

PAC dialogues with developer

500 Claremont remains under review

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A proposal to develop a multi-family residential project at 500 Claremont, corner Windsor, remains under review by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), Councillor Theodora Samiotis told the city *continued on p. 17*

Harrison retires from Centre Greene



Centre Greene board member Erica Bloom embraces retiring board member Michael Harrison during the organization's annual general meeting on January 26. See story, p. 18.

Homeless man has right to have coffee

Public Security officials said a homeless man reported to have been sleeping at a table February 6 at the Mouton Noir café had already left the scene at the Westmount recreation centre when patrollers answered a call at 2:43 pm. He was reported to have been waiting for someone to take him to a dentist. Officers said he had a right to be there having a coffee. The man was reported to be known to them.

Inside



Head of Urban Planning Joanne Poirier to retire after 30 years.

See story, p. 7.



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City being 'jerked around' by MTQ

Trent vows 'strong action' in change of Rte. 136 height

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

If the Turcot consortium has changed the configuration of the new highway 136 so that a sound barrier may now be required west of Hallowell, the city will have to take strong action "to protect ourselves," Mayor Peter Trent told the council meeting

February 6.

He explained he had drawings and letters dating back to 2008 from the ministry of Transport (MTQ) showing this section of the new highway (which replaces the Ville Marie expressway) would be substantially lowered (see *continued on p. 4* story, p. 5).

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NEWS FROM CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Council asked to declare Westmount a 'sanctuary city'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A proposal was presented to city council February 6 to declare Westmount a "sanctuary city" such as Vancouver, Toronto and some cities in the US.

In handing the council a copy of the proposal, Abby Lippman, a resident of Mount Pleasant, said that a group of Westmount citizens was proposing the idea given "the recent and world-wide surge of refugees and the serious restrictions placed by the

US administration on the free movement of citizens from certain countries facing humanitarian crises."

The name "sanctuary city" means a city that follows certain procedures that shelter illegal immigrants. These cities normally do not permit police or municipal employees to inquire about one's immigration status.

Lippman, supported at the meeting by Lansdowne resident Richard Lock, said she had already collected 12 signatures

from Westmount residents and the proposal is now circulating.

Being a sanctuary city, she said, would mean "providing people who live here in Westmount with all municipal services ...without ever questioning their status and regardless of their being immigrants, migrants or refugees."

"We'll take a look at it," replied Mayor Pe-

ter Trent.

She later told the *Independent* that, while all residents may enjoy municipal services in Westmount without a question of background, she wanted the policy introduced as "a precautionary principle."

See other council meeting coverage, p. 1, 4 and 5.

Flies to head Urban Planning



Photo: Laureen Sweeney

At the city council meeting February 6, Tom Flies is congratulated on his appointment as director of Urban Planning by Mayor Peter Trent. He joined the city as assistant director of Urban Planning in April 2015 (see story April 14, p. 5). He succeeds Joanne Poirier, who was cited for her 30 years as the city's first architect and first director of the department. She retires February 24 (see story p. 7).

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Getting info from MTQ

cont'd. from p. 1

All of a sudden, at a public meeting January 30 at city hall, however, the city learned that the elevation of the new lanes closest to Westmount would be dropping only slightly with sound levels projected to exceed the recommended 65-decibel level (see story February 7, p. 7) – and still no plan for a sound barrier.

Trent said the city would write a letter to the minister of Transport via Westmount's provincial legislator Jacques Chagnon, saying the city was being "jerked around."

It's an ongoing problem through the years, he said, "We're still not being told what's going on."

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who represents the affected area west of Hallowell, said that as recently as last October and November, elevations of the new highway showed "an enormous" drop. "So nothing we have meshes with what they're [now] saying."

Seeking the 'straight facts'

She said the city's "Public Works team" is organizing a meeting with MTQ representative Line Gamache "to get the straight



Where does the city stand in regards to the latest sound barrier news, Patricia Dumais asks council February 6.

facts."

The challenges of obtaining information and discussing sound barrier issues with the MTQ are long-standing and fraught with

continued on p. 5

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a challenge

frustration, explained District 8 councillor Theodora Samiotis, who represents the area east of Hallowell (see story May 31, p. 1).

In her area, the city has been asking about the feasibility of building a sound barrier on the highway from Hallowell to Greene after CP refused to allow one to be built on the narrow strip of land between the houses and the tracks in that stretch.

She likened trying to arrange meetings with the MTQ to “dealing with a patient about to die,” and wondering if they’re still alive.

The latest information has “thrown a new curve ball into the equation,” Samiotis added.

“We have to put our boxing gloves on,” said Patricia Dumais of Greene Ave., who raised the issue during the council meeting’s question period. She pointed out that a sound barrier was already announced for the eastbound direction of the new highway to the benefit of Montreal residents to the south.

Public health issue: Resident

Brigitte Stock of Abbott Ave. told the *Independent* the newly projected sound levels are a public health issue.

Time for another poll?

Highway and noise drop had been assured: Trent

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mayor Peter Trent provided the *Independent* February 8 with a list of meetings and correspondence with the provincial ministry of Transport (MTQ) over the Turcot project indicating it was clear, he said, that the new highway 136 and noise levels would be lowered so that a sound barrier would not be required west of the Hallowell/Bruce area.

He named seven different Transport ministers he had dealt with over the issue.

In January 2012, he said, the MTQ wrote to him that “because the roadway would be dropping by six to 18 metres west of Bruce [with] the consequent reduction in noise of up to 15 decibels the MTQ refused to share in the costs of a sound barrier between Bruce and Blenheim.”

Stock, who had attended the meeting January 30 and heard the projected sound levels west of Hallowell, said that, without a sound barrier, they were “way over the limit set by La Direction de la Santé Publique” and would stay that way after construction of the new highway.

From Bruce eastwards, however, “the MTQ would be prepared, to share 50 per cent of the cost of a barrier because the noise climate would be still over 65 decibels” the recommended threshold.

Even as late as November 2016, Trent said the MTQ website showed no need for sound attenuation west of Hallowell/Bruce in its simulation of the sound climate after Turcot was finished.

Now that new elevations and sound projections have been revealed, he said, “One might say that rather than being a design-build highway project, it could be called build-design.”

Other aspects to consider

“Furthermore,” Trent added, “there has been little discussion on the visual aspect of a barrier on the highway.” This was the

very thing that had caused many residents to turn against the idea of an on-highway barrier in a poll in the 1990s, he explained.

“Given that even a partially transparent barrier on the highway would quickly become totally opaque from dirt and graffiti, the visual impact of a 20-foot-high wall would be substantial.

“We need to explore this aspect, all the while going after the MTQ for plans to incorporate a barrier.”

It may be time again, he suggested, to hear from “everybody” who lives near the highway.

Noise attenuation “is only one of the factors we need to get opinions on.”

Other considerations are “the cost, who will pay, the visual aspect of a 20-foot opaque wall and what effect it might have on train noise amplification by reflection.”

“When I asked the MTQ representative at the meeting if those latest findings

meant that District 7 was entitled to a noise barrier, her answer was ‘yes,’” Stock said.

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Raggo resigns as Public Works director

The city of Westmount will be looking for a new Public Works director less than two years after Patrick Raggo's appointment to that position, which took effect March 16, 2015.

Raggo was understood to have resigned February 9 for what Mayor Peter Trent said were personal reasons. Raggo also chaired the city's Traffic Advisory Committee.

Until a replacement is hired, Benoit Hurtubise, the city's assistant director for infrastructure and engineering, and the director of Hydro Westmount, will assume the position, Trent said.

"He has decided after two years with us to return to school to complete his MBA at Concordia and spend more time with his young family," director general Mike Deegan told the *Independent* Monday at press time.

See the *Independent's* story on Raggo February 10, 2015, p. 1.

WHAT IS THE MOTIVE FOR NARROWING DORCHESTER?

I have been a homeowner on Dorchester for over 30 years. One of the reasons I have chosen to stay for so long is the fact that when I look out my window I don't look into someone else's. My view is that of beautiful trees, with nice shrubs on the median in the summertime and, yes, not a very attractive parking lot, though much of the parking lot is covered by hedges and trees during the summer, making it less of an eyesore.

I understand the city's wishes to develop the parking lot. However my city councillor's repeated insistence of the need to narrow Dorchester worries me.

If the need to narrow Dorchester is for safety reasons, and studies have shown this cannot be done with more conventional methods, then I have no problem with this. Sidewalks can be widened, trees and more vegetation can be added, all the while keeping the vision for development in the parking lots within the present parameters (behind the current hedges).

However, if the reason to narrow Dorchester is to allow developers more space to develop by bringing the development

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

closer to our homes on the south side, this is not right.

KATHLEEN KEZ, DORCHESTER BLVD.

GREENHOUSE'S ORIGINAL APPEARANCE TO BE RESTORED

In regard to your article on the greenhouses ("Greenhouse risk analysis reveals many challenges to overcome," February 7, p. 1), I would like to clarify something. It is council's firm intention to replicate any part of the main greenhouse (the conservatory) that has to be demolished owing to structural unsoundness.

As the original cypress wood is no longer available, there may be a change in materials but not in appearance. The traditional design of the conservatory will be respected; it will be restored with its historical character and authenticity intact.

MAYOR PETER TRENT

ACKNOWLEDGING WINTER CYCLING CONGRESS EFFORTS

Thank you for a great team effort! I would like to thank Dan Lambert and the Westmount Walking and Cycling As-

sociation [also known as the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount] for their great work in coordinating the city of Westmount's participation in the Winter Cycling Congress [February 8 to 10].

[On February 9,] we welcomed 35 delegates who rode Bixi bikes through Ville Marie, Westmount and NDG. They had a stop at the Westmount recreation centre to warm up and visit the facility.

Thanks also to our road superintendent; Todd Seguin, fleet manager; Robert Talarico and Thomas Widmer, who demonstrated one of our salt trucks with side guards and cameras and to Westmount traffic specialist Jonathan Auger and to Dan Lambert, who both gave great presentations at the congress on winter cycling in Westmount.

I am very proud of the dedication, professionalism, and team work of our Public Works employees.

COUNCILLOR CYNTHIA LULHAM,
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Editor's note: Please see our news story, p. 9. – KM

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Wings win big in January Midget A tournament



The Westmount Wings Midget A won a 24-team tournament, Tournoi Midget Sud Ouest de Montréal January 22. They went 6-0 during the tournament, while beating the Granby Panthères in the final, 5-1. Photographed the same day were, from left, top row: Coach Bruce Garfield, James Galbraith, Nicolas Romary (assistant captain), Joseph Karam, Nick Pothier, Alex Harvey, Olaf Schöningh (captain), Judd Garfield (assistant captain), Felix Simard, Max Shafter, Xenos Dionisopoulos and Kieran Hamilton; bottom row: Lucas Clarke, Jordan Sager, Cooper Young and Kyle Wiseman.

Photo courtesy of B. Garfield

Poirier retires after 30 years in Westmount

Career at head of Urban Planning ‘a journey in managing change’

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When Joanne Poirier was first hired by the city in 1987 as an administrative architect, there was no department of Urban Planning. Her role, she recalls, was a temporary public relations one – to interact between residents and the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

“Now, 30 years later, I’m still doing the same thing,” she says on the approach of her retirement February 24 as director of Urban Planning.

“It’s been an interesting journey in how to manage change,” she adds. “It was only in 2000 that I got a computer. It was a new era.

“People nowadays want more light and sun in their houses. They want gardens, excavated basements and home cinemas. The demands of citizens are different and the by-laws have to be adjusted to meet them while resisting inappropriate changes.”

Over Poirier’s three decades in office, she has overseen the preparation of numerous by-laws that include those to re-zone, regulate demolition, introduce building and renovation guidelines, create character areas, prevent super-sized homes and govern commercial districts. More recently have come those to encourage building “green” and the PPCMOI/SCAOP process for non-conforming developments, as well as the creation of a local heritage council.

Change has also involved vigilance of the city’s heritage and planning practices during the merger years with Montreal.

“I’ve had a great career,” Poirier says citing her work with city councils, the PAC, residents and professionals. I feel very privileged. Westmount’s buildings are unique. This is a treasure. I’m very proud of my contributions.”



Joanne Poirier in her office February 3.

Her position as secretary of PAC was one of the reasons she delayed her retirement to this year, she says. She wanted to be on hand for the 100th anniversary of the design-review committee in 2016.

She has also held the position of substitute director general since 2013.

First architect

Poirier, a graduate of McGill, came to the city from the architectural firm of Arcop when the city council’s commissioner of Building and Planning, (now mayor) Peter Trent, “insisted” the city have an architect on staff, she says.

In 1990, Poirier became director of the new Urban Planning department called Building and Planning at the time to bring together permits and licences, the Board of

Inspections and the PAC under the one structure. Previously they had been grouped under an umbrella department of services.

Poirier singles out as important milestones the preparation of the “Guidelines for Building and Renovating in Westmount” that form an integral part of the PIIA by-law, along with the city’s adoption of the PIIA itself (the French acronym for Site Planning and Architectural Integration Program) in 1995.

“The PIIA put into law what the city had been trailblazing through PAC since 1916 based on the city charter.”

Poirier has been through major city building projects, such as the refurbishment of the Westmount Public Library in 1995 followed soon after by the rebuilding

of the lawn bowling clubhouse, the underground electrical substation and the Westmount recreation centre.

“Nothing compared to the renovation of the library,” Poirier explains with a laugh. She recalls being on the forefront of dealing with flamboyant architect Peter Rose and challenges emerging from numerous debates and changes in the plans.

There was also the building of the POM con- continued on p. 18



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Public meetings on February 21, March 8

Vendôme Metro station renovation plans revealed

By ISAAC OLSON

On its website, the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) has announced that the public information and consultation phase of the Vendôme Metro station renovation is on the slate – a renovation that will include a handicapped-accessible link between de Maisonneuve Blvd., the subway platform and the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC).

This announcement comes with imagery and an outline of the \$72-million project. The project will take approximately two years to complete. The images posted to the website depict a glass-walled building with a green roof located between the current Metro station and 5100 de Maisonneuve Blvd. (formerly the Air Canada/Aeroplan building).

“In all, five elevators will make it easier for you to navigate inside the intermodal hub and reach the MUHC,” states the website. “The concept aims to create a fully accessible station featuring safe, user-friendly and visually-pleasing installations.”

Throughout the construction process,

the Metro station will run as normal, but bus and train service may be disrupted. The site notes that, in this case, “mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure customers enjoy adequate service.”

Mitigation measures also include monitoring of noise and vibrations, air-quality studies, communications planning and vehicular traffic adjustments to keep cars and trucks flowing through the area.

The project

The renovation is being paid for by the Quebec government and, according to the STM site, “The project itself represents a tangible improvement to the overall sustainability of Vendôme station and its immediate surroundings. It was fundamentally designed to increase the public’s access to alternative transportation modes, like the bus, the Metro and commuter train, as well as its connection to bicycle paths and user-friendly pedestrian paths.”

The new entryway will stand on the east side of the bus loop, partially integrated into the ground floor area of 5100 de Maisonneuve Blvd., which is owned by the MUHC. There will be an entrance re-



This is an example of the planned second entrance and tunnel that will connect de Maisonneuve Blvd. to the MUHC hospital via the Vendôme Metro station. Image courtesy of STM.

served for Metro users and another entrance reserved for those looking to access 5100 de Maisonneuve Blvd. or the hospital.

The plan includes an open mezzanine area, stairs and zones designed to ensure fluid, efficient circulation, states the site. The above-ground train platform is slated for a reboot as well, with new shelters that serve as heated, transparent waiting zones.

“The new entrance building will feature open space bathed in light,” states the site, which also describes the planned tunnel as well lit, dynamic and secure.

“Outside, a large canopy with signage directing people to the Metro entrance, train platforms and the MUHC, provides a covered area. By the entrance, a welcoming public area outdoors will harmoniously blend into the new building’s architecture. The entryway building will become an animated, friendly and safe place for people.”

McQueen concerned tunnel ‘dark and dreary’

City councillor of the eastern NDG district of the Côte des Neiges-NDG borough Peter McQueen has continued to express concerns about the excavation plans for this project as it will require thousands of tons of earth to be removed from the site. The job will also require thousands of tons of concrete and other materials to be brought in. Now, he said, plans have been outlined on the website without information about how exactly the STM will handle this part of the process.

“Their mention of [minimized] perturbed traffic and bus loop makes me fear the worst for de Maisonneuve and the fluidity of buses, pedestrians, bikes and cars there,” stated McQueen in an email to the *Independent*.

The building’s external design with all

its windows and elevators close to the stairs seems fine, he said, “but the tunnel to the MUHC seems more dark and dreary, with the key question of how long it will be still unanswered, even though they must have an aerial plan of the whole thing, which I urge them to put online asap before the February 21 info night.”

Public consultations planned

The STM website notes that, in order to carry out this project, the STM must obtain special permitting from Montreal’s agglomeration council and, to do that, the STM must first conduct public consultations. However, citizens won’t need to attend the meetings in order to express their opinions. Citizens are also able to contact the STM electronically or through the mail.

The first step of this consultation process, explains the website, is the STM board of directors is setting up a special commission. That commission will be hosting two public sessions, documenting citizens’ comments and concerns, and tabling a report with the STM along with recommendations.

“Since the MUHC opened in 2015, Vendôme station has been handling a growing number of people,” states the website. “This trend will only get stronger in coming years, particularly in light of added service by [the] AMT and the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) medical centre’s location.”

The first public information and question period is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm at 1001 Decarie Blvd., block E, room E. S1-1129.

The second meeting, a forum for voicing comments and opinions, is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8 at 7:45 pm at the same location.



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Winter cycling congress participants pass through



Around 30 cyclists from the Winter Cycling Congress travel along the Westmount Park bicycle path on their way to NDG February 9 around 3:10 pm.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Winter Cycling Congress took place in Montreal from February 8 to 10 with a reported 300 people from eight countries participating. The conference included several winter cycling workshops, one of which was a two-hour ride from down-

town Montreal, through Westmount to NDG, with a rest stop on the return leg at the Westmount recreational centre.

Cyclists were treated to hot chocolate and cookies in the Mouton Noir café and were given a Westmount hockey jersey and tuque.

The city of Westmount's Public Works

department had one of their trucks beside the path, and staff was on hand to describe the truck's safety side guards and camera system installations to help prevent people from slipping under trucks.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham explained that all city trucks now have these security features to eliminate blind spots. Similar

requirements apply to the city's subcontractors. "This is a contractual requirement," she said. "If contractors are seen without this equipment, they are told to leave."

Daniel Lambert, who is president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of West- continued on p. 10

Aroma jockey Jarome brings scents to Montreal

Originally from the Netherlands and now based in Montreal, aroma jockey (AJ) Jarome offers scent-sational experiences and a new form of entertainment.

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Boicel-inspired Davis concert to mark Black History Month

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A former Westmounter who has been active for decades in Montreal’s dynamic jazz scene is promising a musical event of memorable proportions at Victoria Hall on Saturday, February 18 when the city of Westmount marks Black History Month with a jazz concert paying homage to the late Miles Davis.

Doudou Boicel, who ran the Rising Sun jazz club downtown from 1975 to 1992 and who started Montreal’s first jazz festival

known as Festijazz in the late 1970s, is hoping the concert, billed as “Kind of Blue, a Tribute to Miles Davis,” will be the first of a series of events shining the spotlight on jazz.

The highlight of the concert will be Ron Di Lauro on trumpet with his renowned sextet, consisting of Jean-Pierre Zanella on alto sax, André Leroux on tenor sax, Pierre Leduc on piano, Michel Donato on bass and Richard Provençal on drums.

In an opening act, blues historian and jazz musician George “Deacon” Toufexis



Jazz impresario and former Westmounter Doudou Boicel, seen here with one of his paintings in the background, is staging what he says is sure to be a memorable blues concert at Victoria Hall on February 28.

will accompany himself on guitar while presenting the history of the blues. His repertoire ranges from delta blues to urban.

Kind of Blue, as well as being the concert’s title, is also the title of Miles Davis’s seminal 1959 album and his all-time best selling record.

Boicel, who lived for 20 years on Grosvenor Ave. and now lives in NDG, said he chose the theme as a conscious marketing decision to generate public interest in the show.

He said his plan ultimately is to do a series of jazz concerts in Westmount, with some at Victoria Hall during the winter and the rest outdoors when it’s warmer.

“I want to bring jazz and blues to Westmount,” he said, while adding, “I have always loved Westmount.”

Showtime on Saturday is 7:30 pm, with doors opening at 7 pm. Tickets are \$30, tax included. Additional information is available by calling the Community Events office at 514.989.5226.

Winter cycling cont'd. from p. 9

mount and a member of the Montreal Bike Coalition, said “Our priorities for Westmount are to maintain winter cycling paths for all four seasons, in particular on the Glen Rd. but also on the new cycle paths on Côte St. Antoine and Westmount Ave. Montreal has committed to four-season cycle path maintenance. We’d also like to see more bicycle parking places and more Bixis.”

Montreal had taken several Bixis out of storage for congress participants.



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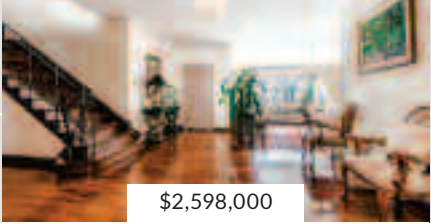
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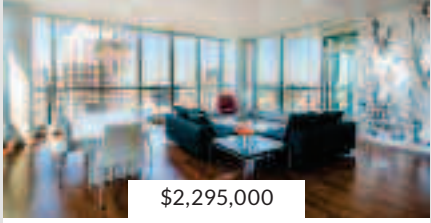
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Investing and karate go together, says Hagerman

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount resident Mary Hagerman, an investment advisor who is also a second Dan black belt in Shotokan karate, recently released a book with an interesting spin.

In *The Black Belt Investor*, Hagerman maintains she learned to apply certain principles from karate to investing, such as discipline, focus and the importance of

not being carried away by emotions, which could lead to serious investment mistakes.

“Emotion and greed are the investor’s worst enemies,” Hagerman told the *Independent*.

A launch for the book, published by Lioncrest Publishing, was held February 3 at the The Windsor downtown. Proceeds from the evening’s book sales were to go to the Montreal Children’s Hospital.



Westmount investment advisor Mary Hagerman, photographed outside the Westmount Y, where she practises karate, has just released a new book.

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Siré launches third novel



Westmount-based author Cora Siré, centre, launched her third novel, *Behold Things Beautiful*, at the Atwater Library January 24. Published by Signature Editions, the book “is about the power of words,” and “how words can land you in prison, but how words can also provide solace in your darkest hour,” Siré told the Independent. The story concerns a woman living and teaching in exile in Montreal who returns to a fictional South American country to deliver a literary lecture at a university, having previously been arrested by the military regime there because one of her poems offended them. Among the guests who joined her for the launch were Westmounters Susie Bassett, left, and Elaine Hershenfeld.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Car hits railway fence

The driver of a southbound car hit the railway fence on St. Catherine St. at the curve opposite York St. February 1, Public Security officials said. The car was reported to have sustained heavy damage to the right front end when the driver lost

control. The accident was discovered at 11 pm by an officer who parked the patrol vehicle nearby with lights flashing to alert traffic to the danger posed by the parked car. Police and CP were contacted. The car had to be towed.

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Littering out the window

A woman seated in a car at the Summit lookout February 6 was shown on a city surveillance camera throwing pieces of paper out the window at 9:54 pm, Public Security officials said. She was also depicted rolling a marijuana joint. Patrollers asked to her leave.

Gas leaked repaired

Firefighters traced an odour of gas February 6 to a possible underground gas leak at 4546 St. Catherine, Public Security officials said. While they concluded it did not constitute a danger, they called Gaz Metro to the scene, whose crews confirmed the source. The leak was repaired. The time of the incident was recorded as 4:01 pm.

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Foodies flock to ‘eco-gastronomy’ library lecture



The Westmount Public Library presented another in its 2 O’Clock Series January 25. Close to 100 people squeezed into the Westmount Room to hear gastronomy professor David Szanto, who spoke previously about the “slow food” movement, talk about his observations on food and culture following visits to several countries including Korea, Mexico, Singapore, East Timor, Norway and Scotland. These visits were part of a 14-country “eco-gastronomy project,” a collaboration between Italy’s University of Gastronomic Sciences and local partners, to exchange knowledge about food and food systems. The library featured Szanto’s photographs, videos, data and several questions and answers on its multitouch table. The 2 O’Clock Series are presentations on people’s views and experiences given once a month on Wednesdays at the Westmount Public Library. The next, “Feng Shui in a Weekend,” takes place on Wednesday, February 22, from 2 to 4 pm.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Consultez www.ndgsa.com pour tous les détails ainsi que le formulaire d’inscription (remplir et l’imprimer pour gagner du temps).

Dates d’inscription
Samedi 25 février 10h à 15h
Dimanche 19 mars 12h à 17h
Des frais de retard s’appliqueront après ce date.

Registration dates
Saturday, February 25th 10 am to 3 pm
Sunday, March 19th 12 pm to 5 pm
Late fees apply after this date.

Register now!
All new players must be present at registration to have their photo taken on site for their ID card.
Coaches, Referees, Soccer Moms program, Soccer Academy, and Day camp can also register at this time.
Go to www.ndgsa.com for more info, fees and registration forms (fill and print it to save time).

Please bring photocopies of:
● Players medicare card
● One proof of residence (driver’s license, school report card, hospital card or 2016 bill from Bell, Videotron, Hydro)
The players family name needs to be on the proof of residence.
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We will be there to answer all your questions or you can send an email or call us.

Kids-and-their-dogs camp to run again this summer at Westmount Park United

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

When some think of an organized retreat, what may come to mind is a weekend get-away where one can get in touch with the inner self.

Former Westmounter Mariane Bolla came up with a different variation of the concept with one important difference – it involves dogs and their humans.

“We specialize in creating unique experiences for dog owners of all ages,” said Bolla who grew up, attended school and remained in Westmount until four ago years ago. She was referring to Bandana, the company she founded as a young entrepreneur.

Last summer, Bandana staged what Bolla regards as a first of its kind – a day-camp for children and their dogs, which took place at Westmount Park United Church. The program is being offered in Westmount again this year, as well as in Beaconsfield on the West Island.

Recently she conceived another dog-re-

lated venture, only this time oriented to adults. Bandana’s first weekend retreat for adult dog owners is supposed to be taking place next September at a four-star hotel in a rural location near Montreal yet to be announced.

According to Bolla, the goal at the children’s daycamp, called Camp Bandana, as well as at the adult retreat is to improve the relationship between dog and master by having them try out new activities together. These range from training workshops to canine sports.

“I find people forget all the possibilities for things you can do with your dog,” she told the *Independent*. “It’s all about getting you closer to your dog and building a stronger relationship, to understand each other better and finding out what your dog really likes and what you like doing with your dog.”

Four-day sessions of Camp Bandana from 9 am to 4 pm daily will be taking place at Westmount Park United Church between July 31 and August 24.

Nicka, for the thrill of the chase



Nicka is a 6-year-old Lab/husky mix, who was brought to the Frontier Animal Society last July following a change in her family’s situation. For reasons unknown, regular care couldn’t be arranged for her, and Nicka was being left alone for up to 15 hours at a stretch.

This dog is described as nothing short of “perfection” with people, heart-meltingly sweet and loving, calm and well-behaved in the house. Meaning ... outside can be a different story, which is how Nicka became the subject of our column.

She has a highly developed prey drive with small animals, so living in a household with cats, birds, rabbits (you get the idea) is a no-go. Even interactions with small dogs are discouraged. It is recommended that she be off leash in a fenced-in area.

(Interestingly, though, we’re told that Nicka completely ignores the mice in the old farmhouse where she is currently be-

ing fostered even when they go right into her food bowl for leftovers! Maybe she deems them too puny to be fair game.)

She will need a vigilant adopter who can handle her on her walks. She is good on leash but if she sees a squirrel, it’s off to the races! Of course, there’s always the possibility that with patience and proper training, her love of terrorizing small critters could at least be partly redressed.

She’s in good health and needs only moderate exercise, preferring to chill in the dog park instead of rushing about, and she apparently just adores the water.



Undaunted by Nicka’s foibles? Then the Frontier Animal Society would love to hear from you by phone: 819.876.7747 between 8 am and 8 pm or by email: frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com.

Man scared away by dog?

A man reported to have been banging relentlessly on an apartment door on Hill-side Ave. February 4 could not be found by patrollers called to the scene at 12:18 am, Public Security officials said. Officers checked hallways and stairways in the building to no avail. It was not known how the man had entered the security-coded building, they said. The banging had ceased once a dog started to bark.

Single striped “SQUIRREL”

born approx. Jan. 2016, seeks compatible human for cuddles, moonlight walks on the beach & a bit of Netflix.



Likes other cats, is respectful of the furniture, holds no political views. Please contact his agent at: gauthier.andreanne@gmail.com



Mariane Bolla is seen here with her dog Rudy, an Australian shepherd, in the Westmount Park dog run January 19.



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infoWestmount

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Séances du conseil : horaire 2017

L'horaire 2017 des séances ordinaires du conseil est disponible en ligne au westmount.org.

 AIMEZ-NOUS /VILLEDEWESTMOUNT
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SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscription : activités printemps et été À compter du 14 février en ligne ou en personne

au CLW. Le répertoire des activités est disponible en ligne au westmount.org. Pour ceux et celles qui souhaitent obtenir un exemplaire papier du répertoire, ils sont disponibles à l'Hôtel de ville, au Victoria Hall et au Centre des loisirs de Westmount. Rappel : vous devez présenter deux preuves de résidence au bureau du CLW afin d'activer votre compte pour les inscriptions en ligne. Info : 514 989-5353.

Concours Crée ta Médaille!

Appel aux jeunes créateurs de la communauté!

Aide le Service des sports et loisirs de Westmount à créer de nouvelles médailles! Ton concept pourrait être choisi soit pour les médailles de baseball, soccer ou hockey! Info : westmount.org/medailles.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Le mercredi 15 février, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque.

Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount compose des poèmes à partir de thèmes proposés par les membres. Bienvenue à tous. Info : 514 989-5299.

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

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

Série Récits de voyages

Les jeudis 16 et 23 février, 10 h 30, Bibliothèque.

Une activité hebdomadaire pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence qui simule le fait de voyager dans un pays étranger. L'inscription est requise. Info : dmiguez@westmount.org ou 514 989-5409.

Conférences de 14 heures : Tracey Mackenzie

Le mercredi 22 février, 14 h, Bibliothèque. *Feng Shui in a Weekend*. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 6 mars

Watermark : documentaire primé

Le jeudi 23 février, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Un film sur la plus importante ressource de la planète : l'eau. Présenté par le Projet ville en santé de Westmount et la Bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5284.

Ciné-club

Le vendredi 24 février, 14 h, Bibliothèque. *Arrival*. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

Concours littéraire McEntyre 2017

Invitation aux étudiants du primaire et du secondaire de Westmount : participez au Concours littéraire McEntyre 2017 en écrivant une histoire, un poème ou un essai sur le thème **des endroits secret et des trésors cachés**. Tous les textes doivent parvenir au comptoir des enfants de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount avant 21 h le vendredi 7 avril 2017. Info : westlib.org.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

Du 26 janvier au 24 février. La Galerie est fière de présenter les œuvres d'Ann McCall. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. Info : 514 989-5521.

Concert : Kind of Blue – hommage à Miles Davis

Le samedi 18 février, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Mettant en vedette Deacon George et Ron Di Lauro et son sextet. Billets : 30 \$ (comptant ou chèque) disponibles au Victoria Hall, à la Bibliothèque et au www.kindofbluefr.eventbrite.ca. Info : 514 989-5226.

Film : les œuvres volées par Hitler

Le dimanche 19 février, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Présenté par le Festival International des films sur l'art (FIFA) en collaboration avec le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Info : 514 989-5226.

Conférences-midi

Le mardi 21 février, 12 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Radical Resthomes : New Housing Choices for a New Age*. En collaboration avec le Cercle canadien des femmes de Montréal. 10 \$/conférence. Info : 514 989-5226.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Permis de chien en ligne

Obtenez ou renouvelez votre permis de chien en ligne à westmount.org/chiens ou en personne au 21, rue Stanton. Assurez-vous d'avoir en main les documents nécessaires pour obtenir le permis.

CITY HALL

Council meetings - 2017 schedule

The 2017 schedule of regular Council meetings is available online at westmount.org.

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SPORTS AND RECREATION

Registration: spring & summer activities

From February 16 online or in person at the MRC. The activity guide is available online at westmount.org. For those who wish to have a printed copy of the guide, it is available for pick-up at City Hall, Victoria Hall and the Westmount Recreation Centre. Reminder: you must present two proofs of residence at the MRC office to activate your account for online registration. Info : 514 989-5353.

Design your Medal Contest

Young creative local's needed! Help Westmount's Sports and Recreation Department design its new sports medals! Your concept could be chosen for either baseball, soccer or hockey medals! Info: westmount.org/medals.

LIBRARY

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

Wednesday, February 15, 10:15 a.m., Library. The Westmount Poetry Group meets to compose poetry together working with themes suggested by members. Welcome to all. Info : 514 989-5299.

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans*

Wake: The Boaters and Sifters of ALP

Wednesday, February 15, 7 p.m., Library. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. Info : 514 989-5299.

Tales and Travels Series

Thursdays, February 16 and 23, 10:30 a.m., Library. A weekly activity for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia that simulates the act of travelling to a foreign country. Registration required. Info: dmiguez@westmount.org or 514 989-5409.

2 O'Clock Conferences Series: Tracey Mackenzie

Wednesday, February 22, 2 p.m., Library. *Feng Shui in a Weekend*. Tickets required. Info : 514 989-5299.

Watermark: Award-winning documentary

Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., Library. A film about our relationship with water. Presented by

Next Council Meeting

Monday, March 6

the Westmount Healthy City Project and the Library. Info: 514 989-5284.

Film Club

Friday, February 24, 2 p.m., Library. *Arrival*. Tickets required. Info : 514 989-5299.

French Book Club

Monday, February 27, 1 p.m., Library. *Amos Oz*. Led by Gisèle Kravitz. Info : 514 989-5299.

2017 McEntyre Writing Competition

Calling all Westmount elementary and high school students take part in this year's McEntyre Writing Competition by submitting an original story, poem or essay on the theme **Secret Places, Hidden Treasures**. Submit your entry to the Children's Desk, Westmount Public Library, no later than 9 p.m. on Friday, April 7, 2017. Info: westlib.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

January 26 to February 24. The Gallery is pleased to feature the works of Ann McCall. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sat, Sun 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Info : 514 989-5521.

Concert: Kind of Blue – a Tribute to Miles Davis

Saturday, February 18, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Featuring Deacon George and Ron Di Lauro and his sextet. Tickets: \$30 (cash or cheque), available at Victoria Hall, the Library or www.kindofblueeng.eventbrite.ca. Info : 514 989-5226.

Film: Hitler's Mountain of Stolen Art

Sunday, February 19, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Presented by the Fine Arts Film Festival in collaboration with le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée. Info : 514 989-5226.

Afternoon Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 21 at 12:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Radical Resthomes: New Housing Choices for a New Age*. In collaboration with The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. \$10/lecture. Info : 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Dog permits available online

Obtain or renew your dog permit online at westmount.org/dogs or in person at 21 Stanton Street, 2nd Floor. Make sure you have all the necessary documents to obtain the permit.



Police Report

St. Catherine St. daycare broken into during cold snap

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The following news story is based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the reporter.

An intense cold snap that rolled through the Montreal region the first few days of February may have been a factor in a break-in at a St. Catherine St. children's daycare, where a homeless person was arrested on February 3.

According to Montreal Police Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, a call was received at the police precinct that morning around 7 am concerning a forced entry that appeared to have taken place overnight.

Arriving for work, a daycare worker noticed the building's alarm system wasn't operating. As well, a pane of glass in the front door was broken, and there was shattered glass on the floor. The police located an intruder in the kitchen area, and he was placed under arrest at 8:25 am.

The suspect, according to Pimentel, was a person believed to have no fixed address who apparently forced his way in while

seeking shelter.

"It was a very cold night – it was minus 15," he said, while adding that the suspect also ate food he found in the daycare's kitchen. But no property was stolen, Pimentel added. All the same, the suspect faces charges of unlawful entry and damage to property.

Contents stolen from storage locker

A de Maisonneuve Blvd. tenant reported to police on February 3 that his apartment's storage locker was burglarized sometime over the previous three months without his knowing it.

According to a police account of the incident, the victim said he hadn't been to his locker from November 1, 2016 to January 30, 2017.

"When he finally did check, he noted that the lock had been forced and items were missing," said Pimentel.

However, he added, the tenant couldn't recall exactly what he had been storing there, and so he couldn't say what was stolen.

He told the police his spouse had a better idea of what was in the locker, although she was away travelling, but was expected

to help determine what was stolen when she returned.

Grosvenor Ave. perpetrators scared off

The owner of a house on Grosvenor Ave. near the corner of Westmount Ave. who called 911 after hearing noise outside on January 27 around 8:40 pm may have scared off burglars who broke in, but before they stole anything, because they were scared off by the police siren.

Once the police reached the scene, said Pimentel, they searched the perimeter of the house and found fresh footprints in the snow in the back yard. They were able to determine that the suspects gained entry through the rear door on a second-storey balcony outside a bedroom. They reached the balcony by standing atop the steel enclosure of an electric meter on the outer wall. A crowbar was used to force the door open.

The suspects left by jumping from the second floor into the snow below. After seeing that the footprints led away in the direction of Victoria Ave., Station 12 police

called for support from the Montreal Police department's canine unit in hopes that the suspects were still in the vicinity and the dogs might find them.

Although the investigators found that several rooms on the upper floor had been searched and drawers and cupboard doors were left open, they also saw that no property was taken. According to Pimentel, the police officers responding probably wanted to reach the scene as quickly as possible, and were thus compelled to use their vehicle's siren.

"For a high priority call like this, you use lights and siren, because you have to get there ASAP safely," he said. "You don't want to have accident and then have two scenes to deal with." He suggested that the suspects probably fled as soon as they heard the siren.

The police report noted that since the house in question was under renovation at the time, the suspects may have mistakenly assumed there was no one home, when in fact someone was in the basement.

Comin' Up

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Fancy Nancy tea party with the cast from the musical. For 3 to 9 year-olds at the Westmount Public Library. Songs, crafts and snacks, 11 am in the Westmount Room. Register: 514.989.5229.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents speaker Janet Torge on "**Radical resthomes**: new housing choices for a new age," 12:30 pm at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. Cost: free for members;

\$10 for guests (all invited). Info: 514.932.4005.

Dr. Angela Genge, neurologist at the Montreal Neurological Institute, speaks on **mild cognitive impairment**, 1 to 3 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Donations encouraged.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Westmount's Healthy City Project presents the film *Watermark*, 7 pm at Westmount Public Library. Free. Info: 514.989.5284.

City provides Claremont update

cont'd. from p. 1

council meeting February 6.

It was the first update on the status of the project since it was presented at a meeting of the PAC held exceptionally in public December 13 under the city's by-law for projects that do not conform to current zoning.

"When can citizens expect to hear results of the PAC's decision to accept or reject the plan?" asked Frank Philpott of Claremont.

The submission is currently under review by the PAC, Councillor Theodora Samiotis replied. "We're entering into a dialogue with the applicant," added Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. "There is no timeline."

"After release of these results, will there be an opportunity for citizens to submit comments given the diversions of the holiday period" when the deadline was January 10, Philpott asked.

Samiotis said that if the project receives a green light to proceed under the city's by-law for Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy of Immovables (SCAOPI/PPC-MOI), it would "come back for an official

public consultation."

Second PPCMOI submission

The proposal to convert the institutional building into an apartment complex became the second one to be presented under this by-law, which provides for a project to be presented at an early stage to the public.

The project calls for restoration of the Category 2 building and a large extension (see story December 6, p. 1).

It followed on the heels of the first PPC-MOI submission, one proposed for 4898 de Maisonneuve, corner Prince Albert. This was rejected by the PAC and subsequently the city council in less than five weeks after presentation (see story August 9, p. 1).

This rejection at an early stage had prompted property owner Guy Laframboise to tell the *Independent* he was disappointed his team had not been given an opportunity to address the PAC concerns. He suggested a change in process to provide for more "more back-and-forth dialogue" between the PAC and developers (see story October 4, p. 1).

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AGM report: All's well

Centre Greene bids farewell to Harrison

BY ISAAC OLSON

Centre Greene has become a busy community hub over the last three decades and, on January 26, the annual general meeting focused not just on reviewing the low-cost operation's carefully documented finances, but on celebrating recent renovations while discussing those to come.

At the same time, the Centre Greene community bid farewell to Michael Harrison, who has volunteered his time as a board member since 2004. Assistant director Sophie Cram, board member Erica Bloom and several others acknowledged his long-time service and success as a treasurer. As a thank-you, he was offered gifts, hugs, speeches and even a few tears. Harrison has become known for keeping careful tabs on the organization's finances while vastly increasing fundraising efforts,

according to Cram.

The retired bond trader and finance executive told the gathered audience of a couple dozen staff and supporters, "For a person who was sort of at the end of his business career, it was awfully nice to have a place to go to, and it was awfully nice to go to a place that sort of needed you. There was a job to be done."

Harrison concluded, "Thank you very much. It's been wonderful."

Recent renos

Recent Centre Greene renovations include the new gym floor and new front entrance doors that are handicapped accessible. The next step, officials said, is to build a wheelchair ramp in the coming year, and discussions on this plan are ongoing with the city of Westmount.

"Centre Greene only exists because of an

effort made by the community, and we continue to do our best to help this community by offering a wide range of high-quality programs at low cost, which target people of all ages," said director Beth Symansky. The organization rents the facility (located at the corner of Greene Ave. and Prospect St.) from the city for one dollar a year.

In her report, Symansky went over the details of the centre's programming, ranging from the Tumbling Tots playgroup to the after-school programs. The summer camp, she said, had full enrolment for eight weeks and, three days a week, Halte Garderie, a daycare, is on the third floor. It operates in partnership with the CLSC. There is also Terre des Enfants (a daycare on the second floor), a seniors' lunch (of-

fering three-course meals every two weeks), Kids' Kitchen (kids learning cooking fundamentals) and much more.

"Once again it has been another busy year for Centre Greene," concluded Symansky. "With the support of our dedicated staff and volunteers, we want to continue expanding our programming, helping those in need and making Centre Greene a fun, warm and inviting place to be. Thank you to everyone who has made that possible and who will continue to do so in the year to come."

In what was Harrison's last financial statements and treasurer's report, he said an independent auditor's review of the organization's finances found nothing out of the ordinary.

Poirier relates Urban Planning milestones

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

dos, the 200 Lansdowne and the towers of 1 Wood and Château Westmount Square (St. Catherine and Greene), which she describes as "major density all built around the same time."

Laments loss of fire, court

Poirier laments the impact on her department from the city's loss to Montreal in 2002 of its own fire department and municipal court. The fire inspectors worked closely with Urban Planning as members of the Board of Inspections.

"The loss of the court was huge," she explains. "I used to be able to just walk up [Stanton St.] to speak with [prosecutor] John Donovan." Now, interaction with the Montreal municipal court downtown is not only limited but also time-consuming for the inspectors. "We wait there for hours and hours, and then the case is postponed."

Part of her work, she says, is the need to be empathetic with residents when "you have to bring them the bad news that their request for a permit has been turned down. It was important to me to take the time to meet with them."

So what's ahead for Poirier?

"I'm an architect," she says. "I'm looking for a new career, but I don't want to be a director of Urban Planning," she adds with a characteristic laugh. "I'll find a new calling."

"For now, I'm going skiing."

Cleaners prevented from entering bank

Public safety officers asked a homeless man to leave the vestibule of the CIBC bank at Sherbrooke and Victoria, where he was sleeping February 2, Public Security officials said. The man complied after a complaint was made by cleaners trying to enter the bank to work at 2:52 am.

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Centre Greene director Beth Symansky, second from left at table, delivers her report on January 26.

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ON THE SHELVES

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

Magazines

“The history of Britain in 10 buildings” by Dave Hamilton in *Britain*, March 2017, p. 48-59. From Bronze Age settlements to 21st-century skyscrapers, the country’s grandest structures tell a story of progress, conflict and innovation.

“Moonlighting: Artists’ side jobs” by Katherine McMahon and Max Duron in *Art news*, Winter 2017, p. 38-45. Most artists, unless they are selling a lot of work, need a good side job. Read interviews with installation artists who waitress, painters who work as florists and more.

“Dossier spécial: La science du froid” dans *Québec Science*, January-February 2017, p. 20-33. Le froid est fascinant. Il peut nous tuer ou nous sauver. Il soulage nos douleurs. Il pourrait même nous aider à maigrir et préserver des organes destinés à la transplantation.

E-books – New thrillers to start the year...

Everything You Want Me To Be by Mindy Mejia – Full of twists and turns, this book reconstructs a year in the life of a dangerously mesmerizing a young woman, during which a small town’s darkest secrets come to the forefront...and she inches closer and closer to her death.

Her Every Fear by Peter Swanson – Kate Priddy is moving to Boston to swap apartments with her cousin. Haunted by an abusive ex, she wants to leave behind her previous life. But when her neighbour Audrey Marshall is murdered, Kate is drawn into a web of fear even darker than her past.

Livres numériques

Joseph by Hervé Gagnon – Montreal, 1893. Journalist Joseph Laflamme is accused of the brutal murder of a priest, with whom he had a violent argument a few hours earlier. Only inspector Marcel Ar-

cand believes him to be innocent.

Un été à Provincetown by Caroline Vu – This story follows three generations of a Vietnamese family as they struggle through major events of the 20th century. From the War of Independence against the French colonial power to the Vietnam War, the novel depicts a family’s resilience in the face of tragedy, as told through the voice of a young girl attempting to understand family scandals within an historical context.

Adult English – Space

Spaceman: An Astronaut’s Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe by Mike Massimino – Have you ever wondered what it would be like to find yourself strapped to a giant rocket that’s about to go from zero to 17,500 miles per hour? Mike Massimino has been there, and in *Spaceman* he puts you inside the suit, with all the zip and buoyancy of life in microgravity. Taking us through the surreal wonder and beauty of his first spacewalk, the tragedy of losing friends in the Columbia shuttle accident, and the development of his enduring love for the Hubble telescope, Massimino has written an ode to never giving up and the power of teamwork to make anything possible, revealing just what having “the right stuff” really means.

Goldilocks and the Water Bears: The Search for Life in the Universe, by Louise Preston – We can learn much about the possibilities of extraterrestrial life by studying life forms from our planet’s history and by exploring organisms still present in harsh environments on earth that mimic those on other worlds. These organisms, called “extremophiles,” are directing our search for alien life throughout the solar system and beyond. Could we one day find earth’s toughest animal, the microscopic water bear, living under the surface of another world? This book is an accessible introduction to the most fascinating of all the

astro-sciences – the quest to learn whether we are alone in the universe.

Adult French – Crime and its aftermath

Columbine: comment mon fils a-t-il pu tuer? by Sue Klebold – The mother of one of the two shooters at Columbine High School draws on personal recollections, journal entries and video recordings to piece together what led to her son’s unpredicted breakdown and share insights into how other families might recognize warning signs.

Laëtitia, ou, La fin des hommes by Ivan Jablonka – In 2011, an 18-year-old was murdered. This became a high profile case in France after President Sarkozy criticized the state prosecutor’s role in the case. The author gives a detailed account of Laëtitia Perrais’ troubled past but this is also an indictment of a society where violence against women is commonplace. It’s the winner of a 2016 Médicis price.

New documentary films

Gleason directed by J. Clay Tweel – After being diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), former professional football player Steve Gleason begins making a video diary for his unborn son.

Pipelines, pouvoir et démocratie directed by Oliver Asselin – The expansion of Canada’s oil sands industry represents a huge environmental challenge. And, as this documentary makes clear, when it comes to fossil fuels, political power doesn’t always lie where we think it does.

Biographies for Children

Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse by Catherine Reef – The author gives us a new detailed biography on Florence Nightingale, the exceptional woman who was born into wealth but decided to devote her life to the field of nursing and the care of the soldiers during the Crimean War.

Marie-Antoinette: un destin malmené par

les bouleversements de la société française by Renaud Thomazo – A new beautifully illustrated biography on one of the most famous and fascinating queens!

Reference – New online service

Rosetta Stone Library Solution – This audio resource offers 30 languages to meet a range of cultural interests, core lessons to build reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, focused activities to refine grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation.

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On the Lighter Side

Surprise camping – who wants to sign up?



Humour

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

Our Christmas holiday at the cottage this year was filled with the usual marvelous fare: frenetic activities, swarming crowds and celebratory din. All topped with a dollop of utter chaos.

It also featured one unusual element that we had not been able to enjoy in recent years: electricity.

Two years prior, when school concluded, we loaded our van and headed up north. The vehicle was crammed, using a Tetris-type algorithm, with six humans, a small menagerie of pets and sufficient supplies to weather a lengthy apocalypse – which, as it turned out, was prophetic.

We arrived to a white-out. And, ironically, a black-out.

Unaware of the challenge that awaited, we cheerfully saddled our children with as much gear as we possibly could, shy of generating excessive guilt or a flag to youth protection. Thus laden, we began our groping, floundering wade-through-waist-deep snow towards (what we believed to be) the mudroom door.

The kids tried valiantly to lift the cat carriers above the drifts. But they could do little more than drag them along the top crust, the cage grills mincing the upper layer of snow like oversized zesters. Much to the “delight” of the hissing, spitting occupants.

We found, and stumbled through, the door, and, oddly, did not immediately appreciate any temperature differential. (For the record, it was colder inside the house). It was also eerily dark and uncannily silent – no beeping of alarms, humming of appliances or ticking and sighing of baseboard heaters. We were powerless.

So we fired up the wood stove, left items to be frozen on the kitchen counter, arranged those needing warmer storage in the freezer and crawled into bed.

Day 1: The hordes of family began to arrive the following morning. By then, the ambient temperature had risen above freezing, the water in the dog’s bowl had melted, and we could speak without spewing puffs of vapour resembling steamy thought bubbles. We were poised for fun and adventure!

Without power to drive the pump for our well, our first bit of merrymaking in-

involved drilling a hole through the lake ice and hauling buckets of water up the escarpment to the house. It was a Herculean effort, both tedious and sloppy, and not entirely unlike repeated treks to and from Everest base camp. (Minus the Sherpas.)

We hunted down and organized all our candles, flashlights and headlamps. When night fell, at 2:30 pm, we were ready.

And so the gaming began. We huddled together and played Taboo, Apples to Apples, Scattergories, Backgammon, Settlers of Catan, Boggle, Crokinole (which in the dark, was literally aimless) and 47 full rounds of Euchre.

We were positively spent. It was 5:45 pm.

Day 2: In view of the water “situation,” we became tyrannical about restricting toilet use. But to prove we were merciful fascists, we organized regular van expeditions to a nearby bathroom... I mean, dépanneur. Every hour, seven worthy kin – as determined by the elaborate and principled system of “dibs!” – would claw their way into the vehicle for a trip to “buy gum.” Our hair may have begun to fester, but our breath was uncommonly fresh.

Day 3: The novelty of cooking for 20 using only our propane-powered stovetop was losing its luster. Having dirtied every dish in the house, pet bowls included, we were now eating off napkins (those who were squeamish about such things) or else directly off the table (those who weren’t).

That night we invented a game called Mystery Snapshot, where one would aim their phone in the general direction of a noise or activity and take a photo. Everyone would then gather round, asking not the usual “How do I look?” but rather “Am I in it?”

Day 4: Walking around the house swaddled in blankets and duvets, like clumsy, upright burritos, was growing ever more tiresome (though the floors had never been cleaner).

My sister from Los Angeles announced that she hadn’t signed up for “surprise camping.” My step-mom gestured toward the mountain of sullied ceramic on the counter and proclaimed that she was leaving “before the lights come back on and we have to clean up.” Overcome with powerful ennui, and desperate for artificial lighting, they set out towards St. Adèle to find alternate lodging.

Day 5: Christmas Eve. With firewood running low, and despite having been good all year, I gazed skyward and silently beseeched Santa to bring us each a lump of coal. (As a Jew, this probably didn’t hold

much sway.)

Our operatives informed us that the St. Hubert in town had power (i.e. hot-food-that-I-didn’t-have-to-cook-myself-in-an-overly-“seasoned”-skillet). We decided to meet there for supper. It was all I could do not to bring a towel and bathe in the sink.

Day 6: Christmas miracle! Power was restored at noon! The kids dove for their computers, the rest of the household for the bathroom, and David and I for the sump pump so we could flood the lake

rink. Ahhhh, normalcy!

So last year, when the electricity went out once again, we were practiced pros. We weathered the two-day off-grid adventure with nary a hiccup.

And this year we were almost disappointed not to have honourable justification for lavish naps and marathon cribbage games by the fire.

Welcome 2017! May it be a joyful and wondrous year for all!

Sneak peak



Mezzo soprano Mia Lennox, middle, plays the part of Madame de Croissy in the mystical opera *Dialogues des carmélites*. She is seen here January 22 with Opéra de Montréal pianist Francis Perron, left, and the Opéra’s director of communications, outreach and education Pierre Vachon.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Westmount welcomed Opéra de Montréal to Victoria Hall January 22. “We are excited to host this presentation about the opera by Opéra de Montréal for the first time and hope to do it again in the future,” said Donna Lach, assistant director, Library and Community Events.

It was a first for Victoria Hall to preview an upcoming performance by the Opéra de Montréal. It was free admission.

Pierre Vachon, the Opéra’s director of communications, outreach and education, gave some background about the composer of the opera *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Francis Poulenc (1899 to 1963). He was

largely a self-taught musician but became an accomplished pianist. He took three years to compose the *Carmélites* in the early 1950s and wrote to a friend about the lead character, saying “Blanche, was me.”

The opera projects terror and violence at the end of the French Revolution and depicts the inner journey of people who face death as the Carmelite nuns are led to the guillotine.

Four performances of *Dialogues des Carmélites* were to be held in the Salle Wilfrid Pelletier late January and early February. They were to include other well-known Montrealers Marie-Josée Lord and former Westmounter Gino Quilico.

Atwater Library fundraiser brings in \$83K

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



Smoked meat. What a treat! Although a far cry from the delicate bite-size tidbits usually served at fundraising events, Dunn's smoked meat sandwiches (complete with pickles) offered at the Atwater Library annual benefit were delicious – and devoured by all with pleasure.

Held on November 2, the cocktail's guest of honour was retired senator **David Angus**, co-chair with local res **Richard Pound** (there with his wife **Julie Keith**) of the library's Building Communities capital campaign. Angus was instrumental in arrang-

ing funding for the window conservation project, as well as personally covering the cost of the handsome custom-made main entrance doors on Atwater.

Emcee **Mutsumi Takahashi** was given a tour of the silent auction room by Westmount mayor **Peter Trent**. Lined along the tables was a stunning selection of seasonal scarves (silk) and wraps (cashmere), "eminently packable and entrance-making," explained auction donor extraordinaire **Reuben Abramowsky**, *Downton Abbey*-dapper in a bespoke hounds-tooth jacket – with pocket square, of course.

One auction item gathered a crowd. A little engine "that could" (and did!) ran along a circular track. The train set, listed at \$450 starting price, was sponsored by **Marshall Wansbrough**, who assembled it as well. A Bell Centre loge for the December Cirque du Soleil show, listed as "priceless," was donated by Nova Steel, a plat-



David Angus

inum-plus sponsor, as were Capital One, Coerente Capital Management and former prime minister Brian Mulroney.

Heralding the arrival of the holiday season, tall red amaryllis from Westmount Florist graced the marble-topped circulation desk.

Noted in the packed rooms were local residents **Bob and Margie Ross** (wearing grey freshwater pearls with their unmistakable iridescent glow), Westmount city council- *continued on p. 22*



Mutsumi Takahashi and Peter Trent.



Sandy White and Nancy Grant.



Allison Jarvis, left, and Jodi Lafrenière.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 21

lors Rosalind Davis (with hubby Tom) and Theodora Samiotis; Dora Koop (wearing a stylish statement necklace from Ten Thousand Villages) and Stephen Phizicky, Nancy and James Grant, Bill Brownstein, Beth Marchant and Chris Pickwood, and event sponsor Nova Steel's CEO Larry Cannon with his wife Dominique Arvaisais.

Atwater Library president Martin Cundall paid tribute to the guest of honour and thanked supporters.

Board members present were Westmounters Mary Rivard-David (with her husband Claude), Karin Marks (with hus-

band Brian Puddington), Andrew Clark (with his wife Christine), Elizabeth Lamont and Jodi Lafrenière (with Scott Pritchard).

Other board members noted were David Tarr (with his wife Gisèle Chèvrefils), Jean Béland, Caroline Jarvis (with husband Gerry L'Orange), Jim McRae, John Aylen and Karen Macdonald, as well as library executive director Lynn Verge.

The eve raised \$83,000 for the programs of the library, which is a national historic site and a registered charity.



Tom and Rosalind Davis.



Bill Brownstein

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Hidden talents: Artistic photo project

My lucky library



Diana Anderson: "I studied for over a month each day at the Westmount Public Library this past summer for my internal medicine board exams (and passed!). This was my wonderful window view. This library has always been my lucky library for all my exam studying." This photograph was taken July 19.

Photo courtesy of D. Anderson.

Let's unearth some of the is hidden talent in Westmount. 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.

– Kristin McNeill

Overheard

Wood and St. Catherine restaurant terrace, October 7 at 6:30 pm, woman to her dining companions:

"I don't drink those anymore, because when I do, I get into trouble."

Bar at Wood and St. Catherine restaurant, October 21 at 7 pm, server to patrons:

"Beer is good."

Wallet returned

A found wallet containing identification was returned to the owner February 6, Public Security officials said. It was not reported how or where it had initially been found since patrollers had been called to pick it up at city hall.



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MLS 17820503 Tudor cottage, 14740 SF



OUTREMONT

676 Hartland Ave \$2,850,000
MLS 20227860



DOWNTOWN

1420 Av. des Pins \$2,595,000
MLS 15856545



WESTMOUNT

215 Redfern Apt 308 \$2,250,000
2200 SF, private terrace MLS 24466488



WESTMOUNT

2 Westmount Square \$2,295,000
1700 SF, Panoramic views, MLS 23020613



NEW

GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

2 Chelsea Place \$2,250,000
MLS 26576267 5 Bdr, rooftop terrace



WESTMOUNT

332 Wood Av \$2,095,000
MLS 24027789, 2925 SF, 5 Bdr



CONDITIONAL OFFER

WESTMOUNT

4298 Montrose Ave. \$1,975,000
Ideal family home of 5 Bdr MLS 14681732



WESTMOUNT

3 Westmount Square \$1,895,000
MLS 11571055 Panoramic views, 3 Bdr



SOLD

WESTMOUNT

428 Metcalfe Ave \$1,275,000
MLS: 11223133



NEW

NDG

4385 Royal Ave. \$839,000
MLS 16139562, 3 BDR, semi-detached



PLATEAU MONT-ROYAL

4361 Christophe-Colomb \$665,000
MLS: 17032176

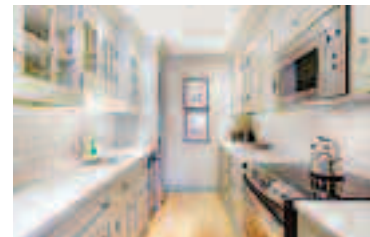


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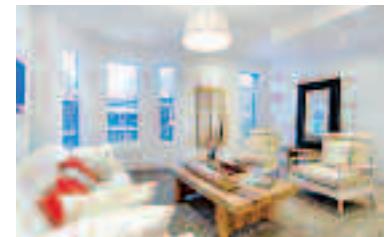
DOWNTOWN

1700 Dr Penfield \$649,000
MLS 23606545, 3 BDR, 2175 SF



OLD-MONTREAL

283 de la Commune O \$592,000
historical building, MLS 21744331



NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE

3477 Prud'homme Av. \$569,000
MLS 12600799 Victoria Village



SOLD

WESTMOUNT

619 Clarke Av. \$4,295,000
MLS 27373203



SOLD

WESTMOUNT

744 Av. Upper-Lansdowne \$1,995,000
MLS 17303942 3557 SF, 5 bdr, dream location



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Chateau Westmount \$1,950,000
2376 SF, magnificent views



SOLD

WESTMOUNT

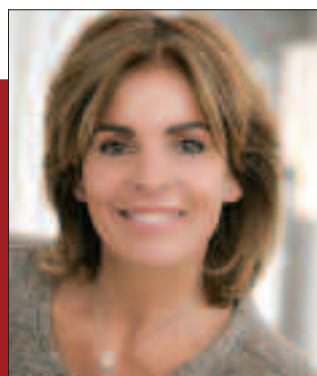
4805 de Maisonneuve O. \$1,935,000
MLS 25118868 2540 SF



SOLD

WESTMOUNT

2 Westmount Square \$1,450,000
MLS: 14188743



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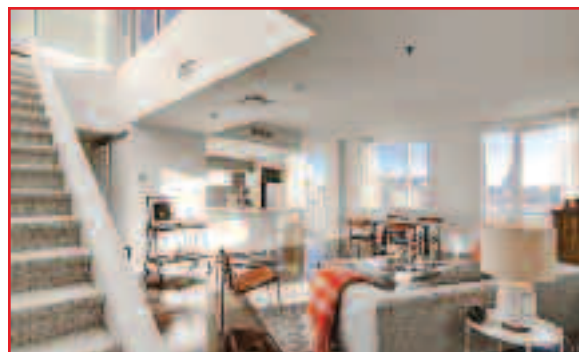
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