

What a difference a year makes



The temperature was a record-breaking 24°C around the same time in March last year. On p. 1 of our March 27, 2012 issue, this photo of Murray Park ran under the headline “Summer come early?”



On the first day of spring this year, Westmount looked quite different. Seen on March 20, a woman walks her dog through a winter wonderland in Murray Park. Photos: Ralph Thompson



City page p. 16

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 14

5 Saisons opening postponed till start of summer

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

The opening date for the 5 Saisons store has been “postponed” until the beginning of summer, the *Independent* learned March 21. “Returning soon” signs have recently gone on display at the grocery store’s new premises at 1250 Greene Ave.

“I can’t tell you more than that,” said Marie-Claude Bacon, corporate affairs director for Metro Inc., which owns the 5 Saisons banner.

A possible opening date of late May or early June was originally mentioned in January when Bacon stated the company

already had possession of the premises though it was still under construction (see January 15, p. 1).

The landmark store was forced to close three years ago for construction of the six-storey condo building, where it will now occupy some 10,000 square feet on the ground floor – about the same space as before when it was located in a one-storey building at the same location.

A terrasse to be created by the city alongside the building on de Maisonneuve is expected to be ready for the end of July with tables to seat 90 and benches for another 10.

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Don't Miss It
Westmount's spring flower show
starts Thursday, March 28
(no reception). See p. 8.



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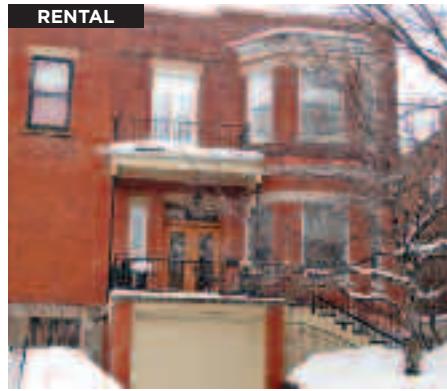


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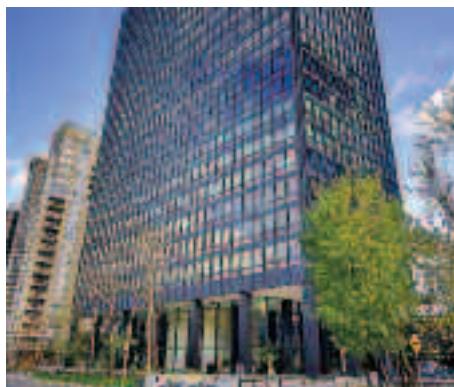


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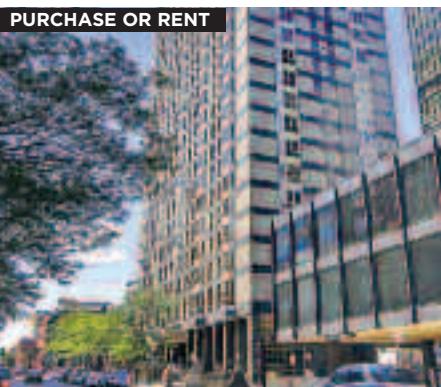
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Storm causes power outage, 2 reported accidents

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A power outage and three traffic mishaps in Westmount were reported to have been related to the 30 cm-plus snow-storm March 19, according to Public Security.

The first incident was reported during the morning rush hour at 8:19. A school bus slipped into the side of the train overpass at Greene and Prospect when the driver became distracted by several of the students, officials report. The mishap caused a major circulation issue leading public safety officers to block the street and guide the bus in backing safely down the hill.

At 11:16 am, a black Acura slid in snow on the steep Clarke Ave. hill. It rear-ended

a parked Toyota Yaris and ended up over the sidewalk in the front yard of a house at 436 Clarke. Damage was reported as minor (see photo below).

An hour later, a Public Security car was used to protect a taxi whose driver was attempting to change a blown tire in the blizzard.

Later that night at 11:15 pm, 83 homes were plunged into darkness by a power failure lasting until 3:10 am. Additional patrolling of the affected areas was implemented around Sunnyside, Belvedere and Summit Circle as well as near Murray Park on Côte St. Antoine from Forden to Lansdowne and on Murray and Montrose. The outage was caused by “a joint in a cable in a manhole on Sunnyside,” said city director general Duncan Campbell.



An Acura RDX was found on the lawn in front of a Clarke Ave. house March 19.

Photo courtesy of Chuck Altman



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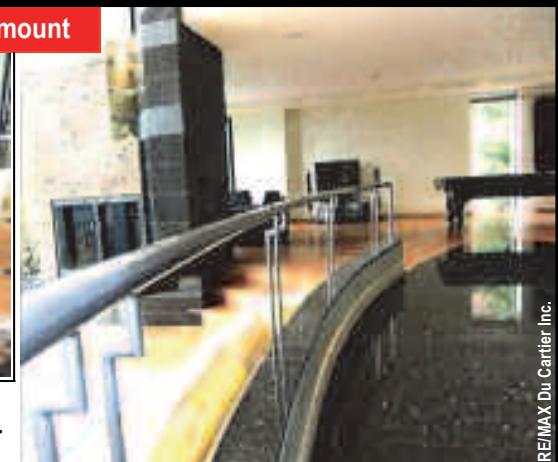
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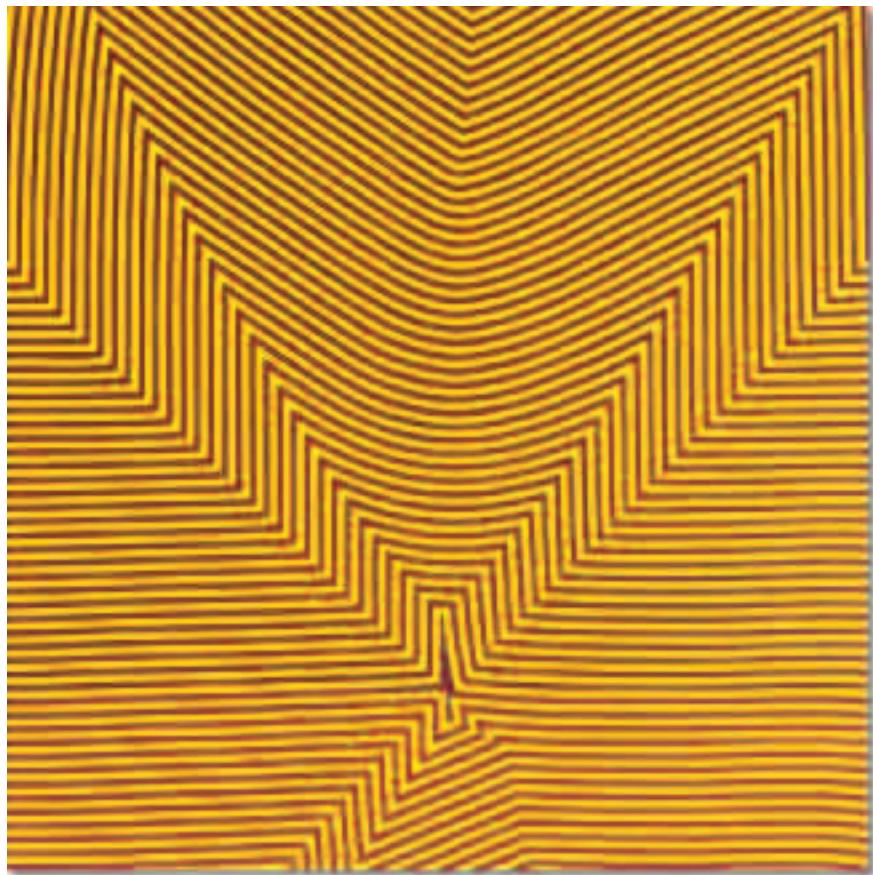
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Bantam Wings blow big lead, rally back for 5-4 OT win

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Though his team had blown a late three-goal lead in their do-or-die play-off match-up against the LaSalle Tigers on March 18, Bantam A Wings captain Spencer Albert felt a wave of calm waiting for overtime's opening face-off.

"I don't get nervous in overtime. I really feel like you really need to seize the moment. I was confident we were going to win. I just didn't know how," he said.

Like all great captains, Albert took the matter into his own hands.

Just over two minutes into the sudden death period, a fortunate bounce landed the puck on Albert's stick in the LaSalle slot, allowing him to skate in on goal unopposed and score, giving Westmount a 5-4 victory.

"I think our boys showed some character, and there's a lot we can learn from this game," said head coach Matt Robins. "But we battled back when it mattered, and I think they have a lot to be proud of."

The Wings' most consistent threat, Albert also opened the scoring in the second-round match-up, racing past a LaSalle defender and sliding it behind the Tigers netminder to notch the first period's only goal.

After LaSalle capitalized on a penalty shot four minutes into the second period, Jacob Lee-Howes regained the Wings' lead, picking up a loose puck in the neutral zone, cutting across the Tigers defence and sending a wristshot into the far corner.

With momentum building in Westmount's

continued on p. 5



Sprawling Bantam A Wings defender tries to preserve a third-period lead against the LaSalle Tigers on March 18.

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Westmount Park Church, city officials get together to discuss 'access'

Landscape architect hired for advice

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

One of the unresolved design elements facing the Westmount recreation centre appears on the way to a possible solution. Officials from the city and Westmount Park United Church finally got together March 21 to discuss a longstanding concern of vehicular access to the church's front door on de Maisonneuve.

At issue is how to provide the access now that a through-route from Academy Rd. to Lansdowne past the church has been eliminated by the new arena complex as well as how to turn cars and trucks around at the dead end of de Maisonneuve.

This space has been narrowed by the protrusion of the north wall of the new arena leaving space for little more than the bike path, a wide pedestrian sidewalk and a single lane of traffic, according to recent designs.

"We've asked a number of times to meet with the church and review options," explained city director general Duncan Campbell, though he declined to discuss them publicly before reporting back to council members after the meeting.

Church treasurer Joan Hagerman told the *Independent*, however, that the meeting was "positive" and that she and the minis-

ter, Frank Giffen, had shown Campbell some ideas they had and "he said he would have something for us to look at in two weeks."

Church suing over access

The parties had not met since the church joined a law suit against the city (see April 17, 2001, p. 1). Its involvement was undertaken mainly over uncertainty regarding the access issue, church treasurer Joan Hagerman explained last week. The legal action was believed to have complicated the issue.

As well, because of the design-build nature of the arena/pool project, configuration of the area has remained in flux since the current below-ground Pomerleau plan was announced February 6, 2012.

The city recently hired landscape architect Marc Fauteux to advise on the feasibility of various options discussed over the past months. These included the creation of some sort of turn-around in front of the church or directing traffic around the back of the church, and then through its small parking lot off Lansdowne.

Among those present at last week's meeting with Campbell were city Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan, the project coordinator as well as Giffen and Hager- *continued on p. 22*

Hockey, cont'd. from p. 4

favour, goaltender Leo Castonguay preserved the Wings' lead on a second penalty shot attempt, gloving the attempted wrist-shot and giving his team a further psychological boost.

Forward Zachary Rosen doubled the Wings' advantage with 0.2 seconds left in the period and defenceman Robert Renzi's top-corner slapshot 95 seconds into the third added further insurance, seemingly providing the Wings' with a stranglehold on the game.

That stranglehold lasted all of 11 seconds.

The Tigers fired in a rebound with 8:14 remaining, then cut the lead to one two-and-a-half minutes later, capitalizing on a Wings' turnover and sending a wristshot off Castonguay's post and in.

Laying siege to Westmount's net in the game's final minutes, LaSalle, short-

handed with its goalie pulled, finally capitalized on a loose puck in front of Castonguay to tie the game with 61 seconds left.

The Tigers' furious comeback would prove fruitless, however, as Albert's second goal of the game 2:29 into the 4-on-4 overtime period secured the Wings spot in the quarterfinals. Taking Lee-Howes' pass and attempting to split the Tigers' defence, Albert had the puck knocked off his stick, bounce off of a leg and past the LaSalle defenders, allowing the Wings captain to capitalize on a mini-breakaway.

"To be on the ice for the final goal was pretty amazing," said Lee-Howes. "The excitement Spencer and I felt was pretty insane."

The Wings were to play Wednesday, March 27 in the semifinals against Mont-Royal/Outremont.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HORSEPOWER VS. BIKE POWER

Roger Jochym, the tireless crusader for cyclists' rights here in Westmount, was at it again last week ("Look to London," March 19, p. 6), gushing over London's ambitious cycling network plan. We've seen many meaningless letters holding up cycling friendly cities such as London and Copenhagen as models that Westmount should strive to emulate. Last I checked, Westmount is a relatively tiny city, with a population just north of 20,000 and an infrastructure that doesn't allow for the kind of cycling network along its arterial roadways that Jochym and his ilk wish for.

Jochym and others would have you believe that what Westmount is really lacking is a bike path along Sherbrooke through Vic village, displacing traffic and parking spots. Contrast this view with what appears on p. 7 of last week's paper ("Vic village merchants take concerns to city hall"), opposite Jochym's letter. It states that the number one concern of the Victoria village merchants' association is a shortage of parking spots around the area, affecting merchants and residents alike. There is no mention on their part about bike paths.

It is easy for Jochym, Lambert *et al.* to stand on their soapboxes and preach about how wonderful Westmount would be if

there were more bicycles and fewer cars, but the merchants whose livelihoods depend on ease of access to their stores will and should always get the "right of way" in this debate.

Should one disagree, however, with the views espoused by Jochym and the rest of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA), you will be labelled a cycling defeatist ("No to cycling defeatists," December 4, 2012, p. 6). I am probably one of those to whom he was referring, and I must admit to having been so upset that I had to take my 614 horsepower gas-guzzling V-12 out for a spin just to clear my head.

Stay tuned for next week's paper as Jochym regales us with the tale of Passover (as edited by the WWCA), and how Moses led the Jews out of Egypt along a divinely inspired bicycle path!

STEVE MYRO,
WESTMOUNT SQUARE

BIKE PATH NEEDS TLC

Much has been written about the bike path in Westmount Park, but I have never seen a comment about its condition.

The city of Westmount's road crew has never filled in the potholes on the path. Two bumpy asphalt square patches need redoing and smoothing out and a part of the path going west by the Shakespeare in the Park location also needs smoothing

out.

Now that spring is here, the road crew should include the bike path from Greene Ave. all the way to the NDG [border] and make biking more pleasurable.

CAROLA GURBAND,
DOWNTOWN

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Construction cones, curfew

Three older Westmount teens and a friend were warned about the city's parks curfew March 12 when they were found in Westmount Park at 12:30 pm. At the time, public safety officers were looking for a group seen by a caller to have been moving around construction cones on de Maisonneuve nearby. Public Security officials said their names were entered into the database. They were aged 17 and 18.

Same vandal strikes twice

For the second time in a couple of weeks someone scrawled "Vivre le Québec libre" on a building bordering on Claremont, according to Public Security reports. The latest bout of graffiti was believed to have occurred overnight March 14-15 in similar writing to a similar message discovered February 27 on the TD building at the corner of Sherbrooke and Claremont. (See March 12, p. 19.)

Prince Albert penguins



Two penguins were found on the hood of this vehicle, which was parked in the alley between Victoria and Prince Albert on March 26.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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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.

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WWCA's Jochym: It's 'incomprehensible' that it wasn't part of the plan

Quebec may not fund second Vendôme Metro and MUHC entrance

By ISAAC OLSON

It appears that the Quebec government is shying away from a complete overhaul of the Vendôme Metro station, meaning a second, tunneled entrance to the new Glen site of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) may not be realized.

If no tunnel is built from 5100 de Maisonneuve – as many local proponents have been lobbying for – walking Westmounters and others headed to the MUHC site will have to navigate through a single, commuter-packed extension of the existing tunnel under the CP railway or hoof it all the way to Decarie Blvd. This also means Westmounters relying on public transit for their daily commute may be faced with even tighter conditions every time they pass through the station.

This is something Westmounters like Dan Lambert and Roger Jochym of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA) have expressed concerns about in the past: a need for safe accessibility to the hospital site for active transit users coming from Westmount and NDG.

"We have always found it incomprehensible how this wasn't part of the original planning of the MUHC Glen site," said Jochym in a phone interview March 21 with the *Independent*. "You're sitting next to the best inter-modal station in North America. The Vendôme Metro station has bus lines, Metro and trains all arriving at that one point and, as far as we could see, this project should have been organized from that station as that is the primary access point for the 12,000 workers that will be entering and leaving that site."

In a late February provincial parliamentary session, NDG provincial legislator Kathleen Weil asked Transport minister Sylvain Gaudreault to

clarify plans for the Metro station. In reply, he said a \$70-million investment isn't possible at this time and the government will, instead, be investing \$2 or \$3 million in a "temporary solution."

Société de transport de *continued on p. 19*



The Vendôme Metro station may not get the second tunnel local officials have been pushing for.

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Author reading with **Deirdre Kelly** on her book *Ballerina: Sex Scandal and Suffering behind the Symbol of Perfection*, 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Free.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

- City of Westmount's annual **spring flower show** on until blooms fade. The display will be open over Easter weekend (March 29 through April 1) from 10 am to 5 pm, and thereafter on weekdays 10 am to 9 pm and weekends 10 am to 5 pm.
- The **Atwater Poetry Project**, coordinated by poet Darren Bifford, presents readings by poets Méira Cook and Bruce Taylor, 7 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

ArtNow speakers Joanna Nash and Jürgen Hiscox, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free. Info: www.artnowwestmount.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

Editor and publisher Douglas Gibson presents "**Stories About Storytellers**" about his experiences with several of Canada's

well-known writers and politicians, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

City council meeting, 8 pm.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

- Author reading from **Alexander McCall Smith**, 7 pm at Victoria Hall. Tickets: \$5.75 for adults and \$3.45 for students and seniors. Info: Donna Lach 514.989.5386.
- **Westmount Horticultural Society** presents "Fruit: pick and eat 'em fresh from May to October," with Stefan Sobkowiak, 7 pm at Westmount Public Library. Free for members; \$5 for public.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

City of Westmount's **blood donor clinic**, 2 to 8 pm at Victoria Hall. Info: Community Events 514.989.5226.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Centre Greene used book sale to benefit its campers' fund, 10 am to 7 pm at 1090 Greene Ave. Also, Saturday, April 13, 9 am to 2 pm. Book donations are accepted. Info: 514.931.6202 or www.centre-greene.org.

Public Security skis for Leucan, raising \$1,900

Two Public Security teams reported raising a total of \$1,905 for their efforts in the Défi-Ski for Leucan February 16 at Bromont. The annual event takes place in support of Leucan, a support group for children with cancer and their families.

Organized by Sgt. Kim Colquhoun, the

teams consisted of Public Security personnel, family and friends including dispatcher Shannon Laurie, parking permits clerk Daphnée Valiquette, and public safety officers Julie Noiret and Amelie Arel.

Station 12 Reports

Cars continued to be targeted, 3 on Victoria

BY ISAAC OLSON

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

In recent weeks, one luxury SUV was stolen and three cars broken into in Westmount, prompting police to again remind citizens to remain vigilant when it comes to protecting valuables.

Station 12's Constable Annie Gondin said a 2011 BMW X5 was stolen out of a driveway on Côte St. Antoine Rd. The crime was reported on March 18, but the owner had been out of town for quite some time, she said. This means it is uncertain when the car was stolen. There was, however, glass found on the scene, indicating the thieves broke the window to get into the car. Beyond that, there are no details of the suspect or suspects.

This, she said, is an example of when notifying neighbours of your vacation could help, as people living in the area could help to keep an eye on the property.

It's also good practice to ensure the home has a lived-in look with a shoveled walkway, lights on timers and no accumulating mail or newspapers. This, she said, helps deter thieves who often case a home before committing a crime such as this one.

On March 14, 15 and 18, three different cars were broken into near the corner of Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St. In each case, said Gondin, the owners only left the car unattended for about 10 minutes during afternoon rush hour, but the thieves were undaunted by the watchful eye of the public. Windows were smashed in each case, she said, and electronics, such as GPS units and laptops, were stolen.

It's important, she said, that people never leave anything of value or indicating value (such as a charger cable or bag) visible in a car. The best is to not leave anything in a vehicle, period, as thieves will smash windows the moment they think there is something worth stealing, she continued.

At this point, she said, there are no suspects in any of these three cases.

Rolling outside the greenhouse

While patrolling near the greenhouses in Westmount Park at 4:50 pm March 18, public safety officers detected the smell of marijuana and found a youth, accompanied by another, rolling a joint. Described as co-operative, the culprit was identified as a Westmouter living on Claremont whose parents were to be advised. The substance was destroyed on the spot and he was asked to empty his pockets.

Camera records cold, abandoned cats, pair fed, taken to SPCA

City surveillance cameras detected two cats curled up together March 16 at 10:03 am outside the comfort station in Westmount Park. And when public safety officers went to check them out, they reported the pair appeared cold and unsure of their surroundings. An empty animal carrying case was discovered on a bench nearby with the door open.

Officers took the pair to the Westmount Animal Hospital, where they were fed and scanned for microchips. When none were found, officers took them to the SPCA where they were reported to be put up for adoption. They were described as male, domestic long-hairs, aged 3 or 4. One was gray with a white patch; the other gray, white and black.

Public Security officials said a replay of the video showed the same two cats late the night before along with a man, though it was not clear what he was doing.

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LOST CAT

Grey tabby with black, white and tan highlights. Last seen near Ste Catherine and Metcalfe on March 15. Responds well to physical contact and sometimes to his name Gizmo. Wearing a soft black collar with a small bell. Gizmo is a neutered male whose claws were removed from his front paws. He's an older cat who lives with two little girls who want him to come home.

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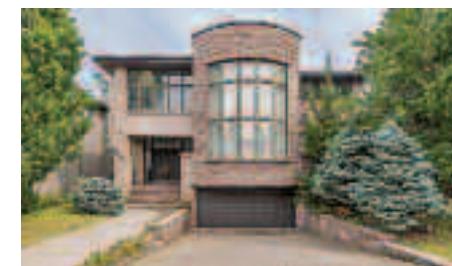
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Councillor 'stunned,' questions why Flower show opens March 28 without usual party

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

There's a simple answer for community volunteers and others who may be wondering why they have still not received an invitation to the opening reception of this year's spring flower show: There isn't one.

The show, however, will go on, opening for public viewing on March 28, but without the official fanfare to thank volunteers and welcome new residents.

And it's much to the dismay of Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who hosts the event on behalf of city council as commissioner of Parks and Urban Planning.

"I was stunned and surprised," said Lulham, who had returned from a holiday last week to find out by accident that the

decision had been made by Councillor Nicole Forbes, commissioner of Library, Culture and Community Events.

Forbes told the *Independent* that the decision to cancel it was confirmed by city director general Duncan Campbell because the flower show event was budgeted as part of the Vin d'honneur, which has been delayed a few months. This event, which awards civic honours, has not been held for four years (see January 22, p. 2).

But that should not have affected the official opening of the spring flower show, Lulham contends.

The flower show reception, she added, "is a very important function because it also welcomes new residents and is the first time many of them even know about our greenhouses."

She said she had not been consulted, nor had council, "and this should have been a council decision. It's a custom you just don't throw to the wind because people have been too busy to organize the Vin d'honneur on time."

"I do take responsibility," Forbes said. "It's my fault for not communicating it to council. I'm feeling very badly, and I've apologized to Cynthia."



Mélanie Banninger, head gardener, and Christophe Côté, gardener, prepare on March 22 for the city's spring flower show, which opens Thursday, March 28. It is to feature the exhibit's traditional rabbit family. The display will be on until blooms fade. See *Comin' Up*, p. 8 for times.



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Canada Post worker reports open door

While public safety officers were checking out an insecure house on Melbourne after calling police, a passing Canada Post worker told them she had noticed an open door at a house on The Boulevard near Belmont. Public Security officials said it too was checked out. No signs of break-in were noticed at either home.

'Arrogant and bizarre' but not detained

A resident of Forden Ave. called Public Security March 14 shortly before 1 am to report seeing a suspicious-looking man on a neighbour's property, Public Security officials said. Officers located a person matching the description on Côte St. Antoine hiding behind a pole.

"Are you looking for something?" he was asked. The man replied sarcastically that he was playing hide-and-seek and then took off "at a fast pace."

Officers called police and kept an eye on him until he was intercepted on Bonavista. He was reported as known to police "for arrogant and bizarre behaviour" but he was found empty-handed and allowed to go on his way.

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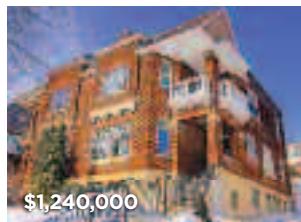
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Guests attend dance show, silent auction at Farha event



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

the ever elegant **Andrew Torriani**, president/CEO of the Ritz-Carlton Montreal, and his wife **Arlene**, chic in black.

The fundraiser's theme was "Inspire" to highlight the importance of inspiring youth to one day be part of a generation without AIDS. **Sonia Benezra**, wearing a flowing red gown, was emcee. Her agent **Barry Garber** also brought in singing sensation **J. D. Fortune**, Canadian winner of the international TV show to search for an INXS lead singer.

Guests applauded the *continued on p. 15*



Photos courtesy of the Farha Foundation

From left: David Lapierre, Christine Pickrell and Norman Ciarlo.

The annual Farha Foundation Maskerade gala, in its 14th year, was held at Marché Bonsecours on February 21. Tickets were \$300. Honorary co-chairs were

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter and Passover Holiday!

Marc Garneau
Member of Parliament
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Sonia Benezra

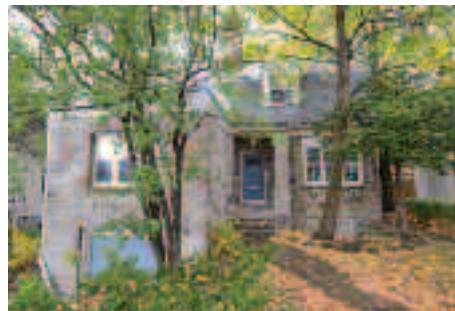


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Social Notes, cont'd. from p. 14

dance show choreographed by **Scott Fordham** specifically for the evening.

Apart from appreciating the scrumptious food and fabulous über-red décor, mask-clad ladies and gentlemen perused the silent auction items, which included two dinners for four at Café Ferreira; a trip for two to Doha, Qatar, including two busi-



Matthew Ieraci

ness class tickets on Qatar Airways; and two nights at the luxury Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

Westmounters noted dancing into the night included fashion designer **Joshua Fagan**, ever-smiling florist **Christine Pickrell**, **Susan** and **Manlio Del Negro**, **Carolyn Farha** and her son **Matthew Ieraci**, **David Archer**, **Patricia Ciancotti** and her partner **Odile Cloutier**, **Jordan Schachter**, **Michael Levy**, **Mylène Dumoulin**, and **Benoît Trotier**.

Also noted was cosmetic queen **Lise Watier**, wearing a fabulous feathered mask that only partially hid her baby blues, there with hubby **Serge Rocheleau**. Also present were **David Pinsonneault**, senior vice president, TD Bank Financial Group; **Sue Schramayr**, director, Gilead Sciences Canada; interior designer **Scott Yetman** with **Jean-Michel Lavoie**; **Jacques DeForges**, senior vice president, Bank of Canada; Ogilvy vice president of marketing **Steeve Lapierre**; and **Andrew Lufty**, CEO, Dynamite Garage stores.

The Farha family – **Linda**, **Carolyn**, **Nancy** and their mother **Evelyn** (stylishly spirited at 80!) – created the foundation when **Ron Farha** (Evelyn's son) was diagnosed with AIDS in 1992. To date, the organization has distributed over \$8.7 million to support 76 organizations throughout Quebec.





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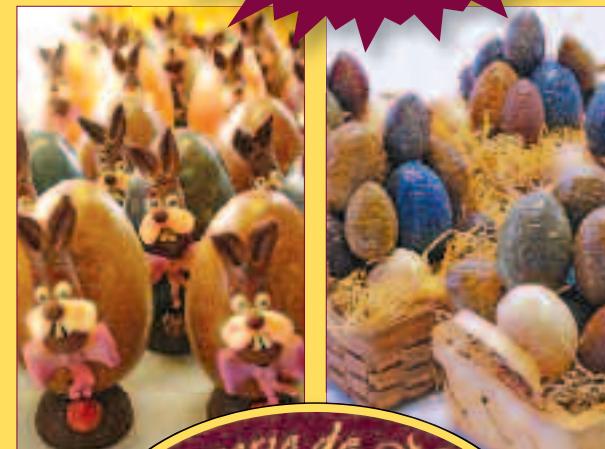
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infoWestmount

Publié par la Ville de Westmount • Published by the City of Westmount

2013.03.27 • Vol. 1/06

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Bureaux administratifs fermés le vendredi 29 mars et le lundi 1^{er} avril

Les bureaux administratifs de Westmount, soit l'hôtel de ville, la Bibliothèque publique, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics, seront fermés le 29 mars et le 1^{er} avril en raison de la fête de Pâques. Les collectes d'ordures et de matières compostables s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Activités printemps et été 2013

La période d'inscriptions pour les activités de printemps et d'été est présentement amorcée au Victoria Hall. Si vous n'avez pas reçu le *Guide des activités communautaires et culturelles, sportives et de loisirs de Westmount*, vous pouvez vous le procurer dans l'un des édifices municipaux. Info: 514 989-5353.

CENTRE DES LOISIRS DE WESTMOUNT

Campagne de financement du CLW

Participez aux supers événements de la campagne de financement pour le CLW. Que vous soyez amateurs de hockey, de natation, de tennis ou de partys, il y a des activités pour tous. Consultez le wrc2013campaign.com pour en connaître plus et pour vous inscrire.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Stationnement du 29 mars au 1^{er} avril

Les parcomètres de Westmount ne seront pas en fonction le vendredi 29 mars et le lundi 1^{er} avril, mais seront en vigueur le samedi 30 mars. La restriction de stationnement de nuit 4 heures ne sera pas en vigueur du vendredi au lundi. Le bureau des permis recevra les appels pour les permis de stationnement de nuit à compter de 16 h 30 le 1^{er} avril. Info: 514 989-5222.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Rencontre d'auteur



Le mercredi 3 avril à 19 h. Venez rencontrer **Denyse Beaulieu**, l'auteure parisienne de *The Perfume Lover: A Personal History of Scent*. Info: 514 989-5299.

Rencontre d'auteur

Le mardi 9 avril à 19 h au Victoria Hall. Venez rencontrer **Alexander McCall Smith**, auteur écossais de la célèbre série *Ladies' Detective Agency*. Co-commanditaires: la Librairie Paragraphe et le journal *The Gazette*. BILLETS EN VENTE à la Bibliothèque (5 \$ adultes, étudiant(e)s/ainés 3 \$). Info: 514 989-5299.

Conférences de 14 h: un printemps en couleurs

Le mercredi 10 avril à 14 h. Vous êtes invités à un après-midi tout en couleurs avec Aurélien Guillory, designer, auteur et conseiller en décoration. Info: 514 989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil : le mardi 2 avril

Théâtre pour enfants: *The Trial of Goldilocks*

Le dimanche 14 avril à 14 h. La troupe Teen Tour Theatre présente la pièce *The Trial of Goldilocks* de Joseph Robinette. Mise en scène: Aviva Wolman-Wener. À l'aide de rimes, mimes et rires, ce conte classique (*Boucles d'or et les trois ours*) est présenté en trois versions - traditionnelle, du point de vue des ours et du point de vue de *Boucles d'or*. (3 à 10 ans) Info: 514 989-5229.

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2013

Les élèves du primaire (1-6) et du secondaire (1-5) qui fréquentent une école de Westmount, qui habitent à Westmount ou qui sont abonnés à une bibliothèque de Westmount sont invités à participer. Cette année, nous te demandons d'écrire sur: « *Un endroit qui t'est cher* ». Les textes doivent être soumis à la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount **avant 21 h le vendredi 5 avril**. Pour en savoir plus et pour télécharger la page couverture obligatoire, consultez la section *jeuneskids*, volet *activités et événements* du site www.westlib.org. Info: 989-5229.



ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Collecte de sang de la ville de Westmount



Le mercredi 10 avril de 14 h à 20 h au Victoria Hall. Les membres du conseil municipal de Westmount invitent les résidents à faire un don de vie lors de la collecte annuelle. Info: 514 989-5226.

Galerie: exposition

Jusqu'au 13 avril 2013. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Paola Ridolfi. Info: 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

Galerie: appel de dossiers

La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de dossiers pour sa programmation de la saison 2013-2014 (septembre 2013 à août 2014). Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes professionnels ou émergents qui habitent Westmount. Les propositions doivent inclure 10 photographies ou images électroniques d'œuvres récentes (volet groupe); une liste des œuvres présentées et les renseignements s'y rattachant (titre, dimensions, année, etc.). Svp indiquer si vous posez votre candidature pour la programmation générale ou le volet exposition de groupe, ou pour les deux.

Période d'inscription annuelle: du 15 février au 15 avril

Les dossiers doivent être envoyés au sein du Comité de sélection, Victoria Hall, 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, H3Z 1E2 ou déposés au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke O. Info: 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

CITY HALL

Administrative Offices closed Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1st

Westmount's administrative offices, including City Hall, Westmount Public Library, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Sports and Recreation, will be closed March 29 and April 1st for the Easter holiday. Garbage and kitchen waste will be collected according to the regular schedule.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Spring and summer 2013 activities

Registration for spring and summer activities is now underway at Victoria Hall. If you did not receive your copy of the *Westmount Community and Cultural Events, Sports and Recreation Activities Guide*, pick one up in any municipal building. Info: 514 989-5353.

WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

WRC Fundraising Campaign

Take part in fantastic fundraising events for the WRC Campaign! Whether you love hockey, swimming, tennis or parties, we have something for you! Find out more and register by visiting wrc2013campaign.com.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Parking: March 29th to April 1st

Westmount's parking meters will not be in effect on Friday, March 29th and Monday, April 1st but will be enforced on Saturday, March 30th. The 4-hour overnight parking restriction will not be applied Friday through Monday and the permits office will resume issuing overnight parking permissions at 4:30 p.m. on April 1st. Info: 514 989-5222.

LIBRARY

Author Event

Wednesday, April 3 at 7 p.m. Meet **Denyse Beaulieu**, Parisian author of *The Perfume Lover: A Personal History of Scent*. Info: 514 989-5299.

Author Event

Tuesday, April 9 at 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Meet **Alexander McCall Smith**, Scottish author of the international phenomenon *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series. Co-sponsors: the Paragraphe Bookstore and The Gazette. Tickets on sale at the Library (adults \$5, students and seniors \$3). Info: 514 989-5299.



2 O'Clock Series: Hot New Spring Colours!

Wednesday, April 10 at 2 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of colour with Aurélien Guillory, designer, author, and decorating consultant. Info: 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 2

Theatre for kids: *The Trial of Goldilocks* Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m.

Teen Tour Theatre presents *The Trial of Goldilocks* by Joseph Robinette, directed by Aviva Wolman-Wener. In rhyme, mime and mirth, the familiar tale is presented from three points of view: the traditional, the bears' and Goldilocks'. (For ages 3 to 10). Info: 514 989-5229.



2013 McEntyre Writing Competition

Students in elementary or secondary grades (1-11) who attend school in Westmount, live in Westmount or are a member of a library in Westmount are invited to compete. This year we would like you to write about: *"A Special Place"*. Submit your entry to the Children's Desk at Westmount Public Library **no later than 9 p.m. on Friday, April 5**. To learn more and to download the mandatory cover sheet at www.westlib.org (look under *jeuneskids* and *activities and events*). Info: 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

City of Westmount Blood Donor Clinic

Wednesday, April 10, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Westmount City Council invites residents to give the gift of life at the annual blood donor clinic. Info: 514 989-5226.

Gallery: exhibition

Until April 13, 2013. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to feature the works of Paola Ridolfi. Info: 514 989-5521 or victoriahall@westmount.org.

Gallery: Call for projects

The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces its Call for projects for the 2013-2014 exhibition season (Sept. 2013 to Aug. 2014). Emerging or professional artists residing in Westmount are invited to apply. Please include ten photographs or electronic images of recent works for a season exhibition or five photographs for the group exhibition category, a descriptive list of the photographs submitted (title, size, year completed, etc.); a short résumé and an artist's statement and indicate whether you are applying for a season exhibition, a group show, or for both.

Annual registration period: February 15 to April 15

Please forward your project to the Gallery Selection Committee, Victoria Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke St. W., H3Z 1E2 or deliver it to Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. Info: 514 989-5521 or victoriahall@westmount.org.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT

Gaby ready to roll



The
Underdog
Club

KRISTIN MCNEILL

This pretty 2- to 3-year-old boxer mix is bright and eager to please. Our Gabriela gets along well with other dogs but can be possessive of food and toys. But she's not at all that way with people, however. This gal just needs some education in the learning-how-to-share department.

Gabriela is also fairly high energy, so regular exercise is a must for her. If you enjoy the couch more than the great outdoors, she's not the dog for you. She's fully house-trained, knows basic commands and walks well on a leash.

She was found in December wandering in traffic. A kind young man managed to get her to safety and contacted Sophie's Dog Adoption. She was never claimed and has been looking for a new forever home since.

A thin but otherwise healthy young dog, "Gaby" is very loving and a lot of fun.

She loves to snuggle and play fetch.

Good news underdog updates

Zeus, who had been cared for at Frontier Animal Society for four years went to his new permanent home on February 16. ("Zeus, the thundering sky dog," November 13, 2012, p. 23.)

Also from Frontier is Betsy, the 7-year-old basset hound mix, who was recently adopted. ("Not the sharpest tool, but oh so sweet," February 12, p. 17.)



Gabriela

Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the Indie at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.

de Maisonneuve at Greene could re-open this week

BY ROBERT J. GALBRAITH

Infrastructure work that has blocked traffic from accessing de Maisonneuve Blvd. westward from Greene Ave. should be finished this week, according to Public Works director Marianne Zalzal. The east-west route has been cut-off for just over two weeks. (See "Greene blocked," March 19, p. 19.)

The project, a major part of which included Bell Canada's upgrading of underground cables, was expected to end sooner but due to unforeseen circumstances, it dragged on longer than anticipated. "When Bell started digging, they didn't have enough room to complete their upgrade so the project was delayed while they worked out a solution," said Zalzal. "They thought they could do it, the plans looked like they could."

Zalzal explained that situations like this arise from time to time. "Before a contractor or a member of the public starts any underground work, they have to call Info-Excavation. They are the co-coordinators who make sure below-surface work

will not conflict with other underground infrastructure. In this situation, we're talking about something that is over 100 years old, and sometimes these older systems' exact locations were not recorded as accurately as the map may show, such as sewer lines," she said.

"Sometimes the utilities can be a foot or more off than where the original map shows they should be. There are so many underground utilities that it is sometimes hard to just plant a tree without running into a problem."

Only 4 discovered lookout-drinking

When public safety officers went to check out a complaint about a group of 20 people "screaming and drinking" at the Roslyn lookout March 13 at 8:45 pm, they found four young people quietly consuming alcohol. They were asked to disperse and given a first-time warning. All were identified as Montreal residents aged 19 and 20.

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VILLE DE | CITY OF
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FÊTE DE PÂQUES : Heures d'affaires et services municipaux

Veillez noter que tous les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'Hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés le vendredi 29 mars et le lundi 1^{er} avril en raison de la fête de Pâques.

De plus, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée les vendredi 29 mars, dimanche 31 mars et lundi 1^{er} avril.

Il n'y a aucun changement quant aux collectes des ordures et des résidus alimentaires qui s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

EASTER HOLIDAY: Business Hours and Municipal Services

Please be advised that all administrative offices of the City of Westmount (City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Recreation) will be closed on Friday, March 29 and Monday, March 31st for the Easter holiday.

Westmount Public Library will also be closed on Friday, March 29, Sunday, March 31st and Monday, April 1st.

The garbage and kitchen waste collections are unaffected, and will take place according to the regular schedule.

Battat wins first at regional

science fair



Photo courtesy of The Study

The Study's Sophie Battat, a Westmounter, was awarded first prize for her project "Soap-O-Matic" at the Hydro Québec Regional Science and Technology Fair, which took place March 16 to 19 at Vanier College. There were 40 Montreal English sector schools participating and a total of 341 projects.

Earth Hour comes to Vic Hall



Royal Astronomical Society of Canada members Ben Chu Tang, left, and Morrie Portnoff examine some of the equipment they brought along for an Earth-Hour evening held at Victoria Hall March 23. The event was organized by the Westmount Community Events office in conjunction with the Healthy City Project. Some of the other groups participating were the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association, the Westmount Municipal Association and the Westmount Science Camp.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



Jayden

Needs your help!

Jayden Emerson Roll is a brave 4 and a half year old girl who loves all things princess. But Jayden is in need of a bone marrow transplant because she was just diagnosed with MDS a rare disease that will develop into Acute Myelodysplastic Leukemia. When she isn't pretending that she is a fairy or princess she is usually dancing, reading, or making arts and crafts. She also loves playing restaurant, school, basketball and building Legos with her 2 brothers. Please help her find a match and get swabbed it will only take a matter of seconds and could potentially save her life.

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Atwater

Library and Computer Centre

Noisy wedding party

A Metcalfe Ave. resident's complaint of noise from the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue at 1:05 am March 15 turned out to be generated by a wedding celebration, according to public safety officers, who asked that the music be lowered.

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

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Coffey leads 'trip' through Mountainside United's 227-year history

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Historian Edwin Coffey guided a group of Westmount history enthusiasts through the background of the city's Mountainside United Church, an amalgamation of four congregations that traces its lineage back to 1786.

"Eventually for the church to end up in the situation it is in now just seemed to be the best of all the choices. I think it's been a pretty successful venture," said Coffey, speaking to the Westmount Historical Association (WHA) on March 21 at the West-



Edwin Coffey, left, receives a gift from Westmount Historical Association president Doreen Lindsay after his talk on March 21 at Westmount Library.

mount Public Library.

Situated on The Boulevard between Roslyn and Lansdowne, the church's earliest roots trace back to the creation of Scotch Congregational on St. Gabriel in 1786. A slew of secessions and expansions transformed that church over the ensuing decades, eventually leading to the creation of Mountainside's first direct descendant, Dominion-Square Methodist in 1865 on the corner of Dorchester and Windsor.

In 1914, the congregation moved to Mountainside United's current location on The Boulevard between Roslyn and Lansdowne, and 11 years later was joined by Douglas Methodist, creating Dominion-Douglas. The congregation remained unchanged for 60 years until a third church, St. Andrew's United, formerly known as Melville Presbyterian, merged into the building in 1985.

The church's final transformation occurred in 2004 when the St. Andrew's-Dominion-Douglas

amalgamated with the Erskine and American Church, morphing into its present-day congregation.

"Bringing together all of those groups, you realize what an amazing history it is. It started way back in the old Montreal and went through all those discussion and debates about building new churches and so on," said Coffey.

To avoid the inevitable tongue twister inherent in a quintuple-barrelled name, the congregation was asked to submit linguistically simpler alternatives.

"A good many names were sent in, but the one that seemed the best design was 'Mountainside,'" said Coffey, a member of the church's board of trustees since 2004. "Geographically, the church was sitting there on the side of the mountain and it just seemed to make sense."

Roughly two dozen members of the WHA attended Coffey's talk, including three parishioners from Mountainside United. A knowledgeable crowd, audience members were encouraged to freely interject additional information and ask follow-up questions during Coffey's 75-minute talk.

The next instalment of the WHA's spring speaker series will be held on Thursday, April 18, when Victor Goldbloom talks about Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom.

Tunnel, cont'd. from p. 7

Montréal (STM) vice chair and Montreal city councillor Marvin Rotrand said the STM has not received a definite "no" from the Quebec government as of yet.

Weil told the *Independent* that it is clear the funding for the second tunnel is not in the infrastructure budget. The concern, however, is that the narrow tunnel under the tracks, once extended as planned, won't be able to handle the thousands of daily hospital commuters. Rotrand said, "Safety is our first concern, and if we feel there are any problems, we're just going to close the tunnel."

Weil said it is not clear whether there will be handicapped accessibility nor is it clear how the Quebec government can prevent bottlenecking commuter traffic in the tunnel.

"I think [the ruling Parti Québécois] needs to be very public in communicating the plan to the community," said Weil. "They need to say what they are working on to reassure people that the site will be accessible and safe."

From the CDN-NDG borough perspective, Rotrand said "we are very alarmed that the hospital might open before there is a second entrance to the Metro." This might "drive" some people back into cars and cause road congestion problems in the area, he said.

It has been reported by the STM, that, after the hospital opens in 2015, the number of Vendôme Metro station users will rise by 36 percent, reaching 14.7 million annually.

During the March 19 Good Neighbourly Relations Committee, the MUHC's associate director Pierre Major remained optimistic that a second entrance will be realized despite the reports. He said announcements are supposed to be made later this spring and nothing has been made official yet.

NDG district councillor Peter McQueen is proposing a level crossing at the train tracks so area residents can more easily access the medical facility, noting it would be used by NDG and Westmount pedestri-

ans. However, when he proposed this idea to an Agence métropolitaine de transport (AMT) representative during the meeting, the answer was not as welcoming as he might have hoped. "We don't find it safe enough for pedestrians, but we can't give a formal response on this because it is [Canadian Pacific (CP)] who manages the tracks," said the AMT's Frédéric Côté in French.



Speaking during the a March 19 meeting, MUHC's associate director Pierre Major said he remains optimistic that a second entrance will be realized despite indications that Quebec won't pony up the needed \$70 million.

When contacted the Friday before press time, CP spokesperson Ed Greenberg said no one who could answer the question was available.

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LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE
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Tenants at 250 Kensington drop temperature complaint at Régie

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A group of tenants at a Kensington Ave. apartment building who complained about what they contend was inadequate heating during a cold snap in January report a significant improvement in their situation.

Forty-four tenants at 250 Kensington had filed a complaint with the Régie du Logement, the provincial agency which oversees tenant and landlord rights. They recently dropped the case and consider the matter with their landlord closed.

“There’s been a big improvement,” said one of the tenants, who was interviewed by the *Independent* but did not want to be identified. “Everyone is now satisfied with the heating.”

He said the temperature in the apartments during the winter should normally range from 20 to 23°C degrees, but had fallen during the period in question up to five degrees below that level.

A copy of a letter sent on January 28 to the landlord, Trianon Properties, and signed by the tenants stated that during the two previous weeks the temperature in

apartments at 250 Kensington was “unacceptable.”

They had said that since heating is included in their rental agreements, “we have the right to expect a minimum level of comfort and to have our complaints heard and responded to in a reasonable amount of time.”

According to tenants’ rights advocate Ted Wright, tenants have grounds to make a claim against a landlord any time the terms of their lease are not met. “Heat is one of those things that must be honoured,” he said.

Francisca Muller, an administrator with Trianon Properties, said she was pleased with the outcome, but acknowledged that the company’s communications with its tenants could do with some improvement.

“If we could better the communication between our tenants and the management or the superintendent these sorts of problems might be resolved sooner,” she said.



Tenants at 250 Kensington Ave. dropped their case at the Régie de logement after complaining the building’s heat after was set too low this past January.

Local classifieds

Driver Available

Driver available, courteous, friendly, reasonable rates. David 514-833-7588.

Found

Cell phone in Westmount Park around March 14. Call 514-486-0158.

BUILDING

PERMITS

What’s permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the February 4 meeting of city council.

457 Clarke: to rebuild the front staircase and landing, and install a new handrail;

462 Elm: to transform a duplex into a single-family dwelling;

4465 Montrose: to erect a new fence and gate in the rear yard; remove rear canopies, modify a door opening to install French-type doors, and redo front stairs and pathway to the side yard;

38 Holton: to enclose a rear porch, replace all windows, enlarge some window and door openings, install window wells at basement level and build a roof terrace on the garage;

4873 Westmount: at Marianopolis, a Category I building, to restore the front stairway;

5016-5018 Sherbrooke: at a Category I building, to combine the two front doors into one and centre the double door opening;

533 Clarke: to replace a side door;

7 Summit Circle: to create a new basement rear window and door openings.

Electronic *Independents* available

Enjoy the *Indie* at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.

Quebec classifieds

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Lively young Angelo needs younger home



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

This is a touching story with a unique outcome: saving a kitten. Mr. Lambert had noticed a large male stray cat in his backyard and had been offering him food on a regular basis. The cat was very friendly and became a regular at the back door. One day, he arrived with a tiny gold-coloured kitten in tow, so small and so injured that it became evident he was being presented to Mr. Lambert for help.

The kitten was taken in. It was heartbreaking to

find out immediately that there was something terribly wrong with one of his eyes.

Mr. Lambert brought the kitten to the veterinarian and it was found that his eye injury was so severe and infected that there were few options. He lost the eye but healed well and socialized beautifully. Mr. Lambert then ensured that he receive all his inoculations and was neutered, which made him ready for a healthy housecat life.

Mr. Lambert knew that the kitten could not go outdoors again so he kept him indoors with his other elderly cat. It was time to give him a name and he became Angelo, the angel kitten.

He has grown now, and it has become evident that the difference in age between



Angelo

young Angelo and the senior cat is very difficult to manage: the older cat is much slower and can't keep up with the younger one. So Angelo would be best in a new family where he can be his kitten-ish self, playing and running about.

If you would like more information on him, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Lambert at 514.942.1901 or email at lambert2397@yahoo.ca.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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Turn-around, cont'd. from p. 5

man, who outlined the church's needs to the *Independent*.

Only 'accessible' access

According to Hagerman, the front entrance on de Maisonneuve is the only one of the building's four entrances that is accessible to people with mobility difficulties or deliverers of large items.

It is therefore critical to those using or renting the large assembly hall, especially to the 600 members of the Contactivity seniors' centre, which runs programs five days a week used by up to 100 members a day.

The centre uses 55-seat Voyageur buses for program excursions. There are large trucks making deliveries as well as adapted transport buses whose pick-up times can take up to half an hour of wait time at the door. It's not possible for these to use or turn in the small parking lot behind the church or have passengers board and disembark from the loading zone on Lansdowne, Hagerman said.

In addition, the church hall is used by many other groups and events, such as the Westmount Youth Orchestra for practice sessions, and for elections, flu shot clinics, wedding and funerals.

While artistic renditions of the area have shown only the bike path running past the church without any turn-around, Mayor Peter Trent insists this is because no plan for reconfiguration of the area has yet been developed.

"There will be a way to turn around in front of the church," he said. "These are only artistic renderings. Nothing has been decided."

"Of course there should be proper access to the front door," said Councillor Patrick Martin. "It's only common sense."

Meanwhile, Hagerman said she was confused by what seemed to be an architectural drawing she had seen displayed at Victoria Hall sometime in mid-January. This, she recalled, showed the former turn-around. She believed an architectural drawing had been superimposed on the former configuration.

Right from the unveiling of the Pomerleau plan, graphics generally portrayed the area without any turnaround (see image same page). Many carried an inscription saying: "This is an artistic rendition and subject to change."

Hagerman suggested that even though

the area has been narrowed, a "half-moon" turn-around might work if the traffic light and lamppost were moved at the corner of Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve.

Turning around the church through the 13-car parking lot off Lansdowne was not possible for busses, she pointed out. It is also used by staff and for drop-off and pick-up from Rainbow pre-school located at the church.

Nor did she think that if used for cars to turn around the church, "residents would be happy with that," noting they would



This latest rendition, seen here in front of the arena construction site, with flagmen Chantal Foucreault and Réal Cousineau looking on March 22, shows two cars (circled) westbound in front of the church. This image was also on display at Victoria Hall over the last few weeks.

have to use a small portion of the paved path to the east of the church through the park.

"Absolutely not," declared Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Urban Planning, in reacting to such a suggestion previously. "I'm strongly opposed to that."



The first bird's eye view drawing was unveiled February 6, 2012 at city hall by Mayor Peter Trent and was contained in his February 27, 2012 letter sent to Westmount addresses.

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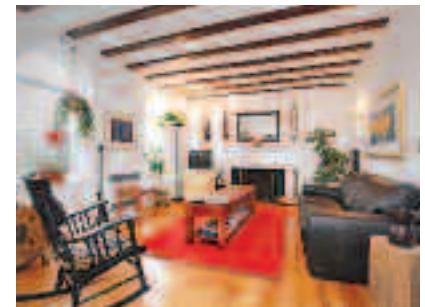
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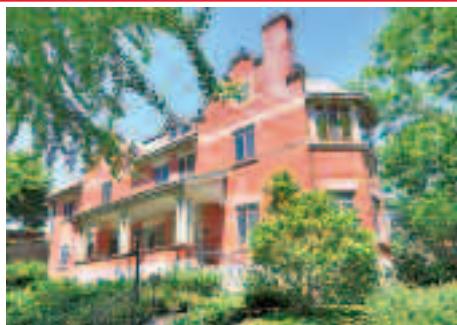


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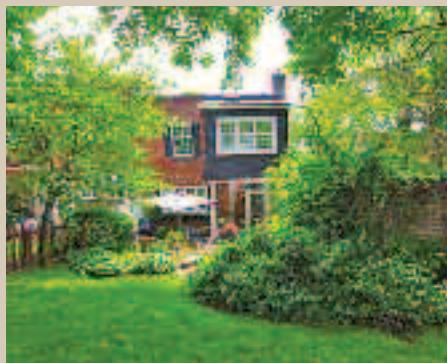


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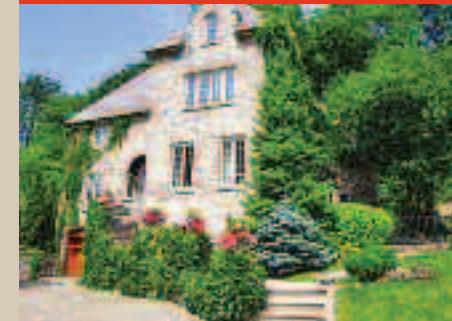
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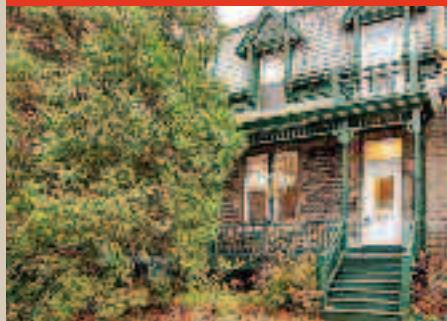


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