

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 10 No. 11b

We are Westmount

November 15, 2016

Fire starts at Lavanderia restaurant on Victoria Ave.

A five-alarm fire started November 13 at around 6 pm in the kitchen of Lavanderia restaurant on Victoria Ave. and travelled up a flue to the roof, according to a media liaison with the fire brigade, Michael Farmer. No injuries were reported. Although the building, which also houses Park Restaurant, is made of concrete, the roof is reportedly a wooden frame structure, and firefighters were concerned that fire could travel through the roof so they were having to cut holes to check for flames. Over 100 firefighters were called to the scene, according to a witness. See more coverage, including the situation the next morning, p. 12.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 21

'State of the Union' address looks back, ahead

Taxes forecast to rise less than inflation for local services

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Without divulging specific numbers for the approaching 2017 operating budget, Mayor Peter Trent said November 7 that city council was "hopeful" it could limit tax increases for local services to below the rate of inflation.

This excludes increases in capital works investment and any that Westmount might

be assessed for its share of island-wide services by the agglomeration or regional costs from the Montreal Metropolitan Community.

Trent presented the anticipated outlook during his annual 'State of the Union' address on the financial position of the city. This is the first formal step in the presentation of the 2017 budget, scheduled for De-

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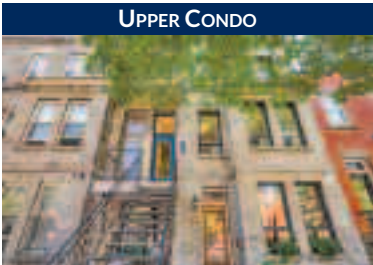
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MTQ outlines years ahead

Residents express noise, traffic concerns as demolition of the 720 autoroute gets under way

By ISAAC OLSON

Westmount residents came out in droves November 9, filling city hall's less-than-ample seating area to hear Quebec officials outline the coming two years of Turcot interchange work. This includes the demolition of the Ville Marie expressway (A-720) and construction of Route 136, which will replace it. It is situated near Westmount's southern border with Montreal.

While the French-language presentation took about 25 minutes, residents lined up at the microphone to express concerns and ask for clarification in a question period that lasted about an hour and a half. The chief concerns expressed were about noise and traffic.

When it comes to noise, it's not just the current construction project bothering highway neighbours, but the lack of plans for a sound-suppressing wall along the future Route 136. For more than two

decades, residents have been fighting for a sound barrier, but it is clearly not in the plans yet, though that may change as the city continues to negotiate with the province.

Instead, officials showed diagrams of predicted noise reduction as the new highway will be slightly lower on the hill – further south than the current 720. It is expected that traffic noise will hover in the 50 to 54 decibel range, reverberating as far north as St. Catherine St., Lansdowne to the west and Stayner Park to the east.

"All noise levels will decrease," said Sandra Sultana, representing the ministry of Transport (MTQ). Residents to the west of streets like Metcalfe Ave. and Hillside Lane will see a greater reduction than those to the east, she noted. "You decrease at least 5 to 10 decibels."

When hit with complaints about the current noise, as workers are on site from 6 am to 11 pm on the weekends and 6 am to 7 pm during the week, David Maréchal said there have been and will continue to be considerable efforts made to dampen noise. He is the director of environment with KPH-Turcot, the consortium contracted to rebuild the road network, which spans from Ville St. Pierre to Greene Ave.

Drivers of trucks who slam their doors or violate other noise protocols, for example, are fired on the spot, he said. He admitted it is not a perfect system as there will still be occasional violations, but, he added, crews are under heavy-handed watch to assure compliance. The reversing beeps are shut off and temporary sound screens will be erected where possible. Extenuating circumstances may lead to hours past 11 pm on weekends.

Brief outline of work planned

As announced last month, routes 20 and 720 east will, over time, be redirected to the new Route 136 instead of the Ville Marie expressway eastbound. This roadway will be reduced to one lane from the interchange to exit number three (Guy St.).

This is so Route 720 (Ville Marie) can be demolished and replaced with Route 136 in the coming two years. Exit number two, located at Atwater Ave., will be closed until mid-November, and the ministry again warned that side streets, such as Greene Ave. and Glen Rd. will face closures through-

continued on p. 9



Bruce Ave. resident Bronwen Mantel speaks at the Turcot meeting



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2016 revenues, spending could top \$103M

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cont'd. from p. 1
cember 12.
The State of the Union address followed immediately after council's adoption of the 2017 capital works budget for \$16 million plus another \$1 million earmarked for the

start of restoration of the greenhouses (see story November 8, p. 1).
In the address, which provides an overview of three years (2015-2017), Trent summarized the city's audited financial results from 2015, showing a surplus that year of \$2.6 million.
While the operating budget for 2016 was

adopted at \$101.5 million, he explained, the city projects revenues and expenditures, including appropriations from surplus, to total some \$103.8 million.
The city expects to finance its capital investments through the operating budget (pay-as-you-go) "and use the accumulated surplus to pay off its debt instead of refi-

nancing it."
He cautioned, however, that results could change depending on "significant unforeseen events, such as a higher than average snowfall, water main breaks or flooding."
The city's outstanding debt is projected at December 31 at some \$35.7 million. Of this, \$9.2 million is to be paid over the long term by the Quebec government for its share of the infrastructure grant to the Westmount recreation centre, he reported.
Reporting as required on the remuneration of council members, Trent said that for 2016, the mayor receives an annual remuneration from the city of \$43,934 plus an expense account of \$16,216 and \$11,120 from the agglomeration council, as well as \$10,110 from the Montreal Metropolitan Community.
He also receives \$556 per attendance at meetings of the aggro's Finance and Administration Committee up to a maximum of \$11,120. Trent resigned from this committee September 29 as vice chair (see story October 4, p. 3).
Councillors were to receive \$14,645 from the city plus \$7,322.50 as an expense allowance.



Left: Councillor Victor Drury delivers the capital works budget; right: Mayor Peter Trent gives the State of Union address, November 7.

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Introduces Dubuc to head Station 12

Bastien 'privileged' to have served as police chief in Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Saying good-bye to Westmount at the city council meeting November 7 was a “bittersweet” moment for outgoing police commander Mathieu Bastien.

After heading local Station 12 for the last two and a half years, he told the *Independent* he was “privileged and honoured to have worked in Westmount, where collaboration with the city and community was exceptional.”

“I was really touched,” he said by comments of appreciation that had been made by Mayor Peter Trent at the meeting. “I’m leaving so much behind, but the challenge ahead of me is so good. And I love a challenge.”

Bastien assumed a new position two weeks ago as head of the SPVM squad dedicated to anti-terrorism and emergency

response.

He introduced his successor, Commander Martine Dubuc, who comes from Station 20 on St. Catherine at Bishop, where she was a sergeant at one of Montreal’s busiest stations.

Bastien, who transferred to Westmount after serving in Pointe Claire, had once been temporarily assigned for emergency preparedness to the squad he now heads but at “a lower level,” he pointed out. Some of the same members of the team are still there, he said.

His return now “is a big mark of confidence in my judgment that I was selected to be their boss,” he added.

Learning experiences

Directing Station 12 as his first station command, was “a learning experience” in interacting between the two different po-

litical “realities” of Westmount and Montreal, he explained.

The local precinct includes a portion of the Ville Marie borough, west of Guy and north up Côte des Neiges. On the other, he discovered, the reality is that there is no wall between the cities, “which was a big part of the experience.”

He noted as an example how issues associated with people hanging out in Cabot Square in Montreal and spilling over into southeastern Westmount and Stayner Park merged the two districts into one regarding the overriding issue of homelessness.

In Westmount, he said, he had felt part of the community not only dealing with the complaints and concerns of residents but also as part of the city hall team, “the same as being the police chief of Westmount.” Working with the council and director general Mike Deegan had been part of the positive experience.

Deegan told the *Independent* that in ad-

dition to the city’s close working relationship with Bastien, it was also “great to have had a police chief with a law degree to help us out in some incidents we ran into.”

Bastien had set out to become a lawyer but part way through his studies at the University of Montreal decided to switch into law enforcement through police technology at John Abbott College before later completing his degree. (See story August 26, p. 10.)

Blowing leaves onto bike path a no-no

A contractor was caught November 7 blowing leaves onto the bike path from 4822 de Maisonneuve near Grosvenor, Public Security officials said. Witnessed by patrollers at 2:17 pm, the gardeners explained they were planning to remove the leaves once they were off the property. They were told the city nevertheless had zero tolerance for putting them on the bike path. The contractor was found to have prior offences and received a ticket for \$441. This involved a fine for \$300 along with a court administration fee of \$141.

Westmounter driven home for his own safety

A patroller on The Boulevard spotted a man staggering on and off the sidewalk near Clarke November 3 at 12:29 am, Public Security officials said. Stopping to speak with the man who appeared inebriated and had trouble standing, the officer described him as saying he had been at a club and was trying to make it home to Roslyn. For his own safety, the 22-year-old man was driven the rest of the way.



Commander Mathieu Bastien introduces Martine Dubuc at the council meeting November 7.

Left without electricity

A number of residents were left without power November 10 that lasted many hours. The area struck was reported by city officials as the sector between de Maisonneuve, Clarke, Redfern and St. Catherine. Several large apartment and commercial buildings were affected.

City director general Mike Deegan said that a serious problem occurred in the electrical room of the apartment building at 250 Clarke Ave. during a transfer of power in that building that led to a short circuit in the Hydro Westmount network. “Power was out for 17 hours in the area around this building.”

He said the city was seeking additional information.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HELP WITH CLEAN-UP
WOULD BE NICE

I would like to add my unhappy experience concerning some recent work, poorly carried out, by contractors repairing side-walks, water works, asphalt and lighting on Prince Albert Ave.

In my case, although I am happy with my new driveway entrance, the lamp posts and the new asphalt, the damage caused to my tiny front yard is an ugly nuisance, and I am getting nowhere with the city on this, despite the sincere desire of the councillors to do something. (I have filed a claim.)

Plants were torn up, rocks and debris left lying and dreadful sand replaced the



Photographed November 6.
Photo courtesy of P. Miller

earth that had been removed.
On the weekend, I stumbled over the old water valve that had been tossed into my ground cover and left there for the plants to cover. I am enclosing a photo. All I need is a few bags of good topsoil and someone to remove the heavy gravel, clay..and the valve.
PAMELA MILLER, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

DON'T CHASE PEOPLE AWAY

I sincerely hope that no one is chasing those who come to Westmount for help and position themselves on Sherbrooke St. I am personally acquainted with many of these persons, and it is my privilege to provide them with whatever help I can.
Most of us in Westmount are privileged and it would seem to me that it is our privilege to be there for the less fortunate. A few words, a sharing of names, goes a long way in breaking people's isolation. When we do this, two worlds are transformed – theirs and ours.
I can assure you that these people are of no threat to anyone. In one case the man stationed outside the Royal Bank alerted the police to a bank robbery.
I am not alone in wishing these people well. I see many who stop and chat and

provide help. Some of us become fond of them and miss seeing them when we shop.
Let us be a privileged, caring community.
LOY DENIS, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

HOW TO PREVENT DOORING

On November 1, I attended the public information meeting concerning the results of the trial bicycle routes on Westmount Ave. and Côte St. Antoine Rd. The goal of the meeting was to obtain feedback from residents and to present traffic data collected during the trial period. While the organizers allotted a lot of time for the public to ask questions and make comments, I was left with the unfortunate impression that as far as they were concerned, everything was already well done, the data shows everything is perfect, and that is that!
Of particular concern to various citizens was the safety of bicyclists on these new paths. The bicycle paths are located between the car traffic lanes and the parked cars next to the pedestrian sidewalks. This seems like the ideal way to create "door-ing."
One citizen asked if the bicycle path could not be located between the pedestrian sidewalk and the parked cars, thereby greatly reducing the risk of being doored as most cars have only the driver opening the door, which would not be on the bicycle side. This idea was pooh-poohed. The traffic expert stated he had never seen this.
Well, I have seen bicycle paths laid out in this manner, and I have seen this in Montreal at various locations (see photo.)
ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.



This photo was taken on Berri, south of René Lévesque, showing how bicycle paths were located in terms of vehicle lanes, parking and sidewalks. "No cars were parked at the time [but] one can clearly see the parking payment machine and the numbered stands," wrote Alfred Edel.
Photo courtesy of A. Edel

ANTI-BIKE PATH = NIMBY

According to Ms. Stermer [of Côte St. Antoine], west-bound bike traffic is such that she is unable to get out of her driveway due to the "thoroughfare." (See "Bike

route trial to continue next year, city tells crowded public meeting," (November 8, p. 1).
An extrapolation of the statistics presented to the meeting would indicate that during the hours complained of (4 to 6 pm), approximately 30-35 bikes would pass. If we allow, say, 10 seconds, for each to pass, then if all 35 riders pass one behind the other, the access might be blocked for a grand total of 6 minutes of the 2 hours.
As per US president Obama: "C'mon, man, c'mon man" and "Really?!"
As an avid local cyclist, I know that the option of riding on Sherbrooke is a foolish threat to one's safety due to traffic and the terrible state of the road surface. I can readily identify "NIMBY" when I see and hear it; and the raging fact-free basis for the opposition to the Côte St. Antoine path is clearly NIMBY: Not In My Back Yard, but fine with me in yours.
DAVID ENGELS, OLIVIER AVE.

MORE DEMOCRACY NEEDED

Having been a member of the task force on the proposed development of the north side of Dorchester, I feel that the exercise was not a truly democratic process. Of the 12 members, only five of us lived within the area in question and five were representatives from the city of Westmount.
At the third meeting, we were presented with three mock-ups and were asked to choose the one we preferred. Myself, I was unhappy with all three visions presented. I voiced my dislike of them but was asked to choose the one that was the least offensive to me. Feeling pressure, I chose.
From the very beginning it was clear that green space was a priority for residents, however none of the options presented had truly incorporated such a request.
I believe that the city should establish a more democratic and transparent consultation, which would include a realistic sample of the residents in the area directly affected by the project.
There is a lot at stake, and it is important that the city listen to the residents in the area. They need to be heard and have their voice reflected in the development.
KATHLEEN KEZ, DORCHESTER BLVD.

RESIDENTS HAVE SPOKEN

I am adding my voice to those who have written regarding the development of Dorchester Blvd. (November 1, p. 10. and November 8, p. 10).
The residents have spoken and continue to say: Let's add green

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We are Westmount.

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space instead of tall buildings, keep the median with its mature trees and add a pedestrian crossing light on the corner of Clandeboye.

All of these are simple ways to improve the neighbourhood and make it more accessible for young and old, including those who still experience it on foot.

SUSIE BREIER, CLANDEBOYE AVE.

BIKE PATH A MISTAKE

The comments of Jonathan Auger and Patrick Raggio on the bike routes on Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave. lack serious credibility. ("Bike route trial to continue next year, city tells crowded public meeting," November 8, p. 1.)

They seem to justify these routes on the basis that car speeding has been substantially reduced. Surely better police enforcement should be sufficient for this purpose. Instead we have confusing one-way east and west lanes with many cyclists going the wrong way and yet another prolonged survey. All this to the detriment of residents, who are dangerously hindered when accessing and egressing their garages. Let's realize a mistake when it becomes obvious and remedy it as soon as possible.

TIM CARSLY, BARAT RD.

New rules adopted for use of Summit Woods by dogs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

New conditions for the use of Summit Woods by dogs were adopted in a by-law amendment at the city council meeting November 7. More changes also can be expected, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said.

The current revisions focus mainly on extending off-leash times in the Woods, but the amendment also clarifies licence requirements. These specify that all dogs taken into the Woods must have licences from Westmount, including non-residents, who also require one from the municipality in which they live. This previously has been an area of some confusion.

The amendment also provides for the licensing of dogs on the new Emili.net online program launched November 1 and a contract for dog owners to sign stating they understand the conditions for dog use of Summit Woods (see story October 4, p. 1).

Among the conditions in the contract is that all dogs being walked during off-leash periods in the Woods must be supervised at all times by their handlers, which led to

a concern raised during the question period by one dog owner.

"What does supervise mean?" asked John Fretz, of Lansdowne, who is also a member of the Summit Woods Advisory Committee.

"It's not strong enough," he said, suggesting that handlers be required to keep their dogs on the trails to prevent trampling vegetation.

"I agree with you," Lulham replied. "We will be passing the by-law [as is] tonight but revisiting it."

Under the new extended hours, dogs are now allowed off-leash during the summer period (June 16 to October 31) between 5 am and 10 am and again from 5 pm to the start of the onset of the midnight park curfew. This provides one hour longer off-leash time in the morning and one hour more in the late afternoon.

As well, the winter off-leash period will kick in a month sooner starting November 1 rather than December 1 and last until the spring bird migration period that starts April 15 when dogs must be leashed at all times through June 15.

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Another look at Turcot construction, 7 months later on Nov. 2

PHOTOS BY MARTIN C. BARRY



Looking west towards Glen Rd. at the northern end of the Home Depot parking lot November 2 is the area underneath the Ville Marie expressway, where now a wall is seen being built. Inset: the same location April 6, when excavation was taking place.



A glance at these two shots of St. Jacques St. just west of Glen Rd. (main photo was taken November 2, and inset April 6) reveals that, apart from the removal of heavy equipment, the eastbound elevated overpass (in the foreground), previously made of concrete, has been replaced with a framework of massive steel beams.



Another angle of the Turcot interchange/Ville Marie expressway from the Home Depot parking lot, November 2, as compared with its stage in construction April 6 (inset).



Greene Ave. between Dorchester Blvd. and St. Antoine St. was closed for the Turcot project work November 2. This shot was taken looking up Greene from St. Antoine. Inset: Seen looking eastward on April 6 from the edge of Greene Ave. just north of St. Antoine St. and Westmount's Selby Park, Ville Marie expressway reconstruction workers were in the process of creating what appeared to be an entranceway for trucks.

Council chambers packed for Turcot meeting

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cont'd. from p. 3

out the demolition process due to safety concerns.

MTQ spokesperson Sylvie Gervais noted that these side-street closures will not happen simultaneously to ensure that drivers have at least one route to take to the south-west borough.

Traffic looking to merge onto the 720



Peter Krantz of St. Antoine St. makes his concerns known.

via the Decarie expressway (15 south), until 2019, will have two out of four lanes open as it merges into Route 20's east-bound traffic.

Meanwhile, Maréchal explained, the demolition of 720 eastbound will slowly take place over the coming two years, with much of the work happening over 12 to 15 weekends. The roadway over Home Depot's parking lot, for example, will be carefully dismantled and extracted as crews work to remove three-kilometres of infrastructure that includes 50,000 cubic metres of concrete and 71 spans. Starting in January 2017, this dismantling work is taking place in a tight space, crammed between moving traffic, train tracks and plenty of buildings, be they homes or businesses.

Route 136 is being constructed underneath the existing 720, and it will be used as a platform to dismantle the eastbound lane. Throughout this project, drivers headed to downtown Montreal can expect plenty of road closures, lane consolidation and, above all, detours.

However, said Gervais, work has been done on two arterial streets in Montreal to

improve the flow of traffic. Traffic lights have been recalibrated, intersections re-configured, mobile electronic signage added and more along Notre Dame St. and St. Patrick St. The effort to mitigate traffic, she noted, includes a boost to public transit.

A complete outline of the work, detours and efforts to reduce noise and dust can be easily accessed in French on the Turcot website. The English section of the site remains much less informative. Officials said slides from the meeting will be added to the site shortly.

Sound wall still not in the plans

Bronwen Mantel, a Bruce Ave. resident, and St. Antoine St. resident Peter Krantz were among those expressing concern about the noise emanating from the current construction site and the noise they expect to come once the new highway opens.

"We put together a very big report that was very comprehensive and, when we took the decibel levels, they were up to 98. That was in 1998," said Mantel. "This mayor is in his [fifth non-consecutive]

term in office... He seems impotent and so do the members of his cabinet to do anything for the citizens of this city – to help us in any way against the level of noise that is just very, very unhealthy to say the least."

She asked if a sound barrier would be erected with the new highway as District 8 will continue to be impacted by the noise. Councillor of that district, Theodora Samiotis, said that despite the highway configuration *continued on p. 15*



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Testing rates 34% of city road conditions as ‘poor or very poor’

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Preliminary results from the technical testing two months ago of road pavement quality in Westmount by an engineering firm indicated that 34 percent was in “poor” or “very poor” condition, Councilor Patrick Martin told the city council meeting November 7.

This was among the factors that helped confirm the need for increased infrastructure investment in the capital works budget adopted at the meeting for 2017 which, Mayor Peter Trent said, had been “egged on” by Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works.

Trent said the city would continue for at least the next five years to double the amount it would spend on the road and water networks to “catch up” for their deterioration (see story November 8, p. 1).

“I’m very happy with this,” Martin added. “It’s something I have been asking for for several years,” along with an asset management strategy.

The results of road-quality testing in September by Qualitas, an arm of SNC Lavalin, compares with a similar survey conducted in Montreal, in which 46 percent was found to be in “poor shape,” Martin explained.

Westmount’s plan for bringing its infrastructure up to the desired level within a period of 20 years would prevent working on too many streets at the same time. This was “more realistic” logistically than Montreal’s 10-year goal, he said.

While the city has not yet received a final report and analysis of each street’s rating in the city’s 51-kilometre network, Martin later told the *Independent* the city’s Public Works department had used preliminary ratings from Qualitas to reach its own overall interim analysis.

Rating summaries

This lists 15 percent of pavement condition as “very good” followed by 24 percent as “good,” 27 percent as “fair,” 31 percent as “poor” and 3 percent as “very poor” (see

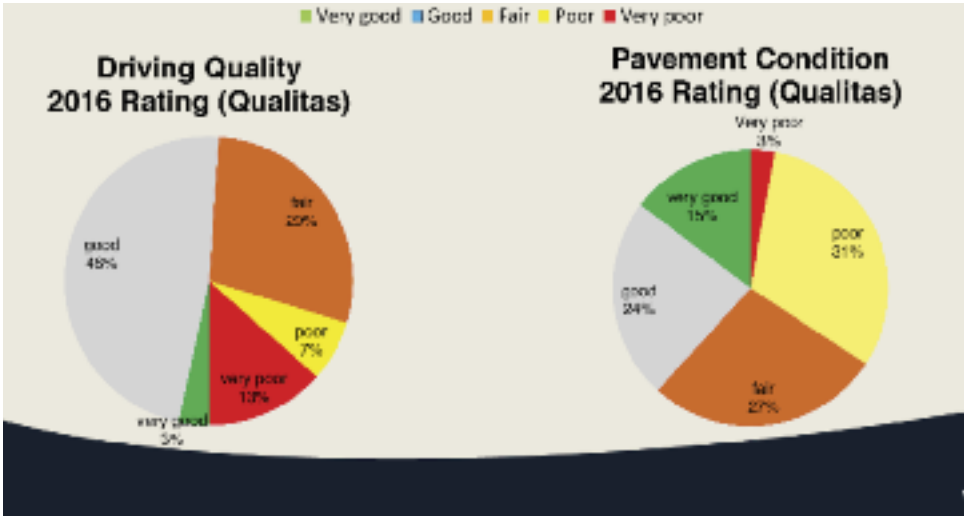
pie chart).

On the other hand, drivability was listed as 3 percent “very good,” 48 percent “good,” 29 percent fair,” 7 percent “poor” and 13 percent “very poor.”

As a result, the city has proposed spending a total of \$62.9 million over 20 years for reconstruction of roads – which includes sidewalks and street lights – and another \$28.8 million over 25 years for asphalt

resurfacing, which includes partial reconstruction of sidewalks.

This goes hand in hand with water main and sewer work since much of this is typically done as part of, and prior to, road reconstruction. These are budgeted at \$57 million for water mains over 20 years and \$18 million for sewers over 30. Both are eligible for government subsidies.



Source: City of Westmount

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City clears up misunderstanding after council meeting

PSOs forsake 'camo' pants for cenotaph service

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Contrary to what had been suggested at the city council meeting November 7, Westmount's public safety officers working at the cenotaph service the previous day were dressed in full uniform, city officials confirmed.

The team of eight officers had forsaken their camouflage pants "out of respect for the occasion," Public Security director Greg McBain later told the *Independent*. "All my staff were in full dress uniform. SPVM (police) were all wearing camo."

The camouflage pants have been worn by both forces for more than two years as a sign of protest over the Quebec government's pension reform law (see story August 5, 2014, p. 17). The Westmount officers had also adopted them as a sign of solidarity with police with whom they work closely, said city director general Mike Deegan.

Deegan also said he had received confirmation of the full-dress attire along with photos from McBain in an email immedi-

ately after the council meeting.

The possible confusion at the Remembrance Day ceremony between public safety officers and police was raised at the council meeting by Claremont Ave. resident Kirk Polymenakos, who was critical of the camouflage pants. He suggested that Public Security, as a Westmount municipal force, should be required by by-law to wear their correct uniform on a regular basis.

"I agree with you," Mayor Peter Trent said, adding he had been against Public Security wearing camo pants from the start but hadn't noticed what had been worn during the ceremony. He later told the *Independent* he was "very relieved to learn our officers were in full uniform." He said he had made it known two years ago that he expected the next labour contract with Public Security personnel to specify they must wear "the uniform that is supplied."

"I feel very strongly about it," he explained. "It's a much larger issue." The reason Westmount had demerged from Montreal, was to be independent, he said. "Let's be the best."

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Vue aérienne du Sanctuaire de l'Oratoire-Saint-Joseph-du-Mont-Royal © Air Imex 1ère, Ville de Montréal, 2006

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More on fire: Nov. 13, 14



Firetrucks are seen above on Victoria at around 9 am on November 14, the day after the initial incident. They had come back around 8:30 am and were still there at 11:45 am (press time). Owner of Park Restaurant and Lavenaderia and chef Antonio Park tweeted around 10 pm “Montreal’s finest firefighters, policemen and Westmount security came to save our beloved restaurants, Thank you!” and shortly after “Wanted to thank everyone who has expressed concern for our safety, we are all fine & hope to be up & running again soon.”

Photo: Westmount Independent



Flames were witnessed at 7:56 pm November 13 on the roof of the building on Victoria Ave. See p. 1.
Photo: Patrick Martin

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St. George's Bantam soccer champs



St. George's Bantam girls soccer team defeated LCC 1-0 at King George (Murray) Park, October 27 in the Montreal Independent Schools' soccer league. The team had an undefeated season with a record of 8-0. From left, top row: Montse Villalpando, Zoey Adourian, Mariana Restrepo Echeverria, Adriana Jones, Amélie-Catherine Boucher, coach Rohan Pirali and Julieta Lozano-Ramsay; middle row: Cecil Carty, Shirley Barnea, Sierra Bushey, Claudia Lighter and Gabriella Perez; bottom row: Angela Mastromonaco and Nicola Woloz.

Photo courtesy of St. George's





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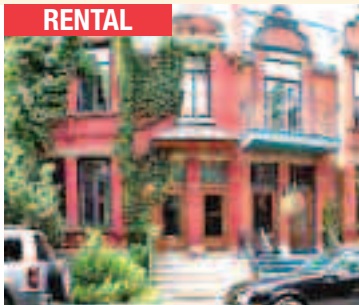


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Obtenez votre permis de chien en ligne

Un nouveau système de permis de chiens est en vigueur, permettant l'acquisition et le renouvellement faciles de permis via le site Internet à westmount.org. De plus, vous recevrez désormais un médaillon permanent pour votre chien. Vous pouvez également obtenir le permis en personne au Bureau des permis au 21, rue Stanton, 2^e étage, de 8 h 30 à 13 h et de 14 h à 16 h 30, du lundi au vendredi.

Collecte d'aliments à Westmount

Jusqu'au 16 décembre. Soutenez la campagne annuelle de la Sécurité publique en déposant des denrées non périssables dans les bacs prévus à cette fin dans les édifices municipaux. Info : 514 989-5468.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Le mercredi 16 novembre, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque. Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount compose des poèmes à partir de thèmes proposés par les membres. Bienvenue à tous. Info : 514 989-5299.

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Le mercredi 16 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Joignez-vous au groupe de lecture et plongez tête première dans une discussion passionnée sur l'œuvre magistrale de James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*. Apportez votre exemplaire du livre. Info : 514 989-5299.

Ciné-club

Le vendredi 18 novembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. *Elvis & Nixon*. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

Vente de livres des Amis de la Bibliothèque

Les samedi et dimanche 19 et 20 novembre, 10 h à 17 h, Victoria Hall. Des livres pour tous les goûts, à très bons prix. Tous les fonds recueillis seront consacrés à l'achat des nouveaux documents pour la Bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5299.

Exposition - Le monde d'Harry Potter : Renaissance, science, magie et médecine

Du 21 novembre au 7 janvier, Bibliothèque. Une exposition itinérante de la *National Library of Medicine*. La magie dans les histoires fantaisistes d'Harry Potter est en partie basée sur les traditions de la Renaissance qui ont joué un rôle important dans le développement de la science occidentale, y compris l'alchimie, l'astrologie et la philosophie naturelle. Info : 514 989-5229.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 22 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Let the Great World Spin* par Colum McCann. Animé par Claire Holden Rothman. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en français

Le lundi 28 novembre, 13 h, Bibliothèque. *Sylvain Tesson*. Animé par Gisèle Magny. Info : 514 989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 5 décembre

Le monde d'Harry Potter : événement après la fermeture de la bibliothèque

Le samedi 17 décembre, 19 h à 21 h, Bibliothèque. Réservé aux amateurs d'Harry Potter! Viens te joindre à nous après la fermeture de la Bibliothèque pour une soirée remplie de sorts, de potions et d'activités artistiques! Info : 514 989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

Du 17 novembre au 10 décembre. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter l'exposition de groupe mettant en vedette les artistes suivants : Philippe Laporta, Ann Pearson, Sylvia Rourke et Alain Roy. Venez rencontrer les artistes et la conservatrice Victoria LeBlanc **le jeudi 24 novembre à 19 h.** Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. Info : 514 989-5521.

Square Prince-Albert : Fêtes en folie

Le 24 novembre à 18 h. Illumination du sapin au Square Prince-Albert avec choristes, chocolat chaud et encore plus. Les commerces locaux seront ouverts jusqu'à 19 h. Profitez des soldes, des aubaines et des activités. En collaboration avec l'Association des marchands du Village Victoria. Info : 514 989-5226.

Soirée de danse

Le samedi 26 novembre, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Soirée mettant en vedette les chorégraphes et les danseurs des cours de danse de Westmount. Au programme : ballet, breakdance, jazz, danse moderne et danse du ventre. Info : 514 989-5393.



Film : *The Human Scale*

Le samedi 26 novembre, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. S'inspirant des travaux de l'architecte et urbaniste danois Jan Gehl, ce documentaire du réalisateur Andreas M. Dalsgaard défend le concept de design urbain axé sur l'humain. Présenté par le Projet ville en santé et la Bibliothèque. Gratuit.

Montreal West-End Operatic Society

Le mercredi 30 novembre, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Concert de saison. Billets disponibles au mwos.org. Info : 514 990-8813.

Illumination de l'arbre de Noël

Le jeudi 1 décembre, de 18 h 30 à 20 h. Joignez-vous aux élus municipaux devant l'Hôtel de Ville pour cette célébration. Info : 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Dog permits now available online

Westmount has adopted a new dog permit system, making it easier than ever to obtain or renew a permit by visiting the City's website at westmount.org. The new permit will include a permanent medal for your dog. You may also obtain your dog permit in person at the Permits Office at 21 Stanton Street, 2nd Floor, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Holiday Food Drive in Westmount

Until December 16. Support Public Security's annual food drive with a donation of non-perishable food items; bins are located in municipal buildings. Info: 514 989-5468.

LIBRARY

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

Wednesday, November 16, 10:15 a.m., Library. The Westmount Poetry Group meets to compose poetry together, working with themes proposed by members. Welcome to all. Info: 514 989-5299.

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Wednesday, November 16, 7 p.m., Library. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. Info: 514 989-5299.

Film Club

Friday, November 18, 2 p.m., Library. *Elvis & Nixon* (2016). Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5299.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Victoria Hall. Books for everyone at very low prices. Proceeds go towards purchasing new materials for the Library. Info: 514 989-5299.

Exhibition: *Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine*

November 21 to January 7, Library. A traveling exhibition from the National Library of Medicine. The magic in the fantasy stories of the Harry Potter books is based partly on Renaissance traditions that played an important role in the development of Western science, including alchemy, astrology, and natural philosophy. Info: 514 989-5229.

English Book Club

Tuesday, November 22, 7 p.m., Library. Colum McCann's *Let the Great World Spin*. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. Info: 514 989-5299.

French Book Club

Monday, November 28, 1 p.m., Library. *Sylvain Tesson*. Led by Gisèle Magny. Info: 514 989-5299.

Harry Potter's World: After Hours Event

Saturday, December 17, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Library. For Harry Potter fans! Join us after hours for a fun-

Next Council Meeting

Monday, December 5th

filled night of spells, potions and artful activities!
Info: 514 989-5299.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

November 17 to December 10. The Gallery is pleased to present a group exhibition featuring artists Philippe Laporta, Ann Pearson, Sylvia Rourke and Alain Roy. Meet the artists and Gallery Curator Victoria LeBlanc on **Thursday, November 24 at 7 p.m.** Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 514 989-5521.



Prince Albert Square Tree Lighting

Thursday, November 24, 6 p.m. Tree lighting at Prince Albert Square with carolers, hot chocolate and more. Stores open until 7 p.m. with special offers and treats. In collaboration with the Victoria Village Merchants Association. Info: 514 989-5226.

Soirée de danse

Saturday, November 26, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Sheila Lawrence presents choreographers and dancers from Westmount recreational programs in this evening of ballet, breakdance, jazz, modern and belly dancing. Info: 514 989-5393.

Film : *The Human Scale*

Tuesday, November 29, 7 p.m., Library. Taking as its model the work of Danish architect Jan Gehl, Andreas M. Dalsgaard's documentary *The Human Scale* makes an excellent case for designing cities around people instead of automobiles. Presented by the Healthy City project and the Library. Free.

Montreal West-End Operatic Society

Wednesday, November 30, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Seasonal concert. Tickets available at mwos.org. Info: 514 990-8813.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Thursday, December 1, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Join City Council members for this holiday celebration at City Hall. Info: 514 989-5226.



Road dug up as Summit Circle work continues



The western end of the closed-off portion of Summit Circle on October 27. Inset: The same view was taken September 9.

Photos: Westmount Independent



The eastern end of the closed-off portion of Summit Circle on October 27. Inset: The same view September 9.

Turcot cont'd. from p. 9

changes and expected reduction in noise, certain sections of Westmount will still qualify for a sound barrier and the city has been negotiating for that for quite some time.

“We have been told that it is feasible,” said Samiotis, noting it was discovered to be not possible to build a wall between

homes and the railway. (See story May 31, p. 1.) Instead, city officials are now requesting a sound wall be built on Route 136. “Unfortunately, because the KPH contract has been closed, we are now in a position where we have to add it to what is already there, which is a very difficult task, but we remain positive.”

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

The Shaar Hashomayim Sisterhood's art exhibit and gift fair by local artists, 1 to 4 pm and 7 to 9 pm. Proceeds to go to Meals-on-Wheels. Free admission. Refreshments.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Westmount Historical Association's monthly meeting “From Road to Path: the Greening of Summit Circle,” presented by Cynthia Lulham and Nicolas Mory at the Westmount Public Library. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Cost: \$5 for non members.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Centre Greene's “Treats and Treasures” bazaar and craft sale, 10 am to 4 pm. Light lunch. Admission is free; proceeds to go to community programs. 1090 Greene Ave.

Fundraiser for Westmount Park United Church: Antique/vintage show and sale, 9 am to 4 pm. 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Admission: \$10; seniors: \$8. Info:

450.458.7347.

UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Westmounter Sam Beitel's photos of Westmount Park can be viewed at the Westmount Public Library in several display cases near the front desk.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Manoir Westmount's annual bazaar from noon to 2 pm. Items for sale will include baked goods, seasonal crafts, hand made and knitted items afghans, hats, scarves, mitts, toys, and “nearly new” items. 4646 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.937.3943.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

A presentation on the impact of a diagnosis of vision or hearing impairment for seniors, 1:30 pm at **Contactivity Centre**. Free. Registration needed for non-members. Info: 514.932.2326.

Familiar faces found in Shemie's portrait collage



Bonnie Shemie stands next to her work at The Gallery at Victoria Hall November 3.

BY HEATHER BLACK

Over 330 mini oil portraits of children and adults lined the walls of The Gallery at Victoria Hall between October 14 and November 5. Painted by Westmounter Bonnie Shemie from photographs, the portraits formed attractive blocks of rich, pattered colour.

Included within the rows of faces are international celebrities, including Jerry Seinfeld and Donald Trump, and local personalities including Westmount mayor Pe-

ter Trent and all the city councillors.

For Shemie, “the project started as an experiment.” Setting herself the task of completing two portraits a day, she accomplished her goal within 18 months. The result: self-reported improvement and, for viewers, an interesting exhibition. An illustrator and author, Shemie is known for her children's books on national architectural styles and indigenous dwellings. She is published by Tundra Books, formerly owned by the late Mayor May Cutler.

Indie's past coverage of Westmount-born

Reprinted from our May 26, 2009 issue, p. 20.

Westmount Memories

Classmate sees Leonard Cohen from a different angle

By GAVIN ROSS

Leonard Cohen and I were school chums. We went through the Westmount school system as classmates from grade 1 to grade 11.

I was on the Westmount High student council and Leonard was president of it. We were on the school's drama club executive and did a few silly things together.

"Lenny" grew up on Belmont Ave. (number 604, as I recall) and I on the next street, Lansdowne. My dog and I delivered his mother's morning paper each day and while at Westmount High, I would often walk with him on the way to school.

In grades 2 and 3 at Roslyn, we were lucky enough to have a very special teacher, Miss Janet Kingsland. She was a real sweetheart and everybody loved her. She looked pretty old to us, but she was about 21. Her fiancé was a prisoner of war

in Germany, although we didn't know that at the time. Over 50 years later, she gave me a photo of the class and there was little Leonard sitting cross-legged in the front row, on the floor beside his good friend Ivan Phillips.

I remember in 1951 when President Harry Truman fired General Douglas MacArthur, we drove around the school yard in the Morris Minor convertible of our classmate, David Hogg, with Leonard dressed as MacArthur, complete with corn-cob pipe, standing in the back yelling "I shall return. I shall return."

David is the father of Hogg Hardware's owners.

Each year our high school yearbook, Vox Ducum, published a few selected short stories. In the 1950 edition, Leonard had a story "Kill or be Killed". It was a good story as I recall and just may have been his first published article! I think he was about 15 years old.

A few years ago, McGill University honoured Leonard and his achievements by awarding him an honorary degree. I worked at McGill at the time, and was able to get Miss Kingsland and me seated at Leonard's table for the post-convocation lunch.

I brought her to the table where Leonard was chatting with his sister, Esther, and his old friend, Mort Rosengarten. He nearly flipped when I introduced him to Janet, as I called her by then, his grade 2 and 3 teacher. He spent most of the lunch talking with her and the last I saw of him he was in the half-backseat of a Mercedes convertible, dressed in a pin-



Roslyn School class in the early 1940s. From left, front row: Derek Reid, Leonard Cohen (circled), Ivan Phillips, Clifford Bowles, Billy Fell, Stuart McKinnon and Freddie Farnsworth; second row: Unknown, Elizabeth Cross, unknown, Rayetta Shacter, Carol, Selma Hershorn, July Patton and unknown; third row: Michael Savage, John Moffat, Gavin Ross (circled), Carter Powis, Norman Alexander, Bill Minguy and unknown; top row: Chuck Laidley, Bill Fuller, Barbara Robertson, unknown and unknown.

Photo courtesy of G. Ross and Jasmin Uthoff

striped suit, Order of Canada in his lapel, clutching his honorary degree with Miss Kingsland sitting proudly in the passenger seat on their way to drop her at the station. He almost looked like General MacArthur in the back of Hogg's Morris Minor!

Some years ago, I met an Irish rugby personality who remarked how impressed he was with Canadian artistic talent, especially Leonard Cohen. His daughter was a performing musician in County Clare. She adored Leonard and composed and sang his type of music.

Next day, I emailed Leonard telling him about this young lady in Ireland who admired him so much. I asked if he would he drop her a short note of encouragement. Instead, he sent her his latest book of poetry, illustrated paintings by Matisse and included a warm inscription wishing her the best. She was over the moon!

Such is Leonard Cohen – from a different angle. A thoroughly nice guy!

The late Gavin Ross (1934-2010) was a Westmounter.

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Leonard Cohen (1934-2016)

Reprinted from our May 4, 2010 issue, p. 27.

Leonard Cohen's boyhood Belmont home on the market

BY ERIN STROPES

When Montrealers watched k.d. lang sing Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" during the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Winter Olympics, some may have thought "this song was probably written right here in Montreal." When Westmounter Marcel Guay saw the performance in the upstairs den of his home at 599 Belmont, he turned to his wife Mary and said "This song could have been written right in this room."

There is certainly a lot of history in the two-story, semi-detached upper Westmount home where Cohen, an interna-

tionally renowned singer, poet and author, and one of Westmount's most famous sons, spent the first 19 years of his life – a house that is currently up for sale.

Cohen immortalized Murray Park

It was here that Cohen lived when he started his first band, the Buckskin Boys, while he was attending McGill University. In his 1963 novel *The Favourite Game*, he describes the house's view of Murray Park from "the sun room, which was no more than an enclosed balcony attached to the back of the house...they looked out of the windows at the park and the tennis players."

Although Cohen moved out in 1953, the house remained in his family until just over a decade ago. Westmount author and literary critic Terry Rigelhof, who lives just a few blocks away, recalls Cohen bringing his young children to visit his sister in the late '80s. Cohen's daughter Lorca was an avid jewelry maker. "You'd see him on many a Saturday afternoon lounging outside the Bead Emporium on Victoria while she shopped for beads."

Guay, a lifelong Westmounter and consultant to the pulp and paper industry who moved into 599 Belmont in 2005, says that while he was always aware of Cohen's work, he has only "become a fan" since moving into the house.

"We get [Cohen's] fan mail occasionally, and I'll often look outside to see people standing on the sidewalk, taking photos of the house." Guay is moving out to purchase a condo with his wife, now that their four children have all moved away.

In *The Favourite Game*, the early sections of which draw heavily from his life



From left: Owner Marcel Guay and real estate agent Brian McGuigan in front of 599 Belmont, where Leonard Cohen spent his childhood and teenage years.

in the house, Cohen says at one point that the house was "as important as a museum." According to Rigelhof, Esther Cohen, Cohen's sister, took these words to heart, maintaining Cohen's room "as a kind of shrine" until she moved out in 1997.

Joanne Poirier, Westmount's director of Urban Planning, says that the house, built in 1925 and extensively renovated since Cohen's time, isn't eligible for any specific attention as a heritage building. It is a Category II heritage home, which means it is

an interesting but not exceptional structure.

An open house on April 24 drew 30 groups – an unusually high number, according to Brian McGuigan, real estate agent with McGuigan Pepin Inc. Although some of the visitors were certainly Cohen fans, McGuigan says the majority were the young families he would expect to see looking at the four-bedroom property.

One thing is certain – whoever moves into the \$1.5-million home will be acquiring a piece of Westmount history.



The upstairs den was filled with Cohen's papers and belongings, including a guitar and original sheet music for "Suzanne" and "Hallelujah," when family friend John Baker moved into the house in 1997. Guay says Baker offered to return the materials, but Cohen told him just to toss them. Baker kept them. Through the door is the sun room where Cohen wrote some of his earliest poems.



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COMMENTAIRES DU MAIRE SUR LA SITUATION FINANCIÈRE DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT

SÉANCE DU CONSEIL DU 7 NOVEMBRE 2016

Chers conseillers, Mesdames et Messieurs, bonsoir,

À cette première étape du processus de préparation et d’adoption du budget 2017, je dois présenter aux résidents un rapport sur la situation financière de notre Ville en général.

En juillet, le conseil a établi les lignes directrices suivantes concernant le budget 2017 :

• Limiter l’augmentation des taxes reliées aux services locaux au taux d’inflation. Cette limite exclut les augmentations relatives aux investissements dans les immobilisations ainsi que toute augmentation de la quote-part de l’agglomération de Montréal ou de la Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM).

• Poursuivre les efforts en vue d’augmenter les revenus provenant d’autres sources que les impôts fonciers afin d’équilibrer le budget.

Dans mon rapport qui est déposé ce soir, mes commentaires porteront notamment sur les questions financières suivantes :

- les résultats de fin d’exercice 2015;
- les prévisions préliminaires des revenus et dépenses de la Ville pour 2016;
- l’état de la dette de la ville et les mesures mises en place pour la gérer;
- l’orientation générale du budget 2017 et des dépenses d’immobilisations pour la période de 2017 à 2019.

Résultats de fin d’exercice 2015

Le budget total de fonctionnement pour l’année 2015 était de 97,1 millions de dollars¹; un revenu total de 101,2 millions de dollars fut atteint et les dépenses de fonctionnement se sont élevées à 98,6 millions de dollars.

En 2015, l’excédent de fonctionnement de 2,6 millions de dollars est imputable à des revenus plus élevés provenant des droits de mutation et des rénovations résidentielles. Par contre, la contribution nette d’Hydro Westmount fut moins élevée que celle prévue.

Au cours de l’année 2015, les dépenses d’immobilisations se sont élevées à 9,3 millions de dollars, dont un montant de 8,3 millions de dollars a été payé par notre mode de financement « *pay-as-you-go* » (méthode de financement par répartition), et 1,0 million de dollars provenant de subventions.

Les états financiers de la Ville de Westmount pour l’exercice financier 2015 ont été audités par la firme *Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton*.

Prévisions pour 2016

Le budget de fonctionnement de la Ville en 2016 était de 101,5 millions de dollars¹. À la lumière des résultats disponibles à ce jour et des revenus et dépenses anticipés pour le reste de l’année, nous prévoyons terminer l’exercice 2016 avec des revenus et des dépenses projetés de 103,8 millions de dollars, incluant les affectations proposées de l’excédent de fonctionnement.

Voici les principaux écarts par rapport au budget :

- Les revenus de taxes provenant des ajouts au rôle et d’une augmentation des droits de mutation ont généré 2,9 millions de dollars en revenu supplémentaire;
- Ce revenu supplémentaire permettra à la Ville de poursuivre ses objectifs pour financer ses investissements en immobilisations par le mode de financement « *pay-as-you-go* » et utiliser le surplus accumulé pour rembourser sa dette au lieu de la refinancer.

Veuillez noter que ces résultats pourraient changer d’ici la fin de l’année, notamment

si des événements imprévisibles d’importance devaient survenir tels des chutes de neige abondantes, d’importants bris d’aqueduc ou des inondations.

Dette

En date du 31 décembre 2016, la dette existante de Westmount s’élèvera approximativement à 35,7 millions de dollars. De ce montant, 26,5 millions de dollars seront assumés par la Ville, et 9,2 millions de dollars par le gouvernement du Québec qui paie maintenant ses subventions sur une période de 10 à 20 ans. La portion de la dette du Centre des loisirs de Westmount s’élèvera à 10,6 millions de dollars. La Ville a l’intention d’affecter un montant suffisant du surplus accumulé pour rembourser le plein montant des dettes à l’échéance.

Budget 2017

Le budget d’immobilisations 2017 a été adopté plus tôt ce soir. Avec des dépenses totalisant 17 millions de dollars, il s’agit d’un record historique pour des investissements consacrés aux projets d’infrastructures. À l’exception d’un éventuel montant de 1 million de dollars pour la réfection des serres, tous les montants budgétés seront payés sans emprunter.

Conformément aux objectifs financiers décrits précédemment dans ce rapport, le conseil est confiant de pouvoir limiter l’augmentation des taxes municipales reliées aux services locaux, incluant les travaux d’immobilisations, en deçà du taux de l’inflation projeté. Le conseil envisage de le faire sans recourir à des emprunts.

Puisqu’environ 83 % de nos revenus proviennent de l’impôt foncier, le conseil continuera d’augmenter les revenus provenant d’autres sources, tels les droits de mutations et les tarifs de stationnement afin d’alléger le fardeau fiscal des résidents.

Rémunération des élus municipaux

La *Loi sur le traitement des élus municipaux* (RLRQ, chapitre T-11.001) prévoit que le maire d’une municipalité, dont un règlement touchant la rémunération des membres du conseil est en vigueur, doit inclure dans son rapport annuel sur la situation financière de la municipalité, une mention sur les rémunérations et les allocations de dépenses que chaque membre du conseil reçoit de la municipalité, d’un organisme mandataire de celle-ci ou d’un organisme supra municipal.

Ainsi, en 2016 le maire reçoit les rémunérations suivantes :

- une rémunération annuelle de la Ville de 43 934 \$;
- une allocation de dépenses de la Ville de 16 216 \$;
- une rémunération annuelle du conseil d’agglomération de Montréal de 11 120 \$;
- une rémunération annuelle de la Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal de 10 110 \$;
- un jeton de présence de 556 \$ (par présence) à titre de vice-président de la *Commission sur les finances et l’administration* du conseil de l’agglomération urbaine de Montréal, et ce, jusqu’à concurrence de la somme annuelle de 11 120 \$. Il ne reçoit plus aucune rémunération de cette Commission, ayant démissionné de son poste le 29 septembre de l’année en cours.

Quant aux conseillers, ils reçoivent les rémunérations suivantes en 2016:

- une rémunération annuelle de la Ville de 14 645 \$;
- une allocation de dépenses de la Ville de 7 322,50 \$.

Transactions au-delà de 25 000 \$

Comme l’exige la loi, je dépose la liste des transactions dont le montant total cumulatif dépassait 25 000 \$ entre le 1^{er} octobre 2015 et le 30 septembre 2016.

Le maire, Peter F. Trent

¹Après déduction des dépenses d’Hydro Westmount financées selon la méthode «pay-as-you-go».



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



THE MAYOR'S COMMENTS ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7th, 2016

Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening:

As the first formal step in the 2017 budget preparation and adoption process, I am required to report to residents on the general financial health of our City.

In July, Council established the following guidelines for the 2017 budget:

Limit the increase in taxation for local services to the effect of inflation. This limit excludes increases in Capital Works investment and also any increases in our apportionment from the Agglomeration Council of Montreal or from the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC); and,

Continue efforts to increase revenue from sources other than property taxes to balance the budget.

In my report that is being tabled tonight, I comment, along with other financial matters, on the following:

- The 2015 year-end results;
- The preliminary forecast of the City's 2016 revenues and expenditures;
- The state of the City's debt and the action taken to manage it;
- The overall direction of the 2017 budget, along with the capital expenditures planned for 2017 through 2019.

2015 Year-End Results

The City's 2015 total operating budget was \$97.1 million.¹ Total revenues last year reached \$101.2 million, and operational expenditures amounted to \$98.6 million.

In 2015, the \$2.6 million in operating surplus was owing to higher than budgeted revenues derived from transfer duties and residential renovations. On the other hand the Hydro Westmount net contribution was lower than anticipated.

During 2015, capital expenditures amounted to \$9.3 million, of which \$8.3 million was covered by our 'pay-as-you-go' funding and \$1.0 million by grants.

The City of Westmount's 2015 financial statements were audited by *Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton*.

2016 Forecast

The City's 2016 operating budget was \$101.5 million¹. Based on the results to date and the projected revenues and expenditures for the balance of the year, we expect to close 2016 with both revenues and expenses, including proposed surplus appropriations, projected at \$103.8 million.

Key variances from budget are highlighted below:

- Taxation revenue from additions to the roll and an increase in transfer duties generated a projected \$2.9 million of additional revenue;
- This additional revenue will allow the City to pursue its objectives to finance its Capital investments through pay-as-you-go and use the accumulated surplus to pay back its debt instead of refinancing it.

Please note that the results could change between now and year-end, especially if we experience significant unforeseen events such as a higher-than-average snowfall, major water-main breaks, or flooding.

Debt

As of December 31st, 2016, Westmount's outstanding debt will be approximately \$35.7 million. Of this amount, \$26.5 million will be assumed by the City and \$9.2

million by the Quebec Government that now pays its grants over 10 to 20 years. The Westmount Recreation Centre (WRC) portion of the \$26.5 million municipal debt will amount to \$10.6 million. The City intends to appropriate enough accumulated surplus to pay off the entire amount of debt as it comes due.

2017 Budget

The 2017 Capital Budget was adopted earlier this evening. With total spending of \$17 million, it represents a historical high for investment in regular infrastructure. With the possible exception of an amount of \$1 million for reconstructing the greenhouses, all budgeted amounts will be paid for without borrowing.

Consistent with the financial goals outlined earlier in this report, Council is hopeful it can limit the increase in taxation for local services, including Capital Works, to below the projected inflation rate. Council plans to do this without resorting to any borrowing.

As around 83% of our revenue comes from property taxes, the Council will continue to seek increased revenues from other areas such as transfer duties and parking rates in order to alleviate residents' tax burden.

Remuneration of Elected Municipal Representatives

The *Act respecting the remuneration of elected municipal officers* (CQLR, chapter T-11.001) provides that the mayor of a municipality in which a remuneration by-law is in force shall include in his annual report on the financial position of the municipality a list showing the remuneration and expense allowance each member of the council receives from the municipality, a mandatory body of the municipality or a supra-municipal body.

Thus, the Mayor receives the following remuneration in 2016:

- \$43,934 as an annual remuneration from the City;
- \$16,216 as an expense allowance from the City;
- \$11,120 as an annual remuneration from the Urban Agglomeration Council of Montreal;
- \$10,110 as an annual remuneration from the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*;
- \$556 per presence as an attendance allowance from the *Commission sur les finances et l'administration* of the Urban Agglomeration Council of Montreal, where he was the Vice-Chairman, up to an annual maximum of \$11,120. He no longer receives any remuneration from this commission, having resigned his position on September 29 of this year.

As for the councillors, they receive the following remuneration in 2016:

- \$14,645 as an annual remuneration from the City;
- \$7,322.50 as an expense allowance from the City.

Transactions Exceeding \$25,000

As required by law, I am filing the list of total cumulative transactions exceeding \$25,000 from October 1st, 2015 to September 30th, 2016.

Peter F. Trent, Mayor


¹Net of Hydro Westmount 'pay-as-you-go' expenditures

Côte Rd. dog found sitting on Roslyn


A dog was spotted running loose on Roslyn Ave. November 4 by an off-duty public safety officer on the way home, Public Security officials said. It subsequently disappeared until a citizen reported it sitting in front of a house at 416 Roslyn. Responding patrollers managed to contact the dog’s owner who was out of town. The dog, which wore both licence and identification tags, was returned to a housekeeper at its home on Côte St. Antoine.

Dog owner escapes ticket

The owner of a dog being walked in Westmount Park November 2 was warned to leash it, Public Security officials said. She was described as co-operative and identified herself. Without prior offences, she was not ticketed but let off with a warning.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
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AVIS D'ADOPTION – RÈGLEMENT 1504

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné que le « *RÈGLEMENT VISANT À MODIFIER DE NOUVEAU LE RÈGLEMENT 535 CONCERNANT LES CHIENS ET LES PERMIS S'Y RAPPORTANT* » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount lors d’une séance ordinaire tenue à l’hôtel de ville le 7 novembre 2016.

Ce règlement vise à modifier le règlement 535 afin de:

- prévoir l’impact qu’aura la mise en œuvre d’un nouveau logiciel sur la gestion des permis de garde d’un chien, notamment, le fait que les permis seront valables pour un an à compter de la date de délivrance; et
- changer la période durant laquelle les chiens sont autorisés sans laisse au Bois Summit, sous réserve des couvre-feux.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur conformément à la loi.

Toute personne peut consulter ce règlement sur le site Web de la Ville, www.westmount.org, et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffe situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, durant les heures d’ouverture.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 15 novembre 2016.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION – BY-LAW 1504

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that “*BY-LAW TO FURTHER AMEND BY-LAW 535 CONCERNING DOGS AND THE LICENSING THEREOF*” was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount during its regular sitting held at City Hall on November 7, 2016.

The object of this by-law is to amend By-law 535 in order:

- to provide for the impact that the implementation of a new dog-licensing software will have, notably, the fact that dog licenses issued will be valid for one year from the date of delivery; and
- to modify the schedule when dogs are permitted off-leash in Summit Woods, subject to curfews in effect.

This by-law comes into force according to law.

Any person may consult said by-law on the City’s Website, www.westmount.org, and obtain a copy at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount, during business hours.

GIVEN at Westmount, this 15th day of November 2016.

Martin St-Jean
Greffier/ City Clerk

www.westmount.org



The remains of this apartment building on Dorchester west of Greene Ave. were being demolished on November 9. The above-ground floors burned in 1998. City council awarded a contract to destroy the foundation on October 3 after the owner failed to do so.
Photo courtesy of Willem Westenberg.

Blocked drain ‘floods’ room at 3:20 am

Residents of a house on Aberdeen called Public Security November 4 at 3:20 am to report a flooding basement, department officials said. A city employee working at the scene of a water leak on Greene went to the house and reported a drain at the

home seemed blocked, and residents were advised to call a plumber since it appeared not to be caused by a city problem. Because the water was confined to a laundry room, firefighters were not called to the scene.

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Christmas Concert

Coeur Anima Musica presents "A Celtic Christmas", Saturday, December 17th, 7:30 PM. Mountinside United Church, 687 Roslyn, Westmount. Tickets 25\$/20 available by phone 438-384-9217 and Online (PayPal) www.animamusica.org.

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Magnificent mansion offers rooms with a view



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The night was perfect on July 11 as one of the most elegant evenings of the summer social season took place at the magnificent Westmount mansion of **Véronique** and **Herbert Black**, philanthropist, business titan and art lover/collector. She wore a striking long black dress complemented with strappy sandals as she welcomed guests.

Held following the all-day annual Miriam Foundation Lori Black Memorial Golf Tournament at Hillsdale Golf and Country Club, the day was splendid after a tropical storm-ridden day. Golf games were organized by a hard-working committee. Chair **Norman Bercovitch** worked tirelessly with **Howard Staviss**, **Steven Shephard**, **Adam Ray** and **Louis Ludwick**.

At the dinner-reception, from the Blacks' beautiful Italianate balcony, one could see for miles and miles and miles. (But "not Alaska," one was remarked, referencing Sarah Palin's famous comment about being able to see Russia.) Their home, with its library of leather-bound books accented with fox hunting coasters and oil paint-

ings, had lovely floral arrangements, as did tables outside, highlighted by a spectacular yellow flowered branch, towering within an ice sculpture.

A gourmet buffet of stuffed lobster, rack of lamb and sushi was served by Mikado.

For the reception, ladies donned the very latest in summery styles. Local res were



Véronique and Herbert Black.

noted in Missoni (**Linda Smith**), stripes (**Barbara Silverberg**, attending with hubby **Phil**), and brights – **Gail Wagen**, with

hubby **Michael**, wore a lovely ultramarine blue. (This blue is a pigment once considered almost as rich as gold, as it derived from the semi-precious lapis lazuli. But I digress).

Noted were CFCF's sports anchor **Randy Thieman** and co-anchor **Paul Karwatsky**, (both surrounded by fans!), the dynamic dentist daughter-father duo, **Liza Kozloff** and dad **David Kozloff**, as well as groups of young men; stand-outs for their sartorial style: Gucci and Versace loafers, Italian linen jackets, pocket handkerchiefs and more.

Looking very GQ, were gentlemen **Lonny Fineberg**, **Jean Soulière**, **Derek Vincent**, **Mosen Aziz**, **Gino Khoury** and **Ryan Peters**.

Also enjoying the balmy eve were Miriam Foundation CEO **Warren Greenstone**, **Alan Vosco** and his wife **Sylvia**, wearing black lace, and Herbie's son **Ricky Black**.

The golf event raised \$430,000 for the Miriam Foundation.

More photos, p. 22..

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special pre-holiday sale



1215 Greene Avenue – Westmount
514-935-4612 – lougoldberg.com



From left: Phil and Barbara Silverberg, and Gail and Michael Wagen.

Social Notes cont'd. from p. 21



From left: Lonny Fineberg, Jean Soulière, Derek Vincent, Mosen Azizi, Ryan Peters and Gino Khoury.



From left: Randy Thieman, Linda Smith and Paul Karwatsky.

Hidden talents in Westmount: Artistic photo project
A fall morning sky



Anwoth resident Jean-Frederic Bedos, 10 years old, took this photo the morning of November 10 “from my bedroom window as I thought the sky was so beautiful, and I liked the fact that the town hall is completely black against the sky.”

Photo: JF Bedos

We’re trying out a new idea. We believe there is hidden talent amongst Westmounters. Please submit your recent artistic photos to indie@westmountindependent.com, including what struck you about the scene and the date you took the photo. We’ll run the best ones. Stay tuned for more.

– Kristin McNeill, editor, Westmount Independent

Broken branch
overhands sidewalk

A broken branch snagged in a tree on Westmount Ave. near Roslyn was cordoned off November 3 at 9:43 am, Public Security officials said. The branch overhung the sidewalk and was considered hazardous.

Tree falls across trail in
Summit Woods

A tree was found to have fallen across a main footpath in Summit Woods November 7, according to Public Security reports. It was too heavy for officers to move to the side.

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676 Hartland Ave \$2,850,000
MLS 20227860



DOWNTOWN

1420 Av. des Pins \$2,595,000
MLS 15856545



WESTMOUNT

215 Redfern Apt 308 \$2,395,000
2200 SF, private terrace MLS 24466488



NEW

332 Wood Ave \$2,295,000
MLS: 27225484, 3014 SF, 5 Bdr.



NEW

CONDITIONAL OFFER

WESTMOUNT

744 Av. Upper-Lansdowne \$1,995,000
MLS 17303942 3557 SF, 5 bdr, dream location



WESTMOUNT

4298 Montrose Ave. \$1,975,000
Ideal family home of 5 Bdr MLS 14681732



SOLD

WESTMOUNT

Chateau Westmount \$1,950,000
2376 SF, magnificent views



WESTMOUNT

4805 de Maisonneuve O. \$1,935,000
MLS 25118868 2540 SF



NEW

3 WESTMOUNT SQUARE

2385 SF \$1,895,000
Panoramic views, MLS 9366200



DOWNTOWN

1425 Dr-Penfield #1A \$1,625,000
MLS 19637188 2492 SF



OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4

WESTMOUNT ADJ.

4054 Highland Av. \$1,695,000
MLS 14308397



STE-AGATHE-DES-MONTS

Lac des Sables \$1,595,000
MLS 26290744 Water front



NEW

WESTMOUNT

215 Redfern, PH \$1,250,000
MLS 25996178 1577 SF, 2 Bdr



NEW

WESTMOUNT

215 Redfern, Apt 205 \$1,210,000
MLS 14709035 1740 SF, 2 Bdr



DOWNTOWN

1520 Av. du Dr-Penfield \$618,000
MLS 19338174



CONDITIONAL OFFER

WESTMOUNT ADJ.

Le Trafalgar \$589,000
MLS 9003237 1660 SF



NEW

ACCEPTED OFFER

WESTMOUNT

46 Academy Road



NEW

RENTAL

WESTMOUNT ADJ

2731 Hill Park Circle \$4900/mth
MLS 28627101 Fully renovated,
3 Bdr



SOLD

WESTMOUNT

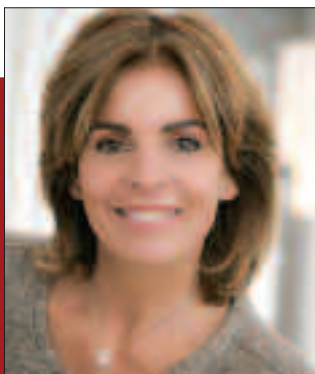
619 Clarke Av. \$4,295,000
MLS 27373203



SOLD

WESTMOUNT ADJ,

4097 Highland Av. \$1,295,000
MLS 20827283



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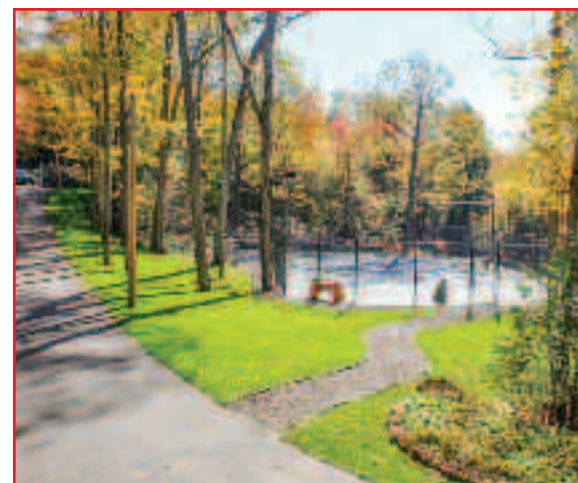
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