

Street hockey lives!

Jonathan Blanshay (left) keeps a close eye on a popular and energetic street hockey game outside his home at the corner of Summit and Gordon crescents on February 22.

Photo: Ralph Thompson.

**Westmount Hydro reviews
new meter installation process, p. 3**

**City opposes proposed phase-out of
door-to-door mail delivery by Canada Post, p. 5**

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 8 No. 3a

We are Westmount

March 4, 2014

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Amyot, Miller running for Liberal candidacy

Two Westmounters face off in new federal riding of Ville Marie

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two Westmount residents are vying for the federal Liberal candidacy in the adjacent and newly configured riding of Ville Marie, the *Independent* has learned.

So far, they are the only known contestants actively seeking the candidacy in the riding, in which neither lives.

Bernard Amyot, 53, of Holton Ave., and Marc Miller, of Aberdeen Ave., 41 next week, are hoping for the nod from Liberal Party members, though a date for the can-

didate selection is not yet known, riding association president Adèle Hébert said last week.

Both are lawyers, running politically for the first time and choosing not to oppose incumbent Marc Garneau, who has announced he will be seeking election in the new riding of NDG-Westmount. He would, in fact, be representing Amyot and Miller as constituents should he win in the next election.

Their reasons and profiles are on p. 18-19.

**Spring social calendar,
see p. 16**

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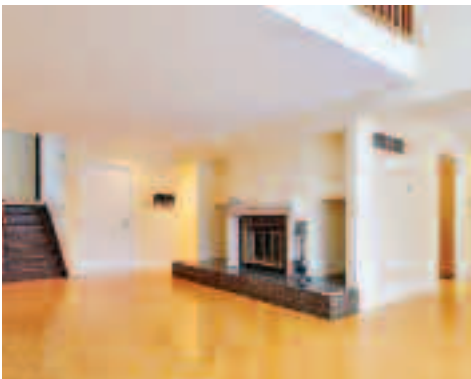
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VILLE MARIE: 1235 BISHOP: March 2014. 1 or 2 bedrooms. Includes a number of amenities such as a salt-water rooftop pool, a fully equipped exercise room & private terrace FEW UNITS LEFT. **starting at \$230,000+txs**

York condo residents concerned over replacement practices

Hydro reviewing meter process, communication protocols

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents of the condo building at 10 York St. discovered early one morning that, without prior notice, their bank of 12 interior hydro meters had been replaced by Hydro Westmount's current radiofrequency (RF) model.

The unexpected removal February 19 of the older soon-to-expire mechanical meters in the electrical room caused a blackout in the building and generated concerns from the condo association to Mayor Peter Trent, Councillor Christina Smith and Hydro Westmount.

Residents also sought an explanation about the switch to the RF meter model that enables remote reading from the sidewalk, though this model is not a "smart" RF meter, like the ones now being used by Hydro Quebec (see story August 27, 2013, p. 8).

"Our process, including communication, is under revision," Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise told the *Independent*. It will be part of a new policy regarding RF meters expected in a couple of months, he explained.

This has also been reported to include an opt-out provision, Mayor Peter Trent and Councillor Patrick Martin have stated at city council meetings.

In a letter of apology to condo association president Suni Hope-Johnston, Hydro Westmount stated that a note would be put in the building's file that "for any future access to your meters, Hydro Westmount will inform you first."

At present, Hurtubise explains, Hydro Westmount has separate arrangements with different apartment buildings. "We have to have access to the meters at all times." In some cases, the meter readers have keys to locked meter rooms. This is the case with the York building, Hope-Johnston confirmed.

Regulated by Measurement Canada

Individual customers are not allowed to tamper with the meters. While Hydro Westmount buys and owns the meters, he confirmed, the calibration and sealing process is regulated and certified by Measurement Canada.

"By law, we are required to change the meters by a specific expiration date and we

are regularly audited with this process by inspectors of Measurement Canada. Failure to comply will result in heavy fines."

Improved communication about the RF meters along with opt-out provisions were among recommendations regarding the newer meters made some 18 months ago to the city by the Healthy City Project (see October 23, 2012).

In the wake of the York experience, the controversial issue of RF emissions was raised again, especially when a total of 12 are located directly under a unit's bedroom (see story May 1, 2012, p. 12).

Could a shield or other protective device be installed between them and the apartment? "I'm investigating this," Hurtubise said.

Re-describing the RF meter

He added that he wanted residents to understand that Hydro Westmount "does not install nor use any smart meters. We use second-generation meters that calculate the electricity consumption the same way that electromechanical meters do. This meter has limited RF capability that allows us to read it remotely from a very

short distance."

As previously reported, smart meters, he stated, "are third-generation meters with RF capabilities that compute and record additional information on electricity consumption (time of use) and are read remotely from a central location."

Youth play dice, smoke in bank at 2:30 am

A Public Security patroller spotted a group of five youths inside the vestibule of the CIBC at 4854 Sherbrooke at 2:30 am February 22, Public Security officials said. They kept up surveillance on the group as they reportedly played dice and smoked. Police were called when the group was seen trying to open the door of the Dairy Queen nearby and then continuing to play dice outside near Prince Albert. The five subsequently split up and left the area around 3:30 am and the call to police was cancelled.

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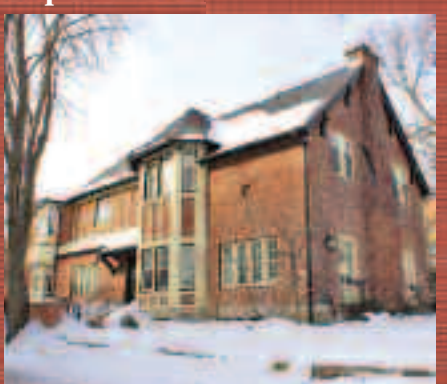
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Wild temperature swings cause burst pipes, heavy roof snow

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The freeze-thaw cycle and heavy wet snow in mid-February were reported to have caused at least two outside residential pipes to burst at houses on Rosemount Ave. and Mountain, Public Security officials said.

Large accumulations of heavy snow and icicles on the roofs of buildings on Greene also threatened to fall off over the same period, February 19 to 22.

The first water leak, discovered February 19, was reported to be sending water flowing down Rosemount to Sherbrooke at 8:40 pm. A contact person was reached and officers attempted to mitigate the problem by wrapping duct tape around the crack until the homeowner arrived to turn off the water from inside.

On February 22, Public Security received a call at 12:25 pm from a resident of the area reporting that water was accumulating outside a window on Mountain that appeared to be entering the basement. When public safety officers could not obtain any answer at the door, they called firefighters who cut and capped the pipe.

At that point, a resident, who had just woken up, opened the door. No interior damage was reported.

Snow from roofs

Firefighters were also called to a building at 1225 Greene near St. Catherine February 20 when icicles hanging from the roof as well as a large amount of falling snow were discovered about 9:37 am, Public Security officials said. A safety perimeter was set up and firefighters managed to remove some of the snow. The owner was contacted and warned about the situation, which was described as a building code violation.

The next day at 12:18 am, Public Security patrollers were called out to investigate snow falling from the roof of the building across the street at 1218 Greene to 4213 St. Catherine. A small amount was found on the sidewalk and Public Works set up barrier around the area.

The building owner was reported to have already been in contact with a contractor but officers monitored the situation throughout the day while the work was carried out.

Open garage door and tracks in snow raise suspicions

An open garage door leading to the interior of a house on Severn was spotted by a patroller February 18 at 2 pm, Public Security officials said.

A neighbour stated it had been open during the morning.

When tracks were noticed in the snow and no response could be obtained at the door, police were called to check out the interior.

All appeared in order.

Detector beeps two days, annoys neighbour

A resident of Arlington called Public Security February 12 to report a neighbour's alarm sounding while the residents were out of the country, officials said. The call was referred to police who were reported to have responded. But when the woman called back the next day to report it was still sounding, public safety officers went to the scene and found it was beeping from a low smoke detector battery.

Messages were left and a reference person was to correct the situation the next day.



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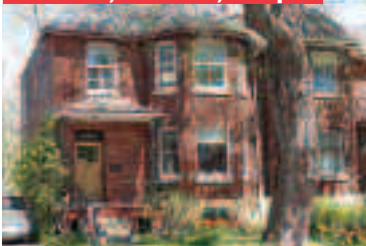
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JULIE BÉDARD
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Community boxes raise host of concerns

City joins national fight against end of home mail delivery

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmount will be joining forces with Montreal and other municipalities across Canada to fight Canada Post's decision to phase out door-to-door mail delivery, Mayor Peter Trent declared last week.

City council was slated to adopt a resolution to this effect at its March 3 meeting following almost unanimous dissatisfaction expressed last week over the concept of community mailboxes, especially in larger cities.

General agreement on the issue had emerged, he said, starting February 26 at a meeting of 22 mayors of the largest cities in the country at a session of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

This was echoed locally the next day at a series of meetings of the Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC), the Association of Suburban Mayors (ASM) and Montreal agglomeration council.

"It looks like the whole municipal scene is against the Canada Post decision, especially in cities where there is nowhere

to put these community boxes," Trent said.

The Westmount resolution asks Canada Post to postpone its decision and enter into discussions with municipalities directly concerned by the mail reform as soon as possible.

Trent: 'Stop it in its tracks'

"I'd like to stop it in its tracks," Trent told the *Independent*. "But consultation is considered to be the first step."

Among many concerns over the community boxes cited in the Westmount resolution are safety and security, hardship on elderly citizens as well as those with limited mobility, and the impact on traffic, parking, snow



These community mailboxes were sighted March 1 at a new townhouse development just south of Pierrefonds Blvd., east of St. Charles in the West Island.

Photos: Independent.

clearing, removal of graffiti and other Public Works operations.

As well, significant aesthetic and logistical issues would render the installation of community boxes difficult if not im-

possible, it explains.

Furthermore, because the boxes are a "structure," their installation – on private or public land – would require prior approval of the municipality concerned.



A rural community mailbox in Sutton, Quebec, March 2.

Yes, he can dance: Jackson return to Westmount Park



Professional tap dancer Justin Jackson, who performed at the 2010 Olympics as well as on *So You Think You Can Dance*, returned on February 18 to Westmount Park School, from which he graduated 12 years ago, to give a short performance and tell the grade-schoolers they should never give up on their dreams and ambitions. "Westmount Park School is my home," said Jackson, who got to meet at least one of his former teachers, who is still on staff.

Photo: Martin C. Barry



A letter poses in a lower Westmount mailbox, March 2. Soon to be a thing of the past?

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LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE
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Need a doctor?

Dr. Roper suggests registering for CSSS family doctor list

By Martin C. Barry

An accidental discovery by Dr. Mark Roper that Centre de santé et de services sociaux (CSSS) de la Montagne had no diabetics on its family doctor waiting list led him to wonder whether CSSS users are aware they can indeed sign up to be on the list.

According to the Westmount-based physician, a nurse practitioner who recently began working with his office had experience managing diabetics. But when she attempted to recruit some from the CSSS waiting list, she found there was no record of any living in the region.

“Anybody can register to be on this list,” Dr. Roper pointed out. “You don’t have to be sick, although, of course, they do prioritize people with chronic diseases like diabetes, mental illness or asthma.”

All the same, he added, judging from the feedback he’s received from patients, most don’t seem to know about the waiting list. He suspects that other patients besides diabetics probably need to be better informed of its existence.

“There’s definitely a disconnect. Here you have a situation where we have a nurse practitioner who’s taking on new patients, or there might be doctors asking for patients from the territory, and no one is

registered.”

The process to register with the CSSS to be seen by a family doctor is fairly simple. The easiest way is online at the CSSS web site (<http://www.csssdelamontagne.qc.ca>).

Click the link for “Care-and-services,” followed by “Find-a-family-doctor,” where a form can be filled out and submitted. Everyone who doesn’t already have a family doctor and who lives within CSSS de la Montagne territory is eligible.

Dr. Roper’s advice? “Go register – get your name on there,” he said. “They’ll call you and find out what your needs are and they will prioritize you.”



Dr. Mark Roper.

Antiquarian Book Fair returns to Westmount

By Martin C. Barry

“We’re back,” say Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair organizers Wilfrid de Freitas and Susan Ravdin, referring to the 22nd annual fair that is taking place at Dawson College on Saturday March 15, following a brief absence from Westmount.

In honour of the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth, a special item at this year’s fair will be an original leaf from the third folio edition (1664) of his play *The*

Life of King Henry the Eighth. There will also be a leaf from the 1493 *Nuremburg Chronicle*, the last history of the world not to mention America.

Held in recent years at Selwyn House School on Côte St. Antoine Rd., the organizers had to relocate to Trinity Memorial Church on Sherbrooke St. in eastern NDG for last year’s book fair. Then de Freitas and Ravdin received the disappointing news that the NDG Food Depot had moved into the church basement.

However, they say the newest location



Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair organizers Wilfrid de Freitas and Susan Ravdin are staging this year’s event at Dawson College.

Photo: Ray Raymond

in Conrod’s Hall at Dawson College is ideal in terms of accessibility and exposure, especially since it is right across the street from Alexis Nihon Plaza and the Atwater Metro station. “Ultimately it’s all about bringing book lovers and books together,” said Ravdin, who is a former rare book librarian.

Fifteen booksellers and a map specialist will offer some of their finest treasures on just about every subject imaginable: art, literature, cookery, history, travel, sport, nature, to name but a few. Since almost none of the sellers have shops of their

own, the fair will be a rare opportunity to see their stock.

According to de Freitas, there will be books to suit every taste and budget. “For a small price you can take home a first edition by Ernest Hemingway or Sir Walter Scott, or a signed copy of the latest John le Carré,” he said.

The fair runs from 10 am to 5 pm at Dawson College, 4001 de Maisonneuve Blvd W, Westmount. Admission is \$3. For further details call 514.935.9581 or go to the web page: www.defreitasbooks.com/wbf.html.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

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Old ideas more forward-thinking than postal plan

*From
the Mayor*

PETER F. TRENT



Houses of a certain era in Toronto were often built with a small cupboard that pierced an exterior wall, accessible from both the inside and the outside by little doors. They were called milk boxes and were used by the milkman to deliver dairy products without disturbing the homeowner and without having them (products and homeowner) freeze in winter.

Milk boxes were also convenient receptacles for the delivery of newspapers, mail, and – significantly for this column – parcels.

Why am I on about parcel delivery? Well, one of the reasons given for the surprise announcement last December of the end of home mail delivery in Canada was that few people mail letters anymore; and, while parcel deliveries remain popular thanks to internet shopping, people are not home to receive them during the day. *Ergo*, Canada Post concluded, mail-carriers

should go the way of the lamplighter.

How the proposed community mail-boxes can accommodate decent-sized parcels is left unsaid. And, in spite of the brainpower of its 22 vice-presidents, Canada Post has no idea where they are going to find places for tens of thousands of new structures, each a kind of condominium of cubbyholes from which people will retrieve their mail. Good luck in Westmount, where there can be over 5,000 different addresses per square kilometre.

No wonder Canada Post is losing money in spite of (or because of) its monopoly.

End of story?

Rather than exploring other means of receiving parcels at home, or perhaps combining their growing (and once private) Purolator division with their daily delivery, or studying the increasing trend to work from home, Canada Post simply decided *in vacuo* to stop all home delivery. End of story.

Now, internet shopping does demand home delivery: this is progress of a sort. With the introduction of big-box stores, for example, the delivery function was offloaded to the customer. Long gone is de-

partment-store home delivery. Gone even earlier was your grocery order delivered by a boy on a black bicycle. Now, every customer is self-delivering, press-ganged into the role of carrier-at-large.

Ecologically, this makes little sense: people using their cars to pick up something from Costco, Jean Coutu, or – soon – to get a piece of mail. Rather than having one person walking door to door down a street delivering mail, you will have someone from each address polluting their way to their community mailbox, possibly daily.

What about municipalities taking over home mail delivery? Forget it. Municipal employees earn 38 percent more than the rest of the public sector here in Quebec. And why go from one union monopoly to another?

And on postal pricing, let's have more realism. To send a letter a block away costs the same as to send it to Joe Batt's Arm – or to Salmon Arm.

I say contract out mail delivery to the private sector on the condition that home delivery remain in urban areas and that stamps reflect the true cost of services rendered.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm off to get a quote on installing a milk box.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PUT DOG RUN ON ARENA

The newly created parkland on the roof of the arena should be added to the list of locations under consideration as sites for a replacement dog run in the Lansdowne area. It offers a large flat surface unobstructed by trees where a dog run could be constructed at minimum cost just by providing the fencing and any necessary signage and lighting.

JOHN D. DOREY, VICTORIA AVE.

WOULD THE LAST ONE PLEASE TURN OFF THE LIGHTS?

A note about the Westmount recreation centre: There are *lights on all the time, every night*.

MARA CAMPBELL, DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

POSTAL WOES

A pressing problem that I experience is the almost weekly receipt of other people's mail. Regularly, I get mail addressed to someone on Claremont Ave. who has the same first name and house number.

Whoever is sorting the mail doesn't care that all the other details are different: last name, street name, postal code. At this time of year, property tax bills and income tax receipts are being sent out, containing information that identity thieves crave. I

worry about the mail I am *not receiving*, mail that may be sitting in someone's mailbox while they are on vacation or may be carried around for a week in a handbag or briefcase. Dropping a misdelivered letter in a mailbox can be a postponed chore.

It seems to me that whoever sorts the mail either is dyslexic or just doesn't care about doing the job correctly. Two years ago, I contacted Canada Post about this, but nothing has changed.

I wonder how many others have this mail delivery problem.

CHRISTINE O'CONNELL, GROSVENOR AVE.

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Cypress the gentle giant



The Underdog Club

ANITA ROGIC

Cypress is a wonderful 5-year-old Pyrenees mountain dog and great Dane mix. This awkward mix of breeds, however, has resulted in a very tall and thin pup who weighs between 100 and 115 lbs. Because of his towering size, no one has inquired about him at the shelter where he patiently awaits his forever home.

Cypress was initially left at a shelter by a family that could no longer keep him due to their long working hours. After a few weeks, the organization had no success in placing him, so he was transferred over to the SPCA Montréal in August of last year. Cypress is the ideal pet: he is incredibly sweet and affectionate, well behaved, and can be left home alone for hours without being destructive. He's clean and gets along great with other dogs due to his gentle and submissive nature. Shelter workers claim that if he were smaller in size, Cypress would be the ideal lapdog. He's intrigued by cats, however,




which may scare them, so a home without them would be ideal.

When Cypress is introduced to families visiting the shelter, he will instantly snuggle up to them and nudge his head along their hands, begging for a rub. His gentle nature and the love he exudes is always overshadowed by his size, and the families will walk away claiming that he is "just too big."

If you would like provide Cypress with the loving home he has so patiently been waiting for, please write to the SPCA Montréal at info@spcamontreal.org, or call 450.460.3075.

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

Kitten Jordan needs surgery urgently



9 Lives

LYSANNE FOWLER

The rescue Au Répit de la Montagne takes in abandoned and unclaimed about-to-be-gassed-at-the-pound pets on a regular basis, that is its mission. So the rescue is constantly fundraising in order to keep up with its basic costs. Once in a while, a special surgery is needed and the veterinary fees far exceed the basic costs the rescue is able to cover.

So an urgent appeal is circulated to contacts and friends with the hope that each can donate a small amount to add to the total that will pay for the emergency veterinary care. Every dollar goes a long way and is directed immediately to the veterinary hospital. I find this donation framework to be most transparent and I can immediately know the result of my contribution: saving a life.

Jordan is a stunning black-and-white kitten with white mittens and gold-flecked eyes. He was born at the shelter in June 2013 from an abandoned mother. As a youngster, he developed a nasopharyngeal polyp that requires surgery for removal. Without this urgent operation, he will not live into adulthood.

Jordan is a strong eight-month-old kitten. He is already vaccinated and neutered,



and would be a perfect candidate for adoption into a forever family. Unfortunately, he cannot wait for his life-saving surgery to eliminate the polyp that is obstructing his breathing.

If you would like to help with his care, all donations are gratefully accepted. There is a donation box for Jordan at Little Bear Pet Supplies, located at 4152 St. Catherine St., corner Greene. Paypal donations can be arranged by contacting the rescue through Anouk Lecompte at anouklecomptemax@sympatico.ca or at internet www.aurepitdelamontagne.com/english/help-us/donations/ or directly to the veterinary hospital Centre DMV located at 2300 54th Ave., Lachine, 514.633.8888, in the name of Anouk Lecompte/Jordan The Cat.

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St. 10:30 am. Also Wednesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 19.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Atwater Library Lunchtime Series: publisher and author Linda Leith discusses Mavis Gallant, the Montreal-born writer who gained international renown for her work, especially her short stories. Free, donations invited. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

"First Fridays" Family Shabbat Service and Birthday Celebration. Special Oneg Shabbat and cake for children celebrating birthdays! Free. Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom, 4100 Sherbrooke St. 5:45 pm.

MONDAY, MARCH 10

Montreal Camera Club presents photographer and filmmaker Will Allen, known for work on great white sharks and world champion surfer Kelly Slater. Free.

Westmount Park Church, 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. 7:30 pm.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

Westmount Horticultural Society presents "Managing gardens in a sustainable, planet-friendly manner," with Gwynne Basin, filmmaker turned organic farmer. Guests \$5. Westmount Public Library. 7 pm. Doors open at 6:30 for snacks.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Westmount Antiquarian Book Fair. Conrod's Hall, Dawson College, 4001 de Maisonneuve Blvd. Booksellers will be selling used and antiquarian books, maps and prints. Admission \$3. 10 am to 5 pm.

ONGOING:

Tumbling Tots. Centre Greene. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 am to 11 am. Indoor/park playground for parents and children under 5 years. \$3.50/morning drop-in. Coffee and cookies provided.



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3075 Jean-Girard
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GOLDEN SQUARE MILE | \$999,000



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1605 Dr Penfield #202
GOLDEN SQUARE MILE | \$648,000



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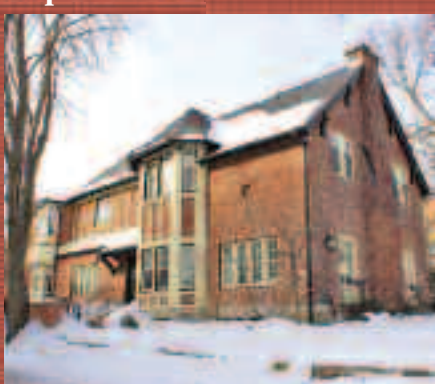
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Edythe Berman

Police ticket 135 in crackdown on distracted drivers

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Montreal police issued 135 tickets to distracted drivers at some of Westmount's busiest intersections on February 20 as part of an on-going operation cracking down on cell phone usage on Montreal roads.

Station 12 police and Montreal traffic officers used unmarked minivans along Sherbrooke St. to catch people using their cell phones as they drove through the street's most congested areas.

After they'd been pulled over, some drivers received additional tickets for other offenses, such as driving with an expired license.

The crackdown is part of Montreal police's Operation Chock Sud, which is rotating between boroughs and municipalities throughout the southern part of the island of Montreal, targeting the most crash-heavy streets.

The Quebec government first banned the use of cell phones while driving in April 2008. Per the Highway Safety Code, it is illegal for drivers to handle the phone at all while on the road, regardless of whether the device is in use.

Each ticket calls for a fine of between \$110 and \$154 and three demerit points

added to the driver's license.

Station 12 Constable Adalbert Pimentel is hopeful that the financial ramifications of the ticket will force drivers to reassess their priorities in the car and encourage them to put away their cell phones.

"There has to be consequences to people's actions. There's a group where educational campaigns just aren't enough. You need these types of operations and that's when people begin shaping their behaviour," he said.

However, six years after the law was introduced, cell phone usage while driving is still on the rise.

According to Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, 47,000 tickets for distracted driving were issued in Quebec between January and September of last year, the same number as for all of 2009, the first full year the law was in effect.

Pimentel says the 135 tickets issued in just one day prove the issue is still an epidemic in Westmount.

"People need to understand that they aren't on the road by themselves. Distracted driving affects everybody, including other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians," he said.

Pimentel argues that the current resist-

ance to the cell phone legislation mirrors the slow acceptance of the mandatory seat belt law after it was introduced in Quebec in 1976.

"I can't remember a ticket for not wearing a seat belt. I've been police officer for 20 years. People just put their seat belts on now. But if you talk to older officers, they say that used to be the most common infraction. It takes time for habits to change, but it's important for everybody's safety," he said.

Chock Sud comparison data between Westmount and other municipalities and boroughs won't be available until the operation is conducted in other targeted zones this spring.

Tow truck hooks car door

During snow-clearing operations February 18, a tow truck hooked the open door of a car outside 1125 Greene, Public Security officials said. The fender-bender occurred about 7:28 am as the driver of an Audi opened the door into the path of the passing truck just south of Dorchester. No injuries were reported.

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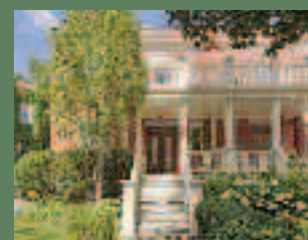
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Police Report

Purse stolen from coffee shop in suspected two-man operation

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.

A man who stole a purse from Sherbrooke St. coffee shop is believed to have had help from an accomplice acting as a lookout, according to Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel.

The 35-year-old man entered the shop talking on his cell phone while the suspected accomplice, a slim 45-year-old with salt-and-pepper hair, stood by the door, also on the phone.

The suspect looked at the shop's baked goods and other products before inching his way towards the victim, who was sitting at a table with her purse on the ground next to her, said Pimentel. Using his foot to bring the purse nearer, the suspect surreptitiously placed his jacket over the bag, picked it up and walked out of the shop.

"The lady never noticed the suspect. The only way we found out about him was by the store's video surveillance system,"

said Pimentel.

"This is how these crimes are done. You don't notice a person just talking on their cell phone or looking at merchandise. But if they see an opportunity, they grab it and that's it," he added.

According to Pimentel, the fact the alleged thief knew which coffee shop and which customer to target has led police to suspect the man by the door may have been providing information over the phone.

Coffee shops and restaurants are prime targets for would-be thieves, said Pimentel, with customers often placing their purses, backpacks and other bags on the floor and forgetting about them while they dine.

Individuals can reduce their vulnerability to similar crimes by ensuring their valuables are kept in sight or out of the reach of potential thieves, he explained.

"What we always recommend is that when you have a bag with valuables or a hand bag, keep it on the table, or if that's not possible, on your lap or in front of you, never beside you or on the back of your seat," he said.

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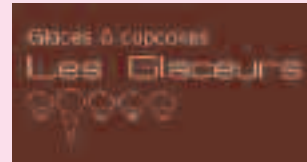
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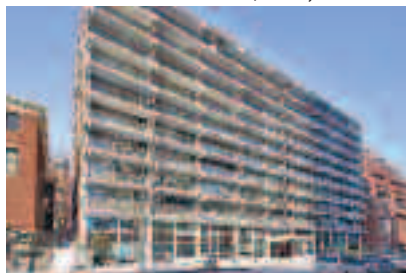
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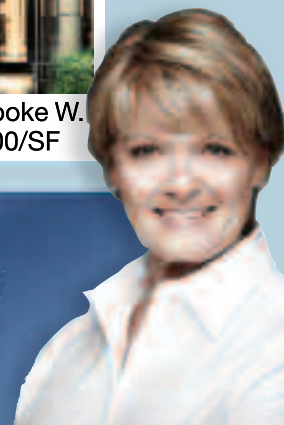
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Spring is coming! Nests, get ready



Wasps' nests are a common sight around Westmount, often hanging at the ends of exposed tree branches. A queen wasp chews up wood and manufacturers a paper-like material that she shapes and layers into an umbrella. The nests are usually vacant in the winter since the worker wasps die off in the autumn, however queens may hibernate in them throughout the winter. This nest is clearly visible on Lansdowne just north of de Maisonneuve.

PHOTOS: RALPH THOMPSON

It didn't feel like it last week, but spring is around the corner and the wildlife of Westmount will be back (or more active) once the warmer weather comes.

Some nests survive the winters and are re-used from year to year, including squirrel nests, which also tend to be higher in the trees.

Here are some photos we found of past and future nests.



A small nest, right, spotted on the northwest corner of Roslyn and Westmount Ave. It could be a goldfinch, sparrow or robin nest.



A nest of leaves and twigs in Summit Woods, most likely a squirrel nest. The main purpose of squirrel nests, just like bird nests, is to raise a family and protect their young but squirrels will also often nestle down as a couple in their nest to keep warm in bad weather.

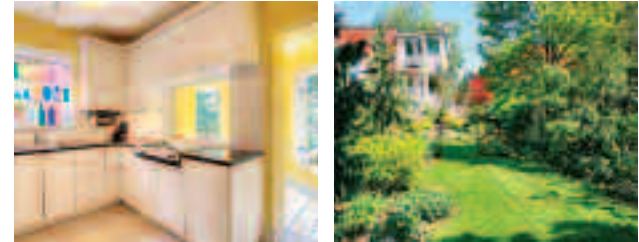
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An estate of nests at the corner of Murray Hill Park and Côte St. Antoine. These are most likely squirrel nests and occupied year round.

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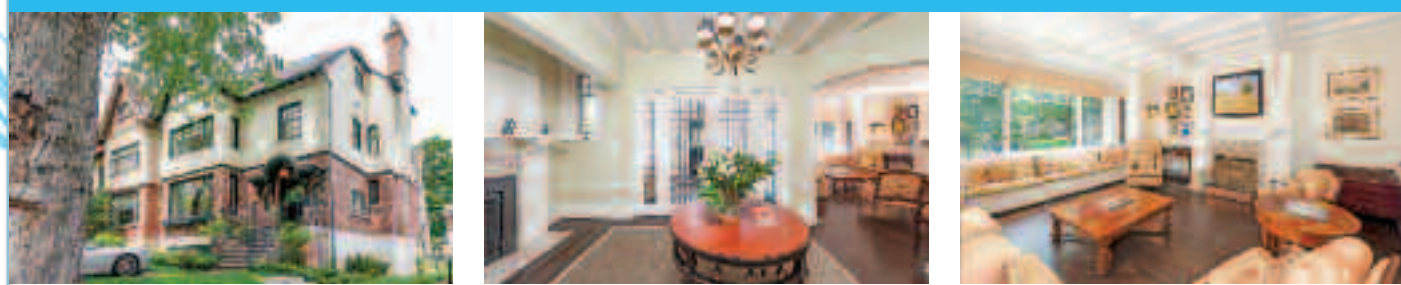
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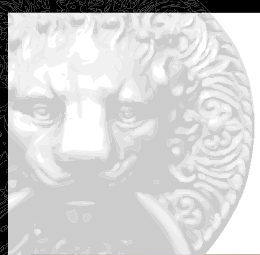


590 Côte St. Antoine Rd.

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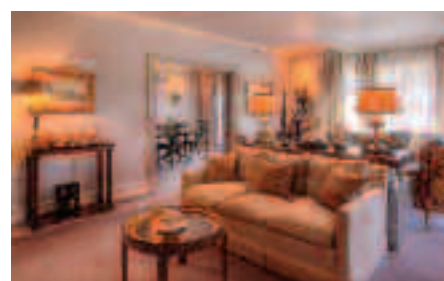
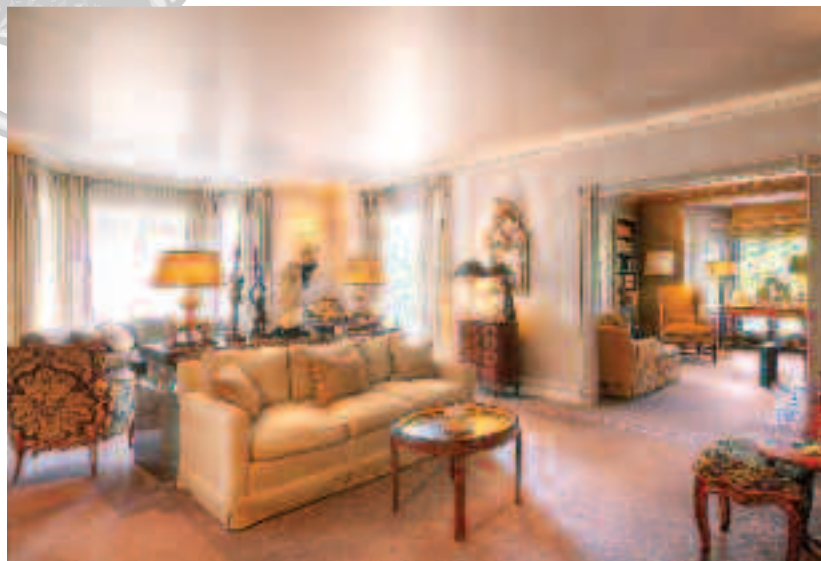
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The Westmount Independent Spring Social Calendar

By VERONICA REDGRAVE

MARCH

7 Around the World for Women. Cocktail vernissage fundraiser for Oxfam Québec. Featuring work by artist Leila Labelle. Inspired by Desert Flower and Half the Sky, empowering women around the world for better human rights and education, one woman at a time. 6 to 9 pm. Mod's Hair Westmount, 4201 St. Catherine St. (corner Greene). Information and RSVP 514.935.5608.

14 St. Patrick's Society Luncheon. Featuring Aislin (Terry Mosher) as guest speaker. 11:15 am. Hilton Montreal Bonaventure Hotel, 900 de la Gauchetière W. Tickets \$80. Corporate tables (10) \$1,250. 514.481.1346. ofice@spsmtl.com

15 Tux in the City. Proceeds go to the Art for Healing Foundation. Produced by Corinne & Co. 8 pm. Galerie 203, 229 Notre Dame W. Guests must wear tuxedos and bow ties. Tickets \$99. 514.439.4203. By text at 514.261.0899.

21 Mount Royal Ball for St. Justine CHUM Foundation. 10 pm. Montreal Science Centre. Tickets \$125. 514.345.4931. Local 5221.

27 Israel Cancer Research Fund's Experience Fashion Show. 8 pm. Eric Maclean Centre for the Performing Arts, Loyola High School, 2477 West Broadway. Tickets 514.481.2723.

30 CSUQ-Shaaré Hessed Benefit Concert, presided by Michael Goodman. *The Four Seasons* of Vivaldi interpreted by the OKTOECHO Orchestra. Special guest Sharon Azrieli Perez, soprano. Black tie. Valet parking. 7:30 pm. Claire and Marc Bourgie Pavilion, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1339 Sherbrooke St. West. Tickets \$125. Agnes Castiel 514.733.4998. Local 3135. acastiel@csuq.org.

APRIL

3 Lighting the Way Dinatoire. B'nai Brith Canada honours lifetime president Eric Bissell. Chairs: Robert Cutler, Jacques Maurice, Avram Fishman. Emcee Andy Nulman. 6 to 9 pm. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1380 Sherbrooke St. West. Tickets 514.733.5377. Local 127

6 Annual Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors Foundation Sports Celebrity Breakfast and Silent Auction. Featuring sports personalities from the Alouettes and Canadiens. 9 am. Gelber Conference Centre, 5151 Côte St. Catherine. Tickets \$30. VIP tickets \$100. Susan Rozansky 514.342.1234. Local 7234. susan@cummingscentre.org

8 A Chance to Shine 2014. Ometz Fundraiser. Gala patrons Véronique and Herbert Black. Gala chair Ruth Ben Simon Choueke. Théâtre Maison-neuve, Place des Arts. Tickets 514.342.0000. Local 3470.

8 Batshaw Centre Foundation's Annual Cocktail Challenge. 6 to 8:30 pm. Parisian Laundry, 3550 St. Antoine St. West. Tickets \$125 and \$80 for 35 and under. (At the door \$150 and \$100). 514.989.1885. Local 1192.

10 Dinner with Friends. To benefit the Centaur Theatre. Dinner and performance of 4000 Miles, by Amy Herzog, directed by Roy Surette. Conversation with the cast. 5:30 pm. Tickets Victoria Laberge 514.288.1229. Local 240. development@centaurtheatre.com

11 Musée d'art contemporain gala. Les Printemps du MAC, to benefit the MAC Foundation. Honourée Grégoire Baillargeon, head, investment and corporate banking, Montreal, BMO Capital Markets. Event presidents Eva Hartling, vice-president marketing and communications Birks Group Inc., and Maria Antonopoulos, director marketing and communications, Groupe Antonopoulos. 9 pm. 185 St. Catherine St. W. Tickets 514.847.6234. Naila Del Cid 514.847.6272.

13 Come Together! The Best of the Beatles, to benefit the Segal Centre for Performing Arts. 1 pm and 7:30 pm performances. Tickets \$55 (adults) and \$36 (under 12). 514.739.7944.

24 Daffodil Ball benefiting the Canadian Cancer Society. Theme: "On the Wild Side." Chairs Jon Fairest, president/ CEO, Sanofi Canada; Robert Hattem, president/CEO, UAP Inc., Nick Loporcaro, president McKesson Canada. Windsor Station. 6:45 pm. 900 Peel St. Tickets \$850 (available only to benefactors donating \$2,000 or more). Sponsors' tables \$27,500, \$35,000 and \$50,000. Alison Silcoff 514.932.7517. Alison@alisonsilcoff.com

24 AGI Alzheimer Groupe Vintage Recall. Designer clothes and accessories sale. Opening "Vente Privée" cocktail 5:30 pm. 5500 Ferrier. Tickets \$75. 514.485.7233. linda@agiteam.org

24 Tony & Tina's Wedding. The interactive Matrimonial Off-Broadway Touring Production, raising funds for Donald Berman UP House. Theatre, dinner and dancing. Tickets \$250. 514.798.0791. service@urbanpardes.org

25, 26, 27 AGI Alzheimer Groupe Vintage Recall. Designer clothes and accessories sale. 12 to 9 pm. Free entrance. 5500 Ferrier. Information 514.485.7233. linda@agiteam.org

30 Generations Foundation Theatre Evening. Segal Centre production of *Top Girls*, by Caryl Churchill, directed by Micheline Chevrier. 8 pm. Segal Centre, 5170 Côte St. Catherine. Tickets Adrian 514.933.8585

MAY

3 Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal Benefit Gala. 6 pm. Uniprix Stadium. 285 Faillon West. Tickets \$700. Tables (10) \$7,000. 514.849.8681. Local 229. lcailleres@grandsballets.com

4 La Dolce Vita. Italian cocktail presented by the Miriam Foundation with the Unicorn Children's Foundation. Honourary co-chairs Diane Proulx Guerrera, Valeria Rosenbloom. Chairs Rhoda Vineberg, Marsha Becker. Luciani Infiniti Showroom, 4000 Jean-Talon W. Tickets \$200. Elys Ben Sabat 514.345-1300. Local 104. elysab@miriamfoundation.ca

6 Canadian Red Cross 10th Anniversary Benefit Dinner (Quebec Division). Honorary president Michèle Dionne. Chairs Martin Thibodeau, president Quebec headquarters, RBC Royal Bank; Martine Turcotte, vice-chair Quebec, Bell. Tickets Diane Harnois 514.362.2930. Local 2930. diane-harnois@croixrouge.ca

7 Under the Tuscan Sun. Queen Elizabeth Health Complex's 10th anniversary fundraiser, Italian-themed evening to benefit the Diagnostic Imaging Clinic. Chairs Robert Fagnoli, Richard Yufe. Tickets \$150. Sarah Malka 514.485.5023. Talia Noya 514.485.5018

8 McCord Museum Ball. Black tie. 6:30 pm. Arsenal, 2020 William. Tickets \$750. Online at Mccord-museum.qc.ca/ball. 514.398.7100. Local 280. ball@mccordmuseum.ca

10 Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal's 42nd Benefit gala. BJM Gold. Chairs Jean-Marc Léger, president/founder Léger, and Johanne Berry, president, Télé-Ressources. Whiskey bar, cocktails, dinner and dancing. Véronique Thibault 514.982.6771. Local 7. Veronique@bjmdance.ca

13 A Vision to Remember. AGI Alzheimer Groupe Gala. 6 pm. Centre Mont-Royal, 2200 Mansfield. Tickets 514.485.7233. Linda@agiteam.org

14 5th Annual Tiny Survivors Cocktail. Fundraiser for the Royal Victoria Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Hosted by Lucian D'Iorio, Karen Aziz, Helen Wolkowicz and Erika Sainos. Tickets 514.843.1543

16 Tyndale St. Georges Community Centre's Dance & Auction "Disco & Diamonds." Chair Sandy Infilise Miron. 6:30 pm. Rialto Theatre, 5723 Park Ave. Tickets \$150. Susan McKinnon Bell 514.931.6265. Local 25. susanbell@tyndalestgeorges.com

21 Tribute gala celebrating retiring head of St. George's School, James Officer. Hollywood theme. Le Windsor, 1170 Peel St. Tickets www.stgeorges.qc.ca/tributegala

21 Peter Hall School Foundation. 13th Annual Wine and Cheese Evening. Event president Tony Loffreda, regional vice-president, Commercial Financial Services, Western Quebec, RBC Royal Bank. 6 pm. Le Crystal Congress Centre, 5285 Henri-Bourassa W. Tickets Louise Leblanc 514.510.2021.

22 Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation Ball. "There's No Place Like Home," Wizard of Oz-themed gala. Patron of honour Karen Leggett, executive vice-president marketing, National Bank. 6:30 pm. Windsor Station, 1100 de la Gauchetière W. Valet parking. Tickets \$500. Natacha Lachaine, 514.934.4846. Local 29270. nlac@mchf.com

28 Miriam Foundation 4th Annual Art Auction. Chairs Jeannette Hoffman-Zaffir, Carol Tryansky, Franki Yanofsky, Judy Wolfe. 6:30 pm. Loft

continued on p. 17

'Short-listed' in December

Real estate

ANDY DODGE, CRA

Note: The following article relates to the registration of deeds of sale for Westmount property in December 2013, gleaned from non-city of Westmount sources. A list of sales can be found on p. 15.)

Only three sales were registered in December last year, touching on the lowest monthly volume in decades and, perhaps, foretelling a lack of interest in the Westmount real estate market as we move into a new spring season.

The one- and two-family sales list is highlighted by the \$2,225,000 sale of 565-65B Victoria Ave., originally built as a horse-stable-with-carriage-house arrangement in 1910, which was totally renovated over the past six years and now has a huge two-storey house in front, with a double garage capped by an apartment at the rear. The sale was 50 percent higher than its

2011 municipal evaluation, by far the highest mark-up of the month.

The other two sales were both far gentler prices and mark-ups, with 464 Mount Stephen Ave. representing the lowest price, \$980,000, and the only markdown of 1.3 percent.

December also recorded the sale of one more apartment at 3453-57 St. Antoine St., one of two triplexes that were sold out of an estate in October 2011, for \$400,000 each and then renovated. The two apartments at 3453-57 that have been sold off to date have returned some \$606,000 to the investor.

In examining sources of information from which real estate information can be gleaned, we came across one more sale registered in June, at 4328 Montrose Ave., just east of Clarke Ave., which went for a healthy 37 percent above the 2011 valuation.

The low volume in December matches the number of one- and two-family sales in March 2009, and two months in the 1970s. Our records have only two sales each in January 1988 and December 1994, and only one sale in February 1988. The



565-565B Victoria Ave. – highest price (\$2,225,000) and highest mark-up, (50 percent).

1988 sales preceded a substantial hike in prices as the year went on; 1994 was near the bottom of a slump in prices, which lasted through most of the decade.

Hotel, 314 Sherbrooke St. E. Tickets Elysa Ben Sabat 514.345.1300. Local 104. elysab@miriamfoundation.ca

JUNE

1 Goodman Cancer Research Gala, benefiting the Goodman Cancer Research Centre of McGill University. Honorary chairs Heather Munroe-Blum and Bernard Shapiro. Gala chair Tony Loffreda, regional vice-president, Commercial Financial Services, Western Quebec, RBC Royal Bank. Vice chair Sandra Martz. Advisors Rosalind and Morris Goodman. Emcee Derek Drummond. 6 pm. Convocation tent, lower campus, McGill University. Valet parking. Tickets \$500. Annette Novak or Rayna Goldman 514.398.4970. Gala2014.gcrc@mccgill.ca

2 Trafalgar School's Golf Tournament. Chair Per Nyberg. Club de Golf Métropolitain Anjou. Tickets golfers \$250. Dinner \$125. Sharon Cozens 514.935.2644. Local 237. cozens@trafalgar.qc.ca

2 22nd Silver Star Mercedes-Benz JGH Golf Classic. Chair George Sakkas. Elm Ridge Golf & Country Club. Tickets 514.340.8222. Local 2587.

12 Chapeau Mont Royal. Gourmet luncheon and raffle organized by Les Amis de la montagne to support educational and conservation activities on Mount Royal. Honorary chair Julie Godin, senior vice-president, human resources and strategic planning, CGI. Co-chairs Mary Bruns Creighton, Kathryn Lund Drummond, Judith Kavanagh and Carole Labelle Molson. Dress: hats to be worn by all. Tickets \$225. 514.843.8240. Local 239. gcatta@lemontroyal.qc.ca.

17 Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom's exclusive viewing of the Fabergé exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Cocktail

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dînatoire. 6:30 pm. Musée des beaux-arts, 1380 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets Risa 514.937.3575. Local 215. tebsfaberge@gmail.com

19 AGI Alzheimer Groupe Annual Golf Tournament. Hillsdale Golf and Country Club, Montée St. Marianne. Tickets 514.485.7233. admin@agiteam.org

JULY

14 50th annual Lori Black Memorial Golf Tournament. 11 am. Hillsdale Golf and Country Club. Tickets / sponsorships Elysa Ben Sabat 514.345.1300. Local 104. elysab@miriamfoundation.ca



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Marc Miller vies for Liberal Party nod in Ville Marie riding

By Laureen Sweeney

Given Marc Miller’s interest in helping rebuild the federal Liberal party around the leadership of Justin Trudeau, his decision to run as a potential candidate in the next election might have been foreseen. In his own words, “we’ve been the best of friends since 1984 when I was 11.”

Over the last six years, he says, he has become involved in Trudeau’s campaigns “through friendship.”

He has served as a senior advisor, a director of the Papineau riding association and was one of five national fundraising directors of Trudeau’s leadership campaign who brought in \$2 million.

“It’s extremely challenging to reach out to people and think out of the box,” Miller said last week of his involvement to date.

While Miller was raised on Prince Albert and is now bringing up his own three children on Aberdeen, he was not about to seek the candidacy in his new home riding of NDG-Westmount. This is where current MP Marc Garneau has chosen to run. “He’s a Canadian hero,” Miller says of the country’s first man in space.



Marc Miller.

Photo: Laureen Sweeney.

former Swedish diplomat who served a stint as acting ambassador to Canada. And it’s because of her that Miller worked and lived in Sweden for three years and in New York for four while she was posted to the United Nations. More recently, she has been a member of the former Westmount-Ville Marie riding association along with Miller’s mother, Pam (see October 9, p. 5).

Backpacked in Africa

Miller and Trudeau met at school at Brébeuf. Along with two other high school friends, they backpacked through Africa after obtaining bachelor degrees in 1994, he said.

For Miller, at the time, it was a choice between going to Africa or on a peace-keeping mission to Bosnia with the Canadian Grenadier Guards – the militia regiment to which he belonged for four years. And in retrospect, he explained, going through the west coast of Africa including Ghana, Togo and Benin was probably the more dangerous of the two options.

But it further whetted his appetite in learning about the diversity of people and international relations. And his fluency in French was of particular benefit.

French ‘a gift’

French “was a gift given to me by my parents who had the real presence of mind to send me to French schools,” he said. These included Marie de France, where Miller is sending his own children – Marius, 11, Lukas, 8 and Eva, 6.

Even the spelling of his first name was chosen, in part, because “it worked well where we’re living,” his father says.

But for Miller, being brought up in such an environment means that, like many of his same age group, he said, “there is no linguistic divide.”

After the University of Montreal, Miller studied law at McGill, where his family has deep roots. His father Carman Miller, now retired, was dean of arts and professor of history. His mother was curator of archives at the McCord Museum and head of McGill’s Osler medical library. Her father, Lorne Gales, was well known as the head of the Graduates’ Society and development.

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But his decision to vie for nomination in the adjacent Ville Marie riding is one he sees as presenting a challenge in diversity and economic disparity that underlines his approach to politics as “a human thing,” he told the *Independent* last week.

Miller, who turns 41 next week, is one of two Liberals actively running as a po-

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tential Ville Marie candidate in the 2015 election. And his opponent, Bernard Amyot, also lives in Westmount (see story, p. 19).

The new downtown constituency stretches from Atwater east to Park Ave. and includes the Square Mile, St. Henri, Little Burgundy, Griffintown and Nuns’ Island.

And Miller, a lawyer with the law firm Stikeman Elliott, already refers to himself as a Montrealer. “That’s what I am, my wife says, because of the amount of time I spend at my office downtown!”

He met Elin Sandberg, his future wife, a lawyer, through Trudeau, he said. She’s a

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Amyot throws hat in ring as Liberal candidate in Ville Marie

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Westmounter Bernard Amyot's decision to seek the federal Liberal nomination in the newly created Ville Marie riding is a natural outcome of his years of advocacy for federalism, democracy and justice, he told the *Independent* last week.

But despite living on Holton for 17 years, he said, his decision not to run in the new riding of NDG-Westmount was out of deference to incumbent MP Marc Garneau who will run there. "He's my friend and a Canadian icon."

And for Amyot, a 53-year-old trial lawyer, longtime Liberal and a former president of the Canadian Bar Association, it's now time to take his community advocacy to a new level, at which he hopes to be able "to make a greater difference."

It happens to be a particularly busy time for him now as he sets up a new law firm with his commercial litigation team from Heenan Blaikie, which is winding up its business. Called LCM Boutique, "it will be a one-stop shop specializing in litigation."

Nevertheless, he will also have time for campaigning if he's chosen as a candidate, he said. "I'm used to doing two jobs at the same time."

Amyot is one of two known aspirants for the nomination in Ville Marie. He and Marc Miller both live in Westmount (see story, p. 18).

No stranger to national issues

While this is Amyot's first foray into the political arena as a politician, he served as vice-president of the former Westmount-

Loose dog 'known to authorities'

A dog was found running loose on Montrose and leashed by a resident February 22, Public Security officials said. The dog, which wore a licence tag but was also well known to officers, lived nearby. The owner was called shortly after 10:38 am. She stated she was out of town, but would send someone to pick up the dog. It was collected at noon. The owner, who has received previous tickets for the same by-law violation, was issued another one for \$76.

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Ville Marie riding association before the reconfiguration of ridings.

From the time he was part of "a group of young federalists" involved in the 1995 Quebec referendum on separation, Amyot said he has been speaking out on national issues and writing about them.

"As president of the Canadian Bar, I crisscrossed the country in 2007-2008 defining the pillars of our democratic system, due diligence and our courts." His whole experience allowed him to realize that "you can make a difference," he said.

It was the same time that he became an advocate for the repatriation from Guantanamo Bay of accused terrorist Omar Khadr, based on conventions governing child soldiers "and so he could be afforded a fair trial."

Amyot spoke on the issue at government hearings and had a private meeting with the Justice minister (Rob Nicholson), whom he calls "a good minister." But it was the political stance of the Conservatives with which Amyot disagreed, further fuelling his aspirations to carry the Liberal banner into a federal election.

Amyot has also served as chairman of Brébeuf College, a director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and chair of the National Theatre School of Canada. He is also a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Raised in Outremont, he credits his father with encouraging him to study law at McGill in order to learn English. "It's the best advice he ever gave me." Amyot and

Noisy music, videos

Music and loud video games were heard emanating from an apartment at 3035 St. Antoine St. February 23, according to Public Security officials. Answering a complaint about the noise at 3:37 am, public safety officers warned the resident and the sound level was lowered.

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Bernard Amyot.

Photo: Independent.

his wife, Francine, ultimately moved to Westmount in 1996 where they raised their daughter, Juliette, 20, and where their son, Eric, 12, is growing up.

Meter damaged accidentally

A worker at 4920 Sherbrooke accidentally damaged a hydro meter at the rear of the building February 21, Public Security officials report. The contractor erected a metal fence around the area and, after notifying Hydro Westmount, called an electrician.

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RAPPORTS DE DÉPENSES ÉLECTORALES D'UN CANDIDAT INDÉPENDANT AUTORISÉ

ELECTION EXPENSE REPORTS FOR AUTHORIZED INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

En vertu de l'article 499 de la *Loi sur les élections et les référendums dans les municipalités* (chapitre E-2.2) et à titre de Trésorier des élections, je publie le sommaire des rapports de dépenses électorales reçus à l'intérieur des 90 jours depuis l'élection générale municipale du 3 novembre 2013.

À la demande, ces documents peuvent être consultés.

As per Section 499 of the *Act Respecting Elections and Referendums in Municipalities* (chapter E-2.2), as Election Treasurer, I hereby publish a summary of all election expense reports received within the 90 days following the Municipal General Election of November 3, 2013.


These documents are available for public consultation by request.

Candidat / Candidate	District	Date de production / Date of filing	Limite de dépenses électorales / Election expense limit	Dépenses effectuées et autorisées / Authorized actual expenses		
Peter F. Trent	Mairie Mayor	2013-12-02	7 984.60	\$	0	\$
Julia Carbone Gold	1	2014-01-30	2 370.00	\$	2 357.04	\$
Patrick Martin	1	2014-01-31	2 370.00	\$	2 349.36	\$
Peter Starr	2	2014-01-31	2 358.60	\$	2 229.11	\$
Philip A. Cutler	2	2014-01-29	2 358.60	\$	1 473.84	\$
Victor M. Drury	3	2013-11-17	2 434.50	\$	0	\$
Rosalind Davis	4	2013-12-31	2 433.60	\$	2 094.39	\$
Kathleen W. Duncan	4	2013-12-30	2 433.60	\$	495.87	\$
Christina Smith	5	2014-01-31	2 436.60	\$	1 327.29	\$
John P. Fretz	5	2014-01-31	2 436.60	\$	1 211.72*	\$
Nicole Forbes	6	2014-01-22	2 444.10	\$	0	\$
Nigel Goddard	7	2013-12-17	2 442.00	\$	0	\$
Mavis Young	7	2014-01-31	2 442.00	\$	2 249.63	\$
Cynthia Lulham	7	2014-01-31	2 442.00	\$	625.65	\$
Theodora Samiotis	8	2014-01-31	2 406.60	\$	1 116.21	\$
Andrei Jones	8	2014-01-14	2 406.60	\$	338.13	\$
*Dépenses effectuées sans autorisation. *Expenses incurred without authorization.			TOTAL	44 200.00	\$	17 868.24 \$

DONNÉ à Westmount, le 4 mars 2014.
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Dominic AGOSTINO
Trésorier des élections
Election Treasurer

The crying games



On the Lighter Side

INGRID KOVITCH-DANNENBAUM

I have spent much of the past two weeks crying. Yes, the Olympic Games have gotten the better of me.

The waterworks began, predictably, with the opening ceremony. I cried watching countries with huge contingents enter the stadium – the hordes whooping and hollering in stirring solidarity. I cried for nations with only a single athlete marching in lonesome exultation. And I cried watching the handful of countries that sent *two* delegates. (You know, for the athlete NOT chosen as flag-bearer.)

I cried during the events, and I cried during commercials. I cried watching athletes' profiles, and interviews, and families. I cried in the midst of thrilling victories, unexpected triumphs, and for those who fell short. I cried over skis bestowed to strangers, race positions surrendered to teammates, and secretly buried ashes. And I cried during the anthems. All of them.

Between sobs, I learned a few surprising facts:

There is an Official Cracker of the Canadian Olympic Team. (Ritz. Imagine that. Despite all those saturated fats.)

Some curlers have been to the gym. (As such, drug testing might not be entirely inappropriate.)

There are style points awarded in ski jumping. (In my view, this "flies" in the face of all reason. Like long jump, or high jump, I think athletes should be free to use whatever technique gets the job done. If you can land, *and still be alive*: full points.)

What I did not fully learn was a greater

appreciation for the sliding sports. I am still mystified by the role of the bobsleigh crew, who push – at full tilt, mind you – and then hop in and duck. They are next spied (G-d willing) at the bottom, when they pop up eagerly, like anxious prairie dogs. "So? How'd we do? Anyone see my shadow?"

No matter who competes, the winner is always the same: Team Gravity!

Uphill sledding

One of my boys, ever the pragmatist, wondered aloud how the sleds arrived back up at the top of the run. Was there a very large magic carpet? A family of Sherpas assigned to each country? (I hadn't noticed them in the opening ceremony.)

Our unanimous conclusion was that like all self-respecting tobogganers, this responsibility should fall to the sledders themselves. In fact, we felt that official timing should actually begin at the *bottom* of the mountain, include the hauling or dragging or what-have-you to get to the top, and then finish with the glorious run back down. (Style points optional.) Now there's a sport!


All that being said, I did it once more. I cried – pitifully, and whole-heartedly – when our extraordinary Canadian duo won again.

In so doing, I succeeded in crying during every single sport, for every single country, and for all possible outcomes. I cried for this glorious two-week celebration of youth and vigour, of magnificent health and sublime well-being. And I cried for myself – my own aging body recently gone awry.

But most of all I cried for the essence and humanity of the Olympic ideals: the setting aside of that which might make us different or drive us apart; the shared embrace of struggle, resilience and honest fight; and the spirit of friendship, of fair play, of tolerance and of peace.

Now I am crying because it is over.

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Anne Marie Bertrand and Sylvia Rourke.



Social Notes

from Westmount
and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

As our thoughts spring to warmer weather, we hope you will forgive us for speaking of a colder season. Better late than never.

Montreal is so full of deserving fundraisers during the fall/winter social season that we are only now getting around to one of the city's most charming events: the Toy Tea. Held annually, the daytime event collects toys for children in shelters. Guests are invited to attend for the "ticket price" of a new wrapped toy.

Long time patrons Westmounters **Maria Birks** and **Barbara Bronfman** joined **Ginger Petty**, who founded the tea 22 years ago, in welcoming hundreds of guests to Ogilvy's wood-panelled 5th floor space, chock full of brightly coloured play things, teddy bears and construction blocks.

Ogilvy has been a sponsor for over 10 years. The other major sponsor is Mega Brands, represented by **Anne Marie Bertrand**. Co-chairs were Westmounters **Sylvie Chagnon** and **Claire Kruyt**.

Amidst the packed crowd, Quebec beauty queen **Lise Watier** was noted offering beautiful support to the cause. Committee members from Westmount were **Sylvia Papchristou-Rourk**, **Roshi Chadha**, **Helen Klinkhoff**, **Alicia Hamilton**, **Sophie Palmer**, **Sylvia Rourke**, **Jill de Villafranca** and **Christine Henderson**.

Local school choirs entertained guests, with students from **ECS**, **Selwyn House**, **The Priory**, **Villa St. Marcelline**, **St. George's elementary**, **Akiva** and **The Study**, part of the event since its beginning.

Westmount's **Roslyn School** collected toys, and attended to receive a Certificate of Appreciation. Other schools attending include **LCC**, **École Buissonniere**, **Kuper Academy**, **Sacred Heart**, **Willingdon** and **Lady of Pompei**.

Volunteers from Concordia University helped with event coordination and packing the toys, distributed to 31 shelters throughout Montreal.

Extra toys were given to community organizations such as **Diet Dispensary**, **Batshaw** and **Patricia MacKenzie Pavilion**. Caterer **By George** provided delicious refreshments.



Maria Birks and Barbara Bronfman.



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Beer Review: Helm Microbrasserie sur Bernard

273 Bernard St. West (at Park Ave.)
February 20

Greg Dunning, The Connoisseur;
beer drinker/brewer/hunter
Ideal beer: One that is made by people
who care more about the beer than
the money
Favourite beer: Too many to mention

David Price, The Philistine; beer drinker
Ideal beer: Stronger-than-average lager,
even if it's commercial Canadian beer
Favourite beer: Harp

For this review, we were accompanied
by our incorruptible “Euro-sidekicks,”
Mila of Prague and Willem of
Amsterdam, and invited guest
Fred of Côte des Neiges.

Helm Microbrasserie has big shoes to
fill as it occupies the location that was the
home of Futenbulle, the original destina-
tion for beer geeks back in the 80s. The
dozens of mostly Belgian and interna-
tional bottled beers back then have been
replaced by eight brewed-on-premise
beers, named after iconic Montreal streets
and four guest beers from Brasseurs RJ
(Belle Gueule), all on tap.

Complementing the beer selection is a

small and strange menu that specializes in
exotic grilled-cheese sandwiches!?! HELM
comes from Houblons (hops), Eau (water),
Levure (yeast) and Malt – a pretty cool
name.

THE PHILISTINE: My first beer was a
Pilsner, La Clark. It quenched my thirst ad-
equately, but I think a Budweiser would
have done the same. Regardless
of what one thinks of it, I don't
think this beer belongs in a clas-
sic lager category like Pilsner,
which should have a clean, un-
complicated taste.

Pils to start

THE CONNOISSEUR: Like on
our last outing, we all began from
the same spot, with La Clark. The
menu describes it as a German
Pils (lager), a classic Rhine-Ruhr
apéritif. The standards of this style
are Dortmunder Export, Bit-
burger and DAB.

A Pils is wetter in your mouth
(subtly more malty) and it evapo-
rates more slowly (subtly less
hoppy) than a Czech Pilsner.
Clark matched this profile ade-
quately, but it had this off-bitter af-
tertaste in the back of my throat. It
simply should have been more re-
freshing.

You can do better with a Sap-
poro. We munched on nachos,
which were lousy but we were too
hungry to care.

THE PHILISTINE: My second beer
was a cream ale, Fairmont. It was indeed
creamy, but it should have had a less full-
flavour, in my view, than the ubiquitous,
multipurpose “craft taste” one finds in
many micro-brews nowadays. Greg tells
me that, when drinking a cream ale, you
should be able to close your eyes and think
you are drinking a blonde Guinness. This
is what happens, he tells me, with Bod-

dingtons Pub Ale, Kilkenny and our own
superb local example, St. Ambroise Cream
Ale. It just didn't happen with Fairmont.
Stick to the bagels.

THE CONNOISSEUR: I went next
with Mile End, a best bitter, the English-
man's session ale. It was smooth, expect-
edly between a red (*rousse*) and blonde, and



Photo courtesy of W. Westenber.

hoppy enough (could have been more bit-
ter). A nice drinkable ale that paired very
nicely with my venison burger, which defi-
nitely was the best item on the menu.

THE PHILISTINE: My third beer was
a *rousse*, Du Parc. It had that taste that
many craft beers have that is halfway to
nuttininess and halfway to spiciness, which
I also found in Clark and Fairmont.

I know some beer drinkers consider
this taste to be the hallmark of good, non-
commercial beer, but I don't like it.

In my view, a *rousse* should have a
sweetness (of an unsickly variety) that was
entirely absent.

According to Greg, *rousse* is Quebec's
version of England's mild, which refers to
a gentle sweetness, absence of bitterness
and less alcohol by volume. It was brewed
to quench the thirsts of labouring farm-
workers who toiled in the West Midlands.
It's pretty hard to find a good really good
rousse, Greg tells me.

THE CONNOISSEUR: I followed with
Hutchison, Helm's extra-IPA (7.5%). This
hit that sweet-bitter sweetspot just right,
like a P. K. Subban one-timer.

Certainly an above-average IPA, but no

way big enough to walk around town call-
ing itself “extra.”

According to the menu, it measures 75
IBU (international bittering units), but I
think this batch must have been closer to 50.

A beer's IBU score is basically the bit-
terness of the individual hops multiplied
by the amount of hops used in the batch.

Mila of Prague gave it a passing
grade, but Freddy preferred the
Hefeweizen, La Bloomfield.

The IPA world standard bearer
(at 100+ IBU) presently is Heady
Topper brewed by the The Al-
chemist in Waterbury, Vermont
and it calls itself a double IPA.
Get in your car right now!

No wheels? Drown your sor-
rows with Death Valley (triple-
hopped 8%; Brasseurs RJ) avail-
able at the Victoria Metro (check
out its new Quebec micro shelf!)
or Brutopia's (Crescent St.) IPA
for a good tap version.

The finish

THE PHILISTINE: My last
beer, Van Horne, was an IPA, not
my favourite kind of beer, but it
did taste like it is supposed to. I
think we already covered that
long trip from England-to-India
story for big hops in this style,
which is the rage on both sides of
the border.

THE CONNOISSEUR: I want-

ed to finish with a dessert beer and the
closest Helm could get was with St. Via-
teur, a porter. It had a real nice choco-
late/coffee/cereal aroma, but it should
have been sweeter and smoother; also too
chalky. I was surprised there was no
cheese plate on offer to pair with it.

THE PHILISTINE: I have to give Helm
low marks for its beer. Some places have
many lagers, which is great for a “lager
head” like me, but you have to have at least
one that kills, which was not the case here.
The service was excellent, though, and
very friendly. The food was good.

THE CONNOISSEUR: I agree. All the
beer choices were variations on them-
selves. They lacked distinctiveness. Even
the lone lager tasted more like an ale than
a Pils. My guess is that they brew in a
small space and quality control is less than
perfect. Maybe they have to clean the lines
more frequently.

What I would like to ask the brewer is
why he goes to the big extra trouble of
throwing one lager into a mix of English
and German ales.

I wouldn't go back to Helm when there
are so many other places to check out.

McKenzie #1 on Amazon.com

Westmounter Catherine McKenzie's fourth novel *Hidden* debuted in the US on March 1. It was available early as part of Amazon.com's Kindle First program and will be generally released on April 1.

It was the #1 book in “Literature & Fiction” and the #1 book overall in the Kindle store March 2 and 3.

She is the wife of the *Independent's* publisher.

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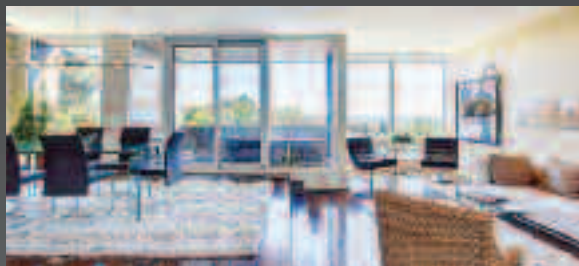
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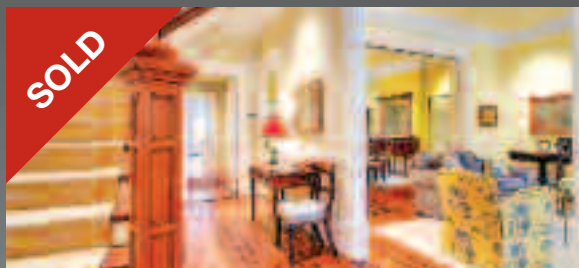


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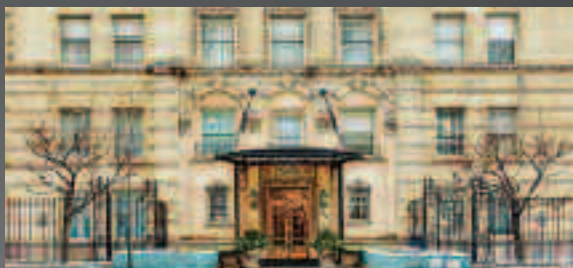


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Spectacular! 1913 "Percy Nobbs" renov. 5 bdr + den home. A/C, Marvin windows. Stunning architectural details. Great value! **\$1,475,000**



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Stunning 2 storey 1,180 sf 2 bdr, 1½ bath condo. New 2012 construction with elevator. Fabulous kitchen + baths. Balcony. 2 garages. **\$465,000**



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Westmount Adj. 3580 de Vendôme Ave.
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ADORABLE 1894 Victorian townhouse. Renovated kitchen, bathrooms, finished basement, etc. Great value! **\$715,000**



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