

## City's tax hike could stay under 3% including agгло share

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

There's "certainly good news" for Westmount and the other demerged municipalities in the 2015 Montreal agglomeration budget, Mayor Peter Trent said after its release November 26.

The increase to be borne by the suburbs for the cost of island-wide services will rise only 1.3 percent on average compared to the 2.2 percent jump in the portion of the budget to be paid by Montreal. Westmount's increase will rise 1.8 percent to \$51.3 *continued on p. 20*

## Standing room only?



Photo: Ralph Thompson

### 'Unprofessional, insulting:' Trent

## Report recommends cities swallow another \$1.3B in cuts

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Recommendations by a Quebec commission on ways the provincial government might further cut expenses by \$2.3 billion have raised the ire of Mayor Peter Trent, president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities (ASM).

Challenging in particular a recommendation to cut \$1.3 billion

to municipalities in transfer payments, he claimed the commission had no expert on municipal finance on its panel or public input, and the results were therefore "very unprofessional."

"I think it's a stalking horse for the Liberals," he said last week – extreme recom-

mendations designed to make current and potential ..... aus- *continued on p. 4*

*Dramatis Personae cast gets ready just before its first performance of Standing Room Only November 28 at Victoria Hall. See p. 4.*



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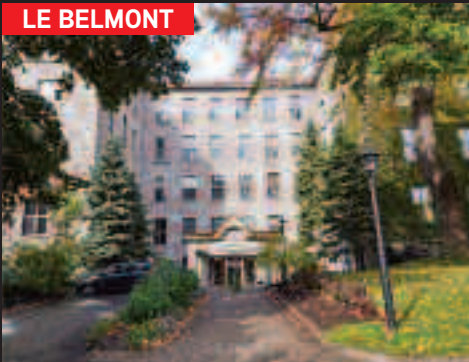
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*Super-hospital's opening event targets up to 25,000*

# MUHC's parade to close Sherbrooke through Westmount

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

With little more than six months left until the announced official opening June 20 of the super-hospital, plans are moving into high gear for a “walk” that could include up to 25,000 citizens, dignitaries and community groups parading along Sherbrooke from Dawson College to the new Glen site.

Registered participants will proceed

through Westmount to Decarie and south onto the MUHC campus – a 3-km distance. They will then be able to attend the ribbon cutting that follows as part of a three-day celebration.

“We’re trying to get the community from all around to join in,” said Councillor Rosalind Davis, in her position as a volunteer member of the organizing committee.

City council members have already approved the city’s participation and permits

are expected to be issued in due time.

“Dawson has been incredible” in allowing the registered walkers to assemble on its campus, Davis said. Its gate is scheduled to open at 8 am. This is two hours before the scheduled departure. The walkers will then proceed along the south side of Sherbrooke allowing the north side to be used for emergency vehicles only.

Individuals or teams may register to participate at a cost of \$5 per person, using

the website at [muhclovesmtl.ca](http://muhclovesmtl.ca). The event is to be self-financing through sponsors, Davis said.

The event may mark the first time that Sherbrooke St. will be closed to traffic along this route in three decades since the annual Carifête parade.

Given the numbers of walkers who will parade with flags saying “MUHC loves Mtl,” organizing logistics have been under way for more than a year, Davis said.

*McBain: ‘Sign of changing times’*

## Public Security to acquire bullet-proof, anti-puncture vests for protection

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city’s public safety officers and parking inspectors are acquiring bullet-proof and anti-puncture vests – a sign of “changing times,” Public Security director Greg McBain said last week.

“We had been discussing this for some time,” he explained, in fact going back eight years to the Dawson shootings when parking inspectors were on the front line leading daycare kids to safety.

Even in the last two years, he said, behaviours in society seemed to be changing “and the vests will provide an extra measure of security for our personnel. It’s how things are these days,” he added.

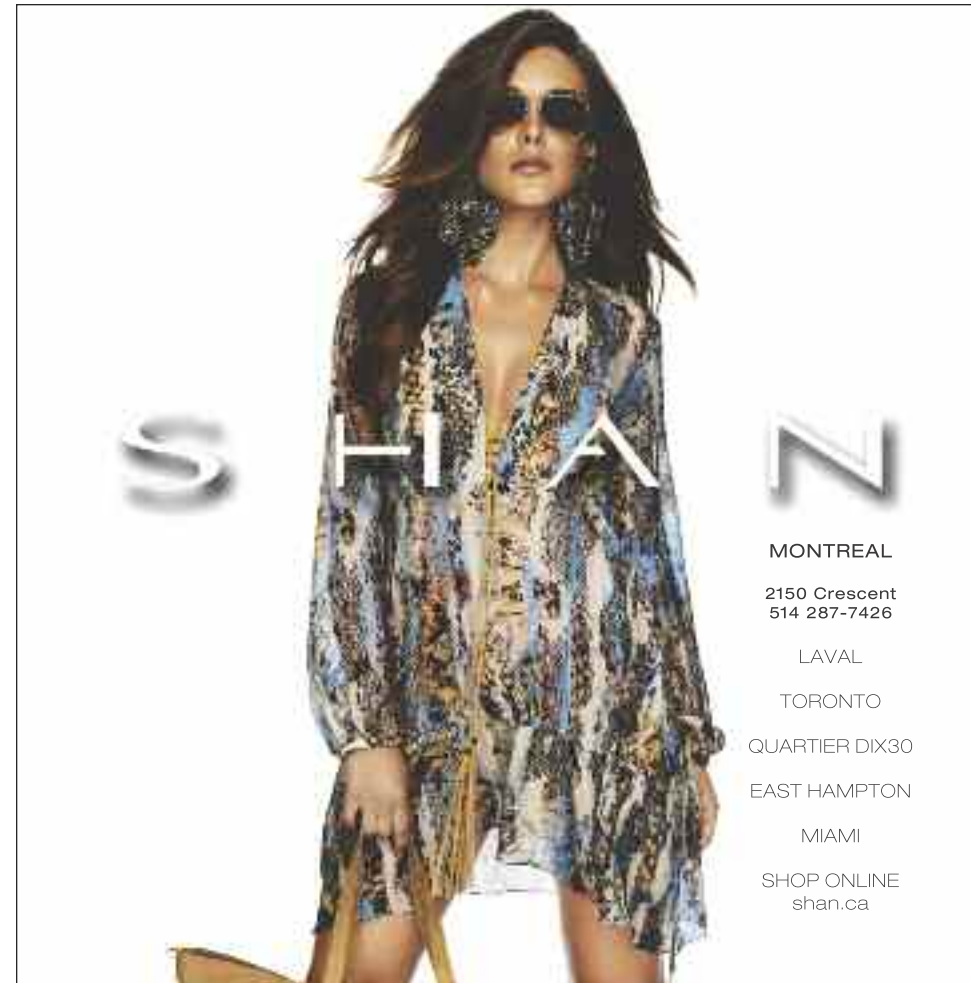
“The reality is that there is a lot going on our city’s perimeter,” explained Councillor Philip Cutler, Public Security com-

missioner.

“Public Security is on the front line, uniformed, enforcing regulations, dealing with homelessness and could be the targets of aggression. We need to protect those who are protecting us.”

The extra protection has been underlined recently with the two fatal attacks on uniformed members of the armed forces as well as public security personnel being threatened by people wielding broken bottles. Officers often patrol the parks alone and deal with intoxicated people.

Not only have police been wearing the vests for several years, but private security agents are also wearing them, as well as other municipal Public Security personnel such as those in Hampstead, Town of Mount Royal and Dollard des Ormeaux.



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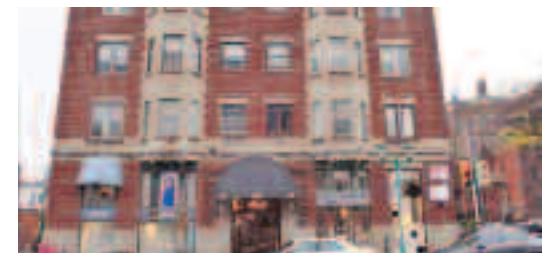
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# City blue collars strike Nov. 26 while white collars file notice to follow Dec. 2

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A one-day strike November 26 by Westmount's blue collar workers appeared to take place peacefully with most city services intact except for the closure of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC), greenhouses and Victoria Hall.

The union local was part of a larger strike that included many municipalities across the province in protest over the provincial pension reform Bill 3 (see story August 26, p. 1).

Negotiations with the local union be-

## Branch breaks off Winchester tree

A broken tree branch became entangled in others in front of 12 Winchester November 22, a Saturday, posing a danger should it fall, Public Security officials said. The area was cordoned off shortly after 10 am until a Public Works crew could tend to the problem on Monday.

forehand resulted in three blue-collar employees remaining on duty – the night watchman at Public Works and two operators at Hydro Westmount, said director general Duncan Campbell. Snow removal crews were on call in the event of a snowstorm.

With white collar employees also poised to strike December 2, after the *Independent's* press time, city officials reported in advance that this would close the library and Victoria Hall, as well as courses and offices at the WRC, though the rinks would remain open for skating.

Customer service and administration offices also would be closed at city hall, Public Security, Hydro Westmount and Public Works. While other Public Security services were also expected to be affected such as those provided by parking inspectors and public safety officers, dispatchers will be answering the phone since they are considered to provide an essential service.

Only unions with outstanding contracts were eligible to strike, which excludes the city's professionals as a result.

# Westmount quiet during Nov. 26 strike



City of Westmount Public Works employees Tony Poliziani, left, and Dominic Iorio stand at the entrance to the Public Works yard on Bethune St. at around 11 am November 26, the day of the CUPE Local 301 day-long and province-wide blue-collar strike. "Only emergency services are passing," said Iorio. "But we are on standby if there is snow clearing required."

Photo: Ralph Thompson

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

terity measures look milder by comparison.

In the face of strong opposition to the report, Treasury Board president Martin Coiteux stated the recommendations were "ideas" only and that the government would be working with municipalities to help them reduce increases in their spending.

The report was presented November 23 by commission chair Lucienne Robillard, a former federal Treasury Board president, who represented Westmount-Ville Marie for many years as a federal Liberal MP. The timing was terrible, Trent said, coming on the heels of \$300-million cuts in transfer payments and sales tax credit to municipalities.

"What's really insulting," he added, "is that some of the transfers were originally given to municipalities to compensate them for the loss of the amusement tax and other cuts. "I lived through \$1.7 billion of downloading by Quebec onto municipalities between 1991 and 1998 and now she suggests another \$1.3 billion?"

Saying it was "surprising" that Montreal mayor Denis Coderre had reacted more mildly to the recommendations, "I had to react strongly," he stated.

Robillard was appointed in June to head the commission mandated to study provincial programs and ways of delivering them at less cost.

## Dramatis Personae's latest production performed 4 times

Dramatis Personae performed a collection of six short plays under the direction of Jacqueline van de Geer at Victoria Hall November 28, 29, 30 and December 1.

According to co-producer and publicity manager Ann Elbourne, who has been with the group for 15 years, *Standing Room Only* played to "very nice, appreciative audiences, who laughed during the performances and told us afterwards that they really enjoyed our choice of plays – funny, but with some ideas to chew on."

Attendance went up over the weekend, she said, with numbers in the 50s at the Saturday performance. Tickets were a suggested \$10.

The Westmount-based community theatre group was founded by Ann Page in 1985 and has been performing to the public ever since. According to Elbourne, "It was originally a Westmount Recreation program evening class," she said, "but the numbers got so small that the class no longer qualified, so we started our own group and our numbers increased. We appreciate it that Westmount allows us to use Victoria Hall. Most of our actors are Westmounters. It's a lot of fun; it stretches the mind and is full of creativity."

See photo, p. 1.

# People's Gospel Choir Concert

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# WHA lecture recounts 'cosmopolitan' life of Aline Gubbay

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

For the third presentation in the Westmount Historical Association (WHA)'s 70th anniversary fall lecture series, Sharon Gubbay gave a talk on her mother, Aline, who was a prolific historical author and former president of the WHA.

Born into a Russian expatriate family in Alexandria, Egypt in 1920, Aline Gubbay was a true cosmopolitan.

"I think it's possible that Aline's love of being centre stage started in Alexandria," said Sharon Gubbay of her mother during her lecture at the Westmount Public Library on November 20. She is a research associate with the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University.

At age four, Aline Gubbay's family moved to London, England, where she grew up, became very independent in spirit, and where she first discovered the theatre.

At age 13, she first saw John Gielgud acting in a play and was immediately stage struck. She attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts from 1935 to 1938. During her actor's training, she developed a life-long friendship with British actor Robert Rietty, whose screen career spanned nearly 70 years.

Stage fright compelled Aline Gubbay to abandon acting just before World War II. She then began a new phase, serving as an apprentice to portrait photographer Germaine Kanova. The medium format

Rolleiflex camera Aline Gubbay used is today one of the treasured possessions of her daughter Diana.

Some of the famous people who were the subject of Gubbay's portraits included American choreographer Katherine Dunham, Brazilian entertainer Carmen Miranda, American violinist Yehudi Menuhin and the English actress Claire Bloom.

After marrying in 1947, Gubbay moved with her husband, Eric, a cardiologist, to Winnipeg. According to Sharon Gubbay, her mother was so put off by the intense cold in Winnipeg that she arrived home one day, saying to Eric, "If we don't move out of here, I'm going to divorce you."

Arriving in Montreal and Westmount in 1956, Gubbay found a new calling as an author of numerous writings on Westmount's history, including the books *A View of their Own: The Story of Westmount*, *Montreal's Little Mountain: A Portrait of Westmount* (with Sally Hooff), and *The Mountain and the River*. Aline Gubbay also served as the WHA's president from 1996 to 2000.



Sharon Gubbay gave an account to a meeting of the Westmount Historical Association of her mother Aline Gubbay's life November 20.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## MEMORABLE BIOGRAPHY

What an astonishing account of the extraordinary Alfred Garson, penned by Irene Don.

His integrity, courage, resilience and timing could be the stuff of fiction, but are his true history.

Thank you for devoting the 2014 Remembrance Day page to this memorable biography.

LUCY FELLOWES, WOOD AVE.

## THE MAJESTIC OAK

Have you ever noticed parents walking with their children near the lagoon's footbridge? They continue along the foot path and their children use a low brick wall, rising on an incline as stairs until reaching a height equal to that of their parents! This used to be a favourite route to the playground when our daughter was small.

What is overlooked, however, are two majestic red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) that have been "standing guard" for centuries directly behind that same brick wall. In Europe, oaks were called the "King of Trees;" in Finland they were referred to as "God's Tree." As such, they were highly venerated and possess a fascinating history.

Their place in mythology dates back to

the Druids and Greeks in 200 BCE. The Druids believed that oaks were entrances to other worlds and performed their rituals in the groves of these trees. Interestingly, the words "oak" and "door" are derived from the sanskrit "duir," suggesting, in part, an entrance into another realm. The Druids also believed that mistletoe (a parasitic plant), growing in the oak's uppermost branches, was sent from heaven and could only be cut using a golden sickle during a solemn ceremony.

The sanctuary Dodona (located in Greece) had an oak tree that was sacred to Zeus (god of the sky). The area was an important religious-political centre in north-west Greece around 250 BCE. The tree's leaves rustlings would be interpreted by priests to believers that travelled to this site. In fact, a reference to these priests is mentioned in Homer's epic *The Iliad*.

The tree's magical qualities are mentioned in legends of fairies dancing around old oak trees.

Legend also states that elves live in oak trees and use the holes in their trunks as their doorways. An old English rhyme originating from the New Forest mentions turning one's coat inside out to ward off fairies: "Turn your cloaks, for fairy folks are in old oaks!"



This red oak in Westmount Park measures about 2.9 meters, likely making it well over 200 years old, according to tree-lover Michael Walsh.  
Photo courtesy of Michael Walsh

In England, creatures called "oakmen" are said to live in oak saplings. A sure sign of their presence are bluebells growing nearby. The oakmen will offer poisonous fungi, disguised as food, to passing mortals.

Just being aware of a fraction of these trees' place in a historical context gives one a new appreciation as we walk through Westmount Park past these magnificent trees with their acorns strewn along our path.

MICHAEL WALSH, MELVILLE AVE.

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EDITOR: Kristin McNeill

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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## Police Report

# Party guards help nab car break-in suspect

*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

Security guards at an Upper Westmount house party helped Station 12 officers nab a suspected car break-in artist after noticing the man prowling about in the early morning of November 19.

“Without tips from citizens, it’s hard to have officers at every corner with our manpower to prevent these incidents from happening. Having the citizens serve as our eyes and ears is of great help to us,” said Station 12 constable Stephan Laperrière.

The guards stationed outside the house alerted police to the suspicious presence sometime between 1:30 am and 2:30 am, causing the suspect to leave the area. Officers dispatched to the scene found the man a short time later allegedly checking the car doors near the corner of Upper Bellevue and Sunnyside, not far from the

house party.

The 26-year-old Verdun man was found to be in breach of a curfew that had been placed on him relating to another arrest. According to the report, the man told police that he had been attending a party in Verdun and had simply gotten lost on his way home.

“He was a ways out from home,” said Laperrière.

### **Snowflakes stuck on arms, legs**

The officers also noted that despite there only being a small amount of snow on the ground, the suspect had flakes stuck on his legs and arms, as though he had been lying or kneeling in it.

A search of the suspect reportedly revealed eight pairs of sunglasses, a GPS unit, an iPod Nano, a car charger and cash. Police are working to return the items to the owners, said Laperrière.

Westmount has suffered a barrage of break-ins since early in the summer, often with multiple incidents reported each week. Laperrière is hopeful that the November 19 arrest will help stem the tide,

but noted it will take time before investigators can begin to accurately track the impact the arrest has made.

The suspect appeared in court the day after his arrest, said Laperrière, who couldn’t specify the exact charges the man is facing.

## Water overflows sidewalks at Sherbrooke, Claremont

Heavy rain flooded the intersection of Sherbrooke and Claremont overnight November 24 with water so deep it overflowed sidewalks “cresting near” the doors of stores, Public Security officials report. The situation was described as extremely dangerous for cars and pedestrians. The flooding was reduced by Public Works crews by slowly removing manhole covers. The entire intersection was under water when a public safety officer came across the flood at 6:10 am.



Ville de Westmount  
City of Westmount



### **BUDGET 2015 PROGRAMME TRIENNAL D'IMMOBILISATIONS 2015-2016-2017**

AVIS PUBLIC est par les présentes donné par la soussignée, greffière de la Ville de Westmount, QUE :

- 1° le budget de la Ville de Westmount pour l'exercice financier 2015, ainsi que le programme triennal d'immobilisations pour les exercices financiers 2015, 2016 et 2017, seront déposés pour adoption au cours d'une séance extraordinaire du conseil municipal, qui se tiendra le lundi 15 décembre 2014, à 20 h dans la salle du conseil de l'hôtel de ville situé au 4333, rue Sherbrooke Ouest à Westmount; et
- 2° lors de cette séance, les délibérations du conseil et la période de questions porteront exclusivement sur le budget et le programme triennal d'immobilisations.

De plus, une seconde séance extraordinaire du conseil se tiendra le même jour à 20 h 30 pour l'adoption d'un ordre du jour distinct, se rapportant à l'adoption du budget 2015.

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 2 décembre 2014.

### **BUDGET 2015 2015/2016/2017 PROGRAMME OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, City Clerk of the City of Westmount, THAT:

1. the budget of the City of Westmount for the fiscal year 2015, and the three-year programme of capital expenditures for the fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017 will be tabled for adoption at a special sitting of the municipal Council to be held on Monday, December 15, 2014, at 8:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber at City Hall located at 4333 Sherbrooke West Street, Westmount; and
2. at said special sitting, the Council deliberations and the question period shall deal exclusively with the budget and the three-year programme of capital expenditures.

Furthermore, a second special Council sitting will be held the same day at 8:30 p.m. for the adoption of a separate agenda relating to the adoption of the 2015 budget.

GIVEN at Westmount, on December 2, 2014.

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Six months into the job in Westmount

# New director Romero describes changes at Y

By MICHAEL MOORE

Like the construction current taking place throughout the building, new West-

mount YMCA director Cristina Romero admits that her tenure at the Sherbrooke St. athletic centre is still a work in progress.



Westmount Y director Cristina Romero overlooks the facility's basketball court November 19.

"You need to start with a strong team, and I really believe we are building that here," she said.

The former head of YMCA du Parc, Romero has been on the job in Westmount since early June, when YMCA Quebec instituted an organization-wide reshuffling of its directors.

She took over for long-time director Gary White, who elected to leave the organization to pursue other opportunities after the reshuffle.

"When the announcement of the switches was made, the first person to call me was Gary to congratulate me and to tell me he thought I was going to be okay here. I thought it was a really nice gesture," said Romero.

"They are big shoes to fill but at the same time, like on any job, I also bring my passions, my experiences. The reasons why I came to the Y are still valid."

A self-described coach, Romero's first order of business on the job was to individually meet with all the heads of departments at the Westmount YMCA.

"I love taking our coordinators and directors and bringing them to an understanding of how an organization should be

run at all levels," she said. "I really enjoy coaching this team and giving them more skills for the future because they'll leave here with that one day if they're no longer with the organization."

The shift to Westmount hasn't been without its challenges. With a background in the corporate world, Romero preaches the important of viability when deciding the programs and services that will be offered at the YMCA.

"Grants from the government are tight right now, and we can't always predict what's going to happen. We need to make sure that we have the flexibility and agility to address the problems that could affect us, like cutting community programs and so on," she said.

Romero, who also serves as supervisor of the NDG YMCA, denied rumours that some staff and programs were being shared between the two facilities. Complaints include concern that service was being reduced at the Westmount Y.

Rather, Romero claimed her position with the two YMCAs has opened up lines of communication, allowing one to provide recommendations if ..... the other finds itself short-

continued on p. 9

## YMCA to begin charging for TRX

The Westmount Y will begin charging existing members for individual Total Resistance eXercise (TRX) classes starting in January 2015, according to director Cristina Romero.

The program, a form of suspended bodyweight resistance training developed by former US Navy SEAL Randy Hetrick, was first introduced as a pilot class at the Westmount and Point St. Charles YMCAs five years ago and had been covered by basic membership fees.

With the success of the program, YMCA Quebec introduced TRX province-wide this September but requires participants to pay for the class.

The classes at the Westmount and Point St. Charles YMCAs will no longer be covered by the membership fee to ensure equal services are being provided across the organization, said Romero. New members began paying for the class in September and existing members will be required to pay for it in the new year.

YMCA Quebec is also considering various province-wide payment packages for TRX members who don't use the facility's other amenities, according to Romero.

The *Independent* learned that some 30 participants had signed a petition protesting the organization's decision to no longer cover the program in its basic membership package.

Romero confirmed she had received the petition and said she met with one of the disgruntled TRX users. However, Romero made clear that while payment options may be offered, YMCA Quebec won't revert back to including TRX or other small group classes in basic membership.


"We just can't afford it," she said.

The Westmount YMCA will also begin charging non-locals the full price for Aqua Arthritis.

As part of a partnership with the city of Westmount, all YMCA members were charged only \$5.95 per year for the program. However, with people from all over Montreal coming to the Westmount YMCA for the low rate, the program had become unsustainable, said Romero.

Westmount residents will still receive the same price, but those who live outside the city will no longer be subsidized by the city's grant.

— MM



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*Romero, cont'd. from p. 8*

staffed.

"I had staff here who were given 10 hours but they were ready to do 15. Now we can call NDG and say, 'If you have an extra five hours, I have a person here who you can trust.' Now they work five hours [in NDG] and 10 hours [in Westmount]. It's just better for both," she said.

In November, Romero and her staff crafted the Westmount YMCA's 2015 budget and met individually with every department to allow them to plead for their needs.

"2015 is our year, our budget, our projects," she said.

Despite the financial concerns, Romero is aiming big for next year as she settles into Westmount. On her to-do list is reaching out to and partnering with local community groups, the city and other YMCAs on initiatives to serve Westmount and potentially the surrounding areas.

Though the plan is in its infancy, Romero says she would like to reach out to local merchants to help drive the YMCA's 4,000 members into Westmount shops.

"I believe in buying locally and if we say, 'Become a Y member and you get something in return at the shops,' I think that could really drive traffic," she said.

## Non-profits at YMCA to pay rent

The Westmount YMCA will begin enforcing its rental rates for non-profit organizations after a review of its books revealed "four or five" had not been forced to pay in recent years, said director Cristina Romero.

Standard rental rates from \$27 to \$112 an hour, and non-profit organizations receive a 10-percent discount. Romero says she approached the organizations this summer about the issue and they are working on solutions that would allow rent to start being paid in January.

"Most of [the organizations] have agreed and told me that they understand," she said.

Romero claims that she has offered to work with all of the organizations to find provincial and federal grants they could qualify for.

—MM



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

## Kippen, Black hit the book circuit



Westmounter Bruce Kippen, right, took advantage of Conrad Black's University Club speech November 28 to exchange books with him. Black had just published *Rise to Greatness: The History of Canada from the Vikings to the Present*. Kippen had just published *Canada: A G8 Leader in the 21st Century*. Black's remarks echoed Kippen's theme: Canada is a G7 country that has accomplished much and whose history should be remembered as one of audacious accomplishment, not a rote list of politicians. Price-Patterson Ltd., which has a shareholder in common with the Independent's owner, Sherbrooke-Valois Inc., consulted on early drafts of Kippen's book.

Photo: Veronica Redgrave



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Winter assistance already required of Public Security

# Dec. 1 brings parking restrictions, need for preparation

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The start of December ushers in the city's annual winter parking restrictions

on most residential streets, Public Security officials warned last week. Residents are urged to check for signage that prohibits parking on one side of the street effective

Monday, December 1.

Drivers are also reminded when parking to watch for driveways whose snow-covered access ramps may be difficult to see and to pay special attention to snow removal signs. Last year, a number of tickets were issued for blocking driveways and parking in snow removal zones.

A number of calls to Public Security between November 18 and 23 also indicate the time has already come to winterize the home and cars, said department director Greg McBain.

These resulted in a second advisory to turn off water to exterior taps and sprinkler systems to prevent pipes from bursting through the freeze-thaw cycles.

It's also important at this time for pedestrians and cyclists to wear visible, light-coloured clothing during the early onset of afternoon rush-hour darkness and for bicycles to be equipped with lights, he said.

### Trio of broken pipes

In one of three water leaks, a "significant amount" of water was found spraying out of a broken hose connection at a house on de Maisonneuve at Prince Albert November 19 after an alert neighbour called the department at 6:18 pm. A resource

person was contacted.

On November 22 at 4:03 pm, water was found leaking down Arlington Lane from a broken pipe on the outside wall of a house at the back of Côte St. Antoine. Officers were unable to stop it but the department's dispatcher was eventually able to contact the resident.

In the third incident, a sprinkler pipe was discovered spraying water into a basement window well of a house on Strathcona. A new resident, still living in Dollard des Ormeaux, was contacted.

### Three broken-down cars

Broken-down cars requiring tow trucks occurred in front of 4846 Sherbrooke November 18 at 5:21 pm and the next day on Upper Bellevue at 3:51 pm. Drivers were sheltered in patrol vehicles. In the third case on November 22 at 3:57 pm, a car belonging to a Westmount resident broke down outside 4484 St. Catherine. Officers called a taxi to jump start the battery.

A resident of de Maisonneuve west of Lansdowne called Public Security for assistance November 21 at 7:57 pm when she plugged in a space heater blowing electricity to the entire house. Officers were unable to remedy the problem and an electrician was required.

## Talking outside leads to noise complaint

A verbal caution was given to a resident of Roslyn south of Sherbrooke November 21 when a teen party at his house generated a complaint of "kids talking" at 11:50 pm, Public Security officials said. Responding officers found two teens talking outside at the front and the annoyance to a neighbour was attributed to others going in and out.

## Garbage contractor gets costly jump-start

A ticket for \$269 was issued to a garbage contractor November 21 for collecting before the permitted 7 am start, according to Public Security officials. The truck was picking up at 6:17 am in the lane behind 220 Olivier. The same contractor was fined October 31 for the same offence behind St. Catherine St.

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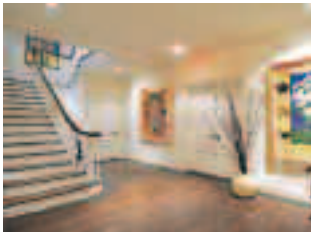
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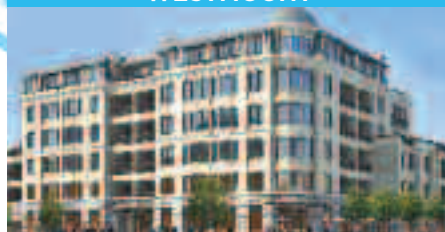
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*Bought & Sold – more real estate transfers in August 2014*

For transfers, please consult paper copy.

For Andy Dodge’s analysis, see p. 18.



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# Vacant Hillside armoury undergoing urgent repair to brick, mortar

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Repairs to the building envelope of the now vacant armoury are under way on Hillside to restore the bricks and mortar, according to city Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

While no permits for the work have appeared before council for approval, Poirier said the federal government has long maintained it doesn't need a permit to work on its own buildings. "They have good architects to monitor the work, and we are aware of the plans."

She said city inspectors have been to the site to remind them of the city's aesthetic requirements such as the type and size of the replacement material. The work, which began about three weeks ago,

is expected to be completed by Christmas, she said.

The armoury at 3 Hillside Lane across from the Westmount Athletic Grounds was home to the former 3 Field Engineers, the regiment that had been in Westmount 67 years and had been renamed 34 Combat Engineer Regiment. It moved last spring to Canadian Forces Base Longue Pointe in east-end Montreal.

The deterioration of the building was one of the reasons for its move, its commanding officer told the *Independent* at the time (see story April 1, p. 1). It required "a lot of work" to bring it up to fire code standards, he had said. Although brick work was undertaken in 2012, even more work was required.

The armoury's future has been uncertain. Now zoned residential, the property has vested rights only for its current usage as an armoury and cannot be occupied even by another branch of the government for other purposes such as office space, for example, Poirier said.

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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 October 6.

**556 Lansdowne:** to replace some windows;

**Vacant lot on Roslyn:** to build a new detached single family residence north of Sherbrooke;

**38 Surrey Gardens:** to build a two-storey extension and rear balcony and to carry out alterations to the front, modify some openings and replace windows and doors;

**105 Blenheim Place:** at a Category I house, to a build a rear desk;

**313 Elm:** at a Category I house, to replace some of the windows and doors and modify some openings;

**4328 Montrose:** to replace the entrance door;

**118 Arlington:** landscaping to include new planting beds, a terrace and back fence and new driveway pavers;

**4363 Montrose:** at a Category I house, to replace driveway retaining walls and install new ground cover;

**349 Grosvenor,** to replace some windows and a front balcony door;

**55 Columbia,** at a Category I house, to replace some windows and doors;

**4338 Montrose:** to replace some windows;

**4945 Sherbrooke:** to restore the storefront of "Mochico" and erect a new sign;

**10 Grenville:** landscaping at rear to include new driveway pavers;

**440 Lansdowne:** landscaping at rear to include a swimming pool and fence;

**50 Chesterfield:** at a Category I house, to create new side and rear openings, move a door and replace some windows;

**304 Grosvenor:** to rebuild front balconies and basement access;

**MUHC/CUSM:** landscaping for the emergency road off Glen Rd.;

**4259 St. Catherine:** to erect a sign for "Bacaro Pizzeria Urbaine";

**21 Gladstone/4110-4114 St Catherine:** to erect a back fence;

**4901 Sherbrooke:** to restore the storefront of "Scarpa" and erect a new sign;

**3223 Trafalgar:** to replace stone veneer;

**4960-4966 Sherbrooke:** modifications at

rear to include a new basement access;

**5 Grove Park:** to rebuild rear balconies;

**27 Willow:** to replace two storm doors;

**574 Grosvenor:** to replace a back door and the garage window.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting October 20.

**334 Côte St. Antoine:** at a Category I house, to replace the roofing material;

**78 Chesterfield:** to enclose the lower rear balcony;

**64 St. Sulpice:** at a Category I house, to build a passage between the house and detached garage, replace doors and windows and modify some openings;

**783 Upper Lansdowne:** to build a one-storey extension at the side;

**85 Church Hill:** at a Category 1\* house, landscaping to include construction of new balcony in the rear yard (see story May 20, p. 7);

**444 Prince Albert:** to remove back steps to lower the door, create a new opening and replace the patio door;

**3733 The Boulevard:** at a Category I house, to replace basement windows;

**8 Grenville:** landscaping at front and rear to include new driveway pavers;

**3117 St. Antoine:** to demolish the accessory garage and build a new one;

**373 Prince Albert:** to replace the front doors;

**566 Lansdowne:** to replace some windows and doors;

**331 Prince Albert:** at a Category I house, to replace the main door and some windows;

**5025 Sherbrooke:** at the Westmount Medical building, to erect two signs for "Uniprix";

**4927 Sherbrooke:** at a Category I building, landscaping at rear to include a new terrace and add some planting areas provided a 6-foot is planted along the rear property lines to screen the parking area;

**453 Mount Stephen:** to replace the windows of the detached garage;

**441 Lansdowne:** to rebuild the front porch;

**50 Chesterfield:** at a Category I house, to build a rear deck;

**10 Weredale Park:** to replace some windows and balcony doors;

**14 Willow:** to replace doors and windows;

**715 Upper Roslyn:** to modify rear openings;

**600 Grosvenor:** to replace some windows;

**464 Claremont:** to replace the roof veneer of the front balcony;

**374 Victoria:** to erect a sign for "Lavanderia";

**308 Grosvenor:** landscaping at rear to include a new terrace;

**428 Lansdowne:** to replace the windows;

**463 Mount Stephen:** to replace some windows;

**66 St. Sulpice:** at a Category I house, to replace doors and windows and create new openings.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting November 3.

**10 Braeside Place:** to build a double garage and roof terrace attached to the house at the rear;

**41 Prospect:** at a Category I house, to replace some windows;

**4328 Montrose:** to replace some win-

dows;

**4265 St. Catherine:** to replace some windows;

**3227-3233 St. Antoine:** to replace the rear doors;

**8 Chesterfield:** to replace some windows;

**720 Victoria:** to replace sunroom windows;

**445 Elm:** at a Category I house, to replace some windows and the balcony door at front;

**425 Elm:** at a Category I house, to rebuild a rear deck;

**456 Argyle:** at a Category I house, to replace some windows and a back door;

**21 Oakland:** to enlarge a side window opening;

**4842 St. Catherine:** to replace the front door.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting November 17.

**332 Metcalfe:** at a Category I house, re-landscaping to include a new stone terrace at the side, planting areas and a pond, introduce a new parking area at the back;

**31 Roxborough:** landscaping to include a new swimming pool and an accessory building in the rear yard;

**4895 Sherbrooke:** to install two signs for "Lululemon Athletica";

**27 Rosemount:** at a Category I house, to repair roof, vestibule and entry door, build an oriole window, and enlarge patio door and proceed to remove a storage area and block basement entrance;

**12 Grenville:** to replace windows and the kitchen door;

**660 Grosvenor:** to replace some of the basement windows;

**629 Belmont:** to block a *continued on p. 20*

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# August transfers: Below valuation

By Andy Dodge, CRA

*The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in August 2014, gleaned from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.*

Most Westmount home sales registered in August this year were below evaluation, and the average mark-up dipped under par for the fourth time this year. The “typical” Westmount house is selling now for just over \$1,500,000, a mark around which the value has been hovering since the late spring of 2012.

Highest price and biggest mark-down were shared by the lovely stone house at 10 Braeside Place, near the top of that street, which has been on and off the market since at least 2010. The \$2,750,000 price was closely followed by 60 Summit Circle, which, at \$2,700,000, sold for less than 90 percent of its valuation. One other sale barely topped the \$2-million mark at 64 Aberdeen Ave., which was actually more than municipal tax value.

Lowest price in August went for 51 Hal-lowell St., \$610,000 which, again, was less than the valuation, one of five houses out of 18 that sold for less than \$1 million. And while Braeside recorded the biggest mark-down, the highest mark-up went to 464 Mount Stephen Ave., which sold for

\$1,740,000 from a numbered company controlled by Andrew Kerklaan, who bought it last December for \$980,000.

With 12 of the 18 single-family homes selling under valuation, the average was 97.3 percent, though ratios were actually lower in February, April and May. For the year, the average mark-up (through August) is 0.5 percent, meaning (statistically) that prices are just about the same as they would have been in July 2012, the date which is supposed to be represented by the 2014 municipal valuation roll.

### Condos had same ratios

Condominiums had about the same ratios, except for the huge mark-up for one of the penthouses at 1 Wood Ave., as Apt. 2201 (or Penthouse 1) changed hands for \$4,895,000, some 78 percent higher than its \$2,744,500 valuation, even after the garage spaces have been counted in.

Aside from that one, two of the new units at 11 Hillside Ave. sold for less than valuation, a made-over (and tastefully at-tired) triplex unit at 227 Clarke Ave. changed hands at exactly the city tax value, and one other at 285 Clarke, corner de Maisonneuve Blvd., was a five-percent mark-up.

The high price and high mark-up at 1 Wood Ave. distort the statistics for condo-



10 Braeside Pl. photographed November 28.

miniums, which had been selling below valuation for each of the first two quarters this year, but the figure for the third quarter (including three condos in July – and with September still to come) jumped to 22.6 percent, pulling the average for the

year to almost a 10 percent mark-up. One co-op unit in the duplex at the corner of Elm Ave. and de Maisonneuve, which had been on the market since 2012, sold for \$765,000, the sixth co-op sale (so far) in 2014 and by far the highest price.

For transfers, please consult paper copy.

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## Estate sale sign removed

A sandwich board advertising an estate sale was removed from the sidewalk at the southwest corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria at 3 pm, November 23, a Sunday, Public Security officials said. The sign was “taken back” to the site of the sale on Edg-hill and a resident of the house was warned against placing an unauthorized sign on city property.

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

Personal

Mature gay guy in NDG would like to meet other guys for friendship or possible relationship. Robert: 514.481.2931.



# ON THE SHELVES

Among the new arrivals at the Library singled out by staff are:

## **Magazines**

“Les clés pour vieillir jeune” par Marine Corniou dans *Québec Science*, Novembre 2014, p. 26. Les ressorts du vieillissement sont de mieux en mieux compris.

“And when I die” by Wayne Sumner in *The Walrus*, November 2014, p. 19. The pro-life case for assisted suicide.

“Mind of the meditator: Neuroscience has demonstrated that meditation has tangible and significant benefits for both body and mind” by Mathhieu Ricard, Antoine Lutz and Richard Davidson in *Scientific American*, November 21, p. 38.

## **E-books – GG’s literary award winners**

*The Back of the Turtle* by Thomas King – Returning to Smoke River, scientist Gabriel Quinn plans to drown himself after a chemical he was developing inadvertently creates an environmental disaster in which the town’s population is killed, including his mother and sister. His plan is diverted when he encounters the few remaining residents, mysterious and unsettling characters who seem to occupy a space between reality and fantasy.

*The End of Absence: Reclaiming What We’ve Lost in a World of Constant Connection* by Michael Harris – In this thought-provoking book, Toronto journalist Harris examines the many aspects of contemporary life that have been quickly transformed by our constant digital engagement with the internet, smartphones, and social media. He argues that our greatest loss has been that of absence itself – of silence, wonder and solitude.

## **French e-books award winners**

*Bain de lune* by Yanick Lahens – This Femina award-winner is a family saga set in Haiti. The Lafleurs are peasants and the

Messidors are the masters of Pointe Bleue. The two families hate each other but when Tertulien Messidor meets Olmène, the grand-daughter of a Lafleur, they cannot help but feel attracted to one another.

*Pas pleurer* by Lydie Salvayre – In this Goncourt winner, two characters evoke the memory of the Spanish Civil War. The first one is George Bernanos, a direct witness, who denounces the nationalists’ and the church’s terror. The second one is Montse, the narrator’s mother, who only remembers the elation of the insurrection.

## **Adult English – Sequels...**

*The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy* by Rachel Joyce – When Queenie Hennessy discovers that Harold Fry is walking the length of England to save her and all she has to do is wait, she is shocked. Her note had explained she was dying. How can she wait? (The sequel to *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*.)

*The Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books* by Azar Nafisi – In this exhilarating follow-up to *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Nafisi has written the book her fans have been waiting for: An impassioned, beguiling and utterly original tribute to the vital importance of fiction in a democratic society.

## **Adult French – The animal kingdom**

*Le chagrin des animaux* by Barbara J. King – Anthropologist King brings to our attention the suffering that animals can experience when faced with sickness and death. She tells, through different real-life situations, the stories of animals bereaved due to the loss of their close ones.

*Des bonobos et des hommes: voyage au coeur du Congo* by Deni Bécharde – Part travelogue, part philosophical essay, this book describes the work of conservationists in the African Great Lakes region. Their goal is to save the equatorial forest

# Scaredy drops by library



The character Scaredy Squirrel from Montreal author/illustrator Mélanie Watt's books for children dropped by for a special event at the Westmount Public Library November 29. About 90 children and parents were in attendance. The giant “squirrel” and the staff from the children's library entertained the audience with stories, songs and crafts. According to its head Wendy Wayling, Scaredy was made an honorary member of the children's library that day.

Photo courtesy of the Westmount Public Library

from destruction and to protect the great apes.

## **DVDs**

*37 days* – This political thriller follows the chain of events leading up to World War I, from the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914 to Britain’s declaration of war on Germany 37 days later. This tense and gripping mini-series set amongst the corridors of power in Whitehall and Berlin tracks the unfolding crisis through the eyes of leading politicians and civil servants struggling to prevent the world’s first global war.

*Stay* – A romantic heartbreaker set on the Emerald Isle, Abbey and Dermot are a couple struggling to find their way in life. After retreating to the rugged expanse of the Irish countryside, their happy existence is upended when Abbey discovers

she’s pregnant. Dermot, much older and battling the ghosts of his past, has no interest in being a father. Abbey flees home to Montreal, seeking to understand the wreckage of her own family by visiting her alcoholic father.

## **Cooking with Kids**

*Starting from Scratch: What You Should Know about Food and Cooking* by Sarah Elton – This is a book that gives children great advice on why they should learn to cook at a young age.

*Let petits gateaux* by Pierre-Olivier Lenormand – Easy step-by-step dessert recipes that children can make from scratch.

## **Reference**

*2015 Literary Market Place*

*Restos Montréal 2015: les petites et grandes tables de la métropole et des environs* by Marie-Claude Lortie.

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- 2 red section 120 row O – Canadiens vs NY Islanders – Jan. 17
- Dreadnought acoustic guitar
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- MFE performance under garments
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- Wheeled hockey bags
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# Meo is Mr. Personality



*9 Lives*

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Meo is an expressive young fellow. He is focused on you and, first thing you know, you are reading his mind or he is reading yours! This handsome white domestic shorthair with a grey striped hat

and vest has the sweetest face with his huge gold eyes and pink nose.

Meo is very affectionate with people and gets along quite well with other cats. He is two years old now, very healthy and neutered. He is declawed on his four paws, which makes him an indoor-only cat.

Meo is in a foster home for the SPCA Montréal. Please feel free to contact Meo's foster family at ann.perrier@rbc.com for further information on him. He is ready for a permanent home now and he would fit in

beautifully in a family in our neighborhood.

*Your neighbour,  
Lysanne*



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

million.

And because Westmount's payment accounts for slightly more than half of the city's overall budget, it would appear that taxpayers could be headed for an overall tax hike of 3 percent or less, the limit the city council set for local services (excluding capital works). The city expects to present the new tax rates and budget Monday, December 15.

While unwilling to predict an exact amount of tax increase at this point, Trent said he was pleased the rise in Westmount's aggro portion was "not even" the 2 percent projected rate of inflation.

"It's important to bear in mind," he said, "that we're still suffering from the 21.5 percent aggro increases between 2009 and 2012."

Trent, who is vice chair of the Montreal/agglo Finance and Administration committee as well as ASM president, said one highlight of the aggro budget was the impact made by cuts in Montreal employee positions (410) and pension costs, which contribute to a large portion of agglomeration expenses borne by the demerged cities.

Based on improved pension fund investment returns and anticipated Bill 3

changes, savings in this area are projected for 2015 at \$1 million, in about equal amounts, he said.

It is unusual for Montreal's increase to exceed that of the demerged municipalities as it is under the 2015 aggro budget of \$2.2 billion. Trent attributes this to disproportionate increases in Montreal's property valuation roll (on which apportionments are based) and the way the big city will be affected by the province's cuts in transfer payments.

While he had not received any information as to why Westmount's increase in the aggro share is proportionally higher than the average for the demerged cities, "there is a suspicion it may be a mistake," he said.

On the other hand, "it could be because we had more building activity such as the 1250 Greene project." Completion of the Westmount recreation centre did not add to the city's taxable roll because it is a municipal building, he explained.

While the range in increases within the demerged municipalities was wide – 2.1 percent for Montreal West and 0.5 for Hampstead, for example – "they vary from year to year depending on when construction projects come on the roll."

*Permits, cont'd. from p. 17*

window opening, reduce size of another opening at the side and install a new window;

**47 Holton:** to replace kitchen door and window;

**316A Kensington:** to replace some windows;

**321 Melville:** to replace windows and doors;

**57 De Lavigne:** to replace the front door and enlarge an opening at the rear;

**345 Roslyn:** to replace the entrance door;

**22 Chesterfield:** to replace some of the

windows;

**1357 Greene:** to erect two signs for "Sox Box";

**1357 Greene:** to erect a sign for "Kathryn Osborne" at second floor level;

**1359 Greene:** to erect a sign for "Elite Laser" at second floor level;

**1361 Greene:** to erect a sign for "Gloria Bass" at second floor level;

**59 Belvedere Rd.:** to create a new opening on the south façade;

**3180 The Boulevard:** at a Category I house, to replace some windows and a basement door.



# Mayors, medals at RMR gala



## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On a chilly November 1, The Royal Montreal Regiment (RMR) in Westmount held its Centennial Gala Ball. The elegantly attired crowd was greeted on the red carpet by smartly dressed sentries from the RMR's two surviving founding units: The Canadian Grenadier Guards and Les Fusiliers de Mont Royal.

The RMR was the first regiment of the British Empire to be awarded its colours on foreign conquered soil and has earned numerous battle honours, most recently for Afghanistan.

Master-Corporal **Loic Parnell** introduced the guest of honour for the evening: the RMR's Unknown Soldier.

Global TV's **Jamie Orchard** was emcee, there with **Travis Todd**, promotions manager. Noted were Montreal mayor **Denis Coderre** and **Chantale Renaud** and Hampstead mayor **William Steinberg** and **Doris**

**Staniszewski.**

Honorary gala patrons were Westmount mayor **Peter Trent**, former RMR honorary colonel, there with his wife **Kathy**; and Westmounters **Guy Laframboise**, president, Les Restaurants Subway Québec Ltée., with his wife **Vanessa**; **Andrew Molson**, honorary colonel, RMR,



*Richard Pound.*



*From left: Montreal mayor Denis Coderre, Chantale Renaud, Westmount mayor Peter Trent, Doris Staniszewski and Hampstead mayor William Steinberg.*

with **Helen Antoniou**; as well as **David Nathaniel**, CEO of Standard Products Inc., with his wife **Carole**.

Governor General **David Johnston** sent his message via video, as did the always-amusing **Rick Mercer**. Commanding officer Lieutenant-Colonel **Paul Langlais**, invited Molson and **Christopher Sweeney**,

president of the Vimy Foundation, to join him in announcing a project to convert a large portion of the armory into a museum/education centre dedicated to telling the story of the Great War.

Molson informed the audience that the RMR Foundation is putting together a fundrais- *continued on p. 22*

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From left: Andrew Molson, Helene Antoniou and Jacques Girardin.



Gail Johnson, left, and Richard Gervais.

ing campaign to support the project.

Westmounters noted at the black tie evening included **John Kalaydjian**, **Gail and Peter Johnson**, **Nicole Forbes**, **Robert Johnson**, **Richard Gervais** and **Richard Pound**, honorary colonel of the Grenadier Guards. Also noted were **Marc Garneau**, MP Westmount-Ville Marie; former Westmounters **Maya and Peter Blaikie**; **Jacques Chagnon**, provincial legislator for Westmount-St. Louis and president of the provincial legislature; **Dave Hart**, honorary colonel, 34 Signals Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel **Iain Hallam**, commanding officer, 4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment; Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) **Jacques Girardin** and Lieutenant-Colonel **David O’Kelly**, secretary, Yorkshire Regiment Association.



From left: John Kalaydjian, Vanessa Laframboise, Robert Johnson and Guy Laframboise.



From left: Nicole Forbes, Tom and Rosalind Davis, and Kathy Trent.

sociation.

The evening was ably orchestrated by honorary Lieutenant-Colonel **Colin Robinson**, a former RMR commanding officer.

There was a poignancy amidst the pop-

pies: the Canadian flag flew at half mast honouring Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, killed in St. Jean, and buried the same day as the gala.



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**321 Av. Kensington \$2,195,000**  
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NEW

## WESTMOUNT

**451 Mountain \$1,495,000**  
Beautiful historical 2 bdr home designed by Scott Yetman. Perfect Downsize home. MLS 19256838



NEW

OFFER ACCEPTED

## WESTMOUNT

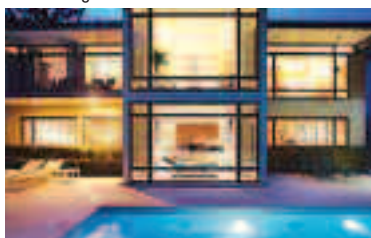
**3174 The Boulevard \$1,149,000**  
Beautiful, classic semi, 5 bdr, designed by the architect Percy Nobbs. Large rooms, 2 large verandas, indoor garage. MLS 27616328



NEW

## NUN'S ISLAND

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



## WESTMOUNT

**76 Summit Crescent \$3,800,000**  
Unique contemporary beauty with fabulous design! MLS 21226838



## WESTMOUNT

**627 Clarke Avenue \$3,395,000**  
Contemporary with stunning views! MLS 26285951



## WESTMOUNT ADJ

**3066 Trafalgar \$2,975,000**  
Stunning home with views from large decks in great location with a pool! MLS 10545075



## WESTMOUNT

**490 Argyle \$1,195,000**  
Charming semi with tons of potential! MLS 24526789



## DOWNTOWN

**23 Redpath Place \$1,185,000**  
Fabulous townhouse near Museum of one arts MLS 20036668



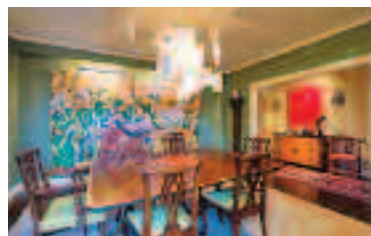
## BEAVER LAKE AREA

**2721 Hill Park Circle \$1,025,000**  
Lovely 3 bedroom townhouse on the Mountain MLS 10035953



## ATWATER MARKET AREA

**70 Rose de Lima \$998,000**  
Magnificent contemporary detached with garage and rooftop MLS 15293655



## DOWNTOWN

**1700 Dr Penfield, Apt 25 \$650,000**  
Beautiful 1900+ SF condo with garage. GREAT OPPORTUNITY! MLS 15492409



## NUN'S ISLAND

**Verrières V 19th floor \$645,000**  
Magnificent large 2 bdr + den, astonishing river views, salt water pools, tennis, 24hr sec, MLS 22935690



## LE PLATEAU

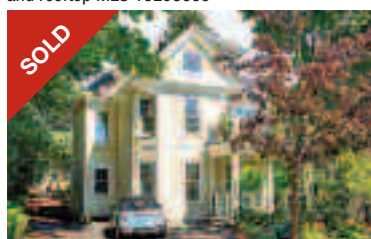
**3987 Rue Mentana \$539,000**  
Unique, renovated 1300 SF 2 Bdr condo, Steps to Park Lafontaine w/large deck & prkg (1) MLS 12686072



OFFER ACCEPTED

## TMR

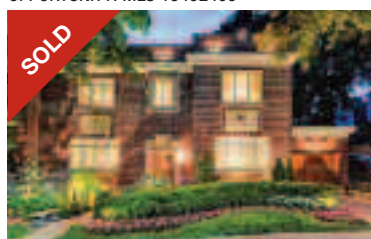
**1190 Kenilworth \$2,395,000**  
Magnificent contemporary on 12,000 sf of land MLS 23906134



SOLD

## WESTMOUNT

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



SOLD

## WESTMOUNT

**103 Sunnyside \$1,495,000**  
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SOLD

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