

## City reveals surprise surplus of \$2.4 million for 2018

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount council tabled the city's 2018 financial report May 21 showing an unexpected operating surplus of \$2.4 million at yearend December 31. This resulted from revenues of \$113.3 million offset by expenditures of 110.9 million, all on a budget of \$107.7 million.

A surplus of just under \$1 million had been forecasted late in the year.

"I would rather have not seen a surplus, but we had some revenues we hadn't expected," said Councillor Kathleen Kez, finance commissioner.

The surplus arose from a variety of sources, such as \$9.2 million in welcome tax – fully \$2.5 million more than budgeted. Also included was an insurance settlement of \$800,000 and \$200,000 more than budgeted in revenue from Sports and Recreation.

On the other hand, some expenditures that had been planned for at budget time were not made. These included \$1 million less for pay-as-you-go, more than \$400,000 less at Public Works and Engineering, more than \$200,000 less at the City Clerk's Office and Legal Services, excluding salaries. At Urban Planning, where \$675,200 excluding salaries had been earmarked, only \$253,249 was actually spent.

The surplus will be appropriated to the city's other appropriated surpluses for future use as designated, Kez said. The city's operating results are posted on the city's website under "Resident Zone."

The audited report by the accounting firm of Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton can be accessed on line from MAMOT, Quebec's municipal affairs ministry, which posts the statements of all municipalities. Access assistance can be obtained from the city's Finance department, Kez said.

## Hillside demo commences



Work to demolish the former Hillside medical centre at the foot of Metcalfe Ave. started last week. The photo here was taken on May 23. The building's next-door neighbour was at hand (inset), inspecting the work in progress. She was initially silent in the face of the *Independent's* questions and seemed to be leaning towards a "no comment." She finally shared some observations. "I am waiting for the demolition phase to be over, so I can be sure there is no damage. That [mechanical shovel operator] is an artist. I like that guy," she said. "When something is that close to your Victorian house, you keep your fingers crossed." The building is being knocked down by developer Verterra so it can build four townhouses, all but one of which are pre-sold.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

## Conforms to zoning for 4898 de Maisonneuve

## Project to develop 8 'high end' homes under city review

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The latest residential plan for re-developing the large property at 4898 de Maisonneuve calls for converting its existing office building at the corner of Prince Albert into six two-storey townhouses and building two "grand" townhouses of two storeys each on what is now

the parking lot.

Facing de Maisonneuve and Prince Albert the "high-end" project has been designed to conform to the city's R3 current zoning of single- and two-family residences of maximum 35-foot height and 40 percent site coverage, according to Noam Schnitzer of Renwick Development (see story April continued on p. 18

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From left, traffic engineer Jean-François Rouillon, landscaping architect Sophie Robitaille, principal architect Martin Troy and project manager Catherine Desjardins are seen here on May 7 during a PAC meeting, during which plans for the St. Léon School expansion project were presented.

## St. Léon to take new traffic measures, says CSDM's Mastromonaco

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Following a public meeting on May 7 by Westmount's Planning Advisory Committee on a proposal to build an extension at St. Léon School on Clarke Ave., a CSDM official says measures will be taken for any additional street traffic resulting from an expected increase in the student population.

The new three-storey St. Léon extension will be located at the northern end of the school yard, jutting out towards Kitchener Ave. over a relatively small part of the current staff parking lot. Five new classrooms and an additional activity room will be created.

St. Léon's current population at its Clarke Ave. campus is 620 students, with an additional 200 at an annex on de Cour-

celle St. in St. Henri. When the extension project is completed, the Clarke Ave. building is expected to accommodate more than 700 students.

An overflow of students from St. Léon has been attending classes at an annex in St. Henri. The creation of two new downtown schools and a realignment of the CSDM's NDG-Westmount borders are expected to resolve the overcrowding issue at St. Léon.

Among the residents present at the sparsely-attended early morning PAC meeting was Douglas Dawson of Kitchener Ave. In an interview with the *Independent*, he speculated on the possibility that additional traffic problems could be generated on Clarke Ave. as a result of the larger student population.

"There'll be a lot more children and a lot more traffic congestion," he said. "I know what it's like on Clarke Ave. during rush hour in the morning: cars are going up and down, school buses arrive, there are all these people in cars and it's quite dangerous there."

Marie-José Mastromonaco, the CSDM school commissioner for the area, told the *Independent* that St. Léon officials are tak-

**Letters to the Editor**, p. 6

**Classifieds**, p. 15

**Social Notes (Prager voyage anniversary)**, p. 21

**Police Report**, p. 14

**9 Lives**, p. 19

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## Late spring delays growth of perennials

# Plant exchange ‘rescued’ by volunteers, set for June 6

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

With the future of Westmount’s annual plant exchange at stake, volunteers last week quickly set out to take over much of the organizing previously done by city staff and set a date of Thursday, June 6 for the event outside the library and conservatory.

As it is, a usual date around mid-May was too early this year to allow for the growth of most perennials in Westmount gardens to be dug up for exchange.

Other issues also arose that put this year’s event in jeopardy, Councillor Cynthia Lulham, whose commissionership includes parks, had told the *Independent* early in May. These include the extent of the city’s involvement and the additional supply of the plants it traditionally contributed.

“We as gardeners feared the end of the plant exchange and we want to keep it going,” volunteer Gabrielle Pilot said last week. With this aim, she and Margaret Gundara with other members of the Westmount Horticultural Society (WHS), a community organization, got to work.

“We’ve received ‘okay’ from the city to provide us with the tables and tarps, with help in printing a poster and support from Donna Lach, assistant director for library and community events, and a new worker, Anna Polspoel, hired recently at Public Works as a horticultural technician.

As in other years, plants for exchange may be dropped off on the day for vouchers starting at 4:30 pm.

No annuals, shrubs or goutweed will be accepted. Voucher holders can then ex-

change them for plants starting at 6 pm. The public will be admitted at 6:30 pm to buy remaining plants for \$2 each.

While the event was traditionally staffed by volunteers from the city’s Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC), chaired by Lulham, and the WHS, the absence on temporary sick leave of Jayme Gerbrandt, a key city horticulturist, and the absence of any plants grown by the city, compounded the organizing effort.

### City added to plant supply

While city officials have said that the city’s working greenhouses have remained functional to city gardeners despite the closure to the public of the conservatory and greenhouses since 2015, the city had been buying perennials to add to those at the

plant exchange.

“We were told that everything has been closed down at the working greenhouses and that no plants would be bought,” Pilot said, though she still has hopes that some might be contributed by the city.

Nevertheless, now that the weather has warmed up and perennials are ready to be dug up in gardens, she also hopes residents will continue to provide a good supply for exchange with each other or sale to anyone.

“We want people who plant the perennials to remember every time they look at them that they came from a Westmount garden. It pulls the community together and helps point out that not all gardens are created by professional gardeners.”

## Miller launches real estate office with vernissage



From left, Robert Rahal, real estate broker Christina Miller, Julie Couture and Nadine Henelly in front of Couture’s “Sicily 13.”

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

The seven-person Christina Miller Real Estate Group, an affiliate of Profusion Immobilier and Christie’s International Realty, moved into its new offices at 326 Victoria Ave. between Somerville and de Maisonneuve earlier this year, but waited until spring to host May 16 and 23 launch events for clients and suppliers.

Christina Miller chose to combine the event with a vernissage for four artists:

Theresa Passarello, Julie Couture, Robert Rahal and Nadine Henelly. “It fits with the Christie’s banner,” she told the *Independent*. “It is the only real estate agency owned by an auction house.” A portion of the proceeds from the sale of any works will be donated to the Sarah Cook Fund of the Cedars’ Cancer Foundation. The plan is to have art for sale at the office all the time and to rotate artists every three months.

## Don’t miss the book launch!

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Review

# A note on *Game of Thrones*

I can't let that series finale go "unanswered."

Who knew – after years of violence, deceit, betrayal, and every sexual perversion and crime – that the Iron Throne (or what was left of it) would be awarded by a committee? Is this a fantasy novel or *Bush v. Gore*?

And who knew that the follow-up scene would show – not some great reckoning or vengeance or justice – but another committee working soberly to allocate scarce resources? What happened when the camera turned off? Did the small council send off a subpoena for the Mueller report? News of the SNC-Lavalin "affair"? The 1999 plans for the WRC?

People might have thought that all the R-rated material in *Game of Thrones* took away young viewers' innocence. What about the revelation that, in the end, the suits and the bean counters win?

Who knew this swashbuckling epic would end with the message of a cynical "inside politics" thriller? If our age's poets were writing about it, the Trojan War would end with a free trade agreement and Helen leaving Paris and Menelaus for an innkeeper on Mykonos. "The inn has a better retirement plan – and dental."

Leaving aside serious, real world considerations (as one should when enjoying many fiction genres, including fantasy), as a viewer, I would have rather seen Dany's perpetual revolution consume the world – for the escapist joy of it, if nothing else. Mao + Alexander the Great + Caligula = Dany? Who doesn't love a great (fictional) villain?

But it turns out, kids, that you can't break the wheel. It is eternal. When you grow up, be sure to fill out your subsidy applications in triplicate before sending them to Westeros' small council. – DP

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LET THERE BE LIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

The Westmount library has been my go-to space for studying through all my years of schooling and professional exams. The wonderful architecture and park setting provide a space conducive to reading.

However, many of the task lights installed on the desks throughout the reading rooms do not work. I have asked numerous times over the last few years for them to be fixed. Proper lighting for reading is a basic expectation within a library space and lack of proper lighting can lead to short-term effects that are completely avoidable – such as headaches and eye strain.

Not all of us are using backlit laptops and screens, so appropriate task lighting is still required for reading books and papers. I would ask that ensuring the task lights are repaired be considered a priority for our library.

DIANA ANDERSON, MD,  
CÔTE ST. ANTOINE RD.

### NDG BIKE PATH SHOWS MORE THOUGHT THAN WESTMOUNT'S

While walking along NDG Ave. today I came upon an amazing sight. Please see picture #1. Wow, this looks like someone actually thought before getting out the street crews to implement the work.

And then, when I think of our Côte St. Antoine... Please see picture #2. Makes me wonder what all could still be done if actual experts in the design of bicycle paths were used?

ALFRED EDEL, VICTORIA AVE.



Parked cars on the left side of road, bike path on the right. Of course [exiting] passengers, if any, need to pay special attention.

1. No stopping.
2. At least a space between cars and bike path. Physical barrier is preferred, but in winter?!



Note bicycle path right next to parked cars. Most days there are many more parked cars. I assume the designer of the path does not know about dooring [from the driver's side]. In order for the truck to turn (see arrow A), it must infringe on the bicycle path. This is also a small hill so bicycles can pick up speed if going against the traffic.

### COST OF COLLECTION GREATER THAN LATE FEE?

How we found out that our first installment of the 2019 property tax had arrived late was through a notice that came in a recyclable brown envelope from the Westmount Finance department. Upon opening the official brown envelope, we discovered a late penalty fee of \$2.21 that needed to be settled quickly.

This has provided us with amusement as it seemed the Finance department spent more than \$2.21 in its pursuit of the late fee we owed them. With the cost of postage, the envelope and the blue printout with the amount owed, is it possible that the city spent more to collect the late fee than it was worth?

Being the sort of inquisitive chap that I am, I called the Finance department and had a chat with the delightful, friendly clerk who was just as amused as I was that city personnel had been charged with mailing out letters to collect miniscule amounts of money from citizens. To pay the outstanding bill for \$2.21 took six seconds online. Admittedly, we do not know the exact amount the city of Westmount spent to collect our outstanding property tax late fee of \$2.21 but I do hope it was worth it for

### Correction: Hillside medical closed about a year ago

The Hillside medical clinics closed in approximately April 2018 (see April 24, 2018, p. 26), contrary to what we wrote two weeks ago (May 14, p. RE-18).



the city that I pay taxes to.

Should this not be the case, it needs investigation to determining a cheaper way for the city to collect a tax late fee smaller than library late fines.

NIGEL GODDARD, IRVINE AVE.

## SHORT-LIVED SMOOTHNESS ON METCALFE

I live at the corner of Sherbrooke and Metcalfe streets. Last summer, the city put in new sidewalks, asphalt and concrete crosswalks at every intersection between Sherbrooke and de Maisonneuve. Gone the bumpy ride on Metcalfe and welcome to safer pedestrian crosswalks and new sidewalks. Well, so much for that.

Not even a year has passed and the asphalt is full of cracks, the concrete crosswalks are disintegrating at every corner and this week, sidewalks were broken up in front of eight or 10 houses to do what I imagine to be water work.\*

Appears to be the *summum* of incompetence!! Really a shame to accept such mediocrity! Is anybody responsible?

MICHÈLE ATKINSON, SHERBROOKE ST.

*\*Editor's note:* According to city director general Benoit Hurtubise, as quoted in last week's edition ((May 21, p. 10), it is not water work, but the contractor "repairing deficiencies at his cost." – DP.

## STUDENTS, STAFF AT WESTMOUNT PARK SCHOOL WILL BE MISSED

On May 16, I attended the Westmount Historical Association's excellent talk in the Westmount library by Paul Saunders about Westmount Park School.

There are two things that I regret not mentioning at the meeting.

The first is that I live across the street from the school and will miss the children with their boundless energy coming out laughing and playing at recess and lunch and after school. The school's people supervising were always friendly and good with the children, and also friendly to people in the neighbourhood.

The second item that I wished I had

mentioned was that the teachers and staff at Westmount Park were very helpful to residents when we tried to keep artificial turf from going onto the playing fields.

I really look forward to the school opening again in two years.

MARILYNN GILLIES, MELVILLE AVE.

## ENOUGH WITH THE STREET CLEANING

While I appreciate clean streets, I have to wonder if repairing streets wouldn't be more appropriate than the obsessive cleaning that starts early every morning, often at 6:15 am.

RICHARD DEAN, VICTORIA AVE.

## KEEP CYCLING OUT OF PARK

I am writing to you with reference to a letter you received about a gentleman by the name of Serge Morin who was knocked down by a young cyclist in Westmount Park. Mr. Morin was gravely injured and for a short time unconscious, and was taken by ambulance to an emergency department. The family will be meeting with the city of Westmount to request that cyclists not be allowed to ride their bikes through the park.

I have seen signs posted on entrances to the park that cycling in the park is not allowed. These people therefore contravened the existing rules of the park. I myself was nearly knocked down by a young cyclist. It would seem that some surveillance of those cycling (bicycle, tricycle or skateboard) should be quickly undertaken.

LOY DENIS, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## HURTUBISES ENJOY LANKEN EXHIBIT AT HURTUBISE HOUSE

I recently attended Peter Lanken's exhibit at the Maison Hurtubise. Thank you to the *Westmount Independent* for mentioning it in the "Comin' Up" section April 16. My mother, Anne Hurtubise, who maintains the family's genealogy records and is an 11th generation Hurtubise; my daughter and I were able to enjoy the exhibit, invite friends and family and share some of the history of the house with those in attendance.



From left, Shannon Hurtubise, Véronique Robert, Brynsley Hurtubise, Peter Lanken, Anne Hurtubise and Anna Roth. PHOTO COURTESY OF LEONARD ROTH.

Peter Lanken's exhibit was a classically beautiful and wonderful way to showcase his admiration of the great Montreal 1850s architect Victor Bourgeois.

The exhibit brought together history and art with his inspired use of the Hurtubise farmhouse as the setting. This allowed passers-by and art enthusiasts the opportunity to access a historic landmark converted, for a short time, into an artfully lit space, surrounded not only by centuries-old floors and walls but with Lanken's stunningly detailed pen and ink drawings paying homage to Bourgeois's work.

I would love to see a follow-up piece written about Lanken's exhibit. His efforts to share the work of Victor Bourgeois through the use of this historic location should not go unnoted.

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# MUHC/Lions Club vision clinic led by Westmounter Chen

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A free, once-a-year eye clinic held for decades by the McGill University Health Centre drew 200 patients on May 4 to MUHC ophthalmology offices on de Maisonneuve Blvd. in NDG, where some of the patients examined turned out to have serious eye problems.

The McGill Lions Eye Clinic’s goal is to provide free care for those who have experienced difficulty getting eye care because of barriers to healthcare access, including finances, insurance or even language.

The event is supported each year by the Chinese Lions Club of Greater Montreal and always features a strong Chinese community turnout. Lions Club International has had a longstanding focus on working for charitable causes involving visual impairment and blindness.

The patients were screened for serious eye issues such as cataracts, glaucoma and diabetes. Some also had the opportunity to have a prescription for eye-glasses filled. In addition to support from the Lions and the MUHC, assistance was also received from medical, CEGEP and high school students who take part in the annual initiative.

The clinic was started by the late ophthalmologist Dr. Khian-Kok Lim. It was

taken over by Dr. John Chen, a Westmounter specializing in retina treatment at the MUHC, nearly two decades ago. As Dr. Chen explained, eye testing conducted at the clinic can often diagnose a range of health problems.

“One of the things we do is diabetic retinopathy screening,” he said. “There are many people out there who have diabetes but don’t know about it. They’ve sometimes had diabetes for 10-20 years and they’re surprised on learning they have it.”

Among the 200 patients screened were some who turned out to have serious eye problems. “We’ve had a few diabetic patients who didn’t know they had diabetes,” said Dr. Chen.

“One person who has not been seeing well for the last 10 years basically had a genetic problem that we were able to diagnose. There were also people with cataracts and macular degeneration.”

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MUHC ophthalmology department staff, volunteers and Chinese Lions Club of Greater Montreal members are seen here gathered together on May 4 during the McGill-Lions Eye Clinic.



Seen here at MUHC ophthalmology department offices during the McGill-Lions Eye Clinic on May 4, Dr. John Chen, a Westmount resident, tests patient Si Chen.





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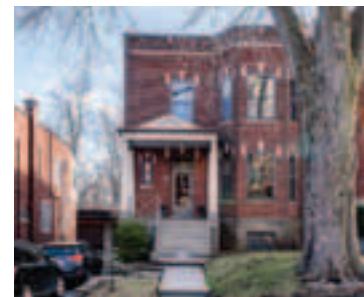
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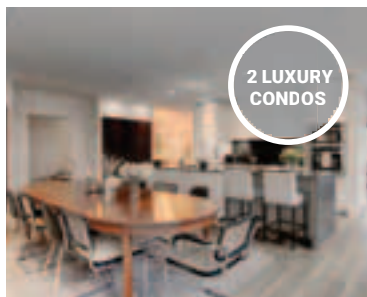
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# Fantasy authors launch *Creatures* at Leonidas

By MARTIN C. BARRY

They came for the books, but ended up staying for the chocolate.

Several dozen fans of fantasy art and lit turned out at the Leonidas Culture Chocolat café and chocolate shop on Victoria Ave. on May 11 to celebrate the launch of *Creatures from Fairy-Tale and Myth*, a new book in the fantasy genre.

The lavishly-illustrated work is the first collaborative effort by four previously published fantasy authors: Andrew Valkauskas, James Kerr, Ed Greenwood and Michelle Franklin (who lives on Claremont Ave. in NDG just a stone's throw outside Westmount).

The book is published by Lachute-based Pendelhaven (owned by Valkauskas), which publishes books and role-playing games. Greenwood is notable as the originator of the "Forgotten Realms" setting for the Dungeons & Dragons tabletop fantasy role-playing game.

*Creatures from Fairy-Tale and Myth* contains descriptions of mythical beings that



were first documented in ancient northern European folk tales and myths.

Among other things, the book contains fire-side stories of ghouls and ghosts. All the creatures described are drawn from

Seen here during the launch of *Creatures from Fairy-Tale and Myth* on May 11 at Culture Chocolat on Victoria Ave. are (from the left) authors Michelle Franklin, Ed Greenwood, Andrew Valkauskas, James Kerr and Westmount resident Suzanne Kell.

Norse, Celtic, Baltic and Slavic tradition. Some of the four authors' other published works were also available for purchase and autographing.

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# 500 Claremont demo approved

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The 500 Claremont project cleared its latest hurdle May 21. That's when the city's Demolition Committee quickly approved a request to remove and rebuild the water-damaged fifth storey so the institutional building at Windsor can be converted into high-end apartments.

A back wall will also be removed to allow an extension to be added.

The decision came after a presentation to a virtually empty council chamber and no opposition. Council members in their roles as the Demolition Committee decided on the spot that the demolition was advisable.

Without typically adjourning briefly to decide in private, they unanimously approved a resolution already prepared and read by Councillor Conrad Peart listing demolition conditions.

These include a monetary guarantee of the \$302,970 representing 10 percent of the \$3-million replacement cost. As well, a plan for site management and reuse of the demolition waste is also required. The work must be completed within 12 months after the demolition permit is issued but not before the building permit is obtained.

Councillor Marina Brzeski, commis-

sioner of sustainability and accessibility, asked about plans to reuse the waste materials, namely the bricks.

Developer Gideon Pollock explained that "we intend to use as much as possible on the addition" but noted there had been a lot of water damage to the brick.

The fifth floor to be demolished was added to the 1909 building between 1958 and 1961, Urban Planning director Tom Flies told the hearing. It represented a different architectural composition with a different brick and lacked the architectural details present in the four other storeys.

The city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) had no objections to its removal and rebuilding. Reasons included that it was not part of the original construction, was inconsistent to it and did not conform to Quebec's 2015 construction code.

Mayor Christina Smith reported that no comments of opposition had been received in writing within the required time frame.

The hearing took place before three members of the development team and city officials. Cynthia Lulham, urban planning commissioner for zoning, economic development and parks, was the only councillor absent and much of the session took place before an empty chamber until one person arrived but did not ask questions.

# Fauda comes to the Shaar



The Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev held their annual "Main Event" on May 14 at the Shaar Hashomayim. The event featured a tribute to the late Sherry and Gerry Feifer as well as a lively conversation between Avi Issacharoff, co-creator of the Netflix series *Fauda* and journalist for *The Times of Israel*, and *National Post* columnist Barbara Kay. Funds were raised for research in cancer and nanotechnology.

PHOTO: HOWARD KAY



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Police Report

Lock up, don't leave valuables, say police after car break-ins

By Martin C. Barry

A pair of car break-ins committed in Westmount on May 10 and 11 illustrate the importance of never leaving valuables in plain sight inside vehicles – or not at all if you can.

According to police at the Montreal police department's Station 12 on Stanton St., a Westmounter with a high-end SUV who had parked on de Maisonneuve just east of

Greene Ave. around 3 pm on May 10 returned at 2 am on May 11 to see that one of the vehicle's windows had been smashed.

A designer purse valued at several thousand dollars that the owner had left in plain view was stolen. A wallet with IDs and credit cards that was in the purse was also taken.

While many motorists have learned not to leave valuables in plain sight inside a locked car even during short stops, the police say it's sometimes no better to stash them in the rear trunk.

"A piece of advice we give people is don't wait until you're reached a destination to place valuables in your trunk," said Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière.

Watchful criminals, according to Laperrière, have been known to stake out parking areas and to diligently keep an eye out for car owners placing items in the trunk.

"You can be observed without realizing it," he said, noting that it's a simple matter for thieves to break a window and trigger the trunk lock mechanism from inside the car.

He recommended placing valuables in the trunk before setting out in order to

minimize the risks of theft.

Unlocked car robbed

In a second recent theft incident from a car in Westmount, this time on May 11, a visitor from the US parked his vehicle in a public parking lot on Dorchester Blvd., but apparently forgot to lock the doors.

At least that was the conclusion of police investigators, since a wallet was reported stolen from inside the vehicle, although there were no signs of forced break-in such as broken glass on the ground.

"There was no damage to the car," said Laperrière. "From what I understand, the car door was open. The driver must have been away a couple of minutes from their car, and when they came back they realized somebody had passed by and stole a wallet with all the pieces of ID."

Laperrière's advice: "Even if it takes a couple of more seconds, close and lock your doors, make sure things are out of sight. Because by the time you've come back, it might be just enough for someone to get into your car. Also take a few more seconds to be aware of your surroundings: if you see some people hanging around who maybe shouldn't be. Take some extra

precautions."

Anti-bike theft event

A note of special interest to bicycle enthusiasts: Beginning the first week of June, the community relations staff at Station 12 plan to hold anti-theft bicycle engraving sessions at the gazebo in Westmount Park every Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:30 pm until the end of August. "If people want to come and get their bikes engraved, we will be providing this service," Laperrière said.

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## Where have all the bollards gone?



The bollards for the de Maisonneuve bike path were installed on March 29, left, but had been taken down again by May 22, right. "They were removed [May 22] for line-painting purposes, but that operation was cancelled due to the weather and I believe that they will try again tonight if it does not rain," city director general Benoit Hurtubise replied to the *Independent* by email on May 23.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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Women's Canadian Club lecture

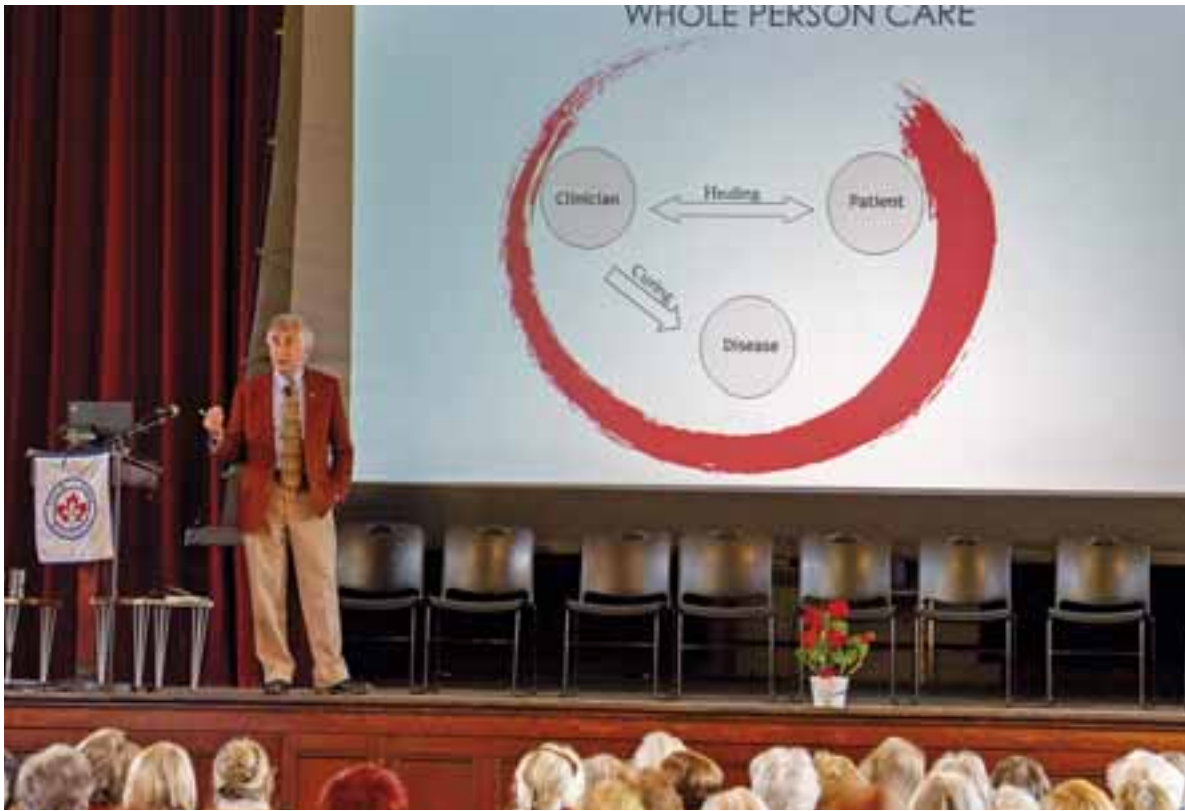
Dr. Hutchinson explains ‘whole person care’ at Vic Hall

BY RALPH THOMPSON

The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal continued its popular series of lectures at Victoria Hall, April 30 at 12:30 pm. Coffee tea and sandwiches were offered beforehand and a brief presentation of awards on behalf of the club by Dorothy Thomas Edding, a retired McGill professor, honouring winning students who had participated or will participate in the Encounters with Canada program.

The lecture entitled “Whole Person Care: Healing Healthcare,” was arranged by Lynn Doyle, who helped secure Dr. Tom Hutchinson, professor in the department of medicine and oncology at McGill.

Hutchinson's broad medical background in internal medicine and nephrology, his research into kidney patient survival and his study of “family therapy” led him to publish a book on the stories of kidney patients in 1998.



Dr. Tom Hutchinson spoke to an audience of over 160 people.

He later changed his clinical practice to palliative medicine and became the director of McGill's programs in whole person care.

So, what is “whole person care”?

The explanation was saved until partway through his presentation. Hutchinson described his experiences with very sick people and explained that as doctors “we've become so technical, so good at fixing things, that we tend to forget the whole person.” He went on to say, that while making every effort to cure the disease, physicians must also manage the healing process; listen to the patients' concerns, understand their fears and help them through their illness.”

Since 2005, Hutchinson's work together with Dr. Balfour Mount, “healing in medicine,” has been included for all medical students, throughout all four years in the new physicianship curriculum at McGill.



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## Who let the dog out?



The "plant dog" in Westmount Park near Westmount Park United Church sported a cowboy hat April 1, left. He has been absent since at least May 1, centre. Reader Nigel Penney found him May 19, right, behind the greenhouses, stripped of his plant "fur." He summed up the scene: "Sad dog, sadder greenhouse. 'It's a dog's life.'" When asked for an update, city director general Benoit Hurtubise replied to the *Independent* by email on May 23, saying, "The dog is presently being 'groomed' by our gardeners and will be back in its location early June."

FIRST TWO PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT; THIRD PHOTO COURTESY OF N. PENNEY.

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## Overheard

*"Je suis entourée de crosseurs."*

Woman at TD Bank at Sherbrooke and Claremont, May 3 around 3 pm

*"She just really wants to piss her pants."*

Young woman in Westmount Park, May 15 around 6 pm.

*"I am dreaming. Whoo!"*

Cyclist speaking to no-one in particular, May 26, 8:30 pm  
at de Maisonneuve and Kitchener

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Looking southeast at the proposed development on the corner of de Maisonneuve (left) and Prince Albert (right). The Château Westmount seniors' residence is visible at left.

IMAGE COURTESY OF RENWICK DEVELOPMENT.

*Homes cont'd. from p. 1*  
3, 2018, p. 1).

This follows the city's rejection of two previous proposals for multi-family complexes submitted under the city's by-law for non-conforming projects but were still found to be too dense, high and out of keeping with the Victoria village neighbourhood

The proposal was submitted to the city in October last year and has been under review by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). The developer has a letter from the city stating the proposal conforms to zoning.

**Permit**

On Friday, May 17, the city issued a permit for what Urban Planning director Tom Flies described to the *Independent* as geo-

technical testing.

The project is of red brick, consistent to that in the neighbourhood, with parking accessed from the current lane off Prince Albert. Gardens and terraces are at the back of dwellings.

**Features described**

The two "grand" houses are described as having some 4,300 square feet and providing four-to-six bedrooms each. The six town houses of 2,200 to 2,800 square feet are separated into two categories referred to as the "garden townhomes" and the "terrace townhomes." They have two to three bedrooms.

Designed by FRW Architects, all eight are being sold by Westmount real estate

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## Politicians set the tone at Family Day



Councillor Marina Brzeski gets dunked in the “Dunk a PSO (public safety officer)” tub for a charitable cause on Family Day, May 25, in Westmount Park. Councillor Anitra Bostock also participated in the dunk tank. See next page for more Family Day photos. PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON



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# Cuddling Katou

Katou is a stunningly handsome cat, with a warm and affectionate personality. As a grey and caramel domestic long-haired cat, he is not only elegant but very cuddly and companionable. Katou is a young and active five-year-old, healthy, fully vaccinated and neutered. He is declawed on both front paws, so he is an indoor-only cat.

Katou is in need of a family now, as he is at the Montreal SPCA waiting to go to a home as soon as possible. His identification number is A41709428. You can call the cat adoption group at 514.735.2711 for more information on him and to drop by to visit, weekdays from 12 noon to 7 pm, and weekends from 11 am to 5 pm. It is located at 5215 Jean Talon St. West. Its website is [www.sPCA.com](http://www.sPCA.com) and their email is [spcapetfinderteam@gmail.com](mailto:spcapetfinderteam@gmail.com).

Your neighbour, Lysanne



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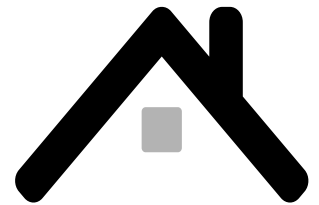
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# Sun shines on Family Day

Train driver Steven Belanger was kept busy by the queues of kids and parents wanting a tour of Westmount Park.

By RALPH THOMPSON

The city of Westmount’s annual Family Day took place in Westmount Park May 25. It is still going strong after 44 years. The weather turned out to be perfect; not too hot, not too cold and the rain held off until after 4 pm when the event was wrapping up.



Yujin Kaneumi gets a little help from his dad on the Hydro Westmount-sponsored Eurobungee.



Six-year-old Lily Venafró with her painted arm and the talented artist.



Three-year-old Lucas Fraser gets acquainted with a handsome goat.



Adrian Nemes, 1½ years old, was fascinated by a super friendly and well-groomed Poodle mix named “Portion.”



Lots of enthusiasm for the tug-of-war encouraged by WRC staff in red caps.



# Prager nautically celebrates 70th anniversary of sea voyage to Canada



*Social Notes*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Ship ahoy!  
Selwyn House was recently transformed for an extraordinary evening: **Vincent**

**Prager** celebrated a special anniversary. A lawyer with Dentons Canada, the Selwyn alumnus is a leader in maritime law.  
The night's theme was the arrival in Canada of Vincent and his parents on the *Empress of Canada* in 1949. Inspired by this moment, designer-chef-guru **Roberto Menegati** created a fabulous fun decor, complete with captain's wheel, navy- and white-clad "sailor staff," ..... and tables named after ..... *continued on p. 22*



Centre, Roberto Menegati and Vincent Prager, flanked by animators.



Animators flank, back row: Uta Hope, Kathryn Stephenson, Marcus Hope and Nathalie Grosshenny. Front: former Westmount mayor Peter Trent.



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Lee and Kathy Watchorn, and Sue and Jawaid Khan.



Nancy Cleman.



Brenda Norris and Gillian MacCormack.

**Social notes, cont'd. from p. 21**

ships on which Vincent has sailed, including the *Carmania* and empresses of *Scotland* and *Britain*.

The long dining tables were beach-side beautiful with fishing nets and tiny shells. Selfie moments were a hit, as guests posed with 1940s glamour gals on a “sandy shore.” Vincent’s peripatetic life was perfectly echoed by the international guest list: friends arrived literally from all over the world. Former British consul general Mar-

cus Hope flew from London with his wife Uta Hope, and Margot Somerville popped in from Australia.

Others arrived from Stuttgart, Brazil, Barbados, New York, Boston, Zurich, Ottawa, Sao Paolo, St. Andrews and Geneva.

Taking the night’s mood to heart, many ladies wore “my grandmother’s old fur stole” and elbow gloves.

Local res included Kathryn Stephenson and former Westmount mayor Peter Trent (wearing a “vintage cricket tie”), Nancy Cle-

man, Ted Claxton, Margaret Lefebvre, Sue and Jawaid Khan, Gillian and Bryan MacCormack, Martha and Mark Oppenheim, Jane Lee and Peter Starr, Hugh Cowans, Gino Quilico and his wife Sara, Lise Powell, Margie and Bob Ross, Brenda and John Norris, Connie and Mark Médalsy, Robin Quinlan, and Rosemary Christensen, as well as Ann and John Keenan, Louise and David Horlington, Johanne Gauthier, Liz Wirth, Diana Fowler Leblanc, Eada and Pierre Ghrenier, Michele and Jim Becker-

leg, Sean Harrington, Nathalie Gros-shenny, and David Angus with Lynn Verge.

Among many arriving from Toronto were Vincent’s old Selwyn classmates Lee Watchorn, there with his wife Nancy, and Ron Base, with Kathy.

And yes, there was a birthday cake. It was a ship – of course! – with candles as smoke stacks. Happy Birthday, Vincent, and bravo, Roberto!

## Comin’ Up

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 29**

Jamie Bernstein hosts “Tonight, Tonight!” in honour of her father, Leonard Bernstein. Full orchestra, choirs of Shaar Hashomayim and St. Matthias, and 10 soloists. \$100 to \$250: 514.937.9474 x 139 or shaarhashomayim.org/event/concert2019. Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 120 Côte St. Antoine Rd. 7:30 pm.

**MONDAY, JUNE 3**

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

**THURSDAY, JUNE 6**

Perennial plant exchange. In front of

Westmount Public Library. Plant drop-off: 4:30 pm. Use of vouchers: 6 pm. General sales: 6:30 pm.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**

*Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind* – 25 short plays in 60 minutes – performed by Dramatis Personae in Victoria Hall. Admission by donation, \$15-\$20 suggested. Reserve on [www.theatrewestmount.com](http://www.theatrewestmount.com). 2 pm and 7:30 pm.

Also on Wednesday, June 12 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, June 15 at 2 pm.

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No stopping, in wrong direction



This car (foreground) made its way south on Roslyn Ave. May 23 without stopping at the de Maisonneuve stop sign. It then went east/left on de Maisonneuve against the one-way for a few yards, startling cyclists making their way west. The goal was to reach the eastern, entrance opening of the 4800's half-moon driveway.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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08. 1689 Rue St-Patrick #307  
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09. 1227 Sherbrooke O. #55  
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10. 244 Crystal Falls  
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11. 1455 Rue Sherbrooke O. #1907  
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12. 2 Westmount Square #201  
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20. 4217 Blvd. de Maisonneuve O., #2  
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