

**Estimated 'download' cost: \$750,000**

## City expected to be hit hard by Quebec's reduced payments, rebates to municipalities

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The province's new policy regarding reduced transfer payments and tax rebates to municipalities for 2015 could hit especially hard at Westmount, the *Independent* learned last week.

"We're number-crunching in the broad terms of three quarters of a million dollars," Mayor Peter Trent confirmed November 12. "And there are still a lot of 'ifs.'"

These types of changes are commonly characterized by municipal governments

as "downloading."

What is known so far is that the city, like others, faces a double whammy. This consists of reduced transfer payments in lieu of property tax on provincial institutions and related compensation, as well as higher expenses resulting from cuts in rebates on the Quebec sales tax (QST).

While a government press release announcing the changes November 5 for austerity measures suggests municipalities absorb the cuts to the tune of 1.2 percent of their budget for local operations, "It's safe to say it's unlikely we'll be able to absorb all of it," Trent ..... continued on p. 6

**Letters** p. 6

**Social Notes** BY V. REDGRAVE p. 20

**9 Lives** BY L. FOWLER p. 22

## Private negotiations over extras, credits on-going

## City seeks mediation in WRC differences with Pomerleau

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city has made a request for mediation with contractor Pomerleau Inc. in efforts to resolve "extras" and "credits" regarding construction of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), Mayor Peter Trent acknowledged last week.

While negotiations have been proceeding privately, the mediation measures were proposed by director general Duncan Campbell September 2, according to minutes

## A second wind for running shoes



Running Room manager Chris Ochiai, left, and Jean-Guy Hébert stand with a bin of donated shoes on November 10. See story, p. 8. Photo: Michael Moore

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## Leaves found on street, bike path

A contractor on Church Hill was found blowing leaves into the street November 10 at 8:36 am, according to Public Security officials. He reported a vacuum truck was on the way and a follow-up 20 minutes later confirmed the leaves had been removed.

In another incident the same day at

1:16 pm, no contractors were on the scene when officers answered a call for leaves put along the bike path on de Maison-neuve from Metcalfe to Melville. Public Works was asked to clean them up and officers were to follow up. By November 17, efforts to reach the contractor had been unsuccessful, officials said.

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## Mayor reports on 'State of the Union'

# City expects to end year with surplus, sets 2015 guidelines

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

lion.

### Debt now \$54 million

In the mayor's annual "State of the Union" address delivered at the November 3 city council meeting, Mayor Peter Trent reported that the city expects to close the financial year December 31 with revenues and expenditures of \$98 million.

This includes a proposed surplus appropriation of \$1.2 million allocated in almost equal amounts toward a balloon debt payment on the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) in 2018 and additional pay-as-you-go funding for Hydro Westmount projects.

### Outlines council's guidelines

Trent also outlined council's guidelines for preparation of the city's 2015 operating budget. These consist of limiting tax increases for local services to 1 percent over inflation of 2 percent. Any increase in the city's agglomeration share will not be known until at least month's end.

At the time of Trent's presentation, however, the news of reductions in provincial "in lieu of tax" payments on its real estate and QST rebates was just breaking, so it was not known how this might impact the operating and/or capital works budgets (see story p. 1).

Even so, the guidelines will be a challenge, he said, "considering the current impact of the actuarial deficit in our employee pension plan." A new Canadian Public Sector Mortality table is anticipated to increase these costs for 2014 by \$429,000 for total expenditure of \$3.8 mil-

The city will be heading into 2015 with an outstanding debt of \$54 million of which \$42.2 is the city's sole responsibility. This includes \$11.6 million related to the WRC. The remaining \$11.6 million pertains to Quebec's share (plus servicing) of the WRC grant, which it pays down over 10 to 20 years.

Announcing the remuneration of elected officials for this year as required by law, Trent noted that as mayor he will receive more than \$80,443 from different sources. These include \$43,943 from the city along with another \$15,662 as an expense allowance, plus \$10,847 from the Montreal agglomeration and \$10,000 from the Montreal Metropolitan Community.

In addition, he receives \$542 per presence at sessions of the agglomeration's Finance and Administration committee, of which he is vice chair, up to a maximum of \$10,847.

Westmount city councillors receive \$21,967 from the city made up of \$14,645 and \$7,322 as an expense allowance.

## Loitering, drinking on St. Catherine

A patroller in an unmarked car spotted a group of five men and women loitering on steps in the lane behind 4050 St. Catherine west of Atwater November 8 at 4:32 pm, Public Security officials said. The officers watched them until eventually they began passing around a beer bottle from one to the other. The officer then poured the beer out and asked them to move on.

The day before at 12:15 am, a man described as intoxicated was seen drinking beer opposite 4000 St. Catherine at Atwater. When spoken to, he became uncooperative, shook his fist menacingly and cracked the bottle against a wall before complying with a request to move along.

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## City holiday food drive starts off with \$2,200, four bins



Public safety officer Sabrina Tremblay helped staff the food drive collection at the Westmount Artisans' Festival November 8 and 9.

The launch of Public Security's annual food drive took place November 8 and 9 when \$2,200 in cash along with four large blue bins of non-perishable food was col-

lected as the price of admission to the annual Westmount Artisans' Festival at Victoria Hall.

In announcing the results, Public Security director Greg McBain said the results provided a significant start. Boxes for food donations were to be placed in all municipal buildings last week.

Last year, record amounts of food and a total of \$3,308 was reported raised during the six-week campaign.

The cash is used to purchase food vouchers as well as perishable food items such as turkeys and hams. Those receiving the holiday baskets are Westmount residents known to be in need and recommended by the CLSC.

## Valet service needed permit

Operators of a valet parking service at Restaurant Léa on Sherbrooke west of Prince Albert were told to obtain a permit November 7 in order to block off the area in front, Public Security officials said. A passing patroller at 8:43 pm noticed signs set up to keep the area clear for cars to pull over. The signs were removed.

## Traffic trial set for Greene/de Maisonneuve

Starting Monday, November 17, traffic lights at Greene and de Maisonneuve were to be changed to flashing red, according to city officials. Temporary stop signs will also be installed for all traffic.

The "all-way" stops were to be carried out for several days on a trial basis.

The experiment was requested by the city's Transportation Advisory Committee "to see how the intersection functions" at

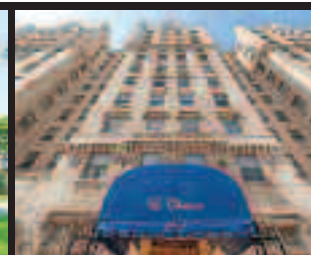
a time when there are fewer cyclists, explained Elisa Gaetano, assistant director, Public Works.

Pedestrians as well as drivers will be governed by the same all-way stops, without the pedestrian-phase of the lights. A repeat trial is planned for the spring to determine whether the all-way stops are a viable option to the lights, she said. —LS



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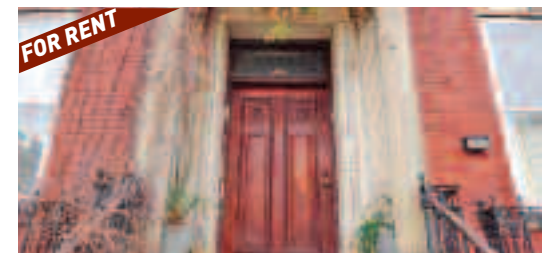
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New courts, sound barrier, plantings

# Hallowell residents voice concern over sudden tree removal at WAG

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A number of residents of Hallowell Ave. were taken by surprise November 12 when a crane and other heavy equipment were moved into the Westmount Athletic Grounds to begin removing 22 city cottonwood trees.

City council had approved a contract for taking down the row of eastern cottonwoods along the railway tracks at its meeting November 3. The trees were concentrated mainly behind the tennis courts and were described by city officials as dead or dying. Others of mixed varieties that remain healthy were not slated to be cut down (see story and photo November 12, p. 7).

“Could they not have been taken down every second or third one, over time and new trees planted in their place so that we don’t have to wait another 80 years for the canopy to grow back all at once? Was there any plan for this?” asked resident Aaron Fraser.

He was one of some eight residents who contacted Theodora Samiotis, their councillor, wondering why they hadn’t

been informed of the plan beforehand.

“Once people knew the trees had to be taken down for safety purposes, the main issue seems to have been a lack of information and what the plan would be going forward,” she told the *Independent*.

“As a common courtesy, we try to inform residents when we take down trees as we did when the trees were removed for construction of the WRC. This time the work happened so quickly after the council meeting that it took me by surprise, too,” she added.

Samiotis said she had spoken to one of the workers who showed her the rotten condition of one of the trees. “Just imagine what could have happened if a big branch fell on someone playing tennis, using the dog run or even a passing train?”

As for the future, Samiotis explained, “the tennis courts are going to be redone next spring and we hope some sort of sound barrier will go in there as well. Then we’ll have to find new planting that will be sustainable. It should all ..... fit together.”

*continued on p. 15*



A large section of a cottonwood is lowered to the ground at around 10 am November 13. Visiting the work site were Mayor Peter Trent and city director general Duncan Campbell, who said the trees were becoming unsafe and are surrounded by the tennis courts, the athletic track, a dog run and the railway track, and that a broken limb could be dangerous. He said the city was looking into what would be needed to replace the sound-barrier effect of the large trees.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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# Mastromonaco re-elected as French school board commissioner

BY ISAAC OLSON

Marie-José Mastromonaco was re-elected November 2 to the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM) school board to represent the newly-formed District 11, which covers Westmount, NDG and a small slice of Snowdon.

Beating Olivier Kolmel with nearly 80 percent of the vote (1,249 to 328), Mastromonaco will be one of 12 school commissioners on a school board that, up until November 2, had 21 commissioners.

Mastromonaco's team, Mouvement pour une École Moderne et Ouverte (MEMO), won in all 12 districts. Catherine Harel Bourdon, also with MÉMO, was again elected as president of the CSDM as she took nearly 60 percent of the vote.

"I feel very happy to continue to serve NDG and Westmount," said Mastromonaco in a phone interview on November 3. Despite being content with her victory, she said she was disappointed with the lack of voter participation as it fell below 5 percent boardwide.

"We have to figure out a better way to get people involved and to make it less

confusing between French and English," said Mastromonaco. "We heard a lot of frustration. A lot of the information was only in French and not in English. I understand we are a French school board, but still, the information needs to be given in French and English – especially in NDG and Westmount."

Mastromonaco also suggested holding the election at the same time as the municipal election to encourage more participation.

"This is education. This is our future. These are our kids we are talking about," she said. "I think people need to be more interested."

Inspired by the overcrowding her own children faced at school every day, Mastromonaco was first elected to office in 2003.

Since taking office, she has been instrumental in opening two schools in NDG, Marc-Favreau and Judith-Jasmin. She worked on the projects of St. Luc high school's major renovations, the addition of a high school annex for students who need special attention and the renovation of École Notre Dame de Grâce. Now, she

said, a brand-new school is under construction on Upper Lachine Rd. to service NDG's St. Raymond neighbourhood.

"We've asked for \$8 million more to build more classrooms in western NDG," said Mastromonaco, in a pre-election interview. "And that's still not enough. That's where the English Montreal School Board will have no choice but to speak with us. We need more space for NDG, and the English sector right now does not have the kids to fill all of their classrooms."



Marie-José Mastromonaco in her NDG-based campaign office on October 21.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## POOR PLANNING IN WAG’S COTTONWOOD REMOVAL

I am very angry to read about “City to cut down 22 dying cottonwoods at WAG,” (November 11, p. 7). I am more angry to see the results. True, the trees were old, dangerous and needed to be replaced. But...

Where are the urban planners that the city hires to maintain and improve our fair city? Where is the horticulture department? Public Works? We know trees have a lifespan and need replacement. What gives? Why was there no planned replacement?

I find the statement mentioned in the paper that “replacement trees are not con-

sidered since the strip of land between courts and tracks is too tight to provide sufficient work space” ridiculous.

Two years ago the city, at great expense, installed a temporary ice rink. They moved the fence for the tennis courts and installed asphalt where none existed. It was then removed in the spring.

Certainly the court fences can be taken down temporarily to remove the stumps and replace the trees.

Now we have no shade for the dog run and tennis players. The southern perimeter of the city of Westmount looks like a airport road in a third-world country.

The city of Westmount does not look good.

WANDA KONARSKI, HALLOWELL AVE.

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Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

PUBLISHER: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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# Hooked!



This lamppost at Victoria and de Maisonneuve was bent to the ground the morning of November 17 at some time before 9:15 am. According to Westmount Public Security director Greg McBain, a southbound truck from the worksite at 345 Victoria turning onto de Maisonneuve hooked it. The driver of the three-axle truck did not realize what had happened, but returned to assist the police in their accident report. Temporary stop signs and public safety officers directed traffic while waiting for workers to repair the damage. A Hydro Westmount crew was seen on site at 11:30 am.

Photo: WI

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

Each municipality will be affected differently, explained Bruce St. Louis, executive director of the Association of Suburban Mayors (ASM), who has been examining the impact of the cuts on the demerged cities.

“Those with more schools, healthcare institutions and purchases will be hit harder. The more you have, the more you lose.”

This implies a higher loss for Westmount with its many primary and secondary public schools and a budget of more than \$10 million in capital works projects.

This year Westmount will receive some \$3.5 million from Quebec in compensation in lieu of tax.

The cuts in QST rebates (or credits) will affect all eligible purchases and contracts at a time when the city is dedicated to spending more than usual on infrastructure projects (such as roads and sewers) that were part of this year’s \$10-million-plus capital budget.

Under the announced change, the QST rebate is being reduced from the current 62.8 percent to 50 percent.

A preliminary comparison of municipalities shows Pointe Claire, with many schools and a higher budget than Westmount, is forecasting a loss of \$1 million. Dorval, on the other hand, expects to lose \$500,000; Beaconsfield, \$200,000.

Many questions remain unanswered, Trent said.

Among them is what impact the in-

creased QST might have on the shares of agglomeration expenses divvied out to individual island of Montreal municipalities.

“I suspect it’s not huge since the aggro doesn’t spend as much on purchases as a percent of its budget,” relative to remuneration and benefits for police and firefighters, in particular, Trent suggested.

## CLDs affected

In other measures, the provincial government plans to reduce or abolish most of the local business development program, the Centre local de développement (CLD), which helps fund small start-ups. The Greene Avenue Merchants’ Association was one of its beneficiaries (see October 28, p. 5).

News of the downloading was highlighted at the start of the city council meeting November 3 by Trent, who said the latest cuts were reminiscent of a series of successive “downloads” by Quebec during the 1990s.

“The Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) has agreed to grin and bear it,” as part of a new fiscal pact for municipalities slated for the following year, he said.

But since then, he said last week, the UMQ’s position had already led to “certain dissension” within the organization.

“What bothers me is that the federal government compensates municipalities 100 percent of tax value on its properties, so it makes no sense for Quebec to be paying us less,” he explained. “I’m not very happy with this.” So as far as Trent is concerned, the issue is not over yet. “To be continued,” he said.



# Contactivity asks government to modify Bill 10

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount's Contactivity seniors' centre states in a brief to the Quebec government on health care reform that it fears the proposed Bill 10 would lead to a loss of English-language services as well as the potential decline in donations and the engagement of volunteers, many of whom are seniors.

The proposed law aims to abolish the boards of health care institutions thereby shifting direct local control to a centralizing regional level.

"How many times do you hear of someone donating to a CLSC or volunteering at a CSSS headquarters?" the brief asks. "They are not deemed to belong to the

community, but are purely governmental bodies."

The brief was submitted October 20 by Contactivity executive director Mary Stark to two policy advisors to Quebec's Health minister Dr. Gaétan Barrette at a special meeting of Seniors Action Quebec.

It reacts to the loss of healthcare institution boards and the imposition of a top-down structure and asks that modifications to the bill take into account the feelings of English-speaking seniors.

"Borrowing a term from the field of public relations, the 'optics' on this bill are terrible," it states. "The symbolism comes across as dead-set against the English-speaking community, which, if anything, has even more attachment to its few re-

maining institutions because they arose historically from the philanthropy and hard work of members of the community."

It also points out that "seniors come out and vote. And they are not going anywhere, in fact their ranks are swelling.

"They still have lots of mileage left. The government should show flexibility in modifying Bill 10 so that there still remains meaningful English community input for the institutions upon which the community depends, and which are an important part of its now fragile identity."

Another brief on the same track, from Contactivity board member Joyce Blond Frank, a retired lawyer, pursued a more legalistic approach examining Bill 10 clause by clause, Stark said.

She said she was encouraging citizens opposing Bill 10 to sign an online petition through a link provided on the Quebec Community Groups Network at [www.qcgn.ca](http://www.qcgn.ca).

Contactivity has a membership of some 600 over the age of 65, who live primarily in Westmount, NDG, downtown, LaSalle and Verdun.

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## Fire alarm too faint to hear

A fire alarm forced tenants to leave the large apartment building on St. Catherine at Hillside Lane at 12:44 am November 8, Public Security officials said. Firefighters confirmed that no fire had occurred but that the alarm system needed verification. Three residents complained it was too faint in their corner of the building. Public safety officers referred the matter to the department’s “Security in Aging” assistance program and made a report to the city’s board of inspections. Residents were also told to contact the fire department’s prevention branch.

## Overnight construction allowed at Y

Two contractors replacing ceramics were allowed to continue work at 1:02 am November 5 as long as no one complained, Public Security officials said. No one did. A patroller passing the Westmount Y on Sherbrooke noticed the pair who stated the only time they could do the work was when the centre’s programs were not under way. They were told to obtain an overnight permit the next day.

# Hébert, Running Room pair up to shoe those in need

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Jean-Guy Hébert knows firsthand the importance of a decent pair of running shoes, especially for those living on the street.

“It’s better to have old shoes than no shoes at all,” he said.

“A lot of people with older shoes think, ‘Oh, they’re too old, so I’m going to throw them out.’ But they’re never too old.”

Hébert has teamed up with the local Running Room to bring donated shoes to those in need, both locally and internationally.

Last summer, he approached store manager Chris Ochiai about procuring some shoes for himself and other clients of the Old Brewery Mission, where he frequently spends his nights.

With a clientele that literally races through footwear, the Running Room is frequently inundated with donated shoes that may no longer be fit for marathons but are otherwise functionally sound and comfortable.

“It’s still a good shoe, so we encourage

them to donate it to places like the Old Brewery Mission. It’s really good for us to work within the community, and it’s an incentive for the runners to not just throw their shoes out. It’s a win-win situation,” said Ochiai.

Ochiai opened the Running Room’s donation bin to Hébert, who left with trash bags carrying over 60 pairs of men’s shoes, size large, to hand out at the Old Brewery Mission.

“He takes what he wants, we put it in a trash bag and then he takes it all the way to the Old Brewery Mission, which is quite a walk,” said Ochiai.

However, Hébert says he was told the mission’s policies prevented him from giving the shoes inside the premises, but he still occasionally hands out pairs outside the building.

His efforts have caught the eye of Laurent Memevegni, a counsellor at the Mission, who works to send aid to Africa.

“I saw [Hébert] was distributing shoes to others, so I asked him where he was getting them from, and he put me in contact with [Ochiai],” he said.

This summer, the trio teamed up to collect shoes, and in early December, Memevegni will be taking a shipment of 250 pairs to the city of Parakou in his homeland of Benin to distribute to those in need of footwear, including children who have to walk to school barefoot.

“Here, we have a society of consumption, and we don’t give a second life to things. We throw them out. So I thought ‘Why not send them to Africa, where, in 2014, people are still walking about without shoes?’” he said.

“Even here in Montreal, I have people close to me asking me for shoes because they don’t have any.”

Memevegni doesn’t plan to stop after that initial shipment. He has set a minimum goal of 1,000 pairs and brings a truck by the Running Room every few weeks to pick up boxes full of donations.

“I don’t know if it’s a running philosophy. I think it’s just a good person philosophy, and I think our community here in the store share in that. People helping people,” said Ochiai.

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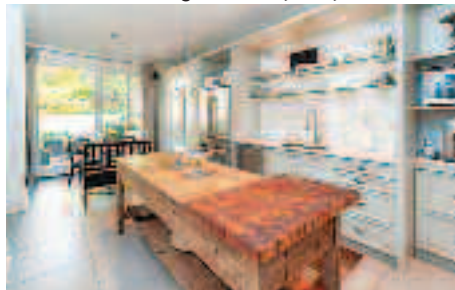
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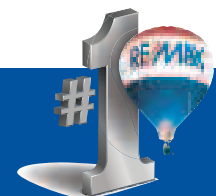
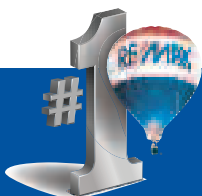


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## Suspect stopped for fake gun



Police officers from Westmount's Station 12 discuss a situation at the northwest corners of Sherbrooke and Claremont the afternoon of November 11. It involved a man who had a plastic replica of a handgun in his possession. Witnesses said that the police threw the man onto the sidewalk, just outside the Second Cup. The suspect was then handcuffed and placed into a police cruiser with the fake handgun (see inset photo) sitting on the roof of the car. Police would not release any details as the case is under investigation but they said that the suspect was not in the process of holding up anyone or businesses.

Photos: Robert J. Galbraith

### Police Report

## Westmount resident arrested during Bruce Ave. break-in

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

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Police caught a 32-year-old Westmount resident red-handed while he was searching a Bruce Ave. home he allegedly broken into on November 8, according to Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel.

Just before 10 pm, the house's alarm was triggered when a metallic bar was used to break a window on the front door. Alerted by the alarm company, police officers arrived on scene to find the window shattered and the door ajar, with lights still on in the building, said Pimentel.

The officers reportedly entered the dwelling and found the suspect searching through the home owner's belongings. The man, who Pimentel said has had previous run-ins with police, was placed under arrest without incident.

"That's the way we want these types of incidents to go," said Pimentel.

When searched by the officers, the suspect was also found to be in possession of a stolen license plate. Pimentel couldn't specify where the plate came from, but said that it did not belong to the owner of the house.

After the arrest, police asked the alarm company to reach the home owners to inform them about the break-in. No items were reported missing.



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## Close garage doors, residents advised

Public Security patrollers reported finding open garage doors at a house on Upper Belmont November 9 at 4:25 pm and one on Upper Lansdowne at 1:41 am the next day. No one was home in one incident, but officers managed to contact a resident at the other. One of the garages provided access to the interior of the home. "We advise people to close their garage doors for security reasons," said Public Security director Greg McBain.

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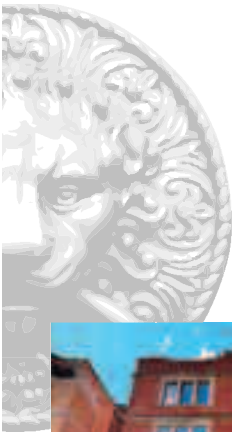
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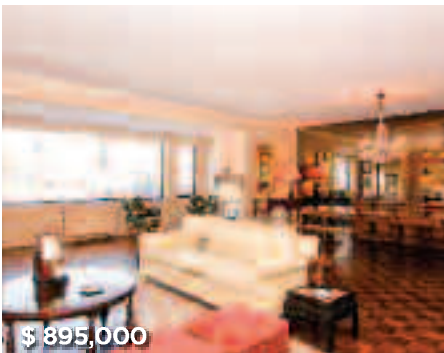


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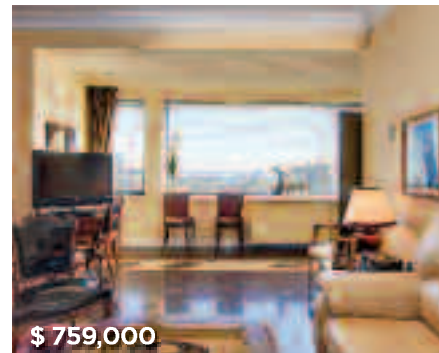


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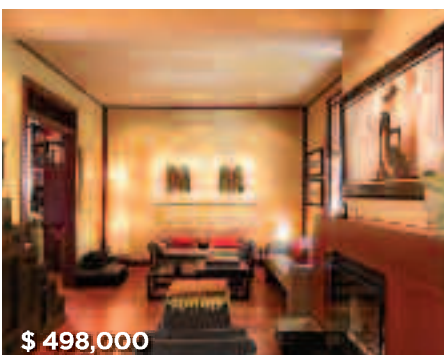
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# October sales: Sudden rush



*Mood of the Market*

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchases of Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in October 2014. Be-

cause they are not final registered sales, the addresses cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.

The value of the “typical” house in Westmount climbed slightly higher in October and is starting to show signs of a healthy market here though volume was slightly lower than September and still the high-priced houses cannot find buyers.

Westmount’s market plodded through October with four sales recorded until suddenly, in the last week of the month, things began to move. Another five sales were settled between October 25 and October 31, and then, it seems, the pace continued into the first week of November.

Two home sales over \$2 million were posted by agents last month, with the highest price at \$2,500,000, still hardly the price sought by many of Westmount’s fancier listings. So far this year there have been 19 sales over \$2 million, with five in April (just after the provincial election) and another three in June.

**Only 2 houses for \$4 million-plus**

Last year’s registrations counted 20 homes over \$2 million and 34 in 2012, so it seems the number of people ready to invest that kind of money in Quebec is diminishing. Still, five houses listed on MLS are asking more than \$7 million and another seven would like between \$5 million and \$6 million. Thus far in 2014 only two house sales and one condominium have been reported sold for more than \$4 million.

The average house sold in October for 5.5 percent less than its municipal evaluation, but one very high-priced sale was sold well below the city tax value. With the extremes removed, the average moves up to a four-percent mark-up. For the year so far, houses have been selling at an average

3 percent more than valuations, though the mark-ups in January and February were much lower than for the rest of the year.

**Lowest price in October: \$575K**

Lowest price in October was \$575,000, one of only two houses to sell below \$1 million – and the other sale was \$943,500, very close to the \$1-million mark. Five of the nine prices were less than valuation, an indication that the city tax value is not always the base price sellers should accept, especially in this somewhat fickle market. Whether the latest “rush” to buy is going to drive prices up remains to be seen

though we are getting close to the holiday season, which is generally slow for local real estate.

The condominium market was reasonably strong with four apartments sold in October for an average six percent mark-up. Also sold was one more unit at 1250 Greene Ave. (above 5 Saisons), but valuations have not yet been established on these units so we cannot compare.

In adjacent-Westmount, four homes were sold, two in the downtown area and two more in eastern NDG. Prices generally hovered around the \$1-million mark.



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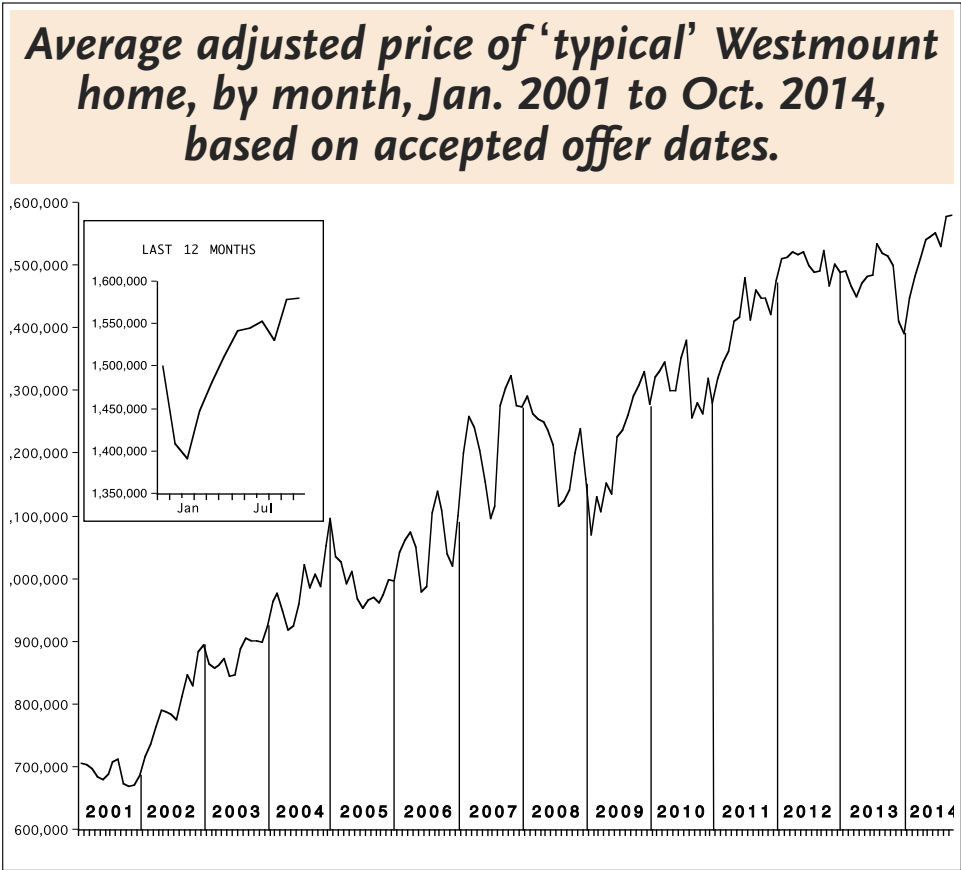
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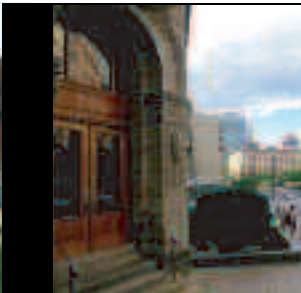
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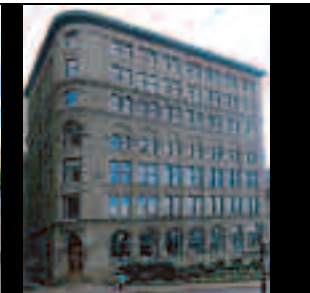
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## Decision pending on burnt-out unit

# Times change: Public Works' two apartments no longer needed for superintendents on 24-hour call

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

No decision has yet been made by city council regarding the future of a Public Works apartment burnt by fire September 29 at Westmount's Corporation Yard, city director general Duncan Campbell said last week.

"We're working with the insurance company to determine the possibility of rebuilding it to use for much needed office space," he said. Another option he had previously suggested was simply demolishing it.

Either way, the apartment – one of two at the yard – is no longer relevant as a residence for two Public Works superintendents as it once was when they were required to live on-site.

"It was necessary in the days when communications were not what they are today," explained retired Public Works director Fred Caluori shortly after the fire. "It was especially important in the winter to be right there during snowstorms and other emergency conditions."

Located above a two-storey building used by employees for lockers and a mess hall, the apartment's existence was largely unknown to many residents, including members of council, until after the fire.

### Lived there 18 years

Retired roads superintendent Frank Marrone remembers the apartment well. He lived there for some 18 years from 1981 to 1998. It's where he and his wife raised their two daughters.

It wasn't an ideal family environment, he acknowledged with a smile. Fortunately, however, they had a summer house

in the country.

Located next to the city's large salt dome, it is wedged between the railway tracks to the north and the Ville Marie expressway to the south. The apartment had three big bedrooms and a good-sized living room, he said.

The second apartment, located on the second floor of the Purchasing offices, was smaller but also had three bedrooms, he said. That's where parks superintendent Jean-Pierre Picard lived. It suited his needs because he had no children, Marrone said.

The plan before the fire had been to use this one for office space, according to Campbell. Michel Berthelet, the city's superintendent of water and sewer networks, is living there now after being forced out of the larger apartment which had been his home.

He'll be leaving the city at the end of his contract in May 2015, Campbell said. At that time, it's likely that apartments at Public Works will no longer continue to exist for that purpose.

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

"These trees have been 'dead and dying' for years," Fraser noted. "I have wondered for a decade what the plan was as the trees would, most likely, all need to be removed at around the same time."

Another resident said that without the shade trees, the new tennis courts would be "scorching hot" to play on in the summer. "We're such a short street of only 25 or 30 houses. What would it have taken to push a flyer through every door informing us?"



Retired Public Works director Fred Caluori, left, and retired roads superintendent Frank Marrone October 8 at the city's Quarter Century Club Banquet.

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Westmount Art Scene

# Lefebvre and Duval: The art of suspense

BY HEATHER BLACK

This month Pierre Lefebvre’s stylish and stylized portraits and paintings graced Galerie de Bellefeuille while Renée Duval’s hyperrealistic trees and foliage dominate the McClure Gallery. Although unique in subject matter and technique, both artists create mystery that pulls the viewer in.

**Lefebvre at Galerie de Bellefeuille**

Lefebvre’s new series features meticulously composed portraits, still lifes, interior scenes and landscapes. Painted in oil on board, the artist employs foreshortening in structured, often geometric compositions. For the colourful still life “Pommes,” the teapot’s triangular pattern is repeated on the tablecloth.

For the still life “Théière et citrons,” lemons are depicted next to an overturned teacup and landscape-painted teapot. The multiple planes of composition create a suspenseful edginess. In contrast, the simplified “Printemps” landscape conveys a

calm optimism. Painted in yellows and greens, Lefebvre uses colour to accentuate mood. A deep but unobtrusive orange in the village scene, “Automne” warns of approaching winter. Trees in the foreground next to a bridge are bare and menacing.

Lefebvre’s portraits are also graphic. Painted in short brush strokes, he creates a flat yet sophisticated surface. In “Étude tête de femme,” the subject defiantly stares out at the viewer. In contrast, the subject’s averted downward gaze in “Étude tête de femme 2” creates a more circum-spect and melancholic mood. Lefebvre’s use of bright colours with dark undertones is modern yet suggests antiquity.

Lefebvre creates mysterious and ambiguous scenes heightened by foreshortened compositions. The exhibition ended November 18 at Galerie de Bellefeuille on Greene.

**Duval at McClure Gallery**

Duval’s exhibition *Gods and Monsters* features ten, large-format paintings of fo-



Renée Duval “Bacchus”

liage. Skillfully composed of radiating twigs, blossoms or leaves, the artist creates a perceptual dance between subject and sky. Within the composition, symmetrical patterns recall folded paper cut-outs or Rorschach inkblots that hint at psychological insight.

In this series, evocative titles enrich the viewer experience. In “Bacchus,” red apples against olive leaves and a cyan sky conjure up sensual appetites. Painted in oils on canvas, smooth brushstrokes recre-

ate a cultivated garden of Eden. Yet while the mirrored pattern creates stability, the entwining branches and blossoms are menacing.

In “Aphrodite,” cherry blossoms against a pale sky speak to beauty and pleasure. Pink petals against dark brown tree trunk conveys budding love and procreation. In contrast, the pink blossoms blend to mauve against a pale blue sky in “Ishtar.” Painted with asymmetric clouds, the effect is dreamlike. Suspended flowers resembling a mask add mystery to the scene.

This exhibition is both dramatic and dreamlike. Within memorable imagery, Duval entices viewers to find their own gods or monsters within the foliage. The exhibition continues until Saturday, November 22 at the McClure Gallery in the Visual Arts Centre at 350 Victoria Ave.

**Ambiguous imagery**

Lefebvre and Duval challenge viewer perceptions through memorable imagery. Balancing both beauty and threat, these are two very different yet interesting exhibitions.

Heather Black is a Westmount communications designer. Contact her at blackheajea@gmail.com



Pierre Lefebvre “Étude, tête de femme 2”



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## Steamy wedding



Bride Marilena Van-Haren is being held by her new husband, Chris Singel, as they embrace November 8 atop the Westmount recreation centre ventilator. Hailing from Los Angeles and Michigan, a family member, Joann Mauro, lives in Westmount.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

## Roberts illustrates new cocktail book



Westmount artist Bruce Roberts, right, was at the November 12 release of a new book he illustrated called *Élixirs* by Marie-Eve Bourassa, left, at The Lab on Rachel. It's a book that mixes cocktail recipes with chatty anecdotes that span the history of drinking while providing context. The 240-page hardbound volume published by VLB is liberally illustrated in colour with Roberts' characteristic illustrations.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



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# FIM founder Martin: As global governance grows, so will civil society's influence

By JOANNE PENHALE

Civil society activists have an increasing role to play in a climate of growing global governance, according to Nigel Martin, the founding CEO of FIM, an international NGO whose headquarters have been in Westmount on Sherbrooke St. for the last three years.

“Globalization is with us to stay and will grow,” said Martin, whose career in international governance and NGOs began in 1971. “The resulting forms of governance under which we’re going to live will follow suit.”

Global institutions like the UN, G20 and BRICS do not meet most definitions of democratic accountability, said Martin.

“The corporate community has definitely moved into that vacuum in a heavy-duty way.”

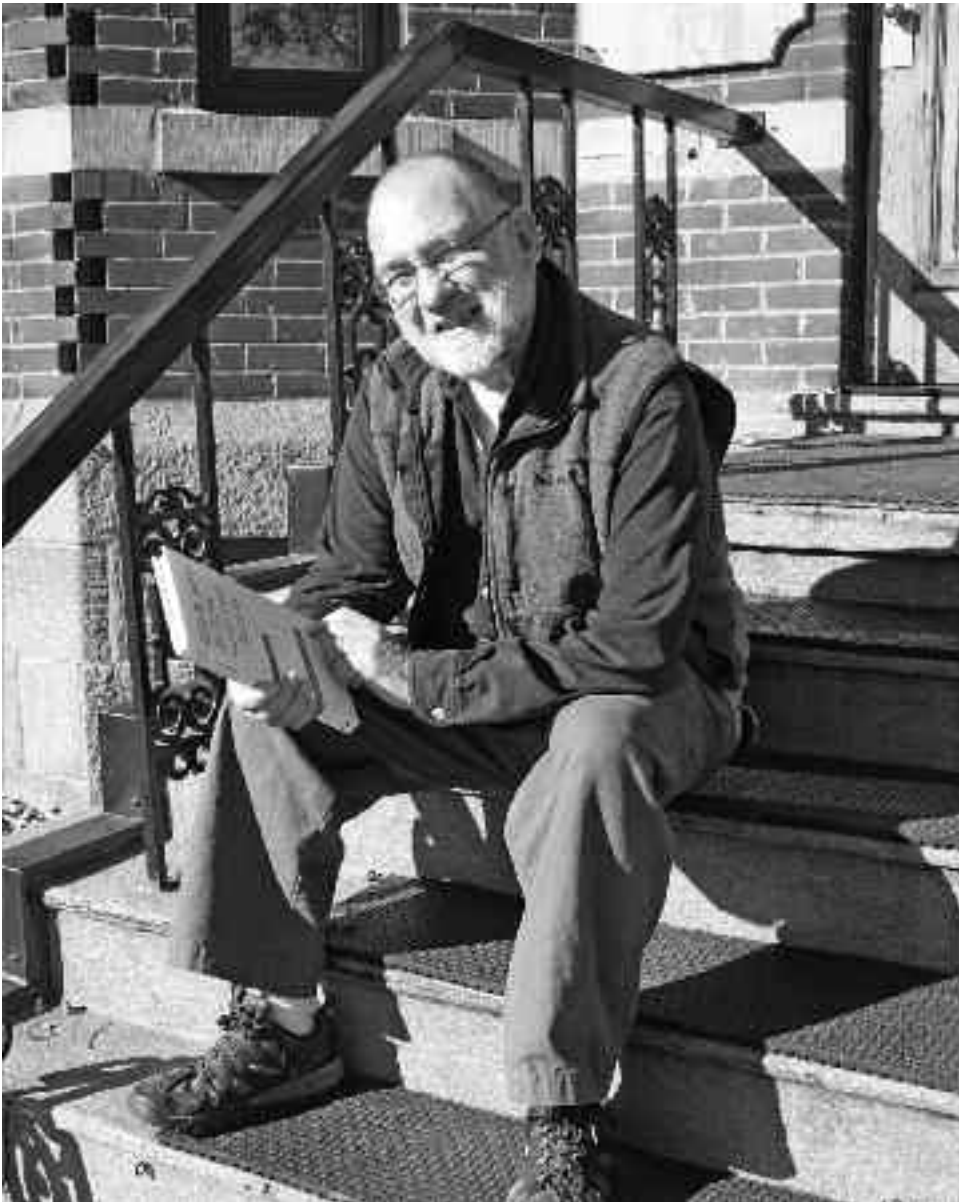
Civil society activists worldwide – with a range of causes including women’s rights, youth employment, and agriculture – have become increasingly engaged with these global bodies whose roles are expanding as issues like the environment, macro-economics, and diseases like Ebola require decision-making beyond national borders. In the recently published *Global Governance, Civil Society, and Participatory Democracy: A View from Below*, Martin and co-author Rajesh Tandon outline their experiences trying to ensure the voices of civil society are heard in these international fora. The book describes processes that can enhance participatory democracy, and the authors are optimistic civil society will play a growing role in global sphere.

“I just don’t think it’s stoppable,” Martin said.

“We have an energy and a drive that the corporate community doesn’t have. The corporate community is doing this for institutional purposes and financial purposes,” Martin said. “We’re doing it because of our vision of what’s good. That’s a highly energetic form of motivation.”

Martin founded FIM in 1998 with a mission to strengthen civil society’s influence at the UN. The international NGO soon became focused on convening civil society actors from around the world and expanding their influence within global governance bodies. FIM does not do any specific advocacy work. It works especially to involve activists from the global south, and more recently from Muslim countries, in global governance.

“We’re in the middle of” continued on p. 19



Nigel Martin sits at the entrance to the Forum for Democratic Global Governance headquarters based at 4573 Sherbrooke St. October 30. The founding CEO of this international NGO is holding a copy of the new book he co-authored, *Global Governance, Civil Society, and Participatory Democracy: A View from Below*.

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## Manoir recognizes war vets



Manoir Westmount holds its annual Remembrance Day event to honour war veterans November 11. Residents honoured included, from top left: Charles Eddis, Marcel Sauvé and Adam Mercik; bottom from left: Erwin (Sketch) Terry, Rose Kisielewski, Vera Jenks and René Larose. They were among residents recognized for their service during World War II, as well as Sauvé, who served with NATO during the Cold War.

Photo: Heather Black

## Berlin Wall's been gone 25 years



Westmounter Charlotte Picard Veilleux stopped by the Independent's offices on November 10 to mark the 25th anniversary – to the day – of the fall of the Berlin Wall. She happened to be at the wall the day before it fell, with no clue about what was about to happen. She is pictured at left at the Independent's offices with parts of the wall and below at Checkpoint Charlie on November 9, 1989. For more, see our coverage of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall: "Veilleux witnessed last day of Berlin Wall" (November 24, 2000, p. 16). Photo: Westmount Independent



### FIM, cont'd. from p. 18

something huge," Martin said, suggesting a complex global shift in the power of civil society. "I think we've put our fingers on some of those elements in this book."

Martin is a senior advisor to FIM.

He said the organization, also known as the Forum for Democratic Global Governance, has been funded by various countries over the past 15 years, including Canada, Japan, Norway and Sweden, as well as by the Ford and Rockefeller foundations. The organization employs two full-time staff, and various consultants and interns.

## Car broken into, patient files stolen

A physician's car was broken into November 4 at the municipal parking lot on Greene Ave., Public Security officials said. A window was smashed and a brief case containing patient records was reported stolen. The incident was discovered at 8:30 pm.

## PSOs, police called for noisy party

Public safety officers answered a complaint about a noisy party and breaking glass at the rear of a house on Clarke November 8, Public Security officials said. They met with police on the scene shortly after 12:30 am and left the complaint to them.

## Skateboarders spotted with beer

Two skateboarders were asked to leave Westmount Park November 9 when they were spotted at 5:32 pm in possession of unopened beer. The pair were near the gazebo at the east side of the park. They lived on Girouard in NDG.

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# Art-full evening raises money for CHW



*Social Notes  
from Westmount  
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The Montreal Centre of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) hosted a red carpet art soirée on October 1 at Westmount’s Galerie de Bellefeuille. The evening was a new twist on the CHW’s annual art event. Guests could choose from a selection of art in the silent auction as well as from exciting works in the gallery’s newly renovated space on Greene Ave.

Past honouree and former Westmounter **Andy Nulman** was noted in the packed gallery. The dedicated soirée committee included **Marla Goodwin Zipper** (CHW Montreal president), **Lianne** and **Michael Routtenberg**, **Alicia Epstein**, **Cara**



Aubie Hersovitch

**Itzkovitz**, **Sigal Weizmann**, **Alice Anidjar**, **Joanne Eisman**, **Jacquie Young**, **Alana Shiveck**, **Alison Miller**, **Norma Bassal** and **Sarah Hutman**, past chair.

Also noted were Westmounters **Helen** and **Jacques Bellefeuille**, **Barry Pascal**, **Francine** and **Robert Wiseman**, **Adele** and



Helen and Jacques Bellefeuille.

**Ruby Friedman**, **Sandra** and **Martin Schwartz**, **Michael Routtenberg**, **Stuart Shiveck**, **Wendy** and **Rob Gold**, **Helen** and **Stanley Cons**, and **Aubie Herscovitch** with his well-behaved little canine friend.

For almost 100 years, CHW, a women’s volunteer organization, has been dedicated to the support of children, healthcare and women in Israel and Canada. Projects funded in Montreal include LOVE Quebec, the Montreal Children’s Hospital, MADA and women’s shelters. The event raised close to \$80,000 for CHW projects.



From left: Martin and Sandy Schwartz, and Ruby and Adele Friedman.



Robert Wiseman, left, and Michael Routtenberg.



From left: Helen and Stanley Cons, and Sarah Hutman.

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## Wine-and-cheesing with Garneau



Westmount-Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau chats with local Liberal party supporters at a wine-and-cheese evening in Westmount on November 7. Hosted by Marina Boulos-Winton, the evening featured approximately 20 guests, including Westmount mayor Peter Trent and Westmount Municipal Association president Peter Starr. Garneau, who edged out NDP candidate Joanne Corbeil by 642 votes last election, will be seeking a third consecutive mandate when Canadians likely head back to the polls on October 19, 2015.

Photo: Michael Moore

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**Reminder about brother cats waiting for homes at Westmount Animal Hospital**

Roberto and André were saved as brother kittens and are still living at the Westmount Animal Hospital until a family in our neighborhood falls in love with them. They have always been together so it would be best if they were adopted together. See our write-up “Buddies Roberto and André at vet clinic,” (September 23, p. 25). *Your neighbour, Lysanne*

**Mediation, cont'd. from p. 1**

The move to this process is not unexpected in a building project of this size. As Trent explained midway through the construction process: “A system of extras and credits would be subject to negotiation with the contractor” (see story December 4, 2012, p. 10). Asked if previously questioned invoices concerning decontamination of the site that exceeded the project budget were among some of the issues to be resolved, Trent said he did not want to discuss details while negotiations were ongoing. The city council approved several requests to pay extras during the process of construction, as already reported. These included removal of additional asphalt discovered in the old arena, as well as use of a higher quality tile for washrooms and for architectural concrete block in public spaces. Also approved were costs related to additional excavation, a drain pipe from the property of Westmount Park Church, a shelf along the viewing area over the Molson rink, installation of light standards and a fire hydrant and outlets for vending machines (see story April 22, p. 3). It is expected that some of the items would include “deficiencies” discovered after completion of the project.

## Loose dog caught on Côte Rd.

A loose dog without a collar was found running around at Lansdowne and Côte St. Antoine November 10, according to Public Security reports. A resident helped catch it shortly after 2:30 pm. Just as officers were about to take the dog to the station, its owner came out of a house to claim it and was told to obtain a licence.


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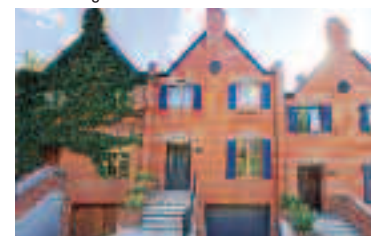
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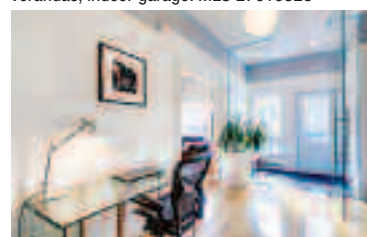
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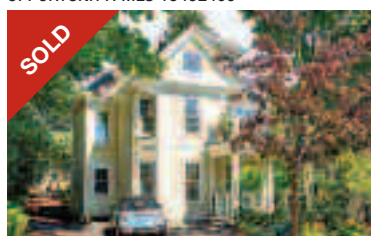
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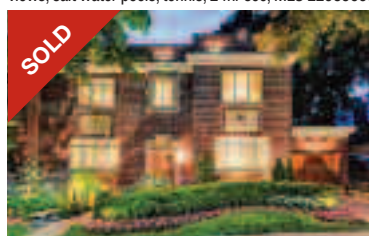
**NUN'S ISLAND**  
**50 Berlioz Apt 105 \$519,000**  
Magnificent garden level corner unit, 2 bdr, open concept with beautiful kitchen & bathroom. MLS: 1780443



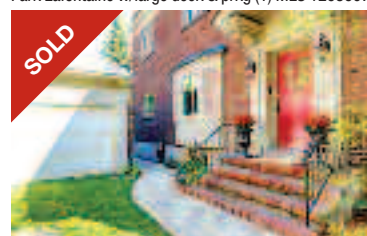
**OFFER ACCEPTED**  
**TMR**  
**1190 Kenilworth \$2,395,000**  
Magnificent contemporary on 12,000 sf of land  
MLS 23906134



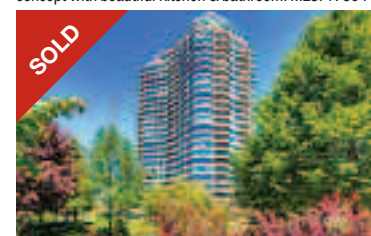
**SOLD**  
**WESTMOUNT**  
**559 Argyle \$1,695,000**  
Charming renovated 3 Bdr cottage, with incredible charm! MLS 20613576



**SOLD**  
**WESTMOUNT**  
**103 Sunnyside \$1,495,000**  
Ultimate luxury and attention to details!  
MLS 18961389



**SOLD**  
**WESTMOUNT**  
**5 Grove Park \$1,395,000**  
Charming renovated 3+1 bedroom semi with garage and lovely urban garden on the flats near Greene Ave.



**SOLD**  
**NUN'S ISLAND**  
**80 Berlioz Apt 204 \$469,000**  
Experience a lifestyle in a country setting in this 2 bdr condo with very large terrace MLS 17462767



**MARIE SICOTTE**  
Real Estate Broker

**514 953-9808**  
[marie@mariesicotte.com](mailto:marie@mariesicotte.com)

[mariesicotte.com](http://mariesicotte.com)

**SICOTTE  
& CO**



# FEATURED PROPERTIES FOR SALE



WESTMOUNT



**2 WESTMOUNT SQ.**

**\$1,995,000** | MLS 10901050  
Pamper yourself with luxury!

WESTMOUNT



**1250 GREENE AVENUE**

Apt 2D | asking price **\$3,199,869**  
Only 2 units remaining

WESTMOUNT



**1250 GREENE AVENUE**

Apt 3D | asking price **\$2,895,214**  
Only 2 units remaining

WESTMOUNT



**1250 GREENE AVENUE**

1 bdrm **\$1,508,472** | 3 bdrm **\$3,485,237**  
The place to be!

DOWNTOWN



**1210 DE MAISONNEUVE 19C**

**\$1,249,000** | MLS 18227709  
Fabulous and fully furnished!

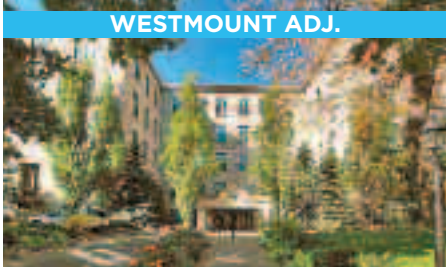
WESTMOUNT



**PRINCE ALBERT**

**\$1,095,000** | MLS 21181062  
Terrific townhouse in Victoria Village!

WESTMOUNT ADJ.



**MANOIR BELMONT**

**\$849,000** | MLS 20172490  
Who's the lucky one?

WESTMOUNT



**SOMERVILLE**

**\$489,000** | MLS 18363212  
Cosy co-prop with parking!

WESTMOUNT



**2 WESTMOUNT SQ.**

**\$399,000** for sale | **\$2,250/month** for rent  
Perfect pied-a-terre!

DOWNTOWN



**1455 TOWERS #404**

**\$395,000** | MLS 9082494  
Steal of the century!

NUN'S ISLAND



**760 MARIE-LE BER #510**

**\$299,000** | MLS 20539337  
Million dollar views!

you matter

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4 PM

HELPING YOU SINCE 1987



**5850 MARC CHAGALL #105**

**NOW \$274,900** | MLS 13371253  
Grand 1 bdrm, 1½ bath, ground floor  
w/garden & 2 garages! MUST SELL!



Jill + Joan Prévost

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