

Capital works meeting Dec. 18

Election delays city budget and tax rates till mid Jan.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount residents will have to wait until mid January to find out exactly what their property taxes will be in 2018.

That's when the city's operating budget will be presented, Mayor Christina Smith said last week. This is usually adopted in December but has been delayed this year by the municipal elections.

On the other hand, the three-year capital works budget is slated to be adopted at a

special meeting December 18.

The new council is to be briefed on both budgets December 14, but the preliminary operating budget cannot be finalized until Westmount's share of Montreal's agglomeration budget is known, also held up because of the election year.

"That's the big uncertainty," said Westmount director general Benoit Hurtubise. "As a result, we'll be presenting different scenarios to council at the briefing meeting."

Smith said she remains committed to a tax freeze for the third consecutive year, though this, too, could depend on the city's agglomeration apportionment, which in 2017 was \$53 *continued on p. 10*



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 16

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Friends of Westmount Public Library

Book sale tops \$22K, group commits to donate \$52K

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The two-day book sale by the Friends of Westmount Public Library November 18-19 generated record proceeds of \$22,331, according to Carolyn O'Neill, the group's president. This was an increase of more than \$3,000 over last year's fall event.

While this amount will be donated to the library for 2018, the volunteer group has already committed to turning over \$52,000

for 2017 to help fund ongoing and new programs, O'Neill said last week.

"What we like to do is provide funds to help launch new collections, which require a good start," she said.

The library's lengthy wish list given to the volunteer Friends group totals \$53,470 of which \$11,000 has been earmarked this year for the new e-magazine collection.

"We're committed to \$52,000 of the wish list for *continued on p. 4*

Prepping parks for winter



Fences seemingly sprung up on the Westmount Park soccer pitch near Academy Rd., as seen November 24. Signs of preparing the parks for the winter were witnessed last week, including the piles of boards for the outdoor skating rink at Prince Albert Park, November 26, the day of the season's first significant snow fall.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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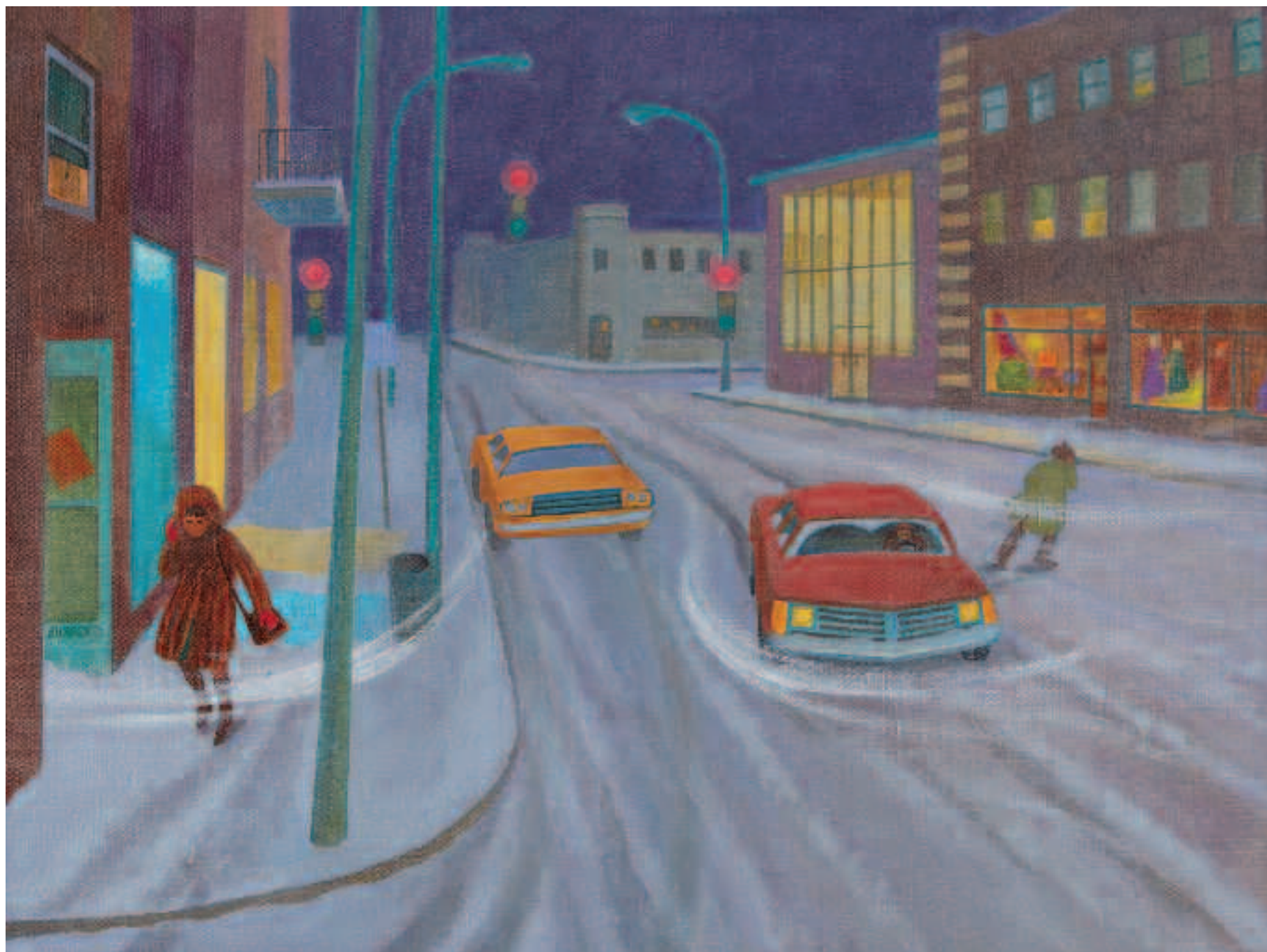
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Remembering Selwyn House's Rob Wearing

Former Selwyn House senior school director Robin Wearing died on November 23. Born in 1945 in Toronto, he worked at the school as a coach and teacher, beginning in 1973, before being appointed senior school director in 1984. He retired in 2006.

"Most former students will remember him as a coach of many sports and sports teams (football, wrestling and rugby, to name three), but my memories of him involve his unconventional attitude as head of the high school to 'the rules,' which was sensible, pragmatic and most welcome, but I won't share the details," said *Independent* publisher David Price and Selwyn '90 grad.

"My condolences to his family and friends."

Accident near school

A "minor" car accident November 15 caused a major traffic jam and ended up requiring a tow truck, Public Security officials said. Two cars were involved at Springfield and Metcalfe at 7:50 am in a drop-off zone for Akiva school. Officers were required to clear the traffic, which was backed up. Damage to one car prevented a door from closing.

Cllr. Peart seeks more transparency

500 Claremont development heading to final council vote Dec. 4

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The apartment development project proposed for 500 Claremont at Windsor is on its way to second and final reading at the city council meeting December 4, Mayor Christina Smith told the *Independent* last week.

"I want people to be aware it's coming," she said. "I'm quite confident it will be approved."

She said the agenda item should come as "no surprise." The project was first unveiled publicly a year ago, has gone through two public meetings, modifications, preliminary approval by the outgoing council in September and has been the subject of much public discussion.

Throughout this time, nearby residents have voiced concerns that the proposed conversion of what is a century-old institutional building would be too high at six storeys and too large for the neighbourhood, and its underground garage access on Claremont would be too dangerous (see

story September 12, p. 1).

It has been recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee, however, as well as the city administration, Smith pointed out, and "I'm very comfortable moving it forward. I do think it's the right thing to do."

The developer, Gideon Pollack, had "waited a long time," she added.

Concerned by process

Conrad Peart, newly elected councillor for the district and a professional architect, said last week he had always been favourable to the project "but it was the process that concerned me. It was not transparent enough."

He said the latest concept had not been posted on the city website until last week. "I found that a source of frustration. Information should be made far more accessible, especially when it involves a new process."

The project has been considered under the city's special by-law and process known

under its acronyms of SCAOPI or PPC-MOI for projects that do not conform to current zoning. As such, it is subject to a referendum process.

This means that after the second reading, residents of the zone and contiguous zones would be able to set the referendum process in motion by petitioning the city within eight days of a legal notice in the *Independent* to open a register.

The various legal steps that could follow would be outlined by the city's legal department in the event that a sufficient number of people were to sign the register.

Truck wedged under

A truck became stuck under the railway overpass on Greene Ave. at Prospect November 14, Public Security officials said. Once traffic was cleared away shortly after 8:23 am, the truck was able to back down the hill but had to be towed away. It sustained damage to the front end but did not cause any to the CP structure.

Time to Get Moving!

During the Holiday Season, everything slows down. Couples have more time, families get together, and often, important decisions are made. Real estate planning for the new year is often one of the major topics discussed during this period.

If you have given any thought to buying or selling, now is the time to get in touch with me. Just drop me a line, or call me, so we can start the conversation.

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Book sale cont'd. from p. 1

this year,” O’Neill said.

She attributes part of the record amount generated by the fall sale to word of mouth that has led to an overall growth of the event through the years. This fall’s sale also benefitted in particular from the donations of two people’s extensive collections of quality books.

A total of 150 volunteers, including students, worked over the two sale days and the day before, she said.

“The sale was an extraordinary success,” said Julie-Anne Cardella, director, Library

and Community Events. She also said it reflected the quality of the donated material.

While the Friends group holds two sales a year, the fall one typically brings in higher revenues than the one in the spring because of its proximity to holiday gift giving.

Some of the programs the group continues to fund on a recurring basis of \$20,000 are a public performance copyright licence for films, the Book Club in a Bag program, fast reads, a TumbleBooks subscription (an online collection of animated talking children’s books) and e-books application services for English and French.

Tree-lighting starts off holiday season



Photo: Ralph Thompson

A small but jovial crowd gathered at Prince Albert square November 23 around 6 pm. Newly elected councillor for District 5 Marina Brzeski flicked the switch at 6:30 pm to launch the tree-lighting ceremony, which was organized by Victoria Village Merchants’ Association and the city of Westmount. Hot tea was supplied by DavidsTea, The Beat 92.5 had a tent set up to play music, and former District 4 councillor Rosalind Davis handed out her homemade fudge. The crowd was smaller this year than last.

Inset: The city’s Public Works crew works on putting the tree in place in the square around 9:30 am that morning for the ceremony to take place that evening.



Photo: Staff

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Vendôme (construction) village



Left: As reported in the November 21 issue (“New entrance started at Vendôme Metro,” p. 1), work began recently to the new pedestrian entrance from de Maisonneuve to the Glen super-hospital. Pictured above on November 23, looking west, is the land between the CP train tracks and St. Catherine St. where it turns up to become Claremont and cross de Maisonneuve on the Westmount-NDG border. The super-hospital is to the left and the former Aeroplan building to the right. The actual digging will take place west of (behind, in this photo) the Aeroplan building. Right: A map on the fence shows where the new building will fit between the Aeroplan building and the existing Metro entrance and a placard announces the project. Inset: A sign saying “Projet Vendôme” hangs outside one of the trailers.

Photos: Westmount Independent



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(or several other) municipality-ies, and some of these publications are less often than weekly. In addition, print newspapers of all types face all sorts of challenges in the current technological and regulatory climate. If you don't like what we're doing, please feel free to write too, for publication or not (please say which). Please send letters to: Kristin McNeill, editor indie@westmountindependent.com 310 Victoria Ave. #105 Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9 Thank you to all our constituents, especially those who have already sent a letter.

DAVID PRICE, PUBLISHER

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Correction

Professor Lawrence Mysak's view was misrepresented in "Panelists offer differing views in HCP climate debate" (November 21, p. 8). In fact, he defended the use of mathematical models for climate forecasting.

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We are Westmount.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WEINTRAUB COULD MAKE THE 'ANGRYPHONE SMILE'

[The late] William Weintraub [a Westmounter who died November 6] was a good humourist, but unlike many humourists who are cantankerous and curmudgeonly when off duty, Weintraub was also a man of good humour. He was a happy warrior, who could make an angry-phone smile while mercilessly documenting the plight of the English-speaking community at the close of the last century. His gift to us was the humour that allows hope to flourish long after the case for optimism is closed.

I remember him saying, years ago in conversation, that he hoped to live as long as his father, who died at 93. He almost succeeded, and modest man that he was, probably exceeded his own expectations for the longevity of his work.

An understanding of English Quebec is necessarily incomplete if it neglects the work of William Weintraub.

HOWARD GREENFIELD, HILLSIDE AVE.

WILL TRAFFIC ISSUES NOW BE ADDRESSED?

We now have a new mayor and council, and hopefully, they will address the woeful east/west traffic flow in our city.

We have three routes: Westmount Ave., Sherbrooke St. and St. Catherine St., all of which are terribly stressful to motorists

owing to randomly changing traffic signals.

I constantly hear promises of synchronizing lights, but nothing seems to happen. If the intention is to force cars to avoid our city, it is grossly unfair to Westmount residents who do not have that choice. I fervently hope that our new council will quickly address this issue.

NORM SHACTER, WOOD AVE.

CAN NEW COUNCIL MAKE SOUTHEAST LEED CERTIFIED?

The newly elected city council has the opportunity of building on the legacy of its predecessors who had manoeuvred the Westmount recreation centre to its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. We are proud of that effort which brought a more sustainable city and a most enjoyable recreation centre.

Westmount's proposed southeast development project could follow in those footsteps. It could become a LEED-certified neighbourhood. In terms of transportation, it is well situated in the city. It adjoins the Atwater bus terminus and Metro station. It is within quick walking distance of a panoply of shopping options, educational institutions and cultural venues. It is near the protected de Maisonneuve cycling path. Thus, it could be designed to be free of private vehicles.

We are appreciative of continued on p. 7

Photo to the editor: Dawson women's rugby wins division title



Photo courtesy of R. Burgos

The Dawson Blues women's rugby team were 6-0 over the season and won the division title for the RSEQ CEGEP southwest region, according Rick Burgos, parent of player Annisa Burgos. The team won the semi final against Champlain Lennoxville on November 5 by a score of 38-5, and in the final game at John Abbott College on November 12 against College Heritage from Hull, they won 48-22. Under the guidance of head coach Kaneb Uphill and assistant coach Aleza Lazanis, this win made the Blues the winners of the division championship for a second year in a row. Westmounters on the team were Burgos, Chloe Jonas, Emily Rolph and Rachel Swabey, according to Rick Burgos.

Therapist Usher-Jones concerned about bullying of autistic children in park

By REBECCA ANNE CLARK

The operator of a clinic that works with autistic kids is concerned by a rise in the number of reports she is receiving about her young clients being bullied by other kids in Westmount Park.

Alison Usher-Jones is the owner and therapist at Westmount Music Therapy, a clinic that she founded next to Westmount Park in 2013. She works with children and adolescents from a variety of backgrounds, but her main clientele is children on the autism spectrum.

"I chose that location very specifically for the distance to the park; the kids really love to be outside," said Usher-Jones. Many of her clients enjoy the park with their families before or after sessions. But, she

said, she has noticed an increase in reports of bullying of autistic children from parents.

She shared a statement from Vanessa Sicotte, a mother of three, who said, "Last summer, girls were playing hide-and-seek at the park, and Teddy wanted to help by telling the seeker where he had seen the other girls hide. Of course, they all got mad at him, told him he was stupid and such things. I was so upset. He just didn't understand the rules of the game." Sicotte shared another incident in which an adult told her son to leave if he couldn't "behave himself."

Usher-Jones explained that she suspects that the increase might be coming now because clients who started coming to her as young children are now older. "I started

asking around with my other clients, and it turns out that this is a regular occurrence, especially for the kids who are a little bit bigger."

Usher-Jones met with a representative from Westmount Public Security on November 15 to discuss ways in which the problem could be addressed, including adjusting patrol times in Westmount Park and helping officers identify special needs children.

"We also talked about creating a strategy for going into the schools in Westmount and creating awareness through that avenue, talking to students, explaining what autism is, especially in schools that might not have special-needs kids," said Usher-Jones, who is emphatic that everyone, including parents and teachers, need to help raise awareness and combat bullying.

"Most kids wouldn't actively make fun of a child in a wheelchair or a child with Down's syndrome, because it's a visible disability, but kids with autism look the exact same as any other kid; they just have behaviours that are very different."

Letters cont'd. from p. 6

the lead given by former mayor Peter Trent, who often spoke of living without a car. In fact, whereas the car is a suburban necessity, to urban spaces it is detrimental. With a car-sharing option such as Communauto and the transportation cocktail at its doorstep, the private car is not needed.

A significant part of the younger generation is desirous to have housing developments that are free of the car. The regained space could be shifted to gardens, parklands, playground facilities for their young families. Tupper itself could be converted to these uses while retaining the accessibility for emergency vehicles. Gladstone also could be narrowed to a pedestrian way into this new inner urban haven.

Reflecting the southern side of Dorchester, the southeast development [building heights] should be continuous and not exceed four stories with the possibility of two more in setback. It would be in stark

contrast to the high, anti-urban towers [proposed] for the former Children's hospital. Again former mayor Peter Trent has led the way in voicing concerns over their urban effects. The composition of the new council gives hope to the idea of a LEED-certified neighbourhood.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

Driver hits 3 cars

A car that crashed into three others November 14 outside 4700 St. Catherine at Glen Rd. was reported by a witness to have hit three others, according to Public Security officials. The witness said the driver appeared inebriated, but patrollers who spoke to the man said he claimed to be tired and became distracted. Police were called, and the incident at 11:26 pm was left in their hands.

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Welsh singers have roots to 1860

60-year-old male choir to perform Dec. 13 – for the last time?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There's a distinct possibility the approaching Christmas concert of the Montreal Welsh Male Choir at Victoria Hall December 13 may well be its last, says Westmount resident Andrew Macdougall, who has sung with the choral group for five years.

"I'm concerned that if we don't get new members, we'll be forced to close," he said.

"Our numbers have been falling gradually in recent years, and it's reached the stage that if they fall further we won't be able to call ourselves a choir," he said.

The Westmount-based group, which practises weekly at Mountainside United Church, has dwindled from 30 members to 15, Macdougall explained. And considering most are retirees, some of whom will go off to Florida after the holidays,

very few will be left to start rehearsing for the May-June performance, he explained.

At the upcoming concert of traditional Christmas music, Macdougall will also recite a shortened version of Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, which he is dramatizing to involve various other members of the choir.

The group will also team up with the Village Handbell Ringers from St. Lambert. Tickets are available at Victoria Hall or at the door for \$20 before the 7:30 pm start, Macdougall said.

While the local choir was registered in 1960, it traces its roots back 100 years when a large group of Welsh quarrymen came over to Montreal to work on construction of the Victoria Bridge. They quickly organized themselves into a choral group and performed at the opening ceremony of the new bridge in 1860.

Focussing on camera club's history



Ann Pearson delivers a talk during the Westmount Historical Association's November 16 lecture "The Montreal Camera Club: an overview of 125 years."

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The last of the Westmount Historical Association (WHA)'s fall lecture series was delivered at the Westmount Public Library November 16. Presenter and photographer Ann Pearson, a longtime Montreal Camera Club (MCC) member, who has spent much of her life teaching photography,

gave an articulate and detailed history of the 125 years of the MCC. She linked its lineage to Montreal photographer William McFarlane Notman (son of the famous photographer William Notman), who was an early member in 1893.

The MCC is listed in *Lovell's* directory in 1892 as being located at the YMCA building, Dominion Sq., with the famous name of Charles F. Dawson as the secretary, treasurer, according to Pearson.

The William Notman & Son photographer's studio was a close neighbour, possibly in the same building, she said. Alex Henderson, a professional landscape photographer was the only professional founding member of the club.

More history on the MCC can be found on its website at www.montrealcameraclub.com/mcc-history.html

The MCC meets Monday evenings at Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. An exhibition of photographs by MCC members is on at The Gallery at Victoria Hall until December 8.

The WHA is to hold its annual holiday party at the Gallery, December 14.



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This mansion evokes the class and sophistication of a bygone era. Massive mold ngs, spacious rooms, and with renovations that have not only revived it to its former glory, but made it into a mélange of classic and modern.



TUDOR-STYLE | IDEALLY LOCATED

AV. LEXINGTON, WESTMOUNT **\$2,995,000**

Superb Tudor-style residence beautifully proportioned. This grand, three-storey home boasts ample bedrooms spread over the top two floors, gorgeous living areas as well as a wonderfully spacious back-yard.



IMPECCABLY RENOVATED | GORGEOUS DETAILS

RUE DU SOUVENIR, WESTMOUNT ADJ. **\$1,925,000**

This impeccably renovated and timeless grey-stone townhouse has been conceived with style and panache. Clean lines, bright rooms, soaring ceilings and gorgeous original details that blend seamlessly with the new/modern.



7 BEDROOMS | QUIET CORNER

STRATFORD ROAD, HAMPSTEAD **\$1,195,000**

Spacious and comfortable classic brick house on a quiet corner lot close to all services that both Hampstead and NDG have to offer. Many bedrooms, large living areas a roomy finished basement, and detached sngle garage.



TWO STOREYS | TWO PARKING SPOTS

“FORT DE LA MONTAGNE”, WSTMNT ADJ. **\$1,095,000**

South-Western exposure, open and spread over two floors. This penthouse-style unit features two balconies, gorgeous views and a superb exposure. Quiet, sophisticated and spacious, this is the perfect unit you’ve been looking for.



TWO STOREY PENTHOUSE | ONE PARKING SPOT

“LE CAVERHILL”, OLD PORT **\$825,000**

Two-storey, two-bedroom, a gorgeous rooftop terrace and one parking spot. This contemporary and renovated unit is truly a must-see for anyone looking for a New-York style penthouse in the beautifully European Old Port.



EUROPEAN-STYLE CORNER UNIT

RUE ST-GABRIEL, OLD PORT **\$725,000**

New York City in the heart of Montreal's European-Style Old-Port: A true dream mix of styles and architectural influences, this very spacious corner loft features views of the old port and endless tall windows.



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Fundraiser at McClure Gallery draws supporters

By HEATHER BLACK

A Visual Arts Centre fundraiser took place at the McClure Gallery November 9. Entitled “Secret Studio,” invited artists were asked to select new, unexhibited or unusual art, resulting in the exhibition of some 100 paintings. They included abstract, landscape, still-lives and figurative works, many by Westmount artists including Jennifer Hornyak, Anthony Hobbs, Hannah Franklin, Bruce Roberts, Elisabeth Galante and Catherine Maclaren. The gala evening event drew many from

the community. Westmounter Janet Chefin commented: “As many of my friends are participating artists and my son took lessons here, I’m happy to support such a worthwhile cause.”

Proceeds from the art sold and ticket sales were to support the Victoria Ave.-based Visual Arts Centre’s school of art and ARTreach programs to under-served groups such as seniors and at-risk youth.

It was curated by the gallery’s exhibitions director, Renée Duval and works were displayed until November 18.



Janet Sheffins, left, and Joanna Abrahamowicz look at paintings November 9 at the McClure Gallery November 9.

Hidden talents: Artistic photo project *Red against white*



Photo courtesy of A. Sharp

On a November 19 photograph taken in a backyard on de Maisonneuve Blvd., Andrew Sharp: “Our neighbourhood northern cardinal [is seen] snacking on the last of the ivy berries before they freeze. It is nice to see such bright colours throughout the year but especially against a background of snow.”

Please submit your artistic photos to indie@westmountindependent.com, including what struck you about the scene and the date you took the photo. We’ll run the best ones. We hope you’ve been enjoying the series so far.

– Kristin McNeill, editor

Budget delayed cont’d. from p. 1

million, or close to 50 percent of the city’s \$106-million operating budget.

A freeze looks hopeful, she said, given that revenues from building permits are “way up” over budget for this year. “It’s very difficult to budget this amount but the fact that it continues to increase shows a lot of renovation is under way.”

She also said that “we’re keeping up the pace of infrastructure spending” in the upcoming capital works budget. This year, it was \$17 million.

Work began on the budget process back in June, Hurtubise said. Under provincial law, municipal budgets must be adopted by the end of December except during an election year, when the deadline is extended to the end of January.

This extension of time does not apply, however, to the capital works budget.

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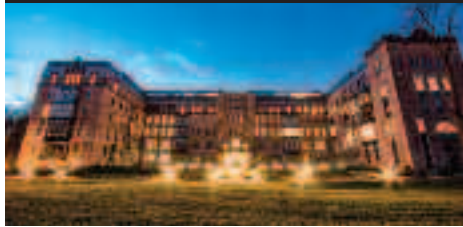
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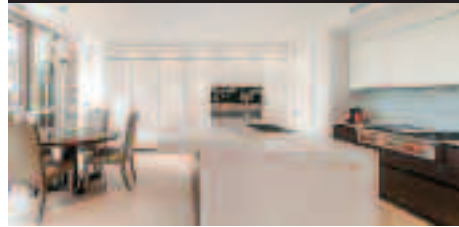
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M sur la Montagne Unit 102 Phase II
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2017.11.28 • Vol. 5/22
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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Projet Turcot : Comité de bon voisinage
Le mardi 28 novembre, de 19 h à 20 h 30, hôtel de ville. Le ministère des Transports a mis en place un comité de bon voisinage dans le secteur NDG/Westmount.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Rencontre d'auteurs : Anne Renaud (5 ans et +)
Le mardi 28 novembre, 16 h, Bibliothèque. Viens rencontrer l'auteure Anne Renaud alors que nous célébrons son dernier livre *Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament*. 514 989-5229.

Club de lecture en anglais
Le mardi 28 novembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *The Break* par Katherena Vermette. Animé par Carly Vandergrriendt. 514 989-5299.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Les mercredis 29 novembre et 13 décembre, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque. Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount compose des poèmes à partir de thèmes proposés par les membres. 514 989-5299.

Conférences de 14 heures : Andrew MacDougall
Le mercredi 6 décembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. A *Presentation of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Club de films documentaires
Le mercredi 6 décembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Roger d'Astous* (2016). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en français
Le lundi 11 décembre, 13 h, Bibliothèque. *Arnaldur Indriðason*. Animé par Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Ciné-club
Le mardi 12 décembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Frantz*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Rencontres d'auteurs : Paule des Rivières, Raynald Petit et Gabor Szilasi
Le mercredi 13 décembre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. Rencontrez les auteurs et le photographe de *Chemin faisant : rencontres avec douze personnalités inspirantes*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil
le lundi 4 décembre

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

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.

Collecte de sang d'Héma-Québec
Le mercredi 6 décembre, 14 h 30 à 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Donnez du sang, Donnez la vie. 514 989-5226.

Illumination du sapin de Noël
Le mercredi 6 décembre, 18 h 30 à 20 h, Club de bowling. Joignez-vous aux élus municipaux à l'occasion de cette célébration. 514 989-5226.



Patinage des fêtes
Le dimanche 10 décembre, 14 h à 16 h 30, CLW. Musique, chocolat chaud et bricolages lors de cet après-midi de patinage des fêtes. Portez votre chandail le plus moche et vous pouvez gagner un prix! Info : 514 989-5226.

Chantons Noël
Le dimanche 10 décembre, 18 h, Club de bowling. Joignez-vous à vos voisins et venez chanter des chants de Noël. Apportez une gâterie sucrée ou salée. Dons pour Chez Doris, Old Brewery Mission et La porte ouverte. 514 989-5226.

Fête de la Hannoukah
Le mardi 12 décembre, 17 h à 18 h 30, l'Hôtel de ville. Joignez-vous à la célébration de ce festival des lumières avec musique, jeux et mets traditionnels. 514 989-5226.

Le chœur d'hommes gallois de Montréal
Le mercredi 13 décembre, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Le groupe interprètera des chansons traditionnelles anglaises et galloises accompagné par Le chœur de cloches. Billets 20 \$. 514 989-5226.

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CITY HALL

Turcot Project: Comité de bon voisinage
Tuesday, November 28, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., City Hall. The ministère des Transports set up a good neighbour committee for the NDG/Westmount district.

LIBRARY

Author visit: Anne Renaud (5 years +)
Tuesday, November 28, 4 p.m., Library. Join author Anne Renaud for a celebration of her latest book *Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament*. Crafts, snacks and stories! 514 989-5229.

English Book Club
Tuesday, November 28, 7 p.m., Library. Katherena Vermette's *The Break*. Led by Carly Vandergrriendt. 514 989-5299.

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd
Wednesdays, November 29 and December 13, 10:15 a.m., Library. The Westmount Poetry Group meets to compose poetry together working with themes proposed by members. 514 989-5299.

2 O'Clock Conferences Series: Andrew MacDougall
Wednesday, December 6, 2 p.m., Library. A *Presentation of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations*. Tickets Required. 514 989-5299.

Documentary Film Club
Wednesday, December 6, 7p.m., Library. *Roger d'Astous* (2016). Tickets required. 514 989-5229.

French Book Club
Monday, December 11, 1 p.m., Library. Arnaldur Indriðason. Led by Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Film Club
Tuesday, December 12, at 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Frantz*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Author Lecture Series: Paule des Rivières, Raynald Petit and Gabor Szilasi
Wednesday, December 13, 2 p.m., Library. Come meet the authors and photographer of *Chemin faisant : rencontres avec douze personnalités inspirantes*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting
Monday, December 4

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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.

Héma-Québec Blood Clinic
Wednesday, December 6, 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Give the gift of life at the December Blood Drive. 514 989-5226.

Christmas Tree Lighting
Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Lawn Bowling Club. Join City Council members for this holiday celebration. 514 989-5226.

Holiday Skating
Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., WRC. The whole family is invited to enjoy music, treats, and crafts at this special holiday skating event. Wear your best "ugly sweater" and you could win a prize! 514 989-5226.

Neighbourhood Carolling
Sunday, December 10, 6 p.m., Lawn Bowling Club. Join your neighbours for an evening of carolling. Please bring a sweet or savory treat. Donations for Chez Doris, The Open Door and Old Brewery Mission. 514 989-5226.

Community Chanukah Celebration
Tuesday, December 12, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., City Hall. Everyone is invited to City Hall to join in a community celebration of this festival of lights with music, games and traditional refreshments. 514 989-5226.

The Montreal Welsh Male Choir
Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. The group will sing traditional Welsh songs and short readings. Accompanied by the Village Ringers. Tickets \$20. 514 989-5226.



Quilico takes the stage during

Rotary evening



Baritone Gino Quilico performs November 4 at Victoria Hall, accompanied by Dominic Boulianne on the piano), Uliana Drugova on the violin and Marianne Croft on the cello.

By RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount was treated to an extraordinary musical performance November 4 at Victoria Hall by Canadian opera baritone Gino Quilico. The event was organized by The Rotary Club of Westmount.

An officer of the Order of Canada, Quilico won a Grammy award for best opera recording in 1996. Among others, he has performed for La Scala di Milano, Opéra de Paris and New York's Metropolitan Opera.

Rarely seen performing in Montreal up until the past few years, Quilico treated the Westmount audience to a well-scripted but also improvised performance, which was relaxed and humorous. Accompanying him were pianist Dominic Boulianne, violinist Uliana Drugova cellist Marianne Croft.

Quilico covered a broad range of music including from Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah," Leonard Bernstein's "Somewhere" and "Ol' Man River" by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II to Giacomo Puccini's "Nessun dorma" and his finale,

Gioachino Rossini's *Largo al Factotum*.

The once-Westmount resident now lives near Atwater Market and has a busy international schedule. "The Westmount audience was great," said Quilico during intermission, while he chatted and laughed with his son and co-performers. "They started quiet and reserved but were soon singing along."

The Victoria Hall event was sold out with close to 400 seats filled.

The evening of famous love songs was hosted by the *Gazette's* music critic and arts writer Arthur Kaptainis.

Several businesses supported the evening, including Westmount-based Flore, Bierbrier Brewing, Metro, Chez Nick, Pierre mon Coiffeur, ReMax Action, and Montreal-based Gestion de Patrimoine Assante.

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Riley is an elegant grey tabby with fluffy stripes. His green eyes and beautiful white whiskers are quite a contrast. He is very healthy, is neutered and up to date with his inoculations. He was rescued and cared for by Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions. You can find out more about him by contacting its volunteers at info@gerdysrescue.org or by paging 514.203.9180.

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The annual chubby catnip mice, hand-

Dog owner protests

Public Security officials said a man found throwing tennis balls to his dog in Prince Albert Park November 9 was told he could be issued a ticket for \$221 for letting the dog off leash. The man requested to be given a regular \$77 ticket for the by-law violation. He was told that since his previous tickets had not been a deterrent, the higher amount would be requested by the city and would be up to a municipal court judge to decide. The NDG man and his dog were described as well-known users of the park. The incident was recorded at 11:38 am.

knitted to benefit Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions are available again in a riot of contrasting colours and stripes for your pet holiday stockings. They are available at Little Bear, Hôpital Vétérinaire Général MB and Pampered Pets.



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NEW COUNCIL APPROVES 56 PERMITS BEFORE WINTER

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting November 13.

4849 Sherbrooke: at a Category I building, to install new signs;

322 Prince Albert: to make a window opening and a door opening at the rear provided the windows are guillotines and that the horizontal division of the door and of the panel are omitted and that the door has a thicker base;

452 Victoria: at a Category I house, to replace the windows and doors at the rear provided the windows are wood without aluminum cladding;

608 Carleton: to demolish half the garage and build an extension at the rear of the principal building, as well install new windows and doors provided the elevations are coordinated with the window and door work order;

484 Elm: at a Category I house, to build a balcony in the back yard and a fence;

502 Grosvenor: landscaping in the back yard including rebuilding retaining walls and fences;

25 Forden: to replace windows;

4725 de Maisonneuve: landscaping in the back yard;

617 Carleton: landscaping in the back yard;

463 Clarke: landscaping in the back yard;

376 Metcalfe: at a Category 1* house, to replace windows;

258 Olivier: at a Category I house, to build a rear deck, install a fence and do some landscaping in the rear yard;

4340 Westmount: landscaping to include a new retaining wall, stairs and resurfacing of the driveway;

30 Forden: at a Category I property, landscaping;

312 Roslyn: to build a roof terrace, modify a window opening to install a door and replace a door;

562 Claremont: landscaping;

4939 de Maisonneuve: to build a new deck, remove an existing door and modify two windows at the rear to install a new patio door and a French door;

1368 Greene: to install two new signs;

571 Grosvenor: to rebuild a front balcony;

4894 Sherbrooke: at a Category I building, to install a sign;

3 Church Hill: to replace windows;

426 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to build a new staircase off a rear balcony, install a new fence, windows and doors as well as build a basement storage space and do some minor landscaping provided the windows are wood interior and exterior;

604 Belmont: to install a fence;

246 Redfern: to extend a rear deck provided the wood panel in front of the stairs is pushed back to the end of the bench or is omitted;

571 Grosvenor: to replace windows;

6 Forden: to install a fence;

95 Côte St. Antoine: at Selwyn House, a Category I building, to install two new copper downspouts on an existing gutter on the Stanton St. façade;

4687 Westmount: to modify the rear balconies and stairs as well as openings at the rear;

792 Upper Belmont: to replace windows;

474 Grosvenor: landscaping in the front yard;

4485 Sherbrooke: to build a fence in the side yard;

4687 Westmount: to replace windows provided that only the second floor ones have mutins and that they are on the upper sash only;

387 Roslyn: to replace a door and a window and to modify a window opening at the rear;

25 Windsor: to replace windows;

646 Grosvenor: landscaping work;

4695 de Maisonneuve: at Westmount Park Church, a Category I building, to in-

stall a new basement exit and a new chain link fence;

331 Lansdowne: at a Category I house, to replace the garage door;

4560 St. Catherine: to repair the balconies and replace their doors;

3180 The Boulevard: at a Category I house, to replace some windows at the front of the house provided the number of divisions is reduced to match those as per the drawings found in the city archives dated March 1921;

4302 Montrose: to complete renovation work under permit #41523, which includes exterior mill work and masonry work;

4294 Montrose: at a Category I house, to replace windows and doors provided all windows to be replaced are in wood including those installed in the metal-clad walls;

619 Clarke: at a Category I house, to demolish a portion of the rear to realign the wall and reinstall the existing windows;

118 Lewis: at a Category I house, to replace the rear basement door;

4862 Westmount: landscaping work in the side yard;

455 Roslyn: landscaping work at the rear including a new deck and patio;

12 Burton: to modify a window opening at the rear;

656 Murray Hill: to modify openings on the rear façade;

750 Upper Lansdowne: to replace the front and side basement windows;

433 Victoria: to replace front balcony doors on condition they are in wood;

322 Prince Albert: to replace windows;

4891 Sherbrooke: to install three new signs;

600 Victoria: to replace windows;

312 Roslyn: to replace the roof shingles with conditions;

640 Lansdowne: to replace windows;

350 Olivier: to replace windows;

446 Lansdowne: to replace solarium windows.

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VERONICA REDGRAVE

Gasparyan opens boutique on Greene

Boutique Le Boudoir opened on Greene Ave. on October 16. It is the third location for Boutique Agatha. Founded by Brigitte Gasparyan in 1985, it has been a Laurier Ave. fashionista destination for over 30 years. A few years ago, the Turkish-born Gasparyan changed her store to a boudoir boutique, while still carrying her famed bijoux. In her new space, she showed me her Aladdin's cave of stunning designs. Westmount ladies who love to wear interesting jewellery will be thrilled to see the collection: Michal Negrin from Israel, delicate pieces by Kurshuni (Turkey), Clio Blue, and my personal fave, les *Interchangeables*. From Paris, this Swarovski-studded line adds a sparkling touch whether a bracelet or choker. Both are on the kind of stretch ribbon that Christian Dior used in his collection, she said. The boutique also carries accessory lines ranging from gorgeous leopard boots, be-jewelled must-have velvet booties (as seen on the streets of Rome); fox-fur-touched jackets, cashmere travel wraps and beaded evening bags.

1228 Greene Ave.

Open daily, different hours.

New beauty salon

Another new shop has opened on Greene Ave.. Offering pedicures and manicures is The Ten Spot. (Does ten represent fingers and toes? No, I discovered. It means you will "feel like a ten!") A franchise, the space is the first in Quebec. The salon also offers facials using Dermatologica products and has just started laser services. It was a calming experience to walk into a mani-pedi location and not see rows upon rows of people. Comfortable-looking cushioned banquettes sit above the pedicure baths. The brand colours of orange (towels and cushions) and grey (stainless steel) communicate a refreshing feeling. Co-manager Whitney Carreira explained the firm's emphasis on cleanliness. "For example, we don't use jets in the pedicure. And we sanitize sinks with medical-grade disinfectant. Furthermore, files and buffers are only used once." Natural is

also part of their beauty routine. "We don't do fake nails or lashes."

1368 Greene Ave.

Open daily, different hours.

Maison Goldberg

In July, Joel Goldberg and his daughter Keely opened Maison Goldberg in a business centre on St. Catherine St. Joel is the son of Lou Goldberg of the famed Greene Ave. jewelry store since closed. Both are GIA-trained (Gemological Institute of America), and Keely is a whiz in computer-aided design. It is not a jewelry store *per se*. There are no sparkling bits in display cases. Their mission is to cut out "as many middlemen as possible," explained Keely Goldberg. "From my dad's years of business on Greene Ave., he has sources for gems. This way, we can offer the same quality at better prices." Travelling to trade shows around the world, the father-daughter team say they find one-of-a-kind gems and diamonds. With an amazing 3-D printer, Keely Goldberg "prints" different resin pieces based on her designs. "The resin piece can go directly to casting," she explained. She can show customers a mock-up on the computer, and can shift stones and sizing right in front of them if they want changes. Maison Goldberg also re-purposes older jewellery. Keely brings an international feel to her work, having lived in Bangkok and trained in California and Florence.

4150 St. Catherine St., suite 490

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TNT expanding to include men's wear

TNT (The New Trend), which opened its doors offering fabulous ladies' fashions seven years ago is to be launching TNT Homme by spring 2018. "It will be con-



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temporary street wear," explained clerk Natasha Nickels. Both will be housed in the same location after renovations.

4100 St. Catherine St.

10 years for Happy Tree

And speaking of years flying by, Happy Tree Yoga is celebrating 10 years. The anniversary moment took place November 3. The popular place offers hot yoga, hatha yoga, yin yoga and therapeutic massages on site or at the office. Founder and director Melanie Richards leads the hatha, yin and gentle yoga teacher training programs.

4010 St. Catherine St.

Open daily, different hours.

From brasserie to pizzeria

In Victoria village, Brasserie Centrale underwent a renovation. Owner Paolo Oliveira, who also owns Pizzeria Melrose in NDG, "changes the concept every five years." Brasserie Centrale will now be called Brasserie Melrose. It opened November 6. They will serve five different

pizzas. "We [recently] installed our new environmentally-friendly pizza oven from Italy. We will also now have an oyster bar (Wednesdays through Fridays), and a special bar area where people can meet."

4858 Sherbrooke St.

Open daily, different hours.

Closed, across from Alexis Nihon

Opposite Alexis Nihon Plaza, Liquidation is living up to its reputation: it closed. Also closed along this stretch of St. Catherine St. is a dry cleaners (formerly at 4090) and the clothing store Tia Maria (4026A).

Is James Perse expanding?

For quite a while now, James Perse, the shop at 4869 Sherbrooke St., has had a large sign in the window next door announcing an expansion. They do not yet have "an opening date," was all Elke Shorer, from Mark Edwards Apparel, could tell us. The company owns the rights to James Perse in Canada.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Denis Brott, internationally recognized as one of Canada's great musicians, founded the Montreal Chamber Music Orchestra, now celebrating its 23rd anniversary. On October 24, the award-winning artist, accompanied by his wife **Julie Brott**, welcomed guests to a musical reception. Part of the *Concert dans les grandes maisons* series, it was held at the home of **Phyllis Lambert**.

Noted arriving were **Pierre Desrochers**, chair at the time of the Montreal Executive Committee, there with **Sylvie Demers**, chair, Quebec market, TD Bank; **Michael Forian** and **Connie Placido** from provincial legislator Jacques Chagnon's office; **André Poulin**, Destination Centre-Ville and his wife **Lieve Perneel**, and opera singer **Joseph Rouleau**.

Board members seen were president **Michael Boer** and local resident, VP

Michael McAdoo, as well as **Louis Chasles** and **Marissa Nuss**.

Other Westmounters present included **Tony Loffreda**, **Sudershan** and **Ramesh Khosla**, **Kiki Etingin** and daughter **Karen Etingin**, **David Angel** and his wife **Marie-Hélène Bujold**, **Louis Villeneuve** and **Jean-Michel Laberge**, **David Schulze** and **Mahalia Verna**, **Stephen Rotman**, **Minna Schulman** and **Reuben Croll**, **Mona** and **Leslie Beck** and **Lorraine Singer**, as well as former locals **Ellen Bounsall** and **Peter McAuslan**.

Also noted were **Louise Roy**, chancellor Université de Montréal, and **Richard Bruno**, **Freeman Lander** and **Irving Ludmer**, **Jane Skoryna**, and Lambert's nephew **Jean de Gunzburg**.

Violinists **Nikki** and **Timothy Chooi** and violist **Barry Shiffman** played alongside cellists **Stéphane Tétreault** and **Denis Brott**. In 1987, Brott had a prominent role in the creation of the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank, from which he now enjoys a lifetime's use of a 1706 cello signed by David Tecchler. Not only did he play on that cello during the evening, but Chooi performed on the 1717 Windsor-Weinstein Stradivarius violin on



From left: **Barry Shiff**, **Michael Forian**, **Connie Placido**, **Denis Brott**, **Phyllis Lambert**, **Stéphane Tétreault**, **Nikki Chooi** and **Jean de Gunzburg**.

loan from the instrument bank, and Tétreault on the 1707 "Countess of Stainlein, Ex-Paganini" Stradivarius cello on loan from **Jacqueline Desmarais**.

Apart from performing, Brott teaches

cello and chamber music at the Montreal Conservatory of Music, where he also directs the String Orchestra.

More photos, p. 17.

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Peter McAuslan and Ellen Bounsall.



Julie Brott and Stephen Rotman.



From left: Tony Loffreda, Reuben Croll, Mona and Leslie Beck, and Lorraine Singer.

McCall shows paintings at Concordia alumni exhibit

Westmount artist Ann McCall was chosen for an early November exhibition at Concordia University. The show was organized by Jackie Rae Wloski ('71), a multimedia artist, whose work also appeared.

Wloski thought up the idea of organizing an alumni art show 10 years ago. Concordia didn't exist until Sir George Williams University and Loyola College merged in 1974, so it was called "The Pre-Concordia Alumni Art Show." Backed by the university's alumni association, the exhibit took place at the university's John Molson School of Business. It also featured the works of Suraj Sadan and Mark Trent.

McCall showed two pieces: "Convergence" and "Arbes hivernaux" from her series *C'est l'hiver*. "I am inspired by Quebec winter scenes, particularly the countryside," she said.

McCall graduated with a bachelor in fine arts from Concordia in 1978. — VR

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Then & Now: Westmount Public Library – the inside

Westmount Historical Association

CAROLINE BRESLAW

The opening of Westmount Public Library in 1899 highlighted the great importance residents attached to reading and higher education. Architect Robert Findlay was responsible for the library's first three phases – the initial building, the Children's Library of 1911, and the 1924 south reading

space in the reference section.

Since the 1995 addition, Westmount Public Library has offered far more than reading facilities. It now provides audio-visual and computer services, as well as a special area for teens. The Westmount Room has become a cultural hub of the

reading area, overlooked by the mezzanine above. Over more than a century, our library has changed to meet the needs of its users, while retaining its unique heritage cachet. The outstanding interior design by the various architects, and input by Westmount city council, library staff and



An archival photo from the Westmount Public Library's collection shows the adult reading room with the double-sided fireplace (no longer in existence) to the east of the circulation desk.

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room with mezzanine. They were built in the Victorian and Edwardian periods and responded to the needs and the taste of the time. There were separate reading rooms for men and women, and a children's library housed in its own building. The interiors featured coffered wooden ceilings, high walls divided horizontally into sections, marbleized columns, leaded-glass windows and functioning fireplaces.

Over the years, additions and changes were made by other architects. However, what remains today is Findlay's design with a major extension by architect Peter Rose, built in 1995, at the rear. In the same year, the Findlay library underwent a major restoration to mark its 100th anniversary. The architecture firm of Gersovitz & Moss was responsible for the interior decoration and furnishing of the Findlay wing. Original elements were restored, while a lighter colour palette than that of the previous century was used. A sole fireplace remains in the Westmount Room (formerly the children's library) and bears a stone inscription and tiles of scenes from *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll.

Today the children's library is located in the modern addition by Peter Rose. The Rose wing is accessed by the 1995 entrance facing Sherbrooke St., with a windowed passageway extending to the back. Facing the greenhouse is a light-filled two-storey



The new atrium reading room after the library underwent interior renovations in late August 2017. The photo appeared in "Library opens doors once again after 3-week renovation period," September 12, p. 14.

Photo: Ralph Thompson for Westmount Independent.

community, with activities such as book club meetings, film screenings and meetings, including the lectures of the Westmount Historical Association.

In August, the interior of Westmount Public Library underwent the first major refurbishment since 1995. The highly-trafficked carpets were replaced. The area in the reference section, previously used for study, was reconfigured as a comfortable

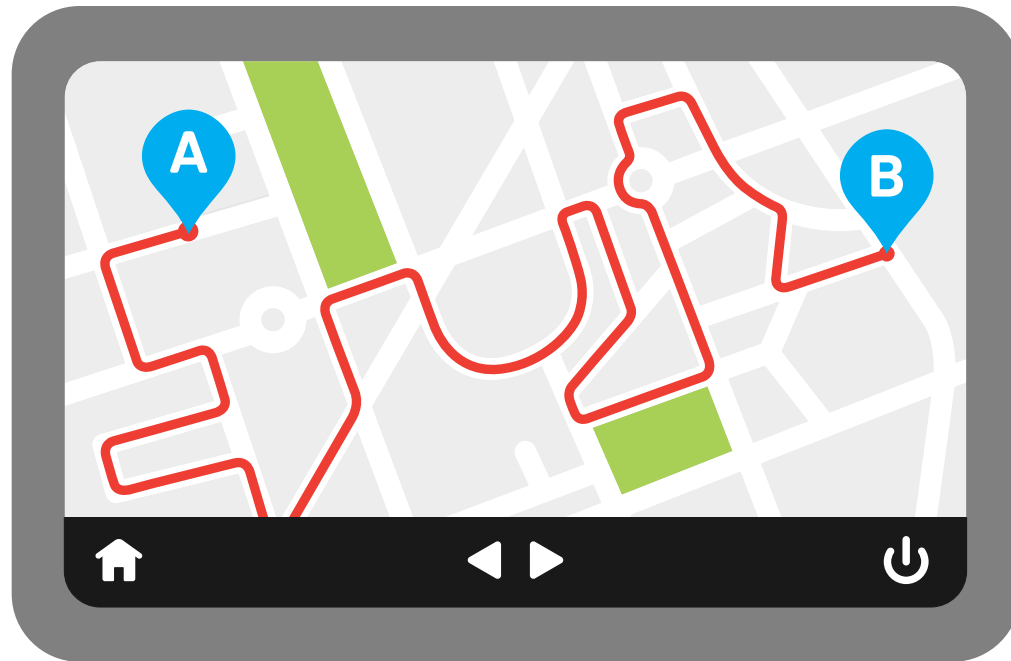
residents have played an important part in this process.

Caroline Breslaw is president of the Westmount Historical Association.

For the "Then and Now" column on the outside of the Westmount Public Library, please see September 19, p. 14.



Another archival postcard from the Westmount Public Library shows the former children's library. It is today's Westmount Room.



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