

Adoption of PPCMOI by-law postponed by March break

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The March school break appears to have played expeditiously into the hands of residents seeking more consultation with the city before it adopts the proposed SCAOPI/PPCMOI by-law for use in certain cases of non-conforming development projects.

Adoption of the draft by-law including amendments was slated for March 7 but will now be postponed, Councillor Theodora Samiotis announced February 22. This will be the fourth deferral.

Samiotis was replying to a request from architect Ken London, who is spearheading a letter-writing campaign asking for more time to review amendments to the draft by-law. The city was expected to post an amended version with changes on its website at the end of last week (see story February 9, p. 13). These now appear to have been delayed.

"I am conscious, however, that the March break period is approaching and many people may not have time to review them nor be present at the March 7 meeting," she explained.

Called "Specific Construction and Alteration or Occupancy of an Immovable," the by-law is considered to be a complicated document that has been under amendment by the city following a public consulta-

continued on p. 8

Suspects flee in glare of spotlight

Two men seen loitering February 20 outside Hydro Westmount were kept under surveillance at 1:25 am by patrollers, Public Security officials said.

The two were suspected of trying to gain entry to the worksite off Glen Rd., where Transport Quebec is completing an underground retaining wall to hold back hydrocarbons (see story October 20, p. 3).

When one man was seen trying to climb on a construction tractor, the strobe light from the patrol vehicle was shone on the two causing them to jump off a wall and disappear into the Home Depot parking lot.



Photo: Ralph Thompson


Nearing the start of March break, streets were quiet and Westmount Park was deserted...except for 4-year-old Sarah and her 7-year-old sister Lina playing with their mum Sadani Gaëlle February 27 near the lagoon. The Gaëlles, now Westmounters, moved from Toulouse, France four years ago. The girls quickly took a liking to Liam, a wheaten terrier, who lapped up the attention.

Pair buzz doorbells to gain access

Public safety officers intercepted two young men reported to have been acting suspiciously February 18, Public Security officials said.

They were found at Sherbrooke and Mount Stephen after a complaint at 6:28 pm the two had been ringing doorbells in an attempt to gain entry to the Parkview Apartments at the corner. Police were called, investigated them and found no infraction had been committed. They were described as aged 21. A complainant was described as "very agitated."

Update on women's hockey, p. 11.

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Superior Court rules for city in contract case, Dubé to appeal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A Quebec Superior Court judgment February 17 has upheld the city's decision not to renew an expiring five-year contract in 2012 to re-appoint Pierre Dubé as director of Hydro Westmount.

Judge Yves Poirier ruled that the final choice to renew the contract or not lay with the city council.

As a result, he overturned a previous judgment by the Quebec Labour Commission of January 20, 2015, which had ordered the city to re-instate Dubé (see story February 23, p. 3).

The Superior Court judge rejected Dubé's claim, which was based in part that he had legitimate expectations his contract would be renewed given that his performance had not been evaluated as unsatisfactory.

He also ordered Dubé to pay court costs. Asked if he would appeal, Dubé told the *Independent* February 24, "Yes, definitely, after studying the details of this judgment, instructions are already given for this appeal."

"This whole case is a very, very, very sad situation and a big waste, but I have no choice considering the nature of the case,

the number of years involved without salary and the impact on my family."

Dubé had been appointed by city council November 26, 2007 initially as a consultant but to become director of Hydro Westmount on a five-year contract from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2012 in accordance with terms of a contract offer from the city (see story December 5, p. 7).

Judge Poirier noted the contract dated April 4, 2008 contained a clause stating that if the employer wished to renew the contract for an additional three to five years, or if it did not, it must advise Dubé 60 days before the expiry date.

Dubé had testified he would never have signed the contract without a renewal clause.

60-day notice given

At the end of October 2012, however, he was given 60-days notice by then director general Duncan Campbell that the contract would not be renewed and he was asked to leave immediately, which he did the next day.

Among precedents quoted by the judge in his ruling was one by the Quebec Court of Appeal, which had stated in a case involving the city of Montreal that "applica-

ble principles of Quebec municipal law are clear that the doctrine of legitimate expectations cannot be successfully invoked when, as here, the ultimate decision-making authority resides with duly elected members ... of the city council."

Poirier also found that city council approval of a contract renewal was not "automatic."

The judgment outlined arguments of the city's lawyer, Frédéric Poirier, to the effect that the judge in the ruling by the

labour relations commission had erred on several points. These included interpretation of the contract, an expectation of its renewal and the plaintiff's credibility.

The lawyer claimed Dubé had submitted a job résumé to the city that contained an anomaly.

Marco Gaggino, on the other hand, stated on Dubé's behalf that the commission's 2015 decision was clear, and its conclusion "constituted a possible and acceptable issue."

Follow-up:

99-year-old also breaks wrist, pelvis in long wait for ambulance

New information came to light last week regarding the plight of a 99-year-old Westmount woman who waited more than five hours for an ambulance February 12 after falling in her apartment building (see story, February 23, p. 1).

It turns out she not only lay the entire time in "excruciating pain" from what was reported as a broken hip, the *Independent*

learned last week. She had also suffered a broken pelvis and wrist in the fall.

One of the public safety officers who remained with her during the long wait for Urgences Santé was seen a few days later at the hospital where she had gone to visit the woman on her own personal time.

— LS

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Trent replies to student Cruz’s request

City might consider reconfiguring path east of cenotaph

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Requests to the city in November and December to add sidewalks criss-crossing

Garden Point in front of the cenotaph have been turned down by Mayor Peter Trent. The city might, he says, be open to another way of providing more direct access

At the same time, however, Trent explained that over the years “quite a few students” had shown a lack of respect for the cenotaph by lolling all over it and play-

door of city hall and Argyle Ave., as well as steps and a path in front of the cenotaph, which Cruz says is not plowed in winter. There is also a path to the east.

“It is unlikely council would approve the introduction of more hard surfaces in that little park,” Trent explained. “Perhaps the diagonal asphalt path that is already there to the east of the cenotaph could become more of a right angle in order to accommodate students.”



Looking west from Clarke Ave. the park known as Garden Point (between Sherbrooke, at left, and Côte St. Antoine, at right) is seen with snow burying an “eastern” path somewhere in the foreground. École Internationale de Montréal is to the right outside the frame of the photo.

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for students at École Internationale de Montréal on Côte St. Antoine to and from Sherbrooke St.

Trent told the *Independent* last week that it might be possible to reconfigure an existing path to the east of the cenotaph to accommodate students using the bus on Sherbrooke.

He made the same suggestion in an email response to student Victor Cruz December 21. Cruz had been proposing additional paths to the west of the cenotaph to improve safety, especially in the winter (see letter November 3, p. 6 and photo story December 14, p. 7).

ing games on a monument “that mourns so many young men who gave their lives for Canada.”

Any changes, Trent added, “would also have to introduce measures to deal with this lack of respect.”

Cruz subsequently said he felt it “unfair for the mayor to link my request for safety improvements to the poor conduct of some students around this monument.”

Garden Point is an elongated triangular park extending east from city hall and narrowing toward the intersection of the Côte Rd. and Sherbrooke at Clarke. It is already crossed by a main pathway to the front

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Comin’ Up

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Poetry workshop with Ann Lloyd, 10:15 am in the boardroom of the Westmount Public Library. Info: Donna Lach, 514.989.5386.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Hosted by Westmount Healthy City Project, Stephanie Brown and Lesley Mof-fat are to speak on public education, legisla-tion and consumer choice regarding **animal welfare**, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library.

MONDAY, MARCH 7

City council meeting, 8 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Westmount Horticultural Society pres-ents Larry Hodgson, garden writer and TV presenter on “Perennials with Pizazz.” Westmount Room of Westmount Public Library, 7 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Open to the public for \$5.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Author **Keith Henderson** discusses his historical novel *The Roof Walkers*, set in the lead-up to Canadian confederation. With Irish harpist Susan Palmer. 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

St. Patrick’s Day crafts for 4+ years. Reg-ister at the children’s desk with child’s li-brary card. 4 to 5 pm. Info: 514.989.5229.

University Women’s Club of Montreal

Wednesday, March 16th at 6pm in the Atwater Club, 3505 Avenue Atwater

Dr. Joe Schwarz, McGill Science Professor, Author, Radio-show Host “*Celebrity Science: From Suzanne Somers to Dr. Oz*” Is it sound science or quackery? Time to separate the wheat from the chaff.

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Reservations required by March 10th. Newcomers welcome.

For reservations or information **514 934-1362** or email **uwcm@uwcm.com**

Webster keynote speaker at March 6 arthritis fundraiser

Westmounter Tegan Webster is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at Power of Movement, a Sunday, March 6 fundraiser for the Arthritis Research Foundation. Seen here in her home on Grosvenor Ave. on February 19, Webster, who has rheumatoid arthritis, said she will speak about how a particular medication has helped reduce her pain and increase her mobility. A one-hour, large-group yoga session is part of the event, being held from 9 am to noon in the gym of Trafalgar School for Girls, 3495 Simpson. Webster is personally raising money for the event. For more information, visit www.powerofmovement.ca.

Photo: Joanne Penhale

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Waiting for someone

The driver of a parked car idling for more than two hours at Prince Albert and St. George's Place was asked to move it February 2 at 12:23 am, according to Public Security officials. The driver claimed to be waiting for someone. He was checked out and told to wait on Sherbrooke.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

QUESTIONING CITY'S 'MANDATE'

What is the city's mandate to build new condos at Prince Albert and de Maison-neuve?

The property at this corner has been identified for "redevelopment" in the city's southwest study. And the city has been in negotiations for several months with the owner on the height, front and under-ground parking locations, and setback requirements for a new condo development.

The problem is the city has no "man-date" to build new condos on this property. The existing zoning calls for the continuation of the current use (medical or commercial building) or its replacement with one- or two-family homes.

None of the residents of this community have been agitating against the existing building or in favour of new condos (and in fact fought hard for the existing by-laws requiring single family homes). Yet the city is actively considering "re-zoning" that would diminish the value of the surrounding properties (at least two years of construction in our back yards, likely damage to foundations of 100-plus-year-old homes, and, for several of us, a loss of

sunlight and views of the mountain) while providing a windfall to the condo developer (whose purchase price for the property reflected the restrictions on develop-ment).

We understand the developer's motives. However, we don't understand why the city is exploring new condos against its own current by-laws. We have asked this ques-tion point blank at council meetings and letters to councillors with no answer.

The soon-to-be-passed PPCMOI law is the preferred tool to manage the redevel-opment. Before allowing this law to pass, we need a clear answer from the city on what its vision is for this property and why it is proceeding with a "redevelopment" that ignores the current by-law that resi-dents fought for, and that would reduce our property values while increasing those of the condo developer.

IRMA ALVAREZ AND STEVEN COBRIN,
YORK ST.

WISHFUL THINKING

Regarding the letter to the editor "More staff, \$ for infrastructure spending" (Feb-ruary 23, p. 6), it has been fascinating to read the conflicting communications re-

garding budgets, explanations for massive surpluses (and we don't even know the tally for 2015), overtaxing citizens, crum-bling (apparently) everything, different ac-counting practices, etc. – which clearly in-dicate there's more than one way to run a city.

Regardless, the city has had very large budget surpluses in the past, which means we citizens are overtaxed. And how does council address this issue? By lowering property taxes to fairly balance things out? No. Instead, it changed the Finance de-partment's management (that sounds ex-pensive) and tightened up the 2016 re-venue budget to eliminate any large surpluses in the future.

In other words, we'll still be overtaxed, and there will still be large surpluses, ex-cept now council's going to make darn sure to spend them. And when you spend more, you need more. So, you guessed it – after all this hoopla, our property taxes are going to go up in the future. Again.

And here I was thinking things might start going in the right direction with the property tax freeze of 2016.

Wishful thinking.
THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

GOVERNANCE IS HOT ISSUE

The current controversy in Westmount about money, infrastructure, decision-making and judgment raises the question of Westmount's governance. The subject of how the city is run was touched upon for several years in my numerous letters to the editor in the local press.

Thankfully, now the issue of governance is obviously of wide concern and is publicly and adamantly being debated. I covered this, perhaps a little earlier than others, but now these issues are being shared by a large number of tax-paying citizens.

The debate that is taking place should hopefully result in long-term gains for the citizen taxpayers who count on living in a democracy, which includes their munic-ipality.

LARRY KLEPPER, ST. CATHERINE ST.

WESTMOUNT PARK'S LONELY PINE

One of our favourite movies during the holiday season is *A Charlie Brown Christ-mas*. Although produced in 1965, it has stood the test of time and become a season classic. In one scene, Charlie Brown hangs a single glass ornament on the spindly Christmas tree he brought home, causing it to bend. He remarks: "I've killed it. Oh! Everything I touch gets ruined."

I have often wondered if Westmount



Jack pine photographed December 24.
Photo courtesy of M. Walsh

Park contains a pine tree, similar to the one depicted in the movie.

As luck may have it, during my many walks through the park, I have noticed a pine tree that very closely resembles the one depicted in the movie. With its tall and spindly shape, it can be easily over-looked in its location near the lagoon south of the clay tennis courts.

This particular tree is a jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) also known as: scrub pine, gray pine, Banksian pine, black pine, and in within Canada, princess pine or Hudson Bay pine. Interestingly, its scientific name honours Sir Joseph Banks, the British nat-uralist who also arranged Captain William Bligh's expedition to Tahiti on the *HMS Bounty* – a voyage that ended with a mutiny.

Jack pines are native to the northeastern states and across Canada – in fact, their northern latitude extends further than any other American pine.

They are easily identified by their long needles, in bundles of two, and their unique shape caused by a twist from base to tip. In addition, they are the sole pine species containing cones that twist at their tips. These cones can remain closed for many years. Normally, forest fires result in the opening of the cones, causing the dis-tribution of seeds on the ash bed.

Next time you pass by this lonely looking pine, remember Linus Van Pelt's descrip-tion: "I never thought it was such a bad lit-tle tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love."

MICHAEL WALSH, MELVILLE AVE.

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Police Report

Apartment on de Maisonneuve Blvd. broken into

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

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

A de Maisonneuve Blvd. apartment, which was unoccupied for a few days, was broken into and robbed, say officials at the

Letters cont'd. from p. 6

THANKFULLY, BIKE OKAY

On February 18 around 11:45 am, I was sitting at Café Crème when a truck backed into the lamp post, which fell and nearly smashed my parked bike. The truck was making some sort of fancy U-turn.

Public Security was quickly on the scene. Not too many people drinking coffee were perturbed.

Different parts of my bike, like the mud guards, are held together by hockey tape. It's hard to obtain screws and hinges when they fall off. That my bike escaped damage is probably due to some sort of karma related to its not being a perfect bike.

JOHN FRETZ, SHERBROOKE ST.



Photo courtesy of J. Fretz

Montreal Police's Station 12.

According to community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, a burglar forced the apartment's front door open, possibly with a crowbar, damaging the door frame. The suspect left with an unknown quantity of stolen property.

A crime scene report of the incident, which took place between February 12 and 15, says the apartment's front door was found ajar by other occupants of the building. There was evidence that drawers and cupboards had been searched, while personal belongings were scattered on the floor.

Because the tenant was away, the police hadn't received a report on the stolen property at the time of this reporting. Pimentel's advice to apartment dwellers seeking to avoid this type of incident is to have a neighbour check in periodically to your apartment to verify that all is well.

Hit-and-run charge

A minor collision on February 13 between two vehicles on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Lansdowne Ave. will see one of the drivers being charged with leaving-the-scene after failing to provide the other with enough information following the accident.

At around 11:15 am, according to Pimentel, the driver of an SUV pulling out of a parking space on Sherbrooke collided with the complainant's vehicle. According to the police report, the driver of the SUV told the other driver after this that she didn't have her driver's licence with her and would return in 10 minutes after retrieving it.

Although she left behind a piece of paper with the vehicle's licence plate number and eventually did return to the scene, according to Pimentel, the SUV driver didn't provide their her name, insurance provider

and other crucial information.

"When you have an accident, you're supposed to stop. You're not supposed to leave the scene, and you're supposed to do an exchange of information, including name, address, driver's licence number, your insurer and policy number and plate number," said Pimentel.

He added that carbon-copy forms provided by the provincial auto insurance agency can make the task easier. As for the owner of the SUV, he said the police will be contacting them to hear their side of the incident. But in the meantime, they could be charged with leaving the scene of an accident because they provided incomplete information.

Fraud scheme warning

With income tax time just around the corner, the staff at Station 12 on Stanton St. has issued a warning regarding a number of tax-related fraud schemes that become more common at this time of year.

According to police, fraudsters posing as Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Revenue Quebec employees are using phone calls and emails to trick unwary individuals into revealing personal information that can be used to commit identity theft or steal money.

There are two commons ruses. In the first, the victim receives a phone call or an email informing them that they are entitled to a tax refund, but that in order to receive it they must provide personal information.

In the second instance, a phone call or email informs the victim that the CRA or Revenue Quebec has audited their file and found they owe taxes. They are told that a payment must be made immediately to avoid being fined, or even that failing to pay right away can lead to an arrest warrant being issued.

The police say that neither tax agency uses this type of approach and that they wouldn't ask for personal information in such an offhand way. They also note that the digital display of phones can be rigged by fraudsters to make it appear their call is originating from a government tax agency.

They say the thing not to do in the case of emails is to click on the embedded links as this usually leads to the download of malware.

Heating company warned not to go door-to-door

A company specializing in thermal heating was warned not to go door to door in Westmount February 22, Public Security officials said.

Three residents complained about a man trying to gain access to homes on Elm between Holton and Sherbrooke around 6:22 pm to inspect their heating systems. Officers intercepted the man and contacted the federally registered company he worked for explaining his activity was not allowed in Westmount.

18-wheeler stops just in time

The driver of a large south-bound truck on Greene discovered February 15 he did not have sufficient clearance to pass under the railway bridge, Public Security officials said. Meanwhile, the truck had become boxed in by traffic backing up behind it. Public safety officers were dispatched at 1:28 pm and worked with police and the RCMP to help clear away the traffic so the 18-wheeler could back up the hill.

Folklore I



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Between now and then we want to thank all of you and, of course, have some fun too! So please stop in and see what we have on special this week and in the weeks to come.



Time needed for by-law

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cont'd. from p. 1

tion meeting October 22.
Since that time, “we have listened to residents and are making modifications in order to ensure even earlier resident input in the process,” Samiotis pointed out.
Originally, she said, she anticipated “being able to post these changes on the website and table the by-law for second reading and passage at the March council meeting.”

Seeking more review time

London and others have been asking for time to review the modifications, specifically the addition of a provision to provide for public consultation on projects submitted under the SCAOPI by-law at an early stage of their consideration by the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).
The draft had initially called for public consultation after reviews by both the PAC and city council. This would be too late in the process, he contends, since a developer and the city would likely have already agreed on various conditions, which London calls “trade-offs” (see story December 16, p. 9).

One of the obstacles being encountered, Samiotis has explained, was how to incorporate the earlier consultation into the by-law while conforming to a Quebec law governing the process for information, consultation and public participation leading to an urban planning referendum.
The council had introduced the by-law because “it believes it will be a useful tool to review large non-conforming projects in our city and because it gave a voice for residents in the process,” Samiotis explained.
Projects considered under the by-law are

St. George’s dance raises \$800 for Liam Tooney Challenge



St. George’s School annual “Dance for Liam Toonie Challenge” raised \$851.75 February 18 for the Liam Armstrong Pediatric Oncology Fund, which supports the haematology/oncology department at Montreal Children’s Hospital. The annual event, which brings the elementary students together to dance in the gym during the school day and bring a toonie to donate, is now in its second year. It is in memory of former elementary school student, Liam Armstrong, who died in March 2014.

Photo courtesy of St. George’s School

subject to a referendum process.
Opponents have expressed concerns that in such a referendum that the number of eligible voters could overturn the immediate objections of citizens who would be more directly affected by a major development.
Such a concern has been voiced in particular by a group of residents on Grosvenor whose properties back onto a proposed development of the Metro gro-

cery store and parking lot. This is believed to be one project that would likely be submitted under the new SCAOPI/PPCMOI by-law because it would exceed existing zoning criteria.
London’s letter-writing campaign asks residents to consider 21 questions on the issue and address their comments to the

city on one or two of the points.
One response sent to the city and the *Independent* from Pamela Miller of Prince Albert February 23 states in part that an early stage in the consultation process “must” involve a public meeting with the developer and project professionals willing to answer questions.

Speaking of PAC, just who gets to meet with it?

In light of recent concerns over public consultation on plans submitted to the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), comes the question of just who can meet with this design review committee?
Because the PAC is a technical panel that reviews exterior architectural plans, it usually invites only property owners or tenants and their professional architects who are applying for approval of their plans, according to city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.
“It’s the architects we invite because it is a meeting of professionals, but it is nice to have the property owner or representative in the room so they can be sensitized to and hear the PAC’s point of view.”

The PAC is composed of three outside architects appointed by the city to review plans in accordance with the city’s planning and architectural programs (see story February 10, 2015, p. 4). It also includes the city’s commissioner of Urban Planning, in this case Councillor Theodora Samiotis. Poirier presents the projects to the PAC and acts as its resource person.
Residents or others who may wish to make input into a particular project under review may do so through Poirier or her representative in the Urban Planning department but not directly to the PAC, she said.
They may also do so at a city council meeting, Samiotis pointed out. — LS

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Ghaffari, Mortazavi host Iranian cultural event



From left: Shahrzad Ghaffari and Homeira Mortazavi. Inset: Musicians Elham Manoucheri, Réza Abaee and Pacha Karami.



BY HEATHER BLACK

Photographer Shahrzad Ghaffari and artist Homeira Mortazavi hosted a special cultural event on February 21 at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. The event featured musicians Elham Manoucheri, Réza Abaee and Pacha Karami performing traditional Iranian music, folkloric dancer Fatemeh Borhani and singers Ghaffari, Jane Fisk, and Ritsa Hamzé with Ira Sokolova at the keyboard.

Held concurrently with the exhibition of Ghaffari's photographs and Mortazavi's floral and figurative paintings, the event was an opportunity for the two West-

mounters to share their art and Iranian roots. Both Ghaffari and Mortazavi were born in Iran.

For Ghaffari, the exhibition's "theme of flowers reflects the importance of nature – and its integration within life – in Iranian culture." The third exhibitor, floral artist Catherine Benny, was also on hand for the afternoon event.

Batshaw Children Needing Homes

Sophia needs loving family

A foster home is being sought for nine-month-old Sophia, who is a delightful, happy and playful baby. She is expressive and is babbling. She has a good disposition and loves to be around people. Sophia is developing age appropriately and is on target for all her milestones. She has a good daily routine. She eats and sleeps well.

Sophia is currently in an emergency foster home and cannot be reintegrated

into her family as her mother is not able to provide her with the care and attention that she needs.

Sophia is in need of a family that can make a commitment to her for as long as she needs. The ideal family would be that of a Caucasian family, which would be open to structured visits from her parents.

For more information on Sophia, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, ext. 1139.

Car manoeuvres rush-hour traffic missing a tire

A Public Security patroller spotted a car without one of its front tires slowly driving west on Sherbrooke at Mount Stephen February 11. The driver was reported to have difficulty controlling the car and was gesturing to others to pass her. Public Security officials said the patroller stopped her at 6:06 pm and asked her to park, given "the hazards" involved during the busy rush-hour traffic. The woman, a resident of Côte St. Luc, stated she had been trying to reach the Esso service station at Grosvenor. She called a tow truck instead.



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Woman falls on icy sidewalk, helped by Public Works

A woman was seen falling on an icy sidewalk on Sherbrooke February 17 by Public Works crews, Public Security officials said. Working on snow and salting operations nearby, they went to her assistance and were found holding her up when patrollers responded to their call at 8:15 am at the intersection of Mount Stephen. The

woman stated she had heard a crack in her foot as she fell. Urgences Santé was called and arrived at 8:30 am. The 65-year-old woman was checked out and taken to the Montreal General Hospital. The incident occurred after rain and a sudden freeze.



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Short ‘n sweet



The Underdog Club
JANE DAVEY

Little guy Shorty joins the Underdog Club this week by virtue of being A) not a spring chicken at 10 years of age, and B) not to put too fine a point on it, sort of a funny-looking pooch (although we think he’s adorably funny-looking) and as for the age factor, we’re told Shorty still has plenty



of pep left in him yet. When this Lab/dachshund’s owner passed away, he found himself under the care of Sophie’s Dog Adoption, hoping for a retirement home.

Sunny, quirky disposition

Just imagine the sunny disposition of the Labrador combined with the quirkiness of a doxie. He’s described as friendly and eager to please without being overbearing, but is also “impressionable” in that he will cower if you raise your voice. On the other hand, although a generally mellow presence around the house, when

his protective instincts come to the fore, he’ll voice his concern in a tone belying his small stature.

Shorty is in fine overall health except for his 56 pounds. He should weigh about 35 to 40, and his present foster family is helping him to lose the extra bulk. (It certainly helps that he loves his walks!)

He’s also neutered, and all vaccinations are up to date.

Great with others

Shorty is great with other dogs and pays no mind to cats, but would also do well as an only pet too. He can handle alone time and may bark a bit at first but settles down eventually. Very little shedding is a nice perk too.

A home with older, dog-savvy children would be the best option for him.

If you think Shorty is the total (small!) package, you’re invited to email Sophie’s Dog Adoption at info@sophiesdogadoption.com or call 514.804.5052.

Soccer club plays in finals



The Westmount Soccer Club Boys U14 team is seen here January 24 at Soccerplex in Lachine, following its loss in the final of the U14 AA division at the Lac St. Louis winter indoor tournament. It was the first indoor tournament. Another U21 team was formed specially for this tournament, losing in the semi-finals. It is slated to play in other tournaments this year. The club's try-outs are scheduled to start in early April, with league games starting in May, according to Doug Hamilton, a parent of three children who play in the club, who is in charge of its administration and communications. Described as a local community club, it has seven teams, four boys' teams and three girls' teams, playing intercity this year.

Photo courtesy of D. Hamilton

Women's hockey 'thrives' on Sunday night



Photo courtesy of P. Delhaye

Westmount Women's Hockey "continues to thrive every Sunday night" at Westmount recreation centre," according to player Pascale Delhaye. "The number of players keeps increasing as does the faster-paced skill level. The skating is stronger, the passes and shots are harder and more precise, and the fun, laughs and encouragement never falter. Even the post-game locker room 'aromas' now suggest a true hockey ambience," she recounted. Delhaye said male family members often step in when a goalie is needed. "The name of the game is hockey, and that is what we lace up for every week," she said.



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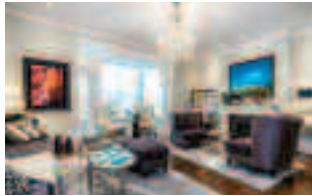
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in October, November 2015

For story, please see paper archive.

For Andy Dodge's analysis, see p. 17.



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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Projet Turcot : fermeture de longue durée de la rue Saint-Rémi

Dans le cadre des travaux sur la future route 136 (actuellement l'autoroute 720), la rue Saint-Rémi sera fermée à la circulation entre les rues Notre-Dame O. et Saint-Jacques **à compter du 28 février jusqu'à la fin de l'été 2016**. Info : www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Le mercredi 2 mars, 10 h 15. Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount compose des poèmes à partir de thèmes proposés par les membres. Bienvenue à tous. Info : 514 989-5299.

Série aptitudes financières
Le mercredi 2 mars, 14 h. *Preparing for Retirement* avec Bob Spicer et Joe Catalano. Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir des adultes. Info : 514-989-5299.

Inscriptions jeunesse - session printemps
À compter du mercredi 9 mars. Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir des enfants. Info : 514-989-5229.

Série aptitudes financières
Le mercredi 9 mars, 14 h. *Estate Planning Workshop* avec Audrey Lapointe. Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir des adultes. Info : 514-989-5299.

Nouveau ! Club LEGO™
Les samedis 19 mars, 16 avril et 14 mai. 14 h à 15 h pour les jeunes âgés de 4 à 6 ans et 15 h à 16 h pour les jeunes de 7 à 12 ans. Inscriptions à compter du 9 mars au comptoir des enfants. Info : 514-989-5229.

Rencontres d'auteurs
Le mercredi 30 mars, 19 h. Monique Proulx, auteure de *Ce qu'il reste de moi*. Billets gratuits disponibles à la bibliothèque. Info : 514-989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition
Du 3 au 24 mars. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de **Claire Desjardins**. Venez rencontrer l'artiste et la conservatrice de la galerie, Victoria LeBlanc, **le mardi 8 mars à 19 h**. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. Info : 514-989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

Série conférences Ville en santé: La voie du progrès vers le bien-être des animaux
Le jeudi 3 mars, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Conférencières invitées : **Stephanie Brown**, Coalition canadienne pour la protection des animaux de ferme et **Lesley Moffat**, *Eyes on Animals*. Info : 514 989-5284.

Concert : « Blips & Beats »
Le dimanche 13 mars, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Architek Percussion* est un quatuor montréalais qui se spécialise dans la musique de chambre expérimentale,

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 7 mars

minimaliste, multi-disciplinaire et électroacoustique. Présenté en collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Gratuit. Info : 514 989-5226.

Série conférences Ville en santé:
« Pioneering in Palliative Care »
Le mardi 15 mars, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Conférencière invitée : Sue Britton, infirmière, psychothérapeute et enseignante certifiée de yoga, forte de 41 années d'expérience en soins palliatifs. Info : 514 989-5284.

Défilé de la Saint-Patrick
Le dimanche 20 mars, midi, centre-ville de Montréal. Joignez-vous au groupe de Westmount qui participera au défilé de la Saint-Patrick. Les résidents sont invités à participer mais doivent préalablement obtenir un laissez-passer au Victoria Hall ou à la bibliothèque. Tous les jeunes doivent être accompagnés d'un adulte. Info : 514 989-5226.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel de dossiers
Date limite : le 15 avril 2016. La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de dossiers pour sa programmation de la saison 2016-2017 (septembre 2016 à août 2017). Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents ou professionnels qui habitent Westmount.

Les propositions doivent inclure 10 photographies ou images électroniques - sur CD, DVD ou clé USB - d'œuvres récentes (programmation générale) ou 5 photographies ou images électroniques (volet exposition de groupe estivale); une liste des œuvres présentées et les renseignements s'y rattachant (titre, médium, dimension, etc.), un bref résumé et une démarche artistique. Veuillez indiquer si vous posez votre candidature pour la programmation générale ou le volet exposition de groupe estivale, ou pour les deux. Veuillez noter que les artistes ayant déjà participé à une exposition à la galerie du Victoria Hall ne peuvent poser leur candidature qu'après un minimum de 5 ans.

Période d'inscription annuelle : **du 15 février au 15 avril**. Un dossier complet peut être posté ou déposé (aucune soumission par courriel ne sera acceptée) au : Centre communautaire Victoria Hall
Comité de sélection
4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Westmount, QC H3Z 1G1
Info : 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.



CITY HALL

Turcot project: long-term closure of Saint-Rémi Street

To carry out construction work for future highway 136 (currently Autoroute 720), Saint-Rémi Street will be closed between Notre-Dame St. W. and Saint-Jacques St. W. **from February 28 until late summer 2016**. Info: www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca.

LIBRARY

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd
Wednesday, March 2, 10:15 a.m. The Westmount Poetry Group meets to compose poetry together working with themes proposed by members. All welcome. Info: 514 989-5299.

Financial Literacy Series
Wednesday, March 2, 2 p.m. *Preparing for Retirement* with Bob Spicer and Joe Catalano. Registration required. Info: 514-989-5299.

Children's Spring Session : registration
From Wednesday, March 9. Please register at the Children's Desk. Info: 514 989-5229.

Financial Literacy Series
Wednesday, March 9, 2 p.m. *Estate Planning Workshop* with Audrey Lapointe. Registration required. Info: 514-989-5299.

New! LEGO™ Club
Saturday, March 19, April 16 and May 14. Ages 4 to 6 - 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.; ages 7 to 12: - 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Registration begins March 9. Info: 514-989-5229.

Author Lecture Series
Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m. Monique Proulx, author of *Ce qu'il reste de moi*. Free tickets available at the Library. Info: 514-989-5299.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Galerie at Victoria Hall: exhibition
March 3 to 24. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to feature the works of **Claire Desjardins**. Come meet the artist and Gallery Curator Victoria LeBlanc on **Tuesday, March 8 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: victoriahall@westmount.org or 514-989-5521.

Healthy City lecture series: On the road to better animal welfare
Thursday, March 3, 7 p.m., Library. Guest speakers: **Stephanie Brown**, Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals and **Lesley Moffat**, *Eyes on Animals*, Netherlands. Info: 514 989-5284.

Concert : « Blips & Beats »
Sunday, March 13, 2 p.m, Victoria Hall. *Architek Percussion* is a Montreal-based quartet specializing in the performance of experimental, minimalist,

Next Council Meeting Monday, March 7

multi-disciplinary, and electroacoustic chamber music. Presented in collaboration with the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée*. Victoria Hall. Free. Info: 514 989-5226.

Healthy City lecture series: Pioneering in Palliative Care
Tuesday, March 15, 7 p.m., Library. Guest speaker: Sue Britton, registered nurse, psychotherapist and certified yoga teacher, with 41 years of practice in palliative care. Info: 514 989-5284.

St. Patrick's Parade
Sunday, March 20, noon, downtown Montreal. Join Westmount Public Security walking contingent in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Residents are invited to participate but must obtain a pass either at Victoria Hall or the Library. All youth must be accompanied by an adult. Info: 514 989-5226.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: call for projects
Deadline: April 15, 2016. The Gallery at Victoria Hall The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces its Call for projects for its 2016-2017 exhibition season (September 2016 to August 2017). Emerging or professional artists who are residents of Westmount are invited to apply.

Submissions should include 10 photographs or electronic images on CD, DVD or USB key of recent works for a season exhibition or 5 photographs or electronic images for the summer group exhibition category; a descriptive list of the photographs submitted (including title, medium, size, year completed, etc.); a short résumé and an artist's statement. Please indicate whether you are applying for a season exhibition, the summer group show, or both. Please note that artists that have already participated in an exhibition at the Gallery at Victoria Hall are not eligible to resubmit for a minimum of 5 years.

Annual registration period: **February 15 to April 15**. Please mail or deliver your complete dossier (online submissions will not be accepted) to: Victoria Hall Community Centre
Gallery Selection Committee
4626 Sherbrooke St. W.,
Westmount, H3Z 1G1
Info: victoriahall@westmount.org. or 514 989-5521.



Strong prices in October, weaker in November

Real estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA

pany's current chairman and chief executive.

Desmarais paid \$4,800,000 for the property, one of two October sales above \$4 million along with 44 Sunnyside Ave., and in fact those were the only two to clear even \$2 million in October. One more sale, 9 Lansdowne Ridge in November, was registered higher than \$2 million.

A dozen sales in October averaged \$1,695,654, thanks to the two \$4 million-plus transactions. Four sales were under \$1 million, with the lowest at \$800,000 for 431 Prince Albert Ave, and \$801,000 for 64 Somerville Ave. In November, four of nine sales were under \$1 million, as low as \$705,000 for 59 Columbia Ave.

The average price in November was only \$1,226,444, but the average mark-up was 9.18 percent, up from an average 6.76 percent in October. The difference, it would

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in October and November 2015, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.

One of Westmount's more illustrious families, former prime minister Brian Mulroney and his wife Mila, moved out of their 47 Forden Cresc. home in October, which led the way in sale prices that month and welcoming in Paul and Mary Desmarais, he the grandson of the founder of Power Corp. and son of the holding com-



47 Forden Cresc., photographed February 24.

appear, is that half of the October sales were below municipal value, as much as an 18-percent mark-down for 558 Claremont Ave.

Three mark-downs in November were much gentler, the biggest at 7.4 percent for 258 Olivier Ave. On the positive side, 44 Sunnyside Ave. sold for more than 33 percent above evaluation in October while 671

Roslyn sold for 26.1 percent over tax value in November.

With one month left in the year, prices have started to pull back only in the last two to three months from an all-time peak, and the average annual price and mark-up have both reached new heights.

Contractors instructed on snow removal

Two private contractors were asked to remove snow they had put onto the street as well as private property on February 16, Public Security officials said. The first resulted from a complaint at 12:53 pm about snow being dumped from 215 Redfern onto the sidewalk and street on the west side where parking is permitted. Officers

instructed the contractor that snow was only allowed to be put on the east side.

The same day at 5:24 pm, a large quantity of snow from 245 Olivier was found blocking the garage at number 250. The contractor was contacted and told to remove the snow.

44 Sunnyside Ave., photographed February 24.

Bought & Sold cont'd. from p. 15

For story, please see paper archive.

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Beer Review: The Connoisseur and Venue: Espace Public – Brasseur

Venue: Espace Public – Brasseur du Quartier

3632 Ontario East ("HOMA" – Hochelaga-Maisonneuve), September 24, 2015.

David Price, The Philistine; Beer drinker
Ideal beer: stronger-than-average lager, even it's commercial Canadian beer

Favourite beer: Harp or Sapporo (research still under way)

Greg Dunning, The Connoisseur; Beer drinker, brewer, and hunter

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

Favourite beer: Too many to mention.

Espace Publique opened its doors in January 2012 in what has been a dodgy neighbourhood for a long, long time. However, like other low income/grungy boroughs in the city (Griffintown, Ropepa, etc), HOMA is coming back to life because of the contribution of businesses like Espace Publique, which is a local gathering point for artists, young professionals, young families, seniors and people bumming cigarettes.

All the beers on tap were either British, American or Belgian ales.

THE PHILISTINE: Pinte (5%, American blonde)

This beer was the closest thing I could find to a lager on the menu (although our initial waitress said they do sometimes serve actual lagers).

I was unimpressed. It tasted like Tremblay, a microbrew that aims – I think – to appeal to mainstream Canadian beer drinkers.

The problem with Tremblay and Pinte is that they are too ordinary with no distinguishing feature, despite a full body. A regular confided to us later, "Pinte was designed to be bland."

Objective achieved. Hoorah, I guess.

THE CONNOISEUR: P'tite Loupuline (5.8%, American harvest ale)

After arriving by bike, I felt that the traditional end-of-the-work-day beverage should be the way to go. If I had been harvesting the public lettuces of Westmount in the middle of July, an almost 6% harvest, a.k.a. saison or mild, would have been

too strong. But on the terrace on a late September evening, this slightly hoppy (Cascade hops grown in Dunham, QC), and not spicy, well-balanced ale was refreshing and warming.

THE PHILISTINE: Monty Python (4.8%, British special bitter)

My second beer was Monty Python, a bitter. This style is one that I sometimes like, but not in this case. I found it soapy – but not wheat-beer soapy, which is a light, citrus-y soapiness. This beer had a heavy soapiness to it and was a little IPA-esque.



Photos courtesy of Willem Westenberg

THE CONNOISEUR: Gingembre 3D (3.8%, Belgian blanche)

The only way to reverse course and sample a lower alcohol, lighter-coloured beer would be with an adjunct like ginger. Steve, our "Irish by way of Scotland" waiter, said "it would be a good departure." The brewery's tasting notes on this white beer mention "un shit load de gingembre!!" but I had trouble getting my mouth around it. With my glass a quarter full, I detected some heat in the aftertaste, which was very nice and overdue.

THE PHILISTINE: P'tite Loupuline (5.8%, American harvest ale)

My third beer was Loupuline. This beer had a distinctive taste, but still some soapiness (see above). Nevertheless, it was my favourite beer of the evening, which is weird because I can usually pick what will be my favourite beer, especially with Greg's help, and then choose to have it first. Here I was hitting it on my third try.

THE CONNOISEUR: La Babiche (4.7%,

Brune Américaine)

The weird name for this one was lost on me as it refers to the twine used in a snowshoe. I drained this pint while I was inhaling my locally-sourced souvlaki and fries from La Belle Place, which was delivered right to our table on the terrace without issue. I plain forgot to take notes but there is a pattern emerging here which I think explains why.

This brewery is making very drinkable, sessionable beers for everyone, rather than trying to blow away the public with the "biggest" beer in the 'hood. All the offerings are truly distinct in style, aroma and taste, but they don't try to knock you off your chair. Maybe this strategy also explains why the terrace was packed at this point in the evening and there was standing room only inside for the federal leaders' debate, which was playing on two big-screen TVs. Gilles Duceppe on TV used to bring them in around here; not anymore.

THE PHILISTINE: Retro (7%, India pale ale – British)

My fourth beer was the IPA. Regular and attentive readers of this column will know that this style is not my favourite, but I do like them occasionally. This one was run of the mill. Not super skunky, which many IPA hopheads love and I dislike, but not in my sweet spot either.

I, too, was amazed to see so many watching the debate: they were even sitting on the floor, which I don't think I have ever seen before in a bar – and I've been to a few.

THE CONNOISEUR: Retro as well! (Good timing David!)

Nice and balanced, which means that the brewer has balanced the 55-IBU (international bitterness units) bitterness with the right amount of malt sweetness. I would call this a session IPA, which at 7% is an achievement.

This IPA was made with the help of another brewer, Jukebox (Les Cèdres, QC). Craft brewery collaboration is quite common all over the world. Craft brewers routinely share secrets, techniques, equipment, etc. among themselves to make new and interesting discoveries and offer them to their customers. How refreshing is that in contrast to the acquire-and-rationalize "best practices" of the industrial breweries!

THE PHILISTINE: Offenbach Grand Cru (Rouges des Flandres, 7.2%)

Grand Cru, which I knew I wouldn't like, was gently forced upon me by Mila of Prague. It was awful. It tasted more like hard alcohol than beer.

My written note says it *continued on p. 19*

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the Philistine

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all: "40%?"

I have no issue with high-alcohol drinks, but it's not what beer is about (for me, anyway) and the taste was even more wrong.

THE CONNOISEUR: Me too! (Are our taste preferences converging?)

Well, maybe not.

This beer is supposed to taste sour and sweet at the same time, and I loved it! But if you are a Philistine, this beer is really out there! What David hates is the lactic acid that has built up over seven months while the beer has been fermenting and conditioning in a wooden barrel. *Saccharomyces* is typical brewer's yeast that is used in the primary fermentation in a typical metal fermenter. All beers start this way. But for this maverick, a secondary fermentation is activated with the addition of *brettanomyces*, in a wood cask, usually oak, and

often one that has been previously used for red wine, Scotch, or whisky. *Brettanomyces* or "brett" for short is another genus of yeast and it lives on the skin of fruit. Its name means "British fungus" in Greek.

If this wild yeast sneaks into the typical beer, it will spoil it. But done properly, under the right conditions (cask, cellar temperature, skilled brewer), you get what beer expert Michael Jackson says is "sharply thirstquenching, and in my view the most refreshing beer in the world."

Conclusion

THE PHILISTINE:

In atmosphere, layout and design, I found Espace Publique very similar to HO.ST (see August 25, p. 23 for our review), which is located about 2,000 civic numbers west on the same side of the same street.

This is a compliment.

The service was excellent, knowledgeable and very friendly. Steve treated us to a round of Jameson and Toundra Colada (5% fruit beer with brett yeast, again). The approach to food is laid back, with a scant number of side dishes available and patrons allowed to bring their own food, which is "*totalement acceptable*" according to their food menu.

(Toundra was way too fizzy and sour for me, not like beer at all. Historically, others have concurred. See Greg's comments after our companions tried Benelux's *Berlinerweisse*, November 12, 2013, p. 18-19.)

Regarding the more mainstream beers at Espace, I found them too filling. A beer should be like a sandwich. But if you take a sandwich and add great hunks of food, either on the side or inside, you cease to fulfill the objective of a sandwich: a light meal.

That's the way I feel about all of Espace Publique's beer; they are too filling. The

great thing about most commercial beers and virtually all lagers is that they are refreshing and don't make you feel full. I'm sure you will remember the Miller Beer (a lager) "Less Filling, Tastes Great!" ad campaign which became a chant in every ballpark in America in 1987. Without endorsing Miller's product(s) *at all*, it was advertising what I hope to find in a beer.

I would suggest putting a good lager or two on the menu. Or don't listen to me. After all, I'm the Philistine.

THE CONNOISEUR

This brewery offers many styles on a rotating basis and they are all excellent and very accessible. I love the regular inter-brewery collaboration going on, borrowing from the logic that two heads are better than one (pun intended). Toundra Colada was brewed with Beau's (Vankleek Hill, ON) and on September 26th they invited Le Castor (Rigaud, QC) to show off its great beers and to launch their collaborative effort called la Rigauchelaga. What a great name! When political debates are not on TV, the brewery usually features live music and sponsors art shows, always featuring local artists. You have to love this brewery's commitment to what is real.

THE PHILISTINE:

On a final note, I have always been a bit skeptical of Greg's claim that microbrewed offerings will give you no (or a lesser) hangover, due to the lack of preservatives and other artifices of large-scale brewing. I have not found this to be the case generally and I actually found the opposite to be the case at HO.ST (i.e. the hangover was worse).

In Espace Publique, I have finally found an instance where Greg's theory was borne out. I felt fine the morning after, despite the beer and that damned Jameson.

Door open on Burton

The front door of a house on Burton was found open February 19 at 7:13 pm, Public Security officials said. In the absence of residents, police were called to check out the interior. All was reported to be in order. Police secured the door and efforts were made to contact the residents believed to be out of town.

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For some, it’s their first time

‘Learn to Skate’ school partnership gets kids on ice

By JOANNE PENHALE

A partnership between two local schools, making use of Westmount’s nearby arena, is helping eight- and nine-year-olds get an edge up.

“I’m skating!” shouts one student as he glides across the ice. “This is my second time here, and last time I couldn’t skate, but today I can.”

The Learn to Skate program has experienced skaters from Selwyn House high school meet with grade 3 students from Westmount Park elementary school at the Westmount recreation centre each week for two months.

“The older boys help inexperienced skaters learn and play games with the more able skaters,” said Kathleen Rooney, a grade 3 teacher at Westmount Park school.

“[It] allows many kids a chance to try something completely foreign to them,” Rooney said, adding many of the elementary school’s international students have never been on skates before.

The program was launched three years ago by Selwyn House parents Karen Anderson and Caroline Nicol, when each of



Westmount Park school grade 3 students Abdullah Al-Amodi (kneeling) and Mohammed Alosaimi learn to skate February 16 with the help of their teacher Kathleen Rooney and grade 9 Selwyn House student Nicholas Fon.

their sons was in grade 11, Anderson said.

The arena had just been built, she said,

and she and Nicol approached the Westmount Park principal with their idea for the partnership.

“It’s really a community-based activity,” Anderson said. “And everyone is so overjoyed to come help.”

She said the city of Westmount supports the program by letting it run during regular open skate times – each Tuesday morning. Skates and helmets for the students were donated from Reebok, whose president once lived in Westmount, she said, and NDG business Sport Au Gus on Sherbrooke St. sharpens the skates.

Four classes from Westmount Park participated in the seven-week-long program this winter. Two grade three classes came to the rink every two weeks, beginning in early January, and another two classes – one third grade class and one third/fourth grade split class – came every other two weeks, until spring break.

Anderson and Nicol measured the elementary students before the winter break to plan for helmet and skate sizing; about 68 Westmount Park students participated, Rooney said.

About four students from Selwyn House came to the arena each week, out of a roster of about 15 boys in grades 9, 10, and 11, Anderson said.

After spring break, the students from each school meet up again – in past years for lunch at Selwyn House, she said.

“It’s a joy to work with teachers at Westmount Park,” said Anderson, who now has a second son, in grade 11, who participated in the program.

Likewise, Rooney praised Anderson, Nicols and others who have been involved. “The volunteers and parents from Selwyn House have been a great asset and help to our school community. I really can’t say enough good things about them.”

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Name Change Notice

Prenez avis que Tanya Maral Artinian, dont l'adresse de domicile est le 427 Victoria, Westmount, QC H3Y 2R3, presentera au Directeur de l'état civil une demande pour changer son nom en celui de Tanya de Toledo.

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Westmounters co-chair JGH gala for medical research



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Once again, Montreal's go-to space for events, Griffintown's Arsenal, hosted a glamorous gala. On November 18, the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) honoured **Monique Leroux**, president/CEO Desjardins Group at a spectacular sold-out soirée co-chaired by Desjardins senior VP **Stéphane Achard** (attending with **Michèle Beelen**), and **Thomas Little**, president Bell Business Markets (with **Ann Sutherland**), along with honorary chairs Westmounters **France Chrétien Desmarais**, **Stephen Bronfman** (there with his wife **Claudine**) and **Jean Charest**, who was unable to attend as he was in Asia.

Among the VIP guests were Montreal mayor **Denis Coderre**.

The evening, coordinated by **Annette Goldman** and **Stephanie Roza** of the JGH Foundation and produced by **Lorne Levitt** and **Danielle Bitton**, began with an up-scale cocktail hour. Amazing hors d'oeuvres by chef **Olivier Perret** were enjoyed before the delicious dinner by chefs **Mô** and **John Winter Russell**.

The inspiring video of patient testimonials, created by **Neil Oakshott** of Eclipse Productions, received appreciative applause. The warm tribute to Leroux, given by her friend **Chrétien Desmarais**, was followed by an address by the honoree herself.

Black was the new, well, black for most lovely ladies. Westmounters enjoying the elegant event included **Raphael** and **Evi Schachter**, in chic couture black satin; **Harvey** and **Alta Levenson**, who accessorized her black dress with fur, as did **Nancy Bloomfield**, attending with hubby **Harry**; **Leo** and **Roni Kolber**, her black shawl-collar jacket sported "looking-forward-to-spring" large white flowers; **Bruce** and **Joelle Kent**, whose beaded black dress was topped by an on-trend velvet tuxedo jacket; **Eddy** and

Heleena Wiltzer, whose black gown had transparent sleeves; **Joel** and **Marlene King**, her dress accented by amazing lace, and **Sheldon** (sharp polka dot bow tie!) and **Meryl Elman**, who added sparkle to her black dress.

But there was also colour. Standing out amidst the elegance of onyx were a few bright blue dresses and a couple of rav-



Joelle and Bruce Kent.

ishing reds. Also noted seated at the tables full of fabulous flowers were **Dr. Manish Khanna**, JGH's CEO **Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg** (with his wife **Donna**); president, JGH corporation **Allen Rubin** (with his wife **Sarah**); and physician in chief **Ernesto**



Jonathan Goodman and Betty Scott

Schiffrin (with his wife **Alicia**); **Jonathan Goodman** (who attended with his wife's grandmother **Betty Scott**); as well as JGH Foundation chair **Howard Dermer** and CEO/president **Myer Bick** with his wife **Carole**.



Photos courtesy of JGH Foundation.

From left: **Howard Dermer**, **Stéphane Achard**, **Stephen Bronfman**, **Monique Leroux**, Montreal mayor **Denis Coderre**, **France Chrétien Desmarais**, **Thomas Little**, **Allen Rubin** and **Myer Bick**.



From left: **Sheldon** and **Meryl Elman**, **Roni Kolber** and Senator **Leo Kolber**

Seen chatting were doctors **Gerald Batist**, director, Segal Cancer Centre, with his wife **Lynne**; **David Eidelman**, McGill University dean of medicine and VP, health affairs, with **Brigitte**; and **Roderick McInnes**, director, Lady Davis Institute,

with his wife **Daniele**.

Leading sponsors were Desjardins Group and SAQ. Proceeds from the event will be allocated to medical research in the Lady Davis Institute, JGH.

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Pre-vernissage held for ‘Pompeii’

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

On February 2, Italian consul general Enrico Padula and his wife Milena hosted a private reception at the Istituto Italiano di cultura di Montreal. Guests sipped a *vin d’honneur*, Italian Prosecco, while watching a presentation on the history of Pompeii by University of Montreal professor Raphael Weyland.

The pre-vernissage was in honour of “Pompeii,” the exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, which premiered that night.

Some 150 guests made their way from the Istituto to the VIP opening at the museum. The exhibit, composed of mosaics, frescoes, bronzes, glass and sculptures, shows more than 220 of what are touted as the best preserved



Milena and Enrico Padula, February 2.

works from the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli and from the site of Pompeii itself.

Tiny, iridescent unguent bottles looked unscathed, despite being buried for so many centuries after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD.

“Pompeii” runs until September 5, 2016.



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Birks recognized for serving with Black Watch



From left, seated: Maria Birks, Drummond Birks and Ann Birks; standing: Jonathan Birks and Randall Birks. Inset photo: Drummond Birks receives the certificate of recognition and commemorative lapel pin from the honorary colonel of the Black Watch Dan O'Connor at Place Kensington February 18.

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

On February 18, Drummond Birks celebrated more than his 97th birthday. The Place Kensington resident was awarded a certificate of recognition “on behalf of a grateful nation in recognition” of his years serving with The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada during World War II. The certificate was signed by former prime minister Stephen Harper and former minister of Veterans’ Affairs Erin

O’Toole.

Birks served with the Black Watch, a fourth-generation tradition carried on by his son Jonathan Birks, an honorary member of the officers’ mess and president of the Black Watch of Canada Foundation.

Dan O’Connor, the honorary colonel of the Black Watch, made the formal presentation. Joining him were Jonathan’s wife Maria, sister-in-law Ann Birks and nephew Randall Birks.

Abandoned cell phone



Spotted on Sherbrooke and Kensington February 27 was a smashed-up Samsung cell phone on a garbage can in front of the bowling green.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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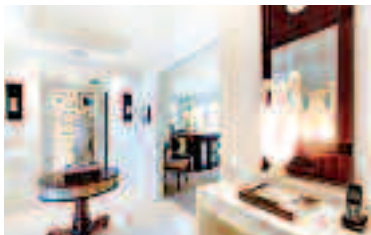
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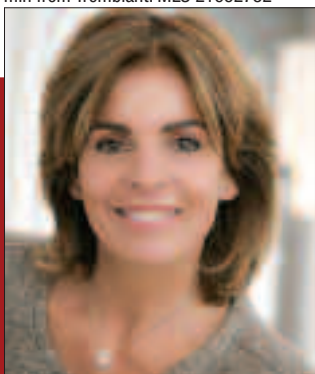
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STUNNING, architectural marvel. **\$1,399,000**



CONSISTENTLY DELIVERING RESULTS!
Westmount, 765 Upper-Belmont Ave.
IMPECCABLY maintained. 5 bdrs. **\$1,498,000**



LISTED & SOLD by Brian in 19 DAYS!
Ville Marie, 28 Place de Richelieu
Downtown living combining the luxury of strolling to the finest stores + restaurants, inner court location. TOTALLY + EXQUISITELY redone, sparing NO expense! **\$1,695,000**

CONSISTENTLY TOP 10 BROKER FOR RE/MAX QUEBEC*