

*Process outlined to replace Trent*

## Election of interim mayor set for April 24

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The wheels were set in motion April 3 to choose an interim mayor to replace Peter Trent. No sooner had he officially announced that his resignation would take effect April 13 than a resolution declaring the position vacant was adopted.

It also stated the council would not proceed to fill the vacancy through by-election but by an option to elect one of their

members during a special public council meeting April 24 at 7 pm in the council chamber.

While this person is commonly known as an "interim mayor," under the law this person will be the mayor with full powers and responsibilities of the office, city clerk Martin St-Jean, director of Legal Services, told the *Independent* last week.

This new mayor will serve until the general municipal elections throughout Quebec on November 5. If the mayoralty is contested and the incumbent interim mayor is re-elected, this person will simply continue in the position. In the event that only one person files to ..... run for mayor and is a dif- continued on p. 19



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*'Going to be a huge deal'*

## Residents hear about challenges to redo Grosvenor

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Other streets may be longer or steeper, but work to reconstruct Grosvenor from de Maisonneuve to Sherbrooke this summer is presenting a very particular set of challenges, residents heard at a meeting April 4.

This long block is characterized by some 70 row houses with no side streets to allow

for access during the work.

As well, explained area resident and District 5 councillor Christina Smith, quite a few of the residents have accessibility challenges or small children.

"It's going to be a huge deal," she said. "We'll be sending out email blasts every week."

About 50 residents were reported to have turned ..... continued on p. 14

## Y Masters turn 20



Photo: Martin C. Barry

The Westmount YMCA Masters swim team's head coach Abdenour Hammadache, left, and assistant coach Mohamad Alsabbagh are seen with the team April 6 at the Y's pool, where they practice. See story, p. 10.

See:

- Trent's swan song, p. 4
- Advice for his successor, p. 18

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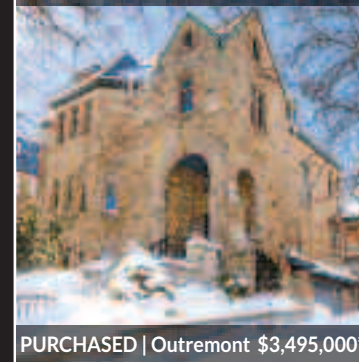
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# Westmount Ave. part of major road work looming

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A summer of road work lies ahead for the city following the awarding of contracts April 3 by city council for two major reconstruction projects. Both relate to projects started last summer.

One is the second phase of work on Westmount Ave., between Victoria (where last year's work ended) and Claremont. The other is the rebuilding of Argyle from Sherbrooke to Thornhill, where water main work took place last year in preparation of this year's work.

A contract for a third major reconstruction project this summer is expected to be awarded at the May 1 council meeting. This involves the challenging rebuilding of Grosvenor from de Maisonneuve to Sherbrooke (see story p. 1).

The reconstruction of Westmount Ave. is to be undertaken this year by Cojalac Inc. at a maximum amount of \$1,999,498. This was the lowest conforming bid of three, one having been submitted by Canbec, which worked on the first phase of Westmount Ave.

This summer's work will include the intersection at Victoria but not the one at Claremont, which will be done at the same time as the reconstruction of Claremont Ave., explained Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Public Works. The condition of Claremont makes it "one of the worst streets in Westmount," he said.

The work on Argyle is planned to start right after the end of the Selwyn House school year and to be completed for the resumption of classes in the fall.

The contract for this work was awarded to Les Entreprises Ventec Inc. for a total of \$958,891. It was lowest conforming bid of four, the second being from Cojalac at

\$1,035,896. "It's a very tight budget," Martin said, "a signal we have to be careful" (that the contractor doesn't try to cut corners, he later explained).

Another item presented to council was rejected. This was the awarding of a contract for rehabilitation of the water main on Argyle to the north (Thornhill to The Boulevard). This is in preparation for road reconstruction planned for next year. Martin said all bids had come in "well over" budget and the city would re-tender for this work.

Cracks have already been noticed in last year's paving of both Westmount Ave. and Prince Albert, Paul Marriott of Grosvenor said during question period. He said he hoped this year's quality would be up to a better standard.

Martin later told the *Independent* both contracts had five-year-guarantees.

## Time to move cars for spring cleaning

With the April 1 start of street maintenance periods, motorists are reminded to check for no-parking signs that are to be strictly enforced starting this week, according to Public Security director Greg McBain.

More than 80 warning tickets had already been issued for the infraction in the first few days since the signs went up, he said. The warning period is now over and starting this week, \$53 tickets will be given out. "It's important to get cars off the street so the sand and salt from the winter can be removed," he said.

On the other hand, winter parking regulations on certain streets have been lifted as of April 1.



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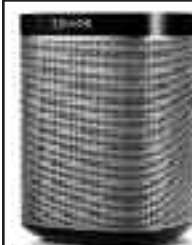
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# Trent's last hurrah as

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents, staff and former colleagues of Mayor Peter Trent crowded into the council chamber and city hall foyer April 3 for what became the last monthly council meeting over which he would preside.

Wearing his chain of office – “my jewelry,” he said – for this “special meeting,” Trent was paid tribute after tribute citing his leadership, integrity and work on the municipal scene spanning some 37 years.

But most of all, “thank you” seemed to be the recurring refrain especially in relation to his fight at the grassroots and provincial-government levels against “One Island, One City” in 2000 and then securing the demerger of 15 Montreal suburbs.

“Had it not been for his efforts, none of us would be sitting in this council chamber tonight,” said Councillor Victor Drury, who led off the tributes.

His impact “will be felt for generations to come,” said Councillor Christina Smith.

Regaining Westmount's independence was Trent's proudest accomplishment, he acknowledged in a lengthy address that opened the meeting to the first of several standing ovations and frequent applause.

“Westmount has given me far more than anything I have given Westmount,” he concluded.

His letter of resignation is to be submitted April 13, he told the meeting. This is expected to trigger the election process by councillors for choosing an interim mayor from among themselves on April 24 (see story p. 1).

Along with the many members of the staff and media in the audience of an estimated 80 people were former city directors general Bruce St. Louis and Duncan Campbell, former councillor Tim Price, representatives of community organizations and longtime volunteers.

Some of those attending who had intended to ask questions about various is-

ssues left without voicing them once they discovered how the meeting had suddenly become a swan song to the mayor. Trent later told the *Independent* it was “im-promptu” and “sort of grew like Topsy.”

A city press release announcing his intent to resign had been issued that very morning. Staff was also informed that morning that he would not seek another term in office and was leaving so not to play “a lame duck” role (see story April 4, p. 1).

## Montreal mayor weighs in

Soon after, Montreal mayor Denis Coderre issued an official statement noting in particular Trent's extended work at the regional, provincial and national levels saying in part: “On behalf of all Montrealers, I thank Mr. Trent for everything he has done for them. This is an incredible man who has applied himself in municipal affairs heart and soul for over 25 years....It is not only a friend but a brother who is stepping down today.”

“Thank-yous” came from all members of council as each spoke separately after Drury and Smith.

“If there were more Peter Trents in politics, more people would be interested,” said Councillor Theodora Samiotis. It was important when speaking of Trent, she said, “to talk about integrity in public life – doing what you say you are going to do.” And Westmount would continue to reflect him.

Trent's caring made him “the embodiment of Westmount,” said Councillor Nicole Forbes while Councillor Rosalind Davis said “he wears Westmount on his sleeve.”

Philp Cutler, the youngest councillor, noted to general laughter that “the mayor was on council before I was born.” He said it was the high regard for Trent held by his grandmother (Mayor May ..... Cutler) that was the rea-

continued on p. 5

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# mayor packs council chamber, community says 'thanks'

son he too had become involved.

"It's been a long, great journey," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who has served more than 21 years on council, much of it with Trent. She recalled how he had welcomed her in 1995 as a new councillor, one of only two women, and pregnant at the time.

For Councillor Patrick Martin, one of Trent's qualities was his copious preparation for meetings. "He didn't just show up," Martin said, "and he typically won most of his arguments." Pointing out that he and the mayor were sometimes on opposite sides of an issue, he said it was Trent's work ethic that had made him "a role model for anyone in business or school to see this is how you succeed in life."

And director general Mike Deegan, on behalf of the staff, spoke of the way Trent inspired people. "He doesn't do things for himself," he said, referring in particular to the Library Renewal Project and the building of the Westmount recreation centre. "He doesn't even use the library or the WRC!"

"I'm very touched," Trent said, citing in particular the presence of all the city's department heads.

While many people did not speak at the mic, some spoke to the *Independent* about Trent before the meeting began.

St. Louis, now retired and serving as the director general of the Association of Suburban Municipalities of which Trent is president, said that he and the mayor had been together "from Day 1" when Trent was first elected to council in 1983. "The chemistry was there."

Campbell, who succeeded St. Louis at the head of the administration, said it had been an honour to work with Trent, particularly on the Westmount recreation centre project.

Former Finance commissioner Tim



Mayor Peter Trent greets Kathryn Stephenson, his wife, as he enters the council chamber April 3 to preside at his last regular meeting.

*His impact "will be felt for generations to come," said Councillor Christina Smith.*

president of the Westmount Municipal Association, said Trent was leaving "a lasting legacy" and suggested he might now want to return to the WMA, where he had initially become involved in municipal politics and served as vice-president.

Price said that Westmount had been very fortunate to have Trent as mayor. "Aside from everything I gained from him as a politician, he became a friend."

"He has big shoes to fill," said Neil Mackinnon, a Scout leader who attended as a well-wisher from Grosvenor Ave.

And Kathryn Stephenson, Trent's wife, explained with a smile that his departure as mayor means "I'm getting my husband back."

During the question period, Paul Marriott,

More thanks to Trent came from Caroline Breslaw of the Westmount Historical Association for "preserving heritage," from Marina Brzeski of Grosvenor (for "responding to our interests,"), from John Fretz of Lansdowne (for supporting greenspaces at the aggro, bringing in the Washingtonian lamp standards and answering his emails "promptly and thoughtfully") and from Kirk Polymenakos of Claremont (for "what we have in this city").

More photos and additional story, p. 18, 19.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THANKS A TON, TRENT

Thanks a ton, Mr. Trent, for so many years of impeccable leadership – not to mention, successfully winning back Westmount for us.

Yours has been a class act that's going to be hard to follow, and sure to be missed.

PATRICK TEE, SHERBROOKE ST.

### APPRECIATE THE HEADS-UP ON GROSVENOR WORK

Thank you Westmount engineers, city councillors, friendly neighbours and all who made the meeting regarding information on the work to be done on keeping

Grosvenor accessible. And thanks to those whom I have not mentioned.

The information was excellent. It will not be fun for any of us living on the block, but from my viewpoint it looks like things will be made as easy for us as possible.

Yes, there will be noise; yes, there will be dust (I will postpone my spring cleaning!); yes, we will not always have easy access to our houses and parking aprons. But we will end up with a street with no potholes, no drainage problems, no streetlights shining into bedrooms at the front of houses. We can do this!

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

### Cyclist taken to hospital after accident on Sherbrooke

A cyclist was thrown from her bicycle April 3 when hit by a car on Sherbrooke at Argyle, Public Security officials said. The driver stated he was blinded by the sun and did not see the cyclist until she fell over the hood of the car. A patroller spotted the woman sitting on the ground at 9:51 am

with a number of people around her. The victim, a 31-year-old resident of East End Montreal was taken to the Montreal General by Urgences Santé. The extent of her injuries was not reported but her helmet was broken by the impact. The driver was a resident of Hampstead.

## Spring book sale raises record \$17,000

The quality book sale for Westmount Public Library raised \$16,950 over the weekend April 8-9, said event organizer Carolyn O'Neill. This is record amount for the spring sale, whose proceeds are generally exceeded by the fall event.

In announcing the results, O'Neill, who is also president of the Friends of Library, which holds the sale, said an official count would be provided later by the treasurer, David Gawley.

"These amazing results are due to the hard work that happens in all of the months before the sale," she said.

This is when the hundreds of donated books are sorted by the volunteers. Typically selling at prices of \$1 and \$2 each provides an indication of how many books had to be processed to raise this amount. Volunteers from local schools also helped at the sale.

### Hidden talents: Artistic photo project

### 'How much is that doggie in the window?'



*"Seen in the Metro parking lot, this fellow (gal?) made everyone smile. The regal look of bored disdain, in command of a Land Rover and quietly dismissive of mere humans: the full Westmount!" as observed by Patrick Martin.*

Photo courtesy of P. Martin

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

– Kristin McNeill, editor

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# Thoughts on Westmount from an exiting mayor



## Mayor's Column

PETER TRENT

The summit can draw in new money,  
Whose thirst for display they can't  
quench,  
*Arrivistes, parvenus, nouveaux riches:*  
Well, it sounds so much nicer in French.

From the heights of our hill they look  
down,  
They are masters of all they behold.  
To access this upscale dominion  
You need quite a bundle, I'm told.

So they socially climbed up our  
mountain,  
Which now is just slightly old hat,  
As over the years, with no bother,  
Old money moved to the flat.

Myself, I reside on the slope,  
High society is not my aim:  
Since I'm lacking a cellular phone,  
And not even a car to my name.

But suffering from temporary insanity,  
Late in two thousand and nine,  
I blue-boxed myself back to office:  
The arena conundrum was mine.

I knew a new pool would go  
swimmingly,  
Tennis would suffer no net loss;  
And skaters in puckish good humour  
Would cover the project with *kudos*.

But then there arose opposition,  
They called the arena too grand;  
Despite being under the ground,  
And creating an acre of land.

I thought that the neighbours would  
love it,  
No massive incursion they'd find:  
An arena that's out of their sight;  
Was clearly not out of their mind.

On regaining the title of mayor,  
I said to myself: "what a lark!"  
But thanks to this local resistance,  
It was not any walk in the park.

Again in two thousand thirteen,  
I got in without opposition.  
We managed to get free of debt  
With cash payment for each acquisition.

In creating a spot for a dog run,  
I was heatedly told to forgo it.  
And a stripe on Côte Road for a bike  
path  
Was the end of the world as we know it.

I'm the mayor of a city called  
Westmount,  
That's noted for power and wealth:  
But my power's restricted to Hydro,  
And I only take bribes from myself.

By way of saying goodbye, I offer the following to the readers of the *Westmount Independent*. In the same way a recipient should not disparage the quality of a gift, good manners require you speak kindly about my skills as a poet.

Incidentally, the only other time the poem reproduced below was shared with the public occurred when George Bowser accompanied me at Victoria Hall as part of a performance by Trouser and Bent.

### The First Magistrate's Lament

I'm the mayor of a city called  
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That's noted for power and wealth  
Of which none has had any effect  
On my personal financial health.



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– Jeff Hart, Managing Partner, Victoria Park

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David Price, PUBLISHER



# WRC campaign totals \$6.5M called ‘remarkable’: Drury

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city’s fundraising campaign for the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) has reached a total to date of \$6,554,416 in cash and pledge installments, city Finance commissioner Victor Drury announced at the city council meeting April 3. The objective was \$6 million.

Of the total amount, \$5,246,119 has already been received, he said, while \$950,000 is due in various installments from four donors who made long-term pledges. This leaves \$358,296 yet to be collected for 2017 and 2018, as well as cash ar-

rears of \$48,801, less than 1 percent.

“Traditionally all capital campaigns are spread over at least five years through multi-year pledges,” according to Drury, a fundraiser by profession.

“That this campaign has been able to raise \$6.5 million for a municipal project is remarkable,” he explained. This illustrates the support of the community, he said.

While the initial objective had been \$5 million, he recalled, this was increased by \$1 million to pay the extra costs associated with extending the size of the second rink.

# Power down 1% during Earth Hour

Westmount’s electrical consumption during this year’s Earth Hour, March 25, dropped 1 percent, according to Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise, the city’s assistant director general for infrastructure and engineering.

This year’s figure compares with decreases of 2.3 percent in 2016 and 3.7 percent in 2005.

Hurtubise said he could not account for

the smaller than usual decrease this year during the traditional “lights-out” period from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. “We averaged 50.5 megawatts the hour before (7:30 to 8:30) and dropped to an average of 50 MW between 8:30 and 9:30,” he explained.

This is the hour that citizens around the world were asked to participate in the symbolic gesture to create awareness of global warming.

– L.S.

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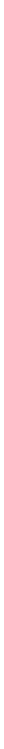
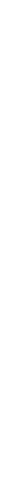
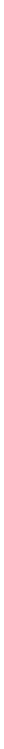
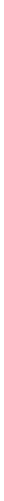
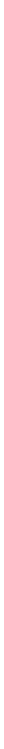
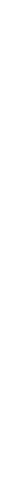
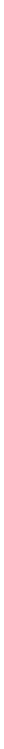
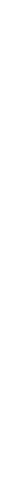
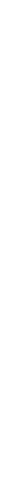
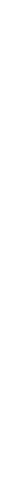
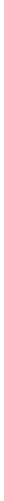
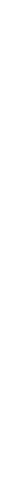
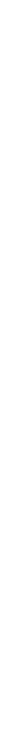
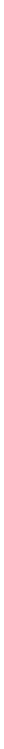
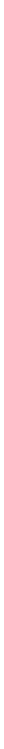
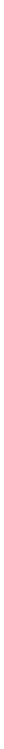
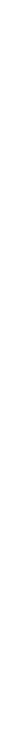
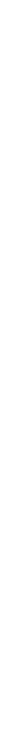
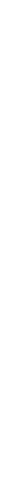
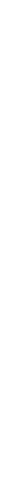
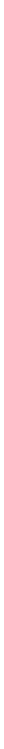
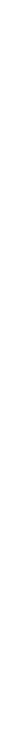
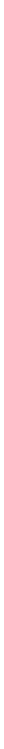
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# Y Masters swim team working toward 20th-anniversary provincials win

By MARTIN C. BARRY

With three provincial championship wins to their credit, members of the Westmount YMCA Masters swim team are hoping that 2017 – which is their 20th anniversary – turns into a special year with yet another championship victory.

According to Christine Cardinal, president of the team, the Westmount Y Mas-

ters will be competing in provincials, taking place in Montreal from April 21 to 23.

“This is what we’re currently gearing up for, and then we’ll do nationals in Quebec City,” she told the *Independent*. At the end of each season, the members hold a celebration that includes a slide show of the season’s major accomplishments, as well as karaoke singing.

“Singers have great lungs,” Cardinal

pointed out, while noting that the Westmount Y Masters are known to break out into spontaneous chants of the Village People’s big hit “YMCA” at the year-end events.

The team was founded by swimmers from the Westmount and Montreal West outdoor pools. Cardinal said there are still a few of the founding members on the team.

She said around a third of the members are from Westmount. Among the Westmounters on the team are Rosalind Davis, Sylvie Lepine, Linda Eden, Deborah Van Wyck and Sylvia Reiter.

While there are currently 100 swimmers from ages 18 to 90 on the team, not all compete. “Some of them are recreational – they do it because it’s fun – and some of us do it competitively,” Cardinal added. “What makes our team so interesting is its diversity. We come from all different walks of life.”

However, among the competitive swimmers, there are some who hold provincial and national swim records. Perhaps the most notable among them is 75-year-old Ian Smith, who is a world record holder in the men’s 50-metre freestyle for his age category. (See story, April 19, 2016, p. 24.)

The Westmount YMCA Masters meet for practice twice daily during the work week. Although they don’t meet on Saturdays, they do meet on Sunday afternoons. More information can be found at [www.westmountymcaswimclub.qc.ca](http://www.westmountymcaswimclub.qc.ca).

See photo, p. 1.

## Garage roof collapses in laneway

A garage roof collapse April 5 caused the area to be barricaded off in the lane between Bruce and Columbia, Public Security officials said. The garage was a separate structure and not attached to the buildings in front of it on Dorchester. Public safety officers were called about the incident by a nearby resident at 3:52 pm and found pieces of concrete had fallen over the car. Others were hanging from the roof and posed a potential danger. Urban Planning and Public Works were informed and firefighters were called. The owner was advised to call a contractor to secure the garage and not to remove the car until he had contacted his insurance company.

## Car backs out of driveway into another

Two cars collided on Roslyn just south of Sherbrooke April 2, Public Security officials said. No injuries were reported but the drivers requested a copy of the joint accident report, which they were given. The incident occurred about 5:02 pm as one of the vehicles was backing out of a driveway and struck the driver’s side door of a car travelling south. Neither driver was reported to live in Westmount.

## Sinkhole caused by sewer leak

de Maisonneuve was closed off at Prince Albert March 31 after a sink hole was reported at noon at the intersection of Claremont, Public Security officials said. A caller reported the hole at noon. It was determined to have resulted from a major sewer leak, and the street was closed as a precaution in the event of a possible street collapse.



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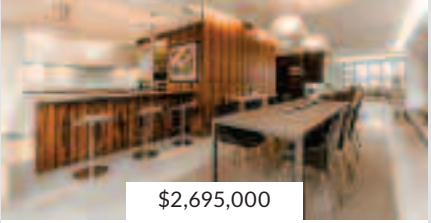
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Century-old tree comes down



Philip Dunwoody from the city of Westmount's Public Works department removes the first limbs of a 100-year-old Elm in King George (Murray) Park April 3 at 9 am. The tree had been killed by Dutch Elm disease a couple years ago, his co-worker said. The rest of the tree remained standing as of April 7.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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# Comin' Up

## FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Westmount Park United Church invites people to join for a **nature walk** to view birds in the Montreal wetland park. Meet at the church, 9:30 am. 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. RSVP: westmountparkuc@videotron.ca. Free.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

2 O'Clock Series presents "Chagall: Colour and Music," with Grace Powell from 2 to 4 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Tickets and information: 514.989.5299.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 20

**Westmount Historical Association's** monthly meeting "Women Volunteers in Westmount during World War II" with speakers Sandra Stock and Doreen Lindsay, 7 pm to 9 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Info: info@www.westmounthistorical.org.

"Mind fit" seminar about ways to enhance cognitive functioning by Janik Fauteux (Home Care Assistance) at the Contactivity Centre, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd., 1:45 pm. Register: 514.932.2326 or contactivity@bellnet.ca.

**David Lank**, stamp collector, gives an illustrated talk on "Every Stamp a Story," 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Free, donations requested. 1200 Atwater Ave.

**"Raising our Kids in a Complex World"** with moderator Rabbi Lisa Grushcow and facilitators Betty Goldwarg, school counselor and Minna Shulman, dean of Students at Selwyn House School. Light dinner 6:30 pm, discussion 7:15 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Free. Reserve: 514.937.3575 or sari@templemontreal.ca.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 21

**Climate Café Montreal** presents "Dawson College's Living Campus" by Chris Adam, 7 pm at the Westmount Park United Church 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Free.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 22

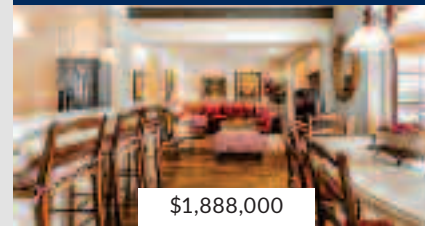
"Good Deeds Day" volunteer opportunity for ages 13 and over at the children's section of the Westmount Public Library, 10 am to 5 pm. Register: 514.989.5229.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 23

"Poetry and Pastry," 2 pm at Victoria Hall. (See story "'Poetry and Pastry' outgrows library, moves into Vic Hall," April 4, p. 7.)

Sundays at the Shaar presents speaker Yael Halevi-Wise, professor of Contemporary Literature and Jewish Studies at McGill University on "A.B./ Yeshoshua, contemporary Israeli Author and his relationship with other international authors," 12 pm. Cost: \$5. Lecture followed by lunch. Reserve: 514.937.9474 ext. 139.

## INTRODUCING

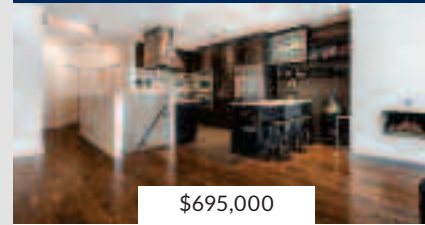


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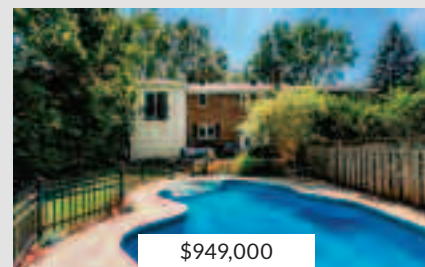
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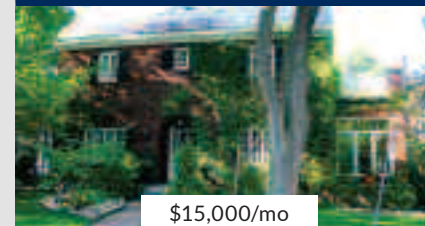


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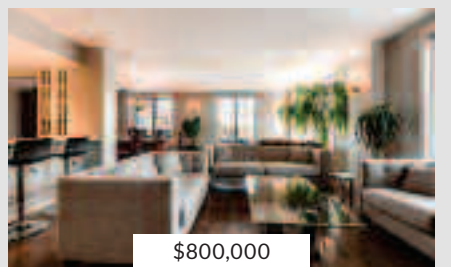
Luxurious 2+1 bdrm, 2 bath corner unit with breathtaking views. MLS 17807684



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### 64 RUE ST-PAUL • OLD MONTRÉAL

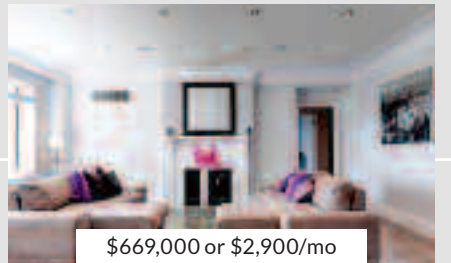
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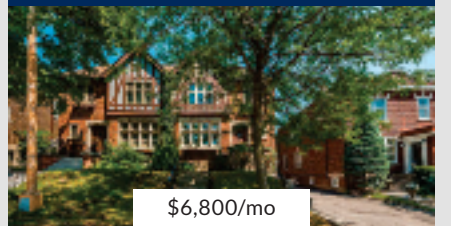


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# Grosvenor reconstruction

cont'd. from p. 1

out at the meeting at the Westmount recreation centre to hear Public Works officials outline how they will work sequentially in nine sections. “Obviously this will add a little more time to the work, but they have it all worked out,” Smith said. “The street is in bad shape, and residents know the work has to be done.”

“This meeting was so great,” said resident Marina Brzeski, “People had so many questions and concerns. We had hoped, however, we could have had input before the contract went to tender.”

The contract is expected to be awarded at the city council meeting May 1.

### Work involved

According to the city’s presentation, the street will be closed for about 25 weeks, probably mid-May through November. The work is expected to take place six days a week, including Saturdays, 8 am to 5 pm.

The street and its infrastructure will be completely redone. This includes new wa-

ter mains, street lighting, electrical conduits, sidewalks, a new concrete road base and asphalt surfacing, including designated crosswalks.

The water main (aquaduct) work will start off the project with installation of a temporary water supply network. The work will start from the south and move slowly north, one sidewalk being kept open at all times.

Parking will be removed from both sides to allow for two-way residents-only traffic, Smith said. Residents will be issued parking permits for other areas.

### Need better walkability

During the meeting, Brzeski said, people stated they wanted wider sidewalks (so parents could walk beside their children), sidewalks without puddles and driveway entries that do not undulate as much as the current ones. Among other items, they also voiced concerns over parking and access to their homes and cars.

Brzeski underlined the need for better walkability. continued on p. 15



Grosvenor Ave. looking south from Sherbrooke St. on April 7.







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# meeting outlines plans for work

“There are so many who use a cane or walker or a scooter. As it is, there is one person who chooses to walk in the street, she said, because the sidewalks are too bumpy.

People also had questions about whether they would lose internet or other connections during the hydro work and were disappointed there were no representatives from Hydro Westmount at the meeting.

“We would like to have known if it was possible to bury the hydro wires that are above ground at the back of our properties. It might have been an opportunity before the contract was written out in ink,” said Brzeski.

Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise subsequently told the *Independent* it would be “extremely expensive” to put the overhead wires underground, a cost that would have to be borne by property owners. There are also many wires at the back related to other services, such as phone and Videotron, for example.

He said residents should not expect service interruptions during the hydro work except in the transfer of electrical wires but none would be lengthy and residents

would be informed beforehand.

Brzeski, who had represented Grosvenor Ave. residents in opposing development of the Metro store parking lot two years ago, said Elisa Gaetano, Public Works assistant director for engineering and infrastructure, had provided “an excellent presentation” of the project.

Residents were also able to meet the city’s point person for the project, Christian Enriquez, who is to be on the site.

Smith said she is “encouraging” residents to take advantage of the water main work to replace any lead water service entries on their own property. This provides some cost benefit for residents to do at the time excavation of the city portion is already taking place, she pointed out.

Last summer’s reconstruction of Prince Albert from Sherbrooke north to Côte St. Antoine benefitted from access points provided by Chesterfield, Windsor and St. George’s Place, Smith noted.

The Grosvenor water main dates to 1897. The street was constructed with a 150 mm concrete base in 1930 and resurfaced in 1966. It was reconstructed in 1982 with a 200 mm concrete base.



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# infoWestmount

**BIBLIOTHÈQUE**

**Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd**  
**Le mercredi 12 avril, 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.

**Conférences de 14 heures : Grace Powell**  
**Le mercredi 19 avril, 14 h**, Bibliothèque. *Chagall: Colour and Music*. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

**Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : The Boaters and Sifters of ALP**  
**Le mercredi 19 avril, 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.

**Ciné-club**  
**Le vendredi 21 avril, 14 h**, Bibliothèque. *Hidden Figures*. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5299.

**Poésie et pâtisserie**  
**Le dimanche 23 avril, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount vous invite à prendre le thé afin de célébrer le Mois de la poésie au Victoria Hall. Billets requis. Info : 514 989-5226.

**ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES**

**Concerts d'été : appel de candidature**  
Le Service de la Bibliothèque et des événements communautaires de la Ville de Westmount est à la recherche de groupes musicaux pour sa série de concerts d'été 2017. Pour participer, vous devez soumettre une démo sur CD/DVD ou clé USB; ou encore un lien vers le site web de votre groupe **au plus tard le jeudi 13 avril 2017**.  
Info : abaker@westmount.org ou 514 989-5226.

**Galerie : appel de dossiers**  
**Période d'inscription annuelle : du 15 février au 15 avril**. La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de dossiers pour sa programmation de la saison 2017-2018. Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents ou professionnels qui habitent Westmount. Un dossier complet peut être posté ou déposé (aucune soumission par courriel ne sera acceptée) au Centre communautaire Victoria Hall.  
Info : 514 989-5521 ou westmount.org.

**La Journée du cinéma canadien 150**  
**Le mercredi 19 avril, 13 h**, Victoria Hall. Westmount est fière de participer à cet événement avec une projection du film *Mambo Italiano*. Billets requis.  
Info : 514 989-5226.

**Prochaine séance du conseil  
le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> mai**

**Galerie du Victoria Hall**  
**Du 21 avril au 18 mai**. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter une exposition des employés. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. Info : 514 989-5521.

**Journée du mieux-vivre**  
**Le samedi 22 avril, 11 h à 15 h 30, Victoria Hall**. Plus de 23 exposants offriront des conseils d'experts sur la santé, la technologie, la sécurité, la vie verte et plus encore. Présentée par le Projet Ville en santé Westmount. Gratuit. Info : 514 989-5226.

**TRAVAUX PUBLICS**

**Collecte de résidus domestiques dangereux**  
**Le samedi 29 avril, de 9 h à 17 h**, Bibliothèque. Beaucoup de produits sont très dommageables pour l'environnement quand ils sont mal éliminés. Débarrassez-vous de ces matières de manière sécuritaire. Info : 514 989-5390.

**Restauration du bois Summit**  
**De la fin mars au début mai**, bois Summit. Plus d'un km de sentier sera aménagé et couvert de copeaux de bois. 4 espaces de stationnement seront fermés au stationnement sur Summit Circle pour la durée des travaux. Info : 514 989-5291.

**Distribution spéciale d'arbres**  
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**LIBRARY**

**Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd**  
Wednesday, April 12, 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.

**2 O'Clock Conferences Series: Grace Powell**  
Wednesday, April 19, 2 p.m., Library. *Chagall: Colour and Music*. Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5299.

**Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* The Boaters and Sifters of ALP**  
Wednesday, April 19, 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.

**Film Club**  
Friday, April 21, 2 p.m., Library. *Hidden Figures*. Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5299.

**Poetry and Pastry**  
Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. The Westmount Poetry Group invites you to celebrate National Poetry Month at a special afternoon tea at Victoria Hall. Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5226.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Summer Concerts Series Call for Submission**  
The Library and Community Events Department of the City is now accepting submissions for the 2017 Summer Concert Series. Please submit your groups demo on CD/DVD or USB or your bands website link by Thursday, April 13.  
Info: abaker@westmount.org or 514 989-5226.

**Gallery: Call for projects**  
Annual registration period: February 15 to April 15. The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces its Call for projects for its 2017-2018 exhibition season. Emerging or professional artists who are residents of Westmount are invited to apply. Please

**Next Council Meeting  
Monday, May 1**

mail or deliver your complete dossier (online submission will not be accepted) to: Victoria Hall Community Centre. Info: 514 989-5521 or [victoriahall@westmount.org](mailto:victoriahall@westmount.org).

**National Canadian Film Day 150**  
Wednesday, April 19, 1 p.m., Victoria Hall. Westmount is proud to participate in this event with a screening of the film *Mambo Italiano*. Tickets required. Info: 514 989-5226.

**Gallery at Victoria Hall**  
April 12 to May 18. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present an employee exhibition. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 514 989-5521.

**Smart Living Day**  
Saturday, April 22, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Over 25 exhibitors will present expert advice on health, technology, security, green living and more. Presented by the Westmount Healthy City Project. Free. Info: 514 989-5226.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection**  
Saturday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library. Many household products are harmful to the environment if improperly discarded. Hazardous or toxic products must not go in the regular garbage nor down the drain, but should instead be brought to the Hazardous Waste Collection. Info: 514 989-5390.

**Restoration of Summit Woods**  
**From the end of March to early May**, Summit Woods. Over one km of main trails will be laid with wood chips. 4 parking spots will be closed off in the parking lot on Summit Circle for the duration of the work. Info : 514 989-5291.

**Special Tree Distribution**  
The City of Westmount has allocated \$5 000 in its 2017 budget for the distribution of trees to its residents. Residents may obtain one tree free of charge from the following selection: Stella Cherry, Eastern Redbud or American Hornbeam.  
Go to [westmount.org/firetree](http://westmount.org/firetree) to order your tree.



# Turcot interchange meeting covers vast array of topics

By DAVID PRICE

Approximately 35 people attended a meeting of the *Comité de bon voisinage Turcot NDG-Westmount* held March 27 at the St. Raymond community centre on Upper Lachine Rd. near Girouard.

They were there to hear from a panel of 13, which included Westmount and NDG citizen-members of the committee, Montreal police, and employees from the ministère des Transports, Mobilité Durable et Électrification des Transports du Québec (MTQ), the KPH (Kiewit, Parsons and Holcim)-Turcot consortium that is rebuilding the interchange and the borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG.

In the audience were Westmount city councillors Cynthia Lulham and Theodora Samiotis, and Peter McQueen, Montreal city and borough councillor for eastern NDG.

Issues ranged from complaints about trucks on Avon Rd. in Montreal West to cycling issues around the Gadbois recreation centre in Côte St. Paul, although other topics dominated the discussion (see box p. 20).

One of Westmount's citizen-members on the committee, Michael Mossop, had three initial questions for the government representatives, namely, given that the new autoroute 136 will be approximately the same height as the current 720, is a sound barrier on the south/St. Henri side necessary, has the MTQ studied a possible noise-rebound effect on Westmount of that barrier and have studies been done on the relative merits of north- and south-side barriers?

Sandra Sultana, assistant director of the Turcot project, who represented the MTQ, replied that such investigations are not currently in the Turcot plan, but the north-



Westmount citizen-members Michael Mossop and Virginia Elliott, at left, and Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount and NDG representative Dan Lambert, at right, listen to NDG citizen-member Malaka Ackaoui at the mic. Westmount city councillor Cynthia Lulham listens from the audience.

side barrier is being studied.

Mossop also asked about large metal tubes that he saw on the Turcot site at Greene, which David Maréchal, director of environmental quality at KPH-Turcot, thought were not there for pile driving, but would check. The *Independent* went by the next day (see p. 20), and workers said that the tubes were to be screwed in, not pounded in, before being filled with concrete.

Westmounter Dan Lambert, representing the associations of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount and NDG, asked about barriers to cycling on the east side Glen Rd. near Home Depot. In a phone interview the next day, he said that these should be taken down "immediately" to allow the east cycling lane to function.

Sylvie Gervais, KPH-Turcot mobility director, said that bollards would be put up, but that the barriers had to stay to protect

workers accessing the site.

Lambert also championed having side guards and cameras on all Turcot trucks, and was supported from ..... the audience by Council- continued on p. 20

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Crucifixion



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*‘Will be there to help with transition’*

# Trent leaves advice, long ‘to-do’ list for successor

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Much work lies ahead for “whoever replaces me,” Mayor Peter Trent told his last city council meeting April 3 before his resignation takes effect. But, he said, his replacement can count on his support.

“I’m not going anywhere. I will be around to help with that transition,” he said. “Whoever replaces me will not lack for things to do.”

Upcoming challenges include the need to the modernize Hydro Westmount, likely as a more autonomous entity, he said. They also include improving the quality of infrastructure work, restoring the greenhouse and creating a southeast development vision.

## Another 4 years for Dragon



The city's director of Human Resources, Jocelyn Dragon, was present April 3 when the council extended her contract to April 2, 2021. She received a hearty round of applause.

Also on his list are dealing with the condo craze, repurposing houses of worship and continuing the ongoing pursuit of a highway sound barrier. (See story March 28, p. 1.)

Outside Westmount, Trent said, he has always believed that it was “absolutely necessary” for a Westmount mayor to work as a partner with Montreal and its mayor. Half of Westmount’s budget goes to the Montreal agglomeration council, he pointed out.

Last year, he and Montreal mayor Denis Coderre settled a long-standing dispute between Montreal and the demerged suburbs over the operating costs of drinking water and the development of the downtown sector (see story March 8, 2016, p. 3). The aggro itself needs to be overhauled, he said, and the “over-remuneration of municipal workers” needs attention.

Trent issued a warning to be on guard against future municipal mergers. “My replacement has to realize that no stake has been driven through the heart of merger. It will always be a remote, but nonetheless real, possibility.” He remains, he said, the only mayor who has “lived and led the troops through the innocent pre-merger years.”

In those days, he recalled, the 28 island suburbs represented half its population and held the power of double majority on the Montreal Urban Community council. That meant that every vote required a majority of both Montreal and the suburbs to pass.

Today the 15 reconstituted cities comprise 13 percent of the population and have a proportional vote on the agglomeration council. “The political tectonic plates have shifted.”

# Trent applauded by many at last meeting

*cont’d. from p. 5*



Retired city directors general Bruce St. Louis, left, and Duncan Campbell attended Mayor Peter Trent's last meeting April 3.



Concluding his parting address, Mayor Peter Trent, centre, receives one of several standing ovations April 3. Councillors shown are, from left: Patrick Martin, Philip Cutler, Victor Drury, Rosalind Davis, Christina Smith and Nicole Forbes.

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The Trent council April 3, from left: Councillors Patrick Martin, Philip Cutler, Victor Drury, Rosalind Davis, Mayor Peter Trent, Nicole Forbes, Christina Smith, Theodora Samiotis and Cynthia Lulham.

## Election for interim mayor breaks new ground

*cont'd. from p. 1*

ferent person, he or she would be acclaimed at the election deadline for filing papers.

The process of electing an interim mayor is “totally new area” for Westmount – at least in the past 40 or 50 years – “as far as we are aware,” St-Jean said. It will require some research to help determine timelines and other details since the law gives the city clerk latitude in certain areas.

One of these is the length of time that councillors seeking the position will have for filing their candidacies and what information this will entail.

### **Aiming for transparency**

“I don’t want to make it too onerous,” he said. “I want to make it as fair, transparent and efficient as possible.”

What is known now, he said, is that he will post a notice of the election including

rules and timeframes, such as the closure of nominations, in the *Independent’s* edition of April 18. He expects the names of the candidates could be included in the council agenda for the April 24 meeting and election.

The election is to take place in a secret ballot by all the councillors during this meeting. St-Jean will preside over the election, count the ballots and announce the results. The new mayor will then be sworn in at the meeting.

The law provides for a tie vote to be broken by the acting mayor, sometimes known as the pro-mayor. One of the things St-Jean said he would be looking into, however, is what happens in the event this person happens to be one of the candidates involved in the tie vote. “It could be an important point.”

Councillor Nicole Forbes is acting mayor for the period February through April, according to a schedule adopted at the beginning of the year on a rotational basis.



VILLE DE | CITY OF  
**WESTMOUNT**



### **FÊTE DE PÂQUES : Heures d'affaires et services municipaux**

Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'Hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront fermés le vendredi 14 avril et le lundi 17 avril 2017 en raison de la fête de Pâques.

La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée les vendredi, dimanche et lundi.

**Il n'y a aucun changement quant aux collectes des ordures et des résidus alimentaires, qui s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.**

### **EASTER HOLIDAY: Business Hours and Municipal Services**

Administrative offices of the City of Westmount, including City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Recreation, will be closed Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for the Easter holiday.

Westmount Public Library will be closed Friday, Sunday and Monday.

**Garbage and kitchen waste collections are unaffected, and will take place according to the regular schedule.**



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## News

• An entry to the Decarie autoroute northbound will be added at St. Jacques and Prud'Homme. Westmount motorists will be able to proceed south on Lansdowne and Glen Rd., turn right on St. Jacques and then turn right after the super-hospital to access it. Motorists coming east on St. Jacques from NDG may or may not be able to turn left to access it. Panelists were to verify after the meeting.

• St. Jacques from Glen Rd./de Courcelle to St. Rémi will be closed from April 10 to June, with long detours to be set up using de Maisonneuve in front of the Vendôme Metro station, St. Catherine St. in Westmount and Glen Rd., as well as St. Rémi, Notre Dame, an open section of St. Jacques accessed via Place St. Henri, and St. Antoine.

## Views

• Opinions expressed, in approximate order of popularity with speakers and audience members:

• The "dalle-parc," or cycling/pedestrian bridge over autoroute 20 from Cavendish Blvd. and St. Jacques to the Lachine canal in Verdun and LaSalle, should be added back to the Turcot plans. Virginia Elliott, a Westmount citizen-member of the Comité, was among those people championing this possible project.

• The sound barrier at Addington and St. Jacques in NDG should be demolished (as per a majority of residents who voted in a poll) or, failing that, beautified.

• A school crossing guard should be added at Upper Lachine and Oxford Ave. in NDG, in the vicinity of the new St. Raymond primary school.

• Police should patrol the intersection of Girouard and St. Jacques in NDG more.

• There should not be a sound barrier at Prud'Homme and St. Jacques in NDG or, failing that, it should be placed on the far side of the parkland there, further from residents' houses.

## Turcot meeting cont'd. from p. 17

lor Lulham, who explained Westmount's requirements for these safety measures are written in to Westmount's contracts. Sultana said that having Turcot trucks come from all over Quebec made it hard to have that requirement on the Turcot site.

Lambert also asked for a Turcot employee to be tasked with pedestrian and cyclist safety on and around the site, which the Turcot panel said would be looked into.

Pierre Guillot-Hurtubise of Octane Stratégies moderated the discussion and fastidiously translated any English into French. The majority of the meeting took place in French, which was not translated. The meeting's French PowerPoint presentation was available as a paper handout in both languages.



The drill in action, view from Greene Ave. on April 5.  
Photo courtesy of Willem Westenberg.



The barriers, circled, on the east side of Glen Rd. on March 28.

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# Stars shine for Just for Kids

## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



The Just for Kids Foundation's (JFK) 11th annual "Dancing with the Stars" event took place on February 6 at Le Windsor. Event co-chairs were **Arabella Decker** and Westmounter **Allyson Kassie-Goldberg** (attending with her husband **Steven Goldberg**), working with hard-working committee members **Louise Guimond**, **Kelly Castiel**, **Casey Tabah**, **Ashley Langburt** and **Erin Tohir**.

A top star was local res **Dr. Albert Cohen**, director of gastroenterology, Jewish General Hospital, attending with his wife **Karen** and children **Véronique** and **Lau-**

**rent**. Cohen was the highest individual fundraiser, bringing in \$39,315. Multi-talented, this doctor was also a dancer! With professional dancer **Maya Kolesnikova**, he joined other volunteer performers: **Dr. Jessica Morrison**, who danced with pro **Alex Sharov**, **Carole Khoury** (with **Alex Rhéaume**), **Benjamin Proulx** (with **Jessie Mineau**) and **Ali Kirstein** (with **Mathieu Casavant**).

Also strutting their stuff was a terrific trio of teens – **Charlotte Goldberg**, **Allie Giroux** and **Ryan Mendel**, who raised the mandated \$10,000 to enter. The younger generation was not left out. The Juste Danse kids troupe, Westmount residents **Paige Mazoff**, **Beatrice Ivanovici**, **Liv Kaplan** and **Sarah Oldland** along with **Maya Esar** and **Amanda Souaid** executed a fun hip hop routine.

Although a difficult call, the competition winner was Proulx, VP, trading at Desjardins Financial, who performed a Bollywood samba routine with his pro dance partner.

JFK president **Rochelle Lerner Silverman** addressed the packed room, praising the successful eve.

Event judges were **Sal Parasuco**, there with his wife **Rosie**, **Meryem Pearson** (ballroom dancing), and **Pierre Allaire**, 12-time Canadian ballroom champion.

Emcees were Kassie-Goldberg, owner of Juste Danse studio, and **Francis Gilbert**, Rythme FM host.

Noted at the dynamic night were Westmounters **Roni** and **Leo Kolber**, along with media celeb **Catherine Verdon Diamond** (Breakfast TV), the ever-stylish bros **Mark** and **George Batchoun**, **Julie-Katherine Turcotte**, **Niki Karamanos** and **Adrian Abdoo** with siblings **Valerie Abdoo Telio** and **Eric Abdoo**, **Rochelle Lerner Silverman**, continued on p. 22



The Cohens, from left: Véronique, Karen, Albert and Laurent.



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**Social Notes** *cont'd. from p. 21*

Lisa Steinberg, Sandra D'Alesio and Brina Ruckenstein.

Toe-tapping doctors noted included Lianne Kopel, there with her dad Zev Kopel, and Robert Koenekoop with his wife Rhona.

The enjoyable event raised over \$445,000 in support of JFK's 2017 "A Breath for Life" campaign, purchasing high-priority medical equipment for the neonatal intensive care unit and the respiratory medicine department at the Montreal Children's Hospital.



From left: Alex Sharov, Dr. Jessica Morrison, Dr. Albert Cohen, Maya Kolesnikova, Carole Khoury, Alex Rhéaume, Jessie Mineau, Benjamin Proulx, Ali Kirstein and Mathieu Casavant.

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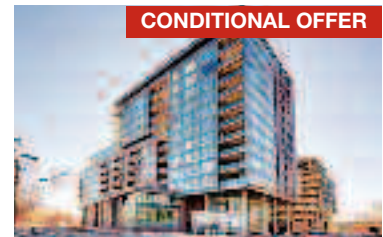
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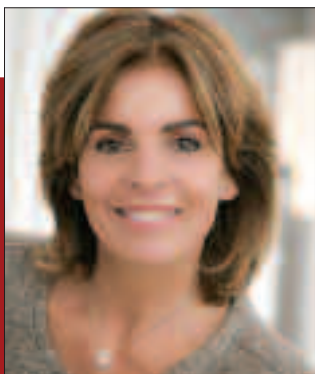
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