

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 13 No. 11d

We are Westmount

November 26, 2019

## Council tables August 31 results

# Zero surplus forecasted for 2019 year end

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As city officials crunch the figures for the 2020 operating budget expected sometime in December, a forecast based on this year's results at August 31 projects no surplus for 2019. The year end forecast was tabled without comment at the November 18 council meeting.

If the year ends with very little or no surplus, it will likely be the first time in several years that this has occurred.

While municipalities are not allowed to run a deficit, Westmount has previously stated it aims to tighten the budget process to avoid million-dollar surpluses such as those that had led to accumulated sur-

pluses of \$28.9 million at the end of 2018, much of which has been appropriated to major projects and debt repayment.

The year end forecasts for 2019 show both the city's revenues and expenditures of \$113.4 million to be well over the budgeted amounts of \$111.2 million.

The projected cost of running the local Westmount operation is expected to be \$54.2 million (after a deduction for appropriated surplus). Another \$58.3 million was paid to the Montreal agglomeration for shared services such as fire, police, transit and another \$935,604 to the regional council.

Despite the increase in spending, less is expected to be dispersed of the \$15.8

million budgeted for pay-as-you-go for major projects. This is due largely to work not having started on construction of the greenhouses as anticipated, explained city treasurer and finance director Julie Mandeville.

Of the total "controllable" departmental expenditures, Public Works had by far the highest budget of \$9.5 million, excluding remuneration. This is double all the other departments combined. When an anticipated \$7.5 million is added for Public Works remuneration, its total operating costs are projected at \$17 million.

These figures are before the addition of some 19 additional snow removal employees for 2020 (see separate story below).

## Bronfman's Peace Network turns 10



Westmounter Brian Bronfman's Peace Network for Social Harmony celebrated its 10th anniversary – to the day – with a 5-à-7 downtown on November 18. He is pictured here on Victoria Ave. November 22. See p. 15 for story.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## 19 seasonal staff being hired

# City reveals \$400,000 additional expense to beef up snow removal

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a major move aimed at improving snow removal this winter, the city is hiring a total of 19 auxiliary staff and workers, and taking back some of its outsourced contracts in order to do much of the work itself in much the same way of years ago.

Many of the workers have already been hired, enabling the new way of operating

to begin in December.

The plan was announced November 21 by Mayor Christina Smith saying that the hiring of the workers for the winter season 2019-2020 will cost an additional \$700,000 of which some \$300,000 is expected to be recovered in cancelled contracts as well as overtime costs.

It will boost the ..... strength of Public Works, continued on p. 11



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# Westmount artists fundraise for Famijeunes

BY HEATHER BLACK

Westmount artists were among those attending the vernissage of the exhibition and art sale, Fundraising for Famijeunes. Held at the Complexe du Canal Lachine's Centre d'art E. K. Voland Art Gallery on October 21, the exhibition and art sale included works by Westmounters Catherine Bates, Daphney Bissonnette, Ann Elsdon, Shelley Freeman, Jennifer Goddard, Mair Millington, Susan Murdock, Eliane Rivard, Bram Rubinger and Gabriel Safdie, many of whom have studios within the complex at 4710 St. Ambroise.


Open to all artists, the event is the second annual fundraiser organized by Les Artistes de Saint-Henri. As well as paintings and photography, donated products and gift baskets for the October 25 raffle

were contributed by local businesses including Victoria village's Avenue des Arts. Former Westmounter Shaune Thompson, an event organizer and founding member, said: "Our motto is 'St. Henri helping St. Henri.' I was moved by the generosity of local merchants, many of whom are located in the Atwater Market."

The group's fundraising model aims to ensure that 90 percent of the proceeds from the five-day event will be donated to Famijeunes. Located at 3904 Notre Dame St., the not-for-profit organization has served the community for over 40 years. At the event, Famijeunes' director general Audrey Habib commented: "Although many who attend our centre are from St. Henri or Little Burgundy, we offer support programs to families throughout South-West Montreal."



Audrey Habib, Shaune Thompson, Bram Rubinger, Catherine Bates and Shelley Freeman with paintings by Rubinger (top), Thompson (centre) and Bates (right).



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

This was a perfect photography moment ... When the selection of festive hand-knit wool catnip mice was placed in the transporter on the lobby bench, Ariel couldn't resist the appeal of organic catnip...

She posed for a moment in all her splendour, was much admired and praised, then picked up and cuddled to her heart's content. The stunning colours of the wool mice are certainly enhanced in this shot, in contrast with Ariel's silky long brown coat and golden eyes.

She is such an affectionate beauty, and it would be a kindness to give her a home in a family in our neighborhood as soon

## Ariel, princess of catnip mice



as possible, as she is presently in boarding. Ariel is four years old, very healthy, up to date with her inoculations and spayed. She is playful and social, looking to bond. You can find out more about her by emailing

the volunteers at Gerdy's Rescues & Adoptions at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

### Catnip locations

In order to select your hand-knit organic catnip mice for your felines and for holiday gifting, please drop by the various locations where they are available: Animalerie Little Bear (4152 St. Catherine St.), Ben & Tournesol (4937 Sherbrooke St. W.), Baker Ani-

mal Hospital (8310 Mayrand St.), Clinique Vétérinaire Sud-Ouest (4028 Notre Dame St. West), Côte St. Luc Animal Hospital (7930 Baily Rd.), Doghaus (5671 Sherbrooke St.), Hôpital Vétérinaire Général M.B. (3400 St. Antoine St. West), Pampered Pets of Westmount (4937B Sherbrooke St. West). Such a great opportunity to donate to this grassroots animal rescue organization as all proceeds go to the Rescue. Let's make all cats happy in this festive season!

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Westmount A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

He is such a handsome and affectionate fellow, yet as a Big Black Dog we have to give him a second look. Jazz is a Labrador and Newfoundland mix, with the very best of each breed. This young fellow is three years old now and is available for adoption from the SPCA Montérégie shelter. He is ready to go to a home now, as he is very healthy, has had all his inoculations, and is neutered.

Jazz is cuddly and playful, an active young fellow who should have the opportunity to be part of a family in our neighborhood and join doggy buddies at the Summit for runs. Please contact Cindy at [info@spcamonteregie.com](mailto:info@spcamonteregie.com) as soon as possible, and come by for a visit with him at the SPCA Montérégie shelter. This wonderful group of volunteers works diligently

## All that Jazz

to save animals in need. They are located at 178 Chemin du Vide in St. Angèle de Monnoir. Visiting days are Thursday and Saturday from 2 pm to 4 pm, or on appointment.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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# Westmount High welcomes Israeli baseball star Ty Kelly



Seen here holding up the Israeli national baseball team's mascot, *Mensch on a Bench*, Team Israel second baseman Ty Kelly answered questions from EMSB marketing specialist Daniel Smajovits as well as from Westmount High students.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

On November 8, students at Westmount High School welcomed an athlete who helped put Israel on the map in professional baseball in 2017 when the Israeli national team rose from 41st world position to 6th during the World Baseball Classic.

Ty Kelly was one of Team Israel's stars at the tournament. The team is now going on to be one of six national teams that will be competing at the 2020 Tokyo Summer

Olympics.

Before signing on with Team Israel, Kelly played major league baseball for the Philadelphia Phillies and the New York Mets.

Considered a utility player capable of filling several positions, he was the main second baseman for Team Israel in 2017 when they scored upset wins over South Korea, Chinese Taipei and Cuba.

Kelly was in Montreal for the local premiere of the documentary *Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel*, which had its Montreal debut October 9 at Shaare Zion Synagogue on Côte St. Luc Rd.

"I played baseball my whole life, and played a lot of other sports growing up as well, and it just sort of worked out that I was able to keep succeeding in baseball and keep moving up," he said regarding his path to success.

Asked what he has planned career-wise post-baseball, he said his goal is to write film scripts and TV screenplays as well as a book on baseball. "That basically is my plan right now and it'll either work out or it won't," said Kelly.

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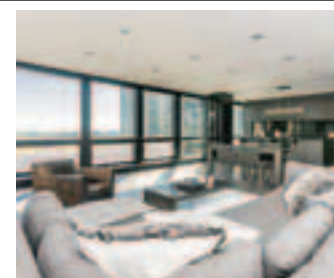
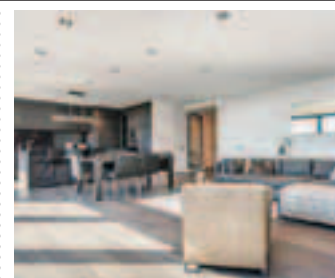
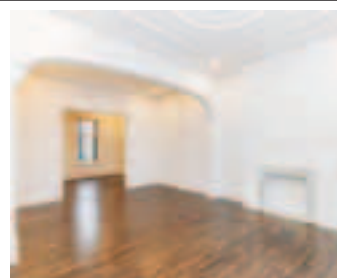
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# Few attend consultation on 1100 Atwater

## Project process appears close to final stages

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public consultation meeting on zoning variances for the office building under renovation at 1100 Atwater wound up November 20 after only 20 minutes with word the approval process would be headed into the final stages at the council meeting December 2.

This is the seven-storey building on the west side of Atwater between Dorchester and Tupper that has vested rights to exist in a residential zone but whose redevelopers want to include retail at the ground and first storeys with the addition of commercial signage.

The only three members of the audience who turned up were Lynn Verge, the nearby Atwater Library's chief librarian, the councillor, Kathleen Kez, for District 8 and its former councillor Theodora Samiotis, a resident of Dorchester.

Opening the meeting, Councillor Conrad Peart as urban planning commissioner for permits and architecture, said the comments raised during the proceeding would be considered and that council's second reading of a resolution of approval would be presented at the city council meeting

December 2.  
"This will then be eligible for a referendum register," he said.  
Urban Planning director Tom Flies then presented a slightly revised submission for landscaping and the addition of improved lighting and seating in the passageway at the back of the building between it and the parking garage.  
An initial request to reduce interior parking to 47 has been eliminated.



The passageway from Tupper to Dorchester at the back of the 1100 Atwater building on November 21.

During the agenda's question period, the only questions came from the former urban planning commissioner Theodora Samiotis asking about seating on a retaining wall alongside Tupper and the need for improved lighting, which she was assured would be to the standards of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). She also said the city had "missed an opportunity" to create a planning vision for the area in question as part of one for

the southeast, which might have prevented various projects such as the one in question being considered piecemeal.  
Councillor Kathleen Kez told the *Independent* at the end of the meeting that she was "happy with the benefit to the community in the short term" at least, that the proposal for 1100 Atwater would bring, including retail and a restaurant/café.  
The Atwater Library's Verge, also discussed benefits to the area and potential users of the library expected to come from the building of a proposed 11-storey mixed residential building at 4014 St. Catherine and completion of the 32-storey residential tower at 1111 Atwater.



Councillor Kathleen Kez speaks with Councillor Conrad Peart and Urban Planning director Tom Flies.

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*Library kids' fines abolished*  
**New tariffs for 2020 hike  
sports fees for first time in 3 years**

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Fines are being abolished for overdue books and videos in the children's section of Westmount Public Library while users of sports and recreation facilities will find many fees increased for the first time since 2017.

These are some of the highlights affecting residents in the city's draft tariffs by-law for 2020 tabled by city council November 18. It is expected to be adopted at the December 2 meeting.

Among many unchanged fees are those for dog licences, on-street parking stickers, swimming instruction for kids and a number of other library fines and fees.

The elimination of the 10-cents-a-day overdue book fine for children, however, is consistent with movements by the American and Canadian library associations, explains Westmount library director Julie-Anne Cardella.

"Our goal is to get the books back on the shelves and to encourage the children to come back without a penalty. We want them to regard the library as a safe and friendly place even while fostering a sense of civic responsibility."

On the other hand, a long list of varying fee increases is outlined for many of some 170 Sports and Recreation activities, starting with spring and summer registration opening for residents February 11.

*Increases less than others*

"We did a comparison to other cities in the West End and the South Shore and found that everything we offer is always below the average," said department director Dave Lapointe.

Even with the new increases to cover rising costs such as those of instructors, he said, "Westmount residents will still be

paying on average 56 percent of other municipalities when it comes to children's programs and 59 percent for adult ones."

Increases, he said, range from 2 percent to 19 percent over three years depending on the cost of running the program.

The annual facility card, whose price has not been raised since 2016 but allows for use of all facilities including tennis courts and skating rinks, goes from \$40 to \$50 while a family membership (five persons maximum) goes from \$80 to \$100.

Again, this is "way lower" than the average of municipalities surveyed, where separate cards are sometimes required for different facilities, Lapointe explained. A lower fee, of \$40 however, is being introduced for the first time for seniors (ages 65+).

Examples of some program fees are adult tap dancing, unchanged at \$75, while classical ballet for 3- and 4-year-olds goes from \$50 to \$60, youth inter-city season's hockey from \$325 to \$335 and masters swim \$95 to \$115.

The 26-page draft by-law of proposed city fees and licences lists a long range of costs and exceptions that include those related to construction, contractors, landscaping, demolition, rentals, rooming house permits and damage to city equipment.

**Friends of Library  
raises almost \$19k**

The Friends of the Westmount Library November 16-17 book sale raised \$18,837.50, organizer Carolyn O'Neill said in an email to volunteers.

"Thank you to everyone who helped with the sale, and to everyone who donated and purchased books!" she concluded.

*(1938-2019)*  
**RIP George  
Springate**

Former Westmount provincial legislator George Springate died in Ottawa November 20 at the age of 81.

He was elected to three terms in the legislature, firstly as the representative for the St. Anne (Griffintown-Point St. Charles) riding in 1970 and 1973, and then for Westmount in 1976. He did not run for a fourth term.

He was a provincial Liberal, although at times not in their caucus due to his opposition to their Bill 22, a precursor of Bill 101.

His working career had many other chapters, some of which occurred simultaneously, including time as a policeman, a broadcaster/journalist, a CFL football player, a lawyer, a law enforcement educator, a law professor and, most recently, a citizenship judge.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Gill.

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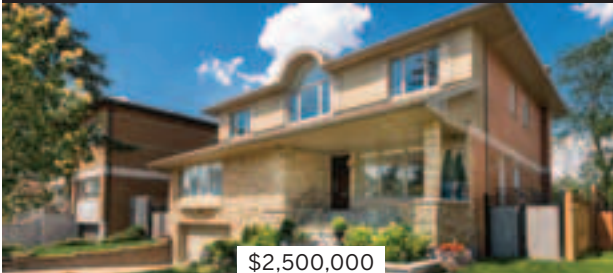
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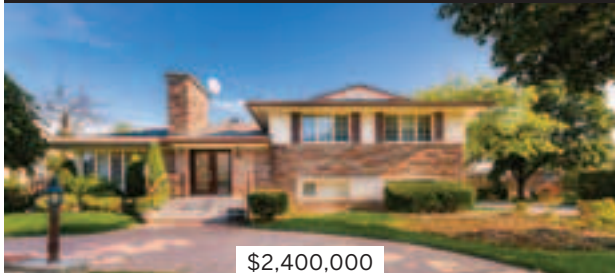
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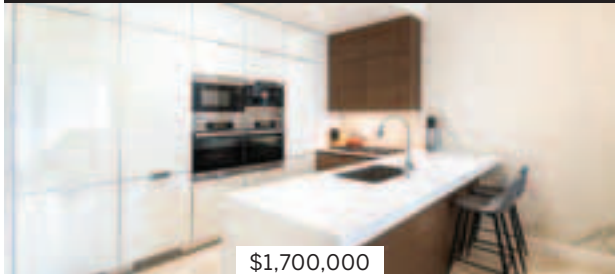
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Some Westmount residents use their private cars to go to and from downtown (or elsewhere in) Montreal, be it the daily commute to work or an occasional outing. Such mileage can add up, with both financial and environmental consequences.

The average downtown distance one-way is about 5 km, so for 200 working days in the year that makes a total of 2,000 km, corresponding to just over a half metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> for an average car at a cost just for gasoline of about \$300; the actual cost is about triple that (i.e. just under \$1,000), allowing for maintenance and depreciation of one's vehicle.

**STM pass**

The cost of a monthly pass with the STM is \$86.50, so \$1,038 per year. This is similar to the cost by car, but just for one return car trip downtown on workdays. With an Opus card, you can use it any time and go anywhere any number of times in Montreal! But by doing so you will considerably reduce your carbon footprint (even more once electric buses become the norm, like the Metro) plus enjoy having someone else drive you while you relax and read or daydream, stress-free and without the hassle of maybe having to deal with an accident. It may take you a little longer, but think of the exercise you'll get while minimizing your impact on the environment.

And you're never very far away on foot from public transport in Westmount – see any map that shows the principal bus routes and nearby Metro stations. Plus you can easily find out when buses come to the nearest minute at any stop, either on-line with a computer or a smart phone. It takes me five minutes to walk to or from my nearest bus-stop in upper Westmount and sometimes I even take the 12 minutes to walk to Queen Mary to catch bus 51.

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# Clearing our streets and sidewalks

## Mayor's Column

CHRISTINA SMITH

As winter has arrived early, I want to share with citizens some changes we are making to our Public Works department. These changes focus on safety of pedestrians, drivers and cyclists, and of our intention to improve snow operations this winter.

Service to residents is the very core of what we do and snow removal is one of the most important and costly parts of that. Constructive feedback from many residents over the past two years has been consistent: they want improvements to services and improved safety for mobility. Public Works management and I agree with residents: we can do better.

### Staff reductions, outsourcing have taken a toll

Over the years, staff reductions and outsourcing have taken a toll on infrastructure maintenance and services to residents. Insufficient maintenance on buildings, sidewalks, roads and parks will ultimately cost the city more than investing in the right people to care for them. We can improve services in a significant way by adding to the team and making the department structure more efficient.

Irregular weather patterns are also a challenge for our Public Works department, particularly the snow removal operations.

### 8 loadings, 11 freeze-thaws

Last year, we had eight snow-loading operations and 11 periods of freeze-thaw cycles. This made it difficult for the city to fulfill its commitment to clearing side-

walks, public spaces, public steps and staircases of snow, ice and slush in a timely fashion. On average, it was taking us five to six days to clear a 20+ centimeter snowfall. Understandably, this was a source of frustration and a safety concern for many residents.

Our Public Works team along with council and the administration have assessed the situation and identified the following key hurdles:

- New provincial laws further restrict access for heavy vehicles. The trucks that are waiting to be filled up with snow cannot access certain streets, which slows down our snow-removal operations;
- Extended time to get to snow dumps due to work on Turcot interchange;
- Limitation on overtime hours for truck drivers for safety and security reasons;
- Outsourcing issues due to the management of contractors and to the recruitment of qualified manpower at their end.

We have concluded that both our maintenance practices and snow removal process can be improved with additional staff. For that reason, it was decided to significantly increase investment in Public Works operations in 2019-2020, on a provisional basis.

### Fourth snow-removal crew

As part of these provisional changes, we are adding a fourth snow-removal crew, as well as a dedicated overnight team. This is to ensure that the clearing of snow on city sidewalks, and of the areas surrounding schools and the commercial sectors, is done as quickly as possible.

To implement the plan, we have hired a night superintendent and have budgeted to hire 19 seasonal staff members to join the Public Works team at an approximate cost of \$700,000. This addition to the workforce will be composed of auxiliary part-time employees. By hiring these additional

staff we are able to better manage operations and stop outsourcing some contracts, which cost the city close to \$300,000. Therefore, the impact on the budget for winter 2019-2020 is an increase of \$400,000.

### New equipment

Additionally, to ensure pedestrian safety, the city has purchased new equipment, such as plows and ice-breaker machines to clean and clear sidewalks in order to increase walkability.

These changes should allow us to reach our goal of ensuring that a major snow removal operation is completed over a four-day period.

Residents love our outdoor rinks. An added benefit is that our outdoor rinks will be usable within 48 hours of a storm, three days earlier than in previous winters.

We will measure and expect improved services to residents. The safety and mobility of residents who are walking, driving or biking has been the guiding principle in this investment of additional staff to our Public Works team. We cannot control the weather, but we hope these changes will lessen its impact.



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**Veillez noter que la date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le vendredi 31 janvier 2020.**

*Les postes sont octroyés selon les qualifications et l'expérience de travail. Seules les personnes retenues seront rencontrées pour une entrevue.*

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT 2020

Beginning Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, you can apply for a summer job at the City of Westmount. The employment form is available online at [westmount.org/summerjobs](http://westmount.org/summerjobs).

**Please note that the deadline to submit your application is Friday, January 31, 2020.**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OFFICIALS NEED(ED) TO ACT ON LEAD IN WATER

The past and present elected officials of the city of Westmount had/have a moral obligation to notify their citizens that their tap water has an unacceptable amount of lead.

Five times the federal limit!  
We should not be finding this out via the news media. This did not happen overnight. How about holding a town hall and having a concrete plan in place in order to appease all those concerned?  
Shame on them!

NATHALIE ALLARD, PRINCE ALBERT AVE.  
*Editor's note:* One point that I have not seen covered in the media is the role that water entrances – which are privately owned in Westmount – could have played in these results. Lead water entrances would surely affect test results and they are the owners' responsibility. I know they exist here because I used to have one. Also, the city offers owners the chance to replace them when it digs up a street. As reporter Laureen Sweeney wrote in our April 11, 2017 issue (p. 15): "[Then councillor Christina] Smith said she is 'encouraging' residents to take advantage of the water main work [on Grosvenor] to replace any lead water service entries on their own property. This provides some cost benefit for residents to do at the time excavation of the city portion is already taking place, she pointed out." – DP.

THOUGHTS ON WESTMOUNT PARK

The extension of Westmount Park towards the swimming pool and the Café

Mouton Noir has white sandy paths that are a pleasure to stroll along or cycle by. A few trees would give it welcome summer shade.

Westmount Park is crisscrossed with concrete paths. There is just too much concrete in the park. Westmount Park even has a heart of concrete. Cities all over the world are built of concrete – a material that is dead. But a number of revolutionary contemporary architects have designed and built high-rises entirely of wood.

Westmount Park is crossed by a long cycle path. Why are cyclists forbidden to ride in the park? Of course, speeding cyclists should be arrested and given a hefty fine. Parks in Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto and in New York's Central Park are graced by the co-existence of happy cyclists and pedestrians. Cyclists do not pollute our cities. They do not run over inhabitants to injure or kill them. Speeding car drivers pollute our cities 24 hours a day for 365 days a year, and run over pedestrians and kill or injure them. Westmount should welcome careful cyclists in its parks.

Fountains define cities in Europe. The mere mention of Rome brings to mind the movie *Three Coins in the Fountain*. Fountains are celebrated in music by Liszt and Ravel and water and the sea by Handel and Debussy. Imagine a decorative playing fountain in the middle of Westmount Park. An ideal location would be the large round flower plot near the gazebo, surrounded by wooden benches, not anchored in concrete. Such a fountain would replace Westmount Park's deader-than-dead concrete heart with an alive, throbbing heart that

will be the park's most attractive, striking, delighting, distinctive and coolest feature.  
STEPHEN CHIN, SHERBROOKE ST.

THANK YOU FOR WESTMOUNT PARK CONSULTATION

Many of my letters here have expressed concern regarding city council's ranking of priorities. This is not one of them.

Instead it's a thank-you to the team that arranged the innovative public consultation at Victoria Hall on the future of Westmount Park. It was a unique experience for many of us, encouraging residents who had never met before to jump right in and pitch novel ideas one after another.

I also had a chance to meet a landscape architect working for Stantec who impressed me with his wide experience and his deep understanding of how public spaces contribute to everyone's quality of life, from kids to seniors.

Hopefully, Stantec was able to capture from our residents an appreciation for what had been lost in the park over the many years and may now be returned as well as a range of possibilities for the future. Council was courageous in opening the Pandora's box of consultation, as *Independent* editor David Price expressed it in his November 19 editorial (p. 6). In keeping, his note continued by proposing a straight walkway [east-west at de Maisonneuve] in contrast to Olmsted designs, which contain only curved walkways.

The ECOwatch article by Heather Black (p. 10) laudably called for a greener nature-oriented park particularly aimed at children.

Yet at the same time we must recognize that there is a strong lobby in Westmount for ripping up the living grass turf of a soccer field and replacing it with synthetic turf.\* I look forward to seeing how Stantec distills all the diverse views and integrates them in its proposal.

In the end, when Westmount residents see the various options, their benefits as well as their price tags, it will be up to all of us to form a consensus and decide on the direction we wish to take.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

*\*Editor's note:* For clarity, the soccer players and their advocates are asking for artificial turf at the Westmount Athletic Grounds behind Westmount High. – DP.

Correction

The hockey players on p. 4 of last week's issue are in fact , from left, Juliette Demyttenaere and Olivia Lee. We apologize for the error. – DP.

ARTIFICIAL TURF WOULD ADD TO CLIMATE HEAT

Little do we remember that just over a month ago we walked with 16-year-old Greta Thunberg in her Strike for the Climate, over 500,000, with Westmount's mayor and part of the council present. We were supporting every action that would reverse climate heating. Now we find young soccer players badgering Westmount council for an artificial playing field at the WAG.

There is a disconnect.

Were these young people not at the march? Do they not realize that an artificial surface increases our contribution to climate heating on a permanent basis? This decision would be in the same league as all the parents who drive SUVs to soccer games, undoing efforts by other Westmounters who are trying by all the means in their power to reduce their ecological footprint.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.

BORDEN AVE. SUPPORTS FRIPP, HOWICK

I live in NDG but I also enjoy reading the *Westmount Independent*. I totally agree with letter writers Peter Howick and Claire Fripp about the removal or replacing of dead trees in Westmount. We have the same problem here in NDG.

The wind storm that occurred recently brought down two huge branches on our street (Borden) from partially dead trees. They landed on two cars, and they caused significant damage, to say nothing of the fact that it took the city over a week to come and remove them, thereby taking up much needed parking space. Good thing they did not land on the many school children and people who walk their pets on our street. We have asked the city of Montreal for years to cut them down. They say the trees are fine even though they are covered in moss and black-spotted leaves. We even had Hydro Quebec come by as these branches are above all the wires on our street. Hydro reps said we have nothing to worry about and even predicted which way they would fall. We here on Borden Ave. agree with Ms. Fripp when she states: "I shudder to think what it is going to take." Maybe the city needs to introduce a "project" with tree inspectors who can act quickly before the winter storms arrive.

SUSAN ROBERTS, NDG

*Editor's note:* As a resource for people interested in the city's trees (and the ones that aren't the city's), another reader has pointed out that the city has a map of all its trees on its website at westmount.org/en/environment/

continued on p. 18

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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

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Pull-out section

# Holiday Gift Guide 2019



Greene Ave. on November 22. The snow from the previous week was gone, except for one lonely (artificial) snowflake.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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WESTMOUNT SQUARE



Great day, great view



Murray (King George) Park on November 17. See next page for another photo.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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# Fun on the slopes of Westmount



David Schumacher and his son Henri set off down the slope on their traditional sled while mum Katharina, baby Hannah and Jakob watch. The Schumachers (not related to the Formula One driver) are from Germany and have been living in Westmount for a number of years. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

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**Warmest Holiday Wishes to all our friends & customers**

# Design, cat stuff and massages in time for the holidays



**Retail Review**  
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Beside one of Westmount’s go-to dry cleaners, there is now a beautiful new building. Grey and white have never looked smarter. The just-opened Philip Andrew Hazan Architects/Philip Hazan Design on Olivier Ave. speaks volumes about the simplicity of design: the sharp white outline of the windows pops against the slate grey walls. A discreet – very! – number announces the address. Architect and designer Philip Hazan recently collaborated with the Paris firm Gilles & Bossier on the design of the new Four Seasons Hotel interiors including guest rooms, spa, ballroom and public areas.

Philip Andrew Hazan Architect/Philip Hazan Design  
208 Olivier Ave.

## Brooklyn & Co.

Animal lovers rejoice. Brooklyn & Co. has opened in Westmount. Large sacks of food sit waiting anxiously to be taken home and enjoyed. Wonderfully whimsical playthings attract the eyes of pedestrians and as well as their leashed companions. Co-owner with Alicia Moynan, André Cho tells me that they “specialize in cats as there are already many ‘mainly dog’ stores.” But the

shop carries produce – toys, beds *et al.* – “for both.” Being open 7 days a week from 9 am on weekdays and from 10 am on the weekends – ensures that pets can be spoiled any day of the week. So a reason to paws on Sherbrooke St. PS. Website coming shortly.

4822 Sherbooke St. (at Victoria)

Two new spaces have recently opened in Alexis Nihon.

## Santé H & H

Santé H & H offers relaxation services – sure to be needed as holiday rush (aka stress) is waiting around the corner. The team of professionals includes sports therapists, osteopaths, acupuncturists and massotherapists. The menu of therapies elicits “ahs” before even sitting down. Offered are shiatsu, pregnancy, and hot stone therapies, as well as a chair massage. Even better? Open 7 days a week. Sigh.

## Clair de Lune

Clair de Lune is a perfect one-stop shop for items ranging from cushions and warm blankets to essential oil diffusers. A smart sign uses icons to “list” products carried: wine glasses, candlesticks, special mugs *et al.* Cushions are particularly alluring with animal images and bilingual messages. The shop’s merchandise suggests presents for any occasion if not a “me-too” gift. Perfect *hygge* feeling. (That’s the Swedish word for especially cozy.)

Open 7 days a week.



Brooklyn & Co. on November 22.



## Winter is flu season



Victoria Hall was a popular venue November 20. The annual flu vaccination clinic took place and “was well organized by the Victoria Hall staff, who anticipated the huge volume of people,” according to one Westmounter. The clinic was scheduled to start at 10 am. First-come, first-served reservation numbers were handed out before 9 am and people were directed to a waiting room. By 10 am, the lobby was packed and it was still very busy at lunchtime. This photograph was taken at 10:20 am.

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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## Treats & Treasures draws pre-holiday crowd to Centre Greene



The annual 'Treats and Treasures' artisans' Christmas fair at Centre Greene on November 16 drew hundreds of supporters who were on the lookout for pre-holiday season gift deals, while also helping raise thousands of dollars for Centre Greene programs in the coming year. PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY



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*Holiday recipe idea*

# Arugula salad with honeyed pined nuts

BY ETTY B.

This salad combines bitter and sweet. The peppery taste of arugula plays off nicely against the sweetened pine nuts. Simple and sure to please.

## NUTS

½ cup pine nuts  
2 tbsp clover honey

## VINAIGRETTE

2 tsp honey  
1½ tbsp cider vinegar  
2½ tsp Dijon mustard  
1 teaspoon salt  
pepper to taste  
¼ cup extra virgin olive oil

## SALAD

4 cups arugula  
2 Belgian endives halved, cored and thinly sliced lengthwise  
½ medium fennel bulb, shaved  
⅓ cup shaved Parmesan cheese, optional  
¼ cup pomegranate seeds

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and grease lightly.

To make nuts, add honey to a non-stick pan and heat for a few seconds until honey is melted. Add pine nuts and combine. Cook over moderately high heat until nuts are golden and well coated, watching carefully ... about 4 minutes. Pour mixture onto prepared baking sheet and spread them in an even layer. Set aside to cool. *Can be done In advance.*

Whisk the honey, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Gradually whisk in olive oil. *Can be done in advance.*

To make the salad, combine the endives, fennel and cheese (if using) in a large bowl. Break the honeyed pine nuts into small pieces, add them and the pomegranate seeds to the bowl. Add the dressing and toss to coat. *Serve at once.*



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**Snow removal, cont'd. from p. 1**

whose numbers have been cut back over the last few years due to attrition.

"It's a major investment in people and Public Works," she told the *Independent*. "But it will enable commercial sectors, school zones and sidewalks to be cleared overnight "all driven by safety."

The added new workers will form a fourth team, which will work overnight "so people will be able to wake up and walk on the sidewalks." All Public Works vehicles have been equipped with white-noise beepers and the city now has enough equipment to do the work.

"We're relooking at all the routes, especially those affecting streets such as Burton, Winchester and Somerville, whose snow removal came at the end of the schedule because they were considered non-urgent routes but whose residents require on-street parking."

Once the new process has been tested through at least one storm, Mayor Smith said, the city will set up a live, interactive map so residents can check when their street is to be cleared "so at least they'll know what to expect." As well, the city will be using temporary "no-parking" pickets until permanent signage can be put in place.

She said that developing the plans has been under way by Public Works and presented to council in various iterations until

being unanimously approved at the general committee meeting November 18.

"Snow removal is one of the city's services that has a profound impact on residents when it goes well or doesn't," said Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of infrastructure and innovation, who has been working closely with Public Works on analysing the issue. "There is nothing more frustrating than being stuck in the snow or unable to park."

Although Westmount is known for its good snow removal compared with neighbours, he said, "we need to continue to improve. We realized that one of the ways is increasing manpower and using more trucks. So it's decided to adjust both of those."

Mayor Smith said it follows repeated complaints last winter when eight snow loading operations were required as well as de-icing following 11 freeze-thaw cycles.

While snow-removal problems put forward include extended time to get to snow dumps due to Turcot work, the government's limit on overtime for drivers and costly outsourced snow-removal contracts with poor management by contractors, it was concluded that the staffing shortage was the main reason.

The need to provide cleaner sidewalks has also been underlined by the efforts of Dan Lambert, president of the Association of Pedestrians and Cyclists of Westmount "whose commentary was featured prominently in the planning process."

The new night crew will also be able to work on the outdoor rinks, cleaning of public steps and plowing park paths. Along with efforts by Public Works director Robert Talarico, assistant director Frederic Isabel and the newly hired roads superintendent Denis René, and others, she said that now that the city is making such an investment in Public Works and an effort to help residents, it is up to them to instruct their private contractors not to pile snow on the sidewalks.

She said fines, rather than warnings, will be required for effective enforcement.

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## Should all votes be equal in Quebec?

In 2017, Quebec's director general of elections reversed a decision and suddenly removed one of the three provincial ridings in our part of Montreal. The local councils of Côte St. Luc, Hampstead, Town of Mount Royal, Outremont and Côte des Neiges-NDG protested. Over 500 West End residents took part in a rally and a legal contestation was launched. While the ridings in our part of town now have an average of nearly 58,000 voters each, six ridings in the regions of Quebec have fewer than the minimum number of voters allowed by law. One riding actually has just 28,000 voters.



**This is unfair and gives some rural areas twice the political weight of residents of our part of the province.**

Minority communities tend to be concentrated in some parts of the island of Montreal and the current electoral map devalues their votes. On December 3 and 4, the court will hear the complaint against the director general of elections. However, the ability to see the case through resides on the continued support from ordinary citizens. I am seeking contributions from residents and supporters to help win this struggle.

**Your contribution to help this cause can be made by:**

- Making out your cheque to our lawyer, Julius Grey: "Julius Grey in Trust," care of: 5160 Decarie #710, Montréal (Québec) H3X 2H9  
Attention: Marvin Rotrand, City Councillor

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**BUILDING PERMITS** **What's permitted**

**As construction season dwindles, council approves only 14 buildings in Nov.**

The following six requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration or renovation were approved at the November 4 meeting of the city council on the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). There were no refusals.

**Approved**

**534 Lansdowne:** to do work on the exterior of the building and add an extension on the rear as per design option A;

**483 Grosvenor:** to resurface the parking apron and build a new retaining wall provided the wall is made of stone or stone-faced with Montreal limestone, as per guideline 6.3.3 of *Building and Renovating in Westmount* and that its maximum height is reduced to 1 foot;

**171 Edgehill:** to replace windows on all facades, restore leaded windows, and modify window and door openings in selected areas provided the stones removed for modifying window or door openings be re-used on other parts of the facades when modifying other openings;

**4999 St. Catherine:** to install two signs at Château Maisonneuve;

**371 Metcalfe:** to build an extension at the back and do renovations to the house including replacing the roof and some windows provided the width of the triple doors is reduced to increase the width of the masonry wall that is between them and the single window; this width must be the same as the width of the walls at each end of the rear façade on the main floor;

**24 Springfield:** to rebuild a rear staircase.

**Also approved**

The following 8 permits were approved at the meeting November 18. There were no refusals.

**377 Metcalfe:** at a Category I house, to revise the scope of work of the previous approved application to include minor modifications to the window openings on the

addition and for a full brick replacement on the residence provided the existing chimney not be removed; that the proposed windows be wooden single-hung or double-hung windows (with the exception of the basement windows which may be aluminum-clad awning windows), and that the new brick match the existing in dimension, colour, type, and bond;

**4493 Sherbrooke:** to pave an existing parking apron, to repair the walkway and to do landscaping in the front yard provided the parking apron is re-surfaced with pavers and not with asphalt and that the retaining wall for the flower box is made of stone or stone-faced as per guideline #6 of *Building and Renovating in Westmount*.

**718 Upper Lansdowne:** at a Category I building, to install a heating system in an existing driveway and repave the surface provided that both driveway entrances not exceed the maximum width of 10 ft.;

**511 Clarke:** to install a new door and window on the lateral and rear façade provided the triple-panel window on the rear façade be double-hung and reduced in size to match the sill height of the adjacent window on elevation A;

**5 Thornhill:** to replace a window provided the proposed one has a central division as per the original;

**10 Rosemount:** to build a basement access

at the apartment building;

**134 Arlington:** to install a back fence;  
**4136 Dorchester:** at a Category I house, to replace two basement windows on the rear façade provided they are as per the original windows and have double windows.

**LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS**

**Avis de Clôture D'inventaire**

Par les présentes, avis est donné qu'à la suite du décès de Madame Pierrette Masson Beausoleil, survenu le 20 septembre 2019, en son vivant domiciliée au CHSLD Château Westmount, 4860 boulevard de Maisonneuve Ouest, chambre 413, Westmount, Québec, H3Z 3G2, un inventaire des biens de la défunte a été dressé par la liquidatrice successorale, Manon Beausoleil, le 24 octobre 2019, conformément à la loi. Cet inventaire peut être consulté par les intéressés au 4709 The Boulevard, Westmount, Québec, H3Y 1T3 en communiquant par écrit avec Manon Beausoleil.

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**Overheard**

“That’s why living with a stranger is much better than living with anyone you know.”

- Woman to her walking companion at Clarke Ave. and St. Catherine St. on November 22, 4:15 pm.

“It’s not about what you eat .... There’s moderation and then there’s denial.”

- Woman into her cell phone at the Metro grocery store on November 24 at 10 am.

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# infoWestmount

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Visitez le [westmount.org/ewestmount](http://westmount.org/ewestmount) pour vous abonner et recevoir les dernières nouvelles de votre Ville par courriel!

## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### Programme de subventions pour organismes communautaires

**Rappel : date limite pour faire une demande est le 30 novembre 2019.** La Ville de Westmount offre des subventions pour soutenir les organismes locaux qui contribuent à la qualité de vie des résidents. Visitez la page *organismes communautaires* à [westmount.org](http://westmount.org) pour consulter la politique municipale concernant les subventions et pour remplir le formulaire de demande. Le formulaire imprimé est disponible à la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Storywalk® au parc Westmount

Redécouvrez la Ville à travers des images d'archives de lieux historiques, de scènes de vie et de loisirs d'hiver.

### Série Récits de voyages

**Les jeudis à 10 h 30 ou vendredis à 13 h, du 7 novembre au 6 décembre**, Bibliothèque. Une activité pour les individus atteints de démence. Inscription : 514 989-5530 / [dmiguez@westmount.org](mailto:dmiguez@westmount.org).

### Atelier de poésie

**Mercredi 27 novembre, 10 h 15**, Bibliothèque. Avec Ann Lloyd. Bienvenue à tous. 514 989-5299.

### Rencontres d'auteurs

**Mercredi 27 novembre, 19 h**, Bibliothèque. Sean Michaels, gagnant du prix Giller, auteur de *Us Conductors* et de *The Wagers*. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

### Club de films documentaires

**Mercredi 4 décembre, 19 h**, Bibliothèque. *Louise Lecavalier: Body Speech* (2014) et *Louise Lecavalier: sur son cheval de feu* (2018). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

### Vente de livres des Amis de la Bibliothèque

**Samedi et dimanche, 16 et 17 novembre, 10 h à 17 h**, Victoria Hall. Les fonds recueillis seront consacrés à l'achat de nouveau matériel pour la Bibliothèque.

### Club de lecture en français

**Lundi 9 décembre, 13 h**, Bibliothèque. Œuvres de Kathy Reichs. Animé par Gisèle Magny.

### Dessins animés en pyjama (4 ans et +)

**Samedi 30 novembre, 10 h 15 à 11 h 15**, Bibliothèque. Venez en pyjama déguster un petit-déjeuner léger et vous amuser en regardant des vieux dessins animés.

Prochaine séance du conseil  
le lundi 2 décembre

## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Auditions pour le spectacle d'amateurs du Carnaval d'hiver

**Vendredi et samedi 29 et 30 novembre, 19 h 30**, Victoria Hall. Vous êtes musicien, danseur, rappeur, acteur, humoriste ou magicien? Venez montrer vos talents lors d'un spectacle amateur communautaire pour tous le 7 février! Inscrivez-vous : [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Illumination du sapin de Noël

**Lundi 2 décembre, 18 h à 19 h 30**, hôtel de ville. Joignez-vous aux élus municipaux pour des activités, du chocolat chaud, de la musique et des gâteries. Dons de denrées très appréciés. 514 989-5226.

### Collecte de sang Héma-Québec

**Mercredi 4 décembre, 14 h 30 à 19 h 30**, Victoria Hall. Les membres du public sont invités à donner du sang lors de la collecte de sang semestrielle.

### Concert : People's Gospel Choir

**Samedi 14 décembre, 19 h 30**, Victoria Hall. Le People's Gospel Choir fera lever l'assistance lors de ce concert. En collaboration avec le Club Rotary de Westmount. 20 \$ / 12 ans et moins 10 \$, 514 989-5226.

### Concert des Fêtes : Barbara Lewis

**Dimanche 15 décembre, 14 h**, Victoria Hall. Une superbe sélection de musique de Noël et de chansons de Hanoukka qui réchaufferont votre cœur à coup sûr. 514 989-5226.

### Concert : Ensemble Caprice

**Mercredi 18 décembre, 19 h**, Victoria Hall. Le groupe montréalais primé Ensemble Caprice interprète l'Oratorio de Noël de Bach. 10 \$. 514 989-5226.

### Fête de la Hanoukka

**Le lundi 23 décembre, 17 h à 18 h 30**, Pavillon de bowling. Vous êtes invités à la célébration de ce festival des lumières. Musique, jeux et mets traditionnels sont au programme.

## SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

### Collecte de denrées non-périssables

Soutenez la campagne annuelle de la Sécurité publique : apportez vos items aux bacs situés dans les édifices publics de la Ville. Sortez des sentiers battus! Pensez pâte à dents, brosses à dents, papier toilette, collations sans gluten ou sans noix, etc. Tout item est fort apprécié. Passez nous voir sur l'av. Victoria devant le supermarché Metro les **3 et 8 décembre** dans le cadre de la campagne MARDI JE DONNE et aidez-nous à remplir le camion de la sécurité publique!

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## CITY HALL

### Grant programme for community organizations

**Reminder : deadline to apply is November 30<sup>th</sup>.** The City of Westmount offers grants in support of organizations in the community that contribute to the quality of life of residents. Visit the *Community organizations* page at [westmount.org](http://westmount.org) to consult the municipal grants policy and to complete the application form. Paper forms are available at the Westmount Public Library.

## LIBRARY

### Storywalk® in Westmount Park

Explore the City through images of everyday scenes, familiar landmarks, and snowy recreation.

### Tales and Travels Series

**Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. or Fridays at 1 p.m., November 7 to December 6**, Library. A weekly activity for individuals with dementia. Registration: [dmiguez@westmount.org](mailto:dmiguez@westmount.org) / 514 989-5530.

### Poetry workshop

**Wednesday, November 27, 10:15 a.m.**, Library. With Ann Lloyd. Everyone welcome. 514 989-5299.

### Author Lecture Series

**Wednesday, November 27, 7 p.m.**, Library. Sean Michaels, Giller Award-winner, author of *Us Conductors* and *The Wagers*. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

### Documentary Film Club

**Wednesday, December 4, 7 p.m.**, Library. *Louise Lecavalier: Body Speech* (2014) and *Louise Lecavalier: sur son cheval de feu* (2018). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

### Friends of the Library Book Sale

**Saturday and Sunday, November 16 & 17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Proceeds go towards the purchase of new materials for the Library.

### French Book Club

**Monday, December 9, 1 p.m.**, Library. Works by Kathy Reichs. Led by Gisèle Magny.

### Saturday morning PJs and cartoons (4+ yrs)

**Saturday, November 30, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.**, Library. Wear your PJs, enjoy a light breakfast, and have fun watching some retro cartoons.

Next Council Meeting  
Monday, December 2

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Winter Carnival Talent Show Auditions

**Friday and Saturday, November 29 and 30**, Victoria Hall. Are you a musician, singer, dancer, rapper, actor, comedian, or magician? Come show off your skills at the City of Westmount's all-ages community talent show on February 7! Sign up: [westmount.org](http://westmount.org).

### Christmas Tree Lighting

**Monday, December 2, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Join Council members for activities, hot chocolate, music and treats. Non-perishable food donations appreciated. 514 989-5226.

### Héma-Québec Blood Drive

**Wednesday, December 4, 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. The public is invited to donate blood and give the gift of life at this biannual blood drive.

### Concert: People's Gospel Choir

**Saturday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. The PGC raises the roof with this holiday concert for all. In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Westmount. \$20 / \$10 (12 and under). 514 989-5226.

### Holiday concert: Barbara Lewis

**Sunday, December 15, 2 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. A beautiful selection of Christmas music and Chanukah songs guaranteed to warm your heart! 514 989-5226.

### Concert: Ensemble Caprice

**Wednesday, December 18, 7 p.m.**, Victoria Hall. Award-winning Montreal group Ensemble Caprice performs Bach's Christmas Oratorio. Tickets: \$10. 514 989-5226.

### Chanukah Celebration

**Monday, December 23, 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**, Lawn Bowling Clubhouse. Everyone is invited to join in a community celebration of this festival of lights, with music, games, and traditional refreshments.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Non-perishable food collection

Support the Public Safety Unit's annual food drive: bring contributions to the bins in Westmount's public buildings. Think outside the box! Tooth brushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, gluten-free and nut-free snacks... all items are appreciated. Visit us on Victoria Ave. next to Metro on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>** as part of the GIVING TUESDAY campaign and help fill the Public Safety van!





## Police Report

# Police seek female burglars after recent break-ins

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Investigators at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St. are looking for two female burglary suspects following several recent break-ins in Westmount, including one during which a victim came face to face with the perpetrators.

Around 8:30 pm on November 14, the owner of a home on Ramezay Rd. near the corner of Montrose Ave. was awakened from her sleep by noise coming from somewhere in the dwelling.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Adalbert Pimentel, she walked downstairs from an upper floor bedroom and "came face to face with a suspect who she did not know," Pimentel said, reading from the official police report.

The owner expressed astonishment to

the female intruder as to what she was doing there and asked her to leave, Pimentel continued. A few moments later, the owner spotted a second female suspect. She asked both to immediately leave.

At the same time, she noticed that a kitchen window was open and melted snow lay on the kitchen floor. As well, she saw that storage drawers had been opened on the ground floor. The suspects proceeded to leave through a side exit.

The police who responded to the scene a few minutes after the owner called 9-1-1 summoned the canine unit. The suspects were believed to still be in the area and had left a trail of footprints in the snow.

The canine unit followed the trail to another house on Ramezay Rd. where no one was home. However, evidence was found there that the suspects had broken in, although they had moved on. As with

the previous break-in, the perpetrators were able to get in by forcing a back door.

While police officers were on the scene, two women who happened to be passing through the area were spotted by the police and were detained briefly for questioning as they appeared to match a description furnished by the victim of the first break-in.

The investigators were satisfied with their explanation that they had been sent by their employer to fetch a package left on his home's doorstep – which the employer confirmed to the police.

### Failed break-in attempt

The owner of a retail business on Greene Ave. filed a complaint with police on November 15, the day after a burglar made an unsuccessful attempt to break in during the early morning hours.

Security cameras that the owner previously installed recorded images of the burglar going to the rear of the building, then climbing an outside staircase to gain access to a first-storey balcony.

Following this, the suspect is seen in the video climbing to a second-storey balcony, but returns to the first balcony from where he looks through a window into the store.

He is then seen opening a guillotine-type window on the side of the building, which sets off an alarm and causes the suspect to flee.

"The window obviously wasn't well locked since he was able to open it without much force," said Pimentel.

Nonetheless, he commended the owner for implementing a good security strategy that included the video cams and the alarm system.

# Impeachment move will damage Democrats, says Blaikie

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Former Westmounter Peter Blaikie is predicting the impeachment that US president Donald Trump faces will backfire on

the Democrats who initiated it – even though Blaikie says he would like to see Trump defeated in next year's elections.

Blaikie was a founding partner of the Heenan Blaikie law firm, a Progressive Conservative federal candidate, as well as the president and a leadership candidate for that party.

Speaking at the Atwater Library during a noon hour presentation on November 14, he made a transparency disclosure.

"I am certainly one of those who was a never-Trumper who would be delighted to see the back of Donald Trump in the office of the presidency," he said. Blaikie said he hoped "this happens in the elections in 2020, because I don't think it's going to happen by the process of impeachment."

Blaikie cited the US's historical impeachment precedents. They involved post-Civil War president Andrew Johnson, Richard Nixon in 1973-74 and Bill Clinton



in 1998-99.

Although Johnson was impeached by the house of representatives, he was acquitted by the senate by one vote. Nixon fa-

mously resigned before the impeachment process could catch up to him. Clinton was impeached by the house of representatives, but was acquitted by the senate.

Blaikie said the Republicans "paid a heavy price" for initiating the impeachment against Clinton – "which is very relevant when you look at the situation today and what may happen afterwards to the Democrats."

Although he described Trump as "an appalling human being" and "a terrible and dangerous president of the United States," he added, "Personally I think that the Democrats, having launched impeachment proceedings, have made a political mistake."

"If the main objective is to attract and find somebody to defeat Trump in 2020, I don't believe that this is going to help," he continued.

"First of all, there is no chance that Donald Trump will be impeached. There is not a hope that the senate – assuming it moves to the senate – will actually vote in favour of his impeachment."

Noting that the Republicans currently control the senate, Blaikie said he would be "astonished if a single Republican voted to impeach Trump."

He gave another reason for the Democrats' impeachment move being a mistake politically.

"It doesn't appear that there is anything Trump has done which would rise to the level of impeachment," said Blaikie. "However inappropriate, however wrong, it's probably not impeachable."



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# Passarello achieves 'NH4000' in White Mountains



From left, standing: Kathryn Lund Drummond, Krista Leitham Moore and Theresa Passarello; sitting: Jasmin Uthoff, Gloria Di Francesco and Viviane Sziklas. PHOTO COURTESY OF T. PASSARELLO

## Peace Network turns 10

Westmounter Brian Bronfman founded the the Peace Network for Social Harmony 10 years ago.

It is a Canadian-registered charity and membership organization. According to its press release, it is composed of "philanthropic foundations, institutional stakeholders and corporate members who have joined together to develop and support initiatives that foster social harmony and promote peace."

Its goals include violence prevention, the promotion of diversity and inclusion, and the promotion of peace and social harmony.

Bronfman's similarly focused foundation came into being soon after the death of his father, Edward, in 2005 and he founded the peace network to leverage its "relatively small size" for a foundation (\$6 million) and build on his personal work as a trained mediator. The network currently has 13 other foundations and eight busi-

nesses as members. It employs two people.

When asked about "marquee achievements," Bronfman cited three symposia it organized on bullying (2014) and violence against women and girls (2016-7), which brought together a variety of philanthropists, professionals, researchers and government officials, and issued reports afterwards.

He is also proud of 70 peace-focused events, held every year around Peace Day (September 21), one of which is the YMCA Peace Medal.

He underlined his group's collaborative and "bridge-building" approach, saying the network doesn't work alone and acts more "like a middle-man" that "puts the pieces together" than a traditional charity or non-governmental organization.

He looks forward to a forum on diversity in the "next year or so."

*See photo on p. 1.*

Former Westmounter Theresa Passarello finished climbing all 48 peaks in New Hampshire's White Mountains that are 4,000 feet or more in elevation on September 28. She started four years ago and climbed 32 in the last two years.

Passarello was accompanied on many climbs by her friends "the Sole Sistas," Viviane Sziklas, Sophie Champagne Pepper, and Westmounters Krista Leitham, Jasmin Uthoff, Gloria di Francesco and Kathryn Lund Drummond. Her husband Erik Moisan and children Aidan and Ally also climbed many peaks with her.

Her trail name is Blaze.

Passarello's links to Westmount remain *continued on p. 18*



Theresa Passarello on Victoria Ave on November 23. She is holding a White Mountains hiking map. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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# Big Fat Greek Fundraiser 2 a sold-out success, again



Social Notes  
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounters **Linda Smith** and **Andrew Hops** hosted another successful eve. Held at the internationally acclaimed Es-tiatorio Milos, their Big Fat Greek Fund-raising #2 was sold out months in advance. The cocktail-dinner event was a benefit for the Miriam Foundation.

And what a fabulous party it was! Emcee was local res **Mose Persico** just re-turned from LA chatting with **Martin Scorse-se**, **Al Pacino** and **Robert De Niro** (be still my heart) about *The Irishman*, their up-coming film.

Ladies dressed for a night on the town. Noted were thigh-high boots, sequined tops, tiny little skirts, backless dresses and today's "It" bag. (I always wonder what to-morrow's "It" bag will be, but I digress.)

Local res included **Anne-Marie Boucher** (classically chic in an LBD) and **Mitch Garber**, **Howard Stotland**, **Therese Brown-stein** (bright in brights), **Dr. Terry Smith** and daughter **Sascha Smith**, **Anna** and **Jon**



Andrew Hops and Linda Smith.

**Broccolini**, **Tally** and **Philip Hazan**, **Liza Kaufman** and **Paul Ostrov**, **Jordan Schacter** and sister **Melissa Schacter**, **Linda Shaw** (channeling YSL in a lacy black tuxedo) and **Frank Motter**, and **Jeff** and **Joy Bultz**, recovering from work as a top ticket seller for the recent Hope & Cope Fashion show. Noted enjoying the moment were



Michael and Yolande Page, Anne-Marie Boucher and Mitch Garber.

**Susan** and **Michael Lonne**, **Honey Solarz Greenbaum**, **Greg Lerner**, **Dax Giunta**, **Dianne** and **Aldo Bensadoun**, **Avi Tenzer**, **Rosemary** and **Frank Niro**, **Lauren** and **Mitch Adler**, **Valerie** and **Daniel Benchetrit**, **Nadine** and **Gilles Cohen**, **Alfee Kaufman** and **Geoff Garbarino**, **Sandy Rubin**, **Viol-ette Cohen**, **Etienne Veilleux**, **Dr. Teanoosh**

**Zadeh**, **Mike Cohen**, **Yolanda** and **Michael Page**, **Phyllis** and **Ted Tessler**, **Danielle Bit-ton**, **Sonia Benezra**, and **Andrea** and artist **Robert Rahal**, whose work was snapped up (\$4,500) by collector **Linda Shaw**. Spazuk's "Louis Vuitton Mask" sold for \$3,500.

Milos lived up to its foo- .....  
die fame, serving a culi- continued on p. 17



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Linda Shaw and Frank Motter.



Joy Bultz and Therese Brownstein.



Mose Persico and Warren Greenstone.



Dianne and Aldo Bensadoun.

**Social notes**, cont'd. from p. 16

nary cornucopia: delicate spanakopita, feather-light gravlax, octopus, shrimp, salads, and chanterelles. And that was just the hors d'oeuvres.

Miriam Foundation CEO Warren

Greenstone praised the event for raising \$90,000. Partygoers danced the night away thanks to beats by Marco Mr. Tam Tam.

(P.S. Did you know that the Louvre's "Venus di Milo" was discovered on the island of Milos in Greece?)

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**Letters to the editor, cont'd. from p. 10**  
trees/. The legend of what colour means what is the “agenda/bullet point” button at the top left, to the right of the minus sign for zooming out the map. – DP.

**REPORT ON DIVERSITY OF  
ANGLO, FRANCO OPINION  
ON BILL 21**

The controversy over Bill 21 will soon heat up again, and you can help cool tempers if you report the diversity of opinion within the anglophone and francophone communities.  
It would be especially helpful if you reported the historical origin of this law.  
Old anglophones like me remember that in the early 1960s the Quebec majority voted for secularism over religion, and targeted the main-stream Catholic religion. Priests soon stopped appearing in public in cassocks, nuns soon dropped their Catholic burqas, and both progressively lost visibility in the public services. This major initiative in the early 1960s has been forgotten, and to many people Bill 21 comes as a complete surprise.  
In fact, Bill 21 follows decades of resistance to secularism by non-Catholic groups, and it evenhandedly requires that even Catholic groups must defer to secularism during worktime in public service jobs.

Benjamin Franklin said “Half the Truth is often a Great Lie” and you will do a great service if you educate readers historically, and show that this law is aimed at all religious groups.  
Thank you for presenting this issue in the balanced way Ben Franklin suggests.  
CHARLES SERRAO, DOWNTOWN  
*Editor's reply:* We are not focussed on provincial affairs, and did not cover the bill's introduction or adoption, or the major arguments for and against it. The same is true for the versions of it proposed by the PQ and the provincial Liberals when they were in power. I don't expect that focus to change. As a locally oriented paper, we have covered local opposition to the bill/law by the city of Westmount and some local demonstrators, because they happened here, not because we approve (or disapprove) of them. We have also published two (of two) letters in support of Bill 21. As I wrote to the bill's other letter-writing supporter (see April 30, p. 6), if you know of a local demonstration or politician in support of Bill 21, let us know! Regardless, you can take comfort in the fact that, although you seem to be in the minority among Quebec's anglo- and allo-phones, you are with the majority of the province. – DP.  
**THANKS FOR THE LANDSCAPING**  
Thank you! Just a note of thanks to all

the city of Westmount landscapers, gardeners, planners etc who helped to make our city, parks and streets beautiful with the ever-changing floral displays, starting in the spring, and then throughout the summer and fall. Your hard work is noticed and much appreciated!  
L. DONOHUE,  
CLARKE AVE.

**Passerello, cont'd. from p. 15**

strong: her current “back fence,” as she puts it, is in Westmount and she coached city soccer for many years. In addition, her co-coach, city councillor Anitra Bostock, and she now play Division 4 women's soccer at the Catalogna Soccerplexe in Lachine with many of their former players.

**Comin' Up**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

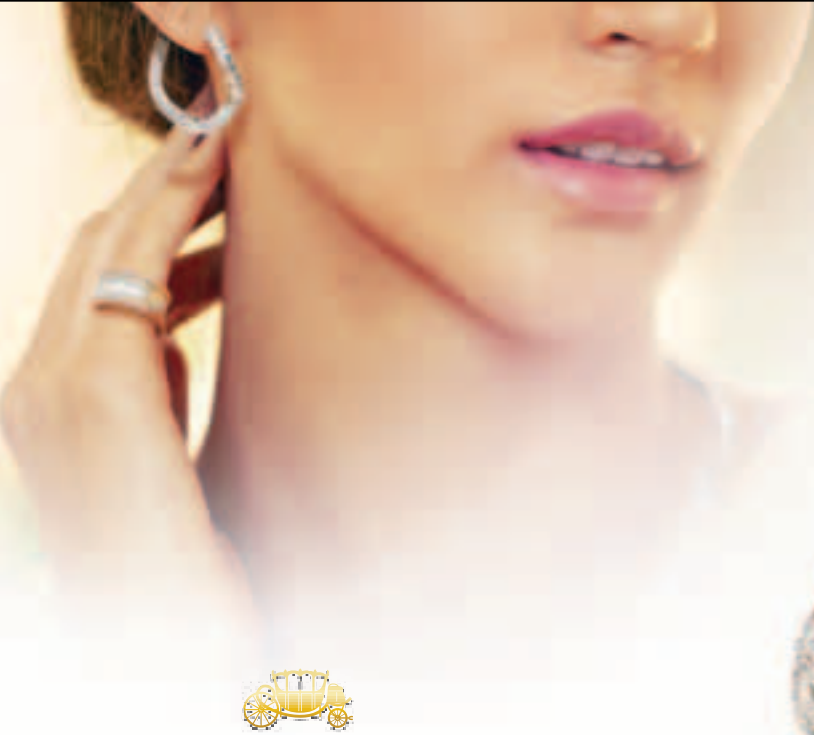
Westmount Toastmasters' club contests in international speech and table topics. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St., Club Room, second floor. 7 to 9 pm.  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**  
Manoir Westmount bazaar. 4646 Sherbrooke St. 11:30 to 2:00 pm.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

The Ascension of our Lord choir presents its Christmas concert, include excerpts from Handel's *Messiah*. 375 Kitchener Ave. (corner Sherbrooke). 3 pm.  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4**  
Pop-up art event with fabulous new works of art for sale by Peggy Curran, Susan Semenak, Diane Labelle O'Neill and novel *Out for Stars* by Colleen Curran. Refreshments and vernissage. Atwater Li-

brary auditorium, 1200 Atwater Ave. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**  
The Westmount Historical Association's December social: Photographs of prominent Westmounters from the Aline Gubbay photo archives will be shown. In the Gallery at Victoria Hall. 7 to 9 pm.  
**ONGOING**  
Parenthood drop-in. Free. Two Doulas is partnering with Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom to offer a weekly drop-in for coffee, cookies, and company with your babies (one year and younger). Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Wednesday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon.

To include your event in *Comin' Up*, write us at [editor@westmountindependent.com](mailto:editor@westmountindependent.com).



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*Women Walking, St. Jacques Street,  
Montreal*

Oil on board

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MARIE SICOTTE

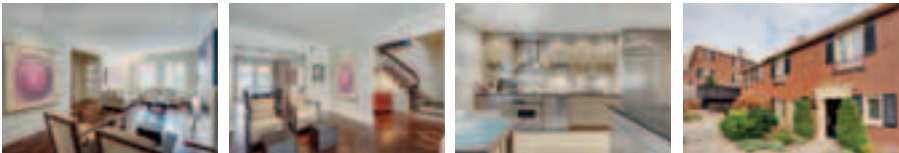
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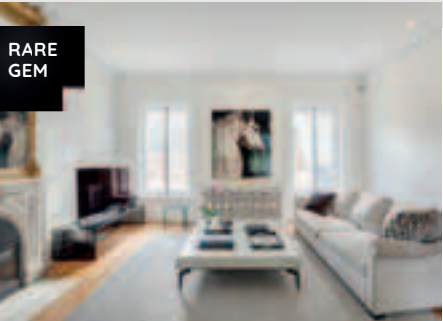
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