

WRC gets first cosmetic 'patch-up' closure in 5 years

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Some users of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) were taken by surprise last week to find the rinks closed, the Café Mouton Noir shrouded in painters' drop sheets and access limited to the complex.

Following the end of the hockey season and before the start of the summer programs, it was decided to use the week to partially close the centre in order to attend to "minor cosmetic patching and painting," said facilities manager Bruce Stacey.

"It's the first time we've closed it for a week since we opened," he said. "This

seemed like an ideal time to deal with a few cracks that inevitably arise when a new building settles after five years."

The exercise room, teen centre and multi-purpose room remained open, however, and registration for upcoming programs continued at the office (see separate story below).

Arena foreman Matthew Ciampini, who came up with the idea, said that "it's much easier to do this type of work when there aren't people around to touch the wet paint."

Some doors were repainted, minor dry-wall cracks plastered and stripping was installed to protect some areas from damage by players' hockey sticks. He said all the work was minor and the café was closed off so work could be done above the seating area.

Don't Miss It

Household hazardous waste collection. Westmount Public Library. Saturday, April 28. 9 am to 5 pm.

The boys of spring



Westmounters 6-year-old Ben Zelermeyer (left) and his brother 9-year-old Max were practising a little baseball with their mother in front of Westmount Park School on April 21. There were double-digit (Celsius) temperatures all weekend.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

City to accommodate all after camp sign-up 'glitch'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Online registration April 17 for Westmount's popular summer day-camp program proved to be worrisome to some parents when a software glitch delayed a first-come, first-served start at 8 am. This temporarily put some kids on a waiting list, Sports and Recreation officials said.

By the afternoon, however, all Westmount residents who had registered that

day – even if a requested age group was full – were accepted, said Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator.

"We managed to shift around the councillors from age groups that weren't full to enable those with waiting lists to accommodate everyone."

She said the glitch occurred when the system's software provider, PD Solutions, initially

continued on p. 22

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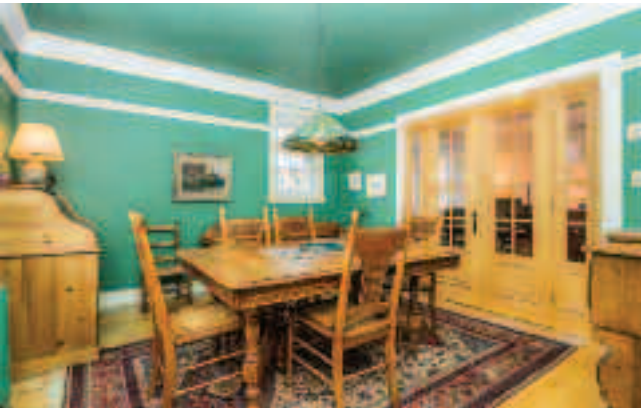
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Chagnon sports Selwyn for Humboldt



Jacques Chagnon, provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis and speaker of the assembly, can be seen at the back of the room in this photo wearing a Selwyn House hockey jersey in a photo with his colleagues in support of the members of the Humboldt Broncos who were killed in a bus crash on April 6.

Photo courtesy Selwyn House.

Update of 'Gun on Greene'

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Last week, April 17, p. 1, we published a photo of a man with long gun at Greene and St. Catherine taken on April 12 at about 8:30 am.

The RCMP's headquarters is around the corner on Dorchester.

RCMP spokesperson Geneviève Byrne wrote to the *Independent* in French on April 17, after press time, stating that the event was a fire evacuation drill and that its "emergency plan comprises several measures, including deploying armed and specially trained police officers in order to assure the safety of our employees during an evacuation."

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Sign of spring: bollards up



These bike path bollards were photographed April 17 on de Maisonneuve between Victoria and Prince Albert.
Photo: Independent.

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Another sign of spring: bixis



The bixi stand was installed on Victoria below de Maisonneuve on April 10.

Photo: Beth Hudson.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SO MUCH WRONG ABOUT CAMERA/POLICE STOP

I write about a letter (“Police stop camera owner,” p. 6) in the April 10 edition of your newspaper.

There is so much wrong about this incident that it needs to be talked about.

First and foremost is just the fact that “some people in the area were nervous about people with cameras.”

Really! In this day and age? When virtually everybody on the planet is carrying a camera in their pocket! What precisely were they nervous about and why? Were they committing some illegal act they thought he might have photographed?

Let’s be clear here, this was the area of Greene and St. Catherine, a shopping and commercial area, not a children’s park or school zone where one might suspect the camera-carrier of more nefarious purposes.....but then the whole idea of being nervous about people with cameras is ludicrous as has already been mentioned.

Next is the fact that the police wasted even one second of their time and our taxpayer dollars once they saw the gentleman was just walking with a camera on his person. Even if the gentleman in question was taking photographs in public, from public areas and as long as he was not trespassing on private property or obstructing traffic, he was committing no crime.

Since when does walking along a city street (a completely normal and legal activity) while carrying a camera (another perfectly normal and legal activity) merit

a stop and questioning by police? Police were aware that the gentleman in question was doing nothing untoward and would have been able to observe the same from their police cruiser without exiting it. So again, why did police waste one second of their precious time and our hard-earned tax dollars to park their car, exit from it, stop the gentleman and question him? Granted they were courteous and polite, but what suspicious activity was he engaged in that warranted what appears to be an unjustified police stop and questioning?

These questions need to be asked and answered.

GENE KRUGER, CÔTE ST. ANTOINE

STUNNED MONTANARO WAS STUNNED ON 4898

At the risk of readers rolling their eyes at seeing another letter concerning development of 4898 de Maisonneuve, I cannot let the comments made by real estate broker Joseph Montanaro go unchallenged (April 3, p. 1).

Commenting on the rejection of the proposed non-conforming development, Mr. Montanaro is quoted as saying “I believe people were stunned by the city decision, as I was.” Not only am I stunned that anyone believed that the project would be accepted as is, I was even more surprised to learn that units were already being sold!

As with the previously rejected proposal a year and a half ago, this one was wildly inappropriate with regards to the neighbouring homes both in size, footprint and

the zoning stipulations. Reasons for the rejection are myriad. Both the PAC and city council rejected the proposal and their reasons have been summarized in recent issues of the *Independent*. As the second proposal was no more palatable than the first, all the writing was on the wall that it would be rejected. Given the culture of the city and the passion of its citizens, the outcome was not a surprise.

Mr. Montanaro states that the rejected development would have increased property values in the neighbourhood. Again, I disagree. The significant reduction in both sunlight and ambient light on neighbouring properties and the crowding resulting from its large footprint and looming height would certainly have had a negative effect on property values. Zoning by-laws exist to provide a thoughtful, measured, and, perhaps most importantly, predictable structure to a neighbourhood. If they were to be so easily tossed aside in this case, then no area in Westmount would be safe. All property values would decrease because potentially any development anywhere would be on the table. Who would risk buying a property today when the surrounding properties could undergo unwanted development tomorrow? Any overriding of zoning restrictions must be done very judiciously, otherwise it could become a slippery slope and Westmount become a hive for speculators and home to empty buildings awaiting demolition.

Mr. Montanaro is correct in stating that the units would have sold, but demand alone is a poor excuse to go ahead with a project. If Mountainside United Church were to be demolished and several condo towers constructed, they would sell. That doesn’t make it the right thing to do. Mistakes have been made in the past resulting in our being saddled with buildings that are inappropriate for their environment. We are fortunate now to have rules in place to put the brakes on such development and force sober evaluation.

We look forward to development of 4898 de Maisonneuve that conforms to the existing zoning regulations.

HUGH RAY, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

SURPRISED BY 4898 CONTENTION

I am somewhat surprised at Mr. Biro’s contention (letter: “Council watching our back re 4898,” April 10, p. 6) that the proposed residential building at 4898 de Maisonneuve would not “enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhood.”

It seems to me it would be preferable to have a well-designed five-storey residential building rather than the decrepit

vacant office building and adjacent parking lot that presently exist. Furthermore, regardless of the application of the SCAOPI by-law, this project would undoubtedly increase the value of the neighbouring properties.

For the record, I live very happily diagonally across from a four-storey condo building, which is situated next to a ten-storey apartment building!

TIM CARSLY, BARAT RD.

HEY, TEACHERS, DON’T LEAVE YOUR KIDS ALONE

I am writing you in the hope that my message will reach the proper school authorities, since I do not know who is involved.

I live on Strathcona. In the afternoons, a group of schoolchildren, accompanied by their teachers, walks down my street. I have no idea which school these children attend, but I would like to appeal to their teachers to try to exercise some control over them and to instill in them some sense of civil behaviour. These children walk with impunity all over our lawns, with no respect for private property. I am getting tired of cleaning up after them.

It would be greatly appreciated if their teachers could supervise them to ensure that they understand that they should respect the homeowners on the street.

CLAUDETTE BELLEMARE, STRATHCONA AVE.

PRINCE ALBERT INCOMPETENCE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE

I have just read this week’s article “Reconstruction contracts awarded for road projects” (p. 5). Questioner Mr. Paul Marriott stated that the recent reconstruction work on Grosvenor, Prince Albert and Westmount avenues “has already failed.”

I can attest to that!

It all started with Phase I in 2015. Westmount Hydro, Public Works (water main) and Bell worked for over 20+ weeks prepping for the complete reconstruction of Prince Albert the following summer north of Sherbrooke St.

There were delays, disruptions etc. I have sent countless messages and pictures to the *Independent* and then-councillor Rosalind Davis reflecting the sub-par work.

When Phase II began in 2016, the contractor had power-hosed significant residue that had secured itself onto the freshly poured cement. This intervention resulted in “tag” marks everywhere from north of Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine.

Apparently they were supposed to disappear the following year. It turns out that they didn’t.

Part of the new sidewalk had not cured

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

properly and the contractor came back in 2017 to redo it. It meant cutting our driveway a second time! The first time was in 2016 and again last year. They also had to remove part of the unistone walkway. They failed to put the stones in the proper pattern and the mortar is all but gone.

I again addressed this issue with Public Works and the city sent someone to reset the stone as they had a picture of the original pattern on hand. It is now 2018 and the section of sidewalk that was redone twice in two years and street asphalt are crumbling and cracked.

It is completely unacceptable that the city administration accepts this type of incompetence.

NATHALIE ALLARD, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.

METRO GROCERY'S PARKING LOT HAZARDOUS

Open letter to councillors Bostock, Brzeski

Cars lining up to enter the Metro parking lot on Victoria often block the sidewalk for pedestrians – a hazard. Occasionally, notably for cars entering from the north, drivers appear not to see or take notice of pedestrians – an accident waiting to happen. What about painting a no-stopping grid over the sidewalk and have the parking attendant and PSOs* administer it?

CHRIS LYLE, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

**Editor's note:* It is our understanding that public safety officers (PSOs) cannot ticket for moving violations. – DP

SYNCH-ING NECESSARY FOR TRAFFIC FLOW

Mr. Schacter's letter ("Will Traffic Issues Now be Addressed?") in your November 28 edition (p. 6) was opportune. Councillor Lulham (letter, August 22, p. 4) gave the first public acknowledgement that a problem might exist when at least some councillors finally must have realized they could no longer ignore observations such as those of Rick Leckner, well-known traffic expert, in his letter of August 15 (p. 4).

In her letter, since re-elected councillor Lulham promises or asserts: 1) Synchronization of lights on St. Catherine between Lansdowne and Clarke. 2) "[C]andlesticks symbols for bus priority" on Sherbrooke St. which will "allow us to synchronize these lights as well." (The deadline for completion was December 31, 2017). 3) "[T]he city has been working to improve conditions on our arterial roads to facilitate traffic flow."

I have delayed further comment in the hope that there would be by now, and we are well past the "best before" date, visible evidence that these works had come to pass. But as far as I can tell, little or nothing

has happened with the possible exception of No. 1), but one can ask, why does that project not extend to Greene Ave.?

There is no evidence of progress under 2). By the way, what on earth are "candlesticks*"? The buck is passed to the STM for this project. How come Sherbrooke east of Atwater has been relatively well synchronized for years under the big bad city of Montreal?

As for 3), there is simply no detail here of what has been done or is intended. Hard to hold the administration accountable on the basis of such vague statements.

Unmentioned by Ms. Lulham is the situation on The Boulevard where the lights at Belvedere and Mount Pleasant, only a block apart, are constantly out of synch leading to unnecessary frustration. Surely easily fixed. Also on Westmount Ave. at Grosvenor and Victoria, which is jammed solid at rush hour because the sequential light invariably turns red mid-block, which, combined with the lane reduction, backs up traffic severely at both ends. Rectifying this would not in any way impact safety in the school zone.

Westmount council, for obscure reasons, has failed for years to recognize that traffic flow and its twin, synchronization, in municipal politics, ranks high in importance for Westmounters and our neighbours.

The Genivar Report, commissioned at considerable taxpayer expense and announced with much fanfare has been gathering dust for nearly five years without any detailed public commentary from or action by the city, beyond the long-incoming removal of a couple of useless mid-block stop signs on streets already accoutred with multiple speed bumps. The city is accountable to its citizens for a comprehensive plan and timetable. It is long overdue. If certain things really cannot be done, there should be an explanation. We should not have to rely on casual letters to the *Independent*. We are counting on the new commissioner and Transportation Advisory Committee, which together surely enough human resources to get the job done.

ROBERT COWLING, PARKMAN PLACE

**Editor's note:* A "candlestick" is a fourth, white traffic light that allows buses to enter an intersection before regular traffic. Please see our photo from Sherbrooke and Decarie, April 22. – DP



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Centre Greene kids' room gets a major facelift for free

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A basement room at Centre Greene

that is used for children's after-school and summer camp activities got a major



Seen here in Centre Greene's newly-renovated children's activity room on April 20, from left, are Werkliv employees Maggie Terrone and Kayla Miller with Centre Greene director Beth Symansky.

facelift for free last week thanks to a team of renovators whose services were donated by a grateful parent.

Daniel Goodfellow, president of Werkliv, a multi-disciplinary student housing development company, whose young daughter was recently enrolled in the centre's Tumbling Tots program, "thought that we would be a good candidate for Werkliv's Change program," said Beth Symansky, director of Centre Greene.

The transformation, which took place over three days from April 18 to 20, in-

cluded several murals, a chalk board wall and new furniture. All the work as well as the furnishings, such as new tables, art supplies and monogrammed smocks for the children, were also donated by Werkliv.

According to Maggie Terrone and Kayla Miller, who were part of a seven-member Werkliv team that got the job done, the Change program is an initiative designed to help non-profit organizations and community centres renovate their facilities.

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Councillor's column

MARINA BRZESKI
DISTRICT 5

As we enter the season of road reconstructions, residents are bracing themselves for the coming months of disruption. There is a silver lining, however, from a sustainability standpoint and from my experience as a resident on Grosvenor Ave., which was reconstructed last year. This is the optimistic view – a view highlighting the good the reconstructions will bring in return for the short-term pain residents might endure.

Safe drinking water

A good portion of the planning behind our road reconstructions is related to replacing old water mains.

This is done in part to reduce lead concentrations in tap water, which is tested at alternating sample locations on a regular and ongoing basis. Taking advantage of the subsidy from the Taxe sur l'essence et de la contribution du Québec (TECQ) program, the city has been progressively replacing lead-exposed water mains and will continue these efforts steadily over the course of the next years, as per its 20-year

Readying Westmount's roads, pipes

finance plan to replace more than 50 percent of its water mains.

Replacing old lead water mains is therefore a preventative measure that ensures the protection of safe drinking water distribution well into the future.

Resilience

Road designs are reviewed and adapted to be more resilient to changing weather and climate patterns. Westmount's main environmental vulnerability lies in storm waters and precipitation. According to climate projections calculated by Ouranos, a research think tank, a trend with respect to an increase in the number of freeze-thaw cycles in the wintertime and an increase, particularly, in heavy rainfalls impacting us is confirmed.

"By 2050, annual precipitations should increase by 3 to 14 percent with a greater emphasis on rainfalls in the winter (+2 to +27 percent) and in the spring (+3 to +18 percent). A significant increase in the frequency and intensity of heavy rain episodes is also expected." (See Climate Change Adaptation Plan of the Agglomeration of Montreal 2015-2020.)

With the added drains, modified sidewalk designs and pilot projects on local retention of storm water, our city is recon-

structing our roads today with a view to having a more resilient infrastructure to face future environmental pressures.

Opportunities for driveway owners

With the above sustainability-related objectives in mind, two opportunities arise for those residents living on streets that will be undergoing reconstructions with water main replacements.

On the one hand, the already exposed public-private water connections can simplify and reduce costs to have any existing private lead and old galvanized steel pipes that have sediment build-up replaced with copper pipes. On the other hand, if the road construction cuts into a resident's parking apron that is made of asphalt, the resident may consider upgrading to a material that is more eco-friendly instead of allowing the city contractor to repave the small portion of the asphalted parking apron at the end of the project. Urban Planning guidelines promote porous and semi-porous parking aprons in lieu of asphalt driveways and it might be well worth contacting the department to learn more about these alternatives that allow water run-off to be absorbed into the ground and contribute to the city's overall storm water management.



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Anti ash-borer experiment ‘very significant’

Work starts to remove 350 city trees at streets, in parks

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City work has already started to remove some 350 trees from along streets and in parks over the spring, summer and fall, city officials said last week. The majority are being taken down because of a diseased, weakened or declining condition. To replace them, the city intends to plant about 200 new trees in the fall, many to be planted between mature ones expected to be removed in about five years. This allows time to preserve the city’s tree canopy while the young ones grow, according to Nicolas Mory, superintendent of arboriculture and horticulture.

The number of trees slated for removal represents the city’s efforts to catch up with what city officials have described as years of neglect and represents about 300 percent of the 50 to 100 that should typically be taken down annually to renew the tree stock, he said.

“I’ve decided to remove all ash trees on city streets,” he said. This is because most are smaller ones unable to handle the treatment for the emerald ash borer that is infesting ashes.

In Summit Woods, where some 400 ash trees are reported to be located, results are “very significant” from an ongoing biological research experiment introduced in 2015, Mory said. This is using non-stinging parasitic wasps to kill off larva of the emerald ash borer (see story August 4, 2015, p. 9).

This year’s total number of trees coming down does not include those in Summit Woods and on unnamed wood lots such as along the railway fence. The city’s



A felled tree on Prince Albert south of de Maisonneuve on April 17.

Photo: Independent.

entire tree stock is “6,700 trees,” he said, excluding Summit Woods.

Summit Wood security management

Trees in Summit Woods are those that require “security management” such as those falling across trails or along the edges of Summit Circle in danger of falling onto the street.

Mory said that now the city has a data base of all its trees, each one has a health record that the city searches to help identify risks. This year, a firm specializing in the evaluation of trees at high risk operated by urban forester Luc Nadeau has been

hired to carry out field work in Westmount. “It’s a specialty firm that is not biased in contracting to remove trees,” he explained.

Westmount, he said, is the only city he knows of that sends out notices to residents who have city trees being removed outside their homes. “People are always calling us to complain.”

Trees are not replaced in places where they are growing on top of underground utilities, he said. In city parks, the placement of new utilities and splash pads, for example, is limiting the replacement of some trees. “We are trying to find a bal-

ance.”

Others, such as smaller trees removed from the commercial stretch of Victoria Ave. south of Sherbrooke, for example, will not be replaced until the street is re-designed and more space is provided for root growth, he said.

Instead, he said, new city planters will be moved into these spots “though we have to take into account the space required for traffic and street sweepers. I’m working closely with Public Works and Engineering on this.”

Species increased

While Westmount has a few 100-year-old trees, in general, the oldest ones are about 85 to 90, he said. The Norway maple, a tree with a large leaf, has a lifespan of 60 to 70 years in an urban setting, Mory said. It was planted by the city along sidewalks until about 2013 at which time nurseries began increasing the number of species being offered.

Now the city can biologically diversify in an effort to reduce large numbers of any particular species that could suffer large losses in the event of attack by disease or infestation.

He said the city has been trying to reach out to residents to explain its approach to managing its urban forest and renewing the tree stock.

As reported April 17, city council April 3 awarded its systematic cutting of trees and removal of stumps to Arboriculture de Beauce at a cost of \$191,663. In this case, the word “systematic” implies “that we are removing trees throughout the city and not only in certain areas,” Mory explained.

Scouts clean up mountain’s upper parks

Approximately 30 members of Westmount Park and 2nd Westmount Scouting groups filled six large bags with garbage and two with recycling from Summit Woods, Sunnyside Park and the Reserve Père Trempe in and near upper Westmount on April 22, according to volunteer Virginia Elliott.

“What better way to show Mother Earth that we care than to spend Earth Day cleaning up our urban forest and surrounding area?” she wrote to the *Independent*.

“This is an annual community project that Scouting youth and adults have taken on for many years in collaboration with the Westmount Public Works department.

“This year, the forest was relatively

clean, but there was an increase in bottles and cans. The reserve near the oratory continues to be a dumping ground for construction material (the Scouts found a

dismantled deck) and all manner of gardening refuse. Some interesting finds were a plastic plant, a complete necklace, earrings, a Tim Horton’s travel mug and a

squirrel skull. Scouts also retrieved a traffic cone, which was handed over to Public Works.”

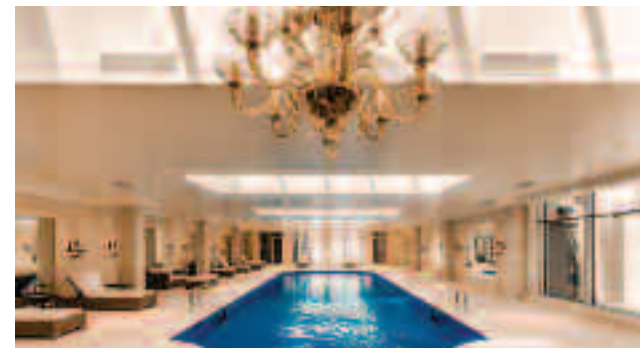
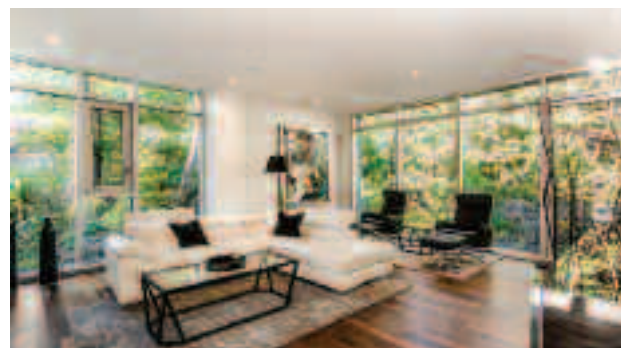
Photos courtesy of V. Elliott.



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Police Report

One crime last week, but police urge vigilance to deter car break-in thieves

By Martin C. Barry

While the past week or so was a relatively quiet one in Westmount for crime incidents, a Montreal police official is warning motorists to be careful not to leave valuable objects in plain view inside their cars – whether or not the area where they’re parking seems to be relatively safe and busy.

To make the point, Cst. Stéphan Laperrière, community relations officer at Station 12 on Stanton St., cited an incident – the only criminal event reported in Westmount from April 13 to 19 – which took place around 6 pm on April 17 on Sherbrooke St. near the corner of Grosvenor Ave.

He said the owner of a car had parked there, then went to quickly retrieve some personal effects at a nearby building where he rents an office. However, as the car’s owner recalled afterwards, a suspicious individual lingering at the building entrance appeared to be watching him carefully.

When the car’s owner emerged from the building no more than a minute later, he said, he found his car had been entered



Seen here on April 19, this warning, posted by Westmount’s Public Safety department on Sherbrooke St. near the public library’s parking lot, warns motorists to take precautions against car break-in thieves.

during his brief absence and some items of personal property were missing. According to the police report, the perpetra-

tor used some kind of device to unlock the vehicle.

“Now was this device electronic? Was it a tool? All we know is that this person didn’t see any damage to their car,” said Laperrière.

“What people should do is to make sure when they do park their cars that they leave their objects of value out of sight, to make sure that there’s nothing that would attract attention,” he continued.

“Even if it’s just a bag that might give the impression that it contains something of value, you’re less likely to be targeted or become a victim of a theft.”

Westmount’s Public Safety department recently posted a warning sign on Sherbrooke St., around the parking lot at the public library, telling motorists to “Keep valuables out of sight” and to “Prevent Theft” in order to “Have peace of mind!”

According to Laperrière, “Wherever there are a lot of cars parked, so at a lot of exterior parking lots, there’s a risk of something like this happening. Even cars parked along the street where there’s a lot of people going around, people are still at risk of getting something stolen in their car.”

He said criminals specializing in car break-ins have become incredibly quick at entering a vehicle by smashing a side window and grabbing an object, or simply checking to see if a vehicle is unlocked and then entering without any effort.

“A lot of the thieves now do it within 10 to 15 seconds. They’re in and out and you’d hardly even notice it. Sometimes, they’ll come with a special tool that they’ve manufactured themselves. They will maybe break a window, then reach in, grab and leave.

“It’s done so quickly that you probably wouldn’t even notice it,” added Laperrière. “A passerby not paying attention would not even notice that something like this is happening. That’s why you have to be one step ahead of them and make sure there’s nothing visible from the outside.”

Coffee with a Cop

The staff at Station 12 will be hosting a Coffee with a Cop event at the Second Cup on Greene Ave. near the corner of Sherbrooke St. on May 9 from 1 to 3 pm. “We’ll be there answering questions and serving free coffee to anyone who wants to come and talk with us,” said Laperrière.

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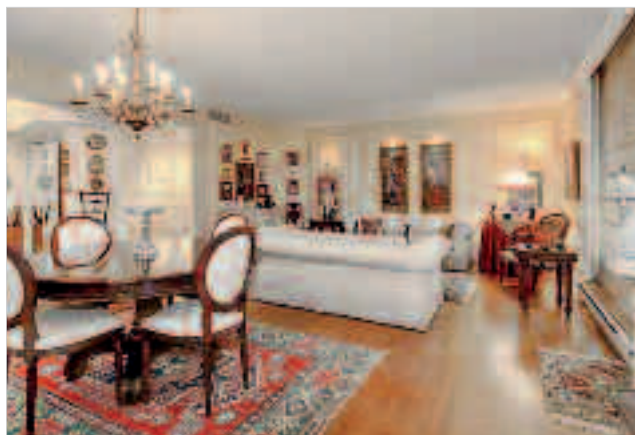
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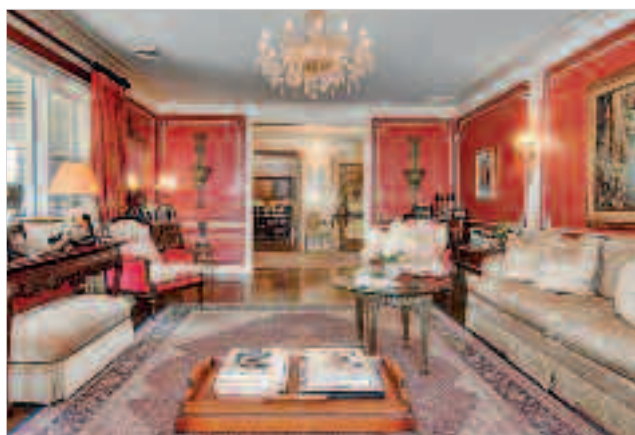
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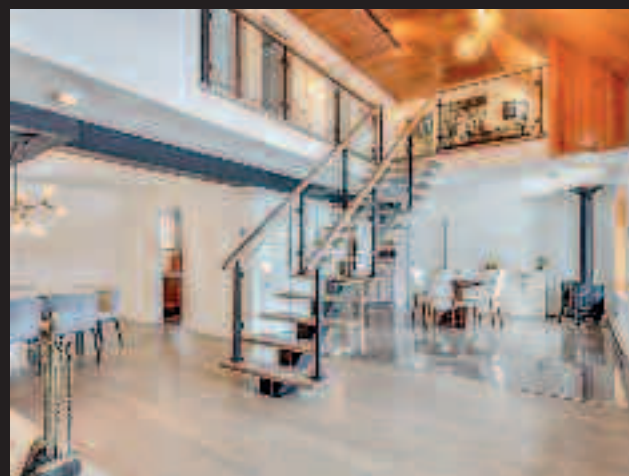


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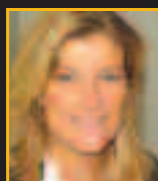
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Global opportunities missed, says former MP Don Johnston



Former federal Liberal cabinet minister Francis Fox, left, was among those who attended a presentation at the Atwater Library on April 12 by former Westmount-St. Henri MP Donald Johnston, right, on his latest book, *Missing the Tide: Global Governments in Retreat*.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A talk given on April 12 at the Atwater Library by former Westmount-St. Henri Liberal MP and cabinet minister Donald Johnston on his latest book, *Missing the Tide: Global Governments in Retreat*, drew an audience of more than 60 people, including a number of old friends and former political colleagues.

Among the guests were former Liberal cabinet ministers Francis Fox and Ed Lumley. Peter Blaikie, a one-time Progressive Conservative Party president and Johnston's former partner at the defunct Montreal legal firm Heenan Blaikie, also attended.

"I wrote this book out of a sense of frustration," said Johnston, who served as secretary-general of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) following his political career.

While noting that he completed writing the book before Donald Trump had become the United States' president in 2016, Johnston nonetheless had the opportunity in a last-minute revision to describe Trump as "as a bull in a global china shop," which he now says "is not far off the mark."

The book's cover alone is bound to attract its share of attention. It features a photo of Johnston shaking hands with Russian president Vladimir Putin back in the mid-1990s, shortly after Putin first became president and when Johnston was leading the OECD.

"I focus a good deal on Russia in this book because I think the world would have been much different today had we dealt with Russia somewhat differently than we did," he continued, noting that Western countries were eager to embrace former Soviet satellites, including Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, although there was more resistance to treating Russia in the same way.

"I thought there was a bit of *schadenfreude* in all of that – that many people really enjoyed the difficulties with which the Russians were struggling. "Because I don't think Putin had to happen. But he did."

Although he acknowledged that Putin never seemed "that keen on Western allies or engaging with the West," Johnston said he was invited by the Russian president to pitch the benefits of OECD membership.

"He listened very attentively. We spent about an hour, an hour and a half, but he listened to his advisors. And then, shortly after that, George W. Bush came forward with his plans to put missiles on the Polish border." That and other factors, according to Johnston, ended up changing Putin's perception of the US and its allies as friendly to Russia.

While admitting that "we basically thought that democracy was on the march" back in the 1990s, Johnston is far more pessimistic today. "Democracy is in retreat," he said, pointing to the recent election in Hungary, and the jailing of journalists and the firing of professors in Turkey.

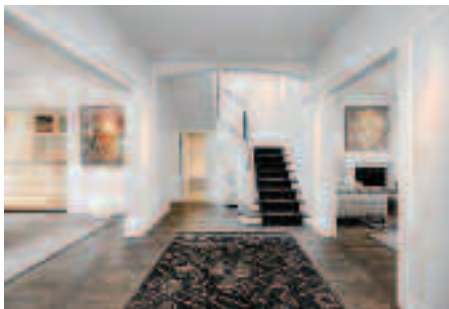


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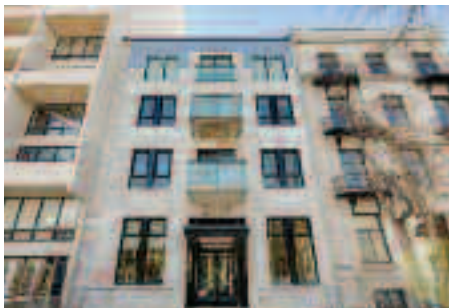
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Sauvé is Manoir Westmount's 'Volunteer of the Year'

By MARTIN C. BARRY

When asked recently whether she would accept being Manoir Westmount's 2018 volunteer of the year, Shirley Sauvé "was taken aback," said the seniors residence's leisure activities supervisor Simona Buth.

Sauvé had "expressed her feeling that so many others are worthy," Buth recalled while introducing Sauvé during the annual volunteer appreciation tea held at Manoir Westmount on April 18. The event took place during National Volunteer



Seen here at Manoir Westmount on April 18 are the seniors residence's general manager Tom Thompson (right), leisure activities supervisor Simona Buth (left) and 2018 volunteer of the year Shirley Sauvé.

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Week.

A Manoir Westmount resident along with her husband for the past five years, Sauvé teaches the traditional Chinese exercise methods of *qigong* and tai chi during sessions she gives twice weekly to other Manoir Westmount residents.

"I really enjoy what I do and I enjoy all of you," Sauvé, a former resident of St. Henri, said after being presented with a volunteer of the year certificate and a bouquet of flowers by Buth and Manoir Westmount general manager Tom Thompson.

"I hope you get something out of the tai chi and *qi gong*. I think you do because of the number of people who say they're so relaxed afterwards," Sauvé, who is in her late 80s, is very active. Apart from her volunteer activities, she also travels.

She departs for China on May 13 with two of her tai chi teachers who are from the Chinese city where they will be stay-

ing. While there, they'll be lodging at a seniors' residence and practising tai chi daily during the stay. "I'll have a lot to tell you when I come back," said Sauvé.

Shortly after she and her husband first moved to the Manoir, she began participating in several of the residence's leisure and volunteer activities. She served on the resident council for two terms, has performed in the annual Acting for Fun show, and is one of the residence's regular bingo callers.

"Since she's been a resident here, she's been quite an inspiration to other residents on the benefits of moving and keeping active," Buth said.

Shirley Sauvé's name will be added to Manoir Westmount's "perpetual plaque" honouring volunteers who have received outstanding service awards. It is located on a wall on the ground floor next to a windowed corridor.

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Traffic lights experiment?



These traffic lights were photographed on the corner Strathcona and Sherbrooke April 18. They were not functioning and it looked as though they were not positioned properly. Stop signs were in place. The new lights were gone by April 20.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

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BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Brochure printemps 2018 en ligne

Consultez la brochure *Bibliothèque, vie culturelle et communautaire* à westlib.org.

Club de lecture en français

Le lundi 30 avril, 13 h, Bibliothèque. *Thomas Mann*. Animé par Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Conférences-midi

Le mardi 1 mai, 12 h 30, Victoria Hall. *ScreenSmart and Mediawise: Strategies for Raising Children in a Digital Age* avec Alissa Sklar, Ph.D. En collaboration avec le Cercle canadien des femmes de Montréal. 10 \$/conférence. 514 989-5226.

Club de films documentaires

Le mercredi 2 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *The Fruit Hunters* (2012). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Rencontres d'auteurs : Eva Neisser Echenberg et Judy Sklar Rasminsky

Le jeudi 3 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Rencontrez Eva Neisser Echenberg et Judy Sklar Rasminsky, auteures de *Walter's Welcome: The Intimate Story of a German-Jewish Family's Flight from the Nazis to Peru*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Exposition de Gabriel Safdie

Du 19 avril au 17 mai, galerie du Victoria Hall. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Gabriel Safdie. Venez rencontrer l'artiste et la conservatrice Victoria LeBlanc **le mardi 24 avril à 19 h**. Horaire : lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi et dimanche 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5521.

Soirée de danse Ballroom Blitz

Le samedi 28 avril, 20 h, Victoria Hall. Un orchestre vous fera danser toute la soirée! 25 \$ à la porte, 20 \$ en avance. Billets disponibles au Victoria Hall, à la Bibliothèque et à eventbrite.com. 514 989-5226.

Concert : Mozart en mai

Le mercredi 9 mai, 19 h, Victoria Hall. Profitez d'une soirée de Mozart, Mahler et plus encore avec le quatuor Z4. 514 989-5226.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 7 mai

Conférence : Parlons opéra!

Le dimanche 13 mai, 10 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Roméo et Juliette*. Présenté (en anglais) par L'Opéra de Montréal. Gratuit. Réservez votre place au 514 989-5226.

Films et conférences du PVS : L'intelligence animale

Le mardi 15 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Le Projet ville en santé de Westmount présente la deuxième partie de la série *L'intelligence animale : Mieux comprendre les qualités exceptionnelles des animaux*. Gratuit. 514 989-5284.



Échange de plantes vivaces

Le jeudi 17 mai, 16 h 30, parc Westmount près de la Bibliothèque. Échangez vos plantes vivaces contre d'autres plantes! Les plantes doivent être dans un contenant avec de la terre, avoir des racines, être en bonne santé et être clairement identifiées. Plus d'information à westmount.org.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Collecte de résidus domestiques dangereux

Le samedi 28 avril, 9 h à 17 h. Venez déposer vos restes de peinture, solvant, pesticide, piles, etc., dans le stationnement de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount. Les vêtements et produits électroniques usagés seront également collectés. 514 989-5390.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Bois Summit : chiens en laisse en tout temps

Du 16 avril au 15 juin. Pendant la migration printanière des oiseaux, les chiens doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS au Bois Summit. Les officiers de la Sécurité publique émettront des contraventions aux personnes qui ne respectent pas le règlement. 514 989-5222.

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LIBRARY

Spring 2018 brochure online

Consult the Library, Cultural and Community Events Brochure at westlib.org.

French Book Club

Monday, April 30, 1 p.m., Library: Thomas Mann. Led by Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Afternoon Lecture Series

Tuesday, May 1, 12:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *ScreenSmart and Mediawise: Strategies for Raising Children in a Digital Age* with Alissa Sklar, Ph.D. In collaboration with The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. \$10/lecture. 514 989-5226.

Documentary Film Club

Wednesday, May 2, 7 p.m., Library. *The Fruit Hunters* (2012). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Author Lecture Series: Eva Neisser Echenberg and Judy Sklar Rasminsky

Thursday, May 3, 7 p.m., Library. Come meet Eva Neisser Echenberg and Judy Sklar Rasminsky, authors of *Walter's Welcome: The Intimate Story of a German-Jewish Family's Flight from the Nazis to Peru*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exhibition featuring Gabriel Safdie

April 19 – May 17. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present an exhibition featuring artist Gabriel Safdie. Come meet the artist and Gallery Curator Victoria LeBlanc on Tuesday, April 24 at 7 p.m. Gallery hours Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5521.

Ballroom Blitz Big Band Dance

Saturday, April 28, 8 p.m., Victoria Hall. Dance the night away with a live band! \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. Tickets available at the Library, Victoria Hall and eventbrite.com. 514 989-5226.

Next Council Meeting Monday, May 7

Concert: Mozart in May

Wednesday, May 9, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Enjoy an evening of Mozart, Kraljic, and more with quartet Z4. Tickets required. 514 989-5226.

Lecture: Let's Talk Opera!

Sunday, May 13, 10:30 a.m., Victoria Hall. *Roméo et Juliette*. Presented in English by L'Opéra de Montréal. Free. Reserve your place at 514 989-5226.

HCP film and lecture series: Animal Smarts

Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m., Library. The Westmount Healthy City Project presents part 2 of *Animal Smarts: Understanding animals' exceptional qualities*. Free. 514 989-5284.

Perennial Plant Exchange

Thursday, May 17, 4:30 p.m., Westmount Park near the Library. Exchange your perennials for something new! Plants must be potted in a container with soil, have roots, be healthy and labeled. For more information, go to westmount.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Safely dispose of your leftover paints, solvents, used batteries, pesticides etc., in the parking lot of the Westmount Public Library. Used clothing and electronics will also be collected the same day. 514 989-5390.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Summit Woods: dogs on leash at all times

From April 16 to June 15. During the spring bird migration period, dogs must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES in Summit Woods. Public Security officers will patrol and may issue fines to those contravening the by-law. 514 989-5222.



Couillard delivers strongly federalist election speech

Premier, ministers, provincial legislators attend Liberal event at Dawson College for ‘English speakers’

By DAVID PRICE

Approximately 220 people attended a Quebec provincial Liberal Party event at Dawson College CEGEP on April 22. It was part campaign stop, part town hall and part Liberal Party caucus, with the media excluded from one portion.

It was billed as for “English-speaking Quebecers,” not “anglophones,” in an effort to be more inclusive.

Invitees included Liberal Party members, anglophone community leaders and the press. Residents could attend by registering in advance.

Quebec premier Philippe Couillard spoke at length, along with ministers Geoff Kelley (Native Affairs), Kathleen Weil (Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers), Carlos Leitão (Finance) and André Fortin (Transport).

Couillard takes the stage

The centrepiece of the first portion was a speech by Couillard touching on a large number of topics, including Canadian unity, inclusiveness, immigration, the economy, the deficit and debt, and health care.

He was passionate on all points, showing pride in a “fourth balanced budget,” what Kelley called “240,000 new jobs” and an unemployment rate at “an all-time low of 5.6 percent.” He also championed a “modern, inclusive, dynamic Quebec ... within our country, Canada.”

Returning to the concerns of his previous profession (doctor) and his previous ministerial portfolio (Health), he spoke of 1 million Quebecers having gained access to a family doctor under his premiership, while admitting there were another 1 mil-



From left, Carlos Leitão, Kathleen Weil, Philippe Couillard, André Fortin and David Birnbaum.

lion still in need.

He also spoke of the importance of immigrants, bemoaning their declining

numbers and stating 52 percent of new jobs were filled by them.

He contrasted all of these “values” and



Premier Philippe Couillard talks to Kathleen Weil before addressing the crowd. Westmount mayor Christina Smith and city councillor Mary Gallery are one row behind.

achievements with the separatist pre-occupations of the PQ and the former views of the CAQ’s François Legault. “Have you ever heard him say he is a proud Canadian?” he asked the crowd. “I am. And a proud Quebecer.”

Weil on new role

Weil spoke about her role as minister responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers by answering a question asked by provincial legislator David Birnbaum, who acted as moderator at one point, about what she had found to be the group’s priorities after touring the province.

Health care (including in remote areas and with regards to mental health), seniors, French second-language skills and notices in English in hospitals and clinics, she answered. She also advocated for this new “secretariat” as a way to channel dialogue and “improve matters.”

Couillard admitted he had resisted the idea of the new post and “mini-ministry” at first, *continued on p. 23*

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Wish list developed at public WMA brainstorming, no cost discussion

Meeting consensus: city’s indoor ‘dream’ pool, diving tank should cater to all needs, civic pride

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An indoor municipal pool for Westmount should ideally be a state-of-the-art aquatic facility designed to offer programs to all ages with diverse interests and needs. It should be built to the same standards as the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) and be a source of pride to the community.

This was the consensus reached April 16 at a public meeting attended by some 40 residents held by the Westmount Mu-

nicipal Association (WMA) at the Westmount Public Library to develop a wish list – costs notwithstanding – of what type of pool is needed and possible locations.

The more than 25 who spoke up related their experiences at various indoor pools they used for swimming, diving, water polo, synchro, aqua fitness and teaching young children to swim. These activities, they said, require a pool designed to meet these needs along with a separate diving tank and splash pad.

They said it was important for Westmount to incorporate all these uses by drawing on “good and bad” lessons learned from other neighbourhood pools, including those that users had gleaned from Australia and Russia.

They suggested locations should be accessible by public transit and large enough for a “dream” complex such as the Tupper parking lots off Dorchester or land adjacent to the Glen hospital site south of the railway tracks. It belongs to the provincial government, which is holding it for potential MUHC use.

“There are all kinds of reasons why



Richard Bond.

people don’t want it in their back yard,” noted moderator Paul Marriott, WMA president, causing one woman to call out “Oh, I do!”

A third option, he suggested, was to convert the city’s summer pool into an indoor one for other seasons using an attractive retractable cover. This could serve

as a temporary solution while a permanent one is built.

Some at the meeting recalled how this had been proposed but dismissed at public consultation meetings in 2009 on the WRC.

Construction of the recreation centre was a recurring comment. “Looking at demographics,” explained Maura McKeon of Clarke, “there is a greater need for swimming than hockey. Two state-of-the-art hockey rinks should translate into two pools.”

Several at the meeting cited the Côte St. Luc pool and a community one in Little Burgundy as examples of the type needed and as pools that were well operated.

Opening the meeting, called “Your pool – your voice,” Marriott stated that the evening was not to debate the need for a pool or the financial aspect. He explained that 81 percent of respondents to a city indoor pool-user survey last year favoured one and that this had been discussed by



Marie Watt of Sherbrooke St.



Oleg Loutochin of Stanton St. and WMA president Paul Marriott.



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most candidates in the November 5 election campaign.

As a result, no discussion ensued on how much the evening's wish list would cost to build or operate.

Among residents' comments

Leading off comments from the audience was 7-year-old Kieran Smalley, wearing a Dolphins swim team jersey saying "I want the pool to be for the swim team."

"A pool would be nice for older people who want the aquatic experience and not too far from public transportation," said Marie Watt of Sherbrooke. Helen Campbell, the Dolphins president, said the team



Among those who spoke at the pool meeting April 16 were Seamus Smalley, 9, with mic in hand, and his brother Kieran, 7, who started off the comments period.

also "believes a pool is for all ages."

Ed Vickery of Grosvenor, the father of a competitive diver, said an indoor pool needs a separate diving tank deep enough to accommodate a 3-meter board. "It's a dream list, but not unrealistic." His request was supported by 2017 District 7 city council candidate Johanna Stosik of St. Catherine, who noted that diving can provide many opportunities to girls who might not be into competitive swimming.

Vickery also said a location close to public transportation was vital to attracting young life guards who may not have a car. Gillian Murray, the mother of two young Dolphins added that public transportation was important since without a car, "I can't get them to another pool."

Stand-up pool for kids

"We need a pool where little kids can stand up," said Nancy Nelson of Abbott. Advocating for a pool that can be used to teach school children to swim, she used Westmount Park School as an example.

Selwyn House "is so invested in hockey at the WRC," said Richard Bond of Lans-

downe, that perhaps schools could follow the example in the use of an indoor pool.

Katherine Hope of Roslyn explained that "not everybody in Westmount is wealthy," adding that an indoor pool should be "affordable to everyone."

Francie Montgomery of Clarke, said aquafit classes at the WRC pool were "always overbooked so I look forward to having the opportunity during the winter."

Cynthia Grahame of Grosvenor, said it would be a mistake not to push for an indoor pool at this time since Westmounters are already spread out at others. Those present were urged to contact their councillor, attend council meetings and ask "relentlessly" for a temporary cover and a permanent indoor pool.

Temporary becomes permanent?

Maureen Kiely said she was concerned that if a temporary cover is provided "it will take years to ever get a permanent indoor pool."

An indoor facility has already been highlighted by Mayor Christina Smith as one of council's priorities (see story February 20, p. 1).

No members of city council attended the WMA meeting, however. It coincided with their own regular mid-month committee meeting. Former councillor and commissioner of Sports and Recreation Rosalind Davis sat at the back of the room taking notes but did not speak.

Among those also attending was Gabriel Felcarek of Roslyn, who ran in the election against Marina Brzeski, the winning District 5 candidate. Asked on the way out why he had not spoken, he pointed out that the meeting was not addressing the financial aspect, which was important to him.

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National plastic reduction – MP's own bottle – CP fence

Garneau's MoWest town hall covers national, personal, local issues

By ELIZABETH JOHNSTON

Despite a rainy evening, an estimated 60 to 70 people turned out for a town hall meeting on April 12 at Royal West Academy to share their concerns and questions with Marc Garneau, MP for Westmount, NDG, and Montreal West and federal minister of Transport.

Garneau first gave a brief PowerPoint presentation highlighting the progress that he contended the federal government made in 2017 in several areas including child benefits, affordable housing, veterans' affairs and growing the economy.

During the question period, which lasted for an hour and forty-five minutes, more than 20 people took to the microphone to voice their concerns on many issues such as the environmental impact of the construction of both the Turcot interchange and the rapid transit system (REM), child car safety, driverless cars and the legalization of marijuana.

One of the several concerned citizens there was Laura Cousineau from Montreal West who pointed out that Canada has one of the worst environmental records



Marc Garneau pledges to reduce his personal plastics consumption and admits he should have had a glass of water brought to him instead of a plastic bottle.

amongst developed countries. In particular, Cousineau wanted to know what Garneau's stance on plastics reduction might be, and particularly the phasing-out of single-use plastics.

"I agree with you," said Garneau, "and, in fact, I'm a signatory of a group to reduce my personal consumption of plastic." Garneau encouraged Cousineau to continue to lobby hard for the cause because, although the federal government is looking at the issue, he doesn't hear a lot about this particular problem from his constituency.

Later in the meeting, Garneau realized that he was drinking water out of a plastic bottle, and pointed out that he will make sure that changes in the future.

In addition to the national and global issues discussed at the meeting, there were local issues as well, including a point raised by Westmount resident Andrea Bobkowicz. Her backyard abuts the CP Railway property and for years the Frost fence has been in disrepair, posing a danger to her son who was able to sneak through the fence when he was younger, and currently exposing her house to people who trespass onto her land and tag her house.

When Bobkowicz went to her municipal councillor about the fence, she was told that it was a federal concern. Since Garneau is the federal minister of Transport, Bobkowicz brought the issue to him.

Initially, Garneau thought the issue was a municipal one until Bobkowicz clarified that CP is responsible for the fence. In response, Garneau said, "If CP is responsible for the fence, then I come into the picture, and I will look into that."

Camp, cont'd. from p. 1

allowed access to the French online version only. "At 8:10, when the phones started ringing off the hook, we realized what had happened and had the problem fixed by 8:30."

By then, some age groups were full "and parents were rushing to the recreation centre to register in person," said one parent. "There was a line-up."

"I was very upset," said Danis who had been at the office at 7:45 am to make sure they were prepared. "As a parent, it must have been very frustrating."

The camp's weekly sessions (daily 9 am to 4 pm) are offered for \$125 to four age groups.

They are able to accommodate a total of 120 kids a week. About 20 percent had signed up for all eight weeks, she said.



Citizens voice their concerns at the April 12 town hall meeting at Royal West Academy in Montreal West.

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On April 15, 21 teens participated in Good Deeds Day by "painting murals for our TD Summer Reading Club, prepping crafts, and tidying up our storytime room," said Westmount Public Library children's librarian Wendy Waying. "It was a great success and we thoroughly enjoyed working with the teens this year!"

Photo courtesy of Westmount Public Library

Liberals, cont'd. from p. 19

not wanting to "divide the government in two parts."

Other matters

The event started about 30 minutes late, which did not impress one Liberal whom the *Independent* talked to, although he did say, "the coffee is good."

An odd note was struck at the beginning by one of the introductory speakers, party vice-president Casper Bloom, when he said the anglo community was "taken for granted," which drew applause from the audience, after which he said that this situation "no longer" existed, which also drew applause.

After the closed portion of the meeting, there was a media scrum, which the *Independent* did not attend.

Ministers Hélène David (Higher Education, Status of Women) and Pierre Arcand (Government Administration and Ongoing Program Review) were also in attendance.

Members of the provincial legislature Rita de Santis and François Ouimet were in the audience.

Westmount mayor Christina Smith and at least four current city councillors (Mary Gallery, Kathleen Kez, Marina Brzeski, Jeff Shamie) attended, along with former mayor Peter Trent and former city councillor Victor Drury.

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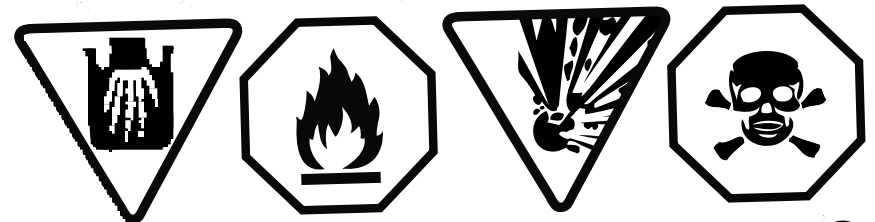
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Douglas Institute Foundation holds unique fundraiser



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Open Minds, the signature event of the Douglas Institute Foundation, was themed “Smash the Stigma.”

Honorary president of the eve was Quixotic quipster/entrepreneur/art collector **Andy Nulman**, co-founder and CEO of Play the Future and co-founder of the Just for Laughs Festival.

Casually dressed guests – fabulous jeans were the sartorial choice – joined Nulman to literally smash the stigma.

Attending with his wife **Lynn**, Nulman amused guests with witty animations that symbolized the destruction of taboos. One of his performances was of the Green Phantom, a science professor during the day, but by night a wrestler against the stigmatization of mental health.

Artists **Jono Doiron** and **Laurence Vallières** offered a painting and a piñata in the shape of a skull, both auctioned off to be destroyed. Westmount res **Mitch Garber** (honorary president of the 2017 event) was



Maud Leblond, Andy Nulman, Marisa Giannetti and Helen Beck.

among the 400 guests, and purchased the right to demolish the piñata with a baseball bat – which he proceeded to do with applauded vigour!

Participants were also invited to defeat and annihilate taboos at the different kiosks. Committee members were local res **Aphrodite Salas**, **Susan Doherty**, **Jill Drummond** and **Michael Novak** along with **Lucy McInnes**, **Nancy Simard**, **Lisa Teolis**, **Jeannie Vondjidis**, **Sarah Ivory**, **Damiana Cavallaro**, **Caroline Dillon**, **Marisa Giguère** and **Alicia Hamilton**.



Mitch Garber.

Marisa Giannetti, foundation board chair, praised the generous efforts of Andy Nulman as well as those of co-chairs **Helen Beck**, senior vice-president and deputy head public equity, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, and **Maude Leblond**, group head and managing director, financial institutions group, National Bank Financial. **Dr. David Bloom**, there with his wife **Suzanne LaRue**, won the Air Canada ticket prize.

Noted in the flattering fuchsia-lit room were **Caroline Price**, **Elise Nesbitt**, **Hal**

Hannaford, **Marie Giguère**, **Betsy and Sam Berliner**, **Renée Proulx**, **Lesley Reford**, **Ron Salzman**, **Jocelyne Lahoud**, **Mimi Israël**, city councillor **Mary Gallery**, **Nikola Reford** and **Suzane Bélanger**, foundation executive director.

The smashing soirée raised \$412,000 for the Douglas Mental Health University Institute. The institute has made major breakthroughs in depression, Alzheimer’s disease, schizophrenia and eating disorders, offering leading-edge treatments, often unique in Quebec.

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Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

It could have been a reception in edgy Berlin or elegant Milan, but no; the cocktail was at La Guilde in Montreal's Square Mile.

Celebrating **Laurent Craste's** latest work, it was the award-winning artist's first solo exhibition in three years. Craste's ceramics are gorgeous. His aesthetic draws on art history, with echoes of Limoges china, as well as riffing on other references.

La Chute featured magnificent vases "dripping" on the wall, hacked with a hammer/nail or otherwise distorted. Although his approach alters their formal structures, the porcelains remain elusively elegant in their deconstruction.

Once perceived as a "craft" as compared to "art," ceramics – actually crafts in general – are on the trend cusp, with a revival of hand-based processes.

La Guilde executive director **Michelle Joannette** (wearing wonderful Matisse-blues glasses) welcomed guests along with communications director **Karine Gaucher**. Noted arriving were art critic **Éric Clément** (*La Presse*), Canadian Jewish News' **Janice Arnold**, and Westmounters **Dorota Kozinska**, English editor at *Vie des Arts*, and Guilde board member **Nicole Sharp**.

Craste's ceramics exhibited at La Guilde


Eva Lapka, Dorota Kozinska and Madeleine Chevalier.

Laurent Craste.

Michelle Joannette and Karine Gaucher.

The evening attracted a happy hodgepodge of styles. Noted were bright brocade coats; grey wool work socks pulled up to the knee over brightly coloured tights; checked trousers straight from the Burberry spring collection; shiny silver sneakers and "how-do-they-walk-on-the-ice?" massively high wedge-soled shoes.

Fashion asserted its presence even on those arriving wrapped in parkas. Musée d'art contemporain's (MAC) **Danièle Patenaude**, assistant director MAC Foundation, wore a simple white Italian jacket glamourized with a noteworthy brooch. Artist **Madeleine Chevalier** said an early hello to spring and wore a mini-ish floral skirt and a fun fur collar.

Also a ceramic artist, **Eva Lapka**, there with her husband **Joseph Lapka**, was classic in black. **Daniel Rolland** wore a dapper bow tie, there with **Josée Gagnon** sporting a glittery glam pin. Vice-chair Château

Ramezay Museum **Gail Grant**, was very British *Tatler* magazine in timeless pearls, there with **Sam Stein**, CEO, Airside Safety Ltd.

Other guests included glass artists **Duran Muntadas** and **Jean-Simon Trotti-er**, curator **Mike Patten** (Art Mûr), **Luc Delavigne**, president Conseil des métiers d'art; and the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' **Diane Charbonneau** (curator Modern and Contemporary Decorative Arts) and **Jacques Des Rochers** (curator Québécois and Canadian Art).


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Westmount – 466 Ch. de la Côte-Ste-Antoine \$4,800,000

SOLD



102 Av. Columbia – Westmount \$1,150,000

EXCLUSIVE LISTING WITH POOL!



Hampstead – 1 Merton Crescent \$1,675,000

NEW IN THE GLENEAGLES!



Ville-Marie – 3940 Ch. de la Côte-des-Neiges B22 \$885,000


Sam Stein and Gail Grant.

Comin' Up

MONDAY, APRIL 30

The Westmount Municipal Association is looking for nominations for the Derek Walker Volunteer of the Year Award up to Monday, April 30. Send nominations to chrisssycardinal@gmail.com or wallace-joannemtl@gmail.com. Info: www.wma-amw.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 1

Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents high school public speaking winners and Alissa Sklar, PhD, on "ScreenSmart and Mediawise: Strategies for Rais-

ing Children in a Digital Age." Victoria Hall. 12:15 pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

Book Sale. Centre Greene, 1090 Greene Ave. 10 am to 7 pm. Also Saturday, 9 am to 2 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

Rummage sale. St. Matthias' lower hall, 131 Côte St. Antoine. 10 am to 1 pm.

MONDAY, MAY 7

Demolition hearing re 51 de Lavigne. City hall. 5 pm.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Station 12's Coffee with a Cop. Second Cup on Greene Ave. 1 to 3 pm.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

The Krishnamurti Information Centre presents video *Living with an Uncaring Spouse*. \$5. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 2 to 4 pm.

To BE LISTED IN Comin' Up

Please send your Westmount event, to: cu@westmountindependent.com
Be sure to write by Friday at 10 am for inclusion the next week.

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Move, closure at Hillside clinics



The Hillside Pediatric Clinic is moving to 5100 de Maisonneuve, said a sign on its door photographed on April 12 (left). On April 22, the Independent photographed a similar sign announcing the closure of the Hillside family clinic and the dispersal of its doctors to other locations. Clients were directed to hillsidefamily.ca for information on their physician.

Left-hand photo courtesy of Deborah Bee, right-hand photo: Independent.

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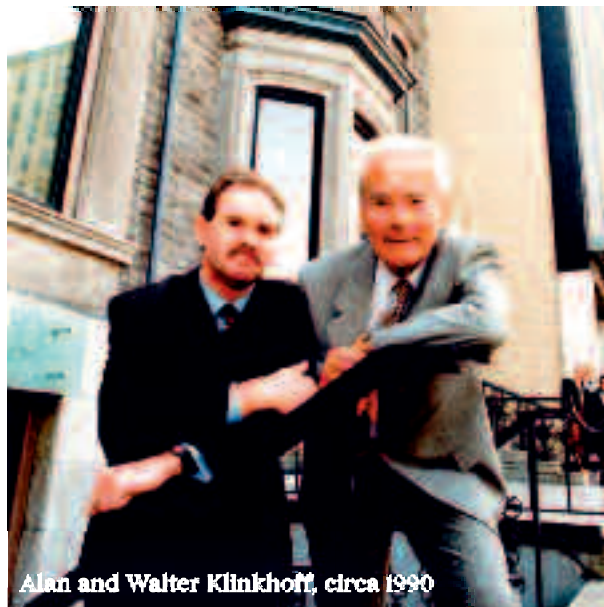
www.josephmarovitchrealestate.com



Walter Klinkhoff, Montreal Star, October 1974



Alan with Gertrude and Walter Klinkhoff, 1986



Alan and Walter Klinkhoff, circa 1990



Craig, Alan, Helen and Jonathan Klinkhoff, 2017

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Welcome to the *right* address

NEW



Westmount | \$1,295,000 | 3 Westmount Square #1016 | MLS: 25580342 | Million dollar view! Unique opportunity to buy a 1645 SF corner unit. North/East view. Renovators dream!

NEW



Westmount | \$595,000 | 4855 de Maisonneuve O. #502 | MLS: 19271026 | Victoria Village! Magnificent condo 1 floor below PH w/western exposure. 2 bdr, 2 bth, gar. & large balcony.

NEW



WESTMOUNT **\$1,895,000**
334 Av. Grosvenor MLS: 20570539
Best location in the heart of Victoria Village. 4 Bdr, completely renovated w/ lovely garden+++



WESTMOUNT **\$1,925,000**
3 Av. Hudson MLS: 12185382
Spacious and bright property in Westmount's best location with large garden & garage.



WESTMOUNT **\$2,675,000**
3206 Boul. The Boulevard MLS: 10313661
Sumptuous details & Breathtaking views. Perfectly located close to Westmount's best schools.



DOWNTOWN **\$2,250,000**
2 Chelsea Place MLS: 26576267
The most sought after townhouse in the Golden Square Mile. 5 bdr with amazing rooftop terrace.



WESTMOUNT **\$1,850,000**
1 Av. Wood #1702 MLS: 15873664
2056 SF condo, panoramic views, 2 car garage +++



MONT-TREMBLANT AREA **\$1,795,000**
257 Route de Crystal Falls MLS: 11141055
One of the most amazing farm now on the market!



LAC XAVIER **\$1,450,000+GST/QST**
8 Route des Érables MLS: 22610281
With turnkey option



TREMBLANT AREA, FROM \$249,000
2150 La Conception MLS: 11902891
Integrated project of micro-houses in the Laurentians on 1200 acres! Organic farms, hiking trails & more.



WESTMOUNT **\$2,795,000**
68 Crois. Forden MLS: 19289530
Our STAR property! Number 1 Location next to Murray Park! RENOVATED from A to Z... Embellished with the 'WOW' factor.



WESTMOUNT **\$1,095,000**
1 Parkman Place MLS: 9566079
WOW! Fully renovated 3 bedrooms in Victoria village.



Marie Sicotte

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