

Parking trends shaping up: Cutler

City needs to be ready for electric, driverless cars

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

New trends in driving and car use are moving so quickly that children born today may never need a driver's licence, predicts Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of Public Security. And Westmount must be ready for the autonomous cars of the future, he said.

In the shorter term, planning is also needed not only for an increasing number of electric vehicles that will require more public charging stations but also for a trend toward creating more walkable

streets and changes in car use once driverless vehicles hit the road.

"Westmount's next council will have to think seriously about how to handle these situations," Cutler told the *Independent* last week.

Describing these trends as some of his "takeaways" from the 2017 Parking Industry Exhibition in Chicago (March 5 to 8), Cutler said people were talking about the need for cities to start strategizing today for tomorrow's trends given the speed at which new technologies are developing.

This requires "a certain mindset" in the design of streets now being reconstructed, he explained. "A big concern is the difficulty of retrofitting

continued on p. 10

Public Security on flood-stricken Île Bizard



Photo: courtesy of Westmount

One of Westmount's two Public Security patrols sent to assist Île Bizard May 6 is stationed at the entry to a flooded street (see story May 9, p. 20.) After the arrival of Town of Mount Royal patrollers, the city began gradually reducing its hours until 10 pm, Sunday, May 14, when it was decided the city had completed its mission once the state of emergency was lifted, according to Public Security director Greg McBain. The Westmount efforts included escorting heavy vehicles, assistance with security at a shelter and where required. Assistance from Public Works also was provided.

Letters p. 4

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 13

Art Scene BY R. THOMPSON p. 12

Kez seeks data from traffic, infrastructure studies

Update on Dorchester vision expected in June

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Councillor Theodora Samiotis said last week she plans to provide an update at the June 5 council meeting on a planning vision for the southeast sector saying "hopefully," it will include a date for the next public meeting on the long-standing issue.

This meeting, she said, would likely include specialist firm AGIL hired by the city to produce the proposed vision for future development of a wide area that includes the parking lots between commercial St. Catherine St. and the residential enclave south of Dorchester.

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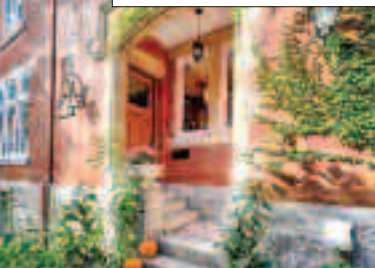
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City asks army to reconsider decision not to come

Changes announced for 42nd annual Family Day May 27

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

After an absence of two years, a children's train will return to Westmount Family Day for this year's 42nd rendition May 27, while face-painting will be extended from two hours to four.

The Scouts' climbing wall is not available, however, and the traditional participation of the army remains under review, Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe said last week in announcing some of the changes to the program.

The city's day-long event, 10 am to 4 pm, typically attracts hundreds of people to its venue in Westmount Park.

"We're still waiting for a reply from the 34 Field Engineer Regiment concerning our request that they reconsider a decision not to participate this year," Lapointe said. "Their zip line is such a popular attraction.

"Unfortunately," he added, "they told us there were cutbacks in extra-curricular activities like that, so we've put in a request for reconsideration and are still hoping we can work something out."

The regiment, which moved out of the Hillside Armoury three years ago, has since continued its long-standing installation of the zip line over the lagoon as well as providing boat rides on the water. Their participation requires some 15 soldiers along with heavy equipment.

Similarly, the Scouts' climbing wall is no longer travelling around to various events.

Variety of inflatable games

"We try to introduce a different variety of inflatable games every year," Lapointe said. And this year is no exception. They will be located at the eastern edge of the park along Melville Ave. Other mainstay fea-

tures will include the Eurobungee, pony rides, petting zoo, police and Public Security vehicles and personnel.

Traditional and novelty races will be held in the morning, while eight carnival booths will be open in the afternoon.

Exhibits by community groups will once again be set up along the walking paths, including a bake sale and handicraft sale by

the Contactivity seniors' centre.

Hot dogs, drinks and other refreshments will be available from Scouts, Girl Guides and the Mouton Noir Café from the Westmount recreation centre.

A schedule of times for the events is expected to be delivered to all addresses and to be posted on the city website.

Comin' Up

SATURDAY, MAY 20

Wings (1927), presented by The Film Society, with live musicians, 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm), Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Cost: \$15, \$10. Info: 514.738.3456.

TUESDAY, MAY 23

"The Irish in Montreal," with Jane McGaughey, assistant professor, Concordia School of Canadian Irish Studies. Part of the Westmount Public Library afternoon lecture series, Cost: \$10. Tickets available at the door. Sandwich lunch available from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm for \$5.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Jackie Roberge, life purpose coach, yoga

and meditation teacher, gives a presentation on "Your Purpose is Calling – Are You Listening?" 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library as part of its lunchtime series.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

Westmount Family Day, 10 am to 4 pm. See story above.

TUESDAY, MAY 30

"Patient Education in the 21st Century," with speakers David Fleiszer and Nancy Posel, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Part of the Westmount Healthy City and MUHC Foundation's spring joint lecture. Free. Register at <https://www.muhc-foundation.com/whc/> or call 514.843.1543.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHERE ARE THE OTHER GOVERNMENT REPS?

I applaud our city's pursuit of justice in launching proceedings against the Quebec ministry of Transport and also the ministry of Environment. In what appears to be a case of "bait and switch," the new Route 136 will not respect maximum noise levels despite the government's own studies and decrees.

Where is MNA Jacques Chagnon in all of this? Where is federal minister of Transport Marc Garneau? I was under the impression (perhaps mistakenly) that these elected officials were there to represent their constituents in getting a publicly funded project to respect the construction plans previously agreed upon.

The consequences to residents living near the southern border of Westmount, should the MTQ and KPH-Turcot be allowed to do what they please, unilaterally will remain long after the concrete dries.

We need Messieurs Chagnon and Garneau to do their jobs.

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COUNCIL SHOULD OKAY STUDY ON INDOOR POOL

In Andy Dodge's excellent article of April 25 about the Hillside Armoury (p. 20), he notes that during the mayoralty of Karin Marks the regiment discussed the future use of the building with council, and that I had proposed converting it to an indoor pool, an idea that was not supported by council. Councillor Rosalind Davis can be forgiven for her letter of May 9 ("There never was a vote about indoor pool," p. 6) implying that this is untrue, for she was not a member of council at that time.

Many residents have already forgotten that there used to be a curling club next door to the armoury, which in more recent years had been used for educational purposes. When the school left the property, I proposed in February 2008, in a presentation to [then] Mayor Marks, that we should purchase it, as it could be combined with the armoury building to create an indoor pool together with parking facilities.

The aerial photograph (at right) showing the dimensions of both properties was prepared by Public Works, at my request, at that time. Karin Marks responded that the city already owned too many buildings, and hence council did not support the proposal.

In mid-2009, I objected to a proposed design for new ice rinks and an outdoor pool, as it would have been a 500-foot long building, some 30 feet high, with the pool in a deep recess in front of Westmount Park Church. I proposed shifting some athletic facilities to the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), across the street from the armoury, with the hope that an indoor/outdoor pool could be achieved. Though this concept enjoyed wide popular support among residents, it was voted down by a majority vote of council, as reported in the July 14, 2009 issue of the *Independent* (p. 1). Councillor Cynthia Lulham and councillor at the time Kathleen

Duncan supported my proposal (p. 3).

A few months ago, the armoury was again offered to Westmount by the federal government. Mayor Trent's council did not support acquiring the building.

The desire of many residents to have an indoor pool remains, and in that regard I proposed on April 25 that Mayor Christina Smith's council undertake a pre-feasibility study to at least determine the size, costs, possible location, etc., so that we could at last make an informed decision on this subject. I remain hopeful that such a study will be authorized by council in the near future.

COUNCILLOR PATRICK MARTIN, DISTRICT 1



Aerial view of buildings from right to left, starting at Hillside Lane are: the Hillside armoury, the former Caledonia Curling Club (now condos at 11 Hillside Ave.), and the irregularly shaped Place Kensington.

Photo courtesy of P. Martin

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We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com. Letter writers should not expect to be published in every issue, or in back-to-back issues, or repeatedly in the same season or on the same topic.

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Correction

In our May 9 article "Summit Woods users call for dog run to help leash problem," (p. 7), we incorrectly reported the spring period when dogs are required to be leashed at all times in Summit Woods. The period is April 15 to June 15.

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City's playing fields need nature's and community's cooperation

Councillor's Column

ROSALIND DAVIS

This spring's excessive rainfalls have created havoc for some of our fellow Montrealeers as they continue to deal with flooding and its aftermath in their communities. We wish them a speedy return to normal conditions.

Here in Westmount, the ravages of the unprecedented rains have mostly been felt on the playing fields. Last week when it looked as though many soccer games would have to be cancelled, the team at Sports and Recreation mobilized to find creative solutions. Some games were moved to the rink without ice in the Westmount recreation centre, and school gyms were rented.

And some games were cancelled.

It was a fine balancing act between the expectations of the sports community and the state of the fields. Although some days

it wasn't raining, the fields still needed to dry out.

They went "squish" when walked on, and the Sports and Rec. team did walk on them regularly to verify their status. Most players and their families understood that, although the fields looked okay, they weren't ready for play.

The other problem for the fields is unauthorized users. These individuals and groups get on the closed fields, even jumping fences, and play on the soft ground, inflicting serious and, in some cases, irreversible damage. Trying to intercept these uninvited players and get them off the fields is a challenge.

The Sports and Rec. department has undertaken the maintenance of the fields this year to ensure good, consistent quality turf for all players. Now it needs cooperation from nature and the understanding from the community. It is doing the best possible job to preserve the playability of the fields for all, and I thank the members of the department for their time and dedication to this task.

Councillor Rosalind Davis is commissioner of Sports and Recreation.



Andrew Maislin, operations manager with Sports and Recreation, checks the state of the field May 2.

Photo courtesy of R. Davis



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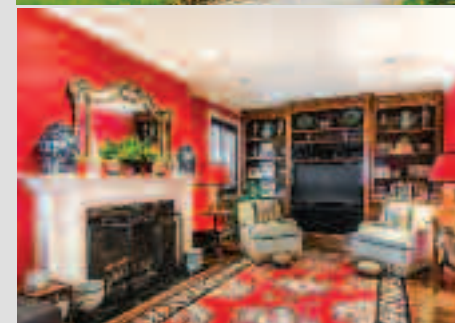
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City responds to complaint about Olivier/de Maisonneuve fence

By MARTIN C. BARRY

The head of Westmount Urban Planning says his department is acting on a complaint about a fence erected in the front yard of the Manoir Olivier condo apartment building at the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd. and Olivier Ave. that doesn't comply to city standards.

The *Independent* looked into the story after being contacted by a Greene Ave. business owner who passes by the location regularly. He felt the low fence posed a potential danger to pedestrians and bike path users.

"When it was first put in last year after the building had put down new grass, they put this fence as a border," he said.

"I felt it was unsafe, considering it's at a corner where bicycles don't stop and it's adjacent to the bike path and older people tend to be walking along that sidewalk with canes or walkers or in wheelchairs with their attendants. And groups of kids also tend to walk along that sidewalk, pushing and shoving each other."



The city of Westmount's urban planning department served notice to Manoir Olivier that its fence at the front of the property, seen here on May 4, must be taken down.

While the approximately two-foot-high fence is made of steel, it isn't fixed permanently into the ground. Rather, hinged sections linked together are pushed in, with pointed rods providing support.

One of his main concerns is that the steel rods are topped with decorative spears shaped like fleurs-de-lys. He feels this could cause serious injury should anyone accidentally fall on them.

"If the fence was six feet tall and topped off with little fleurs-de-lys I wouldn't mind," he said. "But for somebody who is losing their balance and hits it, it could be catastrophic."

He said he took some pictures and took his complaint first to Westmount Public Security.

"[The assistant director] tended to agree

with me. And then she introduced me to the Permits department. And they looked into it. They said, 'oh well, it's a temporary fence,' they 'can't do anything about it.' Because it doesn't have a foundation they didn't require a permit."

The *Independent* contacted Urban Planning director Tom Flies, who said the city only allows temporary fencing when it is erected in conjunction with construction taking place on a property.

"That is the only temporary fence we allow," he said, while adding that the city sometimes makes exceptions for fences installed in front yards if there are special circumstances.

After examining a photo of the fence, Flies said it looked as if it would be forbidden by the

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Contactivity learns about keeping brain ‘fit’

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A new program of activities devised by Home Care Assistance to enhance the brain health of senior citizens was the subject of a presentation on April 20 at the Contactivity Centre.

Janik Fauteux, business development manager at the company's St. Catherine St. office in Westmount, gave a presentation on “Mind Fit.”

Speaking with the *Independent*, she said it consists of several hundred activities that were developed at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging in California.

“We want to make sure that people are active, safe and sound-minded for as long as they possibly can be,” Fauteux said. “For someone who is autonomous, it's good for them because they can work their brain and keep it fit. Just like the body, if you don't exercise the brain, it gets weaker.”

Fauteux gave the 25 or so seniors at her presentation a taste of the program with a sampling of four or five recommended activities. They included question-and-answer type exercises in which the seniors were shown a projected slide with objects and were asked to name the missing objects in a second image.



Janik Fauteux of Home Care Assistance explained the Mind Fit program to seniors at the Contactivity Centre on April 20.

There were other exercises designed to improve concentration, memory, language, visual/spatial perception and executive functioning.

She said some additional ways seniors can stimulate their brains is by playing board games like Scrabble and Trivial Pursuit, singing along to songs to jog their

memories for the lyrics, learning new languages or doing homework with grandchildren.

“These are all activities they can also do on their own,” Fauteux said.

Westmount-based Home Care Assistance offers live-in care and other types of services for seniors living on their own.

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Sloan and Payette: Arrivals and departures



Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Innovative textures dominate the work of Jacques Payette at Galerie de Bellefeuille and Jimmy Sloan at Han Art Gallery. Payette's new technique of wax mosaic adds a modern texture to traditional oils,



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while Sloan's painted lines over textured forms create a novel visual language.

Layered meaning

Payette's latest exhibition of encaustic oil portraits, antique dresses and owls are enhanced by wax mosaic backgrounds. In the artist's process, tiles, made from coloured and layered wax, are fixed to the canvas in a decorative pattern. Combined with design elements such as circles, this exhibition is an interesting departure from Payette's more traditional oil-on-linen paintings.

For the portrait "Entre deux décors," a young man wearing a red-checked shirt is centred between a textured and tiled background. Beautifully rendered, the composition suggests an individual posed or pulled between tradition and modernity. For the diptych "Soleil diaphane," a painting of a central blue-tiled circle surrounded by red tiles is presented adjacent to a portrait of a woman encircled by a hula-hoop-like red line. The circle ties the two images together to convey love or affection and, in the abstract canvas, an emptiness or void.

"Au lever du jour, l'hiver," features a new subject, the snowy owl. Rendered against a tiled background, the pattern of the owl's black and white feathers is recreated within linear wax tiles.

In the composition "Quatre silences," four Ming

vases are set within a side border of four blue tiles. Both beautiful and inventive, Payette's paintings are displayed at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 1366 Greene Ave.

Simple complexity

Sloan's acrylic on canvas paintings are rich in textures, capricious shapes and meandering lines. Aptly entitled *Intuitive real*, and *prefacing contour*, the exhibition includes semi-abstract representations of people, animals and landscape. Colourful and vivacious with neon-like lines together with endpaper patterns, the titles serve as a guide and explanation to



Jimmy Sloan "In Blue"

Sloan's humorous and unique visual vocabulary.

In "Andy Warhol Cleans the Sink," a textured, human silhouette with a rubber glove-like pink arm is dramatic against a stark black background. In another colourful silhouette "Subsurface Dynamics," the outline of green goggles and a blue snorkel suggest an underwater experience.

For the humorous "Animal House," a calm bull faces a charging,

caped figure with outstretched arms. For the abstract composition "In Blue," orange shapes and yellow lines vibrate against a vivid blue background.

A master of colour dynamics, Sloan's use of familiar textures and neon-like lines creates novel and sophisticated imagery. Jimmy Sloan is represented at Han Art Gallery, 4209 St. Catherine St.

Renewed interest

Payette's addition of wax tiles to painterly portraits, owls or antiques engenders new associations and interest. Similarly, Sloan's vivacious yet controlled imagery evokes viewer humour and curiosity.

Through novel and unique presentations, both artists promote viewer comments and questions. And within "the why" of creation, they help viewers find the "why not" of possibility and adventure!

Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer.



Jacques Payette "Au lever du jour, l'hiver"

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Dramatis Personae to present *The Birds*

Ancient Greek comedy has shades of Brexit and Trump

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two men fed up with paying taxes and hearing arguments about city life decide to strike out, “join the birds” and found a new city in the sky that they surround by a huge wall to keep out immigrants. Does the theme sound remotely familiar?

If so, that’s one of the reasons *The Birds* – an ancient Greek comedy by Aristophanes – was chosen for the upcoming production of the Westmount community theatre group *Dramatis Personae*, according to Ann Elbourne, joint co-ordinator/producer with Ellen Rubin.

While *The Birds*, translated by Peter Meinck, is set in Athens in the 5th century BC, “the plot and the words of the characters resonate with modern audiences,” she explained. “It has shades of Brexit and Trump.”

The 10 actor-members of the group play multiple parts because of the many characters in the play, except for Clive Brewer who plays the leading role. The play is directed by Christopher Moore.

“We’re also very lucky to have designer Karen Sauder as part of our team, so we have some nice, original costumes,” Elbourne said.

The group, which has been part of the Westmount community for some three decades, will hold four performances of *The Birds* at Victoria Hall: Friday, Saturday and Monday, May 26, 27 and 29 at 7:30 pm as well as a matinée at 2 pm on Sunday, May 28.

Reservations, with a suggested donation of \$10, may be made at www.theatrewestmount.com. Further information is available at 514.484.2016.

Fence cont'd. from p. 6

city’s urban planning by-laws. “There is a standard height in our by-laws,” he said, suggesting the height isn’t compliant.

“There are fence requirements in the by-law,” he added. “For example, in general there should be no fence erected in the front yard. But there are exceptions to that. The exceptions could be of historical nature. And if they are of historical nature, again there are height restrictions that apply.” Flies said he would send an inspector to examine the fence first hand.

The *Independent* contacted the company responsible for maintenance at Manoir Olivier, Équipe Propri-Gestion Inc. Gérard Bouquin, a property manager, said they were served notice by the city on Thursday

last week that the fence was non-compliant and were given five days to correct the situation.

“The board of administrators of the building is taking care of it,” he said, referring to the Manoir Olivier condo owners’ association.

Party toned down

Loud music, talking and laughter could be heard in the lane behind 3205 St. Antoine St. May 7 at 12:19 am, Public Security officials said. Patrollers identified the location of the party. Residents were informed of the complaint, and the noise was lowered. No tickets were issued.



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Strategizing on future road use starts now

cont'd. from p. 1

In this regard, he noted that Westmount was already starting to design streets to be more pedestrian friendly by using bump-outs and raised intersections.

Along with more charging stations, the next step for the city will be having accurate “availability tools” that let motorists know exactly where to find free parking spaces, he said. “A few municipalities have already adopted some innovative technology around this.” It will also be essential for the parking of autonomous cars.

Being aware of the trends was a big benefit of the parking conference, he explained.

It was from this event two years ago that Cutler and Public Security director Greg McBain brought back the idea of installing the pay-by-plate parking system similar to what had been advocated by former director general Duncan Campbell (see story September 15, 2015, p. 5). It was introduced by Westmount last year as the first in Quebec.

The same system was also featured again this year at the Chicago exhibition as “gaining momentum around the world”

(see separate story). Cashless transactions were also in greater demand.

On tap for this summer is the introduction of a charging station on Belmont Cresc. off King George (Murray) Park, Cutler said.

New ones were added last year at the WRC.

More public charging stations will also be needed for people unable to charge their cars at home such as those being displaced during street reconstruction, he said, but there are no electric vehicles in the block of Grosvenor being rebuilt this year between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke.

In the future, charging stations on commercial streets might also attract more shoppers. There is one on Grey Ave. at Sherbrooke in NDG.

Pay-by-plate a finalist for environmental prize

The city’s pay-by-plate parking system introduced a year ago has been selected as a competition finalist by the Association Québécoise des transports, an industry trade association. It is competing in the category of “mobility intelligence” for originality and innovation that would improve service to users (see story March 14, p. 8).

The winner is to be announced at a gala event June 14 at the Windsor Hotel, according to director general Mike Deegan.

Manmade waterfall



Water was seen gushing down from Sunnyside Park just below the lookout, flooding onto Sunnyside Ave. the morning of May 12. The road was filling up quite quickly at around 9:15 am. Two large spouts were witnessed (left), as was a substantial flow down the steps. From the lookout, the water was seen flowing out of a large pipe from one of the gardens of a Summit Circle property. Photo: Ralph Thompson

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Mood of the Market

April sales: Still sizzling



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings which were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in April 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.

The Westmount real estate market continued to sizzle in April, keeping the “typical” Westmount house’s value over the \$1,700,000 mark for the third month in a row and including three sales over \$2 million, going as high as \$3,200,000. In fact, the lowest price was \$950,000, one of only two one- and two-family dwelling sales out of 15 to dip below the \$1-million mark, which gives an indication there are few Westmount houses still available for less than \$1 million.

In fact, so far this year, there have been at least six cases of houses involved in bidding wars and several others that went for full asking price or more. A land sale in mid-level Westmount is an indication of a sense that the resale prices are now higher than the cost of buying land and building one’s own house.

The average mark-up over municipal valuation in April was only four percent, but the average is skewed significantly by one sale of a high-priced property for only 75 percent of its valuation. That was one of five mark-downs in the month; the others range upward to a 22.5-percent mark-up. Only two of the houses were on the market longer than 100 days – two were listed for

only two days each – and the other 13 averaged 33 days to sale.

Condo market

The condominium market was not as strong, with three sales in April that had been listed between 60 and 280 days, two for less than municipal valuation and one for only 1 percent mark-up; in the first three months this year, the average mark-up was only 1.56 percent in 11 sales.

Adjacent to Westmount

The adjacent-Westmount market lingered, as well, with only three new sales posted in April after a very busy March,

and only one of the three selling for more than municipal valuation. Still, it seems the houses in the downtown and Trafalgar-Daulac areas are drawing much stronger prices (compared to municipal valuations) than those in areas to the north and west of Westmount.

Fewer houses on market

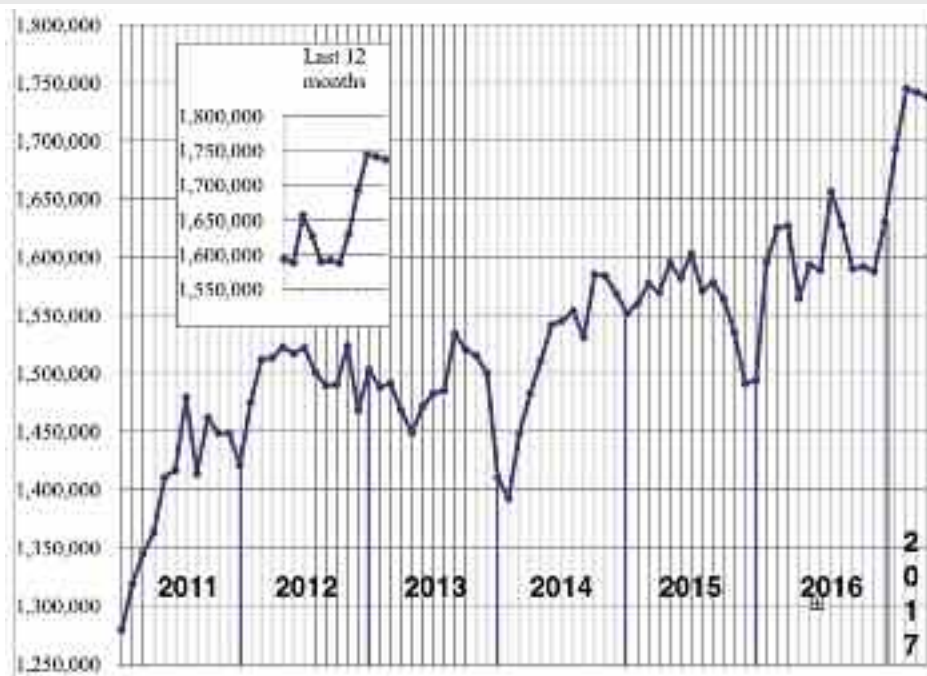
Just as dramatic is the list of houses for sale: a year ago there were 153 houses on the market in Westmount; this year only 40 percent of that number, 61. Even compared to mid-March, the number has dropped from 82 listings. Of those, only seven involve Westmount homes asking less than

\$1,000,000; more than half of all the listings, 35 out of 61, are asking more than \$2 million.

According to MLS statistics, more houses in Westmount (14) have been rented so far this year than last year (11). There are 22 houses listed for rent compared to 27 at the same time last year.

Andy Dodge is a retired Canadian Residential Appraiser.

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



PRENEZ AVIS que Abraham Philip Stark, don't l'adresse de domicile est le 250 avenue Clarke PH10, Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 2E5, présentera au Directeur de l'état civil, une demande pour changer son nom en celui de Avrum Philip Stark. Cet avis a été rempli et signé à Westmount, le 4-5-2017, par Abraham Stark

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Kelley, Bosum among speakers at symposium on indigenous youth

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom held a symposium April 30 focusing specifically

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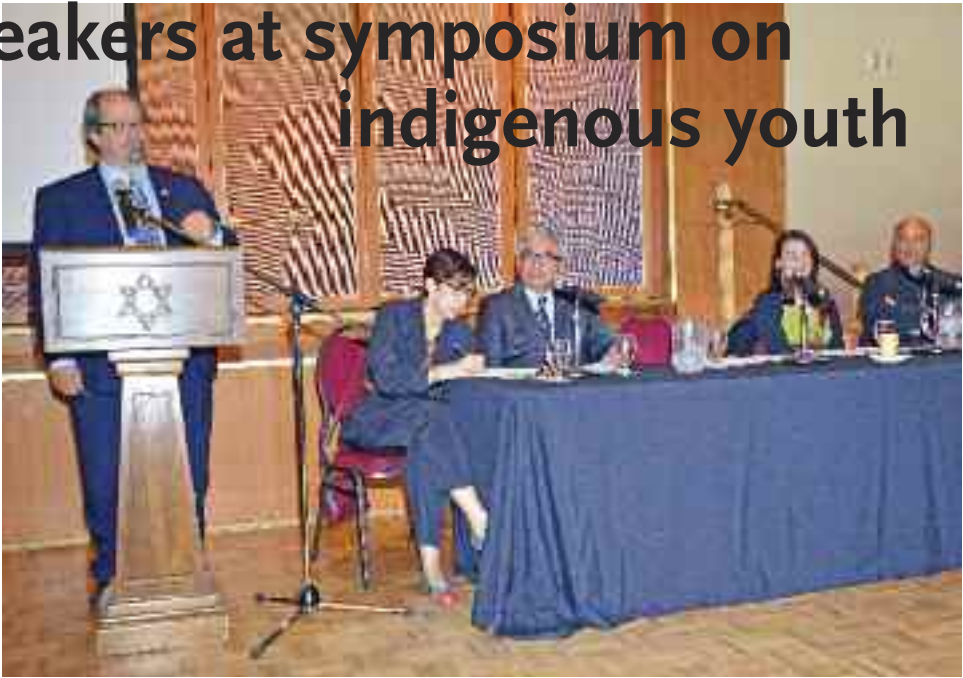
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on issues impacting indigenous youth. The symposium was named after the late Victor Goldbloom and his wife Sheila, who, according to a program note, were known for “building bridges” with other communities.

Geoff Kelley, minister of Aboriginal Affairs in the Quebec government, was one of four speakers. He noted that Quebec’s indigenous communities are relatively young, with half of its population under 30 years of age. He said Quebec has been increasingly investing in the education of indigenous youth, and that it is gradually paying off.

Another speaker, Chief Abel Bosum of the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation, didn’t mince words in describing the problems affecting the Cree. “What I will share with you is how it has come to be that our Cree youth are now at the centre and the focus of our thinking about and our planning for the future,” he said.

Referring to the James Bay Agreement, which was signed by the Cree and Inuit and the government of Quebec in 1975, Bosum said the upcoming challenge is for the Cree’s next generation to succeed, using historic agreements from the last 40 years as their starting point.



From left, Quebec Aboriginal Affairs minister Geoff Kelley, symposium moderator Shauna Van Praagh, Chief Abel Bosum, Nakuset and Jason Edward Lewis are seen here on April 30 during the “Imagining Tomorrow symposium” at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom.

Nakuset, a Cree from Lac la Ronge, Saskatchewan, was adopted and raised by a Jewish family after being taken from the custody of her Cree mother, who was an alcoholic. Today she serves as executive-director of the Native Women’s Shelter in Montreal.

Referring to Cabot Square on Atwater Ave. just east of Westmount, she said it is a park where indigenous people have always tended to congregate “because we don’t actually have an urban reserve, but we know if we go to that park we’re going to see someone we recognize, [someone] we know.”

Noting that some nearby condominium owners were unhappy with disturbances taking place in the park, she said funding was provided by the city of Montreal to hire an indigenous and a non-indigenous outreach worker.

“But there’s a flip side,” she added. “People have racism against indigenous people, and they need to have a better understanding.”

The last speaker, Jason Edward Lewis, who is of Cherokee, Hawaiian and Samoan heritage, is a Concordia University professor of computation arts, who also directs a cyberspace research project on aboriginal territories.

“We do a lot of projects with indigenous youth,” he said about the project, which involves developing artistic visions of the future from an indigenous perspective.

A cyberspace workshop on the future he helped design for a Dene youth group in Yellowknife, NWT, proved to be tricky at first because of the limited access to the internet in northern Canada.

“It feels like there’s not a lot of moments when these kids are being asked ‘what are you dreaming about?’” said Lewis.

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Car alarm turned off after owner located
A car alarm went off on a car parked May 6 on Mount Pleasant, Public Security officials said. The owner, who lived on Sherbrooke St., was contacted through a parking permit and immediately turned off the alarm. A complaint had been called in at 11:50 pm.

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UNICEF and Montblanc's posh, packed eve



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

There was a multitude of gala gowns on April 18 at Montreal's ritzy Ritz-Carlton Hotel. No, it wasn't a black-tie ball, but a UNICEF celebration. Floor-length dresses ranged from gold lamé, very short in front and trailing long in the back, cut-out, slit, strapless and backless. Many ladies arrived in less elaborate attire; most in chic cocktail dresses. Bling was scarce, but the shoes were the prettiest on the planet, ranging from diamond-toed to ankle-bowed: mostly sexy stilettos.

The invitation read "an exclusive private soirée celebrating the 70th anniversary of UNICEF presented by Montblanc."

Guests were welcomed by UNICEF Canada board member **Bita Cattelan** in a sensational silvery lace mid-calf dress by Antoinette Di Carlo, attending with her husband **Paolo Cattelan**.

Guest of honour was **Sylvain Costof**,

president, Montblanc North America (MNA). Also from MNA was **Florent-Aymeric Dubiez**, VP, marketing.

UNICEF and Montblanc have partnered since 2004. The German luxury brand features a collection of pens, leather goods and watches designed around the theme of language, and proceeds are donated to the children's charity. Recently its collaborative New York event attracted celebs such as **Hugh Jackman** and **Diane Kruger**, outstanding in Cavalli.

Speaking of Cavalli, amidst the philanthropic crowd in Montreal was socialite **Nadia Saputo**, wearing a fabulous floral creation by the Italian designer.

Noted amidst the crowd were Westmounters **Lawrence Moquette**, **Joanne Vrakas** and **André Monet**, as well as **Karen Beauchamp** and **Emmanuel Anassis**, chair, DAC Aviation; **Carolina Gallo**, VP, ABB; and **Erik Richer LaFleche**, partner Stikeman Elliott; **Arlene** and **Andrew Torriani**, CEO Ritz-Carlton Montreal; senior VPs from SNC-Lavalin **Chantal Sorel** and **Sandy Taylor**; **Geneviève** and **Robert Trudeau**, VP, Air Canada; restaurateur

.....
continued on p. 14



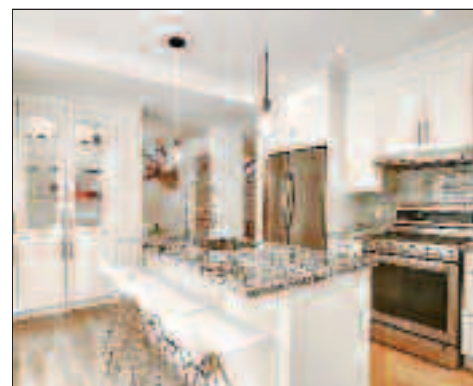
From left: Paolo Cattelan, Sylvain Costof, Florent-Aymeric Dubiez and Bita Cattelan.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 13

Carlos Ferreira with daughter Claudia; Françoise Lyon and hubby Martin Pesant; Claude and Monique Jérôme-Forget; Scott Yetman and Jean-Michel Lavoie; renowned world explorer Bernard Voyer; Nathalie Tremblay, Quebec Breast Cancer Society; news anchors Mutsumi Takahashi and Michel Cayer, Christiane Roy and Mario Cavallancia, and Dick Walsh.

Present from UNICEF Canada were Masha Kennedy, deputy director development, and president David Morley, who addressed the packed dining room, as did Meg French, chief program officer.

UNICEF ambassadors, gloriously attired in glamorous gowns, were Karina LeBlanc and Solange Tuyishime.

The evening's committee members were Jane Potapova (DAC Aviation), Julie-Anne Coyle (Chubb), Sandrine Bohbot (Montblanc), Roberto Reino (Christofle), Jean-Pierre Primiani (Opéra de Montréal), Katia Piccolino (Ritz-Carlton), Martin Watier (actor/director), Anca Sirbu (Air Canada), Ana Aslanian (TD Bank) and Andrew Wan (OSM).

Speaking of the OSM, the orchestra's musicians – Brian Manker, Philip Chiu, Paul Merkelo and André Moisan, led by concertmaster Wan – entertained with a concert after the decadent chocolate-rich dessert. The menu was inspired by chef Antonio Park, collaborating with Ritz-Carlton executive chef Johnny Porte.

A special performance by Coeur de Pirate crowned the festive night. Capping off the evening's success was a teddy bear auction, which, along with sponsorship and partner support, raised \$110,000.



From left: Masha Kennedy, David Morley, Christiane Roy and Mario Cavallancia.

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From left: Karine Tuyishi, Nadia Saputo and Karina LeBlanc.



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SE project more than Dorchester and Tupper parking lots

cont'd. from p. 1

Samiotis, who is both commissioner of Urban Planning and the district's council representative, said she also plans to post on the city's website as much of the project's background information "as possible" in the coming weeks.

This would include data from traffic and infrastructure studies on Dorchester that resident Kathleen Kez had been asking for at the May 1 council meeting, she said.

"This is my fourth time asking for this information," Kez had told Samiotis at the meeting. "A year ago, you said the traffic study would be ready. Why did you not give it to us?"

"It's important to move forward," Samiotis replied. She said that meant "stepping back" and looking at a wider area than Dorchester to "bring together all the as-

pects of the southeast." This would include "the other side of Atwater," i.e. the former site of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Kez also stated she had discovered a backgrounder annex had been removed from the AGIL contract when she received it following an access-to-information request and asked why.

She wanted to know what information from residents' concerns had been given to AGIL, why the consultants had not met with residents and again, why the residents were not being shown the findings of the traffic study.

"You have not answered my question," she repeated and abruptly left the mic in apparent frustration, calling it "a lack of transparency."

Kez, who had been a citizen member of the city's task force on the vision project last year, later said she had now made more requests through access-to-informa-

tion. She had again been denied the missing "annex" document and was awaiting the studies on Dorchester.

Taken by surprise

Samiotis later told the *Independent*, she had not been aware that the AGIL annex had been removed in the access-to-information process. "I was completely taken by surprise at the meeting."

Now, she said, she hopes to "clarify the situation and be more transparent" by posting as much information "as possible" from studies and meetings concerning the southeast vision dating back to 2010.

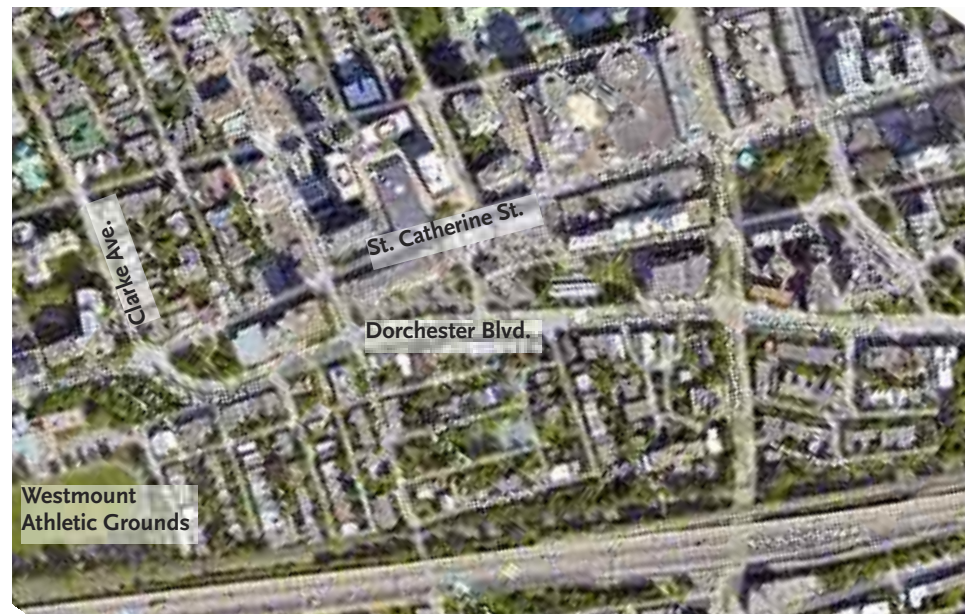
A preliminary plan of the vision proposed last year by the city to connect the commercial and residential sectors had run into opposition from residents in the

Dorchester area. This led to the city turning to AGIL for assistance, saying it lacked the "in-house" expertise to prepare the wider vision.

"We don't have to be 'connected' to the commercial area," Kez said last week. "It's the traffic study that specifically relates to Dorchester that most directly affects those of us who live on the street."

Samiotis told the *Independent* the traffic study had collected data on traffic flows on Dorchester, an arterial street, and the measures that can be taken to maintain traffic volume. "We're now looking through different data and putting it all together" in the broader scope.

"I think there was a lot of misunderstanding," she said, "because residents thought we had a plan for Dorchester, but it's much bigger than that."



As shown in this view from Google Earth, the area to be included in the planning vision for the southeast sector is to include St. Catherine south to below Dorchester, and from east of the Westmount border at Atwater, and west to include Clarke.



The Tupper parking lots as seen May 12 looking west from just east of Gladstone.

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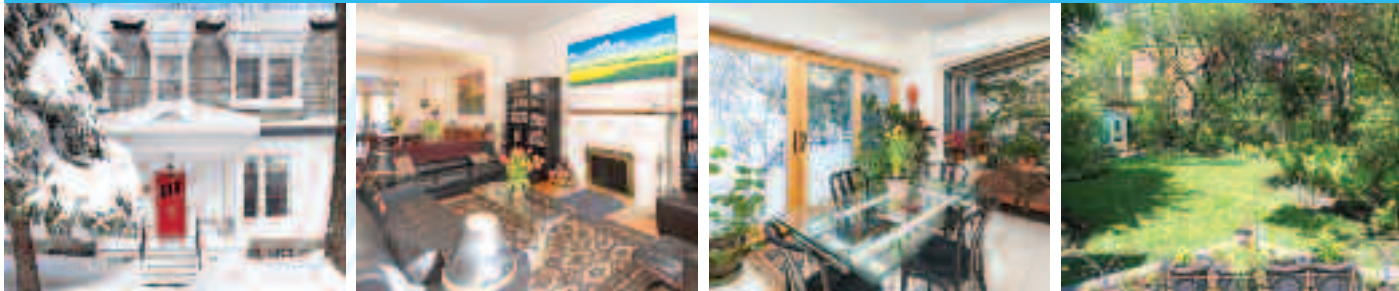
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