

## Taxes up 2% on \$93-million budget

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A \$93-million budget for 2013 adopted by city council December 17 translates into the lowest tax increase for West-mounters in what is believed to be at least 20 years, even with another \$8.6 million slated for capital works spending.

As a result, a uniform tax hike of 2 per-cent across all categories of residential and non-residential properties was approved at the special budget meeting. Actual in-creases may vary, however, depending on

individual property assessment changes as the third year of the three-year valuation roll is phased in.

While the new budget is up 2.78 per-cent over a comparable one of \$90.5 mil-lion this year, the tax rate has been pared down through an infusion of accumulated surplus and holding back on infrastruc-ture work.

These and other measures “reflect a prudent approach,” said Councillor Tim Price in presenting the budget speech as Finance commissioner. Four members of the public turned out for the meeting.

One of the highlights of the new budget is what it doesn’t contain: namely, the new tax to help pay for the new Westmount recreation centre. A decision was made to defer its start until 2014 so the tax would relate directly to the benefit received by residents after completion .....

of the arena next Novem- *continued on p. 7*

## Menorah lighting at city hall



Participants lit candles inside city hall December 12 for a special ceremony to light the fourth candle of Hanukkah. Rabbis from two of Westmount’s synagogues joined Mayor Peter Trent, members of council and residents. The reception included music, traditional children’s games and foods. At right, Rabbi Lisa Grushcow of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom talks to some of the younger attendees, as Rabbi Adam Sheyer (seated at right) of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim looks on.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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## Public Security= Exam express

A cyclist who collided with a car at de Maisonneuve and Olivier while rushing to an exam at Concordia December 5 was driven the rest of the way to the uni-versity by public safety officers. In re-ported the incident, Public Security officials said the damaged bicycle could not be ridden and was taken to Martin Swiss. Both the cyclist, a resident of Claremont, and the motorist were de-scribed as “sharing the blame” for the in-cident at 11:15 am.

## Roots coming

Along with other construction projects, city council approved a permit for two “Roots” signs at its special mid-month meeting December 17, which took place immediately after the budget meeting. They are going up at the site currently oc-cupied by Au Printemps on the south side of Sherbrooke near Prince Albert, which closes on January 31.



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# Public security issues holiday parking amnesty

Westmount's parking meters will not be in effect on December 24 and 25, nor on December 31 and January 1, Public Security officials said last week. These are legal holidays in Westmount.

As well, the city will not be enforcing its time-related parking restrictions (1-, 2- and 4-hours limitations) from December 22 through January 2, inclusive. This means that visitors will not have to obtain overnight parking permits during those dates.

No toleration will be given, however, for parking prohibitions at hydrants and street corners as well as in reserved-parking zones or for blocking driveways and other related violations, including snow removal operations.

"Remember to check for snow removal signs and to shovel snow from sidewalks and driveways onto existing snow banks," said assistant director Greg McBain.

—LS

## Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Local police Station 12's **blood donor clinic**, 11 am to 7 pm at Victoria Hall.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

**Special Christmas performance** by the Montreal Storytellers' Guild, 7 to 9 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Cookies and coffee/tea. Free. 514.593.9947 or mtl-

storytellersguild@gmail.com.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

**Festive family films**, vintage films and old-style projections on a big screen, 7:30 pm, or Saturday and Sun 3 pm at Westmount Park United Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve. Until Sunday, December 30. Tickets: \$8 adults, \$6 students/seniors, \$20 family of four.

# MBA's christen outdoor rink with victory



The refrigerated outdoor rink opened December 14 at the Westmount Athletic Grounds behind Westmount High, and the MBAs of the Executive league won the first game of their season the night of December 17. From left, some of the team members: Ted Harman, Mike Lee, Peter Bolla, Ted Claxton and Nick Konz. The score was 17-16 against the MDs.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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*Focussing on public squares, storm water deviation, bike path*

# ‘Manageability’ key to 2013 capital works program

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There’s money to create public squares on Greene and at Sherbrooke and Prince Albert. There’s some for St. Catherine storm water deviation, bike paths and possible construction plans for a sound barrier – and more.

At \$8.6 million, Westmount’s capital works program for the upcoming year is 4 percent higher than in 2012 but its spirit is one of restraint, according to Councillor Tim Price.

Given the somewhat depressed infrastructure climate in the Montreal area and the capacity of Westmount’s personnel to manage the construction of the Westmount recreation centre, tough decisions had to be made in regards to what could be realistically handled in 2013, he said.

The budget provides for repairs to buildings, streets, the water and sewer networks, as well as Hydro Westmount and the purchase of information systems and vehicles.

To pay for the \$8.6 million of work, the city plans to use \$1.6 million in government subsidies, \$3.6 million from the

city’s pay-as-you-go portion of the operating budget and finance the remaining \$3.4 million.

Streets designated for complete reconstruction are Greene, phase 2 (from de Maisonneuve to St. Catherine) and Prince Albert north of Somerville to Sherbrooke.

Those scheduled for repaving only are: Côte St. Antoine (from Lansdowne to Victoria), Columbia, Grosvenor (from Sunnyside to The Boulevard) and Riverview. Also to be repaved are the lane south of Dorchester, one between Elm and Wood and the north-south lane between Irvine and Lewis.

While roads and sidewalks account for the largest piece of the budgetary pie at \$2.3 million, another \$2 million is expected to be put into upgrading the water and sewer networks (the largest project being rehabilitation of the water main on Sherbrooke from Strathcona to Roslyn) and \$1.7 million into upgrading the electrical network.

*Traffic plan*

Other projects include \$100,000 designated for “Traffic Master Plan – imple-

mentation/bike paths,” repairs to the Delavigne public stairs and retaining walls, restoration of the Murray Park comfort station and measures to remedy water infiltration at the Westmount Public Library.

In addition to \$350,000 regarding St. Catherine drainage issues, “there is another \$670,000 in the water portion of the budget that is not specifically earmarked, but can be used where the city feels it can best be used,” Price explained.

“It is intended to retain some flexibility as the results of our research become known as to the best solutions.”

The same approach applies to the parks where the only allocation is \$400,000 for improvements in Westmount Park. Some of this, or even money from the operating fund, might be found for Summit Woods,



*One of four citizens attending the budget presentation December 17, John Fretz asks about funds for Summit Woods.*

he told questioner John Fretz during the city budget meeting December 17.

The capital works program also includes a blueprint for projects in 2014 and 2015.

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Sarah Robertson 1891 - 1948





## Station 12 Reports

# Wanted driver caught with sawed-off rifle

BY ISAAC OLSON

*The following news stories are based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable in an interview with the reporter.*

On the evening of December 11, Station 12 police did a routine licence plate check on Victoria Ave. and found one vehicle's owner had several warrants out for his arrest on charges including breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods valued at more than \$5,000 and possession of burglary tools.

Station 12's Constable Adalbert Pimentel said police stopped the vehicle, arrested the wanted owner and searched his pockets. Police found a small handful of .22 calibre bullets and, upon questioning the suspect, Pimentel said the man revealed that wasn't all he had.

"He told them, 'I have a rifle in a guitar case in the backseat of my car,'" said Pimentel, noting officers found the suspect to be very cooperative. "So, the police officers searched the vehicle and found a guitar case with a rifle inside. It was a sawed-off rifle. In cases like these, the bar-

rel is usually cut shorter to make it more concealable. It's a prohibited weapon because it has been modified."

Pimentel declined to give further details about the suspect until formal charges have been laid but, he said, he was taken into custody on a list of charges.

### **Two pedestrians injured in two different incidents**

With it staying dark longer in the morning, Pimentel said poor visibility and dark clothing may have contributed to a collision between a delivery vehicle and a pedestrian at the corner of St. Catherine St. and Blenheim Place on December 8 at 6:30 am.

The collision resulted in the driver receiving a ticket for not yielding to the 52-year-old pedestrian as she, walking eastbound on St. Catherine, crossed Blenheim. The driver was headed west on St. Catherine and turned south on Blenheim when he struck the woman, who was later transported to the Montreal General Hospital. At this time, Pimentel said that there is no update on her condition.

A similar collision occurred on December 11 at 7:05 am, said Pimentel, at the corner of Roslyn and Westmount. A vehicle stopped at the stop sign and the pedestrian started to cross the street, but the driver did not notice her.

The motorist hit the pedestrian, giving her a concussion that needed to be treated at the hospital. The driver was not charged but all such accidents get followed up by a

special investigative unit that verifies whether charges need be made against either party, noted Pimentel.

With the shorter days, Pimentel said it is important that people wear visible clothing, look to see where drivers are looking and use caution when crossing streets. Early morning joggers, he said, should use reflective clothing or lights to increase their visibility.

## Gospel choir raises roof



The People's Gospel Choir of Montreal, under the direction of Kim Sherwood (front left), raised the roof at a sold-out performance in Victoria Hall the evening of December 15. Some 350 people attended, many clapping their hands and swaying to the music in the aisles as the dynamic Sherwood led his choir through many old favourites and improvised Christmas songs. They also sang a moving version of "Amazing Grace" in commemoration of those killed in Newtown, Connecticut. The concert was organized by The Rotary Club of Westmount.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR AND POLICE RE: SHERBROOKE

Every day I walk my 10-year-old daughter to school because I fear letting her cross Sherbrooke at Kensington alone.

Each day, without fail, a car speeds through the red light heading east or west on Sherbrooke at speeds exceeding 80 km an hour.

Please, can you do something before someone gets killed?

IRWIN EDELSTEIN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

*Editor's note:* Station 12's Lieutenant Jacques Meunier responded to the letter writer by email, saying "officers of Station 12 routinely incorporate traffic enforcement in their daily routine. However, I will ask my officers to add this intersection as a part of our monthly traffic enforcement targets." – KM

## SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE NOT THREATENED

The city of Westmount has a tradition of going to considerable effort and expense to recognize and support the activities of various special interest groups within the municipality, for example, the provision of tennis courts, a bicycle path and Bixi stations, the construction of a new arena to accommodate hockey enthu-

siasts and the occasional opening of Westmount Park to accommodate overnight camping by youth groups.

Similarly, the members of churches and synagogues are special interest groups whose existence within the community is officially recognized once a year at very reasonable cost by the lighting of a Christmas tree and a menorah.

Whatever Dr. Seuss' Grinch might say or do in an attempt to spoil the joyous spirit of Christmas and Hanukah, this small symbolic gesture by the city of Westmount just recognizes that members of churches and synagogues are special interest groups that contribute to the life of the community and in no way intrudes on the separation of church and state.

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

## FOOTBRIDGE IS NOT ANSWER TO BIKE PATH WOES

A *Gazette* news item (December 15) states that our mayor is proposing that the city build a footbridge (an unexamined estimate of \$50,000) across the bike path to accommodate pedestrian traffic between Victoria Hall and the new arena. It should prevent problems of walkers colliding with speeding cyclists.

I have better ideas that would not waste taxpayer dollars (even though it is hoped that the aggro would pay for it) and would

also be more beneficial (safer) for those, especially the children, who enjoy the park. Westmount should either: Divert the bike path away from the park or establish stalls to stop, and/or slow down the cyclists; it would only delay the reaching of their destinations by a few minutes.

Please note that the park is a park and not a speedway. The bike path was in existence long before the rest of Montreal caught on and its main purpose was recreational.

The mayor and councillors should pay more attention to the silent majority rather than some very few lobbyists.

STANLEY GROSSMAN,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

## ZAMBONI A WELCOME SIGHT

I thought others would find it funny as I did to see the Westmount arena's Zamboni trundling across the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) on its way to pass over the ice at the newly opened refrigerated rink at the southeast corner of the WAG on December 16.

This new outdoor rink is fabulous, with its changing trailers and rubberized paths for getting you to the rink without damaging your skates. A nice solution to a so far not-cold winter in Westmount without its arena!

WILLEM WESTENBERG, STAYNER ST.



Zamboni heads to the WAG on December 16.

Photo courtesy of Willem Westenberg

## LIGHT IN LAVAL, DARKNESS IN WESTMOUNT

"Les citoyens de Laval sont en droit de se questionner, de remettre le projet en question et d'avoir des réponses à leurs questions, insiste le ministre. De mon côté, j'ai demandé que nos deux vérificateurs qui sont à Laval depuis trois semaines regardent attentivement tout ce qui entoure le projet. Et je ne me gêne pas pour leur dire de faire le maximum. J'ai déjà eu quelques réponses, j'attends un rapport de leur part la semaine

prochaine." – Sylvain Gaudreault, minister of Municipal Affairs in *La Presse*, December 8.

Ici à Westmount, on reste toujours dans l'obscurité.

Pourquoi est-ce que la soumission était si exigeante que les grands entrepreneurs – Decarel, Magil, Giffels et Opron – n'aient pas eu la chance de procéder à l'étape finale?

Pourquoi est-ce qu'on ait décidé de poursuivre la construction de l'arène avec une seule soumission de la part de Pomerleau?

Pourquoi est-ce qu'on ne compte pas les honoraires de Lemay et Associés et des autres dans le coût total du projet?

Il faut qu'on sollicite \$6 million en donations. A date, combien d'argent a été déjà reçu?

Plusieurs éléments de la soumission étaient éliminées du projet ou de la responsabilité de l'E.G. en négociations avec Pomerleau. Pourquoi les payeurs d'impôts n'ont pas reçu des crédits pour les changements?

DAVID LUDMER, GROSVENOR AVE.

*Editor's note:* We publish this letter's questions even though elements of them have already been answered by city officials, news coverage and/or a court decision, because we understand that the letter writer (and perhaps others) is unsatisfied with many of those answers. In order to judge for themselves, general readers who have followed the arena project less closely than its avid opponents and proponents are directed to our original coverage, including the following articles.

I understand that some people do not like these long editor's notes, but I don't want to leave readers with the impression that these questions (or ones very like them) have not been asked before. With the following summary, readers can judge the quality of the responses for themselves.

Regarding the first question, • In "Pomerleau bids \$36.4 million" (December 21, 2011, p. 1), we wrote, "The four consortia that did not make the cut were led by Decarel, Giffels, Magil and Opron – all well-known firms – which Trent said had lost out based on the city's stringent design evaluation."

To consider the third question, readers can begin by consulting a very thorough summary of arena costs (up to that time) on p. 8 of .....

*continued on p. 7*

Notice to letter writer Skip Knuttal: See squirrel-related reading on p. 14.

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount.*

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: David Price  
EDITOR: Kristin McNeill  
CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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*We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. Email any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.*

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# Budget

cont'd. from p. 1

ber, Price told the *Independent*.

Another highlight is a record-low increase of just under 1 percent in Westmount's share of island-wide agglomeration costs, which, nevertheless, will take a 55-percent bite (\$50.3 million), out of the overall budget. The remainder of the budget relates to local services. See "Budget at a glance" table below.

As a result, tax rates per \$100 of property valuation for the coming year have been set at \$0.9743 for residential property of five housing units or less; \$1.0902 for apartment buildings of six or more units; and \$3.8441 for non-residential property.

This means that, on average, owners of a single-family dwelling (SFD) could expect to receive a tax bill of \$11,871 based on a valuation of \$1,218,414, Price said. This would be \$244 more than in 2012.

While owners of larger apartment buildings and non-residential property have previously seen higher tax increases than owners of an SFD through the implementation of variable tax rates, these categories had already reached their max-



Councillor Tim Price delivers the budget address December 17.

imum allowable ceiling.

**Should wear rubber boots**

While there were no new shoes for Price, he said that "given the state of our water and sewer network, it might be more appropriate to wear rubber boots."

To the issue of problem flooding during heavy rains, \$350,000 has been allocated in the capital works budget for a "St. Catherine storm water deviation program" in the hardest-hit area around Hillside and Abbott. This is in addition to a retention basin immediately south of the new pool area, which is to be paid for as part of the Pomerleau arena/pool design-build contract.

The tax increase of 2 percent is lower than the limit that council had initially set for local expenses in 2013. This was 2 percent for inflation plus 1 percent, excluding the impact of capital works.

The city's own "controllable" portion of delivering local services will increase \$1 million to \$32 million. On the other hand, other local expenses will rise some 15 percent to \$11.7 million. These include pay-as-you-go funding for ..... capital works, pension *continued on p. 15*

Budget at a glance	
Operating budget	Millions \$
Delivery of local services	32.0
Debit service, financing	4.9
Pension, future benefits	2.4
Pay as you go*	3.6
Contingencies	0.8
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>43.7</b>
Mtl. Metro. Community	0.9
Agglomeration share	50.3
Appropriation from surplus	(1.7)
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.1</b>
*excluding Hydro Westmount \$1.6 million	
Numbers don't sum perfectly due to rounding error.	

# Letters

cont'd. from p. 6

our February 7, 2012 edition ("Underground project costs" and "Summary released of project expenses from 2008"), including an explanation of the \$1.46 million paid by that time to Lemay. Readers can then include or exclude whichever costs they want.

Regarding the fifth question,

- In the first article, we wrote "'I'm saying we're bang on budget with a lot of negotiating still to do," [Mayor Peter] Trent said," which previewed changes to the Pomerleau bid during a negotiating period.
- In "City, contractor agree on new arena/pool plan" (February 7, 2012, p. 1), we reported that the major departures from previously known plans were the elimination of covered parking and the replacement of a full second rink with a 185-foot one (although the second full rink came back later and is now being built). Because the Pomerleau bid of late 2011 was not made public by the city, it is not known by us whether these departures were in the late 2011 bid or not, even if it did conform to the bid specifications. It would be unsurprising if Pomerleau had

distinct design ideas in its bid, because a design-build bidder is being asked to do some designing, not just execute a plan.

- In "Court asked to put freeze on arena/pool project" (April 17, 2012, p. 1), we summarized the case of David Ludmer and Westmount Park Church when they asked for an injunction to stop the arena project. At that point, the principal allegation was of an alleged discrepancy between the signed city/Pomerleau contract of February 2012 and the loan by-law of August 2010, not a discrepancy between the Pomerleau bid of late 2011 and the contract of February 2012.
- In "Work begins as judge rules plans meet promised criteria" (April 24, 2012, p. 1), we wrote: "The judge decided that the final Pomerleau design conformed. It was normal for changes to be made in negotiations with a contractor in an effort to contain costs."

This summary is not complete. To understand fully every twist and turn of the arena project, readers must read virtually every issue of the *Independent* since April 2, 2008 ("Awaiting funding news from Quebec – Arena plans still 'embryonic'" (p. 3)), as well as reading a number of city documents.

– DP

## Comparisons made difficult

Accounting and other changes in the city's budget for the new year make comparisons a challenge for anyone using the 2012 budget adopted a year ago.

Calculations and percentage increases contained in the budget speech have been based on a "comparable" one for 2012 that has been adjusted downward from \$93.4 million to \$90.5 million.

The main difference, explained Councillor Tim Price, lies in a new method being used in accounting for the Hydro Westmount pay-as-you-go portion of capital expenses (\$1.6 million) as well as election expenses that have already been budgeted for in other years.

In 2013, a \$1.7-million infusion of accumulated surplus appears as a revenue item subtracted from expenditures. This includes \$1.1 million for extension of the second ice rink in the arena/pool project, which is expected to be an in/out expense which could alternatively have been included in the capital works budget.

In fact, only \$472,800 of the appropriated surplus is actually being used to help balance the budget and lower the tax rate, Price said.

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# Arena goes up, everyone is watching



October 31.



November 30.



December 12.

This series of photos was taken by the *Independent* from the months of October to December 2012. They were taken from the same perspective as a bystander looking east through the security fence at Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve.



MELNICK IN THE  
AFTERNOON  
WEEKDAYS>3

TSN  
RADIO  
>690



The steel roof structure gets built above the east rink.

Photo courtesy of Sam Beitel



The interior of the east rink, viewed from the north.

Photo courtesy of Patrick Martin



## COMMUNITY CORNER

# A new era in emergency care at the Glen

By JULIE QUENNEVILLE

While the emergency departments (ED) of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) are already renowned for their high level of expertise and care, daily operations will be greatly improved once the EDs at the Royal Victoria and the Montreal Children's hospitals move into brand new facilities at the Glen site.

### *The move to a linear design*

As director of the emergency department at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dr. Frederic Dankoff has been part of the user group of experts offering input into the design and functions of the new adult ED at the Glen site. "One of the major benefits of the new emergency department will be the layout," he says.

The new ED and its unique linear design will have a central core where medical professionals will be working, and an outside corridor that will be used by patients. The pediatric and adult EDs at the Glen will be part of an elite group of hospitals in the country that currently use this revolutionary design.

### *Numerous benefits of a redesigned ED*

The design of the new department at the Glen and the rest of the hospital's layout will allow for much easier wayfinding, more efficient workflow, as well as greater patient privacy and confidentiality.

All patient rooms will be single-person and multi-purpose, meaning supplies and equipment can be brought directly to the patient. With a sufficient number of rooms, the practice of leaving patients on

stretchers in the hallway – an all-too-common occurrence in hospitals across the country these days due to a lack of available beds – should be a thing of the past at the Glen.

"We have designed the emergency department without hallways with the expectation that we won't have to leave patients on stretchers in the hall ever again," explained Dankoff. "Instead, they will be in a single room where their risk of infection will be greatly reduced."

For more information on the New MUHC, visit [muhc.ca/construction](http://muhc.ca/construction). To join The Best Care for Life Campaign in support of the new MUHC, visit [muhc.ca/cause](http://muhc.ca/cause).

*Julie Quenneville is the director of development at the McGill University Health Centre.*

## McCall, Trudeau recent recipients of Diamond Jubilee medal

Two Westmount artists, printmaker Ann McCall and sculptor Yves Trudeau, were awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal. Both are members of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (RCA).

McCall, a former RCA president from 2009 to 2012, and Trudeau, a former RCA regional chair for Quebec, were honoured for their volunteer service to the RCA. The award was presented by Jonathan Dart, the British consul general in Toronto at the Gardiner Museum on November 27.

## Dickens fellowship undergoes local revival



Following a hiatus of nearly 50 years, the Montreal chapter of the International Dickens Fellowship is meeting once again. While there was a Montreal branch from 1909 to 1963, it was only this year during the 200th anniversary of English novelist Charles Dickens' birth that an effort was made to revive the chapter. Several members met at their first meeting at Westmount Public Library on December 4 to hear from Elaine Bander on *The Pickwick Papers*. They are planning to meet from 2:30 to 4:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month to discuss Dickens' works, as well as related books and movies. The evening of December 7, the group welcomed actor John Huston to the Atwater Library, where he performed Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* while in character as the author.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

## Annual drive-home continues

An annual tradition continued again this year when public safety officers reported driving home 13 of those attending the annual Christmas supper at the Contactivity Centre for seniors at Westmount Park Church December 6. Providing transportation to those needing it after the event was started many years ago.

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# Hockey in all its forms of *gentillesse* (or not)



## On the Lighter Side

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

I was recently invited to play hockey with a group of congenial gentlemen in their Tuesday night game. It is quite possible that they were having trouble drumming up bodies, given their arguably non-prime time slot of midnight. More likely, I suspect that the calibre of play was becoming far too strong and I was summoned in a poorly-veiled effort to boost morale.

And boost morale I did! A fierce proponent of equal opportunity, I passed freely to everyone, be they on my team or not. Likewise for applauding fine plays, and for deflecting shots (into either net). It seems men are always looking for someone to strip (of the puck), and for someone around whom they can pirouette effortlessly. Voila, me!

I entertain no delusions. When you play the way I do, you do well to accept any invitations that come your way. I am keenly aware that my welcome was the hockey equivalent of affirmative action. After all, with respect to this particular crowd, I represented several minority demographics at once: young (relatively speaking), female (absolutely speaking), and crappy (somewhere in between).

Thankfully – where my own morale is concerned – this was not my only game in town. Through cunning, bribery and shameless supplication, I have managed to inveigle my way into a variety of hockey opportunities. Loosely grouped, these seem to fall into one of three categories:

1. Ego-Battering Games (EBGs): e.g. experienced men.
2. Ego-Neutral Games (ENGs): e.g. experienced women.
3. Ego-Restoring Games (ERGs): e.g. neophyte women, or very, very small, hungry and sleep-deprived children.

Curiously, I have discovered that there can be a fair bit of ego battering even in ERGs. (Regrettably, however, the converse rarely seems to hold). Given my ample experience with dignity dinging, one would think that I might have grown immune to insult. Or that with ever advancing age – another sore point – my skin might have thickened (so to speak). Rubbish!

But I have come to realize that what distinguishes an EBG from an ERG has less to do with facts and more to do with con-

text. Consider, for instance, the following two exchanges, eerily similar, overheard on hockey benches, roughly a week apart.

### EBG/Men:

“What the!#\$% was that!?”

“What was what?” (hork, spit)

“That!\$%^ play you just made. I can’t believe you didn’t pass to me!” (hork, spit)

“Maybe if you were in position I would have considered it.”

“Are you kidding? I’m always in position. You’re the one who’s!\$%^! coasting around all over the place.”

“Well at least I can shoot. Maybe if you learned how you’d get a pass once in a while.” (hork, spit)

### ERG/Women:

“Sorry about that lousy drop pass.”

“Are you kidding? It was a great pass. I wasn’t trailing you well. My bad.”

“Are you kidding? Your positioning is always amazing.”

“Yours too!”

“And that was a great pass you gave me a couple of shifts back. But next time, if you have a chance to shoot, go for it! Your shot is way better than mine.”

“What?!? You have the way better shot!”

“Whatever! Can you please pass the Kleenex?”

Long live hockey in all of its glorious forms!

*Westmounter Ingrid Kovitch Dannenbaum is an avid dabbler in sports, cooking, DIY projects, outdoor pursuits and crafts (when she is not accumulating pets and corralling her four kids, that is). In her spare time, she works as a family doctor.*

## Vimy ridge, West mount



*Westmounters were well represented at an event held on December 10 at Forget House on Sherbrooke St. downtown, at which supporters of the Vimy Foundation were presented with Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee medal. From top left, clockwise, recipients included the foundation's founder, Andrew Powell; Stuart Iversen; Bill Stavert; and Brenda Norris, all Westmounters. Seven others also received medals from retired lieutenant general Michel Maisonneuve, a director of the foundation.*

*Photos courtesy of the Vimy Foundation*

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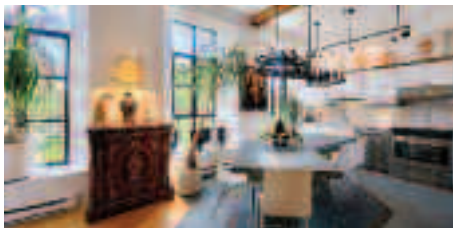
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*Have a wonderful holiday season and all the best for 2013!*



# Cromwell’s impact on Vic village under microscope

By MICHAEL MOORE

A study is being conducted on the impact of ownership concentration in Victoria village amid growing concern that lease rates are altering the ambiance of the area.

“The character of Victoria village is largely defined by the people who live and work here,” said Krista Leetmaa, a research assistant studying the issue for the Community-University Research Alliances (CURA).

“The worry is that if you have ownership concentration, lease rates might become higher artificially, which could push out smaller business owners and leave room only for larger franchises,” added Leetmaa.

The ownership concerns stem from the large presence of Cromwell Management, which owns long stretches of commercial and residential real estate along both Sherbrooke and Victoria, as well as other parts of Montreal, Quebec City and Toronto.

The real estate juggernaut’s presence in the area has been blamed by some local residents and merchants for higher rents, property evaluations and real estate prices.

Leetmaa, a second-year master’s candidate in McGill’s School of Urban Planning, has opted for a qualitative approach for her research, attending town hall meetings, speaking with city councillors and interviewing local business owners, some of whom lease their properties from Cromwell.

She said the owners have been forthcoming with their thoughts in an attempt to solve the issues facing the village.

“It’s not just about their own personal business; they care about the viability of Victoria village in its entirety,” she said. “They want to share their concerns and work together to look for potential solutions.”

According to owners interviewed by Leetmaa, Cromwell’s presence has led to a dramatic increase in property lease rates, which has reportedly forced out local businesses and replaced them with companies more willing to pay higher rent and taxes, such as large franchises and higher end boutiques that draw different clientele and affect the village’s overall ..... feel.

*continued on p. 19*

# Navigating the fence line



## Adventures in Urban Farming

MARCI BABINEAU

Recently, I have had some opportunities to be involved in the age-old parlance that happens when one is doing things regularly in the exposure of one’s own garden, particularly if it happens to be in the front of the house near a busy sidewalk. People routinely stop to talk about the weather, ask about this plant or that, how the hens or bees are keeping and could their young one pop in for a quick look? This is all part of the harvest.

Because urban agriculture necessitates our leaving the comfort of our homes, we become more a part of our community, sort of by default. We are out there. People see what we are doing. We really care if the dog goes on our cabbage or strawberries. Urban agriculture is as much about re-educating ourselves and others about the possibilities of living near our food, as it is

about eating locally, it seems. Bringing food into the landscape inevitably brings up issues that we have not had to face safe and snug in our homes or “hunting and gathering” at the local grocery store.

There is the urban wildlife to contend with: squirrels, rats, raccoons, the odd fox and the dominant species – humans. Living indoors as we do in the city, we don’t have the opportunity to build and test the limits of our relationships with our co-species, the neighbours. Perhaps we don’t even have relationships to test.

Our family has been blessed with stellar neighbours, it turns out. However, one way to know for sure how your neighbours feel is to put a compost bin, clothes line or chicken coop near the border of your common property line.

Recently, we were in the unhappy situation of having established our chicken coop too near our neighbour’s garden. Initially, it seemed natural to evolve our son’s playhouse into a space for our five hens, but as the years wore on, it became clear through various communications that they were deeply unhappy. Try as we did to keep it clean and tidy, the ..... neighbours simply did ..... *continued on p. 22*



***Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays!***

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# ON THE SHELVES

Among recent reading and audio-visual material at the Westmount Public Library singled out by staff are:

## Magazines

“Cookie Deluxe” by Dorie Greenspan in *Bon appétit*, December 2012, p. 88-97. Crisp, elegant cookies, stylish threads and good friends: What more could a girl ask for during the holidays? Baking guru Dorie Greenspan and fashion designer Gaby Basora invite you to a very sweet tea party.

“The Giving Guide” by Bonnie Tsui in *Real Simple*, December 2012, p. 143-152. Whether you are looking to spread some goodwill this holiday or to be more charitable in general, this comprehensive package will tell you how to find a nonprofit that’s deserving of your dollars – along with specific recommendations for every sort of cause.

“En toute simplicité” par Nadine Descheneaux et Annie-France Charbonneau in *Coup de pousse*, December 2012, p. 99-105. Envie d’un Noël où la fatigue ne l’emporte pas sur les réjouissances? La clé? On réduit le stress au minimum pour passer

un maximum de vrai bon temps avec ceux qu’on aime.

## Adult English – Cozy Christmas mysteries

*A Christmas Garland* by Anne Perry – In 1857 India, young Lieutenant Victor Narraway, with the help of two young children and a simple Christmas garland, defends a British medical orderly throughout a murder investigation.

*The Twelve Clues of Christmas* by Rhys Bowen – While serving as an assistant to the hostess of a large Christmas house party in Tiddleton-under-Lovey, Georgie gets the attention of her retired detective grandfather after dead bodies begin showing up.

## Adult French – Entertaining

*L’emballage, tout un art: présentez vos cadeaux avec originalité* by Hiroe Miyaoka – In the Japanese tradition, this book shows how to create original boxes and wrappings. Some 30 projects are presented, with step-by-step instructions illustrated by photographs.

*Tables et déco de fête: décoration, idées, recettes* by Marie France Annasse – This book contains decoration ideas for small

or large occasions. You will learn about crockery, personalized tablecloths, gifts for the food lover, paper décor, lighting and vases.

## Holiday films

*Lovely Still* – With the approach of Christmas causing him to feel lonely in life and love, Robert Malone (Academy Award winner Martin Landau) braves the wintry weather to arrive home from his job at the grocery store only to find a stranger (Academy Award Winner Ellen Burstyn). What begins as an odd and awkward encounter quickly blossoms into what appears to be a romantic late-life love affair that takes us on a heartfelt and wonderful journey that takes an unexpected turn.

*A Christmas Story* – Narrated by a man recalling his childhood, this film looks back at the compulsive efforts of 7-year-old Ralphie as he tries every means possible to acquire his dream Christmas gift: a Daisy-brand Red Ryder repeating BB carbine with a compass mounted in the stock. Problem is he lives in a Norman Rockwell-esque midwestern town in the 1940s,

where his parents, teachers and even Santa Claus all warn Ralphie that “he’ll shoot his eye out.” Episodic in nature and seen entirely through the eyes of a child, the film offers a wonderful look at the day-to-day eccentricities that grew out of this conservative period.

## Christmas books for children

*Scaredy Squirrel Prepares for Christmas* by Mélanie Watt – Scaredy Squirrel has created a trusty safety guide to help him get through the most wonderful and, according to him, scariest time of year – Christmas!

*Un hiver en pyjama* by Mireille Levert – Léon the bear and his family are getting ready to hibernate for the winter, but nothing will make them sleep through Christmas day!

## Reference

*Smart Shopping Montreal* by Sandra Phillips.

*Restos Montréal 2013: les petites et grandes tables de la métropole et des environs* by Marie-Claude Lortie.



# Mini-Cosmetic Surgery

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# Murray Park was ready



City of Westmount employees, from left, Kevin Gaca, Justin Cavanagh and Evan Drake pause while erecting security boards at the base of the hill in Murray Park November 21 before the first snowfall of the season. At the same time they were winding snow fencing throughout the hill to reduce the speed of tobogganners.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

## Budget, cont'd. from p. 7

costs and debt servicing.

The high cost of pension plan actuarial deficits is among “a number of issues and risks we must consider while looking ahead,” Price said.

It is a global issue, he told Metcalfe resident Gerald Glass during question period. While Westmount’s plans are being negotiated with the city’s unions, Montreal’s employee plans “are in far worse shape,”

added Mayor Peter Trent. They are costing Westmount “a lot of money” through agglomeration shared costs.

Among increased expenditures in the 2013 budget is the debt payment of \$4.9 million, up from \$4.6 million.

In addition to \$78.7 million in revenue from general property tax in 2013, other sources of revenue are expected to include \$5.4 million from parking fees and fines, \$3.2 million in transfer duties, and \$4.7 million from government property in lieu of taxes.

## Top scorers, Westmount bridge club

Westmount tally bridge winners with top accumulative bridge scores for the three best sessions in November were:

1. Gerald Ratzer with 12,570 points.
2. Jim Richards with 12,190 points.
3. Dael Perry with 10,240 points.
4. Viviane Agia with 10,150 points.
5. Nida Koudsi with 9,100 points.
- 6 David Green with 8,820 points.

Top scorers for the three best sessions in October were:

1. Lucie Kirmoyan with 12,220 points.
2. Viviane Agia with 8,900 points.
3. Carol Cummings Spears with 8,370 points.
4. Lise Beauchem with 8,350 points.
5. Barbara Maclean with 8,220 points.

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# Diabetes research gets boost from Nov. 1 gala



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 2012 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) gala was held at Le Windsor on November 1. And what an evening it was! The beautifully decorated hall had an interesting chartreuse and mauve décor, while softly swaying floor-length gauzy white curtains imparted a South Beach mood. Tickets were \$500. Sponsorships were from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

The Fund a Cure portion of the event honoured the late **Hershel Victor** and the Victor family for their generous support of \$2 million over the years and their recent donation of another \$100,000 to support research in fighting diabetes.

Victor family members attending were Hershel Victor's widow **Christine**; daughter **Gail Victor**, who came in from New York; and son **Alan**, a Westmount resident.

The 2012 JDRF gala honoree was **Paul**

**Lepage**, senior vice president TELUS Health. Father of two children with type 1 diabetes, he is behind the TELUS Walk to Cure Diabetes, which raised \$7 million in 2012.

Co-chair Westmounter **Lori Pesner**, chic in a short form-fitting Missoni dress, greeted guests with her daughter **Montana Black**, cute in short form-fitting red. Montana has Type 1 diabetes.

Black family members present were Westmounters **David**, father of Montana, **Jade**, **Stone** and David's brother **Ricki** with **Jill Kessner**.

Other co-chairs were **Derek Patterson** with his wife **Chantal Desmarais** and their children **Brandon** and **Michael Desmarais-Patterson**; and **Errold Jean**, TELUS execu-



Gordon and Penny Echenberg.

tive account manager, there with his wife **Michèle** and their children **Anaïs** and **Philippe-Olivier Jean**.

Westmounters present included **Penny** and **Gordon Echenberg**, there with children **Andrew** (who came in from Toronto) and **Jessica**; **Shirley Goldfarb**; **Gloria Halpern**; sisters **Rosanne** and **Lisa Kozloff**, daughters of JDRF Quebec Region president, **David Kozloff**; **Jodi** and **Cookie Lazarus**; **Louise McLellan** and **Michael Taub**; **Kim** and **Doug Reim**; **Linda** and **Terry Smith**; **Alice** and **Joel Raby**; **Shawna** and **Todd Sone**; **Ruth** and **David Steinberg**; former Westmount city coun-

cillor **Rhoda** and **Robert Vineberg** with their son **Justin** and his wife **Samantha**; and **Krayna Golfman**, JDRF Canada founder.

Evening emcee was **Véronique Cloutier**. Her sister **Stéphanie**, a Type 1 diabetic, is married to Florida Panthers goalie **José Théodore**.

The \$545,000 raised will support research to develop new and better treatments for Type 1 diabetes.



Montana Black and Lori Pesner.



From left: Robert and Rhoda Vineberg, and Samantha and Justin Vineberg.



*Festive Brunches in the  
Ritz-Carlton Montreal's Oval Room*

December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 am  
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12460 ST-CASTIN, AHUNTSIC-CARTIERVILLE 8765313



349-353 LAKESIDE, LAC BROME 10015398



62 SIMONE-DE BEAUVOIR, ÎLE PERROT 10244468



74 AV. McNIDER, OUTREMONT 9355399



645 RUE WATSON, LACHUTE 10513068



38 RUE DUFFERIN, HAMPSTEAD 10113866

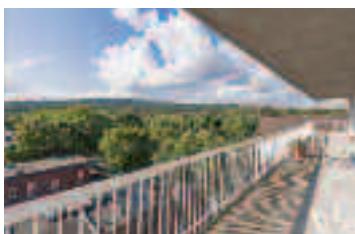


5903 AV. BRANDEIS, COTE ST.LUC 9532824

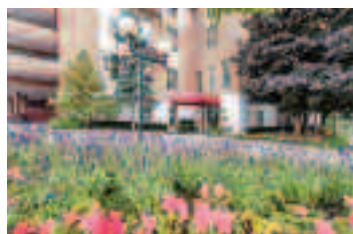


678 MARIE-LE BER, NUNS ISLAND 10077148

### CONDOS FOR SALE



300 LANSLOWNE, PH63, WSt 9276891



4700 STE-CATHERINE, #709, WSt 9667271



2000 CLAREMONT, PH7, WSt ADJ. 9378894



445 VIGER O., #904, VILLE-MARIE 8650609



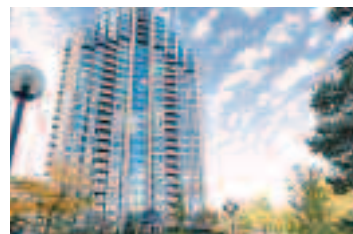
1200 DE MAISONNEUVE, #11A, VILLE-MARIE 10060306



6150 DU BOISÉ, #2J, CDN/NDG 10687247



300 DES SOMMETS, #112, NUNS ISLAND 10668583



80 BERLIOZ, #1607, NUNS ISLAND 10541747



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## Christmas at St. Matthias'

★ Sunday December 16

5:00 pm Christmas Lessons & Carols  
to Honour the Christ Child,  
followed by the parish party

★ Monday December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Children's Pageant

10:00 pm Candle-light Service

★ Tuesday December 25

Christmas Day

10:30 am Choral Eucharist

★ 8:00 am Holy Eucharist &

10:30 am Choral Eucharist

every Sunday throughout Advent

**St. Matthias' Anglican Church**

131 Cote St. Antoine Rd.

(corner Metcalfe in Westmount)

514-933-4295

Rector: The Reverend Kenneth M. Near  
Music Director: John Wiens

# Cst. Kriaa becomes drug recognition expert

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

During this season of holiday parties when messages of "don't drink and drive" are being especially enforced, Westmounters can expect to come across police roadblocks at any time and place, local station 12 commander Stéphane Plourde explained last week.

But what happens when police pull over an obviously impaired driver only to find, in a roadside breathalyzer test, that little or no alcohol has been consumed?

The answer is to call in one of the 10 Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) in the Montreal police force to test the driver for possible substance abuse – and determine the source. Is it cannabis, hallucinogens, stimulants, narcotics, prescription drugs, an excessive amount of certain cough syrups – or even a combination?

And one of these few accredited specialists is Cst. Michel Kriaa of station 12. Kriaa was certified as a DRE in August after a two-week training course at the Quebec police academy in Nicolet and a week of practical training in Jacksonville, Florida in May.

He can expect to be called to any of the police detention centres on the island of

Montreal at any time of day or night when a DRE is required to analyze a suspect's source of substance abuse – in order to provide police with the grounds to order a urine sample.

"Driving under the influence of drugs is becoming a growing problem," he told the *Independent*. "Just because a drug is legal doesn't mean it doesn't affect your ability to drive."

Until relatively recently, he said, little had been done to address the issue. Part of the problem is diagnosing the source of an apparent impairment, which has opened up an entirely new field of required expertise for police since 2009 when the Criminal Code of Canada added drugs as a source of driving impairment.

So far, Kriaa explained, his services have been called on three times. One call came recently at 2:30 am.

Kriaa, who worked as an Urgences Santé paramedic for many years before joining the police force, said the practical training in Jacksonville involved intensive days evaluating people at a drug rehabilitation centre, using similar techniques to tests he would use on a suspect in detention. A suspect of impaired driving through drug abuse who refuses testing

faces the same charges as one refusing a breathalyzer test, he said.

"Our big objective is to reduce all types of accidents under the influence of drugs and alcohol."



Cst. Michel Kriaa December 3 at Station 12.



## The Parish of Ascension of Our Lord

(Sherbrooke St. at the corner of Clarke Ave.)

**Welcomes all to our Advent  
and Christmas Celebrations!**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Saturday, December 22nd from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24th**

Family Eucharist: 7:30 p.m.

Choral Service – Ascension Choir under  
the direction of Dr. David Szanto: 9:30 p.m.

Solemn Eucharist: 10 p.m.

**Feast of the Holy Family**

Saturday, December 29th: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30th: 10:30 a.m.

**New Year's Eve – Monday, December 31st: 5:00 p.m.**

**New Year's Day – Feast of Mary,**

**Mother of God: 10:30 a.m.**

*We invite all parishioners, former parishioners and  
visitors to join in celebrating with us this Holy Season.*

Msgr. Sean Harty E.V., Parochial Administrator

Rev. Patrick Donnelly, Associate Pastor



**To all my friends and  
customers in Westmount:**

**May the joy of the season  
be yours throughout 2012**



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## Vic village, cont'd. from p. 12

Though forthcoming with their opinions, the owners' viewpoints on an issue can often differ, which has forced Leetmaa to re-evaluate her data after every interview.

"Things are a lot more complicated than they appear on the surface. Each merchant and each resident of the area has a

unique and valuable perspective of what's going on," she said. "Some people view certain things as problematic while others don't."

With the issue of sprucing up the village being discussed in public meetings (see "City asked, got variety of ideas for sprucing up Vic Village," October 9, p. 3), a recurring wish made by the owners in interviews with Leetmaa was greater consultation between themselves and the city.

"They think if there was more communication back and forth they might be able to reach solutions that work better for all parties," she said.

The Victoria village project represents a return home of sorts for Leetmaa, who worked for a year and a half at the former Wellhouse restaurant on the corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria.

"It's very important when working on a research project like this to have a ground-

ing in the area," said Leetmaa. "Coming in with a general sense of the area and how people relate to it has been very helpful."

Though she has yet to decide on how best to frame her findings, she is considering providing a list of recommendations to the city stemming from her study.

Leetmaa hopes to conclude her research in early 2013.



Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount

### AVIS D'ADOPTION RÈGLEMENT 1440

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés que le règlement 1440 intitulé « **RÈGLEMENT VISANT À IMPOSER ET À PRÉLEVER UNE TAXE ET UNE COMPENSATION POUR L'EXERCICE FINANCIER 2013** » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount lors de sa deuxième séance extraordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 17 décembre 2012.

L'objet de ce règlement vise à :

- imposer et prélever la taxe foncière générale sur tous les immeubles situés sur le territoire de la municipalité, basée sur la valeur imposable portée au rôle d'évaluation;
- imposer le paiement d'une compensation pour services municipaux aux propriétaires des immeubles ou terrains situés sur le territoire.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2013.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter le règlement sur le site Web de la ville : [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 19 décembre 2012.

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY-LAW 1440

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that By-law 1440 entitled "**BY-LAW TO IMPOSE AND LEVY A TAX AND A COMPENSATION FOR THE 2013 FISCAL YEAR**" was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at its second special sitting held at City Hall on December 17, 2012.

The object of this by-law is:

- to impose and levy a tax on all taxable immovables in the territory of the municipality, based on their value shown on the assessment roll; and
- to impose the payment of compensation for municipal services on the owners of immovables or lands situated in the territory.

This by-law shall come into force January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Any interested person may consult the said by-law on the City's Website: [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this December 19, 2012.

Nancy Gagnon  
Greffière adjointe / Assistant City Clerk



Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount

### Services municipaux période des Fêtes

Pendant la période des Fêtes de 2012-2013, l'horaire des bureaux et des services municipaux de la Ville de Westmount sera modifié comme suit :

#### Bureaux administratifs

Les bureaux administratifs de l'hôtel de ville, Hydro Westmount, Victoria Hall, des Travaux publics et de la Sécurité publique, y compris le bureau des permis de stationnement, seront fermés :

- du 24 au 26 décembre; et
  - du 31 décembre au 2 janvier
- L'horaire normale reprend le 3 janvier.

#### Conservatoire et serres

Ces installations seront ouvertes au public selon l'horaire suivant :

- du 22 au 24 décembre : de 10 h à 17 h
- le 25 décembre : fermé
- le 26 décembre : de 10 h à 17 h
- les 27 et 28 décembre : de 10 h à 21 h
- du 29 au 31 décembre : de 10 h à 17 h
- le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier : fermé
- le 2 janvier : de 10 h à 21 h
- les 3 et 4 janvier : de 10 h à 17 h

#### Bibliothèque publique de Westmount

Fermée du 24 décembre au 26 décembre et du 31 décembre au 2 janvier.

#### Centre communautaire Victoria Hall

Fermé du 24 au 26 décembre et du 31 décembre au 2 janvier.

#### Services de collecte

Les collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures du 25 décembre et du 1<sup>er</sup> janvier sont remises au lendemain et la collecte de matières recyclables aura lieu selon l'horaire normal.

L'horaire modifié des collectes pour le secteur commercial est disponible sur le site web [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).

### Municipal Services Holiday Period

During the 2012-2013 holiday season, the operating schedules for the City of Westmount's municipal offices and services will be modified as follows:

#### Administrative Offices

Administrative offices at City Hall, Hydro Westmount, Victoria Hall, Public Works and Public Security, including the Parking Permits office, will be closed:

- December 24 to December 26 and
  - December 31 to January 2
- The regular office schedule resumes on January 3.

#### Conservatory and Greenhouses

These facilities will be open to the public according to the following hours:

- December 22 to 24: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- December 25: Closed
- December 26: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- December 27 & 28: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- December 29 to 31: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- January 1: Closed
- January 2: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- January 3 & 4: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

#### Westmount Public Library

Closed from December 24 to 26, and from December 31 to January 2.

#### Victoria Hall Community Centre

Closed from December 24 to 26 and from December 31 to January 2.

#### Collection Services

The kitchen waste and garbage collections of December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> will be moved to the following day and the recycling collection will follow the regular schedule.

To consult the modified schedule of collections for the commercial sector, visit the web site at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).



Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount



Ville de WESTMOUNT City of WESTMOUNT			
	BUDGET 2012	BUDGET 2013	NOTES
<u>REVENUS</u>	\$	\$	
<b>TAXE FONCIÈRE GÉNÉRALE</b>			<b>GENERAL PROPERTY TAX</b>
Résidentielle (1 à 5 logements)	49,320,400	50,716,500	Residential (1 to 5 units)
Immeubles de 6 logements ou plus	6,382,400	6,482,400	Apartments (6 or more units)
Immeubles non résidentiels	21,367,600	21,129,100	Non-Residential Properties
Provision pour contestation et construction	(250,000)	(70,000)	Provision for Contestation & Construction
<b>Taxe foncière générale</b>	<b>76,820,400</b>	<b>78,258,000</b>	<b>General Property Tax</b>
Autres revenus - taxes sur terrains vacants	383,600	456,600	Other - Taxes On Vacant Lots
<b>Taxe foncière générale totale</b>	<b>77,204,000</b>	<b>78,714,600</b>	<b>Total - General Property Tax</b>
<b>PAIEMENTS TENANT LIEU DE TAXES</b>			<b>COMPENSATION IN LIEU OF TAXES</b>
Gouvernement du Canada	145,300	149,700	Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Québec	2,265,000	2,279,000	Government of Québec
Autres (programmes en compensation - bonification)	1,100,000	1,100,000	Other (Compensation programmes - Allowance )
Compensation provenant de la taxe de vente du Québec	806,400	1,128,000	Compensation - Quebec Sales Tax
Compensation pour services municipaux	70,000	72,100	Compensation - Municipal Services Tax
	<b>4,386,700</b>	<b>4,728,800</b>	
<b>AUTRES SERVICES</b>			<b>OTHER SERVICES</b>
Activités récréatives	293,000	510,000	Recreational Activities
Bibliothèque	83,000	109,200	Library
Stationnement	3,000,000	3,000,000	Parking
Recouvrables et autres revenus	92,000	91,800	Recoverable and Other Revenues
	<b>3,468,000</b>	<b>3,711,000</b>	
<b>AUTRES REVENUS DE SOURCES LOCALES</b>			<b>OTHER REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES</b>
Droits sur les mutations immobilières	3,000,000	3,200,000	Duty on Transfer of Immoveable
Amendes	2,225,000	2,350,000	Court Fines
Intérêts sur les dépôts à court terme	15,000	15,000	Interest on Short-Term Deposits
Intérêts et pénalités sur les arrérages de taxes	125,000	200,000	Interest/Penalties on Tax Arrears
Licences et permis	400,000	412,000	Licenses and Permits
	<b>5,765,000</b>	<b>6,177,000</b>	
<b>SUBVENTION DU QUÉBEC À LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE</b>	<b>66,800</b>	<b>26,600</b>	(1) <b>QUÉBEC LIBRARY GRANT</b>
<b>SERVICES RENDUS ET TRANSFERTS</b>			<b>OTHER REVENUES AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS</b>
Traitement des matières secondaires	280,000	291,200	Recycling and Refuse
Recouvrables - Service Incendies MTL	200,000	200,000	Recoverable from MTL Fire Department
	<b>480,000</b>	<b>491,200</b>	
<b>DISTRIBUTION D'ÉLECTRICITÉ</b>			<b>UTILITY OPERATION</b>
Revenu brut	29,112,000	28,465,100	Gross Revenue
Coût d'opération	(28,366,900)	(27,664,800)	Operating cost
<b>Contribution nette</b>	<b>745,100</b>	<b>800,300</b>	<b>Net Contribution</b>
<b>Immobilisations imputées au Pay-as-You-Go (PAYG)</b>	<b>(1,567,500)</b>	<b>(1,573,400)</b>	<b>Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Capital Expenses</b>
<b>REVENU TOTAL</b>	<b>90,548,100</b>	<b>93,076,100</b>	<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>

Le budget 2012 a été redressé pour être conforme à la présentation adoptée en 2013.  
The 2012 budget has been adjusted in order to be comparable with the 2013 one.

**Notes explicatives - Explanatory Notes**

(1) Budget établi sur la base du montant reçu pour l'année 2011  
Budget based on the amount received for the year 2011



	BUDGET 2012	BUDGET 2013	NOTES	
<u>D É P E N S E S</u>	\$	\$		<u>E X P E N D I T U R E</u>
<b>ADMINISTRATION GÉNÉRALE</b>				<b>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</b>
Législation - conseil	432,300	435,600		Legislation - Council
Gestion financière et administrative	2,965,000	2,900,100		Finance and General Administration
Greffé et département juridique	894,100	1,025,400	(1)	City Clerk and Legal Department
Élection	17,000	204,100		Election
Ressources humaines	720,900	702,200		Human Resources
Édifices administratifs	256,500	260,300		Administration Buildings
<b>5,285,800</b>		<b>5,527,700</b>		
<b>SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE</b>				<b>PUBLIC SECURITY</b>
Édifice de la police	24,400	23,700		Police Building
Sécurité publique	3,187,400	3,192,700		Public Security
<b>3,211,800</b>		<b>3,216,400</b>		
<b>VOIRIE</b>				<b>ROAD TRANSPORT</b>
Administration	1,420,500	1,438,300		Administration
Voirie municipale	2,520,900	2,556,000		Streets and Sidewalks
Enlèvement et transport de la neige	3,327,700	3,393,500		Snow Removal and Disposal
Éclairage des rues	505,200	518,200		Street Lighting
Circulation	633,200	677,200		Traffic Control
Stationnement	166,800	166,700		Parking Lots
<b>8,574,300</b>		<b>8,749,900</b>		
<b>HYGIÈNE DU MILIEU</b>				<b>SANITATION SERVICES</b>
Entretien des réseaux d'égouts locaux et d'aqueduc	2,042,500	2,134,800		Local Water & Sewer System Maintenance
Enlèvement des ordures et matières secondaires	1,475,800	1,566,300		Refuse Collection and Recycling
<b>3,518,300</b>		<b>3,701,100</b>		
<b>ZONAGE ET MISE EN VALEUR DU TERRITOIRE</b>	<b>1,143,400</b>	<b>1,146,400</b>		<b>ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</b>
<b>LOISIRS ET CULTURE</b>				<b>SPORTS AND RECREATION</b>
Administration	819,000	708,400		Administration
Événements communautaires	847,400	868,300		Community Events
Aréna	736,600	703,033		Arena
Piscine	218,200	355,367	(2)	Swimming Pool
Programmes de récréation	273,600	403,400	(2)	Recreation Programs
Parcs, terrains de jeux et serres	2,784,800	2,914,800		Parks, Playgrounds and Greenhouse
<b>5,679,600</b>		<b>5,953,300</b>		
<b>BIBLIOTHÈQUE</b>	<b>2,467,700</b>	<b>2,553,500</b>		<b>LIBRARY</b>
<b>AUTRES</b>	<b>1,090,800</b>	<b>1,107,600</b>		<b>OTHER</b>
<b>DÉPENSES MUNICIPALES CONTRÔLABLES</b>	<b>30,971,700</b>	<b>31,955,900</b>		<b>CONTROLLABLE MUNICIPAL EXPENSES</b>
<b>AUTRES DÉPENSES</b>				<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>
Service de la dette et autres frais de financement	4,593,200	4,890,100		Debt Service and Other Financing Costs
Fonds de pensions et avantages sociaux futurs	2,327,100	2,380,600		Pension and Future Benefits
Réserve et éventualités	516,000	516,000		Provision and Contingencies
Recouvrables	237,900	237,700		Recoverables
Immobilisations imputées au Pay-as-You-Go (PAYG)	2,432,500	3,635,900		Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Capital Expenses
<b>10,106,700</b>		<b>11,660,300</b>		
<b>COMMUNAUTÉ MÉTROPOLITAINE DE MONTRÉAL</b>	<b>859,200</b>	<b>853,000</b>		<b>MONTRÉAL METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY</b>
<b>QUOTE-PART AGGLOMÉRATION</b>	<b>49,857,600</b>	<b>50,266,700</b>		<b>SHARE - AGGLOMERATION</b>
<b>AFFECTATION DE L'EXCÉDENT ACCUMULÉ</b>	<b>(1,247,100)</b>	<b>(1,659,800)</b>	(3)	<b>APPROPRIATION FROM ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>
<b>TOTAL DES DÉPENSES APRES AFFECTATION</b>	<b>90,548,100</b>	<b>93,076,100</b>		<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES AFTER APPROPRIATION</b>

*The 2012 budget has been adjusted in order to be comparable with the 2013 one.*

Additional appropriation from accumulated surplus to finance PAYG increase and elections.

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*Urban farming, cont'd. from p. 12*

not want it looming at the edge of their garden. As much as we loved it, the chicken coop had to go.

We worked hard as a family to integrate the solution of this problem into a deeper understanding of these fledgling practices of urban agriculture. We planned a decon-

struction party, with the happy result of leveling the structure of the coop, processing most of the material (though we still have excess chicken wire up for grabs!) and opening the space to new planting possibilities. This is not to say that we did not experience the traditional feelings associated with neighbours' complaints, but it occurred to us that if we

couldn't find a way to compromise in our own backyards, the quest for growing our own food in the city could be put up on the shelf with other pipe dreams like world peace.

*Marci Babineau is a long-time organic gardener, and keeps hens and bees in her urban garden in Westmount. You can reach her at [sustainthislife@gmail.com](mailto:sustainthislife@gmail.com).*



Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount



PROGRAMME D'IMMOBILISATIONS – CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM  
2013-2014-2015

Catégorie de projets - Project category	2013		2014		2015	
	Net <sup>(1)</sup>	Brut - Gross	Net <sup>(1)</sup>	Brut - Gross	Net <sup>(1)</sup>	Brut - Gross
<b>Municipal</b>						
1. Bâtiments - Buildings	\$ 820,000	\$ 820,000	\$ 836,000	\$ 836,000	\$ 853,000	\$ 853,000
2. Chemins - Roads	2,335,000	2,335,000	2,382,000	2,382,000	2,430,000	2,430,000
3. Parcs - Parks	400,000	400,000	1,008,000	1,158,000	815,000	815,000
4. Véhicules - Vehicles	485,000	485,000	504,000	504,000	745,000	745,000
5. Divers - Miscellaneous	425,000	465,000	400,000	400,000	260,000	260,000
6. Informatique - Information Systems	311,000	311,000	245,000	245,000	90,000	90,000
7. Réseau d'aqueduc et d'égouts - Water & Sewer Network	470,000	2,090,000	530,000	1,830,000	655,000	1,655,000
Total municipal	5,246,000	6,906,000	5,905,000	7,355,000	5,848,000	6,848,000

	Net <sup>(1)</sup>	Brut - Gross	Net <sup>(1)</sup>	Brut - Gross	Net <sup>(1)</sup>	Brut - Gross
<b>Hydro Westmount</b>						
8. Projets majeurs - Major projects	\$ 1,573,400	\$ 1,573,400	\$ 1,605,000	\$ 1,605,000	\$ 1,637,000	\$ 1,637,000
9. Véhicules - Vehicles	-	-	75,000	75,000	25,000	25,000
10. Projets municipaux - Municipal projects	150,000	150,000	120,000	120,000	140,000	140,000
Total Hydro Westmount	1,723,400	1,723,400	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,802,000	1,802,000
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$ 6,969,400</b>	<b>\$ 8,629,400</b>	<b>\$ 7,705,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,155,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,650,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,650,000</b>

<b>Financement - Financing:</b>						
PAYG de la taxation - PAYG from taxation	\$ (3,561,800)	\$ (3,561,800)	\$ (3,633,000)	\$ (3,633,000)	\$ (3,705,700)	\$ (3,705,700)
PAYG d'autres revenus que la taxation - PAYG from revenue other than taxation	-	-	(647,500.00)	(647,500.00)	(647,500.00)	(647,500.00)
Subventions (Programme de la taxe sur l'essence et autres) - Subsidies (Gas tax Program and other)	-	(1,660,000)	-	(1,450,000)	-	(1,000,000)
Endettement net - Net indebtedness	(3,407,600)	(3,407,600)	(3,424,500)	(3,424,500)	(3,296,800)	(3,296,800)
Total	<u>\$ (6,969,400)</u>	<u>\$ (8,629,400)</u>	<u>\$ (7,705,000)</u>	<u>\$ (9,155,000)</u>	<u>\$ (7,650,000)</u>	<u>\$ (8,650,000)</u>

<b>Centre des loisirs de Westmount - Westmount Recreation Centre</b>						
Contrat de design-construction à forfait et 2 <sup>e</sup> grande patinoire - Design Build Contract and 2 <sup>nd</sup> large ice rink	<b>\$ 12,047,500</b>	<b>\$ 20,147,500</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

<b>Financement - Financing:</b>						
PAYG de l'excédent cumulé - PAYG from accumulated surplus	\$ (1,000,000)	\$ (1,000,000)				
PAYG d'autres revenus que la taxation - PAYG from revenue other than taxation	\$ (647,500)	\$ (647,500)				
Subvention - Subsidy «Fonds chantier Canada-Québec»	-	(8,100,000)				
Endettement net - Net indebtedness	(10,400,000)	(10,400,000)				
Total	<u>\$ (12,047,500)</u>	<u>\$ (20,147,500)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

(1) Budget net = Budget brut moins subventions, si applicable  
Net budget = Gross budget less subsidies, if applicable



# November sales staying strong



## Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

*The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings, which were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in November 2012. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses and prices cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.*

Volume and prices stayed strong in Westmount in November, defying the doom and gloom that some agents still seem to worry about. Nine one- and two-family houses sold for an average \$1,680,444, all but one of them over \$1 million and all the way up to \$3,450,000, the fifth highest price negotiated this year.

The “typical” Westmount house is now selling at about \$1,500,000, a level it has maintained since March this year, meaning the average mark-up is hovering around the 25-percent mark when compared to the municipal evaluation.

While six sales were recorded in the range between \$685,000 and \$975,000 in October, only one house in November sold

in that range, at \$789,000.

The latest figures show only 20 houses being offered for less than \$1 million, while 60 have prices over \$2 million.

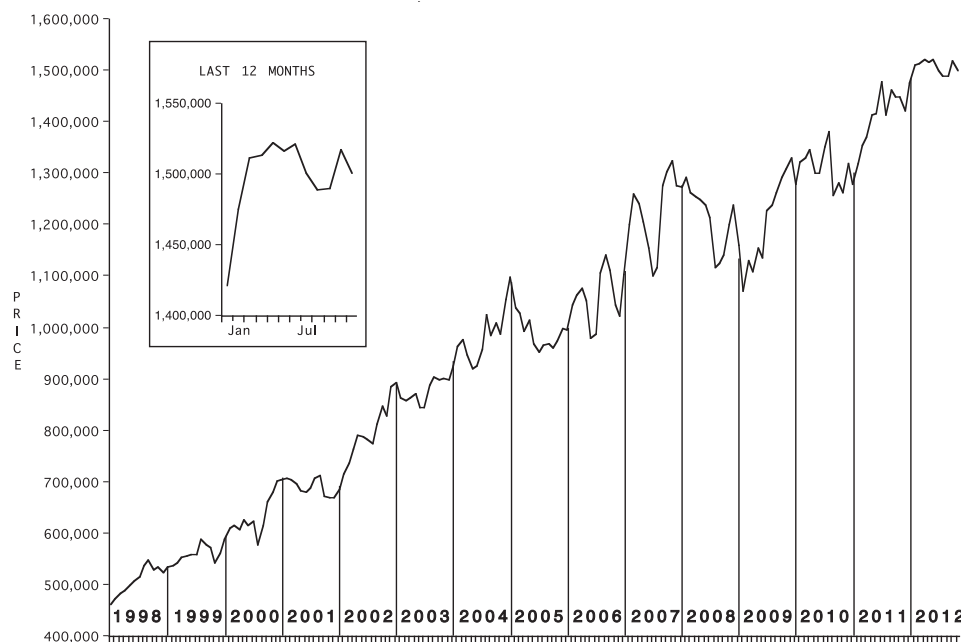
So far this year, agents have posted sales of 144 houses through November, compared to 151 for 11 months last year and 137 in 2010, so volume is still reasonable.

Condominium sales volume is higher this year than last, but the average price of \$748,016 is almost exactly the same, and the mark-up of 19 percent compares to the average of 18 percent for all of 2011. Still, the average price for condos is up almost 20 percent compared to 2010. Only two condo sales were posted in the fourth quarter of last year; so far in 2012, we have six sales with December still to come.

Adjacent Westmount was busy, too, with two house sales in each of the districts except eastern NDG, where none were reported. Obviously the Square Mile leads the way in terms of prices: six houses have sold so far this year, all for over \$1 million. Only one house in eastern NDG and three in southern Côte des Neiges can claim the same price bracket, and in the “Tradau” (Trafalgar-Daulac) district, seven of 16 sales are for more than \$1 million.

Now we should relax for the next month and get ready for a busy spring season in Westmount.

*Average adjusted price of typical Westmount property by month from Jan. 1998 to Nov. 2012, based on accepted offer dates*



Source: Andy Dodge & Assoc. Inc.

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**Ville de Westmount**  
**City of Westmount**

## AVIS D'ADOPTION RÈGLEMENT 1437

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné à tous ceux qui peuvent être concernés que le règlement n° 1437 intitulé « **RÈGLEMENT SUR L'UTILISATION DE L'EAU POTABLE** » a été adopté par le conseil municipal de la Ville de Westmount lors d'une séance ordinaire tenue à l'hôtel de ville le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2012.

Ce règlement a pour objet de réglementer l'utilisation de l'eau en suivant les exigences du gouvernement du Québec conformément à la *Stratégie québécoise sur l'économie d'eau potable*. La Stratégie exige également que toutes les municipalités adoptent un plan d'action détaillé afin de réduire la consommation d'eau.

Ce règlement entre en vigueur le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2013.

Toute personne intéressée peut consulter ce règlement sur le site web de la ville : [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) et en obtenir copie au bureau du greffier situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

DONNÉ à Westmount, ce 19 décembre 2012.

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION BY-LAW 1437

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all who may be concerned that By-law No. 1437 entitled “**BY-LAW CONCERNING THE POTABLE WATER USAGE**” was adopted by the Municipal Council of the City of Westmount at a regular sitting held at City Hall on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

The object of this by-law is to regulate water usage following the requirements of the Quebec government under the *Stratégie Québécoise sur l'économie d'eau potable*. The Strategy also requires that all municipalities adopt a detailed action plan to limit water consumption.

This by-law shall come into force on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Any interested person may consult the said by-law on the City's website: [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) and obtain copies thereof at the Office of the City Clerk located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West, Westmount, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

GIVEN at Westmount, this December 19, 2012.

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**Greffière adjointe / Assistant City Clerk**

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Photo courtesy of The Priory

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# Westmount Retail Watch

By MARTIN C. BARRY

## Winter wear to be found on Greene

Since the middle of October, there's been a new kid on the block on Greene Ave. The Aigle Nuovo boutique sells men's and women's fall and winter gear, including parkas and footwear at what the store says is discounted "up to 50 percent." There is also some Nuovo Infant children's wear.

A Mountain St. boutique featuring



Aigle Nuovo shop on Greene

Aigle, a well-known outerwear manufacturer in Europe, went bankrupt and a liquidation company is selling off the stock.

The outlet at 1368 Greene Ave. is one of three that CIA-Auctioneers has set up in the Montreal region.

## New hairdressing place opens under coffee aficionado name

With backgrounds in psychology and marketing but no practical experience doing hair, sisters Laura and Lisa Di Ioia recently decided to open Baristas. Located



Sisters Laura, left, and Lisa Di Ioia.

on Sherbrooke St. between Claremont and Prince Albert, it is a hair salon that offers blow drying and styling.

Their vision to make a place to hear the latest gossip while enjoying a coffee or a glass of champagne.

"For us it's more than just hair," said Lisa Di Ioia. "In a regular salon you walk in, you get your hair done, you walk out. This is more about creating an experience for the customer."

While the sisters manage the operation, they have a staff of six stylists.

## Richards behind interior design website

A Prince Albert Ave. resident is one of three partners behind a new online venture, which sets out to provide consumers with an easier way to connect with professionals and retailers specializing in interior design and decoration.

Helena Richards partnered with Diane Hallé and Jean-Sébastien Bourassa to launch Decotheca.com, which provides an online window-shopping experience which, according to the group, makes it easy to manage decoration projects from start to finish, while minimizing the time

needed to find the right suppliers.

Like an online gallery, the various elements and products in the photos on the site are tagged by suppliers like Batimat, Fraser, Celadon and others with additional information. When consumers like something, they can place it in a folder and share it with friends, designers/architects or contact the supplier.

## Carole Franck's first Canadian boutique opens on Greene

France-based Carole Franck beauty care products opened their first boutique in Canada at 1368 Greene Ave. on November 27. The local franchise is owned by mother and daughter Louise and Cassandra Thouin.

With its neatly arranged glass cabinets, the boutique's decor is reminiscent of a Parisian pharmacy from a past era.

The Carole Franck line is strongly influenced by principles of aromatherapy, botany and herbal medicine.



Cassandra, left, and her mother Louise Thouin.

The content in Retail Watch is researched and written by the Independent. Businesses that appear do not pay for or approve what is written.

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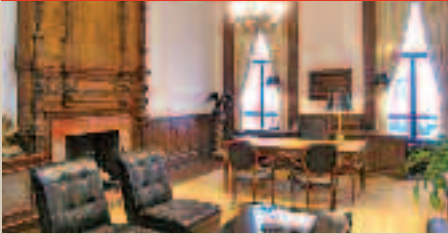


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MLS 9320713



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MLS 9277674



**ILE-DES-SOEURS 300 des Sommets #101**  
Listed Price \$525,000

MLS 9176305

## Marie Sicotte

Real Estate Broker - Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest, inc.

514.953.9808

mariesicotte@videotron.ca



## Deeply Rooted Values

www.mariesicotte.com



## Jeannie Moosz

Real Estate Broker - Groupe Sutton Centre-Ouest, inc.

514.299.3307

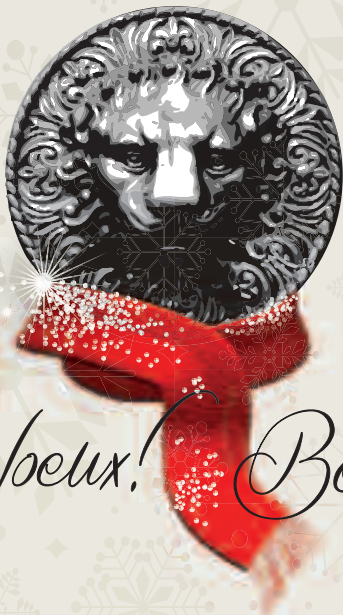
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*Meilleurs Voeux! Best wishes!*

Happy and healthy New Year  
Bonne et heureuse année  
Feliz Año Nuevo!  
Buon Anno!  
Frohes Fest und neues Jahr!  
Felice anno nuovo  
Kali xronia!

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Louise Rémillard  
514.935.3337



Carl R-Fontaine  
514.726.2077