

*Zoning change introduced for southwest sector*

## City moves to retain 'viable' commercial district

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Proposed changes were introduced May 22 to rezone commercial sectors in the Victoria village area by requiring commercial occupancy at street level of all buildings not already benefitting from other acquired rights.

Current zoning allows for a residential option.

The move came in a notice of motion at city council's mid-month meeting to amend the zoning by-law at a subsequent

meeting. This is expected at the regular June 4 sitting, followed by public consultation at a later date.

"We want to ensure we retain a viable commercial sector in the south west," Councillor Cynthia Lulham told the *Independent*. "Commercial" includes offices as well as retail.

The city took its first steps in this direction at the end of 2008 by prohibiting the establishment of medical offices at street level in anticipation of a demand that might arise from the building of the MUHC superhospital.

The zones involved in the planned rezoning border both sides of Sherbrooke St. from the Esso service ..... station at Grosvenor west *continued on p. 17*

## Joli-Cœur crowned Canadian science champion



Fifteen-year-old Westmounter Laurent Joli-Cœur, left, won the the best project award at the 2012 Canada-Wide Science Fair. Ani Armenian, public affairs and corporate social responsibility at Merck presents him the award. See p. 15 for story.

Photo courtesy of Relations publiques Andrée Peltier

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## Fate of landmark cottonwood hangs on experts' report

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city's iconic cottonwood tree in the Lansdowne dog run is ailing and may have to be taken down.

The news may not surprise anyone who has noticed its condition recently. It was, however, confirmed last week by Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Urban Planning and Parks.

"The tree's been dying for years and we've been trying to regenerate it," she said. "But it may have to be taken down be-

fore it falls on somebody."

As a last hope, the city hired forestry engineer Luc Nadeau to prepare a report on the tree's condition and recommend ways "to secure its longevity or to tell us if it's beyond help."

### Core samples show decay

Initial core samples showed decay and indication of "die-back due to aging," Lulham said.

On May 23, Nadeau ..... visited the site to test the *continued on p. 7*

**Don't Miss It**  
Rotary's auction: Friday, June 1;  
Garage sale: Saturday, June 2. See p. 20.

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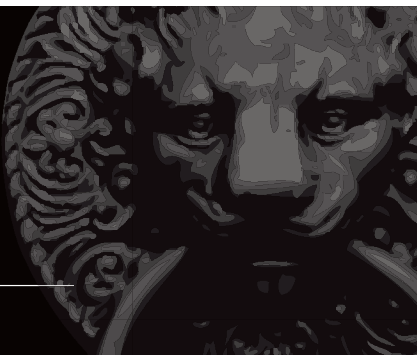
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## Pair arrested for vehicle break-in on Victoria

BY DAVID GOLDBERG

Station 12 police arrested two men for breaking into a car on Victoria Ave., while a third suspect managed to escape.

The incident took place at 1:35 am May 21 on Victoria near The Boulevard. Residents on the street called the police to say they saw three men acting suspiciously.

“They told us the men were going up and down Victoria, trying car doors to see if any were unlocked,” said Constable Adalbert Pimentel. “They were able to get into one car, a Honda Civic.”

When the police arrived, the trio took off, running south on Victoria towards Westmount Blvd. Two of the suspects were apprehended and searched.

“The officers found in their possession a phone charger, a cellular phone, an iPod, some loose change, a pair of binoculars and a GPS unit,” said Pimentel. “We believe some or all of the items were stolen.”

Arrested were two men: a 19-year-old and an 18-year-old, both from Montreal. They have been charged with theft.

The third suspect, who got away, is described as a white male, 19.

“You should always lock your car doors so you don’t become a victim of this type of crime,” said Pimentel.

## Woman helped off floor

An elderly woman who fell in an apartment on Sherbrooke St. May 23 was helped up by public safety officers called to the home at 9:02 am. She was not injured and did not require assistance from Urgences Santé, Public Security officials said.

## Arrangements made with Y during arena construction

# Teen centre users welcome at Y basketball

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With closure of the city’s TAG Teen Centre for at least a year due to demolition of the old arena and construction of the new facilities, arrangements have been made for its users to attend a drop-in basketball program at the Westmount Y on Friday evenings.

If a large enough turnout of TAG users indicates there is demand for a second night, there is a possibility this might be arranged as well, said city Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan.

Other options, such as finding temporary quarters elsewhere, were explored without success, he said. Until the teen centre reopens in the new Westmount recreation centre in the fall of 2013, all its equipment has been stored at the old train station.

### No place to hang out at night

“Some of these kids will now be left without any place to hang out at night,” longtime Cub leader Andrew Macdougall told the *Independent*.

Quartered at the arena for many years after other venues failed to work out, the drop-in teen centre was kept open until the last possible moment, Deegan said. This was fully “two weeks after we moved our offices out.”

The Y’s Friday night basketball program takes place from 6 pm to 9:30 pm as an outreach community effort for Westmounters aged 13 to 17, according to Y director Gary White. It generally attracts from 10 to 25 teens on any given Friday.

It’s the only one of the Y programs available to teens at no cost, though many of its other sports programs such as volleyball, floor hockey and group fitness are open to youth members.

### News given to TAG users

News of the drop-in basketball program had been relayed to TAG users, said Dave Lapointe, assistant director, Sports and Recreation.

The Westmount teen centre was open afternoons and evenings every day but Sunday and was used by about 50 on a drop-in basis though no registration was required. Attendance varied from about six

to 20, he said. Sometimes, youths brought friends.

The centre’s paid coordinator, a student, will be working this summer with the city’s day camp. The assistant coordinator, also a paid student, helped out twice a week at TAG but is now no longer working with the city, Lapointe said.

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# Secret Garden Tour returns June 13 after five years

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's an opportunity that last came around five years ago: to participate in Westmount's trademark Secret Garden Tour and go behind garden gates to view some of the community's specially chosen private gardens.

The day-long event, based out of the Gallery at Victoria Hall, takes place June 13 when the locations of the gardens will be revealed to 125 ticket holders. The number of tickets, which went on sale at Victoria Hall May 25, has been limited to prevent overcrowding.

Organized this year by the Westmount Horticultural Society (WHS), the self-guided tour will follow the same format and structure as when the event was held by the city's Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC). This year's rendition is the fifth since 1998.

"Ticket holders will assemble at Victoria Hall, receive a map of the gardens and a box lunch and be able to plan their own route whether by car or on foot," explained WHS president Sally Cooke. They are also

invited back to Victoria Hall to eat the lunch, rest or have coffee during the day.

"This is like a day in the country while staying at home and appreciating what we have right here in Westmount," she said. "The gardens to be displayed are being chosen for quality, unique aspects and as models to inspire others with design and planting ideas."

Gardens will be open from 9:30 am to 4 pm. Box lunches, included in the price of the ticket of \$35 (\$30 for WHS members), are being prepared by Simply Wonderful with coffee provided by Café Gourmet and drinks by the Fletcher Metro store.

## Noise on a legal holiday

A man using a compressor while repairing a swimming pool on Westmount Ave. near Argyle on Victoria Day, May 21, was warned against using the noisy device on a legal holiday. A neighbour called Public Security to complain.

# Council approves second tree removal permit Eight more trees to be cut at arena site

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The removal of eight more trees at the construction site of the new Westmount recreation centre was approved by city council at its mid-month meeting May 22 and a permit issued the next day, city officials confirmed.

It had been hoped these could be saved though they were among up to 46 earmarked for cutting and were the only ones still standing after an initial permit was approved May 7 (see May 8, p. 3).

The recommendation to remove the eight was based on worker security and management of the site, explained Public Works assistant director Andrew Duffield.

They were located just off Arena Drive at St. Catherine St. where the expanded parking lot will be created and near the area of excavation for the new pools.

Duffield said the future of the eight trees was reviewed during an onsite visit by Jayme Gerbrandt, the city's horticulture and arboriculture inspector, and represen-

tatives from Pomerleau construction and the CSST, the workplace health and safety board.

"The CSST required that some of them be taken down given their proximity to the excavation walls," he said. These trees presented a danger of falling during the work. The other trees were positioned in such a way as to impede the contractor's operation of the site.

Four other trees already proposed for transplantation were replanted within Westmount Park May 14, he said. Two were memorials: a crabapple that was moved to the Shakespeare in the Park site and a maple tree replanted near the Melville pond. Two lindens were also relocated to the pond area.

Attempts are being made to preserve four small trees. All others have been removed (see photo May 15, p. 3).

The city is requiring that each tree cut down be replaced by two – if not in the immediate vicinity, elsewhere in the city.

## Hot night on St. Catherine St.

Police were unable to apprehend six youths who set fire to a garbage receptacle and a Canada Post mailbox.

A taxi driver called police at 12:50 am on May 19 to say he saw the teens, aged 16 to 18, up to no good on St. Catherine between Wood and Gladstone.

"The witness told us the youths had set fire to a city of Westmount garbage bin, then headed west and set fire to a mailbox," said Station 12's Constable Adalbert Pimentel. "The suspects used paper to set the fires, and no accelerants were used. The witness said the suspects continued going west on St. Catherine, but they were gone when our officers arrived."

Police say the fire department was called, and both fires were quickly extinguished. – DG

## Leaf blowers operated

Leaf blowers are still being used, despite the May 1 cut-off date for spring clean-up, according to Public Security. At least three tickets were reported issued between May 18 and 23 when people were spotted using them on Roxborough, Kensington and Church Hill.



*Different 'piecemeal' permit process in use for new recreation centre*

# Pile driving launches demo of pool, arena this week

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Pile driving started May 24 at the site of the new Westmount recreation centre to temporarily shore up the sides of the excavation like a retaining wall, launching the start of more visible demolition this week of the pool and arena.

The sheet piles will go around the perimeter of the excavation to ensure the sides don't cave in during construction and are going down some 50 feet. "So far we've encountered good soil conditions, so we're going relatively quickly," said city director general Duncan Campbell.

This differs from support piling pounded into bedrock, which this building does not require, as previously reported by project chair Patrick Martin (see April 17, p. 12).

While the need for perimeter piling was announced at the public meeting in Victoria Hall last June 21 (see story June 28, 2011, p. 1), plans for the extent of the work were still uncertain until only recently (see March 20, p. 8).

This work involves 100 piles and is expected to take two to three weeks, he said.

Meanwhile, work will start to reroute the flow of gas from a main through Westmount Park that is infringing on the excavation and pile driving work, he said.

The removal of asbestos from inside

the old arena was to be completed last week after two weeks of work, according to Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan.

This was a time-consuming process by

a specialized crew that took place during tree cutting, site set-up and work preparation outside.

While permits had already been issued to the contractor for demolition, tree removal and mobilization of the site by equipment, one for excavation was expected imminently, Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said ..... May 23.

*continued on p. 7*



*A worker at the Westmount arena and pool project construction site takes a photo of the site and the progression of steel piles being driven into the earth by a pile driver.*

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

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Jean Dallaire, Papillon, 1958



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## OVERREACTION TO NEW METERS FROM HYDRO

It is ridiculous to suggest that the radio frequency watt-hour meters being installed by electric power utilities to provide information for billing purposes and/or for better management of power distribution grids have any health-related side effects.

To avoid the confusion of overlapping simultaneous transmissions, each meter only transmits its information very infrequently upon receipt of a paged command to do so. The meters transmit at a maximum power level of 0.1 watt and each low level radio-frequency (RF) transmission containing all of the required information from a meter lasts less than one second.

The radio frequency watt-hour meters installed by Hydro Westmount are paged only once every two months to transmit usage information needed for billing purposes. At present, Hydro Westmount's people walk the streets carrying hand-held wireless meter-reading pagers to get the required information. When more of the new meters are installed, the information might be obtained even more efficiently by driving the streets in a vehicle equipped with a mobile wireless meter-reading pager.

At some time in the future, it is possible that a new province-wide billing policy

might require Hydro Westmount to introduce time-of-day, variable-rate billing. Typically this could require four meter readings per day, and Hydro Westmount would need to install equipment at various locations in the city to page nearby meters and relay their usage readings to a central billing computer. However, this would still not create any health-related risk because the transmissions are of such short duration and their radiated power level is so low.

A study by the California Council on Science and Technology found that the level of radiated power from the meters ranged from 4  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  at a distance of 10 feet to 40  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  at 3 feet and observed that even at 40  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  the radiated power is much less than the radiation from microwave ovens and cellphones, which can range up to 200  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  and 5,000  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$  respectively under normal conditions of use. (1 $\mu\text{W}$  = 1 millionth of a watt)

The RF transmissions from a radio frequency watt-hour meter occur at a very small percentage of the time, and it is extremely unlikely that a person would be close enough to a meter for any significant amount of time at the exact moment when a transmission is taking place and therefore be frequently exposed for less than one second to a very low level of RF radiation, typically ranging from 4 to 40  $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ .

Viewed in this light, the instances of headaches or sleeplessness etc., which some people attribute to RF radiation from the meters, may really be due to unfounded worry and stress concerning an imagined health risk.

JOHN DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

## MISTAKEN UNDERSTANDING OF MICROWAVE LIMITS

In reference to the letter to the editor "Radiation limits inaccurate," (May 22, p. 6), unfortunately Mr. John Dorey mistakenly assumed that the microwave exposure limits cited in my letter ("When will Canada update microwave exposure limit?" May 15, p. 6) referred to microwave ovens.

In fact, these limits referred to ambient exposure to microwaves via wireless communication.

MEGAN DURNFORD, VICTORIA AVE.

## DISTASTEFUL?

Your photo on p. 13 of the May 22 issue ("City's employees raise \$2K on denim day") of two male Westmount employees, each holding two large pink balloons on their chest while soliciting funds for breast cancer leads to several questions: 1. what exactly is funny about breast cancer? 2. how did your photographer as well as your editor decide this photo was appropriate for publication? and 3. what message are you sending to your readers, especially to those who have or have had breast cancer, know, or have lost loved ones to breast cancer?

As a male, I like a good joke as much as the next guy, but this kind of adolescent humour is really in bad taste, and the *Independent* owes an apology to its readers.

MARTIN GARNEAU, SIR GEORGE ETIENNE  
CARTIER SQUARE

## DISTASTEFUL? PART 2

I have just finished reading your latest edition and though I enjoy your articles and find your newspaper very informative on local issues, I feel compelled to write to you about a photo that was published in very poor taste.

Under the headline "City's employees raise \$2K on denim day" (May 22, p. 13), there is a photo of two male employees holding balloons in front of their chests as if they were breasts. In view of the fact that the photo and its caption were announcing the very positive news that \$2,100 was raised for the CURE foundation for breast cancer, I feel that this attempt at humour was very misplaced, and indeed negated

some of the good done by their fundraising efforts.

What were your readers supposed to think? That breast cancer is funny, something to joke about, and that males holding pink balloons mimicking breasts is okay? The balloons simply were not necessary to get the message across and showed a lack of sensitivity to this very serious subject.

DIANNE FERGUSON,  
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

*Editor's note: It is not for us to defend a newsmaker's actions or photograph, but we interpreted the photo as an attempt to make an emotional and unpleasant topic easier to discuss by adopting a light approach – all with a view to increasing awareness, proactive testing and fundraising.*

– KM

## CITY APOLOGIZES FOR BALLOON PHOTO

We wish to apologize to all readers of your paper for the photograph that was used this week to recognize the efforts by city of Westmount employees to support Denim Day.

There were other opportunities to signify the success of our fund-raising efforts but this choice was inappropriate especially since many of us are affected by this terrible disease.

Please be assured that we have taken the necessary steps to avoid any future occurrence.

DUNCAN CAMPBELL,  
CITY OF WESTMOUNT DIRECTOR GENERAL

## PARK GARBAGE CANS COULD USE SOME SPRUCING UP

Every year, more and more people congregate in Westmount Park, particularly on weekends and in the summer months. Increased traffic means increased amounts of waste being deposited in park garbage cans, the vast majority of which are in very poor condition.

The result? Loose garbage spread by wind and animals can be found all across the park. (None of the lids are firmly attached to the cans, for example, and almost all have large holes in them which grants easy access to squirrels).

I'm surprised that nothing has been done to address this growing problem.

DARCY FERRON, MELVILLE AVE.

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# Céline Dion's 'château' for sale by Montanaro

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Priced at \$29.7 million, a Laval-area mansion owned by Quebec singer Céline Dion and her husband René Angélil is on the market and is being handled by Joseph Montanaro of the Westmount office of Sotheby's International Realty.

The property will not be listed on MLS and won't be having any traditional open houses. Montanaro said that he was selected by Dion's team through a referral by one of his former clients and for being with a company "with a global reach and strong international reputation."

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Dion's 24,000 square foot, custom-built home is located on its own private 830,000 square foot island, Île Gagnon, along the Rivière des Mille Îles, north of Laval. Construction was completed in 2001.

The property includes its own access bridge from Laval, and comes fully furnished with antique Louis IV and V furniture and waterfront views. There are six bedrooms, six bathrooms, three powder rooms, an elevator, a vaulted stone wine cellar, a dark cherrywood staircase, library, gym and a three-car garage. The online promotion notes that there is also a large in-ground pool.

The celebrity singer and her husband are said to have built the stone mansion as a private getaway, as a comfortable home without a recording studio or musical features but they have been unable to use it enough given Dion's busy itinerary, said Montanaro.

## Arena, pool

continued from p. 5

Because the new arena/pool project is taking place under a design-build process, it requires an entirely different permit system than traditionally used, she explained. "Permits will have to be issued piecemeal."

This means one for each stage, such as a separate one for the foundation, rather than the traditional generalized building permit that covers most eventualities, though typically separate permits are issued for specialized work, such as dynamiting.

# Tree health studied



Forestry engineer Luc Nadeau, right, installs sonic sensors to the trunk of the huge, approximately 75-year-old Eastern cottonwood (a type of poplar) located in the Lansdowne dog run. Another engineer, left, monitors the Picus Sonic Tomograph unit, which detects decay and rot inside tree trunks using sound waves. Five to 20 of the sonic sensors were placed around the circumference of the 8-foot diameter tree.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

continued from p. 1

tree using a special machine which, through sound waves, can produce images of its interior and also determine its age.

A decision will be based on his report on the tree's condition. Public Works director Marianne Zalzal said Nadeau would require a week and a half to compile findings and issue his report to the city.

The tree was pruned back drastically three years ago in the hopes of promoting new growth, which didn't happen, Lulham said. "We're giving it top priority."

This included ensuring the tree would be protected from damage during construction of the new Westmount recreation centre, which is far enough away to enable the tree to have remained outside the security hoarding.

## Collie caught on two counts

An off-leash collie picked the wrong time to defecate on a neighbour's lawn. It was spotted by a passing Public Security patrol on Forden Crescent at 7:26 am. Officials said the dog was traced to a house nearby resulting in two \$75 tickets for its owner: one for allowing the dog to run loose and the other for soiling private property.



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PHOTOS: MARTIN C. BARRY

Scouts Canada's climbing wall was as popular as ever during this year's Westmount Family Day held on May 26 in Westmount Park. Seen above scaling it is five-year-old Julia Mazzarello, as her parents Marina and Dario look on. Meanwhile, Oliver Young from the Tamaracouta Scout Reserve prepares young Oscar Ham to tackle the wall.

# Sun shines on Family Day



Kids playing in some of the inflatable games had to be prepared to exit through the jaws of a yawning shark.



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Contactivity Centre was one of many groups that sponsored booths during Westmount Family Day. Seen from left, seated: Mazie McKay, Janice Parnell and Gisele Propradi. Standing: Andrew Fasciano, Mary Stark, Pat Smith and Claire Ishida.



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# Non-budget issues in budget bill – Canadians need to know



## Our Man in Ottawa

MARC GARNEAU, MP  
FOR WESTMOUNT-  
VILLE MARIE

Make no mistake. The recent federal budget implementation plan could have profound implications for Canada. But before discussing what they are, here is some background on the budget process.

Roughly once a year, usually in February or March, the Finance minister goes out and buys a new pair of shoes and at 4 pm one day after the markets close, makes a budget speech in the house of commons. It's an opportunity to present a vision but also some specific measures.

This year's budget consisted of more program cuts than additions in order to reduce the deficit.

What follows after the budget is one or more budget implementation bills, which lay out the details and require a vote. This year, the first such bill is 425 pages long and is called Bill C-38. When you read the

bill, you discover not only expected measures presented in the budget speech but many more measures that you are reading about for the first time.

In fact, there are measures to curtail environmental assessment of major natural resource development projects, measures to modify the Employment Insurance Act, measures to change the age when Old Age Security can be collected, measures dealing with immigration, and so on.

### **70 acts of parliament could be eliminated**

Close to 70 acts of parliament will be eliminated or modified if Bill C-38 passes.

It is for this reason that the opposition parties are kicking up such a fuss, because the government is trying to sneak in many non-budget related changes into the budget implementation bill – what is sometimes called a Trojan horse bill.

The consequences will be far reaching and because the Conservatives have a majority, there is little that can be done to prevent passage of the bill unless there is overwhelming pressure for them to back down.

The good news is that public opposition

can sway the government and result in change. A case in point is a recent bill which would have infringed unduly on our privacy by allowing the police to track our in-line message traffic or phone calls without first obtaining a warrant. Canadians spoke up loudly and clearly, and the government backed off, at least for the moment.

The consequences of passing the current budget implementation plan are profound. Canadians need to know the bill in question goes much further than simple budgetary measures. It represents extremely important changes in many areas, changes which have not been properly discussed and debated.

I hope Canadians will speak up.

### **3 ticketed for curfew**

Three men in their early twenties received tickets for \$217 for violating the parks curfew May 22, Public Security officials said. The trio was found in Westmount Park at 1 am. They lived in Candiac, NDG and DeWittville.

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# Biggest group to date protests in streets of Westmount



Photo: Ralph Thompson

Protesters were in Westmount the night of May 21 and into the early hours of May 22. Seen above around 11:30 pm, some marchers taunted police blocking northbound access to Victoria. They had been on the Boulevard at Victoria but had been prevented from descending that street by police blocking access. A police helicopter was observed and heard chopping around overhead.

# Peas & carrots, PB & jam



Peas and carrots, peanut butter and jam. These all-time favourite combos are classics and shouldn't be messed with. Why muck up a good thing? Well, the same can be said for a pair of misfits named Buddy and Chucky. They are a lovely pair of dogs who have lived

through thick and thin. Together the duo has weathered many storms and the ups and downs of life, but through much of it it they have been together. Up until a little while ago, they lived with an elderly lady who also had a cat. She rescued her entire motley crew when they were individually abandoned in the countryside where she lived. But, she had to give it all up when her health took a turn for the worse. So devoted was she that she refused to go until she knew her pals would be looked after. The result of her care is a fine pair of gentlemen: Chucky, a ..... handsome 9-year-old continued on p. 22



Chucky



Buddy

# Rotarians gear up for garage sale



Members of the Rotary Club of Westmount take a break after a long, hot evening of packing one of two 53-foot trucks in preparation for their garage sale at the Royal Montreal Regiment on Saturday, June 2. An auction will be held at the same location Friday, June 1 at 7 pm. From top left to right: Haagen Kierulf, Ralph Thompson, Ted Sancton, Andy Durso and John Halas; second row: Ian Moodie, Don Mackinnon, Nadia Chidean, Bill Graham and George Sklivas.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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# Time for DESTA Fest



Westmounters are taking a lead role again this year in DESTA's annual fundraiser, which will be held Tuesday, June 12 at 6:30 pm at 3968 St. Ambroise in St. Henri. The \$100-per-ticket soirée includes live reggae performances, raffles and prizes. Tickets are available through [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) or at Pretty Ballerinas (392 Victoria Ave., 514.489.3030). DESTA mentors marginalized black youth in three areas: education, employment and health. From left: Westmounters and committee members Stuart Webster, Karen Potter Bienvenu, and Willamina and Nicholas Martire, with DESTA executive director Frances Waithe.

Photo: Westmount Independent

## 'Blue' parking zones now in effect

Most designated parking zones are now in effect around construction sites for the arena/pool project and are expected to be set up this week at the 215 Redfern condo development. All are colour-coded blue.

Public Security officials said most of the signs were put up by May 25, reserving parking on Academy Rd., Park Place and sections of Irvine, Lewis and Blenheim Place for holders of overnight on-street permits who have now received special blue stickers.

People who are not authorized to use these areas should make a point of checking the signage on those streets before parking, said assistant director Greg McBain.

The new "blue" zones will also be established on Lansdowne though the timing for this change is expected to be delayed, he said.

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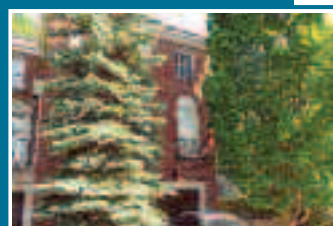


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"The fundamental rule is that each portfolio must be constructed for the specific client," Mr. Matte explains. "You don't let the market environment decide what should be in the portfolio. You take control and carefully select investments that work for each individual situation."

What works for affluent investors in the current environment tends to be yield-producing investments, whether dividend-paying stocks or investment-grade corporate bonds. Balanced portfolios of this nature are able to deliver predictable returns and income regardless of how markets are behaving. Moreover, this strategy is more sophisticated than it would appear on the surface – Mr. Matte has a unique ability to source quality securities that go beyond what a standard broker can do. In addition, he manages these portfolios himself.

"Years ago, I discovered that third-party managers and mutual funds weren't matching the investment results that I was able to generate using my own skills and professional judgment," he says. "Clients began requesting that I dispense with that layer of fees and complexity – and I've been directing all portfolios ever since."

Matte credits the institutional strength of his firm, Macquarie Private Wealth, for providing an extensive range of investments to choose from. The global resources of Macquarie enable him to select stocks and bonds that most other firms simply don't have access to. As a result, Matte and his clients go beyond the standard off-the-shelf products to invest in securities that can provide better yields at a lower cost.

"My clients place a great deal of trust in my counsel, which is why I conduct regular portfolio updates with each of them on a monthly basis," Matte says. "This presents an opportunity to review the investment strategy and make any necessary adjustments. Ultimately, my clients value peace of mind, and that's what my professional counsel provides."

To arrange a private appointment with Denny Matte, visit his website at [dennymatte.com](http://dennymatte.com) for contact information. Marketing feature



Westmount Today, Yesterday and Before

## Décarie 'pink house' discussed

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

Patricia Claxton, who has lived in the "pink house" house for 50 years, was pleased to explain details of her nearly 280-year-old stone farmhouse and answer questions during the Westmount Historical Association's lecture on May 17. The house is on Côte St. Antoine, just west of Westmount.

People wanted to know when the stone farmhouse was covered with bricks – and

from his father Joseph in 1870, according to the deed of inheritance.

The style and proportions of the house reveal its age, Claxton said. "Yes, the ceilings are low in the original house on the west side of the front door and the cellar is entirely at ground grade."

It was not until the 1930s that the red bricks were painted a pale pink, after Brooke Claxton bought the property in 1925. He was the first minister of National Health and Welfare from 1944 to 1946 and

minister of National Defence from 1946 to 1954, and made extensive renovations, including adding new windows, a new kitchen and back porch.

It was in 1960 that his son, also Brooke Claxton, bought the house and moved in with his wife Patricia. The large dormer window was added on the south side of the house and a larger bathroom was installed upstairs during the 23 years they lived there. A divorce contract gave Patricia Claxton ownership of the Décarie house in 1983. By that time, the decaying roof needed repair, so she had a new roof of copper baguettes put on.

The Décarie house is the oldest of three stone farmhouses that still exist on Côte St. Antoine Rd.

Others are the Hurtubise family house built in 1739 just west of Victoria Ave. and another Décarie house at the corner of today's Argyle Ave.

*Doreen Lindsay is president of the Westmount Historical Association.*



Patricia Claxton, right, owner of the Décarie "pink house" at 5138 Côte St. Antoine Rd. and Doreen Lindsay, president of the Westmount Historical Association during a lecture on May 17.

Photo courtesy of Doreen Lindsay

when were they painted pink.

The audience of 55 people found out that it was Felix Décarie, who used bricks from the Décarie brickyards when he was obliged to cover the original stone construction. He inherited the house and land

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## Local students win at national science fair



Tamar Sifri, grade 8, of the Study.

Photo courtesy of The Study

Fifteen-year-old Westmounter Laurent Joli-Cœur won the the best project award at the 2012 Canada-Wide Science Fair held in Charlottetown, PEI from May 12 to 19. His project, “La quête de l'ombre joviennne” (The Search for Jupiter’s Shadow), earned him a \$10,000 prize.

“This is incredible, I didn’t expect to be here,” said Joli-Cœur on the fair’s website. “I didn’t win anything at last year’s fair, so I started working on this year’s project on the bus trip home from Toronto!” He also received an additional \$5,000 platinum award for best intermediate project, a Challenge award and an intermediate gold medal. He has previously been a finalist.

Five hundred students from grades 7 through 12 competed at the event.

Joli-Cœur is in grade 9 at Collège Jean de Brébeuf. See photo p. 1.

Tamar Sifri, in grade 8 at The Study, returned from the Canada-Wide Science Fair in PEI with a bronze medal in the junior category for her project “The Battle Against Aging.” She also won a \$1,000 Western University scholarship and a \$300 cash prize.



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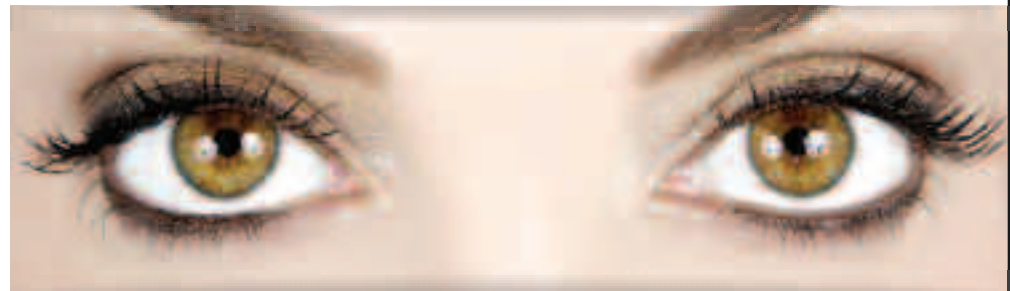
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# Westmount High inaugural Chinese class performs for dignitaries in Ottawa

By JOANNE PENHALE

When Westmount High grade 10 student Yee Jing Chow visited Beijing a few years ago, he was unable to understand the orders of a security guard upon trying to enter a theatre. The guard, speaking in Mandarin, wanted Chow to take a sip from each of the water bottles he'd brought before he would be allowed to enter. Chow knows Cantonese, but that didn't help. He was totally confused. Eventually a tour guide translated for him, but Chow told the *Independent*, it was then he realized he needed to learn Mandarin.

Chow is sitting in Westmount High School's library with the school's Mandarin teacher, Yamin Zhang, and Kami Katopodis, another student from the school's inaugural grade 10 introductory Chinese class. All three are energetic and smiling as they talk about what they've been covering, why it's important – and all about a recent class trip to Ottawa funded by the Chinese government.

"We got to Ottawa, and we started rehearsing right away," Katopodis remem-



Mandarin teacher Yamin Zhang (centre) says people around the world are beginning to learn more about all aspects of China – its language, beauty, traditional values and new modernity. She stands with two students from her class of 20: Kami Katopodis, left, and Yee Jing Chow, who holds up the class textbook.

bers. Along with students from Villa Maria, the delegation of 17 Westmount High students performed the Canadian folk song "Red River Valley," with Mandarin lyrics for an audience of more than 300, including high-ranking members of the Chinese government, Zhang said, like Li Changchun, as well as Ottawa's mayor. It was the April 19 opening ceremony of Carleton University's Confucius Institute.

More than 300 Confucius institutes have been established in cities around the world by the Chinese government since 2004 to promote Chinese language and culture. The event was filmed by Chinese Central Television. "It was pretty cool because they actually showed my face,"

Katopodis said of the short news clip that was broadcast to more than one billion Chinese viewers.

Since September, the students in Zhang's class have been working on conversational basics, learning the four tones of Mandarin, and aspects of Chinese culture, like the Spring Festival for which Zhang brought homemade dumplings. Instead of learning Chinese characters, the printed words students see are written in pinyin – the Latin script for Mandarin.

Sometimes after class, Chow said, he approaches a Mandarin-speaking student to try out what he's learned. "He was a bit shocked," Chow said ..... when asked about the stu-

continued on p. 22



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# Alleyway Frankie

## 9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

wound on his paw, probably from being hit by a car. He was found by some very kind people who took him to a vet, where he was treated for his injuries and was brought up to date on all his vaccinations and treatments.

Gerdy's has taken him in so as to find a forever family for him.

Frankie is a very affectionate fellow with both people and friendly dogs. You can tell that he once had a home, that he started out his life in a family and was left homeless as a young cat. He loves to cuddle, preferably on a lap or near a blanket, an indulgence which he appreciates so much more since his time living outside, where thousands of other cats barely survive.

Handsome Frankie is about two years old, a green-eyed tabby with semi-long fur (which is growing in beautifully after it had to be shaved due to its condition.)

For more information, please contact Gerdy's Rescues on her pager at 514.203.9180 or email [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org).

Frankie

# Zoning

continued from p. 1

to the city limits and south on Victoria to just below Somerville, city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier said. They are numbered C5-20-01, 02, 03, 04 and 05.

The commercial element is what defines this area, she pointed out.

The latest move, Lulham said, stems from the recent receipt of a consultant's study commissioned by the city January 16 to help update a planning vision for the area (see February 1, p. 1).

The report will not be made public since it involves zoning issues "and some of our concerns on how to develop a healthy retail sector," she explained. More changes are expected to follow.

She noted that preservation of the commercial character reverses the trend of the 1980s in which zoning changes focused on encouraging the residential element when it appeared that retail was taking over. Now, however, with the trend toward the building of condos, the availability of commercial space at street level could be threatened unless otherwise required through the zoning change, Lulham explained.

While each of the zones currently has its own permitted occupancies, the new restriction would limit these at street level to commercial only, except for those with vested rights.

Other details will be known when the draft by-law is presented.

## No tag, only choker

An unidentified pitbull-mix was taken to the SPCA May 20 by public safety officers after it was found loose by a woman walking her dog in Queen Elizabeth Park at 10:20 am. It appeared lost. Public Security officials said no one called the station looking for the dog, which wore a choke collar without any tag.

## Birds taken to SPCA

Four baby birds were taken to the SPCA by Public Security recently after they were believed to have fallen from nests. An injured bird of unspecified age or type was also transported after being found near the comfort station in Westmount Park May 20.

One chick was found at 1347 Greene May 23. Another, described as a baby European starling came from Sherbrooke and Prince Albert May 22, while two young starlings were reported to have fallen from a tree May 19 behind 4117 de Maisonneuve.



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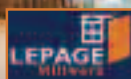
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Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's "Next Dor" volunteer night and pizza dinner, 6 to 8 pm. Sue Medley of **Dans la Rue** to speak. Packages will be created to be handed out by the Dans la Rue van. Pizza dinner and conversation about Jewish values in action to follow. Reserve: Rosie, [rosie@templemontreal.ca](mailto:rosie@templemontreal.ca) or 514.937.3575, ext. 213.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

- Writer **James Little** talks about Charles Dickens' 1842 visit to Montreal and reads "Train Ride" from his collection *Could Be: New Fiction*, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free. Info: [www.atwaterlibrary.ca](http://www.atwaterlibrary.ca).
- **Open Gate Gala** benefit, 6 pm at the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue. Buffet supper, door prizes and trophies. Ticket information: Marlene at 514.731.0415 or Barbara at 514.938.1405.
- **Mirana Zuger's** "Vrtlar" vernissage, 6 pm at the McClure Gallery, 350 Victoria Ave. Exhibition runs from June 1 to 23. Artist will give a talk on Thursday, June 7. Info: 514.488.9558.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1

**Rotary Club of Westmount auction**, 7 pm at the RMR Westmount Armoury, 4625 St. Catherine St. Preview starts at 6 pm. Rotary's **garage sale** takes place Saturday, June 2, 9:30 am to 2 pm. Info: [www.rotarywestmount.org](http://www.rotarywestmount.org) or 514.935.3344.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

**"Voyage en Italie"** benefit concert for the Westmount Baptist Church, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm at 411 Roslyn, corner Sherbrooke. Soprano Michèle Bolduc, tenor Luc Robert and pianist Jérémie Pelletier perform arias from Traviata, Bohème, Lucia, Rigoletto and l'Elisire d'Amore. Tickets: \$30; \$20 for students and singers. Reserve: 514.743.1216.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

**Matthew Stern** plays folk music at 2 pm at the Gallery at Victoria Hall (4626 Sherbrooke St.). Refreshments. It's the last of "Sunday Concerts in the Gallery" by Westmount's Community & Cultural Events division. Tickets: \$12 or \$10 advance. Info: 514.989.5226.

MONDAY, JUNE 4

**City council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall, 4333 Sherbrooke St.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

- **ArtNow Westmount** presents water-colourist José Duclos and Lynda Schneider Granatstein, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free. ArtNow is a free conference series presenting visual artists and their work on the first Tuesdays of most months. Presentation are followed by questions and discussion. Info: [www.artnowwestmount.com](http://www.artnowwestmount.com).
- Women's choir **Concerto Della Donna** presents "Northern Exposure" benefit concert for Westmount-based Batshaw Youth

and Family Centres, 8 pm at Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke St. W. Sound, storytelling, and dance from Canada, Denmark, Finland and Norway. Tickets: Adults: \$40; those aged 65 and over \$30; students and children \$10. Info: 514.398.4547.

• "Poetry and Prose Reading" evening at McClure Gallery (350 Victoria Ave.), 7 pm, with host **Ilona Martonfi** and featuring recently published Montreal poets, prose writers, spoken word artists and solo musicians. Cost: \$5 at door. Info: 514.488.9558.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

- **Nektarios Pouliezios** of Scotia McLeod speaks to the Rotary Club of Westmount on "The Road Ahead: A Look Into Today's Global Markets," 1 pm at Victoria Hall. 12 noon preamble, 12:30 pm lunch. Cost: \$20 lunch and presentation. RSVP: 514.935.3344 by the Friday before.
- 2 O'Clock Series presents "Alternative dress movements in 19th-century England" with **Pamela Grimaud**, 2 pm in the Westmount Room of the Westmount Public Library. Free. Register: Circulation desk 514.989.5299.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

**Annual St. Léon Church bazar**, 1 to 6 pm at 330 Clarke Ave. Clothes, books and CDs for sale. Info: 514.935.4950.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

Sundays at the Shaar presents Col. **Bernard Finestone**, World War II veteran who will discuss "The Present Dilemma," lunch at 12 noon; lecture at 1 pm at Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalfe Ave. Cost: \$5 for lecture and lunch. Reserve: 514.937.9471, ext. 139.

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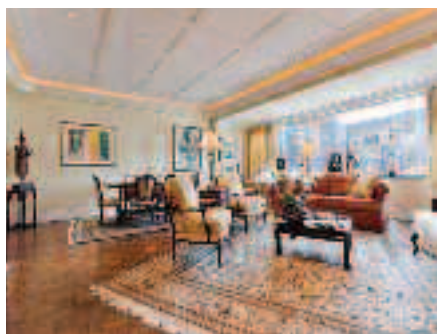
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# Chinese

continued from p. 16

dent's reaction. "And he found it a bit funny, because I'd made some mistakes."

Zhang said she's proud when she hears the students trying out their Mandarin like this. "You feel rewarded." She said she can tell it's rewarding for the students too.

Together, Zhang, Chow and Katopodis explained why learning Mandarin is desirable. They agreed China is opening up to the world, with people from various countries living and visiting there. Katopodis said she wants to study languages after high school, and finds that Mandarin is increasingly relevant for trade reasons. Zhang said learning a new language helps people understand there are multiple cultures in the world. "The way you look at the world changes... it's not so localized, it's not so rigid."

Westmount High School is also offering a secondary Mandarin course for grade 11 in September 2012.

One other English Montreal School Board school offers Chinese – an alternative school called Options II – said Westmount High principal Michael Cristofaro.

# Claxton retires after almost 20 years at St. Andrew's school



Johnny Claxton, right, is trying to retire – again. The 85-year-old parking and door attendant at St. Andrew's Early Childhood Center took the job as a three-month trial after retiring from CP. He ended up staying at the school for 19 years and three months, according to a parent who spoke to him during his send-off on May 18 when the school community bid him farewell. According to another parent, "He has been the eyes and ears of St. Andrew's for almost 20 years. Kids, some who are now teenagers, have been 'bumping elbows' with him and enjoying his paper airplanes."

Photo courtesy of parents of St. Andrew's School

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## Underdogs Buddy & Chucky

continued from p. 10

wolfhound/brindled boxer mix. At 62 pounds, his size is an indicator of the size of his heart – big! He is a great dog who has a very easy-going nature. He loves going for walks almost as much as he

loves his best friend, who happens to be a Sheltie named Buddy.

Buddy is 10 years old and a mere 26 pounds. He is Chucky's wingman and often allows Chucky to take centre stage while he remains in the wings. The bond of their friendship is obvious. But, due to his instinct for herding, Buddy has been known to nip at the passing heels of people, and so it works best if he is muzzled on walks. This herding instinct is what led him to be abandoned before he met Chucky. Other than that he is a very well-behaved dog with a quiet nature.

Though it would be best if Chucky and Buddy could find a home together, their current rescuers now feel they could be adopted separately. They are both well-mannered, quiet, house-trained dogs.

Save for Buddy's herding instinct, these two are near perfect and would do well in an adult home where they could live out their years in the style they have become accustomed to. If you have room in your house and heart for two old geezers, or even just one, please email Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions at [info@gerdysrescue.org](mailto:info@gerdysrescue.org) or page 514.203.9180.

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# Locals grace Windsor Station for Daffodil Ball



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The 19th annual Daffodil Ball did not disappoint. This year was fabulously OTT (over the top). On April 26, lobster and champagne greeted guests arriving at Windsor Station, transformed by the theme of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Tickets were \$750 but only available to donors of \$2,000 and more. Tables were \$25,000, \$35,000 and \$50,000. A Toronto firm, Décor & More, was hired to create the spectacular ambiance, a nod to the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's first telling of the Alice tale. The towering table arrangements were created by Yves Chénier. A few of my favourite things: the sparkly white rabbit costume, shipped from Las Vegas' Cirque du Soleil; the Red Queen, whose hooped skirt held 125 glasses full of champagne; Mad Hatter tea



Wayne Deans, Gordon and Penny Echenberg, and Craig Langdon.



Co-chairs Calin Rovinescu, Jacynthe Côté and Paul Pathy.

parties; boxwood topiaries, huge chess pieces, and of course the clocks to show every one "You're late, you're late" – just like the story.

The main hall was festooned with mammoth playing-card chandeliers. Then there were the star-studded arrivals, including media celebs emcee **Virginie**

**Coossa** (with **François Bazinet**), **Karine Vanasse** (**Maxime Rémillard**), **Sophie Durocher** (**Richard Martineau**), and **Mitsou** (**Iohann Martin**).

Westmounters **Paul Pathy**, president and co-CEO Fednav (there with his wife **Marie-Michelle**) and **Calin Rovinescu**, president and CEO Air Canada, (with **Elaine**) co-chaired with **Jacynthe Côté**, chief executive, Rio Tinto Alcan. West-

mounters included **Marie-Anne Tawil** and **Michel Vennat**, **Penny and Gordon Echenberg**, **Constanza and Javier San Juan**, **Linda and Ian Greenberg**, **Meryl and Sheldon Elman**, and **Belle and Ernie Grivakis**.

Noted amidst the bejewelled crowd were event planner **Alison Silcoff**, **Dominique Bertrand** and **Jacques Maurice**, **Esther Bégin** and **John Parisella**, **Suzan**

**Moreau** and **Jean-Guy Desjardins**, **Susan McPeak** and **Charles Sirois**, **Christiane Germain**, **Monique Jérôme-Forget**, **Pierre Karl Péladeau**, **Solange Dugas** and **Lucien Bouchard**, **Isabelle Hudon** and **Gilles Coulombe**, **Nathalie Schwartz** and **Charles Décarie**, and **Lucie and Pierre Boivin**.

The gala raised \$1.67 million for the Canadian Cancer Society.



Michel Vennat, Marie-Anne Tawil, Esther Bégin and John Parisella.

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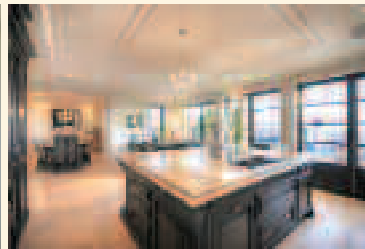
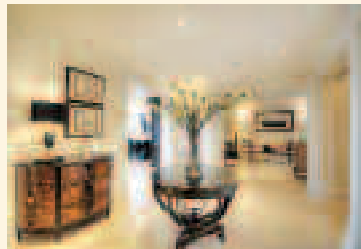
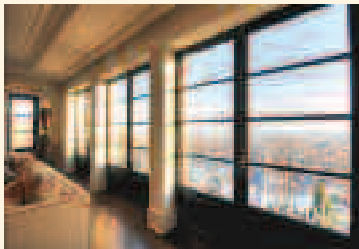


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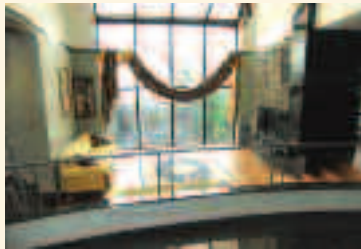
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