Montréal, where 200 guests attended a cocktail dînatoire before the concert.

The world-première performance featured Israeli-born composer Avner Dorman’s Nigunim for Violin and Orchestra, with violin soloist Lara St. John, as well as Canadian composer Kelly-Marie Murphy’s En el escuro es todo uno, on Sephardic themes, with cellist Rachel Mercer and harpist Erica Goodman.

Maestro Yoav Talmi conducted the McGill Chamber Orchestra (MCO) for the varied programme, which included two Hebrew songs performed by Sharon Azrieli, who announced the creation of a third Azrieli Music Prize (2020), dedicated to Canadian Music.

Noted at the event were Sharon’s son Matthew Azrieli, mother Stephanie Azrieli, and sister Naomi Azrieli, CEO of the Azrieli Foundation.

Enjoying the music were Israel’s deputy consul Rotem Segev, Jonathan Burnham, director cultural affairs, (with his wife Lolitta Dandoy) and Dutch honorary consul general and Westmounter Michael Polak (with his wife Penelope).

Westmounters included Nadia and David Sela, Barbara Seal and Moishe Shiv-ek, Bunny Berke and Larry Lusko, and foundation advisor Sam Minzberg with his wife Terry.

Other music lovers notified were Madeleine continued on p. 22
Carreau (CEO of the OSM), foundation board member Myer Bick and his wife Carole, Morris Fish and Ruth Freiman, Alice Hersovitch and Robert Kleinman, Renée and Joseph Rouleau, Patrick Corrigan, general director Opera de Montréal; Jean Dupré, CEO Orchestre Métropolitain; Paul Fortin, artistic director Domaine Forget; and Alain Dancyger, Les Grands Ballets. Graceful orchid arrangements from Main Florist added elegance to the event.

In keeping with the evening’s theme, Java U served several dishes with a Sephardic theme including Medjool dates and ricotta infused with pomegranate honey and pistachio; filet mignon skewers with chermoula drizzle and Moroccan spiced salmon.

Social notes, cont’d from p. 21

Morris Fish, Myer Bick, Naomi Azrieli and Sam Mintzberg.

Ana Sokolovic, Steven Mercurio, Boris Brott and Aaron Jay Kernis.
otic exhibition continues until March 5 at Galerie de Bellefeuille’s downtown and Greene Ave. location.

**Light and colour**

As artist Hans Hoffman remarked: “In nature, light creates the colour. In the picture, colour creates the light.” In both Houston’s and Chihuly’s work, rich colour heightens viewer perception of nature or sculpture inspired by nature. Their creative and individual use of light also contributes to transparency of both form and event – and to public awareness. Houston will speak on her 10-year engagement in the far north at the McClure Gallery on February 28.

**Art scene, cont’d. from p. 15**

world, the artist celebrates both life and imagination.

“IVory Luster Basket” consists of a delicate, almost transparent, undulating form. Rimmed in purple with swirling crimson lines, two smaller shapes placed within the larger bowl suggest the fragility of eggs. Similarly, the nested, yellow bowls of “Golden Topez Basket” are rimmed with blue. In contrast, the swirling yellow lines of “Sahara Basket Set” are dramatic against a translucent, crimson form.

Textured crimson dissolves to orange within “Tuscan Red Seaform,” while the exuberant “Violet Persian Pair” is a lime and purple floral composition. Detailed petal patterns in “Marigold Persian” reflect nature’s intricacy as well as Chihuly’s mastery of glass design. This colourful and exquisitely detailed work is a testament to Houston’s and Chihuly’s work, rich colour and transparency of both form and event – and to public awareness.

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