WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount Weekly, Vol. 10 No. 4a

Condo project scuttled, new lease for Metro site announced

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A long-term lease agreement between Metro Inc. and owners of the grocery store site at Sherbrooke and Victoria was announced last week, scuttling a controversial condo development proposal.

In a press release March 29, Metro Inc. stated the agreement "puts an end to the discussions that have been reported in local newspapers over the past few months concerning a possible residential and commercial construction project at that site."

The lease applies to the parking lot as well as the store, Metro spokesperson Geneviève Grégoire explained. While she said she could not divulge the length of the

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term "it is for many years." The "whole project is cancelled," she confirmed.

The project, to include 80 condos, had been refused by the city as being too massive, Mayor Peter Trent said.

"After four and a half years, we decided to postpone the project indefinitely," developer Jacob Attias, president of Ramco Inc., confirmed to the *Independent* the next

"As a developer and resident of Westmount for over 44 years," Attias wrote to Trent, "I se- continued on p. 9

Mountainside United going up for sale after 100 years

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

One of Westmount's most venerable institutions could be on the verge of sale, the Independent learned late last week.

Mountainside United Church - known for many years as Dominion-Douglas – is expected to be listed for sale with a real estate agent this week, Reverend John Forster, its minister, confirmed.

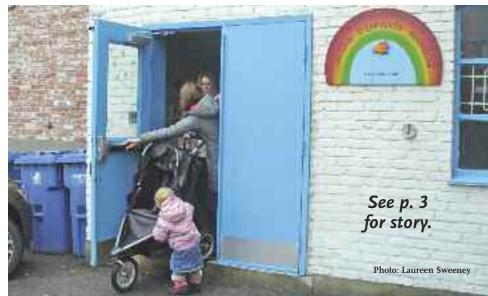
A proposal to purchase the property by another religious group is in the wind, he acknowledged. He said it was believed to come from a Pentacostal or Evangelical congregation since "mainline denominations don't need new buildings."

The imposing stone structure on The Boulevard between Lansdowne and Roslyn has a city valuation of some \$10 million, he said. "If we don't get good value, we won't sell it. We don't have to at this point. But we're looking down the road."

While the church is believed to be one of the more heavily endowed houses of worship in Westmount, the cost of maintaining the imposing stone building does not match the current donations of its mem-

At the same time, Forster said, the city's his-continued on p. 13

Rainbow daycare to close in June



Children are picked up as usual at the end of the morning April 1 from Jardin d'Enfants Rainbow, but the nursery school is slated to close down for good June 15 after 27 years at Westmount Park Church.

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Rainbow pre-school to close at Westmount Park **Church after 27 years**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

First, it was Miss Vicky's pre-school fighting in the courts to remain open at St. Matthias' Church. Now comes word that Rainbow is closing down in June after 27 years at Westmount Park United Church.

Not only is it leaving parents scrambling for new accommodation for the next school term, it has also sent the church out to search for a new tenant to make up the rent of \$5,050 a month, described as a significant part of its total revenue.

The reason for closing down "Jardin d'enfants Rainbow" was attributed by director Jacqueline Thom to a failure to reach a "favourable agreement" with the church over its lease renewal.

"As a result of these unsuccessful negotiations," she wrote in a notice to parents February 23, "Rainbow will be closing June 15.... The decision is final."

Church secretary Joan Hagerman, who is charge of the rental committee, said the pre-school had not asked to negotiate a proposed five-percent increase in a new four-year lease but had informed the church by registered letter at the end of December it would be leaving.

"After receiving Jacqueline's letter informing us of her decision to close, we met with her," Hagerman said. "It is our belief that the decision to close Rainbow was made for a number of reasons coming together resulting in the decision to wind down the operation."

In a request for more details on the closure, Thom, who was out of the country last week, told the Independent by email

that "our position would be economically untenable to adhere to the requirements set within the proposed lease," which she described as a "five-year" one.

Some looking for alternate sites

A group of parents have started checking out other locations and various possibilities that would permit Rainbow's type of program to continue, according to Julian Kuerti, whose three-year old daughter attends the school.

Losing the school means taking away the need of some parents who want their young children "to have contact with their peers but not be away all day," he said.

"This is the kind of program that a lot of people in this community want," District 5 councillor Christina Smith said last week of its more flexible scheduling than that offered by daylong daycare programs.

"It's very sad for me that the school is closing," said Anthea Dawson, a parent who also said it would be "a big loss to the community." It has allowed for her twoyear-old daughter to attend three days a week until 11:30 am "in time to eat lunch at home and have her nap."

While the facilities are reportedly able to accommodate 60 children, the private preschool's enrollment has dropped to about 30. This is believed to be a result of being prevented by the Quebec government's Family ministry from operating an optional afternoon program, as it did for many years.

This is similar to what had happened at Miss Vicky's, causing



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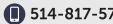
owner Victoria Naday to continued on p. 19



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Woman falls on Greene, taken to MGH

A 79-year-old Westmount woman sustained a cut on the left side of the face and eye after falling March 24 on Greene Ave., Public Security officials said. She was assisted by a passerby and helped up by a parking inspector. When officers arrived at just after 10:15 am, she was found sitting on her walker, shaking from the shock of the fall.

The cut was cleaned as she awaited an ambulance for transport to the Montreal General Hospital. Officers delivered her walker to her residence.

The woman was reported to have fallen in front of Starbucks after getting out of a taxi and reaching down to pick up her purse that had fallen. Snow was beginning, and the sidewalk was described as wet and slippery.

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Roofers attempt to repair damage on Rosemount

A roofing company working at 49 Rose-mount Ave. was warned to repair damage to the grassed strip between the sidewalk and street March 18, according to Public Security reports. Deep muddy "grooves" had been made by a boom truck used to hoist supplies onto the roof. The company had obtained a permit to occupy the sidewalk but it could not be accessed without driving over the median. The workers were reported to have done their best to clean up and had made a legitimate effort to repair the damage.

Loud music lowered at 2:30 am

Public safety officers were dispatched to a house on Prince Albert March 26 for loud music at 2:30 am. On arrival, they could hear it from outside. Public Security officials said they warned the six people inside of the complaint, and the volume was lowered.

Truck's refrigeration system sheared off by bridge

The roof of a 25-foot truck travelling north on Greene near Prospect was sheared off March 8 as the vehicle struck the railway bridge near Prospect, Public Security officials said. The impact took off the refrigeration system, roof and paneling and spewed debris onto the street. The truck had successfully cleared the Ville Marie expressway overpass before hitting the CP bridge at about 8:13 am. The railway was called to inspect possible damage to the structure. The 3.6-meter clearance is clearly signed on both overpasses.

Hydro vehicle sideswiped

A Dodge truck sideswiped a Hydro Westmount vehicle travelling east on Sherbrooke St. March 22, Public Security officials said. The driver of the Dodge was reported to have misjudged the distance when making a turn on Argyle at 1:11 pm.

Pothole blows tire, filled 'right away'

were to enter the pharmacy again.

Man looking for

bag containing \$700

Public safety officers were reported to

have been called to the Jean Coutu store on

Greene Ave. March 17 when an intoxicated

man refused to leave the premises just be-

fore 6 pm, Public Security officials said.

The man was described as looking for a

bag containing \$700. He had already de-

parted on arrival of officers who were told

he was no longer wanted in the pharmacy.

He was subsequently spotted and ques-

tioned by officers as he left the 5 Saisons

store. They returned to the pharmacy to

search for the bag and caught up with him

again in Westmount Square to tell him

they had not found it. He was warned he

could be charged with trespassing if he

A Westmount motorist drove into a pothole on Lansdowne Ave. blowing a tire at 4:47 pm, March 15, Public Security officials said. The hole just north of Westmount Ave. was described as "half a foot" deep. The driver was given a city claim form, and Public Works was reported to have filled the hole "right away."

Music, disco lights turned off

An anniversary party at the armoury of the Royal Montreal Regiment was just wrapping up March 20 at 12:05 am when a noise complaint was received, Public Security officials said. Loud music and bright disco lights were subsequently turned off.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Letters & Comments:

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Volunteering in and around Westmount

The Volunteer Bureau of Montreal reports that Place Kensington is looking for a pianist for its monthly Anglican service, which includes hymns. It takes place mostly the last Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Contact Doreen Friedman at 514.935.1212 or recreationpk@hotmail.com. The seniors' residence is located at 4430 St. Catherine St.

Correction

Due to an editing error, the wrong year was added in the story "Westmount faith groups to sponsor Syrian refugees" (March 29, p. 8). The sentence should have read "The Quebec government's Immigration ministry reported on March 21 that 5,330 Syrian refugees have been accepted into the province since January 2015" (and not 2016, as published).

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Barriers installed when rocks fall from Belvedere wall

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Rocks falling from a retaining wall on private property on Belvedere Rd. at Sunnyside March 28 caused the steep, winding road to be blocked at The Boulevard and at Sunnyside, Public Security officials said. The wall was reported to be on private property next to 49 Belvedere.

The street was reopened the next day after concrete Jersey barriers were placed along the side of the road to prevent rocks from tumbling into the traffic lane. Meanwhile, netting was also put up as extra precaution.

Patrollers had been dispatched initially at 3:30 pm to find "sizeable" pieces of the "crumbling" wall had fallen some 30 feet down the hill, landing on the street just north of 15 Belvedere, the historic Bronfman house.

Officers decided to close the street and called the fire department to chip away at the rock, which they were unable to do.

District 1 councillor Patrick Martin, who lives nearby, said the street was also closed from Sunnyside to Belvedere Circle.



Jersey barriers and netting were installed on Belvedere March 29 to protect cars from rocks rolling downhill. Inset: Police cars block Belvedere Rd. at the Boulevard March 28.

Photos courtesy of P. Martin

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Director of the Northern Quebec Module Maggie Putulik points to a picture of the ground-breaking ceremony for a new facility, where Nunavik residents will stay while they are receiving health care in Montreal. Putulik was photographed January 22 in the hallway of the former Reddy Memorial Hospital on Tupper St., where the Northern Quebec Module has been sharing space with the YMCA Residence since 2011.

Inuit residence relocating

By Joanne Penhale

A residence for Nunavik residents who require health care in Montreal will move from its temporary Westmount location on Tupper to a new permanent site in Dorval by the end of this year, if all goes according to plan.

"It's been many years that this project has been discussed in board rooms," said Northern Quebec Module's director Maggie Putulik. With the Dorval residence under construction, she continued, "We already feel a sense of pride and ownership."

The Northern Quebec Module provides temporary housing and other services to residents of 14 communities in Nunavik who require medical services not available in northern Quebec, Putulik said, including for trauma, oncology, pediatrics and high-risk prenatal services.

The organization has been sharing space with the YMCA Residence on Tupper St. in eastern Westmount since 2011, and Putulik said ongoing efforts to find a permanent space have been difficult.

Apart from lodging, the organization, which is part of Nunavik-based Innuulitsivik Health Centre, provides its Inuit clientele with transportation between the

residence, the airport and various MUHC services, as well as interpretation, liaison nurses and social services.

Stays at the facility range from two days to a few months, Putulik said, and its peak capacity is 150.

In the fall of 2014, the Innuulitsivik Health Centre, under the authority of the Ministry of Health and Social Services, announced a call for tenders for a permanent facility, Putulik said. The least costly of three bids that met ministry requirements such as lot size, Putulik explained, was from a company called Moschelle, which is now managing construction of a facility on a 56,000-square-foot lot on Orly Ave., off Autoroute 520 near the airport.

Construction began this January, Putulik said, and is expected to be completed in fall of 2016.

The facility includes private rooms, a cafeteria, living room, activity room with games, chapel, quiet lounge and videoconferencing room so residents can keep in touch with family and friends in Nunavik, Putulik said.

The YMCA Residence has been welcoming of the Northern Quebec Module, she said, and the mix of both facility's residents continued on p. 9





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to made-to-measure building in Dorval

has meant people from as many as 20 nations are gathered under one roof.

"It's going to be bittersweet," she said. "They've become a part of us, and vice versa."

That said, Putulik noted, the location at 4039 Tupper St. near Atwater Ave. has not been ideal. "[The nearby] Cabot Square is an attractive location for illegal activities and pushers that take advantage of the clientele we have," she said. Noting the lo-

cal homeless population, she added, "It's not the safest area either."

Pascal Alatorre, director of the YMCA Residence said a new tenant has not been found for the space the Northern Quebec Module has occupied for the past six years, and will continue to occupy for the better part of this year.

"It has to be compatible with our clientele," Alatorre said of a new tenant. He said Batshaw Youth and Family Centre

owns the building. The YMCA Residence provides short-term housing for refugees, asylum seekers, homeless people and Inuit

The Module relocated there in April 2011 from the previous Nunavik House on St. Jacques in NDG (see story "Inuit health support centre moving to Westmount," February 22, 2011, p. 1).

City 'dug in its heels' over Metro site

cont'd. from p. 1

riously regret the fact that this project didn't materialize. Victoria Ave. and the city would have benefitted greatly."

"We dug in our heels on three points: massing, height and setbacks," Trent explained. These were all among concerns voiced by residents of Grosvenor Ave. whose properties back on to the Metro parking lot (see story September 18, 2015, p. 1).

Despite impact studies, conducted by the developer, Trent said, the city also had reservations over traffic, parking and conservation of the heritage Laurentian Bank building.

"The gulf between the parties was too

great to bridge," he said.

Metro a retail 'anchor'

Trent said he was "extremely pleased" with the outcome since the city's goal was "to ensure that the grocery store remains at the location, for shoppers and as a retail anchor for all Victoria village."

Developer Attias also stated "the good news is that the Metro supermarket store will be continuing their operations for many years to come."

Ramco's development project at 1250 Greene also took many years of on-and-off study and did not win city approval until a solution was finally brokered by Trent in 2010 to include Les 5 Saisons.

PPCMOI by-law born from the project

Interestingly, the decision to scuttle the recent project comes just as the city council was poised to adopt the by-law on Specific Construction, Alteration and Occupancy Proposals for an Immovable (SCAOPI/PPCMOI).

This is a measure for approving major non-conforming projects such

as development of the Metro site would have been. Trent said that project, in fact, had given birth to "the PPCMOI" and the city's approach to making information public at an earlier stage on major projects (see story February 9, p. 1).

Marina Brzeski, who spearhead opposition to the project in the name of residents on Grosvenor, said her initial reaction was one of cautious optimism concerning the future of the site. "We are relieved and now have some time to enjoy our properties."

The recent agreement was also described in the Metro Inc. release as enabling the store, whose franchise is owned by Graham Fletcher, "to consider renovation projects." Although it refers to the store being at the site since 1992, it had been operating since it was built under the Steinberg banner. Fletcher, who moved to the store in 1987, said he acquired the Steinberg franchise in 1990, carried it on with Metro.

"I'm very pleased for the employees," he said of the agreement. While some might have been moved to other Metro stores, they would have lost seniority and some might have been without jobs.

The property owner is listed as Gérard Abitbol, president of Immeubles Sherbrooke & Victoria Inc., 4840 Sherbrooke.



A view of Metro and its parking lot, January 29.











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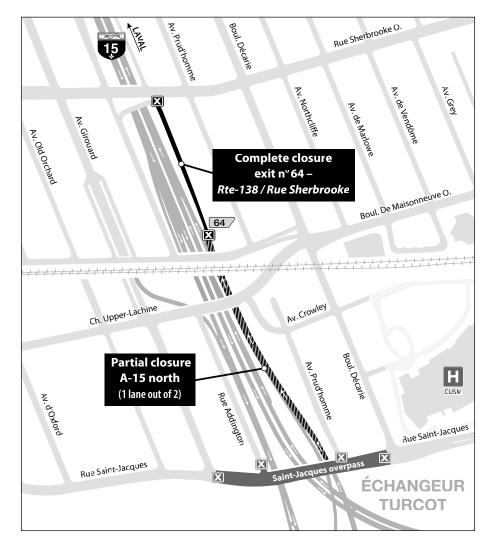
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RMR holds recruiting day



Private Scott Lachance, a Concordia student, explains the workings of a C7A2 assault rifle with an M203 rocket assist to McGill student Maéva Proteau, who is looking for different career options including the military. Lachance is a full-time student but said he enjoys the challenge of being a part-time reservist. Proteau is studying international relations, including conflict resolution. They were seen at the armoury March 26 during the Royal Montreal Regiment's recruitment afternoon.

By Ralph Thompson

The Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) held a recruitment afternoon at its St. Catherine St. armoury March 26.

A small contingent of smartly dressed reservists in uniform was available to explain their roles in the regiment and present an interesting array of communication equipment, trucks and weapons. "We like to expose people to what we do and hope to get a few to join the reserves," said full-time sergeant Loïc Parnell. "It's a long weekend, so we expect a lot of people to

drop in." They were expecting between 20 and 40, he said.

Corporal Kenton Townsend, a data analyst by trade and a reservist for 16 to 20 hours a month, said he enjoys being with the reserves. "I was born in Jamaica and came to Canada at five years old. We had very little there, so I was very happy to get healthcare and education in Canada," he said. "I am pleased to give back to Canada and work hard to help other people."

Because of his background and special skills, he was deployed to Haiti after the earthquake in 2010.

















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Cromwell's sale of residential building not a trend, it says

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Cromwell Management, which owns a number of commercial and residential buildings in Westmount, says it is not getting out of residential real estate, although the company recently sold one of its Westmount apartment blocks.

"We did sell one building – Westmount Estates – on January 19," said Carl Yacovelli, a property agent with Cromwell, in an interview with the *Independent*. He was referring to Cromwell's former property at 4800 de Maisonneuve Blvd. at the corner of Roslyn Ave.

However, according to Yacovelli, the sale to Akelius Canada Residential Property was a one-time deal. He said Cromwell does not anticipate following this up in the near future by selling other residential buildings from its extensive portfolio.

According to the online Real Estate News Exhange, the Westmount Estates was one of four Montreal-area residential properties that were sold in January by Cromwell to Akelius for a total of \$120.5 million.

and professionals since 1998



The building at 4800 de Maisonneuve Blvd., April 1.

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The other three are on Drummond St. downtown and on Bonavista Ave. in Montreal just west of the Victoria Ave./Boulevard intersection in Westmount. Yacovelli was unable to disclose the value of the 145-unit Westmount Estates.

"We don't typically sell," he said regarding Cromwell's portfolio strategy. "We're more on the buying side instead of the selling side. But in this case it was just a fair deal for both the seller and the purchaser. That particular building was not for sale, but an agent contacted us, and because the deal was fair for everybody, we went ahead."

For Stan Grossman, an apartment dweller at 4800 de Maisonneuve Blvd., Akelius is his third landlord since moving in 15 years ago. "When we came in, it was owned by the Gaty family," he said. "I guess it was about three years ago they sold it to Cromwell." According to Grossman, some younger members of the Gaty family continue to live in the Westmount Estates.

changes since Akelius took over Westmount Estates has been a reduction in staff. "We used to have two regular doormen and two on the weekends, and a superintendent and two other employees working with the super to vacuum the floors, things like that," he said.

"But then when Akelius took over, they got rid of those two employees and now they send their own people from downtown, where they own other buildings. Also Cromwell used to have one person permanently at our administration office, but now a person comes in once or twice a week for an hour. Otherwise, they seem to be doing their job, but it's much more impersonal."

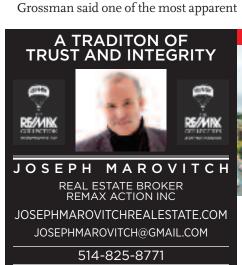
A few older Westmount residents whose memories stretch far enough back might remember that Westmount Estates was built on the site of the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal's King's School, which educated generations of local grade-schoolers before closing in the early 1960s, following which it was demolished.

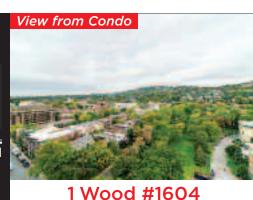


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Church looks 'down the road'

cont'd. from p. 1

toric classification of the building severely restricts redevelopment options, which the church has been exploring.

As a result, Forster said the congregation approved putting the property on the market at its annual meeting March 6. This was subsequently given preliminary approval by the Montreal Presbytery.

"It was decided we should look at moving in with another church or amalgamating, which we're very good at. We don't need two united churches in Westmount. We could move down the hill to Westmount Park. We still want to be a good church for the future, offering new kinds of ministry for a new generation."

The church commissioned two studies on its future. "The bottom line is there isn't much we can do with the site. Our research showed it would probably take seven or eight years to get any redevelopment proposal approved."

Converting the building into condos, for example, was out of the question since the city would not allow new window openings to be made in the façade, he said.

To proceed with attempts to sell the property, the church trustees are expected this week to appoint one person to sign related documents on their behalf, including the real estate listing and any offers. An offer would be submitted for approval to the congregation for ratification by the Montreal Presbytery.

The church, which has christened, married and buried hundreds of Westmounters since its construction in 1913, has a current membership of 200 to 250, Forster said. Attendance at services can range from about 60 to 150.

It has evolved through the years as an amalgamation of several congregations: Dominion, Douglas, St. Andrew's in 1985, and Erskine and American in 2004, which resulted in the adoption of its name Mountainside.





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by Deborah Soucie-Landers

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Mountainside United Church, as seen April 1, has been a landmark on The Boulevard since its construction in 1913.





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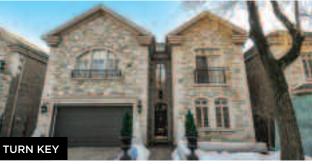
HARROW PL., BEACONSFIELD \$5,250,000

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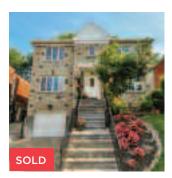
RECENT SALES (LAST ASKING PRICES)



LANSDOWNE, WESTMOUNT **\$1,450,000**



WOLSELEY N., MONTRÉAL-WEST **\$1,195,000**



CIRCLE, WSTMT ADJ. **\$949,000**

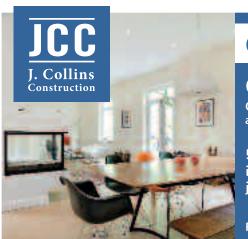


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Earth Hour records 2.3% decrease in power use

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Electricity consumption in Westmount declined by some 2.3 percent this year during the lights-out period of Earth Hour from 8:30 to 9:30 pm, Hydro Westmount officials said last week.

This is the time that citizens around the world March 19 were asked to participate in the symbolic gesture to create awareness of global warming.

"We hit a peak of 48.6 megavolt amperes (MVA) at 8:30 pm, and it dropped to 47.5 MVA at 9:30 pm," said Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise.

This 2.3-percent drop compares with of a decrease of 3.7 percent last year during particularly cold temperatures. When electric heating kicks in, it is the biggest factor in electrical consumption, he explained.

As a result, during Earth Hour 2015, a peak in consumption of about 52.9 MVA was recorded at 8:20 pm, which had decreased to about 50.9 MVA at 9:35 pm.

In 2014, over the same time period, the decrease went from about 49 MVA to about 47.7 MVA, a drop of 2.6 percent, (see story April 8, 2014, p. 7).

St. Leo's bursting at seams, moving students

Parents of children at St. Leo's on Clarke received notice in French recently that grade five and six students at the school would be assigned to the Annexe Charlevoix, beginning in September 2016 and 2017 respectively, in order to mitigate "in a temporary way" the "overpopulation" at its main campus.

A meeting was planned for Tuesday, April 5 at 7 pm at the school to discuss the

www.centremontroyal.com

change with parents. The annex, on de Courcelle in St. Henri, already houses St. Leo's "classes d'accueil" for students new to French.

The letter, from principal Lili Beaumont and Conseil d'Établissement president (and parent) Stéphanie Richard also chronicled how the school's library and computer room have had to close in recent years to make room for classrooms.



Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in December 2015

For real estate transfers, please see the paper copy.

For Andy Dodge's analysis, see p. 18.



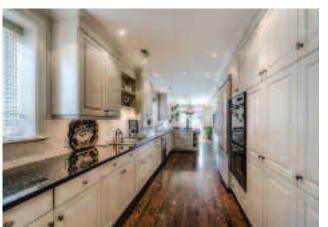
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PRICE UPON REQUEST





December transfers: Highest



Real estate

Andy Dodge, CRA

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in December 2015, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 17.

Eight-million dollars was paid out in December for the lovely stone mansion at 90 Summit Circle, the highest price ever paid for a single-family dwelling in Westmount.

The sprawling mansion, parked at the corner of Summit Circle and Summit Crescent, includes almost 1,627 square me-

tres of land stretching behind the house along Summit Crescent to Surrey Gardens with an outdoor pool. It sold to a numbered company whose president is Samuel Frishman. The law firm of Levine, Frishman, Lancry has its offices in Westmount.

The price paid was actually \$8,250,000, but it is clearly stated in the deed that the \$250,000 additional figure is for contents. Thus the \$8 million paid for the house is \$1 million above the previous high price set in March 2012 when the Chinese consulate purchased 3617 The Boulevard for \$7 million. Right now the Montreal Real Estate Board lists only four houses above the \$8-million mark, and only one of those is in Westmount.

The \$8-million price is 3.5 times the next-highest sale in Westmount in December, with 642 Sydenham Ave. at \$2,288,000. The lowest price of the month is also something of a record, as 1111 Greene Ave. sold for \$460,000, the lowest price in Westmount since 82 Somerville

Ave. sold for \$420,000 in December 2011. The Greene Ave. property, located just above Stayner St., sold for almost 25 percent less than its \$610,700 valuation, by far the biggest mark-

down continued on p. 19



90 Summit Circle, photographed March 31, had the highest single-family dwelling price ever in Westmount (\$8,000,000) and highest mark-up for December (38.6 percent). Image at left: A photo of the property taken in the early 1980s.

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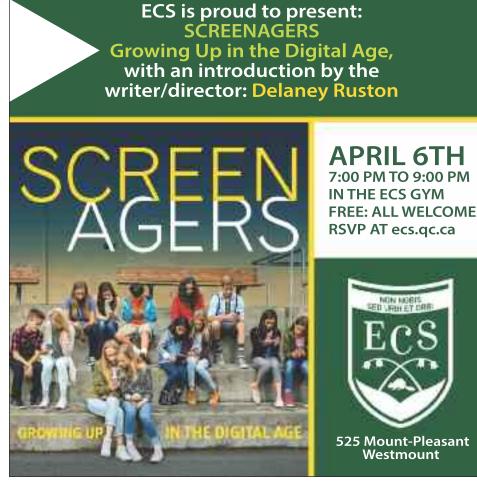


GROSVENOR









price ever – 90 Summit Circle

of the month.

Highest mark-up

The highest mark-up, by the way, went to 90 Summit Circle, whose \$8-million price was 38.6 percent above municipal

tax value.

Condo sales

In last month's transfers we saw the first of the condominium sales at the newlyconstructed 175 Metcalfe Ave.; in Decem-

ber, six more sales were registered along with two at 215 Redfern Ave., actually involving one penthouse apartment, which was sold by the contractor in October and then resold in early November. Valuations still have to be established for the Metcalfe condos and probably will be revised in the case of (at least) apt. 401 at 215 Redfern.

The only December condo sale to be included in the statistics, then, is apt. 301 at 4160 Sherbrooke St., sold by former provincial legislator Reed Scowen for \$735,000, almost nine percent less than

its total valuation (once garages, lockers and outdoor parking spaces are included). That was the only apartment-building condominium (except for 175 Metcalfe and 215 Redfern) sold in the final quarter of last year. All the others were duplex- or triplex-type condos; of the six, four sold below valuation. The average for the quarter represented a five-percent mark-down from valuation, and for the year 2015 the condos averaged just about exactly their 2014 municipal evaluations.



1111 Greene Ave., photographed March 31, had the lowest single-family dwelling price since 2011 (\$460,000) and the biggest mark-down for December, 24.7 percent.

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Rainbow cont'd. from p. 3

allege the government was trying to get rid of nursery schools (jardins d'enfants) that exist by vested rights after that category of permit was abolished in 2005 (see story February 16, p. 3). Daycare operations are now favoured.

Use restricted

The city's zoning by-law 1303 lists the permitted uses of the church by its address, 4695 de Maisonneuve, as "a place of worship with parish halls and a school for preschool education." It is understood to include the church's out-reach programs.

The spacious facilities used by Rainbow in the church basement include a kitchenette and four toilets, Hagerman said.

David Popowich, who was to be listing the property at the end of last week for Sutton Group along with co-agent Marie-Andrée Robinson, said they were asking between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a month.

At St. Matthias', Miss Vicky's was ordered to close by March 11 in a dispute with the Family ministry over hours of operation. A provisional injunction was obtained in Quebec Superior Court allowing it to remain open temporarily while seeking to remain open permanently (see story

March 15, p. 3).

The Westmount Y is one of the three Montreal-area YMCAs of Quebec to offer a nursery school program.





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MARCH BUILDING PERMITS # What's permitted



The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the March 7 meeting of city council.

618 Victoria: to modify the front porch; **609 Clarke:** at a Category I house, to build a vestibule, landscape and add a pool;

800 Lexington: to build a skylight, replace windows and a garage door;

27 Bellevue: at a Category I house, to landscape, install a hot tub and a fence;

448 Argyle: at a Category I house, to build a rooftop terrace;

316 Grosvenor: to replace back windows and rebuild a back terrace after a fire;

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the March 22 meeting of city council.

641 Argyle: to build access stairs to the roof and a new rooftop terrace;

4350 Montrose: to modify front and back facades, build a new terrace and balcony at the back and replace the garage door;

32 Oakland: to do exterior modifications, modify openings, replace windows and do

landscaping;

465 Lansdowne: to enlarge the opening for the patio door to integrate a transom and replace the kitchen door;

645 Lansdowne: to landscape front and rear yards and arrange a new pool;

527 Victoria: to enlarge a window opening and replace the window.





Workers were busy with a backhoe in the backyard of 645 Lansdowne on April 1 (left) presumably for its new pool, while at 618 Victoria, where modifications to its front porch are planned, things were quiet.

Police Report

Another Westmounter falls for 'nephew' fraud scheme

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 say that another senior citizen has been defrauded out of thousands of dollars by scam artists using a ruse in which they pose as young relatives.

On March 23, a retired Westmount man contacted the police to say he'd received a phone call from an individual claiming to be his nephew

While maintaining he had been involved in a car accident, the caller told them man he needed money to deal with legal problems.

Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière said several thousand dollars were taken from the victim, although "the exact amount is not known,"

As in a similar case reported in the *In*dependent's March 29 issue (p. 10), the victim didn't check first with relatives whether the caller was in fact his nephew. After going to the bank to withdraw cash, he handed it over to an accomplice of the caller who came to his door and vanished afterwards.

Laperrière said it's not unusual for fraud artists to blatantly use a scam like this repeatedly. "What's not broke doesn't need fixing," he said. "They tend to use the same schemes if it's generating money for them. But they'll also use other ruses if one isn't giving them success."

Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel says police at the Stanton St. detachment are getting new tools to help root out and deal with cases of elder abuse.

The new program, known in French as Intervention policière auprès des aînés maltraités, was developed in conjunction with CLSC Metro and Westmount's Contactivity Centre.

Social services to be called

In each case of suspected elder abuse, the police will be making a report and referring victims to social services where they can receive additional assistance. The new approach will see the police and social service providers working more proactively in conjunction with each other than was the case before.

Whereas the police previously dealt with cases of elder abuse from the standpoint of criminal activity, Pimentel said the scope of police involvement has been broadened to take into account the psychological impact on the victim.

"It's becoming more and more of a reality that the police department has to deal with victimization," he said. "This is another way in which the police department is becoming better equipped to detect elder abuse."

Indie's Spring Social Calendar, Part 1

By Veronica Redgrave

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Empty Bowls/Bols du partage, funding healthy food programs at the NDG Food Depot and Unitarian Church. Handmade bowl of your choice includes soup and bread. Local musical entertainment. 10:30 am – 3 pm. 2146 Marlowe St. Tickets \$25. Bonnie Soutar, developpement@depotndg.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

JPPS-Bialik's Gala Casino night. Chairs Andrea Greenberg, Kitry Znaty, Amy Finkelstein. 6:30 pm. Bialik's Helen and Sam Steinberg Auditorium, 6500 Kildare St. Tickets and information 514.731.2944. Local 263. Amy.f@jppsbialik.ca.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Coming Out! A Blue Met cocktail benefit supporting the fight against homophobia. 6 pm. Hotel 10, 10 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets Kaven Gauthier. 514. 932.1112. Local 25. Kaven.gauthier@metropolisbleu.org

The Daffodil Ball, benefiting the Cana-

dian Cancer Society. Theme: Mardi Gras. Co-chairs: Louis Audet, president and CEO, Cogeco; André Bourbonnais, president and CEO, PSP Investments; Alain Champagne, president, McKesson Canada. Celebrity guest chef Brian Landry from Restaurant Borgne in New Orleans will collaborate with Fairmont the Queen Elizabeth to produce a NOLA-inspired banquet. 6:45 pm. Windsor Station, 900 Peel St. Valet parking. Tickets \$1,000 (available only to benefactors donating \$2,000 or more). Sponsors' tables \$50,000, \$35,000, \$27,500. Info: Alison@alisonsilcoff.com. 514.932.7517. daffodilball.ca.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal's Les Printemps du MAC, to benefit the MAC Foundation. Co-presidents Eleonore Derome (Blakes), Geneviève Provost (Deloitte). Honouree Justin Méthot, director, large businesses private equity, Caisse de dépôt. 9 pm. 185 St. Catherine St. W. Tickets \$175. Naila Del Cid 514.847.6272.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Black & White Dance Party for the Thoracic Surgery Research Foundation of

Montreal. Honorary president Joseph Broccolini, vice president, Broccolini Construction. Cocktails 6 pm. Dinner 7:30 pm. Le Madison, 8750 Provencher St. Tickets \$250. Sue Dabrowski. 514.889.4126. susan.dabrowski@sympatico.ca. Anne Riby 514.890.8000, local 24543. Anne.riby@montrealthoracique.ca.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Dinner with Friends. Hosted by the Centaur Theatre Company and its board. 5:30 pm Dinner at Bonaparte Restaurant, 447 St. François Xavier St., Old Montreal. 8:00 pm World premiere *Last Night at the Gayety* by Bowser & Blue. Directed by Roy Surette. Coffee, desserts and conversation with the cast to follow the performance at Centaur. Proceeds support the theatre. Tickets \$1,600 for table of 10. \$180 per person (tax receipts issued). Reservations Sylvia Tombs 514.288.1229, local 240. development@centaurtheatre.com.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 20-21

You Be the Star. The 70's Rock On! Segal Centre fundraiser. Honorary co-presidents Liliane Colpron and Josée Fiset, cofounders of Première Moisson. 6-course gastronomic meal. 6:30 pm. April 20. 7:30 pm on April 21. 5170 Côte des Neiges Rd. Tickets \$250. 514.935.8136. maisonsaintgabriel.qc.ca.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

VIP Opening AGAC's PAPIER 16. (Association of Contemporary Art Galleries). Cocktail première of this annual art-onpaper fair. 6 pm. Hangar 16, 1 Port St. Old Montreal. Tickets \$150. 250 and 750. Eventbrite.ca.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Sons of Scotland Benevolent Association, Montreal District. Fundraiser supporting the Pipes and Drums of Black Watch Cadets. 7 pm. Scottish Centre of Montreal, 1610 Stephens St. Tickets \$15.514.366.7836.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Grand Ballets Canadiens de Montréal gala. 6 pm. Uniprix Stadium, 285 Gary Carter St. W. Tickets \$800. Tables \$8,000, \$12,000. Call 514.849.8681, local 236. lcailleres@grandsballets.com.



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Charles Kelsey windows in Westmount

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Charles William Kelsey designed and hand painted colourful glass windows for churches and homes in Westmount for many years after he arrived from New York in 1922.

We are accustomed to seeing "stained" glass windows in our churches, but do we know who designs them, who makes them

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Many of these questions were answered by Rosalind Pepall, former senior curator of Decorative Arts for the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, during the evening of March 17 when she presented images of Kelsey's painted glass windows.

"Do not call them stained glass!" she admonished her audience of Westmount Historical Association members. Instead, it was coloured glass cut to shape, then painted with brown paint by Kelsey to add tonality to flowers, bushes, trees, drapery, skin tones and hair. Especially hair. Kelsey was an excellent draftsman who enriched his figures of saints, disciples and angels with long curling hair in the pre-Raphaelite style.

Most of his windows include luxuriant foliage of trees, bushes, flowers, lilies and roses.

Since 2011, everyone who attends concerts in the new Bourgie Concert Hall at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts can admire Kelsey's 1939 colourful six-part panorama of Montreal and the St. Lawrence river from Westmount summit.

Kelsey came to Montreal from London, England by way of New York. He was born in London in 1877 and studied arts. After learning the techniques of stained glass in the reputable company of Clayton & Bell, he moved to New York in 1911 and produced windows for the Gorham Manufacturing Company until 1919.

In 1922 he emigrated to Canada. Kelsey was 45 years old when he arrived in Montreal and set up studios where he lived including Clandeboye and Metcalfe avenues in Westmount. Many of his windows depict young Canadian soldiers, memorials from their families. He showed the men in army, navy or air force uniforms with flags, badges, maple leaves, angels and saints.

Westmount's unofficial museum of Kelsey windows in Westmount Park United Church

Westmount Park United Church stands on the corner of Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve, where it has developed from the original small wooden building called

"The Tabernacle" constructed in seven days in June 1890 by devoted Methodists. It was replaced by a brick building in 1896. On April 30, 1930, the new building designed by Perry and Luke was dedicated. Over the years, other dwindling congregations joined them, bringing their "stained" glass windows with them.

Memorial windows were brought from Melville Presbyterian in 1925, Westmount Methodist in 1925, Emmanuel Congregational in 1948 and Calvary Church in 1961.

If you wish to marvel at more of Kelsey's creations in Westmount, walk to the Serbian Orthodox Church on Melville Ave., St. Matthias' Church on Côte St. Antoine at Church Hill, Mountainside United Church at the corner of Roslyn and The Boulevard, and The Ascension of our Lord on Sherbrooke at Kitchener.

His main patrons were the Anglican and United

Churches and some private families.

In addition to the Kelsey windows in 86 churches in Canada, he also has windows in England, the US and Australia.

Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.



Rosalind Pepall is seen here at the end of her talk "Charles W. Kelsey: The Craft of Stained Glass" March 17.





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For the love of Fred



The Underdog Club

IANE DAVEY

We thought our loyal readers might like a happy ending story for a change - to show that underdogs don't necessarily stay underdogs for long.

This is the story of Fred, whose potential new owners were falling in love with him as the writing of this column took shape.

We're happy to report that Fred's story, which had us on the verge of launching a less than lighthearted appeal, ended happily before press time! He has been adopted.

He is a 6-year-old chihuahua/dachshund mix (most likely), who first came to the Frontier Animal Society in December because his previous owner wanted to trade him in for a bigger "guard dog" model. (Needless to say, the shelter accepted Fred but didn't do an exchange.)

The poor little guy was so under-socialized, he resembled a puppy mill survivor

and was so afraid of his new situation that he spent several days hiding under a blanket and was terrified of being taken out-

At least he was paper-trained and a loving foster family took him in.

Though it required time and patience, Fred grew so much more confident that he was eventually able to enjoy nice long walks in the woods in the company of his two big-dog housemates. His house-training was going great as well, with almost no more resorting to newspapers. Words like "sweet" and "cuddly" were now applied to the flourishing Fred.

But then in a nasty whim of fate, his foster family lost its home in a fire and had to move in with friends, obliging them, albeit with heartsick reluctance, to return Fred to the shelter, where he immediately fell into a slump.

The folks at the shelter were so concerned about him that they contacted the Underdog Club specifying that even an offer of fostering would be welcome if no forever home could be found right away.

But in the meantime, the cavalry came in in the form of another foster mum and a serious offer of adoption from her

friends who apparently fell head over heels for Fred over the Easter weekend.

And when you look at Fred's pic, it's not hard to see why. What a bright-eyed cutie!



With the personality to match it seems.

Good luck Fred! You've certainly earned it. - Stay tuned for more columns on underdogs in search of homes.

Dog owner told to leave

A dog owner was asked to leave the run in Westmount Park March 24 after yelling and insulting others in the enclosure, Public Security officials said. Officers were called to the area at 1:36 pm, where they met with complainants who said the man had become aggressive when their dog, a pit bull type, ran over to greet his dog, a smaller Bichon frisé type, as it came through the gate.

The man alleged the pit bull had picked up his small dog and shaken it around though no signs of injury could be seen nor any missing fur found. He then started shouting obscenities at them and continued to swear at officers even as he de-

It was suggested the man was biased against pit bulls. Identified as a Montreal resident, he was warned about the use of profanity and asked not to return for the rest of the day. He had a valid permit for being in the run.



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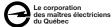
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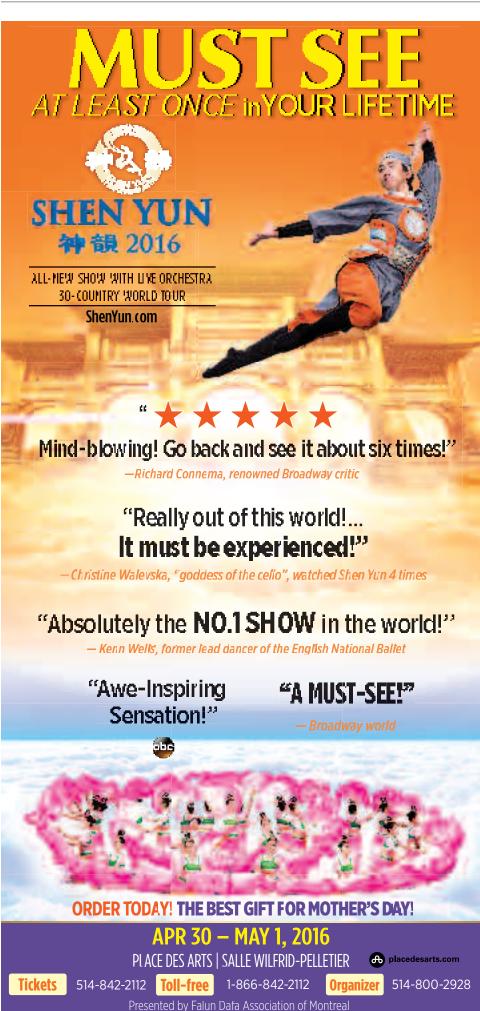
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The season of new blooms



These blooming croci, seen at around 12 noon in an Arlington Ave. backyard on March 29, were but small green shoots at 7:30 am that morning. Photo: Ralph Thompson

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

City of Westmount's blood drive, 2:30 to 7:30 pm at Victoria Hall.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 AND SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Spring book sale to benefit the Westmount Public Library, from 10 am to 5 pm at Victoria Hall. Sponsored by Friends of the Westmount Library. Good-quality do-

nations may be left at the library during opening hours.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

Westmount Horticultural Society presents "Create your Personal Oasis for Monarchs" with speaker Lydia Benhama of the Montreal Insectarium, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Doors open at 6:30 pm for refreshments. Cost: \$5. Free for members. Info: 514.233.2788.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Sundays at the Shaar's guest speaker Anthony Housefather, 12 pm at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim. Reserve: 514.937.9474, ext 169 or snagus@theshaar.org. Cost: \$5, including lunch.

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Dancing with the Stars a successful fundraiser for JFK



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On a chilly February 2, the Just for Kids Foundation (JFK) celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Dancing with the Stars (DWTS) gala in a new events venue called Salon Le 1861 in Griffintown.

For this year's theme, "Memorable Moments," volunteers were paired with professional dancers from the Juste Danse studio. The competition featured eight individual dancers and two group teams, as well as a children's troupe from the studio.

Performances were inspired by music/scenes from favourite films. Westmounters Mandy Wolfe (she of tossing salads fame) danced to "Grease" with pro Alex Sharov, and Selwyn House headmaster Hal Hannaford to "Singin' in the Rain" with partner Maya Kilesnikova.

Other great movers (and shakers!) included **Mia Scaff**, who danced to "Die Another Day;" **Lee Haberkorn** (Virgin radio) to "Dirty Dancing;" **Danny** and **Zak Ben**



From left: Anissa Goldberg, Sandra D'Alesio, Chantal Martin, Julie Katerine-Turcotte, Norma D'Alesio, Tina Maniatis-Troulis, Arabella Decker, Ashley Langburt and Louise Guimond.

Allyson Kassie Goldberg and Steven Goldberg.

soussan to "Step Up;" Vibi Patel to "Take the Lead;" and Hivron Turanli (of Macchi) to "The Mask."

Returning dancers Tim Sochaczevski, Scarlett James and Brina Lewin performed in the group dances to The Rocky Horror Show and Madagascar.

Dancers' commitment involved training with their pro partners for four quick-stepping months. Each was also on a mission to raise \$10,000 for JFK. Group dancers had a fundraising

commitment of only \$2,500.

After exuberant performances – each inspiring roof-raising "bravos" – winners were Danny and Zak Bensoussan with dance partner **Marley Lubin.** They were also the highest fundraisers with a total of \$27,292.

The packed audience included judges Meryem Pearson, world championship ballroom dancing judge; Pierre Allaire, 12-time Canadian Ballroom Champion and co-founder of Studio 2720, and Vince Guzzo, executive vice president and COO of Cinémas Guzzo.

The eve was hosted by Westmounter Allyson Kassie Goldberg, there with husband Steve, co-owner of Juste Danse Stu-

dio, and **Mark Bergman** from Virgin Radio 96

The energy-for-dancing food was devoured from tables full of charcuterie and a giant parmesan wheel, as well as Chinese food stations, complemented by an open bar.

Arriving committee members were red carpet-ready in glamorous cocktail dresses and included Westmount residents Norma D'Alesio (event chair), Anissa Goldberg, Chantal Martin, Julie Katerine-Turcotte, Arabella Decker and Louise Guimond, along with Tina Maniastis-Troulis, Sandra D'Alesio and Ashley Langburt.

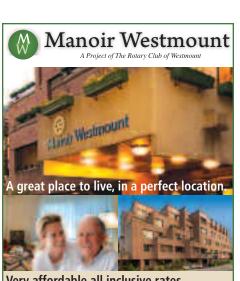




Social Notes cont'd. from p. 25

tiful Young Things) included local res Judy Wolfe, as well as Danielle Bitton, Maria Guzzo, Rochelle Lerner, Franki Panofsky and Mirko Giraldino with his wife Laurence Trepanier.

The exciting eve raised \$310,000 to purchase high-priority medical equipment for the Montreal Children's Hospital.



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Hal Hannaford and Maya Kilesnikova.



Mandy Wolfe and Alex Sharov.



From left: Marly Lubin, Danny and Zak Bensoussan.

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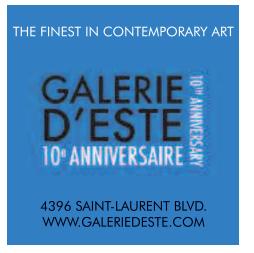
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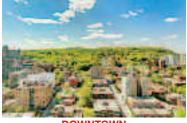
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