

Lieutenant's first-hand account

Firefighters help foil armed robbery at Metcalfe pharmacy

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

After 24 years as a firefighter at the Westmount station, foiling an armed robbery and helping police bring down a robber was far from the mind of Lieutenant James McAllister when he went to work that Friday on November 14.

But so it was at around 5:30 pm, as he and three others on the pump truck were eastbound on St. Catherine returning from a motor vehicle accident in St. Henri and just as they were pulling up to the intersection at Metcalfe that they found

themselves as eye witnesses to the start of a hold-up at the pharmacy on the north-west corner.

"A black SUV parked in front of us," McAllister said in relating their involvement. "Two guys got out with surgical gloves already on and started to cross St. Catherine."

As they headed toward the pharmacy, they put on surgical masks. Members of his crew shouted "They're going to rob the place!"

"I thought they were joking," McAllister said. "Who would think of doing that at that time of day?" But then, "one guy escorted a woman and two kids out of the store, and, continued on p. 19

Getting ready for dance soirée



Dancers practice their steps at Victoria Hall during a rehearsal November 23 under the direction of choreographer and dance teacher Sheila Lawrence, far right. They will perform along with dancers in classical and jazz ballet, break dancing, hip hop and belly dancing at the annual Soirée de Danse on Saturday, November 29 at Victoria Hall. Adult tickets cost \$10, children, \$5. Photo: Ralph Thompson



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 24

Underdog Club BY A. ROGIC p. 19

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Rezoning consultation for SE sector

Dawson CEGEP, Temple reveal plans for facilities at public consultation meeting

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A public consultation meeting November 18 on the city's proposed rezoning of the southeast commercial district was highlighted by surprises and active participation. An estimated 50 merchants, building owners, professionals and residents overflowed the council chamber.

While many came simply to listen to the plans to revitalize the retail and commercial area of Sherbrooke, Greene and St. Catherine, some who spoke dropped so-called "bombshells" as they revealed future development plans apparently unknown to city planners.

How would changes to require commercial zon- continued on p. 22

Blue collars plan to strike Nov. 26, see p. 3.

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82 of 107 apartments

City writes off \$74,000 in 2 years of bad hydro debts

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council at its meeting November 3 agreed to write off a total of \$73,516 in non-recoverable Hydro Westmount accounts dating back through 2010 and 2011. These relate to unpaid billings by both commercial and residential customers.

An amount of \$46,311 was incurred during the former year and \$27,205 in the latter one. These compare most recently with the bad debts written off last year for 2009 of \$41,250. All are net of taxes.

Most of the debts relate to bankruptcies and disappearing tenants who can't be tracked down either by the city or a collection agency, explains Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise.

While historically the bad debts average between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year, he

said annual differences can sometimes reflect a harsh winter, which pushes up the consumption of electricity and an inability of some customers to pay.

Users who fail to pay and have been sent late-payment notices can sometimes find their electricity disconnected, most usually in the spring, Hurtubise said.

While the city usually waits five years before writing off these debts, changes in the law will now permit the city to go back only four years, according to Hurtubise. This is the reason two years' were approved by council this month.

The list for 2011 of 107 uncollectable accounts shows at least 82 of them include apartment numbers with the address. The largest amount was owed by a boutique on Sherbrooke in Victoria village for \$2,803 before taxes; the smallest, by an apartment dweller on Victoria for \$7.13.

Prince Albert square to be 'opened' Dec. 5 with lighting of 14-ft. tree

After more than a year in the planning, the construction of Prince Albert square is expected to be completed for an official opening Friday, December 5. A 14-foot Christmas tree is to be lighted at 5 pm. At that time, hot chocolate is to be served and music will be played.

The tree, a balsam, has been donated along with one for Greene Ave. by Downey Balsam, a supplier from the Eastern Townships, according to city officials.

While the basic infrastructure for the square has been progressing and is expected to be ready for the occasion, the planting of trees and shrubs will take place

in the spring, Jayme Gerbrandt, city horticulture and arboriculture inspector, said last week.

"I know it hasn't been easy for residents to live in a construction zone, but now it's done and the end result will be done great," said Councillor Christina Smith.

"It's shopping time, so we hope people will come to the opening and that the giant tree will attract people from all over to shop at our stores."

The lighting ceremony of the Prince Albert tree is a separate event from the lighting of the city hall tree and party Monday, December 1 at 6 pm.

— LS

Blue collar strike to close down WRC, Vic hall, postpone Turcot meeting

An announced strike of Westmount blue collar workers Wednesday, November 26 over pension reform was expected to result in the closure that day of the Westmount recreation centre, the greenhouses and Victoria Hall.

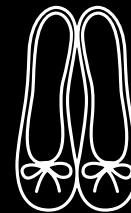
As a result, all regular recreation programs were to be cancelled and the Turcot meeting has been postponed once again – probably to January – city officials said at press time Monday.

No other city services were expected to be affected including the library, Public Security, city hall, Urban Planning and Public Works offices.

The strike notice was received from the union representing Montreal blue-collar workers local 301 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

Any changes were to be posted on the city website. Only cities without a contract are being affected.

— LS



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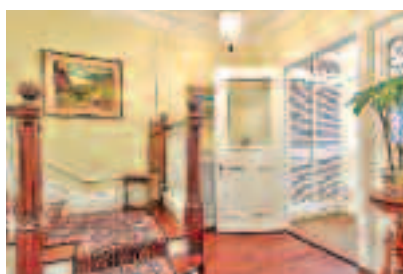
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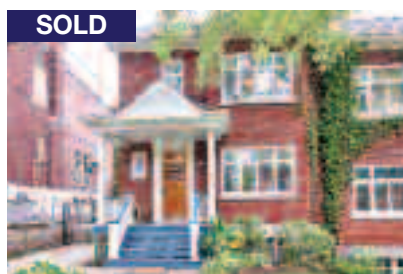


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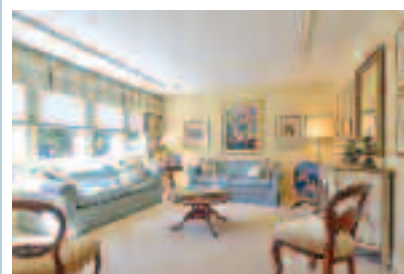
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Parking inspector's alert leads to arrest

Commotion created by man with fake gun at McDonald's

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A man with a plastic gun tucked into the back of his pants was arrested by police November 10 at the McDonald's restaurant on Sherbrooke at Claremont Public Security officials said. The action was attributed to quick action by a passing parking inspector.

The incident at 2:17 pm caused "quite a commotion" when the man was handcuffed inside and taken away after five police cars converged on the scene, said Public Security director Greg McBain. The man was reported as being recently released from a psychiatric hospital and "incoherent."

Parking inspector Richard Lamer had been walking past the restaurant when he was approached by two separate people

telling him that a man inside had a gun. After checking out the information, Lamer informed public safety officers who in turn called 911.

The man was reported to have been sitting against the back wall of the restaurant and had displayed the gun to an employee.

It happened very quickly and the incident was over with by 2:40 pm, McBain said.

"It just shows once again how vital a role the parking inspectors play. They don't just issue tickets, they're out there patrolling on foot, reporting everything from holes in the sidewalk and traffic congestion to accidents and injured persons.

"Their visibility is especially important as a deterrent to purse-snatching and other crime during the approaching holiday season," McBain added.

Overnight pickup of traffic signage leads to 2 noise complaints

Public safety officers were called to check out two noise complaints November 14 shortly after midnight at St. Catherine and Metcalfe. Public Security officials said the first one at 12:03 am was generated by a truck picking up signs and construction cones outside 4475 St. Catherine.

The same truck was spotted after the second complaint at 1:01 am. It was reported to be setting out traffic signs needed for later in the morning related to the condo project under construction at 175 Metcalfe and no-parking around Hillside Lane and Hillside Ave. Several parking spots have been eliminated at that intersection to permit large construction vehicles to negotiate the sharp turn.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WESTMOUNT CAN BE A BETTER HELP TO THE HOMELESS

Martin Barry’s piece “Police hear complaints on itinerant issues,” (November 11, p. 11), disturbed me to the core. They, the [native] homeless, in the land they have inhabited for eons before Canada was “civilized,” are not a danger to anyone. They are the ones who are in danger because of dispossession, marginalization, cultural genocide and indifference from the majority of Canadians.

Perhaps Westmount could assist the Open Door program by providing extra space in the boarded-up train station. The arena project donors could extend their generosity towards its operation and Mayor Peter Trent could parlay his excellent relations with Montreal mayor Denis Coderre to negotiate free public transportation (as is done in some countries) to their new drop-in centre.

MAYA KHANKHOJE, KENSINGTON AVE.

ZIPPER NICER THAN BEEP, BEEP, BEEP

We woke up this morning to the joyful sounds of beep, beep, beep, scraping of

pavement and loud humming of trucks. The construction cones are up yet again closing off a part of St. Catherine St. at the corner of Lansdowne. This is either number four or five at ripping up the street this year.

To save taxpayers money, why can Public Works not just install a zipper on the streets bordering the WRC ? It would also be a lot quieter to open a zipper than rip up the streets...yet again. Grrrrrrrr.

ANNETTE PANKRAC, LANSDOWNE AVE.

TAKE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION SIGNS DOWN

Concerning your article about the reelection of Ms. Mastromonaco to the French school board (“Mastromonaco re-elected as French school board commissioner,” November 18, p. 5), while I definitely congratulate her on her win, is it not time to remove her campaign signs on Kitchener Ave. outside St. Léon school? There are three. The election was November 2nd!

BEVERLEY HUTCHISON, KITCHENER. AVE.

DRONE LANDING IN YOUR BACKYARD?

Are you concerned about UFOs or helicopters landing in your backyard? Well, this is pretty unlikely to happen in 2014... but how about a remote control drone?

Yes, remote control drones with very sensitive photographic equipment are a reality in 2014. There are drones that can fly autonomously and spy on your neighbours. If you are concerned about one of these landing in your backyard, you should be because mine might have.

On October 19, I lost control of my drone over Murray Park, and it may have landed in your backyard. If you found a remote control drone on your roof or in your back yard, please call 514.941.2583.

JEREMY OLDLAND, GROSVENOR AVE.

HAPPY WITH PUBLIC SECURITY

My husband’s car was dropped off after the tire change for winter. It was parked on the street while I was out, and I was unable to move it into the driveway. I called Public Security to ask if we could be exempt from a ticket for the few hours that the car was parked there. No problem; they were courteous, considerate and made me feel good to be a member of the Westmount community.

Thanks to all who listened to me and helped.

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

WILD RABBIT SPOTTED IN PARK

Did you know that Westmount Park is the abode for a wild rabbit which I encountered already twice while jogging?

MAT ADAM, NDG

WESTMOUNT NEEDS BETTER WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY

As a resident of Westmount, I’ve recently noticed the high number of senior residents in our city. After reading a letter to the editor in the November issue of the *Senior Times*, I’ve come to realize the lack of wheelchair accessibility in a lot of our public buildings.

This city’s population largely consists of seniors, many of whom are in wheelchairs, are constantly outdoors and visiting many of our major shopping areas. I believe this to be unfair to senior residents, and our city’s officials should take into consideration the age groups of the population they are serving.

Wheelchair accessibility is crucial, es-

pecially in the city of Westmount.

I propose that Westmount hand out government-paid-for ramps that building owners can easily place at their entrances. These ramps do not need to be fancy but simply big enough for a single wheelchair. It will be transportable by hand and can be brought in and out of the building by a single person taking no longer than a minute. Regulation would force building owners to bring the ramp out once the building opens and take it in at closing. All public buildings without an already established ramp would be required to follow this regulation.

It is hard to describe exactly what the ramp would look like but a visit to this website should give a good example of what I’m describing: www.discounttramps.com/portableramps/c/3110/.

I believe this solution will benefit the city’s social harmony and allow for equal opportunity. I see little, if any, negative consequences for this, considering the ramp would be free for businesses and paid for by the government, who can surely minimize the costs of making the ramps.

THOMAS SOUTHMAYD, METCALFE AVE.

SWAT WANTS TO SEE YOU

The Senior Westmount Old Timers Hockey team (SWAT) will be holding its 24th annual tournament, with eight teams participating at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) between December 4 and 7. The Ken Sinclair leadership award will be presented to another recipient this year on December 7.

The concept for the SWAT Tournoi arose from the inspiration of the late Nicolas Matossian. At the age of 15, Nicolas decided to help future generations of children to survive brain cancer, and he organized numerous fundraising activities for the benefit of our two children’s hospitals, the Montreal Children’s and Hôpital St. Justine.

These tournaments occur as a result of the continued support of the dedicated Westmount retailers, who, each year, provide program advertising and supplies, and the contributions of advertisements, donations and products from corporations and continued on p. 23

Correction

Brigitte O’Driscoll was regrettably misidentified as a cadet on p. 1 of the November 11 issue “Remembrance Day observed.” Her correct title is a private from the RMR.

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Book sale raises record \$17.9K for library



Westmounter Rong Xiao, left, and his 9-month-old son Alvin browse through the reference books at the Friends of the Library book sale in Victoria Hall November 23. Westmounters Paul Legrande and Wendy Hayden contemplate purchases. Turn-out was higher the day before, according to Friends of the Library president Carolyn O'Neill. "Saturday was a huge day," she said. "We had around 300 people squeezed into the hall continuously throughout the day." About 30 volunteers worked to sort through 700 boxes of books the day before the sale and to set up the tables, she said. Photo: Ralph Thompson

A preliminary tally of proceeds from the book sale for Westmount Public Library November 22 and 23 stood at \$17,900, "which would be a record," library director Julie-Anne Cardella said last week.

The semi-annual sales by the Friends of the Library go toward funding of recurrent projects such as e-books, including the developing French e-book program, and the "Book Club in a Bag" and the "Fast Reads."

— LS

Man taken to hospital from library lot

A 41-year-old Montreal man was taken to the Montreal General Hospital after suffering nausea and pain in the left arm November 13 in the library parking lot, Public Security officials said. Alerted by a parking

inspector at 8:59 am, a public safety officer attended to the man and called for Urgences Santé after assessing his condition. The man told the officer he had felt ill earlier that morning.

Delayed by weather, special armoury events St. Catherine sidewalks, roadway took 'longer than expected'

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A recent two-week long reconstruction of sidewalks on the north side of St. Catherine from Park Place to Lansdowne took longer than expected, Public Works officials confirmed last week. Those on the south side were done in October.

The delay was attributed to weather conditions and two events at the Royal Montreal Regiment, whose armoury is located on the main street. Meanwhile, the final step in the project – repaving of the street – was scheduled for last week and possibly into the early part of this one.

Residents of the apartment building at 6 Park Place, who had not been able to access their inside garage from its only ramp off St. Catherine during the sidewalk work, were informed, department director Marianne Zalzal said.

They were left temporary 24-hour on-

street parking permits and notices were posted at the building providing a phone number for daytime inquiries. As well, the building superintendent was informed.

"The sidewalks took longer than expected," she said. "But we tried to do everything possible to inform residents. It followed our standard procedures for street work."

One resident contacted the *Independent* to claim residents had not been informed and could not obtain information.

The project involved breaking the old sidewalk, installing the forms for the pouring and curing of concrete and removing the forms. As well, the gutter strip of the street along the curb that had to be removed to do the work had to be filled, and new concrete poured.

Under normal circumstances the sidewalk work would likely take about one work week *continued on p. 10*

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NDG Food Depot gearing up for annual food drive, Nov. 29



On November 14, volunteers assemble brown paper bags and information leaflets in preparation for the NDG Food Depot's November 29 food drive.

BY ISAAC OLSON

This year, the NDG Food Depot is expanding its solicitation for donations to the thousands of apartment renters throughout Westmount, NDG and Montreal West, along with its traditional reach-out to single-family dwellings.

Printed information and donation envelopes were to be delivered this week to some 25,000 apartments, on top of the some 20,000 homes which will also receive an empty brown bag for non-perishable food items.

The new strategy is an attempt to increase the amount of monetary donations to build up the depot's fresh food fund – a program dedicated to supplying clients with fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the year – and finance the depot's outreach and support programs.

Administrative coordinator Katie McGroarty says the organization hopes residents will fill up the brown bags with non-perishable, unexpired goods and leave them on their doorstep in the early morning of November 29.

Volunteers will be out collecting the bags and knocking on doors throughout

that day in hopes of collecting enough funds and goods to last the year.

According to a press release, the depot provides free of charge "food baskets for 600 to 800 low-income people per week and over 300 free nutritious community meals each week."

In neighbouring NDG, the depot says one in three children live in poverty.

The depot's Westmount clients make up under 5 percent of its client base but represents a higher proportion of its senior population, according to Bonnie Soutar, director of development.

Disoriented woman returned home

An 88-year-old woman was found walking along St. Catherine near Kensington using a cane and scantily clad November 14, Public Security officials report. Patrollers answering a call for a "disoriented woman" at 1:34 pm, tracked down her residence through Canada 411 and returned her to Place Kensington nearby at 2:17 pm. She was described as suffering from Alzheimer's.



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St. Léon enrolment over capacity, can't increase

By Martin C. Barry

While the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM) has a student overpopulation problem that could be worsened by the closing of a school in NDG, the number of students attending St. Léon on Clarke Ave. is not expected to increase since enrollment there is already well above capacity, says the CSDM commissioner for Westmount.

“We already know that St. Léon is over capacity, and we need to find a solution,” Marie-José Mastromonaco said in an interview with the *Independent*. While the school’s normal capacity is 599 students, there were 613 students last year and there are currently 650 students registered, according to the CSDM’s 2014 statistics.

The French school board faces an even bigger challenge in western NDG. It needs to relocate 300 elementary school students attending École St. Catherine de Sienne, which will be closing next June for two to three years to undergo major renovations made necessary by a water infiltration problem.

While acknowledging the situation “is obviously going to have an impact at some schools,” Mastromonaco said there is virtually no chance of students from that school in NDG ending up at Westmount’s St. Léon, where she said they’re already turning down applications from within St. Léon’s own territory.



Student population at St. Léon is above capacity and not expected to grow, according to CSDM commissioner Marie-José Mastromonaco.

She said the CSDM is trying to solve its student overpopulation crisis from the standpoint of a “community, a big village, NDG-Westmount.”

According to Mastromonaco, the CSDM’s overpopulation is the result of a “baby boom,” which she said is largely the

result of provincial government policies

providing tax incentives to families, as well as increased immigration.

Mastromonaco said that compared to a decade ago, the number of families living close to the centre of Montreal has increased substantially and the impact is being felt at St. Léon. She said the CSDM’s best chance of solving the overpopulation problem is by working more closely in the future with the English Montreal School Board on facility sharing.



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A long-term foster home is being sought for the integration of 9-year-old James who is articulate, charming and creative. Academically, James loves learning and is said to be doing well in school.

At this young age, he is struggling with


Library’s burglar alarm triggered at 12:02 am

A burglar alarm sounded at the Westmount Public Library November 14 at 12:02 am, according to Public Security officials. The source of the alarm was an exterior basement window found slightly cracked, however, and the glass was believed to have been hit by a small stone used for drainage.


behavioural issues as a result of many losses, trauma and uncertainty about his future. James can be stubborn, rude and at times has tantrums as a way of receiving attention. However, he can be redirected to demonstrate appropriate behaviour.

James is living in a group home, where he has made significant gains and is ready to be integrated into a long-term foster family. He needs a family where he can grow and feel a sense of belonging. Family members should understand the nature of his losses and find him rewarding, in spite of the challenges that can still arise, such as his outbursts. Ideally, James would benefit from a two-parent inter-racial (Caucasian and black) or black family.

For more information about James, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, local 1139.



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EMPLOIS D'ÉTÉ 2015

Soyez avisés que les formulaires pour les emplois d'été 2015 seront disponibles à la réception de l'Hôtel de Ville de Westmount à compter du lundi 1^{er} décembre 2014, du lundi au vendredi, de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30, à l'adresse suivante :

Hôtel de ville de Westmount
a/s Service des ressources humaines
4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Westmount (Québec) H3Z 1E2

Veuillez noter que la date limite pour soumettre votre candidature est le vendredi 30 janvier 2015.

Les postes seront octroyés selon les qualifications et l'expérience de travail et seules les personnes retenues seront rencontrées pour une entrevue.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT 2015

Please be advised that the 2015 Summer Employment forms will be available at the reception desk of Westmount City Hall starting Monday, December 1st, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the following address:

Human Resources Department
Westmount City Hall
4333 Sherbrooke Street West
Westmount, Quebec, H3Z 1E2

Please note that the deadline to submit your application is Friday, January 30th, 2015.

The positions will be awarded to candidates with the appropriate qualifications and experience and only those selected will be interviewed.

www.westmount.org

Police Report

Suspects arrested in pharmacy armed robbery

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

Two armed robbery suspects who used an imitation gun to rob a St. Catherine St. pharmacy were arrested after a passing fire truck alerted police to their suspicious

behaviour on November 14. (See story, p. 1.)

While stopped at a red light near Metcalfe, the firefighters in the truck saw a car drop off the two male suspects, who were wearing medical masks and blue latex gloves, across the street from the pharmacy around 4:45 pm., according to Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel.

As the men crossed St. Catherine and entered the pharmacy, one of the firefighters noticed one of the men carrying what appeared to be a revolver. The situation was immediately relayed to police and the fire truck stayed on scene to help secure a perimeter.

Meanwhile, a cashier pressed a panic button after seeing the two men enter the pharmacy, sending a second alert directly to police. With the two separate alerts confirming the legitimacy of the situation, said Pimentel, Station 12 dispatched three vehicles to the scene.

Inside the store, the two men, an 18-year-old from Montreal and a 17-year-old from Côte St. Luc, reportedly brandished the supposed gun and told the individuals

inside to lie on the ground. They then proceeded to fill a backpack with prescription drugs, including morphine.

When the suspects attempted to leave the building through a side door, they were met by one of the police vehicles and fled in opposite directions. The car pursued one of the suspects while another unit was called in to chase the other.

Both suspects were subdued a short distance away without incident, said Pimentel. A K-9 unit brought in to sniff along the suspects' escape routes was unable to find any weapons or narcotics that had been dropped or left behind.

After the arrest, police discovered that the weapon used in the hold-up was in fact an air gun that had been designed to resemble an actual revolver, said Pimentel.

"You couldn't tell it wasn't real unless you were looking at it very closely," he said.

Though the gun was fake, the two men are facing armed robbery charges since the store employees couldn't reasonably be asked to tell the difference during the robbery, according to Pimentel.

.....
St. Catherine, cont'd. from p. 7

but ended up being extended over two. "We had to put the contractor off twice," Zalzal explained. The first was for the RMR's 100th anniversary gala November 1 and the second for the regiment's Remembrance Day parade November 9.

The repaving of the roadway began last week. This included the scarification process of scraping down the old surface before spreading the new asphalt. During this time, crushed stone was laid to provide access to the driveway ramp to the apartment building.

"It's important for people who need information to call us during the daytime," she said. "That's why we leave a number. Sometimes we can make special provisions for them." Evening calls are answered by a night watch person essentially for emergency purposes.

The upside of the disruption is that now "everyone has a new street and sidewalk," Zalzal said.

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HEARTY BEEF STEW

by Irene Y

Besides being a foodie, I enjoy working in the kitchen most days and actually find it therapeutic. Although already comfortable as a home cook, I was interested in learning about knife skills and other time saving tips to speed things up in the kitchen. A few years ago I enrolled in some of the George Brown Culinary Arts courses and learned something new and helpful in every class. From my kitchen to yours, I invite you to share one of my favourite recipes!

Serves 10-12

This beef stew is perfect for the cold winter days ahead. Although there are many ingredients, the meat, vegetables and potatoes are all in one pot. The is delicious enough to serve to company! This recipe makes a really big quantity so freeze uneaten portions for future consumption. You can make smaller portions (i.e., for 4 portions divide quantities by 3). Serve with crusty bread to mop up gravy!

STEW

- ¼ cup plus 1 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp kosher salt, plus more for seasoning
- 1 tsp black pepper, plus more for seasoning
- 3 lbs stewing beef, cut into 1 to 1½ inch cubes
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, large dice
- 2 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1 cup dry red wine
- 4 cups (1 quart) low-sodium beef broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 thyme sprigs
- 3 medium carrots
- 3 medium celery stalks
- 4 medium Yukon Gold potatoes (about 1½ pounds)
- 1 red pepper, diced (optional)
- 1 cup mushrooms, quartered (optional)
- 1 cup frozen peas

DIRECTIONS

- 1 Place ¼ cup of the flour, salt and pepper in a large bowl and stir to combine. Toss the meat in the flour mixture to coat.
- 2 Heat the oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat. Shake off the excess flour from about one-third of the meat and add it to the pot. Sauté until browned, about 4 to 5 minutes. Remove to a large bowl. Repeat with the remaining meat in 2 more batches; set aside. Do not overcrowd the pot or meat will steam, not brown.
- 3 Add the onion to the pot and season with salt and pepper. Cook on medium-low heat stirring occasionally, until softened and just starting to brown, about 5 minutes. Add the tomato paste, stir to coat the onion, and cook the raw flavour off, about 1 to 2 minutes.
- 4 Sprinkle in the remaining tablespoon of flour and cook, stirring occasionally, about 1 minute. Pour in the wine, scrape up any browned bits from the bottom of the pot, and cook until the mixture has thickened, about 3 minutes.
- 5 Return the meat and any accumulated

- liquid to the pot. Add the broth, bay leaves, and thyme. Stir to combine. Increase the heat to high and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer uncovered for 1 hour.
- 6 Cut the carrots, celery, and potatoes into large dice and add them to the pot. Add red pepper and mushrooms, if using. Stir to combine, cover with a tight-fitting lid, and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables and meat are fork tender, about 1 hour more.
 - 7 Remove and discard the bay leaves and thyme stems. Stir in the peas and simmer uncovered until warmed through, about 5 minutes. Taste and season with salt and pepper.

TIP: Use a large buttercup squash as a vessel for your stew. Simply cut a lid from the top of the squash, remove seeds and membrane. Add ¼ tsp, cinnamon, ¼ tsp nutmeg and 2 Tbsp butter to the inside. Replace the lid. Bake at 350 for 1 hour on a baking dish. It should have the consistency of a baked potato. Add cooked stew. Bake an additional 30 minutes.



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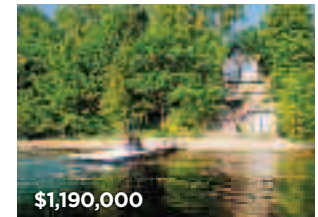
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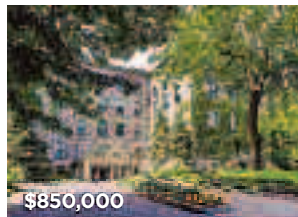
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A worker uses a cherry picker to string lights around a public lamp pole November 19 on Victoria Ave. Lights were placed on poles the length of the street. A café on the street followed suite in the same spirit the next day with the putting up of a Christmas tree on its terrasse.

Photo: Staff



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Workers dress up one of the fir trees in front of city hall with lights November 21. The same day, sidewalk benches were being collected to be stored away for the winter.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

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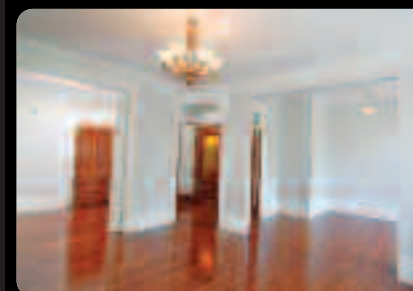
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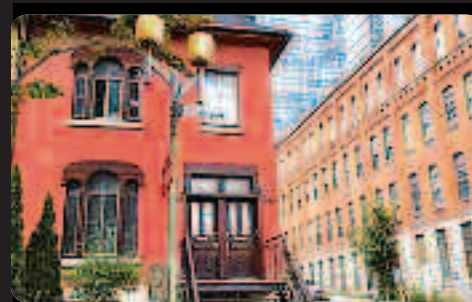


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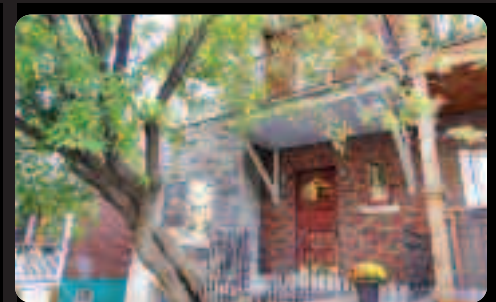


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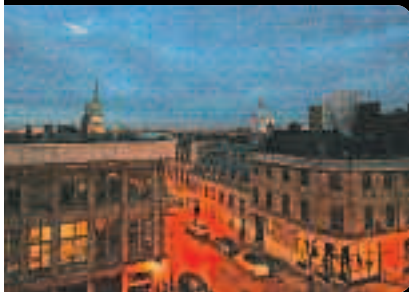
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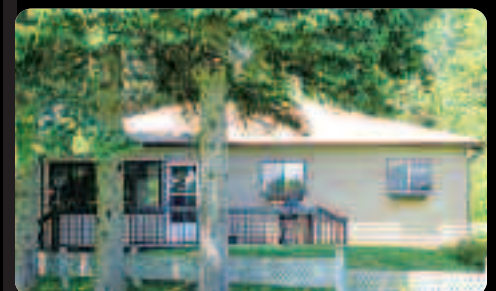
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Get off train tracks, resident warned

A “suspicious person” who was seen jumping the railway fence just east of Victoria November 16 at 3:50 pm was located on the tracks near Abbott, Public Security officials said. The young man, identified as a Westmount resident living on de Maisonneuve, was in possession of a “high-quality” camera and had been taking photos. Officers warned him about the dangers of walking on the tracks and warned him that federal fines for the offence were considerable.

Wilkie teams up with Wetherup, Bronfman to bring research into school anti-bullying tactics



From left: Westmounters Marcia Wetherup, Brian Bronfman and Tara Wilkie, November 14.

BY JOANNE PENHALE

While Quebec’s Bill 56 requires schools to have comprehensive bullying plans, Westmount psychologist Tara Wilkie says research shows only about 8 percent of school-based bullying prevention programs are evidence based.

“And 15 percent of the programs have been found to do more harm than good,” says Wilkie, who teaches bullying prevention.

She has teamed up with Westmount philanthropists Marcia Wetherup and

Brian Bronfman, and others, to bring evidence-based strategies into schools and to make students safer.

On November 10, the Peace Grantmakers Network, whose founders include Bronfman and Wetherup, hosted a symposium at Concordia University called “Research meets practice: Effective Tools to prevent bullying.”

The sold-out bilingual event included 200 guests from the education field and had speakers from Prevnet – a Canadian network of researchers and organizations that work on bullying issues.

Please Join us to celebrate the 23rd annual Toy Tea

Wednesday, December 3, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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Former Expos coach Arsenault talks to Marianopolis students



Former Montreal Expos coach and current Miami Marlins scout Pierre Arsenault answered questions about his life in baseball during a sports marketing class at Marianopolis on November 20. A native of Roberval, Quebec, Arsenault became the first Quebecer to win a World Series ring while serving as a bullpen coach for the Marlins in 2003. Now based in Pierrefonds, Arsenault fielded questions from students on sports-related topics ranging from the intimate details of steroid testing to the anxiety felt by staff during prolonged losing streaks.

Photo: Michael Moore

Suiting up for the Habs



Chloé Lalonde, November 20, just before the player warm-up prior to the Canadiens/St. Louis Blues game. Photo courtesy of Erica Lalonde

Westmounter Chloé Lalonde, 8, was one of the flag bearers at the Canadiens hockey game November 20. Lalonde was the winner of a Scotia Bank contest in which a youth between the age of 7 and 14 is chosen to be a flag-bearer for home games, according to her mother, Erica Lalonde. The winner also receives four tickets to the game and a jersey. After watching the players warm up from the zamboni entrance, Erica Lalonde recounted that her daughter was escorted to the players' entrance for the opening. She plays with the Westmount's girls' hockey clinic.



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infoWestmount

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Projet Turcot :
séance d’information publique REMISE
Veuillez noter que la séance publique au sujet de la construction du nouvel échangeur Turcot, prévue pour le 26 novembre, est remise. Une nouvelle date sera annoncée sous peu. Info : www.westmount.org.

CUSM : séance d’information publique
Le lundi 8 décembre à 19 h, Hôtel de Ville, 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest. L’objet de cette séance vise à assurer un suivi de la rencontre du 27 octobre dernier au sujet du bruit provenant de l’installation Glen du Centre universitaire de santé McGill. Info : www.westmount.org.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Ateliers de poésie avec Ann Lloyd
Les mercredis 26 novembre et 10 décembre à 10 h 15. Info : 514 989-5299.

Rencontre d’auteur : Philippe Bieler
Le dimanche 30 novembre à 14 h. Rencontrez l’auteur du livre *Onward Dear Boys: A Family Memoir of the Great War*. Info : 514 989-5299.

Concours :
Ma bibliothèque, c’est tout un monde !
Un grand concours de dessin pour les jeunes de la maternelle à la 6^e année, organisé par l’association des Bibliothèques des banlieues de l’Île de Montréal (BBIM). Imagine... ta bibliothèque! Dessine ce qu’elle représente pour toi et sou mets ton dessin à ta bibliothèque avant le 12 décembre 2014. Les dessins gagnants seront dévoilés le 23 avril 2015 pour célébrer la Journée mondiale du livre et du droit d’auteur. Tu trouveras tous les détails du concours à ta bibliothèque ou sur son site internet. Info : comptoir des enfants ou 514 989-5229.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Exposition : Léo Rosshandler
Du 20 novembre au 13 décembre. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Léo Rosshandler. Info : victoriahall@westmount.org ou 514 989-5521.

Soirée de danse 2014
Le samedi 29 novembre à 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Sheila Lawrence présente l’œuvre de chorégraphes et danseurs des programmes de loisirs de Westmount lors de cette superbe soirée de ballet classique, ballet jazz, danse moderne, break dance et danse du ventre. Adultes 10 \$, enfants 5 \$. Info : 514 989-5393.

Dramatis Personae : *Standing Room Only*
Du vendredi 28 novembre au lundi 1^{er} décembre, Victoria Hall. La troupe de théâtre communautaire de Westmount présente une soirée de six pièces

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 1^{er} décembre

brèves. Mise en scène : Jaqueline van de Geer. Entrée gratuite ; dons acceptés. Consultez l’horaire des spectacles au <http://theatrewestmount.weebly.com>.

Illumination de l’arbre de Noël
Le lundi 1^{er} décembre à 18 h 30, Hôtel de Ville.
 Joignez-vous aux élus municipaux à l’occasion de cette célébration des fêtes. Biscuits et chocolat chaud servis par la suite au Club de boulingrin. L’entrée est gratuite, mais les dons de denrées non-périssables pour la collecte des fêtes de la Sécurité publique sont très appréciés. Info : 514 989-5226.

Ouverture officielle du Square Prince Albert
Le vendredi 5 décembre à 17 h à l’angle de l’avenue Prince Albert et de la rue Sherbrooke. Soyez des nôtres pour l’illumination de l’arbre de Noël, de la musique et des rafraîchissements. Info : 514 989-5226.

Concert : *The Montreal Welsh Male Choir*
Le samedi 6 décembre à 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Le chœur présente le conte traditionnel de Noël *A Child’s Christmas in Wales* de Dylan Thomas. Billets : adultes, 20 \$, âge d’or et étudiants: 15 \$, au Victoria Hall (argent comptant seulement). Réservations et informations : 450 465-2092.

Collecte de sang du Conseil de Westmount
Le mercredi 10 décembre, 14 h à 19 h 30, Victoria Hall. Donnez du sang. Donnez la vie. Info : 514 989-5226.

Fête communautaire de la Hannoukah
Le mercredi 17 décembre, 17 h, Hôtel de Ville. La Ville, la Congrégation Shaar Hashomayim et le Temple Emmanu-El-Beth Sholom invite la communauté à une célébration du festival des lumières. Info : 514 989-5226.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Collecte d’aliments à Westmount
Du 8 novembre au 15 décembre. Soutenez la campagne annuelle de la Sécurité publique au profit des plus démunis en déposant des denrées non périssables dans les bacs prévus à cette fin dans les édifices municipaux. Si vous ne pouvez pas vous rendre, un officier peut passer chez vous pour recueillir vos dons. Info : 514 989-5222.

Stationnement : restrictions hivernales en vigueur à compter du 1^{er} décembre
À compter du 1^{er} décembre, des restrictions sont en vigueur dans certaines rues de Westmount pendant la période hivernale. Assurez-vous de bien vérifier la signalisation en stationnant votre véhicule. Info : 514 989-5222.

CITY HALL

Turcot project:
public information session POSTPONED
Please note that the November 26 information session concerning the construction of the new Turcot Interchange has been postponed. A new date will be announced shortly. Info: www.westmount.org.

MUHC: public information session
Monday, December 8 at 7 p.m., City Hall, 4333 Sherbrooke Street West. This session is a follow-up to the October 27 public meeting concerning noise emanating from the MUHC Glen Campus. Info: www.westmount.org.

LIBRARY


Poetry Workshops with Ann Lloyd
Wednesdays, November 26 and December 10 at 10:15 a.m. Info: 514 989-5299.

Author event: Philippe Bieler
Sunday, November 30, 2 p.m. Meet the author of *Onward Dear Boys: A Family Memoir of the Great War*. Info: 514 989-5299.

Contest: My Library, a World to Discover
An awesome Drawing Contest for children from kindergarten to grade 6, organized by the *Bibliothèques des banlieues de l’Île de Montréal (BBIM)* Association. Imagine... your library! Draw all that it represents for you and hand in your drawing to your library before December 12, 2014. Winning drawings will be announced on April 23, 2015 to celebrate *La Journée mondiale du livre et du droit d’auteur*. Info: Children’s Desk or 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Exhibition: Léo Rosshandler
November 20 to December 13. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to feature the works of Léo Rosshandler. Info: victoriahall@westmount.org or 514 989-5521.

Soirée de danse 2014
Saturday November 29 at 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall.
 Sheila Lawrence presents the work of choreographers and dancers from Westmount’s dance classes in a spectacular evening of classical ballet, jazz and modern dance, break dance and belly dancing. Adults, \$10; children, \$5. Info: 514 989-5393.

Dramatis Personae : *Standing Room Only*
Friday November 28 through Monday, December 1st, Victoria Hall. Westmount’s community theatre troupe presents *Standing Room Only: Six Short Plays*, directed by Jaqueline van de Geer. Admission free; donations accepted. Consult the full schedule at <http://theatrewestmount.weebly.com>.

Next Council Meeting Monday, December 1st

Christmas Tree Lighting
Monday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m., City Hall. Join City Council members for this holiday celebration. Cookies and hot chocolate served afterwards in the Lawn Bowling Clubhouse. The event is free, but contributions of non-perishable food items for Public Security’s food drive are welcome. Info: 514 989-5226.

Official opening of Prince Albert Square
Friday December 5 at 5 p.m., corner of Prince Albert Avenue and Sherbrooke Street. Join us for the lighting of the Christmas tree, music and refreshments. Info: 514 989-5226.

Concert : The Montreal Welsh Male Choir
Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. The Choir presents, in a return engagement, *A Child’s Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas. Tickets : adults, \$20, seniors and students: \$15, at Victoria Hall (cash only). Reservations and information: 450 465-2092.

Westmount Council Blood Donor Clinic
Wednesday, December 10, 2 to 7:30 p.m., Victoria Hall. Give Blood. Give Life. Info: 514 989-5226.

Community Chanukah Celebration
Wednesday, December 17, 5 p.m., City Hall. The City, Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and Temple Emmanu-El-Beth Sholom invite the community to a celebration of the festival of lights. Info: 514 989-5226.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Holiday Food Drive in Westmount
From November 8 to December 15. Support Public Security’s annual food drive with a donation of non-perishable food items for the needy. Collection bins are located in City buildings. If you are unable to bring your donations, an officer can pick them up at your home. Info: 514 989-5222.

Winter parking restrictions in effect beginning December 1st
Winter parking restrictions will be in effect on certain Westmount streets starting December 1st. Make sure to double-check the signs when parking your vehicle. Info: 514 989-5222.



Unchain his heart



Quincy is a stunning 12-year-old rotweiler/shepherd mix who was recently rescued by the Frontier Animal Society. He has spent the majority of his life chained up outside. He was recently given up by his previous owners when they lost their house to a foreclosure.

Well into his now senior years, Quincy, now housed at Frontier until he finds his new permanent home, finally gets to experience normal dog activities. He is getting daily walks and gets to socialize with canines and humans alike. Shelter volunteers say he has adapted wonderfully – which is really something, given the dire

solitude of his previous life.

Quincy is naturally very calm and mel-low. Although he does not exhibit signs of physical abuse, he is still learning the notion of receiving affection and may take a little longer than other dogs to connect with new people.

Also, the rescuers believe he may be deaf, which could be an underlying factor in his initial distrust of new people. However, once Quincy does finally clue in to good intentions, he begins to smile – really!

You can tell that he happy when you watch him run in a dog park, play, socialize and discover new scents. A spoiled-couch-potato dog he has never been. He just can't get over his newfound freedom. When the day is done, shelter workers say they swear they see a great big grin stretched across his face.

Quincy gets along with most dogs (especially females), and is scheduled to be sterilized, which should help quell the occasional bad territorial behaviours.

He would do well in most homes. He does not pull on the leash but tends to weave a little, a sign he is not used to walking on a leash just yet. This can easily be corrected by walking with a purpose and with gentle corrections.

The ideal home for Quincy would be one that includes a yard. With the right owners, rescuers are certain that he will continue to try out

new activities and show his gratitude with his great big grin.

With the years now left in his new, unchained life, why not find out more about Quincy. Please contact Frontier's Caroline

Kemp at carolinekemp2009@gmail.com or call 819.876.7785.

For more canine misfits needing homes, visit us at underdogclub.org.

Firefighters, cont'd. from p. 1

as he locked the door, I saw the hand gun.”

McAllister immediately advised the fire department's communications centre of an armed robbery in progress with possible hostage taking. “We then parked the truck just north on Metcalfe to block southbound traffic.”

Nearby daycare locked down

One firefighter went to lock down the KIDS daycare beside the pharmacy. The other two stopped traffic in both directions along St. Catherine St. Meanwhile, as the officer in charge, McAllister stayed in the middle of the intersection to coordinate the effort.

“It all happened so quickly. It only took about three or four minutes for the first police car to arrive from Station 12. I gave them a full description of the suspects and told them they were armed.

“Police secured the front door and then the sergeant showed up, as well as the ‘cavalry’ of about seven cars and one from the tactical squad with a large-calibre weapon.

“I proceeded back to the truck, and it was a good 12 or 13 minutes before the side door of the pharmacy burst open and the two suspects seemed startled to see our truck. They got all frazzled.”

One went west in the lane behind the pharmacy, he said. The other went east, with police and McAllister chasing him into the parking lot between the apartment buildings at 201 Metcalfe and 200 Kensington.

“He threw down bags of medication and pills in the parking lot. He was

grabbed by police and I jumped on top of him to keep him down while he was handcuffed.” In the excitement, McAllister said, “I remember saying ‘Don’t handcuff me!’”

His crew, Martin Demers, Alex Hétu and Ben Audette, who are also first responders, then treated the suspect for lacerations to the head, which McAllister described a minor scratches.

The gun was found beside the building and determined to be “a fake one” – a pellet gun, he said. The second suspect was captured by police.

McAllister's impressions of the robbery after the fact were how calm and stress-free the suspects had seemed as they walked across St. Catherine before entering the pharmacy. He also said the fire department's communications played a key role in acting so quickly to summon police.

He believed the incident served as “a good example of the cooperation between police and firefighters and also how emergency services are working 100 percent for the citizens despite what's being reported in the media lately,” referring to the pension dispute.

See story on police report, p. 10.



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22 Edgehill Rd.: One of the first houses in West Cresc. heights



History by the house

ANDY DODGE, CRA

Question: What do Westmount, Quebec, and Bowmanville, Ontario, have in common?

Answer: A Scotsman by the name of Charles Bowman. He was an importer who arrived in Montreal in the late 18th century, snapped up a large stretch of mountainside farmland at a sheriff’s sale in 1828, representing a stunning 1,461,000 square feet stretching from Côte St. Antoine Rd. to what was then the municipality of Côte des Neiges. He built a huge mansion called “Forden” just east of the Murray family’s elegant West Mount mansion. William Murray owned the adjacent strip of farmland, which also climbed to the top of the mountain.

Before this, in 1824, Bowman developed western trade routes along Lake Ontario and arrived in a small village called Darlington Mills. He snapped up 300 acres of land (just over 13,000,000 square feet) and set up a general store to market his wares. He never lived there but hired his nephew, John Simpson, to manage the land and watch over the growth of the new town.

Back in Westmount, Bowman died in 1848, leaving the property to his son Charles Junior, who died three years later with no children, thus leaving the land to his sister, Elizabeth. She married Captain Robert Taylor Raynes and they moved into Forden, raising a large family.

In 1874, the small rural community growing on the south side of Côte St. Antoine, along with the few mansions to the north (including Forden and West Mount) and the agricultural land stretching west-



22 Edgehill

ward to La Chine, were blended into a new municipal structure known as Notre Dame de Grâce. About the same time, another east-west street high on the mountain stretched across from Côte des Neiges Rd. toward Monklands, given the generic title of “Boulevard” but for some reason no further identity, though in due course some called it “Westmount Boulevard.” This sliced through the middle of the Raynes and Murray properties, but the families held onto the land – with the exception of a small piece for St. George’s Snowshoe Club (now the site of St. George’s elementary school) – through the boom years of 1895 and into the 20th century.

In fact, the two families decided to create a golf course out of their holdings above The Boulevard, and, in 1899, the

Raynes family divided their property into Lots 239A and 239B, the latter involving all the land above The Boulevard. With the addition of a tram car along The Boulevard, the notion of developing it became more attractive to two of Montreal’s most prominent entrepreneurs, Herbert Samuel Holt, president of Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company; and Charles Blair Gordon, president of Dominion Textile Company. Their idea was to transform the golf course into a very exclusive community called “West Crescent Heights.” The idea gelled until 1909 when they finally purchased from Elizabeth Bowman-Raynes some 377,297 square feet of land for \$189,930 or about fifty cents per square foot.

Edgehill is born

During the next two years or so they worked on laying out streets, lots and plans for developing the area and finally developed – among other streets – a pleasant crescent called Edgehill Rd., curving above The Boulevard and allowing for development of unique detached and semi-detached (along The Boulevard) houses.

The first three lots to be subdivided between the streets, where Edgehill forks away from The Boulevard (now at the intersection of Sydenham Ave.), were not deep enough to allow for construction on both streets, so three lots which fronted on both streets were planned. In the beginning only three houses went up, including 21 Edgehill on the north side of the street and 18 and 22 Edgehill, with lovely views

looking out over the river, on the south side.

The lot at the corner, which now holds 3711 The Boulevard, was not developed until 1925.

Holt and Gordon sold off Lot 239B-3 to Charles N. Blakeley, a builder, who designed and constructed a huge three-storey brick house with a mansard roof, situated well above The Boulevard and announcing the entrance to what was to become, for a short period of time, West Crescent Heights. Within 10 years, other huge mansions started popping up along Edgehill and The Boulevard, but it appears these were the first three at the east end of Edgehill.

Alexander Bertram Brodie, a chartered accountant and senior partner with the newly established Price Waterhouse Canada, purchased 22 Edgehill for \$27,000 in December 1916, and lived there until his death in 1961. His widow sold the house a year later to B. Montgomery Wood, manager at Domtar Chemicals, for \$48,000. The next buyer, in 1973, was Helen Grace Darling, wife of Harry Bowler, vice president of finance for Bell Canada, who paid \$67,000.

With the surge of home prices in the 1970s, she then sold for almost triple that price to Marie Madeleine Gratton, wife of Kenneth James Morrison, engineer, for \$183,000 in June of 1979. A glance at the realtor’s listing shows some of the elegant touches that were added to this home: “Traditional home with a view of city in beautiful condition and planned for easy maintenance. Oak flooring throughout, varathaned on ground floor and first floor..Oak panelled dining room and ground floor den. Many leaded stained glass win-

continued on p. 21

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MONTREAL AREA ONLY

ECS, Selwyn participate in ‘Glee’-style showdown at Loyola



Of the two participating Westmount schools in the annual Glee high school showdown, Team ECS, left, performed “Shake it out” by Florence and the Machine and an “Umbrella”/“Singing in the rain” mash-up at Loyola high school November 16. Also participating was a Selwyn House team, right, which performed Sam Smith’s “Stay with Me,” the Bee Gees’ “Staying Alive” and “Express Yourself” by Charles Wright. Bialik won first place, Trafalgar second (and first for most money raised) and John Rennie, third in the 11-school showdown. The money goes to the ear, nose and throat, and neurology departments of Montreal Children’s Hospital. In order to perform, each school had to raise a minimum of \$1,500.

Photo: Matt Faigan

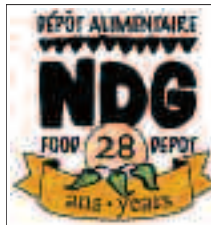
House history, cont’d. from p. 20

dows. Garage driveway is off The Boulevard to garage under house...” Other notes speak of beamed ceilings, three working fireplaces, three bathrooms, two powder rooms, and a top-floor deck overlooking the city.

Again the prices surged, this time moving toward a (temporary) peak in 1989, when Eileen Goldfarb, wife of Laurent S. Pelletier, paid \$965,000 for a house that was well maintained, but not particularly modernized. The next buyer, Jean-Guy Desjardins, president and chief executive officer of Fiera Capital Corp., paid \$2,500,000 in 2000 and then sold it in

2006, now in totally renovated condition, for \$3,500,000, to Stéphane Boisvert, at the time an executive with Bell Canada, and his wife, Nathalie Le Prohon.

The current owners are Simon Librati, chairman of Clearpool Group, a major equity trader, and his wife, Nathalie Sous-sana, a project manager in the investment technology industry.



The NDG Food Depot is recruiting new volunteers!

Do you want to get involved in your community? Come help prepare emergency food baskets, cook, work in the garden, and more! For more information, please email us at:

benevole@depotndg.org or call **514-483-4680 ext. 204.**

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Comments on rezoning changes to go to council

Cont'd. from p. 1

ing on Sherbrooke affect plans of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom for using some of its property on Wood for residential, theatrical or artistic purposes?

And how about the needs of Dawson College to possibly overflow onto St. Catherine as currently is being explored?

While neither plan would be permitted under the previous or proposed zoning, Councillor Theodora Samiotis, who

chaired the meeting as commissioner of Urban Planning, said she would take all comments back to council.

And one concerned resident asked what the city could do to prevent a fast-food restaurant from moving into the former Scotiabank building at Sherbrooke and Greene rather than an eatery better suited to the neighbourhood.

“We’re not allowed to ban fast food” outlets, said Councillor Cynthia Lulham.

While some speakers requested



Answering questions November 18 are, from left: councillors Cynthia Lulham and Theodora Samiotis, meeting chair; and Joanne Poirier, Urban Planning director.



Leslie Barker speaks to Dawson's needs for more space.



Architect Gem Silver describes a development feasibility plan on behalf of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom November 18.

changes or questioned possible inconsistencies, others thanked the city for embarking on the need to revitalize the viability of the sector by rezoning it to conform to the planning vision for the southeast (see November 11, p. 1). This master plan was adopted September 2.

“Thank you for providing a very dynamic plan,” said one resident.

The rezoning measures include restricting Sherbrooke from Greene to Wood to commercial/office, permitting only retail/service use for new occupancies at street level on both Greene and St. Catherine, and upzoning the south side of St. Catherine east of Gladstone from four to seven storeys with up to 10 at the corner of Atwater.

Affects 16 zones

The meeting kicked off with an introduction by Samiotis followed by a technical presentation of changes proposed in each of the 16 affected zones by urban planning consultant Sylvain Gariépy.

Of particular interest was the densification and upzoning on the south side of St. Catherine east of Gladstone that dominated much of the session. Urban planner Jerry Miller, a resident of Thornhill, suggested it would be “timely” for the city to prepare a design plan for the street as a model for developers.

He and Sherbrooke resident John Fretz proposed a widening of sidewalks to im-

prove walkability of the area.

Dawson expansion

Melville Ave. resident Leslie Barker, a retired Dawson College teacher and former chair of its senate, told the meeting that continued on p. 23

Process explained on how to argue rezoning conformity

While the rezoning by-law is not subject to a referendum, explained city clerk Viviana Iturriaga Espinoza, once it has been adopted by city council December 1 – with or without modification – citizens who have reason to argue it does not conform to the city’s master plan may write to the Quebec Municipal Commission.

If five letters are received within 30 days following publication of the city’s legal notice of adoption, the commission would be required to open a file to investigate the conformity issue. This would generate a new delay process.

A zoning freeze was initially applied to the 16 zones to prevent conversion of commercial space to residential March 17. With the tabling of the zoning by-law November 3, the freeze was extended to include other changes.

Zoning, cont'd. from p. 22

Dawson had the lowest floor area per student “in Canada” and was below provincial norms.

She was now assisting with a committee “exploring” the St. Catherine zone for additional space. She questioned the city’s prohibition on “CEGEP,” while allowing a “teaching establishment,” as well as the ground-floor retail requirement.

“We’re providing 10,000 students in the area,” she pointed out. Dawson’s expansion into the south side for continuing education courses could be interesting, convenient and useful to the community, she added. Nevertheless, it would not “reinforce commercial activity,” according to city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

Temple revitalization

Gem Silver, an architect with Rubin & Rotman representing Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, stated that a year ago the synagogue launched a feasibility study into redevelopment only to learn a few days ago about the proposed rezoning of Sherbrooke between Elm and Wood from residential to commercial.

Does it have acquired rights and would it be restricted from residential usage along Wood facing Dawson?


Silver also said in a broader context, potential options for revitalization listed by the temple in a fundraising effort last April were use of the property as a theatre, concert hall or dance studio.

The temple’s current permitted uses are “established by vested rights,” said Poirier. “We can take it back to council,” she replied concerning the potential. Under the proposed zoning, however, none of the other options, including residential, are permitted.

Greene Ave. business

While executive members of the Greene Avenue Merchants’ Association were among those attending, no one spoke on the plan to limit new street-level occupancies to retail or service-oriented businesses.

President Michael Millman later said he and others were pleased the city was allowing a “multi-level parking” garage in the zone where the municipal lot is now located. “Parking is our number one concern.”



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Another who came to listen but chose not to speak was Doran Altman, who owns the building ensemble where Jean Coutu is located.

Westmount Square commercial status remains

Réjean Gervais, a design consultant who lives at 3 Westmount Square and attended with a small delegation of others from the two residential towers, said they were pleased the city was not changing the current zoning for the Westmount Square complex to provide for the conversion of the commercial tower to residential.

Tupper proposals to come

“What do you have in mind,” for development of the Tupper parking lot as a link between the area south of Dorchester and the St. Catherine commercial area, asked one resident of Clandeboye. This will be dealt with in another by-law subject to public consultation, Poirier said.

Dorchester Blvd. will be tied into it, explained Samiotis, noting at present it is very difficult for pedestrians to cross the multi-lane boulevard. “We have to look at the street design itself.”

Patricia Dumais of Greene, who also attended “to listen,” told the *Independent* said she was particularly interested in plans for Tupper.

professionals from the greater Montreal community.

Throughout the tournament period at the WRC, Westmounters can add their bids in the SWAT silent auction for merchandise and services, to be conducted by Claude Bismuth, to help raise additional funds during this year’s tournament.

HOWARD HOPPENHEIM, THE BOULEVARD

MORE ON RATS

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BUILDING PERMITS What’s permitted

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting September 2.

339 Prince Albert: at a Category I house, to replace some windows and doors;

476 Victoria: to renovate the front porch and rear deck, including a handicap ramp access;

104 Arlington: to build a new garage and a connection from the main building to the garage roof;

434 Strathcona: to build a new side access door and canopy including hand rails, gutters and minor landscaping;

720 Victoria: to build a new rear deck and pergola and do some minor front landscaping;

65 Columbia: to replace the rear door;
4620 St. Catherine: at a Category I building, to replace the windows;

76 Arlington: to replace some windows and lower the sill of four windows by six inches;

4861 Sherbrooke: to install a new sign at Lingerie Courval.

The following permits for demolition,

Letters, cont'd. from p. 6

ther but readers of the *Independent* might be interested to read of problems resulting from rat migration into surrounding neighbourhoods, as a result of the big Union Station renovation in Toronto.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-s-union-station-reno-triggers-rat-spillover-1.2829684>

I believe this bolsters my argument that any increase in the rat population in Westmount may be due to large excavation/construction projects – yes, in-

cluding the Westmount recreation centre.

365 Clarke: to build a detached accessory garage in the rear yard;

44 Sunnyside: to replace the existing stone of the front façade and the soffit moldings;

9 Ingleside: to build a rear deck;

4124 St. Catherine: to erect a sign for “Brasserie Lucilles”;

53 Oakland: to replace some of the windows;

335 Metcalfe: to replace some of the windows;

491 Mountain: to replace the windows and a rear door;

4481 de Maisonneuve: at a Category I house, to replace the front entrance door;

339 Côte St. Antoine: to replace the windows and a rear door;

4126 St. Catherine: to install a sign for “Melting Pot” restaurant-café;

57 Columbia: at a Category I house, to replace some of the windows;

5-7 Anwoth & 449 Clarke: to erect a fence in the rear yard.

MAVIS YOUNG, MELVILLE AVE.

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Gala for Stewart at Ramezay



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*
VERONICA REDGRAVE

A wet and stormy night did not deter guests from attending the Château Ramezay gala at le Windsor on October 23. The event was a tribute to **Lillian Stewart** in recognition of her long-standing generosity toward the museum and her support as chair of its board of trustees. It was held under the co-presidency of **Jean**



Montreal mayor Denis Coderre.

Caron, senior director, Desjardins Private Wealth Management; and **Sylvain Thériault**, vice president and general director, Desjardins Gestion Privée. Emcee was **Pierre Bruneau**, anchor at TVA Nouvelles.

Arriving VIPs included former Quebec premier **Jean Charest**, with his wife **Michèle Dionne**, mayor of Montreal **Denis Coderre**, mayor of Westmount **Peter Trent** and mayor of Ahuntsic **Pierre Gagnier**.

Gala chair and board vice president **Yelka Acimovic** worked with committee members **Jeannie Saunders**, **Gail Fraser Tytler**, **Linda McDonald**, **Diana Wall**, **Marika Coulourides**, **Tatyana Reeve**, **Jean Brunelle** and **Gail Grant**, vice chair of the Château Ramezay board.

Attending from the board were **André Delisle**, curator/director; and **Reynald Bigras**, vice president; as well as **Bruce Bolton**, executive director of the Macdonald Stewart Foundation.

Amidst the prestigious guests were **Sylvie Barcelo**, deputy minister of the department of Culture and Communications; **Martin Massé**, chief of staff to the provincial minister of Transport and Montreal region; **Christiane Barbe**, president of Bibliothèque et Archives Nationale du Québec; **Stephan La Roche**, president of CALQ; **Ann Champoux**, president of the Régie du Cinéma; **Geneviève Pichet**, assistant corporate secretary of La Place des Arts;

continued on p. 25



From left: Jean Charest, Jeannie Saunders, Michèle Dionne



Marika Coulourides and Nicholas Nikives.



Gail Grant and Peter Trent.



Reynald Gigras and Yelka Acimovic.

Westmounters noted included **Nicholas Nikives, Boba Pivnicki, Valeria Rosenbloom, Margaret Lefebvre, Alice and Peter Holman, Lori and Bryant Shiller, Milica and Michael Vachon, Lilliana Simpson,**

Also seen were **Serge Joyal**, honorary committee member, **Ginger Petty**, **Hamish McAulay**, **Tullio Cedraschi**, **Magbool** and **Michael Spencer** and **Serge Quévillon**.

The evening raised \$32,000.



From left: Lilliana Simpson, Michael and Sondra Palanghio

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to be sure that water is turned off to all exterior faucets and lawn sprinkler heads, Public Security officials said last week. The measure can help prevent burst pipes caused by the freeze-thaw cycle.

"It is also important to drain pipes as well as lines leading to sprinkler heads," said Public Security director Greg McBain.

The advice comes in the wake of a broken pipe at the rear of a house on Clande-

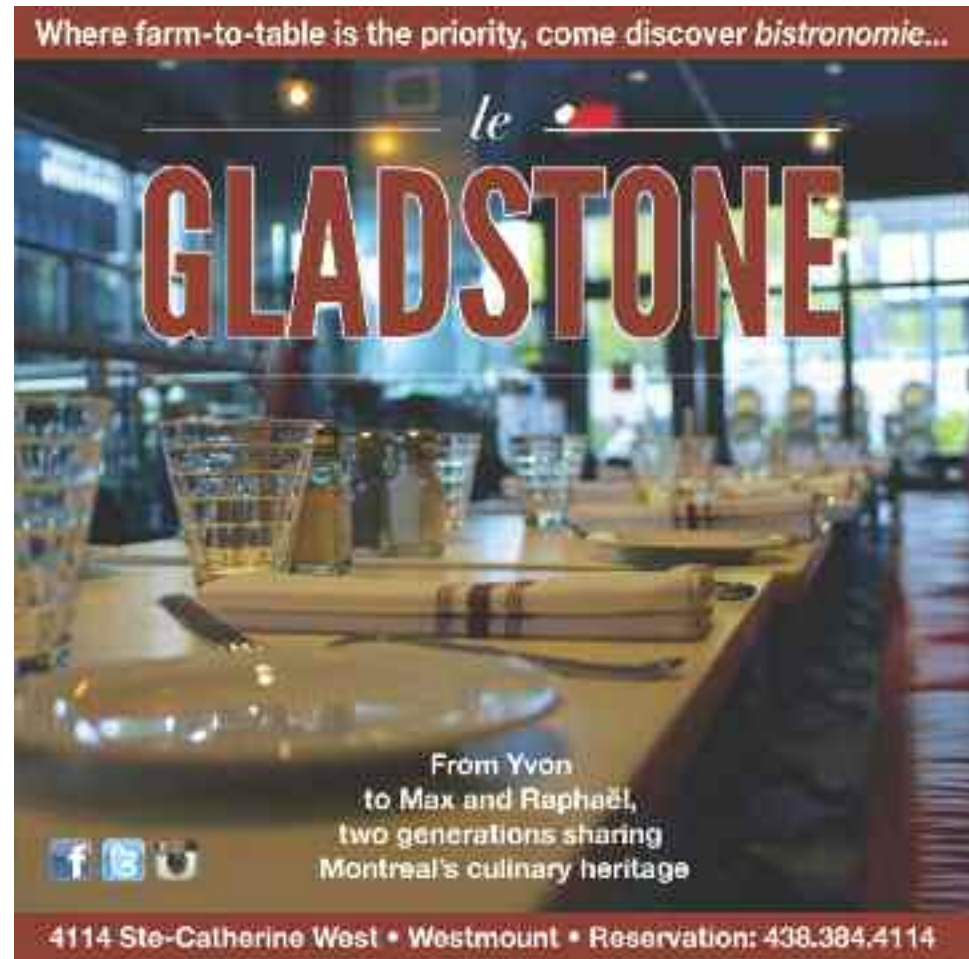
boye Ave. November 15. Officers were called to the home by a neighbour at 4:09 pm when water was seen leaking from the second level. A pipe leading up the outside of the house had broken “right through.”

The rear steps were found covered in ice from the water, which did not appear to have penetrated the inside. A faucet was located and turned off to stop the flow of water. The resident could not be reached.

A woman was walking her dog down Mountain Ave. November 10 when she was bitten on the knee by another dog, Public Security officials said. Reporting the incident the next day, she told a responding officer she had already seen a doctor who stated it was only a surface injury.

occurred when she tried to separate them after the passing dog began sniffing hers and becoming more aggressive. The dog's owner then leashed it and left saying "dogs will be dogs."

Officers visited a nearby house where the woman thought the dog might live only to discover that one there was a smaller one of a different breed and colour.



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Meatballs producer Dunning's roots were in Westmount

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

Memories of famed Hollywood actress Norma Shearer remain strong among classical film buffs, who sometimes also recall that Shearer was originally from Westmount.

Another Westmounter wants to make sure that his father, John Dunning, is remembered as one of the greatest film producers in the history of modern Canadian cinema.

"It all began in Westmount," Dunning's son, Greg, a Kitchener Ave. resident, said of his father's legacy.

"The beauty of John Dunning was not

that he was just a successful B-movie maker but that he mentored some of the best names in the business," added *Gazette* entertainment writer Bill Brownstein.

You're Not Dead Until You're Forgotten is the title of a memoir John Dunning wrote with the assistance of Brownstein, a long-time Westmount resident. The book was published by McGill-Queen's University Press in August, a little less than three years after John Dunning's death.

John Dunning's name may be nowhere nearly as familiar as Norma Shearer's, but there is a connection between them all the same. While John Dunning's grandpar-

ents lived on Roslyn, the Shearers were on Grosvenor, a block away.

As Greg Dunning recounts in the early pages of the book, "when my father had been living with his parents on Roslyn Ave. in the tony suburb of Westmount in Montreal, their neighbours were the Shearers. They had a daughter, Norma, who went to Hollywood in the 1920s and became one of the original screen sirens."

Shearer, who spent her first 20 years in Westmount, left with her family in 1920 for New York and later Hollywood. According to Dunning's account, she introduced his great-grandfather to legendary Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film producer Louis B. Mayer. The senior Dunning, as an independent theatre operator in Montreal, would enjoy a lasting business relationship with Mayer and MGM.

While John Dunning's start in the film business behind the candy counter at his father's Montreal movie theatre during the 1940s was modest, by 2007 he and business partner André Link had been inducted into the Canadian Film and Television Hall of Fame in recognition of the 59 feature movies they made.

For years, Dunning's place of business

was on Victoria Ave. in Westmount just below Sherbrooke. Beginning in 1962, the company he and Link founded, Cinepix, produced or distributed everything from soft-core Québécois porn films like *Valérie*, to early David Cronenberg horror flicks like *Shivers* and *Rabid*.

But without doubt, their most successful venture was the 1979 film *Meatballs*, starring the then relatively unknown Bill Murray in his first feature film role following *Saturday Night Live* success.

Dunning and Link are also credited for having given film directors like Cronenberg, Ivan Reitman and the late Francis Mankiewicz their start.

Public Security recertifies in lifesaving

Public safety officers and parking inspectors were recertified over the last two weeks in CPR, first aid and defibrillator, according to Public Security director Greg McBain. The retraining was provided to the 28 full-time and part-time personnel on the road, as well as a couple of office staff.



Westmounters Bill Brownstein, left, and Greg Dunning, son of the late John Dunning, at Brownstein's home November 18.

Parked car damaged in transformer explosion

A parked car was hit by a piece of a hydro transformer that fell off when the unit exploded November 13 in the lane behind 330 Wood, Public Security officials said. Firefighters and public safety officers responded to the call at about 7 am and reported the cause resulted from "anomalies" in tension.

The car, a Cadillac belonging to a Montreal resident, sustained two dents on the hood while parked behind a house on Elm. Eight homes were reportedly left without power.

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Believe it: Agia had tea with the queen



At home in Westmount on November 14, Viviane Agia holds a photo of Queen Elizabeth II and one photo of herself, each taken at a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Tea with the queen, and at least 6,000 others, is indeed possible for Canadians willing to make the effort.

"I went to the queen's tea party in May, and every time I tell someone, they don't believe me," says Westmounter Viviane Agia, holding two photographs as evidence of her royal adventure.

Agia first contacted the High Commission of Canada in London about five years ago. Each year, Agia said, her name was entered in a lottery to be eligible to attend a garden party hosted by Queen Elizabeth II. These happen at least four times a year at Buckingham Palace and other royal properties.

Finally, Agia's name was drawn, and in

late May of this year, she and a friend flew to London for tea in the garden at Buckingham Palace.

Agia said various scones, sandwiches, minced pies and pastries were served. She wore a black fascinator and a grey dress.

Chairman of the Monarchist League of Canada, Robert Finch, told the *Independent* that Canadians actually have a better chance of attending a garden party than residents of England, who must be invited on the basis on their contributions to society.

Canadians can contact the High Commission of Canada to request their names are entered in the lottery: ldn.publicaffairs@international.gc.ca.

Contactivity, WHA join up on Vic. Ave.



Some 15 people gathered on Victoria Ave. November 20 to attend Contactivity Centre's 60-plus walking group (also known as the "Walkie-Takies.") The group was led by Karen Evoy, a Contactivity outreach worker. This particular "Evolution of Victoria Ave." walk was a joint collaboration with tour guide and president of the Westmount Historical Association (WHA), Doreen Lindsay, who provided a history of the street and the various shops on Victoria from Sherbrooke to St. Catherine St. The tour ended in a coffee shop to warm up and chat. Evoy told the *Independent* that Contactivity is to be continuing its partnership with the WHA this winter with a series of indoor-guided historical tours. For more information, contact karen.evoy@gmail.com or 514.826.4493.

Photo: Matt Faigan

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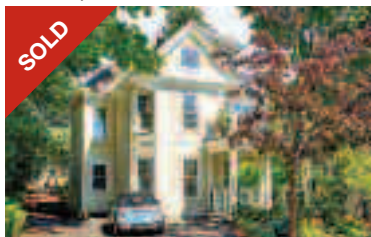
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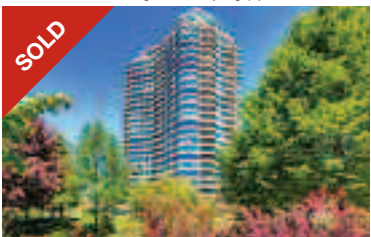
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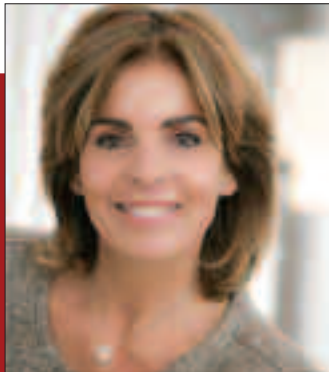
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