

Rezoning meeting stresses Vic village vitality

Merchants seek vision based on neighbours' input

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two representatives of the Sherbrooke/Victoria Merchant's Association said June 20 they supported a proposed zoning change in the commercial area but voiced concerns the city had not called a meeting of residents and merchants to participate in developing a long-term vision for the neighbourhood.

Gerard Fellerath, owner of Folklore I and Pierre Le Gourri  rec, who owns Avenue des Arts, expressed their views at

length with Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier at the end of a rezoning public meeting at city hall (see story p. 3).

"It's the neighbourhood that should have been consulted rather than the city going to an outside firm to create a vision for us," Le Gourri  rec pointed out.

The city has said that parts of the consultants' report commissioned January 16 would be made public but that it was sensitive because it related to zoning issues that can affect real estate development and values if discussed publicly (see May 29, p. 1).

The rezoning, as explained at the meeting, would require commercial occupancies to be established at street level (ground and continued on p. 3

Bernier breaks bread at BBQ



More than 75 supporters attended a Westmount Ville-Marie (WVM) Conservative Association BBQ on June 26 with the federal minister of state for Small Business and Tourism, Maxime Bernier, MP for the Beauce riding. Westmounter Carl Ravinsky, president of the WVM riding, and his wife Judy Litvack hosted the event at their Kensington Ave. home. Pictured above, Bernier (right) speaks to, from left, Westmounters Andrew and Lise Powell.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

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Public Works gears up to repair water mains, roads, sewers

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As replacement of the water main on Sherbrooke between Greene and Clarke moves into the third week, the high-profile work symbolizes a number of Public Works projects throughout Westmount this summer.

"We just finished reconstruction of the road and sidewalks on Belfrage and Upper Roslyn, and the contractor has started on Lansdowne Ridge," said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal. If all goes as planned, it should be finished July 20, she

said.

Now that Hydro Westmount has completed its work to lay new electrical conduits on Prince Albert from de Maisonneuve to Sherbrooke, and Bell is expected to finish up July 20, city council was to be asked at the July 3 council meeting to approve the reconstruction of Prince Albert between de Maisonneuve and Somerville, including new lighting.

Reconstruction of the street from Somerville to Sherbrooke will take place pending possible im- provements at the street's continued on p. 7

Lacrosse story, p. 6.

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No council member, no legal consultation

New hearings on SW rezoning, 1* buildings to come in July

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A new date of July 16 is expected to be scheduled to “repeat” two public meetings June 20 that failed to meet the legal requirement of public consultations, city officials said. The new hearings resulted from the absence of a city council representative.

To accommodate an unusually large audience of some 20 people who had already assembled at city hall, a decision was made to convert the sessions into public information meetings and continue with the scheduled presentations.

At stake, as announced, were the rezoning to require commercial occupancies at street level in the Victoria village, as well

as a change in the planning (PIIA) by-law to incorporate a protocol for renovating or altering Category 1* heritage buildings.

Both changes required the legal presence of the mayor or his designated representative from council to hear concerns from citizens, confirmed city clerk Mario Gerbeau.

But when this failed to materialize as time ticked by, those in the audience agreed the meetings should continue anyway. Among those attending were two representatives of Victoria village merchants, as well as architects and owners of some of the 45 1* buildings.

“It’s the first time in the 25 years I’ve been here that this has ever happened,” said Urban Planning director Joanne

Poirier.

Along with Julia Gersovitz, the former chairman of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), Poirier continued the two back-to-back meetings with full presentations and answers (see stories, p. 4).

A new date must be set for July in the case of the Victoria village rezoning, which is subject to a referendum process and on which a four-month zoning freeze is in effect, city clerk Mario Gerbeau told the *In-*

dependent.

The four months, he explained, is calculated from the May 22 notice of motion until the by-law is finally adopted according to a tight schedule that includes first reading, public consultation, second reading and possibly opening a referendum register in that order.

The 1* building protocol is not subject to a referendum but has generated a freeze.

SW re-zoning explained

.....
continued from p. 1

basement levels) in all buildings not otherwise grandfathered. This would apply in five commercial zones along Sherbrooke from the Esso service station at Grosvenor to the west city limits as well as south on Victoria to part way south of Somerville.

Maintain viability

“We are trying to maintain the viability of the area,” Poirier explained in her public presentation, but confirmed that “any non-conforming usage could continue.”

Fellerath asked why the entire strip of Victoria south to St. Catherine had not been included to which Poirier said: “Council did not think it was necessary to include it. But if you think this is important, you are welcome to suggest it.”

In comments later, Le Gourriérec said it would be logical to at least include the of-

fice building at 310 Victoria at de Maison-neuve in the zoning change since all others on the west side were. The *Independent* is a tenant in this building.

Although a new public consultation meeting will be held on the zoning change, people may also submit their comments in writing since they must be made to a member of city council, Poirier said.

Contractors’ radio brings complaints

Contractors working on Upper Lansdowne June 15 were asked to turn down a radio after someone called Public Security to complain about loud music at 4:45 pm. It was turned down initially but after a second complaint, officers returned and insisted it be turned off.

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To arrange a private appointment with Denny Matte, visit his website at dennymatte.com for contact information.

Marketing feature



Meeting hears strategy for 1* heritage buildings

Renovation process defined for 'crème de la crème'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Owners of Westmount's top-rated heritage buildings may be proud that their houses are the "crème de la crème," but with that goes the responsibility to renovate in such a way as to preserve the character-defining elements that give these houses their heritage value.

That was the message relayed to the owners and local architects who attended a public meeting June 20 at city hall on a proposed "conservation strategy" to be written in to the city's planning and architecture By-law 1305 known as the PIIA.

The strategy was presented by Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier as a tool for the Category 1* owners planning changes to these exceptional properties, which she called the "crème de la crème."

It outlines a seven-step process that includes hiring a conservation specialist to conduct meticulous historical and architectural research on the property and its evolution.

"Each of you owns a monument," explained conservation architect Julia Gersovitz. And collectively, these homes form an integral component of the area designated in January by Parks Canada as the Westmount National Historic Site (see January 24, p. 2).

Gersovitz, a former chair of the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), worked as a consultant on developing the new conservation strategy, along with the late Herb Stovel, acknowledged as a leader in the heritage field.

Concerned over costs

Questioners expressed concerns over the cost of hiring conservation specialists and the extent of the background work that appeared to be involved.

"I thought it was great to own a 1* home," one owner told the *Independent*. "Now I'm not so sure."

Each of the 1* properties is listed in an annex along with a brief description and identification of its heritage character-defining elements. These include façades, chimneys, windows, dormers, roof style, gardens – all elements which, if destroyed, would destroy the heritage value, Gersovitz explained.

Architect Bruce Anderson, among the questioners, proposed the city set up a separate committee of conservation specialists from the PAC to evaluate an

application for work on a 1* home. "I think it should be evaluated at a different level," he said.

Poirier said it was something that could be "easily arranged," but Anderson thought it should be a more formally structured committee.

List incomplete

Anderson recalled how in the 1990s he and two other members of the PAC at the time (Derek Drummond and Mark London) had drawn up the small list of 1* homes. "The list is by no means complete," he told the meeting. Poirier agreed, adding it was a "living document."

In all, the city lists 45 separate addresses as Category 1* buildings though some form residential ensembles built as



Julia Gersovitz explains change process at June 20 meeting.

one architectural unit, which leads to some numbering differences. All are homes except for a commercial building at 1365-1367 Greene. More than half were built in the 19th century.

The Westmount methodology used to develop the strategy is based on *Parks Canada's Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

Garage changes

Proposed changes to the same by-law were also presented to allow front-facing garage doors when existing ones contributed to the character of the streetscape.

A full public consultation meeting is expected to take place July 16 (see story, p. 3.)

One break-in, two attempts in one evening

BY ISAAC OLSON

June 25 proved to be a busy night for both thieves and law enforcement officials alike as, by the next morning, Station 12 police had responded to two different attempted break-ins and one theft.

Shorncliffe burglars' blunder

At around 11:40 pm, two burglars cut a Shorncliffe house's telephone wire, likely thinking it would disable the house alarm, said Station 12's constable Adalbert Pimentel.

"Squirrels don't normally chew through telephone wires," he said. "So, when the security system stopped communicating with the security agency, the company sent out an agent to investigate."

The security agent, upon seeing the cut wires and a broken patio door, notified police, but the suspects had already fled with an undisclosed amount of jewellery. Upon investigation, it was discovered that a neighbour's surveillance camera had caught the two suspects getting in and out of a vehicle, Pimentel explained. For now,

he added, there are no descriptions of the suspects that can be released to the public.

Two break-in attempts on Victoria

In a case unrelated to Shorncliffe, Pimentel said somebody tried to break into two different homes on Victoria near Côte St. Antoine. It was likely the same thief in both homes, he said, but, so far, it looks like nothing was stolen. Both attempts happened sometime after 9 pm and early the next morning.

Police were called to one house to investigate signs of a break-in. The suspect had used a patio chair to reach the first-floor windows and attempt to pry a couple of them open with a screwdriver-like tool. Unsuccessful, the thief gave up.

In the second house not so far away, a thief pried open a basement window also with a screwdriver-like tool and tried to kick loose a set of security bars. Unable to dislodge the bars, the suspect forced open the patio doors, but fled when the house alarm went off. Because the home's owner was un- *continued on p. 8*

City ends 2011 with \$3.7M surplus, saves on snow

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city paid out much less than expected for snow removal in 2011, spent more on parks and playgrounds but reaped so much more from property transfer duties and parking fines that it wound up the year with a surplus of some \$3.7 million.

Westmount's final audited statement approved by the city council May 7 showed final revenues of \$93.2 million and expenditures of \$89.5 million.

The expenses included \$48 million sent to the Montreal agglomeration for costs assessed to Westmount for shared island expenses such as police, fire and transit services, as well as another \$900,000 sent to the Montreal Metropolitan Community for regional expenses.

Of the \$3.7-million surplus, \$3.3 million was appropriated from the operating surplus to the accumulated surplus. This went, among other items explained by Finance commissioner Tim Price, to build up the snow removal fund, pay for the ongoing shared decontamination of Glen Rd.

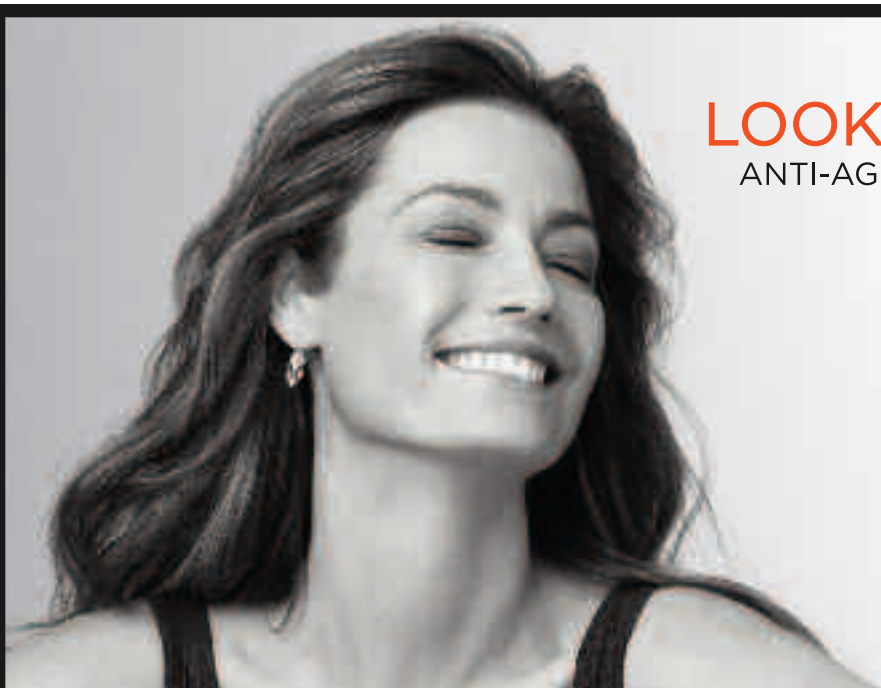
land with the Société de transport de Montréal and cover extension of the second arena/pool project rink.

Among other highlights of the financial results was the \$4-million windfall in welcome tax versus the \$2.5 million that had been budgeted. Licences and permits generated \$825,000 – more than three times the budget.

On the expenditure side, snow removal cost \$2.6 million against \$3.4 million while more than \$260,000 was charged for bringing Bixis to Westmount, an anticipated expense.

Man hits back of head in fall on sidewalk

An elderly Westmount man was taken to the Montreal General Hospital by Urgences Santé June 15 after falling on the sidewalk outside 343 Metcalfe, Public Security officials said. He was reported to have hit the back of his head and was very confused. The mishap occurred about 2:35 pm.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WATER TOO PRECIOUS TO WORRY ABOUT OVER GOVERNANCE

Allen Rubin slides us down the slippery slope in his letter published in the June 12 edition (“Where will city-monitored water use end?”, p. 6) and warns that if we don’t stop city council now, we will soon be inundated with water regulations governing the frequency and duration of our showers. Clearly, this flow of events is highly unlikely.

Furthermore, just because there is wastage in leaky pipes doesn’t mean that we can’t work on reducing wastage by sprinklers.

The amount of water loss through leaky pipes is dreadful and should be fixed. However the water usage through sprinklers is not insignificant.

Montreal city officials have recently imposed a watering ban in several areas of the West Island and stated that sprinkler use can cause up to a 50-percent increase in water consumption in the summer. My source: www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/story/2012/06/22/wes-island-lawn-watering-ban.html.

I applaud city council for working on reducing water consumption. Setting a three-day-a-week watering schedule is a reasonable regulation.

Water, especially potable water, is a precious resource and should not be wasted.
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MUHC DOING WELL TO PROMOTE MASS TRANSPORT

It is with great satisfaction that we read the June 19 *Indie* article “Hamilton ‘very confident’ about second underground link to MUHC” (p. 5).

We of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association have, for almost two years, called for such a vital link to the new MUHC.

The Vendôme intermodal station is the best mass transit hub in North America and to have had the original planners disregard that fact verged on being an urban planning crime.

A big thank-you goes out to Robert Hamilton and Pierre Major, along with the current design team for having reversed this shortcoming. It shows a true urban understanding.

It is also praiseworthy that the MUHC has a target of 60 percent of their staff arriving by active transport or mass transit each day. In order to make that hope a reality, it is essential that for opening day the infrastructure described by Robert Hamilton is in place.

As important in meeting that target is the need to have active transport infra-

structure for pedestrians and cyclists. This means that on opening day it also must be functional with free flowing connections to the surrounding communities.

Crucial in all of this is an enlightened redesign of the Decarie to Claremont stretch of de Maisonneuve. We know that the MUHC Glen site will have a number of bicycle parking areas and associated amenities. It is even in discussion with Bixi for stations on site.

Hospitals carry an iconic responsibility

to show society the way to health. When the MUHC Glen site meets its 60-percent target, it will be making a very strong statement that mass transit and active transport are the primary means of reaching the site and private vehicles are tertiary.

From every point of view, this would be very healthy.

ROGER JOCHYM, LEWIS AVE.
AND MEMBER OF THE WESTMOUNT
WALKING AND CYCLING ASSOCIATION

Westmount lacrosse quartet selected to represent Quebec

By MICHAEL MOORE

Four members of Westmount’s burgeoning lacrosse club have been selected to represent Quebec for the province’s first foray at the Canadian Field Lacrosse National Championships in Oshawa, Ontario later this summer.

Defenseman Nicholas Sugden was selected to the province’s U19 team, while the team’s top two leading scorers this spring, Maxime Murdoch and Taylor Boyd, will be joined on Quebec’s U16 team by Marc-Antoine Pion, who played for the Lynx in 2011.

“It’s a big positive for those kids because the Westmount program gives them a good opportunity to develop their skills,” said coach Kyle Robinson, “and playing on the national teams give them a chance to showcase their talent.”

In addition to the exposure, Robinson believes the four players will benefit from witnessing some of the other provinces’ more advanced lacrosse programs.

“It gives them the chance to see what it’s like to play against provinces like On-

tario and British Columbia,” he said. “They can really learn from playing against some of those better teams to help improve as players.”

Started in 2010 by Tim Murdoch in conjunction with the city’s Sports and Recreation department, Westmount’s lacrosse club’s roster is composed of 22 teenagers spanning grades 7 through 11. Although unable to enrol in any leagues, the team competes independently against high schools in Montreal, as well as lacrosse clubs in the northeastern United States.

A member of McGill’s varsity lacrosse team, Robinson is hopeful that Quebec’s participation in the championships will provide the sport with a boost in popularity in the province.

“Lacrosse is on the rise, and it’s the fastest-growing team sport in North America,” he said. “Whenever you can provide a provincial team that can play on the national level, it always provides more support for that program and lets more people aspire to play on that high level.”



Maxime Murdoch



Taylor Boyd

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Parking opened up on Olivier for water main replacement, tolerance being given

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Additional parking has been opened up on Olivier to accommodate the loss of spaces on Sherbrooke due to water main work on Sherbrooke between Greene and Clarke, Public Security officials said last week. The new two-hour zone is on the east side of Olivier between de Maisonneuve and Sherbrooke.

As well, toleration in the immediate area of the work – between Elm and Clarke and one block north of Sherbrooke – will be given for time limitations on parking. “We’ll still be cleaning the streets because

they need it,” said assistant director Greg McBain.

Notices to this effect were to be delivered at the end of last week.

Until then, parking and a lack of communication to residents had at least one resident of Rosemount upset, especially because she felt residents should have received notices in their mailboxes from the city providing them with alternate parking provisions and tolerations and a phone number of someone to contact.

“More information should be given to citizens,” said Michelle Daines of Rose-

mount Ave., who works on Wood – another congested area.

Because she served on Montreal city council from 1994 to 1998, she said, she had firsthand knowledge of how effective such a flyer can be, “to tell residents the city understands they will have problems and here’s a number to call.”

She said she saw only a notice on the apartment building’s door and elevators to the effect that the work would start in a week (June 18) and last for six.

It’s not the citizen’s job to go back and forth between Public Security and Public

Works to try to find out who’s doing what, she said. “My home is now Westmount. I love it. Who else but Public Security would call me on my cell in Florida to tell me my daughter had parked the car in a snow removal zone and should move it? But I know my way around the political arena when others may not.”

She said she finally reached city director general Duncan Campbell who answered her and helped her resolve her confusion as well as deal with parking tickets she had received that she felt she didn’t deserve.

Public works projects

continued from p. 1

dead end, Zalzal said.

The water main replacement on Sherbrooke got off to a soggy and somewhat quirky start after the valves were turned off to empty the main, she explained. But mysteriously, the water kept flowing June 20 and 21.

After trying to control the water by damming it up and diverting it into catch-basins, it was finally discovered that the valve turned off at Greene was not the one that controlled the Sherbrooke flow, Zalzal said. The correct valve, it seems, had been accidentally paved over by the contractor during the recent reconstruction of Greene Ave.

“No one could figure out why the water

continued to spew into the excavation and road,” she said. Fortunately, no damage was reported, she added, “only a lot of stress.”

Bottled water was distributed to many residents including those on Olivier, who had no water until the problem could be corrected and a separate valve installed there, one that is supposed to be an improvement over what had previously existed.

The rehabilitation of other water mains by insertion of a liner is expected to be finished by July 6 on Prospect, Metcalfe (south of St. Catherine) and Grosvenor (north of Sherbrooke).

The Grosvenor project has taken more work than the other locations because of

the number of service entries to homes that had to be connected as well as more open pit digging, she said.

More work on Prospect is slated for August to redo parts of the sidewalk and paving to improve walkability, Zalzal said.

Work to rehabilitate sewers will also be carried out at a number of locations throughout the city.

Meanwhile, work by Bell to relocate a

manhole on de Maisonneuve just east of Lansdowne that closed the bike path was expected to wind up last week. Bell will continue to work there to transfer fibre optic cable into its new housing, she said.

This is a big job, she explained, but is expected to be done underground, which should not negatively affect the bike path. Plans still have to be made for the parking of the Bell trucks.



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Historical society underscores Westmount's big-league hockey past

BY JOANNE PENHALE

Until a fire destroyed it in 1918, a hockey arena in Westmount was home to Stanley Cup-winning hockey teams and Westmount players inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Mike Deegan, director of Sports, Recreation and Community Events, discussed the city's hockey history at the Westmount Historical Association's last public event of the season at the Westmount Public library on June 21.

"I welcome you to hockey night in Westmount," said association president, Doreen Lindsay before introducing Deegan to the audience of 12.

In 1898, a privately-built arena, called the Montreal Arena, was opened at the corner of Wood Ave. and St. Catherine St. It was used by the Montreal Canadiens, the Montreal Wanderers, the Montreal Victorias and the Montreal Shamrocks, Deegan said, and those teams won eight Stanley Cups between them at the arena.

In 1916, the Canadiens won their first Stanley Cup there. Their league was the National Hockey Association, made up of four or five teams from Quebec and Ontario, Deegan said. The following year, the National Hockey League (NHL) was created.

Westmount player Art Ross figured prominently in Deegan's talk.

"He's one of the original twelve inductees into the Hall of Fame, which originated in 1945," Deegan said of Ross, a student at Westmount Academy. Ross played for the Stanley Cup-winning Montreal Wanderers, who disbanded when the Montreal Arena burnt down. He later coached the Boston Bruins.

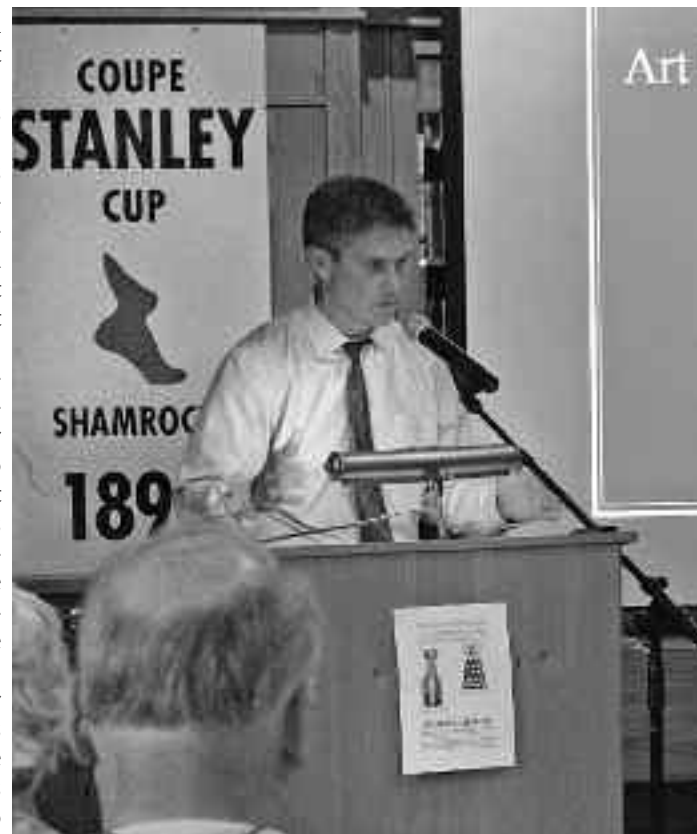
"He revolutionized the game in a lot of ways," Deegan said, including creating

bevelled edges on pucks to prevent bouncing.

"He initiated strikes against management," Deegan said of Ross's early advocacy for players. "For hockey players who could make a living out of hockey, it had a lot to do with Art Ross."

Deegan also discussed old-time hall-of-famers, brothers Lester and Frank Patrick, who attended Westmount Academy, as well as Westmount-born players Odie and Sprague Cleghorn. Sprague entered the Hall of Fame in 1958.

NHL awards bear the names of Art Ross and Lester Patrick. The Art Ross Trophy is awarded annually to the NHL player with the most points scored.



Sports & Rec. director Mike Deegan tells the audience about hockey legend Art Ross, who attended Westmount Academy.

Henrietta Antony building conditionally sold; sale to begin

The building that houses Henrietta Antony Inc. has been conditionally sold, the *Independent* learned last week. And with that the wheels are in motion for the closing of her antique business.

For the first time in 62 years, Antony is putting her wares on sale, she said when contacted by the *Independent*. Referring to the business as an "institution," Antony said they "[held] the bar high so Montreal would mean something in the antique market." Her store, along with Lapidarius located on Greene, used to be one of seven in the area, she recounted.

The building, with a Category 1 heritage rating is located at 4192 St. Catherine St. It is currently zoned "commercial," but a public consultation meeting was told March 28 that its rezoning could include a restaurant. See "Proposed resto rezoning a plus for Greene, city says," April 3, p. 3.

Volunteering in and around Westmount

Nova Montreal, a non-profit organization, which provides a variety of in-home nursing services, is looking for volunteer office assistants to help with general office tasks, according to the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal. Nova is located at 310 Victoria Ave. Contact Lauren Pace at 514.866.6801 or info@novamontreal.com.

Theft

continued from p. 5

available, caretakers were called to the home and, as far as they can tell, nothing was stolen.

While citing the importance of having several layers of security, Pimentel said that, whenever possible, it also important to keep climbable objects out of reach. Ladders should also be tucked away because thieves sometimes use them to break in to unlocked second-floor windows.



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ECS's Pang off to Marianopolis with full scholarship



Stephanie Pang, 17, a recent ECS grad, receives a a Director General's Merit Scholarship for entrance to Marianopolis College, June 15 at the ECS closing ceremony. Pang was one of 10 students from across the province to receive the full scholarship, which is given based on academic merit and letters of recommendation. She is enrolled in the arts and science program.

Photo courtesy of ECS

Street food the healthy way



Volunteers dig plants into a city planter on Sherbrooke and Prince Albert, June 14.

Photo courtesy of Marci Babineau

On June 14, volunteers were out planting edible plants into the three main planters on Prince Albert and Sherbrooke. They were Jean and David Levy, Judy Aitchison-Philpott (and her visitor from Australia), Jessey Bernstein, Ann Morrow, Sharon Brien and Marci Babineau, Westmounter and urban farming columnist for the *Independent*.

The rest of the 44 cement planters along Sherbrooke and Victoria were planted with edibles by the group usually contracted by Westmount to do its planting. The project was coordinated by Jayme Gerbrandt, city horticulture and arboriculture inspector of Public Works.

The planters contain basil, sage, tomatoes, variegated corn, chard and nasturtiums. Babineau explained that residents are invited to take small amounts of the plants to "engender a sense of local food in our community."

Strawberries were not be included in the planters this year.

The remaining edibles are harvested in late September, early October and distributed to the clients of the NDG Food Depot. A group in NDG is currently working on a proposal to begin growing food in that community's planters, according to Babineau.

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PSU gears up for vacation attention

Westmount's Public Security is gearing up for the peak season of its special passing attention (SPA) service, officials report. This program provides special verification of the exterior of homes while residents are away on vacation. Patrollers look for indications that residents might be away or signs of possible break-ins in order to alert persons left in charge or police. Further information can be obtained from Public Security at 514.989.5222.



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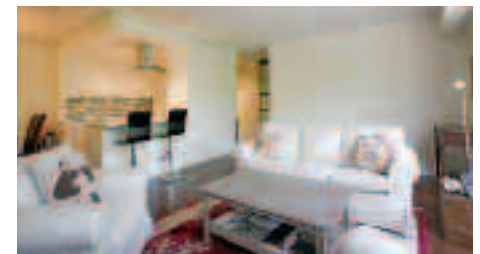
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‘Dreams do come true’ ball raises \$1M



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The ABC Ball for the Montreal Children’s Hospital (MCH) “Dreams Do Come True,” held on May 31 at Griffintown’s Arsenal, sold out weeks in advance. A smash success, it raised a record \$1,050,000. Tickets were \$500, with corporate tables going for \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Co-chairs were gorgeous gals **Kirsten Stern** (there with hubby **Derek**) and Westmounter **Karyn Lassner** (attending with her husband **Andrew**). The Lassner Family was a major sponsor. Patron of honour



Karyn Lassner and Kirsten Stern.

was **Tom Little**, president of Bell Business Markets, attending with **Ann Sutherland**.

Emcees were CTV’s **Catherine Sherriffs** and Westmount res **Mose Persico**, with TV personality **Chantal Lamarre**. Other media celebs noted in the crowd included **Tommy Schnurmacher** and **Aaron Rand** with **Valerie Wiseman**.

The Best Care for Children awards winners were doctors **Nicolas Steinmetz**, **Harley Eisman**, **Romain Mandel**, **Aurore Côté** and **Nada Jabado** along with healthcare professionals **Anne-Marie Hurteau**, **Andréane Pharand** and **Ann-Marie Suess**. Junior winner was **Dara Korne**, a teenage patient, who raised \$200,000 for the hospital. The awards were sponsored by **ALDO**, **Scotiabank**, **Bell**, **Jean Coutu**, **Pfizer**, **TD** and **Trans-Force**.

Noted in the black-tie crowd were MCH foundation’s board chair **Greg Rokos** with **Manon Sévigny**, and president **Marie-Josée Gariépy** with husband **Robert Davis**; MCH associate executive director **Dr. Harvey Guyda** with wife **Pat**; Best Care for Children capital campaign chair **Marc Courtois** with his wife **Alexandra**; and **John Rae**, chair of the MUHC Best Care for Life capital campaign.

Amidst the glamorati were Westmounters **Dominique Bertrand** and **Jacques Maurice**, and **Karen Beaulieu** and **Clarence Epstein**; as well as **Isabelle**



Nicolas Steinmetz, Marc Courtois, Harvey Guyda, Marie-Josée Gariépy, Greg Rokos and John Rae.

Hudon (president Sun Life Financial Quebec) and **Gilles Coulombe**, **Lise Lafontaine** and **Claude Perron** (VP/executive director, Shire Canada); **Opération Enfant Soleil**’s top brass **Michel Pausé** and **Frédérique Cardinal**; **Heather and Jonathan Amiel**, VP, **Maroline Distributing** and pres **Amiel Foundation**; **Carole Chapdelaine** (Scotiabank senior VP); **Diana and Tony Miceli**; **Eleanor and Raymond Massi**, **Nadia Saputo** and her daughter **Gabriella Musacchio**; **Nathalie Andrade**; and for-

mer Quebec premier **Pierre-Marc Johnson** and **Hélène de Kovachich**.



Isabelle Hudon, Gilles Coulombe, Dominique Bertrand and Jacques Maurice.



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Comin' Up

SATURDAY, JULY 7

The **Westmount Rugby Club** (Ravens) host its annual Family Day, featuring games and a BBQ in Westmount Park (off Melville.). 11:30 am: Old boys match; 12 pm: BBQ; 12:30 pm: juniors' activities; 1:30 pm: Division D men's match; 3 pm: Women's match; 4 pm: Division C men's match. Info: <http://westmountrugby.com>.

SUNDAY, JULY 8

• **Summer Concerts in the Park:** Sheila Smith Quartet, 2 to 4 pm at the Westmount Park lagoon. Bring a chair. Info: Community Events 514.989.5226.

MONDAY, JULY 9

Demo hearing re: **42 Belvedere Rd.**, 7 pm at city hall.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

Atwater Library's annual **lawn book sale** and barbecue, 10 am to 3 pm. Donations of books and DVDs in good condition accepted. Drop off donations at Tupper St. entrance.

THURSDAY, JULY 12

Group show at **The Gallery at Victoria Hall:** Vedanta Balbahadur, Anne Chisholm, Marina Etingin, Jennifer Goddard, Jane McKenzie, Ann Pearson, Joanne Wallace and Nancy Wyndowe-Hyde. Until Saturday, August 11. 4626 Sherbrooke St. Info: 514.989.5521.

FRIDAY, JULY 13

Free workshops for seniors on **online government services**, 1 to 3 pm at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre. Register: Eric Craven at 514.935.7344, ext. 207 or dlp@atwaterlibrary.ca.

SUNDAY, JULY 15

Summer Concerts in the Park: L'ensemble du Carré Saint-Louis, 2 to 4 pm at the Westmount Park lagoon. Bring a chair. Info: Community Events 514.989.5226.

SUNDAY, JULY 22

Joe Schwarcz on "Chemical Confusion," 12 noon at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, 425 Metcalf Ave. Cost: \$5. Includes lunch and lecture. Reserve: 514.937.9471, ext.139.

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9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Well, Chat-Minou is a big-boned cat. A white domestic shorthair with tortoiseshell markings on her head, back, tail and just one brush stroke of rust and black on one back paw. Quite the distinct pattern!

Though she lacked affection in her previous life, Chat-Minou has love to give and is playful. She would be so happy to join a family where she would be cuddled and appreciated.

Chat-Minou is three years old, very healthy, has had all her shots and is



Chat-Minou

spayed. She was declawed on all four paws, which makes her an indoor-only cat.

For more information, please contact Louise at her cat-boarding facility at 450.438.5717 or info@lachatouille.ca.

Your neighbour, Lysanne

Gerdy's Rescue cashes in during street festival

Some \$26,000 was raised for Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions during the recent Westmount Street Festival, according to John Benoit, owner of Ben & Tournesol.

Suppliers of Ben & Tournesol and neighbouring shop Wilfrid & Adrienne donated merchandise, along with clients and friends. There was also a table of baked goods for sale. Over 12 volunteers were on hand, according to Benoit, as well as Gerdy Gouron, founder and head of the dog and cat rescue and adoption organization.

LMNOP moves back

Children's clothing store LMNOP has moved back to 4919 Sherbrooke after a brief hiatus across the street. They had relocated temporarily while a French drain was being installed.

White poodle taken to SPCA

A small white poodle wearing a blue harness was brought in to Public Security June 13 by someone who found it running around loose at Melbourne and Melville shortly before 10:30 am. When no one called to claim it, the dog was taken to the SPCA. It wore no identification tags.

'Polly' found near lookout

A green parrot was found near 30 Summit Circle June 24 by a woman who called Public Security at 5:47 pm to report her find. When officers arrived, the parrot's owner, who had been out looking for it, was on the scene. The parrot was reported to be 13 years old with clipped wings. It was not known how it came to be on the loose.

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Health

Time to get away

By KATHERINE O'NEIL

How many people do you know who take great pride in saying something like “I haven’t taken a vacation in years.”

Whether it’s because they are too busy or simply because they feel they don’t need a vacation, both answers are wrong. I am not suggesting that tax accountants take the month of April off, but everyone should realize the importance of getting away from it all.

PTSD stands for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, but it can also stand for Potholes, Traffic and Student Demonstrations. So many things that we do not control can affect us in a negative way. When added to everyday stress caused by work or personal issues, we can become a whistling teakettle ready to boil over.

There are symptoms and consequences to fatigue and chronic stress. You are more likely to become ill as your body and mind are over-taxed. Your digestive system can be greatly affected. Your quality of sleep and ability to get some much needed rest can suffer immensely.

Some people may say that being away from their business, family or pets, for any amount of time, is much more stressful than going on a vacation. If this is the case, then perhaps start with baby steps.

If you can identify your triggers of stress and anxiety, you can then be proactive in reducing if not eliminating them.

You may be overworked, going through tough financial times or just plain tired.

Your body and mind need to have their batteries recharged more than your cell phone does. Speaking of cell phones, try to put them away when you’re on a vacation. If one of your anxieties of taking a trip is the exorbitant amount of emails that will be waiting for you upon your return, then plan to check in once in a while. If you must, set aside a predetermined amount of time to “work.”

So far I have only addressed the need to relieve the stress from your daily routine. Perhaps more important is the need to spend some quality time with family and loved ones. Romance, adventure, and fun seem to take a back seat to the daily routines we seem to fall into.

So many cherished moments in one’s life occur on trips. I will always remember my parents driving our family down to Florida when I was in grade 1. I remember watching Johnny Carson and laughing with my father in our small hotel room. To this very day, just the thought of it makes me smile.

Earl Wilson was a columnist with the *New York Post* for over 40 years, and he once wrote: “A vacation is what you take when you can no longer take what you’ve been taking.”

Do yourself and the people around you a favour – go away. Happy trails!

Katherine O’Neil is a registered nurse.

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Selwyn old boys members battle it out at annual tennis tourney



Twelve members of the Selwyn House Old Boys' Association, former staff and board members took part in the association's annual tennis tournament held at Hillside Tennis Club on June 14. From left: winner Andy Lumsden, retired math teacher; winner Charles Porteous, Westmounter, member of the school's board of directors and from the class of '84; runner-up competitor Bart Sambrook, Westmounter, member of the Old Boys' Association board of directors and from the class of '79; and runner-up player Colin Ross, class of '51.

Photo courtesy of Selwyn House

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Westmount school heads on the move



Chantal Martin



Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette



Following the departure of Tim Peters from St. George's elementary school to The Priory as head of school (see story June 5, p. 9) comes Chantal Martin, who takes over the position of assistant head in July.

The former principal of the English Montreal School Board's Royal Vale, Martin will be replaced by Nathalie Lacroix-Maillette, who leaves her post as principal of Westmount Park School, as announced June 20.

Replacing Lacroix-Maillette at Westmount Park is Daniella Lattanzio,

Daniella Lattanzio

who is currently the acting principal at St. Dorothy elementary school in St. Michel.

Principal James McMorran is retiring from Roslyn. he is being replaced by Tina Spiridiglozzi, who has been vice principal there for some six years. Her position will be assumed by Rosanne Goodman, who comes from the private sector.

Independent Jewish elementary school The Akiva School will have a new head of school starting August 1. Mia Severin replaces Cooki Levy, who is retiring after 23 years as head of the school.



Tina Spiridiglozzi



Mia Severin

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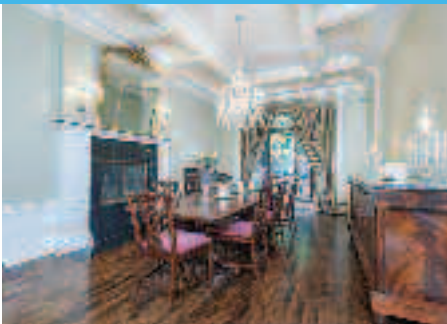
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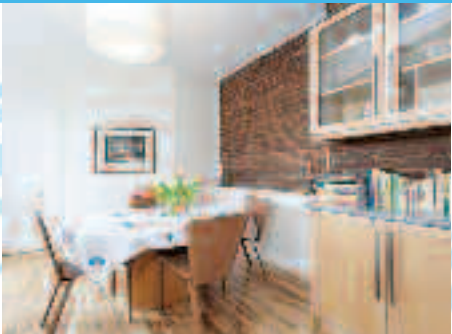
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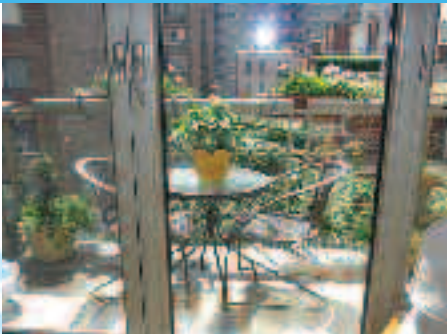
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Bought & Sold – real estate transfers in May 2012

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continued on p. 18



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May transfers suggest condo mania



Real estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in May 2012 provided by city officials. A list of sales can be found on p. 17.)

It is beginning to look like Westmount is preparing for a repeat of the condo mania that described the real estate market here in 1989, though in fact it is not quite as strong as it was then.

At that time, new condominium buildings were popping up in Westmount with abandon, including 1 Wood, 200 Lansdowne, 4700 St. Catherine, 4175 St. Catherine, 285 Clarke, 295 Victoria and conversions of buildings such as those on both sides of de Maisonneuve Blvd. between Greene and Olivier avenues.

In May this year, we saw more sales in the new condo building at 11 Hillside and the start of the sell-off at 4500 Côte des Neiges, the former Texaco gas station, which includes a toehold in Westmount.

Later this year, we can expect to see sales at the converted Readers’ Digest headquarters at 215 Redfern and the new building at 1250 Greene, not to mention

the former Dawson College building at 350 Selby.

The six condominiums at 4500 Côte des Neiges sold in May ranged in price from \$200,000 to \$300,000, while four sales at 11 Hillside basically spanned the gap from \$300,000 to \$400,000 and even slightly above that.

Beyond those, eight other condominium sales took place in May with prices ranging from \$305,000 to \$1,120,000. The only sale over \$1 million involved an elaborate upper-floor condo in the former Royal Canadian Air Force Association building at the corner of Sherbrooke and Metcalfe.

The lowest price (besides the 4500 Côte des Neiges condos) was a second-floor walkup at 4823 St. Catherine.

And if the 18 condominium sales were not enough, there were that many single-family sales including 205 Edgehill, which brought \$6,410,000, the third-highest price ever paid for a residence in Westmount but less than the \$7 million paid for 3617 The Boulevard in March this year. The Edgehill sale was one of three over \$2 million; three other houses sold for less than \$1 million, the lowest price at \$770,000, for 1118 Greene. Only two of the sales went for less than municipal tax value, the biggest markdown at 4361 Montrose, while 205 Edgehill represented the highest mark-up of the month, at 70 per-

cent over the valuation.

The elegant stonefront three-storey duplex at 4132 Dorchester sold for \$825,000, while two nearby triplexes changed hands: 1100-02 Greene near Stayner for the same \$825,000, and 4274-78 de Maisonneuve between Olivier and Clarke, for a healthy \$1,300,000, the highest price ever paid for a full triplex in Westmount and only the fifth to clear \$1 million.

On the other hand, a 57.3-percent share of a triplex at 470-72 Argyle sold for \$800,000 in May; the other 42.7 percent sold last September for \$725,000, bringing the total to \$1,525,000.

The only commercial property to change hands in May was a building at 4255-57 St. Catherine on the north side of the street just west of Olivier. The Christian Literature Crusade, which has owned the building since 1989, sold the building to a numbered company but is leasing it back for \$8,000 per month.

The 18 one- and two-family dwellings sold in May brings to 62 the number registered so far in 2012, up from 57 in the first five months last year and only one less than the average for the past dozen years, despite the high prices.

Andy Dodge is a residential real estate appraiser. His email address is andy@andydodgeassociates.com.

Take that!



While visiting the Westmount High’s “Family Fun Day” on June 9, Loic Minty from Arundel indulged in one of the many games going on, including tossing a water-soaked sponge at Westmount High prefect Ben Azoulay. The event, which also included a car wash, BBQ and other activities, was held to raise money for additional supplies and equipment for the school’s science department. Some \$350 was raised, according to Eileen Paraskevopoulos, chair of the school’s parents’ committee.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Bought & Sold

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continued from p. 17

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WESTMOUNT 4549 Sherbrooke W. \$1,275,000
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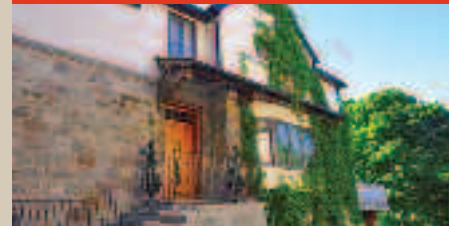
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Westmount, 745 Upper Roslyn
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SOLD!

Westmount, 2 Grenville Ave.
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