

## PAC hears proposal for Hillside armoury

# Height, demolition among concerns raised by citizens

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A current proposal to redevelop the site of the long-vacant Hillside armoury as a non-conforming project now lies in the hands of Westmount's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

This will follow its review of a public presentation made at its meeting February 11 to demolish the Category II heritage building at Hillside Lane and Hillside Ave. and replace it with a stepped-back eight-storey building with 37 condo units and underground parking.

The project is based on a deteriorating condition of the building and exceeds existing zoning in areas such as height, site coverage and density (see story February 4, p. 1).

Questions from some of the 15 mem-

bers of the public attending the 8:30 am meeting included why the heritage building should be razed, what the benefits the project would provide to the community in return, how it would affect the adjacent condo building at 11 Hillside and the construction impact on St. Margaret's Residence across narrow Hillside Ave.

It was suggested the new building was too massive for the streetscape and that the city should beware of an increase in condo construction lest it become another Griffintown.

Two residents said that a more direct benefit to the community would be an indoor pool or gymnasium, as proposed by the armoury's former owner/developer, which never materialized (see story October 23, 2008, p. 1).

Welcoming those at- continued on p. 8

## Duffar becomes first girl to be player of the month

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Nine-year-old Margot Duffar, of Westmount's Atom B Wings team, has been chosen as player of the month for January by the Westmount Minor Hockey Association, announced Andrew Maislin, operations manager for the city's Sports and Recreation department, last week.

It is her first year playing competitive hockey and she is the first girl to be recognized as player of the month since the program was launched in October.

"Margot has continued to push herself hard every single time she steps on the ice. Her level of play has been described as focussed and well driven, and her desire to help has been outstanding," Maislin said.

This is in keeping with the aim of the recognition continued on p. 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

## 4898 de Maisonneuve readying to go

# Project gets cadastral okay, paves way for construction

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council February 3 approved the subdivision of the former office building at 4898 de Maisonneuve into three "separate" but attached lots or buildings, each to contain an upper and lower condo in accordance with By-law 1301.

This cadastral approval was a pivotal point in a four-year saga to redevelop the

large property at Prince Albert involving three different proposals and is expected to lead any day to the issuing of a construction permit to start the heavy construction work.

Renwick developer Noam Schnitzer said last week he was expecting to pick up the construction permit possibly this week now that he says he has received written confirma- continued on p. 10



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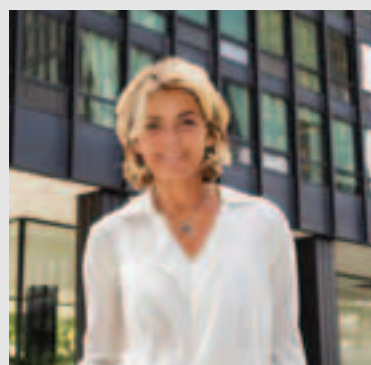
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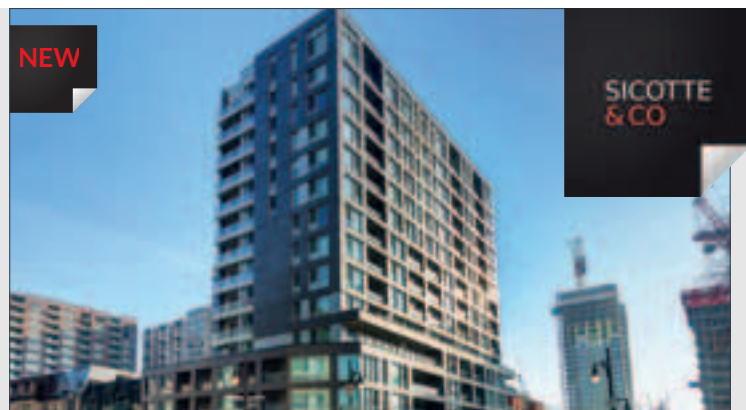
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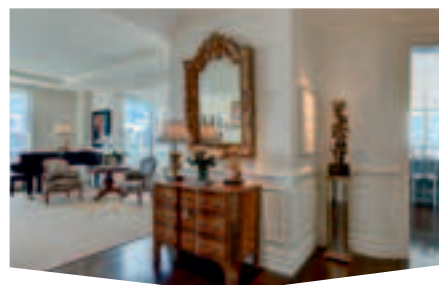
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## Valentine's promise



Westmounter Ryan Stotland, left, and writing partner Greg Halpin donated \$5,000 this month to the Alzheimer's Society to honour their promise that they would do so if the video for their song "Still My Valentine" surpassed 10,000 shares on Facebook. The video has been seen over 500,000 times and has close to 800 comments, many from people who have been impacted by Alzheimer's disease. The song was released on Valentine's Day 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GILLIAN SONIN.

## Groupe Maurice presents de Mais. seniors' residence

# Children's Hospital Foundation, rooms for patients' parents part of plan

Prospective renters were able to hear February 12 about the seniors' home that Groupe Maurice is planning to build at the southwest corner of Claremont, St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve, in NDG just west of its border with Westmount.

The meeting took place at the Unitarian Church across the street from the site.

As previously reported (January 21, p. 4), Groupe Maurice hopes to complete the 10-storey project in 2022, but has moved up the opening of its rental office to autumn of this year.

The project will be called "LIZ," and will extend south down St. Catherine St., which runs north-south at that point. It will occupy 100 percent of the lot, spokesperson Sarah Ouellette told the *Independent* later by email.

There will be 336 apartments and 20 "care studios" for residents with less autonomy.

The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation will have offices on the building's ground floor, and together the two groups will offer six rooms to parents whose children have been hospitalized. This idea was also part of a larger proposal in 2015, the Provigo supermarket aspect of which has been shelved.

## Duffar, cont'd. from p. 1

program "to acknowledge how, through hockey and sports as a whole, children are able to develop sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline, which they can then transfer into other areas of their lives," he explained.

Margot comes from the girls' instructional hockey clinic last year and has been moved by two older siblings who play for Westmount "to develop into an amazing team player and inspiration to players young and old within our organization." Maislin said. "We look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in the future."

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Comin' Up, p. 14

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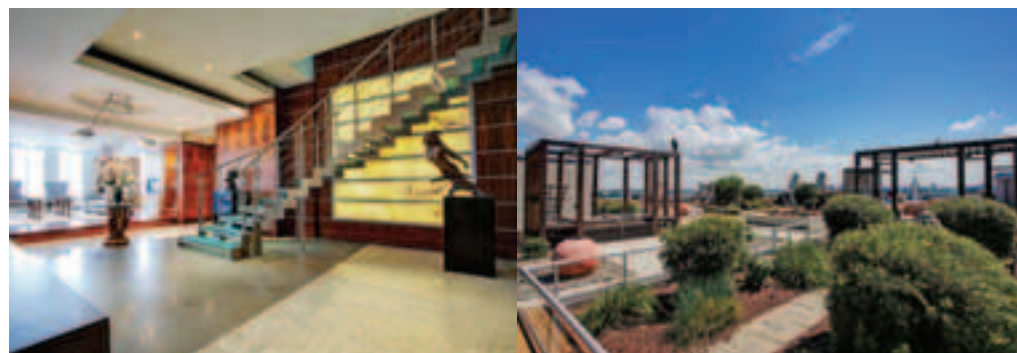
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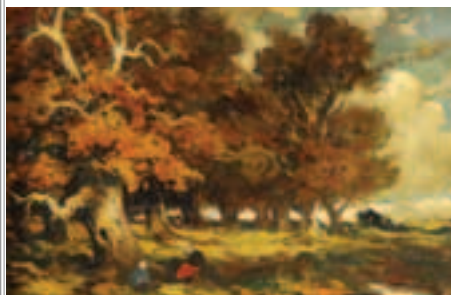
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# Summit students 'Spread the Love' on Valentine's

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Staff, volunteers and students at the Summit School of Montreal's downtown campus spent part of Valentine's Day packing boxes for the school foundation's Spread the Love campaign, which invited couples to celebrate the occasion from the comfort of home.

With three campuses including the one downtown, Summit School is attended by more than 500 students who have neuro-developmental disorders that include autism, Asperger's syndrome and others.

Students enrolled in the school's Transitional Educational Career Centre helped pack large boxes with items that were sure to animate a loving couple's Valentine's Day.

The items included flowers, entrées, truffles and cheesecakes (the latter which were made by Summit students training for job placement), as well as bottles of wine. In the preceding weeks, Summit supporters signed up to receive one of the boxes at a cost of \$250 each.

Westmounter Angela Lehrer Vineberg, a Summit School volunteer who was among those helping with the packing, originated the idea for the campaign. Another Westmounter, Natacha Perron,



Seen here with a Valentine's Day box in the kitchen at Summit School of Montreal's downtown campus are, (from left, supporter Willow Stewart, Westmounter Angela Lehrer Vineberg, students Hunter and Cassie, school director of development Stu Guttman, supporter J.J. Heffring, and students Gabriel and Edouard.

co-owner of caterer Sophie & Nat in neighbouring St. Henri, provided professional assistance to the students.

"Support a great cause, celebrate Valentine's Day with a gourmet meal delivered to your door and stay in your PJs," said Lehrer Vineberg. "No parking, no traffic, no babysitter, no cold."

Considering it was -20°C in Montreal that day, it was a great way to stay home in the warm while supporting a good cause. "To go out on Valentine's Day costs,"

added Stu Guttman, Summit School's director of development. "It's often long line-ups and service running slower than you might expect. With an initiative like this, you stay home, have a beautiful four-course dinner. Then on top of it, you're giving our students the opportunity to shine."

This was the first time the school tried out Spread the Love campaign. Based on the overwhelming response, it seems destined to become a Summit School tradition for years to come.



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## 'Cupid Crew' drops by Château Westmount



A small group of volunteers, known as a Cupid Crew, from Wish of a Lifetime, a US-based non-profit organization that grants wishes to senior citizens, spent an hour during the afternoon on Valentine's Day handing out roses to seniors living at the Château Westmount residential and long-term care centre on de Maisonneuve Blvd. Château Westmount was one of three stops the crew was making at seniors' residences in Montreal. From left, Château Westmount caregiver Sharon Douglas with Cupid Crew members Maria Licoudis RN, Timothy Thomas, Sandra Daoust and Sabrina St-Hilaire.

PHOTO: MARTIN C. BARRY

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Coming back to his roots...

## Welcome Back Dr John Rowen!

Dr Rowen, a native Montrealer, graduated at the Faculty of Medicine at Queen's University in 1989. He worked as a family doctor in the late 90's at Vendome Medical and in the early 2000's at the Westmount Medical.

He's been working at St-Mary's Hospital since 1992 in the Emergency Room where he treats patients and teaches McGill students and Residents. He established his clinic **Xomed\*** in 2006.

He first decided to explore the practice of Phlebology having varicose veins himself, he wanted to look at a solution for his problems. While treating varicose vein patients, Dr Rowen was often asked about esthetic injectables for the face. Initially skeptical, he then began his journey in Esthetics, having discovered ultimately that the practice comprises a lot of knowledge in anatomy, a favorite focus of his.

He used the same practical approach he employed in ER and in Phlebology with a focus on optimal patient outcomes, a common-sense approach and a keen interest in the basic science.

Dr Rowen has been practicing Phlebology and Aesthetic medicine for over 20 years and has been trained by some of the best leaders in the world. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Society of Phlebology, a member of the American College of Phlebology and a member of the Canadian Association of Aesthetic Medicine.

He is known for being passionate about giving the best care possible to his patients. He believes in taking the necessary time to educate his patients about their concerns and finding effective solutions.

After almost 10 years at his clinic on Cote-des-Neiges and 2 years at his clinic in Rosemere, opportunities arose that allowed him to come back where he started almost 20 years ago.

This 54-year-old physician is now coming back to his roots and he is thrilled to now treat his patients for both varicose veins and esthetic treatments in his new clinic at:

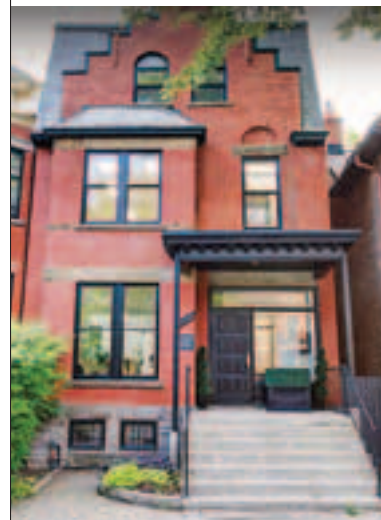
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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## WESTMOUNT WILDLIFE

At right is a photo of a part of a huge flock of crows – a murder of crows – that has been roosting near city hall at night.

This photo – overexposed to show the birds – was taken at the corner of Argyle and Côte St. Antoine looking southeast, and shows one of four trees covered with hundreds of crows.

It was a remarkable sight with the rainy street reflecting the light and the crows like huge dark leaves on top of the trees.

Although the birds were undeterred by traffic, dogs and people, unfortunately, the flash from the camera startled them and they flew off in a whoosh. So I will not take further pictures and don't recommend it. Standing quietly and observing this eerie sight is enough!

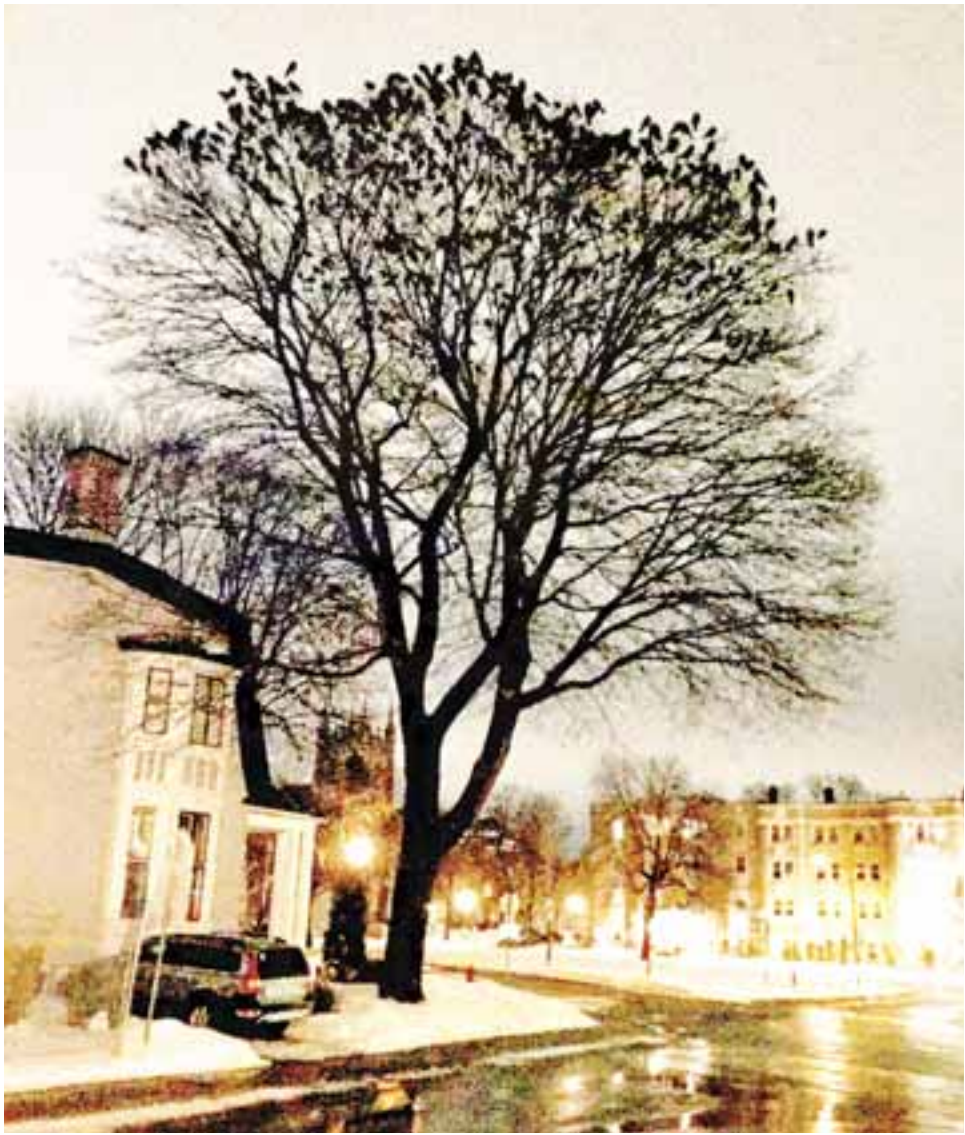
P. RILEY, ARGYLE AVE.

## PLEASE MAKE NO-PARKING SIGNS VISIBLE

Early on the morning of February 8 (circa 4:45 am), I was woken up by a call from Westmount Security. My first words after they identified themselves were, "I have to move my car?" I had checked – I thought carefully – the day/night before to ensure there were no signs out. I was advised the signs were out as at 1:25 pm indicating no parking between 3 am and 3 pm.

I am very grateful to have been called to have the opportunity to move my car (which was not too difficult – I love my Subaru!)

But – perhaps those little signs stuck



just atop the snow banks could receive a makeover. Just having them in a brighter colour would make them more visible. And with snow falling throughout the day, they became less visible. Just a thought...

P.S. They started the snow removal *after* 12:30 pm!

RONA E. DAVIS, UPPER BELMONT

## WESTMOUNT PARK WILL STILL BE A CHURCH

Thank you for the fine photo-article (February 11, p. 3) of the Montreal Music Collective concert, English Wit, at our church on January 25. I hope readers will appreciate a corrective.

Westmount Park United Church has invited the formation of a not-for-profit to manage the shared space of the church as a centre, but in no sense is this to replace the church. We continue to worship 4:30 pm each Sunday, to welcome people during the week to the sanctuary to pray, meditate and visit our nature niche.

In addition, musical director and performer Leah Plave needed to be thanked for her work to make this concert such a success. Equally we thank her and other members of the Collective for a final concert on March 15 at 7:30 pm. The Collective is a mixed ensemble of musicians committed to performing works by excellent yet under-represented composers as well as hidden gems buried by historical circumstance. The final concert, From Vienna with Debt, will feature Mozart and Haydn.

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## BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

# Westmount city council approves four building permits January 13

The following four requests for demolition, exterior construction, alteration or renovation were approved at the January 13 meeting of Westmount's city council on the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC). There were no refusals.

### Approved

**3641 The Boulevard:** to add a second-storey addition to the west section of the house and for interior and exterior modifications provided that doors #10 have SDL divisions as per the existing;

**558 Roslyn:** at a Category I house, to repair the side stair and replace its canopy

and to resurface the driveway and walkway;

**490 Argyle:** at a Category I house, to modify the entrance porch, block an opening at the rear, replace the rear windows, replace balcony guard rails, replace the siding and resurface the walkway and driveway provided that archival and historic research be undertaken to develop a strategy for restoring the siding (type, details, disposition) to a close approximation of its original appearance at the time that the house was built;

**59 Oakland:** to build an addition at the rear provided the guard rail is revised to be in wood or metal.



**Police Report****Investigators probing St. Catherine cruiser/car crash**

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Slippery pavement is one of the factors investigators are taking into account following a collision between two cars – one of them a Montreal police department cruiser – at the corner of Atwater Ave. and St. Catherine St. around half past midnight on February 10.

According to Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière, the cruiser was westbound on St. Catherine and was making a left turn onto Atwater.

The second car was proceeding eastward on St. Catherine towards the intersection at the same time.

Laperrière said the drivers of both vehicles appear to have believed they had enough time to get safely through the intersection, but ended up instead in a frontal collision. The drivers were proceeding through the intersection when the traffic light was green for both.

“The police officers did not have their siren or the flashers on,” he said. “But they were rolling within the speed limit – around 40 kilometres an hour.”

He said both cars sustained heavy damage on their front ends. In the immediate aftermath, one of the police officers was

complaining of suffering from pain in a leg as well as in a shoulder.

Although the other officer reported no immediate pain, Laperrière said it was possible he was in pain the following day as that is a fairly common occurrence following car collisions.

“It sometimes happens that you feel the pain the next day when you stiffen up and realize what’s happened,” he said. Although the driver of the other vehicle also reported being in pain, no one sustained serious injuries.

Laperrière said an accident investigation has been launched to determine whether there was any negligence by either of the drivers. The police department’s accident investigators were on the scene shortly afterwards and are continuing their analysis.

**Stolen or lost?**

Was it a purse snatching or just another case for lost-and-found? While investigators at Station 12 don’t have a suspect, they have decided to classify a missing purse incident on February 7 as a theft, at least until they have more evidence.

Around 6:35 pm that evening, a woman was waiting in a bus shelter near the corner of Sherbrooke St. and Mountain Ave.

After boarding the westbound bus, she noticed that a purse she had been carrying, hanging off one of her shoulders from a strap, was missing.

She returned to the shelter to look and see if perhaps the purse had fallen accidentally from her shoulder. Tracing her way back, she remembered still being in possession of the purse while inside the shelter.

Although she could not recall coming into contact with or meeting anyone during that time who might have taken the purse, she told police she felt certain that she didn’t lose it accidentally.

She remembered taking her bus pass out of the purse just before boarding the bus, then putting it back in after she had boarded. By the time she got off, it occurred to her that the purse was missing.

The missing purse contained a cell phone, a wallet and some pieces of identification. If it turns out to have been a purse theft, it would be the second such incident in Westmount recently.

As reported in the *Independent’s* February 4 issue, a 73-year-old Westmount woman was lightly injured on January 29 when a bicycle-riding thief snatched her purse and threw her to the ground on de Maisonneuve Blvd. near Victoria Ave.

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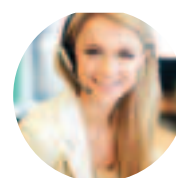
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**Armoury, cont'd. from p. 1**

tending, PAC chair Julia Gersovitz said, "It's a large group today, which is wonderful," referring to the unusual attendance for such a morning meeting which, in the case of at least two Hillside residents, required them to take a half-day off work.

Among those present were several residents of St. Catherine St. who did not speak as well as a Westmount Square resident who told the *Independent* he was looking for a condo for his parents that might be more affordable than those currently available.

Councillor Conrad Peart, a member of PAC as commissioner of urban planning for permits and architecture, also thanked people for "turning up for the (proposed) demolition of a Category II building to hear the proposal from the applicants that could ultimately be subject to a referendum."

Leading off the presentations for Groupeimmo Élite developments was Maya Girlando, development director, who explained in English how the armoury had originally been built in 1910 as a riding academy.

It had subsequently gone through many renovations and changes and been unheated since 2015, all of which, she said caused damage and deterioration to the structure, brick and foundations to become "an abandoned building."

The intent of the current development group had been to restore the building, whose heritage had been rated by the Canadian government at a grade of 34 percent, Girlando said.

Gersovitz, however, pointed out, that "how the city of Westmount values a heritage building does not depend on the Canadian government."

Architect Maurice Martel, presented details of the project in French, including larger setbacks and a smaller footprint than the existing building, which, he maintained, enabled the taller but narrower replacement to have the same volume (see story February 4, p. 1 and 18).

Sue Goh of the condo building at 11 Hillside Ave. asked the PAC to "look for



Left-hand photo: Hillside resident Sue Goh speaks, with Ken London in the background; centre photo: after the meeting, John Fretz, right, speaks with, from left: Maya Girlando, director of development for Groupeimmo Élite, project architect Maurice Martel and Luciano Girlando developer-promoter, Groupeimmo Élite; right-hand photo: Claudette Cardinal represents St. Margaret's residence.



new options" and better use of the site than a building so "massive."

**Concerns raised**

"Many of my neighbours and I were thrilled with the idea of having an indoor pool and gymnasium" as had been proposed by the former developer but reportedly rejected in part because the site is in a zone currently designated residential and there had been no provision for parking.

"We are attracted to living in Westmount," Goh explained, "because of its human scale and gracious living conditions." Invoking "Imagine Westmount 2040" – the city's work on a new urban plan, she cautioned that the density of residential housing should not be allowed to turn Westmount "into the next Griffintown" of condos. Residential dwellings "should be done on a smaller scale."

Paul Cloutier, her husband, also explained negative impacts on the east side of their building (at 11 Hillside) that include potential fumes from the uncovered garage entrance that abuts it and the loss of privacy resulting from many windows and balconies that never existed on the west-facing armoury wall.

John Fretz, of Lansdowne, who also ap-

pealed for a sports complex, proposed that such community facilities be added on the lower floors of a residential building. This was "something we never thought of," said developer Luciano Girlando.

**Respect expression of street**

Ken London, an architect living on Prince Albert, said he found the plan "totally unacceptable." Its height was "extreme," he said, and the design was "a good attempt at refinement but not in that neighbourhood" where the design should rather "respect the expression of the street" and of the old building.

He also questioned the armoury's demolition and was told a separate hearing would be part of the process if the project were to receive preliminary approval from the PAC and city council.

Denis Biro, of Burton, said the need to demolish the building should have been expected by the current owner/developers when buying a building of heritage value.

"When we bought the building, we did due diligence," maintained Luciano Girlando. The original tests did not reveal the extent of damage, he explained. The intent was to "improve the neighbourhood."

Representing St. Margaret's Residence across from the armoury site, Claudette

Cardinal, a volunteer, made an impassioned plea concerning the negative effect that construction might have on the 96 residents, many who are either bedbound or in wheelchairs.

**Street already 'a nightmare'**

This included dirt, noise, disregard by construction workers of early work starts, and traffic and parking congestion on Hillside Ave. This is an area where access by ambulances is required along with assisted transport for residents' medical appointments and others attending the residence's day centre. It is also needed for parking by visitors and even employees. "The street is 'already a nightmare.'"

Gersovitz reminded Cardinal that construction typically brings temporary disruption but that any developers of the site would have to present a construction plan.

"We understand your concerns," stated Girlando. She is the developer's daughter.

In concluding the meeting, Councillor Peart invited additional comments to be made online through the city's website. The deadline for these is February 28.

The PAC panel present to hear the concerns first hand along with Gersovitz and Peart were Gerald Soiferman and Samantha Hayes.



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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Baby is stunning, an exquisite white long-haired angora with delicate features and huge green eyes that sparkle in contrast to his precious pink nose. He is a very healthy five-year-old who is up to date with his inoculations and treatments, in-



## Precious ‘Baby’ angora

cluding a recent dental, and neutered. He is now in foster care with a volunteer from Gerdy’s Rescues and Adoption and he is enjoying his temporary home. His foster mom reports that he is affectionate, cuddly, sensitive and companionable.

He is breathtaking to watch and looks forward to being picked up for cuddles with the delicate sweetness of the angoras that remain kitten-like even as grown-ups. Baby enjoys a quiet home environment as an indoor cat without other pets and is now available for a transition to a forever family. Please do not hesitate to contact the volunteers at Gerdy’s Rescues & Adoption at their email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) to find out more about him.

Your neighbour,  
Lysanne



Westmount  
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER

Here she is, ready to go, carrying her little plushy toy in such a diligent way! Dali is a bit over four years old, a mid-sized black-and-white shorthaired girlie. So ready to join a family and enjoy an active lifestyle in our Westmount green-spaces and dog runs. She is healthy, up to date with her inoculations and treatments, and spayed.

Playful Dali is presently kenneled at the Montreal SPCA (identification number 27982812) and she would benefit from a home environment as soon as possible. Please contact the Montreal SPCA at 514.735.2711 to find out more about her and arrange a visit. The SPCA shelter is located

## Dali loves walkies



at 5215 Jean Talon St. West, and its visiting hours are 12 noon to 7 pm from Monday to Friday, and 11 am to 5 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Your neighbour,  
Lysanne

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**4898 de Maisonneuve, cont'd. from p. 1** tion from the city that all required supplemental documents he had filed had also been approved.

Starting with excavation of the basement, the work is expected take from 13 to 15 months. “It’s been an extremely complicated process,” he told the *Independent*.

This involves recycling the three-storey Category II heritage-rated building, which was considered to be a factor leading to the city’s acceptance of the project. It is called Albert Square and conforms to current zoning, Schnitzer said.

The cadastral operation was a condition of council’s permit approval of the project accorded August 5, 2019. This required the building’s interior to be subdivided by erecting two straight concrete fire-rated walls from the roof down through to the lowest level.

The interior of the building has already been stripped and decontaminated of asbestos under separate permits.

The project’s target – empty nesters in Westmount wanting to downsize as well as families – has already been reflected in two notarized sales, he said. One was to empty-nesters in Victoria village, the other to a non-Westmount family. Both are located in the former office building.

It was some 16 months ago that Schnitzer submitted the proposal to convert the existing 1950s building into six condos and build two larger ones next door in a stand-alone building on what had been the site’s parking lot (see story September 24, p. RE-28.).

### Change to garage space

Some of the delay, he said, resulted from a city requirement that three separate underground garages be provided in the subdivided building rather than one common one, as originally submitted.

Without a common garage, Schnitzer said, less space became available for possible community use of the garage such as by residents of York St. who now use the

property’s private lane to access their rear parking pads.

Schnitzer recalled he had offered to create access to these parking spots through a retaining wall, pending the city’s approval of their parking aprons. There has been no change to the situation since then (see story August 13, 2019, p. 1).

### History of redevelopment

Since 2016, two very different projects of multi-family residential buildings that did not conform to zoning were eventually turned down by the city.

They had been opposed by neighbours and rejected by the city’s Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for consideration under the by-law called SCAOPI (Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy of a Proposed Immoveable). They were judged at the time as out of scale with the Victoria village neighbourhood (see story March 20, 2018, p. 1). This led to Schnitzer’s submission that conformed to zoning.

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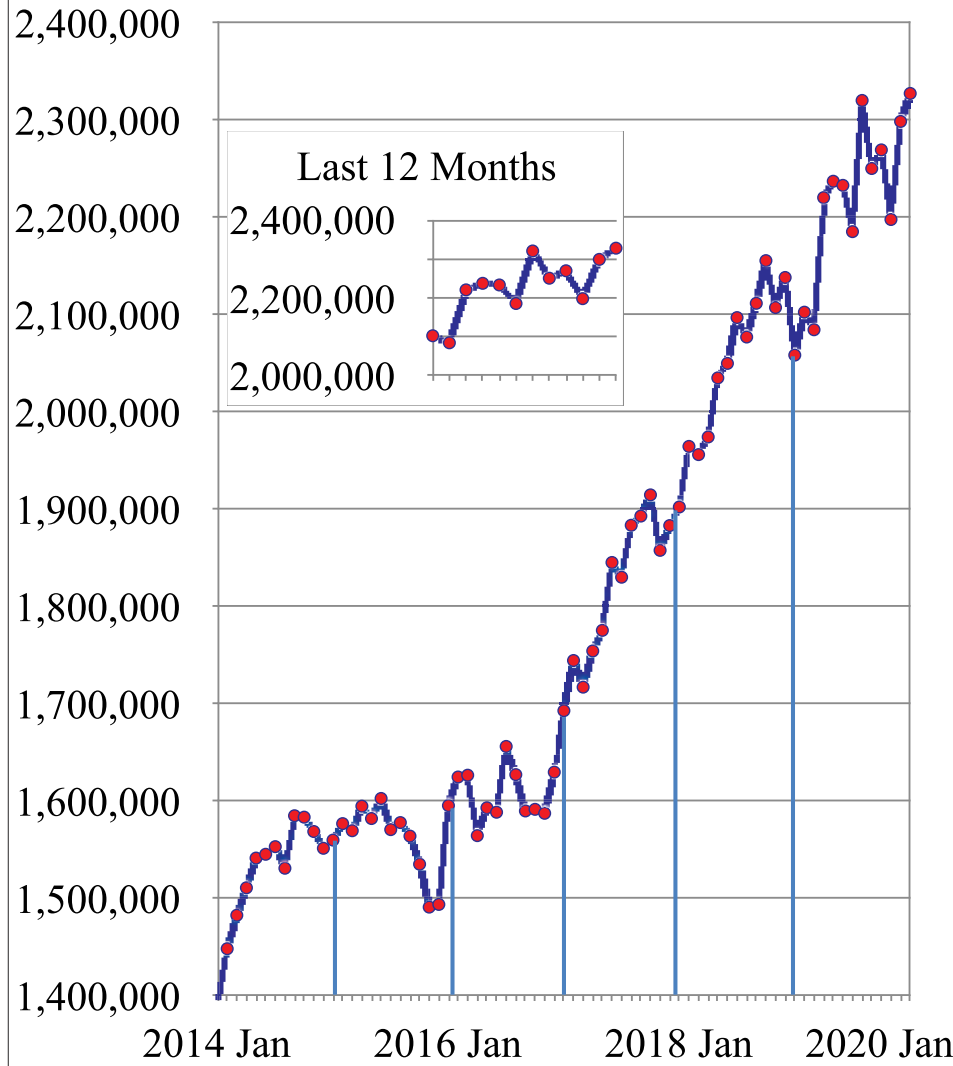


**Real Estate**

ANDY DODGE

**December/January sales:****Hot and cold this winter**

Average adjusted price for 'typical' Westmount house, by month, January 2014 to January 2020, based on accepted offer dates



Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in December 2019 and January 2020. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph at right offers a picture of these trends over time.

Six Westmount real estate agents returned from vacation late last month and posted sales they had accomplished in December, making what we had touted as a "busy" month into a record volume for the last month of the year, with 19 sales including four in the \$2-million range and two more in the \$3-million range, quite an ending for an immensely positive year.

The same cannot be said for January, which had only five more sales to report, though one was just under \$3 million and another was just over that mark, two more were just under \$2 million and the fifth was \$1,350,000.

The slow pace is symptomatic of January, which (along with December) is usually among the slowest months of the year for real estate sales, but those strong prices pull the average to an all-time high. January also starts us comparing to the new valuation roll, so mark-ups over valuation were off somewhat, though the average is still 29 percent above valuation, which means the market is that much stronger than it was two years ago.

**Condos & Westmount adjacent**

The condominium market was sluggish in January, with only two apartments sold and one flat in a former triplex; two of these sold below the new 2020 valuation, so indications are that the overall condo market is not progressing at the same pace

as the single-family market.

Four houses sold in adjacent-Westmount areas, including two to the north of

city limits and one each on the west and east sides, with an average ..... compared to the new valu- continued on p. 14



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# ECS hosts pop-up



Tiffany Ajmo, Amy Cammaleri, Lauren Aslin, Kelly Woo, Véronique Courey, Jenny Jacob and Morgannis Graham.



## Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

What a great gifted – and gifting – idea! Westmount's Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's (aka ECS) Old Girls' Association (OGA), held a pop-up day.

Little munchkins – young ECS lasses swathed in winter wear and bright backpacks as they rollicked in the snow – were

the perfect elf-like welcome to the fun. Arrivals were offered sips from David's tea holiday selection: sleigh ride, gingerbread blonde and Santa's secret. The costs to participate in the "shopping soirée" were \$100 per table and a raffle prize.

Profits from the tables went back to the

ECS OGA and profits from the raffle went to Charlie's Foundation.

Founded by Westmounter **Charles Le Pierrès**, the foundation teaches Dominican Republic children English through the sport of tennis. At the ..... tables, snapped-up stand- *continued on p. 14*

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**Social notes, cont'd. from p. 13**

out items included sweatshirts (“I Survived Montreal Night Life”), adorable tiny mice lying in their little sardine-box beds (Les Petits Voyous), and leopard ice buckets.

But possibly one of the biggest hits were the cupcakes by ECS sisters **Zainab and Jannah Ahmed**. The bakers created innovative icing toppings: green Xmas trees taller than the cupcakes themselves, but easily eaten in a mouthful.

**Katie Emory** (biscuits, milk and cookies) also offered homemade delights. Her large yummy cookies held an icing message.

Other items ranged from “gently used”

clothing and liquid power/powders (LYNQ) to baby presents/toys.

Among the fabulous offerings, local vendors included Suetables, Atelier Lou Bijouterie, Squish, National, Mandy’s, Kaufman group (manned by local res **Lindsay Hart** and ECS “old girl” **Alfee Kaufman**), and Kassie Lazanis Design.

Hard working committee members were **Tiffany Ajmo** (ECS ’91), **Amy Cammalleri** (’01), **Morgannis Graham** (’95), **Veronique Courey**, **Kelly Woo** and **Jenny Jacob**.

Volunteer ECS girls clad in tartan school uniforms skirts ensured things ran

smoothly. Appreciating the magic of the moment were Westmount’s mayor **Christina Smith** and city councillor **Mary Gallery**, who were given a tour of the tables by ECS head of school **Lauren Aslin**.

**Correction**

Please note that in the column about Yid Life Crisis (February 11, p. 21) Shelley Grushcow did not attend and a major donor, Eva and Herman Gruenwald Holocaust Foundation for Education, was inadvertently omitted. Apologies.

**Real estate, cont'd. from p. 11**

ations of 37.6 percent, higher than in Westmount proper. All four of the houses sold in the \$1- to \$2-million range; except for two full duplex sales on Northcliffe Ave. in November, nothing in the residential category has sold under \$1 million since last August in adjacent-Westmount.

**96 listings**

In mid-February the number of listings in Westmount had increased by only one

to 96, only three of which were asking less than \$1 million, though that is two more than a month earlier. The price range for Westmount houses is now \$889,000 to \$19,800,000.

Another 26 Westmount houses are up for rent, up from 20 a month earlier. The maximum asking rent is \$19,000 per month, supporting the top rental contract negotiated two months ago at \$16,500 per month.

Comin’ Up

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Women’s Canadian Club of Montreal presents “Behind the Scenes of ‘From Shore to Sky: a reconciliation story’” by journalist and Concordia University professor Aphrodite Salas. \$10. (Sandwich lunch \$8 from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm.) Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke. 12:30 pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

The Westmount Historical Association presents MacKay L. Smith, author, who has self-published a series of four illustrated books about Montreal, each on a theme. Guest fee \$5. Westmount Room, Westmount Public Library. 7 to 9 pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

The Krishnamurti Information Centre of Montreal presents video “Can Our Minds Being in Disorder, Create Order?” \$7. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 2 pm.

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To include your event in Comin’ Up, write us at editor@westmountindependent.com.





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