WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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We are Westmount

June 20, 2017

Rules based only on heritage said to be 'onerous' City asked to consider new criteria for windows

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A Westmount resident who was turned down recently for aesthetic reasons in his request to replace windows on his house called on city council at its meeting June 5 to consider energy efficiency and noise reduction as important criteria as well.

Christopher Neal of Grosvenor explained that his request and appeal to install triple-glazed, energy efficient "stacked

Westmount Page p. 10 Letters p. 6

Social Notes by V. Redgrave *p.* 13 In Conversation by H. Black *p.* 11





awning" windows had been refused by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) despite being made to simulate the original double-hung style.

"I feel frustrated," he said, adding he did not know where to turn.

He said the triple glazing he wanted was too heavy to put into the upper sash of a double hung window though it could be used in the style he had chosen, mainly for that reason.

On a busy street near Roslyn School, he needed the extra sound proofing and energy efficiency offered by the triple glazing, he explained. "How do you address soundproofing and how do you balance this with heritage requirements?"

He said the decision continued on p. 8

Marianopolis' Sun wins silver at Canada-wide science fair



Marianopolis student Bilun Sun, 18, was given a "Senior Excellence Award" with a silver medal at the Canada-wide science fair in Regina, Sask. He is seen here at the college June 2 gazing at his invention. See story, p. 9. Photo: Ralph Thompson

November 5, 2017 municipal election Smith declares for mayor

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Interim mayor Christina Smith announced her intention June 14 to run for the mayoralty in the upcoming municipal elections November 5. "This isn't a campaign launch, she said, "I just want to put it out there that I'm running."

She is the first to declare and said she plans to file nomination papers this week or next.

While she intends to present her plat-

form closer to the electoral period, she said, she sees her priorities as harnessing the expertise of citizens, improving communications, continuing a freeze on taxes, and updating urban planning processes and guidelines for building and renovating.

ing. "I have a big passion for this city," she said. "It's where we've chosen to raise our family. For me, it's all about making it a better place to live."

She said she has "loved continued on p. 5





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Sotheby's Realty opens in Westmount Square concourse



Well-wishers on opening day at Westmount Square. Inset: From left, Sotheby's International Realty vice president Sacha Brosseau and Canadian CEO Brad Henderson cut the ribbon.

Boy freed

Public safety officers went to the assistance of a 12-year-old boy heard screaming from a window on Olivier June 7 when he became stuck in a bathroom around 8 am, Public Security officials said. He was home alone at 8 am after his father had gone to work on the West Island. Using a borrowed ladder, an officer managed to direct the boy through the window on various ways to turn the loose doorknob until it gripped and the door opened. The boy stated he had to get to school for an important exam.

Fire truck leaks coolant

Public Works was called to clean up antifreeze that had leaked onto Sherbrooke from a fire truck June 4, Public Security officials said. The ladder truck was found to have leaked the coolant around 2 pm in the eastbound lane between Grosvenor and Lansdowne.



Officers stay with frightened theft victim

A bag was reported stolen from a car on Greene Ave. June 14, Public Security officials said. They received a call at 7:21 pm from the owner stating she was afraid to stay alone in case the thief might use her keys and identification to find her before a locksmith arrived to change the door lock. An officer remained with her until her husband showed up.

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Sotheby's International Realty, long a tenant in one of Westmount Square's towers, has moved into the complex's shopping concourse, near the St. Catherine St. entrance. Approximately 45 people attended the June 15 opening of the new office. Brad Henderson, the CEO for Canada, was in from Toronto for the ribbon cutting, saying among other things, "clients deserve a luxurious experience when selling their homes, regardless of its price." Montreal-based vice president Sacha Brosseau had a more personal take on the new location, sharing with guests how, as an 11-year-old growing up at Montrose and Mountain avenues, he would be given \$5 from each of his parents for a meal at the mall, "that was my outing." Sotheby's now has eight offices in Quebec including the Square Mile, Mont Tremblant, Knowlton, North Hatley, Quebec City, St. Lambert and the West Island.



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Residents, council attendees didn't know Preliminary redesign of Dorchester had already been rejected

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Citizens at the June 5 council meeting voiced longstanding concerns over a "preliminary" city design to narrow and reconfigure Dorchester, citing negative conclusions from a traffic consultant's study. But they were unaware the city had already rejected the idea several months ago and left the meeting still uninformed.

It was not brought to light until June 12



when Councillor Patrick Martin told the Independent the city's Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) had reviewed the final report and found "this specific reconfiguration" would cause many traffic problems, not only on Dorchester, but also on Atwater, St. Catherine, and de Maisonneuve," he said.

"In view of these findings," he revealed, "the TAC did not recommend the concept to the general committee of council."

There were other ways to introduce traffic calming to Dorchester that links Westmount to downtown via René Lévesque "without dumping one street's problem onto the neighbouring streets," Martin explained. "As you know, council has a policy not to do that."

Five members of council had been on hand at the TAC meeting when the review of the traffic study was conducted in the presence of the Stantec consultants, he said.

None, however, relayed the TAC decision to questioners at the council meeting as they referred to so-called traffic havoc the design concept could generate.

Later in the week, Councillor Theodora Samiotis told the Independent that Martin would address the traffic study issue.

"After all this time and effort, I'm shocked we were never told," said Kathleen Kez of Dorchester on learning from the Independent of the TAC's recommendation. Kez is a citizen representative on the city's task force on the south-east project.

'Impact all of us'

Kez told the council the idea should be "scrapped," while resident Tony Kez said the study showed it would "impact all of us," by blocking traffic, diverting it to other streets and causing congestion at rush hour.

The suggested reconfiguration of the

street had been unveiled a year ago as part of a concept for a planning vision for the entire southeast sector. It called for narrowing Dorchester and the median by 36 percent, adding pedestrian crossings and replacing the curve into Clarke by a right angle.

The overall development plan as presented also called for allowing housing of three and four storeys on the north side of the street with five- and six-storey buildings of mixed use rising behind them on Tupper as a transition to commercial St. Catherine St. (see story June 21, 2016, p. 1).

Referring to this preliminary plan, Martin pointed out last week that "Dorchester traffic is only a small component of the analysis of the overall southeast sector now being undertaken by AGIL consultants. I look forward to their independent thoughts on the matter."

He also said the Stantec consultants had done "a fine job" on the traffic study. This was the only portion of the overall plan they were analysing.

At the council meeting, Patricia Dumais of Greene Ave. asked Councillor Samiotis what deadline the city had given AGIL consultants to provide and complete the overall vision. Samiotis replied that "We have to have something before the election" in November.

Dumais, however, pressed for the exact deadline the city had given the consultants. "They've been given a timeline – for sure. What is the deadline? You haven't answered my question."

Last week, Samiotis told the Independent the consultants' deadline had been to provide a plan "by June." She had already turned back a "draft concept" in late May, however, because "it did not give us a plan we had wanted to incorporate St. Catherine, the Tupper parking lots and Dorch-

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Kathleen Kez during question period June 5.

ester that would bring back a residential scale to the neighbourhood" (see story May 30, p. 1).

Samiotis said she would now not be presenting any plan until after the summer when people would be back from holidays.

Traffic congestion foreseen

According to the Stantec report, while traffic on Dorchester is now "acceptable" during morning and afternoon rush hours, it would be restricted with the narrowing of lanes as in the suggested configuration and especially with future development of the Tupper lots and the former site of Montreal Children's Hospital.

As conditions on Dorchester deteriorated, it contended that traffic would be pushed onto east-west streets and even onto side streets such as Melville, Metcalfe, Clarke and Olivier.

Details of the Stantec traffic study can be found on the city's website under The City/major projects. While a preliminary report was dated October 28, 2016, the date on the final version was February 20.





'Stepping up' to serve

cont'd. from p. 1

being on council," representing District 5 in her first term and has worked hard to meet residents' needs. "Now I'm expanding that role."



Interim mayor Christina Smith at King George (Murray) Park June 15.

It's already been more than six weeks since she came into the role of interim mayor on the resignation of Peter Trent, she said. "And it's gone by in the blink of an eye. It's unreal what comes across the desk. You don't know till vou sit in the seat."

In that time, "I've been listening to people," she said, and the Urban Planning department seemed to be one of their "biggest points." She hopes to improve the responsiveness and communication regarding building permits and updating guidelines.

"I've also come to realize the importance of working with Montreal and the agglo," she added.

'Smith said she has taken the advice of Trent to heart when he said after his five terms as mayor it was time for the next generation to step up and serve. "That's me," she acknowledged. "I believe in my city, and I see this as public service."

Trent told the Independent June 15 he had always made it clear someone should have experience on city council before running for mayor, "and I certainly am supporting Christina."

Smith has been actively engaged in politics at the federal level and said she appreciates the closeness that municipal councils provide for the citizenry. "This is about parks, roads and programs. We collect taxes and in return we provide programs and services."

Smith, a resident of Grosvenor in the block between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke undergoing reconstruction this summer, is currently learning firsthand about the process, she said, as well as what residents go through living in a construction zone.

Other candidates?

Interim mayor Christina Smith is the only one to confirm her mayoral candidacy at this point. One other possible candidate, The Suburban weekly newspaper's editor Beryl Wajsman has told the Independent he is "exploring" the possibility and, if "certain benchmarks" are met, would file his nomination papers "in three or four weeks."



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What are we breathing in at the Murray dog run?

Now that the King George (Murray) Park dog run [renovation] has been completed, and we, "the regulars," in our particular time slots, have had the time to experience both the good and the bad, we feel that a bit of feedback is warranted to those who were involved in creating the new dog run.

For the sake of brevity, I need to omit the discussions we have had on many points (including that dogs are ingesting the abrasive that sticks to tennis balls) in order to focus on one: the sand, specifically a single point of concern, without detailing its benefits.

From this time of year on, any activity from dogs on a dry day creates a cloud of the finer particles of the "special sand" that hovers higher than our heads by many feet wide as it expands, and lasts a good 20 to 30 seconds or longer, only to be replaced by another cloud moments later by another dog playing. The dogs breathe it, and so do we.

Since it hovers so long, we conclude that the "special sand" mixture contains particulates too fine to be used for this application. The gravel before the re-do may have been a little too big, and there certainly wasn't enough of it, however we weren't breathing it in along with whatever clings to the sand. Perhaps the city should have opted for "special gravel."

We are curious about what led to the choice of this sand. Were any dog owners involved? Did anyone look at other cities in North America to see the scope of solutions being used and enumerate the positives and negatives versus needs, wants and budget?

None of us expects to see a complete replacement of the sand, but at the same time, we don't want to find out 10 years from now that the sand is being recalled as a hazard from long-term inhalation.

What assurances can the city give us that we are safe? Surely that research would have been part of the decision-making process?

Cary Kitner, Forden Ave.

All should be concerned about Dorchester, more densification

Every Westmount resident should read the traffic study regarding the south-east project and understand the terrible consequences regarding city council's [initial] vision*: eliminating the curve on Dorchester with a right-angle turn by creating an extension of Clarke to Dorchester; and the narrowing of Dorchester to allow for the possible development of 107 units on the Tupper parking lots. These [possible] decisions will impact every Westmount resident and future generations.

Basically, the study concludes: "Currently, traffic conditions are acceptable on Dorchester during morning and afternoon rush hours. The planned redevelopment (narrowing of Dorchester) involves the loss of turning lanes on Dorchester Blvd. at intersections with Atwater Ave., Greene Ave. and St. Catherine St. This will involve a significant reduction in the capacity of Dorchester Blvd., with problematic delays in both directions during the morning and afternoon rush hours. With the redesigned geometry, (right angle turn), significant backflows are expected on Dorchester in both directions, particularly when additional development on [the] Tupper lots and the redevelopment of the former Children's Hospital site are considered."

Then "due to the lack of capacity on Atwater Ave., the reallocated flows will seek to move between the various roads via north-south streets serving mostly residential neighbourhoods. Residents will be disturbed by the expected traffic increase," including Melville, Metcalfe, Redfern, Clarke and Wood in Westmount. This study does not even take into account the eight- to 10-storey building planned for the corner of St. Catherine and Atwater across from Alexis Nihon.

Therefore, this project truly affects all Westmounters. I urge all Westmount residents to evaluate the south-east project; its impact is much larger than just Dorchester alone. We must make sure that our city councillors are making intelligent choices for us.

Westmount is already the second most densely populated city in Canada. Is there a need for more densification? The petition of 200+ signatures from District 8, the traffic report and numerous consultations does not seem to have had any impact on city council. We have an opportunity to make the entrance to Westmount something astounding, to make Westmount residents proud for generations to come and differentiate our city from Montreal, which is already an urban jungle.

TONY KEZ, DORCHESTER BLVD. * Editor's note: Please see story, p. 4. –KM

Contactivity does annual walk with local police



"Twenty enthusiastic Walkie Talkies from Contactivity Centre's 60-plus walking group as well as a dozen friendly officers from Station 12 in Westmount turned up for the third annual Walk-with-a-Cop event on June 12," said Contactivity's Fiona Smith. From local police Station 12 were Commander Martine Dubuc, Lt. Jacques Meunier, Sgt. Guy St-Pierre and community relations constable Stephan Laperriere. The walk was dedicated to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, celebrated June 15. According to Smith, the walk started at Westmount Square and continued along de Maisonneuve to Westmount Park. Officer Christopher Brault helped organize the Contactivity event. Tips and reminders about pedestrian safety were provided along the way. After stopping for coffee at the Mouton Noir café, the group headed to the final destination, Contactivity Centre, for the Monday soup kitchen, where officers sat down for a chat and to answer questions from the seniors, said Smith.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

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Letters & Comments:

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

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Westmount expected to pay more Agglo funding change to benefit suburbs as a group

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new way to calculate the share of the annual agglomeration budget to be borne by the 15 demerged municipalities on one hand, and Montreal on the other, was presented at the agglo council meeting June 15.

According to a press release from the Association of Montreal Suburban Municipalities (ASM) issued the day before, the new agreement is expected to benefit the suburbs to the tune of about \$20 million over the three years 2017-2020. At that time it is to be re-evaluated.

The deal corrects "an injustice" that had developed in determining a municipality's "quote-part" or share of agglo expenses based on a complicated formula that got "out of whack" over the years, according to former mayor Peter Trent.

Trent (then ASM president) along with a working group negotiated the deal be-

tween the suburban mayors as well as Montreal mayor Denis Coderre. It was reached February 20 but made public only last week.

"Chapeaux to the mayors and to Coderre," Trent told the Independent last week. "Montreal recognized its share was unfair, while among the suburbs, there were winners and losers. Quebec Municipal Affairs minister Martin Coiteau also recognized the need for a more equitable formula," he said.

Westmount is among those suburbs whose share of agglo costs will increase. In Westmount's case this is \$133,333 for 2017 on its quote-part of some \$52.7 million, according to Mayor Christina Smith. The total over three years is about \$400,000.

The funding method had been established in 2008 under Bill 22 using an "artificial formula" based on a theoretical "fiscal potential" of taxable property along with a "corrective coefficient."



MARC GARNEAU DÉPUTÉ / NP

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Window refusal challenged by resident

cont'd. from p. 1

from PAC never mentioned his noise and energy requirements. "It addressed none of my points."

His 1912 house has the lowest, Category III, heritage rating in which some window requirements are less restrictive than those in higher categories of architectural importance.

In its decision, the PAC determined



teristic of a double-hung window in which the upper pane is forward of the lower one." Neal, The division be-

Christopher foreground, waits to address tween the two is also "much council June 5.



Christopher Neal's house at 660 Grosvenor has double-hung windows similar to those of the adjoining house.

too thick."

that

re-

'the proposed

It states as well that "the option of stacking two awning windows to simulate a double-hung window is not acceptable as per section 4.2.2. of the Guidelines for Renovating and Building in Westmount." This states that replacement windows should match the original in type of operation along with a list of other technicalities.

"The rules are there, and the rules are the problem," Neal said later. "There is nowhere for other criteria to be considered."

Looking ahead

Neal, who has worked in energy efficiency, said his points about this "will become a requirement in all homes in the near future, and I think it will have to prevail if you want to conserve older homes. It already is being applied for municipal buildings and fleets, so why not homes?"

While Neal acknowledges he had already purchased his windows before obtaining the required permit, he says he had just bought his house in Westmount last year and never expected it would be so difficult to replace windows.

"The restrictions on windows are onerous, and their narrow focus on heritage compromises energy efficiency and noise control," he added. "Keeping Westmount homes comfortably livable and sustainable requires rules flexible enough to accommodate new window materials and technologies.

"Let's be a smart city first," he said, "and a Potemkin village second."

Guidelines need updating, some say

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Denis Biro, a resident of Burton, called on the city council at its meeting June 5 to update its window replacement requirements, saying more and more people seemed to be raising issues regarding window material, especially when it pertains to safety, comfort and an aging population having physical restraints.

Double-hung windows, which the city insists on in many cases, are too heavy for some people to open, he explained, adding "A lot of the rules were set a long time ago."

Councillor Theodora Samiotis replied to Biro that "What we have is a failure to

communicate [the rules.]"

"The problem is we don't like the rules," Biro stated.

Christopher Neal of Grosvenor also raised the same concerns about window replacement at the meeting (see separate story, p. 1).

Changing and updating the guidelines and by-laws is "a huge undertaking," Samiotis said, to which Mayor Christina Smith added that the Urban Planning department had gone through recent management changes.

"It's an opportunity for change," Biro said to a round of applause from the audience.

"One of the reasons you move to West-

mount is because of the architectural heritage," Samiotis explained. "You don't find PVC in Westmount."

The requests at council meetings to incorporate new building materials into the Guidelines for Renovating and Building in Westmount include those of longstanding from architect Bruce Anderson. Anderson, who was involved in the creation of the original guidelines in 1995, stated he had sat on the city's roundtables to update them a couple of years ago and urged the city to move forward with changes, such as allowing the use of some new building materials and lifting certain restrictions.



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'Need a hand with that' science fair project among national winners

By Ralph Thompson

Graduating Marianopolis student Bilun Sun's national award-winning creation was conceived last November "when I saw a video on the internet from Cornell University showing a robot arm for use in manufacturing. I thought the concept could be used in a prosthetic hand design," he explained.

Sun put together a scheme for his project "Need an Amorphous Prosthetic Robotic Hand With That?" and ordered parts online including a small vacuum pump, LiPo batteries, a servo motor for the wrist and a muscle sensor. He built his own 3D printer (not his first) and made the housing for the prosthetic hand components. "The challenge is to be able to grip small items such as a key or a pen," he said. The technique Sun used was to take a balloon and fill it with coffee grounds. "The user presses the coffee-filled balloon onto a key, for example, and the key makes an impression. Then the vacuum pump takes out the air from the balloon. As the air is taken out, the balloon compacts the coffee grounds and the balloon around the

info@primekitchens.com

key, and the user can then lift up the key."

Why coffee? "Sand would work well, but it is heavy and might be tiring for the user. Coffee grounds are light." This is just the first prototype. Sun said he was thinking about making a more advanced gripper with fingers that would be able to pick up different sized objects. He is planning to attend the University of Waterloo in the fall and study megatronics, which includes the disciplines of mechanical, electrical and software engineering. Sun also received an "excellence in honours" science research award, a "distinction in robotics" award and a "distinction in the science fair" award. See photo, p. 1.

4 dogs unlicensed

A total of four dogs were found without valid licences out of a random check of 40 between June 1 and 4 in dog runs at Westmount and King George (Murray) parks. The figures were reported by Public Security officials, who said the unlicensed dogs belonged to three Westmount residents, one having two dogs. The owners were given two weeks to obtain the required licence before tickets would be issued.

Sun: 10:00-3:00 PM







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BIBLIOTHÈQUE

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En cours. Semences gratuites pour les membres de la Bibliothèque – plus de 50 variétés de plantes, incluant fines herbes, fleurs, légumes, et plusieurs variétés patrimoniales. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture d'été TD 2017

À compter du lundi 12 juin, Bibliothèque. Demandez votre trousse du club de lecture d'été au comptoir des enfants. Le thème cet été est : Canada!

Club de lecture en anglais

Le mardi 20 juin, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Do Not Say We Have Nothing par Madeleine Thien. Animé par Claire Holden Rothman. Info: 514 989-5299.

Série Récits de voyages

Les vendredis 23 juin et 30 juin, 10 h 30, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire qui simule le fait de voyager dans un pays étranger pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. Inscription requise. Info : dmiguez@westmount.org ou 514 989-5409.

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

Le mercredi 21 juin, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Joignezvous 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.

Art et récits d'un océan à l'autre : célébrons la journée nationale des autochtones! Le mercredi 21 juin, 16 h, Bibliothèque. (3-6 ans)

Inscription requise. Info: 514 989-5229.

Traverse le Canada sur une carte postale!

Le mercredi 28 juin, 15 h à 17 h, Bibliothèque. Nous prendrons ta photo et te placerons quelque part au Canada. Récupère ta carte postale personnalisée lors de ta visite suivante afin de pouvoir l'envoyer à un ami ou à ta famille.

Prochaine séance du conseil le mardi 4 juillet

Art et récits d'un océan à l'autre : la côte ouest Le mercredi 28 juin, 16 h, Bibliothèque. (3-6 ans) Inscription requise. Info: 514 989-5229.

Danse de cerceaux

Le jeudi 29 juin, 16 h, Bibliothèque. (5 ans et +) Avec la danseuse professionnelle Barbara Diabo. Barbara est issue de la Nation Mohawk et partagera avec nous sa culture grâce à la danse, la musique et le conte. Inscription requise. Info : 514 989-5229.

Lancement de Storywalk®

Le vendredi 30 juin, 18 h 30, Parc Westmount. Lancement de Storywalk® « Le chandail de hockey » avec l'auteur Roch Carrier et l'illustrateur Sheldon Cohen. Info : 514 989-5229.

Soirée cinéma et pyjama

Le vendredi 30 juin, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Toute la famille est invitée à porter son pyjama pour cette présentation du film LEGO Batman. Inscriptions : Victoria Hall ou la Bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5226.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Fête de la Saint-Jean à Westmount

Le vendredi 23 juin, 17 h à 22 h, Parc Westmount. Célébrez la fête nationale de la Saint-Jean : spectacle, feu de joie et plus. Info : 514 989-5226.



Fête du Canada à Westmount

Le samedi 1^{er} juillet, 11 h à 22 h 30, Parc Westmount. Pour toute la famille-food trucks, musique, et spectacle de lumières interactif! Info : 514 989-5226.

Galerie du Victoria Hall

Du 6 juillet au 11 août. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les artistes Lucie Bernard, Ann Elsdon, Eva Ferenczy Reichmann, Brent Maclaine, Eliane Rivard et Douglas Scott. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h; samedi 10 h à 17 h. Info: 514 989-5521.



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LIBRARY

Seed Lending Library

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2017 TD Summer Reading Club

Beginning Monday, June 12, Library. Ask for your Summer Reading Club Kit at the Children's Desk. This year's theme is Canada!

English Book Club

Tuesday, June 20, 7 p.m., Library. Madeleine Thien's Do Not Say We Have Nothing. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. Info: 514 989-5299.

Tales and Travels Series

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

Reading group for Joyce's Finnegans

Wake: The Boaters and Sifters of ALP Wednesday, June 21, 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.

Art and Stories from Coast to Coast to **Coast: Celebrate National Aboriginal Day** Wednesday, June 21, 4 p.m., Library. For 3-6 yrs. Registration required. Info: 514 989-5229.

Travel Canada on a Postcard!

Wednesday, June 28, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Library. We'll take your picture and put you somewhere in Canada. Pick up your personalised postcard on your next visit and you can send it to family and friends.

Art and Stories from Coast to Coast to **Coast: Welcome to the West Coast**

Wednesday, June 28, 4 p.m., Library. (3-6 years). Registration required. Info: 514 989-5229.

Next Council Meeting **Tuesday, July 4**

Hoop Dancing

Thursday, June 29, 4 p.m., Library. (5 years +) With professional dancer Barbara Diabo. Barbara is from the Mohawk Nation and will share her culture with us through dance, music, and storytelling. Registration required. Info: 514 989-5299.

Storywalk[®] Launch

Friday, June 30, 6:30 p.m., Westmount Park. Launch of The Hockey Sweater Storywalk® with author Roch Carrier and illustrator Sheldon Cohen. Info: 514 989-5229.

PJ Movie Night

Friday, June 30, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. The entire family is welcome to wear their pyjamas to the screening of The LEGO Batman Movie. Register at Victoria Hall or the Library. Info: 514 989-5226.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Fête de la Saint-Jean in Westmount Friday, June 23, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., Westmount Park. Celebrate with entertainment, a bonfire and more. Info: 514 989-5226.

Canada Day in Westmount

Saturday, July 1st, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Westmount Park. For the whole family-food trucks, music, and interactive light show! Info: 514 989-5226.

Gallery at Victoria Hall

From July 6th to August 11th, 2017. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present artists Lucie Bernard, Ann Elsdon, Eva Ferenczy Reichmann, Brent Maclaine, Eliane Rivard and Douglas Scott. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 514 989-5521.







Surridge on the Montreal Camera Club's 125th



In conversation

Heather Black

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Montreal Camera Club, an exhibition of members' work will be held at the Visual Arts Centre in June. To find out more about one of Canada's oldest photography clubs, I spoke to Westmounter and past president John Surridge.

Brief history

Created as a forum to explore photography, records show that the club first met downtown in 1892. One early member, William MacFarlene Notman, often shared his facilities with fellow enthusiasts. Surridge explained that the group included "physicists and chemists, many of whom mixed their own chemicals."

As photography became increasingly popular during the 1930s, club membership grew. New members included Westmounters Blossom and Raymond Caron, whom Surridge described as the first organizers of the club's Montreal International Salon of Photography. Held most years at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts from 1942 until 1969, the final exhibition "included work by photographers from 38 different countries," he explained.

Club members also organized "Woman's World Exhibition of Photography" at Expo 67. At the time, the club moved to Westmount, first to the Atwater Library in 1970 and then to Westmount Park United Church in 1995. Surridge explained that details of the club's past were compiled by Blossom Caron in *A History of the Montreal Camera Club, 1893-1981*, while a second volume for 1982-1998 was written by Barbara Deans, still an active member.





Montreal Camera Club's John Surridge in front of Westmount Park United Church June 1.

Current program

Today the club has over 150 members, many from Westmount. For Surridge, "the club is still a place to explore photography" and offers outings for members to capture "traffic patterns at night or snow geese in Victoriaville, and for studio work with models." He also commented that today, "Digital photography offers photographers the freedom to experiment."

Surridge, the coordinator for the slide show competition, mentioned that "competitions are also a means to nurture new talent and have always been an important part of Montreal Camera Club." Each month, there are three competition sessions and members may submit up to 15 photographs annually for the prints, nature or slide show competitions, as well those assigned for the annual "Gemboree



Competition," such as statues or people walking dogs.

The club's Monday night sessions also include speakers.

For Surridge, "Presentations enable members to share an interest or show work in more depth." Last year Westmounter Ann Pearson spoke on "The Life & Work of W. Eugene Smith," while the club's Bonnie Nichol lecturer, American nature photographer Denise Ippolito, also offered weekend workshops.

Surridge commented, "We are fortunate to find so many creative individuals, who are willing to share their skill and experience."

Anniversary celebrations

To start the festivities, the public is invited to view the 125th anniversary exhibition at the McClure Gallery from June 20 to 22 and June 26 to 29. An exhibition of members' photographs of Westmount is also planned for November at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. And for those interested in the Montreal Camera Club's history, Ann Pearson will speak at the Westmount Historical Association in November.



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Mood of the Market May sales: Hot, hot, hot



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 May 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.

Westmount's already sizzling market got hotter than ever in May, with five singlefamily sales selling at or above their asking prices, the average mark-up jumping to 15 percent above municipal valuation, and the average days-to-sale dropping from 132 in April to 87 in May. This at a time when the inventory of available houses is dropping sharply and a strong economy is attracting more interest in Westmount real estate.

By some bizarre coincidence, 19 sales



have been posted by local agents who negotiated sales agreements in May, the same number as were posted in each of February, March and April. While the average price has dipped slightly from \$1.77 million in March to \$1.64 million in May, in fact the average mark-up has hovered around the 10-percent mark for all of the first five months of the year.

Prices in May ranged from \$700,000 to \$3,700,000. The \$700,000 sale was, in fact, only 54 percent of the property's tax value, so that also became the biggest mark-down of the month; another \$2.2-million sale was basically double its valuation, by far the highest mark-up of the month. Only three of the 19 sales came in below municipal value, and the second highest mark-up was 43 percent.

Still, the most interesting feature of May's market is the notes on listings: "Multiple offers" appears on several occasions, and one house asking \$1,795,000 is reported to have sold for \$1,895,000, so it is apparent (at least some) Westmount buyers are not too concerned about cash outlay. Eight of the 19 sales were listed for fewer than 20 days, and the old stock is disappearing fast.

Condo market picking up

The condo market is definitely picking up, too, with seven sales in May and 12 so far in the second quarter of 2017. All but one of those sales were for prices between \$300,000 and \$719,000, and all but three

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



were in Westmount's major or newer apartment buildings. The average mark-up for the quarter so far (with June to come) climbed to 7.7 percent from 1.3 percent in the first quarter. Four of the 12 prices were less than valuation, and the biggest markup was 45.6 percent.

Nine new sales were posted in adjacent-Westmount areas; except for the east end of NDG, where the average mark-up over valuation is only 1.3 percent, mark-ups are higher than they are in Westmount proper, as high as 31.1 percent in the Square Mile sector of Montreal.

As of mid-June, the number of singlefamily dwellings on the market in Westmount increased slightly to 67, but this is less than half the number up for grabs exactly a year ago. Of those 67, only four are asking less than \$1 million, and only one is less than \$900,000. Another 13 are asking more than \$4 million, and one of those is more than \$10 million. Even the market for rental houses is tighter than it was last year, 18 houses available for rent compared to 25 a year ago; the number rented so far this year is up to 20 compared to 16 by mid-June a year ago.

> Andy Dodge is a retired Canadian Residential Appraiser.

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Electrical performance by Porte Parole



Social Notes

Veronica Redgrave

A whirling wind and Montreal's dogged deluge meant that guests had to madly dash into Usine C on April 10. The fun performance space has little – indeed, almost no - parking spaces in the area, so most arrived in taxis. The evening was a benefit for Productions Porte-Parole, a documentary theatre company founded by former Westmount res Annabelle Soutar. Once inside, as ladies and gentlemen shook off dripping attire they enjoyed wine and canapés. In the Usine C theatre, the evening's co-presidents, Westmounter Mary Dailey Desmarais, curator modern international art, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, and Alexandre Taillefer, managing partner XPND Capital and chair Musée d'art contemporain, along with Soutar and Philippe Cyr (J'aime Hydro's director) were interviewed by media celeb Jean-René Dufort. The interviews were

filmed and projected onto a big screen. This was followed by the presentation of the first episode of J'aime Hydro, a fiveepisode play exploring the future of hydro-electricity in Quebec. It starred Christine Beaulieu (who is also the playwright) and Mathieu Gosselin (who plays 28 characters). It posed the query "What has become of the relationship between Hydro-Québec and Quebecers?"

On hand to respond was guest of honour Éric Martel, CEO/president Hydro-Québec.

Westmounters attending included Paul Desmarais Jr., chair/co-CEO Power Corp.;



ner Stikeman Elliott; lawyer Maurice Forget and Richard Gervais, founder Wagram; as well as Brochu, president/CEO, Métro; Louise Roy, chancellor/chair, Université de Montréal; Jan-Fryderyk Pleszczynski, president, Conseil des



From left: Annabel Soutar, Mary Dailey Desmarais, Alexandre Taillefer and Christine Beaulieu

arts de Montréal; Antoine Panet-Raymond, HEC; lawyers Lyse Rayle and her sister Pierrette Rayle; Dinu Bumbaru, Héritage Montréal; Michel Dallaire, industrial designer; John Zeppetelli, director/chief cu-

rator, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; and Pierre Trahan, Arsenal.

After the play, a 20-minute discussion included audience members. Then a much- continued on p. 14

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 13

awaited delicious dinner catered by Au Petit Extra was enjoyed by all before unfolding still-sopping umbrellas and venturing out once more.

A work by artist Marc Séguin was auctioned by legor de Saint Hippolyte, owner Hôtel des encans, accompanied by Sylvia **Cassas**, also of the auction house. The play will be performed at Just for Laughs and will be touring throughout Quebec during the fall.

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URCOT

weekend home

Vic village street festival brings out shoppers, dancers

PHOTOS: MARTIN C. BARRY



Canadian children's musician Jennifer Gasoi got into the action June 10 while performing her hit "I'm a Bubble" on stage at the corner of Prince Albert Ave. and Sherbrooke St.



Jamie Wilson Goodyear gave demonstrations on the potter's wheel for an appreciative audience of passers-by during the Westmount Victoria Village Street Festival. He is seen here June 10 outside the Visual Arts Centre, where he teaches.

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Winners of McEntyre writing competition fêted June 7

| - | | |
|---|--|--|
| Grade 1 | | |
| Zhengxuan Chen Wolfgang Mondal Ethan Lubarsky HM*: Catherine Latreille | Selwyn House Selwyn House Akiva The Study | |
| Grade 2 | | |
| Priya Kennedy Callie Gelber Clement Ma | The Study Akiva Selwyn House | |
| Grade 3 | | |
| 1. Mara Berkowitz 2. Rachel Gameroff 3. Grace Shtern HM Jake Lubarsky | Akiva Akiva Akiva Akiva | |
| Grade 4 | | |
| 1. Noa Mendell 2. Ella Rose Coderre 3. Sophia Favretto HM Gal Barnea | ECS The Study ECS St. George's | |

Grade 5

| 1. Sophie Birks | E C S |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 2. Charles Seitz | Selwyn House |
| 3. Zoe Courchesne | St. Léon |
| HM Jack Henin-Levine | Selwyn House |

Grade 6

| 1. Juliette Cadotte | Villa St. Marcelline |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Emma Boucher | St. George's |
| Noée Spiegel | St. George's |

HM Russell Reim Grade 7 1. Dylan Lee 1. Clara Levesque 2. Tess Harty 2. Stella Dufresne 3. Sonia Grach

Selwyn House Villa St. Marcelline Westmount High Villa St. Marcelline ECS HM Sofia Walewicz Westmount High

Selwyn House

Grade 8

| 1. Martina Vélez Pérez | Marie de France |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2. Kiera McCaffrey | Westmount High |
| 3. Taya Ismail | The Study |
| HM Olivia Favretto | ECS |
| | |

Grade 9

| l. Leo Rebellati-Mitn | ickWestmount High |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2. Justin Galley | Westmount High |
| 3. Sophia Gnehm | St. George's |

Grade 10

1. Chloe Malikotsis The Study 1. Kyra Hedley-Cain Westmount High 2. Jenny Valery-Archambault The Study 3. Victor Walewicz Westmount High

Grade 11

1. Greta Gutierrez Westmount High 2. Lindsay Mazliach The Study 3. Rashad Naqeeb Westmount High HM Leonardo Cunha Westmount High * HM = honourable mention



McEntyre writing competition winners pose for the cameras June 7 at Victoria Hall. The awards were presented in front of over 200 parents, volunteers and children, following a reception held at the Gallery at Victoria Hall. Library director Julie-Anne Cardella gave the welcome and introduced interim mayor Christina Smith. Chief judge Angela Murphy, who has been managing the judging for seven years, gave a short history. "The competition was started by former Westmount mayor Peter McEntyre in 1972, and that year there was one entry. In 2017, we had 1,712 entries and an increase of 50 percent this year in French entries." This year's theme was "Secret Places, Hidden Treasures." Winners received copies of all the winning stories and books selected by Westmount Public Library. After the awards were handed out, several children read passages from the submissions. Councillors Nicole Forbes and Rosalind Davis assisted with the proceedings, which were organized by Wendy Wayling, children's librarian.





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