

*Weather may cause changes*

## Winter carnival moves to the WAG

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's annual winter carnival February 7 to 9 takes on a changing face this year with the day-long Saturday activities moving outdoors to the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) from Westmount Park and the former arena.

The new venue results not only from the arena's demolition but also from the Melville playing field being re-sodded last fall and fenced off, said Dave Lapointe, assistant director, Sports and Recreation.

"This year will be quite different to what we've had in the past," he said.

The entire Saturday program will be outside on and about the new refrigerated rink in the WAG, where the traditional races will be replaced by general skating. A small "toboggan run" is being built at the site, where old-fashioned sleigh rides, the sugar shack and a tug of war are to be held. Also planned is a bonfire, barbecued hotdogs for lunch and hot chocolate.

Other than general skating, the only rink event on tap is the traditional puck shooting competition.

"Everything will go," Lapointe said, "but depending on the ..... weather, there may be continued on p. 2

## At work on coldest day (so far)



Public Works employee Marco Brunetti shovels hot, steaming asphalt from the back of a city truck as colleague Justin Cavanagh Jackson pounds it down into potholes on St. Catherine St. January 24. See story, p. 15.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith



**City page** p. 17

**Underdog** BY C. LEE p. 12

**Social Notes** BY V. REDGRAVE p. 10

**Letters** p. 8

## Sandwich boards passé but conserving power still urged

## Hydro use hits record high in Westmount Jan. 24

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

During last week's prolonged deep freeze, Hydro Westmount established a record peak consumption of 92 megawatts at 12 noon January 24, according to city director general Duncan Campbell. At 5:40 pm the same day, the peak was 91.5 megawatts.

The previous record of 87 megawatts was set on January 24, 2011 at 6 pm, he said.

The city's electrical network held up well, he said, though it required some internal shifting around between transformers within substations and "other minor" measures used during periods of high demand.

Brief outages experienced by some businesses and residents in the Victoria village on January 23 were caused by the load shifting to reduce the potential of a larger outage, Campbell ..... explained.

continued on p. 15

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# Demolition hearings set

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two back-to-back demolition hearings will take place Thursday, February 14 at city hall concerning work at two single-family dwellings. They are 91 Summit Crescent, scheduled for 5 pm, and 3219 The Boulevard ("Braemar") at 6 pm.

Notices were posted last week outside both properties to inform neighbours and other interested parties. Files on each property, as outlined in the following stories, are open at the Urban Planning department at city hall.

### 91 Summit Crescent

The owners of this split level house – the DN Family Trust – are proposing to add a second storey and extension to the 1956 dwelling located on the east side of Summit Crescent between Devon and

Shorncliffe.

The plan requires approval of the Demolition committee since it involves substantial demolition of the original building, exceeding 50 percent of all facades.

The estimated cost of the new construction is \$800,000.

While the building's sidelines no longer conform to today's setback criteria, under By-law 1411, the lateral walls may be extended upward, according to Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

An extension also meets site-coverage regulations, while plans to retain a double garage at the front of the house are considered permissible, she said. The house is to have veneer limestone with mahogany frames around mahogany windows, as well as a flat roof instead of the current sloping one.

In all, the new design by architect Alain Carle was recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) on January 15, which describes it as "coherent in composition" and harmonizing with the character of the street and scale of neighbouring houses.

Designed originally by Frederic David Lebensold, the house is rated Category III as having "neutral" heritage value.



91 Summit Crescent

continued on p. 3

### Carnival, cont'd. from p. 1

some adjustments. The way weather conditions have been going from pouring rain to freezing conditions in a week, preparation of the area is a logistical challenge."

There will be plenty of parking in the Westmount High lot accessible from Hillside Lane, he said. While the city will provide some inner tubes, people are encouraged to bring their own small sliding devices, such as "saucers."

The focus on all-day outside activities means the usual opening night event on the Thursday – last year a hockey game and bonfire at Prince Albert Park – will not take place, Lapointe said.

A complete schedule of events is being delivered to households this week. It lists the traditional kick-off seniors' lunch at Contactivity Centre, Thursday, February 7, and two evening parties.

One is the traditional family party Friday, February 8, which has a carnival cruise theme called "Off to the WRC." The second is the closing adult party the following night billed as a "Ballroom Blitz Carnival Swing Ball." Both require tickets that can be obtained from Victoria Hall during business hours.

### Profusion collects clothing for Dans la Rue

Profusion Realty Inc. is encouraging Westmounters to drop by its office at 1361 Greene Ave. with donations of clean, warm outerwear and boots for Dans la Rue, an organization dedicated to "helping kids survive the streets and get back on their feet."



# for two houses, Feb. 14

## 3219 The Boulevard – Braemar

One of Westmount's oldest houses, "Braemar" is currently shrouded for extensive restoration and other construction at the property located at 3219 The Boulevard at the top of Mount Pleasant.

Plans to add a dormer window to the front façade of the distinctive green roof, however, require a hearing before the Demolition committee under a by-law requirement governing modifications to the exterior envelope of all Category 1\* heritage buildings.

Interestingly, while the other three sides of the roof already have dormer windows, one is missing from the front façade, which overlooks The Boulevard and the city, though it has been suggested that one probably existed when the house was built in 1847.

The proposed design by DSF Architecture and Design is known as a "shed dormer" containing two windows, according to Poirier. The estimated cost of its construction is reported at \$50,000.

The large white Regency-style house with its encircling galleries is recognized municipally, provincially and nationally for its architectural, cultural and historic significance.

The addition of a dormer has already been authorized by Quebec's ministry of Cultural Affairs and Communications in a letter to the city October 15, 2012. It was also recommended by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) on January 15.

The house has undergone several alter-

ations over the years and has been somewhat obscured from the street by houses built in front of the property after a controversial subdivision in the early 1980s.



*Braemar, shrouded for ongoing construction, as viewed from the east side January 23.*



*Braemar, also viewed from the east side, looking down from Belvedere Rd. in August 2011 before the start of restoration.*

The landlocked house is now accessible by a driveway that is a shared right of passage.

Braemar is reported to have been purchased in 1980 by Gerald Benjamin and sold in 2011 to opera singer Sharon Azrieli.

# National Bank branch opens on Greene Ave.

Mayor Peter Trent was the guest of honour on January 16 at a reception and ribbon cutting held for the opening of the National Bank of Canada's new branch on Greene Ave. near the corner of de Maisonneuve Blvd.

Also among the guests was Jacob Attias, developer of the 1250 Greene Ave. condo project, where the bank branch is located at street level.

While the National Bank previously had

a Westmount branch on St. Catherine St., a spokesperson for the bank said they chose to relocate to Greene because it is more convenient for clients.

Others in attendance were real estate broker Tatiana Londono, branch customer service manager Cinthia Pallotto, branch manager Éric Ordonselli, regional banking manager Marguerite Pernice and Pierre Laboursodière, the bank's vice president for the Montreal region. – MCB



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Station 12 Reports

# Two houses broken into during one night

By ISAAC OLSON

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

Two Westmount homes were burglarized on January 19 and, in one case, police nearly captured the culprit red-handed, reported Station 12's Constable Adalbert Pimentel.

At 7:49 pm, the alarm was tripped at a home on Lansdowne Ave. near Sherbrooke St., and police were on the scene within six minutes, he said. When the two officers arrived, they noticed keys were in the lock of the adjoined dwelling's front door. Once all "looked secure" at the home of the original call, the officers opened the neighbour's door and called out: "Police."

A woman greeted the officers and, after a quick discussion, she led them through her home and out the backdoor because

that was the fastest way into the backyard, said Pimentel. Once there, the officers saw tracks in the snow in the adjoining property and a torn window screen. However, the backdoor was locked. They learned the home's owner was on vacation and asked the woman if she had a spare key to her neighbour's home. She did, said Pimentel, and the officers decided to split up, with one entering through the front.

Just as one officer was headed back through the woman's home, the second officer's eye caught a moving shadow inside the supposedly vacant house as he waited in the backyard. Focusing in, said Pimentel, he saw a man in a dark winter coat run toward the front of the house.

A chase ensued as both officers ran back through the neighbour's house and out into the street only to discover their suspect had vanished into the night.

A canine unit was called to the scene, and the vacationing ..... continued on p. 14

# Tax letter recognizes 'poor state' of roads, sewers

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount city council "is uncomfortably aware of the continuing poor state of our road, sidewalk and sewer infrastructure," Mayor Peter Trent states in a letter being delivered this week with 2013 property tax bills.

But, he explains, the city is still playing catch-up after a relative lack of infrastructure spending during the merger years with Montreal when tax bills soared. While it has reinstituted its previous policy of pay-as-you-go for routine capital spending following the demerger in 2006, "We don't believe in mortgaging the future to maintain today's infrastructure."

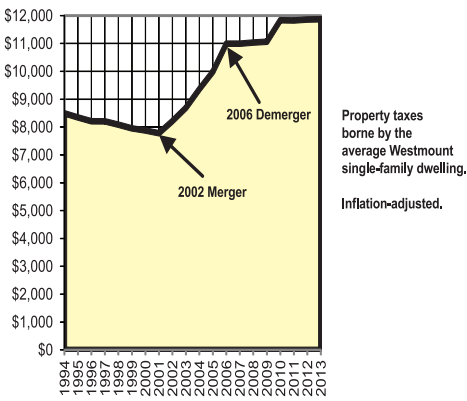
While 54 percent of the city's spending goes to island-wide services provided by Montreal, he writes, Westmount has an "almost pathological dependency" on property tax revenue to fund its \$93-million budget since only \$10 million is generated by other sources.

"The ongoing turbulence" in Montreal has resulted in lower than usual increases in island-wide agglomeration shared costs,

he states.

This, as well as Westmount's efforts to keep controllable local spending at the rate of inflation, has kept the increase in this year's average tax bill on single-family dwellings at 2 percent, he also explains (see budget coverage, December 19, 2012 p. 1).

That "same municipal ..... turbulence brings with it ..... continued on p. 16



Tax letter graph illustrates the city's contention how sharply tax bills rose during the merger years.

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# Centre Greene AGM opens with a royal flush

BY MARLENE EISNER

The 24th annual general meeting of the Centre Greene community centre began



Centre Greene president Deborah Adler, left, and District 8 city councillor Theodora Samiotis, cut the ribbon January 17 to inaugurate the building's new washroom facilities.

with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the centre's new washroom facilities.

"I want to welcome you all to our wash-room launch party," said the centre's executive director, Wesley McCoy, as he addressed the board of directors before the meeting began on January 17. Also on hand was architect Samantha Hayes, who designed the new men's, women's and wheelchair-accessible bathrooms.

McCoy thanked a number of individuals and groups, including Hayes, who "did it at an extremely reasonable rate, which included the design, the colours and the installations, and helped manage the project to the end."

The renovations, including the architectural fees, cost \$150,000. The money came from a \$75,000 grant from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada; a \$23,000 donation from Hydro Westmount's Energy Wise Home Diagnostic campaign, during which for every resident who filled in the questionnaire online, Hydro Westmount donated \$35 to community organizations such as the Centre Greene; and 234 donations from individuals.

Deborah Adler, board president, along with district 8 city councillor Theodora Samiotis, cut the ribbon to the washrooms of the 64-year-old building that "are now finally part of the 21st century," said Adler.

Later during the meeting, in his director's report, McCoy said fundraising would now focus on an outdoor ramp.

In other news: A new board of directors consisting of nine, instead of 13 members, was voted in. They are: Deborah Adler, Paul Billette, Erica Bloom, Josée Gravel,

Michael Harrison, Celia Lang, Peter Marcovitz, Ellie Rubin and Kate Sutherland.

The financial statement and treasurer's report were read, which showed that while revenues from rentals and programming were up, costs were also up due to the expense of heating and maintaining the building. Overall the centre's cash position was deemed adequate, with the cost of fixing the building remaining an on-going concern.



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# New year brings station changes, new police goals

## 2012 closes with 14% drop in selected crime

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

While 2012 ended with ups and downs from month to month in the crime samplings reported by police for Westmount, the final total revealed an almost 14-per-cent drop in the same criminal activity over 2011.

Can it be considered a barometer of all crime in Westmount?

Local Station 12 Commander Stéphane Plourde said last week that while the station – which also covers Montreal territory east to Côte des Neiges Rd. and Guy St. – does not separate out all crimes in Westmount from the station’s total, the samplings were an indicator of the rate of criminality, and Westmount certainly experienced what he considers to be “another very quiet year.”

Among some of the crimes not specifically broken out for Westmount are fraud, shoplifting and assault. Samplings reported monthly are those listed in the table below.

While a rash of thefts from cars during September, October and November received special police attention at the time with positive results, he said, in the context of the year as a whole, the total number of 167 showed a decrease of almost 22 percent compared with 2011.

On the other hand, statistics showed a 29-percent increase in robbery (which relates to any incident of theft with violence) during 2012, for a total of 22. Plourde said he could not account for the increase.

There were no murders in Westmount, Plourde noted. This compares with one in 2011. There were also no fatal road acci-

dents.

The station lists the number of arrests in Westmount as including 25 on outstanding warrants, five involving graffiti and 109 in other criminal incidents.

### 2013 goals: road safety, foot patrols

On the station front, Plourde said two goals, applicable to both Westmount and Montreal sectors, have been identified for this year. These are foot patrols and increased road safety, geared toward pedestrians and bike path users.

“We should have a bike patrol again this year, but we don’t know when it will start,” he said.

### Viatro, Pimentel to foot patrol

In terms of a new station initiative to designate specific foot patrollers, two officers in Station 12 territory have been detailed full-time to this function in keeping with a policy “to liaise with the population.”

They are constables .....  
Luiji Vitaro, a 25-year po- continued on p. 7

## Westmount crime samplings, 2012 vs. 2011

Type of crime	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total 2012	Total 2011	% change
Break-and-enter	7	9	7	81	82	0
Robbery	1	2	1	22	17	+29
Theft from vehicles	23	25	16	167	213	-22
Theft of vehicles	1	2	1	26	30	-13
Graffiti	7	25	12	141	172	-18
Hit-and-run	24	10	17	189	211	-10
Total				626	725	-13.7

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## Mailboxes, hoarding, traffic signs vandalized

# PSU sergeant tracks down graffiti suspect for arrest

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

An 18-year-old man pursued by Public Security was reported arrested outside the Vendôme Metro station January 21 in connection with a string of graffiti vandalism along St. Catherine St. in Westmount.

Sgt. Kim Colquhoun was on routine patrol at 6:17 pm when she was flagged down by a citizen who reported that a man wearing a red jacket and white head phones had just vandalized several mailboxes and the worksite fencing at 215 Redfern, said Public Security director David Sedgwick.

Colquhoun spotted an individual matching the description at St. Catherine and Lansdowne, where he entered the bus

shelter at the southeast corner. As she watched, a hand began moving back and forth.

After he departed, she detected the smell of marker pen in the shelter and found wet markings on the back window. Calling police, she began following the suspect west to the Vendôme Metro station.

“He was a big guy, about 6-foot-1 and 230 pounds, so she didn’t want to apprehend him herself,” Sedgwick said. Instead, she kept him under surveillance as he waited for a bus. Police from Station 11 in NDG arrived and called for a second patrol car before taking him into custody, he said.

A man described as born in 1994 was found in possession of a marker pen and a book of graffiti tags.

Colquhoun subsequently returned east along St. Catherine and recorded a dozen traffic signs bearing similar fresh graffiti tags to those on the bus shelter, mailboxes and worksite fencing.

## Crime stats, cont’d. from p. 6

lice veteran, and Adalbert Pimentel, who has become well-known as the station’s community relations officer, a position he will vacate.

The foot patrollers will walk the beat for six months in both Montreal and Westmount from March until the end of summer during daytime or evening shifts depending on needs. They will concentrate on commercial districts, Cabot Square and other parks, and attend specific events.

### Crisis response

Starting in March, Plourde said, one officer from each of the station’s groups (teams) will be trained in crisis intervention and known as “Officer RIC” – an acronym for *Réponse intervention de crise*. Once the program is phased in, each group will have a resource person when responding to incidents involving mentally unstable individuals, who might be involved in confrontational incidents with weapons.

This comes in response to two incidents last year in Montreal where police shootings occurred in similar episodes, he explained.

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## Roots coming to Westmount in March

By MARTIN C. BARRY

A Sherbrooke St. storefront, which has been vacant since the departure of Au Printemps, is supposed to be taken over in March by a Roots clothing store.

“We are indeed opening in Westmount,” Robert Sarner, director of communications for the Toronto-based chain, confirmed to the *Independent*.

“We are slated to have the store open by mid-March,” he added. “It’s going to be beautiful. About 1,000 square feet. Very family-oriented with a full-range of Roots merchandise, including our leather goods and our sweats.”

Nathalie Barbeau, a spokesperson for Au Printemps, said operations from their store formerly at 4872 Sherbrooke St. have been consolidated at the company’s boutique at 1110 Bernard Ave. in Outremont.

The retailer of household storage and closet solutions had operated the Westmount outlet for around 15 years but closed in December largely because of an increase in rent, said Barbeau.



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## SAVE THE POST OFFICE!

Thank you for your informative article in the *Independent* regarding the proposed closure of the Prince Albert post office ("Prince Albert post office on chopping block, January 22, p. 1). I hope that all concerned follow Mayor Peter Trent's lead and fight the proposal. Closure is, as the mayor states, a bad idea.

The post office is an important centre in our community for both business and social reasons. Its closure would undoubtedly cut down on foot traffic in the area, thereby having an adverse effect on local businesses and on the vitality of Victoria village.

Canada Post has given us two ways to register our comments: by visiting [canadapost.ca/retail](http://canadapost.ca/retail) or by writing to Canada Post at Retail Feedback, 2701 Riverside Drive, Suite N1020C, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0B1. I urge all concerned to express their opposition to the closure by using one of these two methods.

As well, I would appreciate it if you would publicize the fact that several merchants in the area, including Ben & Tournesol, Folklore and Westmount Stationery on Sherbrooke St., as well as Avenue des Arts, Art Rebel and Astri Prugger/Trink on Victoria have agreed to have a petition available for concerned members of the community to sign. We are hoping to col-

lect several pages of signatures to send to Ottawa by the February 15 deadline.

I think it is important not to accept this closure proposal as a *fait accompli* but rather look at it as a challenge to us as a community.

My hope is that we will pull together and succeed in keeping our Victoria village post office, which has served Westmount well for the past several decades, open for business. May the post office, with our efforts on its behalf, continue serving Westmount for decades to come, in the same efficient, pleasant manner that it has always done so.

DEANNA BARWICK WALL,  
LANSDOWNE AVE.

## KEEP BAN ON OVERNIGHT SNOW REMOVAL

The basis for the request that the overnight ban on snow removal be lifted is simply bogus ("Snow contractors ask city to lift overnight ban," January 22, p. 1). My comments are aimed at those who employ contractors, not the contractors themselves, who are only doing what they are paid to do.

If their employers were genuinely concerned about safety, they would not permit them to pile snow on the street and on sidewalks where it prevents walking and parking and is dangerous. Nor would they

permit the use of equipment that does not use back-up beepers.

"More efficient" is simply a euphemism for "less costly" – the driving force behind the ban request. Only a minority hire contractors to remove snow, e.g. those with long driveways. The rest of us want to sleep in peace.

So I am not surprised some of [Councillor] Patrick Martin's constituents want their driveways cleared by 7 am so they can move several cars. But what is music to the ears of those in luxury homes invariably wakes others. The "music" is not just back-up beeps that wakes us; it is also scraping plows and the shouting of workers.

The assertion that "when you live in Canada the sound of snow removal is a fact of life" is wrong. For most, it is the sound of shovels. They are quieter but take longer and cost more, which homeowners who employ contractors could easily afford.

City trucks work at night at taxpayers' expense in part to remove the snow from luxury driveways. Employers or council could insist it be shoved onto lawns or carted away. The overnight ban was instituted to benefit the majority; it is unfortunate if it inconveniences the privileged few.

If the ban is reversed, it will be further evidence that Westmount is not quite the classless community it wishes to be.

BARRY PLESS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

## LAMENTING THE DEPARTURE OF INDEPENDENT SHOPS

Just read about Cromwell ("Cromwell's impact on Vic village under microscope," December 19, p. 12), and this may or may not be related. I was so upset to see the video store [on Victoria Ave.] close.\*

We don't need another high-end boutique or ubiquitous big franchise. I really liked the young owners (I'm not alone), and they gave us a service many of us clearly still love and want. In fact, the CBC recently ran a piece on the resurgence and importance of the neighbourhood video rental shop.

And now Au Printemps is being forced out too, so we can't shop for the fun and practical items they carried either.

So much for supporting local entrepreneurs and the community feel we love around here.

JENNIFER GODDARD, VICTORIA AVE.

\* Editor's note: The building from which the now-closed video store used to operate is not owned by Cromwell.

## SNOW CLEARING PROCESS NEEDS TO BE CLEANED UP AROUND SCHOOL

I read the article "No heroic measures" for cleaning bike path during winter months," (January 22, p. 2). [I understood that] it states that the timing of the snow clearing operation on de Maisonneuve is not critical to the functioning of the city of Westmount.

If the timing is not that critical, why is it that snow clearing operations on de Maisonneuve between Greene and Westmount Park are carried out at the worst possible time? Without exception, snow clearing occurs between 7:35 and 7:55 am when students are walking to St. Léon elementary school.

To give a little history on this subject, Kensington is the main arrival point for students and is a drop-off street for school buses. Only last year did the city promise that snow removal would not occur on Kensington between 7 and 8 am. It took years of protests by parents and school personnel to have this obvious rule implemented, which shows the small priority the city shows to our children.

But there still is a great danger to young students because children don't magically arrive in front of the school yard on Kensington – they walk to school! And a great number of these students walk along the secure street of de Maisonneuve, exactly when snow clearing operations are carried out.

For example, on January 21 at 7:40 am, I watched a young and unaccompanied boy walk to school in a path directly towards a snow blower. Despite attempts by the [operator] and students across the street to tell the boy to cross the street, he kept walking. The deafening noise and intimidating machine hindered any ability for the boy to understand them. At less than 10 feet away, the worker approached the boy, and had to lead him by hand to help him climb the snow bank, which was as tall as the boy, to get out of danger.

It does not require much imagination to see that something could go terribly wrong when young people are surrounded by dangerous machines.

Why does Mayor Peter Trent expose its youngest citizens to this intimidating and dangerous situation?

MIRA KATNICK, ABBOTT AVE.

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EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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

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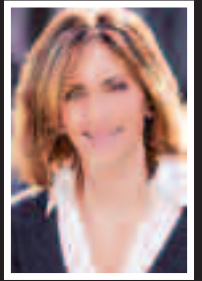
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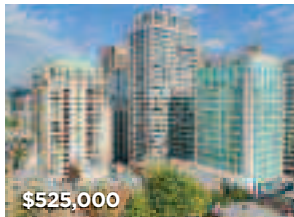
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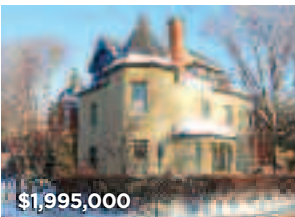
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# Amiel hosts brunch at Shaar, accompanied by Black



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On November 18, the Shaar Hashomayim hosted a star-styled luncheon, the 7th annual Women of Action Brunch, organized by the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) and The Pink Lady



From left: Ruth Khazzam, Arlene Greenberg and Janice Greenberg.

Fund. Keynote speaker was **Barbara Amiel**.

Wearing a white, just-above-the-knee, long-sleeved dress “by Christian Dior,” as she pointed out, and wide bejewelled bracelets, Amiel presented to some attentive 500 guests. Her husband, Montreal-born media baron **Conrad Black**, Lord Black of Crossharbour, now back in

Canada, accompanied her. The famed power couple was pressed for photo ops by captivated fans, both young and old.

Tickets were \$150 for the sold-out event.

Co-chairs were **Sheryl Rosen Adler**, **Maureen Tajfel**, **Julie Wiener** and **Susan Lavy**.

Honorees were Westmounter **Julie Greenbaum**, along with **Kathy Assayag** and **Kathleen Weil**. Ladies received a perfectly pink nail polish by sponsor **Essie** and a pretty bracelet with a “diamanté” peace sign, courtesy of **Delmar Jewellers**.

Westmounters noted included **Adele and Stanley Rosen**, **Susan and Danny Lavy**, **Leah and Robert Bard**, **Eden and David Flomen**, **Sheryl and Fred Adler**, **Judy and Gerry Weiner**, **Rosemary and Mel Hoppenheim**, **Maira and Michael Pesner**, **Lea and Hyman Polansky**, **Marla Oringer**, **Kathy Stotland**, **Susan Alper**, **Heather Paperman**, **Carmen and Joseph Broccolini**, **Roz**



Charlene Weiser and Cheryl Goffman.



From left: Barbara Amiel, Kathleen Weil and Conrad Black.

Photo courtesy of ICRF

**Wiener, Terry Elituv, Esther Backler, Charlene Weiser, Deborah Corber** and lifestyle *Gazette* columnist **Susan Schwartz**.

Myriads of charming volunteers wore fun glasses donated by **Eyeloveshadez** as they checked guests in at the well-organized welcome table.

The event raised \$235,000 in support of breast cancer research and care at the Jewish General Hospital.



Jonathan Lavy and Susan Alper.

Please send your information on spring fundraisers to [redgrave@videotron.ca](mailto:redgrave@videotron.ca) for the *Westmount Independent* spring calendar.

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# Feeling Lucky?



*The Underdog Club*

CYNTHIA LEE

“Every dog has his day” – so goes the proverb. And it applies to Lucky who was truly in luck the day he was rescued from a very bad situation.

From the looks of him, Lucky wasn’t well looked after in his former home: a lack of grooming and his poor overall state of health were clear indicators of a life that wasn’t suitable for anyone, much less this sweet shih tzu and lhasa apso mix.

But even in this environment of neglect, Lucky managed to eke out a life for himself. As far as we know, he lived in these conditions until he was finally found abandoned by rescuers. It’s one thing to have a bad home, and quite another to have none at all and be out in the streets like Lucky.

However, this little guy, sporting the classic Lhasa underbite, managed to get




Lucky

himself into good hands. Good people cleaned him up and gave him a safe place to be. They discovered a kindly soul of a gentleman.

Though people suspect he may be about 10 years old, Lucky doesn’t act the part. In fact, given his state of general good health, he has many ..... more days ahead of him, *continued on p. 18*

# Prices stay high in Dec.



*Mood of the Market*

ANDY DODGE, CRA

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

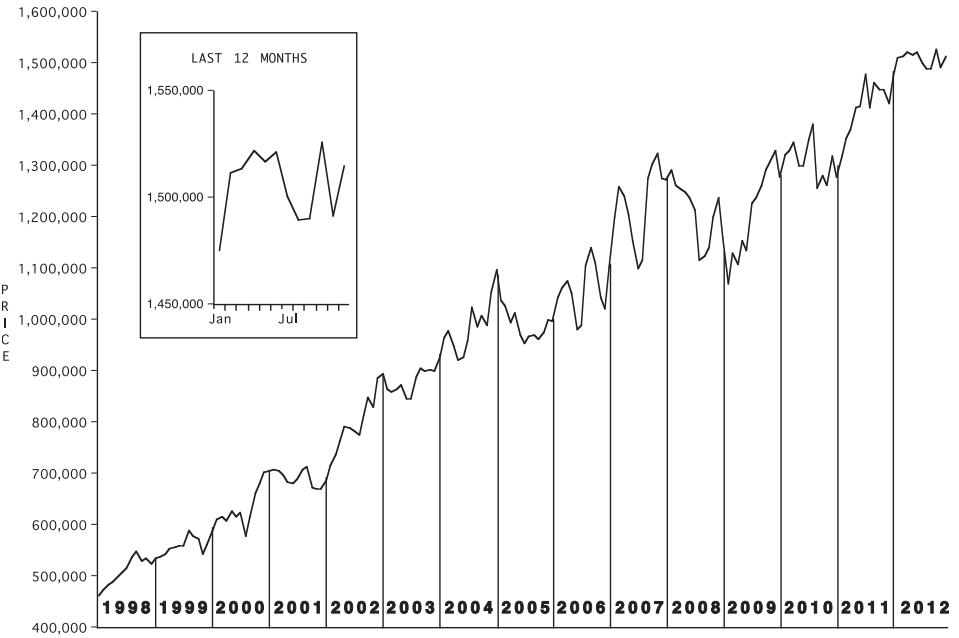
*of these trends over time.*

Westmount real estate stayed the course in December, with the average moving up slightly but basically with the average house hanging onto the \$1.5-million mark, which has been the benchmark since last February.

Seven home sales were posted for December – normally the slowest month of the year – bringing the total number for 2012 to 152 sales, down eight from 2011 but five more than in 2010.

Of the seven December sales, two were for more than \$2 million ..... and only one was less *continued on p. 16*

## Average adjusted price of a ‘typical’ Westmount home by month from Jan. 1998 to Dec. 2012 based on accepted offer dates



Source: Andy Dodge & Assoc. Inc.



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# Jochym pushes for better bike, foot network around new super-hospital rising at Glen site

By ISAAC OLSON

Westmount resident Roger Jochym pressed a McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) official for a more pedestrian and cyclist friendly network around the incoming super-hospital, but Pierre Major, speaking during a recent public meeting, had little to say in regards to Jochym's quest.

The interaction took place during the January 22 Good Neighbourly Relations Committee meeting – a regular information-sharing gathering that includes municipal, provincial and hospital officials, residents and merchants. Jochym, a member of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA), asked Major if he supports the construction of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Decarie Blvd./de Maisonneuve Blvd. intersection in eastern NDG.

Citing a plan to add bike lanes to the new Champlain bridge, Jochym said, "That type of quality cycling infrastructure



Minh-Tam Nguyen, a Montreal engineer (left, standing), addresses Westmount resident Roger Jochym (right, standing) during the January 22 Good Neighbourly Relations Committee meeting.

will not be cheap or simple to build, but the federal government appears to recognize the long-term importance of cycling and is prepared to make it happen. This is in sharp contrast to the proposal announced by Montreal for de Maisonneuve between Upper Lachine and Claremont, despite that fact that the potential for bicycle commuting is much larger."

Major, however, said the MUHC supports the city's plan to paint bike lanes on de Maisonneuve.

Minh-Tam Nguyen, a city of Montreal engineer, said studies indicate there is not enough space to build what would essentially be two bridges over both Decarie Blvd. and Upper Lachine Rd. It would also, he said, be too costly for the city.

Jochym also pushed Major to improve foot and bike access from the Southwest borough by constructing a protected path up the St. Jacques escarpment rather than planned sidewalks, which are limited in width and reach. Major said such an extension will not happen at this point.

At the end of the meeting, NDG councillor Peter McQueen showed the media the original plan for the area – a map dating back to 2007. The map clearly shows a bicycle bridge going over the infamous intersection and behind the buildings on the south side of de Maisonneuve. By not sticking to the plan, the councillor said the city is reneging on its promise.

"[The plan's path] runs all the way from Girouard to Claremont, clearly going beside the tracks and over Decarie Blvd.," said McQueen pointing at the large, paper map's bike path running along de Maisonneuve Blvd. "Not on the street, but clearly

beside the tracks and clearly behind the Metro station."

During the meeting, the councillor asked Montreal's Alain Trudeau, who heads municipal infrastructure renovations around the incoming hospital, to commit to keeping Upper Lachine Rd. open during the reconstruction of the St. Jacques St. bridge.

The city planner said "no."

continued on p. 16

## City asked to intervene with STM and MUHC

An advocate for active transportation asked Mayor Peter Trent at the city council meeting January 14 to take two concerns of the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA) to higher levels in the political arena.

Roger Jochym of Lewis Ave. and a member of WWCA asked the council to write to the MUHC and the STM transit authority requesting support for establishing a safe bike path between Decarie and Claremont, proposed to go along the railway fence.

"You must understand that this is completely out of our jurisdiction," Trent replied, adding, "We'll bring it up."

On his second point, Jochym asked if Westmount would take a lead at the aggro in asking that public monies be shifted from vehicular infrastructure to mass transit including cycling.

Trent, who is a member of the aggro's Transportation committee, replied that such a request had to be done through the strength of many municipalities, not simply through the aggro. "I'm not saying no, but the reality is we're very small."

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## McGuigan Pepin hosts event



McGuigan Pepin real estate agency, which recently joined Century 21 as a franchise, held a noon-hour “Lunch ‘n Learn” event on January 24 at the Atwater Club to formally announce the partnership. Around 50 guests also heard presentations on the factors influencing the real estate market in Canada and in Montreal by Dario Mazzarello, a Jarislowsky, Fraser partner, and Westmount real estate consultant Andy Dodge who writes a column for the Independent. From the left: McGuigan Pepin president Joan McGuigan; Mazzarolle; former Westmount Municipal Association president Jean-Pierre Picard, who moderated the event; and Dodge.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

### Police reports, cont'd. from p. 4

tacted. The dog was not able to trace the scent, said Pimentel, but it was discovered that jewelry, a credit card, personal documents and a small safe were missing. There were fingerprints found at the scene, and police are continuing to investigate the crime.

Not an hour later, a home on Belmont Ave. was also targeted in a similar fashion.

However, said Pimentel, in this case, the home's exterior light bulbs were removed from their sockets so the neighbours couldn't see any suspicious activity. The suspect then broke a back balcony window, searched the home and left with jewelry and an iPad.

Pimentel said police found fingerprints and footprints on the scene, and the evidence was sent to the police's forensic identification unit.

## Quebec classifieds

### Antiques

ABRACADABRA turn your hidden treasures into ready cash. International buyer wants to purchase your antiques, paintings, china, crystal, gold, silverware, jewellery, rare books, sports, movies, postcards, coins, stamps, records. 514-501-9072.

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## Public Works crew at work on potholes in -32°C temps

As the temperature hovered around -23°C, the wind chill dropped it to -32°C. Public Works employee Justin Cavanagh Jackson commented “it is a horrible job to have to do in such conditions but a necessary one that has to be done for the benefit of those who drive their vehicles on our streets ... Normally, it’s a fun job, but the extreme cold affects the hydraulic system on the truck making it much more sluggish, which delays the speed we work at and this tends to hold up traffic. You really have to keep your eyes open when working out here as some people have no patience and whip past you, making it dangerous while you’re trying to concentrate on your job.”

### Patience

Jackson and his colleague Marco Brunetti would like to ask drivers to be a little more patient and appreciative because “we work for you.” For photo, see p. 1. RJG

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## Power outage, cont'd. from p. 1

While some residents may have noticed the city no longer puts out its traditional sandwich boards asking them to conserve electricity once the temperature plunges below -18°C, the message remains the same, Campbell said.

Citing messages from Hydro Quebec, people should avoid using “needless” electricity at those times, including Christmas lights, he said. Westmount was trying to set an example by reducing power in municipal buildings.

The sandwich boards have not been used for a couple of years, he explained. “I don’t think they really worked. People didn’t understand them. And most people are now using bi-energy, which means that once the temperature falls, their heating systems are using gas.”

The use of plug-in portable heaters during cold spells is worrisome, he said, for the fire hazard they present. “We want people to be very careful. We haven’t had a prolonged cold spell for so long that they may have forgotten the message.”

Such heaters typically draw large amounts of electricity, which can trip circuit breakers or lead to fires when wiring is not equipped to handle them. Heaters have been recorded as the cause of a number of winter fires over the years in Westmount.

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## Recreation centre construction gate open twice

A gate giving access to the arena/pool worksite on Academy Rd. was found open on two occasions January 16 at 3:05 am and January 20 at 1:40 pm, Public Security officials said. Officers were unable to close and secure it both times because of a lack of materials and high wind. The site foreman was advised. Also on January 20, wind was reported to have blown over a gas-fired heater at the northwest corner of the site near Lansdowne and de Maisonneuve, bringing out firefighters at 8:35 pm. Damage was confined to a small

amount of charring on a wood platform (see January 22, p. 10), public safety officers said. The foreman was summoned again.

## Noisy smokers warned

Noisy guests were asked to go inside during a house party on Murray Hill January 18, Public Security officials said. They were warned after a complaint at 11:25 pm. The group had gone outside to smoke.

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# Comin' Up

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

**“Hockey sticks, outdoor rinks and climate change,”** with Lawrence Mysak, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Presented by the Healthy City Project. Free. Info: 514 989.5284.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

**The Imani gospel singers**, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library. Directed by Marcia Bailey, perform a program of spiritual music and discuss the evolution of Black gospel music. Free.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

**City council meeting**, 8 pm at city hall.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

• ArtNow presents sculpturer **Oleg Dergachov** and painter **Randee Crudo**, 7 pm at Westmount Public Library. Free.

The **Montreal Children's Library** cordially invites you to a special event: An evening of storytelling for adults!

**Saturday, February 9, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.**

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Bibliothèque et centre d'information  
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• **“Everything you wanted to know about Judaism, but were afraid to ask,”** 7 pm at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Rabbi Lisa Grushcow will be present to answer questions about Judaism, Jewish life cycle events, holidays, customs and traditions, denominations, family and identity. Free. RSVP: rosie@templemontreal.ca or 514.937.3575, ext. 213 by February 1.

• **“Dreaming in Autism”** by Christine Rodriguez, directed by Liz Truchanowicz at Coristine Hall, Selwyn House (95 Côte St. Antoine Rd.), 7:30 pm. Suggested donation \$10. Reserve: latigressa@live.ca.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Author, cartoonist and Westmounter Terry **“Aislin”** Mosher speaks at the Westmount Public Library, 7 pm. Register at the circulation desk or 514.989.5299. Free.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

**Westmount winter carnival** until Saturday, February 9 at the Westmount Athletic Grounds and Victoria Hall. Consult the city website (www.westmount.org) for list of scheduled events. See p. 1 for story.

## Saturday Morning Activities

**5 to 12 years**

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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## Good neighbour, cont'd. from p. 13

McQueen then told Trudeau that, so far, over 1,000 area residents had signed a petition to keep Upper Lachine open while St. Jacques is closed between Prud'homme Ave. and Addington St., but Trudeau simply raised his palm to the air and shrugged his shoulders.

McQueen's questions were rooted in the plan to close Upper Lachine Rd. between Crowley Ave. and Decarie Blvd. while the St. Jacques St. bridge over the highway 15 trench is being rebuilt by the province as part of the Turcot Interchange overhaul.

## Dog owner warned on first offence

The owner of a dog walking it off-leash January 16 in the small park at York and St. Catherine was warned at 7:55 am but not ticketed since it was a first offence, Public Security officials said.

## Tax, cont'd. from p. 4

a promise of ending the ‘corruption premium’ of inflated infrastructure contracts, a cost partially passed on to us,” he adds.

Trent also expresses a hope that, as a result, Westmount would receive “more bang for our buck” in a healthier competitive environment.

And while the explanatory tax letter will be received by property owners only, Trent told the *Independent* that the information was also important for tenants to understand since they also pay a portion of their building's property taxes as part of their rent. Further budget information is available on the city's website and at the Westmount Public Library.

Tax bills are payable in two installments: March 1 and May 31.

## Electronic Independents available

Enjoy the *Indie* at supper time on Tuesdays! Sign up by writing us: office@westmountindependent.com.

## Dec. sales, cont'd. from p. 12

than \$1 million, giving some hope that the top end of the Westmount market has not disappeared with the election of a Parti Québécois government. The December sales are particularly important because by then the market participants should have fully absorbed the impact of that September 4 election.

For the year, total sales volume is 152 compared to a 15-year average of 175, but in fact in there were fewer sales both in 2008 and 2010, and with the million-dollar prices that Westmounters can expect for most houses, the buyer population has obviously dropped off in recent years.

Three condominium sales in December brought the total for the fourth quarter of last year to 10, doubling the five that were posted in the third quarter. Prices stayed quite even, some 20 percent above city tax value; in the four quarters last year the average mark-up ranged from 17 per-

cent to 21 percent. Prices ranged from \$305,000 to \$1,550,000, so it is difficult to derive any conclusions from the average price.

Two more condos at 11 Hillside Ave. sold in December, but the building has yet to be evaluated so the mark-ups cannot be included in the statistics. A co-op apartment at 376 Redfern Ave. also sold in December.

In adjacent Westmount, one triplex in eastern NDG, a duplex in Shaughnessy Village, a house on Redpath Place and three condominiums just east of Westmount rounded out the December sales.

For the year, every adjacent-Westmount district saw increases of average mark-ups except for the Trafalgar-Daulac district just to the east of Westmount, where mark-ups were down 4.6 percent for houses and 2.4 percent for condominiums. Volume was lower in almost all districts.

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# infoWestmount

2013.01.30 • Vol. 1/02

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## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### Série conférences du Projet ville en santé : Bâtons de hockey, patinoires extérieures et les changements climatiques

Est-ce que les changements climatiques menacent l'avenir des traditions hivernales au Canada? Le hockey en plein air est-il en voie de disparition? Le comité environnemental du PVS de Westmount présente le **Dr Lawrence Mysak**, professeur et chercheur au Département des sciences atmosphériques et océaniques de l'Université McGill et co-auteur d'une étude qui retrace les tendances de température et l'impact sur les patinoires extérieures. Soyez des nôtres le jeudi 31 janvier à 19 h à la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount. Bienvenue à tous. Info : 514 989-5284.

## CENTRE DES LOISIRS DE WESTMOUNT

### Suivez l'avancement du CLW

Suivez l'avancement du projet; envoyez un message à [centredesloisirswestmount@westmount.org](mailto:centredesloisirswestmount@westmount.org), suivez-nous sur Twitter @constructalert et aimez-nous sur Facebook au [westmountrecreationcentre.com](http://westmountrecreationcentre.com). De plus, vous trouverez des photos sur le site web [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).



### Exposition des plans du CLW

Les plans du nouveau Centre des loisirs de Westmount sont présentement exposés à la Bibliothèque de Westmount et au Victoria Hall.

## SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

### Piste cyclable : conditions hivernales

Les cyclistes sont invités à consulter le site web de la ville au [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) ou à s'abonner à Twitter (@westmount\_cycle) afin de connaître l'état de la piste cyclable. L'accès peut en être limité en raison du mauvais temps et lors des opérations de déneigement.

## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Collecte des sapins de Noël

Placez votre sapin, dépouillé de toute décoration, à l'arrière du trottoir. Veuillez noter que le déneigement pourrait retarder la cueillette. Info : 514 989-5311.

### Rappel : déneigement

La neige provenant des entrées privées ne doit jamais être poussée ou pelletée dans les rues, ruelles ou trottoirs de la ville. La neige peut être ajoutée aux bancs de neige existants avant le déneigement sans jamais obstruer les trottoirs et la voie publique. Les entrepreneurs et les propriétaires sont passibles d'amendes pour toute infraction.

Lors de la collecte sélective, veuillez déposer votre bac bleu à la limite de votre propriété, derrière les trottoirs, de

Prochaine séance du conseil :

**Le 4 février**

façon à ne pas entraver le déneigement des rues et des trottoirs. Votre collaboration est grandement appréciée.

### Patinoires extérieures

Consultez le site web de la Ville au [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) pour connaître l'état des patinoires extérieures. Leur fermeture temporaire est parfois nécessaire en raison des conditions météorologiques. Info: 514 989-5311.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Cercle de lecture

Aucune liste de lecture imposée, seulement des discussions au sujet de livres que vous avez lus ! Prochaine rencontre : le mardi 12 février à 10 h 15. Info : 514 989-5299.

### Rencontre d'auteurs : Pascal Élie et Terry Mosher

Venez rencontrer les caricaturistes politiques du journal montréalais *The Gazette*, Pascal Élie et Terry Mosher (« Aislin »), auteur du livre *Was It Good For You?* le mercredi 6 février à 19 h. Info : 514 989-5299.

### Théâtre: « The Fabulous Fable Factory »

Le dimanche 24 février de 14 h à 15 h au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke O. Interprétée par la troupe **Teen Tour Theatre**, cette pièce de théâtre interactive présente une sélection de fables connues d'Ésope, dont « *The Tortoise and the Hare* » (Le lièvre et la tortue) et « *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse* » (Le rat de ville et le rat des champs). Pour les 4 à 12 ans. Gratuit; inscription obligatoire. Info : 514 989-5229.

## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES



### La galerie du Victoria Hall

La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter Évolô, une exposition de peintures de **Roxanne Dyer** du 10 janvier au 2 février.

Info : 514 989-5521 ou [victorihall@westmount.org](mailto:victorihall@westmount.org).

### Carnaval d'hiver 2013 : les 7, 8 et 9 février

Fêtez l'hiver lors du 30<sup>e</sup> Carnaval annuel de Westmount les 7, 8 et 9 février avec des activités pour tous : promenades en traîneau, patinage, soirée familiale et plus. Consultez l'horaire au [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). Info : 514 989-5353.

### Vers le Centre des loisirs de Westmount !

Le vendredi 8 février de 17 h 30 à 21 h 30 au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest. Dîner familial, danse et jeux. Tenue: portez votre chandail de sport préféré. Billets : 12 \$, enfants (12 ans et moins) 6 \$. Bar payant. Info : 514 989-5226.

### Fête du carnaval « Ballroom Blitz »

Le samedi 9 février de 19 h à 23 h. au Victoria Hall, 4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest. Musique du style « swing » avec un soupçon de danse sociale, dans l'ambiance chaleureuse de la salle de concert. Billets : 15 \$ (étudiants 12 \$). Bar payant. Info : 514 989-5226.

## CITY HALL

### Healthy City Project Speaker Series: *Hockey Sticks, Outdoor Rinks and Climate Change*

Does climate change threaten the future of Canada's winter traditions? Could outdoor hockey become a thing of the past? The Westmount HCP Environment Committee



presents **Dr Lawrence Mysak**, Professor and Researcher at McGill University's Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and co-author of a study that looks at outdoor rinks and winter weather trends. Join us on Thursday, January 31st at 7 p.m. at the Westmount Public Library. Everyone welcome. Info: 514 989-5284.

## WESTMOUNT RECREATION CENTRE

### Follow the progress of the WRC

Receive updates on the construction by sending a message to [westmountrecreationcentre@westmount.org](mailto:westmountrecreationcentre@westmount.org). You can also follow us on Twitter : @constructalert and like us on Facebook at [westmountrecreationcentre](http://westmountrecreationcentre.com). The latest photos may also be seen at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org).

### WRC Plans on Display

Plans of the new Westmount Recreation Centre are now on display at the Westmount Public Library and at Victoria Hall.

## PUBLIC SECURITY

### Bicycle path: winter conditions

Cyclists using the De Maisonneuve bicycle path are invited to check [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) for updates on conditions or subscribe to Twitter (@westmount\_cycle). The bicycle path may close where weather conditions warrant or during snow removal operations.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Christmas Tree Collection

Place your Christmas tree, free of all decorations, behind the sidewalk at any time. Please note that snow and other conditions may delay collection. Info: 514 989-5311.

### Reminder - snow clearing

Snow from private driveways and walkways should never be placed on public sidewalks, lanes or streets. Snow may be added to the existing snowbanks prior to removal, but this snow must never obstruct the public roadways or sidewalks.

Fines may be levied on homeowners and/or contractors who violate these regulations.

We also ask that on recycling day, you keep your blue box off the sidewalk and out of the path of Westmount's sidewalk plows. With your cooperation, we can all look forward to a safe winter season.

### Outdoor Skating Rinks

Consult the City website at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org) to check on the condition of the outdoor skating rinks, as weather conditions may require their closure from time to time. Info: 514 989-5311.

Next Council Meeting:

**February 4**

## LIBRARY

### Readers to Readers Book Club

Join our morning book club to talk about great books recently read. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 12 at 10:15 a.m. Info: 514 989-5299.

### Author Event : Pascal Élie and Terry Mosher

Meet Montreal Gazette political cartoonists Pascal Élie and Terry "Aislin" Mosher, author of *Was It Good For You?* on Wednesday, February 6 at 7 p.m. Info: 514 989-5299.

### Theatre: *The Fabulous Fable Factory*

Sunday, February 24, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke Street West. This interactive play, performed by the **Teen Tour Theatre**, presents some of Aesop's best known fables, including *The Tortoise and the Hare* and *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*. For ages 4 to 12. Free; registration required. Info: 514-989-5229.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### The Gallery at Victoria Hall

The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present Évolô, an exhibition of paintings by **Roxanne Dyer** from January 10 to February 2. Info: 514 989-5521/victoriahall@westmount.org.

### 2013 Winter Carnival: February 7, 8 and 9

Celebrate the winter season at Westmount's 30<sup>th</sup> annual Carnival on February 7, 8 and 9, with activities for everyone, including skating, sleigh rides, family night and more. Find the full schedule on the City website: [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org). Info: 514 989-5353.

### Off to the Westmount Recreation Centre!

Friday February 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke Street West. Family dinner, dancing and games. Dress code: your favorite sport jersey! Tickets: \$12, children (12 and under) \$6. Cash bar. Info: 989-5226.



### Ballroom Blitz Carnival Swing Ball

Saturday, February 9 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke Street West. Classic tunes from the swing era, with a touch of ballroom. In the warm ambiance of the historic Concert Hall. Tickets: \$15, students \$12. Cash bar. Info: 989-5226.





## History

## When the bell tolled

BY DOREEN LINDSAY

**Question:** When did the St. Matthias' church bell crack?

**Answer:** The bell cracked on April 28, 1912 while it was ringing during the last service held in the original wooden church that was built in 1873 on a small piece of land donated by Mrs. R. T. Raynes from her large family estate above Côte St. Antoine Rd. The Raynes family was very involved with the developing religious community and one of their daughters became the second organist for the church.



Cracked bell at St. Matthias.

Photo courtesy of Doreen Lindsay

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This first building was in reality a mission established by the Young Men's Christian Association of St. George's Church on Dominion Square in Montreal. Gradually the number of parishioners grew to exceed the 120-person capacity of the 40 by 25 foot space. It was enlarged many times until it became necessary to build a larger place for worship.

The present Gothic-style stone church, 90 by 150 feet, was constructed from plans by architects Ross & MacFarlane, and opened on April 28, 1912. The original wood building continued to be used as Sunday school for the children and a meeting hall for social events until it was demolished in 1934 when a new upper hall was built.

Reverend Kenneth Near, rector of St. Matthias' for the past four years, explained to the Westmount Historical Association, that the church's development over the years radiated from the energy of the strong men and women of the original religious community. "There was always a missionary mindedness among those who made up the congregation: Mr. Raynes, Ward, Brehant, Goode, Warminton, Durnford, Hill, Clark – among others.

"Among the remembrances of our roots," he continued, "are the church bell that was saved from the original wood church, as well as the silver trowel used to lay the cornerstone of the new stone church building."

During the city of Westmount's development from the town of Côte St. Antoine to the town of Westmount in 1895 and during the building of the new stone church, the rector was the Reverend Edward Bushell. He had been appointed in 1890 and continued for 38 years. The Reverend Canon Gilbert Oliver followed him in 1929. He served until 1955, thus pro-



## 9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

Hope was featured awhile ago in our column on November 27, 2012. She is perhaps the kitten that had touched me the most by her plight and her rescue. She was found caught in a leg-hold trap and as a result had to have one of her legs amputated. She is now waiting for her well-deserved forever home.

Who would want a kitten with three legs? We would! That's what makes Westmounters so special in that we recognize that every creature is unique.

I am pleased to provide you with an update on Hope and bring her to your attention for adoption once again. She has recuperated well from her surgery. The person who is fostering her reports that Hope does just fine in a home, getting around and managing well. She is a spunky 9-month old tortie who loves to be cuddled, happy as can be.

viding great stability to the church.

During this time the Memorial Chapel was added after the Great War and a new parish hall was added. This completed the construction of the church facilities as they now stand.

Music has always been important to the church. As early as 1889, the church obtained a new organ and later, in 1973, a superb Karl Wilhelm pipe organ was installed. The organ has been featured in several recordings. The choir for the parish has also produced many well-received recordings.

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

## Hope still hoping



Hope

For more information on Hope, please contact Gerdy's Rescues and Adoptions at 514.203.9180 or email info@gerdysrescue.org.

## Underdog, cont'd. from p. 12

and, amazingly, those years of neglect didn't have an adverse effect on Lucky – he didn't become bitter, frightened or aloof. Quite the opposite: Lucky would flourish in a new home with people who have the time and inclination to lavish on him the love and affection he deserves. His favourite activities are walks and long drives in the car.

If you've ever been in a lacklustre situation and managed to change that around, why not do the same for Lucky? He's with the hardworking folks at Gerdy's Rescue and Adoptions. Please call 514.203.9180 or email info@gerdysrescue.org.

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**WESTMOUNT: 3730 The Boulevard** Contemporary, Open Concept 3+1 bdrm, Beautiful Rock Garden w/Pool. Large Living Room with dbl height ceiling, Filled with light! **Asking \$2,100,000** MLS 10812805



**WESTMOUNT: 399 Av. Clarke #7A** Bright Penthouse Condo. 4 Bedrooms, 2 bath, approx 1,700 sq.ft. Gorgeous mountain VIEWS!! **Asking \$595,500** MLS 9319251

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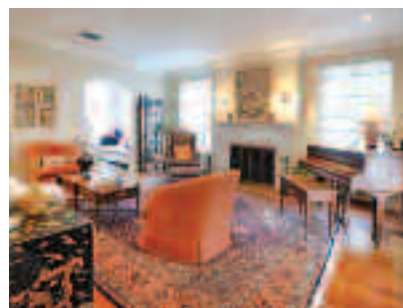
**HAVE SERIOUS BUYERS.** Looking for minimum 3 bedroom, with master en-suite bathroom, semi-detached or detached Westmount home with sunny garden and parking. Price +/- \$1,000,000 with **POTENTIAL** for cosmetic changes and to create an open concept entertaining space and dream kitchen. **PLEASE CALL!!!**



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**WESTMOUNT** Elegant semi-detached Tudor in desirable Murray Hill area near schools, transport. Grand spacious cross-hall entertaining rooms. Large eat-in kitchen w/adjointing laundry area. 3 generous bedrooms, master w/en-suite, den w/built-ins. Private garden/patio. Finished basement w/integrated dble garage. A/C, dual energy-saving system. Bright corner lot **\$1,640,000**



**WESTMOUNT ADJ., your choice!** Bright upper 3 bedrooms with master ensuite, completely renovated. New windows, kitchen insulated wood floors, **\$585,000** – OR – Amazing open plan lower with huge sundeck leading to landscaped perennial garden plus finished basement. **\$625,000**

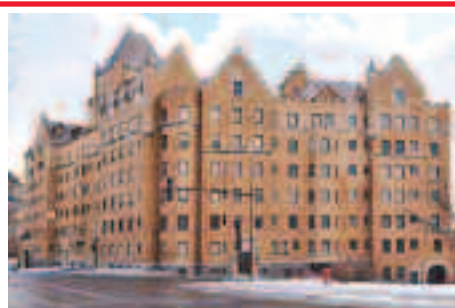


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**THE TRAFALGAR – DOWNTOWN – WSTMT ADJ.:** 1 unit for sale: a four bedroom penthouse on two floors! two terraces. MLS 8641815 **\$1,975,000**



**WESTMOUNT, VICTORIA VILLAGE:** Charming 4 bdrm Victorian house, 1 prkg, terrace, walking distance to Vendome metro & shopping. MLS 9068622 **\$795,000**



**WESTMOUNT, CLAREMONT :** Modern renovated townhouse – 4 bedrooms – 2 bathrooms, 2 car garage, nice view. MLS 10825636 **\$1,185,000**



**Judy Litvack**  
Real Estate Broker

**Sutton**

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Email: judylitvack@videotron.ca



**623 Victoria Avenue** Spacious 4+1 bedroom cottage Walking Distance To Everything! Gracious entertaining space – 2nd floor den & full basement w/nanny's quarters, sunny private garden, 3 car prkg **\$1,229,000**



**12 Chesterfield** – Sunny 3 bedroom, 1½ bathroom cottage. Right in the Heart of **Victoria Village**. Totally renovated – central AC, garage and garden. **GREAT CONDO ALTERNATIVE** **\$895,000**

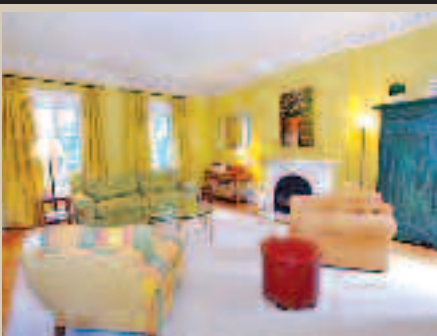
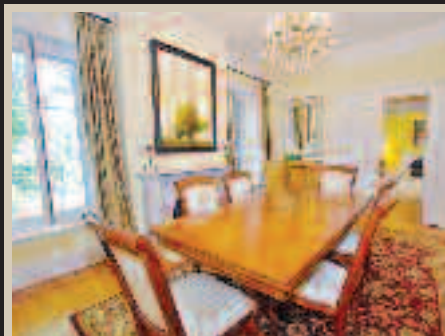


**549 Roslyn** Stunning sun-filled Westmount Residence on desirable Roslyn Avenue – **FULLY RENOVATED** A chef's dream – fabulous gourmet kitchen, 5+1 bedrooms, 4½ bathrooms Great family home – the perfect blend of charm and warmth **\$2,495,000**



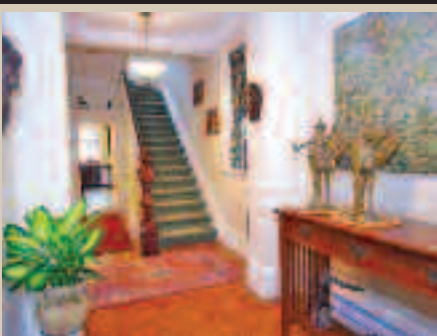
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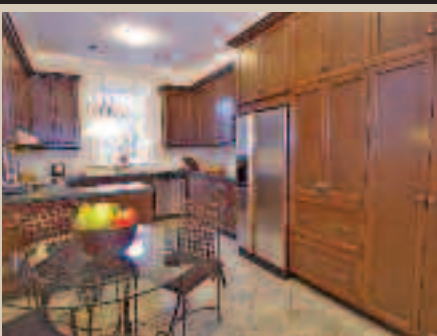
**WESTMOUNT \$1,595,000**  
**52 Rosemount**

Tucked away on lovely Rosemount Avenue, this elegant property with a European flavor has it all! Beautifully renovated, with its distinctive character preserved, this 4 + 1 bedroom residence with garage also has a large private front garden, large windows, very high ceilings. MLS 9422346



**WESTMOUNT \$1,198,000**  
**4549 Sherbrooke W.**

This 4 bedroom century old detached home has been lovingly restored. Exceptional woodwork throughout, high ceilings, fireplace and large rooms for family living and entertaining. Located across from Westmount Park, walk to Victoria Village, YMCA. MLS 8653037



**WESTMOUNT \$1,645,000**  
**21 Thornhill**

Beautiful, elegant semi-detached on a quiet street, walking distance to Sherbrooke Street and Greene Avenue. This 4 bedroom residence with 2 family rooms, 3 fireplaces, wine cellar and an amazing finished basement is a rare opportunity. Lovely private garden; an oasis of tranquility! MLS 8765402



**WESTMOUNT \$1,035,000**  
**303 Grosvenor**

Lovely attached 3 + 1 bedroom in superb condition! This charming renovated property offers very spacious rooms, beautiful wood floors, leaded windows, eat-in kitchen, large garden and tons of light coming from the skylights. Not to be missed! MLS 10329472



**Marie Sicotte**

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

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**Deeply Rooted Values**

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