

## City's accessibility plan includes focus on play equipment

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Adapted swings for children with mobility disabilities are to be installed in park playgrounds this spring, according to Westmount's 2016 Action Plan for the Integration of Handicapped Persons. Ramps are also to be added over the next 12 to 18 months to bridge edgings around play areas.

The city also plans to have a list of accessible places added to an existing app "so someone wanting to go to a restaurant or a church in Westmount will know where to go," according to Councillor Cynthia

Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Sustainability.

The city will also work to improve existing programs, such as Public Security's "Security in Aging" and the acquisition of large-print and audio books at the Westmount Public Library.

These are some of accessibility objectives for 2016 listed in an annual "report card" required by the Quebec government of all municipalities having a population of at least 15,000.

The aim, according to the report, is to identify "the barriers to integration that handicapped persons encounter" and the measures taken, or to be taken, to reduce the barriers. *continued on p. 8*

## Westmount large at St. Patrick's parade



A Westmount contingent of more than two dozen people made their presence known in the annual St. Patrick's Parade March 20 in downtown Montreal. Seen here on René Lévesque Blvd. shortly before setting off on the trek along St. Catherine St., the group was escorted by members of the Westmount Public Security department. Members of Centre Greene also participated. Photo: Martin C. Barry

**Letters** p. 6  
**Social Notes** BY V. REDGRAVE p. 21  
**Underdog** BY J. DAVEY p. 17

## Disobedient drinker evades police at Summit

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two groups of young men were spotted on a surveillance camera as they consumed alcohol March 13 at Summit lookout, according to Public Security reports. Eight tickets were issued related to alcohol while another was given for obstructing the work of an officer.

When responding patrollers questioned the first group at about 6:45 pm, all four were reported to continue drinking in their presence. Three were issued tickets for \$149 each for consuming alcohol in a park. Police were called to identify the fourth man, who was believed to be lying about

his name. While awaiting their arrival, however, the man made good his escape down to Sunnyside Park, where he disappeared. A 28-year-old Terrebonne man was issued a second ticket, this one for \$221 for blocking the door of the patrol car allowing the escapee time to evade officers.

At 9:44 pm, a second group of five was captured on camera. They were subsequently found with an array of beer, wine and other drinks and were issued tickets for \$76 each for possessing alcohol in a park. All were described as cooperative. They were Montreal residents, some using Concordia student cards to identify themselves.

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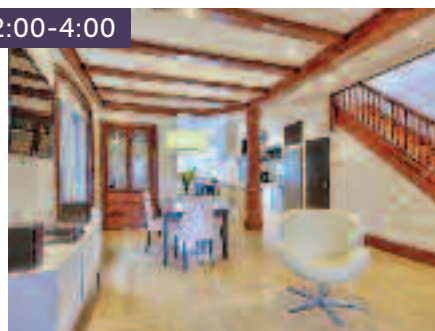
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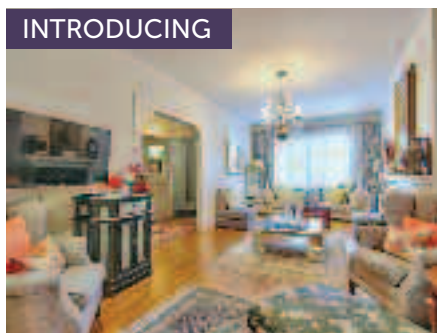


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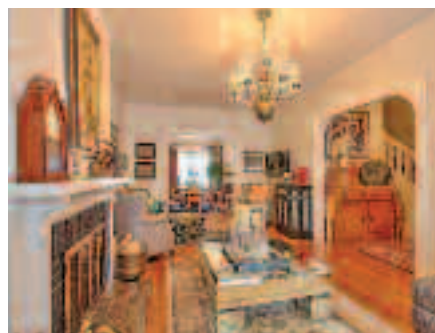


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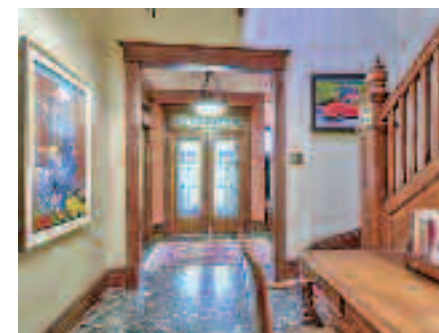


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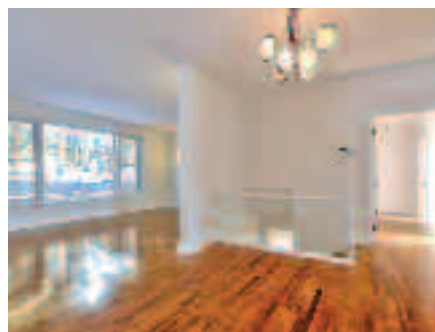
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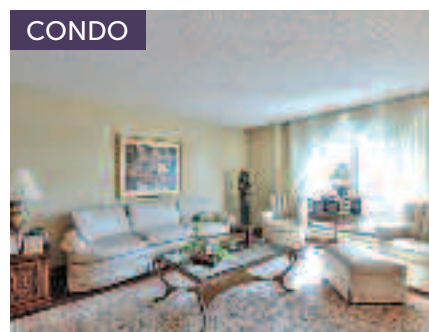


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Resident has more questions

# Amendments to amendments sought for PPCMOI by-law

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It didn't take long for at least one critic to respond to the city's proposed amendments to its draft By-law 1489 concerning a new measure for approving major development projects that do not conform to zoning regulations.

The day after the amended version was posted on the city of Westmount website, architect Ken London circulated a long list of comments aimed at clarifying the consultation process and establishing guiding principles.

London said the city's amendments regarding earlier public consultation "is a major advance over what exists in any other city that I know of, especially the city of Montreal."

On the other hand, he continued to call for an earlier demolition hearing and even the holding of a referendum before the city council would recommend that a project proceed under criteria for "Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy Proposals for an Immovable" (SCAOPI/PPCMOI).

He also suggested writing the requirement for a referendum into the city's by-law.

Other recommendations included the posting of a sign on such a site, as Montreal does, at the initial stages in the consultation process.

London has been spearheading a letter-writing campaign urging earlier public input into the approval process of such projects.

Many of these suggestions, including

guiding principles, were among items he said he discussed in a meeting March 16 with Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

"The question remains as to how much information we can make sure is available to the public," in time for review by the city council before it makes a recommendation on whether a project should proceed under specific PPCMOI criteria.

This would include establishing what documents the city would require up-front to disseminate to citizens before a public consultation meeting with the city's Planning Advisory Committee (see story March 15, p. 1). These would include impact studies, such as those on traffic, light and wind.

"Different residents have different concerns," London explained. Some might be concerned about parking; others by views or shadows cast by tall buildings.

It is expected he might raise some of these concerns at a public consultation meeting on the city's proposed by-law Tuesday, March 22, which takes place after press time the previous day.

## BC man lost

A man from BC described as elderly appeared disoriented March 12 as he walked along St. Catherine St. near Metcalfe, Public Security officials said. A passing patrolman was flagged down at 9:22 am by a woman next to the man, who reported he seemed lost. He told the officer he did not know where he was staying but had left his wife asleep. Police were called to assist the man.

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# Drone inspection kicks off restoration process for conservatory

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Up, over and around the conservatory it flew and hovered, taking photos of the glass panes and wooden framework of the Victorian structure.

The day-long drone inspection of Westmount's iconic conservatory and frog-pond greenhouse March 13 was the first step in evaluating how to restore the heritage buildings, Public Works director Patrick Raggio said last week.

The complex, reported to be one of only two cascading greenhouses remaining in Canada from the Victorian era, has been closed to the public since a pane of glass fell September 20 from the top and others were found slipping.

"Once we know the state the conservatory is in, we'll have to determine the scope of the project to restore it," Raggio said. "We're looking at a project the community can get behind."

An assessment report on the condition of the structure is expected in about 11 weeks, but "I think we'll be able to preserve its architectural heritage for the next gen-



Flying around the conservatory in Westmount Park March 13, this drone captured numerous photos of the conservatory's condition.  
Photo courtesy of the city of Westmount

eration while using a more sustainable approach, which is what we want to do." A realistic maintenance protocol is also needed moving forward, he said.

An engineering inspection of the growing greenhouses that form part of the complex has already shown them to be "in need of major repairs and aggressive maintenance year by year." Temporary netting and plywood passages now allow employees to work inside.

Following the drone inspection, all the photos must be examined and the data compiled and assessed accurately "because we're talking about people's safety," Raggio said. This is a "pre-step" to the work to be done.

This phase of the project was undertaken by the architectural firm of MDA at a cost of some \$24,000, he said. This is just under the \$25,000 cost that requires the city to call for tenders.

Once the city knows what is required and has put together a cost estimate, it will go out to tender for the work, Raggio said.

## Drone reduced risk

While the city had solicited a number of quotes for the inspection, he said, this quote was accepted in large measure because of the advantages it presented in using drones for aerial views of the glass and wood structure. In the congested area, erecting scaffolding and bringing in a large crane presented a risk of potential damage.

"The drone could go all over the place," he said.

While the use of drones is essentially "a novel concept," he said, "it has been used for a few years for bridges and other spaces that are difficult to access so it's not unprecedented in North America."

The photo inspection had been announced in January by Councillor Cynthia Lulham in the hopes an assessment report could be ready sometime in March (see story January 19, p. 1). Snow and wind delayed the project but some filming was able to take place from the inside.

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## Dufour retires from Metcalfe pharmacy after almost 40 years



Photo: Ralph Thompson

Friends started gathering at Copoli restaurant on St. Catherine and Metcalfe March 18 at 7 am to wish Suzanne Dufour, second from left, well after her 38 years of work in the pharmacy, now called Proxim, across the street. Dufour commuted from Pincourt to work there as an assistant, manager and technician. She started most days with breakfast at Copoli. "It's the best place for breakfast. It's so good here!" she said. "It's not a bad drive if you set off early." She got the job at Metcalfe Pharmacy, as it was known at the time, as an assistant. The pharmacy needed help to complete paper work related to medicare. Dufour's friendly send-off was organized by Josée Asselin, left, from neighbouring Pierre Mon Coiffeur, who has known her for 35 years. Seated at right are Diane Cholette and Nancy Walking.

## Woman slips on ice in Summit Woods

A woman walking a dog in Summit Woods March 13 was taken to hospital by ambulance after slipping on a patch of ice, Public Security officials said. Answering a call for medical assistance at 2:46 pm, officers found the woman lying on the ground complaining of a headache and pain in the back and shoulder. She was being cared for by a man who had received first responder medical training. He had also been walking a dog. Urgences Santé arrived at 3:20 pm and transported the 47-year-old woman to the Montreal General. She lives in Dollard des Ormeaux.

## Kensington homeowner calls Security from abroad

Public safety officers were called March 4 to check out a house on Kensington Ave., where an alarm had just been set off at 2:01 am. Public Security officials said the call came from the homeowner who was out of the country but had been contacted by the alarm company. All was reported in order, and the house was added to the department's list for "special passing attention."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT WARNED ABOUT PICKPOCKETS

On March 11, I was having lunch at Sushi Kim in the food court of Westmount Square. My wallet was stolen out of my bag as I was eating in the restaurant.

While I was waiting for the security agent of the building, the waitress informed me I was not the first victim of pickpockets in Sushi Kim. When the agent finally showed up, he told me the cameras were out of order and then said “It is getting really bad in the food court. We’ll have to start patrolling.”

The cameras were out, it is “getting bad in the food court,” but he was in the office where he could see nothing, not patrolling.

I am writing this letter to the *Independent* in the hopes it will warn readers of the situation, since neither Sushi Kim nor the administrators of Westmount Square are kind or responsible enough to put signs of warnings for their customers.

Pâtisserie de Gascogne and Atwater market have both taken steps to warn and protect their customers. It is time for Sushi Kim and Westmount Square to do the same.

VALERIE MORIN, BELLEVUE AVE.

STILL...NEED A SIDEWALK

The lack of a sidewalk in front of the École Internationale de Montréal represents the biggest downside at this school zone. The city of Westmount is lagging behind some other cities in sidewalk safety by declining to construct this sidewalk (“City might consider reconfiguring path east of cenotaph,” March 1, p. 4).

The US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) offers the following guidance for the application of sidewalks: “accessible sidewalks should be provided and maintained along both sides of streets par-



Photo was taken on December 8, 2015.

Image courtesy of V. Cruz

ticularly in school zones, transit locations and where there is frequent pedestrian activity.”

The well-trodden path provides undeniable evidence that pedestrians frequently use this route. Not only is it used by children on their way to school, but it is a key route for people on their way to Selwyn House and city hall.

City officials should look for such clues when considering locations for infrastructure improvements for foot traffic.

I have humbly called on council members to reassess their decision and permit



Photo: Westmount Independent

Photo of Ian Moodie's phone, March 9.

out to dry a very wet coat, drenched jeans and very damp boots and then went looking for my iPhone, but it was nowhere to be found.

So, I dressed again in wet coat, jeans and boots. Flashlight in hand, the dog and I spent another cold and rainy half an hour tromping through Westmount Park, but there was no sign of my treasured iPhone. I called the phone but it went right to message, a sure sign that it was no longer working.

The next morning, I made arrangements for a replacement and prepared myself for the agony of living without a phone for several days.

On the following Sunday, I returned to Westmount Park for another evening walk. Much to my delight, I found a notice attached to a tree stating: “Found, iPhone. Contact local police station.”

The next morning at the police station, the helpful officer first asked what the phone looked like. I told her that no screen picture should be visible because the phone was dead. Oh no, explained the officer. The phone is very much alive. And sure enough, I entered my password and the phone sprang to life. What a joy!

My good Samaritan had not only found the phone but had also buried it in rice, the recommended procedure for bringing flooded phones back to life.

This person asked for no gifts or recognition for this very good deed. Allow me, through this letter, to express my heartfelt thanks to my very special good Samaritan. A thanks also to the officers at our local police station who contacted Apple in order to find the owner of the phone.

IAN MOODIE, ROSEMOUNT AVE.

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the construction of this sidewalk. No single design feature can ensure that a streetscape will be safe to pedestrians. Rather, the best places for walking combine many design elements to create streets that feel right and safe to people on foot.

Many people rely on walking and transit as their primary way to get around, and without a wide, clear sidewalk through snow and ice, it is especially difficult for people with disabilities, seniors and children to walk safely.

VICTOR CRUZ, ST. CATHERINE ST.

**PHONE ANGEL**

On a Wednesday night in late February, arguably the worst evening of the winter – heavy, freezing rain, major puddles, dangerous ice, overwhelming snowbanks – I took the dog to the northeast corner of Westmount Park for his 30-minute evening walk.

Arriving back at my apartment, I hung

**Re-scheduling**

The *Independent* learned after presstime of the March 15 issue, which was March 14, that the Healthy City Project talk “Stormwater management in Westmount” by Tyson Munday of Urban Planning was to be rescheduled to Thursday, May 5 from Tuesday, March 22.



# Bowser & Blue to perform at Vic hall in April



## Councillor's Column

NICOLE FORBES

Westmount is an exceptional community with a wealth of talent. Our citizens have been contributing to the quality of life by participating in art shows, coaching sport teams, sitting on planning committees, presenting their skills in talent shows and concerts.

So many of our residents volunteer their time and energy to make Westmount a vibrant and rich place to live. We are very fortunate to have local artists included in the line-up of our cultural calendar.

On Thursday, April 7 at 7 pm, Victoria Hall will welcome the all-time favourite musical duo of Bowser & Blue. The Community Events Advisory Committee (CEAC) organizers have prepared a complete evening with a cash bar and snacks to accompany the entertainment.

Tickets for the event are now available online at Event Brite as well as at Victoria

Hall and the library or by calling 514.939.5226.

Community Events and the library work very hard to put together a cultural program that is accessible to everyone in the

community.

*Councillor Nicole Forbes is commissioner of Culture, Library and Community Events.*

## Family of 99-year-old thanks Public Security

The family of a 99-year-old Westmount woman is saying thanks to Public Security, whose officers cared for her as she lay on the floor of her apartment building waiting more than five hours for an ambulance February 12.

The longtime resident had broken her hip – as well as her pelvis and wrist, it was later discovered, in a fall at 9:30 pm (see story February 23, p. 1).

“While our mother did not want any publicity, she did want to make sure that we publicly expressed our sincerest thanks,” her daughter told the *Independent* last week.

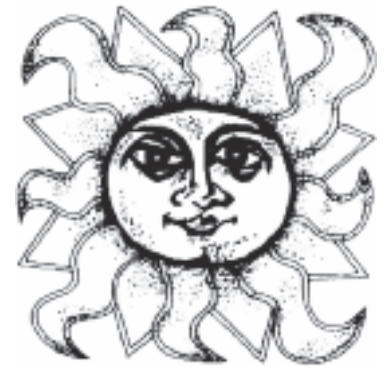
The family, she said, had been out of town and was informed of the accident by the Lifeline service, which relayed to them the possibility of a long wait for an ambulance.

“As Westmount residents, we immediately called our Public Security and reached Sgt. Robert Forbes, who dispatched one of his officers, Amélie Arel. She sat with Mum and talked to her for several hours. Before he ended his shift, Sgt. Forbes stopped by to check on her. And when Amélie had to leave several hours later, PSO Sabrina Tremblay came to replace her until the ambulance arrived.”

The family, she said, was “very grateful” for the personal attention and care the woman received from all of them.

“It truly reinforced our reasons for appreciating the humanity of our small and independent city of Westmount, where such services are available to our residents.”

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## Appel aux artistes

Les artistes de Westmount sont invités à soumettre leurs dossiers pour la 17<sup>e</sup> saison d'exposition de la galerie du Victoria Hall qui se tiendra de septembre 2016 à août 2017.

Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents et professionnels résidant à Westmount. Les candidatures sont acceptées pour des expositions solo ou partagées.

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## Invitation to Artists

The Gallery at Victoria Hall welcomes proposals from Westmount artists for its seventeenth exhibition season, which will take place from September 2016 to August 2017.

This competition is open to emerging and professional artists residing in Westmount. Applications are considered for solo and group exhibitions.

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CLOSURE OF EXIT N° 64  
A-15 NORTH

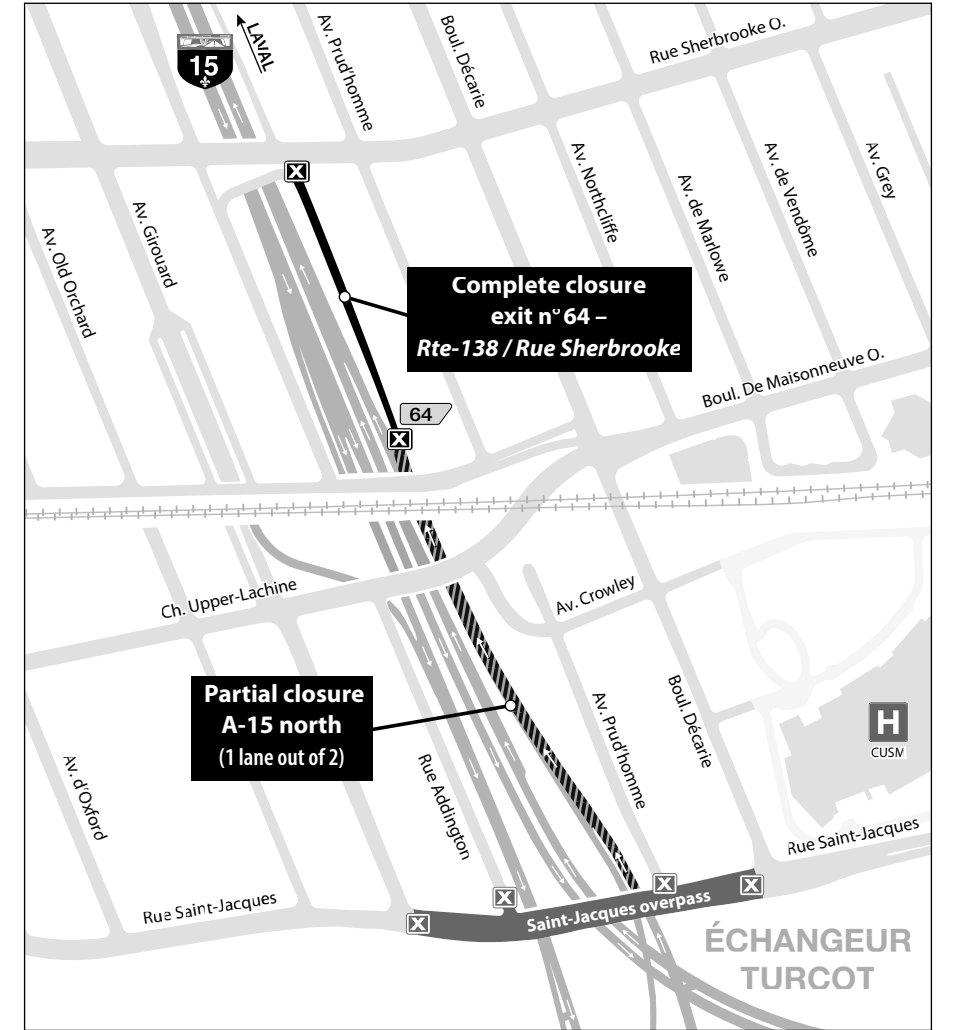
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FROM MARCH 31 TO APRIL 12, 2016

HINDRANCES

DETOUR

- Complete closure of exit n° 64 – Rte-138 / Rue Sherbrooke of A-15 north
  - Closure of one lane out of two lanes of A-15 north in Turcot Interchange
- Continue on A-15 north, take exit n° 66 – Ch. de la Côte-St-Luc / Ch. Queen-Mary / Ch. de la Côte-Ste-Catherine, turn left on chemin de la Côte-Saint-Luc and continue on A-15 southbound until exit n° 64 – Rue Sherbrooke / Rue St-Jacques



For more information: - 514 873-1372 - turcot.commentaires@mtq.gouv.qc.ca  
- @MTQ\_Turcot - www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca

# Guide evaluates

cont'd. from p. 1

ers.

While the report card is available in French only, an annex called Access Westmount Guide, is bilingual. This is a directory of accessible places that originated many years ago with Westmount's Healthy City Project.

It evaluates the accessibility of numerous public places, municipal buildings, schools, houses of worship, recreation facilities, restaurants, commercial establishments and parking areas, to name a few of the categories.

Added at the last moment this year were wheelchair-accessible icons required for the inclusion of the guide into the app, Lulham told the *Independent*. The app, she said, can play an important role in getting the information out to the people who need it.

She also said the focus on accessibility to playgrounds and play equipment comes after three members of Public Works completed a certification course in specialized play equipment last year.

## Exclusions questioned

While city council unanimously approved the adoption of the report at the council meeting March 7, Councillor Patrick Martin stated it still “leaves out buildings I was told [last year] would be added this year.” These include several schools and houses of worship.

The city's Centre Greene community centre, he said, “is not very accessible. It's a community centre, so I think it's a shame.” The centre's ramp is located at the rear door, which he later said was “undignified and totally unacceptable.”

Lulham replied at the council meeting that when this or any city building undergoes major renovations they will provide for “universal accessibility.”

If a building is not listed in the Access Westmount Guide, it generally means it is not “accessible” as is the case with some schools, Lulham explains.

She said Urban Planning has been working with building owners who are undertaking renovations to help them find ways to improve accessibility, such as in store-floor levels.

The report notes that some of the accessibility

continued on p. 9





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# public buildings

features introduced in 2015 included the addition of a wheelchair ramp into the swimming pool at the Westmount recreation centre (see photo August 25, 2015, p. 1). As well, library staff began taking a selection of books to residents of nearby Manoir Westmount after closure of the

conservatory blocked their direct indoor passage to and from the library.

The full report is available on the French version of the city's website but the "Access Westmount Guide" can be accessed only on the English version under "Community Life" then "Action Plan."

*Letters cont'd. from p. 6*

## KNOW OF A WORTHY VOLUNTEER?

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) is seeking nominations for this year's Derek Walker Volunteer of the Year Award.

The award honours a Westmount citizen who has dedicated many years to volunteering in the community, be it through libraries, schools, clubs, churches, synagogues, nursing homes or other areas.

This year's recipient will be honoured during the WMA's annual general meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, April 27 at Victoria Hall.

Those wishing to nominate someone

should contact Marilyn Gillies (at 514.932.2026 or volunteer.award@wma-amw.org) with a name and description of the person's volunteer work.

The deadline for accepting nominations will be Friday, April 15.

The WMA is also looking for new board members as we want to increase the diversity of representation of our community. If you would like to be considered or know someone who would be interested, please contact nominations@wma-amw.org by April 15.

Also a reminder to our members that membership fees are due by the date of AGM. More details of this very special meeting will be announced shortly.

PAUL MARRIOTT AND MAUREEN KIELY,  
CO-PRESIDENTS, WMA



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# Social housing advocates choose Westmount to decry lack of aid

BY RALPH THOMPSON

An estimated 400 people, along with a cube truck with loudspeakers, gathered at the northwest corner of King George (Murray) Park March 17 around 1:30 pm to demand social housing.

Several musicians, dressed colourfully, were playing hacky sack as the crowd unfurled banners and lifted up posters. A substantial police presence had already emerged at all corners of the park and lined up along Westmount Ave.

Why gather in Westmount? “Its symbolic,” François Saillant, coordinator, FRAPRU (le Front d’action populaire en réaménagement urbain), told the *Independent* before the rally.

“Westmount is a wealthy community. We know that everyone in Westmount isn’t rich, and many rich people live in other parts of Quebec, but it is symbolic. We need the government of Quebec and Canada to provide funding and to make social housing a priority.”

He stated in French “the rich exist, and Westmount is an example.”

Other groups were present including the Bureau de consultation jeunesse, which participated with strollers and young children. The handicapped were represented and a number of older men and women leaned on walking sticks, while one sat in a wheelchair.

The group marched along Westmount Ave. and proceeded down Argyle to city hall.

A number of foam core structures representing houses were placed on the steps of city hall. The arrangements carried several social housing messages and additional annotated hand-written comments were added. By 3 pm, the participants started to disband.



Some estimated 400 people proceed down Argyle from Westmount Ave. towards city hall. The rally, organized by the Front d’action populaire en réaménagement urbain, was held March 17, the day the Quebec budget came down and days before the federal budget. It was organized to call attention to what the group says should be stronger action by the governments to ensure adequate social housing.

Asked why the police were present in such large numbers, Sergeant M. Fortier said “It’s just a precaution. If anything happens, we have the numbers on hand to avoid trouble. But there has been no problems. The group did file an itinerary and

followed their proposed route. Everything was done properly, and we are happy for that.”

A 55-year-old man, donning a FRAPRU cap, was seen grappling with a street map. “People

continued on p. 15



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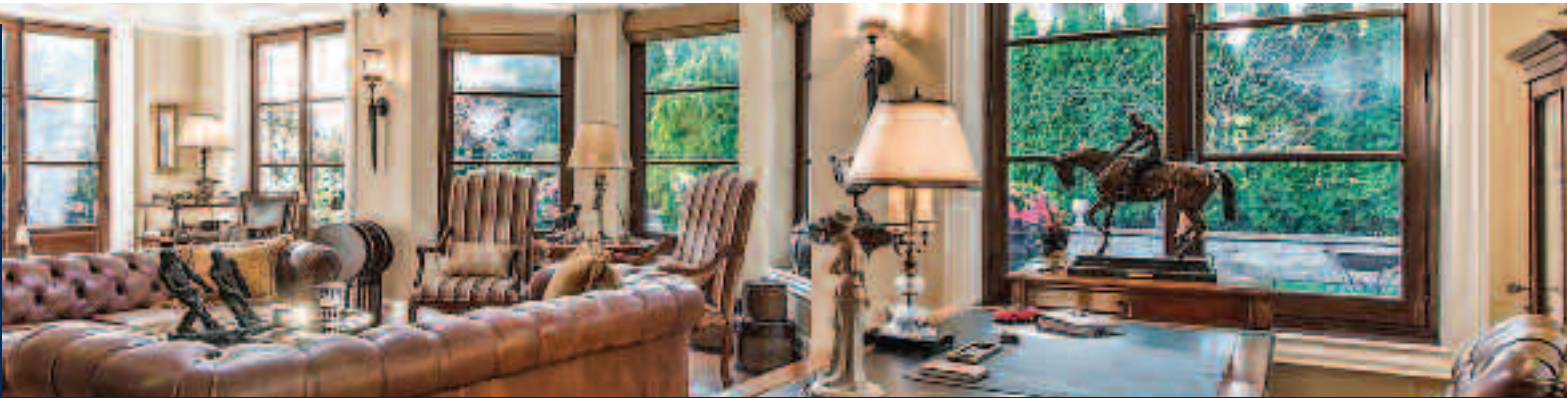
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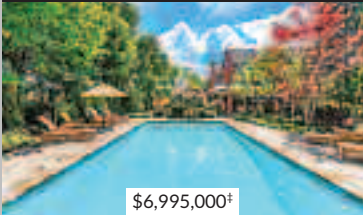


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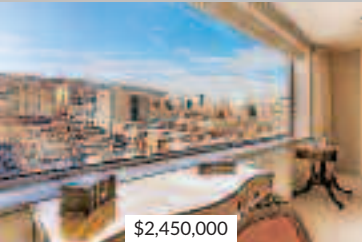
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PATRICK VAILLANT\*\*

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MONT-ROYAL | AV. WALPOLE

Beautiful property built in 1985 by an architect and redesigned in 2001. The home is built on a lot of 9,184 sq. ft. beautifully appointed with large terrace, play area for children and a beautiful inground pool. MLS 9474519

PIERRE BRUNET\*\*

ANNE GASCON\*

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514.592.5520



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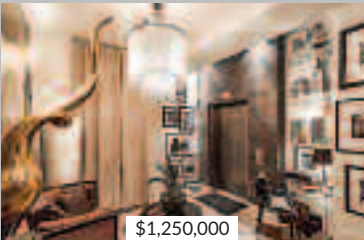
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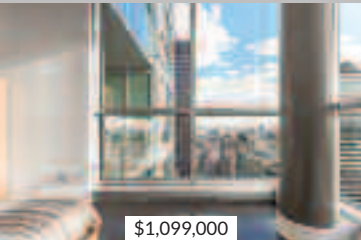
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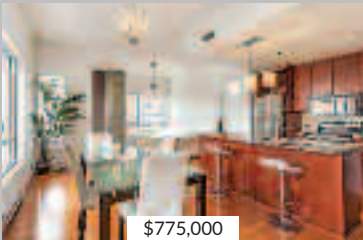
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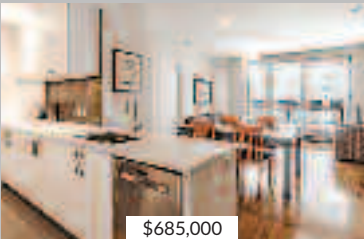
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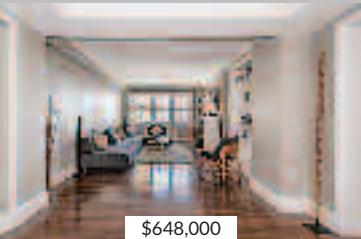
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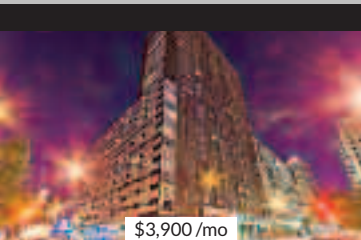
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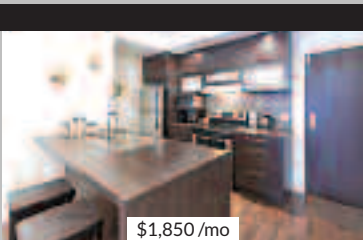
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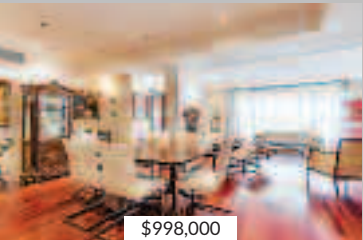
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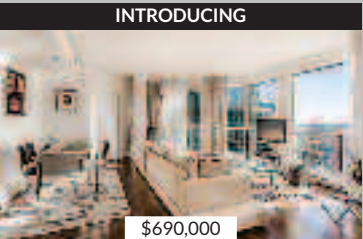
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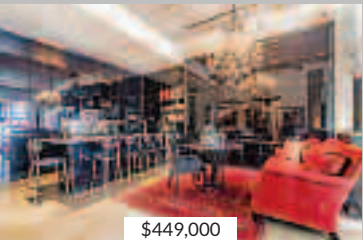
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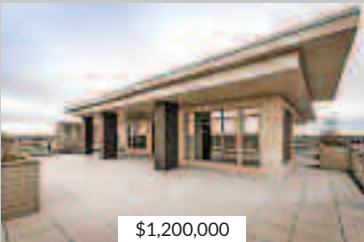


**\$449,000**  
**VILLERAY | TRENDY LOFT**  
Magnificent loft with private entrance superbly located in a trendy neighborhood. Kitchen & bathroom have been renovated in 2013 in an exceptional way. The bedroom is located on a mezzanine to maximize the living space. MLS 19757989  
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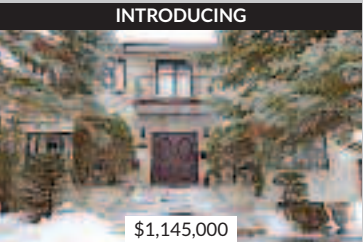
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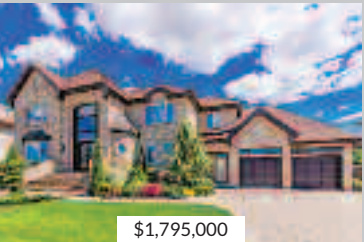


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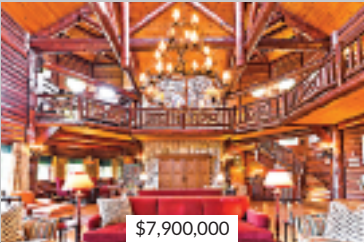
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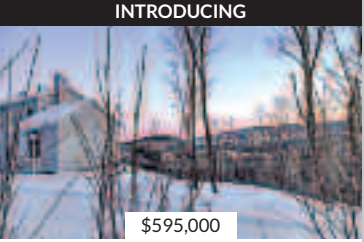
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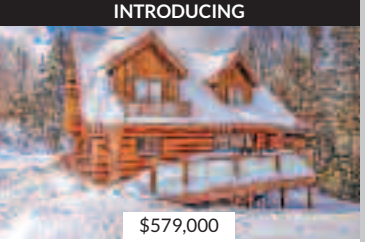
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# Was trespasser planning to paint graffiti?

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A man found trespassing on private property March 8 turned out to be concealing a can of spray paint in one pocket and wearing a school bag containing other paint cans and markers, Public Security officials said.

While no signs of fresh graffiti were seen nearby, a 26-year-old man identified as a Montreal resident was issued a ticket for \$149 for loitering, prowling or trespassing on private property.

The suspect was spotted by a patroller at 12:39 am entering Tupper Lane and looking nervously behind him. When he emerged from an alcove at the entrance to the garage ramp to a commercial building at 4000 St. Catherine near Atwater, the officer flashed the car’s emergency lights on

him and called out for him to identify himself.

After ignoring two requests, the man finally acknowledged the officer’s presence and was told about the city’s by-law prohibiting trespassing on private property.

The man put one hand in a pocket as if to conceal something. He was asked repeatedly to remove it. When he finally did, a can of spray paint with a white cap was revealed. A partially fastened school bag he wore revealed more paint cans as well as markers.

“He had been acting suspiciously,” explained Public Security director Greg McBain. He was possibly going to do graffiti in the garage area.”

All that could be seen in the alcove, he added, was a puddle that appeared to be urine.

## Sure sign of spring



Photo: Ralph Thompson

On March 16 at around 5 pm, early evening made brighter by the recent switch to daylight saving time, 8-year-old Zachary Richards and his 6-year-old brother Benjamin take on the challenge of traversing a large puddle in Westmount Park without getting wet – or too wet. They are part of a Westmount family of four boys. A girl in the background is walking ahead of her own family, also a family of four children.

### Housing protest cont’d. from p. 10

are afraid of reprisals,” he said. “My apartment building has been purchased and now has a new owner. Electricity and heating have been excluded. I have to pay extra for those, and the rent has been increased by \$100 a month. I don’t have a job, and I have health problems. How can I pay for this? They just don’t care.”

When asked if he contested the increase with the rental board, he said “I’m trying. I’ve made an application but haven’t heard anything back from the Régie. Others in the building are just going to pay, even if they can’t afford it. They’re afraid of problems.”



PAUL CARON (1898-1979) Place d’Youville, Montreal (Pioneers’ Obelisk) circa 1920




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# 421 Argyle Ave.: Once the judge's quarters



*History by  
the house*

ANDY DODGE, CRA

*The lead source for the information in this column is deeds of sale, including the names of the owners and their professions or livelihoods. The deeds, especially older ones, rarely state the profession of women.*

The elegant brick semi-detached house near the foot of Argyle Ave. was for more than three decades the home of one of Quebec's most eminent legal minds, Hon. Severin Letourneau, who bought the house in 1923, a year after he was named to the Court of King's Bench, what is now known as the Court of Appeal. He was almost 52 when he moved to Westmount, had already served as a lawyer and partner for 28 years and was active in the Liberal party throughout his career. He was named chief judge of Quebec in 1942, the same year he took on the job of administrator of the province in the absence of the lieutenant-governor.

His home had been built in 1899 as the first of a strip of six semi-detached houses constructed by John E. Bulmer, just above one of the original farmhouses at the corner of Côte St. Antoine Rd.

The 421 Argyle home boasted high ceilings, lots of woodwork and stained glass, including skylights, a maid's room off the kitchen, bay windows and porches.

The land touched on one of the first streets to be projected north of Côte St. Antoine, Westmount's original road, after the town was first incorporated as Notre Dame de Grâce in 1874. The land had fallen to William Jones and John Burland, who apparently had made their money as suppliers for the railroad industry, but when they

became insolvent in 1884 they turned it over to Montreal photographer William Notman and his partners, who already owned much of the land north of there, surrounding the corner of Clarke Ave. and The Boulevard, which was yet to be developed.

The Notman group (including William Angus, John MacFarlane and Alexander Ramsay, among others at various times) formed the Westmount Homestead Company Ltd. in 1887 – perhaps anticipating the eventual change of name of what by now was Côte St. Antoine – but even they, representing much of the wealth and power of Montreal's Scottish community at the time, fell into trouble, and in 1895, they sold off four 50-foot lots north of Côte St. Antoine Rd. to a cotton merchant named William Hobbs, a close friend of theirs and a resident of 4380 Montrose Ave.

He also could not make things happen and died intestate a year later. Sun Life Assurance took over the property (Angus, MacFarlane, Ramsay and Notman were executors of Hobbs' estate), got the houses built and sold them off, with 421 selling to Peter C. Small, a fur merchant, for \$8,000 in January 1900.

Small stayed there until 1904, though he sold the house to Kenneth D. Young in October 1903. Young was a hardware merchant with a British company specializing in importing and exporting various metal products, known simply as B. & S.H. Thompson & Co., apparently working out of the house.

The next buyer, in October 1910, was Chester Ward Root, a bank clerk, who paid \$10,000 and stayed there until his death in March 1922. It appears he had granted one third of his ownership to his wife, and two thirds divested to his daughter, Katleen, upon his death. The mother, Gabrielle Louise Bonin, turned over her one-third



421 Argyle, photographed February 24.

share to the daughter, but because she was a minor, the house went to auction and was picked up by Judge Letourneau for \$17,000.

As the six houses were being built in 1898, a new school, St. Paul's Academy (now École internationale de Montréal) was being established by the Sisters of Congregation Notre Dame around the corner on Côte St. Antoine, backing onto the lengthy lot behind 421 Argyle. Then in 1914, while Root owned the house, Westmount High School (now Selwyn House) was built across the street, and in 1923, as Letourneau was signing his deeds, the new city hall was being built on the park just to the south, facing Argyle and Côte St. Antoine. The pressure of location became very apparent to the judge in 1947, when the commissioners of St. Paul's ap-

proached him to purchase some 2,010 square feet (186.73 s.m.) at the back of his land in order to provide a schoolyard for their students, which they ended up doing.

Though Letourneau died in December 1949, his family rented out the house to Dr. John Lanthier until 1960, when it was sold to Yvonne (Fochs) Knight, whose husband, Dr. Allan Knight, worked at the Royal Victoria Hospital. After raising four children, Yvonne, a native of Germany, worked for St. Nicholas Books and became a world-renowned antiquarian dealer in old and rare children's books. The two moved to Toronto in 1968, leaving the house to Judith C. Daniels, wife of Ruby Rosen, a chartered accountant.

Daniels paid \$43,000 to purchase the house; the price grew ..... from then to \$697,500 by continued on p. 20

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# No reasoning with Ruby

## The Underdog Club

JANE DAVEY



Ruby is being featured this week in the “unpopular” category, although it doesn’t exactly cover what ails this handsome lass.

Eight-year-old Lab/collie/shepherd (maybe?) mix Ruby is actually very popular with people – and would likely be with other dogs as well, but she pointedly refuses to have anything to do with that ruffian species known as canine, growling “buzz off” when she encounters one of her own kind.

But Ruby’s seeming up-pitiness isn’t her fault. Her former family raised her beautifully in every respect except, for reasons unknown, she was never properly socialized with other dogs. Ruby is probably more afraid of other dogs than anything else.

This drawback is truly unfortunate because in just about every other regard, she is a winner. She is described by Gerdy’s Rescues as a “dear sweet girl” on her own, a great companion, obedient and trustworthy with kids.

Her other attributes include impeccable table manners (i.e. doesn’t beg), and she doesn’t bark much.

Ruby is spayed, vaccinated, is in good health, and apparently *loves* long walks and games of fetch (her fave activity).

And in summer, she’s game for swimming too.

This won’t come as a surprise: Ruby needs to be the only dog at home. She’s used to living in a house with a fenced-in yard, so a similar scenario would be optimal for her.

And we’re told that Gerdy’s Rescues will provide the selected adopter with a trainer



to help Ruby’s new human(s) teach her to at least be civilized with other members of her tribe.

If this flawed gem still shines for you, page Gerdy’s Rescues at 514.203.9180 or email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

## Yorkie runs free

A Westmount woman was ticketed \$77 for walking her dog off-leash in Westmount Park near the playground the morning of March 11, according to Public Security reports. She was recognized as having been warned or ticketed on previous occasions. She was spotted at 8:40 am with the leash around her hand while the small Yorkshire terrier ran free.

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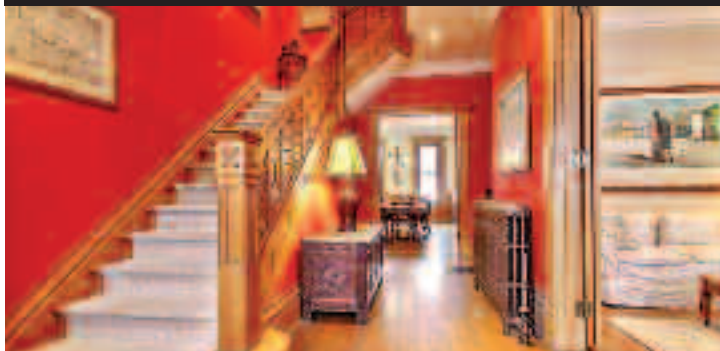
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# Old Forum/Habs nostalgia on display in Vic Park lobby



A book launch and photo exhibition of NDG resident Ezra Soiferman's Last Game at The Forum, opened in the Victoria Park lobby March 11. The previously unseen images – taken at the Habs' final hockey game at the Montreal Forum on the same date in March in 1996 – included a shot of a fan holding a sign “No 1 Fan from Newfoundland” and staff, as well as the Forum's distinctive red seats, scoreboard and building. Published to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the event, the coffee-table book contains 65 images of the 250 taken. Soiferman explained that “he knew he had captured the moment” but waited for an opportune time to publish the images. The photographs are to remain on display until Friday, March 25 at 376 Victoria Ave.

Photo: Heather Black

## Comin' Up

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30**

Monique Proulx, as part of the Westmount Public Library's author lecture series, discusses in French *Ce qu'il reste de moi*, 7 pm to 9 pm in the Westmount Room of the library. Tickets: 514.989.5299.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5**

For the Atwater Library seed library, seasoned gardener Brenda Copping conducts a hands-on workshop on starting seeds in doors, 1 to 3 pm. Register: Zile Ozols at zile@atwaterlibrary.ca or 514.935.7344, ext. 205. Free. 1200 Atwater Ave.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7**

The Atwater Library Lunchtime Series presents “Exploring End-of-Life Care Options in Quebec” with ethicists Véronique Fraser and Lori Seller from the Centre for Applied Ethics at the MUHC. Free, donations requested. Info: 514.935.7344.

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## Police Report

# Apartment break-and-enter suspect arrested

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.*

During the early evening of March 14, officers with the Montreal police's station 12 in Westmount arrested a man in his early 30s on suspicion he had attempted to break into and rob apartments in a residential building on St. Catherine St. near Metcalfe Ave.

According to the station's community relations officer, Adalbert Pimentel, the building's superintendent noticed the suspect whom he did not recognize as he entered the building. The super then saw him wandering around with no apparent purpose.

A short time later, the superintendent heard suspicious noise coming from the basement. Inspecting the area, he saw that the door to a tenant's storage room in the basement had been forced open. After calling 911, he saw the suspect leave the building.

When the police arrived, they obtained a description of the suspect from the super. Outside, around 7:30 pm, they succeeded in spotting an individual matching the description walking quickly west on St. Catherine St.

After they arrested the suspect, the po-

lice found he was in possession of tools that could have been used in the forced entry and alleged attempted theft, although he wasn't found to be in possession of stolen goods.

### Leaving the scene

A minor collision incident on March 4 around 4 pm between two vehicles at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Victoria Ave., which might have concluded with the drivers filing routine accident insurance reports, ended instead with one of them facing charges of leaving the scene.

"Two persons were driving on Victoria headed south near the intersection of Sherbrooke, where there is a traffic light," said Pimentel. "When the light turned green, the vehicle in front backed up instead of going forward. The driver behind was honking, but the vehicle in front continued backing up. There was then a minor collision but no injuries."

However, according to the police report, when the two drivers got out to assess if there was any damage, the driver in front suggested to the other that they drive a short distance to a different spot where there was less traffic. But driver number one left and never returned, said the driver of the second vehicle, who recorded the first driver's licence plate number.

While Pimentel noted that a police investigator has been assigned to track down the delinquent driver, who was driving a white Honda Accord. He faces a highway code charge of leaving the scene rather than a criminal accusation since the latter is applied when there are injuries, and there were none in this case.

### Hit-and-run on Metcalfe

In another hit-and-run incident around

9:30 am on March 9 on Metcalfe near Hillside, a driver who struck a vehicle in a parking lot might have first gotten away scot-free, but now faces a charge of leaving the scene because of an individual who witnessed the incident and reported it.

According to the witness's report, the driver was backing out when she collided with an impact that created a five-inch diameter cavity in the side of a second vehicle. "She got out of her car, she noticed the damage and then left without leaving behind so much as a note for the other driver," Pimentel said, reading from the report.

Pimentel said the delinquent driver returned to the scene around 2:30 pm that same day, at which time she was questioned by other users of the parking lot about the earlier accident, and she acknowledged being the driver in the collision.

However, she also claimed to have not noticed any damage. She now faces a leaving-the-scene highway code charge.

### Theft from car on Greene, Dorchester

On March 8, the driver of a car who had parked near the corner of Dorchester Blvd. and Greene Ave. around 6:30 pm while he went to a nearby restaurant for a meal noticed shortly after 9 pm when he returned that a rear window of his SUV had been smashed and valuables he left on the back seat were no longer there.

"The guy started off driving away when he noticed that cold air was coming into the car even though he hadn't opened any windows and when he looked he saw there was a hole where one of his rear door windows should have been," said Pimentel. Among the stolen items, which had been in a bag plainly visible from the outside, were a passport, a laptop computer, sunglasses and earplugs.

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House history cont'd. from p. 16

the time Helen McNamara and Paul O'Shea purchased it in 2001. Ten years later, that price almost doubled when a relocation firm took it over and then passed it on (at a bit of a loss) to "Portes et Fenêtres Hickson Inc.," a Verdun-based store that set out to completely renovate and modernize the property before finally selling to Pierre Courchesne and Patricia Mackie. Courchesne is described in the deed as a "vice president, finances and administration" and is believed to work for Sika Canada Inc., which makes waterproofing products. Mackie runs the Academic Success Centre at John Abbott College. They are also strong supporters of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

All 4 cooperate, leave school playground

Four men were identified after being found in the Roslyn School playground March 13 at 12:35 am following a noise complaint. Public Security officials said they were reported to have been talking loudly. They were described as co-operative and departed after their names were entered into the city database. Aged around 22, all were residents of Montreal.

| History of 421 Argyle (since construction) |   |             |
|--|---|-------------|
| Date                                       | Buyer   | Price       |
| 24-Jan-1900                                | Peter C. Small, merchant                                      | \$8,000     |
| 2-Oct-1903                                 | Kenneth D. Young hardware merchant                            | \$8,600     |
| 6-Oct-1910                                 | Chester Ward Root bank clerk                                  | \$10,000    |
| 21-Apr-1923                                | Severin Letourneau, judge                                     | \$17,000    |
| 4-Feb-1960                                 | Yvonne Fochs  | \$28,000    |
| 25-Jun-1968                                | Judith C. Daniels   | \$43,000    |
| 15-Aug-1977                                | Paul Gratton, telecommunications engineer                     | \$82,500    |
| 14-Nov-1980                                | Richard P. Saul, lawyer, and Catherine J. Veitch              | \$180,000   |
| 29-Jun-1981                                | Charles Gregory, account executive                            | \$270,000   |
| 2-Aug-1999                                 | Didier Payen de la Garanderie & Carole Rotman                 | \$608,000   |
| 15-Aug-2001                                | Helen McNamara & Paul Denis O'Shea                            | \$697,500   |
| 16-Aug-2011                                | Prudential Relocation Canada Ltd.                             | \$1,295,000 |
| 28-Sep-2011                                | Portes et Fenêtres Hickson Inc.                               | \$1,100,000 |
| 1-Jun-2012                                 | P. Courchesne, VP, finance and admin. & P. Mackie, professor. | \$1,850,000 |

A preview of Indie's Spring Social Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

**Sainte-Justine's Ball** for CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation. Event targets young professionals and entrepreneurs. 7:30 pm. VIP pre-cocktail Tickets \$250. 10 pm. Open bar and event \$150. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel St. Tickets and information. 514.345.4931, ext. 5221. Baldumtroyal.ca

**Federation CJA Campagne Sepharade** Venetian-style Purim Masquerade Ball. Open bars, hors d'oeuvres, DJ YO-C, acrobats. Dress: masquerade chic. 9 pm. Time Supper Club, 997 St. Jacques St. W. Tickets \$75. 514.345.2645, ext. 3102. Cathy.oik-nine@federationcja.org

**Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) Experience Fashion Show.** Dance and runway show. Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets 514.481.2723.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30

**Gala Bulles and Red Carpet.** Evening of champagne and gastronomy featuring fashion designer Shan's collection. To benefit the Quebec Lung Association. MC Anne-Marie Withenshaw. Co-presidents Geneviève Biron and Iohann Martin. 6 pm. Birks located at 1240 Phillips Square. Tickets \$350. nora.boussaa@pq.poumon.ca or

gala.bullesettapisrouge.ca

THURSDAY MARCH 31

**JGH Luxury Avenue.** Comedy roast of actor/comedian Gad Elmaleh to benefit the new JGH Critical Care Wing Pavilion K. President of honour Isabelle Tremblay. Honorary chairs Gad Elmaleh, Mary Etzitian. Chairs David Bitton, Martin Cauchon, Vince Guzzo, Claude Léger. 6 pm. Le Salon 1861, 550 Richmond St. Tickets 514.340.8222, ext. 3986. Jghluxuryavenue.org

continued on p. 21

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The players family name needs to be on the proof of residence.  
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# Sold-out memorial cocktail honours Tassone



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

"The moving finger writes and having writ moves on," Omar Khayyam once so poignantly pointed out. But the 7th annual Adriano Tassone evening on November 30 ensured, once again, that Tassone's memory endures. He was a defensive back with the McGill Redmen football team for four years, and a Desautels faculty of management student before his fatal car accident in 2009.

Established in 2009 by Adriano's parents, **Sabina and Vincent**, along with generous friends and family, the Adriano Tassone Internship Award in the department of kinesiology and physical education is



From left: Robin and Vivian Billick, Sabina and Vincent Tassone.

given to outstanding students in those departments at McGill University.

The Tassones welcomed guests at the well-organized receiving table, where volunteers greeted McGill students, professors and guests.

The 2015-2016 recipients are **Caitlin MacEachen, Marie-Aude Picard-Turcot, Joohwan (John) Hyun, Rhea Coriaty and Laura Hallward**.

The endowed award is a lasting tribute to the memory of Adriano at McGill. In 2010, the Tassones also established the Adriano Tassone Redmen Football Leadership Award. Recent recipients are **Frederic Methot and Moy McDonald**. Held La Cité, with valet parking to counter Park Ave.'s wall-to-wall rush-hour turmoil, the evening attracted over 300 guests. Hungry from the bitter cold, they descended on the sushi bar, which disappeared before you could say "locusts" or even blink. Arrivals then also enjoyed delicious Mexican tacos.

Westmounters noted in the room included **Linda and Terry Smith, Andrew Hops, Vivian and Robin Billick, George**

**Athans, Charlene and Reg Weiser, Susan and Peter Vargas, Phyllis and Ted Tessler, Joy and Jeff Bultz, Adam Turner, Rosie and Sal Parasuco** (both fabulous in black leather) and former Westmounters **Rosemarie and Frank Niro, and Dale and Nick Tedeschi**.

Emcee was always-witty **Terri Di Monte**,



Eric Lacharité, left, and Adam Turner.

who is well-known to his CHOM listener fans.

Seen enjoying the hilarious show by **Sugar Sammy** (when isn't he funny?) were **Eric Lacharité, Tania Tassone** and hubby **Jason Giosa, Perry Britton, Emanuel Ananias and Karen Beauchamps, Grace and Johnny Colona, Nadia and Tommy Alberg, Lisa and Neil Freder, Tina and Fred Dubrovsky, Josi and Richard Rapoport, Pota and Chiko Nangi, Ross Paperman, Joseph Ribkoff, Mary and Rocco Tassone, and Pina and Rudy Folini**.

The event raised \$77,000.

*Social calendar cont'd. from p. 20*

## MONDAY APRIL 4

**Gala for Crohns and Colitis in Canada** in tribute to Jaclyn Lea Fisher. Proceeds support establishment of the Jacklyn Fisher Education Fund. Presentation and cocktail dînette. 6 pm. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1380 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets and information Stefanie 514.342.0666. [srosenblatt@crohnsandcolitis.ca](mailto:srosenblatt@crohnsandcolitis.ca). 1.800.461.4683.

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 6

**Défi-Canapé – A Taste of Montreal**, sponsored by Jarislowsky Fraser. Benefit for the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres Foundation for local at-risk children. Canapés created by chefs from Nora Gray, Tuck Shop, Bishop and Bagg, Loic, Lavanteria and Taverne on the Square, also sponsor of the signature cocktail. 6 pm. Salon 1861, 550 Richmond St. Tickets \$125. \$80 (age 35 and under). At the door \$150 and \$100. Tickets, contact [batshawfoundation.ca](http://batshawfoundation.ca) 514.989.1885, ext. 1164.

**Gatsby Throws a Party for Blue Met!** A Blue Metropolis Foundation benefit. 6 pm. Lion d'Or, 1676 Ontario St. E. Tickets \$195. Kaven Gauthier 514.932.1112, ext. 25. [Kaven.Gauthier@metropolisbleu.org](mailto:Kaven.Gauthier@metropolisbleu.org).



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# Symansky leads daily operations at Centre Greene



Beth Symansky, February 4 at Centre Greene.

After nearly a year as assistant director, former Westmounter Beth Symansky started her job as executive director of Centre Greene in July 2015.

“I want the centre to continue providing high-quality services at low cost,” said Symansky, who previously worked at the Atwater Library as a seniors’ project coordinator and administration manager.

“What we try and do here is listen to the community,” she said. “People in the neighbourhood created this centre.”

Symansky said Centre Greene is still serving that community and is flexible enough to meet new demands.

“We’re always looking for new suggestions and ideas...to expand our programming to better serve our community.”

Symansky also previously worked as an event coordinator at Mada Community Center.

– JP

# Ramp at front of building Centre Greene executive

By JOANNE PENHALE

Centre Greene’s president Deborah Adler said 2015 was a stellar year for the community centre.

“More than ever, we are meeting the

needs of the community we serve,” Adler said at the centre’s February 4 annual general meeting. “Our facility has never been in such tip-top condition.”

Owned by the city of Westmount, the building

continued on p. 23



Treasurer Michael Harrison thanked donors at the centre’s annual general meeting on February 4, 2016. Facing the audience from left to right: Centre Greene’s executive director Beth Symansky, president Deborah Adler, and secretary Kate Sutherland.

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## on wishlist

# director, board give glowing reports at AGM

underwent extensive renovations in 2015.

“We are so impressed by what the city did this year, it’s overwhelming,” said Centre Greene’s treasurer Michael Harrison. “It really was a magnificent upgrade of our facility.”

Westmount financed and oversaw roof work and upgrades to the gym’s walls and doors, while the centre’s board raised money for and organized other gym upgrades, including a new floor, which cost nearly \$30,000, Harrison said, and new lighting. Adler thanked Harrison and board member Jim Richards for their work on those upgrades.

“We’ve only been able to do it by the support of our donors,” Harrison said.

“We hope to have new [front] doors installed in the coming months,” Richards added, during his report from the board’s building committee. The doors will have to be automated for accessibility, he said.

Also for accessibility, Richards said, building a ramp at the front of the building is a priority. “We want to work with the city,” he said, noting the project would be costly.

The centre’s executive director Beth Symansky told the *Independent* wheelchairs and strollers can enter the centre through the back door, but she added, “It’s not super convenient, and it’s difficult in the winter with the snow.”

For the year ending August 31, 2015, the centre’s revenue was \$361,000, Harrison reported, while expenses were \$369,000.

“You are showing you are doing things at a slight loss, which means nobody is getting ripped off,” Harrison noted.

Space rentals are the centre’s main revenue source, Harrison said, with Terre des Enfants daycare, paying \$65,000 last year, and other rentals totalling \$101,000.

“We have no debt,” Harrison said, citing \$117,000 in cash, and assets totalling

\$308,000.

Board member for fundraising and publicity Erica Bloom outlined how \$40,000 was raised during the fiscal year.

Symansky thanked the board during her report.

“Their involvement goes well beyond monthly meetings,” she said.

Centre Greene offers services for new-borns to seniors and everyone in between, Symansky said. She reviewed its social, recreational and cultural activities and em-

phasized high-enrollment in the centre’s summer camps, Tumbling Tots and after-school programs.

Symansky began managing the day-to-day operations in July 2015 (see story, p. 22), when past executive director Wesley McCoy moved to Ottawa.

Adler, who chaired the meeting, called the office staff at Centre Greene a “dream team,” naming Symansky, Mattson Griffiths, assistant director and special events coordinator, and Sophie Cram, adminis-

trative and financial assistant. “They seem to anticipate everything.”

Adler also noted other staff’s contributions.

Nine members of the board were unanimously re-elected at the meeting, which lasted less than one hour. Adler and Celia Lang will continue as president and vice president, respectively.

The city-owned building at 1090 Greene Ave. is leased for \$1 a year.

## Westmount Old Timers shut out visiting Paris hockey team



Photos: Martin C. Barry

At left: A goaltender for the visiting Paris Old Timers Hockey Club from France gazes dejectedly downward after a team from the Westmount Executive A league scored a fourth goal during a game at the Westmount recreation centre on March 9. By the time it was over, Westmount had scored three more times to shut Les Coqs de Paris out 7-0. Westmounter and player Christophe Romary helped organize the event. He was born in France and is passionate about hockey, he told the *Independent*.



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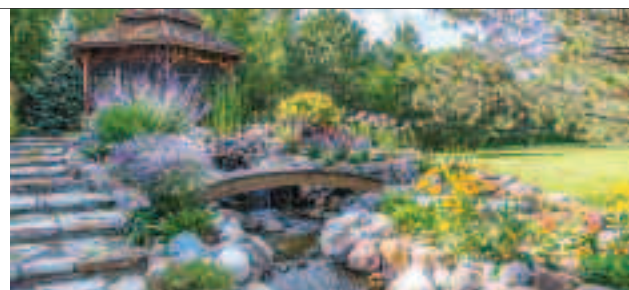


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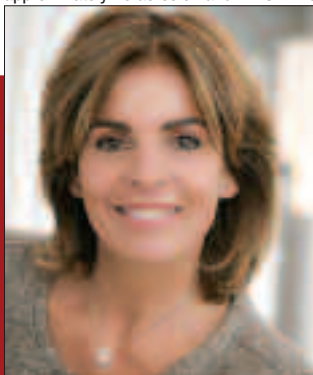
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