

City outlines additional uses for all 12

Two houses of worship represented at zoning consultation

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Representatives of two houses of worship turned up May 21 at a city public consultation meeting that affects all 12 in Westmount that are being rezoned for additional uses to try to help them remain viable.

Interestingly, four representatives came from Mountainside United Church, which has been sold to a real estate developer though the congregation expects to wor-

ship there for some three years (see story October 9, 2018, p. 1, 2).

Another came from Westmount Baptist Church.

While the meeting was open to the general public, only one resident with an interest in the community attended, while one came from the city's Local Heritage Council.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who chaired the session, explained how the additional uses evolved from a study and poll on ways the city might help houses of worship maintain their costly landmark buildings and cited examples of "thinking out of the box."

Three draft by-laws en- *continued on p. 8*

Tour de l'Île braves rain, returns to Westmount



The pan-Montreal Tour de l'Île cycling event returned to Westmount June 2 this year, after a hiatus last year. Cyclists pushed through periods of rain, although the Glen arch provided some respite, as seen here. The event also used parts of Claremont and St. Catherine St. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.

Don't Miss It
Victoria Village Street Festival
Thursday, June 6 to Saturday, June 8

Moving forward on greenhouse restoration

Council adopts preferred 'concept' for interior layout

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A preliminary concept for how a universal access ramp could be integrated into a new interior layout of the "patrimonial greenhouses" was "officialized" by city council May 6. This was required so the city can proceed with a call for new tenders for professional services.

The concept "formalizes" a decision on the type of layout preferred by the council in general committee October 2, 2018, based on three different options presented by consultants, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise.

"It's not a plan as such," he told the *Independent*, but a guideline for what the council is *continued on p. 10*



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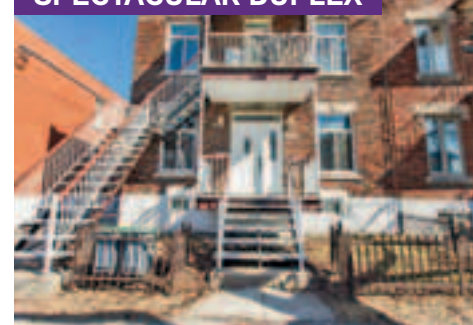
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Historic building too deteriorated

Incinerator to come down, \$4.6M reno found too costly



The incinerator from Glen Rd. near the Home Depot on May 30.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's former incinerator at the Public Works yard has been found to have deteriorated to such a degree it will now be torn down, according to city officials. It had originally been used to burn garbage and

generate electricity.

The decision followed the first phase of design work by architectural consultants hired by the city a year ago under a plan to renovate the building that rises three storeys off Glen Rd.

Given its initial estimated cost of renovations at \$4.6 million, city council May 6 terminated the contract, citing this estimate exceeds the budget established from previous studies, and that renovating the incinerator "is therefore no longer reasonable considering its (intended) use."

It could have helped provide the city with "badly needed" space, required in part as a result of the expropriation of a portion of land at Public Works and Hydro Westmount for the Turcot/720 project (see story June 19, *continued on p. 27*)

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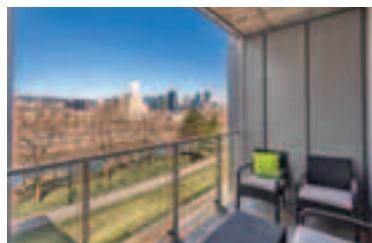
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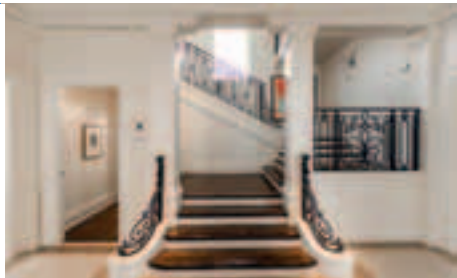
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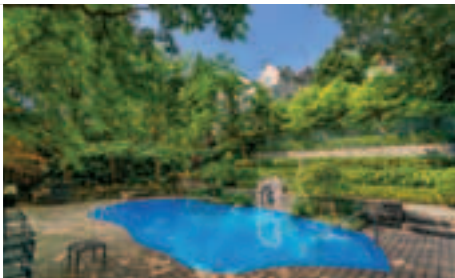
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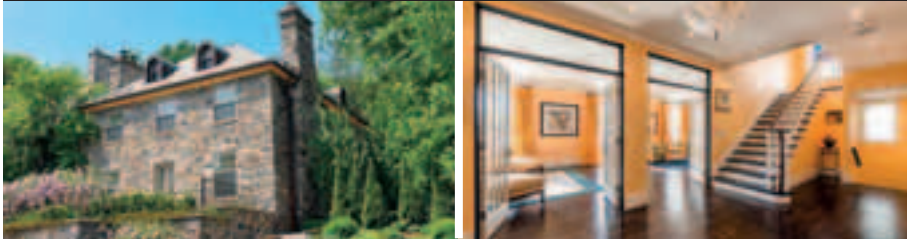
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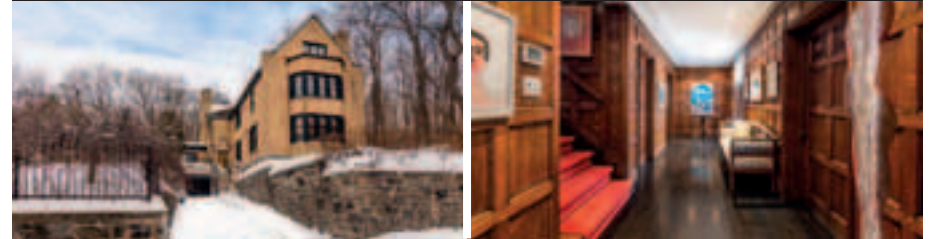


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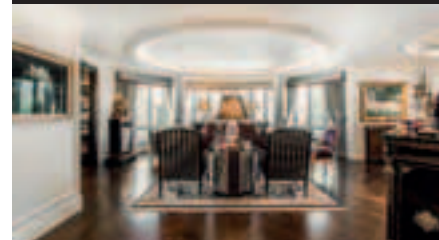
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAY 28: BRAVE SWIMMER, LONELY LIFE GUARD!



MO RAHIMIAN, DORCHESTER BLVD.

CONSIDER TERRAFLEX FOR PARKS, PLEASE

There has been considerable correspondence regarding the condition of various parks located in Westmount and I would like to add my two cents worth.

During a recent visit to Toronto, I had the pleasure of walking in the newly landscaped Ramsden Park, located on Yonge St.

This multi-use park, located in the heart of the city, is a welcoming refuge from the hustle-and-bustle of the surrounding area. As someone who enjoys walking, I was particularly impressed with the use of TerraFlex porous surfacing in the construction of the park pathways and play areas.

This product could be used to great advantage should the time come to replace the drab concrete and gravel paths in Westmount Park.

It is available in different colours, is made from recycled materials and is water permeable. Unlike hard-surface walkways, this product has inbuilt resilience, which makes for a very pleasant walking experience. It would also have the added advantage of reducing injuries in the event of a fall, improving water surface drainage and eliminating damage to pathways caused by severe temperature fluctuations.

NEIL M. WILSON, OLIVIER AVE.

44TH ANNUAL FAMILY DAY DESERVED CORRECT ENGLISH

Has it really come to this? Even the city



of Westmount seems to lack the most basic of written English language knowledge and skills.

Take this periodical delivered to Westmount residents' households. Look at the page proudly announcing that this particular family day is the "44rd Annual Westmount Family Day."

"44rd"? Seriously??

Oh, for the day when the city of Westmount actually cared enough about its residents and taxpayers by hiring a proof-reader for the English documents it would have us read for important events such as this.

RICHARD M. DUMONT, REDFERN AVE.

LEARN FROM FRANCE RE: E-SCOOTERS

Please do be very careful about allowing e-scooters onto Westmount sidewalks.

In Paris recently I witnessed the appeal of e-scooters, but also the horror of their operation. I observed that most e-scooter users were completely irresponsible. After careening along the tourist-crowded sidewalks and public places (such as the plaza in front of Notre Dame), users simply dropped the machines, leaving them to be tripped over and stepped around as they awaited their next riders.

A recent CNN travel article, "Paris bans

e-scooters from sidewalks, citing rise in accidents," states, "The development of these (scooters) was very rapid and a little anarchic. We didn't see it coming and it became the law of the jungle," Elisabeth Borne told *Le Parisien*. "And it is true that we are seeing an increase in accidents and also an increasing sense of unease on our pavements."

Without regulations, helmet-less operators – frequently with young, helmet-less children standing in the platform between the operators' legs – would weave in and out of crowds or pedestrians on pedestrian areas and cobblestone streets.

BRIAN MERRETT, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

**Editor's note:* According to our coverage (May 21, p. 11), "Westmount's by-law is expected to prohibit the riding of e-bikes on sidewalks." This prohibition would presumably cover e-scooters too. – DP.

IT'S BEEN A LONG, COLD WINTER – BRAVO, STM

During the awful winter just past (?), there has been a daily drumfire in the Montreal media condemning shoddy service on the STM's buses.

As one who was forced to use the system more often this year, I thought they did a fine job under the circumstances.

It's too easy to brand the drivers as a bunch of rude, uncaring clods. That's a fallacy. The majority of them are polite, friendly, humorous or just plain shy.

And that in spite of manoeuvring those woebegone Nova buses through snow-bound Montreal traffic. (After her retirement as mayor of Westmount, the late, great May Cutler observed after a world tour that Nova business were worse than any form of transport she took in Third World countries. See "Just say 'no' to the Nova buses" (December 5, 2007, p. 5).)

Five times during the recent winter, my Opus card went dead after I swiped it aboard. Every time, the driver waved me through.

At the STM office above the Berri-UQAM terminus, the procurement of a new Opus card was an eight-minute exercise of efficiency and politeness.

Bravo, STM!

T. V. BURKE, ST. CATHERINE ST.

Clarification

In a story on the city's \$2.4-million surplus (May 28, p. 1), Councillor Kathleen Kez said last week the comment attributed to her stating she "would rather not have seen a surplus," meant that she would rather not have seen such a "large" surplus given that the city is not allowed by law to run a deficit.

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Councillor's column

MARY GALLERY
DISTRICT 6

As spring activities are under way and the winter season wraps up, I want to take a moment to thank the incredible work of our Sports and Recreation team, especially our many volunteers. We owe them the success of these activities, and we are very grateful for their dedication. Many of you attended the Westmount Family Day May 25, and it was a fantastic day in the park for all.

These events are a great way to gather as a community, and we need to hear from

Sports & Rec needs volunteers, feedback

Thank you, volunteers – Residents: please fill out survey

you in order to continue to deliver such programmes and activities.

I am excited to announce that the Westmount Sports and Recreation department is presently conducting its *first* ever survey on the city's programmes, activities and facilities.

We are inviting residents to share their ideas, suggestions and comments, and participate in this short nine-question survey to help the Westmount Sports and Recreation department continue to provide

quality programming and efficient services.

Resident feedback is important. We need your input and want to hear from you! It helps the department and ultimately, the community and our programming. It should take roughly five to six minutes to complete.

An invitation card will be sent to every household inviting one member of the household to complete the survey by entering the specific code number provided on the card that allows access. The survey will end on June 21.

To participate in this online survey, please visit westmount.org/surveyrecreation or you can acquire a printed version at the Westmount Public Library or Westmount recreation centre.

Our programs and activities are an integral part of our community, and we want to ensure that they reflect what our residents want. Many thanks.

Mary Gallery is the commissioner of library, culture, sports and recreation and the city councillor for District 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GARBAGE DISASTER



Last week, the Tuesday collection was missed, as was a make-good Thursday collection scheduled by the city. This photo is from Thursday, May 30. – DP.

LET THERE BE LIGHT – OUTSIDE TOO

RE: "Let there be light at the Westmount Library" by Dr. Diana Anderson (May 28) urging better task lighting for reading. The library's lighting needs improving inside and out.

Dating to at least two previous administrations, I have repeatedly requested better exterior lighting outside the front doors of Westmount Public Library's main entrance.

The current lighting is dim, its source two lone *continued on p. 13*

The recent change of contractor for Westmount's garbage collection has been a complete disaster. Where are the garbage collectors? We now have lunch for raccoons, rats and squirrels.

DAVID SMITH, ENVIRONNEMENT ÉLECTRONIQUE (SHERBROOKE ST.)

Editor's note: The Independent's landlord at 310 Victoria Ave. is having the same issue.

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Worship, cont'd. from p. 1

abling the additional uses were presented by Urban Planning project manager Nicolas Gagnon. These included professional offices, medical and other services to the community, educational and community organizations, retail services and even convenience stores that could benefit the neighbourhood (see story May 14, p. 1).

Forward thinking

“This has been forward thinking on Westmount’s part,” Jill Harrison, who chairs Mountainside’s finance committee, told Lulham, the city’s urban planning commissioner for zoning, economic development and parks.

Despite the sale of Mountainside, it has not been deconsecrated and several questions concerned how the new by-laws might affect its future.

How, for example, might the church’s current tax-exempt status apply as an inducement to the developer should the congregation seek to continue worshipping in part of the building (such as the chapel), asked Julie Dawson, church treasurer.

Lulham said she would have to find out what the implications would be, though the property owner would be billed for municipal property taxes.

The representative of Westmount Baptist Church asked who would bear the costs of renovations that might be required to provide the additional uses? Costs, including a work permit, would be borne by the church, Lulham said, adding however that “if you get a tenant, they can carry the burden of the renovations.”

New zones, new uses

Of the three draft by-laws proposed, one creates 12 new separate zones for the houses of worship that are now all located, by vested rights, in currently residential zones, but in which the new additional uses would not be permitted. This by-law (1539) is expected to receive final council adoption at the meeting June 3.

In his presentation, Gagnon explained



Taking notes at the meeting May 21 from Mountainside Church are, from left, front row: Lynne Dawson-Haentjens, chair of the board of trustees; Julie Dawson, treasurer, and Jill Harrison; chair of the finance committee. Behind, from left, is a representative of Westmount Baptist Church and Rev. Douglas Throope, minister of Mountainside.

the other two, 1540 listing additional uses and 1541 listing conditional ones requiring special council consent, would be subject to second draft reading June 3. These two are subject to potential referendums.

All would be followed in the fall by changes to the city’s by-law for non-conforming projects (known as SCAOPI) in the event a house of worship were to be deconsecrated and sold for conversion to condos or other housing.

Disappointed in turnout

Maureen Kiely, of Contactivity, told the *Independent* she was supportive of the city’s initiative and pointed out that the active seniors’ centre depends on the survival of the Westmount Park Church, where it is based but which she was not representing.

She was, however, “disappointed” at the apparent lack of interest shown by other residents. She also said she was surprised no other houses of worship were represented.

Dawson, a longtime resident, stated her take-away was the lack of interest from the general community. “I found that extraordinary,” she said, adding, “but I found the city very open to making changes compared with the past.”

She suggested that if notices of the meeting had been sent around to the various houses of worship, it might have been an inducement to others to attend. Because many congregants now live outside West-

mount, she said, they might not have read about the upcoming meeting in the *Independent*, as she had.

Urban planner David Hanna, of West-

mount’s Local Heritage Council, which undertook the houses of worship study along with the city’s Urban Planning department, also attended but did not speak.



Presenting and answering questions were Councillor Cynthia Lulham and Nicolas Gagnon, Urban Planning project manager.

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Atwater Library gets nearly \$1 million for elevator project

By MARTIN C. BARRY

After a century of not being fully accessible to the disabled, the Atwater Library and Computer Centre will have an elevator and access ramp by the spring of 2020 thanks to funding announced by the federal government and the Eric T. Webster Foundation.

Federal public services and accessibility minister Carla Qualtrough was at the Atwater Ave. institution on May 30 to announce that the government is providing \$608,000 for the estimated \$912,000 project. The Webster foundation is paying one third of the cost.

“We are thrilled at the prospect of being able to serve comfortably the many people who now struggle with our long steep stairs,” library executive-director Lynn Verge told around 35 guests who gathered in the upstairs auditorium for the announcement.

Verge recalled the day last year when she was informed that Eric T. Webster Foundation board member Derek Webster had sauntered into the building seeking her out to ask if there was anything the foundation could do for the library.

Derek Webster helped light the way to



Seen here at the Atwater Library on May 30 are, (from left, Atwater Library capital campaign co-chair Richard Pound, Derek Webster, public services and accessibility minister Carla Qualtrough, Westmount mayor Christina Smith, Atwater Library president John Aylen and Richard Prieur of the Association nationale des éditeurs de livres (ANEL).

the federal government's Enabling Accessibility Fund opportunity, while pledging the Webster foundation's added support.

Webster said that as a writer and long-time board member of the Quebec Writers' Federation (whose offices are on the second floor at the Atwater Library), he came

to notice that the building's steps were steep, while “many other people at times would struggle with them.”

As well, he said he realized that his grandfather, who had been injured in a motorcycle accident as a young man that left him with a permanent walking impair-

ment, “would not have been able to walk up and down” the Atwater Library's steps.

“These steps would not have been possible for him,” he said. “And I think that was maybe one of the things that was motivating me to go in and talk to Lynn about the library. And the timing could not have been better. We're very happy at the Eric T. Webster Foundation to be able to provide support like this.”

Qualtrough said the Liberal government “is breaking down existing barriers within our public spaces, like our libraries, to create better access for all.” However, she suggested work remains to be done removing barriers for people with others types of disabilities.

“As someone with a visual impairment – in fact I'm legally blind – I've been finding that my reading choices are very much dictated by the size of the font in a book, not by the title or the content,” said Qualtrough.

She said she regularly walks into book stores, only to realize that she's limited to being able to read only around seven percent of the volumes because of the size of the type. “Having audio books is a game-changer for so many of us,” she said.

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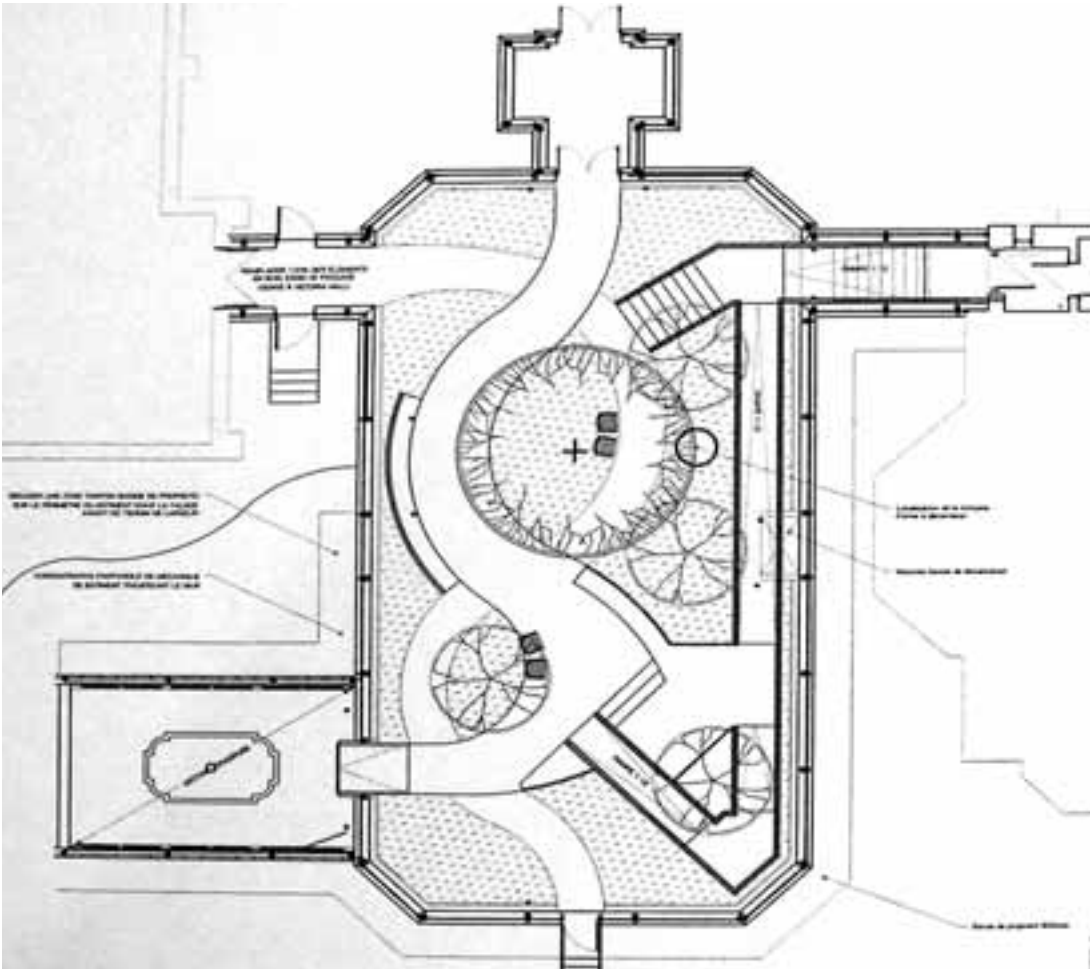
Greenhouse, cont'd. from p. 1
looking for when re-tendering for professional architectural services because general committee decisions are not legally binding council resolutions.

This preferred layout option boosts the forecasted cost of the project to some \$4.3 million from \$2.5 million because of the ramp, design and updating of the heating, electromechanical and watering systems (see story April 2, 2019, p. 7).

While this layout, designated “Option 3,” was listed on the council resolution of May 6 as “attached,” none was. It is, however, available for consultation at the city clerk’s office, along with other related proposals from the consultants.

“I don’t want people to think this is the (final) plan,” Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who has been spearheading the project as part of her commissionership that includes parks, explained last week.

The new call for tenders followed cancellation April 1 of a previous contract for professional services to Nadeau, Nadeau, Blondin architects after the layout option preferred by the council required an increase in the professional fees. The law does not allow for the city to add on to the existing contract for professional fees in keeping



A proposed layout of the conservatory and frog pond area shows how a type of universal access ramp could be integrated into a new design adopted as a concept by council May 6. It was viewed and photographed at city hall May 24.

with the more extensive work.

2018 minutes detail options

Minutes of the general committee (GC) meetings of council on September 17 and October 2, 2018 to which Hurtubise referred, recorded that the consultants had presented a proposed strategy and three layout options for the interior.

Option 1 was to retain the current layout, with side planters and an enlarged centre planting area with water basin. The existing “lift” between the library and greenhouse would be retained though it provides only limited access.

Option 2, with more significant changes, would provide an open concept that nearly doubles the planting space including a full wheelchair ramp.

The Option 3 layout, would provide the style of a “mystery garden,” as opposed to an open plan. It would provide a winding path that leads visitors to “discover numerous planting areas”. It would also provide a ramp.

The general committee “agreed that the city will pursue Option 3 for the interior layout of the greenhouses,” the minutes state.

At a more recent meeting on February 18 this year, it was again decided to proceed with the more expensive Option 3 and re-tender for professional services.



All of the city’s greenhouses from the roof of the library on May 31. The conservatory and frog pond area, the principal objects of discussion at present, are at top right.

Police Report

Five-car accident on The Boulevard blamed on distraction

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Driver distraction may have been the cause of a major collision involving five cars that took place at the corner of Victoria Ave. and The Boulevard on May 22.

Around 3:50 pm, a car heading east on The Boulevard was idling at a red light at the intersection.

Another car that had travelled up the steep Côte St. Luc Rd. hill arrived from behind and collided with the car idling at the intersection.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, the car that was struck subsequently collided with a third vehicle and two more were also hit.

Although no injuries were reported among the drivers or passengers in three of the vehicles, Laperrière said a 90-year-old woman who was driving the last vehicle sustained some minor injuries and had to be transported to hospital.

While Laperrière said the initial police report didn't mention excessive speed as being a factor, he suggested the cause could have been distraction. However, no charges were made against the driver who initiated the accident.

Although a five-vehicle road accident just before rush hour would be considered a major situation by almost any measure, Laperrière said traffic problems were relatively minor because it happened in The Boulevard's eastbound lane, while rush-hour traffic was heading west.

Bullmastiff mauls Lab

A woman out walking her Labrador retriever near the corner of Holton and Wood avenues around 8 am on May 24 filed a complaint with police after her dog was attacked and mauled by a bullmastiff whose

handler apparently didn't know how to keep the dog under control.

Laperrière said that as the Labrador owner was approaching the other woman and her much larger dog, the Labrador behaved in a submissive manner, but the bullmastiff responded by biting the other canine on the leg and on the stomach.

After this, there was difficulty separating the two animals. The bullmastiff's handler said the dog belonged to her parents, while apologizing for her unfamiliarity with its behaviour and her lack of control.

Police are trying to locate the woman walking the bullmastiff. The Labrador's owner was unable to provide further information as her dog required immediate veterinary attention. According to Laperrière, the injured Lab had to be treated for lacerations that required stitches.

Facebook fraud

A male resident of Westmount filed a complaint on May 23 at Station 12 about an alleged *continued on p. 24*

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Homme Men Femme Women Enfants Children

Retail Watch

An assortment of news about retailers and retail spaces in Westmount. If you have retail news, please email us at david.price@westmountindependent.com before the 21st of each month. Major changes since the last coverage (May 14, p. 17) in bold.

VICTORIA VILLAGE

New
Consignment Chic(k) store.
344A Victoria Ave. former site of Galerie Licorne/Oleg Dergachov, now operating by appointment only.

Closed
Astri Prugger Design. 322 Victoria Ave.

Coming
Office of Joseph Montanaro, real estate broker, 4918 Sherbrooke St. (upper), former site of Made in Italy.

Not in retail use
South side of Sherbrooke
4822 Sherbrooke St., former site of SunSource
4848 Sherbrooke, former site of Laurentian Bank
4858 Sherbrooke, former site of Brasserie Melrose, Brasserie Central, Well House and Mess Hall.
4920 Sherbrooke St., former site of

La Canadienne's Westmount location
4924 Sherbrooke St., former site of the North Face boutique.
4926 Sherbrooke St., former site of Evolve toy pop-up store and, before that, JoshuaDavid
4928A Sherbrooke St., former site of Happy Legs, which is now web only.
4930 (basement) Sherbrooke St., former site of Sharyn Scott, now operating at 4916 Sherbrooke St.
4932 (upper) Sherbrooke St.
4932 (lower) Sherbrooke St., former site of Flore, now operating at 4818 Sherbrooke St.
5014 Sherbrooke St, former site of Bois et Cuir, which has moved to 3000 St. Antoine St. W., at Atwater Ave.

North side of Sherbrooke
4823 Sherbrooke St., former site of Pier 1
4825 Sherbrooke St., former site of Gascogne
4909 Sherbrooke St.
4915 Sherbrooke St., former site of Ben & Tournesol and Wilfred & Adrienne, now operating at 4937 Sherbrooke St.
4927 Sherbrooke St. (upper) former site of Au Sommet pop-up store
4935 Sherbrooke St., former site of Envers.
4945 Sherbrooke St, former site of Swiss Chocolatier.
5001 Sherbrooke, former site of Second Cup.

Victoria Ave.
4 Somerville, former site of Ceiba.
245 Victoria, former site of Spa Aliyah, now operating at 5000 Jean Talon St. W.
320A Victoria
344 Victoria, former site of Déjà Porté consignment store.
345 Victoria (north unit)
397 Victoria, former site of Guy Lachance Pharmacien, now operating at 370 Victoria.

Victoria village vacancies: 27
Estimated* number of storefronts: 133
Estimate vacancy rate: 20 percent

GREENE AVE. AREA

New
Le Brow Bar (threading, waxing, tinting and boutique). 4146 St. Catherine St.

Construction under way
206-208 Olivier Ave.

Not in retail use
1394 Greene Ave. (south of Sherbrooke), former site of Lululemon and, before that, the Bank of Nova Scotia.
1362 Greene Ave., former site of Bistro on the Avenue.
1358-60 Greene Ave.
1347 (approx.) Greene Ave.
1308 Greene Ave.
1215 Greene Ave. (south of de Maison-

neuve), former site of Lou Goldberg Jeweller. Construction permit in window in name of Canada Far-East Art Center Inc.
1212 Greene Ave.
4024A St. Catherine St. (east of Atwater), former site of Tutti Frutti
4026 St. Catherine St., former site of Morning Glory
4026A St. Catherine St., former site of Tia Maria prêt a porter
4028 St. Catherine St.
4148 St. Catherine St.
4148A St. Catherine St.
Two first-floor units in Alexis Nihon and one second-floor unit (up by one)
Two units in Westmount Square near Greene Ave. entrance (up by one)

Greene area vacancies: 14
Estimated* number of storefronts: 100
Estimate vacancy rate: 14 percent

OTHER

Not in retail use
4498 St. Catherine St., former site of Clifford's grocery store

*The *Independent* has tried to count all the store spaces accessible from street level, which usually means up to one level above or below the sidewalk. Some judgement was required. The Greene Ave. area totals exclude Westmount Square and Alexis Nihon.



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Vic village merchants hold annual concierges tour



Fifteen hotel and apartment concierges from all over Montreal are seen here with representatives of the Victoria Village Merchants Association on May 30 at the conclusion of this year's concierges tour at Pizza 900 on Victoria Ave.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Fifteen of Montreal's top hotel and luxury apartment concierges were given a tour of Westmount's Victoria village on May 30 to show them all the "village" has to offer.

The tour was organized by the Westmount Victoria Village Merchants Association in conjunction with concierge service provider Conservus and MontrealInfo.com.

It began during the late afternoon at the Visual Arts Centre, wending along to nearly a dozen stores on Victoria Ave. and Sherbrooke St., before ending around 6:30 pm at Pizza 900 on Victoria with food and wine.

"They're the go-to people," said merchants' association president John Campbell of Campbell Picture Framing, referring to the concierges who came from all of Montreal's major hotels.

"What's good about this tour is that it really shows the little village we have here," he added, "the terraces, the places to eat and all the different things we offer."

Prugger closes shop, helps out anyway

Former merchants association head Astri Prugger (of Astri Prugger Design) went along, even though she's closed her Victoria Ave. shop and is moving on. Prugger was a member of the Victoria Village Merchants Association for 17 years and led it for four.

"I wanted to help with the transition now that John [Campbell] is the head of the association," she said, noting that the as-

sociation's position is stronger than ever and is now receiving funding from the city of Westmount.

She agreed the annual concierges' tour is an excellent tool for promoting shops and businesses in the Victoria village sector.

"It's very useful to have a relationship with the hotels," said Prugger. "What we hope is that people who are visiting Montreal will come to our neighbourhood for a day of shopping and to experience beautiful Westmount."

Letters, cont'd. from p. 7

bulbs overhead. This municipal building is used by the public five nights a week until closing time at 9 pm, several hours after darkness settles in during the fall and winter months. More and brighter visibility would help not just navigating the path to the pavement (where cars drop people off), but would be reassuring to patrons balancing backpacks and armloads of books.

When extensive renovations were made to the library in 2017, including new carpeting and seating areas, why was the exterior lighting not addressed then? If it wasn't in the budget, why not? If its cost is in the current budget, will changes be in place when early darkness returns in a few months?

Safety should be city hall's primary consideration for anyone using (and enjoying) its facilities, be it a library, park or green space.

DOROTHY LIPOVENKO, YORK ST.

L'ASSOCIATION DES MARCHANDS DU VILLAGE VICTORIA/WESTMOUNT
PRÉSENTE

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Toth recycles fashion



The work of Westmounter Katalina Toth was on display at a fashion show May 16 at her school, Sacred Heart. The event was sponsored by the school. "It consisted of 27 dresses made from recycled materials (second-hand curtains, tablecloths, etc.) in order to reduce the environmental impact of the garments," Toth told the *Independent*. The models were fellow students. The dresses are being donated to the school's drama department or being distributed among the models. The fashion show capped off Sacred Heart's arts festival. Held every spring, it includes a performance by school's concert band and a vernissage of artwork by students from grades 7 to 11.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF K. TOTH.



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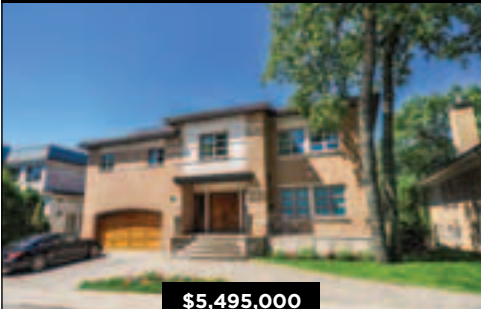
LOT | 20.705 SQ. FT.



\$5,500,000

AV. CEDAR, WESTMOUNT

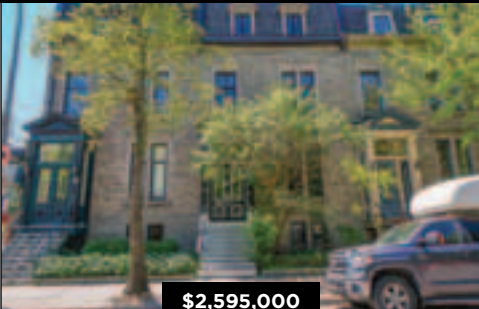
QUIET STREET | POOL & SPA



\$5,495,000

CR. SUMMIT, WESTMOUNT

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL BUILDING



\$2,595,000

RUE ST-MATHIEU, SHAUGHNESSY VILLAGE

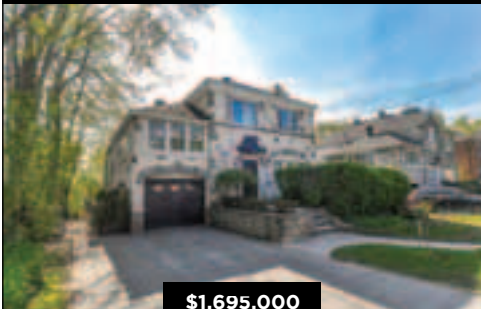
SEMI DETACHED | LARGE GARAGE



\$1,795,000

AV. THORNHILL, WESTMOUNT

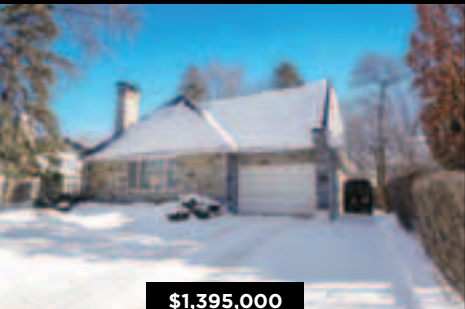
DETACHED | POOL-SIZED LOT



\$1,695,000

AV. PONSARD, WESTMOUNT ADJ.

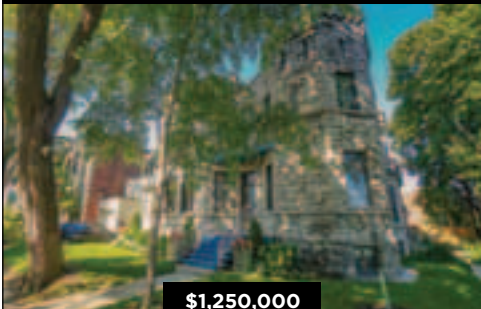
QUIET STREET | DOUBLE TANDEM GARAGE



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#PH1230: \$9,500,000 #650: \$3,300,000+TX #530: \$2,988,000

“RITZ-CARLTON”, DOWNTOWN

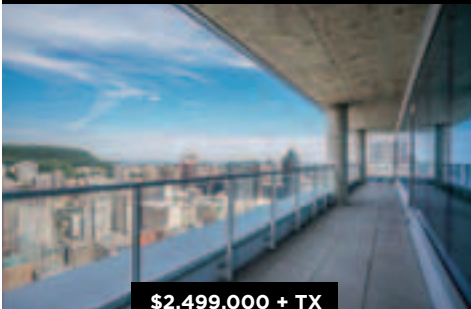
4 PARKING SPOTS | 3 BEDROOMS



\$7,650,000

“SIR GEORGE SIMPSON”, GOLDEN SQUARE MILE

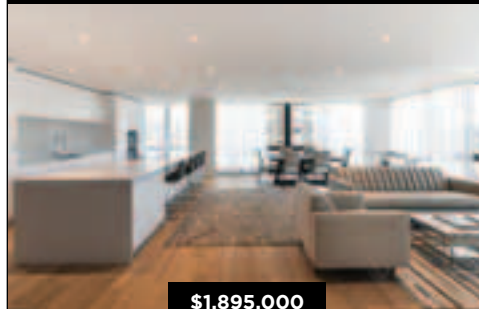
ON CONCRETE | IMPRESSIVE TERRACE



\$2,499,000 + TX

“ICÔNE”, DOWNTOWN

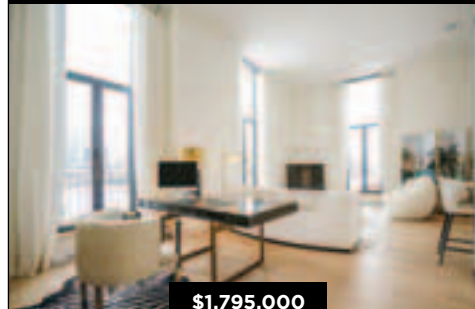
RENOVATED SOUTH-EAST CORNER UNIT



\$1,895,000

“WESTMOUNT SQUARE”, WESTMOUNT

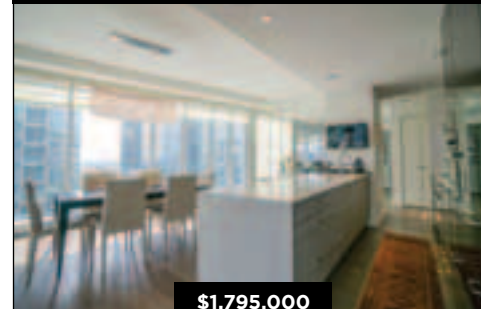
STUNNING FINISHES | VIEW ON THE CANAL



\$1,795,000

“LOFTS REDPATH”, SOUTH-WEST

3 BEDROOMS | 2 GARAGE SPOTS



\$1,795,000




“ICÔNE”, DOWNTOWN

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Real Estate

ANDY DODGE,
CRA (RET.)

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in January 2019, gleaned from city and non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 19.

High-priced houses are beginning make their move in Westmount, as 4299 Mont-



4299 Montrose Ave. on May 28.

January transfers: Highest monthly average ever

rose Ave. sold in January for \$7,900,000, topping the sale of 29 Ramezay Rd. last August for \$5,500,000, then of 64 St. Sulpice Rd. for \$6,400,000 in December.

The January sale was made to a numbered company by Quebec singer Gregory Charles. He had purchased the property in 2014. It represents the highest price for a Westmount home since October 2017 and the fourth-highest on record in Westmount.

The list of January transfers included only seven sales, but five of them were for more than \$2 million and in fact the Montrose figure moved the average price of the seven sales to just over \$3.2 million, by far the highest monthly average in Westmount's history.

Lowest price was \$1,359,500, for 653 Grosvenor Ave, which sold very quickly a month earlier, closed in late January and now is back on the market, asking \$1,785,000.

That sale also represented the lowest mark-up over mu-



653 Grosvenor Ave. on May 28.

nicipal evaluation in January, at 14 percent, while a detached house at 4874 Westmount Ave. changed hands for almost double its

\$1,095,200 valuation. The average mark-up for January was 36 percent, the fourth time in continued on p. 21

RENTED

WESTMOUNT | ELM

Beautiful home on the flat, close to Greene Avenue and downtown. Cut stone façade compliments rich architectural details. Renovated and well-maintained over the years. Large, bright rooms, high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, spa-like master bathroom. Elegance and warmth.



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Westmount House for sale: 4+1 bedrooms, 3+1 bath, high ceiling, 2 parking, basement with separate entrance. Steps to Greene Avenue, Westmount Square, public transportation, schools & Downtown.



Downtown one bedroom condo for Sale/Rent: Condo in prime location downtown. Concordia Universities, stores, metro, coffee shops, offices. Spacious rooms, open concept, lots of storage, walk-in closet in the bedroom. Kitchen has lots of space. 24 Hour security, indoor pool, gym, tennis courts, locker, private indoor garage, A/C



Condo in CDN: Across from Kent parc, shopping, direct transportation, to downtown Concordia University. Superior quality construction; reinforced concrete, steel beams, 13 feet high Ceilings. Close to 2 metro stations, Bus 165, Hospitals, Universities, Cégeps, shops & Parc Kent. Winner of "Prix Habitation 2002". Possibility to buy all the furniture.



Ottawa, Ontario: Rare opportunity in the heart of downtown Ottawa. A detached commercial/ Residential multiunit building with excellent revenue. This property is currently divided into 5 units, and has 5 outdoor parking. Call for more information.

Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in January 2019

ADDRESS	VENDOR	PRICE	2017 VAL	RATIO (%)
653 Grosvenor	Konstatinos Arvanitakis	\$1,359,500	\$1,182,900	14.93%
4299 Montrose	Gregory Charles & Nicole Collet	\$7,900,000	\$6,635,100	19.06%
9 Severn	Peter Castiel	\$3,850,000	\$2,846,400	35.26%
5 Springfield	Dan Wolfensohn	\$1,583,400	\$940,700	68.32%
3186 The Boulevard	Timothy Brian Thurman & Friedel Thurman	\$2,812,500	\$1,992,800	41.13%
738 Upper Belmont	David James Cohen & Laurence Baloul	\$2,795,000	\$1,820,800	53.50%
4874 Westmount Ave.	Susan Caon	\$2,140,000	\$1,095,200	95.40%
CONDOMINIUMS				
175 Metcalfe #601	175 Metcalfe Inc.	\$1,636,000	\$931,000	75.73%
1 Wood #1702	Bernard Rosen	\$2,000,000	\$1,047,200 ¹	90.99%
SHARE SALES				
442-46 Claremont, 33.3%	Judith LeGallais	\$569,000	\$415,333 ²	37.00%
3235-41 St. Antoine, 15.9%	Michelle Lazare	\$290,000	\$167,093 ³	73.56%
CONDOMINIUM GARAGES				
215 Redfern, parking space	Les Condominiums Redfern Inc.	\$15,000	\$83,100	-81.95%
215 Redfern, parking space	Les Condominiums Redfern Inc.	\$15,000	\$83,100	-81.95%
215 Redfern, parking space	Les Condominiums Redfern Inc.	\$5,000	\$83,100	-93.98%
215 Redfern, parking space	Les Condominiums Redfern Inc.	\$5,000	\$83,100	-93.98%

1 Valuation is a combination of \$1,356,300 for the apartment and one parking space, \$50,900 for the second parking space.

2 Exclusive use of 446 Claremont. Valuation is 33.3% of \$1,246,000.

3 Exclusive use of 3237 St. Antoine. Valuation is 15.9% of \$1,050,900.

Pursuant to a request to the city of Westmount's city clerk under *An act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information*, the *Independent* received a list of addresses that received "welcome tax" bills in and near January 2019. Other information published here was researched by columnist Andy Dodge.

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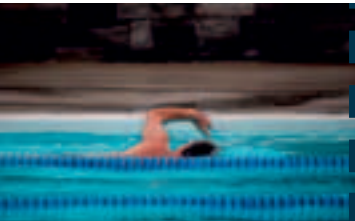
INTRODUCING



Westmount | 633 Victoria | \$1,788,000

Do not miss this tastefully spacious and sunfilled renovated semi-detached home, located steps from Marianopolis, Roslyn and Villa Maria schools. This home boasts spacious rooms, high ceilings & lots of architectural details and character throughout. An ideal place to raise a family with 4 bedrooms, 1 garage + 4 parking & sunny garden. A must see!

MLS 14353585



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infoWestmount

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HÔTEL DE VILLE

Horaire d'été en vigueur
Du lundi 27 mai au vendredi 30 août, les bureaux administratifs de la Ville seront ouverts du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h. La Bibliothèque sera fermée le dimanche de la mi-juin à la mi-septembre.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Galerie du Victoria Hall : Exposition
Du 24 mai au 14 juin. La Galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter une exposition jeunesse. Du lundi au vendredi 10 h à 21 h, samedi 10 h à 17 h. 514 989-5521.

Série Récits de voyages
Les vendredis jusqu'au 21 juin, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Une activité hebdomadaire qui simule le fait de voyager dans un pays étranger pour les individus atteints de la maladie d'Alzheimer ou d'une autre forme de démence. Inscription requise. dmiguez@westmount.org ou 514 989-5530.

Club de films documentaires
Le mercredi 5 juin, 19 h, Bibliothèque. *Sundance : The Transfer of a Ceremony* (2008). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture en français
Le lundi 10 juin, 13 h, Bibliothèque. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Animé par Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

Conférences de 14 heures
Le mercredi 12 juin, 14 h, Bibliothèque. Janice Anderson. Remarkable Canadian Women Artists of the 19th and 20th Centuries. Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Ciné-club
Le mardi 18 juin, 14 h, Victoria Hall. *Following the Ninth* (2013). Billets requis. 514 989-5299.

Bloomsday
Le dimanche 16 juin, Victoria Hall, salle Westmount. Événement en l'honneur de l'écrivain irlandais, James Joyce. 11 h à 15 h | Lectures dramatiques d'*Ulysse*. 16 h à 17 h 30 | Lectures et chansons du soliloque de Molly Bloom avec Kathleen Fee et Geraldina Wenzler.

Prochaine séance du conseil
le mardi 3 juin

Mendez. Inscription gratuite sur Eventbrite. 514 989-5226

Cercle de lecture *Finnegans Wake* de Joyce : The boaters and sifters of Alp
Le mercredi 19 juin, 19 h, Bibliothèque. Joignez-vous au groupe de lecture et plongez tête première dans une discussion passionnée sur l'œuvre magistrale de James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake*. Apportez votre exemplaire du livre. 514 989-5299.

TRAVAUX PUBLICS

Échange et vente de plantes vivaces
Le jeudi 6 juin, 16 h 30, parc Westmount, près de la Bibliothèque. Échangez vos plantes vivaces contre d'autres plantes. Cet événement est organisé par le Comité Consultatif d'Horticulture. 514 431-7634. westmount.org.

Deux écocentres fermés
Les écocentres Saint-Laurent et LaSalle sont fermés pour une période indéterminée. Veuillez utiliser l'un des 5 autres écocentres de la Ville de Montréal, dont Côte-des-Neiges et Petite-Patrie. westmount.org.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Gravure de vélo gratuite - SPVM
Cliniques de burinages au parc Westmount tous les jeudis de 13 h 30 à 15 h 30 à partir du 6 juin jusqu'au 1er août inclusivement (à l'exception du jeudi 20 juin). westmount.org

Rappel : chiens en laisse au bois Summit
Pendant la période de migration des oiseaux, soit **du 16 avril au 15 juin**, les chiens doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS au Bois Summit. westmount.org.

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Piscine extérieur ouverte
Consultez l'horaire de la piscine du Centre des loisirs de Westmount à westmount.org/piscine

Guide des activités automne-hiver en ligne
Consultez le tout nouveau guide en ligne et planifiez vos activités d'automne et d'hiver dès maintenant. La période d'inscription débute le 11 juin. westmount.org/inscriptionenligne

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CITY HALL

Summer office schedule
From Monday, May 27 to Friday, August 30, the City's administrative offices will be open Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Library will be closed on Sundays from mid-June until mid-September.

LIBRARY

Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition
May 24 to June 14. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present a youth art exhibition. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 514 989-5265.

Tales and Travels Series
Fridays until June 21, 1 p.m., Library. A weekly activity that simulates the act of travelling to a foreign country for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Registration required. dmiguez@westmount.org or 514 989-5530.

Documentary Film Club
Wednesday, June 5, 7 p.m., Library. Sundance: The Transfer of a Ceremony (2008). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

French Book Club
Monday, June 10, 1 p.m., Library. Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. Led by Gisèle Magny. 514 989-5299.

2 o'clock lecture series
Wednesday, June 12, 2 p.m., Library. Janice Anderson. Remarkable Canadian Women Artists of the 19th and 20th Centuries. Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Film Club
Tuesday, May 28, 2 p.m., Victoria Hall. *Following the Ninth* (2013). Tickets required. 514 989-5299.

Bloomsday
Sunday, June 16, Victoria Hall, Westmount Room. Special event in honour Irish author, James Joyce. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. | Dramatization of selections from *Ulysses*. 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. | Molly Bloom: Her words and her songs. Readings and songs from Molly Bloom's

Next Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 3

soliloquy performed by Kathleen Fee and Geraldina Wenzler. Free registration on Eventbrite. 514 989-5226

Reading group for Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*: The boaters and sifters of Alp
Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m., Library. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. 514 989-5299.

PUBLIC WORKS

Perennial plant exchange & sale
Tuesday, June 6, 4:30 p.m., Parc Westmount near the Library. Exchange your perennials plant for something new. This event is organized by the Horticultural Advisory Committee. 514 431-7634. westmount.org.

Two écocentres closed
The Saint-Laurent and LaSalle écocentres are closed for an undetermined period. Please use one of the 5 other écocentres in Montreal, including Côte-des-Neiges and Petite-Patrie. westmount.org.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Free bike engraving - SPVM
The clinics will take place in Westmount Park at the gazebo next to the bike path every Thursday between 12:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. from June 6 to August 1st (with exception of Thursday, June 20). westmount.org

Reminder: dogs on leash at Summit Woods
During the annual bird migration period between April 16 and June 15, dogs must be kept on leash AT ALL TIMES in Summit Woods. westmount.org.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Outdoor pool open
Consult the schedule for the outdoor swimming pool at the Westmount Recreation Centre at westmount.org/pool.

Fall & winter activities guide online
Consult the newest guide online and start planning your fall and winter activities. Registration begins June 11. westmount.org/onlineeregistration



Villa Maria raises cancer awareness, funds



During the week of May 13, Villa Maria High School organized its 13th breast cancer awareness week. Activities included a “colour run,” bake and chocolate sales, head shavings, conferences and prize draws. In addition, “we had the privilege of welcoming Dr. David Fleiszer, renowned surgeon, to address our senior students about the realities of breast cancer,” said spokeswoman Sophie Desjardins. “We are really proud of the committee and volunteers who made it possible to give a \$20,000 cheque to the Cedars Cancer Foundation at the end of the week.” The school is just outside of Westmount, but its site straddles the NDG-Westmount border.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VILLA MARIA.

4874 Westmount Ave. on May 28.

Real estate, cont'd. from p. 18

the last five months that the average has cleared 30 percent.

Condos

Only two condominium sales, both in apartment buildings and both well over \$1 million, graced the January list, while two shares of buildings brought much lower

prices.

Also on the list were registrations for four garage spaces at 215 Redfern Ave., two for \$15,000 each (to the same buyer) and two for \$5,000 each; each of them was evaluated at \$83,100, a figure which is going to have to be sharply reversed on the next valuation roll.

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Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Westmounter **Tony Loffreda**, vice-chair RBC Wealth Management, was the guest of honour at the 15th annual Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors Foundation Sports Celebrity Breakfast.

Held at the Gelber Conference Centre, the popular event attracted high-profile personalities from sports and business.

Honoured were **Georges St-Pierre**, professional mixed martial artist and UFC world champion; **Felipe Alou**, part of the Expos organization as a player, instructor or manager for 27 of its 36 years of existence; and **Michael Farber**, National Newspaper Award-winner for sports writing and winner of Canadian Screen Awards. Farber currently contributes to TSN 690 radio in Montreal.

Honorary co-chair was **Morden**

Signature sports breakfast sold-out success



Mike Wagen, Morden “Cookie” Lazarus, Tony Loffreda and Bram Naimer.



Felipe Alou and Georges St Pierre.



Herb Zurkowsky, Charles Cohen, Michael Farber and Mike Cohen.



Dr. Tom Bacher, Roy Salomon and Jeff Bukantz.

“Cookie” Lazarus. Event co-chairs were **Michael Wagen**, senior vp Delmar International, and **Bram Naimer**, pres Union Lighting and Home.

On behalf of the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, **Roy Salomon** was presented with a lifetime achievement award by **Dr. Tommy Bacher** (Maccabi Canada) and **Jeff Bukantz** (president Maccabi USA).

Prior year’s sports breakfast honourees in attendance were local residents **Mitch Garber** and **David Baazov**. Garber and **Mitch Melnick** (TSN 690) made a special presentation to Felipe Alou. Journalist **Mike Cohen** returned as emcee.

Among the 500 guests in attendance were Montreal Alouettes general manager **Kavis Reed** with players **Stephen Adekolu** and **Ernest Jackson**; Montreal Impact alumnus **Patrice Bernier**; Laval Rocket’s assistant coach **Alex Burrows** and player **Michael McCarran**; National Hockey League Players Association executive director **Donald Fehr**; Expos Fest founder **Perry Gee**; Montreal Impact CEO **Kevin Gilmore**; boxer **Otis Grant**; Montreal Canadiens chief surgeon **Dr. David Mulder**; Sports rapper **Annakin Slayd**; Octagon Hockey co-managing director **Allan Walsh**; Mount Royal MP **Anthony Housefather** and D’Arcy *continued on p. 23*

Springfield, Claremont and others to follow

Major road work kicks off with St. Sulpice and Metcalfe



Work had begun on St. Sulpice, left, but not on Springfield, centre, on May 30. It had also started Ingleside (and neighbouring Metcalfe) on May 31, right.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

This year's major road work and underground projects kicked off in the last couple of weeks on St. Sulpice with seven weeks of water line rehabilitation and on May 27 with complete reconstruction of the road and work on utilities on Metcalfe and Ingleside.

The largest of this year's projects – Metcalfe, between St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve, including Ingleside – is scheduled to last until mid-October. It includes the replacement of water mains and the public portion of the water service entries, electrical conduits and sidewalks as well as a new road base and surface. After all that, comes relining of the sewer.

While five months may appear long for this reconstruction project, it's expected to be complex and similar to last summer's work on Roslyn from de Maisonneuve to

Sherbrooke. The street is well used and is part of a fire route.

"It's very dense with a lot of houses," said city Engineering director Elisa Gaetano. "There's also a heavy electrical component to the work."

Water pipe rehabilitation

St. Sulpice is one of three streets slated to have its aging water mains rehabilitated by insertion of a structural lining. The seven to eight weeks required for this work includes time for testing, before and after, and chlorination at conclusion.

This same type of work will take place on Claremont between Côte St. Antoine and NDG Ave. This is to start in mid-June during the reduced CEGEP schedule at Marianopolis and the summer break at Villa Maria. "We have scheduled a complete sidewalk and road reconstruction project of this section of Claremont for 2020," Gaetano said.

The same type of water rehabilitation is also scheduled for Sunnyside between Upper Bellevue and Belvedere from mid-

August to mid-October.

Water work on Springfield

Complete replacement of the 1897 water main and public service entries to houses on Springfield won't start until mid-June, to be followed next year by reconstruction of the road.

"We're splitting this into two years because of the high use of the block by Akiva School and the synagogue," Gaetano explained.

Lansdowne, Clarke, Upper Belmont

The city is targetting the summer months (June through August) for sidewalk reconstruction on Lansdowne, Clarke and Upper Belmont.

This involves Lansdowne from Westmount Ave. to The Boulevard as well as resurfacing, and one complete side on Upper Belmont throughout. Work on Clarke from Sherbrooke to Montrose includes the sidewalks as well as Hydro Westmount work.

Work will also take place on Forden Crescent with details to be worked out.

Social notes, cont'd. from p. 22

McGee provincial legislator **David Birnbaum**. Also present were Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors Foundation president **Philip Abbey** and executive director **Cathy Simons**, along with Cummings Centre president **Roslyn Wiener**, executive director **Pauline Grunberg** and **Michael Beigleman**, communications and marketing.

Close to \$300,000 was raised to support Seniors in Crisis, a program that delivers much-needed assistance to seniors in the community.



Mitch Melnick and Mitch Garber.

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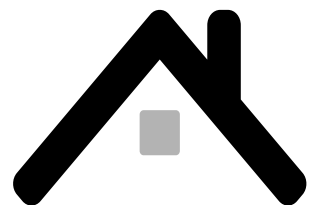
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Police report, cont'd. from p. 11

fraud incident involving some items of merchandise that were sold over Facebook that the victim claimed he paid for.

According to Laperrière, the man had negotiated a price with a Facebook user, then forwarded an agreed sum electronically, but never heard back afterwards. “You can consider this a theft or a fraud,” Laperrière said, noting that the sum in question amounted to less than \$100.

Postman foils fraud

In another recent incident involving fraud, a Canada Post mailman serving southeast Westmount was instrumental in helping foil a fraud attempt involving a stolen credit card.

A suspect had somehow gained access to the credit card to order merchandise online and have it delivered to the victim's address.

When the Canada Post mailman arrived to deliver the package, the perpetrator was waiting outside, claiming to be the recipient's brother. The mailman refused to hand the package over after the suspect



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Beloved Nina is a beautiful, soft black domestic shorthair with golden eyes. Life has been quiet with her beloved owner but they are both in the middle of a big change.

Nina's owner is having to move into a home environment where pets are not allowed and she is hoping that a family in our neighbourhood can adopt Nina and love her as dearly as she has.

Nina is quiet and affectionate, enjoying a lap-cat life with lots of snuggling and play. She is in very good health, being spayed and up to date with her inocula-



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could not identify himself as the recipient.

When the recipient, a 40-year-old woman, got home and was informed of what happened, she contacted the store that shipped the item.

She also cancelled the credit card as a precautionary measure. The police were able to obtain a description of the suspect from the mailman for the investigation that will follow.

Mazda stolen

Sometime between May 26 around 8:30 pm and May 27 at 9:30 am, car thieves managed to snatch a sub-compact Mazda parked on Weredale Park in eastern Westmount.

“There was no evidence left on the scene such as broken glass,” said Laperrière. “They don't know how the vehicle was stolen.”

Cars broken into

Criminals specializing in breaking into parked cars appear to have been active in Westmount over the past two weeks or so.

The owner of a vehicle that had been

Petite Nina

tions.

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Lysanne



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parked during the evening of May 26 in a garage in a building on Dorchester Blvd. returned the following day to find a window smashed and a hard object lying on the floor a short distance from the car.

“Nothing was stolen, but inside the glove compartment everything was searched,” said Laperrière, speculating that the intruder was looking for something specific without finding it.

In a similar incident on May 27 not far from the previous car break-in, two male suspects were spotted breaking into vehicles around St. Catherine St. and Irvine Ave.

“There's a possibility they could be related because they were not far apart,” Laperrière said.

As in the earlier case, there was no mention in the police report of any valuables being stolen, although a witness who contacted the police confirmed seeing the suspects breaking into cars.

Window smashed

Then sometime between May 25 around noon and May 27 at 10 am also in the Dorchester Blvd. area, the front passenger side window of a car was smashed and the glove compartment was found forced open upon the owner's return.

Although just two small items were missing in this incident and there were no suspects, Laperrière said the three events “could be related because they're all within the same time-frame.”

Seeking registrations

Station 12 also reported that between May 23 and May 27 cars parked around Anwoth Ave., Holton Ave. and on the Summit near the back of the Oratory were broken into by thieves who seemed mostly interested in stealing vehicle registration documents from the glove compartment.

“It's possible that people stole the papers to help mask other car thefts,” he said. The targetted vehicles included a Honda Pilot, a Mercedes GLC SUV and a Toyota Yaris.

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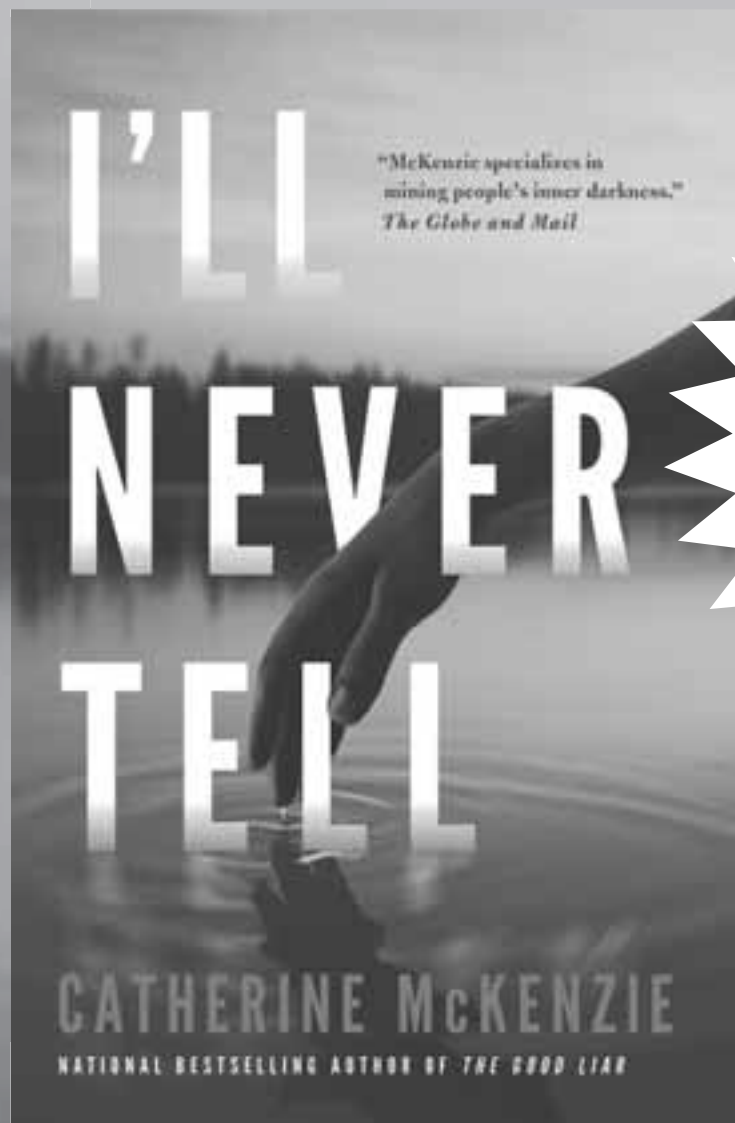
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What happened to Amanda Holmes?



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Former PM Martin addresses Rotarians on polio

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Westmount Rotarians welcomed two speakers during the service club's noon-hour meeting on May 15.

While the two are from distinctly different backgrounds, they were brought together by a common thread – the disease known as polio.

The first speaker, Stewart Valin, is a renowned biophysics researcher, president of Polio Québec and a past president of Lakeshore Rotary.

The link to the second speaker, former Canadian prime minister Paul Martin (a former Westmounter), was that both he and his father (Paul Martin Sr.) contracted polio as youths and have contributed towards eradicating the disease.

Valin's father was also seriously affected by polio.

Rotarians worldwide have been actively involved in the fight against polio since 1985 when they launched the PolioPlus program to immunize children.

"Rotary International has reached out to the global village and delivered brutal blow after brutal blow to the polio virus," said Valin.

"And the Right Honourable Paul Martin has leveraged his formidable leadership position to empower the eradication initiative and has been a significant force in the campaign to end polio now."

As Paul Martin explained, his father (who served in the cabinets of four prime ministers from the 1940s to the 1960s) was crippled for life by polio after contracting it as a child in 1907. "He was able to work out of it, but essentially was blind in one eye and had no use of his left arm at all," he said.



From left Peter Starr, president of the Rotary Club of Westmount, Westmount mayor Christina Smith, and city councillor Mary Gallery and Paul Martin.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE RENAUD, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, MAYOR'S OFFICE

He recalled that as federal minister of health during the 1950s in the midst of a major polio epidemic, Paul Martin Sr. faced enormous pressure when Abbott Laboratories in the US produced a problematic batch of polio vaccine. However, the vaccine was also being produced in Canada by Connaught Laboratories.

"Was it just simply just a bad batch in the United States or was there a problem with the vaccine? And what he did is he obviously called in the scientists, called in the experts. But in the end, after you've spoken to all of the experts, you have to make a decision. And my father's decision was that

Connaught Labs could do it, that it was a bad batch in the United States and we should not stop the program within Canada."

He also recounted his own brush with polio. At around age eight, he woke up one morning with a peculiar sensation in his stomach. "I just felt there was something wrong," he said. As polio outbreaks were a common occurrence at that time, his mother immediately got him to the hospital. It was largely because of this that he recovered without permanent health damage.

On another topic, Paul Martin also spoke about his ongoing work with the Martin Family Initiative, a foundation created following his exit from politics to assist indigenous Canadian youth.

He praised the Rotarians for their own involvement with indigenous communities, saying, "Rotary is in the process of doing with indigenous education and indigenous people what it did when it took on polio."

BUILDING PERMITS 🏠 What's permitted

Council approves 21 building permits May 21

The following 21 permit requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the May 12 meeting of the city council. There were no refusals.

Approved

9 Forden Ave.: at a Category I house, interior renovations and to replace two windows, demolish the two existing sunroom volumes and build a new addition at the rear provided the texture and colour of the proposed brick is revised to match the existing;

537 Grosvenor: to install a pool in the rear yard;

60 Summit Cres.: to make modifications to the rear of the building including demolishing and rebuilding the rear stairs in a new configuration, demolishing the arches in front of the rear basement windows and modifying the balconies and railings;

471 Victoria: to make an opening for a new patio door and a window on the back façade;

132 Clandeboye: at a Category I house, to install a heat pump under the rear gallery;

483 Victoria: to replace the railings of

the front staircase and the upper balcony;

3180 The Boulevard: at a Category I house, to build a new garage addition in the side yard;

574 Côte St. Antoine: to replace some windows and a door provided the opening for the door's window is of the same dimensions as the existing one;

118 Aberdeen: to replace windows and a door provided the windows designated #12 and #13 are guillotine type;

604 Carleton: landscaping in the front yard;

326 Victoria: at a Category I building, to install a sign;

590 Côte St. Antoine: to install a fence in the back yard;

4455 Sherbrooke: to install a sign;

21 Anwoth: to change the level of the ground at the rear and add a patio;

17 Church Hill: to replace windows;

49 Surrey Gardens: to build a front retaining wall;

650 Belmont: to replace a patio door and basement windows provided the framing of the door is thicker;

4146 St. Catherine: to install a sign;

645 Victoria: to replace windows;

74 Bruce: to replace windows;

129 Irvine: to replace a fence.

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Neighbourly neatness



Hallowell St. resident Joe Pacitti got tired “of asking the city” to tidy up the street’s *cul-de-sac*. “I called Westmount Public Works over the years but the area remained a dump,” he explained. Taking matters into his own hands, he used plants from his own garden, cleaning up the debris and planting bushes and flora. The result has brought praise from neighbours, who are so inspired by his commitment they are donating plants from their gardens. – VR

Bell’s memoir translated into French, Italian

In 2013, Westmouter Dana Szeffan

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Bell published a book recounting her life in Europe during World War II. *Danusia, The Story of a Child Survivor* traces her path from Warsaw, Poland, where she was born, to labour camps. Written in English, *Danusia* is now reaching a wider audience. Francesco Todaro, who lives in Florence, found Dana’s story so inspiring, he translated it into Italian. And the book is currently being translated into French by Quebecer Myriam Provost. – VR

Incinerator, cont’d. from p. 3

2018, p. 1).

The building will ultimately be demolished and a new retaining wall built to support the cliff above Glen Rd., Engineering director Elisa Gaetano told the *Independent*. This work is expected to pose challenges because of its proximity to the Turcot construction area for the new Highway 720/136.

Asbestos, structural problems

The building has been condemned and unused for at least several years due to asbestos and structural problems. An amount of \$800,000 had been designated in the city’s 2019 capital works budget for the decontamination.

Westmount had become the first municipality in Canada – and reportedly in North America – to generate electricity from burning garbage. This was phased out in 1947 when the demand for power exceeded capacity. The incinerator was subsequently used to burn garbage until about the late 1970s.

The top floor, which is level to the Public Works land was reported to have been used for some storage but the building has been essentially unused since 2011.

Bollards back



As forecast by the city’s director general in last week’s paper (p. 15), the bollards of the de Maisonneuve bike path were back by May 31, the date of this photo taken at Prince Albert, along with freshly painted lines. PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.

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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 25th annual Daffodil Ball benefiting the Canadian Cancer Society was another sold-out success. Co-chairs were **Paul Lepage** (Intelrad), attending with **Danielle Rheault**, and **Richard Voyer** (Soprema), with **Anne-Marie Fontaine**.

This year's theme was Picasso. His heritage was featured with intricate table settings featuring the artist's face on charger dinner plates, made in China especially for the evening.

Florist **Yves Chénier** created innovative table sculptures using some of the 30,000 daffs. **Marc Lintanf**, executive chef at Sofitel Morrea in French Polynesia, was flown in for the event to work with **Armando Aruda** and his team at Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth for the impressive dinner.

Event planner **Alison Silcoff**, wearing a green gown by Monique Lhullier, greeted guests including MC **Julie Lepage**, resplendent in ruffled fuchsia, attending with **Andrew LaPierre**. Black-tie-and-glam-gowned guests included Westmounters **Michelle Dionne** and **Jean Charest** (McCarthy Tetreault), media celeb **Mose Persico**, **Cornelia Nihon** and **Lawrence Moquette**, and **Angelina** and **Tony Loffreda** (RBC), as well as **Megan** and **Brian J. Porter** (Scotiabank); **Marie-Josée Simard** and **Alain Bellemare** (Bombardier); **Sandra Chartrand** and **Alain Bouchard** (Couche-Tard); **Pascale Bourbeau** and **Pierre Karl Péladeau** (Québecor); **Portia Leggat** and **Brian Levitt** (TD); **Ma-**

Correction: Prager celebrated 75th birthday

Nostra culpa. At the event covered last week (p. 21), Vincent Prager was celebrating his 75th birthday, not the anniversary of his arrival in Canada.

Daffodil Ball inspired by Picasso



Paul Lepage and Richard Voyer.



Benise and Alison Silcoff.

riette and **Alain Lemaire** (Cascades); **Isabelle Marcoux** (TC Transcontinental); **Charlaine Villeneuve** and **François Dumontier** (F1 Grand Prix); **Arlene** and **Andrew Torriani** (Ritz-Carlton); and **Linda Shaw** and **Frank J. Motter**.

Committee members were **Bita** and **Paolo Cattelan**, **Nathalie Schwartz Décarie** (attending with and **Charles Décarie**); **Nicole Magnan** (Claude Magnan); **Louisa Mehaïlia**, **Geeta Suchak**, **Giuliana Maglione-Presti** continued on p. 30

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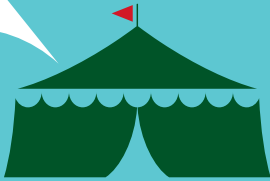
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Julie Lepage and Andrew Lepierre.



Victor and Maureen Dodig.

Social notes, cont'd. from p. 29

(Paolo Presti), Maureen and Victor Dodig (CIBC) and Erik J. Ryan (Anne-Marie Lusier).

Guests were awed by entertainers Jeremy Sutton, digital artist, and Emmy-winning guitarist Benise. Amidst the classic black, some colourful creations stood out:

Ibti Saadi (with Videotron's Jean-François Pruneau) wore a bright yellow pantsuit; Virginia Coossa wowed in red; BT's Joanne Vrakas (with André Monet) was terrific in turquoise; and Ima Waters wore satiny sky blue.

The super soirée raised \$1.3 million for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Comin' Up

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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Westmount Park School Farewell Picnic (weather permitting). Westmount Park's east junior field/school playground/15 Park Place. Registration required for safety purposes: westmountparkschoolppo@gmail.com. 5 to 9 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. 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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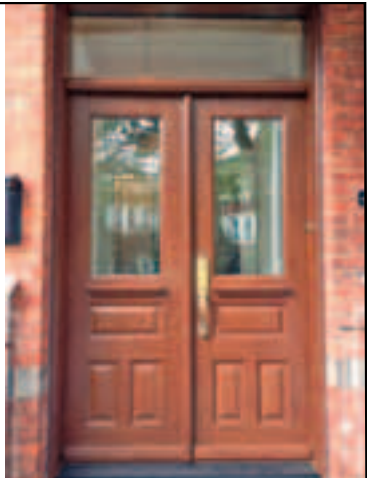
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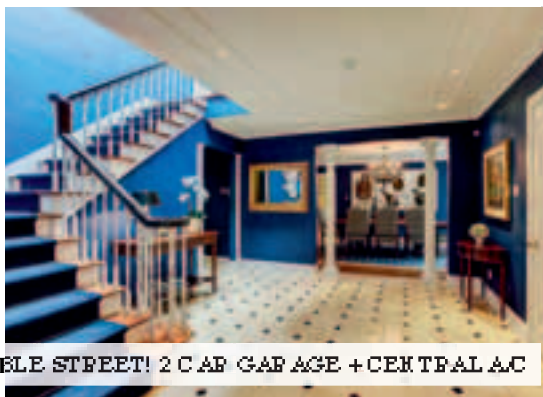
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