

City's 'mise en demeure' reveals new info

Decree orders MTQ to conform to sound level norms

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

New details concerning sound levels on the Ville Marie replacement highway emerged last week revealing that a Quebec government decree in 2010 required the ministry of Transport (MTQ) to take steps to reach an agreement with Westmount regarding noise abatement from the new route.

The order in council called for noise to be lowered below the 65-decibel threshold to the north of the new highway at the limits of residential properties.

News of the government decree formed an integral part of a *mise en demeure* dated March 30 from the city to the MTQ and its design-builder KPH-Turcot.

The formal notice gives the defendants 30 days to submit measures to conform to the decree and submit a final agreement with the city before it resorts to legal action seeking an injunction.

"We have not heard anything," Mayor Peter Trent said April 12.

The existence of the government decree had not been previously mentioned when the city announced it would seek legal means to deal with an expected change in the elevation of the new highway. This re-configuration would not lower noise levels as much *continued on p. 5*

Sunnyside house fetches highest price in Westmount history



14 Sunnyside, as seen from Westmount Lookout, April 13. See story, p. 6.

Photo: Andy Dodge

Letters p. 6

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 13

Vimy Ridge BY R. THOMPSON p. 8



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BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City takes new approach to tree care

It was an unusual exhibit brought into the council chamber April 3: a 10-foot long stake. Its purpose was to show members of the audience how the city has been recycling felled trees into stakes for holding up new plantings.

This one, reported to be longer than most will be, came from a large ash tree cut down recently in Westmount Park af-

ter falling victim to the emerald ash borer, the destructive Asian beetle infecting ashes (see story April 4, p. 6).

The stake, branded "local ash," was carried into the council chamber by Nicolas Mory just before he was to be appointed superintendent of horticulture and arboriculture.

Later in the meeting, the council approved a contract for the care and maintenance this *continued on p. 10*



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'Home-grown' version of Sanctuary City

City reaffirms services for all Westmount residents

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council April 3 adopted a "home-grown" version to requests it declare itself a "sanctuary city." The city's declaration reaffirmed the city's commitment to provide services to all Westmount residents "regardless of their nationality or immigration status."

"It's not a change in policy but sometimes things are worth repeating," said Councillor Christina Smith, commissioner of Administration, in moving the resolution.

The "declaration of access to services for residents" came in response to requests at previous meetings from local residents Abby Lippman and Richard Lock that Westmount join the ranks of declared sanctuary cities such as Montreal and a number of others in North America (see story February 14, p. 3).

Typically, these are aimed at protecting

undocumented persons whose status or location within a city could be jeopardized upon questioning by local authorities such as police who could then alert other authorities.

While these generally apply to cities that operate their own police forces and housing projects, the Westmount declaration is intended to be tailored to the city's more limited powers and responsibilities. Policing, for example, comes under the authority of the Montreal agglomeration council.

'Does not discriminate'

As a result, the city's resolution states that the city is "committed to promote equality and inclusion of all ethnicities and religions" and "does not discriminate against any person" and that "respect for others is a cornerstone of our community."

It states that the foundation of the city and its community is based on "the invaluable contribution of residents coming from all over the world," and that both "welcome all" to Westmount and wish "for all residents to enjoy our parks, use our pools, join a team, read a book in the library and have access to all other services offered by the city."

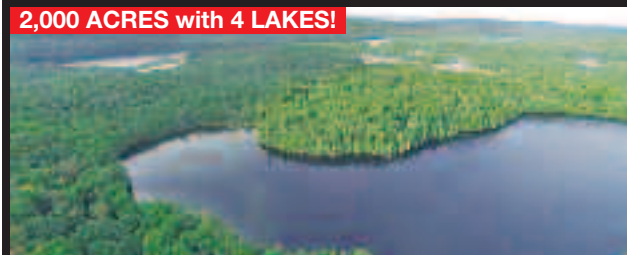
Lippman, who said she was unable to attend the council meeting, told the *Independent* last week she was pleased to know the mayor and council were committed to treating all who reside here "fairly" but that "it is important to go a step further and declare that as a city it will never ask anyone for immigration status or share such information with other government agencies."

Rain storm breaks two trees

Heavy rain April 10 brought down sections of at least two trees, Public Security officials said. The first was reported at 7:04 pm as a very large limb that fell outside 532 Clarke. The street was blocked at Cedar until the fallen portion could be cut and removed.

A second incident at 7:19 pm occurred in the lane between Blenheim Place and Bethune, where a small tree was described as "already dead." A section had fallen onto telecommunications wires but toppled to the ground while officers were waiting for Public Works to arrive.

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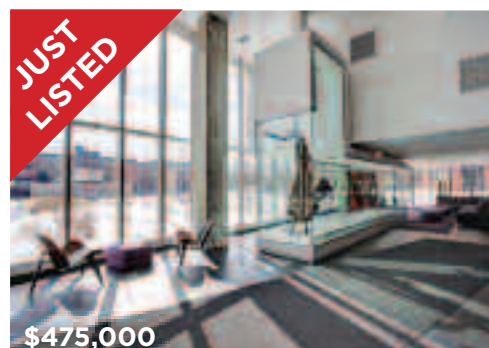
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Makes resignation official

Trent ‘hands back’ the chain for his successor April 24

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

When Mayor Peter Trent symbolically handed back the chain of office to the city April 13 after officially resigning, he told assembled members of the city staff how it had come to represent the fight for Westmount’s independence in the merger-de-merger struggle.

At the time of the forced merger with Montreal, he recalled, the chain had been presented to him at a “goodbye to Westmount party” by then city director general Bruce St. Louis saying “it would now be completely useless.”

But when the city regained its independence four years later, Trent said, St. Louis turned up at his door wanting the gift back. “So this means a lot to me,” he explained, “because it symbolizes our loss and gain.”

Trent then thanked the staff for helping to rebuild the city into an even better condition than it was before the mergers. He also asked them to adapt to change, refer-

ring to his decision to resign and the election April 24 of an interim mayor (see story April 11, p. 1).

Interestingly, the last time Trent re-

signed the office was when, in his own words, he was “de-elected” by the forced merger of Westmount with Montreal. When *continued on p. 5*



City clerk Martin St-Jean removes the chain of office from around Peter Trent’s neck April 13 after receiving his letter of resignation.



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Westmount regained its independence on January 1, 2006, he did not run again until the 2013 election, at which time the outgoing mayor Karin Marks handed the chain of office back to Trent.

While Trent had become the community's 35th mayor when originally elected in 1991, his break in the two series of terms means he will be unique among West-

mount mayors in having two medallions on the mayoral chain, dated 1991-2001 and 2009-2017.

Although Westmount was incorporated in 1874 as the Village of Notre Dame de Grâce, the chain's medallions start only at the time Westmount was granted its charter as a city. That was in 1908 when William Galbraith was mayor.



Then: Mayor Karin Marks hands over the chain of office to Peter Trent October 2, 2009, on his acclamation as mayor.

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Sound levels cont'd. from p. 1

as previous information from the MTQ had stated over the years (see story March 28, p. 1).

The effect of the reconfiguration of the new highway 136 means its westbound lanes between Irvine and Clondeboye would result in noise levels between 70 and 75 decibels.

These latest levels and the new highway elevations were confirmed to the city in a letter February 23 from MTQ representative Line Gamache.

The city's conditions in the *mise en demeure* also charged the MTQ and KPH-Turcot to bear the cost of corrective measures and to submit written authorization allowing the contractor to carry out remedial modifications, among other things, to the highway.

The *mise en demeure* was sent by the law firm Irving Mitchell Kalichman.

Fork lift breaks down on street

A fork lift broke down April 6 on St. Catherine east of Clarke, Public Security officials said. Traffic was directed around it until a mechanic arrived to take care of the problem. The incident occurred just before 3 pm.

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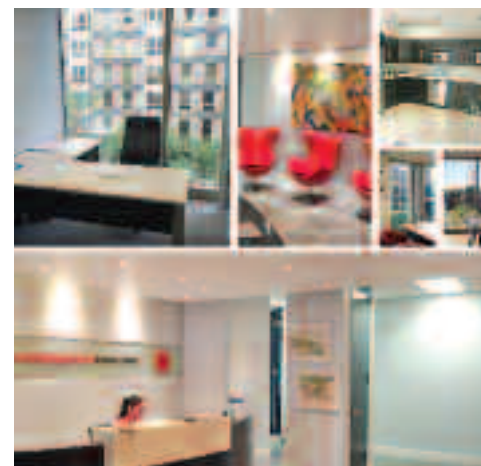
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAKE AN EFFORT, CONTINUE WESTMOUNT'S STORY

Thank you, Richard Orlando, for your letter in the April 4 *Independent* ("Open letter to the *Independent* and Mayor Peter Trent," p. 10).

We indeed have to put all our efforts to preserve the beauty and uniqueness of our city by taking care of it and reporting all graffiti and littering that is taking place. Westmount is a city within a city that is facing enormous demographic changes.

Our Public Works team is faced with new realities and many challenges; we have to work with them to keep our city clean, beautiful and peaceful.

We have very well established families that have lived here for many decades and newer families that choose Westmount

with all it has to offer. Being very close to downtown Montreal, even closer than Outremont and the Town of Mount Royal, is an asset that new buyers are looking for to have the best quality of life.

Mayor Peter Trent and his team have done a great job over the past several years in making so many incredible changes that have made Westmount the city it has become. Two indoor skating rinks, new tennis courts, a new pool, investment in our infrastructure – parks, streets, management and system improvements and also many other projects.

Westmount has been ranked one of the nicest cities in Canada in which to live. We all have to make an effort in our own capacity to continue this great story.

JEAN-FRANCOIS EMMANUEL,
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New record for Westmount

Sunnyside property draws \$13.5 million

By ANDY DODGE

The huge mansion at 12-14 Sunnyside Ave. has finally been sold for \$13,500,000, according to a deed signed on March 16. That is, by a long shot, the highest price paid for family home in Westmount's history, though some would argue that it is actually two single-family homes.

The name of the buyer is a personal trust called The Marine Guard Trust, represented by Ruth Ann Helal and Kim Trang Hoang, and steered by lawyer Thomas Copeland. The actual principal of the trust is not identified in the deed; the address in the valuation roll leads to a law office in Westmount Square.

The property includes two separate buildings connected by an archway. Number 14, the main house, was built by Brig-Gen Charles A. Smart in 1910-11, and the coach house at number 12 was added soon afterwards (see story "Sunnyside mansion on market for \$18.5M," October 11, 2016, p. 13).

When Maurice Beriro bought the mansion in 1975, he sold off much of the land surrounding the property, including the coach house, and threatened to demolish the main building, claiming it was too large to be able to sell. After much harrangue on the part of the city, which felt it was too important a part of Westmount's fabric, in 1982 the house – but not the coach house – was sold to Globe International for \$940,000. The company's president, Mike Rosenbloom, moved in and eventually took title to the property, later selling it to his wife, Valeria Wlusek. Rosenbloom died in April last year, and the house was put on the market.

In addition, he bought back the coach house in 2005 and though the properties are still legally separate, both are included in the latest sale. The main building has a 2017 municipal evaluation of \$6,480,000 and the coach house is pegged at \$1,712,900.

See other photo, p. 1.

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

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The archway connecting 14 Sunnyside Ave., left, and 12 Sunnyside Ave., as seen April 13.

Chez Doris serving more aboriginals, shelter's head tells Rotarians



original women now represent 22 percent of the clientele served by Chez Doris, which is located in downtown Montreal on Chomedey St. two blocks east of Atwater Ave.

While the largest segment served is English-speaking, Canadian-born women, she said the shelter is seeing an increase in the number of Arab women who have been in Canada five years or less.

In preparation for the reopening of a medical clinic at Chez Doris following recent renovations, some McGill University masters and MBA students conducted a study on the clientele's health issues.

They concluded that 80 percent of clients suffer from mental health problems, such as anxiety, depression, bi-polarity and schizophrenia.

As well, since the clients tend to be older women, the most common physical ailments found were arthritis, diabetes and reduced mobility.

"Quite a few ladies, especially in the aboriginal community, have been physically assaulted, so quite a few of them have STDs," added Boulos-Winton.

She said that because of the city of Montreal's 375th anniversary being celebrated

this year, aboriginal women have to be "really be careful" because of an increased demand for prostitution.

"A lot of these women are getting enslaved in the sex trade to get ready for all the tourists that are going to come to Montreal."

Boulos-Winton said one of the reasons aboriginal women are increasingly seeking help at Chez Doris is that they tend to be unskilled in French, have difficulty finding employment and often end up homeless.

"Indigenous people are probably the most discriminated against when it comes to renting apartments because landlords are worried that their rents won't be paid," she said, describing the challenges facing one particular client.

Explaining why the numbers of Inuit in Montreal appears to be increasing, she said, "There's a housing shortage up north. They're more likely to come in the summer so they can sleep outside if things get bad. We're starting to see more of that. So you need to basically increase the services to aboriginal organizations to deal with that. Or help with the shortage of housing."

As of April, following a hiatus during renovations, Chez Doris is once again serving traditional Inuit meals of caribou, whale and seal meat served raw on a cardboard floor mat. "They're hunters by nature so that's what they eat," she said.

Boulos-Winton has been the full-time executive director at Chez Doris since April 2015. From 1993 to 1997, she was executive director at Le Bon Dieu Dans la Rue, and prior to that with the same title at Tel-Aide.



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Chez Doris executive director Marina Boulos-Winton addressed members of the Rotary Club of Westmount March 22 at Victoria Hall.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The number of Inuit women seeking help at the Chez Doris women's shelter is growing as is the clientele from other aboriginal groups, the shelter's director, Marina Boulos-Winton, told members of the Rotary Club of Westmount March 22.

According to Boulos-Winton, who was the guest speaker at the Rotarians' weekly noon-time meeting at Victoria Hall, abo-



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- 2° lors de cette séance, la personne élue au poste de maire sera assermentée et entrera en fonction immédiatement.

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ELECTION BY CO-OPTATION TO THE POSITION OF MAYOR

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned that:

1. at a special sitting of the municipal Council to be held on Monday, April 24, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber at City Hall, councillors present will elect one of their number to be Mayor; and
2. at said special sitting, the person elected as Mayor will be sworn in and take office immediately.

The procedure for the nomination process and the election of a mayor is available by visiting the following website:

GIVEN at Westmount, on April 18, 2016.

Martin St-Jean
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Vimy exhibit at Victoria Hall marked 100th anniversary

BY RALPH THOMPSON

An exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the battle of Vimy Ridge, a famous victory for Canadians during World War I, was open to the public April 3, 4 and 6 at Victoria Hall.

Westmount's Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR), a Canadian Armed Forces reserve

infantry regiment based on St. Catherine St., put on the exhibition, funded by private donors. On panels around the room were real stories from several soldiers and doctors in the battle. The exhibit showcased weapons, equipment, photos, medals, letters and reservists dressed in RMR uniforms of the era from the Museum of the RMR.

The National Film Board of Canada's *The Battle of Vimy Ridge*, a 95-minute documentary narrated by Paul Gross, was shown each night.

The history

Four Canadian divisions were brought together for the first time in late 1916 and were given the task of capturing Vimy Ridge, a strategically placed high ground north of Paris occupied by the Germans since almost the start of the war.

They went into battle in the early hours of April 9, 1917.

According to an article by Tim Cook of the Canadian War Museum, "Many historians and writers consider the Canadian victory at Vimy a defining moment for



Facing the audience, Corporal Anastasovski's uniform was true to the dress of Canadian soldiers fighting at Vimy Ridge between April 9 to 12, 1917. More than 150 people visited the Victoria Hall exhibition between 5 pm and 7:30 pm April 3.

Canada, when the country emerged from under the shadow of Britain and felt capable of greatness."

It is reported that more than 10,000 Canadians were killed and wounded.

Schools can request presentations and that the exhibition be brought to their own facilities, according to Mark Lowe, public relations for the RMR Foundation.



Colin Robinson, left, RMR honorary lieutenant-colonel and a former commanding officer of the regiment, presented a plaque to Robert Johnson, and thanked him for leading the efforts to fund the Vimy exhibition.



An "immersive zone" was set up on the stage at Victoria Hall, which led the viewer through the story of the four days of the battle of Vimy Ridge.



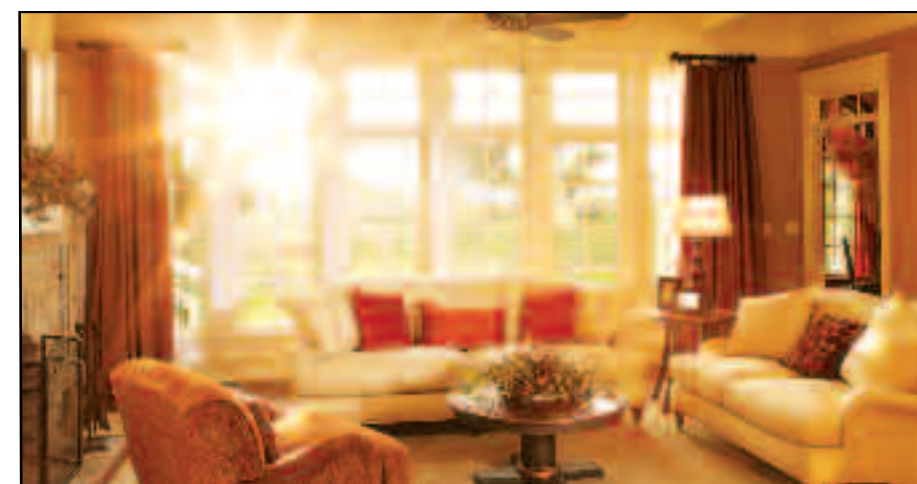
Reservist Corporal Baron of the Royal Montreal Regiment, wearing a typical soldier's woollen uniform, stands behind a water-cooled Vickers .303 machine gun, "which had a range of over four kms and was often used to shoot over the enemy to force them to stay down in their trenches," he said.



Charles Pearo
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Many city trees reaching end of lifespan

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

An inventory map with details of city trees on streets, in parks and other public places can be checked out on the city's website under the "Environment" menu, then "urban forest." Here one can find out the city's role in "managing the urban forest."

"Because many of the city's trees were planted at the same time, it is not surprising they are now declining at the same time," arboriculture inspector Robert Liveanu told the *Independent*.

Given the regular cutting of aging and diseased trees, especially in the spring, this "urban forest" page also provides par-

ticular references to the life span of Westmount's trees and "why tree removal is necessary." This is explained, in part, because "The typical life expectancy of an urban tree is 60 years. The majority of Westmount's Norway maples, estimated to be between 60 to 80 years of age, are likely now in decline and many will reach the end of their lifespan within a short period."

"Pruning, cabling and other maintenance techniques are used where appropriate to prolong the life of trees and ensure public safety. In many cases, however, felling is a better option to improve the biological and age diversity of the forest."

Found husky returned in Montreal

Public safety officers took a dog found near the Dawson College daycare on de Maisonneuve to the Westmount Animal Hospital April 7 in the hopes it could be identified, Public Security officials said. It wore no collar but turned out to have been microchipped. When the owner could not be reached, officers went to her address on

de Maisonneuve in Montreal to discover she was out of town. They managed to track down a woman caring for the dog, however, who lived on Chomedey St. She picked up the husky at the Public Security station at 3:15 pm. It was reported to have been found around 1 pm.

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Trees cont'd. from p. 1

summer of 300 young trees.

"Watering, amending soil and keeping a good mulch basin around new trees is essential for their growth," said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Sustainability and Parks.

The general maintenance contract also includes formative pruning. It lasts from May 15 to October 30 and covers all new tree plantings on city streets and in parks since fall of 2015 and those to be made this spring.

Of eight firms invited to submit bids, four returned quotes ranging from the accepted lowest of \$56,912 from Jardin Novo to \$196,089, tax credits included.

While city workers previously carried out maintenance of new trees, this proved to be challenging, Lulham said. More trees than usual are believed to have been planted in recent years to replace the city's aging tree stock as well as infected ashes and diseased elms, all which require removal for safety reasons (see story April 4, p. 6). Recently felled trees on Claremont succumbed to old age and were not ash, Public Officials said. (See separate story.)

By contracting out the maintenance work, the new trees are expected to have a survival rate of 90 percent or more, she explained. "In the urban environment, by far the most common cause of mortality in young trees is drought. There's no point planting them to let them die."



Nicolas Mory, left, is congratulated by Councillor Cynthia Lulham on his appointment April 3 as superintendent of horticulture and arboriculture. This is a newly created position by Public Works. Mory worked previously as the city's arborist, a role now filled by Robert Liveanu. Inset: An example of the "local ash" branding with the city shield stamped on one of many stakes made from a felled ash tree.



Recently spread wood chips from some of the city's felled trees are found on a path leading through Summit Woods April 15. (See story April 4, p. 6.) They covered a snowy ice base. Other paths remained in their original condition, uncovered by chips.

Photo: Staff

Police Report

Burglars use drill to defeat bookstore lock

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

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

Police at Station 12 say burglars used an unusual technique recently to defeat the front-door lock at a bookstore on St. Catherine St. between Gladstone and Greene avenues.

According to the police, sometime between the 5 pm closing on Saturday, March 18 to when it reopened on the morning of Monday, March 20, the perpetrators used a drill fitted with a large circular head to bore out a hole just below the door lock.

Through the hole, they were able to reach in and jimmy the lock open. Once inside the store, they turned out the lights.

"They were closed Sundays," said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. "When an employee returned on Monday morning, they found the front door unlocked and all the lights, which had been left on, were [off.]"

The thieves opened a cash register lo-

cated at the back of the store and made off with an undisclosed amount of money.

According to Pimentel, investigators found fingerprints on an electrical panel controlling the lights, as well as on the cash register. They hope to match the prints to criminal records of known offenders.

Online fraud being reported more

Incidents of online fraud are being reported more and more often, say Station 12 officials.

In one of the latest occurrences, a woman from Westmount told police at the station that on March 22 around noon, a message popped up on her home computer screen saying there was a problem in her computer. If she wanted the problem fixed, it said, she would have to allow a technician to access her computer remotely.

After giving the technician (who said he was from Microsoft) permission, he actually ended up stealing her personal information, said Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière. "This was an identity theft," he said.

According to Laperrière, Station 12 has previously dealt with a number of similar complaints, although they usually only involved unsuccessful attempts to defraud computer users.

However, this was the first incident he could recall when perpetrators succeeded in pulling off this well-known scam from start to finish.

His advice to those who might find themselves in a similar situation? "Unplug your computer. [So that] it cuts the connection right away."

He reminds home computer users who may not already be aware that Microsoft never contacts its customers for these sorts of purposes, and that anyone making such claims is almost certainly a fraud artist.

Injuries caused by car collisions

On March 25 around 4:30 pm, a car following closely behind another vehicle on St. Catherine St. near the corner of Park Place when traffic was heavy was unable to stop in time after the driver of the first vehicle slammed on his brakes.

"There was slight injury," said Laperrière. "The driver of the first car was complaining of back and neck pain." As a result, he added, the driver in question was transported to hospital by ambulance technicians.

A motorist trying to make a left turn from Glen Rd. onto St. Catherine St. March 28 around 1:30 pm proceeded through the intersection too quickly and struck a concrete median in the middle of the street.

"The median itself was broken," Laperrière said. "A piece of cement came off. It also caused some damage to the driver's vehicle."

Laperrière said the impact of the collision caused some injuries to one of the driver's hands and he also sustained some cuts and bruises. He was driven by ambulance to hospital. (See story, April 4, p. 7.)

On March 29 around 1:15 pm, a driver emerging slowly from the garage exit of a commercial and condo building's underground parking onto de Maisonneuve Blvd. near Greene Ave. hit a pedestrian, who sustained an injury to the left ankle and was transported to hospital as a precautionary measure.

Pedestrian hit at Victoria & The Blvd.

Public Security officials said officers "rushed" to the scene of an accident at The Boulevard and Victoria April 7 on receiving a call at 9:20 pm for a woman hit by a vehicle and in considerable pain. It had been reported that her leg was pinned under a wheel. Firefighters were already there. Urgences Santé arrived soon after and "immediately" took the victim to hospital. Neither her identity nor the extent of her injuries were known since officers were occupied diverting traffic.

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Health, safety and prevention, the theme

Smart Living Day Saturday to attract 28 exhibitors

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For the first time in six years, the city's Healthy City Project (HCP) will hold Smart Living Day, taking place Saturday, April 22. This year's rendition is themed "Health, Safety and Prevention – Live Smart." The event takes place at Victoria Hall from 11 am to 3:30 pm.

More than 28 exhibitors have agreed to participate, according to Joanne Wallace, who is organizing the event for the Community Life Committee of the HCP.

"I think that this will be a very important day to bring the community together, a terrific learning experience," she said. "It is a free event and a time to find out about updated resources in our community."

Among the topics to be featured by the interactive displays are recycling and composting, organic products, bicycle games and tips, dental hygiene, online banking, fraud alert from police, accident prevention from the CLSC Metro, and digital ser-

vices and online programs from the Westmount and Atwater libraries.

Renovation guidelines explained

Westmount's Urban Planning department will explain building and renovating guidelines, Nova Montreal will outline home care services and the Alzheimer Society will explain care for patients. The city's Public Security Unit will discuss emergency services and operation of the pay-by-plate parking system while Girl Guides will set up a craft table for children and adults.

There will also be balance testing and programs for seniors offered by Contactivity Centre, Rotary Club of Westmount, Manoir Westmount and the Leisure Institute of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

Initiated in 1996, Smart Living Days have taken on a variety of themes including emergency measures planning and sustainability as in "Live Smart – Live Green."

Retail Watch



VERONICA REDGRAVE

L'Équipeur coming to town

On entering the main door to Alexis Nihon on St. Catherine St., I could not help but notice a massive sign. L'Équipeur, the Quebec brand of Mark's, which is a division of Canadian Tire, is moving into the former Target space. "Our opening is planned for the end of May," said Christine Kearney, assistant vice president, operations, Quebec. Going online to check what I could soon pick up off the shelf, I found daffodil-yellow rain boots – memories of fun puddle splashing! Coming soon: Comfortable clothing for men and women, jeans of all brands and styles. Men have a huge choice of swim, hiking and golfing shorts. For women – their prints have come. Maxi dresses galore. Or, take a page from Audrey Hepburn and Jackie Kennedy's sartorial style: try capris.

Alexis Nihon
Open every day after May 30.

Speaking of signs

Amazing the difference neon lighting makes. IPL Lab opened in November, but the new flashing white sign put up in March caught my eye and brought me inside to find out more about the aesthetic services. Managed by Hanna Sivako, IPL offers hair removal (part or full body, men and women), skin rejuvenation, microdermabrasion, eyelash extensions, facials and permanent make-up.

4148 St. Catherine St.
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Storefronts abandoned on sections of St. Catherine

Sadly, further east along St. Catherine, there seems to be shadows of tumble weed along part of the block. Dusty windows and cobwebs once marked places now gone: Amir, a restaurant at 4018; at 4026, Morning Glory (designer clothing); at 4144, Voyages Kita, a travel agency.

Lavanderia to re-open, but where?

The much-missed Lavanderia, once housed in the Vic Park building on Victoria Ave. but still recovering from a fire has news. Owner, chef Antonio Park's aide Jonathan Lyrstis told us the famed resto is hoping to re-open "by summer; location to be confirmed."

Annie Young moving to Vic Park

Moving in with Vic Park once it is reconstructed will be Annie Young Cosmetics, soon to be called Annie Young Boutique Spa. "The timing is perfect as we need more space," said owner Annie Young. "We will then have 5,000 square feet with lots of windows. We plan to increase our services to include more skin

treatments and a hair salon." Daughter Charleen Young commented that after four years on Sherbrooke St. at Prince Albert they are looking forward to their "fresh new area in pale greys and white. We will carry our own Annie Young brands, of course, but now also more organic skin lines. And we will be offering day spa services." The mother-daughter team agree that the sheer amount of beauty products on the market is confusing to purchasers, so they will be hosting "lunch and learns" at Vic Park. They are celebrating 35 years in business. I love not only its own eponymous line but also Ilia, which is organic.

4908 Sherbrooke St.
Open seven days a week.

New coffee place in Vic village

Westmounters now have a new source for their jolt of java. Union Café opened on March 13. Owner James Kouri continues the mission of the 30-year-old family-run business, which is "also a roasting company," he explained. They take coffees from many origins around the globe and

roast them daily. "I love the idea of an Italian stand-up bar for coffee, so we offer that here, but also seating inside and very soon, on our sidewalk terrasse." Union not only sells sips of wake-me-up but bags of differently-sourced fresh beans, one of which is charmingly named "Florence" after his grandmother.

"The Westmount shop is now our flagship," said Kouri. Partnered with Pierre Morin, owner of Bilboquet at the same address, the site also offers ice cream. "But," he added, "we also serve tea!"

4864 Sherbrooke St.
Open seven days a week.

Bye bye, UGG

Closed is UGG at 4891 Sherbrooke St. near Prince Albert Ave. The recognizable ankle-height, beige suede and furry lining boot from Australia is no longer available in Westmount. This was confirmed by Victoria Koseyan from Abe & Mary's.

Comin' Up

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Healthy City Project (HCP)'s Smart Living Day, 11 am to 3:30 pm at Victoria Hall. See story above.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

The Westmount Municipal Association is looking for **nominations for the Derek Walker Volunteer of the Year Award** up to April 28. Send nomination to Marilyn Gillies at mgillies@videotron.ca or Mavis Young at mavis.young@gmail.com. Info: www.wma-amw.org.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

"Lac Mégantic: Life Loss Legacy," featuring Donald Winkler, 7 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. A special poem by George Elliott Clarke, Canada's poet laureate, Bruce Campbell's presentation "Lac Mégantic: Public Betrayal, Corporate Negligence, Justice Denied" and photography by Michel Huneault. Info: Jack Locke 514.484.0254.

MONDAY, MAY 1

City council meeting, 8 pm at city hall.

Mix-up in permits stops work on Winchester

Public safety officers stopped work on Winchester April 11 at 4:43 pm when contractors were found to not have the required permits for their trucks to occupy the street, Public Security officials said. It turned out there had been a mix-up between the by-law requirements of Westmount and Montreal. Workers were given 20 minutes to clean up and return once they had obtained their correct permits.



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CJA celebrates centennial at Chagall show

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE



A spectacularly colourful eve took place at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) on February 7. The black-tie Chagall masked gala was a celebration of the centennial year of Federation CJA (originally known as the Combined Jewish Appeal), and previewed the MMFA's North American première of *Chagall: Colour and Music*.

The evening recognized the commitment of leadership and top donors, as well as highlighting the federation's partnership with the museum as patron of the Chagall exhibition.

Guests enjoyed cocktails in the glass court of the Jean-Noël Desmarais Pavilion and, after admiring the artist's wide-ranging talents, took the underground passage to the other side of the museum. Here rooms were transformed. A Paris bistro and nightclub mesmerized the chicer-than-chic arrivals. Chagall-inspired enter-

tainment included ballerinas, contortionists, illusionists, tight-rope walkers and live body painting. (Wow!)

Dignitaries present included **Ziv Nevo Kulman**, Israel's consul general for Quebec and the Atlantic provinces; **Stephen Bronfman** and his wife **Claudine Bronfman**; **Stephen Gross**, co-chair of Federation CJA's centennial campaign (with his wife **Saryl Gross**); **Evan Feldman**, Federation CJA president, and his wife **Osnat Feldman**; **David Amiel**, first VP, Federation CJA, and his wife **Robyn Amiel**; **Mitch Garber**, CEO of Caesars Acquisition Company; and co-chairs Federation centennial campaign **Gail Adelson-Marcovitz** (with hubby **Alan Marcovitz**) and **Jack Hasen** (with his wife



Gail Adelson-Marcovitz, left, and Jack Hasen.

Pascale Hasen). The Hasen's children attending were **Sari Hasen** with hubby **Albert Arazi**, and brothers **Josh Hasen**, with his wife **Michelle Cola**, and **Avi Hasen** with his wife **Nancy Sayegh**.

Also noted amidst the glamor were local res **Heather and Joseph Paperman**, **Robert Vineberg** and former Westmount city councillor **Rhoda Vineberg**, **Stephen and Julia Reitman**, (a stand-out in white), as well as **Michael Kors Canada** pres **Debra Margles** (beautiful in a black Michael Kors outfit adorned with marvelous Matisse-blue petals) and hubby **Pino Forgione**, **Beatrice** partner; **Renée Lieberman**, **Stephanie** and **Lennie Lighter** (Moishes

maestro); **Karen Saragossi Lassner** and her husband **Andrew Lassner**, **Richard Schreiber** and his wife **Cheryl Brownstein** (whose fabulously feathered mask set off her shimmering sheath), **Galit and Joseph Antebi**, **Selena and Ross Paperman**, **Marnie and Richard Stern** and his brother **Derek Stern** with wife **Kirsty**, and **Betty and Joseph Nezzi**.

More photos, p. 14.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 13



Evan and Osnat Feldman.



Claudine and Stephen Bronfman.

Heavy damage sustained to property

An unknown vehicle drove over the southwest corner of Montrose and Clarke April 6 “taking out” a stop sign and causing heavy damage to the lawn and a hedge, Public Security officials said. Deep tire tracks in the wet ground suggested the vehicle had become stuck and went back and forth to extricate itself. The damage was discovered at 6:08 pm.

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Doherty fills the house at Vic Hall with talk on her medical journey

By RALPH THOMPSON

The first of three in a joint spring lecture series from the Westmount Healthy City Project and the MUHC Foundation took place March 30 at Victoria Hall.

Susan Doherty’s audience, which swelled to more than 200, listened to her evening presentation “Healing Beyond Traditional Medicine.” Originally scheduled to take place at the Westmount Public Library, the venue was changed to Victoria Hall when the number registered outgrew that location.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Sustainability and Parks, and also chair of Healthy City’s steering committee, and Lucy Riddell from the MUHC Foundation introduced Doherty, who described her journey from a healthy and active mother through a prolonged period to a patient with a diagnosis of a rare, life-threatening disorder of the immune system called hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH). She then followed an aggressive treatment with chemotherapy including steroids. A period of remission was followed by a recurrence, a repeat

last day of the Quebec construction holiday. The border crossing had no line-up, and when they got to the Jewish General Hospital, she was seen immediately. And as they had approached the hospital, she observed a dark cloud in the sky in the shape of an angel. Unsure of what she faced, she knew she would survive, she recounted.

She was offered the complex and risky procedure of a stem cell transplant. The survival rate is about 50 percent. A precise match to specified criteria is necessary and her family could not donate their stem cells. A worldwide search amongst a database of 23 million potential donors yielded one match in Germany. The stem cells were extracted from the anonymous donor and brought back to the MUHC Cedars Cancer Centre by an MUHC staff member and a police escort. After more chemotherapy, Doherty received the stem cell transplant as she listened to a playlist of German music. The risk of infection was high and she had to live 50 days in isolation. She spent four days with no immune cells in her body. The procedure was successful.



Susan Doherty, inset, addresses her audience at Victoria Hall March 30.

chemotherapy treatment, which destroyed her immune system and led to a stem cell transplant.

During Doherty’s 77-day remission, she vacationed in Maine with her husband. Her symptoms reappeared, and she was advised to return immediately to Montreal. On their trip back, she told the audience three signs told her she would overcome this new obstacle, as they sped back to Montreal on the

Doherty credited the doctors and nurses, the anonymous donor in Germany and the services of the MUHC but above all, she said “positivity” was important: fitness, meditation and the love of family and friends. “If you have time, meditate 20 minutes a day,” she said. “If you’re stressed and busy, meditate one hour a day.”

Today, Doherty continues to keep fit and meditate and continues her work helping people with mental health issues. “When I was in isolation I knew that it would eventually end, but with schizophrenia, you are trapped forever.”

The next lecture is “Innovation, Technology & Medicine,” by Penny Chipman, Thursday, April 27, then “Patient Education in the 21st Century,” Tuesday, May 30 by Dr. David Fleiszer and Nancy Posel.

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Mood of the Market

March sales: *Vendu, vendu, vendu*

Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in March 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 offers a picture of these trends over time.

Anyone driving around Westmount these days will have noticed a plethora of “vendu” stickers slapped on top of an ever-decreasing number of “à vendre” signs in all parts of town. As the market gets hotter and hotter, this affects the prices, too.

Real estate agents posted 13 Westmount one- and two-family sales in March and added several more to the February list, which now totals 20 sales. The highest price in March was \$5,800,000, not quite a record for Westmount but certainly within the top ten prices (though see separate article about 12-14 Sunnyside, p. 6).

The next highest price was \$2,320,000, less than half the top price. On the low side was one sale at \$810,000, one of five sales in the \$800,000 to \$900,000 range, which helped pull down the average for the month to \$1,689,487. In fact, the \$810,000 was actually 56 percent higher than that house's 2017 municipal evaluation, the highest mark-up of the month.

Three houses sold below valuation, with the biggest mark-down at 11 percent. Overall, the 13 sales averaged almost 16 percent above tax value, up from 11 percent in February and 7 percent in January, so it is clear the market is on the move.

Not as much fervour in condo market

Condominium sales in the first quarter of 2017 included nine transactions, almost all in the range of \$415,000 to \$675,000, though one penthouse apartment sold for \$2,100,000. The average mark-up for the quarter was 2.9 percent, with four sales above municipal valuation and five actually less, so it seems the fervour which is gripping the one- and two-family market is not reflected in the condo market.

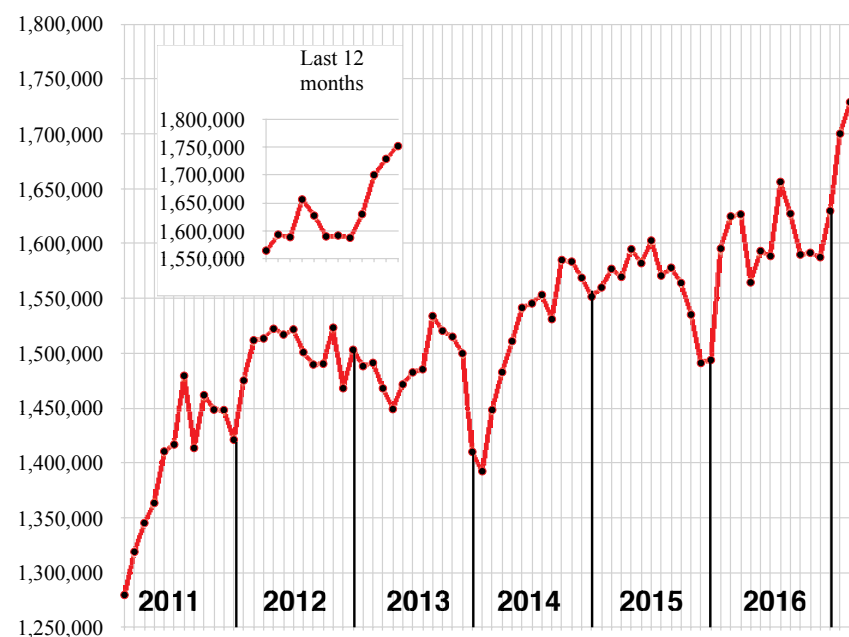
And while Westmount proper recorded 13 sales in March, adjacent-Westmount saw the same number, including five sales in the eastern area of NDG, where three of the sales were posted at exactly \$860,000 and one more at \$855,000. The Côte des

Neiges sector just north of Westmount has had nine sales so far this year, the NDG sector just west of the city limits as well as the Square Mile have seven each.

As of mid-April, there are only 72 active listings for Westmount houses, down from 82 a month earlier and only about half the number in April 2016. The number of under \$1-million listings has jumped from seven to 10 in the past month, while the number over \$2 million is down from 42 in March to 37 in April.

So far this year, eight houses have been rented compared to nine at the same time last year.

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, Jan. 2011 to Mar. 2017, based on accepted offer dates



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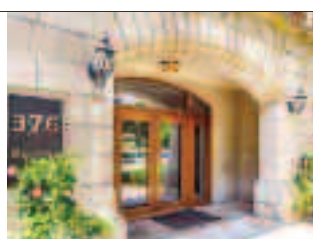
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FOR SALE/RENT

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2,525 sq.ft., 2-storey penthouse w/2 balconies + 2 garages!

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\$849,000 | MLS 23921050
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