

Future of Hillside property unknown

Plans on hold to convert armoury to sports complex

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans to convert the former Hillside Armoury into a sports and physical fitness complex are on hold for now, pending a decision on what to do with the property, developer Karl Beauchamp said last week.

While Beauchamp was not prepared to comment at this time on reports that it might be for sale, he told the *Independent* he needed another month or so “to say what we’re going to do with the property.”

The century-old heritage-rated armoury had been purchased from Canada Lands by Beauchamp of Hillside Limited Partnership in March 2017. It has been vacant since then.

Located at the corner of Hillside Lane and Hillside Ave. across from the West-

mount Athletic Grounds, Beauchamp had found it to be an ideal location for a sports complex, including an indoor pool, 3x3 hockey rink, and various fitness and changing rooms.

After reviewing his plans with the city’s Urban Planning department, he revised them at its request last fall to replace the pool with parking for 30 cars and said he had complied with other requests but continued to await news (see story June 5, p. 1, 2018).

“It’s one of many projects,” he said at that time. “I can’t leave the building vacant forever.”

Dating to around 1908, the building had been home to the 34 Combat Engineer Regiment (formerly the 3 Field Engineers), *continued on p. 12*

Winter is coming, but what does this woolly bear’s coat mean?



It was a beautiful but chilly October 14 in King George (Murray) Park, and even the insects had dusted off their winter coats. A woolly bear caterpillar – also called a woolly worm and a fuzzy worm — “has the reputation of being able to forecast the coming winter weather,” according to *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*. The *Independent* is open to hearing Westmounters’ interpretation of this specimen’s coat.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Preparing for ‘A Night at the Asylum’

City’s haunted house to feature bevy of horror characters

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Which horror character sends chills up your spine? Whatever it is, it may be among those at the city’s annual Halloween haunted house, according to Public Security organizers.

This year, under the theme of “A Night at the Asylum,” public safety officers Jason Souza and Zach Sobkowiak are undertak-

ing the planning challenge for the first time and decided to draw from well-known characters through the years in order to appeal to all ages.

Among them will be Frankenstein, a werewolf, Dracula and the Wicked Witch of the West from *The Wizard of Oz*, to name a few but not give away some of those being taken from re- cent movies. *continued on p. 12*



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Surveying the newly stripped interior in the previous chapel October 12 are developer Gideon Pollack, left, and project manager Shamim Alaei, who was also the project manager for the 1250 Greene project.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Interior stripping of the 1908 institutional building at 500 Claremont has now

been completed and all asbestos removed, developer Gideon Pollack said last week.

"We have a certificate stating the building is now asbestos free," he said.

The stripping of all five storeys began in April exposing the original brick walls, stone foundations and flooring. The results clearly show how an extension had been added to the original building for a chapel. The building, which has had several uses, had been owned latterly for many years by the Congrégation de la Fraternité Sacerdotale.

The Category II heritage building is being converted into an apartment complex for which city council last January approved a plan to include an extension to the south.

Since then, the work has focused on stripping of the interior as well as on interior design.

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Turcot project update, p. 10

9 Lives, p. 13

Classifieds, p. 14

Social Notes (La Poste turn 5), p. 16

Comin' Up, p. 19



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Cape Ann hockey tourney Nov. 9 to 11 City prepares to feed, look after 800+ people

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The weekend of November 9, 10 and 11 is slated as a big one for Sports and Recreation when it takes its turn to host the Cape Ann hockey tournament at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

With about 400 participants from the 12 teams in Westmount plus the visiting ones from Massachusetts along with supporters and entourage, there could be 800 or 900 people at the WRC over the three days, according to Andrew Maislin, operations manager.

“It’s an ongoing tradition that’s very important to me because it carries a lot of weight,” he said. “We’ve already ordered the medals and are preparing to feed and cater to the large numbers.”

Numerous volunteers have already stepped up to help. “It’s a huge undertaking.”

It will also be a “rough weekend,” he explained, because of major road closures planned as part of the Turcot project. (See story, p. 10.)

Westmount’s participating home teams are two Novice ones, three Atom, three PeeWee, two Bantam and two all-girls’




Where the action will take place. The Academy Rd. entrance to the arena on October 18.
PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

teams (a combined U10-U12 team and U14). It’s the first time the city will have double-letter teams involved since they were only created this year.


“We’re going to be evenly matched with

Cape Ann this time,” Maislin said. The annual tournament is more than 20 years old. It alternates location between Westmount and Cape Ann. The visitors will be staying at the Omni Hotel.


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Stromberg Stein attends Dudek plaque unveiling



PHOTO COURTESY OF S. STROMBERG STEIN.

Westmounter Susan Stromberg Stein spoke at the October 12 unveiling of a plaque in honour of poet and McGill University professor Louis Dudek (1918-2001)

at St. Jax (former St. James the Apostle Anglican church) downtown. She is the author of *Louis Dudek: A Biographical Introduction* continued on p. 17

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON CELL TOWERS (1): READ THE FEDERAL LAW, CHANGE TO LOCAL ONE

With reference to the article by Martin Barry, “Westmount has no say on cell tower installation, says city official” (October 9, p. 3), I would like to take issue with the interpretation and conclusions offered by Benoit Hurtubise, Westmount’s director general. Hurtubise is reported as saying that municipalities have “practically no say in the matter” of cell antennae, that it’s the federal government that regulates cell towers on private property.

The relevant federal “rules” are contained in the “Client Procedure Circular” CPC-2-0-03 – Radiocommunication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems, posted here: www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf08777.html.

Section 4 states, “Proponents must always contact the applicable land-use authorities to determine the local consultation requirements and to discuss local preferences regarding antenna system siting and/or design, unless their proposal falls within the exclusion criteria outlined in Section 6.”

I suspect that M. Hurtubise believes that in the case of the installation at 239 Kensington, and probably also the antennas installed on the building at Lansdowne and Sherbrooke (see photo) fall within the exclusion criteria in Section 6. The only part of Section 6 that is possibly applicable reads “Non-Tower Structures: antennas on buildings, water towers, lamp posts, etc. may be excluded from consul-

tation provided that the height above ground of the non-tower structure, exclusive of appurtenances, is not increased by more than 25%”.

Not only is this a conditional exclusion (note the word “may” in “may be excluded”) but it also hinges on whether we are talking about non-tower structures or tower structures.

So, are these cell antenna systems non-tower systems, and therefore excluded? Footnote 1 says “For the purposes of this document, an “antenna system” is normally composed of an antenna and some sort of supporting structure, normally a tower.” We have all seen cell antennas attached to the sides of buildings; those are clearly “non-tower systems.” The two installations here involve a structure which raises the antenna itself above the height of the building. That structure can be called a tower, or possibly a mast, if it has guy wires or stays. But definitely not “non-tower”!

Not only that, this particular exclusion criterion has a footnote, “Telecommunication carriers, operators of broadcasting undertakings and third party tower owners may benefit from local knowledge by contacting the land-use authority when planning an antenna system that meets this exclusion criteria.”

So, M. Hurtubise, did the people who installed these antenna towers contact the city? Do you believe that they should? Does the non-tower exclusion apply? And if it does not apply, should the city not enforce its own By-law 1303, westmount.org/app-reglements/pdf/1303c.pdf? Oh, wait,



this says (6.8.9.1) “this by-law does not apply to an antenna issued with a required federal license pursuant to the applicable federal legislation.”

If I read this correctly, then our own elected officials, who created this by-law, have also created the exemption! Well, let’s change the by-law, then! Once we do, we can then enforce the other sections of By-law 1303, which limit the number of antennas to one per building or site (6.8.5), limit the height to 10 feet above the highest point of the building roof (6.8.7.1), and require that it be located as far to the rear of the building as possible (6.8.7.2).

What are we waiting for? The quality of our environment is at stake!

HENRY OLDERS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

ON CELL TOWERS (2): STANDARDS WERE TO AVOID BURNS, NOT ALL HEALTH THREATS

Re: “Westmount has no say on cell tower installation, says city official” (October 9, p. 3)

I believe that Stephen Goodman’s concern regarding the cell phone antennae atop 239 Kensington Ave. is well founded.

The Canadian safety standard to limit human exposure to radiofrequency energy (Safety Code 6) was set in the 1970s to protect workers from burns. In the last few decades, it has become apparent that RF energy (emitted by wireless devices) is associated with serious biological effects, such as DNA damage, at levels well below permitted levels. Safety Code 6 has not been updated to reflect health hazards associated with our new wireless reality (cell phones, wi-fi, smart meters and cell phone towers).

Several countries, including Italy and Switzerland, have adopted RF exposure

limits that are 100 times more stringent than Canada.

Considering that cell phone antennae installation is determined by agreements between telecommunications firms and property owners (and is not regulated by city officials) this issue is of concern to all Westmount residents.

For further information, please consult Canadians for Safe Technology (c4st.org).

MEGAN DURNFORD, VICTORIA AVE.

ON CELL TOWERS (3): CUI BONO? AND WHOSE HEALTH BENEFITS?

The author of an article in the *Independent* glossed over two aspects mentioned concerning a recent cell tower installation on a Westmount apartment building.

Firstly, according to the web, compensation from cell phone companies to landlords in Montreal is approximately \$24,000 to \$36,000 per year to install cell phone towers. Will this compensation be reflected in rental increases (or decreases) to tenants next year?

Secondly, but more importantly, are there possible health hazards from radiation to residents living within close proximity to “cell sites”? The World Health Organization recently conceded that EMF may cause cancer in humans, but to date

More on RF emmisions

For more of our coverage of RF radiation, please see

► “Resident seeks public debate on new hydro meters,” May 1, 2012, p. 12,

► “Healthy City Project to raise awareness of wireless issue,” June 5-6, 2012, p. 3.

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not enough studies have been undertaken to warrant a conclusive answer. Independent tests in mice have indicated low radiation could cause health issues such as psychological distress, immune system deficiencies, heart stress, sleep disorders, genetic damage and cancer. A few studies of human beings living in England near cell phone towers indicate that constant exposure to radiation can have long-term health effects that translate to increased

risk of cancer.

Despite the lack of scientific evidence, both Innovative, Scientific and Economic Development of Canada and Health Canada maintain no health hazards exist from radiation emitted from cell towers. Rather than initiate more comprehensive medical studies, their primary focus is on regulating the commercial viability of cell phone companies and the physical safety of “cell site” installations. It would appear the cell phone industry, namely commerce and consumerism, is at odds with the medical and scientific communities.

We live in a damned-if-you-do/damn-ed-if-you-don't society. What a dilemma, because smart phone sales have increased considerably, requiring a proliferation of new cell phone towers, even if usage and long-term radiation becomes a health hazard.

ANDREA KLEIN, KENSINGTON AVE.

ON CELL TOWERS (4): INSTALLATIONS SHOULD BE REGULATED

Re: “Westmount has no say on cell tower installation, says city official” (October 9, p. 3).

I appreciate the well-researched article by Martin Barry because I never realized that the city of Westmount
– which is usually pro- *continued on p. 12*

City to present capital works budget Nov. 5

Westmount's capital works budget is to be presented Monday, November 5, tentatively at 7 pm before the 7:30 pm council meeting, Mayor Christina Smith said last week.

A date of December 17 has yet to be confirmed for the city's operations budget. The date so late in December was set to give time “in case there are any major surprises from the Montreal agglomeration budget” scheduled for November 28, she said. It could, however, change.

The city is expecting the aggro budget to come in with increases pegged to the cost of living “so let's hope they stick to that.”



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Complex entity needs data

For instance, we are talking to an entity right now that could buy a lot of advertising in the future. It is a complex institution with many decision-makers. The more resident support that we can show for the *Independent*, the better. Some of its decision-makers live in Westmount; some don't. Some know Westmount and the *Independent* well; some don't.

And there is skepticism out there. Is print dead? Westmount has many organizations that offer services to residents. What is the value of a newspaper if a person can just log on to all those individual websites to find out what's going on and what's available, and what has happened at those places? If you see the value of an edited and curated newspaper that comes to your door, unsolicited-ly, speak up!

And there are questions about language. For practical business and demographic reasons, we choose to publish in English, but we have always worked to make the paper *for everyone*. At present, according to the 2016 census, Westmount is 18.6 percent French speaking (as measured by language most often spoken at home). Contrary to popular opinion, this number has not increased over the lifespan of the *Independent* (in 2006, it was 19.4 percent), but there are undoubtedly French speakers here (and we value them as readers or prospective ones). While we

have always been open to bilingual or French ads, do French speakers actually read the *Independent*? I know some do, but if you are one of them, we'd love to hear from you. (We have always been open to French letters and, when we publish them, we do so in French.)

And there are questions about age. Are all our readers over 90? We value *every one of our readers*, but if you are Generation X or younger, please put your age so that we can show this entity (and others) that younger people read the *Independent*.

(By the way, I would be thrilled if teenagers or younger are reading the *Independent*, but I am thinking more of new parents in their 20s and 30s. It is my suspicion, bolstered by countless anecdotes over 11 years in this business, that we first acquire readers when they become parents. In Westmount, at present, it is my guess that this event usually happens in people's early 30s.)

The pitch, again

Many Montreal-area municipalities and areas the size of Westmount (or larger) do not have a newspaper devoted just to them (e.g. Beaconsfield, Pointe Claire, NDG, Dollard des Ormeaux, Kirkland, Côte St. Luc). In my experience, people don't think that they care about local news until it is well presented to them, free and unsolicited-ly.

Local news can appear silly and petty. But it also matters if you can't park or drive around rationally in your neighbourhood, or if there is a building project (public or private) that could go up in your area that you hate (or love). Or if your government – municipal, provincial or federal – is doing something locally that you hate (or love).

If you think the *Independent* – as an entity separate from government or any other business affiliation – plays a role in informing you, and in listening to you, and you read it, *even when you are not looking for information*, please write.

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Westmount wins Prince of Wales prize for heritage conservation

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount is being recognized as the 2018 winner of the Prince of Wales Prize for “its sustained commitment to heritage conservation over time, seen in the quality of its environment, its committed leadership and its highly engaged residents,” according to a press release from the National Trust for Canada October 16.

“Over generations, Westmount has employed a careful and methodical approach to protecting and enhancing its heritage qualities,” it states.

The award was to be presented October 19 at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in Fred-

erickton, NB as part of the annual conference of the National Trust for Canada, the sponsor. Accepting for Westmount were assistant Urban Planning director Nathalie Jodoin and Planning Advisory Committee chair Julia Gersovitz, who were already attending the conference on conservation and architecture.

“Unfortunately, I couldn’t fit it in to my schedule,” said Mayor Christina Smith, who had been involved in many budget meetings.

The prize is awarded annually “to recognize communities and their local governments for the successful heritage stewardship of a town, city, rural region, First

Nations reserve or community.”

Along with a lengthy backgrounder on Westmount, the citation mentions the city’s Local Heritage Council and its initiative to include a heritage assessment of the city’s houses of worship in collaboration with each religious community.

It also refers to the Parks Canada recognition of the Westmount District in 2011 as a National Historic Site and the building underground of the Westmount recreation centre meeting certification from LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).



The Westmount train station at the foot of Victoria Ave. has long been out of service, but has been preserved. It is owned by the city of Westmount and is pictured here on October 22.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Last of 720 in Westmount to go starting December

Bon Voisinage meeting: Avoid Turcot November 9 to 12

By DAVID PRICE

There was only one major piece of Westmount-specific news at the Turcot project's October 15 Bon Voisinage meeting, held at the St. Raymond community centre in southeastern NDG. The small, final Westmount portion of the old, raised 720 south of the Westmount Athletic Grounds and Hallowell will be destroyed beginning in early December.

Nevertheless, the huge Turcot project will affect many Westmounters in other ways and sooner, including via a "long weekend" of construction and major island-wide traffic disruption from Thursday, November 8 late at night to Tuesday, November 13 early in the morning. The northbound 15 at the Turcot interchange (where the 15 meets the 20) will be closed from Friday night to Monday morning. The eastbound 20 at the Turcot will be closed from Friday night to Tuesday morning. The westbound 20 in the same area will be closed Thursday night to Tuesday morning.

Panellist Sylvie Gervais of the KPH-Turcot construction consortium encouraged motorists to stay away from the area and



From left, Michael Mossop, Brigitte Stock and Dan Lambert.

its traffic overflow zone, including by staying home from work and telecommuting.

Other high-impact work

The Sherbrooke St. exit from the northbound autoroute 15 is still scheduled to re-open at the end of October, but the closure of the Girouard entrance to the southbound 15 and the Champlain bridge has

been pushed back to the end of November. It is scheduled to be closed for over a year.

Martin Girard, a spokesman for the provincial ministry of Transport (MTQ), told the *Independent* after the meeting that its main suggestion for Westmounters to access the 15 south is the Côte St. Luc Rd. entrance, although the Atwater entrance will also be open if that is more conve-

nient. The highway south of Côte St. Luc Rd. will be fully open even as it goes through the Turcot construction area, he confirmed.

The Bon Voisinage meeting was told that there will be disruption around the access to LaSalle from St. Jacques and St. Anne de Bellevue Blvd. in western NDG as Angrignon Blvd. is reconfigured permanently where it crosses the 20.


Westmount's reps weigh in


Westmount's citizen-representative Brigitte Stock quizzed panellists on the possible sound barrier in Westmount between the new 136/old 720 and the CP tracks, asking if residents would be consulted and if the process had begun.

Sandra Sultana of the MTQ said that any sound barrier would be erected after the Turcot project's end in 2020, but the planning process, including resident consultation, could begin beforehand.

In response to a question from Westmount citizen-representative Michael Mossop, Sultana also said that at the next Turcot meeting she would lay out the steps of any process. Moderator Pierre Guillot-Hurtubise of Octane Stratégies

In support of the Palliative Care Department of the Mount Sinai Hospital






Please join animal behaviour consultant, dog trainer and photographer Randi Belfer in her effort to raise funds for the Palliative Care Department of the Mount Sinai Hospital in memory of her father, Jerry.

Thursday, November 1st – 6-9 pm
Garrison House Pub, 5028 Sherbrooke St. W.
(at Claremont) H4A 1S7

Randi Belfer's unique knack for capturing dogs at their best will be on display in a selection of photographs for sale. The proceeds will be donated to the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation in support of the Palliative Care Department. Their quality of care is gold standard and offers patients & families much needed support. **Time** is the title of Randi's exhibition. Every moment of life is precious. Experiencing quality care allows families to make the most of their time together during their final days. Please contribute to a great cause. Cash or cheques accepted. For more information, please contact: r_belfer@yahoo.com.





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summarized for her, saying, “We will say what we can say.” Sultana was reluctant to speak too much given that the matter is still being litigated by the city of Westmount and the province, although the province has evinced some openness to resolving the matter (see “MTQ could fund 100% of highway sound barrier from Greene to Glen,” October 2, p. 2) and the barrier is being studied (see “Council agrees to pay up to half the feasibility study,” October 9, p. 5).

Mossop asked about the last Westmount phase of the 720’s destruction, specifically sound and time-of-day thresholds. He was told by Olivier Beaulieu of KPH-Turcot that it would be similar to the previous phase, with much work being done on weekends. Mossop reminded him that sound and time limits had not been respected in the past. Guillot-Hurtubise summed up that the panellists knew that the work would be monitored by residents.

Greene and de Courcelle

Mossop also asked about when Greene at St. Antoine would re-open to pedestrians. Gervais said that the consortium has a permit to close it for work until the end of October, but it might ask for an extension. Mossop criticized a recent mid-day closure of the street to pedestrians with-



The first questioners: Montreal city councillor for eastern NDG Peter McQueen, centre, flanked by an NDGer, left, and a Montreal West resident. McQueen was the only municipal politician to speak at the meeting. It was all Montreal West residents at the mic afterwards.

out notice that caught returning commuters unawares. Greene is scheduled to remain closed to vehicles for now.

Westmounter Dan Lambert, representing the associations of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount and NDG, thanked KPH-Turcot, the MTQ and the city of Montreal for many things, including new asphalt on Glen Rd./de Courcelle from the Westmount border to the train tracks in St. Henri, street line painting and bike-path work, and an early stop line for motorists at Glen and St. Jacques to allow cyclists to clear out before vehicles enter the

intersection.

He returned to his more critical mode by reminding the construction professionals present of the difference between motorists giving “priority” to pedestrians and cyclists when noticed and “*grande prudence*,” which requires slowing and then actively looking and listening for them.

Not much thunder

No Westmounter took to the mic in the open question period.

One NDG resident criticized sound and vibrations at Addington and Upper La-

chine Rd. Several Montreal West residents, in a mixture of anger and resignation, repeated their concerns about short- and long-term dust, noise and truck traffic, and the perennial absence of a CN representative at the Bon Voisinage meetings. The destruction of the tunnel for CN trains at the foot of Brock was lamented, again, and its rationale questioned, again.

Approximately 15 people attended to hear from approximately 18 panellists. Most of the meeting was in French with Guillot-Hurtubise translating any English into French.

The next Bon Voisinage meeting takes place at Victoria Hall on Wednesday, December 12.

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Diamonds-Jarres, 2004, acrylic on canvas, 150 x 150 cm (59" x 59")



MARCEL BARBEAU

Jours d'envol

November 1 - 25, 2018

opening Thursday November 1, 5 - 8 pm

Presented concurrently with the major exhibition “**Marcel Barbeau : En mouvement**” at the **Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec**, Galerie D’Este is proud to announce a solo exhibition of this Quebec master of contemporary art that highlights emblematic periods of his oeuvre. Actively producing across eight decades, from the 1940’s until his final years, Barbeau is recognized nationally and internationally for his innovation and for his implication in key movements that have contributed to the development of contemporary art. The artist’s intense and unrelenting joy for visual exploration is traced throughout the exhibition, while a selection of transitional works demarcates passages from one period to another. Viewed as a whole, nonetheless, recurrent motifs emerge in works from divergent periods that cross-reference and serve to define the singularity of his body of work: movement, space, and chromatic audacity.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS (selection):

Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

National Gallery of Canada

Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal

British Museum, London

Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, France

Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, Spain

National Gallery, Washington (DC), United States

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Haunted house, cont'd. from p. 1

The attraction will be open to trick-or-treaters Wednesday, October 31 from 5 to 8 pm at the lawn bowling clubhouse adjacent to city hall, entering from the west off Kensington Ave. and exiting on the north side.

A “toned-down” attraction will be set up on the clubhouse veranda to entertain younger kids who might not want to go through the haunted house. This will include inflatables, other decorations and treats.

Focus on volunteer actors

They’ve arranged for a number of volunteers to play the part of the horror characters, with fewer props than other years,

but more “live” actors.

The two officers are bringing a different aspect to their planning: Souza was always “into Halloween” he recalls, while Sobkowiak “not so much” until this year.

While entry to the house is free, in keeping with tradition a lockbox for donations will be at the west entrance to help raise funds for Leucan, the foundation that supports children and their families affected by children’s cancers, including leukemia,

The force will also have four or five patrollers on the streets who will hand out reflective tape for trick-or-treaters to stick on their costumes to reflect vehicle headlights.



Public safety officers Jason Souza, left, and Zach Sobkowiak prepare the city’s haunted house October 19 for Halloween, October 31.

Armoury, cont'd. from p. 1

which moved out four years ago after 67 years (see story April 1, 2014, p. 1). It was put up for sale in January 2017 and reportedly sold in March.

Because current zoning of the property is limited to residential use, there were

also reports the proposed complex would have required rezoning if used for recreation using the city’s lengthy process for non-conforming projects called Specific Construction, Alteration, or Occupancy Proposal for an Immovable (SCAOPI).



The former Hillside Armoury on October 18.

Letters to the editor, cont'd. from p. 7

gressive – has no say because cell towers are regulated by the federal government, which considers them safe.

How is it that many countries including most of Europe, Russia and China – have cellular exposure standards much more stringent than ours?

That the the International Agency for Research on Cancer at the World Health Organization evaluated and declared RF radiation of the type transmitted between cell towers and cell phone as a Group 2B, “possible” human carcinogen

Many leading independent researchers are of the view that the classification of cell phone/cell tower radiation should be upgraded to “probable” human carcinogen (from Lloyd Burrell’s free online EMF health summit featuring leading-edge doctors/researchers/engineers including Dr. Dietrich Klinghardt, Dr. Zach Bush, Dr. Joseph Mercola and Montreal’s own – McGill University’s Dr. Paul Heroux).

Even people living within one third of a mile of a tower have higher rates of depression, lack of concentration, sleep issues and muscle fatigue. They made no connection to their symptoms to the cell

tower, thus eliminating placebo effect (from the book *Zapped* by Ann Louise Gittleman).

The cell tower is only one concern; what will happen when 5G comes, whose effects on humans are said to be even more pronounced – so much so that Russia is banning 5G completely? Some California high-tech, high-income cities have also put in legislation to block small-cell 5G wireless towers as well.

Will Westmount just accept whatever is imposed on it?

This is not about living in fear, but having the facts to make wise decisions.

Not about renouncing technology, but understanding that some technologies are superior to others. In fact, fibre optics are safer, faster and more secure with respect to privacy than cell towers and the proposed 5G.

The city should integrate cell tower installations into the by-laws – even if it is a complex process – to protect the health of its citizens, the democratic process and be a leader so that other cities can follow.

And citizens can learn how to use smart technologies more safely.

PAT CHANG, VILLE MARIE (DOWNTOWN)

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Le Boudoir turns 1



Owner Brigitte Gasparyan, right, with building owner Doron Altman and well-wisher Marie Pacitto.

Greene Ave.'s Le Boudoir boutique turned one on October 16 and owner Brigitte Gasparyan celebrated with cake and sparkling wine.

Gasparyan opened her first store, Agatha, on Laurier in 1985, which is still open. It was originally a franchise for Agatha jewellery and named after it. She changed the name to Le Boudoir in 2015

after she added other products to her offering, although she continues to have Agatha items for sale.

"Le Boudoir" is meant in the sense of "what's in your closet?" – and not the racier connotation, joked Gasparyan.

In both stores, she now offers a variety of brands of jewellery, accessories and women's clothing.

Young Sofia and her kitten Matteo



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Mother Sofia and kitten Matteo were rescued from abandonment outdoors in Westmount a month ago and are be looking forward to a forever family in our neighborhood.

Being in home foster care, Sofia has been most affectionate, even from the first day of her rescue. She is socialized and very intelligent. She has taken such excellent care of her kitten Matteo that he has grown like a weed! He plays well, eats heartily and uses his litter box diligently. Both will be vetted shortly and are available to a family that would consider them together as a bonded pair.

For more information on young calico Sofia and kitten marmalade Matteo, please contact me at lysfo@gmail.com or at 514.909.7186.

Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount Bridge Club results

BY DON HUFFMAN, PRESIDENT
(WESTMOUNT BRIDGE CLUB)

The best scores of three nights of bridge in June, July and August – TOTAL! – were:

- (1) Nida Koudsi 14,430 points
- (2) Gerald Ratzer 13,850 points
- (3) Lise Beauchemin 12,170 points
- (4) Agia Viviane 11,880 points
- (5) Dael Perry 11,820 points
- (6) Sandra Meehan 10,380 points
- (7) Donald Huffman 10,170 points.



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Indie fall winter social calendar – part II



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1
CHW Art Auction. In support of CHW Pediatric Intensive Care. 7:30 pm. Kandy Art Gallery, 5629 Ferrier St. Valet Parking. Tickets \$185. Includes cocktail, hors d'oeuvres and art auction. Art auction only \$118. 514.933.8461. chw.ca/artauction2018.

Friend-raising reception for Friends of JPL. Sir Simon Schama is keynote speaker. Friend membership \$500 annually. 6 pm. Jewish Public Library, 5151 Côte St. Catherine Rd. To become a Friend and attend contact Edna Mendelson 514.343.3520.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2
St. Mary's Ball. To benefit the 5th floor in-patient cancer and palliative care facility. Under the leadership of Alain Bellemare, CEO of Bombardier. Black tie. Evening gown. Champagne cocktail 6:30 pm. Windsor Station, 1100 des Canadiens de Montreal Ave. Featuring Paul Chacra and 1945 band and silent auction. Ristorante Beatrice and others. Tickets \$1,000. Erin Matheson 514.734.2694. Erin.matheson.comtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca.

Fiesta Mexicana. Benefit gala for the McGill Chamber Orchestra. Three-course Mexican-inspired menu, Mariachi band, open bar. Performance by concertmaster violinist Marc Djokic and Mexican soprano Diana Varela. 6:30 pm. Sofitel, 1155 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets \$350. 514.487.5190. info@orchestre.ca.

Theresa Foundation benefit concert. Featuring Barry Band, Linda Morrison and others. To benefit the grandmothers and children of Mnjale, Fuze and Chilundu in Malawi. 7:30 pm. Westmount Park

Church, 305 Lansdowne Ave. Tickets \$30. Students \$20. info@theresafoundation.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Montreal Museum of Fine Arts Ball. – Nuit Couture. Co-presidents Isabelle Chevalier, Mitch Garber and Mark Pathy. Tickets \$1,350. Émilie Lucas 514.285.1600 x 105. elucas@mbamtl.org.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Atwater Library Benefit Cocktail. Celebrating 190th anniversary. Guests of honour Grace and Alan Hogg, of The George Hogg Family Foundation. 6 pm. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater St. Tickets \$150. Canadahelps.org.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10
A Night to Remember Impact Gala 2.0 supporting the Alzheimer Society of Montreal. 7 pm. The Belevedere, 2 de la Commune. Tickets W. Scott Broady 514.516.1579. sbroady@keystonecategorydesign.com.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
JDRF Dia-Beat-It Gala in support of Type 1 diabetes research. Honorary president Maarika Paul, executive vp and CFO, Caisse de dépôt. Cocktails, dinner and dancing. 6 pm. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel. Tickets \$600. 514.744.5537. lcharbonneau@jdrf.ca. diabeatit.ca.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Laughing My Diaper Off. Fundraiser supporting neonatal care at Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem. Featuring Bob Saget. Rabbi Jacobson, David Chitayat and Gazette columnist Jennifer Campbell will perform stand-up. 6 pm. Corona Theatre, 2490 Notre Dame St. W. Tickets from General \$100. Premium \$250 and sponsorships. Imdo.ca.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17
Le Bal de Diamant. Viennese Ball of Montreal. Celebrating the diamond anniversary of the Austrian Society of Montreal. Under the distinguished patronage of guest of

honour, Austrian ambassador Stefan Pehringer. Ball president Westmounter Astri Prugger. Débutante presentation. Opera and ballet performance. Viennese Heuriger wine tavern until 3 a.m. Beneficiaries SOS Children's Villages; McGill's Schulich School of Music, L.O.V.E. (Leave Out Violence), Alexander von Humboldt International School, DSQ German language schools, and other youth initiatives. 7 pm. Marriott Château Champlain, 1 Place du Canada. Tickets \$275. (\$175. 30 and under) 1.800.304.0193; 514.426.5272. astriprugger@gmail.com. balviennoisde-montreal.org.

Montreal Chinese Hospital Foundation The Forbidden City gala. Cocktail 6:00 pm. Dinner 8:00 pm. Black tie. Windsor Station, 1100 des Canadiens-de-Montréal Ave. Tickets \$350 Linda Yee 514.871.0961 x 248. Linda.yee@ccsmtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Soirée en Or. Fundraising gala by the Montreal General Hospital Foundation in collaboration with the Cedars Cancer Foundation to benefit the Program for Innovative Therapeutics in Chest and Esophageal-Gastric Cancers. 6:30 pm. La Gare Viger, 755 Berri St. Tickets and information Natalia Kalbarczyk 514.656.6662 x 228. Natalia.kalbarczyk@cedarscancer.ca.

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October marks 50 years of a locally operated paper

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

2015 – also in the month of October – by

Interestingly, the début of the transfers

“Fire engines parade Saturday.” The story

The month of October marks two 50-year milestones in the history of Westmount having its own, locally published and owned weekly newspaper devoted solely to news and happenings in the city since October 3, 1968.

Previously, the *Westmount Examiner* had been owned for 39 years by the Monitor Publishing Company, which closed its doors in Côte St. Luc in 1968 with the acquisition of the *Examiner* by its president at the time, John Sancton (under the name of J.W. Sancton & Sons) and the move to Westmount. This gave the Westmount paper “a new lease on life.”

Also marking a 50th anniversary as of October 17, is the tradition of a Westmount paper running monthly real estate transfers, also introduced by Sancton in the edition of that date.

On the front page of that edition, Sancton listed the total amount of 37 real estate sales at just over \$1.5 million in total. This is less than the sale today of an average Westmount house.

“He considered real estate was a key element in Westmount,” according to son Don Sancton, who later took over from his father. “It was important for neighbours to know who was buying and selling to the point where he obtained all the listings from city hall as well as the building permits, fire calls and police and (later) Public Security reports.”

The Sancton tradition was continued by the *Independent* when it made its début in 2007.

When the *Examiner* was closed down in



The first edition, October 3, 1968, of the *Westmount Examiner* after its move into Westmount and acquisition by John Sancton.

COURTESY OF DON SANCTON

Transcontinental, its then owner, it left the *Independent* as the only paper dedicated to Westmount news.

Had to happen in Westmount

“If it didn’t happen in Westmount, it didn’t happen,” John Sancton used as a general benchmark for determining whether something was newsworthy for reporting, though occasionally something on the borders found its way into the paper.

in 1968 indicates just how much the price level, cost of living and real estate market has changed over the 50 years, recalls Don Sancton.

“I distinctly remember when my father enlisted Ted (his brother) and me to help him on the weekend. He paid us \$1.35 an hour.” They were teenagers at the time but the amount reflected payrolls at the time, he said.

Also interesting in retrospect was that headline story of October 3, 1968 reading



On October 17, publication of real estate transfers was introduced, a tradition in Westmount continued by the *Independent*.

previewed the city’s annual Fire Prevention Week parade, a major event at the time when the city operated its own Westmount Fire Brigade.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

ICRF Women of Action luncheon. Honoring Debra Margles, president Michael Kors Canada; Dale Boidman, board member Bladder Cancer Canada; pediatric hemato-oncologist Dr. Nada Jabado. Co-chairs Elyse Rosen, Alana Geller, Lindsay Hollinger, Shari Gordon Black. Keynote speaker Pulitzer Prize-winner journalist Jodi Kantor. 11 am. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel St. Tickets \$180. 514.481.2723. sherylramroop@icrfmontreal.org. icrfmontreal.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

ORT’s Ted Wise Benefit Gala for Jewish Education. Featuring the Classical Mystery Tour tribute to the Beatles with the McGill Schulich School of Music and a 31-piece orchestra. 6 pm. Place des Arts, 175 St. Catherine St. Tickets: Benefactor \$360. Patron \$250. Supporter \$100. Friend \$50. Emmanuel Kalles 514.481.2787. emmanuelk@ortmontreal.org. ortmontreal.org.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Cedars Auction Soirée. Supports MUHC psycho-social oncology program. Culinary stations. 6 pm. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel St. Tickets \$150. Estelle Dussault 514.656.6662. Local 221. Estelle.dussault@cedarscancer.ca. Cedars.ca.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom 136th Anniversary Raffle. Cocktail dinatoire, entertainment and silent auction. Proceeds support Temple’s programs. 7 pm. Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets \$136 for two persons. 514.937.3575 x 214. Tebsraffle2018@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew’s Ball. An evening of dining, dancing and pageantry celebrating one hundred and eighty-three years of Scottish heritage in Montreal. Guests of honour Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Munro Ferguson of Novar, Scotland. Ballroom dancing and Scottish country dancing with the Black

Watch Pipes and Drums. Dress: Men: highland formal, mess kit or tuxedo (not a business suit), and are encouraged to wear decorations, military or civil. Ladies: The hem of the dress should touch the dancing shoes, not end mid-calf or higher up (not a short cocktail dress). Ladies are encouraged to wear tartan sashes, Celtic brooches, and military or civil decorations. Cocktails 6:30 pm, dinner 8 pm. Marriott Château Champlain Hotel, 1 Place du Canada. Adult tickets: \$250. Junior (35 and under): \$145. Black Watch \$145. Débutantes and escorts: \$100. Premium table (up to 10 places) \$3,250/table. standrews-ball.com.

DECEMBER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4 +

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5

Donald Berman Maimonides Battle of the Bands. Special guests Steven Page, formerly of The Barenaked Ladies. VIP cocktail 5:30 pm. MTelus, 59 St. Catherine St.

E. Information and tickets Karen Flam 514.483.2121 x 2307.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

LOVE (Quebec) benefit concert with Kent Nagano and OSM. Co-chairs Calin Rovinescu, CEO president Air Canada and Normand Coulombe, president INFIn-t Wealth Management Advisors Inc. Honorary co-chair Satoko Shibata Ingram. 6 pm. Bourgie Hall, MMFA, 1339 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets: \$500 VIP seating, \$300 regular seating. 514.652.4104 x 2229. Info-qc@loveorganization.ca.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Toy Tea for Children. Co-chairs Westmounter Erika Ludwick and Paulina Flores Rutenberg. Providing toys for 5,000 plus children in Quebec shelters. Performances by school choirs. 9 am – 2:30 pm. Admission free with one new non-violent toy, or a donation. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. 514.792.8961. toyteam-montreal.org.

de Mévius's 1700 La Poste celebrates 5th with Pien exhibiton



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter **Isabelle de Mévius** is more than a philanthropist. The aristocratic Belgian art collector is also an author and the founder and owner of 1700 La Poste, the Griffintown go-to art space. And yes, the gallery is in a former post office.

Built at the turn of the 20th century, the classical building was purchased by de Mévius to house her vision: a gallery/museum dedicated to the visual arts. Today, the luminous white space houses lectures and exhibitions.

Recently, a cocktail was held to showcase the work of multidisciplinary artist **Ed Pien**, 1700 La Poste's current exhibitor, and to celebrate the gallery's five years.

And what a cocktail it was! One not could have been faulted for thinking the reception was in Berlin or London; it was *über-cool*, full of collectors, gallerists and artists. Champagne and water were served – how elegant just to serve sparkling!

continued on p. 17



Isabelle de Mévius and Pierre-François Ouellette.



Ed Pien.



Laurent and Bernard Colas.



Bernard Levy, Christiane Léaud and Louis Villeneuve.



Paul-Émile Rioux, Hélène Couture and Claude Choquet.

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Protecting arrivals from the inclement night, a large canopy was spread above the handsome colonnade entrance. Most guests wore black, ranging from peek-a-boo tops and Adidas sneakers (fashion designer **Denis Gagnon**), to actual black tie (**Claude Choquet**, there with artist **Hélène Couture**) and chic suits. Future CEOs/art collector youngsters wore school attire.

The gallery's two floors exhibited Pien's work: a video, line drawings, an exquisitely hand-cut shoji paper work and a monochromatic ink on paper piece. A stand-out was his pliable plane wall installation constructed of colourful threads, its web-like dimensionality recalling Arachne and Athena.

Inspired by both Eastern and Western myths, the artist's drawing-based works are rooted in his study of historical representations of Hell and their relation to the violence of war. A myriad of Dante-esque drawings of figures in sadistic positions was exhibited floor to ceiling on an entire wall.

Pien emotionally thanked his gallerist **Pierre-François Ouellette** and de Mévius, in "my really bad Oscar speech."

Taiwan-born, Pien lives and works in Toronto, where he is a professor in the John H. Daniels faculty of architecture, landscape and design at the University of Toronto.



Daniel Ethier and Denis Gagnon.

Welcoming guests was **Roger Lupien**, 1700 La Poste administrative director. Noted studying Pien's narratively-intricate works were Westmounters **Louis Villeneuve**, **Bernard Colas** and his son **Laurent** (who both recently attended a de Mévius wedding in Italy) as well as former *Vie des Arts* editor-in-chief **Bernard Levy**, **Claudette Hould**, **Christiane Léaud**, **Claude Gosselin**, director CIAC; **Daniel Ethier**, and digital artist **Paul Émile Rioux**, whose work was just profiled in *White Hot*, the international contemporary art magazine.

Dudek, cont'd. from p. 5

to His Poetry. The plaque was commissioned by the Writers' Chapel Trust.

"An appreciative, overflowing crowd," said Stromberg Stein, including Dudek's two grandchildren, were there to hear his son, Gregory Dudek; Mike Gnarowski; B. Beutler, Steven Morrissey and Marc Plourde speak about him.

Dudek "concluded his book of collected poems saying how one 'drifts slowly towards oblivion,' but we know he will never be forgotten," summarized Stromberg Stein to the *Independent*. "He often repeated to his students a line from his own poetry: 'you have to create something if you want it to exist.' It became my motto."

Overheard: October 17

Westmount Park, 11:25 am

Caregiver to toddler: "I love you, too."

◇ ◇ ◇

de Maisonneuve & Metcalfe, 11:30 am

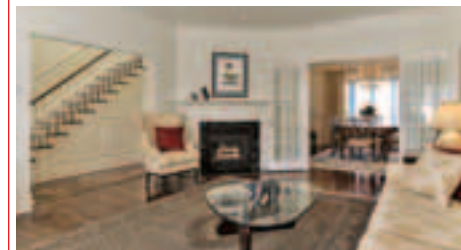
Woman into cell phone: "She had a criminal record when they placed her. There's no way they could get \$200,000."

◇ ◇ ◇

de Maisonneuve & Greene, 11:40 am

Man to woman: "The 12 doesn't have to be a hard 12. It could be a soft 12, so we could leave at 11."

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Fire destroys three cars on Edgemoor Rd.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Police at Station 12 on Stanton St. have launched an investigation following a fire that destroyed three cars parked in a shared driveway at residences on Edgemoor Rd. in upper Westmount on October 18.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, the vehicles were ablaze when police arrived on the scene around 2:30 am.

Two of the vehicles belonged to the owners at one address, while a third was a neighbour's.

It is believed that the third vehicle, which was parked near the other two, caught fire because it was in the path of flames which were fanned by high winds that night.

"It's under investigation," added Laperrière, while noting that the Montreal fire department was summoned to control the blaze.

Police: get valuables out of sight

A string of car break-and-entry incidents in various areas of Westmount recently offers a stark warning to motorists that leaving valuables in plain view inside your vehicle is an open invitation to criminals



who specialize in "smash and grab" thefts.

"Even though it might be dark, and even though you might have tinted windows, people are still able to see in and find a way to take what is not rightfully theirs while causing damage," said Laperrière.

"Keeping personal items out of view in vehicles that are parked is one of the best ways to prevent thefts from inside cars," he added.

Audi broken into

Sometime during the long weekend of Oct. 13 to 15, an Audi A4 whose owners were away for the weekend was broken into and robbed of personal items. The police report stated that the front passenger door window was broken.

A Mercedes that was parked between 11

am and 2 pm on Oct. 14 outside an upper Westmount home was broken into and the contents of a purse which had been left inside were stolen.

According to the report, the rear passenger window was smashed. The perpetrator stole some loose change inside the purse. The purse itself, which had been emptied out on the car's rear seat, was left behind.

Land Rover broken into

On October 15 between 6:30 and 10:30 pm, two driver-side windows on a Land Rover parked near the corner of St. Catherine St. and Metcalfe Ave. were broken and personal items inside the vehicle were stolen.

According to the police report, the perpetrator got away with a designer handbag described as "high end" with an estimat-

ed value of several thousand dollars. "It was left in view and that's why probably someone was able to see and then go in and get it," Laperrière said.

Nissan broken into

On Oct. 17 around 5:30 pm, Montreal police officers on patrol noticed that the rear passenger side window on a Nissan Murano parked on St. Catherine St. in front of Westmount Square had been smashed and the vehicle was burglarized.

Captured images from video surveillance cameras that were active in the vicinity of the incident may help the investigators identify the perpetrator and may possibly also provide additional evidence, Laperrière said. Items stolen from inside the vehicle included a wallet containing personal identification, as well as an iPad and other Apple electronic devices.



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Renaud shortlisted for second award this year

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount children's author Anne Renaud is now in line for her second award this fall after being shortlisted by the Quebec Writers' Federation 2018 literary awards. She is up for one of its seven "prestigious" prizes, according to a press release by the QWF.

Winners are to be named November 20 when the awards will be presented.

Renaud is one of three finalists in the category of children's and young adult literature for her book *Mr. Crum's Potato Predicament*, a folklore-based story of the

invention of potato chips (see story September 12, 2017, p. 12).

Interestingly, this category is sponsored in memory of author Janet Savage Blachford, a graduate of The Study who grew up on Highland on the border with Westmount and who served as a board member of the QWF.

Renaud has already won the "children and youth" category of the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards presented October 14 for her story *Fania's Heart* set in the Auschwitz concentration camp (see story March 20, p. 6).

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Rotary new membership information meeting. Refreshments served. Westmount Room, Westmount Public Library. 6 pm to 8 pm.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

"The Architectural Wealth of Westmount's Houses of Worship" by David Hanna. Westmount Public Library. Free tickets available at the library. 7 pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

► Atwater Library fall book sale. 1200 Atwater Ave. 6 to 8 pm. Also Saturday, October 27 – 10 am to 4 pm.

► Board game evening. Leonidas Culture Chocolat, 318, Victoria Ave. 6 to 9 pm.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

► Cantor Gideon Zelermyer. \$5, includes light lunch. Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. Reservations Appreciated: 514.937.9474 x 139. 12 noon.

► "Treasures for our Children: Jewish Foodways for the 21st Century," by Joan Nathan, Lara Rabinovitch and Daphna Rabinovitch, and moderated by Susan Schwartz. Free, but registration required at www.mcgill.ca/lib/rsvp-event-treasures-our-children-jewish-foodways. Victoria Hall. 3 pm.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

City Remembrance Day ceremony. Cenotaph in front of city hall. 2 pm.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Deirdre Potash on "Marc Aurèle Fortin and His Bicycle," presented by the Women's Art Society of Montreal. \$10. Men welcome. Unitarian Church of Montreal, 5035 de Maisonneuve West. 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

► Atwater Library's annual benefit. Guests of honour are Alan Hogg and Grace Hogg of The George Hogg Family Foundation. \$150 online from CanadaHelps and at library. 1200 Atwater Ave. 6 pm.

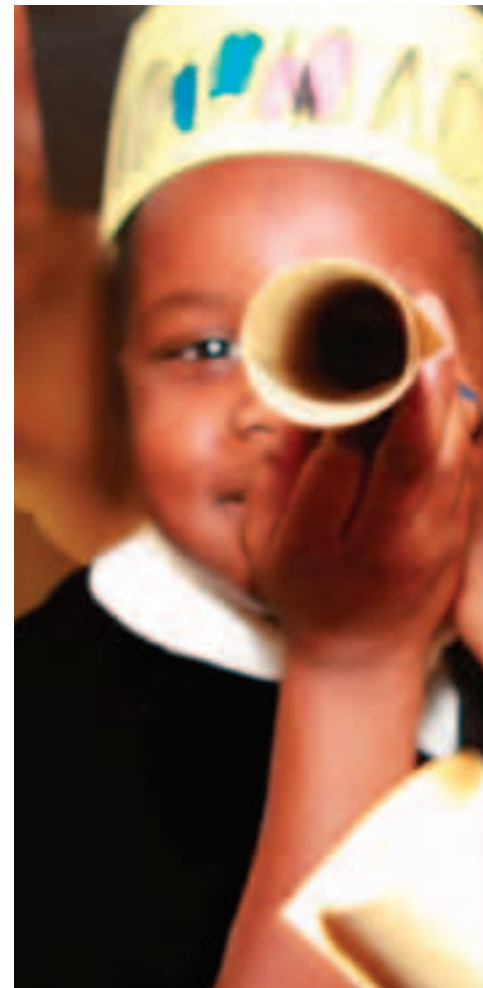
► CLSC Flu Vaccination Clinic. Victoria Hall. 10 am.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Artisans Westmount. \$2 or non-perishable food item. Victoria Hall. 10:30 am to 5 pm. Also on Sunday, November 11. 10:30 am to 5 pm.

To BE LISTED IN Comin' Up

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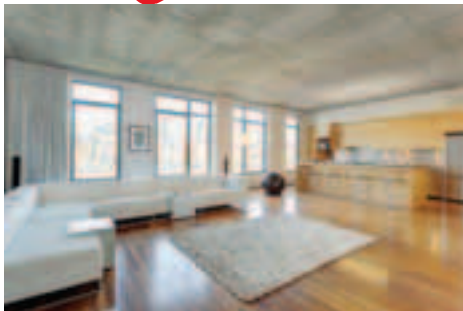
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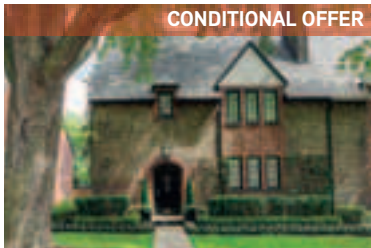
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