WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 10 No. 5e

We are Westmount

May 31, 2016

newfound

Ralph Thompson

Photo

Prince Albert/de Mais. residential project plans being submitted

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans for a large residential building at the southeast corner of de Maisonneuve and Prince Albert are on the way to becoming the first proposal to go through the city's new by-law for major non-conforming development projects.

"We expect to submit formally in the next week," stated co-developer Peter Smale May 24 in an email to neighbours around the site at 4898 de Maisonneuve. This is a property owned by co-developer Guy Laframboise and now occupied by a commercial building and parking lot.

At press time Monday, May 30, Smale said the submission had already been

Letters p. 6 Social Notes By V. Redgrave p. 17



made on May 27, but the city wanted more information before officially accepting it as filed.

Previously reported to be a condo development, "We have not yet determined if the project will be offered as condominiums or as units for rental," Smale explained.

Since the area is not zoned for multifamily use, "We're guinea pigs in the PPC-MOI/SCAOPI process," he told the Independent May 18. "It will be interesting to see how it materializes in the next eight to 12 months."

Having been through this process for "Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy continued on p. 10



City encounters more sound barrier delays, surprised by 'walls' for St. Henri

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's search for a solution to the sound barrier issue appears to be stalled again as the city reports more delays obtaining information from the provincial ministry of Transport (MTQ).

After more than six months, the city has still not heard back about the feasibility of putting a sound barrier along the Ville Marie expressway, District 8 Councillor Theodora Samiotis said last week. This

would be along the portion from Hallowell through Greene, where insufficient space exists for running it between the railway tracks and houses, unlike along Prospect to the east.

"We thought that request would bring a quick answer," she said. "But we're continuing to wait. We've been put on hold by the MTQ. It's a process of frustration." (See story August 4, 2015, p. 1.)

As a result, more political intervention will be re- continued on p. 8



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Future uncertain as purchase bids close June 2 for Tupper processing centre

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Bids are due June 2 for the purchase of the Quebec Processing Centre at 4010 Tupper, the *Independent* learned last week. The large brick building at the southwest corner of Atwater houses the Royal Bank call centre and Symcor, which processes documents for many banks.

The building, which also bears the address 1100 Atwater, is in operation 24/7.

Its sale comes as the Royal Bank prepares to relocate its 800 call centre employees in August 2017 at the end of its lease and the lease for Symcor, with a staff of some 300, expires a few months later in December.

It also comes while the city is in the planning process for the area, currently zoned residential.

The departure of the Royal Bank's call centre was announced in January 2014, according to Denise Dubé, the bank's Quebec public relations officer. This will be consolidated with other Royal Bank operations on Park Ave. at Jean Talon "for greater efficiency," she said.

The future of Symcor is unknown at this time, according to Jacques Paré, technical services manager for the building.

Paré, who represents Oxford Properties, the building's owners, said negotiations regarding the outcome of the sale and discussions between the city and the new owners is expected to be lengthy. The sale is being handled through the brokerage of Jones Lang LaSalle Canada.

Built by the Royal Bank in the 1970s, the property was sold to Oxford in 1999. Over the years, the zoning was changed to residential. The building, however, has vested rights for a similar type of office operation, according to Tom Flies, the city's assistant director of Urban Planning. This is a highly technological operation.

Vested rights limited

"It will definitely be very limited in what it can do and will have to fit in with the city's vision for the area," Flies said. "The city will set the parameters first and the potential buyer will have to align with them.

"This is a huge property," he points out. It extends along the south side of Tupper across from the former Reddy Memorial Hospital and includes the five-storey building, as well as underground and groundlevel parking. The building also has an additional underground office storey, Paré said.

It's also "a very special building," he explained. It's here that documents such as cheques from the branches of several banks, in addition to the Royal, are routed to and where numerous documents are processed, scanned and coded every day.

Meanwhile, at Royal's call centre, employees answer many types of calls, night and day, dealing with all types of inquiries such as mortgages, credit cards and fraud, Dubé said.

In 2002, some workers involved in the Royal Bank's data centre were moved to another centre in Guelph, Ont.

Concerns for the pending departure of call centre and the resulting future of the property were raised at a city workshop January 19 on creating a planning vision for the district between St. Catherine and Dorchester, and Atwater to Clarke (see story January 26, p. 6).



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Roch Carrier and The Carrot Raccoon lured from tree after carrots and a hosing

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A raccoon that climbed a tree at the back of 339 Lansdowne May 22 finally came down on the third day after a resident used a long tree-pruner to hoist carrots up to it and finally tried to give it water from a hose.

"All it did was spray her with water but that appeared to bring her down," said



well-known author Roch Carrier, who said he "spent three days of my life trying to get someone to help her. She was kind of a prisoner in a tree. She appeared afraid."

Not knowing the sex of the raccoon, Carrier decided to use the feminine in telling his side of the story and expressing his dismay at being unable to find any organization to respond after Public Security gave him several of their contacts. Among those he contacted were the firestation, the Quebec ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Park, and several animal rescue organizations.

On the third day, in desperation, he finally sent an email to Mayor Peter Trent, who said he forwarded it to city director general Mike Deegan. Soon, Public Security managed to schedule trained personnel from Skedaddle Human Wildlife Control to respond the next day, May 25.

Meanwhile, though that arrangement was not known to Carrier yet, he began rigging up his "device" to hoist three carrots, in succession, to the raccoon.

"I presented her with the first carrot and she was terrified but suddenly she grabbed it and ate it. I improved the device and gave her two more but I could not give her any water." So he tried the hose. During the process, he said, he didn't see her come down. A neighbour did and told him "she" disappeared into another yard.

While he said he had had good support from Public Security Sgt. Yook Wong, Carrier said that given the many trees and animals in Westmount he was surprised the city did not have a better way to handle such incidents.

Public Security director Greg McBain said that the city does not call in "just anyone" who might want the money and then dispose of an animal. It wants to ensure it handles the animal in a humane manner

The SPCA, he explained, does not take animals out of trees but will help trap them on the ground (see a related story below).

"I've learned a lot about raccoons over the years," he said. "They usually come

Raccoon caught in former dog run by SPCA, PSOs

A raccoon described as disorientated, sick or injured was caught May 26 by the SPCA and public safety officers in the former dog run at Lansdowne and St. Catherine, according to Public Security director Greg McBain. It had been seen wandering around "aimlessly" and licking one paw as if it had been hurt.

He said it was skinny, missing patches of fur and could have been hit by a car. It did not shy away from officers who had been watching it and called the SPCA.

It also could have been the same raccoon that had spent some three days in a tree at 339 Lansdowne, he said (see story above). -LS

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down on their own after a few days. They're very smart animals. A tree is their natural habitat."

Nonetheless, he said, because of the resident's concerns, officers called the SPCA to provide it with an authorization number from the city so the shelter's wildlife personnel could remove it in a box should it be caught.

On the third day, Skedaddle Humane Wildlife Control was tracked down on the internet, McBain said. "We explained the situation and emphasized the three days. They're trained in this type of assistance and we scheduled them to attend the next day, May 25."

But when McBain arrived home, he said, he received a message from Sgt. Wong saying Carrier had called to say the raccoon had come down.

The resident had initially seen the raccoon on his balcony early in the morning. When he opened the door, however, it ran behind the tree and then slowly climbed it, according to a Public Security report.

Two gas leaks on Prince Albert, extra patrols

Two gas leaks were reported during road reconstruction on Prince Albert May 19, Public Security officials said. The first occurred outside number 536 near Windsor at 9 am when contractors working on a water supply line accidentally hit a gas one. The second incident at 2:55 pm was caused by a city contractor who hit the gas line that had been marked by Gaz Metro's excavation information service as being four meters away.

Public Security officials also said patrollers were paying special attention to the portions of the street where the lights have been turned off during the work.

Boy hit by beer bottle in noisy group

Answering a call for noise on Clarke at Montrose May 15 at 12:20 am, public safety officers found about 30 people on the street including an unknown party crasher, Public Security officials said. Among them was a 16 year-old boy who had been hit on the head by a beer bottle. Urgences Santé and police were called and the group was dispersed. The victim was identified as a resident of Côte St. Luc.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE CAN YOU LOCK BICYCLES NOW?

As we all know, Westmount recently changed its parking meters from coin-operated machines to digital. When installing the digital machines, they removed the tops of the old parking meters, leaving the posts bare.

I work on Greene Ave. Cycling is how I usually get to work, and now there is nowhere for me to park my bike. The only place within reason is on the corner of Sherbrooke and Greene, but there is only enough room for two bikes!

This is a huge inconvenience for us cyclists. Cycling has become an acceptable alternative to commuting, alleviates traffic and promotes good health. Hopefully Westmount already has a plan, but I've seen nothing as of yet. I hope this gets seen by someone who can rectify the situation.

Jen Storey, waitress at Chez Nick Restaurant on Greene Ave.

PROS FROM EUROPE NEEDED

[I gather from] reading the various articles and letters on bicycle paths that we are

running experiments to see what is actually workable. I find this very disconcerting. I mean, running experiments where the life and health of people are at risk?

Why not get individuals involved who actually have in-depth experience in this field? In Europe, bicycles have been in major cities for decades. Its cities frequently have narrow, crooked streets; some like Amsterdam even have canals.

So why do we not get their expertise?

No, we do not need to go there – we could have one or two individuals from Europe with experience in their traffic/bike planning department come here and have them first drive here for a week, so they understand our drivers – cars, trucks, bicycles and others – as well

as our pedestrians, plus our traffic issues. Then, hopefully, they can make recommendations.

Alfred Edel, Victoria Ave.

YEAR-ROUND POOL TOO GLAMOROUS?

It is disappointing to read that our mayor considers the potential enclosing of our WRC swimming pool a "glamour project" (May 17, p. 5).* Other municipal-

ities, Pointe Claire for one, take a different view and consider such a facility a key attraction of their city.

Westmounters would greatly appreciate year-round swimming in our superb pool instead of the current three and a half months, as well as having increasingly popular aqua-fit classes for everyone, especially Westmount's growing senior group.

How about an opportunity for our Westmount Dolphins to train year-round while giving our kids a chance to become worldclass swimmers? It would be heated yearround for free by the heat thrown off by the Westmount recreation centre's (WRC) icemaking system.

I understand that the city decided against enclosing the pool for reasons of cost when the new WRC was designed but with no municipal debt and record low interest rates now is the time to review that decision. A year-round municipal pool would be a welcome addition to our great city.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

* Editor's note: Trent's reference to a glamour project was referring to a separate indoor pool. – KM

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR, RE: GREENHOUSE

Dear Mr. Trent: We understand the need for security in closing the conservatory greenhouse. The incident of the falling glass and near-accident took place last September. We do not understand why it is taking so long to replace one pane of glass.

We read in March that a drone was needed by some architectural firm you hired to estimate the damage caused, and you then made a promise (publicly) that the greenhouse would re-open this spring or summer.

It is an old structure; there might be some need for securing all glass, and I concur that the safety of visitors should be your first concern, but not very much seems to have happened in the meantime.

Walking by [recently], we noted it is in deplorable condition, many plants that should be watered are dying, and there is dirt throughout the place

I also fail to understand why you need to "contract out" the maintenance of this greenhouse. Until recently, the utility workers hired by the city did a competent job of cleaning our parks and streets. Why can't they include this greenhouse as part of their work?

Henry Schaffer, Arlington Ave.

MAYOR RESPONDS

The conservatory and greenhouses had to be closed owing to our concerns for the safety of the public and staff. The wooden structure that supports the glass panes has deteriorated in several areas and there was absolutely no way to guarantee the safety all those who visit the facility daily. Several third parties were consulted to confirm our internal assessment that closing the facility was our only option. That said, we have managed to open some of the growhouses once we could guarantee the safety of our personnel.

We have habitually made use of private contractors to maintain and repair the conservatory and greenhouses; our blue-collar staff are generalists who are skilled at performing only routine maintenance. The repair of greenhouses laden with this level of heritage requires tradespeople who are very specialized.

In July 2015, our Public Works department attempted to find firms capable of performing an especially aggressive maintenance program on these facilities. Unfortunately, after an exhaustive search in Quebec and Ontario and a lengthy public tendering process, we did not receive a single bid – even though many firms made inquiries and picked up tender documents.

We mandated a firm to perform a full inspection of the facility using a drone that took scores of high resolution photographs of every part. This information is to being used by an architectural firm in coming up with a professional assessment.

This report will be completed by the end of this month and plans for a restoration project will follow. We cannot commit to a specific schedule before the inspection report is finished. Our job is not made easier by the fact that old-growth cypress, originally used in the structure, is no longer obtainable.

Whatever the solution, we shall restore this 90-year-old gem to its former glory.

Peter Trent, mayor of Westmount

PAY FOR MISTAKE

With regard to the situation of bilingual road signs in Westmount – or the lack thereof – I have made an access to information request of Westmount for the letter of the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF) that ordered Westmount to scrap certain signs. Why?

The OQLF seemingly backtracked and essentially admitted that they made a mistake. When I make a mistake, I pay. By the same premise, so should the OQLF. *continued on p. 7*

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price Editor: Kristin McNeill Chief reporter: Laureen Sweeney

Letters & Comments:

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

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We are Westmount.

I look forward to everyone in Westmount demanding that the OQLF pay for its mistake. I also look forward to the *Indie* spreading the word.

MURRAY LEVINE, NDG

RETROGRADE METERS

Westmount, which seems to be constantly lording itself over Montreal, has dealt its presumptions a serious blow with its retrograde parking meters.

Licence plates? Why? How many people know or care what their license plate number is? So we have to go digging, find it, type it in and hit a tiny green arrow yet another time.

Montreal meters are simple and straight forward, whereas Westmount's are a bit like playing 20 questions. Seriously, we have to keep pressing "continue" to move ahead?

Two of my credit cards did not work the other day in the Tupper lot so I called Public Security, which oddly almost always makes me feel quite insecure. The person at the other end of the line began to pedantically walk me through the process as though I hadn't already followed the instructions. It didn't work even with his fabulous pedantry.

Then the little screen just went blank. What do I do now, I asked? Find another meter, came the reply. So helpful. The app is lots of fun, too. I urge everyone to try it when they have put enough money into the meter to afford such an undertaking.

There used to be an old joke about why the sun never sets on the British Empire. Because even God doesn't trust the English in the dark.

I wonder if the same holds true for our sun-sourced meters?

Kevin Tierney, Redfern Ave.

PATH A HAVEN FOR OTHERS

The experimental bike lane on Westmount Ave. has become a dangerous freefor-all. It has quickly become a haven for joggers running in both directions. In fact, runners on the bike lane far outnumber cyclists, and cyclists, not surprisingly, are ignoring stop signs and traffic lights. The bike lane is also being used by people walking dogs and pushing strollers. It is not only illegal to walk or run on the road, but very dangerous.

Cars now have less room to manoeuvre due to the narrowing of the street on both sides, and some cars are actually going faster east of Belmont since drivers perceive that the bike lane absolves them from having to worry about anyone in that lane. Many cities in Europe are removing bike lanes for this very reason.

Hundreds of residents on Westmount

Ave. will need to be extra careful when backing out of their driveways, a situation that those living on de Maisonneuve know all too well.

Without proper law enforcement to keep runners off the road and have cyclists obey traffic signs, there is now a heightened risk of a tragic accident on this once safe and serene residential street, and our councillors, who have been warned by local residents about such unintended negative effects, will have to live with the consequences.

CATHERINE BRAZEAU, WESTMOUNT AVE.

Now a rush-hour pain

Bike paths: A picture is worth a thousand whines. Ill-conceived plans, an unworkable solution to a problem that did not exist.

Our drive time during the school morning rush hour has doubled, as the single

file line of traffic crawls through a once smoothly working avenue.

One has to wonder why we are not more angry or demanding a reworking of this plan. DEBORAH BACKMAN, WINDSOR AVE.

Photo courtesy of D. Back





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Turcot work adds complexity to sound barrier issue

cont'd. from p. 1

quired in the form of a letter from Mayor Peter Trent to the Ouebec minister of Transport to be sent this week, she said. This is a pattern reported over the years to achieve action on the issue.

"We wouldn't be in this position," Samiotis said, "if the MTQ had not taken so long over the initial feasibility report."

This was the report the city and the MTQ paid for equally that led the city to seek the option of a sound barrier along the highway due to the lack of space at the Greene overpass and to the west.

"It's a conundrum," Samiotis explained. On one hand, the city can't go ahead with its agreed plan with the MTQ for a 50-50 cost sharing of a sound barrier until it receives information on the feasibility of putting it between the highway and the tracks. On the other hand, the city has waited six months for this information which now appears to be tied in with the KPH/Turcot consortium building the new highway, adding another level of complexity.

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Sound wall for St. Henri

Meanwhile, the city was taken by surprise by the news May 16 that the MTQ was polling residents on the type of sound barrier they would like erected along two spans of the new, but lowered, highway. This would be installed on the highway between Lenoir and Rose de Lima (in St. Henri), which corresponds to between Bethune/Lewis and Hallowell in Westmount.

This wall is intended to deflect highway noise away from residents in St. Henri (a part of the Southwest borough), according to city assistant director general for infrastructure Benoit Hurtubise.

"This wall will serve no purpose for Westmount," explained District 7 Councillor Cynthia Lulham. The highway spans are to be to be lowered by some 15 feet around Irvine, she said. As a result, the top of the wall may not even be visible.

But Lulham also said the news came "out of the blue" even though she and Samiotis had been attending meetings for elected representatives over the Turcot plans.

Letters were sent to some Westmount residents along the highway, asking them to vote on three design options for the sound wall.

Weekend, night work starts

Starting May 26, work will be carried out all night and on the weekend, for which temporary sound barriers have been built along Selby and Stayner Park to mitigate noise from construction of structures for the new highway and a temporary route.

Following soon is the demolition of the Atwater exit ramp at Selby. This is part of the work to build a temporary highway along the former Selby St. for use by traffic

Av. Hillsid Planned noise barrie Planned noise barrier

Not the sound barriers sought by Westmount, those shown along the new lowered highway spans on this map from KPH/Turcot are proposed to deflect noise from St. Henri.

when the Ville Marie is to be dismantled.

Greene will be closed off and on while the temporary highway is built over the street, Hurtubise said, after representing

the city at the MTQ's Good Neighourhood meeting May 16. "We're going to be seeing a lot more activity in Westmount."

Image courtesy of the city of Westmount

City sends two employee hockey teams to province-wide tourney, wins 3 times

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two teams of Westmount employees participated May 13 and 14 in an annual fundraising hockey tournament that brings together municipal workers from across Quebec, including teams from as far away as Thetford Mines and Noranda.

Though Westmount has entered a team in the event since 1988, this was the first time it had sent two to the event held by the Association des travaux publiques d'amérique (ATPA). The event took place this year in St. Eustache. The 25 Westmount participants included Councillor Philip Cutler.

"It was a great opportunity for a lot of our people to get to know each other from different departments as well as different groups - the blues, whites, administration and management," said city electrician Leo Cauzo, who organized the Westmount participation.

Cauzo, who is in his 27th year with the

city, was the goaltender for the city's B team, the division in which the city usually plays based on its population. The city's second team played in the C division. Each played three games.

The B team won its game against St. Jean but lost to a team from St. Laurent and a fire department team from St. Eustache, Cauzo said.

The C team won against teams from Laval and St. Eustache but lost to one from the MRC de D'Autray composed of small towns on the north shore to Three Rivers.

"It was nice to get so many people out on the ice," said Public Security director Greg McBain, who was one of three from his department.

The event donates the proceeds to a charitable or community project chosen by the host town. In this case it was a nonprofit group, Cauzo said.

The city of Westmount paid the entry fees for its two teams.

Comin' Up

Monday, June 6 City council meeting, 8 pm at city hall.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Westmount Horticultural Society, in collaboration with the Concordia greenhouse, presents "Balcony Gardening" by Sheena Swirlz, 5 to 7 pm at Westmount Public Library. Doors open 4:30 pm for refreshments. Free, donations welcome. Info: 514.233.2788.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Jacques Archambault, executive director of the Canadian Heritage of Quebec, on its buildings and sites, including the Hurtubise House in Westmount, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

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Development plan adds more greenspace

cont'd. from p. 1

Proposal for an Immovable" in the city of Montreal, he said "we understand the process. It's a long one but a fair one."

While plans had been under way for three years, Smale explained, "We went back to the drawing board after consultations with neighbours in mid-January. This resulted in additional setbacks to provide more greenspace which, he believes "is a good solution."

30-foot setback on Prince Albert

This means the building will be set back 30 feet from Prince Albert, where the current setback is 10 feet. "This will provide new green space and open up the vista for houses on Prince Albert."

The building will rise in steps to lessen the visual impact of a proposed six-storey building. This is similar in height to Château Westmount, counting its mezzanine, he said.

The nursing home anchors the southwest corner of Victoria and de Maisonneuve in the same block (see story January 19, p. 1).

Under the proposal, the main entrance to the new building is off de Maisonneuve

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underground garage will be off Prince Albert at the current location of the driveway of the commercial building.

Although Smale is an architect by profession he no longer practises, he said. "We've hired architect Philip Hazan for the project and Stuart Webster for the landscaping." Both are well known for their work in Westmount.

Landscaping will be an important feature of the building, he said. It is to

have a green roof wherever possible, as well as terrasses.

Once the city's Urban Planning department has conducted a technical review of the plans and submits it to the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), notices are to be published under the PPCMOI by-law and plans will be open to the public at city hall. A public meeting of PAC will then take place.

"Needless to say, we do not take for



The building and parking lot at 4898 de Maisonneuve, May 27.

granted that approval for our project will be given," Smale tells residents.

"We expect the review process will take many months to work through details with the city and with our neighbours to arrive at a final design that will be financially viable and which improves the character of the neighbourhood while adding value to the surrounding properties."

If approved by the city, the development would then be subject to a demolition hearing and the referendum process.

Former radio station to become duplexes

A proposal to the city to convert the former radio station building at 35 York St. to residential duplexes is expected to result in a building permit "in the coming days."

The news was included in an email to neighbours on redevelopment plans for the proposed project at Prince Albert and de Maisonneuve. Both properties are being co-developed by Peter Smale and their owner Guy Laframboise.

"As a radio station, the building was nonconforming to the allowable uses," in the now-residential zone, Smale explains.

"Our proposal conserves the existing building and brings its use back into conformity with the existing zoning."

The city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), he said, had "reviewed our application, and we expect to receive a building permit in the coming days so that work can begin on the renovations."

The building, occupied for many years by station CFMB, backs onto the parking lot of the larger de Maisonneuve property (see story January 19, p. 8). -LS





JOHN LITTLE, R.C.A., (B. 1928), Spring, St. Antoine Street, Montreal, April 1967, Oil on canvas, 24" x 30"

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Rill to Montrealers: Lyme is here *Was in Summit Woods days prior to discovering tick bite*

By Joanne Penhale

Hampstead resident Arlene Rill is on a mission to warn others about the risk of Lyme disease – and that ticks carrying the bacteria that cause it are here in Montreal.

In the days prior to finding a tick burrowed in her upper arm in June 2014, Rill said she had only been in and around Hampstead – including Summit Park in Westmount, a boggy wooded area she said is the ideal environment for ticks.

"If caught early and treated properly, the devastating effects of Lyme disease can be prevented," said Rill, a retired teacher from Roslyn Elementary School.

In Rill's case, it wasn't.

She saw an infectious disease specialist a few days after she found the tick, she said. "That doctor said there's no Lyme in Montreal."

She developed symptoms like fatigue and migrating pain in the following weeks, she said, and was by told by another doctor she may have fibromyalgia or chronic fatigue syndrome.

Month's later, she saw another infectious disease doctor who said it was likely Lyme disease, she said.

Unlike in the US where Lyme disease is more prevalent, Rill said, doctors and other healthcare professionals in Quebec are often not what she called "Lyme-literate." And timing makes all the difference, she said, because the antibiotic doxycycline mitigates the possibility of getting Lyme disease if taken immediately.

"We're bound to have more ticks this year," Rill said, citing the warm winter and early spring, which will speed up their reproduction.

Rill has written letters to the editors of the Montreal *Gazette* and the *Free Press*, designed and printed tshirts about Lyme disease, and shared what she's learned about Lyme disease with others who want to know more.

"I'm part of a huge support group online, across Canada," Rill said, referencing the Facebook group called Lyme Oh Oh Canada. Rill said she's interested in a Canadian tawa this May, but doesn't know if she'll have the energy to attend.

"(Lyme disease) is very exhausting," she said, adding she has shooting pains in her body, and extensive inflammation.

Rill said she's also lost more than 10 pounds in two years, and been lightheaded.

Since her diagnosis, she said she's seen all kinds of medical specialists, and has ended up spending her pension on treatments to help mitigate chronic symptoms.

"I've done so many out-of-the-box treatments," she said, and medical marijuana has been very helpful, amongst various supplements, a restricted diet, acupuncture, and energy work.

Tick bite prevention can include wearing long sleeves and long pants tucked into socks, using DEET, and doing full body checks after being in the woods, she said.

If someone finds a tick burrowed into their body, Rill warned, "Never twist it out or scratch it off."

Not all ticks carry the borellia bacteria that causes Lyme disease. But in case one does, she said, there are safe ways to remove it that don't increase the risk of infection.

Even if a tick has been safely removed, however, it's important to see a doctor who knows about Lyme disease, Rill said.

"Nobody thinks it's going to happen to them until it happens to them," she said. "There is no need for anybody to be in the position I'm in."

For a story on Arlene Rill, see "Roslyn closes English stream, teacher Rill retires," (June 17, 2008, p. 1).



Lyme Disease Founda-In her backyard April 20, Hampsteader Arlene Rill points to a t-shirt she tion conference in Otdesigned that reads, "Insist on medical help when bitten by a tick."

Man refuses transport to hospital after falling on sidewalk

A 61-year-old Westmount man was found injured and sitting on the ground May 17 at Redfern and de Maisonneuve, Public Security officials said. He had sustained a bleeding lip, a cut on the face and pain in the shoulder from a fall about 3:48 pm. He was sheltered in a patrol car while admitting to having had a couple of drinks on Greene Ave. before falling on a crack in the sidewalk. He refused transport to hospital for a head scan as recommended by Urgences Santé and was driven home by Public Security.

Anybody home?

Public safety officers found a kitchen door ajar at 1:52 am on Forden Ave. May 22, Public Security officials said. They opened it and called out to residents inside who came to meet patrollers and secure it. The open door was discovered after patrollers were investigating an open garage door at the same address and made a quick check around the house to ensure all was in order.



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Decarie Expressway to be closed for three July weekends

By Isaac Olson

If you were thinking about taking vacation in July, do it. If you don't, you might want to avoid driving on the weekends of July 2, 9 and 16 as the Quebec ministry of Transport (MTQ) will be shutting down the Decarie expressway in order to demolish the St. Jacques St. bridge.

The demolition process will be intensive and will require the temporary closure of six highway links, MTQ officials announced during a public Good Neighbourhood Committee Turcot NDG-Westmount meeting on May 16.

On weekend nights of July 2, part of A-15 south and all of north will be closed, along with the A-20 eastbound as crews prepare the four spans for demolition. This closure will include the A-720 ramp to A-15.

The next weekend, the work will pick up as crews begin dismantling two out of the four St. Jacques St. bridge spans. Crews will be working 24 hours a day from Friday to Monday, and the work will include the complete closure, from A-20 to the 40, of

the Decarie expressway. All the other routes that pass under the bridge will be closed as well. Motorists will be directed to take the A-20 or A-40 deep into the West Island to use A-13 as the north-south alternative to A-15.

Then on the weekend of July 16, the Vshaped support structure that is currently holding up the middle of the bridge will be dismantled. This again will be a roundthe-clock project, requiring complete closure of all the highways and ramps that pass under the bridge. The work is expected to run from Friday to Monday, 24 hours a day.

The last span of the bridge on the east side of the Decarie expressway, where St. Jacques meets Prud'homme Ave. will come down in the fall.

During the meeting, French school board commissioner Marie-José Mastromonaco expressed concerns about the noise during this construction period as crews will be working at all hours of the day and night. She had brought up this issue in the past, citing the nearby St. Raymond school on Upper Lachine Rd. However, MTQ deputy director for this project, Stéphane Audet, insisted the work will be happening in the trench, with crews lowering the bridge bit by bit to trucks waiting

below. That means, he said, the walls of the trench, much like it does every day with the passing traffic, will dampen noise. continued on p. 14



As seen here in 2014 from its north side, the St. Jacques St. bridge, which crosses the Decarie Expressway, will come down in July.



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Traffic cont'd. from p. 13

The MTQ has since posted detailed information about the upcoming work on its website, mostly in French. The English side of the site is still limited, but the French-language text, videos and maps outline the upcoming ramp and highway closures, as well as planned detours as crews dismantle the existing bridge section by section.

The website (turcot.gouv.qc.ca), officials touted, even provides a 3-D interactive map that shows how the new roadways will look once completed.

Along with replacing the Turcot interchange, the MTQ is replacing A-720 with what will be A-136. The work includes the reconstruction of A-15 between southern NDG and the under-construction Champlain Bridge. Users of the map can click on video links that give animated tours of the to-be-built roads. Some people might want to do that before navigating the new configuration as it may take some getting used to.

At the beginning of the meeting when residents who are members of the committee have an opportunity to ask questions and make statements, Westmounter Dan Lambert spoke about Montreal's bike path network.

MAY BUILDING PERMITS 🛱 What's permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the May 2 meeting of city council.

28 Willow: to replace storm windows;

65 Prospect: at a Category I house, to replace windows and doors and modify the rear gallery;

807 Upper Belmont: to replace windows and doors;

4313 Montrose: interior alteration of the first floor, a partial first floor addition at the rear of the house and to enlarge the garage;

3223 Trafalgar: to replace the stone veneer;

31 Renfrew: to replace three side win-dows;

365 Grosvenor: landscaping in the rear yard.

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the May 16 meeting of city council.

3040 Sherbrooke: at Dawson College, to restore balconies in the interior lots;

327 Redfern: at a Category 1* house, to relocate the driveway, do some landscaping and install a new fence and gate provided a planting bed is added on the south side of the pathway;

631 Belmont: to build a new fence, retaining wall and landscape the rear yard with conditions that include the revision of elevations;

362 Kitchener: to build a new rear balcony, landscape and plant cedars;

602 Grosvenor: to replace windows provided the guillotine window's upper sash has an SDL treatment as per the adjacent building as part of the ensemble and that two windows are revised to be casements;

6 De Casson: to replace a window and balcony railings at the rear with conditions;

566 Lansdowne: to so some landscaping, install a new hot tub, enlarge a rear balcony and rebuild two small roofs on the rear of the building;

707 Victoria: to replace windows and two doors;

4 Belfrage: at a Category I house, to landscape, install fences and build retaining walls;

350 Kensington: to replace two doors;

4159 de Maisonneuve: brick work, replacement of doors and relocating lighting; **1359 Greene**, **#1:** to install a new sign;

612 Argyle: to replace windows;

4699 Westmount Ave.: at Roslyn School, a Category I building, to create a new parking zone and install fences;

4130 Dorchester: at a Category I building, to landscape at the rear;

29 Bruce: to landscape in the rear yard and install a new fence.

Workers replace planters

Checking out a call for workers at a nearby property removing city planters on Bellevue near Argyle May 12, public safety officers said the men had moved them to another location to make space for the anticipated arrival of a dumpster. The workers agreed to replace the planters and find another spot for the dumpster.



Hundreds show up for a hot Family Day

By Ralph Thompson

Family Day in Westmount Park May 28 was a scorcher. But high temperatures and humidity did not deter the enthusiasm of the kids and parents for one of Westmount's most popular outdoor events. While hundreds lined up for the pony ride, the Euro Bungy, rock climbing and the inflated slides, hundreds also picnicked and played in the shade of the trees. The face painting, animal petting farm, the military's zip line and boat ride in the lagoon, roasted marshmallows, hot dogs and hamburgers all had long lineups by noontime.



10-year-old Lexington Vickery had a wild time doing summersaults on the Euro Bungy during Family Day.

Four ejected from park at 1:25 am

Four young women were warned about 1:25 am. Public Security officials said they the parks' midnight curfew May 20 when a patroller in Westmount Park found them sitting on grass at the northeast side at

were cooperative, and no tickets were issued.



Six-year-old Montrealer Quan Shi makes resolute efforts to blow the trumpet while music teacher Jason Selman patiently demonstrates the correct technique. Selman teaches music at the Westmount YMCA Teen Zone.



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Fined for beer in park

A picturesque array of purple tulips in Westmount Park near the children's playground, May 23.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Annually, perennial exchange attracts green thumbs

Two men in their 20s were ticketed \$77 each for possessing open bottles of beer in Westmount Park May 11, Public Security officials said. They had been spotted drinking at 5:15 pm by patrollers near the playground and the pond before being intercepted. Both lived in Montreal.

Street light topples

A city lamp post was knocked over May 20 outside 609 Clarke Ave., Public Security officials report. The mishap occurred about 2:34 pm when a private contractor was picking up a container for debris. The company would be billed for the damage.

The city's yearly perennial plant exchange and sale was attended by over 100 locals May 19 outside the Westmount Public Library. Westmounter Judy Philpott (dark blue sweater) and NDGer Elvi Dalgaard (white blouse) enthusiastically collect the exchange perennial flowers.







At 4:30 pm under cloudy skies, gardeners brought along their plants for the exchange that takes place every year. By 6 pm, the sun was shining, the wind had subsided and the fresh foliage provided the perfect backdrop for the evening event. "About two-thirds of the plants are provided by individuals and about one-third are provided by the Westmount green-

house," said Jayme Gerbrandt, city horticulture inspector and coordinator of the event. She also said the plants left over were to be sold at Family Day and that the proceeds were to go towards the new seed lending program." (See story May 10, p. 7.)

The event was organized by the city, the Horticultural Advisory Committee and the Westmount Horticultural Society. -RT



Westmount YMCA 4585 Sherbrooke Street West

Stilettos undeterred by April snowstorm



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond Veronica Redgrave

On April 6, chuckling guests wished "Merry Christmas" to each other as they arrived for the Batshaw Foundation's fundraiser in an unexpected full-blown snow storm. Held at Salon 1861, "Défi Canapé: A Taste of Montreal" attracted a sold-out crowd.

In spite of the inclement night, most ladies wore fabulous fashion shoes: stilettos with laces, sparkly sequins and cutouts. Heavier, chunky heels were nowhere to be seen among the sleekly shod; some wore thigh-high boots and others fashionable flats. Most ladies sported knee-length dresses, either black or on-trend patterned.

Local resident and foundation board president **Karma Hallward** wore a Pradapretty print dress. As the former churchnow-event-space quickly filled, she congratulated her hard-working committee: Westmounters **Janet Faith**, **Liana Thi**-

bodeau, Hana Kim, Elizabeth Caddick, and Tina Khan and Diana Martin.

This year canapé contestants raised the bar on amazing amuse-bouches: haute cuisine was redefined by some of the city's top culinary talent. Nora Gray, Bishop & Bagg, Loic (Quebec pickled smelts in pumpernickel from Hof Kelsten, and beet marmalade), Tuck Shop (sea urchin from Quebec (who knew!) with a panzanella salad complete with a crunch of croutons), Lavanderia (salmon and beet tartare with quail egg on bibimbap – a quinoa and rice medley), Taverne on the Square (homemade cavatelli pasta with mozzarella di bufala and an Italian chili kick). And for those needing a little dolce, Léché Desserts served sugar-coated doughnuts on charming oldfashioned cake stands.

Westmounters shaking off the snow and enjoying the night included Véronique Pourcelet, Caroline Price, Janet Dussault, Elise and Graham Nesbitt, sisters Jill and Lys Hugessen, the Khan family (dad Jawaid and sisters Tina, Nissa and Wendy) Denise and Tim Price, Lucy and Andrew Sofin, Kim Drummond, Susan and Bart Sambrook, Stuart Webster, Judy Martin, Susan McKinnon Bell, Astri Prugger, Cynthia Gordon, Nancy and Bryan Fitzpatrick, Tracey Gartner, Andrea Martin and J.S. Grise, Greg Adelstein and Sarah Sheiner, Sara O'Brien and Mark Lowe, Andrew Clark, Cullen Pilot, Antonietta Nardi, Shana Rotstein, Chris Clark and Nancy Carroll.

Emcee was the always witty **Terry Di-Monte** from CHOM. PS: Lavanderia won! *More photos, p. 18.*



From left: Karma Hallward, Janet Faith, Tina Khan, Liana Thibodeau, Hana Kim and Diana Martin.

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Porsche hits Jeep on Sherbrooke

Two cars collided at Sherbrooke and Elm May 19 resulting in one being towed away, according to Public Security officials. No injuries were reported. The accident occurred about 10:20 am when a Porsche turning off Elm hit a Jeep travelling west. The front bumper of the Porsche was left hanging while the Jeep sustained a flat tire.





From left: Tim and Denise Price, and Bart Sambrook.

STM bus leaks coolant

The Public Works flusher truck was called to hose down Sherbrooke St. May 19 after a bus leaked coolant between Wood and Atwater, Public Security officials said. The bus was found immobilized at 8:13 am. It belonged to the Société de transport de Montréal.



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J.S. Grise and Andrea Martin.



From left: Jawaid Khan, and Elise and Graham Nesbitt.



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