

99-year-old breaks hip, waits five hours for ambulance

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A 99-year-old Westmount woman who fell in her apartment building February 12 waited more than five hours for an ambulance, Public Security officials said. She was believed to have fractured her hip.

Officers remained with the woman while concerned tenants were reported to have made multiple calls to 911.

Urgences Santé confirmed to the *Independent* it had received an overflow of priority calls that evening and that ambulances dispatched to the woman's address had been re-directed twice to more urgent incidents.

"This patient was not alone," said Johanne Dufort, its chief of communications. "She was conscious and not in a dangerous [life-threatening] condition. We

kept in communication with her through Westmount Public Security and Lifeline," an emergency notification service.

She said Urgences Santé prioritizes calls using the same triage system as hospitals. Starting with 0 and 1 as top priority, she explained, this case was classified as a number 4 out of 10. Fire department first responders typically answer only 0 and 1 priority calls, she added.

Public Security director Greg McBain said the department responded after receiving a call at 10:26 pm from an out-of-town family member concerned about the delays. The woman was believed to have fallen about an hour earlier.

Officers found the woman just outside the door to her apartment being cared for by other tenants but unable to move because of a

continued on p. 13

Navigating the deep



The temperature on February 20 went up to plus 5 degrees C. The day had a combination of a little wet snow and rainfall. Most of the crosswalks in Victoria village were quickly inundated as people navigated the deep, slushy moats. One pedestrian, well equipped with rain gear, wades through a large puddle on Sherbrooke at the corner of Roslyn.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Letters p. 6

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 14

One Hydro Westmount legal case concludes

'Final' award for wrongful dismissal could reach 500K

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city is now processing compensation for a Hydro Westmount manager found to have been wrongfully dismissed six years ago, city officials confirmed last week. This follows a third ruling from the Quebec Labour Relations Commission.

William Ta, who was reinstated two years ago, was awarded more than \$432,000 in a ruling November 24. Added

to this is the value of fringe benefits whose amount the commission stated was outside its scope of competency.

This could raise the total compensation to some \$500,000 if the fringes are calculated at 26 percent of lost salary over four years. This figure had been mentioned at earlier proceedings in the case.

"It's concluded a long-standing legal issue," city director general Mike Deegan said.

continued on p. 3

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Driver leaves Massachusetts car 'open'

A parked car was spotted with the sun-roof and a window open February 13, according to Public Security officials. The car was parked outside 315 Olivier. It bore Massachusetts licence plates. A patroller removed an envelope containing personal documents for safekeeping and a message was left for the car owner to retrieve it at the station on Stanton St. When it remained unclaimed two days later, it was taken to local police station 12 for follow-up.

Same company ticketed for 'No circulars'

A ticket for \$77 was issued to a distributor of circulars February 4 on Holton, Public Security officials said. It was the second time recently that a ticket was given to the same company for disregarding a clearly visible sticker at the same address requesting no unsolicited material. It was one in a number of complaints received recently against different distributors.

Visitor ticketed for drinking, littering at lookout

A 20 year-old woman was handed two tickets for \$149 each February 10 at the Summit Lookout, Public Security officials said. One was for consuming alcohol in a public place, the other for littering. The woman was captured on the city security camera as she drank beer as part of a group at the lookout at 12:27 pm. When patrollers arrived, the woman tossed the bottle over "the wall" into Sunnyside Park below. She was identified as a resident of Cambridge, Ontario.

Hockey player dislocates shoulder for birthday

A hockey player was taken to hospital February 5 at 11:10 pm from the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), Public Security officials said. He was described as suffering a dislocated shoulder after being body checked and falling to the ice. He was turning 26 the next day. It was not known where he lived but Urgences Santé transported him to Verdun Hospital. The WRC was open until midnight.



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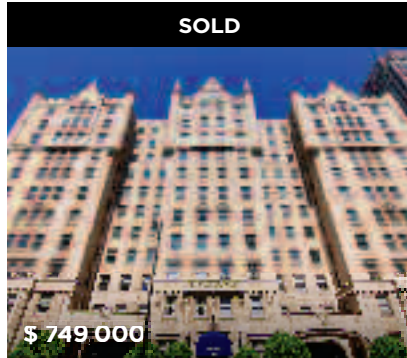
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Flag protocol amended to add mayor's ultimate decision

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A longstanding protocol for lowering Westmount's flags to half-mast has been amended to include events considered appropriate by "the mayor," the *Independent* learned last week.

The decision was made by the council at its general committee meeting December 7 and made public in minutes of the closed-door session released February 1.

The new policy includes the protocol from 1997 that restricted lowering of flags to the death of political officials "linked" to Westmount at all levels of government. Among them are the prime minister and premier, as well the sovereign and a mem-

ber of the immediate royal family. Also named is the city's director general and police or firefighters killed in the line of duty. The only occasion mentioned is Remembrance Day, November 11.

It was agreed, the minutes state, "that council will adopt an amended flag policy that includes, on an exceptional basis, the half-masting of flags for events that the mayor determines to be befitting the gesture."

Asked what these might include, Trent said last week that, in the absence of guidelines, "My feeling is that it has to be some event, some disaster, in Canada."

The updating of the city's policy arose from the terrorist attacks November 13 in

Paris when the city lowered its flags in line with the city of Montreal. At that time, the 1997 policy was not immediately available, Trent had explained (see story November 4, p. 10).

Councillor Patrick Martin had also urged the lowering of Westmount's flags based on the principle that France being an ally of Canada in the war against ISIS, an attack on that country was an attack on Canada.

In walking around Westmount, however, Trent subsequently discovered that flags had not been lowered on the federal RCMP headquarters buildings and told the *Independent* he had requested a copy of the city's protocol for review.

To "the best of my knowledge," he said at the time, "Westmount had always followed a policy – a rule I have followed – of lowering flags for Canadian state officials, royalty, and local and provincial elected officials but not for natural disasters and mass killings outside Canada."

He added that he felt municipal flags were "not instruments of foreign policy."

Last week, he said he would be looking at Quebec's protocol governing provincial buildings. He and others had noticed in the wake of the Paris attacks that flags had been lowered on schools, provincial property.

Court case cont'd. from p. 1

Ta was reintegrated as service chief for network engineering in a reorganization and management change at Hydro Westmount that took place prior to his reinstatement under a new director, Benoit Hurtubise (see story December 3, 2013, p. 6).

The city, however, continued to contest the amount of compensation that had been awarded to Ta.

Issue dates back to 2010

The legal issue began with Ta's dismissal in January 2010 allegedly on reasons the commission ruled were "unfounded or insufficient."

Since then, the case has evolved through many hearings. These culminated in two initial rulings by the labour commission in July 2012 and November 2013 that ended with Ta's re-instatement and the city's appeal to Quebec Superior Court over the monetary award.

In November 2014, the Superior Court sent the matter back to the labour commission to be heard by a new judge.

In her ruling November 24, 2015, labour judge Esther Plante based her decision on Ta's four years of lost salary plus interest as well as his legal fees and the value of fringe benefits.

Dubé case still postponed

In an unresolved case also involving Hydro Westmount, the city is still awaiting a decision from Superior Court regarding the former director Pierre Dubé, who had been Ta's boss.

Dubé's five-year renewable contract was not renewed in December 2012 (see story April 9, 2013, p. 3).

An initial ruling in this case by the labour relations commission in January 2015 ordered the city to reinstate Dubé based in part on findings he had not received unsatisfactory performance evaluations.

The city's subsequent appeal to Superior Court is still ongoing following a postponement in December, Deegan said. The city is awaiting a date for it to resume in 2016, he said.

Address tracked down for Spanish-speaking man

A man who spoke only Spanish was reported to have flagged down a Public Security patroller for assistance outside the Westmount recreation centre February 10. An officer who spoke some Spanish was called to the scene to interpret the man's problem, Public Security officials said. It turned out he was searching for an ad-

dress for which he had only the civic number 1974. Officers managed to trace his destination to de Maisonneuve through the name of a woman who worked there. When it was determined the man had no money for a taxi to reach the International Institute of Integral Human Sciences, officers drove him to the location near Fort St.

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Poet laureate gives first reading at Atwater Library

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Canada's parliamentary poet laureate, George Elliott Clarke, gave his first poetry reading at the Atwater Library on January 28 since being appointed to the position on January 1.

Clarke and fellow Canadian poet Armand Garnet Ruffo were the featured guests of the Atwater Poetry Project, which holds readings at the library several times a year.

"This is my first reading as parliamentary poet laureate," said Clarke, who is the seventh person to hold the office created in 2001 and which comes under the jurisdiction of the Library of Parliament.

The parliamentary poet laureate's duties include writing verse for important state occasions, as well as providing advice to the parliamentary librarian on acquisitions of published poetry.

After reading selections from their works (Clarke often writes about the experiences of black Canadians in Atlantic Canada, while Ruffo explores his aboriginal roots), the two answered questions from the audience of around 45 people.

Clarke suggested that the role of poetry should be incorporated into areas of the Canadian arts scene such as ballet. "I'd like to see the National Ballet of Canada commission a dance involving poets of various backgrounds and so on," he said.

"Similarly for all the other national arts organ-

izations, if they already have a program involving poets, I'm going to suggest they get a program involving poets in order to make sure our voices get heard.

"I like to think of poetry as being the foundation of all the arts," he continued. "It's the only art where you don't need anything except a brain to do, to perform." He also agreed with a suggestion that museums should have their own "poet in residence."

Ruffo, for his part, said indigenous writers have tended to be marginalized in Canada. He said that as late as the 1990s, virtually no aboriginal authors' works were included in the course curriculums in most Canadian universities' English departments.

"Now there are basically courses in every university in the country dealing with aboriginal literature, so that's how far we've come."



Canada's parliamentary poet laureate George Elliott Clarke, left, is applauded by fellow poet Armand Garnet Ruffo at a reading the two gave at the Atwater Library on January 28.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MORE STAFF, \$ FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING

There has been a lot of sound and fury about infrastructure investment in Westmount of late.

Westmount city council has been accused of “chronic underfunding” of infrastructure, yet our audited statements show that Public Works did not, in each of the last four years, spend the amounts of money in the yearly capital budgets prepared by themselves and approved publicly by council.

As a result, council, last year, decided to take steps to increase the output of Public Works. As well as creating a new position of assistant director in charge of infrastructure projects and hiring a full-time project engineer, we have also hired five new technicians to ensure quality control and for job site supervision. Better quality means our investment lasts much longer.

What also gets lost in all the noise is the fact that council has already adopted a 2016 infrastructure budget that is 39 percent higher than in 2015. In fact, the last time we budgeted as much on roadwork was back in 2010. That was an unusual year in which reconstructing Greene Ave. caused

us to double our historical average. Council decided last December to keep up this accelerated pace of infrastructure investment for a number of years to come.

That is not all. The unexpected 2014 surplus allows us to pay off the Westmount recreation centre’s debt as it comes due. It also permitted the 2016 tax freeze in spite of boosted infrastructure spending and maintenance costs. That said, the Finance department’s management was changed last year, and the 2016 revenue budget has been tightened up to eliminate any large surpluses in future.

Westmounters want their city council to get on with the job of running the city and that is precisely what we intend to do.

COUNCILLORS PHILIP CUTLER, ROSALIND DAVIS, VICTOR DRURY, NICOLE FORBES, CYNTHIA LULHAM, THEODORA SAMIOTIS, CHRISTINA SMITH AND MAYOR PETER TRENT

CLARIFYING RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMISSIONERS

In response to my repeated expressions of dissatisfaction as councillor and commissioner of Public Works with the quality and amount of allowed maintenance

and rehabilitation of our infrastructure over the years, Peter Starr suggests shooting the messenger, the city councillor. (“Need consensus to solve infrastructure issues,” February 16, p. 6).

He points to a lack of straightforward reporting. Odd, as I have been very clear on this subject, especially with regard to the infrastructure deficit versus the huge surpluses that have accumulated through poor budgeting and over-taxation.

He states that “parliamentary protocols customarily result in the resignation of the responsible executive if acceptable results are not achieved.”

Mr. Starr does not realize that under municipal law, city councillors have no executive power whatsoever. Their only authority is to vote at council meetings. And if council will not authorise a sufficiently aggressive maintenance and construction program, there is little that an individual councillor can do, as frustrating as that may be, other than to report publicly on the issue, which I have done.

Only the mayor has executive authority over the affairs of the city.

PATRICK MARTIN, COUNCILLOR, WARD 1

STOP THE BLAME GAME

In regards to the constant bashing of Mayor Peter Trent by Councillor Patrick Martin and his crew (re: columns and letters to the editor in the February 2, 9 and 16 issues of the *Independent*), do I understand correctly that Mr. Martin, the engineer with 40 years experience, has done nothing to right the shoddy building of roads, the deterioration of the greenhouse, as well as all other buildings in Westmount and has allowed the department to spend less than their allotted money while on his watch as the councillor in charge of Public Works for the past six years? *

Stop blaming Mayor Trent for your own gross incompetence, Mr. Martin.

We should all be thanking Mayor Trent not only for everything he has done for this city but first and foremost, for the fact Westmount actually is a city!

ABRAHAM WEXLER, ST. CATHERINE ST.

* Editor’s note: Please refer to Councillor Patrick Martin’s letter “Clarifying responsibility of commissioners” for his interpretation of the role of Westmount’s councillors. – KM

ACTION HIT OR MISS IF NO CONSENSUS

As a resident of Westmount, I find it disconcerting that Mayor Peter Trent and Councillor Patrick Martin remain on op-

posite sides of the debate regarding the city’s deteriorated infrastructure.

If there is no consensus on the underlying causes, then any action taken to correct the situation can only be hit or miss. This situation does not bode well for Westmount residents.

From my perspective I see their argument as following:

- Annual budgets have not been high enough to maintain infrastructure. This is Mr. Martin’s view and his February 16 column appears to provide the numbers to back this up. Mayor Trent rejects the argument that the budgets were insufficient, instead claiming that Public Works just didn’t deliver on what they were supposed to.
- Public Works is less than competent. This is Mayor Trent’s view based on the apparent chronic inability of Public Works to complete projects planned for each year. Mr. Martin rejects this.
- Public Works has not been given sufficient internal resources to complete the projects. Mr. Martin has raised this as a major factor. The recent increase in Public Works staff, particularly supervisory, lends credence to this argument.

Endless debate, without resolution, is not the way to go forward. I propose that Mayor Trent, Mr. Martin and the other councillors together with city staff sit down and jointly hammer out a credible way to get out of this mess. They should then all sign it and have the *Independent* publish it.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

LOVE IS...

I walked out my front door on Stayner just after 8 am on February 12 to find this beautiful tire track art.

What a wonderful way to start the day!
YOLANDE NESSETH, STAYNER AVE.



Photo courtesy of Y. Nesseth

KEEP TRENT ‘IN THE PROCESS’

I was truly shocked to see the comments from Councillor Patrick Martin that were basically *continued on p. 10*

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Temple's 'coffeehouse' draws together local musicians



Shaika Café in NDG hosted Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's first "coffeehouse" on January 23, a Saturday night. The evening featured singers, songwriters and other musicians from the Temple congregation. The event was part of the "Next Dor at Temple" program for young adults and aimed to provide an opportunity for up-and-coming musicians in the community to perform at a social event. There were no plans to repeat the event, although Rona Nadler, the Temple's music director and organizer of the coffeehouse said that "it was a successful evening, and it would be a pleasure to plan something similar in the future." Lucy Jee is seen performing in the background. Photo: Matt Faigan

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January sales: Recovering but price range still low



Mood of the Market
ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in January 2016. Because they are not final registered sales, the ad-

resses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.

While we were preaching gloom and doom to the Westmount real estate market last month, some agents were relaxing on the beach in Florida and sending in their December sales information only after we had reported on the down market. The December list now includes three sales over \$2 million and an average mark-up of

four percent, compared to a previous calculation of a one-percent mark-down.

The total number of sales jumped from 7 to 13, the best December we have had since we were pulling out of the recession in 2009.

For January, then, the market is continuing to recover, though the price range for six one- and two-family dwellings is quite low, between \$530,000 and \$1,800,000. And, in fact, the only two that sold for less than \$1 million are also the only two that sold below valuation; in fact, three homes sold for more than a 25 percent mark-up, bringing the overall average for the month to 14 percent above valuation. This is an indication that there are indeed buyers out there ready to pay Westmount prices, which bodes well for the spring market. We're not back to where we were last

spring, but at least we appear to have started the recovery process.

With the addition of sales to the December list, it turns out that last year had the highest volume since 2012, the highest percent of sales (76 percent) over \$1 million and an improvement on the adjusted average price of almost \$100,000, even though in the last three months much of that had been wiped away; the higher mark-ups in January offer some encouragement, but there is still a distance to travel.

No condo sales on December list

No new condo sales were added to the December list, which also had shown an average mark-down for the first time since early 2014. Now, in January, two condos were continued on p. 10





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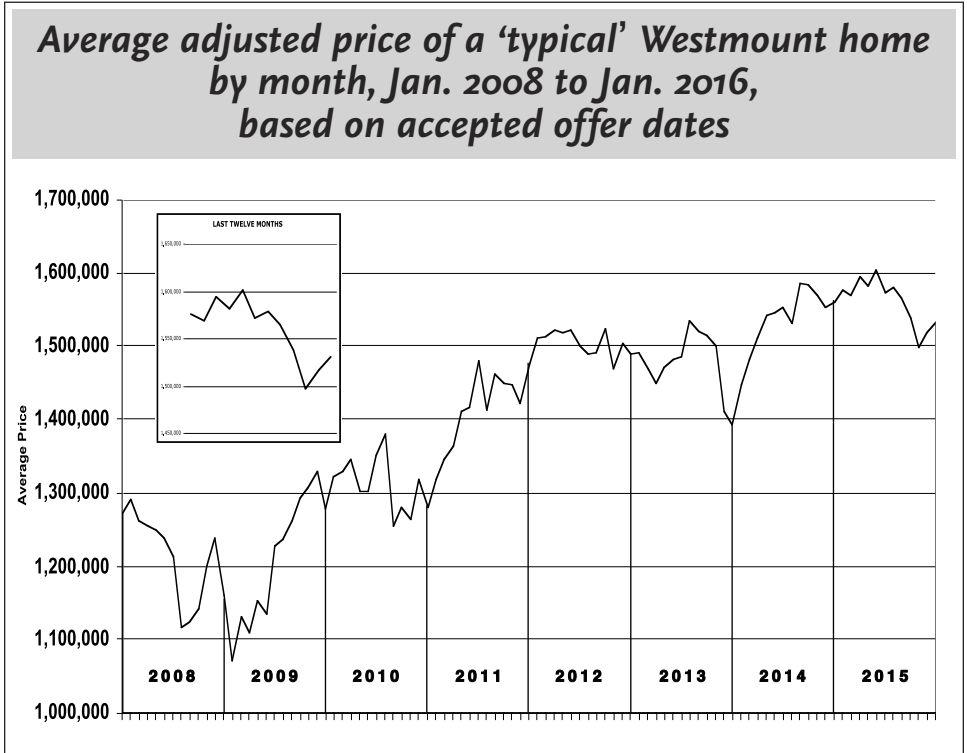
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Mood of the Market *cont'd. from p. 8*

snatched up almost as soon as they came on the market, both listed for less than a week, and one for 37 percent more than its municipal evaluation (the other was 2 percent below). So without enough data for a statistic, it looks like 2016 may be off for a fast start in the condo market.

In adjacent-Westmount, five sales were posted for December and two more for January, with prices ranging from \$620,000 to \$3,250,000, the latter for a mansion on Trafalgar Ave. A co-op flat on Marlowe Ave. was reported in January.

Tribute to Victor Goldbloom

It was in early 1976 (I think) that newly-appointed Municipal Affairs minister (and Grove Park resident) Victor Goldbloom faced an angry crowd of homeowners at Victoria Hall, fielding complaints that valuations had increased too much, that they were too low so people couldn't contest, that there was no correlation between the valuations and the sale prices, that there was no correlation between houses on the same street. Goldbloom listened carefully to the complaints and returned to Quebec City determined to do something about it, ordering his department to launch an intense analysis of the way valuations are established and what happens when cities

must use the roll to levy taxes.

Then came the summer Olympics, which occupied most of the good doctor's time, then in the fall of 1976 the Parti Québécois came to power and Goldbloom lost his hold on the Municipal Affairs department.

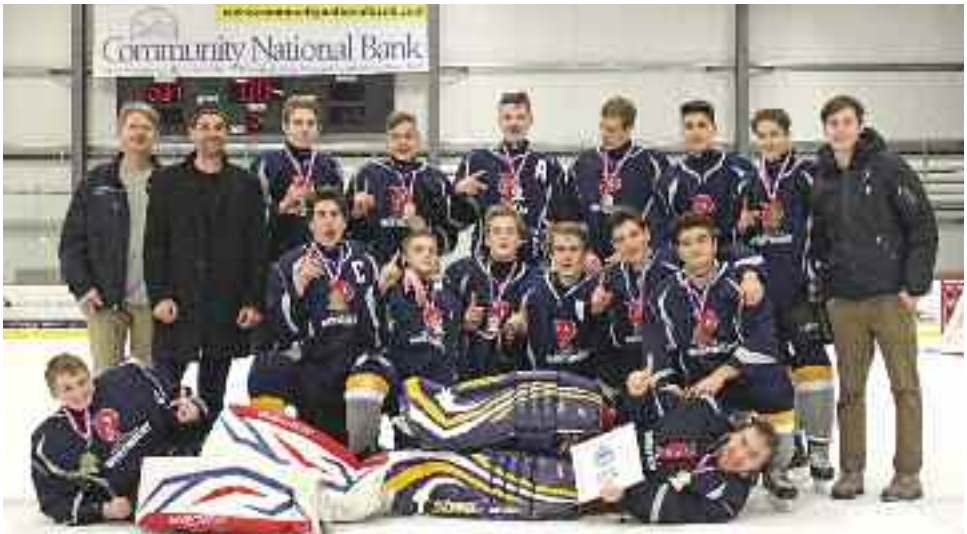
But the wheels kept turning, and in the fall of 1979, the PQ approved the new Loi sur la fiscalité municipale or the Act Respecting Municipal Taxation, which, among other things, created a median proportion to provide a correlation between the valuations and actual market value, as well as a provincially-run board of revision to offer a detached view for those who wanted to contest.

This law has now stood almost unblemished for the past 35 years, and I credit Goldbloom with having inspired and initiated it. This is just another of his accomplishments that so many have been reporting in the past several days.

Car hooks another

A car trying to change lanes hit another February 10 on de Maisonneuve outside Dawson College, Public Security officials said. There were no injuries. A patroller helped the drivers fill out a joint accident form. The incident occurred at 12:27 pm.

Midget A Predators first-time victorious at Jay Peak tourney



Westmount's Midget A Predators won the championship of the Midget A Green Mountain Avalanche six-team hockey tournament at Jay Peak ski resort in Vermont on January 31. Under head coach Derek Galbraith, the Predators played teams from Vermont, New York and Toronto, which they beat 5-2 in the final. From left, back row: Oliver Sugden (team manager), head coach Derek Galbraith, James Sugden, Ben Harnad, Olaf Schoningh, Jacob Lee-Howes, Marco Caniglia, Charles Richards and Bronte Viens; middle row: Manu Elie, James Galbraith, Sam Lee-Howes, Paul Westenberg, Zach Rosen and David Elbaz; in front: goalies Andrew Turner and Zack Filion. This was the first time a Westmount team had won the Jay Peak banner.

Photo courtesy of Oliver Sugden

Letters *cont'd. from p. 6*

a personal attack on Mayor Peter Trent ("Westmount's infrastructure challenge," February 2, p. 4).

I would have thought this should have been discussed before the public council meeting or, better still, in person.

Mayor Trent may not be perfect, but he has certainly done an outstanding job of not only bringing Westmount back as a city, but he fought for citizens when we needed it, e.g. 5 saisons, SAQ and had the imagination and management skills to create a state-of-the-art arena.

We have a wonderful city, so let's keep it that way and keep Mayor Trent in the process.

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CS Design's seesaw project is touring, firm works on new NDC library project

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A Victoria Ave. lighting design firm was part of a consortium that helped create an interactive art installation that ran until January 31 in the Quartier des Spectacles in downtown Montreal.

Created by CS Design in conjunction with Lateral Office of Toronto, "Impulse" consisted of a series of illuminated and sound-producing seesaws. They would be activated when someone climbed on. Once in motion, built-in lights and speakers produced a sequence of sounds, and a constantly evolving musical composition



Image courtesy of C. Sampson

CS Design helped create "Impulse," an interactive multimedia art installation that could be seen in Quartier des Spectacles until end of January.

could be heard.

In a January 12 interview with the *Independent*, CS Design principal partner Conor Sampson, who is a Grosvenor Ave. resident, said this is the first time in the past six years that the scope of the annual competition to build the installation was enlarged to include video.

CS Design's contribution, consisting of developing the design of the seesaws, was combined with "a kind of a linear graphic language and a colour palate and sound script" to create the installation, said Sampson. "The seesaws actually make noise, and it is actually the same music that is played with the video projections."

Although CS Design's normal stock in trade is not building seesaws, the firm, according to Sampson, does work with architects, real estate developers and companies to design and create large-scale lighting layouts in buildings and public spaces.

While acknowledging that the project was only a sideline, Sampson said it has shone a spotlight on his firm. "We've gotten fantastic press," he said. "We must



CS Design's Conor Sampson, seen here in his Victoria Ave. office on January 12.

have had at least 15 global publications, at this point, which have published articles on it." The Impulse project should be travelling by April, Sampson noted in a later interview. The firm is currently working on several public art and public space projects, including NDC's new public library, Promenade Smith in Griffintown, the lighting of Fort Chambly, the new Pavilion V extension of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

Besides local clients, CS Design also does work for large companies such as Air Canada, Aldo Shoes, Mountain Equipment Co-op and Via Rail, and has worked internationally. "We've done projects in Paris, in London, New York, Los Angeles, Vancouver," he added.



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ON THE SHELVES

Among new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines

“Miracle drug? On the promise and peril of HIV-prevention pill Truvada” in *This Magazine*, January/February 2016, p. 10-11. A discussion of the pros and cons of this promising drug.

“What Gene Therapy Needs Now: A Good Off Switch” by Jim Kozubek in *Scientific American*, January 2016, p. 52-57. Researchers are developing molecular switches that can inactivate transplanted genes, paving the way for safer gene therapies. First up – better treatments for cancer.

“Implants biologiques autonomes: l’invention d’une nouvelle médecine” par Elsa Abdoun dans *Science & Vie*, December 2015, p. 96-101. Imaginez que soient implantées, dans votre corps, des cellules aux gènes modifiés afin de détecter et soigner automatiquement toutes sortes de maladies

E-Books: Mystery series...

Even the Dead: A Quirke Novel by Benjamin Black – Rendered prone to hallucinations by overwork, Quirke investigates suspicions of foul play in the aftermath of a fatal car crash before teaming up with In-

spector Hackett to search for a missing pregnant woman who had been in fear of her life.

Splinter the Silence by Val McDermid – Investigating the suspicious suicides of several women who had been victims of brutal cyberbullying, psychologist Tony Hill enlists the help of former police detective Carol Jordan, who finds a second chance to rebuild her life.

Livres numériques

Carthage by Joyce Carol Oates – When a young girl disappears near a community in the Adirondacks, the people of the town of Carthage must face the fact that an Iraq War veteran is the prime suspect.

Sauve qui peut la vie by Nicole Lapierre – Writing about the recurrence of suicide amongst women in her family, the author tries to communicate the difficulty for families of living with the invasive heritage of the immigration of forebears.

Adult English – Fiction

A Dictionary of Mutual Understanding by Jackie Copleton – A tale set against the atomic bombing of Nagasaki follows the experiences of a woman who is driven apart from her daughter and grandson by a love affair and painful life circumstances that force her to harden her heart to sur-

vive.

Where My Heart Used to Beat by Sebastian Faulks – A British physician living off the coast of France longs for a woman he met while serving with the Allies in Italy during World War II. When offered the opportunity to write the biography of an older physician celebrated for his work with dementia and memory loss, he gladly throws himself into the task, only to discover that Dr. Pereira knows more about him than he realized

Adult French – Essays

De Gaulle et Mitterrand: la bataille des deux France by Robert Schneider – The author, chief of the political service of magazine *l’Express*, paints the portrait of the two political men, too different to understand each other and too similar to get along, and recounts the story of their tumultuous relationship.

De la curiosité by Alberto Manguel – 17 chapters in which great questions are asked such as: What are we doing here? What is true? Each chapter is dedicated to a luminary: Thomas Aquinas, Hume, Lewis Carroll, Socrates, who, according to Manguel, invented “a new way to ask, why?”

World music – CDs

Mundo by Mariza – Her first record in five years, this great interpreter of fado, a traditional music of Portugal, spreads her wings and also offers music in styles inspired by Spain, Cape Verde and Argentina.

Musique de nuit by Ballaké Sissoko and Vincent Segal – A collection of duets by a virtuoso kora player from Africa flanked by his long-time collaborator on the cello. While most of the pieces could be described as reflective, there are also more upbeat numbers. Distant noises present on the recording remind the listener that much of the album was recorded on the roof of Sissoko’s home in Mali.

Books about books for children

Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World’s Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick – Winner of this year’s Caldecott Medal for illustration, this book is a wonderful way to introduce a child to the classic *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne.

Pique la lune by Katia Canciani – Children and adults will enjoy this charming picture book biography about Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *Le Petit Prince*.

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FEBRUARY BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the February 1 meeting of city council.

451 Mountain: at a Category 1* house, to replace two doors and two windows in the addition to the north of the original building and install a security railing around the roof terrace; replace a door and three openings presently closed by fixed windows in the original structure on condition the design of the patio door to the north is replaced by French doors;

32 Edgehill: to redo landscaping at the front and side, including rebuilding stairs and retaining walls and adding green space in the front yard;

4004 St. Catherine: to install two signs for "Expert Nails Ongles Expert & Spa;"

652 Lansdowne: to replace the front door;

796 Lexington: to build a garage at the rear;

444 Prince Albert: to extend the deck at the side provided the design of the railing is revised to follow the current guidelines and that the existing railing on the south side of the deck and stairs is also revised to harmonize with the new railing on the extension.

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the February 15 meeting of city council.

11 Renfrew: to replace a window and three doors;

102 Sunnyside: to replace storm windows and others;

726 Lansdowne: to replace solarium and basement windows;

119 Blenheim Place: at a Category I house, to replace front handrails;

592 Lansdowne: to landscape and rebuild a rear terrace;

4855 de Maisonneuve: to install a fence at the side and rear;

60 Aberdeen: to demolish the rear upper balcony and modify window and door openings at the rear and side;

465 Mount Pleasant: at a Category I house, to reclad a sunroom, install a stair-

case access to the roof terrace and do some additional minor exterior alterations;

540 Côte St. Antoine: to replace three windows and a door;

610 Clarke: to replace a garage door;

35 Burton: to install an awning;

223 Melville: to install a sign for "Le Melville";

636 Murray Hill: to replace the two storm windows and door to the front balcony provided it is made of wood.

Rotary paints in 'Nazareth'



The Rotary Club of Westmount completed a five-weekend project on January 23 painting the residents' bedrooms at Nazareth House in Shaughnessy village. "These are the mandates we love. The rooms badly needed a new paint job, and we were happy to help," said Rotary vice president Peter Starr. According to its website, Nazareth House is a non-profit shelter for 22 men who "live their lives struggling with mental health issues, addictions and homelessness." From left, front row: Ian Moodie, Don Mackinnon, Paola Waf, Nazareth resident leader Ron and Nazareth director Sheila Woodhouse; back row: Starr, Haagen Kierulf, Robin Vincelli and Rotary president John Halas.

Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Westmount

Ambulance cont'd. from p. 1

possible fractured hip.

Public safety officers, who are trained in CPR and first aid, tried to keep the woman as comfortable as possible, he said.

They also continued to monitor her condition until the ambulance arrived at 2:55 am to take her to Hôtel Dieu hospital, he explained.

Along with PSO Amélie Arel, PSO Sabrina Tremblay also helped out. Tremblay coordinates the department's "Security in Aging" program.

McBain said he was told the woman had fallen while turning around to say goodbye to another tenant who had just driven her home around 9:30 pm.

While this incident involved a 99-year-old, it was reminiscent of an almost seven-hour wait encountered by a 75-year-old Pointe Claire woman January 27. In that case, the woman had broken a leg falling on the sidewalk outside her home. She had been taken inside by city employees who remained with her.

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Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

singers from **Opera McGill**, accompanied on the piano by McGill's director of opera studies Patrick Hansen.

Guests were invited to wear masks, and many donned wondrous creations in reference to the operetta in which a singer wears a disguise. Head table guests included the honorary consul general of Austria **Marc Bissell** and his wife **Morli**; McGill principal and vice chancellor **Suzanne Fortier** and her husband **Doug Babington**; ball president **Elizabeth Wirth** and her husband **Lucien Fauteux**, and president of the Austrian Society **Harold Scheer** with his wife **Ewa**.

From Westmount were débutantes **Latisha Puntgartnik** and **Evelyne Renzi**. Joining them were debs **Madeleine Bienvenue**, **Delphine Chalifoux-Rochette**, **Marie-Pier Giroux**, **Arial Gregorio**, **Madison Llano**, **Andrea Matei**, **Shelly Plante**, **Anastassia Tarassova**, **Katherine Tzventarny** and **Divine Usabase**. They were escorted in the opening waltz by Westmounter **Didier Blach-Lafleche** along with **Sebastian Daniel Anger**, **Benedikt Baratsits-Gruber**, **Nicolas Briere**, **Thomas Bugden**, **Emmanuel Cuisinier**, **Louis-Alexandre De Gaspé Beaubien**, **Alexy Iliev-Paradis**, **Ilan Kudeki**, **Felix Scheer**, **Tobias Johan Stribinger** and **Léo Vaillancourt**.

Enjoying the strolling musicians playing Viennese tunes were Austrian vice consul **Elisabeth Canisius**, **Adèle Hébert** and **Michel Desjardins**, Westmounters **Béa** and **Gunther Pungartnik**, and **Naomi** and **Eric Bissell**, honorary national president for life of B'nai Brith Canada; **Suzanne Crawford** and **Paolo Renzi** and McGill's Schulich School of Music dean **Sean Ferguson** with his wife **Sherry**. Ball ushers Westmounter **Katrina McGaughey** along with **Fiona**

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Eric and Naomi Bissell flanked by their son Marc Bissell and his wife Morli.



Débutantes and escorts with their teachers.

Moore helped one and all, as did **Carole Brown** and **Birgit Erdan**.

Proceeds from the sold-out eve support **SOS Children's Villages**, an international child welfare organization; the **Schulich**

School of Music of McGill University; **Leave out Violence (L.O.V.E.)**; the **Alexander von Humboldt German International School** and **DSQ (German Language Schools of Quebec)**.



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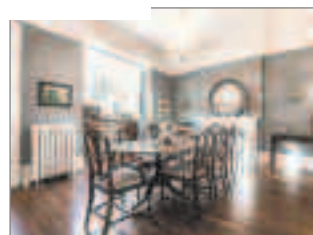
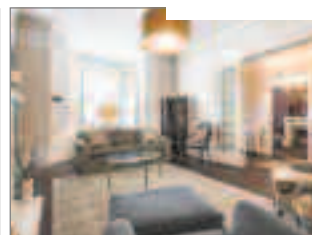
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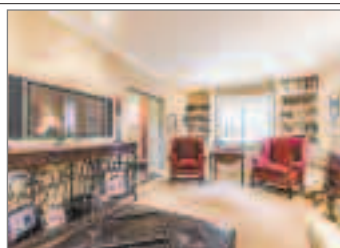
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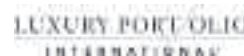
"Beauxarts", 1650 Sherbrooke O, TH 6

This 2 storey townhouse is luxuriously appointed and boasts a private atrium that offers light and a welcome outdoor space, all in the heart of the Golden Square mile, 3 bedrooms, 2+1 baths, 2 garages. The "Beauxarts" building is a premier, full service building with 24 hour doorman, pool, exercise room and valet. Walking distance to museums, restaurants & shops. **Asking price \$8,000 monthly**



Westmount, 667 Belmont, "Executive Rental".

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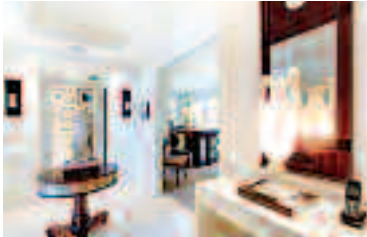
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WESTMOUNT
428 Metcalfe \$1,189,000
Magnificent and elegant Greystone residence on the flat with lovely backyard, amazing terrasse, parking +++. MLS 15871958

VILLE-MARIE
The gleneagles \$639,000
Designer ready! beautiful & stunning 1205 SF New York Style Condo with views & garage.

MOUNT ROYAL
240 Ch. Bates #311 \$348,000
Fabulous innovative loft style condo corner unit with views. MLS 13684694

NUNS ISLAND
Verrieres V \$365,000
Beautiful 2 Bdr ground level condo overlooking river, manicured ground & pool. MLS 27694605



MONT-TREMBLANT AREA
244 Crystall Falls \$499,000
Unique renovated farm house, 3 bedrooms with approximately 20 acres of land. MLS 14156558

MONT-TREMBLANT AREA
257 Crystal Falls \$1,995,000
Exceptional domaine bordering the Rouge River, 15 min from Tremblant. MLS 21652782

WESTMOUNT
48 Holton \$2,295,000
Spectacular ENGLISH style TOWNHOUSE in most sought after Westmount LOCATION! 4+1 bdr, 2 car garage, large deck. MLS 19422527

NEW PROJECT / MT TREMBLANT AREA
Contemporary lofts in wooded area, 7 KM from Tremblant. Private trails, access to Rouge River. **Starting at \$209,000**



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& CO