

City's position unaffected: Trent Residents file for class action against MUHC noise

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A proposed class action suit against the MUHC and its building partners to stop noise from ventilation systems at the new super-hospital will not affect the city's position, Mayor Peter Trent said last week. The city decided against going through the courts.

The motion for authorization of the class action was filed May 8 in Quebec Superior Court. Plaintiffs are Marc Felgar, a resident of York St., and a new organization called Neighbours of the Glen Cam-

pus Group on behalf of some 3,000 residents of lower Westmount, where most reside, and a small portion in adjacent NDG (see story May 12, p. 3).

"It's a last resort," Felgar told the *Independent*. "The last thing any resident wants is to be in a legal battle with a hospital."

But for Felgar, more than a year of trying to work with the hospital and its contractors "without a seat at the table" is long enough to resolve "intolerable noise" 24/7, he said. It deprives his family and others of sleep and the peaceful enjoyment of their homes, he said.

"We completely sympathize with their position," Trent said. "But it won't change anything. We decided last year to put legal action" *continued on p. 18*

Plants galore at exchange



On May 14, people lined up to trade and purchase perennial plants at Westmount's annual perennial plant exchange. Aided by volunteers from the Westmount Horticultural Society (WHS), the event took place at 6 pm in front of the Westmount Public Library. Proceeds are to go towards future projects at the Westmount greenhouse. Former WHS president Diana Bruno, right, was volunteering and was among those browsing the large array of plants.

Photo: Matt Faigan



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Social Notes BY V. REDGRAVE p. 21

Texting driver hits parked car on Summit Circle

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two women were taken to hospital May 7 when a Mercedes in which they were riding on Summit Circle hit a parked BMW, Public Security officials said. The driver, one of the two women, was reported to have been texting at the time.

"It just shows what can happen while texting behind the wheel on a residential street at the top of the mountain," said Public Security director Greg McBain. "Luckily, no one was seriously injured but

just imagine if it had been a cyclist or pedestrian hit."

The accident was reported to a public safety officer who was flagged down on patrol nearby at 7:44 pm by a man yelling at a woman who was bleeding from the nose. A boyfriend of one of the two women then showed up, sparking more shouting and requiring the officer to separate the people, McBain said.

While the passenger initially refused treatment, the driver was stabilized and her head" *continued on p. 15*

2014 permits down, p. 4
Family Day turns 40, p. 8



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#5 in Quebec for Re/Max 2014*

#7 in Quebec for Re/Max 2013**

Fall/winter Sports & Rec registration period to start earlier, in June

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The pool may not even be open for the summer yet, but it's already time to sign up for the city's fall and winter activities – two months earlier than usual, according to Sports and Recreation officials.

This year's "guaranteed" registration for Westmount residents is being moved up to June 9-18, Councillor Rosalind Davis announced at the city council meeting May 4. Non-residents will only be able to register starting August 25.

The earlier June registration will allow time for city staff to organize and schedule the sports teams and coaches over the summer, in particular the more than 40 hockey teams. It also will help avoid con-

flicts with back-to-school activities.

As a result, the fall and winter program brochure is expected to arrive at homes the week of May 25, department director Dave Lapointe said. "We'll know by the end of the guaranteed period June 18 what the crux of the programs will be."

This will also provide time for volunteers to be found, added operations manager Andrew Maislin. Last season's hockey program consisted of 23 adult teams and 19 youth teams. There are also indoor-soccer teams and all the other Sports and Rec programs.

Now that registration is online and many people already have their user names for this calendar year, he said, the early sign-up should be a simple process.

Mayors repeat plan to fight Canada Post

On February 26, Mayor Peter Trent joined forces at a news conference with other Montreal and Quebec political leaders to announce they would be joining a common front of legal action against Canada Post's plan to replace home delivery with the use of community mail boxes (see story March 3, p. 1).

The same message was reiterated May 14 at a news conference that also included the Westmount mayor. "Now we're actually doing it," Trent told the *Independent* when asked how the latest announcement differed from the previous one. Details are ex-

pected to be forthcoming.

Trent was representing the Association of Suburban Municipalities as its president.

The legal action – a constitutional challenge – was launched last year by the union representing postal employees nationwide. It has been joined by a number of community groups and others.

Trent and Coderre have also called on federal opposition parties to include a moratorium on the Canada Post plan in their election platforms (see story December 9, p. 1).

– LS

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Urban Planning report on building activity revealed for 2014

Construction picking up after slow start this year

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

Overall building activity and construction values decreased some 3 percent in Westmount in 2014 over the previous year, according to figures released last week by the Urban Planning department. This is based on the number of building permits issued and the declared value of work they represent.

The total of \$87 million compares with \$98 million in 2013, and \$109 million over 2012 for a 20-percent drop over two years.

Last's year's construction value was generated in large measure by close to \$19 million in new construction starts but short of the \$33 million for 2013.

"It reflects the market," explained Urban Planning director Joanne Poirier in analyzing the differences.

This year has also had a slow start, she said. The value of permits issued in both January and February were each \$900,000 below the same months last year. "It's starting to pick up," she added, "but there are no major projects for this year."

In 2014, fully \$14.2 million of new construction starts came from permits related to the demolition, construction and landscaping of the condo redevelopment at 175 Metcalfe.

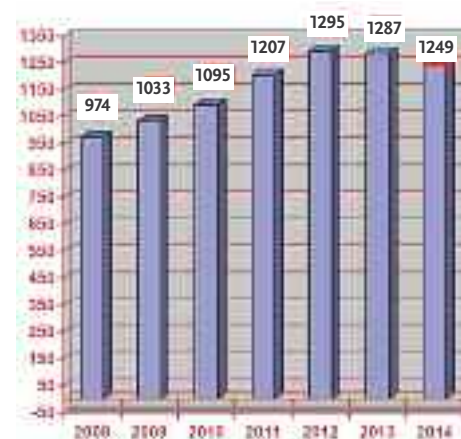
Permits for two new single family dwellings also were issued. These were at 4 Surrey Gardens for \$3.4 million and for one to be built on vacant property adjacent to 475 Roslyn that had been the south-side garden of the house belonging to the late Gerald and Marjorie Bronfman.

These were among the total of 1,249 permits last year compared to 1,287 in 2013.

\$68 million on renos

Excluding the \$19 million of new construction, the remaining \$68 million involved additions and renovations at existing houses, apartments and institutions. This compared with \$65 million in 2013.

Among the more significant permits is-



Number of building and renovation permits issued 2008-2014.

Graph courtesy of Urban Planning

sued in this category for single-family dwellings were those for an extension to 64 Sunnyside at a value of \$570,000, and the extension of a house at 4753 The Boulevard for \$600,000.

Work at institutional buildings included doors and windows at Dawson College for continued on p. 17



Westmount; 357, Av. Olivier

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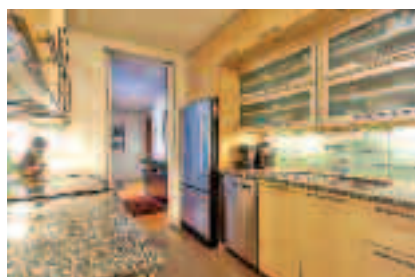
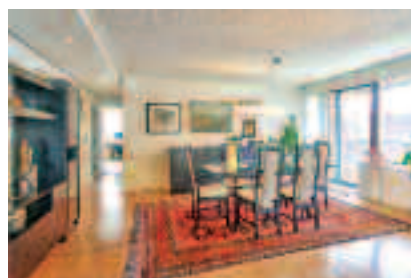
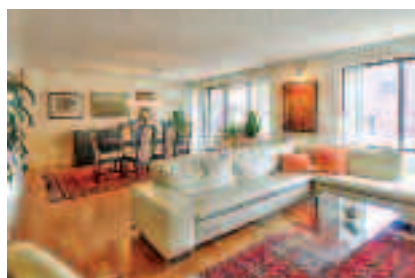
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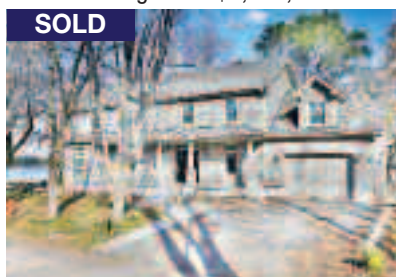
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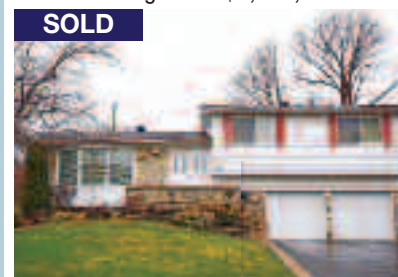
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Renovation profile

Young family transforming Somerville home into play paradise

BY MICHAEL MOORE

At a glance from the street, the Somerville Ave. home of Marc-Andre Robitaille and Natasha Graham isn't all that distinguishable from those also lining the south side of the block.

Thin but surprisingly deep, the 2,753 sq. ft., three-storey house is the first of seven near-clones lining the street just west of Victoria. At Prince Albert, the string of similar red-brick houses takes a turn south and, after a small gap, continues almost the entire length of the block to de Maisonneuve.

While the external differences may be slight, Robitaille and Graham are hoping to make their interior as unique as possible. When the couple moved in two years ago, it was with the knowledge that a total re-do of the three above-ground floors would be in the near future.

Last April, they hired Victoria Ave.-based architects Sophie Robitaille (no relation) and Andrew Curtis of RobitailleCurtis, launching a year of planning and back-and-forth with the city.

According to Curtis, the space offered plenty of promise but the circa 1978 house's once 'modern' style is now three decades old."

When discussing their plans for the building, Robitaille and Curtis often harked back to the importance of creating

a flow from the front of the house all the way to the back.

Currently, stepping in the front door and through the vestibule offers glimpses of a view straight through to the back fence of the yard. However, much of that sightline is blocked by a massive pillar-like structure in the middle of the house – one that offers no actual structural support beyond hiding a metallic duct.

Though reluctant to criticize the previous design, the tone from Curtis and Robitaille is clear: the pillar had to go.

In addition to ensuring an uncluttered view, removing the pillar will also expand what the architects call the home's signature element: a 42-foot atrium illuminated by a sky light three floors above. The atrium will now serve as a dining room, allowing the family to eat underneath the beams of



An artist's rendering of children playing on a net floor.
Image courtesy of RobitailleCurtis

natural light.

On one exterior wall, a new fireplace will be installed featuring a stone hearth that will extend all the way to the backyard and serve as an outdoor bench. Atop the fireplace mantle will sit a two-storey bookcase stretching almost to the top of the second floor, complete with a traditional library-style rolling ladder.

The top of that bookshelf will end just short of perhaps the renovation's most distinct feature: a mesh play surface spanning the atrium gap on the third floor. The

idea was inspired during a visit to an elevated Pennsylvania playground, where parents could stand underneath and look up through the mesh floor on which the children were bouncing.

The homeowners have just started their family with a newborn daughter named Penelope. To ensure the safety of the play floor, the architects solicited the help of a structural engineer to design the steel frame and the Cirque de Soleil's net man for the surface itself.

"When we tell people about it, about half of them think it's great and half think we're crazy," laughed Sophie Robitaille.

In late April, the city issued the Robitaille and Curtis firm with a construction permit for the project, which will also include a comprehensive renovation of the rear yard, including the installation of a water feature to serve as a drinking fountain for dogs.

Construction is expected to begin on May 18 and run until October.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEDICATED CAREGIVERS NEEDED FOR PARK

Harvey Elman's excellent letter, "Westmount Park needs help," (May 12, p. 6) sure hit home. As a long-time resident of Melville Ave. I am saddened to see the sorry state of Westmount Park, once the jewel in our city's crown.

There was a time when the city's parks were painstakingly maintained by a number of full-time employees, including gardeners as well as general labourers. As soon as the snow melted, the parks were abuzz as workers repaired winter's damage and prepared flower beds and playing fields.

Their numbers were augmented during the summer months by numerous student employees, among whom, for several summers, I was pleased to count myself. I recall the regular employees referring to the park in which they worked as their "farm." A sense of pride in the job was not uncommon.

Alas for some reason the city decided that "farming" out the care and maintenance of the parks to contractors was the way to go. While this may well result in a

financial saving, is it worth it given the poor condition of Westmount Park?

DEEGAN STUBBS, MELVILLE AVE.

OH, THE YOUNG PEOPLE

May I be crabby, please?

I was walking to church April 26, heading east on Sherbrooke near Lansdowne. There was a young person walking her medium-sized dog heading toward me. I tend to give dogs the side nearest the grass, as one never knows how friendly they are, and they prefer the grassy side.

Dog walker was texting. Dog walker didn't see me until she almost ran into me. I couldn't move aside for two reasons. Number one: There was a car parked at the curb, so I couldn't leap into the road. Number two: Why should I, a senior pedestrian, have to leap into the road to avoid a collision? As I think about it, my reasons should be reversed.

Hey, young people! Be aware of things outside yourselves.

LYNN PECKNOLD, GROSVENOR AVE.

Turkey spotted on St. Catherine



This turkey was spotted in a back yard on St. Catherine St. May 8. On May 11, the CBC reported a turkey had been spotted on a street in Villeray. A resident there was reported to have called Berger Blanc who said "they'd send somebody to take a look."

Photo courtesy of Michael Parker

Takahashi on the media



Westmount mayor Peter Trent embraces CTV Montreal news anchor Mutsumi Takahashi after introducing her prior to a talk she gave at the Atwater Library on April 30 on ethical and operational issues involved in the media. "Mutsumi has a wicked sense of humour, a razor-sharp intellect and an insatiable curiosity," Trent said about her. Takahashi prefaced her talk with some light-hearted remarks about her hair: she said her recent decision to cut her bangs stirred up a fair amount of attention on local talk radio as well as on the internet.

Photo: Martin C. Barry

WESTMOUNT INDEPENDENT

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Correction

Contrary to what was written in the column by Doreen Lindsay "Jane's Walk explores Sherbrooke St. buildings" (May 12, p. 19), there are no Category 1* (exceptional) buildings on Sherbrooke St. be-

tween Grosvenor and Claremont. There are Category 1 (important) buildings and Category II (significant) buildings only, according to the document called "Character Area 20."

Advised route to super-hospital?

Resident questions MUHC workers' use of Lansdowne

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

It didn't take long after the April 26 opening of the super-hospital for concerns over apparent traffic changes to be raised during a city council meeting.

Richard Lock, who has repeatedly requested that the city address traffic on Lansdowne south of Sherbrooke where he lives, asked city council May 4 if hospital workers coming from east of Atwater had been given directions to access the hospi-

tal.

He said he had heard that "several people" were now using Sherbrooke and then Lansdowne to reach the employee garage on St. Jacques just west of Glen Rd.

"It seems to me that is the route for traffic coming from east of Atwater, and I don't like it," he said, "because Lansdowne is my street, and I've been complaining for several years that the traffic is intolerable."

He asked if workers had been given any advice on the best routes for accessing the hospital "and if not, would that not be a good idea?"

Councillor Cynthia Lulham said she did not know of advisories but cited various

problems related to accessing the site by car. These included difficulties exiting off Decarie to the main entrance. Better coordination was needed to improve the flow of traffic on the major arteries, she explained. This would discourage the use of residential streets.

"As we move forward," she said, and traffic patterns became better known, the city would be in a better position to challenge the situation.

She explained that it now takes one of her neighbours, who used to work at the Royal Victoria Hospital, some 35 minutes to get to work by car at the super-hospital from St. Catherine and Irvine "because the line-ups in the garage are so long."



Lansdowne resident Richard Lock questions council May 4 on the use of his street south of Sherbrooke by super-hospital workers at the new Glen site.

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Family Day turns 40 with cake, bracelets May 30 in Westmount Park

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

A giant birthday cake will mark the 40th anniversary of Family Day, Saturday, May 30, in Westmount Park. Souvenir rubber bracelets will be given out to the many hundreds of participants who typically turn out at what is described as the city's best attended event.

The cake is to be cut at 12 noon, according to Sports and Recreation director Dave Lapointe.

Many of the attractions have evolved over the years from a bygone opening parade along Sherbrooke led by a llama to now the inflatable games and centralizing of many components onto the Melville playing field following the building of the Westmount recreation centre.

What remained unchanged as the event grew in size, however, is the spirit created by "bringing the community together outside to celebrate the start of summer," Lapointe said. "I don't think there can be a wrong recipe for Family Day."

This year, the event will open at 9 am on the junior soccer field off Academy Rd.

with an auction of unclaimed bicycles found in the city. Most of the rides, games and attractions will take place from 10 am to 4 pm at the Melville field.

To be in operation most of the day are the inflatable games, "Ultimate Bungee," pony rides for kids 10 and under, a petting zoo and the aerial runway and boat rides. These are held at the pond by the 34 Combat Engineer Regiment.

Other features include a make-up booth, the Scouts' climbing wall, bicycle engraving and safe riding tips from police while Public Security will provide inspections of bicycles and child car-seats installation by appointment at 514.989.5367.

First year for lawn bowlers

One of the first-time participating community groups this year is the Westmount Lawn Bowling Club, which will set up a mini-bowling green as part of its exhibit.

A bake sale by the Contactivity seniors' centre will take place starting at 11 am along the walking path where displays by other community organizations are also to be set up to distribute information.

CP informed of insecure fence, gate at Irvine

A resident of Irvine Ave. told Public Security May 6 of risk to safety posed by an opening in the railway fence leading to the tracks. When the complaint at 7:56 am was checked out, a section of the fence was found missing and a gate to the tracks was discovered unlocked. Canadian Pacific was informed.

Races and games will highlight the mid-day hours from 11 am to 1:30 pm, while the traditional carnival booths will open at 2 pm. Scouts, Guides and District Catering will offer refreshments for sale throughout the day.

The backbone of the event continues to be the volunteers, aged from 12 to 92, noted retired director general Bruce St. Louis. Many of them are members of the city staff. St. Louis has worked at Family Day for 34 of its 40 years and continues to volunteer at the carnival booths. "It's really rewarding to be part of it," he explained.

Family Day was launched by then-alderman Brian Gallery (mayor from 1983-1987) and the late Johnny Garland, who became director of Parks and Recreation.

Noisy heat pump turned off

The owner of a noisy heat pump was ordered not to use it until it could be repaired, Public Security officials said. Officers checked out the unit May 9 at 1 am behind a commercial building at 4257 St. Catherine near Olivier. The "valid complaint" was also referred to the city's Urban Planning department.

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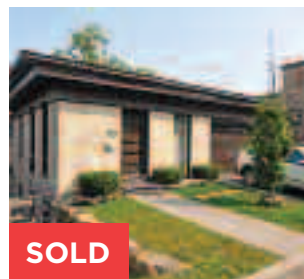
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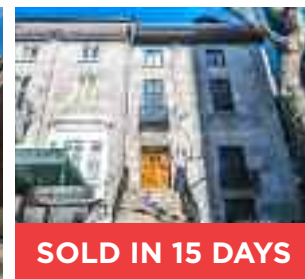
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Four men believed ‘up to something’ trying car doors at 5 am

By LAUREEN SWEENEY

Two men were spotted trying the doors of parked cars at Anwoth and Clarke at 5 am May 7, Public Security officials said. They were seen by someone who called Public Security and provided descriptions. Public safety officers managed to track down the two as they turned down Redfern from Sherbrooke and continued to check car doors. The two were joined by a third man wearing a baseball cap backward and carrying a white bag as he emerged from around a house at 324 Redfern, a few houses north of de Maisonneuve.

Woman found yelling on Westmount Ave.

An intoxicated woman yelling on Westmount Ave. between Victoria and Roslyn was driven to Atwater and St. Catherine May 7 at 1:20 am, Public Security officials said. She was found following a complaint from a resident and stated she needed to go to the Atwater location. She came from Kuujuaq in Nunavik, Quebec.

neuve. When the third person spotted the patroller, he ran back into the yard on Redfern and disappeared while the other two went west on de Maisonneuve.

A cyclist subsequently told officers he had seen them get into a green Jetta on Metcalfe.

When police picked up the pursuit, they stopped the car at Sherbrooke and Strathcona but allowed the driver, a fourth person, to leave. One of the original two was detained after it was found he had broken a curfew condition. The other was released.

“It was obvious they had had something going on,” said Public Security director Greg McBain. “Here’s another incident that shows how important it is for people to lock their car doors.

“Hopefully when they know we have preventive patrols overnight, they’ll decide not to come back.”

Green spray paint, 3 teens found on fire escape

Three youths were caught by public safety officers Saturday, May 9 as they appeared to be trying to access the roof of Westmount Park School on Park Place, Public Security officials said. A can of green spray paint was found on the emergency staircase behind the building where they were found.

A call to Public Security from a resident of St. Catherine St. at 8:13 pm led officers to approach and detain the boys for police. The youths were described as surprised and “nervous” on spotting the officers who reported detecting a strong smell of paint.

The boys’ identities were recorded before they were released to their parents or those responsible for them. They were described as a two 15-year-old residents of Westmount and NDG and another from NDG aged 14.

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Batshaw Children Needing Homes Outgoing siblings looking for home

A foster home is being sought for a 13-year-old girl, Matilda, and her 10-year-old brother, Laurence, both aboriginal.

Laurence is a friendly, joyful child who starts the day singing. He is very active and would spend all his time in the park if he could. He participates in soccer and floor hockey and is open to any sports. Laurence loves to make up stories and uses his toys to create his own magical world, where he can make anything happen.

This child has not had this kind of control in his own life. He has faced both medical and academic challenges, and needs supervision and support in order to continue to develop academic and life skills. Although he loves other children, he can become easily frustrated and needs encouragement and redirection.

Matilda, like her brother, is full of energy and fun. She loves fashion and experiments with bright colours in her hair and is also a big fan of movies. An outgoing teen, she is usually popular socially, but can react to not getting what she wants and needs help to mature emotionally. Matilda has some developmental delays so also requires lots of support academically and in continuing to acquire life skills.

Although the hope is for Matilda and Laurence to eventually return home, they need a two-parent foster family able to parent the children for as long as is needed.

For more information about these children, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514.932.7161, extension 1139.

Organic farmer

By JOANNE PENHALE

There are questions surrounding the current Montreal melon. So learned guests of the May 12 Westmount Horticultural Society (WHS) presentation on organic farming, which took place at the Westmount Public Library.

“Everytime I’ve grown it, it hasn’t tasted that great,” said featured speaker Daniel Brisebois, an organic farmer at Tournesol Cooperative Farm in Les Cèdres.

Brisebois did not deny the history behind the large, famous melon that was once a popular export product. However, the Montreal melon seeds that are rumoured to have been found in the 1990s and are now available, he said, do not produce melons as large as the original Montreal melon.

“Melons are crops that cross really easily,” he said, suggesting the seed now sold as Montreal melon is actually different than the kind famously once grown in western Montreal.

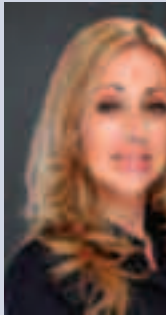
Brisebois’ presentation described organic farming practices, including the benefits of mechanization in large-scale operations, which he said can save time as well as farmers’ bodies.

He also said seed sales are the fastest growing part of Tournesol Cooperative Farm’s business, and the farm produces about 200 seed varieties.

The next WHS presentation will be about fragrant gardens, on Tuesday, June 9.



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Organic farmer Daniel Brisebois described farm mechanization, seed-saving, and community-supported agriculture baskets at a May 12 presentation to the Westmount Horticultural Society.

Landscapers stopped at Redfern

Public safety officers stopped landscaping work under way at the 215 Redfern condos May 9, a Saturday, Public Security officials said. The use of heavy equipment

is not permitted on the weekend. In this case, officers found rocks being unloaded and a tractor, dump truck and cement mixer in use at 8:20 am.

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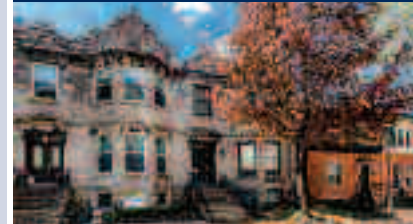
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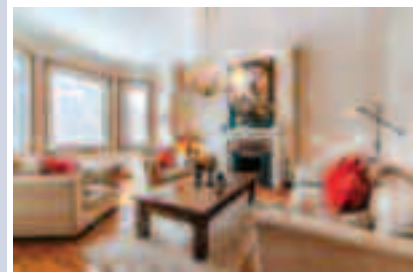
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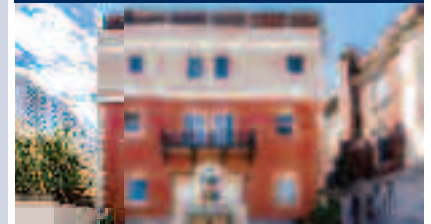
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Westmount Art Scene

Hornyak and Everett: Inward significance

This month, Westmounter Jennifer Hornyak's exhibition at the McClure Gallery marks her return to figurative art, while at Han Art Gallery, Catherine Everett's show features textural, grid-like compositions. Although different in style and subject, both artists create an emotional ambiguity that draws the viewer in.

Hornyak at McClure

Hornyak reveals her skill as a story teller in the series "The Figure Revisited." Painted in the same style as her signature bouquets, figures come alive against rich colour harmonies and suggestive back-grounds. In "Girl With Crescent Moon," the subject stands in front of a window gazing out at the moon. Although the room is beautiful, her pose suggests en-trapment.

In the scene "Promenade 1," an elderly man and woman pass each other in a park. Oblivious to each other, there is a sense of isolation and missed connection. In con-

trast, a young man and women are posed back to back in the painting "Stargazing." Loosely outlined in black against a silver speckled night sky, their casual stance communicates intimacy.

Hornyak's return to figurative art is a welcomed development. Her portraits and scenes are strong and evocative. Her painterly style conveys simultane-
..... continued on p. 15



"Stargazing" Jennifer Hornyak

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Art Scene cont'd. from p. 14

ously a detailed, personal narrative, as well as the universality of human condition. "The Figure Revisited" continues until Saturday, May 23 at the Visual Art Centre, 350 Victoria Ave.

Everett at Han Art Gallery

"For All We Know" is the title of Everett's exhibition of abstract and textured mixed-media paintings on panel. Eliciting individual interpretation, grid-like composi-



"Aspect" Catherine Everett

tions suggest weathered buildings and decay. The artist increases a sense of foreboding by referencing T.S. Eliot's poem "The Waste Land."

In "Canadian Geography (For Joni)," a

Texting cont'd. from p. 1

placed in a neck brace by fire department first responders. On the arrival of Urgences Santé at 7:57 pm, followed shortly after by police, she was transferred to an ambulance.

The passenger was finally persuaded to go to hospital also as a precaution after damage to the windshield indicated she had hit her head in the impact. Both were transported to the Montreal General.

The accident was reported to have occurred when the driver was heading east and hit the BMW parked in front of 70

black box dominates the large-scale composition. Drawn pencil lines appear etched within the wood, while a painted screen adds surface texture. In "Aspect," blue spaces framed by black or tan rectangles create a geometric pattern similar to city blocks or architectural floor plans. Alternating rigid and diffused edges convey the idea of boundaries and a restricted existence, both real or imagined.

In the black and tan composition "Turn II," a black ring dominates. Painted as a loose line below a rectangular shape, there is a sense of multiple and well balanced compositions within the whole. In this image, as in this exhibition, Everett creates the idea of a world within worlds. Although unspoken, there is a sense that viewers need to create their own viewpoints and boundaries. "For All We Know" continues until Monday, May 25 at 4209 St. Catherine St.

Inward significance

Hornyak and Everett create interesting and thought-provoking imagery. In these exhibitions, juxtaposed forms and suggestive lines convey the emotions of young love and aging, of isolation and connection. And, evoking universal themes and the human condition, both artists respect Aristotle's dictum: "The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance."

Summit Circle. The driver continued as far as civic number 60, followed by the owner of the BMW, who had seen or heard the collision and rushed out of the house.

Both cars sustained substantial damage.

Pool must empty into sewer

People emptying a swimming pool onto the street May 7 at 77 Sunnyside were told the hose must be fed directly into the sewer. The workers complied, directing the line into a catch basin.



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Exposition: un hommage à la sécurité publique à Westmount
Jusqu'au 12 juin, foyer de la réception, hôtel de ville. Une sélection de photographies et d'artefacts mettant en valeur le travail des équipes de policiers, de pompiers et de la sécurité publique de Westmount au cours de l'histoire de la Ville. Gratuit. Info: 514 989-5534.

Westmount sur Facebook et Twitter
Suivez-nous sur twitter.com/VilleWestmount et sur www.facebook.com/villedewestmount.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

Groupe de lecture Finnegans Wake de James Joyce : *The Boaters and Sifters of ALP*
Le mercredi 20 mai, 19 h. Joignez-vous au groupe de lecture, et plongez tête première dans une discussion passionnée sur l'oeuvre *Finnegans Wake*. Découvertes et surprises sont au rendez-vous. Apportez votre copie du livre. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture française Jeuneskids
Le lundi 25 mai, 16 h à 17 h, Salle de conférence. *L'école des gars* de Maryse Peysken. 9 à 12 ans. Info : 514 989-5229.

Rencontre d'auteurs : Marie-Ève Bourassa et Bruce Roberts
Le mercredi 27 mai, 19 h. Venez rencontrer Marie-Ève Bourassa, auteure et Bruce Roberts, illustrateur d'*Élixirs : une petite histoire illustrée des cocktails*. Veuillez vous inscrire au comptoir du prêt. Info : 514 989-5299.

Club de lecture anglaise Jeuneskids
Le jeudi 28 mai, 16 h à 17 h, Salle de conférence. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* de Lewis Carroll. 9 à 12 ans. Info : 514 989-5229.

Club de lecture d'été TD 2015
Lancement le samedi 30 mai. Ne manquez pas le lancement de notre club de lecture d'été TD 2015 à l'occasion de la Journée familiale le 30 mai au parc Westmount. Au cours de l'été, nous encourageons les enfants à voir la lecture comme un JEU! Demandez votre trousse de lecture d'été au comptoir des enfants **à compter du 8 juin** – il y aura des prix fantastiques à gagner! Info : 514 989-5229.

Rencontre d'auteure : Susan Pinker
Le mercredi 3 juin, 19 h. Rencontrez l'auteure de *The Village Effect: How Face to Face Contact Can Make Us Healthier, Happier, and Smarter*. Info : 514 989-5386.

Joue avec des mots et des images magiques
Le samedi 6 juin, 14 h. Un atelier d'écriture et de dessin présenté par l'auteur et artiste primé Oleg Dergachov. Sois des nôtres et laisse-toi transporter par la magie des elfes, des châteaux et des montagnes! Des dessins seront choisis pour être

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exposés dans la Galerie d'art Feérie à Westmount. 7 ans et plus. Info : 514 989-5229.

Joue avec de l'art avec Alma Castilla
Les jeudis 11 et 18 juin, 16 h, Salle de l'heure du conte. Avec l'artiste locale Alma Castilla. Fabrique un ALEBRIJES – une effigie populaire mexicaine à l'image d'une créature fantastique, faite en papier mâché multicolore. Offert en deux sessions. 7 ans et plus. Info : 514 989-5229.

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Salon des métiers d'art : appel de soumissions
Le jeudi 21 mai de 14 h à 19 h, Victoria Hall, Le Salon des métiers d'art 2015 aura lieu les 14 et 15 novembre. Les artistes sont invités à soumettre leurs échantillons au jury le 21 mai au Victoria Hall entre 14 h et 19 h et les récupérer le lendemain entre 15 h et 19 h. (N.B. : items utilitaires seulement; pas de produits alimentaires). Il est important de présenter son dossier en personne. Info : artisans.westmount@gmail.com.

Concert : la société opératique de l'ouest de Montréal interprète *Die Fledermaus*
Le mercredi 27 mai et le samedi 30 mai à 19 h 30, et le dimanche 31 mai à 14 h, Victoria Hall. Joignez-vous à MWOS lors de sa 2e production bilingue printanière "La chauve-souris". Direction musicale : Chad Heltzel, mise-en-scène : Sara Rodriguez. Avec orchestre, surtitres bilingues, encaissement silencieux et bar payant. Billets : régulier 25 \$, aînés 20 \$, étudiants 15 \$, disponibles au www.mwos.org, au 514 990-8813 x2, via les membres de la distribution et via PayPal au www.mwos.org.

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Association historique de Westmount
Le jeudi 21 mai, 19 h, Bibliothèque. La restauration de la maison Percy Nobbs (1913), chemin Belvedere. Info : 514 932-6688.

CITY HALL

Exhibition: a Tribute to Public Safety in Westmount
Until June 12, City Hall reception area. A selection of photographs and artifacts celebrating the work of Westmount's police, fire and public security teams throughout the City's history. Free. Info: 514 989-5534.



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LIBRARY


Reading group for Joyce's Finnegans Wake: The Boaters and Sifters of ALP
Wednesday, May 20, 7 p.m. Join the circle skimming the surface or sifting through the layers of Finnegans Wake to see what we conceive. Bring an open mind and a copy of the book. Info: 514 989-5299.

French Book Club - Jeuneskids
Monday, May 25, 4 to 5 p.m., Conference Room. *L'école des gars* by Maryse Peysken. Ages 9 to 12. Info: 514 989-5229.

Author Event: Marie-Ève Bourassa and Bruce Roberts
Wednesday, May 27, 7 p.m. Come and meet Marie-Ève Bourassa, author and Bruce Roberts, illustrator of *Élixirs : une petite histoire illustrée des cocktails*. Please register at the Circulation Desk. Info: 514 989-5299.

English Book Club - Jeuneskids
Wednesday, May 28, 4 to 5 p.m., Conference Room. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll. Ages 9 to 12. Info: 514 989-5229.

TD Summer Reading Club 2015
Launch on Saturday, May 30. Join us for the launch of the 2015 TD Summer Reading Club on Family Day in the Westmount Park on May 30. This year's theme focuses on PLAY! Ask for your Summer Reading Club Kit at the Children's Desk **beginning June 8** - you'll earn great prizes! Info: 514 989-5229.

Author Event: Susan Pinker
 **Wednesday, June 3, 7 p.m.** Meet the author of *The Village Effect: How Face to Face Contact Can Make Us Healthier, Happier, and Smarter*. Info: 514 989-5386.

Play with magical words and pictures
Saturday, June 6, 2 p.m. A drawing/story workshop presented by award-winning author and artist Oleg Dergachov. Join us and be carried away by the magic of Oleg's elves, castles and hot air balloons! Drawings will be chosen to be exhibited in the Art Gallery Feérie in Westmount. Ages 7+. Info: 514 989-5229.

Next Council Meeting Monday, June 1st

Play with art, with Alma Castilla
Thursdays, June 11 & 18, 4 p.m., Storytime Room. With local artist Alma Castilla. Over two sessions, make an ALEBRIJES – a brightly-coloured Mexican folk art sculpture of a fantastical creature using papier maché. Ages 7+. Info: 514 989-5229.

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Artisans' Festival: call for submissions
Thursday, May 21 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Victoria Hall, 4626 Sherbrooke St. W. The 2015 Westmount Artisans' Festival will take place November 14 and 15. Artists are invited to submit samples of their work to the jury on May 21 between 2 and 7 p.m. at Victoria Hall and to pick them up Friday between 3 and 7 p.m. Please note that items must be utilitarian and that food items are not accepted. It's important to present the dossier in person. Info: artisans.westmount@gmail.com.

Concert: Montreal West-End Operatic Society performs *Die Fledermaus*
Wednesday, May 27 and Saturday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 31 at 2 p.m., Victoria Hall.
 Join MWOS for its second bilingual spring production of "La chauve-souris", or "The Revenge of the Bat" by Johann Strauss II. Music Director: Chad Heltzel, Stage Director: Sara Rodriguez. With orchestra, bilingual surtitles, silent auction and cash bar. Tickets: regular \$25, seniors \$20, students \$15; available at tickets@mwos.org, at 514 990-8813 x2, via cast members, and via PayPal at www.mwos.org.

40th Annual Family Day in Westmount Park
Saturday, May 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Westmount Park. Have fun in the park with your neighbours and friends at this annual event. There's something for everyone - races, inflatable games, petting zoo, zip line, community kiosks and more. Watch your mailbox for the full schedule. Info: 514 989-5353.

Westmount Historical Association
Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m., Library. Restoring the 1913 Percy Nobbs House on Belvedere Road. Info: 514 932-6688.



WRC garners engineering award

BY LAUREEN SWEENEY

The steel structure of the Westmount recreation centre (WRC) won a first-prize engineering award May 11 for CIMA+ engineers, design-build contractor Pomerleau Inc. and the city, Mayor Peter Trent announced the next day.

The award was presented by the Association of Consulting Engineers of Quebec at the 13th edition of its awards during the organization's annual conference held in Montreal.

The citation, Trent said, explained that 40 percent of the budget for the building was dedicated to the structure, which represented an engineering challenge and "created a veritable underground bridge by using steel beams" that bear the weight

Car ticketed at lookout after curfew

Three young men were informed of the city's midnight park curfew May 7 when found at the base of the steps leading down from the summit lookout, Public Security officials said. They were heard talking at 1:45 am as patrollers ticketed their car, the only one still parked at the lookout.

of the earth above. The project was described as "a world first."

Trent was invited to the awards as a representative of the client and received the award along with representatives of CIMA+ and Pomerleau.

The awards are described as designed "to highlight the best achievements and know-how in engineering in Quebec, to emphasize the collaboration between engineering consultants and project managers, and enhance the work of these professionals."

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Permits cont'd. from p. 4

\$600,000; masonry work to the façade at Marianopolis for \$629,000, as well as interior renovations for \$299,000; and roof repairs to the city's protective services building for \$750,000.

A permit for \$1 million of external and internal repairs was also issued to the commercial building at 345 Victoria.

A total of four demolition permits were issued in 2014. These were for the former Vanguard School building at 175 Metcalfe, houses at 4 Surrey Gardens and 91 Summit Crescent and for a small partial demolition at 3122 Daulac, a Category I* house.

In 2014, the Urban Planning department's Board of Inspections held 49 meetings to review 1,707 projects for conformity to zoning and other building regulations before these led either to permits or were passed on to the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for a review of exterior design elements.

Both committees review not only requests dealing with buildings but also signage and other items such as street furniture.

Last year, PAC held 32 meetings, at which 339 projects were reported to have been recommended for approval. These compared to 366 the previous year.

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No MUHC comments on class action

cont'd. from p. 1

aside and are hoping to resolve this directly with the MUHC."

But as the city awaits a noise mitigation report from the MUHC this week (see story May 5, p. 3), it appears it may take longer than expected.

Report to come 'in next few weeks'

"The progress report will be released in the next few weeks," said Karina Sieres, a hospital spokesperson when asked about its availability May 12.

She said the MUHC was not providing interviews at the moment about the "operational noise." Instead, she issued a statement on the subject stating the MUHC was working with its partner, "to ensure that it acts urgently to respect its obligations and put in place a long-term so-

'All of this could have been resolved.'

— Marc Felgar

lution that complies with regulatory requirements."

The MUHC, the McGill Healthcare Infrastructure Group, SNC Lavalin (McGill) and Innisfree (McGill) are cited as defendants in the court motion.

The non-profit Neighbours of the Glen Campus Group was formed to help end the noise. Along with Felgar, two other Westmount residents are named as signing officers of the new group. They are Barrie Howells and Jean Gagnon, both also of York St.

The class action covers all Westmount and NDG residents living within the perimeter of St. Catherine and de Maisonneuve to the south, Côte St. Antoine to the north, Marlowe Ave. to the west and Lansdowne to the east. Included are people

who come into the area to work or study.

In the court documents, the plaintiffs state that sound readings revealed levels that exceed those in Westmount and Montreal by-laws as well as levels established by the Quebec Environment ministry and standards adopted by the World Health Organization.

Readings come from Westmount

All readings cited come from Westmount because none were available from NDG at the moment, explained the plaintiffs' lawyer Catherine Sylvestre, whose law firm, Sylvestre Fafard Painchaud, specializes in class actions.

She said that of the estimated 3,000 residents listed in the filing, most were Westmount residents since they were the ones most affected by the noise. Sound measurements in NDG would be part of the next step in the process, she said.

The cited readings were taken inside and outside homes on York St. by Westmount Public Security and the city's acoustical consulting firm, WSP.

Welcomes legal action

Luc Maurice, president of Groupe Maurice, which is partnering with Provigo in a proposed 10-storey development in NDG at de Maisonneuve and St. Catherine, said he welcomed the legal action.

The noise is so evident, he said, that he has not had measurements taken from the Provigo site at this point. "It's so unacceptable for the neighbourhood that it will have to be resolved sooner than later — one step at a time."

"All of this could have been resolved" at previous meetings residents and the city had with representatives of the defendants, Felgar said. "But each deadline to come up with a solution has been broken. It's not been a transparent process."

Neither residents nor the city of West-

mount had been given "a seat at the table" with the MUHC consortium working toward a solution, he said. "The people in breach are the only ones at the table."

"We had hoped to have this resolved before the patients were moved in," said District 5 city councillor Christina Smith. "It's disappointing it's come to this. I understand the residents' frustration because every deadline we've ever been promised has not been met."

If the class action is authorized, court documents state the plaintiffs will seek an injunction to stop the noise and claim compensation of \$15 million a year based on \$5,000 per person for an estimated 3,000 people.

Noisy house party costs \$368 in tickets



The resident of a house on Westmount Ave. was reported to have been issued two tickets in connection with a complaint about a noisy party at 1:28 am, May 9. Public Security officials said one ticket for \$148 related to disturbing the peace. The other for \$220 was for refusing to identify himself and obstructing the work of a municipal officer.

The officer received the complaint from a nearby resident and found the party in progress at the rear of the house that backed onto King George (Murray) Park. The 21-year-old resident had to be asked three times to identify himself and finally did so only when told that police would be called if he failed to comply.

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Lacasse on Envers at 20

In conversation

HEATHER BLACK



This year marks the 20th anniversary of designer Yves Jean Lacasse's fashion label Envers. Well known for his avant-garde designs for men and women, Lacasse continues to show internationally. To find out more about Envers and his upcoming anniversary events, I spoke to the award-winning designer at his Sherbrooke-St. boutique.

Envers' beginning

Throughout his career, Lacasse has participated in runway shows in Canada, the United States, Brussels, Morocco and Tunisia. As a designer, Lacasse is known for his romantic flair and modern cut. For many years a regular at Montreal Fashion Week, his love of fashion began at an early age. A third-generation couturier, Lacasse was taught by his mother. With her help, the distinctive label Envers, printed upside down, was launched in 1995.

As to the origin of the name, Lacasse explained that he chose it to convey several ideas. First, he wanted to suggest staging or "mise-en-scène," which as a child soloist and dancer he experienced first hand. That term also evokes a visual theme or storytelling within a collection.

Second, the name Envers also suggests a fabric's reverse side which, if woven, is often interesting.



Yves Jean Lacasse at his Sherbrooke St. boutique April 10.

As fabric is critical to the Envers label, Lacasse shops globally for elegant organzas and brocades. As a designer he "takes advantage of the direction of the fabric to create movement." Inspired by the Victorian period, he combines elements from the past within a contemporary style. This spring, Lacasse is creating new designs for a fall fashion show in Tunisia.

Inspiration

Inspired by his travels there, the new collection will reflect local colours, fabrics and youthful population. Lacasse's interest in culture also extends to music. A self-taught pianist, he regularly composes mu-

sic. To fulfill a 40-year dream to master the bagpipes, he now plays with the Black Watch Regiment. For his upcoming fashion show, Lacasse is combining Scottish plaid within traditional Tunisian attire.

With Envers' 14-year presence at 4935 Sherbrooke, Lacasse enjoys introducing local clients to new colours and fabrics in his prêt-à-porter or custom-made garments. His clients have also inspired him to create turban-like scarfs and to participate in the *continued on p. 22*

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9 Lives
LYSANNE FOWLER

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Let's start with Agatha the cat who was rescued by the SPCA in a massive seizure in February. More than 40 mostly pure-bred cats and more than 60 small-breed dogs were saved that day for a better life. These animals are now ready to be adopted.

Agatha is the unforgettable 4-year-old Cornish rex who cuddles with everyone, remarkably due to her very rough begin-nings. She also gives lots of affection to other cats and dogs. She is a beautiful sweet soul who is ready to be the joy of a family.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Montreal SPCA for more information on exquisite Agatha. The animal shelter has set up two email addresses: annex-echat@spcamontreal.com for the cats and annexechien@spcamontreal.com for the dogs.

If you would like to drop by to visit, you are always welcome but by appointment only through these email addresses, to make sure you get their undivided atten-tion.





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Social Notes from Westmount and Beyond

Veronica Redgrave

On April 1, Golden Globe Award winner and comedy celebrity Tom Arnold amused guests at the 38th annual Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) Gala held at Place des Arts. Co-hosts were The Beat's Sarah Bartok and Cat Spencer.

The evening headlined Golden Globe

Award winner, actor/comedian **Tom Arnold**, who was introduced by ICRF president **Jeffrey Bernstein**, there with his wife **Maxine Foldiak**. Bernstein commented that "we celebrate the stories of survival and break-throughs in research."

Co-chairs were **Nadia Saputo**, in black with a wondrous floral accent, and **Maria Guzzo** wearing Prada.

The evening's honoree was **Vincenzo Guzzo** looking very smart in colourful pants, Hermès-style silk pocket square and custom-tailored jacket and shirt with "Guzzo" monogrammed on the cuffs in capital letters. Cinemas Guzzo was the title sponsor.

Corporate sponsor co-chairs of the gala were **Brian Becker**, **Bruce Isenberg** (there with his wife **Tara**) and **Murray Pecker** (with his wife **Elaine**).

Westmounters amidst the elegance included **Francine** and **Robert Wiseman**, **Heather** and **Joseph Paperman**, **Marlene** and **Joel King**, **Lauren** and **Mitch Adler**, **Leesa Steinberg**, **Kathy** and **John Sigler**, and **Lisa** and **Mark Smith**.

The Buonanotte-catered post-performance cocktail offered outstanding stations of sushi, pastas, tacos and of course, divine desserts.

Also seen amidst the glamour were **Selina** and **Ross Paperman**, **Cheryl** and **Alan Goffman**, **Val Wiseman** and **Aaron Rand**, **Ellie** and **Sylvain Brumberg**, **Gloria** and **Howard Richman**, **Ellie Berenbaum**, **Randy Zucker** and daughter **Stephanie** with her husband **Jared Silver**, **Leah** and **Robert Bard**, **Linda**



Tom Arnold, left, and Vincenzo Guzzo.

Photos courtesy of ICRF

and **Howard Wiseman** and ICRF executive director **Arlene Silver**, who attended with her husband **Howard**.

The \$25,000 raised is to benefit prostate cancer projects.
More photos, p. 22



Maria Guzzo, left, and Nadia Saputo.

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Social Notes cont'd. from p. 21



Robert and Francine Wiseman.



Marlene and Joel King.



From left: Stephanie Zucker, Ellie Berenbaum, Ellie Brumberg and Randy Zucker.

Lacasse cont'd. from p. 19

white cashmere fundraiser for breast cancer. He recalled that “it was a challenge” as he sewed rather than glued the toilet-tissue gown together.

He has been involved in many Montreal fundraisers and is currently a board member for the St. Justine au coeur du monde program, which provides medical care for sick children in Africa and the Middle East. This spring, he was creative director for their 10th anniversary benefit in March, which included a fashion show of his recent collection.

Westmount presence

As for a 20th anniversary fashion show of his work, Lacasse is planning a special event for next spring. In the meantime, shoppers can drop in on the designer at Envers’ home-like environment, complete with piano and organ. With a bit of luck, you may find Lacasse at a keyboard, taking a break.

*Heather Black is a Westmount communication designer.
blackheajea@gmail.com.*

Woman squeezed on Greene by parking truck

A woman was taken to the Montreal General Hospital by Urgences Santé May 8 following an accident outside 1329 Greene, Public Security officials said. The woman had been getting out of her car at about 1:20 pm just as a Purolator truck was reported to be in the process of parking. She was caught between her car door and the larger vehicle. While she had no “apparent” injury, details of her condition were not reported.



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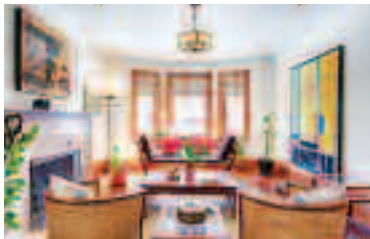
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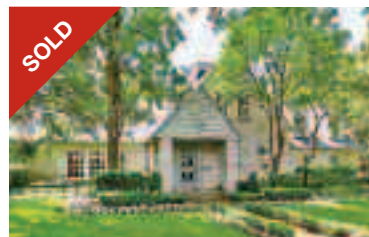
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Amazing price for an amazing house. MLS 19256838



WESTMOUNT

76 Summit Crescent \$3,800,000
Unique contemporary beauty with fabulous design! MLS 21226838



TMR

1190 Kenilworth \$2,395,000
Magnificent contemporary on 12,000 sf of land MLS 23906134



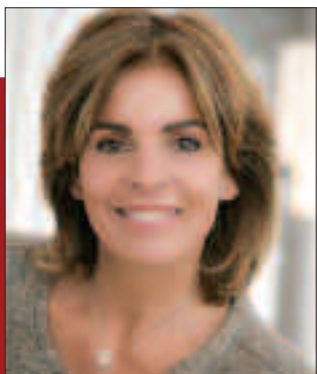
WESTMOUNT

321 Av. Kensington \$2,195,000
An outstanding find – a detached authentic Victorian residence rich with historic charm, lovely garden and garage on the flats!! MLS 11725458



MONT-ROYAL

1960 Kildare \$1,495,000
Beautiful, sunny, renovated 4 bedroom detached residence, on a 6000 sq ft lot, located in a prime location of TMR MLS 11876953



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SICOTTE
& CO



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WESTMOUNT  WESTMOUNT AVENUE \$1,275,000 MLS 16253924 Sunny 4 bdrm home filled w/woodwork, garage, a/c++	WESTMOUNT ADJ.  4785 VICTORIA AVE. \$845,000 MLS 27842655 Fabulous duplex w/DOUBLE OCCUPANCY!	HAMPSTEAD  DUFFERIN \$618,000 MLS 19281175 Sunny semi starter w/approved plans to double in size!	OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4 PM MONKLAND VILLAGE  5401 BRODEUR \$599,000 MLS 16842315 LOCATION! Lower 2,300 s.f. 3+1 bdrm condo w/bachelor, a/c, fp & steps to metro/village!
ATWATER MARKET  100 VINET ST. APT. 302 \$449,000 MLS 17571292 Turn-key 2 bdrm w/ central air, garage and courtyard views!	ATWATER MARKET  170 VINET ST. \$429,000 MLS 23274924 Renovated 1,060 s.f. 2 bdrm condo w/balcony, a/c, fp, garage, locker & facing a park!	ATWATER MARKET  2678 SAINTE CUNEGONDE \$409,000 MLS 9761919 LOCATION! Renovated 2 bdrm condo w/2 balconies, a/c, gas fp, garage, locker!	WESTMOUNT ADJ.  3445 RIDGEWOOD \$350,000 MLS 16396830 Fantastic designer renovated 2 bdrm, 2 bath w/central air & garage!
WESTMOUNT  PLACE OLIVIER \$1650/Mo. MLS 17639066 Sunny 1,200 sq.ft. renovated 2 bdrm apt. 6th flr. July.	WESTMOUNT  GREENE AVENUE THE most luxurious condo building in Westmount!	WESTMOUNT ADJ.  MANOIR BELMONT \$849,000 MLS 17402191 Who's the lucky one? 2+1 bdrm, 2½ baths, 2 garages!	ROSEMONT  6267-69 30TH AVE \$549,000 MLS 11616719 Duplex with double occupancy, garage and lovely garden.

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