WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 8 No. 2a We are Westmount February 4, 2014

\$3 million from surplus used to balance new budget

Taxes climb 3.4% as rec centre portion kicks in

By Laureen Sweeney

A general increase of 3.4 percent in Westmount property taxes was adopted by city council as part of the city's 2014 budget presented January 27. This includes a 1.8-percent impact for financing of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) and 1.6 percent for local and island-wide agglomeration expenses.

The overall result translates into an increase of \$398 in the tax bill of the average single-family dwelling, of which \$226 relates to the WRC portion, according to calculations by Mayor Peter Trent. This amount is kicking in for the first time.

As a result, the total tax bill for the average single-family dwelling will rise 3.3

percent to \$12,421, said Councillor Victor Drury, Finance commissioner, in presenting the budget to a handful of residents in the audience.

This average dwelling is now evaluated for tax purposes at \$1,319,159. Owners of single-family dwellings pay more than half of all property taxes collected by the city.

The overall operating budget adopted at \$95 million actually provides for \$98 million of spending, but is offset by an appropriation of \$3.3 million from the city's accumulated surplus to help reduce the tax burden. The net amount of the budget is 3.5 percent higher than the equivalent one last year.

To help boost non-tax revenues, Drury announc- continued on p. 10

Burglars break walls to steal \$150k of valuables from Artgold



Thieves went through a mitoyen and an interior wall January 30 to steal small, valuable items from Sherbrooke St.'s Artgold antique and jewellery shop. The first estimate puts the value of the items at a minimum of \$150,000. See p. 8 and 9 for our re-creation of the crime.

Photo: Robert J. Galbraith.

Letters, *p.* 6 **9 Lives,** *p.* 20

Social Notes, p. 28



Message: 'You're not alone'

Public Security reaches out to seniors with new safety program

By Laureen Sweeney

A new Public Security program to develop a special liaison with seniors in Westmount is unfolding after several months in the planning. Targetting all seniors and related community groups, it is designed to reach out, in particular to those with special needs for assistance.

Called "Security and Aging," the program began last week when public safety officer Sabrina Tremblay worked with Meals on Wheels personnel at Centre

Greene January 24, visiting 15 recipients and distributing information booklets outlining the program and listing safety information and resources.

"We want to reach people living on their own," said assistant Public Security director Greg McBain, adding that in Westmount, 31 percent of residents – more than 6,200 people – are age 60 and over.

Don't Miss It:

Westmount's winter carnival, February 6 to 8. See p. 7 for a preview.



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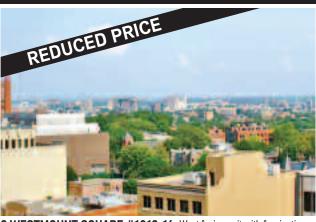








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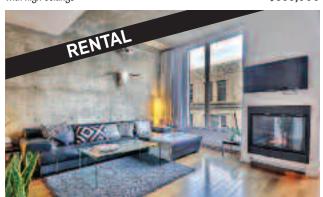
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Birks, Hall lead fundraiser for Montreal Oral School



Ilayda Hall, left, and Sophie Birks, holding the cheque, co-founded the Helping Circle at Miss Edgar's and Miss Cramp's School, which raised \$3,100 for the Montreal Oral School for the Deaf. Randee Melnick, an MOSD preschool teacher, points to the amount.

BY MARTIN C. BARRY

The Montreal Oral School for the Deaf received a belated Christmas gift last week from a group of grade two students at Miss Edgar's and Cramp's School who were encouraged to raise money by a grateful MOSD graduate.

Sophie Birks attended the MOSD for a

few years after being diagnosed with hearing loss when she was three years old. With help she received at the MOSD, her parents, Jeniene and Randall Birks, say she's now thriving at ECS.

Sophie and her best friend, Ilayda Hall, created a kids' workshop to make crafts to raise money to help children with hearing loss at the MOSD. They managed to rally

their whole class to join their Helping Circle before the recent Christmas holidays.

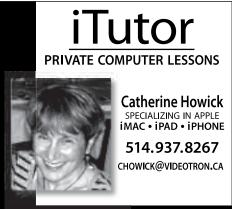
In just a few short weeks, the group of 21 girls raised more than \$3,100 by selling sets of homemade greeting cards and bracelets to neighbours, family and friends. The money will be used to purchase educational supplies for the MOSD pre-school.

Huge cheque

On January 28, the entire class made a field trip to the MOSD on St. Catherine St. to present an over-sized homemade greeting card and an equally huge cheque to the MOSD pre-school class and teachers. The Helping Circle members were then invited to participate in a music and story time activity with the pre-schoolers.

"This is a phenomenal thing," said Geoff Warren, president of the MOSD board of directors, commenting on Birks' and Hall's fundraising leadership. "For a child who's been involved as a pupil at the MOSD to go out and take the initiative to do this is incredible. We wish that all members of society would take this kind of responsibility. It's an example of what an individual can be."





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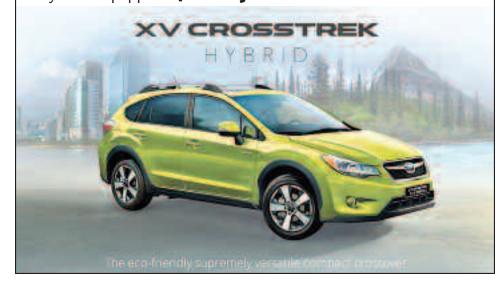
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Mulder takes on tobacco, wants more restrictions

Westmount resident Dr. David Mulder marked the end of Quebec's Tobacco-Free Week with a press conference calling for strengthening Quebec's Tobacco Act, including banning flavoured tobacco (e.g. menthol), slim cigarettes, smoking in cars when children are present and on restaurant and bar patios.

He would also have the government mandate standardized packaging and bring "e-cigarettes" under the purview of the Tobacco Act.

He was presenting this message with Dr. Dick Menzies, director of the Respira-





From left, cancer survivors Barbara Kane and Micheline Bélanger watch Dr David Mulder, who treated Bélanger, and Dr. Dick Menzies sign a letter to the minister of Health.

Photo courtesy of the Quebec Coalition for Tobacco Control.

Those courses, or the quesce common for rosacco control.

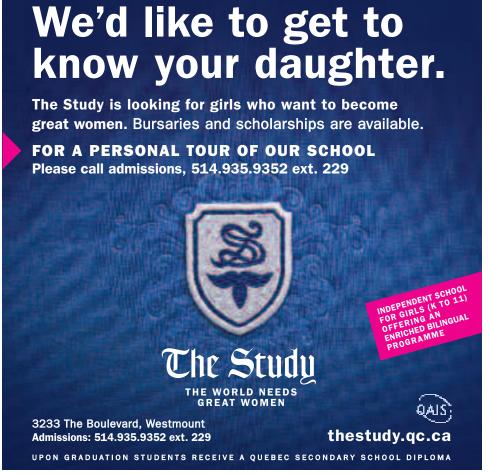
tory Division at the MUHC, and the Quebec Coalition for Tobacco Control.

Mulder is the senior thoracic surgeon at the Montreal General Hospital and shared his perspective on the damage caused by smoking, "My colleagues and I are discouraged with having to deliver the devastating news of lung cancer to distraught patients and their families. This diagnosis is fatal in 85 percent of these patients who, without their addiction to this unnecessary product, could otherwise go on to live a long and healthy life."

Garbage ignited twice in one day

Firefighters were called out twice on January 25 for fires in the same garbage container in the Tupper lane behind 4004-4020 St. Catherine, just west of Atwater, Public Security officials said. The first one was reported at 1:58 am. Public safety officers used a fire extinguisher to start dousing it until the arrival of fire trucks six minutes later. At 7:41 pm, the same complainant called to report the second outbreak. No cause was reported, but officials said a smoker might have been flicking cigarette butts into the container.





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOLDEN MAYBE, BUT NOT IN NAME

A message to real estate brokers: in the past, the phrase "Golden Square Mile" was never used. Montrealers of that time simply referred to this area as "the Square Mile" as a means of indicating this part of the city.

ARNOLD SHARP, SEVERN AVE.

MUHC SHOULD BUILD A CLINIC COMPLEX

Victoria village residents and merchants are right to be concerned by the impact an influx of doctors' offices and patients would have on the character, commerce and parking of the neighbourhood.

It seems to me a far better solution would be for the MUHC to build a medical office complex on the super-hospital campus and rent out the space to doctors, specialist clinics and test centres.

Whatever "cons" there might be, I'm pretty sure they would be outweighed by the "pros."

It would centralize all the service providers in one place, close to each other, the Metro, road access from the south and the hospital's parking lot. This would benefit both professionals and the patients, relieve the pressure on Victoria village and generate revenue for the MUHC.

MATTHEW COPE, SOMERVILLE AVE.

NEW CHARTER, OLD TRICKS

The polls are now claiming that as public discussion of our proposed Charter of Values proceeds and government hearings are held, Pauline Marois's PQ team has climbed into a majority position.

Here in *la belle province*, the manipulation of ethnic friction and xenophobia for political advantage is not new. In 1943, Union Nationale chief Maurice Duplessis, voted out of office in 1939, claimed that the federal and provincial Liberals, allegedly in cahoots with the so-called "International Zionist Brotherhood" were planning to import 100,000 Jewish refugees to Québec.

The following year, the Union Nationale was returned to office.

DAVID LEVY, DE MAISONNEUVE

ORANGES FOR WESTMOUNT

One well-known British tradition is the placing of either an orange or a lump of coal at the bottom of Christmas stockings, to signify whether recipients have been good (or not).

This year, I would like to give oranges to Mavis Young, Mike Hunter from Public Works, the Westmount recreation centre staff and Councillor Samiotis.

Mavis Young has inspired an energetic and varied group of Westmount citizens who recognize her passion. We often hear it is most important how one plays the game. It is obvious that her team, by promoting constructive and positive change, wishes to leave the city of Westmount in better shape than they found it. Getting to know Mavis, I could tell that she possesses a profound understanding of what is right and a deep concern for the well-being of families. People like Mavis will always have your back in difficult situations. Oranges all around.

On Christmas Eve, a snow-clearing crew left two feet of packed snow on our side of the street. I told Mike Hunter about the problem at 9:30 am. He assured me that the menacing and neglected pile of snow would be gone by noon. Keeping his word, by 11:30 am, the large volume of snow had been removed. The Public Works crews do a tough and potentially dangerous job in harsh conditions. For Mike Hunter's quick response to the prob-

lem, a stocking full of oranges.

Whilst driving along Dorchester Blvd. after the municipal election, I noticed that the election poster of Councillor Samiotis had some additional markings. I thought this was graffiti. On closer inspection, I was amazed to see that the words "thankyou" had been added to all of her posters. Quite a few people noticed it and had very positive comments about the gesture.

The staff at the new recreation centre deserves oranges for their polite help and directions. Over the Christmas holidays, there were many moments when we had the Molson rink practically all to ourselves with great ice. The extra practice certainly has given the kids greater confidence on and post-holiday weight is melting away!

Bring on summer and the pool.

Nigel Goddard, Irvine Ave.

Arena metering to be piloted, higher rates to hit Greene

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two potentially controversial items were listed as highlights in the city's budget speech presented January 27 in the search for additional non-tax revenue.

One is an extension of higher parking meter rates in the southeast district to include Greene Ave.

The other is a plan to introduce "new technology" metering, starting with a pilot project at the parking lot of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC). Metering of the arena lot has been requested over the past few months by the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA).

As well, the city plans to create more metered parking spaces, all in the expec-

tation of increasing revenues by \$200,000 this year.

The increase in meter rates in the southeast commercial sector to \$3 an hour began two years ago in the area closest to Montreal. Now the plan is to extend this rate west of Wood Ave. as far as Clarke, explained Councillor Victor Drury, Finance commissioner.

Making special mention of Greene, he pointed out that the city had made "significant investments" in the street last year "and in 2011."

The plan for metered parking at the WRC will involve the installation of the pay station approach in use in downtown Montreal, Drury explained. These are planned for installation in the spring.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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Chief reporter: Laureen Sweeney

Letters & Comments:

We welcome your letters but reserve the right to choose and edit them. Please limit to 300 words and submit before Friday 10 am to be considered for publication the following week. Please check your letter carefully as we may be unable to make subsequently submitted changes. E-mail any letter or comments to indie@westmountindependent.com.

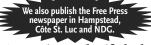
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widen this number as they encounter others.

While off duty, PSO Tremblay had already volunteered at the Contactivity seniors' centre and taken a course on making presentations to seniors and on elder abuse, McBain said. This gave her the idea for the Public Security program. She is helping to develop it and training colleagues.

Officers will be making safety presentations and will hand out the new bilingual

booklet. The program is aiming to assure seniors that Public Security will be there

to help them, he said, noting the catch line on the booklet's cover: "You're not alone."

Among the topics the booklet deals with are elder abuse (financial, physical, psychological or neglect) and resources such as local police Station 12 and those offering social, health and psychological help. These include listening lines and a special fire safety program run by the Montreal fire department to help firefighters locate and assist individuals with reduced mobility during an emergency.

The booklet is expected to be available at city and other municipal build-

ings.

Grader loses wheel on Claremont



A snow-removal grader working in NDG lost a rear wheel when the axle cracked January 27 on Claremont north of Sherbrooke, Public Security officials said. Given its size, repairs had to be done on site, blocking the southbound lane for more than two hours.

The wheel broke off during an attempted U-turn at noon. No-parking signs were placed on the east side of the street so that lane could be used for traffic in both directions and public safety officers left the area at 2:36 pm.– LS Photo: Robert J. Galbraith.

Winter carnival to be held outside at Westmount Park rink

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

More changes are under way this year for Westmount's winter carnival with Saturday's traditional activities taking place for the first time around the outdoor rink near the comfort station in Westmount Park.

"We're actually feeding off last year's success when we had to do everything outdoors at the Westmount Athletic Grounds," explained Dave Lapointe, assistant director, Sports and Recreation. "It was hugely successful. It all depends on the weather."

In the event of a major storm, the new recreation centre will be used as a back-up. But it was felt in general, he said, that it would be too impractical to have people moving in and out to attend the different activities, which was easier in the past given the layout of the old arena at ground level. The arena will be open for general skating from 10 am to 4 pm, however.

Among the events at Westmount Park's outdoor rink will be a puck shooting contest, sugar shack, tug of war and hot dogs.

The horse-drawn sleigh rides will move from Melville field to take a winding path through the park, Lapointe said. Another innovation is a scavenger hunt in the park for kids that starts off the day at 10 am.

It's hoped this year if enough snow is received in time that city crews will be able to build up a small toboggan run, the only attraction destined for the Melville field. Last year's run at the athletic grounds had to be cancelled when the run became too icy, he recalled.

The only scheduled indoor activity that day is also something new: A play at 2 pm at Victoria Hall, Lysistrata by Aristophanes, presented by the McGill classics department in collaboration with the city's Community Events department.

The three-day carnival kicks off this Thursday, February 6, with the customary seniors' lunch at Contactivity Centre in Westmount Park Church. Friday's event is a Sochi Olympics-themed evening party at Victoria Hall, 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Tickets (\$12, \$6 for children under 12) may be purchased during regular business hours at Victoria Hall.



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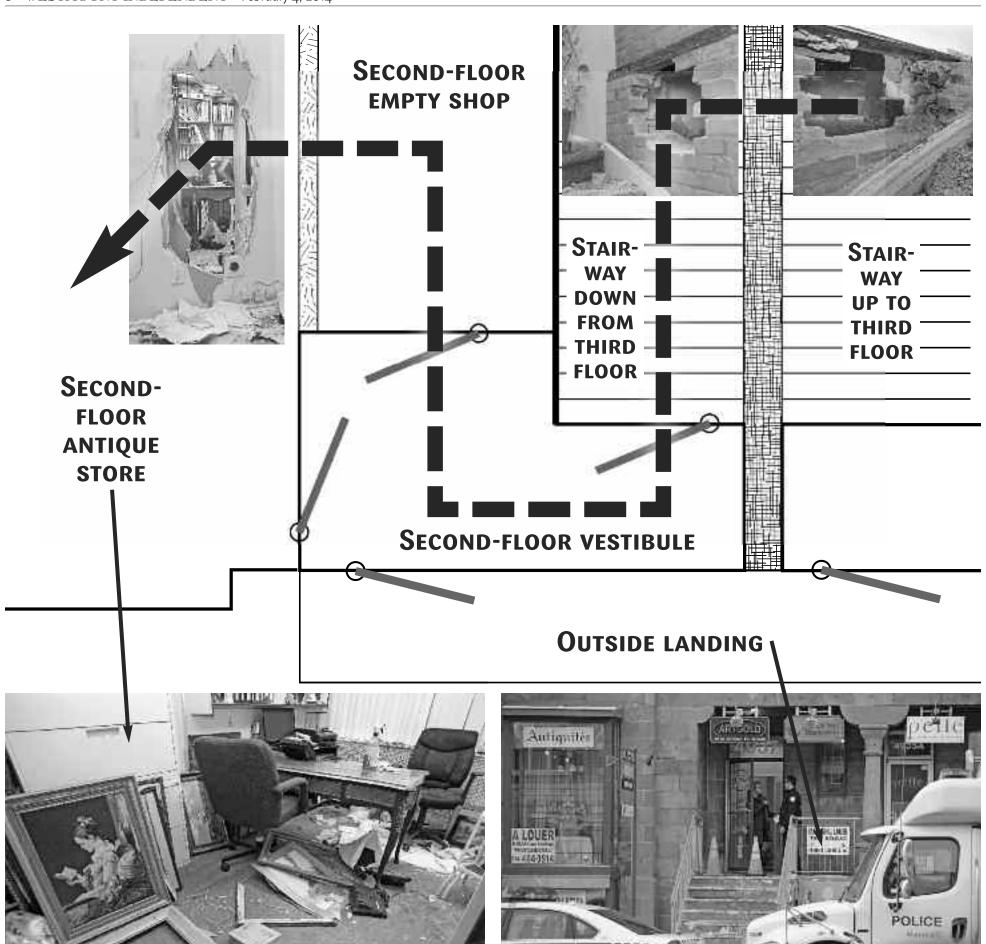


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Burglary at Artgold, first estimate: more than \$150k of valuables taken

Thieves break through two walls, into four shops

PHOTOS AND STORY BY ROBERT I. GALBRAITH.

Montreal police are disclosing very little concerning what is undoubtedly one of largest heists ever committed at a business in Westmount.

Details are scant, but the crime occurred in the early morning hours of January 30 at Artgold Fine Art Dealers, located at 4937 Sherbrooke St., near Claremont. At least \$150,000 in fine jewellery and antiques was stolen from the wellknown shop, which has been a fixture in the neighbourhood for over 30 years.

The burglars gained access to the store by breaking through the walls of two neighbouring ones.

Step 1: Pelle

"They came in through the former Pelle Skin Care Centre (at 4935 Sherbrooke), which is now vacant," explained Orna Villazan, co-owner of the third-floor Harmony Health Centre, as she cleaned up the rubble that was strewn all over her staircase. The wall between the former Pelle location and the health centre is a 20inch, three-layer "mitoven" wall, which the marred its inside and outside wall. thieves disassembled brick by brick to make an access hole.

Step 2: Harmony Health

"They ransacked here and looked around, but didn't steal anything. They left our computer, which was openly sitting on one of our desks. They then proceeded to cut all the cables of the alarm system. We were just a means to get to the antique store. They were very professional. They knew what they were doing."

The box containing the alarm system of the naturopathic centre lay dismembered on the office floor, with its severed wires jutting out a few inches from its casing. "Somehow, they by-passed the motion detectors," she continued.

After the police had left, the centre's office resembled a television crime scene, with black fingerprint dust covering the face of a large filing cabinet where the thieves pried open the drawers, hoping to find valuables. Papers littered the floor of another office. Dangling wires hung in a small office where the security system had been located. Black fingerprint dust

Step 3: Empty shop

After leaving the centre, it seems that the thieves went downstairs to the second floor of the building, entered an empty second-floor shop and broke through an interior sheetrock wall to get into Artgold.

Step 4: The objective

At the antiques dealer, there were two security systems. Apparently one was triggered, but the back-up system did not go off, making the first one seem like a false alarm.

"They caused a huge amount of damage and brought in specialized equipment to break through the walls. Then they took a large collection of valuable and irreplaceable items, including rare bronze clocks, a huge collection of antique pocket and gold wrist watches and jewellery," explained a shaken and visibly stunned Artgold owner, Sam Gabbay, as he stood surrounded by the shattered glass, paintings, jewellery, rings, pocket watches and emblazoned Gucci jewellery cases scattered across his shop floor. "Then they

ripped out and took the hard drive disk that contained the video security film.

"The items they took were extremely expensive, and they picked and chose the best examples. They didn't take the paintings, only collectables. These were things they could stick into a small bag and not draw attention. There is at least \$150,000 worth of items missing. How much exactly, I don't know yet. I am still in shock."

Gabbay has owned Artgold since the early 1980s. Neighbouring business owners expressed admiration for Gabbay and described him as a warm, good and gentle businessman.

"I did everything possible to protect my business. There are even steel bars on my back windows. How much more can I do? Obviously, it wasn't enough," he explained with a long, drawn-out sigh.

"And on top of this, it's my mother-inlaw's funeral today and I can't attend it as my day has been taken up by the robbery and investigation."

The police media relations department would not comment on the robbery at this

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Representation on your behalf

Budget, cont'd. from p. 1

ed the city will increase user fees and extend higher parking meter rates in the southeast sector to include Greene Ave. It will also pilot the use of newer meter technology at the WRC parking lot (see separate story, p. 6).

A separate three-year capital works budget was also presented outlining \$11.6 million in infrastructure and other work for 2014, at a net cost after grants of \$9.6 million. This net amount is 43 percent more than last year, excluding construction of WRC.

Tax rates announced

The following tax rates per \$100 of valuation were also approved: \$.9416 for single-family dwellings and residential properties containing five units or less; \$1.0308 for apartment buildings with six

units or more, \$3.7151 for non-residential properties and \$1.8832 for serviced vacant land (see table at right).

For taxation purposes, the triennial valuation roll for 2014, 2015 and 2016, which increased 21 percent in Westmount, will be phased in in equal thirds. Tax bills will be due in two installments March 20 and May 30.

A breakdown of spending shows that some \$47 million will be required to run the local Westmount operation. This includes services such as snow removal, garbage collection and Public Security as well as pension fund contributions, debt servicing and pay-as-you-go financing of

Another \$50.8 million is budgeted to go to the Montreal agglomeration to pay for the city's share of transit, police, fire and other island-wide services, though the actual Westmount apportionment an-

nounced January 29 after adoption of the Westmount budget will be \$50.4 million, Trent told the Independent.

The city will also send \$848,000 to the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC) for regional serv-

Within Westmount. some \$12 million is budgetted for Public Works, the largest allocation of departmental spending, followed by Sports and Recreation at \$6 million.

Hydro Westmount, whose operating profit has historically been incorporated into the city's operating revenues as a "net contribution," is estimated for 2014 at \$1.1 million, but offset by a deduction of \$2.3 million for pay-as-you-go capital expenses scheduled for this year.

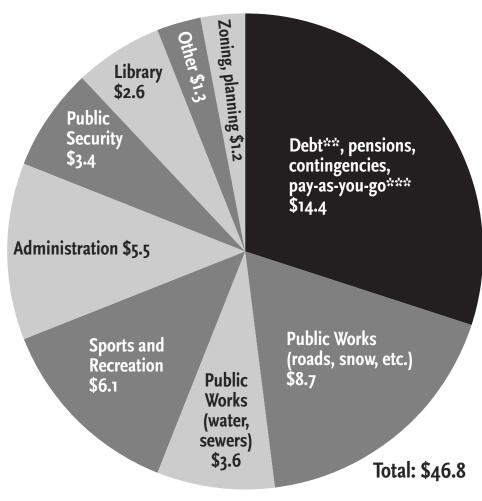


Councillor Victor Drury.

2014 tax rate per Category Average tax \$100 valuation* of property increase Residential property containing 5 units or less 3.3% \$0.9416 Apt. buildings of 6 or more units 2.38% \$1.0308 Non-residential property 2.99% \$3.7151 Serviced vacant land 5.6% \$1.8832 *applicable to the first-year phase-in of triennial valuation roll Allocation of budgeted spending

Tax rates and increases, 2014

for local services in millions \$*





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*Amount after appropriation of accumulated budget = \$43.5M.

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***Excluding Hydro Westmount

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City to spend \$11 million on roads, other infrastructure

Capital Works spending jacked up 43% to 'catch up'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council adopted a three-year capital works spending program January 27 that outlines \$11 million for work this year to start catching up with repairs to roads, sidewalks and other infrastructure.

Expenditures for this year call for the

Other budget highlights

Other budget highlights include increases to the city's pay-as-you-go fund for capital works, a "commitment" to sustainability whose spending is reflected within department budgets and maximizing the use of grants.

A substantial increase in the cost of employee pension plans is pegged at \$1.3 million for past service costs and some \$528,000 for current costs.

While not reflected in the budget, it was announced during the presentation that the Community Events office would be integrated with the library rather than with Sports and Recreation "to offer a global calendar of activities" and "increase efficiency," said Finance commissioner Victor Drury.

With only \$10 million in projected non-tax revenue from sources such as Hydro Westmount, user fees, parking, court fines, permits and the welcome tax, the budget calls for collecting \$81 million in general property tax along with \$3.8 million in government compensation in lieu of property tax.

While the city is also injecting \$3.3 million from accumulated surplus to make up the revenue shortfall, current provincial accounting practices require this amount to be deducted from expenditures rather than added to revenues as was the case up to and including the city's 2012 budget.

The total amount of the city's surplus accumulated over the years stood at \$26 million at December 2012 of which \$21.4 million has been set aside in reserves to cover such needs as those resulting from above-average growfalls.

The 2014 budget provides for \$7.6 million in debt payment. This includes some \$1.5 million pertaining to the recreation centre.

city to use almost \$2 million in grants to help pay for the work, leaving \$9.6 million to be paid from pay-as-you-go allocations (\$6.2 million) and financing (\$3.1 million). This is 43 percent more than last year, excluding the building of the new recreation centre.

While the capital program lists projects for 2014 through 2016, those beyond this year are uncertain and "vague," Mayor Peter Trent told questioner John Fretz, president of the Summit Woods Advisory Committee (SWAC).

For 2014, however, the budget identifies not only major work but also areas of lesser cost but of citizen concern such as allotments for Master Traffic Plan implementation (\$70,000), the sound barrier feasibility study (city share \$47,000) and "dog run relocation" at Westmount Park (\$94,300).

Among the major projects are a \$2-million upgrade to the Hydro Westmount network as well as the reconstruction of Wood Ave., continued rehabilitation of the water network on Dorchester – this year from Greene to Weredale Park – and a \$1-million landscaping of Westmount Park along with the rebuilding of the tennis courts.

There are also allocations for repairs to public stairs at Delavigne and to the cenotaph as well as and the synthetic resurfacing of tennis courts at Devon Park.

An investment of more than \$1 million is also being made in a new financial accounting system for the city and a new billing system for Hydro Westmount are also planned.

This year the continued replacement of water service entries on Sherbrooke is planned between Lansdowne and Roslyn. Deviation of the sewer is also slated for Glen and St. Catherine. Subject to grants is the replacement or rehabilitation of water mains on portions of Dorchester, St. Catherine, Victoria, Hallowell and Bruce.

Other road "repair" and paving projects listed are:

- Sunnyside, with sections of sidewalk reconstruction (Lexington to Upper Bellevue)
- Bruce with sidewalk reconstruction
- St. Catherine (Lansdowne to Metcalfe) with sidewalk reconstruction
- Côte St. Antoine (Victoria to west city limits)
- Lanes north of St. Catherine (Metcalfe to Kensington, and Kensington to Redfern)

Sidewalk reconstruction only is planned for Devon, Shorncliffe, Belmont Crescent, Bellevue (Aberdeen to first turn),



Questioner John Fretz.

Metcalfe (Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine) and Ramezay (Montrose to east city limits) and Hillside (including street lighting).

Work on comfort station, greenhouses

Plans are also under way to upgrade municipal buildings for a total of \$915,000. These include the restoration of the comfort station at King George Park, whose deterioration has left it virtually unusable.

Also planned is the removal of one of the greenhouses along with the replacement of asbestos work tables in the potting area and other repairs. Asbestos is also to be removed from one of the Public Works garages, repairs to leaky founda-

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tions at the library and roof leaks at the Protective Services building on Stanton.

The city will also purchase or repair five Public Works vehicles.

Summit Woods on 2015 list

In the absence of any mention of restoration work in Summit Woods in this year's capital works budget, Councillor Cynthia Lulham told questioner John Fretz at the budget meeting January 27 that the city was awaiting a grant from the agglomeration council that "absolutely" would be forthcoming. Fretz is president of the Summit Woods Advisory Committee (SWAC).

Asked about the type of work that would be done, Lulham described what is listed in the capital spending budget for next year when \$188,600 is allocated for "landscaping at various Summit locations: Summit Woods paths, and erosion control and road closure (Summit Circle), Belvedere Public Works yard."

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Mark-ups way down in November transfers, but no trend yet



Real estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in November 2013, as well as undates from other months, obtained from non-city sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 19.



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Mark-ups dropped off badly in November real estate sales, the Independent has learned, though the volume of sales was stronger than it had been in the previous two months.

The list of sales, gleaned from sources outside of city hall, shows that 12 singlefamily dwelling sales were registered last November, averaging \$1,236,512 with a mark-up over the old 2011 valuation of only 14.7 percent. That compared with a very high 38 percent in October (9 sales) and average mark-ups between 20 and 27 percent in the five months before that.

No trend yet

Because the latest figure is a onemonth aberration, we are not prepared to pronounce on a trend in the market, which was fairly steady during most of

In fact, the November sales include two of more than \$2 million, including one of \$3,044,140 for 55 Surrey Gardens, one of the new houses constructed by Jean Houde on the northeast section of that street. Once the taxes are added in, the total outlay for that house was \$3,500,000, tying for the third-most expensive house sale in Westmount last year.

On the low side was 4828 St. Catherine St., the easternmost of the townhouses constructed in 1999 in front of the former Westmount train station. Though the houses share some common land, which officially gives them condominium status, we treat them as single-family dwellings for comparison purposes.

The \$535,000 paid out for 4828 St. Catherine, which includes some extra land at the east end of the project, is slightly higher than a \$505,000 outlay for 4832 St. Catherine, two doors away, which sold in early October. That low price was nearly matched by the \$595,000 outlay for a townhouse at 120 Irvine Ave.

Condominium sales registered in November were fairly modest, ranging in price from \$3412,478 for one of the new units at 11 Hillside Ave. to \$860,000 for a third-floor unit at 1 Wood Ave.

Older sales

Some "catch-up" sales in the list include Apt. 2103 at 1 Wood, which brought more than \$1.6 million in October and Apt. 1102 at Château Westmount Square, 4175 St. Catherine St., which sold for almost \$1.4 million in June.

All of the single-family home sales on the November list of registrations were negotiated in September and October, indicating a very fast turnover of properties.

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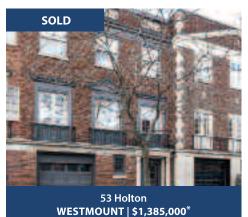


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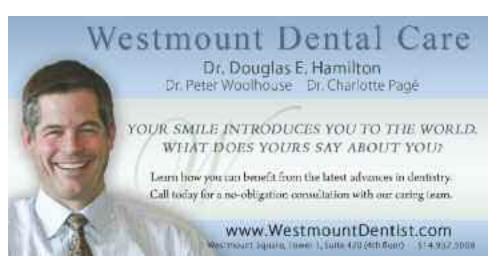
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Selwyn skaters teach Westmount Park students



Selwyn House grade 9 student Emmanuel Ferreira and Parent Association co-chair Karen Anderson give Westmount Park School student Mohamed Heba his first skating lesson.

Students from Selwyn House School took elementary students from Westmount Park School for a skate at Westmount's new recreational complex on

Selwyn House Parent Association cochair Karen Anderson, her husband, Tim, and Parent Association member Caroline Nicol made contact with Westmount Park School and coordinated with the city to use the ice at the new Westmount recreation centre. Selwyn students Liam Nicol and Cameron Anderson helped coordinate volunteers with phys-ed teacher Alfie Paoletti.

The project also got help from former Selwyn parent Matt O'Toole, chief marketing officer at Reebok, who donated helmets and skates.

"The idea is to extend the use of the Westmount recreation centre to more people in Westmount and for Selwyn House students to give back to under-privileged kids," explained Karen Anderson in a school press release.

The lessons will continue weekly until March break.

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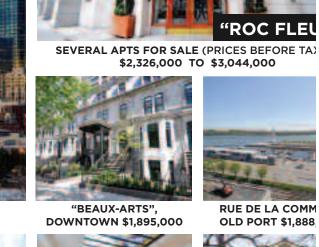
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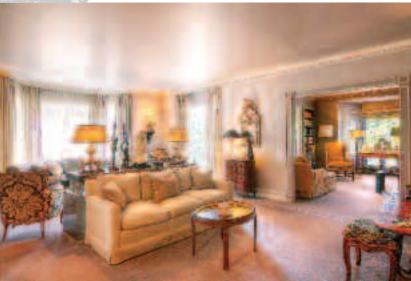
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9 Lives

Lysanne Fowler

Big Percival was initially going to be featured on his own this week for adoption. Then I found out that there are a lot of ginger "orange with stripes" Morris-type cats, leaving a number of them up for adoption at the rescue. So we hope you will enjoy finding out about Percival and his buddies.

On the first row of the collage, Amber is on the left and Percival is on the right. Amber is two years old. He was saved from a colony in La Beauce. He is happy on his own but loves to play with kittens. Percival is a really big two-year old, with

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stunning green eyes. He was found almost frozen to death near Terrebonne. He is a quiet and affectionate fellow, a perfect homebody.

On the second row, Apricot is on the

left, his brother Rusty is in the middle, and Sonny is on the right.

Apricot is nine months old, and his brother is Rusty. They were saved from the St. Adèle pound with their mother. They are very playful and affectionate kittens, looking for attention and petting. Sonny is two years old. He was saved from a colony in Quebec City. He is so funny and curious. He enjoys being cuddled and is very companionable.

On the top row, Galahad is on the left and Jonas is on the right. Galahad is five years old. He was abandoned at the pound and was very sad. He felt better in a home environment and is now most affectionate to all, people and other pets. He is declawed, which makes him an indoor-only cat. Jonas is four years old. He was found abandoned in a Montreal laneway. He is quiet yet very sociable.

These gingers are all very healthy and happy, ready for families of their own. They have been neutered and are up to date with their inoculations.

Please contact Anouk at the rescue Au Répit de la Montagne for more information on them, on her cellular at 514.234. 2668 or at her email anouklecompteremax@sympatico.ca. You can also visit the rescue's website at www.aurepitdelamontagne.com for more photograph albums and information.

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Police Report

Thieves steal iPhone, cash in early morning mugging

By Michael Moore

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

Two men robbed a 20-year-old at knifepoint at the corner of Sherbrooke and Victoria early on Jan. 26, making off with an iPhone 5 and \$100 in cash, according to Station 12 constable Caroline Gauthier.

The victim was reportedly walking alone along Sherbrooke around 3:30 am when he was approached by the two men. According to Gauthier, one of the men, estimated as being 6'6" and 210 lbs with a black scarf hiding his face, pointed the knife at the victim and demanded he hand over the phone and his wallet.

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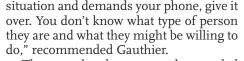
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The second male suspect, who was clad in a black jacket and gray pants and described only as "smaller" than his accomplice, stood by silently as the mugging took place, said Gauthier. The pair reportedly took the phone and \$100 in cash but discarded the suspect's wallet before fleeing.

The victim, who was not harmed, opted not to call 911 and only reported the crime at Station 12 later that day, which Gauthier says significantly hindered the search for the thieves.

"You should call right when the incident happens so we can go around and

look for the suspects," she explained.

Phone theft epidemic

Thefts of mobile devices have become an epidemic across Westmount and Montreal, according to Gauthier, as pedestrians openly use their expensive phones, tablets and other electronics in public, providing an enticing target for thieves.

While her best advice is to simply put the devices away in public, Gauthier admits it would be unrealistic to expect people to follow that suggestion.

"We can't tell people not to use their iPhone in public places or on the street. I think people would die first because they just can't live without them," she said with a laugh.

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Bridge scorers

Tally bridge winners at the Westmount bridge club with top accumulative scores for the two best sessions in January 2014 were:

- (1) Neda Koudsi with 1,100 points.
- (2) Viviane Agia with 9,120 points.
- (3) Dael Perry with 8,700 points.
- (4) Gerald Ratzer with 8,420 points.

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Comin' Up

Monday, February 10

Montreal Camera Club presents Michael Cooper. Free. Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve (rear entrance). 7:30 pm

Tuesday, February II

Westmount Horticultural Society presents André Poliquin on "Orchids for Everyone," Westmount library, members free, guests \$5.7 pm.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

"Love is in the air," says the Montreal Storytellers Guild about its storytelling event at the Westmount Library. Free. 7 pm.

University Women's Club of Montreal

Walking Through Retirement – Catherine Gillbert recently retired director of studies at John Abbott College, and now world trekker, will be the guest speaker. In her retirement, she has done some of the toughest treks in the world. She will talk and show nictures of those experiences 6 P.M. Wednesday, February 12 at the Atwater Club. 3505 Atwater Ave. Supper \$31.04 (members) \$50 (non-members, glass-wine included). Reservations needed. Newcomers welcome

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Manoir Westmount puzzles over vacancies

BY STEPHANIE O'HANLEY

For the first time in Manoir Westmount's history, there are vacancies. A project of Westmount's Rotary Club, the non-profit seniors' residence offers independent living for seniors.

Currently five rooms out of 125 are vacant, said Manoir Westmount director Tom Thompson, something he calls an "interesting new phenomenon."

"I would say we're concerned," said Thompson. "It's something so unusual for us we're in some ways wondering why. We haven't been able to pinpoint the answer."

Thompson said he first noticed a rise in vacancies last June, following "a big turnover" in winter coming into spring when 30 people either moved out or died. Historically there were never any vacancies, he said. "If we'd spoken 14 or 15 months ago, we would say a spot will open up in

six months."

While the empty rooms aren't causing problems, the vacancies still affect Manoir Westmount. "We're non-profit," Thompson said. "We don't have a profit margin as a buffer. Our mission as non-profit run by the Rotary Club is to provide housing at affordable prices."

Perhaps even weirder, Thompson said the facility has an active waiting list of 30 people and, when they phone, prospective residents insist they're interested in living at Manoir Westmount at some point. It costs \$100 to be on the waiting list.

Why residents come

"A great many people come because they're lonely at home," Thompson said. "In many cases, they're in their mid-to late-80s and their friends have died or gone to nursing homes.

"It's a pain to shop for yourself. It's

pretty neat living, it's like living in a hotel," Thompson said, pointing out at Manoir Westmount a maid cleans the rooms and there are three meals a day. And like a cruise ship, there's a full-time leisure coordinator planning activities, he said.

People come to Manoir Westmount at various times in their lives, for instance when they sell their houses or after their family encourages them to move after a hospital stay, Thompson said. But residents decide when they want to come, he said. People prefer a spring move to a winter one and "nobody moves at Christmas," Thompson added.

Thompson said when Manoir Westmount opened in 1979, "it was us and Griffith McConnell." Now, he said, "there's tons more competition out there." Griffith McConnell closed in 2010.

"You sure can't beat our location, you can't beat our price." Thompson said.

Thompson said the Quebec government is "doing everything it can to keep people in their homes as long as possible." He added, "I don't know if the current political situation has anything to do with it."



While as a luxury seniors' residence, Place Kensington is markedly different from Manoir Westmount, with apartments instead of rooms, executive director Sylvia Zagury said she too is seeing more vacancies.

Place Kensington offers apartments for both independent living and assisted living, but the majority of its apartments are the former.

Zagury said there are vacancies in three out of 180 "independent" apartments, a small number but still unusual.



Place Kensington on January 26.

Photo: Independent.

"I have a waiting list for some apartments," Zagury said. "I have 15 people on the waiting list. [But] I used to have much longer waiting lists."

"I think it has to do with the real estate market," Zagury said. "People can't sell condominiums."

Zagury said she wonders if the "economy in general" is playing a role.

Local man hurt in 2-car crash at Sherbrooke & Wood

A passenger in a car was taken to hospital January 26 when an Audi and a Mitsubishi collided at Sherbrooke and Wood, Public Security officials said. The impact occurred about 12:45 pm when the driver of the westbound Mitsubishi was reported to have run a red light, possibly due to glare from the sun. The Audi had been travelling north in the direction of the victim's home on de Casson. It had to be towed.



Manoir Westmount on January 30.

hoto: Independent



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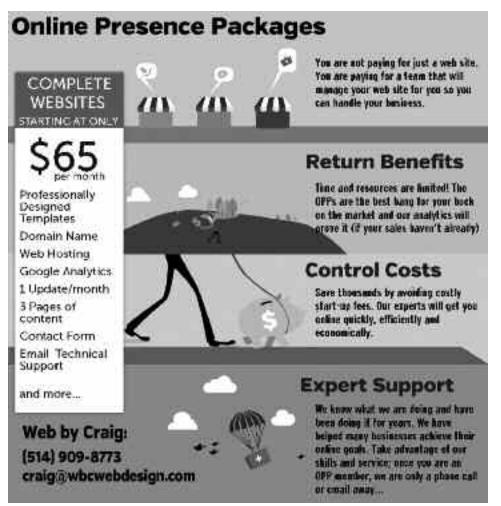


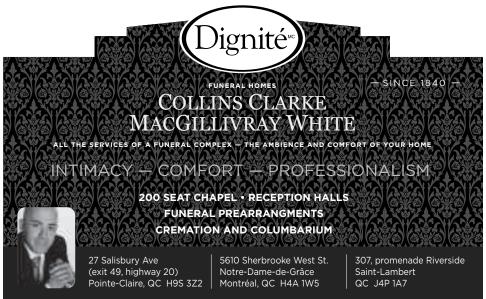






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Ville de WESTMOUNT

City of WESTMOUNT

	BUDGET 2013 (Adopted)	BUDGET 2014	NOTES	M SUPPLIESTED
REVENUS	5	5		REVENUES
TAXE FONCIÈRE GÉNÉRALE				GENERAL PROPERTY TAX
Résidentielle (1 à 5 logements)	50.716.500	52 625 000		Residential (1 to 5 units)
Immeubles de 6 logements ou plus	6.482.400	6,637,000		Apartments (5 or more units)
Immeubles non résidentiels	21,129,100	21,761,800		Non-Residential Properties
Provision pour contestation et construction	(70,000)	(250,000)	Y23	Provision for Contastation and Construction
Taxe foncière générale	78,258,000	80,773,800	60	General Property Tax
Autres revenus - taxes sur terrains vacants	456,600	612,200		Other - Taxes on Vecent Lots
Taxe foncière générale totale	78,714,600	81,386,000	8	Total - General Property Tax
PAIEMENTS TENANT LIEU DE TAXES				COMPENSATION IN LIEU OF TAXES
Gouvernement du Canada	149.700	153,400		Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Québec	2 279 000	2.436,000		Government of Québec
Autres (programmes en compensation - bonification)	1,100,000	1 127,500		Other (Compensation Programs - Allowance)
Compensation provenant de la taxe de vente du Québec	1.128.000		(1)	Componsation - Quebec Sales Tax
Compensation pour services municipaux	72 100	73,900		Compensation - Municipal Services Tax
19. 11. F. 1. O. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19. 19	4,728,800	3,790,800		
AUTRES SERVICES				OTHER SERVICES
Activités récréatives	510,000	810,000		Recreational Activities
Bibliothèque	109 200	109,200		Library
Stationnement	3.000.000	3.200,000	(2)	Parking
Recouvrables et autres revenus	91,800	88,100	100-10	Recoverable and Other Revenues
	3,711,000	4,207,300		
AUTRES REVENUS DE SOURCES LOCALES				OTHER REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES
Droits sur les mutations immobilières	3,200,000	3,300,000		Duty on Transfer of Immovable
Amendes	2.350.000	2,350,000		Court Fires
Intérêts sur les dépôts à court terme	15,000	20,000		Interest on Short-Term Deposits
Intérêts et pénalités sur les arrérages de taxes	200,000	200,000		Interest/Penalties on Tax Arrears
Licances et permia	412,000	529,500		Licenses and Permits
	6,177,000	6,399,500	9	
SUBVENTION DU QUÉBEC À LA BIBLIOTHÈQUE	26,600	18,300	10	QUÉBEC LIBRARY GRANT
SERVICES RENDUS ET TRANSFERTS			OT	HER REVENUES AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS
Traitement des matières secondaires	291,200	367,900	(3)	Recycling and Refuse
Recouvrables - Service des incendies de MTL	200,000	200,000		Recoverable from MTL Fire Department
	491,200	567,900	6	- 12
DISTRIBUTION D'ÉLECTRICITÉ				UTILITY OPERATION
Revenu brut	28,465,100	30,346,100		Gross Revenue
Coût d'opération	(27,664,800)	(29,246,400))	Operating Cost
Contribution nette	800,300	1,099,700		Net Contribution
Immobilisations Imputées au Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG)	(1,573,400)	(2,325,000	6	Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Capital Expenses

Notes explicatives - Explanatory Notes

- Modification de la TVQ appliquée à compter de 2014.
 Change in QST law effective au et 2014.
- (2) Augmentation des tarifs à 3 \$ de l'heure de Wood à Clarke, incluant Avenue Greene. Rate increase at \$3 per hour from Wood to Clarke, including Greene Avenue.
- (3) Contribution étable sur la base du montant reçu en 2013. Contribution established based on the amount received in 2013.





VIIIe de WESTMOUNT

City of WESTMOUNT

	BUDGET 2013 (Adopted)		BUDGET 2014	NOTES	
DÉPENSES					EXPENDITURE
ADMINISTRATION GÉNÉRALE			100.000.000		GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
Législation - conseil	435,600		435,600		Legislation - Council
Gestion financière et administrative	2,900,100		2,374,000		Finance and General Administration
Greffe et département junisique	1,025,400		1,004,400		City Clerk and Legal Department
Election	284,100				Election
Ressources humaines	702,200		830.200		Human Resources
Edifices edministratife	289,300		255,700		Administration Buildings:
NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY OF TAXABLE PARTY.	5,527,700		5,499,900		
SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE			- 20 M		PUBLIC SECURITY
Edifica de la police	23,700		23,900		Poice Building
Sécurité publique	3.192,700		3,355,700		Public Security
	3.216.400		3,379,200		
VOIRIE	750000		200755		ROAD TRANSPORT
Administration	1,438,300		1,506,500		Administration
Voide municipale	2.558,000		2,831,800		Streets and Sidewalks
Enlêvement et transport de la neige	3.383,500		3,273,900		Snow Removal and Disposal
Eclairage des rues	518,200		449,000		Sheet Lighting
Circulation	677,200		847,200		Traffic Control
Stationnement	165,700		167,300		Parking Lots
	8,749,900		8,725,700		
HYGIENE DU MILIEU					SANITATION SERVICES
Entretien des réseaux d'égouts locaux et d'aqueduc	2 139,800		2,050,800		Local Water & Sewer System Maintenance:
Enlèvement des ordures et matières secondaires	1,588,300		1,506,000		Refuse Collection and Recycling
	3,701,100		3,556,800		
TOUR OF STREET PRICES STREET			1,182,200		ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
ZONAGE ET MISE EN VALEUR DU TERRITOIRE	1,146,400		1,102,200		ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
LOISIRS ET CULTURE					SPORTS AND RECREATION
Administration	700,400		776,309		Admin stration
Événements communautaires	868,300		906,000		Community Events
Artina	703,038		.742,600		Arona
Placine	359,367		320,488		Swimming Pool-
Programmes de récréation	463,400		434 500		Recreation Programs
Parcs, terrains de jeux et serre	2,914,800		2,987,600		Parks, Playgrounds and Greenhouse
Construction of Section Section 1	5,953,300		6,127,900		- and 17 972 Control of the Section Section 1
	0,800,000		6,121,800		
BIBLIOTHÉQUE	2,553,500		2,633,200		LIBRARY
BATTLE	1,107,600		1,270,800		OTHER
DÉPENSES MUNICIPALES CONTRÔLABLES	31,955,900	rti	32,375,700		CONTROLLABLE MUNICIPAL EXPENSES
AUTRES DÉPENSES					OTHER EVACUATIONS
	110000000000000000000000000000000000000		12/22/22	20000	OTHER EXPENDITURE
Service de la dette et autres frais de l'inancement	4.890,100		7,503,900		Debt Service and Other Financing Costs
Transfert pour hygière du milieu			(222,700		Transfer for Water and Sewer Network
Transfert pour Centre des loisire de Westmount	5.38000000		11,181,900		Transfer for Westmount Recreation Centre.
Fonds de pension et avantages sociaux futurs	2,380,600		3,345,500	1750	Pension and Future Denefits
Réserve et éventuaines	515,000		516,000		Provision and Contingencies
Recouvrables	237,700		226,100		Racoverables
Immobilisations imputées au Pay-Aa-You-Go (PAYG)	3.635,900		4,131,000		Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) Capital Expenses
E-10-20-11/20-5-17/20-5-15/4-6-12	11,660,300		14,417,900		
COMMUNAUTÉ MÉTROPOLITAINE DE MONTRÉAL	853,000		848,300		MONTRÉAL METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY
QUOTE-PART AGGLOMÉRATION	50,266,700		50,819,700	į	SHARE - AGGLOMERATION
AFFECTATION DE L'EXCÉDENT ACCUMULÉ	(1,659,800)	6	(3,317,100)	20)	APPROPRIATION FROM ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
TOTAL DES DÉPENSES APRÈS AFFECTATION	93,076,100	121	95,144,500		TOTAL EXPENDITURES AFTER APPROPRIATION
er se se con di circa de carecian est activos el carecian de la susta di circa de la susta de la secula de la s	CENTER NO.	. 504	20074-00000222		

Notes explicatives - Explanatory Notes

- (1) Les «dépenses municipales contrôlables» au budget de 2013, recalculées aux fins de comparaison et en tenant compte du remboursement partiel de la TVQ accordé aux municipalités seraient de 31,340,700 \$. Recalculated "Controllable Municipal Expenses" for 2013 Budget to take into account the partial rebate of the QST granted to municipalities would be \$31,340,700.
- (2) Le total des dépenses après affectations au budget de 2013, recalculées aux fins de comparaison et en tenant compte du remboursement partiel de la TVQ accordé aux municipalités seraient de 91,948,100 \$. Recalculated "Total Expenditures After Appropriation" for 2013 Budget to take into account the partial rebate of the QST granted to municipalities would be \$91,948,100.
- (3) Paiement de dettes additionnelles pour le CLW et le financement de subventions. Additional debt payments for WRC and grant financing.
- (4) Revenus de transfert des subventions PRECO et pour la taxe d'accise pour lesquelles des dettes ont été émises pour la portion provinciale. Transfer payments from the PRECO and Gas Tax grants with debts issued for the provincial portion.
- (5) Revenus de transfert de la subvention Fonds Chantiers Canada-QC du Centre des loisirs; une dette a été émise pour la portion provinciale.
 Transfer numerote from the Fonde Chaptiers
 - Transfer payments from the Fonds Chantiers Canada-Québec grant given for WRC; a debt was issued for the provincial portion.
- (6) Augmentation des coûts du fonds de pension.Cost increase in pension plan.
- (7) Affectation de l'excédent accumulé dont une grande partie pour financer les PAYG. Additional appropriation from accumulated surplus, a large portion being to finance PAYG.





PROGRAMME D'IMMOBILISATIONS - CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

2014-2015-2016

tégorie de projets - Project Category 2014			14		2015				2016			
Municipal		Net ^(f)	В	rut - Gross	Į.	Net ^{TII}	В	rut - Gross		Net ⁽¹⁾	В	rut - Groes
1. Bätiments - Buildings	\$	914,800	3	914,800	5	1,037,300	\$	1,037,300	3	1,744,500	5	1,744,500
2. Chemins - Roads		2,244,100		2,244,100	ĮĮ.	3,723,500		3,723,500		2,904,500		2,904,500
3. Parcs - Parks		334,700		334,700		858,200		858,200	_	372,500		372,500
4. Véhicules - Vehicles		471,600		471,600	Ĭ.	528,200		528,200		514,000		514,000
5. Divers - Miscellaneous		462,200		462,200		1,306,000		1,306,000		268,700		268,700
6. Informatique - Information Systems		339,600		339.600		230,900		230,900		84.800	l,	84,800
7. Réseau d'aqueduc et d'égouts - Water and Sewer Network		462,100		2,414,200		613,000		2,094,500		688,400		1.348,500
Total Municipal		5,229,100		7,181,200	1	8,297,100		9,778,500		6,577,400		7,237,500
Hydro Westmount		Net ⁽¹⁾	В	rut - Gross	ì	Net 111	В	rut - Gross		Net ⁽¹⁾	В	rut - Gross
8. Projets majeurs - Major Projects	\$	1,815,000	\$	1,815,000	5	1,605,000	\$	1,505,000	5	1,637,000	5	1,637,000
9, Véhicules - Vehicles		300,000		300,000	ì	285,000		285,000		115,000		115,000
10. Projets municipaux - Municipal Projects		141,500		141,500		113,200		113,200		132,000		132,000
Total Hydro Westmount		2,256,500		2,256,500		2,003,200		2,003,200		1,884,000		1.884,000
Projets spéciaux - Special Projects		Net (1) Brut - Gross		Net ⁽¹⁾ Brut - Gn		rut - Gross	Net ⁽⁰⁾		Brut - Grass			
Aménagement paysager du parc Westmount et terrains de tennis Westmount Park landscaping and tennis courts	\$	966,600	3	966,600	s	-	1		s		s	3
Nouveau système de gestion financière - New financial accounting systèm		500,000		500,000	ĵ.	100,000		100,000		<u>.</u> -		
Nouveau système de facturation Hydro Wesmount - New Hydro Westmount billing system		850,000		650,000				:4		7-4		3
Total projets spéciaux - Special Projects		2,116,500		2,116,600	jį.	100,000		100,000		富		ä
Grand Total	\$	9,502,200	\$	11,554,300	5	10,400,300	\$	11,881,800	5	8,461,400	5	9,121,500
Financement - Financing:	2.5		Care	WAR TEN	- 1	74.400.400	20		20	150 74400 0000		1204-0100
PAYG de la taxation - PAYG from taxation PAYG de l'excédent cumulé affecté - PAYG from accumulated appropriated surplus	\$	3,629,900 2,654,000	3	3,629,900 2,654,000	*	3,702,500 tbd	S	3,702,500 tbd	S	3,776,800 tbd	100	3,778,600 tbo
Recouvrables - Recoverables (Ministère des Transports du Québec) Subventions (Programme de la taxe sur l'essence et autres) -		175,000		175,000		<u>*</u>		*		:		25
Grants (Gas tax program and others) (2)				1,952,100		74E		1,481,500		n Ši		660,100 tbo
Endettement net - Net indebtedness		3,143,300		3,143,300		tbd		thd		tod		100

Notes:

⁽¹⁾ Budget net = Budget brut moins subventions, si applicable. Net budget = Gross budget less grants, if applicable.

⁽²⁾ Revenus de transfert de subventions : une dette sera émise pour la portion provinciale. Transfer payment grants; a debt will be issued for the provincial portion.

Venetian lions adorn ball at Museum of Fine Arts



Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

Veronica Redgrave

The 53rd annual ball of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) was themed *Splendore a Venezia*. Tickets were \$1,000, with corporate sponsorships from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

Venetian gondola mooring poles set the tone at the entrance, where the museum's outdoor columns were decorated with spiraling red ribbon – a fortuitous choice as later in the season they resembled candy canes!

Masked performers on towering stilts ushered guests to the museum's wide staircase, which shimmered like a canal due to a light show of trickling waves. Another light show at the top of the stairs featured medieval-like banners with videos of lion-headed performers.

At the VIP room, guests entered through the head of a lion: literally. The handsome creature's magnificently-maned muzzle was printed on a curtain of



Hubert Colas and Alexandra MacDougall.



Chantale Renaud and Mayor Denis Coderre.



Ian and Linda Greenberg.



Nathalie Bondil and Brian Levitt.

vertical strips, which, when pushed aside, led visitors into *Salle Maggiore*, one of the dining rooms.

Each room had a different theme. The ball's decor was created by Agence Tuxedo.

Westmounters noted included Elaine and Calin Rovinescu, Constanza and Javier San Juan, Helen Antoniou and Andrew Molson, Rae and Roy Heenan, Denyse and Robert Walsh, Joelle and Bruce Kent, Genevieve and Louis Martin Richer, and the co-presidents of the MMFA Volunteer Association, Linda Greenberg attending with husband Ian, and Alexandra MacDougall, with Hubert Colas.

Guests of honour were Renata and Michal Hornstein, major museum patrons. Welcoming the guests, including Montreal mayor Denis Coderre and his wife Chantale Renaud, were ball co-presidents Eric Boyko, president and CEO, Stingray Digital, (attending with Vallerie Cohn); Christine Marchildon, president,





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Joelle Kent, Robert and Denyse Walsh, Bruce Kent.

Photos courtesy of David Lewis Sternfeld

Direction du Québec, Groupe Banque TD, (with Pierre Martineau); and John D. Williams, president and CEO, Domtar Corporation (with his wife **Andromeda**).

Ball president was Johanne Champoux who attended with her husband Jacques Parisien. Seen amidst the glamorous crowd were the MMFA's president Brian Levitt, and director/chief curator Nathalie Bondil, as well as Maria Orsini and Charles Benoit, Isabelle Hudon and Gilles Coulombe; Mariette Laplante and Alain Lemaire; Solange Dugas and Lucien Bouchard, and Mitsou Gelinas with Iohann Martin.

Also enjoying the eve were Francis Fox and his wife Viviane Case; Serge Joyal; Monique Jerôme-Forget, Phoebe Greenberg, Isabelle Marcoux and François Olivier, Luc Plamondon and Monique Brosseau, Claude Provencher and Lucie Bouthillette, Isabelle Racicot, Susan and Charles Sirois, Debbie Zakaib and Alexandre Taillefer, Arlene and Andrew Torriani, and Thierry Maxime Loriot.

The evening raised over \$1 million. The funds help support the museum's exhibition programming and cultural programs, and finance the acquisition of new works of art.

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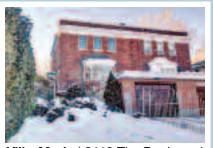
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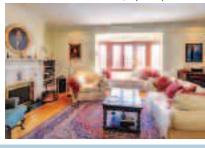


Westmount | 3 Bellevue mls 24277681





Ville-Marie | 3119 The Boulevard mls 23009609 \$1,238,000





Brossard | Hameau des Berges mls 21592489 \$395,000





Île-des-Sœurs | 210 du Golf #105 mls 21658401 \$368.995





Integrity Experience Service Jeannie Moos jeanniemoosz@gmail.com



On the Lighter Side

Ingrid Kovitch-Dannenbaum

Last week I was delighted to find the most recent catalog from Lee Valley in our mailbox. An avid dabbler in woodcraft, I am always on the lookout for novel and dramatic ways to amputate digits.

In addition to many devilish new gizmos, I noticed that there was a sale on the "Waspinator." This was a mock bee's nest, roughly resembling a deflated gray medicine ball, intended to deter wasps and yellow jackets from sharing one's lunch.

Turns out wasps are territorial (who knew?), and will steer clear of jurisdictions already claimed. Turns out that they are also near-sighted (who knew?) and so each Waspinator is effective only within a twenty-foot radius.

How many is too many?

With a sting-allergic husband, I had, in fact, previously considered this item for our cottage (even before the sale). But a quick calculation made it clear that to work as promised, our property and environs

The bee-haviour of wasps, bees and kids

would need to be adorned with about 15 of these – expensive certainly, and sure to render our charming, rustic abode into a rather unimaginative, drab (and out of season) Christmas tree.

Ultimately I concluded that it was cheaper and more esthetically pleasing to buy an Epipen. And, quite possibly, scads more exciting.

I also had niggling doubts about a creature smart enough to avoid a bee feud, yet not clever enough to recognize recycled polyester fiber.

Unintended consequences?

Of even greater concern was that the sheer concentration of nests, and obvious popularity of the spot, would simply attract *more* pests to the area. "There must be a whack of picnics – with hordes of messy, juice-spilling children – on THAT deck", the wasp-reasoning would go.

I further imagined the rest of the report, from the delighted emissary returning home post-reconnaissance:

"Hey boys, best spot ever! Even has a nest that's already been started. And looks to be waterproof – like Gore-tex or something!"

Fundamentally, I think my skepticism

lies in my inability to trust in any kind of consistent bee-haviour. After all, how can I bank on reliable animal conduct when I can't even count on human beings?

V is for V8

On a flight last year, my daughter tried a V8 drink. "These are AMAZING!" she exclaimed. "I LOVE these! Can I have them for school?"

"Sure!" I answered. (Easy hero points). Now I am not so foolish as that (at least where these things are concerned). I watched closely, and true to her word, she drank little else for the duration of the trip.

And so, upon our return, I headed to Costco. Never one to embrace moderation, I dutifully loaded a small palette of cans into the car.

Starting Monday, pleased as punch, I tucked one in beside her sandwich.

On Thursday evening, while I finished up the last of her snacks, she began to rifle through her lunchbox.

"Uh, mom, can you stop giving me V8 for lunch?" she asked.

"But you said you loved them," I countered, mystified.

"I *did* love them," she went on, "But now I'm really sick of them."

"How could you be sick of them? It's Thursday. You've only had them for *four days!!*"

"Well, that's what happens when you give them to me EVERY DAY!"

For the record, few can appreciate fickle and capricious as well as I. Not coincidentally, I have been known to be variably... uh... "flexible" myself.

But who knew that this was a genetic trait? And judging from my kids, a dominant one, at that.

In the meantime, we remain overloaded with a variety of loved and left products. V8 anyone?

Officers check on resident when phone rings busy over 3 days

Public Security was called January 25 at 4:05 pm to check on an Arlington woman whose phone was reported by a friend to have been ringing busy for three days, officials said. Fresh tracks leaving the residence were found in the snow and officers discovered she had been seen at her place of work on Saturday. She was reported safely home at 4:51 pm.

Priory works to kick bad habits



The student council at The Priory School launched a Health Challenge Week on January 28. It is part of the school's commitment to The Toonie Challenge. The hope is to get each student and faculty member, a total of 182 people, to adopt a healthy habit or give up an unhealthy one

for two weeks. Jonathan Di Tomasso, an MUHC nutritionist, spoke to the students about the importance of proper eating. Participants will raise toonies by honouring their pledges of being healthier for two weeks.

Photo courtesy of the McGill University Health Centre.

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