

New Westmount budget meeting set for Jan. 18

Surprise 6.7% agгло hike postpones city budget

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A special meeting to present Westmount's 2018 budget last week was suddenly postponed to January 18 after it was learned the city's agglomeration apportionment for shared Montreal island-wide services had been raised 6.7 percent, an increase of \$3.5 million.

The city's agгло assessment in 2017 was \$52.7 million on an overall budget of \$106 million.

"I am incredibly disappointed," Mayor

Christina Smith said January 10 when the Montreal/agгло budget was announced. "We could never have expected such an increase," she said. "We had been hoping for 1.5 percent."

This sent the city back to redo its own budget, since the agгло portion typically accounts for 50 percent of it.

Smith said the surprise increase underlined the way Montreal imposed its agglomeration costs without consultation with the suburbs or advance notice from Montreal mayor Valérie Plante. "It's appalling we had no heads-up. So much for what she had said about seeing us as partners."

On average, the 15 demerged munici-

continued on p. 12

Agгло budget challenged



An unusually large contingent of media converged on Westmount city hall January 12 to hear the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) call on Montreal to rework the agglomeration budget in partnership with the demerged cities. Answering questions were, from left: Westmount mayor Christina Smith (ASM treasurer), Montreal West mayor Beny Masella (ASM president); Beaconsfield mayor Georges Bourelle (vice president); and Montreal East mayor Robert Coutu (vice president). See stories p. 12. Seated behind are other suburban mayors.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 24



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New 'hybrid' plan proposed for de Mais./Prince Albert

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A development project to integrate nine two-storey townhouses and six condos on the property of 4898 de Maisonneuve at Prince Albert is to be presented in public at the next meeting of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) Tuesday, January 16.

The four-storey residential building of 15

units would have a green roof with an urban agricultural garden. It would replace the three-plus storey office building and outdoor parking lot currently owned by a numbered company headed by Guy Laframboise.

The project was conceived and designed to harmonize with the existing Victoria village homes, developer Noam Schnitzer told the

continued on p. 17

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2017



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pleasant new projects **SOLD** the gilmores gather their gear & move off of metcalfe **SOLD** laura & jonah bail out of burton to renovate a much bigger abode **SOLD** nathalie fait le necessaire en mémoire de sa magnifique mère **SOLD** sheila gets going out of grey, picking a pad with a groovy garden view **SOLD** gianna decides on a dazzling condo on duvernay steps away from delicious atwater market **SOLD** david & sylvie, with their passion for projects, pick up a pair of perfect places **SOLD** two happy clients trade their trendy tour-des-canadiens cribs **SOLD** jeannot & lise seeking something simpler decide on something swanky in st. henri **SOLD** the oldlands opt out of their awesome abode picking out a picture perfect new place **SOLD** carol, fil & the family are sure to feel fabulous in their fancy new find **SOLD** beautiful bernadette bounces out of her beautiful abode, packing up the backyard bbq **SOLD** friendly frans forges forward from strathcona feeling fondly about a future closer to his family **SOLD** philippe gets a great tenant so quickly you'd think the grass grows greener on grosvenor **SOLD** the gilmours really get the golden goose managing multiple bids to grab hold of something gorgeous & glamorous **SOLD** shilpee, raj & the rugrats retreat from their residence to write their new chapter in medical research **SOLD** the steeles saunter toward sunnier skies to settle in the city of angels **SOLD** the elvidges make an elegant exit so that andrew, sophie & their sweethearts can settle in **SOLD** sebastien & marie chantale land in something particularly lovely in lachine not far from the lake **SOLD** the schwartz-bonhamies cut their cord from the countryside to come to the city for the kids **SOLD** the carpendales come cross country for the perfect place in the pretty plateau **SOLD** chris keeps his cool as he clears out of cote st antoine **SOLD** beatrix & nick say 'so long' to grey & doing their groove along the way **SOLD** michael & caroline kick up their heels when they sell on king edward **SOLD** stephano & esterina double down on duplexes with irvine & wilson **SOLD** the kilburns cop a cozy cool condo for claire on nifty notre-dame **SOLD** iris, always enthusiastic, is ecstatic once the sale is established **SOLD** lauren feels liberated as she locks down her lovely condo on lively ridgewood **SOLD** dr peter & cassie buckle down & bring the family to beautiful brock **SOLD** the brilliant bouchards & their boys bolt from their 5 bedroom beauty into something better for the bachelors **SOLD** the delightful de kovens divest of their delightful dwelling to be domiciled just down the street **SOLD** jim & michele make it work for a wonderful unit on wood **SOLD** diana & manny manage it all & move near the market **SOLD** fabulous family finds victory on victoria **SOLD** neil nails a nice new revenue netting nest **SOLD** olga & her boys, busting out of their two bedrooms, buy something bigger & better **SOLD** renee & iain say sayonara to st lambert & make the move to mount stephen **SOLD** the noticeably nice nadons get something gorgeous & groovy on grosvenor **SOLD** upstanding ulrich decides to divest of his abode on upper roslyn **SOLD** rachel & emmanuel sell something swell then settle on something supremely sexy **SOLD** marvelous mike manages a mountain of his aunt's memorabilia to make sure her move materializes **SOLD** jeannie & her siblings sell something substantial for their most special sweetheart **SOLD** lyse & pierre pack up their pen & pick out a pleasant new pad **SOLD** aicha gets organized on grey & gladly gets a great revenue gig going **SOLD** mme fortier finds something fabulous & phenomenal **SOLD** karen is keen to create a killer design in her cool new condo **SOLD** stella's spectacular townhouse sells in a second & now selects her new set up **SOLD** jeff jumps from calgary to join the jazzy community of his lumious laurier lair | **SPECIAL THANKS** to our buyers whose perfect place has yet to be picked, to our sellers whose homes are still to be sold, to our classy colleagues who offer consistent capable collaboration **AND** finally to our precious group for being every year, the team that tames every tangle | **CONGRATULATIONS** to all our kind clients & **THANK YOU AGAIN** for your continued confidence in our crew!



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HOMES

INVENTORY
LEVELS

↓18%

OVER 2016

\$1.7M
AVG. SALE
PRICE

↑9.2%

OVER 2016

172
SOLD

↓1.7%

OVER 2016

\$8.3M
MOST EXPENSIVE SALE

VS

665K
LEAST EXPENSIVE SALE

99
AVG. DAYS
ON MARKET

↓25%

CONDOS

INVENTORY
LEVELS

↓31%

OVER 2016

\$827K
AVG. SALE
PRICE

↑4.1%

OVER 2016

69
SOLD

↓4.4%

OVER 2016

\$2.6M
MOST EXPENSIVE SALE

VS

172K
LEAST EXPENSIVE SALE

146
AVG. DAYS
ON MARKET

↓7%

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Publisher's note

Thank you and best wishes to Kristin

This issue is editor Kristin McNeill's third to last. She will be in the office this week and next week to prepare the issues of January 23 and 30.

Unfortunately, the current level of activity at the *Independent* and at Sherbrooke-Valois makes having both an editor (her) and a publisher (me) a luxury that we cannot afford.

If things were different, it would have been my great pleasure to continue to have her as our content captain, which she has been since April 2010, after having filled other roles here beginning in February 2008.

As editor, she has sourced, edited, fact-checked and laid out the stories that you have been reading in this paper for most of the last decade.

Readers of the *Independent* should not notice any difference in the product. In a relatively recent interview, James Baker

poignantly said of his relationship with former US president George H. W. Bush that "there was very little daylight" between them. The same has been true of Kristin and me. I think we have had the same vision for a local paper and have the same criteria for good journalism. Beginning in February, I will work to edit the paper in that spirit, as I did during her maternity leave (2013-14) and in the first years of the paper (2007-2010).

People often focus on the negative and ignore the positive. Looking back on her tenure here, I will try to focus on the happy fact that we have been able to offer her work and employment these past 10 years.

Most importantly, I thank her for her enormous contribution to this newspaper and I wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

DAVID PRICE, PUBLISHER

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THANKS FOR HELP FINDING DOG RILEY

At 4 pm on December 28 (at minus 23°C with a wind chill of minus 30°C), our three-year-old rescued dog Riley, who hadn't eaten since breakfast and was suffering from a foot injury, slipped out the front door and ran into Westmount Park. We chased her but couldn't keep up, and we needed warmer clothing than what we had hastily grabbed in the moment.

Someone said they saw a black dog on Sherbrooke St. With less than half an hour of daylight left, our family of four, a cousin and a girlfriend immediately went into action, looking for her everywhere. Westmount Public Security, Station 12, the SPCA and the Animal Health Clinic in NDG were notified. Friends and neighbours placed notices on Facebook and went out searching themselves or stayed in touch with us via text message. Dog walkers around Westmount and at Summit Woods agreed to keep their eyes open.

We searched on foot until 11:30 pm. (We did have a brief sighting of her earlier on Gordon Cresc. and called to her but something scared her, and she disappeared.) It was a sleepless, anxious and agonizing night. We put food outside and continued checking for her at our doors.

We humans only lasted 45 minutes per foray before we had to warm up. She had probably been raised as a sled dog in the north, but would she survive, we wondered?

At first light on December 29, our relentless search resumed. We put up posters, and CJAD kindly made an on-air announcement. Trusting our instincts, we again went to the Summit twice, our rays of hope steadily dwindling.

At 12:40 pm, we received notice from Public Security that she might have been spotted by someone at the Summit. The news was almost too good to be true. We raced back up. To our sheer disbelief mixed with complete relief, we had a most joyful reunion with Riley. She was hungry and exhausted, but fine.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us (physically, emotionally, electronically, logistically, mentally, spiritually, etc.) through those frigid and absolutely harrowing 21 hours. We are deeply grateful for your individual and collective efforts, time, concern and love.

WES, BECK, LISA AND MICHAEL
OSTERLAND, MELBOURNE AVE.

AND THANKS FOR FINDING THE MITT

I would like to say thank you to the kind person who found my favourite black mitten on Sherbrooke St. and placed it atop the yellow hydrant pole. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it a few days later; I thought it was lost forever. My hands are toasty warm once again.

KRISTEN RYLANDER, SHERBROOKE ST.

IS THERE A BETTER WAY?

- Standard operating procedure:
- Scrape road bare (largely for the benefit of motorists passing through Westmount),
 - Create snowbanks,
 - Push snow from snowbanks onto sidewalks (thanks to public and private plowing),
 - Force pedestrians out onto the road.

Maybe there's a better system?

JACK GLAY, VICTORIA AVE.



The scene on Victoria Ave. just below the Boulevard January 10. Photo courtesy of J. Glay

DON'T LEAVE DOGS TIED UP OUTSIDE

Winter is upon us, and, again, we continuously see dogs tied to posts while their humans run errands. Aside from this being what I thought was illegal in Westmount, I do not understand how a beloved pet is left outside to dance alternately on three and four paws to avoid the freezing ground.

It is painful to watch, as their eyes dart around, looking for their human to come and retrieve them. Aside from the cold, these animals are left vulnerable to someone taking them for any number of reasons, some to fates I hate to imagine.

Please think twice before you leave your dog outside – any time of the year leaves a pet vulnerable.

DEBORAH BACKMAN, WINDSOR AVE.

WILL FRONT-END BLOWERS ON PLOWS SOLVE PROBLEM OF SNOW ON SIDEWALKS?

We can greet the new year with another of my rants about snow removal. I cannot say I was pleased that

continued on p. 19

2018 off to unexpected start

Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

At the outset, please accept my best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.

This is my first column in the *Independent* since the November election, and I want to thank you for the confidence you have placed in me. My pledge, and that of my colleagues on city council, is to build on the solid foundation that makes Westmount a special community to live in, and to provide you with a responsive and open government.

From our perspective, 2018 got off to an unexpected start with the unveiling last week of the city of Montreal's budget and the announcement of significant tax increases by its mayor Valérie Plante and

her team. This, despite the fact that they campaigned on the promise that taxes would not increase beyond the rate of inflation.

We were taken aback with her plan to raise Westmount's share of agglomeration costs by a staggering 6.7 percent. We are frustrated because there was no prior consultation or notice, and cities across the island of Montreal are already paying a much higher percentage than Montreal.

Your council is responding to Mayor Plante's broken promise in two ways.

On a practical level, we have delayed the tabling of our operating budget by one week to January 18, so that we can review our options if we are indeed forced to absorb the city of Montreal's tax increase. We had assumed a 2-percent increase in agglomeration costs, which is slightly higher than the forecasted 1.7-percent cost of living increase in Quebec for 2018.

Our operating budget also includes funding of the capital works program we

adopted in December, including our on-going investment in infrastructure such as roads, sidewalks, hydro and parks.

Secondly, we are working with the mayors of the Association of Suburban Municipalities on two fronts. We are asking Mayor Plante to re-examine the budget and to take the necessary steps to reduce spending in order to minimize tax increases. At the same time, we are looking for structural changes. We are asking the Quebec minister of Municipal Affairs to look at the current structure of the agglomeration and to focus on developing strategies and policies that promote increased collaboration and ensure the voices of the quarter of a million people who are represented by the independent cities on the island of Montreal are heard. We can all agree we should pay our fair share for the services we receive. But these types of increases go beyond our fair share.

We have worked very hard in Westmount to be fiscally responsible and to control our expenses while making targeted investments.

Please rest assured that this approach will continue to guide us when we present our revised budget Thursday.

Gravenor's new book has local

connections

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Montreal journalist and author Kristian Gravenor, whose new book is *Montreal: 375 Tales of Eating, Drinking, Living and Loving*, spent the first 18 years of his life living in Westmount. See p. 20.

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Council to go forward on 500 Claremont

Residents from 5 zones validated to sign registry

By Laureen Sweeney

Despite the receipt of valid applications from five zones requesting the city hold a registry on the proposed development plan for 500 Claremont, city council was expected to forge ahead January 15 with its third and final reading of the resolution. The council could have decided to abandon its support of the project at this point rather advancing to the registry step, leading to a potential referendum. “We’re proceeding to the next step so residents can exercise their power, and we can find out if they are truly against the project,” Mayor Christina Smith explained. A registry at city hall is now required to be held within the 45 days following the resolution’s adoption, according to the city clerk’s office. “We have also established that a total of 127 persons will need to sign the registry

for the referendum to actually take place,” said city clerk Martin St-Jean. “These registrants would have to be eligible to vote in an eventual referendum for their signature to count.” The five validated zones from which residents can sign are: R3-16-01 (where 500 Claremont is located) and four contiguous zones: R2-15-01, R2-17-01, R9-21-01 and C5-20-01. The latter is a small commercial block on Sherbrooke west of Claremont. While eight zones had the opportunity to submit applications (see story December 12, p. 1), seven applied of which two commercial zones (C5-20-02 and C5-20-04) did not qualify. None was received from C5-20-03, a small commercial one along Sherbrooke from Prince Albert to just west of Victoria. The deadline for submission of applications had been December 21.

Council asked to be proactive over Pink Line

By Laureen Sweeney

City council was asked December 4 to start looking into how a proposed Pink Line addition to Montreal’s Metro system might affect Westmount should it get under way as advocated by Montreal mayor Valérie Plante. The question came from Mike Mossop, a resident of Columbia, who is a member of the Westmount Train Action Committee and a local representative on the Turcot Good Neighbourhood Committee NDG-Westmount. “We didn’t do our homework well over Turcot,” he said. Now was the time to start some long-term planning to be ready for the Pink Line should it materialize for 2020-2025. The Pink Line has been proposed to cut diagonally across the city starting underground in Montreal North but rising above ground to use CP’s Westmount commuter train corridor with the first surface-level stop at Greene. Other suggested stops are Vendôme, Regent, Cavendish, Montreal West, Ville St. Pierre and three in Lachine ending at 32nd Ave. It would require the installation of a new fourth rail.




Mike Mossop questions council December 4.

Mossop asked Mayor Christina Smith to ask Plante for more details when they meet. “It’s something to bring up,” Smith said, adding it was very “pie in the sky” for now. She thanked Mossop for his long-time contributions to transportation interests that impact Westmount. District 7 Councillor Cynthia Lulham said the goal was to set up a roundtable to talk about commuter trains.

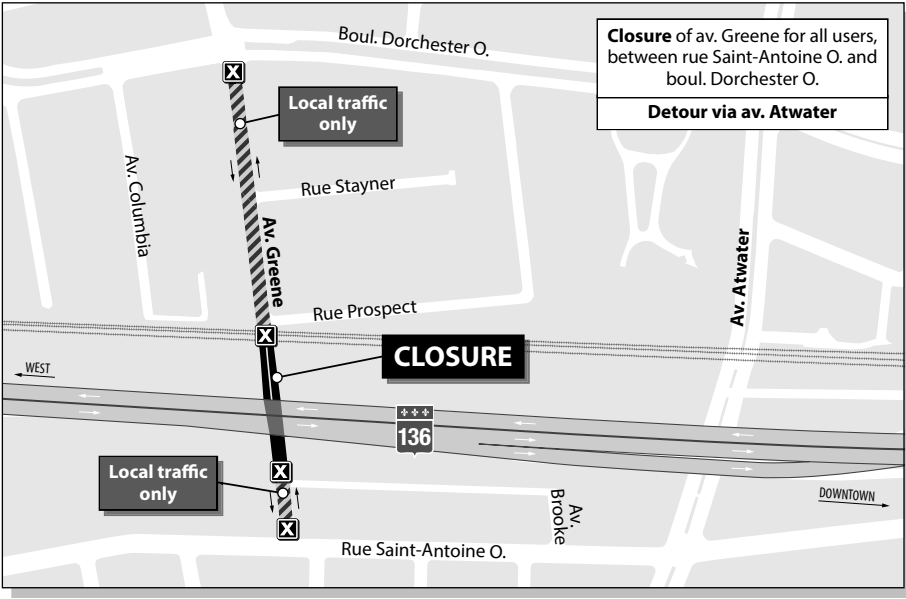
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Dealing with second water main break that day



January 2 at around 1 pm: In sub 20-degree temperatures, city crews tackle a water main break at the corner of Clarke and St. Catherine, where it meets Dorchester Blvd. “This will be a big job,” said one worker. “There’s gas pipes, Bell lines and hydro cables close to the break.” Gaz Métro was on hand to assist. He said it was second break they had to deal with that day. Photo: Ralph Thompson

Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in September 2017

For transfers, please consult paper archives.

What a weekend of weather




Left: Westmount Park January 12 at 3 pm looked more like a foggy scene from a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery than January in Montreal. At close to plus 10 ° C, an eerie ground fog hung over Westmount. The temperature was dropping at a rate of several degrees an hour that afternoon. Middle: January 13 around 8 am, a woman walks some dogs through deep snow in minus 9 ° C and windy conditions. A steady snow fall all day produced about 36 cms of snow, returned the park to a more normal winter scene. Right: The next day, January 14, around noon, others walk under clear blue skies, in now minus 19 ° C temperatures.

Photos: Ralph Thompson

Sales analysis

September transfers: Two more over \$3 million



Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in September 2017, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 9.

Two Westmount houses topped the \$3 million mark last September, both going for exactly \$3,050,000 and both clearing their respective municipal valuations by double-digit percentages. The two included 55 Delavigne Rd., a large 1983-construction detached home, and 26 Edgehill Rd., a classic brick mansion which sold along with the large back yard stretching down the slope to The Boulevard, that is still classed as a separate building lot. An even dozen Westmount homes have sold for higher prices so far this year, so the prices might be considered modest by Westmount standards.

The mark-ups over valuation helped bring the average mark-up for September to 13 percent, up from 9.3 percent in August. Highest mark-up in September involved 540 Grosvenor Ave.; only two home sales were registered for less than valuation, especially 377 Metcalfe Ave. just below Sherbrooke St., which was marked down some 15 percent.

Fourteen single-family homes and a du-

plex made up the September list, down from 23 sales in August, but the volume is actually higher than the average September sales figure (in the past decade) of 12.5. So far in 2017, 163 Westmount sales have been registered, the highest volume figure for year-to-date since 2010. By far the lowest sale price own September was \$750,000 for 162 Hillside Ave., an attached house backing onto the CPR right-of-way, one of four one- and two-family dwellings which sold for less than \$1 million in September.

Three apartment-condominium units and a multi-floor condominium on Lansdowne Ave. at Sherbrooke St. sold in September. By far the highest price, \$2,350,000, was paid for a 2,000-plus-square-foot condo on the third floor at 215 Redfern Ave., evaluated at \$1,614,100 (including garages) and so involving a mark-up of 45.6 percent, the highest markup for any condo transfer in the third quarter of 2017. That helped bring the average mark-up of the four sales in September to 28.4 percent, but for the quarter, which recorded 17 condo sales, the average mark-up was only 5.7 percent. Still, that was up from an average 4.8 percent in the second quarter and a mark-down of 3.6 percent in the first quarter of the year.

One more flat, at 4721 de Maisonneuve Blvd., sold as a share of the duplex for \$514,500.

The month also saw the resale of one of the two lots in front of 475 Roslyn Ave. which brought \$1,750,000 or \$214 per



26 Edgehill Rd., one of two at the highest price, \$3,050,000. Photos were taken December 29.

square foot, the fourth piece of vacant land to sell this year, three of them over \$200 per square foot. The Roslyn land had been purchased from the estate of Marjorie

Bronfman in 2014 for \$1,150,000.

Andy Dodge is a retired Canadian Residential Appraiser.



162 Hillside Ave., lowest price, \$750,000.



55 Delavigne Rd., the second at the highest price, \$3,050,000.



540 Grosvenor Ave., biggest mark-up, 46 percent.



377 Metcalfe Ave., biggest mark-down, -15.2 percent.

Year-end WHA event remembers Gubbay



WHA president Caroline Breslaw, red at front, and archivist Jane Martin, describe one of the more than 100 digitized images that were projected onto a screen throughout the evening December 14. The picture on the screen shows Roslyn School.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The traditional Westmount Historical Association (WHA) December social took place December 14 in the Gallery at Victoria Hall with Christmas cake, bubbly drinks and other refreshments.

President Caroline Breslaw and archivist Jane Martin described the association's project to digitize its substantial archives in order to preserve the records.

The theme of the evening was "Celebrating the Aline Gubbay photo archives" in memory of the association's former president, who died in 2015. Gubbay's family asked that donations be given to the WHA. These along with grants from the city will help fund the digitization and cat-

aloguing of its archived material into a searchable database.

Breslaw and Martin talked through about 100 photographs dating back to the 19th century, including a toboggan run down Clarke Ave., stylish horse-drawn carriages and long since demolished architectural sites, such as the William Murray residence.

The WHA will start its four-part monthly winter lecture series starting Thursday, January 18. The talk scheduled is "Zoning Pioneers: Westmount & Manhattan" by Raphael Fischler. Talks take place at 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. They are free for WHA members and \$5 for others.

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Westmount Historical Association (WHA) presents "Zoning Pioneers: Westmount & Manhattan," with speaker urban planning professor Raphael Fischler. 7 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Free for WHA members; \$5 for non-members.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Westmount Park United Church's climate café talk "Montreal's secret wetlands and its birds" by ornithologist Joël Coutu, 7 pm to 9:30 pm. 4695 de Maisonneuve

Blvd. Free. Info: www.westmount-parkuc.org.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24

Westmount Public Library author lecture series: **Michael Redhill**, author of *Bellevue Square*, 7 pm at Victoria Hall. Tickets required. Info: 514.989.5299.

The Atwater Library and the Quebec Writers' Federation provide an information session on the **Language Portal of Canada**, free English- and French-language resources to improve writing. 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Register: workshops@qwfw.org or 514.933.0878.

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City can't absorb increase of \$3.5 million: Smith

cont'd. from p. 1

palities this year face an increase of 5.3 percent (see list below).

This resulted in a press conference by the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) January 12 at Westmount city hall (see p. 1 and story same page).

"It's unacceptable that we should be having to pay for Montreal's increases," Smith said. "I hope Westmounters will raise their voices at this. None of the demerged municipalities had foreseen this increase," she added.

New funding format

A new funding formula had been worked out last year between Montreal and the ASM, announced as benefitting the suburbs though Westmount would be at the higher end of the share they would pay (see story June 20, 2017, p. 12).

Smith is the newly elected treasurer of the association.

Keeping a freeze on taxes for a third year had been a common election plank from

Smith and many of the candidates elected in November to Westmount's new council. She said the city would have been able to absorb a small increase in its aggro share but not to this extent.

Westmount had been prepared to present and adopt its own budget January 11, the day after the Montreal/agglo budget was unveiled.

Some cities such as Montreal West, Pointe Claire, Dorval and Beaconsfield had been reported to have adopted their budgets in December, based on anticipated aggro increases of 2 to 2.5 percent.

2018 share of agglomeration expenses (rounded to nearest decimal point)

	2018 \$M	\$M change	% change
Baie d'Urfé	11.6	0.63	5.7
Beaconsfield	21.0	1.04	5.2
Côte St. Luc	28.4	0.95	3.5
DDO	41.4	2.08	5.3
Dorval	72.1	2.90	4.2
Hampstead	10.0	0.39	4.0
Ile Dorval	0.07	0.005	7.1
Kirkland	29.7	0.82	2.8
Mount Royal	50.1	4.5	9.8
Montreal E.	17.9	0.5	3.2
Montreal W.	5.6	0.47	9.0
Pointe Claire	62.6	3.7	6.3
Senneville	3.4	0.12	3.6
St. A. de B.	8.7	(0.7)	(7.4)
Westmount	55.3	3.5	6.7
Total, suburbs	417.9	20.9	5.3
Total Montreal	1,977.4	125.3	6.8
Total aggro	2,395.3	146.2	6.5

Suburbs call for revisions to aggro budget

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount and the 14 other reconstituted municipalities issued an "urgent" call to Montreal January 12 to reduce the 2018 agglomeration budget for shared island-wide services on which they are assessed. Its rise is twice the 2.5-percent hike they had expected.

At a news conference held at Westmount city hall, the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM) decried the 5.3-percent average increase levied on the demerged cities without consultation. They contend it would require them to cut their own municipal services.

"We were only given the budget the same time as the media," stated West-

mount mayor Christina Smith, the association's treasurer and one of the four executive members to speak to the issue (see photo p. 1).

The suburbs proposed they be included in a budget review as partners. They cited a budget for 2006 as a precedent for reducing aggro shared costs under similar circumstances.

If Montreal does not agree to a reduction, it was suggested the ASM would have to turn to other measures, possibly at the Quebec level.

Much of the aggro increase was subsequently attributed by Montreal to higher policing costs resulting from a new labour contract and shortfalls in pension deficits.



A bevy of TV, radio and newspaper media focused on suburban mayors January 12 as they explained the impact of agglomeration increases on their municipal budgets. The news conference took place in the Westmount council chamber Jan. 12 (see also photo p. 1).

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Capital Works program presented

City plans \$16M in road and other infrastructure work, down \$1M

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Some \$15.8 million of work is planned for this year to upgrade the city's streets, buildings and other infrastructure, according to a three-year capital works program presented December 18.

While this is \$1.2 million less than last year, the city will continue to pay for most of the work from the operating budget through \$14.1 million from the pay-as-you-go component in the operating budget.

"I'm committed to this," Mayor Christina Smith said.

The projected decrease in infrastructure spending for 2018 stems mainly from a reduction in Quebec grants of some \$500,000 to \$600,000 (to about \$1.4 million), Smith said. Additional work could be undertaken, however, if the subsidy program should be reinstated, she added.

As well, an additional \$1-million contribution the city made last year from "other sources" (mainly surplus) has been re-

duced to \$250,000. The surplus will be further explained during the presentation of the operating budget, she said.

"The total 2018 capital budget is set at \$15.5 million for our regular capital works projects with the addition of \$250,000 allocated for the continuation of the greenhouse restoration project," Smith said in reading the presentation speech.

She explained that "last year the council has asked the city administration to prepare a 20-year asset management plan. It has, therefore, been determined that an annual average investment of \$15.5 million is required for regular capital works, excluding any special projects such as the greenhouse rehabilitation."

Of this year's total \$15.8 million of work, the lion's share of \$14.1 million would be paid from the year's operating budget, unchanged from last year. The remaining \$1.7 million is projected to come from grants of \$1.4 million and appropriated surplus of \$250,000.

According to this year's capital works budget, the city intends to retain its level of upgrading roads and sidewalks at some \$5.2 million but will reduce spending on water and sewer networks to \$2.6 million compared with \$3.4 million last year.

This year's work also calls for spending \$2.8 million (unchanged) on city buildings including the greenhouses, as well as \$1.3 million on vehicles and \$2.5 million on Hydro Westmount's electrical distribution network – both slightly increased.

Parks will receive \$645,000 (half of last year) while another \$642,150 will go for information systems, slightly more than last year.

While the three-year capital works program also looks ahead to 2019 and 2020, these years are considered as wish lists or work intended at this point in time but usually subject to change. As an example, the three-year program adopted in December 2016 for 2017-2019 proposed \$17 million of work for 2018.



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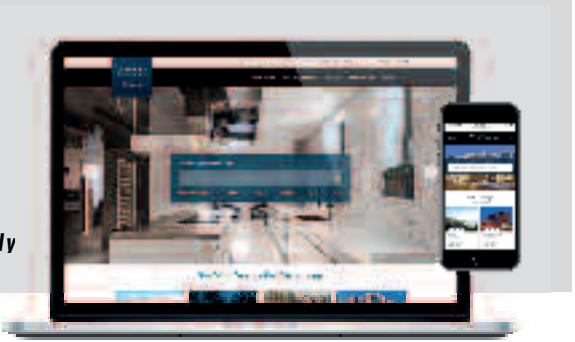
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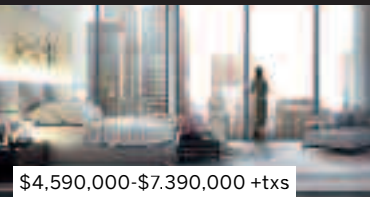
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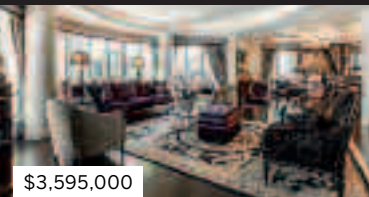
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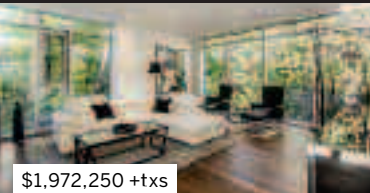
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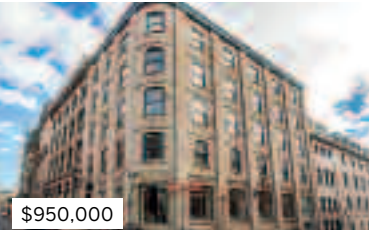
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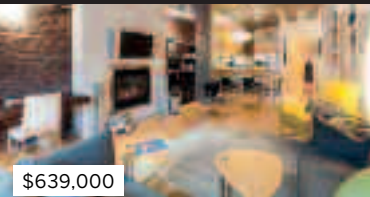
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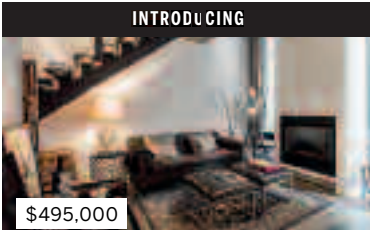
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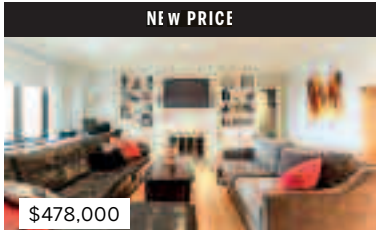
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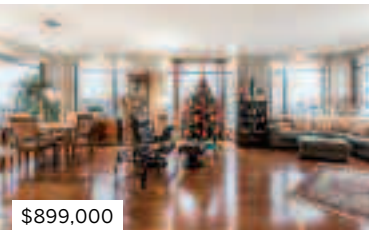
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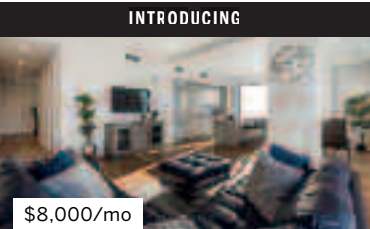
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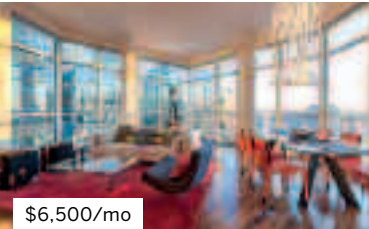
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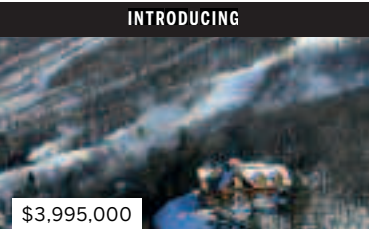


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BED: 3 BATH: 3 MLS 25628514
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Dominique Malo* 514.265.9468



\$1,500,000
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Barbara Baudinet 514.825.9890**

« COTTAGE COUNTRY »



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Stéphane Larrivée* 514.809.8466



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\$899,000
Ranch, Trois-Rivières
BED: 4 BATH: 5+2 MLS 24650566
Diego Brunelle^ 819.383.9455



\$895,000
Sainte-Marguerite-du-Lac-Masson
BED: 4 BATH: 4+1 MLS 27672726
Jill Shpritsner 514.815.5105**
Maureen Brosseau* 514.815.2313

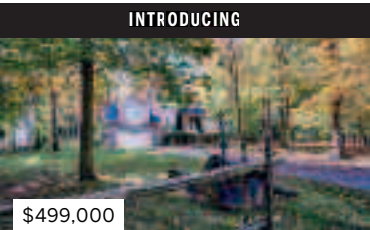


\$575,000
Exclusive Valdurm, St-Faustin/Lac-Carré
BED: 2 BATH: 1 MLS 10513448
Raymond Dalbec* 819.425.4568

« COTTAGE COUNTRY »



\$539,000
Dom. Côté Azur, Ste-Agathe-des-Monts
BED: 5 BATH: 3 MLS 18776743
Melanie Clarke* 450.694.0678



INTRODUCING
\$499,000
Peaceful, Saint-Sauveur
BED: 3 BATH: 2 MLS 21638377
Rachelle Demers* 514.378.8630



\$476,000
40 min from Montreal, Piedmont
BED: 4 BATH: 2+1 MLS 16648997
Ghislaine Adeland* 514.731.6378



\$386,000
Ski-in/Ski-out, large condo on the Versant du Lac, Bromont
BED: 2 BATH: 1 | Gas fireplace | Private terrace | MLS 26769116
Marie-Piers Barsalou 450.577.0272**



Johanne Meunier* 514.926.5626

Underground parking for several York St. residents



This rendering of the design for a proposed project at 4898 de Maisonneuve at Prince Albert is on view at city hall as part of the plans by architect Karl Fischer of FRW Architects.

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

Independent.

“We wanted to do a replica building that looks as if it had always been there,” he explained.

It features the use of building materials such as heritage-style brick, a false mansard roof and individual street-level entrances to each of the townhouses along three facades: de Maisonneuve, Prince Albert and the site’s private lane parallel to York.

It is the second plan that has been proposed for the site – now by a different developer – under the city’s SCAOPI/PPC-MOI by-law for projects that do not conform to current zoning. The first one for six storeys of 21 apartments was rejected by the city as being too massive and out of character with the neighbourhood.

Plans for this new project show the two-level townhouses making up most of the first and second storeys. The third floor consists of four condos while the fourth floor, set back from the others, contains two penthouses.

Calling it a “hybrid boutique project,” Schnitzer said the goal is to focus on a niche market: Westmount residents selling large homes and “moving down the hill” to a spacious townhouse or condo.

Underground parking would provide 37 spaces for the 15 units plus three being made available to residents of 41-43 and 49 York on what is understood to be likely a purchase agreement. These homes would be losing vehicular access for parking in their backyards via the private lane.

The ramp to the garage is off de Maisonneuve,

located between the building and the Château Westmount care facility immediately to the east.

Offer to purchase

Schnitzer said he had been considering developing the site ever since the previous plan by Laframboise and developer Peter Smale was turned down in August 2016. (See story August 9, 2016, p. 1). Following that, he had approached the city to better understand what might be accepted.

He said he had postponed an initial offer to purchase the property in October 2017 to April this year and submitted a revised plan in November 2017.

The designing architect is Karl Fischer, who practises in Montreal and New York City with the firm FRW Architects.

According to Schnitzer’s documentation, the height of the building at 59.3 feet compares with the current allowable maximum of 50. Site coverage of 54.8 percent would exceed the zoning maximum of 40 percent.

In addition to a parking potential for the homes on York, the project would create a public park or greenspace at the south west corner of the property.

Produce grown on the green roof would be made available to the community and food banks in arrangements to be determined.

The submission estimates that the welcome and property taxes would bring the city some \$1.3 million in revenue over the first five years – more if resales provided additional welcome taxes. Yearly tax revenue was estimated at \$212,000 “in perpetuity.”

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VICTORIA HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE
4626 Sherbrooke Ouest - Westmount



JFK

January 21, 2018

10:30 am

GUEST:

Greg Robinson, Professor, American History - UQAM

INFO + RESERVATION:

letstalkopera.operademontreal.com





infoWestmount

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Projet Turcot : fermeture sur l'av. Greene Du 17 au 26 janvier. L'avenue Greene sera fermée à la circulation entre la rue St-Antoine O. et le boul. Dorchester O. pour la durée des travaux de démantèlement du pont d'étagement de l'autoroute 720. Les conducteurs, les piétons et les cyclistes sont invités à emprunter l'avenue Atwater par le biais de détours balisés. Plus de détails à westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Club de lecture en français
Le lundi 22 janvier, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Alexandra David-Néel. Animé par Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Ciné-club
Le mardi 23 janvier, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Un Sac de billes*. En français avec sous-titres en anglais. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais
Le mardi 23 janvier, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *The Door* par Magda Szabo. Animé par Claire Holden Rothman. 514 989-5299.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Le mercredi 24 janvier, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque. Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount compose des poèmes à partir de thèmes proposés par les membres. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5299.

Rencontres d'auteurs : Michael Redhill
Le mercredi 24 janvier, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Rencontrez Michael Redhill, gagnant du prix Giller de 2017 et auteur de *Bellevue Square*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Série Récits de voyage
Les vendredis du 26 janvier au 2 mars, 13 h à 15 h, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. Inscription requise. Le nombre de places est limité. 514 989-5530 ou dmiguez@westmount.org.

Conférences de 14 heures : Wayne Larsen
Le mercredi 31 janvier, 14 h, Bibliothèque. *A.Y. Jackson: The Life of a Landscape Painter*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 5 février

Le groupe Teen Tour Theatre présente *Totally Red!*
Le dimanche 18 février, 14 h - 16 h, Victoria Hall. Une adaptation humoristique du conte classique *Le petit chaperon rouge* pour les jeunes de 4 à 12 ans. Réalisation : Aviva Wolman-Wener. Inscription requise. 514 989-5229.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Conférence : Parlons opéra!
Le dimanche 21 janvier, 10 h 30, Victoria Hall. Victoria Hall. *JFK* de Little et Vavrek. Présenté (en anglais) par L'Opéra de Montréal. Réservez votre place à operademontreal.com ou 514 989-5226.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition
Du 25 janvier au 23 février. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter des œuvres de Mona Agia et Rasa Pavilanis. Vernissage **le mercredi 24 janvier, 18 h à 20 h;** rencontre avec les artistes et la commissaire de la galerie **le mardi 30 janvier, 19 h.** Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5521.

Soirée familiale du carnaval d'hiver
Le vendredi 2 février, 17 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Year of the Dog*. Souper et soirée dansante familiale. Les places sont limitées, donc achetez vos billets à l'avance. Adultes 12 \$, enfants 6 \$. 514 989-5226.

McGill Classics : *Pseudolus*
Le samedi 3 février, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Pseudolus* (L'imposteur) par Plaute. La pièce de 2000 ans subit une transformation au goût des années 1930 dans cette adaptation de comédie classique. Entrée libre, dons acceptés (12 ans et plus). 514 989-5226.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Collecte de sapins de Noël
Au cours du mois de janvier. Placez votre sapin, dépouillé de toute décoration, à proximité de la rue et de façon à ne pas entraver le déneigement. SVP, faites preuve de patience; la température et le déneigement peuvent retarder la collecte. Si votre arbre n'a pas été ramassé après une semaine, veuillez appeler au 514 989-5311.

Opérations de déneigement
Dans les jours qui suivent une importante chute de neige, soyez vigilents quant aux feux clignotants et panneaux oranges qui indiquent les restrictions de stationnement en vigueur pour permettre le chargement de neige. Évitez une contravention et aidez-nous à déneiger rapidement.

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CITY HALL

Turcot Project: Greene Ave. - partial closure January 17 to 26. Greene Avenue will be closed between St. Antoine St. W. and Dorchester Blvd. W. for the duration of the dismantling of the westbound Autoroute 720 overpass. Drivers, pedestrians and cyclists are asked to use Atwater Ave. via the marked detours. More details at westmount.org.

LIBRARY

French Book Club
Monday, January 22, 1 p.m., Library. Alexandra David-Néel. Led by Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Film Club
Tuesday, January 23, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *A Bag of Marbles* (*Un Sac de billes*). In French with English subtitles. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

English Book Club
Tuesday, January 23, 7 p.m., Library. *The Door* by Magda Szabo. Led by Claire Holden Rothman 514 989-5299.

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd
Wednesday, January 24, 10:15 a.m., Library. The Westmount Poetry Group meets to compose poetry together working with themes proposed by members. Welcome to all. 514 989-5299.

Author Lecture Series: Michael Redhill
Wednesday, January 24, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Come meet Michael Redhill, author of *Bellevue Square* and winner of the 2017 Giller Award. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Tales and Travels Series
Fridays, from January 26 to March 2, 1-3 p.m., Library. A weekly activity for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Registration is required and spaces are limited. 514 989-5530 or dmiguez@westmount.org.

2 O'Clock Conferences: Wayne Larsen
Wednesday, January 31, 2 p.m., Library. *A.Y. Jackson: The Life of a Landscape Painter*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting Monday, February 5

Teen Tour Theatre Group presents *Totally Red!*
Sunday, February 18, 2-4 p.m., Victoria Hall. A fun retelling of the classic fairy tale *Little Red Riding Hood*, directed by Aviva Wolman-Wener. Ages 4 to 12. Registration required. 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lecture: Let's Talk Opera!
Sunday, January 21, 10:30 a.m., Victoria Hall. *JFK* by Little and Vavrek. Presentation in English by *L'Opéra de Montréal*. Reservations: 514 989-5226 or operademontreal.com.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: exhibition
January 25 to February 23. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is proud to present the works of Mona Agia et Rasa Pavilanis. Vernissage: **Wednesday, January 24, 6-8 p.m.** Meet the artists and gallery curator event: **Tuesday, January 30, 7 p.m.** Gallery hours: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5521.

Westmount Winter Carnival Family Night
Friday, February 2, 5:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Year of the Dog*. A dinner and dance evening for families. Cash bar. Places are limited so purchase your tickets in advance. \$12 adults, \$6 children. 514 989-5226.

McGill Classics: *Pseudolus*
Saturday, February 3, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Pseudolus* by Plautus. This 2000-year-old comedy gets a 1930s makeover in this adaptation of the classical romp. For ages 12+. Free-will offering. 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC WORKS

Christmas Tree Collection
Throughout January. Place your tree at the street anytime, but make sure it does not hinder snow operations. Please be patient; weather and snow removal may delay collection. If your tree has not been picked up after one week, phone 514 989-5311.

Snow removal
In the days after a heavy snowfall, watch for the orange signs or flashing lights indicating temporary parking restrictions during snow loading operations. Avoid fines and help us remove the snow as quickly as possible.



council decided to solve the problem of heavy snow on sidewalks by purchasing front-end blowers for a sidewalk plow and a John Deere tractor (“Snow removal changes involve earlier times, modified equipment,” October 24, p. 3).

I assume the costs are to be shared by all taxpayers, thus further subsidizing those with long driveways who permit their contractors to pile the snow on sidewalks.

It was cold comfort (pun intended) to read that “the city will also be asking residents...to ensure that their private contractors place snow on existing snow banks and not across sidewalks and into the street.” If asking was all that was required, we would not continue to be faced with this problem.

I trust the new council will take its responsibilities to ensure the safety of all citizens more seriously by strengthening and enforcing regulations. I predict that if it fails to do so, and an elderly or disabled person is prevented from exiting their home in an emergency or injures themselves while trying to navigate blocked sidewalks, the burden on taxpayers following legal actions will be even greater.

BARRY PLESS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

SPREAD BLAME FOR METCALFE TRAFFIC PROBLEM

I sympathize with the letter-writer caught up in the “Metcalfé mayhem” (December 5, p. 8). I strongly dislike traffic and people irreverently blocking it. What I do not sympathize with is surmounting total blame for the traffic in the area onto one community’s synagogue and instead recognizing the ill-advised choices of single motorists and homeowners. We live in an urban community and as such are subject to the annoyances of city life.

The writer’s points about permits and considerations for lanes built for horse-drawn carriages are a bit short-sighted.

The situation described in the letter isn’t a sudden and unexpected change. Congregation Shaar Hashomayim purchased its land between Kensington and Metcalfe in 1920, and it was dedicated on September 17, 1922. Unless you bought your house before this time, I see that you have to take responsibility for your situation too. The houses in the area are not only next to a popular synagogue, but within a two-block radius there is a church, city hall and two other schools, all of which attract cars and traffic.

Personally, I just purchased a house knowing full well that it was next to a school and a firehouse. If when I move in, I find the noise of the children and the flashing lights disturbing, whom do I really have to blame? I don’t think to suggest changing permits of institutions that benefit thousands.

The real issue here is that people need to take responsibility for the consequences of their own actions, including the individual motorists who disrespectfully block driveways. We also need to realize the actions of individuals are not a reflection of an entire group or organization.

JESSICA NEAT, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

TIME TO RENAME DORCHESTER BLVD.

In 1987, Westmount decided not to follow Montreal in renaming Dorchester Blvd. “boulevard René Lévesque.” We took a stand as an independent municipality, with our own past and cultural reference points. The city of Montreal went ahead, and we kept our pride. And, let’s not forget, Montreal did rebrand the boulevard with undue haste – almost before Lévesque’s body was cold.

Times have changed. Westmount merged and, thankfully, demerged. Our demography is less true-blue. Our place in Quebec has evolved.

Guy Carleton, first baron of Dorchester, governor general of British North America from 1768 to 1778 and of the newborn Dominion of Canada 1785 to 1795 was a key player in our nation’s early history. Somebody had to do it. He did. And convinced the crown to recognize French law. And he got his boulevard. He never lived in Westmount, though.

But he didn’t change the playing field. He applied new rules, most handed down from London. René Lévesque rewrote our history: the referendum he fathered was a game-changer. He redefined Quebec as none had before.

So 31 years later, in 2018, why not show our fellow Quebecers that we recognize Lévesque’s huge contribution to who we are today. Hard to believe for some Westmounters, there are still triplex-dwellers on the Plateau and in Hochelaga who associate Westmount with “privilege,” “blokes” and even, god forbid, with “White Rhodesians.” Let’s show we disown the “us and them” glass partition.

Sure, we’ll fight for anglophone rights when needed, but not as “outsiders” protesting against a “nationalist agenda”, but over tangible issues (such as healthcare, city contracts, etc.) where language does matter. We’ll also fight to keep city taxes down (especially down the hill), and our cultural showcases alive and well.

By switching “Dorchester” with “René Lévesque,” visitors and tourists would no longer suffer from albeit minor confusion (and a few jokes at our expense). The cost will be minute. Many across Quebec would see it as official recognition of Westmount as really part of postmodern, relatively dynamic Quebec society – the final shedding of our “anglo-elite” plumage. A good-news

story likely to be coast-to-coasted on *The National*.

The newly-elected city council should turn this particular page. As for the baron, he’s already got his Dorchester Square (ex-Dominion Square). Let’s also give him a park, where he can rest in peace, his name living on forever more – with Prince Albert and Queen Victoria keeping a neighbourly eye on him. Why not name the new Prince Albert and Sherbrooke square “Dorchester Park” in his honour, and, in the middle, install a statue of him with accompanying plaque for all to wonder and admire?

PATRICK BOLLAND, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

Publisher’s reply: I encourage the city council not to follow another of Montreal’s many mistakes by renaming Westmount’s portion of Dorchester.

Guy Carleton, later Lord (Baron) Dorchester, should be remembered in a constant way and not commemorated by a tiny square that has gone nameless without issue since its creation. He dealt with a situation he did not precipitate (the conquest of Quebec) in a pragmatic and enlightened way (by the standards of the time), especially given the strict constraints of his era, including its many prejudices and outright hatreds (at the time, usually religious in nature).

It is worth recalling that, however large the conquest of Quebec looms in the imagination of *Québécois* nationalists, it was one of several minor military theatres of the Seven Years’ War, in the eyes of both protagonists relevant to this discussion, Britain and France. The latter actually chose during the peace negotiations to get back the sugar island of Guadeloupe over New France. The “conquerors” sent to govern Quebec were administrators doing a job, not pillaging warlords or ethnic-cleansing fanatics.

In that role, Carleton championed political rights for Roman Catholics inside the British Empire (as enshrined in the Quebec Act), an extreme and innovative idea by the standards of the time. One can argue that Canada’s spirit of compromise and negotiation, which so many people admire, started with him and people of like mind during that period.

René Lévesque, on the other hand, came

up with a solution (separation) to a non-problem (Canada) that was divisive, destructive and a two-time political failure, despite a deeply dishonest presentation of its characteristics and alleged merits. Even in defeat, it created acrimony and harm, causing major economic and social havoc in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, which arguably continues to this day. How many Quebec-born readers of these words have family living outside Quebec, driven there by Lévesque and his ilk?

Speaking of *Québécois* nationalists, who more closely resembles the stereotypical white Rhodesians of the 1895-to-1979 period? Inward-looking, often *pure laine*, *Québécois* nationalists – anxious legislators on all sorts of issues of language purity, or the outward-looking, often multi-lingual francos, anglos and allos who oppose them?

If consistency is now required in the naming of streets, why not petition Montreal to change “René Lévesque” back to Dorchester, a more worthy namesake?

If Lévesque needs to be remembered, why not petition Toronto to name a major street after him? Bloor? Yonge? Bay St.? After all, it is he – more than any other single Canadian – who contributed the most to increasing the population and wealth of that city.

Renaming streets is rightly criticized for all sorts of reasons, including creating confusion and erasing history. If Montreal continues to commemorate Lévesque (as is likely), all island residents can contemplate the folly of the people who voted for Lévesque and of those who chose to commemorate him. The less anyone or any entity has to do with actually making those mistakes – including the city of Westmount and its relatively short street called Dorchester, the better.

– DP

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Gravenor shares anecdotes from new book

By MARTIN C. BARRY

While most of the stories in former Westmounter Kristian Gravenor’s new book, *Montreal: 375 Tales of Eating, Drinking, Living and Loving*, take place in the

city of Montreal, he did manage to slip in one or two anecdotes about Westmount.

Gravenor, who spent his first 18 years growing up on Grosvenor Ave., is a Westmount High (WHS) graduate from the early 1980s. He also started out his journalistic career at age 17, writing news from WHS for the *Westmount Examiner*.

For the Atwater Library’s first lunchtime series presentation of 2018 on January 11, the journalist and author, who is perhaps best-known as one of the former leading contributors to the defunct *Montreal Mirror*, shared some of his nostalgic and little-known true stories.

“There are some amazing stories from Westmount, although there are only a few,” he said in an interview with the *Independent*.

“They’re ghoulish and very negative. But there were two murder/suicides on Dorchester and Atwater just around the corner from here in buildings that have since been demolished.”

On his Coolopolis web site, Gravenor tells the story of Reine Gagné, the wife of former Quebec premier Daniel Johnson Sr. She survived a gun attack in January 1953 that took place in Westmount. Gravenor re- *continued on p. 25*



VILLE DE | CITY OF
WESTMOUNT



APPEL DE CANDIDATURES
Comité consultatif d’urbanisme (CCU)

La Ville de Westmount est à la recherche d’un candidat pour siéger à son comité consultatif d’urbanisme (CCU). À titre de comité-conseil auprès du conseil municipal, le CCU prépare des recommandations quant à l’approbation ou au refus de demandes de permis examinées en conformité avec le *Règlement sur les Plans d’implantation et d’intégration architecturale*. À la demande du conseil municipal, le comité fournit aussi des recommandations quant à l’urbanisme, le zonage, le lotissement et la construction à Westmount. De plus, en lien avec la *Loi sur le patrimoine culturel*, le CCU agit à titre de Conseil local du patrimoine qui informe le conseil municipal sur les questions de conservation du patrimoine.

Le candidat retenu siégera au CCU à titre de membre substitut pour un mandat de deux ans. En conformité avec le Règlement #1320 et ses modifications, pour être admissible, le candidat doit être un résident de Westmount et membre en règle de l’Ordre des architectes du Québec ou de l’Ordre des urbanistes du Québec.

Toute personne intéressée est invitée à soumettre sa lettre de motivation et son curriculum vitae au plus tard le mercredi 14 février 2018 à 16h30. Les questions et candidatures peuvent être transmises à madame Gitta Dom par courriel au gdom@westmount.org ou par téléphone au 514-989-5278.

Le présent appel de candidatures vise à créer une banque de candidatures potentielles pour le CCU. Tout candidat retenu fera l’objet d’une recommandation auprès du conseil municipal qui, à titre d’autorité compétente, prendra toute décision quant à sa nomination, le cas échéant.

CALL FOR CANDIDATES
Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

The City of Westmount is seeking candidates to serve on its Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). As an advisory committee for City Council, the PAC provides recommendations with respect to the approval or rejection of permit applications reviewed under *By-law on Site Planning and Architectural Integration Programmes*. Upon Council’s request, the Committee also provides recommendations related to planning, zoning, subdivision and building in Westmount. Furthermore, in accordance with the *Cultural Heritage Act*, the PAC acts as the Local Heritage Council and advises Council on matters related to heritage protection.

The retained candidate will serve on the PAC as a substitute member for a two-year term. In accordance with By-law 1320 and its respective amendments, eligible candidates must be Westmount residents and a member in good standing with either the *Ordre des architectes du Québec* or the *Ordre des urbanistes du Québec*.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a letter of interest and resume before Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. For inquiries or to submit your candidacy, please contact Ms. Gitta Dom, either by email at gdom@westmount.org or by telephone at 514-989-5278.

This call for candidates is to create a bank of potential candidates for the PAC. Any selected candidate will be the object of a recommendation to Council who, as the competent authority, will make the final decision regarding his or her appointment, as the case may be.

www.westmount.org

CANADA
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC
DISTRICT OF MONTREAL
No. : 500-06-000125-019

(Class action)
SUPERIOR COURT

Peter Krantz Plaintiff
v.
Attorney General of Québec
-and-
Les Entreprises Claude Chagnon inc.
-and-
Les Grands Travaux Soter inc
-and-
Construction DJL inc. Defendants

SETTLEMENT OF A CLASS ACTION
IF YOU LIVED NEAR THE VILLE-MARIE HIGHWAY (A720)
BETWEEN GUY AND DE CARILLON STREETS
DURING THE REPAIR WORK
BETWEEN MAY 1998 AND OCTOBER 2000
PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE

- On November 8, 2017, the Honourable Justice Gérard Dugré of the Superior Court of Quebec approved settlement agreements which provide that a minimum of \$ 2,9 million and a maximum of \$ 3,5 million will be paid by the defendants for the benefit of class members. The agreements are available on class counsel’s website: <http://tjl.quebec/en/class-action/excessive-noise-repair-work-a720/>.
- You may be entitled to compensation if:
 - You lived within 350 meters to the south and 170 meters to the north of the Ville-Marie highway, between Guy and De Carillon streets,
 - You lived there between May 1st and December 31st, 1998 or between April 26 and December 15, 1999, or between July 1st and October 16, 2000.
- To claim**, you must fill out the form available at the following address: <http://collectiva.ca/case-krantz>. You can also get a hard copy by contacting the claims administrator at 514-287-1000, 1-800-287-8587 or info@collectiva.ca or by contacting class counsel at 514-871-8385 or info@tjl.quebec.
- You must submit your claim form to the claims administrator before May 28, 2018:** failing this, you will not be compensated and you will lose all your rights under the class action. For more details on the claims process and the criteria to determine compensation amounts, please consult class counsel’s website: <http://tjl.quebec/en/class-action/excessive-noise-repair-work-a720/>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact class counsel or the claims administrator:

Trudel Johnston & Lespérance
750, Côte de la Place d’Armes, Suite 90
Montreal (QC) H2Y 2X8
T : 514-871-8385
F : 514-871-8800
info@tjl.quebec

Collectiva
1176, Bishop street, Suite 208
Montreal (QC) H3G 2E3
T : 514-287-1000
F: 514-287-1617
info@collectiva.ca

Then & Now: Westmount Square

Westmount Historical Association

CAROLINE BRESLAW

Maisonneuve, Wood and St. Catherine streets. Westmount's first shopping district had developed at the hub of Greene and St. Catherine. A streetcar went along St. Catherine and up Greene to Sherbrooke St. from 1897.

The two commercial streets were lined with private residences, whose ground floors were gradually converted to stores, with the shopkeeper often living upstairs. The northeast corner of Greene and St. Catherine housed Jackson Chemist and the owner's family for many years. Several former houses still remain on the east side of this block of Greene. However, most were demolished between 1961 and 1963 after zoning changes were made to allow highrises, despite fierce local opposition.

The 1960s was a period of massive urban transformation in Westmount, as in Montreal and the rest of North America. Victorian housing was demolished to widen Dorchester Blvd., to make way for the Ville Marie expressway and to construct Westmount Square.

Just over 50 years ago, on December 13, 1967, Westmount Square opened its doors. Before 1961, blocks of older buildings had stood on the site, bounded by Greene, de

On Wood and Elm avenues, entire blocks of Victorian greystone residences disappeared. The Montreal firm of Green-spoon, Freedlander & Dunne acted as site architects for the project.

Westmount Square was unique in the work of modernist architect Mies van der Rohe because of its mixed use, combining apartments, offices, shops and parking in the three-tower complex. It was also connected to the newly-inaugurated underground Metro.

Two residential towers face each other, looking out over quiet streets and the grounds of the Congrégation de Notre Dame Mother House (today's Dawson College).

The office building fronts commercial St. Catherine St. There is an almost seam-

less transition between the outside and inside of the buildings. The pavilion and the esplanade linking the three towers are Mies trademarks.

In 1988, in spite of public protests and a call for heritage designation, changes were made to the shopping concourse and the surface of the exterior esplanade. The complex is now classified as Category 1* by the city of Westmount, the highest heritage designation.

Westmount Square has aged gracefully in the past half century, with clean lines, elegant design and timeless materials. Westmount is privileged to have this landmark in its midst.

Caroline Breslaw is president of the Westmount Historical Association.



Dating from c. 1895, Jackson Chemist was a family business that existed on the northeast corner of Greene and St. Catherine St. for many years.



Westmount Square is shown in a photograph of the northeast corner of Greene and St. Catherine by Aline Gubbay in 1979.

Images: WHA archives



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Residents bring up shoplifting, homeless, cycling concerns at police station 12's meeting

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A public meeting was held at the Westmount Public Library on November 29 by staff from local police station 12 to discuss their 2018 "action plan." It provided a forum for residents to express their views on the current state of security in Westmount.

The commander of the station, Martine Dubuc, had invited residents and local merchants to take part in the gathering, where she and several officers gave an overview of work done by the police, followed by questions and answers. Westmount's newly-elected District 5 councillor Marina Brzeski silently took notes but otherwise did not participate.

A group of six people, who identified themselves as members of the Shaughnessy Village Residents' Association, brought up issues of concern in their area, including some involving Cabot Square on Atwater Ave. and the Open Door Mission on Dorchester Blvd.

According to a report on criminal tendencies in the area delivered by Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pi-



Montreal police station 12 Commander Martine Dubuc (at the lectern) takes questions from Westmount and Montreal residents during a public meeting on the station's "action plan." The meeting was held at the Westmount Public Library November 29.

mentel, the incidence of violent crime went down over the past year, while fraud increased.

"It makes a big difference to have a presence of the police," said Sherbrooke St. boutique owner Sharyn Scott, who was one of the only Westmounters to speak during the meeting.

Scott maintained that "the shoplifters who are coming into Westmount, when they see that we have police walking up and down the streets, even when they see the Public Security without the guns, it makes a difference, especially to the shopkeepers."

Later, she raised questions about itinerant people in the area.

"Are there by-laws, is there anything we can do to help these people, [so] that they're not begging on the street?" Scott asked, while maintaining that she's concerned about their well-being as well as security in the area.

Pimentel replied that "most experts in the field agree on one thing: in most cases people on the street are dealing with a mental health or a substance abuse problem. So knowing that, a by-law, which is in our toolbox, might not be the most effective way of dealing with [people with these problems.]"

Explaining some of the force's policies towards cyclists, Dubuc said police had been dealing with complaints this past

summer from pedestrians about cyclists not obeying stop signs. She said the police will be conducting a campaign in the spring to encourage cyclists to use headlights, with the goal of reaching 90-per-cent compliance.

Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount, who was present at the meeting, confirmed to the *Independent* that some Westmounters are indeed concerned that certain cyclists are not obeying stop signs, while others are not using headlights at night.

"For sure the police did a good operation this fall just to get cyclists to use lights at night," he said. "They gave out quite a few tickets. We did a count before and after and there's been a slight improvement."

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Oral school kids bring Christmas spirit to Place K



A group of some 30 children and teachers from the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf (MOSD) put on a dance number for an audience of Place Kensington residents during a Christmastime concert December 14 at the St. Catherine St. residence, just down the street from the school. According to Susan McKinnon Bell, the MOSD's director of development, the students, ranging in age from three to 12 years, "benefited from the event by being in surroundings, where there was a lot of verbalizing." Doreen Friedman, Place K's events coordinator, noted that it wasn't the first time the kids and seniors held a gathering together and the rapport between them is excellent, she reported.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Quakers meet at Centre Greene



The Quakers' group gathers in Centre Greene November 26 after its regular Sunday morning meeting.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Quakers have been meeting in Quebec since the United Empire Loyalists fled from the US to the Eastern townships during the late 18th century. In more recent times, they've been meeting at Centre Greene on Greene Ave. For the past 17 years, they have gathered there every Sunday at 11 am for meditation, followed by lunch and socializing.

Quakers prefer an unadorned location due to their belief in simplicity, said member Claire Adamson. About five of the group's members are Westmounters, she added.

"It sometimes takes time for people to find us," she said. "How we meet is a bit different. But we are not far away, and we hope that more people will join us."

The Quakers were founded in 1650 by George Fox, an English religious dissenter who believed followers could abide by their Christian beliefs without being represented by religious clerics.

According to Adamson, meditation is an important part of meetings, and it can lead those who experience it towards a clearer view of life. She said the meditative silence is often enhanced by spontaneous, inspirational messages from the people present at meetings.

City hall chamber filled for annual Hanukah ceremony



Alice Myers (8), middle, lights the first candle on the menorah with help from Rabbi Adam Scheier of the Shaar Hashomayim, left, and her mother, Rabbi Lisa Grushcow of Temple Emmanu-El-Beth Sholom in a candle-lighting ceremony December 12.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Hanukah festival of lights continued its annual Westmount tradition the evening of December 12. A group of all ages packed into council chambers at city hall, where Mayor Christina Smith welcomed the Congregation Shaar Hashomayim's Rabbi Adam Scheier and Temple Emmanu-El-Beth Sholom's Rabbi Lisa Grushcow. They each gave a short introduction and shared memories. They

also asked children in attendance to explain the story of Hanukah.

Two young girls stepped forward, including Alice Myers, Grushcow's daughter. As they lit the first candle on the right side of the menorah, people sang traditional Hanukah songs.

Refreshments were served, and then the group ventured outside, after Montreal's first big snow fall, to light the large menorah outside city hall's front door.

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MUHC breast cancer fundraiser was ‘enchantée’



Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Over 200 guests attended the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) Foundation’s first *Enchantée* cocktail dinatoire at the Mount Stephen Hotel October 12.

The elegant eve celebrated six MUHC surgeons who care for women with breast cancer. The esteemed doctors were local res Dr. David Fleiszer (there with his wife Dr. Ruth Fleiszer and daughter Andrea Fleiszer), Dr. Antoine Loutfi (with his spouse Dr. Joyce Pickering), Dr. Ari Meguerditchian (with Pati Harboyan), Dr. Francine Tremblay (with Stephen Perron), Dr. Sarkis Meterissian (with Marcelle Lavoie) and Dr. Robert Salasidis, who could not attend.

They were honoured with a personalized glass piece etched with the breast cancer ribbon and presented a commemorative tie or scarf designed for the inaugural event by Nadège Roscoe-Rumjahn of La

Douzaine.

The cocktail dinatoire featured artichoke bruschetta, popcorn chicken, portobello frites and truffle Mac and cheese.

Attendees listened to inspiring speeches by Julie Quenneville, president MUHC Foundation; Dr. Meterissian, director of the MUHC Breast Clinic; and Caroline Ouellette, Olympic gold medallist and member of Les Canadiennes de Montreal, as well as Cynthia Price Verreault (there with hubby Richard Verreault and mum Pam Price). Price Verreault was event co-chair with JoAnne Kelly Rudy and Anna Capobianco-Skipworth.

Emcees were Leslie Roberts from CJAD and Brigitte Bédard from TVA/LCN.

Westmounters noted included Diane and Douglas Deruchie, Sue and Jawaid Khan, Christine Pickerell, Sophie Madon, Richard Hart, Leonard Kliger, Katherine Nikidis, Lucy Riddell, Manon and Luc Lavoie, Sue Doherty and sister Donna Doherty, Karma and John Hallward, Ross Fraser, Denise Burke-Price, Micki Morton, Krista Leitham with sis Monica Hantho, and Josée Asselin.

The event raised \$120,000 for the Breast Clinic of the MUHC’s Wellness Program.



From left: Anna Capobianco-Skipworth, Brigitte Bédard, Cynthia Price Verreault, Leslie Roberts and JoAnne Kelly Rudy.

The clinic, which cares for 15,000 women annually, is a referral centre for women throughout Quebec. Its Wellness Program provides information on prevention, treat-

ment, psychological, and rehabilitation services, including highly-specialized lymphedema care.

More photos, p. 25.

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Gravenor *cont'd. from p. 20*

counts the episode in his latest book.

He recalled another Westmount-related incident, which involved a reputed longtime Montreal mob boss named Louis Greco, who maintained a low profile while living in Westmount. According to Gravenor, Greco's ex-wife died in a murder/suicide, which happened in West-

mount.

In writing the book, Gravenor said he was trying to avoid falling into a pattern set by a number of other works containing historical anecdotes about Montreal.

"A lot of other books about Montreal give you the same sort of thing, like Lily St. Cyr, smoked meat, bagels," he said. "Yeah, I love that stuff, but there's so much more."

See photo, p. 7.



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On the Lighter Side

Taking things literally



Humour

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

Montreal's 100th municipal council is up and running! And with it comes many keen new faces across the island. Along with this fresh start, I have been attempting to quash my political cynicism and resurrect my beleaguered M.O. of Believing What People Say.

To wit, I am reminded of outgoing Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, who once stated at a public meeting that he “would not increase taxes” in the upcoming budget. By this he meant – quite obviously – that there would be a *small* tax increase. When challenged, his director of communications claimed that this word-for-word quote was “wrongly interpreted” and “too literal.” In lieu of succumbing to despair or misanthropy, I try to embrace such examples as evidence that my children may have promising careers in politics. Even as a toddler, Eli demonstrated an

uncanny (alarming?) knack for cagey doublespeak. “Eli! Stop jumping on the bed!” I would scold. “I’m not jumping,” he’d say in protest. “I’m just skipping rope.” “Eli! Stop dipping carrots in your milk!” “I’m not dipping. I’m just getting them wet.” (You may perhaps recognize the glut of exclamation marks – with implied decibel level – denoting four children under the age of seven.) Another rainy weekend was spent in a futile effort to contain bedlam. “Don’t do this!” we’d cried repeatedly. “Don’t do that!” we’d cried for variety. “Don’t do the other thing!” we’d cried to cover all bases.

Even husband David, normally a paragon of patience, would sometimes go positively barmy. He would corral the kids into a corner of the basement and demand explanation. “Exactly what part of that do you not understand?!” Once, eldest spokesman Josh gazed up at him and replied guilelessly, “Don’t.” I should note that Josh had always been doggedly, almost cripplingly, earnest and literal. As a young teen he confessed to us that throughout most of his childhood he sincerely thought that he was... wait for it... a giraffe. Because of that song: “Joshua Giraffe.” (Proof positive that one *can* have too much Raffi.)

Nor did things improve much with age. On a recent visit home, he asked if he could take a quick nap on our bed before supper. Later that evening, I wandered past the bedroom and glanced in. The wild tangle of pillows and bedding led me to seriously consider whether he had been rassling a goat. “Josh,” I called, hoping to catch him before he left. “If you sleep in our bed, the least you can do is make it when you get up.” “But,” he pointed out, “I never actually fell asleep.” Indeed, much of our parenthood could be summarized by Words Matter. Or, You Can Never Be Too Specific. Many years ago, fed up with the mind-numbing mountain of silt and gravel that was accumulating without cease in the foyer and beyond, I called a family pow wow. “Please check your shoes *before* you come in,” I begged. “And if they are dirty, take them off *outside* before emptying.” A few days later I watched as Gabby obediently inspected his shoes on the stoop. He frowned and wiggled them off exactly as directed. He then picked them up, carried them into the house, and proceeded to dump half the contents of the local sand-box onto our floor. I think we could use a director of communications too.


One less place to buy pastry



Outside la Pâtisserie de Gascogne, regulars looking to go in for a quiet latte or a crusty loaf of bread were shocked January 4 to find the French pastry shop shuttered. “Oh my gosh, it’s closed!” was heard by one distraught customer. A letter dated the same day and stuck to the door indicated that after more than 60 years, Gascogne had to end its operations for commercial reasons. The notice also said “La Pâtisserie sera donc fermée jusqu’à nouvel ordre.” The Westmount shop was among the other branches across the Montreal area to close. Inset: This sign was found posted on the door January 15.

Photos: Ralph Thompson





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