

Raised plots possible elsewhere

Renewal plans announced for community gardens

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An information meeting on renewal of the city's community gardens at the Westmount Athletic Grounds is expected to take place in mid-September, according to Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Sustainability and Parks.

The renewal project is to include new fencing, removal of tree roots and an unhealthy tree, the installation of a new irrigation system and the replacement of rot-

ting wood bordering the individual plots, she told the council meeting August 7.

The condition of the gardens – a total of 87 along Hillside Lane and Hallowell – was raised during question period by Melville resident Mavis Young.

Young asked if raised plots could be provided such as those in front of Westmount Park Church. These higher grow boxes are of particular benefit to gardeners who may experience challenges bending over.

Lulham replied that raised garden boxes would not be added to the community gardens because they require more space and would re-

continued on p. 5

November 5 municipal election

Drury steps aside in District 3

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After eight years representing District 3 on city council, Finance commissioner Victor Drury told the *Independent* last week he had decided not to run for a third term. He is also the commissioner in charge of Hydro Westmount.

"I feel I've done my fair share for Westmount, and it's time to pass on the torch to the next generation," he said. "We leave the city in very good shape, with a net surplus and taxes to be frozen for the third year. It's now time for changes in political leadership."

Broken gas main closes Sherbrooke



Rush-hour traffic was thrown into chaos August 14 around 5:30 pm after a road construction crew working on Grosvenor between Sherbrook and de Maisonneuve broke a gas main. Sherbrooke was closed completely for a couple of hours during the rush hour. A fire engine was connected to a hydrant on the north side of Sherbrooke at Grosvenor. See story, p. 7.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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Traffic committee addresses concerns

Citizens call for speed control on Lansdowne, Edgehill

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke is “back to being a race track,” resident Richard Lock told the city council meeting August 7.

While two speed humps remain in the block south to de Maisonneuve, recent removal of the mid-block stop sign between them is causing the problem, he stated.

His concern was taken up by the city’s Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) August 15 which decided to carry out radar monitoring in the block to determine the rate of speed, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said following the TAC meeting.

The committee also discussed a concern raised to council by Michael Schwartz stating that Edgehill “is a speedway” for cars heading north-east up from The Boulevard at Roslyn.

Schwartz, a resident of The Boulevard whose property borders along Edgehill, reminded the council he had been asking for a stop sign on Edgehill at Upper Lansdowne for seven years. Instead, he lamented, the city “put up a bollard on a skinny little stick” that could be moved

around (see story, photo November 1, 2016, p. 3).

He asked the city to give his requested stop sign a try, adding to general laughter from the audience that the city now had a supply of signs on hand since the removal of some from mid-block locations (see story July 11, p. 3).

Bigger bollard planned

Lulham told the *Independent* after last week’s TAC meeting it had been decided to install a larger, fixed bollard on Edgehill at the Upper Lansdowne location.

She said the intersection of Upper Lansdowne and Edgehill did not meet the criteria for a legal stop sign under “Tome V” of the Quebec Highway Safety Code. The purpose of a stop sign, she added, is to control traffic volume, not speed.

Speed can be controlled using humps, bollards, line painting and other means, she explained.

In the case of Edgehill, the street is considered too steep for speed humps, added Councillor Patrick Martin who represents District 1 and also sits on the TAC.



Michael Schwartz of the Boulevard addresses council August 7.



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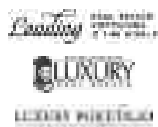
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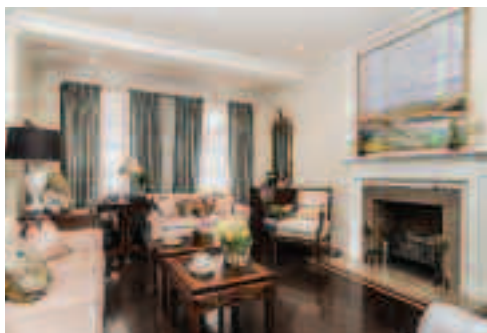


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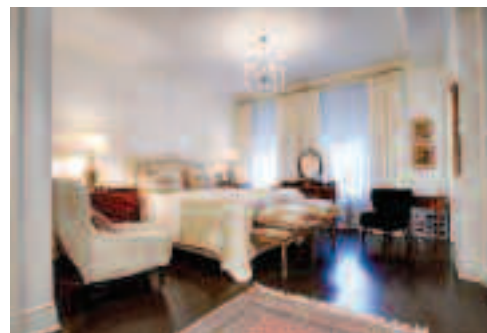


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REALLY A NEED FOR ANOTHER SPORTS COMPLEX?

I have just read the article about a sports complex planned for the Hillside armoury. (See story August 15, p. 1.) Why do we want or need this? We have the recreation centre with two rinks. We have the pool; granted, I am one who will vote any time for an indoor pool as well. We have exercise rooms there. We have Victoria Hall, where many exercise/recreational/cultural programs take place. And I read [that there is] “some sort of membership component mostly serving Westmount” in the article.

To me, this last statement tends to indicate a dichotomy between the “haves” and the “have-nots,” which is something that I can’t imagine being part of my city.

I exercise at the rec. centre. I use the outdoor pool. I do not see the need for yet another rink. I don’t see the need for a “membership-based” centre. And I certainly don’t want to see my taxes* increased for a facility that I will never use.

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

* Editor’s note: To date, we have reported on this project being a private venture by a developer. (See “Sports complex planned for vacant Hillside Armoury,” August 15, p. 1.) As a separate endeavour, the city is gauging residents’ interests in an indoor public pool.

(See “More than 1,100 pool-user surveys received,” August 8, p. 1.) – KM.

THE LIGHT IS GREEN

Rick Leckner claims that the city of Westmount has “a policy of purposely desynchronizing traffic lights.” (See letter, “See the lights’: Synchronize them,” August 15, p. 4.) If this were true, this council would have long ago reversed such a policy. In common with most Westmounters, council wants synchronization as much as he – and we are making it happen.

Westmount is in the process of installing new controllers on all the traffic lights on St. Catherine between Lansdowne and Clarke. These will allow us to synchronize the lights for traffic to travel at 40 km/h on green lights – the same system as Rockland Ave. This project is well under way and should be completed by the end of September.

As for Sherbrooke, the STM will be changing the controllers to add the “candlestick” symbol for bus priority. This will allow us to synchronize these lights as well. This project is managed by the STM, which is awarding the contract for the replacement of the controllers and installation of the “candlesticks” in September.

All should be done by the end of the year.

The traffic traversing Westmount is indeed a challenge given the enormous increase in volume over the last few years from the Turcot detours and road closures. While the use of side residential streets is discouraged for safety reasons, the city has been working to improve conditions on our arterial roads to facilitate traffic flow.

Westmount also carefully schedules and plans all infrastructure projects – roads, water and sewer rehabilitation – with traffic flow management in mind, sometimes dividing a project such as Westmount Ave. over two years to minimize traffic impact.

Let me be clear: traffic was one of five priorities of the current council. We commissioned a Master Traffic Plan, created the new position of traffic and parking technician, and created the Traffic Advisory committee.

We have seen the light, and it is green.

CYNTHIA LULHAM, CITY COUNCILLOR,
DISTRICT 7

CAN ONE BE A MAYOR AND EDITOR AT SAME TIME?

I read the article “Wajzman declares his candidacy for mayor” (July 4, p. 1) very closely. As a longtime Westmount resident, I am sensitive to the positive impact that city hall can play in our day-to-day lives. I think that most of us would agree that Peter Trent set a formidable example that should serve as an inspiration to future mayors of Westmount.

So, I was surprised to learn that Mr. Wajzman – if elected – intends to continue to serve as editor-in-chief of *The Suburban*.

This position is troublesome to me because of the potential for conflict-of-interest in occupying political and editorial roles simultaneously.

Supposedly, *The Suburban* is “Quebec’s largest English weekly newspaper.” It’s a paper residents receive for free and could influence Westmount voters and residents throughout the four-year [council] term.

Ethically it seems ambiguous. I am sure many would agree. Human nature, being what it is, the temptation to use one’s paper to advance one’s political agenda strikes me as a real risk.

If Mr. Wajzman is serious about becoming our next mayor, I would ask him to reconsider his position on holding these two jobs. My wish is not to limit his freedoms but simply to ensure that the highest levels of ethics are embraced by our next mayor – the type of dedication and impartiality that best represents Mr. Trent’s legacy.

JEREMY OLDLAND, GROSVENOR AVE.

NAME SENTRY DOG AFTER FORMER MAYOR

I suggest that the “sentry dog” (“New sentry to dog run?” August 8, p. 1) be named “Peter” after our past mayor, Peter Trent. That way he will always be able to keep at least one eye on all of us!

FLORA-LEE WAGNER, CLAREMONT AVE.

MYSTERY SOLVED

Although not a dog lover, I smile every time I walk by the “shaggy dog” at the west entrance to Westmount Park and have been wondering where it came from. Thanks to the *Indie*, I now know that three of my co-workers (city of Westmount employees) created it. Great work Mélanie, Héléne and Christine.

ANN MCWHINNIE,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

LOVE TO ACT? REHEARSALS ARE STEPS AWAY

I wonder how many of your readers know* that Westmount has an excellent community theatre, active since 1985, which puts on two shows a year.

This fall, *Dramatis Personae* has space for two or three new actors. They will be presenting scenes from Shakespeare, directed by well-known Montreal actor and director Christopher Moore. You won’t be surprised to read that we are particularly looking for male actors in the third, fourth or fifth stages of man (see Will S.), but we’re happy to meet all people with a passion for theatre (except perhaps those in the seventh stage of “second childishness and mere oblivion, sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.”)

Contact us through our website www.theatrewestmount.com or email conros@sympatico.ca.

The fall session begins on Monday, September 11. We meet each Monday between 7:30 and 10 pm in Victoria Hall to rehearse for a production in early December.

ANN ELBOURNE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

* Editor’s note: We published a story “Ancient Greek comedy has shades of Brexit and Trump” in the May 16 issue (p. 9), as well as several others and *Comin’ Up* mentions in our 2016 issues. – KM

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Lending voices to lullaby recording



To collect data for a sound installation project, Ilya Krouglikov and Wolfram Sander (from left at rear) invited Westmounters to meet in the children's section at the Westmount Public Library on the afternoon of August 9, where lullabies and other childhood memories were recorded. Among those who accepted the invitation were Nancy Ship, left, and Virginia Elliott. Ship sang a version of the traditional lullaby, "Hush Little Baby," which she remembered from her own childhood. Elliott performed a lullaby she had spontaneously made up and sung to her young daughter when she was sick with chicken pox. Krouglikov, Wolfram and a third partner in the project, Sarah Dell'Ava, who have been conducting recording sessions all over Montreal, plan to install the sound bytes into rocking chairs that will play the material for those sitting in them. The project is called "Bercer le temps." The chairs will be set up in Westmount Park on Thursday, August 24 and Friday, August 25 from 3 to 8 pm.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Gardens cont'd. from p. 1

duce the number of existing plots, for which there was already a long waiting list.

Increased enforcement

In that respect, she said the city had been increasing enforcement of the garden regulations this year and removing plots from anyone who was not maintaining them according to criteria. These include timelines for spring clean-up and the removal of leaves, planting and upkeep.

While raised growing boxes are not in the budget for this year, "it might be something for consideration in the future, possibly as part of the greenhouse rebuilding project," she later told the *Independent*.

Westmount parks off limits overnight

Two Westmount residents were among nine people found in Westmount Park August 15 after the midnight curfew, Public Security officials said. Four were found in a group at 1:21 am; five in another group at 2:22 am. All were described as first offenders and issued warnings. Two other groups were found at the Summit lookout the next day at 1:30 am, a total of six people, all residents of Montreal.

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‘Magnificent’ silver maple has to come down

Peart warns others to inspect trees before signing

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A resident of Victoria Ave. has a warning for would-be homebuyers: Be sure to include the trees in a pre-purchase inspection.

Conrad Peart said last week it was only after he and his spouse, Claudia Perrotte, had moved into their townhouse just north of Sherbrooke a year ago that they discovered a “magnificently massive” silver maple in the back yard had to come down for safety reasons. Its branches spread over adjacent properties, as well as Hydro Westmount’s electrical lines.

“The tree was well-known in the neighbourhood to arborists and tree cutters we contacted,” he said last week.



The towering silver maple, believed to be 150 years old, stands about 60-feet tall at the back of Conrad Peart’s small lot on Victoria Ave.

All told him the tree was at the end of its life, subsequently confirmed by the city’s arborist, he said.

One indicator of the tree’s condition, he said, is stress rings in the bark around the 40-inch diameter trunk. The tree is believed to be some 60 feet high and as old of 150 years, he explained.

He also pointed out one section of the trunk that is bent at 90 degrees after breaking over that way. It nevertheless continued growing in that position.

Interestingly, Peart said, the house vendor had already had another large section of the tree removed for which Peart was given the receipt. But Peart expected that pruning was all that would be needed in his turn. “The neighbours were after me to do it,” he said.

Quotes into five figures

“While soliciting quotes from multiple arborists, we learned that the tree had been previously assessed, and the advice was to cut it down.” Quotes he subsequently obtained for removing it completely, stump included, ranged “into five figures,” he said.

“We have also incurred costs for an expertise report, permit fees and electrical line protection by Westmount Hydro,” he added. He has been waiting for the work to take place any time once the utility has protected its equipment over which the tree spreads.

He said he expects the work to take place this week or next.

Peart said he hopes his experience may help others. “We offer this as a cautionary example for people who may not think to include trees in a pre-purchase inspection.”



Peart demonstrates the girth of the tree, some 40-inches in diameter. A portion had been cut.

Sherbrooke traffic comes to halt Aug. 14

Sherbrooke was completely closed between Roslyn and Victoria on August 14, allowing the fire brigade to connect a fire truck to the hydrant on the north side of Sherbrooke after a gas main was compromised on Grosvenor between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve.

"It is necessary to put a fire engine at both ends of the affected section of Grosvenor in case of the very unlikely event of an explosion at the location of the break. We have to connect to the hydrant on the corner of Grosvenor and Sherbrooke," explained firefighter Daniel Claveau from Station 34.

Five fire trucks, along with emergency support vehicles, police, an ambulance and Gaz Metropolitain were observed at the scene. Station 23 (St. Henri), 34 (Côte St. Antoine, near Decarie) and 76 (Stanton St.) contributed to the effort.

Residents were seen coming and going from their properties on Grosvenor during the incident. It is understood that several houses had to be evacuated.

– RT

See photo, p. 1.

Permits clerk's last day, Aug. 30



Permits clerk Joycelyn Dottin's last day on the job at Public Security will be August 30 before her move to Surrey, BC. She will be joining family there, though she says she will miss Montreal, where she has lived for 36 years. Well-known to Westmounters seeking parking or dog permits, Dottin (who pronounces her first name Joyce-lyn) interacts with 30 to 40 on a typical day. She has also worked as a Public Security dispatcher during her five years with the city. Filling the position will be Irene Marcoux, currently with Hydro Westmount.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney

Early work stopped at Shaar playground

Public safety officers stopped early-morning work at the Shaar Hashomayim property August 9, Public Security officials said. The by-law enforcement resulted from a neighbour's complaint at 6:35 am about work under way before the 7 am start-up time. It was found in progress at the school playground at Sherbrooke and Metcalfe, where gardening contractors were given a verbal warning.

White paint spilled on patio

Vandalism was reported to have taken place at an apartment building at Metcalfe and Sherbrooke overnight August 10 to August 11. Public Security officials said the concierge explained that white water-based paint had been spilled on an apartment patio and furniture.

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SIMPSON | MLS 24301407 \$ 1,925,000

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INTRODUCING



\$4,395,000

ST-LAZARE

Sprawling estate with beautifully landscaped grounds, inground pool, tennis court and much more. Exclusive.



\$2,795,000

HAMPSTEAD

Turn key home in prime locations. Many renovations throughout. Exclusive.



Price upon request

NUNS' ISLAND

Grand luxury penthouse with panoramic views. Exclusive

RECENTLY PURCHASED



\$1,780,000*

OLD HAMPSTEAD

Elegant family home next to park. Large lot, garage +.

RECENTLY REDUCED



\$1,499,000

GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

One-of-a-kind 3,000 sf Penthouse in fabulous building. MLS 19967421

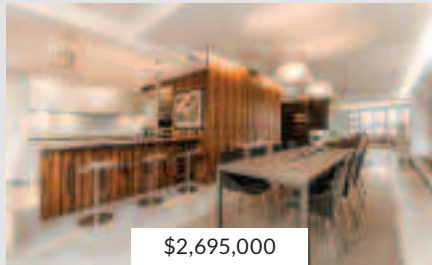
VIDEO TOUR AVAILABLE



\$3,198,000

WESTMOUNT ADJ.

Stunning contemporary residence with views. MLS 19296796



\$2,695,000

GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

Sleek and modern custom finished Penthouse with panoramic views. Exclusive

INTRODUCING



\$1,789,000

WESTMOUNT

Turnkey semi-detached classic family residence with 1 garage + 1 parking spot. MLS 23703843

INTRODUCING



\$1,750,000

TOUR DES CANADIENS

1,800 ft² double corner luxurious condo offers spectacular views. MLS 20995752

RECENTLY PURCHASED




\$1,449,000*

LE CANAL • GRIFFINTOWN

Luxurious 2+1 bdrm, 2 bath corner unit (1,728 ft²) with breathtaking views.

Mood of the Market

July sales: Time out



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 July 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 on p. 9 offers a picture of these trends over time.

Westmount's real estate market took a time-out in July, with only six single-family dwellings and two duplexes sold in the month (pending late reports from agents, who might still be on vacation), only four prices over \$1 million and a top price of \$3,050,000. This, after a first half year that showed the highest sales volume since 2007, and several late postings for June including one sale at more than \$8 million.

In fact, every month since February has seen between 19 and 21 reported sales, and the number of available listings has now tailed off to less than half what it was at this time last year. Because there is so little new inventory, buyers are left to pick up the dregs, including three houses that had been on the market for more than a year. The average time on the market, then,

jumped to 206 days from 98 days in June. Still, the "typical" Westmount house maintained its value of more than \$1,800,000 for the second month in a row, up from \$1,693,000 in January. The average mark-up over city valuation in July was 9 percent, and for the year it is 9.5 percent. Highest mark-up in the month was 23 percent, and only two sold at less than valuation, one for 15 percent less.

No condo sales in July

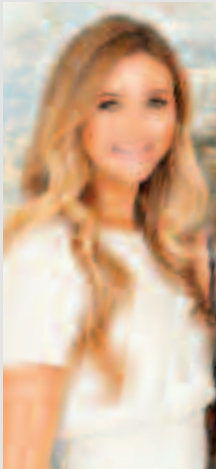
After a busy second-quarter sales list in which 20 condominium sales were posted, there were none in July. In the last quarter, three of the 20 sales were for more than \$1 million and ranged down to \$350,000, with an average \$722,000 price and an average mark-up over valuation of 9.6 percent, almost the same as for one- and two-family dwellings.

Because the market is so tight, it might not be surprising to see listing agents who find their own buyers for the houses they are selling, but when we find that five of the eight sales are "double-ended," it becomes a phenomenon. In the first six months, 30 percent of the sales were "double-ended," according to listing information; we want to see if this surge is going to become the norm, so stay tuned.

For adjacent-Westmount, only two home sales were posted in July, one on de Breslay Rd. and one on Cedar Ave. This year prices are up strongly in the Trafalgar-Daulac and Square Mile districts, not so

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



much in the other adjacent-Westmount areas.

As of mid-August, only 56 Westmount houses were actively listed, only three for less than \$1 million and an even dozen

for more than \$4 million. Some 28 houses have been rented so far this year – three for more than \$10,000 a month – compared to only 21 by the same time last year.

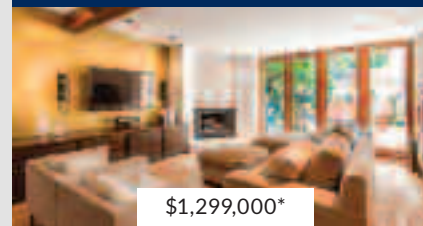
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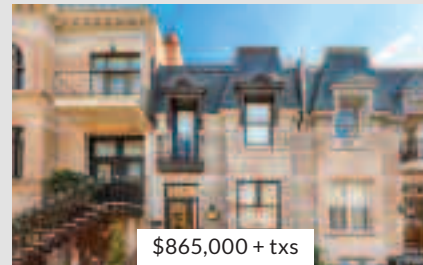
RECENTLY PURCHASED



\$1,299,000*

PLATEAU MONT-ROYAL

City oasis meticulously renovated with 3 bdrms and abundance of light.

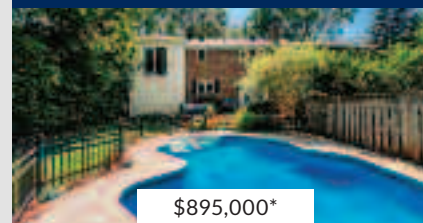


\$865,000 + txs

WESTMOUNT

Impeccably renovated 3-storey townhouse with parking. MLS 18227366

RECENTLY PURCHASED

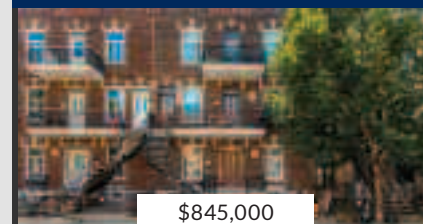


\$895,000*

NDG

Stunning & contemporary open-concept with garage and pool.

INTRODUCING

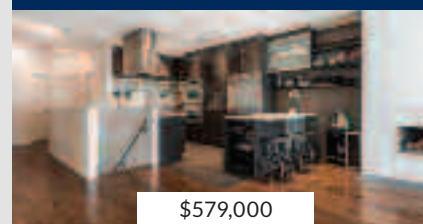


\$845,000

4294-4296 DES ÉRABLES

Triplex in the Plateau. MLS 23096446

SUNDAY SHOWCASE 2-4 PM

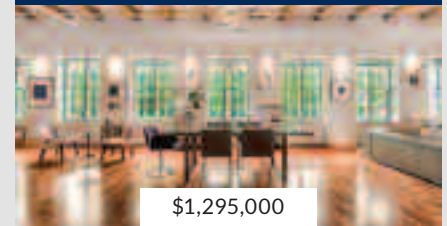


\$579,000

5813 DAVID-LEWIS - CÔTE-SAINT-LUC

RECENTLY REDUCED | Fully renovated lower townhouse with 2+2 bdrms and 3 baths. MLS 20702171

INTRODUCING



\$1,295,000

OLD MONTREAL

Exquisite open concept condo overlooking the old city. MLS 11664067

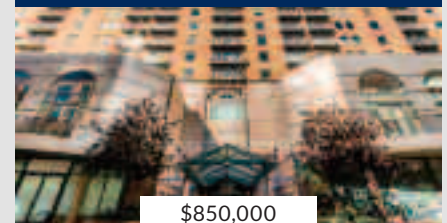


\$698,000 & \$898,000

64 RUE SAINT-PAUL - OLD MONTREAL

Two stunning units. Ideal for investors or as a pied-à-terre. Can be combined into one.

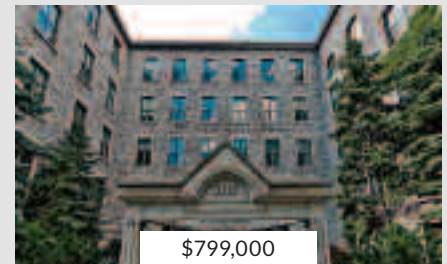
INTRODUCING



\$850,000

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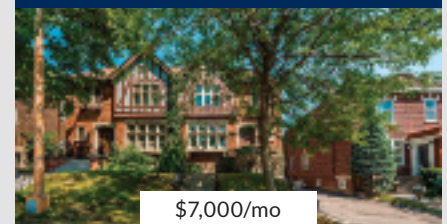


\$799,000

MANOIR BELMONT

Luxurious 2 bedroom unit at Le Manoir Belmont. MLS 24765269

RENTAL



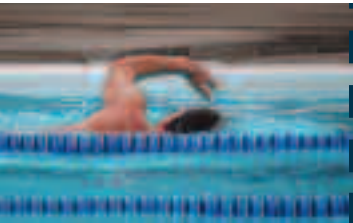
\$7,000/mo

WESTMOUNT

Classic 4+1 bdrm home in the heart of Westmount. MLS 19896907

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*Asking price | Independently owned and operated.



2017.08.22 • Vol. 5/15
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Visitez le westmount.org/ewestmount pour vous abonner et recevez les dernières nouvelles de votre Ville par courriel!

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Bureaux municipaux fermés le 4 septembre
Les bureaux administratifs de Westmount seront fermés le lundi 4 septembre en raison de la Fête du travail. La séance mensuelle du conseil aura lieu le **mardi 5 septembre** à 20 h.

Services de la Ville : retour à l'horaire régulier
À compter du 5 septembre, les bureaux administratifs de la Ville seront ouverts **du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30**.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Piscine extérieure : nouvel horaire
Un nouvel horaire est en vigueur d'ici la fermeture de la piscine extérieure. Consultez-le au westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Fermeture temporaire de la Bibliothèque et service de prêt *pop-up* au Victoria Hall
La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée du 13 août au 5 septembre pour des travaux de remplacement des tapis et de réaménagement des aires de lecture. Tous les documents empruntés qui auraient été dus pendant cette période seront dus **le vendredi 8 septembre**. Un service de bibliothèque « *pop-up* » sera offert au Victoria Hall de 11 h à 19 h les jours suivants : du lundi 21 août au vendredi 25 août; du lundi 28 août au jeudi 31 août. Pour plus de détails, consultez le westlib.org.

Film sous les étoiles
Le vendredi 25 août, à la tombée du jour, parc Westmount. *Les aventures du Capitaine Bobette* (projection en anglais). Apportez vos chaises et vos couvertures! Gratuit. Info : 514 989-5229.

Fête de clôture du Club de lecture d'été TD
Le samedi 9 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Avec une présentation de *The Flying Canoe* de la troupe de marionnettes Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre. À ne pas manquer! Prix, collations et divertissements! Inscription requise. Info : 514 989-5229.

Prochaine séance du conseil
le mardi 5 septembre

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



Installation sonore
Les jeudi et vendredi 24 et 25 août, 15 h à 20 h, parc Westmount. Venez découvrir l'installation sonore *Berger le temps*, un projet artistique autour des chaises berçantes chantantes. Présentée par le Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée et la Ville de Westmount. Info : 514 989-5226.

Concert : Ranelee
Le samedi 9 septembre, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. La légende de jazz Ranelee Lee vous chantera la sérénade avec *Dark Divas*, *The Musical*, un hommage aux chanteuses de jazz féminines les plus populaires du 20^e siècle. Billets : 30 \$, disponibles au Victoria Hall et à raneelee-fr.eventbrite.ca. Info : 514 989-5226

Conférence : Parlons opéra!
Le dimanche 10 septembre, 10 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Tosca*. Atelier présenté en anglais par L'Opéra de Montréal. Info : 514 989-5226.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Rappels pour une rentrée scolaire en sécurité
L'équipe de la Sécurité publique de Westmount fait appel à la prudence des automobilistes dans les zones scolaires et leur demande de signaler tout problème de sécurité observé. Assurez-vous :
• de circuler lentement dans les zones scolaires;
• d'utiliser les aires de débarquement;
• de couper le moteur si le véhicule est immobilisé;
• de suivre les directives des brigadiers scolaires.

De plus, les conducteurs doivent toujours arrêter complètement le véhicule à une distance d'au moins 5 mètres d'un autobus scolaire lorsque ses feux rouges intermittents et son panneau d'arrêt sont activés. Les officiers de la Sécurité publique et du SPVM poste de quartier 12 porteront une attention particulière aux zones écolières de Westmount au cours des prochaines semaines. Info : 514 989-5222.

Sign up TO WESTMOUNT E-NEWSLETTER

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CITY HALL

Municipal offices closed September 4
Westmount's administrative offices will be closed Monday, September 4 for the Labour Day holiday. The monthly Council meeting will take place **Tuesday, September 5** at 8 p.m.

Return to regular office schedule
Starting September 5, the City's administrative offices will be open **Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

SPORTS & RECREATION

Outdoor pool: new schedule
A new schedule is in effect from now until the closing of the pool. Consult it at westmount.org.

LIBRARY

Temporary closing of the Library and pop-up lending service at Victoria Hall
The Westmount Public Library will be closed August 13 to September 5 to install new carpets and re-organize reading spaces. Items that would have become due during that period will be due **Friday, September 8**. A pop-up Library service will be available at Victoria Hall from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the following days: Monday, August 21 to Friday, August 25; and Monday, August 28 to Thursday, August 31. For more details, consult westlib.org.



Movie Under the Stars
Friday, August 25, at dusk, Westmount Park. *The Adventures of Captain Underpants* (2017). Bring a lawn chair and a blanket! Free. Info: 514 989-5229.

TD Summer Reading Club closing party
Saturday, September 9, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. With Rag & Bone Puppet Theatre's *The Flying Canoe*. Be there! Prizes, entertainment, and food! Registration required. Info: 514 989-5229.

Next Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 5

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sound Installation
Thursday and Friday, August 24 and 25, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., Westmount Park. Come experience the sound installation *Berger le temps*, where contributed lullabies bring rocking chairs to life. Presented by the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée* and the City of Westmount. Info: 514 989-5226.



Concert: Ranelee Lee
Saturday, September 9, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Jazz legend Ranelee Lee will serenade you with *Dark Divas*, *The Musical*, a tribute to the most popular female jazz singers of the 20th Century. Tickets: \$30, available at Victoria Hall, or raneelee-en.eventbrite.ca. Info: 514 989-5226.

Lecture: Let's Talk Opera!
Sunday, September 10, 10:30 a.m., Victoria Hall. *Tosca*. Presented in English by L'Opéra de Montréal. Info: 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Reminders for a safe return to school
Westmount's Public Safety team reminds everyone to be extra vigilant in school zones and to report any safety issues. Please make sure that you:
• drive slowly around and in school zones;
• use the drop-off and pick-up areas;
• turn the engine off when the vehicle is stopped;
• follow the signals of the crossing guards.

In addition, drivers must always bring the vehicle to a complete stop at least 5 metres from a school bus if its flashing red lights and stop sign arm are activated. Over the next few weeks, Public Security and Police Station 12 officers will pay extra attention in Westmount's school zones. Info: 514 989-5222.



Westmount concerns part of mix at Turcot meeting

Greene Ave. closure extended; bike path, noise, truck safety raised as issues

By DAVID PRICE

At least three Westmount issues were front and centre at the Turcot Good Neighbourhood Committee NDG-Westmount, held August 8 at the St. Raymond community centre in southeastern NDG.

Approximately 26 people, including Westmount city councillor Cynthia Lulham, attended to hear from 12 panelists on the Turcot interchange and Autoroute 720/Route 136 work. Montreal city and borough councillor for eastern NDG Peter McQueen; Aki Tchitacov, the chief of staff for Côte des Neiges-NDG. Borough mayor Russell Copeman; and Louise Sansregret, riding office director to NDG provincial legislator Kathleen Weil, were also present in the audience.

Citizen committee member Karen Urtowski, a community organizer at the NDG Senior Citizens Council, has resigned for personal reasons.

Greene at tracks re-opening later

Greene Ave. was originally to be closed for one month at the train bridge between Dorchester and St. Antoine, but the closure has been extended by an unknown amount of time. Nevertheless, Sylvie Gervais of KPH-Turcot, the consortium doing the work for the province, forecast it would be re-opened sometime in early September.

Glen Rd. issues and news

The state of the Glen bike path was raised by Westmounter Dan Lambert, who represents the associations of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount and of NDG on the committee.



From left, Westmount committee members Mike Mossop and Dan Lambert. In the background, citizen member and Commission scolaire de Montréal school commissioner Marie-José Mastromonaco.

He criticized what he described, and illustrated with photographs, as the cracked state of its asphalt and its dirtiness. He also criticized the sometime presence of trucks on the path and the placement of border bollards in it.

Lambert was supported later by Lulham, who described the situation as “dirty, dirty, dirty” and “horrible.” She was told by David Maréchal of KPH-Turcot that the street was cleaned 20 to 25 times a week and the sidewalk twice per week. She retorted that was not possible. “It’s the same cobblestones [that are there over long periods of time].” Maréchal said they were

hard to clean up. She shot back a suggestion in three words: “A broom. Voilà.”

On August 9, the *Independent* found the path to be clear of dirt with a few gravel stones in it. Three of the approximately 60 bollards were in the path, as opposed to bordering it.

It was announced that Glen Rd. would be closed for one weekend in mid-September after the re-opening of Greene. “If not,” said Sylvie Gervais of KPH-Turcot in a rare moment of levity for the meeting, “I will pay for the beer.” The plan is to have a shuttle for cyclists and pedestrians to get around *continued on p. 12*



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Turcot meeting cont'd. from p. 11

the very large block that contains the super-hospital and Vendôme Metro station.

Nocturnal noise

Noise from night work was raised at the very start of the meeting by Michael Mossop, citizen committee member from Westmount, and at the very end by Westmounter Peter Krantz, who lives on St. Antoine near Brock.

Mossop grilled Maréchal on whether legal on-site night work could be carried on legally off site, specifically the unloading of large fixtures and equipment on city streets before they are brought on site. Maréchal explained the importance of work carried on at night and of attempts to limit it in time and amount, but agreed that, off site, Westmount's by-laws must be respected.

Krantz described having noise "behind and in front of" his residence from midnight to 4 am in some cases and "24 hours on 24" in others. "[I always hear that] 'it is not our problem,'" he said of construction groups, "but it is I who hear all the sounds," including the slamming of vehicle doors.

"We are responsible," and "we are working on it," said Maréchal.



Greene at Prospect on August 9.

Truck safety and other issues

Lambert and Lulham also championed safety barriers for the underside of trucks and cameras for drivers to see better around them. Lambert, who spoke first on the issue, received a hearty and long applause from the audience. The ministre des Transports (MTQ)'s Sandra Sultana, assistant director of the Turcot project, said that the MTQ had trucks on site from all over the province and usually worked in non-urban contexts. In response, Lulham

described how Westmount too has trucks from all over working for it, but had nevertheless put in place barrier and camera requirements.

Lambert thanked the MTQ and consortium for his August 7 meeting with the cycling and pedestrian safety employee. He has been asking for the job to be created and the meeting for some time (see June 13, 2017, p. 10 and April 11, 2017, p. 17). He also thanked them for the many small items that had already been fixed.

NDG issues included renewed calls for a pro-residential *Programme particulier d'urbanisme* for the St. Raymond district (southeast NDG) and a "dalle parc" cycling bridge from the Cavendish area to Lachine; how the new dead-end of Prud'homme at St. Jacques will be configured and what access the Mazda dealership had there before and should have in the future; and the closure for two months beginning in mid-September of the access from the A15 north from the Champlain bridge to the 20 west. This last point raised concerns for everyone, but especially students, given that one of the two detours will put highway traffic onto school-dotted Côte St. Luc Rd. as motorists exit the A15 northbound to get to the A15 southbound and from there to the 20 west.

Karine Fortin of Octane Stratégies replaced Pierre Guillot-Hurtubise, who was on vacation, as moderator. All the participants, including the anglophones, spoke French, except for the odd English word or phrase. The meeting's PowerPoint presentation was available as a paper handout in English and is on the Turcot website, but only French meeting agendas and minutes are available there.

The next public meeting of the committee takes place Monday, October 16 at Westmount city hall.

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AVIS DE DEMANDE DE CHANGEMENT DE NOM

Prenez avis que Han-Ying Chiang, dont l'adresse de domicile est le 215 Ave. Redfern, #602, Westmount, Québec, H3Z 3L5, présentera au Directeur de l'état civil, en sa qualité de mère, une demande pour changer le nom de Shiang-Ning Chen en celui de Sharlene Chen, dont l'adresse de domicile est le 215 Ave. Redfern, #602, Westmount, Québec, H3Z 3L5. Cet avis a été rempli et signé à Westmount, le 11-08-2017 par Han-Ying Chiang.

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Shoeboxes for women's shelters



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Spearheaded by **Jessica Brownstein Mulroney** and former local res **Caroline Mulroney Lapham**, the Shoebox Project for Shelters was launched in 2011. In support of this cause, Westmounter **Véronique Pourcelet** volunteered to host a fun evening June 8. Working with the project's Montreal chapter coordinators **Katherine Velan** and **Debbi Jardine**, she invited her network of contacts to bring a "shoe box" of items for women in shelters and enjoy cocktails in her home. As a result, her din-



From left: Lesley Reford, Véronique Pourcelet, Isabelle Roberge and Rasa Pavilanis.

ing table was covered with donations from her guests – a huge pile of colourfully wrapped boxes containing useful products for women.

Cooking "for most of the day!" Pourcelet served an amazing medley of delights: mushroom/Gruyère on puff pastry; salmon tartare and the best-loved of the

eve: a chocolate berry tray.

Most ladies said "yes to the dress." Seen on locals were the ever-perfect little black dress (**Vanessa Laframboise** and **Lesley Reford**), timeless trend polka dots (**Véronique Pourcelet**), Prada-pretty prints (**Kim Drummond** and **Sophie Madon**), cooler-than-cool camisoles (**Cynthia Carsley**) and pastel pink (**Arielle Szpiro**, Pourcelet's daughter, and **Rasa Pavilanis**).

Pink being "the navy blue of India" according to *continued on p. 15*



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Cynthia Carsley, left, and Vanessa Laframboise.



From left: Maryse Matta, Marie-Laure Guillard, Kim Drummond and Sophie Madon.



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Ph.D.

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Elkins participates in Rotary’s safe water project in Kenya

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Over 1 billion people around the world don’t have access to safe drinking water, according to Rotary International. And in the African nation of Kenya alone, 1.3 per cent of the population dies each year from drinking unsafe water, and water-borne illness is the leading cause of death.

In addition to the water issue, most of the people of Kenya are dependent on wood as the main fuel for cooking. This is leading towards the gradual deforestation of the country, loss of top soil, a decrease in land fertility and rising food insecurity.

With grim facts like these, Westmounter Nicola Elkins, a past president of the Rotary Club of Westmount, has her work cut out while helping conduct the Rotarians’ Kenya Safe Water Project. The Westmount Rotarians are leading the venture in conjunction with other clubs in Ontario, the US and Kenya.

In April, she travelled to Kenya for two weeks to initiate the first stage of the program, which will furnish low-cost solar water boiler units that are expected to help resolve the problems. The 2017 budget for



On April 23 in Kisumu, Kenya, from left, Westmounter and Rotarian Nicola Elkins stands with the inventor Ken Puzey and former orphans Charles Odipo and Susan Akoth in the facility Rotary has rented, where the boilers are made.

Photo courtesy of N. Elkins

orphanage anymore,” she said. “Because many of them have no family, they otherwise would turn to the street. Thus another key element of our initiative is to try to save some of these young people from a life of destitution.”

Elkins said the water purifiers will be produced at a cost of \$40 per unit. Each unit will provide sustainable and safe drinking water for 15 years for four people. The Rotarians estimate that two lives will be saved for every five units implemented.

It is also estimated that each purification unit will reduce the dependency on wood by 35 tons over 30 years, cut carbon dioxide production by 67.9 tons, while preventing soil erosion, preserving animal habitats and improving air quality.

The Rotarians are hoping to build 600 solar water boiler units by the end of this summer. “Into the fall, we’ll be looking to distribute them into the community,” Elkins said. “Hopefully by the end of the year, we will be in a position to go back to our district and say we have evidence it has worked.”

Elkins has been a Rotary member since 2010.



Seen here on June 21 in her Victoria Ave. office, Nicola Elkins, of the Rotary Club of Westmount, is helping lead Rotary International’s Kenya Safe Water Project to build and distribute water purification units like the one seen on the screen.

this multi-year project, provided by Rotary District 7040, is \$20,000.

“Our objective is to provide sustainable, safe drinking water in a way that’s going to make it relatively cheap and easy to produce and distribute,” Elkins told *Independent* upon her return.

“It will also help to reduce dependency on wood-burning fuel because the water boilers we’re providing will be used for cooking in some circumstances, which will reduce cooking costs.”

Another important aspect,

Elkins pointed out, is that the water purification units are being built in Kenya by former residents of local orphanages who work as labourers after reaching adulthood.

“Once they turn 18, they can’t stay at the

Teens found in dog run at 2:04 am

Three Montreal teens with a dog were found in the dog run at Westmount Park August 10 at 2:04 am, Public Security officials said. All were warned about the park’s midnight curfew. The dog owner was also given 14 days to obtain the required dog permit to use the run.

Comin’ Up

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 AND
FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

“Bercer le Temps” lullaby sound installation, 3 pm to 8 pm in Westmount Park. See p. 5.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Victoria village merchants’ association’s August sidewalk sale. Friday: 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

City council meeting, 8 pm, city hall.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 13

Diana Vreeland, it was the perfect choice for the hot night. Amidst those choosing the look of linen was Westmounter **Marie-Laure Guillard**. Stilettos was the shoe of the soirée.



Nancy Benitz, left, and Maria Bircher.

Westmounters attending included Anna Planas, Kim Drummond, Christina Miller, Mary Haslett, Gigi Wilson, Nancy Benitz, Maria Bircher, Isabelle Roberge, Mridu Parmar, Samantha Hayes, Carol Barrs and Maria Birc, Caroline Hornyak, Alexandra MacDougall, Nancy Benitz, Sarah Ivory and Pam Rosenberg, as well as Jackie Roberge, Diane Sauvé and Camilla Leigh.

As guests sipped wine on the gorgeous evening, far from the madding crowd of downtown Grand Prix frenzy, they were touched by the urgency of the situation. Coincidentally, on the day of her event, the *Gazette* published an article outlining the grave situation of women's shelters in Montreal.

The Montreal chapter of the Shoebox Project has partnerships with the Montreal YMCA, which serve as drop-off centres for community members who wish to make and donate boxes.

Side door found open on Mt. Pleasant

A side door was discovered partially open at a house on Mount Pleasant August 12, Public Security officials said. It was noticed by patrollers during a routine passing attention to the house, whose residents were away on vacation. Officers were able to reach a contact person. The house was

searched and the resident contacted. All was reported in order, and the door was secured. The incident highlights the importance of vacationers listing their home with Public Security and providing a nearby contact person with a key, said assistant director Kimberley Colquhoun.

Hundreds gather for Much Ado



Several hundred people gathered on the evening of August 9 for Repercussion Theatre's second Westmount staging of the Shakespeare play *Much Ado About Nothing*. Outdoor theatre enthusiasts gathered in a clearing in Westmount Park beside the bike path. With scarcely a cloud in the sky, people watched the production sitting on blankets, garden chairs or on the ground. It was one of 28 performances the company has put on this season.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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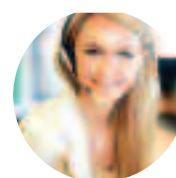
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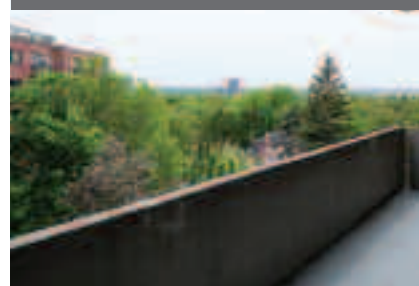
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