

## Street to be one-way Prince Albert work to start end of May

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Residents of Prince Albert from Sherbrooke to Côte St. Antoine are now expected to face two years of a road reconstruction project.

Delays in starting the project are resulting from a late thaw and the time it will take for Bell and Hydro Westmount to lay new underground conduits followed in sequence by work on water and sewer networks lasting to November. New sidewalks and road would come next year.

The news was announced to the *Independent* April 10 by District 4 councillor Rosalind Davis and Public Works commissioner Patrick Martin, ..... and relayed to residents *continued on p. 8*

### Highlights from meeting on Prince Albert work

The following were among main points provided at a public meeting on April 16 by Elisa Gaetano, assistant director, infrastructure and engineering, Public Works:

#### Summer 2015

- Bell, Hydro, water, sewers;
- One traffic lane to be kept open;
- Traffic to be southbound only;
- Resident parking permits to be issued;
- No planned hydro outages;
- Email updates on work to residents;
- New reserved parking on Chesterfield during work.

#### Summer 2016

- Sidewalks, roads;
- Raised crosswalks;
- "Bump-outs" at corners;
- No reduction in parking spots.

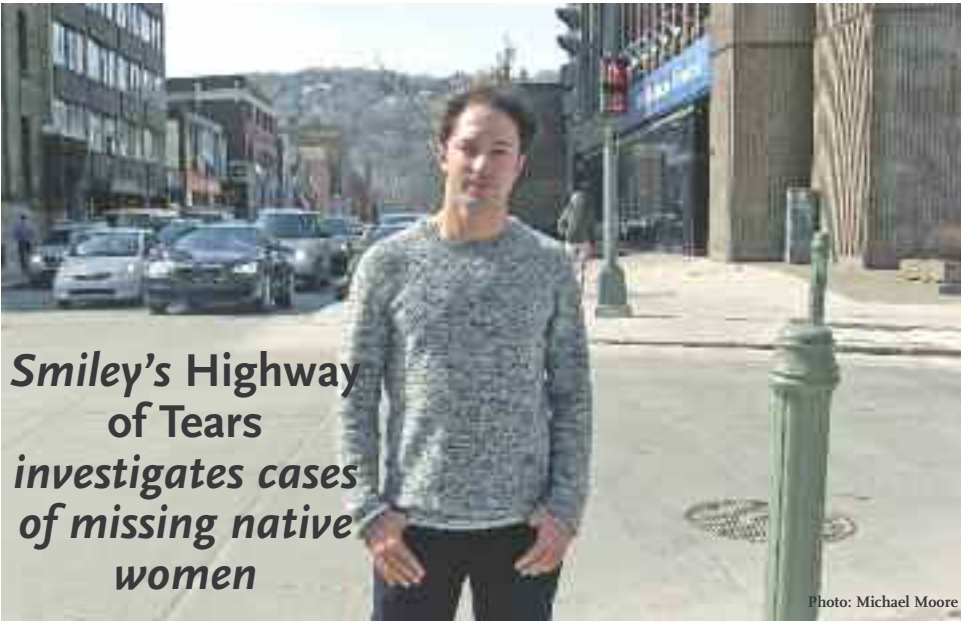


Photo: Michael Moore

### Smiley's Highway of Tears investigates cases of missing native women

Westmount-born filmmaker Matt Smiley was back in town to host screenings of his new movie Highway of Tears in Montreal. He is seen here April 13 on Greene Ave. Story, p. 8.

### Retiring, Zalzal looks back and ahead, p. 5.

## Rec department appeals for volunteer soccer coaches

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Sports and Recreation officials have launched an urgent appeal for mums and dads to step up to the plate and volunteer as soccer coaches for the season's program. It starts Monday, May 4.

A record number of 1,068 boys and girls have enrolled to play but the equivalent of six teams out of the 82 are still without coaches.

This year, with the online registration, "we've lost the opportunity to make our face-to-face pitch to parents to volunteer,"

said Andrew Maislin, the department's operations manager. "At the same time, our enrolment numbers are way up" by about six teams.

"We're short 10 to 20 volunteers to make this work," Maislin said April 14. "Volunteers are a fundamental element. Without them, everybody suffers, especially the children. It's a real shame."

If more coaches can't be found, "we're going to have to make drastic changes." Among them, he suggested, could be increasing the number of ..... kids on a team from the *continued on p. 15*



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## Two bites reported, one dog sought

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two people were bitten on the leg by dogs in separate incidents April 2 and 3, Public Security officials said. No tickets were issued. In one case, the victim did not want to pursue an official complaint. In the other, the offending dog is still being sought.

The first bite occurred around 9:30 am outside 422 Roslyn when a professional dog walker called Public Security to say she had been returning a dog when another bit her in a driveway. Its owner apologized, handed the victim a business card, grabbed the dog and left. Officers provided first aid to the victim, a 51-year-old Montreal resident, and advised her to seek medical attention, which she did.

Meanwhile, a message was left for the owner of the dog asking that she provide a vaccination certificate for the dog. When she presented it at the station, she was also warned to obtain a valid licence for the dog, which lived in the neighbourhood.

A second bite was reported to have occurred the next day near 3 Summit Circle. A man aged around 70 stated a short-haired tri-colour shepherd mix had bitten him as it walked past him on a leash. The bite was described as minor. The man, who had already had a tetanus shot, was told to keep an eye out for the dog and to call officers if he should spot it.

## Chain saw at 2 am?

Public safety officers were called to Victoria near de Maisonneuve for the sound of a chain saw in use at 2 am April 14. Public Security officials said no saw could be found. The sound, which could be heard over a wide area, was believed to be caused by high winds blowing through a building under renovation at 345 Victoria.

## Missing dog wanders on roof all morning

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A man working in the office building at 245 Victoria called Public Security at noon April 13 to report seeing a dog walking on the roof of a house on Grosvenor, department officials said.

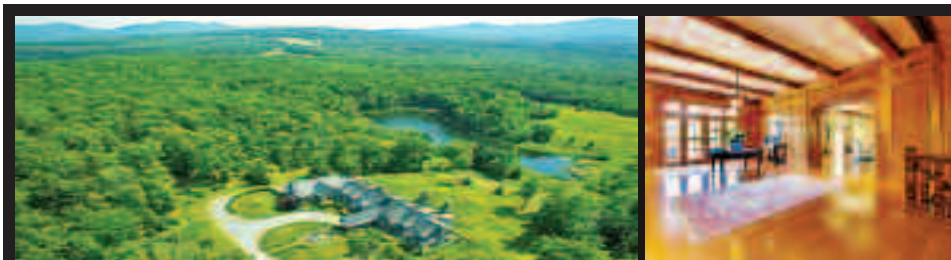
Patrollers spoke with the man who said he had seen it on the roof early in the morning and was concerned it was still there. He had gone to the house but obtained no answer at the door. Public safety officers also visited the house just south of de Maisonneuve but were also unable to find anyone home.

Meanwhile, they were informed that a dog matching the same description was missing from its home nearby on de Maisonneuve.

Officers accompanied by the dog's caretaker returned to the house, climbed a spiral staircase at the rear and managed to help the Jack Russell terrier down using a leash.

## PSOs summoned for banging, find car door open instead

Public safety officers discovered a car door ajar April 11 at 420 Prince Albert, Public Security officials said. It was not known if anything had been stolen, and the door could not be locked. It was spotted when officers were checking for the source of a banging sound that had been reported nearby at 4905 Sherbrooke, a complaint received at 2:38 am. The source of the banging was never found.



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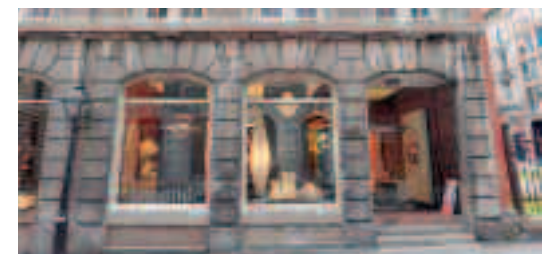


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Retires May 8 after 28 years

# Zalzal leaves legacy of infrastructure inventory report, truck safety

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Public Works director Marianne Zalzal retires May 8 after a 28-year career with Westmount, leaving behind two particular “legacies” of which she is most proud, she says.

One is the yellow side-guards she had had installed on city trucks starting six years ago to help prevent pedestrians and cyclists from slipping beneath the wheels. It has already served as a model for some other Montreal communities (see story, November 17, 2009, p. 3.)

“For an engineer, anything you can do for safety makes you feel good,” she explains.

Her other legacy is an extensive and recently completed report on city-owned assets and infrastructure – a study and inventory of the city’s overall condition of roads, sidewalks, sewer and water networks as well as municipal buildings and mechanical systems.

“It’s a transfer of my knowledge so council and the engineers will have a guide to build on for the future,” she told the *Independent* April 13.

Looking through the two-inch binder, she explained that all the aging assets need attention but at different levels and priorities. “We need to keep in mind the im-

portance of finding creative solutions to the needs of today and tomorrow.”

These include identifying and dealing with risks to which the city might be vulnerable, such as climate change and flooding, as well as ways to improve pedestrian-friendly sidewalks.

Looking ahead, she said, there are many challenges for the city to anticipate when renewing infrastructure, for example, “Whenever we reconstruct a street, we should lay an extra [sewer] pipe beside the existing one to allow for both drainage and storm water systems.” At present the city has no separate storm drainage system.

One day, when enough pipes are laid in this manner, “we’ll be able to connect them. It’s a small step for the future.”

Zalzal has seen many changes in Public Works since she was hired as a junior engineer in 1987. Not only has the department taken on recycling and other sustainability issues, but it has also “inherited” leadership from Public Security of the city’s administrative traffic committee, now called the Transportation Advisory Committee.

There’s also been a shift from blue-collar workers to more engineering staff to sharpen the focus on infrastructure, such as the water system, “which we ‘inherited’ from Montreal after the demerger” in

2006.

## A second home

Over the years, Public Works “has been my second home,” Zalzal said.

In fact, it’s where she met her husband John Monteiro and where they both continued to work while raising two daughters now 21 and 16. Monteiro retired two weeks ago as superintendent of roads and parks.

Rather than being split up in the workplace upon marrying, she said, “We had a boss [former director Fred Caluori] who knew we worked independently and thought it would be too bad to change that. In fact, John was a great help to me and probably made my life easier. For one thing, he was able to train some of the new technicians.”

Both she and Monteiro plan to continue working elsewhere in retirement, she said. “I’m going to take the summer off and then consider working at ..... something completely dif-

*continued on p. 17*

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Marianne Zalzal at her desk April 13 with the inventory binder.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### GOOD REPORTING ON HIT CYCLIST

May I thank and congratulate Laureen Sweeney on her report about the cyclist being injured recently near the Westmount recreation centre? ("Cyclist taken to hospital, hit by car from behind," April 7, p. 7).

The story concluded, "It was not reported whether the cyclist was wearing a helmet or whether the bicycle had been equipped with lights for night riding." Both points are vitally important, but too many otherwise responsible reporters fail to mention these fundamental safety measures. It is only when reporters such as Sweeney take the trouble to do so that the reader is reminded that these are as essential for understanding the injury as the direction in which the car was travelling.

And, as a bonus, Sweeney reminds us that there was reason to suspect the driver was impaired – yet another safety issue that deserves far more attention.

BARRY PLESS, LANSDOWNE AVE.

### WESTMOUNT PARK'S SILVER FIRS AND SNOW CAVES

Have you noticed the "snow caves" in Westmount Park? This is our dog's favourite area to explore during the winter season. They are located in a stand of six beautiful silver firs (*Abies alba*) adjacent to Westmount Park's clay tennis courts. In winter, their boughs are downward-sloped, creating a wall of snow containing snow-free areas.

Silver firs (also known as *sapin pectiné* or *weißstanne*) have a striking silver colour from the needle's underside containing two parallel white lines (composed of stomates) adjacent to their midribs. The bark is a greyish silver bearing upright barrel-shaped cones (as in all "true firs") on the highest branches.

The tree's native habitat is the mountainous areas of central and southern Europe. Large groves of silver firs still exist in the Vosges Mountains in France's Alsatian territory – protected within the Parc naturel régional des Ballons des Vosges.

In northern Europe, the silver fir is regarded as a "birth tree." In Old Irish, the tree is

named "ailm" – relating to the word "palm," the birth tree of the Middle East, from which the Phoenix is born. In Greek, the tree is named "elate" from Eileithyia (Elate-Thuia) the goddess of childbirth who symbolically wields a burning pine torch.

The species has a myriad of uses: Its family name "*pinaceae*" is derived from the Burgundy pitch (from boiling tar) it produces.

In medieval times, Strasbourg turpentine also known as "Tuscan *olio di abezzo*" (named after a forest of silver firs in the Hockwald) was manufactured from this species. It was used as a varnish on oil and tempura paintings – many artists utilized the less expensive Venice turpentine (from the larch).

Finally, while standing amongst these trees in Westmount Park – watching our dog explore these snow caves – I am reminded of a quote from the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche in *Der Wanderer und sein Schatten* (*The Wanderer and His Shadow*): "The pine-tree seems to listen, the fir-tree to wait: and both without impatience: they give no thought to the little people beneath them devoured by their impatience and their curiosity."

MICHAEL WALSH, MELVILLE AVE.



Photo courtesy of Michael Walsh

A stand of silver firs in Westmount Park.



## Dealing with the EAB beetle

# City to treat some ash trees, remove others, add new species

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The city of Westmount's plan to attack the emerald ash borer (EAB), which destroys ash trees, is to continue this summer by treating those eligible and planting different tree species to replace ashes that ultimately will require removal.

"We continue to sequentially remove and replace the city-owned ash trees which cannot receive treatment due to trunk damage or general poor health unrelated

to the borer," explained Jayme Gerbrandt, city horticulture and arboriculture inspector.

Over the winter, a total of 15 such trees were taken down, she said. Generally, ash trees in weakened condition are targets for the EAB.

Because the treatment is systemic, a tree must be healthy enough to absorb the solution for it to be effective, she explained.

In 2013, the city began treating city-owned ash trees healthy enough to take TreeAzin, a systemic insecticide. Last year, "we treated the majority of ash trees eligible for the treatment," Gerbrandt.

This brings the total number of treated trees to date to 175 of the estimated 375 city-owned ashes in Westmount. This is a relatively small inventory compared to the thousands reported in some municipalities on the West Island.

Because the treatment is administered every second year, in 2015 the city will be repeating the treatment on the same trees treated in 2013 with the addition of a few extra ones to ensure that all eligible ash trees have had the treatment by the end of this year, she said.

The city will also continue "pro-active under-planting" with other species in order to lessen the impact of the ash removals when the time comes. This can be seen in the greenspace at the corner of York and St. Catherine streets, where ash trees were unable to be treated.

Last year, the EAB was officially found to have arrived in Westmount when it was found in two traps that had been set out in trees, one on Aberdeen, another on Victoria (see story October 14, p. 1). Traps are being set out again this year.

The city is working to develop a policy for regulating ashes on private property.

## 32 'unsound' city trees removed after council 'okay'

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A total of 32 city trees were taken down over the last month on or near 22 streets after the trees were assessed as structurally unsound, city officials said.

"Most of the trees were Norway maples, reaching the end of their life cycle, said Jayme Gerbrandt, city horticulture and arboriculture inspector. None were ashes affected by the emerald ash borer (see separate story, same page).

Their removal by Arbo-Design had been approved by city council March 2 under contract for close to \$30,000. Given the sensitivity of many residents to decreasing the city's aging tree stock, notices were given mid-March to those with one of the trees adjacent to their property, she said.

Remaining stumps require different equipment to be removed and are to be done under a separate contract, Gerbrandt said.

continued on p. 20



Young trees of varying species, seen here April 10, were planted last fall in the green space at York and St. Catherine between ash trees that cannot be treated against the emerald ash borer and will eventually be taken down.

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# Smiley's Highway of Tears shines light on deadly BC road

By MICHAEL MOORE

The initial creative spark for former Westmounter and filmmaker Matt Smiley's new award-winning *Highway of Tears* documentary came from a seemingly innocuous family moment in northern British Columbia.

Sitting around a campfire with his sister, brother-in-law and baby niece, Smiley offhandedly remarked about the natural beauty of the environment, unaware he was sitting mere minutes away from one of the province's most notorious stretches of road.

"I just said innocently that I'd love to come back to film there, maybe something about tree planting, which my brother-in-law had done. And they told me that a planter they knew named Nicole Hoar had gone missing in 2002 pretty much 20 minutes from where we were camping," said Smiley.

"It was really the look of everybody around that campfire that triggered my interest."

Growing up over 4,000 kilometers away in Westmount, Smiley had little knowledge of the Hoar case. After heading home to Los Angeles, he continued to look into the subject matter, uncovering the dark history of what is infamously known as the Highway of Tears. Since the late 1960s, Hoar and at least 18 mostly aboriginal women and girls have disappeared or been murdered along the lonely 724-km long stretch of BC's Highway 16.

In LA, Smiley met his production partner Carly Pope for coffee to discuss the project. Three weeks later, he was back in Canada with film crew in tow to embark on what would become a three-and-a-half-year odyssey examining the disappearances through the eyes of loved ones, community leaders and law enforcement.

"It's chilling when you see the impact

these women had on their families," said Smiley, a first-time director. "Following rock stars around is a lot easier than having family members open up and talk about a missing or murdered love one, especially when you don't have a proven track record."

Using the eponymous highway at its nucleus, Smiley traces not only the road's blood-stained history but also what he calls a "deep rooted social issue" of violence against aboriginal women. According to a 2014 RCMP report, 1,181 aboriginal women went missing or were murdered in Canada between 1980 and 2012, a rate over three times higher than that of non-aboriginal women.

"The issue isn't going away. It's getting worse," said Smiley.

The filmmaker was back home in April for a pair of recent stops in Montreal, including an April 10 screening at the Musée des Beaux-Arts attended by Westmount-

Ville Marie MP Marc Garneau. The documentary, narrated by TV star Nathan Fillion, and Smiley are currently on a nationwide tour, often featuring a pre- or post-screening Q&A session that has since moved on to Halifax.

The film and the screenings have served as a catalyst for an unexpected social and community dialogue, said Smiley, who called the response "stunning." Victims' families and communities have banded together to attend screenings, working in unison to push for a national inquiry into the murders and disappearances and for issues such as increased funding for the RCMP that would allow officers to better patrol and build bonds in communities.

"[The film has] completely changed by life. I didn't think it would make me become an activist by wanting to make sure these changes happen," he said.

See photo, p. 1.

## Prince Albert reconstruction starts with utilities cont'd. from p. 1

April 16 at a public meeting on "the Prince Albert redevelopment project."

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"We were hoping to do it all in one year," said Public Works director Marianne Zalzal. "But realistically, since we'll only be able to start at the end of May, this makes it too tight to do the sidewalks and road this year – and do quality work."

As well, she said, "we have to keep the street open during the work."

To do so, the street will become one-way south-bound, enabling one lane to be open at all times during the summer's work.

This stretch of Prince Albert is congested by an unusually large amount of infrastructure equipment, which includes Bell and Hydro distribution lines that feed the entire neighbourhood rather than simply those serving the street, Zalzal explained.

"It's a jungle under there," Martin ex-

plained. The city is not able to program the Bell work that could take up to eight weeks.

During this period, only one utility can work at a time under workers' health and safety board (CSST) regulations, he pointed out. These require a certain width of the road to be roped off. Only when the work of one is complete can another follow, he said. "The work has to be done sequentially. So there's your summer."

The lengthy scenario is well-known to Prince



During the meeting April 16, Prince Albert resident Lawrence Kryzanowski asks Public Works assistant director Elisa Gaetano about temporary water connections to the hydrant in front of his house.

Albert residents south of Sherbrooke, where similar work took two summers to complete and then stretched into a third for the portion north of Somerville to coincide with the creation of the Prince Albert square last year.

The construction holiday in July does not generally affect roadwork but the city will have to find a contractor willing to work at that time, Martin said. If that is required, it would have to be specified in tender documents, all with a cost if too many conditions are made.

**Full coverage of the public meeting in next week's Indie.**

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Demolition hearing set for May 20

Plans for 3217 The Boulevard to increase living space by half

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

The owners of a large house on the slope of Westmount mountain, 3217 The Boulevard, are asking the city to approve their plan for enlarging and significantly altering the home, for which a demolition permit will be required.

With notices and plans posted April 14 on The Boulevard near Mount Pleasant

and on Belvedere Rd., anyone opposing or supporting the demolition has until Friday, April 24 to do so. A public hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 at 5 pm at city hall.

Owners Naim and Joanne Otaky hope to increase their livable space to accommodate a growing family. It would require demolishing 65 percent of the roof and facades, according to the city's demolition

file. This is available to the public at the Urban Planning department at city hall.

The plan proposed by Westmount architect Paul Grenier would provide 50 percent more habitable space (excluding the actual garage), he says.

This would involve converting the sloped-roof attic containing one room into a full third-storey "penthouse" with a flat roof and adding a two-storey extension above the two-car garage, all without increasing the height of the home.

Because the house was built after the city commissioned the Beaupré and Michaud study, which classified Westmount buildings according to their heritage and architectural value, it has been rated by the city's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) as a Category III contemporary building of "neutral value."

As a result, and along with the committee's approval of the proposed modifications, the PAC has recommended the plan to the Demolition committee for approval.

Access by right-of-way

Nestled against the rock face leading up to Belvedere Rd. on the north and east sides of the dwelling, the house is virtually unnoticeable from The Boulevard.

Built in 1994 above and to one side of the historic Braemar house at 3219 The Boulevard, its only accessibility by vehicle is by a right-of-way on the steep Braemar lane.

Contentious start

The original construction of the house is described as having been "long and contentious." It took three building permits, a court order and two owners for the work to be completed between 1987 and 1994. Among the reasons listed for the delay were "inherent difficulties" when a construction site continued on p. 20

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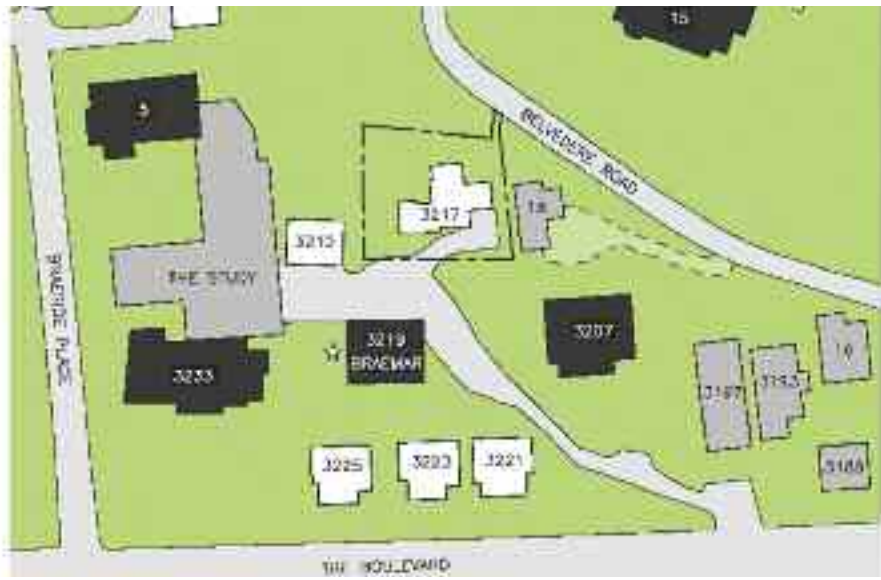
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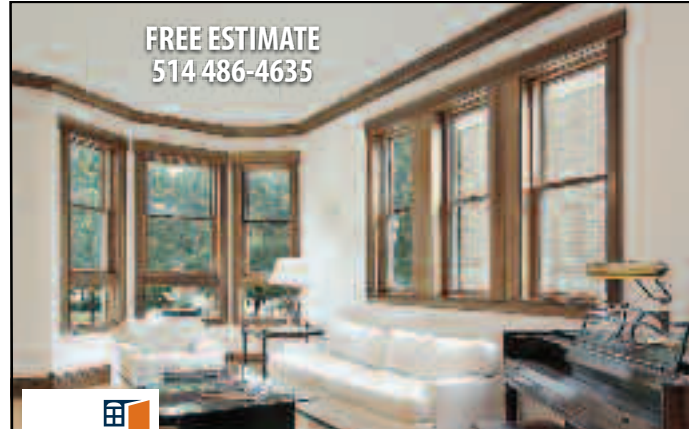
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A context drawing of the site shows the location of 3217 The Boulevard just north and east of the historic Braemar house at civic number address 3219. Image courtesy of Grenier & Richards Architects



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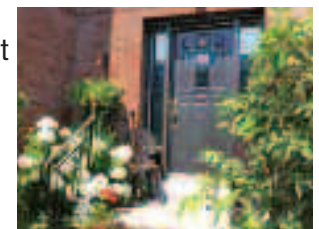
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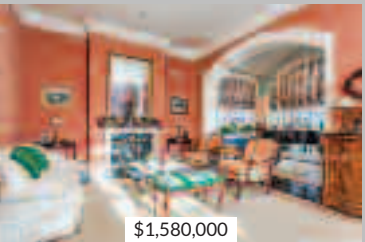


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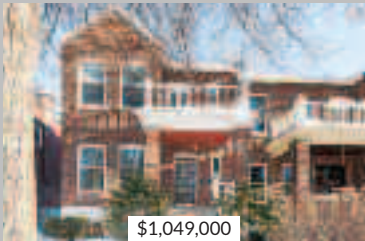


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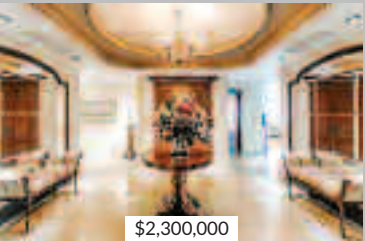


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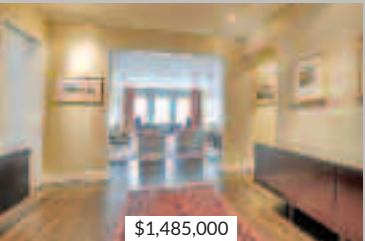


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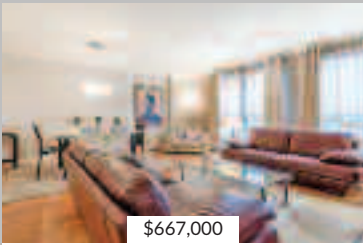
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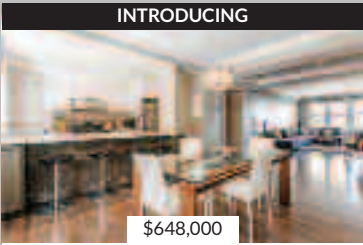
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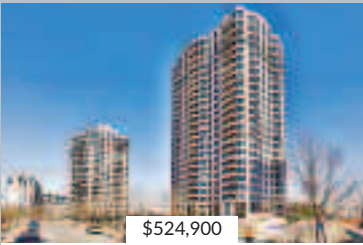
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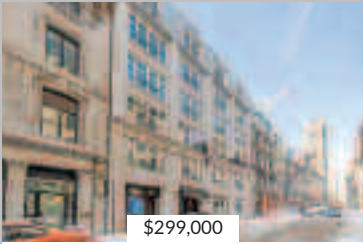
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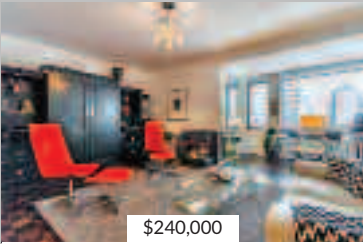
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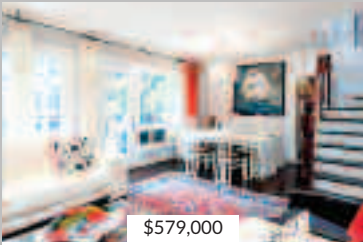
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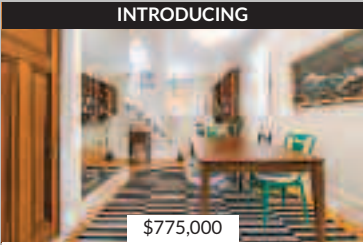
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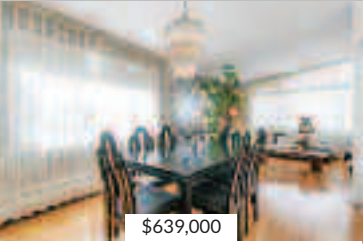
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CH. DU LAC- SAINT-LOUIS | LÉRY

Waterfront property with panoramic view of lake Saint-Louis. 42,000 sq ft lot, 4 bedrooms and 2 bedrooms, inground swimming pool. 20 minutes from Montreal with easy access to autoroute 30. MLS 21031393

DIANE OLIVER\*\* 514.893.9872

COUNTRY PROPERTIES

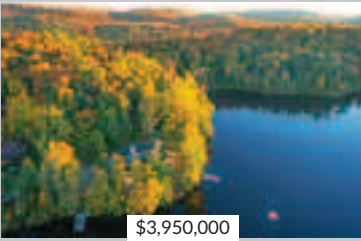


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LAC POLO | MONT-TREMBLANT | BREBEUF

Pristine private estate, 2,900 acres including a magnificent 100% private lake Polo stocked with trout. The main property consists of 2 country homes w/tennis court accessed by a 4 km private road. Sugar shack w/1,800 maples & a helipad. Property has riding, hiking, hunting trails & more. MLS 13331581

HERBERT RATSCH†† 819.429.9019

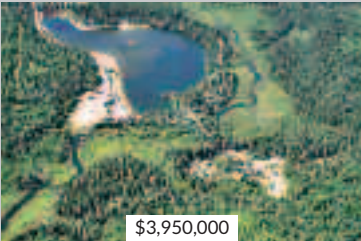


\$3,950,000

SAINT-ADOLPHE D'HOWARD | PRIVATE ESTATE

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STE-AGATHE AREA | PRIVATE DOMAIN

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\$1,995,000

180' LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG | MAGOG

Beautiful property located on the brink of lake Memphremagog, on a private road with 74,515 sq. ft. of exquisitely landscaped grounds and 180 feet running along the waterway. MLS 25357097

STEPHANE CLOUTIER\* 819.842.1909



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BROMONT | DE LA COLLINE

5,400 sq. ft. modern aesthetics & Cape Cod style, southern orientation, 5.94 acres with pond, imposing windows. Located minutes from ski Bromont & aut 10. MLS 20554626

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MELANIE CLARKE\* 450.694.0678



\$950,000

STE-ADELE | DONCASTER RIVER

Is there a more beautiful atmosphere than a river flowing in front of your residence? You are entitled to a spa and sauna along the river. MLS 23209996

PIERRE BRUNET\*\* 514.248.8032  
ANNE GASCON\* 514.592.5520



\$898,000

LAC CHAPLEAU | LA MINERVE

Superb waterfront – privately set, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 21 ft ceilings, fireplace heating floor and air conditioning, gourmet kitchen, triple garage, private boat ramp, shed and more! 45 minutes from Mont-Tremblant and 25 minutes from international airport. MLS 25898829

RACHELLE DEMERS\* 514.378.8630



\$799,000

GRAND LAC LONG | LANTIER

Surrounded by water, the home, 5 bdrm and 3 bath sits on a peninsula on lac Ludger (Grand lac Long). This location is one of the best on this navigable lake. There is a beautiful wood burning, stone fireplace. Large family room and an amazing indoor pool. 2 separate dock areas. MLS 21005348

MARSHA HANNA†† 819.425.0619



\$695,000 +txs

LAC LACOSTE | RIVIERE-ROUGE

Spacious log home in the heart of nature, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Main floor open concept, cathedral ceiling, stone fireplace. Notarized access to beautiful lac Lacoste. MLS 10933399

RAYMOND DALBEC\*\* 819.425.4568



\$599,000

STE-ADELE | LAC RENAUD

Contemporary Viceroy house built in 2008 with lake access. Country living in a modern home with cathedral ceilings, heated floors throughout and floor to ceiling windows. Absolutely move-in! MLS 19871754

LILLIAN LÉONARD\*\* 514.949.5211



\$500,000

PENINSULA DU LAC CROCHE | LA MINERVE

Waterfront | Incomparable property on a peninsula of more than 1.89 acre lot with 700 feet of waterfront on magnificent lake Croche. MLS 27945287

PIERRE CHAPDELAIN\* 819.429.1888



# More merlins to come?



A duo of merlins are caught in a mating ritual, left, April 5 on a "sturdy branch" on a tall tree at the corner of Renfrew and the Boulevard. According to the witness, "the female attracted attention as she called out every few minutes," attracting the photographer to the scene. The male soon swoops off, middle, leaving the female to do some preening, right, after the brief and dramatic encounter.

Photos: Ralph Thompson

## Coaches cont'd. from p. 1

current 15 average.

Team rosters were to be sent out this week for kids aged 5 to 16 after a delay in the start time due to the late spring thaw.

The decline in volunteers attributed to the online registration process comes after the loss of previous incentives offered to volunteers. In the past, he said, these parents could pre-register their children in the program, avoiding long line-ups and guaranteeing them a spot on a team.

The incentives were wiped out when the city began guaranteeing spots for all Westmount children in 2010 and reducing registration lines. The online registration, which has been generally successful according to the city, eliminated the opportunity for the staff to meet with parents.

It takes about 150 coaches to run the program, at least two or more per team, Maislin said.

Volunteer coaches are "fully trained by Sports and Recreation to achieve its goals," he explained. While Maislin and sports coordinator Michelle Dodds serve as referees, the volunteers manage the sidelines. "Over recent years, we've seen a huge influx of mums and dads doing soccer with their kids."

There is still time to volunteer, he said.

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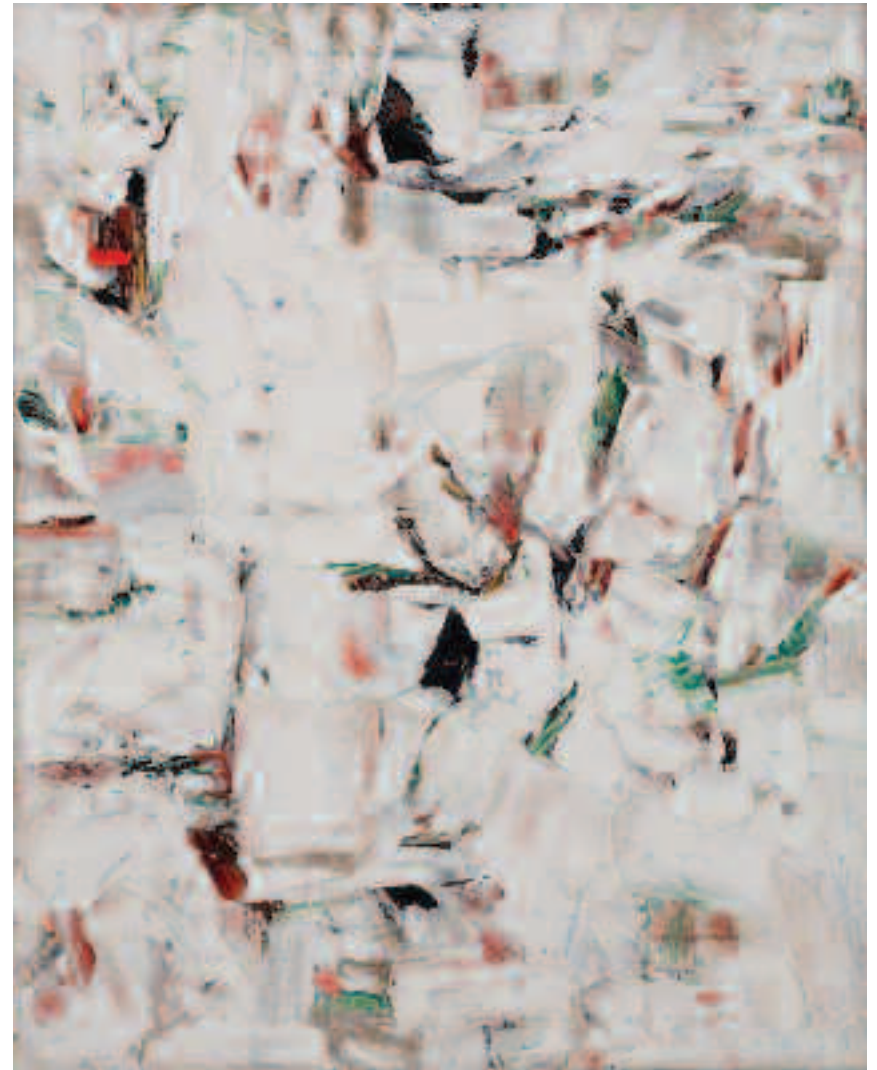
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## Paul-Émile Borduas, *Joyeuses Facettes*



Paul-Émile Borduas, *Joyeuses Facettes*, oil on canvas, 50" x 40"

"Borduas' title for this painting implies the joy of painting is not simple and has many facettes which he conveys through the varying direction, consistency and shade of the white palette work"

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2015.04.21 • Vol. 3/08  
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# infoWestmount

## HÔTEL DE VILLE

### Westmount sur Facebook et Twitter

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## SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

### Horaire d'entretien des rues en vigueur

**Du 1<sup>er</sup> avril au 30 novembre.** L'horaire d'entretien des rues est présentement en vigueur; assurez-vous de bien vérifier les panneaux de signalisation afin d'éviter une contravention. Info : 514 989-5222.

### Bois-du-Summit : chiens en laisse

**Du 16 avril au 15 juin.** Pendant la migration printanière des oiseaux, les chiens doivent être tenus en laisse EN TOUT TEMPS au Bois-du-Summit. Les officiers de la Sécurité publique émettront des contraventions aux personnes qui ne respectent pas le règlement. Info : 514 989-5222.

## BIBLIOTHÈQUE

### Conférences de 14 h : D<sup>re</sup> Sima Goel

**Le mercredi 22 avril, 14 h.** Une présentation de l'auteure de *Fleeing the Hijab: A Jewish Woman's Flight from Iran*. Info : 514 989-5299.

### Activité spéciale du Festival des enfants

#### TD-Metropolis bleu : Marie Annharte Baker

**Le jeudi 23 avril, 10 h 30.** La toute première lauréate du tout nouveau Prix littéraire des Premiers Peuples Metropolis bleu, la poète autochtone Annharte, raconte des histoires aux jeunes. 8 ans et plus. Info : 514 989-5229.

### NOUVEAU ! – Des bébés et des livres

**Les jeudis 23 et 30 avril à 11 h.** Venez écouter des histoires avec Barbara Duchesne et explorer la richesse des livres pour les tous-petits (jusqu'à 18 mois). Info : 514 989-5229.

### Réception pour la Journée mondiale du livre et du droit d'auteur

**Le jeudi 23 avril à 18 h.** Afin de souligner cette journée, la Bibliothèque invite les bibliophiles à une réception spéciale qui se tiendra dans la salle Westmount. Les gagnants du concours de dessin « Ma bibliothèque, c'est tout un monde ! » seront dévoilés. Info : 514 989-5386.

### Conférences de 14 h : Brenda Shanahan

**Le mercredi 6 mai, 14 h.** Titre : *Personal Finance 101*. En anglais. Info : 514 989-5299.

### Lecture d'auteure : Susan Doherty Hannaford

**Le mercredi 13 mai à 19 h.** Rencontrez l'auteure du roman *A Secret Music*. Info : 514 989-5299.

### LEGO® recherchés !

Nous désirons fonder un Club LEGO® à la bibliothèque

## Prochaine séance du conseil le lundi 4 mai

cet été et acceptons avec plaisir au comptoir des enfants les dons de morceaux qui ne vous servent plus. Info : [wwwayling@westmount.org](mailto:wwwayling@westmount.org).

## ÉVÉNEMENTS COMMUNAUTAIRES

### Opéra : Actéon de Marc-Antoine Charpentier

**Le samedi 25 avril à 20 h et le dimanche 26 avril à 15 h,** Victoria Hall. La Compagnie baroque Mont-Royal présente Actéon, une adaptation des Métamorphoses d'Ovide. Adultes 25 \$ ; aînés et étudiants 20 \$ (ou 30 \$ et 25 \$ à l'entrée). Info : 514 989-5226.

### Film : L'impressionnisme, éloge de la mode

**Le mercredi 29 avril à 19 h,** Victoria Hall. À partir de toiles emblématiques de cette période, le film montre comment la peinture inscrit le vêtement dans la vie quotidienne. Projection en français. Présenté par la Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée et le Festival international du film sur l'art (FIFA). Entrée gratuite. Info : 514 989-5226.



### Espace Danse !

**Le samedi 2 mai à 14 h,** Victoria Hall. Espace danse est pour les amateurs de danse sociale : swing, rumba, chachacha, valse, etc. (sans professeur). 5 \$ à l'entrée. Info : 514 989-5226.

### Échange de plantes vivaces

**Le jeudi 14 mai de 16 h 30 à 20 h,** parc Westmount, près de la bibliothèque. Apportez vos vivaces et obtenez des coupons que vous pourrez échanger contre d'autres plantes de votre choix. Déposez les plantes entre 16 h 30 et 18 h; échange à compter de 18 h; vente de plantes à 18 h 30. Info : 514 989-5213.

### Société d'horticulture de Westmount

**Le mardi 12 mai à 19 h,** Bibliothèque. Daniel Brisebois : l'agriculture biologique. Info : 514 932-9349.

### Association historique de Westmount

**Le jeudi 21 mai à 19 h,** Bibliothèque. Michael Blinderman et Julia Gersovitz: la restauration de la maison Percy Nobbs de 1913 du ch. Belvédère. Info : 514 932-6688.

## TRAVAUX PUBLICS

### Distribution spéciale d'arbres 2015

**Date limite : le 22 avril.** Quantités limitées. Détails et bon de commande à [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org), hôtel de ville, bibliothèque. Info : 514 989-5213.

### Collecte de résidus domestiques dangereux

**Le samedi 2 mai de 9 h à 17 h,** stationnement de la bibliothèque. Apportez peintures, dissolvants, piles, ampoules fluocompacts, etc. Info : 514 989-5390.

## CITY HALL

### Westmount on Facebook and Twitter

 Follow us at [twitter.com/VilleWestmount](https://twitter.com/VilleWestmount) and [www.facebook.com/villedewestmount](https://www.facebook.com/villedewestmount).

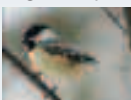
## PUBLIC SECURITY

### Street maintenance schedule in effect

**April 1 to November 30.** The street cleaning schedule is now in effect; please verify the parking signage to avoid tickets. Info: 514 989-5222.

### Summit Woods: dogs on leash

**From April 16 to June 15.** During the spring bird migration period, dogs must be kept on leash AT



ALL TIMES in Summit Woods. Public Security officers will patrol and may issue fines to those contravening the by-law. Info: 514 989-5222.

## LIBRARY

### 2 O'Clock Series: Dr. Sima Goel

**Wednesday, April 22, 2 p.m.** A presentation by the author of *Fleeing the Hijab: A Jewish Woman's Flight from Iran*. Info: 514 989-5299.

### Special Activity of the TD-Blue Metropolis

#### Children's Festival: Marie Annharte Baker

**Thursday, April 23, 10:30 a.m.** The inaugural winner of the Blue Metropolis First Peoples Writing Prize, Indigenous poet, Annharte, tells stories to young people. For 8 years and up. Info : 514 989-5299.

### NEW! "Des bébés et des livres"

**Thursdays, April 23 & 30, 11 a.m.** Come listen to stories with Barbara Duchesne and explore the richness of books for babies (18 months and under). In French. Info: 514 989-5229.

### World Book and Copyright Day Reception

**Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m.** In celebration of this day, the Westmount Library invites book lovers to a special reception in the Westmount Room. Winners of the "My Library, a World to Discover" drawing contest will be announced. Info: 514 989-5386.

### 2 O'Clock Series: Brenda Shanahan

**Wednesday, May 6, 2 p.m.** Title : *Personal Finance 101*. Info : 514 989-5299.

### Author Event: Susan Doherty Hannaford

**Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m.** Meet the author of *A Secret Music*. Info : 514 989-5299.

### Looking for LEGO® !

We would like to start a LEGO® Club this summer at the library and will gratefully accept donations of unused pieces at the Children's Desk. Info: [wwwayling@westmount.org](mailto:wwwayling@westmount.org).



## Next Council Meeting Monday, May 4

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Opéra : Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Actéon

**Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m. & Sunday, April 26, 3 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. The *Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal* presents *Actéon*, an adaptation of Ovid's *Metamorphosis*. Adults \$25 / students & seniors \$20 (or \$30 / \$25 at the door). Info : 514 989-5226.

### Film: L'impressionnisme, éloge de la mode

**Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m.,** Victoria Hall. Based on the iconic works of this period, the film shows how painting made clothing part of everyday life. Screening in French. Presented by the *Conseil des arts de Montréal en tournée* and the International Festival of Films on Art (FIFA). Free. Info: 514 989-5226.

### Dance session!

**Saturday May 2, 2 p.m.** Victoria Hall, 4626. Dance Session is for amateurs who wish to try out their dance steps: swing, chachacha, rumba, waltz, etc. (no instructor). \$5 at the door. Info : 514 989-5226.

### Perennial Plant Exchange

**Thursday, May 14, 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.,** Westmount Park, near the Library. Bring perennials from your garden and obtain coupons that can be exchanged for other plants. Plant drop-off from 4:30 to 6 p.m., exchange from 6 p.m. and sale from 6:30 p.m. Info: 514 989-5213.



### Westmount Horticultural Society

**Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m.,** Library. Daniel Brisebois : Organic Farming. Info : 514 932-9349.

### Westmount Historical Association

**Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m.** Library. Michael Blinderman and Julia Gersovitz: Restoring the 1913 Percy Nobbs House on Belvedere Road. Info : 514 932-6688.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Special Tree Distribution 2015

**Deadline: April 22.** Quantities are limited. Details and order forms available at [www.westmount.org](http://www.westmount.org), City Hall, and the Library. Info : 514 989-5213.

### Household Hazardous Waste Collection

**Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Library parking lot. Bring leftover paint, solvents, used batteries and CFLs, etc. Info : 514 989-5390.





# March sales: Ho hum



## 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 March 2015. Because they are not final registered sales, the addresses 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.

Ho hum. Just another \$6-million house sale in Westmount.

Another of the city's more stately homes was sold in March at exactly \$6 million becoming the fifth-highest single-family dwelling to sell in Westmount. That list is topped by the \$7-million transfer of 3617 The Boulevard in March of 2012 and \$6.7

million paid out for 4299 Montrose Ave. last July.

Details of this one must be confirmed before the address is published; suffice to say that the price was well below the asking price but still mighty, even in Westmount terms.

Added to this was another late-February sale, which brought \$3,550,000 for a property evaluated at only \$2,080,300, a substantial 70-percent mark-up, which affects the statistics for that month as well.

### Market levelling off at \$1.5 million

Essentially it means the market is levelling off at the \$1,550,000 level, an average which more and more people seem able to afford with 12 over \$1-million sales in February and another 11 in March. The only March sale below \$1 million was one of the townhouses on St. Catherine St. near the old Westmount train station, which went for only \$545,000. Between that and the \$6-million top price, everything else ranged between \$1,090,000 and \$1,675,000.

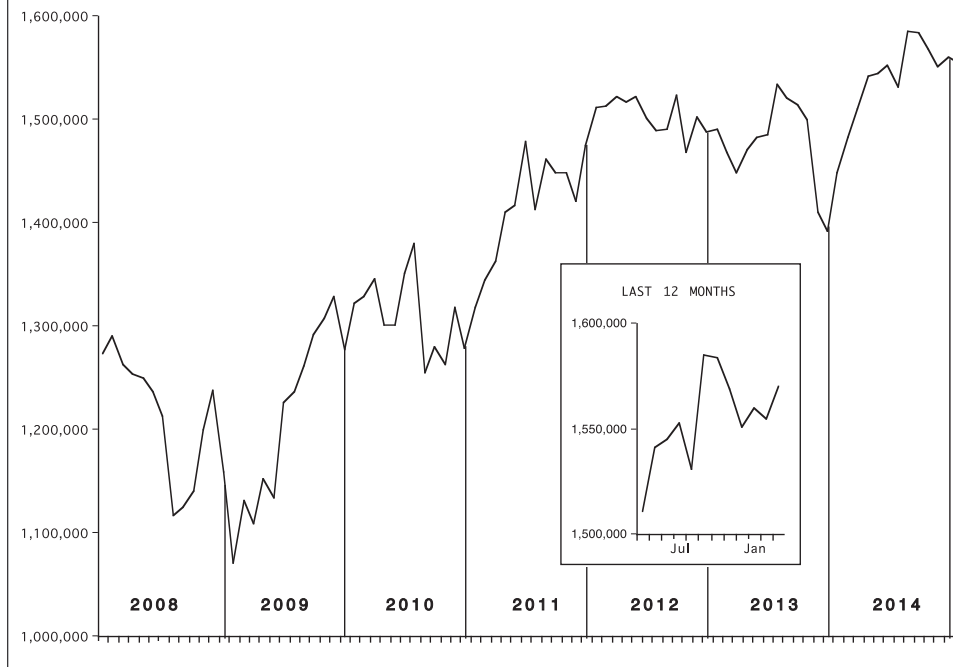
The dozen sales in Westmount in March averaged more than 11 percent above their municipal valuations, ranging from a 6-percent mark-down to almost 31 percent above the assessment. Even with the 70-percent mark-up mentioned above, the average for February was only 5 percent above tax value; each month had four mark-downs, the rest as high as 30 percent above city valuation.

Volume was below average but we expect agents may post late sales, as they did in February when volume was actually higher than average. Agents seem to have many eager buyers out there as we move into the spring season, and we are hearing about multiple offers on properties.

### 6 condo sales in last 3 months

The last three months saw six condominium sales averaging \$784,803, in a

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



range between \$315,000 and \$1,550,000, three sales above municipal valuation and three below with an average six percent mark-up. Another six co-op apartments also sold in a range from \$350,000 to \$900,000, with an average \$668,667. This does not include five sales arranged for 175 Metcalfe Ave., Westmount's newest condo building, which has yet to be put into the tax roll.

Adjacent-Westmount areas were busy in March, especially eastern NDG with four sales of houses and duplexes between Westmount and Decarie Blvd., plus two duplex-condos.

Mark-ups improved in most of these areas; in NDG and Côte des Neiges the prices ranged from \$650,000 to \$980,000, while east of Westmount three sales ranged from \$1,050,000 to \$2,860,000.

### Zalzal cont'd. from p. 5

ferent."

### Born in Egypt

Zalzal was brought up to work. Born in Egypt, she came to Canada at age 4, but her father raised his three children in what she calls an Egyptian "mentality"—to be educated and trained as professionals, "especially as doctors or engineers."

Zalzal had actually enrolled in business at Concordia but found herself among too many students. "I wanted to be in a profession where there were fewer people—and even fewer women so I could feel I was making a difference. I needed more of a challenge."

And her job has provided just that. In fact, she pointed out, there were periods after the retirement of Caluori in 2006 when she did double duty: her own work and that of interim director until her appointment as department head in 2009.

Zalzal now passes on the department to Patrick Raggo, newly hired as director, and Elisa Gaetano, as assistant director, engineering and infrastructure.

"I'm proud to have had the opportunity to work for Westmount," Zalzal said. As a smaller municipality, she said, she has been able to implement many measures, such as the truck side guards as well as side and reverse cameras on the truck fleet, which she likely could not have been achieved in a large city, she said.

Leaving, she added, will be a bittersweet experience with new challenges ahead.



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‘How will things play out’ after condo construction over?

# Redfern residents appeal to mayor for reserved parking

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

A group of residents across from the new condo development at 215 Redfern has asked Mayor Peter Trent “to step in immediately to sort out” what they refer to as outstanding Westmount residents’ parking issues on the street.

Now that the building has been essentially completed, they ask in a letter dated

April 10 that parking in the block from St. Catherine to de Maisonneuve be restricted to holders of Westmount permits as it had been pre-construction.

They expressed “shock” that the city’s Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was now reviewing the pre-construction situation.

In a council resolution March 2, the block was restored to one-way traffic north-bound (see story March 10, p. 20).

Under the resolution, parking has be-

come a 2-hour zone during the day (9 am to 6 pm) and was to have been restricted to Westmount residents only in the evening (6 pm to 10 pm) after which the city’s four-hour and overnight parking provisions apply.

On April 16, signs had still not been put up regarding the 6 pm to 10 pm restriction, however. Because trucks are still on the street, it was decided not to implement the provision at this time, said Patrick Raggo, incoming Public Works director.

Trent replied to residents April 15 referring to their overall construction experience as “a long and arduous saga.” He stated he would be reviewing the situation with Councillor Cynthia Lulham on her return the next day from out of town, since she has been closely involved in the situation as their council representative.

While the city has already issued a basic occupancy permit for the building, landscaping work is ongoing and individual condo owners are working on interiors (see separate story p. 19).

The half-dozen households represented in the letter had expected that after the construction period, parking on the west side of the block (the only one where parking is permitted) would revert to Westmount residents only as it had been when the condo site was occupied by the “Reader’s Digest” building.

This use had generated much commercial activity, traffic and parking problems.

Given the street’s shift to a more residential character, however, the city “has to observe how things will play out after all the construction is over,” Councillor Philip Cutler told the *Independent* following a



New signage had been installed on Redfern Ave.

TAC meeting April 14. “No one really knows yet.”

Cutler, who is commissioner of Public Security, which includes traffic, said the “residents have a right to feel aggravated,” given their many complaints to the city about noise, dust, work hours, construction traffic and related disturbances. “The city is very aware that they have had to put up with much more than they anticipated.”

The possibility of providing street parking for residents only is “definitely on the radar,” he said.

“There will probably have to be some give and take on the parking and some common

continued on p. 19



One of the signs requires that traffic heads north.

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# Individual condo owners' work can 'drag on:' chief building inspector

## Redfern condo building gets 'base' occupancy permit, units ready for move-in

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The condo development at 215 Redfern was issued a base occupancy permit by the city a month ago, chief building inspector Chris Rogers told the *Independent* April 15. This means the building envelope and common areas were deemed to have been completed.

It allows people to roam freely in the hallways and other common areas and for individual condo owners to move in furnishings and supplies needed to finish or customize their own units, he said.

Each owner must obtain their own occupancy permit to live there, however. None had as at that date.

"Unfortunately," he added, the interior

renovations of individual condo owners "can drag on for months." This could impact new parking regulations on the street, which are currently being monitored by the city (see separate story, p. 18).

The building itself still has landscaping to complete, which is covered by a separate valid landscaping permit obtained last fall. Now that the ground has thawed, however, residents have complained that the mud is being tracked onto the sidewalks and street.

"It's filthy," said Redfern resident Timothy Slonosky.

As a result, Rogers said, the building's general contractor had been informed that vehicles could no longer park on the unlandscaped dirt. Public Security director

Greg McBain said that officers had already been enforcing the city's request starting April 7 and "we've started issuing tickets."

In a letter from a group of Redfern residents asking Mayor Peter Trent to intervene in their parking concerns, they referred to "years of suffering and disruption to our lives" and "almost daily complaints to the city" (see separate story p. 18).

"Each new phase of the work brings new problems for us," Slonosky explained. One, which he called "systemic," is the ongoing arrival of workers and vehicles that can start as early as 6 am, although start-up time for construction is 7 am.

Now, he said, trucks use the half-moon driveway for unloading supplies, which he describes as "not illegal," but an annoyance. Noise violations continue, he said, and he hoped the city would "crack down" by increasing fines.

"Every time I think the work finished, the workers seem to keep coming back," he said.

### Redfern parking cont'd. from p. 18

ground found." Some parking might be needed for visitors and workers at residents' homes, a policy adopted recently in the Victoria village area.

Pre-construction parking regulations had been enacted on a trial basis reflecting the commercial activity, explained Councillor Patrick Martin, Public Works commissioner.

### More residential

Both councillors said the situation may be very different now that street will have a more residential character in which condo residents have their own garages and office workers at the "Reader's Digest" building won't be parking.

Public Security officials told the *Independent* the city is monitoring the parking situation and that parking regulations were being enforced.

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Police Report

# Police crack down on pot possession around Summit Circle

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 22-year-old man was arrested for marijuana possession on April 14 on Belvedere Rd. near Summit Circle as local law enforcement steps up efforts to nip public pot smoking in the bud this spring.

At 7:30 pm, Station 12 patrol officers reportedly saw the man smoking a joint as he stood by his car and placed him under arrest for possession, even though it was only “a small quantity,” according to Constable Stephan Laperrière.

**Summit Circle popular**

The arrest came as Station 12 prepares to heighten its presence and visibility to thwart the use of marijuana, alcohol and other drugs around Summit Circle, which Laperrière said traditionally sees an uptick of nefarious activity once the weather warms up.

“The officers who have been at the station for a couple of years know that this is a problematic area every year,” he said. “The citizens who do live up there deserve a little peace and quiet and not have people coming in and making a disturbance.

“[The increased police presence] will make it safer for everybody to get up there, first of all, and pass the message that this

sort of activity is not tolerated.”

Public Security is also increasing its presence to stymie drug use around Summit Circle and have been asked to call 911 whenever they see any suspicious activity in the area, said Laperrière

The man arrested for possession was released by police with a summons to appear before court at a later date.

**Tree removal cont'd. from p. 7**

One large maple was located in the laneway behind 47 Bruce. Another was located on city property between Prince Albert Park and the back properties of Chesterfield.

According to a city list, three trees were removed on each of three streets: The Boulevard, Côte St. Antoine and Victoria. Two were taken down on each of Grenville, Bruce, Upper Belmont and Murray Hill Ave. Others came down on Cedar, Aberdeen, de Casson, Sunnyside, Roslyn, Prince Albert, Clarke, Thornhill, Olivier, Clandeboye, Chesterfield, Sherbrooke, Metcalfe, Argyle and Lansdowne.

**Demolition hearing on 3217 The Boulevard cont'd. from p. 10**

is accessible solely through a shared servitude of passage.”

During the coming work, writes architect Grenier in his submission to the PAC, “We will ensure that access to the neighbours’ properties will remain free for circulation at all times.” Extensive restoration work at nearby Braemar is still under way.

The cost of the proposed project is estimated at \$2 million. The total value of the land and house on the 2012 evaluation roll is \$1.4 million.



Demolition notices were posted last week for 3217 The Boulevard.

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# Press Club re-launched

## Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

VERONICA REDGRAVE

On a freezing night in late January, Westmounters **Linda Renaud** and **Reford MacDougall** welcomed guests to the Irish Embassy pub on Bishop. The duo, along with board members, is spearheading the re-launch of the Montreal Press Club.

Renaud is president of the board and MacDougall is vice president. The club is celebrating over 65 years, having been established in

1948 by foreign correspondents returning from World War II. At their newly-founded club, they could share experiences with other press professionals.

Originally incorporated as the Montreal Men's Press Club (similar to the separate ladies' and men's entrances at the prestigious Mount Royal Club on Sherbrooke St. a *Mad Men* era ago, but I digress), the club invited women to become members in 1969, at which time it became known as the Montreal Press Club.

Today, the club holds meetings and events at the downtown University Club. Recent guests include **L. Jacques Ménard**, chair, BMO Nesbitt Burns and president BMO Financial Group. In conjunction with the Boston Consulting Group, Ménard initiated the study "Building a New Momentum in Montreal" and later "I See Montréal," aimed at revitalizing our fair ville.

On January 27, stamping feet from the iced sidewalks, arriving guests ranged from those interested in meeting new people and networking to journalist **Celine Cooper** of the *Gazette*.

Westmounters noted included **Natalie Mac** - continued on p. 22



From left: Karen Van de Water, Alexandre Moreau and Barbara Kay.

Linda Renaud

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Dougall and Barbara Kay, as well as Karen Van de Water, Alexandre Moreau, Paul Loftus (a club board member) and Rae Turley.

Correction

In the April 7 column “Mélio raises funds for sandy marathon,” (p. 29), Emmanuel Mavridakis is not a “former LCC student” as was reported but a current grade 8 student at the school. Also, the Lokomat is more specifically at the Marie Enfant Rehabilitation Centre - CHU St. Justine.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 21



Paul Loftus, left, and Rae Turley.



Nathalie and Reford MacDougall.

Comin' Up

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22  
Sima Goel, author of *Fleeing the Hijab: A Jewish Woman's Flight from Iran* to speak at the Westmount Public Library's "2

O'Clock Series," 2 pm in the Westmount Room. Free.



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THURSDAY, APRIL 30  
Mutsumi Takahashi addresses ethical and operational issues raised in the contemporary media environment in a discussion led by W. David Angus, with an introduction by Mayor Peter Trent, 12:30 pm at the Atwater Library, 1200 Atwater. Free.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13  
Susan Doherty Hannaford, author of *A Secret Music*, 7 pm at the Westmount Public Library. Free.





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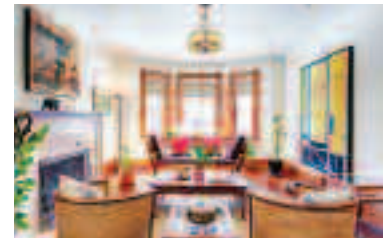
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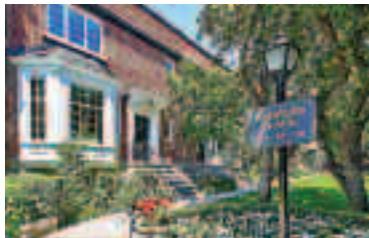
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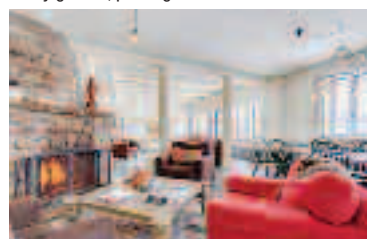
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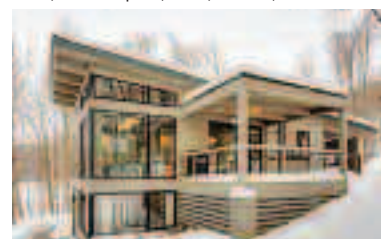
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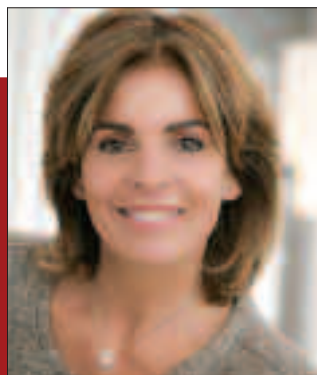
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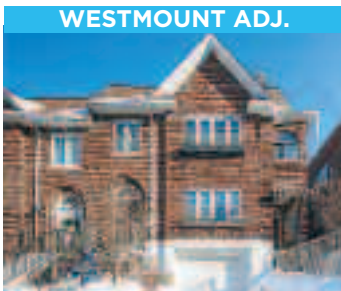


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