

Shapiros mark 70 years on Valentine's Day

Married in Montreal in 1943, long-time Westmounters Herbert and Helen Shapiro celebrated 70 years of marriage on February 14, Valentine's Day. Both grew up in Westmount, where they raised their family of four boys (Peter, Rob, Don and Adam) and daughter Elizabeth. Helen, 91, is an artist who continues to paint and is an active participant with the Canadian Women's Club and the McGill Learning in Retirement program.

Herbert, 96, is a retired business man who, during the World War II, was a gunnery instructor for the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was also an active squash and tennis player.

Helen also played tennis and enjoyed badminton, yoga and gardening. "Seventy years together is pretty good," confessed Helen. "We've had a good life and we've been lucky."

Herbert said their key to a long and successful marriage is, "to both be flexible in your positions and work things out together." They both agreed that a caring family is also an integral cornerstone to a strong relationship.



Herbert and Helen Shapiro in their Westmount home February 11.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

City served with only three flood suits, totalling \$217,000

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three legal suits totaling some \$217,000 have been filed against the city for flooding resulting from the so-called "storm of the century" May 29 and another deluge July 4, city officials said last week.

All three allege damages related to either "inadequate" sewer or drainage systems.

The largest was filed by Manoir Westmount and its insurer in the amount of \$202,500. Another for \$13,804 comes from the insurer of a house on Grenville Ave. The third, from a resident of Prince

Albert, seeks reimbursement of a \$500 insurance deductible.

The three were the only ones filed against the city within the prescribed deadline despite more than 160 *mises en demeure* claim notices received after the May storm alone (see June 26, p. 1).

The suit from Manoir Westmount relates to the May 29 storm. Filed in Superior Court, it seeks \$100,000 for the insurer (Royal & Sun Alliance de Canada Société d'Assurance), reported as the limit of the policy guarantee.

An additional \$100,000 not covered by the policy *continued on p. 22*

Only in Westmount? Briefcase of cash returned

A public safety officer was driving down Victoria from The Boulevard February 8 during the snowstorm when he spotted a black attaché case leaning against a pole. With no apparent owner in sight, the officer took it into the patrol vehicle to search for identification, Public Security officials said.

Instead, he discovered more than \$600 in cash along with a number of cheques. Using Hydro Westmount accounts, officers were able to track down a resident of the street, who was able to confirm the contents of the case.

The man reportedly explained that he had put down the briefcase while juggling cars in the driveway. But because of traffic on the one-way street at 10 am, he had had to drive around the block, returning to find it gone. He was informed it could be retrieved at local police Station 12. —LS

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Assistant city clerk will wait for top spot to be filled

Nancy Gagnon to move on to new challenge in DDO

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount assistant city clerk Nancy Gagnon will be leaving the city after more than 17 years to become assistant city clerk in Dollard des Ormeaux, possibly in April.

The announcement February 13 of her departure comes just two months after city



Nancy Gagnon, February 14.

clerk Mario Gerbeau left December 14 to work in St. Lambert. Since his departure, Gagnon has been acting as interim city clerk, a role she said last week she intends to fulfill until the city can find a replacement for Gerbeau.

She told the *Independent* that the appointment of city director general Duncan Campbell as substitute city clerk at the February 4 city council meeting was simply coincidental. “I asked for that because I knew I was going to be away in March over spring break.”

Her new appointment was ratified by the DDO council February 12, she said.

With two young sons aged 9 and 7, Gagnon said she was not ready to step up to the city clerk position in Westmount. On the other hand, the DDO position provides the challenge of working for a larger city. Its population of some 50,000 is more than double Westmount’s.

“It took me a long time to make the decision,” she said. “But DDO is closer to home (in Laval), and it’s a different challenge.”

Gagnon has been with Westmount since graduating from the University of Montreal. She articulated with Marie-France Paquet, Westmount’s long-time city clerk, who left with the mergers and is now director of administrative services in Outremont.

“I think those were my best years, working with Marie-France, articling with her and working on the 1995 elections,” Gagnon recalled. “I think the hardest part were the merger years.

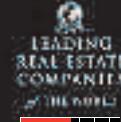
“But I’m telling everybody I’m not going far. I’m still loyal to Westmount.”

Car topples pole on slippery hill

Snow and slippery streets were believed to have caused a car “drift” out of control February 8 on Argyle, north of Côte St. Antoine, Public Security officials said. The car hit a city pole and broke a branch off a small tree. No injuries were reported in the accident at 8:46 am. A tow truck had already been called to remove the car from the pole, which was caught under it. The driver was identified as a 50-year-old man from Côte St. Luc.

Traffic was down to one lane at Sherbrooke and Grosvenor on February 15. What was up? Public Works did not reply to a request for comment by press time.

Photo: Independent



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Oldest Selwyn Old Boy dies

Remembering Leonard Schlemm (1913-2013)

Leonard Schlemm, Selwyn House School's oldest Old Boy in contact with the school, died on February 12.

After graduating from the school, he went to Ashbury College, then McGill, earning a master's degree in geology. He joined the navy soon after graduating from McGill, but suffered from acute seasickness and was assigned to a London bomb-disposal squad during World War II. He was the only member of his team to survive the war because the Germans kept changing the colour-coding on their bomb wires, making disarming hazardous.

After the war, he worked in mining, managed the Windsor Hotel and was vice president of Mart Bonaventure.

Schlemm was a world-class athlete, specializing in racquet sports. He started playing at what is now the Atwater Club in 1924. He was a Canadian champion in squash and badminton into his 20s and an international champion for decades after-

ward. Leonard won the US Veterans' Seniors' Open with former Westmount mayor Paul Ouimet when he was in his sixties.

The Selwyn tradition was strong in the Schlemm family. Leonard's brother, Garry, who predeceased him, was a 1932 graduate, as were his three grandsons Leonard (2004), Tyler (2008) and Anton (2009).

Schlemm returned to Selwyn on Founder's Day in 2007 to cut the opening ribbon of a year-long celebration of the school's centennial.

He lived on the family farm near St. Agathe until shortly before his death.

The oldest Old Boy with whom the school is in touch is now Patrick Stoker, class of 1931.



– Independent

Station 12 Reports

Burglar removes shoes before exploring house

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.

Station 12 police are investigating three recent Westmount-based break-ins where the burglars left very little evidence behind.

On January 8, just after 11 pm, a camera and laptop were stolen from a home on Montrose Ave. The owners were away for the night, Constable Adalbert Pimentel, when the suspect forced open the back patio doors, took off his footwear and began exploring the rooms.

Often, said Pimentel, a suspect will leave behind dirt and snow when walking through a house with his or her boots on, but this particular burglar preferred to go shoeless.

Despite his cleanliness inside the house, a man's footprints were found in the backyard.

Between 1 pm on February 9 and 10 am on February 10, a suspect climbed up to the backyard balcony of a home on Westmount Ave. and forced the doors open, said Pimentel. Jewelry was stolen, and the suspect left the same way he came in. While police weren't able to uncover any fingerprints, a footprint was on the scene.

A bike, said Pimentel, was also reportedly stolen from an Irvine Ave. basement sometime between January 28 and February 3. The suspect entered the basement through an unlocked door.

Evidence such as footprints, said Pimentel, can lead to an arrest or, at least more charges against a suspect once he or she gets arrested. Police share information within the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) network, he said, and officers will now be on the lookout for a suspect that wears the same shoes and operates in a similar fashion.

"Let's say it's a size-10 Nike," explained Pimentel. "When arrested and processed for, say, assault, a suspect's clothing, shoes, *continued on p. 21*



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Pilot LED street lights now on view on Prince Albert

New website, traffic plan top 'green' initiatives for '13

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A newly designed Westmount website and phasing in of the Master Plan for Traffic and Active Transportation are reported to head the list of sustainability initiatives for the city in 2013.

Experimental LED street lights are already installed on Prince Albert between Somerville and Sherbrooke for public feedback and the new water reduction by-law, adopted last year, went into force January 1. It is to be highlighted by an education campaign this year.

These are among a number of initiatives presented at the February 4 city council meeting by Councillor Theodora Samiotis as Environment commissioner in a report on 2012 and 2013 in the city's journey toward sustainability, launched in 2010.

"It's a process of small steps because

it's about changing a culture," she told the *Independent* last week in singling out what she considered to be the most important initiatives.

"The new website is going to be very big," she explained. It will provide the capability for online registration for recreation programs and other paperless services including electronic job application.

The new Westmount recreation centre is also slated to be completed with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification to either the gold or platinum level.

Expansion of cycling network

"We still need to do more for expanding the cycling network, such as connecting with the NDG bike paths along Côte St. Antoine and NDG Ave.," Samiotis said. "We're looking into aggro funding to make

this happen." While this was not separately listed in her report, she said it would likely be part of the Traffic Master Plan.

Courses in safe cycling are also to be offered by Sports and Recreation in the spring.

The city will be increasing the use of mobile technologies enabling staff to access files and emails remotely, and providing building inspectors with digital tablets. Public Security will also introduce hand-held ticket writers.

Storm water management in the building process along with promotion of the new waste management by-law will also headline some of the initiatives that were prepared last year, Samiotis said.

In terms of the impact on internal city operations, Samiotis pointed out that an audit is being planned for the energy-saving retrofitting of all municipal buildings. As well, leadership training and career development are being planned to prepare for the replacement of many employees approaching retirement.

More backdoor commercial recycling

A pilot project to provide back door

commercial recycling on Greene Ave. is also being extended into 2013 and the plan is to expand it to the merchants in Victoria village, she said. "It's just a matter of figuring out how to handle the collection from the stores that don't have back lanes."

In reviewing a number of sustainability measures taken last year within various city departments, Samiotis explained that many featured continued efforts to reduce the use of paper.

Others included working toward the long-term sustainability of the employee pension plan, the purchase of new Subaru Forester low-emission patrol vehicles for Public Security and the preparation of a greener vision for the development of Victoria village, which is ongoing.

During 2012, in keeping with 2011, all city departments were expected to incorporate sustainability into their plans, capital works projects and everyday operations, rather than adopting specific objectives as was done in the "10 for 10" program launched in 2010.



Councillor Theodora Samiotis at the February 4 city council meeting.

Search undertaken for lost boy

Public safety officers and police combed Murray Park and neighbourhood February 8 in search of a 13-year-old mute boy on the concerns of his worried grandmother, Public Security officials said.

The woman, who had taken him sliding at the park, stopped parking inspector Pierre Thibault and public safety officer Stephanie Rodrigues about 11:45 am to

say she had lost sight of him and believed it was not possible for him to return home on his own.

Nevertheless, while "everyone was out looking him," officials said, PSO Jason Souza went to his house and found him safe and sound and playing in the snow outside. The grandmother was informed and driven to the home. —LS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHANGE ATTITUDE TO URBAN CYCLISTS

The demonization of cyclists continues with the cry to ban them from Westmount Park as if they are a major menace to society, even invoking the name of Olmsted.

If the truth be told, Mount Royal Park in Montreal, Central Park in New York City and Delaware Park in Buffalo, among many other Olmsted parks, actually invite cyclists into their confines.

Then if we consider the many kilometres of beautiful cycling paths in parks along the St. Lawrence, Rivière des Prairies, Angrignon Park, St. Helen's Island, Boucherville islands and many other smaller parks in Montreal, then this tirade exposes a mean attitude towards a healthy lifestyle.

In the Old Port of Montreal, bicycles are even rented to tourists so that they can mingle with the crowds walking along the Promenade des Quais.

A readjustment in attitude must be made in terms of giving value to urban cyclists, Westmount cyclists. It is important to note that the 2012 Bixi report stated that 550 Westmounters were Bixi members, an increase of 10 percent over 2011. In terms of sustainability this is a great success story of which Westmount should be proud.

Even the suburbs are embracing cy-

cling paths. The recent announcement of a path linking Oka and Mont St. Hilaire will pass through 17 municipalities and three national parks – 143 km. This is a \$60-million investment.

We are certain that the upcoming Master Traffic Plan for Westmount will endorse this healthy trend by similar concrete actions.

ROGER JOCHYM, WESTMOUNT WALKING AND CYCLING ASSOCIATION

NO-RIDE ZONE THROUGH PARK HYSTERIA

I am so sick of the wild-eyed hysteria so often expressed in this newspaper about the Westmount Park bike path.

Westmounters should finally wake up and recognize that, despite all pretension to the contrary, Westmount is not a suburb. It is smack in the middle of one of Canada's major urban communities. The Westmount Park bike path is one part of a major bicycle-commuting artery through the heart of Montreal.

If Westmounters are as serious as many of them they say they are about supporting ecological transit, they should encourage their city council to deal with the bike path as stated above with a fence on either side and speed-reducing measures at footpath crossings. Creating a no-ride zone in the

continued on p. 22

Hand delivering a postal petition



From left, Gerard Fellerath and Deanna Barwick Wall present a petition on February 15 to save the Prince Albert post office to François Rivet, executive director of Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau, at the riding office on St. Catherine near Greene. The petition is addressed to the federal minister and minister of state for Transport. Fellerath is the president of the Sherbrooke/Victoria Merchants Association and the owner of Folklore I, which is located just east of the threatened postal outlet. Wall is a private resident who "still writes letters," as well as sending parcels through the post. The merchant-organized petition garnered approximately 400 signatures. Another one organized by the Canada Post union totaled about 500, according to Rivet. Garneau and his staff will distribute a third one for signatures this week, which will also work to save two other targeted sites in his riding (Sherbrooke at Wilson and Decarie near Queen Mary). According to Wall, "No one didn't care [about the issue]." Fellerath added that people were "anxious" to find a place to sign. Garneau's team has already fought one postal closure in the riding, to no avail. The Complexe La Cité post office closed in June 2012.

Photo: Independent

Cracking tree closes Grosvenor in high wind



When public safety officers responded to a call for a branch about to fall on Grosvenor February 8, they heard it breaking and saw a large crack running the length of the trunk. Public Security officials said the city's tree gang was called and the owner of a car parked nearby was called to move it. The street was closed between The Boulevard and Sunnyside.

Photo courtesy of Sylvie Lafrenière

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Lauren Sweeney

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COMMUNITY CORNER

Pharmacy robot: The future of hospital care

BY JULIE QUENNEVILLE

A crucial part of receiving quality care in hospital is getting the right medication at the right times and in proper doses. Knowing this, the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) will be enlisting the help of a high-tech “pharmacy robot” at the new Glen site when it opens in 2015.

Here’s how it works: The centrally-located pharmacy uses a network of special tubing to automatically dispense and transport patient medication throughout the hospital. This allows medication to reach the right patient quickly, but more importantly, it ensures patients are given the right doses and at the right times, while also keeping tabs on inventory to ensure it is well-stocked.

The ROBOT-Rx creates individual sealed packages for each patient’s medication and labels it with his or her name and a barcode. The nurse will then scan that barcode in the patient’s room right before the medication is given, which automatically updates the electronic patient file. This ensures that pharmacists and health-care professionals are always working from the latest information.

With nearly 100 percent of patients who are admitted to hospital requiring medication, this advanced system will benefit

everybody.

Some of the key benefits include:

- Increases accuracy to 99.9 percent.
- Reduces incidents of patients missing doses due to human error by 92 percent.
- Reduces time pharmacists spend checking medications by 90 percent.
- Lowers expired medication costs by 54 percent.

“Efficiency and patient safety is what it is all about,” says André Bonnici, MUHC director of pharmacy. “Every day we strive to provide the best service possible for the patients we ultimately serve. With this revolutionary medication dispensing system, our ability to do so will continue to improve.”

By donating now to The Best Care for Life Campaign, you will help purchase this highly advanced system, which:

- creates individual sealed packages for each patient’s medication;
- labels it with his or her name and a barcode.

For more information on the new MUHC, visit muhc.ca/construction. To join The Best Care for Life Campaign to support the new MUHC, visit muhc.ca/cause.

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

Foodies line up for Perelman



Some 200 people visited *Appetite for Books* February 9 to see popular American food blogger Deb Perelman (inset photo), who was signing her new cookbook *The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook*.

Photos: Independent



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Media reports out some cities as victims

Zalzal: Westmount not a 'smaller' city that gets rejected asphalt for street paving

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Is Westmount one of the so-called smaller municipalities alleged in media reports last week to end up with asphalt rejected by Transport Quebec as non-conforming to specifications because they may not have the staff for proper supervision?

Not as far as Public Works director Marianne Zalzal is concerned.

Westmount has a series of safeguards built in to the procedure, she told the *Independent*. These include three- and five-year guarantees, "which is rare. I would say the norm is more like one year. We also check our delivery slips and have our own inspectors. So we're well protected."

In a report February 13 to city director general Duncan Campbell in the wake of the allegations, she outlines the city's supervision of asphalt deliveries and paving processes geared to ensuring quality control and long-lasting results.

City expects 15 years

"We expect to get at least 15 years out of a paving job and in actual fact, due to budget restraints, we unfortunately have gone sometimes more than 20 years before repaving," Zalzal states.

"It is important to note that the supervision of all our projects is carried out in house to ensure that we have control," she explains.

"Our inspector is present at all times as the asphalt is laid for quality control; he is also present before the work starts to ensure that the surface was prepared to accept the asphalt."

Zalzal adds that "we prefer to avoid problems rather than to have to fight to have them corrected later," though in the event of possible deficiencies, the city will withhold payment until corrections are made.

For starters, the date of the work is approved to ensure the weather will not affect the work. The asphalt mix is also approved.

Public Works inspectors check out delivery slips to ensure the asphalt mix is received in the specified quality and temperature and that it is also laid down in the thickness specified, depending on conditions. Streets being reconstructed usually get two asphalt layers of 40 millimeters for a total of three inches.

On streets simply being repaved, many factors are involved such as how much of the old asphalt is being left and how high the street has already been built up relative to the sidewalk. The city paves all its streets to a high-traffic use standard.

On newly reconstructed streets, core samples are carried out to verify the thickness of the concrete and asphalt, Zalzal says. "We also break the cores to check the compressive strength of the concrete."

The current goal, she says, is to carry out more paving in the future to catch up on what had to be delayed over the merger years "since this is a very important step in preserving the roadway foundation."

City studying letter

St. Matthias sets up 'compliance committee' to answer Miss Vicky's issue

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In a press statement dated February 4 and sent to the *Independent* February 14, St. Matthias' Church announced it was "formalizing a 20-year relationship" with Miss Vicky's pre-school in its premises "at the request of the city of Westmount."

It has also set up a "compliance committee," which is a model used by some other religious institutions so that the school would be compliant with city by-laws through its relationship with the church, rector Kenneth Near told the *Independent*.

Residents of Church Hill have been asking at city council meetings for more than a year how a for-profit school has been able to operate as a registered business in a residential zone for some 20 years. (See December 13, 2011, p. 5).

The city, they have been told, has been

waiting for a letter outlining the church's arrangement with the school (see February 12, p. 3).

The information on the church's recent actions was sent by letter to city director general Duncan Campbell dated January 30, according to the press statement.

Campbell said that nothing had been formalized with the city. "We're studying it - from a legal, zoning and traffic point - and trying to find common ground."

Explaining that the school has always been considered part of the St. Matthias outreach community, Near said that by formalizing its arrangement with the school, "we are stating that we have been working closely together and that the school's program is consistent with the church's mission and that we wish to have it under our roof."

The compliance committee of four, he said, *continued on p. 22*

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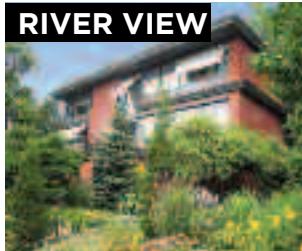


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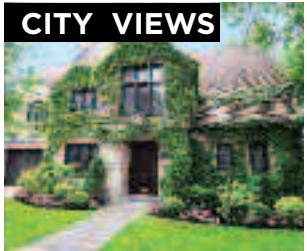
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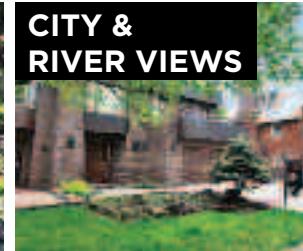


**AV. UPPER-LANSDOWNE,
WESTMOUNT \$3,250,000**



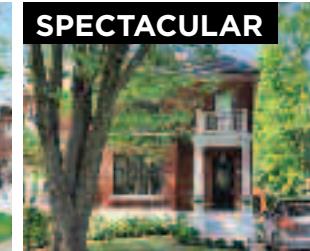
POOL

**AV. LEXINGTON,
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Westmount Realty welcomes David De Santis

Patricia is pleased to welcome her husband David De Santis to Westmount Realty. David & Patricia were both McGill University School of Architecture scholarship students. He worked as a professional architect for 5 years, then spent 18 years with the Alexis Nihon Group REIT as Senior Vice President of Acquisitions & Development. He has recently been involved in the building of condominium projects & has a general contractor's license. David is a Certified Real Estate Broker meaning that he has the capacity to open his own brokerage firm but has decided to work with Patricia, since clients appreciate their camaraderie & teamwork! He is fluent in English, French & Italian. David can be reached at 514.927.7800 to assist you with your commercial & residential real estate needs.



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Harmony in Home Sales
westmountrealty.com



January sales: A new plateau?



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 January 2013. 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 below offers a picture of these trends over time.

Westmount real estate looks like it is headed for a new price level as we march toward the spring sales period, usually the strongest time of year for buying and selling houses.

Often the market drops late in a year as sellers clear out the houses that have not sold, then leaps forward as buyers, hoping to move in the summer months, begin

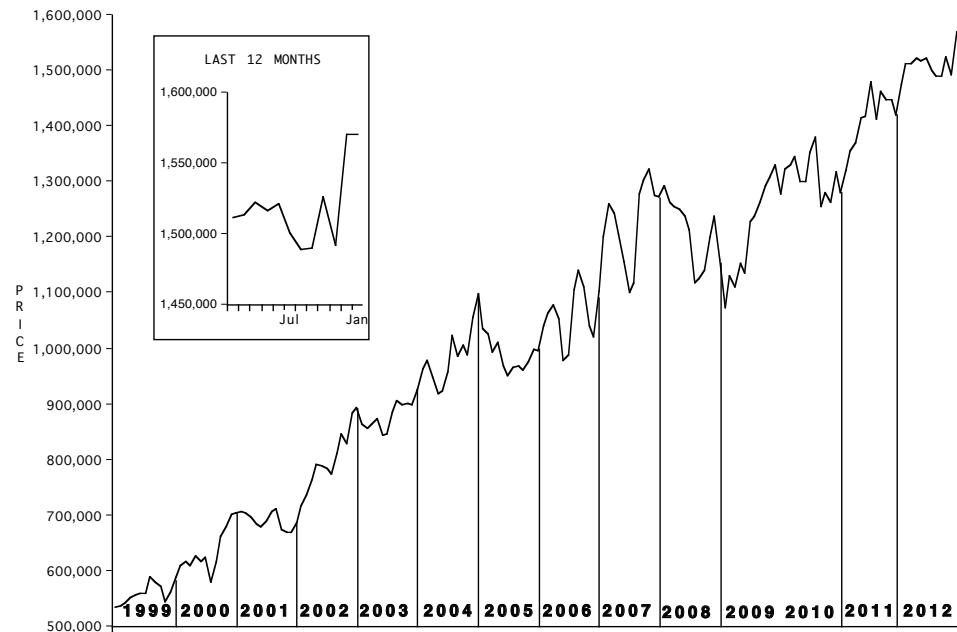
searching for their new homes. This year is no exception as the “typical” Westmount house remained at the \$1,575,000 peak level reached in December, with five single-family dwellings and one duplex receiving offers averaging \$1,252,000 with an average mark-up of 40 percent compared to municipal evaluation. Only two of the sales were below \$1 million and the range of prices was very tight – between \$975,000 and \$1,710,000.

Last year saw 33 sales at more than \$2 million, but that figure was unattained in January.

So while the maximum price was lower than for any month since September 2011, the minimum price was the highest for any month since January 2011. The average mark-up for all last year was only 25.6 percent, so the 40-percent mark-up last month is significant.

The result of the sharp surge in the last two months will only be reflected by the upcoming spring market. At this point it appears obvious that the minority Parti Québécois *continued on p. 18*

Average adjusted price of a ‘typical’ Westmount home by month from Jan. 1999 to Jan. 2013 based on accepted offer dates



Source: Andy Dodge & Assoc. Inc.

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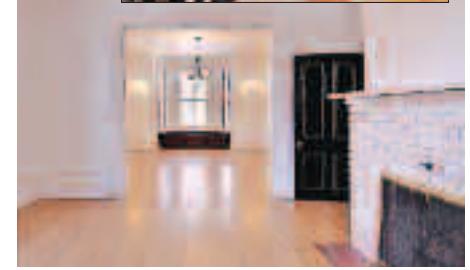


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MONTREAL \$1,349,000*

RECENTLY PURCHASED



WESTMOUNT \$1,295,000*

RECENTLY PURCHASED



WESTMOUNT ADJACENT \$1,295,000*

RECENTLY PURCHASED



WESTMOUNT \$1,295,000**

RECENTLY PURCHASED



DOLLARD-DES ORMEAUX \$1,195,000**

RECENTLY PURCHASED



OLD MONTREAL \$769,000*

RECENTLY PURCHASED



MONTREAL \$619,000*
*Asking price | **With conditions

DISTINCTIVE CONDOS

PENTHOUSE



MONTREAL \$2,498,000
1699 ST-PATRICK | MODERN W/TERRACES

PENTHOUSE



DOWNTOWN \$2,195,000
3446 DU MUSÉE | 2,500 SQ FT W/TERRACES



OLD MONTREAL \$1,695,000
1000 DE LA COMMUNE | ULTRA MODERN

INTRODUCING



DOWNTOWN \$1,595,000
LE CHATEAU | 2,520 SQ FT 3 BDRM W/2 GARAGES

PENTHOUSE



MONTREAL \$1,495,000
SANCTUAIRE | 3 BDRM W/GARAGE & VIEWS



DOWNTOWN \$999,000
500 DE LA MONTAGNE | LUXURIOUS W/BALCONY



MONTREAL \$849,000
1700 DOCTEUR-PENFIELD | RENOVATED 3 BDRM

REVISED PRICE



OLD MONTREAL \$849,000
50 ST. PAUL | 3 BDRM LOFT W/GARAGE

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6300 RUE JARRY | 1,900 SQ FT W/2 GARAGE



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WESTMOUNT \$3,988,000
4280 DORCHESTER | GRACIOUS 5 BDRM

INTRODUCING



WESTMOUNT ADJACENT \$3,695,000
3140 JEAN GIRARD | DETACHED 9,000 SQ FT OF LAND



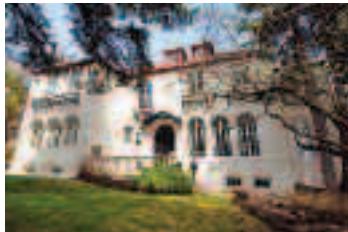
DOWNTOWN \$3,660,000
1260 REDPATH CRES | LUXURIOUS 5+2 BDRM W/VIEWS



WESTMOUNT \$3,495,000
11 BRAESIDE | DETACHED 4+1 W/GARAGE



WESTMOUNT \$3,450,000
3289 CEDAR | RENOVATED 4+1 BDRM



WESTMOUNT \$3,195,000
3781 BOULEVARD | ELEGANT 7 BDRM W/GARAGE



WESTMOUNT \$2,795,000
565 VICTORIA | DETACHED RENOVATED 5 BDRM



WESTMOUNT \$2,695,000
478 ROSLYN | DETACHED 7+1 BDRM W/GARAGE



WESTMOUNT \$2,349,000
10 GROVE PARK | DETACHED 7 BDRM W/GARAGE



WESTMOUNT ADJACENT \$2,249,000
3023 JEAN GIRARD | LUXURIOUS 4 BDRM W/2 GARAGE



WESTMOUNT ADJACENT \$1,999,000
2700 HILL PARK | MODERN DETACHED RESIDENCE



17 CHELSEA PLACE \$1,998,000
DOWNTOWN | BRIGHT CORNER UNIT



WESTMOUNT \$1,998,000
3 BELLEVUE | DETACHED CONTEMPORARY



WESTMOUNT \$1,898,000
21 OAKLAND | 4 BDRM W/ POOL SIZE LOT



WESTMOUNT \$1,895,000
6 FORDEN | CONTEMPORARY MASTERPIECE



WESTMOUNT \$1,695,000
444 ELM | ELEGANT RENOVATED TOWNHOUSE

INTRODUCING



WESTMOUNT PRICE UPON REQUEST
ELM | STUNNING 3 STOREY TOWNHOUSE



DOWNTOWN \$1,695,000
2868 HILL PARK CIRCLE | DETACHED W/GARAGE



WESTMOUNT \$1,649,000
734 UPPER-LANSDOWNE | TURN KEY 5 BDRM



WESTMOUNT ADJACENT \$1,580,000
3560 ATWATER | 3 BDRM W/POOL & GARAGE



INTRODUCING
WESTMOUNT \$1,495,000
662 MURRAY HILL | RENOVATED RESIDENCE

INTRODUCING



WESTMOUNT \$1,450,000
765 UPPER BELMONT | 5 BDRM W/2 GARAGES



WESTMOUNT \$1,389,000
360 KENSINGTON | SPACIOUS 4 BDRM W/PARKING



WESTMOUNT \$1,195,000
3742 BOULEVARD | 4 BDRM W/2 GARAGE

Nova's head changes from Stovin to Mainville



Marla Stovin, left, and Marie-Claude Mainville, stand in front of portraits of the original founders of the more-than-100-year-old organization Nova Montreal (once VON Montreal Branch) February 5.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Marie-Claude Mainville, right, took over as Nova Montreal's executive director in January. Standing with outgoing executive director Marla Stovin, left, in Nova's Victoria Ave. headquarters on February 5,

portraits of the original founders of the more-than-100-year-old organization (once VON Montreal Branch) hang in the background. Stovin, a registered nurse, said she is taking some time off, but would like

to open her own clinic and offer home visits for foot care. She started at Nova 22 years ago as a foot care nurse, later becoming program manager and then executive director, a job she held for 10 years. Mainville worked as a palliative nurse for 31 years and has been Nova's nursing program manager since 2003. Nova is a non-profit, charitable organization, which provides health care in homes within a specific area of Montreal, supported by a staff of about 35 and about 70 volunteers.

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Berdugo Adler speaks on philanthropy to Segal's Young Leaders



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

As part of its ongoing series, "Business, the Arts & Philanthropy," the Segal Centre's Young Leaders (SCYL) in collaboration with the Jewish Chamber of Commerce (JCC) hosted an intimate interview with Westmounter **Joelle (Joey) Berdugo Adler**, CEO and president of Diesel Canada and founder of ONEXONE,

a charity whose mission is to improve the lives of children in Canada and around the world.

Held on January 24, the event's tickets were \$30 and free for SCYL members. Adler discussed her latest project, which she described as a self-sustaining business model in Port au Prince, Haiti. She said she had created a profit-sharing factory, where local workers will use high-tech machinery to transform fabric from Tricots Liesse Inc., a Montreal firm, into a new, high-end clothing brand called IRII (which stands for "Industrial Revolution II," the name she has given to the project.)

A certain amount of the profits are to benefit the workers and towards local community projects, such as schools or clinics.

The packed room attracted well-dressed GYT (Good-looking Young Things), who listened in captivated silence to Adler. Attending from the Segal Centre were **Manon Gauthier**, CEO;
Paul Flicker, artistic pro- *continued on p. 17*

Please send your information on spring fundraisers to redgrave@videotron.ca for the *Westmount Independent* spring calendar.



Lauren Tatner, left, and Karen Abecassis.



Émilie Hervieux, Jonathan Moyal, Margaux Chétrit, Joey Berdugo Adler, Manon Gauthier, Michel Ohayon and Michael Tevel.

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Brothers Matt, left, and Alex Aronson chat with Liz Ostroff.

TSN 690 showing off new frequency for new NHL season

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Asked to describe the chain of complications thrown at Westmount-based TSN 690 this year, the radio station's general manager, Wayne Bews, measured his words carefully.

"It was a challenging stretch."

Over the span of a few months, the Greene Ave.-based station, formerly known as The Team, changed frequencies, suffered a crippling blow from the NHL

lock-out and avoided a potential exile from the airwaves.

"The support our listeners and our partners showed for us during that stretch was flattering, to say the least, and overwhelming for some people," said Bews.

In September, after eleven years on 990 AM, the station began its shift to the clear 690 frequency, which allowed it to broaden the range of its signal to reach anglophone-rich markets west of Montreal at night. That portion of the target audience

had previously been inaccessible on 990, which had to power down its signal at night to avoid interfering with other 990 stations in Manitoba and Newfoundland.

"You can pick up [the 690] signal to the outskirts of Kingston, past Ottawa, up towards Quebec City," said Bews. "I was driving down towards New Hampshire in November and 280 kilometres away from home I was able to listen to the football games on 690."

Despite moving to a more powerful signal, the station didn't see the expected increase in audience size this fall as the 119-day NHL lock-out provided fresh uncertainty for a radio station heavily reliant on hockey during Montreal's otherwise barren winter sports landscape. With no games to broadcast and precious few lock-out details to rehash over and over on its talk shows, the station's listenership plummeted.

According to audience measurement organization BBM Canada, the station's slice of the English anglophone market crumbled, falling from a 2.3 percent market share this fall, down from a 4.0 percent market share the same time last year.

"There's no debating that we see a big

increase in ratings in hockey season," said Bews. "Now that hockey's back, we're hoping that we are going to see the hard work from the fall pay off with increased ratings just by having a larger area to reach for listeners."

Despite the lag in ratings, TSN 690's spot on the airwaves is significantly more secure than it had been last summer and early fall when its owner, Bell Canada, tried to buy Astral Media. The deal would have seen TSN 690 changed to a French RDS station to comply with federal rules on media ownership.

At the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) hearings on the deal, 774 interventions were filed on behalf of the station, and in October, the CRTC axed the deal due to the broadcasting power Bell would wield.

"We know we have a large, loyal audience but for them to come to our rescue, so to speak, sure lifted spirits," said Bews.

Bell has announced it will launch a second attempt at buying Astral, but will apply for an exemption that would allow TSN 690 as remain an English station.

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TSN 690's Elliott Price hosts the Greene Ave.-based station's morning show on February 11.

Westmount Profile: Peter Starr

Using career talents to grow WMA

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Campaigning door to door in the 1999 municipal election campaign was Peter Starr's introduction to the world of Westmount politics. But it wasn't for himself. It was to help his wife, hockey mom Laurie Normand-Starr, in her bid for a council seat.

Their combined neophyte efforts weren't enough to unseat incumbent Nicolas Matossian in District 3, but his interest did not diminish.

Now president of the Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) at a time when a new Westmount arena has been a hot issue, he recalls how his wife called for Westmount to build a new arena during her election campaign.

And that venture into politics, along with the loss of his wife to cancer in 2009 at age 51, led Starr, who had battled cancer himself, to undertake community service after a long career in communication and business development.

"There's got to be a reason I'm still alive," he said.

Time to be involved

Inspired by his wife, who founded Taste of the Nation (a fundraiser devoted to feeding hungry children, now called Table of Hope), Starr decided that "maybe it's time to take my talents to the community of Westmount and become involved in municipal politics."

When the WMA "reached out" to him to 2011, he agreed to join the board. In June 2012, he became its president (see June 26, p. 10).

"My goal is to build membership," he explained. "Because as membership grows, so does the WMA's voice." So far, membership is nudging toward 250 from 200, he says.

"Another thing that is important is bringing new members with special strengths to the board."

Social Notes, cont'd. from p. 15

ducer; **Julien Valmary**, assistant general manager; **Lee Haberkorn**, director of academy and educational outreach; **Melissa Maloul**, associate director, PR and marketing; **Kasia Leskiewicz**, associate producer, presentations and guest productions; **Clifford Green**, finance and operations; **Émilie Hervieux**, senior development coordina-

The board is also consulting representatives from merchant groups in both the Greene Ave. and Victoria village districts, "so we can send a very concise message to the city council on policies that affect the sustainability of the commercial districts."

While Starr devotes about five hours a week to the WMA, there are times when he spends more, he said. One example was in his successful effort to secure Jean-François Lisée, minister for the Montreal region and the anglophone community, as speaker at the January 17 WMA public meeting.

Looking ahead, Starr said, he sees development around Westmount's borders as being one of the biggest issues facing the preservation of the community's quality of life. "We're in a period of extreme growth all around us." Strategic planning of the super-hospital, for example, was "not as good as it could have been, which took us by surprise," he explained.

The hospital's subsequent impact on the Victoria village should not be underestimated. "I think it's going to add all kinds of traffic and need for parking," he pointed out. Yet, "there seem to be no plans for building a parking garage at the old Darro lot, for example."

Raised in Westmount

Starr, 61, was raised in Westmount, schooled at St. George's and was a competitive skier as well as a swimmer for the MAAA. He continues to live on Cedar at Clarke, where he and Laurie raised their son Paul, who is carrying on a family tradition in the advertising world.

Peter himself was inspired from an early age by his father, the late Frank Starr, a well-known figure in Montreal ad agencies in the 1960s through the '80s. "We'd be out driving when he'd say to me: 'What's wrong with that billboard?'"

So after attending McGill and the University of Montreal, Peter helped found radio station CKOI-FM in 1974, intro-

tor; **Cliff Shapiro**, development coordinator; **Aryeh Nissan**, development intern, and Westmount res **Jonathan Moyal**, director of development.

From SCYL were **Michael Tevel** and **Saul Polo**, co-presidents; and executive committee members **Michel Ohayon** and **Jonathan Brel** (vice presidents); **Alexandre Abecassis**, **Geneviève Blouin**, **Margaux Chetrit**, **Adam Lukofsky** and **Yael Ricquebourg**.



Peter Starr at work at home, February 15.

duced regional advertising to CHOM-FM and became accounts manager at CFCF-TV 12.

He then started up and edited several magazines and publications promoting tourism and business in the Caribbean, though he never lived there. He is currently managing director of Renoir Consulting (Canada) Ltd. "responsible for extending the company's worldwide footprint in Canada."

So does Starr have political aspirations to run in the upcoming November municipal election as have some WMA leaders before him?

"Who knows?" he replied. "At this point I haven't finished what I set out to do on

the WMA. But we have a good board, everyone is enthused and this should be a good year for us – and time for the WMA to make a difference."

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Comin' Up

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

• A lecture on the Shaar Hashomayim by the **Westmount Historical Association**, 7 pm to 9 pm in the Westmount Public Library. The first in the winter/spring series, prepared by Doreen Lindsay, and focusses on synagogues and churches in Westmount. Admission free for members; non-members \$5 at the door. Info: 514.932.6688.

• **LaFlorya Gauthier** discusses her new biography of Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave who founded her home town in Mississippi in 1887, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Jeunesses Musicales Canada concert "**Giggle & Stomp**," 9:30 am at Victoria Hall. For ages 3 to 7 years. Performance by Thierry Arsenault and Bruno Roy on percussion. Cost: \$2. Tickets available at Victoria Hall.

Youth shot at by BB gun from passing car

A young man stopped a Public Security patrol at Côte St. Antoine and Forden on February 7 at 10:48 pm to report someone had shot at his foot with a BB gun from a passing car, shouting, "It's over for you, man!" Public Security officials said officers drove him to meet with police at Wood and Sherbrooke, where the incident had apparently occurred. The car was described as a white sedan heading west. The victim was not hurt.

Real estate, cont'd. from p. 11

government is having little effect on demand for Westmount houses, and the continued low interest rates are not hurting, either.

The government is trying to deflate the Canada-wide real estate "bubble" but when this will affect the top of the Montreal-area market is hard to determine.

While agents are getting ready for the busy house-buying season, the same cannot be said for condominiums. Only one Westmount condo sale was posted in January, but then, only two were posted in January last year while eight were posted in February and five in March.

No new house sales were announced in January for adjacent-Westmount areas, though two condominiums – one the upper unit in a made-over duplex on NDG Ave., the other a high-rise apartment just east of Westmount – were sold through the MLS system.

134 houses listed

At this point, 134 houses are listed for sale in Westmount, of which 54 (40 per cent) are priced over \$2 million. Only 20 have asking prices under \$1 million.

Top scorers, Westmount bridge club

Westmount tally bridge winners with top accumulative bridge scores for the four best sessions in January were:

1. Dael Perry with 14,510 points.
2. Peter Harrison with 14,330 points.
3. Sheila Norkin with 14,310 points.
4. Donald Huffman with 13,020 points.
5. Viviane Agia with 12,820 points.
6. Margaret Glassford with 12,500 points.

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Globe-trotting Petey



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CYNTHIA LEE

Romania may be far away, but for Petey, it was home. Just how did this handsome Romanian Lothario make his way from Eastern Europe to icy cold Canada?

Petey's tale is one of intrigue, love lost and woe. Intriguing in that his former human family had the right instinct to bring their 8-year-old Tibetan spaniel mix across the Atlantic with them when they moved, but once they unpacked their things and set up house, they decided that their little dog actually wasn't to be part of their family after all. That's the woeful part of the story. Imagine uprooting it all and packing up, just to be displaced in a new land where you don't know anything or anyone!

Arrived at Annexe depressed

So, when Petey arrived at SPCA Annexe, he was lethargic to say the least. At first they chalked it up to depression. Then they discovered that like his little heart, his skin had started to shrivel up like an old wrinkly man. Strange, they said. Eventually a diagnosis was made, and the cause

of Petey's new-found wrinkles turned out to be a thyroid condition that had never been treated. It had developed into a skin condition known as demodex.

To help him out, the good folks at the Annexe placed him into a less stressful environment in a foster home. Things at first got worse before they got better, and Petey lost a lot of fur during this period. But, after some months with a treatment of topical creams and baths, the medication worked and his coat began to flourish



Petey

again along with his spirits!

Now Petey is in the shape of his life and looking for a home to call his. He will need thyroid pills for life, but the cost is a mere \$10 per month. As well, he requires two blood tests a year to make sure he stays on the right track.

So there you have it. The tale of Petey, the dog from Romania. This boy is smart and very worldly (as you might expect) and well socialized with other dogs and humans. He loves cuddling, walks and play-time.

If you haven't been to Romania but always wished you had, why not start with meeting one of their own? Call or email to set up a date: adoptions.sPCA@gmail.com or 514.915.7311.

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Love celebration #2 for Contactivity

Staff and members at the Contactivity Centre for senior citizens celebrated Valentine's Day on February 14 with a lunch of baked lasagna. Hearts and cupid cut-outs added to the celebratory atmosphere. It was actually the centre's second event recently for the patron of love. They also observed Valentine's Day a week before during a luncheon attended by some 90 seniors held at the start of the Westmount winter carnival. Seen from the left: Ruth Discenza, Barbara Meadowcroft, centre director Mary Stark, centre crafts director Angelina Hum, Vivian Hiley and Ruth Di Giovanni.
Photo: Martin C. Barry

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Westmount Retail Watch

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Flore moving to different location on Sherbrooke

Local flower and art object store Flore is moving from its current location at 5008 Sherbrooke St. to 4930 Sherbrooke in July.

The current location is just west of Claremont Ave. on Sherbrooke's south side. The new address is on the same side, but a little further east between Claremont and Prince Albert Ave.

"We cannot afford the taxes anymore at this location," said Denis D'Etcheverry, the co-owner.

While maintaining that the base rent Flore has been paying is reasonable, he added that the municipal tax tripled in the last five years.

"We went from \$22,900 a year to \$64,000. We cannot afford paying the taxes. That's the only reason why we're moving."

He said the taxes at the new location will be lower, possibly because the building has less frontage and is smaller. However, Flore will have the same landlord, Cromwell. "We were made a beautiful offer, and we're very happy," he said.

Illusions on the move

The Illusions Eco-Concept Salon has found a new home more in keeping with its image.

Now located at 4908 Sherbrooke St., it's relocating on March 4 to 348-A Victoria Ave. in a space above the former Club du Village restaurant at the corner of Somerville Ave.

"We like Victoria and think it's more in keeping with our concept, which is eco-friendly and non-chemical," said Linda Nguyen, the owner. "And I always loved that building, and it became available and that's why we decided to move."

The salon provides eco-friendly hair

Volunteering in and around Westmount

Westmount-based Nova Montreal is currently seeking volunteers to assist its nurses with clinic set-up, client intake and sterilizing instruments at one of its foot care clinics around Montreal. Volunteers would be required to work for a minimum of four hours a week. For more information, contact Lauren Pace at 514.866.6801, ext. 303 or lauren.pace@novamontreal.com

care services and products for women. In April, it plans to hold a re-opening event at the new location.

New café on Sherbrooke

There's a new café on the block. It's between Claremont Ave. and Prince Albert Ave. on Sherbrooke St.

Edouard's Café and Bakery has moved into a cozy stone-walled basement location previously occupied by a specialty chocolate shop at 4922 Sherbrooke.

Based on a marine and aeronautical theme, the café's stainless steel main entrance door is something like what you'd find aboard a ship. Meanwhile, in a corner near the front window stands a large chrome-covered signal lamp used on vessels for sending messages in Morse code.

The manager and co-owner, Edouard El Kaim, a former decorator and antiques dealer, said he wants to provide high-quality, non-processed food and beverages at an affordable price. They serve a wide variety of sandwiches made with nine different kinds of bread.

"We want to serve home-made food of a good quality and nicely presented," said El Kaim.

Restaurant news

Management at Tao restaurant at 374 Victoria Ave. has yet to make a decision as to what it will do this August when its lease expires.

At the Park restaurant on the same street a few doors south, the owner, Antonio Park, said a possible plan to expand into the vacant former Westmount Video store next door hasn't been finalized, although he said he could soon be making an announcement.

Police report, cont'd. from p. 4

jewelry, etc. are entered into the database. If any of those items or descriptions match others in the system, a suspect may wind up in court with more than just an assault charge to deal with. That's where investigative work comes into play."

This is why, he said, it is important for officers to pay close attention to details when investigating crimes. Be it the suspect's *modus operandi* or a footprint in the snow, these types of details, he said, can lead to an arrest. It doesn't always happen overnight, he added.

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New sign, warning sign



This new-style street sign, left, was photographed at Kitchener at Sherbrooke on February 15, as was the public service advice in front of the library. Is the street sign a one-off, or a sign of things to come? Public Works did not reply to a request for comment by press time.

Photo: Independent

Curly-haired dog bites man at summit

A Westmount man flagged down a Public Security patroller on Summit Circle February 11 at 6:30 pm to report being bitten by a dog. According to public safety officers, he displayed two small bleeding puncture points, reported to have been made by a medium-sized dog having blond and brown curly hair. Officers searched the neighbourhood as well as Summit Woods but could not find it. The man, a resident of Belvedere Circle, was encouraged to call Public Security if he should see the dog again. He was also advised to seek medical attention though he reportedly refused help at the time.

Law suits, cont'd. from p. 1

is claimed by the seniors' residence at Sherbrooke and Lansdowne, which is also asking the city to reimburse its \$2,500 deductible.

Documents relating to the house on Grenville were deposited in Quebec Court concerning the July 4 storm. They state that sewer water entered the basement resulting from "an inadequate sewer system." Some \$13,804 is sought by La Personnelle Assurances Générales Inc., for which the deductible was \$1,000.

Filing in Small Claims

The only claim from an individual comes from Joan Adye who filed in Small Claims Court to recover a \$500 deductible, "which the defendant refused to pay," she states in her deposition. "The drains on my street backed up and the resulting water came into my basement."

She told the *Independent* last week that "It came in through the toilet and there was also a back-up from the roof." Fortunately, she added, the basement damage was generally confined to an unfinished portion.

She said her insurance adjuster from La Capitale came to inspect the damage and shortly after she received a cheque for more than \$1,000. "I was quite satisfied."

Adye said she has since installed three back-water valves costing \$3,449. Along with her 1911 house she knew of two others also affected on Prince Albert north of Sherbrooke. One was next door while the other across the street "had water up to the first floor."

Following her experience, Adye advises that, "Everybody should know where the sewer and water pipes go on their land and where the water shut-off valve is."

St. Matthias, cont'd. from p. 8

consists of three church representatives (the two wardens and himself) and the school's owner. It was established "so we will be compliant with city regulations."

Asked how such a committee provides conformity with zoning by-laws, Near said: "The idea is that the enterprise becomes compliant through the church." It was set up "with the advice of our counsel" and is used in other religious institutions.

Does this mean the school will no longer need to be registered as a business enterprise? "I don't know the answer," Near replied. The school, however, "could not be likened in shape or size to a *dépanneur*," for example, he added.

Near said he had not heard back from the city.

Letters, cont'd. from p. 6

park ("No riding on bike path," letter, February 12, p. 6) will only lead to more derisive laughter from us cyclists from outside the bubble as we pass through or come here to work.

Quit taking your half out of the middle, Westmount.

LOREN CARLE, NDG

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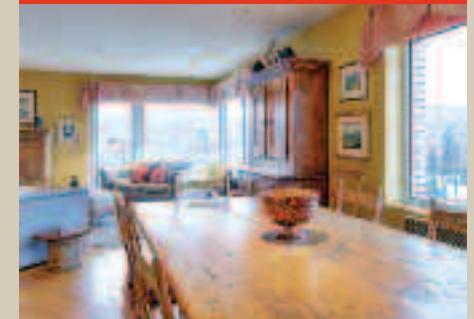


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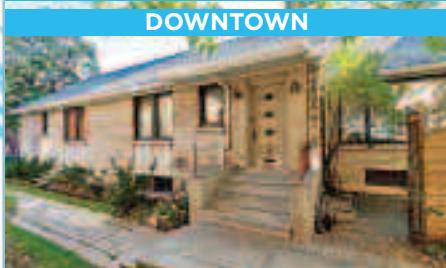
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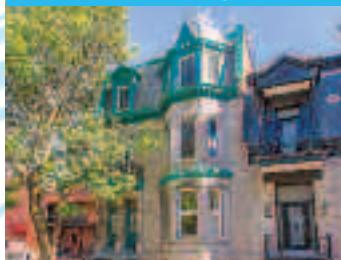
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DOWNTOWN



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