

Plans call for overhaul of Roslyn schoolyard, greening of site, outdoor classroom

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An extensive project to redo the Roslyn schoolyard includes re-landscaping of the surrounding property, the *Independent* learned last week. Residents and the city have noticed its deterioration.

The plan calls for reduced pavement, increased greenery, updating the playground and even creating a vegetable garden and outdoor classroom – all pending the outcome of tenders now being considered by the English Montreal School Board

(EMSB), according to school principal Nick Katalifos.

The work, already approved by the city, is being financed in part, he said, from fundraising efforts of the Home and School Association, a beatification grant from the Quebec ministry of Education and “a significant investment” from the EMSB, which will oversee the work.

“The school board definitely saw the need,” he said. “This is a huge and important property in the neighbourhood. It’s very exciting.”

If all goes well with the review and approval of continued on p. 9

Trent asks Coderre for help in St. Léon overcrowding

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Peter Trent has asked Montreal mayor Denis Coderre to intervene in the overcrowding of St. Léon school by assuring that a francophone elementary school be opened downtown to accommodate those students.

The absence of a francophone school forces students as far east as University St. to attend the Westmount-based school. This, in turn, means some local students may be facing relocation to schools in St. Henri or in NDG if they live west of Victoria and are not current students.

In a letter dated May 19, Trent details the situation as presented to the city council



Photo: Matt Faigan

On May 27, the Westmount YMCA Teen Zone hosted an open house. From left: Lindsey Whitelaw (director), Adan Alhjojo, Boa Kang, Moael Aljojo, Joseph McNight, Madeleine Doyle, Rachael Ampofo (coordinator), Jason Selman (youth worker), Emily Rill (youth worker), Viviana Villalta-Abdon, Mathew Bedford, Mayor Peter Trent and Sharon Parry, Westmount YMCA director.

See p. 10.

Don't Miss It

Victoria Village Merchants' Association's street festival June 17 to 19. See p. 10.



Westmount Page p. 18

Bought & Sold BY A. DODGE p. 17

Letters p. 6

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 25

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April 4 by two Westmount parents whose children were threatened with relocation.

He tells Coderre that his intervention with the Commission scolaire de Montréal is “essential” in assuring that a francophone school be opened in the downtown area.

By the end of last week, no reply had been received from Coderre.

The letter follows one Trent sent to Westmount's provincial legislator Jacques Chagnon April 20 asking him to intervene at the provincial level.

Chagnon suggested in reply that the building formerly occupied by the Montreal Children's Hospital might be a suitable site.

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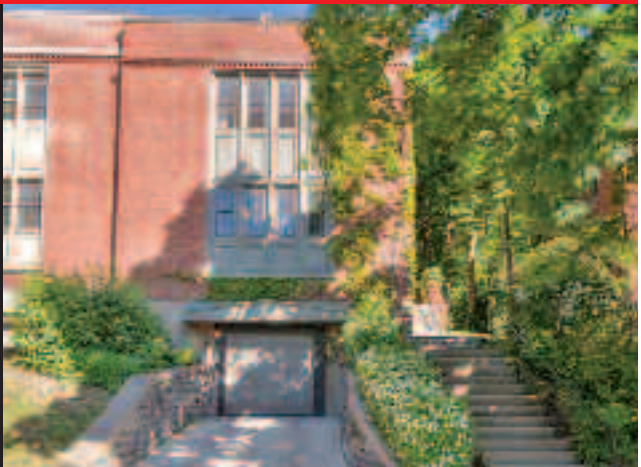


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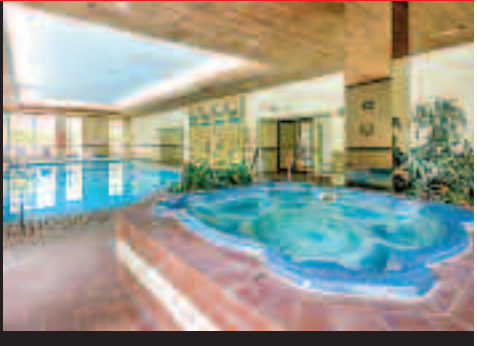
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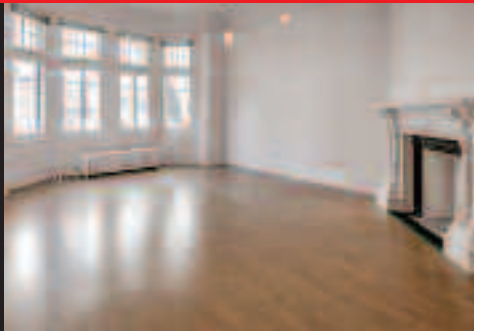
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Westmount – 376 Redfern, #18 – \$2,400/m
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Ville-Marie – 1636 Seaforth – \$5,500/m
Renovated 4,650sf – 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths

Public Security asks court to hike leaf blower fines

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two garden contracting firms are expected to receive increased fines for their use of leaf blowers out of season, Public Security officials said last week. Both are reported to have received “multiple” tickets in the past.

“We’re cracking down on chronic offenders,” Public Security director Greg McBain explained.

Following two incidents on May 25, the city is asking that Montreal Municipal

Court allow the higher recommended fines to be levied against both. This would bring the total amount of the ticket to \$541: a fine of \$400, double the usual amount, plus the court’s administration fee.

The same process, in which the city proceeds by “*parchemin*” – a notice from the court to the offender – has also been used by the city for some wayward building contractors and violators of the dog by-law and others.

In the recently reported incidents, one leaf blower was heard by a patroller at 1:54

pm on Westmount Ave. When the user spotted the officer, he threw down the device and hid at the back of the property, where he was subsequently found.

The same day at 2:40 pm, a complaint was received about a leaf blower in use in the area of 530 Grosvenor. This company also has a history of by-law violations for using the blowers outside the allowable spring and fall clean-up periods, McBain said.

Maislin chases, catches 11-year-old scooter thief at soccer

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An 11-year-old boy was caught May 25 around 6:42 pm after stealing a scooter from the soccer fields in Westmount Park, Public Security officials said. Two accomplices managed to flee, however, when Andrew Maislin, operations manager for the Sports and Recreation department, took chase.

Maislin told the *Independent* that he and sports coordinator Michelle Dodds had been at their usual vantage point near the gazebo and bike path during the soccer games.

They had noticed three boys eyeing the scooter.

About 25 minutes later, a parent and child told them the scooter was gone. “We had had a good look at the boys,” he said and a search of the park and library was instituted to no avail.

An hour later, however, a boy went whizzing past them on the bright blue scooter.

“I took off on foot after him,” Maislin said, catching up to him at the water fountain at de Maisonneuve and Melville.

“He was terrified,” Maislin said. “I asked him to stay and he didn’t resist.”

Maislin and the boy waited for Public Security, who called police. The father of the 11-year-old Westmount girl who owns the scooter declined to pursue the matter against the boy, and police drove him to his home in Côte des Neiges and informed his parents.

The girl had just received the scooter for her birthday a month ago, Maislin added.

“We usually don’t have a problem with thefts from the bike stand,” he said. But the position he and Dodds have set up for themselves at the bike path allows them to watch over the five fields in use by kids in the city’s soccer program. It operates Monday through Thursday with a total enrolment of 1,100.

They try to ensure the general security of the kids and, in particular, he said, their safe crossing of the bike path, which has heavy use at that time of day.

“We also keep an eye out for anyone who might be acting inappropriately or who we know isn’t related to the kids but might be taking pictures.”



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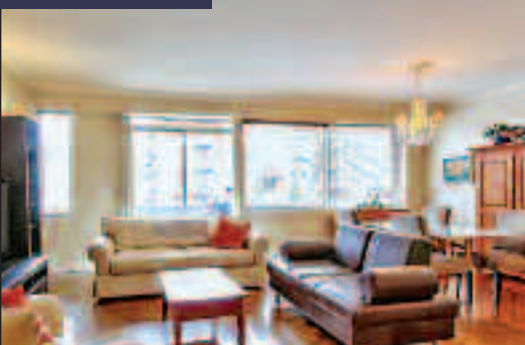
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Downtown | Sir Robert Peel \$2,495,000

3 Bdrm | 3,500 Sq Ft



Westmount Adj. | Manoir Belmont \$2,150,000

NEW TO MARKET | 2,640 Sq Ft



Downtown | ORO Residences \$2,035,660

2 Bdrm | 1,862 Sq Ft



Downtown | Port Royal \$1,050,000

2 Bdrm | 1,500 Sq Ft



Downtown | Sir Robert Peel \$879,000

NEW TO MARKET | 1,450 Sq Ft



Old Montreal | Sir James McGill \$799,000

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PARTY POOPERS AT MURRAY

Those of us who regularly walk through King George (Murray) Park have noticed large accumulations of garbage left piled around the garbage bins after parties/picnics/sports team events. Needless to say, this is paradise for both squirrels and raccoons, but a somewhat unsightly health hazard for the rest of us.

Of particular note are the areas around the play area bordering Murray, and in front of the pavillion by the playing field.

Would it be possible to encourage people to bring their own garbage bags, and/or install more bins for recyclables, such as water bottles?

Perhaps Public Security could stop and remind such groups that they need to clean up and pass out free bags?

On a similar note, on my twice daily walks through the park, I note the presence of neatly tied up poop bags left by the bins or wherever.

It's better than leaving the load where it was delivered but why not just put it in the provided recepticles? Perhaps Public Security could issue tickets to those who do not pick up after their dogs?

EMY BENJAMIN, ARLINGTON AVE.

NO PROBLEM WITH THE NEW METERS

I'm sorry letter-writer Kevin Tierney has had a frustrating time with Westmount's new parking meters ("Retrograde meters," May 31, p. 7), and he's by no means alone since others have complained about problems getting the pay stations to accept credit cards.

However, I don't find the new system "retrograde" in the slightest. Charging for a block of time rather than a specific space allows drivers to run several errands and park all over Westmount within the time paid for, at no extra charge. That's fairer and less expensive than the Montreal system, which is designed to double dip for time that has already been paid for.

I'd hazard a guess that most drivers have smart phones, and I've found the app to be easy to use. It's different from the Montreal parking app, but that's all it is – different. Neither better nor worse. And it's certainly convenient, not least because you don't have to memorize your licence plate number. Enter it once and forget it. No standing in line, no fumbling for change and no problems with credit cards either.

MATTHEW COPE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

POOL SCHEDULE STILL NOT GOOD FOR KIDS

After reading "New 'compromise' found over evening swim time," May 24, p. 1) about the new pool schedule, I was very disappointed to see that the new schedule is hardly a compromise. It's a small step in the right direction, but it's unfortunate that a shared pool cannot be adopted by our city.

As I've been reiterating for two years now, *all* surrounding boroughs in Montreal offer one of two things: adult swim in a section of the pool, while leaving another section open to the public at all times. Or a late-night adult-only swim, beginning at 8:30 pm, at the earliest. Only Westmount discriminates by age and does not allow anyone under 18 onto the pool deck *three* times a day, including weekends!

I can't help but feel frustrated that an un-advertised "survey" taken two days before the pool closed for the season, and completed by a small number of people "in the know" can accurately account for residents' opinions on the matter – especially when a petition was done two years ago and signed by over 200 people. It was ignored by city hall.

Unfortunately, the pool schedule leaves many people frustrated. Most families with two working parents simply can't use the pool at all. It's a sad situation and unfortunate that Westmount feels the need to give a small number of adult swimmers their "quiet time," while a large number of people have to evacuate the premises at the busiest time of day. It's not a private country club. It's a public pool for all residents to enjoy.

I truly hope that more change will come and eventually, the pool can be accessible to *all*, all day long.

ANGELA LEHRER, VICTORIA AVE.

THANKS FOR THE FREEZE

Re "2015 financial results explain surplus" (May 17, p. 4), I was very pleased to read your article about the mayor's account of the financial state of Westmount, and it is indeed delightful that as a city we are pretty much debt free. That is a great achievement and the mayor and council should be proud of it.

Of course, let's be honest, we were able to pay off our debt because we citizens are overtaxed, which allowed for huge surpluses over the years. But clearly the money was put to good use.

Since all that pesky debt is behind us now, council will be able to "hold the line on tax increases" and "it's in 2017 that we'll

really see the benefits of tightening the budget and paying off our debt."

I look forward to that. The property tax freeze of 2016 was excellent news (mine actually went down to 2014 levels), and I want council to know that more goodies like that will be welcomed. Please focus on that, Mr. Mayor and councillors. Differentiate between "needs" and "wants" when you are bombarded with great ideas from councillors, employees, and citizens (like making all parking signs bilingual overnight. What a colossal waste of money that would have been. Kudos for only doing it when signs need to be replaced).

And throw us a bone every now and then by freezing property taxes some years, raising them a teeny tiny bit others (if really, really required), and even – ever hopeful – lowering them sometimes.

Because there are many people in Westmount who "need" to keep as much of their money as possible in their pockets (you know, that whole shrinking middle class thing).

THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

Moderate the Right Approach to Parking Signs

I have always been wary of people who are obsessed with English in Quebec, a province where anglophones have been treated very well. (Re: "City to phase in bilingual parking signs, de-clutter," May 10, p. 1.)

"English rights" people have often gone overboard about a situation that has actually been favourable to them. I say this as someone who is an English-speaker from Saskatchewan but who has lived here for a long time.

Mayor Peter Trent has a very good record as far as language is concerned in Westmount. I remember him standing up against partition at a time when it was a popular option among certain people. I am in complete agreement with him in his moderate approach concerning parking signs. I would guess that most anglophones would stand behind him on this issue.

There are many important questions to be raised in this city and I do not believe that language is one of them.

MARILYNN GILLIES, MELVILLE AVE.

STAY POSITIVE ABOUT BIKE PATHS

There has been a lot of negativity about cycling paths in Westmount, both in the council *continued on p. 19*

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City’s net worth climbs to \$160M from \$61M a decade ago

By Laureen Sweeney

New figures announced to the *Independent* last week by Mayor Peter Trent reveal that in the decade since the city demerged from Montreal, Westmount’s net worth has climbed from \$61 million, adjusted for inflation, to \$160 million.

These figures represent the total depreciated value of all the city’s physical assets (waterworks, sewers, roads, Hydro Westmount, buildings, vehicles, office equip-

ment and machinery) less its net debt (liabilities offset by accumulated surplus and other assets). It does not include land.

Going back 15 years, to the end of 2001, just before the merger, the city’s net worth was \$87 million.

During the merger years, depreciation increased, Trent explained. With demerger, assets left behind in Montreal (such as fire trucks and road infrastructure) were much greater than any additions made by Montreal to Westmount’s

infrastructure.

The ensuing increase in net worth “reflects the increases we have spent in maintaining and replacing infrastructure and the attention we have paid to paying off outstanding loans and becoming debt free,” he explained.

This is the first time Trent has incorpo-

rated the city’s physical asset value in his comparisons of the city’s financial state during the last 15 years, based on figures obtained in the city’s audited statements for 2001, 2006 and 2015 and the new net debt-free status reached early this year (see chart).

Two developer-owned properties remain dormant

By Isaac Olson

As construction season gets into full swing this summer, the precise future of two Westmount-based residential sites remain uncertain.

About three years ago, Brookline Developments purchased a five-storey residence at the corner of Claremont and Windsor. The Congrégation de la Fraternité Sacerdotale, from 1975 to December 2014, used the facility, located at 500 Claremont, as a residence for its members and others. The *Independent* reached out to Brookline Developments by phone in May, but the call was not returned as of June 1.

City of Westmount Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said, as of May 24, there have been no applications or project proposals made for this site yet.

Jardins Westmount remains quiet

The other property sits near the corner of St. Antoine St. and Rose de Lima St. It is owned by Roland Hakim of Roland Hakim Associates. He is also president of Les Jardins Westmount, the proposed name of the residential development once

slated for the property. Roland Hakim Associates is located in the part of the building which, once owned by Dawson College, has the civic address of 350 Selby St.

In a June 2011 article in the *Independent*, it was reported that Hakim had said that he had hired an architectural firm to design a building with over 160 units, including lofts, condos and penthouses to be sold in three phases.

Poirier, back in 2011, told the *Independent* that the project has been reviewed and deemed acceptable by the Planning Advisory Committee. The next step was to submit architectural, mechanical and structural drawings to the board of inspections for approval.

When contacted late last month and asked for an update by phone, Hakim said, “Unfortunately, I can’t tell you right now. We are in the process of something.” He offered to phone the *Independent* when he had more information but had not called back as of June 1.

On May 24, Poirier said the Jardins Westmount project was put on hold some time ago, and the city is still waiting to hear from the developer.

City of Westmount: Report card (adjusted for inflation)

	2001 at merger	2006 after demerger	2016 budget
Tax bill, average single-family dwelling	\$8,000	\$11,400	\$12,700
Yearly spending, capital works	\$5 million	\$4 million	\$14 million
Net debt	\$16 million	\$26 million	0
Total depreciated value, all physical infrastructure*	\$103 million	\$87 million	\$160 million
Net worth*	\$87 million	\$61 million	\$160 million

*excluding land

Source: Peter Trent



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Création du Conseil local du patrimoine de Westmount

Le Conseil local du patrimoine est à la recherche d’un spécialiste en patrimoine culturel afin de fournir ses recommandations sur des projets relatifs à la *Loi sur le patrimoine culturel*. Le candidat siègera sur le Conseil à titre de personne ressource sans droit de vote. Il/elle doit démontrer une formation et une expérience pertinente dans le domaine du patrimoine culturel tel que l’histoire de l’art, la muséologie, la géographie, la sociologie, l’ethnologie, etc.

Pour renseignements et dépôt des candidatures avant le **15 juillet 2016**, veuillez communiquer avec Myriam St-Denis, Chargée de projet, Service de l’aménagement urbain, mstdenis@westmount.org.

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Newly established Westmount Local Heritage Council

The Local Heritage Council is in search of a specialist in cultural heritage to provide recommendations on projects under the *Cultural Heritage Act*. The candidate will join the Council as a resource person and as a non-voting member. He/she must have relevant training and experience in the field of cultural heritage such as in art history, museology, geography, sociology, ethnology, etc.

For details and submission of applications before **July 15, 2016**, please contact Myriam St-Denis, Project Manager, Urban Planning Department, mstdenis@westmount.org.

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Westmount Ave. redo



Work was well under way June 3 on the reconstruction of Westmount Ave. east of Roslyn. For previous coverage, see “\$3M Westmount Ave. project includes Saturday work, detours,” May 17, p. 1. The work includes removal of contaminated soil, removal of old streetcar tracks, new street lighting, reconfiguration of some intersections and complete rebuilding of the road and sidewalks.

Photo: Lauren Sweeney

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Victoria village merchants prep for street festival

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Get ready for a weekend of shopping, fun and entertainment when the Victoria Village Merchants' Association presents the annual Westmount Victoria Village Street Festival on June 17, 18 and 19 on Sherbrooke St. and Victoria Ave.

"This is a good way to start the summer with a strong feeling of community," said Joshua Fagan, co-owner of Sherbrooke St. women's boutique JoshuaDavid. "It's also

a good way for the merchants, especially newer ones, to connect with people," he added.

According to one of this year's chief organizers, Astri Prugger of Astri Prugger Design, the festival has a greater number of corporate sponsors this year.

They include the city of Westmount, Christina Miller Real Estate, RBC, CIBC, Park Restaurant, l'Autre Choix Mini-Marché, the *Westmount Independent* and Trafalgar School for Girls.

"This is a great party the merchants of Westmount are putting on," said Prugger. "Come support your local merchants while having a great time."

Since June 19 will be Father's Day, a special event will be held to mark the occasion, said Katie Pothier, coordinator for the merchants' association.

A children's play area on Somerville Ave. on Saturday will be transformed into an artisans' and farmers' market on Sunday, she added. *continued on p. 10*

Roslyn plan 'a plus' for neighbours

cont'd. from p. 1

tender bids, the work is expected to be undertaken this summer, he said.

A permit for the work was approved by city council May 16. "It's a plus for the neighbourhood and the streetscape," explained Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

The property has been degenerating over the years, she noted, especially along the Roslyn side, where more and more staff cars are crowded into the parking area.

Poirier said a group of residents had gone to see her about the condition of the property. "Soon after, the school showed me this beautiful plan."

Adapting school yards

"Schools are trying to make schoolyards as adapted as possible to the various needs and styles of different kids," Katalifos explained.

The plan for Roslyn includes repaving, repainting lines for games, adding new basketball hoops and lower ones for younger children, as well as a track-and-field surface. The current jungle gym structure is expected to be re-used and the old chain-link fence surrounding the entire area will be replaced.



Cars crowd into the school parking area off Roslyn June 3. According to the plan, the area is to be divided into two zones and greenery added.



At the front of Roslyn School on a pedagogical day June 3, principal Nick Katalifos, left, describes plans for an outdoor classroom to parent volunteer Robert Vanier and his six-year-old son Max, who is in kindergarten.

"There is also a wonderful idea to create a circular stone outdoor classroom," Katalifos said.

In addition to updating the playground, the permit also mentions reduced pavement, the creation of two separate parking zones on the Roslyn Ave. side and re-establishing a grass border along the street. Poirier said the city will plant trees this fall on the portion that lies in the public domain.

More landscaping is also planned along the Westmount Ave. and Grosvenor sides, including the garden.

Donating to food banks

The creation of a vegetable garden would provide "a wonderful cross-curriculum learning experience," Katalifos explained. It would present not only the growing opportunity but also the social as-

pect of donating some of the harvest to food banks.

This is done at a number of schools, he said, including Pierre de Coubertin Elementary in St. Leonard, where Katalifos served as principal before coming to Roslyn two years ago.

Roslyn is forecasting an enrolment of 650 for the fall, a welcome increase from 630, he said. Of this number, 125 are international students. It also has staff of 70 including 40 teachers and a big need for parking.

Roslyn is the second largest elementary school in the EMSB.

Katalifos acknowledges the work will make for "a hectic summer," coinciding with the reconstruction of Westmount Ave. "But at least it will be all over with at the same time."



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Trent recounts demerger process to Rotarians

By MARTIN C. BARRY

“We essentially were lied to.” That’s what Mayor Peter Trent said about the former PQ government’s claim that turning Montreal into a megacity would lead to cost savings of five percent, when he addressed the Westmount Rotary Club at Victoria Hall on June 1.

“I proved that everything they said did not happen,” he told the Rotarians in a talk on “Ten Years of Independence Regained.” He was referring to his 2012 book, *The Merger Delusion*, which outlined the history of the merger/demerger process and denounced the reasoning of those who supported it.

“They knew that the stuff they were saying was not true, because other mergers have proven what I was saying at the time that it would cost you more. It’s very simple: 50 to 55 percent of municipal costs are salaries and benefits.

“And what I predicted would happen did happen – that is, the salaries and benefits in those cities like Westmount rose to the Montreal level. You can’t ask people to cut

their salaries when they merge, so we had employees in Westmount all of a sudden making 20 to 30 per cent more than they made before.”

In the 2002 merger, 27 municipalities on the island of Montreal were fused with the city of Montreal. Following a referendum held in 2004, 15 of the merged municipalities demerged in January 2006 and regained their full city status, including Westmount.

“The whole merger was a mistake,” said Trent, while adding that the way the demerger process was handled was also a mistake. Referring to municipal mergers that had taken place in other Canadian cities, he said “it was a mistake in Toronto, a mistake in Halifax.”

Using a “report card” Trent prepared for his presentation, he outlined what would have happened had Westmount not demerged. Before the merger, the average Westmount single-family dwelling paid \$8,000 in property taxes annually.

By the time Westmount demerged, the amount had risen to \$11,400. But in the decade since demerger, taxes have risen just 1.3 per cent, Trent claimed, while adding that a merged Westmount would never have been able to carry out many necessary public works projects as a borough of the megacity.

Trent also maintained that Westmount’s new recreation complex, completed in 2014, would probably also never have been built had Westmount still been part of the city of Montreal. “We wouldn’t have been able to find the money, and we still had to go out and borrow money for that,” he said.

“We had to go out and borrow \$12 million to \$14 million, actually more, and Montreal would never have allowed us to borrow that kind of money to build that.



Mayor Peter Trent used a “report card” to explain some of his points to the Westmount Rotarians during a presentation June 1.

Because they want to level everything down to make sure that no one borough has something that the other boroughs

don’t have. This to me remains an absolute truth.”

Teens show off their centre

The Westmount YMCA Teen Zone hosted an open house May 27. It was led by coordinator Rachael Ampofo. The event took place in the late afternoon at the Westmount recreation centre and gave an opportunity for the teens to demonstrate what the centre had to offer.

Some of its new programs are designed to improve life skills. They include teaching teens to cook healthy meals on a budget, homework help sessions, access to the YMCA weight room and music lessons.

Ampofo reported that many new teens from 12 to 17 have joined this year, mainly from Westmount High.

Lindsey Whitelaw, director of community programs for the NDG and Westmount YMCAs, explained that “the centre gives teens a safe space that’s their own.”

Westmount mayor Peter Trent and Sharon Parry, Westmount YMCA director, made a special appearance.

See p. 1 for photo.

Merchants cont’d. from p. 9

Prince Albert Square at the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Prince Albert Ave. will be the staging venue for a number of musical performances.



Joshua David women’s boutique co-owner Joshua Fagan is one of the many Victoria Village Merchants’ Association members who will be participating in the street festival.

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Police

Upper Westmount house

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.

On May 17 around noon, a house in upper Westmount was broken into and robbed while the owners were there.

“While the occupants were at home, two men came in, put the occupants in one room without using any kind of violence, and ended up stealing high-end items of several thousand dollars value,” Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière told the *Independent*.

While admitting that the May 17 incident was similar to another type of criminal activity known as a home invasion, Laperrière said it was not an example since the suspects didn’t use violence.

“There were verbal threats but no harm done to anybody,” he said. According to Laperrière, the perpetrators gained access by forcing open a door, not realizing there was anyone at home. He said an investigation is under way.

Cyclist hit by car

On May 24 around 8 am, a 16-year-old bicyclist making his way eastward along de Maisonneuve Blvd. near the corner of Victoria Ave. had to be transported to hospital after being hit by a vehicle heading north on Victoria.

According to the police report, the cyclist had gone through a red light. The report says he was not using the bike path nor was he wearing a helmet. The vehicle that came into contact with the bicycle sustained some light damage on the front left side.

According to Laperrière, an ambulance was called for the teen, who suffered trauma to the head.

“We want to reiterate that people should wear their helmets because the head is the part of the body that is most vulnerable when it comes to cycling, and we don’t want people to have permanent damage because of it,” he said.

Laperrière also suggested that bicyclists should use the bike path when one is available and that they should be careful to obey traffic

continued on p. 13

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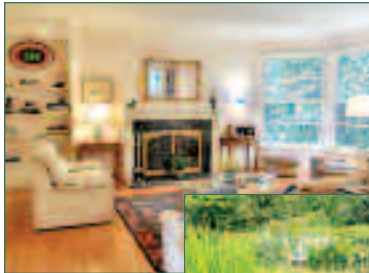
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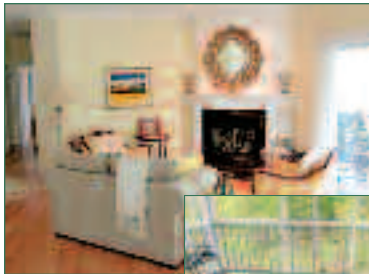
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Report

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signage. "This is an accident that should not have happened," he said. Neither the cyclist nor the driver of the car were Westmount residents.

Garage door opening device used to gain access inside

A homeowner near Lansdowne Ave. and The Boulevard learned that leaving his wireless garage door opener inside a parked car was an invitation for thieves who gained access to his house without having to break in.

On the morning of May 29, he noticed that his home's garage door was wide open. Inside the garage, he found that two bicycles were missing. The door to his car was also unlocked, and several items within, including a GPS, were also missing.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, the plaintiff himself deduced, since there was no damage to the garage door, that the electronic door opener was used by the thieves. Some video evidence recorded by neighbours' security cameras could prove useful in the investigation, said Pimentel. He also

pointed out that keeping the garage door opener in the car creates an inherent security risk.

Meet the cops June 15

On June 15 from 11 am to 1 pm, police officers from Station 12 will be hosting a special meet-and-greet event, Coffee with a Cop, at the Second Cup on Greene Ave. for Westmount residents who want to discuss or learn more about public safety issues.

"Anybody can come and ask a question about various types of crime or for prevention tips," said Pimentel. "Because there's no agenda, anybody can ask any type of question, and we'll take the time to answer their questions. This is a unique opportunity because normally we don't have as much time to explain things as well as we will be during this event."

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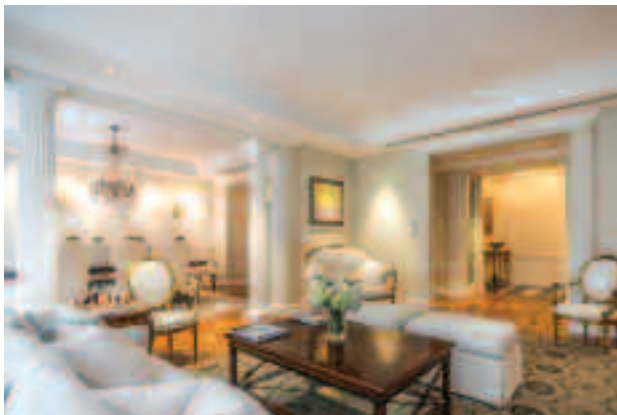
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in February 2016

For real estate transfers, please consult paper archive.

For Andy Dodge's analysis, see p. 23.

Fort McMurray has supporters at St. Léon

Some \$1,020 was raised by St. Léon students in an online campaign, through the Red Cross, to help the victims of the recent Fort McMurray fires. The idea came from three grade 6 students who promoted the fundraising idea using posters and visiting classes. Some students gave their allowance as a donation.

Police called to sort out couple's property

When public safety officers were setting up for the city's Family Day in Westmount Park May 28, a woman carrying a bag ran past by them at 9:29 am near Melville and Melbourne saying someone was chasing her. Public Security officials said she then tossed the bag in a garbage can while a man was seen running behind her. When it turned out the couple was in the midst of a divorce, police were called to help sort out the contents of the discarded bag.

PSOs, police search for prowler

Public safety officers and police searched the area around St. Catherine and Lansdowne May 27 for a prowler looking in windows of the condo building at 200 Lansdowne at 7:03 pm. Public Security officials said the man had fled up the embankment into properties on Grosvenor when seen by a caretaker at the condo building. Despite the search, the man could not be found.

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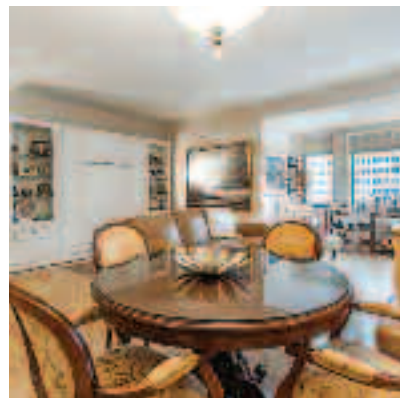
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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Horaires estivaux

Entre le 30 mai et le 2 septembre, les bureaux administratifs de la Ville sont ouverts **du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30** et **le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h**.

Projet Sud-Est : séance publique

Le mardi 14 juin, 19 h à 21 h, Centre Greene, 1090, av. Greene. Présentation du concept préliminaire d'un plan de revitalisation du secteur sud-est de Westmount. Veuillez vous inscrire à cet événement au 514 989-5278 ou soudest@westmount.org.

Semaine québécoise des personnes handicapées du 1^{er} au 7 juin

La Ville vous invite à visiter le site web et la page Facebook de l'**Office québécoise des personnes handicapées** et à poser de gestes pour accroître la participation sociale des personnes handicapées. De plus, vous pouvez nommer une personne ou un organisme, jusqu'au 17 juin prochain, pour le prix **À part entière** pour un engagement exemplaire d'inclusion sociale de personnes handicapées. Info : ophq.qc.ca.

Consultez le **Plan d'action de Westmount à l'égard des personnes handicapées**, ainsi que le **Guide Accès Westmount**, un répertoire des édifices accessibles sur son territoire, au westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Bibliothèque de semences

Cette nouvelle initiative de la Bibliothèque et du Comité consultatif d'horticulture offre aux membres de la Bibliothèque plus de 50 variétés de semences de plantes, incluant fines herbes, fleurs et légumes, dont des variétés patrimoniales. Info : 514 989-5409.

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Le mercredi 15 juin, 19 h. Joignez-vous au groupe de lecture et plongez tête première dans une discussion passionnée sur l'œuvre magistrale de James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*. Découvertes et surprises au rendez-vous. Apportez votre exemplaire du livre. Info : 514-989-5299.

Lectures publiques de Bloomsday : *Ulysse*

Le jeudi 16 juin, 11 h à 15 h. Venez écouter des personnalités montréalaises, dont Colleen Curran, Peggy Curran, Pat Donnelly et autres, lire des extraits du chef-d'œuvre de James Joyce, *Ulysse*. Info : 514-989-5299.

Club de lecture d'été TD

Tout au long de l'été, la Section des enfants proposera une série d'activités conçues pour inciter les enfants à la lecture. Le thème cet été est *fou de nature!* **Les inscriptions pour le Club de lecture d'été TD commencent le 6 juin**.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 28 juin. *Fun Home* par Alison Bechdel. Animation : Claire Holden Rothman. Info : 514-989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 4 juillet

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Exposition jeunesse : Construire des passerelles

Jusqu'au 17 juin, Galerie du Victoria Hall. Ce projet d'art communautaire est organisé par le Centre des arts visuels, parrainé par la Ville de Westmount et réalisé en collaboration avec le Concours d'écriture littéraire McEntyre. Info : 514 989-5521.

Fête de la Saint-Jean à Westmount

Le jeudi 23 juin de 17 h à 22 h, Parc Westmount. Venez célébrer avec nous lors de cette soirée d'activités, de musique et de danse, couronnée par le feu de joie traditionnel. Info : 514-989-5226.



Camping dans le Parc Westmount

Le jeudi 30 juin dès 16 h. Beau temps, mauvais temps. Venez célébrer le 149^e anniversaire de notre pays. Réservez votre site avant le 17 juin au 514-989-5226.

Les concerts d'été au Parc Westmount

Tous les dimanches à 14 h, du 10 juillet au 14 août, Parc Westmount. Concerts gratuits de musique jazz, classique et populaire. Info : 514-989-5226.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Rappels pour la saison estivale

Souffleuses à feuilles : interdiction entre le 2 mai et le 30 septembre.

Couvre-feu dans les parcs municipaux : l'accès aux parcs est interdit entre minuit et 5 h.

Belvédère Summit : il est interdit de consommer de l'alcool en tout temps et de stationner son véhicule entre 21 h et 6 h au Belvédère.

Les agents de la sécurité publique émettront une contravention pour toute infraction.

HYDRO WESTMOUNT

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Contactez le Service à la clientèle d'Hydro Westmount au 514 925-1414 pour ouvrir ou modifier votre compte.

CITY HALL

Summer schedule

From May 30th to September 2nd, the City's administrative offices are open **Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** and **Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

South-East Project: public meeting

Tuesday, June 14, 7 to 9 p.m., Centre Greene, 1090, Greene Ave. Presentation of a preliminary plan for the revitalization of Westmount's southeast district. Please register for this event at 514 989-5278 or southeast@westmount.org.

Semaine québécoise des personnes handicapées - June 1st to June 7th

The City invites you to visit the website and Facebook page of the *Office des personnes handicapées du Québec*, and engage in actions that enhance the social participation of disabled persons. You may also nominate an individual or organization, by June 17th, for the annual **Prix À part entière**, which recognizes exceptional commitment to the social inclusion of disabled persons in the community. Info: ophq.qc.ca.

Consult Westmount's **Action Plan Concerning Disabled Persons**, and **Access Westmount Guide**, a directory of accessible buildings within its territory, at westmount.org.

LIBRARY

Seed Lending Library

This new initiative by the Library and the Horticultural Advisory Committee offers Library members more than 50 varieties of herb, flower, and vegetable seeds, including heirloom varieties. Info: 514 989-5409.

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*

Wednesday, February 17, 7 p.m. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. Info: 514-989-5299.

Bloomsday Dramatic Readings: *Ulysses*

Thursday, June 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hear passages from *Ulysses* by James Joyce read aloud by groups of actors and notable Montreal personalities such as Colleen Curran, Peggy Curran, Pat Donnelly, and others. Info: 514-989-5299.

TD Summer Reading Club

Throughout the summer months, the Library's Children's Department will host a number of events designed to inspire kids to read. This year's theme is *Wild!* **Registration for the TD Summer Reading Club begins June 6.**

English Book Club

Tuesday, June 28, 7 p.m. Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. Info: 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting Monday, July 4

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Youth Art Exhibition: Building Bridges

Until June 17, Gallery at Victoria Hall. A community art project organized by the Visual Arts Centre, sponsored by the City of Westmount and undertaken in collaboration with the McEntyre Creative Writing Competition. Info: 514 989-5521.



Fête de la Saint-Jean in Westmount

Thursday, June 23 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Westmount Park. Celebrate with an evening of activities, music and dance, ending with a traditional bonfire. Info: 514-989-5226.

Camp out in Westmount Park

Thursday, June 30 from 4 p.m. Rain or shine! Celebrate our country's 149th birthday by camping in Westmount Park with a pancake breakfast. Reserve your tent space by June 17th. Info: 514-989-5226.

Summer Concerts in Westmount Park

Every Sunday at 2 p.m. from July 10 to August 14, Westmount Park. Hear live jazz, classical and popular music in the park. Free! Info: 514-989-5226.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Summer reminders

Leaf blowers: a ban is in effect between May 2nd and September 30th.

Curfew in all municipal parks: park access is forbidden between midnight and 5 a.m.

Summit Lookout: Alcohol consumption is not permitted at any time, and it is forbidden to park at the lookout between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Public Safety officers will issue citations for any infractions.

HYDRO WESTMOUNT

Are you moving?

Set up or modify your hydro account by contacting Hydro Westmount's Customer Service Office at 514 925-1414.



A happenstance meeting for dog siblings

The *Independent* heard from a reader who had a story of true coincidence to share.

She recounted that on May 30 in the dog run in King George (Murray) Park, two dogs with the same sire were united unexpectedly.

Tessa, a dog belonging to the Valasek family of Westmount, came face to face with what turned out to be her brother Tucker, visiting from Newfoundland.

It turns out these two Small Münsterländer dogs were bred from the same sire, Karl Von Der Linde of Von Der Linde Kennels in Queensville, Ontario.

It was explained that this is a German breed rarely seen in Quebec, and is one of the oldest breeds of hunting dog, originating in the region of Münster, Germany about 500 years ago. The dogs were originally bred to work with the falconers of noble families, and “today are highly sought after in Europe and increasingly in the US for both their versatile hunting ability and as family pets due to their good manners in the home.”

Did they recognize each other? “Hard to say. They certainly had fun together!” the source said.

– KM

Letters cont'd. from p. 6

chamber and in *Indie* letters. It should never be forgotten that cycling is the most sustainable urban transport option, bar none. Even public transit is a distant second.

We must consider this fact against a backdrop of climate change that has arrived and is accelerating. We have already reached a 1°C average change in temperature [according to a CBC report]. In the Paris agreement drafted with the aid of Canada late last year, we committed to keeping change to as close to 1.5°C as possible. The extreme weather events that are becoming commonplace are but forerunners of a major climate crisis that looms on the horizon.

Quebec has made progress with greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors save one: transportation. There, road traffic has, since 1990, increased its contribution by 32 percent so that it now contributes 35 percent of Quebec's greenhouse gas emissions [according to the Quebec ministry of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change.] It is seriously undermining Quebec's efforts.

All cities that have a detailed plan of how to reach sustainability, of which Vancouver is exemplary, have city-wide protected cy-

cling path networks. They are an essential part of any plan to reduce transportation's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

When one is cognizant of the above, to continue to rail against a network of cycling paths might leave one open to being considered a climate change advocate. Everyone has the right to a protected cycle path network so that they can choose sustainable behaviour in a pleasant and safe way.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

I am delighted that Skip is back (“Knut-tal is back,” May 17, p. 7); I have been waiting and watching for a letter from Skip since nothing had appeared from him since last fall, which is understandable with hibernation and all. I became worried that Skip had gotten run over by a bicycle or had been attacked by a dog.

I missed Skip's lighter take on the problems of Westmount, and I'm glad you are still around; I also sympathize with your concerns with the exploding dog population as well as dodging bicycle traffic.

KENNETH BERG, EDMONTON

WELCOME TO ACADEMY RD., MR. GROUNDHOG

First time in 40 years I have seen a

groundhog on Academy Rd. He is a cute little fellow. He was lying in the shade across from the tennis courts. Someone said he probably came down from the mountain.

BELINDA BOWES, ACADEMY RD.



Photo courtesy of B. Bowes

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Tessa and Tucker (visiting) meet by chance at King George (Murray) Park dog run May 30.

Photo courtesy of Lisa Rambert

Dog found loose

A dog found in Arlington Lane May 30 by a resident of Côte St. Antoine was turned over to Public Security at 7:27 pm, department officials said. A tag it wore identified the owner, another resident of Côte Rd., to whom the dog was returned. The owner was advised to obtain a valid permit.

Comin' Up

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.

“Stem cell transplant: an important option for patients with blood cancers,” free public lecture by Dr. Gizelle Popardi, director of the MUHC Stem Cell Transplant Program, 7 pm to 8:30 pm in the RI Auditorium (E S1.1129), Glen site, 1001 Decarie Blvd.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Jacques Archambault, executive director of the Canadian Heritage of Quebec, on its buildings and sites, including the Hur-

tubise House in Westmount, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

South-east project: public meeting 7 to 9 pm at Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. Presentation of a preliminary plan for the revitalization of Westmount’s southeast district. Register: 514.989.5278 or south-east@westmount.org.

“Festival Bloomsday Montréal,” 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Storytelling and songs event celebrating James Joyce. Emceed by vocalist Kathleen McAuliffe. Free.

UNTIL FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Youth art exhibition at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. Organized by the Visual Arts Centre.

Firefighters douse 3 garbage fires

Firefighters were called to put out three garbage fires in Westmount on the weekend May 28-29, according to Public Security reports. No causes were reported.

The first took place on the Saturday at 12:19 am in a city trash can at Sherbrooke and Kitchener. A witness described a possible suspect as a man who had been walking westbound.

The other two occurred on the Sunday when a container was found on fire at 1308 Greene backing onto Olivier and firefighters were called. The fire caused considerable damage to the container, whose owner was contacted from a sign on the side.

At 10:38 pm, Public Security patrollers were flagged down by firefighters on the way to a fire in another city garbage can, this time at Sherbrooke and Wood. The “whole can” was destroyed.

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Not all butlers are human



A 7-year-old cocker spaniel stands at the door of a house on Sunnyside May 3. He appears to have a the stern face and the airs and graces reminiscent of P.G. Wodehouse’s famous character, butler Jeeves. In this case, it was “Thank you, sir. Very good sir. My name is Chico.”

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Noise complaint

A noise complaint at 12:33 am of construction in progress on Park Place turned out to be debris being discarded in a container outside Westmount Park School May 26, Public Security officials said. The work was stopped and a report submitted to Urban Planning for follow-up when it was found no permission had been given for the work after 9 pm.

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HYUNTEH KIM

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Hyunteh Kim



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Scherman, Caron Lefebvre: Larger than life



Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Recently Tony Scherman's portraits of Shakespearean protagonists at Galerie de Bellefeuille, and Montreal artist Philippe Caron Lefebvre evolution-inspired sculptures at the Visual Art Centre gave West-mounters something to talk about. Scherman's large-scale paintings captured his subject's destructive nature while Caron Lefebvre's twisted forms suggest genetic mutation and loss within the natural world.

Scherman's latest exhibition, *Portraits*, featured Shakespearean characters from Hamlet to Ophelia and celebrities from Margeaux Hemingway to Mick Jagger. All painted in encaustic, where pigment is suspended in wax, washes and textured surfaces convey emotional fluidity as well as complexity. In this collection, Scherman's palette is lighter and brighter than the earlier *Napoleon* series.

The 8' by 7' composition "Me, Hamlet"

dominates Scherman's "Cream of Denmark" series. For this larger-than-life portrait, a pale and haunted Hamlet stares out at the viewer. Depicted in a clown's cap against a green background, his angst is unmistakable. In contrast, for "Ophelia," the young girl's gaze is demure, yet questioning.

This exhibition reveals Scherman's gift for nuanced emotion as well as economy of detail. Portraits of "Polonius or My Father's Ghost" reveal only the eyes and nose, yet communicate effectively a calm control or wild-eye madness.

A master of narrative portraiture, Scherman recreates individual folly as well as recognizable self-destructive archetypes. This interesting exhibition was held at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1366 Greene Ave.

Caron Lefebvre's evolutionary lifeforms

Caron Lefebvre evokes biological processes in his recent exhibition *Instinct*. Sculptures of wood, ceramic and foam at times combine with graphic wall designs to suggest DNA mutation and evolution. While some suggest order within chaos, others convey the inevitable decay of life forms, and life as we know it.

"Le Geutteur Rhyzomatique," a large,

airy sculpture of tentacle-like, white dowels or railing, suggests DNA. But unlike the regular twists of miniature code, the expansive form suggests evasive or alien species. In contrast, "Instinct," a wine-colour sculpture of smooth ceramic edges and foam bubbles, recalls cooled molten lava. Placed in front of a wall painting of black radiating lines, both time and the destruction of nature are communicated.

Graphite-shaded forms in drawing "Étude pour un meta-bunker" suggests concrete blocks and corrugated steel. Carefully composed and detailed, Caron Lefebvre's mix of representation and abstraction conveys both predictability and chance. Ominous, but interesting, the exhibition was held at the Visual Arts Centre, 350 Victoria Ave.

For inspiration, both Scherman and Caron Lefebvre turn to literature, to Shakespearean tragedy and science fiction. Scherman's nuanced depiction of personal unravelling and self-destruction is echoed by Caron Lefebvre's unravelling of genetic code and the natural world.

Both viewpoints are intriguing and this larger-than-life work leaves viewers to ponder human resolve and ability to create new and life-sustaining alternatives.

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Retail Watch



VERONICA REDGRAVE

Zone moves next door

In a recent edition of Retail Watch, we reported that Flore had moved. Its former space is now occupied by Zone, and what a zone it is. The new emporium is an Al-ladin's cave of lifestyle choices. Huge store-front windows reveal classic furniture, coupled with whimsical lamps, such as one with a large squirrel as its base. Inside, one can wander into different areas to discover cookbooks, colourful dishes, handy kitchen utensils; all beautifully designed and surprisingly very affordable. There is a wide choice of items, perfect for gifts. Lighting, Marimekko fabrics and bright cushions can update a living space, as can a lava lamp and the plastic jade and cactus plants. (I usually loathe fake plants, but these are excellent quality.) And for those who want to bring the outdoors inside or have a green-floored balcony, fun "grass" carpets are the perfect answer. Assistant director Steve Goncalves explained he loves to offer design suggestions to new condo owners seeking to downsize.

What I loved? The dart boards! Reminded me of English pub moments. And the colouring books – a remembrance of things past.

5008 Sherbrooke St., just west of Claremont. Open every day.

Copoli moves into old Liquid Lounge space

The much-loved Copoli on de Maison-neuve across from Vendôme Metro station moved to Sherbrooke St., where Liquid Lounge once was. The *Independent* noticed Copoli was open for business May

20.

5028 Sherbrooke St. between Claremont and Vendôme. Open seven days a week from 5 am to 11 pm.

Lea resto closes

Lea opened in 2014. Then it was closed for what seemed forever "for renovations." However, it was allegedly sold to the group behind Lucille's. Now Lea is no more. But a phoenix rises. Read on.

Opening maybe in July: Parm by Lucille's

Taking over the short-lived Lea space, NDG's Lucille's Oyster Dive and Westmount's Brasserie Lucille will soon launch another Lucille's: Parm on Sherbrooke St. between Prince Albert and Claremont. Positioned as "Lucille's does Italian," it will be open for lunch and dinner. Trio Paul Harris Benjamin, Dominique Muller and chef Mark Gaffney are behind this venture. If the Lucille Brasserie on St. Catherine St. near Greene is any indication, the new establishment will be packed with trendy, coolly-dressed folk asap. And with Gaffney, the food is sure to exceed expectations. With any luck the noise level will be less than the popular St. Catherine site.

4922 Sherbrooke West. Opening soon.

Shoreh celebrates 25 years of business in Westmount

One of the most discreet addresses in Westmount has been a go-to for faithful customers for 25 years. Hailing from Iran, Shoreh Ameli loves Westmount so much that while moving her aesthetics business three times she stayed within the area. She started out in "the pink house" at 323 Victoria, then she was upstairs on Sherbrooke near Flore, and now is located above Pâtisserie De Gascogne. Growing alongside her business was her daughter, so Shoreh is now an extremely proud grandmother. En-

joying the baby so much and to be able to see her more, she sold her company to Nusrat Chowdhury, but still takes care of her faithful clients. How faithful? One "lovely lady" came regularly to see her up to 99 years of age. Celebrating 25 years with Shoreh is Suzanne Brin. The team offers aesthetic services and thorough pedicures, attracting both women and men. Shoreh is also renowned for threading – an ancient hair removal method practised in Eastern countries used on eyebrows, moustaches, as well as backs and legs. The beauty products are from France.

What I loved? Silky smooth feet with my new look-at-me toe polish. Sandal season here we are.

Centre d'Esthétique Victoria, 4823 Sherbrooke St. Open Tuesday to Saturday and for private appointments.

Rudsak coming in the fall?

The *Indie* has learnt that Rudsak will not open until the fall.

A decade for Bagels on Greene

Although Greene Ave. has its share of big brand coffee shops, Bagels on Greene is the classic family affair. Celebrating 10 years, it is owned and managed by Aruna and Moti Mahtani with their son Amit. Moti's father Rami, a spry 90, is there daily. It has aficionados seven days a week. Coffee lovers line up for the 6:30 am opening. I learnt it is a story of numbers: 18 varieties of bagels are made daily (and yes, they all disappear); two former businesses were taken over (H&R Block and a hairdresser) for the expanded space; 22 staff keep things moving; two chefs cook there daily; 62 types of sandwiches are sold; there are 40 to 50 seats indoors; 16 outside – where the area is thankfully heated for cooler temperatures. Customers love the vegetarian fusion food, created by Moti, who suggests a Mexican touch to, say, a classic Indian dish. There is a no-gluten area. The

hot food section is all vegetarian, although sandwiches offer roast beef, chicken, chopped liver and turkey, as well as tuna. A smoothie bar was recently introduced and the Mango Lassi sells out. Upcoming? A dessert section. Not only does the team serve walk-in customers, they also cater. (I asked Aruna if and when she sleeps!)

What I loved? The mango salad, which I mixed with sprouts and broccoli after hot lentil soup – much needed this past spring that was so cold. Oh and chocolate brownies, thankfully bite-size, so I could munch more than one walking home.

Bagels on Greene, 4160 St. Catherine St. Open seven days a week.

Galerie de Bellefeuille opens a third gallery

Westmount-based Galerie de Bellefeuille has an iconic building on Greene (1367) and expanded last year into a more modern gallery-like space opposite. The new gallery – GdB II at 1366 Greene – features contemporary work of artists such as Montrealer Nicolas Ruel as well as art auction house record-breaker Damien Hirst, the Brit renowned for his skull (yes, real) covered with diamonds (also real) and his shark in formaldehyde. Now there is a GdB III. The elegant and energetic couple have opened a new gleaming space in the Square Mile. Taking over the massively large window facing Sherbrooke St., among the artists shown will be Chihuly, whose extraordinary work "The Sun" sits outside just down the street as part of the permanent collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. As international auction house prices soar in the millions, more than ever, today art is perceived as an asset class. I found the helpful staff very knowledgeable about art at all price levels. And unlike some New York galleries, where cool receptionists sometimes continue their cell phone conversation even when you walk in, the GdB staff is helpful.

What I loved? The international feel. I could pretend I was in London or Berlin.

GdB III, 1455 Sherbrooke St. downtown. Open Tuesday to Saturday. Fall: Open every day

Canadian Tire settles into its new Alexis Nihon home

Although the store had been open in its new location in Alexis Nihon (where Target was) since April, the official opening was May 12. This massive emporium ("a store carrying many kinds of merchandise," according to Merrick-Webster notes) took over the empty Target space, after the American retailer beat a

continued on p. 23

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February transfers: Three over \$3 million

Real estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in February 2016, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 17.

If January's real estate transfers showed prices in Westmount going lower, that trend was totally reversed in February this year when five sales were registered, four of them over \$2 million and in fact three over \$3 million.

The average price of the five one- and two-family dwellings sold in the second month of 2016 shot up to \$2,726,000, by far the highest average price ever recorded in Westmount, mainly because the four highest prices were offset by only one low price: a small semi-detached house at 421 Claremont Ave. brought only \$530,000. One

other transfer that was signed in January but reported only recently became the lowest price for that month, as 93 Hallowell St. sold for \$561,000.

Still, the high prices for February seemed to be a competition for the highest price: 558 Roslyn sold on the first day of the month for \$3,850,000, which held the lead against 65 Belvedere Rd. at \$3,450,000, and 627 Clarke Ave. for \$3,300,000.

Of the five sales in February, all but one



65 Belvedere Rd., \$3,450,000, photographed May 27.

sold above municipal tax value, boosting the average mark-up for the month to 15 percent, compared to an average mark-down of 6 percent in January. In fact, the February figure basically tied the average for last August and is the second highest average since the latest valuation roll came into force in January 2014.

Condominium sales

Two condominium sales graced the February list, one of which was one of the new



627 Clarke, \$3,300,000, photographed May 27.

apartments at 215 Redfern Ave., but in fact this was a resale of Apt. 301, which was sold from the developer the previous August for just under \$1,340,000 (plus GST and QST), put back on the market a week later for \$2,175,000 and sold this time for \$2 million. This is the second resale in the building, which once housed Reader's Digest Corp., but is primarily selling up now as luxury condominiums (from the developer).



558 Roslyn, \$3,850,000, photographed May 30.

Retail Watch cont'd. from p. 22

hasty retreat from the Canadian retail market last year. The day I went, a huge arch made of red, black and white balloons decorated the entrance. Not only did I find the tomato stakes I was looking for, but I wandered for ages looking at skates, outdoor garden furniture, sunscreen, cuddly children's toys, real flowers, fake plants, Frisbees, backpacks, tennis rackets and lemon-yellow balls, sunglasses, bicycles. Indeed, an emporium. The little off-to-one side florist shop had orchids at \$11.87. Cheapest in town.

What I loved? As the store is so vast, I was very appreciative of the staff's cheerful helpfulness. Not just "over in aisle five," the young lad walked me over to the correct area. Service with a smile.

Canadian Tire, Alexis Nihon Plaza
Open seven days a week.

New: Sisi!

For 15 years, Bodywares on Sherbrooke St., just west of the Westmount border, was the go-to destination for ballet and gym attire for kids and some adults. Owner Silvia Bortoluzzi has not moved, she has simply opened a new location. Now at the corner of Claremont, she carries ladies' ready-to-wear, blazers, jeans and tops. "Joseph Ribkoff and other made-in-Montreal lines. I try to offer made-in-Canada, and not off shore," she said while accessorizing the window mannequin with

seasonal scarves. And the scarves are lovely. Being Italian, like in Italy, where *la dolce vita* is a Vespa and a scarf wrapped casually around the neck, she believes in this ultimate accessory. Hers range from \$10 to \$85. The jeans offered are for every body type. Literally. Ankle, full length, boyfriend and jegging denims are super stretchy. There is also a travel collection to "wear on the plane or stuff in a suitcase." The jewelry offered ranged from bold necklaces to exquisitely delicate bracelets.

What I loved? The huge silk scarf with a pattern that totally resembled a famous French brand. This one was \$85.

5003 Sherbrooke West. Closed Sundays.

L'Apothicaire WANT

This trendy shop just expanded. Now there is an *homme* and a *femme* side, both offering the iconic leather bags, WANT Essentials created by twin brothers Bryon and Dexter Peart, the visionaries behind the store and the brand. Their leather briefcases, totes and wallets are fashionista favourites. Along with minimalist clothing in monochromatic tones are fabulous shoes. A gold sneaker pair with a large-ish square removable emoticon attached to the laces caught my eye. Store manager Elke Schorer, cool in jeans and a white shirt, showed me the "lifestyle" section: cosmetics (Plasma 27 line), candles (Astier de Villate) and a botanical beauty line

Havana is waiting at Annexe



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here is Havana: A beautiful, sassy and companionable little miss. She is quite a funny and playful white domestic short-hair, wearing a little black hat, mask and cape.

Already three years old, she is healthy, has had all her inoculations and has been spayed. She has great karma and energy. She just wants to play and join in the routine.

Havana is available for adoption from

(Grown Alchemist) – most of which are exclusive to the shop. The walk-up to this area is delineated with framed old floral prints, bringing to mind Florence's famed Pharmacy Santa Maria Novella.

What I loved? The smaller sized black leather backpack. Now my hands are free to text 24/7. Oh. And the Italianate black and white tiling.

4960 Sherbrooke St. Open seven days a week.

the SPCA Annex, and you can find out more about her by emailing annexe@spca.ca. The shelter is located at 7314 Mountain Sights Ave., just south of Jean Talon West. It is open for visits without an appointment from Friday to Sunday, 12 pm to 5 pm, though appointment outside these hours can be made by emailing them.



Walk for the SPCA June 12

Family Day was a great success, very sunny and lots of fun. Our "Neighbour Volunteers for Animal Rescues" table hosted the SPCA Youth Ambassadors, who presented their new program to Westmounters and invited us all to the SPCA annual Snout & About Walk at Mount Royal to benefit the SPCA on Sunday, June 12. For more information, visit www.snoutandabout.ca. Hope to see you there!

Daffodil Ball breaks record, raises \$1.6M, net



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Held on April 14, the annual Daffodil Ball was themed Mardi Gras, bringing all the colour and vibrancy of that famed carnival to Windsor Station. The staging company Décor and More used 800 balloons, 15,000 daffodils and 4,000 ostrich feathers amidst coloured beads (6,000 necklaces) and 400 flashing wands to create a matchless mood.

Ball co-chairs were **Louis Audet**, president and CEO, Cogeco (there with his wife **Jocelyne**); **André Bourbonnais**, president and CEO, PSP Investments, (with **Andrée Dallaire**); and **Alain Champagne**, president, McKesson Canada (attending with his wife **Joanne Bossé**).

The sold-out gala was packed with glamorous VIPs including Westmounters **Angie and Tony Loffreda**, RBC Royal Bank VP; **Elaine and Calin Rovinescu**, Air Canada CEO; RBC Capital Markets vice

chair **Michael Fortier** and his wife **Michelle Setlakwe**; Hydro Quebec board chair **Michael Penner** and **Michaela Sheaf-Penner**, Medisys' CEO **Sheldon** and **Meryl Elman**, CTV's **Mosé Persico**, **Aphrodite Salas** with **Inder Arya**, **Heather Munroe-Blum** and **Len Blum**, as well as SNC-Lavalin chief **Neil Bruce** and **Emma Griffin**, Mirum CEO **Mark Goodman** and his wife plastic surgeon **Sandra McGill**, Hydro Quebec president/CEO **Eric Martel** and **Myriam Chiniara**, Sid Lee CEO **Jean-François Bouchard** and his wife **Manon Brouillette**, president/CEO Videotron; Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec chief **Michael Sabia** with his wife **Hilary Pearson**; Norton Rose Fulbright Canada chair **Norman Steinberg** and **Renée Kessler**; and **Elena and Alfredo Barrios**, Rio Tinto CEO.

Emcee was **Julie Du Page**, stunning in a brightly coloured BCBGMAXAZRIA gown, there with hubby **Andrew Lapierre**, partner at Dazmo with **Iohann Martin**, who attended with his wife **Mitsou Gélina**.

Committee members were led by event planner *extraordinaire* **Alison Silkoff** (in a cobalt blue Badgley Mischka gown) and

included **Sophie Durocher**, **Isabelle Randez**, **Katia Piccolino**, **Martin Rouleau**, **Arièle Ali-Hylands**, **Figi Elman**, **Belle Grivakis** and her daughter **Maria Grivakis**, **Anina Belle Giannini** and **Élodie Meyer**.

Celebrity guest chef **Brian Landry**, flown in from Restaurant Borgne in New Orleans, collaborated with Fairmont the Queen Elizabeth for the NOLA-inspired banquet.

A few details? The main colour of the night was of course yellow. Florist **Yves Chénier** created nine-foot high centerpieces using Wordsworth's famed "host of golden daffodils." Purple and green – masses of beads, acrobats' costumes and boas – added a powerful punch.



From left: André Bourbonnais, Louis Audet and Alain Champagne.

Photos courtesy of the Daffodil Ball.

The opening cocktail featured a wondrous oyster bar and champagne. Hors d'oeuvres were passed on trays covered with sparkles in, yup, green and purple. Then *continued on p. 26*



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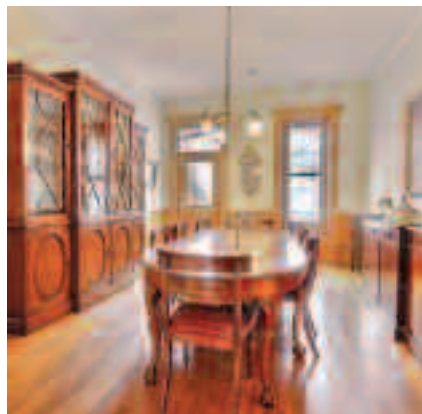
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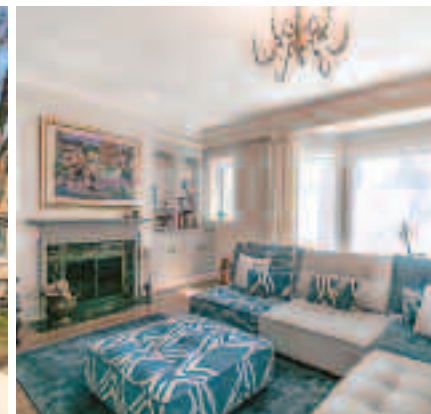
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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 25

there was dinner: grouper crudo with Creole spices and fire-roasted oysters, with Bananas Foster bread pudding with Bayou rum (sigh) for dessert.

Adding to the night were performers on stilts: sensational selfie opportunities. The opening parade with masked revelers handed out masses of coloured beads so

party-goers added them to their emeralds, diamonds and pearls, oh my! LED-lit Light Beings performed for the first time in Quebec. A Dixieland band and Mardi Gras Indians (flown in for the evening) along with DJ Stephanie Blaise added to the fantastic mood.

The over-the-top eve raised a record \$1,600,000 net.



Elaine and Calin Rovinescu.



Alison Silkoff, left, and Julie Du Page.



Tony and Angie Loffreda.



Charles Sirois and Susan McPeak-Sirois.



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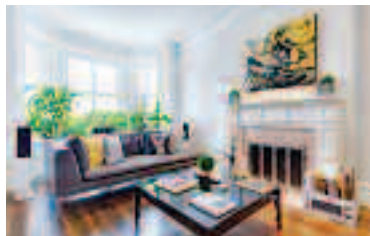
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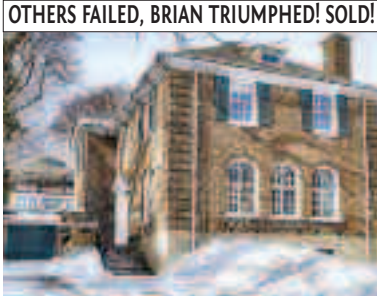
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