WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount Weekly. Vol. 10 No. 6c June 21, 2016

Narrowing of Dorchester, building heights proposed minus bike path

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A preliminary concept to reconfigure Dorchester and redevelop the parking lot area north to Tupper was unveiled by the city to some 30 residents and other stakeholders June 14. Held at Centre Greene, it was the second public consultation on this issue this year.

The redesign focused on narrowing Dorchester and the median by 36 percent, adding pedestrian crossings and replacing the curve into Clarke by a right angle.



Westmount Page p. 12

Mood of the market BY A. Dodge p. 13 Letters p. 4

Social Notes by V. Redgrave p. 15



Also proposed was allowing housing of three and four storeys on the north side of the street, along with five- and six-storey buildings of mixed use rising behind them on Tupper as a transition to commercial St. Catherine St.

Some citizens were quick to point out the exclusion of a bike path and green spaces as previously requested or new ways to increase accessibility to the commercial district (see story January 26, p. 6).

"It's making the area urban dense," said Tony Kez of Dorchester. "I don't see how this connects with St. Catherine. It's dangerous for cyclists." There was nothing "modern" continued on p. 6

Merchants' street fest buzzing



Phoenix, a 6-year-old shiba inu, gets lots of attention from passers-by June 18. He is seen here with Pampered Pets owner Maria Ranieri, left, and her staff. See p. 10-11. Photo: RalphThompson

Last time for a mailed activities guide

Rec programs filling up for fall, but still time for residents to register

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two weeks after the fall and winter activities' guide for Sports and Recreation was delivered to Westmount residents, a number of programs were reported to be almost full. Local residents still have until Tuesday, August 23, however, to sign up for activities where space remains before these are opened to non-residents, officials

This is the last time such a book is to be printed and sent to every home.

Nevertheless, "We still plan to send out a postcard in a general mailing to residents notifying them ahead of time of registration dates," said Andrew Maislin, department operations manager.

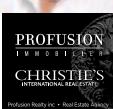
The plan to discontinue the costly printing and distribution of the 40-page bilingual guide with registration form is due mainly to the growing use of online registration with the listing of programs, he explained.

"The reason registration is taking place so early," he continued on p. 17



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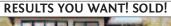
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Where to lock bikes 'til then?

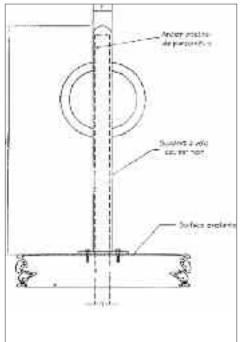
Bike racks coming for 'de-headed' meter poles at end of July

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council approved the purchase June 6 of 85 bicycle racks for installation in various areas of the commercial districts where the former parking meters were lo-

The racks were chosen to fit over the meter poles that were de-headed after the implementation of the pay-by-plate parking system or be installed nearby anchored in concrete. Both types are similar in appearance and have circular fixtures to which a bike can be attached.

The racks are expected to be delivered and all installed by the end of July, accord-



Drawing from council agenda papers shows how the bike stand would fit over the meter pole like a sleeve with a circular attachment for bicycles.

ing to Public Works director Patrick Raggo. The purchase contract, lowest of three bids, was awarded to Tessier Récréo-Parc for the total amount of \$31,083, a unit cost of \$366.

In meantime

In the meantime, one cyclist told the *In*dependent she now has nowhere to lock her bike after riding to work. She asked why the meter heads – or at least some of them - had been removed before the new bike racks had arrived.

Public Security director Greg McBain said the meter heads had all been taken away as part of a package deal involving the contract for the new parking system.

Bicycles could still be attached to city sign poles depending on the type of lock used, he explained. "We're asking that they not be attached to trees." This is to protect the trees from damage.





Inebriated man wanders onto **Anwoth property**

An inebriated man was sent home in a taxi to NDG June 11 when found wondering onto private property on Anwoth at 6:12 am. Public Security officials said he had been seen walking around erratically and was kept under surveillance. When he went onto the property, he was identified and sent home. No damage was found to the property, but the resident was informed of the incident.

House damaged on Lansdowne

Damage to the front of a property on Lansdowne Ave. June 9 was possibly caused by a construction truck going over the lawn, Public Security officials report. Checking out the call from a resident at 10:02 pm, officers found damage to trees, a retaining wall, grass and front stairs. There were no witnesses, and it was not known whether the truck had been working somewhere on the street or on the reconstruction of Westmount Ave. immediately south.











Publisher's note

Canada Post strike? We will deliver

Canada Post, which delivers our newspaper door to door, may soon experience labour disruptions due to a lock-out or strike. We have contingency plans in place.

House and duplex residents

Residents of houses and duplexes should receive their *Independent* by Friday at 5 pm, regardless of Canada Post labour issues. If you don't, please call me. We may have a few kinks to work out the first few times.

Apartment and condominium dwellers

For apartment and condo residents, in the first week, we will target Westmount's largest buildings with a stack of newspapers for your lobby. Please alert your doormen and staff if you would like to receive newspapers. As things go on, every apartment building should get its own "drop" of papers. Please call me if you want the paper and are not getting it.

Drop sites, emailed newspapers and website

Existing drop sites (municipal buildings, Metro grocery store, Tabagie Westmount Square etc.), the emailed newspaper list and the website will be maintained as is.

As usual, we will take a break in July. Our last issue is July 12. Our first issue back is August 9.

Thank you for your help and patience at this time. We wish management and labour at Canada Post all the best.

> David Price, Publisher 514.935.4537

david.price@westmountindependent.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GIVE IT A FEW MONTHS

One last kick at the can from me. Nick Barker says I'm not looking around and seeing the problems some users are having with the new meters ("Meter problems are real," June 14, p. 6). Perhaps he's not seeing what I actually said. For instance, he doesn't address the inherent practicality and fairness of a pay-by-plate system, nor does he have anything to say about the app.

I did acknowledge in my previous letter that a number of drivers are having difficulties with the pay stations (as opposed to the system itself). Mr. Barker suggests that

some may have left their glasses at home. Or that they may have a foggy memory. Or that they may not have a pen, aren't computer savvy or don't like anything new.

These may be genuine concerns to certain individuals using the system for the first few times, but they are entirely subjective and easily remedied. They're also pretty hard to take seriously as grounds for condemning the whole system.

Give it a couple of months, and all this will be second nature. Or, if you have a smartphone, you can bypass all of the problems Mr. Barker cites by simply using the app.

MATTHEW COPE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

She wrote "After arriving in Kathmandu,

News from Nepal

the group began trekking from Lukla, high in the Solu Khumba region of the Himalayas up to Kunde, where the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada was celebrating the 50th anniversary of the construction of the first hospital in the region. Nepal only began to open up to the world after Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first men to summit Everest." In the photo, Westmounter and Scout

leader Douglas Leahey can be seen at the Hillary Lookout, where local monks performed a commemorative ceremony as part of the Kunde celebrations.

She reported that the group had spent several days planting thousands of seedlings in a neighbouring valley along with local staff associated with a hydro project.

Elliott also wrote that the group was to be working "on some of the restoration of buildings that are replacing those damaged in last year's earthquake.

The mission is called "Rover Scout Yeti Challenge" and has received the support of Scouts Canada, messengers of Peace and the Scouting Brotherhood, and corporate and personal supporters. (See story March 8, p. 4.)



Photo courtesy of V. Elliott

A photo sent by Westmounter Virginia Elliott shows a group of 10 Rover Scouts, who had been in Nepal at the end of May. She reported that they had been acclimatized to the "high altitudes and the Nepali way of life."

WESTMOUNT **INDEPENDENT**

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

Publisher: David Price EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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

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Says city should have told her

Permit for rooftop addition 'shocks' York St. neighbour

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A building permit to convert the former radio station building at 35 York to duplexes raised the concerns of a neighbour June 6 as city council was poised to approve the proposed work.

Pat Donnelly asked city council during the question period to provide more details for residents of the triplex condos immediately east on the north side of York.

The work permit was described on the agenda as "to transform a commercial building into residential, build an addition on the roof, an underground garage, reconfigure front steps and replace windows."

Donnelly said she was particularly concerned by "something being built on the roof" in terms of potential loss of privacy and of sunlight. Her third-storey condo currently overlooks the roof of the two-storey building at 35 York.

She was also worried about reports she had heard about the closure of a laneway, which would leave her building "boxed in" and inaccessible to emergency vehicles.

"It's primarily indoor work... and a roof deck," Councillor Theodora Samiotis replied, assuring Donnelly the lane would not be closed. A small roof addition would

service the roof deck garden.

But Donnelly, who was shown the plans at city hall two days later, told the *Independent* she was "shocked" to discover the roof addition had been considered as a setback "third storey" onto which her kitchen window would face.

"The kicker was that this is all legal," she said. Her problem stems from the current differences in height between the two buildings and that she had not been informed of the plan before the permit was approved. She hoped some changes could still be made.

Since speaking with co-developer Peter Smale, she said she had been reassured that the part she was worried about could be changed, "and I am cautiously optimistic it will not come to pass."

Donnelly said that even in the case of a relatively minor project the city should have informed her, as the immediate neighbour, of the plan before the permit was approved in the hopes changes could be made.

The conversion of 35 York follows the move of radio station CFMB and purchase of the building by Guy Laframboise, who also owns the property behind at 4898 de Maisonneuve (see story May 31, p. 10).



The two-storey building at 35 York (left) abuts the three-storey condo building whose top floor looks directly onto the roof where an addition is planned.

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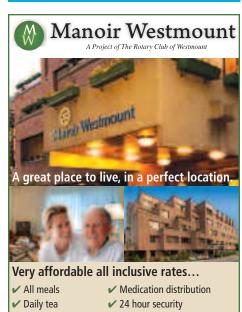
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Citizens pose many questions on

cont'd. from p. 1

about the plan, he said, in relation to current planning trends emphasizing green spaces.

Some other residents, however, appeared to accept the general concept as detailed by Urban Planning assistant director Tom Flies in a slide presentation.

Correct model

"I think the city model is correct," said architect Bruce Anderson. But he doubted there was sufficient space as depicted in a rendering to fit in both a row of larger mixed-use buildings on the south side of Tupper behind a row of lower residential ones fronting on Dorchester.

Still others in the audience expressed some confusion and frustration over the conceptual aspect and a lack of specifics.

How many years will all this take? Will there be construction on weekends? Would the city indemnify homeowners whose old homes were damaged by vibrations? How will all the displaced and other parking fit underground? How will the new buildings harmonize with the architecture of the older homes on the south



Animator Jacques Bénard answers concerns from the audience June 14.

side of Dorchester?

"The people who live on Dorchester should have a vote" on what's built across the street from them, said one resident.

"This is an exercise in how to connect

one part of the city with another, not how to fill space," explained District 8 Council-

lor Theodora Samiotis. "We're going to come back [at another meeting] in the fall and continue the discussion with more information at our fingertips," concerning studies on traffic and infrastructure.



"I appreciate the frustration some Councillor people have when Samiotis, June 14. you don't have all

those elements," she added. Addressing the comment on densification, she pointed out the concept proposed was a much lower density than a city recommenda- continued on p. 7



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preliminary concept for SE redevelopment

tion in the 1960s for apartment towers.

Preferred scenario

The current concept was described as the "preferred scenario" of a task force of city officials and seven local residents. It was, however, the only one shown addressing the project vision: "to recreate a street configuration of local scale, a liveable, secure and green neighbourhood."

"I think the city has made an amazing effort," said one of the task force volunteers. "A nice environment on Dorchester is the goal."

Public Works director Elisa Gaetano explained how the city was currently conducting traffic studies to monitor traffic capacity on Dorchester.

"I don't envy you doing a traffic flow study now when the traffic changes from one minute to the next with the Turcot work," said Mary Rivard-David, who lives on St. Antoine St. in the midst of the construction zone.

Another asked what would happen to major buildings in the area as occupants moved out.

She named the former Montreal Children's Hospital building (now vacant), the Y residence on Tupper after the Module du Nord leaves this year and the bank processing centre at Tupper and Atwater when the Royal Bank moves out next year (see story May 31, p. 3).

"There's no question, there are a lot of moving parts," Samiotis replied.

Missed opportunity

John Fretz said he was "flabbergasted" at the lack of a bicycle path or the use of some land for green space. "Doesn't anybody need parks?" he asked.

The lack of a bike path was "a missed opportunity," when the city is already reconfiguring an artery, said Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount.

A new bike path could link up with those on de Maisonneuve and Côte St. Antoine and future ones already contemplated for Atwater, Greene and René Lévesque. "If we don't offer that opportunity, it won't happen," he said. "It starts when someone starts it."

The notion of a bike path had been discussed by the task force, which decided it was not a good idea for safety reasons, replied animator Jacques Bénard of H+K consultants. It was understood this related to pedestrian safety, walkability being one of the goals of the project.

The narrowing of Dorchester each way to exactly one traffic lane and one for parking, however, was "scary" for a cyclist, said

Patricia Dumais of Greene Ave. "There's no way for me not to be doored."

Another speaker appealed for a bike path so she and her child could cycle to the Westmount pool.

Maureen Kiely, past president of the Westmount Municipal Association, said she agreed that a bike path was needed.

After listening to all the concerns and opinions about the concept, however, "It is going to be very beautiful along Dorchester," said architect and task force member Miguel Escobar on leaving the meeting. The challenge is that "everyone wants something different."

Introducing the task force

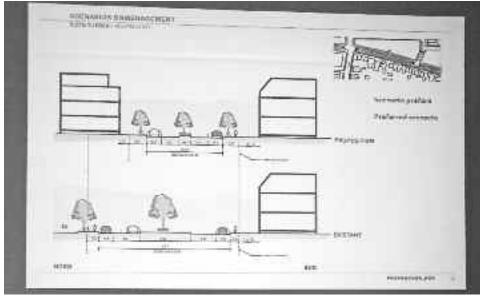
Seven volunteer members of the city's Southeast Task Force, who represent residents of the "SoDo" district south of Dorchester were introduced at the public consultation meeting.

They are Jocelyne Andrews, former city councillor George Bowser, Patrice Corriveau, Yannick Duval, Miguel Escobar, Kathleen Kez and Sara Pedersen.

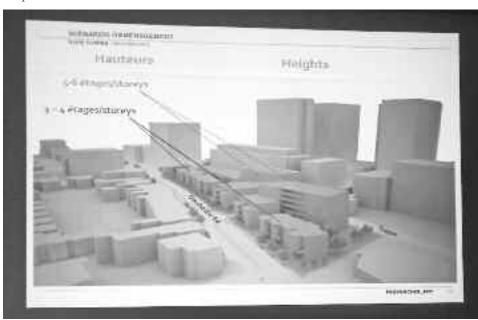
Representing the city are Councillor Theodora Samiotis (Urban Planning commissioner), department director Joanne Poirier, assistant director Tom Flies and, from Public Works, assistant director Elisa Gaetano and junior civil engineer Michel Gagné.

The task force was reported to have met three times since its formation in January to create the proposed concept based on the development vision and input from citizens at the first consultation, a workshop January 19.

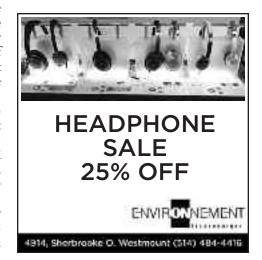
They are now scheduled to meet again on comments heard at the second consultation.



A slide from the city's presentation shows a narrower Dorchester and median (top) at 13.2 meters, compared with what exists at 22.1 meters.



Another rendering looking west along Dorchester shows proposed housing of three and four storeys with buildings of mixed use behind them on Tupper.





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PAC members shouldn't vote: Martin

Entire council to assume role of Demolition Committee

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Thirty years after it was created, Westmount's three-member Demolition Committee is to be replaced by the city council itself.

At the council meeting June 6, Urban Planning commissioner Theodora Samiotis provided notice of motion of the intention to adopt a by-law amendment to change the composition of the Demolition Committee.

Noisy party host ticketted

A ticket for \$149 was issued June 12 to the host of a noisy party on Strathcona, Public Security officials said. Patrollers had provided an initial warning earlier asking for the 100-plus guests to go inside but returned at 12:12 am following numerous complaints.

Rear-ender inebriated?

A Public Security patroller came upon an accident at 1:48 am June 12 on Sherbrooke near Grosvenor. Officials said a car had been stopped at a red light when it was rear-ended by one driven by a woman suspected on driving under the influence. The incident was turned over to police.

Wires spark on Upper Roslyn

A cube truck backed into a driveway at 719 Upper Roslyn June 9 hooking electrical wires, Public Security officials said. The accident resulted in a call to patrollers at 1:57 pm for sparking wires. No immediate danger was reported.



RBQ# 8361-4172-01

Under the existing process, the decisional committee of three designated council members hears arguments for and against demolishing an entire building or at least 50 percent of the façade and assesses the replacement project as recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Its decision could be appealed to the city council as last occurred three years ago. This involved demolition of the former Vanguard School to make way for the now completed condo project at 175 Metcalfe. Residents across the street wanted it scaled back in size (see story August 27, 2013, p. 1).

As a result, when council heard the appeal, the plan had already been re-worked to show a building lowered by 15 feet with a reduced number of proposed units and other modifications.

Trent agrees

Under the current proposal, the demolition request plus replacement plan would go straight to the council, eliminating the initial step – a change which makes sense, Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent*.

In the first place, he recalled, it was when he was commissioner of Urban Planning in the mid-1980s that he introduced the creation of a demolition committee to protect the heritage aspect of Westmount homes and other buildings. Other safeguards are now in place for this

Moving truck loses air

A moving truck became stuck under the railway bridge on Greene Ave. at Prospect June 10, Public Security officials said. Patrollers found the driver taking air out of the tires at 8:23 am and blocked traffic until enough had been released to lower the truck and dislodge it. CP police were called to check out the condition of the bridge.

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purpose, he pointed out.

Since any project involving demolition is a major one and ultimately requires the approval of the council to obtain both demolition and building permits, "it's two sides of the same coin," he said.

While "an appeal doesn't make sense," he added, the decision of council could still be subject to an appeal to itself. "Anybody can ask council to review a permit refusal, be it a building permit, or, in this case, a demolition permit."

PAC members shouldn't vote

Councillor Patrick Martin, a former chairman of the Demolition Committee, agrees with Trent. He spoke in favour of the change at the council meeting but as long as a quorum of council needed for a vote did not include council members who sit on the PAC.

"What I'm hoping is that we won't see people on both sides of the table," he explained.

This, he said reiterating previous concerns, can present a conflict of interest since the PAC recommends projects for demolition as well as their replacement project (see also story January 20, 2015, p. 3).

No restriction has been made in the past, however, on the ability of the PAC representatives to vote on demolition or permit approvals by the council.

In reply to Martin, Samiotis maintained

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Detailed, Personal 12-month Forecast: fully explained

it was important to have PAC represented on a demolition committee "to ensure continuity."

Since a draft of the proposed by-law was not presented at the meeting, it was not known how a quorum would be defined or what provision might be made for an appeal process.

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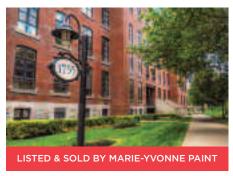
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INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT **\$1,295,000**



"LOFTS REDPATH", SOUTH WEST **\$975,000**



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Carnival-like atmosphere rocks Vic village

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Victoria Village Merchants' Association geared up for a busy weekend June 17 through June 19 with rock bands and belly dancers, lots of yummy grub, kids' entertainment and activities. There was also the traditional sales by merchants who set up tables outside their shops. The weather was perfect especially for ice cream vendors such Le Glacier Bilboquet and Dairy Queen. Food trucks and shop-front BBQs had line-ups, and the sidewalks were packed with bargain hunters. The party atmosphere as palpable.

While some turned their body upsidedown (background), others turned technology on its head, June 18 during the street festival. Logan Sacco, left, and Mike Long type out haiku's on old typewriters outside Lululemon Athletica on Sherbrooke at Prince Albert. Their poetry can be found Twitter @thehaikuguys and # freehaiku.



Four young entrepreneurs sell lemonade and other homemade concoctions June 18 on Victoria Ave. From left: Sisters Zoë (8) and Isabel Adair (10), Katarine Robinson (9) and Roxane Drummond (9). They money raised was to be donated to help save one of the rarest animals on earth, the white lion, of which only 13 remain in the wild in South Africa presently, according to www.whitelions.org.



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during merchants' festival

Shoppers swarmed around the Ben & Tournesol and W&A booths in front of their storefronts on Sherbrooke June 17. Sisters Jody and Cheryl Sokoloff couldn't quite decide among the decorated plates and mugs.

Grosvenor has its own party



South-of-Sherbrooke Grosvenor residents participated in a block party June 18. The tree-lined street provided plenty of shade for a multitude of activities on a hot summer day, ranging from water fights to Cuban singer Ariel Rivero, and a Suzuki violin performance presented by 92-year-old Alfred Garson and his students. There were home-grown tomato plants, hot dogs and Montreal micro brewery beer from Bierbrier. It was coordinated by Marina Brzeski and other Grosvenor Ave. neighbours. Seen here were tango dance teachers, Peruvian Roxana Molinie and Russian Eugène Kritchevski performing traditional waltz, milonga and tango



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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Horaire estival

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.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Défi Instagram

Familles à vos marques! Suivez la Bibliothèque sur Instagram @BiblioWestmount. Partagez une photo de votre endroit préféré pour lire dehors, dans la nature. Il peut s'agir de votre cour arrière, d'un parc, ou encore du terrain de camping - laissez votre imagination vous guider. Utilisez le mot-clic: #BPWlecture2016. Info: 514-989-5229.

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.

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 28 juin, 19 h. *Fun Home* par Alison Bechdel. Animation: Claire Holden Rothman. 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 sont en cours.

Storywalk® Avec Stella, fée des forêts

Du 30 juin au 9 juillet, Parc Westmount. Amuse-toi à l'occasion du lancement de notre Storywalk® le 30 juin lors du camping dans le Parc Westmount. Cet été, nous présentons *Stella, fée des forêts* de l'auteure lauréate Marie-Louise Gay. Partage tes photos en utilisant le mot-clic: #BPWStorywalk. Info: 514-989-5229.

Atelier collage (6 ans et +)

Le jeudi 7 juillet, 16 h à 17 h, Salle Westmount. Apprends des techniques de collage cool avec Virginie Egger, une experte qui est aussi l'illustratrice du Club de lecture TD cette année! Info: 514-989-5229. Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 4 juillet

Camping dans la bibliothèque après la fermeture (8 à 13 ans)

Le samedi 9 juillet, 18 h à 22 h. Sois des nôtres pour une soirée de chansons, d'histoires et de *smores*! Info: 514-989-5229.

Journée « À vos marques, prêts, lisez! »
Le samedi 25 juin. Partout au Canada, la Journée
« À vos marques, prêts, lisez! » du Club de lecture
d'été TD soulignera le lancement officiel du Club.
Activités spéciales : Lis tes amendes! - Tu peux
effacer tes amendes par la lecture. Tente de
lecture - apporte ton livre et viens relaxer dans notre Tente de lecture. Kiosque photo - Déguise-toi en
bûcheron et prends ta photo à côté de notre cabane
en bois rond (costumes fournis)! Double tes billes
du Club de lecture d'été TD - Le 25 juin seulement!

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Info: 514-989-5229.

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° anniversaire de notre pays. Réservez votre site avant le 23 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 du 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.

HYDRO WESTMOUNT

Vous déménagez?

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.

LIBRARY

Instagram Challenge

Hey Families! Follow the Library @BiblioWestmount on Instagram. Post a picture showing us your favourite spot to read outdoors in nature. Maybe it's the backyard, a park, or out camping - let your imagination go wild. Use the hashtag #WPLreading2016. Info: 514-989-5229.

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.

English Book Club

Tuesday, June 28, 7 p.m. Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. 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 is underway.

Storywalk® with Stella, Fairy of the Forest

June 30 to July 9, Westmount Park. Enjoy our Storywalk® launch at the Campout in Westmount Park on June 30. This summer, we will feature award-winning author, Marie-Louise Gay's Stella, Fairy of the Forest. A Storywalk® is a fun activity that places a children's book along a path in the park. Share your photos with us using the hashtag #WPLStorywalk. Info: 514-989-5229.

Collage Workshop (6 years and +)

Thursday, July 7, 4 to 5 p.m., Westmount Room. Learn some cool collage techniques from Virginie Egger, an expert and this summer's TD SRC illustrator! Info: 514-989-5229.

After hours campout in the library (8 to 13 yrs old) Saturday, July 9, 6 to 10 p.m. Join us for songs, stories, and smores! Info: 514-989-5229.

Next Council Meeting Monday, July 4

"Get Your Summer Read On" Day

Saturday, June 25. "Get Your Summer Read On"
Day is the official registration "kick off" for the 2016
TD Summer Reading Club across Canada. Special
Activities: Read Away Your Fines! You can read
down your fines that day. Reading tent – cozy up
with your book inside our Reading Tent!
Photo Booth – Dress up as a Lumberjack and have
your photo taken next to our log cabin (costumes
supplied)! Double Your TD Summer Reading Club
beads – June 25th only! Info: 514-989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fête de la Saint-Jean in Westmount

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

Campout in Westmount Park

Thursday, June 30 from 4 p.m. Rain or shine! Celebrate our country's 149th birthday by camping in Westmount Park. Reserve your tent space by June 23rd. 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.

HYDRO WESTMOUNT

Are you moving?

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





May sales: Volume soars



Mood of the Market

Andy Dodge, CRA

Volume soared in May real estate in Westmount, with 26 one- and two-family sales compared to only 15 per month in the previous two months. That is the most we have recorded in a month since May of 2011, and one of the busiest months in recent Westmount history.

All but five of the sales cleared the \$1-million mark, and four were for more than \$2 million, with the top price at \$3,200,000.

The lowest price was \$652,500, and two

others were for less than \$800,000. Seven sales were logged at prices below municipal evaluation, the lowest at only 68 percent of tax value, while one house below Sherbrooke St. sold for 91 percent *above* the city figure, by far the highest mark-up of the month.

So far this year, agents have logged nine sales over \$2 million, of which six have been for less than tax value, compared to an average mark-up of eight percent, so there is every indication that the gap between the more expensive houses and the mid-range homes is narrowing somewhat.

Still, the fact that the May list includes four of the nine sales over \$2 million might mean that the market for these houses is starting to come back.

Also sold in May were four condominiums – three apartments and a portion of a former triplex – and one co-operative apartment. So far in the second quarter (April and May), a total of seven condominiums brought prices ranging from \$370,000 to \$1,500,000. Condos on average this year are selling at just about parity with municipal evaluation, and in fact prices have moved little since 2012, the basis for the current valuation roll, so it is possible there will be little change in condo valuations in the 2017 roll.

The buying fervor that gripped Westmount in May did not spread beyond the borders of the city, where more divided or undivided shares of duplexes sold than the five houses, which included one each in the Circle Rd. area, Square Mile and Trafalgar-Daulac areas, and two in eastern NDG. Mark-ups indicate that interest in adjacent-Westmount is still strong, and prices are up 2.5 to 9 percent compared to last year.

June is generally a "take-it-easy" month for Westmount real estate, but considering the fervor of May and the very late spring season, we would not be surprised to see another strong month. Because of the heavy May volume, Westmount in mid-June was advertising only 138 active listings, compared to 153 a month earlier, though the number asking over \$4 million has jumped from 16 to 20.

Batshaw Children Needing Homes

Hugo loves to run, explore

A short-term foster home is being sought for 4-year-old Hugo, an aboriginal boy who is presently undergoing health problems. Therefore, his activities have been limited, but when he is well enough to go outside, his face glows with happiness. He loves nothing more than to run around and explore like other boys.

Favourite activities for Hugo include blowing bubbles, listening to stories and doing puzzles with a caregiver. Although he is very active and energetic, he is able to sit quietly and pay attention when interacting with others.

At first, he can be shy with new people and may need a little coaxing to engage, but once he starts to feel comfortable he will grab you and show you his toys. Although his language development is delayed, it is not difficult to communicate with him.

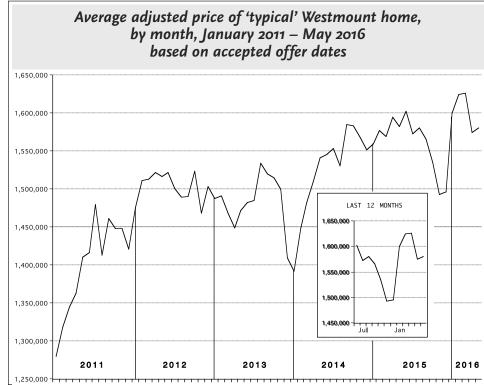
Because of his health condition, Hugo needs much support and supervision in his daily life, but he is a pleasure to be around. Hugo needs a parent who does not work outside the home, able to be present to monitor his health, as well as to provide for his routine needs.

For more information about Hugo, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, extension 1139.



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Grand Prix party too noisy

A Grand Prix party on Lexington Friday night into Saturday, June 10-11 resulted in a complaint at 11:45 pm, Public Security officials said. The department had been informed of the party in advance and contacted private security personnel on duty at the home resulting in a lowering of the music.



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Children's library summer reading club gets under way



The Westmount Children's Library has been decorated with trees and other elements of nature to resemble a campground for its summer reading club.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Westmount Children's Library reports that as of last week, 235 children had

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signed up for the TD Summer Reading Club, which got under way on June 6.

The theme of this year's club, which runs until the end of August, turns the

As such, it has been specially decorated with large murals and artificial trees to

can earn badges from the amount of reading they do over the summer. They save them in a guide book they call a field man-

For every hour a child three to seven reads, and for every two hours for those over eight, they are given challenges to complete. Once a challenge is met, a badge can be placed in the field manual. Kids receive a Camp Westmount dog tag when 10 badges have been earned.

children's library into "Camp Westmount."

provide the ambience of a campground. The participants, aged three and older,

In the years the children's library has

Facebook

Skype

Internet

Supporters say adieu to Thom, Rainbow



Supporters of the Jardins d'enfants Rainbow, which closed permanently on June 15 after being located for 27 years at Westmount Park United Church, held a gathering June 10 in the basement at St. Léon Church to honour the pre-school's director, Jacqueline Thom, left. She was standing with Alexandre and Laure Velten-Jameson. Thom announced in February that her facility would close after a new leasing agreement could not be reached with the church. See story April 5, p. 3. Photo: Martin C. Barry

participated in the program sponsored by TD, the formula has proven to be successful in encouraging kids to read, said children's librarian Wendy Wayling.

An innovation introduced this year has the kids building their own unique chain of beads. For every hour they read they can choose a bead. After that they can even trade up (five regular beads for one specialty bead).

Children taking part can show up at the library throughout the summer at any time to record their reading accomplishments.

"They keep track of what they're reading, and the next time they come in we give them their badges and their challenges," said Wayling, adding that there will also be a few organized events at the children's library in conjunction with the program through the summer.



Paper tiger greets guests at PAPIER 16



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

A quick glance and one just knew that PAPIER 16 was a success. Again.

On a windy eve, the warehouse site complete with rusty riveted columns wafted heavenly scented spring sprigs: hyacinths amidst tulips and lilies. Held in the Old Port, the annual exhibition of paper art works - collages, drawing, water colours, digital images, etc. - took place from April 22 to 24. It featured 300 artists from 38 galleries, 16 from across Canada.

Amidst the selection was Westmount

artist Ann McCall's work at Galerie d'art Jean-Claude Bergeron.

The annual fair is organized by the Contemporary Art Galleries Association (AGAC), a Montreal-based group of galleries with members across Canada, whose mandate is to encourage art collecting by presenting affordable work.

Art works started at \$150, and the assortment was such that there was something for every taste. A series of bilingual educational programs included a discussion of Quebec's art market with Stéphane Aquin, formerly with the MMFA and now chief curator Hirshhorn Sculpture Garden, and John Zeppetelli, director and chief curator at Montreal's Musée d'art contemporain.

The talks and tours were free - and packed! Stand-outs along white aisles with



From left: Bill Clarke, Christine Blais, Émilie Grandmont, Karine Vanasse and Éric Bujold.

Photo courtesy of AGAC

gallery booths' names shown up high à la Art Basel were artists Stikki Peaches at Station 16; Yannick Desranleau (awarded the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art the same

day as the fair's opening cocktail) at Hugues Charbonneau; Véronique La Perrière at D'Este; and Michel Campeau (whose photo was just chosen for a new Canada continued on p. 16



Gwen and Tom Nacos.



Dagmar Guttmann and Bernard Levy.





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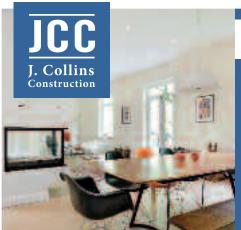
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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 15

Post stamp) at Simon Blais.

The private VIP launch was April 21. There, noted enjoying the amazing *amuses* bouches created by Fou d'ici (owned by Westmounter **Christina Nacos**) were Westmount art lovers **Dagmar Guttmann**, gal-



Mark and Alex Leibner.

lerist Mark Leibner and his son Alex, and Gwen Nacos and her son Tom, as well as Bernard Levy, editor *Vie des Arts*, Hélène Couture and Claude Choquet, *La Presse* art critic Éric Clément, Jean-Claude Baudinet and Louise Leblanc, fashion designer Denis Gagnon, design éminence grise Jean-Claude Poitras, and AGAC's director Christine Blais and board chair Émilie

Grandmont Bérubé.

Éric Bujold, president, National Bank Private Wealth 1859, was once again president of honour, joining PAPIER spokesperson actress Karine Vanasse and ambassador Bill Clarke, executive editor of Magenta, who presented a guided tour.

Oh, and artistic drinks were served. Romeo gin, made in Quebec (who knew?) was accessorized with a sprig of lavender, cucumber, dill and juniper berries. Like the three-day event, it was proclaimed a success.

PS: The gorgeous lifesize paper tiger was by artist François Pillière, from Studio 21 in Halifax.

St. George's donates home-grown greens to NDG Food Depot



St George's students presented produce they grew to the NDG Food Depot June 13 at 4 pm. The donation from their "agricultural pod" included nasturtiums, lettuce, Swiss chard, arugula, kale and basil. They nurtured over 500 edible greens from seeds planted in special planters. "The pyramid planters optimize use of space and sunlight, and allowed the students to grow five times more plants than if they were just planted in the ground," explained Danielle Delhaes, the school's coordinator of community learning and sustainability programs. The fresh greens were handed over to Bonnie Soutar, director of development at the NDG Food Depot, and were to be offered to its participants. Students also contributed \$79 collected from selling leftover greens at school. From left: Alan Johnson, Abigail Levine, Marina Vilanova, Caroline Smith, Hayley Richman and Delhaes.

WESTMOUNT



BUREAUX ADMINISTRATIFS FERMÉS Les vendredis 24 juin et 1er juillet 2016

Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'Hôtel de ville, Hydro Westmount, la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount, le centre communautaire Victoria Hall et les services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés le vendredi 24 juin en raison de la Fête nationale du Québec et le vendredi 1er juillet en raison de la Fête du Canada.

La collecte sélective s'effectuera selon l'horaire normal.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED Fridays, June 24th and July 1st, 2016

The administrative offices of the City of Westmount, including City Hall, Hydro Westmount, Westmount Public Library, Victoria Hall Community Centre, Public Works, Public Security and Sports & Recreation, will be closed on Friday, June 24th for the Quebec National Holiday and on Friday, July 1st for the Canada Day holiday.

The recycling collection will take place according to the regular schedule.

25th year for Open Gate gala



From left: Marlene Dick, Etty Bienstock, Elaine Mintz and Ethel Gold.

By Veronica Redgrave

Westmount's Shaar Hashomayim hosted the 25th annual Open Gate Gala on June 2.

Coordinators Etty Bienstock, Marlene Dick, Ethel Gold and Elaine Mintz worked with their committee to create a day of Mah Jongg (60 players), dinner and bridge.

The full day's activities were held to raise funds for Open Gate. The organization's programs help isolated seniors who are brought to the Shaar once a week for activities and a hot lunch.

The packed rooms were full of elegant ladies, sporting spring styles while it poured outside.

15 complete Temple's 'bnei mitzvah' program



The adult members of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom who completed the bnei mitzvah program are seen here on May 28 with their instructors.

Hockey try-outs start in Aug.

cont'd. from p. 1

said, "is so that people can register before school ends and [they] leave on vacation."

As well, he said, hockey tryouts for double-letter inter-city teams take place in August and evaluations for single-letter teams take place in early September.

The city has guaranteed residents a space in most of the sporting programs and some of the activities when they sign up between June 7 and 16. On the other hand, spaces are not guaranteed in those limited in number, some to 20.

"It was first come, first served in these cases," said Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator.

One was a new fencing class, for example. It was already full last week for kids aged 11 to 13. It is being introduced and taught by Thierry Bourbonnais, who also

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teaches fencing at Selwyn House and provides all equipment.

Dance craze continues

The popularity of all types of dance for both youth and adults is reflected in other new programs being added this year, she said. These, along with music sessions, fill up quickly, especially for kids aged 3 and 4

Ballroom dancing for youth aged 12 and over is one of the new ones. "It's very different from break dancing!" Danis points out. "We'll see if it works."

Other new courses for kids are jazz dance as well as "chanson magique" for those 1 to 4 years old.

Among adult courses making a début, is one called "healthy brain" listed without an outline, however. "This will look at ways to re-train the brain," she said. Examples inBy Martin C. Barry

On May 28, members of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom gathered to celebrate the completion of a year of religious study by 15 adults at the Sherbrooke St. synagogue to become "bnei mitzvah."

Members of the group, ranging from their 30s to their 80s, studied every week under Rabbi Lisa Grushcow about Jewish learning and life.

The event was celebrated with the completion of the reading of the book of Leviti-

Those who completed the program read out a statement describing what they gained and experienced.

According to Grushcow, some had not become *bnei mitzvah* at age 13 as is the custom because they were not Jewish at the time. Others were women who did not

have equal Jewish opportunities in their youth, she added.

One was raised by Holocaust survivors to keep her Jewish identity hidden, said Grushcow, while another lived in Israel for 20 years but never had the chance to engage in prayer and Torah study.

"We did just a tremendous amount of learning," she told the *Independent*. "

Everything from Jewish texts to Jewish history to spirituality and prayer. They learned to chant from the Torah. They learned to give their own interpretations and to connect it with their own lives."

While Grushcow said the temple hadn't held a *bnei mitzvah* program for several years, "my hope is that we'll do it maybe every two or three years. It really takes having a critical mass of people who are committed and hungry to learn."

clude brushing the teeth with the opposite hand or crossing the arms in a different way. It will be taught by Westmount chiropractor Denise Perron, who will also bring in guest animators.

Another is tap dancing with instructor Marie-Claude Prégent. This is being re-introduced after an absence of several years.

While the city is again offering courses in skating instruction (including figure skating) and power skating, registration numbers for many of the numerous hockey options suggests "we're looking at a strong hockey program this year," Maislin said

Boys' instructional hockey was close to being full, he said, "and we're seeing a tremendous amount of interest among girls."

Since all the city's single-letter inter-city teams are co-ed, so far at the Atom level (ages 9 and 10), five of the 25 already registered are girls.

Residents registering in Sports and Recreation programs must hold a facility card. So far, the city has already sold more than 5,000 for this year, he said. These cost \$40 for individuals or \$80 for families. This compares with a total of 6,500 sold during the entire year of 2015. This is the same number of cards ordered for this year's anticipated use.



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Police Report

Cyclist damages car in Sherbrooke St. road rage

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.

A road range incident on Sherbrooke St. June 6 involving a bicyclist who broke a side mirror off a car after the driver complained he was hogging the lane was resolved when police got the cyclist to agree to compensate the motorist for the damage.

"The driver more or less honked for him [the biker] to pull over a bit so the road could be shared," Station 12 community relations officer Laperrière said. "The cyclist then kicked the car, causing damage after they had stopped, and he took off."

According to the police report, the car driver pursued the bicyclist for a certain distance, then called 911. The police responded to the scene, where they obtained a description from the complainant of the cyclist and were able to question him.

Laperrière said that after discussion with both, the motorist decided not to press charges. The cyclist admitted striking the car and he made arrangements to reimburse the owner for damages when the driver-side door mirror was kicked.

Able to recover stolen property

An upper Westmount resident whose home was broken into and robbed in broad daylight on June 2 was able to recover some of her property after visiting a pawnshop, where she showed a photo of one of the stolen items.

According to Laperrière, the victim dropped by a pawnshop in the borough of Ville Marie to show a photo of a gold pendant of "significant value," which had been stolen and the owner recognized it.

"An investigation is ongoing to find out who was the person who sold it to the pawnshop," he said, adding that a clerk in the pawnshop recognized the necklace as an item which had been brought in that morning, although he was uncertain if it was refused or accepted.

"Pawnshops are used frequently when it comes to articles stolen from households," Laperrière added. He said the police often deal with stolen merchandise that turns up in pawnshops. In such cases, they place a hold on suspicious merchandise so it can't be sold, he said.

Fire in recycling bin

During the mid-afternoon of June 3, police and fire department personnel from Westmount were called to deal with a fire in a recycling bin in an alleyway behind 4100 Sherbrooke St. believed to have been set by four individuals.

Evidence of the incident recorded by a video camera set up in the vicinity is helping in the investigation to determine the identities of the suspects, Laperrière said. "The firemen were called out and they were able to extinguish it," he added, while noting that since it was an act of arson the police were summoned to investigate. (See Public Security story June 14, p. 23.)

Stolen identity

A 40-year-old Westmounter filed a complaint with police at Station 12 during the first week of June about his identity being stolen and used to buy a cellphone after he applied for a job posted on an online classified advertising service.

"He applied for a job on Kijiji, and after

Notre-Dame de Grâce - Westmount

applying he got a phone call from a company asking for more information," said Laperrière.

After this, according to Laperrière, someone using the victim's information, which had been sent to the potential employer on Kijiji, used it to order the phone, which was then sent to the victim's address.

Videotron, the company from which the phone was ordered, subsequently cancelled service for the phone and is currently conducting an internal investigation, he added.

Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the *Indie* at supper time on Tuesdays!

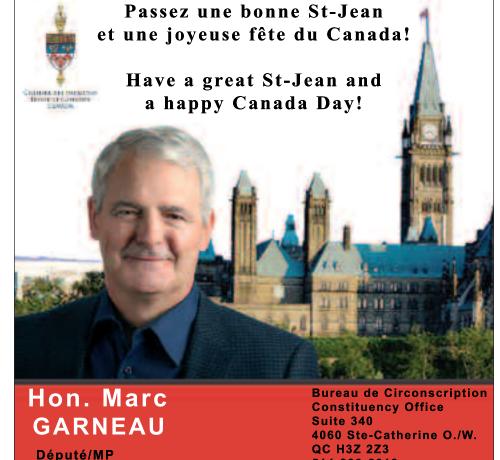
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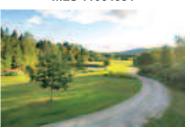
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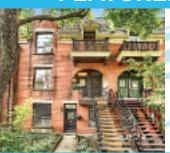
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