

22 zones impacted to preserve tax base, 'viability' City freezes commercial-to-residential conversions

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city of Westmount has imposed a 60-day freeze on the conversion of commercial buildings to residential use in the southwest and southeast commercial sectors. This would include condos.

The freeze took effect March 17 when city council at its mid-month meeting gave notice of its intent to rezone some 22 commercial zones "to ensure the prevailing commercial use" in those areas.

"This will allow us time to look at the best way to approach the subject given the complexities and differences involved in these different zones," Councillor Theodora Samiotis told the *Independent*.

The move comes as a first step in dealing with concerns over a growing trend to

ward the conversion of office buildings into condos.

It aims to preserve a "sustainable mix" of residential and commercial occupancies needed to provide a "vibrant community" while preventing erosion of the commercial tax base, she said.

The commercial tax rate is generally four times the residential one.

The freeze covers entire buildings in those zones as well as individual occupancies within buildings.

It follows two recent conversions of major office buildings to condo developments (215 Redfern and 175 Metcalfe) though neither is located in frozen zones. More conversion proposals are expected, however, Samiotis explained.

continued on p. 9



Spring fever

Westmounter Sarah Blattler, left, holds a leashed Molly-Jade, her eight-month-old golden retriever (in back), while Quito, a two-and-half-year-old Bernese mountain dog (in front) is held by its owner, Lisa Vilder, also of Westmount. The two dogs were blissfully play fighting and rolling about on a snow-covered Westmount city hall lawn on March 20. The two canines didn't seem at all bothered that it was a snowy first day of spring.

Letters, p. 6 Social Notes, p. 26
9 Lives, p. 22 David Sedgwick retires, p.10

Hockey rental slots now booking, pool scheduling to follow Sports sign-up open for most spring, summer programs

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

As the new pool is set to open in early June, Westmounters will have to wait another month to sign up for swimming programs even though registration started this week for spring and other summer activities.

"We've already hired our pool managers and instructors as well as 80 percent of our lifeguards," Dave Lapointe, assistant director, Sports and Recreation, said last week.

The number of pool personnel and types of swimming courses offered will remain unchanged from the past, but schedules have yet to be completed before swimming registration opens April 23.

"This year is a learning curve," Lapointe explained. "We're running with what we're comfortable with. We have a few systems to test and things to hook up at the pool, and away we go."

Among the new sports and leisure programs now open for registration are Ultimate *continued on p. 8*

Don't Miss It: Wednesday, March 26 – WMA, Indie host Meet the Candidates for provincial election, see Comin' Up for details, p. 20

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Unsweet message for Roslyn students



As part of the Nutrition Month that is being observed at EMSB schools in March, noted chemistry expert Dr. Joe Schwarcz, right, and certified meditation teacher Lynne Goldberg from Westmount, centre, spoke to grades 5 and 6 students at Westmount's Roslyn School on March 20 about nutrition. Schwarcz, who is well-known for his defence of methodical investigation while denouncing pseudoscience, and Goldberg, who among other things is a whole plant-based diet educator, agreed on one thing especially: there is far too much sugar in the average person's diet and its intake should be reduced drastically.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

Second Vendôme access among election requests

A second entrance to the Vendôme Metro station was among special needs announced March 19 by Montreal mayor Denis Coderre at a press conference calling for more big city powers, Westmount mayor Peter Trent said.

Coderre was accompanied by Trent as president of the Association of Suburban Municipalities, Quebec City mayor Régis Lebeaume and St. Julie mayor Suzanne Roy, representing the Union of Quebec Municipalities.

"Vendôme desperately needs a second

entrance and I was very pleased when Coderre mentioned it," Trent explained.

He said he had been talking with Coderre about the issue that has been raised at many Westmount city council meetings as being an important way to ease congestion around the area when the super-hospital opens next year.

Since it would require provincial funding, the answer so far has been that no financing is available at least for a couple of years.

Di Battista, Ghowil advance to *dictée* finals

The Study student Erica Di Battista and Kirolos Ghowil of the École Internationale have advanced to the international final of the 23rd annual Paul Gérin-Lajoie *dictée*, which will take place May 11 in Montreal among 100 finalists.

They are two of 16 who will advance from the Montreal regional final, which took place March 15 at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

The theme of this year's spelling bee is "water, a resource to protect and share."

Seven hundred grade 5 and 6 students will take part in the 30 regional finals around North America and 178,088 students participated in prior rounds.

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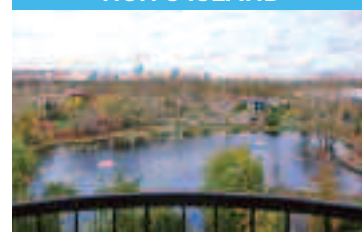
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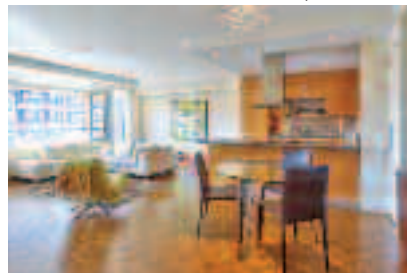
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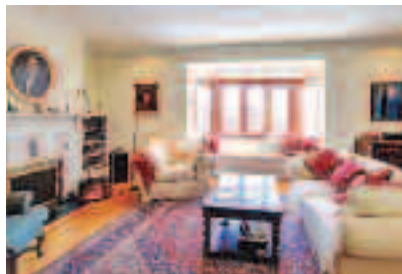
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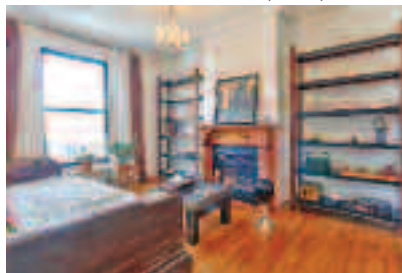
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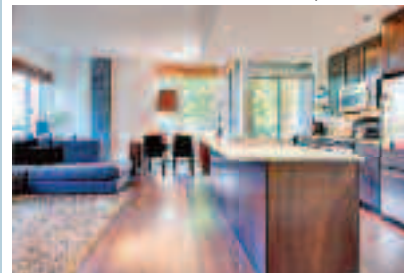
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Music wars of Westmount

Loud jazz heard at 4:42 am

Public safety officers answering a complaint for music at 6 Park Place at 4:42 am March 12 heard “loud jazz” coming from an apartment, Public Security officials said. A verbal warning was given to a man stating he was housesitting for his mother.

Second Cup speakers on overnight on Sherbrooke

A patroller heard music coming from outside speakers at the Second Cup coffee shop on Sherbrooke at Claremont on March 14 at 1:28 am, Public Security officials said. Since the establishment had closed at 10 pm, it was impossible to turn off the music. The day staff was spoken to later and were reported to have stated they would alert evening personnel to what had happened.

Melville music goes off, starts back again

A noisy party at an apartment at 235 Melville was toned down just before public safety officers responded to the com-

plaint March 15 at 11:32 pm, Public Security officials said. Loud voices could still be heard and it was not long before the music started up again. The resident was told about the complaint and the music was turned off. A similar previous complaint had been logged but it was a year ago and officers exercised their discretion and issued only a verbal warning.

All-night St. Antoine party ends in revenge music

A complaint about loud music March 16 at 3035 St. Antoine St. turned into a civil dispute within the apartment building, Public Security officials said. Officers were called to the building at 5:38 am and could hear loud music at the entrance. A tenant stated it was her first party and she was upset someone had complained. After leaving, officers were called back at 6:06 am when the music was turned back on, even louder. The host was reported to have said she did it just to get back at the complaining neighbour. She was told to turn off the music but no ticket was issued in what was described as “a civil dispute.”

Wajzman gets political at Rotary



Suburban editor Beryl Wajzman spoke to the Rotary Club of Westmount March 19. The club has a convention of not inviting political speakers, but Wajzman certainly broke from that tradition. He took on a number of issues, coming out swinging for secularism in the public space, against strict party discipline in the federal and provincial parliaments, and against Quebec's over-weighting of rural ridings in the provincial legislature. He was particularly scathing of “ethnic” communities' opposition to the Charter of Values, which he characterized as a trap designed to elicit reactions that could in turn be peddled to the Parti Québécois' base. He also railed against the PQ, saying – among other things – that its goal under Marois is to increase economic dependency on the government, not decrease it.

Photo: Independent.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REMEMBERING RICHARD LORD

Westmount lost one of its more beloved citizens last week (March 9) with the death of lifelong resident Richard Lord, 84.

Richard first became celebrated seven decades ago when, following his older brother Bobby, he shone as one of the Westmount High's greatest football and hockey players ever.

Upon graduation, he was awarded a hockey scholarship by Michigan State University, the first black to be so honoured by an American college.

Returning to Westmount with a science degree, he became a familiar figure on the political scene, for years serving as president of the Young Men's Liberal Association.

With his friendly, outgoing personality and multiple connections in the community, he seemed to be the ideal Liberal candidate to represent Westmount in the National Assembly. Instead, Kevin Drummond was chosen. Richard's consolation prize was to the bench of the immigration court.

While in office in Quebec City, Drummond became one of the main factors for the growing disaffection of Montreal's Liberal voters, due to his warm compliance with the Péquistes' anti-English legislation. Soon after, Drummond joined the Parti Québécois and was rewarded with

several juicy government posts, including that of Quebec's delegate to New York City.

When the new English-rights Equality Party unveiled its program, Richard vied for its candidature in Westmount. Once again, he lost his bid, to Richard Holden. Like Drummond, Holden, before his first term was up, bolted to the Parti Québécois.

Meanwhile, Richard Lord, incapable of bitterness, busied himself helping have-not kids in Little Burgundy and with church activities. To hundreds of Westmounters, he remained almost to his dying day, the community's unofficial ambassador of good will, elevating the spirits of scores of passers-by with his high-pitched "Hi," accompanied by a radiant grin under his vintage straw hat. Even with his strength ebbing away, he managed to stay in circulation thanks to his attractive wife Carol who accompanied him everywhere.

Life may have let Richard down a few times but he was too positive and high spirited to stay down for the count.

TIM BURKE, ST. CATHERINE ST.

REMEMBERING RICHARD LORD (2)

I read the article by Marilyn Vanderstaay regarding her personal souvenir of Richard Lord ("The end of an era," March 18, p. 8) and I would like to add my personal recognition of having known



Richard Lord in his hockey days.
Photo courtesy of Carol Spence Lord.

Mr. Lord.

Richard Lord was a founding board member of Coup de balai / Clean Sweepers, a non-profit service for the elderly. As a board member, he was always looking for how to partner with different organizations so that common goals and goods could be reached. His belief that common good is always the best way helped form the organization.

He did not have a car so often after our board meetings, I would offer to return him home or to his next appointment and en route he always had an anecdote to share in regards to a landmark, a building and at times the history of a Montreal family. His passing certainly marks an end to an era and I consider myself fortunate to have had the chance to cross paths with him.

BRUCE CAMERON, DIRECTEUR
(COUP DE BALAI INC.)

TO BUSS OR BUS, THAT IS THE QUESTION

From Dictionary.com:

Buss – noun, verb (used with object), verb (used without object).

Kiss.

Origin: 1560–70; perhaps blend of obsolete "bass" (kiss) and obsolete

"cuss" (kiss), cognate with German "kuss;" replacing Middle English, Old English "coss" (cognate with Old Norse "koss").

I was very happy to read in your edition of March 11 on p. 6 that the city authorities, presumably stimulated by the approach of the spring equinox, are encouraging public demonstrations of affection – and I quote:

"Priority for BUSES on Sherbrooke St took a step forward March 3 ..."

I read no further, but thought to myself – not for the first time – what a wonderful place Westmount is!

But – why should Sherbrooke St. be given priority? I am sure that people on Victoria and even on Greene feel their emotions warming with the coming spring ... and would like to express these feelings towards their friends and neighbours without fear or favour.

RICHARD LOCK, LANSDOWNE AVE.

Ed.'s note: I am not sure what the city authorities think of public affection, but here at the *Independent*, we are fine with kisses – by any name. For the record, though, according to the dictionary, "busses" is an acceptable plural of "bus." – DP

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We are Westmount.

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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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Councillor's Column

CYNTHIA LULHAM

Earth Hour is coming

Together they have put together a wonderful evening of events and information booths that include everything from city farming to cargo bikes and stargazing! Bring an incandescent bulb and get a low-energy compact florescent compliments of Hydro Westmount. There will be musical entertainment, lots of fun activities, and food and beer for purchase. So please join us at Victoria Hall from 6 to 10 pm on Saturday, March 29.

Now it is your turn as a resident of

Westmount to do your part for Earth Hour. Please reduce your use of electricity between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm on March 29 – no laundry or dish washers, turn off lights and lower the thermostat. Hydro Westmount will measure and compare the electricity consumption during that hour.

Help us improve upon the count from last year!

Cynthia Lulham is the city councillor for District 7 and the commissioner of Sustainability and Parks.

For the last five months, a small group of dedicated volunteers has been meeting to organize Westmount's Earth Hour activities. My sincere thanks to Tony Moffat, Patricia Dumais, Eve Aspinall, Paul Marriot and Community Events coordinator Virginia Elliott.

No CAQ candidate Four candidates confirmed for provincial election

The Directeur général des élections du Québec confirmed March 24 that four candidates have registered to run in Westmount-St. Louis in the April 7 provincial election: Lisa Julie Cahn (Green), incumbent Jacques Chagnon (Liberal), Mélissa Desjardins (Québec solidaire) and Denise Laroche (Parti Québécois).

The nomination period ended the day before, so it is possible, the DGEQ representative said, for other candidates to be verified in the days to come, after press time.

It was reported over the weekend that the CAQ's would-be candidate in Westmount-St. Louis, François Carl-Labonté, was disqualified, along with two other CAQistes elsewhere in Quebec, for issues with his nomination signatures.

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Sports, cont'd. from p. 1

(Frisbee/flying disc), Cycling and Street Smarts, Discover Art for young children and three toddlers' programs. An On Camera workshop for adults will introduce the art of acting before the camera.

Also being offered for the first time is the use of one (the Molson) rink from May through August for general skating (also yet to be scheduled). Lunchtime use will be reserved for women's, Old Timer and adult pick-up hockey.

Evening ice slots are now being rented out to local residents who want to put together their own hockey teams. Eleven of the 20 available slots have already been spoken for, at a cost of \$300 plus tax a week for 17 weeks, Lapointe said.

Fitness moved to WRC

As well, most of the fitness classes will take place regularly for the first time in rooms at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) rather than Victoria Hall.

Plans have not been finalized for summer use of the second (Desmarais) rink, whose ice will be melted down at the end of April, allowing its floor to be used for indoor tennis and the summer camps on rainy days or as required.

"Again, the first year in the building is a learning lesson," Lapointe said. A decision has already been made, however, not

to offer ping pong as was available at one time at the old arena. Basketball, on the other hand, is "something we'll look into."

Program details are available in the program booklet delivered last week to all homes in time for registration for Westmount residents to receive guaranteed spaces where applicable from March 24 to April 2, at which point it will also be opened to non-residents.

While last summer's weekly bus excursions proved very popular, Lapointe said, they substituted for the lack of a pool and won't be offered this year. "They were very costly but we used the budget that had been in place for the pool."

Hammering, sawing before hours costs \$269

A ticket for \$269 was issued to a contractor at 215 Redfern March 12 when a Public Security patroller heard hammering and sawing under way before the 7 am start-up time, Public Security officials said. Given a number of recent complaints for earlier-than-permitted starts, "we're paying special attention to the site," said assistant director Greg McBain. Shortly after the patroller had arrived at 6:39 am, a complaint was also received, he said. Workers inside could also be seen from the exterior, he said.

Study sings for St. Justine hospital



Photo courtesy of The Study.

The Study is one of over 100 choirs from across Canada participating in the "Sing for St. Justine with Céline Dion" contest, which is a part of the St. Justine Foundation's "Healing More Better" campaign.

According to the school's press release, many Study families have personal relationships with St. Justine hospital.

The school's grade 3, 4, and 5 choir, accompanied by a soloist and instrumental-

ists from the high school, chose to sing, "S'il suffisait d'aimer," one of the four choices.

The virtual gallery (www.concours-sainte-justine.ca/en/entry/6147817) opened to the public on March 17 and closes on April 30. The public can make a \$5 donation to the foundation by voting.

The winning choir will get the chance to sing with Céline Dion at a gala event in May.



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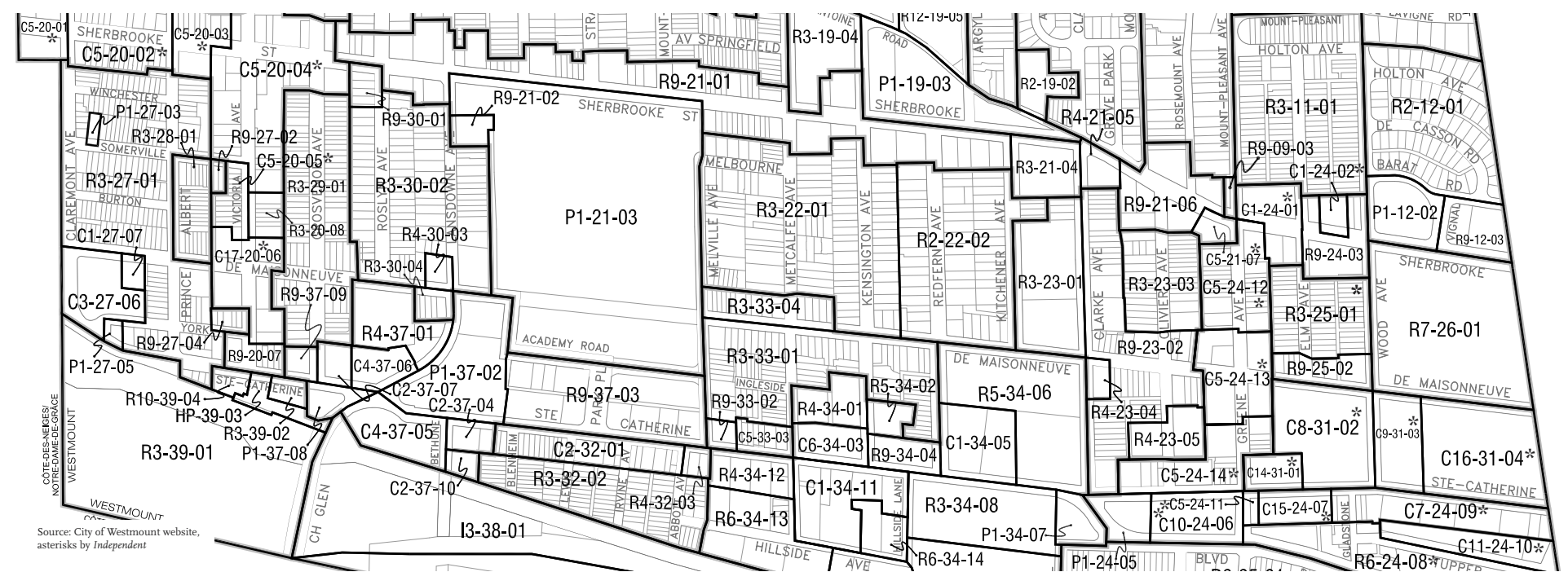
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JACQUES CHAGNON
WESTMOUNT-SAINT-LOUIS

Parti Libéral Québec



Conversions, cont'd. from p. 1

“We have to look at what kind of mix is healthiest to ensure viability of the commercial sector, ... not creating a black-and-white situation, but finding the right formula,” she said.

Finding a way in 60 days

Exactly how the city plans to do this has yet to be decided by council, Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier explained. “We have 60 days to come up with a by-law.” After adoption of a draft version, public consultation and rezoning registers would likely follow.

The measure is part of the city’s revision of its planning program in 2014 as required every five years by provincial law.

It’s also the reverse situation of major zoning changes in the 1980s “when we were trying to protect the residential nature of the city,” recalled Mayor Peter Trent. At that time, residential use was extended to all commercial zones.

“Clearly the opposite trend is taking place with the building of condos. Now we have to adjust to the current situation.”

While the freeze applies to 22 commercial zones, there could be some exceptions particularly in an area such as Victoria village, where a mix of residential and commercial uses within buildings has been identified as a defining characteristic, Poirier said.

Since one solution may not fit all, she

said, “some zones may be dropped completely” from those now frozen.

The current freeze applies to individual occupancies within a building as much as to the entire building itself, Poirier said. “It won’t stop a commercial tenant moving out and a new one moving in. But I wouldn’t issue an occupancy permit for a residential tenant wanting to move into a commercial space.”

Who’s covered by the freeze

How does the freeze apply to a developer who has already approached the city with a proposal in one of the frozen zones?

Poirier said it would depend on how far along the project was in the process; whether an actual application had been made or working drawings submitted. It could be a matter for lawyers to decide, she said.

The frozen zones, denoted with an asterisk (*) above, in Victoria village are along the commercial strip of Sherbrooke and south on Victoria to just north of St. Catherine as follows: C5-20-01; C5-20-02; C5-20-03; C5-20-04; C5-20-05; C17-20-06.

In the southeast, they cover Greene Ave. from Sherbrooke to Dorchester and along de Maisonneuve, St. Catherine and Dorchester including the towers of Westmount Square, 1 Wood and Alexis Nihon.

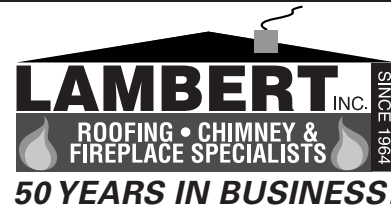
These zones are designated C5-21-07; C1-24-01; C1-24-02; C10-24-06; C15-24-07; C7-24-09; C11-24-10; C5-24-11; C5-24-12; C5-24-13; C5-24-14; C14-31-01; C8-31-02; C9-31-03; C16-31-04 and R6-24-08 (the

Tupper parking lot).

A zoning map may be found on the city

website at www.westmount.org/admin/sections/documents/map_zoning.pdf

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Director retires after 28 years with Public Security

Sedgwick proud of community focus, shift back to ‘roots’

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Taking Public Security back to its roots was the main objective set by David Sedgwick three years ago when he took over the helm of the municipal force as its first “home-grown” director.

Now as he turns 58 in May and retires after 28 years, he says he feels confident his mission has been successful and will be moved forward under his successor, assistant director Greg McBain (see January 21, p. 1).

Main goal

“My main goal was to get us back to serving residents and improving their quality of life rather than being as repressive as we had become,” he said last week.

In the last three years, the department has initiated a new community approach and programs such as the recent “Security and Aging,” he explains.

“Officers are now being encouraged to use discretion over ticketing, even when it comes to parking,” he said, adding “though some people might not think so. Yes, ticketing is important, but it shouldn’t be the main focus. Safety is our first con-



Public Security director David Sedgwick, March 17

laws were enacted with the proliferation of construction sites, leaf blowers, heat pumps and air conditioners.

And citizens’ expectations of enforcement increased as they became more aware of noise by-laws, in particular, through the city website. “Our approach is trying to educate rather than ticketing automatically, especially on a first offence.”

Sedgwick’s shift in focus for Public Security is also synonymous with his appointment as the force’s first “home-grown” director.

Raised and schooled in Westmount, he lived 44 years on Prince Albert before moving to Nuns’ Island. As such, he has had his finger on the pulse of the community, playing hockey and coaching in the city’s house leagues for 27 years, and working various jobs as a student in the Public Works garages and parks, and even as dog catcher when the position existed.

He did a stint at Manoir Westmount and worked off and on at the former Gulf service station at Victoria and de Maison-neuve.

Joined in tough times

It was never in Sedgwick’s career plan to go into law enforcement. But when he obtained a BA from Concordia, “jobs were tough to get in the mid-’80s. So when I saw an ad in the newspaper for a public safety officer, the qualifications seemed written for me.” Gender and height (in those days), and other specifics corresponded exactly. And he never left Public Security.

What are his post-retirement plans?

“I’ll take some time off and then work at whatever comes up that interests me,” he replied. That could include elsewhere in the world if his wife, Yolanda, accepts global contracts in her field of computer security.

He also plans to learn Spanish so he can converse “without a translator” with her parents during their trips “home” to Colombia.

While Sedgwick retires officially May 1, his last day at the office will be April 3 before leaving on pre-retirement leave. And what he’ll miss most, he said, is the camaraderie of the officers, parking inspectors, dispatchers, office staff and other city workers.

“I will miss Dave’s leadership as a colleague,” said Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan. “He has been a great friend and teammate, and Westmount is losing a wonderful ambassador within the community.”

cern.”

When possible, the department has started phoning holders of on-street parking permits the evening before snow operations on their street to prevent their cars being towed as well as speeding up the work, he said.

The scheduling of personnel has also been revamped to allocate patrol strength in a more cost-efficient manner and improve service to residents over the hours of greatest demand.

Strayed from initial role

Sedgwick said the unit had strayed from its initial community-oriented direction during a period of transition that followed the retirement of director Richard McEnroe in 2006 and many of the original core of public safety officers. A new director hired from the outside was not as tuned in to the community, Sedgwick explained.

“When I first started on the job in 1986,” he recalled, “it was extremely rare that we would give out a ticket for a by-law infraction. Graffiti was something you hardly ever saw. It was a big event when you came across something like ‘Bill 101’ on a stop sign. We also used to give toleration to the parking of construction workers’ cars.”

But as the years progressed, more by-



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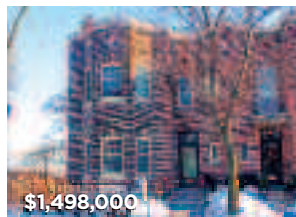
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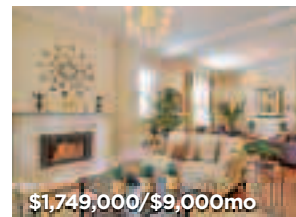
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Royal gifts for Novices



David Cristofaro, left, the new manager of RBC's Westmount Square branch, visited Andrew Maislin of Westmount's Sports and Recreation department to introduce himself and to bring gifts of water bottles and tuques to the boys of Westmount's Novice A intercity hockey team. It is part of an initiative to celebrate the Royal Bank being in Westmount for 120 years. Below, the Novice As.

Photos courtesy of Willem Westenberg/RBC.



Verbal confrontation with taxi March 13

A taxi driver and a customer were engaged in a noisy verbal confrontation at 11:43 pm March 13 when friends of the customer were taking too long to leave the address, Public Security officials said. The heated exchange took place outside 4560

St. Catherine near Park Place when the client was described as "visibly intoxicated." The cabbie complained he had been waiting 25 minutes. Officers told the driver to leave and suggested the client call another taxi when everyone was ready.

SALE BY TENDER

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60 SUMMIT CIRCLE, WESTMOUNT

This property will most likely sell on Friday, April 4, 2014 to the highest offer, which must be \$3,200,000 and above in order to be considered.

This modern, one-of-a-kind home has been on the market for a while with an initial asking price of \$4,150,000.

Seller wishes to sell without further delay. City of Westmount's assessed value is \$3,058,400.

Interested buyers and Real Estate Brokers representing prospective clients should contact Listing Broker for details about the process and timeline for this Sale by Tender which starts Saturday March 29, 2014 and ends Friday, April 4, 2014.

A packed 6-day process will comprise of 2 Open-Houses (Saturday & Sunday), scheduled visits, examining offers and taking a decision.

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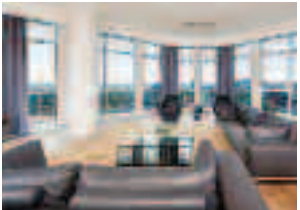
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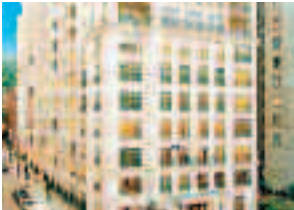
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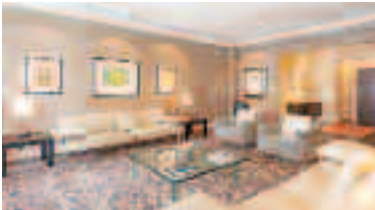
SOPHIE LE GUERRIER* 514.655.0773



WESTMOUNT | DORCHESTER \$995,000

Turn of the century stone facade duplex offering beautiful architectural details. Ideally located close to all amenities. Steps to Greene Avenue. MLS 26628709

CARLO PAOLUCCI* 514.802.4004



LE TRAFALGAR | VILLE-MARIE \$1,585,000

Nearly 2700 sq ft. condo completely renovated with exceptional quality and pure lines. Offers 4 bedrooms, 3+1 bathrooms, wine cellar (1000 bottles), 2 garages. Tons of storage. MLS 10753164

ISABELLE PERREAULT* 514.266.2949



NOTRE-DAME-DE-L'ÎLE-PERROT \$2,350,000

Gorgeous residence at the water's edge with panoramic views on the Saint-Laurent. Over 3,000 sq. ft. perfectly designed by the builder Jean Houde. Over 100 feet of frontage overlooking the water, a beautifully kept garden. High ceilings, lots of light. MLS 9217070

DAVID MALKA* 514.814.3823



LAC-BROME \$2,888,000

This waterfront estate has more than 2 acres of land with approximately 180 feet of frontage on Lake Brome. This magnificent residence with a unique architecture, is located just an hour from Montreal. Ideal for outdoor enthusiasts and people in search of tranquility. MLS 9491671

CYRILLE GIRARD* 514.582.2810



RIVERFRONT LOT | STE-ADÈLE \$249,000

Exceptional riverfront lot of 150,000 sq. ft. with 794 ft of shoreline on the stunning Rivière aux Mûles! Ideal location for private residence or townhouses. Many outdoor activities, and neighbor to golf and ski Chantleders! MLS 10641951

PENELOPE VILAGOS** 514.779.5122



WESTMOUNT | GROSVENOR \$645,000

This chic apartment Westmount is distinguished by its taste for refinement. While its ceiling height gives us a sense of grandeur. MLS 17260270

PIERRE BRUNET** 514.248.8032
ANNE GASCON* 514.592.5520



ALTITUDE 2702 | DOWNTOWN \$1,449,000

Situated on the 27th floor of Altitude, this condo offers one of the greatest view of the city, 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, it has been designed with care and high end materials; it is available immediately for rental, furnished at \$7,000/mo including linens and dishes. MLS 15926092

LOUISE LATREILLE* 514.577.2009



MAIN | HUDSON \$1,975,000

Exquisite waterfront estate nestled on over 93,000 sq. ft. of land with a gated entrance, long driveway, a backyard with pond, pool, 2 gazebos and fire pit and navigable waterfront. MLS 14526457

CASSANDRA AURORA** 514.293.2277



LAKE ARCHAMBAULT | ST-DONAT \$2,795,000

Magnificent waterfront property, built in 2011, high quality and noble materials, 5 bedrooms, 3+2 bathrooms, heated garages / 5 cars, cathedral ceiling, nearly 200 feet waterfront. Plot of nearly 1.5 acres. Less than 1h15 from Montreal. MLS 14383005

RACHELLE DEMERS* 514.378.8630



OUTAOUAIS | FAMILY RETREAT | MONTEBELLO \$599,999

Being in the countryside by the Montebello Golf Club is this unique home located in an enchanted surrounding. This home was recently fully renovated with style and taste. MLS 26242234

PATRICK VAILLANT** 514.774.6917

Aurora the Spectacular

BY PASCALE DELHAYE, GUEST COLUMNIST

Dreams, we all have them. My first Arctic adventure brought me to Churchill, Manitoba in 2011 to see the polar bear. This January, I headed to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, yes, consciously in the middle of winter to the sub-Arctic, with hopes of witnessing the aurora borealis.

My cameras and I can't seem to get away from the cold.

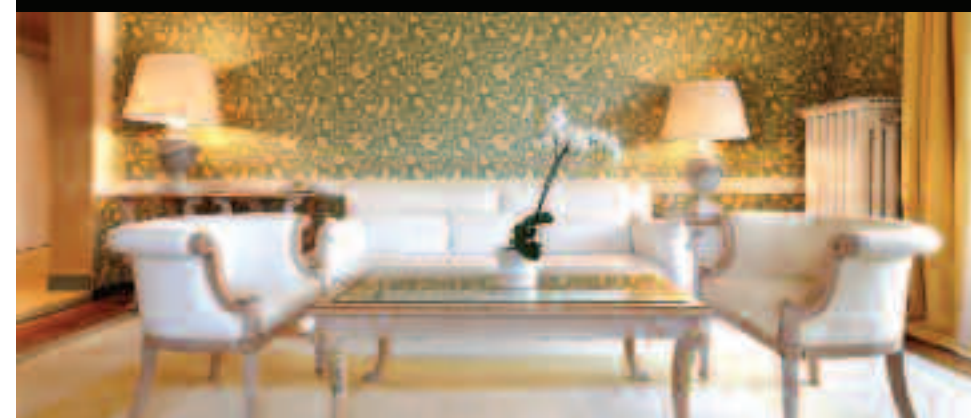
Aurora borealis, the northern lights, is Mother Nature's ultimate light show, which results from the collision between electrically charged particles from the sun that enter the Earth's atmosphere.

This display is best viewed in Yellowknife, the capital of the Northwest Territories, as it is non-coastal and situated



The columnist and the 1967 de Havilland that she "co-piloted."

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The aurora borealis.

under the aurora oval. The Territories are so vast that some of its national parks, alone, are larger than some European countries.

I was quite prepared for the – 40°C bone-chilling cold of Yellowknife, the limited daylight, and the blustery winds. I was, however, most concerned for my cameras and my bedtime. The aurora is a late-night-only display and peaks between 10 pm and 2 am.

I'm usually in bed by 10 pm, warm and cozy with a good book, but not in Yellowknife as 10 pm is Aurora Time. It's when you gear up in triple insulating layers of outdoor clothing; ready your cameras, tripod, extra batteries and head out for a few hours.

What was I thinking? These are teenage clubbing hours!

Napping in snow pants

The first night, I lined up my gear, military-style, by the door and caught a quick nap at 8:30 pm dressed in my snow pants. I awoke at 9:55 pm and quickly donned the rest of my prepared Arctic attire. Outside the lodge, the air was crackling with cold and heart-thumping expectation of Aurora. I repeated my newly created mantra to myself – "tripod, shutter release cable, filter-less, wide-angle, manual focus at infinity" with every cold breath, and waited. There was so much cloud cover, not even a star could be seen. Back in the lodge with my nose pressed to the cold window, I waited until 1:30 am with quick steps outside every 20 minutes.

It was the same scenario on the second night. I had travelled 3,200 km to only see cloud cover? How disappointing.

Remaining optimistic and patient, I dedicated myself to a third night in similar fashion. Having learned the first two

nights, I kept my extra batteries under my clothes to keep them warm as if they were victims of hypothermia.

With great excitement, I finally spotted a star at 11:45 pm. That one lone star was the hope of clouds lifting. Within moments, a multitude of sparkling stars took over the night sky and I held my breath. Not just because the air was so cold that it hurt my lungs, but in anticipation of Aurora making an appearance.

Electricity in the air

There was electricity in the air, a buzz of tangible excitement, the same feeling you get at a concert just before your favourite performer steps out onto the stage.

Finally, there she was, shyly coming out from behind her curtain of clouds, Aurora the Spectacular. She made her first appearance in pale light green. She then lit up in fine, graceful form, brighter and stronger. She regaled us with encore after encore of dazzling colourful enchantment and magic, dancing and curving to applause.

Mouth agape, neck straining at the grandeur of Mother's Nature beautiful artwork and a frozen finger on my camera shutter release cable were all part of my initiation in seeing this enchanting celestial phenomenon.

Apart from the expected ooh's and aah's, two young men were jumping up and down, clapping their hands, like giddy school girls. An elderly woman stood motionless craning her neck with a tear rolling down her frozen cheek.

Capturing Aurora has been my biggest photographic challenge, thus far. I will never look at a night sky the same way ever again. I didn't just see Aurora. I was lucky to experience it.



The aurora borealis.

My other adventures in Yellowknife included flying in a 1967 ski plane in the co-pilot seat, snowmobiling at 1:30 am over the famous NWT Ice Road with Aurora dancing overhead, ice-fishing and learning to make ice cream out of snow like the Dene natives.

Dreams, I will always have them. Will I aim for a warmer-weather scenario next time? Probably not – there is something

about coming home with a partially frozen fingertip, and your face tingling from having been whipped by the cold to keep the memory of Aurora alive.

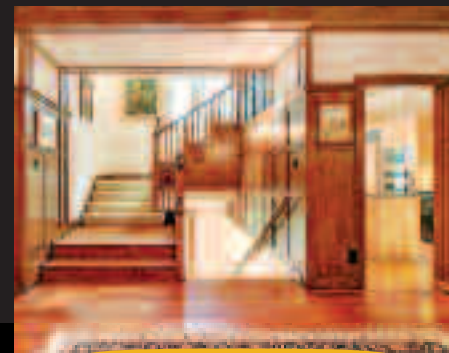
Pascale Delhaye is a Westmount resident and an avid amateur photographer.

See more of her photos at
www.pascaledelhaye.com and
www.flickr.com/photos/108279603@N05/.



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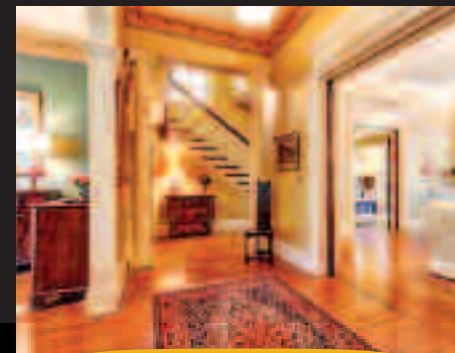
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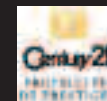


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infoWestmount

HÔTEL DE VILLE

Séance du conseil reportée au mardi 8 avril

La séance ordinaire du conseil municipal, prévue pour le 7 avril, est reportée au mardi 8 avril à 20 h en raison des élections générales au Québec.

Élections du 7 avril : se renseigner

Obtenez des renseignements sur le scrutin du 7 avril au site www.monvote.qc.ca, via les médias sociaux et au 514 231-1754 (bureau du Directeur du scrutin de la circonscription Westmount-Saint-Louis).

SPORTS ET LOISIRS

Inscriptions - activités printemps et été

Du lundi 24 mars au mercredi 2 avril au Centre des loisirs de Westmount. Procurez-vous le Guide des activités dans un des édifices municipaux ou consultez-le au www.westmount.org. Info : 989-5353.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Concours Littéraire M'Entyre 2014

Cette année, nous te demandons d'écrire sur : «**Un nouveau départ !**» Consultez le dépliant M'Entyre au comptoir des enfants ou au www.westlib.org.

Juges bénévoles demandés pour évaluer les nombreux textes. SVP contacter Wendy Wayling, bibliothécaire pour enfants, wwayling@westmount.org/514 989-5357.

Atelier de poésie avec Ann Lloyd

Le mercredi 2 avril à 10 h 15. Faites preuve de créativité lors de cet atelier où vous pourrez vous exprimer en vers dans une ambiance décontractée. Info : 514 989-5299.

Conférences culturelles : Dr Louis Touyz

Le mercredi 2 avril à 19 h. *South Africa: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.* Info : 514 989-5299.

Vente de livres du printemps des Amis de la bibliothèque

Les samedi et dimanche 12 et 13 avril de 10 h à 17 h. **Victoria Hall.** Les fonds recueillis seront consacrés à l'achat de nouvelles publications pour la Bibliothèque. Info: 514 483-5604. **Nouveau: Vente de sucreries le samedi 12 avril de 10 h à 16 h.** Collecte de fonds au profit du club de lecture *Providenciales* pour enfants de la *Provo Parish Library*, organisé par le Comité des ados de la Bibliothèque publique de Westmount.

Réception – Journée mondiale du livre

Le mercredi 23 avril à 18 h, Salle Westmount. Afin de souligner la Journée mondiale du livre, la Bibliothèque invite les membres de ses clubs de lecture à une réception vins et fromages. Info : 514 989-5386.

Crêpes et prose

Le samedi 12 avril à 10 h. Salle Westmount. Viens déguster des crêpes en compagnie de l'adorable porcelet du livre «*If You Give a Pig a Pancake*» de Laura Joffe Numeroff. Inscription requise. Info : 514 989-5229.



Prochaine séance du conseil : le mardi 8 avril

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

La galerie du Victoria Hall : exposition

Du 20 mars au 12 avril. Œuvres de Oleg Dergachov et Giuseppe Pascale. Info : 514 989-5521.

Galerie : appel de dossiers

Période d'inscription annuelle : du 15 février au 15 avril. Les artistes émergents ou professionnels qui habitent Westmount sont invités à soumettre leur candidature pour la programmation 2014-2015 de la galerie du Victoria Hall. Info : www.westmount.org, 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

Rencontrez les candidats

Le mercredi 26 mars à 19 h. Victoria Hall. L'Association municipale de Westmount et le journal *Westmount Independent* vous invitent à rencontrer les candidats qui se présentent dans la circonscription Westmount-Saint-Louis. Info : www.wma-amw.org.

Une heure pour la Terre : éteignez vos lumières !

Le samedi 29 mars de 20 h 30 à 21 h 30. Fête et foire écologique au Victoria Hall de 18 h à 22 h. Kiosques d'information, présentations, observation des astres avec les membres de la Société royale canadienne des astronomes, musique du chœur *Burton Street Singers* et collations à prix modiques au *Café Clair de lune*. Présenté par le Projet ville en santé de Westmount. Info : 514 989-5226.



Projection : Forks Over Knives

Le lundi 31 mars à 19 h. Ce documentaire examine l'hypothèse selon laquelle le renoncement aux aliments d'origine animale et transformés permettrait de soigner, voire guérir, la quasi-totalité des maladies dégénératives. Film en anglais, suivi d'une discussion bilingue avec la Dr^e Kristine Koski de l'école de diététique et de nutrition humaine de l'Université McGill. Présenté par la Bibliothèque publique et le Projet ville en santé. Info : 514 989-5284.

Concert Bowser & Blue : Side by Each

Le mercredi 16 avril à 19 h. Victoria Hall. Levée de fonds pour le piano du Victoria Hall. Ce duo musical retourne à leur lieu d'origine avec de nouvelles chansons et de la comédie à propos de Montréal, du Québec, du Canada, de la vieillesse et en quête de jeunesse éternelle. Première partie avec David Pryde. Billets 50 \$ (reçu d'impôt : 20 \$) Bar payant. Info : 514 989-5226.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Entretien des rues : nouvel horaire le 1^{er} avril

Un nouvel horaire d'entretien des rues sera en vigueur **du 1^{er} avril au 30 novembre**. Assurez-vous de bien vérifier la signalisation de stationnement afin d'éviter une contravention. Info : 514 989-5222.

CITY HALL

City Council meeting postponed to April 8

Due to the Quebec General Election, the regular City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, April 7 will be moved to Tuesday, April 8 at 8 p.m.

April 7 Election : where to find information

Voters may obtain information about the April 7th election at www.monvote.qc.ca, from social media sites and from the Returning Officer of the Westmount-Saint-Louis Riding, at 514 231-1754.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Registration - spring & summer activities

From Monday, March 24 to Wednesday, April 2 at the Westmount Recreation Centre. Pick up a copy of the Activities Guide in any City building or consult it online at www.westmount.org. Info: 514 989-5353.

LIBRARY

2014 M'Entyre Writing Competition

This year, we would like you to write about “**A New Beginning!**” Consult the M'Entyre brochure at the Children's Desk or at www.westlib.org.

Volunteer judges are needed to evaluate the many entries. Please contact Wendy Wayling, Children's Librarian, wwayling@westmount.org/514 989-5357.

Poetry Workshop with Ann Lloyd

Wednesday, April 2 at 10:15 a.m. Get creative in these monthly, light-hearted workshops that get you to express yourself in verse. Info: 514 989-5299.

Cultural Lecture Series: Dr. Louis Touyz

Wednesday, April 2 at 7 p.m. *South Africa: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.* Info: 514 989-5299.

Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale

Saturday and Sunday, April 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Victoria Hall. Proceeds go towards the purchase of new materials for the Library. Info: 514 483-5604. **New: Bake Sale Fundraiser Saturday April 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** in support of the children's *Providenciales Readers Club*, *Provo Parish Library*. Sponsored by the WPL's Teen Advisory Committee.

World Book Day Reception

Wednesday, April 23 at 6 p.m., Westmount Room. In celebration of World Book Day, the Westmount Library invites all book club members to a wine and cheese reception. Info: 514 989-5386.

Pancakes and Prose

Saturday, April 12 at 10 a.m. Westmount Room. Join the adorable Pig from Laura Joffe Numeroff's *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* for stories and pancakes! Registration required. Info: 514 989-5229.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Gallery at Victoria Hall: Exhibition

March 20 to April 12. Works by Oleg Dergachov and Giuseppe Pascale. Info: 514 989-5521.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 8

Gallery: Call for projects

Annual application period: February 15 - April 15. Emerging or professional artists residing in Westmount are invited to apply for the Gallery at Victoria Hall's 2014-2015 exhibition season. Info: 514 989-5521 www.westmount.org, or victoriahall@westmount.org.

Meet the candidates

Wednesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Victoria Hall The Westmount Municipal Association and the Westmount Independent invite the public to meet the candidates running in the Westmount-Saint-Louis riding. Info: www.wma-amw.org.

Earth Hour 2014 : Turn off your Lights!

Saturday, March 29, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Eco-Fair event at Victoria Hall from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Information tables, presentations, stargazing with members of the Royal Canadian Astronomical Society, music with the *Burton Street Singers* and snacks on sale at the *Café Clair de lune*. Organized by the Westmount Healthy City Project. Info: 514 989-5226.

Film Screening: Forks Over Knives

Monday, March 31 at 7 p.m., Westmount Public Library. This documentary examines the profound claim that most, if not all, degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled or even reversed by rejecting animal-based and processed foods. Discussion with Dr. Kristine Koski of McGill University's School of Dietetics and Human Nutrition. Presented by the Public Library and the Healthy City Project. Info: 514 989-5284.

Side by Each: Bowser & Blue in concert

Wednesday, April 16 at 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Fundraising event for the piano at Victoria Hall. The musical duo returns to its roots in Westmount with new songs and comedy about Montreal, Quebec, Canada, getting old, staying young. Opening act with David Pryde. Tickets \$50 (\$20 tax receipt). Cash bar. Info: 514 989-5226.



PUBLIC SECURITY

Street maintenance : new schedule April 1

A new street cleaning schedule will be in effect **April 1st to November 30th**. Please verify the parking signage to avoid receiving a ticket. Info: 514 989-5222.



VILLE DE CITY OF
WESTMOUNT

February sales: Waiting and watching

Mood of the Market

ANDY DODGE, CRA

Note: The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in February 2014. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses and prices cannot be made public, but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph below offers a picture of these trends over time.

Most Westmount home buyers were sitting on their hands at the beginning of what should be the busy spring real estate market, a fact that makes it look like prices are plummeting, with some desperate sellers and no reasonable offers.

In February, buyers were anticipating a provincial election, which was finally called last week, so refused to commit themselves to a home price that could drastically change – one way or the other – in a very short time. Only seven sellers actually accepted offers to purchase, less than half the average volume for February

and the lowest since February 1996, in the wake of the 1995 referendum. One sale was over \$2 million – and we added another in that price range in late January – but in both cases they sold way under their municipal valuation (22- and 27-percent markdowns, respectively), which indicates the serious lack of demand for Westmount's more prestigious houses.

The two-month volume of only 15 sales in Westmount mimics the gloomy market of early 2009, when the world economy was teetering on the brink of total collapse, but of course this time is much more local in nature, and probably will stay that way through March unless political poll results turn around significantly. Five of the February sales broke the \$1-million level, the same number as in January, and in fact two were over \$1.5 million. The lowest price last month was \$848,000.

Eight condominium sales have been reported so far this year, including one in the yet-to-be-built 175 Metcalfe Ave. building, the other seven selling for just under their municipal valuation, so in fact the prices are doing better than the single-family homes. In the first three months last year only six condo sales were posted, so already the market is slightly improved. Only three more sales were negotiated in

Batshaw Children Needing Homes

Siblings Matthew and Anne need a permanent home with stimulation

A long-term foster home is being sought for three-year-old Matthew and his one-year-old sister Anne. The siblings are presently in an emergency foster home and are in need of a permanent one where they can be together. Matthew, coming from an unstructured home life (with lack of stimulation), is functioning below his age level, but has made some gains with stimulation, nurturing and is learning to follow basic routine. He is adorable with lots of energy. He eats and sleeps well.

One-year-old Anne is charming and bubbly. She has a history of under-stimulation and is struggling with developmental delays. She is not walking but has

made some gains since placement. She is sitting up much better on her own, spins around on her tummy and tries to move her legs to crawl.

Anne is able to say a few words but babbles a lot. As a result, a referral has been made for speech therapy at the Montreal Children's Hospital. She eats and sleeps well. Annie will require more stimulation to continue her gains.

The siblings' parents are unable to take care of them. The ideal family would be that of a two-parent black family or a two-parent family that speaks Spanish.

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

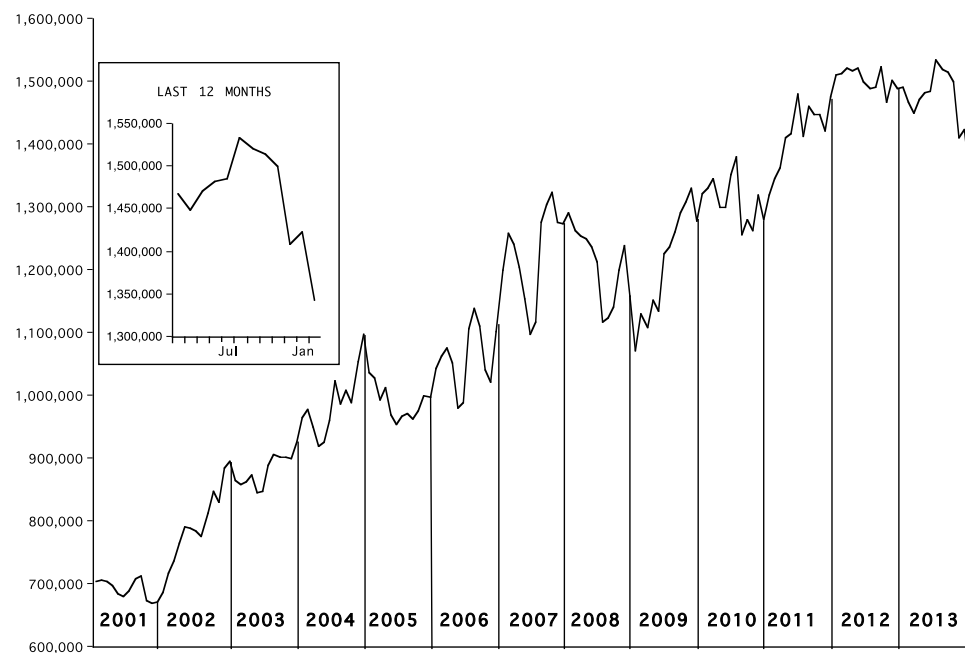
adjacent-Westmount districts, and in fact in eastern NDG the prices are almost five percent higher than municipal valuation, on average.

We have not noticed a rush to reduce asking prices: at last count 146 houses were listed for sale in Westmount, 65 of those (or 45 percent) asking more than \$2 million, so we get the idea the sellers, like

the buyers, are eager to find out what happens in the upcoming election. In January the average waiting time to sell was a stunning 279 days, coming down to 162 days in February with two that sold within 10 days.

So we, like the rest of the real estate world in Westmount, will be waiting and watching for the next month or so.

Average adjusted price of a 'typical' Westmount home by month from January 2001 to February 2014 based on accepted offer dates



Source: Andy Dodge & Assoc. Inc.

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Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Meet the provincial candidates. Victoria Hall, 7 pm.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

For the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series sociologist Brian Webb gives a talk on "The Life and Times of Brother André." He will probe the man responsible for the construction of St. Joseph's Oratory who rose from humble origins in rural Quebec to be named a saint in 2010. Free, donations invited. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

The Atwater Poetry Project, led by poet Darren Bifford, presents readings by poets Nyla Matuk and Chris Jennings. Free admission. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Avenue. 7 pm.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Earth Hour activities at Victoria Hall, 6 to 10 pm; lights-out 8:30 to 9:30 pm.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Screening of film *Forks over Knives*, 7 pm at the library, Healthy City Project and Westmount Library present film on nutrition and the control of degenerative diseases, emceed by Tony Moffat with guest Dr. Kristine Koski of McGill;

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

For the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series, Nancy Dunton on "The Houses of the Square Mile." She will examine residential architecture when Montreal was Canada's metropolis and discuss how Square Mile houses are used today. Free, donations invited. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

For the Atwater Library Lunchtime Series, art historian Sandra Paikowsky on "A Visit to Venice in Montreal." She will concentrate on paintings. Free, donations invited. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 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.

Please send your events in the above format by Friday at 2 pm to cu@westmountindependent.com.

BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permits were approved at recent city council meetings.

February 17

4895 Sherbrooke: at the former post office, to lower window sills on Sherbrooke and Prince Albert facades; to create a curtain wall, modify some rear openings to create new exit doors;

4920 Sherbrooke: to alter front façade including new storefront glazing and entrance door as well as stone work; to build a small rear second-floor addition;

730 Upper Lansdowne: to build a rear deck;

542 Côte St. Antoine: to replace basement windows and kitchen door;

638 Lansdowne: to replace front and rear balcony railings, doors and windows; to modify some window openings, demolish a rear verandah and build a balcony there;

628 Roslyn: to replace garage door;

4927-A Sherbrooke: to install a sign for "Boutique Céline;"

342-B Victoria: to install a sign for "On-gles Victoria", conditional to the letters S.E.N.C. being removed and lettering centered;

79 Holton: at a Category I building, to build a new garage inside and at the front of the house;

119 Aberdeen: to modify some window and door openings at the back and replace a door and the roof of a small rear extension;

4055 St. Catherine: at a Category 1 building, to replace front doors;

371 Metcalfe: to replace some windows and doors;

4084 St. Catherine: to erect a sign for "Presse Café;"

388 Roslyn: to replace some doors.

March 3

4910 Sherbrooke: to add a new metal balcony, steps and guardrail, repair rear basement access and to modify grade in

rear courtyard to capture surface water and install a permeable stabilizer.

March 17

3685 The Boulevard: at St. George's School, to re-landscape front yard to include resurfacing the soccer field and replacing some of the fences conditional to the Frost fence being replaced by a traditional metal fence;

38 Windsor: landscaping to include new planting areas throughout the property, reconfiguring and repaving of walkways and driveway, installation of a new marquee over the main entrance and stone veneer over the existing concrete porch and steps; to add a new stairwell and connection to the rear balcony, a new spa and picket fence;

3122 Daulac: at a Category I* house, to add three new dormers at the attic level (see story January 28, p. 8);

50 Aberdeen: at a Category I house, to demolish an existing detached garage and landscape the former driveway; to build a rear garage addition attached to the house with a roof top terrace, modify side entrance to accommodate new driveway;

636 Lansdowne: to replace windows and some doors and create new rear openings on the rear elevation;

1210 Greene: at a Category I building, to replace some windows and a rear door;

618 Murray Hill: to replace most windows;

648 Murray Hill: to replace a bay window and some basement storm windows;

3769 The Boulevard: to build an underground connection from house to garage, replace garage doors and some windows;

757 Upper Lansdowne: to build a basement access in converting a side window into a door;

346 Victoria: to install a sign for "Salon Doos;"

4390 Westmount: masonry and water proofing work at the King George Park comfort station.

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Roasted Beets and Baby Spinach

Beets were a staple of the diet of Eastern Ashkenazim. The sweet roasted beets complement the slight tang of goat cheese. This beautiful salad will light up any dinner table.



INGREDIENTS:

Vinaigrette

- ¼ cup (60 mL) balsamic vinegar
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) shallots, finely chopped
- 1 tsp (5 mL) honey or agave syrup
- ⅓ cup (75mL) olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Salad

- 6 medium beets, peeled and cut into 6 wedges each
- 6 cups (1.5L) baby spinach
- ½ cup (125 mL) walnuts, coarsely chopped and toasted
- ¼ cup (60 mL) dried cherries or cranberries
- ½ medium avocado, peeled, pitted and cubed
- 3 oz (85g) goat cheese, coarsely crumbed

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400°F (200°C). Place a large piece of foil on a baking sheet.

To make the vinaigrette, whisk the vinegar, shallots, and honey or agave syrup in a medium bowl. Gradually whisk in the olive oil. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

To make the salad, toss the beets with enough of the vinaigrette to coat and place them in the centre of the prepared baking sheet. Top with another sheet of foil and crimp the edges to seal tightly. Roast the beets until they are tender when pierced with a fork, about 30 minutes. Uncover the beets and continue roasting until they are slightly caramelized, shaking the pan occasionally, about 25 minutes longer.

In a large bowl, toss the spinach,

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walnuts, and cherries or cranberries with enough of the remaining vinaigrette to coat. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Mound the spinach mixture on a platter and arrange the beets around the salad. Sprinkle with the avocado and cheese and serve.

Best served with Middle Eastern Roast Chicken (page 100)

To purchase a copy of Mosaic, or to find a retailer that carries the book, please go to www.mosaiccookbook.com

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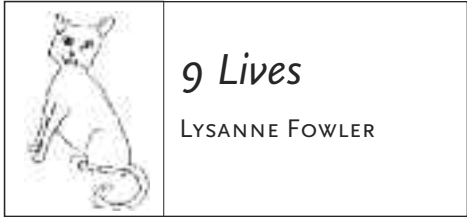


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Dora and Blue Boy



We felt that Dora is more than ready to be adopted so she is featured this week in the hope that her gorgeous looks and sweet personality will catch someone's attention.

She is living in a foster home for the rescue au Répit de la Montagne, with the kitten Blue Boy. Both kittens are with the senior Neapolitan mastiff Valentine that we featured two weeks ago, because it is incredible to see just how he lets the kittens do as they please with him.

When we tried to photograph Valentine for the rescue's website, Blue Boy got in the frame so we couldn't resist featuring them together for our column.

Now that we were trying to photograph Dora, Blue Boy got in that photograph as well! Blue Boy is a natural, a friendly little fellow that just loves the attention.

Both Dora and Blue Boy are young and



healthy kittens that were saved as newborns from the pound. They are up to date with their inoculations and waiting for a forever family. So irresistible!

If you would like more information on them, please do not hesitate to contact Anouk Lecompte on her cellular telephone at 514.234.2668 or on her email anouklecompteremax@sympatico.ca. The website for the rescue Au Répit de la Montagne is www.aurepitdelamontagne.com.

New arrivals at the rescue – saving newborns

There was a middle-of-the-night rescue after a long drive on Tuesday, when two stunning great Dane puppies were saved after their mother died and they were left without care.

They were brought directly to the veterinarian by the rescue for care, literally as their doors opened in the morning.

They are two weeks old and are now stable on intravenous and antibiotics, and in the oxygen machine to help their little lungs as they develop.

They have the mother's milk replacement as well when they are off the intravenous and are cared for continuously at this very precarious age. If you would like to find out more about them, please do not hesitate to contact Anouk.

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Police Report

Five Westmount cars broken into in five-day stretch

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.

Five cars in Westmount were broken into and stolen from in as many days last week, according to police.

Car break-ins are most commonly crimes of opportunity carried about by individuals who spot a vulnerable vehicle, according to Station 12 constable Adalbert Pimentel. However, police are investigating the spree between March 17 and 21 to find any discernable patterns between the incidents that can be used to prevent future thefts, he said.

"If there's a pattern, [the investigation unit] will decide what action we take. Maybe it'll be to increase police patrols or ask our out-of-uniform officers to give it more attention," said Pimentel.

The first incident occurred on the evening of March 17 near Sherbrooke while the victim was shopping at the nearby Metro supermarket. When the victim returned to his car with his groceries, he reportedly noticed that his trunk was open and a backpack with clothes and personal belongings had been taken.

"The thief may have seen the driver leave and took a chance to see if the doors were unlocked," he suggested.

In the four other incidents, thieves noticed bags left behind in the main part of the car and shattered a door window to access them, said Pimentel.

"Those windows are easy to shatter because their designed that way. In case of a collision, you want to be able to break a window, if needed," he explained.

Between 6 and 10 pm on March 18, a car parked near the corner of Greene and de Maisonneuve had its passenger-side window smashed and a backpack with school textbooks was taken.

Later that evening, a thief broke through the passenger window of a Mercedes on St. Catherine near Atwater and stole a handbag that had been hidden under the driver's seat while the owner was in a movie theatre.

The string of break-ins continued with a pair of similar incidents reported within an hour of each other on the morning of March 21.

Just after 8 am, a neoprene bag was stolen and a window shattered on a parked car on Forden and Forden Crescent.

Minutes later, a burglar shattered the passenger-side window of car parked on Côte St. Antoine near Selwyn House and stole the school bag belonging to the vehicle's owner.

There are currently no suspects in any of the five incidents, according to Pimentel.

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PREPARING FOR ELITE UNIVERSITY?

Fossils in the greystones

Westmount’s half-billion years of history

By Robert J. Galbraith

Half a billion years ago, the area of the future city of Westmount lay under an ocean. In fact, at the time, most of the world was under water and the overall landscape of North America resembled a shallow, warm, tropical sea. There were no land animals as there was no land, except for a few small islands near the present-day Caribbean.

Tectonic plates collided with each other, forming underwater mountain ranges, volcanoes and rifts, the predecessors of our present continents.

(Modern humans first appeared on Earth around 200,000 years ago – a wink in time as far as the history of the Earth is concerned.)

During this period, known as the Ordovician Period (which lasted almost 70

million years, beginning 510 million years ago and ending 439 million years ago), this nutrient-rich water would give rise to the minute soft-bodied animals that would become the well-known Montreal limestone (also referred to as Trenton limestone or greystone) that was used to build many of our homes and institutions.

Animals turn to stone

As the aquatic animals died, they fell to the ocean floor, eventually building up a quarter-kilometer-deep layer of greystone sedimentary limestone. This layer of greystone was used as a building material for many of Westmount’s buildings.

“One inch of greystone represents about 10,000 years of sedimentation,” explained Ingrid Birker, a paleontologist and science outreach coordinator with McGill University’s Redpath Museum. “It was a

time when all these animals were invertebrates, with an exoskeleton or shell coverings or neither, such as worms and other soft bodied animals like sponge. There were no animals with bones. Real boney fish did not start appearing until 200 million years later,” she stated.

But you don’t have to go far to see the fossils that these great seas left behind. In fact, you might not have to go much further than your doorway.

Fossils everywhere

Most of the greystone homes surveyed for fossils for this article contained shells and coral-like animals. Westmount city hall has a fine selection of fossils on its exterior façade. You just have to get used to what you are looking for; but once you catch on, you start seeing them everywhere.



Coral in the Indiana sandstone of the Prince Albert and Sherbrooke post office. This stone is from the Carboniferous period and approximately 360 million years old, about 100 million years after the greystone fossils.

Other good locations for viewing fossils include Selwyn House, the fire station on Stanton (near where an early greystone



A mass of brachiopods adorn Westmount city hall’s exterior walls. Once you start looking for fossils in the greystone rock of Westmount, it doesn’t take long before you are seeing them everywhere, in stone walls, walkways and homes.



Brachiopods embedded in a greystone wall at the corner of Wood and Holton. They are around half a billion years old and pre-date the arrival of fish on the evolutionary ladder by 250 million years.





Surviving emotional Ironman, paddle to the heart



Parenthood Uncensored

SOPHIE TARNOWSKA

When my daughter and I moved to Montreal eight years ago, she was just over a year old. I hadn't lived here in over 10 years, and I knew almost no one. I had left at 21 and was returning as a recently separated single mother.

I was so freshly separated that when I discovered my ex-husband's suit had been mistakenly packed with my things, I believed it was a sign that we would reconcile. For weeks after we moved, A. took the stuffed animal she usually reserved for bedtime everywhere.

The first time her father took her for the weekend, I felt like I'd lost a limb. I had no idea what to do with myself, and barely a clue as to who I was without her. So I signed up for a hip-hop class and danced my Saturday mornings away.

Slowly I tried to make Montreal mine. I forced myself to attend events at which I knew almost no one, just to connect. The hardest was the Kids for Kids ball where I knew only the brother of one of my best friends, and not well. It was right out of one of those bad prom scenes from a 90s flick. But I stayed, I smiled, I danced, I bumped into old acquaintances. It vaccinated me against the fear of being the odd man out. It was my social Ironman, and just as painful.

Classes helped

A.'s neediness was my salvation. It anchored me to myself. I signed us up for playgroups, for music classes and for swimming classes in the dead of winter.

Anything to stay busy: these activities were as much for me as they were for her. And I remain friends with the women I met in those church basements and YMCA playrooms.

The weeks of crushing sadness eventually let in a day or two of "I'm okay," and then those okay days started to link one to another. I made friends who cared for A. and me as though they'd known us for years, and we soaked up their care like thirsty plants.

Eventually the grief rushed in less often, though always unexpectedly – at the cottage, after we'd spent a week splashing in the sun by the lake with my girlfriends and their kids. The husbands would show up to join their families for the weekend, and the kids would run squealing to jump into their fathers' arms. My friends' focus would shift to their families. A. had nobody to run to, and I felt like I'd been hit in the heart with a canoe paddle. We'd retreat to the cottage, my stomach curdled with sadness.

This happened at the park, at the ski hill: places where families do things together, where parents cheer their children on, where they live the public moments that glue their memories together. One glimpse of a father pushing his daughter on a swing and my day would darken.

It's taken me years not to be punched in the heart by the togetherness of families, but it happened again recently when I took A. skiing. I'd forgotten how it felt to be surrounded by dads helping their kids get up after they fell flat on their faces, sharing the carrying, cheering, dragging that is the real skiing-with-kids experience, with their spouses.

It's still just us, but it was a beautiful day and I refuse to stop doing what we love just because it hurts a little. After all, I survived an Ironman.



Worm tracks from the Ordovician Period remain in a slab of stone at Selwyn House School. This building has a number of easily seen and interesting fossils that date to around 500 million years ago.

quarry was once located) and the former post office on Sherbrooke St. at Prince Albert. Wherever you find greystone as a building material, Ordovician Period fossils are definitely nearby.

By the end of the late 19th century, greystone started falling out of favour as a building material, to be replaced by red brick. The great greystone era of Montreal was coming to an end.

Nowadays, greystone limestone is crushed as an aggregate in cement pro-

duction or as filler for driveways and roadways. Some greystone is still used as a principal building material and while its heyday is over, its beauty is very much in evidence, as a covering for our homes and institutions.

For more information on fossils and fossil tours in downtown Montreal, contact Ingrid Birker of the Redpath Museum at ingrid.birker@mcgill.ca, www.mcgill.ca/redpath/, or call 514.398.4094. The museum is free and open Monday to Friday, from 9 to 5 pm and every Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. It is closed Saturdays.

Vagrants 'squat' at Stayner comfort station – again

For the second time in two weeks, vagrants were found sleeping on benches at the Stayner Park comfort station March 12, Public Security officials said.

They were asked to leave just after 2 pm.

Officers are stepping up patrols of the park as a result. A previous event was reported on February 25 (see March 11, p. 7).



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Masked Farha ball raises \$250k for AIDS causes



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

Once again, the Farha Foundation held its masked and always sold-out eve at Marché Bonsecours. Tickets were \$300.

The foundation was founded by **Ron Farha** who passed away from AIDS in 1993, but whose family continues the fight. His mother, **Evelyn**, is honorary president, and his sisters are totally involved.

Linda is president, **Nancy** is executive director and **Carolyn** is vice president. The night was frigid and Bob Perras' valet parking team whisked cars away for a cost of \$20.

Among the guests were committee members Westmount residents **Barry Garber**, *über-agent* to stars; **Anna** and **John Broccolini**; and **Josh Fagan**; as well as **Dr. Réjean Thomas**; **Kim** and **Jay Goldman**; **Angela DiCorpo**, **Dominique Bélisle**, **Kristine Goulet**, **Jason Katz**, **Alexandra** and **Matthew Ieraci**, **Pierre Lefebvre**, **Jessica**



Mark and Louise Leibner.



Linda Smith and Alexandre Despatie.



Evelyn Farha.



Dr. Terry Smith and Sonia Benezra.

Shetler, **Brian Thompson**, and **Linda Mackarous**.

Noted in the glam crowd were Westmounters **Dale** and **Nick Tedeschi**, **Bee Weisel**, **Frank Niro**, **Maira** and **Michael Pesner**, **Phyllis** and **Ted Tessler**, **Andrew Hops**, **Francine** and **Robbie Wiseman**, and **Barry Pascal**, as well as **Andrew Lufty** with fiancée **Samantha Gumenick**; **Ogilvy & Holt Renfrew's David Lapierre**, **Normand**

Ciarlo, and **Steeve Lapierre**; **Cheryl Besner Cohen**; **David Archer**; **Arlene** and **Andrew Torriani**, CEO **Ritz-Carlton Montreal**; **Bunny Berke** and **Larry Lusko**, **Larissa Abrahamyam**, **Cheryl** and **Allan Goffman**, and **Louise** and **Mark Leibner** of Westmount's **Galerie D'Este**, which donated works for the silent auction.

Emcees were media celeb **Sonia Benezra** and Olympic medalist **Alexandre Despatie**, co-host of *Breakfast Television*, whose supervising producer **Jeffrey Feldman** was noted in the crowd.

After dinner, served at 9 pm by **Beatrice / Bice Restaurant**, 70s diva **Martha Wash** kept the crowd on its feet as did DJ **Sandy Duperval**. A fun dance performance was choreographed specifically for the event by

Scott Fordham.

The evening raised \$250,000, including \$10,000 from a private dinner to be hosted by the evening's honorary president, Westmounter **Linda Smith** (wearing a red Theia cocktail dress) who attended with her husband **Terry**. Her dinner will be catered by co-sponsor **Zanté Restaurant**.

Monies raised at this fabulously fun night will be distributed among organizations fighting against HIV/AIDS all across Quebec.

Smoke detectors checked out

A public safety officer changed smoke detector batteries for an elderly woman on Grosvenor who called to have the devices checked out for her February 25, Public Security officials said.

She was advised to replace the older units. At the same time, she was given information on the department's new program for assistance to seniors called "Security and Aging: You're not alone."



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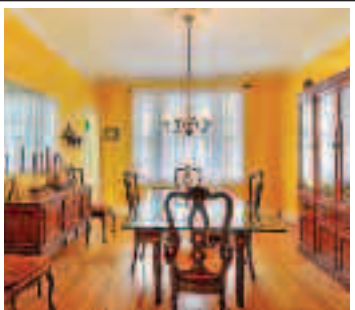
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Sullivan honoured at St. Patrick's on St. Patrick's

Westmounter Dan Sullivan was presented with the Monsignor Russell Breen medal of honour on March 16. The ceremony took place at St. Patrick's Basilica at the "Green Mass" prior to the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Sullivan was being recognized for his

work as a board member and officer of St. Ignatius of Loyola parish, the Father Dowd Foundation, Catholic Community Services, Sacred Heart School, St. Mary's Hospital, the parish of St. Patrick and the St. Patrick's Basilica Restoration Foundation.

Cleland in *Memory of Water*

Westmounter Katherine Cleland will play the character of Catherine in the Montreal premiere of Shelagh Stephenson's *The Memory of Water*, which runs from April 8 to 12 at Theatre La Chapelle.

It is directed by Corey Castle of Theatre 317.

According to the group's press release, "In *The Memory of Water*, three sisters, each haunted by their own demons, gather in a highly charged atmosphere on the eve of their mother's funeral.

With a storm raging outside, they laugh, cry, rage and bicker as the conflicts of the past and their hold on the present are mercilessly exposed."

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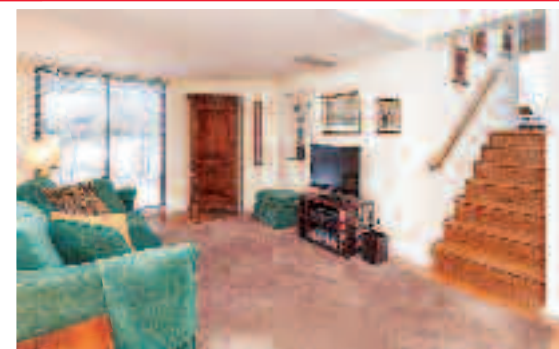
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OLD HAMPSTEAD: Elegant detached stone residence on quiet crescent. 4 bdrm, great playroom, huge garden, garage. **\$1,095,000 or \$5,500/mo.**



WESTMOUNT ADJ.: THE TRAFALGAR! Art deco charm, updated bldg, 5th fl., 2 bdrm, over 1,500 s.f. condo, where even your dog is welcome. **\$435,000**



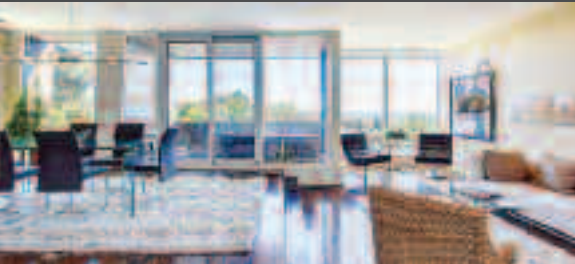
WESTMOUNT: 3+1 bedroom historic house for those who appreciate the charm of an antique country home in the heart of the city. **\$2,950/mo.**



WELCOME TO THE RIGHT ADDRESS



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WESTMOUNT 627 Clarke **\$3,395,000**
Views views views !!! Ideal as a condo alternative.
MLS 26285951



TMR 431 Grenfell **\$1,065,000**
Great lifestyle house!!! Renovated 3 bedroom, Open Concept
with large deck, garage and garden. MLS 10670164



DOWNTOWN 1227 Sherbrooke W, #44 **\$795,000**
ACADIA: Prestigious 3 bdr condo of 1619 s.f., garage, 24-
hour security, great location. MLS 16250732



LE PLATEAU 4235 de la Roche **\$425,000**
Fabulous 2 bedroom ground floor condo. Renovated, furnished,
wood floors, garden. Steps from Lafontaine Parc. MLS 22731061



C-D-N 6301 Northcrest, #3P **\$899,000**
Le Sanctuaire: Beautiful renovated 2+1 bedroom condo,
1,942 sf, very large terrace, 2 car garage. MLS 12706314



TREMBLANT 121 rue Dicaire **\$325,000**
Charming detached cottage, 3 bdrms, access to Lac Moore,
5 min from Mt-Tremblant. MLS 13212057



EXCLUSIVE
TREMBLANT AREA **\$675,000**
Magnificent 135 acre lot with 5000 feet on Rivière Rouge, ideal for
private domaine or gentleman's farm.



NEW
TREMBLANT AREA **\$399,000**
186 acre lot, panoramic views of mountain, ideal for private
domaine. MLS 13274324



HARRINGTON Ch. du Lac
A piece of paradise on 850+ acres of prime land. Private lake
on Rouge River, very unique spot. MLS 10665881



TREMBLANT AREA **\$399,000**
186 Acres lot, panoramic views of mountain, ideal for private
domaine MLS13274324



SOLD
WESTMOUNT 333 Elm Ave. **\$1,549,000**
Beauty on Elm!! Classic brownstone full of charm, renovated to
today's standards, 3 bdrms, 2 fireplaces, 2 car prkg. MLS 22826019



SOLD
WESTMOUNT 5 Grove Park **\$1,325,000**
Semi designed by P. Nobbs, 3+1 bedrooms, renovated, garage,
superb location! MLS 13012284



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& CO