WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly. Vol. 8 No. 5d We are Westmount May 27, 2014

Old street signs selling for \$200 each

Family Day to close Melville block Saturday, rain or shine

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Rain or shine, this year's Family Day May 31 will close Melville to traffic between Melbourne and de Maisonneuve, Sports and Recreation officials announced last week. The street will shut down to public use from 7 am to 4 pm.

The measure was initiated last year when wet terrain in Westmount Park prevented its use by vehicles and other heavy equipment but proved so successful that the use of the street by some attractions will be repeated again, said Dave Lapointe, the department's assistant director.

"Let's hope it doesn't rain this year," he said. "We've been bitten by the bug for the past two years."

One of this year's novelties is the sale

of former Westmount street signs from 82 streets at a cost of \$200 each, a fundraising project of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) campaign (see separate list, p. 19).

Along with inflatable games, races, carnival-style booths, pony rides and the petting zoo, more than a dozen community groups will participate with information and interactive displays.

Flipping dangerous



This car was photographed just west of Victoria and The Boulevard on May 21 at around 2:30 pm. According to one witness and police, no one was seriously hurt, see p. 20.

Photo courtesy of Oliver Sugden.

Don't Miss It

The Westmount pool opens on Monday, June 2



Westmount rec centre wins UMQ innovation award

By Laureen Sweeney

The Westmount recreation centre (WRC) was awarded a top prize by the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ) in this year's innovation competition announced May 24 at the closing dinner of the association's annual assizes in Gatineau.

Competing in the category of "culture, heritage and sports and recreation," the Westmount project was reported to have impressed judges for its underground vision and energy efficiency as an innovative model other urban municipalities might benefit from in building in restricted spaces.

"This is an award from our peers, our fellow cities," said Mayor Peter Trent. "This is what makes the award so significant."

Many of the 1,300 delegates at the meeting May 21-24 learned about the project from the city's booth required of the finalists in various categories. These were mayors and councillors from some 300 of Quebec's larger municipalities representing more than 80 percent of the population.

"The award is an hon- continued on p. 6

Remembering the Empress of Ireland, p. 18







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City employees raise \$2,125 for CURE



Westmount city employees report raising \$2,125 for the CURE Foundation for breast cancer on May 13 as part of 2014 National Denim Day. More than a dozen baked muffins, cupcakes, squares, scones and sandwiches were sold at municipal buildings, according to Jillian Barnes of Community Events. The total also includes donations. Among the participants are, from left: Maureen Lafrenière of Communications, and Maria Di Scala, Cinzia Di Menna and Maria Fisher of Finance.

Screaming man kicks door of 5 Saisons at 2:45 am

A young man was found screaming and kicking the door of Les 5 Saisons at Greene and de Maisonneuve May 18, Public Security officials said. Officers were responding to a complaint at 2:45 am for a drunk and disorderly person. When the

man kept insisting he had to get to his friends inside police were called. Police were reported to have ticketted him in connection with the incident and driven him to a friend's house in NDG.

Building searched but no squatters found

A public safety officer patrolling behind the vacated Subaru building at 4026 St. Catherine May 15 noticed a rear door open at 2:32 am, Public Security officials said. Police were called and searched all four storeys in order to ensure the building was not being used by squatters. All was reported in order.

Smashing glass on Academy

A sound of breaking glass at 2:57 am brought public safety officers to the apartment building at 50 Academy Rd. May 15, Public Security officials said. Several panes were found to have been broken in the door leading into the lobby.

Police were called, but it was believed someone had returned home without the key and smashed the panes to get inside.

Men refuse to leave soccer field

Police had to be called May 17 when two men refused to leave a locked Westmount Park soccer field they were using at 4:29 pm on Academy Rd., Public Security officials said. Another group of four had complied when informed they needed a permit to play.

The two men kept on playing telling officers to find something else to do and using "indecent language."

They finally departed just before police





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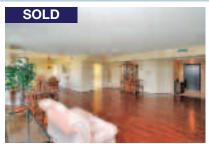
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Roof terrace work at 1250 Greene blocks street

Landscape designer, crane firm ticketed \$6,000-plus

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A landscaping design company and the crane contractor that it hired to work on a rooftop terrace at 1250 Greene were ticketed a combined total of \$6,276 for creating havoc with traffic May 7 in the block south of de Maisonneuve.

"They had taken up the whole street, obstructed traffic and rendered the parking meters unusable," said Public Security

director Greg McBain who had been on the scene. "As a result, we issued them the maximum fines possible."

Each firm received a ticket in the amount of \$2,500 for blocking the street and failing to obtain the required permit to occupy the public way.

Once the permit was obtained, the crane operator was given two more tickets of \$638 each for deviating from its terms. The crane was using the east side of the street, rather than the specified west side and its stabilizing feet had been placed on the sidewalk.

The work and traffic problems were found under way at 8:11 am. A number of complaints had been received about the work two days earlier when warnings had been given to obtain the permit, to no avail, McBain said. One to carry out the planting on the roof had been obtained from Urban Planning.



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30 kids sign up for 4-week bike course

A bicycle education course presented by the Westmount Walking and Cycling Association (WWCA) launched its first of four weekly sessions May 13 with a total of 30 young registrants.

This is twice as many as last year, said WWCA president Dan Lambert.

Held as part of the city's Sports and Recreation spring programs, the course takes place along with police and Public Security resources and features overall bike safety, the rules of the road and practical experience. The kids, aged 8 to 13, will also learn how to avoid "dooring" and vehicle blind zones - key risks to cycling in the city.

For the first time, "we will ride to Old Montreal on a Sunday afternoon, which will give the participants a chance to practise the skills they have been taught," Lambert said.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tulips for beauty, not toilet

Attention all dog walkers: on May 22, one of you allowed your dog to use my tulips as a toilet.

I find it hard to believe that all of you are going to be judged by the neighbours because of one uncaring person.

I also believe that all of you appreciate the beauty that the garden brings to everyone and we work hard to maintain it for all of us.

Lorne Woods, de Maisonneuve Blvd.

DOG RUN SITE

It is suggested that the area in Westmount Park presently used for presenting theatricals like Shakespeare in the Park might be a good site for the relocated Lansdowne dog run.

It is distanced from residential buildings and a hedge on the south side of the area would tend to isolate activity in the dog run from the rest of the park. If necessary, more area could be provided for the dog run by moving the concrete pathway on the south side of the site closer to the bike path.

The new park area on the roof of the arena could provide a change of venue for staging theatricals like Shakespeare in the Park with an added potential to accommodate larger audiences.

John D. Dorey, Victoria Ave.

Award, cont'd. from p. 1

our to all who worked so hard to make the WRC happen," said Sports and Recreation director Mike Deegan, the city's WRC project coordinator. "This includes the elected officials, administration, professionals, volunteers, donors and Pomerleau – everybody."

Deegan manned the exhibit virtually alone with occasional assistance from Councillor Cynthia Lulham. He also made the final presentation to a panel of nine judges who then asked questions answered by Mayor Peter Trent and Lulham.

Trent said the city's exhibit was really "barebones" compared to those of many other finalists who "pulled out all the stops, with many members of their staff and elected officials manning their booths

Clarification Pool to open Monday, June 2

Westmount's new pool will open Monday, June 2 at 7 am with adult swim, Sports and Recreation officials said last week.

There have been several recent incorrect references to June 1 as the opening date, but the correct schedule was to be posted yesterday on the city's website just after press time, said assistant director Dave Lapointe. complete with demonstrations," Trent said.

"We should have won the prize for the most understated booth and presentation. Instead we simply won the prize!"

While Trent, Lulham and Deegan left before the closing day last day, Councillor Victor Drury remained for the "gala" dinner to accept the award should Westmount win, Trent said. The project had garnered a lot of interest, Deegan explained.

Among those visiting the city's display were Montreal mayor Denis Coderre and Premier Philippe Couillard who spent about 10 minutes asking questions just before the final presentation, Deegan said.

"He said he had known it was the first underground arena in Quebec but did not know it was the first in the world. A lot of people said they wanted to visit the WRC. I've never handed out so many business cards."

Deegan said it "felt good to get outside your community and hear other people say 'wow' to going underground."

Trent also said the award and city recognition were expected to be reported in the francophone press, which had not covered the WRC opening.

And Councillor Patrick Martin, a member of the project steering committee who has been council's point person for the project, said "Those of us who had the privilege to work on this transformational project over the years were always very aware of its exciting potential...We now have the additional recognition by the UMQ award jury."

The other finalists in Westmount's category of the Mérite Ovation Municipale contest were the St. Laurent public library, St. Adèle's Parc Claude-Henri-Grignon and Les artistes du bonheur in Vaudreuil-Dorion (see story March 11, p. 10).

Gas odour in Vic village

A natural gas main at Sherbrooke and Northcliffe burst the morning of May 26, leading to many residents in the Victoria village smelling gas outside of their houses. At least one resident of Prince Albert called 911. "Even though they were getting calls from all over, the fire department came within 5 minutes and checked out the house," he said. "Then about 15 minutes later, Gaz Met showed up and did a more thorough check. The response was excellent."

Science fair update

Bronze for Study, Marianopolis at nationals



Westmount schools medal in Windsor: Catherine Boisvert (fourth from left) and Tiffany Mach (seventh from left) represented The Study; and Yu Chen Hou (first on left) and Steven Kong (second from right) represented Marianopolis.

Tiffany Mach and Catherine Boisvert, grade 10 students at The Study, and Steven Kong and Yu Chen Hou of Marianopolis won bronze medals at the 53rd annual Canada-Wide Science Fair, held in Windsor, Ontario May 10 to 17.

Mach and Boisvert competed in the intermediate category with "Nicotine Overkill?" They also received a \$1,000 en-

trance scholarship to Western University.

Kong and Hou competed in the senior category with "Geographical Data I/O." They were awarded a \$1,000 university entrance scholarship to the University of Ottawa.

Competing were 463 finalists from across Canada as well as delegations from Australia and Mexico.

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

We are Westmount.

Presstime: Monday at 10:30 am

Publisher: David Price

EDITOR: Kristin McNeill (on maternity leave)

CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

Letters & Comments:

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

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Dog off-leash in Woods brings \$76 ticket

A resident of Summit Circle was found walking his dog off leash in Summit Woods at 7:45 am May 15, according to Public Security officials.

He was issued a \$76 ticket.

The dog had a valid licence. Officers gave notice recently that there would be no tolerance to this offence in the nature preserve (see story May 6, p. 24).

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Hospital grilled on healthy food, accessibility

By Isaac Olson

Two Westmounters grilled hospital and transportation officials during the most recent Good Neighbourly Relations Committee Meeting on May 21 – demanding to know if there is going to be healthy food at the McGill University Health Centre's super-hospital and how locals with reduced mobility are supposed to access the

With 20 to 30 merchants coming to the Glen Site, Westmounter Jean Williams, who worked as a Montreal General nurse for some two decades, said she remembers seeing a black forest cake just steps away from the diabetic clinic. It was a situation, she said, that she doesn't want to see at the new hospital.

"That black forest cake talked to me every day," she said. "For those people working in the hospital, we really want to have a minimal amount of junk food."

In examining the criteria for merchants looking to set up shop in the hospital, Williams told officials that she didn't see anything specific about healthy offerings, sugary snacks or sodas.

"I am particularly concerned about the food and beverages that will be coming in if we're not careful," she said. "There's a great trend across North America now to get the fast food out of hospitals."

SNC-Lavalin's André Dufour said there already are government regulations as to what food is allowed to be served in hospitals and officials fully intend to meet those health standards.

Kiely concerned about accessibility

While there is a second tunneled link, accessible by elevator, planned for the east side of the Vendôme Metro station, officials confirmed nothing has moved forward on that plan as it is up to the provincial government to issue the fund-

Westmounter Maureen Kiely said, even

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after the project is tendered, it is going to take three years to build that entrance for a hospital that is opening in the coming

food at the new super hospital.

Kiely demanded to know what hospital and transportation officials are doing to ensure handicapped people, those with mobility issues and parents with young children can access the hospital from north of the tracks. She said the only option, without accessibility, will be a shuttle service.

"Have you started to make plans for this? This is not just the STM. It's a transportation issue. To me, it's going to be a nightmare," she said, asking what temporary measures will be put in place.

However, nobody from the Société de

answer. When Dufour said the entire site is handicapped accessible, Kiely fired back: "But the question is to get from here to there? What do we use? Bungee cords? Helicopters? Cannons? This is crazy."

Maureen Kiely, left, listens as fellow Westmounter Jean Williams asks officials if there will be healthy

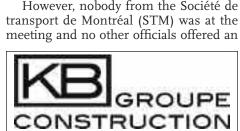
When nobody replied, Kiely said, "To be honest, I'm a little shocked that everybody is sitting there dumbfounded. It has to be dealt with. You have to plan now."

Man suffers scrapes in fall on Roslyn

A 69-year-old Verdun man tripped on the sidewalk outside 510 Roslyn May 14 but requested not to have assistance from Urgences Santé, Public Security officials said. Patrollers who helped him described his injuries as minor scrapes.

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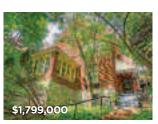
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Blossom central



Westmount Park is in bloom. This picture was taken on May 21 at 5 pm.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Man falls asleep after taking girlfriend home

A man was found asleep, cellphone in hand, behind the wheel of a car outside a house on Upper Belmont at 3:48 am May 17, Public Security officials said.

A patroller discovered the black Dodge Challenger with the engine running in the middle of the street and suspected the driver might have been impaired. Police arrived at 4:08 am and found this not to be the case.

The man stated he was just tired after driving his girlfriend home. He was identified from an Alberta driver's licence.

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Plant exchange raises record \$1,295



Volunteer Diana Bruno, right, was one of more than a dozen on two shifts who worked at the city's annual exchange and sale of perennials May 15 in the courtyard of the conservatory. The event raised a record \$1,295, said Councillor Cynthia Lulham, who heads the organizing Horticultural Advisory Committee (HAC). Additional proceeds will swell the total following a sale of remaining plants to city employees last week and to the public at Family Day on May 31. This year the money will help fund the installation of a bee hive on the roof of the library.

Propane cans pile up in back yard

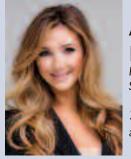
An accumulation of propane cans used for camping was found in the back yard of a house on Winchester May 17 by a passing patroller, Public Security officials said.

The resident stated he had missed the recent household hazardous waste collection day and agreed to take them to a Montreal eco-site.



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LIZAKA

Team Ian thanks supporters, looks to August



From left, Rob Callard, John Van Toch and Steve Dennis.

Photo: Greg Dunning.

Organizers of the Team Ian bicycling fundraiser thanked donors and volunteers at an appreciation night May 15. The event was held at the Comedy Nest, which is in the old Forum just east of Westmount.

The evening was not just about thanking past participants: a silent auction raised \$1,290.

The Team Ian ride starts in Kingston and ends in Hudson. Funds raised pay for student internships in cancer informatics. The ride, named in honour of the late Ian Van Toch, is organized by his father John and has been held four times.

Westmounters in attendance included

Howard and Arlene Hoppenheim, Nicolas and Martha Matossian, Greg Dunning, Mila Felcarek, Willem Westenberg and *Independent* publisher David Price. All tech support for riders and many items for the auction have been supplied by Victoria Ave.'s Martin Swiss Cycles, represented at the event by Steve Dennis. Also in attendance was Rob Callard, owner of Nick's restaurant on Greene.

"This year, we'll have 30 riders, about half from Westmount," said Van Toch, "and our goal for the 2014 ride is \$60,000." It will be held August 15 to 17. Almost \$200,000 has been raised by the ride so far.

P

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1 SEVERN, WESTMOUNT

4 BEDS / 3.5 BATHS

215 Redfern ETA: End of summer

BY STEPHANIE O'HANLEY

The condo construction project at 215 Redfern should be completed by the end of summer, at the latest, says the project's developer.

"We're still moving ahead and are hoping to complete it this summer," said Joe Berger, CEO of ISCANCO, the company that has owned the former office building for 10 years and is in the process of transforming it into luxury residential condos.

In October 2013 when the developer faced the expiry of its first building permit,



603 LANSDOWNE, WSTMT

MLS #9960446



215 Redfern on May 22.

the city of Westmount required a \$1-million monetary guarantee as a condition of issuing its second and final building permit. The company had 18 months to complete its project or the city would keep the guarantee. At the time, developers cited

structural problems as the reason for construction delays.

"We're completing the exterior work now," said Berger. Work on the building has included stripping it down to its skeleton, removing floors and building up new ones, relocating a garage entrance and building two full floors of garage space, he

Berger said the "brilliant idea" for the project came from his wife. "You can blame it on her because she wants to move to Westmount from Hampstead and 'this is the greatest location ever."

It includes valet parking, a seventhfloor 20,000 foot terrasse with a gym and a swimming pool, a new facade combining glass and granite, large windows, penthouses with interior staircases and private terrasses and ground-floor apartments with their own private gardens.

Area residents com- ····· plain about construction continued on p. 15



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MLS #26702765 5 BEDS / 3.5 BATHS

Redfern, cont'd. from p. 14

noise, something Berger said he can appreciate. "If I was living there, I wouldn't be happy either."

Berger said construction at another building de Maisonneuve and Redfern has been going on for years.

"People are angry that there's another construction project," Berger said. "This block has unfortunately been with construction projects for the past eight years," Berger said. "You can't blame us for eight years. You can blame us for two and a half, maybe three, but the rest of it belongs to our neighbour.

"Believe you me, this is going to be a very, very attractive building," Berger added. "The city of Westmount also had a lot of input into the building in terms of the exterior, the use of granite, the stone. There's a very expensive exterior that we're doing with very high windows. It's quite unique."

No work on Victoria Day

Work was stopped at two houses May 19, the Victoria Day holiday, Public Security officials said. One contractor was found installing paving stones on Murray Hill at 9:23 am. The other was using a jack hammer on the rear façade of a house on Metcalfe at de Maisonneuve at 10:25 am.

House cleaner strikes head, taken to hospital

Public Security officials said they were checking out signage on Prince Albert near York May 15 when a man came out of a house at 3:15 pm to say a cleaning woman had fallen and was unconscious.

She was awakened and found to have a large bump on the head. Urgences Santé took her to the Montreal General Hospital.

The owner of the cleaning company was on site.



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Ile-des-Soeurs Presents: Legal Protections for the Memory Challenged Thursday, June 12 • 11am (French)

Join Social Worker Monique Renaud, a respected expert on legal issues for the memory impaired, for a discussion on the roles & rights for both the memory challenged and their representative.

West Island Presents: My family member is Memory Challenged. What should I know? • Thursday, June 19 • 2 – 3 pm (English)

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Westmount Art Scene

HEATHER BLACK

Summer has arrived at Westmount galleries. Rita Briansky's green foliage at West End Gallery or Gregory Hardy's billowy clouds at Han Art recreate a summer's day. Both artists breathe life into every scene with colourful and fluid brush-

Gregory Hardy at Han Art

A native of Saskatchewan, Gregory Hardy, RCA, is known for his expressive, prairie landscapes. Entitled Shattering Sky, this exhibition depicts voluminous clouds against vast and often stormy skies. Painted with thick acrylic brushstrokes on linen. Movement dominates his work.

In Storm, French Blue, orange clouds in an aquamarine and cobalt sky capture the drama of a summer thunderstorm. The artist applies colour layer by layer with wet and dry brushstrokes to create a sense of urgency. The result is shifting clouds and an expectation of change.

These are landscapes of a special moment, presented with extraordinary intensity. In *Crack of Thunder*, red and orange

Briansky and Hardy: The colours of summer

storm clouds resembling ice cream scoops dwarf a series of islands. In contrast, clouds painted against the baby-blue sky of Heading Around the Corner of the Island are less threatening. Trees created with thick brushstokes recall the Group of Seven and convey the simplicity of the prairie landscape.

In Shattering Sky, Hardy evokes the transformative power of nature. Painting from both sketch and memory, the observed and the imagined combine to express the duality of his own inner and outer world. This unique exhibition begins May 29 and continues until June 29 at 4209 St. Catherine St.

Rita Briansky at West End Gallery

Montreal artist Rita Briansky's oil paintings dominate her recent exposition, Re*flections*. She captures her surroundings, and park scenes, floral bouquets, and children are all subjects for her brush. Presenting the known and familiar, a sense of intimacy prevails.

Summer greenery abounds in the indoor scene Le matin. A wooden armchair painted in viridian green coexists with plants on a window sill and outdoor foliage. With a keen eye for colour, the effect is lush continued on p. 22



Gregory Hardy's Heading Around the Corner of the Island.

Simple transformations...



Garden



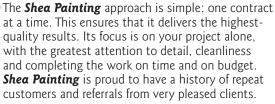
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McEntyre Writing Competition winners

The winners of 42nd McEntyre Writing Competition were announced May 22 by the Westmount Public Library. The contest was founded by Peter McEntyre, who was the mayor of Westmount from 1969 to 1971. He set up a trust fund to support an annual writing competition to encourage young people to think about the idea of community, and to learn more about their own communities. This year's theme was A New Beginning. The ceremony for the winners will take place on Wednesday, June 4 at 7 pm at Victoria Hall.

Grade 1

Arnaud Couture Ella Rose Coderre Nicolas Capolicchio HM Kiran Keleny *Grade 2* Clara Marcoux Gabriel Cabelli

Gabriel Cabelli Victor Mayer HM Sophie Birks *Grade* 3

Isabella Michel-Decker Megan Higgins Onki Lin HM Mohamed Heba

Dylan Lee Vasily Konachenkov Matt Azoulay HM Diya Joseph

Grade 4

Selwyn House The Study Selwyn House Selwyn House

The Study Selwyn House Selwyn House ECS

The Study The Study ECS Westmount Park

Selwyn House Selwyn House Selwyn House Roslyn Grade 5 Anna Fraser Anahita Matlabi Anna Xuyao Shi Grade 6

Roslyn

St. Léon

The Study

Villa St. Marcelline

Selwyn House

Selwyn House

Selwyn House

Selwyn House

Selwyn House

Westmount High

Westmount High

The Study

The Study

The Study

The Study

The Study

Selwyn House

Saint George's

Westmount High

Westmount High

Villa St. Marcelline

Villa St. Marcelline

Westmount High

Westmount High

Villa St. Marcelline

ECS

Émilia Beauchamp William Molson Kamar Razek HM Joshua Feldman

Grade 7 Lauren Kim Luca De Carolis Joshua Ginsberg HM Emani Poirier

Grade 8 Breanna Wark Olivia Battista Maya Bedjaoui

Suzy Park

HM Alex Beaudin *Grade 9* Farid Djamalov Aitana Juristo Andrade Samantha Levy

Grade 10 Tasmia Matin Charlotte Huebner 3. Angelina Mazza Samantha Sambrook

Grade 11
Emma Rowley
Andra Tudor
Julia Cohen

HM Eva Redondo Cruselles The Study
HM = Honourable Mention

ers Retail Round-up:

In and around town

By Stephanie O'Hanley

NEW: Rockaberry Express at Alexis Nihon, 1500 Atwater

For the past few months this franchise of the Rockaberry restaurant chain has been selling the pies that Rockaberry is famous for. The franchise shares a space with Sac-Wich and has the same owner.

CLOSED:

Café London Bus, 4126 St. Catherine St.

There's a For Sale sign on the front of the café, which since 2008 was known for the healthy home-cooked meals and English afternoon tea prepared by owner Jeannie Oh.

Centre du Rasoir, 4818 Sherbrooke St.

This branch of the small household appliance sales and service chain has closed its doors. The Centre du Rasoir announced a merger with Boutik Electrik in March but at the time of the announcement said no stores would close as a result.

CLOSING: American Apparel, 4945 Sherbrooke St.

It's been around for 10 years or so but American Apparel CEO and founder Dov Charney gave a few reasons for closing his Westmount store. "It is with great regret and sadness that our lease is coming to an end," Charney told the *Westmount Independent*. Charney said the store's format was smaller than his current stores. "We were in a sardine can in there. We couldn't... [expand] that store because Starbucks (located next door) was there."

Charney said shoppers can head to his Peel St. store and it's easy to order online. As well, "We have quite a big store on St. Catherine and it's quite easy to get to from Westmount.

"You have to understand that this store is very dear to me because my paper route for *The Montreal Star* was right there," said Charney, who grew up in Westmount but is now based in Los Angeles.

"I'm in love with the city of Montreal and the city of Westmount," Charney said. "My soul is always there and we're always thinking of Montreal and we hope to continue to stay connected to the community in every way that we can."

OPENING SOON: Bácaro Urban Pizzeria, 4263 St. Catherine St.

Signs for this new pizza bar, located in the space once occupied by Galerie Trimont say it will open in "Spring 2014."

Liquid fire



Left, a worker repairs the doorway of the Liquid Lounge on Sherbrooke near Claremont, just west of Westmount, after a fire broke out in the bar during the early hours of May 23. According to witnesses, a man was seen running from the building around 4:30 am, just as flames were seen coming from the building. A large acetylene tank was seen lying on the ground at the back of the well-known local



establishment but police were uncertain if it was part of the alleged firebombing. The arson squad is investigating the blaze, which broke out at the back of the building, seen at right. There were no injuries reported.

Photos: Robert J. Galbraith

18 – WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT – May 27, 2014

Guest Column

100 years later, Empress of Ireland sinking recalled

By Susan Stephenson

The Westmount Public Library currently has a display covering the Empress of Ireland sinking on the main floor near the circulation desk. Among other items, it contains Westmounter Anne Renaud's children's book, Into the Mist: The Story of the Empress of Ireland. Westmounter Susan Stephenson has an even more intimate connection with the event.

May 29 marks the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *RMS Empress of Ireland* in the St. Lawrence River near Rimouski.

In total, 1,012 died with the *Empress*. My maternal grandparents, Amma ("Granny") and Afi ("Grandfather"), were among those who survived.

A sudden bank of thick fog, inexperience, lack of adherence to protocol and a miscommunication with a Norwegian coal steamer, the *SS Storstad*, are some factors that combined to result in the collision. The simple facts are chilling: the mail ship, with 1,477 aboard, was broadsided by the coal vessel and the former sank in an astonishingly short 14 minutes.

Returning to Iceland

Amma and Afi had travelled from Winnipeg to board the *Empress* in Quebec en route to Liverpool. They were on a journey of emigration back to Iceland.

In 1883, Afi's parents had journeyed from Ytri-Brekkum, Skagafjorður, and settled in a sod dugout near Hallson in the Dakota Territory.

Amma's people had departed from Ytri-Galtastaðir, Fljótsdalshérað. She was born in 1888 in a covered wagon crossing the Badlands as her family was making its way to a better life in New Iceland, which comprised land on the shores of Lake Winnipeg at Gimli.

My grandparents met when he was her high school teacher. My grandmother married my grandfather at age 18. He was 8 years older.

As Amma recalled, they departed from Quebec in the late afternoon. A large Salvation Army band heading to a competition in London entertained its fellow passengers on deck and, after a formal dinner, my grandparents retired to their second-class stateroom.

As they were still in the protected waters of the St. Lawrence, the ship's authorities deferred safety drills and the securing of portholes, mandatory protocol after the *Titanic* disaster, to another day.

In the middle of the night, Amma and

Afi were thrown from their beds by the collision of the ships. The *Empress* immediately began to take on water and list. Wrapped only in bed sheets, Amma and Afi made their way on deck just as the ship rotated to starboard.

As they climbed onto the exposed hull, there was a loud explosion. The ship disappeared beneath them, creating a vortex of waters and a large wave. In indescribable chaos, they found themselves in the frigid river among panic-stricken people, bodies and wreckage.

Swimming saves two lives

Amma knew how to swim and kept Afi afloat.

Clinging to floating debris, they were spotted in the light of a lantern and hauled into a row boat. On shore, the small community of Pointe au Père opened its doors to survivors.

It was later learned that only three lifeboats had been successfully launched.

The row boat that picked up Amma and Afi was probably one of those launched from the *Storstad*.

Of approximately 700 people who made it on deck, only 465 survived the frigid river. It has been established that only 19 percent of second-class passengers and only 41 women survived.

Amma and Afi had converted their net worth into gold with which to start a new life in Iceland and, as far as we know, this remains at the bottom of the St. Lawrence.

On their return to Winnipeg, family and friends rallied to give support to Amma and Afi and help them get back on their feet.

In later life, Amma wore a gold bracelet inscribed on its interior with the date of the shipwreck, a gift from the Icelandic community.

In gratitude for their lives and for the help they had been given, Amma and Afi made many contributions to the Icelandic community and to society at large.

Afi was Hannes Peturson. He represented Iceland at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference held in 1944 to discuss the possibilities of creating an international organization to maintain and promote world peace following the end of the World War II. And with his brothers, he participated in the founding of the Second Unitarian Church, was a founder and



Tilly Anna and Hannes Peturson.

early president of the Icelandic National League of North America and he contributed poetry to the *Icelandic Canadian* literary magazine.

Amma was Tilly Anna Peturson (née Sigurdsson). She volunteered and sang opera at the Unitarian Church. Throughout her life, she offered sanctuary to Icelanders at her homes in Winnipeg, Gimli and Vancouver.

After tragedy struck a farm in an Icelandic community north of Winnipeg, she rode a freight train boxcar to rescue and foster three orphaned children.

'Atlantic Ocean!'

Amma Tilly was the grandparent who was most present in my young life, and I loved her deeply. I listened to her survival narrative as my favourite scary story. It is endearing to recall that when faced with a frustrating situation my dear Amma could be heard to declare her own personal curse words, "Atlantic Ocean!" And, if she heard mention of the more famous marine disaster, Amma would roll her eyes and comment in a bored sub tone, "... Titanic shee-manic."

When I was a child, mindful of Amma's story of heroism and the many contributions Afi and his family made to the Icelandic community, it was manda-

tory to both learn about our heritage and to swim.

One of the first things Mom did each year was to register us in the Red Cross swimming lessons. My biggest challenge to passing the swimming tests came from having to dive from an old pier in the murky waters and swim between docks, but Amma's story inspired me to take that leap of faith.

Today, swimming plays an important part in my family's life. My daughters, Signe and Lara Tilly, learned to swim through the community's summer lessons. They were both on Westmount's Dolphins swim team and Lara was a lifeguard at the pool.

Now each summer they go surfing along the Atlantic's coast. And together we have enjoyed many a dip in different community pools on holidays to discover our roots in Iceland.

Revisiting the Empress

One of the last trips I took with my mom was to drive 535 km up the St. Lawrence to fulfill her desire to visit Musée de la Mer.

The small museum is located near where the survivors of the *Empress* were brought ashore.

We saw some recovered objects from the *Empress* and watched a 20-minute video, but, for me, they failed to portray the drama of Amma's spoken account. The broad river that flows past the museum reveals nothing of those horrifying 14 minutes. As Mom and I sat on a commemorative bench at the river's edge, we felt grateful for Amma and Afi's survival and laughed a little about the whereabouts of "our" gold.

On the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Empress of Ireland*, I wanted to honour my Amma by recounting her story.

Let's be encouraged by her experience and learn to swim.

The new Westmount pool opens on Monday, June 2, which is only days after the date of the centenary of this terrible maritime disaster.

Swimming is a lifelong skill that could save your life and could enable you to save another's.

And swimming at our new pool can provide you and your family with a wonderful way of connecting with your community while staying healthy and fit.

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Start of four-day open house at the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, adjacent to city hall. 6 pm to 9 pm. Also May 29 and 30 (same times) and Saturday, May 31, 9 am to 3 pm.

The Good Doctor by Neil Simon, presented by Dramatis Personae. Lodge Room of Victoria Hall. Donation of \$10 requested. 7:30 pm. Also Saturday, May 31 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm, Sunday, June 1 at 2 pm and Monday, June 2 at 8 pm.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Anne Renaud gives a presentation about her book The Extraordinary Life of Anna Swan, telling the story of the 19th century woman who was almost 8 feet tall and billed as "Nova Scotia Giant Girl" in P. T. Barnum's American Museum. Free. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

Darren Bifford presents readings by Jim Johnstone. Free. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Avenue. 7 pm.

Annual general meeting of Contactivity Centre. 4695 de Maisonneuve Blvd. All welcome, but RSVP to 514.932.2326. 12

Family Day, cont'd. from p. 1

Public Security will be conducting bicycle safety checks and installing or verifying child car seats by appointment (514.989.5367) while police will also feature bicycle safety and offer bike engrav-

Aerial runway

Hydro Westmount will feature an Acro-Bungee jumping machine while Scouts Canada is scheduled to present its climbSATURDAY, MAY 31

Family Day, Westmount Park, 10 am to 4 pm.

Monday, June 2 City council meeting, city hall, 8 pm Wednesday, June 4

Public consultation on southeast planning vision, city hall, 7 pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

'Demolition' hearing re: 88 Church Hill, city hall, 6 pm.

Architectural historian Susan Wagg gives an illustrated presentation on her book The Architecture of Andrew Thomas Taylor: Montreal's Square Mile and Beyond. Free. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 12:30 pm.

Mini-concert and information evening regarding restoration of Nincheri frescoes. Free. Église St. Léon de Westmount, corner Clarke et de Maisonneuve. 7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 11

The Atwater Library Book Club, led by writer Mary Soderstrom, discusses The Casual Vacancy by J. K. Rowling. Free. Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater Ave. 7:30 pm.

ing wall. The army's 34 Combat Engineers will provide boat rides on the lagoon and an aerial runway over the water.

Refreshments will be available from Guides and Venturer Scouts as well as the WRC Café, a group operating the canteen at the recreation centre over the summer until a permanent café is up and running (see May 13, p. 1).

"We're just hoping for terrific weather," said Claude Danis, program and community services coordinator, "but even in the rain, we'll be out there in the park!"

Street signs with number available

Non-framed		Holton	4	Summit Circle	2	Clarke	2	Olivier	1
Abbott	2	Hudson	2	Summit Crescent	4	Cote St. Antoine	4	Park Place	1
Academy	5	Irvine	2	Sunnyside	5	De Casson	1	Prince Albert	3
Atwater	2	Kensington	2	Surrey Gardens	2	Devon	1	Ramezay	1
Barat	4	Kitchener	2	Thornhill	2	Dorchester	2	Rosemount	1
Belfrage	2	Lansdowne	7	Tupper	2	Elm	2	Roslyn	1
Belmont	2	Library Lane	2	Upper Belmont	2	Forden	2	Sherbrooke	20
Bethune	2	Melville	2	Victoria	13	Gladstone	1	Shorncliffe	4
Blenheim	3	Metcalfe	3	Weredale Park	4	Gordon Crescent	1	St. Catherine	8
The Boulevard	2	Mount Pleasant	3	Windsor	2	Grenville	1	St. Georges Place	1
Chesterfield	2	Mount Stephen	1	Wood	6	Grosvenor	4	Strathcona	1
Clarke	7	Murray	2	York	1	Grove Park	1	Summit Crescent	2
Claremont	4	Olivier	2			Hillside Lane	1	Sunnyside	6
Cote St. Antoine	7	Prince Albert	2	Framed		Ingleside	1	Surrey Gardens	3
De Maisonneuve	4	Redfern	2	Aberdeen	1	Kensington	1	Upper Bellevue	1
Devon	5	Renfrew	2	Argyle	1	Lansdowne	1	Upper Belmont	1
Douglas	2	Roslyn	4	Arlington	1	Lexington	1	Victoria	2
Elm	3	Ste-Catherine	9	Bellevue	1	Melbourne	1	Westmount	3
Forden	2	Seven	4	Belmont	1	Melville	1	Winchester	2
Gorden Crescent	3	Sherbrooke	7	Bethune	1	Metcalfe	5	Wood	1
Greene	6	Somerville	2	Carleton	1	Mount Pleasant	1	Source: ci	tv of
Grosvenor	2	Stanton	2	Clandeboye	1	Montrose	1	Westmo	,
Hillside	6	Strathcona	2	Claremont	3	N.D.G.	1	westille	ount

Baguera is ready to pounce



9 Lives

Lysanne Fowler

Just so adorable, this wee kitten! Baguera is seven weeks old and he is in a foster home for the SPCA Montérégie rescue. He has had all his beginner inoculations and he will be ready for adoption this week, so he could go straight from foster home to forever home.

You will certainly agree that this fluffy grey-and-white shorthair has flair - his little grey hat and cape over his beautiful white fur present him as a superhero in the making. To add to his cuteness, his striking blue-grey eyes are such a contrast to his candy-pink nose and toes!

Baguera will be adventurous and silly as all healthy kittens are, and will bring so much joy as he makes his family laugh at his antics. For more information on him, please contact Cindy Haché at the SPCA Montérégie at cindyhache@videotron.ca, or call them at 450.460.3075 to make arrangements for a visit at his foster home.

The main SPCA Montérégie buildings are located at 178 chemin du Vide in St. Angèle de Monnoir. You can find out more about them on their website at www.spcamonteregie.com.

They have a very well-organized cattery for the feline adoption section and they observe a staunch no-kill policy for pets who are with them for adoption. I adopted

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from them and I know first hand how well they treat the pets that have come to them for new families.

My beloved doberman Emma Rose was taken in by the SPCA Montérégie when she was first found by the side of a road as a young puppy and she was very well treated and then adopted to our neigh-

Your neighbour, Lysanne







Québec •••

RECYC-QUÉBEC

Police Report

89-year-old flips car on Westmount border

By Michael Moore

The following news story is based on information from police reports provided by a Station 12 constable.

An 89-year-old woman struck a parked vehicle and flipped her car as she drove east along Côte St. Luc Rd. towards Victoria Ave. on the afternoon of May 21.

According to Station 11 officer Peter Mandelos, the Côte St. Luc woman was attempting to turn right onto Victoria when she clipped the parked car, causing her to lose control of her own vehicle and flip upside down, smashing the front windshield.

When police arrived on the scene, she was still stuck on her hands and knees in the car, trying to get out. After being extricated by police, the woman, still suffering

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from shock, was taken to the Montreal General Hospital with only minor injuries, said Mandelos. Nobody else was hurt.

Because of her age the woman could be required to pass a road test before she is allowed to drive, according to Mandelos.

"At that age, people need to sometimes realize that they shouldn't be driving. Eventually, we need to be honest with ourselves," he said.

High schoolers robbed, threatened

Three men reportedly robbed and threatened to shoot a pair of Selwyn House students who were walking through Westmount Park after school on May 16, according to Station 12 Constable Caroline Gauthier.

As the two students, aged 15 and 16, walked through the park on their way to the Metro, the three English-speaking suspects allegedly approached them behind and split into two attack groups.

The first suspect, described as a 17-year-old black male weighing well over 220 lbs and sporting an afro, tried to wrench a gold chain from the neck of one of the victims and demanded to know if it was real, said Gauthier.

When the victim replied that he didn't know, the suspect reportedly demanded the student's backpack, which contained as MacBook Air and iPhone 5. When the backpack was handed over, the suspect told the victim, "If you remember my face, I'll shoot you," said Gauthier.

Meanwhile, the two other suspects, described as a thin, black 17-year-old with long black hair and a slightly younger, thin white man with brown hair, worked in tandem to accost the second student.

The pair reportedly shoved the victim down onto a bench, threatened to shoot him if he resisted and stole his backpack, which held an iPhone and \$65.

After the suspects fled the scene with

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both backpacks in hand, the students returned to Selwyn House and called 9-1-1, but police were unable to find the suspects in the vicinity of the park, said Gauthier.

However, Gauthier is confident the victims' descriptions and the specific racial and physical make-up of the trio of aggressors will make them easier for police to recognize in the future.

"It was very successful for them, so they might try to do it [in Westmount Park] again. We'll have more patrols in the area on the lookout for them," she said.

Connection between pair of break-ins?

A Lansdowne Ave. house and a Claremont Ave. basement apartment were broken into within 24 hours of each other on May 10 and 11, according to police.

Because of timeframe and the proximity of the two buildings, investigators are considering a potential link between the two crimes said Constable Stephan Laperrière. Police have been unable to find any witnesses or camera footage of either break-in.

The first crime reportedly occurred on the weekend while the owners of the Lansdowne house were away. The suspect used a rock to smash the window of the rear balcony door to gain access before making off with jewellery.

That same weekend, a suspect reportedly used a crowbar to pry open the sliding window of the Claremont apartment, which had been barred with wood.

However, according to Laperrière, noth-

ing was reported stolen from the apartment and police were able to recover fingerprints of the suspect.

Laperrière believes both sites would

Laperrière believes both sites would have been less appealing break-in targets if their windows had been curtained.

"Curtains make the home less attractive. If they look inside and see a computer hanging around, they'll know it's a place that's worth their while to try to break into. If they can't see inside, they usually aren't going to take the risk."

"Even if you have blinds, they sometimes aren't angled properly, especially if you are in a basement apartment, so people from outside can see inside," he added.

To dissuade robbers, Laperrière recommends leaving a radio or light on when the house is empty, or installing cameras. "These are all things that robbers look for," he said.



VILLE DE | CITY OF WESTMOUNT



HORAIRE ESTIVAL À COMPTER DU 2 JUIN Heures d'affaires et services municipaux

Les bureaux administratifs de la Ville de Westmount, soit l'hôtel de ville, le Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, et les Services de la sécurité publique, des sports et loisirs et des travaux publics seront ouverts:

du lundi au jeudi de 8 h à 16 h 30 et le vendredi de 8 h à 13 h.

La Bibliothèque publique de Westmount sera fermée le dimanche à compter du 15 juin et ce, jusqu'au 30 août.

Cet horaire est en vigueur du 2 juin au 5 septembre 2014.

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 2ND Business Hours and Municipal Services

The administrative offices of the City of Westmount, including City Hall, Victoria Hall, Hydro Westmount, Public Works, Public Security and Sports & Recreation, will be open:

Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Westmount Public Library will be closed Sundays from June 15th to August 30th.

This schedule is in effect from June 2nd to September 5th, 2014.

Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

A fun fundraiser for the Farha Foundation, which raises money for HIV/AIDS organizations, was held recently on a gorgeous spring eve. Guests arriving at Westmounters Linda and Terry Smith's house were greeted by a tiny tail wagger.

Maggie, the Smiths' teensy teacup Yorkshire terrier, almost got lost under the Manolo Blahnik and Christian Louboutin

THE PEARL SALE

Smiths host for Farha Foundation

stilettos. Linda, wearing a chic, short Théa cocktail dress, hosted a private dinner at her home, with delicious delights served by Costa Dimitriou and his team from Zanté, the go-to dining spot on St. Lawrence Blvd.

George Athans, former Canadian waterski champion, elegantly emceed the evening, introducing the two guests of honour: Academy Award-winner Frederic Bohbot, executive producer of The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life, the story of the world's then-oldest pianist and old-



Frederic Bohbot, Linda Smith and George Athans.

est Holocaust survivor, which won an Oscar for best documentary short, and Olympic medallist, free-style skier Jennifer Heil, founder of the Because I am a Girl initiative and B2ten, a group re-shaping how Canadian Olympic athletes can attain their full potential.

Noted enjoying the cocktail were Farah Foundation's president Linda Farha, wicked in white-slink; her sister Nancy, executive director, and proud mum Evelyn, who is honorary president.



Jennifer Heil, Carrie MacPherson and Terry Smith.

Westmounters present included Phyllis and Ted Tessler, design guru Philip Hazan, Bunny Berke and Larry Lusko, Francine and Robbie Wiseman, "dog whisperer" Jordan Schachter, Andrew Hops, Dana and Bill Bell (chic in head-to-toe Chanel) as well as fashion blogger Carrie MacPherson (I just ran into this world traveller in Zurich), Sonia Benezra, Melissa Schachter, Sascha Smith and Cheryl Besner-Cohen.



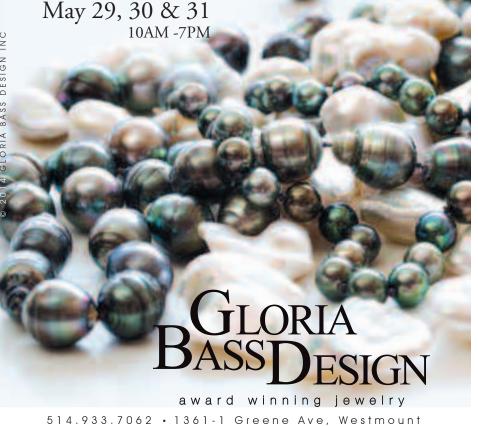
Philip Hazan and Jordan Schachter.



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Art scene, cont'd. from p. 16

and inviting. In *Springtime – Printemps*, an intricate pattern of leaves and branches recalls stained glass. The effect is dreamlike, more imagined than real.

In Summer Pleasure, two sunbathers are viewed from the back. Painted in green and mauve, the man and woman merge with their surroundings in an idyllic summer scene. In the blue-and-gold composition of sky and leaves,

Summer Song, a young woman plays a harmonica.

Reflections showcases Briansky's recent works. And as reflections on her life, these paintings are consistent in their quiet optimism. Her work is available at 1358 Greene Ave.

Both Briansky and Hardy excel as colourists. Through their selection of hue or tone, they create a memorable moment, the lazy warmth of a summer day or the urgency of an impending storm.

As Pierre Bonnard noted, "Colour does not add a pleasant quality to design – it reinforces it."

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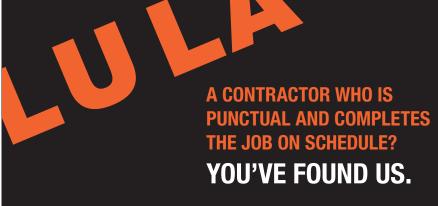
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Discover if coaching is right for you with a free, no obligation introduction to coaching. To schedule a complimentary, initial consultation, please contact me at contactmelissastock@gmail.com

Rotstein hangs out



Westmounter Shana Rotstein practises rappelling at Centre d'escalade Horizon Roc, located on Dickson St. in the East End, the morning of May 18. Rotstein will rappel 25 floors down the outside of Place du Canada on May 30 at around 3:00 pm to raise money for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, all part of the Canada wide Rope-For-Hope campaign. The goal is to raise \$120,000. For more information, contact Luc Charpentier 514.488.9474 x203.



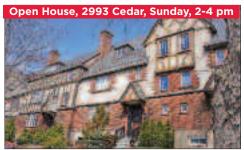
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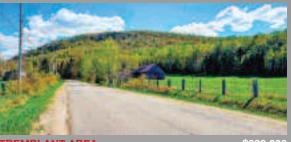
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