

2016 census figures raise density issue

Westmount second most densely populated city in Canada

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In the first wave of 2016 census figures released recently by Statistics Canada, Westmount has once again been found to be the second most densely populated city in the country for those having 5,000 or more inhabitants.

The city had a density of 5,024.9 residents per square kilometer, second only to

Vancouver with a density of 5,492.6. Westmount held the same ranking in the census of 2011 but with a lower densification of 4,952.8.

"People look at me as if I'm crazy when I say that Westmount is the most densified city in Quebec," Mayor Peter Trent said. "I'm very happy it's out there now. It really does underscore the condo craze because these buildings are in the most densely populated area of the city."

This is from Sherbrooke St. south where most of the zoning for multi-family residential is located, he pointed out. "So my feel- continued on p. 8

PAC's favourable recommendation rejected

Council refuses permit for new house at 480 Mt. Pleasant

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In an extraordinary vote February 6, city council refused to approve a permit for the building of a new house at 480 Mount Pleasant even though it had been recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

It was believed to be the first time in at least 30 years that a council had used its



Despite a goal from the opposition, the Phenix Trois Cités, in the last seconds of the game, the Westmount Midget B Wings won a hard-fought game 4-2 February 19, maintaining their winning season. See story, p. 11.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Letters p. 6
9 Lives BY L. FOWLER p. 10
Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 13



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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

discretionary powers to overturn the advice of the PAC – the city's design review committee composed of outside architects.

Mayor Peter Trent told the *Independent* last week the decision shows that "the system works." While the council has approved hundreds of permits recommended by the PAC over the years, he explained, "We don't just rubber stamp" them. continued on p. 4



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Online registration template deemed problematic

Sports & Rec requests to have for SIN, Medicare deleted

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Sports and Recreation officials said last week that people registering for the spring and summer programs are not required by the department to fill in their social insurance or Medicare numbers as requested on the registration online software.

In fact, these sections of the form will be deleted within the month as part of a new public interface program the city will be installing, said Dave Lapointe, Sports and Recreation director.

“I didn’t even know the SIN and Medicare numbers were on the form,” he explained. “As soon as it was brought to our attention, we called PG Solutions and asked that they be removed.”

The city has never required the SIN, he said. Nevertheless, he added, the Medicare number could be useful for the department to have in the case of an emergency especially in a sporting activity where this could arise.

“The bottom line is the city acted very quickly as soon as they knew, and I’m very happy,” said Matthew Cope, whose wife had discovered the request for the per-

sonal information during her online registration. “I’m sure it was an oversight,” Cope said.

PG Solutions, which is affiliated with a US firm, provides Westmount and a number of other municipalities with Activitek, a recreation program whose boiler plate registration form asks for the SIN and Medicare numbers.

Cope had contacted the *Independent* over concerns for the potential nefarious use of both numbers.

Cope said he wondered where the data ends up and who has access to it. “Are your SIN and Medicare numbers floating around somewhere in the US? I don’t want to be alarmist, but they don’t have a right to ask for them.”

Lapointe said when the department contacted PG Solutions he was told the SIN relates to the issuance of tax receipts for the “children’s fitness tax credit” for recreational activities.

Asked why this would be required when tax receipts for charitable or political contributions, for example, do not require the SIN, Lapointe said he did not know but that Sports and Recreation issues regular receipts (without SINs) to people who pay their registration fees and those can be used for this purpose.

A number of federal government websites such as StatCan and Revenue Canada underscore the confidentiality of the SIN to protect against identity theft and fraud.

The website for the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada, for example,

cautions holders to “provide your SIN only when legally required.” There are a “select and limited number of federal government departments and programs specifically authorized to collect the SIN.”

“The most common uses of your SIN,” the website states, are for “your employer, your income tax information, financial institutions from which you earn interest or income (for example, banks, credit unions,

trust companies),” as well as a number of federal and provincial government plans and benefits.

The SIN is not among the required information listed by either federal or Quebec government websites for children’s fitness tax receipts. The federal government’s tax credit is being phased out and for 2017 will no longer apply.



A screen shot of the registration webpage, sent to the *Independent* February 6. Image courtesy of Matthew Cope

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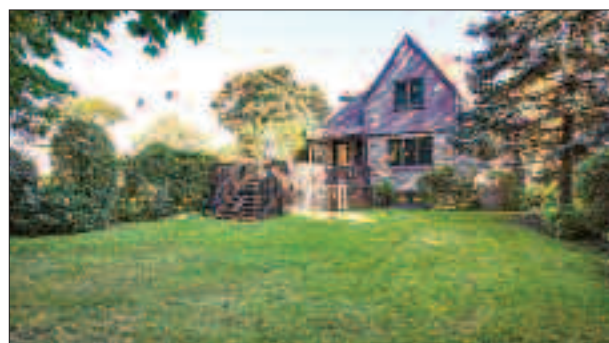
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Mt. Pleasant ‘an unusual case’

cont'd. from p. 1

In this case, he said, the council found that a “modern” design of the proposed house did not conform to By-law 1305 in which the city’s building guidelines state that a new house must conform to the defining characteristics of the streetscape and “character area” in which it is located.

This design was described in the council resolution rejecting the permit as “meeting the requirement of design excellence from an architectural standard” but failing to meet the requirements of By-law 1305.

“We’re talking about an unusual case,” Trent said. “We dug into it, and in council’s view it did not meet the guidelines. The fact that we differ from the PAC in one out of hundreds of cases shows we are being responsible.”

The council resolution rejecting the new house specifically refers to a by-law provi-

sion stating that a new construction that takes place on a site that was part of an original property on which original buildings still stand, must be harmonious with them “in style and scale.”

The house that stands on the formerly large property of 482 Mount Pleasant, 480’s neighbour, has a traditional sloped roof design. It is the home where Westmount firefighter Eric Hart lost his life battling a fire November 30, 1979.

Second design had been approved

Interestingly, the design for the new house was the third one that had made its way through the process, Trent explained.

The first one was found by the PAC to be too modern in design. The second, more traditional one, had been recommended by the PAC and approved by the the council. It is now being shown on real estate websites advertising the sale of the empty lot. For some continued on p. 5



The traditional aspect of this house at 482 Mount Pleasant as seen February 17 is reported to set the style for a new house that might be built on the empty lot next door to the left.



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Mood of the Market

January sales: High mark-ups, low prices

Real Estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in January 2017. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph on p. 12 offers a picture of these trends over time.

Seven home sales in Westmount in January gave a hint that buyers will be pushing prices up in the coming months. Though none of the \$2-million-plus houses on the market moved in January (though we did hear belatedly of one upper-Westmount sale for nearly \$4 million in December), the seven sales included three

with mark-ups of more than 10 percent and only one which sold below the (2017) municipal assessment.

Only four of the seven were over \$1 million and none were over \$2 million, the first time that has happened since April of 2016.

The highest price was \$1,865,000 and the lowest \$665,000, the latter for a small house evaluated at \$771,000, the only mark-down of the month. All the others sold above their 2017 municipal tax value with the highest mark-up of 37.4 percent and an average 14.3 percent. That compares to an average mark-up in December – on the 2014 valuations – of only 2.6 percent, and the new valuations are up between 5 and 10 percent, which makes the increase that much more.

Two of the seven were listed and sold in January, bringing down the average time on the market from 231 days in December to 158 days last month.

This might suggest that buyers are scouring the

continued on p. 12

Mount Pleasant cont'd. from p. 4

reason unknown to Trent, he said, a third design had been submitted, the one that council recently rejected.

Two houses already built on the original property in the 1950s and 1960s (484 and 486 Mount Pleasant) of a more modern design are, Trent said, “the very, very reason we adopted the guidelines.”

These “Guidelines for Renovating and Building in Westmount” and character areas were adopted into By-law 1305 in 1995 making them mandatory. At that time, he said, the decision-making power was taken away from Urban Planning, and the coun-

cil gained more discretionary power.

“The responsibility for every decision to approve a building permit falls squarely on the shoulders of the council,” he explained. “This can be contrasted with the situation prevailing before 1995, when Urban Planning had the authority to issue permits without the council approval. While council could overturn their decision on appeal, it too, was rare.”

Underlining the importance of adhering to the guidelines, Trent said he prefers the French translation of “guideless” as “directives.”

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT TO DO ABOUT MELTING SNOW FROM 345 VICTORIA?

I am writing to notify you about a concern I have in relation to the building at 345 Victoria, in the heart of the Victoria village.

My concern is the amount of snow and ice that builds up on the sidewalk where the melted snow from the parking lot drains onto the sidewalk. This is a very busy sidewalk with a large number of old and young pedestrians walking to the local shops.

The building was recently renovated from top to bottom, and it seems like a very good job was performed, even if the building is empty except for a small boutique on the ground floor.

The owner put in a heated parking lot. It does stand out when there is snow piled up all around and then you see this immense patch of concrete without snow.

What seems to be missing is a small drainage system at the joint of the sidewalk and his parking area. It was not installed even though it is a common practice in residential settings.

When I brought this up with Urban

Planning at city hall, Tom Flies looked into it and reported back that the city would monitor the situation.

Are they?

Over the summer, I noticed that the owner had installed drains at the back of his building. I guess he thought some would be useful for his tenants.

The snow has backed up again this year, and when I contacted Mr. Flies, he said they are monitoring it and that other people, if they had a complaint, should notify the city.

Well, I don't know how I or anyone else can do that other than approaching our local newspaper.

LORNE WOODS, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

SLIPPED ON ICE, RESCUERS LIFTED ME UP

On February 17, I slipped on the ice and snow covered sidewalk at the bus stop on Sherbrooke St. just west of Atwater. I ended up on Sherbrooke St. I could sit up but not stand up. To my rescue came two young men, one of whom pulled me to my feet while the other held my heavy handbag. A woman arrived to check on my abil-

ity to walk.

Today, I have a large bruise on my left knee and a few sore muscles but otherwise I am well. Thank you to all!

THOMASINE MAWHOOD,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

SNOW OPERATIONS SEEM SLOWER THIS YEAR

Living in Westmount for 15 years, this is the first year that snow removal has changed procedure.

In the past, they would pile the snow in the street and within two hours the snow thrower truck would pass and remove it. [Last] week, I observed that they would pile the snow, leave, return and remove with the snowblower four, five, six hours later.

On [February 15], Grosvenor's snow was pile in the middle of the street at 12 noon, picked up at 5 pm. Claremont northbound was snow piled up at 7 am, picked up at noon. Westmount Ave. more than four hours to pick up.

Maybe I'm the only one noticing this.

KIRK POLYMERAKOS, CLAREMONT AVE.

FEE HIKES FOR ALL AT WRC?

I was disturbed to read "Fee hikes range from 6% to 13%" (February 7, p. 3) for the Westmount recreation centre. At least, surely, wealthier users will contribute their just share?

Selwyn House school negotiated what some of us considered a sweetheart deal:

use of one of the two rinks for \$130-an-hour of ice-time (at the hours it chooses, excluding a three-week Christmas vacation, lunch and snack breaks, but adding on appropriate taxes) – bargain-basement price for access to a first-class community-owned facility. See http://westmount.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Selwyn-House_Bail_2014-12-05.pdf.

Is this private school included in the six to 13 percent rent hike? Clause 1(a) in its lease limits increases to a once-a-year Montreal-region cost-of-living adjustment – a lot less than 6 percent in fiscal 2016.

Why did Westmount agree to a 25-year contract on such favourable terms? Why so long for a school few of us could ever afford?

Why, at least until October 2029, did the city agree never to charge other local schools – think cash-strapped Westmount High – less than Selwyn House? This gratuitously compromises any future negotiations with public schools for ice rink use.

When times get tough, it's time to get tougher with this large-pocketed, well-endowed tenant. Or should we just be "patient" – there are only 7,983 days until the contract ends.

So, whose side is our city on? (A reply in these pages would be appreciated).

PATRICK BOLLAND, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

** Editor's note: FYI, in 2014, Selwyn House pledged to contribute \$1 million to the new arena in addition to its rental fee ("City rents ice time to Selwyn for \$65,000+ this season," November 11, 2014, p. 1). – KM.*

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LETTERS & COMMENTS:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week.

Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

Carbon monoxide detector too old

Firefighters were called to a house on The Boulevard near Argyle February 8 when a carbon monoxide detector kept sounding, Public Security officials said. Because the model indicated an early warning sign of the lethal gas, a furnace technician was called and was reported to have found the heating unit in good order. Public safety officers checked out all smoke detectors at the home and found them in good working order. The carbon monoxide one, however, bore a sticker dated with the year 1992. Firefighters were called to take gas readings. No levels of carbon monoxide were found, and the resident was "encouraged" to replace the 25-year-old detector. It was believed to be defective.

'Confused' driver taken to hospital

The 71-year-old driver of a car involved in a minor two-car collision was taken to hospital by police February 11 after public safety officers found she appeared to be confused, Public Security officials said.

A patroller who was flagged down at 1:28 am and informed of the accident at Sherbrooke and Metcalfe reported that one of the drivers had trouble finding her driver's licence when it fell in the car and appeared unable to reposition the car to the side of the street when requested. She also seemed to have a cut at one corner of the mouth that had not previously been noticed. She claimed to have just come off night shift at a hospital and was on her way home to Dorval. Police were called. The woman was found not to be intoxicated but it was not known if she had suffered a "malaise," officials said. Damage to both cars was described as "light."

Guest column

The Westmount political campaign of Stuart McLean (1948-2017)

BY DON SANCTON

It was, in retrospect, a quixotic campaign. Something that might even have made good fodder for a story on *The Vinyl Café* – “Dave tries to help his friend get elected.”

It was apparently the final foray by Stuart McLean into politics, not surprising given the CBC brass frowning on their star performers tipping their political hands while behind a microphone of the Mother Corp.

And, it happened in Westmount, this story about Stuart McLean, the much beloved CBC broadcaster and storyteller who died of melanoma last Wednesday at age 68.

It was October of 1976. I was the young news editor of *The Westmount Examiner*. The Montreal Olympic Games, Mayor Jean Drapeau’s “baby,” had finished three months earlier, the bills unpaid and the stadium unfinished. The sharpest critic of

the games and their bloated costs was Montreal city councillor Nick Auf der Maur, a member of the opposition Montreal Citizens’ Movement and a well-known journalist and man-about-town.

In Quebec City, the second-term government of Liberal premier Robert Bourassa was on the ropes and deeply unpopular, including among anglos. The first of Quebec’s language laws, Bill 22, was hated by both sides of the linguistic divide for either not going far enough or going too far. To try to clear the acrimony and get a new mandate, Bourassa called an early general election for November 15, 1976.

Into the political breach was born a new political party, the Democratic Alliance. It was likely the product of many drinks by the regular Auf der Maur crowd at Grumpy’s bar downtown, a legendary group of anglo writers, journalists and broadcasters – many Westmounters – that included Mordecai Richler, Ted Blackman, Richard Holden and Terry “Aislin” Mosher.

And, one would imagine given how this story unfolds, a young Stuart McLean.

The Democratic Alliance was formed essentially as a protest party, to give disaffected anglos and others some candidates to support who were neither Bourassa Liberals, separatist PQers, nor flash-from-the-past Union Nationale “bleus,” the old party of Maurice Duplessis. Auf der Maur was the fledgling party’s leader.

When the election was called, Auf der Maur had been pencilled in as the Democratic Alliance candidate in St. Louis riding downtown. Meanwhile, in the St. Anne riding south of downtown, sitting Liberal member (and former Montreal police officer and Montreal Alouettes placekicker) George Springate announced he was retiring from politics in protest against Bill 22, as he had broken ranks with his Liberal Party to strongly oppose the language legislation.

However, things *continued on p. 10*

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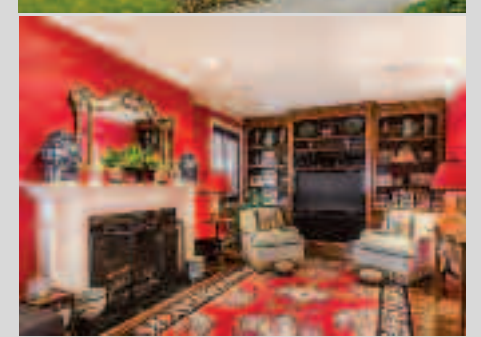
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Census shows need to pursue southeast vision

cont'd. from p. 1

ing is: do we really want to increase condo-ization – whether apartments or condos?”

In the 2016 census, the city’s population was listed at 20,312 inhabitants living in 9,617 dwellings. This is an increase over the last census in 2011 of 382 people and 165 more dwellings. The city’s land area is reported as 4.04 square km.

How much densification?

“Having StatCan confirm what I’ve been saying gives me more credibility when I ask how dense do we want to become,” Trent explained.

He said the city had seen “this horror movie” previously with the building of the high rise buildings immediately west of Atwater and was now facing the prospect

of the development, on its borders, of a six-tower project at the former site of the Mon-treal Children’s Hospital.

As a result, he said, “We really need to get moving on a vision for the southeast.” This is the largest area of undeveloped land in Westmount – the municipal park-ing lots between Dorchester and Tupper. “We’re thinking of low rise, leaving the zoning at three-storeys.” There is also the potential for site coverage to be consid-ered, he added.

In Trent’s objectives for 2017, he told the *Independent* last month that the council needed “a city policy to deal with the condo craze” (see January 24, p. 7). The recent wave of new condo developments not only typically attracts smaller-sized families but also tends to increase the city’s need to supply municipal services.

Babies for sale?



This window display appeared at a store on Sherbrooke St. February 11.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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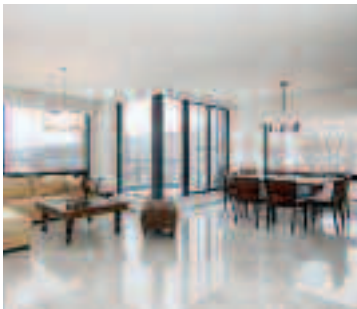
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Remembering McLean in the days of political campaigning

cont'd. from p. 7

changed dramatically in the first half of October. First, the original Democratic Alliance candidate for Westmount, Douglas Mitchell, decided not to run after all. The Liberals didn't have a candidate either as the unpopular incumbent, Kevin Drummond, was not seeking re-election. The Union Nationale was the most organized of the potential contenders, having nominated Harold "Shorty" Fairhead, a well-known local resident.

A week later, Auf der Maur announced he would not run for the Democratic Alliance in St. Louis, but rather in Westmount, where he had grown up (on Elm Ave.). His brother Frank was his official agent and his campaign manager was one Stuart McLean from Montreal West, age 28.

McLean at that point had a perfect record as a campaign manager, having guided Auf der Maur's initial campaign for Montreal city council two years earlier.

A week after Auf der Maur announced in Westmount, just before the nomination deadline, the Liberals finally announced their candidate: George Springate, coming out of the briefest of political retirements. The stage was set for what became one of the most hotly contested campaigns Westmount had seen.

From the point of view of us journalists covering the race, Stuart McLean organized and ran a very energetic campaign. In those pre-email and even pre-fax days, he was the delivery person each week of the copy for the free editorial space *The Examiner* offered all candidates every week, and the writer in him had probably had a hand in the content. A vote for Auf der Maur was described as "a positive vote for a real alternative," with the candidate saying he found Westmounters were "looking for a way to express their unhappiness with a government they so immensely supported three years ago." The campaign said Westmounters had had enough "neglect, arrogance, division and lies."

The Auf der Maur campaign highlight was a rally on November 9, just six days before the vote. A noisy crowd of 500 filled the room, among them Ted Blackman and Nick's fellow opposition Montreal councillor Michael Fainstat. Up to the stage was called Mordecai Richler, whose duty it was to read telegrams of support from Westmounter Charles Taylor, well-known teachers' union leader Don Peacock and economist/broadcaster Dian Cohen. Before the big speech from Nick, they were all entertained with a song by Chris Rawlings. It sounds now like a politically flavoured prototype live show of *The Vinyl Café*.

Two days later, an editorial in the pre-

election issue of *The Examiner* gave the paper's selection for the vote: "We pick Nick" it was headed. Perhaps not as ringing an endorsement as the cute heading indicated, the selection was made by elimination: the PQ were unacceptable separatists, the UN was a throwback to Duplessis and the Liberals had broken faith, plus their candidate had been fighting his own party just weeks earlier. For the sake of change and an alternative local voice, Nick was the paper's pick.

Four days later, the people said otherwise. Stuart McLean's career as a campaign manager came to a crushing end. George Springate walked away with the win, allowing him to declare on election night, "We showed 'em!" He had won 50.7 per cent of the vote, winning all but eight polls, a few of which went for Auf der Maur, who actually finished third with just 15.6 per cent, also behind Fairhead and the UN at 20.6. He did finish ahead of PQ candidate Gaston Laurion, at 12 per cent, but Laurion still got to celebrate his party's shocking overall victory that historic evening.

In front of a disappointed and disillusioned crowd at Democratic Alliance headquarters, Auf der Maur stood on a table to say he was proud of what they had done together, "even though we got whomped." Prominent beside him in an *Examiner* photo is a smiling and applauding Stuart McLean.

But in that political defeat, it was possible to see the sunny optimism that McLean would later bring to his listeners across Canada. He told *The Examiner* a local radio station reporter had asked him why he was

so happy when they were losing so badly. He replied that he felt good, not miserable: "I did the best I could and I'm proud to have worked with a guy as decent as Nick."

I never met Stuart McLean again after that campaign, but those days came to my mind almost every time I heard him on the radio in the intervening 40 years. And, as it did for many Canadians, that happened a lot.

Don Sancton was news editor, editor and publisher of The Westmount Examiner from 1975 to 1991. He is now a writer and corporate communications consultant.

Postscript

The Democratic Alliance disbanded soon after the 1976 election without ever winning a seat.

Nick Auf der Maur remained a Montreal city councillor for different parties until 1994. He died of throat cancer in 1998, age 55.

George Springate announced just before the next provincial election in 1981 that he would not run again – and this time he meant it. He continued his teaching in the John Abbott College Police Technology program, which he had helped found, and also became a federal citizenship judge for many years until he retired in 2013.

Stuart McLean's first story for national CBC Radio aired in October 1977, less than a year after that Quebec election. The rest is history.


Another McLean connection to Westmount



A photo from Indie's archives shows Château Westmount resident Andrew McLean (left), a retired Australian lieutenant-colonel who fought in the African and Pacific theatres during World War II. Stuart McLean's parents, Andrew and his wife Pat (back), along with fellow resident Roger Ricard (right), were greeted by Westmount Park students November 11 in 2008 for a Remembrance Day commemoration. Andrew died in 2009 and Pat in 2015.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Loulou playful at 10

	<p>9 Lives</p> <p>LYSANNE FOWLER</p>
---	---

She is so gorgeous, *belle* Loulou, as a strikingly elegant black and white domestic long-hair with gold-tone eyes.

Loulou is sweet and cuddly as well, which makes her a perfect companion for a neighbourhood family. She is gentle and friendly, looking forward to a home where she would be the only cat in the household as she was dominated by another cat in her previ-

ous family.

Loulou is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations and spayed. She was declawed on all four paws and is an indoor-only cat.

She is 10 years old, but you would never know it, since she is playful and young at heart.

If you would like more information on pretty Loulou, please contact Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions at info@gerdysrescue.org or contact Gerdy directly on her pager at 514.203.9180.

You can also find out more about this dedicated grassroots animal rescue group at www.gerdysrescue.org.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Renaud's newest book on self-esteem hits

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Building self-esteem is the theme of the latest picture book from Westmount children's author Anne Renaud. Hot off the press, *La boîte à sourires* is a story she wrote initially in English as *Cheer-me-up Chest* but is appearing now in French in its first published version. The book targets ages 3 to 8.

It will make its debut February 23 to 26 at the Gatineau book fair and then be presented at the children's book fair in Bologna, Italy, April 3-6, Renaud said. "This is the big book fair for kids' books, where an English translation of the book will be available for the purchase of the English rights."

La boîte à sourires is the 11th different story line that Renaud, who is the executive assistant to Mayor Peter Trent at city hall, has produced in various English and/or French editions.

The theme of the new book, she explained last week, is one she comes back to in her books because she finds "the ills of the world are rooted in a lack of self-worth and a feeling of being disenfranchised." While this can be applied to any decade in

history, she said, "it is particularly relevant in today's society."

La boîte à sourires is the story of a kindergarten student named Zoé, who is upset because she finds the birthday card she has made for her father does not measure up to the gifts of her older twin siblings: a scarf knitted by Mathilde and gingerbread cookies baked by Mathis.

The siblings tell Zoé, however, the card depicting a button caterpillar is a "really cool idea." They suggest she find a shoebox into which she can place drawings of whatever she can do, such as riding a bicycle. Then, any time she needs cheering up, she can open the box and look at all her accomplishments.

It has the desired effect. At the end of the book, Zoé is pictured doing just that with a happy smile on her face.

Renaud's books are available in the children's department of the Westmount Public Library where *La boîte à sourires* was awaiting processing last week to take its place on the shelves.

This is the first time one of Renaud's books has been illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard. The pictures are whimsical and expressive.



Anne Renaud signs a copy of her new book *La boîte à sourires* February 17.

Midget B Wings undefeated at last game

The Westmount Wings boys' Midget B hockey team played February 19 against the Phenix Trois Cités on the Molson rink at the Westmount recreation centre on February 19. The Wings started the game undefeated so far in the season.

It was a combative game with lots of penalties. At one point, four players, two from each side, were in the penalty box at one time. Westmount took the lead and was up by two goals, but the Phenix soon retaliated. The Phenix scored with only seconds left from the end of the game, but the Wings maintained their streak, winning 4 to 2.

Westmount scorers were Max Mashall (85) and David Kalichman (96), who was assisted by William Biron (93) and Paul Westenberg (92).

Biron also scored, assisted by Westenberg and Michael Bitz (81). Another scorer was Harry MacFarlane (82).

The team counts 17 wins, 0 losses and 1 tie. At presstime Monday, it had two more games in the regular season then was onto the playoffs and regionals.

— RT

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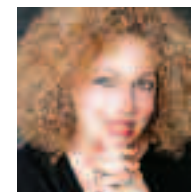


CDN/NDG; 4077-79 Décarie Blvd NDG character revenue property, semi commercial, rare find, amazing opportunity. **\$750,000**

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Mood of market cont'd. from p. 5

bottom of the Westmount market to get what they can, and that prices will start moving up when the lower prices start to disappear.

The hungry buyers did find two adjacent-Westmount properties, one just east of Westmount and the other just to the west, selling for \$600,000 and \$830,000 respectively, and one other in the Circle Rd. area went for \$1,450,000. Unlike December, when there appeared to have been a great deal of interest in adjacent-Westmount properties, the buyers are setting their sights back inside the city limits.

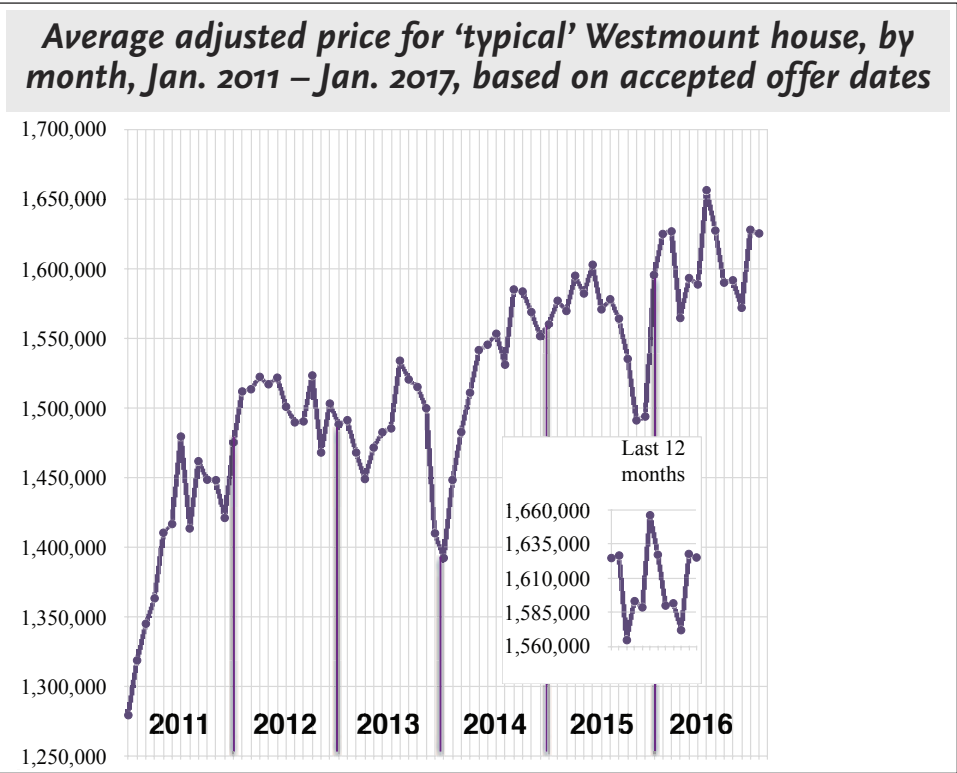
No condo sales posted in Jan.

No condominiums or co-op sales were

posted for January, leaving blank the statistic for the first quarter of 2017. This despite the fact there were 14 condo sales in the fourth quarter of 2016, the most for a fourth quarter since 2007.

As we move into the spring season, single-family listings jumped from 67 in mid-January to 80 in mid-February, but this is still far less than the 122 or so at the same time last year. Just over half of the new listings are for houses in the \$1- to \$2-million range.

Meanwhile, 22 houses are offered for rent, about the same as last year, but only two have been rented through agents in Westmount so far this year.



Hidden talents: Artistic photo project
Winter wonderland on Elm



Marie Sicotte: "Winter wonderland on Elm. The beauty and charm of Westmount during a snow fall." Her photograph was taken on February 13 at 6:30 am.

Photo courtesy of M. Sicotte.

We believe there is hidden talent amongst Westmounters. 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 enjoy this first one.

– Kristin McNeill, editor

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L'Abri en Ville's AGM is being held 13th March, 5:30 PM at the Unitarian Church 5035 de Maisonneuve O. All are welcome!

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Stellar eve for Cedars Cancer

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Amidst the 125 doctors present were local residents **David Fleiszer** with his wife pediatric psychiatrist **Ruth Russell**, **Manish Khanna** with **Catherine Michaud**, **David Hauerstock** and his wife **Suzanne**, **Howard Schwartz** and his wife **Alana**, **Henry Shibata** and **Nachiko**, and **Abe Wexler** as well

as **Gaston Schwarz** and his wife **Maria**.

Noted from the Cedars Fellowship Committee were doctors **Roger Tabah**, chair, and **Henry Shibata**, chair emeritus.

Westmounters noted included Selwyn House head **Hal Han-**
naford and his wife **Susan** continued on p. 14



Dr Armen Aprikian, Gwen Nacos, Diana Ferrara Scalia, Bruce Shadeed and Andrew Lutfy.

To say the night was stellar is an understatement. The November 10 Cedars Cancer Foundation's (CCF) 50th gala, "Go Beyond," was outstanding. Ball-gown-clad ladies stiletto-stepped on the red carpet in the damp dusk. During cocktail hour, hors d'oeuvres included fresh oysters from Westmount's Brasserie Lucille's and gravlax salmon steeped in Madison gin by caterer Fou d'Ici, owned by **Christina Nacos**. Her mother, local res **Gwendolyn Nacos** (there with hubby **Tom**), was event chair, working with co-chairs Westmounter **Diana Ferrara Scalia** (with **Sam**) and **Dr. Armen Aprikian**.

The evening not only celebrated 50 years of excellence, but also launched the foundation's capital campaign, co-chaired by Westmounter **Andrew Lutfy** and **Bruce Shadeed**, CCF board chair, there with his wife **Suzanne**.

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MLS#12033653 - **new price** \$899,000

- INTRODUCING -

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MLS# 16464626 - \$788,000

Social Notes cont'd. from p. 13

Doherty, Susan and Jawaid Khan, Maria and Jonathan Birks, Ann Birks, Hilary Radley and Jean de Brabant, Diane and Claudio Bussandri, Penny and Gordon Echenberg, Alice and Jonathan Goldbloom, Louise McLellan and Michael Taub, Daphne and Jeff Shamie (pres/CEO CFF) and Dan and Ariel Médalsy (VP, development CFF).

Seen applauding the poignant video of cancer patients and their families were incoming CCF board chair Mark Saykaly and his wife Louise, Phyllis and John Rae, France Denis Royer, Sarah Lamarche and



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From left: Anthony and Alexia Calvillo, and Alexandre Despatie.

Christopher Nacos, Martine Alfonso, executive director MUHC; Cookie and Larry Rossy, Rhoda and Joel Pinsky, Ogilvy's Steeve Lapierre and Holt Renfrew's David Lapierre (no relation), Deep Khosla and Dionysia Zerbisias, Mary and Frank Rana, Chiko and Pota Nanji, Susan Nemec and Patrick Guest, sisters-in-law Nadine and Shirley Chamandy and Cathy and Franco Monticciolo, as well as evening ambas-



From left: Nadine Chamandy, Dr. Henry and Nachiko Shibata, and Shirley Chamandy (seated).



Jeff and Daphne Shamie.

sadors, celebs Alex Despatie and Alexia and Anthony Cavillo.

The eve raised \$5.3 million for the new Cedars Oncology Supportive Care Centre, as well as for teaching and research.



From left: Larry Rossy, Peter Abraham, Martine Alfonso and Cookie Rossy.

Electrical fire doused in Hydro Westmount truck

An electrical fire broke out in a large Hydro Westmount boom truck February 8 at Sherbrooke just west of Claremont, Public Security officials said. Flames issuing from the passenger side of the dashboard were doused by firefighters using an ex-

tinguisher. The cause was reported to be a problem with a fuse. The incident occurred at 11:34 am on the westbound side of the street. The truck was described as a large International "cherry picker."

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's art hive, 4 to 7 pm in the community hall. Open to all. Info: 514.937.3575, ext. 210 or rachel@templemontreal.ca.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

He Named Me Malala is being screened at in Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library, 7 pm. Tickets at the main desk.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 TO
FRIDAY, MARCH 3

An exhibit highlighting notable buildings designed by Anderson Architects and to honour the work of Bruce and Bissera Anderson is on at the Gallery of Victoria Hall.

Ticketed for blocking driveways

Tickets were reported to have been issued recently to three cars for wholly or partially blocking driveways. These prompted Public Security officials to reiterate previous warnings to motorists to watch out for driveways, particularly in snowy weather when entrances may be difficult to see.

One ticket for \$117 was issued February 8 to a vehicle blocking the entrance to a lane off Sherbrooke between the Westmount Medical Building and McDonald's. It is used by residents of the apartment building at 418 Claremont. Another for \$187 was given to a car January 13 that had to be towed from in front of 110 Columbia to the municipal lot of Tupper St. at 8:31 am. At 5:46 pm the same day, another car was ticketed \$58 for partially blocking the free passage of a car in a driveway off York near Victoria.



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Concerns raised for Westmount seniors without elevator service

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Last October, Tim Burke, a tenant on the seventh floor of a St. Catherine St. high-rise apartment building, had no elevator service for three weeks straight.

Following this, according to 83-year-old Burke, the elevator didn't work again for several days. "I had to climb," said Burke when asked how he managed during the elevator outages.

There were 101 steps "if you count the three in the lobby," he added. "It's a tough climb," he admitted, noting that his leg mobility hasn't been as good since he underwent surgery.

Burke said he isn't the only senior citizen living in the building who was impacted by the elevator breakdowns. Nor were they the only times the elevator couldn't be used. "A month before, we had a shutdown for about three or four days," he said.

A few blocks away, Paul Johnson, an 86-year-old resident on the second storey of a condo apartment building at the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Victoria Ave., experienced similar problems with elevator service following a major fire on Victoria Ave. in November.

More than 80 percent of the occupants are retirees, with some in their 90s, according to Johnson.

As was the case at the St. Catherine St. apartment building, there had been previous elevator service shutdowns at the de Maisonneuve Blvd. building. In August, said Johnson, a 30-minute-long power blackout meant the elevator couldn't be used, leaving anyone with reduced mobility and living on an upper storey unable to come or go during that time, unless they could use the stairs.

Snow plow breaks down in snowstorm

A city plow broke down February 15 at 3:23 am at Clarke and Anwoth, Public Security officials said. The plow's blade reportedly hit a pothole or similar object damaging its hydraulic arm so that it could not be raised off the street. Because the truck was in a bad position, patrol vehicles blocked Clarke at the two entrances to Anwoth and firefighters were called to spread absorbent material on the road to clean up a spill of liquid from the hydraulic system. After a mechanic arrived at 4:32 am, the truck was moved to the east side of the street waiting to be towed.



Paul Johnson, seen here on Dec. 10 at the entrance to the elevator in his de Maisonneuve Blvd. condo building, is concerned that some senior citizens in Westmount are being impacted when elevator service breaks down.

According to Johnson, the November 13 incident was more than just inconvenient. Two people were stranded in the stalled elevator until power was restored.

The *Independent* made several attempts to contact the city of Westmount's chief building inspector, Christopher Rogers, to find out if there are any by-laws or municipal regulations to ensure elevator service during power outages. He did not reply.

Elevator safety is overseen by provincial agency

According to a French-language document made available online by the Régie du Bâtiment du Québec (RBQ), one of its responsibilities is to ensure that elevators in residential and commercial buildings operate properly and in keeping with provincial standards.

While the RBQ is not mandated to conduct on-site inspections of elevators, building owners are obliged to hire an elevator maintenance contractor who must keep a log of all work carried out, said Sylvain Lamothe, an RBQ spokesperson.

With regard to property owners' obligations, the RBQ says an owner "is responsible for the use, maintenance and proper upkeep" of their elevators.

The RBQ also has the following advice for those who become temporarily stranded in an elevator. Try to push another floor button, as this might restart the elevator. Use the telephone button or the alarm of the elevator to call for help.

They also recommend using your cell phone to call 911. Don't try to open the elevator doors or leave the elevator cab by your own means, since safety is at stake. Accept help only from a person who is trained in safe evacuation techniques.

– MCB

The *Independent* also made several attempts to reach the company that owns 4400 St. Catherine St., Immo Marketing Inc., for further information. They had not replied by deadline.

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