

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

Weekly, Vol. 9 No. 3c

We are Westmount

March 17, 2015

Environment ministry alerts public health director

Minister: CDN-NDG has 'powers necessary' to control noise from super-hospital

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The borough of Côte des Neiges-NDG "has all the powers necessary to ensure the MUHC fixes the problem" of noise emissions from the super-hospital in respect to the borough's regulations, the Quebec ministry of the Environment has stated in a letter to Westmount mayor Pe-

ter Trent.

It also states that Montreal's director of Public Health has been informed of the issue and is prepared to evaluate the impact and make recommendations, he told *Independent* March 11.

"At least they've discussed it with the director of Public Health," Trent said. "So they've done more than wash their hands of it."

He said he had received *continued on p. 19*

Atom As advance in playoffs



A Westmount Wing and a LaSalle Lion battle for a puck during the Atom A playoffs on March 15 at Westmount recreation centre. See story, p. 20. Photo: Michael Moore

Letters p. 6

Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 18, 21

Underdog p. 16

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New hydro hike to kick in for April 1, averaging 2.9%

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Get ready for the latest jump in electricity rates, Hydro Westmount director Benoit Hurtubise said last week. The average increase of 2.9 percent has been granted to Hydro Quebec, which in turn passes it on to the local utility.

While Westmount will only have time to present notice of motion of the rate changes at its Tuesday, April 7 council meeting, he said, "We have no choice but to implement the new rate before the by-law is adopted in May or we'll be shooting

ourselves in the foot."

This isn't the first time that Hydro Quebec's new rates are announced without time for the "paperwork" to go into effect, he pointed out.

Rate changes are governed by the Quebec Energy Board, which granted the increase for 2015 to go into effect April 1. Hydro Quebec had been asking for 3.9 percent.

Hydro Westmount buys its electricity from Hydro Quebec and re-distributes it. The increase for 2014 was an average of 4.3 percent for residential customers.

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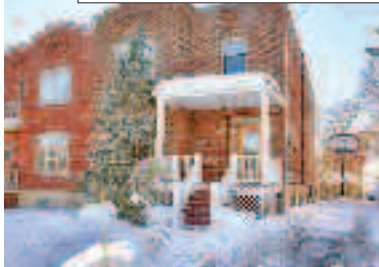


Westmount, 210 Cote Saint-Antoine
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Westmount, 547 Lansdowne Ave.
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#5 in Quebec for Re/Max 2014*

#7 in Quebec for Re/Max 2013**

'Extraordinary' measures deployed

Dry for over 2 weeks, houses hooked up to hydrant

BY LAUREN SWEENEY

Two houses on the Westmount portion of Trafalgar Ave. were finally supplied with water from a fire hydrant March 13 after a frozen water main belonging to Montreal had left them without water for two weeks, city officials said. The street straddles the border with Montreal.

The water conduit remained unfrozen at press time Monday.

The decision to provide a temporary connection was made by Westmount Public Works that day "as a last resort." Montreal crews had been working 100 meters east of Westmount without success to locate the source of the problem, assisted earlier in the week by Westmount.

"We're hooking up the two houses to a fire hydrant at 1 Belvedere Rd. as we speak," said interim Public Works director Benoit Hurtubise late that afternoon. The fire hydrant on Trafalgar was also not func-

tioning.

"We're taking extraordinary measures because it's an exceptional situation. The residents have been very patient."

The use of the hydrant alternative was made possible by weather warming up enough to lay an outside hose up the hill from Belvedere at The Boulevard to the two houses on Trafalgar on either side of the street at its dead end. Some Montreal houses on the street were also without water. "When it's minus 20 degrees C at night, the outside hose will freeze," Hurtubise explained.

The frozen water main was one of many that have frozen in Montreal, though the rash of frozen pipes in Westmount over the last month was confined to water service entries leading from a water main into private property (see story March 10, p. 3).

"While it's uncommon, it's not unknown," for water mains to freeze, explained Cristian Sipos, Westmount's water

and sewer engineer. "Most mains are laid below the frost line – generally 1.7 meters – depending on the terrain," he said.

Meanwhile, the number of frozen service entries in Westmount by March 13 had increased to 230 from 180 a week earlier. The number was expected to keep climbing as people returned from vacation to find their entry line had frozen when they were not home to draw water.

While Westmount had thawed all but

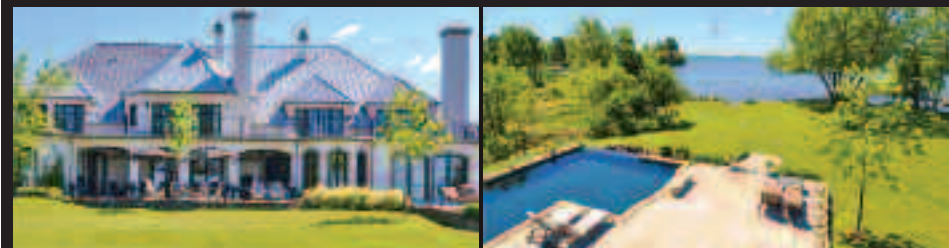
seven entry lines by March 13, Hurtubise said the city expected to make up lost time now that the Montreal fire department had lifted its temporary ban on the use of electrical current for the process.

This practice had been stopped after several residential fires resulted in Montreal. It has now resumed on condition the work is supervised by a master electrician, "a precaution we had already been using in Westmount," he added.



A small black rubber hose is connected to a fire hydrant outside 1 Belvedere Rd. and leads up (at far left of photo) to the front garden of 3200 Trafalgar, March 13.

Photo: Ralph Thompson



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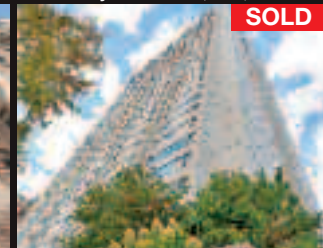
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Westmount working on strategy

Traffic issue from Provigo/seniors' complex 'no surprise'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council members were expected to discuss in private March 16 a strategy regarding anticipated increases in traffic from the proposed 10-storey Provigo and seniors' residential complex at de Maisonneuve and Claremont in NDG, but bordering Westmount.

"We're working on a strategy," Councillor Christina Smith said last week. "It's no secret that traffic is our main concern. No one should be surprised by that."

Since the building itself is to be located in NDG, issues of zoning, permits and related concerns lie within that jurisdiction and are "not in our control," she pointed out.

Resulting increases in traffic funnelling onto Westmount streets, however, is a sub-

ject Smith has said she hoped the city could discuss with the NDG borough.

Smith was outspoken at a public meeting held by the developers February 24 pointing out that "all the traffic has to go through Westmount" after leaving underground parking and delivery facilities via de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine (see March 3, p. 1).

Marc Felgar of York St. reiterated his concerns about building the new complex at this time before the full impact of traffic and parking from the super-hospital is known.

Also unknown, he said last week, is how traffic will be diverted with the pending closure of St. Jacques between Decarie and Girouard March 21 for more than two years. (see also his letter to the editor, p. 6).

Meeting with minister Poëti also on horizon

City to receive sound barrier costing this week

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A much-awaited costing for a sound barrier along the Ville Marie expressway is expected to be received by the city at a meeting with officials from the Quebec ministry of Transport (MTQ) Thursday, March 19, the *Independent* learned last week.

The information will complete a feasibility report funded equally by the city and the ministry and commissioned from the engineering firm Dessau. The first phase of the report on options had been received September 11.

The sound barrier being considered would extend along the expressway from the Westmount Athletic Grounds (WAG) to just east of Weredale Park. A couple of problematic areas that might be "too tight" for one have been identified as the Greene railway overpass and Prospect St.

"We were told they thought they could come up with possibilities to move forward," said Councillor Theodora Samiotis, who will be attending the meeting.

Conclusions of the study, however, are not expected to be made public until they have been reviewed and discussed by the city council, Samiotis said.

Also slated for this month, Samiotis said, is a meeting between the city and Transport minister Robert Poëti. This will provide the city an opportunity to press for electrification of the commuter rail line and to discuss the sound barrier, as well as express concerns over the Turcot construction.

The delay and urgency of both meetings before the start of the Turcot project was raised by Mayor Peter Trent with provincial legislator Jacques Chagnon February 6 (see story February 17, p. 1).

LONG-TERM CLOSURE OF RUE SAINT-JACQUES



TURCOT

FROM MARCH 21

The ministère des Transports du Québec will close rue Saint-Jacques from **March 21, 2015 to fall 2017.**

This hindrance is necessary for the deviation of a section of the Haut Saint-Pierre collector located under the foundations of the overpass. Then, the ministère des Transports will proceed with the demolition and the reconstruction of Saint-Jacques overpass.

TRAFFIC HINDRANCE

Closure of rue Saint-Jacques between boulevard Décarie and avenue Girouard.

DETOUR

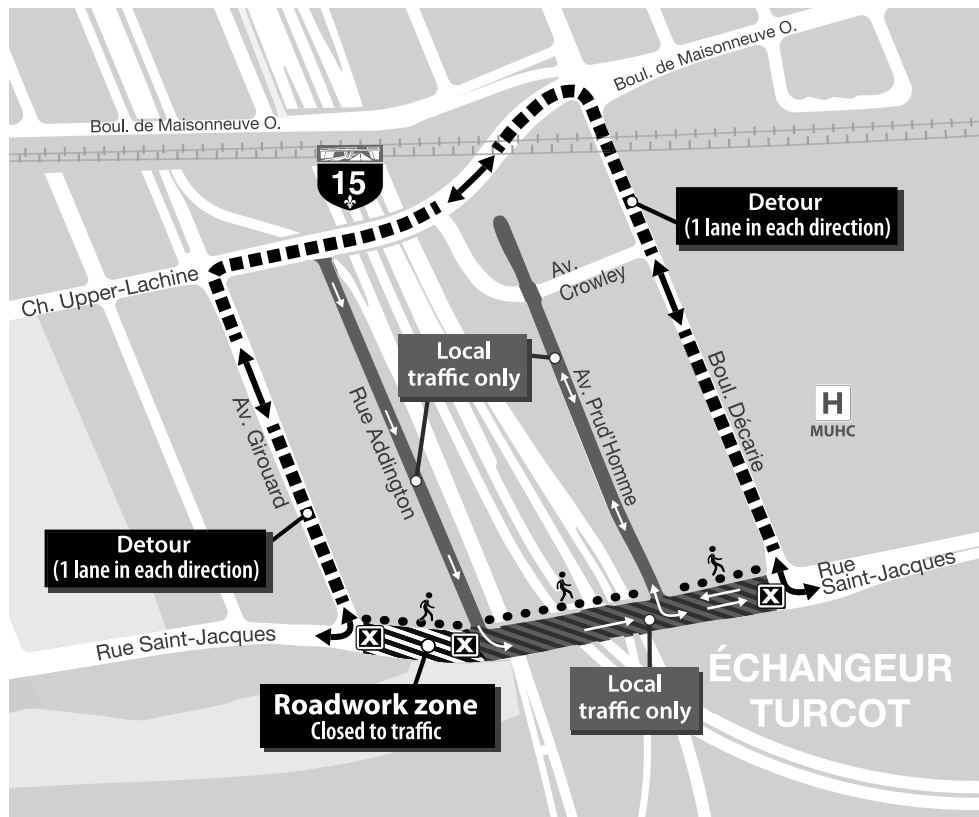
Traffic will be diverted to boulevard Décarie, chemin Upper-Lachine and avenue Girouard.

PEDESTRIANS

A link will be maintained on rue Saint-Jacques until the end of 2015.

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On rue Addington and avenue Prud'Homme.



For any comments, questions or complaints, you can call **514 873-1372** or contact us by email at turcot.commentaires@mtq.gouv.qc.ca

For more information on the Turcot project, consult our website at www.turcot.gouv.qc.ca

Transports
Québec

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESS RE: PROVIGO, RAIL COMPLIANCE

With regards to the proposed Provigo/seniors' home/MCH Foundation project in Westmount/NDG, one question that should be asked is whether the building is in compliance with Montreal's newly adopted guidelines (see image below) for new residential developments near railway operations. These were supported by borough mayor of Côte des Neiges-NDG Russell Copeman to large fanfare in an editorial to the *Gazette* in February 2015 and announced by press release online.

The guidelines themselves can be found online. They state any new residential building (which the senior home would be) has to have an acoustical fence between it and the railway, a 2.5-metre

high berm and be a minimum of 30 metres from the property line.

I believe it is in the public interest to understand if the proposed building project is in compliance with the recently adopted residential development guidelines adopted by the city of Montreal before any approval for the building, zoning variances or access changes are approved.

As of yet, the city of Montreal, mayor Copeman and Le Groupe Maurice have not confirmed that the project does comply with the new guidelines.

MARC FELGAR, YORK ST.

SHAME THERE IS NO MORE LEGAL CLINIC

It has come to my attention that the Westmount Legal Clinic will no longer continue to operate at the Westmount

YMCA as of March 18, 2015.

The clinic began operating in 1993. Over the last 22 years, Ted Wright, coordinator, has steadfastly helped, in my estimation, hundreds if not thousands of individuals in their quest for fair play/justice.

And the cost of assistance for an approximately 20-minute (if not longer) consultation was a modest fee beginning at \$10 only if and when possible.

Lack of subsidies and an increase of rent are responsible for the clinic's closure. What a tragedy to lose this highly significant societal resource!

Thank you, Mr. Wright, for 22 consecutive years of help to all who knocked on

the clinic's door.

ZEELA KAUFMAN,
DE MAISONNEUVE BLVD.

THANKS FOR MAKING NICE PATHWAYS IN MURRAY PARK

Kudos and thank you to the person at Public Works who took the decision to snow-blow wide paths through King George [Murray] Park.

For the first time, dog walkers making their way to the dog park can approach from all sides, people can use the path as a shortcut to their destination and people just out for a stroll can navigate the park in win- continued on p. 7

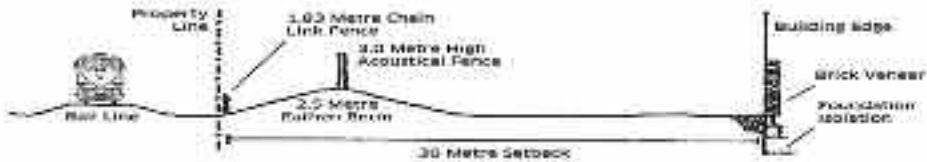


Image courtesy of Marc Felgar, FCM/RAC Proximity Initiative

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CHIEF REPORTER: Laureen Sweeney

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

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Letters cont'd. from p. 6

ter without having to struggle through deep snow until the narrow paths are finally hardened by foot traffic.

This will also soon expose the cement below, far sooner than in the past, making those walks far safer and more enjoyable for all on the slope.

Your work does not go unnoticed nor unappreciated.

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DOUBLE WHAMMY FOR TAXPAYERS

Regarding "City joins legal action to preserve home mail delivery," (March 3, p. 1), there is a new expense on the budget for Westmount: suing Canada Post. And it's a double whammy for us taxpayers.

First, our ever-increasing municipal taxes will be used in a lawsuit against Canada Post, and then the federal taxes we pay will be used to defend Canada Post.

Just beautiful.

Thank goodness Westmount taxpayers

Food for firefighters, police



Dawson students participating in Chabad of Westmount's Project Light stopped by the fire station on Stanton St. March 12 to distribute care packages for firefighters and police, an activity aimed at "honouring Westmount's servicemen and women." The project works to engage young people in "community service and making a difference." Members participate in projects such as organizing and running clothing drives, care baskets for soldiers and cooking meals for the Old Brewery Mission. Project Light's board is composed of students. "Project Light reminds us that the greatest happiness comes from helping others," said its president Salomon Bendayan. Pictured with Montreal firefighters are, from left starting at fourth from left, Dawson students David Assouline and Jacob Levi, and Rabbi Ariel Stern and Mushky Stern of Chabad of Westmount.

Photo courtesy of Chabad of Westmount

Tax prep ads bring complaint

A man was told March 9 to remove a number of notices he was taping to city poles, Public Security officials said. The notices solicited business for someone preparing income tax returns. The man was intercepted putting up the notices on St. Catherine St. following a complaint by

will be sharing the costs with others, because court cases involving the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are very lengthy and very costly.

I guess this is yet another new budget expense that will be on the books for quite some time, and that means, lucky us, more tax increases to come. Lovely.

THOMAS LAPIERRE, CHESTERFIELD AVE.

NEED GUARANTEED PARKING

It was extremely disappointing that council, after repeating questioning at the March meeting, chose not to support guaranteed parking for the 108 red permit holders residing in Victoria village. Parking regulations were tightened. Nevertheless, no safeguards were implemented for us to be able to readily park in our own neighbourhood, which we need to maintain our quality of life and property values.

Parking at the MUHC will be \$25 per day for all, including hospital employees. It's a short walk to the hospital through the Vendôme tunnel, a brief two minutes according to the MUHC. Victoria village

parking will be the logical choice for Westmount permit-holders working at, or visiting MUHC clinics and patients, creating a huge burden on local parking.

Many Victoria village residents, such as stay-at-home moms/dads, retirees, people working from home or residents using public transport for work have their cars at home during the day. A parent coming home from day care, a resident from work, or a retiree from shopping at Costco, where will we park? Village streets will be packed even late into the night with people visiting patients.

Village property values will decline if parking problems worsen. Many of us bought our properties decades ago fully aware of the inconvenience of street parking. But, we also trusted our city to treat us fairly.

Why should we assume MUHC parking fees for others through declining home values? Every other municipality fully protects parking for its local residents around hospitals. Westmount should do no less.

Would council commit to maintain the current level of parking accessibility for village residents? Such a promise and an initial quarterly audit of the 108 permit holders to see how we are affected and if parking regulations need to be further modified would allay our fears.

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Doctor clinics moving into eastern NDG

Super-hospital brings sweeping changes, patient reduction

By ISAAC OLSON

Officials have long said the new McGill University Health Centre's (MUHC) super-hospital at the Glen site will not be a general-care facility but instead a place that, along with the research facility, offers specialized care for patients with acute illnesses.

In the years leading up to the opening this spring, the MUHC has been working closely with the provincial and Montreal health agencies in an effort to off-load more than 150,000 outpatient visits a year to community-based clinics and facilities. The Montreal health agency is closing due to provincially ordered reform, but the MUHC is pushing ahead with its own reform while performing one of the largest,

most complex hospital moves in Canadian history.

On March 11, MUHC officials revealed how this is all going to work during a technical briefing for reporters.

This shift in care is being touted as a means to "better serve our patients." This new clinical plan is designed to consolidate services, improve communications between care providers and integrate modern research and technology. It includes the implementation of multi-disciplinary teams that will, officials said, meet with patients all at once to ensure proper communication and collaboration among care providers.

"The focus is on inter-disciplinary care so patients will see not just their physician but also other healthcare professionals at the same time of their visit," explained Dr. Ewa Sidorowicz, deputy general director of medical business and professional services.

Assembling a team around the patient, she said, allows each visit "to be efficient for the patient and efficient for the team to link up information, organize and get a

good plan set up."

Meanwhile, the MUHC is looking to turn eastern NDG into a medical hub with doctors' clinics opening up around the neighbourhood. Already, MUHC owns buildings along de Maisonneuve Blvd. on either side of the Vendôme Metro station, including the former Air Canada building at 5100.

"We're looking at creating a bit of a medical hub around the Glen [site], so, in other words, some of our physicians will be setting up offices in the Glen-adjacent areas," said Sidorowicz. "We're establishing partner links with clinics across Montreal. It's still very much a work in progress, but that is the spirit of the transformation."

These new clinics, she said, will help provide care to those patients that otherwise don't qualify for treatment at the super-hospital, which is geared toward acute, serious illnesses.

Despite this effort, concerns are still being raised about this reduction in outpatient services, but officials insist patients will not fall through the cracks.

"We're still open for business," said MUHC director of public affairs Richard Fahey when reporters asked if patients will be lost in the shuffle.

He said the aim is to direct people to rely more on community resources outside of the MUHC rather than, for example, using the ER as a doctor clinic. Patients, he said, are encouraged to contact Info-Santé by calling 811 and getting advice on where to go for help specific to their needs.

"We all know that accessing a clinic 'sans rendez-vous' is way easier than coming to the emergency [room] in a big hospital," he said. Ensuring that patients are seen by the right person at the right time is something that will change over time, he added, and "we are doing our share in this effort."

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MUHC director of public affairs Richard Fahey opens a technical briefing for reporters March 11 at the Montreal General Hospital.

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Signs of spring



Photo: Westmount Independent

A part of the sidewalk on Church Hill was seen cordoned off on March 10, presumably to protect pedestrians from icicles that had formed on the roof of St. Matthias' Church.

Locke: Wine at EMSB council meetings 'unacceptable'

By MICHAEL MOORE

A Westmount man is crying foul against the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) after learning that commissioners are served publicly funded wine during meals at their monthly council meetings.

"They are drinking wine on the tax payers' dollar when that money is supposed to be destined for students," said Jack Locke.

"That money is public money that's not supposed to be spent frivolously, and I think drinking wine is absolutely not something they should be spending the money on."

The school board's monthly meetings at its NDG headquarters are divided into a closed *in camera* session followed by a public assembly, with a meal provided to the commissioners in between.

While sitting in the building's foyer awaiting the December 17 public session, Locke says he saw two individuals wheeling a cart, which he claims had open bottles of wine, into an elevator.

During the question period of the school board's January 28 meeting, viewable on the EMSB's website, which hosts archived streams of past council meetings, Locke is seen asking its chair Angela Mancini whether wine had been consumed by the commissioners during either the *in-camera* session or the meal break.

Mancini confirms that "usually there's a glass of wine that's consumed by whoever wants one. That's part of the expenses we have."

"So the school board paid for wine for the councillors?" Locke asks her.

"Yes, sir," Mancini answers.

Approximately 87 percent of the EMSB's \$287.8-million revenue in 2013-14 came from either provincial government operating grants or school taxes, according to

the school board's financial statements.

In response to the *Independent's* request for a comment, EMSB spokesperson Mike Cohen said: "Commissioners arrive as early as 3 pm for meetings and often stay past midnight. We now have a group of 15 compared to 25 the last mandate. They are entitled to eat something between meetings. By no means do we order wine excessively, nor food. There is a small quantity available for those who wish to have a glass with their dinner. I do not believe this is something anyone should be concerned about."

Locke, who doesn't have any children enrolled at the school board, conceded that meals can be an acceptable perk, though he'd rather commissioners bring their own meals to meetings.

However, he called the wine an "excess" that goes "beyond the acceptable limit" and reflects the current state of the EMSB.

"When they think spending money for wine at board meetings is acceptable, I would wonder about their whole judgement on other things," he said.

"I'm thinking, 'What else is going on? Where else is our money going?'"



The English Montreal School Board administration building in NDG seen here March 7.

OPPORTUNITY

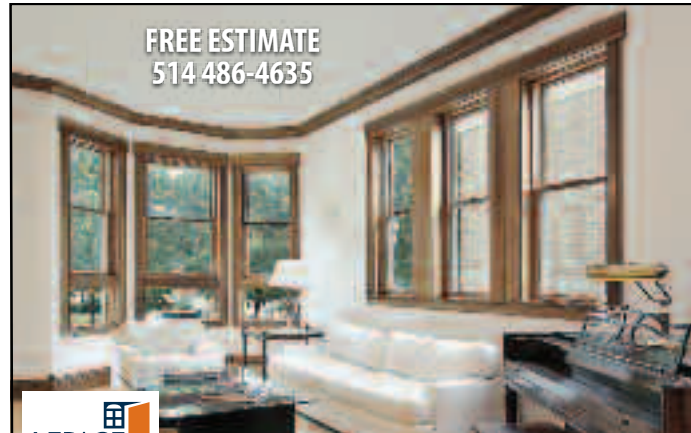
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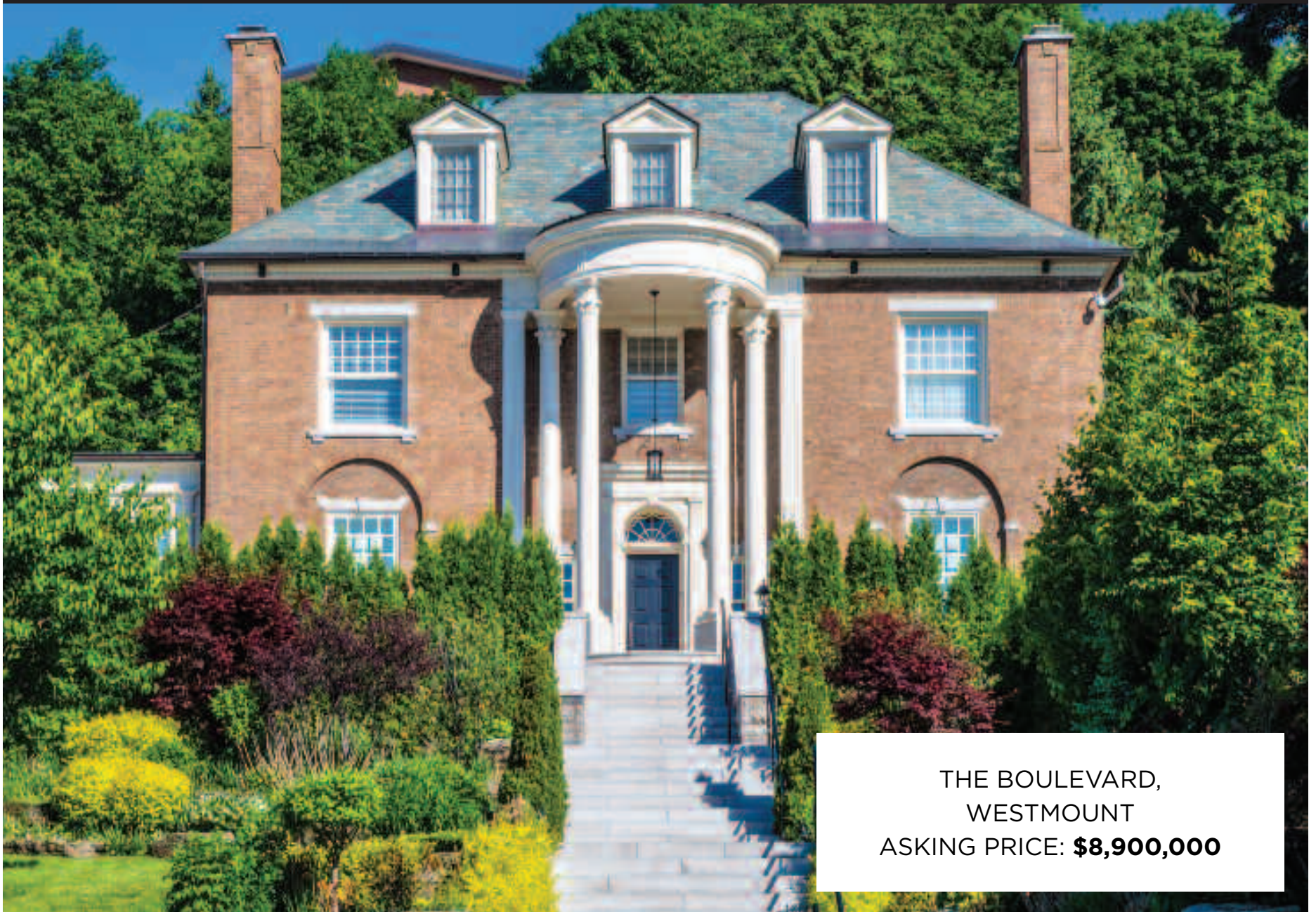
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February sales: Still sliding



Mood of the Market
ANDY DODGE, CRA

The following article relates to offers to purchase Westmount residential dwellings that were reported by local real estate agents as having been accepted in February 2015. Because they are not final registered sales, the ad-



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dressers cannot be made public but give a good idea of current trends in local real estate activity. The graph offers a picture of these trends over time.

Westmount real estate prices fell even further in February, continuing a slide that has been going on since last September. The average price dipped below the \$1.5-million mark, where it had been in the lead-up to last April's provincial election, indicating that the elation rendered by a new Liberal majority government has worn off almost entirely.

Eleven single-family sales were posted by agents last month, up slightly from nine in February last year, with prices ranging from \$611,627 to \$2,300,000, but the highest price was less than 60 percent of its municipal evaluation; three others also sold under the city tax value.

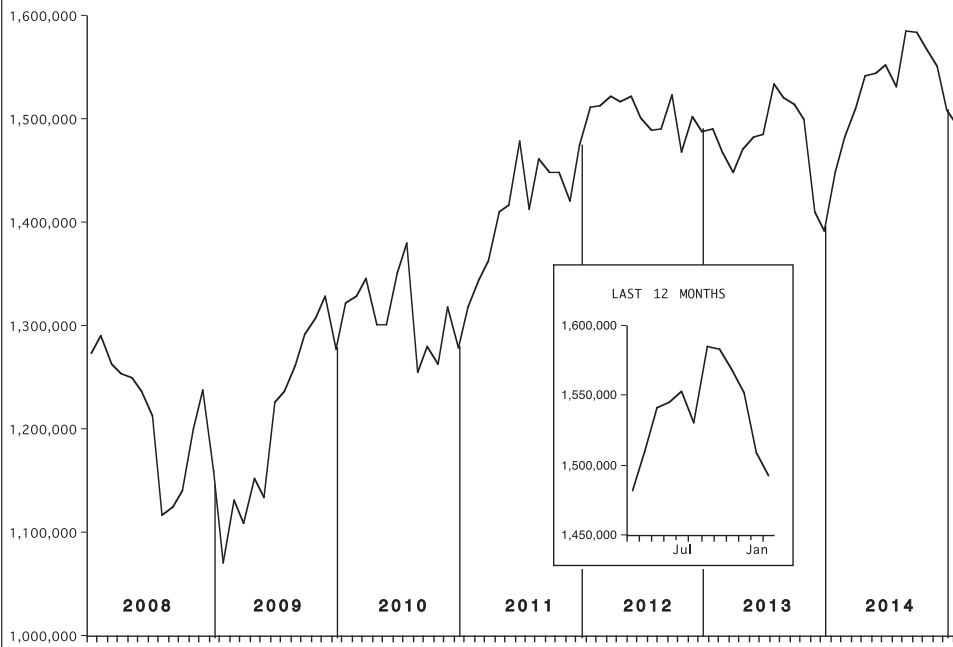
In general, the market has stayed at about the same level it was in the beginning of 2012. Still, March marks the beginning of the spring sales season, and there are some high-priced negotiations going on, which should offer hope for the 2015 market.

Only two of the February sales were below \$1 million and only one over \$2 million, a clear indication of the relative strength of Westmount real estate compared to an island-wide average of \$390,000.

Three of the 11 home sales were listed for less than three weeks, bringing down the average days-on-market from a stunning 290 days in each of December and January to a more respectable 149 days in February, but still, it takes longer to sell a house now than it did as recently as 2013.

Two condominium sales, one a converted duplex and the other a small apartment, were posted in February, bringing the total so far this year to four condos, three of which sold under evaluation. In the first two months last year, there were

Average adjusted price of a 'typical' Westmount home by month, Jan. 2008 to Feb. 2015, based on accepted offer dates



six apartment sales and one converted duplex, so that part of the market appears to be slowing down, too.

Even in adjacent-Westmount, February logged only two house sales and a condo at Le Trafalgar, so interest appears not to have moved outside the city boundaries either.

As of this writing, 147 single-family homes and four duplexes were listed for sale, up by about 13 from mid-February, which is to be expected with the start of the spring sales market. Sixty-two of those are asking over \$2 million, only 16 under \$1 million and of those, six are under \$800,000.

Water pours from garage

A Public Security patroller heard a fire alarm ringing March 3 at the back of 4028 St. Catherine, the site of the former Subaru dealership, and called the fire department. When the garage door was opened, "water started pouring out," Public Security officials said. It was found to be coming through a light fixture and was believed to have resulted from a broken pipe in the building.

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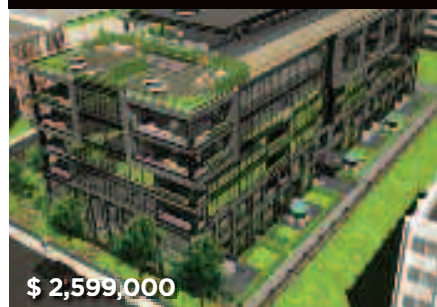
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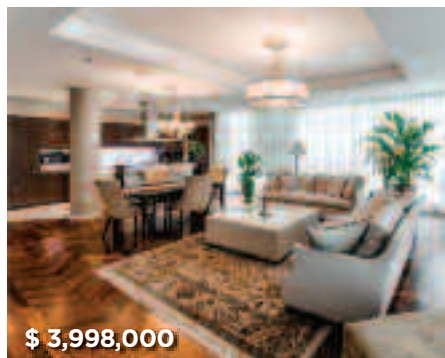
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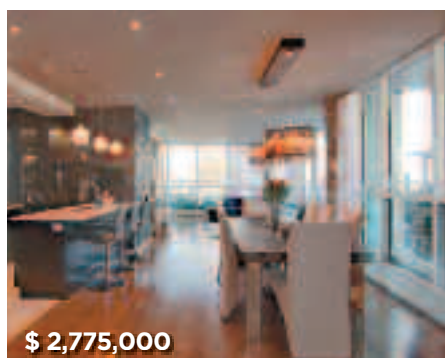
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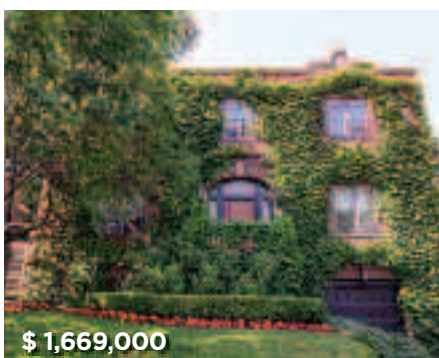
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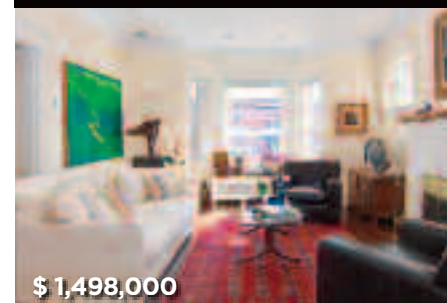
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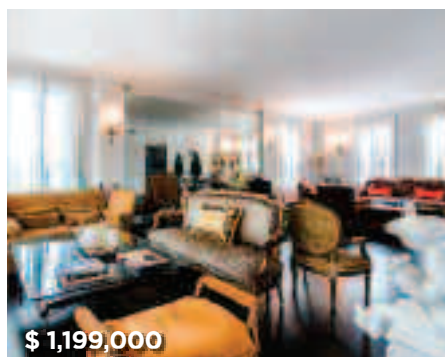
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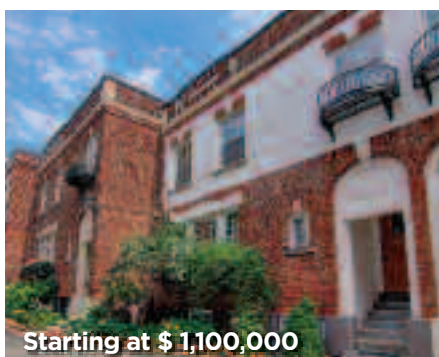
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Spencer's co-design makes it to Canadian embassy in London



Artist Karen Elaine Spencer in her St. Henri studio on March 6. Her design appears to the right.

By JOANNE PENHALE

A carpet co-designed by Westmount artist Karen Elaine Spencer is now on the floor of the Quebec room in Canada House, Canada's embassy in London, England.

Along with Montreal artist Nadia Myre, Spencer designed a white carpet bordered with lyrics in white and blue from the song "Mon Pays" by Gilles Vigneault. Composed in the mid-60s, the song became popular amongst Quebec separatists and includes the lyrics "Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays, c'est l'hiver."

Canada House had requested artists' submissions from each Canadian province and territory on the theme of nature and climate.

Spencer said she was surprised to learn the carpet was finished. She said a representative from Canada's Foreign Affairs ministry contacted Myre to say the carpet design was chosen to represent Quebec. "We thought that we were going to be in contact with the people who were [making] the carpet," Spencer added. "The next thing we knew was that [the carpet] was in the news."

The carpet, and 28 others designed by Canadians, were produced by Toronto-based company Creative Matters, which Spencer said had worked on the carpets,

including hand-tufting, outsourced to Thailand. Spencer has not seen the carpet, except for in photos.



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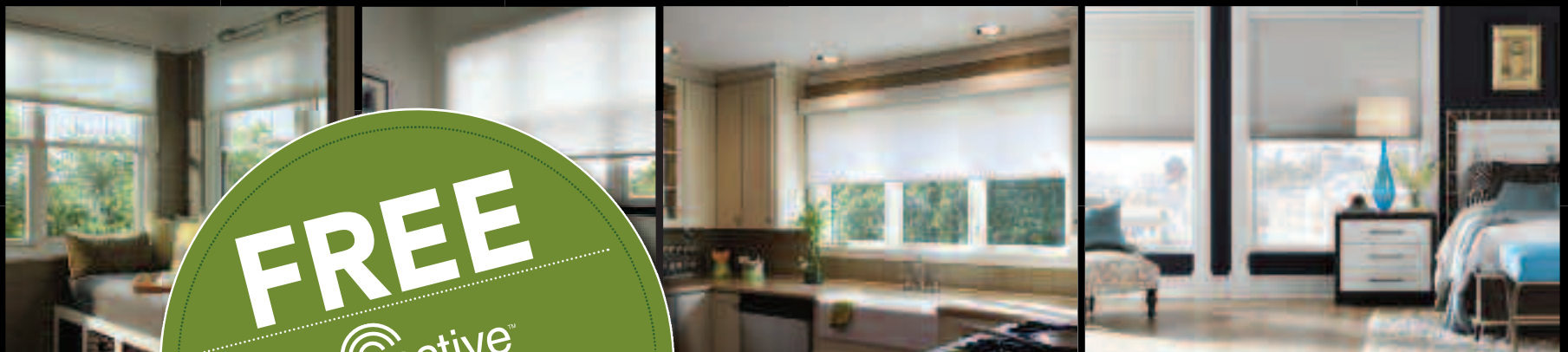


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There's an intense "aww" factor with these two lovelies. You don't have to spend much time with them for them to brighten up your day.

Besides their older age, they have been a harder to adopt because of their black coats and because they come as a pair. Separating them at this point in their lives would be unthinkable.

Lady, who's mostly a black Lab, and Max, a black Lab/shepherd mix, have engaging personalities and are in good health.

They have no psychological baggage, behavioural bugaboos or social awkwardness with other canines.

A retired but active couple would be the ideal match for this darling duo but they would also make perfect family dogs, preferably with older kids who wouldn't want to tussle with them too much

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Lady



Max

5+1 itinerants dispersed

Five itinerants were found sharing a bottle of beer March 5 at 8:40 am across from the dépanneur at 4014 St. Catherine, Public Security officials said. The beer was confiscated, and the group dispersed. Be-

fore the officer left the scene, however, a man was spotted nearby screaming aggressively at passers-by for not giving him money. He continued yelling but went on his way.

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Wheeler begins job as rector at St. Matthias

By HARVEY SHEPHERD

Notwithstanding its 103-year-old neo-gothic building on a steep hill near Westmount city hall, its rich music and liturgy and its place in the affections of many Westmounters, St. Matthias' Church faces much the same challenges as other Quebec churches.

However, Reverend Patrick Wheeler, 50, whom the Anglican bishop of Montreal, Right Reverend Barry Clarke, inducted as the new rector of St. Matthias on March 8, has faced challenges before.

The responses by Wheeler and his parishioners to those challenges they faced in his previous assignment resulted in the merger five years ago of two Verdun parishes and one in the neighbouring Ville Émard district into a renamed Church of the Epiphany on Wellington St. in Verdun.

Since then, Wheeler and the parishioners have worked to forge themselves into a parish community and reach out to the broader Verdun community. They did this partly through a new kitchen and refurbished hall able to accommodate community gatherings.

At St. Matthias, where Wheeler succeeds

Kenneth Near, who moved to the Detroit area after serving the Westmount church since 2009, typical attendance runs around 50 on a Sunday, but something like six times that many worshippers are attracted, largely by the music and liturgy, to the Christmas and Easter services.

At St. Matthias, there is little prospect of relieving the pressures of gradually dwindling numbers through merger. Since the Church of the Advent closed a decade ago, St. Matthias and St. Stephen's have been the only Westmount parishes.

As in Verdun, outreach to the community is important in Wheeler's hopes for his new parish in Westmount.

"We need to find ways that we can be purveyors of beauty, both in service to the community and in worship," he said in a recent interview.

"I look forward to making new relationships and helping the parish finds ways we might join God in God's work in the world."

Delivering the sermon at Wheeler's induction at St. Matthias, Reverend Deacon Jean Willcocks, who has known him for about 17 years and worked with him in Verdun, suggested that the prospects are



Receiving acknowledgement from the congregation at St. Matthias March 8, was from left, Bishop Barry Clarke, Patrick Wheeler, executive archdeacon Bill Gray and territorial archdeacon James Bennett.

good.

"Patrick has accomplished much in his years in Verdun-Ville Émard, and while we understood his need to find new ways and challenges to serve God, we already miss him deeply."

Change has not been easy, she said.

She said Verdun-Ville Émard, like West-

mount, is not immune to the problems facing churches today and the merger "was a huge task and very difficult for everyone concerned."

She said people at Epiphany now regard the merger as huge success story that "might never have happened without Patrick's guidance, vision and tenacity."

In conjunction with this year's **Blue Metropolis Literary Festival**, join bestselling author **Catherine McKenzie** (Forgotten, Hidden) for a series of **writing seminars in Westmount**

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SESSION 2: How to Write Compelling Characters
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(Saturday, April 25, 2–3:30 pm)

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To REGISTER: Please write to catherinemckenzieauthor@gmail.com

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Exhibition of Greek treasures premiere in Canada



*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

In mid-December, Montreal lay under a snowy sheet with slithery sidewalks. But the sun shone brightly from Greece at the world premiere of “The Greeks: Agamemnon to Alexander the Great,” launched at Pointe à Callière. It is claimed to be the largest exhibition on ancient Greece produced in North America.

Westmounter **Andrew Molson**, chair of the board at the archeological museum, joined dignitaries from Greece, Canada and the US.



George Marcantonatos

Noted from Greece were **George Marcantonatos**, Greek ambassador to Canada; **Lina Mendoni**, **Maria Vlazaki** and **Anastasia Balaska** from Greece’s ministry of Culture and Sports; **Polyxeni Adam Veleni**, director of the Archeological Museum of Thessalonica; **Elena Korka**, general director of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Hellenic ministry of Culture and Sports; **Anna Panagiotarea**, professor, University of Thessaloniki and communication advisor at the Hellenic ministry of Culture and Sports; **Maria-Xeni Gareizou**, head of the



Natasha Fotopulos, left, and sister Helen Fotopulos.

department of Archaeological Museums and Collections, directorate of Museums, Hellenic ministry of Culture and Sports; and the Greek consul general in Canada, **Nicolas Sigalas**.

Among the distinguished guests were **Robert Peck**, Canadian ambassador to the Hellenic Republic; Italian consul general in Canada **Enrico Padula**; **Mark O’Neill** and **Jean-**

.....
continued on p. 19



From left: Anna Panagiotarea, Manon Gauthier and Lina Mendoni.



France Lelièvre and Mark O’Neill.



From left: Robert Peck, Costas Spiliadis and Andrew Molson.

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Letters cont'd. from p. 18

Marc Blais, Canadian Museum of History; and **Manon Gauthier**, member of the city of Montreal executive committee responsible for culture, heritage and design.

Welcoming guests were Pointe à Calière's executive director **France Lelièvre**, **Claude-Sylvie Lemery**, director communications, and **Manon Blanchette**.

After viewing the outstanding exhibition, which includes a gold reproduction of Agamemnon's death mask, visitors rose to the roof to partake of a cheese and baguette buffet, rounded off with rainbow-coloured macarons. Wine was from Greece (of course!) and sponsored by Cava Spiliadis.

Costas Spiliadis, founder of the famed Milos restaurants, and his son **George** attended.

Noticed amid the packed rooms were Westmounter **Linda Renaud**, along with **Marika Coulourides** and **Helen Fotopulos** with sister **Natasha Fotopulos**.

The exhibition was produced by the Hellenic ministry of Culture and Sports, Pointe à Calière, the Canadian Museum of History, the Field Museum of Chicago and the National Geographic Museum in Washington. It is on until April 2015.

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No opposition registered to loan by-law

Westmount's \$4.2-million loan by-law for infrastructure renewal was deemed to be approved at the city council meeting March 2 after not one person turned up at city hall February 18 to sign a register requesting a referendum. Fully 500 signatures of qualified voters had been required.

The results were announced at the meeting by assistant city clerk Nicole Dobbie.

The proposed work would take place under the capital works budget of \$12.2 million, which includes some \$2.6 million for work on roads and sidewalks plus \$1.8 million for the water and sewer network (see story January 20, p. 7).

The projects are to be voted on separately as they arise. – LS

Weather brings out graffiti painters

Warmer weather was believed responsible for a rash of graffiti March 8, according to Public Security officials. Incidents were reported at St. Matthias' Church, the back of city hall, the comfort station at Westmount Park and the apartment building at 331 Clarke.

Noise cont'd. from p. 1

the letter dated February 24 on March 6 from Gabriela Quiroz, chief of staff to the minister, David Heurtel. It was the long-awaited reply to his own of December 17, asking the minister to help in solving the problem (see story January 13, p. 2).

Trent met on the issue last week with Councillor Christina Smith, who represents District 5, the one most affected by the noise, and said they would be discussing it further with council at its general committee meeting March 16.

A "progress report" on noise mitigation issued March 6 from the hospital's building consortium and its acoustical engineers fell short of the city's expectations, she said. "We really wish there had been

Police Report**Graffiti tagger arrested after Sherbrooke vandalizing spree**

BY MICHAEL MOORE

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

A Westmount resident helped police nab a 26-year-old person with ink on his hands who allegedly used a marker to vandalize numerous surfaces on Sherbrooke between Prince Albert and Victoria on March 11.

The citizen witnessed the man use the black felt marker to write and draw on a garbage can outside 4891 Sherbrooke; inside the building renovations at 4881 Sherbrooke; and on the exterior walls of 4854 Sherbrooke, according to Station 12 constable Stephan Laperrière.

He couldn't specify what had been written and drawn on the various surfaces.

The resident followed the man on foot for a short distance before calling 911 to inform police that the suspect was heading south down Victoria. Officers found and

results and goals."

The report explained that major work to reduce noise had been completed at the Research Institute, "the results of which will be measurable in a couple of weeks," it reads. The conclusions would be made known "as soon as possible."

"Everything leads me to believe they're working on it," Smith explained adding, "But some residents believe the noise is even worse."

"We will continue to work with the hospital, but we really want a solution before the warmer weather when residents open their windows and go out in their back-

arrested the man, who isn't a resident of Montreal, just south of Somerville Ave.

According to Laperrière, the declaration provided by the witness constituted enough credible evidence for police to be able to stop and search for the marker.

"With just the citizen, we do have enough motive to believe that [the suspect] did do [the graffiti], so we would be able to arrest and search for more evidence. The searched proved positive, and they were able to find the marker on him," he said.

The officers also discovered that the suspect was in breach of the court-ordered conditions of release from a prior arrest outside of Montreal that required him to keep the peace and maintain good behaviour.

Those conditions had been violated by the vandalism spree, providing another charge for the arrest, stated Laperrière.

The man was subsequently released by police with an order to appear in court at a later date.

yards."

She later said she and Trent had relayed their concern to MUHC officials by phone over the lack of specifics in the progress report. "We were told that Montreal had been in touch with the hospital and that a more substantial report would be available in a couple of weeks. They needed a couple of warm days for testing."

Meanwhile, Trent is still waiting for a reply to his December 17 letter also sent to Montreal mayor Denis Coderre. He reached out to both Coderre and Heurtel to help the city in its fight against the noise.

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Parking, parks, culture, municipal affairs

Five councillors to attend conferences

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

City council approved \$9,000 at its meeting March 2 for five of its members to attend upcoming conferences, three of which are out of town. The events are re-

lated to their specific roles.

The expenses cover registration fees, travel, meals, accommodation and other related costs. "Conventions can and will vary, depending on what's on offer," Mayor Peter Trent explained. "For me, it's still the overall freeze [on the council's business and convention expenses] that counts."

This is \$435,600 a year.

Philip Cutler, commissioner of Public Security, which includes traffic, will travel to Chicago to pick up the latest ideas on cutting edge parking technology at a trade show called Parking Industry Exhibition 2015 from March 29 to April 1.

Christina Smith and Victor Drury, commissioners sitting on the city's Finance and Administration committee, will represent the city at the annual conference of the Union of Quebec Municipalities (UMQ), taking place this year in Montreal May 21 to 23.

Councillor Cynthia Lulham, as commissioner of Parks and Sustainability, will travel to San Francisco between April 11 and 14 to attend an event called Greater & Greener 2015: Innovative Parks, Vibrant Cities.

Nicole Forbes, commissioner of Culture and Community Events, plans to attend the annual conference of Les Arts et la Ville network. It takes place in Dieppe, New Brunswick, from June 2 to 4 in partnership with the Quebec ministry of Culture and Communications and Canadian Heritage. This network is dedicated to the development of local culture.

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Atom A Wings slip past LaSalle in EHL quarterfinal

BY MICHAEL MOORE

Twenty-four hours after a playoff opener that saw them flex their offensive might, the Westmount Wings instead relied on their defensive resilience on March 15, edging out the LaSalle Lions 2-1 to book a spot in the Eastern Hockey League Atom A semifinals.

Westmount's Noah Clarke and Christian Lalonde each notched a goal, and goaltender Alexandre Jodoin helped shut down a furious LaSalle comeback attempt in the game's dying minutes to preserve the Wings' win in front of the home fans at the Westmount recreation centre (WRC).

The Wings had entered the playoffs on the back of the number 2: Second seeded in Atom A, after finishing second in points; second in goals for; and second in goals against.

That number proved lucky once more for the Wings against the Lions, the division's number 4 seed.

Clarke opened the scoring just over two minutes into the opening period. A dogged forecheck by Max Lassner caused the puck to ricochet off of a bevy of LaSalle skates and bodies, eventually landing on Clarke's stick, just a few feet in front of the Lions' net.

The forward's batted shot attempt fluttered up and over the arm of LaSalle net-

minder Samuel Paradis and into the bottom corner to hand Westmount the lead.

However, a Westmount defensive lapse allowed Lions' forward Samuel-Mathieu Desjardins to snap in a wrist shot unhindered from the low slot four minutes from the end of the period, tying the game.

Lalonde capitalized on a neutral zone turn-over by the Lions to retake the lead midway through the second frame. Picking up a loose puck, the Wing skated uncontested into the LaSalle slot and loosed a hard wrist shot that whistled past Paradis' glove hand, giving Westmount a 2-1 lead.

That advantage went relatively unchallenged throughout the remainder of the second and the start of the third, with Westmount's defensive structure offering few chances for the Lions, and Jodoin snapping up any stray shots.

As time ticked down, however, LaSalle showed no intention of slipping quietly out of the playoffs. Surging forward in the latter half of the third period, the Lions had a potential break-away knocked away by Wings defender Ilia Avtandilashvili and numerous net-mouth scrambles parried by Jodoin and his defenders before the final horn sounded.


The Wings must now wait to learn of their opponent for the semifinal on Saturday, March 21 at the WRC. *See photo, p. 1.*

Passing attention uncovers irregularities

An alarm was heard ringing at 8:23 am at a house on Roxborough March 7 and found to be caused by a low battery in the alarm system, Public Security officials said. At 5 pm, a patroller found a front door left unlocked at a house on Holton. A person checking the home was believed to have forgotten to lock it and all was reported in

order. Both incidents were discovered as part of a "special passing attention" program provided for residents away on vacation. "We're also looking for trees that might have fallen on houses and water leaks," said Public Security director Greg McBain.

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*Social Notes
from Westmount
and Beyond*

VERONICA REDGRAVE

As the first snow storm hit Montreal in December, Westmounters **Helen** and **Jacques Bellefeuille** hosted a champagne tasting, featuring the beautiful bubbles of Taittinger. On December 9, guests shook off hats, snow boots, overcoats and umbrellas to meet **Clovis Taittinger**, the elegant emissary of the prestigious brand.

Cooly Parisian, wearing a fabulous yellow rubber watch brightly peeking out of his tailor-made togs, he offered “bulles de bonheur” to all. His “bubbles of joy” were, indeed, appreciated by arrivals as they admired the photographs of artist **Nicolas Ruel**, who proudly had “sold” and “sold out” red dots on his sensational editions of stainless steel-mounted images.

The exclusive soirée was spearheaded by Westmount-based Vins Philippe Dan-

durand Wines, importer of Taittinger. Present were founder **Philippe Dandurand** and his daughter **Caroline**; president **Hugues Gauthier** and **Pierre-Adrien Fleurant**, national fine wines director.

Guests learned that the house of Taittinger started in 1240, when Thibaud IV, comte de Champagne and king of Navarre (yes, he was both. Don't you just love European titles?) brought two treasures back from his battles in Cyprus. First, one of the most beautiful roses in the world, the Damascina; and second, the vine for Chardonnay grapes, which would drive the destiny of Maison Taittinger.

Offered at the evening were Cuvée Prestige Rosé, Nocturne Rosé, Nocturne Blanc, Brut Réserve, Prélude Grand Cru and Comtes de Champagne Blanc de Blancs Brut 2004, and Comtes de Champagne Rose Brut 2005 (\$265).

Different crus were paired with delicate little bouchées. A light mousseline de chèvre, salmon rillettes and foie gras were served.

The colourful shining *continued on p. 22*



Clovis Taittinger, left, and Nicolas Ruel.



Caroline Dandurand, left, and Helen Bellefeuille.

Correction

The identification of the people in the photo in the issue of March 10 (p. 21) should have been Christophe Astruc, left, and Stéphane Laveur.

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Jacques Bellefeuille, left, and Hugues Gauthier.



Debra and Bill Brownstein.

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



Sophie Catherine Laflamme and Sébastien Forand.



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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 21

Taittinger bottles, nestled amidst artist Sophie de Francesca's beautiful wire bodice sculptures of Swarovski crystal, resembled works of art themselves. Among the Westmounters noted in Galerie de Bellefeuille's new space on Greene were Debra and Bill Brownstein, as well as Sophie Catherine Laflamme, Sébastien Forand, Andres Duran, François Ares, Alan Ganey, Daniel Gagnon, Martin Drollet and Gregory Cance. As guests ventured out into the still ceaselessly tumbling snow, Clovis Taittinger, ever philosophical, waxed poetic about the fluttering flakes, and praised the "bon esprit" in Montreal.



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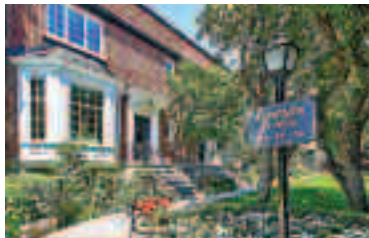
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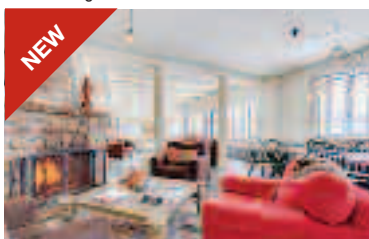
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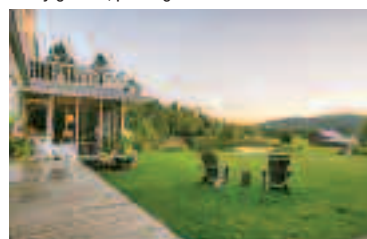
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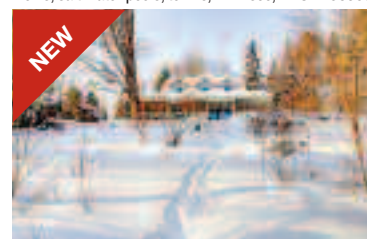
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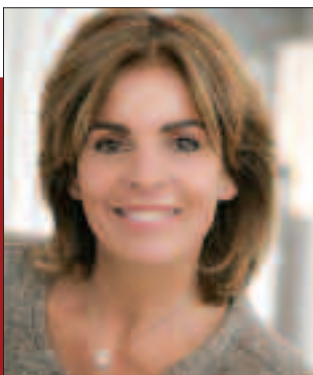
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