

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 10 No. 3c

We are Westmount

March 15, 2016

City sets PPCMOI meeting for Mar. 22 on by-law amendments

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Six months and counting. That's the time a draft by-law governing major non-conforming development projects has been under the microscope by both the city and residents seeking earlier input into the decision process.

The resulting amendments outlined at the city council meeting March 7 include public notification of a project and access to plans while it is still at the conceptual stage, as well as an opportunity for citizens to attend a preliminary meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) when the project is presented to the panel for review.

"The administration has been working hard to respond to the concerns of residents for earlier input into the process," said Coun- continued on p. 6

How should farm animals be treated?



Stephanie Brown, left, of the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals, and, right, Lesley Moffat of Eyes on Animals addressed members of the Westmount Healthy City Project on March 3. See p. 7.

Council gears up for arrival of new parking system

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council took steps March 7 to pave the way for the city's new pay-by-plate parking system, now scheduled to be rolled out at the beginning of May, Councillor Philip Cutler told the meeting. Two different business items at the council meeting concerned this new system.

One was notice of motion to adopt a by-law to define different zones in the city for rates, which Cutler said would remain unchanged, and to establish hours of operation. These hours are listed as either Monday to Friday from 9 am to 6 pm; or Monday to Wednesday from 9 am to 6 pm, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 9 pm and Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm.

The two distinct zones for rates would be Wood Ave. to the east city limits at \$3 per hour, and the second zone to the west of Wood at \$2 per hour.

In a second item of related business, the council approved the quotation of Signalisation Lévis Inc. for the purchase and installation of 120 posts for new parking regulation signs, complete with installation of the signs and all necessary hardware for the new parking system. The total amount of the contract is \$44,745, applicable taxes included.

A \$1-million contract for the supply and installation of the automated system was awarded at the council meeting November 2 (see November 10, p. 1).



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 17

9 Lives BY L. FOWLER p. 19



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FunZone has 'weaker case'

Miss Vicky's wins provisional injunction to stay open

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Miss Vicky's has gained a new lease on life – at least for now.

It comes in the form of a provisional injunction from Quebec Superior Court allowing the nursery school to stay open until the case can be heard in court on its own merits. The Quebec Family ministry had ordered it to close on March 11.

"Given the urgency and the serious and irreparable harm that Miss Vicky's would suffer if this judgment was stayed as the result of an appeal, the court will order provisional execution [notwithstanding] an appeal," the judgment concludes.

As part of the same case heard March 7,

Judge Stephen Hamilton rejected the request for a similar injunction sought by FunZone, an afternoon program that has also been operating at St. Matthias' Church on Church Hill but in a different space.

He did, however, "urge" the government to reconsider the closure of that operation at this point in time.

"The court does not understand why, after tolerating the existence of an afternoon program at Miss Vicky's since 1988 and at FunZone since 2014, the ministry finds it necessary to shut down the program in the middle of the school year," the judge wrote in a final note. "Surely a great deal of inconvenience to the parents could be avoided by

continued on p. 16



After last week's injunction, it was business "as usual" for Miss Vicky's, but the school door off Church Hill remained unusually quiet at noon Friday, March 11 due to the continuing March break.

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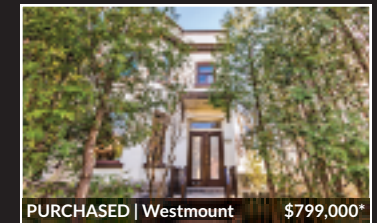
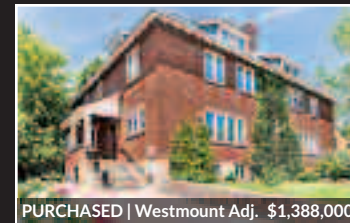
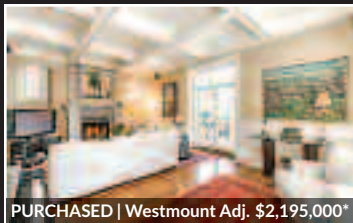
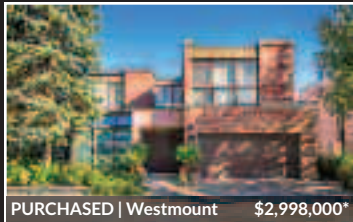
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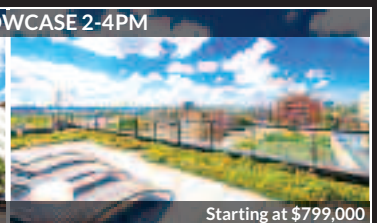
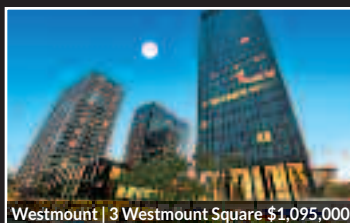
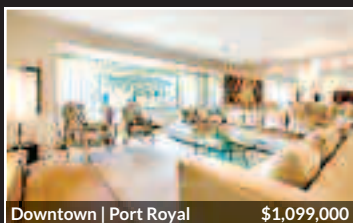
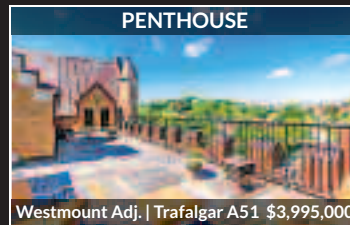
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Legal way found for earlier input

cont'd. from p. 1

cillor Theodora Samiotis.

The changes to the by-law named "Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy Proposals for an Immovable" (SCAOPI/PPCMOI) are to be detailed at a public consultation meeting Tuesday, March 22, 7 pm at city hall.

A copy of the amended draft by-law showing the changes was posted on the city's website March 9.

"The earlier input is what we've been wanting," advocate Marina Brzeski of Grosvenor told the *Independent* at the end of the council meeting. But both she and architect Ken London said they still had many questions to ask.

Step by step input

The draft by-law outlines a step-by-step approach to the way information on a project would be relayed.

The first one is a publication notice that a non-conforming project is being given to the PAC for review.

This triggers a 30-day period during which the public will have access to the conceptual documents and plans submitted by the project applicant, typically the property owner along with the developer and/or architect.

Within the same 30 days, the PAC will hold its preliminary review meeting in public. At this time, the applicant will present the project to the PAC. Citizens will be able to listen to this and ask questions, Samiotis said.

"What's important to know is that these are conceptual plans at this stage," she later explained. "They could change considerably after initial reviews and studies such as those related to wind, traffic and sun."

It is only after the 30-day period that the plan would be reviewed by city council for

a preliminary decision.

If approved by the council, the project would then become subject to a procedure for SCAOPI/PPCMOI sites laid down in Quebec's act respecting Land Use Planning and Development.

This procedure includes an obligatory public consultation meeting, a public demolition hearing if required and a register leading to a possible referendum.

Finding a way

What has made the addition of earlier public input possible from a legal position, Samiotis told the council meeting, is that the city is using a procedure for informing the public allowed under its Site Planning and Architectural Integration by-law known as the PIIA.

"Under the PIIA, the PAC can call for a public meeting at any time," she explained. PAC meetings in Westmount are traditionally held behind closed doors, however. This is not the same in some other communities such as Côte des Neiges-NDG and St. Laurent.

The initial draft of the PPCMOI By-law 1489 was tabled October 5 and submitted to public consultation October 22 (see story November 3, p. 1).

Its adoption was delayed from month to month while the city looked for the legal means to incorporate the requested earlier citizen input while complying with the province's Land Use and Planning legislation that governs the PPCMOI process (see story March 1, p. 1).



Councillor Theodora Samiotis, commissioner of Urban Planning, speaks with Marina Brzeski of Grosvenor at the end of the council meeting March 7.



Architect Ken London, a resident of Prince Albert, asks council to comment on the Proviso development now seeking approval through Montreal's centre city administration, by-passing the Côte des Neiges-NDG borough. Councillor Cynthia Lulham said the city of Westmount had already expressed concerns about pedestrian safety and the visual effects along the St. Catherine St. portion. This proposed project on de Maisonneuve at Claremont and St. Catherine is a PPCMOI site in NDG.

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Parking limits relaxed near former Marianopolis site

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council March 7 removed parking restrictions on six streets near the former site of Marianopolis College southeast of Cedar and Ramezay (in Montreal). These had been imposed initially to discourage long-term parking related to the CEGEP but are no longer considered necessary following its relocation to Westmount Ave.

"It's been about seven or eight years since Marianopolis moved, so we're finally getting around to it," said Councillor Philip Cutler in announcing the change.

Parking had been limited to one hour on the majority of the six streets, he explained.

The action was recommended by the city's Traffic Advisory Committee following an audit that showed parking was now underused in "the vast majority of street segments studied," he explained.

2 hours

Except for maintenance periods and winter restrictions, two-hour parking is to be permitted on:

- **St. Sulpice** (north and south sides)
- Mount Pleasant to the east city limits.

4-hour parking

Again, with the exception of mainte-

nance and winter restrictions, four-hour parking will be permitted on the following segments of five streets:

Mount Pleasant

- De Lavigne to Severn (south side);
- Severn to St. Sulpice (north side);
- St. Sulpice to Montrose (west side);
- St. Sulpice to Montrose (east side);
- Montrose to Cedar (west side);
- Montrose to Cedar (east side), except for the school loading zone September 1 to June 30;
- Cedar to The Boulevard (both sides).

Ramezay

- St. Sulpice to Montrose (west side).

Montrose (north side)

- East city limits to Ramezay;
- Ramezay to Mount Pleasant.

Severn

- Mount Pleasant to Mountain (north side).

Cedar

- Mountain to Mount Pleasant (south side);
- Mount Pleasant to sign facing civic 3223 (south side) except school loading zone September 1 to June 30;
- From sign facing civic 3223 to east city limits (south side), except Monday to Friday 8 to 9:30 am no parking.

Parking restricted at WRC lot to 2 and 4 hours

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The parking lot at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) has been so crowded by non-users of the facility, including 24-hour on-street permit holders, that city council imposed new time restrictions for the lot at its meeting March 7.

It has been signed for the typical maximum four-hour parking allowed in Westmount. This, however, could be overridden by 24-hour permit holders, which will no longer be permitted.

During the day – 7 am to 5 pm – parking will be limited to two hours except for any Westmount permit holder who will have up to four hours.

From 5 pm to 7 am, however, four hours maximum will be allowed for anyone, permits holders included.

Sometimes early in the morning, the lot is already full, Public Security Greg McBain points out. "It's supposed to be

for WRC users only." The four-hour limit is similar to the time restriction at the library parking lot, he adds.

In that case, it was found that people were parking there and taking the bus elsewhere.



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HCP hears from factory animal protection lobbyists

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For some cost-conscious grocery shoppers, the chicken dog is a food item that represents an incredibly good deal since typically it sells for up to a third less than all-beef wieners.

But as Stephanie Brown of the Toronto-based Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals told members of the Westmount Healthy City Project on March 3 during a presentation at Westmount Public Library, bargains sometimes also come with trade-offs.

In this case, the chickens are paying the price difference. According to Brown, "spent hens" – the term the factory farming industry uses to describe hens that can no longer lay eggs – have low economic value after having been confined for a year in wired cages with up to six other hens.

"They're skinny, they're featherless, yet they are subjected to long transport to slaughter to become chicken dogs," she said, outlining just one of the many aspects of factory farming in Canada.

Around 700 million animals are slaughtered each year in this country for food, she added. "Given the numbers, this overshadows all other aspects of animal cruelty because of their numbers. Yet each animal is an individual with preferences, feelings, desires and emotions. Animals suffer in intensive confinement."

In Canada, Brown said, there is no legislated protection for farm animals, only voluntary codes of practice. Currently, the industry codes condone intensive animal confinement.

"But the good news is that the codes are starting to change slowly," she continued, noting that pain relief is beginning to become an industry practice. "The fact that some animals in Canada are now getting pain relief is the progress that we have to

be very thankful for. It's just starting to happen."

However, Brown said Canada's livestock transportation regulations, which were last updated in 1975, "are considered to be the worst in the developed world." In this country, ruminant animals such as cattle, sheep and goats may be legally transported without water, food or rest for up to 52 hours. Poultry, pigs and horses may be transported under the same conditions for up to 36 hours.

Also during the meeting, Lesley Moffat, who is the director of the Netherlands-based non-profit Eyes on Animals, gave an overview of her organization. A former Westmounter, Moffat attended Roslyn School as well as Marianopolis College. She is the daughter of Westmount HCP member Tony Moffat.

According to Eyes on Animals, millions of farm animals in Europe don't receive the protection they are supposed to be accorded by European legislation. The group's teams trail animal transportation trucks searching for violations. They also inspect farms, livestock markets and slaughter- continued on p. 10



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Healthy City Project celebrates 25 years at Earth Hour



Councillor's Column

CYNTHIA LULHAM

The Community Life committee brings all our community groups together to share ideas and resources. Over the years, it has hosted health information fairs, created and promoted a model emergency kit and held safe walks.

A prime mover in the founding of the Healthy City Project was the late Sally Aitken. We have benefitted enormously from her efforts, and the hundreds of other Westmount volunteers who have given their ideas, experience and time to the Healthy City Project.

This Saturday, March 19, the Healthy City Project - Environment committee will join with communities around the world to observe Earth Hour (8th year!), and we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Healthy City Project.

Please come join us at Victoria Hall from 6 pm to 10 pm for some wonderful speakers and events, gaze at the stars and have some cake!

Councillor Cynthia Lulham is commissioner of Sustainability and Parks.

Twenty-five years ago, the city of Westmount joined the World Health Organization's (WHO) Healthy City Project. The WHO defines the Healthy City as "one that is continually creating and improving those physical and social environments and expanding those community resources, which enable people to mutually support each other in performing all functions of life and in developing to their maximum potential."

Our Healthy City Project has a steering committee and two working groups: The Environment committee has initiated and helped Westmount institute projects ranging from recycling, composting, battery recycling, banning pesticide use and planting indigenous gardens, to name a few.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MGH AUXILIARY ALIVE AND WELL

I wish to correct the ambiguous and misleading information published in the article "Friends of the MUHC shifts from Friendraising to Fundraising" (March 8, p. 14).

Although the Auxiliary of the Montreal General Hospital has representation to the board of the Friends of the MUHC, we continue to remain an independent auxiliary,* with our board and membership continuing to support our mandate and patients at the Montreal General Hospital.

It is unfortunate that this article has caused confusion amongst our membership and our hospital community.

YVONNE MASS, PRESIDENT,
THE AUXILIARY OF THE MONTREAL
GENERAL HOSPITAL

* Editor's note: In last week's article, we did not report that the Montreal General Hospital Auxiliary was losing its independence. Indeed, we knew that it was continuing its operations as we reported in our November 24, 2015 issue. See "Montreal General Auxiliary staying at the hospital, looking for more volunteers," (p. 15).— KM

VERDUN VS WESTMOUNT OUTDOOR RINKS

While in Verdun recently, I noticed that behind the city hall building, there was a Zamboni cleaning the ice of an oval skating rink. Next to it was an ice hockey rink.

I asked a passer-by about the hockey rink and was told the wooden structure has been in use for the past few years.

It's strange that Verdun has these two well-maintained outdoor rinks, yet Westmount either cannot afford or can't be bothered to have the same for its people.

DEBORAH BEE, HILLSIDE AVE.

Editor's note: The city of Westmount owns a Zamboni-made tractor outfitted with a resurfacing attachment used for clearing the outdoor rinks. According to Public Works, it was used on the outdoor rinks this winter. — KM



Photo courtesy of D. Bee

The scene of a rink in Verdun in March.

NEW SUMMIT FOOTPATH NOT SUCH A BARGAIN

In his elegant defense of the Summit Circle project (letter sent to citizens, dated March 2016), Mayor Peter Trent opines that the project will *only* cost Westmounters \$400,000, far less than the \$600,000 it would cost to maintain the road. *Only* \$400,000. Wow, what a bargain!

This citizen is curious as to why a gravel path, less than a kilometre in length, should cost anywhere near that much.

Furthermore, the mayor states we will be saving the \$10,000 per year that the city spends annually in maintaining the road, presumably snow removal and road repairs? Given that the city has never done a sterling job on its potholes and given that a less than a one-kilometre stretch of little-used road should not cost \$10,000 per year to plow, I wonder if the term "born yesterday" should be applied to those who are buying into the mayor's logic.

JOE RUSSO, SHERBROOKE ST.

ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS NEED TO BE INDEPENDENT

It is a sad day for local governance and the first time in Westmount's history that seven sitting councillors gathered with the mayor to express themselves via a public letter ("More staff, \$ for infrastructure spending," February 23, p. 6) in a kind of chummy consensus over the very important issues of public works, infrastructure, surpluses, deficiencies and taxpayers' money.

The letter of cabinet solidarity became more important for them than their far grander and important mandate to think, reason, act and vote independently. This independence is a prerequisite for all democracies, which includes our municipality.

Sadly, it appears as if the members of the letter-signing group have forgotten they are temporary employees working for the citizens whose hard-earned tax dollars pay their salaries to govern independently and transparently. A municipality is not a country club.

LARRY KLEPPER, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Correction

In the photo accompanying the article "Rovers' Nepal project to help rebuild after earthquake," in last week's issue (March 8, p. 4), the identification of a Rover at far right should have read: Anthony van Voorst, youth commissioner for the Stoney Point Area.



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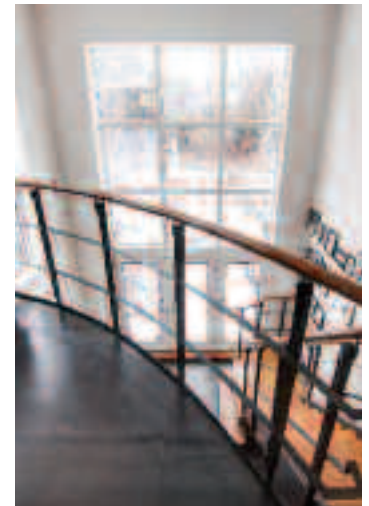
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Suspect followed in Arlington Lane incident

A man recognized for attempting to break into cars was kept under surveillance by public safety officers March 6 at 1:56 am, Public Security officials report. He was observed as he headed into Arlington Lane from Sherbrooke, pulling a scarf over an Iron Maiden hat.

Police were subsequently called when he was spotted walking out of a back yard.

Two ticketed for smoking in trailer

Public safety officers were met by an intense cloud of marijuana smoke as they entered the trailer for the skating rink at Queen Elizabeth Gardens March 1, Public Security officials said. Inside, two teenage girls butted something out on being interrupted. They were told to put a plastic bag of substance on the floor, which officers destroyed. Each girl was issued a ticket for \$119 under Quebec’s anti-tobacco law for having been smoking in a “temporary installation.” Both were residents of NDG aged 17. The girls were discovered at 11:30 pm during a random check of the trailer.

Patrollers kept watch until he was intercepted by police at Côte St. Antoine and Mount Stephen.

The man was questioned and stated he was “testing his knees by walking the hills in Westmount.”

He was told to leave the area and public safety officers followed him to a bus at Clarke and Sherbrooke.

Cup of coffee comes just in time

A public safety officer went to grab a cup of coffee at 12:23 am at the McDonald’s outlet in Alexis Nihon Plaza February 26 and ended up providing medical assistance to a man inside, Public Security officials said. The man had fallen backward and was described as in slight shock. After being helped to his feet, he fell a second time, resulting in a call to Urgences Santé. The 19-year-old Montreal resident claimed he had worked seven hours without a break or anything to eat or drink. It was not known where in the mall he was working.

A moratorium on condo construction? resident asks

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Would the city “accept” a moratorium on condo development until a study on condos in Westmount – as contemplated by Mayor Peter Trent at the February 1 council meeting – is complete?

The question was asked at the March 7 meeting of city council by Marina Brzeski who has been spearheading a campaign among some Grosvenor residents against a proposed condo project at the site of the Metro store and parking lot at Victoria and Sherbrooke.

“That’s a kind of extreme approach that is probably not the appropriate one,” Trent replied.

That being said, he continued, what con-

cerned him and some members council was that the condo market was “sort of fluffy” at the moment “and you wonder when the music stops” if some of these developers won’t be caught, “if you catch my drift,” he added.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham added that her concern also extended to a proliferation of apartment conversions into condos. This was expected in the next two or three years especially along Sherbrooke, where many apartments have already become co-proprietorships. This is a step in the process toward condo conversion, she said, over which the city has no control.

This is “regrettable” because it does not allow for a lot of people, renters, “to live in our community,” she explained.

Monitoring animals’ treatment cont’d. from p. 7

houses and will go so far as to expose cases to the media, although Moffat said they prefer to work proactively with the industry.

“Sometimes you can get more improvements by working with industry than with government,” she said. Both she and

Brown noted the fact that the transportation of animals has become global in magnitude and that the propensity for abuses grows because of the varying government jurisdictions. “We inform authorities and people of influence of everything we see in the form of reports,” said Moffat.

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Séance publique : révision du projet de règlement 1489 - P.P.C.M.O.I
Le mardi 22 mars, 19 h, Hôtel de ville de Westmount, 4333, rue Sherbrooke O. Des modifications au projet de règlement 1489 concernant les projets particuliers de construction, de modification ou d'occupation d'un immeuble (P.P.C.M.O.I.), déposé lors de la séance du conseil du 5 octobre 2015, seront présentées lors d'une rencontre publique le 22 mars. Consultez le document au westmount.org.

Bureaux municipaux fermés
Les bureaux de la Ville seront fermés le **vendredi 25 mars et le lundi 28 mars** en raison de la fête de Pâques. La Bibliothèque sera fermée le vendredi, le dimanche et le lundi.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Brochure printemps 2016 en ligne
Maintenant disponible ! La brochure Bibliothèque, vie culturelle et communautaire : westlib.org.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Le mercredi 16 mars, 10 h 15. Bienvenue à tous.
Info : 514 989-5299.

Série aptitudes financières
Le mercredi 16 mars, 14 h. *Maximizing Home Equity to Meet Your Personal Goals* avec Assunta Forte et Marco Procopio. Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir des adultes. Info : 514-989-5299.

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*
Le mercredi 16 mars, 19 h. Vous êtes invités à vous joindre au groupe de lecture sur l'œuvre magistrale de James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*. Apportez votre copie du livre. Info : 514-989-5299.

Club de lecture en français
Le lundi 21 mars, 13 h. Animé par Gisèle Magny. Prix des libraires du Québec. Info: 514-989-5299.

Conférences de 14 heures : Hassan El Shafei
Le mercredi 23 mars, 14 h. *Feudal Japan* avec Hassan El Shafei. Billets requis. Info: 514-989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais
Le mardi 29 mars, 19 h. Animé par Claire Holden Rothman. *Disgrace* de J.M. Coetzee. Info : 514 989-5299.

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.

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2016
Date limite : le vendredi 1^{er} avril à 21 h. Cette année, nous t'invitons à écrire sur le thème « Construire des

Prochaine séance du conseil
le lundi 4 avril

passerelles ». Visitez la page du concours au westlib.org.
Inscriptions jeunesse - session printemps
Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir des enfants.

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**. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. Info : 514-989-5521.

Une heure pour la terre 2016 à Westmount
Le samedi 19 mars, 18 h à 22 h. Éteignez vos lumières ! Venez vous joindre à nous au Victoria Hall pour une soirée d'activités durant cette heure symbolique soulignant la lutte aux changements climatiques. Gratuit. Info : 514 989-5226.

Défilé de la Saint-Patrick
Le dimanche 20 mars, midi, centre-ville de Montréal. Joignez-vous au groupe de Westmount qui



Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel de dossiers
Date limite : le 15 avril 2016. Les artistes émergents ou professionnels qui habitent Westmount sont invités à soumettre leur candidature pour la programmation 2016-2017 de la galerie. Info : 514 989-5521, westmount.org ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

Série de concerts d'été : soumissions
Date limite : le 29 avril. Le Service de la bibliothèque et des événements communautaires est à la recherche de groupes musicaux pour sa série de concerts d'été 2016. Cette série vise à offrir de la musique dans le parc, dans un cadre décontracté, les dimanches après-midi. C'est une excellente opportunité pour les musiciens émergents ou professionnels de promouvoir leurs répertoires de musique jazz, classique, folk ou pop.

Pour participer, vous devez soumettre une démo/maquette sur CD/DVD ou clé USB ou un lien vers le site web de votre groupe au plus tard le 29 avril au : Centre communautaire Victoria Hall 4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest Westmount H3Z 1G1 - cproctor@westmount.org. Info: 514-989-5226.

CITY HALL

Public information meeting: revision of draft by-law 1489 - S.C.A.O.P.I.
Tuesday, March 22, 7 p.m., Westmount City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke St. W. Proposed revisions to draft by-law 1489 concerning specific construction, alteration or occupancy proposals for an immovable (S.C.A.O.P.I.), tabled at the October 5, 2015 Council meeting, will be presented at a public meeting on March 22. Consult the document at westmount.org.

Municipal offices closed
The City's offices will be closed **Friday, March 25 and Monday, March 28** for the Easter Holiday. The Library will be closed Friday, Sunday and Monday.

LIBRARY

Spring 2016 brochure now online
Now available! The Library, Cultural & Community Events Brochure: westlib.org.

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd
Wednesday, March 16, 10:15 a.m. Everyone welcome. Info: 514 989-5299.

Financial Literacy Series
Wednesday, March 16, 2 p.m. *Maximizing Home Equity to Meet Your Personal Goals* with Assunta Forte and Marco Procopio. Registration required. Info: 514-989-5299

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*
Wednesday, March 16, 7 p.m. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. Info: 514-989-5299.

French Book Club
Monday, March 21 at 1 p.m. Led by Gisèle Magny. *Prix des libraires du Québec*. Info: 514-989-5299.

2 O'Clock Lecture Series: Hassan El Shafei
Wednesday, March 23, 2 p.m. *Feudal Japan* with Hassan El Shafei. Tickets required. Info: 514-989-5299.

English Book Club
Tuesday, March 29, 7 p.m. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. J. M. Coetzee's *Disgrace*. Info: 514 989-5299.

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.

McEntyre Writing Competition 2016
Deadline: Friday, April 1, 9 p.m. This year, we would like you to write about "Building Bridges". Info: 514 989-5229. See the contest page at westlib.org.

Children's Spring Session : registration
Please register at the Children's Desk.

Next Council Meeting
Monday, April 4

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery at Victoria Hall: exhibition
March 3 to 24. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to feature the works of **Claire Desjardins**. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 514-989-5521.

Earth Hour 2016 in Westmount
Saturday, March 19, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Turn off your lights! Victoria Hall hosts an evening of activities, workshops, talks, films, stargazing and more as part of Earth Hour, an event to raise awareness on climate change. Guest speakers include Dr. Lawrence Mysak. Free. Bring a cup for refreshments. Info: 514 989-5226.

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. Young people must be accompanied by an adult. Info: 514 989-5226.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: call for projects
Deadline: April 15, 2016. Emerging or professional artists residing in Westmount are invited to apply for the Gallery's 2016-2017 exhibition season. Info: 514 989-5521, westmount.org or victoriahall@westmount.org.

Summer Concert Series call for submissions
Deadline: April 29. The Library and Community Events Department is now accepting submissions for its 2016 Summer Concert Series The objective of this Sunday afternoon concert series is to bring live music to the public in a relaxed outdoor setting. These concerts provide wide exposure for live performance for emerging or professional small jazz ensembles, classical, folk and pop groups.

Please submit your group's demo on CD/DVD or USB, or your band's website link by Friday, April 29 to: Victoria Hall Community Centre 4626 Sherbrooke West Westmount, H3Z 1G1 cproctor@westmount.org. Info: 514-989-5226.



Police Report

Handgun used to rob St. Catherine St. dry cleaners

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.

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. say an armed thief brandishing a handgun succeeded in robbing a St. Catherine St. dry cleaning outlet of an undisclosed amount of money around 6 pm on February 22.

According to community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the suspect presented himself at the counter and asked the clerk to place the contents of the cash drawer in a bag he provided. The attendant complied after the suspect repeated the instructions more menacingly.

Pimentel said the thief struck the counter with an object resembling a black pistol to emphasize his point. Based on the description, the police believe it was an authentic firearm rather than a plastic replica because of the loud knock the victim said it produced while striking the countertop.

Construction tools targeted

The police are warning building contractors working in Westmount to make sure they secure their work sites against intruders following an incident last month during which construction tools were stolen.

Sometime between mid-afternoon on February 19 and the morning of February 22, the fenced-off grounds at a house on The Boulevard under renovation were entered by an intruder, who is believed to have stolen various contractors' tools, including professional-quality drills and saws.

"There was a barrier, but sometimes construction sites don't have good locks," said Pimentel.

His recommendation to contractors is that they always remove their equipment each day after finishing work at a job site. "Some don't – they try to hide their equipment – and there's always a risk when a construction site isn't fully closed."

Forced entry into apartment in St. Catherine St. building

Sometime between February 21 at 8 am and about the same hour on February 22, the door to an apartment in a building on St. Catherine St. near Kensington Ave. was forced open and an intruder entered, but ended up leaving – apparently without stealing anything.

The superintendent, while going about a routine inspection of the building, noticed that the door of one unit had been broken open. The tenant was away on a trip at the time. "According to the report nothing seems to have been missing," said Pimentel.

Police on hand to answer questions, March 16

On March 16 from 11 am to 1 pm, the staff at Station 12 will be holding a coffee event at McDonald's on Sherbrooke near Claremont Ave.. Officers will be on hand to answer questions from the public, talk about crime prevention and provide security information. The coffee will be free.

"We invite all the population to come,"

said Pimentel. "A few police officers including myself will be there. It's going to be an opportunity for one-on-one and to sit down with a police officer. We talk about various subjects, or people may have something particular to ask. If not, we will also talk about pre-established issues, such as fraud, public safety and crime prevention."

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Grosvenor Esso to remain as is

Alimentation Couche-Tard's \$1.6-billion deal to buy 279 Esso gas stations in Ontario and Quebec will not affect the Esso gas station at Grosvenor and Sherbrooke. When contacted on March 10, owner David Estephan told the *Independent* that the "Esso" banner will remain, and there is no plan to put a Couche Tard on his site.

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Cllr. Lulham: Good for snowshoeing, walking, jogging

New summit trail off limits to unleashed dogs, cyclists, and subject to curfews

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The gravel walking path planned by the city to replace the paved north section of Summit Circle will be subject to all the rules of Summit Woods, Councillor Cynthia Lulham told the council meeting March 7. But it will not be a dog park.

This means no unleashed dogs will be permitted at any time as well as no cycling and no use during the parks' curfew hours between midnight and 5 am.

The path, which she said would be called a "trail," will not be plowed in the winter, which will encourage use by snowshoers.

At other times of the year, joggers will be able to complete the full circle while walkers who may not want to encounter off-leash dogs will be able to do the same. "There will be no loose dogs – ever," she said. Signs to this effect are to be posted along the trail.

The permanent closure of the 1,600-foot long section of Summit Circle follows its temporary closure in 2009 and is expected



At the March 7 council meeting, Councillor Cynthia Lulham describes plans for the new gravel walking path.

to cost a total of some \$800,000, half of which is to be paid from a Quebec government grant (see story March 8, p. 1).

Comin' Up

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

St. Patrick's Day Parade, 12 noon on the corner of Fort and St. Catherine, residents can join the Public Security's walking contingent by obtaining a pass to participate at Victoria Hall or the library. Info: 514 989-5226.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents Sharon Johnston who will speak on "On Becoming a Writer," 12:30 pm at the Unitarian Church, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Free for club members; non-members \$10 (men welcome). Info: 514.932.4005.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

"Stormwater management in Westmount" by Tyson Munday of Urban Planning, a Healthy City Project lecture, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free.

Presentation of the revised draft by-law 1489 and public meeting for SCAOPI/PPC-MOI, 7 pm at city hall.

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Retail Watch



VERONICA REDGRAVE

Mercuri opens

A store called Mercuri in Alexis Nihon Plaza has recently replaced Olivia Boutique, which used to sell fun, young collections. Mercuri's stock is totally different. Great gift ideas and fun items can be found here, including colourful socks and purses, and Rebels Refinery skin products for men.

What I loved? Stands for my mini iPad so I can see the recipe properly while I bake. The British flag-covered poufs. Fun for outdoor seating sipping Pimms on a summer afternoon.

Located in Alexis Nihon Plaza on the Metro level. Open Monday to Saturday 10 am to 7 pm and Sunday 11 am to 5 pm.

Otago offers sous-vide meals at Vic Park

Busy people face the daily question of "what's for dinner?" Otago Real Life Food offers meals that can be ready in seven minutes or less. Made with organic ingredients, they are prepared *sous-vide*. Boil and serve. Diners can buy meals at the gym at Vic Park, order online, for pick-up or delivery.

What I loved? No clean-up!

It is located at 376 Victoria Ave. #210.

Cordonnier celebrates one year

At its new location, Carinthia Cordonnier-Bottier has quickly become a go-to site for cleaning and fixing expensive leather footwear destroyed in a Montreal-weather minute. Cheerful staff is more than helpful.

What I loved? Charming little wooden bench à-la-Lutyens, in case you have to wait.

Located at 3412 St. Antoine St., just south of the Westmount border, Carinthia Cordonnier-Bottier is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 7 am to 6 pm and Thursdays 7 am to 8 pm.

New electronics store

Conveniently located opposite Alexis Nihon Plaza, Price Buster Électronique carries used and new electronic equipment, TVs, blenders, microwave ovens, mobile phone accessories and more.

What I loved? Spring-flower-bright headphones. No more discreet white falling-off ear buds for me.

It is open 10 am to 6 pm seven days a week at 4026 St. Catherine St.

10 years for Harmony Health

Harmony Health Centre is celebrating 10 years offering naturopathic therapy. The charming walk-up leading to the office has warm and comforting exposed bricks. One leaves slushy boots at the door and dons bright orange, cheerful Croc-style shoes. The centre has a team composed of osteopaths, naturopaths, a holistic nutritionist, massage therapists, a craniosacral therapist, an acupuncturist, an integrative psychologist, a psychotherapist, a specialized kinesiologist, homeopath Arvigo practitioner and two doctors of naturopathy – co-owners Ilana Block and Orna Villazan. Depending on the treatment, clients can make an appointment for any day of the week. What could be nicer than a tranquil treatment on a Sunday?

What I loved? The soothing river stones sitting serenely in a wooden container. And the online recipes are not only free, but delicious. Nice touch.

Harmony Health Centre is located at 4973A (upstairs) Sherbrooke St.

Henderson talks Fenians, separatism

By MARTIN C. BARRY

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, former Westmounter Keith Henderson was the featured guest at the Atwater Library's lunchtime authors' series on March 10 when he talked about his most recent novel – *The Roof Walkers*.

It's an historically-based spy story involving Irish Fenians, seeking independence for Ireland, who threaten the unifying efforts of Irish-Canadian statesman Thomas D'Arcy McGee just as he is trying to pave the way towards Canadian confederation.

Henderson's reading from the book was complemented with music performed by Irish harpist Susan Palmer.

According to Henderson, a former Equality Party leader who advocated the partition of Quebec as a response to separatism, the book's title comes from mid-19th century slang for a

scamper across high rooftops in big cities like New York to get around quickly and clandestinely.

But at the same time, it was also a metaphor for spying, he added, because roof walkers saw all sorts of unusual things from these heights.

The author and the book's central character, Eoin O'Donoghue, have something in common – Eoin is also Henderson's middle name, although he spells it in English as Owen.

Answering questions, Henderson acknowledged there are parallels between

the Irish separatist theme he explores in the book and the Quebec separatism he criticized and struggled against in real life as the Equality Party's leader.

"I found this whole question of Fenianism very interesting because it is a separatist story," he said. "It's one that actually succeeded because Ireland is today separate from Great Britain.

"But I made the political argument that if you're going to go down that road, separation leads to partition," he added. "It did



Keith Henderson, right, seen with Irish harpist Susan Palmer, answers questions about his book *The Roof Walkers* at the Atwater Library on March 10.

in Ireland: Northern Ireland is part of Great Britain, southern Ireland is independent. And as I argued for many years, the same would happen to Quebec if, unfortunately, Quebec nationalists ever won the day. I don't think they ever will."

Henderson said there are other historical examples of separatism leading to partition. "There are two states of Virginia in the US to this day because of separation and partition. Virginia wanted to secede and was part of the Confederacy, and the West Virginians said no. They remained faithful to the Union."

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Program heads 'frustrated by intransigence'

cont'd. from p. 3

waiting until June.

"Unless there are reasons of safety or security of the children which were not disclosed to the court, the court urges the ministry to reconsider its position on this question."

A letter to parents from the two programs dated March 10 said they were "frustrated" with the ministry's "intransigence" over FunZone's after-school program and

would "continue to express our opposition to the FunZone ruling."

This program, normally offered to about 15 to 25 children, is expected to be open this week reduced to six, "unless the government changes its view," said public relations consultant Jonathan Goldbloom. This is the maximum permitted by the ministry under the current operation.

Granting of injunction

A provisional, or interlocutory, injunction is based in part on urgency, necessity to avoid a serious or irreparable injury to the plaintiff (in this case, Miss Vicky's and FunZone) and a balance of convenience, the ruling explained.

FunZone's case was described as weaker than Miss Vicky's, which had been operating as a Jardin d'Enfants (nursery school) since its opening in 1988 and then on acquired rights after that category was abolished by the government in 2005.

FunZone had not had a permit since its start in 2014, while Miss Vicky's acquired rights were revoked January 20 this year when the ministry alleged it was operating longer than the permitted four hours a day (see story February 16, p. 3). These are 9 am to 1 pm.

The judge cited an argument advanced by lawyer Julius Grey that Miss Vicky's is required by the city of Westmount to open its doors at 8:30 am because of the danger of having children wait on a busy street (Church Hill). A parents' committee supervises the children during this half-hour period.

As a result, the court noted, the school is caught between "two levels of government, each of which requires something different."

"The debate on the merits [of the case]," the judge stated, "will be whether [Miss Vicky's] has lost its right to operate as a nursery school because children can be dropped off before 9 am. It is difficult to

see any issue of public order or public interest in that debate that would trump the obvious prejudice that would be suffered by Miss Vicky's, its employees, the church and the parents.

"This debate does not involve any issue of health and safety or the development and well-being of the children."

The judgment also noted the ministry had not sought an injunction to stop the school opening at 8:30 am. Instead it had ordered it to close.

The judge noted that in one sworn statement, a parent said she paid \$1,725 to secure spots on a waiting list, which seemed to confirm the prejudice that would be suffered by the parents.

Because of the acquired rights issue, the court concluded Miss Vicky's had raised at least an arguable case that it is entitled to operate without a permit.

FunZone pleaded it was a separate entity from Miss Vicky's, but lawyers for the ministry argued that they were related and that FunZone "is a sham to get around the four-hour rule."

It was argued that FunZone continued the afternoon program once run by Miss Vicky's and that the owners of both operations – Victoria Naday and Antonia Stettner were sisters-in-law, the latter "rarely present on the premises."

Furthermore, the two operations shared the same premises and teachers, while the children who attend FunZone go to Miss Vicky's in the morning. It was also noted that Miss Vicky's paid the rent for FunZone in 2014.

Some 80 children under five attend Miss Vicky's. Many are Westmount residents. While the ministry had insisted February 9 that Miss Vicky's obtain a permit to operate as a daycare after revoking its acquired rights as a nursery school, the

school contended this was not feasible at the St. Matthias' location.

Youths found inside abandoned building

Three youths were found inside the basement of an abandoned building at 4216 Dorchester March 2, Public Security officials report. Footprints in the snow led officers to an unsecured window on the east side of the basement where the boys had gained entry. The basement and foundation are the only portion of the apartment building left standing since it was razed after a fire in 1998 (see story September 15, p. 9). The boys were driven home by police. A report identified them only as minors.

Teen can't sell drawings door to door

A "young girl" was told March 5 she was not allowed under the city's by-laws to go door to door to sell her drawings. Public Security officials said they had received a complaint about her activities on Surrey Gardens at 6:22 pm. She was identified as a 16-year-old resident of Montreal East.

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Shaar hosts Pink Lady event for breast cancer research



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Despite high winds that day, hundreds of somehow still immaculately-coiffed ladies swept into Westmount's Congregation Shaar Hashomayim for the Pink Lady Fund (PLF) Women of Action brunch November 22, featuring **Gloria Allred**, acclaimed attorney and advocate for women's rights. (Despite her last name, she wore fabulous fuchsia!)

Celebrating its 10th event, the event was hosted by the Montreal chapter of the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) in association with the Pink Lady Fund of the Jewish General Hospital.

Honorees were **Nathalie Bondil**, director and chief curator of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts; Westmount res **Anne-Marie Boucher**, lawyer and director of training and education at the Quebec Tax Association;



From left: Anne-Marie Boucher, Gloria Allred, Mireille Silcoff and Nathalie Bondil.

Photo courtesy of ICRF

tion; and author **Mireille Silcoff**, a former Montrealer, whose book *Chez L'Arabe* was named one of the best books of 2014 by *The Globe and Mail*.

Accompanying Boucher was her husband **Mitch Garber**. Silcoff's father, Quebec Superior Court judge **Joel Silcoff**, and mother, **Yaffa Handel** (there with husband film maker **Alan Handel**), attended.

Noted in the shoulder-to-shoulder-packed room were Westmounters **Danny Lavy**, president of the PLF, and his wife **Susan Lavy**, a co-chair with **Sheryl Rosen Adler**, **Maureen Tajfel** and **Susan Wiener**.

Local res **Heather Paperman** and **Linda Sigal** were the reception co-chairs.

Other locals noted making their way to the beautifully decorated tables were **Angie and Tony Lofreda**, VP at RBC; **Maureen Dym**, **Edyth Berman**, **Avi Marcovitch**, **Julia Reitman**, **Susan Varadi**, **Nancy and Harry Bloomfield**, **Deena and Barry Landee**, as well as ICRF executive director **Arlene Silver**, **Cheryl Goffman** and **Iris Amizley**.

Committed committee members were **Annath Abecassis**, **Susan Alper**, **Stacy Anastasopoulos**, **Nicole Authier**, **Jody Cohen**, **Karen Cohen**, **Lori Cohen**, **Erica Diamond**, *continued on p. 18*



Heather Paperman, left, and Linda Sigal.



From left: Arlene Silver, Sydney Wiseman and her mother Gael, Randy (Wiseman) Tucker and Eleanor Wiseman.

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February sales: Spike!



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 February 2016. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses 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.

News of another \$5-million-plus sale (in late January) and above-average volume for February served to drive an upward spike in the Westmount real estate graph, as overall confidence appears to be returning to the market, which had been so hesitant during the fall. Last year's market

peaked in June with the average Westmount house value close to \$1.6 million; now the figure looks closer to \$1.7 million as we enter the high-demand spring market.

Volume reached 16 one- and two-family sales last month, which is the highest for February since 2010, and added to eight sales in January is above average for the first two months. So, with both prices and volume showing a strong interest, things are looking good going into the busiest months of the year, March through May.

While the February sales list shows none of the drama of the \$5,780,000 price agreed to on the last day of January, the average mark-up over municipal evaluation climbed to 15 percent in January and 18 percent in February, compared to an average for all of last year of 7.3 percent and the highest monthly mark-up of 13 percent, based on the same municipal valuation roll. Two houses in February sold for more than 60 percent above tax value, while only

Social Notes cont'd. from p. 17

Vicki Feil, Judi Fish, Myra Frishman, Marlene Goldberg, Phyllis Levy, Shelly Lubov, Joanne Marco, Linda Mestel, Marla Oringer, Bonnie Ostrov, Moira Pesner, Adele Rosen, Susan Roskies, Debbie Schouela, Lauren Shayne, Mireille Shostak, Hady Smilovics, Inna Viltchik, Elaine Vineberg, Wendy Wechsler and Liana Wiener.

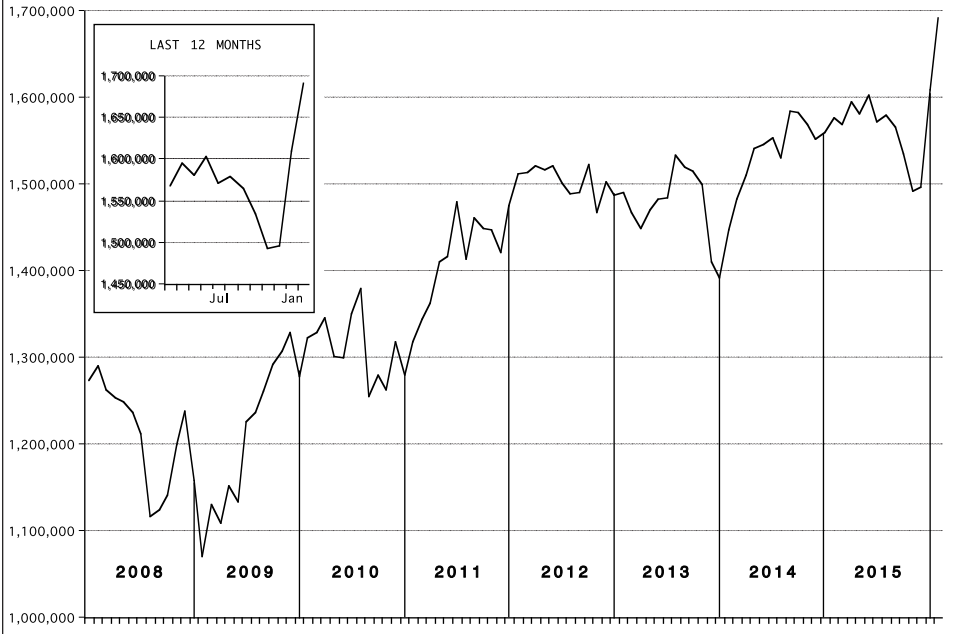
Executive director of the ICRF Arlene Silver, who founded the Women of Action brunch, was noted as was new 2016 director Gail Grief.

The event raised \$300,000 to support breast cancer research, care and equipment.



Harry Bloomfield, left, and Dan Lavy.

Average adjusted price of a 'typical' Westmount home by month, Jan. 2008 to Jan. 2016, based on accepted offer dates



three sold below assessment, with the biggest mark-down only six percent. The lowest price (for a single-family dwelling) was less than \$461,000 but involved what is believed to be one of the smallest houses in Westmount. Three others sold under \$1 million, only two over \$2 million with the top price of \$2,335,000.

Condominiums, it appears, have not drawn the same interest as their one- and two-family counterparts. Five sales have been posted so far for 2016, with prices between \$400,000 and \$840,000, but none of the luxury apartments were among them. Volume is about the same as it was for the first two months last year, but then two apartments sold for more than \$1.2 million each. The average mark-up so far this year is just over 6 percent, compared

with a first-quarter figure last year of 7.75 percent.

Six more adjacent-Westmount sales were posted in February, prices for one- and two-family dwellings ranging from \$695,000 to \$2,025,000, mostly above valuation but with some notable exceptions.

The latest (March 11) listings data show 128 houses on the market in Westmount, compared to 147 at this time last year; then, there were 16 asking less than \$1 million, this year only 10, and 62 were over \$2 million compared to 59 this year, so that price bracket has not changed much. For most of last year, volume ranged between 150 and 160 houses for sale, so it can be expected that more will be coming on the market shortly.



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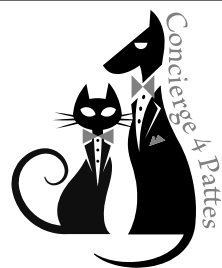
Each shot of Buddy is heartwarming, capturing the shades of his soft, shiny grey



Burglar alarm heard at La Cache

Public Security patrollers heard a burglar alarm ringing at La Cache on Greene Ave. March 2 at 12:04 am, department officials said. The alarm panel could be seen through the back door indicating trouble at the second and third levels. While no signs

of forced entry or footprints in the snow could be seen, officers kept the premises under surveillance until the arrival of police. An upstairs door was reported to have blown open.



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