

Council rejects 'stumps,' other ideas but allows Mtl. to redo road to oratory

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council voted June 6 to accept a donation from Montreal to replace the paved dead-end stretch of Summit Cresc. north of Devon with a narrowed gravel footpath leading to a pedestrian gate to St. Joseph's Oratory.

The gift, which includes bushes and other plants to naturalize the area, is being undertaken as part of Montreal's "discovery" walking tours linking Mount Royal, Outremont and Westmount's summit planned for its 375th anniversary next year.

The remake of Summit Cresc. is modelled after Westmount's plan to convert the closed north stretch of Summit Circle

to a wide gravelled path and incorporate it into Summit Woods.

At the same time, however, Mayor Peter Trent and Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained how council members had repeatedly rejected a number of man-made elements that Montreal's Bureau du Mont-Royal had wanted installed in Summit Woods as themed markers for the discovery tours called *Escales découvertes* ("Discovery Stops").

"We don't want to integrate any man-made objects of any kind into Summit Woods... an urban wild," Trent stated.

Among ideas that had been proposed were the granite "tree stumps," which came to *continued on p. 20*

Leaping off the old willow



Spotted in Westmount Park June 2 at 5:30 pm was Xavier Ocean Hill, three-and-a-half. He is seen here taking a giant leap off the old willow trunk on the island in Westmount Park's lagoon, while his mum captures the action on her phone.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Letters p. 6
Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 21

City opens up plans for Prince Albert/de Mais., meeting set for June 28

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Preliminary plans for a proposed multi-family residential development at de Maisonneuve and Prince Albert were opened to the public at city hall June 7. This is the first time the city has provided access to plans for a major project at such an early stage.

The unprecedented move is to be followed by another – a public meeting by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) to hear the initial presentation of the project on Tuesday, June 28 at city hall. This is

to take place at the design review committee's usual Tuesday meeting time of 8:30 am.

Councillor Theodora Samiotis announced the news at the city council meeting June 6, saying the proposed development at 4898 de Maisonneuve had become the first application made under the city's new by-law for major development projects at variance with the current zoning.

Notice of the application launched the by-law process for consideration of a "Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy of an *continued on p. 14*

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Renaud becomes permanent



Anne Renaud is congratulated by city council June 6 on her management appointment as executive assistant to Mayor Peter Trent on a permanent basis. She also works for all members of council. Renaud had been appointed on contract in October 2009. "I would be completely lost without her," Trent said.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

WRC rezoning meeting set for June 22 to 'regularize' operation of pro shop, café

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public consultation meeting will take place Wednesday, June 22 at 8 pm at city hall on a draft by-law tabled June 6 to re-zone the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

The change would amend the permitted uses in Zone P1-37-02 to add the commercial uses of “workshop” and “restaurant” as well as its uses as a community park and a municipal building. The WRC is the only building in the zone.

This would “formalize” the presence of

the building and “regularize the current commercial uses: the operation of a café and a pro shop,” explained Councillor Theodora Samiotis in giving notice of motion at the council meeting. She called the commercial uses “secondary” ones.

The Café Mouton Noir opened in January in the entrance pavilion, where provision had been made for a restaurant but had not been occupied as such (see story January 26, p. 2). The café also serves the terrasse area on the arena's green roof.

The by-law would be subject to the referendum process.

**Swimmers ticketed
\$641 each**

Two young men were caught on surveillance camera July 4 swimming in the Westmount pool at 2:20 am, Public Security officials said. The pair, who had climbed the fence, were instructed to get dressed and leave. They were ticketed \$641 each and identified as residents of Beaconsfield and Montreal aged 25 and 26.

Road rage turned over to police

Public safety officers separated a motorist and a cyclist engaged in a conflict June 6 on Sherbrooke St. outside city hall, according to Public Security reports. Witnesses stated the pair had been engaged in conversation as they drove beside each other until the man got out of his car and the cyclist disembarked about 9:59 am. The incident was turned over to police on their arrival.

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Council adds \$270K more for construction on Westmount, Prince Albert

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council June 6 approved close to \$270,000 in additional expenses related to its major road reconstruction projects on Westmount Ave. and Prince Albert.

Of this amount, \$224,238 was added to the contract already awarded last month in the amount of \$2.9 million for Westmount Ave.

This is now required owing to the discovery of “more soil of a heavily contaminated nature than could ever have been anticipated on the city street,” explained Public Works commissioner Patrick Martin. As a result, the soil has to be transported farther afield.

While bore holes had been made before the launch of tenders, he said, it was not until excavation began between Roslyn and Lansdowne avenues that the extent of contamination was uncovered (see photo June 7, p. 8).

This in turn required increasing the amount of the quality control contract to Solroc for onsite supervision by \$8,623 – or 100 additional hours of work. “You have to monitor the removal of contaminated soil very closely,” Martin said. The original contract was \$43,552.

The Prince Albert project required an infusion of \$36,414, in part to replace a valve on the water main that broke unexpectedly at Windsor during water closures due to the construction, he said. This amounted to \$17,942 along with six meters of water main. It was also decided to increase the thickness of concrete to be used in crosswalks.

Streetcar ran along it

Regarding the discovery of the contaminated soil, Martin said this had not been found when Westmount Ave. was reconstructed between Belmont and Argyle, so one “can only try to guess” at the reason. He noted a tramway used to run along this portion.

Martin told the *Independent* June 8 that it had since been confirmed to him that more contaminated soil had been found, though not at the same intensity, in the drilling of new bore holes on Westmount Ave. west of Victoria in advance of work there next summer.

Since the old tramway had extended to Claremont, he said, “it leads to the question of the possible responsibility for costs” by the transit company.

More on bilingual parking signs

Westmount resident Gary Brodtkin asked Mayor Peter Trent at the council meeting June 6 if the city had a timeline for replacing unilingual French parking signs with bilingual ones. He said he knew the council had already dealt with the subject (at its May 1 meeting). He explained there were “people outside protesting” for the change.

Trent reiterated that bilingual signs would be phased in as part of reducing the number and size of signs, but it was not a priority (see story May 10, p. 1). “I don’t think anyone outside or inside will change our minds,” he said.



Gary Brodtkin at council June 6.

The *Independent* saw two people outside carrying signs asking for the bilingual signs. They identified themselves as (English rights activist) Harold Staviss of Hampstead and Sharon Brien.

A third person had also been there, according to Brodtkin – LS



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Bicycle safety courses wrap up at St. Leon’s, Sports & Rec.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two courses geared to helping children become safe cyclists have ended their sessions for the spring – both with the help of the city.

Some 75 students were reported to have graduated from a program operated by Vélo-Quebec at St. Léon school. This was funded for the first time by a \$2,000 grant from the city, whose director general Mike Deegan attended the presentation of certificates. Last year, the course took place as a pilot project. (See June 23, 2015, p. 20.)

In addition, another 25 children aged 8 to 12 completed a program under the city’s

Sports and Recreation department as a bridge to cycling education in schools, according to its instructor Dan Lambert of Lansdowne Ave.

“This year,” he told the council meeting June 6, “representatives of the Contactivity social action committee spoke to the students about care when cycling around seniors who often have reduced hearing, vision and reaction time.”

Lambert, who is president of Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, said the group was planning to approach other schools in the city “with the hope that Westmount could become the first community to offer cycling education at all its primary schools.”

This, he said, “would help ensure that the next generation will be respectful road users, whether on foot, on a bike or behind the wheel of a car.”

The association, Public Security and police from local Station 12 had been providing instruction or assistance at the two courses.

Fallen branch damages car, blocks street

A large tree section was found to have fallen on top of a Mercedes outside 129 Arlington June 6 at 4:27 am blocking the road, Public Security officials said. Because of its position on the car, the tree could not be pushed aside by a loader and had to be cut up.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT IN KEEPING WITH AREA

A review of the SCAOPI application for the Prince Albert/de Maisonneuve condo project leads one to conclude that this project should be rejected by council as the negatives far outweigh the positives.

Calling it a SCAOPI application is a misnomer as the developer requests no “special considerations” but in fact demands a complete ripping up of the existing zoning requirements. No credible case has been made to do so.

Councillor Theodora Samiotis in her column on representative democracy (“A Question of Balance,” April 12, p. 7) listed three key stakeholders whose interests must be considered in a decision. From that perspective:

Adjacent homeowners: Negative. Property values will decline as the six-storey building of plain institutional design with excessive bulk will cut sight lines and won’t be in keeping with the single-family residential properties surrounding the site on three sides. It offers no family presence and will harm quality of life for nearby residents.

Developer: Positive. With the requested zoning change the developer will make a windfall profit.

Westmount community: Mixed but mostly negative. The city may receive more tax revenue.

However, the proposal contradicts its stated mission to preserve built form, existing density and heritage unique to Westmount, goals particularly important to our fragile Victoria village.

Single family residences are ideal in encouraging young families to live in Westmount. Families with children won’t be living in these condos.

Many decades ago, city council rezoned to single-family residences the vast area north of the site, previously zoned industrial. They correctly anticipated what the broader community would value most. Westmount needs single-family residences, not more condos.

This is a perfect opportunity for the city to request a more creative and family oriented approach, one that will enrich our community. Let’s be open to the many other possibilities.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

METER PROBLEMS ARE REAL

Mathew Cope is not looking around when he says that the new parking meters are okay (“No problem with the new meters,” June 7, p. 6).

They are certainly a real problem for anyone who left their glasses at home, suf-

fers from a foggy memory, doesn’t have a pen, is not accustomed to computer quirks or simply has no patience with new systems.

Next, they’ll want a password. On top of that small businesses will also suffer because people from outside of Westmount will avoid coming here because of our non user-friendly Peter Meters.

We are stuck with them now but hopefully the system will eventually be debugged so that when we request English by pushing “2,” it will work the first time

And, please, can we not reduce the many steps to get the wretched ticket? Push this and push that.

As for publishing clear instructions, they are long overdue. Maybe it’s time for the *Independent* to acknowledge the problem and publish an actual article* along with citizens comments.

NICK BARKER, SHERBROOKE ST.

* Editor’s note: To refresh memories, we have published numerous “actual articles” on the subject of the new meters, namely:

“Pay-by-plate change now allows advance payment from 7 am,” May 10, p. 3;

“It’s here – pay-by-plate parking,” May 3, p. 1; and “Confusion on Greene about new parking system,” p. 19;

“Parking inspectors to help out first-time users of new system,” April 26, p. 2;

“Parking system to go live May 2, pay stations being installed next week,” April 19, p. 1;

“Council gears up for arrival of new parking system,” March 15, p. 1.

Stay tuned for more stories. – KM

ACUPUNCTURE VS LYME?

I commend Arlene Rill (“Rill to Montrealers: Lyme is here,” May 31, p. 12) for her public service warning about the danger of contracting Lyme disease from tick bites here in Montreal.

Early diagnostic and treatment with antibiotics is key to prevent life-long effects, as I can say by own experience. Mrs Rill wasn’t so fortunate.

She, as many patients with incurable diseases, has ended up spending her pension in alternative treatments.

I will only address acupuncture because it has achieved unfunded credibility.

More research has been done on acupuncture than on any other form of alternative “medicine,” and some of it has been of quite high quality.

The outcome of all this research is that acupuncture has no effects that are big enough to be of noticeable benefit.

SOLEDAD MIRANDA-ROTTMANN,
GROSVENOR AVE. AND PHD IN THE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE,
UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL

Roslyn School alumni honour two former students



Michael Fieldman, an architect and father of the late Jordan Fieldman, explains plans he drew up for the refurbishment of Roslyn School's health room during a class of 1978 reunion and ceremony held at the school May 27.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Members of the Roslyn School class of 1978 held a reunion and ceremony during a school assembly held in the gymnasium on the morning of May 27 to honour the memory of two former students.

The first, Jordan Fieldman, who would have been 50 years old on the day of the event, was a class valedictorian who went on to earn the same status at Westmount High. He then went to Harvard Medical School, but was later diagnosed with cancer, took six months off for treatment and

returned to his studies where he was again class valedictorian. He passed away in 2004.

Members of his family, who were present during the event, are running a fundraiser to refurbish Roslyn's health room. His father, Michael Fieldman, is an architect who will handle the work. They had raised about \$5,000 at the time.

At the same time, the '78 graduates honoured another classmate who passed away. Fred Levine, an author of children's books, died of a malignant brain tumour

last year. In his memory, his family is donating copies of one of his works, *Triple Trouble: One Good Deed Deserves Another*, for every elementary school in the English Montreal School Board.

Levine's book tells the story, using simple rhymes, of his four children learning how to help each other out of tricky predicaments, with each kindness leading to another. By the end, readers learn that "the moral of this story, and its good advice: whenever you can, do something nice."



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Celebrates recovery with Ironman challenge

10 years later: Quilico out to raise \$10K for Brain Injury Canada

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was 10 years ago that Enrico Quilico's motorcycle and a car collided on the highway leaving the 23-year-old lifelong Westmounter with traumatic brain injuries from which doctors thought he would never recover.

Now, however, through his own determination and support from family and friends, the 33-year-old is marking the 10th

anniversary of the accident May 21 by hoping to raise \$10,000 for Brain Injury Canada by entering the Ironman Triathlon in Lake Placid, NY, July 24.

"Along the road of recovery," he writes on his website gofundme.com/ynxgqens, "the most influential factor that contributed to my ongoing improvement was my excessive involvement in exercise and sports.

"In 2008, I completed my first sprint

triathlon because I wanted the world to know that I made a comeback" (see story September 1, 2009). "To date, I am proud to share that I have successfully completed 16 triathlons, including several half Ironman challenges within and outside Canada."

The Ironman competition – considered one of the most challenging of the triathlons – involves a swim of 3.86 km (2.4 miles), a bicycle ride of 180.25 km (112 miles) and a 42.2 km (26.2-mile) run, all without a break.

60% reached so far

So far, in two months since launching his fundraising, Quilico says he has reached 60 percent of his \$10,000 objective.

Since his recovery he has managed to complete his bachelor's degree in teaching English as a second language and his master's in kinesiology/phys.ed. at McGill. He is currently working with students with severe intellectual disabilities at Options, a program run by the West Montreal Readaptation Centre.

He has taught as a substitute at Selwyn

House, his alma mater, and is currently working at building a program at the downtown Y that would help provide more re-adaptation support for people who have suffered brain injuries once they are no longer followed by the medical health system.

"I can't believe it – still," his mother, Kathryn Stephenson, wife of Mayor Peter Trent, said last week of her son's recovery.



Photo from Enrico Quilico was taken during his participation in the Magog Triathlon last July.



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The Neighbourhood Committee meetings are taking place in the evening, every six to eight weeks, and allow updating the public on work in progress, discussing the residents' concerns and working on implementing common solutions.

The place of residence, the geographic proximity, the availability and the involvement in the community, among others, will be taken into account in choosing the new members. Please note that all presentations at the Committee are in French.

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Québec 

Historically relevant gardens planted at Hurtubise House



On May 17, the Canadian Heritage of Quebec (CHQ), celebrated the inauguration of the Hurtubise House gardens at the oldest house in Westmount, which is on Côte St. Antoine Rd. Residents and project participants were invited to attend a presentation and enjoy refreshments near the gardens. McGill students, led by Julia Freeman and Mariève Isabel, planted vegetables representing the crops that were grown there in the 1800s. From left: Serge Morin, honorary patron of the volunteers for CHQ; Westmounter Doreen Lindsay, past president of the Westmount Historical Association; Mardjane Amin, heritage consultant for CHQ; Jacques Archambault, executive director, CHQ; and Westmount city councillor Cynthia Lulham.

Photo: Matt Faigan

Lindsay receives heritage award

Westmounter Doreen Lindsay was awarded the Marion Phelps Award by the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network in recognition “of outstanding long-term contributions by an individual to the preservation and promotion of anglophone heritage in the province of Quebec.”

Lindsay is recent past president of the Westmount Historical Association (WHA).

She was presented the award June 4 at the organization’s 16th annual convention held in Sherbrooke. The press release described Lindsay as “a leading light at the Westmount Historical Association (WHA).”

The event was attended by a number of WHA directors and members, including city councillor Patrick Martin, according to Caroline Breslaw, who was named WHA’s new president at its annual general meeting May 19.



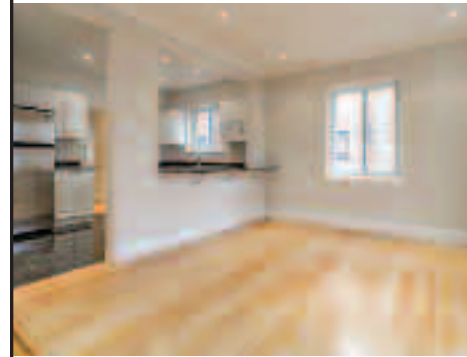
Photo courtesy of Gabor Szilasi

Doreen Lindsay, left, accepts the award from Simon Jacobs, president of the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network.

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TRENDSSETTERS

CONSTANCE MÉDALSY

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

I often run into this lovely blonde lady in local shops. It is a déjà vu, as my daughter (now 30!) and her son played together as infants. I had not seen her in ages. A mother of two sons, this former model lived a life of fashion. Her husband Marc Médalsy designed the collection Marc D’Alcy for years. Constance and Marc commute between Westmount and their house up north, so her wardrobe encompasses town and country. Meet Constance Médalsy.

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style

Classic. I seem always to return to the same hairstyle and to clothing shapes that are uncomplicated. I love colour, and frequently punctuate my dressing with bright accents. So cheerful – especially in our winters!

What is your favourite way of dressing?

Not fussy for daytime. I like nice jeans, a blouse and flats...comfort first. For evenings, I add jewellery, and usually wear skirts and a well-cut jacket. I love scarves, especially when travelling, as they can make one blazer very versatile. And they can add wonderful colour. I love whimsical accessories, such as bright leather gloves and costume jewellery.

On weekends, what do you like to wear?

We spend most weekends at the cottage. That is when I lapse into jogging clothes and t-shirts – again, comfort is not only an absolute, it is a must! Great for puttering, long walks and gardening.

Do you have favourite artists?

My husband Marc and I are both very visual people. I see composition all around me. I love Klimt, Chagall, Louise Scott and many of the Impressionists. I am a romantic, and I love Degas’ ballerinas.

LIVING

If you had a choice, where would you live, money being no object?

London would be my choice in springtime. The season begins months before ours does, and flowers are abundant everywhere: a visual feast. New York for autumn, because it is so electric – and, of course, because my son lives there!

Summers in Montreal for the *joie de vivre* and festivals and the Laurentian lakes. Then winter in the sun: Florida and the Caribbean for its pristine beaches.

What is your favourite flower? Do you like to garden?

My favourite flower is the peony. Robertson Davies referred to it as a “whorish flower.” It has the fragility of a rose but is much more voluptuous. I love lily-of-the-



Constance Médalsy is photographed on the rooftop garden of her condo on Redfern May 31.
Photo: Ralph Thompson

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valley, lobelia, rhododendron. All of these grow in our country garden. Marc is the better gardener. I am the better photographer.

Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone from any era?

Emperor Constantine and Gertrude Bell. Gandhi and Cleopatra. Mohammed and Malala. Christopher Hitchens and Madame Mao. George Clooney and Meryl Streep.

Who are your favourite designers?

Armani, as he does what I call quiet clothes. And of course, my husband Marc d’Alcy’s styling, with beautiful fabrics and excellent tailoring.

What do you think of today’s fashions?

Alas, too many clothes are so poorly finished. It is a race to the bottom with low prices often the motivator. Elegance is rarely seen. On the flip side, fabrics that stretch and breathe are a real bonus for today’s very active woman.

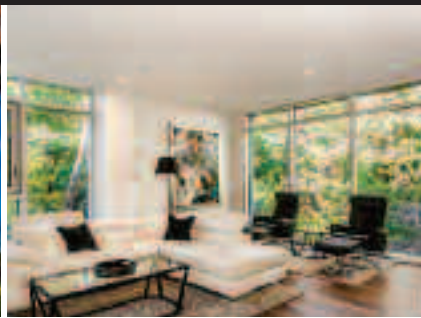
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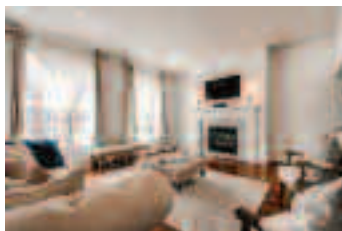
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Couillard keynote at Goldbloom legacy tribute

Quebec premier Philippe Couillard, left, was the keynote speaker May 26 at a Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom event. It was to honour the legacy of the late Victor Goldbloom and the community engagement of the Goldbloom family, including his wife Sheila and their children Susan, Michael and Jonathan, May 26 at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Welcoming Couillard to the podium was Michael Goldbloom in front of about 300 guests. Sitting, left, were Sheila Goldbloom and Amal Elsana Alhjoog, a Bedouin, who was inspired by the friendship and generosity of Victor Goldbloom. She is executive director of International Community Action Network at McGill University. Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Six-storey building to have 2 underground parking levels

cont'd. from p. 1

Immovable" (PPCMOI/SCAOPI).

Details of the plans received by the city June 3 reveal some 20 apartments on five storeys plus a penthouse with two units. Two underground garage levels are marked out for the parking of 38 cars plus mechanical and service areas.

Documentation from the Westmount firm of Philip Hazan Architects also includes renderings, site and floor plans, a heritage report and sun studies along with objectives and an analysis of the project.

The building is named "Park Place" on all renderings.

It is considered non-conforming by virtue of being a six-storey multi-family dwelling in zone R3-27-01, which is limited to lower one-and two-family dwellings. The project's site coverage of 47.8 percent also exceeds the 40-percent maximum.

The property currently consists of a large parking lot and a four-storey commercial building built in two phases in 1955 and 1965. Its vested rights are governed by that continued usage (see story January 19, p. 1).

Under the PPCMOI by-law, ways in which a non-conforming project can ben-

efit the community is a key component for consideration in the approval process.

These are cited in the plans as including the conversion of a commercial property to residential use within a residential neighbourhood, a reduction in traffic flow and overall greening of the site.

The greening aspect refers to "principles" under the standards of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), elimination of the paved parking lot and pads behind numbers 35 and 43 York St., as well as the creation of "a large garden."

The garden is to be located at the southeast corner of Prince Albert and de Maisonneuve, extending into a 30-foot setback along the side street, planted with mature trees.

Other benefits cited include the creation of "new housing options" within walking distance of the Victoria village and the Vendôme Metro station. A "single integrated architectural style" is also described as "enhancing the values of adjacent properties."

Architectural link

The documentation also cited the "complex" issue of "the need to link differences in urban scale" between the buildings of



A rendering of the proposed residential development at 4898 de Maisonneuve by Philip Hazan Design shows a garden at the southeast corner of Prince Albert. The building is being called "Park Place." At the far left is Château Westmount at de Maisonneuve and Victoria. Image courtesy of Peter Smale

More 'Room to Read' after Rialto



Room to Read's fifth annual fundraiser was held on May 25 at the Rialto theatre in the Plateau. This year's party was a "smashing success," according to organizer and Westmounter Leslie Martino, with over 350 guests and more than \$225,000 raised in support of global literacy. The party theme was "Thanks to Education" as the charity is celebrating 10 million children whose lives have been impacted by its literacy and gender equality programming since 2000. In Asia and Africa, the group builds schools, trains teachers, publishes books in local languages and supports teenage girls as they complete secondary school. Mose Persico of CTV emceed the evening. Westmounters on the Room to Read advisory council are Paul Coleman, Martino, Catherine Melling Turner, Catherine Ernst and Scott Henderson. From left, David Reckziegel and Leslie Martino of Westmount, and John Di Geronimo and Cathy Rowe.

Photo courtesy of Willem Westenberg



Left: A photograph of an outline of the proposed new building shows a two-level underground garage plus five floors above and a penthouse. Right: A footprint of the new building looking toward de Maisonneuve shows a garden at the corner of Prince Albert and a 30-foot setback of the building along Prince Albert. The illustrations from Philip Hazan Design are part of the public file at city hall.



five and six storeys at the four corners of de Maisonneuve and Victoria, immediately east, and the row houses on de Maisonneuve west of Prince Albert and the corner garden.

At the public presentation of plans to the PAC, architect Hazan and co-developers Peter Smale and Guy Laframboise (property owner and applicant) are expected to be on hand. Citizens will have an opportunity to voice comments and questions.

Comments also may be sent to the city via the westmount.org website until July 12 using the "SCAOPI" link.

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Never too young to read



On May 12, the Westmount Public Library hosted its final “Babies and Books” class for the year. The session had four gatherings and was hosted in French. On this day, a handful of children’s books were read by Barbara Duchesne to an audience of seven babies, aged zero to 18 months, and their caregivers. In addition to introducing reading to babies, the program is also designed to give new parents tips on reading to the very young. Four different aspects of children’s books were covered: the book as an object, music, relation and imagination/mystery. With every new library membership for a child comes a welcome bag containing books and other baby-friendly things.

Photo: Matt Faigan

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Electrical wire not live

Public safety officers blocked the lane at the rear of the municipal parking lot on Greene Ave. May 30 when an electrical wire fell to the ground, Public Security officials said. It was not live. Hydro Westmount crews were able to tie it around a pole.

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Toddlers now allowed into big pool wearing swim diaper

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the first time since the new Westmount pool opened two summers ago, toddlers are now being allowed to use the big pool as long as they wear a swim diaper, Councillor Rosalind Davis announced at the city council meeting June 6. Previously, they have been restricted to the splash pad.

The change results from a number of requests from parents, she explained. “It’s good news because the sooner kids can learn to float, the sooner they’ll learn to swim.”

Taken to Glen campus from comfort station

A 20-year-old was taken by ambulance to the super-hospital when he was found looking unwell at the comfort station June 4 at 10:20 am. Public Security officials said his speech was impaired and he was unable to provide patrollers with his name or address. It turned out he was diabetic and had not taken his glucose. On arrival Urgences Santé was escorted by officers to the comfort station.

Compressor used to clean loading dock

A complaint about a noisy ventilation unit May 30 turned out instead to be a compressor in use to pressure-clean the loading dock area for Les 5 Saisons in 1250 Greene. Public safety officers answering the call at 7:54 pm informed the complainant, a resident of Olivier, who was reported to be relieved the noise would be ending soon.

The new policy was expected to go into force last week.

While toddlers had been allowed into the old, smaller pool, the volume in the larger one is so much greater that it takes a minimum of 45 minutes to refill it in the event of any accident involving solid matter, she explained.

Swim diapers will be available for sale at the pool desk. Parents whose toddlers are being toilet trained are being asked to be sure one is used, just to be on the safe side.

HYUNTEH KIM

Prenez avis que Hyunteh Kim dont l’adresse de domicile est le 4800 boul de Maisonneuve O, #204, Westmount, QC, H3Z 1M2 présentera au Directeur de l’état civil un demande pour changer son nom en celui de Harry Hyunteh Kim
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Retailers complain of impediments for

Economic development officer

By JOANNE PENHALE

Complaints of high business taxes and frustrations with municipal regulations were amongst the responses when the *Independent* asked several local small business owners about their experiences running their businesses in the city of Westmount. Business owners acknowledged helpful city staff and councillors, though complained of a retail environment too threatening for “mom and pop shops” to survive.

A near-monopoly by Cromwell Management on commercial spaces is reportedly affecting the ability of independent stores to open.

“Monopolization of the streets went under the radar, and it’s too late now,” said Glenn Neven, the owner of Birkenstock Naturino on Greene Ave. and vice president of the Greene Ave. Merchants’ Association, whose members Neven said are too busy on “suicide watch” for their businesses to be able to organize. “Mom and pop shops can’t afford to survive... Westmount should have seen that coming.”

“[Cromwell] has certainly played a role in driving up rents,” said Gail Fellerath, the co-owner of Folklore on Sherbrooke St. in the Victoria village commercial district. “It’s a difficult street for small independent stores.”

“We are upset by this monopoly, but there’s absolutely nothing we can do,” Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent*. “We’ve looked at every single legal angle,” he said, and the city can’t control ownership or occupancies.

Fellerath also noted, “There is no protection at all for commercial renters.”

“As soon as your lease is up [a commercial landlord] can charge you whatever they want,” Fellerath said. Both she and Trent acknowledged this was not a municipal is-



Glenn Neven, owner of Birkenstock Naturino in front of his store on Greene Avenue, May 24. He said it’s difficult for the street’s merchants to keep their businesses afloat.

sue. “It has more to do with the civil code; it’s a provincial responsibility,” Trent said.

He said, however, the city of Westmount is planning to hire an economic development director to communicate with and help retail merchants by this fall, possibly part-time on a one-year contract.

“We think it’s probably a good idea to have someone [working for the city] who is versed in economic development,” Trent said, adding the job description was not yet available.

Regulations ‘arbitrary, strict:’ Koutsos

Some business owners told the *Independent* the city of Westmount’s regulations were arbitrary and strict.

“We’ve never experienced anything more ridiculous than Westmount,” said Lily Koutsos, co-owner of the Greene Ave. café Brioché Dorée with her husband since 2011. She noted her husband has extensive experience as a restaurant owner in Montreal. “During our construction, we had a lot of” *continued on p. 17*

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'mom and pop' shops

to be hired: Trent

issues with Westmount.”

She said, for example, her contractor installed an old toilet for use by workers and that it was always meant to be temporary. “[City] inspectors said it was not up to spec, so they shut down construction,” Koutsos complained. “I lost a whole week for my contractors.”

She said this and other delays caused by the city extended the construction of Brioche Dorée by two months.

More recently, Koutsos said, Westmount did not approve her outdoor seating design, but when she complained and reminded city officials it was the same plan she's used in previous years, Koutsos said she was told, “Oh sorry, it was a misunderstanding,” and the plan was permitted.

Other Vic village experiences

Fashion designer Astri Prugger said she renovated her store on Victoria Ave. 12 years ago.

“It was very frustrating,” Prugger said. “They're inconsistent with their information for renovations.”

“We followed every single little rule,” Prugger said. For example, when doing renovations they had to install a sprinkler system, she said, but has seen other comparable commercial spaces without sprinkler systems.

“We've had them approve things, and then change their minds,” Prugger also said of the city.

“And there's little flexibility in terms of zoning,” she said.

Viviane Nguyen is the owner of Petit Lapin Pâtisserie on Victoria Ave. She noted most of her interactions with Westmount have been smooth, however in 2013 the city denied her a permit to operate because her ceilings were too low.

Nguyen said the minimum ceiling

height is 8 feet for her business, which the city considers a workshop, and the ceiling in her store is between 7 feet and 7 feet 9 inches.

“They were so super strict,” said Nguyen, who is also a notary and said she found out about past businesses that operated in the space as workshops. She said she and her architect wrote letters to the city.

“There was a lot of back and forth and finally they said ‘yes,’” Nguyen said, and she was permitted to open her bakery.

“We've always been very picky about building permits, and that's not going to change,” Mayor Trent said.

Nguyen said she wanted to change the store's facade, which she described as crooked and old, but the city wanted to have it certain way, so she just left it as is.

“We are very proud of the fact that in Westmount we keep strict control of development,” Trent said.

Nguyen said a few times the city has done street work and cut the water to her business, without warning. “We had to run out and buy water,” she said.

“When we cut off the water, we generally inform people before, so I'm surprised,” Trent said.

“We should make sure that sort of thing doesn't happen regularly.”

“The city does mess up from time to time, there's no question,” Trent admitted, but suggested anecdotal complaints reported to the *Independent* were glitches and likely not systemic problems.

Construction on Greene

Tony Fagnoli of Tony Shoes on Greene Ave. – which began in 1937 – said business has been hurt because of the city's years of construction on the street, which is now complete. Many businesses shut down,

and now, he said, “Many places are for rent.”

Both the costs of rent and high taxes prevent new businesses from coming in, said Fagnoli.

Rob Callard has owned the Greene Ave. restaurant Chez Nick since 1995. “The times I have had to ask questions, the councillors have been very forthcoming,” he said.

Fagnoli, Callard and Neven complained of a municipal tax rate that was too high. Callard called the rate exorbitant, saying his taxes have more than quadrupled in the last 20 years.

Trent stressed that the residential tax burden has increased more than for the commercial sector.

He said 27 percent of Westmount's tax revenue comes from the commercial sector, which has been steady since 2009, and down from 32 percent in 2001. Taxes owed are based on municipal assessments, which are done every few years, he said.

“Retail is not healthy in Montreal as a whole,” Neven admitted, and said the increase in online buying and commercial monopolies were major factors.

He said the city of Westmount – which has sometimes been inflexible – should allow terrasses for dining establishments.

Tom Flies, Westmount's assistant director of Urban Planning said the city doesn't prohibit built terrasses.

“A built terrasse would have to go through the design review committee,” he said, and because of the width of most sidewalks in Westmount and the need to ensure space for pedestrians and universal accessibility, a terrasse would likely have to occupy parking spaces.

“Taking away parking spaces for terrasses is obviously a touchy subject,” Flies noted.

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Plantar wart?

It is very common to have plantar warts. A verruca is a viral (VPH) infection of the skin causing a lesion, therefore, has no root per say. The black spots sometimes seen in plantar warts are blood vessels that nourish the lesion. The wart may develop up to 6 months after exposure to the virus. The usual places where my patients get infected with warts are pools, gyms and public places where people walk barefeet. Treatments may vary from over the counter drugstore products to much stronger treatments provided by the podiatrist or the physician. When very resistant, minor surgery may be used.



Did you know?

65% of plantar warts on children's feet may heal on their own within 2 years. (Please note that they stay contagious until resolved).

True or False?

A plantar fasciitis (heel spur) hurts more in the morning. Get the answer in July's article!

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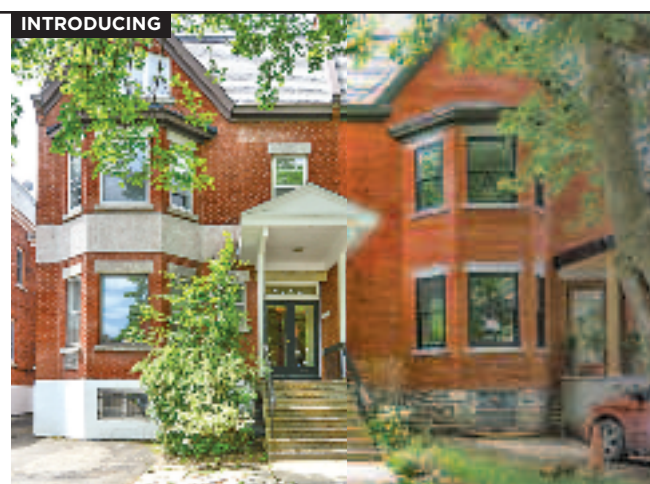
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Summit – a hotbed of city operations, site of mysteries?



Left, members of the fire department are seen May 24 pressure-testing hoses on the blocked off section of Summit Circle. One of the firefighters said that each fire station tests its hoses once a year. Right: A flatbed truck and a loader were used in an operation, the same day, to place cement planters into place to block parking at the Summit lookout.

Photos: WI



This tree stump in Sunnyside Park, left, surrounds a piece of concrete. It looks like a tree grew on top of a lamp base, but a more likely explanation is that the concrete was inserted into a hole to try to preserve the tree. Meanwhile, the Independent noticed a room under the lookout. Hobbits? Both photos were taken on April 14.

Photos: Westmount Independent



History quiz



This photo of horses plowing a field was taken by local Westmount photographer Robert Harvie (1845-1926) in 1893.
Photo courtesy of Doreen Lindsay.

Question: Where were these fields being plowed in Westmount? See p. 23 for answer.

Garbage contractors ring doorbells at 11:35 pm

Many complaints were reported May 26 by Public Security from apartment residents at 250 Kensington over a truck loading garbage at 11:35 pm. When parked cars had made the garbage inaccessible, workers had rung doorbells asking residents to move the vehicles. A ticket was to be sent to the company.

Branch falls on wires

A tree branch was reported to have fallen on electrical wires at 25 Winchester May 29, Public Security officials said. Hydro Westmount was on the scene at 3:57 pm and found no danger existed.

Man falls in Westmount Park, taken to MGH

A 32-year-old man was transported to hospital May 27 after falling in Westmount Park, Public Security officials said. While officers had been answering a call for possible damage to city property at 6:20 pm, they were alerted to the injured man by others in the park. He had sustained a bleeding lip and stated he had had a seizure the night before. Urgences Santé was contacted and the man was taken to the Montreal General.



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



Avis de réception d'une demande de projet particulier de construction, de modification ou d'occupation d'un immeuble (P.P.C.M.O.I.)

La ville de Westmount désire informer toutes les personnes susceptibles d'être intéressées du dépôt d'une demande en vertu du Règlement 1489 « Règlement sur les projets particuliers de construction, de modification ou d'occupation d'un immeuble (P.P.C.M.O.I.) ».

Adresse de l'immeuble : 4898, Boulevard de Maisonneuve Ouest
Westmount, H3Z 1M8

Demandeur : Les Immeubles Laframboise
8130, Chemin Cote de Liesse
Saint-Laurent, H4T 1G7

Toute personne peut consulter sur place les documents fournis dans le cadre de la demande au comptoir du Service de l'aménagement urbain de l'hôtel de ville, situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount pendant les heures d'ouverture, soit du lundi au jeudi de 8 h 00 à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h 00 à 13 h 00.

De plus, en vertu de l'article 2.7 du règlement 1489, le projet sera présenté au Comité consultatif d'urbanisme lors d'une réunion publique ayant lieu le mardi 28 juin 2016 à l'hôtel de ville, situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, à 8 h 30 am.

Des commentaires sur le projet peuvent être émis lors de la réunion publique mentionnée ci-haut, ou sous forme écrite en utilisant le lien suivant : <http://westmount.org/zone-resident/amenagement-urbain/ppcmoi/>. La date limite pour soumettre des commentaires écrits est le 12 juillet 2016. Veuillez noter que la Ville de Westmount ne répondra pas individuellement aux commentaires soumis.

Notice of receipt of an application for a specific construction, alteration or occupancy proposal for an immovable (S.C.A.O.P.I.)

The city of Westmount wishes to inform all interested persons of the reception of an application under By-law 1489 "By-law concerning specific construction, alteration or occupancy proposals for an immovable (S.C.A.O.P.I.)".

Building Address: 4898, Boulevard de Maisonneuve West
Westmount, H3Z 1M8

Applicant: Les Immeubles Laframboise
8130, Chemin Cote de Liesse
Saint-Laurent, H4T 1G7

Any person may consult the provided application documents at the counter of the Urban Planning Department at City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, in Westmount, during regular business hours, from Monday to Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Likewise, in accordance with Article 2.7 of By-law 1489, the proposal will be presented to the Planning Advisory Committee at a public meeting taking place at City Hall, located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount, on Tuesday June 28, 2016 at 8: 30 am.

Comments on the projects can be made at the public meeting mentioned above, or in writing on the city website under the following link: <http://westmount.org/en/resident-zone/urban-planning/scaopi/>. The deadline for the submission of written comments on the project is July 12, 2016. Please note that the City of Westmount does not reply to individual comments.

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Dog walker ticketed twice in 2 days

A man reported to be a dog walker was issued a \$77 ticket June 1 for playing ball with the dog off leash in Prince Albert Park, Public Security officials said. A patroller was dispatched at 10:35 am following a complaint. A ticket had been issued to him for the same offence May 30. He is a resident of NDG.

Gas leaks continue at road work sites

A gas line was ruptured on Westmount Ave. between Roslyn and Lansdowne June 1, Public Security officials said. Firefighters alerted public safety officers to the incident that occurred at about 11:55 am during reconstruction of the street. Two similar incidents had been reported May 19 during work on Prince Albert (see story May 31, p. 4).

.....
Stumps cont'd. from p. 1

the fore recently when critics questioned an expense of \$3.45 million and Montreal mayor Denis Coderre's description of them as "art."

Seats, not art

"They were presented to us as 'seats,'" according to Lulham, who represents Westmount on Montreal's *Table de concertation du Mont-Royal* and its 375th anniversary subcommittee.

This is the committee, she said, that had hired consultants early last year to provide ideas for integrating the discovery tours on all three mountains.

Along with the granite stumps, Westmount's general committee of council had also refused to allow a number of other proposed elements, such as the installation of big signs, rest stops, the marking of exceptional trees, poetry and "plastic things for view-finding and other artificial materials," Lulham said.

The city has agreed, however, to allow two discovery tour indicators to be installed in the sidewalk around Trafalgar, the route to be used by the walking tours to access the summit from Côte des Neiges Rd.

Won't accept Montreal's vision

In minutes of the council's general committee meeting September 8, Lulham is recorded as saying "Montreal's 375th anniversary is being used as a pretext for the city of Montreal to impose its own vision of Mount Royal on the portion located within Westmount."

It was also recorded that "The city will insist that the road behind the oratory be made of gravel."

The *Table de concertation du Mont-Royal* is a group comprising about 40 representatives of groups with interests in the three mountain peaks, such as hospitals, cemeteries and Les Amis de la Montagne, Lulham explains. It meets every two months.

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Looking north June 10 at the stretch of Summit Crescent between Devon and St. Joseph's Oratory that is to be converted into a gravelled foot path.

Portraits of people and pets star at McClure Gallery



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

When we think of pets, somehow cats and dogs come to mind. However, at Westmount's McClure Gallery's exhibit on April 29, a python, horse and puffer fish grabbed the eye.

The show featured the images of photographer **Sergio Veranes**, recently moved to Montreal from Paris, where his portraits have been shown, as well as in Milan, Miami and Panama. He attended with his wife, **Svleta** and children **Tais**, **Sergio**, **Manuel** and **Alexa**.

The event was hosted by Clanimal and organized by **Christopher Baenninger**.

People were invited to take part in a free photoshoot with their pets. As well children took part in an art workshop at the Visual Arts Centre and painted their favourite animal. (Hence the wonderfully colourful-normally-poisonous-but-friendly puffer fish!)

Westmounters featured in the *Vanity Fair*-style black-and-white photos included **Sharyn Scott** with lovable lab **Harry**, **Christina Miller** and her daughter **Justine** with their long-haired dachshund **Tucker** and **Jennifer Campbell**, with her little white bundle, as well as former local res **Andy Nulman** shown with **Rawqui** and **Shaydee**.

The photograph "Nora, Daria and Brownie" showed two sisters with a coiling python, whose name – despite its beautiful coloration – was **Brownie**. In "Kimberley and Gator," one of the few colour images, Veranes photographed a horse with perky, attentive ears, leaning towards his owner (Kimberley) in his stall, a lovely natural light showcasing the moment.

The evening was packed. Although guests were asked not to bring their pets, the children's area of art works had many little fuzzy bunnies, teddy bears and soft toys clutched by grandmothers and proud petit perambulators. The cuddly animals were the perfect "pet" for nervous young artists, who excitedly showed their drawings: cats, a peacock, rabbits, dogs and a fat fish.

Clanimal president **Bernard Raymond**

brought a friendly gentle giant, his gorgeous massive black Great Dane, clothed in a Canadiens doggie sweater. Well behaved, he sat on a very large cushion and watched with soulful black eyes.

Noted in the crowd were **Hunter Scott** and **Olga Martin**, photographers **Linda Rutenberg**, **Lynne Nulman**, author and journalist **Marie-Claude Ducas**, **Bradley Grill**, **Marie** and **Romain Duburcq**, **Fabien Ricard**, **Louise Guay**, **Daniel Cianfarra** with **Sara Fugulin** (both very Italian in leather and scarves, looking like they just hopped off a Vespa!) and McClure executive director **Victoria Leblanc**.

.....
continued on p. 22



Sergio and Svleta Veranes.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 21

Clanimal is a reference centre for animal owners wanting to learn about issues such as food and training.

\$2K in damage

Garden lights were pulled out of the ground in front of a house on Westmount Ave. near Carleton June 4, Public Security officials said. The vandalism took place between 11 pm the night before and 8:30 am the next morning. Damage was reported at \$2,000.

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Chris Baenninger and Sharyn Scott.



Andy and Lynne Nulman.



Bradley Grill and Jennifer Campbell.

Grad party too noisy at 5:41 pm

A CEGEP graduation party on Shorncliffe generated a complaint about loud music June 3 at 5:41 pm, Public Security officials said. Loud music could be heard when officers arrived. It was subsequently lowered.

Found sanding balcony too early

Residents of Kensington Ave. were stopped from sanding a balcony, June 4 at 7:25 am, Public Security officials report. They claimed not to know about the Saturday start time of 8 am. They were given a verbal warning.

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In the spirit of planting

Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

DOREEN LINDSAY



Question (from p. 19): *Where were these fields being plowed in Westmount?*

Answer: *Along the Côte St. Antoine Rd. between Grosvenor and Roslyn avenues.*

Today, two blocks west of where this photo was taken, Westmount residents can admire the new vegetable gardens planted on May 14 in front of the old stone Hurtubise family farmhouse at 563 Côte St. Antoine Rd., corner Victoria.

The Canadian Heritage of Quebec, which has owned this 277-year-old farmhouse for 60 years, planted raised gardens of beets, cucumbers, carrots, parsnips, leeks and Iroquois corn to show the public what had been grown on the Hurtubise farm from 1873 until 1893 when the last cultivateur of the Hurtubise family died.

Benefitting from living on the southern slope of the mountain, Westmounters

have always found a way to plant their own vegetables. I read in the *Westmount Examiner* of 1947 that local gardeners were very active. "About 100 Westmount gardeners are hard at work cultivating their own plots of land. Westmount does not have a centralized garden, so Westmounters manage to produce excellently on vacant lots and areas which are plowed for them in the Fall." These "Thrift Gardens" were a continuation of the Victory Gardens people

maintained during the war years.

200 years ago

Two hundred years ago, Hugh Gray wrote about Montreal in his *Letters from Canada, During a Residence There in the Years 1806, 1807, and 1808*, "where both soil and climate combine to produce the finest fruit I have ever seen. The apples are particularly good. The *pomme de neige*, so called from its being extremely white, and from its having the granulated appearance of snow when broken. It also dissolves, almost entirely in the mouth like snow. The *fameuse*, *bourassa* and *pomme gris* are very fine apples. Peaches, apricots and plums, are found in the greatest perfection... Currants, raspberries, gooseberries and every sort of small fruit are found in great abundance."

Today

Nowadays, local residents who have no space to grow their own vegetables and flowers can plant them in the two local community gardens at Hillside or Hallowell behind Westmount High School.

Is it coincidental or is it the heightened awareness of today's residents to want to

recapture the original vegetables of the past that inspired the Atwater Library and the Westmount Public Library to develop a seed lending library? (See story May 10, p. 7.)

And if you do not have space in your garden, just walk to the nearest park. The Westmount Public Works gardeners have planted beets, cabbage, kale, swiss chard and strawberries in our local parks for your pleasure as part of a project called "Incredible Edibles Westmount."

Doreen Lindsay, past president of the Westmount Historical Association.



Three young volunteers from Canadian Heritage of Québec prepare onions for planting in front of the Hurtubise House on May 14, three days before the official opening. Mardjane Amin, on the right, researched the project and presented her findings at the opening. See story, p. 9.

Four seen lighting a 4th garbage fire

A fire in a blue recycling bin was put out by public safety officers in the lane behind 4100 Sherbrooke June 3, according to Public Security officials. It was a fourth such garbage fire in Westmount in a week (see story June 7, p. 20). When officers arrived at 3:40 pm, they could see smoke coming from the bin and used an extinguisher from the patrol vehicle to put the fire out. Video footage was reviewed showing four individuals believed responsible.



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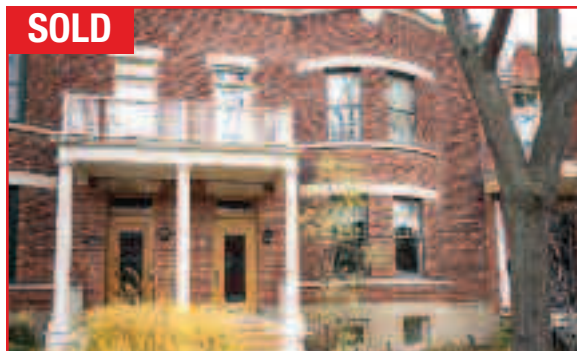
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