

All 8 districts to elect mayor Nov. 5

Victoria Hall packed to the rafters to hear debate

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A debate between the three mayoral candidates October 25 filled the concert hall and its balcony at Victoria Hall to a capacity crowd of more than 325. It was standing room only as the three presented distinct visions and approaches to achieving them.

While incumbent Christina Smith and

Patrick Martin, who served on the outgoing council together, sometimes disagreed with each other's statements of facts or recollections, Beryl Wajzman, who has never served on the council, stated he was leaving the past alone and looking only at the future.

"It's not clear to me how you can both sit on the same council and have such a different understanding of what is in the documents," stated moderator Mike Finnerty, a CBC broadcaster, at one point (see separate story, p. 19).

Held by the Westmount Municipal Association continued on p. 18

Policy 'in the works' for WRC

City adopts policy for use of parks, facilities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Taking wedding pictures is okay in Westmount's parks, it seems. So is an event of less than 20 people held by a community non-profit association. Any more people, however, and you need a permit. Not okay, are fundraising, political, religious or private events.

Likewise, rooms at Westmount Public Library cannot be rented or used for parti-



Victoria Hall saw a steady stream of Westmounters voting early for the municipal election, despite the rain and windy conditions on October 29. See story, p. 12.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 16

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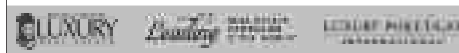


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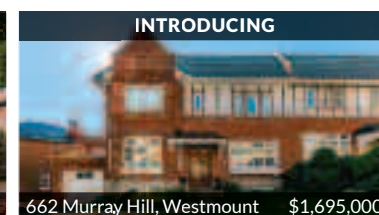
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Merci Westmount Thank You

"Please join me in supporting the candidacy of our friend Beryl Wajzman for the Mayoralty of Westmount. I want you to do what so many of our friends have done and commit to help - morally and materially - and also make sure you are on the electoral list so you can vote for Beryl at the election on Nov. 5th. We could not have a better advocate nor bolder planner than Beryl Wajzman. This is important to all of us who want to live in a sustainable, growing, and prosperous city for all Westmounters."

Jonathan I. Wener, CM



"I have known and dealt with Beryl Wajzman for many years, both professionally and personally. You could not find a more upstanding, principled man. Beryl has always been a strong voice for justice and equity on the issues that most affect our communities. I have no doubt he is the best choice as the next Mayor of Westmount."

**~ The Hon. Leo Housakos
former Speaker of the Senate**



"Thanks Beryl for your great drive to lead Westmount. I fully endorse your candidacy and your program. Good luck, and please call on me for anything that you might require."

~ Herschel Segal



"I know that Beryl would make a wonderful Mayor. He would tackle both the moral and practical issues of the day with his customary wisdom, courage and logic. He has been heard and thoroughly appreciated by all estates in Quebec. All Westmounters would benefit by electing Beryl Wajzman and I support his campaign wholeheartedly."

~ John F. Angus



"I can think of no finer choice to serve you as Mayor than Beryl Wajzman. The term, "mover and shaker" was coined to describe Beryl's role in Quebec's important causes and challenges. Never content to take on one challenge at a time, Beryl possesses the uncanny ability to operate simultaneously on multiple fronts and to capture the imagination and support of a cross section of people while doing so. If you want a strong, articulate and compassionate Mayor reflecting the most important values and priorities, you need look no further than Beryl Wajzman."

~ Maj.-Gen. (ret'd) Lewis W. MacKenzie, CM



"My friend Beryl Wajzman has been the one person to call on any issue arising in our communities. His response is always characterized by effective action and inspired leadership. We need Beryl now more than ever. I ask you to support him in his campaign for Mayor."

~ The Hon. Gerry Wiener, PC



"I have so much confidence in you. You will make the best Mayor of our beloved Westmount. Always a soldier of what is right for the voices who are weaker. You must soldier on."

~ Andy Wells

"Citizens need a Mayor with Beryl's passion for social justice and truly representative governance. Far too many elected officials "Go along to get along". We need officials with Beryl's vision to represent us. Good luck Beryl."

~ Tom Boushel

"Beryl, this is amazing you have the vision, incredible energy that every comment on."

~ Gerard Dab



"Our next mayor!"

~ Howard Pollack

"Great meeting with some co-owners in our lobby, Beryl! You are a force of nature! You have many supporters in our building. All the best to you."

~ Jorie Richman

"Je prie et te souhaite de tout coeur ce titre que tu sauras certes honorer d'une façon remarquable!!"

~ Chantal Gagnon

"Beryl Wajzman the merchants of Greene will welcome your presence!"

~ Rob Callard

"As a 30+ year resident on Bellevue... Beryl's our man!!"

~ Richard Wise

"Well done! Always great to have good people to step forward for public office!"

~ Brian Mitchell

"Go Beryl Go!"

~ Annie White Bourassa

"Westmount residents have a good candidate in Beryl Wajzman. He takes care of people with no or little voice."

~ Yves Lavoie

"Beryl! Continue avec ta forte énergie la dernière ligne droite de ton marathon vers la victoire!"

~ Paul Teboul

"Rooting for you!"

~ Susan Stromberg

"What a welcome coming home to 1 Wood, a large Wajzman poster right at the entrance. Well done team Beryl."

~ Bernie Shuster

"Bonne campagne Beryl... Westmount sont très chanceux d'avoir un homme de ta qualité et aussi dévoué!!"

~ Marie-Claude Gravel

"Beryl. Been a few years but you have my vote as a 25 year Westmount resident."

~ Howard Gross



Wajzman

2017 for Mayor
pour Maire Westmount

Authorized by Morton Garelle, CPA, Official Agent for Beryl Wajzman.



City joins world-wide list of venues

'Home Movie Day' to be marked for the first time Nov. 12

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

How about those old home movies? How long since you've looked at them? Perhaps they show people plunging off the high diving board at the old Westmount pool or kids playing on the cannon that used to stand in Westmount Park.

If the film condition allows, they might be among those able to be screened for Home Movie Day by Westmount Public Library November 12 in keeping with the 15th anniversary of the worldwide movement of the same name.

It's the first time Westmount will participate in the concept that is being celebrated in some 18 countries in different ways and at many different locations – but all featuring public screenings.

"The aim is to emphasize the importance of the old films and their role in bringing out ways of life and the times

they captured," explained Lora Baiocco, online services and archives librarian.

The idea to participate came from library clerk Molly Bower, who has studied film and film preservation, she said. While the public screening takes place at 3 pm, Bower will hold an information session on preserving old film starting at 2 pm.

As a result, anyone interested in having their old 8-mm, super 8 or 16-mm home movies shown can take them to a pre-screening and repair clinic between November 6 and 10, where they will be inspected and their owner provided with a written evaluation of the film's quality, Baiocco said.

These films can be dropped off at the Community Events office at Victoria Hall during business hours along with a required release form found on the library's website.

Friday the 13th proves lucky for dog and owner

A patroller noticed a brown dog running across de Maisonneuve at 4:35 pm October 13, a Friday, and caught it on a front porch on Grosvenor at 4:35 pm. The dog wore a licence tag from Montreal which, when checked out, revealed its St. Henri owner, who was contacted. The dog was picked up at the Public Security station on Stanton St. at 5:30 pm.

Vandalism strikes St. Catherine

Several incidents of mischief were reported along St. Catherine between 1 am and 3 am October 14, Public Security officials said. Among them, flowers had been ripped out of planters at Greene and temporary no-parking signs thrown onto the grass outside Westmount High School. As well, a mailbox was overturned between Clarke and Olivier as were a UPS box at Metcalfe and a garbage can at Abbott.

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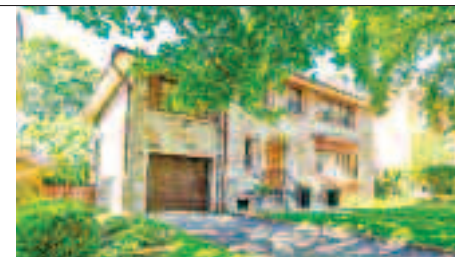
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor's note, last issue before the election

At the suggestion of a candidate for city council in the 2009 election, we started the practice of sharing letters to be published in the last issue before an election – with the consent of the letter writer – with a candidate criticized in a new way for possible reply. We also operated this way in the 2013 election. This year, two letter writers agreed and all the affected candidates replied, hence the replies below. Also, three letter writers chose not to allow us to share their letters with their subject for possible reply, and so their letters do not appear below, even though we might have published them if they had consented.

Also, please note, the letters appear alphabetically according to the letter writer's last name.

– Kristin McNeill, editor

IS THERE BIAS?

Following the coverage of the upcoming election, one has to wonder why the *Independent* continues to be publish its articles and letters in such an obvious and biased way. Clear-cut omissions, pages devoted to their obvious favourite contenders. What happened to districts 4 and 8? Why were they left out when the paper reported on its* evening panel of presentations and questions?*

The ongoing mud-slinging has shown itself to be an embarrassing state of affairs. For shame.

DEBORAH BACKMAN, WINDSOR AVE.

* Editor's note: The councillor candidates debate was not organized by the Independent.

** Where is the logic in saying we have "obvious favourite contenders" because one article ("Permits, 'transparency,' approach questioned at councillor candidate debate," October 24, p. 6) in our extensive election coverage over the past five months didn't mention some contenders? In fact, the article in question didn't mention five candidates running in three districts. How does one then deduce who are our "favourite contenders?" And

how can we be "biased" when we mentioned neither candidate in two races – Districts 4 and 8 that you mention?

All 16 councillor candidates and three mayoral candidates have been covered in our pages during this election period, without exception. You claim we are biased because of the letters we run? Most all letters we receive get published. Letters are generated from the readers. We don't control what our readers think or how they want, and when, to express something. – KM

HOW ABOUT CITIZENS' SAY IN UPDATING RENOVATION GUIDELINES

During last week's mayoral debate in the discussion on updating renovation guidelines, Mayor Christina Smith provided no mention of residents having any say on what the new guidelines should look like. Mayor Smith, as well as Councillor Theodora Samiotis, now ask us to believe that new guidelines have indeed been prepared but await legal paperwork some time next year to turn them into by-laws. I have a major problem with that.

Westmount residents haven't a clue

what is being proposed on their behalf. No one from council has asked them. Mayor Smith summarized her view during the debate as "if the look is maintained, we can consider alternative materials." This attitude does not serve our residents well.

I believe the last time we saw a major update was in February 1987, annexed to the minutes of that month's council meeting. Our demographics and quality of life needs have changed a lot since then, as well as technology and building materials. Our current guidelines don't reflect this and remain trapped in the past.

Heritage conformity is important as it makes Westmount an attractive place to live in and supports property values. But now we seem to be locked in a strict preservationist approach that increasingly diminishes our quality of life and burdens us with unnecessary cost.

Making the situation even worse, it now appears that residents will have the new guidelines imposed on them without any say. This patronizing, "we-know-better-than-you" approach is unacceptable and must be rejected. Residents have a clear

continued on p. 5

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choice on November 5.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

Replies: Theodora Samiotis: All councillors (and candidates) agree on the need to improve both the building permit approval process and to update our architectural guidelines.

There is no truth to the statement that this has already been done, and that council is simply waiting until after the election to somehow impose new guidelines on residents. What we have begun is a consultation process that has included resident associations such as the Westmount Municipal Association, the Westmount Historical Association, as well as experienced architects and landscape architects. Council is also committed to broad-based resident consultation, not only as a matter of good practice, but also as a matter of law: As the guidelines are part of By-law 1303, they cannot be changed without a public consultation at the correct point in the process, which is well before they would be adopted by elected councillors.

It is critical to note that our guidelines must reflect a delicate balance of the ability of individual homeowners to do whatever they want to their houses whenever they want to, with the collective rights of all residents, especially adjacent and nearby neighbours, not to see the architectural value – and property value – of their homes

diminished. There is also a delicate balance between the need to accommodate modern materials and technologies, and the need to preserve the unique architectural characteristics of our neighbourhoods.

I can assure residents that for every letter that appears in the *Independent* from a homeowner who is passionately unhappy about not being able to go outside the guidelines, there is another resident who has come forward to a councillor asking “How is it that my neighbour was allowed to do that to their house?”

I am confident that the next council will be able to work together, positively, to navigate this delicate balance, while making the permit approval process easier and faster for residents. –T.S.

Christina Smith: Facts matter. In reference to Mr. Biro’s letter to the editor, it is important that residents understand that his allegation that I have revised the guidelines and by-laws and intend to impose them on citizens is simply not true. Not only [that,] it would not be legal. What I have committed to is the need for the by-laws and guidelines to be updated. This is a huge undertaking and, of course, would require citizen input.

To say that I will impose new by-laws and guidelines without engaging citizens strikes me continued on p. 6

DISTRICT

1

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J'AIMERAIS VOUS ENTENDRE

I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU



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Letters cont'd. from p. 5

as a way to discredit the work – that we have begun to better serve citizens in the permit process – for political gain. What I am sure Mr. Biro also realizes is that it will be one of the major challenges for the next council to balance the different interests of citizens as it works with residents to improve our guidelines. – C.S.

DISREGARD DIRTY TRICKS

Patrick Martin has been subjected to character assassination, cronyism and narrow-mindedness. There is a great injustice happening in Westmount regarding the demonizing of Patrick Martin. There has been, and continues to be, a clique among some former councillors and some who are campaigning for office and their supporters who are responsible for this. Mr. Martin is a very committed and very experienced member on council. He did not “rubber-stamp” projects or plans that he felt were ill advised. As a result, he became the *persona non grata* among others. They treated him like a pariah. It is crucial when working for a city to consider the best options for a project, to suggest other ideas, to share ways of being cost-effective. You are there to serve your constituency, not yourselves.

To stand alone in your convictions of what you believe to be truly right takes courage and should be respected. One does not need to agree with every suggestion. But to demonize this person is most shameful. This is the lowest form of partisan politics with which we have become disillusioned with the barrage of examples from our “model” to the south of us. Patrick Martin and his wife Jane have been very involved in the city, with great concerns about the infrastructure, the improvement of the city. He is an engineer, whose experience and knowledge can greatly benefit the city of Westmount. Please disregard the smear campaign, the dirty tricks that are occurring in Westmount and consider voting for a man who has so much to offer this city. Perhaps we can truly reclaim our title of “Westmount the Good.” MARLENE BROWNSTEIN, ROSLYN AVE.

LOSING CITY’S BEST ‘CIRCUIT’ ON SUMMIT

Re: “Summit ‘walking path’ could get its own ‘walking path’” (October 17, p. 1), how completely wrong can otherwise intelligent people be? For 40-plus years, I pedalled up to the Summit from Westmount Ave., Sherbrooke St. and de Maisonneuve and the icing on the cake was always the “circuit,” in-

cluding the Circle and Oakland Ave. [There are] enough corners and hills to provide a challenge and keep it interesting. Now one of the best cycling, jogging and walking circuits on the island of Montreal has been destroyed. Exactly for whose benefit was this done? In the article, it is not clear who said that the rocky section is accessible to “fire trucks and utility vehicles.” Really? Only if they and ambulances and police cars can now fly over concrete blocks and chain fences. The current version of Summit Circle is a perfect example of inane “planning” and an unmitigated waste of \$1.3 million. One hopes that whoever wins in District 1 has the gumption to fix a very big mistake.

RON DIAMOND, ST. HENRI

PROPOSED PARKING PERMIT CHANGES NOT GOOD FOR REDFERN

I echo Brian Slack’s feelings in his letter to the editor, “Too bad there was no contest in District 2,” October 17, p. 9). I have lived in Westmount for 25 years and have seen many a hare-brained scheme (sorry, idea) forwarded by council in this timeframe, but Mr. Cutler’s latest “idea” takes the cake. No more parking

permits and their stickers? Residents are to rely on cameras utilized by Public Security? We residents of Redfern Ave. south of de Maisonneuve call in daily about cars parked illegally in our 11-cars-only “G-zone” area. Redfern residents can call into Public Security to identify the cars that require ticketing because they do not have “G-Zone” permit stickers displayed on their windshields. As Public Security is far too busy to make the rounds to Redfern Ave. on a much more regular basis than they currently do, we residents must call in to notify them of illegally parked cars. It’s very easy to tell the illegal from the legal in these cases. If Mr. Cutler has his way and parking permit-stickers are taken away, residents will have no way of telling whether “unstickered” cars are legally parked in their “G zones” area or not. And one would expect that even more calls into Public Security will be forthcoming. “G-Zone-”permitted residents on all Westmount streets will certainly face the same circumstance. Too bad indeed, Mr. Slack, that there was no contest in District 2. The old guard, clearly, needs to be shown the door.


RICHARD DUMONT, REDFERN AVE.

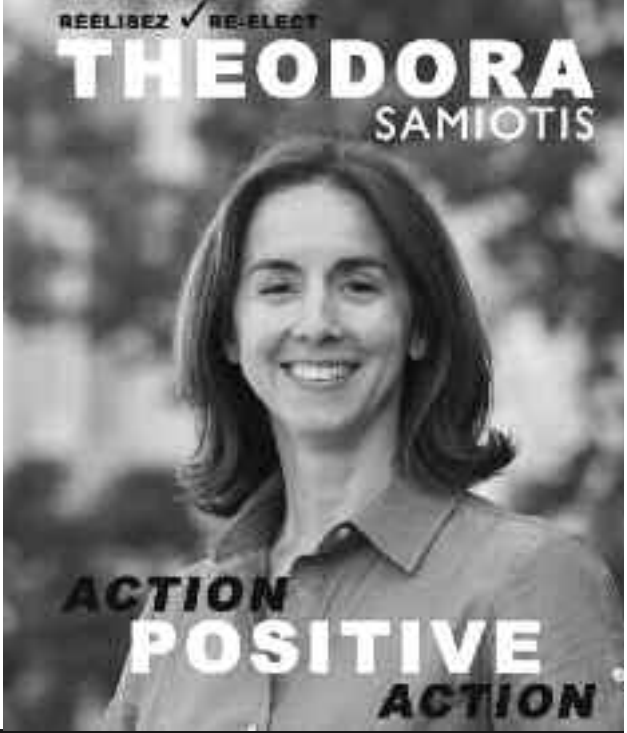
continued on p. 7

Le 5 novembre - On November 5th

Où voter:
Centre Greene
1090 Ave Greene
10h à 20h

Where to vote:
Greene Centre
1090 Greene Ave.
10 am to 8 pm

 Westmount.TheodoraSamiotis



THEODORA SAMIOTIS

ACTION POSITIVE ACTION

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Authorized by George Vesnaver, Official Agent

YOUR VOTE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BEST TO ELECT SOMEONE ENGAGED

Like Christina Smith and her husband, my wife and I are raising three young children in this city, ages 2, 4 and 6. It is important to us that the next mayor be someone who understands the challenges of families in Westmount, from the children right through to the grandparents.

We would like to see a mayor who represents the next generation of leadership on city council and is open to new ideas. The next mayor should be a progressive leader, a good listener and someone who can build consensus to bring about needed change.

My personal interactions with the previous administration was very positive, and I feel they [had] become more attentive to some concerns and suggestions from citizens.

Christina Smith has impressed us in all these categories in the short time she has been mayor and as a councillor before that. We hope our fellow citizens will give her the opportunity to continue the positive changes she has already launched and to implement the many projects that she wants to tackle for the betterment of our wonderful community.

We would all benefit to elect a person that is so engaged for the well-being of all

types of citizens in this wonderful city.

Most importantly, we all have to go and vote.

JEAN-FRANÇOIS EMMANUEL,
WINDSOR AVE.

HIRE MORE WORKERS

For many years, Peter Trent and his group never listened to citizens' recommendations regarding Public Works, and light and power. [Former] mayor Trent and his council always [did] it their way. If residents [gave] an opinion, you [were] sort of rejected.

[I have several points of view:]

- If there was freezing rain at night or in the early hours of morning, the sidewalk plows never came before 7 am. People do come out late at night to go to work or for other urgent reasons.

- Why do heavy salt trucks go around so often on side streets all night long, making so much noise and preventing people from sleeping? [It seems] city officials [deem] that streets are much more important compared to sidewalks, [especially] those evenings with freezing rain or snow.

- In front of 4150 St. Catherine St., there is an old city garbage can that is never emptied. Why doesn't the city take it away after so many complaints?

- Why does it take so long to repair a

lamp post when the lights are burned out? I have reported so many of them. The answer from Westmount employees: "We are short of staff."

To the city of Westmount, please hire more city workers! Pedestrians do appreciate feeling secure, even late at night on sidewalks, trust me.

GEORGE FLAHIFF, CLARKE AVE.

HANDS ON

If you are like many Westmount residents who are not sure who to vote for as mayor of Westmount, I would like to strongly encourage you to support for Patrick Martin. He has devoted 12 years of his time and energy to the efficient management of the city of Westmount. His broad engineering management experience is a treasure trove of related and transferable skills. His past and present involvement assisting in the running of our city is, hands down, hands on.

I would like to add that Patrick Martin is the only person at the city who has helped me with the still abandoned (since 2012) house next door. He attended meetings on my behalf, assisting [me] to get the city to cap the outside drain next door, which was disconnected and going directly into the basement, thus soaking our common foundations.

continued on p. 8

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On November 5th

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OFFICIAL AGENT: ANNA GOTH

.....
Letters cont'd. from p. 7

He also helped me to get smoke detectors installed next door, (with the fire department), when the city's Urban Planning department's response was that there were no by-laws forcing abandoned buildings to have smoke detectors.

Even though Patrick is councillor for a different sector, he volunteered his advice, support, encouragement and time to help me.

The position of ombudsperson he is planning to create is one more resource to facilitate "communication and liaison" and "problem resolution" between residents and their city.

CATHERINE GEROLS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

**SENSIBLE, STEADFAST
ON DORCHESTER ISSUE**

It's good to see District 8 candidate Kathleen Kez running tirelessly in the electoral race. Ms. Kez has been taking a sensible and steadfast public position over the last year and a half regarding the controversial narrowing of Dorchester.

The fact that other candidates are latterly coming outside only emphasizes that she has proven her common sense since day one.

COLEEN GRAVENOR, PROSPECT ST.

**WHY NO MENTION OF
INTEREST IN CULTURAL
EVENTS DOSSIER?**

One of the defining attributes of Westmount is the multitude of recreational, cultural and athletic programs offered. In addition to city hall, these involve a wide range of all citizens, as well as an army of talented and dedicated volunteers. The vitality generated by these immensely varied activities permeates the fabric of our community.

During the [councillor candidates'] "meet the candidates" event, *no* candidate, neither in their opening or closing statements, mentioned an interest in, appreciation of, support for, or advancement of these programs.

Understandably, the question period focussed on problems and concerns, notably Urban Planning (the permits process in particular), traffic and financial issues. However, the final question for all the candidates from moderator Bernard St. Laurent concerned each candidate's preferred area as commissioner. Again, Urban Planning led the pack, followed by traffic and Finance. Only two candidates, and the incumbent Rosalind Davis, mentioned Sports and Recreation. No one mentioned, or even expressed the remotest interest in, commissioner for Cultural Events (subsuming the library, community events, Healthy City Project), except for a *cri de coeur* from Rosalind Davis – "What about

the library?!"

It is sad, and alarming, to see such an imbalance of interests and priorities in our incoming council – an impoverished agenda, and four long years.

MARGARET GUNDARA, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

**WESTMOUNT NAILED
ITS SWISS CHARD**

Never mind the politics, just a big thank-you to Westmount.

I have never had such delicious Swiss chard as the Westmount variety! I found it by city hall, just opposite Selwyn House. (See the city of Westmount ad, p. 12 in the October 17 issue.)

Please plant more tasty, attractive, edible flowers next year. I will vote for that. Good luck to all the candidates.

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER AVE.

**OPEN LETTER TO
MAYOR SMITH**

Regarding "Summit 'walking path' could get its own 'walking path,'" (October 17, p. 1), the photo [below] shows that a natural walking path is being formed, courtesy of the people who walk there (including yours truly), so that path is fine. Besides, I (and others) enjoy the texture of a road that feels like a gravel country road. It makes it feel different from the city. Please do not spend public money on a nonsensical project!

On the other hand, a "path" that could use the investment is Sunnyside Ave. The *Independent* once ran a letter I submitted about Sunnyside being worse than a street in a Third World country (February 1, 2011, p. 4). Most of the street was done a year ago, but not the segment between Bellevue to Belvedere – and it extracts a heavy toll in costs of car repair.

Let's spend hard-earned tax money money wisely.

EUGENE JOSEPH, SUNNYSIDE AVE.



Photo courtesy of E. Joseph

**NEW COUNCIL SHOULD TAKE
OWNERSHIP OF PAC**

When it comes to defending the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), the three mayoral candidates hid behind it. The same deflections also occurred at the meeting of the councillor [candidates], notably by the incumbents.

The PAC consists of three extremely qualified architects, each of whom is a partner in a successful and respected architectural firm. And yet, somehow, each of the mayoral candidates has forgotten who actually defines the mandate of the PAC, the guidelines they must follow and enforce, and to a very large degree, the manner in which the PAC undertakes these responsibilities. In fact, in the description of the PAC, it is clearly indicated that it is a public advisory committee for council.

The city is long past due on updating the guidelines and streamlining the requirements, and the process itself is council's responsibility. Council has instructed the PAC that it cannot make any specific suggestions, which results in extremely long delays in the back-and-forth process in reviewing projects with the owners, and the architects, as may be the case.

The council also has maintained full authority to respect the opinion of the PAC, or not, as related to any specific project, but without the opinion and the specific conditions or recommendations made by the PAC as part of their approval being available to all, the public will never know.

If council wanted to have PAC minutes available to the public, they could do so.

So instead of blaming the PAC, the candidates should accept their responsibilities and do their job updating the mandate and guidelines that they expect the PAC to respect and enforce.

KEN LONDON, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

**REFLECTING ON MAYORAL
CANDIDATES**

I attended the mayoral "meet the candidates" event on October 25. I was pleased to see it was standing-room only! It's wonderful to see our citizens so involved in municipal politics.

Here are my thoughts on the candidates:

Beryl Wajzman is a talented orator but has zero elected office experience. And, he refuses to acknowledge the obvious conflict of interest that goes with being editor of *The Suburban* and mayor of Westmount simultaneously. This troubles me.

Patrick Martin is also a compelling speaker. He has been on council for 12

.....
continued on p. 9

**WESTMOUNT
INDEPENDENT**

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

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years but strangely refuses to accept any responsibility for council's past actions. Since he seems to view council with contempt, it leads to the question – why didn't he run for mayor years ago? Or quit in protest?

That leaves Christina Smith – the only candidate with experience as both mayor and councillor. Ms. Smith wishes to build on past success while acknowledging that more needs to be done. This strikes me as the voice of reason. She has my vote.

No matter your candidate of choice, please vote. Democracy is too important to be left to the few.

TAMRA MACMARTIN, COLUMBIA AVE.

WHAT ABOUT CULTURE?

The city of Westmount website states that "City Council wishes to ensure that Westmount remains a livable city, whether in fiscal, physical, architectural, environmental or social context."

To that end, the "meet the candidates" evening on October 18, gave the prospective [councillor] candidates the opportunity to present their platforms for the upcoming election. There was much talk about transparency, permits, traffic and noise, so, when they were asked which commissioner portfolio they would be interested in, the result, not surprisingly, appeared to be a strong bias towards the leg-

islative, rather than the cultural, aspects of council.

Westmount prides itself on its tradition of citizen involvement, and the many community groups, organizations and activities, more often than not run by volunteers, need the support of strong and involved commissioners of both Cultural Events and Sports and Recreation – which we have benefitted from on previous councils.

Interest in these two important aspects of council responsibility was seemingly negligible on that evening, and it is to be hoped that, following the election, we will have not only a balanced budget, but a balanced council to represent the interests of all Westmounters.

ANGELA MURPHY, ROSLYN AVE.

CLARKE NOT GOOD ROUTE FOR TRUCKS

According to the draft by-law for truck routes, Clarke Ave. between Sherbrooke and St. Catherine (7 am to 7 pm) is to be designated a truck route ("City by-law to designate long-awaited truck routes," October 10, p. 9).

Clarke Ave. is a St. Léon school zone for a busy elementary school. I invite the city to view the frequent comings and goings by parents, illegal parking, double-parking, children darting out of vehicles, as

well as the school buses – all converging on the school.

Caution and vigilance are mandatory for motorists in a school area. But Clarke (between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve) is becoming a high-risk area.

Clarke is already a fire/ambulance lane. Also, garbage and recycling trucks pick up trash on the street.

The 30-km/h rule is rarely adhered to, as motorists rush to catch a green light.

Commercial trucks represent a bigger danger – they are longer and heavier. Their lack of maneuverability compared to cars means they have more difficulty stopping.

Surely, sanctioning additional commercial trucks to use this street (as they often do already, engendering vibrations felt inside our homes) is just inviting a tragedy.

Using Atwater (several blocks over) is the more prudent solution in order to avoid additional risk to the youngsters, and to adhere to school-zone parameters.

Please reconsider this plan and do not make Clarke Ave. a truck route.

FRAN PONOMARENKO, CLARKE AVE.

WESTMOUNT SHOULD NAME SOMETHING AFTER COHEN

[Regarding the] Leonard Cohen tribute concert at the Bell Centre on November 6, it would have been highly appropriate that Westmount also show due recognition for

Leonard Cohen. He was born and raised, and went to school, in Westmount, and throughout his entire career never denied his roots. He was proud of being a Canadian, a Montrealer from Westmount. His last album before his death shows his deep connection to Westmount's Shaar Hashomayim synagogue.

There will be over 100 Leonard Cohen fans arriving from various parts of the globe for the upcoming tribute. [They] will visit all the Leonard Cohen sights, many of which are in Westmount.

Would it not be appropriate to place a plaque by his birthplace, or rename [King George] Murray Park, where he met his first guitar teacher?

EVA POOLA, BEACONSFIELD

PARTY IN ALL BUT NAME

I want to thank all candidates and voters who attended "Meet the council candidates" October 18. It was very informative and a wonderful exercise in democracy and community spirit.

Incumbent candidates who claimed, from the stage, that there is no such thing as "party politics" in Westmount are being disingenuous. First, in the October 3 issue of the *Independent*, former mayor Peter Trent wrote a letter critical of Beryl Wajzman, and [retiring] councillor Nicole Forbes was

continued on p. 10



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MAYOR
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MARTIN

authorised by Jon Breslaw, Official Agent



CHRISTINA
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Letters cont’d. from p. 9

critical of Patrick Martin – both mayoral candidates who dared to run against Christina Smith, the candidate handpicked by Peter Trent. Then, not only did Ms. Lulham endorse Christina Smith from the stage during the “meet the candidates” meeting, she now is criticizing the posters of Kathleen Kez [on social media], who is running against Theodora Samiotis, another member of Trent’s council.

Ms. Samiotis’ Facebook page references Councillor Philip Cutler canvassing for her in District 8 while Cynthia Lulham’s Facebook page references Christina Smith canvassing for her. This group is a party in everything but name.

I was therefore very happy at the meeting to hear from the new, very qualified individuals who have put themselves forward as candidates for council. Their outlook was refreshing as they presented new ideas and a positive outlook for Westmount. Many of them also exhibited a better understanding than some incumbents of the issues in Westmount and the regulations surrounding them.

I encourage you to inform yourself about all the candidates, both incumbents and new, and make a special effort to vote on November 5.

JIM RICHARDS, DORCHESTER BLVD.

Replies: Cynthia Lulham: Yes, I am supporting Christina Smith for mayor. I believe she best demonstrates the qualities of team-building, accountability and responsible governance that I wish to see continue on council. This does not mean I am not an independent candidate – I have and will always make decisions and vote at council on what is best for the residents of District 7 and all residents of Westmount.

Johanna Stosik posts photos of her campaigning with Beryl Wajzman on her Facebook page (he supports her on his). – C.L.

Christina Smith: Mr. Richards wrote about political parties and whether anyone was independent. All three candidates for mayor have had some councillors support them publicly and that is the choice of the councillor candidate. I was not appointed by Peter Trent. I was appointed by the council of which Peter Trent was no longer a member.

I am encouraged by the level of interest of residents and by the many candidates who have put their names forward to serve publicly. It has been a long campaign, and I am certain that each candidate has undertaken this with the sole desire of making this city even better. – C.S.

Theodora Samiotis: To set the record straight, I continued on p. 11

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am not a member of any municipal party, *de-facto* or otherwise. It is perfectly normal for independent members of council to work together in a positive manner on an issue-by-issue basis – that is what most residents tell me they expect from new and returning councillors alike. So while I am afraid that Mr. Richards got that part wrong, I am in full agreement with his statement: “I encourage you to inform yourself about all the candidates, both incumbents and new, and make a special effort to vote on November 5.” I could not have said it better myself.

– T.S.

TAKE TIME TO LEARN ABOUT CANDIDATES, AND VOTE

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Westmount Municipal Association for organizing the very well-attended mayoral debate on October 25. This nearly three-hour event was a unique opportunity to gain a little insight into the candidates’ true characters, along with listening to their statements and responses to citizens’ questions.

Over the course of the evening, it became quite clear to me that the only candidate who fully embodies core values of integrity, meaningful progress, teamwork, and community is Christina Smith. These are the core values I look for in a public servant at the mayor’s level. In my opinion, the other candidates revealed traits that were not consistent with core values of honesty, accountability, collaboration and truly listening to citizens.

I encourage you as neighbours, friends, and fellow citizens, if you have not done so already, to learn as much as you can about the candidates for mayor of your city. The incredible privilege of living in Westmount comes with a responsibility to participate thoughtfully in the democratic process. Please take the time to learn and vote, to help ensure that the city will be governed according to your core values.

LIANA THIBODEAU, GROSVENOR AVE.

TIME FOR NEW BENCHES

I am wondering if anyone can explain to me why our park benches on the south side of Sherbrooke St. just west of Metcalfe Ave. are in such a deplorable state? For two months, the one usually on the north side of the [wading] pool has been in the pool – useless and unreachable for some. The other one to the west near the library is broken with sharp pieces. I imagine it would fall apart if sat upon.

I very much like to walk, but being somewhat elderly I also need to sit down occasionally. With all the repair work going on everywhere, could we not manage to repair the benches or, better still, buy some new ones for our aging population?

MARY WILLIAMS, SHERBROOKE ST.

MAKE GO-TO COUNCILLOR MAYOR

Patrick Martin has long been the “go to” councillor I have approached (although I am not in his district) because he is interested in helping and is quick to respond whether for information I have needed or, most recently, the initiation of a drop-off zone in front of a daycare, a request that was ignored for too many years despite toddlers’ safety. He personally came to survey the street parking, met with the daycare administrators, identified how it could be implemented and engaged Westmount personnel. Within seven weeks it was accomplished despite having had to counter rules thrown up at council meetings.

Having attended the recent mayoralty debate I heard a candidate, Martin, who intimately knows the issues in Westmount and how to fix them professionally with long-term planning not patchwork.

Outgoing councillor Nicole Forbes has criticized him for speaking his mind, provoking so many, in this newspaper, to say to him “bravo.”

With Martin as mayor and new councillors in all the districts, we will overcome the complacency that has characterized our council for too long.

TOBY MORANTZ, CLANDEBOYE AVE.

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Candidate for Westmount City Council

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Record participation expected

1,666 voters cast advance ballots, 300% increase

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

This year’s municipal election appears on target to generate a much larger turnout November 5 than usual. That’s if the advance poll October 29 is any indication.

Long line-ups were reported at Victoria Hall when the unofficial tally of votes stood at 1,666 at press time Monday, according to city returning officer Martin St-Jean, director of Legal Services and city clerk.

“This does not include today’s mobile polling that is currently under way,” he explained. This takes place at certain resi-

dences such as St. Margaret’s and Château Westmount. “We expect that by the end of the day, our advance polling vote total will be around 1,720.”

This amounts to a 300-percent increase over the advance poll in 2013 when 550 electors had cast their votes, St-Jean adds. “It is also 12-percent increase in the participation rate.”

“We expect a record participation rate once all the votes cast on November 5 will have been counted.”

In 2013, there was not a mayoral race, as Peter Trent had already been acclaimed.

See photo, p. 1.

Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the Indie at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.

KIRK POLYMENAKOS

COUNCILLOR DISTRICT 1

As a candidate for District 1, the nature of my business enables me ample free time to devote for the concerns of the residents of the district.

As a resident for 15 years I have been very active in Westmount and have participated in many council meetings.

If elected I intend to introduce and support the following:



- ✓ Strong **presence** of Public Security
- ✓ **Decrease** traffic congestion and speed
- ✓ **Improve** methods of snow clearing
- ✓ **Facilitate** permits with urban planning

Official Agent: Hana Kim

St. Leo’s raises money



The Fondation de l’école St. Léon de Westmount held a fundraiser at the Westmount recreation centre’s Mouton Noir café on October 11. The Westmount Youth Orchestra played. Among those in attendance were, from left, Tania Genzardi, the school’s director; Anne Duprat and Willem Westenberg; Bob Therriault; Bonnie Auger and Greg Dunning; and Andrew Bolton. The artwork in the background was produced by young students of the school.

Photo courtesy of W. Westenberg.

Elect George Fourniotis

Councillor District 6



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"Anne helped us with the purchase of a new home and the sale of our existing home from beginning to end. She is very professional and made sure that our best interest was a priority. She guided us to finding the perfect new home and the perfect buyers for our existing home."
Stacy & J.S, Notre-Dame-de-Grace

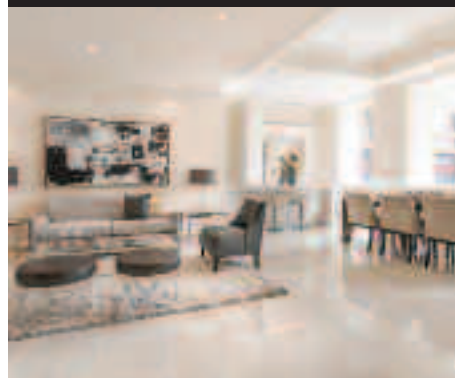
"I recently bought a condo in Westmount with the help of Anne. Her patience and professionalism got the purchase done. She is always there to help, prior and after the purchase. I highly recommend her and will use her services again."
Stella, Westmount

ANNE BEN-AMI (MADAR) Real estate broker

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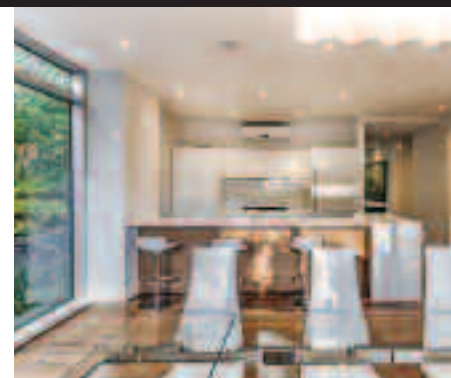
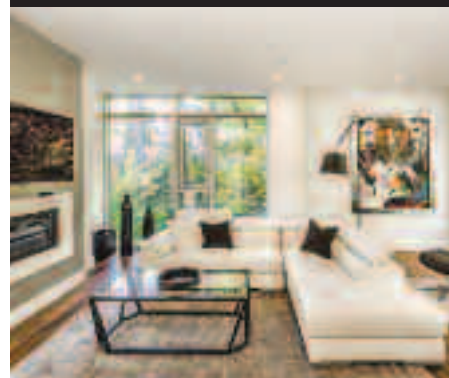
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 MLS 16449785 \$1,695,000



Ville Marie | Downtown
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HÔTEL DE VILLE



Le 5 novembre, on vote!

Trouvez la réponse à toutes vos questions concernant les élections à Westmount : westmount.org/vote.

STM : Projet Vendôme

La STM procède à certains travaux préparatoires pour la construction du nouvel édicule.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Les mercredis 1^{er} et 15 novembre, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5299.

Club de films documentaires

Le mercredi 1^{er} novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *The Road Forward* (2017). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Conférence : Parlons opéra!

Le dimanche 5 novembre, 10 h 30, Victoria Hall (salle de la loge). *La Cenerentola* de Rossini. Présenté (en anglais) par l'Opéra de Montréal. 514 989-5226.

Clinique du film de famille : dépôt de films

Du 6 au 10 novembre, Victoria Hall. Nous sommes à la recherche de vos films de famille, soit des réunions de famille, voyages, excursions, etc. Avez-vous des films 8mm, Super-8 ou 16mm que vous aimeriez partager? Téléchargez la fiche d'inscription à westlib.org.

Série Récits de voyage

Les vendredis 10 novembre au 8 décembre, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire qui simule le fait de voyager dans un pays étranger pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. Inscription requise. dmiguez@westmount.org ou 514 989-5530.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 13 novembre

Journée du film de famille à Westmount

Le dimanche 12 novembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. Atelier de conservation de films à 14 h, projection de films à 15 h. Soumettez vos films entre le 6 et le 10 novembre au Victoria Hall pour qu'ils soient inspectés. Visitez le westlib.org pour toutes les informations.

Rencontres d'auteurs : Terry Mosher

Le mercredi 8 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Rencontrez Terry Mosher, auteur de *Trudeau to Trudeau: 50 Years of Aislin*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Maison hantée de l'Halloween

Le mardi 31 octobre, 17 h à 20 h, pavillon du boul-ingrin. Westmount présente le **Cauchemar avant l'hiver**. Soyez des nôtres. 514 989-5367.

Conversation sur le changement climatique

Le mercredi 1^{er} novembre, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Participez à ce forum ouvert avec trois scientifiques montréalais. Présentez vos préoccupations et posez vos questions. Introduction spéciale par Fred the Polar Bear (Ava Dwyer). L'événement est gratuit, mais vous devez vous inscrire à eventbrite.ca.

Concert : Gino Quilico - Serata d'Amore

Le samedi 4 novembre, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Une soirée incomparable en compagnie de Gino Quilico, baryton de renommée mondiale, et de ses musiciens. Présenté en collaboration avec le Club Rotary de Westmount. 40 \$. Billets disponibles au Victoria Hall ou en ligne. 514 935-3344.

Clinique de vaccination

Le mercredi 8 novembre, 10 h à 19 h, Victoria Hall. Le CSLC Métro offre gratuitement le vaccin contre la grippe aux résidents admissibles. Apportez votre carte d'assurance maladie. 514 934-0354.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

Du 9 novembre au 8 décembre. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter une exposition spéciale pour le **125^e anniversaire du Montreal Camera Club**. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5521.

Artisans Westmount

Les samedi et dimanche 11 et 12 novembre, 10 h 30 à 17 h, Victoria Hall. Des artisans vous offrent des œuvres inédites de qualité. Entrée : denrées non périssables ou 2 \$ pour la collecte annuelle d'aliments du service de la Sécurité publique. 514 989-5226 ou artisans@westmount.org.

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Visit westmount.org/ewestmount to subscribe and receive the latest news by email from your City!

CITY HALL

Vote on November 5!

Find the answers to all your questions about Westmount's election: westmount.org/en/vote-en.

STM: Vendôme Project

The STM is undertaking preparations that will allow the construction of the new entrance building.

LIBRARY

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

Wednesdays, November 1st & 15th, 10:15 a.m., Library. Welcome to all. 514 989-5299.

Documentary Film Club

Wednesday, November 1st, 7p.m., Library. *The Road Forward* (2017). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Lecture: Let's Talk Opera!

Sunday, November 5, 10:30 a.m., Victoria Hall (Lodge Room). Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. Presented (in English) by L'Opéra de Montréal. 514 989-5226.

Home Movie Clinic: movie drop-off

Monday to Friday, November 6 to 10, Victoria Hall. We're looking for your home movies - events, amateur dramas, trips, excursions and more. Do you have any 8mm, Super-8 and 16mm films that you would like to share? Download the registration form at westlib.org and bring your films to Victoria Hall.

Westmount Home Movie Day

Sunday, November 12, Library. Movie preservation workshop at 2 p.m., screenings at 3 p.m. Submit your films in advance for inspection. Visit westlib.org for all the details.

Author Lecture Series: Terry Mosher

Wednesday, November 8, 7 p.m., Library. Come meet Terry Mosher, author of *Trudeau to Trudeau: 50 Years of Aislin*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Tales and Travels Series

Fridays, November 10 – December 8, 1 p.m., Library. A weekly activity that simulates the act of travelling to a foreign country for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Registration required. dmiguez@westmount.org or 514 989-5530

Next Council Meeting Monday, November 13

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Halloween Haunted House

Tuesday, October 31, 5 to 8 p.m., Lawn Bowling Clubhouse. Join us for Westmount's **Nightmare Before Winter**. 514 989-5367.

Climate Change Conversation

Wednesday, November 1st, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Come join this open forum with three local scientists. Ask questions and voice your concerns. Special introduction by Fred the Polar Bear (aka Ava Dwyer). The event is free, but you must reserve at eventbrite.ca.

Concert: Gino Quilico – Serata d'Amore

Saturday, November 4, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. An evening of songs performed by world-renowned baritone Gino Quilico and his musicians. In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Westmount. \$40. Tickets available at Victoria Hall or online. 514 935-3344

Flu Vaccination Clinic

Wednesday, November 8, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. The CLSC Métro will offer a free flu vaccination clinic for eligible residents. Please bring your medicare card. 514 934-0354.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

November 9 to December 8. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present a special exhibition dedicated to the **125th anniversary of the Montreal Camera Club**. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5521.

Artisans Westmount

Saturday and Sunday, November 11 and 12, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Victoria Hall. Artisans offer quality items for sale during this two-day event. Admission: non-perishable food items or \$2 for Public Security's annual holiday food drive. 514 989-5226 or artisans@westmount.org.



Beau really is *beau*



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Greene.

Addendum

Readers will be pleased to know that a Westmount resident has adopted Mattea, after reading the 9 Lives in the October 3 (p. 23) issue of the *Indie*.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Cuddly Beau is being boarded at the Hôpital Vétérinaire Général MB, where he has received all his health care (neutering, vaccinations, tests) and is ready for a family that will cherish him as much as clinic staff has been.

He is a handsome, two-year-old, white-and-black domestic shorthair, with golden eyes and the most marvelous black "heart" on this nose. He has come a long way from the back woods off Belvedere Rd., adjacent to the Summit. He was always outside in the gardens, with a friendly disposition, but never headed back to a home when the weather was cold. He was picked up and brought in when it became evident that he had been abandoned as a kitten.

If you would like more information on Beau, please contact the vet clinic at 514.935.1888. You are welcome to drop by to visit Beau at 3400 St. Antoine St., corner

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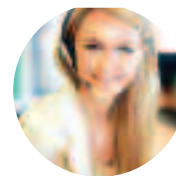


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Community Events Division



Velan honoured at Centaur gala



Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Centaur’s 2017 “Tour de force” was held on September 26, a superb early fall eve. Birds were still singing in the unseasonal warmth as partygoers arrived on the

red carpet. Hosted by honorary chair **Rodrigue Lussier**, VP at Fiera Capital, there with **Sylvie Bussière**, Société de transport de Montréal, and the Centaur Theatre’s executive/artistic director **Eda Holmes**, with **Ron Young**, the gala was exceptional.

Chair of the gala committee was **Howard Golberg**, president Pinnacle Direct, attending with his wife **Joan**.

The evening honoured Westmounter **Tom Velan**, chair, Velan Inc., there with his wife **Dana**, as a stalwart Centaur patron.

Local res, the ever-droll **Aaron Rand** presided over the live auction, and **Lori Graham** with her mother **Marilyn Graham** hosted the “Treasure Chest” silent auction items.

Theatre lovers enjoyed a fantastic performance from The Dust Palace, New Zealand’s prestigious aerial circus/theatre company.

Local res. **Roberto Menegati** designed

the stunning decor; the ceiling was covered with transparent balloons trailing long ribbons. In addition, his catering skills created shrimp in phyllo cups, rack of lamb and other culinary bites, including mouth-watering sweets.

LGFG Fashion House tailors took measurements for bespoke shirts for both men and women.

Noted enjoying the festivities were Montreal mayor **Denis Coderre**; **Cookie and Larry Rossy**, president/CEO Dollarama; **Vincent Prager**; the Centaur’s development director **Haleema Mini**; Fiera Capital’s **Jean-Philippe Lemay**, president/COO, Canadian division; **Martin Dufresne**, executive VP; **Laurent Terrasse**, VP, mar-



Tom Velan and Eda Holmes.



Denis Coderre, left, and Aaron Rand.



Jean-Philippe Lemay and Marie-France Pelletier.

keting and communications, Canadian division; and **Rebecca McLeod**, VP, legal and corporate affairs.

Also seen were **Sean Flynn**, Expedia CruiseShipCenters; **Luc Papineau**, VP/general manager, Desjardins Securities; **Sam Scalia**, president, Gestion Samcon, with his wife **Diana Ferrara**; and **Johanna Nutter**, as well as fashion designer and artist **Jean-Claude Poitras**, and Centaur board member **Kevin Lutes**.

Westmounters noted included **David Angel**, CFO Kruger and his wife **Marie-Hélène Bujold**; **Louis Vil-leneuve**, RBC

continued on p. 17



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Social Notes *cont'd. from p. 16*

wealth management; Jean-Michel Laberge; Brian Bronfman, and François De Broux, Scotiabank and his wife Michelle La-

fontaine.

The fun night raised \$160,000 to support the Centaur's renovations. Holmes presented the upcoming theatrical opportunities that will be made possible by the plans.



Roberto Menegati, left, and Vincent Prager.



Larry and Cookie Rossy.

Daily Desmarais attends unveiling of Henry Moore sculpture at MMFA

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

On September 28, Westmounter Mary Daily Desmarais, curator of international modern art, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) joined Nathalie Bondil, MMFA director general and curator in chief, for the official inauguration of Henry Moore's "Three Piece Reclining Figure No. 1" (1961-62) donated by CIBC.

It was created in the 1960s at the request of CIBC, which sought a sculptural piece for the outdoor plaza in front of the then-new office tower at 1155 Dorchester Blvd. (now René Lvesque Blvd.).

The work is claimed to be the first large-

scale outdoor sculpture by Henry Moore to be installed anywhere in Canada.

CIBC was represented at the unveiling by Sylvain Vinet, its senior vice president and region head for Eastern Canada. "In recognition of CIBC's 150th birthday and Montreal's 375th, we are honoured to donate it to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, where it can be enjoyed by all while preserving its cultural legacy," he said.

It will be installed in the MMFA sculpture garden. It is from an edition of seven, with casts in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Tate Gallery, London.

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Doors to garage and house found insecure

A patroller spotted an open garage door on Lexington at 2:18 am October 16, Public Security officials said. Further checking revealed the garage provided access to a door into the house that was found insecure. The house was reported to be under renovation. Police were advised and a message was left for the resident.

On déménagement!

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Three mayoral hopefuls peppered with questions, hold

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

(WMA) a week after a debate it organized for the 16 councillor candidates, this one allowed for the three mayoral hopefuls to respond to 17 questioners from the audience, as well as numerous sub-questions interjected throughout by Finnerty and WMA president Paul Marriott. Compared to the councillor candidates' debate, the tone of this one was more respectful and less aggressive, as requested of the audience.

Smith: build on foundation

Leading off the evening in a pre-arranged order for presenting their platforms, Smith said it was "quite astounding" to see more people in Victoria Hall than at the sports banquet. She explained her objective was "to build on a solid foundation" that included keeping up the pace of infrastructure spending, improving the permits process, engaging the community, adding an indoor pool, attracting young families and retaining retirees.

Wajzman's uncharted waters

Wajzman, on the other hand, said his focus as a journalist and activist is on working, in part, with other levels of government, including a new arrangement with the agglomeration council, and robust development on the south side of St. Catherine and elsewhere. "We will have a sound barrier...I promise you a better deal for Westmount." The city, he said, referring symbolically to a ship, was "a state of mind" that required venturing out of the harbour into uncharted waters.

Martin: change attitude

Since the mayor "sets the tone for everything that goes on in our municipal government," Martin said, he intended to change the culture at city hall to "how can we help you?" By extension, this applied to Urban Planning permits, where "a big fix and change in attitude" were needed. The closure of the greenhouses in 2015 over safety was "the canary in the coal mine." for neglect of infrastructure renewal. Since then, spending had increased, he noted, "but without an overall plan." Developing such plans was what he did for a living, he said, and "I promise you an expanded, accelerated plan in the first six months."

Questions on outside issues

The question period for citizens got off to a slow start, as one member of the audience later noted, when several questions from the moderator on "outside issues" were asked.

How would each candidate implement Quebec's Bill 62 regarding face covering? In summary, all three agreed they would not enforce it in Westmount. It was noted it would probably face a court challenge.

Another supplemental question: Would they welcome a fight with Quebec?

Martin: "It won't come to that."

Smith: "Yes, because we need to stand our ground."

Wajzman indicated he would happily take on Quebec and had done it before. As an activist fighting against anti-Semitism and violations of rights, he recalled an occasion when he was the only member of a coalition fighting prejudice to have met with the premier.

Other questions from the moderator



Even before the debate started, the concert hall and balcony had reached capacity, it was announced. : It was also reported that late-comers were turned away at the door.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

during the evening included candidates' views on island-wide public transit (all in favour, Wajzman wanting it free for seniors) and what impact Montreal's choice of mayor would have on Westmount. To the latter, all outlined how they would liaise with whomever was elected.

Citizens' questions

When questioners from the audience lined up at two mics, a number of familiar issues raised at council meetings were asked of the candidates. These included: their views on the 500 Claremont development project, the SE planning vision, pension plan settlements with employees, potential St. Léon expansion annoyances, an indoor pool, allocation of surpluses and the revamping of the permits process – which they all agreed was needed.

On the latter, Martin, in particular, cited the need for the permitted use of more modern building materials even while preserving heritage. "We don't live in a museum," he said.

On an indoor pool and how it could be financed, all three agreed Westmount needed one.

Martin said if the city could build the \$42-million WRC "without increasing taxes," it could do the same for a pool. At the end of the evening, however, it was pointed out by one person in attendance that taxes had, in fact, been raised \$200 on average a year for building the WRC.

Jonathan Deitcher in District 1 asked Martin how it was that under his "watch" as commissioner of Public Works, the greenhouses had not already been restored while there had been unspent money in

the capital works budget and large budget surpluses reported.

Martin stated that there was a common misunderstanding about unspent infrastructure money suggestive of projects not done. It sometimes came from projects costing less than originally estimated or "just done in a cheaper way."

On the issue of surpluses, he said he believed they resulted from overtaxing, adding that when it came to councillors approving the budget, they had only a couple of hours to go through many pages when the budget was brought to them by the Finance and Administration committee, of which, he stated, Smith was a member.

On whether the condition of the greenhouse should ever have reached the stage of needing to be closed. "The money was never budgetted," he said. "The greenhouses were not getting what they needed." Smith countered saying there had been some \$500,000 set aside for it in 2010 that was never spent.

She was referring to the city's three-year capital budget adopted at that time, which showed amounts of \$300,000 "for restoration of the greenhouse, phase I, for 2011 and another \$275,000 for phase II in 2012."

No major renovations took place at the greenhouses during this period.

On transparency

WMA president Paul Marriott stated it was difficult for residents to obtain key information from the city either through the city's website, which was "difficult to navigate" or through access to information, all "unacceptable" in this day and age. "What steps do

.....
continued on p. 19



Mayoral candidates at their places on stage at Victoria Hall October 25 during at a debate moderated by Mike Finnerty at the podium. From left: Patrick Martin, Christina Smith and Beryl Wajzman.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

attention of restrained audience

you take to get information to them?”

Smith said “we need to do better” and that people want to know how decisions are reached rather than simply obtaining data. Wajzman said “everything” should be published immediately and that the lack of citizen access to information was “an institutional mindset throughout Quebec.”

Martin said there was no reason why all information shouldn't be available. Has a survey been done? Why not immediately put it on line? A traffic study? “Put it out there. Here is the study you paid for.”

He said there was “this mindset on council to control information” to which Smith said, “I agree with you. We can do better.”

In a later question on the pool, Martin said the recent indoor pool user study was still not online even though interim mayor Smith replied that she had asked for it to be posted. Martin countered he had just checked that day and it still wasn't.

Cycling issue

On a question about abolishing bike

paths and Bixis, Wajzman differed from Smith and Martin, who both said cycling was here to stay. Wajzman, whose platform advocates removing Bixis, said “Bixi was a bad thing for Montreal,” costing millions of dollars, for which Westmount paid its share.

He said he wanted to clarify his view on bike paths, explaining how he did not want to ban them but narrow them at stop signs to prevent pedestrians from being knocked down. He referred to de Maisonneuve and Kensington as an example.

Who's best for the job

In concluding, Wajzman cited his experience with other governments as a prime reason for being elected mayor, noting that being able to use the talents of the community was “the only way a community can survive with two elephants in the room” – Quebec and the aggro.

Smith said she wanted to be mayor from being inspired by the actions of so many residents who help others, advocate for safer bike paths and universal accessibility “because a municipality can be a force for good.”

Martin, who had the last word, said that at this time of council and management staff renewal, the city needed someone in the mayor's chair who had his leadership and management experience, who could “encourage independent thinking” and create a long-term plan and vision for the city.

On leaving Victoria Hall, it was pointed out by one resident that while the debate was a good one for the 325 attending, there were some 14,000 eligible voters in the eight electoral districts who would be starting to cast ballots at the advance poll (also at Victoria Hall) October 29.

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Martin backtracks, holds firm

Smith, Martin differ on 'plan'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A disagreement during the mayoral candidates' debate October 25 between Christina Smith and Patrick Martin over what a city 20-year infrastructure document contained or omitted spilled over after the event.

This evolved from Martin saying in the debate the city was without an “overall” infrastructure plan and that he would bring in a comprehensive long-term plan within six months of being elected.

“I am very disappointed to hear Patrick claim there is no 20-year plan for roads, buildings and other infrastructure after being commissioner of Public Works,” Smith told the *Independent* after the debate. “I think he was playing politics.”

On the other hand, it seems their differences relate in some part to what might constitute a long-term plan, the *Independent* learned.

Martin explained that “What the city has is a 20-year ‘budgetary’ plan – a financial projection – of what is required to bring all infrastructure up to required standards that is incomplete without work required to refurbish buildings.

“What I'm committed to delivering is what is meant by a long-term infrastructure plan for 20 to 25 years, one that lays out the sequence and execution of work, scheduling, coordination of projects with traffic and other challenges and an estimate costs of each.”

He maintained during the debate that the city's projection given to council in October 2016 was “incomplete” because it excludes major building restoration projects he estimated at some \$30 million, as well as the reconstruction of major east-west arterials such The Boulevard, Sherbrooke and St. Catherine.

He later acknowledged after checking that it turns out the financial projection did indeed include the arterials.

He stands by his claim, however, that it does not include major renovations to the Public Works garages, city hall and work on the greenhouses, train station, and elimination or restoration of the incinerator.

These were listed as excluded from the 20-year budgetary plan as stated in material given to the *Independent* in November 2016 entitled “Capital Investments 2017-2037 projections: presentation to council Capital Budget Seminar October 20, 2016” (see story November 8, 2016, p. 1).

This is reported to have been based on an extensive “inventory analysis and report” for 2013-2026 (13 years) that he had asked of Public Works director Marianne Zalzal before she retired (see story April 21, 2015, p. 5).

It includes the measurement of streets (including arterials), amounts of asphalt and concrete that would be required for reconstruction and projected years of work for the next nine years, at this point.

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ON THE SHELVES

Among new arrivals at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

Magazines

“A Timeless Kitchen” by Linda Wright in *The Cottage Journal*, autumn 2017, p. 91-96. Ten years ago, author and food critic Morgan Murphy revamped his cottage kitchen, leaving guests wondering if it was original to the 1930s home.

“Discover the Art of Water” by *In Practical Photography*, July 2017, p. 28-65. Three innovative projects that celebrate the diverse nature of water and the amazing images you can create with it: bathtub portraits, inky abstracts and underwater pond life.

K pour Katrine, premier numéro 2017. Proposant des recettes sans gluten et sans produits laitiers...sans que ça paraisse, le premier numéro s’adresse non seulement aux personnes intolérantes à ces substances, mais aussi à tous ceux et celles qui souhaitent bien manger.

**E-books and e-audio
(to read or to listen online)**

Origin by Dan Brown – Whoever you are, whatever you believe, everything will change. Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon navigates a dangerous intersection of humanity’s two most enduring questions, interweaving codes, science, religion and other disciplines before making a paradigm-shifting discovery.

The Golden House by Salman Rushdie – On the day of Barack Obama’s inauguration, an enigmatic billionaire from foreign shores takes up residence in the architectural jewel of “The Gardens,” a cloistered community in New York’s Greenwich Village. Nero Golden has brought along his three adult sons, and their past is an absolute mystery. Our guide to the Golden’s world is their neighbour Rene, an aspiring filmmaker who decides the Golden family will be his subject.

Livres numériques

Quand sort la recluse by Fred Vargas – The “recluse” is a type of spider with a particularly nasty bite. But does this explain the deaths of several octogenarians in the Nîmes region? Inspector Adamsberg will have to go the Natural History Museum to clarify this, as a murder was just committed in Paris on rue du Château-des-Rentiers.

Quelques heures à tuer by Heidi Pitlor – After his wife disappears following an argument, a climate scientist analyzes his marriage to an upper-class beauty, as he tries to piece together what happened to her.

Adult English – great reads

Jane Welsh Carlyle and her Victorian World: A Story of Love, Work, Friendship, and Marriage by Kathy Chamberlain – Hailed by Virginia Woolf and others as the all-time great letter writer, Jane Welsh Carlyle, wife of Scottish philosopher and writer Thomas Carlyle, is not as well-known today as she should be. In this compelling new biography for the general reader, Chamberlain brings Jane out of her husband’s shadow, revealing her to be a remarkable woman and writer in her own right.

Wear and Tear, the Threads of My Life by Tracy Tynan – The author grew up in London in the 1950s and 60s, privy to her par-

ents’ glamorous parties and famous friends. Stylish showbiz people, such as Laurence Olivier, Orson Welles and Vivien Leigh, were role models for Tracy. When she started writing about her life Tynan found that clothing was the focus of many of her stories. In this memoir, she tackles issues big and small using clothes as an entrée, recounting these with humour, insight and with the special joy that comes with finding the perfect outfit.

Adult French – Foreign authors

Deux hommes de bien by Arturo Perez-Reverte – At the end of the 18th century, two members of the Royal Academy of Spain are mandated to bring home the controversial and already famous *Encyclopédie* by Diderot. However, this work is banned in Spain, and their journey will be far from uneventful.

Le rêve de Ryôsuke by Durian Sukegawa – A young man loses his father prematurely. He travels in his footsteps and settles on the island, where the departed spent his last years. There, he will try to realize his father’s dream and make goat cheese. But his dreams will clash with local taboos and raise the ire of locals.

Documentary films

Mr. Gaga by Tomer Heymann – This film tells the story of Ohad Naharin, renowned choreographer and artistic director of the Batsheva Dance Company, an artistic genius who redefined the language of modern dance.

Spy in the Wild by John Downer – How different are we to our animal cousins? In this highly entertaining series, a new generation *continued on p. 21*

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Shelves cont'd. from p. 20

of spy cameras reveals just how similar we really are. Each episode is themed around a familiar aspect of our own lives, love, intelligence, friendship and mischief.

New fiction for 9-12 year-olds

The Wizards of Once by Cressida Cowell – A new story by the author of the ever-popular series *How to Train Your Dragon*. Many years ago, a great battle had been fought between the magical wizards and the warriors who had no magic. When two young members of each world meet in the dark forest, a great adventure begins that may change their lives forever.

Confessions d'un ami imaginaire by Michelle Cuevas – This funny memoir begins with 8-year-old Jacques admitting that he is confused about his lack of popularity at school. In fact, the only person who seems to really like him is his twin sister, Fleur. Then, one day, Jacques realizes that he not only feels invisible but is. Because he is Fleur's imaginary friend!

Book club in a bag

The Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry – Set in the late 19th century, follows the experiences of an intellectually minded young widow and a pious vicar, who investigate rumors about a mythical sea creature that has been blamed for a death in coastal Essex.

Storm impacts roads, people



A torrential downpour the evening of October 24 resulted in blocked drains and flooded streets. A city worker was seen being splashed by a driver. He was drenched from head to toe. Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Y's 'Plusone' mentoring has its start at Westmount branch

By REBECCA ANNE CLARK

The Westmount YMCA has inaugurated a new social program in Canada. YMCA Plusone Mentoring aims to pair local youth experiencing challenges with adult mentors who can be a source of support and growth.

Andrew Borrelli, director of development with the YMCA's School Success program, explains that a longstanding funding partner was interested in funding a mentoring program that worked with at-risk youth or those being followed by social services.

"We started looking at what kinds of options were out there," he said. "We thought, 'let's take a look at what the best practices are out there.' We have a huge network of colleagues [who] are always willing to share those types of program models."

The Plusone program, which was started in Scotland in 2009, fit the bill. The Canadian program officially began in January 2017, with the first mentoring match taking place at the Westmount YMCA.

Youth aged 10 to 17 are referred by community partners, such as teachers, social workers or police.

"We're seeking out kids [who] are experiencing a compound of challenges in their life. That might be conflict in the home, issues at school, a lack of a positive adult role model in their life," Borrelli explained.

"A lot of people look at Westmount and they don't always necessarily take into consideration certain parts of Westmount that have challenges," he said. "Lower Westmount was an area that we felt could be interesting for us to work in, where there aren't a whole lot of programs of this nature."

Mentees must live in proximity to their



Rebecca Mezzaluna, left, and Tamrah Valliant, a Plusone mentoring match, who have been meeting at the Westmount Y since April.

local YMCA, where meetings with their mentors are generally held. "One of the aspects that we wanted to implement was to be able to host the mentoring meetings in an environment that's safe and structured and supervised.

"The other advantage to that is we have all kinds of great programming that already exists," said Borrelli, citing examples of activities like sports or yoga classes, which the mentors and mentees can do together. At the Westmount recreation centre, there is a YMCA "Youth Zone" and a café, where mentors can provide homework help, or sit and chat.

Matchmaking is done carefully, weighing the personalities and interests of the Plusone pairs, developing a strategy to address the needs of each youth, and giving the matches plenty of support from program staff.

Mentors are supposed to provide a pos-

itive role model and encourage positive growth in their mentees.

"It can be a range of different outcomes, whether that's getting them to be more motivated at school, helping them to understand the importance of respect, anger management," Borrelli said.

This is the case with Rebecca Mezzaluna, who studies human relations, and Tamrah Valliant, who recounts how Mezzaluna helped her overcome her fear of heights at a rock-climbing outing. "We worked well together," said Valliant. "She pushed me – well ..."

"I pushed you," Mezzaluna confirmed, laughing.

"She pushed me to try more of the rock climbing walls and to just have fun and go for it," Mezzaluna added, "I knew she could do it, and I wanted her to feel a sense of accomplishment. And she did! She finished the wall. It was a fun experience."

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Parks accessible to public, buildings for residents

cont'd. from p. 1

Westmount recreation centre (WRC) is currently being worked on and is expected to be finalized by the incoming council, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week.

The fundamental principles governing the policies are that the parks “should remain fully accessible to the public at all times.”

On the other hand, the library, Victoria Hall and the Gallery are limited to use by the city and for public events of “a cultural, natural or benefit to the community” held by community-based, not-for-profit groups with a minimum Westmount-resident membership of 50 percent.

Additionally, Victoria Hall, as the city’s community centre, is reserved for regular city programs, council events and special

public events organized by the city, local groups as above and individuals on a priority and approval basis.

While none of these criteria appear greatly changed from guidelines referred to in the past, a lack of council-adopted policies has on some occasions led to questions from groups at council meetings wondering why they had been denied requests for use.

Among them was the Antiquarian Book Fair whose organizer, Wilfrid de Freitas, a Westmount resident, was denied use of Victoria Hall (see story July 1, 2014, p. 7).

Now that the policies have been approved, it is expected they will eventually be posted on the city website. It lists 21 officially recognized community organizations such as Guides, Scouts, the Westmount Horticultural Society, Westmount Municipal Association and Westmount Historical Association.

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