

Checklists aim to limit delays

Webpage unveiled to 'demystify' city's building permit process

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Need a new roof, windows or maybe a pool? But you don't know how to navigate the city permit process?

Now, a new city webpage called "Construction and Renovation" guides the user through each step with just a click of the mouse or touch of the finger on appropriate icons and links as needed.

The webpage, with long checklists, went live March 1 under the city's website menu "Resident zone."

"The idea is to demystify the process

and improve efficiency," said department director Tom Flies. "It's the first step in updating the process using the new technologies."

It's also a new approach aimed at expediting a continuing influx of permit requests, he said.

After the webpage's two-month transition period, permit applicants will be required to submit all mandatory documents listed on a checklist before a file will be opened for preliminary review, Flies explained.

"When a document or item is missing from a file, it holds up the review and subsequent approval," Flies explained. This might include a letter of authorization from a condo association, for example.

The 14 downloadable
checklists that have gone continued on p. 13

Westmount's Earth Hour to turn 10



Four organizers of Westmount's 10th Earth Hour were photographed on Victoria Ave. March 9. From left, city councillor Marina Brzeski, Tony Moffat, Lawrence Mysak and Chris Lomaglio. Not present were Monique Cazalais, Virginia Elliott, Ingrid Birker and Paul Marriott. The poster promotes the event and zero-waste, zero-emission houses. For more on Earth Hour, see p. 8. Photo: Independent.

What did municipal election candidates spend?
See p. 3

To include exercise equipment for kids and adults

Plans mapped out to update parks, analyze leaky ponds

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There are new monkey bars and a swing set scheduled for Prince Albert Park, adult exercise equipment for Westmount Park, re-landscaping at Prospect, studies to replace the leaking watercourse infrastructure at both Westmount and King George (Murray) and possible replacement

of some play equipment at Stayner.

These are among many features and work planned this year for the city's parks, according to Councillor Cynthia Lulham, Urban Planning commissioner for zoning, economic development and parks.

Other work includes the irrigation, fencing and raising of garden plots at the commu- continued on p. 8

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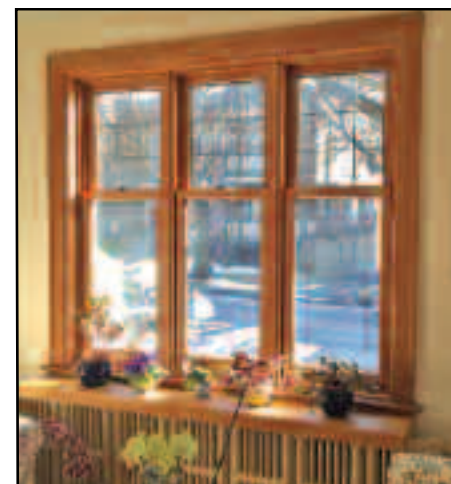
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'Revitalizing' meeting set for March 21

City to help merchant groups attain non-profit status

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Plans to revitalize Westmount's two commercial districts announced last September are moving forward with a meeting March 21 for owners of commercial buildings in west-end Victoria village and east-end Greene/St. Catherine. The meeting takes place at city hall at 7 pm.

City council at its general committee meeting February 19 agreed to give a second mandate to economic development consultant Pierre Boudreault of Artères to continue the work he started last year with merchants and other commercial stakeholders, Councillor Cynthia Lulham said last week.

A previous public meeting to introduce the economic initiative took place last fall (see story September 19, 2017, p. 3).

Since then, "they have created two associations," explained Lulham, Urban Planning commissioner for zoning, economic development and parks. "The next step is to lead the associations through a process to obtain official non-profit status."

This would allow the city to provide the associations with funding and for them to become PME's (*Petites et moyennes entreprises*), as part of a business incubating network, she said.

Guy Bazinet, assistant director of the downtown PME MTL Centre-Ville, is to explain at the upcoming meeting how the network acts as a catalyst to help with financing, project management and strate-

gies for filling vacant commercial space. One goal is to brand the two commercial areas as shopping destinations in Westmount, she added.

"Our aim is to have an economic development person on city staff." This person would help business owners meet today's challenges, which include generating business online. "The world is changing," she added.

Fix the parking

Westmount Stationery's business and building owner Tom Forestell said last week he was pleased the city was focusing on the commercial areas but hopes it will first tackle the parking problem in Victoria village as well as rising taxes.

Photo: Independent.

The taxes, he said, come from increasing property valuations and are pushing up rents and leading to many vacancies. "And what's the point of bringing in more shoppers when they have nowhere to park?" he asked. "The districts need large parking garages."

The 2016 pay-by-plate on-street parking system allows people to park for long periods without even shopping at the stores, he explained. This is because they can pay remotely while visiting the super-hospital, for example. "Even with the new \$3 rate in the west end, it's still cheaper than parking at the hospital."

Forestell also suggests the city restore the white demarcation lines to help guide careless parkers from taking up more than one space.



A pay station for parking on Sherbrooke at Victoria, March 11.



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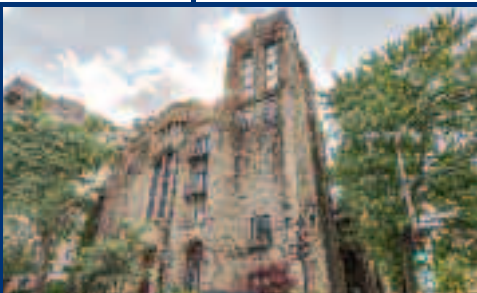
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High and low election spenders

Which candidates spent most – or least?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The official amount spent by candidates on their campaign for the November

5 municipal elections did not necessarily translate into victory, according to a report issued March 2 by the city's treasurer.

Of the three mayoral candidates, winner

Christina Smith spent the least at \$8,030.55 though that still was within sight of the allowable limit of \$8,085.60 calculated on the number of eligible voters. On the other hand, Patrick Martin's \$8,079.07 was only \$6 shy of the maximum.

In fact, of all the successful candidates in the entire campaign, Councillor Cynthia Lulham in District 7 spent the least and had a lot more of the allowable amount she could have used to win over her lone opponent. Her reported \$1,492.47 came in well under the district's maximum \$2,462.70.

Of all candidates who won councillor seats, Mary Gallery in District 6 filed expenses totaling the most at \$2,356.27, close to the limit of 2,480.10, followed by Anita Bostock in District 1 with \$2,246.51 out of her available \$2,358.80.

The highest amount of any councillor candidate came from Christian Matossian in District 5 whose campaign cost \$2,379.39 but it didn't provide as much bang for the buck as the win-

ner of the seat, Marina Brzeski's \$2,174.98.

A guide from the Quebec Director General of Elections (DGEQ) for representatives and official agents of authorized candidates states a financial report on election spending must be submitted within 90 days of the vote.

Failure to comply is subject to a fine of \$50 for each late day. All but one were reported to have been received by February 6 (see table).

Candidate reports of election expenses in descending order. Winner in bold.

Mayoralty	\$ Max.	Spent \$	Votes	Report rec'd.
Patrick Martin		8,079.07	1,878	Jan. 19
Beryl Wajzman	8,085.60	8,041.81	528	Feb. 1
Christina Smith		8,030.55	3,619	Jan. 24
Seat Councillor				
1 Anita Bostock		2,246.51	259	Jan. 31
Antonio D'Amico	2,353.80	2,174.45	255	Feb. 5
Kirk Polymenakos		990.06	94	Dec. 1
2 Philip Cutler	2,371.80	*	n/a	*
3 Jeff Shamie	2,441.70	1,273.02	n/a	Feb. 5
4 Rosalind Davis	2,439.90	2,191.11	372	Dec. 20
Conrad Peart		2,166.18	497	Feb. 5
5 Christian Matossian		2,379.39	362	Jan. 31
Marina Brzeski	2,421.60	2,174.98	398	Jan. 30
Gabriel Felcarek		921.99	89	Feb. 6
Elaine Carsley		789.00	33	Feb. 5
6 Mary Gallery		2,356.27	597	Feb. 2
Joanne Wallace	2,480.10	616.27	128	Feb. 5
George Fourniotis		**	63	**
7 Cynthia Lulham	2,462.70	1,492.47	424	Jan. 18
Johanna Stosik		789.45	349	Jan. 16
8 Kathleen Kez	2,439.90	2,168.09	325	Jan. 24
Theodora Samiotis		1,596.06	322	Feb. 2

*Not required. Acclaimed before authorization.

**Not reported as at date of public notice March 2.

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Health minister Barrette: 'We are in the midst of Westmount Square Medical

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Quebec Health minister Ga  tan Barrette was at the Westmount Square interior mall on March 6 to announce that Groupe Sant   Westmount Square will soon be opening as the Montreal region's 11th "super clinic," offering a wider range of medical and health services.

According to a statement from the Health ministry, the new clinic, which begins operations on April 1, will be open 84

hours each week (12 hours daily), from 8 am to 8 pm, including weekends. Groupe Sant   Westmount Square has run the Westmount Square Medical Centre since 1998.

Blood tests and other kinds of laboratory diagnostics will be made available starting in April through an agreement with the CIUSSS Centre-ouest-de-l'  le-de-Montreal and will be available at the super clinic beginning in July. Medical imaging services, such as x-rays, will be available at the super clinic beginning in April.

"We are in the midst of putting into place all the pieces of a puzzle - all the pieces needed to have a healthcare system that works," said Barrette, noting that the super clinic will be the 28th.

Alluding to Mies van der Rohe who designed Westmount Square, Dr. Yvan Fortin, who will be heading the super clinic, said he wondered what the world-famous architect would have said.

"I see it as a continuity in terms of architecture," added Fortin. "This is the architecture for health that's moving forward. What is the new architecture for health? It's a model that's built on the patient being at the centre."

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putting into place all the pieces of a puzzle'
Centre to be a 'super clinic'



From left, Dr. Luc Provost, executive-director of Westmount Square Medical Centre, Dr. Yvan Fortin, who will be leading the new super clinic, Quebec Health minister Gaétan Barrette and Francine Dupuis, assistant-CEO of West-Central CIUSSS of Montreal.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ST. PATRICK’S ABOUT CIVIC PRIDE, NOT NUMBERS

As a regular participant with the Westmount contingent in previous St. Patrick’s Day parades, I am saddened that the Westmount city council decided to pull out of the parade after 33 years.

Last year, we had around 25 marchers (which included the extraordinary, fine constabulary) and despite frigid impediments, we walked the entire route as a team representing our fine city.

In my opinion, whether one person marches or one hundred, our civic pride shines nonetheless. The St. Patrick’s Day parade demands no requirements for a float nor a minimum number of participants and we should not calculate such factors as the basis on whether we walk or not.

I ask council to please reconsider its decision of abstaining from participating in the St. Patrick’s Day parade and re-enter the Westmount contingent in the years ahead*, even if one person walks and no floats are entered into the parade. If other municipalities can participate with a minuscule number of walkers, we can do it as well and still represent our lovely Westmount with pride.

DAVID STERN, VICTORIA AVE.

**Editor’s note:* It is our understanding that the city does plan to re-enter in future years. – DP.

SOUTHEAST SHOULD GO LEED PLATINUM

A formal proposal to Mayor Christina Smith and the city councillors of Westmount:

In as much as we have already witnessed a 1.0-degree Celsius rise in the average global temperature and whose rate of rise is accelerating, as Canada has signed the Paris UN Climate Accord that aims to keep climate change to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and as Canada has agreed to the UN Quito Accord, which recognizes that cities have a major responsibility in being sustainable and thus changing the detrimental course of climate change, I propose:

- That Westmount city council, led by Mayor Christina Smith, have the south-east redevelopment project built as a LEED-Platinum neighbourhood, have it developed to be free of all private cars, dedicate a significant part of the regained space from vehicle infrastructure for “near to home” public space amenities. LEED is the same evaluation system for sustainability as that used for the new Westmount recreation centre. Its architectural form should be continuous townhouses so as to create an urban haven for young families.
- The driving idea behind the idea of an urban haven within the project is based on the premise of the desirability of ground-related community space hidden away from the all intrusive presence of heavy urban traffic. This is possible because of the plethora of services and institutions within a five-minute walk and because of the number of alternative transportation options next to the site. It is inspired by former mayor Trent, who was never shy to state that he lived without a car and who valued good urbanity as had been secured at Greene

and de Maisonneuve.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

DEMOCRACIES CHANGE WHEN CRITICIZED

Regarding the letter you published about *The Current* and Israel (February 20, p. 4):

1. The non-ethical actions of the government of Israel are known (see for instance Amnesty International’s report for 2016-17).

2. It is a legitimate question of conscience: should these actions be ignored or talked about? Those who choose to talk about them (arbitrary limitations of movement, violence, arrests of minors and adults, destruction of infrastructure and crops in Palestine) show respect towards the Israelis. The lessons of history are clear enough: change in a somewhat deviant democratic government will come when criticism is open, factual and repeated. Most Canadians prefer not to use this peaceful strategy of change on a government they are fond of.

GENVIÈVE DELMAS PATTERSON,
ARGYLE AVE.

PEELING THE ONION, PART 3: RINGS QUESTIONED

I read with great interest the article “Onion rings, explained” (February 20, p. 6).

I followed your instructions, but the viscous batter gave me less onion and more batter.

Is there something I did not get right? Would you be kind enough to explain again?

Une lectrice fidèle.

VIVIANE AGIA, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

Editor’s note: You did nothing wrong. There was a miscommunication. Please see Jim Richards’ letter below. – DP.

PEELING THE ONION, PART 4: RINGS EXPLAINED

I very much appreciate the effort that you are expending to bring context to my “Overheard” comment (February 13, p. 7) regarding not enough onion in onion rings, however your explanation on p. 6 of the February 20 edition requires correction.

In order to obtain a coating that is less thick, the batter should be LESS viscous (so that more drips away before the rings go into the fryer – basic rheology). So we are looking for a less thick (viscous) batter with thicker slices of onion.

I am most appreciative that the *Independent* has found a topic of similar complexity and importance to the residents of SoDo, now that the narrowing of Dorchester has gone quiet as an issue, at least for the moment.

JIM RICHARDS, DORCHESTER BLVD.



Some local onions waiting to be purchased at the Metro grocery store on Victoria Ave. on March 9. One local odds-maker thought it unlikely that many of them would end up in onion rings.

Photo: Independent.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Correction

The article “Totally Red” (February 27, p. 9) mischaracterized the Teen Tour Theatre Group. In fact, it charges students for classes and workshops, but offers some audiences free performances, and paid ones for the benefit of third-party non-profits.

Overheard

“They are allergic to green.”
– Cabbie waiting impatiently for vehicles to move through the Greene Ave. and St. Catherine intersection on a green light, March 8 at about 6:30 pm.

International Women's Day – March 8

Auberge Shalom 'making a difference'

Ardene, Shoebox top \$300,000 in donations



Natalie Amar welcomes more than 40 guests to her Mt. Stephen home.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

International Women's Day was discreetly honoured the evening of March 8 at the Mt. Stephen home of Natalie Amar. More than 40 women, and men, gathered to learn more about the work of Auberge Shalom pour femmes, a non-profit organization for female victims of violence and their children, whose mission includes "breaking the cycle of conjugal violence through education, prevention and advocacy."

The shelter was founded in 1989 by the Montreal section of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada in response to a fatal incident of conjugal violence within the Jewish community, but its services extend to women of all communities. Auberge Shalom is funded by the ministry

of Health and Social Services and supported by private donations. "Shelters are making a difference" said Westmounter and board member Roslyn Pinker, "The number of deaths has gone down." Attendees included Diane Sasson, who was awarded the Order of Canada for her commitment to eradicating domestic violence and who recently retired after serving 21 years as executive director of Auberge Shalom.

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On March 6, the Ardene Foundation and store held their third annual in-store event to celebrate International Women's Day at the rue des Jockey location. The foundation collaborated with longtime partner the Shoebox Project to give clothing, shoes and accessories to approximately 150 Montreal women from 35 shelters across the island. Over the years, the foundation has contributed over \$300,000 of merchandise in support of the Shoebox Project. Westmounter Debbi Jardine is seated at the table, on the left.

Photo courtesy of D. Jardine.

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World-wide lights-out time March 24

Local Earth Hour to feature new ‘zero waste home’

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The 10th Westmount rendition of Earth Hour held by the Healthy City Project (HCP) March 24 will feature ways in which greenhouse emissions can be reduced in every room of a home under the theme “Zero water – zero emissions, what can we do to reduce our impact on climate change?”

“My idea was to have the displays and exhibits at Victoria Hall organized as a house, so when visitors enter, room by room, they can experience what it’s like to come into a zero-waste home,” said Councillor Marina Brzeski, commissioner of Sustainability and Accessibility, and HCP chair.

The idea, she said, was carried forward by Monique Cazalais, a member of the event’s volunteer organizing committee. Cazalais recruited a number of the participating specialists to demonstrate ways to achieve the objective.

Various rooms in the “virtual” house will include a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, basement and even a garden.

The event takes place from 4:30 to 10 pm as part of a world-wide effort to generate awareness of climate change by including a lights-out hour at 8:30 pm.

Challenge to Westmount households

“I challenge the 8,685 households in Westmount to do their part to increase

their energy reduction during this hour,” explained Brzeski who will emcee this year’s Vic Hall program.

Scheduled among more than 20 organizations or individuals providing information related to environmental protection are: Drop Bike, on alternative transportation, L’Autre Choix (fair trade and organic food), Mouton Noar (furniture repurposing), Alvéole (urban bees), the city’s Urban Planning department on water management and its Public Works department on community gardens and “incredible edibles.” Other topics include water pollution, managing clutter and over-consumption, environmentally friendly household products, local farm produce and compostable toilets.

A special children’s workshop on paper making takes place at 6 pm for kids aged 6 and over (pre-registration required). Adult workshops take place on zero-waste kitchens at 5 pm and zero-waste bathrooms at 7 pm.

Weather permitting, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada will set up telescopes in Westmount Park to provide people with an opportunity to observe celestial objects.

Earth Hour organizers along with Brzeski include Ingrid Birker, Monique Cazalais, Paul Marriott, Tony Moffat and Lawrence Mysak with assistance from Virginia Elliott, Hydro Westmount, Public Security and volunteer Chris Lomaglio.

See photo on p. 1.



The city is advertising Earth Hour on banners like this one on Sherbrooke St. The “60” refers to 60 minutes.

Photo: Independent.

Parks, cont’d. from p. 1

nity gardens in the Westmount Athletic Grounds behind Westmount High as well as continuing erosion control in Summit Woods, replacement of concrete planters around the commercial districts and more landscaping at the Lansdowne entrance to Westmount.

Refurbishment of Westmount Park, however, is a priority which, Lulham said, will focus on analyzing the reasons for the leaking waterway, studies of the entire system and preparation of a new master plan.

Westmount Park

“We want to look at an automated water system to control the level, a bigger filtration system or possibly create a bioswale. We want to see what’s possible,” she explained. Bioswales are landscape elements designed to remove pollution and silt, and consist of gently sloped sides with vegetation.

Currently, Lulham explained, the water flow and level have to be managed manually, a particular challenge given the continual leakage. As well, when the waterway

is cleaned, the ducks fly away to the pool at the Westmount recreation centre.

The goal to create a new park master plan is not to replace the current layout, she pointed out, but to refurbish certain paths and possibly relocate the gazebo.

This year, an adult exercise area will be created, possibly at the site of the former shuffleboard, which is already made of concrete, as required for anchoring the structures. There are to be three pieces of equipment, one for exercising each part of the body.

Innovative play equipment

The new children’s playground equipment of metal and bamboo installed at Westmount Park last year to stimulate imaginative and interactive play has proven so successful that this might become a model for the future equipment, Lulham explained.

The new swings at Prince Albert will include what is called a handicap swing. Lulham said she recently visited a park in Los Angeles that was entirely devoted to accessibility and where equipment was designed for use by persons with disabilities.



The old shuffleboard area of Westmount Park on March 11. Adult exercise equipment might be installed there this year.

Photo: Independent.




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No work seen at foot of Prince Albert



Over numerous visits, the Independent noticed no activity at the foot of Prince Albert the week of March 5 to 9, as seen here on March 9. That area of the McGill University Health Centre's Glen campus is under a stop-work order issued by Westmount on March 2 (see "What's happening on the Westmount side of the MUHC campus?", March 6, p. 4). "Public Security is regularly monitoring the area to enforce this [order]," said city councillor for the area Marina Brzeski in an email on March 9.

Photo: Independent.

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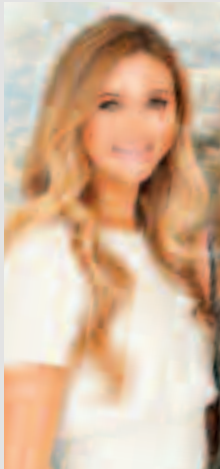


A felled tree in Westmount Park near the gazebo on March 1.

Photo: Independent.

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Westmounters give at Héma-Québec blood clinic



Veteran blood donor Shelley Kerman is seen here with Héma-Québec blood donation supervisor Richard Forest on March 7 during the blood clinic held at Victoria Hall.

Shelley Kerman, former owner of the LMNOP children’s wear boutique on Sherbrooke St. in Westmount, was among the dozens of people who took the time to make a donation of the “gift of life” during a Héma-Québec blood drive held during the afternoon and early evening on March 7 in the main auditorium at Victoria Hall.

By just after 6 pm, the campaign had succeeded in taking in 60 units of blood,

with a target of 70 by closing time at 7:30 pm, according to Richard Forest, a supervisor for Héma-Québec’s mobile blood collection services.

“It’s been a good day,” he said, while adding that Westmounters consistently show themselves to be generous donors of blood during the two blood donation clinics sponsored by the city that are held in Westmount annually. – MCB

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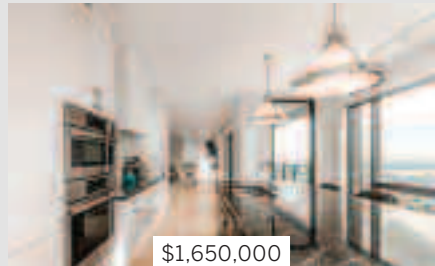
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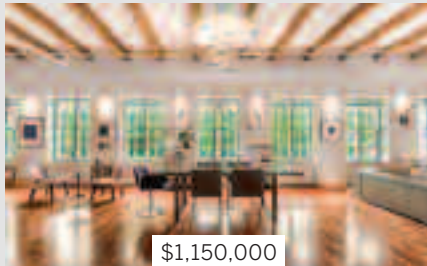
Magnificent 9,700 sf waterfront dream estate in prime location. MLS 27784482



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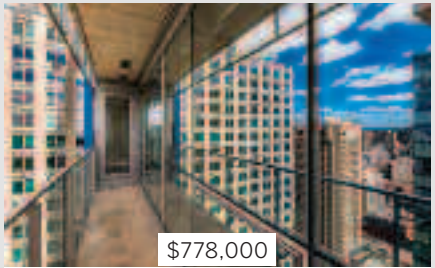
1,800 ft² double corner luxurious condo offering spectacular views. MLS 20995752



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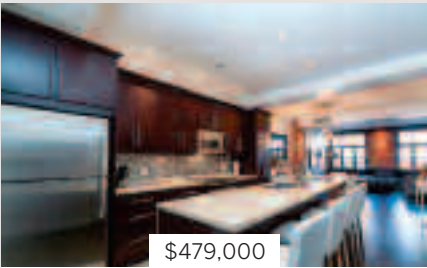
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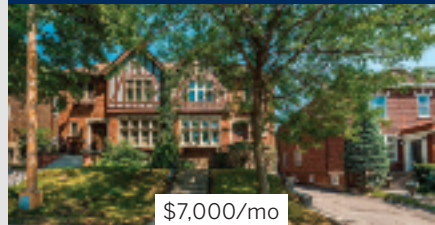


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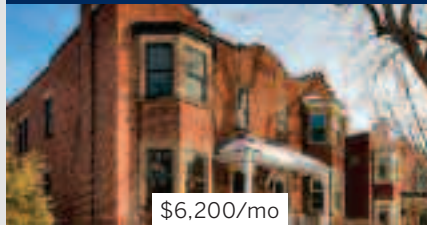


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Visitez le westmount.org/ewestmount pour vous abonner et recevez les dernières nouvelles de votre Ville par courriel!

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Séance ordinaire du conseil le 19 mars
Veuillez noter que la séance ordinaire du conseil aura lieu, à titre exceptionnel, **le 19 mars à 19 h 30** à l'hôtel de ville.

Conservatoire : première phase de la restauration amorcée
Suite à l'approbation du conseil municipal le 19 février, la Ville a publié un appel d'offres pour des services professionnels en préparation des travaux de restauration du Conservatoire et du pavillon d'étang historiques. Consultez westmount.org pour plus de détails.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Bibliothèque de semences
Semences gratuites pour les membres de la Bibliothèque: choisissez parmi plus de 50 variétés de légumes, fines herbes, fleurs, et plantes patrimoniales. westlib.org ou 514 989-5530.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Le mercredi 21 mars, 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.

Conférences de 14 heures : Virginia Elliott
Le mercredi 21 mars, 14 h, Bibliothèque. *Rapa Nui: Exploring Easter Island*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : The Boaters and Sifters of ALP
Le mercredi 21 mars, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Joignez-vous au groupe de lecture et plongez tête première dans une discussion passionnée sur l'œuvre magistrale de James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*. Apportez votre exemplaire du livre. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en français
Le lundi 26 mars, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Œuvres d'Alice Ferney. Animé par Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Ciné-club
Le mardi 27 mars, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Eve and the Fire Horse*. (2005). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais
Le mardi 27 mars, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *To the End of the Land* par David B. Grossman. Animé par Claire Holden Rothman. 514 989-5299.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 19 mars

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Galerie du Victoria Hall : appel de dossiers
Période d'inscription annuelle : du 15 février au 15 avril. La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de dossiers pour sa programmation de la saison 2018-2019 (septembre 2018 à août 2019). Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents ou professionnels qui habitent Westmount. Consultez le westmount.org pour plus de détails. 514 989-5521.

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition
Du 8 au 29 mars. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Sara Colby. Rencontrez l'artiste **le 14 mars à 19 h**. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi/dimanche 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5521.

Conférence : Parlons opéra!
Le dimanche 18 mars, 10 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Svadba*. Présenté (en anglais) par L'Opéra de Montréal. 514 989-5226.

Journée familiale du film
Le dimanche 18 mars, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Joignez-vous à nous pour la projection d'*Oddball* (2015), un film amusant pour toute la famille. Billets requis. 514 989-5226.

Conférences-midi
Le mardi 20 mars, 12 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Montreal Botanical Gardens: Past, Present and Future* avec Michel Labrecque. En collaboration avec Le Cercle canadien des femmes de Montréal. 10\$. 514 989-5226.

Conférence : L'importance de vos yeux
Le mardi 20 mars, 19 h., Bibliothèque. Le Dr Miguel N. Bernier Jr. parlera de la prévention et du traitement de troubles oculaires. Gratuit. Inscrivez-vous à fondationcuscsm.com/whc.

Une heure pour la terre édition 2018
Le samedi 24 mars, 16 h 30 à 21 h 30, Victoria Hall. Éteignez vos lumières! Venez vous joindre à nous pour une soirée d'activités durant cette heure symbolique. Thème de 2018 : *Zéro déchet, zéro émission : que peut-on faire pour réduire notre impact sur les changements climatiques?* 514 989-5226.

Artisans Westmount : appel pour soumissions
Date limite le 6 avril. Les artisans sont invités à présenter leurs candidatures pour Artisans Westmount qui aura lieu les 10 et 11 novembre au Victoria Hall. Toutes les œuvres devront être faites à la main par les artisans. Consultez le westmount.org pour plus de détails. 514 989-5226.

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CITY HALL

Regular council stting March 19
Please note that the regular council sitting will take place, exceptionally, on **March 19th at 7:30 p.m.** at City Hall.

Conservatory restoration: Phase 1 underway
Following City Council approval on February 19, the City issued a public tender for professional services in preparation of the work needed to restore the historic Conservatory and Pond House. For more details, please consult westmount.org.

LIBRARY

Seed Lending Library
Free seeds for Library members : choose from more than 50 varieties of seeds - vegetables, herbs, flowers and heirloom plants. westlib.org / 514 989-5530.

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd
Wednesday, March 21, 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.

2 O'Clock Conferences: Virginia Elliott
Wednesday, March 21, 2 p.m., Library. *Rapa Nui: Exploring Easter Island*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: The Boaters and Sifters of ALP
Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m., Library. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. 514 989-5299.

French Book Club
Monday, March 26, 1 p.m., Library. Works by Alice Ferney. Led by Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Film Club
Tuesday, March 27, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Eve and the Fire Horse* (2005). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

English Book Club
Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m., Library. David B. Grossman's *To the End of the Land*. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. 514 989-5299.

Next Council Meeting Monday, March 19

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Gallery at Victoria Hall: call for projects
Annual registration period: February 15 to April 15. The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces a call for projects for its 2018-2019 exhibition season (September 2018 to August 2019). Emerging or professional artists residing in Westmount are invited to apply. Consult westmount.org for full details. 514 989-5521.

Gallery at Victoria Hall: exhibition
March 8 to 29. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present an exhibition featuring artist Sara Colby. Come meet the artist on **March 14 at 7 p.m.** Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., weekends 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5521.

Lecture: Let's Talk Opera!
Sunday, March 18, 10:30 a.m., Victoria Hall. *Svadba*. Presented in English by L'Opéra de Montréal. 514 989-5226.

Family Film Day
Sunday, March 18, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. The whole family is invited to a screening of *Oddball* (2015). Tickets required. 514 989-5226.

Afternoon Lecture Series
Tuesday, March 20, 12:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Montreal Botanical Gardens: Past, Present and Future* with Michel Labrecque. In collaboration with The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. \$10. 514 989-5226.

Lecture: The Importance of Your Eyes
Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m., Library. Dr. Miguel N. Bernier Jr. will talk about the prevention and treatment of several ocular conditions. Free. Please register at fondationcuscsm.com/whc.

Earth Hour 2018
Saturday, March 24, 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Turn off your lights! Victoria Hall hosts an evening of activities as part of Earth Hour. This year's theme is *Zero Waste, Zero Emissions: what can we do to reduce our impact on climate change?* 514 989-5226.

Artisans Westmount: Call for submissions
Deadline April 6. Artisans are invited to submit their candidacy for Artisans Westmount, to be held November 10 and 11 at Victoria Hall. All work must be handmade by the artisans. Details at westmount.org. 514 989-5226.



Permits, cont'd. from p. 1

live so far are also available in printed bilingual form from the Urban Planning counter at city hall. Two others are still under construction. These are for tree felling and guardrails.

Icons currently available are for new buildings, major alterations, minor alterations, interior renovation, landscaping, demolition, windows and doors, roofing, pools, retaining walls, fences and hedges, plumbing, mechanical units and store-fronts/signs.

Three-year project

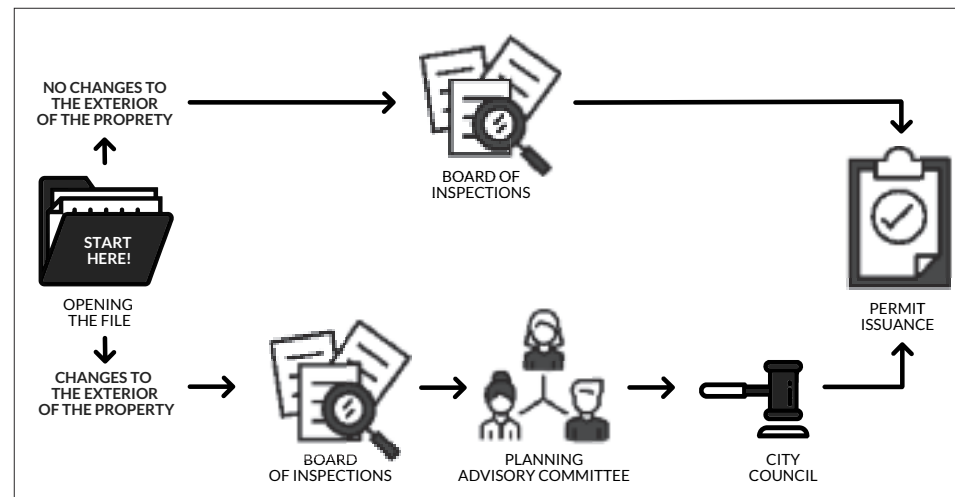
Work on the new webpage began three years ago, Flies said, but it was interrupted and resumed at the end of last summer.

"We get a lot of questions about the process that different permit applications go through. Hopefully, the graphic representation will provide answers."

As shown on the screen shot reproduced at bottom right, it is only requests related to exterior permits that go on, after review by the Board of Inspections, to the Planning Advisory Committee and subsequently to city council for approval or refusal. Those for interior renovations or construction are examined only by the Board for technical requirements and compliance to zoning, building codes and other provisions.



Unveiling the new "Construction and renovation" webpage March 2 is Urban Planning director Tom Flies with core team members, seated from left: assistant director Nathalie Jodoin and administrative secretary Gitta Dom.



A screen shot from the new webpage provides a graphic overview of the route a permit goes through in the review process.



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Beer review: the Connoisseur and the Philistine

Venue: Pub BreWiskey

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Marché Bonsecours, Old Montreal

David Price, **The Philistine**: Beer drinker
Ideal beer: stronger-than-average lager,
even if it's commercial Canadian beer.
Favourite beer: Harp or Sapporo, but
Sapporo-in-a-can beats Harp-in-a-can,
hands down. On-tap research on this
question is still under way.

Greg Dunning, **The Connoisseur**: Beer
drinker, brewer, and hunter
Ideal beer: one that is manufactured by
people who care more about the beer
than the money
Favourite beer: Too many to mention and
it depends on the season.

October 12, 2017

THE CONNOISSEUR

Okay, it has a pretty cliché name. Its
website explains that three friends with a
lot of experience working in bars decided
to open their own microbrewery and
whiskey pub. So there you have it, “brew”
plus “whiskey” = Pub BreWiskey.

It's a better place than a name. Before
we go inside, which is downstairs from
ground level, we should tell you that it of-
fers a long, outdoor terrace with a fine
panoramic view of St. Paul St., all the way

to Jacques Cartier Square.

The terrace was closed on review night
(it was cold and late in the season), so we
descended into BreWiskey's beer grotto.
It's a good hike either way from Place
d'Armes or Champs de Mars Metro stops,
so you will have a good thirst working
upon arrival. Inside, you will find 14 rotat-
ing taps of house and guest draft beer,
about 25 curated bottles of guest beer and
cider from Quebec and abroad, plus a vast
selection of cocktails.

THE PHILISTINE: Märzen (5.7%) – lager

My first beer was Octoberbrewskey, a
Märzen-style lager – yes, a lager! In a
brewpub! It happens! It was excellent. It
had an orangey colour, and a little more
body than most lagers, and wasn't too
fizzy. The taste was a little caramel-y.
Wikipedia tells me that this “March beer”
was traditionally brewed in March and
lagered (i.e. put in a cellar) until October-
fest, so Pub BreWiskey's name for its ver-
sion is rightly come by. Of all the beers
that I have had with Greg, this one is like-
ly my favourite. It shows how a lager can
have some added flavour, colour and body
(it's not all Budweiser!), and still be crisp
and clean.

Kudos.

(If you're looking for something simi-
lar in a bottle, try the excellent Creemore
Springs' Oktoberfest. Yes, that pioneer
craft brewery is now owned by Molson-
Coors' Six Pints Specialty Beer Company,
along with Granville Island and, recently,
Trou du Diable from Shawinigan, but the
beer is still good.)



Photo courtesy of W. Westenberg.

THE CONNOISEUR: Kalegin (5.8%) – blanche ale with spices

This is a lively choice brewed by
BreWsky with keffir, ginger and lemon.
It's a little too sweet and needs more bit-
tering hops to perfectly slake my thirst.
Not a consequential drawback as it is
doing the job well. An alcohol content of 4
percent would have been just fine and ap-
proaching 6 percent is a little high for beer
number one, but it doesn't taste or feel
that strong, as my glass rapidly empties.

THE PHILISTINE: Hopless (5.5%) – blonde ale

My next beer was the auspiciously
named (for the hop-skeptic Philistine)
“Hopless,” also brewed by Pub BreWiskey.
How does a guy who doesn't like too much
flavour evaluate it? I found it too flavour-
less and too light in body. Makers of con-
sumer products must tear their hair out at
the comments of the great unwashed. In-
deed, it reminded me of wheat beer, a style
that I find much too light on the tongue.
My notes say it got better with time, but
isn't that true of all alcohol?

THE CONNOISEUR: Kilogramme (6.5%) – American IPA

I wanted some hops and they arrived,

as I had “hopped” – oh man, that pun was
bad, in keeping with this bar's name.
Ouch! This IPA by BreWsky had a well-
balanced citrus flavour, a back-of-palate
bitterness and was really hard to sip. I'm
surprised because this is a Citra-hopped
ale. Citra is an aroma hop that usually
overpowers everything, including any per-
ceived bitterness, because it's a grapefruit
tornado in the glass. Try Le Castor's Citra
Weisse (Rigaud), which I can never finish
on my own. It's just too much. This ale,
also disappeared too quickly, so I respect
the brewmaster who tamed this bud (aka
hop) and delivered it at 6.5 percent. It's the
best Citra IPA I've ever had.

THE PHILISTINE: Helles (5%) – lager – Vrooden (Granby)

My third beer was another lager! I
found this more like a blonde ale than a
lager, which is to say good and drinkable,
but not extraordinary. It was also lightly
sour (my notes say “one quarter sour”),
which was fine, but I wouldn't want more
than that.

THE CONNOISEUR: Octoberbrewsky (5.7%) – Oktoberfest Märzen – Lager

It's always with great delight to drink a
beer in it's proper season. Second, we got
a lager here. And that's splendid news for
the Philistine. And I'm going on record
right now, that this is the best beer in this
room. If you want a better one, book your
flight to Munich right now. Why should I
describe it and have you pining for one at
home, while it is still illegal for a brewer
to deliver you his product? Even Foodora
or Uber won't do it. You will just have to
get down there to experience Oktoberfest
next year. It's even pairing perfectly with
our community nachos and handmade
salsa.

Another first-class indicator was the
fine glassware used at every service. Each
style of beer was served in its appropriate
glass and our inter-beer water was ten-

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dered in the pub's signature growlers. This is an expensive serving decision, from capex and opex perspectives. Most places just don't bother – it's only beer, right? So I asked the waiter why and his answer was "100 percent or we don't do it." Man, I'm loving this place.

THE PHILISTINE: Tribal (5.5%) – pale ale – MaBrasserie (Ropepo, Montreal)

Regular readers of this column will know that I am no fan of India pale ales (IPAs). I find them too hoppy, a taste that I find skunky. I have found pale ales to be better for my palate and this one was no exception. It was a bit fruity and citrusy like an American pale ale, without being super hoppy or skunky.

THE CONNOISEUR: La Cold Brew (6.8%) - Espresso (sic) Stout

Good name for this deceptively smooth stout by BrewSky. Lots of coffee aroma and taste. No surprises here, just what I expected. I only wish it had a little more ABV to finish the evening with, since it's starting to get autumn cold outside.

THE PHILISTINE: more Märzen!

After my initial beers, I went back to the Octoberbreskey. I had to soak up as much as I could before it disappeared with the fall season. I applaud Greg's attempts to broaden the beer range of my palate, but I refused to pass up an opportunity like this one.

THE CONNOISEUR: Imperiale Stoute (11.75%) – Simple Malt - Brasseur Illimités

Looking to finish with some ABV, I turned to the Scotch or brandy for the beer drinker. The BreWsky beer fridge has some fine bottled vintages to consider. I was able to stay "in house" until now. Simple Malt is a reliable go-to and it took an hour to finish. What do you expect at 11.75 percent? Simple Malt is Brasseurs Illimités' other bar and dep label, which covers its manufacturing overhead. It experiments with more exotic beers at their own taproom called The Medley on St. Hubert St, which we owe a visit.



From left, on the way to the bathroom, there and on the way back. Clear directions for the sober and inebriated, and interesting products for sale.

Photos: D. Price.

Summary

THE CONNOISEUR

I was disappointed at first that we could not enjoy its great terrace, but once inside, BreWsky's hit it out of the park for me. It's a pretty small place inside, so I wondered where they were brewing their beer. Management explained that they are brewing at Brasserie Brisset on Guy St. at the former Bierbrier site at a rate of 1,000 litres per week. So their kegs and their guest kegs make their way to a cold room where they are served in its cozy tap room. I was nothing other than impressed with its selection and quality. I will be back to sample what is new each season and, when thirsty in Old Montreal, it's a great place to get slaked by Quebec beer.

THE PHILISTINE

I also really liked this bar, and I use the word "bar" advisedly. Most of the brewpubs that we review look and feel like test kitchens, which kind of fits their mandate. Nevertheless, it was great to be in a good old-fashioned Montreal *bar* with great atmosphere, great wait staff and great choices, even for the lager lover. It was like being back in university. And while I didn't find the bathroom design to be noteworthy there was humour on the way there, on site and on the way back.

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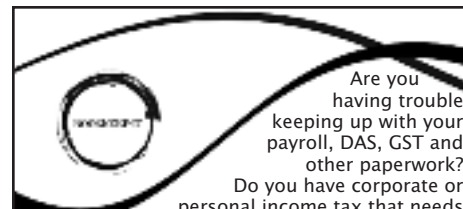
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TRENDSETTERS

JEAN MARCHAND

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

PHOTO RALPH THOMPSON

Simplicity as a choice

Westmount's got talent! Living by a park, I often see a tall handsome chap, *über-cool* in black, jogging with a fabulous, friendly dog called Aimée. Jean Marchand is not only an actor (Théâtre du Nouveau Monde), playwright and musician, but a music teacher at the famed Schulich School of Music at McGill. What I call "noteworthy."

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style? I've [previously] felt that I was born in the wrong century. I would've been much happier in the late 19th century atmosphere with its overabundant interiors. However, I no longer feel this way. I now have this very urgent need to empty my overcrowded house and live in very bare rooms – a lesson the small cottage in the Laurentians that I purchased last summer taught me. My needs are few: my dog, my piano, most of my books and music, my camera, some CDs and favourite films and documentaries, and definitely fewer clothes. I am an advocate of "*la simplicité volontaire*"!

What do you teach? What is your favourite class?

Collaborative piano, piano ensemble and chamber music at the Schulich School of Music, McGill University. I thoroughly enjoy all three because each is a unique teaching experience and enables me to transmit the best, I hope, of what I've learned over the years, thanks to amazing mentors. As musicians, we are many things: actors, athletes, painters, sculptors, writers, singers, architects and, above all, poets.

Do you have a piano at home?

A 1907 Steinway concert grand that belonged to Renée Morisset who, along with her husband, Victor Bouchard, were the first Quebec duo pianists to play concerts around the world. They became my surrogate parents in Quebec City. Both passed away a few years ago and I miss them beyond words.

What do you like to wear on weekends?

Running tights (I run a lot with my dog, work out and do a lot of stretching, indoors and out), very long t-shirts from Asos (young British designers) and hoodies. I tend to be informal so hate formal wear – except on gala nights!

Do you have favourite artists?

Painting: Rita Letendre, Charles Lemay, Edvard Munch and Caspar Friedrich. Black-and-white photography from the late 19th century to the 1970s: Nadar, Cartier-Bresson, Mapplethorpe, Hurrell and Avedon.

Do you have art in your home?

Paintings by Rita Letendre and Charles Lemay, ink drawings by CBC make-up artist Jacques Lafleur, prints by Albers and many, many art books!

If you had a choice, where would you live in the world (money no object!)

NYC – for me, the most thrilling city in the world, along with London. It offers everything an artist can wish and New Yorkers are absolutely amazing.

Who would you invite to a dinner party if you could have anyone in the world, and from any era?

Lillian Hellman: I am presently writing a one-MAN (!) show about her that I will eventually perform, inspired by her most enigmatic book, *Maybe*. I so wish I had met her when she was alive.

Henry James: for me the most extraordinary writer I shall ever read. His novella *The Beast in the Jungle* is an absolute stroke of genius. I feel very few writers have grasped the human heart and tragedy as he has.

Julie Harris: one of the greatest actors ever and a most generous woman.

We wrote to each other for a few years, and she always answered my letters. Her performances on stage and screen never cease to floor me.

Catherine Frot: I was privileged to meet her when she came to perform Beckett's *Happy Days* at the Théâtre du Nouveau



Jean Marchand on January 21 at his house on Dorchester Blvd.

Monde in 2014 and our first meeting turned into a beautiful, warm friendship. She is an amazing woman and actress (*Marguerite*, *Sage femme*, *La tourneuse de pages*).

Who is your favourite designer?

I don't have one particular favourite designer but really love the work of these young and very creative designers from the UK whose clothes can be bought on websites such as Asos or Other. I also love Rad Hourani's work.

What do you think of today's fashion?

I love its gender-blending freedom and audacity: as women have worn suits and trousers forever, now men can wear skirts and leggings if they wish and shock a very politically correct society! Go for it, guys!

Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Abandoned Royal Vic inspires photo exhibit

A multi-generational crowd huddled at the gigantic Glen super-hospital site recently to admire a new exhibit. The RBC Art and Heritage Centre of the McGill University Health Centre inaugurated a wonderful series of photographs inspired by the now-empty Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH).

Eleven artists were invited to participate, including Westmount resident Gabor Szilasi as well as Raymonde April, Michel Campeau, Serge Clément, Luc Courchesne, Yan Giguère, Angela Grauerholz, Marie-Jeanne Musiol, Roberto Pellegrinuzzi, Yann Pocreau and Chih-Chien Wang.

Accompanied by the RBC Art and Heritage Centre director Dr. Jonathan Meakins and curator Alexandra Kirsh, the photographers were allowed to wander the unoccupied old RHV and go “wherever they wanted to,” explained Meakins. “One artist was there for eight hours.”

Using the old RVH as an artistic template, the photographers then submitted different ideas to the RBC Art and Heritage Centre committee, which ultimately selected one final photograph from each photographer. The hauntingly beautiful shots balanced the sterility of the massive room.

Colour images ranged from the Zen-stillness of light switches (now “off” forever), the Women’s Pavilion clock tower and recovery room, and an evocative window view. A black-and-white photograph showed a blurry view outside the RVH, the former parking booth marginally atilt and empty: forever. Meakins welcomed one and all commenting that “the exhibit brings the legacy of the RVH into the new Glen building where one of our missions is a heal-

continued on p. 18



Michel Campeau, Gabor Szilasi, Chih-Chien Wang, Luc Courchesne, Marie-Jeanne Musiol, Yann Pocreau, Raymonde April, Yan Giguère, Serge Clement and Angela Grauerholz.



Pierre-François Ouellette, Dr. Jonathan Meakins and Matthew Bufo.



Alexandra Kirsh and Gwen Nacos.



Victor Drury and Serge Vaisman.



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Exhibit, cont'd. from p. 17

ing environment.”

Other speakers were **Richard Fahey**, director human resources, communications and legal affairs at the MUHC, and RBC's **Matthew Bufo**, community manager (Westmount, NDG and Montreal West).

The poignant pictures created a conversation about the fleeting nature of life among the guests, who included gallerists **Pierre-François Ouellette**, **Serge Vaisman** and **Simon Blais**, as well as **Bunny Berke** and **Larry Lusko**, and local res **Gwen Nacos**, **Danny Pagé**, **François Côté**, **Linda-Marlena Bucholtz Ross**, **Sandra Paikowsky** and **Dr. Jacqueline McClaran**, who was a harbinger of spring in a daffodil yellow jacket.

Outdoor rinks close



The city has closed its outdoor skating rinks for the season, it announced on its website March 1. This photo of the Prince Albert Park rink was taken on March 9.

Photo: Independent.

Comin' Up

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

Westmount Horticultural Society presents **Stéphanie Boucher** of McGill's Lyman Entomological Museum on "Garden Insects – Friend or Foe?" \$5. Westmount Public Library. 7 pm.

The Women's Art Society of Montreal presents sculptor **Shelley Miller**. \$10. Unitarian Church of Montreal, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. 1:30 to 2:30 pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Dr. **Zan Cammack** on "Cathleen Ní Houlihan from Myth to Modernity," discussing the legend of the "poor old woman." **Dragún Bán** musicians perform Irish songs. Free, donation requested. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Board game event. No fee, patronage encouraged. **Leonidas Culture Chocolate**, 318 Victoria Ave. 5 pm to 10 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Opéra de Montréal presents pianist, singer and musicologist **Dr. Pierre Vachon**, **Ana Sokolovic** and **Martine Beaulne** on

Sokolovic's Svadba. Free, but reserve at 514.989.5226. Victoria Hall. 10:30 am to noon.

MONDAY, MARCH 19

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Dr. Miguel N. Burnier Jr. on "The Importance of Your Eyes" presented by Westmount Healthy City Project and MUHC Foundation Joint Venture Lecture Series. Free, but register on library website or at 514.843.1543. Westmount Public Library. 7 pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

March to Save Lives, starting at Dawson College and ending at Westmount Park United Church. 10 am to 12 noon.

Earth Hour evening at Victoria Hall. The

Westmount Healthy City Project presents exhibits and program related to climate change. Victoria Hall. 4:30 to 10 pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

PhD candidate in English studies **Marie Leconte** on "What is Anglo-Québécois Literature?" \$10. Unitarian Church of Montreal, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West. 1:30 to 2:30 pm.

ONGOING – TUESDAYS

Cognitive principles self-help group for people seeking help in dealing with fear, stress, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, phobias, insomnia, gambling addiction. English and French. YMCA Westmount, 4585 Sherbrooke. Call 514.485.2194. 7 to 8:30 pm.

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