

## City DG Deegan to retire August 11

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After a 30-year career with the city – the last three as its top administrator – director general Mike Deegan announced to employees July 7 that he will retire August 11. He is 54.

Deegan, who spent most of his years in Sports and Recreation, told the *Independent* the same day that his last council meeting would be August 7. He plans to move on into the private sector in September to work with ConsultExpo, bringing international and US trade shows and conventions to Montreal and Quebec City.

“We knew for a while we were on borrowed time with Mike,” explained Mayor Christina Smith. “I’m grateful he stayed on a couple months” after the resignation of Peter Trent as mayor in April.

“Like all good leaders,” she added, he had a succession in place, and I’m certain it will be a seamless transition.”

In Deegan’s own words, “I know the organization will carry on very well under the leadership of Benoit Hurtubise.” Hurtubise, Hydro Westmount’s director, was appointed assistant director general a year ago.

Deegan said he was “extremely fortunate” to have worked closely with Trent, Smith and all the employees, and “I want to thank all the Westmount residents who have made this the best place to work.”

Deegan made “a lasting change” in the way Westmount is run, Trent said. “His legacy will be a young, enthusiastic group of managers.”



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## Developer reaches out to opponents of 500 Claremont

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A contingent of neighbours opposing a proposed apartment development at 500 Claremont had a surprise on leaving the July 4 council meeting when they met up with the developer and had an opportunity to voice their concerns to him directly.

They contend the project is too high, too large and has a garage exit onto Claremont that is too dangerous.



Special display marks  
Canada Day

The threat of occasional showers was no deterrent for an exciting first in Westmount July 1: “The Loons.” A composite photo is seen here of the installation, taken at 9:25 pm in Westmount Park. See p. 14.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

This is our last issue before the summer break. We’re back in the office on a regular basis July 31 to prepare the August 8 issue.



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Unknown to many at the meeting, Gideon Pollack of Iconic Developments had sat at the rear of the council chamber in expectation of a vote on whether the project would proceed to the next phase of the permit process (a vote that did not happen).

“He invited us to meet with him,” said an elated Frank Philpott, who had presented the council with a petition signed by 130

continued on p. 8



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# City to remove 8 targetted mid-block stop signs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city will be removing eight mid-block stop signs and replacing some with other traffic calming measures, Councillor Cynthia Lulham announced at the council meeting July 4.

The signs have been known for some time to be “illegal” under Quebec ministry of Transport (MTQ) standards with the result that police, she said, have not been enforcing them.

Six of the eight locations are targeted for immediate removal. Four are below Sherbrooke on Kensington, Lansdowne, Roslyn and Grosvenor. The other two are on Lansdowne south of Côte St. Antoine

and on Grosvenor opposite Roslyn School.

Two of the signs on Greene are to be replaced with flashing pedestrian crossing lights with mandatory yield for pedestrians but these have been postponed until as late as next year due to reported delays.

According to Jonathan Auger, who chairs the city's Traffic Advisory Committee, “it is important to note that ministry norms do not allow for mid-block stop signs because this misuse leads to a desensitization on the part of motorists and actually leads to more unsafe driving.

“In cases where an additional traffic calming device is planned, we will not remove the stop sign until the traffic calming device is installed.”

July 15 is the “target date” to remove or replace the stop signs at targetted locations, he explained. This is because “the MTQ norms require that we provide a month notice installed below the stop sign on a yellow sign. He said this sign has been installed since June 15.

The alleged misuse of mid-block stop signs for traffic calming was highlighted in the 2013 Master Traffic Study commissioned by the city, which states that this measure has been used in Westmount even though standards and best practices “forbid its use as a traffic calming measure.”

Instead, the report recommended “traffic calming should be revised and converted into permanent measures as part of the streetscape.” Examples of these include raised pedestrian crossings and intersections, mid-block narrowing, chicanes and centre islands.

The mid-block stop on Grosvenor south of Sherbrooke, for example, is to be replaced by a change in street design during its current reconstruction, according to Mayor Christina Smith.

In the removal of the eight mid-block signs, two or three locations will see the addition of speed humps, Auger said. None will be required if two speed humps are already installed close by, such as on Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke, and a speeding study will take place if speeding is believed to be a problem.

At some locations, “we may continue to optimize for safety, such as installing

‘watch for children’ signs where deemed appropriate.”

Auger said four other mid-block stop signs on Lansdowne Ridge, Upper Belmont and Summit Circle “could be modified in 2018 or kept the same because of the particular built environment.” Each location, he said, would be studied with a particular focus on those that do not have a replacement countermeasure.



Photo: Staff

The Lansdowne block between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve had these signs July 5.

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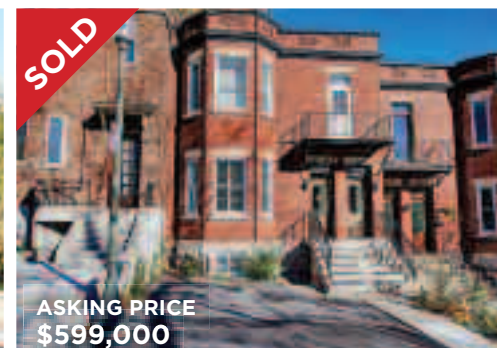
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# Talarico named to head Public Works operations

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount has a new Public Works director. He's Robert Talarico, who takes over day-to-day operations of the city's largest department. These include snow removal, parks and sustainability, horticulture and arboriculture, street and building maintenance and the water and sewer network. The engineering arm was recently split off to form its own department under director Elisa Gaetano.

Talarico was appointed July 4 as "interim" director for six months, a policy the city has for a "probationary period," explained Public Works commissioner Patrick Martin. The position has been vacant since the departure of Patrick Raggo in January but has been handled by Talarico, overseen by Benoit Hurtubise the city's assistant director general for engineering and infrastructure and director of Hydro Westmount.

Talarico will now report directly to the director general. He was accompanied by family members including two who work for Westmount: Public Safety Officer Matthew Talarico, his son, and daughter Julia, who is



Robert Talarico, left, is congratulated by city director general Mike Deegan on his appointment July 4.

employed at the Westmount recreation centre. While an executive search firm had been hired to find candidates, the city chose to promote from within its own department.

Councillors Martin and Cynthia Lulham said they were very pleased with the decision. Talarico has worked for the city for six years and was the Public Works fleet superintendent.



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# Anwoth reconstruction awarded for \$1.09M

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The reconstruction of steep crescent-shaped Anwoth Rd., west of Clarke, is expected to start as soon as possible this month, according to Public Works commissioner Patrick Martin.

The contract for the project was awarded by city council July 4 to Canbec Construction at a total cost of \$1.09 million. It was the lowest of five conforming bids, the highest being \$1.33 million.

Interestingly, Martin said, the city had originally gone to tender on the same specs but received no quotes at the deadline, which fell during the week-long strike of Quebec construction workers.

The Anwoth project includes replacement of the water main, street lighting, sidewalks, concrete road base and asphalt paving, according to Elisa Gaetano, director of Engineering.

It follows similar work now under way on Grosvenor (de Maisonneuve to Sherbrooke), Westmount Ave. (Victoria to Claremont) and Argyle (Sherbrooke to Thornhill) with the reconstruction of Belmont Ave. (Westmount Ave. to Belmont Cresc.) to come toward the end of summer.

# Council approves \$8K for The Open Door

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council July 4 approved a grant of \$8,000 to help defray costs expected by The Open Door mission in its eventual move from St. Stephen's Church to wherever it finds new facilities.

"These funds will go to the transition to help them move," District 8 Councillor Theodora Samiotis explained.

The day shelter has been notified of the need to move, following the sale of the church (see story July 4, p. 7). The amount represents a two-year grant since one had not been provided for the previous year when The Open Door's future was uncertain, according to Mayor Christina Smith. "Now we know they're moving, probably to Little Burgundy, we think."

This brings the total amount of the city's supporting grants recommended for 2017 to \$129,000.

These are made to community organizations in Westmount that offer services not provided by the city.



The semi-circular portion of Anwoth Rd., showing the hill descending down from its northern outlet on Clarke, as seen July 7.



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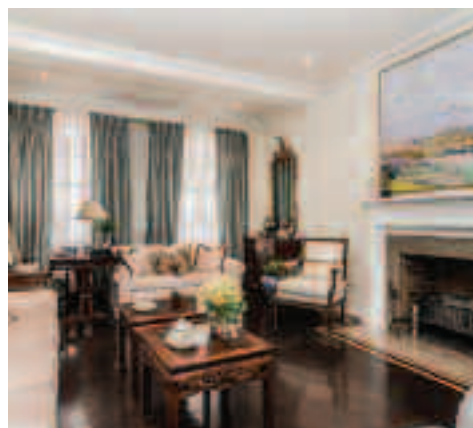
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## NO REAL REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE KILLING OF A DOG

On the evening of May 31, my wirehair fox terrier was set upon and killed by an unrestrained pitbull\*.

Well-known in Westmount by his call name Dean-O!, he was returning home from his evening walk when the pitbull crashed through the bushes at the Hillside entry of the Westmount Athletic Grounds, grabbed Dean-O! by the back of his neck, shaking the little dog as he ran off with him. My dog walker, entangled in the leash, was dragged across the gravel and sustained injuries to her knees as her jeans were shredded and her shoes lost. Although she could see that Dean-O! was lifeless and his head hanging to the side, she attempted to rescue him from the jaws of the pitbull. In doing so, she suffered several bites that required medical attention at the super-hospital.

A witness called police then placed Dean-O! in her car until Westmount Public Security arrived. I have nothing but gratitude for the compassion of this woman, who took a bloodied little dog into her car, or gratitude and thanks to the Westmount Public Security officers who so quickly arrived to rush him to the nearest emergency vet clinic (Laval). Dean-O! was

stabilized in their ICU, but unable to stand due to the damage to his spine. Given his age – 16 and a half (elderly but not uncommon to this breed of dog, which can live 18 years plus), I had no choice but to end his suffering. His death was my worst nightmare come true.

There are, to my knowledge, three pitbulls in the immediate area. All male. All intact. I have not been the only dog owner in the neighbourhood to give them a wide berth.

In Montreal, pitbulls now represent a significant percentage of the canine population. They are a fighting breed, genetically programmed to attack and kill. That is their “job,” and they are extremely good at it.

Dean-O! was a well-socialized dog, extraordinarily gentle with small children and a favourite with the wheelchair brigade from St. Margaret’s Residential Centre. He was always kept on a tight leash and trained to sit at a wheelchair and wait to be petted.

I cannot get my dear little dog back, but I am speaking out on behalf of all the precious pets of Westmount. As current Westmount by-laws stand, there is no restriction on pitbulls by way of muzzles, high licensing fees and criminal background checks of their owners.

The owner of the dog that killed my Dean-O! will receive a \$125 ticket from Westmount and, as she refuses to pay the veterinary bill, I am forced to pursue my own civil litigation for compensation.

It is time for our city to take measures to protect all Westmount residents, both human and canine. We have the privilege of living in an area of leafy streets and well-maintained parks. Westmount dogs, children and the elderly should not walk these beautiful streets in fear of unprovoked attacks by renegade dogs.

CHRISTINE DOWNS, HILLSIDE AVE.

*\* Editor’s note: Recently, the term “pitbull” has been challenged. The lede of a Canadian Kennel Club October 6 press release on “breed-specific language” reads “As the primary registry for purebred dogs in Canada, the Canadian Kennel Club maintains records for 175 breeds and ‘pit bull’ is not one of them. – KM*

**CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY UNITING AND MOVING**

The highlight of Westmount’s Canada Day festivities, for me, was the very moving Canadian citizenship ceremony, which took place at the Westmount recreational centre on Saturday morning [July 1].

The room was packed with the new citizens, their guests, dignitaries and Westmounters, many in red and white.

Forty people from 19 countries became Canadians. We applauded and cheered, some of us with tears in our eyes and joined in the singing of our national anthem with great enthusiasm at the closing of the ceremony.

The work involved in planning this event and the attention to detail must have been enormous. Many thanks and congratulations to Councillor Rosalind Davis and her team for a job well done. Here is hoping that this is the start of a new tradition.

FRANCIE MONTGOMERY,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

**WAJSMAN IS ‘OUT OF TOUCH’**

Although Beryl Wajzman recently announced his candidacy for mayor, his platform appears to be out of touch with the present needs and concerns of Westmount residents.

His two top items are “constitutional freedoms” (Facebook post, June 19) and the future of our provincial riding (*Independent* story, July 4, p. 1). If he had bothered to attend some council meetings over the last few years he would have learned that no resident has ever raised these is-

sues.

With respect to another of his priorities, bilingual traffic signs (Facebook post, June 19), this has indeed been brought up periodically but not by Westmount residents, who are instead focused on improving their quality of life in the city. Our agendas contain bread-and-butter issues, not constitutional ones. Residents want a faster renewal of infrastructure, up-to-date renovation and building guidelines, a more responsive and efficient city administration, a transparent implementation of the SCAOPI (zoning) process, rapid action on the sound barrier and a careful, reasoned and open approach to developments like the southeast urban renewal project that have a major impact on our residents.

Mayor Christina Smith understands this. Her expressed priorities, honed during four solid years as city councillor, are wide ranging, thorough and clearly represent the interests of our residents. Constitutional debates, while important, should remain in newspaper editorial pages for the time being.

Westmount residents are looking forward to the many opportunities to make our city an even better place to live in.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

**OPEN LETTER FROM GALLERY TO FORMER MAYOR TRENT**

First of all, I regret I was unable to attend the city’s reception for you at Victoria Hall [June 20].

If I had been there, I would have stated what a great mayor you were.

You did so many good things for the citizens of Westmount, for which – I am certain – they were most grateful. Undoubtedly, one group of citizens that you handled better than me was dog owners and dog-run issues.

You had many more issues than me, all of which you handled with enthusiasm, patience and understanding.

You were certainly the best mayor that the city ever had. You did it well! You should be proud!

Congratulations for a job well done.

BRIAN GALLERY, FORMER MAYOR OF WESTMOUNT

## Correction

Regarding “Wajzman declares his candidacy for mayor” (July 4, p. 1), Beryl Wajzman lives in Westmount and has lived here a total of 15 years, but in two stints beginning in 1979.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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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](mailto: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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# July 1 was special this year

## Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

white lights. We are thrilled that you will see the “loons” at other events throughout the city. The kids loved the sparkly Canadian-inspired tattoos, and I would say the iconic Molson beer fridge was a definite hit with the adults.

As summer is now really under way, you will also see the impact of our \$17-million investment in Westmount's roads, sidewalks and sewers. This infrastructure investment is more than we have ever spent. While it can be difficult to live amongst the construction, and at times you may have orange-cone fatigue, it is a priority for me and this council that we invest in our infrastructure. You will see our team of engineers on site, making sure that these projects are of the highest quality, delivered on time and on budget.

As the *Independent* signs off for a couple of weeks, I want to wish everyone a happy summer. I will still be hard at work with your council to ensure that all of our projects are moving forward; you will see new traffic lights, roads, sidewalks and improvements in your parks. Hopefully we will finally get summer weather so you can enjoy all Westmount has to offer in the summer like our parks, tennis courts and pool. Happy summer to all.

*Christina Smith is the mayor of Westmount.*

## Comin' Up

THURSDAY, JULY 13

Contactivity Centre's Summer Institute presents “Palliative Care vs. Medical Assistance in Dying – What's the Difference? What's the Law? What are the Ethics?” with panelists and moderator Joyce Blond Frank, 1 to 3 pm at 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Open to all. Register: 514.932.2326.

## Summit Circle path to be inaugurated July 20

An official inauguration of the new Summit Circle walking path and “naturalization” of the closed section of the road will take place Thursday, July 20 between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week. The event takes place at the new viewpoint created at the east end of the new path. The work is a major component of the three-year project to refurbish Summit Woods (see story June 27, p. 7). The event had initially been proposed for this week.

## Moscowitz wins award for audiobook production

Former Westmounter Orli Moscovitz is part of a team that recently won an American Library Association 2017 Odyssey Award for Excellence in Audiobook Production for their *Anna and the Swallow Man* audiobook issued by Penguin Random House.

In her acceptance speech, Moscovitz said, “I dedicate this award to my parents,” Honey and Gary Moscovitz, “two of my biggest fans.” The Moscovitzs are residents of Lansdowne Ave.

Written by Gavriel Savit and narrated by Allan Corduner, *Anna and the Swallow Man* is a child's coming-of-age story told in a war-torn landscape.

It is set during the Nazi invasion of Poland, where Anna finds herself alone and following a tall, mysterious stranger with whom she embarks on a journey of survival and self-discovery.

Now living in New York, Orli Moscovitz attended grade school at the Akiva School and went on to graduate from Marianopolis College.

– Martin C. Barry

Westmount Living at its finest

# Claremont project in review/revision process

.....  
*cont'd. from p. 1*

Westmount residents and another 18 from Grey Ave. in NDG adjacent to the site.

“I want to be a good neighbour and communicate with them,” Pollack, a resident of Kensington, told the *Independent* the next day.

As a result, he said, he would hold a public meeting on the project Thursday, July 20 at 7 pm at the site – the vacant 500 Claremont building. While it lacks air conditioning, he warned, “We will do our best” to make it comfortable.

“When I listened to people’s frustrations” expressed at the council meeting, he said, “it was clear to me that they had no idea what was happening.” One questioner told the council meeting she was concerned about dynamiting, but none would be required, he pointed out.

“I was also very surprised that 130 had signed a petition but I haven’t had a call from a single one of them.” On the other hand, he said, he had had calls from people already wanting to rent an apartment in the building.

### Many iterations

The project had been presented in De-

cember to the public, the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and city council members.

Since then, however, it had gone through different “iterations” in the design review, explained Councillor Theodora Samiotis, commissioner of Urban Planning.

Now in the final stages of the PAC review, according to Mayor Christina Smith, the design “has not come back to council yet [for its review].” A vote might be expected to take place at the August meeting, followed by the city’s second public meeting, she said. This would likely take place after the summer holidays, she added.

Because the multi-family project does not conform to the current site zoning, it is being considered under the PPC-MOI/SCAOPI by-law. This sets out criteria leading to a referendum register.

This is the first time such a project has made it so far along in the relatively new by-law process, Samiotis pointed out. The first one – redevelopment of the site at 4898 de Maisonneuve at Prince Albert – was rejected by the PAC and council soon after the first public meeting.

Among residents who spoke at the meeting, Cristina Circelli of Chesterfield asked:

“In this process, who represents the citizens? Who is there to hear our voices as the plan moves forward?” She said she felt citizens were not well represented in a process “that is not very transparent.”

The proposal calls for converting a four-storey Category II 1908 institutional building facing on Windsor into 16 or 17 apartments. It would include a new extension to the south along Claremont (see story December 6, p. 1). It is to have a “small” recessed 10-foot-high common room added to the roof, Pollack said.

Luc Bigaouette, a Grey resident whose house backs onto the site, said before the start of the meeting that he and some of

his neighbours would likely be much more affected by the height and size than many of those in Westmount who signed the petition.



Looking over the petition before the July 4 council meeting are, from left: Judith Le Gallais of Claremont, Frank Phillpott of Claremont and Cristine Circelli of Chesterfield.

## Contactivity Centre’s Summer Institute

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**Dr. M. Borad**, Director, Supportive and Palliative Care Programs, MUHC

**Dr. Catherine Ferrier**, Geriatric specialist, MUHC, President, Physicians’ Alliance Against Euthanasia

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**Joyce Blond Frank**, LLM, retired lawyer specializing in seniors issues

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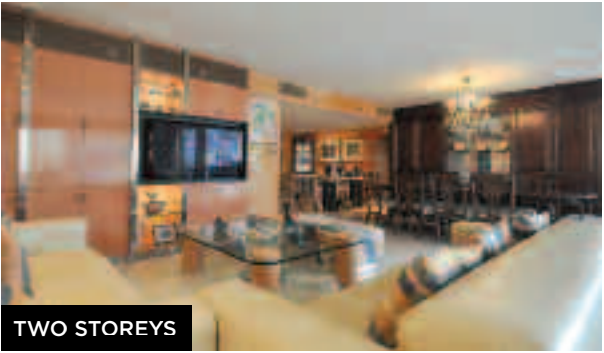
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### BIBLIOTHÈQUE

#### Club de lecture d'été TD 2017

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**Art et récits d'un océan à l'autre : vers le nord**  
**Le mercredi 19 juillet, 16 h**, Bibliothèque. (3-6 ans)  
Inscription requise. Info : 514 989-5229.

**Le Grand Théâtre Canadien de Marionnettes**  
**Le jeudi 20 juillet, 16 h**, Bibliothèque. 6 ans et plus.  
Un atelier de marionnettes avec l'auteur et directeur de théâtre jeunesse Jesse Stong (École Nationale de Théâtre du Canada). Info : 514 989-5229.

**Art et récits d'un océan à l'autre : chez nous, le Québec**  
**Le mercredi 26 juillet, 16 h**, Bibliothèque. (3-6 ans)  
Inscription requise. Info : 514 989-5229.

**Journée cinéma: Over the Hedge**  
**Le jeudi 27 juillet, 16 h**, Bibliothèque. (4 ans et plus).  
Inscription requise. Info : 514 989-5229.

**Film sous les étoiles**  
**Le vendredi 25 août, 20 h à 22 h**, parc Westmount.  
Film familial, titre à déterminer. Gratuit.



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### ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

**Galerie du Victoria Hall**  
**Du 6 juillet au 11 août**. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les artistes **Lucie Bernard**,

### Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 7 août

**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.



**Les concerts d'été au parc Westmount**  
**Les dimanches du 9 juillet au 13 août, 14 h**, parc Westmount, près de l'étang. Concerts gratuits de musique jazz, classique et populaire. Apportez votre chaise.

**Le 9 juillet** – Durham County Poets (Soulfolk)  
**Le 16 juillet** – Corey & Sheila (Jazz)  
**Le 23 juillet** – Chorus Trio (Soul / R&B)  
**Le 30 juillet** – Handmade Journey (Jazz / Latino)  
**Le 6 août** – Bluzz Jazz Band (Jazz)  
**Le 13 août** – QuaVaria (Ensemble vocale)  
Info : 514 989-5226.

**Tournée Shakespeare-in-the-park**  
**Le samedi et dimanche 22 et 23 juillet et le mardi et mercredi 8 et 9 août, 19 h**, parc Westmount. La tournée Shakespeare-in-the-Park 2017 présentera la tragi-comédie romantique de Shakespeare *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beaucoup de bruit pour rien). Représentation en anglais seulement.  
Info : 514 989-5226.

### SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

**Rappels pour la saison estivale**  
**Souffleuses à feuilles** : interdiction entre le 2 mai et le 30 septembre.

**Couvre-feu dans les parcs municipaux** : l'accès aux parcs est interdit entre minuit et 5 h.

**Belvédère du Summit** : il est interdit de consommer de l'alcool en tout temps et de stationner son véhicule entre 21 h et 6 h au Belvédère.

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**Ongoing**, Library. Ask for your Summer Reading Club Kit at the Children's Desk. This year's theme is Canada!

**Travel Canada on a Postcard!**  
**Friday, July 14 and Tuesday, July 25, 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: Way Up North**  
**Wednesday, July 19, 4 p.m.**, Library. For 3-6 yrs. Registration required. Info: 514 989-5229.

**The Great Canadian Puppet Show**  
**Thursday, July 20, 4 p.m.**, Library. 6 years +.  
A puppet workshop with youth theatre writer/director Jesse Stong (National Theatre School of Canada). Info: 514 989-5229.

**Art and Stories from Coast to Coast to Coast: Home Sweet Home: Quebec!**  
**Wednesday, July 26, 4 p.m.**, Library. (3-6 years). Registration required. Info: 514 989-5229.

**Movie Day: Over the Hedge**  
**Thursday, July 27, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**, Library. 4 years and over. Registration required. Info: 514 989-5229.

**Movie Under the Stars**  
**Friday, August 25, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.**, Westmount Park. Family film; title to be announced.



**Seed Lending Library**  
**Ongoing**. Library. Free seeds for members from more than 50 varieties of plants – including herbs, flowers, vegetables, fruits, beans, and heirloom varieties. Info: 514 989-5299.

### Next Council Meeting Monday, August 7

### COMMUNITY EVENTS



**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.

**Summer Concerts in Westmount Park**  
**Sundays, from July 9 to August 13, 2 p.m.**, Westmount Park, near the lagoon. Enjoy free jazz, classical and popular music concerts. Bring a chair.  
**July 9** – Durham County Poets (Soulfolk)  
**July 16** – Corey & Sheila (Jazz)  
**July 23** – Chorus Trio (Soul / R&B)  
**July 30** – Handmade Journey (Jazz / Latino)  
**August 6** – Bluzz Jazz Band (Jazz)  
**August 13** – QuaVaria (Vocal Ensemble)  
Info: 514 989-5226.

**Shakespeare in the Park**  
**Saturday and Sunday, July 22 & 23, and Tuesday and Wednesday, August 8 & 9, 7 p.m.**, Westmount Park. Repercussion Theatre presents Shakespeare's tragic romantic comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Info: 514 989-5226.

### PUBLIC SECURITY

**Summer reminders**  
**Leaf blowers**: a ban is in effect between May 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Curfew in all municipal parks**: park access is forbidden between midnight and 5 a.m.

**Summit Lookout**: Alcohol consumption is not permitted at any time, and it is forbidden to park at the lookout between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

### HYDRO WESTMOUNT

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From the police

# Fraudster steals from bank account, man attacked on summit

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.*

A retired Westmount woman was contacted by phone on June 28 by an individual claiming to be with the TD Bank. He told her that she needed to carry out certain tasks relating to her online bank accounts.

After doing so, she found out the caller was actually a fraudster and that he had succeeded in stealing from her.

“He told her that she needed to go onto her computer to confirm certain information,” said Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière.

The woman got in touch with her son in Ontario, who helps manage her finances, to tell him about the experience.

After examining her online accounts, they both realized that a significant amount had been withdrawn without her authorization, Laperrière added.

“The bank was made aware of the situation, and an investigation is under way,” he said. Laperrière could not explain how the fraudster knew the woman had a TD Bank account.

## Attacked ‘admiring scenery’

During the early evening of June 10 around Devon Ave. on Westmount’s summit, a fight broke out between three males in their 20s, one of whom told police afterwards that they were out for a walk to admire the scenery when he was attacked by the others.

“Suddenly there was an unprovoked physical altercation between them,” said Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel. “They were two people he knew. I can’t say friends but people he knows.”

According to Pimentel, one of the suspects held the victim by the arms while the other struck him in the stomach.

The victim fell to the ground, and the two assailants proceeded to search his pockets and steal a wallet containing money, credit cards and ID. As the two suspects were leaving the scene, the victim followed but was threatened with a knife, so the suspects managed to get away.

However, added Pimentel, the victim was able to identify them and provided their full names since they were acquaintances. He noted that neither the victim nor the suspects were Westmount residents.

## ‘Hidden’ outdoor key used to gain entry

In the early morning hours of June 11, a home on Lansdowne Ave. near the corner of Sherbrooke St. was entered by an intruder who found a spare door key that had been placed by the owner in an outside hiding place next to the door.

Although investigators found afterwards that nothing was disturbed inside, they determined that the intruder used a car key he had found inside the home to enter a vehicle parked in the driveway. It was found to have been searched, although

nothing in it was stolen. The car key was found on the floor of the vehicle.

Leaving a spare key in an outdoor hiding place is a mistake, says community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, adding that a potential thief spotting someone retrieving an entrance key could seize the opportunity to get into a house.

## Pedestrian struck, suspect apprehended for possession of possible marijuana

On June 15 around 1:45 pm, a 53-year-old female pedestrian crossing the street at the corner of Clandeboye Ave. and Dorchester Blvd. was struck by a car and had to be transported to hospital with injuries to the left arm.

“The vehicle was backing up into a parking spot,” said officer Laperrière. “But the pedestrian had decided to cross the street at that spot and didn’t see the car backing up.”

The same day at around 1:30 pm, a 25-year-old male was seen breaking into a car parked in a driveway on Clandeboye Ave.

When the police responded to the scene, they apprehended the suspect, who was not a Westmounter, but found nothing had been stolen from inside the vehicle.

Upon searching him, however, he was found to be in possession of a substance

believed to be marijuana.

Although the police arrested him for marijuana possession, the car’s owner didn’t press any other charges as nothing was stolen from the vehicle.

After arraignment, the suspect was released and served with a citation for the alleged marijuana offence, with a court appearance set for August 15.

## Man taken to hospital

A young man was taken to hospital June 28 after experiencing convulsions on the street at Wood and St. Catherine, Public Security officials said. He had come to the attention of a patroller at 8:03 am when he was lying on the ground assisted by an RCMP officer and someone described as a witness. Urgences Santé took him to hospital. He was described as a Montreal resident.

## LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

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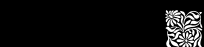
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## JULY BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the July 4 meeting of the city council.

**631 Roslyn:** at a Category I house, to modify the terrace in wood and the ground-level patio in the back yard;

**331 Lansdowne:** at a Category I house, to repair the front stairs, resurface the walkway and driveway, and replace an attic window;

**463 Mount Pleasant:** at a Category I house, to modify the back balconies on the first and second storeys;

**460 Elm:** at a Category I house, to replace front door;

**4351 Montrose:** at a Category I house, to build a new back fence and repair the front steps and rear shed;

**59 Chesterfield:** at a Category I house, to replace the windows and front door;

**376 Victoria:** to install a sign for "Victoria Park";

**4 Somerville:** to replace the canopy covering and add signage for "Latin Bistro La Ceiba";

**95 Columbia:** to extend the rear upper floor balcony;

**642 Grosvenor:** to modify the ground-floor balcony at the rear, including demolishing the mudroom, and landscaping to include building a patio at grade provided the privacy fence on the property line is no more than 85 percent opaque;

**737 Upper Belmont:** to replace the front ground-floor windows provided the leading is installed on the outside or inside face of the glass and provided a typical section of the proposed window and its positioning within the existing opening is submitted;

**693 Grosvenor:** exterior modifications to include creating new window and door openings at the attic level and building a balcony on top of the sunroom at the rear as well as landscaping at the rear provided the windows in the front and side gables be further lowered so that the distance between the sills and floor level is the same as that of the second floor;

**34 Thornhill:** to make modifications to the rear yard, including building retaining walls and enlarging the patio;

**463 Clarke:** to replace the windows provided the original window divisions are maintained;

**433 Argyle:** landscaping in the front yard;

**84 Arlington:** exterior modifications to include those involving the rear solarium, annex, windows and doors;

**4895 de Maisonneuve:** to create a secondary entrance on the Prince Albert façade to include adding a new door opening, new stairs and porch;

**44 Sunnyside:** rear landscaping to include reconstruction of the patio area.

## Westmounter buys Atwater Club from Westmounter

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

There's been a change of ownership at the Atwater Club.

Founded in 1926 as the Montreal Badminton and Squash Club, the sports and fitness facility on the east side of Atwater Ave. was sold in April by Westmounter Leonard Schlemm.

The new owners are Stephen Shiller, also of Westmount, and Wayne Honsberger of NDG, Honsberger confirmed.

"What we're doing right now is renovating the gym area, and we're putting in \$400,000 of new gym equipment," he said.

"It's going to be one of the most beautiful gyms in the city," added Honsberger, who owns the Sherbrooke Athletic Club downtown near the corner of Peel St. "Under the new ownership, we're ready to make the Atwater Club great again."

Honsberger said the Atwater Club's management plans to hold a major reopening event later this month. "There is a lot of history here over the past 91 years. We have many Westmounters who are members."

Under the new management, according to Honsberger, the Atwater Club's future is assured, and past plans to sell the facility for condo development are not part of the new owners' strategy.

"It was important that we stepped in to save the club," he said.

## Tony's holds barbecue for Queen E for 5th year

For the fifth year in a row, Tony Fagnoli of Tony's Shoes hosted a mid-day barbecue outside his shop on Greene Ave. on June 23 and 24.

With his wife Kathryn and son Robbie, he served "Tony's Trio," a grilled hotdog, a

soft drink or water and a cookie. He explained that they do it for the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex Foundation.

"It is a community event. Many local people use the clinic, so they support our annual fun days. The complex is non-profit

and non-government funded, so that's why we do this. Thanks to lots of visitors, actually from all over the city, we raised \$3,200."

— V.R.

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# Orchestras join musical forces at noteworthy event

## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

What a great idea! As the Orchestre Appassionata and Orchestre de la francophonie (OF) are headed by the same conductor – **Jean-Philippe Tremblay** – and

their careers. In celebration, an internationally styled cocktail was held on May 31 in the private rooms of RBC with its breathtaking views from the 41st floor of Place Ville Marie.

The event's president of honour, former Canadian politician **Liza Frulla**, director general of the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec (ITHQ), could not attend, but was represented by **Francine Bertrand**, chef du cabinet, ITHQ.

The evening was hosted by co-presidents



Francine Léger and Louis Villeneuve.

and Austria. Attending for those countries were the consul general of Italy **Riccardo Rusconi**; assistant consul general of France **Marion Dehais**; and honorary consul general for Austria, local res **Marc Bis-sell**.

Westmounters noted enjoying the eve included artist **Jean-Michel Laberge**, city councillor **Nicole Forbes**, **Françoise** and **Paul Simard**, **Mireille** and **John Keyserlink** and **Francyne Rosenthal**, as well as former res **George Remus**.

Academy Award winner **Denys Arcand**, attending with his wife **Denise Robert**, was noted amidst the chic crowd, as well as **Ian Turner**, president Sitec Quartz and **Maria Turner**, Spa St. James au Ritz; **Liliane Colpron**, Première Moisson; **Cyrille Girard**, Four Seasons Project, Sothebys; **Dr. Bernard Lapointe**, chief palliative care, Jewish General Hospital; **Roc Desilets**, **Patricia Seguin**, partner Fasken Martineau; **Nunzio Spino**, Spino Construction; **Marie-**

**Claude Matton**, Canadian Music Competition; **Lise** and **Daniel Tremblay**; **Annie** and **Paul Lachance**; and **Caroline Gervais** and **Pierre Gagnon**.

Funds raised support the OF *stagiaire* training and the Appassionata season.



Simon Durivage



From left: Alexis Pitkevicht, Roc Desilets and Bernard Lapointe.

director general – **Alexis Pitkevicht** – the organizations decided to unite.

Appassionata, the orchestra loved by chamber music aficionados, often hires musicians from the OF, which offers musical coaching and auditions throughout the world, helping talented players with

Westmounter **Louis Villeneuve**, wealth fund manager at RBC; and **Simon Durivage**, news anchor/journalist. They welcomed guests along with the president of Appassionata **Francine Léger**, attending with her husband **Vasco Ceccon**.

The sold-out "Soirée Escapade" offered small concerts interspersed with gastronomic delights from the three countries represented in the repertoire: Italy, France



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# Firsts for Westmount’s Canada Day celebrations



*Ndayishungije Déo is from Burundi and was welcomed as a new Canadian citizen, July 1 at the Westmount recreation centre.*

BY RALPH THOMPSON

A citizenship ceremony for 40 new Canadian citizens took place July 1 at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC). The formal proceedings were moved from the

outside into the exercise room inside the WRC because of the threat of rain.

With one person unable to attend, 39 citizens collected their certificates. A very happy Westmounter, Serif Emil, said “I moved to the USA from Egypt in 1997 and

am now joining my wife Malie Demian and children Gabrielle and Elyana as a Canadian.”

Some VIP attendees included Jacques Chagnon, provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis; citizenship judge Veronica Johnson; Mayor Christina Smith; master of ceremonies Mike Tzortzatos; councillors Rosalind Davis, Patrick Martin and Nicole Forbes; Vito Vassallo, director of operations – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; Colin Robinson, RMR honorary lieutenant-colonel and a former commanding officer of the regiment; corporals Scott Lachance and David Ruscito, also of the RMR; and Margaret Guest, the constituency assistant for MP Marc Garneau.

### ***And the giant ‘balloons’ floating in Westmount Park?***

On display at the city of Westmount’s Canada Day event were “The Loons,” a creation of CS Design including Westmounter Conor Sampson and his colleagues Anne-Marie Paquette and Paul Poirier. It was composed of 15 giant, pulsating balloons, representing each decade



*Friends, family and dignitaries clap and cheer to welcome the 39 new Canadians at a citizenship ceremony July 1.*

since Confederation. They were installed and floated over the playing field in front of Westmount Park School, where the city of Westmount held its Canada Day events. Around 9:30 pm, a small crowd mingled between the two rows of tethered balloons, whose colours changed from red to white – a visual representation of the colours of the Canadian flag. The balloons only light up as people moved around under them, so in order to achieve the p. 1 photograph showing them all illuminated, several frames in the camera were merged to create one image. *See photo, p. 1.*

## ***Carrier reads from his The Hockey Sweater, kids head to Vic Hall for movies to start off Canada Day weekend***



*Left: Canadian author and Westmount resident Roch Carrier reads from his children’s book The Hockey Sweater during Westmount Public Library’s second annual “Storywalk,” a children’s library event held on June 30. It took place along a pathway just outside the library in Westmount Park. Sheldon Cohen, far left, who created the illustrations for the 1979 bestseller, was also there. As Carrier read from a copy of the book, participants could follow the text and pictures on storyboards set up along the edge of the path. Right: After, it was time to head over to Victoria Hall, where a movie event (originally scheduled as “PJs in the Park”) was held indoors because of the threat of rain. A screening of the full-length feature The Lego Batman Movie was preceded by a showing of The Sweater, a 1980 NFB short-film adaptation of Carrier’s book that Cohen animated.*



Photos: Martin C. Barry





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