

Wind, cold move event to 'Alcatraz adjacent'

Y Masters swimmers attend Sharkfest 2018

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Ten members of the Westmount Y Masters swim team joined some 700 swimmers from the around the world June 9 in the 26th Alcatraz Sharkfest event off San Francisco.

Two of the local team, Westmount resident Tara Norris and Jeanne Pilote, placed second and third in their age categories in the swim of 1.5 km.

This year, extreme weather, wind and a

small craft warning from the US Coast Guard modified the open water race usually swum from the island of Alcatraz to the mainland. As a result, it had to be held in a protected area.

"We were all so disappointed after all the hype, training and psychological preparation," said former city councillor Rosalind Davis of Lorraine Ave., who participated for the first time.

Nevertheless, "it was a great challenge," she said. The water was cold – 16 degrees Celsius (61°F) – and so dense due to the salt that "you couldn't see other swimmers until they were right on top of you. You had to keep looking up after a few strokes."

For Christine Cardinal of Murray Hill, it was her *continued on p. 4*

Ask and ye shall receive



200 Lansdowne condo board member Andrew Liebmann complained at the June 4 city council meeting about the lack of lines demarking the no-stopping box in front of his building. We photographed their absence on June 8 (inset photo) and then noticed new lines on June 14 (main photo). He also criticized the quality of the paint. Mayor Christina Smith agreed, saying, "We on council have been very disappointed with the line painting." Let's see how these ones hold up...

Photos: Lauren Sweeney (inset), Independent.

This issue is the *Independent's* third-to-last before our usual, three-week summer break (no issues on July 17, 24 and 31). Last day to submit letters or content: Sunday, July 8.

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It's construction season! And residents have concerns

"All politics is local," goes the tired refrain and, this month, individual Westmounters have expressed critical views on a number of construction-related issues in different parts of the city.

Concerns ranged from perennial ones about long-term projects (i.e. the Turcot and the MUHC's Glen campus) to ones regarding permits for their own construction work on private houses (i.e. on Roslyn and de Lavigne). Another resident ques-

tioned whether Bell was in fact doing emergency work at 3 am.

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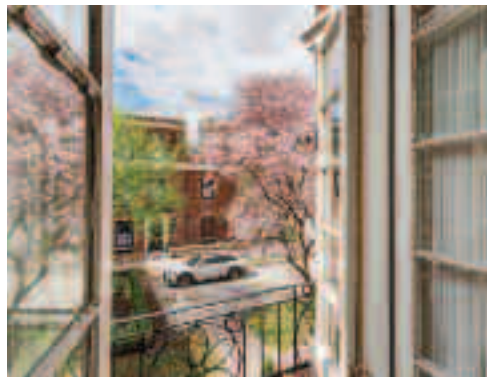
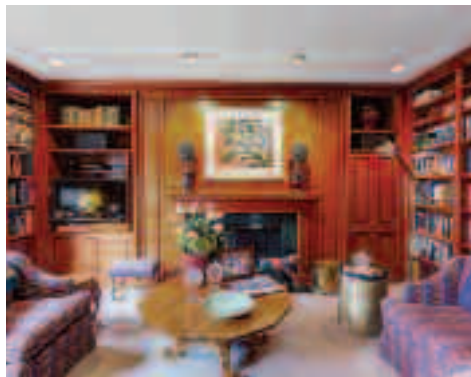
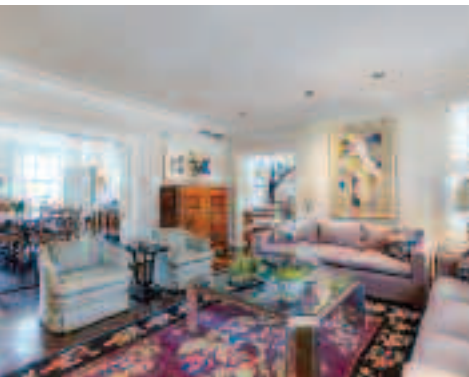
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Contactivity walks with cops



Photo courtesy of G. Hynes

Westmount's Contactivity Centre held its fourth Walk-with-a-Cop event on June 11 with 26 in attendance, including 12 Walkie Talkies (Contactivity's 60+ walking

group), eight officers from Station 12 in Westmount and six members of Respecting Elders, Communities Against Abuse. The sunny walk along de Maisonneuve and through Westmount Park was dedicated to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15. As explained by Sgt. Christopher Brault (pictured far right, next to Lt. Jacques Meunier), the idea was for the officers to demystify police work by explaining what they do and to answer any questions seniors had regarding safety and security. Contactivity outreach worker Fiona Smith, Walkie Talkies coordinator Karen Evoy and socio-community-relations officer Stéphan Laperrière also lent a hand with the event, which (after coffee at Mouton Noir) ended up at Contactivity, where an information kiosk and soup awaited hungry participants.

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Swimmers, cont'd. from p. 1
third year and she's raring to go back.

More fun this year
“It was quite an experience to share with my daughter, Amanda Emblem,” she said. “Funnily enough, I think I had more fun this time. It was all about ‘the journey’ with my teammates and doing it with the group with someone like Roz (Davis) on her first time.”

Previously in better weather, Cardinal has jumped from the starting boat off Alcatraz to swim to the mainland, but that would have been too dangerous this time, she said.
A notice to Sharkfest participants before the race announced the course change, saying: “The forecast calls for wind speeds of 20-30 mph and gusts of 40 mph in the San Francisco Bay, which would be highly unsafe for swimmers, kayakers and support boats....
“It’s always a disappointment when we can’t produce the event in the way we intended and in the way that you’ve been training for, but producing and participating in open-water swim events means we are at the mercy of Mother Nature.”
The swim re-enacts the escape by three inmates from the notorious Alcatraz prison on the night of June 12, 1962.



An Alcatraz race team of Westmount Y Masters swimmers June 9 in San Francisco, are, from left: Amanda Emblem, Jeanne Pilote, Rosalind Davis, Yves Lussier, Lisa Osterland, Manon de Ladurantaye, Christine Cardinal, Arden Furlotte, Tara Norris and Alexandre Lussier. Photo courtesy of Rosalind Davis.



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Yes, new houses get built in Westmount



The construction of whole new buildings is quite rare in Westmount, and new house construction is even rarer. Workers at the new 4352 Westmount Ave., pictured here on June 8 (main photo), have made quite a bit of progress on their greenfields house project. It is in the former side lot of 65 Forden (inset).

Photos: Independent.



Jacques Chagnon
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City looking into it: Mayor Smith Ajram questions Bell ‘emergency’ work at 3 am

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A resident of Dorchester told city council at its mid-month meeting June 18 he was awakened at 3 am June 15 by excavation of the sidewalk outside his home and had called Public Security, who responded and told him they would look after it. When the work continued, Douglas Ajram called again and was told Bell was doing emergency work.

How could it be an emergency, he asked council, when residents had received a notice about three weeks earlier from Bell

saying they would be digging up the sidewalk and would repair any damage?

“That can’t classify as an emergency,” Mayor Christina Smith replied. She had heard about the incident and said her office was looking into it. “We’re still trying to find out about it.”

“All I’m looking for is the truth,” Ajram said.

He told the *Independent* June 20 the sidewalk was still dug up, but no more work had taken place in front of his home near the corner of Clandeboye near where sidewalks had been dug up for road re-

construction work this summer.

He said what he wants to know is whether Bell had a permit from the city, or if someone had simply forgotten to get one and, of course, why such work had been allowed to continue at 3 am; and also why Public Security appeared to have taken the word of a foreman that it was an emergency.

“When Public Security arrived after my first call, they told me to go back inside and they would take care of it. When they left about 10 minutes later, no one came to knock on my door to inform me. I would

have expected Public Security to challenge the foreman on the nature of an emergency and not just take their word for it.”

In information she had already received, Bell states the work related to trouble on the line experienced by a customer on Tupper at Gladstone.

Tests led technicians to identify the source as involving a cable where the city’s contractor had been digging up the sidewalk and accessible outside Ajram’s house on Dorchester. Bell had dispatched an emergency contractor by 1 am, who began excavation around 3 am. It was not clear how the problem had been resolved.

Smith said city officials had been in touch with Bell to arrange a post-mortem meeting at the end of July or beginning of August to review procedures during emergency events.

Meanwhile, Ajram said the hole remains and he still has no answers. “I will be persistent. I will not let this go.”



Melka questions PAC’s permit recommendations

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

The impartiality of the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) was questioned by local resident Erik Melka June 18 after the council’s usual mid-month approval of building permits.

He asked that if a city councillor borrows money from a citizen, does it need to be declared? Assistant city clerk Nicole Dobbie said it would depend on the circumstances. She would need more details and offered to

meet with him after the meeting.

He then asked whether any of the 20 permits that had just been approved had been applied for by an architectural member of PAC and/or their organization.

Councillor Conrad Peart, Urban Planning commissioner for permits and architecture, looked down at what appeared to be the permits and said he didn’t think so. “Are you sure?” Melka asked. “I’m not sure,” Peart replied.

In the past, it had been explained that

when PAC members or their firms are involved in a file, those members are replaced by the committee’s substitutes. “It’s important not to have a conflict of interest,” explained then-Urban Planning commissioner Theodora Samiotis on one of the occasions that she appointed substitute members (see story February 10, 2015, p. 4)

Melka, whose own request to not replace a verandah had been refused June 4, said after the meeting he was planning to submit revised plans for the verandah.

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Luke Kalaydjian, Valedictorian

Revised plan goes through council

51 de Lavigne gets okay for 52% demolition, major reno

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

At the June 18 continuation of a hearing that began on May 7, city council authorized demolition of the house at 51 de Lavigne based on a revised plan to remove 52 percent rather than 100 percent.

This was described as leading to major renovation to convert the two-storey stucco house into a higher quality one of three floors, instead of building a new one on what would have amounted to an empty lot.

During the hearing, concerns were voiced by two neighbours regarding safety and past annoyances experienced with construction work at other houses on their dead-end street.

Other residents warned the decision could open the door to other requests for Category II demolitions and asked that a moratorium be imposed on them until the city could develop a demolition procedure for this category of heritage rating.

Mayor Christina Smith said “no one” should view the decision at 51 de Lavigne

as opening the door to demolition of Category II houses.

In this particular case, she said, considering that part of the house would now be retained, “we don’t have the same reticence” regarding the demolition as the council had had May 7 when unable to reach a decision and adjourning the meeting.

Urban Planning director Tom Flies said some of the differences between complete destruction of the house and the current plan mean that the wall on the west side would be retained, as well as part of the front wall and about three-quarters of the rear one. The second storey within a mansard roof would be removed and a third floor added as well as a rear extension and a new roof.

The revised issue had been confusing to some at the meeting since no plans were shown visually. Without any posting of the revised plans, said retired architect Bruce Anderson, a resident of Côte St. Antoine, “I have no clue what is being proposed.”



Resident Caroline Breslaw addressing Tom Flies, the city's Urban Planning director.

The plan for 52-percent demolition and the preliminary plan for enlarging the dwelling had in fact been originally submitted to the city before the applicant had changed the request to complete demolition (see story May 15, p. 8). In either case, a public hearing would be required once

the removal of 50-percent or more of a façade or roof is requested.

Residents weigh in

de Lavigne residents Marc Brillon and Michael Magee told the meeting how construction at some other houses had been very disruptive. The council explained that five conditions on excavation and site management would be closely monitored.

Caroline and Jon Breslaw of Grosvenor reiterated a request from the May 7 meeting for the moratorium on demolition of Category II heritage rated houses, which account for 80 percent of Westmount's housing stock. “It’s a slippery slope,” she said (see story May 15, p. 9).

Councillor Conrad Peart, Urban Planning commissioner for permits and architecture, said the council was now convinced the proposed demolition was advisable, taking into account the public interest, the interest of the parties, the superior quality of a renovated house, the cost of its restoration of \$688,000 being “not prohibitive” and the owner’s need for a larger family home.

Place Kensington exhibits residents' work

BY HEATHER BLACK

Colourful water colours and ceramic figures were exhibited on June 7 at Place Kensington's Annual Art Exhibition.

Paintings included flowers, still lifes and village scenes created at the seniors' residence in Marcia Roszler's watercolour classes. For the first time, painted scul-

tures and ornaments produced in ceramic classes led by Melanie Harvey were also on display. The exhibition of over 100 works is the creative output of 11 residents.

Some of the participating artists, like Katie Ostroff, are seasoned painters or, like Ben Sevak, have rediscovered a childhood hobby. Others are new to painting, like Jane Blunt, who began last January at the

suggestion of a friend.

The residents' work, displayed throughout the year in showcases near the art room, is a constant source of delight for Place Kensington residents and their guests. Recreation coordinator Doreen Friedman commented: “How often have we stood back, almost in awe, gazing at the detail and creative thought that these artists put into this work.”

During the vernissage many of the exhibited paintings were available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds slated for the Batshaw Youth and Family Centres. Place Kensington Seniors Residence is located at 4430 St. Catherine St.



Painters Katie Ostroff, Jane Blunt and Ben Sevak in front row, with Marcia Roszler (holding Sevak's painting) on June 7.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LET THE SHOPPERS LINE UP



A no-stopping sign on Victoria Ave. at the entrance to the Metro grocery store's parking lot on June 22. In the background, there is another one pointed south down Victoria Ave.

Photo: Independent

I am writing because of the ongoing harassment by the police of Metro grocery store customers entering our parking lot while waiting in line to get in the lot where there is a no-stopping sign on Victoria Ave. Our customers are told by the police to keep going and circulate till there is no line-up.

This is totally ridiculous and frustrating – both to our customers and employees. I would like the public to know about this and to stop this nonsense.

SANDRO PATULLI, METRO/ALIMENTATION
FIORELLO VELLUCCI (VICTORIA AVE.)

LET THE BABIES NOT LINE UP

I just noticed a letter in the “Letter to the Editor” section of the *Independent* entitled “Disappointed with baby swing removal” (June 19, p. 8).

I’ve been contemplating writing my own letter because I also find it ridiculous that at the two most popular parks in Westmount (Westmount Park and Murray Hill), they removed the baby swing and only put two in.

I live in between those two parks and have three small children. I now have to constantly wait in line to get one free swing, especially during peak times at the end of the day and weekends. Furthermore, once you get one swing, you feel constant pressure to leave since you are stared down by other parents waiting. These two parks are very big, with lots of green space available. Why could we not keep the five to six baby swings that we had, instead of removing them and only putting two baby swings instead? I would love to understand the reasoning!

I resorted to going to the park on Prince Albert, where they still had the five baby swings, but a few weeks ago there too they decided to remove them and replace them with only two baby swings and two of the larger plastic ones for older kids. Someone seems to be forgetting the fact that Westmount is filled with families with small children and that whoever is making these decisions is really ruining our parks.

Anyway, I am not sure whom we should be complaining to about this, but I think if someone were to just come to Westmount Park on the weekend, they would see that two baby swings is really not enough!

SANDRA SZEWCZUK,
MOUNT STEPHEN AVE.

Apologies for the construction, and *bon voyage(s)* to Bruce St. Louis



Mayor’s Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

As council completes its first eight months in office and we finally welcome summer, we wish to apologize in advance for the inconveniences created by our ongoing \$15-million investment in roads, sidewalks, parks, hydro and sewers. It may be painful at times to navigate with traffic and even more so if you live on a street that is being rebuilt, but it is so necessary.

Since beginning my term as mayor, I have been busy with both Westmount and the agglomeration council, and the Association of Suburban Mayors (ASM). Working closely with other mayors of demerged cities and with the incoming executive director of the ASM, Vincent Robidas, we are focused on securing changes to the budgeting process.

Helping me on this learning curve involved with being mayor has been Bruce St. Louis, a longstanding friend of Westmount and the demerged cities. Over the past months, our rides to Montreal city hall have involved me firing questions at him on a wide range of topics and Bruce patiently providing me with both an historical perspective on the particular issue and sound advice. For more than four decades, Bruce has been the model public servant, providing thoughtful counsel and effective support, for example, to mayors Trent and Marks when they were mayors of Westmount and, since 2007, to mayors from across the island.

Bruce to retire, again/for real

Bruce is now retiring for the second time (and I believe for real this time), leaving his current position as the executive director of the ASM. In this capacity, he has worked tirelessly to build a fairer system in order to ensure your tax dollars are well spent at the agglomeration. As he leaves public service, I wish to express our

gratitude for his professionalism, his principled leadership and his friendship.

As I indicated, before joining the ASM, Bruce enjoyed a long and successful career in Westmount, starting in September 1975 as a civil engineer in our Public Works department and eventually serving as our director general from 1993 to 2008.

I recently asked Bruce what was his most rewarding experience during his tenure in Westmount. Without hesitation, he replied that it was the ice storm of 1998. Bruce never left Westmount throughout



Mayor Christina Smith with Bruce St. Louis on June 14. Photo: Laureen Sweeney.

the crisis, coordinating our multi-faceted response and ensuring the safety of residents. He slept on his office floor and did not rest until the streets were cleared and the lights were back on.

Soft-spoken but committed to meeting the community’s needs, Bruce advocated on behalf of his staff, focused on service and program delivery and appreciated the vital role elected representatives play in ensuring residents have a voice in city affairs. His impact in Westmount and for the ASM will endure, and my hope is that his example inspires others to pursue careers as elected or non-elected municipal officials.

I wish Bruce and his partner Shelley all the best as they make more time to travel and enjoy the next phase of their lives. I will miss our car rides, but am confident that by walking over to the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club I will still be able to benefit from Bruce’s wise counsel.

I hope to see many of you at our Canada Day celebrations, and I wish you and your family a wonderful summer. Enjoy the parks, pool and all that summer has to offer.

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BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

Council approves 24 building projects, refuses 1 request

The following permit requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved or refused at the June 4 meeting of the city council.

Approved

111 Irvine: to do front and rear landscaping, provided the soft coverage at the front is a minimum of 70%;

729 Upper Lansdowne: at a Category I house, to install a new guard rail on the garage and modify the front walkway;

3279 Cedar: to install a pool, do landscaping and build a side balcony;

305 Elm: at a Category I house, to replace a window by a door and create a basement access at the rear;

611 Victoria: to make repairs on the solarium and replace windows;

3216 The Boulevard: to repair the front balcony provided the railing is made of wood;

22 Sunnyside: to replace windows provided they are clad with aluminum;

109 Upper Bellevue: to replace a front door;

576 Grosvenor: to replace windows;

4185 St. Catherine: to install two signs;

134 Abbott: to modify the rear balcony and repair the front one;

1120 Greene: at a Category I house, to replace windows on condition they be of wood (interior and exterior);

478 Mount Pleasant: at a Category I house, to modify two window openings at the rear to accommodate French doors with flanking windows and condemn an opening to the mudroom provided the windows and doors are wood without metal cladding and that no divisions are incorporated in the glazing;

Glen Rd.: to replace the fence alongside the road on condition the new fence is identical to the one at the vehicle entrance to the south;

343 Kensington: to pave the parking apron and walkway provided apron is physically separated from the walkway by a planting bed;

520 Victoria: to replace windows;

1 Wood: at a Category I building, to replace a window by a door on a balcony;

122 Arlington: to repair a front balcony;

484 Wood: at a Category I house, to replace a garage door;

463 Clarke: to replace a side door;

654 Belmont: to replace windows provided the central division is kept on one so designated and that another is a double-hung style as per the original.

617 Clarke: at a Category I house, modifications at the rear and repaving of the driveway on condition the separation between entries to the garage is maintained;

26 Aberdeen: to build an accessory building at the rear and to do some landscaping;

33 Rosemount: to build a marquee over the front entrance.

Refused

680 Roslyn: to revise plans approved in building permit #36771 in order to not complete the construction of a porch on the front and side façades (see story June 12, p. 6).

Car drags cone



This car, photographed on Sherbrooke eastbound near Grosvenor on June 14, was dragging a signal cone under its left front tire. It was not ascertainable if it was a public or private cone.

Photo: Independent.

Council approves 20 more building projects June 18

The following permit requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the June 18 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

Approved

451 Victoria: repairs in the front yard on

condition a larger band of planting is introduced between the driveway and walkway;

68 Belvedere: at a Category I house, to change the door and windows provided they and the mullions are of wood (interior and exterior);

53 Bruce: masonry re- continued on p. 18

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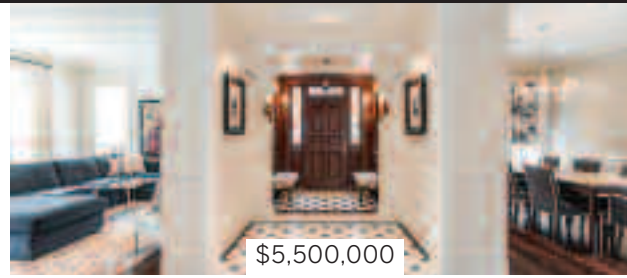
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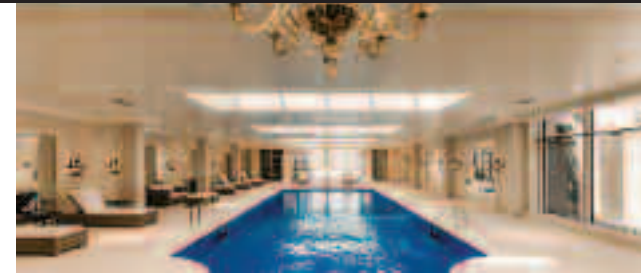
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End-of-year opening planned for St. Jacques bridge over Decarie

Turcot update: Decarie expressway's Sherbrooke-area ramps to close this fall, for months/years



Citizen-member Brigitte Stock and city of Westmount employee Jonathan Auger.

By DAVID PRICE

Residents of southern Montreal West, and their anger at the provincial ministry of Transport (MTQ) and CN, dominated the June 11 meeting of the Turcot NDG-Westmount-Montreal West Neighbourhood Committee, held at the St. Raymond community centre in southeastern NDG.

Even so, representatives from southern Westmount, namely the three city councillors of the affected districts and two citizen-members of the committee, asked questions and prodded MTQ and KPH-Turcot construction consortium officials about work being done on the 720/136 autoroute in southern Westmount.

A lone private citizen from Westmount, Roselyne Perrault, also quizzed officials, asking about the schedule of the demolition work for the old, raised, westbound 720. The answer? All night from August to September, with some work continuing later into the fall, necessitating closures during some weekends, but noisy work is scheduled to end at 11 pm. It was also conveyed to her that the new 136 west will be a little higher than the 136 east, but its joints will be less pronounced (and so, it was contended, less noisy) than those of the old 720, which was up in the air, not laid on the ground.

In all, approximately 25 people came to hear and question the 14 panellists.

KPH-Turcot previews autumn work

Construction-side panelists began the meeting by answering questions from the previous one (March 28).

The MTQ's Sandra Sultana said that KPH-Turcot received no fine for late, noisy work on January 14, an incident about which citizen-member Michael Mossop grilled representatives last meeting (see April 3, p. 6). According to her, there had been no permission for late, loud work, but the fault was more "administrative and procedural," and permission would likely have been given eventually or in similar circumstances. Westmount city councillor Marina Brzeski attacked this reasoning later in the meeting, asking if un-permitted work can in general be forgiven by saying a permit is in the offing. Sultana stuck

to her guns, saying that this kind of permission is given all the time and KPH-Turcot had simply erred in asking for too much time in that application.

After the follow-up on previous questions, Sylvie Gervais and Karolynn Battle of KPH-Turcot presented the plan for current and future work. Three portions of the new St. Jacques bridge over the Decarie expressway have been placed, with two to go. Although the timeline was described as "very tight" by Sultana, the plan is to have the bridge open by the end of the year.

Construction of the new 136 will continue 24 hours a day until the end of the summer, which means the currently closed Lucien L'Allier and Fort entrances to the 136/20/720 westbound will remain so, and the temporary Rose de Lima entrance will remain open.

The northbound 15/Decarie expressway near its junction with the 136/720/20 is also being worked on, requiring the closures of its Sherbrooke exit (July to end of October) and entrance (July to mid-September).

For the same reason, the Girouard entrance to the 15 southbound will close from the end of 2018 until 2020.

Westmount citizen-members quiz officials

After the presentation, there was a question period. Citizen-member and Westmounter Brigitte Stock asked about the characteristics of a University of Mont-



Citizen-member Dan Lambert, with citizen-member Marie-José Mastromonaco in the background.

real study on the effect of noise on residents. She was told that the aim of the department of medicine's study was to collect 400 randomly acquired, completed questionnaires from Turcot-area residents and 200 from outside the affected zone as a control group. The researchers are seeking a random sample, so interested residents cannot volunteer to fill one out.

Stock also asked about sound testing in the area from Bruce to Irvine and how it will be done in comparison to that done on Greene and in Montreal West. The testing will be done manually, said Sultana. Stock then asked how it could be escalated to a full-time sound station like the one at Greene. Sultana said that if the manual results exceeded norms, such a possibility would be evaluated and that findings would be made available to the public.

There was also a very technical discussion about how sound readings are taken and how a "respected" 68-decibel threshold does not mean that 68 decibels is never exceeded. There is a complex sampling and averaging that goes on.

Citizen-member and Westmounter Daniel Lambert, representing the associations of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount and of NDG, thanked construction-side panelists for extending the boltarded bike path the whole length of Glen Rd. from St. Catherine to St. Jacques. (It had previously stopped near Cycle Neron.) He then brought up a number of suggestions that he has championed in the past, including an advanced stop line for cyclists at St. Jacques and Glen Rd., placing the St. Jacques to Notre Dame bike path between parked cars and the sidewalk,



City councillors Cynthia Lulham (at the mic), Kathleen Kez (standing, arms crossed) and Marina Brzeski (behind her in line).

McCallum questions Vendôme tunnel ‘storage area’ in Westmount

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

A “focus group” consultation held by the Montreal Transit Corp. at the McGill University Health Centre’s Glen campus on June 18 regarding the construction of a pedestrian tunnel linking de Maisonneuve Blvd. to the MUHC left at least one Westmounter wondering about when she’ll be getting answers to her questions.

While an underground tunnel connecting the MUHC to the Vendôme intermodal transit station has been accessible since mid-2015, construction is ongoing for a new entrance pavilion on de Maisonneuve, as well as a new tunnel to link the Metro with the train station and the MUHC’s D block.

According to MTC spokesperson Isabelle Tremblay, the projected date for the new tunnel’s completion is February 2020.

Asked about the ultimate purpose of the consultation, she responded, “It’s our way of communicating with the neighbourhood and the people who live around

here. We want to hear their preoccupations, their comments, and try to do our best to ease the impact of our work on the area.”

Liz McCallum, whose home is on St. Catherine St. and whose back yard is right next to an area on the site where unauthorized construction work is known to have taken place, was one of at least two Westmounters at the meeting. While saying that she considers the tunnel project to be “well overdue,” McCallum also had her reservations.

In Westmount

The area behind her home is within the borders of Westmount. While Westmount has authorized it to be used for storage of materials, the city previously warned the contractors that unauthorized construction activity would not be tolerated.

“My house backs onto the area where they store material on the south side of the tracks,” McCallum told the *Independent*. She said that on June 15, her husband



Liz McCallum, right, whose St. Catherine St. home is right next to a Vendôme tunnel project storage yard, is seen here at the MUHC on June 18 with MTC projects director Maha Clour during the public consultation.

found workers in the area behind their home conducting a welding operation with a noisy power generator.

“I want to understand what they’re using this space for,” she said. “I want to know the working hours and the impact on me as a resident of Westmount.”

During the meeting, McCallum and others were asked to write down their questions, which were then submitted for answers to various experts from the MTC. Among other things, she asked whether a high fence could be constructed around the storage area behind her home.

Although the officials – some of whom weren’t present – didn’t always provide answers on the spot, McCallum said she wasn’t overly concerned. “If I don’t see a fence up in the next three weeks, I’m going to e-mail the STM,” she said. “I understand that they can’t give me answers because they have to go back to their contractor who wasn’t there. So I get that part. What I don’t have is a timeline for their answer back to me.”

Lambert champions array of cyclist-oriented changes, three Westmount councillors speak, *cont’d. from p. 12*

repaving de Courcelle, and cameras and better mirrors on trucks. He also proposed a *corridor verte* (a cycling route through an intersection with its whole surface painted green) for St. Jacques-Glen-de Courcelle.

There ensued a confusing discussion about various aspects of his suggestions, including the distinction between consortium and third-party trucks. The former have upgraded mirrors and their drivers have several days of training before starting, but the latter come from a pool of entrepreneurs and are not universally as well equipped. The MTQ’s leave-things-as-they-are response echoes its view made known in August and October 2017 (see August 22, 2017, p. 12 and October 24, 2017, p. 12).

Lambert again brought up West-

mount’s success in writing safety equipment requirements into its contracts, to which Sultana replied that many of the Turcot contracts have already been written.

Regarding the re-paving of de Courcelle, he received better news. It is scheduled from the tracks to St. Jacques this summer. City of Westmount employee and panellist Jonathan Auger said that as far as he knew Glen Rd. was not scheduled for paving, but he would put in a request.

Westmount councillors take to mic

Westmount city councillor Cynthia Lulham asked for a sound barrier on the northern/Westmount side of the 720/136 work, as there will be on the southern/St. Henri side. Battley said that there was not enough space. Lulham said that there was and that alleys could be used. Battley said that they could look. Sultana said that they had already looked, but nodded to a suggestion that they would look again.

Lulham also supported Lambert regarding Westmount’s good experience with requiring safety equipment on its contractors’ trucks.

Councillor Kathleen Kez returned to the issue that she had raised at previous meetings, namely graffiti, especially on the Greene overpasses. She said that cleaning them twice a year was not good enough. Sultana said that a coating would be put on at the end of the work, but it would make cleaning easier, not make

graffiti hard to apply. She also said that there was 7 km of roadway to protect. Kez asked her to focus on the very busy and much used Greene area. Moderator Pierre Guillot-Hurtubise of Octane Stratégies interjected with a rare quip, volunteering “snipers?” as a possible solution. Kez asked for a camera in that area to be a priority.

MoWest & NDG issues, linguistic practice

Montreal West residents seem to form the majority of audience members and applauded at various times at objections to noise and dust in their area. CN’s absence was also roundly criticized, as was its new “signal bridge” in Montreal West in sight of residences.

Both town councillor Dino Mazzone and resident Mike Elie pointed out that the MTQ had created much of the noise problem by obliging CN to destroy a tunnel that muffled the sound of its trains, and so the MTQ should ask CN to reduce their speed and so the noise from them. Both Sultana and Guillot-Hurtubise seemed to say that the MTQ was powerless over CN, but could “influence” its behaviour.

NDG questions centred around the possible *dalle parc* pedestrian and cycling bridge to the Southwest borough (green-lighted on June 21), for which the city of Montreal and the province have funded a feasibility study; an eventual four-way stop for pedestrians at Girouard and Sherbrooke as temporary project traffic lessens there; and traffic issues (e.g. people turn-

ing illegally from Decarie to, and going the wrong way on, de Maisonneuve). Citizen-member and French-language school board commissioner Marie-José Mastromonaco reiterated the importance of safety come September, given the very large number of French and English schools in the area.

Most of the meeting was in French, with any English translated into French by Guillot-Hurtubise in accordance with MTQ practice. Although English questions have been answered in English before, for the first time in this reporter’s hearing, French answers to French questions were translated (three times) into English for English speakers.

The next meeting of the committee is on Wednesday, August 22 at Victoria Hall.



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Grammy Award-winning children's singer Jennifer Gasoi performs one of her most popular songs, "I'm a Bubble," with a simultaneous demonstration of bubble-making, during the mini-concert she gave on June 14 for the 40th anniversary of CPE Terre des Enfants at Centre Greene.

By MARTIN C. BARRY

More than 150 children and parents gathered at CPE Terre des Enfants on Greene Ave. on June 14 for a boisterous and musical celebration of the daycare's 40th anniversary.

A highlight of the event, which took place at Centre Greene, where the daycare is located on the second floor, was a performance by Grammy and Juno award-winning children's singer Jennifer Gasoi, who sang several songs from her two albums.

"We've invited all our families," said Arleen Boyer, executive-director of CPE Terre des Enfants. The CPE provides day-care services to children from 18 months to five years old. More than 60 children are enrolled in the daycare's programs.

CPE Terre des Enfants is regarded as a long time fixture in the Westmount community, having served hundreds of families from Westmount over its 40-year history. The daycare's clientele also includes children from NDG and other neighbourhoods in Montreal.

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In Conversation Louis Gagnon of Avataq

BY HEATHER BLACK

Illirijavut, the 10th anniversary exposition of Inuit storybooks, is currently on display at the Visual Arts Centre. Created at storytelling and storybook-making workshops, the project was supported by Avataq Cultural Institute. To find out more about the non-profit organization, I spoke to Louis Gagnon at Avataq's St. Catherine St. office.

Inuit storybooks

A curator and art historian, Gagnon has been associated with Avataq since 1989 and with the Inuit storybook project for over a decade. With a mandate to preserve Inuit culture and language, Avataq funded the first workshops. Presented across Nunavik by Qumaq Mangiuk Iyaituk of Ivujivik, and Kathryn Delaney of Montreal, Gagnon described the project as "a wonderful team effort by two artists with complementary skills."

Commenting on the workshops, he said: "Participants not only learn about Inuit culture but also discover an art form." Gagnon also explained that the workshops evolved to include an elder recounting a true incident as a storybook theme. He also mentioned that the project "is inclusive, with many participants drawing or painting for the first time."

Gagnon is delighted that the project's popularity also extends to non-Inuit communities. A frequent guest curator, he was involved "in every step" of the McClure Gallery's 2015 Inuit sculpture exhibition. This included the first non-Inuit storybook workshop presented by Delaney, Mangiuk Iyaituk, and her husband, sculptor and elder storyteller Mattiusi Iyaituk.

At Gagnon's suggestion, another Inuit storybook workshop was held in Paris.



On June 8, Louis Gagnon holds a printed storybook by Qumaq Mangiuk Iyaituk from a story by Mattiusi Iyaituk

The success of the two events prompted the team to seek additional funding. A 2016 Canada Council for the Arts {Re}conciliation Initiative enabled more workshops to be held across Canada, including another in conjunction with *Illirijavut* at the Visual Arts Centre.

Gagnon also mentioned that half of the exhibited artist books are on loan from Avataq's collection.

Avataq's mandate

As director of the museology department, Gagnon oversees Avataq's Museum Reserve, *Qarmaq*. Located on Peel St., the museum reserve includes the Nunavik archaeology collection; a documentary archive of text, audio recordings and photographs; as well as the Nunavik Inuit art and ethnography collection. The museum reserve, he explained: "preserves graphic or sculptural representations, and all material culture, including oil-lamps or clothing."

Gagnon cited the importance of the Inuit storybooks as "a rare example of work that combines visual arts and writing." With a mandate to protect both past

and current Inuit culture, he submits project reports to Avataq's board of directors. Elected from 14 Nunavut communities, Gagnon added: "There are approximately 1,000 Inuit living in Montreal who are also under our mandate."

As director of Aumaaggiivik, the Nunavik arts secretariat, Gagnon's role is to provide encouragement and support to projects such as the Inuit storybook workshops as well as to individual artists. Gagnon commented: "Never are two days the same; there is always something new." A recent trip to Quebec City included a meeting on an upcoming exhibition at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec as well as an interview to be aired on Aboriginal Day, which took place on June 21.

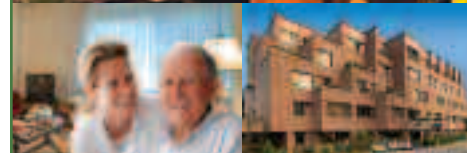
Cultural liaison

For Gagnon, the Inuit storybook workshops are making an impact. He noted that some participants "now want to write their own story" while great results "encourage others to continue with art." As for his curator role, Gagnon replied: "Art is always moving and is always exciting!"

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Most common cancer for 18-40? Testicular

MUHC Men’s Health Day focuses on male wellness, testing

By MARTIN C. BARRY

For men of all ages, the doctor was most definitely in on June 14 just outside the McGill University Health Centre’s Glen campus on Decarie Blvd. in NDG, where a free examination for men included checks on blood pressure, cholesterol and prostate health.

Information was available on a range of health problems that affect only men, including prostate cancer, sexual dysfunction

and testicular cancer, as well as other conditions that don’t only affect men, although they get them more often, such as bladder cancer, lung cancer and cardiovascular problems.

“Prevention and early detection are the keys to fighting any diseases,” Dr. Peter Chan, a staff urologist and director of reproductive medicine at the MUHC, said in an interview with the *Independent*.

While aging can increase the likelihood of men developing some of these conditions, Dr. Chan said there are many other health problems that can affect males at a much younger age.

“Testes cancer is the most common type of cancer for men between ages 18 to 40,” he said. “Not colon cancer that we hear a lot about in the media. The worst thing is that with these testes cancers there is no pain – there’s just a lump. So it tends to be totally ignored and denied. And if it’s not checked, you would never know.”

While some men as young as their early twenties were turning up to be tested throughout the day, according to Chan the median age was around 51 years. It was the 13th year the MUHC held the event.



Seen here outside the MUHC on June 14, Dr. Peter Chan, a staff urologist and director of reproductive medicine at the MUHC, coordinated the hospital’s 2018 Men’s Health Day.

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Bob Spencer, Janet Harrison and Claude Bedard.

working committee: Westmounters Katherine and Tom Velan, Rosalind Davis, Judy Martin, Anton Schlemm, Janet Harrison, Karen, and Susan McConnell, along with Mark Angelini, Anna and Philip Belec, David Brodeur, Catherine Boivin, Katherine Crewe, Lili de Grandpré, Nader Hamid, Janet and Lee Harrison, Kim Phuong Huynh, Ingrid Kovitch Dannenbaum, Jodi Lafreniere, John Marcovechio, Mark Smith, Rod Smith and Glenn Watt.

Guests enjoyed cabaret- continued on p. 18

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Customized hormonal therapy replaces the natural hormones that decline due to aging or illness with those that are chemically identical to the ones the body produces.

In collaboration with your physician, we can customize doses and dosage forms to meet your personal needs.

We welcome your questions and the opportunity to work with you and your doctor to solve your medication problems. Get a free 10-minute consultation by mentioning this article.

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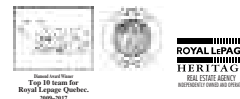


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10 BDRMS MANSION W/ POOL!



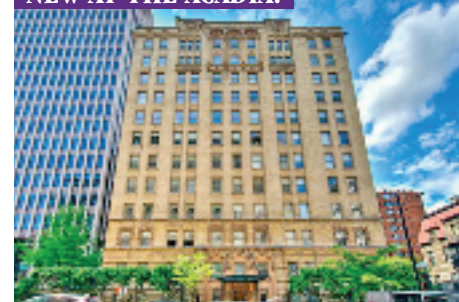
Westmount – 466 ch. de la Côte-St-Antoine \$4,500,000

ON THE FLATS!



Westmount – 425 av. Wood \$2,495,000

NEW AT THE ACADIA!



Ville-Marie – 1227 rue Sherbrooke O., #24 \$1,695,000

SOLD



Westmount – 4151 boul. de Maisonneuve O. \$1,650,000



Dr. Jonathan Simons, Jennifer DeLeskie, Miranda Mok, Dr. Jens-Erik Walter, Dr. Ingrid Kovitch Dannenbaum and Dr. David Dannenbaum.



Richard Horne, Kim Chi Huynh, Kim Phuong Huynh, Kim Tram Huynh, and Axel and Kathy Lellouche.

Social notes, *cont'd. from p. 17*
style dancing and music, while snacking at food stations offering mouth-watering lamb, sushi and lobster rolls. The silent auction was masterfully carried out by local res, Selwyn head master Hal Hannaford, attending with his wife Susan Doherty.
Much appreciated corporate sponsors were Tenaquip Foundation, Lisa & Mark Smith, KCMN Velan Foundation & Velan Family, Azrieli Foundation, Bell, Belden

Canada, Charles River Labs, RBC, BMO, Delmar, Broccolini Construction, Ernst & Young, Encore Travel, Power Corporation, and the Bell Centre.
Guests noted included Richard Horne, sisters Kim Chi, Kim Phuong and Kim Tram Huynh, Kathy and Axel Lellouche, Jennifer DeLeskie, Miranda Mok, Muscular Dystrophy's CEO Barbara Stead-Coyle and Kevin Harrison (director corporate and business development), Bob Spencer,

Janet Harrison, Claude Bédard and doctors Jonathan Simons, Jens-Erik Walter, David Dannenbaum and Ingrid Kovitch Dannenbaum – the night's star fundraiser! The fun evening raised \$266,000 for

Muscular Dystrophy Canada, whose mission is to enhance the lives of those affected with neuromuscular disorders by continually working to provide ongoing support and resources.

Permits, *cont'd. from p. 10*

- pairs;
25 **Chesterfield**: at a Category I house, to replace windows at the rear;
45 **Thornhill**: at a Category I house, to repair a landscaping staircase at the front;
4152 **St. Catherine**: to install a commercial sign;
541 **Prince Albert**: to modify an existing rear deck and build a new one;
4883 **Sherbrooke**: to install a commercial sign;
41 **Oakland**: to replace a door and windows;
503 **Victoria**: to replace basement windows;
356 **Wood**: at a Category I house, to rebuild the front staircase;
660 **Murray Hill**: to replace front windows provided the wood mullions are preserved or replicated;
315 **Kensington**: to replace basement win-

- dows;
617 **Carleton**: to rearrange the front stairs and to landscape;
242 **Redfern**: to replace some front and rear windows;
4377 **Westmount**: to modify rear door and window openings on the main floor;
3453 **St. Antoine**: to replace soffits and trim on the front balconies;
3459 **St. Antoine**: to replace soffits and trim on the front balconies;
4911 **de Maisonneuve**: to repair the front porch, replace guard rails and restore decorative elements of the parapet;
3714 **The Boulevard**: landscaping at the front, side and rear provided the retaining walls are natural stone and do not encroach on city land and that the landscaping lights shine downward, remain close to the ground the lights on the façade are eliminated.



Coming soon – Tango & Milonga Dance Workshop



with Bobby Thompson
Saturday July 7th – 2-5 PM.

Call for more information to reserve your spot!

Members of the CDTA. Certified and experienced dance teachers.

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info@centreroyalwestmount.com
514-484-8346

Comin' Up

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

The Atwater Poetry Project presents bill bissett, Adeena Karasick and Catherine Kidd. Free. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave., 2nd floor. 7 pm.

SUNDAY, JULY 1

City of Westmount's Canada Day activities. Westmount recreation centre. Barbecue: 12 noon, Splash Bash: 2 pm, Canada Day cake: 3 pm.

TUESDAY, JULY 3

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Guided tour of the MUHC's Glen site. 1001 Décarie Blvd, McConnell Resource Centre (RC level). Free, but book at heritage@muhc.mcgill.ca. 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Also on July 18, August 8 and 22, September 5 and 19, October 3 and 17, November 7 and 21, December 5 and 19.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

Sundays at the Shaar presents Dr. Steven Lapidus, Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University on "Judaism and Sexuality". \$5 per person, includes light lunch. Reservations appreciated: 514-937-9474 x 139. Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. 12 noon.

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STERLING SILVER — BIRKS, PETERSEN, JENSEN

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NEW



Golden Square Mile | 11 Chelsea Place | MLS: 17514933 Most Prestigious townhouse in downtown Montreal!
5 Bdr w/ 2 car garage. 2 Chelsea Place | \$2,195,000 | MLS: 26576267 5 Bdr w/ amazing rooftop terrace.



Westmount | \$1,965,000 | 561 Av. Grosvenor | MLS: 19887437 | Magnificent contemporary style semi, fully renovated 4+1 bedrooms in prime location!



WESTMOUNT **\$2,495,000**
3206 Boul. The Boulevard MLS: 10313661
Sumptuous details & Breathtaking views. Perfectly located close to Westmount's best schools.



TMR **\$1,975,000**
236 Av. Portland MLS: 21070256
PRIME LOCATION! Charming property on a lot of more than 7000SF, 4 Bdr, beautiful garden & garage.



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



WESTMOUNT **\$1,895,000**
7 Av. Thornhill MLS: 16729278
Stunning 3 bedrooms semi with beautiful garden & garage on quaint street.



WESTMOUNT **\$1,725,000**
4547 rue Sherbrooke O. MLS: 21214586
Victoria Village! Magnificent condo, 1 floor below PH w/ large terrace & double garage.



WESTMOUNT **\$ 895,000**
1 Av. Wood, apt. 511 MLS: 26513404
Beautiful corner unit with Northwest exposure.



GOLDEN SQUARE MILE
The Port Royal, 1455 rue Sherbrooke O.



WESTMOUNT
3 Units sold in Westmount Square!
2 Westmount Square #208; 2 Westmount Square #1004; 2 Westmount Square #1206.



WESTMOUNT **\$1,799,000**
334 Av. Grosvenor MLS: 20570539
Victoria Village at its Best ! 4 Bdr, completely renovated w/ lovely garden+++



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



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