

Smith (for), Brzeski (circumspect) speak up Council questioned, polled on indoor pool at meeting

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An effort by some residents to push the city council for an indoor pool made its way into question period May 7, led off by Masters swim club president Christine Cardinal asking about a timeline.

"I can't give you a date," Mayor Christina Smith answered. While there was a desire for a pool from different groups, she said, the city had more work to do on items such as potential partners in such a project and users.

"Are there any members of council not in favour for any reasons?" asked Gabriel Felcarek of Roslyn, who ran as a council

candidate in District 5.

While Smith replied it was well known that she was in favour, Councillor Marina Brzeski, who won the seat in District 5, was the only other one to speak up. There were residents in the ward, she said, who lived in apartment buildings that had pools, so she believed those for and against would be about 50-50.

"It's more a question of people asking would the taxes go up and would they be paying for something they wouldn't use," she explained. Building a pool would likely be "what can we do with the least impact on those not in favour."

Paul Marriott, who spoke next, said that was like someone asking "why should they pay for something they don't use. Why should I continued on p. 4

de Lavigne demo up in air, see p. 8 & 9.



Sternthal wins marathon

Westmounter Scott Sternthal was the overall winner of the North Face Endurance Challenge trail marathon in Bear Mountain, NY on May 5. "It was a hilly, technical trail race so [my] time is 4:02 (I've run 2:46 on roads!)," he told the Independent May 11. There were 171 competitors.

Photo courtesy of S. Sternthal.

Financial report shows \$11M in net assets

City ends year with surplus of \$800K

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A city surplus of \$800,000 for 2017 results mainly from unexpected revenues related to the welcome tax and permits, but was limited in size by higher expenditures for snow removal, by pay-as-you-go capital projects and from the results of pension negotiations related to Bill 15.

The results were announced at the city council meeting May 7 by Councillor Kathleen Kez, Finance commissioner, in

tabling the audited financial report.

"All capital projects were completed," she said, and the city ended the year in a net asset position of \$11 million compared with \$6.2 million in 2016. The report stated that "no discrepancies had been found," Kez also reported.

Contributing to the operating budget's total revenues of \$109.5 million on the budget of \$102.9 million were \$90 million in property tax and high- continued on p. 6

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City grows 16 new varieties for plant exchange, sale May 17

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Despite closure to the public of the city's conservatory and some greenhouses, the city has grown 16 varieties of plants – but in limited numbers – for this year's perennial plant exchange and sale taking place this Thursday, May 17 outside the library.

“For this reason, we are only able to allow a maximum of two city plants per customer,” said Danica Wunder of the Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC), which is organizing the event. The varieties chosen are suited for shade gardens.

Proceeds of this year's event will be added to those from last year and used for planting the garden area where the new ramp at Centre Greene will be installed, according to Councillor Cynthia Lulham who chairs the HAC.

“Compost will also be available,” Lulham told the council meeting May 7, though anyone wanting it will have to bring their own container.

As well, it is important that anyone contributing plants from their gardens to bring them already potted in earth and labelled since this year the event will not be providing a potting table. No annuals,

shrubs, house plants or goutweed will be accepted.

The event will unfold from 4:30 to 6 pm for dropping-off plants and receiving exchange vouchers.

The exchange portion for those with vouchers takes place from 6 to 6:30 pm, after which it is open to all until 7:30, during which time plants may be purchased at a cost of \$2 each.

Varieties listed

Plants grown by the city are: aquilegia winkly blue and white, asclepias ice ballet, astilbe peach blossom, bergenia winter-

glow, brunnera looking glass, dicentra bacchanal, echinacea eccentric yellow, geranium delf blue, helleborus double queen, hosta diamond tiara, hosta firm line, iris swan in flight, lilium white tiger, papaver central park, pulmonaria sac. Mrs Moon, trolius golden queen.

In the past, the proceeds have gone to help fund the seed lending library, bee hives on the library roof, restoration of the city's totem pole (now in the library), acquisition of decorative containers for the conservatory and the fountain statue in the adjoining aquatic house (frog pond).

Third generation of family with JGH links

Freedman to take over as CEO of the Jewish General Hospital Foundation

Former Westmounter Bram Freedman will take over from current Jewish General Hospital Foundation CEO Myer Bick on

August 6, “after which they will work together to ensure a smooth transition,” said a press release from the foundation.

“We are delighted to welcome Bram to the JGH Foundation family,” stated Edward Wiltzer, the foundation's chair. “He has proven management skills and a strong fundraising background in the public sector. He has been an active volunteer in the healthcare sector for two decades.”

Freedman is a lawyer who has worked at Concordia University in many roles, including secretary-general, and for Federation Combined Jewish Appeal as COO. For the last five years, Freedman has served as vice-president of advancement at Concordia and “helped bring fundraising to record levels ... the sector went from a five-year average of \$10 million in funds raised to one of over \$25 million,” said the release.

Freedman's move to the foundation marks a family tradition. “My grandfather

was the founding chief of oto-laryngology at the JGH some 85 years ago,” he said. “The hospital is where my father, Dr. Samuel O. Freedman ... finished his career as director of the Lady Davis Research Institute. ...I can't wait to roll up my sleeves and get to work.”

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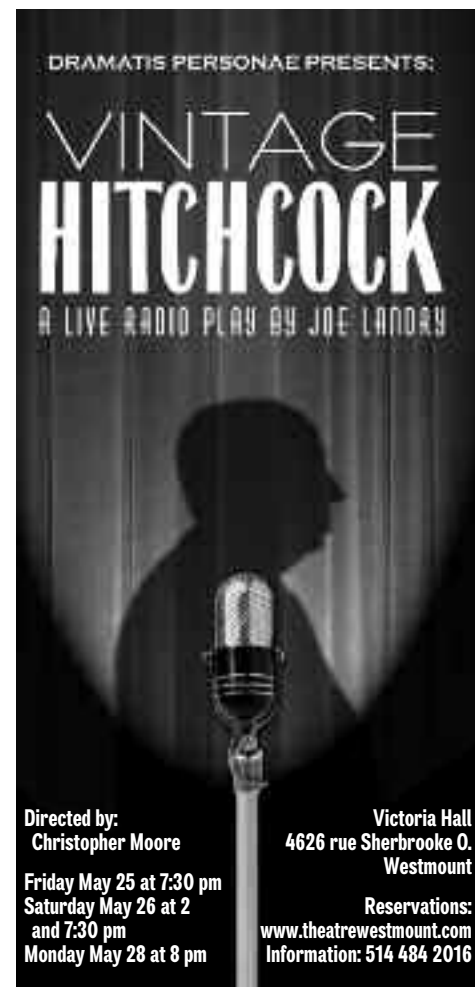
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By-law changes adopted to focus on dangerous dogs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's new dog by-law was adopted May 7 after many months of requests following a fatal dog-on-dog attack. The legislation provides designation criteria and restrictions for specific dogs rather than singling out certain breeds.

The city has sent copies of the by-law to Quebec Public Security minister Martin Coiteux as well as to "surrounding cities and boroughs," Mayor Christina Smith said.

"I'm here to thank you," said Christine Downs of Hillside. "I hope it will prevent future tragedy." It was her wire-haired terrier called Dean-O! that was attacked and killed a year ago by an unrestrained pit-bull-type at the Westmount Athletic Grounds. She asked that dog signage be improved and include the phone number of Public Security.

Led by Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership on both the previous and current councils includes dogs, the new law requires, among other things, that dangerous dogs be muzzled in public

places (see April 10, p. 1).

Also approving of the new by-law was Cynthia Grahame of Grosvenor, who addressed the council along with her dog Jack. Also speaking was a relieved owner of an 11-year-old pitbull who explained that he takes "full responsibility for what my dog does."



Christine Downs.

Pool, cont'd. from p. 1

pay for the concrete on your sidewalk?" "Obviously, we need to go back to talk about use and cost," Smith said and continued to say that one good reason for a pool is the health benefit it could provide for people aged 1 to 100.

"Build it and I tell you they will come," said Johanna Stosik, a diver who lives on St. Catherine St. and who also ran for city council last election. What stood out for her during a pool meeting held last month by the Westmount Municipal Association was the number of parents of Dolphins swim club members who have to drive their children to the Côte St. Luc pool, she explained. "The (Westmount) YMCA just doesn't cut it" (see story April 24, p. 20).



Gabriel Felcarek polls council on pool May 7.

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4 WEST

EVOQ Architecture

To be honoured at AGM May 23

WMA chooses Angela Murphy as volunteer of the year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Angela Murphy has been chosen by the Westmount Municipal Association as its volunteer of the year, it was announced last week.

She has served as chief judge of the McEntyre Writing Competition for the last eight years and in 2013 was appointed by city council as a trustee of the Westmount Public Library. She served as chairperson in 2015 and 2016.

She was nominated for the volunteer-of-the-year award by Wendy Wayling, children's librarian, for being "an extremely kind and thoughtful person, but also because of her exemplary skills in leadership, organization and community relations."

"I feel very lucky to have such a dedicated person volunteering at the library," Wayling stated. "Her efforts and approach are truly valuable."

The McEntyre Writing Competition was launched more than 45 years ago by



Angie Murphy on April 25.

then-mayor Peter McEntyre to interest local youth in writing, the community and municipal affairs. It has been taken on as a program of the library open to all Westmount youth, including those attending local schools.

Under Murphy's guidance, "we have implemented a number of improvements to the competition, making things run better and increasing the number of participants over the years," according to Wayling.

Murphy not only oversees the behind-the-scenes work

on the competition with the help of library personnel from planning stages to the award ceremony, "but she tirelessly works with over 70 volunteer judges from the community."

This year, she reached out to 89 volunteers to judge a record-breaking number of some 1,800 entries.

"You can see why we chose her," said Christine Cardinal, who serves on the selection committee with Joanne Wallace.

"We were particularly impressed with her dedication to the McEntyre competition and its impact on promoting literacy and building community in Westmount. The sheer scope of entries and judges required is impressive."

Wayling stated that during Murphy's time on the library board she was "constantly thinking about ways to improve our services to the community."

In 2015, she saw an interesting opportunity for the library to be part of an international travelling exhibit with the US National Library of Medicine. "She presented the idea to us and we loved it. In the fall of 2016, we received word that our application was accepted and we would be part of the travelling exhibition program 'Harry Potter's World: Renaissance, Science, Medicine and Magic.'"

The WMA will be presenting Murphy with its Derek Walker Volunteer of the Year Award at its annual general meeting taking place Wednesday, May 23 at 7:30 pm at Victoria Hall.


President Paul Marriott told the city council May 7 the meeting will present a panel discussion on "making Westmount more accessible."



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La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée le dimanche et le lundi.

Il n'y a aucun changement quant aux collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures, qui s'effectueront selon l'horaire normal.

VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY Business Hours and Municipal Services

The administrative offices of the City of Westmount, including City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Sports & Recreation, will be closed **Monday, May 21st, 2018** because of the Victoria Day holiday.

Westmount Public Library will be closed Sunday and Monday.

The kitchen waste and garbage collections will take place according to the regular schedule.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT WAS THE ISSUE WITH BABY SWINGS?

With the warm weather upon us, I took the opportunity to take my children to Westmount Park for the first time this spring. We found that it had changed: not only was there a new structure for the big children, but they had removed all but five swings, two for babies, two for bigger children and one for children with special needs. In the place of the baby swings, they provided some toys that no children seemed interested in. What was such of an issue with the baby swings that they had to remove them? My one-year-old loves the

swings and where they were located before, she could swing and I could still watch my older child play. This is no longer an option.

SHAMRON SPENCE, ST. CATHERINE ST.

CP, PLEASE MEND FENCES, CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

Copies of this open letter to CP were also sent to Mayor Christina Smith and MP Marc Garneau's office

The CP Rail fence that runs along Prospect St. is in serious disrepair. In a number of areas, the fence is either broken or falling down. This has led to an increased incidence of trespassing onto the



Photo from Frank Candido.

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

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OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:
Sherbrooke-Valois Inc. 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9

Renovating, not closed



People entering city hall off its parking-lot door over the past two weeks have been greeted by signage directing them upstairs while an area for customer-based financial services undergoes renovation, as seen here May 7.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney.

rail tracks or through the train tracks and into Westmount.

In addition, as residents of lower Westmount, we are also concerned with our own health and safety, and having a fence that has been allowed to deteriorate is counter to our well-being. We are asking you to repair and mend the fence where needed and so as to avoid any further deterioration.

In addition, we do not want any trees or shrubs cut without the consent of the city of Westmount as it is currently the only (however minor) protection that we have from the train tracks. In fact, we would encourage CP to plant additional trees and shrubs along the fence and on the CP property to further protect the residents living in such close proximity to the train tracks.

Lastly, I spent the better part of the day cleaning garbage and debris from the Westmount side of the fence. I noticed that there is a considerable amount of garbage and debris on the CP side and in plain view of the residents living along this corridor. Would you also please send a

team to have this cleaned and removed? I look forward to your quick response and timetable to execute the work.

FRANK CANDIDO, PROSPECT ST.

Surplus, cont'd. from p. 1

pensation, \$9 million from welcome tax (\$3.7 million over budget), \$1.5 million in licences and permits (double the budget), and \$3 million in parking.

Almost half the \$108.7 million of expenditures went to pay the city's agglomeration share of \$52.8 million for island-wide services and another \$937,000 to the Montreal Metropolitan Community. On the local side, some \$55 million included \$23.1 million for remuneration, \$14.5 million for departmental expenses, \$12.8 million for pay-as-you-go (capital works), and \$4.7 million in debt service.

Public Works and Engineering accounted for \$8.6 million or 60 percent of departmental spending, followed by Finance at close to \$2 million (which included Bill 15 and provisions), library at \$1 million and the remaining \$3 million among seven other departments.

Overheard

- ◇ Clarke and de Maisonneuve, 11:20 am May 9. Father to his two sons, "Everyone is bad sometimes."
- ◇ Man to his two dogs, de Maisonneuve near Lansdowne 2:15 pm May 9: "Don't bark at that [approaching] dog." Woman with approaching dog, in French: "Gentille, gentille." Result: three barking dogs.
- ◇ Prince Albert and Somerville, 3:20 pm, May 10: one young man to another as they approach their vehicle: "If you got a ticket, I'm not paying one dollar."
- ◇ York St. on May 11 at 11:20 am, 8°C, woman walking dog to passer-by: "I think it is going to snow." Another passer-by, chiming in, "Summer is already over."

Raccoon at the lagoon



Westmount Park was quite busy the afternoon of May 6, with everyone enjoying the beautiful spring conditions, including this raccoon, who was taking a nonchalant stroll around the lagoon.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

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Personalized medicines, women's health key areas

Pearson, Cohen-Tenoudji bring expertise to bear at patient-focused pharmacy



Now a 45-year veteran pharmacist, Donald Pearson founded his own pharmacy with partner Mel Alter in 1997 at the Medical Arts Building downtown. Early on, he focused on a more personal approach to the profession, including health and wellness consultations, and compounding. Compounding combines an ageless art with the latest medical knowledge and state-of-the-art technology to prepare customized medications to meet each patient's specific needs, in collaboration with their

physicians. The pharmacy is, for example, able to offer unique dosage forms (e.g. pills, liquids, creams, gels and sprays – even lollipops), custom flavouring (e.g. for children) and allergen-free medications. Integrative health was also an early focus, including offering nutritional advice, and high quality vitamins and supplements, in addition to the traditional filling of prescriptions.

In the same vein, the pharmacy acquired an expertise in women's health, including treating hormonal imbalances in pre- and post-menopause.

In 2012, Paris native Bertrand Cohen-Tenoudji joined the practice, bringing experience from the pharmaceutical industry and the hospital setting. He oversaw the development of a new 700-square-foot laboratory and worked to develop the dermatological and pain practices.

Now on Sherbrooke St. near Claremont, Bertrand Cohen-Tenoudji says of the pharmacy, "The demand for professional compounding has increased as healthcare professionals and patients realize that the limited number of strengths and dosage forms that are commercially available are unable to meet the unique needs of many patients. Each day is very exciting as it brings its lot of original situations: finding an alternative to a discontinued product, creating a topical pain cream when a patient is unable to take oral medication, creating an anti-wrinkle cream for sensitive skin, finding the right administration form for a client..."



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Hearing adjourned for 51 de Lavigne

City: demo decision needs more review of proposed house

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was a most unusual demolition hearing May 7 for a Category II heritage house at 51 de Lavigne, which was adjourned when the committee comprising all city council members failed to reach a decision after an hour of closed-door deliberation. When they returned to the council chamber to deliver an expected verdict, it was explained that while there was no objection to demolishing the two-storey house despite its heritage rating, it had been discovered that what had been thought to be “partial” demolition was in fact “full” demolition.

As a result, the larger replacement house, which had been recommended by the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) as a major renovation, now required re-evaluation “as a new construction project,” said Councillor Conrad Peart, Urban Planning commissioner for permits and architecture.

The comments were met by surprise from the architect, homeowner and others in the audience who had by then been at the hearing for almost two hours.

“When I first submitted the documents to the city, I said it was a demolition project,” explained architect Rhona Goldenberg, as reflected in the city’s presentation just shown entitled: “Demolition of a Category II building for the construction of a three-storey residential building with a basement.”

Homeowner Mathieu Fortier, a lawyer, also challenged the need for more review, saying the city’s demolition by-law did not differentiate between a partial (50-percent) and a complete demolition.

Interestingly, the project noted in the demolition file open to the public at city hall in early April described it as “to remove the entire ground floor, second floor, roof and a portion of the basement” (see demolition story April 17, p. 10).

Nevertheless, the hearing had been unusual in terms of its format, which typically has an architect from the PAC presenting the committee’s recommendations and rationale, though this time PAC chair Julia Gersovitz did not speak.

It also kicked off with questions and comments from the audience rather than a presentation of the project. Former homeowner (from 1988 to 2017) and ex-city councillor Nicolas Matossian as well as architect Bruce Anderson called for demolition of the house despite its heritage rating.

On the other hand, the Westmount



Homeowner Mathieu Fortier and architect Rhona Goldenberg.

Historical Association in a lengthy presentation called for a moratorium until the city’s heritage ratings could be reviewed and guidelines prepared for demolition decisions concerning them (see separate story p. 9).

City presentation

Presenting the project for the city, Urban Planning director Tom Flies described the existing house as “a modest building with simple massing.” Built in 1953 in “vernacular” style by Forest Homes Limited of the Town of Mount Royal, it lacked any signature architect.

Its character-defining elements were a “high degree of authenticity in the composition and the materials, with the exception of most windows, which had been replaced.”

The Board of Inspections had reported finding it in good condition May 3 that did not “justify” demolition or “the cost of

restoration,” but had no objections given the proposed replacement project.

Flies described the residential streetscape as having “a variety of styles and massing.”

The house, Flies pointed out, had been the home from 1963 to 1967 of renowned Canadian painter Robert Wakeham Pilot, on whom the city had bestowed posthumous civic honours last year. His son, Wakeham, a resident of Willow, attended the hearing but did not speak.

According to Flies, the PAC had had eight meetings on the project between June 20, 2017 and February 13 this year and as recently as May 1, the week before the hearing.

Did not oppose demolition

It had no objection to the demolition. “However, as the review process of the replacement program was conducted in good faith based on a context (partial de-



The Westmount Historical Association's Caroline Breslaw.



Among those attending, from left: Gabrielle Pilot, Wakeham Pilot (he and his father lived at 51 de Lavigne) and Nicolas Matossian (another former homeowner).

molition) that no longer exists in the current demolition application (complete demolition), the committee recommends that the evaluation process of the replacement program be re-evaluated on the premise of a complete demolition and an empty lot.”

In her presentation, architect Goldenberg said the house, “a simple stucco box” was “not functional by today’s standards” and would “never have been accepted by the PAC.”

She said she had worked “diligently with the PAC” to create a house to a higher standard using brick and natural stone, and a roof of slate.

The plan, she said, had begun as a major renovation by adding a third storey. It could be possible to create a larger house by demolishing just under the 50-percent threshold that would make it not subject to the city’s demolition by-law. However, at 49.3 percent it would have been dangerously close to accidentally exceeding that limit and risking a stop-work order, as she had previously experienced at a house on Forden.

Should that happen, said homeowner Fortier, “then we would come back to you with a house already demolished.” That is why the latest proposal was chosen.

One letter concerning the demolition had been received by the city within a required deadline but it was neither for nor against, reported city clerk Martin St-Jean. It had come from a neighbour concerned over possible damage to his home from demolition.

Fortier said that demolition conditions would provide more safeguards in that respect.

Citizen input important

When the demolition committee returned from its deliberation, Mayor Christina Smith referred to the length of time it had taken as reflecting that “we take this very seriously.” She thanked all those who had made input saying it was “important to hear from citizens” (see separate story).

On departing, architect Bruce Anderson, who had once been a PAC member, said the lack of a decision “regurgitates the process.” Former homeowner Matossian said he was “disappointed” when it seemed “so straight forward.”

Among those attending were engineer Mohsen Zarrabi of the firm bearing his name and contractor Éric Laquerre of Béton Foundation Plus for consultation if required. No questions were asked of them.

Citizens present two sides at demo hearing

Time to review heritage ratings or bring house up to ‘standard’?

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The two-hour demolition hearing on 51 de Lavigne heard comments from residents on both sides of an issue related to tearing down heritage-rated buildings. The house is considered small, but found to be in good condition (see separate story p. 8).

As a Category II-rated dwelling, “its proposed demolition clearly goes against all the heritage values that Westmount has worked so hard to implement,” said Caroline Breslaw, president of the Westmount Historical Association (WHA).

If demolition is approved, she said, “it is the thin slice of the wedge for developers, architects and buyers who want a Hampstead house in a Westmount location.” With more than 80-percent of Westmount houses rated Category II, she added, “That is a lot of potential demolition.”

She pointed out in an information sheet

that the city’s *Guidelines for Building and Renovating* (1995), state Category II buildings should be preserved while maintaining the integrity of those features that define their character and that “sympathetic alterations and additions may be allowed provided they do not adversely affect the essential character of the buildings.”

By approving demolition of the house on de Lavigne, she said council would be effectively downgrading it to Category III status. This is a change for which the city had no procedure, she concluded, after consultation with Mark London, a former PAC chair and a co-author of the *Guidelines*.

“I would like to propose a temporary moratorium on the demolition of Category II buildings so that our new council can carefully study this particular request... and consider the future ramifications of setting this precedent.”

Architect Bruce Anderson, a former PAC member who successfully argued for

the demolition of a Category II house in poor condition on Aberdeen a few years ago, said he had initially been against the removal of 51 de Lavigne.

All cases different

On further investigation, however, he had changed his mind: all cases were different.

“I’m not opposed to this demolition,” because the house was not architecturally significant and was “clearly a builder’s house.” Replacing it with a new one designed by an architect is “more ideal” than adding another storey to the existing one. A new house would add to the development of Westmount.

Jon Breslaw of Grosvenor, countered saying “A worker’s home 100 years ago is just as much a part of our heritage. So demolition of a Category I or II should only be a last resort.” While the situation did provide a development opportunity, he asked the council to hold their decision

until reviewing the *Guidelines*.

Substandard for Westmount

“It’s a beautiful house. We loved it,” said Nicolas Matossian who had sold it to the current owner but did not oppose its demolition. He said the house was small and suited ideally to a family of two or possibly three but was “substandard” for the Westmount market.

The house had been hard to sell, he said, and was “clearly below par.” All potential buyers were aware they would have to enlarge it. “The half-basement was ‘a real problem.’”

The house had sentimental value to Gabrielle Pilot, who attended the hearing but did not speak publicly. As the wife of Wakeham Pilot, who also attended and lived there when it was home to his father, painter Robert Wakeham Pilot, she said it had had a beautiful garden and it was where her husband had proposed to her “in the living room.”

Kalman Samuels, new to Westmount, welcomes Jingsh-Fu, new to Canada



From left Ying Fu, a founding partner of the Jingsh law firm, and Dan Romano of Kalman Samuels.
Photo: Ralph Thompson.

Kalman Samuels Attorneys hosted a cocktail reception at its new facilities at 1 Westmount Square May 8. The ceremony was held to celebrate the April registration of its affiliated firm, Jingsh-Fu Legal Group, itself the Canadian affiliate of Beijing’s Jingsh law firm, one of the largest in China.

According to its press release, Jingsh-

Fu is the “first Canadian law firm directly affiliated with a major Chinese law firm” and “is the first authentic Chinese-affiliated firm incorporated in Canada, and thus marks a beginning for China’s ‘belt and road’ initiative, whereby ‘going out of China, the laws go first.’” Kalman Samuels is a family, immigration and general litigation firm.

Remembering Kevin Tierney (1950-2018)

Westmounter and filmmaker Kevin Tierney died on May 12.

Tierney produced *Bon Cop*, *Bad Cop*, the highest grossest Canadian film ever. He also produced *French Immersion*, which he directed, and *The Trotsky*, as well as many other projects.

Independent editor David Price briefly met and photographed him in 2013 when he was awarded a Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service (see September 10, 2013, p. 32).

“He had a good sense of humour in person. Looking back, I see that he also



Kevin Tierney in 2013.

wrote to us several times, sometimes in a funny way, when we were doing ‘letter drives’ asking for evidence of reader support,” said Price.

“He concluded his September 20, 2016, p. 6, letter by saying, ‘I should also like to mention how much better I, and I am sure others, are sleeping having recently learned that an escaped pug named Rudy is safely back

home. Thank you, *Westmount Independent*.’

“Thank you, Kevin, for your support over the years, and our condolences to your family and friends.”



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Round Table Discussion
Making Westmount an Accessible Community
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 MUHC Accessibility Committee Representative
 Université de Montréal Urban Planning Professor
 Other Accessibility Experts
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Uses Turcot sound readings
**CP's overnight noise levels
'unsustainable' for residents**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Mike Mossop of Columbia Ave. told city council May 7 he had collected proof that CP's work on the tracks had reached some 70 decibels April 24 between 1 am and 5 am.

"This is an unsustainable environment to sleep in," he said. "When they do their planning, they have to consider the residents."

He said he had collected the data from a sound measuring device installed by KPH Turcot at the end of the lane between Greene and Columbia to manage its own noise levels and differentiate them from CP's.

He said he supports a plan by Councillor Cynthia Lulham to form a working group to include CP, Réseau de transport métropolitain (RTM) and city officials along with an elected representative and



Mike Mossop shows council his record of sound graphs April 24 from 1 to 5 am.

others to improve future planning in a way that has more respect for residents. For now, the CP work has been completed.

While it has been argued the work has to be done during overnight hours when there are no commuter trains, he said, there are other weekend times when, with three tracks available and few commuter trains, improved scheduling should be able to allow for the work.

Mossop is a citizen-member of the NDG-Westmount-Montreal West Good Neighbourhood Committee for the Turcot/720/136 project, through which the provincial ministry of Transport hosts public meetings with its contactor (the KPH construction consortium), municipal governments, Montreal police, relevant private-sector companies (e.g. CN) and residents.

RCMP explains gun deployment during fire drill

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A spokesperson for the RCMP's Quebec division is maintaining that a staff officer who was photographed by a reader of the *Independent* on April 12 while holding a long gun outside the force's headquarters on St. Catherine at Greene was taking part in a "fire drill" involving the protection of RCMP employees.

"What happened the other day was a fire evacuation," RCMP Quebec spokesperson Geneviève Byrne said in an interview with the *Independent*.

According to Byrne, the force's emergency plan includes certain measures, such as the deployment of specially trained and armed officers, "to ensure the safety of employees during evacuations," she said.

As to the likelihood of more drills like these taking place, she continued, "that's possible, although it's not something I can say for certain. It could well be that you see us involved in situations similar to what you saw recently."

Why firearms?

All the same, the *Independent* wanted to know why a fire drill would require the deployment of firearms.

"If we have an evacuation for a fire, whether it's a drill or not, it's normal that the employees who must be evacuated from the building are protected one way or the other by police who are armed," she replied.

When the *Independent* pointed out that office building fire drills take place all the time without deploying firearms, she continued, "We are a police department here. And we also have staff who are not police officers and so are not armed. And we don't know what sort of threats might be directed at us. We just don't know."

When asked whether the firearm used during the drill was loaded, Byrne responded, "For security reasons, I will not answer that question."

Why no uniform?

The *Independent* also wanted to know why the RCMP officer seen with the firearm was not in uniform.

"We have employees who are in uniform; others who are dressed as civilians," she said, explaining that officers might or might not be in uniform depending on their assigned duties on a given day.

"When this all happened, if the officer in question wasn't in uniform, it was still



April 12 at Greene and St. Catherine.

Photo courtesy of Jim Richards.

his duty to react during the evacuation. These police officers who are armed are specially trained, which was the case with the police officer seen in the photo."

Asked whether RCMP Quebec headquarters has ever had to deal with false alarms or threats, Byrne said: "I don't know the answer to that question. But for sure we always do what's necessary to see that our employees are protected, whatever the situation. So if an evacuation takes place, we want everyone to be safe when they're outside the building."

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Copper Branch: A Remarkable Restaurant Opens in Westmount

reviewed by: Nancy Snipper

Copper Branch is a restaurant chain that was founded in Montreal, and now has restaurants in several parts of Canada and continues to expand.

Renown for its complete commitment to 100% plant-based cuisine, the company creates delicious dishes that reflect its forward-looking food philosophy. Each bite is an edible treasure where tantalizing taste and nutrition are in balance.

Copper Branch contributes to bettering the world through healthy eating and various well-being projects it is involved in such as the RainForest Trust, Lymphoma Canada, and the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay For Life.

Through The Power of Hope, Inspiration and Hard Work

Byron Ruiz had been working in operations as the Regional Manager in Copper Branch. He believed in the company and was looking for another challenge. So together, with his life partner Christine Harries, and co-owners, Michelle and Lorenzo DellaForesta, they received the blessing of Rio Infantino, Founder & CEO of Copper Branch, to open up their own restaurant in Westmount, Quebec.

They're all proud to be a part of the Copper Branch banner. Setting up the restaurant in Westmount demanded an intense renovation of the former framing store. Christine put her architectural engineering skills into high gear, and after about six months of rigorous work and everyone pulling together, the banner on a new Copper Branch location was happily hoisted.

Giving with Immeasurable Rewards

But the couple was not just motivated by money to do this; rather it was brotherly love. Byron's brother, Carlos had been diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma, but his life-long hope never wavered. It had always been a dream of Carlos' to own a Copper Branch Restaurant – ever since the company first started in 2014.

"It is a gift for me to now be on board in a vital way with my family and friends supporting me all the time in the restaurant. My life really stopped when I got Lymphoma and now it's restarted. It is a total blessing for me to work up close and personal



with it all – overseeing many aspects to our restaurant; I really love what Copper Branch is doing to better people's lives."

"I speak about cancer as well holding the Copper Branch banner. It has given me energy and a purpose. When I started here, my eating changed; I lost weight and felt far more energized. The food we serve is prepared fresh and with much care. In fact, we are a community here – all supporting one another and spreading that key ingredient: love."

A Menu that Creatively Involves the Customer

It's kind of fun, but you can actually build your own dish with the many appetizing surprises Copper Branch has behind its counter. Substitute quinoa if you like in place of brown rice. I of course was mesmerized by the healthy variety of offerings, and relied on Carlos to serve my companion and I some of his recommendations.

I totally loved the spicy Black Bean Burger. The patty was made of black beans, sunflower seeds, sweet potato, brown rice and more. It's homemade South West Sauce was so tasty. Perfectly shaped carrot keftedes that we dipped into aioli creamy garlic sauce set off other flavours of turmeric, fresh mint and fennel – to mention a few goodies in this number.

Colourful and Inventive:

The Taste of Health in Every Dish

Copper Branch offers four fabulous burgers and so many exotically tasty

dishes. Even its sandwiches hold the promise of excitement. Imagine digging into the Smoked Tofu and Grilled Vegetable Sandwich or how about the Shitake Teriyaki Sandwich. I fell in love with the shitake mushrooms on my first bite of the General Copper Bowl dish. Carlos explained that these mushrooms are first dehydrated and then rehydrated. They were scrumptious and filling. I could have ordered a whole dish of them.

Five Power Bowls are offered with a base of several choices including brown rice, quinoa and Konjka noodles. Protein choices are exotic and include Tempeh, Smoked Tofu, and Shitake.

Flavours seem to travel the world: Greece, Asia, Mexico and the Mediter-



anean mix. You've got to try the basil dressing. It's creamy and incredibly addictive. In fact, everything I had here was light, yet the variety of ingredients packed into each dish created a remarkable discovery experience for me. Layered with robust portions and flavours, each number had its own colourful presentation with interesting tastes – some spicy, some subtle, but never predictable or boring.

Carlos insisted I try the incredible gluten-free brownie made with cocoa and Zucchini. I was too full, so he handed it to me in his package and told me to make sure to heat it up with coffee. It was sensational! I also tried the cashew lime cheesecake; it was captivating. By the way, Copper Branch coffee is an exclusive, organic home-made blend. It is Fair Trade, Swiss filtered and of the highest quality. It's served with coconut milk, soya or almond milk. No lactose milk here. Copper Branch is a way of life. I'm definitely on board.

Great news!

They cater for personal and business events.

Copper Branch

is located at 5003 Sherbrooke West, at the corner of Claremont in Westmount. Call (514) 379-4616.

They're on Facebook and Instagram. Look them up at @Copper Branch Westmount.



TRENDSETTERS

JEWEL LOWENSTEIN

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

Photo: RALPH THOMPSON

‘Retired,’ but busy (philanthropy), busy (gardening), busy (boards)

Jewel Lowenstein was scheduled to be honoured May 15, after press time, by Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom for her long service on the board. She is also a committee member of the Temple’s Aron Museum, which houses a historical collection of Judaica. Retired from her job as a librarian at McGill University, she served as chair of Women’s Philanthropy at Montreal’s Federation/CJA, Women’s Chair of Canada’s United Israel Appeal (UIA), and Montreal women’s representative to the US United Jewish Appeal (UJA).

In addition, she has dedicated time to the McGill Friends of the Library, the McCord Museum board, as well as the Garden Club of Montreal and the Helen Day Art Gallery in Stowe. Her current involvements include the McGill Goodman Cancer Research Centre, Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum, and the OSM Opening Night Concert Committee. This trendsetter is what one might call “busy.”

STYLE

How would you describe your personal style?

I am most comfortable in timeless classics. I try to be elegant and understated but sometimes add a twist! For example, I love wearing bright red shoes with black. I add a scarf or coloured jewellery to change the look of an outfit.

On week-ends what do you like to wear?

On weekends, when I am usually in Vermont, I wear torn and tattered hand-me-downs from my adult kids! I love gardening and these comfort clothes suit the purpose. I am in awe every year that they still fit! When playing golf or tennis, of course, I dress the part but many of my sports outfits are classic too. On social occasions in the evening, I wear country chic, which is never glitzy and add craft or antique jewelry to dress up.

I know you love gardening.

Do you have favourite flowers?

Gardening is my passion! It is so therapeutic for me. I ALWAYS have flowers in my home but mostly from the garden or summer plants, which I bring indoors in the winter. Every winter, I rely on orchids, which I try to re-bloom. I also keep flowering plants such as fuchsia or geraniums for many seasons. It is VERY hard to pick favourite flowers – maybe pink irises, lilacs and especially Asian peonies, since they come early and bring the promise of summer.

Do you have favourite artists?

I love the Impressionists. I am in awe of the history of art and how it has evolved into present-day abstract canvases and installations. I am interested in contemporary art but my heart is with Renoir, Monet and other artists of their era. Chagall makes me smile. (I’m very glad the Chagall work will stay at the National Gallery of Canada, by the way.) In our home, we have art by Henry Moore, Guido Molinari and Louise Scott, as well as a wonderful photograph of Chanel by Horst.

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

I am a proud Montrealer and feel it is the best place to live – as long as you can get away in the long winters! I am lucky enough to spend time in Palm Beach during the harshest part of our dark, icy, freezing cold January. But when I’m in town, it’s wonderful to enjoy a cozy fireplace after a snowshoe outing on a weekend in the country.

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

My most coveted dinner guest would be the 16th century Italian architect Andrea Palladio. I adore classical architecture and love the influence of the Palladian design on English Georgian buildings and

.....
continued on p. 15



Constable Laperrière visits Akiva



On May 8, Constable Stéphan Laperrière from Station 12 in Westmount visited Akiva School's grade 6 classes to talk to the students "about taking care of yourself, making smart choices and staying away from drugs," said school representative Cindy Warren in an email to the Independent the same day. "He was really great and passed along so many important messages to our students."

Photo courtesy of Akiva.

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Westmount Art Scene

Gabriel Safdie and Laurence Pilon: A question of contrast

BY HEATHER BLACK

This month, Westmounter Gabriel Safdie's dramatic photographs at the Gallery at Victoria Hall and Laurence Pilon's muted paintings at the McClure Gallery take centre stage. Although opposites on the contrast continuum, Safdie's saturated colours and Pilon's subdued tones recreate atmosphere and meaning.

Night of life

Safdie's colourful series *Dia De Los Muertos* captures the Mexican festival of Day of the Dead. Photographed in the south-west town of Oaxaca, images of death-masked celebrators, marching bands, and altar tributes reveal a cultural blend of aboriginal traditions and All Hallows's customs. Both humorous and poignant, the drama of life, death and the festival is played out in front of Safdie's lens.

In a strong black-and-gold composition “#9,” a young girl wearing a flowered halo clasps a yellow Aztec marigold, the “flower of the dead.” Dressed in black, her face is painted to resemble a calavera or skull, a festival symbol.



Gabriel Safdie's “Dia De Los Muertos series #9.”

Flowers in “#19” also frame images of Catholic saints at private altars (or *ofrendas*) or adorn coffins that family and

friends decorate in “#37” to aid the dead's spiritual journey.

Safdie's eye for dramatic lighting and saturated tones contributes to the celebratory atmosphere of a marching band accompanying a costumed figure on stilts in “#30.” A sense of carnival also prevails in the image of a bike-riding skeleton in “#13” as well as in the many photographs of parade participants. Other images capture dancing women in traditional Mexican attire or aboriginal dancers and drummers.

Safdie's interesting and thought-provoking exhibition continues until May 17 at 4626 Sherbrooke St.

Light at midday

Pilon's series *It Once Was a Garden* is subtle and subdued, yet profound. Textured shapes and loose brushstrokes convey figures, interiors and landscape. Painted in oils on panel, low-contrast blues and greens shimmer under a midday sun. Low in detail, suggestive titles suggest multiple messages.



Laurence Pilon's “Landfill.”

The intricately balanced composition “Landfill” conjures up underground caverns and terrestrial layers of waste. White shapes deposited along the lower edge of the purple-puce composition, “Foreign Matter,” evoke a similar environmental message. For “Secret Meadow (Spill),” linear blue blocks conspire to suggest a rock path or debris against fragile, summer fields.

Pilon's ambiguous visual language of white outlined circular forms against muted green convey tranquility in “Camouflage.” White outlined shapes also emerge as figures against the pastel background in the com-

continued on p. 15

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Bronfmans award fellowship to Serri, Laliberté



From left, Mutsumi Takahashi, Frédérique Laliberté, Claudine and Stephen Bronfman, Emilie Serri, Jean-Christian Pleau and Rebecca Duclos.

BY VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounters Claudine and Stephen Bronfman were at Concordia's Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery May 3 for the 9th annual presentation of the Claudine and Stephen Bronfman fellowships in contemporary art, whose winners were chosen by a jury composed of external jurors, and UQAM and Concordia representatives.

The couple's eponymous foundation awarded \$60,500 each to Emilie Serri from UQAM and Frédérique Laliberté from Concordia.

Westmounters present included Michèle Thériault, director of the Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Alan Klinkhoff and Kimberly Erin Waldron. Also attending were Jean-Christian Pleau, dean, faculty of arts, UQAM; and Rebecca Duclos, dean, faculty of fine arts, Concordia.

Art Scene, cont'd. from p. 14
position "To Pause for Clarity."

A subtle reminder that daily actions matter, Pilon's exhibition continues until May 26 at the Visual Art Centre, 350 Victoria Ave.

Clarity of purpose

Safdie's high-contrast and detailed pho-

tographs of the Day of the Dead record our collective experience of life and death as well as the distinctive character of each life. Pilon's ambiguous and muted painting also reflects personal and environmental uncertainties. Universal as well as intimate, both exhibitions evoke T. S. Eliot's line: "So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing."

Trendsetter, cont'd. from p. 12

New England homes in America and Canada. He would be joined by Pierre-Joseph Redouté. An artist and botanist, his watercolours of flowers are absolutely gorgeous. And I would add landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed Mount Royal as well as Central Park in NYC and the Emerald Necklace in Boston.

What do you think of today's fashion?
Today's fashion is really a mix. Anything goes! Hemlines can be short or long. Women are allowed to be individuals rather than follow a code.

All that is good.

BUT I would prefer it if people dressed less casually on special occasions like going to concerts or the theatre. Sometimes it's nice to look your best. I think men look better in tie and jacket rather than open-neck shirts. Women hardly wear skirts anymore and that is a shame.

Do you have a favourite fashion designer?
My favourite designers are Chanel and Ralph Lauren. Their looks are timeless and their craftsmanship is superb. Garments last for years.



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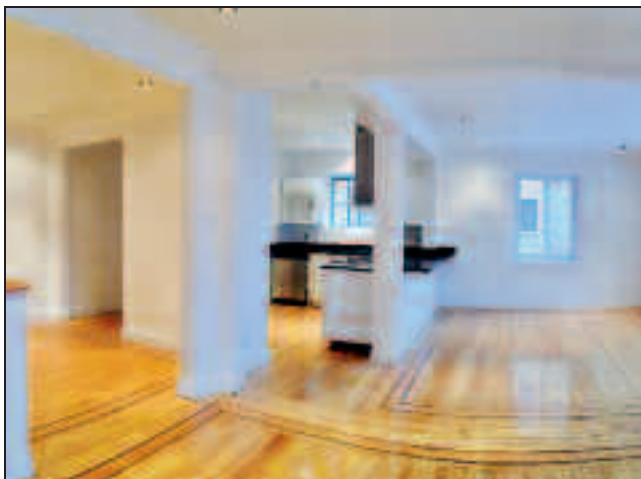
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Northern cardinal, male. April 22 on Arlington Ave.



A male northern cardinal passes a nut to a female northern cardinal while she takes a bath. April 28 on Arlington Ave.



Northern cardinal, female. April 22 on Arlington Ave.



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Adult male downy woodpecker. May 6 in Summit Woods.



Adult male pileated woodpecker (year round resident of Summit Woods). May 5 in Summit Woods.



Adult breeding female American goldfinch. April 28 on Arlington Ave.



BY RALPH THOMPSON WITH THANKS TO ZOFIA LAUBITZ OF BIRD PROTECTION QUEBEC FOR BIRD-IDENTIFICATION HELP

Adult breeding male American goldfinch (plumage is changing from its dull winter yellow-brown to its summer bright yellow). April 28 on Arlington Ave.

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*Black-capped chickadee.
April 22 on Arlington Ave.*



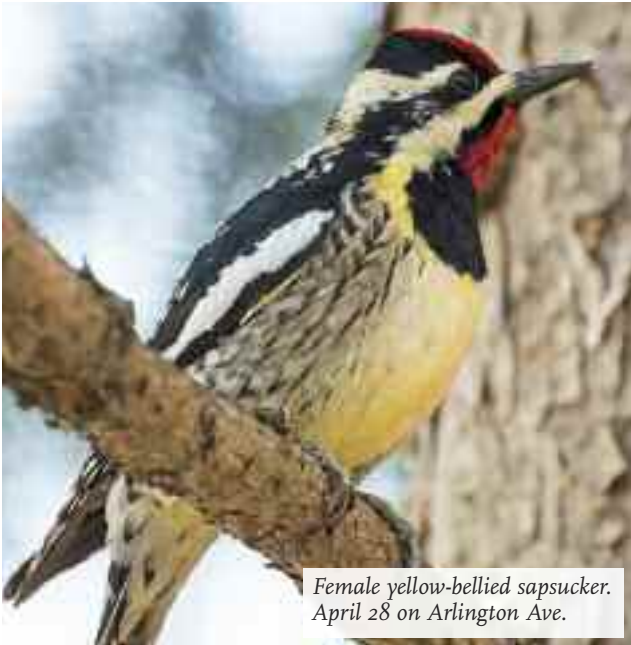
*Mourning dove. April 22
on Arlington Ave.*



*American robin, male.
April 22 on Arlington Ave.*



*Ruby-crowned kinglet, adult male (its red crest
is just visible). April 28 on Arlington Ave.*



*Female yellow-bellied sapsucker.
April 28 on Arlington Ave.*



*Adult breeding chipping sparrow.
May 5 on Arlington Ave.*



Hermit thrush. May 6 in Summit Woods.



*Yellow-rumped warbler.
May 6 in Summit Woods.*



*Blue-headed vireo. May 6
in Summit Woods.*

Kids get the low-down on bike safety from APCW course



From left, Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount president Dan Lambert answers questions from the young cyclists who took part on May 8 in the APCW's cycling education course, which was also attended by Contactivity Centre members Diane Desjardins (centre) and Frances Gregory.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount held the first session of its 2018 cycling education course for children on May 8 at the Westmount recreation centre.

Each May, according to association president Dan Lambert, the APCW offers the four-week course to about 25 Westmount kids from eight to 12 years of age, as part of a Westmount Sports and Recreation programme.

Last week's session included a presentation by Montreal police Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, who explained the Highway Safety Code.

Outside the recreation centre, a bicycle mechanic from Cycle Néron in St. Henri inspected the kids' bikes, while APCW board member Marilyn Gillies wrote down potential mechanical or safety issues on a sheet of paper to be taken home to parents.

To help make the kids more sensitive to the concerns of seniors, the APCW invited two members of the Contactivity Centre, Diane Desjardins and Frances Gregory, to the session to explain to the young cyclists why seniors grow concerned when they encounter youngsters

on bikes.

The children were reminded that as people grow older, their eyesight, hearing and balance can be affected, so they are not as aware of approaching cyclists and cannot react quickly. Other risks for seniors that were also discussed were the potential consequences of a fall, such as a broken hip.

Subsequent sessions of the course will be teaching riding skills to the kids, while focusing on how they can be safe cyclists in the city.

Lambert said an important part of the course will consist of explaining to the



Seen here on May 8, Marilyn Gillies of the APCW and bicycle technician Sylvain Courval of Cycle Néron conducted safety inspections of the children's bicycles while the course session was taking place.

young cyclists the need to respect other road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

According to Lambert, cycling can be made safe through the application of the 3 E's: Engineering, which is mainly about safe cycling infrastructure ("we encourage the city to make all Westmount streets safe for pedestrians and cyclists, mainly by adding more bike paths," he said); Education (Vélo Québec also gives a course at St. Léon school, he also pointed out); and Enforcement (which involves the role of the police to give warnings and tickets to cyclists when they drive dangerously).

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Spring also means cutting: forestry subcontractors working, privately & municipally



On May 1, Hometree cuts trees on de Maisonneuve near Clarke, presumably for a private property owner, and the city's subcontractor, Arboriculture de Beauce, works on Lansdowne near de Maisonneuve.

Photos: Independent.



Westmount Park United's green library formed from Wedges' contribution

Westmount Park United Church will inaugurate the Westmount Green Self-

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Service Library Friday, May 18 at 7 pm at its monthly Climate Café. It will be an open library where everyone is free to exchange, donate and borrow books that have as common subjects green concerns, "biophilia" and nature.

Church minister Rev. Neil Whitehouse wrote in an email to the *Independent*, "We are grateful to Donald Wedge and his widow Sylvia for the donation of 50 books, which inspired us in launching this new citizen initiative. Donald Wedge was a noted leader in environmental activism in Westmount and we are delighted to honour his significant contributions in creating this green library."

Wedge was also the municipal affairs columnist of the *Independent* until his death in 2010.

Pending retirement of 'our Dr. Benjamin' leads to fund

Westmounter Dr. Alice Benjamin is beginning to "contemplate retirement after more than 40 years of service," according to a May 9 press release from McGill University.

On Mother's Day, May 13, under the banner #OurDrBenjamin, a committee of former patients and their family members launched a campaign in support of the Dr. Alice Benjamin Fund at McGill Global Health Programs and the department of obstetrics & gynecology in the McGill faculty of medicine.

According to the release, Benjamin "has devoted her life to delivering thousands of high-risk babies while safeguarding the health of expectant mothers."

The fundraising committee has already raised more than \$100,000 towards an ini-

tial million-dollar goal. If this target is reached, the fund will provide training in low-resource settings for medical students across the faculty's programs. If more funds are raised, it will support enriched educational and research opportunities "here at home."

Planning a garage sale? Or just a few items to sell?

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Abecassis family sponsors Israeli film fest



The Montreal Israeli Film Festival began May 6 at the Cineplex Forum, located at the old Montreal Forum just east of the Westmount-downtown border. Pictured at the red-carpet, opening-day event are, from left, Gerard Buzaglo, co-president; Westmounters Karen and Alexandre Abecassis, main sponsors; Chantal Buzaglo, co-president. Foreground, Westmounter Raphael Abecassis. The festival continues until Thursday, May 17.

Photo courtesy of C. Buzaglo.

Art for Auberge fundraiser drew community support

BY HEATHER BLACK

An art event to raise funds for Auberge Shalom pour femmes, a centre for women in abusive relationships and their children, took place at Shaar Hashomayim synagogue on May 8. At Art for Auberge, guests were invited to create small art works to enliven and decorate the west Montreal shelter. Four well-known local artists, Viviane Case Fox, Susan G. Scott, Kate Walker, and Westmounter Jennifer Hornyak, assisted painters with ideas and technique tips.

The event also included a silent auction of donated merchandise from local businesses. During the evening, seven speakers described the Auberge Shalom pour femmes' work from their individual perspective as staff, client or volunteer at the shelter from domestic violence and counselling centre.

Established as a kosher shelter in 1989 following a death in the Jewish community, executive director Sarah Rosenhek spoke of the need to raise awareness of domestic abuse, which currently affects one in four women. Open to all cultural



Auberge Shalom executive director Sarah Rosenhek.

groups, the non-profit organization receives 60 percent of its funding from the provincial government and the remainder through donations.

Rosenhek said: "The funds raised will help save lives and allow women and their children to stay at the shelter. I would like to thank the members of the Jewish community, foundations, and other private or corporate donors for making Art for Auberge possible."



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER



Cuddling Oneill

Oneill is a breathtaking grey-and-white main coon with a very affectionate and calm disposition. He has recently been taken in from his previous home by the Frontier Animal Society, and we are certain that a new family in our neighbor-

hood can be easily found for such a loving and dignified fellow. Oneill is a healthy senior, 10 years young, neutered and up to date with his inoculations.

If you would like more information on him, please do not hesitate to contact the devoted volunteers at the Frontier Animal Society at frontieranimalsociety@gmail.com or call at 819.876.7785. You can also refer to its website to find out more about them at www.frontieranimalsociety.ca. They host a cat adoption open house, every Saturday from 10 am to 12 noon, at their wonderful 2405 Griffin Rd. shelter in scenic Ogden, Quebec.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Westmount artist Jennifer Hornyak assists Joyce Croitoru. Susan G. Scott is in the background.



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David Price, *The Philistine*: Beer drinker
IDEAL BEER: stronger-than-average lager, even if it's commercial Canadian beer. He dislikes too much hops flavour or aroma in beer (i.e. most India pale ales or IPAs), and does not like roasted malts (e.g. stouts).

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: The 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.

February 1, 2018

Boswell opened in October 2015 and from the get-go its three owners, after stints in other microbreweries, have created a beer paradise. Beer first, and other beverages (ciders, whiskies, cocktails, etc) are available, but clearly second. There are no TVs or loud music to distract from tasting and dining. There are 20 taps with Boswell creations dispensing from all but four of them.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Kölsch (4.5%) – German ale

If I lived in Cologne, I would have to have this beer to start every evening, because that is all there would be, and that would be perfectly all right, to the end of my days.

Kölsch is an extremely pale, golden-coloured, aromatic, top-fermenting brew, light in body but not in palate, and very delicate in character. Producers also aim for a gentle hop dryness in the finish, flowery but less effusive than in a Pilsner. To complement this poetic and perfect description, it is normally served in a 20-cl

“stange,” a vessel similar to that used in a Tom Collins. Since I am exactly 5,979 km from Cologne, I am hopeful this example will measure up. It checks off all the boxes except two. Missing: crisp, hop dryness in the finish and it was served in snifter. Keep trying.

THE PHILISTINE: Kölsch (4.5%) – German Ale

I too started with the Kölsch, which I have found in the past to be a lagery ale. Lager-heads, write that down, since we need all the alternatives we can find, especially if we hang around with ale-lovers and hop-heads. This one did not live up to the one I remember best (Succursale's La Petite Côte). It was a bit wheat-y, like a wheat beer, and did not have too much taste or body. There was also a bit of silkiness to it. My notes say, “Honey?” I'd prefer Succursale's or Creemore's, but this beverage was good.

THE CONNOISSEUR: A.P.A. (5.5%) – American pale ale

Lots of citrus aroma and bitterness, yet surprisingly smooth. This is a real session pale ale. Very good head retention and Belgian lace all the way down the glass; a good indicator that this publican has been schooled. This is one fine citra-hopped ale.

THE PHILISTINE: Schwarzbier (4.3%) – German black lager

In all fairness, what follows from me is NOT a review of this beer.

I thought I was learning. Now, I know that I know nothing, to paraphrase Ygritte, Jon Snow's travelling companion/girlfriend in *Game of Thrones*, and Socrates. I thought I knew that I liked lagers, maybe not all of them, but the vast majority, as long as they weren't sullied with strawberries or raspberries or some other substance.

I also thought I liked ales that tasted



like lagers. The very term “lager” has been my touchstone, my North Star. I thought I was perhaps becoming “the Philistine-plus,” not quite the Connoisseur, but somewhat knowledgeable.

Then I had this beer. I have had a black lager before (Guinness' version, at the Mondiale de la bière). It was okay.

This was not.

What am I doing trying to drink this? It tastes like beer mixed with coffee and then made creamy. It is not “beer” to my palate. It is harder to drink than the same amount of straight gin, or even whiskey. And then it stays with you, because it is filling. *Very filling*. Who wants to sit around and drink this substance for fun? Or in any quantity?

So now I know. I do not like all lagers. I did not like this drink. I will not order another black lager, or lager's version of stout, as I think of it. I would rather be drinking warm Export in the park in high school than this liquid.

I gave the last bit of my pint to the Connoisseur and then he ordered his glass. Please read his review.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Schwarzbier (4.3%) – German black lager

Schwarz means “black” in German and while it looks like motor oil, one would expect it to be heavy, but it is not. What you get with most schwarzbiers is actually a

light beer with depth of malt taste, but not overly chocolate or roasted, tastes that stouts typically have. It's lightness is also a product of the magic of slow, lager-yeast fermentation, which produces very tiny bubbles in the foam, which contributes a smooth sensation going down. Boswell's version is very palatable, even though it strays far into chocolate/coffee flavour and aroma territory. I think this is a deliberate deviation from style to appeal to what most Quebecers like.

(*The Philistine*: on reading this review and talking to Greg again, I think I might summon all my courage and try a more typical *schwarzbier* at some time in the future. Maybe I'll be ready to try a half-pint in 2030? Just get that damned coffee out of my beer!)

THE PHILISTINE: Bitter (4.5%) – bitter

I like about half of the bitters that I try. I liked this one. It was malty without having too many odd tastes. (Some have a brown-ale taste).

THE CONNOISSEUR: Binette KS (5.6%) – raspberry sour ale

I know it seems counter-intuitive to want to taste “sour” in a beer, or actually in anything. Sour describes things that taste bad.

Fermentation is about cleanliness, control and predictability, but to make a sour ale, the brewer has to introduce a wild

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yeast, aka an acid-producing bacteria – a word that is not too popular in my house, your house, or the MUHC super-hospital.

So, why do this at all?

Generally, there are two types of beer, ales and lagers. But with the introduction of these other tricky yeasts, you get a whole new category of beer with a huge spectrum of taste possibilities that converge, diverge, offset or marry with ale or lager.

Brettanomyces yeast, in contrast to the saccharomyces cerevisiae used in ale and lager, to me, is what the synthesizer is to musical instruments.

Binette, which uses brettanomyces, is subtly sweet and sour simultaneously, very refreshing, and a great segue from my last beer. It cleanses my palate in the middle of tonight's beer voyage the way lemon sorbet segments meal courses. My only complaint is that it was flat with a third of it left in my snifter, again maybe because this was the wrong glass; a tulip or flute may have been better since it is designed to retain the foam head. I could have started the whole evening off with Binette KS as well because it would have made a great aperitif. Well done, I'd have it again.

THE CONNOISSEUR: Chipotle Porter

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(4.7%) – Americanized English Ale

You know we've hit on an interesting selection when our gang quickly pipes in with its critiques that range from "very integrated and nice coffee aroma," to "It's like the stuff I protect my boots with in winter."

A true "wedge beverage." Keep this away from the politicians come October.

It has a smokey aroma, goes down cold, and heats up quickly after you swallow, with some real heat! I personally love the cold temperature, hot spice contrast possible in a beer. I once had a beer from Arizona called Cave Creek Chili Beer that actually had a serano pepper floating in it. With its coffee/chocolate taste and aroma, this is like having a Lindt Excellence chili/dark chocolate bar in a beer. You will never find this variation of porter in Metro or IGA, but the Atwater Market Fromagerie carries Brasserie Dunham's varieties and you can try its Porter Coco Chipotle (7.5 percent). Kudos to Boswell for getting this style variation right at a tame 4.7 percent.

THE PHILISTINE: Roggenbier (4%)

Just to complete the trauma of the evening, I tried this beer. My notes say, "Love child of a double IPA and a cask." Why was I drinking this? Looking back at a photo of the menu, I see why. There are two IPAs, an APA, a "RyePA" and an im-

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perial IPA. There is a stout and a porter. Oh yeah, and there is "sour ale with raspberries," a "funky tripel" and a wheat beer. How did I not run out of this place when I finished reading?

But back to the Roggenbier. What was it like? It had a weird taste and then a weird aftertaste. What more can I say?

THE CONNOISSEUR: Foreign Extra Stout (6%) – English ale

Why not just call this one stout? First, there was an oatmeal stout and a breakfast stout on the menu, so one reason is that we have to call this something different. The porter-stout story could take up a book, or even an entire *Independent!* The short story is that before refrigeration and pasteurization, Guinness would have more heavily hopped its stout leaving Ireland, to protect it from those wild yeasts, including brettanomyces, described in Binette KS, above. Prior to loading it on the boat, it would blend the conditioned beer with newly brewed beer, called "fresh runnings," to balance that extra bitterness with unfermented sweetness. That's why regular Guinness is only about 4.2 percent, while this Foreign Extra Stout is 6 percent. This version is perfectly hopped and mildly sweet – bulls-eye on the style and taste. Wish I could drink it all night but I didn't bring a stretcher with me.

Summary

THE CONNOISSEUR: It's a good thing that Boswell is not located next door to me, otherwise I would be there every day, and my children would go hungry. I love that it is making lagers and ales, and covers the world's styles under one roof so well. They keep the food menu simple and make everything well. We all shared some respectable calamari and my fish 'n' chips was very good. It's the right size of place, a little too dark, but we all have to complain about something, right? Please check this place out on your next beer outing.

THE PHILISTINE: I hate to say it, since the service was great, but – of all the places that we have reviewed – this brewpub was not for me. There was nowhere



for a (normal variety) lager drinker to hide. Between the funky this, and the raspberry that, and the coffees – I mean the roasted-malt beers – I could not find a refuge. Unsolicited advice to microbreweries: after you've made your aromatic first brews (which I admit is your first mandate), make a (normal variety) lager for the friends of beer snobs. They are people too, and potential clients.

I remember nothing about the bathrooms, but the trauma of the whole night might have erased memories of great décor.

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25 years of appreciating the first 100 years of film



By MARTIN C. BARRY

The Film Society of Montreal will be staging a “ciné-concert” at Westmount Park United Church on May 19, challenging members to judge three of the silent era’s most famous stars – Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd – along with the talents of three live musicians who’ll provide the accompaniment.

The society, which holds two screenings a year at the church, celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

According to Film Society president Philippe Spurrell, who is a Hollowell Ave. resident, the basic focus remains the first 100 years of filmmaking – 1890 to 1990. The society also concentrates on showing movies through a film projector, often with live music as it was in the silent film

era.

“We leave up to Netflix and the multiplexes to promote what’s new,” said Spurrell, whose professional background is in film production. “A lot of people who attend our events have never seen a silent film with live musicians. For them, this is a real discovery.”

For the May 19 event, the accompanists will provide background music for Chaplin’s 1917 film *The Immigrants*, Keaton’s *The Blacksmith*, which came out in 1922, and Lloyd’s *Safety Last* from 1923.

“At the end, the audience is going to decide, based on what they just saw, who’s the king of comedy – is it Chaplin, is it Lloyd, is it Keaton?” Spurrell said. “And who is the best accompanist.”

The Film Society’s popular screenings of silent horror classics like *The Phantom*

of the Opera at Westmount Park United Church around Halloween have always been more chilling, with musical accompaniment played on the church’s large pipe organ.

According to Spurrell, the Keaton film at the upcoming event will include music played on the organ, while Lloyd and Chaplin will be accompanied by scores performed on the church’s baby grand piano.

Established in 1992, the Film Society of Montreal operated for its first five years out of the former Royal Canadian Air Force building at the corner of Sherbrooke and Metcalfe, which has since then been converted to condos.

For the past six years, the society has held most screenings in a film viewing facility in the Visual Arts building at Concordia University’s downtown campus, as well as in the Cinéma J. A. deSève in the McConnell Building, also at Concordia.

Spurrell said the society is currently working on a project next year to mark the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing of a spacecraft on the Moon in July 1969.

While noting that details for the event are yet to be worked out, he said they are hoping to invite NDG-Westmount member of parliament Marc Garneau as a special guest, since he was Canada’s first astronaut.



Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

'Shalom Montreal' at the McCord

The exhibit highlights how the Jewish community participated in the city's growth and development during the 20th century, showcasing remarkable achievements in health and science, human rights, business, arts and culture and architecture: **Moshe Safdie's** Habitat 67 and **Phyllis Lambert's** CCA being only a few highlighted.

It features multimedia installations organized into five different thematic zones. Among objects displayed are clothing from brands such as Le Château (founded by Westmounter Herschel Segal), Parachute (former Westmounters Harry Par-

The McCord Museum was absolutely shoulder-to-shoulder packed for the opening cocktail of "Shalom Montreal – Stories and Contributions of the Jewish Community." The word "*shalom*" symbolizes openness to others and friendship," noted Suzanne Sauvage, CEO, McCord. "Thanks to Jewish philanthropy, Montreal's urban landscape has been enriched with various buildings on university campuses and in the fields of medicine and culture."



Israeli consul general David Levy, Suzanne Sauvage and Heidi Hollinger.

nass and Nicola Pelly) and Canderel; books (Irving Layton), and a gramophone (designed by Émile Berliner).

Entertaining guests as they sipped wine (kosher and non-kosher) were live klezmer music (eastern European music

in the Jewish tradition) and a slide show of such iconic institutions as Bagels St. Viateur, Wilensky's and Schwartz's.

The museum was not the only one with stories to tell. Speaking of royal weddings – isn't the *continued on p. 27*



Pascale Grignon and Georges Aubin.



Sol, Doreen and David Sternfeld.



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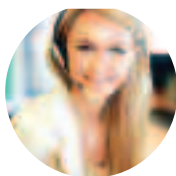
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Harper gives \$1 million to Chez Doris women’s shelter



Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Talk about out of the blue. Chez Doris received an unexpected surprise: a major gift from **Andrew Harper**, a Westmount resident. The dapper 95-years-young philanthropist donated \$1 million to the shelter that assists vulnerable women. In celebration of his generosity, Harper was guest of honour on May 6 at the 9th Annual Tea Time held at the Grey Nuns’ Building, Concordia University.

And what a tea it was! No mad hatters here.

Little cut sandwiches included the classic cucumber as well as smoked salmon, and of course scones, as well as decadent brownies, catered by Westmount’s Simply Wonderful.

Volunteers from The Study and Sacred Heart School were perfect waitresses. Tables were charming with pots of tiny cheerful daffodils and coloured serviettes. MC was media celeb **Isabelle Racicot**.

Chez Doris executive director, local res **Marina Boulos-Winton**, thanked the sold-out supporters, explaining that the shelter almost closed its doors in 2014. “Now we can realize our mission on a larger scale, and can evaluate the possibility of increasing our offerings for women in the downtown core.”

The donation showed the importance of relationships, as it was due to a suggestion by Harper’s accountant **Harold Merton** that the contribution was made. Addressing the crowd of ladies were provincial ministers Westmounter **Kathleen Weil**, responsible for Access to Information and the Reform of Democratic Institutions and Relations with English-Speak-

ing Quebecers, and **Geoffrey Kelley**, responsible for Native Affairs as well as **Marc Miller**, Liberal MP and **Serge Lareault**, commissioner for Homeless People.

The silent auction table included offerings from local Le Salon Mod’s, Atelier Blow and 5 Saisons, as well as Michael Kors, Ogilvy, Holt Renfrew and L’Oréal. A huge hit were the warm mitts and slippers made by Chez Doris ladies. Created from recycled sweaters, they were quickly snapped up in spite of the hot day.

Speaking of Grey Nuns, there were three sisters: **Elaine Baete**, **Marguerie Boisvert** and **Faye Wylie**, who gave a tour of the historic chapel, now the Concordia reading room.

Chez Doris board pres **Talar Dikijian** thanked the tea party guests, who were dressed in spring finery due to the sudden arrival of Montreal’s usual instant May heat. Many ladies said “yes to the dress.”

Michèle Laforest wore a strapless one, complemented with a sparkly choker and **Erin Matheson** was cool in navy.

Westmounters noted included **Jill Huguesson**, **Susan Schwartz**, **Margaret Lefebvre**, **Mary Louise Donohue**, **Bronwen Mantel**, **Margaret Nicolai**, **Grace Patone**, **Roger Perrault**, **Nicole Sharp**, **Lori Spence**, **Cynthia Kathleen Taylor**, **Adèle Hebert**, **David Oberman**, **Lorri Faughnan**, **Geoffrey Chambers**, **Carrie Havelka Poulin** and **Grant Winton**.

The tea itself raised \$38,675, \$14,000 more than last year. The needs of women in difficulty continue to grow in downtown Montreal. In 2017-2018, 551 women visited Chez Doris for the first time, a 59-percent increase from last year. Chez Doris’s clientele is made up of 31 percent francophones, 21 percent anglophones, 19 percent aboriginal women and 29 percent from other cultural communities.



Andrew Harper, Marina Boudros-Winton and Harold Merton.



Sisters Elaine Baete, Marguerite Boisvert and Faye Wylie.



Marc Miller.



Talar Kikijian and Isabelle Racicot.



Michele Laforest and Erin Matheson.

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Social notes, cont'd. from p. 25

world just a-twitter about how Harry met Meghan!

Former Westmounter **David Sternfeld** explained he photographed the ceremony of Prince Charles and Princess Diana! He was sent to London by UPI. How cool is that! His father, **Sol Sternfeld** (a local res) recently celebrated his 70th reunion from McGill University's faculty of engineering. Sol attended with his always-elegant wife

Doreen Sternfeld, who wore very royal-looking double-strand pearls with her black cocktail suit.

Israeli consul general David Levy attended, as did Westmounters **Lana Harper**, **Honey Dresher**, whose fun fur vest was the perfect attire for the still-chilly eve, and **Heidi Hollinger**, ambassador for the exhibit, who showed her stripes in a, well, Little Striped Dress by Michael Kors. She was there with her mum, **Tuula Hollinger**.

Also noted were **Georges Aubin** from Royal Photo; **Lillian Vineberg** and **Morris Goodman**, Parisian musician **Henri Oppenheim**, the McCord's **Nadia Martineau** (PR guru, in black) and **Pascale Grignon** (marketing director, in white), and former *Flare* magazine exec **Catherine Juster**, classic in Calvin Klein and Chanel earrings.

The McCord show is on until November 11, 2018.



Catherine Juster and Honey Dresher.

Comin' Up

TUESDAY, MAY 15

Westmount Healthy City Project presents second of two-part series on "Animal Smarts." Free admission. Westmount Public Library, 4574 Sherbrooke. 7 pm.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

Perennial Plant Exchange of the Horticultural Advisory Committee. Outside Westmount Public Library. 4:30 to 6 pm: plant drop-off and voucher distribution. 6 to 6:30 pm: exchange for voucher holders only. 6:30 to 7:30 pm: sale, open to all, plants \$2 each.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

Silent movie concert: "Chaplin vs. Keaton vs. Lloyd" in three of their short films with three live musicians. \$12.75/

\$8.50 + tax, cash only Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve. 8 pm.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

Vernissage for Israeli Art Exhibit and Sale from the Safrai Gallery of Jerusalem. \$75, registration by May 15, 514.937.9474 x 139 or shaarhashomayim.org/event/art_exhibit_sale. Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. 6 pm. Open admission Wednesday & Thursday, May 23 & 24, 11am to 9 pm.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Dramatis Personae will perform *Vintage Hitchcock*, a comedy composed of three Hitchcock movies (*The Lodger*, *Sabotage* and *Thirty-nine Steps*). Admission by donation. Reservation at www.theatrewestmount.ca.

mount.ca. Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. 7:30 pm. Also Saturday, May 26 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, and Monday, May 28 at 8 pm.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

Mini-concert by Devon Packer, 12-year-old pianist who recently performed at Carnegie Hall. Lecture followed by lunch. \$5. Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. Reservations appreciated: 514.937.9474 x 139. 12 noon.

TUESDAY, MAY 29

Panel discussion "Is There a Future for Jews in Germany?" Irwin Cotler, Lord Gordon Wasserman, Sabine Sparwasser, Gemma Wasserman-Michalski and Rabbi Adam Scheier. Free. Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. 7:30 pm

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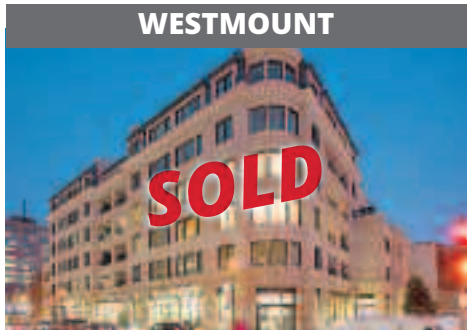
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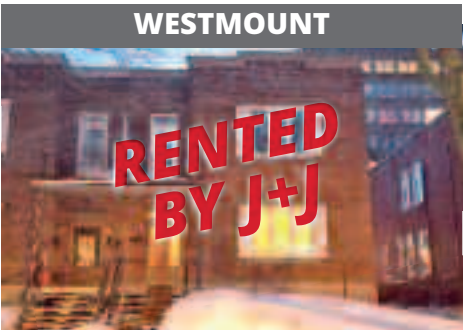
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