

Proposal features grocery store, retiree residences

Provigo unveils plan for 10-storey 'Claremont' complex

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

It's been talked about for years: Development of the vacant property at the southwest corner of de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine at the foot of Claremont. Now plans have been unveiled for a Provigo store to be built as part of a proposed 10-storey residential complex targeting seniors.

While the project would rise entirely in NDG, the new building would straddle the border with Westmount.

The plan calls for a ground-level grocery store with a mezzanine and nine storeys of residential units. The mezzanine will include offices for the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation along with accommodation for out-of-town visitors to patients at the nearby MUHC super-hospital. Underground parking is planned for 200 cars.

"This is still a work in progress, but it is what we are proposing at this point," said Johanne Héroux, Provigo senior communications and public affairs director.

She told the *Independent* last week that 250 notices had been sent out to nearby Westmount residents inviting them to an infor- *continued on p. 19*

Residents learn new process for Sports & Rec online sign-up

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Registration for the coming season's Sports and Recreation activities began February 16, introducing a new online system that generated many questions but was reported after the first two days to have added 300 more families to 600 already in the department's database.

The process has been "constant but busy," said department director Dave Lapointe. "It moved quite quickly considering we've never done this before."

While the actual registration process is

ECS on to GMAA finals



Photo: Michael Moore

ECS defenders close down on a Westwood High School ballcarrier February 16 at LCC. See story p. 8.

Don't Miss It
City council meeting, Monday, March 2,
p. 19.

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now online, residents are still required to attend in person to provide proof of identity, Westmount residency and that children they are registering are theirs.

This procedure will now be required only once a year for the four registration periods, Lapointe said. Residents already registered for the year in the database and who already have an online user name and password will be able to sign up online for all programs except swimming classes.

This year, many people managed to avoid lining up during the opening of registration by *continued on p. 8*

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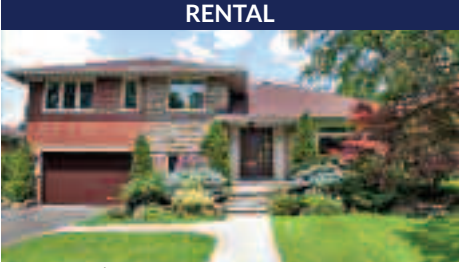
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Not a mishap, initially

Car 'hung up' on snowbank

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Things aren't always as they may appear.

A car that became hung up on a snowbank February 19 at the intersection of St. Catherine, Clarke and Dorchester attracted a fair amount of attention – including response from some four police cars, according to one passer-by.

Rather than being knocked up on the bank through a violent-impact accident, however, the driver had purposely backed

it up onto the bank while she and a colleague carried out traffic counts on St. Catherine and Dorchester, said Public Security Greg McBain.

The counts were being conducted by an engineering firm hired in connection with the Turcot project but unknown to the city, he said.

As a result, Public Works called Public Security to report that a car was illegally parked on city property, the strip of parkland just east of Westmount High.

When public safety officers responded to

the complaint around 10 am, they informed the driver she required a permit to occupy city land and had to remove the car.

Driving it down proved not as easy as going up. The car, which belonged to the driver, required a tow truck to pull it off. During that operation, the street was blocked off by Public Security. This was when the police cars also arrived, perhaps stemming from news of an accident, McBain suggested.

"One of the reasons we wanted it moved as quickly as possible was so that people didn't report it as an accident," he explained.

All's well that ends well, however, and officers found a spot at the northeast corner, where the counters could park and view both streets, enabling them to do their counts. On subsequent patrols of the area, however, the car could not be found.

McBain said he learned from the counters that similar traffic counts were being carried out in several areas surrounding the Turcot project.



A car, left, awaits a towtruck (seen behind the Public Security car) on St. Catherine at the foot of Clarke, February 19.
Photo: Veronica Redgrave

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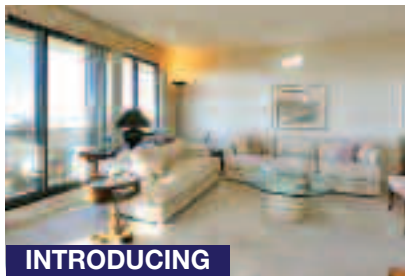
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Protecting interiors while making them 'livable'

WHA launches lectures on restoring heritage houses

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The Westmount Historical Association (WHA) has launched its spring series of four monthly Thursday evening lectures on the story behind efforts to restore the interiors of houses in Westmount. The topic comes in the wake of a potential move by the city to set up a Heritage committee to protect interiors of heritage buildings.

"I have always been dismayed by people who buy a house and then throw out the original wood stairways, windows, cast iron radiators, and destroy the plaster work on the ceilings," said WHA president Doreen Lindsay.

"I want to show people how wonderful the original is and let them listen to home owners tell their story about how they preserved the interior of the house they bought."

The first lecture took place February 19 with Michael McAdoo relating how he and his wife, Councillor Theodora Samiotis, restored their 1895 house at 4274 Dorchester, which won them an award as part of the 2006 Opération patrimoine architectural de Montréal. See story, same page.

The challenge "is how to make a house

livable without affecting its [historical] integrity," Samiotis said last week. Samiotis is commissioner of the city's Planning Advisory Committee of which the Heritage committee is expected to be a subcommittee.

On March 19, Jacques Archambault, manager/director of Canadian Heritage of Quebec, will spotlight the restoration of the 1739 Hurtubise house at Côte St. Antoine and Victoria. He is to explain how this group works with architects and conservationists in research and methodology before starting any procedure.

Restoration of the 1847 "Braemar" house at 3219 The Boulevard will be featured at the April 16 lecture when the owner, Sharon Azrieli, will talk about research carried out before entering into the recent extensive restoration project to regain the authenticity of the original building.

The fourth and final talk May 21 relates to the 1913 home of architect Percy Nobbs at 38 Belvedere Rd. Owner Michael Blinderman and architect Julia Gersovitz are expected to explain how they planned and implemented the rehabilitation of the Arts and Crafts house, which had been subject to successive modernization.

Man falls off ladder

A man who fell off a stepladder in a house on Lansdowne February 14 was taken to the Montreal General Hospital with a laceration to the head, Public Security officials said. Officers received the call for medical assistance at 5:11 pm and redirected it to Urgences Santé, whose personnel also attended. The accident was reported to have occurred while the man, aged around 60, was trying to patch the ceiling.

Snow from medical building dumped in handicap spots

A snow removal contractor working for the Westmount Medical Building was warned February 12 not to place snow in a handicap parking zone on Sherbrooke just west of Claremont, Public Security officials said. The complaint came from Public Works whose personnel had been noticing the habit.

Welcome, thieves

Garage doors at three houses were found open on two nights February 10 and 11, Public Security officials said. In one case, tools and other items of value were visible inside. Residents of the houses on Chesterfield, Severn and Sunnyside were contacted to secure the doors. At one location, public safety officers helped the resident to close a defective door manually at 3:20 am. The other incidents were recorded at 2:12 am and 3:50 am. An open garage door is an open invitation to thieves, especially if it leads directly into a home, Public Security Greg McBain said.

False alarm on Redfern

Public Security was called to the condo site at 215 Redfern Friday 13 for an alarm sounding, department officials said. On arrival, officers could hear the alarm and see flashing lights on some of the floors. They contacted police who checked out the exterior and found all in order. When a person responsible for the building arrived, the interior was searched and the incident reported to be a false alarm.

WHA's spring series begins

McAdoo, Samiotis trace restoration of their Dorchester home

BY MICHAEL MOORE

With snow whipping outside, roughly 20 Westmount Historical Association (WHA) members made the trek to Westmount Public Library on February 19 to hear Michael McAdoo and Councillor Theodora Samiotis discuss the award-winning restoration of their Dorchester home.

The talk marked the first in the WHA's spring speaker series on preserving heritage interiors in the city.

McAdoo led the two-hour presentation that weaved through both the logistical and technical aspects of the restoration, while Samiotis manned the projector for the roughly 50-photo slideshow, detailing the process that earned them the 2006 Opération Patrimoine Architectural de Montréal award.

The couple purchased the circa 1885 Dorchester house after moving to West-

pre-World War I houses in Kingston, Ottawa and Westmount.

Interspersing jokes about the services of his "curmudgeonly" Greek father-in-law, McAdoo spoke of the pitfalls faced in such a refined restoration.

Among his warnings were that projects cost more and are more disruptive than expected; there is a "knowledge dissymmetry" whereby the owner knows less than the architect or builder; and contractors will try to strong-arm owners into taking the quick and easy solution, especially if dealing with a female homeowner.

"You are going to have to look at it for the next 20 or 30 years, so have it done the way you want," said McAdoo.

The next presentation in the WHA speaker series will feature Jacques Archambault, executive director of Canadian Heritage of Quebec, on Thursday, March 19.



Michael McAdoo details the process of his Dorchester home restoration at Westmount Public Library on February 19.

mount in 2001 and set about restoring both the interior and exterior to approximately its original state, with modern amenities added on.

"I have no formal training in architecture or much of anything, but what I do have is a fair amount of practical experience," said McAdoo, who has restored five

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COLD ON KENSINGTON, 1

Regarding heating problems at 250 Kensington (February 17, p. 12), fresh air intake vents were left open, and staff said that they were not allowed to close them. Halls were so cold that coats were required when visiting neighbours on the same floor.

I believe that city inspectors inform the superintendent when they take temperature readings that fall below the minimum of 21 degrees Celsius and follow it up with a registered letter.

The superintendent came that afternoon to the same apartments to retake the temperatures. Trianon waits until apartments will be the warmest so that they will obtain the minimum of 21 degrees. It may be 21 at one metre from the floor with the sun shining in, but 19 where we sit.

Trianon used caulking in several apartments, which caused tenants to have severe headaches for days.

When a new contractor was hired, it was discovered that the heat pump for my part of the building had been installed backward, so we were only receiving half the heat.

In 2012, I sent a letter by messenger

which was signed by three tenants complaining that we were cold, and Trianon never replied.

We have had five superintendents in the last nine years. If they say that you have no problem, then nothing is fixed. Last year, a new super found that the controls for my radiators were on too tight. He loosened them, and I had heat immediately. Work was done to the heating system this past fall. The furnace can now be heard even on the fourth floor. Requests to Trianon to fix the noise remain unanswered.

Something must be wrong because I am cold again. Windows and balcony doors need to be replaced. Cold air coming through the fan over my stove has yet to be resolved.

NICOLE GAREAU, KENSINGTON AVE.

COLD ON KENSINGTON, 2

Thank you for covering the issue of poor heating in 250 Kensington (February 17, p. 12). While it's true that the coldest apartments are those located over the garage and in some corners, the rest suffer from very leaky and ill-fitting windows, with the exception of one, which has new windows and, judging from the firewood

stored in its balcony, perhaps a fireplace as well!

Moreover, the lobby door and windows have lately been thickly iced-over, while the neighbouring apartment buildings, built around the same time, appear to be fine. But then again, they both have new windows.

The sooner our landlord decides to invest in his own property to meet his contractual obligations towards his tenants, the happier everybody will be.

MAYA KHANKHOJE, KENSINGTON AVE.

GOOD ONE, LAPIERRE

I am always delighted to read Thomas Lapierre's letters to the editor, skewering Westmount's profligate politicians.

His wit and bluster never fail to amuse, while pointing out the evermore outlandish ways that the city squanders, or plans to squander, our tax dollars.

May I suggest that he be hired to write a regular column.

Pro bono of course!

TODD RICHARDS, VICTORIA AVE.

PARKING IN VIC VILLAGE – HOW WILL IT TURN OUT?

The recently announced [parking] plan for Victoria village is a step in the right di-

rection. However, glaringly absent from the proposal is an objective standard by which the new parking regulations can be measured as to whether they are working or not.

All good public policy demands this. So far, all we have are two vague guidelines, one I assume from the Transportation Advisory Committee to "protect/optimize local resident parking" and one from Councillor Cynthia Lulham at the council meeting last September – that village parking for residents, post-mitigation efforts, will be "okay." Other than as vague sentiments, neither means very much and can be debated for years.

It is imperative that Westmount identifies a target by which we, residents together with the city, can judge the efficacy of the new parking regulations. Lewis Carroll once said "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." For village residents, it appears that if the city doesn't know what kind of parking accessibility to provide local residents, any parking regulation will give it to you. Vic village residents request a clear definition from the city as to what kind of parking accessibility they should expect after the opening of the MUHC.

DENIS BIRO, BURTON AVE.

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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.



Alerted to his presence "by his cheerful chirping," a local homeowner photographed this young male northern cardinal when the bird eventually came out of hiding and perched on a blue spruce in a backyard January 30. He may have been attracted to the sunflower seeds, known to be preferred by cardinals, and water available in a heated fish pond. Male cardinals have bright red plumage, a black face mask and a sharp pointed crest. The female is orange-brown and doesn't sing as much. The day was sunny and "it sounded as though he was practising his mating calls – a complex combination of chirping, warbling and cooing," said the resident. Male and female cardinals often stay in contact with a sharp clucking sound, though no female was in sight. Cardinals, which don't migrate, are common all over central and eastern North America.

Photo: Ralph Thompson

Night of graffiti?

Two questioned for suspicious behaviour Feb. 13

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A patroller in an unmarked Public Security car began watching two young men who aroused his suspicions at 1:30 am at St. Antoine and Brooke. The actions of the two suggested they might be attempting to break into parked cars, Public Security officials said.

One, aged around 18, was walking along St. Antoine while the other, slightly older, was on Brooke. The officer circled around the block through the lane to get a better view of what the man on Brooke was doing, and the two appeared to be behaving suspiciously enough for him to request police.

Before their arrival, however, the pair began running west, jumped into a car parked on St. Antoine and drove off to Bélair Ave. in St. Henri, where police intercepted them.

No stolen items were found in their possession but cans of white paint were discovered in the car. Fresh white graffiti was found nearby on a wall but because there were no witnesses and a lack of evidence linking the pair to the vandalism, both

were released without charges. Their names, however, were entered into the police system.

More graffiti found

When the graffiti was discovered, the public safety officer backtracked and found more white graffiti at 4 Brooke and 3250 St. Antoine. These were locations where he had initially suspected the two were checking out parked cars.

There are specific elements required for court charges to be laid, explained Public Security director Greg McBain. "It's one of the factors that make police work so difficult these days."

This latest incident was reminiscent of another recent one when Public Security patrollers spotted two men trying the doors of parked cars along Olivier and Sherbrooke in private driveways and on the street, he explained.

Yet, when the two were questioned by police and found without any stolen items in their possession, they were not charged for a lack of evidence that they were attempting to break into cars (see February 3, p. 3).

Contractor ticketed for insulting officer, verbal abuse

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A contractor working at a private house on Redfern was fined for insulting a public safety officer February 13, Public Security officials said. The officer had been trying to advise him that if he tried to park in a reserved zone he could be ticketed.

The incident began at 9:35 am as a patroller was driving north on Redfern and spotted the man starting to park a vehicle in front of 244 Redfern in a zone reserved for residents. She stopped to point out the parking restriction.

When the man said he would be there for only a minute because a container was to be moved out of a driveway, the officer explained he should be careful because he could be liable for a parking ticket, said Public Security director Greg McBain.

At this, he said, the man was reported to have started talking non-stop, unleashing a torrent of allegedly abusive and insult-

ing language. When he was told he could be ticketed for insulting a municipal officer, he replied: "You are not the police!"

At this point the patroller did call police who responded and identified the man so he could be issued a ticket for \$148 under the city's recently revamped nuisance by-law 1475. Section 6.1.5 states that a person who "insults a municipal officer" is liable for a penalty.



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Station 12 officers make a cold jump



Preparing to jump into a hole cut in the ice in the St. Lawrence River February 7 for the Polar Bear Challenge, included, from left: local police Station 12 office clerk Émilie Hallé, Cst. Nabil Benzakour, Commander Mathieu Bastien and traffic officer Cst. Steven Goldberg. Standing by as a "rescuer" is one of the organizers.

Photo courtesy of Station 12.

Three teams of four from local police Station 12 jumped into the icy waters of the St. Lawrence River February 7 as part of the 8th Polar Bear Challenge. The teams raised \$2,000 toward the total of \$66,000 generated by the event in aid of the Quebec Special Olympics.

And once wasn't enough for three officers – Commander Mathieu Bastien, Cst. Steven Goldberg and Cst. Nabil Benzakour – who jumped with two teams.

Others participating from the station were officers Karim Filali, Karine Blouin and Louis Guerra Lopez as well as office clerk Émilie Hallé, a civilian.

Given the temperature of the water, event organizers stood by in a rescue capacity, one per team jumper, explained Ana-Cristina Rusu, station secretary. "The water was so cold it began to freeze over right away after each jump, and the ice had to be broken up."

– LS

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ECS Midget girls claw way into scrappy GMAA finals

By MICHAEL MOORE

ECS survived a semi-final scare in the Greater Montreal Athletic Association (GMAA) Midget Girls' basketball playoffs, overcoming a series of early deficits to sneak past Westwood High School 35-27 on February 16 at LCC.

Emma Waxlax led the Westmount-based school with 11 points, including seven straight as part of an 11-0 ECS run straddling the third and fourth quarters. Amanda Kuflik added 9 points, Halle Kott 8 and Alia Hall pitched in 4 for the second-seeded ECS.

The two schools had clashed on three prior occasions this season, with ECS taking both regular season league meetings, and Westwood triumphing in a local tournament.

The GMAA semi-final appeared poised to be a repeat of the latter early on, with a mounting turn-over tally keeping ECS off the scoreboard entirely halfway through the opening quarter.

Despite ECS' slow start, head coach Alrick Crawford implored his players to

maintain their cool.

"I just told them 'patience.' Don't rush passes, don't rush the ball. Just take it to them," he said.

Westwood would hold a multiple-possession advantage through most of half, until a late five-point run culminating with a Kuflik basket 30 seconds before the buzzer handed ECS a 13-12 half-time lead, its first of the game.

However, another slow start in the second half quickly saw the ECS lead flipped into a 20-19 deficit partway through the third quarter.

ECS wouldn't be behind for long.

Kott and Alia Hall both added a pair of points in the quarter's dying minutes to put ECS in front 23-20 at the end of the third. Waxlax then nearly single-handedly put the game out of reach by scoring the first seven points of the fourth quarter to establish a double-digit ECS lead.

Kuflik added a pair of baskets, including a three-pointer, to ensure that a late six-point rally by Westwood fell short.

The semi-final victory sets up a final clash against top seed Villa Maria, sched-

uled for Wednesday, February 25 at Villa Maria. ECS will be hoping the third time's the charm against its divisional rival,

which handed the Westmount school its only two regular season losses this year.

See photo, p. 1.

Documentation required for registration cont'd. from p. 1

presenting their documentation in advance and at their convenience as many had been informed, he said.

Office personnel are being "very strict at insisting on up-to-date documentation," Lapointe stated. He acknowledged that some people had been asked to return with the required documentation that has been listed in the program brochure and on the city website.

"This defeats the whole purpose of online registration," said Conor Sampson, one Westmount father who expressed frustration at not having his daughters' Medicare cards accepted as proof they were his. In the end, he obtained statements and a letter from his bank, he said.

Medicare cards alone are not sufficient since they could belong to other members of the family, such as a nephew, for example, who may not live in Westmount, Lapointe explained.

On the other hand, Stephanie Goodman told the *Independent* she found the new system "very efficient and user friendly." She says she registered two children for different activities in less than three minutes. "As with any new operating system, there were a few minor glitches in the sys-

tem that were rapidly rectified the same day."

Clarifying the requirements, Lapointe said the department's policy is that "Everyone has to come in once a year to show their proof of residency, no exceptions. If someone has been registered in any programs since 2011, their name is already in the database so they can email us to get a username and password.

"With that, they can go into their account to verify their personal information but will not be able to register for anything because their account is in 'suspension' until they show their proof of residency."

Sampson, who said he applauded the efforts to go online, suggested there should be a way for Sports and Recreation to be able to communicate with other city departments to verify residency.

While he had arrived early and had not waited long in line, he said, he also would like to see staggered registration hours to better accommodate people who typically work during the daytime.

While the office hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, the office remains open Wednesdays until 6 pm for that very purpose, Lapointe explained.

BUILDING PERMITS What's permitted

The following permit for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation was approved at the city council meeting February 2.

3219 The Boulevard: at Braemar, a Category 1* house, to install snow guards along the roof line.

The following permits for demolition, exterior construction, alteration and renovation were approved at the city council meeting February 16.

332 Metcalfe: at a Category I house, to build a new bay window on the south façade and detached pergola in the south yard, to modify some window openings and replace some windows and doors;

55 Columbia: at a Category I house, to build a new front porch, canopy, stairs and a cement edge to replace a small wall on the public domain;

4485-4487 Sherbrooke: to build an addition for residential use east of the building, modify the front porch to accommodate a new entrance and replace windows and doors;

3180 The Boulevard: at a Category I

house, to build a new attached garage with roof terrace and modify some windows into doors to access the terrace provided the garage door is 10-feet wide;

456 Argyle: at a Category I house, to enlarge a window opening on the rear façade for a set of doors;

555 Grosvenor: at a Category I house, to install a new railing on the front stairs;

4075 St. Catherine: at a Category I building, to create a new main entrance and block an existing one;

4216 de Maisonneuve/267 Olivier: at a Category I building, one permit to replace all windows and some French doors, another to rebuild the south wall at the rear;

482 Strathcona: to remove an upper balcony, create a new patio door opening at the rear and replace all windows and doors;

4385 Westmount: to modify openings on the rear wall, including a door opening and create a new window opening;

565 Roslyn: to replace some basement windows;

4300 de Maisonneuve, PH 1201: to create a new opening for a window and close an opening.



On February 17 at 10 am, Michaela Sheaf, left, registers on-line at the Westmount recreation centre. Operations manager Andrew Maislin provides a few pointers. It was the day after registration opened for the city's spring/summer sports and recreation activities. "This is much less stressful," said Sheaf. "I'm registering my kids for karate and soccer, and myself for adult fitness." Photo: Ralph Thompson



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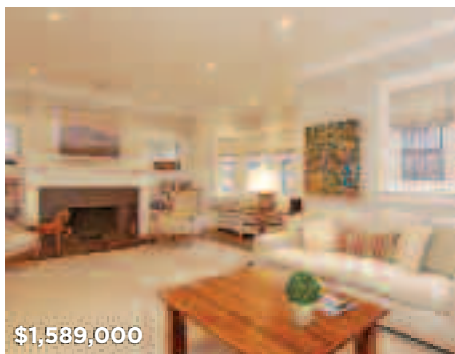
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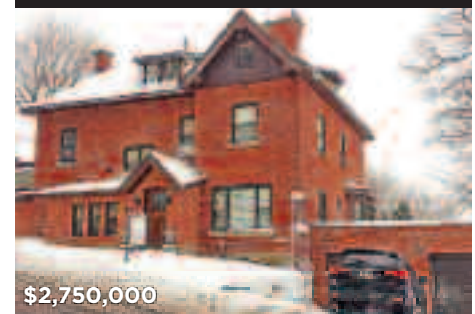
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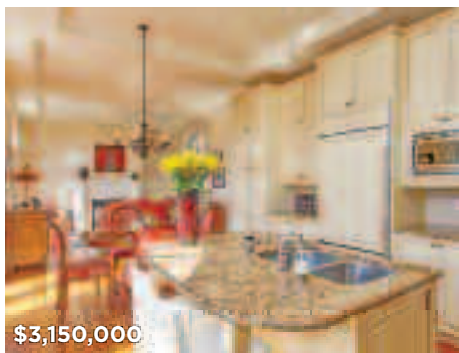
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Contactivity hears about medical alert service



Roger Chalut of Philips electronics speaks to Contactivity Centre members about the Lifeline medic alert system on February 12.

By MARTIN C. BARRY

Members of the Contactivity Centre welcomed February 12 guest speaker Roger Chalut, a Philips electronics representative, who spoke about the company's Lifeline medical alert service and what seniors can do to prevent falls.

According to Chalut, every year in Canada around a third of all senior citizens experience a physical fall. Of these, 40 percent are unable to get back up. Those who remain on the ground without help will often end up having to be hospitalized, he added.

He said Philips was one of the first companies to establish a medical alert system more than 40 years ago, although it now

has several competitors. Lifeline subscribers, who pay \$42.95 monthly and don't sign a contract, receive a pendant or other accessory equipped with a button to push in emergencies.

This interfaces wirelessly to a phone or communications console that is programmed to dial up the Lifeline 24-hour response centre, where two-way voice communication can be established with the person calling.

The call centre then contacts a neighbour, a loved one or emergency services depending on the situation. A more advanced option automatically places a call for help if a fall is detected but the user is incapacitated and can't push the emergency button.

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On mosses at the WHS talk



Suzanne Campeau is seen here with samples of cultivated mosses, just a few of the species that grow all over Quebec, during her presentation to the Westmount Horticultural Society February 10.

BY RALPH THOMPSON

Suzanne Campeau gave a lively presentation on mosses to the Westmount Horticultural Society (WHS) February 10 at the Westmount Public Library. Some 30 attended.

In a presentation called “Mosses: Ancient Plants for Contemporary Gardens,” the president and founder of Bryophyta Technologies said “There are more than 600 species of moss in Quebec and over 1,000 species in North America.

“Moss is very hardy, it survives winter cold, shade and harsh sunshine.”

Her company, which seeks to develop technologies related to growing, marketing and selling mosses, cultivates the plants on fabric so that they can be easily transported and applied to just about any surface.

Campeau’s examples of moss growing included the Orient, where moss gardens have been created to generate an artistic and serene environment.

Despite the expense and its vulnerability to foot traffic and squirrels, Campeau praised the moss as “stunning and radiant, and something can add a wow factor to a garden.”

The next WHS lecture is Tuesday, March 10 on “Passion for Peonies and Mesmerizing Magnolias.”

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Over the years, the architectural mix of French and Scottish 18th and 19th century styles continue to make the building stand out against the newer, more modern structures of the 21st century – specifically near the popular Mount Royal Park. This landmark was granted historical classification in 2002. The Trafalgar was designed by well-known architects Hutchison and Wood.

These past few years have been a busy time at The Trafalgar. To preserve the building and ensure the safety of its residents’ investments, a major restoration project began in the spring of 2008 and was completed in 3 phases. The 8 million dollar project consisted of two major components; repairing the brick envelope and architectural stone and replacing the existing copper roof.

The Board of Administrators has overseen several other major projects, the refurbishing of the common areas, the overhaul of the mechanical of the 3 elevators, mandated improvements to garage air quality and the replacement of all windows in the garage, as well as, some in the common areas. Other projects that have been carried out are the updating of the 3 common terraces, including new furnishings and the modernization of the storage lockers to metal cages, in order to meet the current city standards. Now that these projects are complete, The Trafalgar is in a healthy state and is restored to the prestigious address it was and always will be.

The Board of Administrators of The Trafalgar is committed to the preservation of the integrity of this historical landmark and maintaining its high standard of luxury living.



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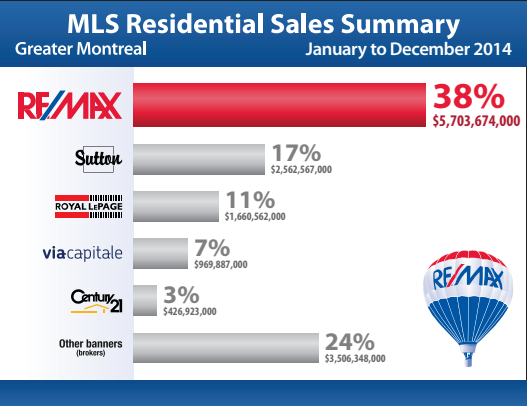
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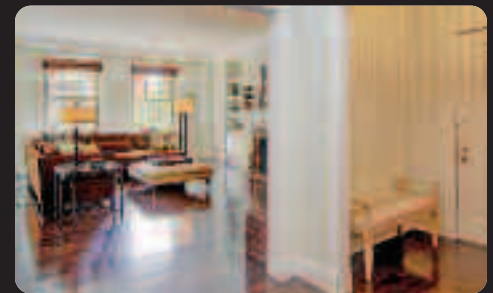
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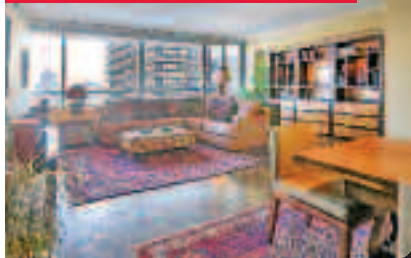


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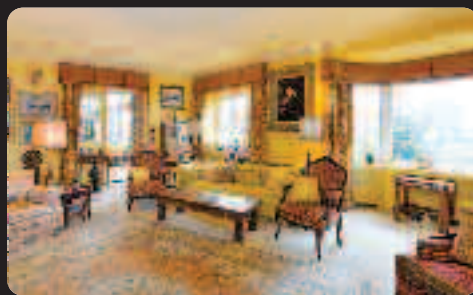


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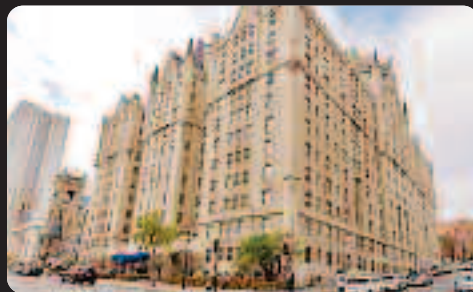
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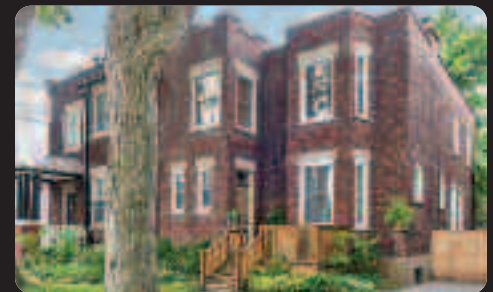
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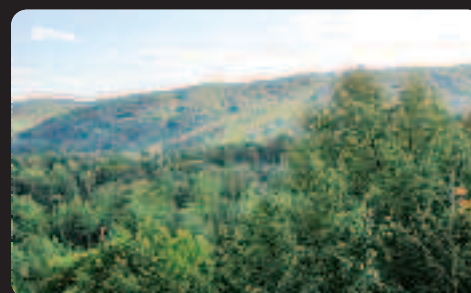
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Westmount Art Scene

Ekstedt and Slonem: The wonder of it all

BY HEATHER BLACK

For expressionist Marc Chagall, all artists must keep “awake the sense of wonder in the world.” This month, two Westmount exhibitions convey this sense of wonder: Dennis Ekstedt’s celestial cities at the Visual Art Centre and Hunt Slonem’s enchanting creatures at Galerie de Bellefeuille.

Ekstedt at the McClure Gallery

For the exhibition *Megalopolis*, Ekstedt creates futuristic cities with dazzling illumination. Light within grids creates the effect of high-energy planes, science and outer space. Painted in oils on canvas, large-format imagery creates a sense of grandeur and mystery.

In “Beacon #14,” city lights viewed from above twinkle against a blue night sky. Suggesting air travel and the descent to the runway, there is a joyous expectation of adventure and discovery. In this painting Ekstedt’s style evokes computerized images and technology. Another, “Lodestar #11,” a giant ball of reflective light forms a beacon within the evening sky. Like polaris, the celestial guide for lost ships, its illumination is a source of inspiration and life.

In contrast, the organic forms of “Lodestar #17” suggest the “Big Bang” or primitive life forms viewed through slides of etched glass. A large-format composition in dark burgundy, the ambiguity of the scene creates a sense of wonder.

The exhibition *Megalopolis* continues until Saturday, February 28 at the Visual Art Centre, 350 Victoria Ave.



Dennis Ekstedt “Lodestar #17”

Slonem at Galerie de Bellefeuille

Paintings of rabbits, Slonem’s “bunnies” dominate the exhibition *Joie de Vivre*. Outlined in black or white oil paint with thick brush strokes on canvas or board, these rabbits are alive with vitality.

Composed as portraits or in groups of two, three or even 19 rabbits against pale, colourful or dark backgrounds, a sense of whimsy prevails.

For “Untitled (CHL2065),” two rabbits outlined in black are painted against soft washes of pink, blue and green on a ribbed textured surface. In another entitled “painting (CHL0739),” 14 rabbits form a repeating pattern, yet each rabbit’s pose and expression is unique.

For “Hutch,” three rabbits outlined in black against metallic gold stare out inquisitively at the viewer. Hung in an antique plaster frame conceived for the high and mighty, Slonem’s bunnies are indeed cherished creatures.

Best known for his strong graphic images of *continued on p. 15*

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Art scene cont'd. from p. 14

birds, in this exhibition the colourful parrot in "Red Head Amazon" illustrates Slonem's use of thick, rich colours.

Butterflies are also on display. In "Comma & Question Mark III," the flitting pattern of yellow, pink and white butterflies evokes a summer's day.

Joie de vivre continues until February 24 at Galerie de Bellefeuille, 366 Greene Ave.

Mystery and magic

These two exhibitions create a world of wonder. Ekstedt suggests science and mystical voyages through night skies to space habitats. Slonem is a magician of joyous freedom, where a simple line of a rabbit, parrot or butterfly exudes movement and personality. Both exhibitions present the possibilities of art and celebrate individual vision and imagination.



Hunt Slonem "Red Factor (CHL2142)"

Epstein appointed to CCPERB board

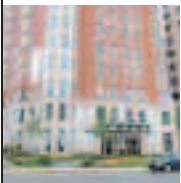
Westmounter Clarence Epstein, senior director of urban and cultural affairs at Concordia, was named to the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board (CCPERB) in January.

He is one of three Quebecers on the board, including its chair Marcel Brisebois, the former director of the Musée d'art

contemporain, and Alain Lacoursière, who investigated art thefts when he was a police officer.

Epstein was appointed due to his expertise as an art historian and as an administrator with knowledge of the art trade.

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SPORTS & RECREATION

Inscriptions : activités printemps et été

La période d'inscription pour les résidents de Westmount est **en vigueur jusqu'au 22 mars** en ligne au www.westmount.org en tout temps, ou en personne au Centre des loisirs de Westmount, 4675, rue Ste-Catherine O., les lundi, mardi, jeudi et vendredi de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30 et le mercredi de 10 h à 18 h. Les non-résidents peuvent s'inscrire à compter du 23 mars. Info : 514 989-5353.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Soirée auteurs de romans policiers avec Nick Cutter (Craig Davidson), Robert Pobi et Andrew Pyper

Le mercredi 25 février, 19 h., Victoria Hall. Gratuit, mais billets requis. Procurez-vous les au comptoir de prêt de la Bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5386.

Films pour la semaine de relâche !

Les lundi et mardi 2 et 3 mars à 14h. Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir des enfants. Projections en anglais. Info : 514 989-5229.

Atelier Voyager dans l'imaginaire avec Elissa Baltzer

Le vendredi 27 mars, de 13 h à 15 h pour adultes et de 16 h à 18 h pour les jeunes de 9 à 13 ans, Salle Westmount. Une exploration multimédia de la créativité et de l'imagination pour les artistes de tous les niveaux et de tous les âges. Cet atelier vous permettra de voyager dans votre imaginaire et vous fera explorer les merveilles de votre créativité. Nous utiliserons l'aquarelle, l'acrylique et le stylo dans une série d'exercices amusants dans le but de libérer notre imagination. Veuillez vous inscrire préalablement au 514 989-5299 (adultes) ou au 514 989-5229 (enfants).

NOUVEAU ! Faites vos devoirs dans un environnement calme

Les lundis de 16 h 15 à 17 h 30. L'assistance est gratuite pour les étudiants du secondaire. Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir des enfants.

ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

Panadream Theatre : Le magicien géant

Le mercredi 4 mars, 9 h, Victoria Hall. Un spectacle interactif de marionnettes pour les jeunes de 3 à 10 ans. 5 \$ à l'entrée. Info: 514 989-5226.

Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 2 mars

Société d'horticulture de Westmount

Le mardi 10 mars, 19 h. Bibliothèque. « *Passion for Peonies and Mesmerizing Magnolias* ». Conférencier invité : Frank Moro. 5\$ pour les non-membres.

Exposition : Jane Desjardins

Jusqu'au 14 mars. La galerie du Victoria Hall est fière de présenter les œuvres de Jane Desjardins. Info : 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.



Une heure pour la Terre 2015

Le samedi 28 mars, Victoria Hall. Le Projet ville en santé de Westmount présente une foire écologique pour marquer cet événement mondial. À vos agendas!

Galerie : appel de dossiers

Jusqu'au 15 avril 2015. La galerie du Victoria Hall lance un appel de dossiers pour sa programmation 2015-2016 (septembre 2015 à août 2016). Ce concours s'adresse aux artistes émergents ou professionnels qui habitent Westmount. Les propositions doivent inclure 10 photographies ou images électroniques, sur CD, DVD ou clé USB, d'œuvres récentes (programmation générale) ou 5 photographies ou images électroniques (volet exposition de groupe estivale) ; la liste des œuvres présentées et les renseignements s'y rattachant (titre, médium, dimension, etc.), un court résumé et une démarche artistique. SVP indiquer si vous posez votre candidature pour la programmation générale ou le volet exposition de groupe estivale, ou les deux.

Un dossier complet peut être posté ou déposé au : Centre communautaire Victoria Hall
Comité de sélection
4626, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Westmount, QC H3Z 1G1
(N.B. : aucune soumission par courriel ne sera acceptée.)
Info : 514 989-5521 ou victoriahall@westmount.org.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

Défilé de la Saint-Patrick à Montréal



Le dimanche 22 mars à midi, centre-ville de Montréal. Participez au 192^e défilé de la Saint-Patrick en compagnie des officiers de la Sécurité publique et du groupe de Westmount. Le lieu de rencontre est au coin de l'av. Crescent et du boul. René-Lévesque vers midi. Portez du vert et assurez-vous d'être habillé chaudement. Info : 514 989-5367.

Vous partez pour la semaine de relâche ?

Contactez le Service de la sécurité publique de Westmount; des agents vérifieront la maison pendant votre absence. Info : 514 989-5222.

HYDRO WESTMOUNT

Reminder: electricity consumption

Hydro Westmount continues to encourage its customers to reduce their electricity use during the peak periods of 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4:30 to 7 p.m. on days when the outside temperature falls below -18C. Your efforts truly make a difference!

SPORTS & RECREATION

Registration: spring & summer activities

Registration for Westmount residents is **ongoing until March 22** online at www.westmount.org at any time, or at the Westmount Recreation Centre, 4675 Ste-Catherine St. W., on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Registration for non-residents begins March 23. Info : 514 989-5353.

LIBRARY

Mystery author event with Nick Cutter (aka Craig Davidson), Robert Pobi and Andrew Pyper

Wednesday, February 25, 7 p.m., Victoria Hall. Admission free, but tickets required; pick them up at the Library's circulation desk. Info: 514 989-5386.

March Break Movies!

Monday and Tuesday, March 2 & 3 at 2 p.m. Please sign up at the Children's Desk. Films presented in English. Info : 514 989-5229.

Journey into Imagination Workshop with Elissa Baltzer

Friday, March 27, 1 to 3 p.m. for adults and 4 to 6 p.m. for children ages 9 to 13, Westmount Room. A multi-media exploration of creativity and imagination for artists of all levels and ages. This workshop will help you journey through your imagination and travel with your creativity using watercolour and linework. Please register in advance: at 514 989-5299 (adults) or 514 989-5229 (children).

NEW! Do Your Homework in a Quiet Space

Mondays, from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. Free assistance for students in Secondaire I to V. Please sign up at the Children's Desk.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Panadream Theatre: The Giant Magician



Wednesday, March 4, 9 a.m., Victoria Hall. An interactive puppet show for children ages 3 to 10. 5\$ at the door. Info: 514 989-5226.

Westmount Horticultural Society

Tuesday, March 10, 7 p.m., Library. « *Passion for Peonies and Mesmerizing Magnolias* ». Guest speaker: Frank Moro. Non-members 5\$.

Next Council Meeting Monday, March 2nd

Exhibition: Jane Desjardins

Until March 14. The Gallery at Victoria Hall is pleased to present works by Jane Desjardins. Info : 514 989-5521 or victoriahall@westmount.org.

Earth Hour 2015

Saturday, March 28, Victoria Hall. The Westmount Healthy City Project presents an eco-fair to mark this international event. Save the date!

Gallery: Call for projects



Until April 15, 2015. The Gallery at Victoria Hall announces its Call for projects for the 2015-2016 exhibition season (September 2015 to August 2016). Emerging or professional artists who are residents of Westmount are

invited to apply. Submissions should include 10 photographs or electronic images on CD, DVD or USB key of recent works for a season exhibition or 5 photographs or electronic images for the summer group exhibition category; a descriptive list of the photographs submitted (including title, medium, size, year completed, etc.); a short résumé and an artist's statement. Please indicate whether you are applying for a season exhibition, the summer group show, or both.

Mail or deliver your complete dossier to:
Victoria Hall Community Centre
Gallery Selection Committee
4626 Sherbrooke Street West,
Westmount, H3Z 1G1
(N.B.: online submissions will not be accepted)
Info: 514 989-5521 or victoriahall@westmount.org.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Montreal's St. Patrick's Parade

Sunday, March 22 at noon, downtown Montreal. Join members of the Westmount Public Security Unit and the City contingent to march in the 192nd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. Meet at the corner of René-Lévesque Blvd. and Crescent St. by noon. Be sure to wear something green and dress warmly. Please call to register: 514 989-5367.

Going away for March Break?

Contact the Westmount Public Security Unit; officers will check on your property while you're away. Info: 514 989-5222.



Westmount explained

Barred black square means no hazardous material



Ever wondered what this large sign at the Greene Ave. entrance to the Ville Marie expressway eastbound means? According to Bruno Lacombe of Transport Quebec, it means no hazardous materials, and it is there due to the risks posed by such materials in the underground portion of the highway just east of this access point. While car drivers might be baffled, truckers know the sign, Lacombe assured the Independent. The sign was photographed on January 6, looking north.

Photo: Westmount Independent

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Cold weather = quiet streets, interior graffiti

Incidents of graffiti inside park comfort stations were attributed by Public Security officials last week to a prolonged spell of cold weather. In general, there were fewer parking problems and people on the street, they said. Two comfort stations targetted for graffiti were at Queen Elizabeth and Prince Albert parks February 17, the latter hit twice within a week.

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Strange scene



Taken at 10:15 am February 17 at the northwest corner of Grosvenor and Sherbrooke looking south is the scene of what looked to have been something dramatic but was simply the scene of a Good Samaritan's action. The abandoned car was left parked a distance from the curb, in the pedestrian crosswalk, the trunk open and the door ajar. After a short time, a man emerged from the Bank of Montreal. "I was helping a 90-year-old man into the bank, and we needed to be next to the sidewalk ramp. You do what you have to do," he said. A handicap parking spot on Grosvenor just north of Sherbrooke was occupied by a car without a sticker.

Photo: Ralph Thompson


Bridge club's top scorers in Jan.

Westmount tally bridge winners with top accumulative bridge scores for three best sessions in January were:

1. Dael Perry with 11,780 points
2. Jim Richards with 9,696 points
3. Ralph Barolet with 9,440 points
4. Doreen Landry with 9,350 points.

Keys left in car door

Keys were found to have been left in the driver's door of a parked car on York St. February 13, Public Security officials said. A citizen notified the department at 4:30 pm. Just as patrollers had secured the car and left a note on the windshield, the driver was located.



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Sunmetrix named co-winner in US solar energy competition

By MICHAEL MOORE

While it seemed that Montreal skies were overcast this winter, Westmount-based solar energy calculation company Sunmetrix is shining bright south of the border.

The project has been named one of 17 winners of the US Department of Energy's SunShot Catalyst Business Innovation contest, earning them \$25,000 in software development funds.

The brainchild of Westmount resident

Ozgur Gurtuna, Sunmetrix offers a "try-before-you-buy" approach to solar panel installation, allowing a the "test drive" of a system without the commitment.

"Solar energy is actually not that complicated once you get the basics, but when you're first starting it's a bit daunting," he said. "If you're looking to buy a car, mileage and performance doesn't really change from location to location. But that's really not the case with solar energy."

Using data from US weather satellites, the Sunmetrix website calculates the viable sunlight potential for a user-selected site. It then compares that possible solar production against the cost of purchasing or leasing and installation of a system, the local price of energy and any subsidies offered by provincial or state governments.

"We wanted to look at the 99 percent of people who don't have solar panels yet. They can see what panels would be like on their rooftop and they can check, 'Today I would produce this much and this is what it means in terms of dollars,'" said co-founder Simone Garneau.

A friend based in Washington, DC, informed Gurtuna and Garneau of the SunShot competition, a governmental initiative designed to render solar energy cost-competitive versus traditional power sources by the end of the decade.

As one of the 17 winners, Sunmetrix will partner with the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado and received \$25,000 in software development funding from Topcoder.com, which runs programming competitions for businesses around the world.

The money will be used to host a series of four Topcoder challenges to improve the site, allowing programmers to submit their work in different design and functionality categories. One challenge will be to create a malleable house design that users can change to match their own home, while another will help calculate



Sunmetrix co-founders Simone Garneau, left, and Ozgur Gurtuna at the company's Westmount offices February 10

solar production versus energy consumption.

The prize money will be divvied up among each challenge winner, whose code will be introduced onto the site, as well as runner-ups.

In early May, the Sunmetrix team and the 16 other companies will head to San Francisco for a demo day, with up to five companies selected to move on to an incubation phase with \$100,000 in prize money.

As part of the presentation, Sunmetrix will be required to show a financially viable business model, which Gurtuna said is still a work in progress. One idea would introduce a referral partnership between Sunmetrix and solar panel installers, should the user decide to purchase a system.

"We don't want to put pressure on the homeowner, get their email address and then sell it to a third party. We want to have a 20-year relationship with the home-

owner, from the day they first hear about solar power to the day their panels finally give up," he said.

That reluctance to push the hard-sell has made its way onto the website. Inserting the *Independent's* Victoria Ave. address into the system delivers a large "No Solar" verdict discouraging the purchase of a system because of Quebec's cheap energy cost.

Despite being a Westmount-based company run by a Westmount resident, Gurtuna and Garneau admit that cheap electricity makes it unlikely they'll generate substantial interest for solar panel installation on Westmount homes.

However, they consider Westmount city hall and the MUHC super-hospital as potential local entities that would be willing to swallow financial loss to help reduce their carbon footprint.

"It might not make sense economically at this stage, but it would go a long way in public perception," said Garneau.

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Provigo presents proposal, cont'd. from p. 1

mation meeting for presentation of the plan Tuesday, February 24 at 7:30 pm at 5035 de Maisonneuve, after presstime. A similar session was planned for NDG residents the previous day.

"With its multi-purpose vocation, this project will make a positive difference not only in your neighbourhood but in everyone's hearts," the notice stated.

Listed as partners in the project are La Groupe Maurice, which designs and builds residential complexes for retirees, and the MCH Foundation.

Asked if an NDG zoning change might be required, Héroux would say only that "negotiations with the city are under way."

Westmount's view

While approval of the project lies with NDG, of particular concern to Westmount officials is traffic impact and the proposed access to the new building's underground garages off St. Catherine, where the roadway and sidewalk lie in Westmount as does the intersection of de Maisonneuve.

An interior docking area for delivery trucks would enable them to drive in and turn around inside before exiting back onto St. Catherine. Cars, however, would leave by de Maisonneuve.

"It's an interesting project that provides services to our community," said Councillor Christina Smith, who represents the adjacent District 5. "But we need to take more time to study the impact on the neighbourhood. It's already at a corner that's under a lot of stress."

Smith told the *Independent* she had met recently with Provigo representative Véronique Alepin to learn about the project along with Councillor Theodora Samiotis, Urban Planning commissioner, and Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier.

She noted that on St. Catherine St., the new building would come right up to the west sidewalk, "so one would hope it's up for discussion with Westmount even though St. Catherine is an arterial road." She said Westmount would be conducting a traffic study on the situation.

Mayor Peter Trent said he planned to meet with Côte des Neiges-NDG borough mayor Russell Copeman once the traffic study is completed.

The current development proposal is a modified version of one of three options presented a year ago to a small group of NDG residents (see story February 11, 2014, p. 6).

Comin' Up

MONDAY, MARCH 2

City council meeting, 8 pm at city hall, 4333 Sherbrooke St.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Matthew Thomson and Natalie Olanick are ArtNOW's next presenters, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Westmount Horticultural Society's monthly meeting "Passion for Peonies and Mesmerizing Magnolias," presented by Frank Moro at Westmount Public Library. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Cost \$5 or for annual membership \$20 (9 lectures). Info: 514.932.9349.

Too tight for sidewalk plow

A sidewalk plow hit a hedge and snow fence overhanging the sidewalk on Surrey Gardens February 16, Public Security officials said. The mishap occurred at about

9:43 am when it was reported that a car parked "overlapping" the curb, which led the plow to hook the fence.

Three little survivors need homes



I find that as a pedestrian in a small city, there have been moments when I must offer help, be it by the side of the road, on the sidewalk, under a balcony, along a laneway. These three kittens were saved by a pedestrian in one of those moments.

They were born mid-September and were found at three weeks of age, outdoors and without their mother. As a mother cat had recently been found deceased after being hit by a car, the family that saved these kittens 48 hours later knew that they were alone in the world and were to be fostered until ready for adoption.

These three sweethearts are now five months old, vetted, vaccinated and will be sterilized before adoption.

The yet-to-be-named, very affectionate black domestic short-hair female and her two playful grey and white domestic short-air brothers are now grown and ready for their own adoptive families.

Please contact Lina Drasse at 514.573.2030 or linadrass@hotmai.com to find out more about them and receive more kitten photographs as they are growing and changing every day.

Your neighbour, Lysanne



Dog owner get tickets totalling \$224

Two tickets were issued to a resident of an apartment building on Sherbrooke near Arlington following a call for a barking dog February 6 at 10:34 pm, Public Security officials said. Since the dog owner had al-

ready been warned about the barking and had failed to obtain a dog licence, the tickets were given for both offences, the former for \$76 and the latter for \$148.

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A sneak peak at Montreal-area theatre – a selection of pro

English theatre takes audiences into realms

By JOANNE PENHALE

Diverse shows – many with a Montreal focus – are happening now through summertime at the Segal Centre and Centaur Theatre.

The Centaur

Audiences can expect smart comedies at Centaur Theatre, says its artistic and executive director, Roy Surette.

Opening February 24 is *The Goodnight Bird* by Quebec-born playwright Colleen Murphy and directed by Surette, who is from British Columbia. The show was a co-production with a West Vancouver theatre and opened there in late January. Critics called it both a “dark comedy” and “eccentrically appealing.”

Actor Nicola Cavendish, who’s performed two other majors roles at the Centaur, also received warm reviews. The play takes place in the bedroom of a retirement-age couple, and the plot develops when a stranger lands on their balcony. *The Goodnight Bird* runs through to Sunday, March 22 and plays in the smaller of the Cen-

taur’s two theatres, with 250 seats.

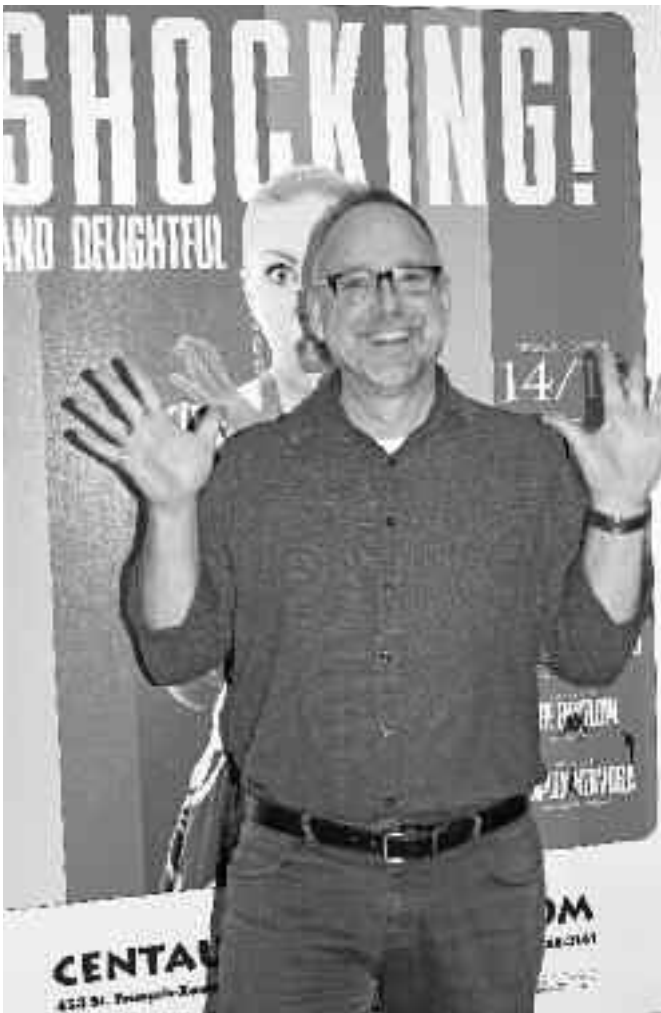
The two final major productions of this season at Centaur are by Montreal playwrights, are set in Montreal and feature entirely Montreal actors, Surette said, save for one actor raised here but now living in Toronto. “We take it really seriously to try to support and cultivate our talent pool here in Montreal.”

The Envelope by Vittorio Rossi opens Tuesday, March 24 and runs to Sunday, April 19. It’s set in an Old Montreal restaurant, where two producers vie for the film rights to a new play.

Triplex Nervosa by Marianne Ackerman runs from Tuesday, April 21 to Sunday, May 17. It centres on a young woman who buys a Mile End triplex, but the tenants don’t cooperate with her.

Both of these shows will play in the Centaur’s large theatre with 425 seats.

Surette said for past shows this season, attendance has been about 75 percent. Crowds are generally bilingual and linguistically diverse, he said. While all shows are in English, “We feather French and Italian and some other languages into our



Centaur Theatre's artistic and executive director Roy Surette poses February 11 in front of a poster advertising the theatre's current season.

Mainly set in Switzerland during World War I, the play involves a series of flashbacks involving Oscar Wilde’s *Importance of Being Earnest*, author James Joyce, communist leader Vladimir Lenin, and Dadaist founder Tristan Tzara. “It’s like intellectual, Vaudeville slapstick,” Rubin said.

Mordecai Richler’s novel *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* is being brought to the stage – beginning Sunday, June 7 – as musical theatre with an adaptation by Alan Menkin and David Spencer.

“I’m the most excited for this, because I can’t wait for people to hear the music,” Rubin said. Menken wrote scores for *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and other famous movies, and Rubin said while he and Spencer completed this adaptation years ago, the Segal Centre is the first to produce it.

The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz will run until Sunday, June 28.

From August 9 to 27,

The Dybbuk will play at the Segal Centre in Yiddish with English and French supertitles (words are projected above the stage in real time.) Rubin said it’s a 100-year-old play that demonstrates the strength of classic Yiddish theatre but is also modernized with projections, staging and choreography.

The main Segal theatre seats 300, and Rubin said the seats have been 80 percent full for the past two shows. The theatre draws a diverse, normally bilingual crowd, she said.

Both the Segal and Centaur theatres host other theatrical and community groups and many of these productions are open to the public.

The Centaur Theatre is in Old Montreal at 453 St. François-Xavier.

The Segal Centre is at 5170 Cote St. Catherine Rd.

shows.” *Triplex Nervosa*, for example, has a few phrases in French, Hebrew and Croatian, he said.

Segal Centre

Now under way at the Segal Centre is a new one-man play about UFOs called *We Are Not Alone*, written and performed by Damien Atkins.

“Damien plays dozens of characters as he tells this story,” said Lisa Rubin, the artistic and executive director for the theatre. “It’s a very entertaining and funny piece,” she said. “And we discover some deeper things along the way.”

We Are Not Alone plays at the Segal Centre’s studio, with 180 seats, until Sunday, March 15.

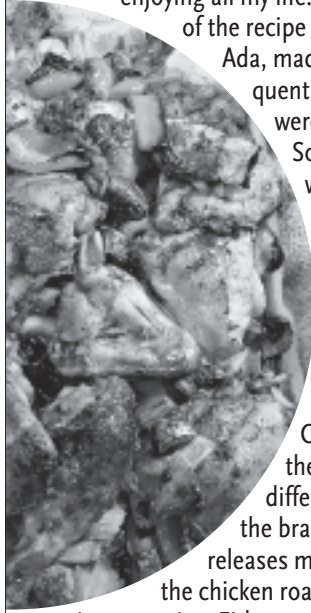
Simon and the Egg by Michel Lefebvre is aimed at 7- to 12-year-old theatre-goers and runs from Monday, March 16 to Sunday, March 22.

Travesties by Tom Stoppard opens Sunday, April 12 and runs until Sunday, May 3.

Ada’s Paprika Chicken

by Irene Y

Here is a chicken recipe which I have been enjoying all my life. It is a version of the recipe my mother, Ada, made very frequently when we were growing up. Sometimes she would roast it as the following recipe indicates. At times, she would braise the chicken in a Dutch Oven on top of the stove. The difference is that the braised version releases more liquid while the chicken roasted in the oven is more crisp. Either way they are both delicious. Serve over rice or alongside boiled potatoes. You can double the recipe and freeze the leftovers. Enjoy.



Ingredients

- 1 whole chicken, cut into eighths
- 1-2 celery stalks, cut into ½ inch pieces
- 1 red or green pepper cut into large chunks
- 1 lb mushrooms, quartered
- 1 large onion cut into large chunks
- 2-4 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
- 3 tsp olive oil
- 2 tsp paprika
- salt & pepper to taste
- 1 tsp dry thyme

Directions

- 1 Pat chicken with paper towels. Sprinkle both sides of chicken pieces with salt, pepper, paprika, thyme and garlic. Drizzle olive oil over top & massage into chicken.
- 2 Preheat oven to 375°. Prepare a 9x13 inch casserole by spreading 1 tsp of olive oil on bottom and sides.
- 3 Scatter ⅓ of the vegetables into the bottom of a greased 9x13 inch casserole. Top with chicken, skin side up. Scatter the remaining ⅔ vegetables on top.
- 4 Bake for 30 minutes. Then baste every 15 minutes until chicken is cooked through (approximately 1 hour 15 minutes). When pierced, chicken juices should run clear.

and amateur productions in Westmount and nearby of comedy, musical theatre, small town

Community theatre hits close to home

Between the Dawson College theatre program, Westmount community theatre group Dramatis Personae and the Montreal West-End Operatic Society, five theatrical productions are happening in Westmount between March 5 and June 1.

Dawson College theatre program

Students in Dawson College's three-year theatre program are producing three of them. While teachers direct each show, the students act, design sets and costumes, and run lighting, sound and the front of the house.

Second-year students, and a handful of first-year students, are performing in *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, which runs Thursday, March 5 through to Saturday, March 7, with showtimes at 8 pm, and a Saturday matinée at 2 pm.

Directed by Barbara Kelly, the setting is a small-town New Hampshire in the early 20th century.

"It deals with life and death, and love and marriage. It's a romantic tragedy," said Yasmijn Pont, who plays the mother of a girl who marries the boy next door.

Thursday, March 12 is opening night for *Night Must Fall* by Emlyn Williams – also featuring second-year students. Directed by Winston Sutton, it's a psychological thriller from the 1930s. Showtimes are at 8 pm through to Saturday, March 14, when there is also a 2 pm matinée.

Third-year students are producing *Love and Information* by Caryl Churchill. The play, directed by Jude Beny, has 50 fragmented scenes all related to human connection. It opens Wednesday, April 22 and runs until Saturday, May 2.

Dramatis Personae

Nine actors from Dramatis Personae are rehearsing for *Noises Off* by Michael Frayne, which will run from Friday, May 29 to Monday, June 1.

Directed by Jacqueline van de Geer, the



Ann Elbourne of Dramatis Personae with the script of *Noises Off* by Michael Frayne, which the local theatre group will perform at Victoria Hall, May 29 through June 1.

Personae has performed many times before.

"We're in a room without a stage," El-

only paid member of the company, *Noises Off* is a play within a play.

"We find our audiences like comedies," said Westmounter Ann Elbourne, who has acted with the troupe for 16 years, and now does much of the coordination along with Ellen Rubin, also a Westmount resident.

Noises Off will be performed in the Lodge room in Victoria Hall, where Dramatis

bourne said, describing how a black box is created by hanging curtains from a frame: a structure that needs to be dismantled between performances so other groups can use the room. "It's not ideal, so we would love a decent theatre," she added. She described how the concert hall is not suitable for various reasons, including its size and acoustics.

MWOS

With some overlap in the same building, the Montreal West-End Operatic Society (MWOS) will be performing *La Chauvre-Souris* by Johann Strauss II at Victoria Hall on May 27, 30 and 31.

"It's light and funny," said stage manager Nadia Madzarak, who is also a board member with MWOS. *La Chauvre-Souris* will be sung in French, with the libretto – or the dialogue – in English. The show will first open in Côte St. Luc on Thursday, April 30 at the Palatucci Centre.

Madzarak said the volunteer cast includes 25 performers, and MWOS is still looking for male choristers.



Dawson College theatre students rehearse February 10 for their upcoming performance of *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder. From left: Emilie Plante, Yasmijn Pont, Jeremy Cabrera and Bridget Gosselin.

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*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

The prestigious Residences at the Ritz-Carlton welcomed guests November 26 to the \$6-million penthouse unveiling. And what an unveiling it was! Huge floor-to-ceiling windows gave views onto the large



From left: Rucsandra Calin, Dorothy Karkoukly and Eva Friede.

outdoor terrace, where BBQs are allowed – unlike some *quartiers*. Visitors wandered around the 5,000-square-foot abode, the two storeys linked by a massive chandelier and a winding “look at me” staircase, perfect for a movie star entrance. (Indeed, the television showed famed icons Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire as they danced their way through the appropriately-named film *Puttin’ On The Ritz*.)

Westmounters enjoying the cocktails included lawyer and art collector **Maurice Forget**, culture consultant **Honey Dresher** and Galerie D’Este’s team the Leibner family **Louise** and **Mark** with children **Samara** and **Alex**.

Also noted were interior designers **Philippe Dagenais** of his eponymous shops, Residences’ designer **Patty Xenos** and **Guy-Philippe Bélanger**, RocheBobois, who decorated the penthouse. Sales director **Rucsandra Calin**, clad in an on-trend lace-accented dress, welcomed the arrivals.

Guests noted included **Dorothy Karkoukly**, a stand out in a calf-length fuchsia skirt and high-heeled lace-up boots; blogger **Cheryl Besner-Cohen**; colour guru and artist **Aurelien Guillory** and **David Santos**, his business partner importing pima bedding from Peru; **Feras Zikra** of Karl Winters Fragrances, style editor **Eva Friede**; and **Alan** and **Cheryl Goff-**



From left: Alex, Samara, Louise and Mark Leibner.



Aurelien Guillory

man, who accessorized her holiday red dress with a broad belt and origami-style

continued on p. 23



Honey Dresher and David Santos.

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Alan and Cheryl Goffman.

Social Notes cont'd. from p. 22

bag.

Pianist Jean-Philippe Sylvestre tinkled the ivories of a shiny grand piano as guests reveled in the luxurious moment before replacing glass slippers with their Manolo Blahniks and departing into the night.

For the *Indie's* 2015 spring social calendar, please send information to Veronica Redgrave at redgrave@videotron.ca.



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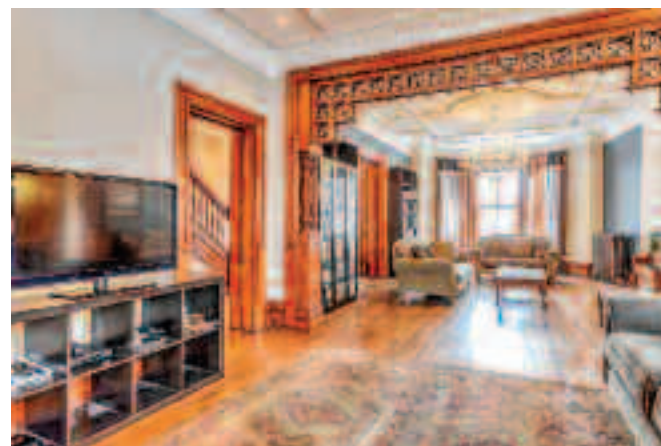
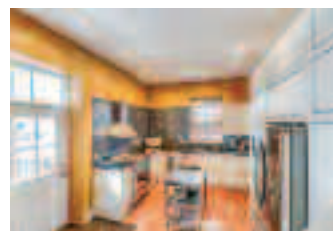
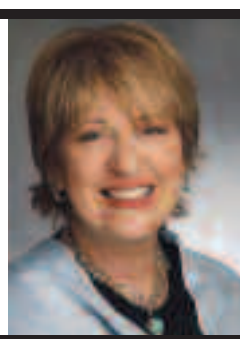
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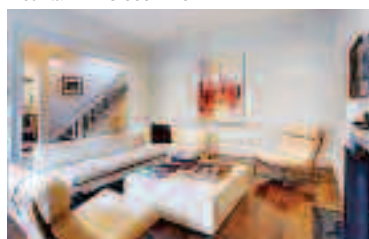
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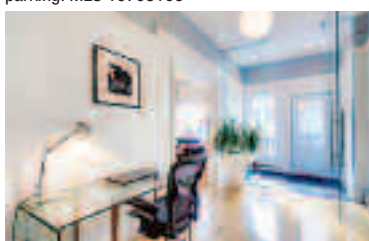
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