

COVID-19 closures come to Westmount

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Effective last Friday, March 13, all municipal public activities and events are being postponed or cancelled and buildings closed to the public until further notice, including the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), library and Victoria Hall.

Events include, of course, the meeting

City's ads on COVID, p. 10-11 & p. 15

scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 at Victoria Hall on Westmount Park as well as the latest event for "Imagine Westmount 2040" planned for March 24 (see story, p. 6).

Exceptionally, the regular mid-month council meeting for Monday, March 16 was closed to the public but business enacted would be

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Non-governments cancel events, too

The Westmount Historical Association, MUHC Glen tour organizers and Women's Canadian Club cancel lectures and tour, see p. 13.

Non-COVID news!

Children's sports, p. 3

Signs of spring, p. 5

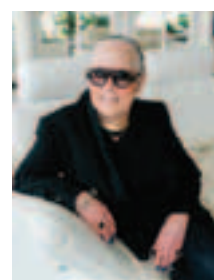
Letters supporting protests by, for Wet'suwet'en chiefs, p. 6

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Victoria Hall was seen to be closed "until further notice" on March 13 at 4:30 pm, according to signs on the doors. Similar signs were seen by the *Independent* at the Westmount public library and the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON.



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New types of synthetic turf under review

Council awards contract for maintenance of fields

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the city looks into new types of artificial turf for playing fields as requested by the Westmount Soccer Club for possible use at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), city council March 2 approved a contract for this year's maintenance of its four playing fields.

These are last fall's re-sodded junior

fields in Westmount Park as well as its main Melville field and the ones in King George (Murray) Park and the WAG.

Moved by Councillor Mary Gallery, the contract was awarded to Pelouse santé for up to \$122,300. It was described as the lower conforming bid of two.

The contract calls for aerating, fertilizing, line painting, surface repair, sand addition, and

continued on p. 14



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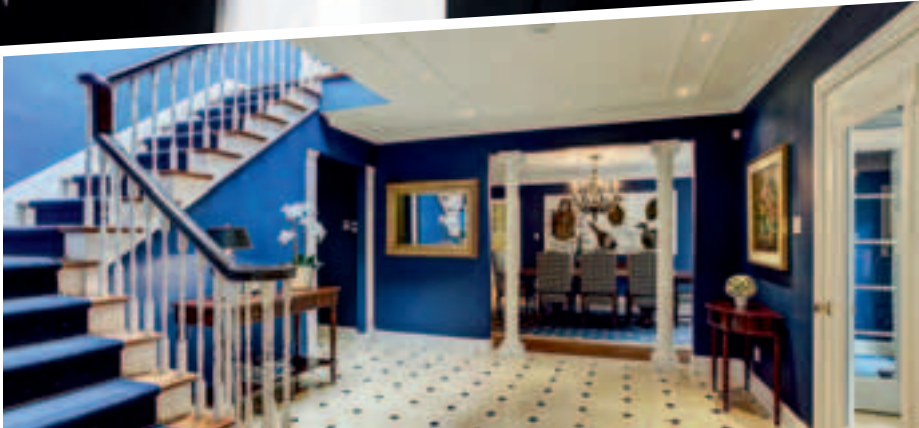
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BRIAN DUTCH

Duffar meets Sauvageau, drops puck for university players



Margot Duffar, 9, left, became the first girl to be named Westmount's player of the month this January. She was invited to drop the puck at an official university-level playoff game February 29 between the University of Montreal and McGill women's teams. She is shown with Danielle Sauvageau, general manager of the U of M's Carabins, who led the Canadian women's hockey team to its first-ever medal in 2002.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

Recognized for February

Dean Hopley becomes first novice player of the month

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Eight-year-old Dean Hopley has been named hockey player of the month for February by the Westmount Minor Hockey Association.

He is the youngest and first player from a Novice team to be selected in the city's recognition program since it was launched in October, according to Andrew Maislin, operations manager for Sports and Recreation.

"This is already his second year of inter-city hockey, having played on a Novice team last year even though he was in the age category below," Maislin said. "This year, he has really come into his stride and has picked up his game tremendously."

"For a novice player, he's really standing out and has demonstrated great understanding of the system. Dean can often be seen on the ice during general hockey, working to perfect his skills. He is a player that puts 100 percent into what he loves."

He plays for the Novice 2 team.

The city's citation program was initiated to highlight player contributions and acknowledge the opportunities and skills that minor hockey, and sports as a whole, can offer young people in developing sportsmanship, teamwork and discipline, which



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMOUNT SPORTS AND RECREATION.

can be transferred into other areas such as academics and community service.

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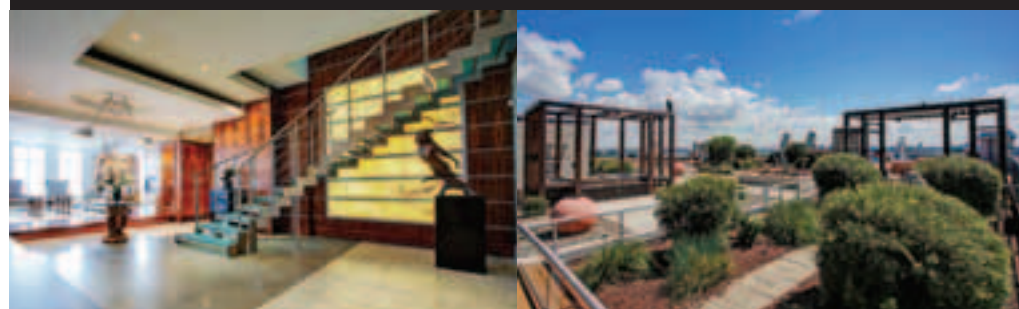
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But we are still here for you by phone every weekday, and we will continue with our volunteer and other services.

At this time, can we also ask that everyone look out for their older neighbours, who are the most vulnerable sector of the population.

Does an elderly neighbour need some groceries? Or a lift so they don't have to take public transit?

Or maybe a cheery phone call?

Westmount is a city of neighbours, so let's all be good neighbours to one another!

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126-year-old water main 'wild': Cllr. Philip Cutler Reconstruction of Stayner and new water main coming

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's the turn of Stayner residents to face the coming reconstruction project of their street following city council's awarding March 2 of the contract to completely redo the street.

The contract was given to 9129-2201 Québec Inc. (Travaux routiers métropole) for up to \$919,433 including taxes. This was the lowest of nine bids received. The highest was \$1,685,000.

"The street was first constructed in 1931, and the water main in 1894, which is wild," said Councillor Philip Cutler, commissioner of innovation and infrastructure.

According to Elisa Gaetano, director of Engineering, the project includes reconstruction of the water main, sidewalks, street lighting and replacement of light standards as well as some electrical infrastructure upgrades and a new asphalt overlay on the street.

"As we are currently in the thaw period, the work is scheduled to begin in May with a tentative start date scheduled for the



Councillor Philip Cutler.

week of May 18," she said.

Other approved infrastructure

Other infrastructure work approved was for miscellaneous street and sidewalk work throughout the city at a maximum of \$328,778 to Cojalac and the cleaning of catchbasins to Techvac Environnement for a maximum of \$90,300, both including taxes.

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The gloves of spring



These two black gloves were seen perched in bushes – in almost identical fashion – on March 11 on the southeast corner where de Maisonneuve crosses Victoria (left) and Prince Albert (right).

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

Spring means puddles, and bicycles



Leo Haskell-Sheper enjoys the puddle/lake near the “Shakespeare in the Park” dell in Westmount Park on March 9, as mum Amelia Haskell supervises.

PHOTO: INDEPENDENT.



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'Imagine 2040' event postponed
**Urban planner Beasley stresses
need to re-dialogue every 5 years**

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While it's important for a municipality to have a long-term master plan for urban planning developed through engagement with the community, as Westmount is doing, its relevance depends on renewing the dialogue every five years, said internationally known urban planner Larry Beasley.

"Frequency is the key to a good long-term plan" because such a schedule catches quickly unfolding changes such as climate change and autonomous mobility, he explained.

Dialogue includes asking people face to face what they want in their city in the short term as well as the long term because it involves those who may feel detached from what might occur in 20 years, for example.

Beasley was scheduled to come to Westmount from Vancouver to address an Imagine 2040 event at Victoria Hall March 24, on "Building Sustainable Cities." The lecture, he said, would have dealt with how social, environmental and cultural sustainability can apply to a community.

The city has since postponed the event until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic (see p. 1).

"Imagine Westmount 2040" is the city's project to revise its urban master plan created some 20 years ago.

"I want to have the time to dialogue with as many people as possible," he told the *In-*

dependent last week from his office at UBC, where he teaches part-time along with writing and advising the private sector and governments around the world.

Beasley has the title of "distinguished practice professor of planning" at the university, is a board member of the National Capital Commission in Ottawa, was director of Vancouver's urban planning department and chief planner from 1987 to 2006 of Vancouver's downtown transformation.

Face-to-face dialogue

He is of the view that it is important for members of the Urban Planning staff to meet with citizens at events that they are already attending such as community organizations and parent meetings at schools. This will reach many not already participating in city programs.

He views the population as comprising three sections of a triangle or pyramid: those at the small top are those who are already heavily engaged; those in the middle section who may be sometimes involved; and those at the large bottom section who may vote but are not otherwise involved in the city.

It's for this reason he does not favour the creation of a master plan citizen committee since they would likely be predisposed to participation.

While Beasley has visited Montreal but never Westmount, he said he hopes to arrive early and to learn more about the city.



The RCMP building on Dorchester at Greene on February 13. Some supporters of five hereditary Wet'suwet'en chiefs are using the slogan, "RCMP off Wet'suwet'en land."

PHOTO & CAPTION: INDEPENDENT.

**EDUCATE YOURSELF
BEFORE USING
INFLAMMATORY LANGUAGE**

I was taken aback upon reading the "Solution to blockades is financial" letter to the editor by Boyd Whittall (March 3, p. 7).

It is of growing concern for me of how little we know or even want to know about our Indigenous brothers and sisters whose land we live on (the island of Montreal is uncaded), and that this sort of rhetoric is still being wielded by some today. "By whatever means are necessary" are the words used by Mr. Whittall in his letter and they are downright frightening. I would like to remind him and others that peaceful protest is the right of all people living on Canadian territory, even when it's disruptive, as that is usually the point of protest.

I hope that everyone can take the time to better educate themselves on the realities of Indigenous people on this territory. Perhaps volunteer and get to know this population before coming to conclusions or writing letters to the editor using this kind of inflammatory language.

STEFANIA MUSTILLO, ST. CATHERINE ST.

THE WET'SUWET'EN ARE RIGHT

Open letter to Marc Garneau, MP

In response to my old friend Boyd Whittall's open letter of March 3 (p. 7) to Marc Garneau, MP regarding the Wet'suwet'en blockades, I would draw his attention to the fact that there are two issues at stake here: the one that he refers to – that has most readers of the conservative press up in arms: "the unruliness, obstinacy and ar-

rogance" of our indigenous brethren (whose territorial and cultural rights have never been fairly or honestly addressed or acknowledged) and the other important issue – which the Wet'suwet'en – with the full weight of scientific truth on their side – could be using to their advantage, namely that the natural gas in question is to be fracked from the Monterey formation in northeastern BC....the single source of the feedstock for the proposed LNG plant at Kitimat.

Our media – not just the sometimes myopic "business minds" of Postmedia but even the CBC – have been either reluctant or too slow to notice what is happening in the global energy world as it confronts the realities of climate change, which took yet another dramatic turn on March 9.

Sure, natural gas is being looked upon as a possible bridge fuel as we phase out coal as well as bitumen from the tar sands (which we still refer to as "oil")....but this is conventional gas – which flows freely (with minimum methane leakage) from the source rock, with no need for fracking, with its attendant shocking environmental and high monetary costs. A quick look south of the border at frackers in the Bakken, Eagle Ford, Permian and others – which are now wallowing in debt (many close to bankruptcy) while causing serious and irreversible environmental damage – makes the point clear: The Wet'suwet'en are right... the pipeline should not go through their territory – nor should it be built at all!

PETE KIRBY, MONT TREMBLANT

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Resident: 'unWestmount-y' lack of consultation

City's Public Works yard still closed for dropping off disposables

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After a year, residents and contractors are still unable to drop off recyclables, branches and other materials at the city's Public Works yard at the foot of Bethune owing to work on the new Highway 136, city director general Benoit Hurtubise said last week.

"The Turcot team is still working from our Public Works yard and the area near the wall is sealed off," he explained.

"We do not have place to store any containers. Once the work is done at their end, sometime this summer, we will evaluate the situation and determine if we have enough space

left to maintain safe operations as we will not regain all the space that we originally had.

"Meanwhile, we are encouraging all residents to use the Ecocentres," Hurtubise said.

But "for those of us who loved the convenience of a place you could drop off a mattress or some leftover construction materials, this seems very unWestmount-y to have zero consultation and remove a service," states Terry Bovaird, a resident of Strathcona Ave.

Uses city land

The new Highway 720/136 passes di-



Looking east on June 18, 2019 at a part of Westmount's Public Works yard at the foot of Bethune St., south of the Westmount recreation centre. To the right/south of the construction hoarding, the provincial ministry of Transport had recently taken over a small portion of the land as part of its work on the Turcot/720/136 project. PHOTO: RALPH THOMPSON

rectly alongside the south edge of the Public Works yard, requiring the use of some of the Public Works and Hydro Westmount land off Glen Rd.

These portions were taken over by the Quebec Transport ministry in exchange for the city's share of the cost of continuous hydrocarbon pumping (see story February 25, 2014, p. 1).

The Turcot work at Public Works has involved rebuilding and pinning up the retaining wall to the new highway and is presenting untold challenges for almost a year including difficult access to one of the garages and reduced parking for employees.



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Urban Planning director Flies: ‘road will remain closed’

Weredale ‘west’ still closed

The western, entrance arm of Weredale Park, a street in southeast Westmount, remained closed to traffic when the *Independent* went by on March 12. The detour via an alley from Clandeboye to reach the buildings on the street, including the headquarters of Batshaw Youth and Family Centres, also remained in effect.

As already reported, bricks from the house at 4030 Dorchester fell on February 27, requiring Montreal fire department attention and then closure of the street by the city of Westmount. At the time, the house was already the subject of a deterioration notice from the city (see February 19, 2019, p. 1) after bricks fell from its façade years ago (see November 1, 2016, p. 6).

The sidewalk remains open from the south in order to allow access to the Parisa home daycare, whose address is at 4034 Dorchester, but an entrance for which is on Weredale Park, just across the street from the unoccupied, decaying house. The sidewalk is technically closed from the northern/Dorchester side, although physical access is possible.

When asked by email on March 12 what the city’s plan was, Westmount Urban

Planning director Tom Flies replied, “The road will remain closed until further notice. I am unfortunately not in a position to give you a precise timeline on when it will re-open.”

When asked what criteria would be used before re-opening, he continued, “The road will only be re-opened once the city can ensure that circulation through this road does not represent a risk to the public.”

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TONY MOFFAT

Earth Hour 2020 is March 28

No official Westmount event this year, but please participate on your own

Earth Hour is a global grassroots environmental movement celebrated annually on the last Saturday evening (or second to last if Easter falls then) of March. For one hour starting at 8:30 pm local time, across 24 time zones and 6 continents, power is extinguished, lights go out – including the light beacon at Place Ville Marie.

The goal is to raise awareness of the devastating effects of light pollution on human, animal and plant life, the impact of unnecessary energy consumption on all aspects of our environment, and their wider repercussions on climate change.

Light pollution is increasing at the alarming yearly rate of six percent worldwide. Left unchecked, this exponential increase (a factor of two every 12 years) of light pollution could reach intolerable levels for humans, animals and plants alike. We need darkness at night! Without it, essential sleep is compromised and many animals lose their orientation.

In a broader sense, light pollution is a symptom of our environmental carelessness, especially the squandering of non-re-

newable energy sources such as fossil fuels, which is contributing significantly to a runaway anthropogenic growth in green-house gases, and hence global warming.

In this context, one wonders about the city's extremely slow pace of retrofitting its Washington lamps to direct light downwards only, instead of to many places where light is not needed!

Started in Australia

These concerns galvanized the citizens of Sydney, Australia into launching Earth Hour in 2007. Westmount followed in 2009, thanks to our volunteer group of concerned citizens. Our continued objective is to alert our fellow citizens to the adverse effects of our unconstrained use of energy on the environment in general and, in particular, the significant contribution that our excessive use of outdoor lighting makes to the pollution of the night sky.

Our first two Earth Hour celebrations were held outdoors at the Summit lookout. Amateur astronomers of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC, Mon-

treau branch), with their small but precious telescopes, showed us some of the more brilliant wonders of the night sky.

Sadly, more numerous, fainter celestial objects are no longer visible – even without the full moon, even through a telescope, due to the brightness of urban night skies. At the time, then mayor Peter Trent and his cohorts, including George Bowser and the late Stan Grossman, played and sang (with frozen fingers) environmental songs.

Hydro Westmount doused the lights at the lookout, which helped greatly. However, the following year in 2010, a brisk cold wind blew from the north, driving us into the warmth of Victoria Hall for subsequent Earth Hour events. During those nine years in Victoria Hall, we invited numerous booth displays that promoted the environment, held separate related workshops for adults and children, had a dozen amateur RASC astronomers armed outside with their telescopes eagerly continuing to show us various delights of the night sky (especially a pleasure for young children who had never experienced a per-

sonal close-up view of the craters on the Moon), had our elected politicians address the gathered crowd, were often well entertained by a prominent guest speaker, had vegetarian treats on hand, and enjoyed the start of Earth Hour by marching bagpipes.

No official gathering this year

2019 was our eleventh year of celebrating Earth Hour at Victoria Hall in Westmount. This year, due to constraints beyond our control (unrelated to COVID-19), there will be no event. Therefore, the Healthy City Project is redirecting this traditional effort to achieve increasing awareness and citizen involvement in environmental change. We are planning to host an environmental leadership recognition evening in November.

However, this doesn't mean you don't need to celebrate Earth Hour! Join Westmount in extinguishing your lights from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on Saturday, March 28. The city, for its part, has promised to douse some of Westmount's streetlights during that time.

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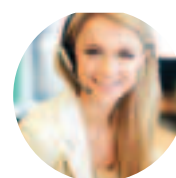


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COVID-19: OUR MEASURES

Faced with what the World Health Organization is calling a pandemic, the City of Westmount has initiated a number of measures designed to minimize the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. I wish to brief you on the steps we have taken while encouraging each and every Westmouter to help us as we strive to stem the spread of the virus.

At the outset, I wish to stress that Westmount has an emergency plan which we are implementing in consultation with public health authorities and other experts. Social distancing - the limiting of the opportunities for personal interaction and contact – as well as basic hygiene measures, such as frequent hand washing, are our best means to slow the spread of the virus.

In order to avoid bringing people together, we have closed The Westmount Public Library, Victoria Hall and Westmount Recreation Centre and canceled all of our public meetings and events. In addition, all Westmount Sports & Recreation programmes and activities have been cancelled for the remainder of the winter 2020 session.

All other city services remain functional, including public security, snow clearing, garbage collection, recycling and compost pick up. City Hall is also keeping its regular operating hours.

I should point out that our staff is being asked to stay home for 14 days if they have traveled outside Canada and/or if they are sick or have had contact with a person who is ill. More generally, Westmouters should be aware that the Government of Quebec would like anyone arriving back in Canada from March 12 onwards to self-isolate.

We encourage all of our vulnerable residents or residents 70 years of age and older to stay home. We also encourage friends and relatives to stay in touch with them by phone. Visitors are no longer permitted in hospitals, CHSLDs and seniors' residences.

We are also concerned about the impact social distancing may have on the vulnerable among us such as seniors, the isolated and others with limited support networks. With this in mind, we encourage seniors to sign up for our longstanding Public Security service whereby an employee of the City will check in with you daily. If you know of a senior who would benefit from this service please ensure they are registered by calling 514-989-5222.

Council and I know that this is an incredibly stressful time for all of us. As a parent I am well aware in particular of the impact of school closings on many of us. Yet, it is our moral and civic duty to do our part and to adhere to the social distancing guidelines that the public health authorities have outlined. It is incumbent on all of us to do whatever is necessary to ensure we lessen the spread of this virus.

We will do our best to keep you up to date on developments and urge you to consult santemontreal.ca/coronavirus on a regular basis for the most up to date and accurate information or to call **1 877 644-4545** if you are concerned about COVID-19. In the interim, thank you for your support and understanding. Please take care of yourself and others.

Mayor Christina M. Smith
and Council

santemontreal.ca/coronavirus



COVID-19 : NOS MESURES

Face à ce que l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé (OMS) qualifie de pandémie, la Ville de Westmount a pris un certain nombre de mesures visant à minimiser la propagation du nouveau coronavirus COVID-19. Je souhaite vous informer de ces mesures et encourager tous les résidents de la Ville à nous aider dans nos efforts pour endiguer la propagation de ce virus.

D'emblée, je tiens à souligner que Westmount dispose d'un plan d'urgence qui est mis en œuvre en coordination avec les autorités de la santé publique et des experts. L'éloignement social - limitation des interactions et des contacts étroits avec les autres membres de la communauté - ainsi que les mesures d'hygiène de base, comme le lavage fréquent des mains, font partie des meilleurs moyens à notre disposition pour ralentir la propagation du virus.

Afin de limiter les occasions de rassemblement, nous avons fermé la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount et le Victoria Hall. Toutes nos réunions et manifestations publiques sont également annulées. En outre, tous les programmes et activités sportives et de loisirs ont été annulés pour le reste de la session d'hiver 2020, et le Centre des loisirs de Westmount est fermé jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

Tous les autres services, tels que la sécurité publique, le déneigement, la collecte des ordures, le recyclage et le ramassage du compost, continuent à être fournis par la Ville. L'hôtel de ville demeure également ouvert aux heures habituelles.

Je tiens à souligner que tous les employés municipaux ayant récemment voyagé à l'étranger, ou qui sont malades, ou ont été en contact avec une personne malade, ont été priés de rester chez eux pour une période de 14 jours. Nous rappelons à tous les résidents de Westmount que le Gouvernement du Québec demande à toutes les personnes arrivées au Canada en provenance de l'étranger depuis le 12 mars, se mettent en quarantaine volontaire.

Nous encourageons tout nos résidents vulnérables ou de 70 ans et plus de demeurer à la maison et à leurs proches de rester en contact avec eux par téléphone. Les visites auprès des personnes âgées ne sont plus permises dans les hôpitaux, CHSLD et résidences pour personnes âgées.

L'impact de l'éloignement social sur les personnes vulnérables dans notre communauté, les personnes âgées, les personnes en situation d'isolement ou ne bénéficiant pas de réseaux de soutien est une source de préoccupation. Nous encourageons les personnes âgées à s'inscrire aux services offerts depuis de nombreuses années par notre Service de la sécurité publique. Vous pourriez notamment bénéficier de la visite quotidienne d'un employé de la Ville. Si vous connaissez une personne âgée dans votre entourage qui aimerait s'inscrire à ce service, veuillez contacter le 514-989-5222.

Tous les membres du Conseil municipal et moi-même sommes conscients du stress et des grandes inquiétudes engendrés par la période que nous vivons actuellement. En tant que parent, je suis particulièrement sensible à l'impact des fermetures d'écoles sur beaucoup de nos foyers. Il est toutefois de notre devoir moral et civique de faire notre part et de respecter les directives des agences de santé publique en matière d'éloignement social. Il nous incombe à tous de faire tout ce qui est nécessaire pour réduire la propagation de ce virus.

Nous ferons de notre mieux pour vous tenir au courant de l'évolution de la situation. Nous vous invitons à consulter régulièrement santemontreal.ca/coronavirus pour obtenir les informations les plus récentes et les plus précises. Vous pouvez également appeler le **1 877 644-4545** si vous êtes préoccupé par le COVID-19. Nous vous remercions de votre soutien et de votre compréhension. Prenez soin de vous et des autres.

La mairesse Christina M. Smith
et le Conseil

santemontreal.ca/coronavirus



Social Notes
VERONICA REDGRAVE

Local res **Belle Grivakis** – who truly lives up to her name – welcomed guests to her home with her husband **Ernie Grivakis**, CEO VVS Films. Belle’s elegant cocktail was to launch the annual Ilios Gala, the fun fundraiser for the Hellenic Ladies Benevolent Society’s (HLBS) camp and educational assistance programs, which assist children without financial means to attend summer camp and also help with school needs such as lunches, tutoring, uniforms and school supplies.

Senators **Tony Loffreda** (there with his wife **Angelina**) and **Leo Housakos**, the gala’s honorary presidents, spoke of the important work done by HLBS.

Ilios Gala 2020 launched at Grivakis’ home

Noted amidst the silver-framed memories and bouquets of roses were the gala co-chairs **Jenn Katsaros**, entertainer **Nitza Melas** and **Eugenia Dourakis**, Bombardier COO **Jim Vounassis** and his wife Maria, businessman **Soc Goulakos**, **Helen** and **Bill Tyros**, blogger **Justine Frangouli-Argyris** with her husband **Ted**, **Niki** and **Peter Mammias**, CEO Foodtastic, **Jean-François Prince**, vp RBC; **Suzanne** and **Claude Rouleau**, Wealth Management – RBC, whose donation of a lovely ceramic piece sold quickly at last year’s event; gala co-president **Joanne Bisbikos** and her committee member sister **Matina Bisbikos Priftakis**, and **Dina Kefallinosyou**.

Also noted were Westmounters **Léa** and **Harry Grivakis**. Harry was departing the next day with dad Ernie to attend the Berlinale, the *continued on p. 13*



Senators Tony Loffreda, left, and Leo Housakos flank Belle and Ernie Grivakis.



Jenn Katsaros, Nitza Melas and Eugenia Dourakis.



Maria and Jim Vounassis.



Harry and Léa Grivakis.



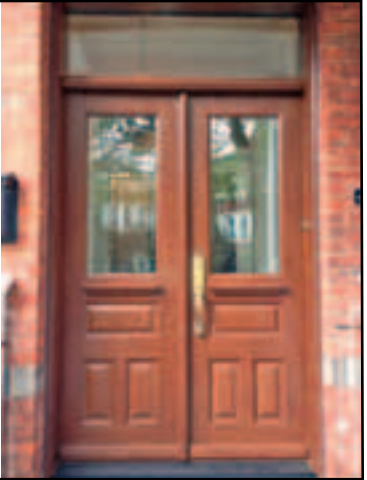
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Peter and Niki Mammas, and Angelina Loffreda.

Social notes, cont'd. from p. 12

film festival in Berlin, where they will look into films to license for Canada. Their firm recently distributed the movie *The Gentlemen* (fabulous, btw!) across the country. As guests departed into the scrim of a snowy night they had already reserved their place in the sun at the legendary gala.

Ilios means sunlight.

Women's Canadian Club cancels lecture

The Women's Canadian Club of Montreal has cancelled its March 17 lecture at Victoria Hall. It was to feature author Archie Finestone on street art. The group sent a press release to the media on March 12 announcing the news.

"We usually have more than 100 attendees at Victoria Hall, so we don't want to take any chances [given COVID-19]," said organizer Carolyn Roper.



Claude and Suzanne Rouleau.

MUHC Glen tours cancelled

"Due to concerns over the current coronavirus and preventive measures to contain it, all public tours of the MUHC Glen site are being postponed until further notice," stated Donna Carroll, tour guide media contact, in a March 12 press release. "The public will be advised when the revised schedule is available and the volunteer-led guided activity resumes."

The Westmount-based Friends of the MUHC had begun a spring series of public tours of the Glen site. The upcoming one had been planned for March 19.



Jean Paul Lemieux, *Basse messe, dimanche*

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Westmount Historical cancels lecture

The Westmount Historical Association's March 19 lecture has been cancelled due to concerns about COVID-19 and the closure of the Westmount public library by the city of Westmount, "in accordance with the recommendations of La Direction de la santé publique," informed spokesperson Louise Carpentier to the *Independent* by email March 13. The event was to be a lecture Nancy Dutton and Helen Malkin on "Looking at Montreal's Contemporary Architecture of the Last Thirty-Five Years."



In 2007, the playing fields in front of Westmount Park School were proposed as the site of artificial turf soccer pitches, which met with opposition from some residents, who organized as Save the Park! The compromise at the time (see December 19, 2007, p. 1 and editor’s note, December 1-2, 2009, p. 10) was for part of the fields to remain open and unfenced (foreground) and part to be fenced as natural grass soccer fields for younger players (background). This photo was taken on March 12.



Soccer advocates are currently proposing (see November 12, 2019, p. 1) artificial turf soccer pitches at the Westmount Athletic Grounds behind Westmount High, seen here on March 12.

PHOTOS: INDEPENDENT.

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Field maintenance, cont'd. from p. 1

the repair and maintenance of their sprinkler systems, according to city director general Benoit Hurtubise. The contractor is also responsible for monitoring their condition and treating them as each requires.

“This is a new contract that we’ve beefed up quite a bit,” he said last week. Some fields have particular requirements such as care of the WAG’s running track.

In the meantime, the city is proceeding with studying the new types of artificial turf, he said.

Turf specialist mandated

“We mandated a specialist to provide us with all the types of new filler available and in use,” he said. “This is someone from an independent lab that tests the various types around the world to replace the shredded rubber tire component that’s been widely used.”

The filler is what holds the green plastic grass fibres in place on top of a rubber mat, he explained.

“We’re talking about different filler mixes such as cocoa and wood. Some are in use in the United States and Ontario.” Newer fields in Quebec, however, are tending to use small plastic pellets, which have their advantages, though they are not considered organic, he said.

The fillers used in a synthetic field are new and evolving, “so council has asked me to look into the different alternatives, recognizing that a part of the population opposes it.” All the information has to be presented to council and studied before any decision is made, he added.

Councillor Mary Gallery, whose commissioner-ship includes sports and recreation, presents the motion on the maintenance of playing fields.

LA PRÉVENTION DES INFECTIONS : Une responsabilité collective INFECTION PREVENTION: A collective responsibility

Adoption des mesures d'hygiène reconnues



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Social Notes

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Tsoukas heads Hellenic Community fundraiser

Angelopoulos, Andrew Vassilakos, Andrew Christopoulos and John Moukas. An accomplished artist, George Tsoukas personally auctioned off one of his paintings, which sold to Nick Tsatas for \$5,500, who then graciously donated the painting back, so the beautiful oil painting was auctioned again, bought by HCGM board member Peter Tsokanos for \$4,500. Also speaking during the evening were **Michalis Gavriilidis**, consul general of Greece in Montreal, and **Dr. Jacques Bouchard**, chair, Interuniversity Center for Neohellenic Studies of Montreal, University of Montreal; **Chris Adamopoulos**, director general of École Socrates-Démosthène, and HCGM president **Andreas Crilis**.

Amongst the distinguished guests were **Annie Koutrakis**, member of Parliament, Vimy, Quebec; **Peter Pamel**, federal court judge and judge *ex officio* of the Federal Court of Appeal, and **Demetrios Manolakos**, honorary president of the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal.

The gala's private chef was **Nick Karagiannakis**, executive chef for BMO. He has cooked for Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio and Hugh Jackman, as well as many other Hollywood celebrities. Last year, he prepared a meal for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the queen of Belgium. The elaborate four-course meal was paired with wines from different areas of Greece. Performers in traditional Greek costumes greeted guests.

And, yes. The men's shoes had the customary huge red pompoms.

I learnt that this seemingly curious ad-



Dr. George Tsoukas, Andreas Crilis and Stavros Tsinalis.

dition to a uniform for the army, they were once worn to camouflage hidden knives used in hand-to-hand combat. Now that's a sharp fashion accessory!

Noted at the event were doctors **John Antoniou**, **Peter Metrakos**, **Vasil Papanas**

stasiou and **Thomas Kolivakis** as well as HCGM's **Constance Carvelas** executive VP; **Paris Petrou** and **Stravos Tsinalis**, chair Fundraising Committee; **Denis Marinos**, president Hellenic Congress of Quebec; **John** *continued on p. 22*

Driving, wet snow did not deter guests attending the fundraiser for the Greek schools of the Hellenic Community of Greater Montreal (HCGM). Arrivals quickly shed voluminous layers of boots, scarves, mitts and hats to admire reproductions of some of Greece's most famous sculptures, including the Venus of Milo discovered 200 years ago on the Aegean isle of Milos. (Although now gleaming white, ancient Greek sculptures were once painted with vibrant colours, but I digress.)

Table settings were a marvel in white (elegant orchids) and black. Speaking of ebony, ladies reveled in its elegance. Chic cocktail outfits were noted in lace, silk and satin.

Marika Coulourides' velvet dress was embellished with pearls and crystals adding just the right amount of sparkle. Westmounter **Dr. George Tsoukas**, honorary president of the elegant eve, was accompanied by his sons (all doctors!), **Orestis**, **Philip** (with his wife **Magdaline**), **Michael** and **Dimitri**. During his keynote address, Dr. Tsoukas announced to the 130 guests in attendance at the gala, developed as a kick-off to the Telemarathon, that approximately \$330,000 in pledges had been collected thus far.

Some of the major donors to the Telemarathon included **Nick Tsatas**, the Tsoukas family, **George Tsitouras**, (there with his wife **Panagiota Tsitouras**), **Basile**



Andreas Crilis, Denis Marinos (standing), Michalis Gavrilides and John Theodosopoulos.



Annie Koutrakis and Constance Carvelas.



Nick Karagiannakis.




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Police Report
Car stolen on St. Catherine near recreation centre

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The theft of a car parked on St. Catherine St. near the Westmount recreation centre on the evening of March 5 was the most serious of a small series of criminal incidents reported by police at Station 12 since the beginning of this month.

The car was stolen sometime between 8:40 and 10 pm on March 5. The owner had parked a short distance from the municipal arena while attending an activity.

“When they came back to their car, it was no longer there,” said Station 12 community relations officer Stéphan Laperrière.

According to Laperrière, the perpetrator made off with a vehicle not usually targeted by car thieves: a Honda SUV. There were no signs of forced entry, such as broken window glass on the ground, and the owner was in possession of the vehicle’s key.

Vandalism, for now, on Greene

A second criminal incident took place during the early morning hours of March 8 when the owner of a Greene Ave. boutique received an automated notification

COVID-19, cont'd. from p. 1

reported by the *Independent*.

These changes follow Quebec government directives to municipalities to stem contagion and spread from the novel coronavirus strain, COVID-19.

Westmount is not alone: all similar facilities were also shut down throughout Montreal and other municipalities such as Côte St. Luc, Beaconsfield, Kirkland and Pointe Claire.

that a burglar alarm had been triggered at the business address.

When the police arrived on the scene not long before 5 am, they found a broken window, but no other evidence of an attempted forced entry.

Laperrière said the investigators will be classifying the incident as a case of vandalism, unless the owner of the business comes forth with evidence suggesting more clearly a burglary or attempted theft.

Child’s backpack stolen

An opportunistic thief who broke into a car parked on Wood Ave. near Dawson College during the late afternoon of March 10 stole a children’s backpack that had been left on one of the front seats.

The suspect probably felt disappointed afterwards, though, as the backpack contained only children’s school supplies and books.

According to Laperrière, the car’s owner had just taken his daughter to a children’s activity. When they returned, the front passenger-side window was broken and the packsack was missing.

“It contained personal items and a lot of other stuff that belonged to a little school girl,” he said.

City hall offices remained open Friday, March 13, for the paying of bills and obtaining permits and licences. This could change quickly depending on provincial government directives, said Mayor Christina Smith. She will be working from a country home in a form of self-isolation with her family after they returned earlier in the week from March break in the Caribbean.

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Advice: Keep a list, pay attention, know how to re-set devices

Atwater Library's anti-hacking expert Perrin learned the hard way about identity theft

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

So you think you've been hacked? Liz Perrin, the computer education facilitator at the Atwater Library, can tell you first-hand a thing or two about her own experience.

A dozen or so people concerned about their personal information being stolen from their bank accounts or computers were taken through steps by Perrin last week to help minimize the damage.

A hands-on workshop she led at the library on March 10 was designed to help home computer users deal with the sad reality of being hacked.

Her presentation took place on the same day the city of Chateauguy on Montreal's South Shore announced it too had recently become a victim of hackers.

But what does hacking mean? As Perrin explained, it's another way of saying someone has compromised, broken into or gained access to your private information (including account names and passwords) so that they get control of your online accounts.

Around two years ago, Perrin learned the hard way that someone had got a hold of her personal information. Although she suspects it was largely due to her misplacing or losing her wallet on several occasions, it impacted her online activities, including electronic banking.

One of the first things Perrin said she learned was that banks, for all their polished customer service, offer almost nothing in the way of help when it comes to stolen identity. It was the same thing with credit



Liz Perrin, the computer education facilitator at the Atwater Library, provided advice on the impacts of hacking on March 10.

card companies, she said.

"What I thought would be one simple call turned into literally three months of information gathering," said Perrin, adding that she initially felt deeply shamed by the experience.

Since she makes a living teaching people how to use computers and electronic devices, she said she felt "double that shame, because now it was me."

She realized after opening up about the dilemma to people she met that "every single person I told came back at me with a story of their own. And in this weird, isolating and terrible issue, I realized, oh my God, I'm just like everybody else. The more you start talking about it, the more you realize other people have also suffered this."

Here are some of the signs she said could be taken as warnings of hacking on a handheld, laptop or desktop computer: passwords and usernames no longer work;

unfamiliar things (new toolbars, pop-ups and apps) turn up on your screen; unauthorized activity in an account (a purchase, a money transfer or settings have changed).

She emphasized the importance of being prepared beforehand with an "action plan," to limit potential damage and ensure a quick return to normal.

Among the plan's key points: write down a list of all your accounts and their details and keep it in a safe place; pay attention to your account activity and check your personal information; learn to re-set passwords; learn to factory re-set your devices, which will erase all added apps and data.

Perrin also strongly advised that anyone sufficiently concerned about a potential scam or security breach should file a police report. In so doing, you will have an official document to present should it become necessary to file a claim.



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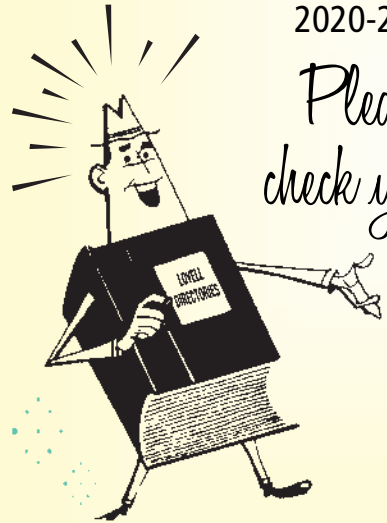
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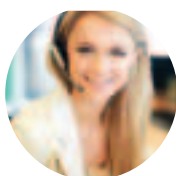
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Social notes, cont'd. from p. 17

Theodosopoulos, president Hellenic Board of trade; Frank Pappas, Despina Kydoniefs, Dennis Kouniadis, Jimmy Manolakos, Konstantine Dariotus, Jimmy Essaris, Pat




Thomas Kolivakis and Marika Coulourides.

Pamel, Maria Nannes, Zaven Gudjian, Andrew Christopoulos, Andreas Vasilakos, Vrissida and Michael Paidoussis, father Dimitri Antinopoulos, Costa Zissis, Kaliopi Sitaras and Spiro Raptis.



George and Panagiota Tsitouras.



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

She is so elegant , a sleek black-and-brown domestic shorthair, stretching and yawning at the same time ... while transitioning from the outer blanket to the comfy warmth underneath.

Rosie is young and playful, always affectionate to all. She is now in a foster family for the Montreal SPCA and is ready to integrate into a forever-home environment.

She is very healthy, up to date with her inoculations, spayed and microchipped.

If you would like more information on little princess Rosie and photographs of her exploring and cuddling, please do not hesitate to contact her foster family Loan and Mailys at mailysstorti@icloud.com.



Your neighbour,
Lysanne



Westmount
A-dog-tions

LYSANNE FOWLER



Max.

Max makes heads turn, with a regal pose and friendly face. He is such an exquisite Samoyed, a young and energetic fellow at a year and a half of age. Max needs an active young dog lifestyle, like other Samoyeds that I see on the Summit or in the dog runs smiling broadly as they make doggie friends. He is very healthy, up to date with his inoculations, neutered and microchipped.

Max is presently at the Montreal SPCA kennel and his identification number is 42796637. Please contact the SPCA at adoption@spca.com or call them at 514.735.2711 to find out more about him and arrange a visit. The SPCA shelter is located 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.

Remember dali?

Dali was presented previously and is in need of a family, so we are reaching out again. She is still with her foster family and you can find out more about her by email-

Handsome Max is ready, and Dali still waiting



Dali.

ing them at pfa@spca.com. Her identification number is 27982812 and she is featured on her SPCA Montreal web page at www.spca.com/en/animal/dali-dog-27982812/ for more information as well.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Comin' Up

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
POSTPONED. Women's Canadian Club of Montreal presents Archie Fineberg, author of *Montreal's Street Art Gallery*. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. POSTPONED.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
POSTPONED. City meeting on Westmount Park. POSTPONED.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19
POSTPONED. The Westmount Historical Association presents " Looking at Montreal's Contemporary Architecture of the Last Thirty-Five Years" by Nancy Dunton & Helen Malkin. \$5. Westmount Room, Westmount Public Library. POSTPONED.



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