

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 7 No. 4a

We are Westmount

April 2, 2013

Dog walker finds missing man lying in Summit Woods

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

An observant dog walker called Public Security in the afternoon of March 20 to report seeing a T-shirt clad man lying in the snow in Summit Woods, officials said. Officers met with the woman, who provided them with the location stating the man seemed very cold.

He was discovered in a hidden area apparently suffering from hypothermia. The

man told officers he was practising rhythmic cardio but was found to be “verbally incoherent” and was asked to follow them to a warm patrol car.

Covered with a wool blanket after removing his cold wet clothing, he awaited police and Urgences Santé in the vehicle.

Police confirmed the man had been reported missing that morning at Station 23 in Hochelaga and was possibly suicidal. Becoming uncooperative with Urgences Santé, he had to be assisted into the ambulance, which was escorted to the Montreal General Hospital by police.

The man was identified as a 23-year-old resident of Hochelaga-Maisonneuve.

Predators make it to finals



Photo: Michael Moore

The Westmount Predators beat their competitors in the Bantam A semi-finals March 27. Predator player Emmanuel Elie fires a slapshot against the Rapides de Lachine at Martin Lapointe Arena. The team's fate in the finals was not known at press time. For the story on the semi-final game, see p. 16.

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Residents can pay \$46 for non-RF hydro meter

Healthy City: Meters pose privacy, criminal threats

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

In its ongoing scrutiny of radiofrequency (RF) emitting hydro meters, Westmount's Healthy City Project (HCP) disclosed last week it would now be delving into the potential for invasion of privacy and breaches of cyber-security presented by the wireless devices.

These relate not only to the controversial “smart” meters being installed by Hydro-Quebec but also to the so-called

“dumber” versions being installed by Hydro Westmount that also pulsate RF emissions throughout the day though at lesser strengths.

“New information has come to our attention from the US Congressional Research Institute indicating that data from the meters can be picked up on the behaviour of a home's occupants, including when they may be away,” said Tom Thompson, who chairs the HCP's Community *continued on p. 19*



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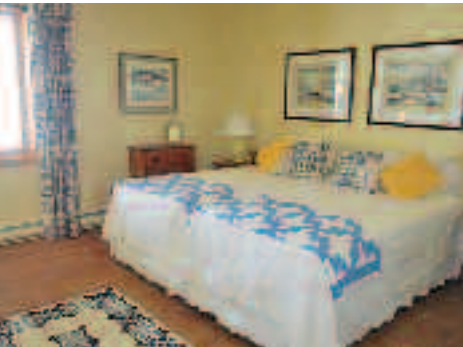
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'Victoria station' closes April 26, building to be sold

Canada Post rejects appeals from citizens, merchants, city

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It was all to no avail, it seems. A petition, appeals from Mayor Peter Trent, a resolution from city council and individual requests to keep open the Victoria post office made no difference. Canada Post has announced the closure of the post office at Sherbrooke and Prince Albert, slated for April 26.

And with its closure, the *Independent* learned March 28 that the building, owned by Canada Post, will be put up for sale shortly after it is vacated.

"In these instances, when buildings become surplus they go through a public offering process," said spokesperson Anick Losier. "It's a very public and transparent process, and at the end of the day it will be disposed of in a way that is financially responsible at market prices."

News of the closure was announced March 26 by posters from Canada Post

and an e-mail letter to Trent from Isabelle Boudreault, a manager of government affairs and ministerial relations.

"It didn't come as a big surprise, but we're disappointed," said Folklore 1 owner Gerard Fellerath the same day. "We did what we could to make our wishes known."

Fellerath organized the petition with Deanna Barwick Wall that collected some 400 signatures in a short period of time after the campaign to save the post office was launched by Trent in mid-January alleging Canada Post knew "years ago" it would close the post office when it set up the retail outlet nearby at Pharmaprix (see January 22, p. 1).

"Customers of this post office will be able to rely on a well-established network of post offices in the area," Boudreault wrote to Trent in the decision. "In fact, there are 44 post offices within a 5 km ra-

dius of this site. The closest post office is located 200 meters away at 5038 Sherbrooke Street West."

Postal box holders who choose to relocate their postal box to the "Montreal Westmount (sic) Post Office located at 1217 Green Street" (sic) or another will have their mail redirected free of charge for one year, she adds.

The closure will not result in job losses,

the letter states. "Canada Post will honour all collective agreements with its bargaining agents."

One long-time worker at the Victoria Post Office told the *Independent*, however, that although he would still have a job, after many years of service he now expects to be moved around from location to location just as he was when he began his career.

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The post office at Prince Albert and Sherbrooke, March 29.

Photo: Westmount Independent



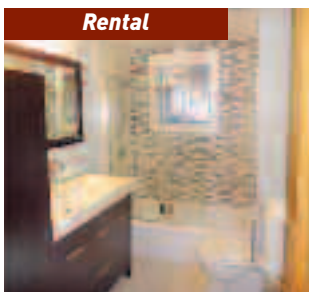
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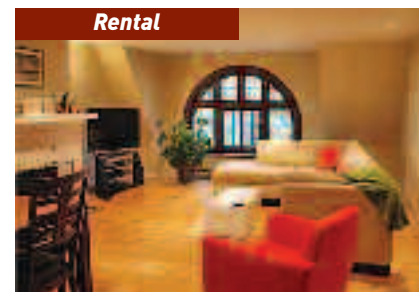
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Arena payout to Pomerleau reaches \$16.3M

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Councillor Patrick Martin was expected to announce at the city council meeting April 2 that the city had paid out a total of \$16.3 million to Pomerleau Inc. for construction of the Westmount recreation centre.

Martin told the *Independent* last week that the only cheque written to the contractor during the month of March was \$1.8 million.

The total amount includes all taxes, a portion of which the city as a municipality is able to recover. It also includes payments totalling \$1.8 million in response to invoices marked for “transportation and disposition of contaminated soil,” which remains under review, Martin said.

As well, the city continues to hold back 10 percent of each invoice pending completion of the project to the city’s satisfaction. The total hold-back to date is \$1.6 million.

New sewers expected to help solve flooding problems

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Flood relief appears to be on the way for residents affected by heavy rains in the St. Catherine St. area. The preparation of plans for building new sewers was expected to be approved by city council April 2 in two separate projects.

Widespread flooding in the area – particularly last summer during major rainstorms May 29 and July 4 – was attributed in part to the need to increase sewer capacity (“Flood wreaks havoc, drainage slated for council’s review,” June 5, 2012, p. 1.)

The plans are required to be submitted to the Quebec ministry of the Environment for its approval whenever new sewers are to be installed, according to Councillor Patrick Martin, Westmount’s commissioner of Utilities and Public Works.

In the case of both Westmount projects, the preparation of plans was awarded through a system of evaluation points to the firm Genivar.

One sewer is a 60-meter-long line on Glen Rd. to relieve pressure build-up during heavy rain at the intersection of Lansdowne and St. Catherine. Genivar’s quote of \$15,521.62, taxes included, was reported to be the low bid.

Plans for additional sewers to address problems in the area of St. Catherine, Hillside and Abbott also went to Genivar, the low bidder, at a cost of \$36,217.12 including taxes.

The work to install the new sewers was listed as part of the city’s capital works budget for this year. A number of other sewer projects – ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation – were also expected to be approved by council.

PSU launches Twitter account

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

News of emergency road closures, gas leaks and power outages are among a list of information bulletins expected to be available on the screens of Westmount residents as Public Security launches a Twitter account.

Expected to be announced by Councillor Gary Ikeman at the city council meeting April 2, the bilingual information source at Secure_Westmount went live quietly as a test about a month ago with postings such as holiday parking tolerations, snow removal alerts and participation in the St. Patrick’s Parade.

“We’re planning to post updates regularly so people can be aware of traffic information, news on our campaigns, dog licensing or roads blocked by traffic accidents,” said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain.

While the purpose is not to replace other information sources, the intent is to provide real-time happenings when possible, he said. It will also enable people to follow emergency situations as they unfold.

It will also be a means of providing people with a heads-up on snow removal operations the next morning and to watch out for the orange signs.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SCOTS CONGREGATING, NOT SCOTCH CONGREGATIONALISTS

We history buffs have a propensity for accuracy in the naming, dating and reporting of historical institutions and events. I fear that I may have unintentionally misinformed the Westmount Historical Association (WHA) and the *Independent's* reporter, Michael Moore, who, on p. 19 of the March 26 issue, wrote a generally accurate account of my March 21 illustrated talk to the WHA on the historical roots of Mountainside United Church ("Coffey leads 'trip' through Mountainside United's 227-year history").

For whatever reason, in the third paragraph, there is one error in the *Independent's* news story. Instead of using the correct name, "1786 Scotch Presbyterian congregation on St. Gabriel St. in Old Montreal," the phrase "Scotch Congregational on St. Gabriel in 1786" was published, which wrongly implies that the Scotch Presbyterian Church on St. Gabriel St. was of the Congregational denomination rather than the Presbyterian denomination.

EDWIN COFFEY, ABERDEEN AVE.

LOOKING TO CITY TO DO MORE FOR CLANDEBOYE

I was very happy to read the thorough account of where things stand with the

traffic situation in the Clandeboye lane in the article published in the March 19 edition ("Busy Clandeboye lane got busier this year, may get better, p. 1).

As a resident of Clandeboye, I have worked alongside my neighbours to bring safety and traffic issues to the attention of the city and Batshaw over the past three years.

We need to keep putting pressure on both the city and Batshaw to push towards a better resolution of this problem. I, too, have experienced a near-miss involving my child in the back lane.

Short-term solutions to ease the traffic issues could include new signage at the entrance of our lane indicating it is for residential traffic only, and that Batshaw parking lot must be accessed by Weredale Ave.

I also support my neighbour Frank Candido's campaign to forbid right turns off Greene Ave. onto Prospect Ave. during the rush hour to help decrease volume entering the lane.

I await news from Counsellor Theodora Samiotis for the follow-up meeting on where this all stands. I was present at the meeting in March 2012 and am frustrated, to say the least, that the only leadership and action taken thus far has been driven by the residents. We need to work in partnership with the city to resolve this issue.

STEPHANIE GARROW, CLANDEBOYE AVE.

INTERESTING DEMOGRAPHICS PORTRAYED IN POOL IMAGES

I think it was a great idea to display these mini billboards depicting different sections of our future Westmount recreation centre on the surrounding hoarding of the site. However, with respect to the drawings of the swimming area, in contrast to the actual demographics of the city, one might assume that our oldest resident is somewhere between 25 to 35 years of age.

As well, the drawings would suggest that body fat no longer exists in our fair city.

How about a compromise: Somewhere in the foreground, have a 70-ish male or female, 15 pounds overweight but eating low-fat yogurt!

SAM BEITEL, ABBOTT AVE.



Photos of images courtesy of Sam Beitel

CRABBY ABOUT CLOSURE

Apparently it is a done deal. The post office on the corner of Sherbrooke and Prince Albert in Westmount is to close at the end of April.

As an older person, and, with age, a crabby person, I am very unhappy about having to walk a few extra blocks to have postal service in a very cramped corner of my closest Pharmaprix – a pharmacy, which in today's world is no longer just a pharmacy. Unfortunately. Of course, I can use my senior Opus card to go to a real post office on public transit, but why should I have to?

Why, after the emails and all the signatures on a petition, were we forced to accept this closure? Wouldn't it have made more sense to keep a real post office open, rather than a dingy corner at the back of a pharmacy?

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

KEEP SPCA TOP OF MIND

I have written many letters in the last 20 years concerning animal rights in Quebec. I hope this letter will inspire others to act and help out where it concerns the SPCA. It receives zero funds from the government * and relies solely on donations and fundraising.

The city of Montreal's sanctioned animal shelter in the past was Berger Blanc. It was caught on tape brutally euthanizing abandoned pets.

In a *Suburban* article dated October 25, 2012 ("City to spend \$23 million to open new animal shelter"), it was reported that \$23 million was being allotted to a new city shelter.

Couldn't some of this money be given to the already existing SPCA to lessen its burden?

Please don't forget about all the cats and dogs sitting in cages at the local SPCA and try not to look the other way. A handful of volunteers can only do so much physically, emotionally and psychologically.

KATE DAVEY, NDG

* Editor's note: The Montreal SPCA does receive "almost all of its money" through donations, explained Anthony Johnson, director of development with the SPCA Montreal, however it also receives money from two other sources: municipalities that pay for the SPCA's animal care and control services, and a grant from the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec for the SPCA inspection department to enforce Quebec law P42.

– KM

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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LETTERS & COMMENTS:

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Station 12 Reports

Burglar busted for Westmount break-ins

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.

A man who committed at least two Westmount break-ins has been sent to prison for seven years for a series of burglaries throughout the Montreal region and as far away as Three Rivers, according to Station 12's Constable Caroline Gauthier.

"When police arrested him, he admitted to committing two break-ins in Westmount," said Gauthier, noting she didn't have case numbers of the exact incidents. "He always worked the same way. He used a lock pick to break into condominiums or apartments. He was a nice-looking, clean-cut man who always wore a tie and really looked like a businessman."

The conviction of 53-year-old André Meilleur, who was convicted of 27 Montreal break-ins, closed files dating back to October 2011, said Gauthier. Meilleur was criminally active in Laval and the South

Shore as well, but Gauthier didn't have a full list of the crimes.

Man tests for unlocked doors

Police suspect a man who was testing basement door locks on Winchester Ave. may have been looking for easy access to valuables.

On March 22 just before 2 pm, the victim was home when he heard somebody fiddling with the basement door. He thought it was his girlfriend, explained Gauthier, so he went to greet her and, instead, found a man standing there, looking nervous. The suspect said he was looking for someone, provided a woman's name and then left.

The resident peered out the door and watched as the suspect unsuccessfully tried the basement door of the next house. This, noted Gauthier, is a good example as to why it is important to keep all doors locked. Some people leave entrances like basement doors unlocked for their children or others but opportunistic burglars may take advantage, she said.

The suspect is described as a white man, about 5'10" and of average build. He

was about 35 years old with short, brown hair, and he was wearing a white coat.

Targets on Lexus cars examined

Police are zeroing in on what appears to be a pattern of stolen luxury vehicles by compiling all the matching thefts and looking for clues within each case, said Gauthier. Lexus is the vehicle being targeted throughout the island of Montreal, said Gauthier, noting there have been thefts in Westmount.

The concentration on Lexus, she said, is becoming more evident, and now police are examining cases dating back a few years. In the past, police have indicated these types of crimes may be committed by organized groups that are shipping vehicles outside of Canada.

In January, a Lexus sedan and SUV were stolen in Westmount. One local resident had a second Lexus stolen in March (see story, March 12, p. 17).

"It didn't happen only in Westmount," said Gauthier. "It's happened within the coverage area of other stations and now police will be studying this issue closely and try to make some arrests."



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Appel aux artistes

Les artistes de Westmount sont invités à soumettre leurs dossiers pour la 14^e saison d'exposition de la galerie du Victoria Hall qui se tiendra de septembre 2013 à août 2014.

Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents et professionnels résidant à Westmount. Les candidatures sont acceptées pour des expositions solo ou partagées.

PÉRIODE D'INSCRIPTION ANNUELLE
du 15 février au 15 avril

Invitation to Artists

The Gallery at Victoria Hall welcomes proposals from Westmount artists for its fourteenth exhibition season, which will take place from September 2013 to August 2014.

This competition is open to emerging and professional artists residing in Westmount. Applications are considered for solo and group exhibitions.

ANNUAL REGISTRATION PERIOD
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photo : Ron Harris
GALERIE DU VICTORIA HALL
GALLERY AT VICTORIA HALL

Meeting will explore southwest vision, April 8

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After almost a year in preparation, a vision for the southwest sector of Westmount – notably Victoria village – is to take another step by having a public consultation set for April 8 at Victoria Hall at 7 pm. Councillor Cynthia Lulham, commissioner of Parks and Urban Planning was expected to announce the meeting at the April 2 council meeting, saying it would

include plans for creating a new public square on Prince Albert just south of Sherbrooke. The meeting is “an intermediate step” in the process to eventually update the urban plan for the area after more consultations, explained city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier. “What we’re trying to do is establish guiding principles that people would agree with *continued on p. 18*

STM’s Rotrand: Reserved bus lanes coming to NDG, not Westmount

BY ISAAC OLSON

A Société de transport de Montréal (STM) official has confirmed that, by mid-summer, a provincially funded bus lane will be installed on Sherbrooke St. from NDG’s Decarie Blvd. to Elmhurst Ave., near Montreal West. In a 2011 article in the *Independent*, Station 12 police, Westmount Public Security and director general Duncan Campbell were reported commenting on a planned reserved bus lane through Westmount (“Reserved bus lanes expected to have huge impact,” September 20, p. 1). However, STM vice chair and Montreal city councillor Marvin Rotrand said Westmount was never in the running for its own bus lane as far as he knows. Every bus lane proposal, he added, goes before his committee. Public Security director David Sedgwick stands by what he told the reporter in 2011. He said he remembers the meeting he and several local officials had with STM representatives. “It seemed to be a rush at that point, and they were planning on doing it by the year’s end,” said Sedgwick, noting there has also been talk of giving buses priority signals at traffic lights. “I don’t know if it was just a proposal, but the impression I got from that meeting was that installing bus lanes was something they were planning on doing and in fairly short order.” Regardless, Rotrand said there will be

no Westmount bus lanes as far as he knows. The one on Sherbrooke St. in NDG is to help mitigate the predicted traffic congestion due to the Turcot interchange overhaul. The goal, he added, will be to get people out of their cars and into public transit. With several buses, such as the 420 and 105, using Sherbrooke St. daily, it is expected that ridership will go up as STM creates an eastbound bus lane during morning rush hour and a westbound bus lane during evening rush hour. This plan, he said, could mean 18,000 passengers will be riding the 105 every day. Currently, the route averages about 16,000. In NDG, the westbound evening bus lane will cost Sherbrooke St. 160 parking places on the north side of the street, but studies indicate there is enough parking on side streets to compensate for the loss, said Rotrand. Parking meters may be installed on some transversal streets or, at least, two-hour parking at certain spots to encourage rotation so motorists, who are shopping or eating out, can find parking, said Rotrand. “Quebec plans to start the Turcot Interchange project by mid-summer, and the bus lane needs to be in place by then,” said Rotrand. “Given the size of this huge public works project that will last for almost a decade, public transit has to be a major part of the solution. Otherwise, we will have gridlock that will be unsustainable.”

Equality of French and English

CRITIQ calls for the provincial government to accept and promote linguistic equality through the formal recognition by the National Assemblée of English as one of Quebec’s two “official languages”.



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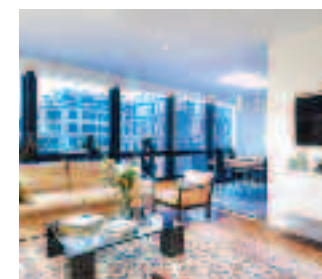
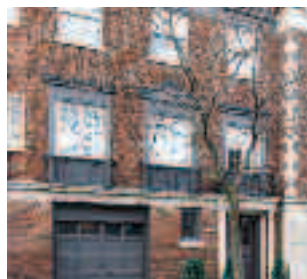
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Teen committee set up for suggestions, feedback

Young adult section launches at library April 4

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's a place they can call their own – a teen centre in Westmount Public Library to be launched April 4.

Called by its bilingual name, “Ados Teens,” the new young adults (YA) section has been in the works for about a year to replace a small corner with one table tucked away on the third floor without staff support or computer services, according to children's librarian Wendy Wayling.

Now the teens have their own space in an expanded area in the hub of services, specially created and designed for their needs in the southeast floor area of the ground level near the A/V department.

The section boasts four new computers, the only ones in the library with touch screens. It includes a built-in window seat, two study tables and books, magazines and other reading material.

“We did some brainstorming, and even hired an architect who came up with some ideas we never thought of,” Wayling said.

“We've also set up a committee of eight teens from different schools who are all

members of the library and have given us many suggestions,” she said. “The committee will continue to meet once a month to provide feedback and ideas for events.”

The group has already planned its first event, a gaming afternoon set for April 12 at 4 pm. They have also proposed a horror-film night.

Among the suggestions from the committee is a need for more non-fiction books such as those to help them with science fairs and extra copies of books required by their schools. “These teens love to read,” Wayling noted.

Notices have been sent to schools to announce the section's opening at 4 pm with cupcakes, drinks and a contest. The section has been in use on a trial basis since just before Christmas – set up with the assistance of Sylvie Caron, an intern from the University of Montreal's library studies.

While Wayling herself is associated with the children's library, she has also been organizing the library's 80 teen volunteers, who help with various library events and craft activities throughout the

year while working toward community credits at their schools.

As with all library departments, members of the general public may use the new young adult section, though a library membership card is required to borrow

material.

The new section has no association with the Teen Centre operated by the city's Sports and Recreation department and to be located in the new recreation centre.



The newly created young adult section at Westmount Public Library.

Photo courtesy of Westmount Public Library

Trio found with stolen car items

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Three teenagers were arrested at Sherbrooke and Strathcona around 3 am March 23 after public safety officers spotted, followed and intercepted them wandering onto driveways and acting suspiciously around parked cars in the area of Springfield, Mount Stephen and Metcalfe, Public Security officials said.

Police took them into custody when a number of phone chargers and various items that appeared to have been stolen from cars were found in a sports bag in their possession. They were described as

aged 16 and 17 years and not living in Westmount.

Public safety officers subsequently combed the area looking for cars that might have been broken into in effort to find a complainant but none were immediately found.

Later the next day, however, Public Security received complaints from several residents reporting cars having been broken into or searched in the area, including Montrose and Clarke. In one case, a woman stated she had a video of three cars being broken into on March 21.

It was not known if the incidents were linked, but all information was turned over to police, said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain. He said it was at 2:52 am that two of the three suspects were first seen on Côte St. Antoine near Forden and kept under surveillance while a second public safety officer in an unmarked car picked up their trail.

Police were called when the youths were spotted a few minutes later in driveways on Springfield. The two were subsequently joined by a third person also seen trespassing. All proceeded along Sherbrooke and entered the bus shelter at Strathcona, where they were intercepted by police and public safety officers.

Noisy party requires police intervention

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A March 22 party became too much for a host on Rosemount Ave. to handle, Public Security officials said.

After receiving a couple of calls just after 10:30 pm about a large group of people on the street outside the apartment building at 10 Rosemount at Sherbrooke, public safety officers found about 60 to 80 teenagers “screaming and [being] generally disruptive.”

It turned out they had been asked to leave an open house further up the street by the father of the host when the party became too rowdy. While the group dispersed onto neighbouring streets, some set off sparkler-type pyrotechnical devices at Queen Elizabeth Park but no damage was reported.

Police were called to help and both police and public safety officers patrolled the area for about 30 minutes. The area was reported to have been cleared by 11:15 pm.

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She went missing when we were visiting family at 476 Strathcona Ave. If you see her (even if you can't catch her), please call Gael Eakin at 514-935-6847, or the St. Louis family at 613-724-4533 or 613-697-4841 or send us an email at st-louis@sympatico.ca.

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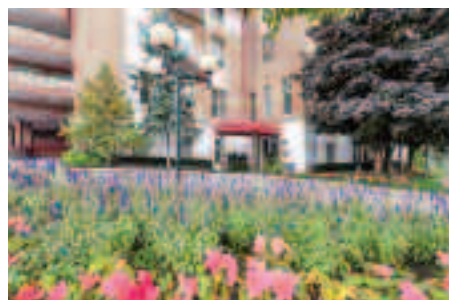


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continued on p. 20



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Predators squeak past Lachine into Bantam A final

By MICHAEL MOORE

Lending credence to the cliché that defence wins championships, the Westmount Predators again relied on its defensive prowess to upset the Rapides de Lachine 2-1 in the Bantam A semifinals at Martin Lapointe Arena on March 27.

“The strategy for this team has always been defence first. We don’t blow out teams but we contain them,” said head coach Bruce Garfield.

Emmanuel Elie and Stefan Robb scored second-period goals for the no. 3-ranked Predators, who survived a series of frantic netmouth scrambles in the game’s dying moments to advance to the finals.

“We know that in one-goal games, either way, we can win because we’ve been through the situation over and over,” said Robb.

Built around sturdy team defence and strong goaltending from Wesley Osterland, the Predators headed into the semi-final having conceded only a pair of goals in its opening three play-off wins.

Against the second-seeded Rapides, who steamrolled through their opening two games by twin 7-0 scorelines, a moment of individual brilliance from Elie was required to finally break Lachine’s post-season shutout streak 1:42 into the second period.

Winning the battle for a loose puck at the Lachine blueline, Elie sped into the Rapides zone, deked past a trio of defenders and roofed a backhand shot to break the deadlock.

“It was really exciting to score that goal. I went around the last defender, went to my backhand, and it went top shelf,” he said.

The Predators added an insurance goal just before the end of the period when Robb, skating up the ice on a one-on-two, split through two Lachine defenders, fired a backhand on goal and proceeded to furiously whack away at the loose rebound until it bounced into the net.

The two-goal lead stood until midway through the third period, when Lachine’s Francis Flageol-Tranquille cut the deficit in half, rifling a bouncing puck past Osterland to set up the game’s final frantic minute.

With both sides serving a penalty and the Lachine net empty, the Rapides rained a steady stream of shots at the Westmount net, but were unable to find an equalizer as the Predators threw their bodies in front of the incoming pucks and cleared away a trio of goalmouth opportunities before the final horn.

“Playing close games all year, we are well tested in these types of situations. That’s how you win play-off games,” said Garfield, who was bear-hugged by his brother, assistant coach Warren, after the final whistle.

The Predators will face off against the Mont Royal/Outremont Devils in a best-of-three series for the Bantam A championship.

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Hot cross bun-ning it



Good Friday on March 29 was a day of intense baking of hot cross buns at Victoria Ave.’s Le Fournil. Owners and sisters Tawn (left) and Robyn (right) Friedman stand on either side of employee Joy Ross-Jones with a portion of the day’s offering, stacked on the counter ready for what was anticipated to be an onslaught bun-seeking customers.

Photo: Westmount Independent

Dormez-vous?



There’s a question mark but not much mystery at Multimags’s penultimate location on Sherbrooke west of Claremont. A Dormez-vous mattress store appears to be moving in.

Photo: Westmount Independent



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Library's Friends' book sale April 13-14 offers new collections

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Large family collections of books on cookery, art and Judaism are reported to have been donated to the upcoming spring sale of quality books to benefit the Westmount Public Library. The event is to be held by the Friends of the Library April 13 and 14 at Victoria hall.

"At every sale we seem to have some sections that are huge because someone gives us their library," explained Lee Taylor, who co-organizes the sale with Friends president Carolyn O'Neill.

And the success of the semi-annual sales has funded the library's e-book program which, after its launch at the end of 2011, now requires ongoing annual costs to renew the licensing, software and purchases of new selections, according to library director Julie-Anne Cardella.

A total of \$26,200 was turned over by the Friends' group for 2012, she said. Of this, \$17,000 went to the e-books program, along with financing of other programs including the Book Club in a Bag and Fast Reads.

"This time we're really hoping to set another record," said Taylor, adding that the sales have raised more than \$202,000 since the first one 12 years ago. This includes \$35,000 raised from the Loonie and Toonie Cart at the library, where some of the unsold books from the sales are offered throughout the year.

Both Cardella and Taylor describe the Westmount book sale as one of the largest of its kind in Montreal since McGill's is no longer held.

The number to call to arrange a pick-up of collections of books is 514.483.5604.

The sale, which takes place from 10 am to 5 pm both days, is run by volunteers including members of the Friends group and a number of teenagers from The Study, LCC, Villa Maria, École Internationale and Trafalgar.

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Comin' Up

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

City council meeting, 8 pm.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

Public consultation about a vision for the southwest sector of Westmount, 7 pm at Victoria Hall. Info: 514.989.5200.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Westmount Horticultural Society presents "Fruit: pick and eat 'em fresh from May to October," with Stefan Sobkowiak, 7 pm at Westmount Public Library. Free for members; \$5 for public.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- City of Westmount's **blood donor clinic**, 2 to 8 pm at Victoria Hall. Info: Community Events 514.989.5226.
- "New Spring Colours!" with Aurélien Guillory, 2 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free. Info: 514.989.5299.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Centre Greene used book sale to benefit its campers' fund, 10 am to 7 pm at 1090 Greene Ave. Also, Saturday, April 13, 9 am to 2 pm. Book donations are ac-

cepted. Info: 514.931.6202 or www.centre-greene.org.

Nominations for WMA's volunteer award close April 8

The Westmount Municipal Association (WMA) is seeking nominations for the Volunteer Citizen of the Year Award.

It is presented to a Westmount resident who has "over many years given outstanding volunteer service to our community through any of its diverse groups."

The 2013 recipient is to be honoured during the WMA's annual general meeting Wednesday, May 8 in Victoria Hall.

To nominate someone, by Monday, April 8, send the person's name and a brief summary of the volunteer work to volunteer.award@wma-amw.org or call François Prenovost at 514.937.3788 or Marilyn Gillies at 514. 932.2026.



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Southwest, cont'd. from p. 8

toward a vision for the area," she said.

"The new square is expected to become the heart of the district and send a message that the city wants to stimulate development and hopefully energize the area as the merchants have been asking."

Possibly more meetings

Following feedback from the meeting, recommendations will be made to council leading to possible by-law changes that would require more meetings, she explained.

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An initial public meeting took place in October 3 (see October 9, 2012, p. 3).

The agenda of the upcoming meeting includes presentations from Cécile Baird of urban planning consultants B.R.I.C. and landscape architect Julie St-Arnault on the greening of the area and the Prince Albert square. Carole Scheffer, who heads the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) is to chair a discussion period, slated for 90 minutes.

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MWOS presents: 'Pirates of Penzance' - Victoria Hall, May 1, 4 (19:30) & 5 (14:00). Tickets: tickets@mwos.org/514-990-8813/ www.mwos.org

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RF meters, cont'd. from p. 1

Life committee.

Retrieval of such information, he said, "is a piece of cake for crooks," given the ease with which hackers are able to penetrate computer systems.

At the same time, Councillor Patrick Martin, commissioner of Utilities and Public Works, told the *Independent* that Hydro Westmount had started telling people if they wanted a non-RF model that it would install an older-type meter or replace an RF one for \$46.

Providing residents with an option and better informing residents were among several recommendations made by the HCP September 25 after it began looking into world-wide health-related concerns of RF-emitting meters that Hydro Westmount has been installing since 2008 (see October 23, 2012, p. 4).

The committee's study into privacy and criminal concerns comes just as opposition is mounting to Hydro-Quebec's roll-out of smart meters and what are being described as "exorbitant" costs to those choosing non-RF varieties.

In the absence of long-term data, the impact on health – young developing brains, in particular – has raised concerns about the cumulative effects of RF emissions from the escalating use of cell phones, other wireless devices and transmitting equipment.

While city council approved the purchase February 4 of "various electronic meters" for Hydro Westmount at a net cost of \$111,850, none were of an optional digital non-RF type, city director general Duncan Campbell confirmed.

"The industry is moving to the smart grid," he said. "So suppliers will stop supplying the 'dumb' meters." And if Quebec adopts a system of electricity rates based on time of day consumption, "the older meters will be obsolete," he added.

The RF meters known as second-generation meters now used by Hydro Westmount allow meter readers to read the meter from the street without having to gain entry to a home.

Good supply of older model

Nevertheless, Martin said last week that Hydro Westmount had "a good supply of the old meters on hand for anyone who requests one."

Also, concerning Hydro Westmount's position, he said he was hoping to attend a meeting this week in Lachine where there is strong grassroots opposition to the

smart meters. "I understand Hydro-Quebec may be rethinking its plan," he said.

The municipal council in Magog, for example, is reported to have decided in January that its utility, Hydro Magog, would opt out of Hydro-Quebec's smart-meter program.

A decision by the Régie de l'énergie paved the way for Hydro-Quebec to begin installing its smart meters as long as an optional non-RF meter is made available at extra cost. As a result, the program is already being rolled out in many areas, including Lachine and Dorval.

Thompson said the HCP would be keeping close track of events unfolding regarding the RF issue and, in particular, to a recent Superior Court case involving the city of Châteauguay against Rogers in the positioning of a cell phone tower.

Testimony during the proceedings from Industry Canada, he said, revealed that its safety standards for RF equipment related

only to fire safety and not to potential health hazards for non-thermal use. A decision is expected in August.

While Westmount does not have cell phone towers as such, communications companies have been installing lower transmitting antennae of top of apartment buildings in private arrangements with building owners.

This led to one of the HCP's September recommendations that the city's Urban Planning department prepare guidelines for how such devices should be positioned and angled.

New protocol developed

In a joint agreement between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA), it was announced February 28 that companies would notify municipalities of their plans to install any new antennae or tower regardless of height.

Despite the new protocol, however, the issue remains under federal jurisdiction (Industry Canada). Westmount has no Urban Planning guidelines in respect to positioning.

The HCP's study of the RF issue stems from a story in the *Independent* on the city's installation of RF hydro meters (see stories May 1, p. 12, 14). "We have to be vigilant," Thompson said.



Westmount's RF meter is the digital model.

Victoria village recycling to be studied this summer

Greene Ave. commercial recycling on for another year

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Recycling pick-up from the back doors of small shops on Greene Ave. is no longer on an experimental basis.

"It was deemed a success and council has given us the go-ahead to get prices for another year," Public Works director Marianne Zalzal said last week.

The program will now also be extended to the south side of St. Catherine from Greene to Atwater.

City council at its meeting April 2 was expected to approve the cost of the weekly back-lane collection from May 1 this year to April 30, 2014 at the lowest price of

\$26,904.15, submitted by TTI Environnement Inc. This includes transport to the recycling facility at the St. Michel complex.

This summer, Public Works will embark on a study of how to collect recyclables from the back doors of merchants and other commercial establishments in Victoria *continued on p. 20*

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In Other Words

Thumbs down post visit to Westmount

A March 28 post on TripAdvisor.com showed displeasure from a recent visitor to Westmount. The writer of “Unnecessary and outdated pretension” said that Westmount “is not Bel Air nor Rodeo Drive. It is not Avenue George V nor does it lead to the Eiffel Tower. It is not Worth Ave. nor does it end at a beach.” The post said that the city doesn’t claim to have “the retail, the quality or the services” of those places.

The writer acknowledged “some nice looking houses with manicured lawns in summer and a blanket of snow in winter. It has sidewalks, but it has an unfriendly

neighbourhood atmosphere that is not welcoming of pedestrians at all. So if you are visiting Montreal, and you are told to go to Westmount, you will encounter steep hills, never a good morning, a place made for residents and not visitors, one small road called Green (sic) Avenue with two galleries and one café.”

Of Sherbrooke, the poster wrote that while it has “amenities for residents, it is not tourist welcoming nor tourist friendly.”

Finally, “For a look at the architecture, if you must, hire a taxi, and have a slow drive by. Anything else is a waste of time. It is residential, caters to residents, and is unwelcoming.”

Recycling, cont’d. from p. 19

village, “and we hope to start that in the fall,” Zalzal said.

This district is expected to provide more

of a challenge since the lane network is less extensive (see February 5, p. 1). The commercial area is currently served by the city’s blue on-street recycling trailer, which is limited in size and has often been deemed inconvenient for merchants.

February property transfers cont’d. from p. 15

Centre Greene serves up Easter lunch



Georgette Lessard, left, and Margaret Glassford, right, were among the senior citizens who attended a special Easter luncheon at Centre Greene on March 27. Amber Szpyt, a volunteer from Centennial Academy, was on hand to help out. According to Centre Greene director Wesley McCoy, the centre has had programs for seniors for more than 15 years. The centre holds lunches for seniors on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month. Service begins around 12:15 pm. The next one takes place on Wednesday, April 10.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

For real estate transfers, please see paper archive.

For analysis, see p. 21.

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January, February sales in tight price range



Real estate

ANDY DODGE

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in January and February 2013 provided by city officials. A list of sales can be found starting on p. 15.

The range of prices for Westmount real estate appeared to be tighter than ever in January and February this year, with 12 of 17 sales bringing prices between \$1,110,000 and \$1,750,000 (that is, the median of \$1,430,000 plus or minus 23 percent).

The first two months of 2013, characteristically the slowest in terms of real estate transactions, saw only two sales for prices over \$1.75 million, and both were way over that amount: the stone mansion at 62 Summit Crescent changed hands for

\$3,450,000 in February while 530 Argyle Ave. sold for \$2,608,000 in January.

On the low side, a small rowhouse at 4610 St. Catherine St., opposite the Royal Montreal Regiment armory, sold for only \$780,000. The house sold in July for \$617,500, so this was hardly a modest price. The other two below-million-dollar sales were both in the low \$800,000 range.

In December 2012, the average price of 10 house sales was \$1,307,200. This climbed to \$1,407,444 in nine sales in January and \$1,538,021 in seven sales in February. Average mark-ups over valuation climbed from 27 percent in December to 31.5 percent in January to 40.5 percent in February.

Only one sale came in at less than valuation, a 5.6-percent mark-down of 4824 de Maisonneuve Blvd. in January.

Meanwhile, the \$3,450,000 paid for 62 Summit Crescent was just over double the municipal valuation, the highest mark-up of the two-month period.

Most of these transactions involve deals arranged between October and December

last year, after the September election of the Parti Québécois government, so it seems apparent that the political situation is not affecting either prices or volume of sales in Westmount.

Seven residential condominiums were sold in the two-month period along with virtually the entire sixth floor of the office building at 4120 St. Catherine St., corner Gladstone Ave., a double commercial condo sold to the company that already owns the two units on the fifth floor. Of the residential condos, the highest price involved a sixth-floor unit at 1 Wood Ave., which went for \$849,500, while the lowest

was for apartment 215 in the new 11 Hillside Ave. for \$328,000. This was the first resale of a unit in that building, for an apartment that cost the seller \$263,340 plus taxes in June last year.

For the others, the range of prices was again fairly tight – between \$430,000 and \$623,000; two of the five were parts of former duplexes while the other three were apartments, two of them at 399 Clarke Ave.

No other multi-residential or commercial properties or even shares of duplexes or triplexes sold in the first two months this year.

WESTMOUNT: 11 Hillside avenue



Exceptional location! Great building on one of Westmount's quiet streets! Just steps away from Westmount Park; Greene Avenue; Westmount Square; Victoria Village; Atwater Subway Station and numerous small cafes and restaurants. Just a few units left: Two to three bedrooms; central air conditioning and garage.

Amélia Tavares

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62 Summit Crescent photographed March 29.

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*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The annual St. Patrick's Society charity ball took place at the Marriott Château Champlain on March 1. Ticket prices were \$225 (regular) and \$150 (junior).

It was an eve full of cocktail parties! The president's reception, held early in the evening, was in the famed Salle Maison-neuve, with its stunning views at the top of the hotel. The patrons' cocktail was held



From left: Louis Vachon, Paul Dunne and Kathleen Weil.



Photos courtesy of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal

From left: William Friend, Martha Hancock, Roberta and Bruce Bolton.

in Suite 410, and the general cocktail reception was in Salon Viger.

Guest of honour **Kathleen Weil**, member of the Quebec provincial legislature for the NDG riding, looked extremely elegant in a simple soft pink gown and black shawl. She attended with her husband **Michael Novak**.

Honorary chair **Louis Vachon**, president and CEO of the National Bank of Canada, attended with his wife **Chantal Carrier**. Ball chair **Marilyn Meikle**, red-carpet glamorous in black satin accessorized with a stunning crystal necklace, attended with her husband **Kevin Rochford**.

Westmounters noted included **Martha Hancock** and her husband **William Friend**, and past president of the society **Patrick Shea** and his wife **Sara Pedersen**, in a one-shoulder soft jade ball gown, belted in Michelle Obama's style.

Former Westmount residents included **Pierette Sévigny** and hubby **Rick Mc-**



Sara and Patrick Shea.

Conomy, and **Peter McAuslan**, in family tartan kilt, attended with his wife **Ellen Bounsall**.

St. Patrick's Society president **Paul Dunne**, there with his son **Alex**, welcomed guests to the much-anticipated evening, and thanked sponsors including L'Équipeur, represented by **Jim Killin**, general manager, eastern division.

Famed Irish beverages Guinness, Jameson and Bailey's were present during the amazing Celtic dinner prepared by chef **Richard Edwards**. The band Solstice had everyone at Hurley's Hotel Pub dancing til the wee hours, as did Luc Campeau and his orchestra's music.

Speaking of dancing, **Casey Costello** of the Bernadette Short School of Irish Dancing trained a group of former members of the school. They performed a fabulous fast *a capella* dance routine. Over \$40,000 was raised for the society's charitable endeavours.



Marilyn Meikle and Kevin Rochford.

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Westmount, 4771 Sherbrooke W.
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SOLD IN 1 DAY!

Westmount, 204 Cote St-Antoine
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SOLD IN 1 DAY!

Westmount, 638 Belmont Ave.
\$1,585,000

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SOLD BY BRIAN!

Westmount, 7 de Casson Ave
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SOLD BY BRIAN!

Westmount, 437 Argyle Ave
\$1,150,000

Extraordinary opportunity! Highly desirable location. Lovely old heritage property featuring a large pool sized garden. Renovate/update to your taste.



OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4

Westmount, 612 Argyle Ave.
\$1,875,000

MAGNIFICENT stone home built of the finest materials. Impressive oak woodwork + floors. Updated kitchen + baths. A/C. EXCEPTIONALLY lovely, pool sized garden. 2 car garage.



OPEN HOUSE SUN 2-4

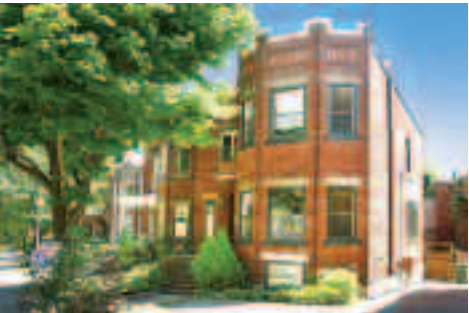
Westmount, 466 Argyle Ave.
\$675,000

A bright, extra spacious upper duplex condo! Approx. 1,645 sqft. 3 bdr PLUS a big family room. Woodwork, leaded glass, oak floors, balcony. Garage + parking too!



Westmount, 3238 The Boulevard
\$1,670,000

Spectacular! Fully renovated 5 bedrooms + den home designed in 1913 by the highly respected architect Percy Nobbs. Central A/C. Marvin windows and doors.



Westmount, 210 Cote Saint-Antoine
\$4,900/month

Prime location! Ideally situated, this 4 bedroom s/d home overlooks beautiful King George Park. Spacious rooms, abundant woodwork, updated bathrooms and kitchen. Sept. 1 occupancy.

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