

City adds new kids' games to winter carnival Saturday

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The outdoor portion of the city's winter carnival Saturday, February 3, will feature a new day-long attraction in the line-up: an inflatable game to be set up at King George (Murray) Park, where the events will unfold from 10 am to 4 pm.

"It's going to be a little more kids oriented this year," said Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe.

The addition of an inflatable game is drawing on its popularity at Family Day

with one big change for winter: kids will be allowed to keep on their footgear while jumping or playing inside the large inflatable.

Two new games are also being added to the afternoon schedule. These are kinball soccer (played with a metre-plus ball) and "parachute popcorn," a game involving a parachute and balls.

Some of the continued carnival traditions include old-fashioned sleigh rides, a snowman-building contest, a winter classic hockey game, a sugar shack and puck shooting contests. Free hotdogs, hot chocolate and cookies are also on the menu.

Weather a gamble

"The weather is always a continued on p. 3

Peter Rabbit visits Scouts at Mountainside



Peter Rabbit hopped into real life the evening of January 24 at Mountainside United Church. The character from the children's books by Beatrix Potter is also making a Quebec début in the upcoming Columbia Pictures animated movie of Potter's beloved characters. Some 30 Beavers and Cubs, many clutching their own rabbits, attended the event organized by Scouts Westmount and Promo Avenue. A number of attendees left with free passes and carrots.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Car-sharing services to park free

Parking meters to be \$3/hr. across Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount will increase the cost of its metered parking in the west-end commercial area around Victoria to \$3 per hour to match that already charged in the east zone around Greene. So, no matter where you park at a meter in Westmount, the cost will soon be the same.

The city will also allow car-sharing ser-

vices such as Communauto and car2go to park free at meters, according to a draft by-law presented at the council meeting January 15.

The changes are targetted to take effect the week of February 18, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

The move to charge uniform rates had been proposed initially when the new pay-by-plate continued on p. 11



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Letters p. 4

Underdog by J. McCORDICK p. 14

Social Notes by V. REDGRAVE p. 13

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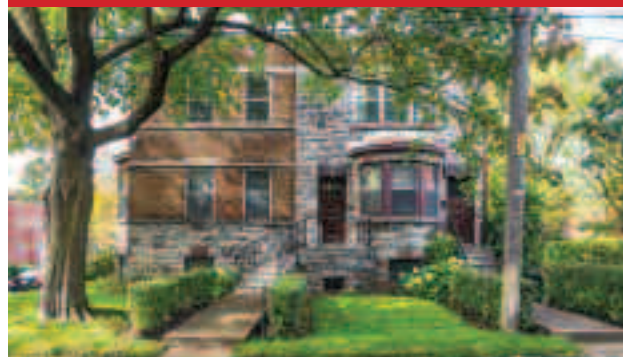
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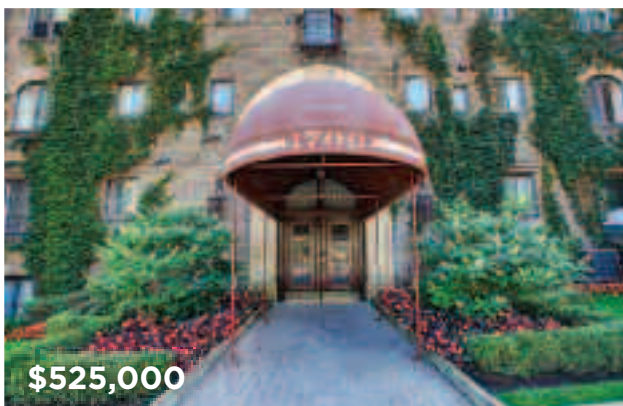


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City pays \$41,000 to 5 departing elected officials

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The five members of the former Westmount city council who did not return after the November 5 election received a total in “leave allowance” of \$40,687, city officials said last week.

The amounts are calculated according to the requirements set by Quebec that take into consideration the length of service and salary, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week. These are paid whether elected officials lose their seats or do not seek re-election.

The amounts are much lower than those recently reported to have been paid in Montreal, he said, because the salaries are lower in Westmount and also because Montreal has in its by-law an additional transition allocation for elected officials who are leaving.

“In Westmount, we do not have this provision in our by-laws.”

The leave payout is budgetted from a council remuneration account, he said.

Interestingly, while both Victor Drury and Theodora Samiotis served the same

terms 2009 to 2017, Samiotis received \$3 more “because the term of the old councillor ends only when their successor is sworn in,” Hurtubise explained.

In that particular case, Drury’s mandate finished when his successor (acclaimed councillor Jeff Shamie) was sworn in. This was about one month earlier than Councillor Kathleen Kez, who succeeded Samiotis after the election.

The table shows the amounts reported paid to the five departing council members.

Name	Yrs. served from	Amt. \$
Patrick Martin	2005	6,767
Nicole Forbes	2005	6,767
Peter Trent*	2009	15,868
Victor Drury	2009	4,512
Theodora Samiotis	2009	4,515
Rosalind Davis	2013	2,258

*Calculated from the time of Trent’s return to council in 2009 to his resignation in April 2017.

Comin’ Up

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1 TO
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

City of Westmount winter carnival. See p. 1 for story.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

City council meeting, 7:30 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

NDG-Westmount Neighbourhood Committee on Turcot/720 construction. 7 pm to

9 pm. St. Raymond Centre, 5600 Upper La-chine Rd. (southeastern NDG). Free.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

The Krishnamurti Information Centre of Montreal’s video “the endless cycle of action and reaction” at the Atwater Library, 2 to 4 pm. Info: 514.937.8869. Cost: \$5.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Westmount Public Library children’s section offers Valentine’s day crafts for ages four and up, 4 to 5 pm.

Carnival cont’d. from p. 1

gamble when it comes to outdoor activities at this time of year,” Lapointe pointed out. But despite this winter’s wild weather swings, the long-range forecasts “are looking okay,” Lapointe said. Fresh snow was expected – and needed – to cover the icy field and hill. But cool temperatures are also important for good ice on the rink.

If conditions close the outdoor venue, some activities are to be moved into the Westmount recreation centre.

A schedule of this year’s 35th “Frosty Fun” winter carnival was to have been delivered to all Westmount addresses last

week listing all events. These are launched by a seniors’ luncheon Thursday, February 1 at Contactivity Centre followed the next day by a family dinner, dance and games at Victoria Hall.

The theme of this Friday evening event is “Chinese New Year” – the year of the dog – suggesting an “Asian-inspired” dress code.

“The idea came from longtime resident Lily Lam,” who moved to Canada from China many years ago, said Councillor Mary Gallery, commissioner for Library, Culture, Sports and Recreation. She said the theme is timely, given that Chinese New Year is February 16.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THEN WHAT?

Regarding “‘500’ referendum registry date set for Jan. 29” (January 23, p. 5), I find it very hard to understand why the city of Westmount is allowing a referendum* to be held on the redevelopment of 500 Claremont.

Is there is a cost for this? Do the residents of Westmount pay for it?

The decision to allow the building to be converted to rental apartments, from what I remember, was passed by council.

What changed the minds of the mayor and the new council? I would really like to know.

If this project is blocked, what is going to happen to this building and then what?

FLORA-LEE WAGNER, CLAREMONT AVE.

** Editor’s note: The city is not “allowing” a referendum. A sufficient number of residents applied to require the city set up a registry to see if enough voters want to require the city to have a referendum. The city was planning to hold this registry on January 29 (at and after press time). – KM.*

DOESN’T HARMONIZE

The article about the “hybrid” plan for the property on the corner of de Maisonneuve and Prince Albert (“New ‘hybrid’ plan proposed for de Mais./Prince Albert,” January 16, p. 1) [pertains to] no simple mixed-use building. It [consists of] nine condo townhouses of two floors, a third floor of four one-level condos, a fourth floor of two penthouses and their terraces and a fifth floor that will include both a

communal indoor and outdoor space, as well as a commercial roof farm. (One would imagine it to be similar to Lufa, i.e. a pint of organic cherry tomatoes for \$6.25). Albert Square is actually a five-floor building rather than a four-floor building as described in the *Independent* January 23, p. 2.*

The developer suggests that this development harmonizes with existing Victoria village homes. I can’t see that in the proposed design with a mansard roof reminiscent of the Second French Empire, not the Victorian Age. The west side of Prince Albert has been fortunate enough to survive rezoning and across the street from [the proposed] Albert Square, we have a beautiful row of Victorian homes built in the 1890s and lovingly maintained. My home at 260, right across from the project, is a Victorian of red brick and stone, a bay window and front porch and stairs with period balusters and brackets. On the second floor above the bay window is a Juliette balcony crowned with a turret two stories and about 8.3 meters high. Albert Square does not complement or harmonize with these Victoria village homes.

In the city of Westmount’s Urban Planning program, it is noted “In the past 15 years, the city has adopted a whole series of measures to protect this heritage, including renovation guidelines, summarized in the guidelines *Renovating and Building in Westmount*.” All of us who are fortunate to have homes with historical value are compelled to follow the guidelines.

It is essential that developers stick to this plan as well, keeping the buildings completely residential in nature and unified in size and footprint. This project seems to have an even larger imprint on the neighbourhood than the previous [proposed] one, taking up more square footage and relying on the York St. homes’ back parking to provide green space for the project.

I think if you would survey the neighbourhood, most people would say that this current plan is unacceptable, however we do agree that a reasonable project working within the R3-zone designation would be welcomed. It is unfair to both the neighbours and developers to, every year or so, have to mobilize to keep the Victoria village a coveted place to live and raise a family. Westmount needs to hear us and let all developers know that any new proposal needs to fit the zoning designation as set out.

SUSAN SCHNEIR AND ALEX AMYOT,
PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

**Editor’s note: It was also reported that a rooftop common room and service cabin were being considered “a fifth storey” by Urban Planning director Tom Flies. See “Hearing examines proposal for de Maisonneuve/Prince Albert,” January 23, p. 2. – KM.*

NICE TO SEE THE HELP

Recently, I saw a taxi stop at a medical building just below Sherbrooke St. Slowly and with difficulty an elderly couple emerged but were defeated by the piles of snow on the curb. A young woman walking along ran to help them, taking hold of each, stamping down the snow and supporting them as they walked to the steps of the building. She then ran back to Sherbrooke and resumed her walk.

ELIZABETH QUANCE, SHERBROOKE ST.

AN IMPROVEMENT OVER
SNOW REMOVAL FROM ’17

I was glad to see that the city of Westmount has already started to fill in pot-holes on January 19. I also feel there was an improvement from last year’s snow removal operation.

KIRK POLYMENAKOS, CLAREMONT AVE.

NO LONGER AS GOOD

I was happy to read Brenda Metzen’s letter to the editor (January 23, p. 4) on the recent snow removal operation as it confirmed what I and some of my neighbours felt as well. We were all wondering what happened to our amazing snow removal from January 2 until the last snow storm, which hit January 13. In fact, from January 2 until January 9, snow was not cleared on our street (Winchester) until January 12 when it warmed up and rained.

After the snowstorm, which was not the worst we have ever seen as Brenda Metzen points out, Winchester was finally cleaned on January 19, almost a full week after it snowed.

Our District 5 councillor Marina Brzeski and director general Benoit Hurturbise were kind enough to return my emails but always with the same answer that nothing had changed and that Westmount had added four machines and that everything was going well.

Clearly this was not the case.

With respect to Councillor Philip Cutler’s letter (January 23, p. 4), I would like to add that comparing us to NDG, which Marina Brzeski did as well in her correspondence, only infuriated many of us. Comparing our snow removal

continued on p. 6

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CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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Mail for Public Works delivered to house on Claremont, turned over by resident

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Kirk Polymenakos of Claremont Ave. stepped up to the mic during question period at the city council meeting January 15 and handed over a sealed envelope to city director general Benoit Hurtubise. It had been put through the door of his home that day along with other mail, he said.

Looks of curiosity turned into puzzlement as Hurtubise read through the envelope's address window: 1 Bethune Ave., which is the city's Public Works department.

The mistakenly delivered mail contained what appeared to be a cheque sent to the city from, according to the return address, the Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) in Ontario.

The association describes itself on its website as: "an industry-led, not-for-profit organization that operates regulated recycling programs across Canada. We ensure that end-of-life electronics are handled in a safe, secure and environmentally-sound manner."

The city's environmental coordinator Marina Peter later told the *Independent* that the city sends its electronics as well those from its drop-off depot at Public Works to the EPRA, which is funded by the eco tax on the sale of many electronic products.

City receives a portion of fees back

In return the city receives a portion of these eco fees, some \$2,000 a year, to cover the cost of its depot.

"I'd love to know how much the cheque was for," Polymenakos had said.

The answer: "A little over \$2,000," according to the Peter, who had received it shortly after Polymenakos handed it over.



Kirk Polymenakos hands over the cheque January 15.

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Seeing the light?

City looks for solution to resident's fight for light shield

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

For some 38 years, Barrie Wilson had no problem with the street light in front of his house, he told the city council meeting January 15. It was shielded from shining into his main bedroom at 371 Lansdowne just south of Sherbrooke.

On October 11, 2016, however, "all that was changed," he said.

That's when the light head was replaced by one the city describes as high-pressure sodium. A new shield that was subsequently added has been "ineffective" he said. "The offensive light still shines onto our bed."

Wilson outlined a series of five letters to Hydro Westmount explaining the issue as it evolved over a 15-month period. He said the problem seemed to have been solved in April 2017 when the light appeared to have been turned off. Then it was turned on again in December.

"I was under the impression the problem was solved," Mayor Christina Smith said, referring it to city director general Benoit Hurtubise to find a solution, noting

he was formerly in charge of the utility.

Hurtubise told the *Independent* last week he would be looking into the issue, which requires a shield to be custom made. "They are not commercially available."

He also said that last summer the light had not been turned off but that Hydro had "blackened half the lens." One of the issues, he explained, is that the city has to meet certain degrees of lighting on the street. He said all the cobra-style lights on the street are the same.

In a sixth letter to Hydro Westmount dated January 20, after the council meeting, Wilson suggests a shield on the Sherbrooke side of the lamp "should prevent" the light from shining into the bedroom.

He asks for resolution of the problem before the next council meeting February 5.



This view of the street light outside 371 Lansdowne, just south of Manoir Westmount, was taken January 18. Inset: A photo taken by Barrie Wilson from his bedroom window January 23 showing the shield that he says is ineffective.

Letters cont'd. from p. 4

services to mediocrity is not the way to go.

Neighbours who have lived on the street or in the area for over 20 years had been accustomed to seeing the snow removed within two to three days after a snowfall. This does not seem to be the case anymore whether due to the lack of snow dumps, the extra cost in wages and contracts etc., [but] something is different this year. With all due respect to Philip Cutler, what processes are you talking about in your letter? We had great snow removal and now we do not. Are you trying to tell us that the new administration changed something only to realize it has been a complete failure?

GLEN GROSSMAN, WINCHESTER AVE.

WHAT ABOUT PEDESTRIANS?

A certain amount of quiet anger always arises amongst the pedestrians of West-

mount when they see the amount of effort and monies dedicated to clearing the streets to bare pavement while sidewalks are neglected.

The harsh icy weather recently points out the priorities of Public Works. Walking back home along lower Clarke Ave. the evening of January 24, I had to walk in the road, even though I have a certain amount of athletic ability. It had clear pavement; the sidewalk slick ice.


Imagine someone whose mobility is at all compromised. And for seniors, a hip fracture caused by a fall could be life threatening. And this icy state of the sidewalks was present on many other streets.

On several occasions at past city council meetings, I have brought up the subject of


zero-percent-slope sidewalks. All our city sidewalks have at least a two-percent slope towards the curb. I find on certain winter days, and especially sleet days, that a small slope becomes dangerous. And the steep slopes for car entries across sidewalks should have been disallowed years ago. Even in summer conditions, wheelchairs can not easily cross them.

With any sleet on them, there is not a person who can traverse them. It will be telling if our new council can move on improving pedestrian walking conditions over cars with timely ice-clearing, zero-percent-slope sidewalks, zero-percent-slope car entries.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.



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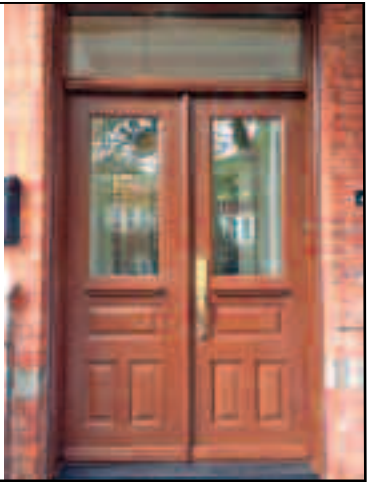
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Rotary pitches in, too

Agia leads initiative to help the newly arrived in Canada

By Martin C. Barry

A resident of the 4300 de Maisonneuve Blvd. apartment block who has a passion to help newly-arrived refugees to Canada has discovered that other tenants in her building do too.

Since September, Viviane Agia has been gathering furniture and other household items for families arriving in Canada from the Middle East. She says most the items have been donated by fellow building residents.

“I live in a building where lots of good things are put in the garbage,” she said. “We are an affluent society, so people often don’t know what to do with things they don’t need anymore. Sometimes they just put them on the sidewalk.”

With that in mind, Agia pinned a notice on a community billboard telling tenants of the building that if they had household items good enough to be used to please donate them to the cause.

“The response has been fantastic. We had more than 10 truckloads,” she said, while noting she also received help from

the Rotary Club of Westmount, which agreed to provide transportation to move the collected items to the chosen recipients.

She said she was especially grateful for assistance that was provided by another Westmouter, who, according to Agia, acted as a go-between with the Rotarians.

“Thanks to Francie Montgomery, I got the Rotary to move those things, so that we had one less hurdle.”

Donated items were picked up at donors’ apartments at 4300 de Maisonneuve and brought directly to the homes of refugees all over the Montreal region, she said.

“One tenant gave a bed, which was wonderful. After that, the word even started getting out and people outside the 4300 are now calling me.”

Agia, originally from Egypt, came to Canada in 1964. She said she likes to assist others who are trying to make new lives for themselves here.

“They need a hand to start all over. They leave countries where there is discrimination and violence. When they come to



Viviane Agia, a 4300 de Maisonneuve Blvd. tenant, is pleased with the response she got from fellow tenants to an appeal for furniture and household furnishings for refugees from the Middle East.

Canada, they are entitled to kindness, and are people who arrive with nothing.” I try to give this to them,” she said. “These

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WEALTH

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LIVE M SUR LA MONTAGNE.CA

For the 3rd consecutive year, I have been recognized in the Sotheby's International Realty Canada's significant sales report. This report highlights extraordinary sales over the 4 million dollar mark by our team last year.



SOLD
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE • 1515 DR. PENFIELD
Penthouse
Bedrooms: 2 | Bathrooms: 2+1 | Garage: 2



SOLD
M SUR LA MONTAGNE • 3150 PLACE DE RAMEZAY
Unit 102
Bedrooms: 1 | Bathrooms: 1+1 | Garage: 1



ACCEPTED OFFER
HAMPSTEAD • 14 PLACE FALLBROOK
Bedrooms: 4+2 | Bathrooms: 4+1 | Garage: 2



REDPATH CR. • GOLDEN SQUARE MILE
Bedrooms: 5 | Bathrooms: 2+1 | Garage: 2
\$3,998,000



DOWNTOWN • 1384 AV. OVERDALE
Bedrooms: 4+1 | Bathrooms: 4+1 | Parking: 2
\$1,488,000



TRUE GEM • 1000 DE LA COMMUNE E. APT 529
Bedrooms: 1 | Bathrooms: 1 | Parking: 1
\$430,000



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Real Estate Broker

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Housing inventory in Westmount and Hampstead is currently at an all time low and I am working with a large selection of buyers. Please contact me if you are thinking of selling.

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infoWestmount

Abonnez-vous À L'INFOLETTRE DE WESTMOUNT

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

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Comité consultatif d'urbanisme : appel de candidatures

La Ville est à la recherche d'un candidat pour siéger à son comité consultatif d'urbanisme. 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. Pour en savoir plus, veuillez visiter le site westmount.org.

Taxes foncières 2018 : premier versement exigible le 26 février

Les comptes de taxes de Westmount seront envoyés par la poste d'ici la fin du mois de janvier. Le paiement peut être effectué en deux versements, le premier étant exigible le **26 février 2018**, et le second le **25 mai 2018**.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Répertoire des activités printemps et été

L'édition printemps-été du répertoire des activités de sports et de loisirs est présentement en ligne à westmount.org. Pour ceux et celles qui souhaitent obtenir un exemplaire papier, ils seront disponibles à l'hôtel de Ville, au Victoria Hall et au Centre des loisirs de Westmount à compter du **jeudi 1^{er} février**.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

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.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Le mercredi 7 février, 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.

Club de films documentaires

Le mercredi 7 février, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016). Billets requis. 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.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 5 février

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.

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

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. Thème : Nouvel An chinois, année du chien! Souper et soirée dansante familiale. Les places sont limitées, 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 (12 ans et plus), dons acceptés. 514 989-5226.

Concert : Marie-Josée Lord

Le samedi 10 février, 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Une soirée de musique et de poésie avec la célèbre soprano Marie-Josée Lord et la légende locale Doudou Boicel. Billets : 30 \$ disponibles en ligne au www.lordboicelfr.eventbrite.ca ou en personne au Victoria Hall ou à la Bibliothèque. 514 989-5226.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Collecte de sapins de Noël

En cours. Placez votre sapin, dépouillé de toute décoration, à proximité de la rue et de façon à ne pas entraver le déneigement. Si votre arbre n'a pas été ramassé après une semaine, veuillez appeler au 514 989-5311.

Sign up TO WESTMOUNT E-NEWSLETTER

Visit westmount.org/ewestmount to subscribe and receive the latest news by email from your City.

CITY HALL

Planning Advisory Committee: call for candidates

The City of Westmount is seeking a candidate to serve on its Planning Advisory Committee. Eligible candidates must be Westmount residents and a member in good standing with the Ordre des architectes du Québec or the Ordre des urbanistes du Québec. To find out more, go to westmount.org.

2018 Property taxes: first installment due February 26

Tax bills will be mailed by the end of January. Payment can be made in two installments, the first due on February 26, 2018, and the second on May 25, 2018.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Spring and summer activities guide

The spring and summer sports and recreation activities guide is now available online at westmount.org. Those who wish to obtain a printed copy can pick one up at City Hall, Victoria Hall or the Westmount Recreation Centres on Thursday, February 1st.

LIBRARY

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.

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

Wednesday, February 7, 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.

Documentary Film Club

Wednesday, February 7, 7 p.m., Library / *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Film Club

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

Next Council Meeting Monday, February 5

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.

Teen Tour Theatre Group presents *Totally Red!*

Sunday, February 18, 2-4 p.m., Victoria Hall. A fun retelling of the classic fairytale *Little Red Riding Hood*, directed by Aviva Wolman-Wener. Ages 4 to 12. Registration required. 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

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. Theme: Chinese New Year, Year of the Dog. A dinner and dance evening for families. Cash bar. Places are limited, 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 1990s makeover in this adaptation of the classical romp. For ages 12+. Free-will offering. 514 989-5226.

Concert: Marie-Josée Lord

Saturday, February 10, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. An evening of music and poetry with renowned soprano Marie-Josée Lord and local legend Doudou Boicel. Tickets: \$30; available online at www.lordboicelfr.eventbrite.ca or in person at Victoria Hall and the Library. 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC WORKS

Christmas Tree Collection

Ongoing. Place your tree near the street at anytime. Make sure it does not hinder snow operations. If your tree has not been picked up after one week, report it to 514 989-5311.



Council ponders change to public notices

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council January 15 gave notice of motion of its intent to adopt a by-law described as “to establish the conditions for the publication of certain public notices.”

These are listed as being: on its website, bulletin boards located at city hall and the Westmount Public Library, by email to residents and others registered with its electronic mailing service and on the social media used, from time to time, by the city.

The item was moved by Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of Infrastructure and Innovation.

The by-law states it would apply “to all public notices required by law or by a city by-law for municipal purposes and has precedence over the mode of publication prescribed in section 345 of the Cities and Towns Act but “does not discharge the city from any other publication requirement provided by law.”

The Cities and Towns Act provides that such notices be published in a newspaper circulated in the territory.

The proposed by-law results from Quebec’s new Bill 122 adopted last June, which provides municipalities with new web formats for announcing legally required notices such as new legislation or zoning changes.

The bill had been sought by the Union of Quebec Municipalities as a way to reduce advertising costs. But it was widely

opposed by a coalition of Quebec community newspapers on grounds that newspapers reach a broader audience and that the loss of revenue from the paid advertising of the notices could force them to close, leaving communities without a local paper.

City director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week the city still intends to advertise in English in the *Independent* but would comply with the requirement that the city publish its legal notices in French in a French news vehicle, which the city website already provides.

“These are the ads required by law,” he explained. “Under Bill 122, our prime location in English and French will be the city website. We’re still going to be publishing in the *Independent*.”

He said the city had not been “respecting the law by publishing its legal notices in French in an English paper.” Nevertheless, last week a number of ads from other municipalities holding official bilingual status like Westmount appeared in both English and French in English newspapers.

Asked how the new publication by-law might affect the future of Westmount’s only paper devoted entirely to the community, publisher David Price said he was not prepared to speculate at this point and was hopeful the city council would not reduce its advertising knowing the adverse effect it might have.

Parking cont’d. from p. 1

parking process was implemented almost two years ago but was reported at the time to be postponed while the new parking system was being implemented (see story March 15, 2016, p. 1).

While cars from sharing services may park free in metered areas, they won’t be able to exceed the city’s maximum four-hour limit, Hurtubise said.

Councillor Philip Cutler, who initiated the pay-by-plate system, said that while Communauto has been given designated parking spots around Westmount where cars must be picked up and dropped off, other services such as car2go vehicles can simply be dropped off in a number of areas where they then can be used by someone else.



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about Westmount real estate*

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www.andydodgeassociates.com

andy@andydodgeassociates.com

Indie publisher reacts to Bill 122

As with any major client, and, as I’ve said before in this newspaper, having the city on board as an advertiser has helped us to exist and – once that threshold is passed – publish articles, columns, photographs and letters that we would not otherwise be able to.

We are grateful for the business that we have received to date and feel that we have brought eyeballs to the city’s ads and notices.

Many comparable municipalities and areas do not have a newspaper devoted just to them, for example Beaconsfield, Pointe Claire, Kirkland, DDO, Côte St. Luc and NDG, and we are proud of our record in that regard.

It is up to Westmounters – speaking through their representatives on council – to say what they want to hear from their municipal government on a paid basis, which we can then leverage to provide independent content for them. – DP

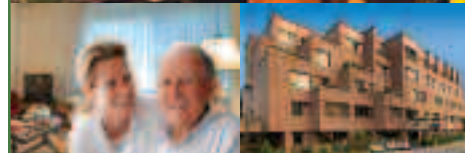


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Real estate broker – Re/Max 3000 Inc.

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Mood of the Market

Sales take ‘time out’ in December

Real Estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in December 2017. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.

Real estate took a huge “time out” in Westmount during December, it appears, with only four single-family homes sold during the month, the first month to have single-digit volume since January 2016, when agents logged eight sales.

Of the four in December, the price range was \$938,000 to \$3,325,000, and the mark-ups over city valuation ranged from 8.9 percent to 38.5 percent. The average mark-up was 19.4 percent, in line with the averages of the previous three months but all four well above the averages for the year.

In fact, there was greater interest in Westmount’s condominium market, which logged six apartment sales in December, with one \$250,000 sale but otherwise all in a range from \$500,000 to \$699,000.

Added to the lists of October and November, the fourth quarter of 2017 counted 14 sales of condos ranging up to \$1,561,000, with an average of \$780,000, down slightly from the \$806,000 in the third quarter but with more than double the volume.

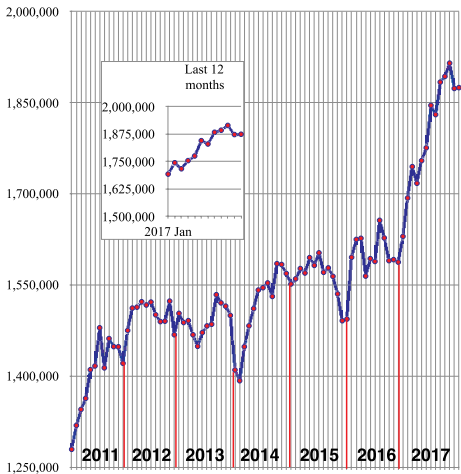
The slow residential market means the

181 one- and two-family sales volume for the year 2017 was less than in 2016, but otherwise it was more than for any other year since 2007, when 187 sales were reported. An astounding 198 sales made up the list for 2016, but in fact three consecutive years between 1997 and 1999 logged over 200 each. The average adjusted price of the 181 sales, with a 12.8-percent mark-up on the average city evaluation of \$1,575,722, comes to \$1,777,252, up more than \$200,000 over the figure for 2016.

The slumber was also evident in adjacent-Westmount areas, which logged one house sale on Circle Rd. and one condominium sale at Fort de la Montagne, 3577 Atwater Ave., in December. A couple of additional October-November sales in eastern NDG brought the average for that district over the \$1-million mark for the first time that we have recorded; now the house sale averages in all of the adjacent-Westmount districts are over \$1 million, except for Shaughnessy village, where the average residential price in five sales is \$923,400.

As of mid-January, only 45 houses were listed for sale in Westmount, compared to

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



86 at the same time last year and over 100 a year earlier. Twenty-one rentals were available, only three for \$10,000 per month or more. Overall, the year saw 39 houses rented compared with 34 in 2016 and 29 in 2015. Of the 39, six were rented for more than \$10,000 per month.

Andy Dodge is a retired Canadian Residential Appraiser.

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For Sale
QCNA (Quebec Community Newspapers Association) can place your classified ad into 20 weekly papers throughout Quebec – papers just like the

one you are reading right now! One phone call does it all! Call Marnie at QCNA 514-697-6330. Visit: www.qcna.org.

SAWMILLS from only \$4,397. – MAKE MONEY & SAVE MONEY with your own bandmill – cut lumber any dimension. In stock ready to ship. Free info & DVD: www.NorwoodSawmills.com/4000T. 1-800-567-0404 ext:4000T.

Gala held for McGill Chamber Orchestra fundraiser



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

“Milonga,” the gala fundraiser for the McGill Chamber Orchestra (MCO), was held in the storied St. James Theatre on October 31. The historic building’s tall



Alain Marcoux, left, and Berthier Landry.

Corinthian columns were highlighted with fuchsia lighting for an island sunset mood. Tropical foliage referenced the Argentinian theme.

The MCO’s **Boris Brott**, conductor and artistic director, and **Marc-Antoine D’Aragon**, executive director, welcomed guests. Gorgeous masks – feathered and sparkling – were offered (\$20 donation suggested) to those who forgot their Halloween accessory. In keeping with the mood, tango lessons were demonstrated by **Manuel Sotos** and **Marjolayne Auger**, the sensual dance duo from Las Piernas. Award-winning clarinetist/comedian (now there’s an interesting mix) **Christopher Hall**, former principal clarinetist with the Orchestre Métropolitain, was the amusing emcee.

Partygoers tasted Argentinian-style empanadas. They then enjoyed a sit-down dinner with a performance by MCO musicians – **Simon Gregorcic** (piano), **Denis Chabot** (double bass), **Chantal Bergeron** (violin) and **Jonathan Goldman** (bandoneon). (The bandoneon is a type of concertina essential in many tango ensembles.)

Music lovers, including Westmounters **Jean de Brabant** (MCO board member)



Marc-Antoine D’Aragon, left, and Christopher Hall.

and media celeb **Richard Burnett** accompanied by **Liliane Burnett**, his ever-stylish mum, were noted chatting with Brott, who recently conducted his orchestra featuring famed fiddler **Ashley MacIsaac** in conjunction with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts exhibition “You Say You Want a Revolution.” Brott is also artistic director of the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and principal guest conductor of the Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari, Italy.

Other guests seen at the black-tie eve



Michel Dionne, left, and Boris Brott.

included **Alain Marcoux**, **Berthier Landry**, **Vanda Treiser**, Opéra de Montréal’s **Patrick Corrigan** and board members **Michel Dionne** (there with his wife **Suzanne Dionne**), **Bernard Stotland** and opera singer **Joseph Rouleau**. The investiture of Rouleau into France’s Order of Arts and Letters took place on November 22. Laurence Haguenaier, French consul general in Quebec, presented the distinction.

Please send information for Indie’s spring social calendar to redgrave@videotron.ca.

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Tara Mansour, Dt.P. / R.D.

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Dr. Antonio Vigano, MD, MSc

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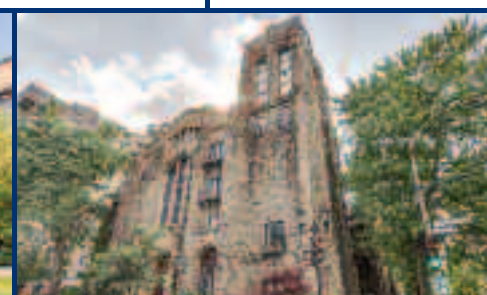
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**The
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Club**
JOAN MCCORDICK

Gaston is one part bichon frisé, one part woolly charm – and one part love of life. He is what the real estate industry might call a fixer-upper. Although there are no cracks in his foundations (his sturdy little legs get him where he wants to go), his eyes don't miss a trick and he has a set of perfectly good teeth, he is as deaf as a post. His early years are shrouded in mystery, as he was found as a stray. He then spent a year in a home where his deafness went unnoticed and his lack of response to commands and apparent unwillingness even to learn his name were seen as obtuseness or defiance. This caused him to miss out on precious time when he could have acquired the skills a deaf dog needs to interact in the world. But it turns out that one *can* teach an old dog new tricks, and at four years of age Gaston is far from old. He is very intelligent and is bound to be a re-

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warding pupil. His new family will have to invest some time and effort into his remedial education. Gaston is sensitive to vibrations and particularly dislikes the passage of heavy vehicles. While he can't be entirely sheltered from the rumblings of garbage trucks and snow plows, a home in the vicinity of the

Turcot project or overlooking the T-Can is a no-go. Though he is deaf, he is far from dumb: he can be vocal at times and is naturally unaware of the decibels his voice can produce. He should therefore not live in close proximity to neighbours – unless they are deaf as well! – which rules out condos, duplexes and apartments. He needs at least one family member to be home for part of the day, take him for walks and play with him in a securely fenced-in yard or dog run. Experience with a deaf dog would be a plus, and patience is a must. His adopters will receive a copy of Priscilla Ross's *Training a Deaf Dog: The Ultimate Guide to Living with a Deaf Dog*. If you think you have what it takes to make Gaston a part of your life, please contact Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at info@gerdysrecue.org or 514.203.9180 (pager).

Happy news
Lexi, the Bernese mountain-type dog who kept being returned to the shelter ("Time to stop packing up," November 14, 2017, p. 12), has been adopted, according to Frontier Animal Society.

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ON THE SHELVES

Some interesting reads singled out by Westmount Public Library staff are:

Magazines

“The great Maud Lewis thrift store caper” by Nancy Silcox in *Canadian Antiques & Vintage*, November-December 2017, p. 32-34. An authentic Maud Lewis work was unearthed in an Ontario thrift shop. The online auction selected to sell the work became national news when it had to be cancelled because it turned out that one of the bidders who had pushed the sale price up to \$125,000 had been making invalid bids.

“Tibet” in *GEO*, October 2017. Several articles: “Entretien avec le Dalai-Lama;” “Les deux visages de Lhassa;” “A l’Ouest, toujours du nouveau” and others.

E-books and e-audio (to read or listen to)

In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende – A minor traffic accident becomes a catalyst for an unexpected bond among a human rights scholar, his Chilean lecturer tenant and an undocumented immigrant from Guatemala, who explore firsthand the difficulties of immigrants and refugees in today’s world.

Mrs. Osmond by John Banville – A dazzling and audacious new novel that extends the story of Isabel Archer, the heroine of Henry James’s *The Portrait of a Lady*, into unexpected territory.

Leonardo da Vinci by Walter Isaacson – The author draws on da Vinci’s remarkable notebooks, as well as new discoveries about his life and work in a narrative portrait that connects the master’s art to his science, demonstrating how da Vinci’s genius was based on the skills and qualities of everyday people, from curiosity and observation to imagination and fantasy.

Livres numériques

Bakhita by Véronique Olmi – Based on a true story, this novel tells of a 7-year-old child who was kidnapped from her village in the Sudan and became a slave. Bought back at adolescence by the consul of Italy, she was freed following a resounding trial in Venice. She devoted the rest of her life to helping poor children.

Tangvald by Olivier Kemeid – Born in Norway, Peter Tangvald sailed all the oceans. He built his wooden sailboat and married and exhausted seven women, two of whom died at sea. The author as a child met Tangvald and has been fascinated by him ever since and wrote this novelized version of his life.

Adult English – Family ties

Someone You Love is Gone by Gurjinder Basran – Grief is a creature of many faces as Simran discovers when her mother, the lynchpin of her family, dies. Faced with the disintegration of her marriage and her estrangement from her own daughter, she struggles to make sense of her world and how things have come to be.

North Haven by Sarah Moriarty – On an island in Maine, four siblings arrive at their sprawling, old summer place for July 4. It’s the Willoughbys’ first summer without their parents, and their beloved house is falling apart. When a substantial offer is made on the estate, the two brothers and two sisters are forced to confront issues they had hoped to keep hidden.

Adult French: Historical perspectives

Le piège de la liberté by Denys Delâge et Jean-Philippe Warren – This book analyzes the mechanisms which led, in the name of civilization, to the expropriation of America’s native peoples’ land. With concrete examples, this book unveils what the authors call “the trap of modernity,” the liberty offered by Europeans, which served, in the end, to oppress the Indians of North America.

Vocal music on compact disc

Duets by Rolando Villazón, Ildar Abdrazakov, Yannick Nézet-Séguin. The latter directs the Metropolitan Orchestra in this recital featuring tenor Villazón and bass Abdrazakov. It includes arias from operas *Carmen*, *Mefistofele*, *Les pêcheurs de perles* and many more.

She Moves On by Youn Sun Nah – This Korean jazz vocalist played at the Montreal Jazz Festival last summer. Her new album offers original compositions, as well as covers of pop songs by Lou Reed, Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell and others.

Children’s books – sophisticated picture books

Florence et Léon by Simon Boulerice – When Florence and Léon accidentally crash into each other, they tell each other about their disabilities before they even mention their names. This chance meeting turns into a wonderful friendship of understanding and tenderness.

John Ronald’s Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien by Caroline McAlister – This beautifully illustrated biography of J.R.R. Tolkien tells the inspirational story of John Ronald’s love for dragons and words growing up as a young boy. These passions stayed with him as an adult and became the fuel that breathed life into his classics *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

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