

# WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 7 No. 12b

We are Westmount

December 10, 2013

Public Works, Security, police combine to nab suspect

## Attempt to steal loader from city yards caught on cameras

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Surveillance cameras caught a suspect in action as he tried to steal a front-end loader from the Public Works yard December 1, Public Security officials said. As employees confronted the would-be thief, he made good his escape pursued by the service men and later joined by public safety officers and police until apprehended on Vendôme.

He was reported to be charged with attempted theft in connection with the incident. A pick-up truck reported stolen in Longueuil was also recovered.

"He drove right by the watchman," said

assistant Public Security director Greg McBain in relating how the incident unfolded quickly around 8 am as a white pick-up truck entered the Public Works yard on Bethune. The truck was described as having a large signalling arrow on the back of the type used in road construction.

"It all happened in a very few minutes with the watchman calling in details through our dispatcher to 911," McBain explained.

When the watchman spotted it and cameras picked up an attempt to start the loader, employees tried to stop the suspect while the information was being relayed to Public Se- *continued on p. 2*

City: Welcome to Westmount, thanks to volunteers



Newcomers and volunteers were recognized December 4 at a reception in Victoria Hall to open the city's holiday flower show. Among the many attending: Sandrine de Montplaisir, left, who moved to Sydenham Ave. from Paris three months ago; and Claudia and Antonio D'Amico of Upper Lansdowne Ave. who moved into Westmount six months ago from the Bois de Saraguay district of Ahuntsic-Cartierville.

Letters, p. 6      9 Lives, p. 26  
Social Notes, p. 16

City to provide outdoor rinks at 6 parks

## No plans to re-install artificial rink as sole sale bid rejected

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council December 2 rejected a single bid for the purchase of the artificial ice rink purchased for last winter to provide skaters and hockey players with a more dependable ice surface while the new indoor rinks were being built.

The lone bid for the "portable refrigerated outdoor rink" came from Boucherville at \$28,000 after the city had expected to receive some \$70,000. The rink was purchased for \$100,000 in July 2012.

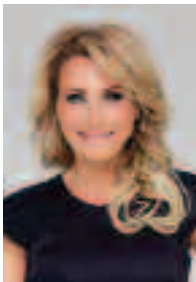
There are no plans to re-install it this winter, Mayor Peter Trent told Maureen Kiely of The Boulevard during question period. It had been a temporary solution for last winter, he said.

The rink had been installed with difficulty at the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG), requiring many truckloads of sand to level it sufficiently. As well, the generators had been too noisy for the area, explained Councillor Theodora Samiotis. The newly refurbished field has since been outfit- *continued on p. 4*

Rec centre agora named for  
Timon Deichmann, see p. 7

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**Loader, cont'd. from p. 1**  
curity and 911.

**Suspect flees**

Once the suspect realized he had been

**More info**

According to police, the suspect is a 24-year-old from Asbestos.

"Time is of the essence and that's why he was caught," explained Constable Adelbert Pimentel. "There are always officers on patrol, so a description of the vehicle and the license plate makes it easier to catch [suspects] in the act."

By approaching the suspect three-to-one, the Public Works employees limited their own personal risk, but citizens should err on the side of caution before approaching an unknown suspect, said Pimentel.

"It's a call that you have to make when you're there," he said. "When you approach a suspect you don't know his mental condition or if he's intoxicated. There are a lot of variables."

"The number one thing is to not put yourself at risk." — MM

detected, he abandoned the attempt, driving in the pick-up back out of the yards past the camera, which was reported to have recorded clear images of the licence plate and a company name on the truck.

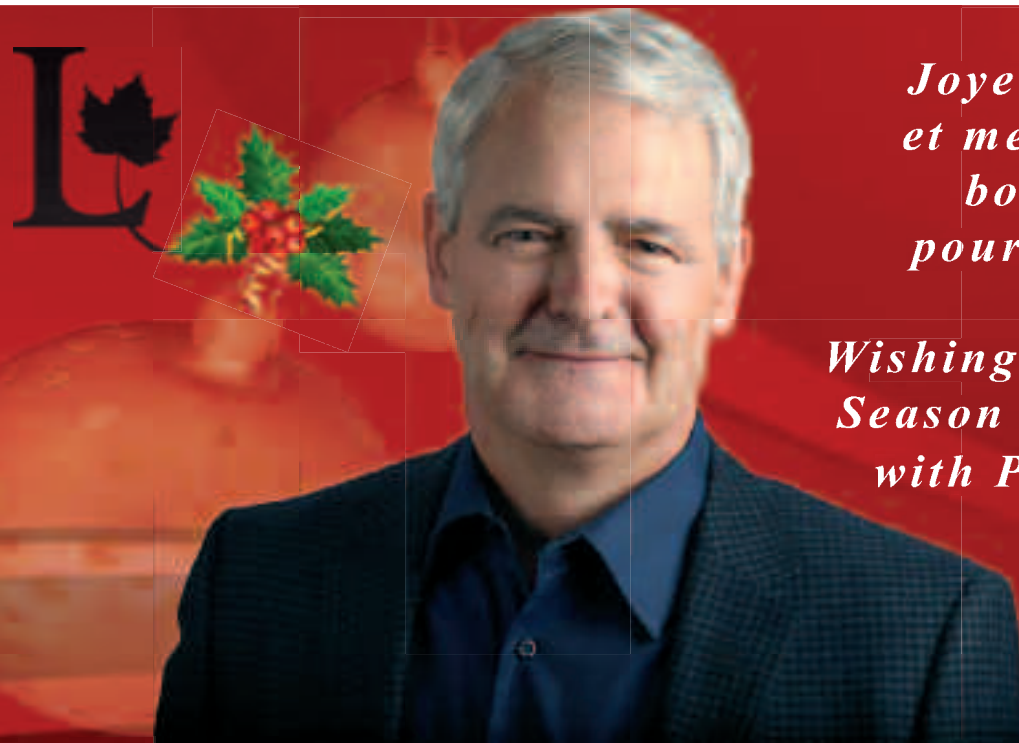
Meanwhile, as Public Security and police converged on the yards, Public Works personnel were following the pick-up to de Maisonneuve and Claremont relaying the information as its entered NDG.

Guided by the directions, Public Security and police from stations in Westmount and NDG searched the area until police located the truck outside 4120 Vendôme, arresting and charging a suspect.

**Jeans Day to benefit food drive**

If Westmounters come across city employees wearing jeans on Friday, December 13, it's not because of labour unrest or a new free-dress code but because they're donating to the holiday food drive, according to assistant Public Security director Greg McBain.

The idea for the Jeans Day came from Jillian Barnes, administrative secretary of Community Events, as a way to highlight the food collection, he said. Public safety officers on the road will be uniformed as usual, however.



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# Harvey wins inaugural Hornstein surgery award

Westmounter Dr. Edward Harvey has been awarded the first Michal & Renata Hornstein Career Award for Surgical Excellence.

Harvey is an orthopedic surgeon and member of the Level I trauma care team at the Montreal General Hospital. The five-year award is designed to help a surgeon-scientist make a significant contribution by undertaking initiatives in research, education or clinical care.

"This new and innovative award is for a surgeon who has demonstrated academic excellence and who has a proven track record," said Dr. Mostafa Elhilali, the Stephen Jarislowsky chair of urology at the MUHC and co-creator of the award along with Dr. Gerald Fried, chair of the department of surgery. "Essentially it is taking a rising star and turning him or her into a superstar."

Injuries from trauma cost Canadians over \$20 billion per year – more than cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, according to the MUHC's press release.

"Trauma is a silent epidemic," Harvey told the *Independent*, "but it is funded as a



Photo: Independent.

minor disease."

What is trauma? Everything from newborns fracturing bones in birth, to car accidents, to hip breaks among seniors, explained Harvey. "It costs so much money because many victims are young. It is the #1 cause of death for those under 50."

What is his hope for the award? "Right now, trauma has no advocate, no voice, because it happens to everyone. The idea is for me to help with that in some way... I'm lucky to be the person."

The award is made possible by a \$3-million endowment fund created by Michal and Renata Hornstein. The fund is also supported by the Montreal General Hospital Foundation.

## Pipe burst, time to turn off water to outside taps

A burst water pipe at the rear of a house on Arlington November 26 serves as a reminder to all residents to turn off the water from the inside that leads to outdoor taps to prevent freezing, Public Security officials said last week. The broken pipe was discovered by a resident of Lansdowne at 7:56 am who spotted water spraying against a basement window. When public safety officers found no one at home, they called Public Works to shut off water to the house to prevent interior flooding.

# Collision sends 2 to hospital at Sydenham and The Blvd.

A collision between two cars November 29 at Sydenham and The Boulevard deployed the airbags and sent two people to hospital, Public Security officials said. A patroller came across the accident at 12:19 am and called for Urgences Santé, police and firefighters.

The impact was reported to have occurred when a black Audi containing a man and a woman in their early 20s was heading north on Sydenham through the

intersection. The other car, a grey Hyundai Accent travelling west, was trying to turn left off The Boulevard. Two of its occupants were taken to hospital and all were described as "in shock."

Both cars had to be towed.

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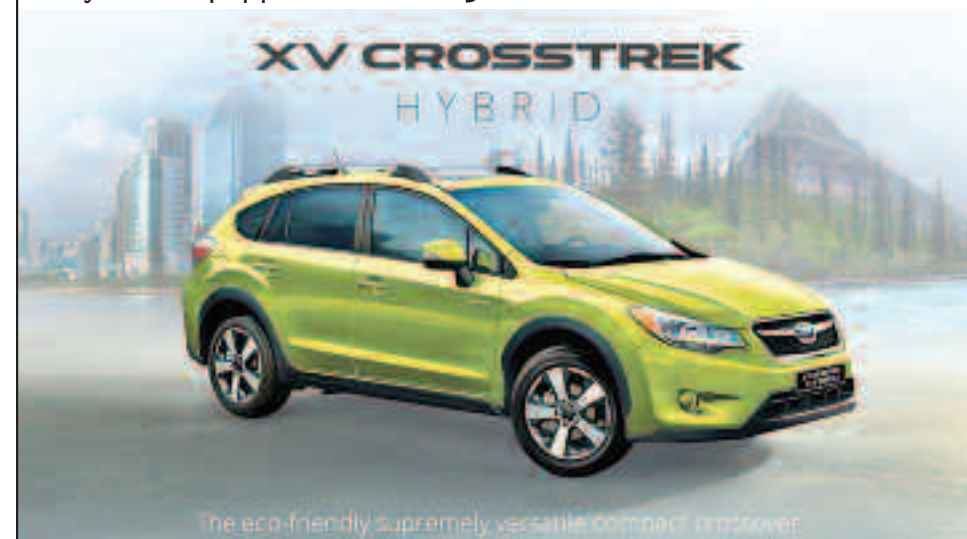
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## Woman ‘unaware’ of red lights

A patroller on The Boulevard December 1 spotted a car going through two red lights at 2:26 pm and began following the driver, described as an elderly woman, Public Security officials said. Eventually pulling up alongside her, the officer reported she seemed unaware of what was happening.

Deciding she constituted a danger, the officer was finally able to block her way at Argyle. Police were called and the woman was to undergo physical testing. A number of impact marks were found on her Toyota Camry.

## Lift left on Anwoth brings \$1,250

A contractor who had parked a lift on Anwoth Rd. for three days was issued a ticket November 26 for \$1,250 after failing to obtain a permit to use the public domain, Public Security officials said. After a resident’s complaint, he was warned to obtain one but had been denied it on grounds he did not meet the requirements.

*Rinks, cont’d. from p. 1*

ted with an irrigation system and is no longer considered suitable.

Had the refrigerated rink proved successful, it was suggested it might become a prototype for others in the future in order to provide a longer outdoor skating season (see July 10, 2012, p. 1). In fact, by this time last year, it had already been open for skating for more than a month.

The artificial rink is best installed permanently at a level location, city director general Duncan Campbell later told the *Independent*. The plan is to put it up for sale again in the spring.

Patricia Dumais asked if the usual outdoor rink would be made in Stayner Park again. She noticed the boards had not

## Man found under pick-up in bus zone

A public safety officer spotted a man lying beneath a pick-up truck in the bus zone at the northeast corner of Sherbrooke and Claremont November 26 at 5:32 pm. Public Security officials said he was trying to repair damage from an accident that had just occurred.

The patroller positioned the vehicle to protect him from oncoming traffic. When he was unable to fix the problem, a tow truck was called to remove the pick-up.

## Dog walker finds exposed lamp wires

The owner of a dog called Public Security December 2 at 8:27 pm to report exposed wires at the base of a lamp post on Sunnyside, Public Security officials said. He stated they may have given his dog a slight shock.

An officer checking it out spotted a blue spark when he touched the open cover and reported it to Hydro Westmount. He then marked the spot with an orange cone and danger tape until it could be examined further.

gone up yet. Sports and Recreation commissioner Rosalind Davis said the boards had not yet been installed in Prince Albert Park either.

Davis also announced that with the end of the hockey and skating programs for this session, the new arena would be open December 23 for more general skating over the holiday season. Schedules would be posted on the city website.

She later found out that all boards were expected to be up for the outdoor rinks by the end of last week, though the rinks won’t be flooded until weather permits. These are to be located at King George (Murray), Devon, Stayner, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Albert parks. A second small rink will be created at Prince Albert and a pond rink at Westmount Park.



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## Christmas tree lighting at city hall, December 2

Photos: Ralph Thompson.



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# Traffic, traffic, traffic



This November 29 view looking east along Sherbrooke St. from just west of Claremont, shows a river of westbound traffic that at one point extending from Clarke Ave. to the Decarie expressway. The traffic nightmare was due to extensive roadwork on Northcliffe Ave. in NDG, which was further complicated by work being done around the super-hospital. One veteran Westmount parking inspector commented that it was, “the worst traffic jam I have ever seen in Westmount.”

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

## WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

*We are Westmount.*

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill (on maternity leave)

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

### LETTERS & COMMENTS:

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

PRINTED BY:  
Hebdo Litho (St. Leonard)

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY:

Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., 310 Victoria Ave., #105, Westmount, QC H3Z 2M9  
Fax: 514.935.9241

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# Westmount recreation



Karen and Tim Anderson receive a plaque and flowers for “the biggest family volunteer commitment,” said Mayor Peter Trent. Tim was the co-chair of the special gifts committee and Karen was honoured for her continuous dedication, including a leadership role in the campaign kick-off cocktail, co-organizing the street hockey tournament and putting together the realtor sponsorship. Photo: Ralph Thompson.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POPPIES GONE FROM BELGIUM, TOO

If you take the tour of the World War I battlefields from Bruges, you soon discover that there are no poppies to be seen: evidently poppies no longer grow in Flanders’ fields. The tour guide reminds you that the poppy is a weed and its disappearance is a result of the Belgian ministry of Agriculture’s successful attempts to be rid of all non-cultivated growths.

However, one wonders if they ever expected that this policy would stretch as far away as Westmount (see Ingrid Kovitch-Dannenbaum’s column “Where have all the poppies gone?” November 26, p. 23).

HAROLD ENTWISTLE, ST. CATHERINE ST.

### REMEMBERING THE STRAP

I observe that the Westmount Park School is celebrating its 100th anniversary and believe it was in 1939 while I was in 8th grade at that school that I had the dubious distinction of receiving the strap in front of the whole class, “three of the best

on the flat each hand and always below the wrist,” expertly administered by my Latin teacher, Mr. Parker Waring. To this day, I do not know what I had done to so irritate him, particularly since I was awarded the Latin prize at year end.

The strap was a heavy leather belt about 14 inches long by 1½ inches wide stored like a bookmark between the middle pages of the “strap book,” a very large heavy volume for recording the strappings.

The strapping ceremony was an object lesson to the whole class which required that the “strappee” obtain the book and strap from the principal’s office, deliver them to the “strapper” in front of the class and return both items to the principal’s office after the punishment had been administered and recorded in the book by the “strapper.”

If the strap and its book still exist somewhere in archives, they might be interesting items for inclusion in any exhibit being assembled to mark the 100th year anniversary of the school.

JOHN D. DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.



# centre donors honoured – December 6



The donor wall being unveiled by, from left, city councillors Philip Cutler and Victor Drury, Mayor Peter Trent, and councillors Patrick Martin and Theodora Samiotis. In total, \$6,174,911 was raised – and donors can still give, the city's fundraising consultant, Camilla Leigh, told the Independent.

Photos: Ralph Thompson.



From left, Anthony Zitzmann, John Kalaydjian and Mary Gallery with her children Natasha and Nicholas stand beside a plaque commemorating Gallery's husband, Timon Deichmann, who died October 13, 2010. Gallery's parents, former mayor Brian and Nancy, also attended the event. The goal of the campaign to commemorate Deichmann was originally \$25,000, which would have funded a locker room. The fund quickly exceeded \$100,000 and was redirected to support the agora.

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*It takes a choir*

# Voice coach unites students and Place Kensington seniors

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Ian Lebofsky is a firm believer in the saying, sometimes associated with Hillary Rodham Clinton, “It takes a village to raise a child.”

“That’s kind of what we’re doing here,” says Lebofsky, a colourful Groucho Marx type who spouts one-liners. He leads the senior citizens at Place Kensington who are members of the Interlink Choir in rehearsals every Thursday morning.



Ian Lebofsky leads half of the Interlink Choir – senior citizens at Place Kensington – in a rehearsal on November 28.

“Native people refer to older people as elders,” adds Lebofsky. “Why? Because they’ve been there and done that and so they have some wisdom to impart to those who are younger.

“That’s also what we’re doing here – to take people who’ve done all kinds of things during their lives and give them a chance to come in contact with someone they can impart some of that wisdom to.”

### Wide experience

Lebofsky’s been a familiar fixture on the Montreal music scene for decades – first as a commercial jingle singer, then as a back-up vocalist for Québécois stars like Ginette Reno.

In more recent years, he’s worked as a vocal technique instructor.

The Place Kensington seniors are just one half of the Interlink Choir, which is also made up of students from Westmount Park School. The Contactivity Centre also contributes.

Lebofsky rehearses the students and seniors separately for most of the year, then brings them together for a rehearsal two or three months before a concert held annually at the school in May.

A central part of the process involves “pen pal” letters that the seniors and the school children exchange throughout the year. The idea behind this, according to Lebofsky, is for them to get to know each without any preconceptions.

### Ahead of its time

Lebofsky started leading the Interlink Choir in Montreal nearly 20 years ago. The concept (which originated in Toronto and continues to this day with Interlink Choirs in different parts of Canada) was way ahead of its time, since inter-generationality wasn’t talked about much back then.

“Right now there are more youths,” says Contactivity Centre director Mary Stark, noting that the choir needs senior citizens. “You don’t need to be musical. You don’t have to read music and your voice doesn’t have to be in its prime.

“And Ian really keeps things going – he’s very high energy – a laugh a minute,” she continues. “Everyone feels at ease with him. And the repertoire he chooses always manages to link the generations, because he chooses music from different decades.”

To join the Interlink Choir, call the Contactivity Centre at 514.932.3433.

# People’s Gospel Choir Concert

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## State-of-union address includes council pay

# 5% tax hikes foreseen as max for average owner

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

While the exact increase in next year's tax rate remains unknown, it appears likely to be a maximum of 5 percent for Westmount homeowners, according to limits announced in the annual state-of-the-union address by Mayor Peter Trent at city council December 2.

This is based on tax increases for local services limited by the outgoing council at inflation (2 percent) plus 1 percent, excluding capital works, he said. These account for roughly half the overall expenses.

With an expected 2-percent tax hike predicted for the remaining island-wide services, the general tax increase overall could reach up to 5 percent when the surtax for the Westmount recreation centre is factored in. This has been announced at 2 percent.

While this scenario was not included in the state-of-the-union address, Trent later agreed it reflected what appeared to be a likely outcome.

### Pension challenge

Limiting tax increases at the local level "is a challenge considering the current impact of the actuarial deficit in our employee pension fund," he reported at the meeting. This deficit is some \$25 million.

Other highlights from the address included the amount of the city's outstanding debt, excluding the WRC, of \$34.2 million for the end of this year. "You'll recall it was \$39 million when we left Montreal," Trent said. This was with the demerger eight years ago.

The WRC debt issued this year amounted to \$22 million, he explained. Of this total, \$10 million will be covered by the Quebec portion of the \$20-million infrastructure grant, which will be received over the next 10 years.

As required by law, Trent also reported on the remuneration and expenses paid during the year to members of city council by the city as well as any mandatory or

"supra-municipal" body.

### City council remuneration

Trent, as mayor, received \$43,934 as basic salary plus \$15,662 as a tax-free expense allowance. From the agglomeration council, he also received \$10,772 as well as another \$535 per attendance allowance for meetings of its Finance and Administration committee of which he was vice-chair up to a maximum of \$10,772. He was also paid \$10,000 by the Montreal Metropolitan Community.

Westmount's eight councillors received \$14,645 from the city for remuneration as well as \$7,322.50 as a tax-free expense allowance.

In addition, Councillor Patrick Martin received a stipend from the agglomeration council as vice chair of its Contracts Review committee of \$535 per attendance (up to a maximum of \$10,772) plus \$269.50 per presence as an expense allowance (up to a maximum of \$5,386).

This agglomeration expense allowance for a vice chair was not available to Trent or other mayors, for example, if they had already reached the maximum allowed.



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## MORE CITY COUNCIL NEWS – DECEMBER 2

### Sound barrier's 50-50 shared cost unknown

# City receives Transport ministry contract for feasibility study

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city has received a draft contract from the Quebec ministry of Transport to proceed on a feasibility study into a sound barrier, Councillor Theodora Samiotis announced December 2 at the city council meeting.

The contract comes in reply to the council's agreement August 5 to share the cost of the study 50-50 with the ministry,

though neither the time frame nor the exact amount was known.

"The delays are just endless," stated Prospect resident Frank Candido noting there had already been a previous city-funded feasibility plan. He pressed council for a budget and timelines. An estimate of \$40,000 was budgeted in the 2013 capital works budget, but an amount would have to be re-budgetted for next year.

"I know it's been a long process," said

Samiotis, who represents his district. The results of the government feasibility study would probably be known in the coming spring, city director general Duncan Campbell said.

While plans seemed to be moving, it was ever so slowly, Candido said. "There's always something. Every excuse under the sun."

The city's plan to build a berm on the tight space between Prospect and the railway suffered a setback after



Frank Candido.

CP in February had refused to grant permission to the city to use some of the railway land, Samiotis explained (see June 18, p. 22).

Once the Turcot plans had been finalized involving lowering the Ville Marie Expressway west of Hallowell, the council decided to move ahead on the provincial government's terms by agreeing to its 50-50 terms of funding the study.

The city had been holding out for total government funding.

### 'Damned if we do, damned if we don't': Trent City opposes Charter

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

On the same night, December 2, that a protest against the Charter of Quebec Values took place outside Côte St. Luc city hall, Westmount's city council voted unanimously to be part of a brief opposing it from the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM).

All 15 demerged suburbs in the ASM had united to publicly oppose the proposed charter September 12. Two have since withdrawn from the brief following the municipal elections, said Mayor Peter Trent who heads the ASM. These are St. Anne de Bellevue and Montreal East.

"As a municipality, we think that to tell our employees what they can or can't wear is unconscionable and unacceptable," he explained.

The provincial government formally tabled the charter as Bill 60 November 12, banning the wearing of various elements of religious insignia and headgear by workers in government or para-government settings such as hospitals and schools.

There was no guarantee the ASM brief would be heard at government hearings December 20, Trent said, but the association would take steps to publicize it in any event.

In a resolution adopted by the council, it was agreed the brief would focus on 10 guidelines. These would be factual so as not to further inflame deep divisiveness already created throughout the province.

He described the charter as "very wily strategy" on the government's part, "because the more we object, the more the (Parti Québécois) likes it."

On the other hand, he contended, to not oppose it would provide consent. "We're damned if we do and damned if we don't."

The ASM initially opposed the charter on grounds it denies the multicultural reality of Montreal, leading to division and exclusion.

The ASM also charges that it contravenes both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms (see September 17, p. 11).

### What happened to September poll, new run?

# Dog items on hold, waiting for start-up of owners' group

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It didn't take long for the new city council to "go to the dogs." At its second full meeting December 2, the council was asked about a dog run for the southwest sector and what had happened to a survey on dogs promised for September.

"What we said was we would wait till the Westmount Dog Owners' Association (WDOA) was in full swing," Mayor Peter Trent said, referring to the resurrection of the defunct group. "As far as I know, there's no evidence of that happening."

Replying to a question on a dog run to replace the closed one at Lansdowne and St. Catherine by Georges Hébert of Lansdowne, he said the city's plan was to work through an organization.

"Whatever happened to the survey?" asked Denis Biro of Burton. "There's no point having a poll without the WDOA," Trent replied.

The start-up of the WDOA has indeed progressed more slowly than expected, organizer Paula Engels of Victoria Ave. told



Georges Hébert.

the *Independent* the next day. But, she said, it was news to her that the city was waiting for this before proceeding with its own survey or a new dog run.

The dog run at Lansdowne and St. Catherine was closed in May to provide additional space for the new pool area and a safer venue for the dogs. A new location in Westmount Park had been proposed but put on hold following opposition from some park users as well as a task force report on dogs from the Westmount Municipal Association.

At the July 2 meeting of council, it was announced by Councillor Cynthia Lul-

ham that the city would hire an outside firm to survey residents on dog issues with input from the WDOA (see July 9, p. 4). The decision to defer the survey until September was also reported to be better timed after the summer vacation period.

Lulham, who retains the dog "portfolio" in her new commissionership of Sustainability and Parks, was absent from the recent council meeting.

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# ‘Tales of Frewyn’ author Franklin visits Babar

By Martin C. Barry

Westmount author Michelle Franklin, who created the six-volume Tales from Frewyn series, signed autographs and met fans of her science-fiction and fantasy writing at the Babar en Ville children’s book store on Greene Ave. on Nov. 30.

Franklin launched Tales from Frewyn a decade or so ago. Written in a fragmentary form consisting of short stories and small novels, the series unfolds in a fantasy world featuring two continents and a cast of assorted characters.

“I’ve always been writing, or at least since I was 14 years old,” she told the *Independent*. “I’ve always been interested in alternate history and fantasy. When I was in high school I used to write books and just continued from there.”

An admirer of all things Welsh and Irish, Franklin incorporated that love into her writing. In the Tales from Frewyn series, which offer alternate histories of Wales and Ireland, she speculates on what might have been had Christianity never arrived in Ireland and society there was still pagan and Celtic.

Franklin counts T. H. White, author of the Arthurian fantasy novel *The Once and Future King*, as one of her main influences. She prefers classic fantasy literature to the more contemporary variety.

Although her books are recommended



Michelle Franklin is seen with two of her books and a cigar-box lute that figures prominently in one of her narratives.

for those 14 years of age and older, she writes “for everybody,” she added.

The Tales from Frewyn volumes one and two as well as other works by Michelle Franklin are available at Babar en Ville, 1235A Greene Ave.

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## Westmount's Dickens connection



From left, Westmounters Amelia Haskell, Jean-Francois Buffoni and Richard McConomy contemplate the grave of Scrooge on December 4 while rehearsing for their production of A Christmas Carol. The fundraising performances of the play benefit Geordie Productions and include a silent auction. They take place at the D. B. Clarke Theatre downtown December 12, 13 and 14.

Photo courtesy of Dean Patrick Fleming/Geordie.

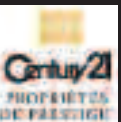
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# Grande maison chamber music



*Social Notes*  
*from Westmount*  
*and Beyond*  
VERONICA REDGRAVE

The golden glow of a fall evening bestowed a feeling of Tuscany on Old Montreal as guests made their way to “Concerts dans les Grandes Maisons” on September 26.

A fundraising eve for the Festival Musique de Chambre de Montréal, the sold-out event was held at the concisely minimalist home of Phyllis Lambert. Tickets were \$250.

Music lovers enjoyed the minute munchies at the cocktail dinatoire catered by Maître et chef as they sipped wine and admired the black and white architectural photos around the room.

Festival founder and director **Denis Brott** welcomed guests with his wife **Julie**, wearing an elegant black tunic. Westmounters enjoying the evening included **Cornelia Nihon**, **Barbara Bronfman**, **Clarence Epstein**, **Pamela and Tony Layton**, Westmount city councillor **Theodora Samiotis** and her husband **Michael McAdoo**, **Benn Mikula**, **Fran and Reuben Croll**, **Laurent Debrun**, **Sudershan and Ramesh Khosla**, **Douglas Robertson**, and **David Simpson**. Also noted were music lovers **Camilla Leigh**, **Lillian Vineberg**,



Cornelia Nihon and Mary Lou Sacconaghi



Denis and Julie Brott.



Michael Boer and Phyllis Lambert.

Concordia president and vice-chancellor **Alan Shephard**, **Mary Lou Sacconaghi**, Senator **Serge Joyal**, **Florence Richler**, Westmount provincial legislator **Jacques Chagnon**, artist **Adad Hannah**, **Louise Harel**, NDG provincial legislator **Kathleen Weil** and **Michael Novak**, former Westmounter **David Lyons**, and **Michael Boer**, president Montreal Chamber Music Festival.

The musical part of the evening, held in a beautiful room lit by a soaring skylight, included a duo for violoncellos by composer Friedrich August Kummer, and pieces by Reinhold Glière and Anton Arenski.

Performers were the award-winning American violinist **Giora Schmidt**, former teacher as Itzhak Perlman’s assistant at the Juilliard School; Canadian violist and violinist **Barry Shiffman**, associate dean and director of chamber music, The Glenn Gould School in Toronto; **Benoit Loiselle**, principal cello of Les Violons du Roy, who plays with a Joseph-Alfred Lamy (1850-1919) bow, generously loaned by Canimex Inc.; and cellist **Denis Brott**, professor of cello and chamber music at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal, and founder of the annual Montreal Chamber Music Festival, always a sold-out noteworthy affair, to be held May 8 to 31, 2014.



Clarence Epstein, Alan Shephard and Adad Hannah



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*Photographed by Alexandre Paskanoi*

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Publié par la Ville de Westmount • Published by the City of Westmount

# infoWestmount

## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### Message du conseil municipal

Le maire Peter F. Trent, les conseillers municipaux de Westmount, ainsi que tout le personnel de la Ville, souhaitent à tous et chacun une joyeuse période des fêtes en toute sécurité, en famille et entre amis, et une bonne et heureuse année en santé. Au plaisir de vous servir à nouveau en 2014. Nous vous remercions pour toutes les contributions versées à la guignolée de la Sécurité publique et aux nombreux autres efforts communautaires.

### Services municipaux : période des fêtes

Les bureaux administratifs de Westmount seront fermés du 24 au 26 décembre et du 31 décembre au 2 janvier pour les fêtes de Noël et du Jour de l'an. L'horaire normale reprend le 3 janvier. Les horaires de la période des fêtes pour la bibliothèque, le conservatoire, le centre communautaire, le Victoria Hall et le Centre des loisirs sont indiqués ici-bas.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Films à la bibliothèque !

**Le vendredi 27 décembre à 14 h : *Oliver!*** Présenté en collaboration avec *The Montreal Dickens Fellowship*.  
**Le lundi 30 décembre à 14 h : *Despicable Me 2*.** Les deux projections sont en anglais. Veuillez vous inscrire préalablement au comptoir des enfants.  
Info : 514 989-5229 ou jeuneskids.

### Cercle de lecture

**Le mardi 17 décembre à 10 h 15.** Info : 514 989-5299.

### Club de lecture en anglais : *Jane Eyre*

**Le mardi 17 décembre à 19 h.** Info : 514 989-5299.

## Prochaine séance du conseil : le lundi 13 janvier

## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

**La galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition**  
**Jusqu'au 14 décembre.** « *Exile and attachment: a refugee journal* » de l'artiste Jaswant Guzder.  
Info : 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

**Chœur *People's Gospel Choir of Montreal***  
**Le samedi 14 décembre à 19 h au Victoria Hall.** Présenté en collaboration avec le Club Rotary de Westmount.  
Billets : 20 \$ au Victoria Hall ou au 514 935-3344.

## SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

**Collecte d'aliments à Westmount**  
**Jusqu'au 13 décembre.** Apportez vos dons de denrées non périssables aux bacs prévus à cette fin dans les édifices municipaux. Info : 514 989-5309.

## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

**Horaire de collecte sélective modifiée**  
Veuillez noter que la collecte de matières recyclables, normalement prévue le mercredi, **est devancée au lundi les semaines du 23 et du 30 décembre.** Il n'y a aucune modification aux collectes de résidus alimentaires et d'ordures durant la période des fêtes. Info : 514 989-5390.

## CITY HALL

### Message from municipal council

Mayor Peter F. Trent and Westmount City Councillors, along with all City personnel, wish everyone a festive and safe holiday season in the company of family and friends, and a healthy and happy New Year. We look forward to serving you again in 2014 and thank you for all the contributions to the Public Security Food Drive and the many other seasonal community efforts.



### Municipal services : holiday period

Westmount's administrative offices will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> to December 26<sup>th</sup> and from December 31<sup>st</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The regular office schedule resumes January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Consult the timetable on this page for the Library, Conservatory, Victoria Hall and Recreation Centre holiday schedules.

## LIBRARY

### Movies at the Library!

**Friday, December 27 at 2 p.m.: *Oliver!*** Presented in collaboration with The Montreal Dickens Fellowship.  
**Monday, December 30 at 2 p.m.: *Despicable Me 2*.** Both films will be screened in English.  
Please sign up at the Children's Desk in advance. Info : 514 989-5229 or jeuneskids.



### Readers to Readers Book Club

**Tuesday, December 17 at 10:15 a.m.** Info: 514 989-5299.

### English Book Club : *Jane Eyre*

**Tuesday, December 17 at 7 p.m.** Info: 514 989-5299.

## Next Council Meeting: Monday, January 13

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**The Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition**  
**Until December 14.** *Exile and attachment: a refugee journal* by artist Jaswant Guzder. Info: 514 989-5521 or victoriahall@westmount.org.

**People's Gospel Choir of Montreal**  
**Saturday, December 14 at 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall.** Concert presented in collaboration with the Westmount Rotary Club. Tickets: \$20 at Victoria Hall or 514 935-3344.

## PUBLIC SECURITY













### Holiday Food Drive in Westmount

**Until December 13.** Bring your donations of non-perishable food items to the collection bins located in municipal buildings. Info: 514 989-5309.

## PUBLIC WORKS

**Modified Recycling Collection Schedule**  
Please note that the recycling collection, normally scheduled for Wednesday, will be **moved to Monday during the weeks of December 23 and December 30.** There is no change to the kitchen waste and garbage collection schedule during the holiday period. Info: 514 989-5390.

## SERVICES MUNICIPAUX : HORAIRE DE LA PÉRIODE DES FÊTES

	Décembre 2013 December 2013						Janvier 2014 January 2014					
	lundi 23 Monday	mardi 24 Tuesday	mercredi 25 Wednesday	jeudi 26 Thursday	vendredi 27 Friday	samedi 28 Saturday	dimanche 29 Sunday	lundi 30 Monday	mardi 31 Tuesday	mercredi 01 Wednesday	jeudi 02 Thursday	vendredi 03 Friday
Hôtel de ville et administration City Hall and administration	8 h 30 - 16 h 30		Fermé Closed		8 h 30 - 16 h 30		Fermé Closed	8 h 30 - 16 h 30		Fermé Closed		8 h 30 - 16 h 30
Bibliothèque Library	10 h - 21 h		Fermé Closed		10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h		Fermé Closed		10 h - 21 h
Conservatoire Conservatory	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h	10 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	10 h - 17 h	10 h - 21 h
Centre des loisirs Recreation Centre	7 h - 23 h	9 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	12 h - 22 h	7 h - 23 h	7 h - 23 h	7 h - 23 h	7 h - 23 h	8 h - 17 h	Fermé Closed	8 h - 22 h	7 h - 23 h
Collectes Collections	 			 				 			 	
Victoria Hall Victoria Hall						Fermé Closed						
Police – PDQ 12 Police Station 12						Tous les jours de 9 h à 19 h Every day from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.						





# Book Swap moves from cyber-beginnings to Library

BY STEPHANIE O'HANLEY

"Give a book, take a book." That's the motto of Book Swap, a near-monthly event at the Westmount Public Library.

Longtime friends Kitty Howlett, Doron Clark and Ben Kalman are members of the Montreal Used Book Swap Facebook group, "where people go to discuss, trade, sell and otherwise appreciate the written word," Howlett said.

For Book Swap, people are invited to bring up to 20 well-cared-for books that they're willing to part with. Audio books, music CDs and DVDs are welcome as well. What doesn't get taken by the end of the afternoon, either returns for the next swap event "if it's in good condition and is the kind of thing that looks interesting to us," Kalman said, or is donated to the Westmount Public Library as a replacement copy for its bookshelves or for the library's book sale.

The trio held its first Book Swap at the library in September when people in the Facebook group wanted to take things beyond cyberspace.

"People who had been posting lists of books they were looking to swap, or wanted to acquire thought that it might be fun to do something in person," Howlett explained. "Doron said he had hundreds of books he needed to get rid of," Kalman added. Howlett, who with Clark is an administrator for the Montreal Used Book Swap Facebook group, agreed to run the book swap.

"I was fortunate enough my wife actually works here," Kalman said of his wife, who helped the trio book the library's conference room. Without that connection, "we would have ended up at somebody's house or in a café," Clark added.

The first book swap "was so successful that we decided to do it the month after too," Howlett said.

"There's nothing sadder than a book all



Kitty Howlett (centre) and Ben Kalman (right) at November's Book Swap.

alone at home," Clark said. During the November 30 book swap people lugged shopping bags and backpacks full of books, CDs and DVDs into the room. Once the bags were unpacked and the books and other swap items placed on tables, Kalman quickly categorized them. Printed paper category labels in English and French were placed above the meticulously alphabetized items and the conference room started to resemble a store.

As people brought their books and swap items, Howlett, Clark and Kalman bantered and debated and gave their opinions of what was on offer.

"I was going to tackle you because you have books," Howlett told one participant. "You're allowed as many books as you want," Howlett told people browsing the tables. "If you don't like it, you can bring it back."

A copy of the *Hunger Games* book appeared on a swap table, prompting a dis-

cussion. "If you like the *Hunger Games*, I highly suggest you read *Battle Royale*," Kalman said.

When someone brought in a Kurt Vonnegut, Clark announced it was his. After Howlett mentioned a copy of *Aristotle and an Aardvark Go to Washington* was on the table, Clark said, "I'm bringing that home. I will bring it back in January. I will let you know how that was."

Nick Rudzicz said he discovered the book swap through blogs he follows about Montreal happenings. "It seems like a good activity for a Saturday afternoon," said Rudzicz, who said he'd brought along 15 books, 15 DVDs and "maybe 20 CDs."

"I did a pretty thorough spring cleaning in the middle of November," Rudzicz said.

The next book swap happens in January. For more information, check out the Montreal Used Book Swap group on Facebook.

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



**COMMENTAIRES DU MAIRE SUR LA SITUATION FINANCIÈRE DE LA VILLE DE WESTMOUNT**  
**SÉANCE DU CONSEIL DU 2 DÉCEMBRE 2013**

Chers conseillers, Mesdames et Messieurs, bonsoir,  
À cette première étape du processus de préparation et d’adoption du budget 2014, je dois présenter aux résidents un rapport sur la situation financière de notre Ville en général.

En août dernier, le conseil a établi les lignes directrices suivantes concernant le budget 2014 :

- Limiter l’augmentation des taxes reliées aux services locaux au taux d’inflation + 1 %. Cette limite exclut les augmentations pour les immobilisations telles que l’augmentation de 2% pour le Centre des loisirs de Westmount (CLW) ainsi que toute augmentation relative à la quote-part de l’agglomération de Montréal.
- Poursuivre les efforts en vue d’augmenter les revenus provenant d’autres sources que l’impôt foncier afin d’équilibrer le budget.

Les revenus et les dépenses projetés pour l’année 2013 sont de 94,3 millions de dollars, incluant des affectations de l’excédent accumulé.

Dans mon rapport qui est déposé ce soir, mes commentaires porteront notamment sur les questions financières suivantes :

- les résultats de fin d’exercice 2012;
- les prévisions préliminaires des revenus et dépenses de la Ville pour 2013;
- l’état de la dette de la Ville et les mesures mises en place pour la gérer;
- l’orientation générale du budget 2014 et des dépenses d’immobilisations pour la période de 2014 à 2016.

**Résultats de fin d’exercice 2012**

Le budget total de fonctionnement de l’année 2012 était de 90,8 millions de dollars<sup>1</sup>. L’an dernier, un revenu total de 96,7 millions de dollars fut atteint et les dépenses de fonctionnement se sont élevées à 93,1 millions de dollars, dont l’excédent, de l’ordre de 2,8 millions de dollars, a été affecté aux travaux d’immobilisations, à la décontamination et aux projets clés. L’excédent budgétaire net de fonctionnement en 2012 s’est élevé à 804 403 \$. La vigueur du marché de l’immobilier et par conséquent, des droits de mutation, ont principalement contribué à cet excédent.

Au cours de l’année 2013, les dépenses d’immobilisations, y compris celles du Centre des loisirs, se sont élevées à 23,5 millions de dollars, dont un montant de 4,9 millions de dollars couvert par notre mode de financement « *pay-as-you-go* » (méthode de financement par répartition). Le reste des projets de 2012 a été financé au moyen de règlements d’emprunt et de subventions qui ont respectivement totalisé 7.0 millions et 11,6 millions de dollars.

Mis à part le Centre des loisirs de Westmount, les dépenses en immobilisations se sont élevées à 6,8 millions \$, dont 3 millions \$ furent couvertes par notre financement «*pay-as-you-go*». Le reste des projets de 2012 a été financé par des règlements d’emprunt totalisant 2,2 millions de dollars et des subventions de 1,6 millions de dollars.

Les états financiers de la Ville de Westmount pour l’exercice financier 2012 ont été vérifiés par la firme *Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton*.

**Prévisions pour 2013**

Le budget de fonctionnement de la Ville en 2013 était de 93,1 millions de dollars<sup>2</sup>. À la lumière des résultats disponibles à ce jour et des revenus et dépenses anticipés pour le reste de l’année, nous prévoyons terminer l’exercice 2013 avec des revenus et des dépenses projetés de 94,3 millions de dollars, ce qui tient compte d’affectations de l’excédent accumulé.

Des chutes de neige supérieures à la moyenne en début d’année ont contribué à l’augmentation des dépenses liées au déneigement et au transport de la neige. Des investissements supplémentaires « *pay-as-you-go* » ont été réalisés pour un certain nombre de projets, dont le Centre des loisirs de Westmount, les nouvelles contraventions électroniques et un nouveau système financier.

Dans la mesure où la décontamination du site du Centre des loisirs de Westmount constitue une exigence de la loi, une réserve pour la décontamination a été inscrite. Ces coûts supplémentaires ont principalement été compensés par des revenus additionnels et par l’affectation de l’excédent accumulé et ce, afin d’assurer l’équilibre de ces résultats financiers.

Veuillez noter que ces résultats pourraient changer d’ici la fin de l’année, notamment si des événements imprévisibles d’importance devaient survenir tels des chutes de neige abondantes, d’important bris d’aqueduc ou d’inondations.

**Dette**

En date du 31 décembre 2013, la dette de Westmount s’élèvera à 34,2 millions de dollars, sans compter le Centre des loisirs de Westmount.

La dette pour le Centre des loisirs de Westmount en 2013 s’élève à 22,0 millions de dollars. De ce montant, 10,0 millions de dollars servent à financer la portion de la subvention du Québec dont les paiements seront reçus au cours des 10 prochaines années.

**Budget 2014**

Conformément aux objectifs financiers décrits précédemment dans ce rapport, le conseil aimerait limiter l’augmentation des taxes municipales reliées aux services locaux au taux de l’inflation (2 %) + 1 %, excluant l’impact du nouveau Centre des loisirs de Westmount, des travaux d’immobilisations et de la quote-part de l’agglomération.

Cela constitue un défi si l’on tient compte de l’impact du déficit actuariel du régime de retraite de nos employés. Le conseil a également approuvé l’affectation d’excédent accumulé afin d’équilibrer le budget local, le cas échéant.

Puisqu’environ 85 % de nos revenus proviennent de l’impôt foncier, le conseil pourrait décider d’augmenter les revenus provenant d’autres sources, tels les tarifs de stationnement, la tarification des activités et des loyers.

Le conseil se réunira prochainement afin de finaliser notre stratégie générale et adopter le budget de fonctionnement et le programme d’immobilisations.

**Rémunération des élus municipaux**

La *Loi sur le traitement des élus municipaux* (chapitre T-11.001) prévoit que le maire d’une municipalité, dont un règlement touchant la rémunération des membres du conseil est en vigueur, doit inclure dans son rapport annuel sur la situation financière de la municipalité, une mention sur les rémunérations et les allocations de dépenses que chaque membre du conseil reçoit de la municipalité, d’un organisme mandataire de celle-ci ou d’un organisme supramunicipal.

Ainsi, en 2013 le maire recevra les rémunérations suivantes :

- une rémunération annuelle de la Ville de 43 934 \$;
- une allocation de dépenses de la Ville de 15 662 \$;
- une rémunération annuelle du conseil d’agglomération de Montréal de 10 772 \$;
- une rémunération annuelle de la Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal de 10 000 \$;
- un jeton de présence de 539 \$ (par présence) à titre de vice-président de la *Commission sur les finances et l’administration* du conseil de l’agglomération urbaine de Montréal, et ce, jusqu’à concurrence de la somme annuelle de 10 772 \$.

Quant aux conseillers, ils recevront les rémunérations suivantes en 2013:

- une rémunération annuelle de la Ville de 14 645\$;
- une allocation de dépenses de la Ville de 7 322,50 \$.

Pour sa part, le conseiller Patrick Martin recevra les rémunérations additionnelles suivantes :

- un jeton de présence de 539 \$ (par présence) à titre de vice-président de la *Commission sur l’examen des contrats* du conseil de l’agglomération urbaine de Montréal, et ce, jusqu’à concurrence de la somme annuelle de 10 772 \$;
- un jeton d’allocation de dépenses de 269,50 \$ (par présence) à titre de vice-président de la *Commission sur l’examen des contrats* du conseil de l’agglomération urbaine de Montréal, et ce, jusqu’à concurrence de la somme annuelle de 5 386 \$.

**Transactions au-delà de 25 000 \$**

Comme l’exige la loi, je dépose la liste des transactions dont le montant total cumulatif dépassait 25 000 \$ entre le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre 2012 et le 30 septembre 2013.

Le maire, Peter F. Trent

<sup>1</sup>Après déduction des dépenses d’Hydro Westmount financées selon la méthode *pay-as-you-go*  
<sup>2</sup> Après déduction des dépenses d’Hydro Westmount financées selon la méthode *pay-as-you-go*





## Ville de Westmount City of Westmount



### THE MAYOR'S COMMENTS ON THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE CITY OF WESTMOUNT COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening:

As the first formal step in the 2014 budget preparation and adoption process, I am required to report to residents on the general financial health of our City.

In August, Council established the following guidelines for the 2014 budget:

Limit the increase in taxation for local services to inflation + 1%. This limit excludes increases for capital works such as the 2% increase for the Westmount Recreation Centre (WRC) and also any increases stemming from our apportionment from the Agglomeration Council of Montreal; and,

Continue efforts to increase revenue from sources other than property taxes to balance the budget.

Including appropriations from accumulated surplus, revenues and expenses are projected to be \$94.3 million for 2013.

In my report that is being tabled tonight, I will be commenting further on the following and other financial issues:

- The 2012 year-end results;
- The preliminary forecast of the City's 2013 revenues and expenditures;
- The state of the City's debt and the action taken to manage it;
- The overall direction of the 2014 budget, along with the capital expenditures planned for 2014 through 2016.

#### 2012 Year-End Results

The City's 2012 total operating budget was \$90.8 million<sup>1</sup>. Total revenues last year reached \$96.7 million, and operational expenditures amounted to \$93.1 million. \$2.8 million in operating surplus was appropriated for capital works, decontamination and key projects. This resulted in a net 2012 non-appropriated surplus of \$804,403. The strong real estate market and the corresponding high transfer duties were the biggest contributors to this surplus.

During 2012, including the Westmount Recreation Centre, capital expenditures amounted to \$23.5 million, of which \$4.9 million was covered by our 'pay-as-you-go' funding. The balance of the 2012 projects was funded by loan by-laws in the amount of \$7.0 million and grants of \$11.6 million.

Excluding the Westmount Recreation Centre, capital expenditures amounted to \$6.8 million, of which \$3.0 million was covered by our 'pay-as-you-go' funding. The balance of the 2012 projects was funded by loan by-laws in the amount of \$2.2 million and grants of \$1.6 million.

The City of Westmount's 2012 financial statements were audited by *Raymond Chabot Grant Thornton*.

#### 2013 Forecast

The City's 2013 operating budget was \$93.1 million<sup>2</sup>. Based on the results to date and the projected revenues and expenditures for the balance of the year, we expect to close 2013 with both revenues and expenses projected at \$94.3 million, including appropriation from accumulated surplus.

Higher-than-average snowfalls at the beginning of this year have contributed to increased expenses relating to snow removal and disposal. Additional 'pay-as-you-go' investments were made for a number of projects (the Westmount Recreation Centre, new electronic tickets, new financial system, etc.).

A decontamination provision had also to be recorded, since decontaminating the Westmount Recreation Centre site is a legal requirement.

These additional costs were offset mainly through additional revenues and appropriation from accumulated surplus to ensure that financial results be balanced.

Please note that the results could change between now and year-end, especially if we experience significant unforeseen events such as a higher-than-average snowfall, major water main breaks, or flooding.

#### Debt

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, Westmount's outstanding debt will be \$34.2 million excluding the Westmount Recreation Centre.

Debt issued in 2013 for the Westmount Recreation Centre amounted to \$22.0 million. Of this amount, \$ 10.0 million was to finance the Quebec portion of the subsidy, for which payment will be received over the next 10 years.

#### 2014 Budget

Consistent with the financial goals outlined earlier in this report, Council would like to limit the increase in taxation for local services to inflation (2 %) + 1%, excluding the impact of the Westmount Recreation Centre, capital works or the agglomeration apportionment.

This is a challenge considering the current impact of the actuarial deficit in our employee pension plan. Council has also approved the appropriation of accumulated surplus to balance the local budget, if required.

As around 85 % of our revenue comes from property taxes, the Council may continue to seek increased revenues from other areas such as parking rates, programme fees, and rentals.

We will be sitting down shortly as a Council to finalize our overall strategy and adopt our operating and capital budget.

#### Remuneration of Elected Municipal Representatives

The *Act respecting the remuneration of elected municipal officers* (chapter T-11.001) provides that the mayor of a municipality in which a remuneration by-law is in force shall include in his annual report on the financial position of the municipality a list showing the remuneration and expense allowance each member of the council receives from the municipality, a mandatory body of the municipality or a supra-municipal body.

Thus, the Mayor received the following remuneration in 2013:

- \$43,934 as an annual remuneration from the City;
- \$15,662 as an expense allowance from the City;
- \$10,772 as an annual remuneration from the Urban Agglomeration Council of Montreal;
- \$10,000 as an annual remuneration from the *Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal*;
- \$539 per presence as an attendance allowance from the *Commission sur les finances et l'administration* of the Urban Agglomeration Council of Montreal, up to an annual maximum of \$10,772, where he is the Vice Chairman.

As for the councillors, they received the following remuneration in 2013:

- \$14,645 as an annual remuneration from the City;
- \$7,322.50 as an expense allowance from the City.

As for Councillor Patrick Martin, he receives the following additional remuneration:

- \$539 per presence as an attendance allowance from the *Commission sur l'examen des contrats* of the Urban Agglomeration Council of Montreal, up to an annual maximum of \$10,772, where he is Vice Chairman;
- \$269.50 per presence as an expense allowance from the *Commission sur l'examen des contrats* of the Urban Agglomeration Council of Montreal, up to an annual maximum of \$5,386.

#### Transactions Exceeding \$25,000

As required by law, I am filing the list of total cumulative transactions exceeding \$25,000 from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Peter F. Trent, Mayor

<sup>1</sup> Net of Hydro Westmount 'pay-as-you-go' expenditures

<sup>2</sup> Net of Hydro Westmount 'pay-as-you-go' expenditures



# 64 Rosemount Crescent: Angled to fit



History by  
the house

ANDY DODGE, CRA

In the 1850s Hon. John Young, champion of the Montreal Harbour Commission and the Victoria Bridge (among other accomplishments), rebuilt a house originally constructed by William McGillivray and Asa Goodenough, transforming it to the huge “Rosemount” mansion, with apple orchards stretching down to Côte St. Antoine Rd., the main east-west street in the parish – later village – of Notre Dame de Grâce. (This eastern portion of Côte St. Antoine is now a part Sherbrooke St.)

A driveway reached up from Côte road to the large mansion, which stills exists as

16 and 18 Severn.

Robert James Reekie, a civil engineer and contractor, purchased the property in 1861 and began visualizing the expansion of Montreal’s population toward the west. In fact, Westmount’s 1994 *Character Areas Survey* calls this “‘The Cradle of Westmount,’ where the idea of the independent village probably originated.”

Reekie built his own mansion at the bottom of the hill (now 5 Rosemount) along with 27 Rosemount, subdivided the other (west) side of the driveway and sold it, along with the huge mansion (now 16-18 Severn), to Thomas H. Hodgson in 1880.

The driveway ran up the middle of the property, turned west around the mansion, touched “Brehaut’s Hill” (whose name was shortly changed to Mountain Ave.), then turned back eastward to the rear of the Rosemount mansion.

With Reekie starting to build on the lower section of the driveway, the city accepted responsibility for maintaining it and named it “Rosemount Ave.” The northern section, apparently, obtained the name of Campbell Ave.; the middle section was included in several deeds as the “proposed extension of Rosemount Ave.,” but never was given a name.

In any event, Thomas Hodgson, a cheesemaker of some repute, got into trouble with the Bank of Montreal in 1886, and the sheriff of Montreal arrested him and seized the property. Rosemount was put up for auction, and the sheriff reported that the “highest and last bidder” was one John Hodgson, believed to be the owner’s brother, who came up from New York City with \$12,647 to bail out the sorry merchant, ensuring that the entire story was published in the *New York Times*, complete with Hodgson’s excuses for the fault.

The next day the brother sold the house to Norman W. Trenholme and A. Dunbar Taylor, both lawyers of considerable repute, who jointly held the property until



64 Rosemount Crescent.



64 Rosemount Crescent after the January 5, 1989 fire. Firefighters were called at 3:05 am. It caused damage estimated at \$500,000 plus another \$350,000 in damage to number 66. Hydrants froze and fire trucks were iced in place.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney.



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1892 when they split it, with Trenholme taking the west half (including the Rosemount mansion, now 16-18 Severn) and the land on the west side of what was by now Rosemount Ave. (Taylor’s property involved the land between what is now the lower part of Mount Pleasant Ave. up to Montrose Ave.).

**Stipulation: Face Rosemount**

Trenholme sold his land to Henry F. Jackson, a chemist and pharmacist, in September 1892, with the stipulation that any houses built on the “Rosemount extension” had to face Rosemount, and not Mountain Ave.

Jackson, who lived at 4215 Dorchester

Bld., sold off the land at the top of Rosemount Ave. – including the corner of what is now Rosemount Crescent – to the wife of Horace A. Hutchins, another prominent lawyer.

She built the huge stone mansion at 62 Rosemount and divided off the land to the north, but because the houses had to face Rosemount, both the houses and the lots had to have angles so they could face the angled street, and then reach over to Mountain Ave.

The difficulty of those angles might have been one of the reasons for the delay in developing the two lots to the north of the new (62 Rosemount) mansion, so it was not until 1912 that construction of 64





5 Rosemount.



16-18 Severn.

and 66 Rosemount was accomplished. Catherine Jordan, the widow of Joseph G.C. Meagher of Meagher Distillers, bought the brand-new 64 Rosemount in 1914 for \$18,500.

Mrs. Meagher kept the property only five years before selling to James Francis Davis, a contractor, for \$25,000 in April of 1919.

#### **'Upper' Rosemount become Rosemount Crescent**

In about 1925, the name of "Rosemount Crescent" first appears in Lovell's Directory along with Severn Ave. to the north, which were the two portions of the old Rosemount driveway. Davis lived at 64 Rosemount Ave./Crescent through World War II, renting it in 1943-44 before finally selling it in June 1946, for \$13,000, slightly more than half what he paid for it 27 years before.

The buyer was Edward Bernard McGraw, who no doubt cleaned it up and renovated it to sell to James D.F. Collier,

described as an "engineer's representative," less than a year later for \$19,000.

As the 1940s turned into the 1950s, the price for 64 Rosemount Crescent grew to \$30,000, paid by Margaret McCombe in 1956. She was unable to obtain more than that in 1972, thanks perhaps to mailbox bombs and the 1970 October Crisis, which shook Westmount to its core, along with the introduction of Medicare.

She was forced to sell to John Blandford and even accepted a \$25,000 balance of sale with a 9-percent interest rate.

Through the 1970s, however, sale prices exploded to the point that Emil Silberstein was forced to pay out \$200,000 for the large house, again offering Blandford a \$100,000 balance of sale, this time at 15 percent for one year.

When that expired, he took out another \$150,000 mortgage with Canada Permanent Trust, this time at 20.25 percent as interest rates neared their peak. As happened so many times in that year, he was forced to default and lost the house in 1984.

Canada Permanent sold it to Karen Couvillon, wife of Arthur Edward Lorenz, who lived on Upper Lansdowne Ave. Very quickly she turned it over to Paul Ortenberg, who moved in and lived there happily until January 1989, when a fireplace fire destroyed a good part of both 64 and 66 Rosemount Crescent.

Repairs and renovations, along with a still-exploding market, allowed Ortenberg to sell for more than double his original investment. The \$420,000 price doubled again, 10 years later, as the large house became home for two couples moving to Westmount from the United States.

Finally it was sold to a longtime Westmounter Geoffrey Chambers in 2006 for \$1,375,000.

#### **History of 64 Rosemount Crescent (since construction)**

Date	Buyer	Price
30 Apr, 1914	Catherine Jordan, widow of Joseph G.C. Meagher	18,500
24 Apr, 1919	James Francis Davis, contractor	25,000
11 Jun, 1946	Edward Bernard McGraw, Woodlands manager	13,000
29 May, 1947	James D.F. Collier, engineer's rep.	19,000
10 Aug, 1956	Margaret Watson Kingston, wife of R. Wayne McCombe, clerk	30,000
31 Jan, 1972	John Blandford, editor	30,000
3 Dec, 1980	Emil Silberstein, investor	200,000
13 Feb, 1984	Canada Permanent default of mortgage	
13 Mar, 1985	Karen Couvillon, homemaker	175,000
30 Jul, 1985	Paul Ortenberg, executive	189,000
8 Sep, 1989	Brian Newman, Jacques Abenaim & Liliane Morcos	420,000
15 May, 2000	Douglas Jensen & Nancy Jo Stillwell	875,000
13 Sep, 2002	Brian Burden & Deborah Newsum	999,000
24 Apr, 2006	Geoffrey Chambers	1,375,000

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- Of Monsters and Moonshine (artistic and mathematical concepts of symmetry)
- Les manifestations, une forme de démocratie?
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# Comin’ Up

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Actor Vlasta Vrána gives readings for Christmastime including “Nobody’s Story” by Charles Dickens and “A Kidnapped Santa Claus” by L. Frank Baum. Free admission, donations invited. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

The Montreal Storytellers’ Guild is hav-

ing its regular event at the Westmount Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. Free admission. 7 pm.

DECEMBER 14

Make We Merry: A celebration of seasonal carols. St. Stephen’s Anglican Church, 4006 Dorchester Blvd. \$10 minimum donation. Also: collection for Open

Door (e.g. socks, underwear, gloves and coats). 7 pm.

Public Security pick-up of non-perishable items for food drive. 10 am to 2 pm. Call to arrange by Dec. 13, 514.989.5200, extension 5372.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Quaker potluck on the topic of simplicity. Share ideas on how to make the Christmas season more meaningful and less hectic. Free. Centre Greene, 1090 Greene, 11 am. Meeting for worship, 12:15 pm Potluck. Everyone invited.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Richard Pound gives a talk on his new book *Quotations for the Fast Lane*. Free admission, donations invited. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Avenue. 12:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Blood drive. Victoria Hall. 2 pm to 7:30 pm.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Charity hockey game: Public Security vs. Police Station 12. 4 to 5:30 pm, arena.

A Tale of 3 Houses: #178, 333, & 334 Côte St. Antoine. Lecture by Caroline Breslaw, researcher with the Westmount Historical Association. \$5. at door. Free for WHA members. Westmount Library, 4574 Sherbrooke St. 7 pm.

ONGOING:

Tumbling Tots. Centre Greene. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 am to 11 am. Indoor/park playground for parents and children under 5 years. \$3.50/morning drop-in. Coffee and cookies provided.

Montreal Children’s Library would like the help of bilingual volunteers at one of the library’s three branches to help children between the ages of 5 and 14 with reading and to perform other duties. Please call Helen Kyne: 514.931.2304 or email at [info@mcl-bjm.ca](mailto:info@mcl-bjm.ca).

Holiday Flower Show at the Westmount Conservatory while blooms last. 10 am to 9 pm. Weekends 10 am to 5 pm.



Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount



## APPEL DE PROPOSITIONS : WRC-2013-001

### CONCESSION / BOUTIQUE D’ARTICLES PROFESSIONNELS (PRO-SHOP) / CENTRE DES LOISIRS DE WESTMOUNT

La Ville de Westmount sollicite des propositions concernant l’exploitation de la boutique d’articles professionnels (pro-shop) localisée dans le nouveau Centre des loisirs de Westmount au 4675, rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest, et ce, pour une période initiale de cinq (5) années à compter du 1er janvier 2014.

Les documents relatifs à l’appel de propositions sont disponibles au bureau du greffe de la Ville de Westmount, situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount, à partir du 10 décembre 2013, pendant les heures d’ouverture, soit du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30.

Seules les propositions déposées au bureau du greffe au plus tard, **le 20 décembre 2013 à 11 h 00** seront acceptées.

Les propositions seront ouvertes publiquement dans la salle du conseil de la Ville de Westmount, le même jour à 11 h 05.

La Ville de Westmount ne s’engage à accepter ni la plus basse ni aucune des propositions reçues, et n’encourra aucune obligation ni aucun frais d’aucune sorte envers les soumissionnaires.

Nicole Dobbie  
Greffière adjointe de la Ville

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS : WRC-2013-001

### CONCESSION / PRO SHOP / WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

The City of Westmount solicits proposals for the operation of the Pro Shop located in the new Westmount Recreation Centre at 4675, Sainte-Catherine Street West for an initial term of five (5) years, beginning on January 1, 2014.

The documents regarding the call for proposals may be obtained at the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Westmount located at 4333 Sherbrooke Street West in Westmount, as of December 10, 2013, during regular business hours from Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Only the proposals received at the Office of the City Clerk **by 11:00 a.m. on December 20, 2013**, at the latest, will be accepted.

The proposals will be opened publicly in the Council Chamber of the City of Westmount on the same day at 11:05 a.m.

The lowest or any proposal will not necessarily be accepted, nor shall the City of Westmount incur any obligations or costs whatsoever with respect to the person making the proposal.

Nicole Dobbie  
Assistant City Clerk

# To BE LISTED IN COMIN’ UP

Please send your event, in the following format, to  
[CU@WESTMOUNTINDEPENDENT.COM](mailto:CU@WESTMOUNTINDEPENDENT.COM)

#### FORMAT:

Day, Date  
Event. Price (must be under \$12). Place, address (must be in Westmount).  
Time of day.

#### EXAMPLE:

**Sunday, February 31**

Some Awesome Event featuring John Smith, CA. \$5.00. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke. 4:30 pm.

*Be sure to write by Friday at 10 am for inclusion the next week.*

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## SWAT players attend re-opening of BMO branch



Members of Westmount's old timers hockey team SWAT (Senior Westmount Allstar Team) were among the more than 50 guests who attended an early evening reception held on Dec. 3 at the Bank of Montreal's Greene Ave. branch where extensive renovations were recently completed. BMO has contributed over the years to SWAT, which raises funds for the Montreal Children's and St. Justine's hospitals. Seen in the photo from left are BMO financial planner Patrick Baldwin, SWAT member Nick Matossian, BMO vice-president for personal banking Michel Jarry, SWAT member Claude Bismuth, Greene Ave. branch manager Viviane Elkhoury, BMO financial planner Ariane Garneau and BMO Nesbitt Burns representative Adriana Kacir.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

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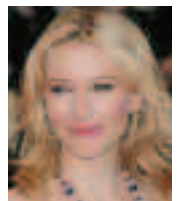


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## Dog leads Public Security to its home, 2 tickets issued

A resident of Summit Circle was issued two tickets for \$76 when a dog without a current licence was found running loose near Upper Bellevue November 30 at 11:45 pm, Public Security officials said. He was reported to have received several previous warnings for violations of the dog by-law. The loose dog was described as barking constantly. It led officers to its home where they met with the owner who said he was not aware the dog had been let out.

## Sleeping man sent home in taxi from WRC

A man was found asleep in a car November 30 at 1:24 am in the parking lot of the Westmount recreation centre, Public Security officials said. It had been seen by a patroller with the engine running for about an hour.

Police were called when the man stated he was going home from a party, felt sleepy and decided to take a nap.

A decision to send him home in a taxi was reported to have been determined as the "best solution."

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Venus is 10 years old now, quite healthy, spayed and up to date with her inoculations.

She does require a daily medication for a thyroid condition, but it is under control. She is declawed on all four paws and is an indoor-only cat now.

If you would like more information on her, please contact Gerdy on her cellular at 514.942.5790 or email her at [info@gerdys-rescue.org](mailto:info@gerdys-rescue.org). To find out more about Gerdy's Rescue, don't hesitate directly to their website at [www.gerdysrescue.org](http://www.gerdysrescue.org).

### Street clothes

Now that the cold has come, I dress my dogs in brightly coloured winter wear. This year it is red and purple, last year was green and candy pink, the year before it was camel and khaki.

I am now being stopped on the street to find out where I get their multi-coloured sweaters, or pointed at and asked from across the street by neighbours who can see how comfy they are.

So here's what you want to know but, unfortunately, I can't stop to tell all of you on the street!

Emma Rose and Xena wear the three-way stretch sweaters that I have been get-



ting from Furryssentials for years now. Every fall, I get a few more and add them to the stash they wear every day.

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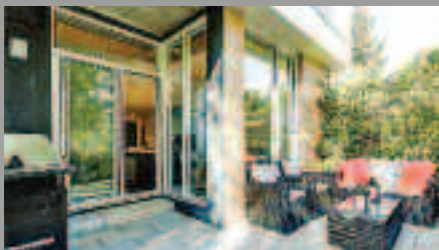
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– BOB HOPE, AMERICAN FILM ACTOR AND COMEDIAN

*Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more."* – DR. SEUSS (1904-1991),  
AMERICAN AUTHOR OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS. FROM 'HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS'.

*Christmas is, of course, the time to be home – in heart as well as body."* – GARRY MOORE

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