

City prepares for winter, 2019 infrastructure projects

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

At least six Public Works and Engineering tenders and agreements were approved by city council September 4 to get a head start on major work as well as to prepare for the winter season.

"This allows us to negotiate a better price and get ahead with the projects and professional services required for next year," Councillor Philip Cutler told the city council meeting.

With the approach of snow on the horizon, council awarded contracts for the clearing of lanes as well as the rental of 12-wheel trucks and sealing a deal with Montreal for the disposal of snow.

The clearing of snow from lanes for the 2018-2019 winter season went to Les Excavations Super Inc., one of two bidders, for a guaranteed minimum of \$185,474 (100

cm) and a maximum of \$309,123.

"Some years, we go over and have to come back" to modify the contract and increase the cost, Cutler explained.

This increase happened last winter when eight storms ballooned projected costs – including 70 percent for snow disposal at the Butler chute (see story June 12, p. 5).

As a result, the minimum/maximum basis was also used to award a contract for the supply of 34 snow removal trucks to Transvac Montreal-Laval for a minimum guarantee of \$251,300 based on hourly rates fixed by the Quebec Transport ministry and up to a maximum of \$1,101,000.

A municipal agreement with the city of Montreal was also approved to use its Butler snow chute for a minimum of \$624,000 and a maximum of \$1,755,000 between continued on p. 13

Provincial election comes to Vic Hall



The seven provincial election candidates for Westmount-St. Louis on stage at Victoria Hall on Sept. 11. For story, see p. 8. Photo: Martin C. Barry

City pursues sound barrier case

Turcot legal action continues but could take a few years

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city is continuing to pursue its legal action to obtain a sound barrier at provincial government expense along the new 136 highway even though a court decision could be more than two years away, the *Independent* learned last week.

Despite the refusal in May of a Superior Court justice to grant the city's request

for an interlocutory (interim) injunction until a final decision is determined, the city has decided to bypass an appeal process before going to the full trial, according to Martin St-Jean, director of Legal Services.

The city had asked the court to stop work by the KPH-Turcot construction consortium until plans for a sound barrier along the continued on p. 10

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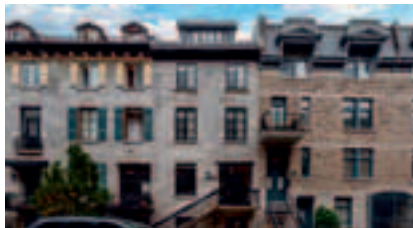
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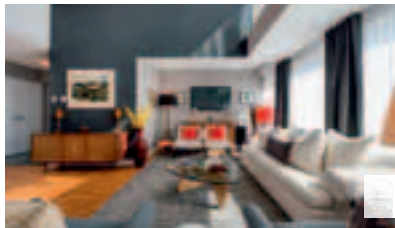
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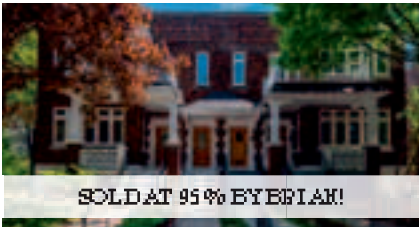
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One suspect 'looking for God,' other bleeding profusely Two arrested by Public Security in fleeing from oratory

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public safety officers chased and arrested two men September 10 in the area of Surrey Gardens near St. Joseph's Oratory, Public Security officials said. One, described as incoherent, carried a bagful of rosaries and crosses. The other was bleeding from a cut near a jugular vein in the neck. Both were taken to hospital.

The two were found by a patroller on Surrey Gardens who heard screaming coming from the yard of a house at 8:15 pm, explained Public Security director Greg McBain in relating the incident. The officer went to investigate what sounded like an argument.

He located two men trying to open a door into the house. A woman suddenly came out the front door "in a panic." He told her to stay inside, lock the door and call 911.

The patroller then chased the men into the backyard of a house on the other side of the street after they jumped over the front gate.

He managed to detain one, who appeared agitated, while the second suspect ran into another property and disappeared.

Bagful of crosses and rosaries

The detained man was carrying a bag filled with "a lot of crosses and rosaries." He was described as incoherent, claimed to be very religious and that he had spent the day at the oratory looking for God. He refused to provide any information on the second suspect who had fled.

The search for the second man continued when a second public safety officer arrived on the scene. Once police arrived, the first was taken to hospital to be examined for mental issues.

The second suspect was found on the path to the oratory leading from the intersection of Devon and Summit Cresc. He was screaming and holding onto his neck with both hands.

He claimed to have cut himself jumping over the fence from the oratory into the yard on Surrey Gardens where the patroller had initially found the pair.

Near the jugular

The cut was one centimeter from a jugular vein and the man was losing a fair amount of blood. Urgences Santé was called, arrived at 8:55 pm and transported him to hospital.

"This shows the importance of patrolling at night and the keen observation of officers," McBain explained.

While it was not known where the men lived, he said, they were described as aged 27 and 28. No details were known about the origin of the bagful of religious items.

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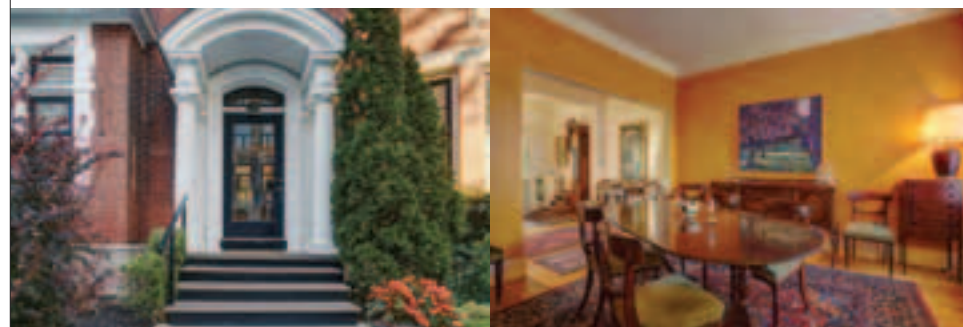
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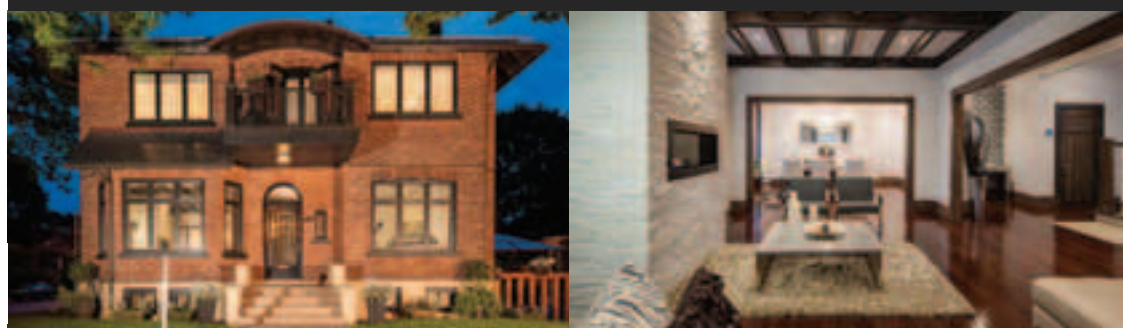
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Cllr. Bostock to Weill: Claremont speeding to be addressed

Lansdowne Ave. to go one-way south? No, Lock told

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Is the city considering making Lansdowne one-way south below Sherbooke? Council was asked this question September 4 by Richard Lock of Lansdowne who said there were “persistent rumours” to this effect.

As well, speeding and parking issues on Claremont south of Westmount Ave. were raised again by Fabrice Weill, saying he was disappointed they had not been addressed before back-to-school (see story April 10, p. 1). He also cited a need for more daytime parking enforcement.

In the case of Lansdowne, Lock recalled he had raised the one-way issue two or three sessions ago but had not had any response.

“I don’t think there’s any discussion to make it one-way down,” Mayor Christina Smith replied. She said she knows it is a very busy street but it has not been designated a truck route and “there is no plan to make it one way now.”

Lock has been asking the city for traffic relief for many years, citing use of the block by trucks he says use the route to continue on down through the Glen to St.



Looking north up Lansdowne Ave. from de Maisonneuve on September 14.

Photo: Independent.

Henri as well as the city’s own vehicles going to and coming from the Public

Works yard at Bethune off St. Catherine as well as Hydro Westmount offices on Glen

Rd. Councillor Anitra Bostock, commissioner of Public Security, which includes traffic, said the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was well aware of the Lansdowne issues but not of any plan to make the block one-way south.

This has not even been discussed by the TAC, she later told the *Independent*.

Added signage for Claremont

To reduce speeding on Claremont, Bostock told Weill, a resident of the street, that the plan is to install additional 30 km/h signs as well as a planter. One sign had already been added just north of Windsor.

Weill’s concern about parking involved what he said was a lack of tickets issued to cars parked in one-hour restricted areas around Marianopolis whereas he had seen many cars ticketed for overnight parking.

Councillor Philip Cutler said that regarding the daytime parking he had learned there was a “coordination system” in place at Marianopolis where cars were moved ahead one space in a type of leap-frog pattern to avoid being ticketed. “This is something we have to look at at TAC.”

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Suspect said she was checking ‘her appearance’ in windows

PSU finds woman suspected of trying to open car doors

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two callers to Public Security September 8 reported a woman trying car doors in the area of Holton and Elm at 10:56 am, department officials said. She was described as dressed in black and wearing blue high heels.

As a sergeant patrolled in the area, she was reported as being flagged down “multiple times” by similar reports.

No ID except tickets

She located a woman matching the description provided by the callers in the alley behind 370 Elm. The sergeant asked the woman for identification but she could not find any in her purse except for two Quebec Highway Code tickets that listed her name. One of the two callers stated she would be willing to identify the woman as the one she had seen.

The woman claimed she was going to meet her boyfriend at a nearby park and had simply been looking in car windows to check her appearance. Police were called, arrived at 11:16 am, spoke to her

and sent her on her way.

She was told if there were any reports of stolen items from cars in the area they would be linked to her. She was described as a 33-year-old woman from Longueuil.

“The sergeant was on patrol in the area, once again underlining the value of patrolling streets and parks,” said Public Security Greg McBain.

GradeSlam wins best tutoring, test tool

GradeSlam, whose CEO is Westmounter and city councillor Philip Cutler, was recently recognized as the “Best Tutoring and Test Prep Tool” by the website Edvocate.

It is the second year in a row that the downtown-headquartered company, founded in 2014, has been so recognized.

It has over 200 “partner institutions” registered on its web- and cell-based tutoring platform.



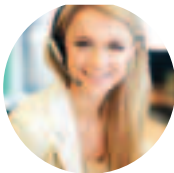
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Canada Post/delivery update

Important news for *Independent* readers

Unionized workers at Canada Post, which distributes the *Independent* door to door (but **not** to bulk drop sites, e.g. ATMs, public buildings, dépanneurs), are in a position to strike on Wednesday, September 26. We have been here before, twice, and plan to continue to publish during any labour dispute. Unfortunately, labour disruptions like this one move at a daily (or faster) pace, so it is not always possible to let readers of our weekly newspaper know in advance what is happening with such-and-such an issue of the paper.

Even worse, I have to make decisions about distribution on Mondays that can look stupid on Wednesday or Thursday or Friday when people are expecting the paper, because events have intervened. One big risk that I want to avoid is having papers delivered to Canada Post on

Tuesday being caught in their facility on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday by a strike. (The *Independent* takes three days to deliver.)

This week's distribution (September 18 issue) is entirely normal. Subsequent editions (September 25 issue and after) might be different. If in doubt, look to our website for the most up-to-date information.

What won't change: web, email, bulk drops

There will be no change to our website postings or our email distribution (email Beth Hudson at office@westmountindependent.com to be added to it). Also, our bulk drops around town of physical newspapers will not be affected and will likely be enhanced. The four best sites (which we will monitor and top up during the

week if needed) are:

- 310 Victoria Ave. lobby (at de Maisonneuve)
- Victoria Ave. Metro grocery store's Sherbrooke St. exit
- Westmount city hall
- Tabagie Westmount Square (at bottom of escalator near the Greene Ave. entrance).

Multi-unit buildings

Starting next week, we might drop at multi-unit buildings by bulk drop, and not by individual post-box copy. If you want to help us, please alert your doorman (if applicable) that you want the paper. The only issue that we have had in the past is that there are a tiny number (3 or 4) of buildings with locked, doorman-less lobbies. If you are not getting the paper, please call me.

Houses & duplexes with doors to the street

In the past, when we have had the threat of a strike, we have used Publi-Sac, so look for us there if it says so on our website, or if there is a strike, or if you are not getting the paper. People with "no ad mail" stickers generally do not get Publi-Sac. Please call me if you are one of these people and want to get the paper. (We also have a list of people from last time.)

Thank you for your help during this tricky time. Please let our advertisers know that you see their ads and value our newspaper.

We wish labour and management at Canada Post the best during this negotiation (and after).

David Price, editor
david.price@westmountindependent.com
514.935.4537

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOW WILL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PROMOTE UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY?

Open letter to Liberal, Quebec Solidaire, NDP, PQ, CAQ, Conservative and Green Party candidates

At the meeting with you on Tuesday evening [September 11], at Victoria Hall in Westmount, I asked each of you to say what you would do, if elected, regarding

universal accessibility. I was disappointed and saddened to hear that most of you seemed to want to keep the disabled in institutions and provide us with funds for home care. Many of us, myself included, are actually in the work force, contributing taxes which, if you are elected, will pay your salary. Perhaps the question was not clear.

I presented you with a list of responses to the challenge of providing an environ-

ment that is universally accessible by everyone, including those with auditory, visual, mobility and intellectual challenges. Legislation regarding accessibility was introduced, and subsequently passed, in the US (1990), the UK (1995), Ontario (2001), Australia (2006), Manitoba (2013), British Columbia (2018), and Canada (federal buildings and departments only) (2018). This legislation has nothing to do with providing funds for keeping disabled people at home – it has to do with making the world around us accessible to everyone, disabled or not, from people with strollers and walkers to the deaf and the blind. It has to do with barrier-free access, not just discrimination. I encourage you to familiarize yourselves with these attempts at creating a universally accessible environment.

As an indication of the extent of the need for accessibility in Quebec, I cited a report that pointed out that in 2010-2011 about 1/3 of the population over 15 was incapacitated, 2/3 of the population over 65 was incapacitated, and 84 percent of the population over 85 was incapacitated. It is now seven years later, and nothing has been done to accommodate this population.

Here are my questions to you:

- Will you commit to introducing a bill during the coming session to provide universal, barrier-free accessibility throughout Québec?
- Will you commit to setting a date in the

near future to have an accessible Québec?

As I mentioned at the meeting, please answer these questions in the following form: If elected, I will ...

JULIAN LEBENSOLD,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

VOTE FOR NEW BLOOD, VOTE NDPQ

In her letter to the editor (September 11, p. 6), ex-mayor Marks managed to get a plug in both for the retiring Liberal MNA Jacques Chagnon, Westmount's faithful voice (and ears) in Quebec City for the last two decades and his replacement, candidate Jennifer Maccarone, ex-head of the Quebec English School Boards Association and a 7-year (but not too recent) resident in Westmount.

As Karin Marks confirms, he certainly helped Westmount pay for the new arena of which the principal beneficiary is not city tax-payers but Selwyn House School (25-year contract, \$130 an hour for exclusive use of one rink with private changing room, no overhead cost – for a school that charges pupils \$20,000 a year). Meanwhile other Westmounters are hit with a \$200 increase in city taxes to pay for the new facility. Maybe a wolf in sheep's clothing?

There is also a small matter of overspending on Chagnon's expense accounts: The PQ points to lobster regularly flown in just for him at the National Assembly. In June, he scornfully accused journalists of "digging into his knickers" ("les bo-

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bettes”) when they accused him being loose with crates of high-class wine with “friends of Quebec” in Luxembourg. Chagnon’s put-down is arrogant and in no way advancing any Westmount agenda. Chagnon left under a looming cloud in June before having to answer to his critics. Jennifer Macarrone: She is hardly salt of the Westmount earth and her seven years in Westmount were a bit in slices. But her school-board experience is certainly a plus. However, as Chagnon’s choice and heiress to a cushy seat, she is unlikely to spend more time in our riding (after October 1) than Chagnon did. Couillard’s new minister of Education, perhaps?

What we really need is new blood: an MNA who remains close to her/his constituency, who listens, helps, tries to open doors. With more than a dose of Bernie Sanders.

Full disclosure: I’m supporting the new Quebec provincial New Democratic Party. The NDPQ candidate in Westmount-St. Louis is Nicholas Lawson who holds a PhD in public sector economics from Princeton University and is a prof at UQAM. (Quite relevant, you’d think, for our disjointed economy). He will have regular meetings with the public (and city hall) if elected.

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DECISION ON WYO AT VIC HALL LACKS HONOUR

Having been involved with the WYO over 15 years ago, it is sad to see it now forced out of Westmount.

A symphonic youth orchestra requires talent from a number of locales. Every instrument of the orchestra needs a dedicated young player who has devoted hours to practice and private lessons. No one locale can provide 50 percent of the young players needed, not Lachine, NDG, le Plateau or even Westmount. At best, 20 percent can be found. So the previous council provided an obstacle of impossible proportions when it passed its 50-percent participation rule for users of Victoria Hall.

The WYO has a 23-year history of

music-making in Victoria Hall, a laudable continuity. And they are at present an orchestra in full flight, taking on the works of great composers with aplomb. As their reputation has grown, so has their ranks, drawing on the western half of the island of Montreal. This is to be celebrated. The sudden announcement by the administration of Victoria Hall at the beginning of July that the WYO orchestra was no longer welcome was callous and exhibited disrespect of all they had accomplished. And to couch the reasoning behind the 50-percent rule, which could never be met by any youth symphonic orchestra, lacks honour.

Throughout the summer, we heard that the mayor’s office was holding discussions with the board of the orchestra to find solutions. The expectation was that Victoria Hall solutions would be found. It is embarrassing to know now that these discussions led nowhere. The exclusion of the WYO after a 23-year history of rehearsals in Victoria Hall was not negotiable, it was a *fait accompli*. In its stead, the mayor handed a list of religious institutions within Westmount’s borders to the board as possible rehearsal spaces. Such is the respect given to 23 years of music making. We can just hope that this is not what is meant by the “Westmount way.”

On several occasions, the councillor for culture [Mary Gallery] was asked for a list of groups that were being excluded from Victoria Hall on Saturdays because of WYO rehearsals, for this was the underlying reason given for the exclusion of the WYO. But no list was ever presented. Vague mention was made by the mayor of dance groups.

We have read in the mayor’s article [August 14, p. 7] that she is excited to be able to pencil in a WYO performance night into the schedule of Victoria Hall. It is a bit like saying we do not want to support you with rehearsal space but will take the praise of your performance to ourselves. But apparently no date has been made available for the WYO fall concert.

And what of Montreal?
They have their own *continued on p. 8*

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Election hopefuls square off during WMA candidates' debate

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Seven candidates who are running in Westmount-St. Louis in the October 1 provincial election engaged in a friendly but lively debate of the issues during a meet-the-candidates evening held by the Westmount Municipal Association at Victoria Hall on September 11.

Moderated by CBC Radio political analyst Bernie St-Laurent, the approximately two-and-a-half-hour event was attended by around 230 people who filled the floor area of Victoria Hall's auditorium, with others sitting in the balcony.

Opening statements

In her opening statement, Liberal candidate Jennifer Maccarone said that "most importantly, I want you to know that I'm here because I care. I'm here because I believe that if you want to make a difference, you have to get involved."

Ekaterina Piskunova, who is running for Québec Solidaire, said she wanted "to bring honesty back to politics. I want to bring fair play back to politics. And I promise to hear you, whatever language you speak."

Nicholas Lawson, who is running for the New Democratic Party of Quebec, described the NDPQ as "a progressive federalist" party. "We believe in defending and improving our public services, in fighting poverty and working for greater opportunity for everyone," he said.

Jocelyne Marion Benoit, who is running for the Parti Québécois, pointed out that the PQ platform was written after more than 80,000 members of the party were consulted. "Over the past few years, they discussed about their lives, about their neighbours' lives, their parents' and families' lives and their communities," she added, noting that everything they said became part of the PQ's electoral commitments.

Michelle Morin, who is running for the Coalition Avenir Québec, didn't conceal her antagonism towards the incumbent Liberals. "I was once like you – I supported the Liberal Party," she said. "But the Liberal Party did not support me. There have been too many empty promises. As a matter of fact, the Liberal Party is stating some of the same promises in this election as they did back in 2002, and they call

Liberal Party's Maccarone:

"As a parent of two children on the autism spectrum, contrary to the experience of Mr. Kuhn, the reason why I'm here is because the school system saved me."

Green Party's Kuhn:

"I'm not sure what planet the Liberal candidate is on here."

this progress."

Mikey Colangelo Lauzon, who is running for the Conservative Party of Quebec, said the Conservatives are offering "a real change. We are offering you individual rights and freedoms. We are offering you more personal responsibility. We are offering you a capitalist economy based on free markets."

Sam Kuhn of the Green Party of Quebec explained that he decided to run because he was unable to get help from the provincial government for his daughter, Charlotte, now 8, when she was 18 months old and hadn't developed verbal skills. After protesting for two months outside Quebec Public Health minister Lucie Charlebois's office, he said the only political party that gave him support was the Green Party.

(The Green candidate has changed since March, when Alison Henderson was that party's candidate. See "Henderson to run for Greens..." March 27, p. 14)

'Bill 202'

During question period, Bernie St-Laurent asked the PQ candidate about a suggestion her party's leader, Jean-François Lisée, recently made that the PQ might introduce a new language law, which he called Bill 202, that would require students at anglophone CEGEPS to spend a semester in a Francophone learning environment.

"These measures are not decided," replied the PQ's Marion Benoit. "So if I were you, I would stick around and not panic too much." While suggesting that such a

measure would be discussed with CEGEPs and universities first, she continued, "I think the fundamental idea is that there are students who don't speak French, therefore have difficulties finding jobs here. And we are losing good people. People who have degrees. People who went to school. We're just losing them because they don't master French."

Maccarone offered a counterpoint. "Rather than force the students to leave the anglophone CEGEPs system to get education in French, why not fund the anglophone system so they could learn French there?" she said, earning some applause.

Highway sound barrier

Former city councillor Gary Ikeman asked where the candidates stood on the issue of the sound barrier that the city of Westmount had hoped to build below St. Catherine St. next to the train line and expressway. Maccarone, Lawson and Morin all agreed that something was amiss in the government's handling of the situation and pledged to intervene more effectively if elected.

While the Green Party's candidate complained several times during the evening about the poor treatment his daughter received under the current government for her problems, Maccarone defended the system. "As a parent of two children on the autism spectrum, contrary to the experience of Mr. Kuhn, the reason why I'm here is because the school system saved me,"

PQ's Benoit:

"These ['Bill 202'] measures are not decided. So if I were you, I would stick around and not panic too much."

she said. "I know that the measures that were in place helped my children to be successful and independent."

Kuhn responded: "I'm not sure what planet the Liberal candidate is on here."

Wilfrid de Freitas of Kitchener Ave. said that during his walk over to the debate, he saw that only one of the candidates had bothered to include some English on campaign posters. "Is it too much to ask just to have an acknowledgement that there are English-speaking people here?" he said, drawing applause.

Patrick Barnard of Melville Ave. denounced the Liberal government's REM commuter train project as "a monumental error. Probably as big as the Olympic Stadium. A burden for our children."

CAQ's Morin:

"I was once like you – I supported the Liberal Party. But the Liberal Party did not support me. There have been too many empty promises."

While insisting he wasn't attending the debate "to make propaganda for the PQ," he praised the party's public transportation platform (*Le grand déblochage*), saying "they have put forward an alternative and it's fascinating."

Questioned on her party's position on health care, the CAQ's Morin took aim squarely at the current Liberal premier as well as the health minister, both being medical doctors. "It's appalling that we have a former physician, Philippe Couillard, and Dr. Barrette who can't even get their act together and provide proper health care," she said.

Immigration

Felipe Morales of Lansdowne Ave. asked the PQ and CAQ candidates whether they support their parties' policies, which call for less immigration. "It's not a matter of high or low or more, it's a matter of asking those people before they come, knowing that they speak French, that they will integrate, that they will work," replied the PQ's Marion Benoit.

Regarding the CAQ's policy, Morin said, "We want to provide the opportunity to fully integrate the immigrant. And the best way to do that temporarily is to take fewer immigrants at the moment. But we will provide the much needed French classes that they need."

Letters, cont'd. from p. 7

l'Orchestre des Jeunes de Montréal, which is into its 43rd season. Its players come from different locales of the eastern side of the island. And they are supported by Montréal. But our orchestra has been forced to move to Sacred Heart School. The school is located in Montreal. So the WYO is now Montreal based. What a shame.

Even now, after many years, I remember the WYO's delightful *Peter and the Wolf* under the baton of Mark Simmons with the late, great Albert Millaire as narrator. It was a performance that transposed the audience into a magical world. All this is now gone from our midst because of a callous administrative enactment of a red herring 50-percent participation resolution. Best wishes to the Youth Orchestra.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

Coiffure Jean John

4897 Sherbrooke, Westmount
514-486-6261



Homme
Men

Femme
Women

Our riding reflects the diversity of our city and our province. My commitment is to help build bridges between Quebecers of different backgrounds and to ensure we all benefit from a strong, prosperous and inclusive Québec. My pledge is to be your advocate in Québec City and a strong presence in the riding of Westmount–Saint-Louis.

Notre circonscription reflète bien la diversité de notre ville et de notre province. Je veux travailler à créer des ponts entre les Québécois ayant des origines culturelles différentes et de faire en sorte que nous bénéficions tous d'un Québec fort, prospère et inclusif. Je m'engage à être votre porte-parole à Québec tout en vous offrant une forte présence dans la circonscription de Westmount–Saint-Louis.

MY PRIORITIES:

- Establishing a municipal, provincial, and federal committee to address concerns regarding transportation including congestion, construction, noise and access;
- Securing investments that meet the growing needs in education in youth and adult sectors, vocational education, CEGEP and university;
- Ensuring residents have ready access to health and social services.

MES PRIORITÉS :

- Créer un comité municipal, provincial et fédéral chargé d'examiner les enjeux de transport, notamment la congestion, la construction, le bruit et l'accès.
- Obtenir des investissements qui répondent aux besoins croissants en éducation, tant au secteur des jeunes que celui des adultes, y compris la formation professionnelle, le cégep et l'université;
- Faire en sorte que les résidents aient facilement accès aux services de santé et aux services sociaux.



On election day: October 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
In advance: September 23 and 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Le jour des élections : 1^{er} octobre, de 9 h 30 à 20 h
Par anticipation : 23 et 24 septembre, de 9 h 30 à 20 h

710-1134, rue Sainte-Catherine O.
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CHÂTEAU WESTMOUNT SQUARE
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ACCEPTED OFFER



\$1,595,000
WESTMOUNT
Located on the Flats well-maintained 4 bdrm, detached Victorian style home. MLS12159169

Sherbrooke entrance to Decarie northbound is open



According to the provincial ministry of Transport's Gilles Payer on September 4, there is no change to the schedule of work to the accesses of the Decarie expressway/autoroute 15, located six streets west of Westmount's border with NDG. The entrance to the northbound 15 at Sherbrooke was open on September 17 (see picture). The exit from the northbound 15 to Sherbrooke St. is scheduled to re-open at the end of October. And the entrance to the 15 southbound and the Champlain bridge at Girouard is scheduled to close at the end of this year – until 2020. These plans have not changed since they were announced at the June 11 Turcot Bon Voisinage meeting at the St. Raymond community centre (see June 26, p. 12).

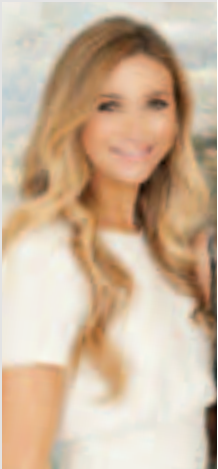
Photo: Independent.

Turcot, cont'd. from p. 1
south border of Westmount could be incorporated in the work (see story May 29, p. 1).
St-Jean referred to the hearing held for the interlocutory injunction as a kind of "mini trial."
"Technically, there is an appeal process of an interlocutory decision," he said, "however, the decision has no bearing on the final outcome" from a full trial.
Continuing forward, the city's case is now focused on the court ordering the

ministry of Transport (MTQ) to install a sound barrier at no cost to the city.
It claims, among other reasons, that the MTQ had not been given the required authority from the provincial ministry of the Environment to start the work.
According to the city, the sound barrier is needed since the new highway, which was initially expected to be lower than the current Ville Marie expressway, had been reconfigured and would no longer muffle sound pollution as previously announced (see story April 18, 2017, p. 1).

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5 ECS students on Team Quebec's bronze-winning rugby team



From left, Christina Macfarlane, Ella-Skye Fodor, Natasha Deichmann, Emilie Darrigade and Grace Anderson (captain).
Photo courtesy of Mary Gallery.

Five rugby players from ECS qualified for Team Quebec in the U16 division and participated in the Eastern Canadian Championships from August 12 to 19 at

Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Coached by Stephen Kaplan, Team Quebec won the bronze medal.

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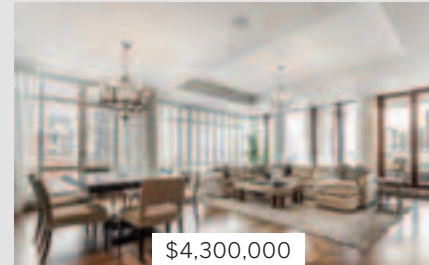
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\$4,900,000

OLD MONTREAL

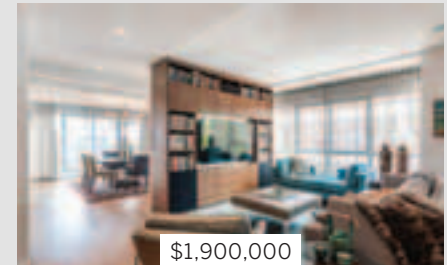
New-York style penthouse featuring 4,906 ft² of unparalleled luxury capped with a magnificent rooftop terrace which spans over 2,000 ft². Truly an extraordinary residence. Exclusive.



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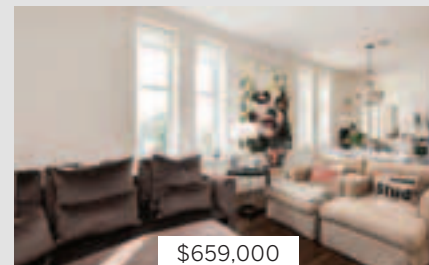
Stunning corner unit in prime location.
MLS 19218645



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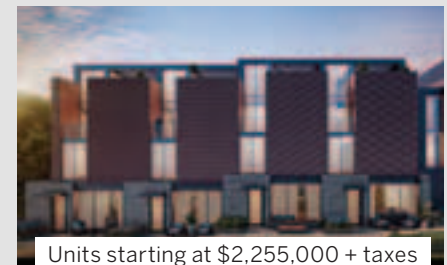
Large corner unit completely renovated with 3 terraces and 4 garages. MLS 14697795



\$659,000

NDG • VILLA VERITAS

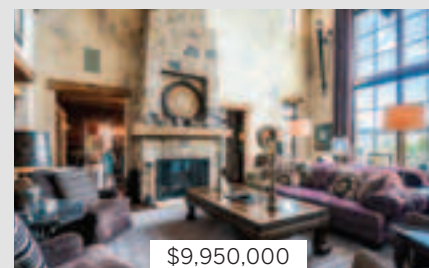
Impeccable 2 bdrm, 2 bath corner unit with 2 interior parkings. MLS 13176629



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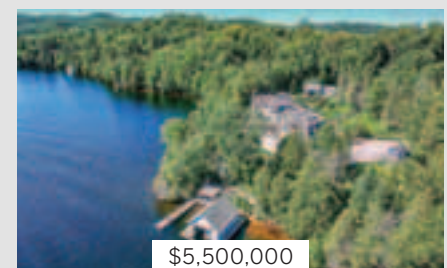
Luxury modern townhouses in the heart of the Golden Mile. Underground parking.



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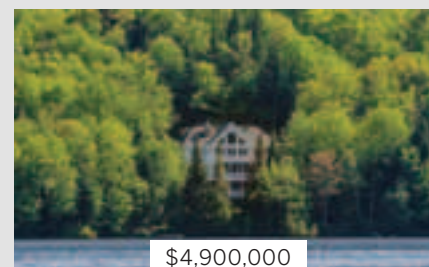
Magnificent 9,700 sf waterfront dream estate in prime location. MLS 27784482



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STE-AGATHE-DES-MONTS

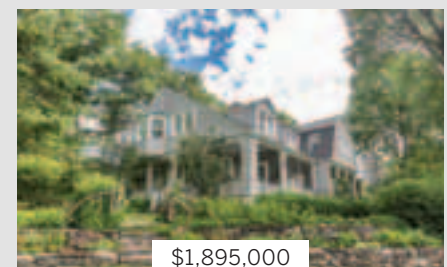
Immaculate 2.8 acre private waterfront estate. MLS 20865581



\$4,900,000

STE-AGATHE-DES-MONTS

Custom built waterfront oasis overlooking majestic Lac des Sables. MLS 17374839



\$1,895,000

NORTH HATLEY

Impressive property overlooking Lake Massawippi. MLS 9988529



2018.09.18 • Vol. 6/17

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Nouvelle interdiction de fumer dans les parcs et espaces verts de Westmount
Une interdiction de fumer dans les parcs et espaces verts publics est entrée en vigueur **le 8 septembre**. L'équipe de la Sécurité publique effectue une campagne de sensibilisation au cours du mois de septembre. westmount.org

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Inscriptions aux activités d'automne
Pour inscrire votre enfant, présentez-vous au comptoir des enfants avec sa carte de bibliothèque. westlib.org.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Le mercredi 19 septembre, 10 h 15, Bibliothèque. Le Groupe de poésie de Westmount compose des poèmes à partir de thèmes proposés par les membres. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5299.

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*
Le mercredi 19 septembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Joignez-vous au groupe de lecture et plongez tête première dans une discussion passionnée sur l'œuvre magistrale de James Joyce. 514 989-5299.

Série Récits de voyage
Les vendredis du 21 septembre au 19 octobre, 13 h à 15 h, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire qui simule le fait de voyager dans un pays étranger pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. Inscription requise. 514 989-5530 / mdenisdaigneault@westmount.org.

Ciné-Club
Le mardi 25 septembre 14 h, Victoria Hall. *The Rider* (2018) de Chloé Zhao. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en anglais
Le mardi 25 septembre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Sabbath's Theater* de Philip Roth. Animé par Claire Holden Rothman. 514 989-5299.

Club de films documentaires
Le mercredi 3 octobre, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Ex Libris* (2017) de Frederick Wiseman. Discussion animée par Katherine Kasirer, bibliothécaire, ONF. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture – anglais langue seconde
Le jeudi 4 octobre, 16 h, Bibliothèque. 7 ans et plus.

Prochaine séance du conseil le mardi 2 octobre

Viens discuter de livres choisis spécialement pour toi, qui commence à apprendre l'anglais comme langue seconde. Rencontres une fois par mois. 514 989-5229.

Robotics animé par Engineeius
Le samedi 13 octobre, 14 h, Bibliothèque. 8 ans et plus. Inscription requise. 514 989-5229.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Conférences-midi
Le mardi 18 septembre, 12 h 30, Victoria Hall. *Signature on the St. Lawrence: The Champlain Bridge Project* avec Stéphanie Lassonde et Sylvie Rabbat. En collaboration avec le Cercle canadien des femmes de Montréal. 10 \$/conférence. 514 989-5226

Galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition
Du 27 septembre au 26 octobre. La galerie est fière de présenter les œuvres des artistes *Mary Martha Guy* et *Gabrielle Pilot*. Venez rencontrer les artistes et la commissaire Victoria LeBlanc **le mardi 2 octobre à 19 h**. 514 989-5226.

Film : *Hergé, à l'ombre de Tintin* (2017)
Le samedi 29 septembre, 14 h, Victoria Hall. Présenté en français en collaboration avec le Festival international du film sur l'art et dans le cadre des journées de la culture. 514 989-5226.

Visite guidée : Lieux de culte
Le dimanche 30 septembre, 14 h, départ : Pavillon du bowling de Westmount, 401, av. Kensington. Visite guidée offerte en français et en anglais afin de découvrir la richesse patrimoniale des lieux de culte à Westmount. En collaboration avec le Conseil local du patrimoine de Westmount et l'Association historique de Westmount. 514 989-5226.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Remise de compost gratuit aux résidents
Le samedi 29 septembre, 9 h à 15 h, ateliers municipaux, rue Bethune. Apportez un contenant et une pelle. Quantités limitées. 514 989-5390.



Collecte des résidus dangereux
Le samedi 6 octobre, 9 h à 17 h, stationnement de la Bibliothèque. Venez déposer vos restes de peintures, de solvants, de pesticides, vos piles, etc. Les appareils électroniques et vêtements usagés sont ramassés la même journée. 514 989-5390.

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CITY HALL

New ban on smoking in Westmount's parks and green spaces
A ban on smoking in public parks and green spaces came into effect September 8. The Public Safety team is carrying out a public education campaign during September. westmount.org.

LIBRARY

Registration for fall activities
Please register in person at the Children's Desk with your child's library card. westlib.org.

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd
Wednesday, September 19, 10:15 a.m., Library. The Westmount Poetry Group meets to compose poetry together working with themes proposed by members. Welcome to all. 514 989-5299.

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*
Wednesday, September 19, 7 p.m., Library. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the byers of Joyce's masterpiece. 514 989-5299.

Tales and Travels Series
Fridays, September 21 to October 19, 1-3 p.m., Library. A weekly activity that simulates the act of travelling to a foreign country for individuals with Alzheimers disease and other forms of dementia. Registration required. 514 989-5530 / mdenisdaigneault@westmount.org.

Film Club
Tuesday, September 25, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Chloé Zhao's *The Rider* (2018). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

English Book Club
Tuesday, September 25, 7 p.m., Library. Philip Roth's *Sabbath's Theater*. Led by Claire Holden Rothman. 514 989-5299.

Documentary Film Club
Wednesday, October 3, 7 p.m., Library. *Ex Libris* (2017) by Frederick Wiseman. Discussion led by NFB Librarian Katherine Kasirer. 514 989-5299.

Children's ESL Book Club
Thursday, October 4, 4 p.m., Library. Age 7 and over. Come discuss some wonderful shorter books

Next Council Meeting Tuesday, October 2

with other kids and practice your language skills. This book club is geared toward children who are learning English as a second language and love books. We meet once a month. 514 989-5229.

Robotics hosted by Engineeius
Saturday, October 13, 2 p.m., Library. 8 years and over. Registration required. 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Afternoon Lecture Series
Tuesday, September 18, 12:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Signature on the St. Lawrence: The Champlain Bridge Project* with Stéphanie Lassonde and Sylvie Rabbat. In collaboration with The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal. \$10/lecture. 514 989-5226.

Galler y at Victoria Hall: exhibition
September 27 to October 26. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present works by artists Mary Martha Guy and Gabrielle Pilot. Meet the artists and Gallery Curator Victoria LeBlanc on Tuesday, October 2 at 7 p.m. Gallery hours Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5226.

Film: *Hergé, à l'ombre de Tintin* (2017)
Saturday, September 29, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. Presented in French in collaboration with the Festival international du film sur l'art as part of Les journées de la culture. 514 989-5226.

Guided tour: Houses of Worship
Sunday, September 30, 2 p.m., departure from the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club house, 401 Kensington Ave. Guided tours in English and French will allow you to explore the rich variety and beauty of local houses of worship. In collaboration with the Westmount Local Heritage Council and the Westmount Historical Association. 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC WORKS

Free compost for residents
Saturday, September 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Public Works Yard, Bethune St. Bring a container and a shovel. Quantities are limited. 514 989-5390.

Hazardous Waste Collection
Saturday, October 6, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Library parking lot. Safely dispose of paint, solvents, used batteries, pesticides, etc. Used electronics and clothing are collected the same day. 514 989-5390.



Temper flare over attempted exclusion from Mount Royal road access meeting

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount Public Security sent an officer to Victoria Hall on the evening of September 12 when the organizers of a city of Montreal consultation meeting on the Mount Royal road access issue complained of being overwhelmed by a crowd of angry Westmounters who were initially not allowed in.

Among those waiting in the lobby after being turned away was Howard Hoppenheim. “They’ve told me five times now – including the president,” Hoppenheim said, referring to the head of Office de consultation publique de Montréal, Dominique Ollivier.

“There are a lot of people here that they won’t allow in,” he added. “Obviously, it’s a kangaroo-type of operation. It just doesn’t make any sense at all. It leaves the impression that this is a done deal before any of this process takes place.”

His wife, Arlene Lutter Hoppenheim, cast doubts on the impartiality of the consultation. “Because this consultation group is paid by the city of Montreal on contract, I would like to know how it could be an authentically independent consultation,” she said.

Another Westmounter, Gerard Fellerath, said he and his wife, Gail, had registered by phone ahead of time, only to find out upon arriving that they still might not be let in. “I’m shocked because it shouldn’t be restricted,” he said.

“In fact, I’m insulted that I would have to register for this because it should be an open consultation. I think this is ridiculous. I think this is an insult to the public. And certainly it’s not democracy in action.”

Glen Grossman of Winchester Ave. spent several minutes in the lobby arguing with OCPM officials. “If you live in a democracy and there are 15 people stand-

ing here because they use the mountain and have something to say, they should have the opportunity to say it,” he said.

The journalist for the *Independent* was also initially told by an OCPM official that he too would not be allowed in. The official maintained there would be nothing worth reporting, since the meeting was organized as a “workshop” and the participants would not be making statements.

“I understand that you’re eager and angry,” the OCPM’s president said during an exchange with some of those left out in the hallway. “And I understand that perfectly well. Myself, I didn’t go over the mountains for the whole summer.”

In the end, everyone, including the *Independent*’s journalist, was allowed in. A Westmount Public Security officer who turned up at the scene lingered for a few minutes before leaving. He told the *Independent* that he was sent in response to a report of a disturbance at Victoria Hall that was received by Public Security.

During the meeting, participants were seated in groups at a half-dozen tables where they were prompted by an animator for their responses to questions on the Mount Royal road access issue. For this reason, the meeting did not have an overall theme as town hall-style meetings often



Seen here on Sept. 12, OCPM president Dominique Ollivier speaks in the lobby of Victoria Hall with a group of Westmount residents who were angered when they were initially not allowed into the consultation meeting.

do.

In a phone interview with the *Independent*, Mayor Christina Smith said city of Montreal mayor Valerie Plante had agreed with a request made by Westmount to hold a consultation on the Mount Royal road access issue here.

“They don’t typically do that,” she said, noting that the consultations are normally only held in Montreal’s boroughs. As well, she pointed out that Westmount had also asked if its elected officials could par-

ticipate, although this request was turned down.

“That’s why the mayor and council were not there,” she said. She also suggested that the OCPM officials may have reacted as they did because they felt overwhelmed by the turnout in Westmount.

“I think there was a bit of surprise on their part at how many people wanted to participate and there was confusion on the part of the residents that they actually had to register,” she said.

Winter is coming, cont’d. from p. 1

November 1 this year and April 30, 2019.

Infrastructure projects

A call for professional services for “environmental characterization” of soils of various streets, resulted in an award to Groupe ABS, the lowest conforming bidder for a maximum of \$102,698.

This is for the testing of streets destined for major infrastructure work in the next few years to identify any need for decontamination work, explained Councillor Marina Brzeski, commissioner of sustainability and the environment.

Another contract for professional services related to the surveying and preparation of drawings for various projects was given to Groupe Civitas, lowest conforming bidder at \$63,000. It was the only bidder of five invited to quote: two did not reply, two were “unable to quote.”

A three-year contract for janitorial services for various municipal buildings starting in 2018 was awarded to Axia Services, the only bidder for a total of \$1,918,283. “This works out to about \$27 an hour including all materials and management,” Cutler said.

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Councillor Philip Cutler the September 4 council meeting.

QS not just for the poor, says candidate Piskunova

By Martin C. Barry

Ekaterina Piskunova, who is running for Québec Solidaire in Westmount-St. Louis in the October 1 provincial election, wants to correct a misconception she feels some people may have about the party. “We shouldn’t consider that Québec Solidaire is just for poor people – it’s not true,” Piskunova says of QS, which was founded six years ago, but whose base of support still remains undeniably in less wealthy ridings. Although Westmount is known as one of the wealthiest communities in Quebec, Piskunova believes a good number of voters here – including English-speaking ones – will support a party that promotes social responsibility and environmental values. Originally from Russia, where she grew

up in a family in which one parent was a literary scholar and the other an opera singer, Piskunova has lived in Montreal since 2000. A West Islander, she teaches political science at the University of Montreal. “A very important thing about the English-speaking community is their spirit of fair play,” she said in an interview with the *Independent*. “Yes, Westmount is a wealthy place. But two streets down from Westmount you still have poverty, there are still homeless people, there are still social problems. This spirit of fair play might incite the English-speaking community to vote for us because we offer the most inclusive project for society.” Piskunova said that while out campaigning door to door recently, she heard from English-speaking Westmount residents who complained of the treatment

they’ve received in Quebec since the Parti Québécois passed restrictive language legislation. “Believe it or not, I feel this pain,” she said. “I was raised on Shakespeare and Hemingway and other incredible literature, so I understand how deeply this English pride is hurt.” She suggested Québec Solidaire, which advocates Quebec independence, would solve the problem by writing a constitution that would guarantee the linguistic rights of the English-speaking minority. While it’s no secret that leftward-leaning political parties often advocate raising income taxes, Piskunova claims Québec Solidaire would not increase taxes for individuals earning less than \$80,000 annually. However, she added, there would be a slight tax increase for those with salaries of \$80,000 and higher. But she said steeper increases would be paid by large corporations. “This is the idea – not to tax people, but to tax enterprises,” said Piskunova. Among the more notable environmentally-proactive measures she said Québec Solidaire is proposing in its platform, the party would ban the sale of internal combustion engine vehicles by the year 2030. As well, she noted that QS has also pledged to reduce public transit fares across the province by half. And a QS government would shift budget priorities from road repairs and maintenance to public transit, she added.



Seen here on September 5 on Bishop St. in the downtown portion of the Westmount-St. Louis riding, Ekaterina Piskunova is running for Québec Solidaire in the Oct. 1 provincial election.

Formal wear Donnie



a grey suit with a crisp, white shirt. His contrasting white whiskers add to his debonair handsomeness. Then his contrasting feet in white present the finishing touch to his look: little white mittens! Donnie is a three-year-old grey domestic shorthair, with incredible yellow gold eyes and adorable white patches that make us dress him up a bit. This sweet fellow is social with family members and other cats that he bonds to immediately. He was taken in by Gerdy’s Rescue and is now in need of a family as soon as possible. He is very healthy, up to date with his vaccinations and is also neutered. Please contact Gerdy’s Rescue at their email info@gerdysrescue.org to find out more about Donnie or refer to their website www.gerdysrescue.org for more information on this grass-roots animal rescue group that is devoted to rescuing and placing animals in need in loving homes. Your neighbour, Lysanne

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PQ offers serious solutions, says Marion Benoit

By MARTIN C. BARRY

While the Parti Québécois has often finished second in elections in Westmount-St. Louis over the past quarter-century, the party has never managed to win more than around 14 per cent support, compared to the more than 83 per cent share the incumbent Liberals received in 2014.

With less than seven per cent of the vote count four years ago, the PQ didn't even come close to qualifying for an electoral expense refund, which requires at least 15 per cent.

PQ candidate Jocelyne Marion Benoit, who is running in the Oct. 1 election, harbored no illusions while recently campaigning door to door in the Westmount portion of the riding, where the PQ's sovereigntist message is mostly lost on the area's mostly English-speaking voters.

"Sure, there were some who were very polite and kind," Marion Benoit, a former Cedar Ave. resident in Westmount and current resident of Montreal's Square Mile, said in an interview with the *Independent*. "But there were others who were a lot cooler and distant towards me. But that's to be expected."

While the PQ continues to advocate for Quebec's political separation from Canada (although party leader Jean-François Lisée has stated a PQ government would only



Seen here on September 10 in Westmount Park, PQ candidate in Westmount-St. Louis Jocelyne Marion Benoit says Westmounters shouldn't overlook some of the party's 2018 election campaign pledges even if the party advocates Quebec sovereignty.

hold a referendum after winning a second mandate), Marion Benoit says voters in Westmount-St. Louis should take some of the party's other platform policies under serious consideration.

In particular, she refers to a massive urban traffic plan, "Le Grand Débloage," developed by the PQ for the 2018 election. While it largely concerns measures to reduce congestion in central urban areas like downtown Montreal, she maintains that Westmount could draw benefits.

"If people had a truly efficient and reliable public transit system that was sufficiently spread out, they would take public transit and leave their car at home," she

said, referring to one element of the multi-faceted plan. "This would help automobile circulation and it would also create more time for families."

According to Marion Benoit, the plan would also include additional mass transit infrastructure (trains, trams, buses, car-pooling and reserved car lanes), over a wide area surrounding the Montreal region, including Laval, the Montérégie, the Lanaudière and the Laurentian regions.

"As well, the PQ would like to add, if elected, the possibility for businesses and employees to be able to telecommute – that is to be able to stay at home one or two days a week in such a way that the car

also would remain at home," she said.

Another important element of the PQ platform, she continued, would see the party making large investments of public funding in the education sector. "The PQ would ardently like to invest in universities," she said, noting that Westmount-St. Louis is home base for Concordia University and McGill University, as well as UQAM's science faculty.

"The PQ is especially concerned that there are 20 percent of university students who never finish their degrees," said Marion Benoit. "Therefore, the PQ would like to take a more serious look at this problem and find solutions in conjunction with the universities."

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Where else can one see an astronaut and a Grammy award-winning singer? At Notte in Bianco of course!

The signature event/fund-raiser held at the massive Guzzo estate in Terrebonne brings together celebrities from all over the world. Welcoming guests were hosts **Vincenzo Guzzo**, CEO Cinemas Guzzo, and **Maria Guzzo**, vp community affairs, Cinemas Guzzo, elegant in a Greek goddess pleated dress.

This year, president of honour was astronaut **Steven Greenwood McLean**, former president of the Canadian Space Agency (2008-2013), and professor at the Institute for Quantum Computing. (Sounds like a James Bond movie!) Attending with his wife **Nadine Wielgopolski**, McLean shared his sense of awe on viewing earth during his seven-hour space walk. Sequin-clad **Gloria Gaynor** was the star performer, singing a range of hits including her prize-winning song “I Will Survive.” The legendary queen of disco attended thanks to impresario Westmounter **Barry Garber**, soon on his way to Central America where he has organized a show with Sting and Shaggy.

Memories of George MacLaren (1938-2018)

Former Westmounter George MacLaren (born 1938) passed away on August 30 in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. The world is small. I knew of George MacLaren before we became friends. Pierre Péladeau had hired me to be style editor at his *Montreal Daily News* where George was publisher. Fast forward to years later, his wife Anne and I met, jumpstarting a friendship that would lead us to meandering on roads less travelled in the Nova Scotian countryside. I loved going to *flâner* with George on Amherst St. where his eagle eye found vintage Danish furniture. All I found was a salad bowl. My daughter and I have wonderful memories of Anne and George, from flushing pheasants as we drove up to visit them in Mahone Bay, to spending Christmas with them in Georgeville, where we exchanged not *schotkas*, but books. Anne led us on wonderful walks in London when we visited while George was Quebec delegate-general there. My daughter still recalls the stimulating conversations. – VR

Stars come out for ‘White Night’

The Indie will soon publish its fall social calendar. Please send information on your events to redgrave@videotron.ca.



Maria and Vincenzo Guzzo.



Barry Garber, Patricia Paquin and John Moore.

The evening’s emcees were media celebs former Montrealer radio personality **John Moore**, in from Toronto, and **Patricia Paquin**. Also noted were columnists **Sophie Durocher** and her husband **Richard Martineau**. As the themed night suggested, all guests wore white, with outfits ranging from Las Vegas racy to Armani elegant. After cocktails outdoors on the extensive grounds, accessorized with hundreds of white deck chairs and miles and miles of white impatiens, guests entered the main tent, complete with twinkling disco mirrored balls.

Table settings had the Midas touch: loads of gold. Cutlery was golden, and

wine glasses and plates had gold trim. Local caterer Java U offered veal, halibut or cauliflower steaks. A colourful candy bar ensured partygoers had lots of energy to dance.

Leaving to collect their cars from the valet, men received a little Mont Blanc notepad and ladies a gigantic bag of popcorn – the better to Netflix binge with! Westmounters noted included **Michaela** and **Michael Penner**, chairman, Hydro Quebec, **Linda** and **Terry Smith**, **Samantha Hayes** and **Robert Babczak**, **Erika Ludwick** and **Rosie** and **Sal Parasuco**, who had dressed the wait staff in Parasuco black T-shirts. (Le Château was also a clothing

sponsor). Westmount’s The Study board chair **Antonia Zannis** and **Susan Orr-Mongeau**, director communications, were also present. Seen in the sold-out crowd were **Nadia Saputo** and **Patrice Brisebois**, **Angela Di Corpo**, **Vincenza La Greca** and **Phil Nolan**, and **Sheila O’Gorman**, The Talent Fund. Vince Guzzo was also just named to the advisory board of the Talent Fund, Telefilm Canada’s platform to support emerging film producers. Guzzo will be part of the new *Dragon’s Den*. The 11th Notte in Bianco raised \$250,000 to support children’s mental health research at the Mc-



Michaela and Michael Penner.



Linda and Terry Smith, and Sheila O’Gorman.



Antonia Zannis, Phil Nolan, Vincenza La Greca, Susan Orr-Mongeau, Samantha Hayes, and Erika Ludwick. Standing in back is Robert Babczak.

Gill University, Shriners and Jewish General Hospitals (JGH), represented by doctors **Marc Affialo**, head emergency JGH; **Thierry Benaroch**, pediatric surgeon at the Shriners; and **Danielle Groleau**, associate

professor and senior investigator at the Institute of Community and Family Psychiatry, JGH. Summer torpor is over. The fall social season has begun with this annual sold-out celebration full of white knights.



Sophie Durocher and Richard Martineau.



Gloria Gaynor.

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Selwyn House gardens a work in progress

William Birks (left) and Thomas Lynam check out the bees that were pollinating the sunflowers.

By RALPH THOMPSON

Selwyn House students have been getting their hands dirty over the past 5 years experimenting with urban gardens. On September 6 at Selwyn House, Kathy Funamoto, elementary school head, explained how students at all levels have been learning about the challenge of growing many varieties of garden produce from squash, sweet peppers, pumpkins, tomatoes, cucumber, cabbage and corn to flowers to encourage honey bees. The school has been working with Alvéole to cultivate a bee community on the school rooftop garden and Microhabitat to establish their inner-city agriculture program. “This year

has been a difficult year for the gardens. We didn’t manage the weeds or watering very well, but these are all lessons for the students. Next year, we will establish a schedule over the summer so that the gardens can be better maintained,” said Funamoto, “but we are excited to see the plants grow, and we hope to use the herbs and vegetables in the kitchen in the future.”

Grade 6 student student William Birks has shown a particular interest in the discipline by starting his own garden at home. He described to the *Independent* how his tomatoes grow well and were good in spite of having some marks on the skins.

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Police Report

Summer may be nearly over, but bike thefts go on

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

While summer is slowly drawing to a close, bicycle thieves remain active in Westmount, say local police officials, who report bike theft incidents this month and in August.

Sometime during the night of Aug. 23 - 24, a bicycle was stolen from the rear yard of a Lansdowne Ave. home, although the owner waited until September to report it. The value of the stolen bike wasn't given in the police report.

Another bicycle theft took place during the night of Sept. 5 - 6. This time, a bike was taken that had been left by its owner in a rack atop a car parked in an alleyway behind a Wood Ave. home. The rack itself was damaged at the same time. The estimated value of this bike was a few hundred dollars.

While noting that many car-mounted bike racks have reasonably secure locks, Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière said "a burglar or a

thief who is really determined and knows he is in an area where he doesn't really have to worry about noise will sometimes do as much damage as he can."

Chevy broken into

On Aug. 31 sometime between 10 and 11 am, a Chevrolet parked in the Westmount Public Library parking lot was broken into and robbed of a few personal items that had been left by the owner partly in view from the outside.

"It's possible that the back door was left unlocked," said Laperrière. Adding to this suspicion was the fact no damage was done by the perpetrators to gain access to the car.

Lexus stolen

Sometime during the night of Sept. 5-6, a recent model Lexus luxury car that was parked in the front driveway of a Clarke Ave. home was stolen.

According to Laperrière, the owners left the vehicle parked in the driveway the evening before. When they looked again

the next morning, it had vanished without any traces of forced entry such as broken glass left on the ground.

Failed break-in on Roslyn Ave.

One of two things might explain a failed attempt to break into a Roslyn Ave. home during the night of Sept. 3-4: either the burglars were incompetent or the locks were too strong.

According to the police investigators' account, the homeowners returned after being away. After a few days, they realized that the entrance door lock was no longer working.

A locksmith who was summoned informed the owners of the reason for the malfunction – the lock had been forced. They later discovered that a neighbour had reported a break-in not long before.

"But nothing was stolen because they weren't able to gain access to the house," said Laperrière, adding that the attempted intrusion didn't cause a burglar alarm to go off.

Police who turned up at the crime scene found what appeared to be a burglary tool that might have been used in the attempt to force the lock.

Comin' Up

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Women's Canadian Club of Montreal hosts Stéphanie Lassonde of SNC-Lavalin on "Signature on the St. Lawrence: The Champlain Bridge Project." \$10. Victoria Hall. 12:30 pm.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

► Westmount Historical Association lecture, "Parks and Open Spaces: 1890-1990," by Professor Ron Williams (retired, School of Landscape Architecture, University of Montreal). \$5. Westmount Public Library. 7 pm.

► Atwater Library's Lunchtime Series: Brian Webb discusses the life and legacy of Rachel Carson, biologist and writer. Free, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

With the blessings of Abenaki elders, artist Sylvia Bertolini offers an interpretation of some universal wisdoms in "The 13 Clan Mothers of the 13 Moons" presented by the Women's Art Society of Montreal (www.womensartsociety.com). Non-members \$10. Unitarian Church of Montreal, 5035 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West from 1:30 to 2:30 pm.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

The annual Shaar Hashomayim Sisterhood Sukkot luncheon. Speaker: Vivianne Schinasi-Silver on "Sukkot: A Time to Express Gratitude." \$40. 425 Metcalfe Ave. 11:30 am.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

► "Off the Wall" art sale of gently used art to benefit the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign. On offer are about 400 pieces in a wide range of genres and prices. Westmount Park United Church. 10 am to 4 pm.

► Journées de la Culture, *Hergé à l'Ombre de Tintin* (in French). Victoria Hall. 2 pm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Tour of houses of worship by the city's Local Heritage Council and Westmount Historical Association. Meeting place: Westmount Lawn Bowling Club clubhouse (just west of city hall). 2 pm.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

First meeting: "How Does a Pear Taste? Writing About Food Using All Your Senses" led by Susan Semenak. 8-week hands-on workshop exploring different genres of food writing. \$190. Quebec Writers' Federation, 1200 Atwater Ave. For more information: workshops@qwf.org or 514.933.0878. 6 to 8 pm.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Atwater Library's annual benefit. Guests of honour are Alan Hogg and Grace Hogg of The George Hogg Family Foundation. \$150 online from Canada-Helps and at library. 1200 Atwater Ave. 6 pm.



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